

SERMON OUTLINE

In Revelation 6:1-8 we witness the Lamb commissioning 4 judgments on the earth as He begins to open the seals.

- I. The Lamb commissions the white horse and rider: military conquest (vs. 1-2).
- II. The Lamb commissions the red horse and rider: bloodshed (v. 3-4).
- III. The Lamb commissions the black horse and rider: famine (vs. 5-6).
- IV. The Lamb commissions the pale green horse and rider: Death and Hades (vs. 7-8).

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, July 8, 2018

Passage: Revelation 6:1-8

Memory Passage: Revelation 6:1

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Rev. 6:1-8, Zech. 1:8-15, 6:1-8, Ex. 14:12-23, & Lev. 26:18-28.** I realize this is a lot to read on one day, but we must understand the OT background of the images John sees before we can understand Rev. 6:1-8. As you read the OT texts, make note of (1) the context of each passage, (2) the one judging, (3) the ones judged, (4) the reasons for judgment, and (5) how each passage helps you understand what is happening in Revelation 6:1-8.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Rev. 6:1-8.** Why are the seals so important and why is it important the Lamb opens them (cf. chapter 5)?

(b) The identity of the white horse is debated, but the 3 main options are: (1) Christ conquering with the gospel (the horse's color; Rev. 19:11-16; "conquering" theme in Revelation), (2) Antichrist (Rev. 11:7; 13:7), (3) various Satanic conquerors who rise throughout history (unity of horses' mission in OT background; Mark 13:5-6; Rev. 12-13; 2 Cor. 11:14). After studying each option, which interpretation do you think best fits the context of Revelation 6 and why?

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Rev. 6:1-8.** Who summons, commands, and permits each of the riders, and why is this important? Do any riders have freedom to act outside of these commands? How do you know, and why is this important?

(b) Explain the mission given to each of the riders & horses summoned and commissioned as the 2nd-4th seals are opened.

(c) How are these 4 riders and their commissions related? Are their missions carried out consecutively or concurrently?

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Rev. 6:1-8.** What purposes do the restrictions on the 3rd & 4th rider accomplish, and how does the knowledge of these restrictions affect believers? Non-believers?

(b) How does the Olivet Discourse (Matthew 23-24 and parallels in Mark 13 & Luke 21) help you understand the meaning of the events described in Revelation 6:1-8?

(c) When do the events described in Revelation 6:1-8 occur?

(d) Now that you have studied Revelation 6:1-8, summarize its teaching in your own words in one paragraph or less.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Rev. 6:1-8.** What is the purpose of these judgments for non-believers? For believers?

(b) How does this passage inform how believers respond to the advancement of evil, wars, famines, destructions, etc.?

(c) How does our passage inform your understanding of God's stance toward sin and evil? How does it inform your understanding of God's simultaneous actions toward evil, toward believers, and toward His ultimate goals of redemption?

(d) How does our passage help you answer the objection: "I refuse to believe in a God who allows evil to run wild without stopping it?"

(e) What good questions do you have still unanswered from your study of Revelation 6:1-8? Be ready to ask these during your Sunday School or Growth Group discussion.

DATE: July 8, 2018

PASSAGE: Revelation 6:1-8

The Four Horsemen: Judgment and Testing