

DAY ONE

1. What image or thought affected you most from the readings or talks last week about the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse?

NOTE: Chapter 7 presents an interlude of two visions that precedes the breaking of the seventh seal in the next chapter. The first vision in verses 1-8 shows how the elect receive the seal of the living God as protection against the coming cataclysm. The second vision in verses 9-17 portrays faithful Christians before God’s throne to encourage those on earth to persevere to the end, even to death. *NABRE*

Read Revelation 7:1-3

2. As we begin this week, the sixth seal has been opened and was accompanied by great cosmic disturbances. After that, who did John see, what were they doing and why (verse 1)?

3a. In verse 2 John saw a fifth angel, holding the seal of the living God, who came from the East and cried out to the four angels. What was the power given to the four angels standing at the corners of the earth according to the second sentence of this verse?

b. What did the fifth angel warn them not to do according to verse 3?

NOTE: A seal is a mark or impression left by a signet ring or stamp to show ownership or protection. (*NABRE*)

4. Describe what you think the seal in verse 3 was meant to do and how it was different from the seals we read about in chapter 6.

5a. This is not the first time in Scripture that God’s seal is mentioned. Look up one of the following verses and record the words or phrases that describe a seal with which God marked his people.

Genesis 4:15

Exodus 12:13

Ezekiel 9:4

2 Corinthians 1:21-22

b. After reading this scripture passage, what more did you learn about the protection provided by God's seal?

6. CONNECTION: Today's passage ends with a revelation for God's faithful. They will receive a seal on their foreheads and be marked by God's angels for protection before the time of trial begins. This does not mean they will avoid suffering, even death. God's seal means that he will be with them in all the circumstances of their lives. Describe a recent time in your life when you encountered difficulty, yet experienced God's protection and provision. Record some thoughts to share with your group.

Read Psalms 91:14-16. Realizing that because of your faithfulness you have been marked with God's love, choose a verse from this psalm and record it to begin your prayer.

DAY TWO

Read Revelation 7:4-8

7. In today's lesson, we continue to read about the actions of the fifth angel. What did John hear according to verse 4?

8. Numbers are symbolic in this book. What do you think is the meaning of this particular number?

9. Some religions believe this is the actual number of those who will be saved. What are some of the problems with a literal interpretation of metaphorical biblical language like this?

10. John explained that those who had been marked with the seal were from every tribe of the Israelites (verse 4). List the names of the leaders of these tribes from verses 5-8.

NOTE: There are two irregularities in the usual listing of the tribes: Judah is placed first because Christ came from the tribe of Judah, and Dan is omitted because of a later tradition that the antichrist would arise from it. *NABRE*

11. The early Christians were living in dangerous times. Do you think they understood that the seal's protection was spiritual rather than physical? Look up [Luke 21:16-18](#) for your answer.

12. **CONNECTION:** Today we read about the number of those who would be sealed with God's protective mark on their forehead. What are some signs, gestures or rituals commonly used in our church today or that you use in your daily life to symbolize that we are "sealed" by God? Discuss with your group one or two that are meaningful to you and explain why.

In [Ephesians 1:13](#) we are told that we are also sealed with the promised Holy Spirit. Let that thought lead you into prayer today.

DAY THREE

Read Revelation 7:9-11

13a. Today we will read about a second vision in which John saw another group of believers who were not like the remnant he heard in the first vision. How did he describe the size of this group and from where did they come (first sentence of verse 9)?

b. From the second sentence of verse 9, describe what they were they doing.

NOTE: The white robes and palm branches were symbols of joy and victory during the time in which John lived. *NABRE*

14. What did the great multitude cry out in a loud voice (verse 10)?

15. According to verse 11, who worshiped around the heavenly throne?

16a. How did the angels pray (second sentence of verse 11)?

b. Have you ever prayed in this position? Share some thoughts about how your position in prayer affects the nature of your devotion and concentration.

17. In verse 11 John saw all the angels of heaven worshiping God. Angels also serve as emissaries of God and are sent to perform important missions on earth. How are we also

challenged to act as agents of God for others in need? Recall a recent experience when you, or someone you know, acted as an “angel” for another in need.

18. CONNECTION: Today we read about a beautiful heavenly liturgy in which a great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation, race, people, and tongue worshiped before the throne of God. They prayed together joyfully, prostrated and with song. In what ways does this image of heavenly worship remind you of earthly liturgies and devotional services. Has your worship practice become more meaningful as you contemplate this scene? Share some thoughts with your group.

Record a prayer from the Mass or a song lyric that reflects glory and praise to begin your prayer today.

DAY FOUR

Read Revelation 7:12-14

19. All those gathered before the throne of God sang a hymn of praise. List all the attributes ascribed to our God in this song (verse 12).

20. In verse 13 who addressed John and what did he ask?

21a. In your own words, what did John tell the elder (first sentence of verse 14)?

b. Why would the elder ask a question when he already knows the answer?

22. The elder replied that they were the ones who survived the time of great distress (verse 14). This is also sometimes referred to as the great tribulation. Look up and record one of the following verses that refers to this time.

Daniel 12:1

Matthew 24:21

Mark 13:14-19

23a. According to the last part of verse 14, what else did the elder tell John about these survivors?

b. How would you explain what he meant by this paradoxical statement?

24. CONNECTION: Today we read about those faithful Christians who survived the time of great distress. This is thought to refer to a time when everyone will experience worldwide hardships, disasters, famine, war, pain and suffering. Can you identify a time of great distress in your life? How did your faith or God's grace help you endure? Or if you have not faced a trial of great tribulation, what do you think might help you survive unthinkable loss and destruction either spiritually or physically? Share some thoughts with your group.

Let the words of Joshua 1:9 lead you into prayer; "Be strong and steadfast! Do not fear nor be dismayed, for the Lord, your God, is with you wherever you go."

DAY FIVE

Read Revelation 7:15-16

25a. Today the elder continued to discuss the survivors of the time of great distress. Describe their actions, day and night, in God's temple (first sentence of verse 15).

b. Imagine worshiping day and night. Can you compare that to something in your life?

26a. According to the second sentence of verse 15, what will the one who sits on the throne do for the survivors?

b. Look up and record one of the following verses that describes how the Lord provides shelter.

Psalm 91:1-2

Isaiah 4:6

Luke 13:18-19

27. In verse 16 Jesus made some promises regarding those who survived the time of great distress. Record this verse. (Good memory verse)

28. Select one of the promises from verse 16 and comment on what this might have meant to the early Christians hearing that they would no longer suffer from:

hunger or thirst

sun or heat

29. Read and record Isaiah 49:10. What connection can you make between that verse and verse 16?

30. CONNECTION: Today we read that God will care for those who have survived the time of great distress and washed their robes white in the blood of the Lamb. Because of their faithfulness, he will shelter them and care for them. A shelter provides protection, refuge and sanctuary. It can be a place of solitude, a safe haven or a port in a storm. Describe a time when you needed shelter or provided shelter for someone. How did God's grace make that happen? Share your story with your group.

Write a prayer of gratitude to God today for the gifts of shelter and other good things in your life.

DAY SIX

Read Revelation 7:17

31. As we begin today, the Lamb who is in the center of the throne has become a shepherd according to verse 17. Explain how a lamb can also be a shepherd.

32. Look up one of the following scripture verses and record how it describes the Good Shepherd.

Isaiah 40:11

John 10:11

33a. To what will the Lamb or shepherd lead the faithful according to verse 17?

b. What do you think this image meant to these people who lived in a country where water was often scarce?

34. What is your understanding of the meaning of life-giving water? Look up [John 7:38-39](#) to help with your answer.

35a. Record the final promise God made to those who remain faithful during the time of great distress (last phrase of verse 17). (Good memory verse)

b. Read [Isaiah 25:8](#). What additional promise does this verse add?

36. CONNECTION: In John's vision of heaven, God is not remote or far away but close and personal enough to wipe every tear from the eyes of those who have suffered and he comforts them in their grief and loss. Today we are assured that in our eternal heavenly home, all our needs will be met. There will be no more pain and suffering and no tears of sadness. The words we read today speak to our sorrow. Our hearts break with our own losses and those of our friends, family and even those we don't know when tragedy strikes. Recall a time when you or someone you love was sad to the point of tears. What comfort did you receive or were you able to give with the grace and love of this compassionate God?

Tears in both sad and joyful moments are reminders of God's grace. Let this thought lead you into prayer.

Read pages 38-41 in the *New Collegeville Commentary, The Book of Revelation* by Catherine A. Cory, Ph.D. The Cornerstone Catholic Scripture Study acknowledges that scripture quotations in this study are from the New American Bible, Revised Edition (NABRE) © 2010, 1991, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission.

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