

# The Four Horsemen Of The Apocalypse

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**Now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming.**

**~1<sup>st</sup> John 2:28 (NASB)**

## **1) Why Are We Studying This Stuff Anyway?**

- A) We study Revelation for three important reasons. First, it informs, calling out “Listen Up!” (Revelation 22:7, 14). Second, it transforms, giving confidence (1:3, 1<sup>st</sup> John 2:28). Third, it encourages, providing peace (Revelation 22:12-13).

## **2) The End Is Coming HERE!**

- A) There are three large categories of judgments which are listed in Revelation 6-16. The first are the “seal” judgments (6:1-8:1), the second are the “trumpet” judgments (8:2-11:19), and the third are the “bowl” judgments (15:1-16:21, followed by cataclysmic effects).
- B) Rather than see these judgments in a purely linear fashion (first this, then this, then the next...), it is probably more accurate to view them (along with additional events between Revelation 6-16) as being more of a gradually increasing amplification (like a series of growing waves).
- C) Like the rest of Revelation, chronology (the sequence of events) is not the primary concern. The bigger concern is the overall picture, like ingredients in a stew which are coming together. In this case, this is really bad stew.

### 3) The Four Horsemen Of The Apocalypse

- A) The horses and horsemen of the Apocalypse recall Old Testament imagery of peace (Zechariah 1:7-11), which is here contrasted by four horsemen who (instead) bring judicial judgment for God's redemptive purposes on earth.
- B) As Jesus Christ breaks the first seal (Revelation 6:1), one of the living creatures (cf. 4:6-9) bellows out, "COME!" The living creature's command beckons a horseman with an archer's bow riding a white horse (6:2).
- C) White is almost always associated with righteousness and purity in Revelation, indicating that this judgment is meant to bring purity and righteousness to the world. But the means of purification are through rulership (crown) and conquering, violent and harsh words of warfare (6:2).
- D) Following the same pattern, a second rider on a blood red horse is sent out from Christ to bring bloodshed through open civil warfare among the nations of the earth (6:3-4).
- E) A third rider on a black horse is sent out from the throne room bringing tremendous famine and shortages of food (6:5-6). A denarius was a day's pay. A quart/two pounds of wheat was enough to feed a single person in a day. Three quarts/six pounds of barley was enough to feed a family for one day. These represent a doubling to quadrupling of costs -- a brutal world shortage of food.
- F) Finally, a fourth rider on a pale-yellow/green horse (ashen) named Death, w/ Hades following along with him (twin curses), come and are given a quarter of the earth to be killed by war, bloodshed, and famine. These even unleash wild beasts to destroy and devastate humanity (6:7-8).
- G) While there is a logical sequence to the four horsemen of the Apocalypse (warfare, bloodshed, famine, and death), these judgments seem to occur simultaneously, terribly shocking plagues which crush the world. Imagine these riders galloping treacherously through all of humanity!