



### Questions

**Study Procedure:** Read the Scripture references before answering questions. Unless otherwise instructed, use the Bible only in answering questions. Some questions may be more difficult than others but try to answer as many as you can. Pray for God's wisdom and understanding as you study and don't be discouraged if some answers are not obvious at first. Do not read the study notes for this lesson until AFTER you have completed your questions.

**Day One:** Review of Lesson 17.

Circle the best definition for each vocabulary word.

1. comprehension (a) examination (b) full understanding (c) annual allowance
2. dominion (a) family residence (b) small companion (c) authority over
3. embodied (a) gave form to (b) buried privately (c) exploded
4. laver (a) a spoon for soup (b) a container for washing (c) a toilet
5. preceded (a) went ahead of (b) conquered (c) pulled back
6. restrains (a) remembers (b) choruses that are repeated (c) hold back
7. seraphim (a) angels (b) statues (c) singers
8. turbulent (a) motor-driven (b) large (c) marked by a violent disturbance
9. incomparable (a) without equal (b) cannot be understood (c) cannot be folded

Circle the best answer to complete the following sentences.

10. The tribe of Israel to which Jesus belonged was...  
(a) Joseph. (b) Judah. (c) Levi.
11. The incense represented...  
(a) the sins of the people. (b) the glory of God. (c) the prayers of the saints.
12. In heaven, the worship of God and the Lamb takes place...  
(a) constantly. (b) on the Sabbath days. (c) once a year.
13. The special seven-sealed scroll was most likely...  
(a) the list of those saved by believing in the Lamb of God.  
(b) the title-deed to the earth previously held by Satan.  
(c) the Ten Commandments.

**Day Two:** Read Revelation 6:1-6.

Answer the questions about the opening of each of the seven seals.

## 1. The First Seal:

(a) What color was the horse? \_\_\_\_\_

(b) Describe the rider. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(c) Although he went out "*conquering and to conquer*," what important piece of equipment was missing? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(d) What are some possible explanations for this? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## 2. The Second Seal:

(a) What color was this horse? \_\_\_\_\_

(b) What was the rider granted permission to do? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(c) What was he given? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(d) Of what does the color of the horse and the weapon given to the rider make you think?  
\_\_\_\_\_

## 3. The Third Seal:

(a) What color was this horse? \_\_\_\_\_

(b) What was the rider holding? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(c) **Research Question:** Try to find out what kind of price was being asked for a quart of wheat or three quarts of barley. Was it plentiful and being sold cheaply or scarce and being sold for a large amount? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Day Three:** Read Revelation 6:7-17.

## 1. The Fourth Seal:

- (a) What color was the horse? \_\_\_\_\_
- (b) What was the name of the rider? \_\_\_\_\_
- (c) Who was following behind? \_\_\_\_\_
- (d) Over how much of the earth were they given control? \_\_\_\_\_
- (e) What would happen to that part of the earth? \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. The Fifth Seal:

- (a) What did John see when this seal was opened? \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- (b) What were they asking the Lord? \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- (c) What were they given? \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- (d) What were they told? \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

## 3. The Sixth Seal: When this seal was opened, an earthquake occurred. What happened...

- (a) to the sun? \_\_\_\_\_
- (b) to the moon? \_\_\_\_\_
- (c) to the stars? \_\_\_\_\_
- (d) to the sky and earth? \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- (e) to the people? \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- (f) What event would the people think was happening? \_\_\_\_\_

4. What is ironic about the phrase "*wrath of the Lamb*" used by those who are terrified by the seal judgments at the end of Revelation 6? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Day Four:** Read Matthew 24:1-42.



1. Just a few days before His crucifixion, Jesus Himself commented on these same future events. The disciples asked Jesus two specific and interesting questions right after He described the future destruction of the temple in Jerusalem. Jesus' words had a double reference—near future (the temple would be destroyed in AD 70, about forty years after Jesus' words in Matthew 24:2) and distant future (it will be rebuilt and destroyed again near the time of His return). From Matthew 24:1-42 summarize, the best you can, Jesus' answers to these two questions.

(a) "When will these things be?" \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

(b) "What will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?" \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

2. Compare the verses from Matthew 24:4-11 to the description of the opening of the first five seals in Revelation 6:2-11. Write down the verses which show the similarities you find in the chart below.

	Matthew 24	Revelation 6
(a) false christs		
(b) war		
(c) famine		
(d) death		
(e) martyrdom		

3. Matthew 24:8 said, "All these are the beginning of sorrows." This literally means "all these are the beginning of birth pangs." Write down what you can find out about birth pangs, as far as intensity and frequency are concerned. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

4. How is this information supposed to help us get "ready" for the "end of the age" if we can neither know the exact day or hour nor ever remember a time when there weren't wars, earthquakes, famines, martyrs, or inflation somewhere in the world? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Day Five:****MEMORY: 2 PETER 3:10**

1. Reread Matthew 24:15-31. Jesus speaks here of prophecy again that actually has a double reference: first in AD 70 when the Romans invaded but also at the end times when the Antichrist takes over. Describe some specific things about which He warns them that will occur before His return. (We discussed some of these in earlier lessons.) \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** God does not want us misled about any of His plans, and so He has placed in Scripture, more than once, the details of important events. This can be referred to as a “double witness” and is based on Deuteronomy 19:15. If something you think is important cannot be found more than once in Scripture, be very careful in how you interpret it.

2. Read the following Scriptures, then match them with the verse(s) from Revelation 6 to which they correspond.
- (a) (Isaiah 34:4) *“All the host of heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be rolled up like a scroll; all their host shall fall down as the leaf falls from the vine, and as fruit falling from a fig tree.”*  
\_\_\_\_\_
- (b) (Joel 2:31) *“The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD.”* \_\_\_\_\_
- (c) (Hosea 10:8) *Also the high places of Aven, the sin of Israel, shall be destroyed. The thorn and thistle shall grow on their altars; they shall say to the mountains, “Cover us!” And to the hills, “Fall on us!”* \_\_\_\_\_
- (d) (Luke 23:30) *Then they will begin to say to the mountains, “Fall on us!” and to the hills, “Cover us!”* \_\_\_\_\_
- (e) (Isaiah 34:5,8) *“For My sword shall be bathed in heaven; indeed it shall come down on Edom, and on the people of My curse, for judgment. For it is the day of the Lord’s vengeance, the year of recompense or the cause of Zion.”* \_\_\_\_\_
- (f) (Joel 3:14-16) *“Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision. The sun and moon will grow dark, and the stars will diminish their brightness. The LORD also will roar from Zion, and utter His voice from Jerusalem; the heavens and earth will shake; but the LORD will be a shelter for His people, and the strength of the children of Israel.”* \_\_\_\_\_

(g) (Zephaniah 1:14-18) *"The great day of the LORD is near; it is near and hastens quickly. The noise of the day of the LORD is bitter; there the mighty men shall cry out. That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of devastation and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet and alarm against the fortified cities and against the high towers. I will bring distress upon men, and they shall walk like blind men, because they have sinned against the LORD; their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like refuse. Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the LORD's wrath; but the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of His jealousy, for He will make speedy riddance of all those who dwell in the land."* \_\_\_\_\_

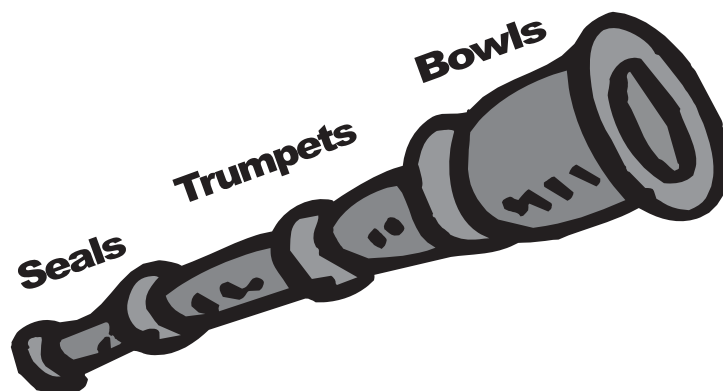
3. Now take a few minutes and read the notes for this lesson.

## Notes

### The Lamb Opens Six Seals

#### Introduction

If the seven-sealed scroll is the "title deed" to all that was lost in Eden, but won back at Calvary, then the judgments that follow the opening of each seal begin the clearing away of the enemy who has held the earth for so long. This and the other series of judgments set the stage for the reclaiming and renewing of the earth by Jesus on behalf of those whom He has saved. The order of the first four seal judgments is the same as Jesus Himself described in Matthew 24 to His disciples, shortly before His crucifixion, to make them aware of what would happen prior to His return. However, in Revelation, they are described so vividly that they can be easily committed to memory. The visions describing the first four seals are often referred to as the "four horsemen of the apocalypse." These do not all seem to represent individuals as much as they represent world conditions. The six "seal" judgments are thought by many to occur during the first two years of the the tribulation period. The opening of the seventh "seal" introduces seven trumpet judgments. The sounding of the seventh trumpet introduces the last series of seven—the bowl judgments. Many scholars believe these series to occur one right after another, like sections of a telescope pushing out from one another:



**First Seal:  
White Horse  
(Revelation 6:1,2)**

The color white is most often associated with victory, superiority, or peace. Later in Revelation, Christ is described as coming on a white horse. (See Revelation 19:11.) So, it should not be surprising that one of the common interpretations of the rider of the white horse is that he is Jesus. He is seen to be riding out first because He is in control of all conquests and ready to supervise all judgment. However, some problems arise with this interpretation. First, the rider has been given a crown, but not that of a king. The rider's crown is a temporary one, like that of a winner of a race or prize, from the Greek word *stephanos*. Whenever Jesus is described as crowned, His crowns are *diadems*, those specifically worn by kings. Further, Jesus' return on the white horse is with much more drama and accompanied by a huge host of angels. He will come to bring ultimate victory for God, and the last two horsemen of famine and death (by disease or mutilation) will not follow His arrival (Revelation 19:11-21). Also, from earlier lessons, we know that a false christ is to appear on the scene, who will imitate Christ, being allowed to have authority for a set amount of time. More like him, this first rider appears on a white horse representing a false peace or victory, and holding only a bow, without arrows.

The absence of arrows has caused some to think that when Antichrist comes on the scene, he may have already used his military strength and so then comes using political or satanic power. Prior to his coming, the attack on Israel by Russia as described in Ezekiel 38 and 39 (or some other country or countries) may occur. This would provide the opportunity for the Antichrist to step forward to act as a peacemaker, offering protection to Israel on the basis of a signed covenant or peace treaty between them. Another view of the absence of arrows or **armaments** to go with the "bow" is that the Antichrist never is given real, long-lasting power that in anyway equals Christ's. The Antichrist is only a temporary king—emphasized by his temporary crown—but who nevertheless operates effectively for a limited time by using **deceit** and **illusion** to conquer others.

One thing can be agreed upon, the opening of the first seal **ushers** in a time of shifting world power, with conquests taking place, most likely through political **negotiations** focused on uniting individual nations by appealing to their own sense of greed and need. That is always the sign of Satan's work—he tempts people to please themselves first, thereby becoming his slaves, while Christ calls men to first deny themselves, serving Him first. Such obedience He blesses eternally.

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*The Antichrist is only a temporary king—emphasized by his temporary crown—but who nevertheless operates effectively for a limited time by using deceit and illusion to conquer others.*

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**armaments** - military supplies and weapons

**deceit** - lying, falseness

**illusion** - something made to appear as if it were real when it is really not what it appears to be

**ushers** - goes before as a representative or sign of something that comes later

**negotiations** - conferences among people or representatives of groups to achieve agreement

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**Second Seal:  
War**  
(Revelation 6:3,4)

Whenever someone conquers a nation or nations, some will rebel against the loss of freedom or independence. That brings on war. So, following the first seal which brought on a shifting of world power, there came a second horseman on a "fiery red" horse. He is permitted to "take peace from the the earth" with a "great sword" and to encourage war.

**Third Seal:  
Famine**  
(Revelation 6:5,6)

When war is raging, a nation has little time or opportunity to plant or harvest crops. In fact, food production and storage is generally targeted for destruction by the enemy since the absence of food can hurry the surrender of those being attacked. So, very logically, the third horseman rides a black horse and carries "a pair of scales in his hand." The scales, along with the words of the four living creatures announcing the price of a quart of wheat, indicate that food will be scarce and expensive. A denarius was the normal day's wage of the common laborer. A quart of wheat was only enough for one meal for one man. Barley was usually considered **inferior** and used as food for livestock. Certainly since it was a less desirable and nourishing food for people, it took more of it to make a meal. So, the vision shows in both cases that a man working all day would only have enough for himself, with those unable to work, as well as the **domesticated** animals, being left to starve. Interestingly, nonessentials like wine and oil would still be available.

**inferior** - less than in rank or quality

**domesticated** - tamed; made to fit in with civilized life

**Hades** - the name of the place where the unrighteous dead go until judgment (See Luke 16:23 and Revelation 20:13.)

**Fourth Seal:  
Death Followed  
by Hades**  
(Revelation 6:7,8)

When the fourth rider was told, "Come," John saw a pale horse with a rider named Death, followed by **Hades**. The word for "pale" is really "green," an appropriate color to describe the decaying bodies of the dead. Logically again, war and famine cause physical weakness so that people are left not only vulnerable to disease but also helpless against the "beasts of the earth." Historical records exist of great plagues following war and famine where people, still alive, were eaten by rats or attacked by birds of prey. Over twenty-five percent of the world's population will die after the opening of this fourth seal. If this were to happen soon, with current population estimates, almost two billion people would die!

**Fifth Seal:  
Martyrs**  
(Revelation 6:9-11)

The scene shifts from earth back to heaven as the fifth seal is opened. The presence of many souls is revealed, those martyred in the tribulation for their faithfulness to the word of God. They cry out to ask God, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" They are given white robes and told to rest "a little while longer" until the full number of martyrs is completed. Here we have an interesting truth



revealed to those believing that the rapture will occur before this tribulation period. From the fifth seal, it is shown to be possible to accept Christ during the last seven-year period; however, being a Christian at that time will most likely cost a person his life.

**Sixth Seal:  
Heaven and  
Earth Convulse  
(Revelation 6:12-17)**

In the Genesis account of Creation, the sun, moon, and stars were said to have been given for signs and seasons (Genesis 1:14). When the sixth seal is opened, these heavenly bodies, visible to the whole world, will undergo frightening changes following a great earthquake. Specifically, then they will be used as “signs” of God’s judgment. So frightening will this be for mankind—regardless of wealth, race, or strength—that people will beg to be killed to avoid facing the “*great day of His wrath.*”

**An  
Important  
Question**

The last verse of Revelation 6 quotes the frightened population of earth, “*For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?*” The answer to that question is a sad one: Without God’s help, no one will stand. When Jesus returns by the unmistakable sign of an arrival in the clouds, accompanied by saints and angels, seen by the entire world, like lightning in the sky, only those who have accepted His salvation by faith will be saved from final judgment (Matthew 24:29-31). In the next lesson, we will examine God’s plan for preserving those who have a special job to do for Him during the tribulation. For us, this side of the tribulation, however, there already is a plan in place for overcoming the troubles that face us in this present world. Acceptance of Christ’s sacrifice, that is, belief in His name and the Bible’s claims of what He did for us, will see us through now and forever: “*For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world; our faith. Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?*” (1 John 5:4,5).

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