

Revelation 4–7

Memory Verse: *To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!* (Rev. 5:13b NIV)

Background Helps:

This week we begin John's second (and longest) vision as, in the Spirit, he is taken up to the open door of heaven and begins to receive a revelation of things to come (4:1-2).

Lesson Helps:

Suggested aim: My students will learn about the sovereign rule of Jesus Christ from heaven, so that they will worship him and surrender to him. The center of attention in this section is the book (or scroll) with the seven seals, received by the Lamb from the One sitting on the throne and then opened by the Lamb. This scene signifies that the Lord Jesus Christ, who was once slain for sinners, is now exalted at God's right hand. He has received all authority in heaven and on earth and is now ruling and will rule over the events of history and the affairs of mankind.

Here are some chapter by chapter comments and suggestions:

Chapter 4: What do we learn about the character and works of God from this vision? Notice especially that he is on the throne, indicating his sovereignty over the universe. Lead your class in a time of worship to God. (Notice that this chapter includes the first two of many songs of worship in the book of Revelation.)

Chapter 5: What is this book with the seven seals? Chapters 6 and following make clear that it is the book of the world's future destiny. Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, by his death for sinners on the cross, has won the right to rule over the future. Again, lead your class in a time of worship to the Lamb. (Notice that the Lamb and the One on the throne receive equal honor in this section, showing that the Lamb is equal with God.)

Chapter 6: Identify what each seal represents. Are these signs evident in our world today? Who is ultimately in control of these events? You might compare this chapter with Matthew 24:1-14.

Chapter 7: Although the wrath of God is coming on the earth (6:17), what encouragement does this chapter give to believers? What is the point of the sealing in verses 1-4 (see 9:4)? What will be the final destiny of the saints who come out of great tribulation (vv. 9-17)?

Conclusion: Contrast the fate of the wicked in 6:12-17 with the righteous in 7:9-17.

Encourage your students to surrender now to the Lamb as their sovereign Lord, so that they will share in the future destiny of the righteous.

Assignment:

 Read Revelation 8:1–11:14.

 Memorize Revelation 22:12.