



Citadel Of Faith Covenant Church

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ALPHA AND OMEGA

As we continue to look at chapter six of Revelation we have seen four seals opened. These seals have released the “four horsemen of the apocalypse”. The four horses represent the judgment that is now exacted on the earth by our Lord, Jesus Christ. The four horses representing: 1) false peace, 2) bloodshed and war 3) famine and poverty and then 4) death and hell following! What a sobering conclusion of man’s false sense of security. For millennia mankind has felt as though behavior has no ultimate consequence. The dangerous nature of death and the “after-life” is that there were not often people who could verify what true justice and judgment look like. We die...then.....? I can rob, kill, steal, etc. and unless I’m caught by a criminal justice system; I’m off the hook! Or are we? Jesus let’s sin know that it’s final judgment has begun. Although the power of sin was cancelled at the cross, the trace of sin is now beginning its cancellation. The second part of chapter six reveal even more. Rev. 8:9 discloses the opening of the fifth seal. It’s important to remember that there are some timelines we need to be mindful of as it relates to the “signs” of the times that will unveil what we call “end times”. Rev. 3:10 reminds us that the church (although speaking to the Philadelphian church, the reference is to “the church”) will be raptured *before the tribulation* began. (Read I Thessalonians 4:16) The church has been raptured. Those who choose to accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior, during the seen year Tribulation will face the greatest persecution the world has ever known. (Matthew 24:21) The fact that these souls are under the altar indicates that these martyrs gave their lives for the sake of the gospel and the service of the Savior. During this time, those who pass away will be in a bodiless form awaiting the final resurrection. This is why they cry out from underneath the altar, “How long will God not judge and avenge their blood to them on earth”. They were then given white robes. White always symbolized holiness and purity to the Jewish mind. For the aristocracy, a long flowing white robe symbolized social status and class it was one of the highest statuses to be in a flowing white robe. Although persecuted and waiting, they were robed in white. The fact that the robes were given to them underscores that our holiness and status in the kingdom is not anything that we can earn, but rather that which is bestowed. Then the Lord admonishes them to “rest a little season until the other martyrs have been killed”. Even death is under God’s control and has a purpose in the ultimate plan of God. We would never understand why death has to “finish it’s course”, but God works all things together including death!



Rev. 6:12 states the opening of the sixth seal and when it was opened, 1) there was a great earthquake, 2) the sun became black (like sackcloth made of goat hair...impossible for light to escape the strong fibers of goats hair) 3) the moon became blood red, 4) the stars fell to the earth, 5) the sky rolled up like a shade on a window and **every mountain and island** was relocated. Wow. It has now become unmistakable that it's all over. Unlike natural disasters which may happen in isolated parts of the world or maybe even a region, but the whole world has never experienced this level of disaster. Literally things on the earth and above are now out of control. Rev. 6:15 then shows humanity's response to this global catastrophe. 1)The kings, 2)great men, 3)rich men, 4)chief captains, 5)mighty men, 6) slaves or bondmen, 7)and every free man hid themselves in caves and clefts of rocks. And they cried out to the mountains to "fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb. Why? Rev. 6:17 tells us why. "For the great day of wrath has come; and who shall be able to stand. This is the fulfillment of Philippians 2:10&11(read) which lets us know that **EVERY** knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord. The fact that unbelievers are now speaking about the one sitting on the throne and the Lamb makes us wonder if the snatching away of the sun, sky, etc. now allowed man to see as John was seeing. All we know is that the scriptures tell us that they all were acknowledging God and Jesus and were begging to be spared what they knew was an impending judgment. But their final word let's us know the outcome, "who shall be able to stand". This reminds us that Jesus is Lord. With all the crime, corruption, lies with leaders, diseases, economic disparities, and on and on....Jesus is sill Lord. In the end Justice will come and it will be swift and complete. Just as the first judgment in Genesis 6 wiped out the earth we see a global judgment happening again, but this is the one that will pivot the remainder of humanity and earth. A new earth and the complete redemption of humanity and the rule of Christ and his people begin! What a glorious yet frightening time!

Questions to Ponder:

1. How does the death of the Martyrs speak to you about death and how God uses it?
2. Do you often wonder why God does not avenge you? (What other scriptures speak about humanities frustration with God's timing and vengeance?)
3. How significant is it to know that our righteousness is not earned but granted? (note scriptures)
4. Does the scene of the coming judgment create any conviction about evangelism?
5. What does the opening of the sixth seal mean to you? How does it affect you?
6. How does this impact your personal conviction to share your faith?