

Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse

Assembled by C. M. White

Version 2.1

To dig deeper into the doctrine and to ascertain exactly what the 4 horsemen mentioned in the Book of Revelation are, it is necessary to look at comparative Scriptures in both Old and New Testaments to come to a correct outcome.

The Scriptures identified in the table below (in addition to Revelation 6) are not necessarily the same as the 4 horsemen of Revelation, but they do inform us what these horsemen stand for. Otherwise there is too much guess work and unnecessary speculation.

Nor am I attempting to make out that all the events in these various Scriptures necessarily pertain to the same events. I merely demonstrate that one can interpret the 4 horsemen by other Scriptures.

In addition, I add below extracts from old Worldwide Church of God literature on the subject (there are also a number of other articles and sermons on the subject available online from the old Worldwide Church of God). The Church even published a series of booklets (at least 30 pages each) on each of these horsemen.

Historical events may prove useful too in identifying these horsemen and event sequences. For instance, there seems to be a pattern sometimes in history that climate change or periods of drought and famine lead to civilizational or empire collapses. See for example Robert Lirussi's paper *The Ancient Near East Sumerians, Akkadi, Assyrians, Babylonians The Chaldeans, Cassiti. From the great CLIMATE CHANGE The upper Palaeolithic (15.000/10.000 a.C.) To Hammurabi of Babylon And the beginnings the Hittites 1,500 B.C. ca* (no date or place of publication).

Others are: "Role of climate in the rise and fall of the Neo-Assyrian Empire" *Science Advances*, vol. 5, no. 11, Nov. 2019 by Ashish Sinha et al¹; *Ten Civilizations or Nations That Collapsed From Drought* by Jeff Masters, Weather Underground, 21 March 2016 etc.

False religions, wars (including civil wars), drought and famine and consequent disease epidemics are all overlapping series of events. But notice it starts with religious deception from which the others flow. The end result is the collapse of the civilisation or nation via invasion and national terror.

Below I show how the 4 horsemen are in effect the way the Book of Revelation designates the 4 aspects of national curses and punishment based on other Scriptures which assist us for this purpose.

Related Studies

- *Beast and False Prophet: Parallel Scriptures*
- *Comparing Certain Roman Empire Revivals – Confirmations and Deficiencies*
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- *History of the Extended Arm Salute*
- *Napoleon. A Roman Emperor*
- *Sequence of End-Times Events Chart*
- *Seven Restorations of the Roman System Chart*
- *What will the Beast be like?*
- *Wilhelm II. Type of the Final Emperor*

¹ "The fall of the Assyrian Empire was one of the iconic events of world history. The chain of events leading to its rise, expansion, and downfall likely included multiple proximal and distal factors. **The past few decades of the empire were marked by political instability, civil wars, and, ultimately, invasion by the combined armies of Babylonians and Medes (1–4)**, which were perhaps among the proximate causes for the Assyrian collapse. Our data suggest that climate change was an underlying causal factor, whose effects on the Assyrian imperial economy began centuries before the Empire's collapse. Nearly two centuries of high precipitation and high agrarian outputs encouraged high-density urbanization and imperial expansion that was not sustainable **when climate shifted to megadrought** ions during the seventh century BCE. Megadroughts as severe as modern droughts in the region but lasting for multiple decades likely crippled the Assyrian economy and precipitated its collapse. Our data also suggest that the recent multiyear droughts superimposed over a century-long drying trend are among the worst episodes of drought in the region's hydroclimate variability during the past four millennia." [emphasis mine]

In the Old Testament

Punishment/Horsemen	Leviticus 26 & Deuteronomy 28	Ezekiel	Zechariah ⁱⁱ
<p>Religious deception arises = White horse</p>	<p>Lev 26:1 "You shall not make idols for yourselves or erect an image or pillar, and you shall not set up a figured stone in your land to bow down to it, for I am the LORD your God.</p> <p>Lev 26:2 You shall keep my Sabbaths and reverence my sanctuary: I am the LORD.</p> <p>Lev 26:3 "If you walk in my statutes and observe my commandments and do them,</p> <p>Lev 26:14 "But if you will not listen to me and will not do all these commandments,</p> <p>Lev 26:15 if you spurn my statutes, and if your soul abhors my rules, so that you will not do all my commandments, but break my covenant,</p> <p>Lev 26:16 then I will do this to you: I will visit you with panic, with wasting disease and fever that consume the eyes and make the heart ache. And you shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it.</p> <p>Lev 26:17 I will set my face against you, and you shall be struck down before your enemies. Those who hate you shall rule over you, and you shall flee when none pursues you.</p> <p>Deu 28:15 "But if you will not obey the voice of the LORD your God or be careful to do all his commandments and his statutes that I command you today, then all these curses shall come upon you and overtake you.</p>	<p>Eze 5:6 And she has rebelled against my rules by doing wickedness more than the nations, and against my statutes more than the countries all around her; for they have rejected my rules and have not walked in my statutes.</p> <p>See Ezekiel 13 (entire chapter)</p> <p>Eze 14:13 "Son of man, when a land sins against me by acting faithlessly, and I stretch out my hand against it and break its supply of bread and send famine upon it, and cut off from it man and beast,</p>	<p>Zec 1:4 Do not be like your fathers, to whom the former prophets cried out, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, Return from your evil ways and from your evil deeds.' But they did not hear or pay attention to me, declares the LORD.</p> <p>Zec 1:5 Your fathers, where are they? And the prophets, do they live forever?</p> <p>Zec 1:6 But my words and my statutes, which I commanded my servants the prophets, did they not overtake your fathers? So they repented and said, 'As the LORD of hosts purposed to deal with us for our ways and deeds, so has he dealt with us</p> <p>Zec 1:8 "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.</p>
<p>Wars = Red horse</p>	<p>Lev 26:25 And I will bring a sword upon you, that shall execute vengeance for the covenant. And if you gather within your cities, I will send pestilence among you, and you shall be delivered into the hand of the enemy.</p> <p>Deu 28:25 "The LORD will cause you to be defeated before your enemies. You shall go out one way against them and flee seven ways before them. And you shall be a horror to all the kingdoms of the earth.</p> <p>Deu 28:49 The LORD will bring a nation against you from far away, from the end of the earth, swooping down like the eagle, a nation whose language you do not understand,</p> <p>Deu 28:50 a hard-faced nation who shall not respect the old or show mercy to the young.</p> <p>Deu 28:51 It shall eat the offspring of your cattle and the fruit of your</p>	<p>Eze 5:12 A third part of you shall die of pestilence and be consumed with famine in your midst; a third part shall fall by the sword all around you; and a third part I will scatter to all the winds and will unsheathe the sword after them.</p> <p>Eze 14:21 "For thus says the Lord GOD: How much more when I send upon Jerusalem my four disastrous acts of judgment, sword, famine, wild beasts, and pestilence, to cut off from it man and beast!</p>	<p>Zec 6:2 The first chariot had red horses, the second black horses, Zec 6:3 the third white horses, and the fourth chariot dappled horses—all of them strong.</p> <p>Zec 6:4 Then I answered and said to the angel who talked with me, "What are these, my lord?"</p> <p>Zec 6:5 And the angel answered and said to me, "These are going out to the four winds of heaven, after presenting themselves before the Lord of all the earth.</p> <p>Zec 6:6 The chariot with the black horses goes toward the north country, the white ones go after them, and the dappled ones go toward the south country."</p> <p>Zec 6:7 When the strong horses came out, they were impatient to go and patrol the earth. And he said, "Go, patrol the earth." So they patrolled the earth.</p> <p>Zec 6:8 Then he cried to me, "Behold, those who go toward the north</p>

ⁱⁱ "If we compare this with Zec. Zec. 6:2, where the chariots are drawn by red ('ädummīm, πυρροί [pyrroi]), black (shechōrīm, μέλανες [melanes]), white (lebhānīm, λευκοί [leukoi]), and speckled (beruddīm, ψαρῶι [psaroi]) horses, and with Rev. Rev. 6:1±, where the first rider has a white horse (λευκός [leukos]) the second a red one (πυρρός [pyrros]) the third a black one (μέλας [melas]) the fourth a pale horse (χλωρός [chlōros]), there can be no further doubt that three of the colours of the horses mentioned here occur again in the two passages quoted, and that the black horse is simply added as a fourth; so that the seruqqīm correspond to the beruddīm of Zec. Zec. 6:3, and the ἵππος χλωρός [hippos chlōros] of Rev. Rev. 6:8±, and consequently sārōq denotes that starling kind of grey in which the black ground is mixed with white, so that it is not essentially different from bārōd , speckled, or black covered with white spots (Gen. Gen. 31:10, Gen. 31:12).²

Notes

¹ "Brown; other sources suggest 'bright red,' or even 'pale yellow.'; . . . color pattern, i.e., a spotted or two-tone color pattern, possible in colors of lighter and darker brown."—James Swanson, *Dictionary of Biblical Languages With Semantic Domains : Hebrew (Old Testament)*, electronic ed. (Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, 1997), s.v. "#H8320." "The significance of the colors is not stated, and this is complicated by the fact that the Hebrew word translated 'brown' (NIV) or 'speckled' (KJV) is found only here in the Old Testament, so that its meaning is not sure."—F. Duane Lindsey, "Zechariah," in John F. Walvoord and Roy B. Zuck, eds., *The Bible Knowledge Commentary* (Wheaton, IL: SP Publications, 1983), Zec. 1:8. "The Hebrew סְרֻקִים [s^oruqqīm] means 'red.' Modern translations such as 'speckled' or 'spotted' are based on ancient versions that attempt to bring the color of this horse into line with those of Zec. Zec. 6:2-3. This is a methodological fallacy since these are two different and unrelated visions."—*New Electronic Translation : NET Bible*, electronic edition (Dallas, TX: Biblical Studies Press, 1998), Zec. 1:8. Yet it seems unlikely that sorrel represents red horses for they are distinguished from אֲרֻמִּים ['ärummīm] , which are said to be the red horses. Moreover, the translators of the LXX, probably closer to the meaning of the word than we moderns, render the word as ψαρῶι και ποικίλοι [psaroi kai poikiloi] , speckled and many-colored ones. ² Carl Friedrich Keil and Franz Delitzsch, *Commentary on the Old Testament* (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2002), Zec. 1:8. ³ *Ibid.*" (Source: <https://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/revelation/related-topics/zechariahs-horsemen.html>) [emphasis mine]

Punishment/Horsemen	Leviticus 26 & Deuteronomy 28	Ezekiel	Zechariah ⁱⁱ
Drought & Famine - especially in House of Israel = Black horse	<p>ground, until you are destroyed; it also shall not leave you grain, wine, or oil, the increase of your herds or the young of your flock, until they have caused you to perish.</p> <p>Deu 28:52 "They shall besiege you in all your towns, until your high and fortified walls, in which you trusted, come down throughout all your land. And they shall besiege you in all your towns throughout all your land, which the LORD your God has given you.</p> <p>Lev 26:18 And if in spite of this you will not listen to me, then I will discipline you again sevenfold for your sins,</p> <p>Lev 26:19 and I will break the pride of your power, and I will make your heavens like iron and your earth like bronze.</p> <p>Lev 26:20 And your strength shall be spent in vain, for your land shall not yield its increase, and the trees of the land shall not yield their fruit.</p> <p>Deu 28:23 And the heavens over your head shall be bronze, and the earth under you shall be iron.</p> <p>Deu 28:24 The LORD will make the rain of your land powder. From heaven dust shall come down on you until you are destroyed.</p>	<p>Eze 5:12 A third part of you shall die of pestilence and be consumed with famine in your midst; a third part shall fall by the sword all around you; and a third part I will scatter to all the winds and will unsheathe the sword after them.</p> <p>Eze 14:21 "For thus says the Lord GOD: How much more when I send upon Jerusalem my four disastrous acts of judgment, sword, famine, wild beasts, and pestilence, to cut off from it man and beast!</p>	<p>country have set my Spirit at rest in the north country."</p> <p>Zec 6:2 The first chariot had red horses, the second black horses, Zec 6:3 the third white horses, and the fourth chariot dappled horses—all of them strong.</p> <p>Zec 6:4 Then I answered and said to the angel who talked with me, "What are these, my lord?"</p> <p>Zec 6:5 And the angel answered and said to me, "These are going out to the four winds of heaven, after presenting themselves before the Lord of all the earth.</p> <p>Zec 6:6 The chariot with the black horses goes toward the north country, the white ones go after them, and the dappled ones go toward the south country."</p> <p>Zec 6:7 When the strong horses came out, they were impatient to go and patrol the earth. And he said, "Go, patrol the earth." So they patrolled the earth.</p> <p>Zec 6:8 Then he cried to me, "Behold, those who go toward the north country have set my Spirit at rest in the north country."</p>
Disease epidemics -especially in House of Israel = Pale horse	<p>Lev 26:25 And I will bring a sword upon you, that shall execute vengeance for the covenant. And if you gather within your cities, I will send pestilence among you, and you shall be delivered into the hand of the enemy.</p> <p>Deu 28:27 The LORD will strike you with the boils of Egypt, and with tumors and scabs and itch, of which you cannot be healed.</p> <p>Deu 28:28 The LORD will strike you with madness and blindness and confusion of mind,</p> <p>Deu 28:58 "If you are not careful to do all the words of this law that are written in this book, that you may fear this glorious and awesome name, the LORD your God,</p> <p>Deu 28:59 then the LORD will bring on you and your offspring extraordinary afflictions, afflictions severe and lasting, and sicknesses grievous and lasting.</p>	<p>Eze 5:12 A third part of you shall die of pestilence and be consumed with famine in your midst; a third part shall fall by the sword all around you; and a third part I will scatter to all the winds and will unsheathe the sword after them.</p> <p>Eze 14:21 "For thus says the Lord GOD: How much more when I send upon Jerusalem my four disastrous acts of judgment, sword, famine, wild beasts, and pestilence, to cut off from it man and beast!</p>	<p>Zec 6:2 The first chariot had red horses, the second black horses, Zec 6:3 the third white horses, and the fourth chariot dappled horses—all of them strong.</p> <p>Zec 6:4 Then I answered and said to the angel who talked with me, "What are these, my lord?"</p> <p>Zec 6:5 And the angel answered and said to me, "These are going out to the four winds of heaven, after presenting themselves before the Lord of all the earth.</p> <p>Zec 6:6 The chariot with the black horses goes toward the north country, the white ones go after them, and the dappled ones go toward the south country."</p> <p>Zec 6:7 When the strong horses came out, they were impatient to go and patrol the earth. And he said, "Go, patrol the earth." So they patrolled the earth.</p> <p>Zec 6:8 Then he cried to me, "Behold, those who go toward the north country have set my Spirit at rest in the north country."</p>
Conquest/Captivity	<p>Lev 26:30 And I will destroy your high places and cut down your incense altars and cast your dead bodies upon the dead bodies of your idols, and my soul will abhor you.</p> <p>Lev 26:31 And I will lay your cities waste and will make your sanctuaries desolate, and I will not smell your pleasing aromas.</p> <p>Lev 26:32 And I myself will devastate the land, so that your enemies who settle in it shall be appalled at it.</p> <p>Lev 26:33 And I will scatter you among the nations, and I will unsheathe the sword after you, and your land shall be a desolation, and your cities shall be a waste.</p>	<p>See Chapter 15 (entire chapter)</p> <p>Eze 6:6 Wherever you dwell, the cities shall be waste and the high places ruined, so that your altars will be waste and ruined, your idols broken and destroyed, your incense altars cut down, and your works wiped out.</p> <p>Eze 6:7 And the slain shall fall in your midst, and you shall know that I am the LORD.</p> <p>Eze 6:8 "Yet I will leave some of you alive. When you have among the nations some who escape the sword, and when you are scattered through the countries,</p>	<p>Zec 7:12 They made their hearts diamond-hard lest they should hear the law and the words that the LORD of hosts had sent by his Spirit through the former prophets. Therefore great anger came from the LORD of hosts.</p> <p>Zec 7:13 "As I called, and they would not hear, so they called, and I would not hear," says the LORD of hosts,</p> <p>Zec 7:14 "and I scattered them with a whirlwind among all the nations that they had not known. Thus the land they left was desolate, so that no one went to and fro, and the pleasant land was made desolate."</p>

Punishment/Horsemen	Leviticus 26 & Deuteronomy 28	Ezekiel	Zechariah ⁱⁱ
<p>Deliverance</p>	<p>Deu 28:64 "And the LORD will scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other, and there you shall serve other gods of wood and stone, which neither you nor your fathers have known.</p> <p>Deu 28:65 And among these nations you shall find no respite, and there shall be no resting place for the sole of your foot, but the LORD will give you there a trembling heart and failing eyes and a languishing soul.</p>		
	<p>Lev 26:39 And those of you who are left shall rot away in your enemies' lands because of their iniquity, and also because of the iniquities of their fathers they shall rot away like them.</p> <p>Lev 26:40 "But if they confess their iniquity and the iniquity of their fathers in their treachery that they committed against me, and also in walking contrary to me,</p> <p>Lev 26:41 so that I walked contrary to them and brought them into the land of their enemies—if then their uncircumcised heart is humbled and they make amends for their iniquity,</p> <p>Lev 26:42 then I will remember my covenant with Jacob, and I will remember my covenant with Isaac and my covenant with Abraham, and I will remember the land.</p> <p>Deu 30:1 "And when all these things come upon you, the blessing and the curse, which I have set before you, and you call them to mind among all the nations where the LORD your God has driven you,</p> <p>Deu 30:2 and return to the LORD your God, you and your children, and obey his voice in all that I command you today, with all your heart and with all your soul,</p> <p>Deu 30:3 then the LORD your God will restore your fortunes and have mercy on you, and he will gather you again from all the peoples where the LORD your God has scattered you.</p> <p>Deu 30:4 If your outcasts are in the uttermost parts of heaven, from there the LORD your God will gather you, and from there he will take you.</p> <p>Deu 30:5 And the LORD your God will bring you into the land that your fathers possessed, that you may possess it. And he will make you more prosperous and numerous than your fathers.</p> <p>Deu 30:6 And the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your offspring, so that you will love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.</p>	<p>Eze 6:9 then those of you who escape will remember me among the nations where they are carried captive, how I have been broken over their whoring heart that has departed from me and over their eyes that go whoring after their idols. And they will be loathsome in their own sight for the evils that they have committed, for all their abominations.</p> <p>Eze 6:10 And they shall know that I am the LORD. I have not said in vain that I would do this evil to them."</p> <p>Eze 14:22 But behold, some survivors will be left in it, sons and daughters who will be brought out; behold, when they come out to you, and you see their ways and their deeds, you will be consoled for the disaster that I have brought upon Jerusalem, for all that I have brought upon it.</p> <p>Eze 14:23 They will console you, when you see their ways and their deeds, and you shall know that I have not done without cause all that I have done in it, declares the Lord GOD."</p>	<p>Zec 10:6 "I will strengthen the house of Judah, and I will save the house of Joseph. I will bring them back because I have compassion on them, and they shall be as though I had not rejected them, for I am the LORD their God and I will answer them.</p> <p>Zec 10:7 Then Ephraim shall become like a mighty warrior, and their hearts shall be glad as with wine. Their children shall see it and be glad; their hearts shall rejoice in the LORD.</p> <p>Zec 10:8 "I will whistle for them and gather them in, for I have redeemed them, and they shall be as many as they were before.</p> <p>Zec 10:9 Though I scattered them among the nations, yet in far countries they shall remember me, and with their children they shall live and return.</p> <p>Zec 10:10 I will bring them home from the land of Egypt, and gather them from Assyria, and I will bring them to the land of Gilead and to Lebanon, till there is no room for them.</p>

In the New Testament

Punishment/Four Horsemen	Matthew 24 (cp Luke 21; Mark 13)	Revelation 6, 7, 11	First Century Fulfillment	End Time Fulfillment
<p>Seal 1 = White horse – religious deception arises</p>	<p>Mat 24:4 And Jesus answered them, "See that no one leads you astray. Mat 24:5 For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and they will lead many astray.</p> <p>Mat 24:24 For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect. Mat 24:25 See, I have told you beforehand.</p>	<p>Rev 6:2 And I looked, and behold, a white horse! And its rider had a bow, and a crown was given to him, and he came out conquering, and to conquer.</p>	<p>False ministers and slow rise of the Babylonian Mysteries mixed with Christianity</p>	<p>The Pope deceives Europe and much of the world some time prior to the Tribulation</p>
<p>Seal 2 = Red horse - wars</p>	<p>Mat 24:6 And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet. Mat 24:7 For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. Mat 24:8 All these are but the beginning of the birth pains.</p>	<p>Rev 6:3 When he opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, "Come!" Rev 6:4 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.</p>	<p>Roman wars and civil war</p>	<p>Various wars occur across the world some time prior to the Tribulation. Give that this precedes the issues the House of Israel will be facing, it is possible that this refers to some wars the Israelite nations will be involved with. So weakening them. This may include civil wars and incursions by Mexico and the Caribbeans</p>
<p>Seal 3 = Black horse – famine - especially in House of Israel</p>	<p>Mat 24:7 For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places.</p>	<p>Rev 6:5 When he opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come!" And I looked, and behold, a black horse! And its rider had a pair of scales in his hand. Rev 6:6 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!"</p>	<p>Starvation in Jerusalem.</p>	<p>House of Israel severely weakened by drought, crop failure etc – this impacts upon the economy and capacity to fully militarise</p>
<p>Seal 4 = Pale horse – disease epidemics -especially in House of Israel</p>	<p>Luk 21:11 There will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and pestilences. And there will be terrors and great signs from heaven.</p>	<p>Rev 6:7 When he opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, "Come!" Rev 6:8 And I looked, and behold, 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.</p>	<p>Diseases experienced by the inhabitants of Jerusalem.ⁱⁱⁱ</p>	<p>The above leads directly into disease epidemics</p>
<p>Conquest/Captivity</p>	<p>Mat 24:21 For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be. Mat 24:22 And if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.</p>	<p>Rev 6:9 When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the witness they had borne. Rev 6:10 They cried out with a loud voice, "O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"</p>	<p>Christians and Jews persecuted and killed by the Romans.</p>	<p>Israel taken as slaves and scattered into foreign lands</p>

ⁱⁱⁱ 'The calamities undergone by the Jews were unparalleled in their history, and will remain so. The many and great evils arising from their own distractions and intestine madness, were peculiar to this time. And Josephus asserts in general that no other city underwent such sufferings. In particular he says, that the number of captives, throughout the whole **war** was 97 thousand and that one million one hundred thousand perished in the course of the siege: To these must be added 237,490 of whom express mention is due by this historian, as being destroyed in other places; besides innumerable others, not subject to calculation, who were swept away by fatigue, **famine, disease and every kind of wretchedness and violence**. Thus did the awakened vengeance of heaven require of that generation, the blood of all the prophets, which had been shed from the foundation of the world.' (Bishop William Newcombe, *Harmony of the Gospels*, 1778, p. 246). [emphasis mine]

Punishment/Four Horsemen	Matthew 24 (cp Luke 21; Mark 13)	Revelation 6, 7, 11	First Century Fulfillment	End Time Fulfillment
	<p>Luk 21:24 They will fall by the edge of the sword and be led captive among all nations, and Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.</p>	<p>Rev 6:11 Then they were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers should be complete, who were to be killed as they themselves had been.</p> <p>Rev 7:9 After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands,</p> <p>Rev 7:13 Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?"</p> <p>Rev 7:14 I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.</p>		
<p>Deliverance</p>		<p>Rev 7:10 and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"</p> <p>Rev 11:15 Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever."</p> <p>Rev 11:18 The nations raged, but your wrath came, and the time for the dead to be judged, and for rewarding your servants, the prophets and saints, and those who fear your name, both small and great, and for destroying the destroyers of the earth."</p>		<p>The Messiah (Christ) rescues Israel from the edge of extinction.</p>

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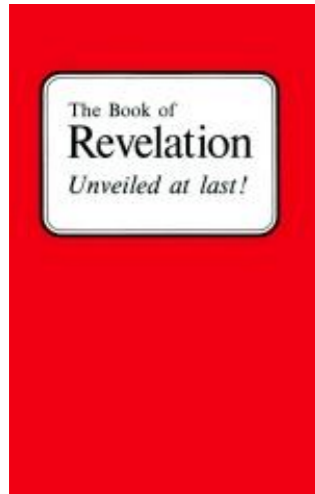
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Our purpose and desire is to foster Biblical, historical and related studies that strengthen the Church of God's message & mission and provides further support to its traditional doctrinal positions.

Appendix. Extracts from *The Book of Revelation Unveiled at Last!* By H. W. Armstrong.



The Revelation Is in Symbols!

And right HERE begins the real MYSTERY. What is this WHITE HORSE? It is merely a SYMBOL. And mark well this fact! — SYMBOLS are susceptible of MANY DIFFERENT INTERPRETATIONS! For generations men have been putting their own HUMAN interpretations on these SYMBOLS. This white horse has been interpreted many different ways.

But let's read on: "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.

...

"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.

"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" (verses 3-8).

And THERE are the well-known FOUR HORSEMEN OF THE APOCALYPSE.

That word "apocalypse" is not an English word. It is a GREEK word. The Apostle John wrote this Book of Revelation in the GREEK language. Translated into the English language that Greek word apocalypse simply means, REVELATION, or REVEALING, or OPENING UP, or UNFOLDING. Some English translations of the Bible have left the word "apocalypse" untranslated, and have used the original GREEK word for the caption of this entire book. It all means the same thing, whether we use the Greek word apocalypse, or the English word, REVELATION. So the famous FOUR HORSEMEN OF THE APOCALYPSE are merely these four prophetic SYMBOLS of the Book of Revelation.

But what are these mystic four horsemen? What do these symbols represent? Who has the right interpretation? The answer is that no man, no organization of men, whether religious or otherwise, has any power or ability to reveal this meaning. Only JESUS CHRIST was found worthy, and able, to make this meaning known. JESUS CHRIST is the Revelator! This is the Revelation of JESUS CHRIST — not of John — not of any human religious leader, not of any sect, church, or religious society or organization!

When Jesus Christ stepped forward, in John's vision, and stripped off the first four of the seven SEALS that sealed this prophetic roll, John merely sees what is written there! And the writing is in SYMBOLS. And God uses symbols to HIDE the meaning from men, until that meaning is revealed BY NONE OTHER THAN JESUS CHRIST HIMSELF!

And so mark well this situation! Here in these first eight verses of chapter 6, we find the description of Jesus Christ revealing the writing, which is in mystic SYMBOLS; but Christ, who alone is the Revelator, does not at this time and place open up the meaning! He has here merely opened up the words, in symbolic form, but not here the MEANING.

The KEY to the SEVEN SEALS

To whom shall we look for the true MEANING? Why, to the true REVELATOR, of course. And since Jesus Christ the Revelator does not reveal the meaning in this particular passage of Scripture, WE MUST LOOK ELSEWHERE, to find when and where Jesus Christ does explain the meaning of these symbols!

That is the paramount key to the Book of Revelation! That ought to make plain to you WHY the men of this world — religious leaders or church denominations — have not been able to open to you the true and significant meaning of these four horsemen!

Now keep in mind two things: first, Jesus Christ is called in the very first verses of John's gospel, the WORD of God — God's SPOKESMAN. Jesus, in Person, 1900 years ago, was the personal, living WORD OF GOD. But today we have the written Word of God — the Holy Bible. The entire BIBLE is the WORD OF GOD. Its real divine Author, then, is JESUS CHRIST — the whole BIBLE is His written WORD!

Second, a symbol is a good deal like a PARABLE. A symbol is a FIGURE or a THING, used to represent something else; and a parable is an experience employed to represent something else.

And now I want you to realize a most important FACT, bearing on our problem, which most of you never realized before. Haven't you supposed, along with nearly everyone else, that Jesus spoke in PARABLES in order to make His meaning clear a sort of illustration, so that people would better understand His meaning? Well, you have supposed WRONG! On the contrary, believe it or not, Jesus spoke in parables to cover up, to hide the true meaning from the crowds that constantly followed Him! This knowledge puts in our hands the KEY that will unlock these symbols of the Book of Revelation.

Notice the parable of the sower and the seed:

"And when he was alone, they that were about him with the twelve asked of him the parable. And he said unto them, Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all these things are done in parables: that seeing they may see, and not perceive; and hearing they may hear, and not understand; lest at any time they should be converted, and their sins should be forgiven them" ([Mark 4:10-12](#)) ... and then Jesus proceeded to

explain in plain language the meaning of the parable to His disciples!

UNDERSTAND THIS! Jesus used parables to conceal the true meaning from those He did not intend to understand! He did not, at that time and place, reveal the meaning of the parable. But, later, He did explain in plain language the true meaning, to His disciples.

And in exactly the same manner, we find in this sixth chapter of Revelation a prophecy cloaked mysteriously in SYMBOLS which have HIDDEN the true meaning from men these 1850 years! And so, if we want to really UNDERSTAND, we must do as those disciples did — we must go to Jesus, who alone is the true Revelator — and since His message to us of this day is now the WRITTEN WORD OF GOD — the Bible — we must look to see where in His written Word, this same Jesus explains to us, in plain language, the same identical events which are represented by these symbols.

Did Jesus, then, in plain language, explain these same events of this world crisis at the close of this age — these turbulent world-war days leading to the DAY OF THE LORD, and the Second Coming of Christ?

He did! When His disciples came to Him on Mt. Olivet — when they to whom He revealed His parables — they to whom it was given to know these mysteries — came to Him privately, and asked Him: "Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the Sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?" Jesus gave, in plain language, a startling prophecy of these very world conditions of TODAY, and our immediate future!

What DO the SEALS Mean?

Here, then, is the explanation of the SYMBOLS of Revelation 6!

Here is the KEY that opens up the meaning of the seals!

This tremendous Olivet prophecy is recorded in Matthew 24, Mark 13, and Luke 21. And here Jesus outlined in plain language exactly seven things to occur! Here in PLAIN LANGUAGE Jesus Christ the Revelator reveals the true meaning of the seven seals that covered the entire prophecy of the Revelation!

And now, from Matthew's account, let us read the first four stages of events Jesus foretold:

"And Jesus answered and said unto them, 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 rumors 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" (Matt. 24:4-8).

HERE IS THE HIGH-SPOT SUMMARY OF WORLD NEWS FROM 31 A.D. UNTIL NOW!

Notice this consistent principle: Once a condition which Jesus predicts sets in, it REMAINS CONTINUOUS up until His very second coming!

I want you to notice a consistent principle in this prophecy of Matthew 24, and of the 6th chapter of Revelation. SEVEN successive things, or events, are to occur. As an example: The very first condition Jesus foretells is that of FALSE PREACHERS, misleading and deceiving, not the few, but the many!

That condition set in almost immediately. The Apostle Paul wrote of it, and said this spirit of iniquity was already working, even as HE wrote! And it has never relaxed or ceased, but rather has developed in intensity, until the whole world, as distinctly prophesied, has become deceived and misled as to these Bible truths of God!

And so the next thing Jesus said would occur was WARS, and rumors of wars. There were wars in those days. But wars have not stopped. They have grown progressively worse and worse, more and more horrible and destructive, until today, we face the question of whether human life can survive the next atomic and hydrogen bomb war! Yes, as Scripture says truthfully, SIN and sinful men wax worse and worsen — not better and better, as men like to believe!

And so Jesus named these four things:

1st, FALSE TEACHING about Christ, doing away with His true Gospel.

2nd, wars, climaxing at this crisis at the close of this age in WORLD WARS — nation against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. We are now in the second recess between stages of WORLD WAR!

3rd, FAMINE, and 4th, PESTILENCE, or epidemics of DISEASE which follow in the wake of great famines and wars.

And that's where we are, right now! And this is just the beginning of the colossal WORLD EVENTS prophesied for this 20th century A.D.

The first two world wars have occurred. Rumors of wars will continue. Next to strike the earth are famine, disease epidemics and World War III — all of such staggering magnitude as this world has never dreamed!

But now compare that with the first four seals of Revelation 6. Here is the revelation of Jesus Christ. Here is Jesus' own interpretation, in plain language, of these mystic symbols of the four horsemen.

The Amazing Comparison

The first was a WHITE HORSE. Many men, using human interpretation, have looked over into the 19th chapter of Revelation, where we find the description of the glorious return of Christ pictured as coming on a white horse, and have made the great error of deciding that this first seal, then, since it is a white horse, pictures the second coming of Christ. But CHRIST'S OWN revealing of the meaning is that this white horse of the first seal pictures exactly the opposite — those preaching a FALSE Christ, different from the Christ of the New Testament! It refers to this GREAT DECEPTION that has descended like a dark cloud to cover the earth and hide from it the glorious truth of God!

All war is the result of violating the supreme spiritual Law of God, which Jesus lived and taught! The false teaching of doing away with the LAW of God, and the GOVERNMENT of God, and endorsing the ways of men, led inevitably to WARS, which have grown progressively more frightening and colossal in scale, until it is now questionable whether the world can survive another war, unless God Almighty steps in supernaturally to intervene!

And so the second seal pictures a RED horse — the color of blood — and this horseman, as Jesus Himself reveals, is WAR. "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" (Rev. 6:4).

And in like manner the third horse is the FAMINE: "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).

And, fourth, following in the wake of famine, DISEASE EPIDEMICS: "And I looked, and, behold, a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell [the grave] followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with the sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth" (Rev. 6:8).

THERE IS CHRIST'S OWN EXPLANATION of the four horsemen! But this brings us to the fearful PRESENT. This is only the very beginning of the prophecy!

Now let us come immediately to the very next prophesied event that will rock this world to its foundations

Appendix. Extracts from *The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse* - Ambassador College publication.

**THE FOUR
HORSEMEN**
of the Apocalypse



Like ghostly specters of dread disease, death, and warfare, the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse appeared to John in vision at the close of the first century A.D. What do the legendary Four Horsemen really represent? Who has the authority to reveal their meaning to us today? Who can know when they will ride, where, how, or why? Were they merely a vivid nightmare of the elderly Apostle John's imagination? Or are they a living prophecy soon to unfold in our generation? You'll be shocked to see how Jesus Christ Himself revealed the true meaning — for our day, right now — of the four mysterious riders of Revelation.

...

RELIGIOUS DECEPTION — The first horse and its rider picture a great counterfeit religion which calls itself "Christian" yet embraces pagan beliefs and practices.

Chapter Two

A Counterfeit Christ

"Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying I am Christ; and shall deceive many. " — [Matthew 24:2-5](#)

"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. " — [Revelation 6:1-2](#)

THE FIRST horseman of the Apocalypse has caused more confusion and consternation among Bible critics than the other three horse men combined! The majority of Bible commentators are at least partially correct in determining the meaning of the red, black, and pale horses which follow. The context of Revelation 6 interprets itself in regards to the final three horsemen's identity. But the identity of the first horse is almost universally misunderstood because scholars have neglected the clarifying words of Christ the Revelator in [Matthew 24:4-5](#).

Many men, using human interpretation, have looked ahead to the 19th chapter of Revelation, to the description of the glorious Second Coming of Christ on a white horse. They have made the error of equating the white horse of Revelation 6 with the true Christ of chapter 19.

This basic misinterpretation appears in many forms. Some say the white horse of Revelation 6 represents the worldwide preaching of the Gospel, to "conquer" men's minds. Some say it is an angel preparing the way for Christ. Some say it represents Christian governments conquering heathen nations in the name of Christ. Some say it is the church. Some say it represents "Elijah," preparing the way for Christ.. Some say it represents the second coming, while others think it is a flashback to Christ's first coming.

Nearly all commentators label the white horse rider as Jesus Christ, or some form of His Work on earth. But what does Christ Himself have to say about the white horse? Believe it or not, He prophesied that this very deception and misunderstanding would occur!

A Counterfeit Creeps In

The very first world development Jesus Christ warns about is the advent of many false preachers, misleading and deceiving the many, not the few. This condition began immediately after Christ's death and resurrection. The Apostle Paul warned that the spirit of iniquity was already working, even as he wrote.

Jude, the younger brother of Jesus Christ. exhorted early Christians to "earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. for there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation. ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness" ([Jude 3, 4](#)).

In the first century true Christians witnessed a counterfeit Christianity creeping in, deceiving many. Such religious deception has now increased in intensity until the whole world has become deceived about the true message of Christ. By the time of the end, your Bible says that Satan the devil" deceiveth the whole world" ([Rev. 12:9](#)).

There is no greater sign of this universal ignorance about God than the misunderstanding of who the first horseman of Revelation 6 actually represents.

"Another Christ"

It is true that the white horse represents a Christ, but it is a false Christ. It is true that the first horseman represents a gospel and a church, but it is a false gospel and a false church — all in the name of Jesus Christ, but in truth a deception and a counterfeit. Jesus Christ says so Himself in Matthew 24, and the Apostle Paul amplified Christ's words very plainly in II Corinthians 11.

"I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he that cometh preaches another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted" they might be deceived. "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works" (II Cor. 11:3-4, 13-15).

Your Bible identifies Satan's ministers as being confessing Christians! They don't appear Satanic, of course. They appear as "angels of light." They look like the white horse of Christ's return, but they are in truth a clever counterfeit of the true Christ.

Paul isn't warning us against obviously false religions — such as pagan animism, Eastern occult sects, outright Satan worship, or bizarre semi-Christian cults — but rather against subtle counterfeit. Counterfeits, like bogus money, attempt to be as close as possible to the original, yet with subtle flaws discernible only to experts. Counterfeit Christianity is the same. It may appear Biblical or Christ-like, but subtle flaws exist throughout its beliefs.

The horseman aboard the white horse in Revelation 6 is just such a subtle counterfeit.

The Two White Horses Compared

If you will carefully compare Revelation 6:1-2 with Revelation 19:11-15, you will see that this first horseman is no more than a clever counterfeit Christ, one close enough to fool the majority, but not the "elect."

Notice first that the returning Christ of Revelation 19 brandishes a sword out of His mouth, not a bow in his hand, as in Revelation 6. The sword is His Word the Bible. The Word of God is called, in symbol, a "two-edged sword" (Heb. 4:12). Christ comes reproofing nations with His Word, while the counterfeit horseman of Revelation 6 comes with another source of power. Regardless of the precise meaning of the "bow," it is clearly not the Word of God — the two-edged sword.

The time setting of Revelation 6 versus 19 also proves they could not be the same Christ. In fact, the two could hardly be further apart in the time flow of the Book of Revelation. The white horse is the first seal opened, the very first event in the unfolding drama of the end times. Christ's Second Coming, on the other hand, ushers in the end of the drama. It is the last portion of the last seal, just prior to the 1,000-year reign of the saints of God on earth. The two events are years apart in fulfillment. They could hardly be the same horse and rider, being so widely separated.

The time sequence of Matthew 24 also reveals that counterfeit Christ's appear first, while the Second Coming of Christ follows many other signposts, and is the last event to unfold. The general condition of false religion appeared first after Christ's death (even before war, disease and famine in 70 A.D.), and has increased for over 1900 years. But remember that Christ's prophetic words refer to both a long-term world condition and to an end-time specific event. at "the end of the age."

The End-Time Fulfillment

The long-term condition of false religion described above will culminate in the end-time fulfillment of the white horseman of Revelation 6, in the person of a great False Prophet. From the midst of many conflicting nominal Christian sects and arguing religious leaders will emerge a single individual of immense personal power and magnetism, eclipsing all others. He will rise to prominence in the near future — the exact year is unknown — just prior to all other cataclysms at the time of the end. He will signal the beginning of sorrows: the first horseman.

Notice his description in II Thessalonians. "And then shall that Wicked One be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of His mouth. and shall destroy with the brightness of His coming: Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders... " (II Thess. 2:8-9).

This powerful instrument of Satan will have unusual charisma and power! He will dazzle the world with miracles, mobilizing vast armies of formerly lukewarm professing Christians to his sinister service. This "wolf in sheep's clothing" will appear innocent, sincere, and righteous before men. Only the "elect" — those already led by God's Spirit and obedient to His laws — will be able to recognize the true course of these deceitful wonders (Matt. 24:24).

This end-time professing Christian leader will arrogate to himself titles and honors equal to, and attempting to exceed, those of God Himself! He "exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God" (II Thess. 2:3-4).

After this "White Horseman" proclaims himself to be God, his believers will "go forth conquering and to conquer" in the name of their god. this false prophet. A series of religious wars dwarfing the Dark Ages Crusades will scourge the earth. This leads directly into, and overlaps with, the second horseman of the Apocalypse: WAR!

All three of the remaining horsemen, however, have their basis in this world's false "Christian" religions, So few understand this first horseman — since so few listen to Christ and His interpretation — but it is the vital key to the understanding of the remainder of the Book of Revelation.

If you are still part of this world's religious Babylon, this very Book of Revelation warns you to, "Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues" (Rev. 18:4). To escape the following three horsemen, come out of the first horseman: counterfeit Christianity — the root cause of the war, famine and pestilence prophesied to come on all mankind, during your lifetime!

RELIGION AND WAR Throughout history men have taken up arms in the name of "Christianity." Even during World War II "Christian" fought... against "Christian." Extreme left — Two stand guard as fellow infantrymen of the Third Army kneel at Christmas worship. Left — American servicemen leave shell-battered chapel to resume fighting after D. Day.

Chapter Three

A World at War

"And ye shall hear of wars and rumors 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..."

— Matthew 24:6-7

"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 6:3-4

AS JOHN'S graphic heart-stopping vision continues, Jesus opens the second seal and John sees a red horse. Its rider is given authority to remove peace from the earth. The absence of peace is war. The red horseman obviously represents the scourge of war.

Even though Revelation 6:4 clearly interprets itself, further proof is given in the parallel prophecy of Matthew 24:6-7. In Jesus' own words, the second horseman represents "wars and rumors of wars."

But hasn't man always had war? To which wars is Christ referring? What war does the second horseman represent? All war or one specific war? These questions are answered from your Bible.

First: MANY Wars

Jesus first prophesied a general condition of war on earth that would continue from His day until the very end of man's government on earth. "And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars [plural]."

Immediately after giving this warning of many wars, He said, "See that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet." These many wars, therefore, represent a general condition of mankind. "Don't let it

worry you overmuch," Christ warned. For nearly 6,000 years, there have been alternating generations of war and peace: big, small, civil, and uncivil wars.

But the remaining verses of Matthew 24 — and the second horseman of the Apocalypse — refer to more than brushfire wars. They refer to one specific, end-time war of great magnitude. It is the first and last war of its kind: a world war of cataclysmic proportions.

Second: WORLD Wars

After the many wars of [Matthew 24:6](#), the next verse speaks of "nation rising against nation, and kingdom against kingdom." This indicates world war, with one group of allied nations attacking another group of nations. It means more than "wars and rumors of wars."

The world has already suffered through rounds 1 and 2 of world war, but neither were of the nuclear world-killing proportions of [Matthew 24:22](#): "And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved." This refers to total war, with the annihilation of all mankind as the probable outcome barring divine intervention.

World War II could not be that war. The Atomic blast at Hiroshima was only a firecracker compared to today's hydrogen bombs, each with hundreds and thousands of times the explosive power of this primitive A bomb. There was no threat of world "overkill" in 1945 (or ever before), but there is approximately 150 times world overkill at the latest count.

Never before has total cosmocide — world-death — been at men's fingertips. "For the first time in history, human beings hold the power to destroy mankind," wrote the Associated Press in 1970. "There are no precedents in political science or in history to guide men who command modern power."

Mankind may have "always had war," but never yet on the scale Jesus Christ predicted in Matthew 24 and Revelation 6. Never before has man had the potential for the total obliteration of human life. And just as man has always used the weapons in his possession, mankind will use the nightmarish weapons now in his arsenal: nuclear warheads, laser beams, chemical and biological warfare, nerve gas, heat-seeking missiles (called "smart bombs"), and who knows what other "science fiction-fact" items that may still be classified information in government files around the earth.

These are the weapons of the second horseman of the Apocalypse. Notice in [Revelation 6:4](#) that he has power to take peace from all the earth. This involves world war, not local wars, civil wars, or even conventional international conflicts such as Korea or Vietnam. Also notice that this second horseman has a great sword. This represents the ability to kill millions, not just the few thousands killed in such "normal" wars.

Finally, notice the specific time and place of the second horseman's grisly ride upon the earth.

World War III

As the first horseman rides forth "conquering and to conquer" in the name of his false religion, the second horseman — war — is quick on his heels as that instrument of conquest. Prophecy labels this political instrument as "The Beast," a future ten-nation alliance which is now forming in Central Europe.

Included in the horseman's victims are (as identified in Bible prophecy) the descendants of the ancient ten tribes of Israel. These represent the present white English speaking members of the British Commonwealth of Nations, the United States, and some of the democracies of Northwestern Europe. (For proof of this national identity of our peoples, write for our free book, *The United States and the British Commonwealth in Prophecy*.)

Even today, the political and military polarization is taking place — power blocs are being formed — that will eventually clash in the most titanic series of battles in human history. It will be a war so intense and so destructive that unless God intervened to forcibly stop it, all of humanity would die.

How destructive will it be? Whole metropolises will be vaporized by nuclear attack, with tens of millions dying instantly. "Thy cities shall be laid waste, without an inhabitant" ([Jer. 4:6-7](#)).

How many will die? Military experts estimate that about a third of a nation would be killed by a full-scale nuclear first strike. But more important than what experts can see, your Bible predicted the exact same kill ratio some 2500 years ago. "A third part of thee shall die with the pestilence, and with famine shall they be consumed in the midst of thee: and a third part shall fall by the sword round about thee" ([Ezek. 5:12](#)). This is a direct prophecy of how many will die as a result of the sword given to the second horseman, and the famine and pestilence of the third and fourth horsemen of the next two chapters.

These are frightening words. But there is no need for the "elect of God" to be frightened. Christ said to His true followers, "See that ye be not troubled." Likewise, if all mankind would turn from their wrong ways of war, disobedience to God, false religion, vanity, greed, and all that causes man's wars — in deep heartrending repentance before their Maker, the blood-red second horseman need never ride!

But mankind gives little indication of wholesale repentance. The second horseman of the Apocalypse will have to help teach man that lesson through bitter pain.

Chapter Four

Famine Stalks The Earth

"... And there shall be FAMINES... "

— [Matthew 24:7](#)

"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. " — [Revelation 6:5-6](#)

AS RAPIDLY as the third horseman appeared on the heels of the second, famine follows rapidly on the heels of war. Starvation and scarcity are the natural and immediate results of crop damage, defoliation, contaminated water supplies, destroyed livestock, and the unusually high food demands of a standing army — all caused by war.

In Matthew 24, Christ spoke of this general condition of famine in the context of war. He again used the plural, famines, referring to many re-occurring instances of famine over the centuries, increasing at a time just prior to His return.

Famines of the Past

The well-trod path of 1) (also religion, leading to 2) war, leading to 3) famine is an oft-repeated chapter of man's sordid past. The latest repetition of this formula was the India-Pakistan war of December, 1971. Conflicting religions led to conflicting political and social demands, which led to war, after which famine and disease ran rampant (aggravated by horrible natural disasters: in this case a typhoon which killed 500,000). Just previously, an other chapter of similar grief was written in Biafra, where famine killed perhaps millions as the direct result of war.

This principle of war-caused famine is described in grisly detail in two parallel chapters of the Old Testament, Deuteronomy 28 and Leviticus 26. The nation Israel was here warned that if they did not obey God (that is, if they practiced false religion and neglected God's Commandments) they would be overtaken by national curses leading to war. Read it in Leviticus 26 of The New English Bible:

"If after all this [internal, domestic curses] you have not learnt discipline but still defy me, I in turn will defy you and scourge you seven times over for your sins. I will bring war in vengeance upon you... you shall be herded into your cities, I will send pestilence among you, and you shall be given over to the enemy. I will cut short your daily bread until ten women can bake your bread in a single oven; they shall dole it out by weight, and though you eat, you shall not be satisfied.

"If in spite of all this you do not listen to me and still defy me, I will defy you in anger, and I myself will punish you seven times over for your sins. Instead of meat you shall eat your sons and daughters" ([Lev. 26:23-28](#), New English Bible).

This prophesied pattern of national decline and despicable deprivation has been followed many times in history, and it will be followed again! Less than 40 years after Christ uttered this prophecy of famines, a Roman war siege on Jerusalem caused such severe famine that even cannibalism reared its ugly head in the so-called "holy city" (read Josephus, Wars of the Jews, for the grisly details of this siege).

Throughout the Middle Ages, such war-caused food shortages forced whole cities periodically into starvation, often followed by the Bubonic Plague or other diseases. At the very close of the Middle Ages, the Thirty Years War 1618-1648) was especially ferocious in this regard. Whole cities were sacked and destroyed, starvation was wide spread, and there was even cannibalism in many instances.

Though such war-caused famines still strike the earth periodically (note Biafra and India-Pakistan again) a new kind of famine threatens the Twentieth Century.

Famine in the 1970's

Despite the occasional war-caused famines, the bulk of humanity faces a different kind of famine, which is built into their life and society from birth. It is fueled by the twin problems of the population explosion and dwindling food supplies in poor lands.

For a complete description of the world's greatest single problem, be sure to write for our 64-page full-color booklet, [Famine — Can We Survive?](#) It is available free of charge from one of the offices listed at the end of this booklet. Below is just the briefest summary of the hunger problem facing mankind in the last one fourth of the Twentieth Century.

The very day you read this — and repeated each day — 350,000 new babies cry their way onto planet earth. The tragic fact is that 300,000 of those infants are destined to live out their brief life in one of the dirt-poor "have-not" nations. During the same 24-hour period, 150,000 human beings will die. The tragic footnote to this statistic is that over half of these deaths are children under five. More than 10,000 of today's deaths are due to starvation (not enough food), while the majority (about 100,000) are due in some form to malnutrition (wrong kinds of food).

The net increase every day, then, is 200,000 human beings, a city the size of Basel, Switzerland or Haifa, Israel. For American readers (especially Texans), we can picture world population dynamics by saying that an El Paso is born each day, an Amarillo dies, and the net increase is a Corpus Christi.

The tragic fact, as you can see by the above example, is that people are not dying fast enough! The net increase among the 2.6 billion poor people of the world is 2.6% annually, or 67.6 million new people yearly, while the 1.1 billion richer peoples increase by only 1.1%, or 12.1 million new people each year.

This leaves nearly 80 million new mouths to feed each year (roughly equal to four Canada's), mostly in the poor nations. While world food production maintains a pace of increase roughly equal to population, the unequal distribution of food increase is the primary problem facing our hungry planet.

While grain crops grew ten percent last year in the seven major rich exporting nations, grain crops declined or remained level in impoverished Asia, while gaining only slightly in the poor nations of the Southern Hemisphere (Latin America and Africa). Food is not being harvested where it is needed, and the excess food of rich nations can not be bought by the poor nations.

This is the dilemma of food distribution. The rich get richer while the poor get poorer. And ironically, the rich few within the poor nations increase their ownership of the rich parts of their land, while the poor masses have their already poor lot diminished.

Jesus Christ predicted this condition when He said, "And there shall be famines.... " But He meant more!

The GREAT Famine

The third horseman of the Apocalypse doesn't primarily refer to the cyclical famines of the past, or the "structural famines" of the present, but to a specific Great Famine in the future. Following great religious confusion and world war, the current "have" nations of today — the rich few who wallow in the lion's share of the earth's wealth — will have their turn to suffer want and deprivation.

After one third of America and the British Commonwealth are liquidated in the initial outbreak of war, [Ezekiel 5:12](#) shows that another one third will die with the combined ravages of the third and fourth horsemen, famine and pestilence. These prophecies are yet ahead of us. The black horseman's future ride will reduce the proud faces of white America, Europe, and the British Commonwealth into the blackened skin of starvation such as now afflicts the vast majority of mankind. The rich few are soon to inherit the lot of the poor majority.

Eventually this Great Famine will spread to all peoples and nations of earth until mankind turns to God in total surrender. These dire plagues are allowed by a loving God to teach man obedience. Peoples and nations will have brought this pain upon themselves, by man-devised religion and man-devised war. God is only allowing man to reap what he sows, so that mankind will learn the bitter lesson that sin brings pain! After man learns this lesson, God will shower down a world of plenty once again, in the wonderful World Tomorrow.

But first, the fourth horseman must ride.

Chapter Five

Death Toll: One Billion

"... And there shall be... pestilences" — [Matthew 24:7](#)

"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.

— [Revelation 6:7-8](#)

AS THE fourth seal is opened, John sees a pale horse. It is not clear from the context of [Revelation 6:8](#) exactly what this horse represents, but a clue is found in the word "pale."

The word "pale" is translated from the Greek word *chioros*. It is the same root word from which we derive the term "chlorophyll" (a substance which helps make leafy plants green). It means, in Biblical usage, a pale-green, the sickly yellowish-green color of disease.

Here is how the word *chioro* is rendered in various modern Bible translations: "a pale-green horse" (Beck), "an ashen horse" (The New American Standard Bible), "a horse sickly pale" (The New English Bible), "a horse sickly green" (Phillips), "a pale-colored horse" (Weymouth), "an ashy pale horse" (The Amplified Bible), and a "livid horse" (Rotherham).

Jesus Christ, the Revelator, fills in the most correct word to interpret the meaning of this pale green horse: "... and there shall be... PESTILENCES..." ([Matt. 24:7](#)). Pestilences are, by definition, disease epidemics of world proportion — pandemics!

The LAST Horseman Rides

Almost overlapping the third horseman, worldwide disease epidemics will strike hard on the heels of famine. Millions more will die, even though they survived the initial nuclear blasts and the ensuing famines. This last of the four horsemen will bring the total death toll of all four to one fourth of mankind (Rev. 6:8). As world population reaches four billion (by 1975), this death toll represents about one billion human beings.

The only reason for such global genocide is man's disobedience to God. Notice the parallel prophecy in Deuteronomy 28, "... if you will not obey the voice of the LORD your God," warns man's Creator, "The LORD will make the pestilence cling to you until He has consumed you from off the land, which you go to possess. The LORD will smite you with consumption [wasting, degenerative diseases], with fever and inflammation [communicative diseases]... and the tumors [cancer], the scurvy [deficiency diseases] and the itch, of which you cannot be healed [incurable diseases]. The LORD will smite you with madness [mental illness] and blindness [birth defects] and dismay of heart and mind [emotional traumas] (Deut. 28:15, 21, 27-28, Amplified Version).

That's quite a complete medical listing of what "pestilence" actually means in fulfillment! But there is more. God further warns that, "I will also send wild beasts among you, which shall rob you of your children, and destroy your cattle. and make you few in number; and your highways shall be desolate" (Lev. 26:22).

This Old Testament prophecy is echoed by the Apostle John in his last words concerning the four horsemen vision. Man will also be killed, he said, "with the beasts of the earth" (Rev. 6:8). This refers to animal-borne epidemics as well as animals literally attacking human beings for food. In fact the very word "pestilence" is derived from its animal-borne origin, "pest."

PLAGUE!

It is a recognized historical fact that the greatest plagues mankind has ever experienced have been animal-borne. When food is scarce for man, it is scarce for wild animals too. They not only attack humans for food, but they also become weak and disease-ridden themselves, carrying mass killers such as Bubonic Plague ("The Black Death"), or rabies.

Even in modern civilized Western nations, rats, skunks, foxes, bats, and other rabid animals are often found in close proximity to large cities. If, in a future time following war and famine, such animals came in contact with multiple millions of household pets, man would be literally outnumbered by rabid or ravenous beasts.

Such massive plagues are not now happening in America and other developed countries due to existing sanitary standards, medical science, and the organized security measures which separate "civilization" from wilderness. But the point is that the potential for epidemic is always there, dormant, latent, ready to strike when such protective conditions breakdown.

Witness again the modern examples of disease epidemics in the wake of war in Biafra and India-Pakistan. Even in the supposedly sanitized United States, as late as the early Twentieth Century, about 100 Americans died of Bubonic Plague in and around San Francisco following the destructive earthquake and fire of 1906. There have been "only" 50 documented cases of Bubonic Plague in the last decade (1962-1972) in America, but the important point is that the threat continues.

Other nations have not been so fortunate of late. In war-torn Vietnam, there were 370 confirmed cases of Bubonic Plague and 72 of cholera in just one six-month period in 1970. During the same period, cholera killed more than 1,500 in India and Pakistan alone.

But these are just minor warnings of the vast potential for plague in the future. The only prerequisites are the great famine and war which must precede epidemics.

Appendix. *The Horsemen of Revelation* by United Church of God.

It is available from www.ucg.org