

Prophetic Alert 4: Overcoming Saints & the Final Witness (Rev 6:9-17)



Revelations 6-7 is the blueprint for the future of our world. This is not to cause fear, but to prepare us for the future we are sure to face. Christians must not entertain any illusion about this world. I believe we are at an early stage of breaking the first seal, followed by a rapid succession of the rest of the seals. We can be sure, one day all man-made systems of this world will completely collapse. We can also be sure, the purpose of God will be fulfilled completely.

A. God's Purpose in the Chaos

To understand what God's purpose is in the chaos that follows the breaking of the seals, we need to first understand why the foundation of this world must collapse - in politics, the military, and economic systems, etc. The answer is God's wrath resting upon our society due to the unrepented sins of the people. This is a difficult subject very few want to talk about, but it is absolutely true.

A.1 God's Anger on Unrepentant Society

How many Christians would agree that our society is currently under the wrath of God and His judgment? God's people are not under His judgment but under His mercy. But our society is. Romans 1-2 speaks of two types of God's wrath. It is like heating milk on a stove:

- (i) Simmering anger of God – i.e. 'wrath of God' (Rom 1:18)
- (ii) Boiling anger of God – i.e. 'the day of God's wrath and revelation of His righteous judgment' (Rom 2:5)

Revelation 6 is a blueprint of how God's anger boils over the society in the last days, and how God deals with unrepentant men who refuse to acknowledge God and give Him glory.

A.2 Signposts of God's Anger on a Society

Rom 1:18-32 lists four signs in a society that is under God's judgment. They are the signposts that appear before God's anger boils over.

- (i) Rampant idolatry
- (ii) Widespread sexual perversion
- (iii) Aggressive homosexuality
- (iv) Debased mind (depraved mind)

A.3 Do We Have All the Signs in Our Society?

'God handed them over to their passions.' This is a sad statement. Do we have these signs in our society? Instead of acknowledging the Father God who created the world, we acknowledge the 'mother earth'. It is now a religion. Cf. *'100 church leaders sent an open letter to the PM of Australia demanding Australia stop approving new coal and gas projects.'*

How about the spread of immorality and abortion from the 1970s? Homosexual marriage exploded from the 1980s to the present. It started in Western Europe and America, and has now spread to 33 nations around the world. Australia followed on 9th Dec 2017. How about the madness of offering taxpayer-funded gender reassignment surgery? On children! On 9th Nov 2022, a transgender biological male won a beauty pageant in New Hampshire, USA. We are seeing all the signs before the wrath of God boils over in our society.

B. God's Purpose in Breaking the Seals

What is God's purpose in breaking the seals? In pouring out His wrath on a society? It is to reveal the only way of escape from His judgement. *'For in it [gospel] the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith...for the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men...'* (Rom 1:17-18).

B.1 Response of God's People

As the Lord Jesus Christ breaks the 5th seal, it shows how God's people respond to the chaos on earth. It starts from heaven with praying saints.

- (i) Prayers of the martyrs – They are not passive. They are active in prayer from heaven, having a special place close to the throne of God. They are under the altar of God. *'The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church.'* (Tertullian)
- (ii) What are they praying for? God's justice. 'How long?' is one of the most common prayers of the Old Testament saints and prophets. Jesus said, *'When the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?'* (Luke 18:8) Will Jesus find an unceasing prayer for justice among His people in a corrupt world? This prayer starts in heaven, calling for justice on earth. This prayer will merge with the prayer of the saints on earth by the 7th seal. The ultimate expression of perfect justice and mercy is the testimony of the blood of Jesus Christ which speaks better things than that of Abel (Heb 12:24).
- (iii) God's response to these prayers is to wait a little longer until the full number of martyrs come in from the earth. What does this mean? Christian persecution is coming (Matt 24:9). But there is more. God's people will grow in complete commitment to follow Jesus, and they will bear the final witness of the gospel at any cost, even their lives, in a way the world has not seen before.

This shedding of their blood will invoke a response from heaven. They bring down the fear of God on earth as we have never seen before. The Lord's prayer, 'May Your name be hallowed' will be answered. The 6th seal breaking brings cosmic disturbance, reminiscent of the ministry of Moses and Elijah.

- (iv) Why were these saints on earth beheaded? For the word of God; for the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives to death. *'And they overcame him [satan] by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death,'* (Rev 12:11) There is a pre-determined number of martyrs to join the martyrs in heaven at the altar of God.

These are the company of overcomers who cannot be stopped even at the threat of death, and they will rule and reign with Christ forever. *'And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.'* (Rev 21:4).

Apostle Paul said, *'I am not ashamed of the gospel for it is the power of God for everyone who believes.'* (Rom 1:16) Do you have the word of God and His testimony in your heart? There is no salvation in any other name! John the Baptist company will come in the power of Elijah to bear witness to Christ's 2nd coming. There will be the final witness of the gospel to the world before Christ returns. They will surely arise as the purpose of God shakes the earth. We can all be part of God's end-time purpose.

C. In the Power of Elijah

C.1 Cosmic Shaking

With the rise of John the Baptist company at the breaking of the 6th seal, there will be a great response from heaven above and earth below. A great earthquake, the sun becomes black, the moon becomes like blood, stars of heaven fall to the earth, the sky recedes as a scroll, every mountain and island moved out of its place.

Joel 2:28-32, "And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: blood and fire and pillars of smoke. ³¹ The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD. ³² And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance..."

C.2 The Final Witness of the Gospel

The whole creation will be moved at the anointed proclamation of the gospel. The most dramatic and powerful preaching of the gospel will go forth to the nations. As the saints of God pronounce the coming of the Lord, the sun, the moon, the stars, and earthquakes will become the prophetic illustration for the nations to turn from sin and believe in the gospel. It is the only way to escape the wrath of God.

It is when Jesus rebuked the storm to silence, the disciples feared the Lord greatly (Mark 4:41). We will hear the world, both great and small, say on that day, *'[Rock and mountains] fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!'* (Rev 6:16).

Then we who have the gospel and the testimony of Jesus will tell them, *'You do not have to hide from the face of God. You cannot hide from God. There is a way for you to make peace with God. Through the blood of the Lamb.'*

C.3 Multitude Standing before the Throne of God

The world will say, *'For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?'* (Rev 6:16) The answer to this question will seem to be a 'No'. But to everyone's surprise, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, will be standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, saying, *'Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!'* (Rev 7:10). *The great multitudes will be coming out of the great tribulation clothed with white robes because of the blood of the Lamb. (Rev 7:14)*

'I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes...' (Rom 1:16)

Do you believe this?