

Last week we looked something very significant regarding our responsibility when it comes to our walk with Christ and truly understanding what the end times really look like. We discovered that what is to be the very thing that saturates your life is the worship of the King. And as we allow this to be the very thing that everything in our closet is built upon then we begin to think and operate very differently. We are filled with compassion for those that are in desperate need of a Savior and our hearts are filled with trusting God in all things to truly understand that the end of all things is not something to avoid but rather something for us to look to as a proving ground for our faith.

Today we are going to go back to Revelation and we are going to look at some horses. Now I say that and many folks go, “Oh, Man! It is the four horsemen of the Apocalypse!”. I tell you what let me explain a couple of things before we get our minds racing down rabbit holes that only lead you back to Hollywood.

- What is Apocalypse?
 - To unveil or reveal something hidden.
 - Everyday meaning is a huge event that causes major damage, loss of life, and complete destruction.
- What should that word mean to us?
 - When we mention it in the Word it is a destruction of the wicked that is taking place, but in this it is also the unveiling or revealing of the hidden things to man.
 - God has established a way for us to be encouraged and truly choose to trust in Him with everything and find joy in doing so.

These horses that I mentioned at the beginning are quite significant but they also can reveal what we have stashed in our closet. Some of us have many things hidden within our closet and many times like we talked about last week. We have a lot of things that do not need to be in there. But we figured out what is to be the primary thing within our closet and it is Worship for the King of kings.

This week it may sound simple, but when we worship we are demonstrating and acting upon something that we must live by every single day. Trust in God.

I want to look at the 4 horsemen of the apocalypse as our reason and example for why we need to trust God!

Go to **Revelation 6**.

I want to look at these 4 horses. You have 4 different colored horses all bringing something very different to the earth. And it is in accordance with the end of all things. And we need this constant reminder. It all starts with Christ. The one that emerges first is the rider on a white horse.

White Horse

Here you have the rider identified as the one with the bow and crown. There is much within this and it is important to see the difference in the fact that the rider is different than the one holding the scroll. And in this I think that we need the understanding for what is about to be revealed to us.

- Revelation is written to believers in Jesus as an encouragement. Revealing that Jesus is victorious and those who are faithful even unto death, will still reign with Christ.
- Revelation is designed to warn the world of what is to come for those that do not believe.

So many times people use this as a thermometer for world events to dictate when the end will happen. I hear it very often, “man the end is so close I can feel it!”. (In reference to wild amount of world events that seem to be growing.) And they are so accurate. The end has never been closer than it is right now. And then again right now it is even closer, wait it is closer now! I do not mean it to be a joke. But the early Christians in Thessalonica needed to be encouraged the same way. Some thought it had already happened and they missed it. But the Church has been anxiously waiting for Jesus to return literally the year after He left.

But this White Horse is the image of the return. It is Jesus as the Lamb and he is releasing the White horse and he is coming with a bow and a crown. Our thoughts would lean toward the idea of what is he going to do with that, shoot crowns at everyone. But it has a definition to it hidden within the word usage.

So the imagery here is that someone is being released by Christ to come in power (bow) but without arrows meaning that he will conquer differently such as potentially diplomatically or through fear. And then wearing the victors crown. Wearing victory over all that he goes forth to conquer. As he is set to go out conquering and to conquer.

Meaning that there will be a time that is coming that Jesus will allow to be only at his timing! And then a rider of this white horse will conquer the world. Not the known world. But the world.

Red Horse

Picture this for a moment. You have a rider that has been given full authority to remove peace. Not give peace. But remove it!

When there is a total absence of peace it creates a vacuum. And Jesus is allowing this vacuum to be filled with chaos. And that chaos is leading to total civil war under the rider of the white horse. And people here on the earth are now under a ruler, with peace vanishing before them, and killing becoming normal! This picture is becoming awful. But it is also the understanding that Jesus is allowing all of this and it is revealing the hidden things of the heart of men.

Black Horse

Now many have associated this with the fact that it will take all of your money to buy food to live on. And the mention of that is in there but limited. It says wheat and barley. But do not harm oil or wine. What is the difference between these. You have your basic needs that will go through the roof, but the luxury items will not be touched. This paints a picture that might be hard to see.

Meaning that there will be famine and destruction of crops, but not all crops. People will struggle for basic needs, but yet other things will be readily available still. Meaning the balance of life will be out of control.

Pale Horse

This one is unique from the others as the rider is given a name. Death and Hades followed him. Death and the grave are held in Jesus' hands now and forever, his price on the cross paid for that power it held. Now he holds the keys to both. But Jesus has given them authority to take ¼ of the earth. That is massive.

Think about it. ¼ of 8 billion is 2 billion people gone. Due to the way that is shown. To be killed with the sword, hunger, by simply just dying, and by the beasts of the earth. What a thing to imagine.

Four horses – Four events

What does this have to do with how I am to be prepared for the end and Jesus soon returning. Actually, a lot. See you are to be prepared for what is to come, and sure you may be apart of the coming disaster where you may be killed under the rule of the rider of the white horse. But in the middle of all of this we as followers of Christ here and now are given to trusting God. But through our worship that we are demonstrating to every we are also to be actively worshipping and trusting God. Meaning this. There is a day and time coming that says very clearly that we will be tested beyond measure. But you will not be able to cram study for the trials that come then. You must be ready now for all that is ahead. You must live then the same as you live now for Christ. If you decide that then you are going to be some revolutionary group to rebel against this ruler, Go Wolverines. Then you have missed the whole point of what is happening. We already serve the victor! There is not a rebellion that we have to start. We are to be the ones that fully demonstrate our trust and worship to the living God!

Sure there will be pain, sorrow and death during this time and it will be unlike anything that we have seen or heard. But at the same time the peace that we will be able to give will make anyone that is faithfully serving Christ to be a beacon, a lighthouse, a torch in the middle of the blinding darkness. There will be hope and the hope will come from the ones that serve the one worthy to open the seals and as we serve the very one that is control over all these powers.

So are we trusting God with everything? We have setup worship in our lives to be the very thing in which we operate. Now we must line every layer and aspect of worship with our unwavering trust that he will see us through even when everything around us does not seem like we are victorious. The truth of the apocalypse is that it has already been revealed to us that we are victorious because of Christ in us. We have hope and we have a hope to give to others! There is hope in Christ!

Discipleship Study: True Readiness, Worship, and the Unveiling of the King

Executive Summary

This discipleship study explores the heart of biblical "prepping" through the lens of Revelation 6 and the Four Horsemen. Far from being a source of panic, sensationalism, or political anxiety, the apocalyptic visions of Revelation serve to reveal the absolute sovereignty of Jesus Christ and to call believers to an unshakeable posture of trust and worship.

By understanding that Christ holds all authority—even over the chaos, trials, and shifts of the end times—we learn that true spiritual readiness cannot be "cram-studied" during a crisis. Instead, believers are called to build their daily lives around deep, centered worship, standing as beacons of hope and light in a dark world.

10-Question Discussion Guide

Part 1: Redefining "Apocalypse" and Readiness

1. **The Meaning of Apocalypse:** The text notes that culture views "apocalypse" as total destruction, whereas biblical terminology means "to unveil or reveal." How does shifting your understanding of Revelation from "destruction" to "the unveiling of Jesus' victory" change the way you read end-times prophecy?
2. **Examining Your Closet:** The lesson mentions evaluating what is stored within our spiritual "closet." What secondary concerns, anxieties, or distractions have you allowed to crowd out your devotion, and how can worship become the primary foundation of your daily life?
3. **Cramming vs. Cultivating:** The text states, *"You will not be able to cram study for the trials that come then. You must be ready now."* What does daily, active readiness look like in practical terms compared to reactive panic?

Part 2: Understanding the Four Horsemen & Sovereign Control

4. **The White Horse (Conquest & Timing):** Revelation depicts Christ releasing the rider on the white horse according to His own timing. How does recognizing Jesus' total sovereignty over history help you process troubling world events without falling into fear?
5. **The Red Horse (The Vacuum of Peace):** When peace is removed from the earth, chaos fills the void. Where do you see a lack of peace causing chaos in culture today, and how can a Christian guard their own heart against absorbing that environment?

6. **The Black Horse (Economic Instability & Priorities):** The vision describes basic needs becoming scarce while luxury items remain. When financial or resource instability strikes, how does a believer's trust in God differ from the world's approach to scarcity?
7. **The Pale Horse (Authority over Life and Death):** The text reminds us that Jesus paid the price on the cross and now holds the keys to Death and Hades. How does Christ's authority over death alter your perspective on earthly danger, hardship, or persecution?

Part 3: Living as Beacons of Hope

8. **Rebellion vs. Representation:** The lesson cautions against adopting a "revolutionary rebellion" mindset (e.g., "Go Wolverines"), reminding us that we already serve the Victor. Why is it vital for Christians to focus on representing Christ's kingdom rather than relying on earthly political or physical resistance?
9. **Becoming a Lighthouse:** The text highlights that in times of darkness, believers are called to be a "beacon, a lighthouse, a torch." What specific act of service or encouragement can you offer this week to someone overwhelmed by fear or hardship?
10. **Unwavering Trust:** What is one area of your life right now where circumstances look defeated, and how can you actively choose to line that area with worship and trust in God's promises?

Study Conclusion

The message of Revelation is ultimately one of triumph, hope, and call to action. We do not look to future events with fear because our foundation is built upon the King of kings, who sits securely on His throne. As disciples of Jesus, our calling is neither to hide from the world nor to try to conquer it in our own strength. Rather, we are called to daily surrender, living lives so saturated with worship and trust that when darkness surrounds us, the light of Christ shines through us all the more clearly. Prepare your heart today, anchor your faith in the Victor, and share that unshakable hope with a world in need.