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Revelation 6 - The Coming Of Christ In Wrath As The Lamb

Introduction

In the Book of Revelation the word “Lamb” occurs in twenty-seven verses, but only in one does it not refer to the Lord (Rev. 13:11). By the Spirit’s use of this term it signifies that the individual of Revelation 13:11 is an imposter, a counterfeit of the Lord.

Any consideration of our Lord which does not consider the Lord as the Lamb curtails themselves in the wonder of His Person and work. It is a title which is used more often of our Lord than any other title.

Both Old and New Testaments speak constantly of this aspect of the Lord as one thinks of His sufficiency (Jn. 1:29); humiliation (Acts 8:32); perfect sacrifice (1 Pet. 1:19); resurrection for the Lamb is seen standing (Rev. 5:6); exaltation (Rev. 5:13); but in Revelation 6:16 He is seen in a way which, on the surface, seems contradictory to all that a natural lamb is. When the Lord is manifested as the Lamb in Revelation 6:16 He is acting in judicial judgment as men cry in dread because of His wrath.

The chronological timing

In the 5th seal (Rev. 6:9-11) there is the response of those who were slain for “the word of God, and for the testimony which they held” (Rev. 6:9). Their cry was, “How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost Thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?” (Rev. 6:10). It is my understanding that the seals 1-4 occur in the first part of Daniel’s 70th week. The Lord calls all these judgment of seals 1-4 the “beginning of sorrows” (Matt. 24:8). The 5th seal would then be in the latter part of the 70th week and the 6th seal comes after the tribulation is ended. Note the chronological order marked by the word “then” (Matt. 24:30 Mk. 13:26). Therefore, the 6th seal occurs between the time the tribulation ends and the Lord returns in judgment.

Are the events of verses 13-14 to be taken literally or figuratively?

One of the difficulties we face is things which seem so impossible are accepted as such, and then they are interpreted as and they are viewed as figurative. I have no doubt that which God says is literally true. He is not telling how the sun is darkened etc., but simply that it is. Some will remember when Mount St. Helens volcano exploded the entire atmosphere was affected, the midst of the day was black with people being unable to see their hand in front of them. The convulsions of the earthquake of Revelation 6:12 will be so extreme that islands etc., will be moved, and it is a sure fact that there will be volcano eruptions and tsunamis. Since it is the Almighty who set the stars in space, does He not have the power to move them? I understand the word “unto” (Rev. 6:13) means toward but not unto.

- a) If this was figurative indicating kingdoms and governments, they would not associate it with the wrath of the Lamb. People will learn very quickly that it is not with Mother Nature but the Almighty God.

When we read of the sun moon and stars, one is reminded of Genesis 1:14-16 when God created them for set purposes (Gen. 1:14-19). These are astronomical convulsions as one has in the words of Isaiah, “the heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll: and all their host shall fall down, as the leaf falleth off from the vine, and as a falling *fig* from the fig tree (Isa. 34:4). Thus, not only celestial convulsions but also terrestrial ones again (Rev. 11:13; 16:18).

The heavens will open (Rev. 19:11). This is much more than the clouds over a localized place parting, since every eye shall see Him. I see this as the opening of the heavens themselves, a universal parting across both hemispheres, something dreadfully frightening.

The fearful astonishment

We are possibly living in the time period when these things could occur in our children and grandchildren’s lifetime. It could be when it says, “Kings of the earth” (Rev. 6:15) persons such as Prince William could be one

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such person. Soros who allegedly helps finance much rebelliousness and anarchy could be one of the rich men. All levels of society will be aware of this, consequently there will be very few, if any, atheists or agnostics for there is the acknowledgment of God as the Throne Sitter (Rev. 6:16).

- a) When the twin towers fell on September 11th there was an amazing sight in the streets. Businessmen, regular workers of mundane jobs, police and firemen, clerics and store owners all ran to give aid, but mostly to escape in fear. No one was concerned about the big business deal of three minutes ago or the cup of coffee just ordered or the morning news. Nothing mattered except to get away from that which was so fearful. It is a very slight picture of future events. When God causes the heavens to scroll apart and with the convulsions of the earth, humanity will be terrified beyond words.

The terrified cry

Man will do as he did in Eden, he will seek to find something in creation to hide him from the wrath of the Lamb (Rev. 6:16). It is a manifestation of the foolishness of humanity that, despite the very shaking of the mountains and the earth quake, yet they still cry to the mountains and the rocks to hide them. Could anyone imagine any individual running into an underground garage in the twin towers and shouting in terror for the concrete to hide them?

Why is He so full of wrath?

I see several reasons:

- a) Retribution for their defiance against the Throne Sitter.
 - i) The angelic beings who surround the Throne cry, "Holy, Holy, Holy" (Rev. 4:8) acknowledging the moral absoluteness of God. These people will have worshipped the Dragon, namely Satan (Rev. 13:4).
- b) The dishonour they have shown to God His Father in not honouring His Son (Jn. 5:23).
- c) The destruction of His creation.
 - i) "Thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created" (Rev. 4:11). Due to their man made ideas of the earth's inability to sustain the population and God rejected science, man thinks He can control the atmosphere, when in effect they are destroying it. When I was at Yosemite in California, I was astounded by the enormity of dead trees and leaves on the ground. They were not to be moved etc. Then a wind comes with the fires, and like so many parks, it could easily be burnt to the ground. In man's foolishness he creates the environment for ruination of the planet.

. . . . Rowan Jennings