

REVELATION

ALL • THINGS • NEW

UPSTATE GROUP MEMBER GUIDE

Week 5 - February 5-11 - *Revelation 6:1-8:5*



FIRST BAPTIST SIMPSONVILLE
UPSTATE CHURCH

SCRIPTURE

Take this time to study the Bible together. Remember, the goal is not just to convey information, but to help people in your group learn to read the Bible for themselves.

THE POINT

God is sovereign and we must respond.

Revelation 6:1-8, 9-11, 7:1-11

Revelation 6:1-8

Now I watched when the Lamb opened one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures say with a voice like thunder, “Come!” 2 And I looked, and behold, a white horse! And its rider had a bow, and a crown was given to him, and he came out conquering, and to conquer.

3 When he opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, “Come!” 4 And out came another horse, bright red. Its rider was permitted to take peace from the earth, so that people should slay one another, and he was given a great sword.

5 When he opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, “Come!” And I looked, and behold, a black horse! And its rider had a pair of scales in his hand. 6 And I heard what seemed to be a voice in the midst of the four living creatures, saying, “A quart[a] of wheat for a denarius,[b] and three quarts of barley for a denarius, and do not harm the oil and wine!”

7 When he opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, “Come!” 8 And I looked, and behold, a pale horse! And its rider’s name was Death, and Hades followed him. And they were given authority over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword and with famine and with pestilence and by wild beasts of the earth.

Revelation 6:9-11

9 When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the witness they had borne

10 They cried out with a loud voice, “O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?” 11 Then they were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers[c] should be complete, who were to be killed as they themselves had been.

Revelation 7:1-11

After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth, that no wind might blow on earth or sea or against any tree. 2 Then I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, with the seal of the living God, and he called with a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm earth and sea, 3 saying, “Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, until we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.” 4 And I heard the number of the sealed, 144,000, sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel:

5 12,000 from the tribe of Judah were sealed,
12,000 from the tribe of Reuben,
12,000 from the tribe of Gad,

6 12,000 from the tribe of Asher,
12,000 from the tribe of Naphtali,
12,000 from the tribe of Manasseh,

7 12,000 from the tribe of Simeon,
12,000 from the tribe of Levi,
12,000 from the tribe of Issachar,

8 12,000 from the tribe of Zebulun,
12,000 from the tribe of Joseph,
12,000 from the tribe of Benjamin were sealed.

9 After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, 10 and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” 11 And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God...

The Holy Bible: English Standard Version (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016),
Revelation 6:1-8:5.

STUDY NOTES

What are all these numbers? What are the seals for? Countless ink has been spilled in attempts to explain the exact nature of such answers. It would be fruitless for us to add to those discussions, rather it is important to understand the overarching theme of these passages; namely chapters 6-8. Ultimately Revelation is reminding us that “Christ rules over such an apparently chaotic world and that suffering does not occur indiscriminately or by chance.”

While these chapters depict suffering and the chaotic nature of the events unfolding with different symbols, they are describing the same chaos and suffering across the world. The main picture the reader is called to see is not one of suffering, but rather one of Christ reigning above all. So while the reader may cry, as the text says how long, (Revelation 6:10) The reader can take heart in knowing that:

- 1. Christ reigns supreme no matter our circumstances, trials or tribulations.**
- 2. We are called to respond to Christ in one of two ways (accepting or rejecting).**
- 3. Christ is making all things new, even when we can't see them.**

For more resources on this passage click the resources link [here](#).

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- How does Christ being supreme help explain the events of these chapters?
- Why is it important to see Christ as above all in these chaotic times? What is the downside to not viewing him as such?
- How does suffering tempt us to turn away from Christ?
- Why should we find it encouraging that Christ is redeeming all things even while we face difficulties?
- What is the most encouraging thing to you about Revelation 6-8?
- How should we respond to such a passage as this?