

Fact #6 - The third seal judgment features restrictions on two items. **6:6b**

Two things that God will permit to exist through the Tribulation are olive oil and wine. The command not to hurt the oil and wine is addressed to the third horseman. So these items will be available during the Tribulation.

Both oil and wine were staple products and not luxury items. Both of these commodities come from God's nature: oil from the olive tree and wine from the grapevine. Wine was a drink and olive oil was used for many things: 1) Trading (I Kings 5:11); 2) Food (I Kings 17:12); 3) Light/fuel (Exodus 25:6); 4) Medicine (Isaiah 1:6); 5) Anointing (I Samuel 16:13).

This third seal judgment will be the most severe famine ever to hit the world. With food being so scarce and inflation being so high, the only ones who will be able to afford this will be the rich, who are alluded to later in the chapter (**6:15**).

SEAL JUDGMENT #4 – The Tribulation judgment of death. **6:7-8**

This seal judgment will absolutely prove that the Tribulation has never occurred because what is described here is something you will not be able to find in any history book. This judgment will kill one quarter of the world's population.

There are five facts we may see about this fourth seal judgment:

Fact #1 - The fourth seal judgment begins when Jesus Christ breaks the fourth seal. **6:7a**

Jesus Christ is the One authorizing this judgment. Death is just as much authorized by God as life (i.e. Jeremiah 15:2).

Fact #2 - The fourth seal judgment begins when the living creature commands it to begin. **6:7b**

This high ranking cherubim is doing exactly what Jesus Christ wants it to do, and what He wants is to pour out another judgment. As with everything God does, there is systematic order even to this judgment: war - famine - death.

Fact #3 - The fourth seal judgment features a pale horse. **6:8a**

The actual word "pale" or "ashen" is a Greek word that describes a color that is a sickly, pale green. In fact, a form of this word is used in Revelation 8:7 where it is translated green. Dr. Alan Ross said "pale" (chloros) denotes a yellowish green, the light green of a plant or the paleness of a sick person in contrast to a healthy appearance" (*Revelation*, p. 474). This certainly is a fitting color for this judgment. Dr. Charles Ryrie called this "a sickly, yellowish-green."

Fact #4 - The fourth seal judgment features a rider named death who is followed by Hades.
6:8b

The rider of this horse has a terrifying name; his name is “death.” Now “Hades” is a hellish-type of place where unbelievers go when they die until they are finally sentenced to the eternal lake of fire.

Luke described Hades as being a place of terrible torment (Luke 16:22-24). Unbelievers go to Hades and are not cast into the eternal lake of fire until they face the Great White Throne Judgment (Revelation 20:11-15).

According to Revelation 1:18, the keys of death and Hades are held by Jesus Christ. What this fourth seal judgment apparently does is that it authorizes a judgment in the Tribulation that will kill one fourth of the world’s population and send them into Hades. These are all unbelievers who will be killed and sent to a terrible place of torment.

Death claims the body and Hades claims the soul. Death terminates physical life and Hades begins a burning eternal life.

If we conclude that after the Rapture there are 6 billion people on the earth, this one judgment would kill 1.5 billions people and put them all into Hades. This number is larger than the number of people who live now in North America, Central America and South America.

Fact #5 - The fourth seal judgment kills people by different ways. **6:8c-f**

There are four ways God will kill people by seal judgment #4:

(Way #1) - God will kill people by sword. **6:8c**

There will be a tremendous amount of killing that will take place during the Tribulation. Weapons will be used by average citizens and many will die.

(Way #2) - God will kill people by famine. **6:8d**

God will cause many people to starve to death.

(Way #3) - God will kill people by pestilence. **6:8e**

The word “pestilence” is the word death, which means God will use all kinds of things to cause death. Disease and disasters will intensify that will kill people. Viruses and bacterial problems will escalate.

(Way #4) - God will kill people by wild beasts . **6:8f**

God will permit His predator animals to increase and kill humans, including children (II Kings 17:25-26; Ezekiel 5:17; 14:21).

The wild beasts of the world belong to God and He can use those beasts anytime He wants to kill people. He can summons the ferocious beasts from His mountains and forests and swamps to do His judgmental bidding and that is precisely what He will do in the Tribulation.

SEAL JUDGMENT #5 – The Tribulation judgment of martyrdom . **6:9-11**

We may observe that in the first four seal judgments, the living creatures were involved in the process of carrying them out (**6:1, 3, 5, 7**). However, in the final three seal judgments, the living creatures seem to disappear, which seems to imply a major change in the Tribulation.

When we examine the parallel passage of the Tribulation in Matthew 24:8-9, we may observe that the martyrdom judgment occurs after what Jesus calls the “beginning of birth pangs.” This begins a new phase of judgments in which God’s people and God’s property become the focal point. Jesus said, “Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations on account of My name. And at that time many will fall away and will deliver up one another and hate one another” (Matthew 24:9-10).

When the Tribulation first hits, people will just be trying to survive. But as we move past the opening scene, things will turn against God’s people.

There are four important facts brought out about this fifth seal judgment:

Fact #1 - The fifth seal judgment begins when Jesus Christ breaks the fifth seal. **6:9a**

As with all other Tribulation wrath judgments, this one also is authorized by Jesus Christ. This is specifically a judgment in which His people will die and this judgment is one authorized by Jesus Christ.

These believers rejected Jesus Christ during the Grace Age and they believed on Him after the Rapture and during the early days of the Tribulation. They will pay a high price for their rejection. They will die a martyr’s death. Those who reject Jesus Christ in the Grace Church Age will discover the way to heaven is hard.

The keys of death are in the hands of Jesus Christ (Revelation 1:18). He may choose to take a believer into eternity via sickness, like He did with Elisha (II Kings 13:14). He may choose to take a believer into eternity via old age, like He did with Moses (Deuteronomy 34:5-7). He may choose to take a believer into eternity through some brutal method - Paul was beheaded and Peter was crucified upside down (John 21:18-19). **In the Tribulation, most believers will go into eternity via brutal martyrdom.**

Fact #2 - The fifth seal judgment is a judgment of martyrdom. **6:9b-d**

We know that all over the world in some isolated spots, Christians are persecuted and even killed. This judgment will be worldwide. It will not be limited to a few isolated places.

We may notice that John saw the souls of those who had been slain located “underneath the altar.” First of all notice that their souls are there but not their bodies. They do not get their new bodies until Revelation 20:4-6.

Second we may notice that they are located “underneath the altar.” The fact that they are viewed as underneath the altar is an O.T. picture of blood that is offered at the base of the altar from Leviticus 4:7. The point is that the martyrdom of these believers is special and sacred to God. They are seen in heaven as an offering, located at the base of the primary altar, who is none other than Jesus Christ. There is no question that we see that there is a special place for martyrs. They are highly honored in heaven.

Now there are two main reasons why these martyrs were executed:

(Reason #1) - They are executed because of the Word of God. **6:9c**

These believers were killed “on account of the Word of God.” What this means is that they are killed because they know the truth of the Word of God and are communicating it. These believers know what the Tribulation is all about and they know how it is going to unfold. They know what God is going to do for Israel, they know Jesus Christ will win, and they know Satan will lose and that is why they are executed.

(Reason #2) - They are executed because of their testimony for God. **6:9d**

These believers would not keep quiet. They were testifying and witnessing for God. They knew the prophetic breakdown of things - Tribulation, Kingdom, Israel, Christ’s Second Coming. They knew about the judgments and Satan wanted them gone because they were testifying of the truth.

Fact #3 - The fifth seal judgment features martyrs communicating in heaven. **6:10**

The martyrs of the Tribulation, who are before the throne of God, are wondering how long it will be until God evens the score and avenge those who killed them.

The word “Lord” (δεσποτης) is very unusual. This Greek word refers to the fact that God is the absolute sovereign owner and controller of all things (G. Abbott-Smith, *Greek Lexicon*, p. 103). Not one person will ever quibble about the sovereignty of God at the throne of God. These martyrs are praising God because He is holy and true and totally sovereign.

I find it fascinating that these believers have a complete memory of what happened to them. They were killed and they know they were killed for their testimony and defense of God's Word.

What I also find fascinating is that these believers are not at God's throne saying, "Let's just forget about what those God-mockers did to us and let's just love them and forgive them." They want judgment. They want God to avenge them. They want justice.

There are many who forget about this point. There will be justice at God's throne (Heb. 13:17). Wrongs are not just forgotten. This is why it is so important to settle accounts with God before one gets to His throne.

Fact #4 - The fifth seal judgment features a special ministry to the martyrs. **6:11**

There are two special and specific actions that God takes for these martyrs who have asked Him to vindicate them:

(Action #1) - God gives each of them a special robe. **6:11a**

This is apparently when the martyrs receive their white robes. These white robes symbolize the fact that they have been washed in the blood of the Lamb (Revelation 7:9, 13-14). **Keep in mind that these martyrs rejected Jesus Christ in the Church Age prior to the Great Tribulation.** The 144,000 Jewish evangelists are not yet on the scene (Revelation 7:4-8), so these are the believers who trusted Jesus Christ shortly after the Rapture. **What is so important to see is that it is not the martyrdom that enables them to stand in the presence of God; it is the fact that they have been washed in the blood of the Lamb. No one gets a white robe by their works, even martyrdom, but by the work of the Lamb.**

(Action #2) - God gives each of them a special message. **6:11b**

The message they receive is - you must rest a little while because there are other believers who must die. The finale of God does not come until the exact number has been reached. In other words, the Great Tribulation must be completely fulfilled, which includes the precise number of people who must die. The reference to the "fellow servants" and "brethren" would include all believers in the Tribulation, primarily Gentile believers in first 3½ years and Jews in the last 3½ years. We know from Zechariah that two thirds of the Jews will die by the hands of the Antichrist and only one third will survive (Zechariah 13:7-9).

There are some key observations to make here:

- 1) Once a believer is in heaven, he is at rest - his work on earth is done. The struggles are over.
- 2) Once a believer is in heaven, he still has memories of what happened on earth.
- 3) Once a believer is in heaven, he does not instantly get what he wants.
- 4) Once a believer is in heaven, he recognizes the sovereignty of God.
- 5) Once a believer is in heaven, he recognizes the holiness and truthfulness of God.

SEAL JUDGMENT #6 – The Tribulation judgment of ferocious cosmological disasters .
6:12-17

Of all of the cosmological disasters that have ever hit the world, of all of the ferocious storms that have ever come from the sky or sea or air, nothing has ever or will ever reach the magnitude of this worldwide sixth seal judgment. This judgment will affect everyone in the world and all in the world will know exactly who it is from and why it is happening.

Another similar event will take place when Jesus Christ returns (Matthew 24:29-31; Luke 21:25-28), but this is not the same judgment as this sixth seal in Revelation 6. Keep in your mind that this seal judgment occurs relatively early in the Great Tribulation, which shows how horrific the entire seven year period will be.

The major purpose of this sixth seal judgment does not appear to be to destroy the rest of the people who are live on earth, but to terrorize the rest of the people on earth. By this point in the Tribulation, millions and millions of people are already dead. God will see to it that the rest will live in total terror.

There are three main facts we want to observe concerning this sixth seal judgment.

Fact #1 - The sixth seal judgment begins when Jesus Christ breaks the sixth seal. **6:12a**

God's wrath is not some sentimental temper tantrum; it is carefully and systematically measured and delivered. When terrible, destructive, cosmological things hit - hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, hailstorms, thunder and lightening, it is good to know God is sovereign; Jesus Christ is still on His throne and all things are under His sovereign control.

Fact #2 - The sixth seal judgment features ferocious cosmological destruction. **6:12b-14**

The things in this list are more fearful than anything that any have ever seen or even could be invented by a science fiction book or movie. This is real judgment and when it hits, everyone in the world will know it. There are seven specific cosmological events that will happen:

(Cosmological Event #1) - There will be a great earthquake . **6:12b**

In the Tribulation, God is going to send many earthquakes. The Greek word for earthquake is "seismos" (σεισμος), from which we get our English word "seismic," which relates to the intensity of an earthquake and the seismograph used to measure it. The Greek adjective "great" means this will be a mega-level earthquake that will hit the world, along with all of these other things. We know there will be a terrible earthquake in Israel (Ezekiel 38:19-23) and one even worse than that (Revelation 16:18). According to Matthew 24:7, earthquakes will be a feature of the early days of the Tribulation; however, this will be a "mega earthquake" which will shake the whole world.

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(Cosmological Event #2) - The sun will become black. **6:12c**

Now specifically it is stated that the sun will become “black as sackcloth made of hair.” Sackcloth was a very coarse black cloth made of hair. It was used for making sacks, strainers and mourning garments. It would appear that God will give a specific mourning look to the sun. There will be an eerie darkness to it, which will indicate that God’s shining favor is no longer aimed at this world.

(Cosmological Event #3) - The whole moon will become like blood. **6:12c**

The moon will turn a reddish blood color, which will signal to the world that it is under a ferocious judgment of God in which massive numbers of people are being destroyed by God.

(Cosmological Event #4) - The stars will fall to the earth. **6:13a**

God will cause stars to fall literally “into” (εἰς) the earth. This will be bigger than any meteor that has ever hit this planet. Think of what people are actually seeing and feeling.

(Cosmological Event #5) - The sky will be split apart like a scroll. **6:14a**

All who look into the sky will see this judgment is rooted in the Scriptures. Books of the Bible were written on scrolls and people will know this judgment is coming from the throne of God out of the Word of God. The sky will visibly be ripped apart and there is the look of a scroll, the earth is shaking, the sun and moon are eerie, and stars are slamming into the earth.

(Cosmological Event #6) - The mountains and islands will be moved. **6:14b**

As I understand the Greek here, God will literally move every mountain and every island in the sense that He will pick them up from their places and relocate them as people look into the sky and see it. The preposition “out of” their places indicates this is not just a shuffling; this is an actual removal and relocation.

(Cosmological Event #7) - All people will try to hide in total terror. **6:15-17**

Notice this will effect “everyone” on this earth. All will be terrified. It doesn’t matter if one is a king or prime minister or president or a rich man or a free man or a slave. All will be terrified.

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Fact #3 - The sixth seal judgment features specific response from all people on earth. **6:16-17**

There are three responses of the people who are alive on earth:

(Response #1) - All people know the source of these judgments. **6:16a, 17**

All people are looking up to heaven and they know that these judgments are coming directly from God and are the “wrath of the Lamb.” They also know God is everywhere present and that there is no place they can hide from Him.

(Response #2) - All people would rather die than repent. **6:16b**

Instead of these people turning to God and crying out for His grace and mercy, they cry to the rocks of the mountains to fall on them. In other words, they would rather arrogantly die than to humble themselves before God.

(Response #3) - All people know they cannot win against God’s wrath. **6:17**

All people will realize this is God’s wrath and they realize they cannot stand against it.

What these people don’t know is that this is just the beginning. There is plenty more wrath yet to come and there are many more who will die.