



Big Idea: Fall upon Christ before His wrath falls upon you.

-- The pattern of perdition (Mat. 24:1-14, Rev. 6:1-11) will lead to birth pains of extreme intensity that mark the very close return of Christ.

1.) This tribulation is a picture of FINAL judgment.

- This sixth seal is a picture of immense, apocalyptic, catastrophic destruction on the earth (Isaiah 34:4, Ezekiel 38:19-20).
- This passage depicts the tribulation and that accompanies the Day of final judgment.
- Between the opening of the 5th and 6th seals, we fast-forward to the Day upon which the prayers of the martyrs will finally be answered.

2.) This tribulation will PRECEDE Christ's return.

- The order of this age: The sinful pattern of our perdition, the great tribulation, and then the second coming of Christ (Matthew 24:29-30, Joel 2:30-31, v. 12-17)
- God's glory in and through us is quite often greater served, not by lifting us out of turmoil, but in **SUSTAINING** us through it.

3.) This tribulation is TERRIFYING

- The very last days before Christ's return will be absolutely devastating in an unmistakable way.
- No one on his own can stand beneath the inescapable, universal, and overwhelming judgment of Christ (Psalm 76:7, Nahum 1:5-6).
- v. 15 – The wrath of God is no respecter of worldly **STATUS**

- v. 16 – How awful the horror must be that would make the most exalted people on earth run, hide, and cry out to be crushed by rocks.
- v. 16 – The most dreadful part of that day will be the physical presence of Christ in the fullness of His eternal glory.

Response

1.) Know Christ in all His FULLNESS

- Too many Christians make far too little of Christ.
- We rightly emphasize Him as the Lamb who was slain, but forget that He is the conquering Lion as well (Revelation 19:11-16).
- Jesus is not and never was the helpless victim He is so often portrayed to be.

2.) Take REFUGE from the coming wrath.

- Jesus Christ will absolutely bring justice upon the earth, and the justice He brings demands punishment for sin.
- The judgment depicted in the sixth seal is an image of the judgment that will fall hard upon everyone who does not fall upon Christ.
- The Day of the Lord's wrath against sin is coming, and against it, no one apart from Christ can stand.

3.) Two Different Responses for Two Different Groups

- For those who are unprepared: Get serious.
- For those confidently united to Christ: Trust that God's hold on you is big enough to bring you through to the very end.
- Notice the drastically different REACTIONS to the return of Christ experienced by those who trust in Christ vs. those who do not.
 - Those who love the Lord long for His return and persevere in Him with confidence.
 - Those without salvation in Christ are so terrified that they call out for rocks to crush them to spare them from the wrath of the Lamb.
- *In which of these two groups will you be?*

-- Fall upon Christ's mercy before His righteous wrath rightly falls upon you.