

# *A Preview of Things to Come*

## Revelation 6

Big Idea: God's warnings in Revelation aren't meant to scare us, but to prepare us. The Lamb who was slain is in total control. Today is the day of salvation—confess, repent, and share the hope of Jesus with others before His return. Are you ready?

### Main Points

1. **God's warnings are expressions of His love**, designed to prepare us, not frighten us
2. **Jesus (the Lamb) is sovereign** over all end-times events and worthy of our worship
3. **The Great Tribulation will involve unprecedented suffering** through war, famine, death, and persecution
4. **We are blessed when we read, hear, and obey** the book of Revelation (Revelation 1:3)
5. **Today is the day of salvation** - we must share the gospel with urgency

### Scriptures:

- Matthew 24:6-7
- 2 Thessalonians 2
- Romans 1
- Daniel 11:36-37
- Joel 3
- John 16
- Romans 12:19

### Opening Question:

Share a time when a warning from a parent, friend, or authority figure saved you from a difficult situation. How did you respond to that warning?

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### Discussion Questions:

Read Revelation 6:1-8 together. What stands out to you most about each of the four horsemen? Why do you think God chose these specific judgments?

The sermon identifies the rider of the white horse as the Antichrist who will initially bring false peace. How does 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12 help us understand this deception? What are the characteristics of the "lawless one"?

In Revelation 6:9-11, martyrs cry out for justice. How does this relate to what Jesus taught about loving our enemies and not seeking vengeance (Romans 12:19)? What's the difference between personal vengeance and God's righteous judgment?

Pastor Tim compared God's warnings to a loving parent warning a child. How does understanding prophecy as a loving warning change your perspective on studying end-times events?

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Jesus described end-times events as "birth pains" that increase in frequency and intensity (Matthew 24). What current world events might indicate we're in this season? How should this awareness affect how we live?

Discuss 2 Thessalonians 2:11 about God sending "strong delusion." What does it mean to "refuse to love the truth"? How can we guard ourselves and our loved ones against deception?

The sermon mentioned current persecution of Christians, particularly in places like Nigeria. How should knowing about modern-day martyrs affect our prayers and our appreciation for religious freedom?

Pastor Tim encouraged us to "think, consider, study, discuss" rather than avoid difficult prophetic passages. What prevents people from studying prophecy? How can we approach it with both humility and diligence?

The sermon presented some parallels between Islamic eschatology and biblical prophecy. Whether or not these connections are accurate, what does this teach us about the importance of knowing what we believe and why?

#### Practical Applications:

1. **THINK:** Read through Matthew 24, Mark 13, or Luke 21 and compare Jesus' teaching on end times with Revelation 6. Journal what you learn.
2. **PRAY:** Pray daily for persecuted Christians around the world (use resources like Voice of the Martyrs or Open Doors). Ask God to reveal any areas of your life where you need to repent and surrender to Christ. Pray for discernment to recognize truth and avoid deception
3. **GET READY:** Conduct a spiritual inventory: If Jesus returned today, what would you wish you had made right? Confess any unconfessed sin and restore any broken relationships. Evaluate your life priorities in light of Christ's return.
4. **SHARE:** Write down 3-5 names of people who need to know Jesus. Pray for these people daily. Look for an opportunity this week to share the gospel or invite someone to church. Share what you're learning about Revelation with a friend or family member.

#### Closing Thought/Prayer:

Lord, in light of the coming judgment and Your certain return, what do You want to change in my life now, and who are You asking me to lovingly warn and point to Jesus this week?