

THE FOUR HORSEMEN OF REVELATION REVELATION 6:1-8

Revelation 6 marks the beginning of the Great Tribulation which is the seven-year period that will lead up to Armageddon. While Revelation 4 and 5 describe the church in heaven with Christ, Revelation 6-19 describes the terrible events that will happen on planet earth during this terrible time. This period is also described in Matthew 24.

The judgments of the tribulation are actually contained in the seven seals that secured the scroll that was such an item of interest in Revelation 5. The judgments proceed out of the seven seal much as a telescope is extended. The seven seals are seen in 6:1-17 and 8:1 with the seven trumpet judgments being contained in the seventh seal. The seven trumpet judgments are seen in 8:2-9:21 with the seven vials of judgment being contained in the seventh trumpet judgments in 11:19 and 15:5. The seven vial judgments are seen in Revelation 15 and 16. These judgments cover the entire seven-year period with other chapters in Revelation describing other events on earth that are happening at this time.

Tonight we will meet the four horsemen of Revelation in the first four judgments of that terrible period.

I. THE FIRST HORSEMAN – THE FALSE SAVIOR. 6:2.

A. His Identity.

1. He is not the Christ who appears in Revelation 19.
2. He is the false Christ who Jesus foretold. Matt. 24:5.
3. He is the antichrist of Revelation 13.
4. He conquers by peace. Dan. 9:27; 11:21.
 - a. The bow with no arrow suggests he rises to power apart from military conquest.
 - b. He comes with a message of hope in the chaotic days following the rapture.
 - c. He will be received by those who have rejected the true Prince of Peace.
2 Thess. 2:11.

B. His Impact.

1. He becomes the dominant world leader. Rev. 13.
2. He offers the hope of peace in a world of turmoil.
* The peace that he promises will be very short-lived. *

II. THE SECOND HORSEMAN – GREAT WARS. 6:3,4. See Matt. 24:5-7.

A. His Identity.

1. The red horse speaks of massive bloodshed.
2. This rider brings war and destruction.
3. He appears soon after the promised peace from the antichrist collapses.

B. His Impact.

1. Massive warfare breaks out on the earth. “Great sword”

2. Some see the phrase “kill one another” as indicating civil war.
3. Imagine the feelings of the people as they see their hopes of peace crumble before their eyes.
4. Imagine their terror as the horrors of war begin to engulf the world.

III. THE THIRD HORSEMAN – FAMINE. 6:5-6.

A. His Identity.

1. The black horse represents famine. Lam. 4:8,9.
2. The rider on this horse has a set of scales to measure out the limited resources.
3. Famine is often the consequence of war.

B. His Impact.

1. People labor for barely enough to survive.
 - * A denarius was the average pay for one day’s labor. A measure of wheat was the amount needed for one person. Imagine a man sharing with his family with no one receiving enough food. *
2. The wealthy are not impacted as much as the common laborer.
 - * Oil and wine were seen as luxuries and are not hurt by the famine. *

IV. THE FOURTH HORSEMAN – DEATH. 6:7-8.

A. His Identity.

1. The pale (*chloros*) color represents death.
2. This horse and rider bring the results of war and famine, massive death.

B. His Impact.

1. Death takes their life and hell takes their soul.
2. One fourth of the world’s population (1 ½ billion people) die during this terrible time.

I am so thankful that Christians will not be on earth during this terrible time. This is one great reason why we must know that we are saved and we must do all that we can to lead others to Christ.