

**Whole Lot Of Shaking Going On  
The Score : Earth Dwellers – 0 God – Infinity  
The Sixth Seal  
Revelation 6:12—17 6:12 – 7:17**

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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?" (NASB95)

Most of us, after we finish reading verse 17 and then move onto chapter 7, think we have moved to some kind of interlude or something similar.

That is a traditional view and I reflect that in my outline. But when you look carefully at the text and understand a bit about how we got the Bible, well there is another possibility. Remember this, chapter and verses were not added until the middle ages. For the churches of Asia Minor, who are all receiving this letter, chapter 7, for them, is still part of the 6th seal. They do not have a chapter break in the letter they receive. Let's take another look at the entirety of what could be the 6th seal.

What then does 6:12–17 contribute to chapter 7? In what sense can it be considered necessary background to the vision of the redeemed in that chapter? The simplest answer is that 6:12–17 describes in vivid detail the terrible judgment from which deliverance is promised in chapter 7. We might even argue that 6:12–17 is simply introductory to the vision proper, which comes in chapter 7. If the fifth seal dealt with the suffering people of God, looking toward the day when "the number of their fellow servants and brothers" would be completed (6:11), it is natural that the sixth seal should continue to focus on that group and mark the completion of that number (see 7:4). (Michaels 1997, Re 6:12)

Revelation 6:12–7:17

"Then I looked when the Lamb opened the sixth seal, and a huge earthquake took place; the sun became as black as sackcloth made of hair, and the full moon became blood red; and the stars in the sky fell to the earth like a fig tree dropping its unripe figs when shaken by a fierce wind. The sky was split apart like a scroll being rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved from its place. Then the kings of the earth, the very important people, the generals, the rich, the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid

themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains. They said to the mountains and to the rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of the one who is seated on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb, because the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to withstand it?” After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth so no wind could blow on the earth, on the sea, or on any tree. Then I saw another angel ascending from the east, who had the seal of the living God. He shouted out with a loud voice to the four angels who had been given permission to damage the earth and the sea: “Do not damage the earth or the sea or the trees until we have put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God.” Now I heard the number of those who were marked with the seal, one hundred and forty-four thousand, sealed from all the tribes of the people of Israel: From the tribe of Judah, twelve thousand were sealed, from the tribe of Reuben, twelve thousand, from the tribe of Gad, twelve thousand, from the tribe of Asher, twelve thousand, from the tribe of Naphtali, twelve thousand, from the tribe of Manasseh, twelve thousand, from the tribe of Simeon, twelve thousand, from the tribe of Levi, twelve thousand, from the tribe of Issachar, twelve thousand, from the tribe of Zebulun, twelve thousand, from the tribe of Joseph, twelve thousand, from the tribe of Benjamin, twelve thousand were sealed. After these things I looked, and here was an enormous crowd that no one could count, made up of persons from every nation, tribe, people, and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb dressed in long white robes, and with palm branches in their hands. They were shouting out in a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God, to the one seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!” And all the angels stood there in a circle around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they threw themselves down with their faces to the ground before the throne and worshiped God, saying, “Amen! Praise and glory, and wisdom and thanksgiving, and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!” Then one of the elders asked me, “These dressed in long white robes—who are they and where have they come from?” So I said to him, “My lord, you know the answer.” Then he said to me, “These are the ones who have come out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb! For this reason they are before the throne of God, and they serve him day and night in his temple, and the one seated on the throne will shelter them. They will never go hungry or be thirsty again, and the sun will not beat down on them, nor any burning heat, because the Lamb in the middle of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.” (NET)

We are going to look at this entire section of scripture as the 6th seal and it includes an interlude.

A question was asked back in verse 10. The question in verse 10 – “How long...”

The answer – It has several elements in it, The Day of the Lord begins, so we think it is time to cue up “It’s the End Of The World As We Know It” as the song to play and begin endless repeats of the film Independence Day.

The reality – it is **not the end of the world**, just more terraforming getting the earth ready for Eden and getting the squatters permanently off the property. This is just the first volley and “The Savior” is the one behind it all. So, there is no one else to turn to.

Events:

Earthquakes, sun turning black, moon turning blood red, stars falling from the sky to earth, sky rolling up like a scroll, mountains and islands being moved.

But before we get started with all of this, let’s:

- Seal and protect those who will be spreading the gospel during this time.
- Show those under the altar just how many more really will be coming.
- What is the job assignment?

There are those who read this and then go out of their way to say, “this is all imagery and couldn’t possibly be real.”

The details in this dramatic description of a universe in turmoil are drawn from the common stock of current apocalypticism. They are not to be taken with complete literalness. (Mounce 1997, 150)

When you study Revelation, you do look at the imagery, that is correct. As you study, you also must ask yourself, is this real or figurative? What are the clues? Donald Campbell provides some guidelines.

#### Some Guidelines for Interpretation

1. Always take a passage in its literal sense unless there is good reason for doing otherwise.
2. The figurative sense is intended if the literal would involve an impossibility.
3. The figurative is intended if the literal meaning is an absurdity, as in trees clapping their hands (Isa. 55:12).
4. Take the figurative sense if the literal would demand immoral action.
5. Note whether a figurative expression is followed by an explanatory literal statement. Those who “fall asleep” (1 Thes. 4:13–15) are then spoken of as those who have died (v. 16).
6. Sometimes a figure is marked by a qualifying adjective, as in “Heavenly Father” (Matt. 6:14), “the true Bread” (John 6:32), “living Stone” (1 Peter 2:4). Or sometimes a prepositional phrase hints that the preceding noun is not to be understood literally. In the words “the sword of the Spirit” (Eph. 6:17), the phrase “of the Spirit” shows that the sword is to be understood figuratively, not literally. A similar example is “the good fight of the faith” (1 Tim. 6:12). (Campbell 1991, 146)

Revelation is what is called apocalyptic literature, and as such symbols are indeed used “but because the material is dealing with a sensitive topic—about the way in which the world is mistreating the community, whether it be Israel or the Church—we often have it presented in forms of symbolism. So it’s not entirely clear who’s being talked about, but rather, the opposition between evil and righteousness is shown as a kind of cosmic battle that we’re engaged in, with forces working behind the nations on the one hand, and the righteous being supported by God and the angels on the other.” (Bock 2014)

As we have covered before, this is spiritual warfare at its apex. The world of the unseen will intersect at multiple times with the physical world in Revelation. At this point in Revelation, it has already done so and will only become even more graphic if we look for it.

Stop and consider, is the world really ready for a world leader who can do miracles, pseudo raises people from the dead and has his own prophet running around and touting him as a god along with accompanying signs and wonders? Is the world ready for Elijah to be doing his thing and possibly Moses or Enoch doing the same in and around the newly rebuilt Temple complex in Jerusalem? When the Holy Spirit is removed, what exactly will be seen? What is “the lie?”

The Devil and his demons can, according to the literature, manifest themselves in almost any form and can physically imitate anything from angels to horrifying monsters with glowing eyes. Strange objects and entities materialize and dematerialize in these stories, just as the UFOs and their splendid occupants appear and disappear, walk through walls, and perform other supernatural feats. (Keel 2013, 233-234)

The demons, devils, and false angels were recognized as liars and plunderers by early man. These same impostors now appear as long-haired Venusians. (Keel 2013, 234)

My view here in this section of Revelation 6, as stated earlier, is this is exactly what prophecy is...it is history in advance.

When we reviewed the Olivet Discourse in our survey of prophecy, we reviewed what Jesus said. This points out another factor we always use when studying the scriptures, many times, scripture is the best commentary on scripture.

#### Matthew 24:7–8

“For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes. But all these things are merely the beginning of birth pangs.” (NASB95)

This time period is discussed by the major and minor prophets of the Old Testament who are using much the same language that John is using. To the mind of an educated 1st century believer, it makes sense even though they may not understand it all, it is still apocalyptic literature and carries a consistent message of what the day of the Lord will look like.

#### Isaiah 34:1–4

“Draw near, O nations, to hear, and give attention, O peoples! Let the earth hear, and all that fills it; the world, and all that comes from it. For the LORD is enraged against all the nations, and furious against all their host; he has devoted them to destruction, has given them over for slaughter. Their slain shall be cast out, and the stench of their corpses shall rise; the mountains shall flow with their blood. All the host of heaven shall rot away, and the skies roll up like a scroll. All their host shall fall, as leaves fall from the vine, like leaves falling from the fig tree.” (ESV)

#### Joel 2:31–32

“The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the LORD has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the LORD calls.” (ESV)

John sees the Lamb, who is Jesus Christ, break the 6th seal, and then he witnesses a great earthquake. John is no stranger to earthquakes, no one in Asia Minor is either. That starts the list.

#### Revelation 6:12–14

“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.**” (NASB95)

### Great Earthquake

- Everywhere, global
- All at the same time
- Think 2011 Japan, happening globally all at the same time
- Tsunamis everywhere
- Volcanoes becoming active
- Along every fault line in the world
- All at once

### Think Total Solar and Lunar Eclipse

- At the same time, depending on what side of the globe you are on
- Visible in all places at the same time
- At a time not predicted or expected
- And not limited to only a small corridor of viewing

### Falling Stars

- Multiple fireballs in the sky
- At a time not expected or predicted

- Globally all at once
- Or, is it something more?

Job 38:7

“When the morning stars sang together And all the sons of God shouted for joy?” (NASB95)

Revelation 12:7–9

“And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war, and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven. And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.” (NASB95)

Something More?

Multiple re-entering nuclear warheads?

Fallen divine beings being cast out?



If Coleman’s purely mathematical arguments are correct, they would give hard experimental evidence that wormholes are an essential feature of all physical processes, and not just some pipe dream. It would mean that wormholes connecting our universe with an infinite number of dead universes are essential to prevent our universe from wrapping itself up into a tight, tiny ball, or from exploding outward at fantastic rates. It would mean that wormholes are the essential feature making our universe relatively stable. (Kaku 1999, Kindle Location 4779)

Remember our friend, the prophet Ezekiel?

In Ezekiel chapter 1, he gives us a description of the throne room of God coming down to earth. Earth consists of 3 ½ dimensions, height, width, length and time that runs only forward. But heaven, if we believe string theory, could have possibly 10 dimensions.

Ezekiel tries to explain multidimensional reality to us in terms he would understand, writing from just outside Babylon around 530 BC.

If we calculate how strings break and re-form in N-dimensional space, we constantly find meaningless terms cropping up that destroy the marvelous properties of the theory. Fortunately, these unwanted terms appear multiplied by  $(N - 10)$ . Therefore, to make these anomalies vanish, we have no choice but to fix  $N$  to be ten. String theory, in fact, is the only known quantum theory that specifically demands that the dimension of space-time be fixed at a unique number. (Kaku 1999, Kindle Location 3138)

Ezekiel 1:4–12

“As I watched, I noticed a windstorm coming from the north—an enormous cloud, with lightning flashing, such that bright light rimmed it and came from it like glowing amber from the middle of a fire. In the fire were what looked like four living beings. In their appearance they had human form, but each had four faces and four wings. Their legs were straight, but the soles of their feet were like calves’ feet. They gleamed like polished bronze. They had human hands under their wings on their four sides. As for the faces and wings of the four of them, their wings touched each other; they did not turn as they moved, but went straight ahead. Their faces had this appearance: Each of the four had the face of a man, with the face of a lion on the right, the face of an ox on the left and also the face of an eagle. Their wings were spread out above them; each had two wings touching the wings of one of the other beings on either side and two wings covering their bodies. Each moved straight ahead—wherever the spirit would go, they would go, without turning as they went.” (NET)

We just studied this same throne room in chapter 4 and 5 when John arrived in it. John explains reality as he sees it, which is different from the perspective of residing in multidimensional space versus seeing multidimensional space form only 3 dimensions

From the perspective of an observer looking on at the scene, it may appear that the sky is being rolled up. Are we talking about extra dimensions that to us, appear to be rolled up?

Whereas the sequestering model had one additional dimension that was bounded between two branes, the ADD models all have more than one dimension and those dimensions are curled up. Depending on the details of the implementation, space in their models contains two, three, or more additional curled-up dimensions. (Randall 2005, 364)

This is all conjecture and involves quantum physics and string theory, but for John as an eyewitness, what he tells us may be pointing to a reality that will become visible in the last days.

### **Sky Split Like A Scroll?**

- Dimensional portal
- Also known as a wormhole
- Currently postulated to exist in quantum reality
- Multidimensional
- Connected to “stars falling from heaven?”
- Or symbolic?

There are a number of reasons for preferring to take this passage in its literal meaning. While this is not the final breakup of the world as described later in Revelation, when a further period of terrible judgments will be poured on the world, it does seem to indicate that beginning with the sixth seal God is undertaking a direct intervention into human affairs. The judgments of war, famine, and death, and the martyrdom of the saints have largely originated in human decision and in the evil heart of man. The judgment described here, however, originates in God as a divine punishment inflicted upon a blasphemous world. (Walvoord 2008, 136)

And from God we hear...“Do I have your attention now?”

One more thing, the mountains and the islands are moved out of their places? Really?

We see islands being formed even today. In 2015 a series of photos were taken showing an island that formed between January and March of 2015 and the pictures come at the end of March 2015. It is three months old. (Grisham 2015)

There are over 25 new islands that have formed just since 1900.

Islands going away, think Krakatoa, and you do not need too many of them with the attendant tsunami and many of the signs in this section of scripture.

The explosions hurled an estimated 11 cubic miles (45 cubic km) of debris into the atmosphere, darkening skies up to 275 miles (442 km) from the volcano. In the immediate vicinity, the dawn did not return for three days. Ash fell as far away as 3,775 miles (6,076 km) landing on ships to the northwest. Barographs around the globe documented that the shock waves in the atmosphere circled the planet at least seven times. Within 13 days, a layer of sulfur dioxide and other gases began to filter the amount of sunlight able to reach Earth. The atmospheric effects made for spectacular sunsets all over Europe and the United States. Average global temperatures were as much as 1.2 degrees cooler for the next five years. (Bagley 2017)

And this is just the kickoff. There is much more to come as we will see in Revelation. What is the impact of all these events on the earth dwellers?

Revelation 6:15–17

“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?”” (NASB95)

So much for atheism.

Is it possible that “the opening of the sky will give earth-dwellers a glimpse into the throne room of heaven (v. 16)” (Constable 2003, Re 6:14)

Have the earth dwellers, the leadership initially, but finally all earth dwellers, the same as those who hid from Joshua, have they seen what they are up against through the wormhole, the dimensional portal, in the sky?

Back to the book of Joshua, recall that Joshua, who is a type of Jesus Christ, is all about the business of kicking out the usurper from the land. This is also the exact picture of Jesus in Revelation. In Joshua 10, he asks the Lord to show up like never before by keeping up the sun for over 36 hours straight. For more info see our study on Joshua 10.

Joshua 10:12–13

“The day the LORD delivered the Amorites over to the Israelites, Joshua prayed to the LORD before Israel: “O sun, stand still over Gibeon! O moon, over the Valley of Aijalon!” The sun stood still and the moon stood motionless while the nation took vengeance on its enemies. The event is recorded in the Scroll of the Upright One. The sun stood motionless in the middle of the sky and did not set for about a full day.” (NET)

Truly an apocalyptic sign of judgement from YAHWEH. This is a sign which was delivered to the land dwellers of Canaan by the forces of YAHWEH represented by Joshua. But here is the interesting part, the reaction of the leaders.

#### Joshua 10:16–27

“The five Amorite kings ran away and hid in the cave at Makkedah. Joshua was told, “The five kings have been found hiding in the cave at Makkedah.” Joshua said, “Roll large stones over the mouth of the cave and post guards in front of it. But don’t you delay! Chase your enemies and catch them! Don’t allow them to retreat to their cities, for the LORD your God is handing them over to you.” Joshua and the Israelites almost totally wiped them out, but some survivors did escape to the fortified cities. Then the whole army safely returned to Joshua at the camp in Makkedah. No one dared threaten the Israelites. Joshua said, “Open the cave’s mouth and bring the five kings out of the cave to me.” They did as ordered; they brought the five kings out of the cave to him—the kings of Jerusalem, Hebron, Jarmuth, Lachish, and Eglon. When they brought the kings out to Joshua, he summoned all the men of Israel and said to the commanders of the troops who accompanied him, “Come here and put your feet on the necks of these kings.” So they came up and put their feet on their necks. Then Joshua said to them, “Don’t be afraid and don’t panic! Be strong and brave, for the LORD will do the same thing to all your enemies you fight. Then Joshua executed them and hung them on five trees. They were left hanging on the trees until evening. At sunset Joshua ordered his men to take them down from the trees. They threw them into the cave where they had hidden and piled large stones over the mouth of the cave. (They remain to this very day.)” (NET)

This is also a picture of what is taking place in Revelation 6:15 & 16. People hiding in caves.

This also shows up elsewhere. Jesus said the women of Jerusalem would also act in that manner as Rome moved in and destroyed Jerusalem in 70 AD (Luke 23:27-31.)

#### Isaiah 2:19–22

“And people shall enter the caves of the rocks and the holes of the ground, from before the terror of the LORD, and from the splendor of his majesty, when he rises to terrify the earth. In that day mankind will cast away their idols of silver and their idols of gold, which they made for themselves to worship, to the moles and to the bats, to enter the caverns of the rocks and the clefts of the cliffs, from before the terror of the LORD, and from the splendor of his majesty, when he rises to terrify the earth. Stop regarding man in whose nostrils is breath, for of what account is he?” (ESV)

The reaction of every category of humanity all over the world is amazing. It indicates that people’s perception of God and the Lamb in heaven will be far more terrifying to them than the physical consequences of this judgment. Whereas the martyrs cry, “Avenge us” (v. 10), these unbelievers cry, “Hide us.” (Constable 2003, Re 6:15)

#### Hebrews 10:31

“It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.” (NASB95)

The Day of the Lord, the beginning of the Tribulation, Daniel’s 70th week, is at hand. It is “the great day of their wrath...”

Daniel identified this as the 70<sup>th</sup> week and in Daniel 12:1, he identifies the severity of the activity taking place at the mid-point of the Tribulation. “At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book.” (ESV)

Jeremiah also spoke about the day. Jeremiah 30:7 “Alas, what a terrible time of trouble it is! There has never been any like it. It is a time of trouble for the descendants of Jacob, but some of them will be rescued out of it.” (NET)

Jesus also discussed this with His disciples at part of His answering their three questions about the last days in Matthew 24:21 “For then there will be great suffering unlike anything that has happened from the beginning of the world until now, or ever will happen.” (NET)

### Isaiah 13:8–13

“They will be dismayed: pangs and agony will seize them; they will be in anguish like a woman in labor. They will look aghast at one another; their faces will be aflame. Behold, the day of the LORD comes, cruel, with wrath and fierce anger, to make the land a desolation and to destroy its sinners from it. For the stars of the heavens and their constellations will not give their light; the sun will be dark at its rising, and the moon will not shed its light. I will punish the world for its evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; I will put an end to the pomp of the arrogant, and lay low the pompous pride of the ruthless. I will make people more rare than fine gold, and mankind than the gold of Ophir. Therefore I will make the heavens tremble, and the earth will be shaken out of its place, at the wrath of the LORD of hosts in the day of his fierce anger.” (ESV)

### Isaiah 34:4

“All the host of heaven shall rot away, and the skies roll up like a scroll. All their host shall fall, as leaves fall from the vine, like leaves falling from the fig tree.” (ESV)

### Nahum 1:6–8

“Who can stand before his fierce anger? Who can survive his burning fury? His rage blazes forth like fire, and the mountains crumble to dust in his presence. The LORD is good, a strong refuge when trouble comes. He is close to those who trust in him. But he will sweep away his enemies in an overwhelming flood. He will pursue his foes into the darkness of night.” (NLT)

What sinners dread most is not death, but the revealed Presence of God. There is deep psychological truth in the remark of Gen. 3:8. (Swete 1906, 92)

### Genesis 3:8

“When the cool evening breezes were blowing, the man and his wife heard the LORD God walking about in the garden. So they hid from the LORD God among the trees.” (NLT)

Just as the Lord was walking through Eden looking for Adam and Eve, He is still doing so today. There is a point where that ends, and Jesus takes the church to be with Him and the things we are studying become reality and are no longer simply topics for study. The time is short.

### 2 Corinthians 6:2

“For he says, “I heard you at the acceptable time, and in the day of salvation I helped you.” Look, now is the acceptable time; look, now is the day of salvation!” (NET)

Today, not tomorrow is the time to decide what to do about Jesus. You may not have tomorrow. You do not have to clean up your life first or do anything else to become a believer in Jesus Christ. Paul laid it out for us in Romans 10:8–10 “But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we preach), because if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and thus has righteousness and with the mouth one confesses and thus has salvation.” (NET)

I hear you though when you say this is an old book written a couple of thousand years ago. Why is it important to decide now? Peter anticipated that question 2 Peter 3:9–12 “The Lord isn’t really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent. But the day of the Lord will come as unexpectedly as a thief. Then the heavens will pass away with a terrible noise, and the very elements themselves will disappear in fire, and the earth and everything on it will be found to deserve judgment. Since everything around us is going to be destroyed like this, what holy and godly lives you should live, looking forward to the day of God and hurrying it along. On that day, he will set the heavens on fire, and the elements will melt away in the flames.” (NLT)

Say yes to Jesus right now.

The same voice which now says, "Come unto me," will, if His tender invitations are refused, at length say, "Depart from me, ye cursed." Now is the day of salvation; then will be the day of judgment; and surely every shaft of judgment will be barbed by the memory of slighted grace. (Baines 2005, 95)

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