

THE SEVEN SEALS OF JUDGMENT PRECEEDING THE GREAT TRIBULATION

Rev. 6:9-17

I. THE LAMB BREAKS THE FIFTH SEAL: THE SLAIN MARTYRS

Introduction: God's great book of destiny is now being opened. No one has ever seen the contents of the book, but now, in the most dramatic of moments, Jesus Christ has stepped forward to take the book out of the hand of God.

When Jesus began to break the seals in order to open the book, dramatic action leaped out and began to act out the events to occur before the book is ever opened. Already four seals have been broken and four horsemen have galloped out across the world bringing destruction.

The fifth seal is now ready to be broken.

1. Slain martyrs appear beneath the Heavenly Altar.
 - a. Here appear to be all the men and women slain through the centuries because their faith in the Lord Jesus.
 - b. The Altar of the bible was where animals were sacrificed. Where their blood was poured out at the foot of the altar on behalf of those offering them.
 - c. Here is the picture of men and women whose blood was poured out for God. They offered their lives for God.
 - d. They have a very special place before God: they stand at the foot of the altar.
2. The slain martyrs were slain for God's Word and for their testimony for Christ.
 - They believed the Word of God.
 - lived by it - read it - studied it - witnessed to it - taught it - preached it
 - The world will again react against the Word of God and kill believers.
 - In the last days the government will demand loyalty to it FIRST and will have laws against worshipping God.
 - They believed that Jesus is the Son of God.
 - There will be men and women slain at the end of time because they, too will refuse to deny Christ.
3. The slain martyrs cry out for Justice.
 - a. They address God as: Sovereign Lord - meaning Supreme Master.
 - as Holy - completely set apart from everything else anywhere.
 - as True - the only one qualified to execute justice.
 - b. They cry out for vengeance against their persecutors.
 - actually for vindication.
 - stop the injustice against God's Word and against His Son, Jesus
 - stop the injustice against God's own glory and justice
 - stop the injustice of sin and evil against God
 - stop the injustice of unrighteousness and to bring about righteousness
 - c. There is no one who suffers the hell and wrath of sin any more than a martyr.

4. The martyrs are given White Robes.
 - White stands for purity and righteousness. ALL believers will wear white robes.
5. The slain martyrs are assured of justice.
 - They are at rest: free from all struggle - from all their exhausting labor on earth
 - from the wicked of the earth - from all the trials and temptations of life
 - free from tears and sorrow, crying, pain and death.
 - More martyrs must join their ranks before Jesus comes in judgment.

II. THE LAMB BREAKS THE SIXTH SEAL: THE GREAT DAY OF GOD'S WRATH BEGINS --THE UNIVERSE IS SHATTERED

1. The effects of God's wrath upon the universe.
 - a. There will be a great earthquake.
 - Jesus said there would be earthquakes (Mt. 24:7).
 - Revelation mentions three earthquakes (6:12; 11:13; 16:17-19)
 - The Old Testament predicted earthquakes in the end time (Ezk. 38:19; Jer. 4:24; Joel 2:10)
 - b. The sun and moon will be eclipsed and blackened and stars or meteorites will shower the earth. (To a small degree, occurring today)
 - This will be an *unbelievable disorder* inflicted causing massive disasters in the heavens and upon this earth.
 - occurring right before the end of time
 - occurring during the tribulation
 - occurring right after the tribulation when the Lord returns
 - c. The heavens will disappear and the mountains and the hills will be moved from their places.
2. The effects of God's wrath upon the people.
 - a. Great fear will grip all unbelievers upon the earth:
 - kings and rulers - great and powerful - rich and wealthy - military leaders
 - might and strong - slaves and insignificant - free and independent
 - every unbeliever upon earth will be stricken with maddening terror.
 - b. All unbelievers will cry for death. The world will be in panic with people madly rushing about to hide from God's judgment.
3. The reason for the catastrophies and the panic of people.
 - The great day of God's wrath is at hand.
 - when all unbelievers must stand before the face of God .
 - when all unbelievers must face the wrath of the Lamb.
 - when no unbeliever shall stand and crumble, subjected to the humiliation of eternal guilt, condemnation and punishment.
4. This has not yet happened. All this is just before the end time begins. This is just the breaking of the seals of God's book. The worst judgments are yet to come.
 - All unbelievers stand face to face with God on the great day of His wrath and the day is right over the horizon.
 - Today is the time to trust Jesus Christ and escape the great day of God's wrath.