

## Sunday Class Outline – November 11, 2018

### Symbolic & metaphoric language in the Bible

### “SUN MOON AND STARS” #2

Revelation 6:9-17

When the Lamb broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar **the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God**, and because of the testimony which they had maintained; and they cried out with a loud voice, saying, “**How long, O Lord, holy and true, will You refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?**” And there was given to each of them a white robe; and they were told that they should rest for a little while longer, **until the number of their fellow servants and their brethren who were to be killed even as they had been, would be completed also.** I looked when He broke the sixth seal, and there was a great earthquake; and **the sun became black as sackcloth made of hair, and the whole moon became like blood; and the stars of the sky fell to the earth**, as a fig tree casts its unripe figs when shaken by a great wind. **The sky was split apart like a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.** Then the kings of the earth and the great men and the commanders and the rich and the strong and every slave and free man hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains; and they said to the mountains and to the rocks, “**Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb**; for the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to stand?”

Based on what we learned in part 1 of this study, how should we understand this language of “cosmic destruction”?

Why is this judgment taking place?

Do verses 9-11 help to interpret verses 12-17? If so, how?

What is the overall context of this passage?

Mathew 23:31-36,38 & Mathew 24:2,29

So you testify against yourselves, **that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets. Fill up, then, the measure of the guilt of your fathers.** You serpents, you brood of vipers, how will you escape the sentence of hell? Therefore, behold, I am sending you prophets and wise men and scribes; **some of them you will kill and crucify**, and some of them you will scourge in your synagogues, and persecute from city to city, **so that upon you may fall the guilt of all the**

**righteous blood shed on earth**, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, the son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar. Truly I say to you, **all these things will come upon this generation**.... Behold, your house is being left to you desolate!... And He said to them, “Do you not see all these things? Truly I say to you, not one stone here will be left upon another, which will not be torn down”.... But immediately after the tribulation of those days **the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.**

John was anticipating the fulfillment of Jesus’ prophecy, notice the following chart:

<b>REVELATION 6</b>	<b>MATHEW 23-24</b>
Murder of Old Testament prophets (6:9)	Murder of Old Testament prophets (23:31)
Future martyrdom to come (6:11)	Future martyrdom to come (23:34)
Filling the measure of sin (6:11)	Filling the measure of sin (23:32)
Judgment for shedding innocent blood (6:10)	Judgment for shedding innocent blood (23:25)
Destruction of “sun moon and stars, heavens” (6:12-14)	Destruction of “sun moon stars, heavens” (24:29)
The day of the wrath of the Lamb (6:16-17)	The days of wrath and vengeance (Luke 21:20-23)
The presence (face) of the Lord (6:17)	The presence (Parousia) of the Lord

What is the historical situation in Mathew 23-24? Do you remember?

Why was Jerusalem being judged?

Since John was quoting Jesus, what does that tell us about Revelation 6?

What was John prophesying?

Let’s understand the same truth from another angle. In the context of this 1<sup>st</sup> century judgment, notice what John says....

Revelation 6:16

Then the kings of the earth and the great men and the commanders and the rich and the strong and every slave and free man hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains; and they said to the mountains and to the rocks, **“Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb.**

What is the significance of the highlighted portion of this verse?

Luke 23:27-30

And following Him was a large crowd of the people, and of women who were mourning and lamenting Him. But Jesus turning to them said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, stop weeping for Me, but **weep for yourselves and for your children**. For behold, the days are coming when they will say, ‘Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.’ **Then they will begin to say to the mountains, fall on us, and to the hills, cover us.**

Is there a connection between Luke 23 and Revelation 6? If so, what is it, and what does it mean?

Who is he referring to by the phrase “yourselves and your children”?

What was Jesus prophesying in Luke 23?

Hosea 10:1-3,7-8

Israel is a luxuriant vine; he produces fruit for himself. The more his fruit, the more altars he made; the richer his land, the better he made the sacred pillars. Their heart is faithless; now they must bear their guilt. **The Lord will break down their altars and destroy their sacred pillars.** Surely now they will say, “**We have no king**, for we do not revere the Lord. As for the king, what can he do for us? .... **Samaria will be cut off with her king Like a stick on the surface of the water.** Also, the high places of Aven, the sin of Israel, will be destroyed; thorn and thistle will grow on their altars; **then they will say to the mountains, “Cover us!” And to the hills, “Fall on us!”**

What is the historical setting and context of Hosea 10?

How did this compare to the historical situation of Luke 23?

When would Hosea 10:8 be fulfilled?

Let's connect the dots....

What was Jesus communicating to his generation by quoting Hosea 10:8?

And, since John quoted Jesus, what does that tell us about Revelation 6? What was John anticipating?

Based on what we have seen, how should we interpret the destruction of the “sun moon and stars” in Revelation 6?

What does this tell us about when the book of Revelation was written?

What does this mean for us today?

