

Revelation 6:12–17
Ready to Face the Lamb?

Thursday, March 6, 2025 • Read Revelation 6:12–17

Questions from the Scripture text: What does John do in v12? What does the Lamb do? What six things happen in v12–14? What seven categories of men are named in v15? What do they do? Where do they hide? What do they ask the mountains and rocks to do (v16)? In order to hide them from Whose face? And Whose wrath? What day do they think has come (v17)? What rhetorical question do they ask? What is its implied answer?

How should we live, under the sovereign authority of the Lamb over history? Revelation 6:12–17 looks forward to the hearing of God’s Word, publicly read, in the holy assembly on the coming Lord’s Day. In these six verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **we should live as we will wish we had on the day of the wrath of the Lamb.**

The Lamb exercises His sovereign authority of history not only in the triumphal progress of the church (v1–3), the sorts of things that Jesus calls merely the beginning of sorrows in Mt 24:7–8 (v3–8), and even the persecution of Christians (v9–11). But there is a time coming when the Lord will sovereignly shake all the powers of this world until they fall.

Sun, moon, and stars signify authority. They are created to “rule” (cf. Gen 1:16), and their falling down signifies a shakeup in rule (cf. Gen 37:8–10). In Mt 24:29–31, Jesus teaches that the coming of the Son of Man will come at the end of the age of tribulation (which age spans the entire time between His two comings). It is the same event as we see here, complete with the mourning of all of the tribes of the earth, and it immediately precedes the sounding of the last trumpet.

If the people in v15 had acknowledged or believed that the Lamb was upon the throne, they would not be in the position that they find themselves in the sixth seal. Alas, this age is full of those whose eyes are opened too late. The wrath of the Lamb is worse than the wrath of a Lion. For, they will look upon Him Whom they pierced. They will look upon the One Who died for sinners, the Lamb Who was slain, but Whom they rejected. And the wickedness of their rejecting Him will be compounded by the greatness of what He has done for those whom He redeemed.

The face of Him Who sits on the throne is a terrible prospect for them, in all His beauty and glory. They would rather be crushed by the whole of creation than bear the gaze of the Creator Whom they have denied. They would rather suffer anything else than endure the brilliance of the glory of the Lamb expressed upon them as fury, which glory had previously been offered to them as favor.

The point of the seal seems clear: we must live under the sovereign authority of Jesus, throughout the time between His two comings, as we will wish that we had when the great day of His second-coming arrives. Most of all, we must have Him Himself. We must have the white robes from the fifth seal, and be resting in Him, or else we will not be able to bear having His face look upon us.

There are all sorts of frightful men, and movements, and powers in this world. But they will all be shaken quite easily, like ripe figs falling in a storm, when the true Power shows Himself upon His return.

Are you dressed in the white robe of the righteousness of the Lamb? What might you change in order to live in the manner that you hope to be found upon His return?

Sample prayer: Lord, forgive us for how easily we fear the powers and movements of this world and this age, when they shall be suddenly shaken and fall to the ground at the coming of our Lord Jesus. And forgive us for how often we do not live as we would wish to be found living upon His return. And forgive us for how much we have taken for granted the salvation that enables us to stand even in the great day of His wrath. Forgive us, and cleanse us, we ask in the Name of the Lamb, even Jesus, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP98 “O Sing a New Song” or TPH389 “Great God, What Do I See and Hear”

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Revelation 6, verses 12-17. These are God's words. I looked when he opened the sixth seal and. Behold, there was a great earthquake. And the sun came became black as sackcloth hair and. The moon became like blood and. The stars of? Fell to the Earth. The fig tree drops its light figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind.

Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up and. Every Mountain and Island was moved out of its place and. The kings of the earth, the Great Men, the rich men, the commanders, the Mighty Men. Every slave and every Freight man. Hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains.

And said to the mountains and rocks fall on us and hide us. From the face of him who sits on the throne and from the Wrath. Of the lamb. For the great day of his wrath has come. And. Is able? To stand.

Humana sends this reading of Gods inspired. And there and toward. We remember that the opening of the seals is reminding us that. The Lord Jesus is the only one who has. In himself. The authority of God, because although he. Has added to himself a human. Nature. he is just the one Divine person.

And he. Took to himself, his Humanity. In order to? Redeem us. Because this was God's plan for all of history. This was why there was a creation so that there could be a Redemption. This is why. Has ever been any Providence. This is why there is ever any Providence now.

Dovetails well with what we had in Psalm 136 this week, remembering that the reason for everything in all of creation and all of Province, even down to food for the beasts. On for All Flesh is because his steadfast love. Indoors forever, and so he is worthy. To take the scroll and to open the seals.

Because he. the second person of the godhead God, the son redeeming Us by his blood as the point of all of history. And he is the Lord of all of history, and so it is under his Sovereign Authority. Has two comings. in the first seal with the one on the White Horse who goes forth conquering to conquer that.

The church and the gospel spread throughout this age. Unstoppably so? It is under his authority that all those things that he calls in Matthew 24, the beginnings of the birth bangs. We should probably read. That's actually Matthew 24, because.

Not only is that part behind. Two, three, and four, but further in the passage. Is behind the sixth seal, which we have today. but behind seals two, three, and four. You remember? Matthew 24, beginning in verse 4, Jesus answered and said to them, take heed that no one deceives you.

For many, will come in my name, saying, I am the Christ, and will deceive Betty, and you will hear of wars and rumors of Wars. So, second seal. See that you are not troubled for. These things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For National Rising, its nation Kingdom against Kingdom.

second seal. There will be. Famines. Third seal. Pestilence's earthquakes in various places forth seal. All these are the beginning of Soros. And so those are things that are. Just the common. repeatedly, between the two comings of Christ. The they're under the authority of the Lord Jesus Christians should not fear them, they remind us.

That he is the one who sits on the throne and? he told us in advance that. That's what it would be like. But then, in verse 29. Immediately after the tribulation of those days, and so. When the time of tribulation comes, and it's referring to the tribulation as the entire time between Jesus's two comings.

So, when the time of the tribulation comes to an end, the sun will be darkened. The moon will not give its light. The stars will fall from Heaven and the powers of the heavens. Will be shaken. Then the sign of the son of man will appear in heaven, which is the sign who is the son of man will appear in heaven.

And all the tribes of the Earth shall mourn when they say the son of man coming in the Clouds of heaven with power and great Glory. And that is exactly what we have. The heavens shaking? Great earthquake! The sun becoming, black as sackcloth, the moon becoming like blood so?

The sun becoming darkened and the moon failing to give its light. The stars of Heaven, falling to Earth, like. Fig tree dropping late figs, so, oh, you know, over ripe fruit that's just ready to come off? And A Mighty Wind comes, and so a storm comes and knocks them all to the ground.

And this is not necessarily talking about a physical occurrence. I mean, it could be. physically, so but much more than that. It is the removal of all.

Of the other powers. in the world. This is the significance of the Sun, Moon, and stars from Genesis chapter 1. Those are the first things that are introduced into the creation as rulers. The sun to rule the day and the moon and stars. To rule the night. And this is what is figured in?

Joseph's second dream in Genesis 37. When he says Sun, Moon, and stars bow down to me in the family structure. The son was dead. The moon was Mom. The Lesser Stars were his older brothers. And there was no question in the family when he told everyone, the dream, what he was saying was going to happen.

All the other powers would fall down before him. And this is what happens at the end of the age. So, throughout this age, there are all of the rulers that God has put into his creation and permitted in his Providence. A sun moon and stars down to every King and every lesser magistrate.

Yeah, so all of these rulers and all of these movements and all of these nations. That seem to be so powerful. In their time. But their time is coming to an end. If people had really grasped this? They would have prepared for the day of the wrath of the Lamb.

Because he's a lamb. He is slain for the Redemption of those who have sinned against him. And that makes it all the more frightful when he appears. For not only then, does it appear that the lamb that was slain is the lion of the tribe of Judah? To whom the scepter of rule forever belongs?

So that he is the mighty king. And to have rejected him is to have signed your own death warrant. Just have signed your own condemnation for Eternal wrath. But here's the lamb. And so you have not. If you do not prepare for the coming of the Lamb. By receiving the Redemption that is offered in.

Then, not only have you sinned against his right ruling. Of all things. But you have spurned. The offer of his salvation. He has died for Sinners. And he has offered. To every sinner. Is Redemption? And those who reject him. Realize their error. Too late. They've spent. Too much time pushing down on the knowledge of God.

Too much time pushing down. On the knowledge of Christ and the goodness of the Gospel. There's coming a day. The sun, moon, and stars. Cease to rein in their respective places and all of the Kings. And the commanders. And the rich man and the great men and the Mighty Men.

You know this list at the beginning of verse 15, they lose their place. Because all authority in Heaven and Earth belongs to. The lamb. But it's not just they who. Are dismayed and hide themselves and cry out to the mountains and the rocks. Fallen us and hide us. Every slave.

And every free man says verse 15. So no one by their position. No one at all in any condition. Is exempt from. The Reckoning that comes? At the return of the Lord Jesus, when even the rakia even the beaten out thing of day two creation that? Had windows opened in it for the flood.

And you think? Windows open in it for the flood when water comes down. But then, the whole thing is peeled back. For Jesus when he comes down. And what will it be like then? People will not want to see the face of God they will. They would rather all of creation, crush them.

Than to see the face of God. They will not want to see the lamb who is slain? The other hand. God, giving us to trust in the Lord Jesus to love him. And especially to be dressed in that white robe. You remember from the fifth seal last week? If you are dressed in the white robe of the righteousness of Jesus?

On the day that he appears. His face will be your blessing. It will be the final and fullest experience of the blessing in number six. May also, I bless you and keep you. May he preserve you through all of the troubles that are between the two comings of Christ.

May his face shine upon you? Yahweh make his face to shine upon you. Yahweh lift up his face upon you. And give you peace. That's the difference that the white robe of the righteousness of Jesus makes. Either the face of God will be to you, the ultimate Terror. In which you would wish that there was a?

Nuclear bombs so big that it could level a mountain onto the top of you. To hide you from him. Or his face will be your ultimate blessing. Will be your Shalom. Your piece.

The face of Jesus. It's lovely to us. The return of the Lamb is. Our desire, the day of his wrath. When his righteousness and Holiness Justice and Truth are Vindicated. Like, we learned last week in verses 9 through 11 should be the desire of the believer. Well, that which is the desire of the Believer is the dread of the unbeliever.

And so the end of their cry, verse 17, it reminds us, doesn't it of Psalm 13? For the great day of his wrath has come, and who is able to stand? If you owe Yahweh Mark iniquities, so Yahweh, who could stand? But with you, there is forgiveness. That's the answer.

The who can stand? As those who have been forgiven. Those who have Christ, those who have his righteousness. Those who have his sacrifice. Those who not only have been forgiven and have the white robe of their justification. But those who, because they are his, and they have been forgiven.

That they have also after that. Subsequent to that been made like him. And they appear like stars. They shine like stars in the Kingdom of their father. Because they are no longer. these stars from the original creation. Uh to? The night. There is no night to be ruled.

But. Who is able to stand? Not only. Will those who are his those who belong to Christ stand in the last day? They will shine. So, the question is, you know, are you? Prepared. For the return of the Lord Jesus. Because we do not know when it is. And if we did, it would be.

Colonel Folly. Think that you could prepare for it later. Fleshly followed to think that you could prepare for it later. But are you prepared for the day for the return of the Lord Jesus? Are you dressed in his white robe in your justification? And are you pursuing that Holiness?

Without which? You will not see the Lord with joy and welcome. But with this terrible dread. The Lord, give us. To be. Prepared for him. Then let's pray.

Father. Thank you for your word. Thank you for your Redemption. If you did, Mark our sins. Then, indeed, it would be every last individual. And we would be with. Majority.

For him. Your the return of your son will be there dread. But for us, O Lord. Give us to rest, and you give us. Trust in Christ belong to you. To know that we are right with you through him. Give us. Love, Holiness, and. That which pleases you and that which?

Prepares us for and fits us for. Beholding. Your face and your son. So that? The prospect of the day that comes under the authority of. Your son, our Lord Jesus, the lamb. So that that the prospect of that day would be a delight to us. And pray for.

Me and? My family that there wouldn't be a single one of us. That would be unprepared for that day. Grant it, we ask by your spirit, who gives life and faith in Christ. In whom, and through whom we ask it. Amen.