

## TWO MORE SEALS OPENED (Revelation 6:9-17)

- I. Opening the Fifth Seal (Rev. 6:9-11)
  - A. The SOULS of the martyrs (6:9)
    - 1. Slain for the WORD of GOD and their TESTIMONY
    - 2. Seen UNDER the ALTAR (cf. Lev. 4:7; Ex. 30:1ff)
    - 3. Saved during the OPENING YEARS of the Tribulation
  - B. The CRY of the martyrs (6:10)
    - 1. Addressed their SLAVE MASTER (*despotes*)
    - 2. Ascribed to Him HOLINESS and TRUTH
    - 3. Ask “HOW LONG” before JUSTICE is done
  - C. The RESPONSE to the martyrs (6:11)
    - 1. Presented with WHITE ROBES (cf. 7:14; 2 Cor. 5:1-8)
    - 2. Promised retribution SOON
      - a. They must WAIT for fellow slaves to be KILLED
      - b. They must REST in HEAVEN until then
- II. Opening the Sixth Seal (Rev. 6:12-17)
  - A. A great and terrible SHAKING (6:12-14)
    - 1. FIGURATIVE interpretation
      - a. Great DISRUPTION of stable SOCIETY
      - b. Widespread COLLAPSE of GOVERNMENT leadership
      - c. Worldwide REALIGNMENT of SOCIAL orders
    - 2. LITERAL interpretation (preferred)

- a. Widespread destruction from worldwide EARTHQUAKES
- b. Darkening of sun and moon from VOLCANIC eruptions and STORMS
- c. Further destruction from vast METEOR shower
- d. More billowing dust clouds BLANKET the SKY
- e. Further earthquakes cause all MOUNTAINS to shift

B. A great and terrible PANIC (6:15-16)

- 1. All SOCIAL CLASSES are affected
  - a. The POWERFUL: kings, dignitaries, generals
  - b. The WEALTHY: rich, influential
  - c. The COMMON: freemen, servants
- 2. All PRETENSE is removed
  - a. Desperate for UNDERGROUND places to HIDE
  - b. Prefer DEATH to facing GOD
    - 1) Terrified of the SOVEREIGNTY of GOD
    - 2) Terrified of the WRATH of the LAMB

C. A great and terrible PRONOUNCEMENT (6:17)

- 1. “The great day of their WRATH has COME!”
- 2. “WHO is able to STAND?” (Nah. 1:6-7; Mal. 3:2)

III. Four Observations

- A. Men will go on MARTYRING until God’s wrath is exercised
- B. God moves SLOWLY from mercy to justice, and is not PRESENTLY judging evil
- C. God’s wrath will SURELY come and be TERRIBLE in its coming
- D. Man’s response will not be REPENTANCE, but first TERROR then DEFIANCE