

# The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse

## A Bible study of Revelation chapter 6, the scroll with seven seals.

This Bible study will step on many toes, however, it is not my intention to offend. As Paul said:

*Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance: for ye were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing.*

*For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death. - 2 Corinthians 7:9-10*

### Overview

The Lord wants us to understand the book of Revelation. His angel makes this clear in the first and last chapters of Revelation:

*Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear [with understanding] the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand. - Revelation 1:3*

*And he saith unto me, Seal not [do not keep them secret] the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand. - Revelation 22:10*

Therefore, when we, the followers of Christ, read this book it should not be a mystery, at least to us. Both Daniel and Paul imply that the wicked either cannot, or will not understand.

*Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: **and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand.** - Daniel 12:10*

*But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. - 1 Corinthians 2:14*

It is important that unbelievers do not understand, otherwise they would not be so willing to fulfill their part these prophecies. For those who seek understanding I pray that this study helps you in your understanding of the four horsemen of the apocalypse.

The premise of this study is that the four horsemen are state religions. In John's time they would have been religions in the future, today three of the horsemen have marched into world events.

As a religion, each horseman demands allegiance to his statement of beliefs even if it is atheism.

This study looks at each of the first five seals and every horseman individually. In this study we will learn the identity and belief system of each one from their colors and their symbols.

## The first seal: The White Horse

*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. 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. - Revelation 6:1-2

### The Horseman's Symbols:

- A white horse
- A bow
- A Crown
- He went forth conquering and to conquer



**The white horse:** White is the color for Christianity and this horseman claims his authority comes from Jesus Christ. History has shown this horse to be the State-church; a church that is authorized and controlled by political leaders. The emperor Constantine first instituted the marriage between church and state, in what is now known as Roman Catholicism.

The Anglican Church, Eastern Orthodox Church, and the Lutheran Church, (all state churches) are all children of the Roman Catholic Church, thereby, these carry the flag of the white horse.

**The bow:** The Strong's Exhaustive Concordance defines the word bow as "A bow (apparently as the simplest fabric)". If James Strong's definition is accurate, the bow may refer to a man of the cloth. Everyone knows that this term refers to the clergy or priesthood of the church.



**A Crown:** The Pope has a triple crown called a *Tiregno*. According to a [catholic website](#), the Papal Tiara is formed by three crowns and it symbolizes the triple power of the Pope: father of kings, governor of the world and Vicar of Christ. The church created the divine right of kings. When King Henry the VIII wanted to get a divorce the pope, as his king, forbade it. While England split off from the Church of Rome, Henry continued the State-church system. A little more church history, when Martin Luther separated from Roman Catholicism he continued the state-church system. That is, he believed in using the sword of the civil government to make conversions.

**He went forth conquering and to conquer:** As already mentioned, the founder of the state-church system was the emperor Constantine. We was Inspired by a vision showing a cross of light above the sun with an inscription that said, *By this, conquer*. Inspired by this vision, he used the cross as his icon and went forth and conquered Rome. It was at that time that he became the crowned king of the European part of the Roman Empire. Constantine literally *went forth conquering and to conquer*. The church controlled by the state at this time, ceased to be martyred for their beliefs and instead started killing those she thought were heretics.



This first church of the Roman Empire was not just a church; later she would have her own kingdom, the Papal States, as well as rule over the other kingdoms of Europe. Her goal is the whole world, and as an eternal city, she is patient.

## The second seal: The Red Horse

*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. - Revelation 6:3-4*

### The Horseman's Symbols:

- A red horse
- He takes peace from earth
- They should kill one another
- A great sword



**The red horse:** The red horseman is socialism or communism. Communism is associated with only one color, red. While the former Soviet Union was communist, the initials U.S.S.R stand for United Soviet *Socialist* Republic. While in theory the ideologies of communism (left wing) and socialism (right wing) are on opposite sides of the political spectrum, in actuality there is little difference between these two philosophies.

Did the Red Horseman make his appearance in the early nineteenth century with the French revolution? Perhaps it was in the middle nineteenth century that he came forth carrying the Communist Manifesto. In either case, socialism and atheism peeked during his domination after World War II.

**He takes peace from earth:** After the red horse's ride to power, was a time called the cold war (the 1950s through 1970s). The communists did indeed take peace from the earth. In the 1960s, I remember even as a child fearing the communists, and with good cause. The death tolls at the hand of the different communist (and socialist) leaders are staggering.

**That they should kill one another:** From the French revolution onward, the communists (or socialists) have murdered countless millions of their own people. The communists have exported their bloody revolutions over much of the world. The purging of the middle and upper class is common when toppling the government of a country.

Communism never went forth conquering like the White horse. Specifically, no country was ever overthrown by any other communist country. The communists within always overthrow their own country. The only exception to this rule was the countries given to the Soviet Union at the end of WWII by the USA and Great Britain.

**A great sword:** This fear of communism lead to the largest arms race or stockpile of weapons of mass destruction, in human history. Many people fear that there are enough weapons to kill all humanity several times over. The former Soviet Union though an economic disaster, still has a formidable army. If we are not afraid of China's communist army now, we may be soon.

## The third seal: The Black Horse

*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. - Revelation 6:5-6*

## The Horseman's Symbols:

- A black horse
- A pair of balances
- 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



**The black horse:** Islam's traditional dress is black and the Islamic symbol is a crescent moon, this implies night or black. The Islamic flag (bottom) used in their jihad is black.



While Islam was founded over one thousand years ago, it is only now, at the beginning of the twenty first century, threatening to become a world power. Like the two horsemen before it, Islam makes converts by force. They justify this believing that they only serve the one true God and Muhammad, his prophet.



**A pair of balances:** An interesting note is that Muhammad, the founder of Islam, began life as a merchant trader. At the age of twelve, he accompanied his uncle Abu Talib with a merchant caravan into Syria.



Islam's biggest weapon is not a sword of any kind, it is oil. The threat of an oil embargo has paralyzed the western world in its ability to deal with Muslim terrorism. If we upset them, they will stop selling us their oil.



**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:** A common interpretation of this symbol is extreme wealth (wine and oil) in the midst of extreme poverty (a penny or day's wages for a loaf of bread). Islam has extreme wealth from producing and exporting oil and their rulers are the richest sheiks. At the same time, the poorest third world nations are in the Islamic world. Often this poverty and wealth occur only miles apart from each other. If the Islamic countries would use some of the wealth that they have spent fighting Israel, the Middle East would once again be a Garden of Eden.

## The fourth seal: The Pale Horse

*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. - Revelation 6:7-8*

## The Horseman's Symbols:

- A pale horse (green): – the color is translated green in other passages of Scripture
- His name ... was Death, and Hell followed with him
- 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



**The pale horse (green):** As this is the last horse, this will be the last ideology to deceive the world. The religion of these horsemen will incorporate Satanism; you see this in both the riders' names and in other portions of scripture (like Revelation 13:4).



The followers of this horseman will rally around a green flag. Currently green is most closely associated with earth worship. While many expect the last world power to have the religion of the *New Age Movement*, currently that is a rainbow.

**His name ... was Death, and Hell followed with him:** There are two riders mentioned here by name, the book of Revelation also mentions two world leaders that will arise at the end of the age:

*And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where **the beast and the false prophet** are, and shall be tormented day and night forever and ever - Revelation 20:10*

The first rider's name is Death: Perhaps it is the first beast in Revelation, as he deceives the world into believing he receives a deadly wound (Revelation 13:1), or perhaps it is just this horseman's preoccupation with death.

An interesting note is that many environmentalists believe that the world is over populated. There is New Age or environmental monument in central Georgia; called the *Georgia Guide Stones*. The *Georgia Guide Stones* are a sacred monument for new-agers. The guide stones first commandment is to "*Maintain humanity under 500,000,000 in perpetual balance with nature*". To do this will require the elimination of five and a half billion people. The third commandment on these guide stones call for a one-world language. Finally, to implement commandments five and six will require a one-world government.



The second rider's name is Hell: It is second beast in Revelation 13 (verse 11) that will make the whole world receive a Mark and worship an image. Those people who do worship the image of the beast will suffer eternal torment.

*And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: **And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up forever and ever:** and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name. - Revelation 14:9-11*

As the other horsemen before him, these last two riders will compel obedience to their belief system.

*And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that **as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.** - Revelation 13:15*

**Power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth:** Many Bible students speculate that the antichrist will come out of a *revived* Roman empire. This seems possible after studying Daniel chapters 2, 7 and Revelation 13. In addition, Daniel chapter 8 implies there is a second beast or goat. This one comes out of a divided Greek empire and may be the second beast mentioned in Revelation 13:11

**To kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth:** Perhaps people will go along with *Deaths* extermination policy believing that they are doing good by reducing the earth's population. It seems natural that those who oppose *Deaths* wishes will be the ones considered unfit to live.

One question that I would like to ask is, when these two Death and Hell have power over one quarter of the earth, does this mean they will kill one quarter of the earth or that the realm of their kingdom will be limited to one quarter of the earth.

*I will make a man more precious than fine gold; even a man than the golden wedge of Ophir.  
- Isaiah 13:12*

*Wherefore a lion out of the forest shall slay them, and a wolf of the evenings shall spoil them, a leopard shall watch over their cities: every one that goeth out thence shall be torn in pieces: because their transgressions are many, and their backslidings are increased. - Jeremiah 5:6*

*And I will appoint over them four kinds, saith the LORD: the sword to slay, and the dogs to tear, and the fowls of the heaven, and the beasts of the earth, to devour and destroy. - Jeremiah 15:3*

Some of the symbols of the pale horse may seem difficult to comprehend literally. However, looking at the first three horsemen should make it easier to see that God is saying exactly what is going to happen in the near future.

## **The fifth seal: The Souls That Were Slain**

*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 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 fellow servants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled. - Revelation 6:9-11*

After the four horses go forth, the souls under the alter ask, “*How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?*”. These are the souls of God's people; the faithful that the horsemen have murdered during the last two millennia.

### **The White Horse:**

The state church has been both anti-Semitic and a persecutor of Christians. During the middle ages, church leaders were torturing people in the name of Jesus. Often the people that they were torturing or burning at the stake were Christians, real Christians. Sometimes the state-church was persecuting the Jews. Few Christians realize the shameful truth, how church history is full of anti-Semitism. This horse is white because its rider is trying to associate himself with Jesus Christ; in spite of this, his behavior is far different.

*For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works. - 2 Corinthians 11:13-15*

Today in many countries of the world there is still a state controlled church. These countries also have an *underground church* where Christians are still suffering martyrdom because they worship God according to their conscience.

### **The Red Horse:**

The religion of this horseman is atheism and as an atheist, he believes that all belief in God is harmful. He sees all the suffering caused by the white horseman while blind to his own behavior.

Like the other horsemen he is both anti-Semitic and a persecutor of Christians. Richard Wurmbrand, who was himself tortured in a communist jail for fourteen years, has a ministry called *Voice of the Martyrs*. This ministry is a good source for information on the Christians who have been and are being tortured for their faith by the communists (and Muslims) today.

One phenomenon about the red horse is that while many Jews are communists or at least Marxists, the former Soviet Union and many other countries controlled by communist's are themselves very anti-Semitic.

*For thus saith the LORD of hosts; After the glory hath he sent me unto the nations which spoiled you: for he that toucheth you toucheth the apple of his eye. - Zechariah 2:8*

### **The Black Horse:**

Like the first two Horsemen, the black horseman converts by force. In addition, like the first two horsemen, he persecutes Christians and Jews. Many Islamic leaders believe the United States is the great white Satan and Israel is the little white Satan. The cause of most terrorist acts today are Muslims who believe that they will get a special place in their version of heaven if they die a martyr. Their version of being a martyr is to die while killing as many Christians or Jews possible.

*They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service. - John 16:2*

### **The Pale Horse:**

The last two riders will also have the same three characteristics. They will demand absolute obedience and they will hate Christians and Jews.

As gentiles, we cannot help when we are born under the control of one these ideologies, yet we can choose what we will do afterward. History shows how many have been tortured and slain standing up to the state church, communism, and Islam. Soon we will have the fourth horse and his two riders *Death* and *Hell*. When this day comes, what will you do?

*Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.*

*And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.*

*For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth.*

*Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man. - Luke 21:33-36*

## Conclusion

*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.*

*And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens 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 that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: **For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?** - Revelation 6:12-17*

In chapter five of Revelation, the angel asked the question, “Who is worthy to open the book, and to lose the seals thereof?”

*And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon. - Revelation 5:3*

The apostle John wept because no man was found worthy to break these seven seals and open the scroll.

*And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof. - Revelation 5:5*

Jesus not only opened this scroll, he has shared its contents with us. We are able to read this, not because we are worthy, but because of His great mercy. Jesus only is worthy, He went through great tribulation and was still faithful. He has a right to prepare His saints to stand up to the Horsemen.

Jesus said:

*Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man. - Luke 21:36*

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