

Seven: A Study of the Book of Revelation
Ep. 4 The Great and Terrible Day of the Lord
Revelation 6:12-17

¹² I watched as he opened the sixth seal. There was a great earthquake. The sun turned black like a sackcloth made of goat hair, the whole moon turned blood red, ¹³ and the stars in the sky fell to earth, as figs drop from a fig tree when shaken by a strong wind. ¹⁴ The heavens receded like a scroll being rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place. ¹⁵ Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and everyone else, both slave and free, hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. ¹⁶ They called to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!" ¹⁷ For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can withstand it?"

Key: The time of tribulation is a time of judgment and grace in which there is still time to repent.

REVELATION IN REVIEW: John's Vision, God's Throne, 7 Seals (1-4 Horsemen, 5 Martyrs, 6 Climatic Judgment, 7 Silence in heaven, prayers and judgment released)

With the opening of the 6th seal, we see the following signs and wonders being orchestrated by God rather than the horsemen.

The Great and Terrible Day of the Lord

Joel 2:30-31: And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come.

Rev 6:17 For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can withstand it?" [KJV]

EVENTS OF THAT DAY-

1. A great earthquake
2. Sun becoming black as a sackcloth of hair
3. Moon becomes as blood
4. Stars of heaven falling on earth
5. Heavens departing as a scroll when rolled together
6. Every mountain and island moving out of their place

How are we to live?

Jesus foretells these same events in Mark 13

- **Watch out: 5-8** Jesus said to them: "Watch out that no one deceives you. ⁶ Many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am he,' and will deceive many.
- **Don't be alarmed:** ⁷ When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. ⁸ Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.
- **Understand:** There will be earthquakes in various places, and famines. These are the beginning of birth pains.
 - **Luke 21:28** And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh. *KJV*
- **Be On Guard: Mark 13** Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come.
 - **Mark 13:36-37** If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. ³⁷ What I say to you, I say to everyone: 'Watch!'"

Small Group Questions:

1. The time of tribulation is a time of judgment and grace in which there is still time to repent. Does this understanding change your view of the tribulation period?
2. With the opening of the 6th seal, the tribulations on earth are initiated by God rather than the horsemen. Why do you think this shift exists?
3. Do you think that the events mentioned (Sun turning black, moon turned to blood, etc) are literal or metaphorical? Does it matter?
4. We tend to be alarmed by Revelation. Jesus tells us not to be. Why do you think that is?
5. How can we be on our guard? Have you been on your guard?