

REVELATION 38

The Four Horsemen of the Apocolypse

I. (Rev. 6:1-8 NKJV) ¹Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, "Come and see." ²And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer. ³When He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, "Come and see." ⁴Another horse, fiery red, went out. And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth, and that people should kill one another; and there was given to him a great sword. ⁵When He opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come and see." So I looked, and behold, a black horse, and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand. ⁶And I heard 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 the wine." ⁷When He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, "Come and see." ⁸So I looked, and behold, a pale horse. And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades followed with him. And power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth.

A. The first four seals of Revelation 6 are known as the Four Horsemen of the Apocolypse.

B. They ride throughout the Tribulation Period.

II. The first seal reveals the White Horse Rider.

A. ²And I looked, and behold, a **white horse**. He who sat on it had a **bow**; and a **crown** was given to him, and he went out **conquering** and to conquer.

B. This conqueror riding on the white horse is none other than the Antichrist.

C. Notice that he has been given a **bow**.

1. A bow used in connection with man symbolizes evil designs and conquest.

2. (Psalm 11:2 NKJV) ²For look! The wicked bend their bow, they make ready their arrow on the string, that they may shoot secretly at the upright in heart.

3. (Psalm 37:14, 15 NKJV) ¹⁴The wicked have drawn the sword and have bent their bow, to cast down the poor and needy, to slay those who are of upright conduct.

4. The Antichrist will come as a conqueror. (Dan. 8:24, 25 NKJV) ²⁴*His power shall be mighty, but not by his own power; He shall destroy fearfully, and shall prosper and thrive; He shall destroy the mighty, and also the holy people.* ²⁵*"Through his cunning He shall cause deceit to prosper under his rule; And he shall exalt himself in his heart. He shall destroy many in their prosperity. He shall even rise against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without human means.*

D. Notice also that a **crown** is given to him.

1. The crown represents authority.

2. The Antichrist's authority comes from Satan. (Rev. 13:2 NKJV) ²*Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority.*

E. The Antichrist begins his ascent to conquest at the beginning of the Tribulation Period.

F. Following his rise are wars, famines, pestilences, death and hell.

III. The second seal reveals the red horse rider.

A. The red horse rider symbolized war. ³*When He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, "Come and see."* ⁴*Another horse, fiery red, went out. And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth, and that people should kill one another; and there was given to him a great sword.*

B. His release clearly reveals that war will take place during the Tribulation Period.

C. He has the power to take peace from the earth and to cause men to make war on each other. Many will die by the sword of war during the Tribulation Period.

D. The wars of the Tribulation Period occur as follows.

1. First, there is the Russian invasion of Israel.

2. Second, there are the wars that are related to the Antichrist's rise to power over the revived Roman Empire.

3. Third, there is the war related to the Antichrist's invasion of Israel at mid tribulation.

4. Fourth, there is the battle of Armageddon which concludes the Tribulation Period.

IV. The third seal reveals the black horse rider.

A. The black horse rider symbolizes famine. ⁵*When He opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come and see." So I looked, and behold, a black horse, and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand.* ⁶*And I heard 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 the wine."*

B. It does not mean that there is no food, but that there will be serious shortages of some staples in the Tribulation Period.

C. A denarius is a day's wage.

D. A quart of wheat will cost a day's wage, and three quarts of barley will cost a day's wage.

E. There will be famines in various places in the last days, especially during the Tribulation. (Matt. 24:7 NKJV) ⁷*For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places.*

F. The famine will especially be severe in the war torn areas of Europe and Russia following the wars of the red horse rider.

G. There will be some nations with a food supply because Israel will be hidden during the last half of the Tribulation in an area with an abundance of food supply. (Rev. 12:14 NKJV) ¹⁴*But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent.*

V. The fourth seal reveals the pale horse rider.

A. The pale horse rider symbolized death. ⁷*When He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, "Come and see."* ⁸*So I looked, and behold, a pale horse. And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades followed with him. And power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth.*

B. Over a seven year period these rides destroy one fourth of the earth's remaining population.

C. Today the population of the earth is 7.6 billion.

D. That means that if the Tribulation occurred today, 1.9 billion souls would perish during the rides of these four horsemen.

E. Hades accompanies the ride of death, the pale horse rider.

F. That means that multitudes of people unprepared to meet God will die and go to hell during the Tribulation Period.