

NOTE: When the Reformers exposed the work of the Papacy, it was then called to mind how many martyrs had been slain for their faith.

9. What were these martyrs represented as doing?

"And they _____ with a _____ voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost Thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?" **Revelation 6:10**

NOTE: The cruel treatment which they had received cried for vengeance, just as Abel's blood cried to God from the ground. **Genesis 4:10**. They were not in heaven, but under the altar on which they had been slain. On this point Dr. Adam Clarke says: "The altar is upon earth, not in heaven." See note under next question.

10. What was given these martyrs?

"And _____ robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellow servants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled [**have fulfilled their course, R.V.**]." **Revelation 6:11**

NOTE: These had been slain during the hundreds of years covered by the preceding seal. Their persecutors, most of them, at least, had died. And if they had at death passed to their punishment, as is by some supposed, why should the martyred ones still importune for their punishment? In this, as in other parts of the Bible, the figure of personification is used, in which inanimate objects are represented as alive and speaking, and things that are not as though they were. **See Judges 9:8- 15; Hebrews 2:11; Romans 4:17**. These martyrs had gone down as heretics under the darkness and superstition of the preceding seal, covered with ignominy and shame. Now, in the light of the Reformation, their true character appears, and they are seen to have been righteous, and hence are given "white robes." "The fine linen [white robes] is the righteousness of saints." **Revelation 19:8**. Righteousness is ascribed to them; and when they have rested a little longer where they are, -under the altar, -till all others who are to fall for their faith have followed them, then together they will be raised to life and immortality.

The Foundation Bible Lessons

PART 6:

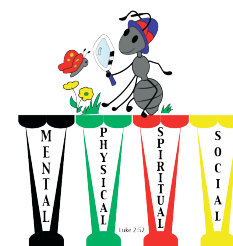
The Sure Word of Prophecy

Topic: The Seven Seals

Lesson: 63

Part A

Volume: 6



MISSION STATEMENT

Foundation Progressive Sabbath Advent Ministries (FPSAM), Inc. exists to build upon the four **PILLARS** (*Mental*, *Physical*, *Spiritual* and *Social*) that **GUIDED** Jesus' life.

VISION

All Foundation Progressive Sabbath Advent Ministries (FPSAM), Inc. members will use the four pillars to establish and build their personal life and that of others.

SLOGAN

"Don't Accommodate Eliminate"

MOTTO

"Building on FOUR"

TEXT

"And Jesus increased in wisdom (Mental) and stature (Physical & Spiritual), and in favor with God (Spiritual) and man (Social)." **Luke 2:52**

WEBSITE

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1. What did John see in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne?

"And I saw in the right hand of Him that sat on the throne *a* _____ written within and on the back side, _____ *with* _____ seals." **Revelation 5:1**

2. What did the Lamb do with this book?

"And He came and _____ the _____ out of the right hand of Him that sat upon the throne." **Revelation 5:7**

3. Why was Christ declared worthy to open these seals?

"Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: *for Thou wast* _____, *and hast* _____ *us to God by Thy* _____ out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation." **Revelation 5:9**

4. What was shown upon the opening of the first seal?

"And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, . . . *a* _____ horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer." **Revelation 6:1-2**

NOTE: The number *seven* in the Scriptures denotes completion or perfection. The seven seals embrace the whole of a class of events in which is narrated the history of the church from the beginning of the Christian era to the second coming of Christ. The white horse, with his rider going forth to conquer, fitly represents the early Christian church in its purity, going into all the world with the gospel message of salvation.

5. What appeared upon the opening of the second seal?

"And when He had opened the second seal. . . there went out *another horse that was* ____: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword" **Revelation 6:3-4**

NOTE: As whiteness in the first horse denoted the purity of the gospel which its rider propagated, so the color of the second horse would show that corruption had begun to creep in when this symbol applies. It is true that such a state of things did succeed the apostolic church. Speaking of the second century, Wharey, in his "**Church History**," page 39, says: "Christianity began already to wear the garb of heathenism."

The seeds of most of those errors that afterwards so entirely overran the church, marred its beauty, and tarnished its glory, were already beginning to take root." Worldliness came in. The church sought alliance with the secular power, and trouble and commotion were the result. This symbol extends from the close of the first century to the time of Constantine, when a complete union of church and state was effected.

6. What was the color of the symbol under the third seal?

"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 balances in his hand." **Revelation 6:5**

NOTE: The "black" horse fitly represents the spiritual darkness that characterized the church from the time of Constantine till the establishment of papal supremacy in **538. A.D.** Of the condition of things in the fourth century, Wharey (page 54) says: "Christianity had now become popular, and a large proportion, perhaps a large majority, of those who embraced it, only assumed the name, received the rite of baptism, and conformed to some of the external ceremonies of the church, while at heart and in moral character they were as much heathen as they were before. Error and corruption now came in upon the church like a flood."

7. What were the color and character of the fourth symbol?

"And when He had opened the fourth seal, . . . behold *a* _____ horse: and his name that sat on him was _____, and _____ [**Greek, Hades, the grave**] followed with him. And power 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*." **Revelation 6:7-8**

NOTE: This is an unnatural color for a horse. The original denotes the *pale* or *yellowish* color seen in blighted plants. The symbol evidently refers to the work of persecution and death carried on by the Roman Church against the people of God from the time of the beginning of papal supremacy in **538 A.D.** to the time when the Reformers commenced their work of exposing the true character of the Papacy, and a check was placed upon this work of death.

8. On opening the fifth seal, what was seen under the altar?

"And when He had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar *the* _____ of them that were _____ *for the Word of God, and for the testimony which they held*." **Revelation 6:9**