

The Revelation to Saint John - Chapters 6-7 Study Questions

1. **Rev 6:1-8** When are the four horsemen summoned, and what does each symbolize?

In what ways are *punishment* and *chastisement* both similar and different? What is the purpose of each?

Footnote p. 500, 6:1-8 The vision of the four horsemen

2. **Rev 6:9** To what is the altar mentioned here a heavenly counterpart?

Who are those slain for the word? What is martyrdom thus portrayed as being?

If the prospect of sacrificing your life for your faith were to become a reality, what would you do?

Footnote p. 500, 6:9 The altar

2 Tim 1:8 (p. 397)

3. **Rev 6:16-17** What is the *wrath* of God?

If God is Love, as Christians believe, why does Scripture speak, even in the New Testament, of divine wrath?

Romans 2:4-10 (p. 259) and Footnote 2:6 According to his works

CCC 682 When he comes at the end of time to judge the living and the dead, the glorious Christ will reveal the secret disposition of hearts and will render to each man according to his works, and according to his acceptance or refusal of grace.

4. **Rev 7:3** What is the purpose of a seal and who receives the seal in this vision?

With what does the seal of God contrast within the broader context of Revelation?

When you make the sign of the Cross, what are you acknowledging?

Footnote p. 501, 7:3 Sealed

CCC 1296 Christ himself declared that he was marked with his Father's seal. Christians are also marked with a seal: "It is God who establishes us with you in Christ and has commissioned us; he has put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee." This seal of the Holy Spirit marks our total belonging to Christ, our enrollment in his service for ever, as well as the promise of divine protection in the great eschatological trial.

5. **Rev 7:4** Some people interpret the 144,000 literally, as believing Jews living during the great tribulation.

Others see it as a symbolic number of all Christians, both Jews and Gentiles, living during the tribulation.

What do you think John means, and why?

Handout: The meaning of numbers in the Bible

6. **Rev 7:9** Who are in the "great multitude" that John sees? Whom does the uncountable throng represent?

What is the OT background for this vision?

Footnote p. 501, 7:9 A great multitude

Genesis 15:5 He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be."

7. **Rev 7:14-17** Which of the three theological virtues (faith, hope, and love) do these verses describe?

What is the focal point of this virtue and how might you gain strength in your practice of this virtue?

Footnote p. 502, 7:14 Great tribulation

8. **Rev 7:15** What does the Greek word for "to shelter" mean? What memory from the OT inspires its usage? From John's perspective, what function does the Tabernacle serve? How then does Revelation use the verb "to shelter"?

Footnote p. 502, Word Study: Shelter

Heb 11:1 (p. 431) and Footnote p. 432, 11:1 Things not seen

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God's "wrath" means that if we are stubbornly evil and impenitent, He will permit our sins to have their inevitable destructive (and especially self-destructive) effects upon our bodies and souls. For those cruel and cold-hearted souls who remain stubbornly impenitent and who resist God's grace to the end of their lives, God's anger takes the form of the "eternal punishment" of sinners, which simply means that He allows them to turn their backs on Him and live forever in their self-chosen exile from the light of His countenance.

That is why the catechism defines "hell" as essentially "a state of definitive self-exclusion from communion with God and the blessed" (**CCC 1033**)

{Source <http://www.thedivinemercy.org/news/Which-is-He-A-God-of-Wrath-or-of-Mercy-2578>}

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