

REVELATION 3

1. What did John mean when he said that “at once I was in the Spirit”?

-While John’s body remained on earth, the Lord took his spirit to heaven.

2. What did John see first in heaven?

-A throne and someone sitting on the throne.

3. Who was sitting on the throne?

-God.

4. What does God sitting on the throne in heaven teach us?

-That God is king over heaven and earth.

5. If God is king over everything and everyone, what should this teach us?

-That nothing can happen in heaven or on earth without God’s permission.

6. If we are children of God who is king over everything and everyone, what should this teach us?

-That even though we have difficulties in life, God has allowed them for our good.

7. What did John see in the right hand of God who was sitting on His throne?

-John saw a scroll which was sealed with seven seals.

8. What was written on the scroll?

-While the Bible does not say, we can know that it is the will of God for Christ to punish all evil, put an end to sin, death, and Satan, and return to begin His reign on earth.

9. When John saw the scroll in the right hand of God, why did he cry?

-Because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll.

10. Who alone is worthy to take the scroll, break the seals, and open the scroll?

-The Lord Jesus Christ.

11. Why is the Lord Jesus alone worthy to take the scroll, break the seals, and open the scroll?

-Because Jesus was without sin and died to pay for the sins of all people, only Jesus is worthy to open the scroll and take back ownership of the world.

12. After dying and rising from the dead, why does the Lord Jesus appear in heaven as a lamb that had been killed?

-So that we will remember the great sacrifice He made to save us from eternal sin and death.

13. What is the new song that the 24 elders were singing?

-It is a song thanking Christ for saving people from every tribe and language and people and nation.

-In the last lesson, we learned about Christ taking the scroll from the right hand of God the Father.

-Now, beginning in Chapter 6, we will learn of the Lord Jesus opening the seven seals, one by one.

-What is the reason for the seven seals on the scroll that the Lord Jesus took from God the Father?

-God is punishing evil and putting an end to sin, death, and Satan.

-Why must God punish all sin and all evil?

-Because all sin and evil is against God and against all people.

-Because all sin and evil is an enemy to God and to all people.

-When God created the world, He created a perfect world without sin, without death, and without Satan.

-Now, however, the world is full of sin, full of death, and full of Satan.

-Because God is holy and without sin, He must punish all sin.

-Because God desires that all people be holy and without sin, He must punish all sin.

-If God did not punish sin, then He would lose His holiness.

-If God did not punish sin, then all people would die in their sins.

-With the opening of the seven seals, what will begin on earth?

-A time called the tribulation.

-What does the word “tribulation” mean?

-It means a time of great trouble or great suffering.

-The tribulation will be a time of the greatest suffering ever on earth.

-The tribulation will be when God will send terrible judgments on the earth.

-In Jeremiah 30:7, it is called a time of trouble for Jacob (Israel).

-In Daniel 12:1, it is called “a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations.”

-Before leaving for heaven, the Lord Jesus spoke about the tribulation:

Let's read Matthew 24:21 & 24

21-For then there will be great distress, unequaled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equaled again.

24-For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.

-How long will the tribulation last?

-Seven years.

-When will the time of tribulation begin?

-In the future when the Lord Jesus opens the first seal.

-Will Christians take part in the tribulation?

-No.

-In Revelation 3:10, the Lord Jesus said this to Christians in the church at Philadelphia:

-“Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth.”

-Reading Revelation 3:10, it seems very clear that Christ will keep Christians from the tribulation that will come on the whole world.

-As we learn in 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17:

16-For the Lord himself will come down from

heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

17-After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

-The Lord Jesus will descend to meet Christians in the air, and take them to heaven.

-John watched while Christ opened the first seal.

Let's read Revelation 6:1-2

1-I watched as the Lamb opened the first of the seven seals. Then I heard one of the four living creatures say in a voice like thunder, “Come!”

2-I looked, and there before me was a white horse! Its rider held a bow, and he was given a crown, and he rode out as a conqueror bent on conquest.

-When the Lord Jesus opens the first seal, what will happen?

-A rider with a bow on a white horse will be given a crown and ride out to conquer the world.

-What is the meaning of the first seal and the rider on the white horse?

- It is a picture of false peace over all of the world.
- Some think that this rider is Christ because of the white horse, but this is not true.
- This first seal is the beginning of the tribulation, and all of the seven seals are God's judgment against sin and evil.
- Rather, the first seal is a false peace which will spread throughout the world.
- The rider of the white horse is a picture of the final Antichrist who is Satan's chosen person to rule the world.
- The final Antichrist will try and conquer the world with a promise of peace.
- This final Antichrist will also try and deceive the world, telling everyone that he is the Messiah or savior of the world.
- In Matthew 24:4-5, Jesus said this:
 - “Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am the Messiah,’ and will deceive many.”
- This final Antichrist, however, will only be a false Messiah and a false Christ.

- In 2 Thessalonians 2:4, we read this about the final Antichrist:
 - “He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.”
- Proclaiming himself to be God, this final Antichrist will only be a servant of Satan as Satan tries to keep control of people and the world.
- In the first seal, God will judge sin and evil by allowing the world to live in a false peace with a false savior.

Let's read Revelation 6:3-4

- 3-When the Lamb opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, “Come!”
- 4-Then another horse came out, a fiery red one. Its rider was given power to take peace from the earth and to make people kill each other. To him was given a large sword.
- When the Lord Jesus opens the second seal, what will happen?
 - A rider with a large sword on a red horse will ride out and will be given power to take away the peace of the earth.
 - What is the meaning of the second seal and the rider on

the red horse?

-It is a picture of war over all of the world.

-The false peace of the first seal will be followed by the second seal of the red blood of war.

-Throughout the world, there will be no peace anywhere, and people will be continually killing one another.

-In Matthew 24:6-7, Jesus said this: “You will hear of wars and rumors of wars. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.”

-The rider of the red horse is also a picture of the final Antichrist.

-Having failed to conquer the world with a false peace, the final Antichrist will try to conquer the world using war to control people.

-In the second seal, God will judge sin and evil by allowing the world to live in war.

Let's read Revelation 6:5-6

5-When the Lamb opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, “Come!” I looked, and there before me was a black horse! Its rider was holding a pair of scales in his hand.

6-Then I heard what sounded like a voice among

the four living creatures, saying, “Two pounds of wheat for a day's wages, and six pounds of barley for a day's wages, and do not damage the oil and the wine!”

-When the Lord Jesus opens the third seal, what will happen?

-A rider on a black horse with a pair of scales in his hand will ride out.

-What is the meaning of the third seal and the rider on the black horse?

-It is a picture of famine over all of the world.

-In Matthew 24:7, Jesus said, “There will be famines and earthquakes in various places.”

-The rider of the black horse is also a picture of the final Antichrist.

-Having failed to conquer the world with a false peace and war, the final Antichrist will try to conquer the world using famine to control people.

-In the third seal, God will judge sin and evil by allowing the world to live in famine.

Let's read Revelation 6:7-8

7-When the Lamb opened the fourth seal, I heard

the voice of the fourth living creature say, "Come!"

8-I looked, and there before me was a pale horse! Its rider was named Death, and Hades was following close behind him. They were given power over a fourth of the earth to kill by sword, famine and plague, and by the wild beasts of the earth.

-When the Lord Jesus opens the fourth seal, what will happen?

-A rider on a pale horse will ride out, and will be given power over a fourth of the earth to kill by the sword, famine, plague, and by wild animals.

-What is the meaning of the fourth seal and the rider on the pale horse?

-It is a picture of death over all of the world.

-One fourth of all of the people in the world will die.

-This will be more death than any other time since the beginning of the world.

-The rider of the pale horse is also a picture of the final Antichrist.

-Having failed to conquer the world with a false peace, war, and famine, the final Antichrist will try to conquer the world using death to control people.

-In the fourth seal, God will judge sin and evil by allowing the world to live in much death.

Let's read Revelation 6:9-11

9-When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained.

10-They called out in a loud voice, "How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?"

11-Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to wait a little longer, until the full number of their fellow servants, their brothers and sisters, were killed just as they had been.

-When the Lord Jesus opens the fifth seal, what will happen?

-John saw under the altar the souls of Christians who were killed because of the Word of God and their testimony.

-What is the meaning of the fifth seal and the souls of those who were killed because of the Word of God?

-It is a picture of Christians who have sacrificed their lives and poured out their blood for Christ.

-In the Old Testament, when an Israelite would bring a sacrifice to the tabernacle, the priest would pour out

some of the blood at the altar of burnt offering:

-“And he shall pour the remaining blood at the base of the altar of the burnt offering” (Leviticus 4:7).

-Just as the blood of the sacrifice was poured out under the altar, the souls under the altar are a picture of those who have poured out their blood for their belief in Christ.

-God knows every soul who has given their life to Christ, and their death is precious in His sight.

-As Psalm 116:15 teaches us:

-“Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful servants.”

-These souls cry out to God in a loud voice, asking God to avenge their blood.

-This is a cry for justice from all who have been killed for their faith in Christ.

-As the souls under the altar are crying out to God, what can we learn from this?

-That our souls do not sleep nor die when the body dies.

-When the body dies, the soul remains alive,

-Some religions teach that our souls sleep when our bodies die.

-This is not true.

-Some religions teach that our souls die when our bodies die.

-This is also not true.

-When a Christian dies, his or her soul goes straight to heaven to be with the Lord Jesus.

-When a non Christian dies, his or her soul goes straight to hell.

-From these souls, we also learn that even though their bodies have died, they remember what happened on earth, are praying, and are asking God to bring justice to the earth.

-When the white robes are given to the souls, what does this teach us?

-That in spite of suffering, we Christians will be given the righteousness of Christ, and will be victorious over sin and death.

Let's read Revelation 6:12-14

12-I watched as he opened the sixth seal. There was a great earthquake. The sun turned black like sackcloth made of goat hair, the whole moon turned blood red,

13-and the stars in the sky fell to earth, as figs drop

from a fig tree when shaken by a strong wind.

14-The heavens receded like a scroll being rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place.

-When the Lord Jesus opens the sixth seal, what will happen?

-There will be a great earthquake, the sun will turn black, the moon will turn red, the stars will fall to earth, the heavens will be rolled up, and every mountain and island will be moved.

-This is also what the Lord Jesus said in Matthew 24:29:

-“The sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.”

-For the first five seals, people might think that these judgments are because of life on earth.

-For this sixth seal, however, the whole world will know that it is God alone who is bringing judgment against evil.

-Only God is able to cause the sun to become black and the moon to become red.

-Only God is able to cause the stars to fall from the sky like ripe fruit from a tree.

-Only God is able to cause all of the earth and the heavens to shake.

-With a black sun and a black moon and stars falling from the sky and the entire heaven and earth shaking, what are the people on earth doing?

Let's read Revelation 6:15-17

15-Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and everyone else, both slave and free, hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains.

16-They called to the mountains and the rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!

17-For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can withstand it?”

-The kings and the rich and the mighty and everyone else on earth, both slave and free, will try and hide because of great fear.

-Everyone will cry out to the mountains and to the rocks, asking them to hide them from God.

-All of the people on earth will be filled with a great fear.

-From this, we understand that the meaning of the sixth seal is great fear.