

SERMON REVELATION 6+7 Series 'The future has already begun' #6 'Evil under control?'  
+ Questions for reflection  
IBC Eindhoven, 2 February 2020

### INTRODUCTION

- \* Listening to the book of Revelation = is engaging in a dream
- \* No freeze - initially John had no time to analyse a picture
- \* John was part of an awesome dream - entered through the door into heaven - Revelation 4:1
- \* The One on the throne - the scroll - the Lion of Judah = the Lamb, looking as if it had been slain
- \* Worship of the One on the throne and the Lamb

### OPENING OF THE SEALS

1. Revelation 6:2 – white horse – conqueror
  - Favourite early church > Psalm 110
  - Revelation 19:11-21
2. Revelation 6:4 – red horse – war
3. Revelation 6:5 – black horse – famine
4. Revelation 6:8 – pale horse – death
  - Three horses representing evil as we experience in present world: war, famine, death - even in disguise - strife and fightings (James 4:1-2), shortage of essentials, sickness and death
5. Revelation 6:9-11 – persecution
  - How long... until you avenge?
6. Revelation 6:12-14 – natural catastrophe

Who can stand? All we experience as evil is noticed, acknowledged. No attempt to answer the question 'why does a good God permit evil?' Evil is a fact - but the vision makes clear that evil is contained, not minimised, but put in its place.

*Which horse, i.e. which aspect of evil frightens you or gives you (much) concern? How does this vision help you - or not - in coping with evil in this life?*

### WHO CAN STAND?

1. Revelation 7:1 – four angels
2. Revelation 7:9 – great multitude
  - NOTE: John hears number 144.000 - hears the names of all the tribes - full number - but when he looks in verse 9 he sees a great multitude
3. Revelation 7:11 – all angels

### THE SEALED

1. Revelation 7:2-3 – no harm until sealed
2. Revelation 7:4-8 – 144.000 from tribes Israel
3. Revelation 7:14 – out of great tribulation
  - Psalm 91:10 and 121:7; Matthew 10:28-31; Ephesians 1:13-14 and 4:30

*Read Matthew 10:28-31 and Ephesians 1:13-14 and share your thoughts on how the sealing could possibly 'work' in our lives today.*

### EVIL UNDER CONTROL?

1. The Lamb opens the seals
2. God's wrath: past, present and future
  - John 3:36; Psalm 44:22 (Romans 8:36) and Psalm 88
  - Paul a prisoner of Jesus: Philemon: 1 + 9
3. Believer's sufferings regarded as discipline
  - Romans 5:1-5; 2 Corinthians 12:7-10; Hebrews 12:1-12 and Revelation 6:11
  - Modern Christianity is too much about comfort
  - Biblical Christianity is about perseverance
    - Christians sing in the desert, in the night, in prison, in the storm
    - When they struggle to sing, their brothers and sisters do it on their behalf

*Discuss the bold statement that modern Christianity is too much about comfort. Read some of the texts mentioned under 'believer's sufferings' and share how we may encourage each other.*