And when the Lamb a seal did open
I saw it with my very eyes;
and with my ears, didst I then hear it
a sound that echo’d through the skies;
such awesome force, I did so tremble
at mighty noise, as thunder great;
of the four beasts, one did loud rumble:
‘Come here and see earth’s final fate’.

And thus I saw a holy vision
a mighty horse, the color white
and he that rode upon the stallion
had a strong bow, prepared to fight;
upon his head a crown did glisten
’twas given him above from God;
ordained to rule, he strong did conquer
to conquer more, he bold did trod.

This living creature, beast of Heaven
the second seal, did break and free;
the second beast did break his silence,
and then declared, ‘Come now, and see’.

There issu’d forth another charger
this second horse was bloody red;
the one there seated, given power,
so to fulfill, this duo sped;
his role so frightful, from earth to take
all peace and quiet—grief to bring;
he loosen’d slaughter, murderous lust,
God gave him sword, to slash and swing.
And when this beast, third seal didst open, a third beast did to me declare: ‘Come now, behold, what we shall show thee’—with mouth agape, I could but stare; as I did watch, I saw a shadow this shadow then, did frightful move; emerg’d a rider, with scales in hand, upon a horse, black, ear to hoove.

Another voice among these beasts, four, did whisper out with voice like oil: ‘a daily ration—wheat or barley for each one person’s daily toil; but don’t defraud the one who labors, give each his share of oil and wine; measure it out, and be thee honest for it may be, the last he’ll dine.

Then the first beast, again broke open yet a fourth seal, me thus to show; then the fourth beast, me then entreated: ‘Come look and see, and then you’ll know’.

And so I looked, and then did shudder, behold a pale horse—frightful ghost; death sat astride him, a grim spectre,—and in his trail, graves coast to coast; great power God, thus did so give him with sword and hunger thus to kill; of life on earth, even one-quarter until death’s appetite did fill.

Then the fifth seal, it too was open’d, a different sight I then beheld; under God’s Altar, so gleaming bright souls of the saints, thus cruelly fell’d; slain for the Word of God a’keeping, their precious faith refused to bend; and here they were, now still a’weeping, they testifi’d unto the end.

‘And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, ‘Come and see’. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand.

‘And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, ‘A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine’.

‘And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see.

‘And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth.

‘And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the Altar the souls of them that were slain for the Word of God, and for the testimony which they held:
And they cried out, with many voices, weeping so loud, with anguish great; ‘How long?—how long? O Lord Most Holy, till Thou avenge our bloody fate? Thou art True, and doest justly, Thou art Creator, Judge, and King; How long?—how long? O Lord Most Holy, till Thou on earth meet vengeance bring?’

To martyr’d saints were white robes given, cloth’d in Christ’s Righteousness and Life; and they were told to wait yet longer, and rest in peace, free from all strife; others their brethren, like fate should suffer, giving their lives, in service true; be put to death for faithful witness, fulfilling visions shown to you.

When the sixth seal, the beast did open, lo and behold, an earthquake vast; the sun was darken’d, as in mourning, black sackcloth donn’d, till it had pass’d; the sun’s own bride, his lunar spouse, pale, the moon, as Mars, as blood did turn; and did reflect, the war and carnage, the lesson now, all earth must learn.

Then fell the stars to earth from heaven, the mighty pow’rs of nations high; great potentates were toppled over, many exalted, then did die; e’en as a fig tree, in bad weather shaken by wind, casts all her fruit; aborted figs, like dead birds falling, drop to the ground, upon the root.

And they cried with a loud voice, saying, ‘How long, O Lord, Holy and True, dost Thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?’

And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.

And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood;

And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind.
And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.

Then mighty men, all great earthly kings, the rich and poor, the bond and free; like vermin scurried, in caves to hide, God’s Final Judgment fear’d to see.

In frantic madness, sheer terror’s grip, they cried so desperate to each stone:
‘Fall down upon us, bury us deep, hide us from wrathful Lamb’s dread Throne.’

‘For now is come—that Great Fearful Day, (the Day we scoff’d as “fairy tale”); and now we dread fear, the One we curs’d—who can before His Wrath prevail?’