

Revelation's HOPE

Lesson 6: The Lamb and the Four Horsemen

I. Story of History Unfolding

- If only the soldier could see what is going on in the command center. The big picture of this battle that is raging. This in essence is what is happening in the book of Revelation→

- Revelation 5

“And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the back, close sealed with seven seals.² And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a great voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?

³ And no one in the heaven, or on the earth, or under the earth, was able to open the book, or to look thereon. ⁴ And I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open the book, or to look thereon. . . (Rev 5:1-4 ASV)

II. Questions to Consider

- What is this “book”? Biblos – “papyrus plant” was referred to as this (Theophrastus according to Thayer Greek Lexicon); “roll” or “scroll” (ibid).
- Why is it “sealed”? At the end of a document a seal would be placed to authenticate its contents. It would also validate message to reader.
- Who is seated on the throne? Let’s see→ Who else from the Godhead is there? See **Rev. 4:5 and 5:1**.
- Who can open the seals?→

III. Who is on the Throne?

“He that overcometh, I will give to him to sit down with me in my throne, as I also overcame, and sat down with my Father in his throne” (Rev 3:21 ASV).

- Jesus has overcome and can sit again with His Father.
- This is who He takes the scroll with the 7 seals from: the Father.
- So, Jesus and the Father are both on the throne→

IV. Who can open the seals?

Revelation 5

⁵ and one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not; behold, the Lion that is of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, hath overcome to open the book and the seven seals thereof. ⁶ And I saw in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, having seven horns, and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God, sent forth into all the earth. ⁷ And he came, and he taketh it out of the right hand of him that sat on the throne. . .

- Heard: Lion of Tribe of Judah = Root of David (Jesus before becoming man)
- Saw: Lamb = Jesus after becoming a man and dying (**John 1:29**, etc)
- Sevenfold spirit for eyes = once became a man He retained humanity even after the resurrection. Now present through Holy Spirit (compare **Matt. 28**).
- Three involved in this history unfolding: Father, Son (Lamb), Spirit

V. Who is present when the seals are opened?

Revelation 5

⁸ And when he had taken the book, the four living creatures and the four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having each one a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹ And they sing a new song, saying, Worthy art thou to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou was slain, and didst purchase unto God with thy blood men of every tribe, and tongue, and people, and nation, ¹⁰ and madest them to be unto our God a kingdom and priests and they reign upon earth [later]. ¹¹ And I saw, and I heard a voice of many angels round about the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; ¹² saying with a great voice, Worthy is the Lamb that hath been slain to receive the power, and riches, and wisdom, and might and honor, and glory, and blessing. . .

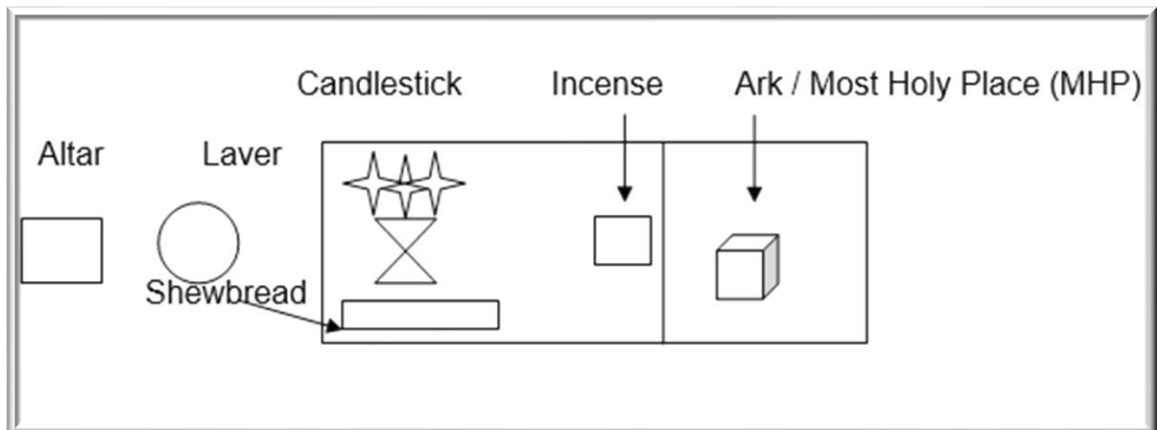
- How many beings are present when Christ takes the scroll? John plus Myriads (innumerable).

VI. Story of History Unfolding

It seems that as the seals are opened all heaven is interested in what happens. It also seems that John is taken from what is happening here on Earth to a bird's eye view from Heaven. In essence, all heaven is interested in how Christ saves and shields His afflicted people. Notice where we are in the sanctuary.

VII. Sanctuary location

- Priest moves from Holy to Most Holy Place on the Day of Atonement / Judgment.
- Ark – throne. So, we are given a view into the Most Holy Place!
- We get a behind the scenes view of what is about to happen on planet Earth to bring an END to the world as we know it!



VIII. More from Revelation 5

¹³ And every created thing which is in the heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and on the sea, and all things are in them, heard I saying, Unto him that sitteth on the throne, and unto the Lamb, be the blessing, and the honor, and the glory, and the dominion, for ever and ever. ¹⁴ And the four living creatures said, Amen. And the elders fell down and worshipped” (Rev 5:1-14, ASV).

- Questions to Consider

1. Why do you think John wept when there was no one to open the scroll? John weeps and links it to something related to the kingdom of God and God's people.

2. Why is it comforting to know that Jesus opens the Scroll that shapes Earth's history? Because One who died for us also knows how to lead us through whatever we may face!

IX. Old Testament Roots / Allusion

- Let's consider some background as we look at the four horsemen →
- Zechariah 1 – horsemen ride red, white and other horses throughout the earth.

“I saw by night, and behold a man riding upon a red horse, and he stood among the myrtle trees that were in the bottom; and behind him were there red horses, speckled, and white” (**Zec 1:8** KJG).

- These told the angel that the world was at peace and while it was at peace Zechariah knew that nothing would change concerning the temple. Hence the horsemen came to bring about events that would aid in the restoration of the true worship of God.
- Warfare on the Horizon

¹⁹ “And I said unto the angel that talked with me, What are these? And he answered me, These are the horns which have scattered Judah, Israel, and Jerusalem. ²⁰ And Jehovah showed me four smiths. ²¹ Then said I, What come these to do? And he spake, saying, These are the horns which scattered Judah, so that no man did lift up his head; but these are come to terrify them, to cast down the horns of the nations, which lifted up their horn against the land of Judah to scatter it” (**Zec 1:19-21**, ASV).

- Warfare that aids the restoration of the true worship of God. Both SPIRITUAL AND PHYSICAL realities.

X. Forward to John's Time

- Jesus' kingdom is not of this world (**John 18:36**).
- John recognized there was a spiritual battle already underway against the antichrist (**1 John 4:3**).
- Paul and others refer to the main objective: victory over Satan and his forces (**Ephesians 6:12**)
- White horse points forward to Christ's coming when He comes to “make war” and “judge” (**Revelation 19:11**). He has already paid a price (Lamb) to wrap up Earth's History.
- Horses reflect time periods from John's to the Ultimate Victory when Jesus comes!
- Compare to the 7 Churches →

Seven Churches as Time Periods (Paulien)



XI. More Evidence for Segments of Time

- Angel tells John that he will be shown “. . .things which must take place after this” (**Rev. 4:1**). “This” is after the time of John and includes events down to the END – like 7 Churches.
- Lamb looks as if it had been slain (**4:6**), which means these events start **after** Jesus’ death on the cross and ascension (for John sees Him in heaven). *Daniel 2 is also an anchor.
- Parallel to the Seven Churches and could be put in a series of time periods like this→

<i>Seal 1</i>	White horse <i>Pure faith</i>	AD 31-100
<i>Seal 2</i>	Red horse <i>Blood-stained faith</i>	AD 100-313
<i>Seal 3</i>	Black horse <i>Compromised faith</i>	AD 313-538
<i>Seal 4</i>	Pale horse <i>Dead faith</i>	AD 538-1798

XII. More comparisons

- A. 7 Seals to Jesus’ words on Matthew 24: Both progress to the END.

The Olivet Discourse (Matthew 24, 25)	The Seven Seals (Revelation 4:1 to 8:1)
<p><i>General prophetic survey</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Gospel will be preached (24:14) • Wars and rumors of wars; famines and earthquakes. The end not yet (24:6-8) 	<p><i>Four Horsemen</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rider on white horse proclaims Christianity (6:1, 2) • Seals 2-4: Riders bring war, famine and epidemics (6:3-8)
<p><i>Period of Tribulation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be great tribulation (24:21) 	<p><i>Period of Tribulation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seal 5: Souls under the altar protest persecution (6:9-11). Abel
<p><i>Signs and the End</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signs in sun, moon, stars immediately following the tribulation (24:29) • The Son of man returns (24:30) • Angels gather the elect (24:31) <p>Adapted from <i>God Cares</i>, by Maxwell p. 181.</p>	<p><i>Signs and the End</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seal 6: Great Earthquake; signs in sun, moon and stars (6:12, 13). Happened 17-1800's. Maybe again. • Sky rolls back. The Lamb arrives (6:14-17) • Seal 7: Half hour silence in heaven (while Christ comes to gather elect, Rev. 8:1)

- B. The 144,000 are referred to briefly here and for now just remember they are the ones who Follow the Lamb wherever He goes!
- C. This is where the focus changes to in the Seals. For in Earth's history (which is what the scroll represents) God is MOST interested in those who decide to follow HIM!
- D. May we follow Jesus daily until He comes!