

THE GREAT DAY OF THEIR WRATH HAS COME

SEE, THE DAY OF THE LORD IS COMING –A CRUEL DAY, WITH WRATH AND FIERCE ANGER– TO MAKE THE LAND DESOLATE AND DESTROY THE SINNERS WITHIN IT. THE STARS OF HEAVEN AND THEIR CONSTELLATIONS WILL NOT SHOW THEIR LIGHT. THE RISING SUN WILL BE DARKENED AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE

I WILL PUNISH THE WORLD FOR ITS EVIL, THE WICKED FOR THEIR SINS. I WILL PUT AN END TO THE ARROGANCE OF THE HIGH AND I WILL HUMBLE THE PRIDE OF THE RUTHLESS. I WILL MAKE PEOPLE SCARCER THAN PURE GOLD, MORE RARE THAN THE GOLD OF OPHIR.

THEREFORE I WILL MAKE THE HEAVENS TREMBLE; AND THE EARTH WILL SHAKE FROM ITS PLACE AT THE WRATH OF THE LORD ALMIGHTY, IN THE DAY OF HIS BURNING ANGER.

THE PROPHET ISAIAH (13:9-13 NIV)



OUTLINE ... (Revelation 6:1-17 ESV)

1. **THE GREAT DAY OF THE LORD** IS PROMISED, PROCLAIMED AND PROPHESED.

A. *The day of the LORD promised, proclaimed and prophesied in the Old Testament.*

- (Isaiah 13:6 NIV) Wail, for the day of the LORD is near; **it will come like destruction from the Almighty.**
- (Isaiah 13:9a, 11, 13 ESV) Behold, the day of the LORD comes, cruel, with wrath and fierce anger ... 11 **I will punish the world for its evil,** and the wicked for their iniquity; I will put an end to the pomp of the arrogant, and lay low the pompous pride of the ruthless. ... 13 Therefore I will make the heavens tremble, and the earth will be shaken out of its place, at the wrath of the LORD of hosts in the day of his fierce anger.
- (Ezekiel 30:3 NIV) For the day is near, the day of the LORD is near— a day of clouds, **a time of doom for the nations.**
- (Joel 2:1-2a NIV) Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy hill. **Let all who live in the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming.** It is close at hand— 2 a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and blackness.
- (Obadiah 15 ESV) **For the day of the LORD is near upon all the nations.** As you have done, it shall be done to you; your deeds shall return on your own head.
- (Zephaniah 1:17-18 ESV) **I will bring distress on mankind,** so that they shall walk like the blind, because they have sinned against the LORD; their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. 18 Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them on the day of the wrath of the LORD. **In the fire of his jealousy, all the earth shall be consumed; for a full and sudden end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.**

B. *The day of the LORD promised, proclaimed and prophesied in the New Testament.*

- (1 Thessalonians 5:1-3 ESV) Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have

anything written to you. 2 **For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.** 3 While people are saying, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

- (2 Thessalonians 1:5-9 NLT) And God will use this persecution to show his justice and to make you worthy of his Kingdom, for which you are suffering. 6 In his justice he will pay back those who persecute you. 7 And God will provide rest for you who are being persecuted and also for us when the Lord Jesus appears from heaven. **He will come with his mighty angels, 8 in flaming fire, bringing judgment on those who don't know God and on those who refuse to obey the Good News of our Lord Jesus.** 9 They will be punished with eternal destruction, forever separated from the Lord and from his glorious power.
- (2 Peter 3:9-10 ESV) The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. 10 **But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.**

2. **THE GREAT DAY OF THE LORD** IS REVEALED IN THE SEAL JUDGMENTS, REVELATION 6:1-14.

MacArthur ... It seems best to understand the first four seals as taking place during the first half of the Tribulation, the fifth stretching from the first into the second half, (called the “great tribulation” in 7:14 and lasting three and one-half years; 11:2; 12:6; 13:5) and the sixth and seventh taking place during that “great tribulation.” Apparently the seventh seal contains the seven trumpet judgments (8:1-11:19) and the seventh trumpet (11:15) contains the seven bowl judgments (16:1-21). The seven seals thus contain all the judgments to the end when Jesus Christ returns. [*MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (1999). Revelation 1-11 (pp. 176-177). Chicago: Moody Press.*]

A. THE FIRST SEAL—FALSE PEACE: *The rider on the white horse conquers and provides a false sense of peace and security, 6:1-2.*

- (Revelation 6:1–2 ESV) Now I watched when the Lamb opened one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures say with a voice like thunder, “Come!” 2 And I looked, and behold, a white horse! And its rider had a bow, and a crown was given to him, and he came out conquering, and to conquer.

MacArthur ... So before the terrors of the Tribulation break loose and lead to the battle of Armageddon there will come a period of world peace. But it will be a deceptive peace, as the world is lulled into a false sense of security followed by war, famine, and death. **The world's desperate desire for international peace will serve as the bait for the satanic trap. That longing for security and safety will play into the hands of Antichrist, Satan's ruler, who will convince the world that he can provide them.** [*ibid.* (p. 178).]

B. THE SECOND SEAL—SLAUGHTER: *The rider on the bright, red horse puts a sword for murder in the hands of those who have had their peace and security taken away.*

- (Revelation 6:3–4 ESV) When he opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, “Come!” 4 And out came another horse, bright red. Its rider was permitted to take peace from the earth, so that people should slay one another, and he was given a great sword.

C. THE THIRD SEAL—FAMINE: *The rider on the black horse brings world-wide famine. The cost of the food that is available is prohibitive.*

- (Revelation 6:5–6 ESV) When he opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, “Come!” And I looked, and behold, a black horse! And its rider had a pair of scales in his hand. 6 And I heard what seemed to be a voice in the midst of the four living creatures, saying, “A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius, and do not harm the oil and wine!”

D. THE FOURTH SEAL—DEATH: *Death and Hades are given authority to destroy a fourth of the earth's population.*

- (Revelation 6:7–8 ESV) When he opened

the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, “Come!” 8 And I looked, and behold, a pale horse! And its rider's name was Death, and Hades followed him. And they were given authority over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword and with famine and with pestilence and by wild beasts of the earth.

E. THE FIFTH SEAL—DELAYED VENGEANCE: *The souls under the altar are comforted.*

- (Revelation 6:9–11 ESV) When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the witness they had borne. 10 They cried out with a loud voice, “O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?” 11 Then they were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers should be complete, who were to be killed as they themselves had been.

F. THE SIXTH SEAL—EARTHQUAKE: *A great earthquake devastates the globe.*

- (Revelation 6:12–14 ESV) When he opened the sixth seal, I looked, and behold, there was a great earthquake, and the sun became black as sackcloth, the full moon became like blood, 13 and the stars of the sky fell to the earth as the fig tree sheds its winter fruit when shaken by a gale. 14 The sky vanished like a scroll that is being rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place.

Dr. Henry Morris ... Scientist Dr. Henry M. Morris explains what could cause that phenomenon: The great earthquake described here ... for the first time in history is worldwide in scope. Seismologists and geophysicists in recent years have learned a great deal about the structure of the earth and about the cause and nature of earthquakes. The earth's solid crust is traversed with a complex network of faults, with all resting upon a plastic mantle whose structure is still largely unknown. Whether the crust consists of great moving plates is a current matter of controversy among geophysicists, so the ultimate cause of earthquakes is still not known. In all likelihood, the entire complex of crustal instabilities is a remnant of the phenomena of the great Flood, especially

the breakup of the fountains of the great deep.

In any case, the vast worldwide network of unstable earthquake belts around the world suddenly will begin to slip and fracture on a global basis and a gigantic earthquake will ensue. This is evidently, and naturally, accompanied by tremendous volcanic eruptions, spewing vast quantities of dust and steam and gases into the upper atmosphere. It is probably these that will cause the sun to be darkened and the moon to appear blood-red. (*The Revelation Record [Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale, 1983], 121*) [*MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (1999). Revelation 1-11 (p. 205). Chicago: Moody Press.*]

3. THE GREAT DAY OF THE LORD ARRIVES AND EVERYONE ON EARTH DIRECTLY ATTRIBUTES THESE CATAclysmic EVENTS TO THE WRATH OF GOD, REVELATION 6:15-17.

- (Revelation 6:15–17 ESV) Then the kings of the earth and the great ones and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains, 16 calling to the mountains and rocks, **“Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb, 17 for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?”**

A. *The wrath of God is now present and remains on everyone who does not believe in the Son.*

- (John 3:36 ESV) Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but **the wrath of God remains on him.**

B. *The wrath of God is being revealed now against the ungodly and unrighteous acts of humans.*

- (Romans 1:18–19 ESV) **For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men,** who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. 19

For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them.

C. *Those who have hard and impenitent hearts have stored up wrath for this day.*

- (Romans 2:5 ESV) But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are **storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath** when God’s righteous judgment will be revealed.

D. *Wrath and fury await those who obey unrighteousness.*

- (Romans 2:8 ESV) But for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, **there will be wrath and fury.**

E. *We, who have been justified by his blood will be saved from the wrath of God.*

- (Romans 5:9 ESV) Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, **much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.**

F. *We are warned to not be deceived about the wrath to come on those who disobey God.*

- (Ephesians 5:6 ESV) Let no one deceive you with empty words, for **because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.**

G. *The wrath of God is coming because of the earthly, sinful nature of humans.*

- (Colossians 3:5–6 ESV) Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. 6 **On account of these the wrath of God is coming.**

THESE “SIGNS” ARE INDICATIONS ... NOT THAT THE END IS DRAWING NEAR BUT THAT IT HAS ARRIVED.

—GEORGE RAYMOND BEASLEY-MURRAY—