

The Four Horseman of the Apocalypse – Part Two

Open your Bible to Revelation chapter six. In this message we continue our examination of verses one through eight.

You will recall from my previous message verses one and two of this chapter speak of the rise of antichrist. You will also recall the important truth that his rise cannot occur until Jesus opens the first seal on the book no man could open.

You should also remember this action on earth signals the approach of the famous 70th week of Daniel's prophecy. Soon after his rise to prominence as a global leader, the antichrist will sign a seven-year peace agreement with Israel. The signing of that peace agreement starts the countdown to the visible return of our Lord Jesus Christ to planet earth.

Now as we move on to the opening of the other seals, remember the corresponding actions on earth as they are opened play out within the seven years of what we commonly refer to as the Tribulation. Look again at verses three and four:

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

4And 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.

When our Lord opens the second seal another horse that was red appears. Power was given to him to take peace from the earth. Let's put this statement about peace in the context of the tribulation period. The rider of the white horse evidently establishes a great measure of peace at the beginning of his reign as he brings the

world under his control. However, as the Scripture teaches elsewhere when they shall say peace and safety, then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.

It is likely the rider of the red horse appears following the decision of the antichrist to desecrate the new Jewish temple in Jerusalem. He will enter the temple midway into the tribulation period and declare himself to be God. This is the abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel the prophet and confirmed by our Lord Jesus in Matthew 24.

The world's allegiance to the antichrist will not be set in stone and his demand for worship from the world will be more than some are willing to accept. His peace will fall apart as the red horse goes forth.

Personally, I do not think it is a coincidence China and Russia are associated with the color red. You will notice a great sword was given to him that sat on the red horse to take peace from the earth. This sword speaks of military power. I think you know China and Russia together form a military power sufficient to defeat the United States if it came to that.

News agencies around the world became aware of a new technology created by China when they tested their new nuclear-capable hypersonic missile in October 2021. One report from the New American stated:

In mid-October, headline stories around the world heralded a stunning game-changer in global security. China had recently run two tests of a new nuclear-capable hypersonic missile that, reportedly, could evade U.S. anti-ballistic missile systems and deliver a nuclear first strike against the U.S. homeland. The new superfast missile also could be used to carry out surprise attacks against U.S. naval carrier groups, or U.S. air bases and U.S. land-based forces on foreign soil. What's more, this staggering new development had "caught US intelligence by surprise."

Since that time China has increased its military spending and certainly is in possession of a great sword as stated here in verse four. Perhaps there will be several nations aligned together when the time comes for the red horse to appear but know this: *when the second seal is broken peace under the rule of antichrist will turn into sudden destruction.*

Now look at verse five:

5And 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.

6And 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.

The opening of this seal brings forth world-wide famine. No doubt this is a consequence of the wars spawned by the rider of the red horse. A measure of wheat will cost a day's wage and the same for three measures of barley.

Quite frankly it will not take much to cause massive global famine during the tribulation period as food supply chains are decimated by war. Couple that with the divine judgments that follow the opening of the seventh seal, and many will die from the horrible conditions that prevail during those days.

Now look with me at verse 7:

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

8And 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.

The opening of this seal sends forth the rider of the pale horse and his name that sat upon him was Death. If the world population is near 8 billion when the pale horse goes forth, then one fourth of that population, or 2 billion people, will die in a matter of just a few years. Think about that. It is hard to imagine such a calamity, but these things are coming.

Conclusion

Why are these things coming? Daniel chapter nine answers that question: *“Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.”*

The tribulation period which begins soon after the opening of the first seal aims to “make an end of sins.” In other words, the Lord is going to put a stop to the rebellion of mankind. Look at our world today. It is full of rebellion against the Lord, against his word, and against his Christ. But my friends, the Lord is going to put a stop to it in his time.

The question is where will you be when these things begin to happen? Jesus said to *“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.”* Amen.