

SALVATION IN SYMBOLS & SIGNS

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Corresponds to Program 25

THE SIXTH SEAL STUDY GUIDE

DRAMATIC SIGNS

Revelation 6:12-17

Many modern interpreters of the Bible make wild predictions regarding the events in this seal, as though they are about to happen. There is no need to do so if we are faithful to what we know so far. The sixth seal follows the fifth seal. The time period that we are considering flows out of the previous time period of A.D. 1517 to 1798. The sixth church paralleling the sixth seal dates from A.D. 1798 to 1844. Therefore, we can look for the events that happen here to occur in these general time periods. And as we look in the history books to see how the prophecies were fulfilled, remember this Bible promise:

“Surely the Lord GOD does nothing, unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets.” Amos 3:7.

God gives prophecy for every age. It is not all in the past or all in the future, but God guides His people step by step down the corridor of time. We benefit today from seeing how God led in past ages because it gives us confidence in His Word going forward.

1. A great earthquake – One of the greatest earthquakes ever recorded happened on Nov.1, 1755. It occurred in Lisbon, Portugal. Though commonly known as the Lisbon earthquake, it extended to the greater part of Europe, Africa, and America. It was felt in Greenland, in the West Indies, in the island of Madeira, in Norway and Sweden, Great Britain and Ireland. It pervaded an extent of not less than four million square miles. In Africa the shock was almost as severe as in Europe. A great part of

Algiers was destroyed; and a short distance from Morocco, a village containing eight to ten thousand inhabitants was swallowed up. A vast wave swept over the coast of Spain and Africa engulfing cities and causing great destruction. (The Great Controversy, p. 304).

2. Sun darkened and the moon like blood – On May 19, 1780, an amazing event took place, known as the “Great Dark Day.” Over much of the Northeastern United States, as morning was breaking, an eerie color filled the sky, and grew

darker and darker, until the darkness at mid-day was so intense, that cows came back to their barns, thinking that it was evening. Eyewitnesses say that it was so dark, that lamps had to be lit. Many interpreted these as signs foretold in Matthew 24, and believed that the end of the world had come upon them. The darkness continued all day, and in the evening, when the moon arose, it appeared as a blood red fixture in the dark sky. (See The Great Controversy, p. 306).



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3. Falling of the stars – The third great sign of Christ’s second coming was seen on November 13, 1833, when the greatest meteor shower seen in the United States, thrilled many observers. Thousands followed by thousands fell during the nine-hour period that ob-

servation was possible. There were so many sightings per minute that many exclaimed that it looked like all the stars of heaven had begun to fall (The Great Controversy, p. 333).

4. Sky receding like a scroll – The next event listed has not happened yet, because it relates directly to the Second Coming of Christ. It predicts the manner of Christ’s coming, the clouds rolling back, and the Lord descending from Heaven with all of the angels of Heaven.

KEY SCRIPTURES

Mat. 24:30 JESUS COMES ON CLOUD OF GLORY

Mat. 24:31 ANGELS GATHER ALL THE ELECT

Psalm 1:5 THE UNGODLY WILL NOT STAND

Rev. 6:16 HIDE US FROM THE FACE OF JESUS

5. People fearful of the second coming – This is a sad commentary on all those who had a chance to accept the free salvation offered by Jesus, but refused. They will look up and see Jesus coming and realize that they missed it all. They will be filled with a horrible sense of their failure and be terrified at the thought of the judgment about to befall them. They will cry out and look for a place to hide, but no place will be found.

Who Is Able to Stand

The final question asked by all when Jesus returns is, “who is able to stand?” (Revelation 6:17).

The answer to this important question is the subject of the next chapter of Revelation, although we know who will not stand:

“Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous” Psalm 1:5.

If you feel that you are an ungodly sinner who will not be able to stand before Jesus, there is hope for you yet. Read Ezekiel 37:1-14 especially verse 10 and know that God’s Holy Spirit can revive your “dry bones” before it is forever too late. ★

