

fiercest intensity, there will be a preliminary period of unprecedented religious delusion, political change, war, and carnage. Jesus refers to this preliminary period of judgment as the “beginning of sorrows” (Greek: “ἀρχὴ ὠδίνων”—“the beginning of birth pangs, or agonies”) and graphically describes it as a time of worldwide social, political, geological, and cosmological upheaval—one that closely corresponds to the four horsemen seen in vision by the Apostle John. Jesus predicted, “*Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows. Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name’s sake*” (Matt. 24:4-9).

While the advent of the four horsemen and their related judgments, no doubt corresponds to some degree with the period outlined in Matt. 24:4-9, and with the first three and one-half years of Daniel’s prophetic seventieth week (Daniel 9:27), there are indications that we in 21st Century America are living in the very shadows of these

predicted calamities. The hoofbeats of these horsemen can, as it were, be heard in the distance, and the sound of their advance signals that the long awaited coming of Jesus Christ to claim His watching and waiting Bride is even now at hand. May the word of the Beloved Apostle John whet our expectancy and warn us to flee from the coming displays of Divine displeasure, as we contemplate the profound significance of these apocalyptic riders, and listen to the distant rumble that betokens their rapid approach.

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”

Rev. 6:1-2

When the Lord Jesus, Who is alone worthy (Rev. 5:2-5; cf. Jn. 5:22; Acts 17:31) to determine the destiny of the nations who have rebelled against His sovereign will (Ps. 2:2,3), begins to open the seven-sealed book of judgment, there is a mighty clap of thunder, heralding, as it were, the ferocity of the coming storm.

At this point, one of the four living creatures (a special order of celestial beings), issues an invitation to John, “Come and see” (5:1)—

an invitation that is repeated at the breaking of each of the first four seals, though not at the onset of the final three (Rev. 5:1,3,5,7; contra 5:9,12; 8:1). With these three words, God summons us to draw near to Him in special closeness that we may witness, as both a warning to the nations and comfort to the saints, the things which must shortly come to pass (Rev. 1:1).

Before John’s eager gaze, a white horse emerges, whose rider carries a bow (the capacity for military action) and receives a crown (a token of acquired political position), going forth conquering and to conquer (to spread his influence by overcoming opposition). The color white is often used in the book of Revelation as an emblem for victory and righteousness (Rev. 1:14; 2:17; 3:4,5, etc.). As far as the identity of the rider, the beast (Rev. 13:1,4-8) that arises out of the seething sea of international turmoil seems to be the best solution. As this global dictator seeks to advance his agenda of world domination, he will wield the military option (the bow), while he feigns righteousness and promises peace (I Thess. 5:3). But his apparent interest in religion (instance his support of the great harlot system of apostate Christianity: Rev. 17:3) is but a smokescreen utilized to conceal his bloodthirsty anti-Christian sentiment. His true colors, however, will be revealed

when he acquires the reigns of world government, for he will wage relentless war against the saints, with many sealing their testimony with their own blood (Rev. 13:7; 12:11).

His stunning career and meteoric rise to power will be aided by a sponsorship of false Christianity, which maintains a form of external piety, but has repudiated the essential power of the Christian faith (II Tim. 3:5). His religious influence is even now being powerfully felt, as we witness the prevalence of adultery, fornication, divorce (except by the innocent for the sole reason of fornication), teenage rebellion, female dominance (Isa. 3:12), doctrinal deviation, and spiritual declension among those who name the name of Christ (II Tim. 2:19). II Thess. 2:9-11 describes his arrival as a strong delusion, sent judicially by God, to condemn those who did not receive the love of the truth. Multitudes, who turned away their ears from the truth of Biblical Christianity, will believe the lie of the ages as they become the unwitting dupes and admirers of the man of sin who leads the charge of totalitarian government. Dear reader, have you considered that you, too, will be carried away by the current of these coming events unless you believe on Jesus Christ, and turn from personal sin while there is yet time? May you be granted an ear to hear the hoof beats

of this first horseman, and the grace to take heed.

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 6:3-5

After deceptive pledges of peace (Jer. 6:10-15; I Thess. 5:3), the world will descend into international chaos, with war and carnage on an unprecedented scale the grim order of the day. The reports of wars will steadily increase until the entire globe is embroiled in a great conflict of nightmarish proportions. The almost universal quest for peace will prove woefully delusive (Isa. 57:20,21), as the unthinkable actually happens, and the world of mankind is plunged into an horrific bloodbath.

Alas, the blood-red horse of war and bloodshed is coming to the streets of America, and this nation, which has been given peace for a season, will come face to face with the stark realities of war. Moreover, the pampered and lukewarm Christianity of our day, which finds difficulty coping in a time of peace, will, apart from heartfelt repentance, utterly collapse under the harsh conditions of global conflict (Jer. 12:5). This analysis,

however, is not to suggest that the period known as the beginning of birth pangs, if it be interpreted as the first 3½ years of Daniel’s seventieth week, will be experienced by all believers, but only that the red-horse-rider’s embodied principle of judgment by war, has an application to the events that shall shortly beset this country as birth-throes.

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”

Rev. 6:5,6

Steep economic downturns. Severe food shortages. Runaway inflation. Enforced rationing programs. Widespread hunger. Death by starvation. In the wake of military conflicts there will be chronic food shortages to the point that the average daily wage (δηνάριον) will buy enough wheat to feed a man of moderate appetite. Thus will God judge a world that has refused or abused His offer of grace, by decreasing the supply of staple foods, while permitting items of luxury to go untouched, as if to say, “The wine and oil that moistened your former desire for indulgence, will do you little good when you have

not food to fill your belly.”

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”

Rev. 6:7,8

The forth and final horseman comes before us with the ghastly, pale-green (χλωρός) color of a corpse, betokening an unprecedented spread of death that will decimate one-fourth of the world’s population. Given a world population of 6 billion, this figure would entail the loss of 1.5 billion lives, which would be more than if all the people in North America, Central America, and South America were killed. Then there is the grim reminder that those thus perishing, enter the afterlife to suffer additional torment, for Hell (ἄδης) followed closely behind death (Luke 16:23).

So, dear reader, how do you fare in the face of these four riders. Are you prepared for eternity? If not, bow your heart in prayer now and ask Jesus to save you from your sins. Turn from every known transgression and begin a life of prayer, Bible reading, and Scriptural church fellowship.

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THE HOOFBEATS OF FOUR HORSEMEN

“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”

Rev. 6:1

In the prophetic distance, the spiritually attuned Christian can, as it were, hear the hoofbeats of four apocalyptic horsemen as they gallop apace and swallow the distance between the predicted future and the troubled present. By the spirit of revelation, John, the beloved apostle, was permitted to look down through the generations and behold four rapidly advancing horsemen who are destined to exert their influence upon a largely unsuspecting world.

These horses, with their distinct colors of white, red, black, and pale greenish-yellow, and their individual, mounted riders, represent, in their symbolic character, successive, momentous events that presage and lead to the Second Advent of Jesus Christ. This succession of judgment-events gradually increases in severity and gathers in intensity until every strata of society comes to the stark recognition that the great day of the Lamb’s wrath has finally arrived in full fury (Rev. 6:17). But prior to the revelation of God’s wrath in its