

**THE COMING OF THE LORD
THE FOUR HORSEMEN OF THE APOCALYPSE
REVELATION 6:1-8**

Introduction:

In chapter 5 we found a scroll with seven seals in the hands of the Worthy One. With this scroll in his hand, all of heaven breaks forth in praise, adoration and worship of the Lord Jesus.

Aren't you glad that there is one that is worthy to open the seals?

But this chapter shifts its attention from praise to peril and judgment on earth. Chapters six through nineteen put its main focus on the time of tribulation that Daniel described in **Daniel 9:24-27; 12:1,2** and also Christ taught in **Matthew 24:21, Mark 13 and Luke 21**.

We don't know **when these events will occur** or **how they occur** but we know for sure that **they will occur**. Over ½ of the world's population will be eliminated with the judgments that are about to take place. **There are three sets of judgments with seven parts in each set of judgments.**

First we will see the seal judgments. As each seal is opened, it brings forth a different judgment. As the seventh seal is opened, it ushers in the trumpet judgments. As each trumpet blows, there is a different judgment that follows. As the seventh trumpet sounds, it ushers in the vial or bowl judgments. As each vial or bowl is emptied, it pours out an additional judgment on the earth.

Today we will be looking at the first four seals being opened. Each of these seals reveals a horseman who will judge this wicked world. They are commonly referred to as *"The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse."*

There is a fifth horseman in Revelation but He is in chapter nineteen. But I don't want to go there yet because it is not in line with this chapter. Horses are often seen in the Bible as an emblem of war and conquering.

In verse one, one of the four beasts around the throne gives the first of the four invitations to which is found in this section: *"Come and see"*.

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**I. FIRST SEAL JUDGMENT: A RIDER ON A WHITE HORSE
(A DECEIVER & DICTATOR) (Vs. 1-2)**

"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."

Several truths can be seen here about this horseman.

A. We See That This Horseman Is A Counterfeit Christ.
He is riding on a white horse like Christ does in Revelation chapter nineteen.

In biblical times it was customary for a conqueror to ride in triumph on a white horse.

King Jesus will return in chapter nineteen on the last white horse.

White normally stands for purity, but this horseman in chapter six is anything but pure. He is a counterfeit. How can you tell a counterfeit from the genuine article? One way is put them side-by-side.

Not only is he a counterfeit, but he is a deceiver.
Matthew 24:4,5—"And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many."

B. We See That This Horseman Has A Crown That Depicts His Position And Authority As A Ruler.

In comparison, Christ has many crowns in Revelation 19. The emphasis here is not so much on this horseman's authority as it is on his temporary victory.

Verse 2 says that a crown was given unto him. This horseman will prevail because it is the will of God for him to do so then.

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C. We See That This Horseman Will Be A Conqueror.

(In Revelation 19 Christ is the final conqueror.)

We see here that this rider has a bow. The lack of arrows indicates a bloodless victory.

But make no mistake, there will be war as he arises on the scene, but this ruler will conquer and will bring about a false peace and a temporary peace.

D. We See That This Horseman Is The Coming World Leader That Is Spoken Of In Scripture.

It is seen over and over again in the New Testament. What are some of the names that are seen?

1. **He is called the man of sin, the son of perdition, Wicked. (2 Thessalonians 2:3-10)**

2. **He is called the antichrist.**

1 John 2:18—“Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.”

E. We See That This Horseman Will Be Convincing.

2 Thessalonians 2:11-12—“And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness”

F. We See That This Horseman Will Be Controlled By Satan.

2 Thessalonians 2:9—“Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders”

All that he is and will do will be done by Satan’s control. He is 100% sold out to Satan. All the events that this Deceiver-Dictator will do, will be done after the rapture. The stage is in place now for this ruler, but he has not been revealed yet.

The amount of men who have tried to build a world empire like the Roman Empire is great—there was Napoleon, Mussolini, and Hitler just to name a few.

But none will succeed until after the rapture that takes both all the true Christians of this age and the Holy Spirit’s influence out of this world. There will be nothing to hold back the spread of evil wickedness, and lawlessness.

II. SECOND SEAL JUDGMENT: A RIDER ON A RED HORSE (DESTROYER or WAR) (Vs. 3,4)

“And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see. 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.”

A. Red is a symbol of war and bloodshed.

The peace of the first horseman is temporary.

This war is the result of the absolute dictatorship given the first horseman. History records what happens when men are given absolute authority. Power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely.

B. We see the sorrow of this judgment.

1. A world longing for peace sees only war.
2. Many people are killed.

III. THIRD SEAL JUDGMENT: A RIDER ON A BLACK HORSE (DEARTH or FAMINE) (Vs. 5,6)

“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.”

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A. The Color of this horse is Black and that is the picture of Suffering.

Lamentations 4:8,9—“Their visage is blacker than a coal; they are not known in the streets: their skin cleaveth to their bones; it is withered, it is become like a stick. They that be slain with the sword are better than they that be slain with hunger: for these pine away, stricken through for want of the fruits of the field.”

The result of war from the second rider will be **famine and starvation.**

1. Famine usually follows after wars.
2. This is clearly illustrated in our lifetime on the continent of Africa.

The opposing armies take from the storehouses of the countries that have it and give it to their people. Some would call this the spoils of war but this has a more sinister plot. Famine makes people weak and they will do anything to get food including giving homage to a world leader.

B. These are conditions that are tragically brought on by this horseman.

1. **Prices are going to change.**
Hyper-inflation will be affecting the balance between necessities and luxury items. The Federal Reserve Chairman won't be able to do anything about this!
2. **Food prices will rise dramatically.**
A day's wages will equal one meal for one person.
3. **The quality of food will change.**
 - a. Barley is primarily a food for animals.

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- b. Families will turn to this food in order to survive.
- c. You can make barley go further than wheat. It can make three meals out of the same measure of wheat.

4. Luxury will not be affected by this inflation.

- a. The oil and the wine will still be enjoyed by the rich.
- b. Quite possibly alcohol consumption will increase in order to block out the harsh realities of the rest of the world.

Think about how children are affected. Quite possibly children and the elderly will be the first to die as result of this famine.

Since the Holy Spirit's influence will not be present in His restraining influence, crime will rise greatly in order for folks to just try to feed their families.

Can you imagine killing someone for his or her loaf of bread? This will make the great depression of 1929 look like a Sunday School picnic.

IV. FOURTH SEAL JUDGMENT: A RIDER ON A PALE HORSE (DEATH) (Vs. 7,8)

“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.”

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A. The Identity of this pale horse is the color of a corpse.

What makes it more horrible is that it is followed by hell– the abode of all unbelievers! Countless millions will die.

If we are still alive at the rapture, we will no doubt know some folks that will experience what we are reading and then die.

What if it is your best friend or some family member or members that you never took time to give the message?

B. Impact of this horse and rider upon world conditions are seen.

1. Its scope- affects 1/4 of world's population
2. What is the source of such a mass extermination
 - a. Sword is governmental actions against its citizens.
 - b. Hunger.
 - c. Death (is possibly by plagues and pestilence like AIDS.)
 - d. Wild beasts are animals attacking people from the lack of food.

Conclusion:

Is there any hope? Not in that day there won't be. The only hope to escape that awful period of time is here and now. It is only found in Jesus Christ and his salvation.

It is found in getting saved today. There will be no second chances for those who have already heard the Gospel story and turned Jesus down as Saviour.