

Lessons From Revelation

The Seven Seals

(Rv 6:9-11)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Evening,
 - a. Greeting...
2. Series of “Lessons From Revelation.”
 - a. Last week we examined the “Three R’s Of Revelation.”
 - i. Repent Required Rejected
 1. This was an examination of the seven seals, trumpets, and bowls.
 - b. Today we are going to examine “The Seven Seals.”
 - i. Our text covers a larger portion of the book than just one chapter, it covers 39 verses from Rv 6 through parts of 8.
 1. **Rv 6:1-8:5**
3. With the Worthy Lamb securely holding the sealed up scroll we now find John witnessing the seven seals opened.
 - a. With that in mind let us examine our text for today.

I. The Scene

- A. One of the four living creatures tells John to “come” see the removal of the 1st seal.
 1. John sees a white horse emerge.
 2. On the white horse is a rider that has a bow and a crown.
 3. This rider and horse come conquering and conquer.
- B. The second living creature tells John to “come” see the removal of the 2nd seal
 1. John sees a bright red horse emerge.
 2. On the bright red horse is a rider and he is given a sword.
 3. This rider is permitted to take peace from the earth.
- C. The third living creature tells John to “come” see the removal of the 3rd seal
 1. John sees a black horse emerge.
 2. On the black horse is a rider that has a pair of scales.
 3. A voice from within the four living creatures says these things.
 - i. A quart of wheat for a denarius.
 - ii. A quart of barley for a denarius.
 - iii. Do not harm the oil and wine.
- D. The fourth living creature tells John to “come” see the removal of the 4th seal
 1. John sees a pale horse emerge.
 2. On the pale horse is a rider whose name is Death.
 3. John sees following Death another named Hades.
 4. Death & Hades are given authority over a 1/4th of the earth to kill by sword, famine, pestilence, and wild beast.
- E. John looks back at the Lamb to see Him open the 5th seal
 1. John sees martyrs for Christ under the altar.
 2. John hears the martyrs cry out...“O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?”
 3. John sees each of the martyrs given a white robe and told to rest until all the rest of those killed as they were join them.

Lessons From Revelation

- F. John looks as the Lamb opens the 6th seal
 - 1. John sees a fearful thing.
 - i. He sees the earth quake.
 - ii. He sees the sun turn black.
 - iii. He sees the moon become like blood.
 - iv. He sees the stars fall to earth.
 - v. He sees the sky, mountains, and islands be removed from their places.
 - vi. He sees everyone hide and beg for these things to end their life so they no longer have to deal with the wrath of the Lamb.
- G. John then gets a break from the seals
 - 1. He sees four angels standing on the four corners of the earth.
 - i. They are holding back the four winds of earth.
 - ii. They are holding them back so that the wind will not blow against the earth, sea, or tree.
 - iii. They had been given the power to harm the earth and sea.
 - 2. He sees and hears another angel.
 - i. The angel said to the four angels do not harm the earth, sea or trees until he and the other angels have sealed the servants of God.
 - 3. He hears the number of those that are to be sealed as 144,000.
 - i. They are from the tribes of...
 - a. Judah
 - b. Reuben
 - c. Gad
 - d. Asher
 - e. Naphtali
 - f. Manasseh
 - g. Simeon
 - h. Levi
 - i. Issachar
 - j. Zebulun
 - k. Joseph
 - l. Benjamin
- F. John then witnesses the great multitude worshiping, with everything else in heaven, God and the Lamb
 - 1. One of the elders address John and tells him who the great multitude are.
 - i. They are those that have come out of the great tribulation.
- G. John then turns his attention back to the Lamb who opens the 7th seal
 - 1. He hears nothing as there is silence for about 30 minutes.
 - i. The whole scene which had been vocal and vibrant is not silent.
 - 2. After about a half hour John sees the seven angels that are before God.
 - i. These seven angels are each given a trumpet.
 - 3. He then sees an angel come and stand at the altar with a golden censer.
 - i. This angel was given incense to offer “with” the prayers of the saints.

Lessons From Revelation

4. He then sees the angel with the censer fill the censer with fire and throw it down to the earth.
 - i. There were peals of thunder, sounds, flashes of lighting and an earthquake.

H. Thus...

1. This is what John witnessed as he gazed upon the scene before him through the open door.

II. The Message

A. In the 1st four seals we find the four horseman

1. The white horse and its rider represents Christ.
 - i. He is the One that is conquering and will conquer.
 - a. **I Co 15:23-26**
2. The bright/fiery red horse and its rider represents war.
 - i. This war will have people killing people.
 - a. In war innocent people die.
 - ii. The sword in the rider's possession is the sword used by the Roman armies.
3. The black horse and its rider represent economic hardships.
 - i. The scales are measuring ten times the normal cost for wheat & barley.
4. The pale horse and its rider represent death.
 - i. The color here is really a pale green color that is associated with dead people.
 - a. When people war and the economy collapses there will be deaths.
 - ii. Where there is death there is hades.
 - a. Hades is the spiritual realm of the dead before judgment for the righteous and unrighteous.
 1. **Lk 23:43; Lk 16:28**

B. In the 5th seal we are introduced to the martyrs

1. These martyrs represent those that have been slain for Christ.
 - i. They are crying out for justice.
 - a. They are told to have patience as God seeks to find those who will repent and wait until Rome's iniquity was full.
 - ii. They are given white robes.
 - a. This is God showing that He keeps His promises to take care of His faithful children.

C. In the 6th seal we find the answer to the martyrs cry for judgment

1. The earthquake, black sun, full moon as blood, and stars falling are all symbolic of judgment by God towards Rome.
 - i. Rome would not get away with massacring God's children.
2. This symbolism is often used by God in the same manner.
 - i. **Is 13:6-11; Zp 1:14-15; Jl 2:31**

Lessons From Revelation

- D. There is a break or parenthesis between the 6th & 7th seal where the 144,000 are introduced
1. The 144,000 represent all the faithful Christians upon the earth.
 - i. Remember what the Christians had just heard concerning them.
 - a. Though there is the Lamb who is victorious and brings salvation there are still wars against God's people; there are still economic hardships for them; and even death for many of them.
 - b. They had just been given a preview of the magnitude of the suffering all of them were going through simply because they were Christians.
 - ii. There would be a natural response upon hearing this.
 - a. How can we make it through this persecution?
 - iii. Chapter 7 is an answer to that natural question.
 - a. The answer is by having God on their side sealing them as His.
 2. 144,000 is simply a combination of two different number sets.
 - i. $12 \times 12 = 144$
 - a. 12 remember represents organized religion.
 1. 12 tribes, 12 apostles...
 - ii. $10 \times 10 \times 10 = 1000$
 - a. 10 represents human completeness.
 1. 10 fingers & 10 toes
 - iii. Remember that multiplication is simply a form of suggesting emphasis.
 3. Thus the sealed 144,000 represent all the righteous on the earth.
 - i. Remember this is dealing with those on the earth as one cannot be sealed in heaven.
 - a. **Ep 1:13; 4:30**
- F. In the 7th seal we find the answer to the living's cry for judgment
1. The thunder, sounds, lightning, and earthquakes represent judgment on Rome.
 - i. Rome would not get away with warring against God's children.
 - ii. Rome would not get away with causing economic hardships for God's children.
 2. This symbolism of raining fiery coals down is often used in by God.
 - i. **Ek 10:2**
- G. Thus...
1. What we find is very simple. God knows the children of God are under great persecution and He will exact judgment on those that cause such but only when their iniquity is full. Until then God is there for His children to bring them through these trials to the other side for both those that live and those that die.

Lessons From Revelation

III. The Implication

- A. God knows what we go through no matter what we go through
 - 1. **Ps 139:2-4** “You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. 3 You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. 4 Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O LORD, you know it altogether.”
 - 2. **He 4:13** “And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.”
- B. God cares for us more than we can comprehend
 - 1. So much so He numbers even the hairs on our head.
 - i. **Mt 10:30** “But even the hairs of your head are all numbered.”
- C. Thus...
 - 1. If God knows what we are going through and He cares for us greatly let us not fret about the things man can do to us but rather focus on that which God can do for us.

CONCLUSION

- 1. Though things seemed very drear for these Christians they could be confident in God as He will always overcome evil with good.
 - a. Whether alive or dead God takes care of His children.
- 2. Question: Do you have confidence in God’s care for you?
 - a. If so continue therein and grow thereby.
 - b. If not way not?
- 3. Invitation
 - a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent by confessing your sins to God that He may forgive you and dedicate your life/time back to Him.
 - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
 - b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required to become a child of God or Christian according to God and God only.
 - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
 - ii. Have Faith In Jesus **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
 - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
 - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
 - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
 - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**