

Facing Your Fears - Part 2

by Danny Bond

The sermon emphasizes the importance of understanding and believing in the wrath of God in order to be prepared for the last days and to avoid the wrath of God.

Duration: 42:12

Scripture: Joel 2:30-31, Matthew 6:33, Acts 2:19-20, Revelation 6:12-17

Topics: "Fear"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher discusses the doctrine of the wrath of God and its significance in the last days. He emphasizes that the closer one walks with God, the more likely they are to believe in this doctrine. The sermon focuses on the book of Revelation, specifically chapter 6, where the wrath of God is poured out on mankind. The preacher highlights the fear and desperation of the people on earth as they hide in rocks and pray for them to fall on them to escape the wrath.

Transcript

God Almighty in heaven, how great it is to know you while we live upon the earth. And how wonderful to know that when our day comes to finish this life here, we get to go to heaven to be with you. Lord, how we thank you that here in the book of Revelation, there is so much more that we learn about you in such a different dimension than anywhere else in the Bible.

We thank you that you put it in. And we thank you, Lord, that you promised a blessing to all who will study it. So, Lord, bless us now by revealing yourself to us in our hearts by your Holy Spirit, through that warm glow of your love and your presence and your peace.

And may we know that quickening life within us as we study Jesus Christ and your plan for man here in Revelation. And we ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.

This message is all about the force of fear in the last days and the wrath of God upon man that really generates that fear. But in the end, it's all about the Lord God and Jesus Christ, ultimately. We're going through the book of Revelation verse by verse, and we have arrived in chapter six at verses 12 through 17.

In verses 12 through 17, we have the men of the earth hiding in the rocks and praying for them to fall on them. What leads to that? Well, what leads to that is the wrath of God that begins to be poured out on

man. And leading up to this, we have been studying the seals, the seven seals that are loosed, and with each one comes a judgment from God.

The first one, when the first seal was loosed in chapter six, we had the force of world peace. Then we had after that the world peace shattered by the second seal being opened and the force of worldwide war. That was followed by famine and plague worldwide, which is followed by pestilence that brings about death on an unparalleled scale worldwide.

Then the scene switches from there and goes up into heaven, and we find the cry of the martyrs praying with the force of prayer, and that force then unleashes the wrath of God upon the earth. When we come to the sixth seal in chapter six, verse 12, and it is opened, we are in the last three and a half years of man's history on this earth. That's where we are.

The ruler of the earth is the Antichrist at this point in time. The earth has been blasted with all the things we just listed off. You would think there would be worldwide repentance, but there isn't.

Man is now believing on God and Jesus Christ, but not repenting. You can know all about Jesus Christ, even to the point you believe about him, but not repent. These are the people hiding in the caves.

They now believe there is God on his throne. They now believe in the Lamb of God. They believe in the Christ.

Get this, that the people that they killed preached to them. All those people they sent into heaven through persecution. They killed them because they didn't believe their message, but now they believe it as God begins to pour out his wrath, and we find that here, that they begin to believe in the Lord as his wrath begins to fall upon them.

Now, here we have our Bibles and we're open to the book of Revelation chapter six. As we hold our Bibles this day, mankind as a whole is utterly indifferent to all of the things that we are studying, which is pretty shocking. And there's an indifferent attitude about us today, even in the church concerning these things.

Part of it is, is that so many people today don't like to talk about the wrath of God. That, I would assert, is because they have been programmed to not like the wrath of God or want to think about it or believe in it or believe that it's true or study it because it's not positive. And we're in a world where everybody wants everything to be positive.

So if you shy away from it, if you refuse to go there, if you don't want to study it, if you refuse to study Revelation, it's because you've been programmed by someone to stay away from it. And if it isn't a human being, it's the devil. Because the full counsel of God's word contains the wrath of God taught in so many places.

Why do so many people deny that this is part of God's nature, the wrath of God? R.A. Torrey put it so well. He said, shallow views of sin, shallow views of God's holiness, shallow views of the glory of God and Jesus Christ and shallow view of his claims upon us lie at the bottom of the weak theories of the doom of the impenitent. All of these shallow views of sin, God, Jesus Christ and his claims upon us lie at the bottom of the weak theories of the doom of the impenitent.

That's a thought for you to chew on, the weak theories of the doom of the impenitent. Torrey went on to say this, the more closely men walk with God, the more devoted they will become to his service and the

more likely they are to believe in the doctrine of the wrath of God. The closer you get to God, the more likely you are to believe in the doctrine of the wrath of God, because it's in the Bible and it's here in front of us.

So we will study it because it's in front of us. And that is the benefit of going verse by verse. Revelation 6, 12.

I looked when he opened this sixth seal and behold, there was a great earthquake and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair and the moon became like blood and the stars of heaven fell to the earth as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up and every mountain and every island was moved out of its place. And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains and said to the mountains and the rocks, fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the lamb for great for the great day of his wrath has come and who is able to stand.

Believe me, these people believe in the wrath of God. They believe in the lamb of God. They believe in God upon his throne who sent the lamb and they are voicing that right out of their mouth.

Here we have in this passage worldwide fear. We studied that last time. Worldwide upheaval, worldwide wrath and worldwide reprobation.

People worldwide choosing not to believe in Jesus Christ. We looked at worldwide fear. Let's go on to look at worldwide upheaval.

Since we studied the fear last time, the fear comes from the upheaval and it is perpetuated by more of the judgment that now comes upon them. There is, if you miss the rapture of the church of Jesus Christ. A great upheaval waiting for you in the great tribulation.

If you miss the rapture, this is what you have to look forward to. A great earthquake. Look at verse 12.

When I looked, when he opened the sixth seal and behold, there was a great earthquake. The word here in the Greek is seismos. It literally means a shaking, a shaking.

Matthew and Matthew eight, 24 chose to use this word when he was writing and suddenly a great tempest arose upon the sea of Galilee so that the boat was covered with the waves. So here in Revelation 6, 12, we come to this great earthquake. The word could be translated.

Tempest could be translated earthquake. It literally means a great shaking. The reality is, if you look at the entire passage, more than the earth is shaken, more than the earth is shaken.

The heavens are shaken as well, as we read that the stars begin to fall from heaven. And we'll look at that as we move on. But here is this great earthquake.

It is greater than anything we have ever seen. The earth right now is experiencing great earthquakes. There was a great one yesterday and they are increasing.

And yet here is something that has never been seen before. Basically, what's going to happen is every earthquake fault on the earth is going to begin to fracture simultaneously with a cosmic global earthquake. Every earthquake fracture on earth will suddenly be shaken.

The result is going to be that it will affect the way we see the sun and the moon on earth. So that in Revelation 6, 12, it says that the sun became black as sackcloth of hair and the moon became like blood. Scientist Dr. Henry Morris, in his book, *The Revelation Record*, has some really good words on this.

He said that the great earthquake described here for the first time in history is worldwide in scope. Seismologists and geophysicists in recent years have learned a great deal about the structure of the earth and about the cause of nature and of nature upon earthquakes. The earth's solid crust is traversed with a complex network of faults with all resting upon a plastic mantle whose structure is still largely unknown.

Whether the crust consists of great moving plates is a current matter of controversy among geophysicists. So the ultimate cause of earthquakes is still not known. In all likelihood, the entire complex of crustal instabilities is a remnant.

Get this is a remnant of the phenomena of the flood of Noah and especially what the Bible calls the great breakup of the fountains of the deep. In any case, Morris goes on to say the vast worldwide network of unstable earthquake belts around the world suddenly will begin to slip and fracture on a global basis and a gigantic earthquake will ensue. This is both evidently and naturally accompanied by tremendous volcanic eruptions spewing vast quantities of dust and steam and gases into the upper atmosphere.

It is probably these that will cause the sun to be darkened and the moon to appear to be blood red. That makes absolute sense to me. What is amazing? Those are the words of a scientist.

What is amazing to me is that in Acts chapter 2, 19 and 20 on the day of Pentecost, when Peter quoted Joel about the pouring out of the Holy Spirit, he was quoting Joel word for word. And the first part of the quote had to do with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the last days. I will pour out my spirit.

That was fulfilled right there with Peter. He went on to say that in the last days God would show wonders in the heaven above signs in the earth beneath blood, fire and vapor of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness and the moon into blood before the great and notable day of the Lord has come right before Jesus Christ comes back to rule and reign on this earth.

Peter took those words from Joel chapter two, verse 30 and verse 31. So Peter spoke of it. Joel spoke of it.

Zachariah in chapter 14, verse six speaks of it. It says it shall come to pass and that day there will be no light. The lights will diminish the lights of heaven.

Isaiah spoke of it. Isaiah 13, 10 for for the stars of heaven and their constellations will not give their light. The sun will be darkened and it's going forth and the moon will not cause its light to shine.

So Peter, Joel, Zachariah, Isaiah, further Zephaniah spoke of it in the Old Testament. Chapter one, verse 15. That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of devastation and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness.

All of that is to say that it's amazing to me that here in Revelation 6, 12 is the fulfillment of that which was already spoken of in so many different places in the Old Testament. It's coming. We see the verses in the Old Testament.

Men and women who reject Christ will live to see this and experience it on this very earth. And it's going to disrupt and affect every aspect of life because the normal cycle of daylight and darkness. Think about it.

The normal cycle of daylight and darkness is going to be completely disrupted. It's going to be dark, just dark. Great earthquake.

The sun and the moon darkened. Then we read this interesting thing. The stars of heaven and verse 13 of Revelation 6, the stars of heaven fell to the earth.

Now, think about that for a minute. The stars of heaven fell to the earth. I'm going to help you interpret this.

The stars of heaven fell to the earth. Could one star fall to the earth? Is that even possible? If one star fell toward the earth, it would burn up the earth before it ever got here. And the earth would be like a pinpoint in size compared to the star.

So what's this talking about? Well, the word in the Greek is asteris, asteris, from which we get the English word star. It can refer to actual stars, but it basically describes any heavenly body other than the sun or the moon. Any heavenly body other than the sun or the moon.

So obviously, in the context, it doesn't refer to actual stars because they're too large to fall on the earth. So what would that be then? And later on in Revelation, in chapter 8, verse 12, we find the stars are still in their place. So we know that it isn't the stars just by comparing with chapter 8, verse 12.

It would most likely refer to asteroids or meteor showers bombarding the earth. Asteroids or meteor showers bombarding the earth. And we pick up in Revelation 6, 13, the velocity basically of this.

When John uses the analogy, he says the stars of heaven fell to the earth as fig, as a fig tree drops its late figs. I wanted to touch on that because I know you have no clue of what that means. How could you? What is he saying? Well, when a fig tree in that part of the world has late figs that didn't ripen when the other ones did during the harvest, by the time these late figs are getting ripe, there's no more leaves on the tree.

So if a sudden wind comes up, they fall very easily. So that what's going to happen is for those on the earth, they're going to see the asteroids or meteorite showers coming at them just random with great philosophy pummeling the earth. It is very likely, if you think this through, that this is what causes the worldwide global earthquake.

If you think this through, all it would take is huge asteroids to pummel the earth. The earth spins at a thousand miles an hour. All it would take is a huge amount of asteroids to pummel the earth and you would have worldwide earthquake.

Very possible that's what triggers it. Either way, there's going to be a great earthquake. The sun and the moon will be darkened because of the volcanic ash and fire and everything in the air.

Stars of heaven, asteroids, meteorites hitting the earth. Not a very good time. Then we read in verse 14 of chapter 6, then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up and every mountain and island was moved out of its place.

Why are mountains and islands together? Because islands are the tops of mountains in the ocean. So that the point is that with the pummeling of the earth and the earthquake all over the earth, there's going to be a dramatic stress that is going to cause great segments of the earth's plates to begin to slip and shift

realigning whole continents. It is most likely that when you read of the earth being rolled up like a scroll, it will be with that slide of the earth underneath your feet receding away that it will cause the sky to look like it's being rolled up and taken away from you.

This is very heavy. This is not allegory. This is real.

This is the real thing. Now, the reaction then is that these kings of the earth, verse 15, and great men and all these different people run to the caves and the rocks of the mountains to hide themselves. What I find amazing about that is that the Bible's been around for a long time, a long time, long before there was such a thing as deep within the earth, concrete bunkers.

Yet, now, in our world, across our country and around the world, there are within the mountains huge places of protection designed to protect you from nuclear blasts, right? We have them in America. You see them in the movies all the time. And they come out with some new movie.

Everybody's running. They're all on the freeways and the highways. They're crowding.

They're running toward the mountains to get to these places. We've seen them in the movies. That's what it's talking about.

They're going to be hiding in those places. And who are the people that are in charge of those places? They're listed here. The kings of the earth, the great men.

Notice the commanders. The commanders of the armies of the world will be in charge of getting the people into the caves and into the rocks, into the places of safety that man has built to protect himself. Notice against other men and nuclear blasts.

But what was built to protect you against what man can do cannot protect you against what God can do. So they will be in these places and they will be led by those, follow this, who were the very people that led the world in the persecution of God's people and killed so many believers. And now deep within those caverns and deep within those places of protections in the mountains, the caves, they're going to begin to believe everything that was preached to them by the people that they killed.

And there within the caves, they begin to cry out, realizing what they said was true. And here we are being assaulted by the very forces of nature. Why? Because God is on his throne.

God is on his throne and he's shaking this place. And so they begin to cry out to the rocks to deliver them to the mountains and the rocks to deliver them. How? By killing them.

In other words, the wrath of the lamb is so real to them as the wrath of God against their sin that they are begging the rocks and the mountains to follow them and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and crush us. We would prefer death to facing the wrath of Jesus Christ because we've rejected his wondrous love. But they're so deceived they don't understand that death without belief in him is banishment from his presence forever.

That is the horror of the twisted mind that has worked here. The deceived mind, the mind that decides once and forever and for all to reject Jesus Christ, is left without truth. There is no truth in you.

So you would pray to the rocks to kill you when you don't even realize it's going to send you into exile forever with no way back. It's irrational. So that there's this worldwide upheaval that leads to this worldwide

Christ that saves you.

We live in a time period where there are many people that want to say that, OK, you just have to believe about Him. No, you believe upon Him. You rest your whole eternity on Him.

You repent of your sins and follow Christ. That was His gospel. So many today want to have a faith more like Lot's wife.

They want to just take their great privilege and their knowledge and say, that's going to save me. But it isn't enough to know about Christ. Knowing about Christ doesn't save you.

Having great privilege and knowledge of God doesn't save you. Joab was David's captain. Gehazi was Elisha's servant.

Demas was Paul's assistant. Judas Iscariot was Christ's disciple. And Lot had an unbelieving wife.

And they all died in their sins. All of them. They all teach us on the pages of the Bible.

They stand and teach us that it is not privilege alone that saves men. It is the quickening of the Holy Spirit as you surrender your life to Jesus Christ in saving faith. The faith that saves is the faith that bows before Him as Lord.

If you believe in your heart and you confess with your mouth, Jesus Christ is Lord. The Bible says you will be saved. You take Him as your Lord and your Savior.

Otherwise, you could say the same sun that melts the wax hardens the clay. Would let all those people to repentance and saving faith in Jesus Christ and cause them to be persecuted by these individuals and die and go to heaven. That same grace, that same sun that melted their hearts only causes the hearts of these individuals to become even harder.

May God grant us each one a soft heart that bows before Him and just loves Him and clings to Him. Salvation, don't ever forget it, is a rescue operation from God. And when He's rescued you because you truly believe on Him to save you, He takes you away to keep you safe through your journey here and all the way to heaven.

Listen to this. I came across this and I found it to be very good. That's pretty heavy, isn't it? That's a heavy lineup.

And they were all lost because without Jesus Christ, there is no escaping God's wrath. By the blood of Christ, you can. Let me take you to another thought.

Let's ask the question. These people are saying to the rocks, save us from the wrath of God. What is the wrath of God? What is the wrath of God? It is, in the simplest sense, one of His attributes issuing forth from His infinitude.

God is love, right? Yes. God is holy, right? Yes. Holy, holy, holy.

God is also wrath. It is one of His characteristics, one of His attributes issuing forth from His infinitude. The wrath of God.

The love of God. The joy of God. The peace of God.

It's one of His attributes. Now, the wrath of God, you could define it this way. It is God's infinitely holy, sustained aversion to sin and its resulting evil.

God's infinitely holy, sustained aversion to sin and its resulting evil. I use the word aversion instead of hatred there. I didn't want to spin you out.

Aversion is clean, so that God's infinite recoil to sin and resulting evil, so that where sin remains without repentance, where life remains without the covering of the blood of Christ, God's wrath will be manifested. It is a holy anger. It has no self-serving malice.

That's why I use the term aversion before I use the term anger. Because our anger is so shot through with sin, it's hard to even use the word without polluting it. It's almost polluted before we use it in our thoughts.

But you see, God is holy. So His anger against sin has no self-serving malice like ours does. One of my favorite definitions of the wrath of God, I think it is my favorite.

I've decided right now it's my favorite right now. My favorite definition of the wrath of God is that it's the guardian of His holiness and of the holy heaven He has waiting for His holy people who have been made holy by His blood. The guardian of His holiness and His holy heaven to come.

Without Jesus Christ, there's no escaping God's wrath. The wrath of God is the guardian of His holiness. Now, how much wrath will be manifested toward an individual? Here are these people shouting, save us from the wrath of the Lamb.

How much wrath will be manifested toward an individual? The answer is, first of all, if you are in Jesus Christ today, none. If you are in Jesus Christ today, you will never see the wrath of God. When Jesus cried out on the cross, my God, why have you forsaken me? My God, all through His life, it's Father.

In the garden, it's Father. On the cross, it's my God. Where's that intimacy of Father? It's buried beneath the pile of the sin of the human race put upon Him.

And then the wrath of God poured out upon that pile of sin. The dams of God's, of the flood of God's wrath breaks and comes upon Christ. And He bears the punishment and the wrath of God for me.

And He says, my God, why have you forsaken me? And the answer is, so I will never have to forsake Danny Bond. I like that. And you can put your name in there.

Why have you forsaken me? So that I will never have to forsake. Just put your name in there. If you know Christ today, if you're in Christ today, you will never see the wrath of God because He already took it for you and it killed Him.

But He rose again and we have our new life in Him. If you are a Christ rejecter, on the other hand, the wrath of God, how much is going to be poured out on you? Well, it will suit your sin. It's tailor-made.

It's scary. Very scary for anybody who is willing to admit they're a sinner and contemplates their sin and doesn't have a shallow view of sin or of Christ. J.C. Ryle made it so succinct.

He said, we will have to render to God an account of every privilege that was granted to us and every ray of light that we enjoyed. We will have to render to God an account of every privilege of the gospel given to us and every ray of light from heaven that we enjoyed as a human being. We're going to have to account

for it.

Albert Barnes took it even farther when he said, Condemnation will always be in exact proportion to guilt. And guilt is in proportion to abused light and privileges of the gospel. I look at that and I'm so thankful I know Jesus Christ.

Because I believe what the Bible says about the condemnation of the unsaved and the wrath of God. I believe it. And I believe it because it's in the Bible.

And it's going to be in exact proportion to your guilt. So how much wrath will a Christ rejector receive? It will be in proportion to their guilt before God. And the Bible says that he's going to bring out books in which were written every sin of your life.

So you have a choice. You can either come to Jesus Christ today. Ask for full forgiveness in him of every sin you have ever committed or will commit.

Receive as a free gift justification by faith in him, which will give you a standing before God as though you had never ever sinned. Justification. It will give you a standing before God as though he had lived the life that his son Jesus Christ lived when he was a human being on this earth.

Think of that. Jesus died for the life you live on this earth. And he gives it to you in a moment.

If you know Christ, you'll never have to see that wrath of God. If you don't, you will. And it will take forever and banishment from God to pay the penalty.

Come to Christ now or forever. You'll regret it. You'll regret it forever.

And know this. Hell is real. It's created for Satan and his angels, not human beings.

And there will be no unbelievers in hell. Every person in hell will believe in Jesus Christ and know that everything that was ever said to them before they went there was true. Worldwide fear, worldwide upheaval, worldwide wrath because of worldwide reprobation, rejection of Christ.

So we sum up, we come to the end here in Revelation 6.16 with a global prayer day. You know, we have national prayer day. That's become very popular.

It's almost getting to the point where it's stretching toward global prayer day when it happens. You turn on the TV and everybody's arm and arm and buddy, buddy. And you've got every faith on earth embracing one another.

Global prayer day. Here is a global prayer day and it is a prayer meeting and they are praying to nature, nature. We believe in the lamb.

We believe in God on the throne, but we'll pray to nature. That's really smart. I see how you got there in the first place.

We will pray to nature, to the rocks, mountains, rocks. Fall on us and hide us. Brilliant.

Fabulous. You lived your whole life with all the technology, with all the books, with all the knowledge of the entire human race. You live in the last three years of man on earth and you come to the conclusion that when you're going to pray, you're going to pray to nature and ask nature to kill you.

What a wondrous ending to the history of the human race from the Garden of Eden to here. What a sad indictment of man and how sad it is that that's where living without God leaves you. A global prayer day that is held by global Christ rejecters.

Know this. There have always been followers of God and rejecters of God. We see them across the pages of the Bible.

Cain was angry and hateful because God accepted Abel's sacrifice. Esau despised his birthright and hated to the end the people of God. His birthright was the plan of redemption through Jesus Christ.

That's what he sold for a bowl of soup. Pharaoh said to Moses, who is Jehovah that I should hearken to his voice? Saul despised the word of Jehovah and he sought to destroy his elect king David. Jehoiakim, the apostate king of Judah, cut with a penknife and burned the prophecies of Jeremiah.

Scribes and the Pharisees rejected John's baptism of repentance and rejected the Lamb of God. And the Sadducees obeyed not the truth and ridiculed it, just like people today. All about us today.

We have people who perceive the Lord and listen to the gospel and truth about the Lord. And then they come to oppose the Bible, the word of God and the gospel of Jesus Christ with their notions, their opinions, their arguments. And they continue on to obey unrighteousness rather than God.

The world is filled with them. But in the future, one by one, they will fill up hell itself. I don't know about you, but I have every intention of going to heaven because today I believe on Jesus Christ and I have every intention of taking as many people with me as I can.

And I would encourage you to do the same thing. Study these things so you know them. That's why we're studying them.

So when we talk to people, we give them the full gospel of the word of God and the true God and Jesus Christ and bring them to true salvation. And if they're stuck anywhere else, we know enough to dislodge them and bring them all the way to Jesus. Let's pray, shall we? Father, thank you that you love us.

Thank you that you so love the world that you sent your only begotten son, that whoever believes in him would not perish, but have everlasting life. Oh God, forgive us for our sins and thank you, Lord, for saving us. Thank you, Lord, that we will never see your wrath.

Lord, fill us with the life of these truths, that we would not be silent about them, but that we would be filled with your love in such a way that we would long to bring others to you and to share these truths with them. And Lord, we pray that you would work your saving grace in every heart today. We ask these things, looking for the blessing that you promised when we began to study this great book that is such a great revelation of Jesus Christ.

We pray all these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

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