

Midweek Bible Study

An Exposition of Revelation

Rev. 6:1-8

I. The First Seal (6:1-2) ~ Review

Last week I argued that the rider on the white horse is a counterfeit Christ.

What is the significance?

The four horsemen (the first four seals) are present and operative during the advent period. War, famine, and death are accompanied by Satanic deception. This marks the present age and the escalation of the end (1 Jn. 2:18)

Questions?

How can we say these four seals are sent forth from Heaven?

1. God is sovereign over all things, including evil.

Rev. 17:14, 17

2. God is sovereign over deluding influences

2 Thess. 2:8-12

II. The Second Seal (6:3-4)

A. And when He opened the second seal, I heard the second living being saying, "Come" (3)

B. And another fiery red horse went forth

The fiery red is for blood and war – but note the specifics

C. And to him who was sitting upon it was given to take peace from the earth

1. He was given authority or the power to take peace from the earth

2. This could be international conflict, war, nation against nation

E.g. Matt. 24:6-7a

D. And in order to slaughter each other

E. And a great sword was given to him

III. The Third Seal (6:5-6)

A. And when He opened the third seal, I heard the third living being say "Come"

B. And I saw and behold a black horse, and the one sitting on it having a pair of scales in his hand



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1. The inevitable outcome of war is famine.
Mk 13:8
2. A pair of scales – the instrument of commerce
- C. And I heard as a voice in the midst of the four living beings saying, 'a quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius.
- D. And do not damage the oil and wine

IV. The Fourth Seal (6:7-8)

- A. And when He opened the fourth seal, I heard the fourth living being say, "Come"
- B. And I saw and behold a pale green horse
Yellowish-green, pale, greenish gray
- C. And the one sitting on it, his name was death and Hades followed him
 1. Death is personified – only rider to be named
 2. Hades is following
Death and Hades are closely allied. Rev. 1:18
Hades = OT Sheol, the grave, the place of the dead
A scare word - a devouring, gaping jawed grave)
- D. Authority was given over a fourth of the earth to kill by sword, famine, and plague and by the wild beasts of the earth

Reflects Covenantal curse formulas (Lev. 26:18-28; Deut. 32:24-26).

One quarter of the earth – Dennis Johnson, FN 122

Conclusion

The four horsemen, although under the sovereign control of God and of Lamb.

The four horsemen would have resonated with the first century, the Roman Empire, the destruction of the Jerusalem, the warfare, the famine, the death (described vividly by Josephus).

The four horsemen are four to symbolize universality.

Crisis, collision, and hope

