

God's Wrath against Evil Begins

Revelation 6

“A sign of the times’ is an event of prophetic significance that points to the end times. Jesus warned that certain signs would transpire as the tribulation period starts to unfold (Matthew 24). These include a significant increase in earthquakes, famine, pestilence, and signs in the heavens. There will also be a great escalation in false Christs, false prophets, false teachers, and false apostles [NAR, New Apostolic Reformation]—along with a considerable parallel increase in apostasy. The arrival of such signs will be clear proof that the end times have arrived.

The increase in false Christs and false prophets [Prophetic Movement] will prepare the way for the emergence of the ultimate false Christ (the antichrist) and the ultimate false prophet. It is interesting to see how the signs of the times in Jesus’s Olivet Discourse (Matthew 24) line up with the seal judgments in the book of Revelation (Revelation 6).” Ron Rhodes

THE OLIVET DISCOURSE (MATTHEW 24)	THE SEVEN SEAL JUDGMENTS (REVELATION 6)
The rise of false Christ (verses 4-5)	<i>First seal:</i> the rise of the antichrist (verses 1-2)
Wars and rumors of wars (verse 6)	<i>Second seal:</i> peace is taken from the earth (verses 3-4)
Famines (verse 7)	<i>Third seal:</i> escalation of food costs, famine (verses 5-6)
Earthquakes (verse 7)	<i>Sixth seal:</i> a great earthquake (verses 12-14)

- I. It is important to know the character of God, i.e., His immutable attributes, so that we can serve Him well no matter what we might be facing in the uncertainty of this life. If we fail to understand the magnitude of His perfect love, grace, and mercy toward us, then we will fail in expressing those character traits toward others. If we do not understand His perfect justice, then we will find ourselves bowing to the godless will of man without regard for living righteously before Him. Peter exhorts us to live holy and godly lives knowing that God’s justice will bring a death blow to the evil that prevails in this world (2 Peter 3:10-12). His wrath against sin should put in us a deep awe, gratitude, and humility in knowing that we have been spared from it by the saving grace of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Nahum 1:2-3, 5-7
 Romans 2:5-8
 Romans 3:25
 1 Thess. 5:9
 Rev. 3:10
 2 Thess. 2:7-8

God's wrath means that He intensely hates all sin. (Grudem)

- II. The Lamb looking as if it had been slain is the only one worthy to open the seals on the scroll given to Him by the One who sits on the throne. The seals usher in the seven-year tribulation Daniel prophesied about in Daniel 9, verses 26-27. Each seal, when broken, brings about a series of cataclysmic events that God ordained must happen to bring about the final fall of Satan, his cohorts, and the evil world system. All seven seals must be broken before contents of the scroll are revealed. The first seal that Jesus opens brings forth a rider on a white horse. He will usher in a temporary false peace with Israel. The second seal that Jesus opens brings forth a rider on a fiery red horse. This rider will take away peace and bring hatred toward one another. The third seal that Jesus opens brings forth a rider on a black horse. This rider brings about a worldwide famine. The fourth seal that Jesus opens brings forth a rider on a pale horse. This rider controls death. The fifth seal that Jesus opens marks the midway point of the seven-year tribulation. During this time, those who come to Christ are severely persecuted and many are slaughtered for their faith.

Rev. 6:1-11

Dan. 9:27

2 Thess. 2:9-12

1 Thess. 5:3

Gen. 6:5

Matt. 24:10-12

Mark 13:7

Matt 24:4-9

Rom. 12:10

Rom. 12:19

- III. Jesus opens the sixth seal to bring fear upon those in rebellion against Him. The first five seals involve “earth dwellers” and their godless attitude toward one another. In the sixth seal, God alone acts. How mankind reacts to what God is doing shows that *the heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?* They show a recognition of the Lord’s mighty power and wrath, but what is missing is their repentance. *They refused to love the truth and be saved* (2 Thess. 2:10).

Rev. 6:12-17

Matt. 24:21

Zephaniah 1:14-18 *The great day of the Lord is near – near and coming quickly... That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of trouble and ruin, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and blackness... I will bring distress on the people and they will walk like blind men, because they have sinned against the Lord... Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the Lord’s wrath. In the fire of his jealousy the whole world will be consumed for he will make a sudden end of all who live in the earth.*