



river west church

The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse

Revelation 6

Pastor Guy Gray

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Putting Things in Perspective

Revelation 6 contains one of the most well know pictures in the whole bible, the four horsemen of the Apocalypse. These four riders accompany are introduced with the opening of the first seal of the scroll that we saw in Chapter 5. Remember, the scroll represents the course of human history as God directs all things to the fulfillment of His master plan for redemption and the establishing of a new creation through Christ. There are seven seals on the scroll. In order for the contents of the scroll to be read (to unfold), all seven seals must first be broken. But only six of the seals are broken in Revelation 6, which means that everything in Revelation 6 is still in some way “preliminary” to the “main” event, which comes later in the Book of Revelation.

The way God has designed the Book of Revelation is very important. He has been using all of the chapters so far to sharpen our faith and prepare our hearts. He is setting the stage for our study of the intense things that are soon to come in this book. We have learned that above all it's about Jesus (chapter 1). But it's also about Jesus and His church. We have seen that Christ has a high purpose and a calling for His church in this world – to be His light in a broken sinful world (chapter 2-3). Through this we have learned that the Book of Revelation is not just about the future. It is designed to show us how to live by faith in Christ and for the Gospel, right here and right now!

Then, in chapters 4 and 5 we saw the greatest revelation of God in the Bible, God as our Creator and Redeemer! We learned about worship and saw that the throne of God and the Lamb of God are to be the guiding vision for everything that happens in our lives (and in the rest of the Book of Revelation)

But if Revelation 6 is still “setting the stage” by giving us the vital perspective we need as we face the future, what is the lesson for our lives? We will focus on three themes that are highlighted in Revelation 6. As you listen, use the space below to write down what God may be saying to you through His word. Here are our three themes:

Even in chaos, Jesus is Lord

There is a horrifying pattern of evil in our world

Our victory is in staying true to Jesus no matter what

10 Purposes of the Book of Revelation

1. To reveal the awesome glory of Jesus Christ our Lord
2. To show us Christ's heart for His church and His purpose for His church
3. To challenge us to actually be the light of Christ for our world
4. To show us the true reality of God – He is the almighty, eternal, sovereign creator of all things (the throne of God) and He is the gracious, victorious redeemer in Christ (the Lamb of God)
5. To call us to a life response of genuine worship
6. To reveal the reality of evil in our world for what it actually is
7. To show us the fearful reality of God's judgment on our sinful world
8. To give us what we need to stand strong in Christ – no matter what
9. To show us how to live as faithful witnesses for Christ and the Gospel – even in the face of personal difficulty or great opposition
10. To put before us a vision of the ultimate victory of Christ over all things and our eternal hope through the Gospel