## The Revelation of Jesus Christ

## Lesson 3

# The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse

Beginning in Rev 4, John's epistle moves to future events by first giving John a vision of heaven in Rev 4 and 5. This marks an important transition from the "church age" ("the things that are" 1:19) to future end time events ("the things that will take place" 1:19). The scene shifts from matters concerning the church to a dramatic scene in heaven. The church is not mentioned again in the book of Revelation chapters 4-19. Many think the Lord's promise to spare His church from the intense hour of testing (3:10) means the

church will have been "raptured" before that time of tribulation described in chapters 6-19.		
Read Revelation 4-6.		
1.	Notice John's use of similes in his attempt to describe the scene in heaven. The <i>throne</i> of God is the theme of chapter 4 as it is mentioned eleven times. Compare John's description to Isaiah 6:1, Ezekiel 1:26-28, Dan 7:9-10, and 1 Kings 22:19.	
2.	Make an attempt to identify the different persons seen in heaven in chapter 4-5. What N.T. institution was governed by elders (Acts 14:23, Titus 1:5), promised to reign in heaven (Rev 3:21) rewarded with white garments (Rev 3:5), and crowns (Rev 2:10, 2 Tim 4:8)? Who are the four living creatures of Ezekiel 1:5, 10:15; 2 Sam 6:2, Isa 37:16? Who is the Lamb, the Lion of Judah and the Root of David (Isa 53:7, John 1:29, Rev 22:16, Heb 7:14)?	
3.	What do all these characters do in heaven unceasingly (Rev 4:8-11, 5:9-10, 12-13)? The average Christian spends less than one hour a week praising and worshipping God; how much time does the average American spend? Contrast what might be going on on earth as this is going on in heaven by reviewing this week's newspapers.	

4. What important object is seen by John in Rev 5:1? What problem caused John to weep (5:4)? Who is the only person found righteous and worthy who has the right to open the book and break the seals (5:5)?

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5.	What great accomplishment did the Lamb do which made Him worthy to be Judge and King (Rev 5:9-12, Phil 2:5-11)? What do these verses tell you about the difference between Jesus and all the other thousands of pretenders who have claimed to be god or messiahs?
6.	When the Lamb broke the seals what was unleashed upon the world (Rev 6:16b-17, Romans 2:5, Col 3:6)?
7.	Read Rev 6:1-8. The Greek word for the title of this book is Apocalypse which means unveiling, uncovering, or revealing. The first four seal judgments of God upon the world are commonly called "The of the Apocalypse".
8.	The scene in Rev 4-5 was in heaven, but now in Rev 6 the scene shifts back to earth. The first four seal judgments work together and are explained best by Rev 6:4. What do you see happening here? In previous wars, more people die from starvation (v 5-6) and disease (v 8) than combat. How large is this war and how many die (6:8)?
9.	Back in heaven, who did John see beneath the altar and what did they pray (6:9-10)? The fifth seal judgment is the prayers of the martyrs for God to enact righteous vengeance upon the earth. What principle is involved here (Romans 12:19)? Has anyone else cried out "How long…" (Ps 35:17, 74:10, 94:3-5, Hab 1:2, 13)?
10.	What is the sixth seal judgment (Rev 6:12)? Why will these judgments happen (Rev 6:17, Joel 2:1, 31, 1 Thes 5:2-3)? Who will escape these calamities and terrible judgments upon the world (1 Thes 5:9, 2 Thes 2:13-14)?