



Park Community Church

GENESIS ————— //

# BOOKENDS

// ————— REVELATION

The Lamb Breaks the Seal  
Revelation 6:1-17

## Summary

This week, Dr. Phil Ryken preached on Revelation 6:1-17, focusing on the opening of the first six seals by the Lamb. The passage reveals the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse representing conquest, war, economic collapse, and death that bring destruction to the earth. Despite these terrifying events, the message emphasizes that Jesus Christ remains sovereign over all of history, including times of warfare, economic distress, and plague. The fifth seal reveals the martyrs in heaven who have died for their faith, now clothed in white robes of victory and resting in God's presence while crying out for justice.

The passage concludes with the sixth seal bringing total destruction and the terror of God's wrath, where all people - regardless of status - will seek to hide from the face of God and the wrath of the Lamb. Dr. Ryken challenges us all to consider the cost of discipleship, referencing modern missionaries who risk their lives for the gospel, and asked whether the church is producing people willing to lay down their lives for Christ like the martyrs Jim Elliot and Betty Stam.

## Questions

1. How does knowing that Jesus is sovereign over even the destructive events described in Revelation 6 change your perspective on current world events and personal struggles?
2. What does it mean that the Four Horsemen were 'given authority' to bring destruction? How does this relate to God's sovereignty?
3. The martyrs in heaven cry out 'How long, O Lord?' - What situations in your life or in the world make you want to ask God the same question?
4. What significance do you see in the martyrs being clothed in white robes and told to 'rest a little longer'?
5. Dr. Ryken mentioned that we need people who can 'thrive in the dark and pay the price.' What does this look like in practical terms for Christians, or even you, today?
6. How do you reconcile the terror described in the sixth seal with the love and

mercy of God?

7. The passage ends with the question 'who can stand?' - How would you answer this question based on what you know about the gospel?
8. What does it mean to 'count the cost of discipleship' in your current life circumstances and calling?

## **Life Application**

This week, identify one area where you have been hesitant to fully surrender to God's will because of potential cost or sacrifice. Spend time in prayer asking God to help you 'count the cost' and take a step of faith in that area, whether it's in your relationships, career, finances, or service to others. Consider how you might be called to 'thrive in the dark' and serve God's kingdom even when it's difficult or costly.

## **Key Takeaways**

1. Jesus Christ is sovereign over all of history, including times of war, economic collapse, and natural disasters - nothing is outside of God's purposes
2. The martyrs in heaven are clothed in white robes of victory and are resting in God's presence, showing that those who die for their faith are immediately with Jesus
3. The cost of discipleship may include suffering and even martyrdom, but this is part of the calling to carry forward the gospel to the world
4. The Day of God's wrath is coming when all people, regardless of status, will face the terror of standing before a holy God
5. Only through Jesus Christ, the Rock of Ages, can anyone find shelter from God's wrath and stand on the day of judgment