

JUDGMENT & CHAOS

Sermon companion notes • Revelation 5–16 • A recap of Pastor Mikey's message

THE BIG PICTURE. Revelation is not simply a collection of frightening images or a secret code to solve. This message walked through three sets of seven judgments—the seals, trumpets, and bowls—and asked what they reveal about God. In the middle of overwhelming chaos, God remains on His throne. He hears the suffering of His people, calls humanity to repentance, and will not allow evil to continue forever.

How to read these notes: The sermon approached many of Revelation's judgments from a futurist perspective, viewing the visions as pointing toward events still to come. Faithful Christians disagree about the timing and symbolism of some details. The Scripture references below let you read John's visions for yourself.

01 / Remember the throne room

SCRIPTURE / Revelation 4:1–11; 5:1–14

Before John sees judgment on the earth, he sees worship in heaven. God is seated on the throne, surrounded by worship, and a scroll sealed with seven seals is presented. No one is found worthy to open it until the Lamb—Jesus—appears. Jesus is the one who opens the seals and unveils what follows.

Pastor Mikey described the throne room as our anchor. John is shown who rules before he is shown how frightening the events on earth will become. When Revelation feels intense or confusing, remember what came first: God is not absent, surprised, or defeated. He is still on the throne.

02 / The seven seals: judgment begins

SCRIPTURE / Revelation 6:1–17; 7:1–17; 8:1–5

Seals 1–4 • The four horsemen

The first four seals introduce riders associated with conquest, warfare, famine, and death. They show the unraveling of the world through conflict, scarcity, and widespread loss of life (Revelation 6:1–8).

Seal 5 • The cries of the martyrs

John sees those who have been killed because of their faithfulness to God. They cry out for justice: How long until God sets things right? They receive white robes and are told to wait. Their suffering has not been overlooked (Revelation 6:9–11). This was one of the message's most important reminders: God hears the cries of those who have been wronged.

Seal 6 • The earth is shaken

A great earthquake and dramatic signs in the heavens accompany the sixth seal. The imagery emphasizes the seriousness of judgment and the inability of earthly power to stand against God (Revelation 6:12–17).

An interlude and Seal 7 • God knows His people

Before the seventh seal, Revelation 7 shows 144,000 sealed servants and a great multitude worshipping before the throne. Christians differ on how to understand the 144,000, but the vision emphasizes God's knowledge of His people. When the seventh seal is opened, heaven falls silent; the trumpet sequence follows (Revelation 7; 8:1-5).

03 / The seven trumpets: the judgments intensify

SCRIPTURE / Revelation 8:6-13; 9:1-21; 11:15-19

The trumpets move the vision into disasters touching the natural world and human life. As the message emphasized, these scenes are startling—but the repeated question is not merely what happens? It is how will people respond to God?

Trumpets 1-4 • Land, sea, water, and sky

The first trumpet brings hail and fire mixed with blood upon the earth. The second depicts something like a great burning mountain thrown into the sea. The third features a star called Wormwood, making waters bitter. The fourth darkens a third of the sun, moon, and stars (Revelation 8:7-12).

Trumpet 5 • The abyss is opened

A shaft to the abyss opens, and locust-like beings are released to torment people for five months. Revelation describes this as a terrifying woe; the vision also distinguishes their torment from permission to kill (Revelation 9:1-12).

Trumpet 6 • Devastation and a hard-hearted response

Four bound angels are released, and a vast mounted force is described; a third of humanity is killed. Yet the surviving people do not repent of idolatry and other sins (Revelation 9:13-21). Pastor Mikey highlighted the danger of a heart so hardened that even suffering does not lead it to turn toward God.

Trumpet 7 • God's reign is announced

The seventh trumpet sounds and heaven announces the kingdom and reign of the Lord and His Messiah. It signals the coming completion of God's purposes and judgment (Revelation 11:15-19).

04 / A note on the spiritual realms

SCRIPTURE / Luke 23:43; Luke 16:19-31; Revelation 9:1-2; 20:11-15

While explaining the abyss, the sermon distinguished several terms that are often lumped together: paradise / being with Christ (the hope described for believers after death), Hades / Sheol (language connected with the realm of the dead), the abyss (associated here with confinement and demonic beings), and the lake of fire (appearing in the vision of final judgment). These should not automatically be treated as identical places. Some details about the intermediate state are interpreted differently across Christian traditions.

05 / The dragon, two beasts, and the mark

SCRIPTURE / Revelation 12:1-17; 13:1-18; 14:9-12

Before describing the bowls, Pastor Mikey introduced the conflict involving the dragon and the beasts. Revelation portrays a dragon opposed to God and His people; the first beast receives authority and worship, while the second beast promotes allegiance to the first. The mark associated with the number 666 is tied to worship, loyalty, and restrictions on buying and selling.

The message's emphasis was allegiance: Whom will people worship and follow when they are pressured to compromise? Revelation calls God's people to remain faithful. The exact identification and timing of the beasts and the mark remain debated; the call to refuse idolatrous loyalty is clear.

06 / The seven bowls: the final cycle of judgment

SCRIPTURE / Revelation 15:1-8; 16:1-21

The seven bowls are portrayed as an especially severe series of judgments. In the sermon's future-oriented walkthrough, they bring the earth toward a climactic reckoning with evil.

Bowl 1 • Painful sores. Those bearing the mark of the beast suffer painful sores (16:2).

Bowl 2 • The sea turns to blood. The sea becomes like blood, and living creatures in it die (16:3).

Bowl 3 • Fresh water turns to blood. Rivers and springs are affected; the passage connects this judgment with justice for shed blood (16:4-7).

Bowl 4 • Scorching heat. The sun scorches people, but they refuse to repent and glorify God (16:8-9).

Bowl 5 • Darkness over the beast's kingdom. The kingdom of the beast is plunged into darkness and agony; people still do not repent (16:10-11).

Bowl 6 • The Euphrates dries up. The river dries, and kings are gathered for battle. The vision moves toward a final confrontation (16:12-16).

Bowl 7 • "It is done!". A voice announces completion; a mighty earthquake, collapse, and hail follow (16:17-21).

Notice the recurring pattern: Revelation 16:9, 11, and 21 describes people responding to judgment by cursing God or refusing repentance. Pastor Mikey connected this with the warning of the sixth trumpet: persistent rebellion can harden a person against the very repentance they need.

07 / Why is God's judgment so intense?

SCRIPTURE / Revelation 6:9-11; 9:20-21; 16:9-11; 21:1-5

After surveying all twenty-one judgments, the sermon returned to its central question: Why is God's judgment so severe? Pastor Mikey explained it as God's ultimate answer to persistent evil and rebellion. God's patience should not be mistaken for indifference or approval. He takes injustice seriously, including wrongs that seem to go unanswered in this life.

This connects back to the martyrs under the fifth seal. People may feel that those who hurt them have gotten away with it. Revelation insists that God hears, remembers, and will deal justly with evil. The point is not to take pleasure in suffering; it is to understand that evil will not have the final word.

The sermon also emphasized that judgment contains a warning and an invitation to repent. The visions repeatedly call attention to people who refuse to turn from their ways. Judgment is not the end of the Bible's story: Revelation moves toward God's victory and the promise of a renewed creation (Revelation 21-22), a topic reserved for a later week in the series.

08 / What this means for us today

SCRIPTURE / Revelation 1:3; 14:12; 21:3-5

We do not study Revelation just to memorize disasters, build timelines, or speculate about symbols. We study it to know the God who reigns, to refuse the compromises of evil, to take repentance seriously, and to find hope when life seems unfair. The throne room remains our anchor. God sees what is happening. His justice is real. His people are called to faithfulness.

Questions to think about or discuss

SCRIPTURE / Read Revelation 6:9-11; 9:20-21; 13:10; 21:1-5

1. What changes when you start Revelation with the throne room rather than with the disasters?
2. Why do you think John includes the cries of those who have suffered? How does that speak to injustice today?
3. What do Revelation 9:20-21 and 16:9-11 teach about repentance and the danger of a hardened heart?
4. How can a Christian stay faithful when the people or systems around them pressure them to compromise?
5. After hearing this message, what gives you more hope: that God sees evil, that God judges evil, or that God will make all things new? Why?

Continue reading: Revelation 6-9, 11-13, 15-16. For the hope beyond judgment, read Revelation 21:1-5.