



THE BOOK OF

REVELATION

...the great power
...the people
...will be needed to pluck
...roots.
7. Following Septuagint, Syriac, and Vulgate, Masorah



The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse

(NWA / WCW)



The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse

(X-Men)



The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse

(Revelation 6:1-8)

Revelation 6:1-2 (ESV)

1 Now I watched when the Lamb opened one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures say with a voice like thunder, “Come!” 2 And I looked, and see, a white horse! And its rider had a bow, and a crown was given to him, and he came out conquering, and to conquer.

Revelation 6:3-4 (ESV)

3 When he opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, “Come!” 4 And out came another horse, bright red. Its rider was permitted to take peace from the earth, so that people should slay one another, and he was given a great sword.

Revelation 6:5-6 (ESV)

5 When he opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, “Come!” And I looked, and see, a black horse! And its rider had a pair of scales in his hand. 6 And I heard what seemed to be 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 wine!”

Revelation 6:7-8 (ESV)

7 When he opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, “Come!”

8 And I looked, and see, a pale horse! And its rider’s name was Death, and Hades followed him. And they were given authority over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword and with famine and with pestilence and by wild beasts of the earth.

The purpose of this book is not to reveal the secret of **HOW THE WORLD ENDS**; it reveals **JESUS CHRIST**.

It is a gracious, heaven-sent disclosure that **ENABLES US TO SEE** our lives, Christ, and the march of history from a divine perspective, uncovering how God, through Jesus, is working His will on earth as in heaven.



THE OX CHERUB



THE MAN CHERUB



THE EAGLE CHERUB



This scroll is a
document of
INHERITANCE,
the title deed of
the earth, the
future, and life
forevermore.

Revelation 5:9-10 (ESV)

“Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.”



The Lamb conquers
by **LAYING**
DOWN HIS LIFE
in **RANSOM.**



All that John sees in
this chapter is **IN
PREPARATION** for
disclosing the
contents of this
scroll. Each seal
must be broken for
the scroll to be read.



To what do the seals
GIVE WITNESS?

As they point us
toward God's
coming future of
justice and salvation
in Christ, what is
their **TESTIMONY?**

For the meek to inherit the earth and
God's good and beautiful future to
arrive, divine **JUDGMENT** must come
upon all that is wicked and wrong.

What does it look like for God to bring
JUSTICE to the earth?



Four clues us
in that the
activity of
the
horsemen
will affect
the **WORLD**.

“I saw in the night, and behold, a man riding on a red horse! He was standing among the myrtle trees in the glen, and behind him were red, sorrel, and white horses. Then I said, ‘What are these, my lord?’ The angel who talked with me said to me, ‘I will show you what they are.’”

(Zechariah 1:8-9)

“So the man who was standing among the myrtle trees answered, ‘These are they whom the LORD has sent to patrol the earth.’ And they answered the angel of the LORD who was standing among the myrtle trees, and said, ‘We have patrolled the earth, and behold, all the earth remains at rest.’” (Zechariah 1:10-11)

“Then the angel of the LORD said, ‘O LORD of hosts, how long will you have no mercy on Jerusalem and the cities of Judah, against which you have been angry these seventy years?’”

(Zechariah 1:12)

“And the LORD answered gracious and comforting words to the angel who talked with me. So the angel who talked with me said to me, ‘Cry out, Thus says the LORD of hosts: I am exceedingly jealous for Jerusalem and for Zion. And I am exceedingly angry with the nations that are at ease; for while I was angry but a little, they furthered the disaster.’” **(Zechariah 1:13-15)**

The heavenly horsemen enter the
biblical narrative just when God
decides to remove a **FALSE PEACE**
from the earth, so He can usher in
TRUE SHALOM.

“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.”

(Matthew 10:34)

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid... In me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

(John 14:27; 16:33)

“And whoever does not take his cross
and follow me is not worthy of me.
Whoever finds his life will lose it, and
whoever loses his life for my sake will
find it.” **(Matthew 10:38-39)**

What does the coming of God's
judgment look like?

It looks like God removing His
protective hand of **RESTRAINT** and
allowing us to experience the **FULL**
CONSEQUENCES of our actions.

Humanity lives under the covering of
COMMON GRACE.

“But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.”

(Matthew 5:44-45)

“Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers and sisters. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.” (**James 1:16-17**)

Divine judgment is often nothing more
than God withdrawing the mercy of
His protective presence and
HANDING US OVER to our own
desires, allowing us to taste the bitter
fruit of what we have willfully sown.

“For the wrath of God is revealed from
heaven against all ungodliness and
unrighteousness of men, who by their
unrighteousness suppress the truth.”

(Romans 1:18)

- “Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshipped and served the creature rather than the Creator...” (vv. 24-25)

- “For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions... receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error...” (vv. 26-27)

- “And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice...” (vv. 28-29)

Revelation 6:1-2 (ESV)

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The horseman
who rides the
white horse
represents the
threat of
**FOREIGN
CONQUEST.**

Roman & Parthian Trade Route System

Showing commercial hubs and trade routes c. 1st to 3rd centuries CE





The Parthians



Revelation 6:3-4 (ESV)

3 When he opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, “Come!” 4 And out came another horse, bright red. Its rider was permitted to take peace from the earth, so that people should slay one another, and he was given a great sword.

The horseman
on the red horse
represents the
threat of
VIOLENCE and
CIVIL STRIFE.





Rome's bloody & frequent civil wars

Revelation 6:5-6 (ESV)

5 When he opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, “Come!” And I looked, and see, a black horse! And its rider had a pair of scales in his hand. 6 And I heard what seemed to be 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 wine!”



The horseman
who rides the
black horse
represents the
threat of
**ECONOMIC
HARDSHIP and
FAMINE.**

Revelation 6:7-8 (ESV)

7 When he opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, “Come!”

8 And I looked, and see, a pale horse! And its rider’s name was Death, and Hades followed him. And they were given authority over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword and with famine and with pestilence and by wild beasts of the earth.



The fourth
horseman
astride the sickly
green horse is
named **DEATH**.

The first four seals bear witness to the fact that apart for God we do not know **WAY OF PEACE**; all our paths lead to **DESTRUCTION**.

The first four seals bear witness to the fact that apart for God we do not know **WAY OF PEACE**; all our paths lead to **DESTRUCTION**.

“The way of peace they do not know,
and there is no justice in their paths; they
have made their roads crooked; no one
who treads on them knows peace.”

(Isaiah 59:8)

“And when Jesus drew near and saw the city, he wept over it, saying, ‘Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes... because you did not know the time of your visitation.’” **(Luke 19:41-42, 44)**

The first four seals testify to the truth
that evil is by nature
SELF-DEFEATING.

“Finally he sent his son to them, saying,
‘They will respect my son.’ But when the
tenants saw the son, they said to
themselves, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us
kill him and have his inheritance.’”

(Matthew 21:37-38)

For all its history, the Church has been
LIVING IN THE DAYS of the four
horsemen of the apocalypse.

“And when you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. This must take place, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. These are but the beginning of the birth pains.” (Mark 13:7-8)

The scroll is being opened. Jesus has won. A new future is being born!