

SCRIPTURE AND KEY SERMON NOTES:**1. GOD WILL SEAL HIS PEOPLE TO PROTECT THEM FROM HIS WRATH.**

“Wait! Don’t harm the land or the sea or the trees until we have placed the seal of God on the foreheads of his servants.”
Revelation 7:3 NLT

“For when you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance...” Ephesians 1:13-14 NIV

2. GOD WILL RESTORE+ HIS PEOPLE FROM THE SUFFERING THEY’VE EXPERIENCED.

“For the Lamb on the throne will be their Shepherd. He will lead them to springs of life-giving water. And God will wipe every tear from their eyes.” Revelation 7:17 NLT

“And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace... will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.”
1 Peter 5:10 ESV.

BE EMPOWERED BY THIS REVELATION OF GOD’S CHARACTER (2 WAYS)**1. RESHAPE YOUR WORLDVIEW AROUND THE PEACE AND ASSURANCE OF GOD’S REVELATION.**

“For the Lamb on the throne will be their Shepherd. He will lead them to springs of life-giving water. And God will wipe every tear from their eyes.” Revelation 7:17 NLT

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding... and he will make your paths straight.” Proverbs 3:5-6 NIV

“It is for freedom that Christ has set us free.”
Galatians 5:1 NIV

2. DO ANYTHING SHORT OF SIN TO LEAD OTHERS TO JESUS!

“After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.” REVELATION 7:9 NIV

“When I am with those who are weak, I share their weakness, for I want to bring the weak to Christ. Yes, I try to find common ground with everyone, doing everything I can to save some. I do everything to spread the Good News and share in its blessings.”
1 CORINTHIANS 9:22-23 NLT

START PRAYING:

Lord Jesus, help us to have our whole worldview built around YOU, around your mercy and grace! You have taken the wrath we deserve for our sins upon yourself! You died in our place. You conquered the grave! YOU saved us! We give you our thanks and want to live in constant commitment to leading others to you! Help us! In your name!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Start talking. (Pick one) Find a conversation starter for your group.

When you think of someone you trust deeply, what qualities make them stand out to you?

Start thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

As a group, read through Revelation 7. Then go around the group and share your observations. Encourage the group to “pass” if they are uncomfortable, and also encourage them to repeat another person’s point if they focused on the same observation.

Build some context for this question by glancing at what’s happening in the surrounding chapters. Why do you think God pauses the unfolding destruction in Revelation 7 to seal His people?

- **Follow-Up:** What does this reveal about His character?
- **Follow-Up:** How does this (God’s pausing the destruction) relate to the sermon’s message on God’s justice and mercy?
- **Follow-Up:** How do you think this pause impacted the 1st century audience? How should this impact Christians today?

Pastor Jeff expressed that “God will exercise his Justice in the form of wrath against evil” and “Christians will never experience God’s justice as wrath - Christians only experience God’s mercy and grace.” What does that mean?

- **Follow-up:** How are justice and mercy/grace different? How are wrath and discipline different?

The message discussed how God restores more than we lose (Restores+). How do you see that principle reflected in the imagery of Revelation 7, particularly in the promise of no more tears or suffering?

- **Follow-up:** Can you think of other biblical examples of God “restoring+?”

Rev. 7:17 says that God will wipe every tear from their eye as a way of communicating that God sealed people from His wrath (vs 3-4), but that some people will suffer at the hands of the world.

As a group work together to come to a common and clear understanding of what it means to be protected from some things as Christians but not from *all* things.

Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

Pastor Jeff said, **“With God, when you win, you win; but when you lose, you still win (because you’re sealed)!”** Can you give an example or time in your life when this was true?

- **Follow-Up:** How did this experience impact your faith?

People often tend to judge God apart from His character - can you give an example of when/how we do this?

What comes to mind when you hear the word “seal”? How do you think this concept applies to your relationship with God?

How does knowing God will restore + (restore more than you’ve lost) change your perspective on suffering?

What is one way you can reshape your worldview around the peace and assurance that God promises in Revelation 7?

- **Follow-up:** Consider discussing the concept of “worldview” as a group to take this thought deeper.

Revelation 7 shows that God’s justice is not only about punishment but also about restoration. What does, “not only punishment but also restoration” mean?

- **Follow-up:** What area(s) in your life do you need to trust God to bring restoration?
- **Follow-up:** How does knowing that God’s justice will right every wrong free you from needing to seek revenge or hold onto bitterness?

Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

Pastor Jeff commissioned us “to do anything short of sin to lead others to Jesus. He said to be “a beacon of hope.” Who are you taking this message to this week? Name 1 person and commit to telling them about Jesus working in your life, inviting them to give their life to Jesus too.

SEALED BY GOD

DAMSELS, DRAGONS, MYSTERIES UNVEILED

