



STUDY GUIDE • WEEK 3 • REVELATION 6-7

WE ARE SO EXCITED YOU HAVE JOINED US FOR OUR DEAR CHURCH SERMON SERIES. THE BOOK OF REVELATION IS THE CAPTIVATING, POWERFUL, AND AT TIMES CONFUSING LAST BOOK OF THE BIBLE. WE ARE CONVINCED THAT GOD WILL SPEAK TO YOU THROUGH THIS SERIES. EACH WEEK, ALONG WITH THE SERMON OUTLINE, WE WILL PROVIDE A FOUR-PAGE STUDY GUIDE TO HELP YOU READ, UNDERSTAND, AND APPLY THE CHAPTERS COVERED. WE HOPE THIS WILL BE HELPFUL FOR YOU PERSONALLY AS WELL AS FOR DISCUSSION AND SHARING WITH YOUR LIFE GROUP, FAMILY AND FRIENDS. AS MATT SMETHURST SAID, *"GOD DID NOT GIVE US THE BOOK OF REVELATION SO WE'D BUILD BOMB SHELTERS IN THE BACKYARD. HE GAVE US THIS BOOK SO WE'D BUILD BIGGER DINNER TABLES AND INVITE OUR FRIENDS OVER AND TELL THEM ABOUT JESUS."*

WITH LOVE, PASTORS GLENN AND ERIC

UNDERSTANDING REVELATION 6

There is heavy fascination built around what has been titled the four horsemen of the apocalypse. Art pieces, books, and even movies (such as X-Men Apocalypse) have capitalized on these four horsemen, but what do they represent?

- The Rider of the White Horse (Revelation 6:1-2) represents conquest and Jesus, as later in Revelation 19 Jesus rides in on a white horse. However, others have said this is the antichrist (Satan). The antichrist is seen throughout the Bible trying to mimic works the Messiah can do such as miracles (2 Thessalonians 2:9), and he is bent on conquering the world.

- The Rider of the Fiery Red Horse, takes peace from the Earth (Revelation 6:4). The rider carries a large sword and blatantly represents war, conflict, and violence.

- The Rider of the Black Horse (Revelation 6:8) carries a pair of scales in his hand which represents famine and economic instability. It specifically refers to a famine that will wipe out wheat and barley supplies, and spare oil and wine reserves. Some scholars attribute this famine to the wars that occurred before it.

- The Rider of the Pale Horse represents death (Revelation 6:8; Hosea 13:14) The Pale Horse kills by sword (violence), famine, plagues, and wild beasts (epidemics) (Jeremiah 15:2-3; Ezekiel 5:12,17).

The fifth seal represents the martyrs who have suffered at the hands of a hostile world. And the sixth seal portrays the fate of the world at the hands of God, whose agents it has martyred. Together these testimonies provide encouragement to Christ followers to stand for Him regardless of any opposition they may face.

READ • REVELATION 6 : 1 - 17

APPLICATION

- Who (or what) would each of the four horsemen represent in the present world we live in?
- What is revealed by the opening of the fifth seal (v. 9)? How is this related to the suffering of the Christians in John's day? In our day?
- In what area of your life are you trying to hide from God? What do you need to do to come out of hiding?
- Which seal opening makes the greatest impression on you? Why?

UNDERSTANDING REVELATION 7

In Chapter 7 we see something interesting take place. Before the final seal of judgment is opened, God pushes the pause button to do something amazing involving the mysterious 144,000. The winds depict God's judgment on the earth, and the four angels are restraining agents who hold back the judgment until God's "special servants" can be sealed. Two distinct groups will survive the divine fury:

- (1) 144,000 evangelists from the various tribes of Israel (verses 1-8)
- (2) Their converts in heaven (verses 9-17).

What we see in Chapter 7 is God's never ending grace. In the midst of His judgment, God STILL desires people to know Him and to enter into a relationship with Him. In verse 14 we see a picture of those who have accepted the gospel and received Christ.

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APPLICATION : 1 - 17

- What is the message of the fifth angel (7:2-3)? Who is sealed? What does it mean?
- What qualifies this white-robed crowd to stand before God (vv. 9-15)? What is their new role? How would this encourage Christians of John's day? Of our day?
- What sort of seal has God placed on your life? How is this seal evident to others?
- Read 7:16-17 slowly, aloud if possible. What does this promise mean to you? How does it encourage you today?

WEEK 3 REFLECTION

SERMON

What stood out to you from the sermon? How will you apply it to your life?
Who will you share it with?

READING

How does this week's reading influence your view of God? Are these images surprising, inspiring, exciting, or something else?

PRAYER

This week, focus your prayer time around the goodness of God: that one day, we will live in His presence and 'he will lead them to springs of living water.' 'And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.' (Revelation 7:17) Thank Him for this awesome promise, and consider how you might live more freely in light of it.