

Lessons 18-19 The Seven Seals: Chapters 4-7

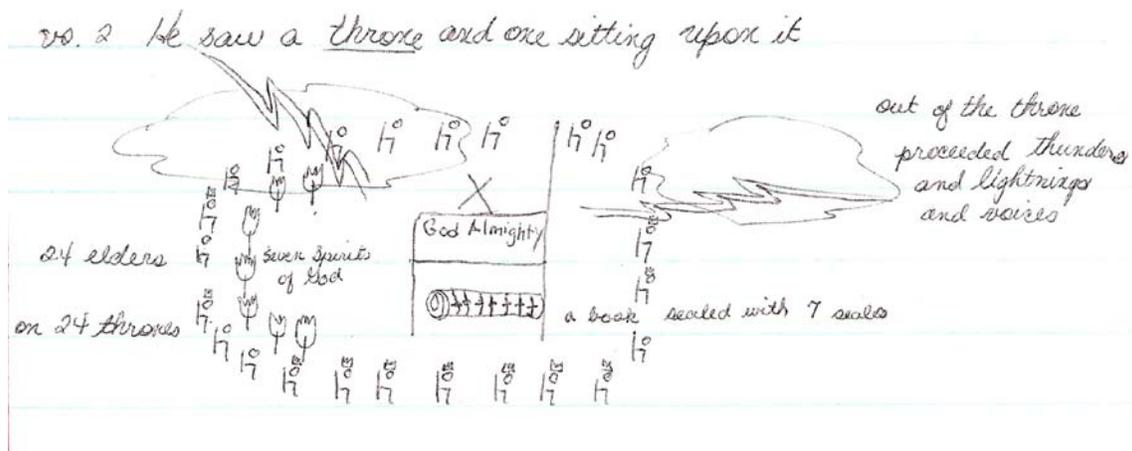
STUDY GUIDE

Read through Chapters 4, 5 and 6 (and 8:1) to get a view of this vision as whole (notice that Chapter 7 is a parenthesis in the vision). The vision proper falls into three parts: (a) Chapter 4, (b) 5, and (c) Chapter 6. Glance over the content of each of these chapters and give a heading to each.

1. Study the first part of the vision carefully (Chapter 4). The stage is set for the vision in vs. 1. What does “come up hither” mean? What does he say this vision will be about? (See 1:19 in this connection). Draw a rough sketch of what John sees in vs. 2-6. What is in the center? Underscore this word every time it occurs in this chapter. Who is this? (Note the two songs at the close of the chapter). In connection with this, read Dan 7:9-12.
2. The vision continues without interruption into Chapter 5. What is the problem here? Who solves it? (cf. Dan. 7:13-15). List all the things said about this one in the vision (vs. 5-6) and in the songs (vs. 9-13).
3. We now come to the actual message of the vision (Chapter 6). Notice that the first four seals are alike, then the fifth and the sixth are together, then a parenthesis, and then the seventh seal. (8:1) How are the first four seals alike? Study these seals carefully. Make a list of the facts given about each one. What do you think each of these symbolizes? Now read Matthew 24:3-8. Do you see any parallel?
4. Now study the fifth and sixth seals (6:9-17). With whom is the fifth concerned? (cf. Matt. 24:9) Where are they? What do they want to know? What two great scenes are presented under the sixth seal? What event do those precede? When do you think this event (vs. 16-17) will take place? In connection with this seal, read carefully Matt. 24:15-50. Now see if you can recall what each of those six seals are about.
5. Read through Chapter 7 to get the facts clearly in mind. What two groups are presented? Where is the first group? Where is the second group? List the other outstanding facts given about each of these groups.

NOTES

As we glance over the material in these three chapters, we note the differences and significance of each. Chapter 4 establishes the scene in heaven with chapter five showing who is in control of the situation in Christ being worthy to open the seven seals. In chapter 6, Christ reveals what is contained in the book.



John enters into an apocalyptic experience as we see in the first verse of chapter four. In verse 1:19, we see what is about to be revealed to John, “Write therefore the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall take place after these things.” In verses 2-6, John describes what he sees of the person of Jesus Christ and the throne on which He sits as also described by Daniel in chapter 7:9-12.

The vision continues into chapter 5, with John now seeing a book sealed with seven seals in the hand of Christ. The question arises, as to who is worthy to open the book. John begins to weep until an elder tells him that Christ is the only one who can break the seals—The Lion from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, a Lamb standing as if slain, having seven horns and seven eyes (which are the seven spirits of God, sent out into all the earth, vs. 5, 6). We see in verses 9-14 the song of praise that was sung to Christ.

The first four seals are horses and this changes at seal five (see chart which compares seals and Matt. 24). We see great natural upheavals in the sixth seal, which we can see in Revelation and Matt. 24 that Christ’s return will follow.

There is a division here between the 6th and 7th seals which is shown in chapter seven. We see two groups presented here:

Group One	Group Two
<p>These are on the earth—144,000 bondservants, 12,000 from each tribe of Israel</p> <p>Something is going to hurt the earth so these are sealed so that they will not be harmed – the nation of Israel is being protected by God</p>	<p>This group is in heaven—A great multitude of Christians so large that no one can count them from every tribe and nation and tongue, standing before the throne with white robes on.</p>