

“Prophecy: God’s Word to Rebels for Redemption”

Revelation 5:1-14

Intro: In order to understand chapters 6-19 in the book of Revelation, we need to understand the previous sixty-five books of the Bible!

To start, we will look at the four major themes of the Bible and how *prophecy*, including *apocalyptic prophecy*, fills the tension between *rebellion* and *redemption*.

I. Four Major Themes of the Bible

- a. Creation (Genesis 1:1)
- b. Rebellion (Romans 3:23)
- c. Redemption (Ephesians 1:7)
- d. Restoration (Revelation 21:1)

II. Biblical Prophecy

- a. True Biblical prophecy is from God (2 Peter 1:21)
- b. False/unbiblical “prophecy” is from men (Jer. 14:14)
- c. God’s four-fold purpose for prophecy
 - i. Call sinners to repent
 - ii. Encourage Christians to stand firm in faith
 - iii. Exhort Christians to remain faithful to God
 - iv. Warn all people to be ready for Christ’s return

III. The First Four Seals – Revelation 6:1-8

- a. First horseman: Bow of conquest
- b. Second horseman: Sword of division
- c. Third horseman: Scales of poverty
- d. Fourth horseman: Power of death

Close: God’s final judgment will consume the whole world and everything in it. As the ark was the sole means of survival during the flood in Noah’s day, so the cross of Jesus Christ is the only means of survival in the last judgment.

The cross may appear but a small piece of driftwood. But there’s room enough on it for all who believe in Jesus Christ.