

Sunday, October 30, Revelation 6:15-17 The Sixth Seal and Signs in the Heavens

Signs in the heavens

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.

“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.

Isaiah 34:4 And all the heavenly lights will wear away, and the sky will be rolled up like a scroll; All its lights will also wither away as a leaf withers from the vine, or as one withers from the fig tree.

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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Great earthquake: 6:12, 8:5, 11:13, 11:19, 16:18

### Sign of God's coming judgment

Joel 2:10-11 Before them the earth quakes, the heavens tremble, the sun and the moon become dark, and the stars lose their brightness. The Lord utters His voice before His army; His camp is indeed very great, for mighty is one who carries out His word. The day of the Lord is indeed great and very awesome, and who can endure it?

### Sign of God's holy presence with Israel

Psalm 68:8 The earth quaked; The heavens also dropped rain at the presence of God; Sinai itself quaked at the presence of God, the God of Israel.

"In Revelation both aspects are found, the Sinai imagery enriching the centrality of the shaking of the cosmos as Holy God ends earthly history, resulting in the final, eternal deliverance of his people." Osborne (Baker)

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Black sackcloth: This was a coarse coat made of black goat's hair and usually worn in time of mourning. The theme of mourning is natural and prepares for the picture of mortal terror found in Revelation 6:15-17. A terrible judgment is about to fall on the earth-dwellers. Osborne (Baker)

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?"