13. The 144 000 are said to be from the 12 tribes of Israel (Rev. 7:4-8). These tribes do not exist today. But who is a true Israelite according to the New Testament? (Gal. 3:7, 26-29; Rom. 2:28-29; 9:6-8; Eph. 2:11-13; 1 Pet. 2:9-10; John 8:37-39)
    a. Those who have a Jewish mother
    b. Those who have an Israelite passport
    c. Those who have faith in Christ and obey Him
14. Often in the Revelation, John first hears something before he sees it (see for instance Rev. 1:12-13; 5:5-6; 9:16-17). In Rev. 7 he first hears the number of them who are sealed (144 000). Then he turns around and he sees a "a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues" (Rev. 7:9; cf 1 Kings 8:5 and 8:63). The 144 000 is with all likeliness a symbolic number. The number represents all the righteous (the true Israel) that survive the Time of Trouble and are transported to heaven without seeing death together with the resurrected (1 Thess. 4:16-17; 1 Cor. 15:51-55; John 14:1-3).
15. For how long is there silence in heaven as seal seven is broken? (Rev. 8:1)
    a. An hour
    b. Half an hour
    c. Three days
16. Heaven is a place where angels constantly praise God (Rev. 4:8). It is not a quite place. Silence in heaven must mean that it is empty because Jesus and all the angels are on their way to earth to bring His people home (Matt. 25:31). If a day is a year (Ezek. 4:6), how long time is a prophetic half hour?
    a. One year
    b. 14 days
    c. 7 ½ days
17. This has been thought to represent the time it takes to travel back and forth from heaven to earth for all the righteous and Jesus. Is it your desire to be part of the 144 000 who will see Jesus return?
    a. Yes
    b. No
    c. Not, yet

The Apocalypse

The Seven Seals

6-7

Please circle your answers based on Bible texts in brackets.

1. The Scroll, on which the seals are fastened, unravels a little bit every time a seal is broken. As John Wesley said: "Not as if the apostle saw all the seals at once: for there were seven volumes wrapped up one within another, each of which was sealed: so that upon opening and unrolling the first, the second appeared to be sealed up till that was opened, and so on to the seventh." (*Explanatory Notes*, Rev. 5:1) The text on the part of the scroll that becomes visible describes a future narrative. Who breaks the seals? (Rev. 5:8-9, 6:1, 3…)
    a. The Four Living Creatures
    b. God the Father
    c. Jesus Christ
2. When the first seal is broken we get an insight into what happens on earth immediately after Jesus has been inaugurated and has sent out the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. What do the different horses of war represent? (Zech. 10:3-5 cf. 1:8-10 & 6:1-8; Song of Sol. 1:9; cf. Eph. 5:31-32)
    a. The church in different periods of history
    b. Literal horsemen riding through the sky
    c. Israel, USA, Iran and Russia
3. The first horse is white, that is righteous and pure (Ps. 51:7; Isa. 1:18). Its rider has a bow and a crown and he rides forth conquering and to conquer. What a fitting picture of the early Christian church! In the power of the Spirit, Christianity went from being a small Jewish sect to a world religion very fast (Acts 2:41; 4:4; 6:7; 9:35; 17:6; 19:10). Within one generation, Paul could say: "the gospel… was preached to every creature which is under heaven" (Col. 1:23)
4. When the second seal is broken a red horse emerges (Rev. 6:3-4). An appropriate symbol of the persecuted church. The sword represents war

and persecution which the church had to endure (Lev. 26:6; Matt. 10:34). Christians were indeed slaughtered. Over 100 000 Christians were murdered in the cruelest possible way during this time. The red color represents bloodshed and the fire that the Christians were exposed to.

5. The third seal describes the Christian church between 313 and 538 AD – the so called "time of compromise", when paganism entered the church. Instead of a white and pure horse, the church is the opposite – a black horse. The color represents compromise with sin (John 3:19-20; Jude 1:11-13; Job 24:13-17). The rider has a pair of scales in his hand. It represents civil and judicial authority (Lev. 19:36; Job 31:6; Dan. 5:27). From the time of Constantine, church and state united. When he moved the capital to Constantinople, the bishop of Rome took over the state affairs in the West. Politics and religion comingled. Physical and spiritual famine was the result.
6. The next horse is not even black, it is pale as death (Rev. 6:8). The rider is no other than Death himself. Spiritually speaking, the church is now dead. From 538 until the light of the Reformation of the 16th century, Europe was in the Dark Ages, both politically and spiritually. The Bible was banned from the laity; and the worship of saints, purgatory and a host of other unbiblical teachings distorted the gospel. God had threatened to send war, famine, pestilence and wild beasts if His people, against better knowledge, would insist on worshiping idols and break His commandments (Lev. 26:14-26; Ezek. 5:5-7, 11-12, 17; 14:21). The worst pandemics of history (such as the Justinian Plague 541 and the Black Death 1347-51) caused unparalleled death. The plagues caused famines, war and turmoil. But the worst deaths were caused by the church itself through its crusades and inquisitions against so called "heretics". Persecution was rekindled under the garb of Christianity. At least 50 million people were killed for believing the Bible.
7. What should the leaders and the people have done during the Dark Ages when the plagues hit them? (2 Chron. 20:9)
    a. Do long pilgrimages while flagellating themselves
    b. Give more money to the church
    c. Cry to God in repentance
8. What did John see when the fifth seal was broken? (Rev. 6:9-11)
    a. A fiery red dragon with ten horns and seven heads
    b. The martyrs under the altar that cry for vengeance
    c. Jesus returning on a white cloud
9. This is an allusion to the sacrificial system of the OT. The blood was poured out at the foot of the altar of sacrifice (Exod. 29:12). The blood was a symbol of the soul (Lev. 17:11). The altar is on the earth and not in heaven (Heb. 13:10-13). The martyrs were sacrificed as Christ and the animals of the OT were. Their blood (souls) cry out for vengeance, just like the blood of Abel did, who was innocently murdered (Gen. 4:10; Heb. 12:24). These martyrs (like the Waldensians and Albigenses etc.) received a white robe. It represents that they were justified before the world during the Reformation. The Waldensians joined the Reformation in the 1500's.
10. What signs would take place when the sixth seal was broken? (Rev. 6:12-17; Matt. 24:29; Mark. 13:24-25; Joel 2:31)
    a. Earthquake, sun darkened, blood moon and fallings stars
    b. Economic collapse, terrorism and volcanic eruptions
    c. Great waves, lightning strikes and forest fires
11. In 1755, Europe was shaken by the worst earthquake in its history. It measured 9 on the Richter Scale and killed 100 000 people. November 19, 1780, a thick mystical darkness settled all over New England that lasted from lunch to midnight. When the darkness lifted, the moon was red like blood. In 1833, the "stars" fell from heaven. From 2 AM until sunset, the whole of North America could view the fireworks of hundreds of thousands of meteors pass through the cloudless sky. After these signs, the heavens will be rolled together as a scroll and the Lamb will return.
12. How will the unrighteous react when they see Jesus return? (Rev. 6:17; 2 Thess. 1:7-9; 2:8, Rev. 19:21)
    a. They are terrified and long for death
    b. They rejoice and are happy
    c. They are angry and try to fight Jesus
13. Who survives the Great Tribulation in connection to the Second Coming? (Rev. 6:14-7:4; Ezek. 9:1-11; Rev. 7:9, 13-17; 14:1-5; 19:21)
    a. Most people of the earth
    b. Only the 144 000 with the seal of God
    c. All who attend church