



Revelation Week 7
September 29 | Weekly Devotionals

OPEN with prayer.

Begin this devotional exercise by finding a quiet place where you can spend time with God in his word. Before reading, pray that the Holy Spirit would open your eyes and heart to what God wants to say to you.

READ Revelation 6:1-8:5.

- How many “seals” are opened in these chapters? What are the seals from (see Revelation 5:1)? Describe what happens upon the opening of each seal. What do you think the contents of each seal represent?
- Read Revelation 6:9-11. Where are the saints while all of this is happening? What is the two-fold reason given for their persecution (seen in 6:9)? What do they cry out to God for? What are they told in response?
- Now turn to Revelation 6:15-17. What kinds of people are to hide in rocks and caves? Who and what are they trying to avoid? What is the question posed by them?
- At the beginning of Revelation 7, John *hears* about 144,000 from Israel who are saved but then when he turns and *looks*, he sees something a bit different. Compare this hearing/looking dynamic with Revelation 5:1-5. What does John hear there? What then

does he see? Now, in Revelation 7, what does he *actually* see when he looks out after hearing about the 144,000 in Revelation 9:9?

- How does Revelation 7:9-10 answer the question posed in Revelation 6:17? Who is it that stands? What enables them to stand? Where are they from? What are they wearing? What do they sing in 7:10? What are the promises given to them in 7:15-17?

REFLECT

- Reflect on the reason for the persecution of the saints given in Revelation 6:9. Have there been any times you've "suffered" or, in our context, gotten a little uncomfortable because of the "word of God" or because of your "testimony?" Do you think that a lack of discomfort says something about the way we follow Jesus in America? How does this apply to your own life? Explain.
- How does the scene in Revelation 8:1-5, with the angel offering incense and the prayers of the saints, illustrate the importance of prayer and intercession in your spiritual life? How can you cultivate a deeper commitment to intercessory prayer?
- Note the promises of being able to "stand" in chapter 7 for those who follow the Lamb. How might this hope encourage you in times of personal difficulty or uncertainty?

PRAY

Take anything that you reflected on above and spend time praying that to God. Take a few moments to pray for those suffering in our world due to wars, famines, and more. Pray for the persecuted church around the world. Pray for your own heart to live more missionally!