

# “NO PLACE TO HIDE!”

Rev. 6:12-17

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## INTRODUCTION

Here, it really is falling! “It’s going to be a great day!” But not for the unsaved!  
What happens here is not symbolic of *social, political, and economic upheavals*.

Cf. Joel 2:31; 3:15; Hag. 2:6; Is. 13:10; 34:4; Mt. 24:29; Ezek. 32:7; Am. 8:8  
Symbolism is used here—yes. **But it is still a real cosmic catastrophe.**

The well-ordered movements of the heavenly bodies are a token of God’s providential control; a breakdown shows the end to be at hand!

Such catastrophes show the transcendence of God and Creation’s dependence upon Him.

The OT picture of such events is a theophany—such as at Mount Sinai.

Here we see the great majesty, power, and glory of God manifested; the entire physical world is shaken.

- What happens to the physical world will happen to men – the physical world shares man’s fate.
- Men suffer from violence, decay, and death and are subject to God’s judgment and in need of salvation.

The sixth seal brings us to the threshold of the end. Then John steps back, as it were, to tell the story of the end in greater detail.

Here we see:

- 1) the dissolution of Earth’s order (12-14)
- 2) the desperation of Earth’s operators (15-17)

### I. THE DISSOLUTION OF EARTH’S ORDER (12-14)

“**The great shaking**” – This is not atomic war, it is God’s judgment.

#### A. Effects on the heavenly bodies (12b-14a)

1. The sun: \_\_\_\_\_ as sackcloth
2. The moon: like \_\_\_\_\_
3. The stars: fell to Earth like unripe winter \_\_\_\_\_
4. The sky splits apart like a \_\_\_\_\_ when rolled up

#### B. Effects on Earth’s surface (14b)-- the mountains and islands are \_\_\_\_\_.

All this is the response of God’s **holiness** to the World’s persistent and impenitent wickedness.  
Here we see Holy Love’s consuming passion!

### II. THE DESPERATION OF EARTH’S OPERATORS (15-17)

#### A. No Earthly \_\_\_\_\_ [“Hey sinner man, where ya gonna run to?”]

1. Kings
  2. Great Men
  3. Military leaders
  4. Rich
  5. Strong
- Those who might normally have reason to feel secure will be utterly undone.

- This describes nothing short of awesome dissolution of the world itself.
  - These events will strike stark terror in the hearts of men in the last days.
  - See Is. 13:7-8
  - People who were so stubborn and defiant before will not be an exception.
- B. No Distinctions: “slave and free” (Zeph. 1:14-18)
- C. No Direction-- people hiding in caves and among the rocks of the mountains – hiding from God as in Genesis 3:8.
- D. No Escape: Amos 9:1-3
1. From God’s \_\_\_\_\_ – the “throne sitter”  
What sinners fear most is not death, but the revealed presence of God!
  2. From the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lamb – the Lamb is a lion! (Holy Love’s consuming passion again)
  3. From the *Great Day—Joel 2:11*
    - Here sinners admit to a God whom they had denied, and admit to a Day that they had pronounced impossible.
    - But instead of praying to God, they cry to the rocks!
    - See Hosea 10:8 – “Then they will say to the mountains, ‘cover us!’ And to the hills, ‘fall on us.’”
    - See Hosea 10:9 – “There they stand!” **Stubbornly**.
    - But their question is, “Who can stand?”—See Nahum 1:6; Malachi 3:2

## CONCLUSION

They refused shelter and security in Christ: now they look for security in rocks and caves.

What foolishness! These are people who think it folly to serve God

- There is a **Rock** to which we may fly – The Rock of Ages
- There are mountains giving safety – The Mountains of Salvation

Who can stand? Only those accepting God’s grace