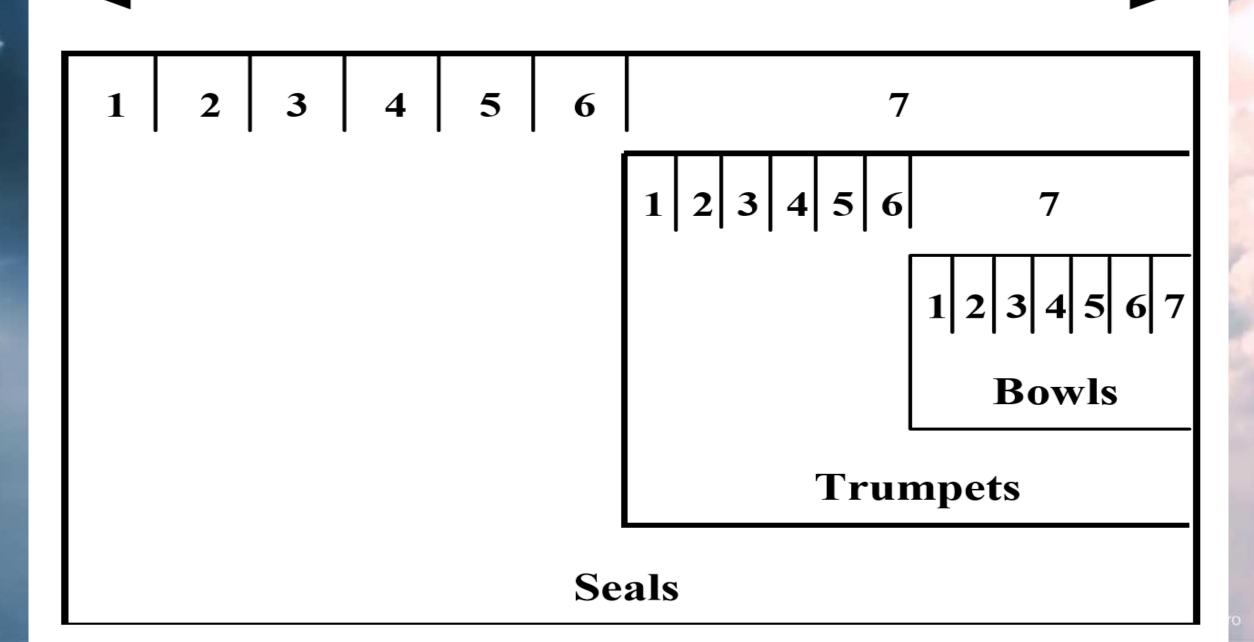
The Revelation of Jesus Christ

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Jim Hoffman

• 12 I watched as he opened the sixth seal. There was a great earthquake. The sun turned black like sackcloth made of goat hair, the whole moon turned blood red, 13 and the stars in the sky fell to earth, as figs drop from a fig tree when shaken by a strong wind. 14 The heavens receded like a scroll being rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place. 15 Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and everyone else, both slave and free, hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. 16 They called to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! 17 For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can withstand it?"

The Tribulation





Vengeance



Fear



 Heb 10: 26 For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, 27 but a terrifying expectation of judgment and the fury of a fire which will consume the adversaries. 28 Anyone who has set aside the Law of Moses dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. 29 How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled under foot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace? 30 For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay." And again, "The Lord will judge His people." 31 It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

 We, the church of our day, spend too much time trying to convince the unsaved that God is not to be feared.

- We want to make Him as appealing as possible and, in so doing undermine perhaps one of the most compelling reasons to come to Him – He has the power to kill you and send you to hell.
- Make no mistake about it, God is a God of love, grace, mercy, and great patience, but He is also angry with sinners everyday and He is a vengeful.

 Psalm7:6 Arise, O Lord, in anger! Stand up against the fury of my enemies! Wake up, my God, and bring justice! 7 Gather the nations before you. Rule over them from on high. 8 The Lord judges the nations. Declare me righteous, O Lord, for I am innocent, O Most High! 9 End the evil of those who are wicked, and defend the righteous. For you look deep within the mind and heart, O righteous God. 10 God is my shield, saving those whose hearts are true and right. 11 God is an honest judge. He is angry with the wicked every day. 12 If a person does not repent, God will sharpen his sword; he will bend and string his bow. 13 He will prepare his deadly weapons and shoot his flaming arrows.

- Luke 21:25 "There will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth dismay among nations, in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the waves, 26 men fainting from fear and the expectation of the things which are coming upon the world; for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.
- And what do we have in our text today it begins with a great earthquake, or a great shaking of the universe.
- This shaking will affect the earth, the sun, moon, and stars throughout the universe.

 The Greek word in Rev 6:12 that is translated earthquake is the word, "seismos", which means a shaking.

 But this shaking is of historic proportions – note that it affects the earth, the sun, the moon, and the stars.

 It is as though the whole universe is shaking apart and the damage brought on by this shaking will be devastating.

 Bear in mind at this point what has been going on the earth for the past 3 ½ years or so ...

 War, a new worldwide false church, 25% of the world's population has been killed, famine, pestilence, death by wild animals, and the list goes one.

 Now, there is this shaking of the universe that can only be described as an event of proportions never seen before in human history that shakes men to their very core.

 "The seismos described here is worldwide in scope for the first time in history. Seismologists and geophysicists in recent years have learned a great deal about the structure of the earth and about the cause and nature of earthquakes. The earth's solid crust is traversed with a complex network of faults, with all of them resting on a plastic mantle whose structure is still largely unknown. Whether the crust consists of great moving plates is a current matter of controversy among geophysicists so the ultimate cause of earthquakes is still not known. In all likelihood the entire complex of crustal instabilities is a remnant of the phenomena of the great Flood, especially the break up of the fountains of the great deep. In any case, the vast network of unstable earthquake belts around the world suddenly begin to slip and fracture on a global basis and a gigantic earthquake ensues. This is evidently naturally accompanied by tremendous volcanic eruptions, spewing vast quantities of dust and steam and gases into the upper atmosphere. It is probably these that will cause the sun to be darkened and the moon to appear blood red." Dr. Henry Morris, Institute for Creation Research

 Isaiah 13:6 Wail, for the day of the Lord is near! It will come as destruction from the Almighty. 7 Therefore all hands will fall limp, and every man's heart will melt. 8 They will be terrified, pains and anguish will take hold of them; they will writhe like a woman in labor, they will look at one another in astonishment, their faces aflame. 9 Behold, the day of the Lord is coming, cruel, with fury and burning anger, to make the land a desolation; And He will exterminate its sinners from it. 10 For the stars of heaven and their constellations will not flash forth their light; The sun will be dark when it rises and the moon will not shed its light. 11 Thus I will punish the world for its evil and the wicked for their iniquity; I will also put an end to the arrogance of the proud and abase the haughtiness of the ruthless. 12 I will make mortal man scarcer than pure gold and mankind than the gold of Ophir. 13 Therefore I will make the heavens tremble, and the earth will be shaken from its place at the fury of the Lord of hosts in the day of His burning anger.

 This shaking moves every mountain and every island from their foundations and out of their places.

• The sun is described as turning black – probably a reference to the volcanic ash and gases that fill the sky to the point that the sun actually appears as black.

 The moon is described as becoming like blood – probably a reference to the same gases and ash that make the sun appear to be black.

 Joel 2:31 "The sun will be turned into darkness and the moon into blood before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes." (not literal, but figurative)

 And then John describes what he sees as stars falling from the sky to earth.

 Given what we now know about the size of stars, what is falling to earth is probably not stars at all, but asteroids and meteorites.

• The Greek word for 'stars' in verse #13 is "asteraes" and it refers to a celestial body.

• There are asteroids and meteorites entering earth's atmosphere all the time, but they are usually so small that they burn up before impact.

 Well when the whole universe is shaken as described by John in Rev 6, he sees what appeared to him as stars striking the earth.

- I am not sure we can imagine a more fearful time to live on the earth it is somewhat like the flood of Noah's day, but even worse.
- In Noah's day the earth was also shaken to the point that the "fountains of the great deep were broken up" and the affect of that would have been terrifying and released the waters in the core of the Earth to hasten the flood.
- Remember what Jesus said, "37 For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah. 38 For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, 39 and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away."

 More from Dr. Henry Morris, "The earth's crust, highly unstable ever since the great flood, will be so disturbed by the impacting asteroids, the volcanic explosions and the earthquakes, that great segments of it will actually begin to slip and slide over the earth's deep plastic mantle. Geophysicists for many years have been fascinated with the idea of continental drift. Several have published a series of a past naturalistic catastrophism involving what they call the earth's shifting crust. Some such phenomenon may actually be triggered under this judgment of the sixth seal, dwarfing the damage occasioned by all the mighty earthquakes of the past. Those who reside in regions above such shifting crustal plates will observe the heavens appearing to move in the opposite direction, everything shaking."

 Now, lets' take a look at the reaction of the world's population at the time of the sixth seal – Up until the sixth seal, God has been using man and nature to execute His judgment.

 Now, beginning with the sixth seal, it is God Himself who is "pulling the trigger" so to speak.

• Rev 6:16 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; 17 for the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

 Once this happens it is no longer plausible to say, "this is caused by those Christians, or this is just all a set of unfortunate circumstances".

• By the way, it is likely that during the previous 5 seals those who've been converted after the Rapture have been telling the world that all of these judgments are from God.

 Up until the sixth seal it has all been a show of brute and sinful force exerted by men – not so with the great shaking.

 Imagine the power of taking someone to Revelation 6 while these seals are actually being broken and showing them exactly what is going on.

• Jesus, in Matt 24 said that these days in the end would be just like the days of Noah – and the people, although immersed in the pain of the first 5 seals, will still be trying to live a normal life.

 But when every mountain is moved and the Earth is being pelted from above all sense of normalcy is gone.

- 1st Thes 5:3 While they are saying, "Peace and safety!" then destruction will come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child, and they will not escape.
- So when we come to verse #16 of Revelation 6, and the people are trying to hide from God, all hope for the promised Utopia is gone.
- It now becomes evident that God exists, and that He is judging the world in ways that man probably never thought possible – their view of any god that existed was a weak grandfatherly one.

 Notice who it is that is asking for the rocks to hide them from God.

• 15 Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and everyone else, both slave and free, hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. 16 They called to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!"

• It is everyone – there is no sanctuary for the rich and famous to acquire at any cost; there is no escaping the Great Tribulation.

- But the world has the exact wrong response instead of repentance to God, they begin praying to nature (the mountains) to fall on them and hide them from God.
- Hiding from God is a terrible strategy didn't work for Adam and Eve, and didn't work for Jonah. When one is omnipresent, there is no hiding from him.
- To ask the mountains to fall on them is to wish for death as though death was somehow an end to it all – this too, is pure folly.

 They didn't want to face God, but all men will face God whether it is in the Great Tribulation or at the Great White Throne.

• They do recognize at this point that God is real and that He is angry with sin, but they are past the point of being brought to repentance.

 They just want to be taken away from His presence so they cannot be judged – that place just does not exist.

 In our day, it's been my experience that while most people are fascinated by the "end of the world", they really don't want hear the truth about it.

 Because the truth, that God is going to judge the world and it's people for sin, is just too much for them to bear.

 At the end of the day, people want a god to blame for the things that go wrong, but not a god who will hold them accountable for their part in the 'wrong'.

• 1st Thes 5:1 Now as to the times and the epochs, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you. 2 For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night. 3 While they are saying, "Peace and safety!" then destruction will come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child, and they will not escape. 4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day would overtake you like a thief; 5 for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness; 6 so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober. 7 For those who sleep do their sleeping at night, and those who get drunk get drunk at night. 8 But since we are of the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation. 9 For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him. 11 Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.

