

When All Hell Breaks Loose

Texts: Revelation 6–8; 15–16

Supporting Texts: Matthew 24–25; Exodus 7–12; Revelation 7:9–17; Revelation 21:1–5

Bottom Line:

Life will get hard. Jesus has conquered. Stay faithful.

Key Idea:

Revelation shows us what happened, what is happening, and what will happen. The seals, trumpets, and bowls reveal that life in this broken age will include suffering, judgment, warning, and conflict, but none of it is outside the authority of the Lamb. When all hell breaks loose, the people of God can stand because they are sealed, sheltered, and shepherded by Jesus.

READ

Read **Revelation 6:1–8**, **Revelation 7:9–17**, and **Revelation 8:2–5** aloud.

The Lamb opens the seals, and John sees conquest, war, famine, and death. These are not signs that God is absent. They are signs of life in a broken world under the sovereignty of Christ.

Then John sees a great multitude from every nation, tribe, people, and language standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They have come through the great tribulation, and the Lamb at the center of the throne is their shepherd.

DISCUSS

1. When you look at the suffering and instability of the world, what is your first instinct: fear, anger, avoidance, control, prayer, numbness, or worship?
2. How does Revelation help us avoid confusing a broken world with an absent God?

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3. The four horsemen name realities we still experience: conquest, war, scarcity, and death. Where do you see these realities most clearly today?
4. Why is God's judgment good news for victims of evil, abuse, injustice, and oppression?

COME AND SEE

The Seals: Life Will Get Hard

The seals show us what life in this age looks like: conquest, war, scarcity, death, martyrdom, and judgment. The Lamb opens the seals, which means suffering is real, but it is not ultimate or uncontrolled.

See also: **Matthew 24:4–14; Romans 8:18–25**

The Trumpets: God's Warnings Are Merciful

The trumpets echo the plagues of Egypt. They are warnings before final judgment, meant to wake humanity to repentance. Yet Revelation 9:20 says many still refuse to repent.

See also: **Exodus 7–12; 2 Peter 3:9**

The Bowls: Evil Will Not Last Forever

The bowls reveal the final pouring out of God's judgment on evil. God's patience is long, but evil will not be allowed to continue forever. Grace refused becomes judgment received.

See also: **Revelation 15–16; Revelation 18; Revelation 21:1–5**

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1. Face Reality Without Fear

Revelation does not pretend the world is fine. It tells the truth about suffering, evil, judgment, and death.

- Where are you tempted to deny, minimize, or avoid the brokenness of the world?
- Where are you tempted to become consumed by it?
- How does Jesus' authority over the seals change the way you interpret suffering?

2. Refuse to Confuse Brokenness with Absence

The seals remind us that a broken world does not mean an absent God.

- What situation in your life makes God feel silent, distant, or inactive?
- What would change if you believed Jesus is still sovereign even there?
- How can you grieve honestly without surrendering to despair?
- What promise from Revelation 7 do you need most right now: shelter, provision, living water, or every tear wiped away?

3. Let Warning Lead to Repentance

The trumpets are merciful warnings, but Revelation says many still did not repent.

- Has God been warning you about something you have been ignoring?
- Is there an area in your life where have you become desensitized to conviction?
- The trumpets give us an urgency to sharing the Good News to rescue as many as possible

4. Pray Like Your Prayers Matter

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Revelation 8 shows the prayers of God's people rising before God and participating in His action on earth.

- What prayer have you stopped praying because it felt unanswered?
- What injustice, suffering, or person do you need to bring before God again?
- What would you pray if you really believed no kingdom prayer is wasted?

5. Trust God's Justice

Judgment can be hard to talk about, but a world without judgment would mean evil never ends.

- Why would heaven not be heaven if racism, abuse, trafficking, war, cancer, and death continued forever?
- Where do you struggle with the idea of God's judgment?
- Where do you long for God to make things right?
- How does the cross show both the seriousness of judgment and the depth of God's mercy?

6. Stay Faithful in the Middle

Revelation does not call God's people to panic, predict dates, or withdraw from the world. It calls them to endurance.

- What does faithfulness look like in your current pressure?
- Where are you tempted to compromise because life is hard?
- Where are you tempted to give up because change feels slow?
- Who helps you stay faithful when you feel spiritually tired?

GO AND BE

This week, live the sermon in three simple movements.

Name Where Life Is Hard

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Write down one place where you feel the weight of a broken world:

Lord, life feels hard because _____.

Declare That Jesus Has Conquered

Pray Revelation 7:17 over that place:

"The Lamb at the center of the throne will be my shepherd. He will lead me to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear."

Say it until your fear begins to hear it.

Choose One Act of Faithfulness

Take one concrete step this week:

- repent of one tolerated sin,
- pray again for one unanswered burden,
- encourage one suffering person,
- serve someone who is hurting,
- give toward gospel work among the nations,
- tell someone why your hope is in Jesus,

Life will get hard. Jesus has conquered. Stay faithful.