

Chapter 20

Seal Six – A Taste of God’s Wrath

“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!’”
(Revelation 6:16-17)

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Wrath ... anger; rage; fury; outrage. Its definition seems to indicate not just an emotional feeling but the demonstration of such. People who “fly off the handle” because of their anger tend to do destructive things, and in the extreme they can become killers. This is why it is wrong for a Christian to become wrathful. Our rage can be exhibited in destruction without justification.

God is allowed to act in wrath simply because only He knows how to display it with true justification. The world has not experienced the wrath of God since the resurrection of Jesus Christ. That is because we are currently living in the age of grace. It is the time when Christians are to be soul-winners bringing everyone we can into the saving knowledge of Jesus. We live in a day where, even though there are persecutions and we see cataclysmic events each year due to wild weather or

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destruction by man we are not yet seeing the wrath of God.

Yes, bad things do happen to good people. It is only the nature of the fallen world. All things bad happen in this world because of the curse placed upon it when Adam sinned in Eden. And sometimes good Christian people are at the wrong place at the wrong time and tragically experience these things that happen in a fallen world.

But the world has not seen the true wrath of God since Old Testament times. In 1 Thessalonians 5 Paul is speaking about the end times and in verse 9 he writes, *“For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ ...”* He is plainly telling us that the pouring out of God’s wrath will not fall on those who are believers in Christ.

The last six verses of Revelation 6 give us a glimpse of the wrath of God. The full wrath of God will not be experienced until after His people have been taken from the earth. However in these six verses we see His wrath displayed on those who have not chosen to accept Him and His freely given gift of salvation.

First there is a great earthquake. Of course the Bible doesn’t record the intensity of earthquakes but this one is unlike any other experienced. It is only a part of a cataclysmic event. We are told that not only does the earth shake so severely that every mountain and island is moved out of its place but also the sky is darkened so

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that the sun becomes as dark and sackcloth made from hair. The moon becomes red in color like blood possibly from the dust and debris in the air. This event is so severe that with mountains shaken and moved and islands moved from their place it alters geography.

There is also a cosmic display for the Bible describes the stars falling to the earth like a fig tree drops its figs as it is shaken by a mighty wind. We know from science that most of the stars we see are either other suns or reflections of suns on planets. These cosmic bodies would not fall to earth but something great must be happening in the galaxy and universe for not only do these heavenly bodies disappear from the sky but there is also a remarkable meteor shower upon the earth giving the appearance of these heavenly bodies falling to the earth. The Bible also says the something happens in the atmosphere above the earth for it is described as the sky receding like a parchment on a scroll - it has been rolled up so long that when released it rolls back in its place – so the sky pulls part of the atmosphere away.

Those who don't know Christ flee their cities that have probably crumbled to the ground running to caves – possible new ones that have formed from the terrible quakes, and they hide there in the caves and the rocks of the mountains. Not just one class but now kings, rulers, great men, commanders of armies, mighty men along with the slaves and poor become as one as they cry out to the rocks and mountains begging them to fall on them in effort to hide them from God who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb.

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This is but a warning of the coming wrath of God that will be take place in more detail later in on in the book of Revelation. Those who don't believe in God and try to explain Him away have no idea of what is in store for them. The world mocks us who know that God is real. They call us "feeble minded." They take their imaginative theories and call them truth. Regardless how much proof is given of the events in the Bible they still will try to explain them away. They still will deny them because they cannot accept them as truth without making themselves sinners in need of God's grace.

Their twisted ways of thinking will be even more evil under the evil reign of the anti-christ. They will know there is a God but in demonic influence of this "beast" they will think God to be the villain. Yet even so they will cry to be hidden from God and would rather be crushed under the rocks and mountains than to face God Almighty.

They conclude their cry by stating "*For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?*" There is only one way out, only one way to stand and that is to be engulfed deeply in the arms of His mighty grace.