

### c. Its Similarity

It is the third living creature like a man which calls forth this horse. He has the ability to discriminate between the classes of men. The testimony of the Olivet Discourse is clear (Matt. 24:7). Those who attempt to relate these events prior to the rapture do so without Scripture authority.

### 4. FOURTH SEAL vv. 7-8.

#### a. Its Identity

The fourth horse is identified through the personification of dreadful items: death and hades. The corpse-like color of the horse is indicative of its significance. The whole throws a pale upon the world! While not being a particular personage, this seal provides a summary for the previous three.

#### b. Its Activity

It is quite obvious that the rider, being death for the body, and his companion, hades, an eternal dealing with the soul, brings terrible pestilence upon the earth. Some are mentioned: sword, hunger, death, and beasts. Hades is stated to "follow" and this verb is imperfect showing that it kept step with death. The four scourges mentioned in the text actually affect a quarter of the population. This is the arena of authority given to this fourth horseman. Assuming this means that a fourth of the population of the world is killed (aorist tense), the devastation represented here is enormous!

#### c. Its Similarity

God is not trifling in judgment here. The fourth living creature is a flying eagle and this means swiftness in judgment. It is linked with Matt. 24:7, 8. The amazing thing here is that this is all the beginning of sorrows (Matt. 24:8). Such being the case, what will the end really be?!

Conclusion It appears that these seals are all providential interventions of God rather than direct infections from Him, as the vials later on. All, however, is designed to show that God judges sin. He has done it in His Son. Have you availed yourself of this?

## THE BOOK OF REVELATION

### "The Four Horsemen" Revelation 6:1-8

#### Introduction

1. To understand the Book of Revelation, one must see the twofold division which it contains: a. Things which are (chapters 1-3) b. Things which shall be hereafter (chapters 6-22). This present chapter, therefore, is in the "hereafter" section of the book. The church is already raptured. The scene of chapters 4 and 5 is in heaven; the present one is also, but it portrays things to happen on earth.

2. The Lamb has taken the sealed book (5:7). He demonstrated His authority over the universe by so doing. No that authority is being exercised (6:1-19:16).

3. The time covered by the seal judgments is the Tribulation Period. This is the Seventieth Week of Daniel (9:24-27). Both the trumpet (8:2ff.) and the vial judgments (16:2ff.) are included in this Period. The Period commences with the rapture of the church and concludes with the return of our Lord to the earth for Israel.

4. Study the seals and see the judgment of God upon a godless world. Each seal broken adds more to the intensity of the judgment poured out by God. Here are four of them:

#### 1. FIRST SEAL vv. 1-2.

##### a. Its Identity

Who is meant by the "white horse" has been a matter of debate. It is important to note that Christ open the seal for this horse and rider. It could not be Him. Since the matter takes place on earth, involves a conferred crown of a victor, and includes a bow, hence a bloodless (no arrow) arrangement, the person is to be identified as the antichrist to come. He is the one who establishes a false peace on the earth (Daniel 9:27). H is a false hope for the world, especially for the Jews.

b. Its Activity

There is no doubt that what is involved here is conquest. The text states that! The combination of the present and aorist tenses point to ultimate victory for antichrist. This is why the victor's crown is mentioned. Hence, what is described is the establishment of the antichrist's power and position. He rules!

c. Its Similarity

The Lamb of God is the one Who opens the seal for this judgment. What a contrast: lamb and judgment! But that is in the Bible! It is the first of the living creatures who draws attention to the first horse (v. 1). In a voice of thunder, attention is called to view what is involved. That this does outline the Tribulation Period is also seen by a careful comparison with the parallel passage of the Period (Matt. 24:4, 5).

NOTE: Antichrist is a real person, the superman of Satan who will rise in the last days relating to the future of Israel and the nations. He is a brilliant, irresistible strategist. His aim is world domination and this he gains (Dan. 11:45). He is variously known in the Bible (Dan. 7, 9, 11; Matt. 24; 2 Thess. 2; Rev. 13).

2. SECOND SEAL vv. 3, 4.

a. Its Identity

Although there has not been discussion about this horse and rider like the previous one, it is certain that here is an accomplice of the antichrist. This rider does not bear a specific identification, but is probably some ruler who challenges the claims of peace offered by the antichrist. This person may well be involved in bringing the antichrist to supremacy. It is certain that diabolical personages are involved during this Period to effect God's purpose. This is clear because the Lamb is the One Who opens the second seal!

b. Its Activity

The red color of the horse is a symbol of blood. Hence, along with the sword, here is war. The only peace which this world system knows about is a false one. It

is seen right here. God in a judicial way sees to it that peace is taken away from the world. Men now kill one another in a war, probably a civil one. It may be a literal "red" war (Ezekiel 38, 39; note 38:21).

c. Its Similarity

God clearly affirms by this red horse and his rider that nations will rise against one another. This is the same predicted by our Lord in His Olivet Discourse (Matt. 24:6, 7). Men will claim peace, but there will be none (1 Thess. 5:3). Only when our Lord, Who is the Prince of Peace, comes will there be peace. There is no way to interpret this passage in a manner to update modern affairs. It all has reference to the Tribulation Period which follows the rapture of the church. It is the second living creature, which is ox-like, that calls forth this horse. The ox is a burden-bearer and truly this is a burdensome activity of the horse.

3. THIRD SEAL vv. 5-6.

a. Its Identity

This horseman may well not be a single individual, but the entire course of events demonstrated. It may mark the backlash of the rule of antichrist or the attempt to get him established. Whatever the true case may be, the issue of his presence is clear.

b. Its Activity

This black horseman brings a dreadful condition to the earth. It really is a progressive matter. The false peace brought by a vicious conqueror ends in a flurry of wars which are probably civil in nature. This is obviously followed by a terrible famine. The "penny" is a Greek "denarius" which was the amount paid a laborer for a day's wages (Matt. 20:1-16). It took this amount of money to buy one quart of wheat, the daily ration of a slave! The fact that the wine and oil was not affected indicates that the conditions actually affect the lower economic classes. The poor get poorer and the rich get richer. There is mass class discrimination. Conditions are horrible.