

# Blessings and Curses of the Lamb Part 1



In the next 2 lessons we will look at the Seven Seals that are opened by Jesus the Lamb Rev 6:1,3,5,7,9,12; 8:1. Every person good or bad owes his very existence to the Lamb that was slain. Jesus died for the sins of the whole world 1 Jn 2:1,2. He has purchased us with His own blood Acts 20:28. He hath redeemed (Greek = ἀγοράζω = agorazo = to buy, to purchase,) us with his blood Rev 5:9. Jesus has sanctified (Greek = ἁγιάζω = hagiazo = free from the guilt of sin, to cleanse, to purify, to make holy) us with His own blood Heb 13:12. Jesus instituted the Lord's supper as a ceremony to symbolize this wonderful truth 1 Cor 11:23-26.

Our Lord has said, "Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink His blood, ye have no life in you. . . . For My flesh is meat indeed, and My blood is drink indeed." John 6:53-55. This is true of our physical nature. To the death of Christ we owe even this earthly life Rom 5:17,18. The bread we eat is the purchase of His broken body. The water we drink is bought by His spilled blood. Never one, saint or sinner, eats his daily food, but he is nourished by the body and the blood of Christ. The cross of Calvary is stamped on every loaf. It is reflected in every water spring. All this Christ has taught in appointing the emblems of His great sacrifice. The light shining from that Communion service in the upper chamber makes sacred the provisions for our daily life. The family board becomes as the table of the Lord, and every meal a sacrament.

And how much more are Christ's words true of our spiritual nature. He declares, "Whoso eateth My flesh, and drinketh My blood, hath eternal life." It is by receiving the life for us poured out on Calvary's cross, that we can live the life of holiness. And this life we receive by receiving His word, by doing those things which He has commanded. Thus we become one with Him. "He that eateth My flesh," He says, "and drinketh My blood, dwelleth in Me, and I in him. As the living Father hath sent Me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth Me, even he shall live by Me." John 6:54, 56, 57. Whoever believes on Jesus has eternal Life Jn 3:15,16; 1 Jn 5:11-13. The wicked who don't believe on Jesus are condemned and cursed Jn 3:17-21; Prov 3:33. Those that do not keep the covenant reject the blood of Jesus Heb 10:29. They refuse to keep the Ten Commandments on which the covenant is based Deut 4:13; Heb 8:6-10. Those that kept the commandments of the covenant were blessed and those that didn't were cursed Lev 26:1-46; Deut 7:26; 28:1-68; 29:1-29; Josh 6:18; 7:13; Zech 5:3,4; Mal 2:2. Those that accept the blood of Jesus on their behalf and keep His commandments shall be blessed and shall inherit the earth Ps 37:22. But those that are cursed by not accepting Jesus as their Saviour shall be cut off Ps 37:22.

The blood of the Passover Lamb was applied to the door posts of the houses of the Israelites and the flesh was to be eaten by them before deliverance came Ex 12:1-13; 14:1-31. Jesus knocks on the door of our hearts where the blood of the covenant needs to be applied by the cleansing of our conscience and we can sup with Him by eating His flesh (the word of God) Rev 3:20; Heb 9:13,14;

Mt 26:26-28; Jer 15:16. The Seven Seals, which we will study in this lesson, is the history of the Church and the nations particularly from the time of Christ until His Second Coming.

## THE WHITE HORSE OR FIRST SEAL = EPHESUS THE FIRST CHURCH PERIOD – 31 A.D. UNTIL 100 A.D.

1. Who opened the first Seal? What did the voice of one of the beasts that explained the vision to John sound like? Rev 6:1. See note below.

**Ans: a.** And I saw when the \_\_\_\_\_ opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of \_\_\_\_\_, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see. Rev 6:1

**Ans: b.** The first beast or seraphim angel was like a \_\_\_\_\_ which was a perfect representative of \_\_\_\_\_ and His \_\_\_\_\_ that went forth conquering and to conquer defeating His enemies until the entire inhabited world had heard the gospel from 31 A.D. until 100 A.D. See note below.



**Jesus opened the first Seal.** Jesus opened the first Seal and every one of the Seals because He was worthy and had been slain so that He could redeem us out of every nation Rev 6:1,3,5,7,9,12; 8:1; 5:9.

**The First Beast.** The first beast was a lion Rev 4:7. It was the Lion of the tribe of Judah, Jesus, who opened the book with Seven Seals. It is fitting that the angel that is represented as a lion should introduce John to the opening of the First seal. The lion of the tribe of Judah represented Jesus' kingly conquering power over His enemies which indeed was the perfect representation of the character of the first Church period Gen 49:8-10. It went forth conquering and to conquer until the entire inhabited world had heard the gospel Col 1:23. The first beast or seraphim angel was like a lion which was a perfect representative of Jesus and His Church that went forth

conquering and to conquer defeating His enemies until the entire inhabited world had heard the gospel from 31 A.D. until 100 A.D.

2. What did John see when the first Seal was opened? Rev 6:2

**Ans: a.** And I saw, and behold a white \_\_\_\_\_: and he that sat on him had a \_\_\_\_\_; and a \_\_\_\_\_ was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to \_\_\_\_\_ . Rev 6:2.

**Ans: b.** The white horse therefore is a symbol of the Church during the \_\_\_\_\_ Period from 31 A.D. until 100 A.D. , which went to war against error with the \_\_\_\_\_ of God. The Church spread the gospel of the kingdom to the \_\_\_\_\_ inhabited world. See note below.

**Ans: c.** The bow then represents the \_\_\_\_\_ of God that shoots arrows of truth into the heart by the Holy Spirit, to convict of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgement. See note below.

**Ans: d.** The crown that the rider of the white horse is wearing is a symbol of \_\_\_\_\_ as the gospel went into the domains of Satan conquering and gaining converts throughout the entire world. See note below.

**Ans: e.** The significance of “Him going forth conquering and to conquer” paints a picture of \_\_\_\_\_ working through His \_\_\_\_\_ to spread the gospel of the kingdom to the entire inhabited world. See note below.

**A White Horse.** White in the Bible stands for righteousness and cleansing Rev 19:8; Isa 1:18; Dan 11:35. The word white in the Greek original text is *chrysos* (lampros) which figuratively means innocence and purity of the soul Rev 19:8. In the Rev 19:11-21 Jesus rides a White Horse as He goes forward in battle to conquer His enemies. Jesus as the head of the Church (Col 1:18) led them forth into victory so that Paul was able to say in about A.D. 62 “If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and *be* not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, **and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven**; whereof I Paul am made a minister;” Col 1:23.

In the days of the apostles the Christian believers were filled with earnestness and enthusiasm. So untiringly did they labor for their Master that in a comparatively short time, notwithstanding fierce opposition, the gospel of the kingdom was sounded to all the inhabited parts of the earth. The zeal manifested at this time by the followers of Jesus has been recorded by the pen of inspiration for the encouragement of believers in every age.

The horse is a symbol of war Joel 2:1,4,5; Rev 19:11,19. The great controversy between Christ and Satan has been over whether God’s word can be believed and obeyed or not Gen 3:1; Rev 1:9; 3:8,10; 6:9; 12:7-11; 20:4.

The white horse therefore is a symbol of the Church during the Ephesus Period from 31 A.D. until 100 A.D., which went to war against error with the word of God. The Church spread the gospel of the kingdom to the entire inhabited world.

**He that sat on it had a bow.** The bow here is speaking of God’s word which was the only weapon that the Christian had to conquer the world Hab 3:9. The arrows from the bow of God’s word convict of sin and iniquity Ps 38:1-4. The children of the Lord or those newly born into the truth are likened to arrows in the hand of the mighty because they spread the word of God to others 2 Jn 1:4; 1 Jn 3:7,10,18; 1 Pet 1:14; 1 Thes 5:5; Eph 5:1,8; Gal 3:26; Rom 9:26; 8:16,17; 1 Jn 2:29; 3:9; 4:7; 5:1-4; 1 Pet 1:23; Jn 3:3-8; Ps 127:3-5. God sends His arrows of truth into the reins (Hebrew = *kilyah* = figuratively speaking the seat of the emotions and affections) to be convicted of sin and righteousness and judgement Lam 3:12,13; Jn 16:7,8. The bow then represents the word of God that shoots arrows of truth into the heart by the Holy Spirit, to convict of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgement.



**And a crown was given Him.** As the rider of the White horse Jesus went forth conquering there was given unto Him a crown (Greek = *stephanos* = the wreath or garland which was given as a prize to victors in public games) which was a crown of victory. The Christian runs the race of life for an incorruptible crown 1 Cor 9:24-27. The crown the overcomer receives is a crown of life James 1:12; Rev 2:10. When Jesus makes war on the white horse He has many crowns Rev 19:11,12. When He comes the second time He will be wearing a crown Rev 14:14. The crown that the rider of the white horse is wearing is a symbol of victory as the gospel went into the domains of Satan conquering and gaining converts throughout the entire world.

**And He went forth conquering and to conquer.** It is through Christ that we conquer sin, self, and Satan. There is nothing that can separate us from His love. Not even death can separate us from Jesus. This promise encourages all that are fighting the good fight of faith Rom 8:37-39; 2 Tim 4:7. Through the whole history of this world there has been a fierce battle between Christ and His followers and Satan and his followers. Victory alternated from side to side. Now the soldiers of the cross gave way, "as when a standard-bearer fainteth." But their apparent retreat was but an effort to

gain a more advantageous position. Shouts of joy were heard. A song of praise to God went up, and angel voices united in the song, as Christ's soldiers planted His banner on the walls of fortresses till then held by the enemy. The Captain of our salvation was ordering the battle and sending support to His soldiers. His power was mightily displayed, encouraging them to press the battle to the gates. He taught them terrible things in righteousness as He led them on step by step, conquering and to conquer. God's workers must gain a far deeper experience. If they will surrender all to Him, He will work mightily for them. They will plant the standard of truth upon fortresses till then held by Satan, and with shouts of victory take possession of them. They bear the scars of battle, but there comes to them the comforting message that the Lord will lead them on, conquering and to conquer. The significance of "Him going forth conquering and to conquer" paints a picture of Christ working through His people to spread the gospel of the kingdom to the entire inhabited world.

## THE RED HORSE OR SECOND SEAL = SYMRNA THE SECOND CHURCH PERIOD – 100 A.D. UNTIL 325 A.D.

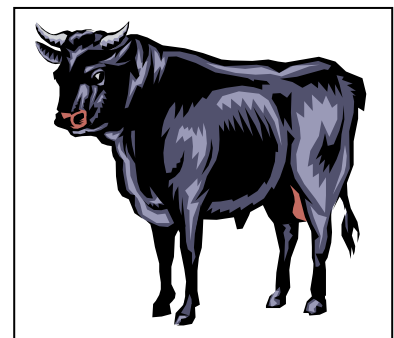
### 3. What did the second beast show John in the vision of the Seven Seals? Rev 6:3,4.

**Ans: a.** And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second \_\_\_\_\_ say, Come and see. And there went out another \_\_\_\_\_ that was \_\_\_\_\_: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take \_\_\_\_\_ from the earth, and that they should \_\_\_\_\_ one another: and there was given unto him a great \_\_\_\_\_. Rev 6:3,4.

**Ans: b.** The second beast was like a \_\_\_\_\_ which represented the second seraphim angel. The calf whose blood was shed as a sacrifice in the Earthly Sanctuary was a fitting symbol of the Second Church Smyrna of which the red \_\_\_\_\_ of the cut Myrrh tree and the red \_\_\_\_\_ signify the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus. He paid for the redemption of the many \_\_\_\_\_ who shed their blood through this period. See note below.

**Ans: c.** The symbolism of the second horseman well portrays conditions under which the \_\_\_\_\_ found itself from about A.D. 100–325. The violent \_\_\_\_\_ it suffered at the hands of the Roman \_\_\_\_\_ are well characterized by a horseman who carries a "great sword" and has power "to take peace from the earth." See note below.

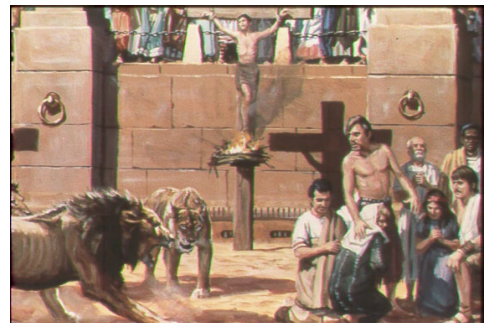
**The Second Beast.** The calf, ox, or bolluck was a fitting symbol for the second angel for the second Church Period Rev 4:7. The ox was a sacrifice where the blood was shed for various types of offerings for sin Lev 4:1-10; 9:1-4,18; Num 15:8. The Second Church period which was called Smyrna gave a red sap when it was cut which was a symbol of Jesus death, blood, bitter experience, sweet sacrifice, love, anointing, purifying power over sin, power over death, the giving of Himself to us forever, and His power to bear our pain and guilt (see lesson 5 question 12). These symbols are identical in nature to that of the bullock or calf representing Jesus and the experience of His Church through this period. The fact that the Second Horse was red is also significant to the fact that many of the Christians in the first Church and first Seal Period, which are identical, were persecuted and killed for their faith. The second beast was like a calf which represented the second seraphim angel. The calf whose blood was shed as a sacrifice in the Earthly



Sanctuary was a fitting symbol of the Second Church Smyrna of which the red sap of the cut Myrrh tree and the red horse signify the blood of Jesus. He paid for the redemption of the many martyrs who shed their blood through this period.

**And there went out another horse that was red.** The symbolism of the second horseman well portrays conditions under which the church found itself from about A.D. 100–325. The violent persecutions it suffered at the hands of the Roman Caesars are well characterized by a horseman who carries a “great sword” and has power “to take peace from the earth.” If white represents purity of faith, then red may be regarded as a corruption of faith through the introduction of various heresies. The colour red in the Bible is a symbol of guilt, bloodshed and warfare all of which were characteristic of the great controversy that waged fiercely through this period that corresponded to the Church of Smyrna Isa 1:18; 2 Kings 3:20-23. Red is the colour of the great dragon or Satan that wars against Christ by persecuting God’s people Rev 12:3-13. Some of the main events recorded in Wetzels’s Chronology of Biblical Christianity pages 73-83 and The Wall Chart of World History by Professor Edward Hull are as follows:

1. 107 IGNATIUS, bishop of Antioch, wrote seven letters to churches, and TRAJAN had him thrown to the lions in Syria.
2. 112 PLINY wrote TRAJAN for advice on how to deal with Christians. The first organized persecution of Christians.
3. 112-117 TRAJAN emperor of Rome persecuted Christians.
4. 114 Christian persecution in Syria.
5. 117-138 HADRIAN emperor of Rome persecuted Christians during his reign.
6. 155 POLYCARP, bishop of Smyrna, was stabbed and burned at the stake.
7. 165 JUSTIN MARTYR was killed in Rome.
8. 168-177 AURELIUS emperor of Rome persecuted Christians during his reign.
9. 177 POTHINUS, pastor at Lyons, was martyred.
10. 200-211 SEVERUS emperor of Rome persecuted Christians during his reign.
11. 232 URBAN I, bishop of Rome, was martyred.
12. 235-237 MAXIMINUS emperor of Rome persecuted Christians during his reign.
13. 235 Bishops HIPPOLYTUS and PONTIANUS were transported to Sardinia where they died in the mines.
14. 250-253 DECIUS emperor of Rome persecuted Christians during his reign.
15. 250 Persecution of Christians was general and violent. FABIAN, bishop of Rome, was martyred. DECIUS issued an edict demanding annual sacrifice on Roman altars to the Emperor. PLOTINUS developed the religion of Neoplatonism and founded a school in Rome.
16. 254 ORIGEN died from torture in Alexandria.
17. 257-260 VALERIAN emperor of Rome persecuted Christians during his reign.
18. 257 Christians were commanded to conform to the state religion in Rome.
19. 258 CYPRIAN of Carthage and SEXTUS of Rome were martyred by STEPHEN I of Rome for rebaptizing. Emperor VALERIANUS issued a decree to put all Christian clergy in Rome to death.
20. 274 FELIX, bishop of Rome, was martyred by AURELIAN.
21. 275 AURELIAN emperor of Rome persecuted Christians during his reign.
22. 286 DIOCLETIAN issued a decree condemning Christianity.
23. 303-313 DIOCLETIAN emperor of Rome initiated the most severe persecution.
24. 303 DIOCLETIAN issued an edict for the persecution of Christians. He ordered cessation of meetings, destruction of churches, deposition of officers, imprisonment of believers and destruction of the Scriptures. They were punished by loss of property, exile, imprisonment,



execution by the sword or wild beasts. Many were sent to labor camps where they were worked to death in the mines. Multitudes perished, about 10,000 of these in Britain.

25. 308 QUIRINUS, bishop of Siscia, was martyred.
26. 310 MARCELLUS, bishop of Rome, was martyred.
27. 311 PETER, bishop of Alexandria, was martyred. The Donatists separated themselves from the growing apostasy.
28. 312 CONSTANTINE'S vision of a fiery red cross in the sky began the Imperial Age.
29. 313 CONSTANTINE issued the Edict of Milan, granting freedom of religious worship and restoring Christians' property. Christian clergy were exempted from the military and from taxation.
30. 324 "The ceasing of the last persecution of the primitive church by the death of LICINIUS, the last persecutor, began in the three hundred and twenty-fourth year from the nativity of Christ" Fox – Acts and Monuments, v2, page 1055.



The history of the early church testified to the fulfillment of the Saviour's words. The powers of earth and hell arrayed themselves against Christ in the person of His followers. Paganism foresaw that should the gospel triumph, her temples and altars would be swept away; therefore she summoned her forces to destroy Christianity. The fires of persecution 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. Noble and slave, rich and poor, learned and ignorant, were alike slain without mercy.

These persecutions, beginning under Nero about the time of the martyrdom of Paul, continued with greater or less fury for centuries. Christians were falsely accused of the most dreadful crimes and declared to be the cause of great calamities--famine, pestilence, and earthquake. As they became the objects of popular hatred and suspicion, informers stood ready, for the sake of gain, to betray the innocent. They were condemned as rebels against the empire, as foes of religion, and pests to society. Great numbers were thrown to wild beasts or burned alive in the amphitheaters. Some were crucified; others were covered with the skins of wild animals and thrust into the arena to be torn by dogs. Their punishment was often made the chief entertainment at public fetes. Vast multitudes assembled to enjoy the sight and greeted their dying agonies with laughter and applause.

Wherever they sought refuge, the followers of Christ were hunted like beasts of prey. They were forced to seek concealment in desolate and solitary places. "Destitute, afflicted, tormented; (of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth." Heb 11:37, 38. The catacombs afforded shelter for thousands. Beneath the hills outside the city of Rome, long galleries had been tunneled through earth and rock; the dark and intricate network of passages extended for miles beyond the city walls. In these underground retreats the followers of Christ buried their dead; and here also, when suspected and proscribed, they found a home. When the Life-giver shall awaken those who have fought the good fight, many a martyr for Christ's sake will come forth from those gloomy caverns.

Under the fiercest persecution these witnesses for Jesus kept their faith unsullied. Though deprived of every comfort, shut away from the light of the sun, making their home in the dark but friendly bosom of the earth, they uttered no complaint. With words of faith, patience, and hope they encouraged one another to endure privation and distress. The loss of every earthly blessing could not force them to renounce their belief in Christ. Trials and persecution were but steps bringing them nearer their rest and their reward.

**The Great Sword.** Jesus came not to bring peace on the earth but a sword Mt 10:34-39; Lk 12:51-53. Jesus brings peace to us in a totally different way to that of the world Jn 14:27. Jesus said that in

the world the Christian will have tribulation. However the peace that comes to them through the tribulation is that Christ has overcome the world Jn 16:33. This is the peace that all can have in Jesus from the Father Rom 1:7; 1 Cor 1:3; 2 Cor 1:2; Gal 1:3; Eph 1:2; Phil 1:2; Col 1:2; 1 Thes 1:1; 2 Thes 1:2; 1 Tim 1:2; Titus 1:4; Philemon 1:3; 1 Pet 1:2; 2 Pet 1:2; 2 Jn 1:3; Jude 1:2; Rev 1:4. When we are justified by faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ Rom 5:1. To be spiritually minded is life and peace Rom 8:6. The gospel that is preached by God's messengers is the gospel of peace Rom 10:15. God fills us with all joy and peace in believing in Him Rom 15:13. God is the God of Peace and Jesus is the Prince of Peace Rom 15:33; Isa 9:6. The God of peace will bruise Satan under our feet shortly so that there will be no more persecution, pain, suffering, and death Rom 16:20; Rev 21:4.

The sword is a symbol of war, death, and blood Judg 20:17; Job 5:20; Isa 3:25; Deut 32:42; 2 Sam 1:22; Isa 34:6. When Jesus at the end of the thousand years destroys Satan and his angels, there will be no more war. From that time onwards nation shall not lift up their sword against another nation throughout eternity Isa 2:4.

## THE BLACK HORSE OR THIRD SEAL = PERGAMOS THE THIRD CHURCH PERIOD – 325 A.D. UNTIL 538 A.D.

### 4. What did John see when Jesus opened the third seal? Rev 6:5. See notes below.

**Ans: a.** And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a \_\_\_\_\_ horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of \_\_\_\_\_ in his hand. Rev 6:5.

**Ans: b.** The third beast or seraphim angel which had the face of a man represented Christ the Son of \_\_\_\_\_ as our Mediator, High Priest, Judge, and Law \_\_\_\_\_ who could not be replaced by the pagan counterfeits that came into the Church from 325 A.D. until 538 A.D. 1 Tim 2:3-5

**Ans: c.** In summary the black horse was a symbol of a church that was \_\_\_\_\_ . This church had \_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_ complete \_\_\_\_\_ absence \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ God's \_\_\_\_\_ word \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ changing \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of God. It changed the Sabbath from the \_\_\_\_\_ Day to the \_\_\_\_\_ day of the week which was Sunday, "the venerable day of the Sun," a \_\_\_\_\_ day of worship (See appendix 6C and 6 D). It was a time of spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ because of the scarcity of God's word. Those that hold to the darkness of this period will suffer the second \_\_\_\_\_ to be eternally separated from God. Those few that were faithful in this time period were sorrowful and mourning for the spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ in the Church. See note below.



**Ans: d.** Balances in the Bible represent the judgments of God Dan 5:22-31; Job 6:2-4; 31:1-11; Ps 62:8-12. The scales in the hand of the rider of the Black Horse signify the taking over of Constantine and His followers of the work of \_\_\_\_\_ in His work as High Priest, \_\_\_\_\_, and Lawmaker. See note below.

**The Third Beast.** The face of a man was the symbol of the third beast that represented the third seraphim angel. He was a good representative of Christ and His Church through this time period of

the third Church and Seal. Christ became a man so that He could be a merciful High priest and Judge Heb 2:17,18; Jn 5:22. These wonderful roles that Jesus paid for with His Blood could not be replaced by the pagan counterfeits that came into the Church from 313 A.D. until 538 A.D. The third beast or seraphim angel which had the face of a man represented Christ the Son of Man as our Mediator, High Priest, Judge, and Law Giver who could not be replaced by the pagan counterfeits that came into the Church from 325 A.D. until 538 A.D. 1 Tim 2:3-5.



**A Black Horse.** Black in the Bible is a symbol of **1.** deceit, (Job 6:15,16) **2.** Sickness and sorrow (Job 30:30,31), **3.** Absence of light (Prov 7:9); **4.** Being hurt at the lost condition of God’s professed people (Jer 8:20-22), **5.** Mourning and languishing (Jer 14:2), **6.** Spiritual famine (Lam 5:10; Amos 8:10), and **7.** Eternal damnation (Jude 1:13). **1.** During this period the church was being deceived when Constantine married the pagan traditions and practices and tried to make them Christian by changing their name (i.e. the Babylonian sun god Semarimis and Tammuz became Mary and Jesus). **2.** Those that suffered sickness through persecution and sorrow at the spiritual condition of the Church and it’s leaders were symbolized by the black colour of the third horse. **3.** There was a total absence of light in the Church during this period. Light is a Symbol of the word of God that was put aside for tradition Ps 119:105. It was also a symbol of the Law which was also put aside. Especially was the changing of the Sabbath from the Seventh Day

Saturday unto the first day Sunday a putting aside of the commandments of God Prov 6:23. Jesus is the light of the world Jn 8:12. The word of God and the commandments are a transcript of Jesus’ will and character Ps 40:8; Isa 42:21; 1 Jn 4:8; Mt 22:37-40; Jn 4:24; Rom 7:14; Jn 14:6; Ps 119:142; 1 Cor 1:30; Ps 119:144,172; Isa 6:3; Rom 7:12; Mt 5:48; Ps 19:7; Lk 18:19; Rom 7:12; Deut 32:4; Rom 7:12; 1 Jn 3:3; Ps 19:8; James 1:17; Mt 5:18; Ps 90:2; Ps 111:7,8; Jn 14:6; Mal 2:7-9; Ps 48:1; Hosea 8:12; Mt 8:3; Ps 57:2; Ezek 22:26. The Church had in this period put away all light and had taken on the blackness of darkness which made them totally blind spiritually. **4.** Those that were still faithful in this time (Rev 2:24-28) were hurt and distressed at the spiritual death that had come upon the Church. They had not taken on the depths of Satan as the others had Rev 2:21-24. **5.** They are also mourning and languishing at the spiritual condition of the Church and it’s members through this period Ezek 9:4. **6.** There is a real spiritual famine portrayed in this period of the Church because the word of God was scarce and those that had it were persecuted and were forced to flee into the mountains. **7.** Eternal damnation or the second death is the final reward for those that put aside the word of God, His commandments including the Sabbath commandment, Jesus and His ministry as High Priest in the Heavenly Sanctuary Rev 20:10-15. In summary the black horse was a symbol of a church that was deceived. This church had a complete absence of light by rejecting God’s word and changing the Law of God. It changed the Sabbath from the Seventh Day to the first day of the week which was Sunday, “the venerable day of the Sun,” a pagan day of worship (See appendix 6C and 6 D). It was a time of spiritual famine because of the scarcity of God’s word. Those that hold to the darkness of this period will suffer the second death to be eternally separated from God. Those few that were faithful in this time period were sorrowful and mourning for the spiritual apostasy in the Church.

**He that sat on him had a Pair of Balances in his hand.** Balances in the Bible represent the judgments of God Dan 5:22-31; Job 6:2-4; 31:1-11; Ps 62:8-12. In the Old Testament the High Priest that officiated in the Earthly Sanctuary Service was the judge. He wore a special breastplate of judgement Ex 28:15,28,29; Num 27:18-21; Isa 28:7. The final day of reckoning in the judgement was the Day of Atonement. Any person who was not right on that day was cut from God and His people Lev 23:26-32. All the sins of the whole year were cleansed on that day Lev 16:30.





They were judged according to the word of God especially the law of liberty Deut 17:9-11; Ezra 7:26; Prov 31:5; Hab 1:4; Jn 7:51; Acts 24:6; Rom 2:12; James 2:8-13; 1 Pet 4:6.

The word of God presents the only true standard of what is innocent and what is virtuous, true, and excellent; and unless these respectable sinners shall meet the Bible standard, they will be weighed in the balances of the sanctuary and found wanting. We may be pleasantly satisfied with the measurement of ourselves, but be wholly wanting when weighed in the balances of God.

God's claim is placed in one scale, and man's character in the other; and by the balances of the heavenly sanctuary every man's doom is fixed for eternity. Look at this, you that have lived carelessly and have regarded sin lightly. For years you have continued without a sense of your responsibility to God--years of selfish indulgence in a forbidden course. Consider the perfect, unchanging character of the law whose claims you have verbally vindicated. The law demands perfect, unswerving obedience. In the latter scale is also placed the sin, the folly, the deception, the unclean thoughts, the unholy actions; and the preponderance or the lightness of the weight determines the weal or woe of individuals; and the inscription is written upon the scale of many, "Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting."

"The Black Horse Period was the time when Satan had set up his seat or throne in the Church Rev 2:13. They had the doctrines of Balaam and the Nicolaitanes which God hated Rev 2:14,15. They had disregarded God's word and His law and He promised that if there was no repentance He would fight against them with the sword of His mouth which is His word Rev 2:16; Eph 6:17. Scales in the hand of the Black Horse are a symbol of the false balances of judgment that fell into the hands of Constantine and his successors. His decisions in making judgments for both the Church and the state Prov 11:1; 20:23. They did not have the love of the truth or God's law as was demonstrated by Constantine murdering his son and wife (see appendix 6 B)

And I beheld, and lo, a black horse; and he that sat upon 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." The third beast, which represents the church, under this seal, had a face as a man, and shows that the church would be like a natural man, proud, haughty, independent, selfish, ambitious, covetous, and worldly. This seal



was opened in the days of Constantine, when religion became popular, and was a stepping-stone to power; and this seal agrees with the Pergamos church, as to time and place. The black horse denotes error and darkness; and when the church became connected with worldly power and wisdom, she lost her purity of doctrine and practice, and adopted, in her creed, maxims and principles congenial with the natural heart, and forms and ceremonies for show and parade, rather than the humbling and cross-bearing life of the followers of Jesus.

The balances denoted that religion and civil power would be united in the person who would administer the executive power in the government, and that he would claim the judicial authority both in church and state. This was true among the Roman emperors, from the days of Constantine until the reign of Justinian, when he gave the same judicial power to the bishop of Rome." William Miller *evidence from scripture and history of the Second Coming of Christ*, page 176. After Jesus became our High Priest in the Heavenly Sanctuary He also became our judge and mediator and advocate Heb 2:17,18; Jn 5:22; 1 Tim 2:3-5; 1 Jn 2:1. Any who take over this role on the earth are usurping the work of Christ in Heaven. This is what happened in the Black Horse Period. Constantine usurped the work of Christ as lawmaker and judge in changing the Sabbath law from the Seventh Day unto the first day (see appendix 6 C and D). He also took the position as head of the Church which was the role of Christ only Col 1:18 (see appendix 6 B). In summary the scales in the hand of the rider of the Black Horse signify the taking over of Constantine and His followers of the work of Christ in His work as High Priest, Judge, and Lawmaker.

**5. What else did John see in the vision of the third seal? Rev 6:6 See notes below.**

**Ans: a.** And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A \_\_\_\_\_ of wheat for a \_\_\_\_\_, and three measures of \_\_\_\_\_ for a penny; and *see* thou hurt not the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ . Rev 6:6.

**Ans: b.** The measure of wheat then signifies Christ as a grain of wheat that was planted in the grave to rise again as the promise of the power of \_\_\_\_\_ to all that were \_\_\_\_\_ during the Pergamos Period Rev 2:13. It also symbolizes the sustaining \_\_\_\_\_ of God's \_\_\_\_\_ through the time of compromise with pagan practices that surrounded the Church members of the Black Horse period. It reveals the \_\_\_\_\_ that went on in this period between the true believers (wheat) and the \_\_\_\_\_ (chaff) when they separated within the church over the struggle between the Bible and \_\_\_\_\_ Mk 7:1-13. The planting of many of Satan's unconverted \_\_\_\_\_ into the Church by the great popularity brought about by Constantine in using bribery to seduce pagans in changing to become Christian (in name only) is also symbolized by the tares being planted with the wheat. See note below.

**Ans: c.** The penny therefore is a symbol of choosing between loyalty to \_\_\_\_\_ or loyalty to Caesar when the Sabbath was changed by Constantine from the Seventh Day unto Sunday. See note below.

**Ans: d.** The measure of Barley was a figure of \_\_\_\_\_ who was smitten and bruised for our sins and became the first fruits from the \_\_\_\_\_. During the Pergamos and Black Horse Periods alternative teachings such as Easter were introduced from \_\_\_\_\_ to take the place of these truths (see appendix 6C).

**Ans: e.** To Hurt not the oil means that no one has the authority to take over the work of the Holy \_\_\_\_\_ or to touch the Word of God that He inspired. No authority even the Emperor Constantine could change the message that the Holy Spirit gave to the Seven Churches by the Holy Spirit Rev 2:7,11,17,29; 3:6,13,22. The wine is a symbol of the \_\_\_\_\_ of the New Testament where Jesus made possible the \_\_\_\_\_ of our sins Mt 26:27,28. Forgiveness of sins by the blood of Jesus in the Pergamos or Third Seal Period was substituted by sacraments and ceremonies. Salvation was obtained by works without faith rather than by faith that works by love and purifies the soul. See note below.

**A Measure of Wheat. 1.** The word measure used by John here is a Greek word *frōn* (χοίνιξ) meaning a dry measure, containing four cotylae or two setarii (less than our quart, one litre) (or as much as would support a man of moderate appetite for a day).

**2.** Jesus used the grain of wheat to describe His death for us. He was planted in the earth like a seed when He died to spring up again and bears fruit at His resurrection Jn 12:23-33; 1 Cor 15:35-54. This was of special significance to the martyrs during this period that could look forward to the resurrection as their great and blessed hope Titus 2:13. **3.** Wheat is also a symbol of trial and temptation that sifts the soul as in the case of Peter at the trial of Jesus. Jesus'



prayer and His words of prophecy sustained Peter through the period of the denial of his Lord at the trial and the bitter time of guilt and remorse that followed Lk 22:31-34. Likewise Jesus promised to sustain God's people with the hidden manna of prophecy as He did the children of Israel through their difficult period of the 40 year in the wilderness with literal manna Rev 2:17; Ex 16:35. The time of difficult trial through the Pergamos and Black Horse Period was sustained by Jesus the word of God who is called the Bread from Heaven or the true manna from heaven Lk 22:19; Jn 6:31-33,48-58; Jer 15:16 **4.** Wheat being sifted from the chaff is a symbol of Jesus separating the good followers of Christ from the bad Lk 3:16,17; Mt 3:5-12. During the Black Horse period when Christianity became popular and corrupted by paganism there grew a greater separation between the true believers and the greater majority of those that were really baptized pagans. Satan filled the Church with his own people and took over the Church doing far greater damage to the Church than bitter and relentless persecution had ever been able to do. **5.** Wheat and tares are another word picture of how Satan plants unconverted people into the Church to cause apostasy and disruption Mt 13:25-30,36-43. This is a very accurate picture of what happened when in Constantine's rule the poorer classes were promised a white garment with twenty pieces of gold if they decided to become a Christian. The Black Horse Period was when the Church was not only planted with the tares or pagans but also filled with their traditions, customs, and ceremonies (see appendix 6 B). The measure of wheat then signifies Christ as a grain of wheat that was planted in the grave to rise again as the promise of the power of resurrection to all that were martyred during the Pergamos Period Rev 2:13. It also symbolizes the sustaining power of God's word through the time of compromise with pagan practices that surrounded the Church members of the Black Horse period. It reveals the sifting that went on in this period between the true believers (wheat) and the pagans (chaff) when they separated within the church over the struggle between the Bible and tradition Mk 7:1-13. The planting of many of Satan's unconverted heathen into the Church by the great popularity brought about by Constantine in using bribery to seduce pagans in changing to become Christian (in name only) is also symbolized by the tares being planted with the wheat.

**For a Penny.** The penny in the Bible times was a day's wages. Jesus used the penny in the parable of "the householder, which went out early in the morning to hire labourers into his vineyard" to symbolically describe the reward of eternal life that is given to the righteous Mt 20:1-16. Jesus used the penny to illustrate to those that were trying to trap Him at His words to tell them to render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's and unto God the things that are God's Mk 12:13-17. Constantine the Caesar at the beginning of the Pergamos and Black Horse Period demanded of the Church things which only God could ask such as changing the Sabbath. The true believer would



rather suffer persecution and death than deny their love for God in keeping His commandments Jn 14:15; 15:10; 1 Jn 5:2,3. They decided to keep the Sabbath and not Sunday even though it meant breaking the Law of the Caesar Constantine and later the Church of Rome. Eventually they had to leave their homes and find a home in the mountains which became the homes of the Waldenses and Albigenses for well over a thousand years. The penny therefore is a symbol of choosing between loyalty to God or loyalty to Caesar when the Sabbath was changed by Constantine from the Seventh Day unto Sunday.

**And three measures of Barley for a penny.** This grain was cheaper than wheat, as is indicated here by the relative prices. Barley was a common food of the poor, and was used as feed for animals.

The five Barley loaves that Jesus blessed fed five thousand men as well as the women and children that were with them. In this instance the miracle working power of God to provide for the needy was demonstrated Jn 6:1-13. The barley meal was used as an offering in the Earthly Sanctuary Num 5:15. This was a symbol of Jesus who was smitten and bruised for our iniquities just as the barley grain had to be crushed to be an offering Isa 53:4,5.

The first fruits of the barley harvest were a symbol of which Jesus was antitype 1 Cor 15:20; Lev 23:9-14; 2 Kings 4:42. The Passover was followed by the seven days' feast of unleavened bread. On the second day of the feast, the first fruits of the year's harvest, a sheaf of barley, was presented before the Lord. All the ceremonies of the feast were types of the work of Christ. The deliverance of Israel from Egypt was an object lesson of redemption, which the Passover was intended to keep in memory. The slain lamb, the unleavened bread, the sheaf of first fruits, represented the Saviour. The measure of Barley was a figure of Jesus who was smitten and bruised for our sins and became the first fruits from the dead. During the Pergamos and Black Horse Periods alternative teachings such as Easter were introduced from paganism to take the place of these truths (see appendix 6C).

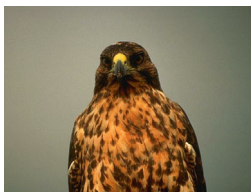
**Hurt not the Oil and the Wine.** Oil in the Bible is a symbol of the Holy Spirit 1 Sam 16:13; Ex 25:37; 27:20; Rev 4:5; Zech 4:2-6. The Holy Spirit is the oil that gives the light to the lamp of God's word by inspiring the prophets and writers of the Bible Ps 119:105; 2 Pet 1:19-21; 2 Tim 3:16. The Holy Spirit is the oil that lights our lamps as we share the Bible with others and search for the true understanding that is found there Mt 5:16; Mt 25:1-13; Jn 17:17; Jn 16:13. The Holy Spirit is the light in the hand of the woman or Church to shine God's message down through the Period of the Seven Churches Lk 15:8-10; Rev 1:20. To Hurt not the oil means that no one has the authority to take over the work of the Holy Spirit or to touch the Word of God that He inspired. No authority even the Emperor Constantine could change the message that the Holy Spirit gave to the Seven Churches by the Holy Spirit Rev 2:7,11,17,29; 3:6,13,22. The wine is a symbol of the blood of the New Testament where Jesus made possible the forgiveness of our sins Mt 26:27,28. Forgiveness of sins by the blood of Jesus in the Pergamos or Third Seal Period was substituted by sacraments and ceremonies. Salvation was obtained by works without faith rather than by faith that works by love and purifies the soul.

## THE PALE HORSE OR FOURTH SEAL = THYATIRA THE FOURTH CHURCH PERIOD – 538 A.D. UNTIL 1517 A.D.

6. What was the significance of the fourth beast that announced the opening of the fourth Seal by Jesus? Rev 6:7.

**Ans: a.** And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth say, Come and see. Rev 6:7

**Ans: b.** The Flying Eagle was the symbol of the fourth beast or fourth seraphim. It represented the work of \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ His people during the time of \_\_\_\_\_ of the Church of Rome. He delivered them as if they were on Eagles Wings. In Rev 12:14 He gave the Church wings to symbolically fly from her persecutors during the Fourth Seal 538 A.D. until 1517 A.D. and beyond until 1798. The Eagle flying also symbolized the spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ throughout this period. See note below.



**The Fourth Beast.** The next beast was depicted by a flying eagle Rev 4:7. The flying eagle represents Christ as the deliverer of His people. In symbol He is seen as bearing His people Israel on His wings to safety just as the mother eagle trains her young to fly Ex 19:4. This is also very significant to the fact that the Church during this time period 538 A.D. until 1517 A.D. and beyond until 1798 was given the wings of an eagle to fly into the wilderness to escape the persecution of the Church of Rome Rev 12:14 (we will study this in more detail in further lessons). This was fulfilled by the Waldenses and Albigenses that studied and wrote out copies of the Bible in their mountain homes. Eagles also gather at the time of many dead carcasses Mt 24:28; Lk 17:37. The Church was certainly spiritually dead through this period. The

Flying Eagle was the symbol of the fourth beast or fourth seraphim. It represented the work of Christ in delivering His people during the time of persecution of the Church of Rome. He delivered them as if they were on Eagles Wings. In Rev12:14 He gave the Church wings to symbolically fly from her persecutors during the Fourth Seal 538 A.D. until 1517 A.D. and beyond until 1798. The Eagle flying also symbolized the spiritual death throughout this period.

**7. When John looked after the opening of the Fourth Seal what did he see? Rev 6:8.**

**Ans: a.** And I looked, and behold a \_\_\_\_\_ horse: and his name that sat on him was \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ followed with him. And \_\_\_\_\_ was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to \_\_\_\_\_ with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth. Rev 6:8.

**Ans: b.** The word pale used in this verse is the Greek word  $\chi\lambda\omicron\rho\omicron\varsigma$  (chloros) meaning pale \_\_\_\_\_ . This is the colour of \_\_\_\_\_ which well represents this period of history. See note below.

**Ans: c.** The Greek word Death is  $\theta\alpha\nu\alpha\tau\omicron\varsigma$  (thanatos) meaning to be dead. The word Hell in the original Greek is  $\alpha\dot{\iota}\delta\epsilon\iota\varsigma$  (hades) meaning the grave. The Church was spiritually dead in this period and followed the doctrine of Jezebel Rev 2:20-24. During this period \_\_\_\_\_ up \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ 100,000

\_\_\_\_\_ were killed in one day (see appendix 7D). They along with the Waldenses held to the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_. The early Christians kept the Seventh Day Sabbath and followed the Bible for hundreds of years until Constantine in 321 A.D. brought the first Sunday \_\_\_\_\_ into effect. See note below.



**Ans: d.** Power was given to the Church of Rome over the fourth part of the earth. During this period Rome ruled over those that believed in the Lamb as the sinners sacrifice, in His work as High Priest, the Sabbath, confession to Christ as their High Priest, and worship of God. They believed in everything associated with one fourth that is found in the Earthly \_\_\_\_\_ Service. The Church of Rome counterfeited every one of these truths and \_\_\_\_\_ any one who dared to contradict them.

**Pale Horse.** The word pale used in this verse is the Greek word  $\chi\lambda\omicron\rho\omicron\varsigma$  (chloros) meaning pale green. This is the colour of death which well represents this period of history.

**His name that sat on him was Death and Hell followed with him.** The Greek word Death is  $\theta\alpha\nu\alpha\tau\omicron\varsigma$  (thanatos) meaning to be dead. The word Hell in the original Greek is  $\alpha\dot{\iota}\delta\epsilon\iota\varsigma$  (hades) meaning the grave. The Church was spiritually dead in this period and followed the doctrine of Jezebel Rev 2:20-24. During this period up to 100,000 Albigenses were killed in one day (see appendix 7D). They along with the Waldenses held to the Bible and the Sabbath. The early Christians kept the Seventh Day Sabbath and followed the Bible for hundreds of years until Constantine in 321 A.D. brought the first Sunday law into effect.

Among the leading causes that had led to the separation of the true church from Rome was the hatred of the latter toward the Bible Sabbath. As foretold by prophecy, the papal power cast down the truth to the ground. The law of God was trampled in the dust, while the traditions and customs

of men were exalted. The churches that were under the rule of the papacy were early compelled to honor the Sunday as a holy day. Amid the prevailing error and superstition, many, even of the true people of God, became so bewildered that while they observed the Sabbath, they refrained from labor also on the Sunday. But this did not satisfy the papal leaders. They demanded not only that Sunday be hallowed, but that the Sabbath be profaned; and they denounced in the strongest language those who dared to show it honor. It was only by fleeing from the power of Rome that any could obey God's law in peace.

The Waldenses were among the first of the peoples of Europe to obtain a translation of the Holy Scriptures. Hundreds of years before the Reformation they possessed the Bible in manuscript in their native tongue. They had the truth unadulterated, and this rendered them the special objects of hatred and persecution. They declared the Church of Rome to be the apostate Babylon of the Apocalypse, and at the peril of their lives they stood up to resist her corruptions. While, under the pressure of long-continued persecution, some compromised their faith, little by little yielding its distinctive principles, others held fast the truth. Through ages of darkness and apostasy there were Waldenses who denied the supremacy of Rome, who rejected image worship as idolatry, and who kept the true Sabbath. Under the fiercest tempests of opposition they maintained their faith. Though gashed by the Savoyard spear, and scorched by the Romish fagot, they stood unflinchingly for God's word and His honor. Behind the lofty bulwarks of the mountains--in all ages the refuge of the persecuted and oppressed--the Waldenses found a hiding place. Here the light of truth was kept burning amid the darkness of the Middle Ages. Here, for a thousand years, witnesses for the truth maintained the ancient faith.

**Power was given them over the fourth part of the earth.**

The fourth part was significant in the Earthly Sanctuary Service. At the consecration of Aaron the High Priest and his sons the Priests a fourth part of a hin of oil and wine were offered as a sacrifice Ex 29:35-44. The oil was a symbol of the Holy Spirit who was needed in guiding them in their ministry Ps 51:11; Isa 63:10,11; Neh 9:20. The wine was a symbol of the priests being cleansed by the blood of Christ Lev 16:19; 1 Jn 1:7. The fourth part of a hin of wine was also a drink offering on the day of the first fruits Lev 23:9-13. The



*Waldensian Bible Translator*

fourth part of a hin of oil and wine used in burnt offerings, vows, freewill offerings and feasts Num 15:1-5. The fourth part of a hin of oil and wine were offered with the evening and morning sacrifice Num 28:1-7. On the Sabbath day the same portion of oil and wine were offered Num 28:9,10. On the new moon once again one fourth of a hin of oil and wine were offered with every lamb. In fact every lamb in the specified offerings with only a few exceptions was always offered with one fourth of a hin of oil and wine Num 15:2-12. The fourth part of the day (about three hours) was used for reading the law and another fourth part in confession and worshipping the Lord Neh 9:3. Power was given to the Church of Rome over the fourth part of the earth. During this period Rome ruled over those that believed in the Lamb as the sinners sacrifice, in His work as High Priest, the Sabbath, confession to Christ as their High Priest, and worship of God. They believed in everything associated with one fourth that is found in the Earthly Sanctuary Service. The Church of Rome counterfeited every one of these truths and killed any one who dared to contradict them. Century after century the blood of the saints had been shed. While the Waldenses laid down their lives upon the mountains of Piedmont "for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ," similar witness to the truth had been borne by their brethren, the Albigenses of France. In the days of the Reformation its disciples had been put to death with horrible tortures. King and nobles, highborn women and delicate maidens, the pride and chivalry of the nation, had feasted their eyes upon the agonies of the martyrs of Jesus. The brave Huguenots, battling for those rights which the human heart holds most sacred, had poured out their blood on many a hard-fought field. The Protestants were counted as outlaws, a price was set upon their heads, and they were hunted down like wild beasts. *The Seven Seals continues in the next lesson...*