

Common Ground Café

Sermon Discussion Guide

Sunday, February 2, 2020



Stranger Things

Revelation 8-9

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Get to Know You

Do you find silence awkward or pleasant? How do public speakers and movies use silence as they communicate their message?

Study the Book

Revelation 8-9 can be summarized:

Before we see the glorious things God has promised, grim things will take place in an unrepentant world.

Before we see the glorious things God has promised...

Revelation 4: Where was John taken in his vision?

Revelation 5: What was in the right hand of the one who was seated? Why did John weep?

All of John's life he had prayed as Jesus had taught him to: "Thy kingdom come, thy kingdom come," and now John saw the blueprint for that coming kingdom in the right hand of God.

– Pastor Tom

Revelation 6: What happened as the seals were opened?

Revelation 7: What is the scene at the end of the chapter?

Read Revelation 8:1-6

Before we see the glorious things God has promised, grim things will take place in an unrepentant world.

How does the silence at the beginning of chapter eight help communicate what is about to take place?

How are the seals, trumpets, and bowls in Revelation like a telescope?

Read Revelation 8:7-12

How was God's judgment on Egypt (Exodus 7-10) similar to the trumpet judgments in these verses?

Read Revelation 9:1-12. Notice John's use of "like" and "resemble."

Though St. John saw many strange monsters in his vision, he saw no creature so wild as one of his own commentators.

G.K. Chesterton

Read Revelation 9:13-15

In Revelation 6:8 a fourth of mankind was killed. In these verses, we see that a third of mankind is killed.

We find great patience in God's gradual intensification of judgments and His reluctance to proclaim a final cataclysmic decree, although we know it is coming. Yet in Revelation 9:20:

The rest of mankind who were not killed by these plagues still did not repent of the work of their hands.

Before we see the glorious things God has promised, grim things will take place in an unrepentant world.

Group Application Discussion

What questions do you have after reading these chapters?
(Write them down for future study and an upcoming Q&A with Pastor Tom)

How can we stay focused on the message of this passage and not get caught up in trying to guess what all of the symbolism means?

Personal Reflection and Application

What do you need to repent of today? Are you avoiding repentance of specific sin in your life?