

Prayer:

God has revealed His truth to us in a book called the Bible. There are 66 books in the Bible written by 40 human authors over a period of 1600 years, and yet there is ONE divine author behind it all, namely the Holy Spirit. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God (2 Tim. 3:16).

God’s revelation to us was progressive. First, we have the OT, which prophesied of the coming Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ, and then we are shown in the NT that there are really TWO comings of Christ. At His first coming, He fulfilled all the prophecies related to His death and resurrection. At the Second Coming, He will yet fulfill all the prophecies related to the kingdom.

Revelation is the last book of the Bible, and what it does is gather all the previous prophecies and brings them all together in a grand consummation of fulfillment, and it presents them in a basic chronological order, showing us the order in which these things will have ultimate fulfillment. We know this is true because of the inspired outline of Revelation 1:19.

Slide # 1

Revelation 1:19 – Inspired Outline

Revelation 1:19 (NKJV)

19 “Write the things which you **have seen**, and the things **which are**, and the things which will take place **after this**.

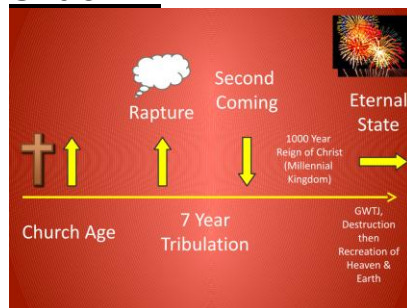
- “have seen” – Past (Vision of Christ) – **Ch. 1**
- “which are” – Present (Church Age) – Ch. 2-3
- **“after this” – Future (Post-Church Age)** – Ch. 4-22
 - - Scene in heaven – Ch. 4-5
 - - Tribulation – Ch. 6-18
 - - Second Coming – Ch. 19
 - - Kingdom – Ch. 20
 - - Eternal State – Ch. 21-22

In the OT, Christ was working in and through the nation of Israel. They are His chosen people/nation. Through them, He gave us the Scriptures, and ultimately the Messiah- Jesus. But when Jesus came and presented Himself to Israel as her Messiah, they rejected Him and called for His death.

So, God temporarily set Israel aside and began a brand-new thing called the CHURCH. In the Church, God is building a forever family of believers in Jesus, consisting of both Jew and Gentile as spiritual equals. This is what Revelation 2-3 deals with.

But at some point, God is going to remove the Church from the earth, and the scene for the church will then be in heaven. That is what Revelation 4-5 is about.

Slide # 2



And the great issue there in heaven is about the scroll in the Father's right hand, which represents the title deed of the earth. Who is able to take the scroll on behalf of mankind and take back the title deed of the earth? No one in the universe is found worthy except for Jesus, who is called a Lion and a Lamb. He is worthy to take the scroll and loose its seals, which represent judgments by which the world is subdued. In response, all of heaven, and eventually, the whole universe, worships.

As Jesus begins to open the seals, tribulation is unleashed on the world.

Slide # 3

Revelation 6:1-8 – First Four Seals

Seal 1 – A Pseudo Peace – Rev. 6:1-2

Seal 2 – World War – Rev. 6:3-4

Seal 3 – Famine – Rev. 6:5-6

Seal 4 – Death – Rev. 6:7-8

Now, as we come to the 5th seal, the scene shifts to heaven. The first four seals form a unit with the scene being on earth, but now, with the opening of the 5th seal, the scene shifts to heaven. The 6th seal will shift back to earth. And then the 7th seal shifts the scene back to heaven again.

Slide # 4

Seals 1-4 – Rev. 6:1-8 (**On Earth**)

Seal 5 - Rev. 6:9-11 (**In Heaven**)

Seal 6 – Rev. 6:12-17 (**On Earth**)

Seal 7 – Rev. 8:1 (**In Heaven**)

This serves to show that what is happening on earth is controlled by heaven, and in particular that it all happens at the hand of the Lamb as He opens the seals which unleashes judgment on earth. This brings us to the 5th seal judgment!

Revelation 6:9–17 (NKJV)

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 and for the testimony which they held.

At the opening of the 5th seal John saw the souls of those in heaven who were martyred for their faith. They were slain (lit. slaughtered) for the Word of God and for the testimony they held. This is the testimony of Christ. They held it to death and would not let go.

Slide # 5

Revelation 1:2 (NKJV)

2 who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw.

Revelation 1:9 (NKJV)

9 I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Revelation 12:17 (NKJV)

17 And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

These can't be martyrs killed during the church age because they are all taken to heaven in the rapture (cf. 1 Thess. 4:13-17). Therefore, these martyrs are evidently killed in connection with the first 4 seal judgments and shortly thereafter. To show you all the more, this is true; their killers are still alive at this point, as seen in verse 10. These martyrs are contemporaries with those on earth at this time of judgment.

Note the language here that these martyrs are “***under the altar***”.

In Hebrews 8:5 we find that the tabernacle/temple on earth served as a copy or shadow of heavenly things. In relation to the temple, there were two distinct altars, and consequently, there are two competing ideas put forth here.

1. In the OT, the blood of the sacrificial animals was poured beside the Altar on which they were offered up. (cf. Lev. 4:7, 18, 25, 30; Heb. 9:2-9). According to this view, the imagery here speaks of these martyrs as having been “sacrificed” for the cause of Christ. (cf. Phil. 2:17; 2 Tim. 4:6)
2. But another view, and I think the better view, is that the altar here corresponds to the altar of incense in the OT temple, which was positioned just outside the Holy of Holies and signified prayer ascending up before God. (Ex. 30:1; 40:5; Heb. 9:4).

The loosening of the seals denotes JUDGMENT. Martyrdom is not a judgment. The judgment in view here is Christ’s vindication of those who have been martyred in answer to their prayers. In the book of Revelation, the emphasis in heaven is consistently upon the altar of incense symbolizing the prayers of God’s people (cf. Rev. 5:8; 8:3-4; 14:17-18; 16:7).

Throughout the book the heavenly altar is connected with the execution of judgment for which the saints are praying, and the prayers of the saints for judgment are symbolized by incense (cf. 5:8; 8:3-4). – **Robert Thomas**

Slide # 6

Matthew 24 – Time Markers

v. 6 - “**the end** is not yet.”

v. 8 “All these are **the beginning** of sorrows.”

* First half of the Tribulation Period

* Mt. 24:4-8 closely corresponds to the first four seals of Rev. 6:1-8.

[Fifth Seal Judgment – Rev. 6:9-11]

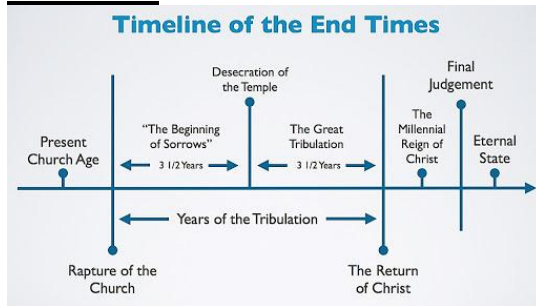
v. 13 – “endures to **the end** shall be saved.”

v. 14 – “then **the end** will come.”

v. 21 – “**great tribulation**”

There is a distinction between “the beginning of birth pains (the first half of the Tribulation Period)” and the “great tribulation” (which refers to the last half of the Tribulation Period). The first four seals correspond to the first half.

Slide # 7



After noting that Matthew 24:4-8 closely corresponds to the first four seal judgments of Revelation 6:1-8, and after noting that this period is said to be the beginning of birth pains, then immediately after that we have the corresponding emphasis on people dying in mass for their faith.

Slide # 8

Matthew 24:9 (NKJV)

9 “Then [*Right after all these beginning birth pains in vv. 4-8*] they will deliver you up to tribulation and **kill you**, and you will be hated by all nations for My name’s sake.

Revelation 6:9 (NKJV)

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 and for the testimony which they held.

Taken together, this would seem to indicate that the 5th seal relates to some time shortly after the midway point of the 7-year Tribulation Period. At the midpoint, Antichrist will declare himself to be God, and it will be open season on Christians. Many will die and go to heaven, where they will cry out for vindication. This 5th seal may well be in relation to this reality.

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?”

This is not a silent whimper but rather a LOUD CRY!

They are not wondering “if” but rather “how long” before the Lord avenges their blood on their killers.

The word “Lord” here is a translation of the Greek word “despotes,” which recognizes His absolute authority as sovereign Lord. It denotes “ownership” and is used elsewhere of those who owned slaves (cf. 1 Tim. 6:1; 1 Pet. 2:18; Lk. 2:29; Acts 4:24; 2 Pet. 2:1; Jude 4).

They refer to Him as “holy and true” which how Jesus Christ is defined in Revelation 3:7. **Holy** emphasizes the attribute of being set apart, completely unique and without comparison. And as such that He is the perfect standard of purity and moral rightness. **True** means genuine, authentic, reliable, and faithful.

As the HOLY and TRUE One they know He will do what is perfectly right in terms of vindication. God is going to set things right. But their question is “How long” before He does this.

And very specifically, the issue is God judging and avenging their blood! The issue was their murders! Just like with Abel in Genesis 4 their blood cries out to God.

The Bible is clear that it is wrong for us to take vengeance into our own hands because vengeance belongs to God (Deut. 32:35). Heaven recognizes this. They are looking to God to deal with these people, which is proper.

Slide # 9

Romans 12:19 (NKJV)

19 Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, “**Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,**” **says the Lord.**

2 Thessalonians 1:8 (NKJV)

8 in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The context here is telling. As believers living in the age of grace, our first concern is for the salvation of the lost. This is the spirit of Stephen’s prayer, who was the first martyr of the church.

Slide # 10

Acts 7:59–60 (NKJV)

59 And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.”

60 Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, “**Lord, do not charge them with this sin.**” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

This is in keeping with the age of grace we live in during this the church age. However, once people are hardened and absolutely refuse to repent, there is a place to pray what are called imprecatory prayers that call for God to judge people for their sin against God’s people. We see these prayers occasionally in the Psalms (cf. Ps. 72:9-10).

In the context of Revelation, the people on earth being prayed against are hardened earth dwellers. In the first half of the Tribulation Period God will send two special miracle workers who will present the truth of God to the world (Rev. 11). The gospel will go out far and wide (cf. Mt. 24:14). It is in this context that Paul writes in 2 Thessalonians that people will perish “***because they did not receive the love the truth, that they might be saved***” and because of this God “***will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie***” of the Antichrist (cf. 2 Thess. 2:9-12).

In this case, it is perfectly appropriate for God’s people to cry out for holy vengeance.

Slide # 11**Luke 18:7 (NKJV)**

7 And shall God not **avenge His own elect** who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them?

The imprecatory prayer (v. 10), a cry to God for vengeance against their adversaries, is strategic to John’s theme, and the book indicates that one of the reasons for God’s judgment against the world during the tribulation is the murder of tribulation saints (see 8:3-5; 16:7; 18:10). – ***The Moody Bible Commentary***

And note they speak in reference to “***those who dwell on the earth***”. In the book of Revelation, “***earth dwellers***” is a technical term for unbelievers whose whole orientation is earth-centered (cf. Rev. 3:10; 8:13; 11:10; 13:8,12; 17:2, 8). They live for the things of this life – related to this earth. It’s all about living for now and what this earth affords.

As true Christians, our lives are God-centered and next-life-oriented. We are living (or should be) in light of eternity. We are heavenly-minded in contrast to those of the world who live for this world.

Footnote: Before we leave this verse, we should note that those who have died and are in heaven are fully conscious. They know what has happened to them. They know who did it. They desire vindication. They know what God is going to do on earth. They are praying accordingly. And yet there are some things they don't know – like the timing of it. This shows that when people die, they are fully conscious and have awareness regarding what is happening on earth, at least to some degree. We are not given details, but in general, we see the saints in heaven are very aware of what is happening on some level.

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.

White robes speak of righteousness and blessedness (cf. 7:9; 19:8). It speaks of being right with God and the victory brought to them through Christ (cf. 1 Cor. 15:57). And it seems to be a token of what is coming for them in their glorified bodies.

Some have said that this suggests they have a temporary (intermediate) body until they get their glorified body at the end of the Tribulation, as referenced in Revelation 20:4. However, that is an assumption. John saw only “souls” because their bodies have yet to be resurrected (20:4).

There is no reason they could not be given these robes, which will be worn later. In 2 Corinthians 5:1-5, Paul is clear that prior to resurrection, the soul/spirit is said to be “unclothed,” but the desire is to be clothed with a glorified resurrection body.

I think this may factor into their question of “how long” and them being given a white robe, which is indicative of their glorified body, which will come in just a little while. In effect, they are told to just be patient with the token of being given a white robe, which is a promise of what is to come.

They, in effect, are told to REST in the timing and sovereignty of God (cf. Rev. 14:13). And it is reinforced that their deaths were by sovereign appointment, as seen in the fact that they were to rest until the exact number of future martyrs was completed.

Note the language here: “**until the number is completed**”. This must run its course as sovereignly determined by God, right down to the very number who are to be martyred. Those who are to die as martyrs are described as “their fellow servants (lit fellow slaves) and brethren.”

God is sovereign over our lives. We have an appointment with death, including how we will die (Heb. 9:27). Remember how the Lord signified to Peter by what death he would glorify God as seen in John 20:19? These things don't just happen by accident.

“God's reply provides a glimpse into the complicated problems of why evil is allowed to reign. God simply allows it for His own purposes, which are best understood from the viewpoint of His total plan, though difficult to understand from our limited viewpoint.”

– **Charles Ryrie**

Heaven's response is basically, “**Leave it with God!**” REST! In due time, God will vindicate and the text goes on to show this will involve a process. God will bring it all around to where it should be! REST! If that is good enough for those in heaven, it should be good enough for us too! As David says, our times are in God's hands (Ps. 31:15).

And that brings us to the 6th seal.

The scroll is sealed with 7 seals. In effect, this unleashes the whole package of God's wrath on the world. So in effect, the 7 seals relate to the whole of the tribulation period and provide a general overview to that end.

I take in the 6th seal comes towards the middle of the last half of the tribulation. It is close to the end, but not the final end. The final end awaits the loosing of the 7th seal, out of which come the trumpet and bowl judgments in rapid fire right at the end.

Slide # 12



The opening of the 6th seal marks the beginning of the answer to the martyrs' prayer in heaven. Heaven prays for vengeance – God answers!

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 is a GREAT earthquake that shakes the entire planet, but it is not the last and greatest. That awaits the bowl judgments in chapter 16. But this really gets things rockin (pun intended). Following this earthquake of the 6th seal are 3 others that follow in the book of Revelation (Rev. 8:5; 11:13, 19; 16:18-19).

Earthquakes are God's way of getting the attention of the world in a BIG way. When God revealed Himself at Mount Sinai, it says in Exodus 19:18 that the "whole mountain quaked greatly." At the time of Christ's death, there was a great earthquake (Mt. 27:51). At the time of Christ's resurrection, there was a great earthquake (Mt. 28:2). When Paul was in prison at Philippi there was a great earthquake (Acts 16:26). At the time of the war of Gog and Magog there will be a great earthquake (Ezek. 38:19). In the book of Revelation there are several great earthquakes mentioned (Rev. 6:12, 14; 8:5; 11:13, 19; 16:16-20). At the time of Christ's Second Coming, there will be a great earthquake that will reshape the whole landscape of the holy land (cf. Zech. 14:1-11).

God does not do anything really big without emphasizing it with an earthquake! – **Dr. Steven Austin** with ICR

When the whole world begins to shake, it will cause quite a dust storm – so much so that the entire atmosphere will be affected. The sun will become black as sackcloth, which is a really coarse, dark black. The moon will take on the appearance of blood red. That has a way of getting your attention!

Note the words "as" and "like". These are descriptive terms. The sun doesn't actually become black, the moon doesn't actually become blood, but they take on that appearance.

This is evidently, and naturally, accompanied by tremendous volcanic eruptions, spewing vast quantities of dust, steam, and gases into the upper atmosphere. It is probably these that will cause the sun to be darkened and the moon to appear blood-red. – **Henry M Morris**

In the OT all the prophesied earthquakes are in relation to this coming Day of the Lord judgment!

Slide # 13**Joel 2:31 (NKJV)****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.**

When God brought the plagues on Egypt, darkness was a sign of judgment, and so it is here (cf. Ex. 10:21-22).

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.

The word “**stars**” can refer to any heavenly body, such as meteors or comets. Things will be falling out of the sky like crazy! Late figs appeared in the off-season, and when a strong wind blew, they would easily come falling down en masse.

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 sky receded means it was split apart. The sense seems to be that just like if you ripped a scroll off at some point the rest of it would instantly roll up out of sight. Something happens that causes the sky to resemble scrolls being instantly rolled up. In view here is some sort of spiraling turbulence in the sky.

“[This] will affect the whole expanse of heaven as man sees it. Heaven will appear to split and roll back in two opposite directions: ...The divided portions will shrivel, curl up like paper, and form a roll on either hand. ... The impression of all these heavenly phenomena is that the universe is coming apart.” – **Thomas Ice**

Some think this may mean that, because the sky ripped open, those on earth will actually be able to see into heaven, because in verse 16, the people are crying for the mountains to fall on them and hide them from the face of Him Who sits on the throne and from the Lamb. Does this indicate they may see Him in some fashion? Clearly, they talk about wanting to be hidden from God’s face (v. 16).

Apparently heaven will be opened for a moment so that people on earth can have a glimpse of that awesome scene with God on His throne. ... It is most interesting to note that what strikes fear in them will not be so much the physical disturbances in heaven and earth as the sight of God on the throne. – **Charles Ryrie**

It is interesting that Isaiah prophesied about this very same phenomenon more than 700 years before the time of Christ, and now it is corroborated here in Revelation 800 years later.

Slide # 14

Isaiah 34:4 (NKJV)

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 a fig tree.

And in conjunction with this it says in verse 14 that “***every mountain and island was moved out of its place.***”

The heavens have gone wild, and the earth is being jostled and shaken out of position. There is no stable place on planet Earth!

Slide # 15

Nahum 1:5–6 (NKJV)

5 The mountains quake before Him, The hills melt, And the earth heaves at His presence, Yes, the world and all who dwell in it.

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.

There is a whole lot of shaking going on! It is terrifying beyond description!

Slide # 16

Luke 21:25–26 (NKJV)

25 “And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring;

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.

Hello cocky ones! So much for your braggadocio now! Now you are in big trouble. This truly is sinners in the hands of an angry God!

Do you really want to be here when God takes His gloves off in the Day of the Lord judgment? There is a reason Jesus said this will be the worst time in the history of the world (cf. Mt. 24:21).

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,

This is like Adam and Eve in their sin, trying to hide from God (Gen. 3)! It is senseless, but then rebel sinfulness never makes sense.

The whole of humanity will literally be scared out of their minds! Seven categories of people are mentioned here with emphasis on the high and mighty – the movers and shakers of the world, but also including every slave.

Slide # 17

Kings: heads of state
Great men: high ranking governmental officials
Rich men: wealthy business leaders
Commander: military leaders
Mighty men: Influential in society
Every slave: lowest class in society
Every free man: enjoys privileged freedoms

But note all categories of people will be affected. No one will be spared! The whole world will be affected. There will be no place to hide. You can't run and you can't hide, but they will try.

My mentor (Dr. John Whitcomb) used to say that on that day, the world will be full of cavemen. How true!

Slide # 18

Isaiah 2:10–11 (NKJV)

10 Enter into the rock, and hide in the dust, From the terror of the LORD And the glory of His majesty.

11 The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, The haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, And the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day.

Isaiah 2:19 (NKJV)

19 They shall go into the holes of the rocks, And into the caves of the earth, From the terror of the LORD And the glory of His majesty, When He arises to shake the earth mightily.

Again, Dr. Whitcomb used to say that in their rebellion, God is going to drive them right into the ground. They are going DOWN – right into the caves of the earth! They are going to be humbled all right! The LORD alone shall be exalted in that day! The world is going DOWN!

Name the kings you will, name the mighty men you will, they are all going to become humbled cavemen! They are all going down! And this is a whole world event! This isn't just happening out in Colorado! Everyone is going to be looking for a cave.

Note the whole world is convulsing and yet they seek to hide in the caves and rocks of the mountains.

It was not rational to hide in the very mountains that were being shaken by earthquake (vv. 12, 14), but rationality was no longer an option. This was the only place they could think of. – **Robert Thomas**

They are desperate to find somewhere to hide. That is really hard when it comes to God! He always wins the game of hide and seek. In truth there is no hiding from Him!

Slide # 19**Jeremiah 23:24 (NKJV)**

24 Can anyone hide himself in secret places, So I shall not see him?" says the LORD; "Do I not fill heaven and earth?" says the LORD.

Hebrews 4:13 (NKJV)

13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

Slide 20

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!

The terrifying events prompt a worldwide prayer meeting, but the prayers are to Mother Nature, not to God. – **John MacArthur**

They are desperate to try and hide from God! The martyrs cry, “Avenge us,” but the unbelieving earth dwellers cry, “Hide us”. These people are hardened in their rebellion and refuse to repent. They would rather die than repent. Yet, like the demons they believe and tremble, but they refuse to repent (Ja. 2:19). Only a repentant faith is a saving faith! This they refuse to do!

These people would rather die than face the face of God. In their blind folly, they seem to think that in death they can escape God. But they are dead wrong. Death doesn't get one away from accountability to God. The Bible says “it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment” (Heb. 9:27). Psalm 73:19 says the lost in the moment of death “are utterly consumed with terrors.”

These people are so given over to despair that they are suicidal. They just want to end it all to get away from God. But again, that is not really possible. They are deluded in their thinking – having a small view of God and yet realizing He is in charge of all that is happening to them.

Again, what stands out here the most is not merely their fear of the catastrophic events happening all around them, but the FACE of God Who sits on the throne. The FACE of God is the thing most terrifying to them.

One evening, Jesus and His disciples were crossing the Sea of Galilee, and Jesus was asleep in the boat. Suddenly, a great storm came upon them, and the disciples were very afraid. They awoke Jesus, and He immediately calmed the storm. And then the text says,

Mark 4:41 (NKJV)

41 And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another, “Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!”

Do you know what is more terrifying than the storm outside your boat? It is the Lord God Almighty in your boat! “And they feared exceedingly!” And they were believers!

Now in Revelation 6 you have a world of unbelievers afraid out of their minds by the FACE of God. They somehow recognized the austere FACE of Him Who sits on the throne – the control center of the universe. As the Bible says, ***“It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”*** (Heb. 10:31)

And they understand what they are experiencing is the WRATH OF THE LAMB! Wrath (Gk. orge) means HOT ANGER! They understand that God is very upset!

But note in particular that this is the ***“wrath of the Lamb!”*** Lambs are not known for their wrath. We often see signs that say, “Beware of the dog” but we never see signs that say, “Beware of the Lamb.”

But as noted earlier in chapter 5 this Lamb has seven horns (a symbol of omnipotence) and this Lamb is also a LION (5:5-6). These paradoxical qualities merge in one person as found in the Lord Jesus Christ.

John the Baptist, the forerunner of Jesus introduced Jesus with these words:

Slide # 21

John 1:29 (NKJV)

29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold! **The Lamb of God** who takes away the sin of the world!

The greatest sin in the world is to reject God’s Lamb Who in love has made payment for the sin of the whole world. This is the most offensive thing in the world, and if people reject long and hard enough, they eventually cross a line of no return. That is where these people are!

Slide # 22

Hebrews 10:26–29 (NKJV)

26 For if we **sin willfully** after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,

27 but a **certain fearful expectation of judgment**, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries.

28 Anyone who has rejected Moses’ law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses.

29 Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?

If here the wrath of God is also 'the wrath of the Lamb', it is because that wrath is not detached from the cross; indeed, it is best understood in the light of the cross. – **F.F. Bruce**

We have in the Bible what is called "The Scarlet Thread of Redemption."

All the way through the Bible we see the theme of REDEMPTION. The word "redemption" means to deliver by paying a price. The Bible paints one consistent picture that the price of sin required a blood payment.

In Genesis, when Adam and Eve sinned, God provided "tunics of skin" for clothing (Gen. 3:21). Abel brought an animal offering to God which was acceptable (Gen. 4:4). In Exodus we have the Passover Lamb (Ex. 12). In Leviticus we have the sacrificial system and blood given for atonement on the altar (Lev. 17:11). Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53 graphically portray the blood sacrifice of Christ. In the gospels, we have Christ introduced as the Lamb of God (cf. Jn. 1:29), followed by His crucifixion, considered in great detail. The book of Acts propagates the story, and the epistles further explain it. Revelation, 28 times speaks of Jesus in reference to the "Lamb" and concludes with Him coming "clothed with a robe dipped in blood" (Rev. 19:13).

The great issue before the World is the LAMB OF GOD WHO TAKES AWAY THE SIN OF THE WORLD and if people reject Him, they will face THE WRATH OF THE LAMB WHO JUDGES the world in righteousness. It all comes down to Jesus and what we do with Him! This is the great issue before the world!

Footnote: Some have argued that the wrath of God only applies to the 6th seal on because "wrath" is not specifically mentioned until then. By this logic, wrath also does enter in under the trumpet judgments until it is mentioned in reference to the 7th trumpet in Rev. 11:18. But this fails to see that all of these judgments are from the hand of Christ as He opens ALL the seals. It fails to see that all three cycles of divine judgment (the seal, trumpet, and bowl judgments) are all referred to comprehensively as demonstrations of God's wrath. These are a package – a package of wrath being unleashed upon the world (cf. Rev. 6:16-17; 11:18; 16:1).

17 For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?”

The “great day of His wrath” in the Bible is often referred to as “the day of the Lord.” (cf. Joel 2:11, 31; Zeph. 1:14; Mal. 4:5). It is when God intervenes in judgment in such a way that His Lordship authority is prominently and undeniably put on display!

This is the day of the Lamb’s wrath! Jesus said that God has committed all judgment to the Son (Jn. 5:22). The Bible says that God now commands all people to repent because He has ordained a day in which in will judge the world by Jesus (Acts 17:30-31). That day has now come as presented here in Revelation 6.

It is a GREAT day in that it is awesomely severe! It is so overwhelming that no one can stand against it! None can endure it! All will fall before it! Psalm 1:4 says, “the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment.” (cf. Nah. 1:6; Mal. 3:2)

Who can stand in the face of God’s wrath? The answer is no one! Thankfully, we as believers are not appointed to wrath (1 Thess. 5:9). Christ took all the wrath for us on the cross! This time of wrath is reserved for a world in rebellion against God.

What a contrast to the day of GRACE in which we live. This future day will be the day of judgment – the day of wrath, but we live in the day of GRACE where the invitation is going out that whosoever will can come to Christ and be saved!

The Bible says, “Behold now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.” (2 Cor. 6:2). The Bible says, “Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts” (Heb. 3:7-8). The last invitation in the Bible comes in Rev. 22:17 where it says, “Come”. Let him who thirsts come! “Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.” But you have to come – you have to come to Jesus as only He can save you – only He is Savior!

Slide # 23

Psalm 2:11–12 (NKJV)

11 Serve the LORD with fear, And rejoice with trembling.

12 Kiss the Son, **lest He be angry, And you perish** in the way,
When His wrath is kindled but a little. **Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.**

When I was a little boy, we used to watch a TV program called “Gunsmoke”. One episode made an indelible impression on me. There was a cowboy deputy named Festus, and one day, he was bringing a criminal back to face justice. And all along the way this criminal kept singing, “***What ya gonna do, what gonna say, what ya gonna do come judgment day?***”

I was not yet a believer, but that line left an impression on me. What am I gonna do, what am I gonna say come judgment day?

In the end, you are either going to meet Jesus as your Savior from sin or as the judge of your sin? It all depends on what you do with Jesus in the here and now!

God has provided the sacrificial Lamb Who died for all our sin, but we must receive Him. And we must receive Him on His terms, and His terms are WHO He is as Savior and Lord. As our Savior He died for all our sins, as Lord over all He arose the third day! As believers we accept Him by faith for Who He is!

The Bible says, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved”. (Acts 16:31).

“What ya gonna do, what gonna say, what ya gonna do come judgment day?”

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved!