



Empowering People to Change the World

The Seven Seals Part II

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Revelation 6:9-17

Introduction:

- Pray: For the election this Tuesday. Our prayer is for God's kingdom to come and His will to be done. If you haven't voted early, by all means vote on Tuesday. Your very freedoms are at stake.
- This is a difficult passage in a difficult book. At The Road, we walk through the entire Bible verse by verse and, if you are new, you have entered our church in a very strange time as we work through one of the most powerful passages of the Bible.
- We are seeing that the God of love is also going to be a God of justice: wrongs will be righted, injustice will be judged.
- John 15:12-15
This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. 14 You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. 15 No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.
- The Lord loves us enough to tell us what He is going to do in the final days ...
- If you are here today and don't know Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior these passages should frighten you and should cause you to pause in the life you are living.

Revelation 6:9-17

When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those

who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held.

- We begin by looking at this 5th seal.
- We see these martyrs who have been slain. Some of us may be martyred for our faith—what an awesome way to go—no heart monitors, no sitting in front of the TV wasting away!
- I believe that this will be the greatest evangelistic period in the history of the church and the greatest period of martyrdom in the history of the church.
- Next week, we will look more closely at this:
 - There will be 144,000 Jewish Billy Grahams preaching the gospel, divinely protected by God.
 - There will be two Witnesses doing miracles and signs and wonders.
- Ex. There will be millions all over the world who you have witnessed to: Uncle Bob and Aunt Betty, you have talked to till you were blue in the face, who kept saying, “yes honey, I understand” but they don’t... they think you’re crazy.

And they cried with a loud voice, saying, “How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?”

- Note that they are not asking the Lord to forgive them. This is a different time.
- They have lived through one of the most horrendous times and they are seeking justice!

- This is how we know that these martyrs are those who died in this period, who died recently because they are asking for the avenging of those who are still on the earth.
- “earth dwellers” used often in the book of Revelation and it speaks of the unsaved humanity...they are asking for the avenging of these unsaved souls.
- We studied before, Revelation 6:8
So I looked, and behold, a pale horse. And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades followed with him. And power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth.
- This “sword” is probably the slaughter of believers who oppose the Antichrist.
- Millions of believers slaughtered by the Beast, the Antichrist.
- Also gives us insight into our souls, what we will be like in our state after this life.
- This is a different viewpoint, crying out for vengeance! Not like Stephen who prayed forgiveness, this is a cry for justice...a new perspective...vindication of God’s justice!
- Today, it seems that the enemy is constantly winning, but God is going to have the last word.

Our Soul’s Destiny after Life

- Note that they are conscious and able to cry out to God in prayer.
- May have heard of the “soul sleep” idea, that when we die we will be kind of asleep...and then awakened later.
- That is not in the Bible...here we see a very clear picture of our state after death.

- These souls are very conscious and very aware of injustice ... they are praying ... they are communicating with God and probably each other.
- Paul said he would rather “depart and leave this body and be with the Lord;” he said “to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord.”
- In 1 Kings 17, with the prophet Elijah and the widow’s son, he prays three times and it says the “soul came back to him” back to his body. No mention of sleep.
- Jesus said to the thief on the cross, “Today, you will be with me in Paradise.” Today!
 - o For the Believer, our souls go straight to the throne to witness this work of God ... we can even see what is happening on the earth.
 - o But for the nonbeliever, they will go to Hades, a place of torments, not hell yet, hell is the eternal state, where the soul of the unbeliever will be tormented for eternity.
 - o This is really important because if you are not yet a believer in Christ, you can only decide your eternal destiny now, for when you die, the dice is cast.
 - o Unless a man is born again, he will never see the kingdom of God.
 - o But you live in a physical body with a soul, but until you receive Christ and the Spirit of God comes to live within you, your spirit is dead, your soul is dead.
 - o But when you accept Christ, your soul is “born again” and it is only through being born again that you live and you can go to heaven ...

- o If you know Christ, your body will be raised and our souls will be reunited with our bodies and we will embrace each other and really hug!
- o Jesus said, “Touch me, does the spirit have flesh and bone ... do you have anything to eat?” I like heaven already!
- o But the unbeliever will suffer forever!!

Revelation 6:11

Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed.

- And though it is horrific, this tribulation period, it is all under His control, under His sovereignty.
- He is in complete control of all that is happening.
- Don't grow weary in sharing your faith!! You will never regret it, but we will regret not sharing our faith.
- Sow your seed now while there is still time.

Revelation 6:12

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.

- This will be a literal earthquake.
- This is one of three great earthquakes in the book of Revelation.
- We are seeing the birth pangs on the earth as earthquakes are increasing:

- o From 1900-1910 there were 3 earthquakes globally over 6 on the Richter Scale.
 - o 1910-1920 there were 2
 - o 1920-1930 there were 2
 - o 1930-1940 there were 5
 - o 1940-1950 there were 4
 - o 1950-1960 there were 9
 - o 1960-1970 there were 13
 - o 1970-1979 there were 51
 - o In the 1980's, there were 86.
 - o From 1991-1996, there have been over 100 killer quakes in the world.
 - o Since 1996 to 2014, there have been 188 earthquakes over 6 on the Richter Scale, almost twice that many if we moved our scale to 5.0.
- More people have died of earthquakes in the last 10 years than any other natural disaster! These are the beginnings of birth pangs.
 - There will be a great earthquake just before the coming of Christ. This will be the mightiest earthquake of all time...all of the cities will be destroyed.
 - Revelation 16:18
And there were noises and thunderings and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth. NKJV

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 a mighty wind.

- Ex. My Aunt had a fig tree in her backyard and I can still remember going into that backyard during the late summer and the figs just dropping off because they were so ripe.
- The stars will be just falling from the sky.

- Scientists have found that the earth is in a wobble ... it wobbles about every 7-11 years.
- Ex. Chuck Missler said that when he was a Branch Chief for The Guided Missile Dept. for the Air Force they decided that if 25-40 nuclear missiles were detonated at the same time it could actually effect the rotation of the earth.
- Certainly if an asteroid hit the earth, it could impact the rotation of the earth.
- A shower of meteors could bring horrific consequences on the earth.
- Ex. In Winslow Arizona we have this incredible crater. This asteroid crater is a mile wide and 600 feet deep, the dirt piled up 130 feet on the edges.
- Ex. In Siberia, was more powerful than any weapon we have ever dreamed of.
- So this shower of asteroids will bring great damage to the earth.

Revelation 6:14

Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place.

- Ex. If you have seen the pictures or films of nuclear blasts on the Bikini Islands, it looks like a scroll being rolled up ... I don't know if that is what is being described here, but it certainly could be.
- It could be from a volcanic eruption.
- Ex. When Krakatowa in 1883 exploded, the island in the South Pacific, it was heard 3000 miles away. That would be like hearing here a blast in New York!! It changed tides for 1700 miles.
- This is going to be time of horrendous changes on the earth.

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 the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, 16 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! 17 For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?”

- People will be crying out for order.
- Presidents, Diplomats, Rulers, Military Generals, the billionaires will be confused and fearful.
- Interesting is that they will not repent and call out to God.
- No station in life, no position, no power will be able to save them ... there will be no advantage to anyone, the highest or the lowest.
- Vance Havener has said the most expensive real estate will be a hole in the ground.
- These great leaders are begging for their death ... terror in their hearts for those who have not accepted him, but not repentant ... they are praying to the rocks!
 - The Bible says, “He who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved”
 - Never does it say, “He who calls on Krishna, a crystal, or the trees and rocks.”
 - Yet that is exactly what they will be doing!

How could a God of love allow this?

- You must remember that this is the One who was born in a manger in Bethlehem.

- Who took the children upon his lap. Who healed the lepers. Who forgave the prostitutes and tax collectors.
- Same One who allowed himself to be beaten and crucified.
- Everyone in this room will stand before Him ... He will either be your Savior or your Judge.
 - o He is extending His love to you...that door is open now, but it will close.
 - o Some day, every knee will bow and every tongue will confess Jesus as Lord.
 - o Every agnostic and every atheist will believe, but will it be at the wrong time.
 - o He is writing history in advance.

Jesus says, “No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.”

Before Mt. St. Helens blew, there was this old guy named Harry Truman who lived there. He was warned many times by relatives and seismic experts that this mountain was dangerous and could blow. But he said, “I’ve lived my whole life up here and nothing has ever happened. I love this mountain, and I ain’t goin’ nowhere.” And then she blew and Harry Truman was incinerated. The power of the blast of Mt. St. Helens was 50x the power of the atomic blast at Hiroshima, a 50 megaton weapon. There were weeks that the sky was black and the moon was blood red at night ... this is coming to the earth ...

This book can be a blessing to you if you will take hold of these truths before it is too late ...

Romans 10:9-10

that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.