

Whenever most of us hear of the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse, we think of horses with thundering hoofbeats running across a battlefield of sorts bringing doom and destruction. Today we begin with the chapters in Revelation that describe what will happen on the earth after the Lord takes His people out. I never studied this too intently before because I believe that we will not be here. However, during the time of the Tribulation there will be people on earth who come to faith, and perhaps this is written for them so that they will understand clearly what is happening when it happens. Obviously, the Lord wants us to know what it will look like or it wouldn't be in the Bible. In our reading last week, John saw a scroll in the right hand of Him who sits on the throne (God the Father). The scroll was filled out both on front and back and it was sealed with seven seals. The angel asked, "who is worthy to open the scrolls?" The Only One who was found worthy was the "Lion of Judah," "The Rod of Jesse," the "Lamb that was slain:" it is Jesus. As Jesus breaks these seals, we read:

First Seal: The Conqueror [The White Horse]



Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, "Come and see." ² And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer. (Revelation 6:1-2, NKJV).

Second Seal: Conflict on Earth [The Red Horse]

³ When He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, "Come and see." ⁴ Another horse, fiery red, went out. And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth, and that people should kill one another; and there was given to him a great sword. (Revelation 6:3-4, NKJV).

Third Seal: Scarcity on Earth [The Black Horse]

⁵ When He opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come and see." So I looked, and behold, a black horse, and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand. ⁶ And I heard a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, "A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine." (Revelation 6:5-6, NKJV).

Fourth Seal: Widespread Death on Earth [The Sallow Horse]

⁷ When He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, "Come and see." ⁸ So I looked, and behold, a pale horse. And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades followed with him. And power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth. (Revelation 6:7-8, NKJV).

These horses are an introduction to devastating socio-economic conditions and events that will come to pass in the time of the Tribulation. I see this as a general summary of what is to come during those seven years. I believe that we are already seeing the "spirit" (so to speak) of these events maturing on the earth. I think during Covid we were all traumatized to some degree. We experienced anxiety as news reports conflicted or were even squelched. Countries literally shut down. Questions abounded, but there were few answers. Confusion sort of set in. Some government entities overreached the most basic human rights in the name of "protecting the citizenry." We saw travel restricted. We saw companies close and people lose their jobs overnight as things shut down. The so-called supply chain was interrupted. When the rats chewed the wiring in one of our cars, Sandy and I waited 6 month for a wiring harness to repair our 3 year old Toyota. It was crazy. Essential employees (military and medical) lost their jobs and positions because they refused to be controlled in ways which they felt violated their constitutional rights. What we've seen is just a glimpse of what is to come. The four horses in this passage are symbolic of forces that are coming.



White Horse – Spirit of Conquest – “He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.” (Revelation 6:2b-c, NKJV).

Many Bible scholars believe this is a metaphor of the Anti-Christ who will “ride out on a white horse.” He’ll look like a good guy. He’ll look like a “savior,” but his aim will be conquest. The text tells us that he’ll be given a crown, signifying that he will be given the authority and power to make conquest over all of the earth. He will be a dominator. By conquering, it may mean that he’ll bring the nations of the earth under his sole political control. Think one-world government. This has been the dream and desire of tyrants and totalitarian regimes since the dawn of history. Alexander the Great of Macedon thought he had a “better idea” of how the world should be run, and so did Adolph Hitler. This desire for conquest is seen today as nations are engaged in intense competition for supremacy over resources, territories, military power, and influence. Competition is usually the trigger bringing nations to armed conflict. It is competition for territory, resources, tax base, etc. At their most fundamental level, the conflicts are born out of greed, envy, and pride, which manifest themselves in the desire to control others. There is always the push to compete and win.

At present, the world is witnessing relentless competition as China desires above all else to be the dominant influencer in the world. The Chinese Communist Party funds constant surveillance and theft of any and all intellectual property created in the west. They have stolen the technology and plans to copy the most advanced armaments of the west. They have stolen and now produce a "knock-off" of the F-16, F-22, F-35, and the C-17. These are the basic building blocks of the US Military. Fox News reports:

Now China has a fifth-generation stealth fighter, similar to the U.S. F-22, which has further closed what was once a virtually insurmountable gap between the two militaries in terms of technological capabilities – all thanks to continued intellectual property theft.¹

The United Nations, which was created to supposedly bring about world peace, reports that we are in a new era of conflict and global violence.² Friends, this is just the beginning. Competitive conflict will increase and finally end up with the nations of the world crying out for an end to the conflict, and they will submit (or be conquered) to come under the control of the one person unto whom the "crown" is given. We don't know who this will be, but I can tell you that it will not be a person with any real interest in world peace. His objective will be TO CONTROL AND DOMINATE. It is the spirit of Baal whose name means "Owner, Lord, or Dominator." Jesus liberates. The white horse will dominate.

This passage tells us that in spite of attempts to stop a one-world government, THAT is the trajectory of human history. He will go out conquering and to conquer. This might sound like "scare-talk" but it is not. We have the privilege of seeing these things falling into place. We have no reason to be filled with anxiety, but rather we should be comforted in knowing that God is working His purposes out JUST LIKE HE SAID HE WOULD. There is NO ROOM FOR FEAR IN THE HEART OF THE BELIEVER. Fortunately, this is not something that we will live through or endure. It is happening, and everyone senses that it is unstoppable, and that's okay because scripture supports that you and I as believers will not be here in that time. I am not saying that we will avoid persecution, conflict, and some even death. I am saying we will not be here for the "big events" that constitute wholesale judgment (see Revelation 3:10).

Let's now look at the second horse described - a red horse. The white horse represents the political side of one-worldism, but the red horse is the military might which will be controlled by the one who will bring about the conquest.

¹ <https://www.foxnews.com/world/china-has-stolen-us-military-secrets-create-formidable-j-20-knockoff-americas-f-22-raptor-experts>

² <https://www.un.org/en/un75/new-era-conflict-and-violence>



Red Horse – Spirit of Conflict – “And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth, and that people should kill one another; and there was given to him a great sword.” (Revelation 6:4b-d, NKJV).

This is, of course, the arm of might of the person on the white horse above. There is an old saying, “whoever has the gold makes the rules,” but I think that is trumped by a different corollary. “Whoever has the guns determines who gets the gold.” The bottom line is that whoever has the weapons holds the power to kill. The gun will be held by those in power, and historically tyrants have never let their people have the guns. Hitler banned guns for the “safety of the German people,”³ and Stalin banned the guns for the same reason as did Mao. This red horse symbolizes that spirit of intense violence that will roam the earth with no intent other than the killing of people. Think North Korea on a world-wide scale and think a charismatic leader in control instead of Kim Jong Un. That’s what is to come.

The violence we are now going to read about is unimaginable. We might wonder, “Could this really happen?” Many of us were alive in the last century. We’re not done with this century, but in the last century (20th century) it is estimated that a minimum of 203 million people died due to violence brought about by governmental causation or military violence.⁴ During the Tribulation the death rate will be approximately 10X this amount and it will be compacted into a 7 year period instead of a century.⁵ I am not certain, but I believe the 20th Century experienced more deaths by military and political violence than the sum of all prior deaths in the history of mankind on earth.⁶ The good news is that the twentieth century is over. The bad news is that it’s going to get ten times worse. I don’t think it serves any purpose to meditate or list for you all who have died in the last century, but I do want to bring attention to the fact that the primary agents of death in the 20th Century were totalitarian leaders hell-bent on control and conquest. Totalitarian leaders would include, but are not limited to: Hitler, Stalin, Mao, Pol-Pot, and whoever is the “Rocket Man” du jour in Korea. Each of these men took weapons away from their own people so they could engage in systematic extermination of their own citizenry. **Mao Zedong said, “All political power comes from the barrel of a gun. The Communist Party must command all the guns; that way, no guns can ever be used to command the party.”**⁷ This is what the end will look like, but it will be violence that will cover the entire earth. Again, I do not believe that you and I who are believers in Jesus will be on the earth. By God’s mercy and grace we will have been taken out before the really horrific bloody times begin.

³ <https://wyoleg.gov/InterimCommittee/2019/01-201910313-04Handout.pdf>

⁴ <http://necrometrics.com/all20c.htm>

⁵ 2 Billion will die by today’s number as that is one fourth of the 8 billion population currently on earth

⁶ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_anthropogenic_disasters_by_death_toll

⁷ <https://www.dailysignal.com/2022/06/16/after-the-guns-were-removed-the-killing-fields-began/>



Black Horse – Spirit of Scarcity “And I heard a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, “A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine.” (Revelation 6:6, NKJV).

Economics is the study of the allocation of scarce resources. And if modern economists think they’ve seen scarcity, they’ve got another THINK coming. I studied economics at the graduate level and I am still fascinated by the field of economics. It is the study of why things are produced and consumed. Economics involves the analysis of respective inputs and contributions needed to create a product or a service. This third horseman portrays great scarcity and famine that will come to pass. Food will be scarce. There will be “supply chain” disruptions such as mankind has never seen. As scarcity (crop failures, hoarding, etc.) sets in as the inevitable result of the war from the first and second horsemen, hyper-inflation will occur. The nations of the earth will monetize their debt through the printing of money. Money will cease to have value. It will take a day’s wages to buy just enough bread to stay alive. (A quart of wheat or barley as read in verse 6 was enough food for one person for one day, and a denarius was a day’s wage for an average worker.) The masses who can’t afford wheat will have a lesser quality of food represented by barley because that’s all they’ll be able to afford. BUT the ruling class will have all the wine and oil (luxury goods) that they want.

It is ALWAYS THAT WAY IN COMMUNISM, SOCIALISM, AND TOTALITARIANISM. The ruling class are elite. They get what they want. They feel they are entitled to the best of the best because in their minds they are the glue that holds the whole thing together. TOTALITARIANISM HAS ALWAYS OUTLAWED GOD AND TRIED TO DISPLACE HIM. WHY? BECAUSE THEY DESIRE TO BE GOD AND THEY DEMAND THAT THEY BE WORSHIPPED BY THE REST. This attitude was summed up by George Orwell in the first of the seven commandments of animal farm, “All men are created equal, but some are more equal than others.” Scripture tells us that luxuries will be available, but staple goods will not (as we just read in Revelation 6:6). The spirit of the black horse will hold the scales of commerce and nothing will be produced or consumed without going over his scales or market place. Again, during Covid, we saw how centralized power could be exerted over the economy. Truckers in Canada lost their life savings overnight when they protested government control. Even in the USA, the constraints on commerce were mind-boggling.



Sallow Horse (Pale green: the color of death) – Spirit of Death– “So I looked, and behold, a pale horse. And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades followed with him. And power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth.” (Revelation 6:8, NKJV).

Author Chuck Missler calls this horse the “livid” horse. What he means by that is that this horse is pale-grayish-green. The old English word for this is “sallow” from which we derive the word “yellow.” This is the color of a corpse. It is the color of death. The Greek text uses the word **χλωρός (chloros)** meaning green or light green such as the color of plants.

This is death that will be released upon the earth. It is wholesale death at a level presently unknown by humans. The text tells us that it will take a fourth of the population of the earth. By present numbers (presently estimating the world’s population at 8 billion people) this means that 2 billion people will die. They will die in military conflict, famine, disease and pestilence, and some will even be killed by “beasts of the earth.”

In reality, this message is for those who might read or hear this when those of us who are believers have been taken. This is a word for those who come to accept Jesus as Messiah once we’re all gone. There are several take-aways for us today. First, take to heart the comforting words of Jesus when He said, *“¹⁰ Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.”* (Revelation 3:10, NKJV). Second, as you see world events in decline, rejoice that it is just as scripture says that it will be. Yes, it saddens us to see our country on a crash course with destruction, but remember that this isn’t all that there is. This is all very temporary. Yes, we should vote and struggle to maintain the freedoms that we have, but don’t ever forget that this is not our final resting place. We’re not home yet. Third, you and I should be encouraged to share the gospel with urgency. We’re closer to the end than we’ve ever been. Last, know that we’re on the winning side. Tears may last for a night, but joy comes in the morning. Remember and take to heart the words of Jesus, *“²⁸ And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.”* (Luke 21:28, KJV). Brothers and sisters, let us do that. Let us lift up our eyes as our redemption draws nigh.

Let us pray.

Union Grove is one of the oldest Baptist communities of faith in the State of Texas dating back to 1844. Pastor Faber McMullen may be reached by email at uniongrove362@gmail.com or by

snail mail at: 15301 FM 362, Navasota, Texas 77868. Tel: 936-825-1227 (Edited and proofed by Amanda Neese- Webster, Texas.) All financial gifts to this ministry are tax-deductible as a 501 (c) (3) Corporation.