

THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST – THE FIFTH AND SIXTH SEALS - THE DAY OF GOD’S WRATH -- THE CRY OF THE MARTYRS; COSMIC DISTURBANCES -- 6:9-17

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Monday 7:30pm, H 106 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by doughnut/vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – **Phil Twente, cell # 714 425 9221; email – ptwente@gmail.com** For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/> Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by Pastor Chuck Smith, Vernon McGee, David Hocking, Warren Wiersby and others.

Rev 6:9 When He opened the fifth seal, I saw

under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God (conviction) and for the testimony (public confession) which they held.

Rev 6:10 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?"

Rev 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 (vast numbers) of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were,

was completed (fulfilled, finished).

Revelation 6:9-17 -

“Day of the Lord” - appears 20 times in 8 OT prophetic books; 3 times in NT (Acts 2:20 which quotes Joel 2:31; 1 Thess. 5:2; 2 Pet. 3:10. Also, called “the day of God” in 2 Pet. 3:12; “day of wrath” in Zephaniah 1: 15; “day of the Lord’s wrath” in Zephaniah 1:18; “day of darkness” in Joel 2:2 and Zephaniah 1:15

THE FIFTH SEAL JUDGMENT - 9-11 - Cf. Matthew 24:21-22; Zephaniah 1:14-16

“under the altar” - not the altar of incense, but sacrifice! The **CONDITION** of those under the altar

“slain for the Word of God and for the testimony which they held”
“had been slain” - perfect tense - **“had been slain”** - suggests that these martyrs may be from the past, not the tribulation saints yet to be killed - cf. Hebrews 11:35 (**“others”**) to 12:2 - **“cloud of witnesses”** - The reasons for their martyrdom - cf. 1:9; 12:11, 17; 19:10; 20:4 (conviction and confession)

“How long O Lord (despotes- sovereignty and holiness), holy and true (just and faithful)”

The **CRY** of those under the altar - **It was an appeal for God’s Revenge.** -cf. Gen. 4:10; Psa. 74:9-10; Psa. 79:5; Psa. 94:3-4; Mt. 6:10; Heb. 12:24

“until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?”

“white robe was given to each of them” -- The **COMFORT** for those under the altar -- Also it was **an appeal to God’s Righteousness - The Righteousness of God is their position before God** - cf. Rev. 7:14; 19:8 - **“robe”** - does this suggest a body during the intermediate state of believers in heaven who await the final resurrection?

“that they should rest a little while longer.” - **The Rest of God is their reward in heaven as they await the purposes of God to be fulfilled.** - cf. 14:13

was completed (fulfilled) - The **Remainder** of those to be martyred suggests **that all was a part of the plan of God.** - Cf. Psa. 116:15

The “Day of the Lord” and its variation refer to darkness, judgments and gloom, not a day of blessings – a time of Jacob’s trouble! It appears many more times in the Old Testament than in the New. (20 vs. 3)

Wiersby - These martyrs are apparently from the early part of the Tribulation. But they represent all who have laid down their lives for Jesus Christ and the cause of God’s truth, and they are an encouragement to all today who may be called to follow them. They assure us that the souls of the martyrs are in heaven, awaiting the resurrection (Rev. 20:4), and that they are at rest, robed in heavenly glory.

But is it “Christian” for these martyred saints to pray for vengeance on their murderers? After all, both Jesus and Stephen prayed that God would forgive those who killed them. I have no doubt that, when they were slain on earth, these martyrs also prayed for their slayers; and this is the right thing to do (Mat. 5:10-12, Mat. 5:43-48).

The great question, however, was not *whether* their enemies would be judged, but *when*. “How long, O Lord?” has been the cry of God’s suffering people throughout the ages (see Psa. 74:9-10; Psa. 79:5; Psa. 94:3-4; also Hab. 1:2). The saints in heaven know that God will eventually judge sin and establish righteousness in the earth, but they do not know God’s exact schedule. It is not personal revenge that they seek, but vindication of God’s holiness and the establishment of God’s justice. Every believer today who sincerely prays, “Thy kingdom come!” is echoing their petition.

God made clear to these martyrs that their sacrifice was an appointment, not an accident; and that others would join them. Even in the death of His people, God is in control (Psa. 116:15); so there is nothing to fear.

Many others would be slain for their faith before the Lord would return and establish His kingdom (see Rev. 11:7; Rev. 12:11; Rev. 14:13; and Rev. 20:4-5). Then as today, it appears that the enemy is winning; but God will have the last word. Even in our “enlightened” twentieth century, multiplied thousands of true believers have laid down their lives for Christ; certainly they will receive the crown of life (Rev. 2:10).

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Rev 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.

Rev 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.

Rev 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.

THE SIXTH SEAL JUDGMENT - 12-17

“a great earthquake” The worldwide CATASTROPHE that will take place - 12-14 - used 19 times in the Bible; as to the future, we are told by Jesus that there will be “earthquakes in various places” - part of the “beginning of sorrows” (Matthew 24:7; Mark 13:8; Luke 21:11) - “great earthquake” - Rev. 6:12; 11:11-13; 16:18 - cf. Joel 3:12-17; Haggai 2:6-7, 21

The Extent of the catastrophe - In HEAVEN - Cf. Isaiah 13:10; Joel 2:10, 31; 3:15

“the SUN became black as sackcloth of hair” -

“the MOON became like blood” cf. Isaiah 13:10; 24:23

“the STARS of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a might wind” - cf. Matthew 24:29

“and the SKY receded as a scroll when it is rolled up” cf. Isaiah 34:1-8 (a direct quote in Revelation)

On EARTH - “every mountain and island was moved out of its place” - Cf. Jeremiah 4:23-24; Rev. 16:20

It appears that there will be more than one great earthquake during the seven year Great Tribulation period?

EVERY mountain and island was moved out of its place! – What an earthquake!!

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Rev 6:15 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,

Rev 6:16 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!"

Rev 6:17 For the great day of His wrath has come,

and who is able to stand?"

The Explanation of this catastrophe
Symbolical - social and political upheaval
Literal (three major views):
Earthquake at the 2nd coming or end of tribulation - Rev. 16:18
Earthquake at middle of the tribulation - Cf. 11:13 or Ezekiel 38:19
Earthquake at beginning of tribulation - “for the great day of His wrath is come”

“hid themselves.....Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him” - The panic-stricken CONCERN of the people of earth - -- Seen in their attempt to hide - Cf. Isaiah 2:19-21; Hosea 10:8; Luke 23:28-30

“For the great day of His wrath has come” - Seen in their associating these events with the wrath of God –

“and who is able to stand?” - Seen in their ability to survive - Cf. Heb. 2:1-3; 10:26-31; 12:25-29

The whole world knows this is different than anything that has ever happened!

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| | | <p>Questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. Does the Bible refer to the “day of the Lord” as to both judgment and blessings? Are most quotes of this phrase in the Old or New Testament?</i> <i>2. In verse 6, who do you think the martyrs are? Who do they represent?</i> <i>3. Do you think it is “Christian” for Christian martyrs to pray for vengeance on their murderers?</i> <i>4. Is our righteousness an act of God or an act/s of man? Do you think you’re a little more righteous (having grown in the Lord) that you were several years ago?</i> <i>5. How many times in Revelation is the term “great earthquake” used?</i> <i>6. At what point (and where) in your existence will you find rest? (v.11)</i> |
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