

# Earliteen Sabbath School Lessons

Second Year, Second Quarter



## The 7 Seals- The Christian Church



**EARLITEEN**  
**SABBATH SCHOOL LESSONS**

SECOND YEAR, SECOND QUARTER

THE 7 SEALS—  
THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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## **INTRODUCTION**

In the prophecy of the seven churches (Revelation 2 and 3), God's church from the ascension of Christ to His second coming is viewed through the eyes of the Saviour Himself. Now, in the next prophecy containing the number 7, the seven seals, the same time span is seen, but from a different perspective. Here the Christian church is shown as it would appear to an onlooker. Thus, the seven seals give a broad overview of church history.

Before being given the vision of the seven seals, John was shown God's throne (Revelation 4) as well as a scene in which Heaven needed to find one who was worthy to open the sacred seals on the scrolls containing important messages (Revelation 5). These chapters will be studied as an introduction to the seven seals.

Appropriately, Revelation 12—a capsule vision of the Christian church from Christ's first coming to His second coming—will also be studied in this quarter. Its central theme is Satan's virulent hatred of and war against Christ's followers.

The research approach is used in this quarter, and therefore each student will need his or her own copy of *The Great Controversy*, by Ellen G. White, with standard paging. God bless you as you study further into the prophecies of The Revelation.

# 1

# God's Throne

1. In harmony with the name of the last book of the Bible, what was the purpose of the vision John was given? Revelation 4:1; 1:1.
2. What is outstanding in the description of the One seated on the throne in heaven? Revelation 4:2, 3.
3. What is the significance of the rainbow? Compare Revelation 4:3 with 10:1 and Genesis 9:13, 14.

“About the throne there was a rainbow, which added grandeur to the scene, and reminds us that though He who sits upon the throne is an almighty and absolute Ruler, He is nevertheless the covenant-keeping God.” –Uriah Smith, *Daniel and the Revelation*, 1944 Edition, p. 408.

4. What is special about the 24 elders seated on thrones surrounding God's throne? Revelation 4:4; 5:8-10.
5. Where did they come from? Ephesians 4:8; Matthew 27:52, 53.

“Who are these beings who surround the throne of glory? It will be observed that they are clothed in white raiment and have on their heads crowns of gold, which are tokens of both a conflict completed and a victory gained. From this we conclude that they were once participants in the Christian warfare, they once trod the earthly way with all saints; but they have been overcomers, and, in advance of the great multitude of the redeemed, are wearing their victor crowns in the heavenly world.” –*Daniel and the Revelation*, pp. 408, 409.

6. The seven lamps of fire in Revelation 4:5 represent the churches led by the Holy Spirit, similar to the golden candlestick in the earthly sanctuary. In what apartment of the earthly sanctuary was the candlestick located? Exodus 25:31, 32, 37; 26:35. Thus, into what apartment of the heavenly sanctuary was John looking?

7. “Four living creatures” is a more exact translation than “beasts.” What was the main characteristic of each of these four beings? How close to God’s throne were they? Revelation 4:6, 7.

8. Compare John’s description of the four creatures with that of Ezekiel 1:10.

“The qualities which would seem to be signified by the emblems are strength, perseverance, reason, and swiftness—strength of affection, perseverance in carrying out the requirements of duty, reason in comprehending the divine will, and swiftness in obeying.”  
—*Daniel and the Revelation*, p. 412.

9. In the vision, who is the object of their praise and adoration? How tireless was their expression of thanks, praise, and joy? Revelation 4:8-10.

10. What was given as their reason for praise? Revelation 4:11.

“The glorious attractions of the heavenly home were made known to him [John]. He was permitted to look upon the throne of God, and to behold the white-robed throng of redeemed ones. He heard the music of heavenly angels, and the songs of triumph from those who had overcome by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony.” —*The Sanctified Life*, p. 78.

# 2

# Who Is Worthy?

1. Continuing the vision of Revelation 4, what did John see in God's hand? Revelation 5:1.

"The book which John here saw, contained a revelation of scenes that were to be enacted in the history of the church to the end of time." –*Daniel and the Revelation*, p. 415.

2. What do you think this book might have looked like?

"This book was not written within and on the backside, as the punctuation of our common version makes it read. 'Grotious, Lowman, Fuller, etc.,' says the Cottage Bible, 'remove the comma thus: "Written within, and on the back (or outside) sealed.'" –*Daniel and the Revelation*, pp. 415, 416.

3. What dilemma did John experience? Revelation 5:2-4.

"When the apostle saw that no one came forward to open the book, he greatly feared that the counsels of God which it contained in reference to His people would never be disclosed. In the natural tenderness of his feelings, and his concern for the church, he wept much. 'How far are they,' says John Wesley, 'from the temper of St. John, who inquire after anything rather than the contents of this book!'" –*Daniel and the Revelation*, p. 416.

4. Who came forward and took the book from God's hand? What is the meaning of the symbolism used to describe Him? Who was this? Revelation 5:5-7.

"Horns are symbols of power, and eyes typify wisdom. Seven is a number denoting completeness, or perfection. We are thus taught that perfect power and perfect wisdom inhere in the Lamb." –*Daniel and the Revelation*, p. 419.

5. What song of praise did the four beings and the 24 elders sing? What were they thankful for? Revelation 5:8-10.
6. Furthermore, as the innumerable angels joined in, what glorious song did they sing? Revelation 5:11, 12.

“How little conception we have of the magnitude and glory of the heavenly temple!... How many would we suppose could convene within the heavenly temple? ‘Ten thousand times ten thousand!’ exclaims the seer. In this expression alone we have one hundred million! Then, as if no numerical expression is adequate to embrace the countless throng, he further adds, ‘And thousands of thousands!’ Well might the writer of Hebrews call this ‘an innumerable company of angels.’ Hebrews 12:22. These were in the sanctuary above.

“Such was the company that John saw assembled at the place where the worship of a universe centers, and where the wondrous plan of human redemption is going forward to completion. The central figure in this innumerable and holy throng was the Lamb of God, and the central act of His life which claimed their admiration was the shedding of His blood for the salvation of fallen man.... Fitting assemblage for such a place! Fitting song of adoration to be raised to Him who by the shedding of His blood became a ransom for many, and who as our great High Priest in the sanctuary above still pleads the merits of His sacrifice in our behalf.” –*Daniel and the Revelation*, pp. 421, 422.

7. What final victory is described in Revelation 5:13? Compare this verse with Daniel 7:27; Jeremiah 31:34; and Hebrews 8:11.
8. Who says the “Amen” to this glorious praise and thanksgiving? Do you think you are represented by them? What place do you desire to occupy in eternity? Revelation 5:14.

# 3

## First Seal The Apostolic Church (AD 31-100)

1. When Christ opened the first seal, what did John see? Revelation 6:2.
2. What is white a symbol of? Daniel 12:10, first part.

In the seven seals, seven periods of Christian church history are presented as they would be seen through the eyes of an onlooker. The first seal covers the same period of time as the letter to the first of the seven churches, Ephesus–A.D. 31-100.

3. The crown on the rider's head symbolized: (a) the ruling nature of the church, (b) the pope, (c) the crown of life, (d) the successes of the gospel.

### Select the correct answer

4. The bow showed (a) the warlike spirit, (b) the zeal in combatting error, (c) the weapons of the day, (d) intelligence.



### **Read the description of the apostolic church, and answer the True or False questions below**

“The commission that Christ gave to the disciples, they fulfilled. As these messengers of the cross went forth to proclaim the gospel, there was such a revelation of the glory of God as had never before been witnessed by mortal man. By the cooperation of the divine Spirit, the apostles did a work that shook the world. To every nation was the gospel carried in a single generation.

“Glorious were the results that attended the ministry of the chosen apostles of Christ. At the beginning of their ministry some of them were unlearned men, but their consecration to the

cause of their Master was unreserved, and under His instruction they gained a preparation for the great work committed to them. Grace and truth reigned in their hearts, inspiring their motives and controlling their actions. Their lives were hid with Christ in God, and self was lost sight of, submerged in the depths of infinite love....

“How closely they stood by the side of God, and bound their personal honor to His throne! Jehovah was their God. His honor was their honor. His truth was their truth. Any attack made upon the gospel was as if cutting deep into their souls, and with every power of their being they battled for the cause of Christ. They could hold forth the word of life because they had received the heavenly anointing. They expected much, and therefore they attempted much.... As they proclaimed the completeness of Christ, the risen Saviour, their words moved hearts, and men and women were won to the gospel. Multitudes who had reviled the Saviour’s name and despised His power now confessed themselves disciples of the Crucified. Not in their own power did the apostles accomplish their mission, but in the power of the living God....

“Of the apostles it is written, ‘They went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following.’ Mark 16:20. As Christ sent forth His disciples, so today He sends forth the members of His church. The same power that the apostles had is for them.” –*The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 593-595, 599.

### **True or False?**

5. The disciples almost fulfilled their commission. T/F
6. All by themselves, the apostles shook the world with their message.  
T/F
7. The apostles received an excellent university education. T/F
8. They centered their thoughts on Christ. T/F
9. Their spiritual battle was very hard. T/F
10. They had no success with those who despised Christ. T/F
11. They knew their work was worthless. T/F
12. God’s power did the work for the apostles. T/F

13. They preached only to the Gentiles. T/F

14. The message of Christ moved people's hearts. T/F

15. Jesus needs modern-day disciples, including you. T/F

***Put a check mark in front of the names of the apostles recorded in Scripture as living and laboring to advance the gospel in the years after Jesus ascended to heaven***

\_\_\_ John Wesley

\_\_\_ Martin Luther

\_\_\_ Cornelius

\_\_\_ Barnabas

\_\_\_ Stephen

\_\_\_ Luke the Physician

\_\_\_ John Mark

\_\_\_ Timothy

\_\_\_ Aquila of Corinth

\_\_\_ John Wycliffe

\_\_\_ John Knox

\_\_\_ Ananias of Damascus

\_\_\_ Uldrych Zwingli

\_\_\_ James

\_\_\_ Thomas

\_\_\_ Simon Peter

\_\_\_ Jerome

\_\_\_ Titus

\_\_\_ Paul of Tarsus

\_\_\_ John the Beloved

\_\_\_ Jude

# 4

## Second Seal Corruption (100-323)

1. Describe what John saw when Jesus opened the second seal. Revelation 6:3, 4.
2. What did the color of the horse symbolize?



“Perhaps the first feature noticed in these symbols is the contrast in the color of the horses. This doubtless has special significance. If the whiteness of the first horse denoted the purity of the gospel in the period which that symbol covers, the redness of the second horse would signify that in this period that original purity began to be corrupted.” –*Daniel and the Revelation*, p. 426.

3. What had the apostle Paul seen in his day? 2 Thessalonians 2:3, 4, 7.
4. What two events marked the beginning and end of this church period?

“The mystery of iniquity already worked in Paul’s day, and the professed church of Christ was so far corrupted by this time as to require this change in the color of the symbol. Errors began to arise. Worldliness came in. The ecclesiastical power sought the alliance of the secular. Trouble and commotions were the result....

“The second period, from the death of the apostle John to the end of the persecutions, or to the accession of Constantine, the first Christian emperor, is the classical age ... of heathen persecution, and the Christian martyrdom and heroism.... It furnishes a continuous commentary on the Saviour’s words, ‘Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves.’” –*Daniel and the Revelation*, pp. 426, 427.

***Read chapter 2 (pp. 39-48) of The Great Controversy, and then answer the questions below***

5. Why did the pagan rulers want to destroy the Christians?
6. What were Christians accused of?
7. Why did they not complain when everything was taken away from them and their lives were threatened and often destroyed?
8. Was the persecution against the early Christians able to stop the spread of the gospel?
9. When Satan saw that persecution only helped the cause of Christ, he decided to try a different tactic. What was it?
10. Which was worse for the church—persecution or the temptation to give up truth?
11. What entered the church?
12. What two classes are always in the church?
13. What is a terror to hypocrites and evildoers in the church?
14. What finally became necessary for the faithful to be able to obey God?
15. Why can the gospel be called a sword?
16. Why does Christ permit persecution and affliction to come upon His people?
17. Why is there not more persecution today?

# 5

## Third Seal From Constantine to Pope (323-538)

1. What did John see when the third seal was opened? Revelation 6:5.
2. What did the black color of the horse depict?

In *Daniel and the Revelation*, pp. 428, 429, Uriah Smith quoted from John L. Mosheim's work, *An Ecclesiastical History*, vol. 1, pp. 364, 365, as follows: "Those vain fictions, which an attachment to the Platonic philosophy and to popular opinions had engaged the greatest part of the Christian doctors to adopt before the time of Constantine, were now confirmed, enlarged, and embellished in various ways. From hence arose that extravagant veneration for departed saints, and those absurd notions of a certain fire destined to purify separate

souls, that now prevailed, and of which the public marks were everywhere to be seen. Hence also the celibacy of priests, the worship of images and relics, which in process of time almost utterly destroyed the Christian religion, or at least eclipsed its luster, and corrupted its very essence in the most deplorable manner. An enormous train of different superstitions were gradually substituted in the place of true religion and genuine piety. The odious revolution was owing to a variety of causes. A ridiculous precipitation in receiving new opinions, a preposterous desire of imitating the pagan rites, and of blending them with the Christian worship, and that idle prosperity which the generality of mankind have toward a gaudy and ostentatious religion, all contributed to establish the reign of superstition upon the ruins of Christianity."



3. From the above note, list four false teachings that became prominent in the church.
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
  - d.

***Read The Great Controversy, pp. 49-54, and then answer the following questions***

4. What found its way into the Christian church and became firmly established?
5. What took the place of the humble simplicity of Christ?
6. What took the place of God's requirements?
7. What resulted from the compromise between paganism and Christianity?
8. Why was the Bible prohibited?
9. What did this allow Satan to do?
10. How did Rome attempt to change God's commandments?
11. What happened to the Sabbath?
12. How was this brought about?

13. Through whom did Satan assume control over Christendom?

14. In Revelation 6:5, what was the meaning of the balances held in the rider's hand?

"The balances denoted that religion and civil power would be united in the person who would administer the executive power in government, and that he would claim the judicial authority both in church and state. This was true among the Roman emperors from the days of Constantine until the reign of Justinian, when he gave the same judicial power to the bishop of Rome." *—Daniel and the Revelation*, p. 429.

16. What did John hear someone say from among the four creatures around God's throne? Revelation 6:6.

17. Explain the meaning of the exchange of wheat and barley and the warning not to hurt the oil and the wine.

"The measures of wheat and barley for a penny denote that the members of the church would be eagerly engaged after the worldly goods, and the love of money would be the prevailing spirit of the times, for they would dispose of anything for money....

"[The oil and the wine] denote the graces of the Spirit, faith and love, and there was great danger of hurting these, under the influence of so much of a worldly spirit. And it is well attested by all historians that the prosperity of the church in this age produced the corruptions which finally terminated in the falling away, and setting up the antichristian abominations." *—Daniel and the Revelation*, pp. 429-431.

### **Think about this**

If you had lived at that time, how would you have reacted to the worldly elements that were being introduced into the church?

# 6

## Fourth Seal Papal Force (538-1517)

1. What color was the fourth horse, which John saw when Jesus opened the fourth seal? Revelation 6:7, 8.
2. Who was riding this horse? Revelation 6:8, first part.
3. What means did he use to carry out his rule? Revelation 6:8, last part.



“The mortality is so great during this period that it would seem as if ‘the pale nations of the dead’ had come upon earth, and were following in the wake of this desolating power. The period during which this seal applies can hardly be mistaken. It must refer to the time in which the papacy bore its unrebuked, unrestrained and persecuting rule, beginning about A.D. 538, and extending to the time when the Reformers began their work of exposing the corruption of the papal system.” –*Daniel and the Revelation*, p. 431.

**Read chapter 4 of The Great Controversy (pp. 61-78), then answer the true or false questions below**

4. In the Dark Ages, there was no light of truth. T/F
5. Rome not only destroyed books and people who were opposed to its doctrines and practices but forced the governments of the nations to institute laws to do the same. T/F
6. Even during the Dark Ages, the Sabbath was kept in some places. T/F
7. The Waldenses followed Rome’s teachings. T/F

8. The Waldenses were some of the first people to have a translation of the Bible. T/F
9. The Waldensian children were taught to endure harsh conditions, to be careful with what they said, to work hard, and to be guided by the holy Scriptures. T/F
10. The Waldenses sent their children to Catholic universities. T/F
11. Not one Waldensian missionary lost his life. T/F
12. Each missionary had a trade or profession. T/F
13. The missionaries taught the people to find peace through fasting, long prayers, pilgrimages, and penance. T/F
14. They showed the people that God and Christ were stern, gloomy, and cruel. T/F
15. Joy overwhelmed the people when they learned about the Saviour's love as shown in the Bible. T/F
16. The Waldenses' crime, according to Rome, was that they would not worship God as the pope told them to. T/F
17. The crusades against the Waldenses were supposed to take away the sins of the participants. T/F
18. The Waldenses' patience and faithfulness honored Christ. T/F
19. Waldensian missionaries travelled to places where they could lose their lives. T/F
20. The pope planted the seeds of the Reformation. T/F

### **What do you think?**

How does your education compare with that given to the Waldensian children and young people?

# Fifth Seal

## Luther to Lisbon (1517-1755)

The time periods covered by the first three seals match exactly the periods covered by the first three letters to the churches. Revelation 2:1-17. However, the fourth seal, even though it began with the same date as the fourth letter (538), ended with an event that signaled the weakening of Rome's force over men's consciences. This occurred on October 31, 1517, when Martin Luther nailed to the door of the Wittenberg chapel a list of 95 theses against the doctrine of indulgences—a system that urged people to pay to have their past, present, and future sins forgiven. Thus, the fifth seal began with this outstanding action.

Luther was not, however, the first reformer to oppose the apostate papal system. Two hundred years earlier, John Wycliffe, known as the “morning star of Reformation,” translated the Bible into English and was prominent in freeing Britain from the control of the pope. Others, such as Huss and Jerome in Bohemia, had been outstanding in showing from the Scriptures that the papal doctrines and claims were contrary to every teaching of Christ.

1. What did John see when Jesus opened the fifth seal? Revelation 6:9. Were these literal or symbolic people?

“... The souls brought to view under the fifth seal were those who had been slain under the preceding seal, scores of years, and most of them centuries, before....

“They cry to God as though He were delaying vengeance on their murderers....

“The word ‘souls’ may be regarded as here meaning simply the martyrs, those who had been slain, the words ‘souls of them’ being a paraphrase for the whole person. They were represented to John as having been slain upon the altar of papal sacrifice on this earth, and lying dead beneath it. They certainly were not alive when John saw them under the fifth seal, for he again brings to view the same company, in almost the same language, and assures us that the first time they live after their martyrdom is at the resurrection of the just. Revelation 20:4-6. Lying there victims of papal blood-

thirstiness and oppression, they cried to God for vengeance in the same manner that Abel's blood cried to Him from the ground. Genesis 4:9, 10." –*Daniel and the Revelation*, pp. 434, 435.

2. What was given to these souls? Revelation 6:11, first part. What is the meaning of this?

"They had gone down to the grave in the most ignominious manner. Their lives had been misrepresented, their reputations tarnished, their names defamed, their motives maligned, and their graves covered with shame and reproach, as containing the dishonored dust of the most vile and despicable of character....



"But the Protestant Reformation began its work. It began to be seen that the church was corrupt and disreputable, and those against whom it vented its rage were the good, the pure, and the true. The work went on among the most enlightened nations, the reputation of the church going down, and that of the martyrs coming up, until the corruptions of the papal abominations were fully exposed.... Then it was seen that they had suffered, not for being vile and criminal, but 'for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held.' Then their praises were sung, their virtues admired, their fortitude applauded, their names honored, and their memories cherished. White robes were thus given to every one of them." –*Daniel and the Revelation*, p. 436.

3. What was the "little season" that had to transpire to finish the persecution? Revelation 6:11, last part.

"The cruel work of Roman Catholicism did not altogether cease, even after the work of the Protestant Reformation had become widespread and well established. Not a few terrible outbursts of hate and persecution were yet to be felt by the true church. Multitudes more were to be punished as heretics, and to join the great army of martyrs. The full vindication of their cause was to be delayed a little season. During this time Rome added hundreds of thousands to the vast throng of whose blood she had already become guilty. But the spirit of persecution was finally restrained, the cause of the martyrs was vindicated, and the 'little season' of the fifth seal came to a close." –*Daniel and the Revelation*, pp. 436, 437.

4. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, men in every nation were aroused to speak out for God, often in the face of cruel threats and finally death at the hands of the papacy. For each of the following men, give the main country in which he worked as a Reformer. (Suggestion: See Chapters 9-15 in *The Great Controversy*, a good encyclopedia, and a good dictionary.)

John Wycliffe \_\_\_\_\_ Ulrich Zwingli \_\_\_\_\_

John Huss \_\_\_\_\_ John Frith \_\_\_\_\_

Girolamo Savonarola \_\_\_\_\_ Desiderius Erasmus \_\_\_\_\_

Jerome \_\_\_\_\_ William Tyndale \_\_\_\_\_

Patrick Hamilton \_\_\_\_\_ Jacques Lefevre \_\_\_\_\_

Louis de Berquin \_\_\_\_\_ George Wishart \_\_\_\_\_

Martin Luther \_\_\_\_\_ Olaf Petri \_\_\_\_\_

Hugh Latimer \_\_\_\_\_ Laurentious Petri \_\_\_\_\_

John Wesley \_\_\_\_\_ Nicholas Ridley \_\_\_\_\_

Thomas Cranmer \_\_\_\_\_ Philipp Melanchthon \_\_\_\_\_

Simon Grynaeus \_\_\_\_\_ Menno Simons \_\_\_\_\_

Hans Tausen \_\_\_\_\_ John Calvin \_\_\_\_\_

William Farel \_\_\_\_\_ Miles Coverdale \_\_\_\_\_

Aonio Paleario \_\_\_\_\_ John Knox \_\_\_\_\_

Theodore Beza \_\_\_\_\_ Charles Wesley \_\_\_\_\_

John Bunyan \_\_\_\_\_ George Whitefield \_\_\_\_\_

John Foxe \_\_\_\_\_ Thomas Cartwright \_\_\_\_\_

## **Research**

When will the deaths of the millions of martyrs finally be avenged?

# 8

## Part 1–Lisbon/Signs in the Sky (1755-the end)

# Sixth Seal

“Between the fifth and sixth seals there seems to be a sudden and complete change from highly figurative to strictly literal language.... It was in the period covered by this seal that the prophetic parts of God’s word were to be unsealed, and many run to and fro, or give their attention to the understanding of these things, and thereby knowledge on this part of God’s word was to be greatly increased. We suggest that it may be for this reason that the change in the language here occurs, and that the events of this seal, taking place at a time when these things were to be fully understood, are not couched in figures, but are laid before us in plain and unmistakable language.” –*Daniel and the Revelation*, p. 437.

1. What occurred when Jesus opened the sixth seal? Revelation 6:12, first part.

“In fulfillment of this prophecy there occurred, in the year 1755, the most terrible earthquake that has ever been recorded. Though commonly known as the earthquake of Lisbon, it extended to the greater part of Europe, Africa, and America. It was felt in Greenland, in the West Indies, in the island of Madeira, in Norway and Sweden, Great Britain and Ireland. It pervaded an extent of not less than four million square miles. In Africa the shock was almost as severe as in Europe. A great part of Algiers was destroyed; and a short distance from Morocco, a village containing eight or ten thousand inhabitants was swallowed up. A vast wave swept over the coast of Spain and Africa, engulfing cities, and causing great destruction.” –*The Great Controversy*, p. 304.

2. In an encyclopaedia, look up the Lisbon earthquake, and share in class what significant facts you find.
3. Locate on a world globe the center of the Lisbon earthquake and its far reaches. How much of the surface of the earth did it reach?
4. The Lisbon earthquake occurred on November 1, 1755. What else was to occur under the sixth seal? Revelation 6:12, last part.

***Read The Great Controversy, pp. 306-308, and answer the following questions***



5. When did the Dark Day take place?
6. How early in the morning did the day begin looking very strange?
7. What was the darkness like? Where was there light?
8. How did the domestic and wild animals react?
9. What area did the darkness cover?
10. What was the darkness like that night?
11. When the darkness disappeared after midnight, what did the full moon look like?
12. Were the people of that time aware of the prophecies in Matthew and Revelation concerning the Dark Day?
13. What other miraculous phenomenon was to occur in nature under the sixth seal? Revelation 6:13.
14. Where was the Falling of the Stars seen?

“After collecting and collating the accounts given in all the periodicals of the country, and also in numerous letters addressed either to my scientific friends or to myself, the following appeared to be the leading facts attending the phenomenon. The shower pervaded nearly the whole of North America, having appeared in nearly equal splendor, from the British possessions on the north, to the West Indian Islands and Mexico on the south, and from sixty-one degrees of longitude east of the American coast, quite to the Pacific Ocean on the west. Throughout this immense region, the duration was nearly the same. The meteors began to

attract attention by their unusual frequency and brilliancy, from nine to twelve o'clock in the evening; were most striking in their appearance from two to five; arrived at their maximum, in many places, about four o'clock; and continued until rendered invisible by the light of day.' –Denison Olmsted, *The Mechanism of the Heavens*, p. 328." –*Daniel and the Revelation*, p. 448.

**Read The Great Controversy, pp. 333, 334, and answer the questions.**

15. What was significant about the way the stars fell?
16. What was the purpose of the signs in the sky? Matthew 24:33.

**Think about this**

- Why do you think the signs in the sky occurred in the United States rather than in some other place on earth?
- How many years have passed since the falling of the stars? Jesus said that when men see these things His coming would be very near. How do you think He looks at the time in which we live?

“’Twas on a May-day of the far old year,  
Seventeen hundred eighty, that there fell  
Over the bloom and sweet life of the Spring,  
Over the fresh earth and the heaven of noon,  
A horror of great darkness, like the night,  
In day of which the Norland sagas tell—  
The Twilight of the Gods. The low-hung sky  
Was black with ominous clouds, save where its rim  
Was fringed with a dull glow, like that which climbs  
The crater’s sides from the red hell below.  
Birds ceased to sing; and all the barnyard fowls  
Roosted; the cattle at the pasture bars  
Low’d, and looked homeward; bats on leathern wings  
Flitted abroad; the sounds of labor died;  
Men prayed, and women wept; all ears grew sharp  
To hear the doom-blast of the trumpet shatter  
The black sky, that the dreadful face of Christ  
Might look from the rent clouds, not as He looked  
A loving guest at Bethany, but stern  
As Justice and inexorable Law.”

—*John Greenleaf Whittier*

# 9

## Sixth Seal, Part 2 Seventh Seal—Christ's Coming

1. Have all of the events of the sixth seal already taken place? Revelation 6:12-17.
2. What will the next event be? Revelation 6:14. Therefore, in what time do we live, and under what seal?
3. What else will happen when Jesus comes? Revelation 6:14-17.



**Read The Great Controversy, pp. 635-645, and answer the questions**

4. At what critical moment for God's people will Jesus come to deliver them?
5. What will be their reaction to the first evidences of His coming?
6. What will occur on earth and in the heavens?
7. What resurrection will take place prior to Jesus' calling the righteous from their graves?
8. What will be revealed for all to see as the standard of judgment?
9. Whom will the false teachers see that they have been fighting against?

10. When they see Him and all His holy angels coming in the clouds, what fear will grip the hearts of those who have rejected Christ's mercy? What will they try to do?
11. After the glorious resurrection of the righteous, where will Jesus take all of His children?

The sixth chapter of Revelation closes with the events of the sixth seal, and chapter eight begins with the opening of the seventh seal. The seventh chapter between them is like a parenthetical insert, and thus the sealing work that it describes belongs to the time of the sixth seal. However, it will be studied in the lessons for the last quarter of this year, rather than at this point.

12. What was prophesied to take place in heaven when Jesus opened the seventh seal? Revelation 8:1.
13. Using the prophetic key of one day of prophetic time equals one literal year, compute how long a half hour is in actual time.

"When the Lord appears, He comes with all the holy angels with Him. Matthew 25:31. When all the heavenly harpers leave the courts above to come to this earth with their divine Lord as He descends to gather the fruit of His redeeming work, will there not be silence in heaven?" –*Daniel and the Revelation*, p. 473.

"We all entered the cloud together, and were seven days ascending to the sea of glass, when Jesus brought the crowns, and with His own right hand placed them on our heads." –*Early Writings*, p. 16.



In studying Revelation 12, we will go back over the same periods of time as were just covered in the Seven Seals. The vision given to the apostle John in this chapter is a capsule picture of the Christian church from Christ's first coming to His second coming. However, this vision focuses on the corrupt, vile, and vicious aims of Satan in trying to destroy Jesus, His followers, and all good.



### The woman

1. What did John see at the beginning of Revelation 12? Revelation 12:1.
2. What does a woman represent in prophecy? See 2 Corinthians 11:2; Revelation 17:3-6, 18.
3. What type of a woman did he see in Verse 1—a pure one, or a corrupt one?
4. What did the sun, with which the woman was clothed, represent? 2 Corinthians 4:4, last part.

5. The moon was under her feet. What was the meaning of this? Colossians 2:17; Hebrews 8:7, 5.

“As the moon shines with a borrowed light derived from the sun, so the former era shone with a light borrowed from the present. There they had the type and shadow; here we have the antitype and the substance.” –*Daniel and the Revelation*, p. 549.

6. What did the 12 stars in the crown symbolize? Luke 6:13; Ephesians 2:20.

7. Revelation 12:1, 2 depict the time just before the opening of the Christian era, when God’s faithful people were earnestly longing for and expecting the coming of the Messiah. Approximately what time period do you think this covers? Who were some people mentioned in the Scriptures as waiting and praying for the Saviour? Matthew 2:1, 2; Luke 2:8, 9, 15, 16, 25-28, 36-38.

### The dragon

8. What were the main characteristics of the dragon? Revelation 12:3.

9. Who is, first of all, the vicious dragon? Revelation 12:9; 20:2.

10. Who and what were his chief agents, carrying out his evil aims? Matthew 2:16; Luke 3:1.

“The dragon is said to be Satan [Revelation 12:9]; he it was that moved upon Herod to put the Saviour to death. But the chief agent of Satan in making war upon Christ and His people during the first centuries of the Christian era, was the Roman Empire, in which paganism was the prevailing religion. Thus while the dragon, primarily, represents Satan, it is, in a secondary sense, a symbol of pagan Rome.” –*The Great Controversy*, p. 438.

11. What did the seven heads and crowns represent? Revelation 13:1; 17:3, 9, 10.

The seven ruling powers of pagan Rome were kings, consuls, decemvirs, dictators, triumvirs, emperors, and popes.

12. What did the ten horns symbolize? Revelation 13:1; 17:3, 12.

These are the ten European kingdoms which arose from the Roman Empire. Daniel 2:41-44; 7:24.

13. What two meanings can we find for the statement, “His tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth”? Revelation 12:4; first part.

“If the twelve stars with which the woman is crowned, here used symbolically, denote the twelve apostles, then the stars thrown down by the dragon before his attempt to destroy the man child, or before the Christian Era, may denote a part of the rulers of the Jewish people.... Judea became a Roman province sixty-three years before the birth of the Messiah. The Jews had three classes of rulers—kings, priests, and the Sanhedrin. A third of these, the kings, were taken away by the Roman power....

“This allusion to the stars undoubtedly has also a wider meaning, and is related to the truths emphasized in verses 7-9 of this chapter. As a result of the conflict there brought to view, it is evident that a third part of the angelic host, who joined with Satan in his rebellion against the Ruler of the universe, were cast out of the courts of glory.” —*Daniel and the Revelation*, pp. 550, 551.

14. What was the dragon determined to do in any way he possibly could? Revelation 12:4, last part; Matthew 2:16.

# 11

# In the Wilderness

1. What happened to the woman, the pure church? Revelation 12:5.
2. Who was born? Psalm 2:7, 9; Revelation 19:11, 14, 15.
3. What is the meaning of the Child caught up to God and His throne? Acts 1:9-11; Hebrews 8:1; Ephesians 1:20, 21.
4. Against whom was Satan and Rome's fury directed when Jesus was removed from their reach? Revelation 12:6, first part.
5. Where did God lead His persecuted church? Revelation 12:6, first part, 14.

"Behind the lofty bulwarks of the mountains—in all ages the refuge of the persecuted and oppressed—the Waldenses found a hiding place. Here the light of truth was kept burning amid the darkness of the Middle Ages. Here, for a thousand years, witnesses for the truth maintained the ancient faith.

"God had provided for His people a sanctuary of awful grandeur, befitting the mighty truths committed to their trust. To those faithful exiles the mountains were an emblem of the immutable righteousness of Jehovah. They pointed their children to the heights towering above them in unchanging majesty, and spoke to them of Him with whom there is no variableness nor shadow of turning, whose word is as enduring as the everlasting hills. God had set fast the mountains, and girded them with strength; no arm but that of infinite power could move them out of their place....

"The mountains that girded their lowly valleys were a constant witness to God's creative power, and a never-failing assurance of His protecting care." —*The Great Controversy*, pp. 65, 66.

6. For how long did His church have to remain in the “wilderness”? Revelation 12:6, last part.
7. How many actual years was this? With your teacher’s assistance, locate in your Bible the two texts that give the prophetic key of “one day in prophetic time equals one year in fulfillment.”
8. Now find in your Bible the six additional references to this time period. The phrases to search for are “a time, times and a dividing of time,” “time, times and a half a time,” “forty two months,” and “one thousand two hundred and threescore days.”
9. Although this period of time was shortened, in effect, by the influence of the Protestant Reformation (Christ said, “Except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved; but for the elect’s sake those days shall be shortened.” Matthew 24:22), what were the beginning and ending dates of the 1,260 years of papal oppression?



# 12

## Satan's Fall and Fury

Verses 7-12 of Revelation 12 are parenthetical views, providing some background about Satan's fall and the reason for his cruel, wicked actions. In this lesson, we will look at some verses showing how heaven has dealt with the originator of sin, especially in three significant points of history.

1. To what event does Revelation 12:7-9 refer? Luke 10:18.

"The scenes of the past and the future were presented to the mind of Jesus. He beheld Lucifer as he was first cast out from the heavenly places. He looked forward to the scenes of His own agony, when before all the worlds the character of the deceiver should be unveiled. He heard the cry, 'It is finished' (John 19:30), announcing that the redemption of the lost race was forever made certain, that heaven was made eternally secure against the accusations, the deceptions, the pretensions, that Satan would instigate." –*The Desire of Ages*, p. 490.

2. Prior to Christ's death, what access did Satan have to the gate of heaven? Job 1:6, 7. See also 1 Kings 22:20-22.
3. But when Christ's sacrifice and mission were successfully completed on earth, how was Satan's situation changed? Revelation 12:10; John 12:31; Hebrews 2:14.
4. What was made certain? Who especially rejoiced at this? Revelation 12:12, first part.

"In the contest between Christ and Satan, during the Saviour's earthly ministry, the character of the great deceiver was unmasked. Nothing could so effectually have uprooted Satan from the affections of the heavenly angels and the whole loyal universe as did his cruel warfare upon the world's Redeemer. The daring

blasphemy of his demand that Christ should pay him homage, his presumptuous boldness in bearing him to the mountain summit and the pinnacle of the temple, the malicious intent betrayed in urging him to cast himself down from the dizzy height, the unsleeping malice that hunted him from place to place, inspiring the hearts of priests and people to reject His love, and at the last to cry, 'Crucify Him! crucify Him!'—all this excited the amazement and indignation of the universe....

"Now the guilt of Satan stood forth without excuse. He had revealed his true character as a liar and a murderer. It was seen that the very same spirit with which he ruled the children of men, who were under his power, he would have manifested had he been permitted to control the inhabitants of heaven. He had claimed that the transgression of God's law would bring liberty and exaltation; but it was seen to result in bondage and degradation....

"In the Saviour's expiring cry, 'It is finished,' the death knell of Satan was rung. The great controversy which had been so long in progress was then decided, and the final eradication of evil was made certain." —*The Great Controversy*, pp. 501-503.

5. What will bring about Satan's third fall and final destruction? Revelation 20:1-3; Jeremiah 4:23-27; Revelation 20:10; Ezekiel 28:18, 19.
6. What else was secured by Christ's sacrifice? Revelation 12:10.
7. What means did Christ give His followers to overcome Satan? Revelation 12:11.
8. Why did they need them? Why are they still needed Revelation 12:12, last part; 1 Peter 5:8.



# 13

# The Remnant

After describing Satan's fall and the means by which he will be overcome, the vision returns to the view of the church under persecution.

1. What does Revelation 12:13 give as the reason for Satan's hatred against the church?
  
2. Review Lesson 11, and answer the following questions concerning Revelation 12:14:
  - a. What is the meaning of the wilderness?
  
  - b. For what period of time was the church in the wilderness?
  
  - c. Who were the serpent's agents in carrying out persecution?
  
3. How did Satan try to destroy God's people completely? Revelation 12:15.

"By its false doctrines the papacy had so corrupted all nations as to have absolute control of the civil power for long centuries. Through it Satan could hurl a mighty flood of persecution against the church in every direction, and this he was not slow to do. Millions of true believers were carried away by the flood, but the church was not entirely swallowed up, for the days were shortened for the elect's sake. Matthew 24:22." *-Daniel and the Revelation*, p. 558.

4. Who helped the woman (God's church)? In what two ways was the persecution practically stopped? Revelation 12:16.

When the Protestant Reformation gained strength in the sixteenth century through the work of Martin Luther and the support of many heads of state, persecution was lessened in Europe. “The spell was broken. Men found the bulls and anathemas of the pope fell harmless at their feet, just as soon as they dared exercise their God-given right to regulate their consciences by His word alone. Defenders of the true faith multiplied. Soon there was enough Protestant soil found in Europe and the New World to swallow up the flood of papal fury, and rob it of its power to harm the church. Thus the earth helped the woman, and has continued to help her to the present day, as the spirit of the Reformation and religious liberty has been fostered by the leading nations of Christendom.”  
—*Daniel and the Revelation*, pp. 558, 559.

5. Nevertheless, was the end of persecution the end of Satan’s warfare against God’s people? Against whom is he still at war today? Revelation 12:17.
  
6. Who is represented by the woman in Revelation 12:17? Who is the seed?

The Protestant Christians who left Europe for the sake of religious freedom were represented by the woman. But they ceased to be God’s faithful people when in 1844 and thereafter they rejected the light of the three angels’ messages and obedience to God’s eternal law. The seed of the woman were those who continued to be guided by God’s word and the light given concerning Christ’s second coming—Seventh-day Adventists.

7. What final attack will Satan make against God’s people? Revelation 12:17; 13:14-17.
  
8. Who will remain faithful in this severe test, and who will fall?

“As the storm approaches, a large class who have professed faith in the third angel’s message, but have not been sanctified through obedience to the truth, abandon their position and join the ranks of the opposition. By uniting with the world and partaking of its spirit, they have come to view matters in nearly the same light; and when the test is brought, they are prepared to choose the

easy, popular side. Men of talent and pleasing address, who once rejoiced in the truth, employ their powers to deceive and mislead souls. They become the most bitter enemies of their former brethren. When Sabbath keepers are brought before the courts to answer for their faith, these apostates are the most efficient agents of Satan to misrepresent and accuse them, and by false reports and insinuations to stir up the rulers against them. In this time of persecution the faith of the Lord's servants will be tried. They have faithfully given the warning, looking to God and to His word alone....

“As the opposition rises to a fiercer height, the servants of God are again perplexed; for it seems to them that they have brought the crisis. But conscience and the word of God assure them that their course is right; and although the trials continue, they are strengthened to bear them. The contest grows closer and sharper, but their faith and courage rise with the emergency. Their testimony is: ‘We dare not tamper with God’s word, dividing His holy law; calling one portion essential and another nonessential, to gain the favor of the world. The Lord whom we serve is able to deliver us. Christ has conquered the powers of earth; and shall we be afraid of a world already conquered?’” –*The Great Controversy*, pp. 608, 610.

### **What do you think?**

There appears to less persecution today than there was in many times of the past. Does this mean that Satan is not at war with the remnant? Who are the remnant? How is Satan attacking them today?

