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WHEN THE SUN REFUSED TO SHINE

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION
NUMBER 11
REVELATION 6:12-17

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REVELATION 6:12-17 "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; 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. And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. 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; 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: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?"

There is a passage in Daniel 9:24-27 which helps explain many of these eschatological passages. In this Daniel passage we have the history of Israel after the first administration of the 5th cycle of discipline. So this is the history of Israel after the Babylonian captivity which was from 586 to 516 B.C. After that Israel had three divisions of her history. The first section is 7 weeks, really seven sevens, and refers to a period of 49 years. This is the period when Artaxerxes commanded the Jews to rebuild the walls until they were actually finished. The second period is 62 sevens or a period of 434 years. That period goes from rebuilding the wall down to the cross. That makes a total of 483 years. In Daniel 9:24-27 God had promised them 490 years, so according to these figures they are seven years short. This is Daniel's 70th week, and this is the seven-year period we call the Tribulation. This is the last period of Jewish history.

Another way to look at this is that God gave them 490 years to glorify him and they failed, and their failure was the 70 year Babylonian captivity. They did not observe their sabbatical years, and God collected them all at one time. Then after the captivity God gave them another period of 490 years.

In the first twelve verses of Chapter 6 we have the seven seals. Verses 1 and 2 is the first seal. This is the dictator riding the white horse. Here power politics reaches its maximum. The King of the West is a ten nation confederation, eventually ruled by one dictator. This dictator is the man riding the white horse. Then we have the King of the North and he is the ruler of the Russian block. The King of the South represents the Arabs. The King of the East represents the Oriental block. We will study these in detail in later passages. You have lots of slavery when you have a one man dictator. This man on the white horse is the ruler of the Revived Roman Empire. We have studied him in 2 Thessalonians 2 and will study him again in Revelation 13:1-10, in Revelation 17 and in parts of Daniel 8 and 9. He is the rider of the white horse with a bow and a crown and will conquer through warfare. The crown indicates his coronation by Satan. (This is the crown Satan offered Christ in the temptations and Christ refused it.)

In verses 3 and 4 we have the second seal and this is the rider of the Red Horse. * This represents warfare. Men cannot maintain peace and the only one who can is Jesus Christ.

In verses 5 and 6 we have the third seal and this is the rider of the Black Horse and this represents famine. The balances and scales are for weighing grain. A quart of wheat for a denarius.

In verses 7 and 8 we have the fourth seal and the rider of the Pale Horse which represents death. This is the death of the unbeliever. One-fourth of all the unbelievers in the earth will be killed during the Tribulation.

In verses 9-11 we have the fifth seal and this represents the martyrdom of believers in the Tribulation. These are Gentile believers.

The Sixth Seal

When this sixth seal is opened there is a great earthquake. During the Tribulation nature is going to act up. This is described in Mark 13:8 and Matthew 24:7 and Rev. 8:5, 11:13, and 16:18. God here is using nature to judge. In the great earthquake the sun is blotted out and the moon is as blood. On a small scale there was something like this in August, 1883, in the East Indies. An island blew up, just a small volcanic island about 18 miles square. The sound was heard three thousand miles away in Bangkok. It was also heard in Ceylon 2,000 miles away and in the Phillipines 1,450 miles away. The sun was blotted out and that night there was a bright red moon. Volcanic ash filled the atmosphere and there was volcanic ash in London the next day. A tidal wave traveled seven thousand miles as a result, and 36,000 people were killed from the eruption. Some Dutch scientists were in the East Indies at the time and they gathered this information.

REVELATION 6:13 "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." The falling of stars was a meteor shower. Revelation 12:4 says the falling stars represents fallen angels. Here they refer to celestial bodies.

REVELATION 6:14-17 "And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captians, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; 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: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?" Here we have Nuclear activity. But remember--the sun became black. This is exactly what will happen when Jesus Christ returns. The entire earth will be blacked out, similar to the darkness that surrounded the cross when Christ died spiritually for our sins. It was midnight dark when God the Father judged God the Son on the cross. The earth will be covered with blackness so we can see Christ. Rev. 1:7 says, "Behold, every eye shall see him". So this blackness will come so every eye can center on Christ. (Passages referring to this are--Zachariah 14:4 and 6--Isaiah 13:9-10--Ezekiel 32:7-8--Joel 2:10-11--Joel 3:15--Amos 5:18--Matthew 24:29--Luke 21:25-27.

There are seven different books in the Bible that refer to this transitional day. Complete darkness all over the earth. At the cross this darkness was to hide Christ, but at the 2nd Advent this darkness is to reveal Christ.

This is nuclear judgment. This is the last day of the Tribulation. The heaven is departed as a scroll. In Genesis 1:6-8 we have the word "firmament". This is a poor translation. It means atmosphere. The second heaven is where the angels live and operate. In the third heaven we have the throne room of God. This passage before us refers to atmosphere, and this refers to thermo-nuclear action. The word "Atom" actually means something that cannot be divided, but it can be divided. Lord Rutherford called it the Atom. An atom has two parts, a core, the nucleus and rings. Take an atom of oxygen. Here is the core made up of 8 protons and 8 neutrons. Then there are two rings, 2 electrons in the inner ring and 6 electrons in the outer ring. That is the structure of one oxygen atom. The size of the atom is one trillionth of an inch in diameter. The electrons revolve around the core like a solar system.

One teaspoon of Radium contains one million billion atoms. All this is held together by a power, an energy. The power in an atom is fantastic and when you release it, it is amazing. The force that holds a molecule of water together is 1,000 times greater than the force that holds a molecule of steel together. The force that holds one atom together is equal to the output of Boulder Dam for one month. There is both fission and fusion. Fission is usually Uranium 2-38. If anyone has any doubt about the power of an atom bomb just go to Hiroshima or Nagasaki. When a chain reaction is produced in the splitting of atoms a fantastic power is released. Fusion is different. Hydrogen is used for fusion. The rolling up the sky as a scroll suggests a chain reaction of nuclear power.

In these verses we are given the reaction of the people on earth to such destruction. Men can't use their political power to stop such an explosion. Rich men can't bribe their way out. Mighty men will not be spared. The labor unions will not protect anyone. These seven categories of men represent all classes and all kinds of men, all unbelievers. They had a chance with God-consciousness and with Gospel hearing and they gave a negative response. They responded with negative volition and this created a vacuum and into that vacuum was drawn religion. The principle for this is found in Romans 1:18-20. The reality of this is also revealed in 2 Thessalonians 2.

Look at 2 Thessalonians 2 for this truth.

In verses 3 and 4 we see the Ecumenical religious movement claiming to be God. In verse 7, when the restraining power of the Holy Spirit is withdrawn, then this wicked one will be revealed and Christ will return and destroy him.

Verse 9 in 2 Thessalonians 2 is the rider of the White Horse of Revelation 6:2. His work is backed by Satan. He will perform miracles and speak in tongues. It is santanic and psychological. All these seven categories mentioned in Rev. 6:15 are unbelievers who have religion in their frontal lobes. In 2 Thessalonians 2:11 and 12 this vacuum is described and religion surplants faith in Christ. These seven categories of unbelievers in Revelation 6:15 all had one thing in common--negative volition.

Please notice in this verse that here we are right down at the end of time and all men are not equal. They were not created equal and they didn't live in equality. The principle is this--we think we can legislate equality and we cannot. Man by man's efforts cannot make men equal. Only God can do that.

In the end-time the 144,000 Jewish evangelists will evangelize all over the earth. Then Moses and Elijah will evangelize for three and a half years in Jerusalem. Then angels will get in on this evangelism program.

REVELATION 6:16 "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" They will try to hide from the face of God the Father. So Christ came the first time in the spirit of salvation, but he will come the second time in the spirit of wrath.

REVELATION 6:17 "For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?" This is the baptism of fire. Please remember there are seven baptisms.

- There are four dry baptisms--
1. The Baptism of Moses.
 2. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit.
 3. The Baptism of the cup.
 4. The Baptism of fire (Our passage here)
- There are three wet baptisms-
5. The Baptism of John.
 6. The Baptism of Jesus.
 7. The Baptism of believers.

Baptism means identification. The whole issue is divine good versus human good. Baptism in water for the believer is a picture of our identification with Christ, and means down with human good and up with divine good. We are told that our righteousnesses are as filthy rags in his sight. Isaiah 64:6. God hates our righteous acts. God cannot stand human righteousness, for they lead to pride and lack of trust in him. So the baptism in this closing verse is the baptism of fire. The baptism of fire takes place at the 2nd Coming of Christ. In the days of Noah unbelievers were taken off the earth and only eight believers were left on the earth. At the 2nd Advent of Christ unbelievers are to be taken off the earth and identified with fire. Only believers will enter the Millennium. This is the "Wrath of The Lamb" mentioned in Matthew 3:11-12 and Luke 3:16. There are also many parables on this truth, like the Wheat and the Tares, the Good and Bad Fish, etc.

This is the great day of wrath, but be sure to distinguish this from the great White Judgment Throne, which comes at the end of time, after the Millennium is over.

In closing let us look at the seven major judgments.

1. The cross--Where Christ judged our sins.
2. Rebound--The use of 1 John 1:9. We judge ourselves by rebound and therefore we are not judged.
3. The judgment seat of Christ--Where all believers have their work evaluated.
4. The Tribulation
5. The 2nd Advent--Which is the Baptism of Fire. For Jews and Gentiles.
6. The Millennium. Judgment of fallen angels.
7. The last great judgment of all unbelievers.