

Dear

Contemporary Comments

Subscriber:



Thank you for faithfully reading and using Contemporary Comments-- which uses a story from our current news to illustrate a theme for Bible topics--as a resource for your personal use, and for your small Sabbath school groups.

We are now shifting this resource to be more. We will be rebranding Contemporary Comments as Sharing Scripture, which will still contain the narrative you've come to appreciate--but now, with reflection questions (all free of charge)!

Soon, you'll see the name change and the rebranding for the weekly release of this newsletter.

If you appreciate using Contemporary Comments as a resource, and know others who may be interested, share these email newsletters with a friend. If you have any questions regarding our rebranding or Contemporary Comments in general, please call us at 800.272.4664 or email us at 2724664@gmail.com.

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Executive Director

Contemporary Comments

"The Seven Seals"

February 2, 2019

Texts: Revelation 6:1-17, Leviticus 26:21-26, Ezekiel 4:16, Deuteronomy 32:43, 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10

Thirty-three years ago this week, the world stopped. On January 29, 1986, standing arm in arm on the bleachers at Cape Canaveral, Ed and Grace Corrigan stood proudly as they watched their daughter, teacher Christa McAuliffe, launch into the heavens on the Challenger space shuttle. Then, about 1 minute later, the unthinkable happened. Traveling at 1,977 miles per hour, over 10 miles high, the Challenger exploded in a fireball, instantly killing all seven passengers. [1] The last message sent to the shuttle by Mission Control was, as planned, to accelerate to maximum thrust. "Challenger, go throttle up."

One of the crew replied, "Roger, go at throttle up." It was the final statement heard from the Challenger.

In this week's Sabbath school lesson on the opening of six of the seven seals in Revelation 6, an intense situation unfolds from Mission Control in the throne room of heaven. Revelation 5 explains that the Lamb of God is worthy to unfold and carry out a plan to save humanity from utter destruction.

Through the metaphor of a scroll with multiple seals, the plan of salvation is launched to spread the gospel and prepare a people--overcomers through the blood of the Lamb--for the final redemption of God's people. The story is not always pretty.

The first seal describes the powerful launch of the gospel at Pentecost and is depicted with the color white. The second seal describes the consequences of rejecting the gospel and is depicted by red, the color of blood. The third seal continues the theme of what happens to those who reject the gospel. It explains the doom of turning from salvation with the color black.

The seven seals explain the future of God's church and correlate with periods of history. But, in truth, they can also describe individuals who accept or reject the gospel message. What's assuring about the truths of Revelation is the assurance that God has always cared for--and will always care for--the people who choose heaven's pathway.

Sometimes, when we are throttling up to advance God's mission, everything explodes and we are left dazed by the debris falling all around us. Sometimes this happens when we lose our loved ones. But, in the midst of our confusion and pain, when we cry out, "How long, O Lord?" we may know that heaven is carrying out a rescue plan that will end in success.

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[1] <https://www.tampabay.com/news/the-day-the-challenger-exploded-ending-the-space-age-of-innocence-20190128/>

About Us

Since 1988, the Center for Creative Ministry has been serving local church leaders and individuals around the world. Formerly known as the publishers of ABBA Newsletter and the Baby Boomer Ministries Resource Center, we have now broadened our generational/ministry focus to include our children. The Center for Creative Ministry took on its new name on June 1, 1996.

The Center for Creative Ministry, formerly Baby Boomer Ministries, is a privately funded and managed para-church ministry fully recognized by the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America. We are dedicated to supporting the local church in outreach and nurture ministries by providing resources, information, training, and consulting.

