

16. The Fifth and Sixth Seal Judgments

In our last topic, we saw that we want to help our physical and spiritual children learn how to use the Word of God to warn people of the coming future judgment which God is warning about in the book of Revelation. We will see that there are many additional judgments. In this topic, we will learn about the fifth and sixth seal judgments.

In Revelation 6:9-11, we read, “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. 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?’ 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.” In the previous seal, we saw that one-fourth of the people on the earth will be killed in various ways by the antichrist and his followers. Instead, we see that some of those who will be killed will be those who have learned about Christ during the tribulation and have become tribulation saints. The antichrist will make every possible effort to destroy all tribulation saints.

When the fifth seal was opened, John saw under the altar the souls of those who been slain. We see that there are two reasons why the antichrist will kill these people for their faith. First, we see that they will be killed because they have been faithful to the Word of God. In Revelation 1:9, we see that John had been placed on the island of Patmos for being faithful to the Word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. That verse says, “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.” Second, we see that the tribulation saints will be put to death by the antichrist because of the fact that they will remain faithful to the witness that they have given. We see that Satan will have the same goal as he works through the antichrist that he had at the time that John was placed on the island of Patmos.

These tribulation saints will want to know when the Lord will judge those who have put them to death. We see that they will recognize that the Lord is holy and must judge sin. Christ finished paying the penalty for sin at the moment that He said as He hung on the cross, “It is finished!” All those who have come to Christ and will come to Him in the future including the tribulation saints have accepted that payment of Christ for them. In contrast, all those who continue to reject that payment will be judged and sent to join Satan where they will experience eternal judgment. Revelation 20:10 says, “The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet *are*. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.” Then, Revelation 20:14-15 says, “Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.”

We see that Christ will give each of these tribulation saints a white robe which speaks of the robe of righteousness and receive the same promise that we have received in Revelation 3:5, which promises: “He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name

from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels. This will be fulfilled for us by the time of Revelation 4:4 where we read, “Around the throne *were* twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white robes; and they had crowns of gold on their heads.” Instead, we see that the tribulation saints are also give robes of righteousness. However, they are told that they must wait a little longer before their death is avenged and they are raised back to life. The Lord will tell them that there are still some more who must believe later in the tribulation, until the number who will become tribulation saints has been completed.

This brings us to the sixth seal which we read about in Revelation 6:12-14, which says: “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.” Here, we see that when the sixth seal is opened that it will have a large effect on the whole universe. First, we see there will be a great earthquake that will affect the earth. Luke 21:11 says, “And there will be great earthquakes in various places, and famines and pestilences; and there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven.” This particular earthquake will be much greater than these other earthquakes because it will affect the entire earth.

Second, we see that the sun and the moon will be affected. We read that the sun will become black as sackcloth of hair and the moon will become like blood. Matthew 24:29-30 says, “Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.” The darkening of the sun, and the changing of the color of the moon, may be the result of many volcanoes erupting in various parts of the earth at the same time as the great earthquake. This would fill the skies with ash and debris from the volcanoes that would so fill the sky that it would cause the sun to become dark and the moon to become red like the color of blood.

Third, we see that the stars of heaven will fall on the earth like the figs of a fig tree that is being shaken by a very strong wind. Winter figs grow after the leaves have fallen off the fig tree so there is nothing to protect them when a strong wind blows. Fourth, we see that the sky will recede like a scroll when it is rolled up. Isaiah speaks of this time of judgment of the earth when he wrote, in 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 a fig tree.” Here, we see that there will be a complete change in the sky. Fifth, we see that every mountain will be moved out of place. Revelation 16:20 says, “Then every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.” The result of the worldwide earthquake shows us that the islands and even the continents of the earth may be moved so that as a result of the earthquake the earth will have the islands and continents move large distances.

We go on to see how the people of the earth will react as they see these things happening on the

earth and in the heavens. Revelation 6:15-17 says, “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?’” Here, we see that these things that will happen on the earth will fill everyone with total fear. No one will be able to avoid the results of these things happening on the earth.

The kings and the rulers of the earth can normally depend on their power and their position to protect them. However, we see that they will be no safer than any other person on the earth. The rich will use their money to live life as normal during the judgments of the first four seals. However, their money will mean nothing when the earth is shaken by the great earthquake and all of these other things happen throughout the earth. Those in the military will not be able to find any protection from their military weapons when this great shaking comes upon the earth. The same thing is true for every other person on the earth whether a person is a slave or a free man. There will be no escape for any of the people on the earth from the consequences of this judgment.

Instead, we see that the people will try to hide themselves. Some will look for caves where they can hide. Others will look for places in the rocks of the mountains where they can hide. The people will even seek suicide as they ask the mountains and the rocks to fall on them to hide them from the judgment that God is bringing on the earth. In every major earthquake, in the area where we live, I have personally known individuals who have turned to God in repentance and faith immediately, or within a few days, after the quake. Instead of crying out to God for mercy, in this great earthquake, we see that the unbelief of the people will cause them to either hide or seek death. This shows how rebellious the hearts of the people will be the time of the tribulation. Jeremiah 17:9 describes well what their hearts will be like when that verse says, “The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked; Who can know it?” The people will realize that this judgment comes from God, and that they are experiencing the wrath of the Lamb against their sin, but most of the people will be unwilling to repent of their sin of unbelief.

In fact, the people will say, “For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?” Here, we see that the people will realize that this worldwide earth quake and the things that will follow it show that the day of God’s wrath has come on the earth. Since this earthquake has a worldwide impact, the people will not be calling it a natural disaster. Instead, they will ask the question, “Who is able to stand?” That question will be answered in the next chapter. We see that we want to help our physical and spiritual children learn how to explain how the opening of each of these seals will affect the earth. May the Lord richly bless you as you help your children learn to explain these things.