

the main points again...

Ignorance is bliss...

Do you really want to unseal the scroll?
Do you really want to read this book?

Ignorance or escapism?

'We do not need Christ to tell us that the world is full of troubles.
But we do need his explanation of history if its troubles are not to be
meaningless' - Michael Wilcock

Apocalypse Now

'The terrifying events of the first four seals, which those who have to
live through them might imagine to be signs of Christ's return and
the close of the age, are in fact, the commonplaces of history. The
first four horsemen have been riding out over the earth from that
day to this, and will continue to do so.' - Leon Morris

Empire building or kingdom come...

The question of the fifth seal...HOW LONG?

The sixth seal- the end is still to come Cf. Matthew 24

In the midst of Apocalypse now, the faithful pray 'Come!'



What John **SAW** next...

Answering the question of 6.17:
For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?"

Marked men (and women)

"Go throughout the city of Jerusalem and put a mark on the
foreheads of those who grieve and lament over all the detestable
things that are done in it." - Ezekiel 9.14

The complete number (144000) which is a number that
cannot be counted

The servants of the Lord, complete Israel made up of
peoples of every tongue and tribe and nation...

The pastoral imperative

Be a good witness (martyr) in spite of apparent defeat

'The martyrs appeared to have been defeated by their enemies. Actually they
had been given victory by God'

The silence of the seventh seal- time to reflect...

9 He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth;
he breaks the bow and shatters the spear,
he burns the shields with fire.

10 "Be still, and know that I am God;

I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth."

11 The LORD Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.

- Psalm 46

So what?

Consider together the phrase 'Ignorance is bliss'
Is it good for Christians to ignore suffering in the world?
Do you agree with Eugene Peterson's sentiments,
'With admitted exceptions, the faith community knows more about what is wrong
with the world than any other, and is, at the same time, less cynical and
despairing about it.'

Read 6.1-8

Discuss how full a picture of suffering in the world is
implied by these pictures?

Do you think these images are of apocalypse now or later?
Some people see the first rider as Christ (cf. 19.11ff);
others see it as a destructive force. What difference does
this make?

Who do you think the angels are saying 'Come' to in the
seal openings?

Read Revelation 22.20- How important is it that we pray
this prayer?

How important is that the church now finds a place in its
worship to sing 'How long?' (6.10) Do we?

Given the image here of great day of the Lord (cf. Joel
3.11) would you weep that the scroll could not be opened
(Rev 5.4)? Is ignorance bliss?

Chapter 7 speaks of the same forces describes in chapter 6
being held back until people are marked...

Read Ezekiel 9, Ephesians 1.13-14, Exodus 12.21-23

Read Isaiah 54.10.

What is God's heart in the midst of these words do you
feel?

Read 8.1- why this silence? Read 46.9-11 and pray

Sunday June 15th 2008

it's curtains

Peeping into Revelation



Apocalypse Now
Revelation 6-8.1

Devoted to Christ, people, mission