

LESSON SEVEN

Revelation 6 – 8:6

Revelation 6 begins the judgment of God. From the time of Genesis, scripture supports the reality of God judging his people. At times it is hard for us to come to terms with this aspect of God's character. As we go through these judgments, keep in mind that a world without consequences for sinful behavior is world out of control.

There are 7 waves of judgments in Revelation: seven seals, seven trumpets and seven bowls. Chapter 6 and chapter 8:1-6 are the seal judgments. There are 7 seal judgments with the seventh opening the gateway for the seven trumpet judgments. From chapter 5, we saw that the Lamb Jesus was the only one worthy to open the seals. The opening of the sealed scroll marks the beginning of Jesus taking the throne, taking hold of the kingdom, and setting up his kingdom on this earth.

1. Read Revelation 6:1-8. This describes the Four Horses of the Apocalypse. Compare these to Matthew 24 in this way:

Matthew 24:4-5	False Christs	Revelation 6:1-2	White Horse (see also Rev. 19:11-13)
Matthew 24:6-7	War	Revelation 6:3-4	Red Horse
Matthew 24:7	Famine	Revelation 6:5-6	Black Horse
Matthew 24:9	Death	Revelation 6:7-8	Pale Horse
Matthew 24:9-13	Martyrdom	Revelation 6:9-11	5 th Seal
Luke 21:11	Signs	Revelation 6:12-17	6 th Seal

2. In chapter 7, there is an interlude. It is as if we are given a view into what is happening simultaneously in the heavenly realms. Compare the names to Genesis 49:1-27. (Joseph received the double inheritance. His two sons are Manasseh and Ephraim, also referred to as Joseph). Is there a tribe missing? Which one? What does this tell you about God's promise to Abraham? See Genesis 12:2,3.
3. These 144,000 Jews from all the tribes of Israel have some sort of special assignment. Compare Hebrews 9:14 to Revelation 7:13-14.
4. What do you notice about Revelation 7:9-10? See John 12:12-15.
5. Read Revelation 7:15-17. What are your thoughts about these precious verses? What does it tell you about the heart of God?

Prayer Faithful Father, you stand outside of time. What to us is a single day is like a thousand years to you and a thousand years are like a single day. Yet through it all your love always wins out. You promised Abraham that through him the world would be blessed, and Jesus is that blessing. Help us to see that it is only through the inevitable punishment of the wicked that Jesus will reign on earth. Give us eyes to see and ears to hear. In the name of the precious Lamb, Jesus. Amen.