

REVELATION

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Week 4

Summary

In this powerful exploration of Revelation chapters 6 and 7, we delve into the profound symbolism of the seven seals and the 144,000 sealed servants of God. As we unpack these vivid images, we're reminded of God's sovereignty amidst tribulation and His unwavering commitment to His people. The central message revolves around finding our identity and security in Christ, even in the face of adversity. We're challenged to consider: Are we truly allowing ourselves to be 'sealed' by God, marked as His own? The parallels drawn between Old Testament feasts and heavenly worship scenes offer a rich tapestry of God's faithfulness throughout history. This message invites us to embrace our role as part of the 'true Israel' - not defined by bloodline, but by our relationship with Christ. As we navigate our own trials, let's hold fast to the promise that we are hidden in Christ, sheltered under His tabernacle, and destined for eternal celebration in His presence.

Key Points

- The opening of the seals reveals both earthly tribulations and heavenly realities
- The 144,000 are interpreted as symbolic of the complete church, not a literal number
- The vision of multitudes in heaven fulfills the Feast of Tabernacles
- Believers are sealed and protected by God, even in the midst of tribulation
- The Revelation offers hope and encouragement to persecuted believers
- Christ is portrayed as both the sacrificial Lamb and the Good Shepherd
- The ultimate fulfillment of God's promises is seen in the eternal tabernacle with God

Scripture References

Mentioned

Here are the scripture references mentioned or alluded to in the sermon, along with some suggested relevant verses for general themes discussed:

1. Genesis 49:10
2. Revelation 4-7
3. Romans 1 (general reference to God's wrath)
4. John 10:10
5. 1 Corinthians 6:20
6. Exodus 12 (general reference to Passover)
7. Isaiah 1:18
8. Genesis 12:1-3
9. Exodus 19 (general reference to priesthood)
10. John 7:35-38 (approximate, referring to Jesus at the Feast of Tabernacles)
11. John 16:33
12. Philippians 3:10
13. Isaiah 61:6

Main Themes

Suggested relevant verses for themes discussed:

1. Ephesians 1:13-14 (being sealed by God)
2. Revelation 7:9-17 (multitude before the throne)
3. Psalm 23 (God as shepherd)
4. Colossians 3:3 (life hidden with Christ in God)
5. Romans 8:35-39 (nothing can separate us from God's love)
6. 2 Corinthians 1:22 (God's seal and Spirit as a guarantee)
7. 1 Peter 2:9 (believers as royal priesthood)
8. Revelation 21:3-4 (God dwelling with his people, wiping away tears)
9. Matthew 24:13 (enduring to the end)
10. 1 Thessalonians 5:9-11 (encouragement in salvation)

Small Group Guide

Key Takeaways:

1. The 7 seals represent God's unfolding plan and the effects of the gospel being spread.
2. The 144,000 likely represents the complete church rather than a literal number.
3. The imagery of the Feast of Tabernacles in Revelation 7 shows the fulfillment of God's promises.
4. Tribulation has been ongoing since Christ's time, but believers are sealed and protected by God.

Discussion Questions:

1. How does understanding the symbolism of the 7 seals change your perspective on God's plan for history?
2. The sermon suggests the 144,000 represents the complete church. How does this interpretation impact your view of God's redemptive plan?
3. Discuss the significance of the Feast of Tabernacles imagery in Revelation 7. How does this deepen your understanding of God's promises?
4. The pastor emphasizes that believers are "sealed" by God. What does this mean to you personally, especially in times of difficulty?
5. How does the vision of worship in heaven (Rev. 7:9-17) encourage you in your current circumstances?
6. The sermon mentions that "Christ becomes our hiding place." What does this mean to you, and how can we practically make Christ our refuge?



Practical Applications:

1. Spend time this week meditating on what it means to be "sealed" by God. Journal your thoughts and share with the group next time.
2. Choose one aspect of the heavenly worship described in Revelation 7 and incorporate it into your personal or family worship time this week.
3. If you're facing a personal "tribulation," reflect on how the promises in Revelation 6-7 speak to your situation. Share with a trusted friend or group member for prayer and support.
4. Take up the pastor's challenge to study a specific concept (e.g., "hiding place") in Scripture over the next few months. Make a plan and share it with the group.

Closing Prayer:

Thank God for His redemptive plan and the assurance we have in Christ. Pray for each group member to find comfort and strength in being "sealed" by God, especially in the face of any current trials.



Day 1: The Worthy Lamb Reading: Revelation 5:1-14

Devotional: As we read about the search for one worthy to open the scroll, we're reminded of our own unworthiness and Christ's supreme worthiness. The Lamb who was slain is the only one able to unlock God's purposes for creation. Today, reflect on how Jesus' sacrifice makes Him worthy of all praise. How does recognizing Christ's worthiness change your perspective on your daily challenges? Consider ways you can honor Him as the worthy Lamb in your life today.

Day 2: Sealed by God Reading: Ephesians 1:13-14, Revelation 7:1-8

Devotional: The concept of being "sealed" by God is a powerful reminder of our security in Christ. Just as the 144,000 were sealed for protection, we too are marked as God's own. This seal is not a physical mark, but the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives. How does knowing you are sealed by God impact your sense of identity and purpose? In what ways can you live today as one who belongs to God, confident in His protection and provision?

Day 3: The Great Multitude Reading: Revelation 7:9-17

Devotional: The vision of the great multitude from every nation worshipping before the throne is a beautiful picture of God's inclusive love. This diverse gathering reminds us that God's salvation is for all people. How does this vision challenge any biases or prejudices you might hold? Consider how you can actively participate in God's mission to reach all nations with His love. Pray for opportunities to share the hope of Christ with someone from a different background today.

Day 4: Christ Our Hiding Place Reading: Psalm 32:7, Colossians 3:1-4

Devotional: In a world full of turmoil, Christ offers Himself as our hiding place. Unlike those who hide from God in fear, we are invited to hide ourselves in Him. This "hiding" is not about escape, but about finding our true identity and security in Christ. How can you make Christ your hiding place in the midst of your current circumstances? Take time to visualize yourself hidden in Christ, safe from all that threatens to overwhelm you.

Day 5: The Ultimate Tabernacle Reading: John 1:14, Revelation 21:1-4

Devotional: The Feast of Tabernacles finds its ultimate fulfillment in Christ, who "tabernacled" among us and will one day dwell with us eternally. This promise of God's presence is our greatest hope amidst suffering. How does the promise of God wiping away every tear comfort you in your current trials? Reflect on how you can experience God's presence more fully today, as a foretaste of the eternal tabernacle to come. Consider creating a small "tabernacle" space in your home where you can meet with God daily.