

## III. Things to Come

### Introduction

We have already discussed the three divisions of the book of Revelation as made by the Lord Himself. In the first division we have seen "What John saw" ie. The Glory of the Risen Lord. In the second division we have seen "The Things Present" ie. The Church Age, which terminates with the Rapture. The third division is "The Things To Come" which covers Chs. from 4 to 22. Since the Things to Come are not graspable to human mind nor describable in human words, the Lord called John up to heaven and showed everything in different episodes as being happened. He heard the voice "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this" (4:1)

At first, let us see what John saw in heaven as described in Ch.4.

#### 1. The Throne in heaven (4:2-5)

The first thing John observes in heaven was a throne occupied by the Almighty God, whose appearance was like a Jasper (Semi-transparent) and a Sardine(red) Stone. This Throne stands for the universal government of God. This is the centre of the activities of this Book.

#### 2. The 24 other Thrones and 24 Elders (4:4)

John is given a vision of 24 elders who are seated on thrones clothed in white raiment and crowned with golden crowns. The number 24 suggests that they represent the Church. 24 is a number of priesthood (1Chro..24:1,18,19)

#### 3. The Glassy Sea (4:6)

Here the Sea of Glass is crystal clear, whereas in Ch.15:2, it look like a sea of glass mixed with fire.

#### 4. The Four living creatures (4:6-8)

These Four Creatures are the special guards of the throne of God. They are visible many times in the Old Testament also (Ezek. 10:20) They are linked to the implementation and execution of God's purpose and decrees for this earth.

## Things to Come (Rapture to Eternity- Ch.4-22)

This can again be sub divided as:

- 1) The Tribulation - 7 years (Ch.4-19)
- 2) The Millenium - 1000 years (Ch.20:4-6)
- 3) The Battle of Armageddon (Ch.20:7-10)
- 4) The White Throne Judgement Ch.20:11-15)
- 5) The Renovation of Earth by Fire (Ch.21:1)
- 6) The New Heaven and Earth (Ch.21 to 22)
- 7) The Eternal Future (Ch. 21 to 22)

At first we are going to learn about the Tribulation period. From Daniel's prophecy of the **Seventy Weeks** we understand that the **Tribulation** will be of **Seven Years** duration.

There will be **three** groups of people who will go through the period of tribulation.

- a) The Gentile Nation. (Ezek.30:3,Jer.25:31-32)
- b) The Nation of Israel (Jer. 30:4-7)
- c) The left out Christians of the Laodicean Church.



## **2 The Seven Seals**

The Book of Revelation as we have seen is structured on **seven Sevens**. Regarding the **Seven Churches** we have learned in the previous lesson 28. We come across the next five “**Sevens**” in the period of Tribulation.

John finds in the right hand of Him that sat on the throne a **Book Sealed with seven Seals**. This sealed book or scroll is the key to Revelation. This sealed book contains the decree of the redemption of the fallen human race and the cursed earth. Then we find an exciting scene where John weeps because he does not find any one who is worthy to break the seal and open the scroll. None could do that great task unless he fulfilled all the requirements of a redeemer. Jesus Christ was the only person who met all the requirement. So He came and received the Seven Sealed Book from the One who is sitting on the throne (God The Father). When the son of God the Lamb opens the seals in Heaven the great epoch- making events of Tribulation begins on earth. In Chs. 4 and 5 the scene was in heaven, but as we come to Ch.6 the scene is shifted to earth.

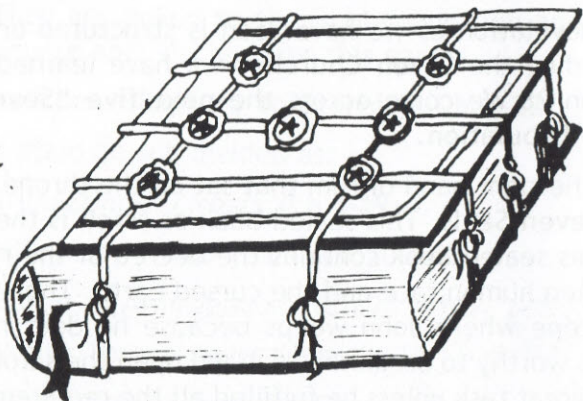
Now let us look at the happenings at the opening of each seal:

### **The Seven Sealed Book (Scroll)**

#### **1. First Seal. (Rev.6:1-2) - White Horse**

At the opening of the first seal a White Horse appeared and its rider held a bow (without arrow), and he was given a crown and he rode out as a conqueror bent on conquest. Here the Anti Christ is appearing as a peace maker and a world leader to rule the whole earth. As he comes riding on a white horse in all probability the Jews will mistake him for their Messiaiah. In fact Jesus Christ the King of kings will appear on a white horse at the second coming in glory (Rev.19:11-16, Matt.24:16-30) The little horn seen by Daniel speaks of Anti Christ who in a peaceful manner obtains power has reference to this (Dan.8.9). All believe his lie (2Thess.2.9-11). He enters into a treaty with Israel (Dan.9:27). That is why they are made to believe that he is the messiah to come.

## 7 Seals (6:11-19)



1. White Horse (6:2)



2. Red Horse (6:4)



3. Black Horse (6:5,6)



4. Pale Horse (6:7,8)



5. Souls Slain (6:9-11)



6. Earthquake (6:12-17)

**Paranthesis**



7. Silence (8:1,2)

## 2. Second Seal - Red Horse (6:3-4)

When the Lamb opened the second seal, another horse came out, a fiery red one. Its rider was given power to take peace from the earth" (6:3-4). Here the rider is having a sword. The horse and the rider are the same in both seals, but the change of colour shows the changed nature of the person - shedding blood- he is no longer a peace maker. He obtained power in a cunning manner, The Anti- Christ eliminates all who oppose him.

## 3. Third Seal - Black Horse (6:5-6)

"When the Lamb opened the third seal.....there was a black horse. Its rider was holding a pair of scales in his hands"(6:5-6). This shows the preservation of huge quantity of food materials on one side, while at the same time acute starvation prevails on the other.

## 4. Fourth Seal - Pale Horse (6:7-8)

"When the Lamb opened the seal .....there before me was a Pale Horse. Its rider was named Death, and Hades was following close behind him. They were given power to kill by sword, famine, plague and wild beasts"(6:7-8). These are weapons that God sends to punish man (Ezek.14:13-23). While they can surely get deliverance from this disaster calling upon God, the wicked men are praying to mountains and rocks (Matt.24:6-8, Lk.21:10-11, Rev. 6:15-17)

## Exercise

1. Give a pictorial description of the initial revelation of John the Apostle,  
as in the chapter 4 of Revelation
2. Point out the events to take place during the period of Rapture to Eternity.
3. What is your understanding on the Seven Sealed Scroll ?
4. Highlight the Personages and events related to the opening of the following:  
a) 1st seal   b) 2nd seal   c) 3rd seal   d) 4th seal