

Resolve: Week 4

Takeaway: Endure suffering patiently

Read: Revelation 6-8:5

What stood out to you in this passage?

Things You Need To Know

- The four horsemen are more angels of judgment than anything. The purpose of referring to them as “horsemen” serves as a symbolic literary function. The Old Testament allusion occurs in Zechariah 1:8-11.
- One scholar refers to the four horsemen as “the four chief components of history; history is characterized by their hideous imprint.” (War, Death, Famine and Disease).
- The sixth seal symbolizes God’s unfolding judgment. The question in 6:17 of “Who can stand?” will be answered: only the servants of God can stand in that day.
- The numbers in Chapter 7 (12,000 and 144) are symbolic, representing the holy community.
- The seal on the foreheads from 7:3 are an allusion to the seal of the High Priests in Exodus 28:36, which said “HOLY TO THE LORD”.
- “The probable identity of the 144,000 calls us as believers in Jesus to remember our heritage in God’s dealings with the patriarchs and prophets, our spiritual ancestors, and to recognize our destiny as heirs of the promises given through the prophets to God’s people” - Craig Keener (Revelation; NIV Application Commentary).
- There are a few views as to the silence at the opening of the seventh seal (8:1): The silence may come from awe (See Job 40:4). It may also be a signal of a return to the primeval creation, characterized by silence (See Genesis 1:2).
- The seventh seal is a precursor to the seven trumpets that will ensue.



Although the seven seals, seven trumpets, and seven bowls happen sequentially as it is written, it is likely that they occur all together and have been happening already. Take for instance the four horsemen: War, death, famine and disease have been present throughout history. There is a repetition of “what was, what is, and what is to come” that you will pick up on throughout Revelation.

Questions:

1. How have you seen the Lord work through evils like what the four horsemen represent for His purposes?

2. Why does faithfulness to the Word and to the testimony of Christ so often lead to suffering and persecution? How does God view this suffering?

3. Why will social and economic statuses not matter at the time of judgment?



4. If people know Christ is bringing judgement, why do they still flee rather than repent?

5. When has the Lord proved Himself faithful in your life despite your own unfaithfulness?

6. In 7:16, the Lord provides for His people's every need and counteracts their greatest threats. How have you seen the Lord provide for your needs, and what threats do you long to see Him address?



7. What role does silence play in your prayer life?

