

Small Group Guide: Revelation 6-7

Key Takeaways:

1. The tribulation described in Revelation began with Christ's birth and continues today.
2. God's people (the 144,000) include believers from all nations, not just ethnic Jews.
3. Being "sealed" by God means protection and enabled faith through trials.
4. The "wrath of God" is often God removing His hand and letting sin run its course.
5. Our response to tribulation should mirror Christ's sacrificial love, not worldly force.

Discussion Questions:

- How does understanding the tribulation as an ongoing reality rather than just a future event change your perspective on current world events?
- The podcast challenges the idea of a pre-tribulation rapture. How does this impact your view of Christian suffering and persecution?
- What does it mean to you personally to be "sealed" by God? How might this affect how you face challenges in your life?
- The podcast talks about the "upside-down kingdom" of Jesus. In what ways does our culture push against this concept? How can we live it out?
- How do you reconcile the idea of God's protection with the reality that Christians still suffer and die for their faith?
- The podcast mentions the danger of putting trust in preparations, weapons, and other material things rather than God. Where do you see this tendency in yourself or the church?
- How can we cultivate a mindset of being "faithful witnesses unto death" in a culture that values self-preservation?

Practical Applications:

This week, intentionally look for ways to respond to conflict or opposition with sacrificial love rather than force or retaliation.

Spend time in prayer asking God to strengthen your faith to stand firm through trials.

Identify an area where you might be putting your trust in worldly security rather than God. Take a step to reorient that trust.

Reach out to a Christian you know who is facing persecution or hardship. Offer encouragement based on the truths discussed in this study.

Meditate on Revelation 7:9-17. How does this vision of eternity impact how you view current sufferings?

Closing Prayer: Thank God for His seal of protection and enabled faith. Ask for strength to be faithful witnesses in the face of tribulation.