

(1) Take a few minutes and talk about the nature and structure of the book of Revelation. Did the description on Sunday of how the book is laid out make sense? Was the illustration of the football game being viewed from multiple and differing vantage points helpful? If not, why not?

(2) What is your reaction to the truth that the judgments in Revelation proceed from God by means of the angelic hosts who do his will? Is this bothersome to you? Would you feel better if somehow you could “get God off the hook” for these occurrences? Do these judgments reflect God’s holiness and justice, or do you see them as somehow beneath his dignity as a God of love and mercy?

(3) Discuss the various manifestations of the four seal judgments as you know them from history. Are you discouraged by what you see in history and in the present day? Do you have confidence that God is still in control and will bring history to its proper consummation in Christ?

(4) Talk about the three ways in which God is “responsible” for what we see in Revelation and in history: first, his direct causation of some event; second, his withdrawal of influence by which he otherwise would prevent mankind from giving vent to the sinful impulses of their will; and third, the permission granted to Satan to afflict humans and the earth. Is there another option? If so, what is it?