

“The Final Inescapable Judgment”

Revelation 6:12-17

The Sixth Seal – A vision of the commencement of final judgment

Revelation #15

Preliminary:

1. The first five seals/visions (vv. 1-11):

Seals 1-4: The Lamb’s “providential instruments of ‘pre-wrath wrath’”

Seal 5: The vision of the persecuted church across the centuries

2. The connection of this vision (the 6th Seal) with the previous vision (9-11)

- Here is the ultimate answer to the cry of the persecuted church.
- The sixth seal and its vision carries us suddenly to the end of history.

1. The Lamb’s Judgment: Cataclysmic!

vv. 12-14

(1) The Figure: Cosmic collapse

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

- **The literal collapse of the physical universe?** No

- **A very familiar O.T. figure for divine judgment on a nation!**

- Thus, judgment on: Babylon: Is. 13:9, 10, 13, 19; Edom: Is. 34:4-5; Egypt: Ezek. 32:7-8
Israel! : Joel 2:1, 2, 10, 28-32 cf. Matt. 24:29ff.

- The “light goes out” on a nation: the sun and moon darkened
- Her rulers swept away: the stars fall from the sky
- Her “world” has come to an end!

- **Here, the ultimate application of the figure: Final judgment upon the whole world order.**

(2) The Lessons

- As is the power of God over the physical universe, so is His power over the nations.

- **All false securities and idols will be swept away in a moment; the whole world system suddenly dissolved!**

2. The Lamb’s Judgment: Inescapable!

vv. 15-17

(1) It comes upon all!

*“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...”*

- **All men, however secure they once supposed themselves to be!**

- **All men, whatever their station in life**

(2) No possibility of hiding!

*“(they) hid themselves in the caves
and in the rocks of the mountains”*

- **Hiding from God has always been a futile endeavor!**

cf. Gen. 3

- **Hiding portrayed as futile:**

- Men seek to take refuge in that which they regard as permanent and unshakeable.
But the mountains are being shaken, moved out of their place!

(3) Fallen men would prefer annihilation!

*“and (they) 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 day unparalleled has come!

The day of the wrath of the Lamb!

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

Further Application