

## EVANGELISTIC LECTURES

Let us read Revelation 6:12,13. "I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; and the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casts her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind."

Here are four events-a mighty earthquake; the sun mysteriously darkened; the moon appearing in color as blood, and the stars falling to the earth. Have these come to pass? Yes. On November 1, 1755, the great earthquake prophesied for the opening of

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the sixth seal occurred. It is known in history as the Lisbon earthquake, because on that day 90,000 people perished in the city of Lisbon. That earthquake shook four million square miles of this earth's surface. It was the greatest convulsion of nature since the deluge.

Twenty-five years after that great Lisbon earthquake, on May 19, 1780, the sun was darkened. May 19, 1780, has gone down in history as the Dark Day. The sun came up bright and clear that morning. It looked as if it would be a beautiful bright day. About 8 o'clock people noticed an uncommon appearance in the sun. It began to get dark. By 10 o'clock they could not read common print in the open air. Birds sang their evening songs, and disappeared in their leafy retreats. Fowls went to roost, cattle came to the barnyard just as they do at sundown. People lighted candles in their houses, because they could not see without them. The darkness lasted all the rest of that day.

Some will say, "O, that was just an eclipse. People back there were not as wise as we are. It was just an eclipse." Was it? No!

Look at this. (At this juncture two charts were lowered in view of the audience. One revealed the relative positions of the sun, moon, and earth, which are necessary for an eclipse of the sun; while the other depicted the relative positions of the sun, and earth on May 19, 1780).

Here are the positions necessary to make an eclipse. You see the sun, moon, and earth must come into a straight line. The moon then eclipses, or shuts off, the light of the sun for a brief period. The darkness from an eclipse lasts for only about five to ten minutes. But this darkness lasted from 10 o'clock through the rest of the day.

Notice, here are the positions of the sun, earth, and the moon on May 19, 1780. The relative positions of the moon and the earth in relation to the sun were not right to make an eclipse. The earth, moon, and sun must be in a straight line.

It was not an eclipse, for history says the moon was full the night before. The American Encyclopedic Dictionary says, "An eclipse of the sun can appear only at new moon. The sun, the moon, and the earth must be in a straight line, the moon being in the center."

It was not an eclipse. To this day the wisest scientist has not been able to explain that dark day. They have written pages and pages about it, but when they get all done, their statements may be reduced to this, -it was dark, because there was a great darkness.

Webster's Dictionary declares that the cause for this remarkable phenomenon is unknown. Nobody could explain it. Why not? Because it was the hand of Almighty God, hanging out in the heavens before all men, the first great sign of the approaching end and the coming of His Son from heaven.

Notice what happened the same night. The night following this Dark Day of May 19, 1780, was probably the darkest night that ever has been since God said, "Let there be light." A sheet of white paper held before the eyes was just as invisible as the darkest velvet. There was such a darkness as has not been known.

The moon was in the full. It should have been a bright moon-light night. Why was it dark? Jesus had said, "The moon shall not give her light." After midnight the moon did appear. Those who sat up that night, said that when they saw the moon after midnight, it had the appearance of blood, just as the prophecy said.

Fifty-three years after this mysterious dark day, or on November 13, 1833, the greatest shower of shooting stars occurred that has ever taken place, so far as we know, since creation. You can go out almost any night and see a few shooting meteors. But on November 13, 1833, the stars were shooting in the heavens as thick as snow flakes in an Iowa blizzard in December or January. The whole heavens appeared to be on fire. People who saw it never forgot it to their dying day.

In the year 1937 I baptized an old gentleman in North Carolina who was 111 years old. He was seven years old when the stars fell in 1833. He told us how his father got up that morning of November 13, 1833 at 4:30 AM to cut some wood, and ran back into the house and said, "Oh, Mom, the world is on fire."

The old man told how he went out and stood between his father and his mother, holding to his mother's skirts with one hand, and to his father's trousers with the other, and watched the shooting stars. He said, "When they fell they didn't fall straight down like an apple falls when it gets ripe, but they shot in every direction!"

Listen. That is the way God said they would fall. Notice Revelation 6:13. "And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casts her untimely figs, (not ripe ones, but green ones) when she is shaken of a mighty wind!"

I am sure that there are people here who have heard their father or mother or at least their grandfather or grandmother, tell about that great shower of shooting stars. How many here have heard your mother or father, or grandmother or grandfather talk about that great shower of shooting stars? May I see your hands? (A number of hands went up). Just look at these hands! There is your proof for the falling of the stars on November 13, 1833.

Verse 13 tells about the falling of the stars. What is the next event marked out in the prophecy? Verse 14 tells, "The heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places." This has not happened yet, and it will not happen until the day when Jesus appears. It will take place in direct connection with the coming of Jesus. The heavens will be rolled back, and through the opening in the heavens Jesus will come.

We are living tonight between the 13th and 14th verses of the 6th chapter of Revelation. The stars fell in 1833, and so far as this prophecy is concerned, the next event on God's program will be heaven split wide open, and the coming of the Son of Man.

Revelation 14 helps to fill in this gap in Revelation 6, between the falling of the stars in 1833 and the appearing of Christ at the last day. Shortly after the falling of the stars, or in the year 1844, at the end of the 2300 days of Daniel 8:14, God's last message was to arise in the earth, and between 1844 and the end of time it was to be preached to every nation, to prepare the way for the coming of Jesus.

The fifth seal was the age of the reformation from about 1517 to about 1755. Then comes the sixth seal. The Lisbon earthquake on November 1, 1755. The moon and sun darkened on May 19, 1780. The stars fell November 13, 1833. Then