**Sermon Teaching** 

# Final Countdown: The Book Of Revelation "God's Timing" #13 Cornerstone Church of Poway Pastor Ed Turley November 1, 2020

**Big Idea:** God extends His mercy with a final countdown before He judges the world.

### 1. God's Timing Is Perfect

"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. 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: "**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.**" **Revelation 7:1-3 (NIV)** 

#### Believers Are Sealed By The Holy Spirit

"And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession--to the praise of his glory."

Ephesians 1:13-14 (NIV)

#### The Anti-Christ Will Imitate

"He also forced everyone, small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on his right hand or on his forehead, so that no one could buy or sell unless he had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of his name." **Revelation 13:16-17 (NIV)** 

### • The 144,000 Jewish Believers

"Then I heard the number of those who were sealed: **144,000** from all the **tribes of Israel**. From the tribe of Judah 12,000 were sealed, from the tribe of Reuben 12,000, from the tribe of Gad 12,000, from the tribe of Asher 12,000, from the tribe of Naphtali 12,000, from the tribe of Manasseh 12,000, from the tribe of Simeon 12,000, from the tribe of Levi 12,000, from the tribe of Issachar 12,000, from the tribe of Zebulun 12,000, from the tribe of Joseph 12,000, from the tribe of Benjamin 12,000. **Revelation 7:4-8 (NIV)** 

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"Then I looked, and there before me was **the Lamb**, standing on Mount Zion, and with Him **144,000** who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads. And I heard a sound from heaven like the roar of rushing waters and

like a loud peal of thunder. The sound I heard was like that of harpists playing their harps. And they sang a **new song** before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders. No one could learn the song except the 144,000 who had been **redeemed** from the earth. These are those who did not defile themselves with women, for they **kept themselves pure**. They follow the Lamb wherever he goes. They were purchased from among men and offered as **firstfruits** to God and the Lamb. **No lie** was found in their mouths; they are **blameless**." **Revelation 14:1-5 (NIV)** 

"And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come." **Matthew 24:14 (NIV)** 

• The Great Multitude Of Believers Coming Out Of The Great Tribulation "After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands." Revelation 7:9 (NIV)

"And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying: "Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!" Revelation 7:10-12 (NIV)

### 2. God's Timing Has Purpose

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"Then one of the elders asked me, "These in white robes--who are they, and where did they come from?" I answered, "Sir, you know." And he said, "These are they who have **come out of the great tribulation**; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore, "they are before the throne of God and **serve him day and night** in His temple; and He who sits on the throne will **spread his tent over them**." **Revelation 7:13-15 (NIV)** 

"Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat upon them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; He will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes." Revelation 7:16-17 (NIV)

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# ➤ How have I seen God's Purpose in His Timing?

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[ ]	Sign up for Partnership Class Nov. 22, 10:45 am-12:30 pm, lunch included
[ ]	Invite someone to church or join a watch party on Sunday
[ ]	Accept Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior
Ī	Join our Zoom Bible Study on the Book of Revelation-Tuesdays 6:30 pm



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Family Corner: [Choose one day this week to ask questions to go deeper in

faith as a family. Try this over dinner. Keep it under 12 minutes.

**Small Groups:** [Choose as many questions that honor your group's time commitment]

#### **Open in Prayer:**

What thoughts from this week's message encourage you to live like Jesus?

Review the Remember Verse "Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near." Revelation 1:3 (NIV)

How has God blessed you so far in this study of God's Word?

**Icebreaker:** What kind of wind best symbolizes your life?

Warm, gentle wind? Cool, north wind? Santa Anna? Hurricane?

# 1. God's Timing Is Perfect

Revelation 7:1-8

Do you think the work of the four angels is a new woe, or is it a restatement of the events in Chapter 6? Why?

Likewise, in what sense do the events of Chapter 7 come after the events in Chapter 6?

What is the message of the fifth angel? [v.3]

Who is sealed?
When does this occur?
What does it mean?

# Read Ephesians 1:13-14

How are we as believers sealed?

Is this 144,000 a symbol or a statistic? Why?

How have you sensed God's protection and provision in the last 6 months? What sort of seal has God placed upon your life?

#### Revelation 14:1-5

When does this take place?

How does this describe the 144,000?

#### Read Revelation 13:16-17

How will the Antichrist imitate this? What is similar? What is different?

# • The Great Multitude Of Believers Coming Out Of The Great Tribulation Read Revelation 7:9-12

How does John describe the size of the crowd?

What do you notice about the diversity of this group of people in heaven?

#### 2. God's Timing Has <u>Purpose</u> Read Revelation 7:13-15

Where did these people come from?

When the multitude cries out, how do the elders and the angels respond?

What does this all say about God's kingdom and Christ's sacrifice?

What qualifies this white robe crowd to stand before God?

What is their new role?

What does their future look like?

How would this encourage Christians in John's day? Our day?

Is the great tribulation an event or a general experience?

What sort of seal has God placed upon your life?

#### Read Revelation 7:9-17

Have each person in our group take one attribute and meditate on it for a few minutes and then go around and praise God with that attribute in one to two sentences. [Praise, Glory, wisdom, thanks, honor, power, strength, Shepherd, and comforter...]

#### Revelation 7:12

saying: "Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!"

Close in Prayer.