

Revelation – The Big Picture

Week five – Revealed: the place of peace in a broken world

Revelations chapter 6,7

1. Four seals and 4 Horseman 6: 1 - 8

- A white horse a bow and a crown. Possibly Jesus but more likely a false messiah. Conquest and victory, world domination
- A fiery red horse and a sword. Peace taken and relationships broken.
- A black horse and scales. Famine and shortage, but luxuries in plenty. Economic injustice and oppression of the poor.
- A pale horse and hades close behind. Symbolising death and decay.

2. A fifth seal 6: 9 - 11

- Souls of martyred followers of Jesus
- How long? – Wait a little longer, Hold on till your number is complete!

3. A sixth seal 6: 12 – 17 - The end of the world!

- Natural disasters
- Events that leave all in hiding
- Unable to stand before the Lamb! The Lamb's wrath

4. Peace in a broken and fallen world 7 1 - 17

- A glimpse into eternity
- The complete number of God's family from every generation
- Those who acknowledge the Salvation of the Lamb
- The Lamb will be our shepherd
- Leading us to springs of living water
- God will wipe away every tear from their eyes!

Digging Deeper

1. When a catastrophe strikes somewhere in the world, natural disaster or human action, many people immediately think of God. How do such events affect your ideas about God's sovereignty and God's love?

Read Revelation 6

2. In verses 1 – 6 how do the appearances of the four horses and riders differ from each other?
3. In verses 9 – 11 the fifth seal reveals the souls of martyrs. What is their plea and the response?
4. What does the vision say to you about the relationship between the world and the Christian faith?
5. Verses 12 – 17 describe appalling cosmic convulsions. How are they explained?

The first six seals give us a general overview of history between the first and second comings of Jesus. It is a time of violent disturbance and suffering, but the eye of faith looks beyond these things to Christ, who has opened the seals and is controlling the course of history.

Read Revelation 7

1. Who are the 144,000 – How are they identified? (Verses 1 – 8)
2. Who does John see in verses 9 – 12 and what are they doing?
3. What is the significance that there are two groups of people seen in verses 1 – 8 and 9 – 12 Read Hebrews 12:1 what light does this verse shed on the passage?
4. Who are the ones in White robes in 7: 13 – 17
 - A. What is the greatest test of faith you face right now?
 - B. In Revelation 6 & 7 what specific encouragement in Christ do you find to help you meet that test?