

Revelation 6:12-17 NKJV

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. [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. [14] Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place. [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, [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! [17] For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

- The sixth seal describes the fear put into the heart of man by the mighty judgments of God.
- In this seal, men will fear that the awful and terrible day of the Lord has come.
 - But they will be wrong
 - These are just the beginnings (Matt. 24:8)
- This will affect every portion of the earth's populace
 - Rich, powerful, and poor alike
 - No one will escape!
- (v 12)
 - By this time, it is past the midpoint of the Great Tribulation
 - AntiChrist has desecrated the temple in Jerusalem (abomination of desolation)
 - The world has gone out to worship the AntiChrist
 - Massive persecutions of Jews and Christians has begun
 - Amazingly, it will be business as usual
 - Matthew 24:37-39
 - Jesus described these events associated w/the 6th seal (Matt. 24:29) (Luke 21:11, 25-26)
- The sixth seal
 - Great earthquake

- (seismos) “shaking”
- In the past, God has made His presence felt by “shaking” the earth as well. (Examples?)
- This event will not only shake the earth but the heavens as well.
 - It will be the most powerful earthquake the world has ever seen
 - It will come at an already troubled time
 - WWIII
 - Famine
 - Pandemics
 - The removal of the restrainer (2 Thess. 2:6-8)
- “Sun became black as sackcloth...moon became like blood”
 - One scientist, Henry Morris, describes how this could happen
 - The earthquake is worldwide in scope
 - The earth's crust has been unstable since the flood
 - How many have heard theories of continental drift after the flood?
 - Vast networks of plates could all shift at the same time.
 - A global earthquake would ensue
 - Trigger worldwide volcanic eruptions
 - The whole atmosphere would blot out the sun because of the smoke and ash
 - The gasses emitted from these eruptions would cause the sun to appear blood red
- (v 13)
 - “Stars of heaven fell to the earth”
 - Probably asteroids
 - Meteorite showers
 - Massive in scale

- It will look like someone is shaking overripe figs from a tree there will be so many→ remember seismos=shaking
 - This would cause even more disturbances in the ocean already unstable with tsunamis because of the earthquakes and eruptions
- (v 14)
 - The sky will appear to the human eye to recede like a scroll
 - This is not the final dissolving of heaven and earth
 - That comes later
 - “Every mountain and island will be moved
 - It will be world wide in scale because of the seismic and astrological activity
 - Cities will probably disappear under water
 - But it won’t be from climate change but God’s judgment
- (vv 15-17)
 - Kings=heads of state
 - Great men=high ranking gov’t officials
 - commanders = military commanders
 - The rich= business elites
 - strong= social influencers
 - Every slave and free man= all the rest
 - No one will be able to hide!
 - They will try
 - They will run to the caves like Saddam Hussien and Osama Bin Laden
 - Amazingly they will all know this is God’s judgment but will refuse to repent.
 - (The big surprise for them: this is only the opening act!)
 - (2 Thess. 2:11-12)
 - It will prompt a worldwide prayer meeting (v 16)
 - Except they will pray to mother nature
 - That is rooted in Baal worship, by the way
 - They will rather die than face judgements, but they will NOT escape.