

REVELATION 4

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. With the opening of the seven seals, what will begin on earth?
-A time called the tribulation.
4. What does the word “tribulation” mean?
-It means a time of great trouble or great suffering.
5. How long will the tribulation last?
-Seven years.
6. When will the time of tribulation begin?
-In the future when the Lord Jesus opens the first seal.
7. Will Christians take part in the tribulation?
-No.
8. 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.
9. 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.
 10. 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.
 11. 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.
 12. 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.
 13. 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.
 14. 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.

-We learned in the last lesson that the Lord Jesus will first open six seals.

-Their meanings are as follows:

-First seal = false peace.

-Second seal = war.

-Third seal = famine.

-Fourth seal = death.

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

-When the Lord Jesus will open the sixth seal, there will be great fear.

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?"

-There will be great fear throughout the world because of God's anger against sin and evil.

-Why is God angry with sin and evil?

-Because God did not create the world to be destroyed by sin and evil.

-Because God did not create people to be destroyed by sin and evil.

-Sin and evil are against God and must be punished.

-Sin and evil are against the world and must be punished.

-Sin and evil are against all people and must be punished.

-What is the question at the end of the sixth seal?

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

-The great day of the anger of God and Christ against sin and evil has come, and the question is this:

-Who can withstand God's anger?

-Who can survive God's anger?

-Even though God must punish sin and evil, He will also have mercy on those who will repent.

-God is against sin and evil because it destroys us.

-God is for people, however, because He created us.

-As we learn from Habakkuk 3:2, God in His anger remembers mercy.

-After Christ opens the sixth seal, yet before He opens the seventh seal, there will be a time of rest on the earth.

-This time of rest will be a time that God will have mercy even in the middle of His anger.

Let's read Revelation 7:1-4

1-After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth to prevent any wind from blowing on the land or on the sea or on any tree.

2-Then I saw another angel coming up from the east, having the seal of the living God. He called out in a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm the land and the sea:

3-"Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God."

4-Then I heard the number of those who were sealed: 144,000 from all the tribes of Israel.

-After the sixth seal, before the tribulation continues, what will God command His angels to do?

-To hold back the winds of God's judgment upon the earth.

-Why are the angels to hold back the winds of God's judgment?

-So that a seal could be placed on the foreheads of the servants of God who will be saved out of the tribulation.

-What is the reason for the seal on their foreheads?

-This is the mercy of God.

-They will be protected by God during the tribulation.

-Who are these who will have a seal on their foreheads and be saved out of the tribulation?

-They are 144,000 Israelites from the tribes of Israel who will believe in the Lord Jesus as their Savior during the tribulation.

-While the tribulation is a time of God's anger against all sin and evil, there will be many people who will be saved.

-As we learn from verse 4 above, there will be 144,000 Israelites who will be saved during the tribulation.

-Even though Israel has rejected Christ, God will keep His promise to save some of Israel.

-In the beginning, God chose Israel so that Israel would believe in God and teach others to believe.

-Yet Israel did not listen to God, and when Jesus came into the world, most of the Jewish people rejected Him.

-Therefore, Christ turned to the Gentiles, and the Church of Christ began.

-When the tribulation comes, however, Christ will save some of Israel.

-We read this in Romans 11:25-26:

25-I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers and sisters, so that you may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in,

26-and in this way all Israel will be saved. As it is written: “The deliverer will come from Zion; he will turn godlessness away from Jacob.”

-What does it mean that “all Israel will be saved”?

-It does not mean that every Jewish person will be saved because there have been many Jewish people who have refused to believe in Christ.

-The Pharisees did not believe in Christ and crucified Him.

-“All Israel will be saved” means that in the future the tribe of Israel as a whole will believe in the Lord Jesus as Savior.

-After seeing the 144,000 Jewish believers in Christ, John will see something else:

Let’s read Revelation 7:9-10

9-After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.

10-And they cried out in a loud voice: “Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.”

-After seeing the 144,000 Jewish believers in Christ, who did John see standing before the throne and before the Lamb?

-People from every nation, tribe, people, and language.

-How many people were standing before the throne and before the Lamb?

-More than anyone could count.

-These people were wearing white robes and holding palm branches.

-As we learned in the last lesson, the white robes are a picture of righteousness and holiness which God gives to us.

-What is the meaning of the palm branches which they were holding?

-The palm branches are a picture of victory and joy.

-When Jesus entered Jerusalem riding a donkey, people held palm branches to welcome him.

-They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the King of Israel!” (John 12:13).

-The palm branches were a sign of victory and joy as they welcomed Jesus as their king, thinking that He was going to save them from the Romans.

-Is this vision, what were all of these people crying out?

-“Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.”

Let’s read Revelation 7:11-12

11-All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God,

12-saying: “Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!”

-As all of these people cried out in worship to God, all of the angels also joined in to worship God.

-It was at this time that one of the elders asked John a question.

Let’s read Revelation 7:13-14

13-Then one of the elders asked me, “These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?”

14-I answered, “Sir, you know.” And he said, “These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.”

-Who are all of these people from every nation, tribe, people, and language who were standing before the throne of God?

-They are those who will come out of the tribulation having washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

-What does it mean to have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb?

-This is a picture of salvation for all people, for all Christians have been made white in the blood of the Lamb.

-As we read in Isaiah 1:18:

-“Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white

as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool.”

-This vision of people from every nation, tribe, people, and language comes during the tribulation and the opening of the seven seals.

-Therefore, some think that all of these people are those who have been killed for their faith in Christ during the tribulation.

-To some, it is not clear whether all of these people are a picture of all Christians or a picture of those who have been killed for their faith in Christ during the tribulation.

-That which is clear is this:

-All Christians, whether having believed in Christ before the tribulation or during the tribulation, have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

-This vision of people from every nation, tribe, people, and language comes after the vision of the 144,000 Jewish believers.

-Therefore, some think that all of these people are those who have been killed for their faith in Christ during the tribulation because of the teaching of the 144,000 Jewish believers.

-To some, it is not clear whether the people from every nation, tribe, people, and language were taught by the 144,000 Jewish believers during the tribulation.

-That which is clear is this:

-They will believe in Christ and suffer, yet will come out of the great tribulation unto the throne of God.

Let's read Revelation 7:15-17

15-Therefore, “they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence.

16-‘Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat down on them,’ nor any scorching heat.

17-For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; ‘he will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.’”

-Even though these Christians will suffer greatly during the tribulation:

-Never again will they hunger.

-Never again will they thirst.

-Never again will the sun beat down on them.

-And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.