1. On the subject of Jesus being worthy to open the sealed-up scroll ...

1. When compared to other modes of Death penalty...what made Jesus suffer the most at the time of His death? How can we say that by this death penalty the Saviour suffered the most?

Ans: 1Pet 2:24

 “Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we having died to sins, might live for righteousness-by whose stripes you were healed.” Crucifixion was the most horrible form of death. Crucifixion was usually intended to provide a death that was particularly slow, painful (hence the term *excruciating*, literally "out of crucifying"), gruesome, humiliating, and public, using whatever means were most expedient for that goal. Crucifixion was most often performed to dissuade its witnesses from perpetrating similar (usually particularly heinous) crimes. Victims were sometimes left on display after death as a warning to any other potential criminals. While a crucifixion was an execution, it was also a humiliation, by making the condemned as vulnerable as possible.  Although artists have traditionally depicted the figure on a cross with a loin cloth or a covering of the genitals, the person being crucified was usually stripped naked.  Thus Jesus suffered the most because He suffered excruciating punishment in every area of His life. ****

Spiritual suffering – **Temporary** Separation from the Father because Jesus was carrying the sins of the whole world, the wrath of God came upon Him and God looked away from Him which made Him cry out in agony, “My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me?” This was probably the worst suffering for our Lord because He experienced second death and it was hell on earth for Jesus because He could not bear to be separated from His Father. ****

Emotional suffering – The punishment by crucifixion was intended to humiliate the person suffering to the point where he was totally stripped of all human dignity and respect. Jesus was crucified stark naked and not in the way artists depict with the loin cloth around His hips. Thus Jesus suffered ridicule to the highest extent; He became despicable on the Cross which emotionally tore Him.

Physical suffering – Jesus suffered physically from the top of His head with the crown of thorns till the sole of His feet with the nail on His feet. The crown of thorns pushed into His head causing gruesome injury and unimaginable physical suffering. His hands were pierced with nails to hang Him on the Cross, His body was totally wounded and every inch of it was injured with whiplashes caused by whips which had a nail on the tip of it because of it Jesus’s skin was pulled out, making His flesh visible.

Moreover, only because of death on the cross all the above types of suffering was possible unlike death by stoning or hanging. The death by crucifixion was the slowest form of death ensuring that Jesus suffered to the maximum before giving up His Spirit. So He is more than worthy of opening the Scroll having the seven seals. ****

1. How can we say definitively that Jesus mode of Death was also foreordained by God as per His sovereign will keeping in view the backdrop of Adam's fall?

Jesus’s mode of death was foreordained by God as per His sovereign will because of the nature of God to turn tables. The first Adam sinned because of the tree since the woman saw that the TREE was good and she fell into sin. Gen :3:6 “So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate.” So God used yet another TREE, the Cross to bring people out of sin. When the first Adam sinned and brought condemnation, he hid behind a tree in the garden to cover his sin and shame, Jesus the last Adam died stark naked in front of the tree and thus to cover our sin and brought redemption for us. ****

Jesus was accused of blasphemy because He claimed to be the Son of God and the punishment for blasphemy was to be stoned to death. (Lev 24: 15-16) This was the punishment meted to the man who had cursed and blasphemed God where he was brought outside the camp and was stoned to death. Similar punishment was given to Naboth an innocent farmer who was the owner of a vineyard in 1 Kings 21:11-13. He was accused of blaspheming God and the king and he was stoned to death **as per the conspiracy hatched** by the evil Jezebel who was Ahab’s wife because he refused to sell his vineyard to the king.

So Jesus should have been stoned to death according to the law. But because of the fact that God had ordained that the final Adam would WIN on the tree when the first Adam had lost because of the tree, Jesus had to suffer crucifixion on the Cross. God used yet another tree to bring salvation. Tree was used by satan to bring sin into mankind, God used yet another tree, the Cross to bring salvation unto mankind. ****

God in His sovereignty saw to it that Jesus died on the tree and set the stage for it. Gal4:4 “When the time was ripe, God sent His Son, born of a woman.” When all the circumstances were perfect for Jesus to die on the cross, God sent His Son. There were 7 world powers, but during the reign of Egyptians, Assyrians, Babylonians, Medo Persians and Greeks, there was no death sentence by way of crucifixion. It was the Romans who introduced this form of capital punishment and God had ordained that at this time that Jesus would come into the world because Jesus had to die on the tree. In 28 AD the Romans took away the power from the Sanhedrin to execute death sentence. If they had had the power to execute death sentence on Jesus, they would have stoned Him to death. John 18:31 “Then Pilate said to them, “You take Him and judge Him according to your law.” Therefore the Jews said to him, “It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death”. **** The accusation that the Jews made against Jesus before Pilate was that Jesus was rebelling against the Roman government and coming against Ceasar and calling Himself a King and **He was inciting the** people not to pay taxes. (Luke 23:3-4) They involved the Romans because then the supporters of Jesus would not come up against them. Thus they ensured that Jesus would be put to death by means of crucifixion and Jesus suffered an excruciating death on the Cross, affirming the invisible hand of God which was behind the death of Jesus on the Cross. God our Father had to prove that unlike the first Adam who failed in the most favourable of circumstances, Jesus the last Adam would show His obedience in the most unfavourable of circumstances. ****

2. What is seen by Apostle John when the 4th seal is opened? What is cumulatively resulting in 25% Death of the Global population?

**Ans:** When the 4th seal is opened, Apostle John sees a pale horse and the name of the person who sat on it was Death and Hades followed with him and power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth. (Rev 6: 8) Thus after the wars revealed in the 3rd seal, there is a time when 25% of the world’s population would be killed. **** A chain reaction was triggered after the completion of the third seal when wars would create devastation. The rider was killing first with a sword, this represents the death caused by war. Then they would be killed by hunger, this is due to the famine caused as a result of the war. **** Then would come the plague; this is caused because of the inevitable destruction caused by the wars when bombs are exploding everywhere, there will be plenty of devastation leading to most unclean and filthy lands giving rise to various deadly diseases. **** Biological weapons could also be used to create plagues like the covid19 which **was most probably** created in the laboratory in China with an intention to destroy world population. All this will result in deadly plagues which will take the life of millions of people in every nation. **Finally in search of food which has become scarce,** people will run into the forests and be eaten by wild beasts, unlike the time of the persecution of Christians in Orissa, India, even though the Christians ran into the forests to save their lives, God shut the mouth of the wild animals and protected them. Thus in total 25% of the population of the earth will die by the above four perils. ****

3.What is seen when the fifth seal was opened? Why are the martyred Saints seeking vengeance? What all is contributing to such a behaviour of the martyred Saints?

Ans.: [**Revelation 6:9-11**](http://www.biblica.com/en-us/bible/online-bible/niv/revelation/6/)**- When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained. They called out in a loud voice, "How long, Sovereign LORD, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?" Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to wait a little longer, until the full number of their fellow servants, their brothers and sisters, were killed just as they had been**.

**Ans:** Many people will accept the Lord during tribulation period recalling the gospel they heard while the church was still there on earth and comparing the events that are taking place. Hence, while we are still on earth, we must preach the gospel. Jewish evangelists numbering 1,44,000 will preach the gospel, two witnesses i.e. **like** Moses and Elijah will preach the gospel, for the first time in human history, **an angel** will fly in mid-sky heralding gospel in local language (Rev.14). Many souls will be saved with the contributory efforts of the above. Anti-Christ along with false prophet inspire all the nationals to sign a pact for one world religion saying that religion has been a divisive factor which will be appealing and sounding logical to the world. Pope is also heading towards this direction. However, Christians will not accept or follow this religion and so, they will be treated as against society and many Christians will be martyred because they don’t accept. Such Christians will cry ‘how long Lord’ seeking vengeance. This cry appears to be in contrast to the Lord Jesus’ first word spoke while He was on the cross and the prayer of Stephen before he gave up his spirit i.e. “Father forgive them for they do not know what they do”. We see the Christians pray for vengeance is because their faith is fundamental and only saving faith and more importantly with the rapture of the church, the grace period expired. The repented Christians do not know about forgiveness as they just repented. We can refer to imprecating psalm no.137 to take action against the enemies of the psalmist as there is no dispensation of grace. The three types of Christians are : a. repentant criminal, b. He man with She weakness (Samson) and c. Repenting in the nick of the moment.****

4.Why are horns placed at the corners of the Brazen Altar (of the Jewish Tabernacle or Temple)? What truth can be inferred from the call of Christians to offer themselves as a living sacrifice (Rom 12:1)?

**Ans**: God instructed Moses and Aaron, to put horns on the Brazen Altar, because when we look at the book of Leviticus 1:6, about the Sacrifices made, we realized that sacrifices are made after skinning of the animals. The Brazen Altar as it is, is having a smooth surface, so when skinned animal is placed on the Brazen Altar, which is having a smooth surface, there is a possibility of the animal slipping off the Altar. That is why the slain or sacrificial animal is place on the Brazen Altar and is tied with a rope using these horns. **** In Psalm 118:27, we read that the sacrifices should be bound to the horns of the Altar, so that it does not slip. ****

Similarly, the beauty of a Christian Life, **is we are** called be living Sacrifices. Figuratively speaking, a dead animal is running away from the Altar, that is why it is tied to the Altar using cords and the horns of the Altar. How difficult it is for a Christian to be a living sacrifice. We feel like running away because a Christian life is impossible without the Power of the Holy Spirit. We are the living sacrifices, we are able to sit there at the Altar, we are at the receiving end of injustice and lies but we bear it all because of the perpetual joy of the Holy Spirit in our hearts, which is giving us the needed strength.

5. What is seen when the Sixth seal is opened? What is contributing to optical phenomenon observed by Apostle John? What are "stars" falling on Planet Earth? Is the 6th seal judgment producing a desired effect on general public? Their reaction reminds us of whose behaviour of the OT?

**Ans:** In Chapter 6:12-16, When the Sixth seal is opened, John saw a great earthquake and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. The stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. The sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place. The kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!”

God is now directly coming into the picture as all this time the activities of the antichrist were revealed. Earthquakes happen when the moving plates beneath the earth’s surface collide, and this underground phenomenon affects other underground phenomenon also and it triggers volcanoes. Volcanoes will spew up so much of dust and ashes in the atmosphere that the process of Refraction comes into the picture. John saw an optical phenomenon which he describes as the stars falling from the sky. This is the phenomenon of Refraction where the human eye sees a mirage in the desert; of probably what seems to be an oasis even when it is not really there. John sees the sun turning black indicating an eclipse, the moon becoming blood red which is called as blood moon phenomenon caused by the volcanoes. Historically this fact was reported in 1883 following the eruption of Krakatoa. People actually saw the sun and the moon in different colours caused by the ashes erupted from the volcano. It is not possible for many stars to fall from the sky as one star falling could destroy the earth totally. Thus what John describes as stars are in essence a meteor shower from the sky that will destroy the earth. This cannot destroy the whole earth at one time. ****

Many kings would realise that the wrath of God is at hand and that the Almighty God is angry. One would assume that on **seeing calamity of this proportion,** people would repent and turn to the Lord, but the rich and famous of the world and the poor and the slave would not have any remorse. They seek refuge and protection in the mountains. One divine blow after the other did not elicit the proper response from them. They will harden their heart and blaspheme against God even when they see that God’s punishments on the earth becoming more and more severe. Their reaction reminds us of the stubborn behaviour of Pharaoh in the Old Testament who refused to relent and let the Israelites go even when God doled out punishments on the nation, each one more severe than the other. Similarly the people do not repent and this leads to trumpet judgements.

6. In the 7th Chapter, what are the 4 winds symbolic of (pl answer giving OT reference)? Why are Angels stopping them temporarily?

**Ans**: The four winds symbolize that God’s wrath has been unleashed at the starts of the seal judgements. God’s wrath is symbolized in the form of 4 winds. Jere. 49:36. **** The Angels are temporarily stopping those 4 winds, because 1. Work has to be completed otherwise; these people who have been set apart for a particular work, might perish in the seal judgements. If they perish, nobody will do their work. So God’s wrath is temporarily stopped, otherwise, it could lead to the death of these people

7. Who are being sealed? How many? Why? Is any Tribe of Israel not selected in this process? Why so?

**Ans:** In the other two visions of chapter 7, John sees one hundred and forty four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel are marked or sealed for the purpose of preaching the gospel during the time of tribulation. These are Jewish evangelists who are sealed to preach the gospel, 12,000 taken from each tribe. They were unmarried and during the seven years of tribulation, they dedicated themselves exclusively to preaching the gospel. John saw these 1,44,000 Jewish evangelists starting to preach the gospel from Jerusalem onwards. The Tribe of Dan is not selected or included in the list of Tribes of Israel mentioned in Revelation chapter 7. This is because when the Israelites went into idol worship, though all of them worshipped idols, the tribe of Dan were the leaders in idol worship, who totally defiled themselves. They became absolutely perverse and totally idolatrous and were permanently cursed by God. Amos 8:14 “Those who swear by the sin of Samaria, Who say, “As our god lives, O Dan!’ And “As the way of Beersheba lives!’ They shall fall and never rise again.”

So even though the Jews from the tribe of Dan have the opportunity to be saved by the hearing of the gospel, the privilege of preaching the gospel has been taken away from them. Of all the tribes, the tribe of Dan was most guilty of leading the people into idol worship and were guilty of indulging in idol worship to the maximum extent when compared to other tribes.