

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

“No Hiding Place”

Revelation 6:12-17

Introduction

1. Review it again, dear friend, the key to this book (1:19). John wrote 1) The things seen (vv. 12-16). 2) The things which are (chap. 2, 3). 3) The things hereafter (4-22).

2. The Rapture of the Church, the Body of Christ, is suggested by the phrase “Come up hither” (4:1). Scripture declares plainly that there will be a “catching away” of the believers of this Age of Grace (1 Thess. 4:13-18).

3. After the Rapture, the 70th week of Daniel (9:24-27), also called the Tribulation (Mt. 24:21) will commence. This seven year period will unleash God’s wrath against those who have rejected Christ.

4. The seal judgments fit into the Tribulation, Seal #1 unveils the Antichrist. Seal #2 take peace from the earth. Seal #3 brings famine/starvation. Seal #4 pours out death (body) and hades (soul). Seal #5 shows the martyrs of the Tribulation. Seal #6 considers the environmental chaos to come. See the details of this 6th Seal.

1. The DESCRIPTION Provided vv. 12-14

a. About the EARTH

This is something to behold () as the 6th Seal is opened.

1) Earthquake The original text simply says “earthquake” () which is a great shaking. Here is a seismographic convulsion. The verb form means to shake, toss, jolt, agitate. A similar physical disturbance is noted at Mt. Sinai (Ex. 19:18), time of Elijah (1 Kings 19:11), death of Christ (Mt. 27:50, 51) and at imprisonment of Paul (Acts 16:26). The verb “was” signifies to “become” ().

2) Mountains/Island Here are fearful changes in the configuration of the earth. The mountains and the islands are moved out of their places (aorist passive). The whole earth is affected, not some isolated area.

b. About the HEAVENS

1) The sun Rather than something bright and providing warmth, the sun is pictured like a mourning garment with black cloth taken from a goat.

2) The moon A full moon is indicated by the term used in some texts (), hence not a moon in her crescent. It “becomes” as blood (cf. Joel 2:31; Acts 2:10).

3) The stars These fell (aorist act.) to the earth. This may signify falling stars, meteors, or well known celestial stars being removed from their places in the sky. It is compared with a fig tree losing its figs before they are ripe. Understandably this is an untimely occasion caused by a great wind. “Shaken” is the verb

form of “earthquake” (v. 12).

4) Heaven Here is a vivid picture of the heavens being parted or separated () and rolled up as a scroll (cf. Luke 4:17). This event contributes the violent displacement of the earth’s crust (mountains and islands). This may well be some massive cyclone.

NOTE: We believe that when the plain sense of the Bible makes good sense, we are not to look for some other sense. Hence, we accept the literality of all recorded here. The whole earth is broken up affecting the entire earth and heavens.

2. The IMPRESSION Effected vv. 15 - 17

With the unbelievable physical disturbances outlined, what affect does this have on the earth dwellers? Read: -

a. On world population v. 15

Several categories of people are listed here:

1) Kings/Great Men This is a reference to the great statesmen and civil officers. They are the G-8 of today meeting in Genoa.

2) Chief Captain Here is a reference to the military in command of a garrison.

3) Rich/Strong Men This enumeration comprises all of those whose circumstances have most ground for permanence of the existing state.

4) Bond/Free Men This catalogue becomes very general. Here are the common lot.

b. On world conviction vv. 15, 16

One would think the cataclysmic events described would provoke world-wide repentance. Rather, every category of men in the socio-economic range now pray to nature (!!!) to intervene against Almighty God (!!!). There is nothing so terrible as to come before God’s presence without the blood of God’s Lamb (Jn 1:29).

c. On world destruction v. 17

The events delineated mark “the Great Day” (attributive position:) suggesting an actual title -- “the Day, that Great Day.” It is the day of the “Lamb’s wrath.” The aorist verb is almost perfect in sense i.e. the day has arrived. The rhetorical question must be raised -- who is able to stand (aorist passive infinitive). None mentioned in the text are able (v. 15).

Conclusion

The seals are the first series of judgments. Others are to come (trumpets, vials). If ever in our lives we should think seriously about our future, it is now. Have you taken refuge under the blood of Christ? Oh, may your answer be an emphatic affirmation. Scripture says “now is the accepted time; behold now is the day of salvation” (2 Cor. 6:2).