

Redemption Church of Bristol
Revelation 6-7 Worksheet

What's the key question Revelation 6-7 is asking?

- How long? "How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood? (6:10)." Revelation 6-7 is asking "How can Christ be Lord if Caesar is killing Christians? How long till God makes it right?"

What are the key symbols and allusions in this passage?

- The Seal
 - Documents in the ancient world were closed with a wax seal. Not only did this make it secure, the wax seal would have the sender's unique seal on it.
 - The seal on the forehead is an allusion to Deut 6:4-9, which tells people to bind the commandments of God to their foreheads. This is still carried out literally by Orthodox Jews who wear [phylacteries](#) (little boxes of scripture) on their heads.
 - In Ezek 9, the forehead is marked of those who will be saved from God's destruction of Jerusalem.
- The Horsemen
 - The horsemen are an allusion to Zech 6:1-8. The horse is the symbol of war.
 - There is disagreement over whether the first horse is Christ, standing in opposition to the other horses. Or whether all four are forces of destruction that God allows.
- The Day of the Lord (6:17)
 - 'The Day of the Lord' was when God would come to destroy evil, gather all people to himself, and make all things new (Is 2:12, Joel 2:31, Amos 5:18-20, etc).
 - The Day of the Lord is accompanied by celestial signs (the sun darkened, moon turns red, stars fall). Some take this literally. Some say it is a reminder that God stands over, not under the celestial beings (Gen 1, Is 60:19). Some say it is metaphorically, like when we refer to 'an earth-shattering event.'
- The Multitude - Isaiah 2:2-4
 - White robes and palm branches symbolize righteousness and victory.
 - 144,000 = 144 x 1000. Square numbers (144 = 12²) represent perfection. Cubic numbers (1000 = 10³) represent holiness, as the Holy of Holies was a cube.
 - The faithful multitude echoes 1 Kgs 19:18 (7000 who have not bowed to Baal).
 - The census echoes Numbers 1, as Israel prepared to take the Holy Land.

Reflection:

- How does Revelation 6-7 answer the question, "How long?"
- In what ways are Christians saved from evil? In what ways do we go through it?
- How are we to respond to worldly evil, according to Rev 6-7?
- How do we remember that Christ is Lord when faced with suffering?
- What is the good news that John gives the early church?
 - How could we live that good news out in our lives?

Closing Prayer

"Lord, you are the God of justice. We pray that your Kingdom would come. And as we wait, teach us to be faithful and joyful, knowing that even if we lose our lives, we will find it in you."