

Revelation Chapter 6 part 1 verses 1-8 The Four Horsemen of Apocalypse

Basic and general study of the book of Revelation *compiled by Gaetan*



Another name for the book of Revelation is the **Apocalypse**, which means *“a revelation concerning the future.”* The four horsemen of the Apocalypse reveal the truth about religion, war, and economics, and set the stage for what is soon to come. Jesus opens the book of the future, which was sealed. Each one of these six seals are really only capsule histories on events that the vision is yet to cover, or rather uncover, in greater detail throughout the remainder of the book of Revelation.

In other words, these first six seals are a "*Table of Contents*" for the rest of the vision. This chapter is telling you the history of mankind, the history of the World. Then of course, if it's the history of the World, it is going to wind up with the End of the World. You have the great earthquake and all those cosmic signs happening there that also happens at the Battle of Armageddon. So the 6th Chapter goes from the time of Jesus right to the End!

REV.6:1 And I saw when the Lamb opened **one of the seals**, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, come and see.

REV.6:2 And I saw, and behold a **white horse**: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth **conquering**, and to conquer.

It doesn't say here who the first horseman is. Most scholars believe that it is the beginning of the Christian era when Jesus is conquering the World. What was happening at this time in world history, in about 90 AD? From the spiritual realm, the resurrected Jesus was going forth to "**conquer**" the world with the Gospel through His apostles and the early Christians – and they would eventually conquer the mighty Roman Empire. Jesus' message of love and forgiveness would prove more powerful than all the legions of Rome!





We find another picture of "a white horse" in the 19th chapter of this same book, "and He that sat upon him (the white horse) was called Faithful and True... and His name is called the Word of God", who of course is Jesus Christ. (Jn.1:14) And following Him are the armies of Heaven (the resurrected saints) who are also riding white horses as they come down from heaven to defeat the forces of the Antichrist and take over the world at the Battle of Armageddon (Rev.19:11-14). Jesus' weapon is His bow or His Word.

**** PSA.7:11, 12** God judges the righteous, and God is angry with the wicked every day. If he does not turn back, He will sharpen **His sword**; He bends **His bow** and makes it ready.

**** HAB.3:8-9** Was the LORD displeased against the rivers? ...was thy wrath against the sea, that thou didst ride upon thine **horses** and thy chariots of **salvation**? Thy **bow** was made quite naked, according to the oaths of the tribes, even thy **word**. (See also Psa.45:3-5)

And He is the One Who has the **"crown"** or right to rule this world and will soon defeat His enemies who are resisting it and usurping His throne. *"Who is he that overcomes the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?"* (1Jn.5:5) And the Lord with His children will eventually physically conquer the world and rule it for a thousand years! (Rev.5:10; 20:4)

(Note: From the first century until about 100 years ago, most theologians held that the rider of the white horse was the Lord Jesus and Christianity, riding in strength to conquer the world. More recently, however, there are different opinions: some hold that this rider was representative of the various Roman emperors and/or the many political and military power-hungry figures throughout history; and others, that he is the imitation messiah better known as the end time Anti-Christ.)



REV.6:3 And when he had opened the **second seal**, I heard the second beast say, Come and see.



REV.6:4 And there went out another horse that was **red**: and power was given to him that sat thereon **to take peace from the earth**, and that **they should kill one another**: and there was given unto him a **great sword**.

What takes "peace from the earth"? -- WAR! This red horse symbolizes war, the military and their war machines. The horse's colour is

very appropriate, representing all the bloodshed in man's hellish wars, for which God is not responsible, but which come from the pride, prejudices and avarice of man's own greedy heart.

"From whence come wars and fightings among you?" James asks, "Come they not hence, even of your lusts." (Jam.4:1)

Certainly nothing could have been predicted truer of the centuries, and yea, two millenniums of history which followed from John's Day to ours! There has seldom been a day in the World's history that there has not been a war going on somewhere with slaughter and massacre, killing,



wounding, maiming and the horrors of Hell! The "great sword" given to him certainly symbolizes the great "improvements" in war machines and the greater frequency and greater extent of wars since the prophecy was given.

***** MAT.24:6 And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.***



REV.6:5 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.

REV.6:6 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**.

*** **Mat.20:1-2** For the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is a householder, which went out early in the morning to hire labourers into his vineyard. And when he had agreed with the labourers **for a penny a day**, he sent them into his vineyard.*

The value of a "penny" in John's day represented an entire day's labour, as is seen in the parable of Jesus where all the labourers worked for "a penny a day." A "measure" equals about one quart and ordinarily a penny could have purchased fifteen to twenty measures.

Therefore, food being sold in such small quantities for an entire day's wages indicates food shortage or famine, and also resultant poverty for the buyer, as it is costing him everything he has just to buy his daily bread. Even the colour of the horse itself represents famine. *"Our skin was black like an oven"* Jeremiah said, *"because of the terrible famine."* (Lam.5:10)

"Oil and wine," however, throughout scripture are synonymous with abundance or luxury. The fact that they were to *"hurt not"* indicates a situation where wealth and luxury are existing alongside famine and poverty; not an unusual situation to say the least.



Could this black horse's rider with the *"pair of balances in his hand"* symbolise these rich merchants and the multinational big corporations? Only one other verse in all the Bible pictures a man holding balances in his hand:

"He is a merchant, the balances of deceit are in his hand: he loves to oppress." (Hos.12:7)



Another Prophet, Amos, also said that these merchants *"set forth wheat, making the ephah (or measure) small, and the shekel (or price paid) great, and falsifying the balances by deceit...that swallow up the needy, even to make the poor of the land to fail."* (Am.8:4-6)

The black horse, then, represents famine and poverty maintained by the rich who refuse to share with those in need. This horse is responsible for today's economic situation.



REV.6:7 And when he had opened the **fourth seal**, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see.

REV.6:8 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.

In the original Greek the word *“pale”* also means a sickly yellowish-green colour like the very colour of death itself, which is the Devil's due, and hell follows it for all his children. According to God's laws, because of the disobedience of all from Adam on down, we all have to die because of disobedience and sin. But the moment we as Christians die, we are instantly freed spiritually, for we have been redeemed by Christ! At death the Devil's children go to Hell to be with their father, and we go to Heaven to be with ours.

**** 1CO.15:20-22** *But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has **become the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep**. For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as **in Adam all die**, even so **in Christ all shall be made alive**.*

This pale horse of the fourth seal, then, represents Death by every means--hunger, famine, pestilence, plague, everything!

**** MAT.24:7** For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be **famines, pestilences, and earthquakes** in various places.

Though the characters under each of the first five seals(horses) were around before the Ascension of Christ, the Biblical picture both here and elsewhere is that each of these forces took on greater power sometime after the Ascension. The followers of Jesus received greater power

on the day of Pentecost, after the Ascension when they were baptized with the Holy Ghost. Just as Jesus had told them, "**Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you.**" (Ac.1:8) The forces of evil also received greater power at this time, as Paul said, "**Evil men and seducers (the Red, Black and Pale horsemen) shall wax worse and worse.**" (2Tm.3:13)



Only within the last 70 years has the human race developed the potential to destroy itself. The military (Red Horse) have their nuclear bombs, satellites and intercontinental missiles. In fact, they right now have enough atomic bombs to over kill the earth's entire population several times. The rich (Black Horse) in their pursuit of the almighty dollar are finally succeeding in polluting the entire earth--a by-product of technology! The rich have often been majorly responsible for starting the last century's great wars as well as the most recent ones, and their hoarding and wasting of their riches is threatening another one! And it is their unchecked greed which will be responsible for the worldwide famine that even the scientists are predicting!

Jesus predicted in His famous End time discourse of **Mt.24** that there would be an increase in war, famine, pestilence and earthquakes, leading eventually to *"affliction, such as was not from the beginning of the creation."*





Jesus said that these calamities would get so bad that *"except that the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh should be saved: but for the elect's sake, whom He (God) hath chosen, He hath shortened those days."* (Mt.24:7, 21, 22; Mk.13:19, 20)

In other words, Jesus was saying that one day man would reach such an impasse that letting him continue unchecked would result in the destruction of everyone on Earth. However, when man finally reaches that suicidal point, He said God would shorten the days, which in the Greek literally means to stop the days, or stop those days of man's attempts to destroy the Earth. And the way God will stop it, Jesus said, was by His own Second Coming to punish the evil doers, take over the world, and rule it the way God wants.

There is a happy ending! Thank God!

To be continued in part 2 with the opening of the 5th and 6th seals of Apocalypse!