

Opening 5th & 6th Seal Revelation 6:9-17

I. Cry of the Martyrs – 6:9-11

1. The Lamb opens the 5th seal – 6:9
John saw souls under the altar
This altar is the altar of “incense”
Where the prayers of God’s people rose like
“incense” to God – Rev. 8:3-4
These souls under the altar were souls of the martyrs – 9
“Souls of those who had been slain for the Word of God”
“And for the witness they had borne”
2. These souls cried out with a loud voice – 10
“O Sovereign Lord, holy and true,” – God is absolutely “Just”
“How long before you will judge and avenge our blood” -
“On those who dwell on the earth?”
Cry for Justice
3. Think of how great that number of those martyred
Think of those listed in Scripture
Like John the Baptist, Stephen, James
Those listed in Church History
Like Peter, Paul, most of the Apostles
Like those listed in Foxe’s Book of Martyrs
Those in our own life-time
Like missionaries killed by Auca Indians
Like those now being killed in “Persecuted Churches”
4. They were each given “a white robe” – 11
“Told to rest a little longer” – God declares them righteous
“Until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers”
“Should be complete who were killed as they themselves had been”
5. These 4 horses lead to more martyrs – Matt. 24:15
This prince will break his covenant with Israel – Dan. 9:27
He will do something to desolate the temple
Partial fulfillment with Antiochus and the sow
But Jesus speaks of this abomination & desolator
6. Consider words in 2 Thess. 2:3-4; Rev. 13:5-8, 11-15
This anti-christ sits in the temple, worshipped as god
Brings on the “Great Tribulation” and many martyrs
7. Is this not a worthy reason why God should judge?

II. Disturbance in God’s Creation – 6:12-14

1. God shakes what man thought was unmovable – 12-14
When the Lamb opens the 6th seal
All creation seems to come apart – Col. 1:17
The God who created this universe can cause it to come apart
2. Note how the various parts begin to unravel – 12-14

There was a “great earthquake” – (God’s Word says (“great”)) - 12

So “great” that it may be felt all over the earth

The sun became “black as sackcloth” – 12

That which was made to give humans light is now hidden in darkness

Those separated from God in sin get a taste of “outer darkness” – Matt.22:13

The full moon became “like blood” – 13

The glory of the “full moon” becomes marked by “bloodshed”

The “stars of the sky fell to the earth” - 13

As a fig tree sheds its winter fruit when shaken by a gale”

Man has for a long time dreaded “falling stars”

The Sky vanished “like a scroll that is being rolled up” – 14

God seems to remove, for at least a brief time, when these heavenly things disappear

The land masses begin to shift from place to place– 14
“Every mountain and island was removed from its place”

It is difficult for us to imagine such a shaking when God removes His hand

III. Humans Try to Hide from God – 6:15-17

1. Man seeks a place to hide - 15
When creation seems to come apart
Like Adam & Eve, guilty sinners try to hide from God
Some men may appear to have greater opportunity To hide
The Kings and the great ones, generals of earth may have a bunker
Surely the rich and the powerful must have a place
But, not so, everyone, slave and free, hid themselves in caves
Hid themselves among the rocks of the mountains
2. Man, in terror calls to the mountains & rocks – 16
Crying out for the rocks and mountains to fall on them
“Hide us from the face of Him who is seated on the Throne”
“And from the wrath of the Lamb”
3. “For the great day of their wrath has come” – 17
“And who can stand”
4. There is one more seal to be opened – 8:1
And that 7th seal will open two other descriptions of God’s wrath
The 7th seal will unfold 7 trumpets sounding God’s judgment
And the 7th trumpet will sound two descriptions of “Bowls of wrath”
But chapter 7 gives bright hope for God’s people