

# The Fear of God's Wrath

## Revelation 6:12-17

East Berlin Community Church

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### Introduction

- The Ten Top "Fears" in 2021
- The Top Phobias in the United States
- What we should fear the most: The Fear of the LORD
  - Luke 12:4-5-- *"And I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear Him who, after He has killed, has power to cast into hell; yes, I say to you, fear Him!"*
  - We are to have a "healthy fear of God".
    - Proverbs 9:10-- *"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding."*
    - Proverbs 8:13-- *"The fear of the LORD is to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way and the perverse mouth I hate."*
    - Proverbs 14:26-27-- *"In the fear of the LORD there is strong confidence, and his children will have a place of refuge. The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, to turn away from the snares of death."*
    - Proverbs 23:17-18-- *"Do not let your heart envy sinners, but be zealous for the fear of the LORD all the day; For surely there is a hereafter, and your hope will not be cut off."*
    - Exodus 34:4-5a-- *"The LORD, the LORD GOD (is) merciful and gracious, longsuffering and abounding in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgressions and sin."*
  - Many today do not fear God and scoff at the idea of a future judgment. But their day is coming.
    - Hebrews 10:30-31-- *"For we know Him who said, 'Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,' says the LORD. And a gain, 'The LORD will judge His people.' It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."*
    - Hebrews 10:29-- *"For our God is a consuming fire."*

### Sixth Seal: The Fear of God's Wrath

- Revelation 6:12-17-- *"I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair and the moon became blood. And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place. And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, 'Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"*

### A. When? A Review of the chronology of events leading up the sixth seal

1. Next prophetic event is the rapture of the church.
  - John 14:3-- *"If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also."*
  - 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17-- *"The Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord."*
2. With the removal of the Spirit-filled church, the restraint on evil will be removed, evil will run unchecked and the world will experience chaos, especially the Western world.

3. With the Western world weakened, Russia and her Islamic allies will move against Israel but will be defeated. Ezekiel 38-39
4. With the defeat of the Islamic nations, the Jews will build their temple on the temple mount without starting World War 3.
5. The West will reorganize into a 10-nation confederation or 10 economic zones, and out of the west will emerge the Antichrist, a "man of peace" who will become the sole leader of the West, aided by the ecumenical church.
6. In heaven, Jesus Christ takes the seven sealed scroll from the hand of His Father, the title deed to the earth and the plan on how He will claim what is rightfully His. From a heavenly perspective, this marks the beginning of the 70<sup>th</sup> week of Daniel prophecy, the last seven years of God's 490 year plan to prepare the Jewish people to accept their Messiah and His kingdom.
7. Jesus Christ opens the first sealed judgment and releases the rider on the white horse, the Antichrist who will enter into a peace agreement or covenant with Israel, offering them protection. From a human perspective this marks the beginning of the seven years of tribulation.
8. Jesus Christ quickly opens the next three seals and releases three more riders: War and bloodshed, famine, and death by disease. One-fourth of the world's population will die.
9. During this period of human suffering, God will send and seal His two witnesses, perhaps Elijah and Moses, who will preach the gospel and warn people of the coming judgment. Perhaps their ministry, 144,000 Jewish men will accept Jesus Christ as their Savior and Messiah, will be sealed by God and then sent throughout the world to preach the gospel. And through their ministry a multitude of people will come to faith in Christ. Great spiritual revival. But many will pay for it with their lives.
10. When Jesus Christ opens the fifth sealed judgment close to the middle of the seven years, the cry of the martyrs can be heard in heaven asking God to avenge their deaths.
11. At the mid-point of the seven-year tribulation, there is a war in heaven between Satan and his demonic forces and Michael the archangel and the good angels. Satan loses and as a result is banished from heaven and cast down to the earth!
12. Satan turns his attention against the Jewish people. He indwells the Antichrist turning him from a man of peace into a raging beast. The Antichrist stops temple worship, sets up his throne in the temple, and demands that people worship him as God. He then pursues the Jewish people in hopes of annihilating them, but God supernaturally protects and provides for them. The Antichrist imposes economic sanctions requiring everyone to be marked by him in order to buy or sell.
13. **At this point, Jesus Christ opens the sixth seal judgment, introducing the arrival of "the great day of His wrath"**
  - a. The "**Day of the LORD**" describes the period when God specifically intervenes in human history for judgment. It's a unique time that brings terror on God's enemies.
  - b. It is mentioned 19 times in the Old Testament.
    - Isaiah 13:9-- "*Behold, the day of the Lord comes, cruel, with both wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate. And He will destroy the sinners from it.*"
    - Zephaniah 1:14-18-- "*The great day of the Lord is near; it is near and hastens quickly. The noise of the day is bitter; there the mighty men shall cry out. That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of devastation and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet and alarm against the fortified cities and against the high towers. 'I will bring distress upon men, and they shall walk like blind men, because they have sinned against the LORD: their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like refuse.' Neither their silver nor gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the LORD's wrath; But the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of His jealousy, for He will make speedy riddance of all those who dwell in the land.*"
    - Joel 2:30-32-- "*And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: Blood and fire and pillars of smoke. The sun shall turn into darkness and the moon into blood, before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD. And it shall come to pass that whoever calls upon the name of the LORD shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance, as the LORD has said, among the remnant whom the Lord calls.*"

- c. It is mentioned 4 times in the New Testament.
  - 1 Thessalonians 5:1-3-- *"But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the LORD so comes as a thief in the night. For when they say "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape."*
- d. Jesus opens the sixth seal with a BANG-- something happens that causes great FEAR.
  - Luke 21:26-- *"men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken."*

## **B. What is the Cause of the Fear?**

- Revelation 6:12-14-- *"I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place."*
1. Some believe that this is a summary of all the judgments to come, but the seventh seal, not the sixth, contains the future judgments for the seventh seal contains the seven trumpet judgments, and the seventh trumpet judgment contains the severe seven bowl judgments of Revelation 16 which are poured out at the very end.
  2. **Six frightening natural disasters associated with the Sixth Seal.**
    - a. *"A great earthquake"*
    - b. *"The sun became black as sackcloth of hair"*
    - c. *"The moon became like blood"*
      - Isaiah 13:10b-- *"The sun will be darkened in its going forth, and the moon will not cause it light to shine."*
      - Joel 2:10-11-- *"The earth quakes before them, the heavens tremble; the sun and moon grow dark... for the day of the Lord is great and very terrible; who can endure it?"*
      - Joel 2:31-- *"the sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD."*
    - d. *"The stars of the heaven fell to the earth as a fig tree drops its late figs when shaken"*
      - Revelation 6:13-- *"And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by the mighty wind."*
    - e. *"The sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up"*
      - Luke 21:11-- *"fearful sights and great signs from heaven"*
      - Isaiah 34:2-- *"indignation of the LORD is against all nations."*
      - Isaiah 34:4-- *"All the host of heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be rolled up like a scroll; All their host shall fall down, as the leaf falls from the vine, and as fruit falling from fig tree."*
    - f. *"Every mountain and island moved out of its place."*

## **C. Who are the Fearful? EVERYONE!**

- Revelation 6:15a -- . *"And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man."*

## **D. What is their Reaction to these terrifying events?**

- Revelation 6:15-17-- *"And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in caves, and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, 'Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him Who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?'"*
1. Their response is sheer panic, irrational fear.

2. They seek to hide in caves and in the rocks of the mountain.
3. They hold a worldwide prayer meeting, but their prayers are to mother nature rather than Father God.
4. They would rather die than face God's wrath, and yet death is no escape from the judgment of God
5. **At one time they could have responded differently. They could have "called on the name of the Lord in order to be saved."**
  - Joel 2:30-31-- *"And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth; Blood and fire and pillar of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD. And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."*
  - a. They had been warned by God's true prophets of impending judgment.
  - b. But they bought the lie of Satan and the Antichrist, received his mark, and thus sealed their fate.
  - c. God judicially abandoned them.
    - 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12-- *"the coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness."*
  - d. They will perish in hardened unbelief.

#### **E. Closing Question: "Who is able to stand?" (Revelation 6:17b)**

- Nahum 1:6-- *"Who can stand before His indignation? And who can endure the fierceness of His anger? His fury is poured out like fire, and the rocks are thrown down by Him"*
1. The ungodly will not be able to evade divine judgment. They will not stand.
  2. But those who *"call upon the name of the Lord will be saved"*.
    - Nahum 1:7-8-- *"The LORD is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; And He knows those who trust in Him. But with an overwhelming flood He will make an utter end of its place, and darkness will pursue His enemies."*
    - Joel 2:32-- *"And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance, as the LORD has said, among the remnant whom the LORD calls."*
  3. But those who know the truth, turn away from it, refuse to accept Christ will fall into the hands of the living God.
    - Hebrews 10:26-27, 31-- *"For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries... It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."*

#### **Application for us today?**

1. **We who know Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord will not be present here on earth when God pours out His wrath upon mankind.**
  - a. From our biblical understanding of end time events we know that *"God did not appoint us to wrath but to obtain salvation through Jesus Christ."*
    - 1 Thessalonians 5:4-5-- *"Brethren, you are not in darkness so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of the darkness."*
    - 1 Thessalonians 5:9-10-- *"God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him."*
  - b. The way that we are delivered from the future wrath is by *"living together with Christ"*, that is, by being in His presence in heaven.
  - c. We are promised deliverance from the very hour of trial.
    - Revelation 3:10-- *"Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth."*

- d. Our Deliverance comes through the rapture of the church.
2. **The prospect of God pouring out His wrath on his world should motivate us to share the good news of the gospel with as many as we can.**
- 2 Corinthians 5:11-- *"Knowing therefore the terror of the LORD we persuade men."*
  - 1 Thessalonians 5:6-8-- *"Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk get drunk at night. But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation."*
  - Philippians 2:15-16-- *"become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast or holding forth the word of life."*