

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



Worship Guide for April 25, 2021

## Sermon Notes

### **The Seals Are Broken – Part 2: Great Comfort for the Martyrs and Great Turmoil in the Heavens**

#### **The Purpose of Revelation:**

The purpose of Revelation is not to spur our imagination about wild interpretations, but just as it was for those who first received John's letter, so it is for us: to spur us to faithfulness and obedience; to open our eyes to spiritual realities; to bless, comfort and encourage us to be faithful and persevere in every circumstance, in every culture, in everything.

#### **The Theme of Revelation:**

God is in full control of the universe; he has defeated Satan, sin and death through the sacrificial death and victorious resurrection of the Lamb; he will restore the cosmos making all things new; this new creation will be eternally inhabited and ruled by those redeemed by the blood of the Lamb.

#### **The Pattern Jesus Gives Us:**

"As it was in the days of Noah" (Matthew 24:37) shows us there are recurring patterns of wrath, judgment, and suffering that will happen again and again throughout redemptive history. But they will find their last and greatest and most dreadful fulfillment in the events leading up to the Second Coming of Christ. As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be in the end on that great day – the evil will be swept away while the redeemed will enjoy God's eternal peace and safety.

#### **The 4 Horsemen:**

We hear in the hoofbeats of the four horsemen the recurring cycle of deception, war, famine and death and the approaching great day of reckoning. All of these are in the hand of the Lamb and are being used by him to judge his enemies, purify his redeemed, and bring eternal glory to God.

#### **The Fifth Seal:**

The martyrs under the altar are those who have been "faithful unto death" (Rev 2:10) and have shed their life's blood "for the word of God and the witness they had borne". There is an eternal purpose for their deaths and God's plan is that more will follow in that path. Those who live and die this way are safe and comforted in God's presence and are assured of his justice.

#### **The Sixth Seal:**

The great and terrible day of God's wrath is foretold by the Old Testament prophets, Jesus said it would come (Matthew 24:29), and now John sees the full display of that wrath in all its universe-shattering power. When the Lamb's wrath is poured out there will be no place to run, no place to hide, no one can stand up beneath it.

#### **The Applications for Us:**

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## 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.**

In what ways should this vision in v. 9-11 of "those who had been slain for the word of God" affect us?

Read these passages together: Isaiah 13:9; Joel 1:15; Obadiah 1:15; Zephaniah 1:7, 14; Acts 2:20; 1 Thessalonians 5:2; 2 Peter 3:10; Philippians 1:6, 10; 2:16; 1 Corinthians 1:4-9. How do these passages help believers understand what all it means to live in light of that day? How does our focus on that day work to make us sober minded, and what difference should that make in our lives within this broken world?

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

#### Westwood Staff

**Gerald Hodges:** Lead Pastor  
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