

THE FOUR HORSEMEN

REVELATION 6:1-8

Text:

Introduction:

The next event on God's timetable is the rapture of the church. That takes place between Revelation 3 and 4. After the church is taken out at the rapture there will follow a 7 year period like this earth has never experienced. We have seen in recent days some tragic things happen.

2001 – World Trade Center Terrorist Attacks

2007 – VT Shooting

2008 – Mid-west flooding

But as bad as these events were they are mild in comparison to what will happen at this time called the tribulation period.

Remember what the Lord said about this time back in Matthew.

Matthew 24:21

²¹For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

Jeremiah speaks of this time as well.

Jeremiah 30:6

⁶Ask ye now, and see whether a man doth travail with child? wherefore do I see every man with his hands on his loins, as a woman in travail, and all faces are turned into paleness?

Daniel too speaks of this time.

Daniel 12:1

¹And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation *even* to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.

What God shows John in Revelation 6 is a vision of unmatched horror.

In chapter 5 we learn of a 7 sealed book, and the question was asked who it is that is worthy of opening the seals. Christ alone was worthy.

Here in chapter 6 the seals are removed one at a time. As these seals are broken the horrors of the tribulation are turned loose upon the earth, and they unfold before our eyes.

Notice these first 4 seals and these 4 horses and their riders.

Revelation 6:1-2

¹ 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. 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.

1. WHITE HORSE – DOMINION

- Who is this rider? It is the Anti-Christ.
- A white horse symbolizes conquest. A bow is a symbol of power and warfare, and a crown is a symbol of dominion.
- This is the final dictator on this earth, and he is coming on a white horse as an imitator of Christ.
- He will come on a platform of peace (Notice no arrows just a bow) but this last world dictator will bring death and destruction.

2. RED HORSE – DIVISION

Revelation 6:3-4

³ And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see. ⁴ 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.

- It is interesting that the time for the first horse to the revealing of this horse is 3 ½ years. Things are going to become even worse now.
- When we consider the events in the Middle East this is certainly understandable.
- Israel is now at war with Hezbollah and others. The warfront is on the northern border.

Notice:

Ezekiel 38:6

⁶ Gomer, and all his bands; the house of Togarmah of the north quarters, and all his bands: *and* many people with thee.

Ezekiel 38:15

¹⁵ And thou shalt come from thy place out of the north parts, thou, and many people with thee, all of them riding upon horses, a great company, and a mighty army:

Ezekiel 39:2

² And I will turn thee back, and leave but the sixth part of thee, and will cause thee to come up from the north parts, and will bring thee upon the mountains of Israel:

- Iran's most powerful ally is Russia and it will be these among others that will invade Israel.
- It will come, first nation against nation. This horse speaks of division.

Read recent News articles about Russia and Iran

3. BLACK HORSE – DEPRAVATION

Revelation 6:5-6

⁵ 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. ⁶ 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.

- These balances were old fashioned scales, representing a scarcity of food. During the tribulation food will be weighed like gold.
- A days food supply will cost one days wage.
- We are already living in a time where food prices are rising rapidly.
- This horseman was told not to tamper with the oil and wine, items of luxury. During this time the poor will get poorer and the rich will get richer.
- This horse represents deprivation and starvation.

4. PALE HORSE – DEATH

Revelation 6:7-8

⁷ And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see. ⁸ 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.

- This word pale means green or greenish in color and speaks of a body that has turned green and is rotting and decaying.
- Note $\frac{1}{4}^{\text{th}}$ of the world's population will die during this time. Right now that represents well over 1 billion people.

What an unbelievable chain reaction. First the anti-christ will come with dominion, then war with division, famine with deprivation, then death will come to over 1 billion people, making it impossible to bury them all.

But that's not the end of it. John saw two riders associated with this horse.

'D'eath and Hell followed. While death claimed the body, Hell claims the soul.

Close:

The stage is set for the rapture of the church, and then these seals will be opened and these horsemen will ride.

You may be thinking that it's just the religious world that's warning about these things. But even the

secular world is seeing the possibility of impending doom.

A book entitled "Hungry Planet" the author said, "Its sobering to realize that no part of the world in the event of serious crop failure is more that 1year away from starvation.

Doctors and scientist are continuously learning of new strains of bacteria which are resistant to all know antibiotics, and doctors around the world are becoming alarmed at the possibilities of the greatest outbreak of disease the world has ever seen. SARS contains animal viruses, and then you have things like bird flu.

The Lord said that in the last days that there would be a great increase of earthquakes, famine and pestilence.

You cannot watch the news without seeing all these things regularly.

The flames of judgment are on the horizon things are nearing the conclusion.

For the Christian there is nothing to fear, for the unbeliever you will have no hope.