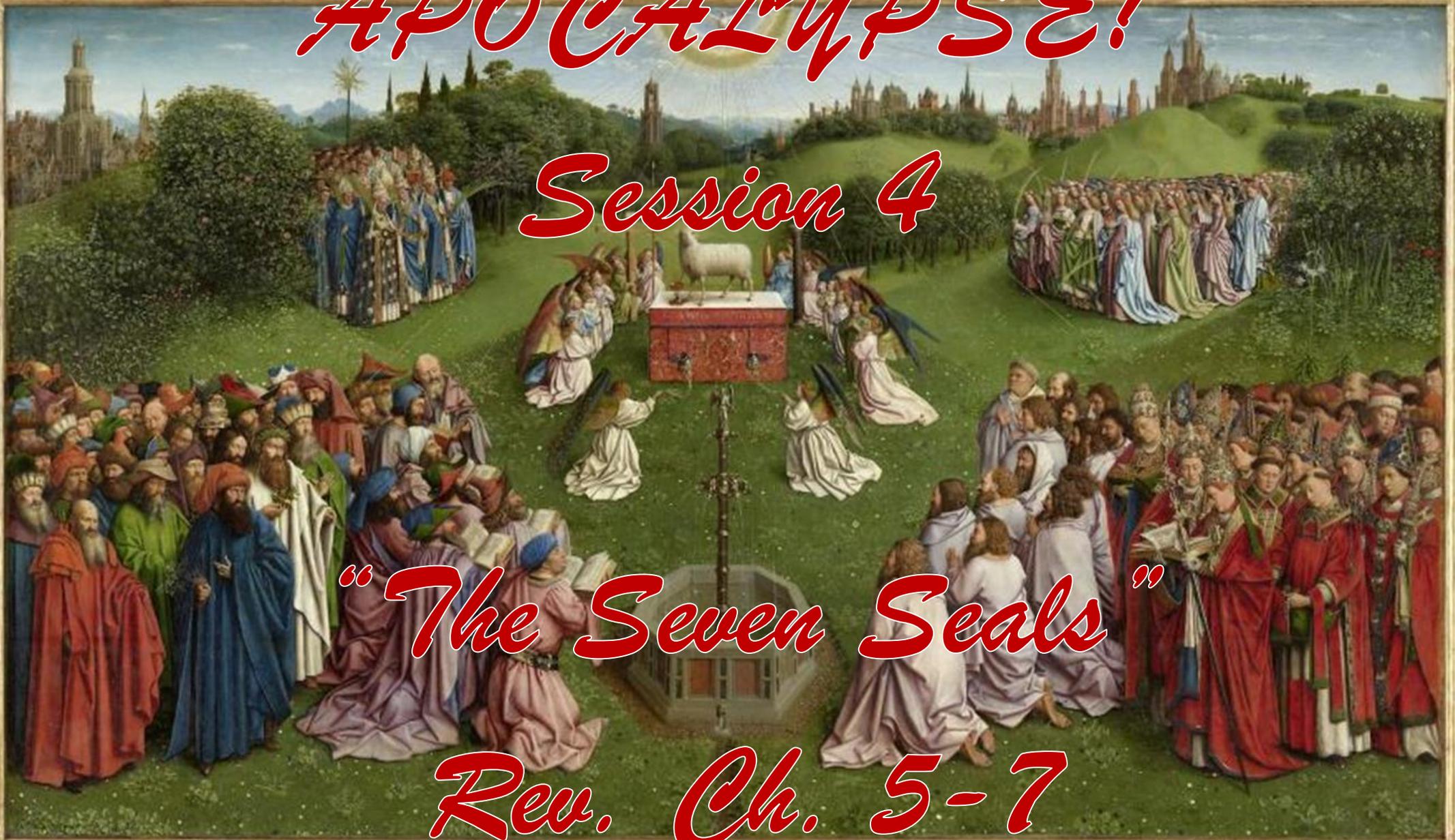


# *APOCALYPSE!*

## *Session 4*

### *"The Seven Seals"*

*Rev. Ch. 5-7*



**“APOCALYPSE / APOCALYPTIC”**

*REVELATION is  
NOT about the end of the world!!!!*



# **“APOCALYPSE / APOCALYPTIC”**

**1) Prepare Don't Predict**

**2) Prayerfully Persevere in Persecution!**



# 4 LAYERS AT WORK IN REVELATION

- **Past** (*what HAS happened – Historical Context*)
- **Present** (*what IS happening*)
- **Future** (*what WILL happen – Eschatological*)
- **LITURGICAL**



# HEAVENLY THRONE ROOM

- Center still point around which all of time, events, history turn
- Command center from which judgment and victory come
- Juxtaposed Heavenly throne room with chaos of world
- Yet Overlapping realities: Mystically drawn into this space every time we worship (Liturgical Layer)



Part 1 of 2

# Revelation



# THE SCROLL



# THE SCROLL

- Salvation History (Old Testament)
- Human History



# **THE SEVEN SEALS (OF THE SCROLL)**

- **Provoke (wild) PREDICTIONS about world**
- **Interpret each seal as a FIXED EVENT or TIME PERIOD in HUMAN HISTORY**
- **Thus speculate about WHICH SEAL we are ON!**
- **Many groups (including cults: i.e. David Koresh and Branch Davidians)**



# THE SEVEN SEALS (OF THE SCROLL)

- Here are a few examples....



# THE SERIES OF THE SEVEN SEALS

## THE RISE AND FALL OF APOSTATE CHRISTIANITY

### CHRISTIAN CONQUEST AD 33

These symbols are a faithful representation of the early triumphs of Christianity in its early conflicts with huge systems of error with which it had to contend — especially Paganism. Horses represent warfare in prophecy, because of the fact that in most wars in biblical times, horses were used. Looking about us for an object that perfectly meets every requirement of the symbol, we find it in the ministry of the apostles and the early ministers and workers of primitive Christianity, who went forth conquering and to conquer.



### PAGAN WARFARE AD 33-313

Whoever the red horse and rider is, must have been great opposers of the establishment of primitive Christianity, which occurred in the opening of the first seal. *We find the answer undoubtedly in the propagators of the Pagan religion.* As soon as Christianity began to grow in the Roman Empire, the priests and supporters of Paganism were determined to crush out the Christian religion, as with a "Great Sword."



### PAPAL ROME - FAMINE A.D. 313-530

As soon as Christianity conquered Paganism, another force of evil began to appear on the field of battle. It is well known that Pagan Rome bequeathed her authority, power, and also her nature to the new Roman empire, so much so that the Papal empire (new Rome), was nothing more than the Pagan empire going under a different alias. Persecutions of Christianity ceased and the believers began to relax and to cease to fight against evil — this is called **COMPROMISE!**



### APOSTATE CHURCH A.D. 538-1530

Under the present seal is seen a later stage of the corruption of the apostate church, when a great hierarchal system, sustained and upheld by the arm of civil power, was able to bear tyrannical rule over a great portion of the earth. During this period, man-rule was favored over Holy Spirit rule. Clerical ambition was allowed to reach its greatest height. The symbol of this rider on a pale horse portrays the great hierarchal system by which the Papacy was fully developed in the West.



### MARTYR CHURCH A.D. 530-1530

The world was now the arena for the terrible coursing of the pale horse man, and the beasts were let loose to fall with savage fury upon their helpless victims, until, according to history, millions lost their lives at the instigation of the apostate church of Rome. The remaining symbols give more detail as to the duration of these persecutions, for it is said that "white robes were given unto every one of them."



### EARTHQUAKE A.D. 1530-END

What the Revelator is here conveying is that there would be a time in human history in which the church will no longer be ruled by one unified political entity, but that the church would be scattered during a very chaotic time — the world in political turmoil.



### THE END OF TIME



When the Seventh Seal was opened, For a short duration of time, there was SILENCE: (1) The voices of singers praising God and having victory had ceased. (2) The voice of a ministry preaching the Everlasting Gospel, unmingled with human ideas and uninfluenced by false beliefs had ceased. (3) The voice of a ministry exposing spiritual Babylon, [false religion], and describing the penalty of fellowship with Babylon had ceased.





# The Seven Seals of Revelation

Sacrifices start at some point

2½ years

1 year

A very short time

## Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse

## The Day of the Lord — Time of God's Wrath

(Joel 2:1, Revelation 6:15-17, 11:18, 14:19, 15:1)

First Seal	Second Seal	Third Seal	Fourth Seal	Fifth Seal	Sixth Seal	Seventh Seal: Seven Trumpet Plagues (Revelation 16:1)													
White Horse	Red Horse	Black Horse	Pale Horse	Great Tribulation	Heavenly Signs	Silence in heaven (Revelation 8:1-6)	First Trumpet	Second Trumpet	Third Trumpet	Fourth Trumpet	Fifth Trumpet	Sixth Trumpet	Seventh Trumpet: Seven Last Plagues						
							One third of trees and all grass burned	One third of sea becomes blood, one third of sea creatures die, one third of ships destroyed	One third of rivers become wormwood	One third of sun, moon, stars darkened	Locusts, symbolic of best military power (Revelation 17:5-14)	200 million horsemen, one third of humanity killed, humanity refuses to repent	First Plague	Second Plague	Third Plague	Fourth Plague	Fifth Plague	Sixth Plague	Seventh Plague
Deception	War	Famine	Pestilence	National Captivity			Revelation 8:7	Revelation 8:8-9	Revelation 8:10-11	Revelation 8:12	Revelation 9:1-12	Revelation 9:13-21	Revelation 16:2	Revelation 16:3	Revelation 16:4-7	Revelation 16:8-9	Revelation 16:10-11	Revelation 16:12-16	Revelation 16:17-21
Matthew 24:4-5	Matthew 24:6-8	Matthew 24:7-8	Matthew 24:7-8	Matthew 24:9, 21-22, Luke 21:23-24	Matthew 24:29-30, Joel 2:30-31														
Revelation 6:1-2	Revelation 6:3-4	Revelation 6:5-6	Revelation 6:7-8	Revelation 6:9-11	Revelation 6:12-17														
											First Woe	Second Woe	Third Woe (Revelation 8:13)						



### Sealing of God's People

Revelation 7, Ephesians 1:13-14, Ezekiel 9:4

### Return of Jesus Christ

Revelation 10:7, 11:15-19, 19:1-21, Matthew 24:30-31, I Corinthians 15:51-52, I Thessalonians 4:16, Zechariah 14:1-4

1,335 days  
(Daniel 12:12)

Organized efforts of God's Work to proclaim the Gospel to the world and (Amos 8:11, John 9:4)

1,290 days  
(Daniel 12:11)

Sacrifices end, abomination of desecration set up, Church goes to place of protection (Daniel 8:5-12, Matthew 24:15-20, Luke 21:20-23)

1,260 days  
(Daniel 12:7)

Jerusalem surrounded, Gentiles overrun city, two witness prophesy, Church protected in wilderness, beast power rules earth (Matthew 24:15, Revelation 11:2-3, 12:6, 14, 13:5)



**The Seven Spills of Rev. VI-VIII**

REV. VI 1-4  
AD 100 - 180  
**ROME VICTORIOUS**

REV. VI 5-6  
AD 185 - 254  
**CIVIL WAR**

REV. VI 5-6  
AD 200 - 250  
**TAXATION DEPRESSION**

REV. VI 7-8  
AD 250 - 300  
**DECAY & DEATH**

REV. VI 9-11  
AD 305 - 513 (UNDER EMPT. AUGUSTINIAN)  
**CHRISTIAN MARTYRS**

REV. VI 12-15  
**FALL**



# THE SEVEN SEALS (OF THE SCROLL)

- So, do seals refer to...Past events?
- Present events?
- Future events?
- ...the answer...



# THE SEVEN SEALS (OF THE SCROLL)

YES

*Prepare...don't Predict  
HAS happened  
IS happening  
WILL happen*

*...message for Christians of all times...*



# THE SCROLL

- Salvation History (Old Testament)
- Human History



# THE LAMB OF GOD



# Sacrifice & Atonement



# THE LAMB OF GOD

- **Sacrifice of Christ**
  - Lens through which we are to understand
  - “Messianic Secret”  
Gospel of Mark



# THE LAMB OF GOD

- Abraham's Sacrifice (*Genesis 9*)
- Passover Lamb (*Exodus 12*)
- All Temple Sacrifices
- Crucifixion in Passover Context (*John 19*)
- Temple Veil Torn...



# THE TORN TEMPLE VEIL

## MATTHEW 27:50-54

But Jesus cried out again in a loud voice, and gave up his spirit. **And behold, the veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom.** The earth quaked, rocks were split, tombs were opened, and the bodies of many saints who had fallen asleep were raised. And coming forth from their tombs after his resurrection, they entered the holy city and appeared to many. The centurion and the men with him who were keeping watch over Jesus feared greatly when they saw the earthquake and all that was happening, and they said, “Truly, this was the Son of God!”



# **THE TORN TEMPLE VEIL**

## **MATTHEW 27:50-54**

- **Temple opening up**
- **Presence of God pouring out into the world**
- **Intimately connected with Christ's Sacrifice**
- **Christ is new Temple Sacrifice**



**LAMB OF GOD =  
ONLY ONE TO OPEN SCROLL**



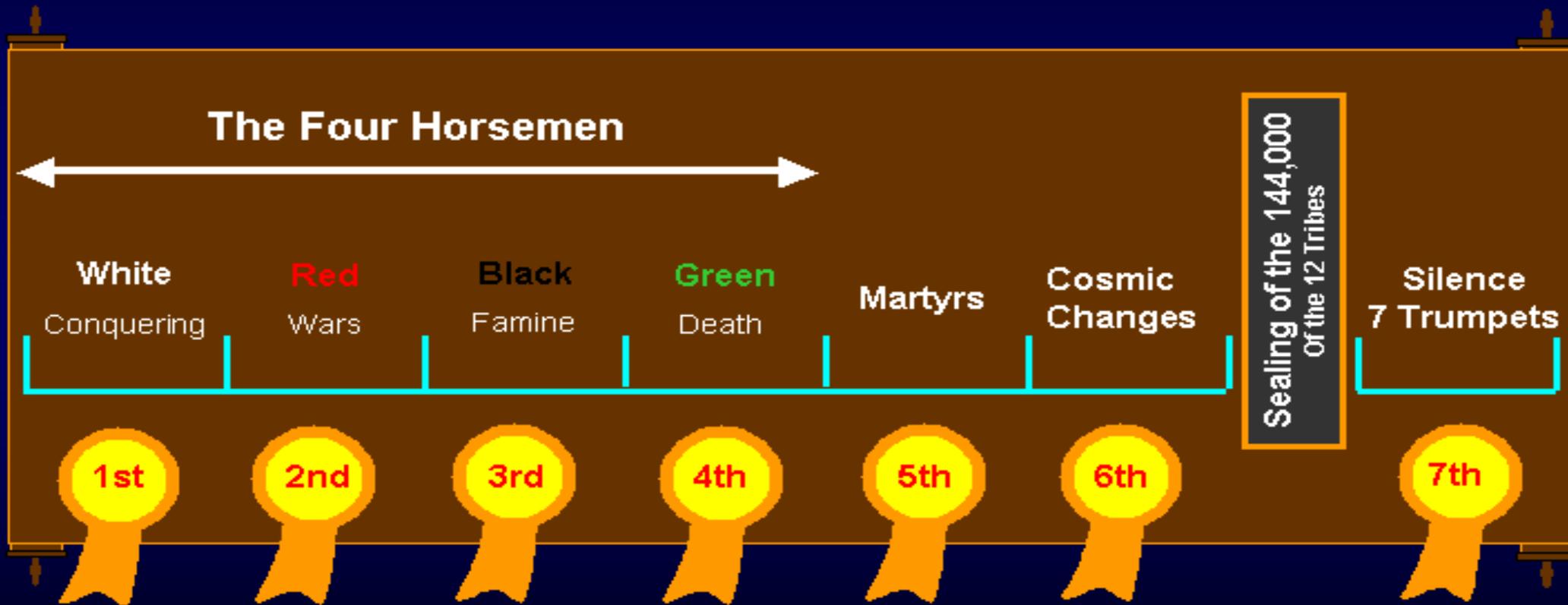
# THE SEVEN SEALS OF REVELATION

FIRST SEAL	SECOND SEAL	THIRD SEAL	FOURTH SEAL	FIFTH SEAL	SIXTH SEAL	SEVENTH SEAL
WHITE HORSE	RED HORSE	BLACK HORSE	PALE HORSE	MARTYRS CRY OUT	CELESTIAL SIGNS	RAPTURE
						
<p><b>Rev 6: 2</b>  <b>Had a Bow</b>  <b>Given a Crown</b>  <b>Went out</b>  <b>Conquering</b></p>	<p><b>Rev 6:4</b>  <b>Peace Removed</b>  <b>Violence</b>  <b>breaks out</b>  <b>Has Sword</b></p>	<p><b>Rev 6:5-6</b>  <b>Balance Scales</b>  <b>Huge Inflation</b>  <b>Oil &amp; Wine</b>  <b>Spared</b></p>	<p><b>Rev 6:8</b>  <b>Death has</b>  <b>Hades with him</b>  <b>1/4th earth</b>  <b>Killed with</b>  <b>sword, famine,</b>  <b>death &amp; beasts</b></p>	<p><b>Rev 6:9-11</b>  <b>Martyrs cry out</b>  <b>How long? Not</b>  <b>until number of</b>  <b>brethren to</b>  <b>be killed is</b>  <b>complete</b></p>	<p><b>Rev 6:12-17</b>  <b>Earth quakes</b>  <b>Sun darkens</b>  <b>moon turns red</b>  <b>Stars fall</b>  <b>Sky Recedes</b>  <b>like a scroll</b></p>	<p><b>Rev 8:1</b>  <b>Heaven silent</b>  <b>about half hour</b>  <b>Rev 11:12</b>  <b>Come up</b>  <b>Here!</b></p>



# The Seven-Sealed Scroll

Chapters 6 & 7



# THE FOUR HORSEMEN

*By Victor Vasnetsov, 1887*



# THE FOUR HORSEMEN

- Second Horsemen = War
- Third Horsemen = Famine
- Fourth Horsemen = Disease/Plague/Death
- First Horsemen?...



# THE FOUR HORSEMEN

- First Horsmen?
  - Conquest
  - *BOOKENDS with Revelation 19:11*
  - *White Rider who is Christ*

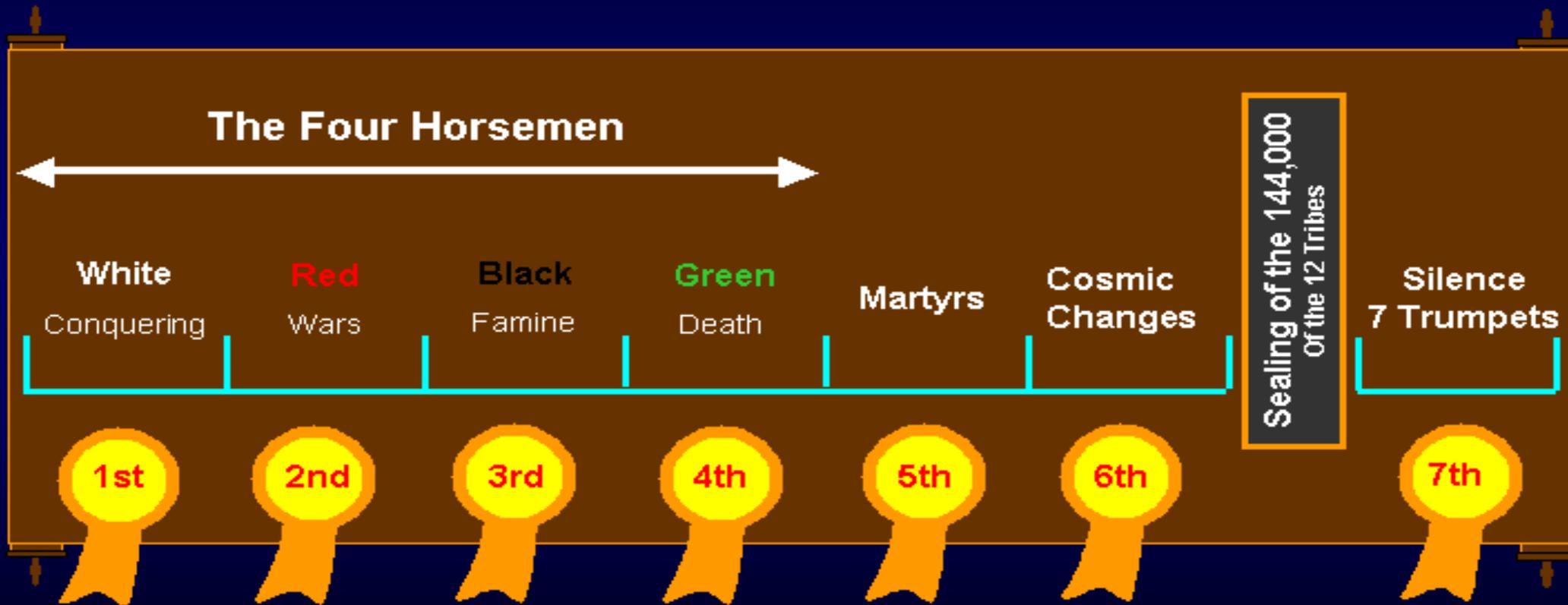


# THE FIFTH SEAL



# The Seven-Sealed Scroll

Chapters 6 & 7

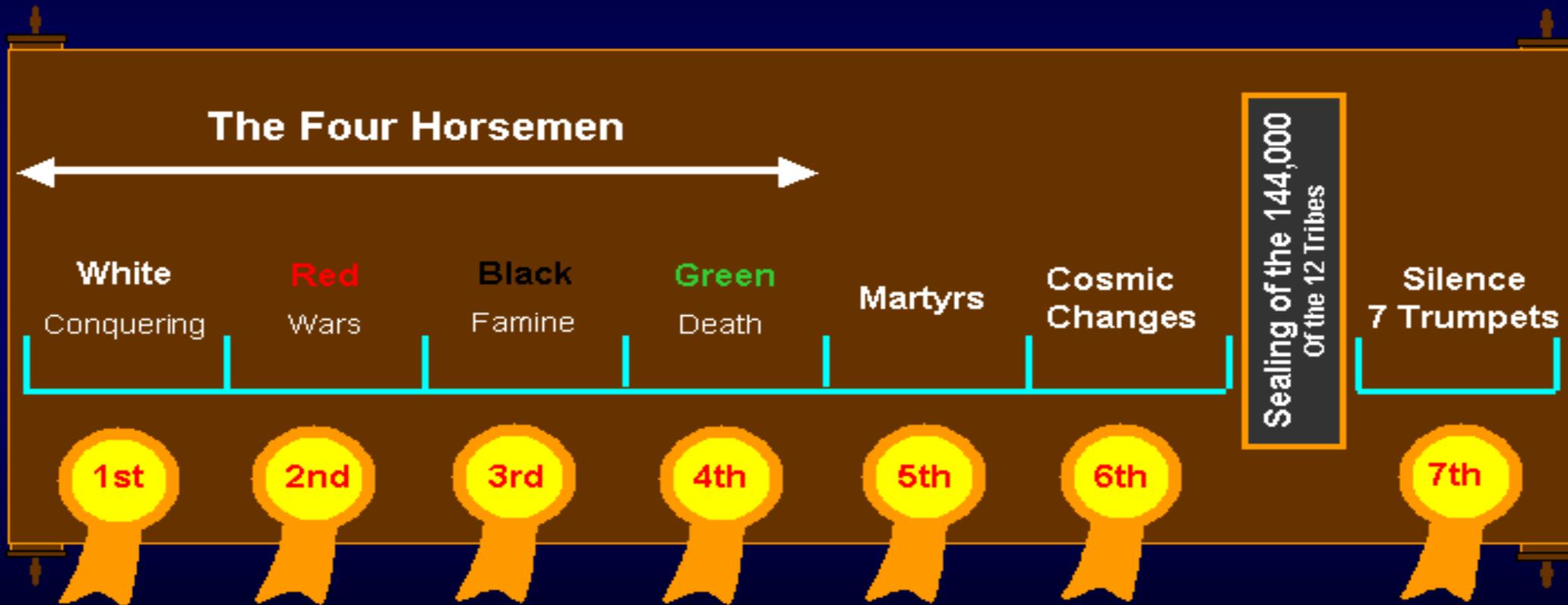


# THE SIXTH SEAL



# The Seven-Sealed Scroll

Chapters 6 & 7



# THE SIXTH SEAL

- Sun = Black “as sackcloth”
  - Repentance...
- Moon = Red
  - Day of the Lord...



# THE SIXTH SEAL

- Peter's Speech in Acts 2:14-41
- Quotes Joel 3:1-5
- Apostles understand "Day of the Lord" / "The Last Days"
  - ALREADY HERE
  - YET TO COME
- "Eschatological Tension"
- A.D. "Anno Domini"



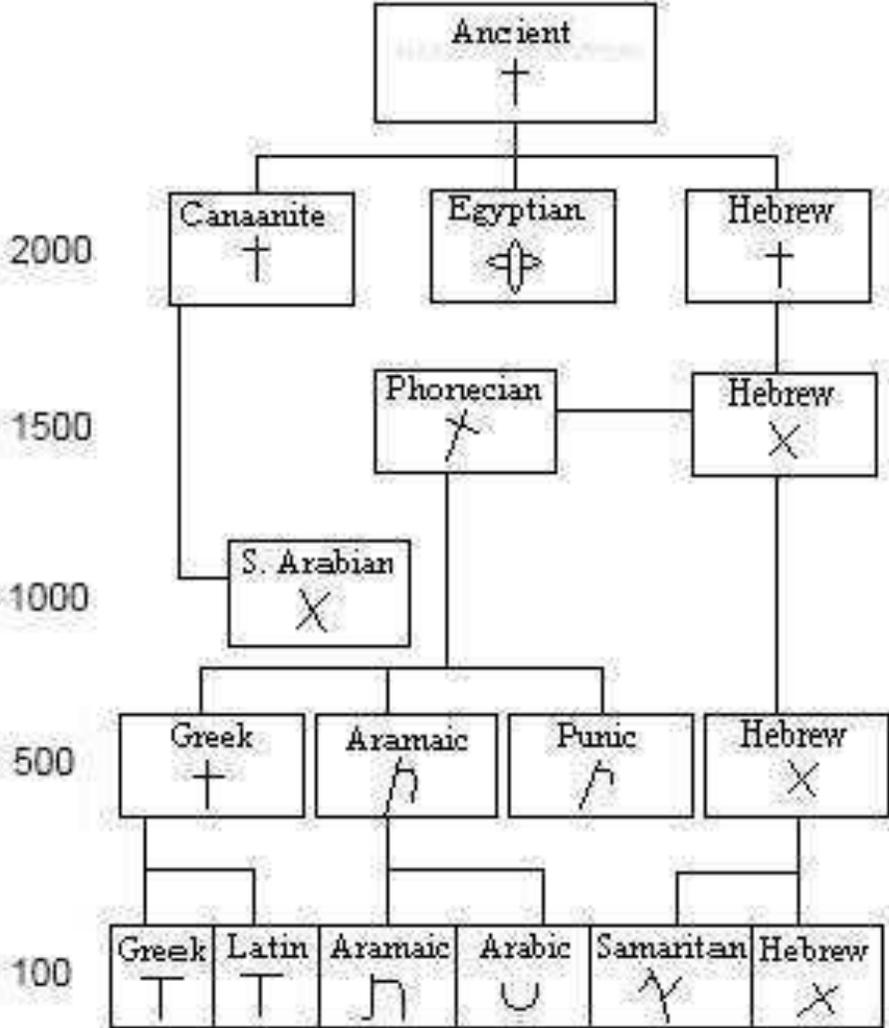
# SEALING OF 144,000

## *Ezekiel 9:1-6*

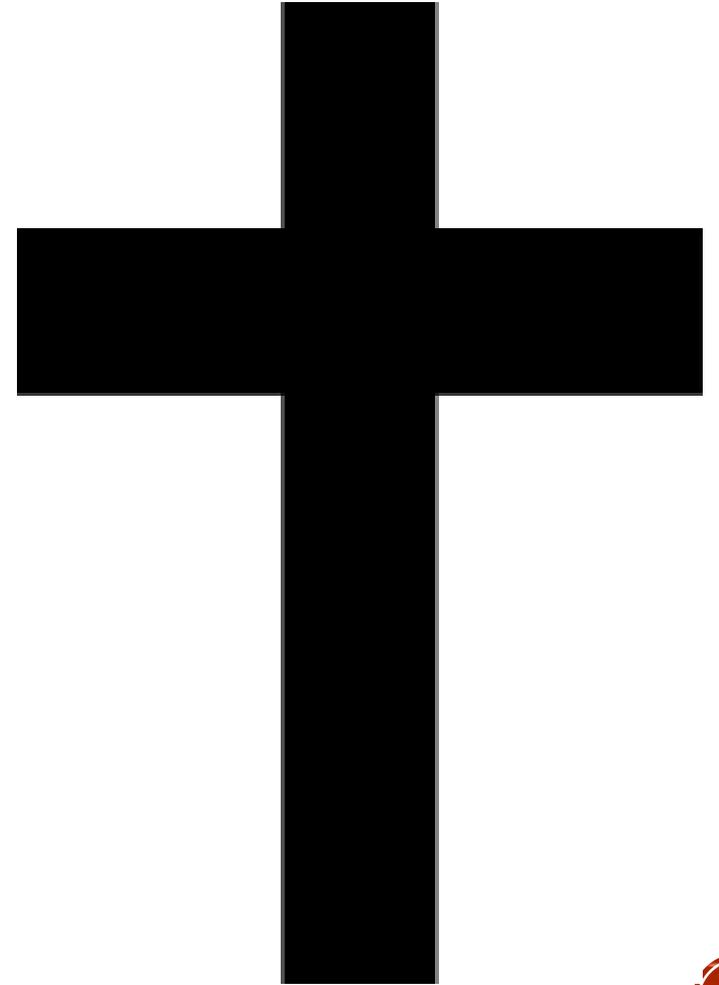
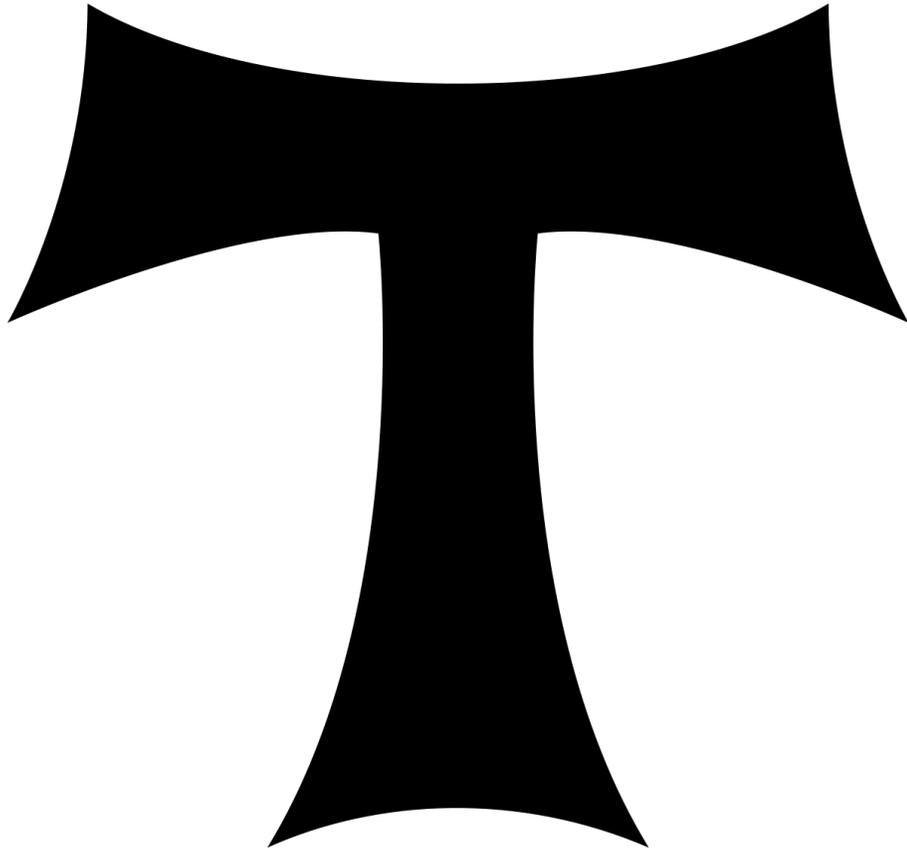
Then he cried aloud for me to hear: Come, you scourges of the city! And there were six men coming from the direction of the upper gate which faces north, each with a weapon of destruction in his hand. In their midst was a man dressed in linen, with a scribe's case at his waist. They entered and stood beside the bronze altar. Then the glory of the God of Israel moved off the cherub and went up to the threshold of the temple. He called to the man dressed in linen with the scribe's case at his waist, and the LORD said to him:\* Pass through the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and mark an X on the foreheads of those who grieve and lament over all the abominations practiced within it. To the others he said in my hearing: Pass through the city after him and strike! Do not let your eyes spare; do not take pity. Old and young, male and female, women and children—wipe them out! But do not touch anyone marked with the X.



# SEALING OF 144,000



# SEALING OF 144,000



# THE SEVENTH SEAL

