

# Westwood Baptist Church *Grounded. Growing. Going.*



Worship Guide for April 18, 2021

## Sermon Notes

### **The Seals Are Broken: The Four Horseman of the Apocalypse**

Revelation 6:1-8 (pew Bible pg. 1031)

In Revelation 6, the Lamb begins to unseal the scroll He has just been given by God, and then we see Him initiating, permitting, and overseeing what unfolds in the remainder of Revelation. What takes place is what Jesus said would happen earlier in the gospels: *“See that no one leads you astray. For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and they will lead many astray. And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are but the beginning of the birth pains.”* (Matthew 24:4–8)

What Jesus says in Matthew 24 and what He reveals to John in Revelation 6 and following go hand in hand. Vivid images from several Old Testament passages and Jesus’ words about the end of time help us see and understand what we will see in the seals, trumpets, and bowls of Revelation. We will see the birth pains, the travail, the ultimate tribulation, and the gospel going throughout the world. *“...then the end will come.”* (Matthew 24:14b)

Today’s passage shows us that Christ rules over the events of this world, and that these seemingly chaotic events are not the result of blind fate. The horses in Revelation 6:1-8 show us that natural and political disasters in this world are sovereignly brought about in order that both the redemptive purposes of God and His judicial purposes are accomplished. Both the holy justice of God and the saving love of God are on full display in the chaotic and destructive scenes we see in Revelation 6:1-8. Deception, war, famine, and even death are in the hand of the Lamb and are being used by Him for His eternal glory.

The Unsealing:      The 1<sup>st</sup> seal:    Deception

                                 The 2<sup>nd</sup> seal:    War

                                 The 3<sup>rd</sup> seal:    Famine

                                 The 4<sup>th</sup> seal:    Death

The Meaning:      The Lamb initiates and controls

                                 These parallel judgments are bad, and things will get worse

                                 What the enemy intends for evil God ultimately intends for good

The Applications:    Rest in the sovereignty of Christ

                                 Understand the self-defeating character of sin

                                 Hold on to Christ; He is holding you

                                 Flee the wrath to come – trust in Christ

## Weekly Discipleship Guide

### Know

**What does God intend for me to know?  
In your journal, use the following prompts to write  
some truths that stood out from this week's message.**

I never knew...                      I was reminded...                      A question I still have...  
I was challenged...                      I was convicted...                      A truth I could share...  
I was encouraged to...                      I need to dig deeper into...

### Be (Consider)

**What does God's Word lead me to prayerfully consider?  
In your journal, use the following questions to write  
some prompts to use in praying through this week's passage.**

Is there a command to obey?                      Am I convicted to confess any sin?  
How am I compelled to exalt God?                      Is there a sin to avoid?  
Is there a promise to claim?                      How do I need to rest in Jesus/the gospel?  
Is there a principle to follow?                      How can I pray for someone else?  
Is there an example to follow?                      What am I compelled to love or desire?

### Do (Yield)

**How does God's Word call me to yield my life?  
In your journal, write your answers and thoughts  
in response to the following questions.**

How does this passage prepare us to be able to see things as they really are as we live and face situations within this fallen world? How do they work to sober us to spiritual reality?

How have you seen the Lord use evils like the ones presented in this passage for his purposes? How does the Spirit's work through the Word prepare us to press on in his mission as we grow in him?

How do we guard against the threat of the brokenness and suffering of this life to overcome us or to take our focus off of God and his eternal purposes? What is the function of the Body in that for us?

*\*Use this guide to help you internalize this week's message & to prepare for Life Group.*

#### Westwood Staff

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