

## All Things New: *The Four Horsemen – Revelation 6*

### 1. “How are we all doing?” (*High, Low & Buffalo*)

- i. High – What was a high point in your week? What was good or went well?
- ii. Low – What was a low point in your week? What was a challenge, disappointment, or struggle?
- iii. Buffalo – What was something else that happened this week? It can be anything – interesting, random, weird, surprising, or completely normal!

### 2. “Revelation 6 is when things get strange. Fortunately, chapters 1 through 5 have given us a good foundation! Can we all open our Bibles to Revelation 1 and make a quick ‘highlight reel?’

*Looking at each chapter one at a time (1, 2, 3, 4, and 5):*

- *What did we see? What did we hear?*
- *What do we remember from our discussion or the sermons?*
- *What feels important to remember as we begin chapter 6?”*

### 3. “Can someone else read the next section?”

Chapter 6 comes after chapter 5, which means we need to remember chapter 5 when we read chapter 6. In chapter 5, the scroll – God’s plan to make the world right again – couldn’t be opened and so John wept; he *wanted* the scroll opened. Then the Lion is victorious – the scroll can be opened! The Lamb who was slain *takes* the scroll (meaning the Lamb has authority), and all of Heaven and Earth worships in response. Everything to come in chapter 6 happens *because* God’s plan is being put into place. It can *only* happen because the Lion and Lamb are victorious. Chapter 6 is a sign of victory. It might not seem good, but it means good things are on the way.

### 4. “Thanks for reading! Let’s dive in. The book of Revelation was meant to be read out loud. Can one or two people read Revelation 6? Try to read a little *slower* than usual. As we listen, try to imagine what John saw.”

### 5. “Thanks for reading! Chapter 6 – the Horsemen – is the Revelation we were all anticipating! Before we unpack it, how do we feel about what we read? What does reading this passage bring up for you?”

**6. “Revelation is closely connected to the Old Testament. Can someone read Zechariah 1:8-13? Then, can someone else read Zechariah 6:1-8? Finally, can someone read Hosea 10:8?”**

*What similarities and differences do we notice between these verses and Revelation 6?”*

**7. “The four horsemen are classic Revelation images that bring up lots of questions, but a few things are important:**

- I. The throne is God’s authority, the Lion/Lamb is God’s victory, and the scroll is God’s plan
- II. Their authority is limited (they were *given* crowns, swords & power, they didn’t *take* them)
- III. Beware of speculation! Whether the horsemen came a long time ago, are currently here, or are coming later, we see conquest, war, violence, famine, and disease in the world now.”

**8. “Chapters 2 and 3 describe the churches that Revelation was written to. They were given specific things to know and do. Chapters 4 and onwards tell those churches what is to come. What was said in Revelation 2 & 3 needs to be practiced in Revelation 6-22. Can someone read Revelation 2:8-11? How would Smyrna feel hearing Revelation 6?”**

**Optional: Break into smaller groups for this section**

**9. “Revelation 6:9-11 are difficult verses. We see four things in these verses:**

- I. Faithful followers of Jesus have experienced suffering, injustice, and death.
  - II. Faithful followers of Jesus will continue to experience suffering, injustice, and death.
  - III. God knows about the injustice. He cares about it and will deal with it, but not yet.
  - IV. 2 Peter 3:8-10 explains that God’s mercy delays judgment, giving time for people to repent
- a. How do you wrap your head around these ideas? How does it shape your view of God and the world?
- b. “How long, O Lord, until you bring justice?” is a good prayer (e.g. Psalm 74). It is a prayer asking God to fix the suffering, injustice, and brokenness in the world. What is your “How long, O Lord?” prayer?

**10. “God is patient, but not forever. The time for justice and judgment arrives in Revelation 6:12. Judgment shouldn’t leave us in fear, but it should prompt us to act! Are we currently living in ‘mercy time’ now? Is there something I need to repent of?”**

**11. “Thanks for sharing \_\_\_\_\_. Can I pray for you?” *Take time to pray for each other***

**12. “Thanks everyone! Same time next week? Who will lead / host / bring snack / etc.?”**