

Summit Woods Baptist Church  
Sermon Study Equipping Class

Revelation 6:12-17

Remember to begin your study early in the week so that you have time to really think (and keep thinking) about the passage without being rushed.

❖ Day 1

Read Revelation 6:12-17.

For these lessons, the sermon text is provided in a format that visually helps display the structure of the paragraph or section of text. The main verbs are underlined. Commands are double-underlined. Generally, the main indicative clauses remain to the left, and the other clauses are either directly underneath when they have equal priority to what comes before, or are tabbed to the right when the clause supports, develops, or draws a conclusion from a neighboring clause.

- 6:12 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;
- 6:13 and the stars of the sky fell to the earth,  
as a fig tree casts its unripe figs  
when shaken by a great wind.
- 6:14 The sky was split apart like a scroll  
when it is rolled up,  
and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.
- 6:15 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;
- 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;
- 6:17 for the great day of their wrath has come,  
and who is able to stand?"

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1. In verses 12-14, identify and list all of the objects of creation that are impacted when the sixth seal is broken.
2. Based on the list you identified in the previous question would you take these as literal events or figurative? Give a reason why you think so from these verses. (Meaning are these actually happening to the creation or are they an expression of some other reality.)
3. Read Matthew 24. Look for similarities and differences to Revelation 6:12-17. List them below.
4. Read Revelation 16:17-20. Is this the same earthquake as mentioned in 6:12? List similarities and differences in the text that would support your answer.
5. Read Isaiah 13:9-10 and Joel 2:9-11. Compare these verses to Revelation 6:12 and review the similarities regarding the sun and the moon. What is the relationship or theme of all these verses?

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6. What are the stars that are cast down in Revelation 6:13? Read Revelation 8:12. Are these the same stars? Note: These words for “star” are the same word in the Greek. Give some explanation as to why you think these stars are the same or different.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. In verse 13, how does the comparison of stars to a fig tree help build understanding of what is happening?

❖ Day 2

Read Revelation 6:12-17 again.

8. Read Revelation 16:20 again. Compare the description of islands and mountains to Revelation 6:14. Are these the same event or different? List similarities and differences in the text that would support your answer.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. Read Revelation 20:11 and 21:1 and compare it to Revelation 6:14 with the reference to the sky being rolled up. What are the differences in this passage? Read Isaiah 34:4 in its context and describe its relationship to 6:14.

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10. List all of the groups of people in verse 15. How many groups are there? Based on our study of Revelation in total, what would that indicate about this people group list? Who is left out?
11. Can the people groups in verse 15 be generalized even further? Think through possible ways of categorizing those people groups looking for commonalities or differences. Look back at 6:6 and what the pastor explained as who was impacted by the famines, would there be any connection here?
12. What is the plea of these people? Read Luke 23:30 and Hosea 10:8 and their immediate surrounding context. What is the context of all three of these passages?
13. Why would these people plead with the mountains that are “being moved out of their places” in verse 14 to fall on them? What state of mind are these people in?
14. Read Isaiah 2:10, 19, 21 and Jeremiah 4:29. Where are these people running to? What are they running away from? How is this similar and different from Revelation 6:15?

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❖ Day 3

Read Revelation 6:12-17 again.

15. What are these people hiding from in verse 16? What in the text indicates this?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
16. Why are these people hiding themselves in verse 17? What in the text indicates this?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
17. Who are these people that know they are hiding from “him who sits on the throne” and “from the wrath of the Lamb?” How do these people know these things? Give some evidence from the context of the book of Revelation.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
18. What does it mean “who is able to stand” in verse 17? Read Joel 2:11, Nahum 1:6, and Malachi 3:2 and the verses immediately surrounding them. What are the similarities? What are the differences? What is the theme of all of the passages?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
19. After reviewing some of the texts related to this verse, how would you summarize and explain the response of the people to the catastrophic events going on around them in light of their knowledge of the events as expressed in verses 16-17? Is this a response of belief or unbelief?

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20. In the Day of the Lord as seen in the Old Testament passages, here in Revelation 6, and even glimpsing into Revelation 7 we see judgment and mercy. How would you summarize what you know so far of the Day of the Lord across scripture up through this point in Revelation?

21. Summarize the sixth seal of judgment in 21 words or less.

In preparation for Sunday, pray ...

Our hearts would tremble before the awesome hand of God in His power and might to execute judgment over sin, we would rejoice in being redeemed through the blood of the Lamb, and that we would have hearts, hands, and feet to carry the gospel of Jesus Christ to a dying world.