

10-19-25 He Reigns: Mercy in the Midst of Wrath (Book of Revelation)

Week 6

Text: Revelation 7–8

Big Idea: Even in the darkest hours of coming judgment, God is still sealing, saving, and showing mercy. But His silence won't last forever. When the final seal breaks, judgment intensifies, and the trumpets begin to blow.

Introduction

Have you ever noticed how eerie silence can be?

- The storm sirens stop wailing... and the sky goes still.
- The doctor looks at the test results... and suddenly the room is quiet.
- The battlefield goes silent... just before the bombs fall.

Sometimes silence is not peace, it's warning.

That's exactly what happens in **Revelation 7–8**. The seals are breaking. The world is unraveling. Judgment is falling. And then heaven goes silent.

Why? Because God, even in His wrath, pauses for mercy. Before the trumpets blast, He seals His servants. Before fire falls, He saves a multitude. Before judgment intensifies, He lets the prayers of His people rise.

But make no mistake, the silence won't last forever. The trumpets are about to sound.

So, let me ask you: Are you sealed—or are you exposed? Are you ready for the storm—or still sleeping through the silence?

I. A Pause with Purpose – God's Mercy Before More Wrath

- **Read Revelation 7:1-3.**
- **“Do not harm the earth... until we have sealed the servants of our God...”**

A. The Pause Is Divine—Not Passive

- Angels hold back destruction for a moment; God pauses judgment to show grace.
- This is not a weak delay, but a sovereign act of mercy.
- God's “delay” is not weakness but sovereign mercy.

2 Peter 3:9 — “The Lord is not slack concerning His promise... but is longsuffering, not willing that any should perish.”

B. God Always Makes Room for Redemption

- Even during judgment, God is sealing His servants.
- The tribulation is not just about wrath, it's about revival.
- God never leaves Himself without a witness—He seals His people before wrath intensifies.

W.A. Criswell: *“The great Tribulation is not just an outpouring of wrath—it is also the world’s last great revival.”*

Application:

God’s delay in judgment is an invitation to salvation.

Don’t mistake God’s silence for His absence or His patience for permission. If you’re still breathing, mercy is still available.

II. A Marked People – The 144,000 Sealed for Service (Rev. 7:4–8)

- **Read Revelation 7:4-8.**
- **“...144,000 from all the tribes of Israel were sealed.”**

A. The Faithful Remnant

- 144,000 = literal Jewish believers, supernaturally sealed for protection and evangelism.
- These are Jewish believers, sealed for supernatural protection and evangelism during the tribulation.
- God has not forgotten Israel (**Romans 11:25–27**).
- **Read Romans 11:25-29.**

B. A Global Harvest Begins

- These Jewish evangelists are like 144,000 Paul’s—proclaiming the gospel across the earth.
- Through their ministry, a multitude from every nation comes to Christ (**v. 9**).

John Walvoord: *“The 144,000 represent God’s pledge that even in the darkest hours of history, His covenant with Israel is intact and His global mission is unstoppable.”*

Application:

God always raises up a remnant, even in crisis. You may feel surrounded by compromise, but you can still be marked by God.

The seal of God on your life may not keep you from pain, but it will carry you through with purpose.

III. A Multitude No One Can Number – Grace in the Fire

- **Read Revelation 7:9-17.**
- **“...a great multitude... from every nation... standing before the throne.”**

A. The Greatest Revival Happens in the Worst Hour

- These are tribulation saints—saved after the rapture, many through the witness of the 144,000.
- The Tribulation produces not only wrath but also worldwide revival.
- A countless multitude, saved after the rapture, stand before the throne.
- Hell shakes, but heaven celebrates. (Matthew 24:14, the gospel will be heard everywhere)

B. Salvation Is Still Possible—But Costly

- These believers paid the price, many are martyrs.
- These saints refuse the mark of the Beast (**Rev. 20:4**).
- Yet they stand before the throne, washed in the blood of the Lamb.
- They are clothed in white, washed in the blood of the Lamb (**v. 14**).

Charles Spurgeon: *“If you will not have Christ in the day of His mercy, you shall not escape Him in the day of His judgment. Better to wash now in His blood than to face Him in His wrath.”*

Application:

Don’t wait for tomorrow to follow Jesus, it may cost far more than today.

Would you still follow Jesus if it cost you everything?

IV. The Final Seal – Silence Before the Storm

- **Read Revelation 8:1.**
- **“...there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.”**

A. Silence Is Deafening

- Heaven pauses for 30 minutes.
- All of heaven pauses. No worship. No angels singing. Just... silence.
- It’s the calm before the trumpet judgments, an atmosphere of holy tension.

Habakkuk 2:20: “The Lord is in His holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before Him.”

B. Judgment Is About to Intensify

- The seventh seal unleashes the seven trumpets, far worse than the previous seals.
- The silence reflects the weight of what’s coming, the earth has never seen anything like this.

John MacArthur: *“This silence is the calm before the storm of God’s final fury. It is the silence of awe, dread, and expectation as the full wrath of God prepares to explode.”*

Application:

When God is silent, don’t grow careless—grow serious.

Some of us have mistaken the pause for permission. But silence is often a signal that judgment is near.

V. The Prayers of the Saints – Heaven Hears Every Cry

- **Read Revelation 8:3-5.**
- **“...the prayers of the saints went up before God...”**

A. Prayers Fuel Divine Response

- The prayers of the saints rise like incense to the altar of God.
- What you whisper in pain, God stores in power.
- Not one tear, not one prayer is lost, God stores them up.

B. God Answers in Fire

- The angel takes the censor, fills it with fire, and throws it to earth.
- The same altar that receives prayer now releases judgment.

Warren Wiersbe: *“Our prayers are not wasted; they are stored. And when God acts, He does so in answer to the cries of His people.”*

Application:

Your prayers matter more than you know.

Are you praying like heaven is listening?

Are you crying out for the lost before God throws fire to the earth?

Closing Challenge:

Revelation 7 reminds us: God is still saving.

Revelation 8 reminds us: He won't wait forever.

The seal has been broken. The silence has fallen. The trumpets are about to sound.

- Are you sealed... or are you exposed?
- Are you worshipping... or just watching?
- Are you praying... or playing?

Because when the trumpet blows, it won't just be a sound...It will be a sentence.

Adrian Rogers: *"You can bow now, or you can break later. But no one will escape the Lamb."*

Invitation:

To those that don't believe, yet: Today is mercy. Tomorrow may be silence.

To the sleeping Church: You've been saved, but have you been stirred?

To the intercessor: Don't stop praying, your prayers are fueling the fire of heaven.

The Noise-Canceling Headphones

"This world is noisy—wars, rumors of wars, chaos, fear. And Revelation tells us it will only intensify when the seals are opened and the trumpets sound."

Put on the headphones. Now place the noise-canceling headphones on your head. The room quiets for you while the noise is still playing for everyone else.

Say:

"But for the people of God, even in the midst of chaos, there is a seal of protection. God marks His own. **Revelation 7** says He seals His servants before the storm intensifies. His people are set apart. His mercy surrounds them."

Take them off. Remove the headphones and hold them up.

Say:

"These headphones don't remove the reality of the storm—but they change how it's experienced. In the same way, God doesn't promise His people they'll never see trouble—but He seals them with His Spirit and secures them for eternity.

The storm is coming. The trumpets will sound. The question is—are you sealed by God, or are you exposed to judgment?"

“And now you Gentiles have also heard the truth, the Good News that God saves you. And when you believed in Christ, he identified you as his own by giving you the Holy Spirit, whom he promised long ago. 14 The Spirit is God’s guarantee that he will give us the inheritance he promised and that he has purchased us to be his own people. He did this so we would praise and glorify him.” (Eph. 1:13–14)

Prayer:

Lord, in a world growing darker, remind us that You still save. You are sealing, redeeming, and calling—even now. But let us not mistake Your pause for passivity. Wake us up before the trumpet sounds. Let us weep for the lost, burn with urgency, and walk in holiness. We don’t want to just escape judgment; we want to live ready. Let mercy move us. Let silence sober us. Let Your Spirit seal us.

In Jesus’ mighty name, Amen.”

Let’s get this message out while there's still time.