

## SESSION THREE: THE LIFE OF THE CHRISTIAN AND THE COMING OF THE KINGDOM

*Revelation 6-11*

### Basic Reminders

- Concerning the church...
  - In essentials, unity.
  - In non-essentials, liberty.
- Regarding Revelation...
  - The arrangement of Revelation seems cyclical, not chronological.
  - The visions in Revelation gradually build toward a climactic consummation.
  - The timing of Revelation involves the last days.
  - The theme of Revelation is the gospel. (Acts 1:6-8)

### Gospel Truths

- God is ultimately sovereign over evil. (6:2-8)
  - Satan can do nothing apart from divine permission.
  - Suffering is always used to fulfill divine purposes. (Romans 8:28)
- Men and women are morally responsible for evil.
  - Men and women are decidedly sinful.
- God will judge men and women who turn from Him and live for this world. (6:10-14)
  - The breadth of His judgment will be universal.
  - The effect of His judgment will be terrifying.
  - The duration of His judgment will be eternal.
- God will save men and women who trust in Him and live for another world.
  - Christians are secure on earth in the midst of tribulation. (7:1-8)
    - God plans the persecution of His people.
      - They will suffer as they witness.
    - God promises protection for His people.
      - They are safe from God's wrath.

### NOTES

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- God empowers perseverance in His people.
  - They are sealed by God's Word. (7:9-10)
- Christians will stand in Heaven at the end of tribulation. (7:14)
  - They will shout God's victory.
  - They will serve in God's presence.
  - They will soak in God's glory. (7:15)
  - They will be satisfied by God's goodness.
  - They will be soothed by God's mercy.

### Let's Not Miss the Point

- The purpose of Revelation is not to promote speculation about the future.
  - What are these trumpets?
    - 1-4: Systematic physical judgments across creation.
    - 5-6: Terrifying personal judgments for idolatry and immorality. (8:13; 9:20-21)
  - Why do we have these trumpets?
    - God is giving the world a warning.
    - God is calling the church to war.
- The purpose of Revelation is to compel action in the present.

### Let's Faithfully Pray for God's Kingdom to Come

- Our battle is fierce.
  - There are forces that are fighting you.
- Our prayers are effective. (8:2-6)
  - Our cries go up.
  - His kingdom comes down.
- Our God is faithful.
  - He will demonstrate His power over the gods of this world.
  - He will extend His mercy to sinners around this world.
  - He will uphold His justice amid sin in this world.

### NOTES

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### Let's Fearlessly Proclaim God's Gospel to All

- Our lives are secure.
- Our suffering is expected.
- Our task is prophetic. (11:3)
- Our message is clear.
- Our light is unquenchable. (11:4)
- Our souls are untouchable. (11:5)
- Our power is invincible. (11:6-10)
- Our death will be temporary. (11:11)
- Our resurrection will be sure. (11:12-19)
- Our mission will be complete. (24:14)
- Our God will be glorified. (11:17; Matt. 24:14)

### Practical Takeaways

- Repent of sin with urgency.
- Proclaim the gospel with urgency.
- Build your life and your family on that which lasts forever.
- Spend and sacrifice your resources on that which brings eternal reward.
- Always remember that this world is not our home.

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### Remember

*“And they sang a new song, saying, ‘Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.’”*

*- Revelation 5:9-10*

### Review

- The theme of Revelation is “gospel”. How does that understanding change or influence how you *interpret* this book? How does that understanding change or influence how you *apply* this book to your life?
- Why is the purpose of Revelation not to promote speculation? What does speculation about times and interpretations achieve?
- In Revelation 6:2, 4, 8; 7:2; 8:2, 3; 9:1, 3, 5; 13:5, 7, 14, 15, permission is given by God for all that occurs in these chapters, indicating that He is sovereign. Think of a trial that you have experienced or aren't experiencing in your life. Does your response to trials indicate that you believe God is sovereign? What does it practically look like to trust in the sovereignty of God, especially in the midst of a trial?
- How do you respond to sin in your life? Are you broken over your sin? Do you hate your sin? Are you urgent to confess it? Or do you have a laissez-faire attitude towards sin? What does your response to sin indicate about your relationship with God?
- Christians are secure on earth in the midst of tribulation. Discuss your definition of “security.” How does your definition of security align with Revelation 6-7 as believers are persecuted for the faith and facing great trials on earth? Is Christ your security, or are you depending on people or things (both of which are temporary) to provide that sense of protection and well being in your life?
- How does knowing and understanding God's Word fuel prayer and proclamation? Can you pray and proclaim rightly when not grounded in the Word? Why not?
- How do the three-words, “Our God wins,” summarize the Book of Revelation?
- Read the word of the twenty-four elders in Revelation 11:17 and consider the missing words, “who is to come.” How does knowing that His Kingdom will indeed come—fully and finally—fuel your mission?

### Respond

- Based on what you've studied this week, what do you believe God wants you to:
  - KNOW
  - DESIRE
  - DO
- What is the most challenging part of this study for you to understand, believe, or apply to your life?

### Read Ahead

- To prepare for next week, read *Revelation ch. 20-22*.

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## PRAYER GUIDE FOR WEEK THREE

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### **Pray for your life.**

Pray for continued wisdom, insight, and guidance from God through the Holy Spirit as we continue to study Revelation together. Pray for knowledge and understanding. Pray for perseverance to resist sin, repent, and turn to Jesus daily. Praise Jesus for securing you and keeping you for eternity. Identify areas of injustice in Canton and in our world. Like the saints in Revelation 6, cry out to God for His holiness and His justice to be made known and for things to be made right according to His righteousness.

### **Pray for your church.**

Revelation chapter 6 begins a series of chapters in Revelation that are meant to remind Christians that God is ultimately going to judge the wicked and save the righteous. Such confidence in the justice and mercy of God enables bold, radical faithfulness to God, for we know how things will turn out in the end and we can trust in Him, no matter what happens to us. Pray that God would produce an unshakable confidence in us as we wait for His return. Pray that God would send laborers out from among us with a bold and radical faithfulness to His saving message to reach those who will face God's certain judgment.

### **Pray for your city.**

*Each week, we will pray specifically for one of FCC's Local Mission Partners.*

This week, pray for **Ability Ministry**. As an independent Christian non-profit ministry, Ability Ministry strives to enhance the lives of persons affected with disabilities by providing services for persons with developmental disabilities, including residence, job placement, opportunities for social interaction and spiritual growth. They seek partnership with individuals, churches, and other organizations to meet the physical and spiritual needs of persons with disabilities. They also work to enable others through training, resources, and encouragement to effectively minister. They also manage two residential facilities for adults with disabilities, one in Missouri and the other in Tennessee. To find out more about Ability Ministry, visit them online at [abilityministry.com](http://abilityministry.com).

### **Pray for the world.**

*Each week, we will pray specifically for one of FCC's Global Mission Partners.*

This week, pray for **Lifeline Christian Mission**. For more than 30 years Lifeline has been restoring hope by meeting the physical and spiritual needs of people around the world while carrying out the Great Commission to go make followers of Jesus. God is changing lives through Lifeline's ministries around the world in Arizona, Canada, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Panama, and the U.S., along with a global food ministry. To find out more about Lifeline, visit them online at [lifeline.org](http://lifeline.org).