

WEEK 3



BEHIND THE VEIL... HEAVEN IS FOR REAL

REVELATION 4-7

OPENING PRAYER:

God of all glory and might, we are awed by your majesty. Worthy are you and worthy is the Lamb, Jesus, of all praise and glory. We thank you that Jesus is our Passover Lamb who takes away the sin of the world. He is no longer a helpless Lamb but the mighty being who is worthy to open the scrolls that begin your final judgment. Open our hearts to hear your voice and come to your saving grace. Thank you for always being a Father who pursues your people, that we may have both eternal life and fullness of life on earth. We pray this in Jesus's holy name. Amen.

KEY VERSE:

“And one of the elders said to me, ‘Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.’” (Revelation 5:5)

INTRODUCTION:

The curtain is pulled back, and God unveils the reality of who Jesus is. We are being shown a heavenly reality that has earthly repercussions. Whether the judgments are symbolic or real seems immaterial. What we do know is that Jesus will be the catalyst of cosmic change and that God loves his people. If God cannot win our hearts through love, at some point in time, he will seek to win our hearts through judgment. As depicted in these chapters, the time of tribulation produces a great harvest of people coming to faith in Jesus as their Savior.

OPENING QUESTIONS:

1. How do you envision heaven? Has your vision of heaven changed over the years?
2. As we read about the power of the slain Lamb, Jesus, what does this reveal about him that you didn't know before?

VIDEO:

Behind the Veil... Heaven Is for Real

VIDEO NOTES:

Chapter 5 is glorious and majestic, but it soon turns dark. Chapter 6 features what has been called the Four Horses of the Apocalypse. This chapter may be an outline as to what is to come or could be the beginning of the birth pangs of the new age. What we know is that things get bad for those living on earth. There will be conquests with conspiracy (the first seal: white horse); absence of peace where man will kill man in unimaginable numbers (the second seal: red horse); worldwide famine but only for the poor (the third seal: black horse); death and destruction of masses of people (the fourth seal: pale horse). Then there is a reprieve. We see martyrs in the fifth seal who are calling to God for justice, followed by unthinkable physical earthly and heavenly disturbances (the sixth seal).

God is showing his power in hopes of drawing rebellious people to himself. Does it work? Chapter 7 makes it clear that God is in control of all these happenings. Some people will refuse him and curse him, but the Jewish people seem to have an about-face. There are 144,000 from the twelve tribes of Israel that have a special calling.

BEFORE CLASS



Read Revelation 4:1–7:17.

SCRIPTURE QUESTIONS:

1. Why do you think Scripture refers to the Lamb as the Lion of Judah and the Root of David?

2. Compare Revelation 6:10 to Romans 12:17–21.
3. Revelation 7:15–17 is similar to Old Testament verses in Isaiah 4 and 49. What does this tell you about the character of God the Father?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

1. It seems in Revelation 5:8 that those closest to God’s throne are holding “golden bowls of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.” What do you think these prayers may be?
2. There is martyrdom during this time. Has there been a time in your life when you were abused, unfairly treated, or rejected and you wanted God to set things right?
3. How do these verses encourage you?

CLOSING PRAYER:

Father, you are a just God and you know the hearts and minds of all people. Help us to wait on you to fulfill your promises.

“Remember my affliction and my wanderings, the wormwood and the gall. My soul continually remembers it and is bowed down within me. But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. “The Lord is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in him.” The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.” (Lamentations 3:19–26)

Thank you, Father, for your faithfulness. We lift up these words in Jesus’s name. Amen