

# Pursuing Resilience in Revelation

## The Sixth Seal and God's Purpose in Judgement

### Revelation 6:12-17

## Intro

In his fantastic work of fiction called *Perelandra*, C. S. Lewis gives us a glimpse into a vision of a world invaded by literal body snatching aliens (fallen angels) who aim to usurp God's throne and destroy His image. Evil has indeed ruthlessly invaded our garden world but Christ has not stood idly by. In fact He has done cosmic battle against these invaders and continues to war against them.

Comparison between Jesus and Joshua. Joshua cleared the land for Israel. Jesus, the truer and better Joshua, clears the entire world for His true Israel made up of Jews and Gentiles who are united in Him.

The final cleansing is coming.

What will be the final outcome and what are we to do in the meantime? Today's passage gives us some critical insights into these questions as John encourages us to hold onto Christ no matter what comes our way.

The Four Horseman, plagues, judgements, and parallels to Joshua's conquest.

## Discover

1. God's wrath upon the nations (12-14)
  - a. It was foretold in Isaiah 34:1-4 and John echoes these verses.
  - b. It was taught and demonstrated by Jesus.
    - i. Matthew 24 and the lesson of the fig tree.
    - ii. Mark 11:12-25
    - iii. The significance of Jesus cursing the fig tree.
      1. Jesus compares the world to a fig tree and then curses a fig tree and it dies. Do we understand what Jesus is trying to teach us with these things?
      2. When the time is fulfilled, Christ will give the final word and this age will suddenly die. He is Lord over it all.

- c. It is both present and future.
- 2. The fall of earthy kings (15-16)
  - a. Ultimately, God is sovereign over every worldly king and their kingdoms rise and fall at His word.
    - i. God's judgment is meant to shake our confidence in Adam's order and turn our eyes towards the true and better Adam who is both a lion and a lamb and who rules forever.
  - b. The cycle of the rise and fall of kings will one day end for good and Christ will be left as the only standing King.
    - i. Luke 10:13-16
- 3. Who can stand? (17)
  - a. John's vision clearly warns us about a coming day within which everyone apart from Christ will wish the rocks would fall on their heads and crush them because a horrible death will be more preferable to facing the wrath of the lamb. Who can stand when the Lamb brings His final judgment?
  - b. John reminds us over and over that he who overcomes this world will stand with Christ.
    - i. Like the martyrs described previously, all who hold fast to Christ through these trials and tribulations will never experience the sting of death but will stand eternally with Him, ruling and reigning as princes alongside of King Jesus.
  - c. Who are we to hold back the gospel message we know from those around us, knowing that if they do not repent they face a dreadful future and that if they do repent they can experience that joy in front of us also?
    - i. The time is growing shorter everyday. We don't know the day or hour when these things will be finally fulfilled, but we do know that it is coming soon. Let's not waste the days we have.

## Nurture

Who is God? He is the sovereign Lord over the judgment which is being dispensed upon this world.

What has God done? He has unleashed judgment to unsettle the nations and to knock the world off of its pride that we might repent and return to our true King.

Who are we? We are those whom Christ has redeemed out of this wicked world who are being built into a nation of priests and a holy, living temple for Him.

What are we called to do? No matter what happens, we are called to stand and to be the people who we now are as a result of Christ's work in us.

# Act

When you and I face the horrors of living in a world that is in active rebellion against God, we must hold fast to Christ.

Not only do we hold fast, but we go out and warn others that what we are experiencing now is only a small taste of what is to come unless we repent and believe in Jesus.

We must always keep our eyes on Him, fight to live our lives in unison with Him, and courageously call others to join us no matter what the cost is.

This is how we join Jesus in building His church. To be honest church, we as a people have been passive in this but it is time for us to get active and to join Jesus on mission. The stakes for our community could not be higher.