

## 末世預言進階課程 Prophecy Course Level 2

### 第二課：最後七年：大災難 (1) – 七印 Lesson 2: The 7-year period: the Great Tribulation (1) – 7 seals

#### 課前預備 Lesson Preparation

經文：啟示錄 6 章

Passage: Rev 6

#### 怎樣預備 How to study

1. 研讀上述經文，嘗試了解關於啟示錄 6 章的重點。不要放過任何你認為有趣或不解的細節。寫下所有你發現的問題。  
Study the above passages. Try to figure out the main points concerning Dan 9:24-27. Also try to understand its context i.e. Dan 9:1-23 and Jer 25:8-12. Don't let go any details you find interesting or confusing. Write down all the questions you have.
2. 閱讀並思想「一頁聖經研究」，看看它有否解答你寫下的問題。閱讀後，你可能有更多的問題，也把它們寫下來。  
Read the One Page Bible Summary and ponder on it. See if it answers your questions written. Write down any additional questions you have after your reading.
3. 找出在下面「思考問題」的答案。若你認為有些問題太過困難，可以跳過不答。  
Answer the Questions to Ponder below. If you find some of them too difficult, you can skip them.
4. 若你發現這段經文不易理解，或是下面的問題不容易回答，不要沮喪。你可以把你的問題帶到課堂時詢問，你也可以在課堂之前，以電郵詢問你的問題。  
If you find that the passage/ questions are not easy, don't feel frustrated. You can ask your questions/ what you do not understanding during the lesson. You can also ask your questions via email before the lesson if you wish.

#### 思考問題 Questions to Ponder

1. 神在末世用了許多 7—7 個教會 (2-3 章)，7 年 (但 9:27)，7 印，7 號，7 碗等。你認為這是有特殊的含義，還是只是巧合？  
7 churches (Chapter 2-3), 7 years (Dan 9:27), 7 seals, 7 trumpets, 7 bowls - God uses many 7's in the end times. Do you think there are special meanings, or is it just coincident?

七是一個聖經常用的數字，代表完滿、完全及完美。神用了七天創造了天地，並說是好的。神命令要用至少七天大的動物來獻祭（出 22:30），為了治癒他的大痲瘋，乃縵在約旦河沐浴七回才得潔淨（王下 5:10），約書亞要圍繞耶利哥城七天（在第七天還要繞城七次），要七個祭司在城牆外吹號七次（書 6:3-4）。在啟示錄，「七」這個數字被提及超過五十次，在聖經中更是提及超過七百次。當然，不是每一次提及「七」這個數字均有屬靈意義。有時候，「七」就只是數字七的意思，沒有象徵意義。有些時候，神似乎利用「七」這個數目來傳遞神聖的完全、完美，以及整全的意思。

7 is a number often used with a meaning of fullness, completion and perfection. God created the heavens and the earth in 7 days, and said good. God commanded for animals to be at least 7 days old before being used for sacrifice (Exodus 22:30), for leprous Naaman to bathe in the Jordan River 7 times to effect complete cleansing (2 Kings 5:10), for Joshua to march around Jericho for 7 days (and on the seventh day to make seven circuits) and for 7 priests to blow 7 trumpets outside the city walls (Joshua 6:3-4). In Revelation, 7 is used there more than fifty times, whilst in the Bible more than seven hundred times. Of course, not every instance of the number 7 in the Bible carries a deeper significance. Sometimes, a 7 is just a 7 without symbolic meanings. There are times when it seems that God is communicating the idea of divine completeness, perfection, and wholeness by means of the number 7.

2. 羔羊揭開前四個印後，四活物各自叫約翰「來」觀看發生的事情（1 節、3 節、5 節及 7 節），而第五和六印揭開後，他卻是自己目睹殉道的靈魂和地上的災難（9 節及 12 節，沒有四活物的呼喚）。為什麼有這區別？

4 living creatures each called John to watch things happened after the Lamb opened the first 4 seals (v1, 3, 5, 7), while he saw martyred souls and physical catastrophes by himself after the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> seals were opened (v9 and 12, without the call of the four creatures). Why was there such a difference?

約翰在首四印中被四活物呼喚去看，那些活物以第二人稱來呼喚約翰。很可能是因為那些災難場面過大（全球性災難），以致四活物要呼喚約翰「來看」。

John was specially called to see the first 4 seals. The living creatures spoke to him as a second person. It is possibly the scenes John was called to see were too big (global tribulations) so that the living creatures called John to “come and see”.

3. 為什麼直到 8:1 才提到第七印？  
Why the 7<sup>th</sup> seal was not mentioned till 8:1?

七印是以一個連貫的過程開啟的。第七章是揭開第七印之前的插曲，而第七印實在是七號，涉及更大的災難。當中，144,000 需要先受印，免受這些厲害的災難所傷（參啟 7:3），這顯明了神在末世時對祂所揀選的子民的憐憫。

The 7 seals were opened in a connected process. Chapter 7 was an interlude before the 7<sup>th</sup> seal, which is in fact the 7 trumpets, involving tribulations with a much higher amplitude. The 144,000 have to be sealed first to be protected the devastating harms (cf. Rev 7:3), which shows God's mercy on His chosen people in the end times.

4. 在啟示錄 6:2-8 中，那些騎馬者是指人，還是代表某些狀況？  
Were the horse riders in Rev 7:2-8 individuals or representation of earthly states?

四頭馬代表在地上的事件，而那些騎馬的並非個別的人。他們是在地上所發生邪惡之事的代表。這因為第四位騎馬的是「死」（8 節），明顯地不是人類。其餘三位騎馬的解釋也相仿。

The four horses represent events on earth whilst the riders are not individuals. They are personalization of the evil state of events on earth. It is because the fourth rider is Death (v8), which is obviously not an individual. Hence the same interpretation applies to all three other riders.

5. 世界 25% 人口在前 4 個封印打開後死亡。其餘的 75% 必需要面對其餘的印。作為基督徒，這些對你意味著什麼？  
25% of the world population died after the opening of the first 4 seals. The rest 75% have to face the rest of the seals. What do these mean for you as a Christian?

現時全球人口達 77 億，四分之一就是 19 億。一九一八年，西班牙流感於全球 20 億人口中奪去了 1 億人的性命，啟示錄這裡所說的，是雙倍於西班牙流感的死亡率。所以，啟示錄所記的第四印中，這大規模的死亡是從戰爭、飢荒、瘟疫及野獸中而來，一點也不誇張。到時人很可能認為這規模的死亡很正常，以致他們不會悔改、也不尋求神的赦罪。作為基督徒，我們當緊記馬太福音 24:42，要作忠心有智慧的僕人。感謝神！祂永遠有憐憫，也會使我們外邦信徒被提，免於大災難的禍患。我們應把握每一個機會，向身邊的人傳這美好的福音！

For the current global population of 7.7 billion, 25% means 1.9 billion. Spanish flu killed up to 100 million in a global population of 2 billion in 1918. The casualty will be 2 times of Spanish flu. Therefore, it's not exaggeration! In the 4<sup>th</sup> seal, the killings will be from wars, famines, plagues and wild beasts. People will consider this magnitude normal and probably won't look upon God for repentance and forgiveness. As Christians, we all should remember Matthew 24:42 and be a faithful and wise servant. Thank God that He is always merciful and will take us Gentile believers away from the Great Tribulation (Rev 3:10) via the Rapture. On the other hand, we should take every opportunity to preach the Gospel to people around us!

6. 第三印揭示嚴重通貨膨脹，但財富似乎能幫助我們擺脫一些困境。然而，富人最終還是要進入山洞（v15）。你在末世如何看財富？  
The 3<sup>rd</sup> seal revealed roaring inflation, but wealth seemed to help us escape some woes. However, rich people will all end up in caves (v15). How will you look at wealth in the end times?

財富是中性的，但貪財是萬惡之根（提前 6:10）。基督徒若倚靠財富而非神的供應，是絕對錯誤的優次，是屬世俗的生活模式。末世之時會有極高的通脹，而就算有錢亦未能解決物品短缺的問題（啟 6:6 中的第三印）。在現今的日子中，以感恩的心享受神的供應，以財物尊榮耶和華，你的酒酢會有新酒盈溢（箴 3:9-10）。「不義之財毫無益處；惟有公義能救人脫離死亡。耶和華不使義人受飢餓；惡人所欲的，他必推開。」（箴 10:2-3）。用財富祝福你的鄰舍吧！

Wealth is itself neutral, but the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. (1Tim 6:10)  
The reliance of wealth replacing the trust of God's provision is an erroneous priority to Christian, but the way of life in the secular world. In the end times, there will be soaring inflation and some will be short of supply even with money. (3<sup>rd</sup> seal in Rev 6:6) In these days, enjoy what God gives you with thanksgiving. Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine. (Prov 3:9-10) Ill-gotten treasures have no lasting value, but righteousness delivers from death. The LORD does not let the righteous go hungry, but he thwarts the craving of the wicked (Prov 10:2-3). Bless your neighbors with your wealth!

7. 今次查考預言，你對神和祂的計劃多了什麼認識？這對你今天的生活有什麼影響？寫下兩個你在今次查經想到的應用。  
What do you know more about God and His Plan in this study? How would this affect your life? Write two applications of your Bible Study.

任何符合聖經真理的應用

Any application in line with the truth in the Scripture