



THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS:

ARE WE LIVING IN THE LAST GENERATION?

A SAVED TO SERVE STUDY GUIDE

The Signs of the Sixth Seal

We let the Bible interpret itself, testing every claim by “the law and to the testimony” (Isaiah 8:20). The study runs in one continuous sequence — from Point 1 through Point 25. Read each reference in your Bible and write your answers on the lines provided.

1. **PURPOSE** In this series of doctrinal lessons we study the sixth seal of Revelation 6, which proves that we are living in the last generation and close to the Second Coming of Jesus. We will also answer skeptics who say we should not fervently preach Christ’s coming because no man knows the day or the hour (Matthew 24:36).
2. **CURRENT EVENT** *Why Won’t God Tell Us When It Ends?*
 “‘When will it end?’ I hear this question daily from my neighbors in Israel... It’s one thing to endure suffering. It’s another thing entirely to endure suffering without any idea of when or how it will end.”
theisraelbible.com/why-wont-god-tell-us-when-it-ends ↗

In This Study

1	The sixth seal opened	<i>Revelation 6:12-17</i>
2	The great earthquake — Lisbon, 1755	<i>Revelation 6:12</i>
3	Sun darkened, moon as blood — 1780	<i>Revelation 6:12</i>
4	The stars fell from heaven — 1833	<i>Revelation 6:13</i>
5	Distress of nations & terror	<i>Luke 21:25-26</i>
6	Why has Jesus delayed? The sealing	<i>Revelation 7:1-3</i>
7	“No man knoweth the day or hour”	<i>Matthew 24:36</i>
8	The saints shall hear the day & hour	<i>Early Writings</i>

◆ BEFORE YOU BEGIN

“And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.”

MARK 13:37 (KJV)

As you trace the signs of the sixth seal through history, keep your Bible open and let each text speak for itself. Answer honestly, compare Scripture with Scripture, and ask the Spirit to make you watchful for the coming of the Lord — from Point 1 to Point 25.

3. **Read Revelation 6:12-17. What is the first event that is mentioned under the sixth seal?**— *Read: Revelation 6:12*

4. **On what date did this great earthquake take place? (See the quotations below.)**

“The revelator thus describes the first of the signs to precede the second advent: ‘There was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood.’ Revelation 6:12.”

THE GREAT CONTROVERSY, P. 304 {GC 304.1}

“These signs were witnessed before the opening of the nineteenth century. In fulfillment of this prophecy there occurred, in the year 1755, the most terrible earthquake that has ever been recorded. Though commonly known as the earthquake of Lisbon, it extended to the greater part of Europe, Africa, and America... It pervaded an extent of not less than four million square miles.”

THE GREAT CONTROVERSY, P. 304 {GC 304.2}

Lisbon earthquake of 1755 ↗

A series of earthquakes on the morning of Nov. 1, 1755, causing serious damage to the port city of Lisbon and killing an estimated 60,000 people in Lisbon alone.

ENCYCLOPÆDIA BRITANNICA

5. **What is the next event that is mentioned under the sixth seal?**— *Read: Revelation 6:12*

6. **On what date did the sun become black and the moon become as blood? (See the quotation below.)**

“Twenty-five years later appeared the next sign mentioned in the prophecy—the darkening of the sun and moon... The 1260 days, or years, terminated in 1798. A quarter of a century earlier, persecution had almost wholly ceased. Following this persecution, according to the words of Christ, the sun was to be darkened. On the 19th of May, 1780, this prophecy was fulfilled.”

THE GREAT CONTROVERSY, P. 306 {GC 306.1}

7. **What is the next event that is mentioned under the sixth seal?**— *Read: Revelation 6:13*

8. **On what date did the stars fall from heaven? (See the quotation below.)**

“In 1833, two years after Miller began to present in public the evidences of Christ’s soon coming, the last of the signs appeared which were promised by the Saviour... ‘The stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs’ (Revelation 6:13). This prophecy received a striking and impressive fulfillment in the great meteoric shower of November 13, 1833—the most extensive and wonderful display of falling stars which has ever been recorded.”

THE GREAT CONTROVERSY, P. 333 {GC 333.1}

9. What should have been the following event after the falling of the stars in 1833?— *Read: Revelation 6:14-17*

10. After the signs in the sun, moon, and stars, Luke 21:25-26 brings to view more events before Jesus returns. What events were to take place after the falling of the stars?— *Read: Luke 21:25*

11. When did we see distress of nations on the earth following 1833?

ANSWER The Revolutions of 1848, World War I, and World War II.

Revolutions of 1848 ↗

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World War I (1914–1918) ↗

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World War II (1939–1945) ↗

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12. Luke 21:26 says men's hearts will fail them for fear. In Strong's Concordance the Greek word for "fear" (5401) means "terror." What event on U.S. soil began the rise of terrorism on a global scale?

ANSWER The terror attacks on the Twin Towers on 9/11/2001.

September 11 Attacks ↗

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13. **NOTE** The powers of heaven that will be shaken, according to Luke 21:26-27, refer to the sun, moon, and stars being moved out of their places by the voice of God just before the Second Coming of Jesus. For confirmation, compare Luke 21:26-27 with Revelation 16:17-18, 20 and Revelation 6:14. Also read Early Writings, p. 41, paragraphs 1 and 2.

14. Since all of these aforementioned events have been fulfilled, why has Jesus delayed His coming?— *Read: Revelation 7:1-3*

15. Matthew 24:29-30 also mentions the signs in the sun, moon, and stars right before the Second Coming of Jesus. With that context in mind, what does Matthew 24:34 tell us?— *Read: Matthew 24:34*

- a. **NOTE** This means that the generation that sees these events come to pass will also see the Second Coming of Jesus. A biblical generation is 40 years (Numbers 14:33-34; Numbers 32:13). 2001 + 40 years = 2041. We are not saying that Jesus will come in 2041. We do not presently know exactly when He will return, but we know that we are living in that time period.
16. Read Matthew 24:36 and Mark 13:32. Many skeptics use these texts to say we should not view current events as signs of Christ's imminent return. In the same chapter, what example did Jesus give us to take heed to the signs of the times?— *Read: Matthew 24:32-33*
17. Write down other scriptures that teach us to be awake to the signs of the times.
18. While we do not presently know the day and hour of Jesus' return, the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy teach that the living saints will yet hear the day and hour of His return. Whose account is compared to the Second Coming of Jesus?— *Read: Matthew 24:37*
19. In Genesis 6, how long did God tell Noah to preach about the coming flood?— *Read: Genesis 6:3, 13-14*
- a) Did God tell Noah the exact day of the flood in Genesis 6?
- b) After the ark was completed, what did God tell Noah regarding the coming rain/flood?— *Read: Genesis 7:1, 4*
20. Whose account is also compared to the Second Coming of Jesus?— *Read: Luke 17:28-30*
- a) When the two men (angels) came into Sodom, did Lot know who they were or what their mission was before receiving them into his house?— *Read: Genesis 19:1-3*
- b) What was Lot told by the two angels which signified that he knew when Sodom would be destroyed?— *Read: Genesis 19:12-13, 22*

21. Whose account is also compared to the Second Coming of Jesus?— *Read: Malachi 4:5*

22. When Elijah was about to be translated to heaven, which persons knew the exact day when he would be taken up?— *Read: 2 Kings 2:1-3, 5*

23. **NOTE** Just as Noah, Lot, Elisha, and the sons of the prophets knew the exact day for the flood, the destruction of Sodom, and the translation of Elijah, so the living saints during the Great Time of Trouble (after the falling of the seven last plagues) will hear from God the day and hour of Jesus' return. Read the following quotations from Early Writings.

"While I was praying at the family altar, the Holy Ghost fell upon me, and I seemed to be rising higher and higher, far above the dark world... I saw a straight and narrow path, cast up high above the world. On this path the Advent people were traveling to the city... They had a bright light set up behind them at the beginning of the path, which an angel told me was the midnight cry... If they kept their eyes fixed on Jesus, who was just before them... they were safe... Soon we heard the voice of God like many waters, which gave us the day and hour of Jesus' coming. The living saints, 144,000 in number, knew and understood the voice, while the wicked thought it was thunder and an earthquake."

EARLY WRITINGS, P. 14 {EW 14.1}

"It was at midnight that God chose to deliver His people. As the wicked were mocking around them, suddenly the sun appeared, shining in his strength, and the moon stood still... But there was one clear place of settled glory, whence came the voice of God like many waters, shaking the heavens and the earth. There was a mighty earthquake. The graves were opened, and those who had died in faith under the third angel's message, keeping the Sabbath, came forth from their dusty beds, glorified, to hear the covenant of peace that God was to make with those who had kept His law."

EARLY WRITINGS, P. 285 {EW 285.1}

"The sky opened and shut and was in commotion... And as God spoke the day and the hour of Jesus' coming and delivered the everlasting covenant to His people, He spoke one sentence, and then paused, while the words were rolling through the earth... At the end of every sentence the saints shouted, 'Glory! Hallelujah!'... And when the never-ending blessing was pronounced on those who had honored God in keeping His Sabbath holy, there was a mighty shout of victory over the beast and over his image."

EARLY WRITINGS, P. 285 {EW 285.2}

"Soon appeared the great white cloud, upon which sat the Son of man... As it drew nearer the earth, we could behold the excellent glory and majesty of Jesus as He rode forth to conquer... His countenance was as bright as the noonday sun... Upon His vesture and thigh was a name written, King of kings, and Lord of lords... Those who a short time before would have destroyed God's faithful children from the earth, now witnessed the glory of God which rested upon them. And amid all their terror they heard the voices of the saints in joyful strains, saying, 'Lo, this is our God; we have waited for Him, and He will save us.'"

EARLY WRITINGS, P. 286 {EW 286.2}

24. What warning and counsels are given concerning the Second Coming?— *Read: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6*

25. Knowing that we are living near the end of time, what is our duty if we desire to be redeemed from this world?— *Read: Matthew 24:13; Hebrews 10:23; Luke 13:24*

◆ AFTER YOUR STUDY

Watch, for Ye Know Not the Hour

You have traced the signs of the sixth seal — the earthquake of 1755, the darkened sun of 1780, the falling stars of 1833, and the distress of nations that has followed. These signs are fulfilled; we are living in the last generation. Though no man knows the day or hour, God calls us to watch and be ready.

REFLECT

“If Jesus should come today, would He find me watching — awake to the signs of the times?”

LIVE IT

Endure to the end (Matthew 24:13), hold fast your profession of faith, and share this message of Christ’s soon return with someone this week.



“Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.”

MATTHEW 24:44 (KJV)

Notes ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

We Are Living in the Last Generation

The signs of the sixth seal have been fulfilled before our eyes — the great earthquake, the darkening of the sun and moon, and the falling of the stars — followed by the distress of nations and the rise of terror in our own day. While no man presently knows the day or the hour, the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy testify that the living saints will yet hear the voice of God announce the day and hour of Jesus' return. Our duty is to watch, endure to the end, and be ready (Matthew 24:13, 44; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6).

MATTHEW 24:33-34 (KJV)

"So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors. Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled."

Will you watch, and be found ready when the Son of man comes?

REFERENCES

Sources & Notes

SCRIPTURE & SPIRIT OF PROPHECY

- 1 Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy* — pp. 304, 306, 333.
- 2 Ellen G. White, *Early Writings* — pp. 14, 41, 285-286.
- 3 Ellen G. White, *Life Sketches* — p. 196.
- 4 Strong's Exhaustive Concordance — Gk. No. 5401, "fear" (Luke 21:26).
- 5 Holy Bible, King James Version (KJV).

HISTORICAL & NEWS SOURCES

- 6 The Israel Bible — "Why Won't God Tell Us When It Ends?" theisraelbible.com ↗
- 7 Encyclopædia Britannica — "Lisbon earthquake of 1755." britannica.com ↗
- 8 Encyclopædia Britannica — "Revolutions of 1848." britannica.com ↗
- 9 Encyclopædia Britannica — "World War I (1914-1918)." britannica.com ↗
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- 11 History.com — "September 11 Attacks." history.com ↗

All Scripture is quoted from the King James Version (KJV). Spirit of Prophecy references are cited for study and comment.