

New Song Fellowship Church

Being and Making Disciples

SERMON NOTES

How Long

Speaker: Pastor Dean Murphy

Date: January 4, 2026

Scripture: Revelation 6:1-11

Series: Revelation

The Day of the Lord

1Th 5:2 "...for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 3 While people are saying, 'Peace and safety,' destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape."

The First Seal

Rev 6:1 I watched as the Lamb opened the first of the seven seals. Then I heard one of the four living creatures say in a voice like thunder, "Come!" 2 I looked, and there before me was a white horse! Its rider held a bow, and he was given a crown, and he rode out as a conqueror bent on conquest.

The Fifth Seal: The Cry of the Martyrs

Rev 6:9 When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained.

(NIRV) Mat 24:9 "Then people will hand you over to be treated badly and killed. All nations will hate you because of me."

Rev 6:10 They called out in a loud voice, "How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?"

Rev 6:11 Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to wait a little longer, until the full number of their fellow servants, their brothers and sisters, were killed just as they had been.

The Sixth Seal: Cosmic Upheaval

Rev 6:12 I watched as he opened the sixth seal. There was a great earthquake.

The sun turned black like sackcloth made of goat hair, the whole moon turned blood red, 13 and the stars in the sky fell to earth, as figs drop from a fig tree when shaken by a strong wind. 14 The heavens receded like a scroll being rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place.

Psa 19:1 "...The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. 2 Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge. 3 They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them. 4 Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world."

The Wrath of the Lamb

Rev 6:15 Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and everyone else, both slave and free, hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. 16 They called to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! 17 For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can withstand it?"

Exo 8:15 But when Pharaoh saw that there was relief, he hardened his heart and would not listen to Moses and Aaron...

The Sealing of God's Servants

Rev 7:1 After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth to prevent any wind from blowing on the land or on the sea or on any tree. 2 Then I saw another angel coming up from the east, having the seal of the living God. He called out in a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm the land and the sea: 3 "Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God."

Eze 9:4 and (God) said to him, "Go throughout the city of Jerusalem and put a mark on the foreheads of those who grieve and lament over all the detestable things that are done in it." 5 As I listened, he said to the others, "Follow him through the city and kill, without showing pity or compassion."

Rev 7:4 Then I heard the number of those who were sealed: 144,000 from all the tribes of Israel.

Joh 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not

send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

Weekly Reflection

Take a few moments this week to sit with these questions.

1. When you cry out "How long, Lord?"--whether over suffering in the world or pain in your own life--what does it mean to you that God's answer isn't "never" or even "soon," but rather "wait a little longer"? What might God be asking you to trust during that waiting?
2. The sermon shows a stark contrast: some harden their hearts like Pharaoh and hide from God's face, while others are sealed and protected by Him. What spiritual posture are you cultivating in your own heart right now--one of openness to God's presence, or resistance to it?
3. In a world that often demands immediate answers and quick resolutions, how does meditating on God's patient, purposeful timeline reshape the way you approach your own questions, doubts, or longings?