Revelation 6:1-8

Remember to begin your study early in the week so that you have time to really think (and keep thinking) about the passage without being rushed.

* Day 1

Read Revelation 6:1-8.

For these lessons, the sermon text is provided in a format that visually helps display the structure of the paragraph or section of text. The main verbs are underlined. Commands are double-underlined. Generally, the main indicative clauses remain to the left, and the other clauses are either directly underneath when they have equal priority to what comes before, or are tabbed to the right when the clause supports, develops, or draws a conclusion from a neighboring clause.

1Then I saw when the Lamb broke one of the seven seals,

and I heard one of the four living creatures saying as with a voice of thunder,

“Come.”

2I looked,

and behold, a white horse,

and he who sat on it had a bow;

and a crown was given to him,

and he went out conquering and to conquer.

3When He broke the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying,

“Come.”

4And another, a red horse, went out;

and to him who sat on it, it was granted to take peace from the earth,

and that men would slay one another;

and a great sword was given to him.

5When He broke the third seal, I heard the third living creature saying,

“Come.”

I looked,

and behold, a black horse;

and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand.

6And I heard something like a voice in the center of the four living creatures saying,

“A quart of wheat for a denarius,

and three quarts of barley for a denarius;

and do not damage the oil and the wine.”

7When the Lamb broke the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying,

“Come.”

8I looked,

and behold, an ashen horse;

and he who sat on it had the name Death;

and Hades was following with him.

Authority was given to them over a fourth of the earth,

to kill with sword

and with famine

and with pestilence

and by the wild beasts of the earth.

1. It’s been several months since we’ve been in Revelation. Read back over chapters 4 and 5, or even chapters 1-5, and if you have notes from those passages, consider reviewing them. How would you summarize what has happened in the book up to this point?
2. Revelation 6:1 makes several references to what has appeared earlier in the book: Where is John when he’s seeing this? Who is the Lamb? What are the seven seals? What are the four living creatures?
3. What is the significance of breaking the seals?
4. How does the image of a lamb in this particular chapter subvert our normal idea of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God?
5. Read Zechariah 1:7-11 and 6:1-8. How do Zechariah’s visions of God’s horsemen compare with what John sees here in Revelation? What is the purpose of the horsemen in both?
6. Read over verses 2-8 several times. What is similar about the four descriptions of the four seals being broken? What is different?

* Day 2

Read Revelation 6:1-8 again.

1. When do the horsemen appear? Who commands them to appear?
2. Why does the rider of the white horse go out? What is given to him? How might his horse’s color correspond to his role?
3. Why does the rider of the red horse go out? What is given to him? How might his horse’s color correspond to his role?
4. What is the meaning of verse 6 (consider using a study Bible for help if needed)? How does this explain why the rider of the black horse goes out?
5. What does the rider of the black horse have? How might his horse’s color correspond to his role?

1. Why does the rider of the ashen horse go out? What is given to him? How might his horse’s color correspond to his role?
2. What follows Death in verse 8?
3. Who gives Death and Hades authority to kill?

* Day 3

Read Revelation 6:1-8 again.

1. Read Ezekiel 14:21 and its context in 14:12-23. How do both this verse and Revelation 6:8 show how God judges those who rebel against Him?
2. What is the progression of judgement in the first four seals?
3. What causes all of the terrible things in this passage to take place?
4. What is God sovereign over, according to this passage?
5. To what extent is God sovereign over these things?
6. For what purpose will God one day exercise His sovereignty over these things?
7. Summarize this passage in 21 words or less.
8. What are five ways the church ought to respond to these prophecies of coming judgement?

In preparation for Sunday, pray for understanding and submission to the truths found in this passage of God’s sovereignty in judgement.