

The Seven Seals – Part 1



Past > Present > Future



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**Learn from the Past > Understand the Present >
Prepare for the Future**

Inreach & Outreach Resource



This booklet is an eye opener of what's happening in the world.

This 40 page A5 size booklet has the key aspects of the –

PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE.

It's available at the cost of printing & postage for bulk orders.

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Enter The Ark of Hope

The Great Controversy between God and
Satan is primarily over

“WORSHIP”

Who will you Choose?



Get into the Ark Sanctuary



**And let them
make me a
sanctuary;
that I may dwell
among them.**
– Exodus 25:8

Psalms 77:13



Health Snippet – Exercise: Face

Surprising Health Benefits Of Smiling!

Whether you call it a grin, smirk, beam or smile, there's no denying the feel-good power of this happy facial expression. We are born with the ability to smile, yet as we age, we smile less often.

Research shows: Children smile around 400 times per day, compared to a happy adult who smiles 40-50 times per day and the typical adult who smiles only 20 times per day.

Why is smiling important? Offers a mood boost and helps our bodies release cortisol and endorphins that provide numerous health benefits, including: Reduced blood pressure, Increased endurance, Reduced Pain, Reduced stress, Strengthened immune system, etc...

Furthermore: Studies show that people who smile appear more likeable, courteous and competent. Smilers tend to be more productive at work and make more money.

Want to take advantage of these benefits? Start your day with a smile. Smiling is contagious, and when we smile we activate neurons in the brain that fire a synchronizing feature. You'll notice that one smile will lead to additional smiles not just for you, but for those around you.

What do YOU think would happen if YOU smiled more?

Benefits of Laughing



- Physical health benefits**
- Boosts immunity**
- Lowers stress hormones**
- Decreases pain**
- Relaxes your muscles**
- Prevents heart disease**



- Mental health benefits**
- Adds joy and zest to life**
- Eases anxiety & tension**
- Relieves stress**
- Improves mood**
- Strengthens resilience**

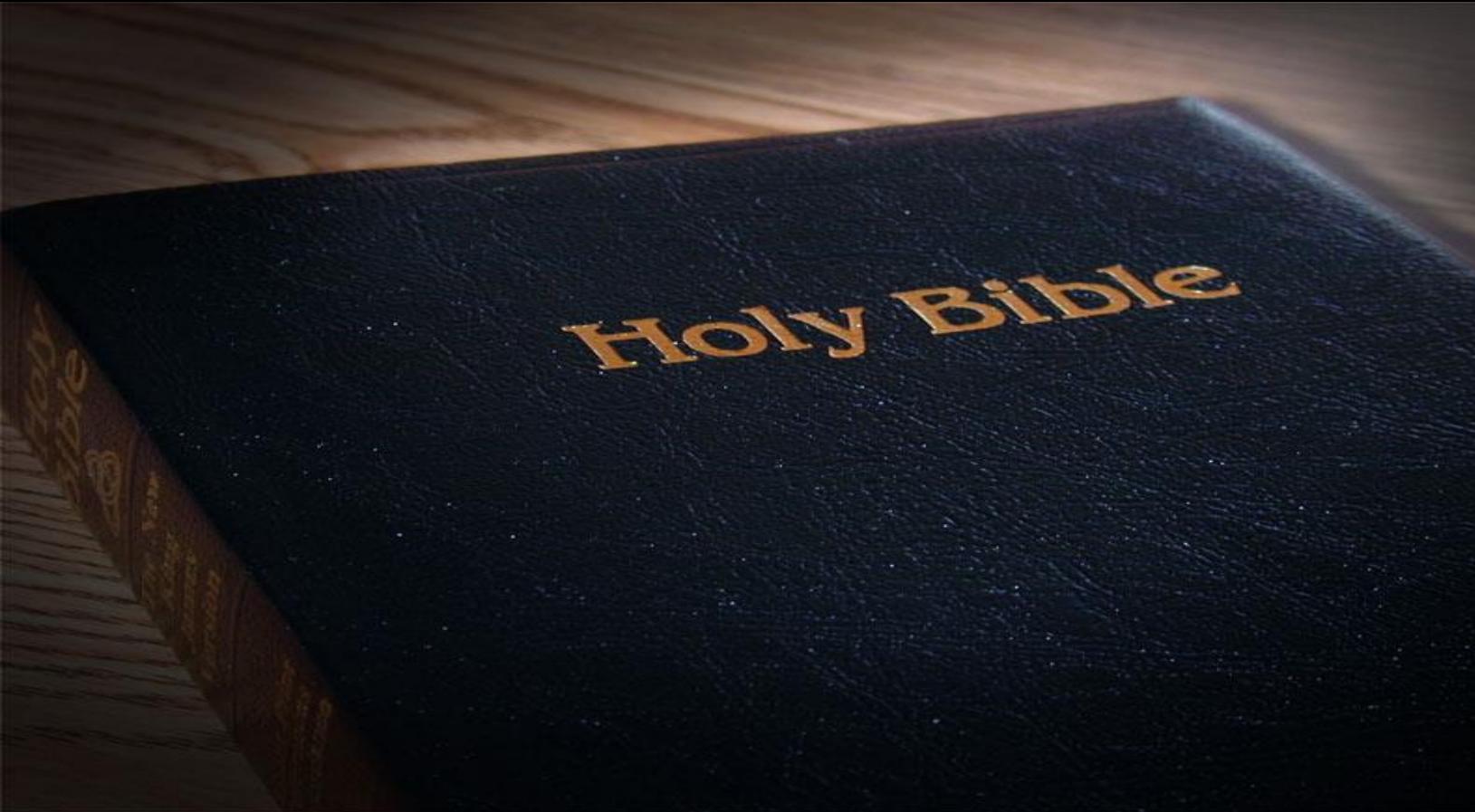


- Social benefits**
- Strengthens relationships**
- Attracts others to us**
- Enhances teamwork**
- Helps defuse conflict**
- Promotes group bonding**

Laughter is the best Medicine!



Can We Trust Bible Prophecy?



Yes we Can!



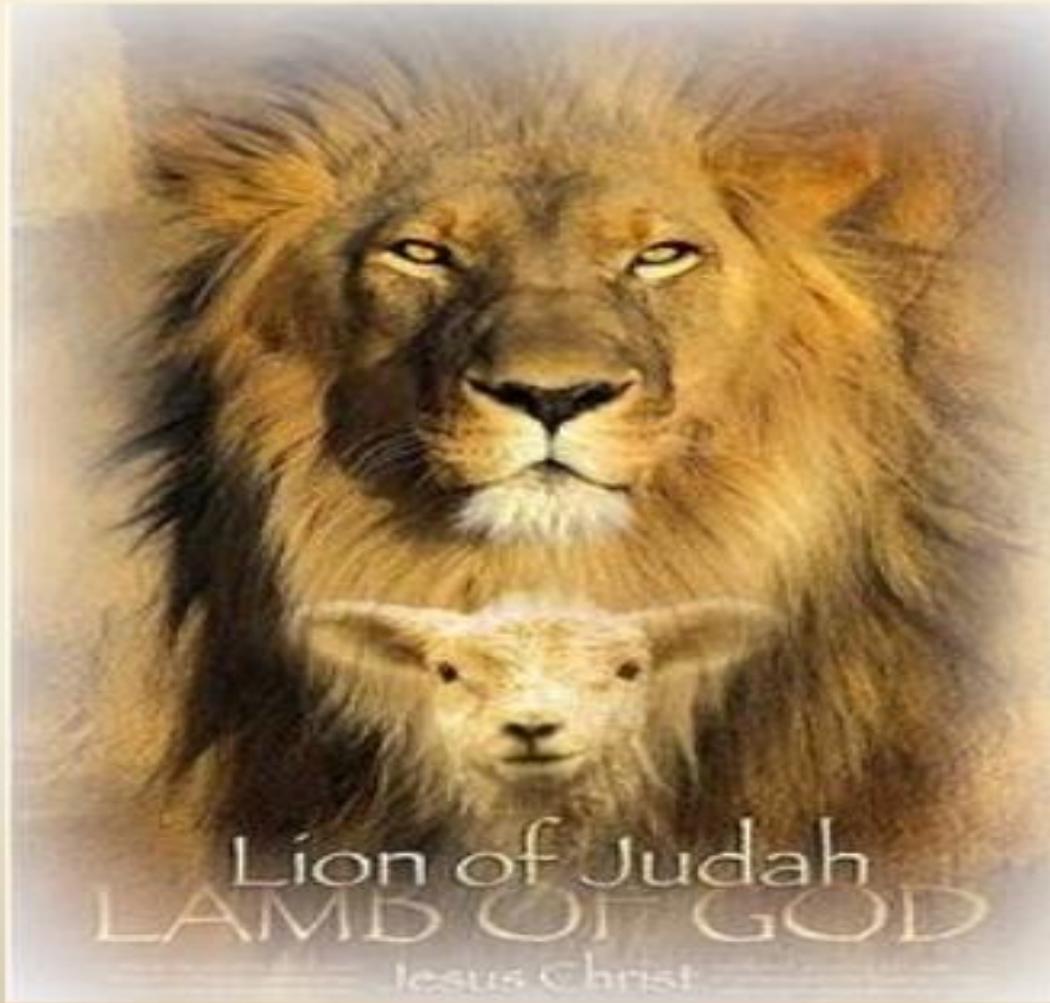
2 Chronicles 3:1





The Seven Seals of Revelation 6





**THE LAMB
WILL
ROAR!**

**FINDING HOPE IN
THE REVELATION OF
GOD'S PERSON AND
PLAN IN THE BIBLE'S
FINAL BOOK!**



Prelude to the 7 Seals

JOHN'S SECOND VISION
REVELATION CHAPTER 4 AND 5

Future Revealed:
Things Which Shall Take Place After These
Things

UNDERSTANDING VISIONS

- REMEMBER:
 - THE MAIN POINT OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION IS TO SHOW US WHO JESUS IS, NOT TO CALL OUT ATTENTION TO THE SIGNS THAT ARE USED TO SHOW US WHO JESUS CHRIST REALLY IS.
- A VISION CAN REPRESENT:
 - A NEAR OR FAR AWAY FUTURE.
 - SOMETHING THAT IS HAPPENING AT THE MOMENT.
 - OR SIMPLY BE AN EXEMPLIFIED PRINCIPLE, A TENET ABOUT OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.



Prelude to the 7 Seals

Chapter 4 & 5



- 1. A “throne” is a symbol of what?
- 2. How does the OT mention “rainbow”?
- 3. Who are the “elders”? What are they doing?
- 4. And the “living creatures”? What do they symbolize?
- 5. What was IN the scroll?
- 6. Why no one was able to unseal the scroll?
- 7. Who and why was able to open it?



Prelude to the 7 Seals - Revelation 4 & 5

“The vision of Rev. 4 and 5 takes place in heaven’s throne room. The scene symbolically portrays God’s control of history and of the plan of salvation.”

“Before the future is revealed, however, we are shown the centrality of Christ’s high-priestly ministry in heaven to His sovereignty over the affairs of the earth and to His redemption of the human race.”



There are four series of seven items in Revelation: 7 churches, 7 seals, 7 trumpets and 7 plagues.

The chapters 4 and 5 are the introduction to the second one, the seven seals.

The most important questions are:
What does the sealed book say?
Why is opening it so important?
Why is the Lamb the only One
worthy of opening it?



The vision of the throne. Revelation 4:1-3, 5, 9-11



The 4 living creatures. Revelation 4:4



The 24 elders. Revelation 4:6-8



The sealed book. Revelation 5:1-4



The Lamb is worthy. Revelation 5:5-14



The introduction of Jesus Christ – Revelation 4

A DOOR STANDING OPEN IN HEAVEN

- I looked, and behold
- Rev 3:7, ***“who opens and no one will shut”***
- What is the meaning of this door?
- ***I am the door;*** (John 10, 7-9)
- This door is open for John, it is the prophetic door of revelation.
- First voice as **A trumpet voice**
- John is summoned to ***“come up here”*** to watch things ***“which must take place after this.”***

Revelations
4:1-2

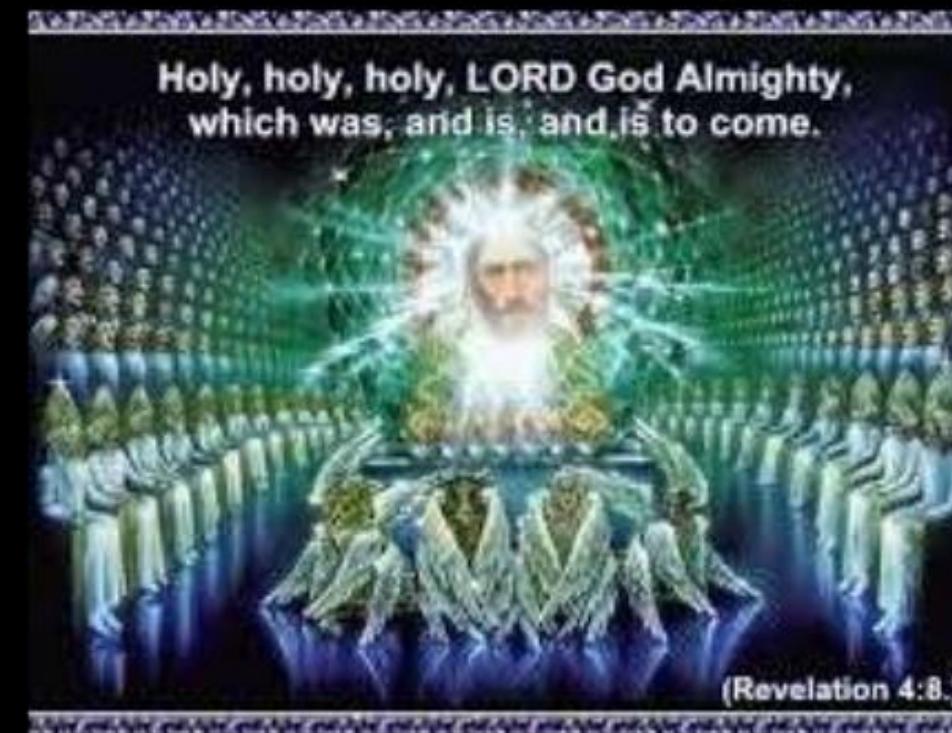
– Door was open into
Heaven



The introduction of God's Throne room

- I was in the Spirit; and behold a throne set in heaven
- An one sat on the throne.
- Looked like a jasper and a sardious stone.
- There was a rainbow around the throne.
- Throne appearance of emerald.
- Around the throne were 24 thrones. They represent position, place of authority.
- 24 elders seating clothed in white robes. Representing the ones that "rule" the churches.
- Had crowns of gold in their heads.
- Proceeded lightnings, thunderings and voices.
- Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne.
- The lamps are the seven Spirits of the churches

THE THRONE ROOM



Satan's attack on God's Throne

And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne. And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald. - Rev. 4:2-3

John describes God and His Throne via metaphors that include precious jewels and a beautiful rainbow. The Jasper stone symbolizes the glory of God, possibly appearing as a type of shimmering diamond showcasing God's Divinity, Holiness and Righteousness. The Sardis is red in colour and symbolizes the blood of Christ that was shed for mankind because of God's merciful atonement for the forgiveness of sins. The Emerald is green in colour and symbolizes ETERNAL LIFE. John sees God's Throne FLOWING with God's MERCY and GRACE.



The Rainbow, which is used by the LGBTQ community, is actually a sign of God's Covenant of MERCY that He would never again destroy all the earth with a Global flood. (See Genesis 9:11-17)



THE 24 ELDERS

And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold. – Revelation 4:4



They are not elders because of their age but because of their position. They represent a group of people. White robes: Righteousness. Crowns of gold: Royalty or victory.



They could be the first fruits that resurrected with Jesus and live in Heaven, representing the mankind
(Matthew 27:52-53)



They could represent the people of God in the old and the new covenant: 12 patriarchs and 12 apostles
(Matthew 19:28)



They could be representatives from the created worlds that didn't fall to sin, acting as the 24 priest orders before God
(Revelation 5:8)



Revelations 4:4
24 Seated Elders with White Raiment & Crowns of Gold



The Scene now changes in the Throne room

And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and *there were* seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God. – Revelation 4:5

THEN SUDDENLY, the appearance of the Throne changes, and we see that God is about to PRONOUNCE JUDGMENT on an unrepentant, rebellious mankind. Jesus the Lamb is worthy to BREAK the seals and open the scroll! God is TAKING BACK what is RIGHTFULLY HIS...the EARTH!



Revelations 4:5 – Seven Lamps of Fire



Revelations 4:6 – Sea of Glass like Crystal





THE 4 LIVING CREATURES

And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle. – Revelation 4:7

The aspect of these creatures and the fact they're 4 links them to Earth.



Lion: Wild animals



Calf:
Domestic animals



Man:
Mankind



Eagle: Flying animals



They aren't men, they're called "cherubim" (Ezekiel 10:2)

They represent the angels that work in favor of mankind (Matthew 18:10)



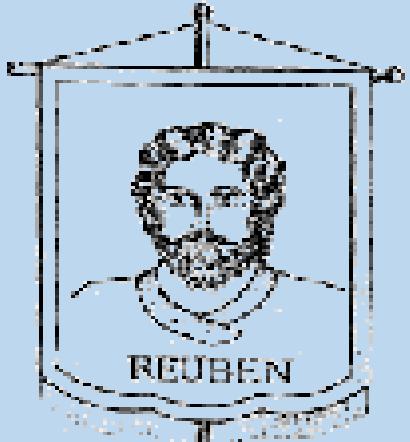
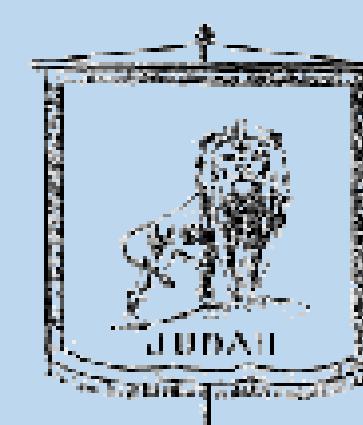


FOUR *living* CREATURES

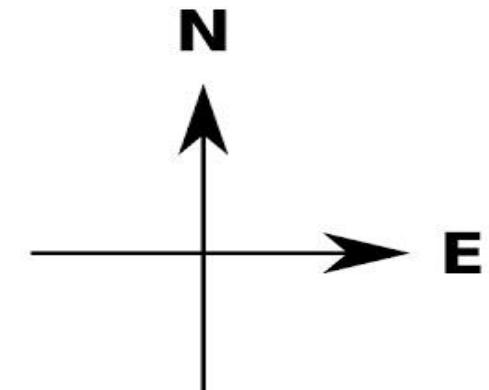
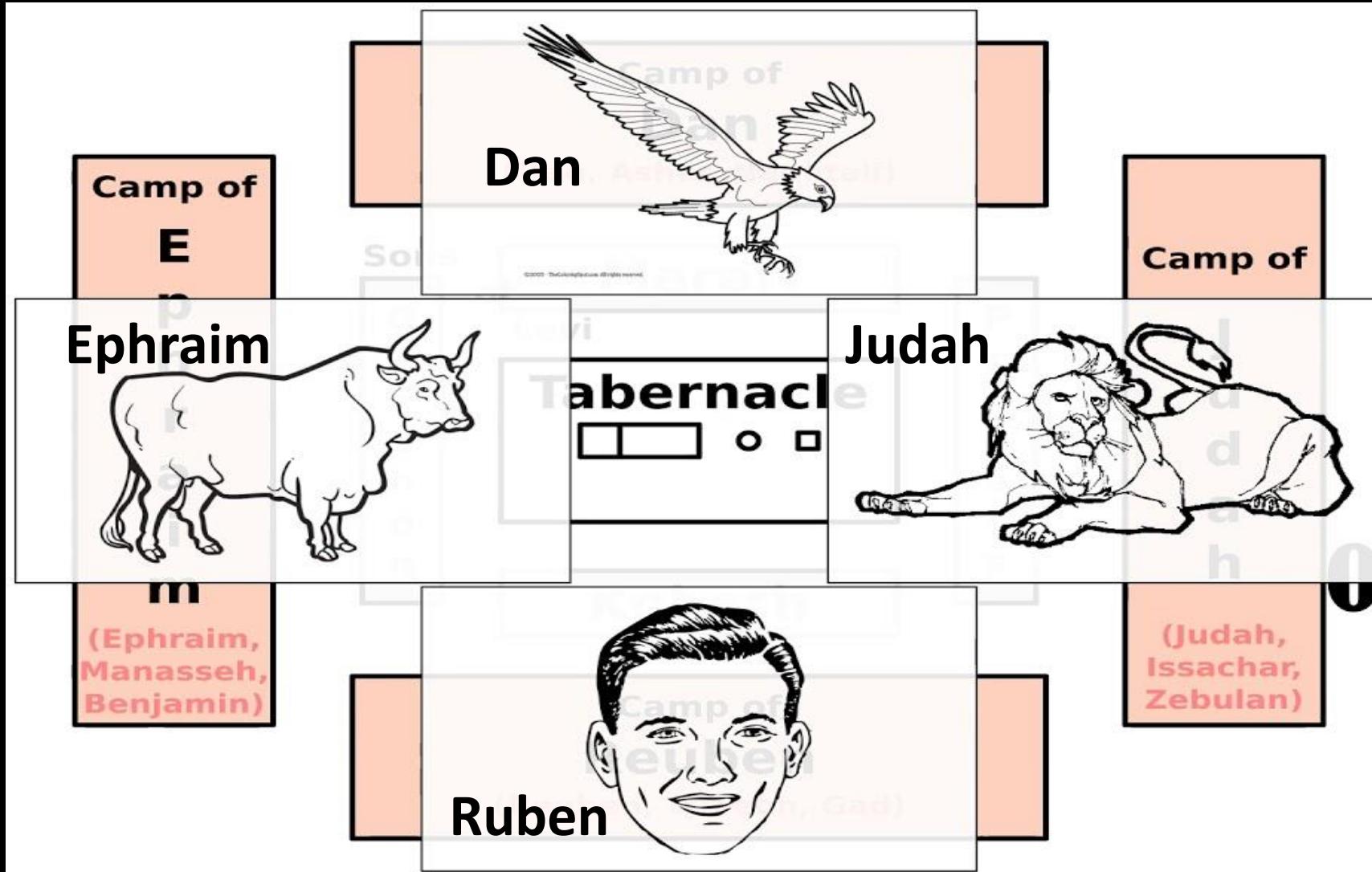


Living Creatures Cont.

- The four living creatures present us with a symbolic representation of the attributes of God's throne:
 - The Lion-symbolizing Strength.
 - The Calf-symbolizing Humility, Service, Sacrifice.
 - The Man-symbolizing Intelligence, Wisdom.
 - The Eagle-symbolizing Swiftness.
- These four symbols were on the standards of Israel.
- Jewish tradition declares that Reuben's standard was the man, Judah's the lion, Ephraim's the ox, Dan's the eagle. (Ibid)



All events on earth is through the Sanctuary



Standards of the Camp of Israel

Key Texts:
Exodus 27:18; Numbers 2:2,3-9,10-16,17,18-24, 25-31; 3:17,23,29,35,38



The four living Creatures – Represent Jesus

- **A LION.** Representing the Kingship of Jesus Christ. I Timothy 6:15, declares that Jesus is the King of kings and Lord of lords.
- **A CALF.** Representing His royal priesthood, The perfect sacrifice, with His blood we have the forgiveness of sins. Jesus is the king-priest who has made us to be kings and priests. Rev 1:6
- **A MAN.** Representing the humanity of Christ. Son of Man, one like us, born of woman. God made flesh, first born from the dead, knocking at our door, hoping to dine and abide with us. Rev 3:20.
- **AN EAGLE.** Representing the divinity of Christ. Jesus was true God from eternity, been risen from the dead, ascended to heaven, leaves now forever in his place of authority.



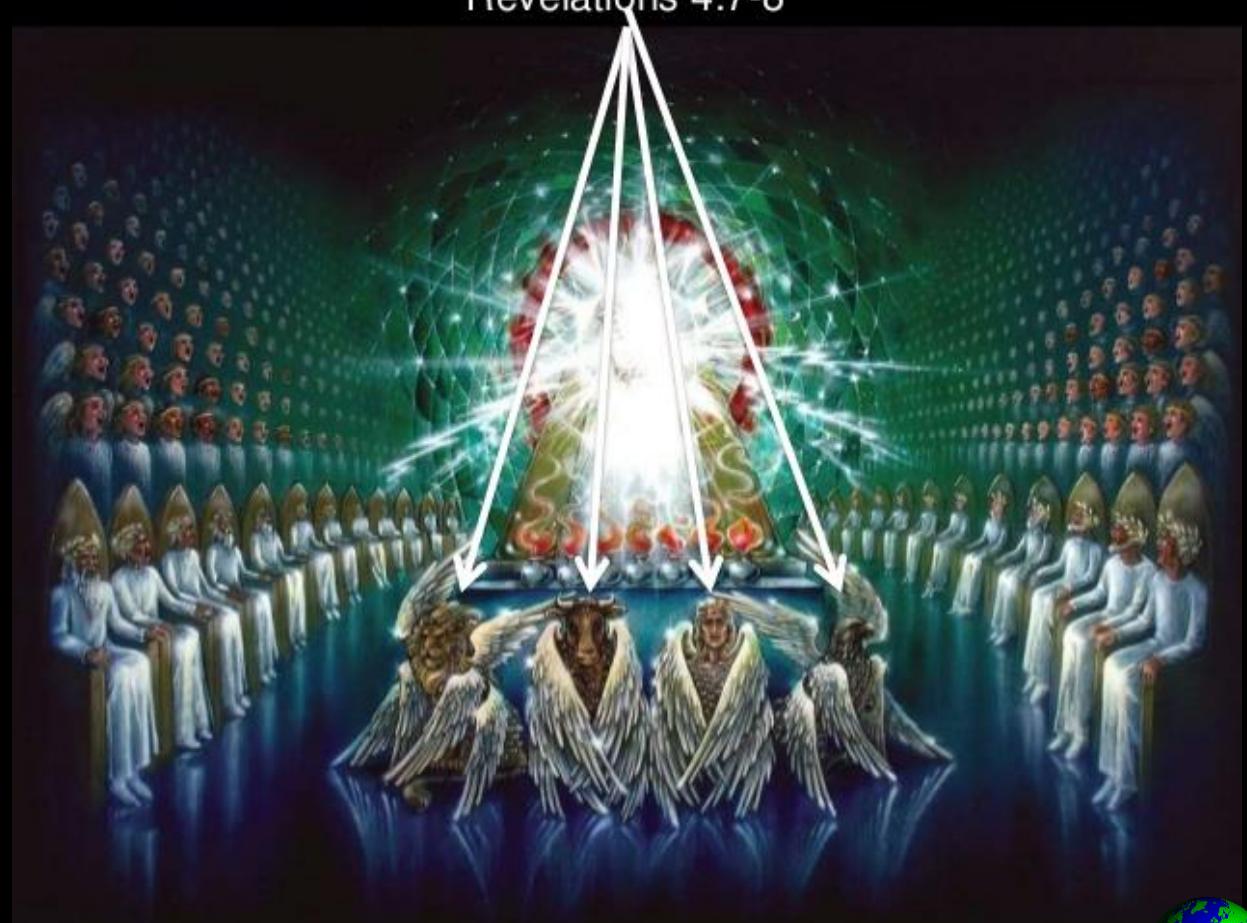
Lion – Noblest, Ox – Strongest,
Man – Wisest, Eagle – Swiftest



The Living Creatures - Jesus

- As to say that Jesus was dead but now is alive "forevermore"
Rev 1:18
- Six wings full of eyes:
- Six, number of man. Representing the humanity of Christ being changed into divine and complete power.
- Full of eyes.
- Pointing to the complete and eternal wisdom and knowledge of Christ. Nothing is hidden to him.
- Therefore He can judge righteously.

Revelations 4:7-8





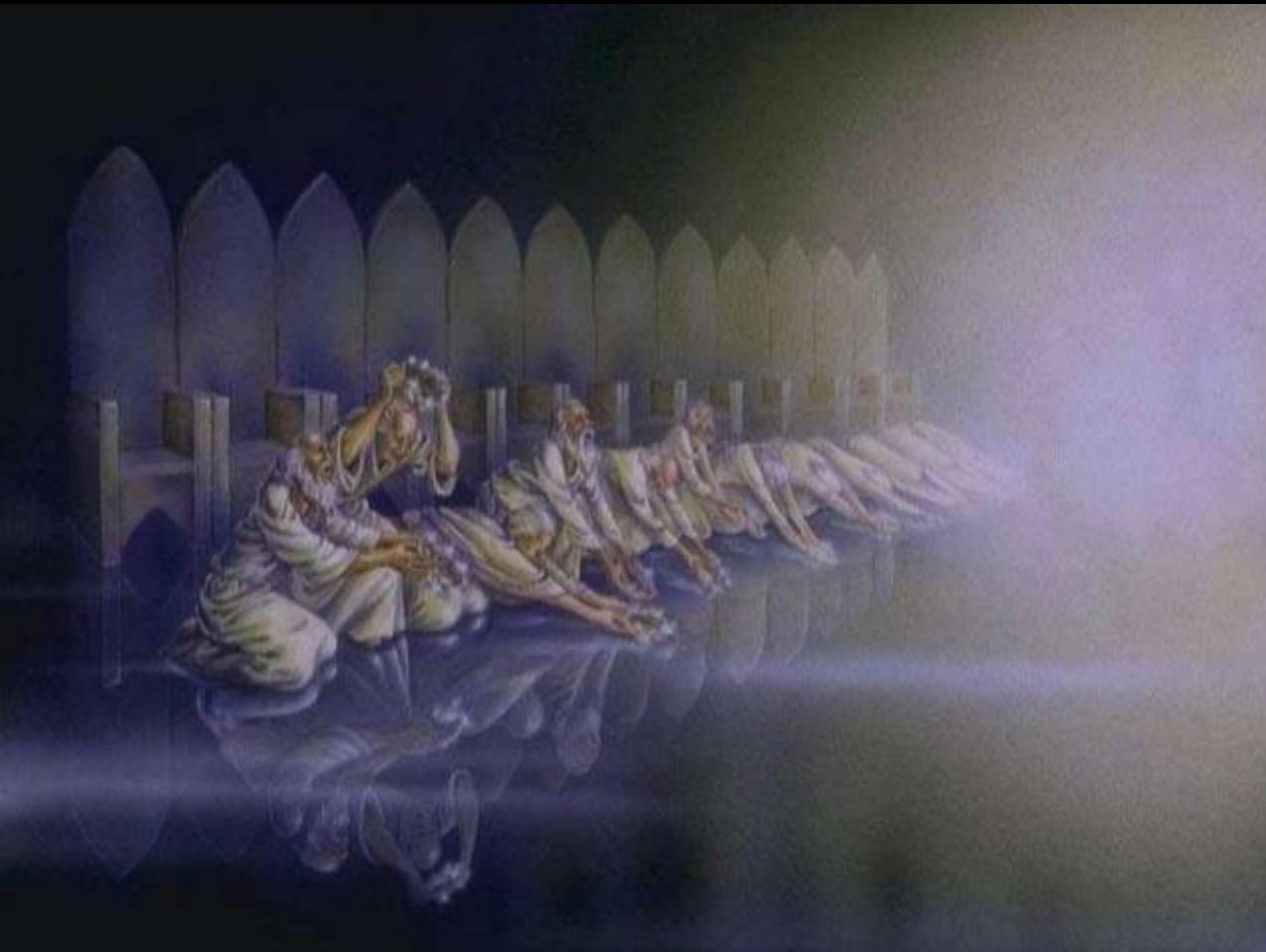
THE 24 ELDERS

And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four *and* twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints. - Revelation 5:8

As C. Mervyn Maxwell explains in his book “God Cares. The Message of Revelation”, John saw those heavenly elders as priests with censers who offer incense while people are praying (Rev. 5:8). The King James version tells that the 24 elders were saying: “Thou ... hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred ... and nation; ... and hast made us ... priests.” (Rev. 5:9, 10)... The Bible scholars agree that the 24 elders actually say that Christ has redeemed “men” (not “us”), and Christ has made “them” (not “us”) priests for God. The Greek manuscripts of Revelation support the opinion of the scholars, and that’s how this passage is translated in modern versions. The 24 elders are not necessarily humans, but they’re still our friends. They help us when we pray.



All in heaven worship God – Revelation 4:8-11



- 24 elders and 4 living creatures worship God
- The theme is -
 - God is Holy
 - We should honor Him for all eternity
 - God is worthy of our worship



THE SEALED BOOK

And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals. – Revelation 5:1



The Bible explains that God keeps records of the human history (Ex. 32:33; Ps. 40:7-9; 56:8; 69:28; 139:16; Dan. 7:10; 12: 1; Phil. 4:3; Rev. 3:5).



However, John was going to see the future, “things which must take place after this” (4:1). That knowledge is sealed (veiled, hidden) for everyone except He who is worthy to unveil it.

Only Jesus can open that book, because He is the Lion (He has overcome) and the Lamb (He has died to save us).



The content of the book is related to the history of our salvation. It contains “the history of God's providences, the prophetic history of nations and the church” (E.G.W., Manuscript Releases, vol. 9, MR No. 667).



God has a Book/Scroll – The Book of Life

And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof? And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon. And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon. – Revelation 5:2-4

- Written on both sides = VERY IMPORTANT
- Sealed with 7 seals
 - Not sealed to preserve – like a canning jar
 - Seal = like a notary seal – show as genuine
 - Seal = shows it has not been altered, tampered, or changed
- Who has the authority to open the seals?



Who is Worthy?

A search begins:

- In heaven
- On the earth
- Underneath the earth

Was able – *dunamai*
of sufficient power

Rev. 5:3 And no
one... was able to
open the scroll...

Rev. 5:4 ...no one was
found worthy to open
and read the scroll...

No one – *oudeis* compound word
combining not even + one. Not even one
person was found worthy.



Jesus triumphant ascension to heaven

The names of the righteous dead and righteous living are in the book scroll – Book of Life! (Revelation 7)

Why is John weeping? (this is in 70 AD)

Jesus is not seen on earth nor is heaven!

Why was Jesus not found? (this is 31 AD)

Because Jesus was dead and in the tomb!

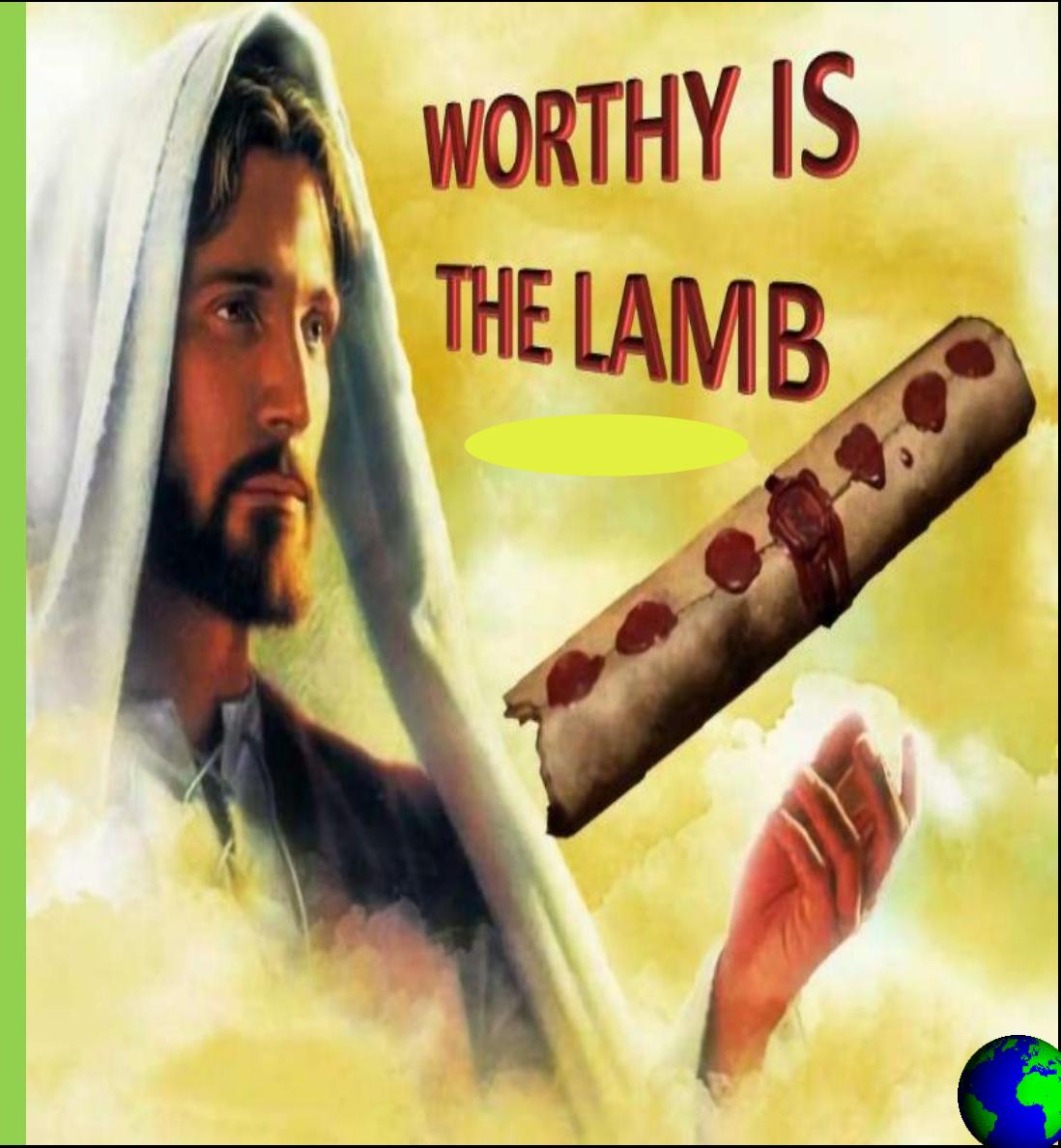


And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof. – Revelation 5:5

Now Jesus ascends to heaven



So the crisis in the throne room is related to Satan's rebellion. This planet, although created by God, has been under the dominion of the usurper, Satan. John's tears expressed the longing of God's people, since Adam, for salvation from the bondage of sin. The sealed scroll comprised God's plan for resolving the sin problem. No doubt with His immeasurable power God Himself could realize that plan. However, the redemption of the fallen human race required something special, and that was Jesus, who did "overcome" and thus was worthy to open the book, to assume the lordship over this earth, and become our Mediator in the heavenly sanctuary.



The Lamb (Jesus) that was slain – Revelation 5:6



- What do the seals represent?

What was the purpose of putting seals on a document?

1. Proved the identity of the owner of the document.
2. Holder of the Seal had the power and might and right of the author.
3. Protect a document against early disclosure.
4. Made a document legally valid.

- Here is the element of surprise
- The LION can open the seals
- John looks and sees a LAMB
- Jesus is the LION and the LAMB!



E.G.W. (Christ's Object Lessons, cp. 23, p. 294)

"Thus the Jewish leaders made their choice [i.e. to kill Jesus]. Their decision was registered in the book which John saw in the hand of Him that sat upon the throne, the book which no man could open.

In all its vindictiveness this decision will appear before them in the day when this book is unsealed by the Lion of the tribe of Judah."



THE LAMB IS WORTHY



And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; - Revelation 5:9

The Lamb (Jesus) is worthy because He was sacrificed. Because of that sacrifice, He's been given all power and authority (Matthew 28:18; Ephesians 1:20-22).

The great heavenly choir sings a septuple praise, proclaiming that Jesus is worthy to receive:



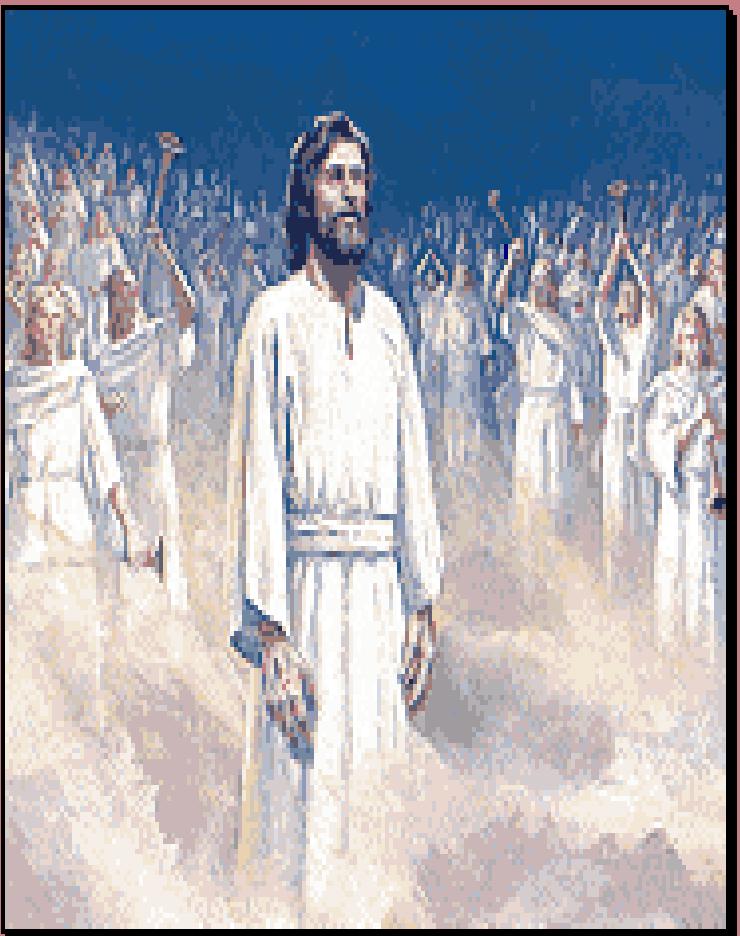
1. Power
2. Riches
3. Wisdom
4. Strength
5. Honor
6. Glory
7. Blessing



At the cross, Jesus overcame and recovered what Adam had lost in Eden. He introduces us to the Father and intercedes for us (Hebrews 7:25).



Power, riches, wisdom, strength, honor, glory and blessing to God!



- | | | |
|---|----------|---|
| 1 | Power | «To the only wise God our Savior, be glory and majesty, dominion and power.» (Jude verse 25) |
| 2 | Riches | «O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God!» (Romans 11:33) |
| 3 | Wisdom | «Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are His.» (Daniel 2:20) |
| 4 | Strength | «With [God] are wisdom and strength.» (Job 12:13) |
| 5 | Honor | «To the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honor and glory.» (1 Timothy 1:17) |
| 6 | Glory | «Give to the Lord glory and strength.» (Psalm 29:1) |
| 7 | Blessing | «Blessed be Your glorious name, which is exalted above all blessing and praise!» (Nehemiah 9:5) |



Song of the living creatures, elders & angels



Angels sing – 5:11-12

- **What is the number present?**
- 4 – living creatures
- 24 – elders
- Angels = $10,000 \times 10,000$ and 1,000s of 1,000s
- **Hebrews 12:22** But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels,



The Sacrifice of Love by Jesus for Humanity

“Never can the cost of our redemption be realized until the redeemed shall stand with the Redeemer before the throne of God. Then as the glories of the eternal home burst upon our enraptured senses we shall remember that Jesus left all this for us, that He not only became an exile from the heavenly courts, but for us took the risk of failure and eternal loss. Then we shall cast our crowns at His feet, and raise the song, ‘Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honor, and glory, and blessing.””

E.G.W. (The Desire of Ages, cp. 13, p. 131)



THE SEVEN SEALS OF REVELATION

FIRST SEAL	SECOND SEAL	THIRD SEAL	FOURTH SEAL	FIFTH SEAL	SIXTH SEAL	SEVENTH SEAL
WHITE HORSE	RED HORSE	BLACK HORSE	PALE HORSE	MARTYRS CRY OUT	CELESTIAL SIGNS	Second Coming
						
Rev 6:2 Had a Bow Given a Crown Went out Conquering	Rev 6:4 Peace Removed Violence breaks out Has Sword	Rev 6:5-6 Balance Scales Huge Inflation Oil & Wine Spared	Rev 6:8 Death has Hades with him 1/4th earth Killed with sword, famine, death & beasts	Rev 6:9-11 Martyrs cry out How long? Not until number of brethren to be killed is complete	Rev 6:12-17 Earth quakes Sun darkens moon turns red Stars fall Sky Recedes like a scroll	Rev 8:1 Heaven silent about half hour Rev 11:12 Come up Here!



See if you can find all 7 Seals in Matthew 24...

- Seal 1 – Matt 24:7**
& Matt 24:30
- Seal 2 – Matt 24:7**
- Seal 3 – Matt 24:7**
- Seal 4 – Matt 24:7-8**
- Seal 5 – Matt 24:9-10**
- Seal 6 – Matt 24:29**
- Seal 7 – Matt 24:31**

7 SEALS	COMPARISON	MATTHEW 24
1st Seal ...a white horse! & its rider had a bow , and a crown was given to him, and he came out conquering , & to conquer . Rev 6:2 Jesus' Arrows are Seals 2, 3 & 4!	 Also, Eze 5:14-17; Ps 7:11-13; 45:3-5	"Song of Moses" Sung at Deut. 32:23-25 & Re-Sung at Rev 15:1-3 I will spend my Arrows on them; they shall be wasted with hunger , & devoured by plague & poisonous pestilence ; I will send the teeth of beasts against them... Outdoors the sword shall bereave, & indoors TERROR ...
2nd Seal ...to take peace from the earth, & that people should kill one another... Rev 6:4		WAR ...nation will rise against nation... Matt 24:7
3rd Seal Measured wheat & barley for a days wage... do not harm the oil & wine... Rev 6:6		FAMINES... Matt 24:7
4th Seal kill 1/4th of earth by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sword • Hunger • Deadly Plague • Beasts Vs 8 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nation vs Nation • Famine • Pestilence • Earthquakes...Vs 7 Beginning of Birth Pains Matt 24:8
5th Seal Judge & Avenge our Blood? Rest until Number Filled of Brothers Killed Rev 6:9-11		Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you , and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. Matt 24:9
6th Seal ...the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. 13 And the stars of heaven fell to the earth,...Vs 12		"Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven...Matt 24:29
7th Seal there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour – Rev 8:1		...He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet , & they will gather together His elect from the four winds...Matt 24:31 1Cor15:52- "Last Trumpet" 1Thes 4:17, Rev 11:18





The Seven Seals of Revelation 6



Overview of the 7 Seals of Revelation

The events of the seven seals must be understood in the context of the Old Testament covenant curses, specified in terms of sword, famine, pestilence, and wild beasts (Lev. 26:21–26). Ezekiel calls them God's "four severe judgments" (Ezekiel 14:21). They were the disciplinary judgments by which God, seeking to awaken His people to their spiritual condition, chastised them when they became unfaithful to the covenant. In a similar way, the four horsemen are the means that God uses to keep His people awake as they await Jesus' return.



Overview of the 7 Seals of Revelation

Just as the messages to the seven churches represented different periods of time in the progress of the true church, so now this book goes over the same history, but It shows us the Great Apostasy, which allowed the Church of Rome to grow out of what once was a pure church.

The messages to the churches followed the history of the true believers, but the seals show the ones that did not heed the messages. All through both Daniel and Revelation, you will find the history of the world, from Christ to the end, told over and over again. But each time it is told, it is showing different information about it.

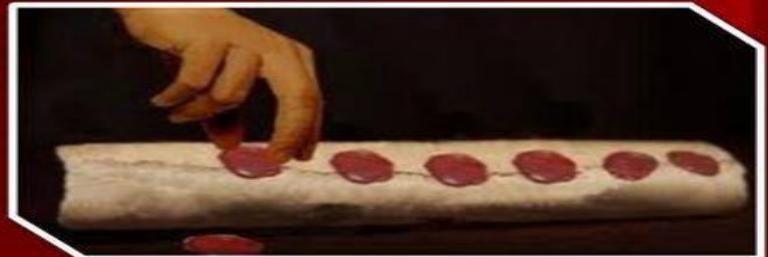


Overview of the 7 Seals of Revelation



The message of the seals is an outline of the history of the church since its beginning until the Second Coming.

The seals follow the same historic pattern Jesus used in Matthew 24.



MATTHEW 24		Revelation 6	
Early signs (4-14)	Wars and rumors of wars, famines, pestilences, the Gospel is preached	The Gospel is preached, sword, famines, pestilences	The four horsemen (6:1-8)
The tribulation (21-22)	The Great Tribulation	The souls under the altar complain about their tribulation	Fifth seal (6:9-11)
Signs on the sky (29)	The Sun, the Moon, the stars and the powers of the heavens	Signs in the Sun, the Moon, the stars and the heavens	Sixth seal (6:12-17)
The Son of Man appears (30)	A sign in the sky, lamenting on Earth	People hide from the wrath of the Lamb	



Overview of the 1st 4 Seals of Revelation

V.	Living creature	Horse	Horsemanship	Was given	Time period (AD)
1-2	First 	White 	Had a bow	A crown 	31-100
3-4	Second 	Red 	Was granted to take peace from the earth 	A great sword 	100-313
5-6	Third 	Black 	Had a pair of scales in his hand 	Directions on the price of food 	313-538
7-8	Fourth 	Pale 	His name is Death, and Hades followed with him 	Power over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth	538-1517





AD 31 to AD 100

Meaning: The first seal is parallel to the first church, Ephesus. The white horse represents the conquests of the Apostolic Church and its rider symbolizes Jesus.



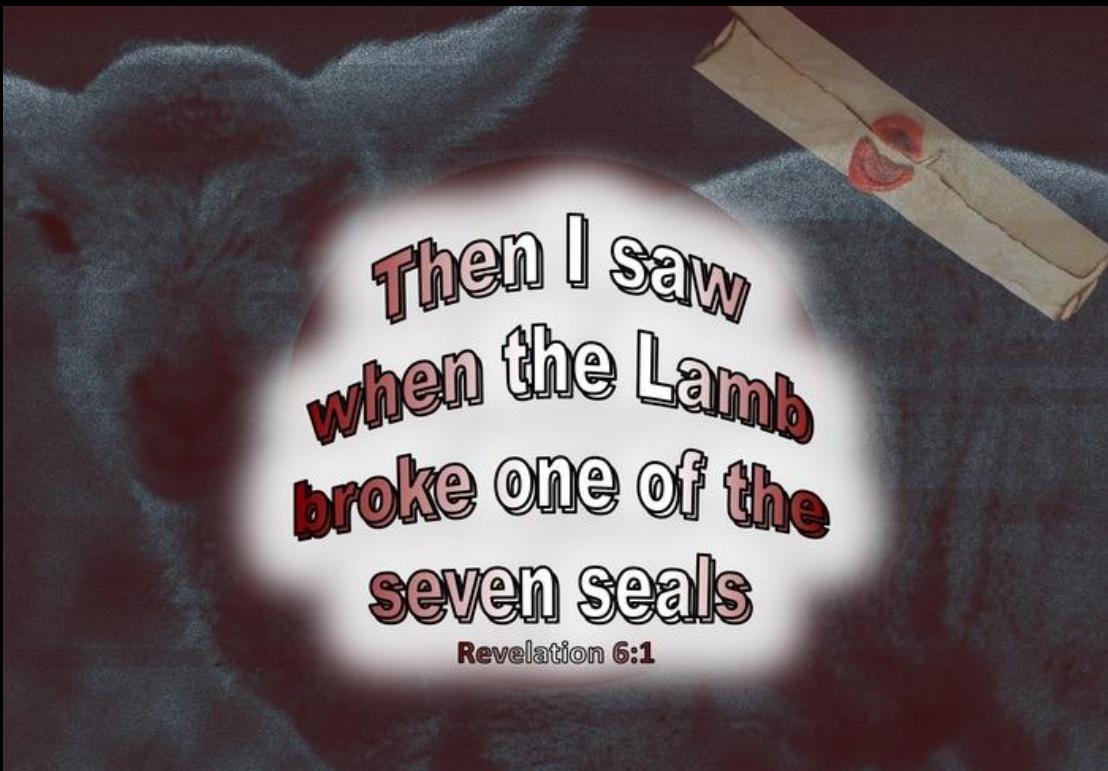
1st Seal – Introduction

Although symbolic, Revelation 6:1, 2 is about conquest, too. It brings to mind Revelation 19:11–16, which portrays Christ as riding a white horse and leading His heavenly armies of angels to deliver His people at the Second Coming. As a symbol of purity, the colour white is regularly associated with Christ and His followers. The rider on the horse holds a bow and is given a crown (Rev. 6:2), which evokes the image of God in the Old Testament, riding a horse with a bow in His hand while conquering His people's enemies (Hab. 3:8–13; Ps. 45:4, 5). The Greek word for the crown (Rev. 6:2) worn by the rider is stephanos, which is the crown of victory (Rev. 2:10, Rev. 3:11). This rider is a conqueror going forward conquering and to conquer.



1st Seal – The White Horse

And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see. And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer. – Revelation 6:1-2



1st Seal – The White Horse

In Zechariah 10:3-6,
Judah is compared to a
conquering horse:

Concerning God's plan
for ancient Israel Ellen
White explains that "He
[God] desired his people
to go forth conquering
and to conquer." Review
and Herald, July 10,
1900



**Ancient
Israel**

Judaism



The background as we look at the first seal

In Acts 1:4-5, Jesus told his disciples to not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water, but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.



Upper Room AD 31



Regarding the end time church Ellen White explains:

“Clad in the armour of Christ’s righteousness, the church is to enter upon her final conflict. ‘Fair as the moon, clear as the sun [Revelation 12:1] and terrible as an army with banners’ [Song of Solomon 6:10], she [the church] is to go forth into all the world conquering and to conquer [Revelation 6:1, 2].” PK, p. 725



The prophecy of the Old Testament

The book of Zechariah 6:2-5 mentions the white, red, black, and grisled and bay horses.

Zechariah 6:5 explains that these are the four spirits of heavens, which go forth from standing before the Lord of all the earth.” As we study the scriptures we can clearly see that they go forth and carry out the assignments given unto them.



1st Seal – The White Horse

- A white horse; rider with bow and crown. Application: The purity (Isaiah 1:18) and aggressiveness of the early church, spreading the Gospel.
- The bow used to inflict wounds is emblematic of the conquests of Christ. Psalm 45:5. Fulfilment: Acts of the Apostles, Page 45, 46.
- “Animated by an unparalleled missionary spirit, His followers traversed the length and breadth of the Empire, preaching everywhere the new teachings...” - Myers’ General History, p. 206.



1st Seal – The Colour White

White is a symbol of purity (Psalm 51:7; Psalm 45:3-5; Isaiah 1:18; Daniel 7:9; 12:10) and the apostolic church was a pure church both in doctrine and in lifestyle.

But white is also the colour of light and light is a symbol of the Word of God (Matthew 17:2 [white as the light]; Psalm 119:105; compare Revelation 12:1 with Revelation 19:8 where the white raiment is the glory of the sun). This is the period when the church is the light of the world (Matthew 5:16).



1st Seal – The Bow

II Kings 13:17 emphasizes that the bow and arrow represent God's deliverance in battle.

"God does not send messengers to flatter the sinner. He delivers no message of peace to lull the unsanctified into fatal security. He lays heavy burdens upon the conscience of the wrongdoer, and pierces the soul with arrows of conviction." DA, p. 104

"The Pharisee felt no conviction of sin. The Holy Spirit could not work with him.

His soul was encased in a self-righteous armour which the arrows of God, barbed and true-aimed by angel hands, failed to penetrate." Christ Object Lessons, p. 158



The Ultimate goal of the believer – The Crown

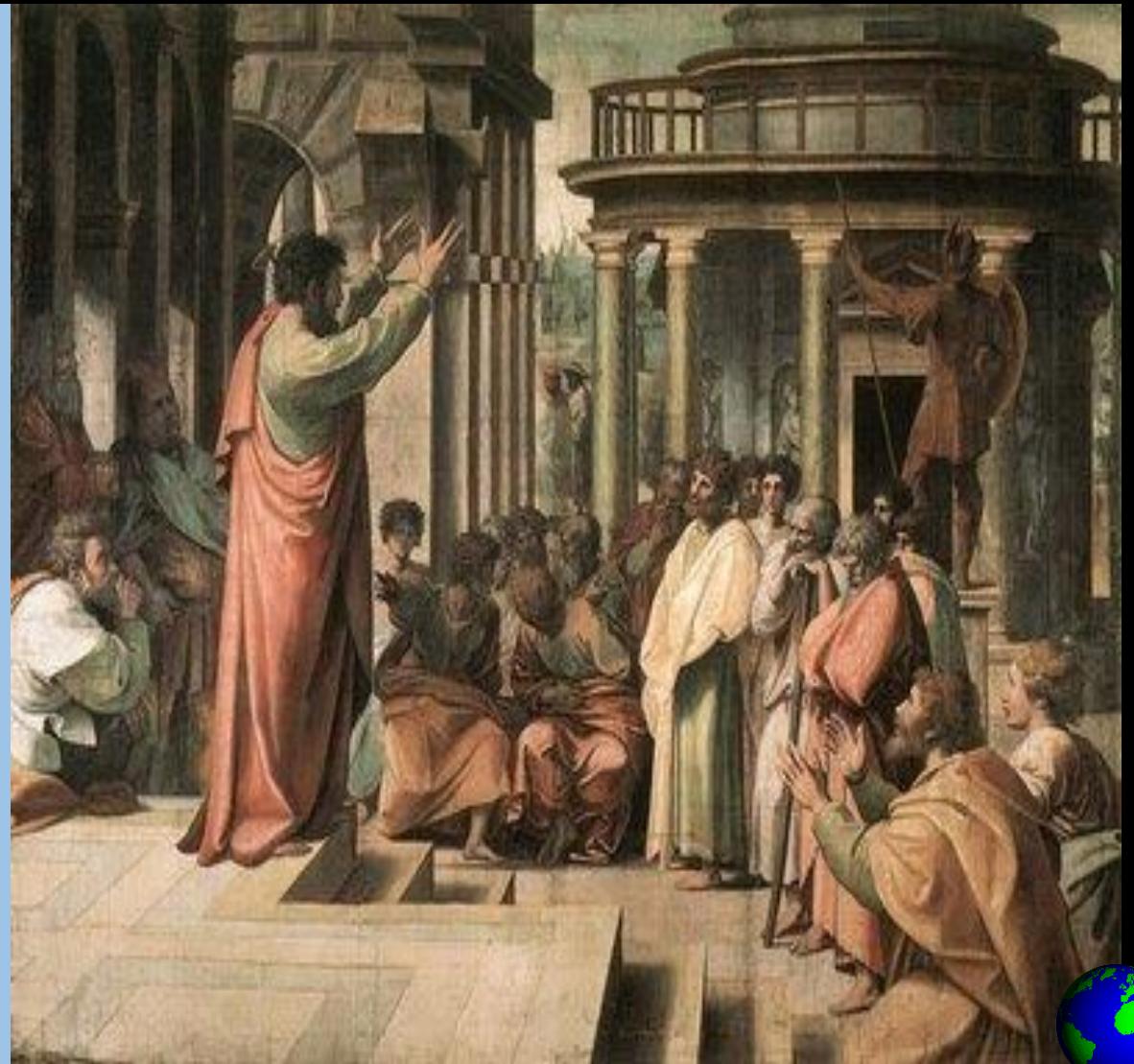
THE RIDER ON THE WHITE HORSE IS GIVEN A CONQUERER'S CROWN. This Conquering crown (stephanos) is a type of wreath that was awarded to the victor in ancient athletic games. The Greek name "Stephanos" stems from the word "Stephen" who was the first Christian martyr. This is the Crown of Righteousness that is promised to the Believer in [2 Timothy 4:8](#), [James 1:12](#), [Revelation 2:10](#), [Revelation 3:11](#), [Philippians 4:1](#), [1 Peter 5:4](#), and [1 Thess. 2:19](#). In-fact, except for this passage in Revelation 6, THE STEPHANOS (CONQUERER'S CROWN) IS ONLY GIVEN TO OVERCOMING BELIEVERS IN JESUS.



1st Seal – Conquering and to conquer

The white horse symbolizes the apostolic church which went out under the guidance of the Holy Spirit to defeat the kingdom of Satan and to extend the kingdom of Jesus. Acts 2:41; 4:4 describes these remarkable conquests.

Colossians 1:6, 23; Romans 1:8; Acts 17:6 tell us that the gospel was taken to the whole world (the word “world” (oikoumene) describes the inhabited world) in that generation.



THE FIRST SEAL

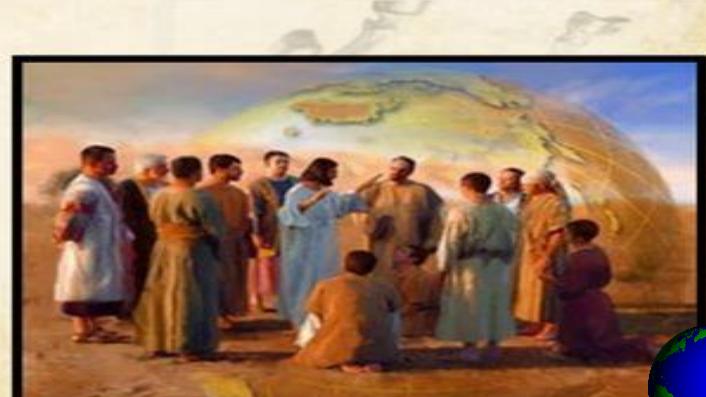
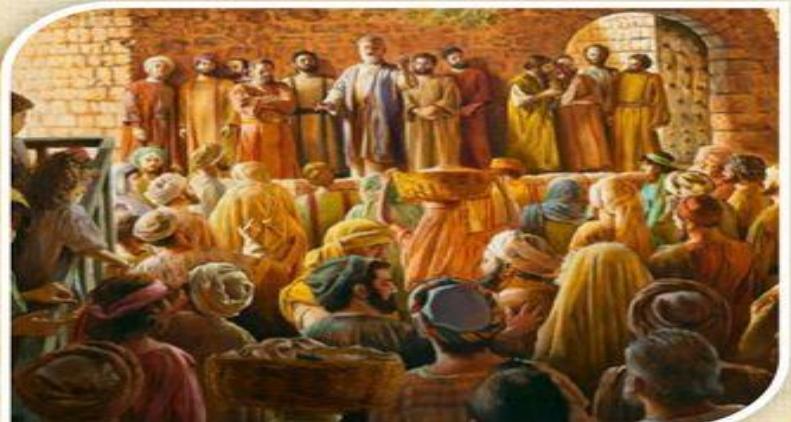
"And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer." (Revelation 6:2)

The first seal was broken, and John saw a pure (white) horse. The horseman was brandishing a long-range weapon (a bow) and was victorious (crown).

This horse is a symbol of the early Church.

The early Church received power at Pentecost and "went out conquering and to conquer."

Only 30 years after the death of Jesus, Paul said that the Gospel "was preached to every creature under heaven." (Colossians 1:23)





The Second Seal

100 AD to 313 AD

Meaning: The Red Horse represents the persecutions against the church by Imperial Rome. It is parallel to the second church, Smyrna. The year when the Edict of Milan made Christianity the Empire's official religion.



2nd Seal – The Red Horse

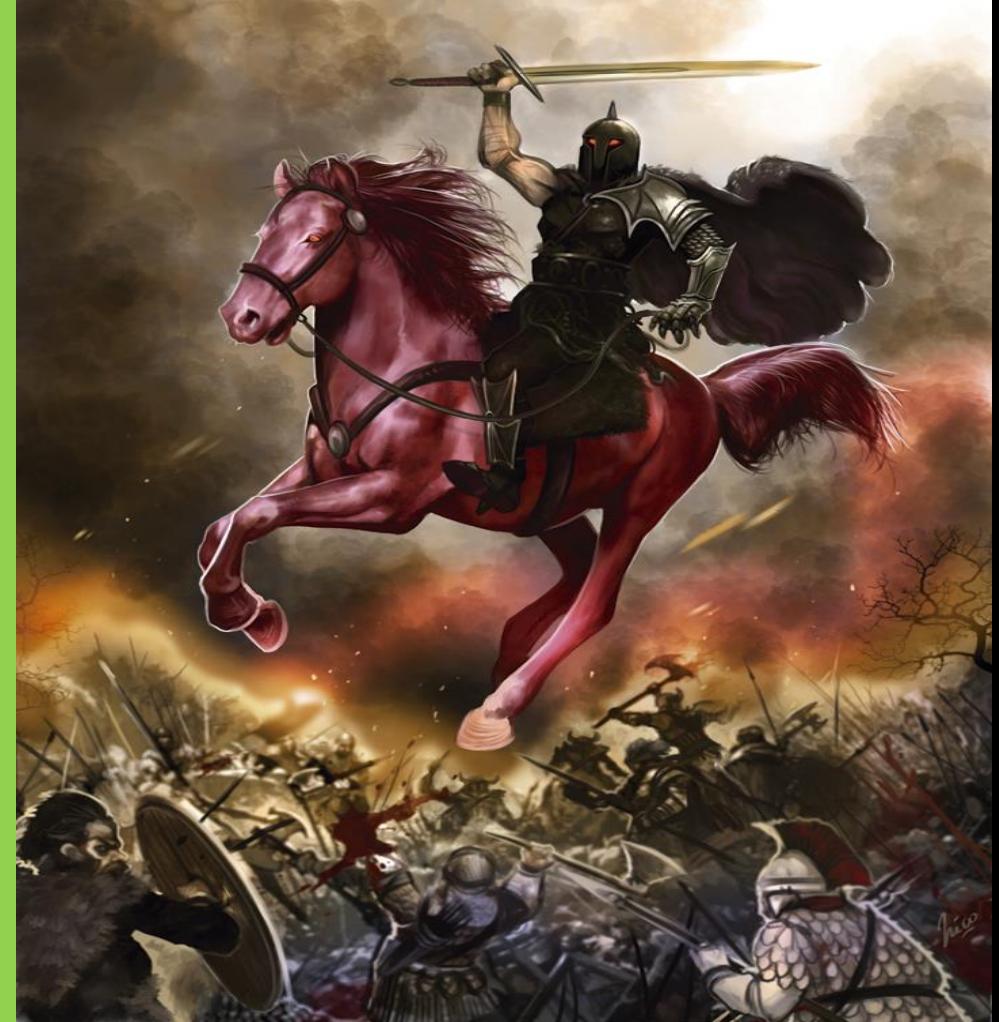
And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see. And there went out another horse *that was red:* and *power* was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword. – Revelation 6:3-4

Ellen White's comments on the second seal are found in the chapter titled: "Persecution in the first centuries" GC, pp. 39-48



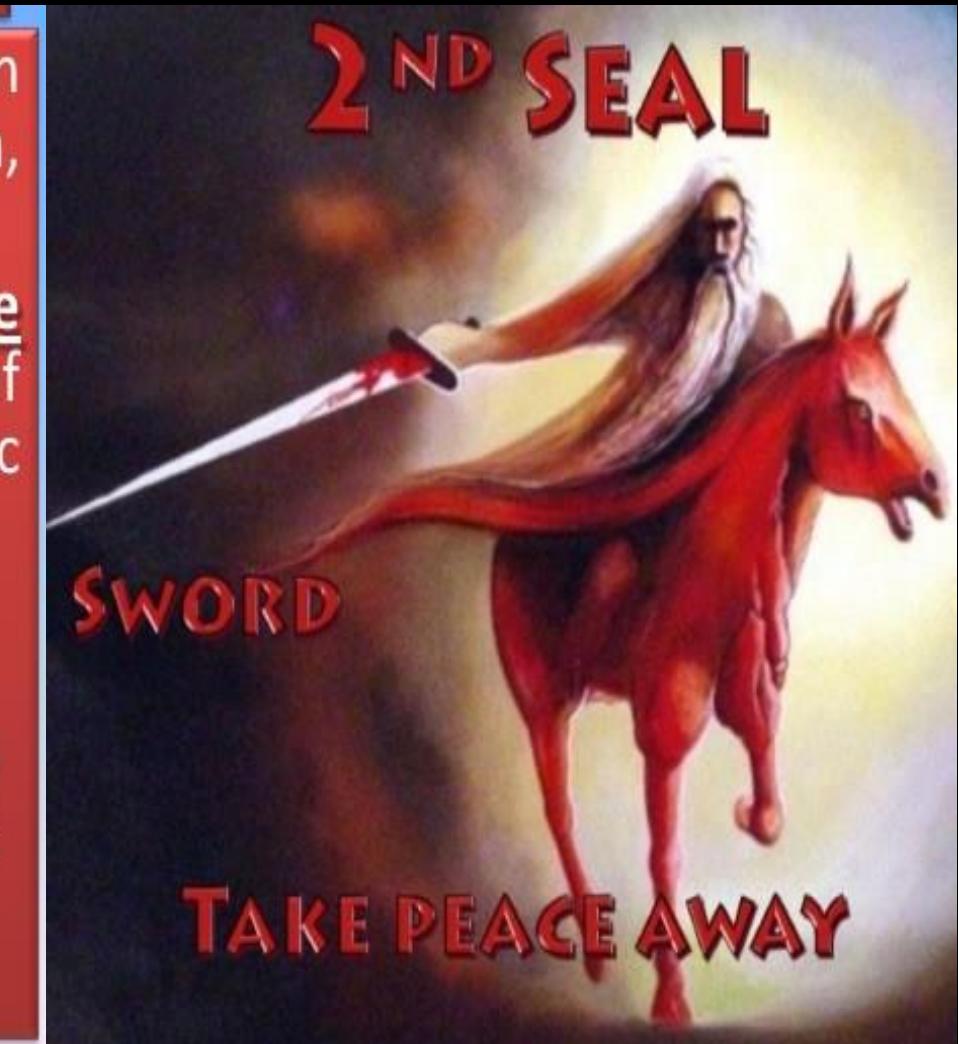
2nd Seal – The Introduction

Red is the colour of blood. The rider has a great sword and is allowed to take peace from the earth, which opens the way for people to kill one another (Matt. 24:6). The second seal describes the consequences of rejecting the gospel, beginning in the second century. As Christ is waging spiritual warfare through the preaching of the gospel, the forces of evil render strong resistance. Inevitably, persecution follows. The rider does not do the killing. Instead, he takes peace from the earth. As a result, persecution inevitably follows. (See Matt. 10:34.)



2nd Seal – The Red Horse

- **RED HORSE**, rider with sword, peace taken from the earth. Application: Red denotes sin, corruption. Isaiah 1:18.
- The change in colour signifies a change in the CHARACTER of the church. Applies to the period of apostasy and persecution following the Apostolic Era.
- Fulfilment: Writing of this period, Mosheim says, "There was continual war and trouble." The **Christian commonwealth changed its aspect** in the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th centuries. SDA Source Book, Page 35 (Killen).



2nd Seal – The Colour Red

Represents bloodshed because the sword takes away peace from the earth and the result is war and bloodshed (Isaiah 63:2; Nahum 2:3; Revelation 17:1-6).



2nd Seal – The Red Horse

The key text is in Matthew 10:34-39. In this passage, we have three key words that are found in the second seal: earth, peace and sword. The sword is here used against God's faithful people because they have preached the gospel of the Bible.

34 Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword.

35 For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law.

36 And a man's foes *shall be* they of his own household.

37 He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.

38 And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.

39 He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.



2nd Seal – The Red Horse

Now the second beast, the calf or ox presents the second horse. In this period as the church was turning more to the world, The true people of God suffered and had to make great sacrifices to stay loyal to God's Word. The calf or ox was an animal slain on the altars.

This horse is no longer white and pure, it is red, the colour of sin and blood. The church began to be corrupted. The 'mystery of iniquity' was at work in Paul's day.

Errors began to arise, and the love of the world came in at an early date. What happened was that some powerful heathen leaders joined the church, and instead of throwing away their heathen ideas and following the Bible only; they began to try and mix their heathen ideas with the Bible.



2nd Seal – The Red Horse

They thought they could do this and make the Christian religion even better, but if you put muddy water in clean water, you have all muddy water. They didn't want to give up their 'Great Learning' from heathenism, but as they tried to bring their pagan ideas into the Bible and the church, they did not make the church better; they lost the pure truth of the Gospel and followed worldly ways.

It was at this time that many of the errors and wrong ideas that are found in the modern versions of the Bible, first happened. The former Heathen leaders, now Christian in name, mixed their ideas into the Bible, and when Constantine ordered a new Bible to be written, these ideas were put in them. Some of those old manuscripts are still around today, but the true church of Jesus never accepted them. The Roman church used them. They are what the writers of the new modern translations use to try and confuse the true children of Jesus today.



2nd Seal – The Red Horse

This horse goes up to the time of Constantine, where the church began to ask for help from the government and to try to please the government.

When we do not follow the Word of God faithfully and we begin to try and do things like the world, and have the power and pride of the world, then we loose our peace with Jesus. In this period, 'There was continual war and trouble.'

Only Jesus can give us real PEACE, and He tells us this does not ever come from the world; "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you" . . . John 14:27

The Bible shows us another group who have no peace (rest), it is those who 'worship the beast'. Revelation 14:11



2nd Seal – The Sword

The sword represents the Bible (Hebrews 4:12, 13; Ephesians 6:17; Isaiah 49:2; Revelation 19:13, 15, 21). But the sword also represents the civil power (Romans 13:1-4). How do these swords relate to one another?

Time and again the Bible emphasizes that the preaching of the gospel brings peace in its train (Isaiah 9:6; Romans 10:15; Ephesians 6:15) If the sword here is the Bible, why does it take away peace rather than giving peace?

The conquests of the first horse lead to persecution under the second horse. The devil was worried by the many defections from his army and now he kills those who are conquering the subjects of his kingdom.



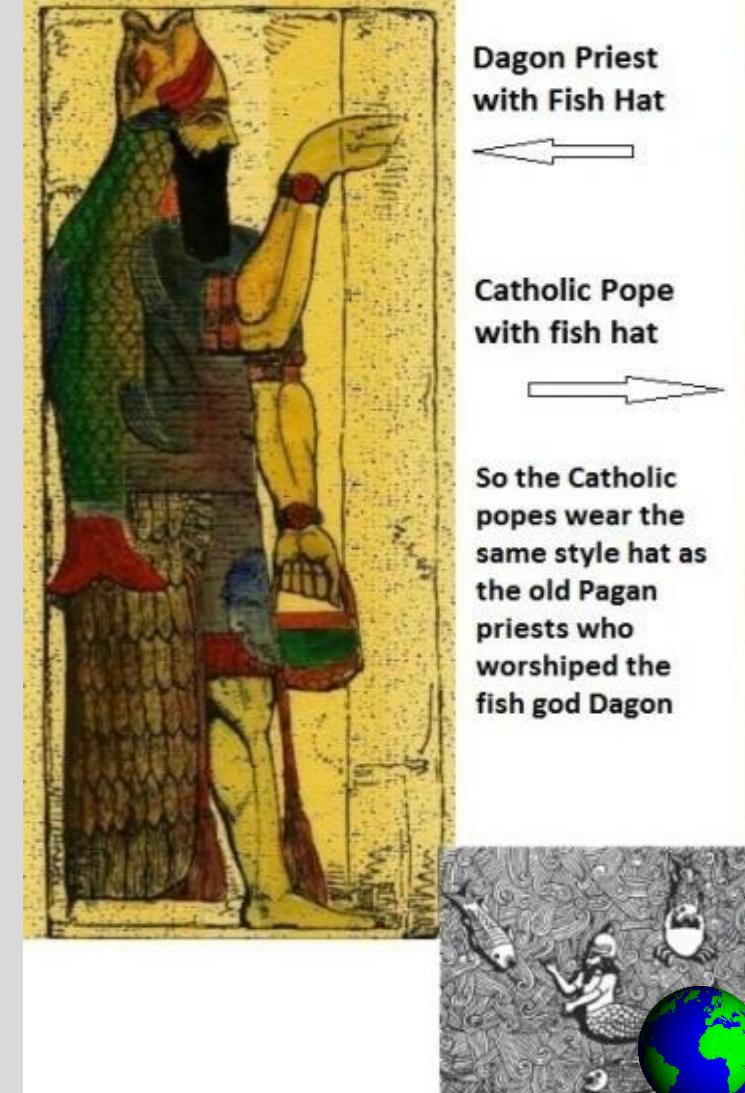
2nd Seal – The Red Horse

“The gospel is a message of peace. Christianity is a system which, received and obeyed, would spread peace [key word in the second seal], harmony, and happiness throughout the earth. . . The gospel presents to them principles of life which are wholly at variance with their habits and desires, and they rise in rebellion against it. They hate the purity [first seal] which reveals and condemns their sins, and they persecute and destroy those who would urge upon them its just and holy claims. It is in this sense--because the exalted truths it brings occasion hatred and strife--that the gospel is called a sword [key word in the second seal]. GC, p. 46



2nd Seal – The Red Horse

"The powers of earth and hell arrayed themselves [war language] against Christ in the person of His followers. Paganism foresaw that should the gospel triumph [White horse war language], her temples and altars would be swept away; therefore she summoned her forces [war language] to destroy Christianity. The fires of persecution [second seal] were kindled. Christians were stripped of their possessions and driven from their homes. They "endured a great fight of afflictions." Hebrews 10:32. They "had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment." Hebrews 11:36. Great numbers sealed their testimony with their blood [red]. Noble and slave, rich and poor, learned and ignorant, were alike slain without mercy." GC, p. 39, 40; see also GC, p. 42 where the blood of Christians is spoken of as seed.



2nd Seal – The Red Horse

“Thousands were imprisoned and slain, but others sprang up to fill their places. And those who were martyred for their faith were secured to Christ and accounted of Him as conquerors [white horse language]. They had fought the good fight, and they were to receive the crown of glory [the victor’s crown of the first seal] when Christ should come.” GC, p. 42



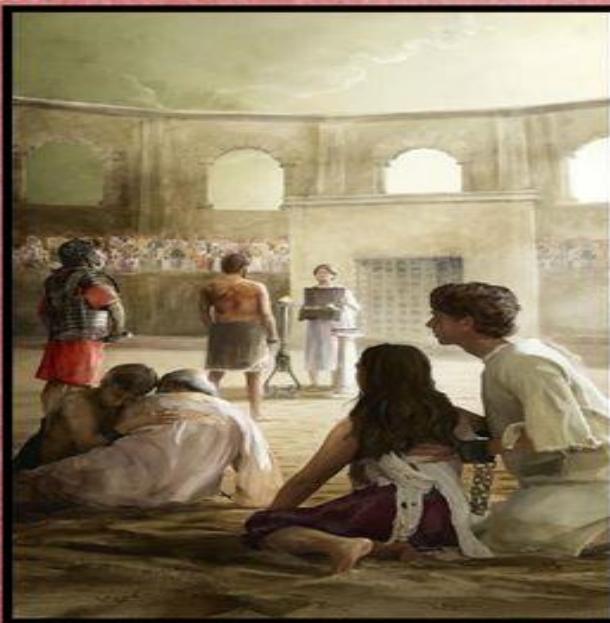
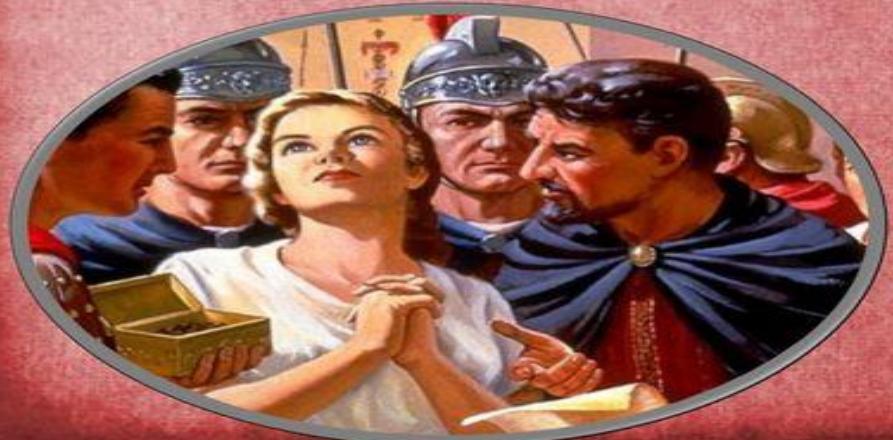
THE SECOND SEAL

"Another horse, fiery red, went out. And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth, and that people should kill one another; and there was given to him a great sword." (Revelation 6:4)



Jesus had foretold that the Gospel would face opposition from the powers of evil (Matthew 10:34).

The Roman Empire had persecuted the Christians and shed the blood of many martyrs since the 2nd Century.



The persecution was intense during the reign of Diocletian, Maximian, Galerius and Constantius. That period ended when Constantine stopped the persecution.





313 AD to 538 AD

The Parallel Church: Pergamum



3rd Seal – The Black Horse

And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand. And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine.

– Revelation 6:5-6



3rd Seal – *Introduction*

The rider on the black horse holds a scale for weighing food. An announcement is made: “ ‘A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius’ ” (Revelation 6:6). In that part of the world, grain, oil, and wine were the basic necessities of life (Deuteronomy 11:14). To eat bread by carefully weighing the grain denoted great scarcity or famine (Leviticus 26:26, Ezekiel 4:16). In John’s day, a denarius was a daily wage (Matthew 20:2). In normal circumstances, a daily wage would buy all the necessities for the family for that day. However, a famine would enormously inflate the normal price of food. In the scene of the third seal, it would take a whole day’s work to buy just enough food for only one person. In order to feed a small family, a day’s wage would be used to buy three quarts of barley, a cheaper, coarser food for the poor.



3rd Seal – *Introduction*

The scene of the third seal points to the further consequences of rejecting the gospel, beginning in the fourth century, as the church gained political power. If the white horse represents the preaching of the gospel, the black horse denotes the absence of the gospel and the reliance on human traditions. Grain in the Bible symbolizes the Word of God (Luke 8:11). The rejection of the gospel inevitably results in a famine of the Word of God similar to the one prophesied by Amos (Amos 8:11–13).



3rd Seal – The Black Horse

Ellen White describes this period with the chapter titled: “An Era of Spiritual Darkness” (GC, pp. 49-60; see especially pp. 55, 57, 60) Notice The Great Controversy and the war on the Bible (pp. 61, 62, 63).

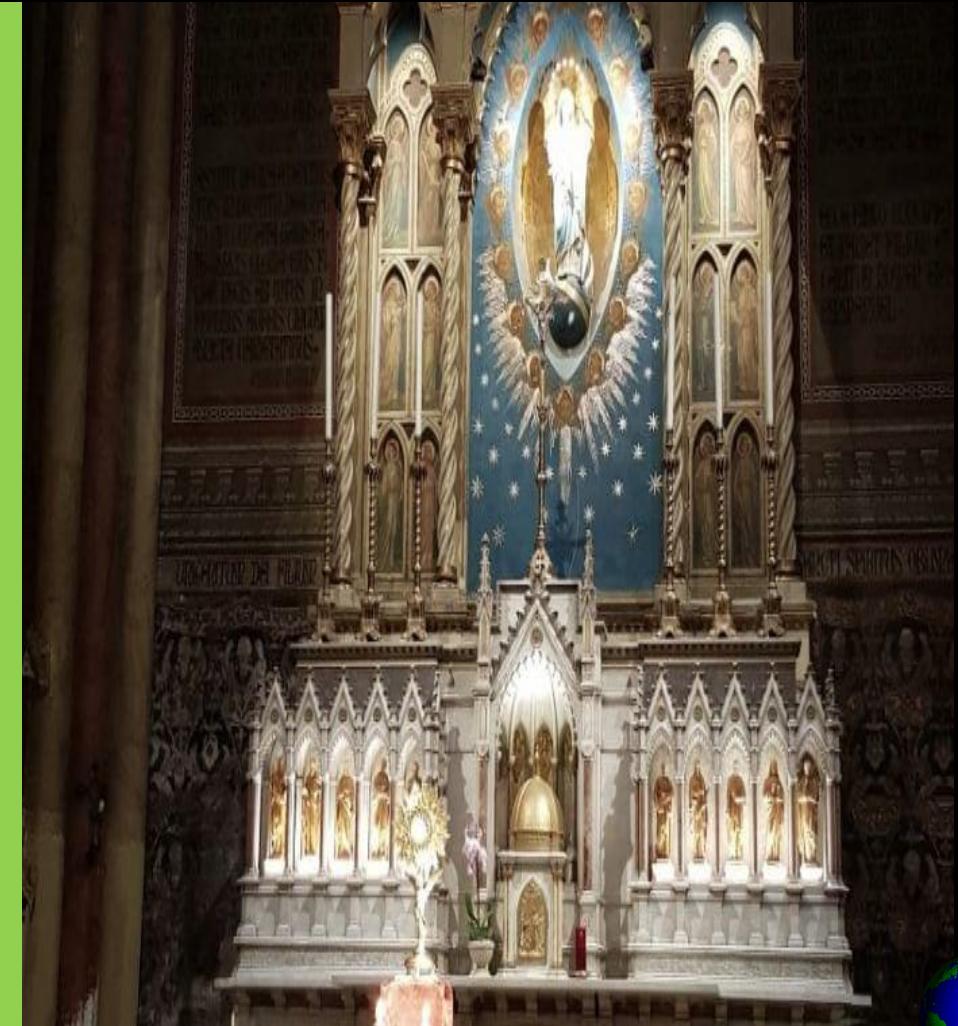
Jesus is the Word (John 1:1-3) and where the Word is present there is light and life (John 1:4, 5; I John 1:5-7). The colour white is identified with light (Psalm 104:1, 2 with Daniel 7:9; Matthew 17:2). The written word of God is light (Psalm 119:105). Actually the white horse represents God’s people proclaiming the Word of God which is light to the world (John 9:5; Matthew 5:16). God’s people are light and the word of God is light.

Where the Word of God is absent there is darkness (black). The way of the righteous is light and the way of the wicked is darkness (Proverbs 4:18, 19).



3rd Seal – The Black Horse

Creatures of darkness roam and thrive in the darkness: bats, rats, roaches, germs. This horse is to be seen in contrast to the white horse. The white horse represents the light of God's word radiated by God's people. The black horse represents darkness which comes from a waning of God's word. Where God's word is not there is darkness. Black represents sin, apostasy, error, heresy, human traditions. During this seal there is a scarcity of the showbread in the holy place. In fact wheat and barley are extremely expensive. When the word of God is suppressed there is darkness (black) as a result and finally hunger, pestilence and death (fourth horse).



3rd Seal – The Black Horse

Era of spiritual darkness

“The accession of the Roman Church to power marked the beginning of the Dark Ages. As her power increased, the darkness deepened.” GC, p. 55

“The darkness seemed to grow more dense.” GC, p. 57

“But “the noon of the papacy was the midnight of the world.”--J. A. Wylie, The History of Protestantism, b. 1, ch. 4. The Holy Scriptures were almost unknown, not only to the people, but to the priests.” GC, p. 60

“The world had passed its midnight [because of Wycliffe]. The hours of darkness were wearing away, and in many lands appeared tokens of the coming dawn.” GC, p. 79

It is significant that Ellen White dedicates three pages to the issue of the change of the Sabbath during this era of spiritual darkness (GC, pp. 52-54).

I John 2:8-11 explains that those who are in darkness hate their brother and want to kill him. The darkness of the third horse leads to death under the fourth horse.



3rd Seal – The Black Horse

Why is there no persecution today?

Because we do not have the spirit and power of the early church!

"There is another and more important question that should engage the attention of the churches of today. The apostle Paul declares that "all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." 2 Timothy 3:12. Why is it, then, that persecution seems in a great degree to slumber? The only reason is that the church has conformed to the world's standard and therefore awakens no opposition. The religion which is current in our day is not of the pure and holy character that marked the Christian faith in the days of Christ and His apostles. It is only because of the spirit of compromise with sin, because the great truths of the word of God are so indifferently regarded, because there is so little vital godliness in the church, that Christianity is apparently so popular with the world. Let there be a revival of the faith and power of the early church, and the spirit of persecution will be revived, and the fires of persecution will be rekindled. GC, p. 48

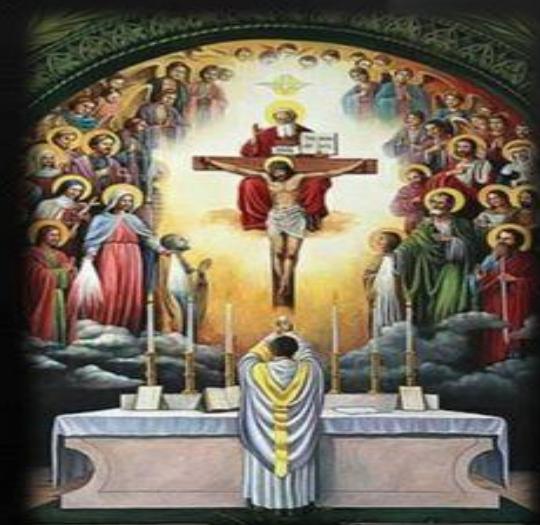


THE THIRD SEAL

"So I looked, and behold, a black horse, and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand. And I heard a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, 'A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine.'" (Revelation 6:5-6)



Black is the opposite of white. The purity of the Gospel of the white horse became corrupted during the period between 313 AD and 538 AD.



Hunger and poverty would devastate the laborers if a quart of wheat cost the equivalent of one day's wage.

The Bible was abandoned, and the people suffered hunger for the Word of God (wheat and barley).

However, God still offered salvation through the Holy Spirit (oil) and the blood of Jesus (wine).





538 AD to 1517 AD

The Period of the Church of Thyatira



4th Seal – The Pale Horse

And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see. And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth. –

Revelation 6:7-8



4th SEAL

- **PALE HORSE**; Death seated upon horse; Hell (the Grave) follows. Application: Pale, an unnatural colour.
- The original word denotes the pale, sickly colour seen in blighted plants. Denotes a period of great persecution.
- Fulfilment: “Power was given unto him [the Papacy] over the fourth part of the earth” (that part ruled over by the Papacy).
- Pale (Grey) also results from mixing Black with White, a mixture of truth and lies! – Birth of Xmas, Easter, etc., denial of which resulted in death.



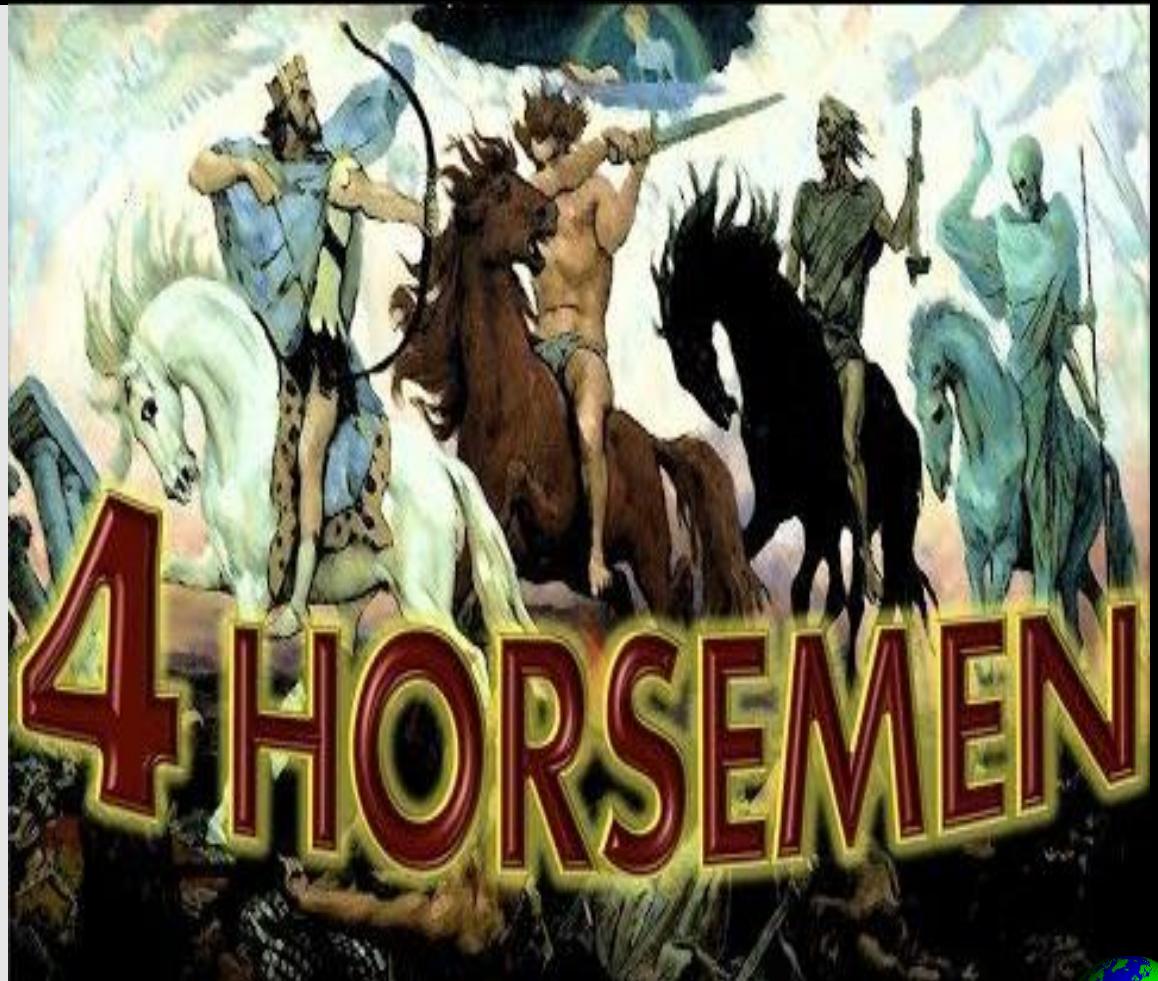
4th Seal – The Pale Horse

The colour of the horse in the fourth seal is expressed with the Greek word chloros, which is the ashen-grey colour of a decomposing corpse. The rider's name is Death; meanwhile, Hades, the place of the dead, accompanies him. These two are allowed to destroy people by sword, hunger, death, and wild beasts over one fourth of the earth (Matt. 24:7, 8). The good news is that the power of Death and Hades is very limited; they are given authority only over a part (one fourth) of the earth. Jesus assures us that He has the keys of Hades and Death (see Rev. 1:18).



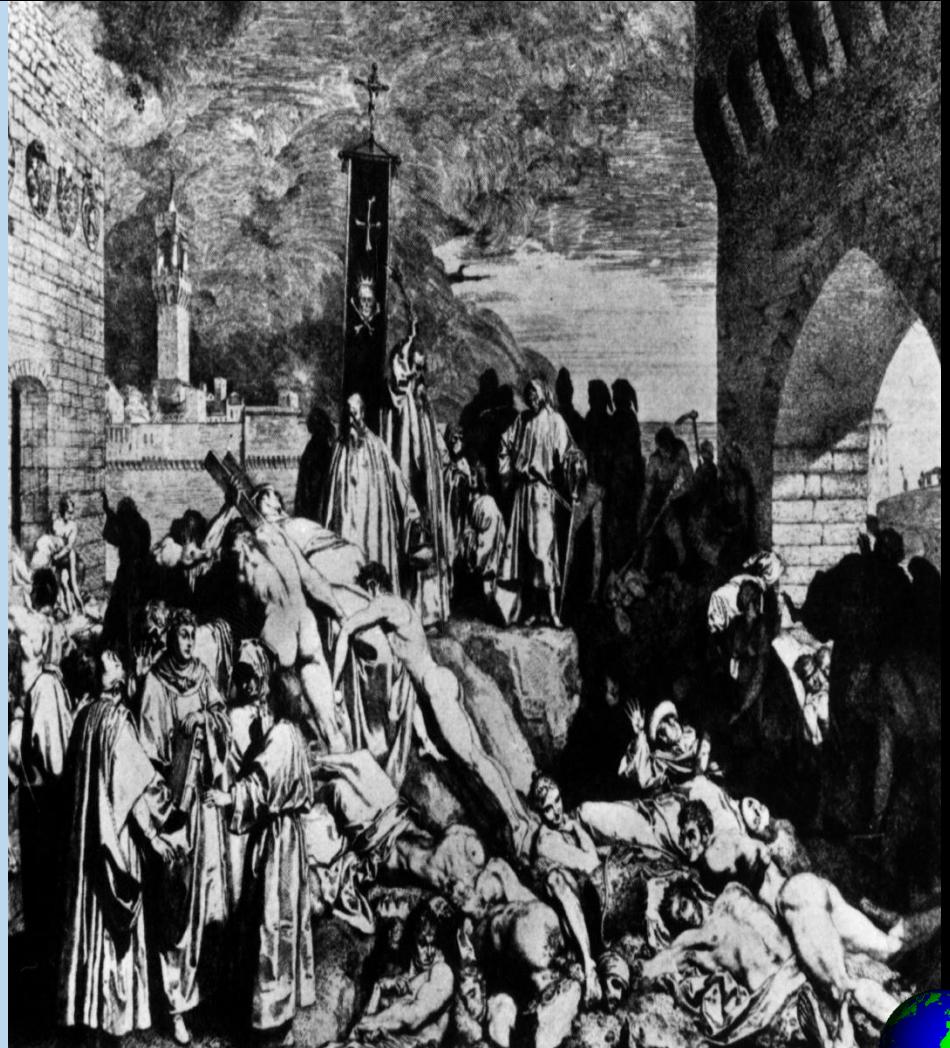
4th Seal – The Pale Horse

The scenes of the seven seals portray the future of the church. As was the case with the seven churches, the seals correlate to the different periods in Christian history. During the apostolic times, the gospel rapidly spread throughout the world. This expansion was followed by the period of persecution in the Roman Empire, from the end of the first century to the beginning of the fourth century, as portrayed in the scene of the second seal. The third seal points to the period of compromise of the fourth and fifth centuries, which was characterized by a spiritual famine caused by a lack of the Bible and its truths, leading to the “Dark Ages.” The fourth seal aptly describes the spiritual death that characterized Christianity for nearly a thousand years.



4th Seal – Symbols and Expressions

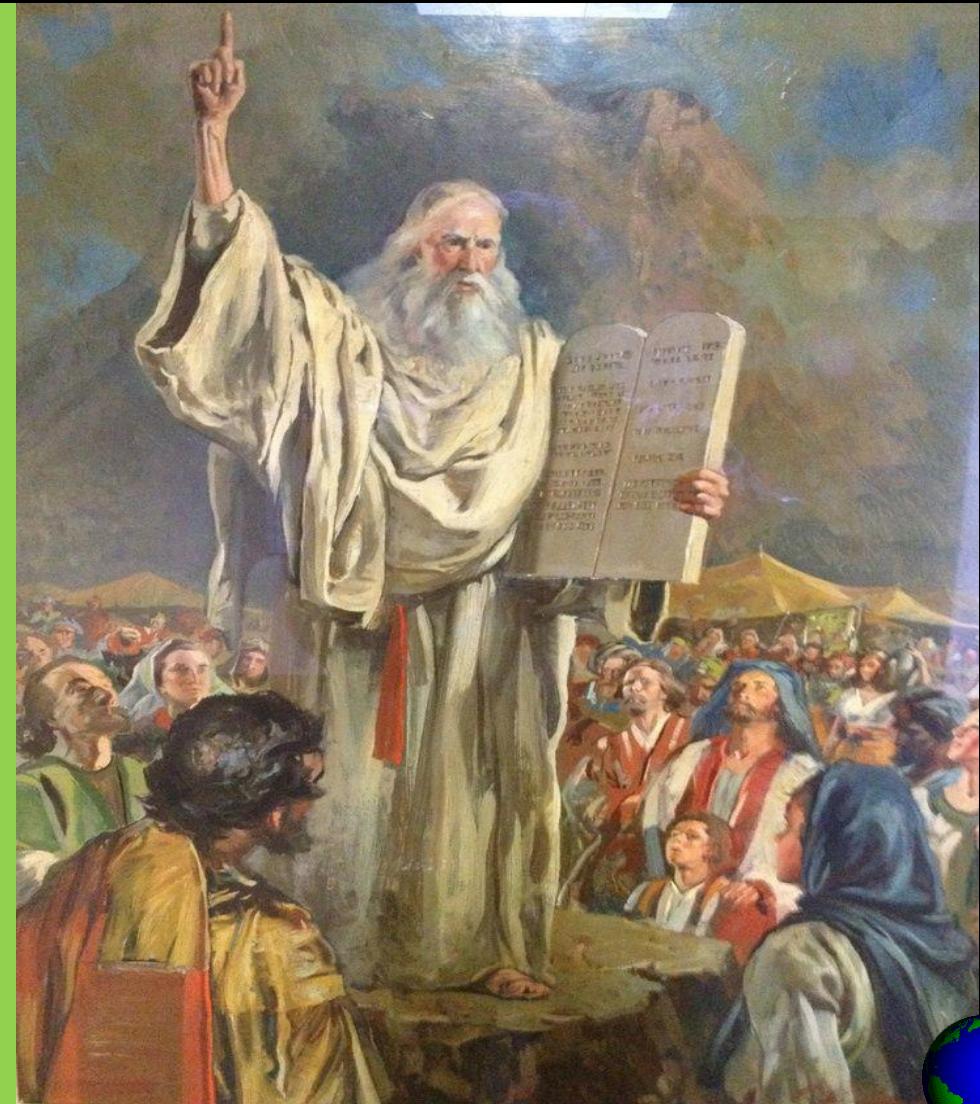
- Colour pale (chloros: The color of this horse is really a greenish pale as when a young shoot comes out of a tree. This paleness is the colour of death).
- Death and Hades (the grave ultimately follows death).
- Fourth part of the earth (at this time the devastating power of the fourth horse and its rider is not universal).
- Famine (scarcity of God's word).
- Pestilence (in New Testament Greek the word thanatos technically means 'death'. But in 30 of the 50 times it appears in the Greek Old Testament (LXX) the Hebrew word deber is translated "pestilence". To say that the fourth horse kills with death would be redundant. Death by the sword and famine brings pestilence or disease in its train and ultimately leads to death and the grave).
- Wild beasts (wicked leaders and nations who were inimical to God's people and behaved like wild beasts).



4th Seal – The Old Testament Background

In Old Testament times, when Israel broke the covenant and apostatized from the truth, God would send the very same four judgments that are mentioned in connection with the fourth horse: sword, famine, pestilence and wild beasts (see Leviticus 26:21-26; Ezekiel 14:21).

Because Israel was God's literal people in the literal land of Canaan, these judgments were literal. But under the fourth seal (as well as in the others) we are dealing with spiritual Israel in a spiritual land (the Christian church) and therefore we need to interpret these things in a symbolic manner (see Daniel 11:28, 30, 32 where we are told that the Papacy trampled on God's holy covenant during the 1260 years).

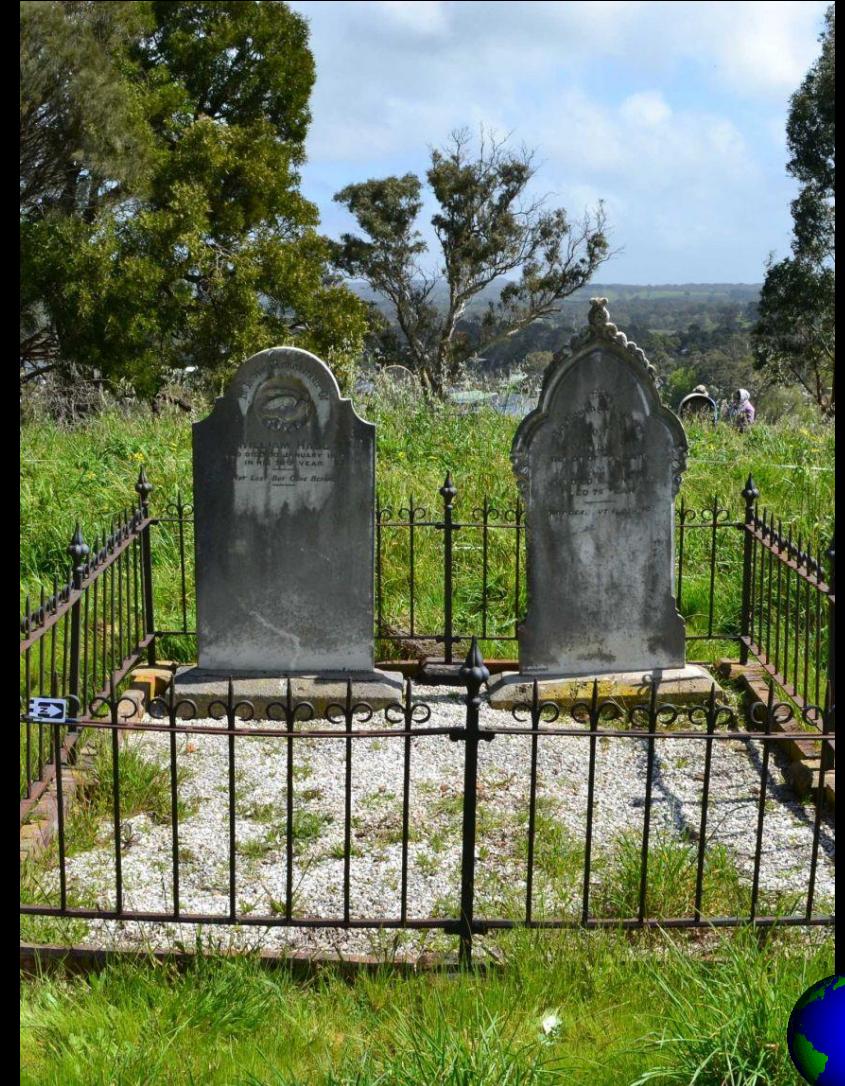


4th Seal – Death and Hades

The immediate aftermath of death is the place where the dead go, the grave. The word hades is the Greek equivalent of the Hebrew word sheol and it should consistently be translated “the grave” (the link between the Hebrew and Greek words is found in I Corinthians 15:54, 55 [quoting Hosea 13:14] and Acts 2:25-27, 31 [quoting Psalm 16:8-10]).

In the Old Testament the concepts of death and the grave are regularly linked in synonymous parallelism (see Psalm 6: 5; 49:14, 15; 89:48; 116:3; Proverbs 5:25; 7:27; 15:25; Isaiah 38:18; 28:15; Amos 9:2; Hosea 13:14).

In the New Testament the word hades is used 12 times (Matthew 11:23; 16:18; Luke 10:15; Acts 2:25-27, 31; Revelation 1:17, 18; 6:8; 20:13-15;



4th Seal – The Sword

The key verses are found in Romans 13:1-4 and Revelation 13:10, 14. More often than not when the sword of the Spirit convicts of sin (Hebrews 4:12, 13) the result is that the sword of persecution is used to suppress it (see for example Matthew 10:34-37).

Besides representing the Word of God, the sword is also linked with the civil power (Romans 13:1-4). It is no coincidence that the sword of Revelation 13:10, 14 was in the hands of the Papacy during the 1260 years.



4th Seal – Famine and Pestilence

In symbolic terms famine exists because the Holy Spirit, speaking through the Word of God is scarce. During the middle Ages there was no rain (Revelation 11:6; no Holy Spirit), therefore bread (the Word of God) was scarce and the result was famine (spiritual hunger). Famine in turn led to malnutrition and malnutrition led to pestilence and ultimately to spiritual death.

Amos 8:11, 12 , Isaiah 55:10-11

“Let my teaching drop as the rain, my speech distil as the dew, as raindrops on the tender herb, and as showers on the grass.” Deuteronomy 32:2



4th Seal – The Wild Beasts

The wild beasts symbolize those who are inimical to Christ and His people.

“No sooner were these words spoken than a rush was made for Christ. Like wild beasts, the crowd darted upon their prey. Jesus was dragged this way and that, Herod joining the mob in seeking to humiliate the Son of God. Had not the Roman soldiers interposed, and forced back the maddened throng, the Savior would have been torn in pieces.” DA, p. 731

“The symbols of earthly governments are wild beasts, but in the kingdom of Christ, men are called upon to behold, not a ferocious beast, but the Lamb of God.”
Review and Herald, August 18, 1896



4th Seal – The Wild Beasts

The wild beasts symbolize those who are inimical to Christ and His people.

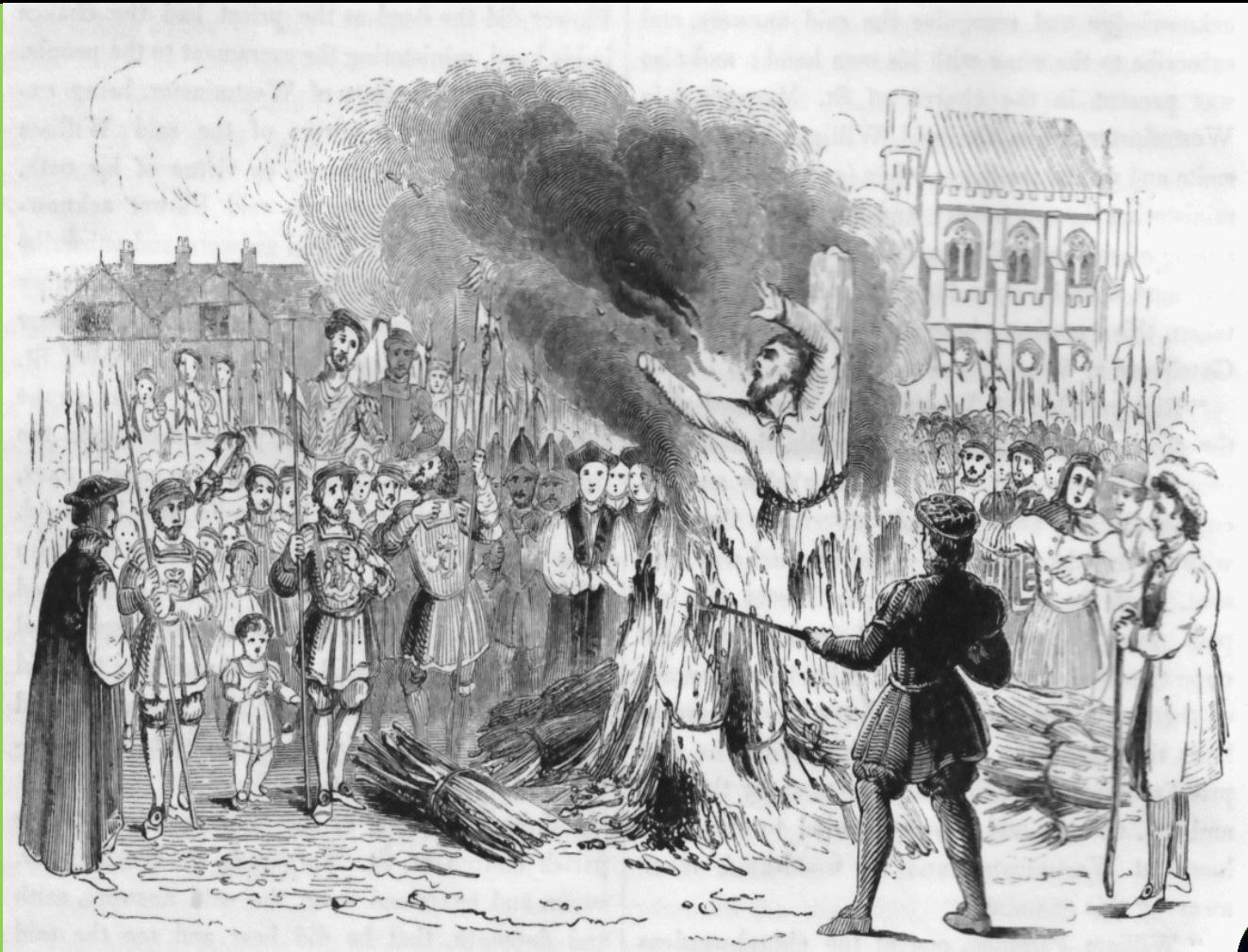
“At this the priests and rulers were beside themselves with anger. They were more like wild beasts of prey than like human beings. They rushed upon Stephen, gnashing their teeth.” Sketches from the Life of Paul, p. 19

“As the ravenous beast is rendered more furious by the taste of blood, so the rage of the papists was kindled to greater intensity by the sufferings of their victims.” GC, p. 76



4th Seal – The Wild Beasts

On the death of Jerome:
“Their thirst for blood,
whetted by the death of Huss,
clamored for fresh victims.
Only by an unreserved
surrender of the truth could
Jerome preserve his life. But
he had determined to avow
his faith and follow his brother
martyr to the flames.” GC, p.
112



4th Seal – The Pale Horse

“For hundreds of years the circulation of the Bible was prohibited. The people were forbidden to read it or to have it in their houses and unprincipled priests and prelates interpreted its teachings to sustain their pretensions.” GC, p. 51

The Inquisition (the sword of the state) was also established during this period to slay those who studied and obeyed the word of God. During this time the papal leaders behaved as wild beasts toward God’s people.



4th Seal - The oil and the wine

- In Scripture, oil represents the Holy Spirit. Some believe that oil not only represents the Holy Spirit but also the righteousness of Christ. 30 And it is true that when one receives the Holy Spirit, the Spirit does impart the righteousness of Christ. Wine represents doctrine. Unfermented wine represents true doctrines from the Word of God while intoxicating wine represents false doctrine, corrupted by Satan and his minions.

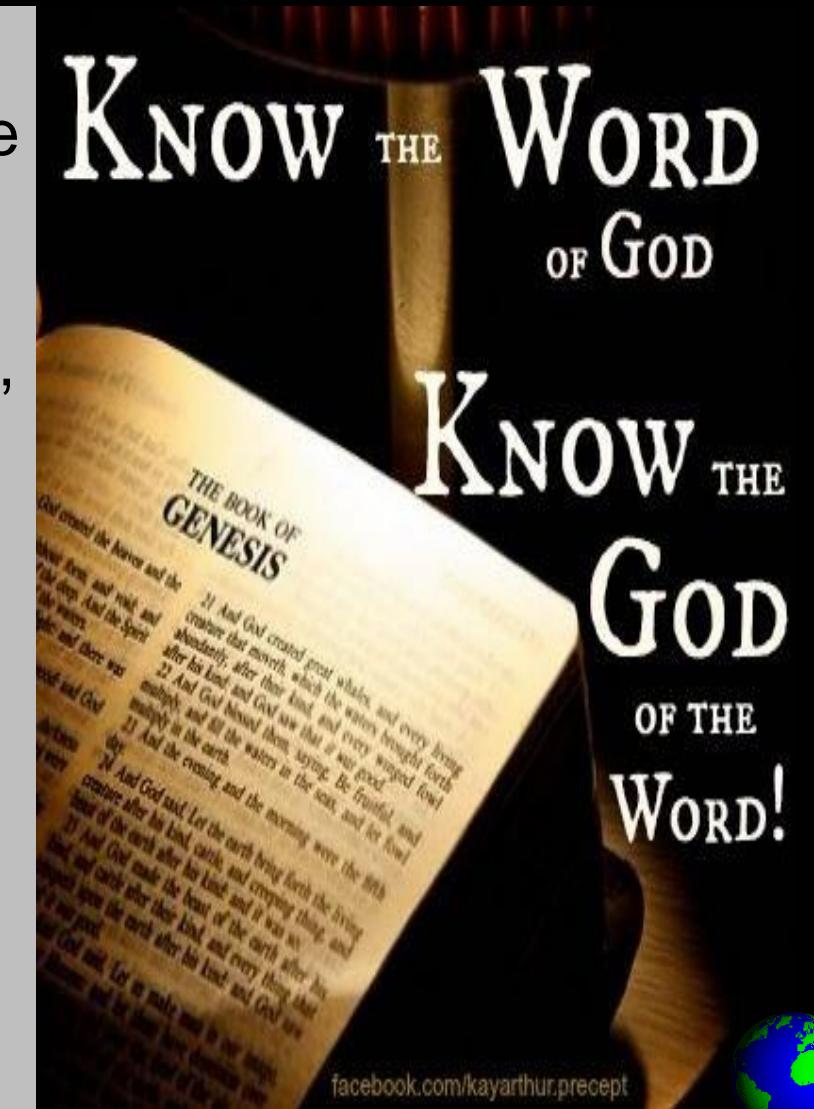
When the apostate church began to dominate the world, God still preserved small remnants of people who had in their possession the precious Word of God in all its purity. The Waldenses of Northern Italy were one such group. They possessed the Word of God in their native tongue. In this way the Holy Spirit, the righteousness of Christ and correct doctrine were preserved. The gospel of salvation was still available to men and women if they should seek it.



The Relationship between the 3rd, 4th & 5th Seals

The darkness and scarcity of bread under the third seal intensified under the fourth seal and led to death and the grave. Concerning this period, Ellen White explained: "The accession of the Roman Church to power marked the beginning of the Dark Ages. As her power increased, the darkness deepened." GC, p. 55

When the church dies spiritually because she does not feed on the word of God, she begins to destroy those who do not share her lack of spirituality. Those who cannot defend their doctrines with the spiritual sword (the Bible); will do so with the literal sword. The martyrs who were slain under the period of the fourth horse cry out for God to judge and avenge their death. This is the period of the fifth seal which we shall study next time.



THE FOURTH SEAL



"So I looked, and behold, a pale horse. And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades followed with him. And power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth." (*Revelation 6:8*)



The color of this horse is the color of a rotting corpse. It's a symbol of spiritual death as a consequence of abandoning the Bible and the principles of the Gospel.

This is the same time period as the message to the church in Thyatira, a spiritually dead church.

New punishments (death and beasts) are added to the previous ones (sword and hunger). Maybe this is a divine attempt to awake the Church and make her turn away from her apostasy (*Leviticus 26:21-41*).

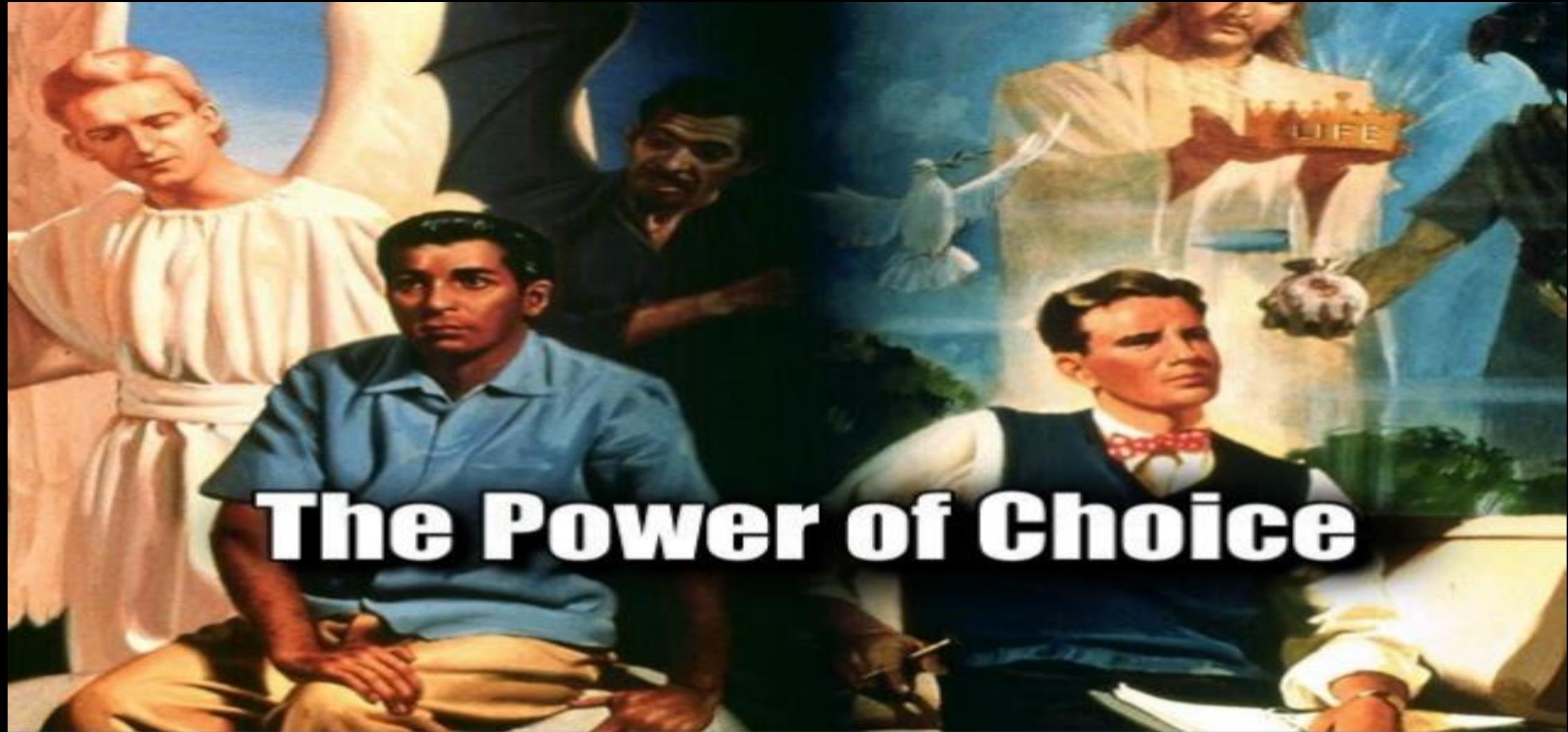


Concluding remarks

The overcomer is the individual who enjoys special benefits in eternity for refusing to give up his faith in Jesus in spite of persecution during life on earth.

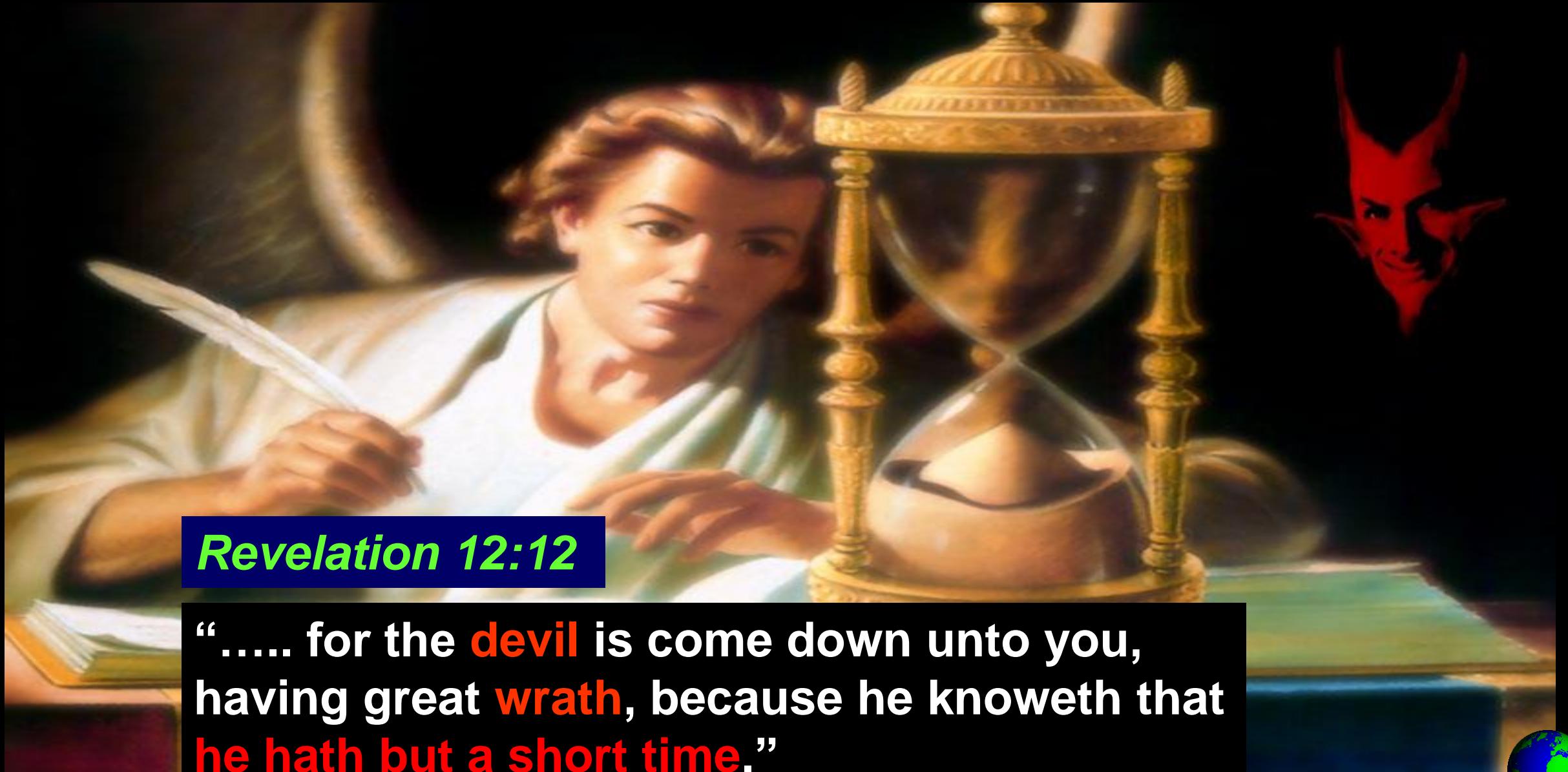


God has given all:



The Power of Choice





Revelation 12:12

“..... for the **devil** is come down unto you,
having great **wrath**, because he knoweth that
he hath but a short time.”

Enter The Ark of Hope

And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, *and* one shepherd.

– John 10:16



The Ark of the Covenant



Psalms 77:13

Behold, I stand at
the door, and
knock: if any man
hear my voice,
and open the door,
I will come in to
him, and will sup
with him, and he
with me. –
Revelation 3:20





ARE YOU READY TO MEET JESUS?