

BOOK OF REVELATION: VISION TO STRENGTHEN THE SAINTS



Revelation 6 - 8:1

Scene 2: The Sufferings of the Church



The 8 Scenes of Revelation

	#	Scenes	7 Settings	Opening scene	Summary	Special focus	Key thought
Book of Revelation 6:1-8:1	1	1:19-3:22 CHURCH IN THE WORLD	Seven letters dictated	John turns to see who is speaking	Christ speaks to the 7 churches	7 commonalities with pointed differences.	Cure for lukewarmness? Readmit the excluded Christ! p.58
The Sufferings of the Church	2	4:1-8:1 SUFFERING FOR CHURCH	Seven seals opened	A door in heaven opens	God's power (4-5); woes on earth (6-7)	Seals will not be opened until later—Preparatory/warning	Christ's explanation of history makes it full of meaning. p.69
	3	8:2-11:18 WARNINGS FOR WORLD					
	4	11:19-15:4 DRAMA OF HISTORY					
	5	15:5-16:21 PUNISHMENT FOR WORLD					
	6	17:1-19:10 BABYLON THE WHORE					
	7	19:11-21:8 DRAMA BEHIND HISTORY					
	8	21:9-22:19 JERUSALEM THE BRIDE					

- What characterizes the Great Tribulation?
- What does God reveal about the 144,000?
- Why is there so much killing of believers through the centuries right up to now?

Scene 2



Scene 2: The Sufferings of the Church

Book of
Revelation

6:1-8:1

The
Sufferings
of the
Church

Chapters 4-5 (prior lesson)

“After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven, and the first voice which I had heard, like the sound of a trumpet speaking with me, said, ‘Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after these things’” (Rev 4:1).

- Awesome heavenly throne of God
- God’s grand redemptive plan **sealed** up
- Only Jesus, the Lamb and Lion, can open 7 seals
- Great praise and glory lifted to God

Chapters 6-7,8:1 (this lesson)

“And I saw when the Lamb broke one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures saying as with a voice of thunder, ‘Come’” (Rev 6:1).

- The Lamb broke the seals and unveiled the view of God’s plan that would soon be put into operation.

Scene 2



Revelation Chapters 6-8:1

Scene #2 (4-8:1)

STUDY SHEET: DISCOVER THE UNIQUENESS OF EACH SEAL!

Book of
Revelation

Seal	Reference	Saw or Heard	Authority/Observation	Other/Interpretation
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				

6:1-8:1

The
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Scene 2



Revelation Chapters 6-8:1

Scene #2 (4-8:1)

Book of
Revelation

6:1-8:1

The
Sufferings
of the
Church

6:1 Now I watched **when the Lamb opened one of the seven seals**, and I heard one of the four living creatures say with a voice like thunder, "Come!" 2 And I looked, and behold, a white horse! And its rider had a bow, and a crown was given to him, and he came out conquering, and to conquer.

3 **When he opened the second seal**, I heard the second living creature say, "Come!" 4 And out came another horse, bright red. Its rider was permitted to take peace from the earth, so that people should slay one another, and he was given a great sword.

5 **When he opened the third seal**, I heard the third living creature say, "Come!" And I looked, and behold, a black horse! And its rider had a pair of scales in his hand. 6 And I heard what seemed to be a voice in the midst of the four living creatures, saying, "A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius, and do not harm the oil and wine!"

7 **When he opened the fourth seal**, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, "Come!" 8 And I looked, and behold, a pale horse! And its rider's name was Death, and Hades followed him. And they were given authority over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword and with famine and with pestilence and by wild beasts of the earth.

9 **When he opened the fifth seal**, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the witness they had borne. 10 They cried out with a loud voice, "O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" 11 Then they were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers should be complete, who were to be killed as they themselves had been.

12 **When he opened the sixth seal**, I looked, and behold, there was a great earthquake, and the sun became black as sackcloth, the full moon became like blood, 13 and the stars of the sky fell to the earth as the fig tree sheds its winter fruit when shaken by a gale....

8:1 **When the Lamb opened the seventh seal**, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.

Scene 2



A PreTribulation Rapture?

Book of
Revelation

6:1-8:1

The
Sufferings
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Church

Scene 2

Insinuation

3:10 “Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell upon the earth.”

This “keep you from the hour of testing” is a promise to keep the church from tribulation.

Invitation

4:1 “After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven, and the first voice which I had heard, like the sound of a trumpet speaking with me, said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after these things.”

The invitation refers to the rapture of the church to heaven.

Identification

4:4 “And around the throne were twenty-four thrones; and upon the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white garments, and golden crowns on their heads.”

The 24 elders refers to the raptured church.

COUNTER ARGUMENT

But it seems obvious that this promise was written to the church at Philadelphia who alone persevered through hardships.

But this was a personal invitation to John (“I”), rather than to the whole church to be raptured.

But a lack of clear identification of the 24 elders does not make it the basis for unclear teaching!

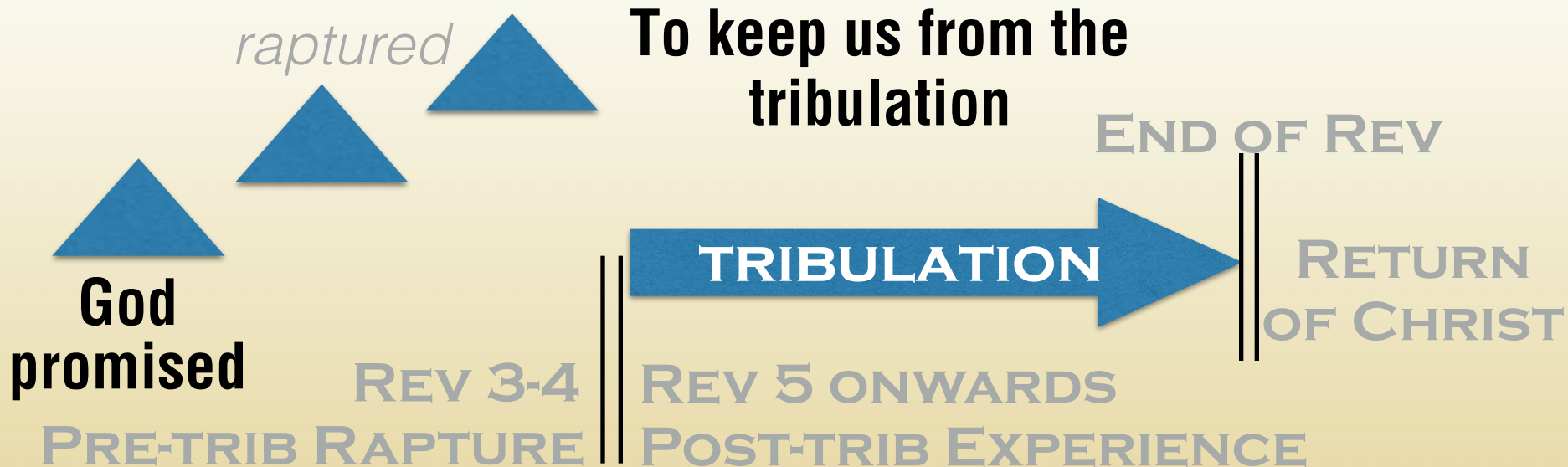


The Difficulty of Timing

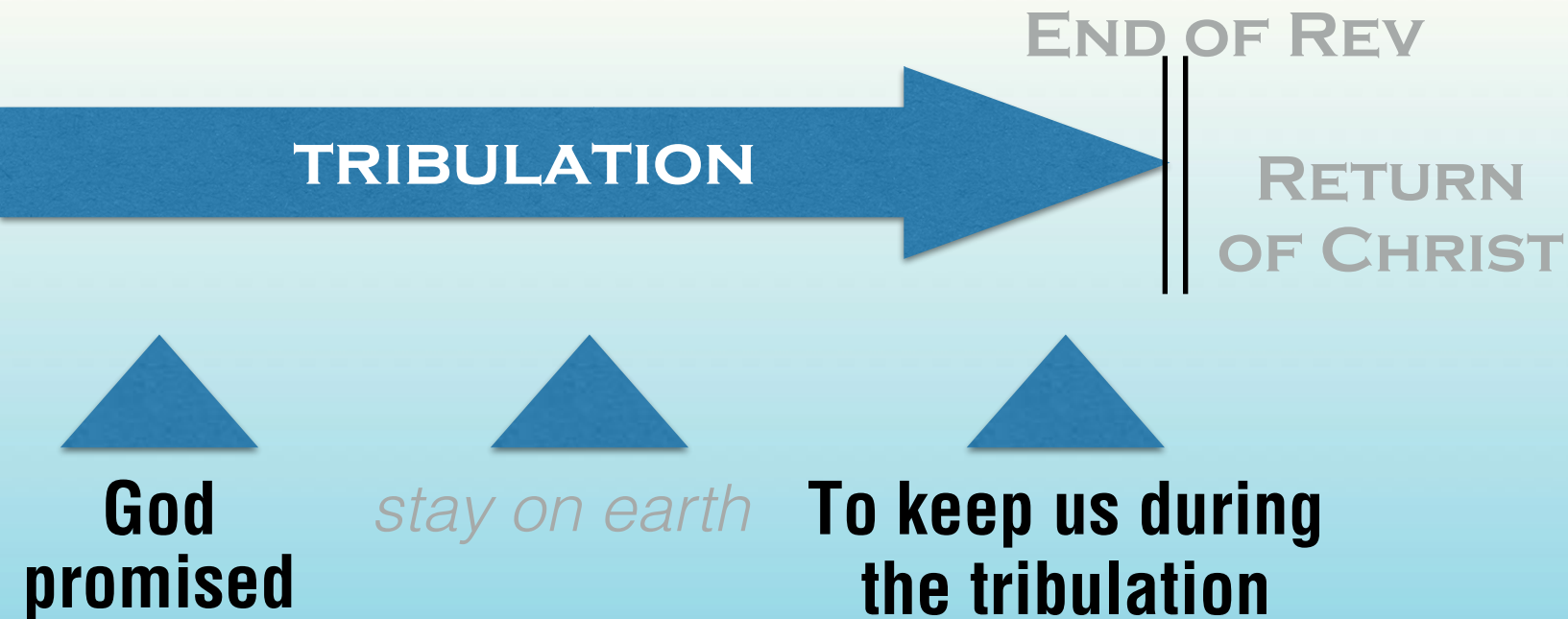
Book of Revelation

6:1-8:1

The Sufferings of the Church



Scene 2





3 And as He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the **sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?**"

4 And Jesus answered and said to them, "See to it that no one misleads you. 5 "For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will mislead many.

6 "And you will be **hearing of wars and rumors of wars**...but that is not yet the end. 7 "For **nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom**, and in various places there will be **famines and earthquakes**.

8 "But all these things are merely the beginning of birth pangs. 9 "Then they will deliver you to **tribulation, and will kill you**, and you will be hated by all nations on account of My name....

29 "But immediately after the tribulation of those days **THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED, AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT, AND THE STARS WILL FALL from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken**, 30 and then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY with power and great glory. 31 "And He will send forth His angels with A GREAT TRUMPET and THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER His **elect** from the four winds...

Signs of the End

Jesus – Rev 6-7 "seven seals"

"went out conquering" (6:2)

"great sword" (6:4)

"quart of wheat for a denarius" (6:6)

"Death; and Hades" (6:8)

"famine and with pestilence" (6:8)

"been slain because of the word of God" (6:9)

"great earthquake; moon became like blood" (6:12)

"harm the earth and the sea" (7:2)



"sealed the bond-servants of our God" (7:3)

Book of Revelation

6:1-8:1

The Sufferings of the Church

Scene 2



Revelation Chapters 6-8:1

Scene #2 (4-8:1)

STUDY SHEET: DISCOVER THE UNIQUENESS OF EACH SEAL!

Book of Revelation

6:1-8:1

The Sufferings of the Church

Scene 2

Seal	Reference	Saw or Heard	Authority/Observation	Other/Interpretation
1	Rev 6:1-2	“Come”; saw white horse, conqueror and bow	He went out conquering to conquer	Not white horse of 19:11. This one like judging angel.
2	Rev 6:3-4	“Come”; saw red horse	Granted to take peace from earth; men kill each other; take peace from earth	Great sword given to him - meaning many would be killed
3	Rev 6:5-6	“Come”; saw black horse with pair of scales	Wheat and barley (grains) become very expensive. Cooking oil and wine not affected.	High costs of food indicate famine of some sort.
4	Rev 6:7-8	“Come”; saw ashen horse with name on it, “Death”	Hades followed the horse. Authority over 1/4 earth to kill by sword, famine, insects, beasts.	
5	Rev 6:9-11	Saw dead martyrs cry out under the altar	They cried out, “How long Lord till avenge us!” Judgment requested.	Slain because of the Word of God and testimony = martyr. They got white robe and to wait.
6	Rev 6:12-7:17	Saw great earthquake and sun darkened; moon like blood	Sky split; every mountain and island moved. Sealed 144,000. Praise scene. Comfort.	People were all totally afraid and hiding from God’s wrath.
7	Rev 8:1	Silence; heard nothing	Only one verse. The scroll opens as last seal broken and introduces the 7 trumpet warnings and bowls.	Silence for ½ hour



Topic #1: 144,000 Sealed (Rev 7:1-8)

Book of
Revelation

6:1-8:1

The
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7:1 After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth, so that no wind should blow on the earth or on the sea or on any tree.

2 And I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, **having the seal of the living God**; and he cried out with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea, 3 saying, “Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, **until we have sealed the bond-servants** of our God on their foreheads.” 4 And I heard the number of **those who were sealed**, one hundred and forty-four thousand sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel:

- Four: angels, corners, winds
- Sealed refers to protected and secured by salvation of cross and presence of Holy Spirit (Eph 1:13): “In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation--having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise.”
- The “sealed” (Ez 9:4) 144,000 is assumed to be the same as the great multitude from all nations (7:9-12) reminding us of the brilliant throne room in chapters 4-5 (ch. 5:9-14). These saints are protected: “**And unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days shall be cut short**” (Mat 24:22).

Scene 2



Topic #1: 144,000 Sealed (Rev 7:1-8)

7:4 And I heard the number of **those who were sealed**, one hundred and forty-four thousand sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel:

JACOB'S 12 SONS = 12 TRIBES

God's People = 144,000 = 12 tribes x 12,000

Judah – 12,000

Reuben – 12,000

Gad – 12,000

Asher – 12,000

Naphtali – 12,000

Manasseh – 12,000

Simeon – 12,000

Levi – 12,000

Issachar – 12,000

Zebulun – 12,000

Joseph – 12,000

Benjamin – 12,000

DAN IS NOT MENTIONED

- “One hundred and forty-four thousand sealed”: Some think only describes the Israelites but better understood as all of God’s people—children of Jacob—the true Israel (Rev: 21:9-14; Gal 6:16; Rom 2:29; Ja 1:1).
- “Twelve thousand were sealed, from” each of 12 tribes. His point is inclusivity of all of God’s chosen people.
 - Judah is listed first (though 4th) because others lost ‘oldest’s’ extra portion.
 - Manasseh, Joseph’s son is added (really grandson from Joseph who got double portion).
 - Dan (one tribe) is not mentioned probably due to their flagrant idolatry (Jud 18:30).

Book of Revelation

6:1-8:1

The Sufferings of the Church

Scene 2



The Difficulty of Timing

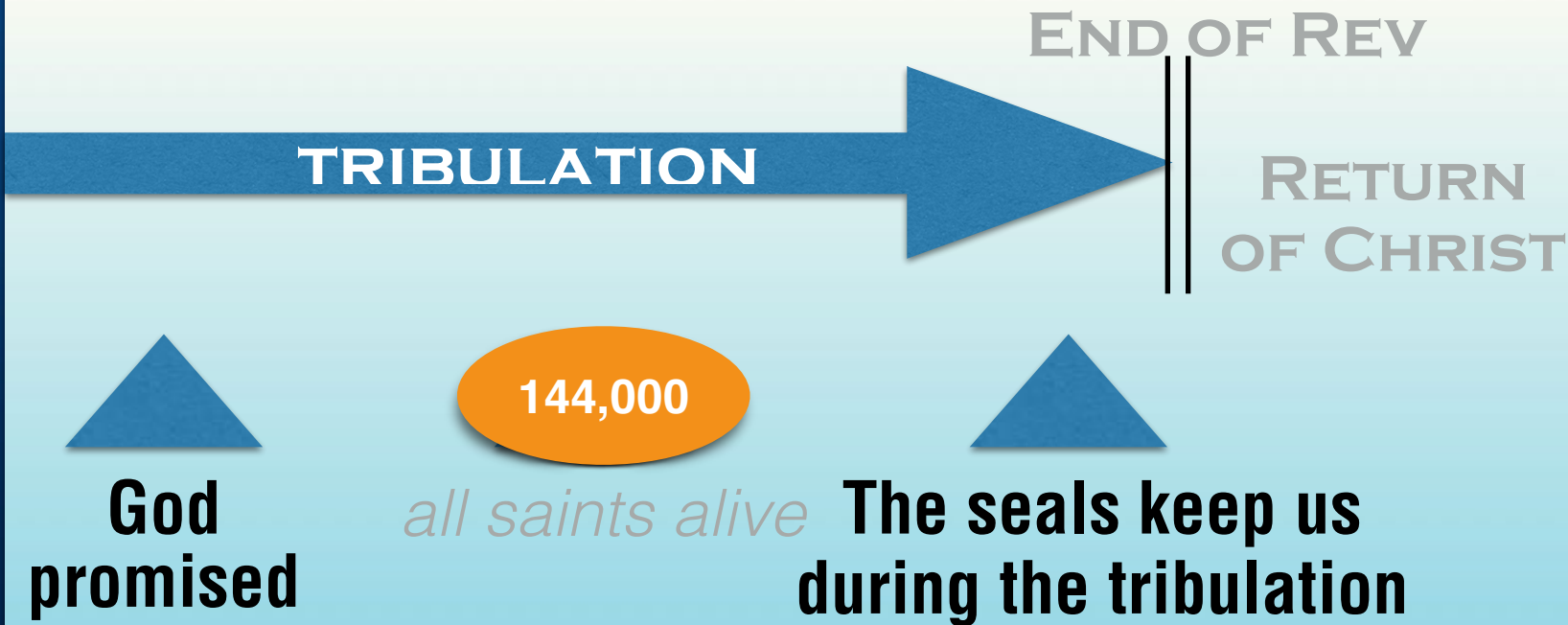
Book of Revelation

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The Sufferings of the Church



Scene 2





Topic #2: The Martyr's Sandwich (Rev 7:9-17)

Book of
Revelation

6:1-8:1

The
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The Martyrs' Sandwich

Praise scene (7:9-12)

**Martyrs' suffering
(7:13-14)**

Comfort scene (7:15-17)

The Martyrs' Sandwich

9 After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands; 10 and they cry out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." 11 And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures; and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, 12 saying, "Amen, blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might, be to our God forever and ever. Amen."

13 And one of the elders answered, saying to me, "These who are clothed in the white robes, who are they, and from where have they come?" 14 And I said to him, "My lord, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."

15 "For this reason, they are before the throne of God; and they serve Him day and night in His temple; and He who sits on the throne shall spread His tabernacle over them. 16 "They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; neither shall the sun beat down on them, nor any heat; 17 for the Lamb in the center of the throne shall be their shepherd, and shall guide them to springs of the water of life; and God shall wipe every tear from their eyes."

Scene 2



The End and Beginning

Book of
Revelation

6:1-8:1

The
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“And when He broke the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour” (Rev 8:1).

“Come, my people, enter into your rooms And close your doors behind you; Hide for a little while Until indignation runs its course. For behold, the LORD is about to come out from His place To punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity; And the earth will reveal her bloodshed And will no longer cover her slain.” Isaiah 26:20-21 NASB

Scene 3: Trumpet Warnings for the World

Summary

- There is no substantive reference of any pre-tribulation rapture in Revelation.
- God’s people are given special insight into from these scenes to prepare them to persevere through the tribulations that lie ahead. It will be worth it!
- The references to being sealed bring great encouragement to the saints as God guards our souls even in the most difficult situations.
- The 7 seals give an early clue of what will happen during the tribulation both from an earthly and heavenly perspective. Since the seals reveal what is sure to come, they serve as a prophecy and a warning.

Scene 2



Study Questions

Book of
Revelation

6:1-8:1

The
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Discussion Questions

- Who broke the seals? What is significant about that?
- From this passage what would you think the reason God allows martyrdom of His people?
- Do you think the silence in heaven after the 7th seal was broken was strange (compare ch. 4-5). What might be the significance?

“And when He broke the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour” (Rev 8:1).

Scene 2

BOOK OF REVELATION: VISION TO STRENGTHEN THE SAINTS



Revelation 6 - 8:1

Scene 2: The Sufferings of the Church