

The Study of the Book of Revelation

The Seven Seals

Chapter 6

REVIEW

In our last two studies of Revelation, we looked at Revelation Chapters 4 and 5.

In Chapter 4, we saw a description of Heaven in terms of the Ancient Hebrew Sanctuary imagery. We learned that the door to the Heavenly Sanctuary was opened at Jesus' ascension.

In Chapter 5, we saw a continuation of John's vision of the Heavenly Sanctuary -- and events unfolding centered around a Scroll with Seven Seals. We saw that Jesus was the Only One Worthy *"to open the scroll and loose its seals"*. We also learned from the earthly examples that:

1. A King, at his ascension to the throne (authority), received a copy of the Covenant.
2. Only a Priest could enter the Sanctuary, and only a King could receive the Scroll to rule.

We saw that Jesus, who was both a King and a Priest, after the order of Melchisedec, fulfilled this dual role -- and that all heaven was praising God and saying *"Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing."* The study in Revelation 4 & 5, ended with Jesus being declared worthy, and being worshipped.

Today, we begin our study of THE SEVEN SEALS, looking at the prophetic details that are revealed, as each of the Seven Seals, on the Scroll Christ received (Rev. 5:1) is opened. There are several "keys" that will help us understand the symbolism of the historical *"Time Period"* for each of the seals.

Key No. 1 - We will note that a Creature is associated with each of the first four seals.

Rev. 4:6-8 tells us that these *"four living creatures"* were around the throne (remember the living creatures around God's chariot throne in Ezekiel's visions - Ezekiel Chapters 1 & 10):

1st Creature -	Lion	3rd Creature -	Face of a Man
2nd Creature -	Calf (Ox)	4th Creature -	Flying Eagle

Key No. 2 - We will note that a color is associated with the horses seen in each of the first four seals.

1st Seal -	White	3rd Seal -	Black
2nd Seal -	Red	4th Seal -	Pale

Like Daniel, the book of Revelation contains apocalyptic prophecy. In four parallel prophecies, events are repeated and enlarged, adding even more details to the big picture of prophecy. Revelation focuses on the main characters in the spiritual drama of the great controversy, giving enough information to clearly identify them. This knowledge helps sustain and prepare God's people for the events that take place during their lifetime. Our loving Savior has not left us in the dark, but has given us the sure word of prophecy to light our path.

Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection gave Him title and right to open the seals of the future for us to understand. The setting for Christ's heavenly ministry is the daily and continual work in the holy place as represented by the bleeding Lamb. Revelation moves through the sanctuary from the lampstand to the table of showbread and on to the altar of incense, showing us the plan of salvation in symbols. The symbolism of the sanctuary reveals these prophetic themes. Taylor Bunch, in his book *"The Revelation,"* describes it this way: *"The seven seals do not present a new period of history from that of the seven letters, but again covers the Christian dispensation from another viewpoint. These symbols reveal a series of religious events between the first and second advents of Christ"*

giving the changing condition of the church. The letters make their special appeal to the ear, while the seals with their symbols make their impressions through the eye. These are the two best methods of imparting instruction. The four symbolic horses with their riders represent the church from its triumphant beginning, through the Dark Ages, and to the Reformation. The great apostasy or “falling away” in the church is especially emphasized. The remaining seals present the revival and reformation for the restoration of the primitive faith through the testimony of the Two Witnesses, the sealing message, the second advent of Christ, and the glorious triumph of the church militant. The horse is symbolic of the church, its color represents her spiritual condition, and the rider her responsible leadership. As a rider guides and controls his horse, so the movements of the church are determined by the leading officials.”

LET’S BEGIN OUR STUDY ---

Revelation 6:1-2 THE FIRST SEAL

*“And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were **the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see. 2 And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer.”***

“a voice of thunder” - This is symbolic of God’s voice from the throne, which is between the four living creatures.

John 12:28-29

*“Father, glorify thy name. Then came there **a voice from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again. The people therefore, that stood by, and heard it, said that it thundered: others said, An angel spake to him.**”*

Revelation 4:5

*“And **out of the throne** proceeded lightnings and **thunderings and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.**”*

Revelation 14:2

*“And I heard **a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps:**”*

*“one of the four living creatures” - literally, the “first” living creature - A LION (Rev. 4:7a)
Symbolic of God / Christ - with a Kingly Voice: Christ is the
“Lion of the Tribe of Judah”. (Rev. 5:5)*

“white horse” – White represents purity and righteousness, a picture of the purity of the early faith in the Righteousness of Christ.

Revelation 3:5, 18

***Vs. 5** “He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in **white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.**”*

***Vs. 18** “I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and **white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.**”*

Revelation 7:14

*“And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have **washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.**”*

“**crown**” - This is the Greek Word “Stephanos” - which is a “*Crown of Victory*” - given to those that overcome.

Revelation 3:21 –

“To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.”

Contrast this with the Crown we see Christ wearing in **Rev. 19:12** - where “Crown” is the Greek word “Diadema” - which means a Kingly crown of authority.

Here in Revelation 6:2, we see Jesus, riding a white horse, wearing a crown of victory -- symbolic of His MORAL Victory over Satan and Sin. In Revelation 19:12, we also see Him coming on a white horse, at the end of time, but with Kingly Crown - symbolic of His POLITICAL Victory over Satan.

“**bow**”... “**conquering and to conquer**” - we see this rider as conquering - victorious.

SYMBOLISM - 1ST SEAL: We see here a symbolic picture of the EARLY APOSTOLIC CHURCH - of the early 1st Century through the mid-2nd Century (31 – 100 AD) - under the leadership and image of a conquering Jesus Christ and the purity of the early faith. We see Him riding a White Horse - wearing a Crown of Victory, going forth as a conqueror. The early apostolic church, in the pure (white) faith of Jesus Christ, was victorious in “conquering” and winning many through the pure Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Revelation 6:3-4 THE SECOND SEAL

*“3 And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the **second beast** say, Come and see. 4 And there went out **another horse that was red:** and power was given to him that sat thereon to **take peace from the earth**, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a **great sword.**”*

“**second living creature**” - In **Rev. 4:7**, we saw that the second living creature was like an Ox - which is symbolic of strength.

Numbers 24:8

*“God brought him forth out of Egypt; he hath as it were the **strength of an unicorn (Wild Ox):** he shall eat up the nations his enemies, and shall break their bones, and pierce them through with his arrows.” (See also Num. 23:42)*

Deuteronomy 33:17

*“His glory is like the **firstling of his bullock**, and his horns are like the horns of **unicorns (Wild Ox):** with them he shall push the people together to the ends of the earth: and they are the ten thousands of Ephraim, and they are the thousands of Manasseh.”*

“**another horse that was red**” - draws to mind the picture of blood -- of persecution, of slaughter.

“**to take peace from the earth**” ... “**sword**” - from history, we know the “*PAX ROMANA*”, the Roman Peace, that had existed for many years under Roman rule, ended in the middle of the third century - in the period 248 - 268 AD From about 253 - 268 AD, there was a period of severe upheaval in the Roman Empire - it was under attack from all four directions, by the Franks, the Alemanni, the Ostrogoths and the Persians, and the Roman empire nearly fell. When it (the Roman Empire) got back on its feet, under the emperor Diocletian, there was an intense period of persecution of the Christian Church (from 303 - 313 AD - reference the Seven Churches study).

SYMBOLISM - 2ND SEAL: We see here a symbolic picture of the early Christian Church from the mid-second century through perhaps the early fourth century (100 – 325 AD) -- a time when the Church was still “strong” (like an ox), but also a time when peace was lost, and a time when the Church was under heavy persecution.

Revelation 6:5-6 THE THIRD SEAL

*“5 And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the **third beast** say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a **black horse**; and he that sat on him had a **pair of balances in his hand**. 6 And I heard a **voice in the midst** of the four beasts say, A measure of **wheat for a penny**, and three measures of **barley for a penny**; and see thou hurt not the **oil and the wine**.”*

“third living creature” - The third living creature had the face of a man -- this represents a period or phase of church history when human authority and “*wisdom*” is being substituted for the authority of Christ and God.

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4

*“Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a **falling away first**, and that **man of sin be revealed**, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, **shewing himself that he is God**.”*

Dan 7:8

*“I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were **eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things**.”*

“black horse” - where as white represents spiritual purity, black, as the opposite, prophetically is a symbol of sin and spiritual darkness.

1 John 1:5-6

*“This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and **in him is no darkness at all**. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and **walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth**.”*

“pair of scales in his hand” - Scales (or balances) were used in trade (buying and selling) to weigh out goods in the market place. They also are used as a symbol of judgment.

Dan. 5:27 - “...**TEKEL**; Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting.”

Job 31:6 - “Let me be weighed in an even [just, righteous] balance, that God may know mine integrity.”

“voice in the midst” - Whose voice is this? Who resides “*in the midst of the four creatures*”?

What resides in the midst of the 4 Cherubim -- the Throne of God -- this is Judgment imagery - of a voice from the throne of God -- i.e. God’s voice.

“wheat, ..., barley, ... for a penny” - (denarius in some translations -- this was about a day’s pay for a laborer). This is symbolic of want and scarcity --- scarcity of what? Some would take it literally, and say this represents famine -- lack of food. But if we consider the imagery of the Feast system -- and look at the symbolism of Revelation, perhaps we can see an even more significant imagery here --

“wheat” - “barely” associated with the spring harvests (Passover and Pentecost) -- the early spiritual harvests of the truth of the Gospel. Thus, in this time period, fruits of the early harvests - the early truths - are becoming scarce, hard to find. There is an approaching famine of the truth -- but the famine is not quite here yet.

“*but do not damage the olive oil and the wine!*” - olive oil (from olives) and wine (from grapes), bring to mind the fall **Fruit** Harvest time – which correlates to the Feast of Tabernacles -- the “*Final Harvest*” -- the harvest that occurs following the summer drought. (Wine also carries with it the Feast of Tabernacles imagery -- with the Ceremony of the water and wine -- see Rev. 21-22 study). We see that the “*fall harvest*” is not harmed -- not impacted -- during the period of this third seal.

SYMBOLISM - 3RD SEAL: We see in the period of this third seal a time in the Church history when the early truths and harvest are becoming scarce (325 – 538 AD) -- when there is a growing apostasy within the Church, when man’s “doctrines” are beginning to replace God’s truths. With the spring harvest season over, and given the symbolism of growing scarcity (of truths), we would anticipate an approaching summer drought, and famine ---- Let’s see what the 4th Seal brings.....

Revelation 6:7-8 THE FOURTH SEAL

*“7 And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the **fourth beast** say, Come and see. 8 And I looked, and behold a **pale horse**: and his name that sat on him was **Death**, and **Hell** followed with him. And **power was given** unto them over the **fourth part of the earth**, to kill with sword, and with **hunger**, and with **death**, and with the **beasts of the earth**.”*

“*fourth beast [living creature]*” - The fourth living creature was a flying eagle. An eagle is used in scripture symbolically of swiftness. It also provides an image of judgment and carnage (death and destruction).

Job 9:26 - *“They are passed away as the swift ships: as the eagle [that] hasteth to the prey.”*

Leviticus 11:13 tells us that an eagle is an unclean bird -- a scavenger:

*“And these are they which ye shall have in abomination among the fowls; they shall not be eaten, they are an abomination: **the eagle**, and the ossifrage, and the ospray.”*

We see Jesus referring to the eagles in connection with the dead left at His Second Coming.

Matthew 24:28

“For wheresoever the carcase is, there will the eagles be gathered together.”

Luke 17:37

*“And they answered and said unto him, Where, Lord? And he said unto them, **Wheresoever the body is, thither will the eagles be gathered together.**”*

“*pale horse*” - pale - the color of death. -- and **Death** rode it, and **Hell** (the grave) followed.

An illusion to spiritual death -- the truth has been lost, and spiritual death is present.

“*power was given*” - Reference the giving of the power to the Beast of Revelation 13 (Rev. 13:2) - a picture of the power given by Satan (the Dragon - Rev. 12:9) to the Beast (Papal Rome = Papacy)

Revelation 13:2

*“And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and **the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.**”*

Revelation 12:9

“And the **great dragon** was cast out, that old serpent, **called the Devil, and Satan**, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.”

“to kill with sword...hunger... death ... beasts”

Key Thought: Compare Rev. 6:8, under the Fourth Seal, to the conditional promises of Lev. 26:2-6:

Leviticus 26:2-6

“2 Ye shall keep my sabbaths, and reverence my sanctuary: I am the LORD. 3 If ye walk in my statutes, and keep my commandments, and do them; 4 Then I will give you rain in due season, and the land shall yield her increase, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit. 5 And your threshing shall reach unto the vintage, and the vintage shall reach unto the sowing time: and ye shall eat your bread to the full, and dwell in your land safely. 6 And I will give peace in the land, and ye shall lie down, and none shall make you afraid: and I will rid evil beasts out of the land, neither shall the sword go through your land.

If the people of Israel would **keep the Sabbaths and reverence the sanctuary -- keep the commandments** -- then there would be “no drought” [i.e. summer drought], the land would yield increase [i.e. spring grain harvests] and trees their fruit [fall fruit harvest] --- the threshing [spring grain harvest] would last until vintage [fall fruit harvest] [i.e. - there would be no famine]. AND there would be peace, no death by evil beasts [i.e. beast in symbolic Bible prophecy = kingdoms] or by sword. **On the other hand, because they did not keep the Sabbath, reverence the Sanctuary and keep the Commandments -- rather than gain these promises, they received the very opposite as a JUDGMENT.**

“the fourth part” - The judgment of the period covered in this Seal is a **partial judgment** - not a complete or final judgment.

SYMBOLISM - 4TH SEAL: We see in the period of this seal a time in the Church history when the truths of the Sabbath and the Sanctuary have been abandoned and lost --- and a partial judgment occurs - with spiritual drought and famine, with death, tribulations, etc. This is a picture of the Church going into the dark ages - during the majority of the 1260 years - from the 5th - 6th Century time period (538 – 1565 AD).

Note the correlation to **Rev. 11: 3, 6**

Revelation 11:3, 6

*“3. And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a **thousand two hundred and threescore days**, clothed in sackcloth. ... 6 These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will.”*

Revelation 6:9-11 THE FIFTH SEAL

*“9 And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw **under the altar** the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: 10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, **How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?** 11 And **white robes were given** unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should **rest yet for a little season**, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.”*

“under the altar” - it is important to understand the symbolism of what and where this “altar” is. In the Sanctuary, the Altar of Sacrifice (The Brazen Altar) was located in the outer court. The Altar of Incense (The Golden Altar) was located in the Holy Place, before the veil of the Most Holy Place .

Exodus 40:5-7, 26

*Vs. 5-7 “And thou shalt set **the altar of gold for the incense before the ark of the testimony**, and put the hanging of the door to the tabernacle. And thou shalt set **the altar of the burnt offering before the door of the tabernacle** of the tent of the congregation. And thou shalt set the laver between the tent of the congregation and the altar, and shalt put water therein.”*

26 “And he put the golden altar in the tent of the congregation before the vail:”

It was at the Altar of Sacrifice that the sacrificial offerings were slain, and where the blood was poured out at the base of it. (See Lev. 1:5, 15). Consistent with this imagery, in Revelation, the term GOLDEN ALTAR refers to the altar in the HOLY PLACE. (See Rev. 8:3, Rev. 9:13)

NOTE: In the prophetic sanctuary imagery -- the “*Outer Court*” is symbolic of the Earthly ministry of Christ, while the “*Holy Place*” draws reference to Christ’s Heavenly Ministry.

KEY Thought: The “*Altar*” referred to in Rev. 6:9 is symbolic of altar of sacrifice - and the blood of those on the earth who were “*sacrificed*,” who “*who had been slaughtered for the word of God and for the testimony*.” (The word “*Testimony*” used here is the Greek word “*Marturia*,” which is of the same root word as our word “*Martyr*”)

“*they cried out*” - the blood of the 1st Martyr also “*Cried Out*.”

Gen. 4:10

“*And he said, What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground.*”

HISTORICAL CORRELATION - This corresponds to the persecution and martyrdom of Christians that occurred during the Middle Ages. During this period, millions were killed “*in the name of Religion*,” with some of the most significant martyrdom occurring during the Counter Reformation--during the 30 Year War in the early 17th century, and during the Spanish Inquisition. This was the bloodiest phase of the “*Church*” persecutions.

“*how long*” - In Daniel 8:10-13, we saw the “*Little Horn*” power cast down and trample some of the “*stars*” (which we saw represented God’s people), and we also saw the question “*HOW LONG* until the “*sanctuary is cleansed*”. Here, we again see God’s people cast down, martyred, and asking “*how long*”.

“*judge and avenge our blood*” - The “*Cleansing of the Sanctuary*” (Dan. 8 question) corresponds to the Great Day of Atonement - which is a judgment scene. Likewise, here in the “*5th Seal*” question, we see the question of “*how long*” and “*judgment*” linked. **See Rev. 11:18-19** - scene of the Judgment starting - (the Investigative Judgment of the Dead).

“*given a white robe*” - Ref. **Rev. 3:4-5 & Rev. 12:11** - Those who walked with the Lord, washed and made pure by the blood of the Lamb, “*shall be clothed in white garments*” when Christ returns, bringing His rewards with Him (Rev. 22:12). These “*White Robes*” are the righteous deeds of the saints, coming out of their commitment to Christ and faithfully following Christ - even to death. They receive their reward AS A GIFT FROM CHRIST, when he returns and resurrects these righteous dead.

“*rest a little longer*” - The “*dead in Christ*” from this period are told to “*rest a little while longer*,” until the rest who would die, as they had, (the rest who would Love Christ, even unto the death) would be completed. In other words, until Jesus returns again. See Rev. 14:13.

Isaiah 26:19-21

*“19 Your dead shall live, their corpses shall rise. O dwellers in the dust, awake and sing for joy! For your dew is a radiant dew, and the earth will give birth to those long dead. 20. Come, my people, enter your chambers, and shut your doors behind you; **hide yourselves for a little while until the wrath is past.** 21 For the LORD comes out from his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity; the earth will disclose the blood shed on it, and will no longer cover its slain.”*

SYMBOLISM - 5TH SEAL: We see in the period of this seal a time in the Church history, shortly before the start of the Investigative Judgment period (The “Great Day of Atonement - or Cleansing of the Heavenly Sanctuary), when great persecution and martyrdom occurs --- the Middle Ages. These intense persecutions came to an end in the middle of the 18th Century (1565 - 1750AD.)

Shortly after the end of the 5th Seal Period, i.e. shortly after the end of the persecutions in the middle 18th Century, the signs described in the Sixth Seal began to occur. We will learn that the Sixth Seal covers the historical period from approximately 1750 AD until the Second Advent -- i.e. **“THE TIME OF THE END” -- This is the time that we are living in today -- during the time of the sixth seal!!**

Revelation 6:12-13

THE SIXTH SEAL

*“12 And I beheld when he had opened the **sixth seal**, and, lo, there was **a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; 13 And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind.**”*

In Matthew 24, Jesus spoke of the signs of “*Time of the End*” and His second coming. In Matthew 24:15, He spoke of understanding the Book of Daniel. In verses 21-22, He refers to the great tribulation of the 1260 years - especially of the persecutions of His followers. Then, in verse 29, He notes that immediately following this great tribulation period, these signs would occur:

Matthew 24:29

*“Immediately after the suffering of those days **the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of heaven will be shaken.**”*

Joel 2:30-31

*“And I will shew **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.**”*

Let’s look at these “*signs*” and see if we can identify them:

“a great earthquake” - At or shortly after the opening of the 6th seal, a great earthquake was prophesied to occur. On November 1, 1755 (All Saints Day), The Great Lisbon Quake occurred. It was the largest earthquake ever recorded. It was felt on 4 continents and has been estimated that it would have measured over 9.0 on the current “*Richter Scale*.”

“sun black -- moon like blood” - This literally occurred on May 19, 1780 - when a darkness occurred in mid-day that was unlike anything ever experienced, with the phenomenon centered in the New England area (See following quotes):

“In some places, the darkness was so great, that persons could not see to read common print in the open air, for several hours together: but I believe this was not generally the case. The extent of this darkness was very remarkable.” Samuel Williams, "An Account of a Very Uncommon Darkness in the States of New England, May 19, 1780: “in *Memoirs of the American Academy*

of Arts and Sciences: to the End of the Year 1783 (Boston: Adams and Nourse, 1785), Vol. 1, pp. 234, 235.

"The darkness of the following evening was probably as gross as ever has been observed since the Almighty fiat gave birth to light. It wanted only palpability to render it as extraordinary, as that which overspread the land of Egypt in the days of Moses.... If every luminous body in the universe had been shrouded in impenetrable shades, or struck out of existence, the darkness could not have been more complete. A sheet of white paper held within a few inches of the eyes was equally invisible with the blackest velvet. Considering the small quantity of light that was transmitted by the clouds, by day, it is not surprising that, by night, a sufficient quantity of rays should not be able to penetrate the same strata, brought back by the shifting of the winds, to afford the most obscure prospect even of the best reflecting bodies." Letter of Samuel Tenney (an eye-witness of Rowley, [Mass.?], dated Exeter [N.H.?], Dec., 1785, in Collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society, Vol. 1, 1792 (Boston: Belknap and Hall, 1792), pp. 97, 98.

"The 19th of May, 1780, was a remarkable dark day. Candles were lighted in many houses; the birds were silent and disappeared, and the fowls retired to roost. The legislature of Connecticut was then in session at Hartford. A very general opinion prevailed, that the day of judgment was at hand. The House of Representatives, being unable to transact their business, adjourned. A proposal to adjourn the Council was under consideration. When the opinion of Colonel [Abraham] Davenport was asked, he answered, I am against an adjournment. The day of judgment is either approaching, or it is not. If it is not, there is no cause of an adjournment: if it is, I choose to be found doing my duty. I wish therefore that candles may be brought." Timothy Dwight, quoted in Connecticut Historical Collections, compiled by John Warner Barber (2d ed.; New Haven: Durrie & Peck and J. W. Barber, 1836), p. 403.

"the stars of the sky fell to the earth" - On the night of November 12, 1833 - (early morning November 13, 1833), the greatest meteor shower in history occurred - with as many as 100,000 or more asteroids (shooting stars) per hour. The intensity and nature of the stars looked like they were shooting past on all sides (going outward from the center in all directions) - just like figs being shaken from a fig tree by a mighty wind.

"The morning of November 13th, 1833, was rendered memorable by an exhibition of the phenomenon called SHOOTING STARS, which was probably more extensive and magnificent than any similar one hitherto recorded"

"Probably no celestial phenomenon has ever occurred in this country, since its first settlement, which was viewed with so much admiration and delight by one class of spectators, or with so much astonishment and fear by another class...." Denison Olmsted, "Observations on the Meteors of November 13th, 1833," **The American Journal of Science and the Arts**, 25 (1834), p. 363.

"For nearly four hours the sky was literally ablaze [Careful scientific accounts indicate that] more than a billion shooting stars appeared over the United States and Canada alone." Peter M. Millman, "The Falling of the Stars," **The Telescope**, 7 (May-June, 1940), 57.

Revelation 6:14-17

"14 And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. **15** And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens 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 that sitteth on**

the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: 17 For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?”

“as a scroll when it is rolled together [split apart]” - a picture of the skies splitting apart when Christ returns at the Second Advent --

Isaiah 34:4

*“And all the host of heaven shall be dissolved, and **the heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll:** and all their host shall fall down, as the leaf falleth off from the vine, and as a falling fig from the fig tree.”*

In verses 14-17, we see the final event of the Sixth Seal period, the Second Advent of Christ, coming with God the Father. We see the sky *“rolled up like a scroll”* or *“split apart”* revealing the Father and Son coming back to earth. This is like the splitting of the veil in the temple that separated men and God -- the *“veil”* between earth and Heaven will be split open, and all will see GOD and Christ returning. Sinful men will shrink in fear at their coming, calling for the rocks and mountains to hide them from the wrath of God and of the Lamb. We have already seen that sinful man will not be able to stand the glorious presence of the Holy God.

Isaiah 25:7-8

*“And he will destroy in this mountain the face of **the covering cast over all people, and the veil that is spread over all nations.** He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the LORD hath spoken it.”*

Isaiah 40:21-22

*“Have ye not known? have ye not heard? hath it not been told you from the beginning? have ye not understood from the foundations of the earth? It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that **stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in:**”*

“seated on the throne” - Seated on the throne draws our attention to the Ark of the Covenant, which we have seen, is the Throne of God. Thus we are seeing imagery in the Sixth Seal of the Throne Room - the Holy of Holies. Remember in the Fifth Seal, we were in the Court, at the altar of sacrifice. Therefore, from the fifth to the sixth seals, we see the transition from the court (the focus on the earth) to the Most Holy Place (focus on Great Day of Atonement / Judgment). (Reference Rev. 11:19)

“their wrath” - **THE KEY: “THEIR”** wrath -- both *“He who is seated”* and *“the Lamb”* will return. As we have seen, the One seated on the throne is God the Father and the Lamb is Jesus. At the second coming of Jesus, they are coming together in glory to earth. (Mark 14:62, Luke 9:26)

“who is able to stand?” - The question is asked - WHO IS ABLE TO STAND at the appearing of God the Father and Jesus Christ, at the Second Advent? This is the same question we saw in Isaiah 33:14-17 - which asked, *“Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire?”* These verses in Isaiah tell us those who are righteous will be able to stand. Likewise, Revelation Chapter 7 responds with the answer.

Then will the world’s dream of worldly security be effectually broken. Kings who, intoxicated with their own earthly authority, have never dreamed of a higher power than they themselves, now realize that there is One who reigns as King of kings. The great men behold the vanity of all earthly pomp, for there is a greatness above that of earth. Those who never prayed to Him whose arm could bring salvation, now raise an agonizing prayer to rocks and mountains to bury them forever from the sight of Him whose presence brings to them destruction. So they flee to the rocks, caves, caverns which the broken surface of the earth now presents before them. But it is too late.

They cannot conceal their guilt or escape the long delayed vengeance. The day that they thought would never come, has come, and the involuntary language of their anguished hearts is, "*The great day of His wrath is come, and who shall be able to stand?*" Before that day comes with its fearful scenes, we need to give serious attention to our salvation. At one time or another all men will pray. Those who will not pray to God in penitence, will then pray to the rocks and mountains in despair; and this will be the largest prayer meeting ever held.