

# WHY HAS NOBODY TOLD US?

Part 3 of THERE IS A GOD IN HEAVEN. Revelation 6:1-8.

Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. February 26, 2023.

## INTRODUCTION: WHY HAS NOBODY TOLD US?

**Today's teaching may cause us to ask: Why has nobody told us this?**

### REVELATION 6:1-8

**Seal 1:** 1 Now I watched when the Lamb opened one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures say with a voice like thunder, "Come!" 2 And I looked, and behold, a white horse! And its rider had a bow, and a crown was given to him, and he came out conquering, and to conquer.

**Seal 2:** 3 When he opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, "Come!" 4 And out came another horse, bright red. Its rider was permitted to take peace from the earth, so that people should slay one another, and he was given a great sword.

**Seal 3:** 5 When he opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come!" And I looked, and behold, a black horse! And its rider had a pair of scales in his hand. 6 And I heard what seemed to be a voice in the midst of the four living creatures, saying, "A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius, and do not harm the oil and wine!"

**Seal 4:** 7 When he opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, "Come!" 8 And I looked, and behold, a pale horse! And its rider's name was Death, and Hades followed him. And they were given authority over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword and with famine and with pestilence and by wild beasts of the earth.

### NOBODY TOLD US

#### 1. Nobody told us Jesus has unleashed Satan.

- Breaking the first seal reveals the white horse and rider.
- The rider is not the Lord Jesus Christ. It's a counterfeit Christ.

- The rider represents satanic forces sent out to conquer.
- Satan has two goals:
  - Destroy the church.
  - Create atheists and idolaters.
- Never forget: Satan is at war with us. It's a wake-up call, especially to complacent, compromising Christians.

## **2. Nobody told us Jesus is judging the nations and purifying his church.**

- Jesus has unleashed hardship on the world.
- This was anticipated in the OT prophets. For example: Ezekiel 14 predicts “judgment, sword, famine, wild beasts, and pestilence,” the exact language of Revelation 6:8.
- Jesus taught his disciples to expect hardships:
 

Matthew 24:7-14 (ESV) Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. 8 All these are but the beginning of the birth pains. 9 “Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake. 10 And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another.
- Jesus uses hardships to judge those who reject him, and to test/prove the authenticity of professing believers.
 

Matthew 24:12-13 (ESV) And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. 13 But the one who endures to the end will be saved.
- The message to brothers and sisters in Christ:
- The message to atheists, idolaters, and persecutors:

### 3. Nobody told us Jesus is angry.

- Why has Jesus unleashed satanic forces and hardship on the world?
- Because Jesus is angry.

Revelation 6:15-17 (ESV) Then the kings of the earth and the great ones and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains, 16 calling to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from **the wrath of the Lamb**, 17 for **the great day of their wrath** has come, and who can stand?”

- Wrath is intense anger. It is Jesus’ holy, just, righteous, response.
- Jesus is loving and angry. If we walk away from faith or reject Jesus, we will meet the angry Jesus.
- Jesus is terrifying. He is a refining fire. He melts hearts.

### **CONCLUSION: AM I LISTENING**

#### **History and events in the world are yelling at us. Am I listening?**

- The message to Christians ...

John 16:33b (ESV) “In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

- The message to non-Christians ...

# CORNERSTONE GROUPS - TALK IT OVER

Pick one or more of these questions to discuss this week.

## **Review Sunday's teaching on Revelation 6:1-8.**

- Review Sunday's study guide or watch Peter's teaching on YouTube.
- What part of the teaching most impacted your thinking?
- Summarize the main ideas in your own words.

## **Prayerfully apply the teachings of Revelation 6:1-8.**

- Does Peter's interpretation of Revelation 6 make sense to you or is there a better way to explain what is happening in the world?
- How do you feel about Jesus unleashing satanic forces on the world to shake atheists, idolaters, and persecutors out of unbelief, and to test the genuineness of believers' faith?
- How do you reconcile an angry Jesus (Revelation 6:16-17) with a loving Jesus? Would you tell a non-believer that Jesus is angry with them?

## **Pray together. Be bold.**

*Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, our study of Revelation 6 has humbled and shaken us. We know life is hard, but now we know why. You have unleashed satanic forces on the world to judge unbelievers and shake them up so much that they will turn to Jesus for salvation. You are testing your people to prove the authenticity of their faith. Lord, fan into flame our love for you. Keep us faithful. Turn many to Christ as God and Savior. We pray these things in Jesus' name and for your glory. Amen!*

## **Preparation for Next Sunday.**

- Blessed: Chapter 5.
- <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/is-god-judging-the-world>