



## SAVED TO SERVE

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### THE SEVEN SEALS - THE FOURTH SEAL: THE PALE HORSE

1. In this Sabbath School Lesson, we will study the opening of the fourth seal found in the book of Revelation.
2. Let us read Revelation 6:7-8. Which beast introduced the fourth seal, and how is the beast described? Revelation 6:7; 4:7

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3. Note: Let us pinpoint when the fourth seal opened.
  4. During which crisis did the Lord compare Himself unto an eagle to His people? What did ancient Israel experience before they were delivered from Egypt? Exodus 19:3-4; 3:7, 9

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5. In Revelation 12:13-14, what was happening to God's people when Jesus compared Himself to an eagle?

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6. Which entity persecuted the woman, God's people, for the period of time called "Time, Times, and half a Time"? Revelation 12:6; Daniel 7:24-25

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7. What is the starting and ending date for this time period of persecution by the Papacy upon God's people?

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"The periods here mentioned--'forty and two months,' and 'a thousand two hundred and threescore days'--are the same, alike representing the time in which the church of Christ was to suffer oppression from Rome. The 1260 years of papal supremacy began in A.D. 538, and would therefore terminate in 1798. At that time a French army entered Rome and made the pope a prisoner, and he died in exile. Though a new pope was soon afterward elected, the papal hierarchy has never since been able to wield the power which it before possessed." {GC 266.3}

8. Note: Notice that the color of the horse under the fourth seal was pale. Remember that one application of a horse in scripture represents God's people (Song of Solomon 1:9; Isaiah 63:11-13).
9. What was meant by the fact that God's people were described as being pale? Jeremiah 30:4-6

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10. How was the rider of the pale horse described? Revelation 6:8 (read the first sentence)

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11. According to Proverbs, what is the description of the person whose way leads to hell and death? Proverbs 7:10, 24-27; Proverbs 5:3-5, 7, 8

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12. Who is compared unto a harlot in the Bible and whose system of worship leads to hell and the second death? Revelation 17:2-6; Revelation 16:1-2; Revelation 19:20; and Revelation 20:14

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13. How was the rider of the pale horse described? Revelation 6:8 (read the second sentence)
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14. Who was the entity that killed God's people with the sword, hunger, death, and with the beasts (animals) of the earth? Revelation 13:5, 7, 10; 17:6
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"In the sixth century the papacy had become firmly established. Its seat of power was fixed in the imperial city, and the bishop of Rome was declared to be the head over the entire church. Paganism had given place to the papacy. The dragon had given to the beast "his power, and his seat, and great authority." Revelation 13:2. [And now began the 1260 years of papal oppression foretold in the prophecies of Daniel and the Revelation](#). Daniel 7:25; Revelation 13:5-7. (See Appendix.) [Christians were forced to choose either to yield their integrity and accept the papal ceremonies and worship, or to wear away their lives in dungeons or suffer death by the rack, the fagot, or the headsman's ax.](#) Now were fulfilled the words of Jesus: "Ye shall be betrayed both by parents, and brethren, and kinsfolks, and friends; and some of you shall they cause to be put to death. And ye shall be hated of all men for My name's sake." Luke 21:16, 17. Persecution opened upon the faithful with greater fury than ever before, and the world became a vast battlefield. For hundreds of years the church of Christ found refuge in seclusion and obscurity. Thus says the prophet: "The woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and three-score days." Revelation 12:6." {GC 54.2}

["The accession of the Roman Church to power marked the beginning of the Dark Ages.](#) As her power increased, the darkness deepened. Faith was transferred from Christ, the true foundation, to the pope of Rome. Instead of trusting in the Son of God for forgiveness of sins and for eternal salvation, the people looked to the pope, and to the priests and prelates to whom he delegated authority. They were taught that the pope was their earthly mediator and that none could approach God except through him; and, further, that he stood in the place of God to them and was therefore to be implicitly obeyed. [A deviation from his requirements was sufficient cause for the severest punishment to be visited upon the bodies and souls of the offenders.](#) Thus the minds of the people were turned away from God to fallible, erring, and cruel men, nay, more, to the prince of darkness himself, who exercised his power through them. Sin was disguised in a garb of sanctity. [When the Scriptures are suppressed, and man comes to regard himself as supreme, we need look only for fraud, deception, and debasing iniquity.](#) With the elevation of human laws and traditions was manifest the corruption that ever results from setting aside the law of God." {GC 55.1}

15. The persecution of God's people by Popery covered the time period of 538 to 1798. This persecution became worse gradually. According to Bible prophecy, will the pale horse reemerge thrusting God's people into persecution in these last days? Jeremiah 30:5-7; Revelation 13:14-17
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16. Note: Since apostate Protestant America will form an image to the Papacy, then the rider of the pale horse in the last days will be the false union of Popery and apostate Protestant America (Revelation 13:14-17).

17. What Biblical signs and events show that the pale horse has reemerged gradually and that God's people will soon experience civil and religious persecution? Compare Jeremiah 30:5 and Luke 21:25-27
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18. What should be the work of preparation for us? Luke 21:28, 34-36
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19. What other Biblical signs and events show that God's people will soon experience civil and religious persecution? Compare Jeremiah 30:6 and 1 Thessalonians 5:2, 3
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20. What should be the work of preparation for us? 1 Thessalonians 5:4-8
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21. Note: While the pale horse represents God's people experiencing a great struggle from outside forces, in another sense, the pale horse represents God's people having a deep internal struggle to get victory over sin. God's faithful people will have a similar experience as did Jesus in Gethsemane. When the persecution for God's people becomes worse in the near future, it will be called the Time of Jacob's Trouble; because God's people will also experience a similar crisis as did Jacob.

["I saw some, with strong faith and agonizing cries, pleading with God. Their countenances were pale and marked with deep anxiety, expressive of their internal struggle.](#) Firmness and great earnestness was expressed in their countenances; large drops of perspiration fell from their foreheads. Now and then their faces would light up with the marks of God's approbation, and again the same solemn, earnest, anxious look would settle upon them." {EW 269.1}

22. What was Jacob's experience before Esau met him? Genesis 32:22-30

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"As Satan influenced Esau to march against Jacob, so he will stir up the wicked to destroy God's people in the time of trouble. And as he accused Jacob, he will urge his accusations against the people of God. He numbers the world as his subjects; but the little company who keep the commandments of God are resisting his supremacy. If he could blot them from the earth, his triumph would be complete. He sees that holy angels are guarding them, and he infers that their sins have been pardoned; but he does not know that their cases have been decided in the sanctuary above." {GC 618.2}

"**Jacob's night of anguish, when he wrestled in prayer for deliverance from the hand of Esau (Genesis 32:24-30), represents the experience of God's people in the time of trouble.** Jacob's company, unarmed and defenseless, seemed about to fall helpless victims of violence and slaughter. And to the burden of anxiety and fear was added the crushing weight of self-reproach, for it was his own sin that had brought this danger. His only hope was in the mercy of God; his only defense must be prayer. Yet he leaves nothing undone on his own part to atone for the wrong to his brother and to avert the threatened danger. So should the followers of Christ, as they approach the time of trouble, make every exertion to place themselves in a proper light before the people, to disarm prejudice, and to avert the danger which threatens liberty of conscience." {GC 616.2}

"As an evidence of his triumph and an encouragement to others to imitate his example, his name was changed from one which was a reminder of his sin, to one that commemorated his victory. And the fact that Jacob had prevailed with God was an assurance that he would prevail with men. He no longer feared to encounter his brother's anger, for the Lord was his defense." {GC 617.1}

23. The fourth beast which introduced the fourth seal looks like a flying eagle. What are God's promises to us now, and throughout the severity of the coming persecution?

a) Isaiah 40:29-31 \_\_\_\_\_

b) Psalm 103:2-5 \_\_\_\_\_

c) Deuteronomy 32:9-13 and Isaiah 58:13, 14 \_\_\_\_\_

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