

# **Fear of the Wrath to Come**

*John MacArthur*

## I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Revelation 6:12-17.
- B. In John's vision is the Great Tribulation to come.
- C. The force depicted here is fear.

## II. Fear is a powerful emotion.

- A. It takes control of the mind.
- B. It results in all sorts of bad responses.
- C. People are not afraid of what they ought to be though—they ought to be afraid of God's judgment. (Hebrews 10:31, Luke 12:5)
- D. A day is coming when people will die of fear. (Luke 21:26)

## III. The reason for fear.

- A. The world is filled with disaster because of the Great Tribulation.
- B. Despite the increasing disaster, the world will follow the Antichrist and persecute the saints. (Revelation 13:5, Matthew 24, I Thessalonians 5:3)
- C. The pattern of this great judgment is consistent throughout the Bible. (Matthew 24, Luke 21:25, Joel 2:10, Isaiah 29:6)

## IV. The range of fear.

- A. A single massive earthquake. (Matthew 24:7; 8; Joel 2; Haggai 2:6-7)
- B. Sin will be unrestrained. (II Thessalonians 2, Revelation 7:9)
- C. The sun will go black. (Isaiah 13:9)
- D. The moon becomes like blood.
- E. Stars fall to the earth. (Zechariah 14:6)
- F. The sky is split apart and rolled up like a scroll. The whole universe will come down.

G. The unstable crust of the earth will shift.

H. The whole universe will be destroyed. (II Peter 2:3, Luke 21:11)

V. The response of fear.

A. Sinners are accumulating the wrath of God, but believers do not need to be afraid because they have changed their destiny from wrath to blessing. (Romans 2:5)

B. Everyone ought to put his or her faith in Him.

**Application questions:**

1. Can fear be a good thing? Explain.

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2. What aspect of the future cataclysm do you find most disturbing?

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3. How should texts like this serve as motivation to reach out to nonbelievers? Explain.

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