

Fear of the Wrath to Come, Part 2

John MacArthur

I. Introduction.

A. Text: Revelation 6:12-17.

B. The sixth seal of Revelation initiates the Day of the Lord. (I Thessalonians 5)

C. Jesus will return unexpectedly, so every generation needs to be alert. (Acts 1, Matthew 24-25, Luke 12:35-40, Revelation 15:16)

D. The return of Jesus is imminent. (Matthew 24:36)

E. Many false prophets will come proclaiming peace. (Ezekiel 13, Micah 3:5, II Peter 3:3)

G. The Day of the Lord is the time of final judgment that is always portrayed as near. (Isaiah 2:12, 13:6, Jeremiah 36:10, Joel 1:15, 2:11, 2:31, Amos 5:18, Malachi 4:5, Zephaniah 1:13, Ezekiel 3:30, Joel 2:1, 3:14, Obadiah 15, Zephaniah 1:7, Zechariah 14:1)

H. There is historical precedence for the day of the Lord.

I. It comes in two phases with a thousand years in between in the Middle of the Tribulation and after the Millennium.

II. Fear is the essence of the sixth seal. (Luke 21:46, Revelation 8:1)

A. Whatever the chronological order of the events it is clear that the seventh bowl, trumpet and seal is the end.

B. The trumpet judgments parallel the seals.

C. The bowls, seals, and trumpets give a picture of the cataclysm of the universe. We do not need to know the details as much as know that it is coming.

D. There is plenty of reason for fear.

VI. The range of fear.

A. This will be beyond anything any man ever imagined.

B. No one will be left out. (Isaiah 2:19, Luke 21:28, II Thessalonians 2:11, Psalm 139:11-16, Hosea 10:8, I Thessalonians 5:3, Nahum 1:6)

C. We need to be warned. (Hebrews 10:26-27)

D. Christians can be thankful for what they will escape and urged to share the saving message of Christ.

Application questions:

1. How would you respond to someone who says that Christianity is not about fear in light of the message?

2. What is the Day of the Lord? Why do you think it will be such an awful event?

3. How will a deeper understanding of the Day of the Lord motivate you to do something different this week? Explain.
