

Jesus and the War for Our Worship

October 11, 2026

Main Passage: Revelation 6:1-17

Theological Theme

God is sovereign.

Introduction

- ❓ What takeaways have you had from our study of Revelation so far?
- ❓ When you hear “the four horsemen” (we will read about them today), what comes to mind? What are some cultural ideas around this group?

1. The Four Horsemen (Revelation 6:1-8)

The four horsemen have taken on a persona of their own in pop culture. In Scripture, they appear as agents of judgement. Zechariah also saw a vision of horsemen, though the colors of the horses differ (Zechariah 1:7-11). Interpretations about the four horsemen vary and we will discuss one possibly interpretation.

- ❓ How would you describe the four horsemen in these verses in your own words?
- ❓ What type of events does each rider bring about?
- ❓ Which of these realities feels more prominent to you in the world today? Why?

2. The Fifth Seal (Revelation 6:9-11)

The four horsemen were riding but the list of things humans must endure is not over. In the description of the opening of the fifth seal, we hear from the martyrs.

- ❓ What group of people does this passage identify and what is their significance?

- ❓ What are the implications of this picture for God's people?
- ❓ What stands out to you about these numbers? How are they sobering? How do they motivate us toward prayer?

3. The Sixth Seal (Revelation 6:12-17)

The sixth seal brings natural calamity. An earthquake. The sun turned black. The moon became like blood. The stars fell. The fig tree dropped its (unripe) fruit because it was shaken by high winds. The sky split apart. Every mountain and island was moved.

- ❓ What kind of events does this passage describe? What might these represent broadly?
- ❓ What question is asked in this passage? Who asks it and what is the answer?
- ❓ How can you be certain that you are among those who are able to stand as one found in Christ?

Conclusion

The four horsemen aren't saved for later judgement. The destruction they spread is here. We're already experiencing it. All in this group have been touched by one of the realities they embody. Religious persecution is alive and well, too. And one day, the world as we know it will end. But there is hope. As we read these passages that can bring fear, it is important to remember God is sovereign over all things, including history and events we can't explain or wrap our minds around. Christ has already won. Even as we suffer through the worst parts of the human experience, we are not alone (Matthew 28:20).

- ❓ What does today's passage teach us about God and His character?
- ❓ How can we encourage one another in faithfulness and godly living when facing suffering, especially suffering for the Lord?
- ❓ How does this passage motivate us toward urgency in gospel conversations with others?