

9/3/23 “Judgment Begins,” Revelation 6, NLT

INTRODUCTION: What things taking place today do you see causing people fear? Climate change, disasters, mass shootings, anger, society’s rapidly changing moral principles? Illnesses?

Do you fear God’s coming wrath? Fear still being here for it?

What should we fear? (God) **Wrath:** anger mixed with grief

God’s judgment = wrath of the Lamb (16): 3 sets of 7-part judgments: seals, trumpets & bowls; 4 horsemen of the Apocalypse

MAIN IDEA: Serve Jesus without fear. How do I do knowing that His wrath is coming? Here are four things to remember.

I. First, His wrath *is* terrifying... for the perishing

1Thessalonians 5:9, NLT: For God chose to save us through our Lord Jesus Christ, not to pour out his anger on us.

A. 1st seal: white horse rider with bow, crown, conquering

Win battles, gain victory [*same Greek word*]: to subdue

1. not Jesus because part of judgment, wrath
2. could be spirit of the antichrist or the antichrist

2Thessalonians 2:7, NLT: For this lawlessness is already at work secretly, and it will remain secret until the one who is holding it back steps out of the way

B. 2nd seal: red horse, power given to rider to take peace from earth, causing people to kill one another

C. 3rd seal: black horse, rider with scales, famine... food shortages & extremely high prices

- D. 4th seal: pale horse ridden by death followed by Hades
1. death kills lost: Grave (place of dead, punishment)
 2. by sword (men), famine, disease, wild animals
- E. 5th seal: martyrs under the altar wanting His justice

More martyrs in 20th century than all previous centuries combined.

- F. 6th seal: great earthquake, sun darkened, stars fall
1. all seek to hide
 2. better to die (suicide): “hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne, from wrath of Lamb”

ILLUSTRATION:

II. Second, His wrath is restrained

- A. God never “loses it” but is always holy (unlike us)
- B. He limits: famine, slaughter (1/4), martyrs, destruction
- C. He does enough to make a distinction: what has always been happening vs. what is happening THEN

Thought: People try to ignore what God does or explain it away.

ILLUSTRATION:

III. Third, His wrath is purposeful

- A. shifts from reaching out to people in gentleness
- B. to giving them a taste of His wrath, suffering, so they might yet repent (and not suffer eternally)

2Peter 3:9, MEV: The Lord is not slow concerning His promise, as some count slowness. But He is patient with us, because He does not want any to perish, but all to come to repentance.

ILLUSTRATION:

IV. Finally, His wrath is directed... sparing His children

- A. He shows tenderness to the martyrs
- B. He offers them rest (11)

C. He honors them (white robes)

ILLUSTRATION:

CONCLUSION: First, we will not be here during the worst. Second, things will get worse while we are here. We must walk with Jesus by the Holy Spirit, serving Him in His work, trusting Him.

ALTAR: Salvation? Fear? A little anxiety?

Prayer for those going to school
