

LESSON 4

Judgment and Salvation — Revelation 6–16

Taught by Dr. J. Scott Duvall · Follow along with the video and fill in the blanks

Remember our context

Two main themes of Revelation 6–16: God’s judgment of evil and God’s salvation of his people and his creation.

6:1–8:1 Seals · 7:1–17 Interlude 1 · 8:2–11:19 Trumpets · 10:1–11:13 Interlude 2 · 12–14 Interlude 3 · 15–16 Bowls

How the judgments unfold

- 1. The judgments overlap but increase in intensity.
- 2. No interlude between bowl 6 and bowl 7, unlike the seals and trumpets.
- 3. All three series end up at the same place (8:3–5; 11:19; 16:18).

The seal judgments (6:1–8:1)

The four horsemen in seals 1–4 — military conquest, violence, famine, death. Evil will eventually turn on itself and self-destruct — “was given.”

Seal 5 — the martyrs’ question (6:10): “How long, Sovereign Lord ...?”

- Seal 6 — final judgment (6:12–17)
- Seal 7 → turns into seven more judgments, the trumpets (chaps. 8–9)

On modern-day martyrs see Metaxas, Bonhoeffer; Marshall, Gilbert and Shea, Persecuted; Ripken, The Insanity of God; also persecution.com and opendoorsusa.org

The trumpet judgments (8:2–11:19)

- First four trumpets (8:7–12) · Trumpet 5 (8:13–9:11) · Trumpet 6 (9:13–19) · Trumpet 7 (11:15–19)

Should we take these judgments as literal or symbolic? Four main options:

1. Completely literal
2. Primarily spiritual
3. We can’t know the referent
4. Only theological value

Notice the response in 9:20–21 — they still did not repent. Three vice lists in Revelation: 9:20–21; 21:8; 22:15.

The bowl judgments (15–16)

- 16:5–7 → the law of retribution (lex talionis)
- 16:9, 11 → people prefer to curse God rather than obey and worship him
- 16:15 → Jesus will return “like a thief in the night” — suddenly and surprisingly
- 16:16 → Armageddon · 16:17–21 → “It is done!”

The interludes

The interludes show what is going on with God’s people — how God is saving his people and restoring his creation amidst the judgments.

Interlude 1 → 7:1–17. Vision 1 (7:1–8): 144,000 on earth engage in spiritual battle. The “seal of the living God” is not exemption from persecution but protection from God’s judgment. Vision 2 (7:9–17): a great multitude celebrating in heaven, come out of the great tribulation, sheltered in God’s presence.

Applications from Interlude 1:

Interlude 2 → 10:1–11:14. The “scroll” (chap. 5) and the “little scroll” (chap. 10); a bittersweet scroll (10:9–11; cf. John 16:33); the two witnesses.

Applications from Interlude 2:

Interlude 3 → 12–14. Revelation 12 is the theological heart of the book: the woman, the son, and the dragon (12:1–6); war in heaven (12:7–12); war on earth (12:13–17). Satan wages war through the two beasts: the beast from the sea (13:1–10) and the beast from the earth (13:11–18), with the mark and number of the beast (13:16–18). Revelation 14 closes the interlude: the Lamb and the 144,000 (14:1–5), three angelic messages (14:6–13), two visions of judgment (14:14–20).

“They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death. (12:11)”

Applications from Interlude 3:

Reference: Seals, Trumpets and Bowls

Duvall, The Heart of Revelation, 152. 1: white horse / hail and fire / sores · 2: red horse / burning mountain / sea to blood · 3: black horse / Wormwood / rivers to blood · 4: pale horse / sun, moon, stars darkened / sun scorches · 5: martyrs cry out / scorpion-locusts / darkness on the beast’s throne · 6: cosmos shaken / angels at the Euphrates / Euphrates dried up, Armageddon · 7: silence and seven trumpets / Christ’s kingdom arrives / “It is done” — each series ending in storm-earthquake (8:3–5; 11:19; 16:18)

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Exodus parallels (Duvall, Revelation, 214): boils and hail · blood · blood · darkness · locusts and darkness · frogs · hail — and in both, hearts harden and people refuse to repent (Exod. 7–11; Rev. 9:20–21; 16:9, 11, 21)