

**"The Seal Judgments"**

**Part 8**

**Revelation 6:1-17**

**Introduction:** When we started into the Seal Judgments we talked about the opening of the 1<sup>st</sup> seal and the coming of the Anti-Christ. I had explained that he will come and in order to lead people into destruction (NAMELY ISRAEL) he will counterfeit that which God has promised in the Old Testament. God promised a Covenant of Peace with Israel and He promised the earth would be redeemed from the curse. Let me show you some verses.

**Isaiah 35:1-2, 7**

*The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose.*

*<sup>2</sup> It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing: the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the glory of the LORD, and the excellency of our God.*

*<sup>7</sup> And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water: in the habitation of dragons, where each lay, shall be grass with reeds and rushes.*

**Isaiah 41:18-20**

*<sup>18</sup> I will open rivers in high places, and fountains in the midst of the valleys: I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water.*

*<sup>19</sup> I will plant in the wilderness the cedar, the shittah tree, and the myrtle, and the oil tree; I will set in the desert the fir tree, and the pine, and the box tree together:*

*<sup>20</sup> That they may see, and know, and consider, and understand together, that the hand of the LORD hath done this, and the Holy One of Israel hath created it.*

**Micah 4:4**

*<sup>4</sup> But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the LORD of hosts hath spoken it.*

Now when Satan is permitted to reveal his master piece who is the Anti-Christ they will establish a covenant with Israel and many will buy right into the false covenant. But God will not permit evil to reign so He will confuse the evil by bringing wars, famines and death upon the earth while at the same time He will be sure the Gospel is spread across the earth.

Now some will attempt to explain away the wars, famines, diseases, death and martyrdom as intensified tragedies of what has happened over the history of the earth. There have

been wars, famines, diseases and death throughout history. But there has never been anything like we shall see in the 6<sup>th</sup> Seal.

I. **The 6<sup>th</sup> Seal**

**Cosmic Disturbances**

God will be sure that the Anti-Christ's deception is exposed.

**Notice Revelation 6:12-13**

The first thing we need to understand is that these events are still in the first half of the 7 year Tribulation. This is not the same event which Jesus spoke of when He taught His disciples about His earthly return.

**Matthew 24:29-30**

*<sup>29</sup> Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:*

*<sup>30</sup> **And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven:** and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.*

This is not the same event which we see in Revelation 6 because this is speaking of events at the return of Jesus Christ and that is not recorded until we get to Revelation 19. So we must be careful to keep these events separated. Let me show you something else which Jesus taught His disciples.

**Matthew 24:6-8**

*<sup>6</sup> And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.*

*<sup>7</sup> For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, **and earthquakes**, in divers places.*

*<sup>8</sup> All these are the beginning of sorrows.*

Jesus told His disciples that when the earthquakes start they are just the beginning of sorrows. Therefore the events of the 6<sup>th</sup> Seal are still in the first half of the Tribulation. Let me show you what is recorded by Joel.

**Joel 2:30-31**

<sup>30</sup> *And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke.*

<sup>31</sup> *The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, **before** the great and terrible day of the LORD come.*

#### A. The Earthquake

In the Bible there are several earthquakes mentioned. The earthquakes mentioned in Revelation are directly connected with the Judgment of God.

Let me give you a side note and some food for thought. The earthquakes which happen today are NOT the Judgment of God on mankind. We can know this because TODAY is NOT the Day of Reckoning. God is NOT settling accounts today. That day is yet future. The earthquakes which happen today may be used of God but they are the results of this earth being under the curse.

#### Romans 8:19-22

<sup>19</sup> *For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.*

<sup>20</sup> *For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope,*

<sup>21</sup> *Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.*

<sup>22</sup> *For we know that **the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.***

Let us now get back to the 6<sup>th</sup> seal. The earthquakes of the Tribulation were foretold by the Old Testament prophets.

#### Joel 2:1-2, 10-11

*Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the LORD cometh, for it is nigh at hand;*

<sup>2</sup> *A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the morning spread upon the mountains: a great people and a strong; there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, even to the years of many generations.*

<sup>10</sup> ***The earth shall quake before them;** the heavens shall tremble: the sun and the moon shall be dark, and the stars shall withdraw their shining:*

<sup>11</sup> *And the LORD shall utter his voice before his army: for his camp is very great: for he is strong that executeth his word: for the day of the LORD is great and very terrible; and who can abide it?*

**Haggai 2:6-7**

<sup>6</sup> *For thus saith the LORD of hosts; Yet once, it is a little while, and **I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land;***

<sup>7</sup> *And I will **shake all nations**, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the LORD of hosts.*

Now let us get back to Revelation again. The earthquake that happens when this 6<sup>th</sup> seal is opened is an earthquake far worse than our world has ever seen before.

**Notice Revelation 6:12-13**

The word for "earthquake" means "to shake". God will not only shake the earth but also the heavens.

**Joel 2:10**

<sup>10</sup> *The earth shall quake before them; **the heavens shall tremble**: the sun and the moon shall be dark, and the stars shall withdraw their shining:*

**Haggai 2:6**

<sup>6</sup> *For thus saith the LORD of hosts; Yet once, it is a little while, and **I will shake the heavens**, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land;*

When this seal is opened and the events begin to unfold the sun will become dark and the moon will cast a blood red color. It is interesting that on the earth the sun will be darkened but it will still shine upon the moon. This could be the result of dust particles in the air from the great earthquake. But I think it is the hand of God blocking the light of the sun from reaching the earth. If it were the dust particles then the moon would not be visible. God allows the moon to be seen but the sun is darkened. This then raises a question, "Why does God do this?"

**Genesis 1:14-16**

<sup>14</sup> *And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and **let them be for signs**, and for seasons, and for days, and years:*

<sup>15</sup> *And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so.*

<sup>16</sup> *And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also.*

One of the purposes of the sun and the moon is to be used by God for signs. That is exactly what we find here in Revelation 6. It is a sign to the world of the judgment of God because God desires men to turn to Him for salvation.

### Hebrews 12:25-27

<sup>25</sup> *See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven:*

<sup>26</sup> *Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven.*

<sup>27</sup> *And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.*

The writer of Hebrews is doing his best to persuade those who were NOT YET SAVED to come to Christ. Here in this text the writer is telling us that God will (in the Tribulation) shake the things which are of no eternal value to show men the need to turn to Him.

**Application:** God often shakes the lives of people in an attempt to get them to turn to Him for salvation.

Let us get back to Revelation again.

Let me give you some thoughts about what effects this earthquake will have.

1. **Tsunami's in the oceans.**

Can you just imagine what will happen to the seaport cities?

- ✓ In 2004 an earthquake hit the west coast of Sumatra and the tsunami from that quake was over 100 feet high. It killed between 230,000 - 280,000 people.

2. **Volcanoes erupting around the globe.**

There is something known as the Ring of Fire in the Pacific Ocean and in this Ring of Fire there are some 452 volcanoes. There is a volcano under Yellowstone Park the size of Los Angeles California.

3. **Breaking of buried gas lines.**

4. **Power outages.**

5. **Skyscrapers tumbling to the ground.**

These are just a few of the catastrophes which will be the results of the earthquake.

**Notice Revelation 6:13 again.**

Here we see that the stars of heaven fall as a result of this great earthquake because the heavens have also been shaken.

The word for "STARS" here is the word "ASTER" which is the very word which we get **asteroid** from. What is described here as the heavens are shaken seems to be a great swarm of asteroids which pummel the earth. Let us notice just how severe the earthquake is.

**Notice Revelation 6:14**

Every mountain and every island will be moved out of their places.

- ✓ In 2010 an earthquake struck Chile and moved one city 10 feet to the west.
- ✓ In 2011 the main island of Japan was moved 8 feet.
- ✓ In 2004 the earthquake in Sumatra moved the island of Indonesia 100 feet.

These were just localized earthquakes but the earthquake of Revelation is global and it shakes the heavens as well as the earth.

II. **The Heavens Split**

**Notice Revelation 6:14 again.**

Here we see that the heavens departed as a scroll. The meaning is "the sky split wide open". The word "DEPARTED" is the same word used to describe the parting of Paul and Barnabas.

**Acts 15:39**

*<sup>39</sup> And the contention was so sharp between them, that they **departed** asunder one from the other: and so Barnabas took Mark, and sailed unto Cyprus;*

Let me share with you the words of Mills on this event:

*"In order to ensure that there is no misunderstanding on the source of these disasters, God will open the heavens for an instant, and the people on earth will be given a glimpse of*

*God and the Lamb on their thrones. This pictures an extended scroll suddenly being split; the two ends recoil, spring-like, around the end rod to which the scroll is attached. Suddenly, earth can peer into Heaven as Stephen did in Acts 7:56. Man sees Him who sits on the throne and the Lamb. Men will know they are experiencing the wrath of God, and this knowledge will be even more fearsome to them than the great natural catastrophes they will have endured."*

**Conclusion:**

In all of this God is reaching out to the people who dwell on the earth.

**2 Peter 3:7-10**

<sup>7</sup> *But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.*

<sup>8</sup> *But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.*

<sup>9</sup> *The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*

<sup>10</sup> *But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.*