

REVELATION

June 26, 2022 | Reggie Roberson

WARM-UP QUESTION: What is one trait or characteristic you admire or look for in a speaker or teacher?

READ: Revelation 8:1–6

FOCUS: In God's plan of renewal, He will judge sin and appoint us as faithful witnesses of Jesus.

OBSERVE:

God has a plan of renewal.

- God has shown in the book of Revelation that life on earth as we know it will not endure forever. There will be a new order.
- He plans to complete His work of kingdom restoration and human redemption by one day bringing heaven to earth and taking up to Himself all those who have put their trust in Him.
- He will put an end to all injustice and evil so that only beauty and goodness shall remain.

God will judge sin.

- The blowing of the trumpets sound the warnings for the coming death, destruction and suffering; there will be a reckoning for all sin and evil. To have a foreknowledge of this is an act of God's mercy. (Revelation 9:20–21)
- The nature of judgment is not simply God hurling down His righteous wrath on sinful humanity, the demonic and their deeds of darkness. Rather, His judgment includes His permission to let humanity's propensity to steal, kill and destroy go unhindered. We must see that His grace is the only thing that keeps all sin, death, chaos and the devil's forces at bay.
- But God's heart has always been to redeem and restore humanity; He desires that none should perish but that humanity would turn away from sin and turn to Him for salvation. (2 Peter 3:9)

God appoints us as faithful witnesses of Jesus. (Revelation 11:3–4)

- God's witnesses are clothed in repentance, have been marked with power and are imitators of the sacrificial love of the Lamb.
- Witnessing includes being a people who constantly pray and courageously preach the gospel.
- Faithful witnessing for Jesus results in other people coming to repentance.

REFLECT:

- What things about God and His judgment did you learn from the text? What emotions were stirred in you?
- How does the message of God's judgment on sin and faithful witnessing bring courage and hope for you in your situation?

TAKE ACTION:

- Read the book of Revelation along with us and see how Jesus is the focus.
- List some people who need to know about God's desire for them to experience His mercy and salvation. Pray for them and engage them in a conversation that can lead them to hear the gospel.

PRAY: *Heavenly Father, thank You for Your holy Word. Help us be faithful witnesses. Give us courage to speak truth in love. Save those we can reach. In Jesus' name, Amen.*