1. Contrast the obedience of the First Adam and the Final Adam!!!

* Ans.: First Adam, son of God (as mentioned in Luke 3: 37) had the most favourable circumstances without having to toil for food and water in the garden of Adam to obey God. However he disobeyed God and fell into sin. The final Adam (as mentioned in **I Cor. 15:45 So it is written: “The first man Adam became a living being; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit**) yet another Son of God i.e. Jesus exhibited obedience God in the most unfavourable circumstances of being whipped, heckled at, with crown of thorns etc. Inspite of all this, He chose to hang on the Cross because He was obedient to the Father and fulfilling the purpose of His coming to earth to save the mankind. (**Mathew 26:53-54 - Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels?**54 **But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way**?) According to **I Corinthians 13:7 – “Love endures”.** If he were to come down from the cross to silence his critics who were insulting him (some in the crowd amazed by this miracle of coming down from the Cross may have replaced his Crown of thorns with that of gold), it would be disobedience to the Father who wanted him to lay down the life on the cross. So he continued into hang on Cross.

Jesus brought the essence of the 613 laws written in Tora (from Genesis to Deuteronomy) into two laws i.e. Love God with all your heart, mind and soul and Love your neighbor as yourself. He exhibited the same on the Cross – the vertical beam symbolizes the commandment to ‘Love God’ and the horizontal beam symbolizes to ‘Love neighbour’ which is WE in need of salvation (any person in need is a neighbour as the Good Samaritan parable teaches us-Luke 10:25-37).

Because of His act of obedience which entailed horrific suffering on the Cross, Jesus was qualified to open the scroll with seven seals.

1. In Christian life do the temptations of the lust of the eyes, flesh and pride of life come first or that to do with “bearing of the Cross (becoming victims of injustice and lies)”? Which is more difficult to face? In Christ’s life what was the pattern… which came first.

Ans…Jesus faced the temptations of lust of the eyes, flesh and pride of life right at the beginning of His ministry immediately after His baptism. Suffering injustice and lies came after He started His ministry and it ended with the bearing of the Cross. Just as in the life of Jesus, in the life of a Christian, the temptations of lust of the eyes, flesh and pride of life come before the “bearing of the Cross” and becoming victims of injustice and lies. It is relatively easy to overcome the first three when compared to the application of restraint and overcoming retaliation and injustice. When we face harsh criticism, taunting, false accusations from others, it is more difficult that **than** overcoming lust of eyes, flesh and pride of life, however we need to remember we have been called for the same (1 Peter 2:18-23). Bearing the cross develops in us self-control, patience, humility and the image of Jesus is formed in us **(Rom 5:3-4/James 1:2-3).**

1. Give some Scriptural instances of God turning the tables around….converting the weaknesses of His people into their strengths.

Our God is the God who is famous for turning tables around. The very thing that was the weakness of a person that satan used to make him fall, God will use in the person and bring a total turnaround. God makes us victorious in the very area that we once faced defeat. This is depicted in the following Scriptural instances where God changed the weaknesses of His people into their strengths **(Heb 11:34).** That is why the very area where the first Adam failed in the area of obedience, God used yet another Son, the last Adam, Jesus Christ who obeyed and became worthy to open the Scroll in Rev 6 Chapter.

Moses who gave the Lord an excuse that he was a stammerer (Exodus 4:10) was able to preach the longest sermon in the Bible which was in the book of Deuteronomy. This was because God made him victorious in that very area where he was weak. God turned the tables around for Moses and made him to preach 33 chapters continuously in the book of Deuteronomy out of the 34 chapters. The Lord makes us victorious, in the very area where we have been weak or faltered.

Similarly, Peter who denied the LORD three times **due to cowardice** (John 18:13-27), was anointed by the Lord with so much of the Spirit on the Day of Pentecost that (Acts 2:4), he won 3000 souls (Acts 2:14-42). He denied the Lord 3 times but when God turned the tables around for him, He made him victorious, and he **boldly preached** and won 3000 souls.

Again, we see Apostle John, being called the son of thunder in Mk 3:16-18, because Jesus observed him as a very temperamental person. In Luke 9:51-56, when Jesus was not allowed hospitality in a Samaritan village, both the brothers also called the sons of thunder (James and John) came and told Jesus that they should call down fire on the Samaritan village, which was not extending hospitality to them. But Jesus replied that the Son of Man did not come to take lives but came to give His life as a ransom for many. Now, the Lord uses the same John over a period of time, as an Apostle of Love. God has turned the tables around for **the fiery** and temperamental John, that in his 3 Epistles, we see they are soothing, exuding, and oozing love. So much so, that, he was given the highest privilege of calling **God as** **LOVE** in I John 4:6-8. The fact that God’s love is shown all throughout the scriptures. From Genesis to Malachi, we have read about the love of God, that He oozes Love, but there is no particular sentence which describes God as love in the Old Testament part of the Bible. And through the Gospels, we see this truth re-enforced that God is Love but there is no particular verse that God is Love. Then when we go through the book of Acts, and the Epistles of Paul, just at the point when the Bible is almost ending, then John gets up and says **God is Love**. God turns the tables around for a once temperamental man, whom, the Lord Jesus described as a son of thunder, into a totally transformed person.

1. When did the division of united Kingdom of Israel take place into two parts? How was the spirituality of these 2 Kingdoms? Whose exile took place first and what lesson the other Kingdom (which remained in the Promised for longer duration) ought to have learnt from this? Were the lessons learnt?

On the succession of Solomon’s son, Rehoboam, around 930 BC, the biblical account reports that the united kingdom of Israel split into two kingdoms; the Kingdom of Israel (including the cities of Shechem and Samaria) in the north and the Kingdom of Judah (containing Jerusalem) in the south. Ten tribes went away from the rule of the sons of David and had their capital at Samaria. Two tribes, Judah and Benjamin stayed back with King Rehoboam and he ruled with Jerusalem as capital. 1 Kings 12:16-17 Now when all Israel saw that the king did not listen to them, the people answered the king, saying: “What share have we in David? We have no inheritance in the son of Jesse. To your tests, O Israel! Now, see to your own house, O David!” So Israel departed to their tents. But Rehoboam reigned over the children of Israel who dwelt in the cities of Judah. The Kings of Israel were wicked in all their ways, they built altars to Baal and sacrificed to idols and killed the prophets. There were some kings like Jehu who started off well, but soon became an idol worshipper. However the Judean Kings were much better in their spirituality, i.e there were some good kings like King Asa, Jehoshapat, Hezekiah, Josiah and Jotham were good kings.

In 722 BC the King of Assyria exiled ten tribes from the Kingdom of Israel. 2 Kings 17. This was the first exile that happened during the time of Hoshea, son of Elah. Judah was still in the Promised Land and in instalments, they too got exiled **in** 606 BC, 597 BC and 586 BC. After the Kingdom of Judah had seen Israel being exiled, they should have learnt their lesson, they should have repented, but inspite of having good kings, whenever the kings departed from the scene, they once again became idol worshippers. After King Hezekiah, they returned to idol worship once again after Josiah, they worshipped idols. As a result, they also got exiled.

1. Trace the origin of the Samaritans… why did Jews look down upon them?

**Ans**: After the exile of the 10 tribes of the Nation of Israel in 722 BC, their land was vacant and the King of Assyria did not want the land to become a forest, so he brought people of his Kingdom belonging to other nations to come and occupy the land. However, some of the Jews who went into hiding in the mountains and caves when the exile of the 10 tribes of Israel was taking place, came out of their **hideouts** after some time and realized that other people (the heathen), were living on that very land (their land). The King of Assyria had brought these people to inhabit there because he did want the land to turn into forest due to lack of human presence. So, there was inter-marriages between these Jews and those heathen people, and their children/offspring were called the **Samaritans, as these children were born in the land of Kingdom of Israel (belonging to 10 tribes of Israel) whose capital was Samaria.**

These Samaritans were looked down upon by the Jews because, they were not considered as full-blooded Jews. They were called the mixed race, because either the father or mother may not have been a genuine Jew. That is why the original Jews looked down upon the Samaritans.

1. Who is revealed when the First seal is opened? On what basis can we say that he would be a “global peace” maker to start with? Amongst whom would he bring peace? What reason would he give for the “massive, sudden disappearance” of the people? On that basis what “technological device” would he try to introduce?

The seal judgements begin in the 6th Chapter of the Book of Revelation. In Rev 6:1 -2, the first seal is opened and John sees a white horse and the man who sat on it had bow and a crown was given to him and he went out conquering and to conquer. This is the person appearing at the very beginning of the tribulation and he is the antichrist. This concept of bow without an arrow indicates that this “ruler” would win over the hearts of the people without violence and shedding of blood, but with ingenuity of mind, intellect and extreme cunning and craftiness. This is prophesied in Dan 8:24-25. In the vision, he is portrayed as the World would view him…. wearing white garment as though he is holy, riding white horse as though all his intentions are holy.

The antichrist will use his deceit and craftiness in projecting himself as a **Global peacemaker**. He will be accepted as a world leader because every nation in the world and every individual wants peace. The church of Christ would have already been raptured and Christians will be in heaven. The whole world knows that **after the miraculous rebirth of Israel as a nation in 1947 as per the prophecy in Isa 11:11**, there has been a conflict between Palestine and Israel who did not want to give up even a small portion of the land to the Israelites. Since 1947, there has been constant conflict in the land of Israel and all of the Arab nations take the side of the Palestinian Arabs as they claim to be the owners of the land. The Arab-Jew conflict has got the world attention and the antichrist will offer to broker peace concerning this issue and the world will herald him as a global problem solver and peace maker. **God miraculously fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah 11:11** **(these words highlighted in green ought to have figured at the place where I inserted them).**

When in a ship called Exodus, the first batch of Jews came from all distant coastlands viz., Marseilles, Yugoslavia and Cyprus. However there has been constant strife in the land of Israel and it is this that the antichrist will claim to resolve. Because of this conflict, there is now scope for antichrist to work and he would bring a false peace between Israel and Palestine. He will negotiate between the Jews and the Arabs and allow the construction of the Jewish temple beside the existing mosque since as of now; the Jews do not have a place of worship where they can gather at the time of their feasts. The antichrist will make a Seven year peace pact as prophesied in Dan 9: 27. He will offer to make peace between various nations, India and Pakistan, India and China, North Korea and South Korea on border issues and among various nations of the world. ****

1. On the basis of lessons learnt from the opening of the First seal, how can we say that the Rapture is imminent? What ought to be the Christian response to Rapture?

God miraculously brought the Jews back to their land in 1947 for two reasons, one is because of fulfilment of His promises to their ancestors, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and secondly, there is now scope for the antichrist to work as a global peace maker. The Rapture is imminent because of the fact that Jesus in Matt 24:32-33 when you see the fig tree once again budding and blossoming, you shall know that I am right at the door and that is the time. The fig tree is symbolic of Israel (Jeremiah 24) and it is a known fact that in this point of time, Israel which was barren for 2000 years is now one of the most advanced nations of the world. The Jews came back to their rightful inheritance, the Arabs refused to give them their land because they were afraid that they will totally occupy the land. There has been a constant conflict between Jews and Palestinians, there has been the 7 day war, the terrorist group Hamas is trying to destroy Israel by sending rockets. Where Solomon’s temple once stood, the mosque now has been built. Every Jew wants to reconstruct the temple because they have no place to celebrate their Jewish festivals. This is the present scenario depicting the tense situation. 300 years back the nation of Israel was not reborn nor in existence, Technology was not so advanced 300 years ago for people to know what is happening in other parts of the world, so the antichrist could not pose as the peacemaker, but the time is ripe now, so on this basis we can emphatically state that the Rapture is imminent. ****

A Christian is always prepared for the Rapture which could happen anytime. He/she should constantly check his life if he/she is fulfilling Acts 9:31, whether he is walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit. We need to see if we are having a right and perfect relationship with the Lord and living a lifestyle that is pleasing to the Lord. We have no doubt that even if the Lord comes today, we shall be raptured.

9.What is revealed when the Second seal is opened? What is the reason behind the developments revealed when the Second seal is opened especially when we consider the fact that the temporary "Global Peace maker" had forged some peace pacts by then?

John then sees the second seal being opened. Rev 6: 3-4 When the second seal was opened, another horse, fiery red, went out. And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth, and that people should kill one another; and there was given to him a great sword. This depicts the time of war in the world, probably the third world war will take place. Arabs and the Jews, India and Pakistan, India and China, North Korea and South Korea at the behest of the antichrist, even as they are signing the peace pact, they are looking at each other with mistrust. Each country suspects that their enemy will go back on its word and will not honour the terms and conditions of the peace pact. So there will be a time of war between the nations. History has some evidences of countries going back on their peace pacts. When the then Prime Minister of India Mr. Rajiv Gandhi in the 1980 s had brokered the peace pact between the Srilankan government and the LTTE rebels, even before the ink of the peace pact had dried up, war broke out between the parties. LTTE went back on its terms. Similarly when the Chinese premier namely Zhou Enlai promised peace with Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru through the slogan Hindi Cheeni Bhai Bhai, the moment he went back to China, he forgot his commitments of peace and his country started war. This is going to happen after the peace pacts are signed and there will be war between various countries.

10. How will the temporary Global peace maker of the Tribulation times become more popular when the events prophesied as per the Second Seal Judgment take place?

The antichrist will broker peace agreements between nations but they will not last. Thus, even though antichrist brings out the peace pact, because of the violation of the terms by one or more parties, wars will start and it will be a virtual third world war with many countries fighting against each another. Once again, here also the antichrist will win the hearts of the people by trying to negotiate between countries. He will travel in the plane and at that time bombs will be raining on all sides of him when he is trying to bring the warring countries to talk peace to convince them to declare cease fire and will continue his peace efforts putting his life at risk in the eyes of the world. So he will become a great hero in the eyes of the world.

After the church has raptured, people will ask the antichrist the reason for the disappearance of so many people. So the antichrist will convince them that creatures from another planet came and kidnapped people from the earth and made them slaves in another planet. The platform for this has already been prepared through the Blockbuster movie Avatar in which it was shown that people were moving from one planet to another. People from other planets would come and kidnap people from this world and make them slaves. This is going to happen to answer the question of Rapture. The antichrist will make sure that the focus will not be on the fact that that only Christians are Raptured. The world will not know that only true Christians have disappeared since many people who have accepted Jesus who in official records have other religions mentioned too will be raptured and many so called nominal Christians including the Roman Catholic Pope will be left behind.

1. What is revealed when the third seal is opened? What is the interpretation of that Revelation? What brings about that tragic situation prophesied in connection with the third seal judgment?

When the third seal was opened, John saw a black horse and the rider had a pair of scales in his hand. John heard a voice saying “A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine” (Rev 6: 5-6). The interpretation of this revelation is that, the war which was started after the second seal was opened will cause widespread food scarcity and famine. Countries will bomb and destroy the sensitive locations of their enemy country and to weaken them they will destroy the food depots and stations of the armies of the countries. The countries will not be able to supply food to its soldiers leading to food scarcity. Food crops and fields will also be destroyed as was seen in the Vietnam war in the past. Also, we see that the severity of the punishments is increasing, not only among the seal, trumpet and bowl judgements, but also within the 7 seal judgements, the severity is progressively increasing. The advanced technological weapons of war like the one USA used in Vietnam war (Agent Orange-the defoliant) will be used to destroy the enemy country’s vegetation and causing fields to be permanently barren thus resulting in acute food shortage so there will be starvation.