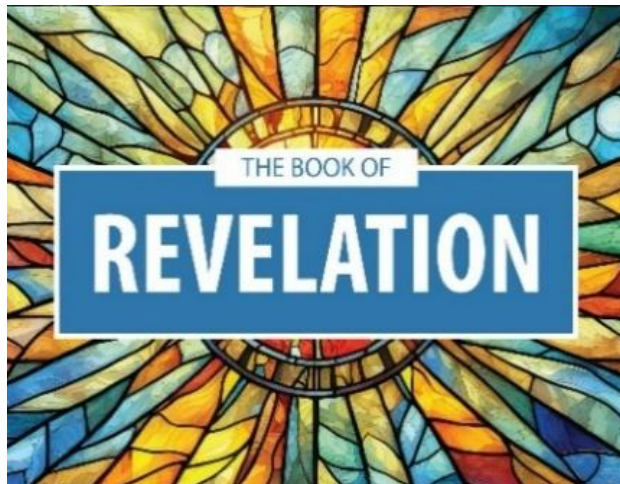




The Church at War

PART 17

Introductions

Let's get started by sharing our names and answering this question: *[Provide introductions as necessary and choose your own question].*

Songs of Praise

Let's begin our time singing to the Lord. *[Sing additional songs if you prefer. Contact the church office for copies of our church songbooks.]*

Alas, and Did My Savior Bleed

Alas! and did my Savior bleed,
and did my Sovereign die!
Would he devote that sacred head
for sinners such as I?

Was it for crimes that I have done,
he groaned upon the tree?
Amazing pity! Grace unknown!
And love beyond degree!

Well might the sun in darkness hide,
and shut its glories in,
when God, the mighty maker, died
for his own creature's sin.

Thus might I hide my blushing face
while his dear cross appears;
dissolve my heart in thankfulness,
and melt mine eyes to tears.

But drops of tears can ne'er repay
the debt of love I owe.
Here, Lord, I give myself away;
'tis all that I can do.

Isaac Watts, 1707

Church News

- JMU Reformed University Fellowship welcomes you who are college-aged to their large group, Wednesday nights, 8PM at The Union 256
- Women's Breakfast, Oct. 18th 8:30-10AM
- Ground-Breaking Ceremony, 6-7PM, Oct 19th
- Fall Festival at Marsh farm, Oct 26th, 3-7PM, Dinner at 5:30PM

Study

[This guide utilizes the Sunday sermon notes, please [click this link](#) to access them.]

Q: Would someone read aloud Revelation 7:1-8?

Chapter 7 begins **after this I saw**, and although John experiences this vision after that of chapter 6, these events in chapter 7 depict chronological events before those of chapter 6. Thus, this section 7:1-8 stands as a parenthetical explanation (a recapitulation) of how God will keep believers spiritually safe through the trials of the four seals 6:1-8. Our section is also the answer to the question of "Who can stand?" (6:17).

Q: Why are the four angels **standing at the four corners of the earth**?

Q: What authority do these four angels wield?

We see that these four angels have power to temporarily restrain the full judgment of the Lord upon the earth until God's people are sealed on their foreheads.

Q: If someone has a seal on their forehead, does it mean they are free from suffering? How should we understand this?¹

Q: How does the seal symbolically serve both a protective function and an offensive function?²

Q: Who do the 144,000 refer to in this vision?³

Q: How do the tribes depict the universal church ready for battle?³

The practical points of the sermon this week taught us to be good soldiers ready for battle.

Q: During the sermon we were exhorted to three pursue three biblical practices, what were they?⁴

Q: While these three practices are all important, is there one that particularly stands out for you? Explain.

Sunday's sermon concluded with an appeal for Christians to "never go into battle alone."

Q: What does this mean and look like in the day-to-day?

Q: How has Christian fellowship particularly helped you to spiritual stand through trials?

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION: As a **servant of our God** is there a part of your life that is not in subjugation to Christ? If so, what needs to change?

Prayer

[Take time to pray - men with men, and women with women.]

Notes...

¹ This seal **on their foreheads** indicates spiritual protection. In this present age, believers are subject to the same sorts of physical sorrows and sufferings as unbelievers (6:1-8). Christians are not promised a life of worldly prosperity. Christians are not promised to be famous, or talented like the world, but God promises to keep and preserve his people through life, even securing them through death to present us to himself holy and complete. The seal is also a sign of authentication and ownership by the Holy Spirit, who seals every believer by regeneration (Eph 1:13-14).

² The seal testifies to a watching world that Christians are **servants of our God** 7:3. In this sense, saving faith arrays the believer for everyday spiritual warfare in a world that is hostile toward God and his church. Faith also provides the battery of spiritual arsenal to effectively engage sin, unbelievers, Satan and evil powers.

³ See *Sermon Notes*, section **Vv. 5-8** for discussion.

⁴ *Training* (1 Cor 9:26-27; 1 Tim 4:6-8); *Focus* (2 Tim 2:3-4); *Armaments* (Eph 6:11-18) [Perhaps read these references aloud]