

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2020

I watched as he opened the sixth seal. There was a great earthquake. The sun turned black like sackcloth made of goat hair, the whole moon turned blood red, and the stars in the sky fell to earth, as late figs drop from a fig-tree when shaken by a strong wind. The sky receded like a scroll, rolling up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place.

Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, and mighty, and every slave and every free man hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. They called 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 the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?'

*Revelations 6:12-17*

Only the Lamb, Jesus Christ, is worthy to open the scroll; the events of history. Jesus holds the future. Jesus Christ, not Satan, is in control and he alone is worthy to set in motion the events of the last days of history.

What a vivid description of what happens when the sixth seal is opened. Today when earthquakes occur it creates fear within in the same way that it is described in the scriptures. I am able to speak about this from a personal point of view. It was a beautiful, hot, sunny day and my husband and I had been sharing lunch with friends in one of the local tavernas. I decided to return home when we had completed our meal and left my husband to pay the bill. I walked through the gardens beside the swimming pool where I met two of our friends and stopped for a chat. A few minutes later I had this queer sensation as if I was going to fall, then the ground started to shake and I could hear a rumbling and grinding noise in the ground, the water in the pool was whipped up and started to flow over the sides, we all looked at each other terrified as we realized what was happening. We were filled with shock, fear disbelief, what was the best course of action? The earthquake at that point lasted for 3-4 minutes and then stopped. My husband came running to join us and we decided to move away from buildings and trees and to stay outdoors.

The aftershocks lasted for the next twenty four hours and during the night we had to decide if it was safe to remain indoors or leave the house. Fortunately although the earthquake measured 6.7 there was limited damage because the epicentre was in the sea about 20 kilometres offshore. I have been told by the local people that in the past they had to grab what they needed and flee to the hills and mountains just as described in Revelations 15-16.

This fearful picture is not meant to frighten believers. For us who believe the Lamb is a gentle Saviour. But those kings, princes, generals and other powerful people who previously showed no fear of God and thoroughly flaunted their unbelief find out how wrong they were and on that day will have to face God's wrath. No one who has rejected God can survive the day of his wrath but those who belong to Christ will receive a reward rather than punishment. Do you belong to Christ? If so we do not have to fear these final days.

For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

*John 3:17-18*

Precious Father, thank you for the promise of eternal life in Your presence and the knowledge and assurance that we belong to you. Amen