

LEVEL 1



BIBLE COURSE
REVELATION

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Introduction to



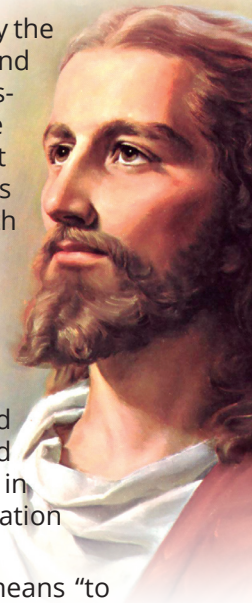
REVELATION

Let us imagine just for a second the amount of people who would like to know the future! Now, let us imagine an old man who was exiled to a deserted island because the emperor was afraid of him. Let us also imagine that the old man has come to that place because, in order to close his mouth, they threw him into a pot of boiling oil and God worked a miracle so that he came out of it alive to the amazement of the emperor's court in Rome.

It was in the year 100 of our era. The emperor was bothered by the presence of Apostle John. We are actually speaking about him and his influence that was very important for the propagation of Christianity. He was a witness of the miracles, deeds, and words of the Master of masters, Jesus Christ. He was present at the judgment of Jesus by the Jewish Sanhedrin. He was at the foot of the cross when Jesus was in agony. He was the one who ran, together with Apostle Peter, to the empty grave, and he was the first one to see the linen clothes set in order because Christ had resurrected. That is why he wrote, *"That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled..."* 1 John 1:1.

Now, he was in the sunset of life. It seemed that the world had forgotten him. His voice seemed to have been silenced and nobody could be influenced by the words of the old apostle. But in the loneliness of the island of Patmos, he wrote the book of Revelation which is the greatest work. This book is what we shall study.

Its name comes from the Greek term Apokalupsis, which means "to reveal or to withdraw the veil." The Lord Jesus, in His mercy, has withdrawn the veil that covered the eyes of humanity, in order to show the future just as it was going to develop. That is what the book of Revelation is, history written beforehand. We invite you to enjoy this fascinating book: **Revelation**.



He who studies it, obtains a broad panorama of:

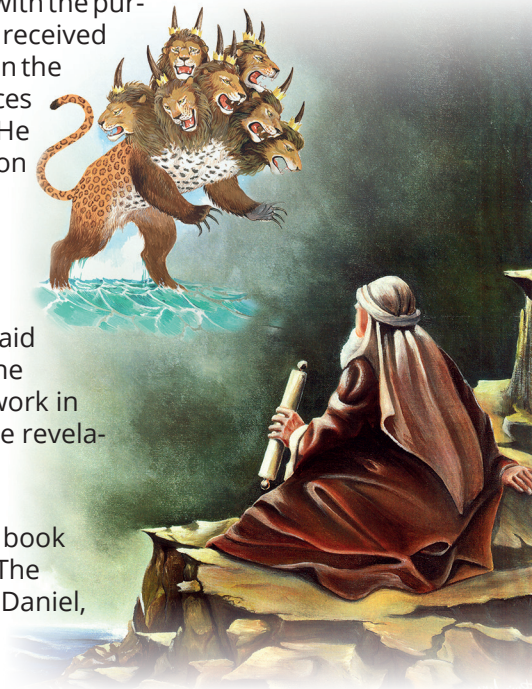
- The history of our era
- The meaning of present events
- The future (through the study of its wonderful prophecies)
- The universal war between good and evil
- The arising of the Antichrist (666) and its work
- ✓ Practically all Bible truths are treated in the book of Revelation
- ✓ It explains in depth the prophecies found in the book of Daniel that were written in 600 B. C.
- ✓ It consoles us and gives us hope since it presents the vision of a better world.
- ✓ It speaks about the author of life. It introduces Jesus Christ in different ways.
- ✓ The word Apocalypses means "Revelation". Revelation 1:1.

I. HISTORICAL FRAME OF ITS ORIGIN

The book of Revelation was written by John, the theologian of the island of Patmos.

Christians refused to worship the emperor as if he were a king. This brought up persecutions and serious problems within the first church. The apostle John was exiled to the barren island of Patmos, with the purpose of making him stop talking. There, he received the most important prophetic revelations in the New Testament. The author simply introduces himself as "your brother" Revelation 1:9. He is the apostle John, James' brother, the son of Zebedee.

- ✓ The book was written about the year 96, at the end of the reign of emperor Domitianus, between 81- 96.
- ✓ Policarpus declares that: "When John said these things on the island of Patmos, he was condemned by Domitianus to work in the mines. There is where he had these revelations." Revelation 1:9.
- ✓ Besides being one of the books of the Bible, at the time of ancient Israel, the book of Revelation was a kind of literature. The first book of this kind was the book of Daniel, written in the VI century A.D.



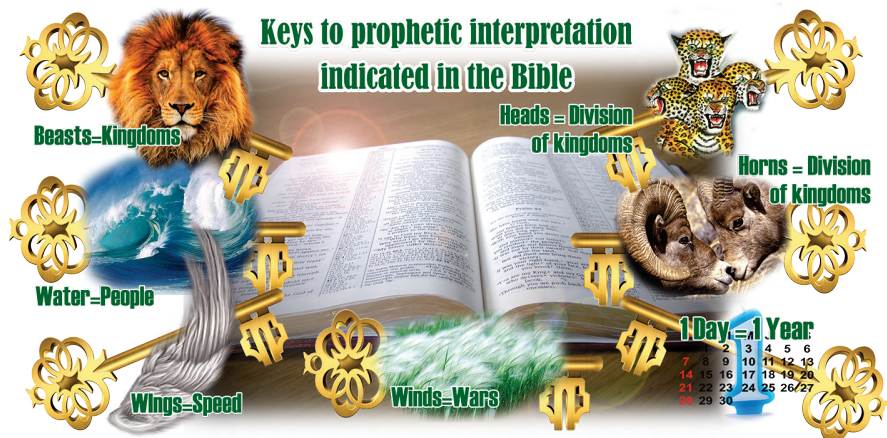
II. How to understand the book of Revelation

1. Most of the revelations were given by means of visions and dreams. The prophet was taken in spirit to a certain scene and the angel explained it to him. 73 times, he says: "I saw", "I looked", "I heard". What command did the Lord give John?

Revelation 1:11

2. He uses an allegoric and symbolic language:

In order to understand it we must let the Bible show us the meaning of the symbols.



THE SEVEN CLUES OF PROPHECY

- a) What do water and wind symbolize in prophecy?
 - ✓ Winds symbolize wars, Jeremiah 49:36-37.
 - ✓ Waters symbolize ...multitudes... , Revelation 17:15
- b) What do beasts, heads, horns and wings symbolize?
 - ✓ Beasts symbolize kingdoms, (Daniel 7:23).
 - ✓ Heads and horns symbolize division of kingdoms, (Daniel 7:24).
 - ✓ Wings symbolize speed, (Habakkuk 1:8).
 - ✓ Many nations are still represented by similar symbols: USA has the eagle as a symbol; Great Britain has the lion; Russia has the bear; China has a dragon and France a rooster.
 - ✓ In prophecy, a day stays for a year. (Ezekiel 4:6; Numbers 14:34)
- c) The number that is mostly used is N° 7, which represents plenitude.

3. The main division or prophetic lines are four:

1. 7 churches
2. 7 seals
3. 7 trumpets
4. The final events of the great conflict are described in chapters 12 to 22.

4. Many things that were sealed in the book of Daniel were revealed in the book of Revelation
5. This book has a total of 505 references to texts in other books of the Bible, 325 times is the Old Testament referred to.

In order to understand the book of Revelation, we should use quotations from the whole Bible. Thus, we can discover the deepest truths that will help us live with that glorious hope and certainty that God gives us, and to understand our Creator's plan and find the way of life and salvation.

6. What stages did the message of Revelation go through before it reached us? Revelation 1:1-5, 19.

- a) God Father b) Jesus Christ c) Through an
- d) To His servant who had to write it and
- e) Send it to

7. Why did God use parables and symbols to communicate the message? Luke 8:10.

.....

8. What does God prohibit regarding the prophetic word? Revelation 22:18-19.

.....

9. Who is the real author of the whole Bible? 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:21.

All Scripture is

10. What is the prophetic word compared to? 2 Peter 1:19.

To a *that*

11. What promises does God give to him who reads, listens to and keeps the things written in this book?

- a) Revelation 1:3. He calls him
- b) Revelation 3:10. He will keep him from the hour of

My decision: *I ask God to enlighten me to understand this book and want to respect the advice he gives me and apply them in my life.*

Name:

Address:

The most important person in



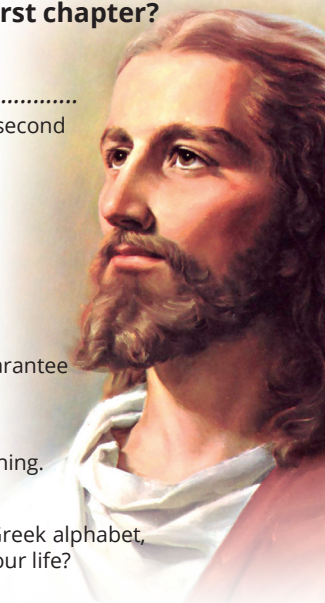
The first text in the book of Revelation says that it is the revelation of Jesus Christ (Revelation 1:1). He is the One who opens history to us, presents the glories of His kingdom and describes the war between good and evil. Jesus Christ Himself appears as the final Victor sharing His victory with all those who believe in Him.

Jesus Christ appears in this book with 38 different names. Each one of them describes His wonderful virtues and saving work. There are 250 references to Him as a person. In different ways, He is mentioned 137 times in the first three chapters.

1. With what name does He introduce Himself in the first chapter? Revelation 1:4, 5, 8, 11, 13.

- a) *Him which and which and which is.....*
 - ✓ This name refers to the fact that He preexisted and to His first and second coming.
- b) *He who has the Spirits of God.*
 - ✓ Seven, that means the plenitude of the Spirit. Absolute God.
- c) *Jesus Christ Witness.*
 - ✓ He will testify for us or against us at the judgment
- d) *The first born*
 - ✓ His resurrection was the first one in importance since it is the guarantee of our own resurrection.
- e) *..... of the kings of the earth.*
 - ✓ He is the King of kings and the Lord of lords, the owner of everything.
- f) *The alpha and the*
 - ✓ Beginning and end, first and last. Alpha is the first letter in the Greek alphabet, and omega the last one. Is He the first One and the last One in your life?
- g) *One like*
 - ✓ Jesus Christ is God. Let us trust in Him because He is almighty.

2. How did John describe His glory? Revelation 1:13-16.



The prophet was very impressed by what God showed him in vision and it was impossible for him to describe with human words the heavenly glory. He tries to do it with the following description:

- a) One like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment and girt about the paps
- b) His head and his hairs and his eyes were
- c) His feet and his voice as
- d) and out of his mouth went and his countenance was

3. Which was Jesus' greatest virtue and what did He set us free from? Revelation 1:5.

Unto him that and washed us from in his own

- ✓ "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." John. 15:13. This is what Jesus did. He gave His life so that we can be saved in Him. He wants us to be happy and enjoy the security of His forgiveness. Isaiah 38:17 says: "For thou hast cast all my sins behind thy back." What a wonderful gift it is to have peace with God! But, what can I do to receive this gift from Jesus and enjoy security?
- ✓ **Confess Him my sins. Believe with all my heart in His redeeming blood, that Jesus bore the punishment I deserved for my sins. Accept Him as my Saviour and as owner and Lord of my life and ask Him for forgiveness for all my sins. If I surrender to Him, all His promises are immediately mine and I can praise and thank Him from His salvation.**

4. With what animal is Christ compared in Revelation? Revelation 5:6.

With a

- ✓ When man fell into sin, he had to die. (Genesis 2:17; Romans 6:23), but God devised a plan to save man; the Creator Himself, the Son of God, would die in His place. Until that time, (Galatians 4:4) the sinner had to sacrifice an innocent lamb to die in his place as a substitute and symbol of Jesus.



- ✓ Read the prophecy in Isaiah 53:5-7 in which His sacrifice of love is described in depth and in a beautiful way, more than 700 years before his birth. In Revelation, Jesus is mentioned 26 times with the name "Lamb". John the Baptist introduced Him on the Jordan as "the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world". (John 1:29, 36).

5. When was the plan of salvation devised, that the Lamb of God - Christ-would die for mankind? 1 Peter 1:18-21.

Before the of the

- ✓ Jesus existed from ever; In Bethlehem he only became man. Micah 5:2 says "whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting."

6. Therefore, how should we consider Jesus? Romans 9:5.

Christ came over all".

- ✓ John 1:1-3, 14 presents Jesus as the Word and it says He was God and Creator, from the beginning. In Colossians 1:16, 17, it says that he is Creator of all things and existed before all things were created. In Colossians 2:9, it says "in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead..." In Hebrews 1:1, 2, y 8-10, the Father presents Him as Creator and God. This is His greatness and the guarantee of our salvation. The everlasting Father and Creator of the human being loved man so much that He humbled Himself to the point of being born in poverty –in a stable- take the form of a servant, (Philippians 2:7) to be like us and die in our stead. "He was in all points tempted liked as we are, yet without sin." Hebrews 4:15. Besides taking our place in the sacrifice, He understands us as human beings since He also lived in the flesh.

7. What was the double-edged sword coming out of His mouth, according to Revelation 1:16?

In Hebrews 4:12 it is written that: "For the sharper than anytwo-edged sword.»

- ✓ The Bible is the way we can communicate with God. Therefore the book of Revelation is a great revelation of His person and will.

8. What means did God give us for us to communicate with Him? Revelation 8:4.

.....is compared incense that ascends before God.

9. How can we approach His throne of grace? Hebrews 4:16.

- ✓ Boldly means that we can go directly to Him without the need of an intercessor. Jesus was a man and lived the problems of human beings. He understands and sympathizes with us. He loves us very much and expects us to accept



Him so that He can receive us as His children and give us the gift of salvation, eternal bliss in a better world.

10. What can He do with those who come to Him? Hebrews 7:25.

..... to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth for them.

11. What does Jesus want from me? Revelation 3:10.

To open the door of my heart.

12. How does Jesus consider us? Revelation 21:7.

He considers us His

We have plenty of reasons to be thankful to God.

The whole Bible speaks to us about Jesus and His love for us.

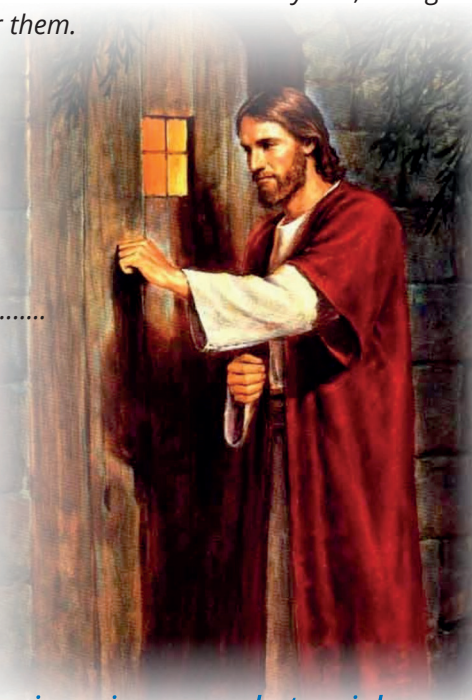
In the Old Testament there are 333 prophecies about Him.

The New Testament tells about His life and teaching.

The book of Revelation introduces Him in various ways, but mainly as the great hero, the overcomer in the war between good and evil.

He is the most important character in the book of Revelation and must be the most important One in your life.

Do you accept Him today as your Lord and Master?



Name:

Address:

The seven churches in



Among the interesting prophetic chains in the book of Revelation, that tell the history of our age, are the letters addressed to seven churches, together with the seven seals and seven trumpets. Chapters 2 and 3 describe the history of the church during 2000 years. There are praises, reproaches and advices given to the church at different times, but their spiritual application is projected to each one of us.

Once again, the main character is Jesus: *“And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; and in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man... And he had in his right hand seven stars...”* Revelation 1:12, 13, 16.

1. The prophetic vision that John receives in the island of Patmos is very impressive. He sees Jesus walking among seven golden candlesticks. What does this mean? What period of time does it refer to? Revelation 1:19-20.

- a) *“The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches which thou sawest are”*
- ✓ In Asia Minor there were many cities with Christian churches. God chose seven names, the church in seven cities as a representation of seven ages of Christianity. We understand that the seven churches represent the history of God's church in seven periods. Its history can be studied and proved.
- ✓ Christ's church is one, from Eden to the restored earth, but it went through many stages. We could divide these seven stages in the following way:

EPHESUS	SMYRNA	PERGAMOS	THYATIRA	SARDIS	PHILADELPHIA	LAODICEA
31	100	323	538	1517	1798	1844
						END

- ✓ Jesus has seven stars in His hand. The text says these are the angels of the church to whom the message is addressed. Who are those angels? The word angel in Greek is *aggeloi* and it can be also translated as messenger, which is many times applied to human beings. (Matthew 11:10; Mark 1:2; Luke 7:24, 27; 2 Corinthians 12:7).
- ✓ According to Malachi 2:7, these are the priests, teachers and leaders of the church, who bear the responsibility of God's flock. While they remain with Christ and His word, He holds them in His hand and guides them, but if they separate from Him He rejects them and chooses other ones. (Romans 11:19-22).

The Message to the 7 churches

2. What message was given to the church in the period of Ephesus? Revelation 2:1-7 We can identify 5 important aspects:



- a) *How is Christ presented? Verse 1.*
- b) *What praises does He make the church? Verse 2-3.*
- c) *What is His rebuke? Verse 4.*
- d) *What counsel does He give it? Verse 5.*
- e) *What promises does the church receive? Verse 7.*

- ✓ During the first century of Christianity, from 31 to 100, while the apostles still lived, it was a time of growth for the church. The doctrine was kept pure. Christ introduces Himself to this church as the one who *“holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks.”* This means He is the Founder and the leader of the church and He does not ignore the struggles of His people. He is always with them.
- ✓ The praise of the angel to the leadership of the church is that he knows *“thy works, and thy labor”*, the way they worked to spread the gospel and He praises it for being able to discern between truth and error. The rebukes, counsels and promises given to this church are also for us. Ephesus means *“Desirable”*.

3. Second period of the church – Smyrna. Revelation 2:8.

- ✓ **Time of persecutions by the Roman Empire.** Christians were cast in the arena. Believers found shelter in the catacombs (underground corridors in Rome) and in loneliness.
- ✓ **Duration:** Between the years 100-313. From the death of the apostle John to the last edict of tolerance of Milan, when the Roman emperor Constantine, grants freedom to Christians. Meaning of Smyrna: *“Myrrh”* or *“Soft perfume.”*

What is the message to this church? Revelation 2:8-11.

a) How does Jesus introduce Himself and why?

“El the last, which was dead, and is alive.”

- ✓ For the martyrs of that time of hard persecutions, Jesus was the first one and the last one. They died with the hope of resurrection, because Jesus is alive.

b) What praises does the church receive? *Jesus knows*

- ✓ **This church receives no reproach** because it remained faithful in time of persecution. Jesus knew its material poverty, but the Lord tells them that they are spiritually rich.
- ✓ **The prophecy said that they would be persecuted ten days** (each day counts for a year) that is to say they were persecuted during 10 years. Between the years 303-313, Diocletianus and his successor Galerio, made a bloody campaign to uproot Christianity.

c) Promise: Verse 11 *“He who overcometh*

4. Third period of the church: Pergamos Revelation 2:12

- ✓ **Time of compromise.** The church that had remained faithful under persecutions, surrenders to the political pressure of emperor Constantine. The church becomes one with the state. Pagan customs

are introduced into the church and the Bible is ignored. Meaning of the word Pergamos: "Height" or "Elevation".

- ✓ **Duration:** Between the years 313-538 (The bishop of Rome gets the supremacy).

What is the message to the church of Pergamos? Revelation 2:12-17.

a) How does Jesus introduce Himself and why?

"These things saith he which hath edges."

- ✓ **The Bible is compared to a double-edged sword.** (Hebr. 4:12). In this time of compromises, the Bible was set aside, but Jesus reminds the believers of this period that He has the Scriptures and takes care of them.

b) What praise does the church receive?

"thou holdest fast hast not denied my faith."

- ✓ **A remnant remains faithful,** It is separated, outlawed and banned. (C.S. 49).

c) Rebuke: "So hath thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans".

- ✓ The analogy with Balaam (Numbers 22-24) predicts that there would be persons, at the time, that **would try to divide and destroy the church** by introducing customs that were prohibited among Christians. The Nicolaitans was a Gnostic sect that taught that the works of the flesh do not affect the purity of the soul and they have nothing to do with salvation.

d) Call and promise: (verses 16-17) "..... or else"

- ✓ In the old times, a white stone was exchanged among friends with their names so that their descendants could identify them and keep the bonds of friendship. This is a symbol that the faithful believers in Jesus are guaranteed His friendship and acceptance.

5. Fourth period of the church: Thyatira, Revelation 2:18

- ✓ The church of the wilderness in the Middle Ages. The believers do not submit to the official religion and are persecuted by the Inquisition. It means: "Sweet aroma of work"
- ✓ **Duration:** Between the years 538-1517. (Until the Reform)
- ✓ What is the message to the church of Thyatira? Revelation 2:18-29.

a) How does Jesus introduce Himself and why? "The Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto and his feet are like fine brass" Christ reminds us that He is the Son of God, the only One who has authority (verse 27) and can forgive sins. He will judge the persecutors of the Inquisition.

b) Praises: "I know thy works, and charity..... thy patience."

c) Rebuke: "Thou sufferest to teach and to seduce my servants."

- ✓ Jezebel, the wife of king Achab, led Israel to worship Baal. In that way, the leaders of faithful groups were seduced to accept anti-biblical practices and apostasy from the truth.

d) A faithful remnant: Verse 24 "But unto you I say, in Thyatira"

- ✓ The faithful ones separate and flee to the mountains and solitary places. (C.S. 69, 127).

6. What is the message to the church of Sardis? Revelation 3:1-6.

- ✓ The time of the Reform in the XVI century. The Bible reaches the people and revives the faith.
- ✓ **Duration:** Between the years 1517-1798. It means: "Song of joy."

a) Jesus introduces Himself as: "He that hath the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars."

- ✓ Jesus offers the plenitude (7) of His Spirit to produce repentance. This is the symbol of His supreme sovereignty. Seven stars: He wants to lead His church.

b) Rebuke: "Thou hast a name that thou and art dead."

- ✓ It is a protestant name, but they do not protest any more. When the reformers pass away, the churches become conformists.

c) A faithful remnant: Verse 4. "Thou hast a fewin Sardis which have not defiled their garments" Revelation 3:4.

- ✓ Again the believers separate. Wesley brings a spiritual revival.

7. Sixth period of the church: Philadelphia. Revelation 3:7.

- ✓ There is a world movement that preaches the second coming of Christ.
- ✓ Duration: Between the years 1798 - 1844.

What is the message to the church of Philadelphia? Revelation 3:7-13.

- a) Jesus introduces Himself as: *"He that hath the key of David and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth."*
- ✓ Jesus is the holy One, the only One who can save us through His righteous life. He has the key -access- to the Most Holy Place. He enters there to intercede for us.
- b) Praise: *"for thou hast a little streng..... my name. (Verse 8 l. p.)."*
- ✓ Philadelphia means brotherly love. In this period the Bible Societies are founded, and missionary attempts in the Far East and Africa are made. The second coming of Christ is powerfully preached. (William Miller, Bengel. S. Wolf, Lacunza en Chile, etc).

8. Seventh period. What is the message to the church of Laodicea? Revelation 3:14-22.

- ✓ It is the last church of our times.
 - ✓ Laodicea means: The people of the Judgment.
 - ✓ Duration: 1844 until Christ's second coming. This is the last church.
- a) Jesus introduces Himself as: *"the Amen witness".*
- ✓ Amen means: "Let it be so." As a witness He cannot be bribed. He is not deceived with words. Jesus, the Creator, is honest.
- b) **The diseases of Laodicea:** *"It (v.16) is believed (v.17)*
- c) **Remedies:** *"..... tested in the fire, that thou mayest be rich, white..... and anoint your eyes"*



- ✓ God counsels us through His Word and offers us the "refined gold", which represents faith and love. He also gives us the "white raiient", which is the saving grace of the righteousness of Christ, and the "eye salve" that indicates the gift of the Holy Spirit so that we may see.
- ✓ He allows tests to come that make us reflect, and that is why the Lord says: "Be zealous and repent". Verse 20 shows that when Laodicean leaders and large numbers of members are "vomited", this does not mean that there is no more hope for anyone. As always in the history of His people, there is still a remnant who hears His voice and with whom the Lord wants to have communion.
- ✓ *There is a call for you! Jesus wants you to open the door of your heart. You will do it?*

Name:

Address:

The great throne in the book of



As described in chapter 4 verse 1 of the book of Revelation, John has the vision of an open door in heaven and he hears the Lord who invites him to go up and see the future events.

All of us who have believed in Jesus also have an **open door and free access to God** to ask Him to help us understand His word, thank Him for His kindness, talk to Him like to a friend, and ask Him for forgiveness or help in all our needs.

John sees the majesty of the divine throne and tries to describe it. Let us read Revelation 4:2-3. He who is seated is the Heavenly Father. John describes Him using the brightest colors he knows. The jasper stones have wonderful colors. In the sunlight, the sardine reflects a beautiful reddish light and the emerald has a lovely transparent green color; all of which is beautified by the diaphanous light of the rainbow above. The rainbow is a symbol of the covenant of grace that God made with man.

Verse 6 says: *"And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal."* A transparent square as if it were made of glass or ice. Then he describes the characters there.

1. What other thrones are there besides the throne of God? Revelation 4:4.

"And round about the throne were 24 seats, and upon the seats I saw 24....."

- ✓ The twenty-four elders are first fruits, representatives of humankind who are in the presence of God. They were consecrated men, maybe prophets. Some were translated to heaven alive, like Elijah and Enoch, (2 Kings 2:19; Genesis 5:24) and the others resurrected, as Moses did (Jude 1:9, Matthew 17:3). We know the names of these three and we know that the other 21 resurrected on the occasion of Jesus' death and resurrection. (Matthew 27:52- 53; Ephesians 4:8).

2. What other evidence is there that they were human beings? What do they tell in their songs? Revelation 5:9-10.

"hast redeemed us to God by thy blood and nations...."

- ✓ They are dressed in white and have crowns on their head (Revelation 4:4). This means they were sinners and by faith they have received the mantle of Christ's righteousness. (Revelation 19:8). They have been forgiven and declared righteous. The crowns are symbols of the victory obtained when their earthly race is over.



3. What other living beings were by the throne? Revelation 4:6-8.

*They were similar to: the first one
the second one the third one
the fourth one*

- ✓ The prophet Ezekiel sees the three living creatures (Ezekiel 1:10) by the throne of the Almighty and he says they are cherubs (Ezekiel 10:20), a kind of guardianship. Their living presence is an adornment to the throne and their aspect represent the virtues of God. The lion represents the power and strength, the ox strength and perseverance, man intelligence and sensibility, the eagle speed and sharp sight. They have eyes all over, a sign that God is omnipresent. They have 6 wings (verse 8) like the seraphim mentioned in Isaiah 6:2. *“With twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly”*. As a sign of reverence and obedience to God.

4. How is the presence of Jesus by the divine throne described? Revelation 5:6.

“And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders,..... as it had been slain, having.....eyes.”

- ✓ Jesus is called “Lamb” 29 times in the book of Revelation. “As if has been slain, this as makes us understand that it is a symbol. The term “slain”, as if it had a bleeding wound on its neck, refers to the sacrifice of lambs in the Old Testament, a symbol of Christ’s vicar death for us. It appears so real as if it had just happened. The 7 horns symbolize the power (horns) of this sacrifice made for us. The 7 eyes speak of his perfect wisdom and intelligence and they identify with the 7 spirits of God referring to the Holy Spirit He promised to send. (John 16:7).

5. Besides the Father, the Son, the living creatures and the 24 elders, who else were there still near the throne? Revelation 5:11.

“And I heard the voice of many and the number of them was



- ✓ The innumerable host of angels described there refers to the ministering spirits that serve around the throne of God. They are the ones that look after us in times of peril and keep a record of our life. Hebrews 1:13, 14.

6. How does the prophet Daniel describe God’s judgment? Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14.

The Judge – the Father- sat down and were opened (verse 10).

"One like the cam with the clouds of heaven. (verse 13).

- ✓ It is a very impressive scene. Thrones were placed, we have already seen that there sat the 24 elders. Then comes the Judge, God Father. There are millions of angels, living witnesses who although invisible to us, watch all our deeds and register them on the books that are now opened. We are blessed to have a Lawyer! Jesus, the Son of Man comes. He wants to intercede for those who have accepted Him as Saviour and Lord.
- ✓ As it is written in Daniel 7:14, *"And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him"* It is a kingdom that is not corrupted as earthly kingdoms are.

7. Our eternal destiny depends on what is written on what books?

a) *Revelation 3:5. The book of*

b) *Revelation 21:27. Only those whose names are written in will obtain eternal life.*

- ✓ In order to be saved, we have to accept Jesus and then our names will be registered in the book of life. If we reject Him, our names will be blotted out. In Revelation 20:12 as well as in Daniel 7:10 *"other books"* are mentioned (plural). Malachi 3:16 mentions the *"book of memories"* where are registered the good works of those *"who feared the Lord, and that thought upon His name."* There is another book where our sins are written down. In Ecclesiastes 12:14 it is written *"For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil."* God's law will be the rule by which men's characters and lives will be tested in the judgment. We cannot reject it since we are going to be judged by it. (James 2:12). Is your name registered in the book of life? Have you accepted Jesus as your Saviour and Lord so that you can be sure of the love and forgiveness of God and enjoy today the gift of eternal life?

Chapter 5 of Revelation tells us that John went through much anguish of spirit and cried much because no one was worth to open the mysterious book, written within and sealed without.

8. Who was found worthy to open the book and undo the 7 seals? Revelation 5:4-7.

*In the midst of the throne
.....slain.*

- ✓ Here it is spoken of Jesus, the only one worthy. Only He knows who is saved and who is lost, since He is the only capable of reading hearts. He is called *"the lion of the tribe of Judah"*, due to His power and because He came from David, from the tribe of Judah, and He has the eternal kingship.
- ✓ Only He has overcome. In other words, He was the only being who lived on earth and led a sinless life. Therefore, He could die on our stead and save us.

9. According to the song of praise of the living creatures, why is only the Lamb worthy? Revelation 5:8-12.

"For thou wast by thy blood"

- ✓ Only Jesus can clean us from sin, because only He died on the cross on our stead. We as sinners deserved the punishment that He willingly took upon Himself. This is the song of heavenly being and it should also be ours. There are many reasons to be full of gratitude, since we were reconciled with God through the blood of His Son. (Romans 5:10).



10. What are the prayers of the children of God compared with? Revelation 5:8.



"Golden vials the prayers of the saints."

✓ Prayer is the means we have to approach God. We can speak with Jesus as with a friend and tell Him our failures and victories. We should always pray to the Father in the name of Jesus because as sin created a gap between God and man, it is necessary for our imperfect prayers to be purified by the intercession of God's Son. He takes them as odorous incense before the Father and shows the scars of the nails on His hands, where He has the marks of His atoning sacrifice on our behalf. (Habakkuk 3:4)

11. Is there any other intercessor worthy to come before God on my stead? 1 Timothy 2:5.

"For there is one God between God and men, Jesus"

12. What is another reason that is constantly mentioned by the heavenly beings by God's throne? Revelation 4:11.

"Thou are worth, o Lord to receive the glory and honor,..... all things."

We must honor Jesus as our Creator and Saviour. In the same way the heavenly being do it, we should express His love, greatness and power with the words of our songs. "And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever." (Revelation 5:13).

Hebrews 13:15 says: "By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name." To speak to others about God's power and love is the way of expressing our gratitude, faithfulness and love.

My decision:

- I acknowledge Jesus as my Saviour and Creator. I confess Him my sins and I wish that my name may be registered in the book of life by the merits of His blood.*
- I intend to pray to him every day and praise Him for being my Savior and Creator.*

Name:

Address:

The four riders of



Among the many symbols that describe the development of history in the book of Revelation, there are the seven seals. The four riders, that for many persons are metaphors of calamities, are a part of this history and describe basic characteristics of seven periods of the Christian era.

John was in exile in the island of Patmos in the days of emperor Domitianus. We have already seen the vision he had of the throne of God and its magnificence. On the right hand of Him that sat on the throne, there was a book sealed with seven seals. (Revelation 5:1-5). Nobody was worth to open it and undo the seals, only *“the lion of the tribe of Judah”*, a symbol of Jesus Christ. He begins to open the seals and describes the history of the Christian church from His ascension to heaven till His second coming.

1. What were the characteristics of the first horse and its rider? Revelation 6:1-2.

A white: and he that sat on him was given unto him and to conquer.



✓ The symbol shown here represents the period of the origin of Christianity, from the ascension of our Lord in the year 31 up until the year 100, when the last apostle died. The white color is a symbol of purity, since the message of God was preached in that time just as Jesus Himself taught it. Christianity was authentic, without any changes, just as it appears in the Bible. The bow represents the gospel of salvation, (2 Kings 13:15-17) and the aggressive way in which it was preached. The rider, Christ (Revelation 19:11) *“went forth conquering, and to conquer”* referring to the triumph obtained through His death and resurrection, as founder of the church and the way in which the gospel spread out in a short time in all the known world. (Colossians 1:6, 23) The historian Gibbons, says that in Rome there were already 50.000 Christians and in Antioch 100.000.

2. What color was the second horse and what did the rider have in his hand? Revelation 6:4.

And there went out another horse The rider had a in his hand. He had to from the earth.



- ✓ Red is the color of blood. This was the time of the church of Smyrna, during the years 100-313, that Christians were persecuted by pagan Rome. There were 10 years of terrible persecution. Christians were thrown to the arena and had to find refuge in the catacombs. The sword is a symbol of destruction (Psalms 63:10) and of the word of God (Ephesians 6:17). The preaching of the word brought about terrible persecution and many were killed because of it (Revelation 6:9). The existing purity is slowly deteriorated after the death of the apostles.

3. How was the third horse and what did the rider have in his hand? Revelation 6:5-6.

"And I beheld, and lo a in his hand."



- ✓ This picture represents Christianity from the year 313 to 538, the time of the church of Pergamos. The emperor Constantine saw that persecution only brought division of the empire and endangered his political power. Through the edict of tolerance signed in Milan, he granted religious liberty to Christians and gained their favor. Masses of pagans became Christians and they introduced numberless pagan customs related to the cult of the sun into the church. Christianity was mixed with paganism; it was not longer pure, white, but black, corrupted. The church united with the state. The scale in one hand means that civil and religious power were in the hand of the emperor who was called "Pontifex Maximus". It was in that period that the law of God was falsified and forms of cult that are not biblical were introduced in the church. This was already foreseen in Acts 20:27-31; 2 Thessalonians 2:3-6 and 2 Peter 2:1-3.

- ✓ The price mentioned (verse 6), shows how scarce and expensive were both wheat and barley, cereals with which bread is made, a symbol of God's word.

A worker used to earn a denar per day. In normal conditions, he could buy 10 Kg. of wheat and 25 of barley to feed his family, but now he could only buy 650 grs. of wheat and about 2 Kg. of barley. But oil, which is a symbol of the Holy Spirit, could not be harmed (Zechariah 4:2-6) neither could the wine, a symbol of Jesus' blood and the right doctrine. God made provisions that a small remnant remained so that the truth was not completely lost.

4. What was the aspect and mission of the fourth horse and its rider? Revelation 6:7-8.

And I looked and behold a sat on him..... followed him.

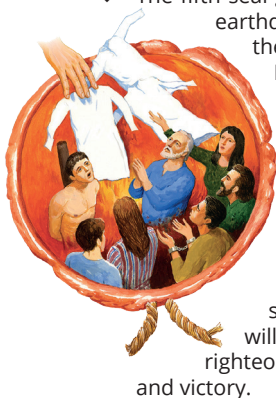


- ✓ This horse and its rider symbolizes the Middle Ages and the time of the Inquisition, from the year 538, when the decree of Justinian was issued to the Reform in 1517. The white color becomes red, then black and now pale, showing the gradual apostasy. The pure doctrines are gradually trodden under the feet. It corresponds to the time of the church of Thyatira, which tolerated Jezebel, king's Achab wicked wife, who in the time of Elijah killed the prophets of God. In the same way, Christians who mixed with pagans would persecute the remnant of faithful Christians, therefore the color of the horse and the name of its rider: Death. Hell or the grave, followed. At the time of the Inquisition, led by the Dominican priests, 55 million people who would not submit to the official church were killed in the most atrocious way. Several times does prophecy mention this period and the one who brought it about as a dark and tremendous time. (Daniel 7:21, 25; 8:25; Revelation 13:7).

5. What did the prophet see when the fifth seal was opened? Revelation 6:9-11

"And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: And they cried with a loud voice, saying, that dwell on the earth? And white robes were given unto every one of them;"

- ✓ The fifth seal goes from the year 1517 to 1755 when the sixth seal is opened with a big earthquake. In the same way that in the sanctuary lambs were being sacrificed on the altar and their blood was poured at its foot, Christ died on this earth and His blood was poured for us. The symbol shows that the blood of martyrs, that remnant of believers who remained faithful to the teachings of the Bible was poured on the earth as a sacrifice and demands justice.



- ✓ Since we know that the dead know nothing, as it is written in Ecclesiastes 9:6, we understand that this cry is symbolic: Righteousness is claimed in the same way that Abel's blood cried (Genesis 4:10), the hire of the laborers cry (James 5:4), "the stone shall cry", (Habakkuk 2:11) or the whole creation groans (Romans 8:22-23).

- ✓ The cry was, How long, o Lord? *"The number should be fulfilled"*. The persecution lasted until 1798. On the glorious day of Christ's second coming, they will all take part of His resurrection. The white raiment are a symbol of Christ's righteousness which those martyrs received and a sign of their acknowledgement and victory.

6. With what event is the sixth seal opened? Revelation 6:12-13.

"There was a great"

"..... became black as sackcloth of hair; and the moon....."

"And.....fell unto the earth even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs."

- ✓ Here it refers to three prophecies that mark the beginning of the time of the end. History registers the earthquake of Lisbon on November 1st, 1755 as one of the greatest earthquakes ever registered which was felt in a large part of the world, even in the Caribbean. This event opens the sixth seal.



- ✓ The famous dark day on May 19th, 1780 is mentioned. This event was mentioned in the Old Testament (Isaiah 13:10) and Jesus predicted it as sign that His coming was near and the time of the great tribulation was coming (Matthew 24:29, 33). It was not an eclipse but an extraordinary event. The newspapers chronicles describe that the sunlight was gone at 11 am and the moon turned black, although it was time of full moon.

- ✓ The third event was the falling of the stars or meteorites, the most spectacular event in history. It took place on November 13th, 1833. For 9 hours the sky was lit up by a constant fall of meteorites and falling stars. No other phenomenon fits better the details of this prophecy.

7. What other great event is foreseen in the sixth seal? Revelation 6:14-17.

"And the heaven departed as a when it is rolled together and island were moved out of their places".

"And said to the mountains and rocks"

- ✓ Here, reference is made to our Lord Jesus Christ's second coming. Jesus said: "The powers of the heavens shall be shaken." (Matthew 24:29) In an incredible cataclysm will the islands and mountains disappear. The earth will remain void, because Jesus will take the redeemed ones to heaven, to eternal joy. This will be their delivery.

- ✓ For those who did not make any preparation, those who did not accept Jesus as their Saviour and Lord, it will be a time of terrible despair. They will call the mountains to fall upon them and hide them from the presence of the Judge. The end has come.



8. What other signs were predicted to announce the imminent second coming of Jesus?

- a) *Matthew 24:6-7. And you shall hear of*
- b) *Verse 7 last part. And there shall be famines,*
.....,
- c) *Verses 5, 11 y 24. "many false false"*
- d) *Verse 12. "the of many shall wax cold."*
- e) *Verse 14. "And this gospel of the kingdom*
in all the world."
- f) *Luke 21:25 "And upon the earth of nations."*
- g) *Daniel 12:4. "Many shall run to and fro,"*
- h) *2 Timothy 3:1-5 How will people be in the last days? Mention 3 characteristics:*
.....

9. What happened in heaven when the seventh seal was opened? Revelation 8:1.

"..... about the space of half an hour"

- ✓ When Jesus comes to take the redeemed, there will be silence in heaven for half an hour. Since Jesus will come with all the angels, heaven will remain empty. (Matthew 25:31) We apply the prophetic measure: 1 prophetic day = 1 year would be 7 days. That time corresponds the coming of Christ and the journey of the saved to eternal mansions.

10. What invitation does Jesus give us? Matthew 24:44; Isaiah 55: 6-7.

.....

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The coming of Jesus in the book of



When the sixth seal was opened there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. In the prophetic language this time is equivalent to seven days in which heaven will be empty since Jesus will be coming with all the angels. It will be the most extraordinary space voyage and the fulfillment of the hope the children of God have treasured for centuries. At first the cry is heard, "The bridegroom comes". More than three hundred prophecies announced His first coming with amazing details. He came, He lived a perfect life, He died for us and resurrected as a victor. Now the announcement is "He is coming", an event that is mentioned about 2,500 times in the Scriptures.

God created man to be happy, but sin brought humanity to ruin. Christ came to live upon this earth, to die for us and to save us. His return is the climax of that rescuing plan, the testimony of His love toward His children. We can see that His coming is imminent. We shall not spend the coming millennium on this earth polluted by sin. There is a message of hope and consolation.

1. What will Jesus come back to the earth for?

- a) John 14:1-3. *That where I am*
- b) Hebrews 9:28. *"The second time, without sin"*
- c) Revelation 21:4. *To put an end to*
- d) Revelation 22:12. *To give every man*
- e) Revelation 11:18. *"The time of the and then that fear thy name..... and shouldst destroy them....."*
- ✓ Even though God's purpose is to put an end to suffering, sickness, war and evil and to restore the harmony that was lost in Eden, Satan, the enemy of God exists and he will exert an influence upon the rulers of the earth to lead them to a hellish war, shortly before Christ's second coming. The Bible calls it the war of Armageddon. Revelation 16:14, 16 says "or they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, [which] go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon."
- ✓ Satan himself will appear as an angel of light and thus deceive many. (2 Thessalonians 2:8-10). By working miracles and bringing up many signs, he will try to imitate Jesus' second coming. We shall be protected from any kind of deception if we study the Scriptures, learn how Jesus will appear and get to know the principles of heaven and live by them already upon this earth. Therefore, let us study the characteristics of His second coming.

2. With what symbol is His second coming presented in Revelation 19:11-13?

A white horse was called and

He was clothed with a vesture

- ✓ In the old times, kings, rulers and military leaders rode on a white horse. Christ has received the right to rule upon this earth as King of kings and Lord of lords, and here He appears as a Rider that accompanies His people on their voyage to heaven.
- ✓ His name is Faithful and Truth, because He fulfilled what he had promised, to set His children free. Nobody knew His name, that is to say nobody knew He was coming as the Revenger of His people. He is "the Word of God" in action, fulfilling the Father's will on earth. He will execute God's righteousness, while at His first coming He came in God's mercy. His vestures dipped in blood symbolize the fulfillment of the prophecy in Isaiah 63:1-6.

3. Who will accompany Him at His coming? Revelation 19:14-16; Matthew 25:31.

"And the armies which were in heaven followed him....."

4. Will Jesus' coming be secret or visible? Revelation 1:7.

Every eye

- ✓ Jesus' second coming will be visible for all. He will come back in the same way He left. Acts 1:11.
- ✓ According to this prophecy, "and they also who pierced him" shall see Him coming. According to Daniel 12:1-2, there will be a partial resurrection shortly before His coming. The first fruit will resurrect, part of that special group of 144,000 (Revelation 14:1-5) that are saved and act as escort of Christ, as well as those who crucified Him and the great persecutors of God's children. At His coming, everyone shall see Him, including the wicked, since it is written that "all kindred of thee earth shall wail because of him. (Revelation 6:15-17).
- ✓ Jesus warned us: "Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth; behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not. For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." Matthew 24:26-27.

5. What will the redeemed ones say at that moment? Isaiah 25:9.

"Lo, this is our God;, and he will save us."

6. How else is Christ's second coming symbolized? Revelation 14:14- 16.

"Like unto the Son of Man and in his hand a sharp sickle. Jesus is not coming with a crown of thorns. He already bore it when He died on our stead. Now He is coming with a golden crown, as a victor, to look for His grain, the harvest He sowed when he came to save man through His great sacrifice."

7. What will happen with those who died in Christ, and with the living saved ones when Jesus returns? 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18.

"The dead in Christ first."

- ✓ Jesus' second coming will not only be seen but also heard. God will come "with the voice of the archangel and with the trump of God". To His command, the graves will open and those who died in Christ will come out, since through their faith in him and His sacrifice they were reconciled and justified by God. What a happy encounter! To see and to be able to embrace our beloved ones torn away from us by death! Mothers who have lost their babies will receive them from the angels' hands! Friends will greet each other warmly. Then all of them together will be translated and meet Jesus on the clouds of heaven to take that voyage to heaven, among the stars, to the place Jesus has prepared for us.



8. What will happen with our mortal body? 1 Corinthians 15:51-53.

"Behold, I show you a mystery: We shall not all sleep....., in a, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump; and the dead shall be raised incorruptible."

9. What will happen with the wicked at the second coming of Christ? 2 Thessalonians 2:8.

"And then shall the Wicked be revealed with the spirit of his mouthy with the brightness of his coming."

10. What warning does the Lord give regarding His coming? Revelation 16:15.

"Behold, I come and keepeth his garments."

- ✓ Jesus said that nobody knows the day and the hour, not even the angels. (Matthew 24:36), but we know when it is near. The present world events, the increase in violence, corruption, sicknesses, the economical and social crisis, the strikes, the quick increase of knowledge and the confusion in the religious world as well as the lack of faith and love are signs given in the Bible that announce His imminent return. God's appeal is "Watch", which means we should not be indifferent. We should surrender our life to Jesus, be reconciled with Him through the act of repentance and faith in His blood and as a result keep His commandments. Jesus also said, *"Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.... Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh."* Matthew 24:42, 44.

11. What exclamation did the apostle hear in heaven? Rev. 11: 15-17.

"The kingdoms of this world are become the for ever and ever."

- ✓ There will be endless glory in the new and wonderful world that Jesus prepared for us. We shall live forever with Jesus, saved by His infinite love.

12. What appeal does Jesus make us and what fervent longing did the writer of Revelation expressed when he saw the glory of God? Revelation 22:7, 17, 20.

"Blessed is he that..... the sayings... of this book"

"Let him that heareth.....and let him that is athirst the water of life freely"

"Surely I come quickly. Amen. Lord Jesus."

**¿Do you also wish for Jesus to come back soon
so that we may inherit a better world?**

Name:

Address:

The Dragon is revealed in



All along this fascinating book, we see a frontal war between good and evil, between Christ and His archenemy, Satan. His plan was always to persecute and destroy God's people. From the beginning, he sowed suffering, misery and death. But God is love and He says to us: *"Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth."* 3 John 2. Then, why is there so much suffering? Why so much violence, disappointment and deceit in our times? Without a doubt, it has to do with this enemy who wants to destroy us. How can we get to know his snares? How can we be free from his claws and from his dark influence? Which is the Biblical form, which places us under the sure protection of our God? Jesus is the great victor and in His word He reveals to us how to triumph.

1. Which are the five names with which He is described in Revelation 12:9-10?

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

- ✓ The book of Revelation mentions Satan 55 times. In the same way that Jesus' virtues are revealed by the names He has, the devil's wicked work is revealed in the Bible through different adjectives. He is also presented in a symbolic way by the wicked king of Tyre. There, we are told that God did not create the devil as we know him today, but as a perfect angel, (Ezekiel 28:13- 15). Then, we are told how that angel, Lucifer, gradually became perverted, until it turned into an evil angel, the Devil. The envy and jealousy which arose in his heart against the Creator, made of him the author of evil, the father of lie and the author of so much suffering. (Isaiah 14:12-14).

2. How many angels were led by this rebellion and became evil spirits? Revelation 12:4 p.p.

"And his tail drew of the stars of heaven."



3. What did God finally have to do with Satan and his angels? Revelation 12:7-9.

-
- ✓ After God called Satan many times to reflect and repent, He had to cast him away from heaven together with his angels. Thus, the conflict was transferred to the planet earth. Our Creator warned our fore-parents about the presence of a deceiver, but He created man free to take decisions about whom he would serve. The Biblical report shows us how man was deceived and chose to follow the impulses suggested by the tempter and eat from the forbidden tree instead of obeying his Creator. (2 Corinthians 11:3). Thus, man lost the four precious gifts he received from God: 1° Life, 2° a righteous character, 3° dominium over everything, 4° a wonderful home, Eden.

4. What did man turn into and which were the consequences? 2 Peter 2:19; Romans 6:16.

*"for of whom a man is overcome brought in bondage."
"Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are?"*

- ✓ Thus did man become slave of sin and death. Now we have sin in our genes and death in our nature. That is our inheritance; we are born with a deformed character. Sickness and death are its consequences. That's is why there is so much suffering. We are sinners by nature and action. David says, *"Behold, I was shapened in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me."* (Psalms 51:5). Paul says: *"For I know that in me that is, in my flesh, dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not."* (Romans 7:18).

5. Who is considered "the second Adam" for having overcome Satan? Romans 5:12, 14-21; 1 Corinthians 15:22.

6. What exclamations are heard after the report is given that Satan has been cast out from heaven? Revelation 12:10, 12.

*"Now is come, and, and
of our God, and the power of his Christ of our
brethren"*
*"Therefore, rejoice Woe to the inhabitants
of the earth and of the seas!"*

7. What means does Satan use to deceive mankind? Revelation 16:13-14; 2 Thessalonians 2:9.

- a) *The spirits of devils*
- b) *Unto the kings of the earth to gather them*
- ✓ The book of Revelation clearly explains that at the end of times, Satan will act making use of many supernatural manifestations, signs and miracles in order to deceive the world. He will do this through the Anti-Christ (Revelation 13:2, 13-14), the beast and the image of the beast, a topic we shall soon study. Jesus warned that Satan's deceit will be so subtle that *"if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect."* (Matthew 24:24). False religious movements will make great supernatural manifestation which will be very similar to God's, but they are not His. They are meant to distract men from the work of the preparation that is needed before Jesus' coming.

**8. What will Satan and his servants be transformed into?
2 Corinthians 11:13-15.**

*"For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves
Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself
....."*



**9. Against who or what will Satan turn through his agents?
Revelation 12:17.**

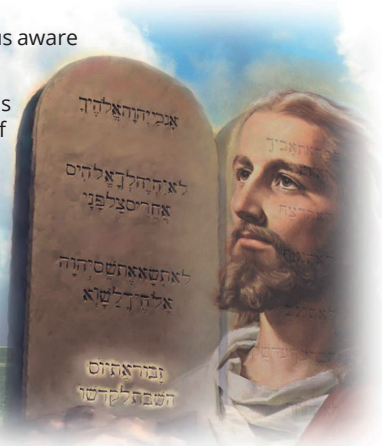
*"And the dragon was wrath with the woman which
keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ."*

- ✓ When God created man, He gave him a law so that through his obedience he could show his loyalty to his Creator. Satan led our fore-parents to transgress the law. The prophecy says that the dragon -Satan- will turn against the woman that symbolizes the church of God and especially against "the remnant of her seed", that is to say the few faithful believers who will live in the last years. Then, so that we can identify that remnant, it says that they are those who "keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ." This is their identity.

10. What are the two things by which the true worshipers of God can be identified according to Revelation 14:12?

*"Here is the patience of the saints, here are they that keep of
God, and of Jesus."*

- ✓ God's law is eternal as God Himself. It is the reflection of His character; that is why God's real people must keep each commandment.
- a) The Bible calls liars those who say that they know Him - consider themselves religious people- but do not keep His commandments. (1 John 2:3-6).
- b) It also says that he who transgresses one of the commandments is guilty as if he had transgressed all of them,
- c) And that we shall be judged by that law. (James 2:10-12).
- d) That Jesus did not come to abolish it but that it will be valid while the heaven and earth exist. (Matthew 5:17-18).
- e) It is true that we are not justified by the law, but it makes us aware of sin (Romans 3:20).
- f) Hebrews 5:8- 9 says that Jesus learnt obedience and was made perfect by it, therefore he became the author of eternal salvation to all those who obey Him.
- g) God promises prosperity and peace to all who keep His law and to their children (Deuteronomy 5:29; Psalms 119:165).
- ✓ Satan's hate against God's law is such that he tried to falsify the Ten Commandments. If you wish to know the real commandments, look for them in the Bible, in Exodus 20:2- 17. Compare them with those written in the Catechism and look for the differences the difference.



11. Considering there are demonic forces that can harm us, how can we overcome the snares of Satan? Revelation 12:11.

"And they overcame themof the Lamb."

- ✓ There is power in Jesus and His redeeming blood. He wishes to set us free from all the evil influences of the mysterious forces of evil. But there is a condition, we need to surrender to God with our whole heart and confess Him our sins. In John 1:12, we read, "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, [even] to them that believe on his name." You must accept Jesus today, as your Saviour and Lord, that is to say as the Lord of your life and then you have nothing to fear. He overcame Satan on the cross and will defend those who are His. His victory is ours.

12. Which is the Bible form so that Satan will flee from us? James 4:7

"....., therefore to God;.....and he will flee from you"

How can we submit to God?

- ✓ If we keep His commandments. Are they very hard to keep? No, in 1 John 5:3 we read: "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous." But not everyone can keep them; "So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God." (Romans 8:8). Only those who are spiritual, who cling to Jesus and are guided by God's Spirit can obey the commandments. These are never alone. Jesus is always with them. Paul said: "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Philipians 4:13.
- ✓ "Choose you this day whom ye will serve." said Joshua and he then added: "for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." (Joshua 24:15). Our well-being upon this earth and our eternal life depend on this decision. Either we serve sin and evil or we serve Jesus, we are His beloved children, saved by His redeeming blood and we become heirs of His glory.

Whom have you decided to serve?



Name:

Address:

The Gift of Salvation According to



The book of Revelation does not instill fear, but brings hope through a selection of beautiful promises which paint the image of a better world. Yes, it speaks about God’s arch-enemy, his efforts to deviate us of our Savior’s love, and shows us the origin and works of the antichrist. However, the Book also contains facts that show us two groups of those who will be saved: the 144,000, also known as the first fruits or Christ’s escort awaiting His return, and a great multitude. These groups represent history of the Christian church from Christ’s ascension to His second coming.

1. What will that multitude of saved souls claim one day? Whom do they attribute salvation to? Revelation 7:9-10; 19:1.

Salvation to ourwhich sitteth upon the and unto the

2. What words of adoration and recognition will the angels and other celestial beings express as witnesses? Revelation 7:11-12.

Amen:....., and....., and....., and....., and....., and power, and....., be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.

3. How is God’s saving process carried out in our lives? 1 Corinthians 1:30.

But of Him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us....., and, and, and redemption.

- When the Creator finished forming man, the seal of moral and spiritual perfection was upon him. He was “made a little lower than the angels” (Psalms 8:5, 6).
- Everything about him was perfect: his movements, his gaze, his demeanor, his personality, and his character. His voice was sweet and harmonious. His feelings, thoughts, and emotions were a reflection of God’s goodness, but unfortunately sin upset man’s original happiness (Genesis 3: 17,18).
- Pride, envy, jealousy, rebellion, greed, and disobedience were some of the consequences. Man’s personality was deformed, and his character corrupted (Isaiah 59: 9-12).
- Man was separated from God, as it is affirmed by Isaiah: “Your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear,” (Isaiah 59:2), and, as a result, he was condemned to death.

- But the Lord never abandoned man, and wants to restore his original personality by doing four miracles in his life and giving him:
 - **Wisdom.** Knowledge as it relates to our salvation.
 - **Justification.** He declares us righteous, despite being guilty.
 - **Sanctification.** He sanctifies us, meaning that He changes us.
 - **Redemption.** He saves us and gives us immortality.

4. What is the first gift mentioned in 1 Corinthians 1:30?

- Above all else, the gift of “wisdom” is knowledge of the truth (1 Timothy 2:4), of the will of God (Colossians 1:9), and of salvation (Luke 1:77).

“Wisdom” also includes a “call”—God’s call.

What does God do as He calls us?

- ✓ He draws us to Him. “... I will draw all men unto me” (John 12:32). Have you, at certain times, ever felt an attraction to the things of the Lord?
- ✓ Jesus calls us, with His great love, saying: “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28).
- ✓ He looks for us like the lost sheep (Matthew 18:12-13).
- ✓ He places a thirst to seek God in us (Psalm 42: 1-2) and satisfies it. Revelation 21:6 says: “I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely”.
- ✓ Faith is a fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22) and, therefore, comes from God and His Word. We cannot produce it of ourselves (John 6:29); however, we can nourish it by studying the Bible (Romans 10:17).
- ✓ God shows us our sins and opens our eyes to avoid them (John 16: 8).

5. What do we understand as justification, the second miracle of Christ?

To be forgiven and declared righteous, even though we are guilty (Romans 5:1).

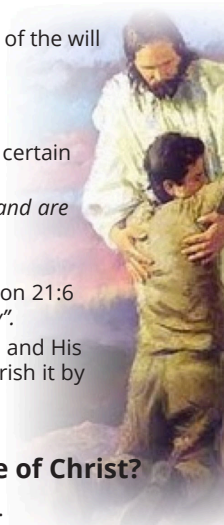
- ✓ Christ imputes, or bestows, His merits in our favor.
 - The fact that being God He became man, lived a pure life, died in our place as a substitute, and rose from the dead, makes our justification possible.
 - By His perfect and sinless life, He was able to satisfy the full measure or demand of the Law. Romans 8:3-4 “For what the law could.....do, ...God sending his own Son,.... condemned.....in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us.”
- ✓ Through His death, Christ paid the guilt that we had to pay for our transgressions. Isaiah 53:5 “But He was wounded for , he was bruised for our.....” (v. 6)
 - God declares us....., even though we are....., when we accept Christ’s act on our behalf through faith. This is called justification.

6. What are the implications of being declared righteous by Christ in God’s judgment? Romans 5:1.

“Therefore, being justified by....., we have.....with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

- What, then, is “justification”? We each have a page in the divine records where our names and all good and bad actions are recorded. Christ’s love leads me to repentance when I accept Him in my hearts. He then intercedes for me before the Father, and, through His blood, all my sins are forgiven. Furthermore, Jesus Christ credits His merits on my behalf, so that I may appear sinless. This is justification.

7. What are the benefits of this imputed righteousness that is given, donated, obtained, or awarded without cost in our favor?



- ✓ We are granted the forgiveness of our sins. The Lord says: *"I, even I, am he that..... out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins"* (Isaiah 43:25). *"Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool"* (Isaiah 1:18).
- ✓ Because of His love, we are declared children of God. *"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name"* (John 1:12).
- ✓ Our names are written in the Book of the Life of the Lamb (Philippians 4:3; Luke 10:20).
- ✓ We receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30).
To illustrate the work of justification, Jesus used the parable of the Pharisee and the Publican in Luke 18:10-14.

8. What illustration describes Christ's forgiving work or justification in Revelation? Revelation 7:14.

"And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have.....their robes, and made them white in the.....of the Lamb."

"... our brethren... overcame him by the..... Rev. 12:10-11.

- The Bible often uses the picture of a divine mantle covering our shame (Isaiah 61:10; Zechariah 3: 4; Revelation 3:18; 19: 7-8). Just like this is a permanent reason for praise and joy in heaven (Luke 15: 7), likewise should receiving the mantle of the righteousness of Christ be a reason for joy in us today.

9. What does the third miracle, sanctification, or restoration of the Divine image, consist of? Ezekiel 36: 26-27.

"A new.....also will I give you, and a new..... will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them."

- ✓ Man cannot change his nature through his own efforts. Jeremiah 13:23 says: *"Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil."* Continuing with the same train of thought, Paul exclaimed: *"O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?"* Romans 7:24. But God can change us through His Holy Spirit. This is sanctification. *"And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness."* Ephesians 4:24. *"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new"* (2 Corinthians 5:17). Sanctification entails a change of heart and mind. The change of heart enables us to obey God's Holy Law (Hebrews 10: 16-17; Isaiah 51: 7; Galatians 2:20; Colossians 3: 5-10).
- ✓ Sanctification involves the total change of our being: spirit, soul and body. *"And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ"* (1 Thessalonians 5:23). The three dimensions of the human being must change. The spirit: our mind with its thoughts. The soul: our emotional faculties including our feelings, instincts, and desires. The body: Our organism with its life habits.
- ✓ Good works are the result of justification, not the foundation for achieving it. We will feel the desire to obey out of gratitude and love to the one who has given us so much, *"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works..."* (Ephesians 2:10).
- ✓ Jesus Christ illustrated this with the example of the vine: *"I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing."* (John 15:5).

10. What does the fourth miracle, redemption, consist of? Revelation 21:5.

"And he that sat upon the thronesaid, Behold, I make all things....."

- This will happen at the time of Jesus' return. "...When He shall appear, we shall be like him." At his return, we will be transformed, will receive immortality, and will be glorified (1 Corinthians 15: 51-52) Eternal righteousness will exist in the restored Eden, because the Lord says: "... My salvation shall be forever, and my righteousness shall not be abolished" (Isaiah 51:6).

11. What can I do to have Jesus perform these miracles in my life? Revelation 3:20

"Behold, I stand at the door, and.....: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me."

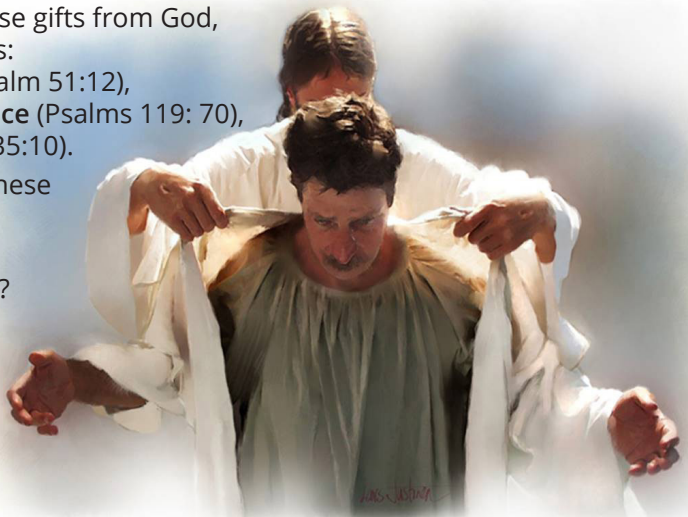
- ✓ Jesus desires to live in us and invites us to. "My son, give me thine heart..." (Proverbs 23:26).
- ✓ He died in our place, and it is therefore necessary for us to accept Him as a personal savior and Lord of our lives. "And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house" (Acts 16:31).
- ✓ Because of His love, we are motivated to repent and confess all of our sins. (Proverbs 28:13).
- ✓ We side with what is right, accepting His Holy Law with a sincere desire to live in harmony with it, not to buy salvation with our works, but receiving it with gratitude (Hebrews 5: 9).
- ✓ We renew our decision daily, living our lives for Him, and persevering until the end.
- ✓ We are in communion with God's people and attend services to worship the Lord and strengthen our faith (Acts 2: 42,44, 46-47; Hebrews 10:25).

Conclusion

When we receive these gifts from God, we enjoy three blessings: **the gift of salvation** (Psalm 51:12), **the blessing of obedience** (Psalms 119: 70), **and eternal joy** (Isaiah 35:10).

God is offering you these four miracles and three blessings.

Will you accept them?



Name:

Address:

The Seal of God on the book of



In the terrible war between light and darkness presented in the book of Revelation, we find God’s seal as opposed to the mark of the beast. Our destiny depends on which side we take. What are these seals?

When we speak about those who are to be saved, we should all like to know what are the visible signs of those who are approved by God. People have many ideas about what it entails to be saved, but the book of Revelation reveals us the seal of the living God, which is placed on the forehead of His servants.

1. Which two events does the Book of Revelation point to? Revelation 7:1-4.

- a) Four holding the four winds of the earth.
- b) Another angel having the to be place on the of the children of God.
- ✓ In the study N° 1 we have seen that winds mean wars. God, in His mercy, have angels who preserve humanity so that it is not destroyed. Before the winds destroy humanity, there is something the other angel must finish doing: sealing the servants of God on their forehead.

2. How does the Bible illustrate the act of sealing? Ezekiel 9:1-4.

As a man, with a writer’s inkhorn by his side. He was given the command to place a seal upon for all the abominations committed within Christianity.

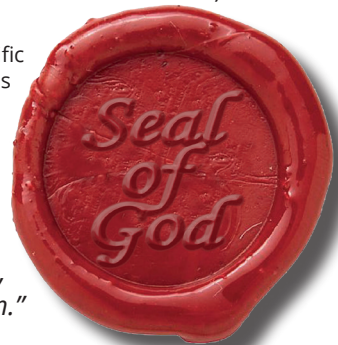
3. What is the purpose of that sign or seal? Malachi 3:18.

“Then shall you return and discern , between him that serveth God and him ”

- ✓ Since antiquity, all things that belonged to someone had a specific sign or mark of their region, village or master. Likewise, God has a sign that identifies His children.

4. According to the Bible, what is the distinction between God and His people?

Ezekiel 20:12. “Moreover also I gave them , to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am the Lord that sanctify them.”



Ezekiel 20:20. "And hallow my Sabbaths; and they shall be a sign between me and you, that ye may know God".

5. What elements in the fourth commandment, that asks us to keep the Sabbath holy, define it as the seal of God or the sign that marks the children of God? Exodus 20:8-11.

- ✓ In the fourth commandment are revealed the characteristics of God by which we may be identified and are an unmistakable sign of His authority. There are to be found the necessary elements in a seal: Name, Position and Jurisdiction. On the Sabbath we find all three: Name: The Lord your God; Position: Creator ("created...") and Jurisdiction: "heaven and earth..."

6. What does he who spends the Sabbath resting and in contemplation remember?

Every time we honor the Lord with our Sabbath rest, we relate to His attributes:

*Creator: "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power;
..... and for thy pleasure
" Revelation 4:11.*

*Redeemer: When they left Egypt, a symbol of sin
..... from bondage. Deuteronomy 5:15.*

*Rest in Christ: "For he that his rest, he also....., as God did from his."
Hebrews 4:10.*

True delight: "Then shalt thou in the Lord". Isaiah 58:13-14.

Sense of Identity: "Therefore the Son of man of the Sabbath" Mark 2:28. "It is a signthe children of Israel." Exodus 31:17.



7. What characterizes the children of God? Romans 6:22.

"Being servants of God, ye have your fruit"

- ✓ As we have seen in topic N° 8, one of the miracles that God works in the life of His children is sanctification, since He separates us from daily worries and leads us to lift our mind to God.

8. In which way is the Sabbath different from the other days?

And God blessed the seventh day,....., because that in it he had rested from all his work which he had made." Genesis 2:1-3.

- ✓ The Sabbath can be distinguished as a sign of creation, and God blessed and sanctified it since the beginning of this world. If every person would rest on the Sabbath day, there would be no idolaters, no evolutionists, atheists, etc. Each sanctified Sabbath would be a memorial of the fact that there is a God through whom all things came into existence, grow and are kept.
- ✓ The Bible teaches that preparation for the Sabbath day should be made on Friday, so as to be able to dedicate the Sabbath to the Lord:

"Tomorrow is the rest of the holy Sabbath unto the Lord,"

today, and , seethe; and that which remaineth over lay up for you to be kept until the morning” Exodus 16:23.

- ✓ When God gave the people of Israel manna in the wilderness, He worked a miracle that made the Sabbath different from the other days: On Friday more manna was gathered so that on Sabbath they would not have to cook the food. Exodus 16:22. If any day they left manna for the following day, it would rot and get worms; but on Sabbath that did not happen. Exodus 16:24. Every morning there was manna on the surface of the earth, but on Sabbath none was to be found. Exodus 16:25-30.

“Six days shalt thou labor..... ; but the Sabbath day is the 4 Sabbath of the Lord your God; in it thou shalt not work.” Exodus 20:8-11.

- ✓ As a part of God’s law, the Sabbath was different from the other days of the week since none of the habitual activities were to be done on that day. It was a day to concentrate only on religious activities.

“If thou turn away thy foot from the Sabbath on my holy day; and called the Sabbath , nor speaking thy own words.” Isaiah 58:13.

- ✓ Everything that is meant to satisfy man’s vanity as well as all business had to be left aside on Sabbath.

9. Was it a special day only for the Israelites?

“Blessed is the man everyone that keepeth the Sabbath from polluting it, and taketh hold of my covenant.” Isaiah 56:2-7.

- ✓ It is a universal day in which all races, castes, social classes and sexes receive the blessing that comes from obeying.

10. Did Jesus and His apostles make any difference between the Sabbath and the other days of the week?

“And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought upon the Sabbath day.” Luke 4:16.

- ✓ It was Christ’s day, He Himself said in Mark 2:28, and as it was His custom, he attended the synagogue on Sabbath.

“And they returned and prepared spices and ointments and according to the commandment.” Luke 23:56.

- ✓ Maria, and the other women, in spite of the pain for having to bury their Master, rested on Sabbath, following the example Jesus had given them.

“And because he was of the same craft, he abode with them, and wrought; for by their occupation they were tentmakers. And he reasoned in the synagogue , and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks.” Acts 18:3-4.

- ✓ After Jesus’ ascension, the apostles kept the divine command and honored the Sabbath day by dedicating it to the service of God. An evidence of this are the following texts:

Paul in Thessalonica: *“And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three Sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures.” Acts 17:3.*

Paul in Antioch in Pisidia: *“And the next Sabbath day came almost the whole city together to hear the word of God.” Acts 13:14, 42, 44*

Paul in Philippi: *“And on the Sabbath we went out of the city by a river side, where prayer.” Acts 16:13.*

11. Going back to the book of Revelation, how were the sealed ones dressed and what does it mean? Revelation 7:13-14; 19:8.

*They were arrayed in white clothes, which are.....
of the saints.*

- ✓ The seal is accepted by faith, through the merits of Christ, but as a fruit of that salvation, it produces good works in obedience to God's requirements.

12. Which day will be kept in eternity in the new earth? Isaiah 66:23.

*"And it shall come to pass, [that] from one new moon to another, and
....., saith the Lord."*

- ✓ In eternity, in the new earth, that seal of the living God that marked their lives during their pilgrimage in this valley of shadows will be their delight. There they will meet in the New Jerusalem where there is no temple, because God is their temple, where the sun is not necessary because Christ is the Son of Righteousness. There, the people of God, just as they do here, will meet with God every Sabbath.

13. According to the book of Revelation: What characteristic have the true worshipers of God at the time of the end? Revelation 14:12.

"Here is the patience of the saints: here are, and the faith of Jesus."

- ✓ The prophecies show that the last church keeps the commandments of God, and the Sabbath is the fourth commandment. James 2:10 says that he who transgresses one of them is guilty of all. Jesus wants to help us to keep them.

His promises are true: Psalm 119:165 says:

**"Great peace have they which love thy law:
and nothing shall offend them."**



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