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Revelation

Chapter 6 - Revealing the Coming Forces

Breaking the 7 Seals (vs. 12-17)

Revelation 6:12-17: I looked when He broke the sixth seal, and there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth made of hair, and the whole moon became like blood; and the stars of the sky fell to the earth, as a fig tree casts its unripe figs when shaken by a great wind. The sky was split apart like a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. Then the kings of the earth and the great men and the commanders and the rich and the strong and every slave and free man hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains; and they said to the mountains and to the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb; for the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

Revelation opens up and unveils to us that God is in control, that Christ is the One who reigns in the heavens, and that He has called the church to be lights in this dark world. That's why He's called us, to proclaim the light, the hope of Jesus Christ. There's hope in no one else, is there? There's salvation in no one else. So, the church proclaims this, but there are a lot of things that would deter it. So, as He goes on in the Book of Revelation, He begins to reveal the seven churches in Asia Minor and the difficulties that many of them are having because of the influences that are coming into the church. The church today still battles many of these things, in which money has come into the church, desire for power, people compromising for the sake of just getting along and being tolerant. I mean, there's so many things that have been coming into the churches and you see the struggle that is going on, but Christ has maintained the integrity of the light.

So, as we come to the next chapter, we begin to see that there's a declaration in the heaven. He takes us out of the

realm of the earth as He's showing us this interesting picture of the seven churches in Asia Minor and the battles that they're going through and maintaining the integrity of light, and He takes us up into the heaven and goes, "Now, there is something going on." And John begins to feel intensely about this book that is sealed up with seven seals and there's a question, "Who is worthy to open up this book?" And we know that there are grand and glorious forces in the heavens that stand ready to take the book, but none are found worthy, and none are able to do it, and John begins to weep, and he says, "So, who is worthy?" Surprisingly, out of the midst of some of the greatest and most powerful angelic beings comes a Lamb, and the diminutive is used in the text, "a little Lamb," and it looks like He's been slain. This Lamb makes it up to the book and grabs the book, and all the heavens begin to rejoice, "Worthy is the Lamb to open up this book." We begin to realize that it literally is the title deed to creation and as man had relinquished that in the garden, Christ had redeemed it, and He had given His life for it. The perception is, "A lamb? How could you win with a lamb? How can a lamb be victorious?" And this is one of

the great themes of the Book of Revelation. He is unveiling to you a power that to many people seems innocuous and perhaps impotent, but the Lamb of God is the power of God, and it is through the sacrifice and the love of God that all things will be subjected to Him.

It's hard to fathom, but as then we come into the next chapter, the Lamb begins to open up every one of the seals, and with every seal broken, He begins to reveal that which He is taking into His custody once again. The first four are four horses and we call them the four horses of the apocalypse, the unveiling, and God is unveiling there are forces in the world that are influencing the world. As you go down the list just to not reiterate too much; obviously we wouldn't have time to look at the text we're looking at today. But in Chapter 6, as you look at the first seal, you look at the white horse that comes, He begins to reveal that there's this white force that is arrogant and condescending, and it's going to come. There's a source that's going to come that's going to be a bloody force, lustful and divisive and you see brother even killing brother for the sake of their own pleasures. There is a

force that comes into the world that is greedy and oppressive, and you see the picture of the scales and the poor people barely making it and the rich people having more than plenty. Then, at the end, you begin to see one that is cold and indifferent, almost like a psychosis that comes in. Of course, Jesus makes mention of this in Matthew 24, that in the last days there's not only going to be all kinds of difficulties, but the love of many will grow cold. You see that interesting picture and these pictures of these forces that come in to divide, to destroy, to oppress, but not just anybody. Because the emphasis and what is being unveiled in now, the fifth seal is that they're out to get the children of God that proclaim the light, that proclaim the testimony of Jesus Christ.

So, in Revelation 6, you see in verse 9,

(Revelation 6:9) “When the Lamb broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been slain...”

In other words, there is a force intent on silencing the testimonies of those that proclaim Christ.

Paul makes a wonderful statement in 2 Corinthians 4:5.

He says this,

(2 Corinthians 4:5) “For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord...”

That's one thing that makes us very different, and it distinguishes us from everyone else is that we're not trying to lift up man, we're not trying to lift up what man can do, we're not trying to lift up the world or anything of the world. “Love not the world nor the things that are in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.” (1 John 2:15) So, what is it that we proclaim? Christ crucified.

Paul says in 1 Corinthians 2, “We came to you knowing nothing but Jesus Christ and Him crucified, and that's the reason why Christ sent me to you in weakness, because had I come in strength, you would begin to rely upon any kind of strength of me. I didn't come to you with any kind of persuasive words that you would not rest in the persuasion of words.” There's nothing wrong with apologetics, but you can't convince somebody to be saved. It's the power of the gospel, and this is why Paul says in Romans 1:16, “I'm not ashamed of the gospel of

Christ. It's the power." The gospel itself is the power. Christ loves you. God loves you. He gave Himself for you and will redeem you from all of your sins and you can have everlasting life through Him. Amazing thing. An amazing story. Too simple to believe. Unbelievable, and yet we do. We believe the power of God comes within us, and we embrace this wonderful message. A Lamb slain? John would introduce Him, "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world." "There is no strength in a lamb." God says, "Watch." All the power and all the strength and the control of all things.

One of the great passages that we oftentimes read is found in Colossians. As you begin to read in Colossians 1:16, it reads,

(Colossians 1:16) "For by Him all things were created... all things have been created through Him and for Him."

(Colossians 1:17) He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together."

You go, "The Lamb? Really, the Lamb? All things hold together in the Lamb?" Yes, all things hold together in the Lamb.

So, by the time we come to the sixth seal, we begin to see that there's a consequence for rejecting not only the testimony of the saints, but for rejecting the body of Christ, the saints themselves.

There's an interesting passage if you'll turn me to 2 Thessalonians. Keep your finger in Revelation because we're going to be coming right back. But in 2 Thessalonians 1, Paul speaks specifically of the Thessalonians going through a lot of turmoil and persecution because of their faith. His statement is, "We give thanks to God for you because you're willing to sacrifice and suffer for that which you believe in."

He says,

(2 Thessalonians 1:4) "therefore, we ourselves speak proudly of you among the churches of God for your perseverance and faith in the midst of all your persecutions and afflictions which you endure."

(2 Thessalonians 1:5) This is a plain indication of God's righteous judgment so that you will be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which indeed you are suffering.

(2 Thessalonians 1:6) For after all it is only just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you,

(2 Thessalonians 1:7) and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire,

(2 Thessalonians 1:8) dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey..."

What? It doesn't say the Ten Commandments, does it? No, nobody's going to hell because they broke the Ten Commandments. They're going to hell because they did not receive the love of God which was credibly given to them.

"... to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus."

What does he mean, "obey"? What's the command of the gospel? Believe. "Whosoever believes in Him." So, when God says, "Believe in Me," that's an imperative. That's a command. That's a commandment that He's given.

(2 Thessalonians 1:9) “These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord...”

Why? Because they didn't want the presence of God. Why are they away from the glory of light and joy and happiness? In His presence is fullness of joy; at His right hand are pleasures forevermore. Where did all the pleasures and the joy go? Well, when you left God, they left you.

So that as he comes down to 2 Thessalonians 2, that the day is coming when a lot of deception is going to come into the world.

It reads in this way,

(2 Thessalonians 2:9) “that is, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders,

(2 Thessalonians 2:10) and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved.

(2 Thessalonians 2:11) For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false,

(2 Thessalonians 2:12) in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness."

Of course, it goes back to John 3, you don't come to the light because you love darkness, and your deeds are evil. Don't tell me it's unbelievable. It's because you don't want to believe because it will change your way of life.

So, as you go back to Revelation 6, we're going to see Him opening up the sixth seal, the seal of man. It's really the consequences of man in all these forces that have come into the world that he's embraced. Now, there seems to be a connotation in these four forces that have come upon the world at this juncture, that there's something powerful behind them. However, they are clearly seen as that which have been embraced by men. Once again, you go back to the first one, the white horse; you look at the crusades of men and the arrogance of men that says, "We're going to kill people in the name of God." Well,

that's the most ridiculous thing I've ever heard. Jesus says, "I came to give My life for you." But Jesus said, "There's going to be a time where people are going to kill you and they're going to say it's for Me." So, He already told His disciples that was going to happen, but there are a lot of white horse activities going on; people carrying a banner, "We're doing this for You. We're doing this for You." All the while, collecting money and all the while self-aggrandizing. But the fact of the matter is that there's really only one force that will save you, and that's Christ. Any other force that comes along is bogus. But here again, you just go through the list of these forces that are a part of the world, and it's easy for the church to get sucked into this. Of course, there's kind of a warning to this because we know that Revelation is written to the Church, and it's written to the Church that you might see He's unveiling. He's pulling apart and He's saying, "Look, what's underneath this. Look what's underneath this. Look what's here." So, all the way through, He's showing the Church the influences and the powers, but He's also revealing how it ends. So, it's a wonderful thing.

I remember the story of a guy that was a janitor, cleaning up the gym in a theological institution. So, the theologians were sitting on the bench. They were watching him clean where the basketball court was, and then they see him walk over the side and he starts reading his Bible. The janitor starts reading the Bible. Of course, they're theologians. So, they turned to him and they say, "So, man, what are you reading?" He goes, "The Bible." They said, "Where in the Bible are you reading?" He goes, "Revelation." "Oh Revelation," they said, "what's it say?" He says, "It says we win." So, the simplicity of this message and it really unveils the great power of the fact that we win. In Chapter 6, God is revealing the consequence of these forces that come for one particular reason.

Here again, if you look,

(Revelation 6:9) "When the Lamb broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been slain because..."

That's the key. Why were they killed? Why is it all these forces were coming upon them?

“... because of the word of God, and because of the testimony which they had maintained.”

Now, what you're going to see is there is an avenging of this blood, and they're crying out, “How long until vindication?” And Christ says, “It’s coming.” But He clothes them with, and we have that wonderful picture of these robes of not white, it's light. The term that he uses there is that He clothes them with light, and it's a great picture in which God had called the Church to be a light of the world, and clearly, they are. Go all the way back to Chapter 1, what? They’re candlesticks. Right. So, it's a clear picture as He reveals.

As you come now to verse 12, what we're going to see are these consequences coming upon the world, specifically because of the rejection of the love of God, because of their hostility towards the messengers of this love. Now, what's interesting about what's going to be conveyed is that you see all nature involved in this. Man perceives that nature is in no way connected to the things that happen, but that's not true, and God reveals to us.

Well, let me just show you a couple of passages. One is found in Romans 8, and I'll show you a couple in Deuteronomy, and then we'll come back.

Paul says,

(Romans 8:18) “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.”

Now, you have to understand that the sufferings that he's going through are sufferings because the gospel. I mean, some of us have ingrown toenails, but that's not what he's talking about.

(Romans 8:19) “For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God.”

“Creation is waiting? All of creation is waiting?”

(Romans 8:20) “For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope

(Romans 8:21) that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

(Romans 8:22) For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.

(Romans 8:23) And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.”

In other words, if you want to save the environment... I'm going to finish that statement in just a minute. If you look with me in Deuteronomy 11. What was always interesting about God and His children, the children of Israel, He says, “I'm going to put you in the promised land. This is the way it's going to work. We're going to have three feasts, and in these three feasts, you're going to come together at different times of the season; one early spring, one later at the end of the summer, and one towards fall, and in these three feasts, I'm going to supply all the food. Now, if things aren't going well, if you're not doing what I'm telling you to do, you're not going to have much to offer at the feast. In fact, it's not going to be a feast. It's going to be a famine.” So, almost every time you

see famine in the land, guess what? Something's not working. Someone's not doing right because the earth is responding to the way that God's people are either acting or being treated.

So, His statement in Deuteronomy 11, he says, "I want to make mention of all the signs and wonders that God has done." He says, "Obviously, I'm not just talking to your children. Some of you fathers have actually seen these things."

And He states this,

(Deuteronomy 11:7) "but your own eyes have seen all the great work of the LORD which He did."

Of course, He brings them back to the whole Egyptian thing.

He says,

(Deuteronomy 11:8) "You shall therefore keep every commandment which I am commanding you today, so that you may be strong and go in and possess the land into which you are about to cross to possess it."

Now, He's talking about land here.

(Deuteronomy 11:9) “so that you may prolong your days on the land which the LORD swore to your fathers to give to them and to their descendants, a land flowing with milk and honey.”

Which means that it's a successful place.

(Deuteronomy 11:10) “For the land, into which you are entering to possess it...”

And from what I understand, in order to have honey, you probably have to have bees; in order to have bees, you need flowers.

(Deuteronomy 11:11) “But the land into which you are about to cross to possess it, a land of hills and valleys, drinks water from the rain of heaven.”

Now, if you back up into verse 10, he's doing a comparative and a contrast, and what He's saying is, “Remember when you were in the land of Egypt?”

“... where you used to sow your seed and water it with your foot like a vegetable garden.”

In other words, “You know how the Nile rose, and then you just dug a trench and the water was there; you didn't

care if it rained. He had the Nile. That's why Egypt worshipped the Nile, because you could depend on the Nile. You're always going to have some food. Remember that?" He says, "Ok, this isn't this way."

"Guess what? (Verse 11) When you go into this land that you're about to possess, you could have hills and valleys and the way it gets its water is from heaven." In other words, "If I don't send rain, you don't drink, and if I stop up the skies, you don't have any gardens."

(Deuteronomy 11:12) "a land for which the LORD your God cares; the eyes of the LORD your God are always on it, from the beginning even to the end of the year.

(Deuteronomy 11:13) "It shall come about, if you listen obediently to my commandments which I am commanding you today, to love the LORD your God and to serve Him with all your heart and all your soul,

(Deuteronomy 11:14) that He will give the rain for your land in its season, the early and late rain, that you may gather in your grain and your new wine and your oil.

(Deuteronomy 11:15) “He will give grass in your fields for your cattle, and you will eat and be satisfied.

(Deuteronomy 11:16) “Beware that your hearts are not deceived, and that you do not turn away and serve other gods and worship them.”

He reiterates this again in Deuteronomy 28, and obviously, we're not going to read all of Deuteronomy 28, but as He'll start off in this, He'll say (verse 11), “I can make you abound in prosperity. I can give you your storehouses. I'll supply great things, but if in fact you disobey Me, you're going to have pestilence. You're going to have famine. (Verse 21) Things will consume. In fact, the diseases that will come upon you, it'll be like Egypt; the boils of Egypt. (verse 27)

(Deuteronomy 28:27) “The LORD will smite you with the boils of Egypt...”

(Deuteronomy 28:28) “The LORD will smite you with madness...”

(Deuteronomy 28:29) “and you will grope at noon...”

You'll be fearful. You're groping around.

Verse 38-48 is all about the seeds, the garden, the olive trees, and then you look at verse 58, if you're careful to observe the words of the law, then everything's good. But if not, watch what happens.

(Deuteronomy 28:59) “then the LORD will bring extraordinary plagues on you and your descendants, even severe and lasting plagues, and miserable and chronic sicknesses.

(Deuteronomy 28:60) “He will bring back on you all the diseases of Egypt of which you were afraid, and they will cling to you.

(Deuteronomy 28:61) “Also every sickness and every plague which, not written in the book of this law, the LORD will bring on you until you are destroyed.

(Deuteronomy 28:62) “Then you shall be left few in number, whereas you were as numerous as the stars of heaven, because you did not obey the LORD your God.”

He'll make you few in number.

But if you look in verse 65, it's a key phrase here.

Deu 28:65

“Among those nations you shall find no rest, and there will be no resting place for the sole of your foot; but there the LORD will give you a trembling heart, failing of eyes, and despair of soul.

(Deuteronomy 28:66) “So your life shall hang in doubt before you; and you will be in dread night and day, and shall have no assurance of your life.”

Now, the point of this is that there are consequences for rejecting God. What do those consequences look like? Well, I mean, when you walk away from the God of love, then you don't feel loved. When you walk away from the God of peace, then you don't have peace. When you walk away from the God that gives success, that blesses you, then you're walking in a land of famine and your life is not only precarious, but it's also very fearful and full of anxiety. Why? There's no confidence when God is not in the picture. That's the picture of the sixth seal.

So, if you go back to Revelation 6:12. Now, once again, just to remind you, Who's breaking the seals? The Lamb. If you don't remember that, just go back to Revelation 6:1. The Lamb is the one that has the book. The Lamb is

the one that's breaking the seal. In Revelation 5:12, the Lamb is declared as the one worthy to do this.

(Revelation 6:12) “I looked when He broke the sixth seal, and there was a great earthquake...”

Now, let me just say this. There are places in the Book of Revelation where he says “was,” and there are other places where he says “like”. Where you see “like,” that's like a metaphor. He's given a kind of a picture. So, some people go, “I don't know whether to take it figuratively or literally.” Well, when he says, “like,” you take it as that. You don't remember your English? But when he says, “was,” then it was actually an earthquake. So, in this particular text, there was actually an earthquake.

Now, he will go on and say, “the sun became black as,” “like” or “as,” and so, did the sun actually turn into sackcloth? No. It became as that. So, just to help you out with a little bit of exegete.

(Revelation 6:12) “I looked when He broke the sixth seal, and there was a great earthquake...”

“Seismos,” which is where we get the word “seismic” in the Greek. A great stirring and trembling. Now, what's interesting to me is that it is the first sign that he gives that begins to happen when not only the word of God is rejected, but God's people and the message is rejected as a whole. So, what happens? Trembling of the earth.

“Pastor Gary, you believe that the earth was actually trembling?” Yes, I believe there were actual earthquakes, but I also believe that he is using this in the most general terms, everything was trembling; man was trembling; beast was trembling. Fear was a part of the world. Listen, when you start seeing fear take hold of the hearts of men, I can tell you the reason for it.

Let me show you a passage in Psalm 53. You know the beginning of this.

(Psalm 53:1) “The fool has said in his heart, “There is no God,” ...”

He's the guy that kills the ones proclaiming there's a God.

“The fool has said in his heart, “There is no God,”
They are corrupt, and have committed abominable

injustice;

There is no one who does good.

(Psalm 53:2) God has looked down from heaven upon the sons of men

To see if there is anyone who understands,
Who seeks after God.

(Psalm 53:3) Every one of them has turned aside...

(Psalm 53:4) “Have the workers of wickedness no knowledge...”

Now, once again, you have to understand the wicked are not simply people that do wrong; the wicked are those who won't believe in God. What makes a person wicked, according to the Psalm? You don't believe. What makes a person righteous? They believe. The righteous trust in God. The wicked will not. He says, “There is no God.” And just to let you know, the text starts off, “He says this in his heart.” I know people say, “I didn't say it out loud.” It doesn't matter. God sees the heart.

(Psalm 53:4) “Have the workers of wickedness no knowledge,

Who eat up My people as though they ate bread...”

That's kind of the picture of you what had happened to the witnesses of the testimony.

“Those that attack My people...”

Watch verse 5,

(Psalm 53:5) “There they were in great fear where no fear had been...”

How does fear just pop up all of a sudden? I mean, you look many years back and you go, “Nobody would ever be afraid of that back in this time.” I wonder why? Watch how God is being treated in a nation, watch how God's people are being treated, and then watch what happens. One of the first signs that nation is going away from God is they begin to be afraid of everything because where there is the refusal of God's love, well, they're in great fear where there had been no fear. Why? Well, the text ultimately says because God has rejected them. The passage is going to be unfolding and really revealing the

world and nature being involved in this because, of course, Christ is the One who sustains all things by His power. People say, "I can reject Christ and everything will be ok." You've just rejected life; you've rejected breath; you've rejected any creation that He created because all things are made by Him and for Him. I mean, you have no place to stand, and that's why the great white throne judgment, as those that are coming before God, it says heaven and earth were removed, and there they stand, before God, in nothingness. Then God goes, "Ok. So, what do you have?" And they're going to have to give some sort of answer to the God who is judging them, who has rejected their only source of life. Revelation 6 talks about the fact that a great earthquake comes and then the sun becomes black as sackcloth, which the two are tied together within the text. Not only is the blackness of the sun making reference to a sense of doom and gloom and despair and depression, but sackcloth, of course, is directly tied to mourning. I believe, that probably visually, that's going to happen, but the point of the matter is it's describing the hearts of men during this time, and grief and hopelessness and despair. I know there are a lot of

people going, “Am I going to be in the middle of all of this?”

Well, let me give you a passage in the Gospel of John and you tell me. It's found in John 8:12, and I'll just quote Jesus.

Jesus says,

(John 8:12) “... “I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness...””

What do you think?

1 Thessalonians 5 says you're not destined for the wrath of God. So, don't worry about the last days. It is with confidence we put our trust in God. What a wonderful truth. But the darkness is coming because of those who had not received the love of the truth so as to be saved. When you reject light, you have darkness. When you reject the rock, you reject stability. All things are trembling under your feet, nothing is stable, and it's one of the things that he's going to prove all the way through. Not only is “the sun became black as sackcloth made of hair, and the whole moon became like blood.”

That is to say, the moon is like dead. More specifically, it's not functioning. More specifically, you're not having seasons; you're not planting. Of course, the Jewish calendar is directly connected to the lunar calendar, and why was that? Because they would plant by the moon, and anybody that knows anything about planting, which I really don't, understands that the moon is really important when it comes to prosperity and planting. But now it's saying it's dead, you're not looking forward to anything. It's an interesting picture. "Is that true? Is the planting going to stop?" Yeah, the planting is going to stop. It's true. But the point is that you have no hope for the future, prosperity. None.

If you look at the next text, it says,

(Revelation 6:13) "and the stars of the sky fell to the earth, as a fig tree casts its unripe figs..."

Which would oftentimes happen in the wintertime. A fig tree would actually have figs in the winter, but the first strong wind, the figs would go down and it really begins to display easily thrown down. Stars are obviously an interesting picture of powers that are great and it says

they're just going to be cast to the earth. Are there going to be real stars? Well, "stars" probably is not the most accurate word that can be used, just any balls of light. So, meteors and everything, and you say, "How is that happening?" Well, if you look at the passage, it actually tells you how it happens.

(Revelation 6:14) "The sky was split apart like a scroll when it is rolled up..."

More specifically, what is happening is, as Scripture will call it, the vaulted expanse of around the earth or, as we would call it, the atmosphere, God will split open.

Probably none of us have been on the moon, but if you did go to the moon, you would find that there's no atmosphere. So, one of the reasons why the moon has so many craters is because there's no atmosphere because the atmosphere protects the earth. Not only does it keep oxygen and all those kind of things that are really necessary for us to survive, but in addition, it keeps out those critters that would easily destroy us. So, it burns them up in the atmosphere. Well, that's God's protection. Let's put it another way, that's the Lamb's protection.

Now, you start attacking the Lamb, you know what the Lamb does? He goes away.

There is an interesting passage in one of the Gospels, and Jesus is going to the country of the Garesenes, and He casts out a demon, Legion, and the people surrounding Him say, "You need to leave." Guess what Jesus did? He left. What's happening? They rejected the testimony of God; the Lamb is leaving; stars are falling; skies are split apart.

"... and every mountain..."

Which is that which is high and exalted and lifted up; any secure place. Could it have been a mountain? Yes, a mountain or any secure place that you perceive as great and strong.

"... were moved out of their places."

"Set in motion" is the text, which makes reference to the fact that it's not trustworthy, and he uses the term "island". Of course, an island is a place of stability in the seas. So, in land or sea, there's no place to put any kind of stability in.

So, verse 15 is an interesting passage to me.

(Revelation 6:15) “Then the kings of the earth and the great men and the commanders and the rich and the strong...”

He starts off with them. Now, mark it well, these are your heroes. What are they doing? They're running and hiding. These are your kings, your strong men, your smart guys, kings of the earth, the great men, the commanders, the rich, the strong, just like every slave and every free man. Of course, the free man might say, “You can't do that to me. I have my rights.” He's not going to be claiming any rights. He going to be hiding because the passage says that they “hid themselves in the caves”. See that?

“... and among the rocks of the mountains;

(Revelation 6:16) and they said to the mountains and to the rocks, “Fall on us and hide us...”

They found a den and their desire is to find some place in which they can hide from the presence of Who? Who are they hiding from? It says it.

“... from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb.”

Don't tell me you're afraid of a lamb. Yeah, the Lamb controls everything. You see, the world wants us to declare Jesus as impotent, “He's just a guy on a cross. He couldn't do anything.” You do know He rose from the grave? You do know He defeated death? You do know that though He controlled all things, He chose to display love rather than hatred, and that love reigns on the throne of God? You do know that if you reject that, you reject life? The consequences are not the fact that the Lamb is attacking them. The consequence is the result of them rejecting the Lamb.

It's an interesting seal that's being broke and that's why it says,

(Revelation 6:17) “for the great day of their wrath has come...”

And who, no matter how strong you are, no matter how powerful you are,

“... who is able to stand?”

Nobody is able to stand.

Ezekiel 7, if you'll take a moment to turn there. There are some great passages in the Old Testament that really are strongly parallel to this. God is declaring upon His people, "The day is coming, when disaster is going to come upon you."

In fact, the way He describes it,

(Ezekiel 7:5) "Thus says the Lord GOD, 'A disaster, unique disaster, behold it is coming!'

(Ezekiel 7:6) 'An end is coming; the end has come! It has awakened against you; behold, it has come!'

(Ezekiel 7:7) 'Your doom has come to you, O inhabitant of the land. The time has come, the day is near—tumult rather than joyful shouting on the mountains.'

It won't be long.

As He goes on, He begins to talk about, of course, violence is coming to the streets and buyer and seller are going to mourn because they're not going to be able to do business. They've blown the trumpet. It's about ready to happen, and it says nobody's going to survive this.

(Ezekiel 7:16) “Even when their survivors escape, they will be on the mountains...”

Sound familiar?

“... like doves of the valleys, all of them mourning, each over his own iniquity.

(Ezekiel 7:17) ‘All hands will hang limp and all knees will become like water.

(Ezekiel 7:18) ‘They will gird themselves with sackcloth and shuddering...”

Does that sound familiar?

“... will overwhelm them; and shame will be on all faces and baldness on all their heads.

(Ezekiel 7:19) ‘They will fling their silver into the streets and their gold will become an abhorrent thing; their silver and their gold will not be able to deliver them in the day of the wrath of the LORD. They cannot satisfy their appetite nor can they fill their stomachs, for their iniquity has become an occasion of stumbling.”

It's not going to be pretty.

It says,

(Ezekiel 7:27) “The king will mourn, the prince will be clothed with horror, and the hands of the people of the land will tremble...”

Why? Because they rejected the Lamb.

In each case, Scripture is unveiling and revealing to you what happens, and if you look at nations, you'll see some of these signs begin to happen, things of the earth. Now, I know that people think that if we just stop using hairspray, we might help the earth last longer, which could or might not help, but we won't debate that. The greater point is that the earth is tied directly to the way that God's message is being dealt with and His people are being received or rejected, and you watch nations that will embrace, how God will protect; you watch nations that don't, and what happens? Why are we having problems in our nation today? I can tell you why. I've seen the trend, and I see the day coming. I am thankful that the Lord knows those who are His and will protect His. You want safety? You proclaim that message. As Paul so clearly says to Timothy, “Look, I have finished my course. You can finish yours too.” God's not going to take you out

till you finish your course, right? But you've got to be on course.

Closing Prayer:

Father, we give You thanks for Your word as it begins to unveil to us the way things are. There are forces in this world that are trying to detract and detour us from proclaiming that message and their desire is to silence us, but they will be the losers. You will take us with You; not only that, but You will clothe us in light, and we will be in the light of Your glory, the life of our Savior, Who has saved us, and given us everlasting life. We are not ashamed of this gospel, we're not ashamed of this truth, but there are many who have rejected, perceiving it to be a small thing, an insignificant thing, as a little Lamb, how unimportant and unassuming. But they haven't listened to the heart, for in that Lamb was the love of God and the love of God is and has always been the most powerful thing in all of the universe. Father, you're talking to us. First of all, that we would proclaim this message

unapologetically. But secondly, that we would live in the light of this truth and understanding that those who receive will have peace and will never tremble, will never be afraid. But great fear comes to those who do not believe that God will protect them. They even say in their heart, though they would not say out loud, "We don't believe God exists." But we do, and there is great peace there.

With your heads bowed and your eyes closed, I'm just asking you to make this decision; the decision of believing in the Lamb, the power of the Lamb. As we take this journey and we go through the Book of Revelation, what a marvelous picture it is, as you come to Revelation 14 and you see the Lamb of God, standing with 144,000, protecting them until the end. God, this truth we know to be true, we know it to be true. If You spared not Your own Son, there's absolutely no way that You're going to abandon us in anything. We believe this. He wants to hear it from you though. He wants to hear you say, "I believe this."