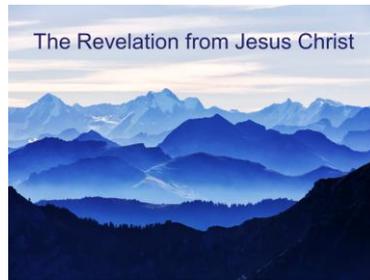




You're Welcome Here!



Series – Revelation

Study Guide 4: 7 Seals (Part B)

Week Commencing 3rd June 2019

Please read **Revelation Ch 6; Matthew 24.27-30** aloud if possible.

The Lamb begins to unseal the Word and Wisdom of God. Seals 1-4 seem to speak of a sadly average day on planet earth – nations struggling for power and glorying in war and empire; strife and conflict; inequality and injustice; hardships and famine; widespread (avoidable) death and disaster due to lack of care. Seal 5 speaks about the unjust persecution of Christians. This was all happening when the first readers heard this revelation back in the days of the Roman Empire and, sadly, it's been true around our world ever since. In the unsealing of the 6th seal, God reveals that Justice will be done - fully and finally. All injustice will be revealed and judged by the Lamb in a day yet to come.

1. What kinds of injustice are going on in these passages? Against whom?
2. What's God's attitude to injustice? How do you feel about this?

*But how does God respond to injustice NOW, before His Final Judgement? Please read **Romans 1.18-25, 28-29**. This passage reveals humanity's continuous injustice against God. His response to this injustice is to 'hand us over' to experience the darkness and consequences of life lived at a distance from the Light of God – that we might repent and turn back to the patient Mercy of the Lamb of God for Hope.*

3. How does this big picture understanding of injustice put Christians in a unique position to speak with fuller insight into the problems of injustice in our world?

*But who can stand when facing the Justice of a Holy God? Please read **Revelation ch 7***

4. What enables these 'sealed' people from every nation, dressed in white robes, to be able to stand before the Lamb and the Throne without fear on the Great Judgement Day of the Lord, when so many others are trying to flee in terror?

In 2016 Pope Francis said, "Mercy is the only way to overcome evil. Justice is necessary, very much so, but by itself it is not enough. Justice and mercy must go together. Have you ever felt the gaze of everlasting love upon you? Do you realize how precious you are to God, who has given you everything out of love? Paul tells us that "God proves his love for us in that, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom 5:8)

5. How can we reflect God's heart for Mercy and Justice in our lives – like Jesus?

Here is some background reading, that may help with the symbolic and prophetic language used in these chapters (this is far from an exhaustive list!) - Matthew 24; The Prophecy of Zechariah; Ezekiel 9; Exodus 12