

Sunday, October 23, Revelation 6:15-17
The Sixth Seal

Revelation 6:9-10 When the Lamb broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been killed because of the word of God, and because of the testimony which they had maintained; and they cried out with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, will You refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who live on the earth?"

Revelation 6:11 And a white robe was given to each of them; and they were told that they were to rest for a little while longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers and sisters who were to be killed even as they had been, was completed also.

Revelation 6:12-14 And I looked when He broke the sixth seal, and there was a great earthquake; and the sun became as black as sackcloth made of hair, and the whole moon became like blood; and the stars of the sky fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its unripe figs when shaken by a great wind. The sky was split apart like a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place.

Revelation 6:15-17 Then the kings of the earth and the eminent people, and the commanders and the wealthy and the strong, and every slave and free person hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains; and they said to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the sight of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb; for the great day of Their wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

The "shaking of the heavens" was an apocalyptic sign for the coming of the day of the Lord, and this signifies that the end of world history has arrived, so it is time to look at other aspects of this final period in human history.

The abject terror of the very ones who have inflicted such suffering on the people of God, namely the rulers of this world and their followers, is proleptic of the final vindication promised in 6:11.

The wrath of God and the lamb has come down on the earth for the rebellion against God and the cruelty to His people. The message is clear: God will vindicate us for all that we sacrifice and suffer for his sake.

But the question remains: are we willing to persevere and be faithful to Him in the midst of terrible opposition? That is one of the primary issues in this book.

Signs in the heavens

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“This shaking of the heavens is repeated at the seventh trumpet (11:13, 19) and the seventh bowl (16:18-21), and in each case the emphasis is on God coming in judgment.”

Isaiah 13:6-9 Wail, for the day of the Lord is near! It will come as destruction from the Almighty. Therefore all hands will fall limp, and every human heart will melt. They will be terrified, pains and anguish will take hold of them; They will writhe like a woman in labor, they will look at one another in astonishment, their faces aflame. Behold, the day of the Lord is coming, cruel, with fury and burning anger, to make the land a desolation; And He will exterminate its sinners from it.–

Isaiah 13:10-13 For the stars of heaven and their constellations will not flash their light; The sun will be dark when it rises and the moon will not shed its light. So I will punish the world for its evil and the wicked for their wrongdoing; I will also put an end to the audacity of the proud and humiliate the arrogance of the tyrants. I will make mortal man scarcer than pure gold and mankind than the gold of Ophir. Therefore I will make the heavens tremble, and the earth will be shaken from its place at the fury of the Lord of armies in the day of His burning anger.

Joel 2:30-32 I will display wonders in the sky and on the earth, blood, fire, and columns of smoke. The sun will be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes. And it will come about that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved; For on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be those who escape, just as the Lord has said, even among the survivors whom the Lord calls.

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