

WEEK FOUR

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REVELATION 6-8:1

JESUS JUDGES AND KEEPS

6 THE FIRST SEAL ON THE SCROLL

Then I saw the Lamb open one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures say with a voice like thunder, “Come!” ²I looked, and there was a white horse. Its rider held a bow; a crown was given to him, and he went out as a conqueror in order to conquer.

THE SECOND SEAL

³When he opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, “Come!” ⁴Then another horse went out, a fiery red one, and its rider was allowed to take peace from the earth, so that people would slaughter one another. And a large sword was given to him.

THE THIRD SEAL

⁵When he opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, “Come!” And I looked, and there was a black horse. Its rider held a set of scales in his hand. ⁶Then I heard something like a voice among the four living creatures say, “A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius, but do not harm the oil and the wine.”

THE FOURTH SEAL

⁷When he opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, “Come!” ⁸And I looked, and there was a pale green horse. Its rider was named Death, and Hades was following after him. They were given authority over a fourth of the earth, to kill by the sword, by famine, by plague, and by the wild animals of the earth.

THE FIFTH SEAL

⁹When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slaughtered because of the word of God and the testimony they had given. ¹⁰They cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, the one who is holy and true, how long until you judge those who live on the earth and avenge our blood?” ¹¹So they were each given a white robe, and they were told to rest a little while longer until the number would be completed of their fellow servants and their brothers and sisters, who were going to be killed just as they had been.

THE SIXTH SEAL

¹²Then I saw him open the sixth seal. A violent earthquake occurred; the sun turned black like sackcloth made of hair; the entire moon became like blood; ¹³the stars of heaven fell to the earth as a fig tree drops its unripe figs when shaken by a high wind; ¹⁴the sky was split apart like a scroll being rolled up; and every mountain and island was moved from its place.

¹⁵Then the kings of the earth, the nobles, the generals, the rich, the powerful, and every slave and free person hid in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains. ¹⁶And they said to the mountains and to the rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of the one seated on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb, ¹⁷because the great day of their wrath has come! And who is able to stand?”

7 THE SEALED OF ISRAEL

After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, restraining the four winds of the earth so that no wind could blow on the earth or on the sea or on any tree. ²Then I saw another angel rising up from the east, who had the seal of the living God. He cried out in a loud voice to the four angels who were allowed to harm the earth and the sea, ³“Don’t harm the earth or the sea or the trees until we seal the servants of our God on their foreheads.” ⁴And I heard the number of the sealed:

- 144,000 sealed from every tribe of the Israelites:
- ⁵ 12,000 sealed from the tribe of Judah,
12,000 from the tribe of Reuben,
12,000 from the tribe of Gad,
- ⁶ 12,000 from the tribe of Asher,
12,000 from the tribe of Naphtali,
12,000 from the tribe of Manasseh,
- ⁷ 12,000 from the tribe of Simeon,
12,000 from the tribe of Levi,
12,000 from the tribe of Issachar,
- ⁸ 12,000 from the tribe of Zebulun,
12,000 from the tribe of Joseph,
12,000 sealed from the tribe of Benjamin.

A MULTITUDE FROM THE GREAT TRIBULATION

⁹After this I looked, and there was a vast multitude from every nation, tribe, people, and language, which no one could number, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were clothed in white robes with palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰And they cried out in a loud voice:

Salvation belongs to our God,
who is seated on the throne,
and to the Lamb!

¹¹ All the angels stood around the throne, and along with the elders and the four living creatures they fell facedown before the throne and worshiped God, ¹² saying,

Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honor
and power and strength
be to our God forever and ever. Amen.

¹³Then one of the elders asked me, “Who are these people in white robes, and where did they come from?”

¹⁴I said to him, “Sir, you know.”

Then he told me: These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

15 For this reason they are before the throne of God,
and they serve him day and night in his temple.
The one seated on the throne will shelter them:

16 They will no longer hunger;
they will no longer thirst;
the sun will no longer strike them,
nor will any scorching heat.

17 For the Lamb who is at the center of the throne
will shepherd them;
he will guide them to springs of the waters of life,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

8 THE SEVENTH SEAL

When he opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.

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- Who can stand His complete and just judgment?

THE HORSES IN ZECHARIAH’S VISION AND REVELATION		
The imagery of the four horses in John’s vision echoes the imagery of the four horses from Zechariah’s vision (Zechariah 6:1-8). Zechariah prophesied after the exile into Babylonian captivity when Babylon had been conquered by the Persians. He was writing to God’s people reminding them that God was victorious over Babylon and had kept His promise to His own—just as God will keep His promise to us and “Babylon” (the system of this world) will be judged.		
	Zechariah 6	Revelation 6
Number of Horses	4	4
Colors	Red, Black, White, Dappled	White, Red, Black, Pale
Sent From	Heaven	The Lamb
Purpose	Enforce God’s purposes	Unleash conquest, war, famine, and death

SEVEN GROUPS JUDGED

Then the **kings** of the earth, the **nobles**, the **generals**, the **rich**, the **powerful**, and every **slave** and **free** person hid in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains. And they said to the mountains and to the rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of the one seated on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb, because the great day of their wrath has come! And who is able to stand?” (Revelation 6:15-17)

• The sealed can stand

GOD BLESSING HIS PEOPLE

For this reason they are before the throne of God, and they serve him day and night in his temple. The one seated on the throne will shelter them: They will **no longer hunger**; they will **no longer thirst**; the **sun will no longer strike them**, **nor will any scorching heat**. For the Lamb who is at the center of the throne will **shepherd them**; he will **guide them to springs of the waters of life**, and God **will wipe away every tear from their eyes**. (Revelation 7:15-17)

GOD’S PEOPLE WORSHIP HIM

...Amen! **Blessing** and **glory** and **wisdom** and **thanksgiving** and **honor** and **power** and **strength** be to our God forever and ever. Amen. (Revelation 7:12)

	GOD JUDGING AND PROTECTING			
	The book of Revelation is not the only time we see God marking and protecting His own in the midst of His judgment on sin.			
	Event	Mark on His Own	Judgment	Protection
	Passover (Exodus 12)	Blood on doorposts	Death of firstborn	Israel spared
	Rahab (Joshua 2)	Scarlet cord in window	Jericho destroyed	Rahab spared
	Ezekiel 9	Mark on foreheads	Jerusalem judged	Remnant spared
	Revelation 7	Seal on foreheads	Trumpets unleashed	Sealed protected

JESUS' TEACHING ON THE END OF THE AGE (MATTHEW 24) COMPARED TO THE SEVEN OPENED SEALS (REVELATION 6)		
Matthew 24	Revelation 6	The Impact
False Christs/Deception (v. 4-5)	White Horse: Conquest (v. 1-2)	Deceptive or counterfeit conquest
Wars and rumors of wars (v. 6-7)	Red Horse: War (v. 3-4)	Peace taken from Earth
Famines (v. 7)	Black Horse: Famine (v. 5-6)	Scarcity, economic collapse
Death (v. 7-8)	Pale Horse: Death (v. 7-8)	Death
Persecution of believers (v. 9)	Believers slaughtered (v. 9-11)	Martyrs cry, "How long?"
Cosmic signs (v. 29)	Sixth seal cosmic shaking (v. 12-14)	Sun darkened, moon altered
Son of Man appearing (v. 30-31)	The Day of the Lord has come (v. 15-17)	"Who can stand?"

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Life Group Discussion Guide

WEEK FOUR

RHYTHM REMINDER



 Share Your Story

LEAN IN

Think of a time when something that seemed chaotic or out of control eventually worked out for good. What was that experience like? _____

LOOK DOWN

Read Revelation 6:1-17 (pg. 64). What does this moment of John seeing the souls of the martyrs tell us about God's justice? What comfort does it offer to those who are suffering today? _____

LOOK OUT

The vision of a multitude from every nation worshiping together before the throne (Revelation 7:9) is one of the most diverse and beautiful images in all of Scripture. What barriers exist in our world—and in our churches—that make that kind of unity difficult to imagine? _____

LOOK IN

The martyrs in Revelation 6 cry out asking how long until God makes things right. Have you ever found yourself asking God a similar question about something in your own life or in the world? How did you wrestle with that? _____

NOTES