

PASTOR: Kip McCormick

DATE: August 11, 2024

SERIES: Rev'd Up

SERMON: Here Comes the Judge

MAIN SCRIPTURE: Revelation 6: 1-17 (NASB)

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE: Matthew 24:32; Ezekiel 36-39; Daniel 9

MESSAGE TAKEAWAY: As God prepares to end history and usher in His kingdom, He will bring judgments. Our job is to be alert and point people to Jesus with our actions and words.



SUPPORTING THOUGHTS:

- 21 Judgments in Revelation chapters 6-16: 7 seal, 7 trumpet, 7 bowl judgments.
- Two views on understanding judgments (and interpreting Revelation):
 - Cyclical. They represent three ways of viewing the same judgments. (Realist/Idealist view). Distinct possibility, so don't waive that off.
 - Chronological. The judgments are 21 separate events and go in order: Seal Judgments, followed by Trumpet Judgments, followed by Bowl Judgments, all with an interlude. (NLF view). (Futurist view)
- Revelation is a message of Hope: Christ sees your pain. He's in control over all history. Vengeance is His.
- White horse with a conquering rider is NOT Jesus. Represents a sinful mankind's lust for conquest. Possibly the Anti-Christ but is speculation.
- Red horse represents the ugliness of war.
- Black horse symbolizes famine. A world war will destroy the food supplies, causing world hunger and wartime inflation.
- Preserving the olive oil and the wine is a message of Hope despite the destruction.
- Ashen horse, Death symbolizes the "grim reaper and the grave digger moving together across the face of the earth." (Swindoll)
- Death and Hades represent the massive number of deaths that will follow in the wake of the first three horses.
- In the Hebrew Scriptures, the word used to describe the realm of the dead is *sheol*. It simply means "the place of the dead" or "the place of departed souls/spirits."
- The New Testament Greek equivalent to *sheol* is *hades*, which is also a general reference to "the place of the dead."
- Gehenna" The word is derived from the Hebrew word *ge-hinnom*, which designated a valley south of Jerusalem—a repulsive place where trash and refuse were burned. Jesus referenced Gehenna as a symbol of the place of judgment after death.
- The lake of fire, mentioned only in Revelation 19:20 and 20:10, 14-15, is the final hell, the place of eternal punishment for all unrepentant rebels, both angelic and human (Matthew 25:41).
- Hell is real, no one is there right now but will be.
- God is limiting His punishment to demonstrate His wrath on sin while showing mercy. He's still giving people yet another opportunity to turn to Him before final judgment.

SUPPORTING THOUGHTS (CONTINUED):

- The altar represents the altar of sacrifice at the Temple, where animals would be sacrificed to atone for sins.
- God's promise here: Those who suffer and die for their faith won't be forgotten.
- White robes symbolize purity.
- Earthquakes symbolize God's presence (in this case His presence through judgments). When He visits, the earth shakes.
- The dark color of the sun represents mourning – black sackcloth was rough and dark, to remind mourners of what grief is like.
- Red moon exists because of the atmosphere's disturbances caused by the darkened sun.
- Stars falling to the sky can refer to any celestial body, large or small. A meteor shower on steroids causes great damage.
- Unripe figs have no protection and are blown from the tree.
- Sky was split apart like a scroll means that the sky as we know it will be completely changed as the continents are realigned.
- It's a level playing field at the feet of Jesus. From royalty of kingdoms to the rabble of humanity, we're all equally broken and unworthy at the foot of the cross.
- This picture is not meant to frighten us as Christ followers.
- Challenge: Be Alert. Point people to Jesus.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Revelation 6 serves as a warning yet also demonstrates God's love and grace. How?
- Two-thousand years ago, God revealed the severity and seriousness of His judgments against unbelief and sin. What does that mean to you?
- How does chapter 6 motivate you to be alert? How can you emphasize actions and words that point people to Jesus?
- God is in control of all history and events. How does that comfort you as you look at current events?
- Kip spoke about some possibilities of end times prophecy being fulfilled before our eyes (Earth/Sky signs; moral signs; religious signs; technological signs). Discuss these with the group. Do you agree? Disagree? Why? Why not?

Sources: Eliyahu Lizorkin-Eyzenberg, Israel Bible Center (multiple books and commentaries); **Gotquestions.org**; **Michael Heiser** (Naked Bible Podcast; *Unseen Realm* and multiple books); **Life Application Study Bible** Commentary, Revelation; **John MacArthur** (multiple books, sermons, study bible; Grace to You Ministries); **Chuck Swindoll** (New Testament Commentary – Revelation).