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Central Congregational Church
"For the Glory of God and the Good of our Neighbors"
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Chaos in Context Revelation 6:1-17

Series: The Return of the King – The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Central Passage

Revelation 6:1 (ESV) — *1 Now I watched when the Lamb opened one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures say with a voice like thunder, "Come!"*

Central Thought: As the Lamb – Jesus Christ – begins to open seals of the scroll, we see that all the chaotic forces of man and creation – conquest, war, famine, death, religious persecution and natural disaster – are ultimately under his control and serve his purposes of judgment and salvation.

The Opening of the Seals

- ❖ The first four seals reveal the death cycle of all earthly empires, challenging our allegiance to any form of earthly government. (vs. 1-8)

Hebrews 13:12–16 (NLT) — *12 So also Jesus suffered and died outside the city gates to make his people holy by means of his own blood. 13 So let us go out to him, outside the camp, and bear the disgrace he bore. 14 For this world is not our permanent home; we are looking forward to a home yet to come. 15 Therefore, let us offer through Jesus a continual sacrifice of praise to God, **proclaiming our allegiance to his name.** 16 And don't forget to do good and to share with those in need. These are the sacrifices that please God.*

- ❖ The fifth seal reveals that the Kingdom of God is established by sacrificial witness rather than military conquest. (vs. 9-11)

Mark 13:9–13 (ESV) — *9 "But be on your guard. For they will deliver you over to councils, and you will be beaten in synagogues, and you will stand before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them. 10 And the gospel must first be proclaimed to all nations. 11 And when they bring you to trial and deliver you over, do not be anxious beforehand what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit. 12 And brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death. 13 And you will be hated by all for my name's sake. **But the one who endures to the end will be saved.***

- ❖ The sixth seal reveals that even the forces of nature serve God's purposes and expose the fragility and faith or faithlessness of all of us, regardless of class or status.

Matthew 24:29–31 (ESV) — *29 "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 30 Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, **and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn,** and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. 31 And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.*

Luke 21:28 (ESV) — *28 Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, **because your redemption is drawing near.***

Hebrews 10:35–39 (NLT) — *35 So do not throw away this confident trust in the Lord. Remember the great reward it brings you! 36 Patient endurance is what you need now, so that you will continue to do God's will. Then you will receive all that he has promised. 37 "For in just a little while, the Coming One will come and not delay. 38 And my righteous ones will live by faith. But I will take no pleasure in anyone who turns away." 39 **But we are not like those who turn away from God to their own destruction. We are the faithful ones, whose souls will be saved.***