

Lesson 8 The Seven Sealed Judgments, Part 2- Revelation 6

Day 1 **The Second Horseman of the Apocalypse, the Rider of the Red Horse who brings War, Revelation 6: 3-4**

Last week we covered the first horseman of the Apocalypse, the rider on the white horse with a bow but no arrow. He comes into the future of world affairs conquering men, getting them to follow him by making a peace treaty possible between the nations of the world and Israel.

This week we will encounter the second horseman of the Apocalypse, the rider on a red horse who was given a great sword. He takes peace from the earth and men are slain. I believe this warring will not be the result of the peace treaty broken between the other countries and Israel, but a different warring. The Scripture tells us that the anti-Christ will break the treaty between Israel and the other countries at the mid-point of the Tribulation. This is not the midpoint of the Tribulation. We saw this in last week's lesson. Remember and review **Matthew 24** if this all sounds new. David Levy in his commentary on Revelation says this about the rider on the red horse, "Although war will be waged worldwide during the first half of the Tribulation, Israel will not be involved because of protection provided by the anti-Christ."²¹

We must understand about Mankind that he became obedient to sin in the Garden and one of the consequences of sin is the brokenness of relationships between God and Man and between men and other men. As long as there is sin, there will be war, and men will fight men. I believe this is the basis of this warring: the anti-Christ will create such an atmosphere of chaos that men will fight with other men over land, over food, over oil, over ideologies, just really the same as they have fought for all time. However, this time the warring will be taken up many notches and the intensity of war and the consequences to Mankind will be like at no other time in history so far. Men will not even try to make peace with their neighbors: it will be a time of men who have and men who have not. There will be no sharing of goods and resources between people groups. There will be no love and no compassion shown, just death. Can you imagine a war that could be any more damaging to Mankind than the war we are waging presently with the radical Islamic groups who see their mission as to kill all those who do not accept their ideology? It will be a time when

²¹ Revelation, Hearing the Last Word, David M. Levy, The Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry, Inc., Bellmawr, NJ 08099, sixth printing, 2015, pp

the hate will wage war many times more out of control than it is today in the war we presently fight with ISIS.

This horseman who rides the red beast clearly represents war on the earth where men's blood will run red. One thing we must understand about this second horseman of the Apocalypse is that he has already been riding for all of time. He has been at the business of destroying relationships on this earth since the beginning of time in the Garden. You may understand this better as the spirit of the anti-Christ. What is the scene in heaven as John watches the LORD breaking the seal and the 2nd living creature bellowing out, "Come?" I'm not asking for solid doctrine here, I just want you to use your informed imagination. Think John. Think all the other saints in heaven who are observing this red horse. Think all the angelic hosts who are present.

John – do you suppose he is trembling before the throne? What is John hearing as the rider of the red horse comes out of the scroll?

All the saints in heaven are observing the events of the second rider's influence from the portico or the mezzanine. What are the saints in heaven thinking about those still on the earth?

All the angelic hosts are present and also observing the events of the second rider's influence on the earth dwellers. Do you suppose they are all at attention in readiness to carry out whatever God's commands?

Does the rider of the red horse stop before the throne of God and speak to the Father? Use your imagination here. What do you think the rider of the red horse might ask or say to God? What do you think the LORD might say in response to that which the rider of the red horse asks?

What is different about this horseman than the first horseman regarding weapons?

Who gives the horseman riding the red horse the great sword?

Who is responsible for war, God or Mankind? Who is responsible for this specific war here with the second horseman of the Apocalypse?

Why is Mankind responsible for war? Think of what happened to Adam and Eve in the Garden, here.

What are the consequences of sin regarding war? Is war sane? For what is war the complete breakdown? Really think on this.

What “war” sounds might you hear today if you were in a warring country? For example like the thud of machine guns?

Listen! Can you hear the hoof beats? Is the rider on the red horse only beginning his journey to earth or has he been riding since the beginning of time?

What does the Bible say about the intensity of the Tribulation Period? See **Matthew 24:21-22**.

What does that verse imply about the intensity of the wars on this earth during the Tribulation?

What happened in Japan on August 6, 1945 that would change the whole scale of war on this planet?

You will have to look up this next question. You may use the Internet. How many nations today have nuclear weapons’ capabilities? List the countries below:

What did Jesus say about war in **Matthew 24:6,7**?

What do you mean, “see that you are not are not frightened, for those things must take place, but that is not yet the end?” Do you mean it is going to get worse as we move through time hurdling towards the Tribulation period?

Although Christ warned us that there would be wars and rumors of wars, are we to sit idly by and just wait for destruction to occur or watch the nations destroy each other?

What do we as Christians have the responsibility to do regarding the rest of the nations?

What does the horseman on the red horse leave in his wake? What does he always leave in his pathway?

This is what Billy Graham says about the end on page 133 of his Approaching Hoof beats: the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse: “The Scriptures definitely teach that there is coming an end to human history as we know it. It will not be the end of the world. It will be the end of a world system that has been dominated by evil. The Bible teaches that Satan is actually the prince of this world and the ‘god’ of this world system. As long as he is still at work in this world, in constant conflict with God and doing his deadly work, wars will continue.” So, I ask you again, who is responsible for war? Us? Our sin? Ha-Satan? God?

Please read **Matthew 24:7-8, Daniel 9:26, Revelation 11:7,13:4,7-8**. Today Mankind and technology, have the potential to annihilate every human being on the planet. Albert Einstein determined in a full-scale nuclear exchange at least one-third of the world would die. This one-third of Mankind will become more important to you as we move through the judgments in the book of Revelation.

This is kind of odd, but I am going to go here anyway. Please turn in your Bibles, and read the Scripture in **Zechariah 11:16-17**. Here is another picture of the anti-Christ. This is not the rider on the red horse. However we will understand later in looking at the black horseman of famine, that the rider on the red horse is also the spirit of the anti-Christ who has been galloping through the earth since the beginning of time.

Who is responsible for raising up the anti-Christ here? Is it God?

Day 2 **The Third Horseman of the Apocalypse, the Rider of the Black Horse who brings Famine, Revelation 6:5-6**

Please use your Bible study tools you have in order to answer some of the following questions that require more than just reading the Scripture.

What warning does the black horse and its rider bear?

What is this rider holding in his hands?

What is the significance to the pair of scales he is holding?

What did the voice coming from one of the four living creatures say?

What is the significance of “a quart of wheat for a day’s wages, three quarts of barley for a day’s worth of wages?”

What is a denarius?

Which grain is more valuable, wheat or barley? Why?

How much bread can a quart of wheat make?

How much bread can three quarts of barley make?

If a man's work is only sufficient for food to sustain himself for one day, how will he provide for his family who depends on him?

What would a denarius be equal to today? How much would it be worth in their day?

What does famine look like in our country today? What do you think it will look like in the future, "in the Day of the LORD?" Those of you who have Internet access, I would like you to "google" "hunger in America." Write the thoughts you glean from this assignment below.

The voice of the third living creature bellows out one last instruction in **Revelation 6:6**, "and do not damage the oil and the wine." What do you suppose this means?

Will the oil and the wine in that day of the rider on the red horse, be the luxury items that only the rich will be able to afford? David Levy writes in his commentary on Revelation that he believes "the famine will affect the lower and middle classes, but the rich will continue to enjoy their luxurious lifestyle."²²

Will there be those on the earth at this time that will be living a life of opulence at the same as the rest of the world is starving and dying? We have much reference to Babylon in the book of Revelation. See **Revelation 17:1-7**.

Please read **Lamentations 4:8-9**.

How long can a human go without food?

Do you suppose "in that day" there will be a shortage of water, also?

²² Ibid, p. 89.

What will be the consequence of much fire upon the earth and the intense heat it will generate?

Did you know, that in the war against Israel by all the surrounding nations, that began the day after declaring themselves a state (May 14, 1948) the Israeli people had to collect and drink their own urine just to survive?

What are the sounds of the black horse riding toward us? Really think on this.

What precedes the black horse and its rider? Could it be earthquakes, hurricanes, and tsunamis? How about a downturn in the market place, the stock exchange, **WAR**, deception or false religion?

What if there is no gas to transport food around to people who need it?

What about inflation on the dollar?

What if the rider on the black horse gallops across the seas and into the lands occupied by those already having difficulty in obtaining food? Will that rider on the black horse overturn boats in transit trying to supply food to this already hungry area? Will the rider cause the border/immigration/trade guards to confiscate the food for the intended, so that it never gets to those starving? What about those same guards, will they levee such a tax on the food that no one can afford to buy the food? What if those guards hold onto the food for too long and it spoils on the tarmacs out in the hot sun? What about corrupt governments of the day who really are not for their own people?

Today, I am trying to get you to think critically. Look at the coming conditions, the world disasters, the suffering of human kind. This will be a time like no other time.

In the Old Testament, God uses famine as a means of discipline for those who disobey his laws, as a measure of justice. . Please read **Deuteronomy 28:38-57**. Moses wrote the book of Deuteronomy during the last week of his life, right before the Israelites were due to enter the Promised Land after wandering around in the desert for 38 years. Deuteronomy is a rehash of the covenant that God made at Mt. Sinai with those of the sons of Israel. We commonly call this covenant the Old Covenant or the Old Testament of the Law of Moses, the Ten Commandments, although there was more to the law than just the Ten Commandments. The Law was a conditional covenant: If the people were obedient, then God would bless them. If the people were disobedient, God would curse them. God knew ahead of time that they would be disobedient. And ahead of time, God raised up the

Assyrians to the future to punish the Northern Kingdom of Israel for their idolatry (disobedience) and disperse them to the far corners of the earth. And ahead of time, God raised up the Babylonians to the future to punish the Southern Kingdom of Judah for their idolatry (disobedience) and send them into captivity in Babylon for 70 years. Deuteronomy records what will happen to both the houses of Israel and Judah prior to their dispersions for worshipping their idols instead of worshipping the LORD their God. Read about some of the things the Jewish people would do just to survive the Assyrian and Babylonian captivities. And all of this was predicted in the book of Deuteronomy. Understand the utter horror of the famines levied on the sons of Israel before their captivities. The Israelites and the Jews were so hungry during their captivities that they ate their own children. And yet, the famine of the Tribulation will be greater than even this.

What did God want from the Israelites? What was He looking for in His people that would cause Him to return them to their land and give them produce from their land to eat?

Did you come to the educated conclusion that God wanted repentance from the Israelites? He wanted them to repent of their idolatry and return to the worship of the One and Only True God. He wanted them to live righteously. He wanted them to once again be separated out, holy unto their God alone.

Does God always use famine to measure out discipline for disobedience? Not always. You will remember that God gave Pharaoh a dream for Joseph to interpret. After correctly interpreting the dream, Joseph was appointed by Pharaoh to be second in command in Egypt. See **Genesis 41, 43, 45, 47**. Joseph, as second in command in Egypt, had the Egyptians put away much grain during seven years of plenty in Egypt for the time when seven years of famine would come upon the whole earth. By doing this, Joseph not only was the salvation for the Egyptian people and the rest of the world, but he was also the salvation for those in his family who would one day grow into a huge nation called the sons of Israel. Joseph, by interpreting the Pharaoh's dream saved the patriarchs of the nation of Israel from starvation.

In the end time the rider of the black horse will meter out justice to the earth to the earth dwellers who have refused to believe in Him for salvation. They have chosen to worship the anti-Christ, to worship the gods of this world, to take the mark of the Beast, to believe a deluding influence. There will be no repentance on their part. There will be nothing left for these people, only God's wrath. They have gone the way of the devil and now will receive the consequences for their departure from the God who created them and all that they see. This will be the time of the wrath of God.

What happens next? What happens after famine? What happens to people who do not have nourishing regular food? What takes over next? What comes as a result of famine?

No resistance to the diseases that plague Mankind. With malnutrition comes mental, emotional, and physical illnesses.

In conclusion of today's lesson, we will return to the Garden of Eden. How was the food to grow in the Garden compared to how the dirt would respond to Man after Adam and Eve had sinned and were kicked out of the Garden? Can you see the Black Horse and its rider are the warning to those who are still here on the earth of the human suffering that lies ahead if man refuses to be obedient to God and refuses to worship Him alone.

See **Genesis 3:17**. I rest my case.

Day 3 **The Fourth Horseman of the Apocalypse, the Rider of the Ashen Horse Who brings Pestilence and Death, Revelation 6:7-8**

The word for "ashen" in the Greek is *chloros*. The horse who awaits the voice of the fourth living creature to say, "Come," was the color of yellowish green sickly grass. William Barclay calls *chloros* "the color of a face blanched white with terror." We all have some idea of the color of a face that has seen death. This word *chloros* is the root word from which we get our word *chlorine*. Some of you will remember the chlorine gas used by the Germans during WWI that spread over the countryside and killed everything for miles around. The chlorine gas was greenish/yellow in appearance. My husband's grandfather was left for dead from this chlorine gas in the Ardenne's Forest of France during WWI. Recently, Assad of Syria, used chlorine gas on some of the suburbs of the cities of his own people.

Interestingly enough, a very loyal German Jew, Fritz Haber, developed chlorine gas for the German army to use against their enemies in WWI. Years later, this loyal German Jew developed another gas (Zyklon) to be used as an insecticide. It contained hydrogen cyanide. A derivative of this gas, called Zyklon B was used to exterminate millions of Jews in WWII.

It is so very interesting to see how the various artists down through history have depicted their understanding of these four horsemen. I would like you, who have access to the Internet, to type into your search engine >the four horsemen of the Apocalypse Durer< and look at the artwork of this artist, Albrecht Durer. A group of

woodcuts made by Albrecht Durer are in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. These woodcuts should be displayed on the web page for you to view. Really look at the third and most famous of Durer's woodcuts. Can you see the heaving of the horse, the panic and the fear of the people below the trampling horses, those who ride other horses next to the main horseman, the angel looking on in the background? In the Victoria & Albert Museum in London, there is a painting of a series of 7 tapestries that were woven during the 14th century. The artist/weavers read Revelation 6 and interpreted the fourth horseman as a skull wrapped in grave clothes sitting upon the ashen fourth horse and carrying a sword that he would use to kill the many. Next, type into your search engine >CFM Gallery Foujita<. In the CFM Gallery, also in NYC, there is a contemporary artist's painting of how he sees the coming apocalypse. This artist's name is Leonard Foujita and he has painted the fourth horse of the apocalypse as complete skeletons of both horse and horseman. You really have to enlarge the picture on the Internet to find this horseman. Hint: look below the other three horsemen and to the right. Below, please either write down or draw your interpretation of the Fourth Horseman who rides the Pale Horse, called "death."

On day 2, I asked you what precedes hunger and one of the answers was war. Today I am going to ask you, what precedes pestilence and death?

The answer I am looking for here is famine. Do you see how the second seal (war), third seal (famine), and fourth seal (pestilence and death) can happen almost simultaneously, but also as a result of each other? Remember it will be a day like no other.

2nd Seal-----→3rd Seal-----→4th Seal
 War-----→Famine-----→Pestilence, Death

What does the little phrase in **Revelation 6:8**, "and Hades was following with him," mean?

Was there another rider on the back of the fourth horse? Were Death and Hades riding tandem?

Again, David Levy in his commentary on Revelation and the rider of the pale horse says this, about Hades, "The mention of 'Hades following with him' leaves no doubt that those who are slain will be unsaved people, who will be cast into hell until they

stand before the Great White Throne Judgment. “²³ I’m not sure that I have digested this thought yet. I’m still trying to put this thought in its place and I have not been successful in doing so yet. What do you think?

What is Hades and where is it? This is where you use your extra-biblical resources of a Bible dictionary like Unger’s or an expository dictionary like Vine’s. If you would really like to go on a wild goose chase, type >Hades the place< into your search engine. Remember not to believe everything you read on the Internet.

For the Jewish people of the Bible, what is the place of Hades and where is it? What will it be like? Remember Jesus’ story about Lazarus and the rich man. Check out **Luke 16:20-25** and write your thoughts below.

Billy Graham describes “Hades” in his book Approaching Hoofbeats, p. 201, as “the place where departed spirits reside between death and the resurrection, the transitional abode of the dead. This is the place that for a time swallows up the spirits of those who die outside of Christ.” Later on in the chapter, Graham goes on to say “John uses the mysterious phrase, ‘**they** were given power...’ in **Revelation 6:8**. Did God speak an order to the fourth horseman of the Apocalypse? Did one of God’s creature servants give the rider a scroll with a divine commission enclosed: However it was delivered, in that awful instant when horse and riders paused, something transpired between God and Death giving him power to kill one of every four people living on earth.”

So, how many people on earth will be killed by this one horseman “Death” and his buddy “Hades?”

One quarter of the earth’s population. At roughly seven billion; that is 1.75 billion people. Can you imagine the carnage, the bodies lined up, the smell. How will the earth be able to contain all those bodies? Answer: those bodies will be burned to ash. There is no way, nor land enough to bury all those bodies in the dirt respectfully. Here we go, fire again and loss of moisture to the earth, the billows of smoke from the burning carnage polluting the air making it thick with the sickening sweet smell of burning flesh. Remember, this will be a time like no other time.

Why would God allow suffering like this to take place?

²³ Ibid, p. 89.

Is this suffering consistent with ancient biblical accounts of what happens when God unleashes His wrath upon men who are disobedient to Him? William Barclay from his commentary on the Revelation of John, Volume 2, page 12 says this, “at the back of it all there is the permanent truth that no man and no nation can escape the consequences of their sin.” Lynn Howard Hough explains in *The Interpreter’s Bible*, Volume 12, page 414, “Death is a part of the divine administration. A fourth of the earth feels his power that the rest may see and have the opportunity to repent.” There will be those who survive the entire Tribulation period. As long as they do not accept the mark of the beast, they can still accept God’s salvation.

Just like through the centuries, the horseman who rides the red horse of war has galloped across the continents, so also does the horseman who rides the ashen horse gallop. As proof of this, I would like you to read or listen to the top news stories from your source of current events. Write down the top news stories for today below:

Today, let’s count the bodies slain by the sword. Eight died in the terrorist attack in NYC a week ago. They were mowed over on a bicycle path by an Islamic terrorist in a rented pick up truck. The Islamic terrorist, Sayfullo Habibullaevic Saipov, did this intentionally in the name of ISIS and to bring glory to Allah. Fifty-nine died from a mass shooting at a country music concert in Las Vegas. I just looked at Fox News here on Sunday November 5, 2017 at 2:30 p.m. and there has been a mass shooting of people in a Texas Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, Texas. Early reports are saying 27 people are dead. This is half of their congregation. All of this has happened in our country in the past few weeks.

Just look at all the terrorist attacks in the past 17 years. In 2001, we have the 9/11 coordinated attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and what would have been the White House where total dead were 2,977 people. In November of 2009, Major Nidal Hassan went on a shooting rampage at a military processing center at Fort Hood, Texas, killing 13. In April 2013, two bombs exploded near the finish line of the Boston Marathon killing three people and wounding many others. In July of 2015, Mohammad Abdulazeez opened fire on a military recruiting center in Tennessee killing four US Marines and a Navy sailor. In December of the same year, a married couple, Syed Rizwan Farook and Tashfeen Malik opened fire on a holiday party in California, killing 14 people. In June of 2016, Omar Mateen, an

American-born man who pledged his allegiance to ISIS killed 49 people at a gay nightclub in Orlando.

The above are only the Terrorist attacks killings. How many have died from hurricanes this 2017 season alone. How many have died in earthquakes in the past twenty years. Do you remember the 250,000 who died in the tsunami in Indonesia?

The missions' pastor here at Crossroads has placed statistics concerning people in the unreached peoples' groups on the outside of our sanctuary. Does it bother you that 77,000 people die daily without ever hearing the Gospel of Jesus Christ? Forty thousand people died while you were asleep last night. How many of them die of famine or are casualties of the factions that are trying to take over their governments? How many children die every day from childhood diseases that are totally preventable with Western Medicine.

Please read **2 Thessalonians 2:7-12**.

What does God say about those who will perish? Why do they perish during this day of the LORD?

Why will God send a powerful delusion to these who have the mark of the Beast during this time of the Tribulation?

Remember that this will be a time like no other time on the earth.

Could this horseman during the Tribulation be also talking about spiritual famine from the Word of God? See **Amos 8:11**. Write your thoughts below in the space provided. Use Scripture as your proof.

Read **Deuteronomy 28:15, 21, 22, 27, and 28** again. What pestilence will inflict the population of the earth when this rider traverses the earth on his ashen horse?

The Scripture in **Revelation 6:8** says that Mankind will also be killed by wild beasts. What or whom do you think are these wild beasts? Could the "pestilence" and the "wild beasts" be the super bugs we have created by overuse of antibiotics.

Could these wild beasts be animal and insect-borne epidemics? Could these wild beasts be referring to the viscous beasts we read about later in Revelation? I.e., the beasts who are to come out of the bottomless pit we read about in **Revelation 9**? These are those that will not kill their prey, but make their prey wish they were dead. Remember this will be a time like no other.

My dad always said that there was coming a pestilence so great that it would wipe out most of the population of the earth. Towards the end of his life, he really thought this organism would come from a re-emergent tuberculosis strain. Tuberculosis used to be called consumption in the past. Because of airplane flight and re-circulated air in the plane itself, tuberculosis is on the rise.

Write Jesus' words (**Matthew 24:20-22** and **Mark 13:19,20**) about this time of the Tribulation below:

Concerning this fourth horseman, we must remember that God is still in control. He is the One who gives His permission for all these things to happen. The fourth horseman comes also at the command of the One who opens the seals and who would that be?

All of this will happen to the masses and to the individuals unless the individuals in the meantime will turn to God. Many false prophets will arise in the latter days, and they will tickle the ears of their listeners with what their listeners would like to hear. There will be many who will say, "Peace, peace," but there will be no peace. Remember the anti-Christ comes as a peacemaker to begin with, but what happens at the mid-point of the Tribulation?

The only way to have lasting "peace" is by accepting the Prince of Peace as their Savior and LORD.

We all will die someday if the Rapture does not come first and then we will be translated to heaven without that intermediate step of death. However, we will all face judgment one day. In that judgment, those who do not know Christ will experience the second death, the lake of fire. The sword in the hand of the fourth rider of the pale horse should cause us all who are Believers to call all others who are not to repentance and faith in Jesus Christ and thus be saved from the second

death. The famines and the plagues of the third and fourth horsemen should say to us that we do have responsibilities on this earth to help preserve life.

Days 4 & 5 **Chart of the Seven Seal, Seven Trumpet, Seven Bowl Judgments**

The Judgments Chart will be on the next two pages. Please fill them in as best you can in pencil for the moment. You will need to read ahead in Revelation to fill them in correctly. Remember to put the Bible address where you find each of them. I have done the first two for you so that you can see what I am looking for here. You can use your chart I gave you for the first class in Part 3 if you would like. Eventually, I will be asking you to make a small drawing in each one of the cells and then you will be coloring them with colored pencils. If you would like to get started on the drawings this week, of course you can place a horse and a rider of that horse in each of the first four seal judgments. If you were an artist 600 years ago, how would you interpret each one of the judgments in your artwork? (I know, certainly not in colored pencils as an art medium).

OF REVELATION			
4 th Seal Judgment	5 th Seal Judgment	6 th Seal Judgment	7 th Seal Judgment
<i>The last three trumpet judgments are also called the three woes.</i>			
4 th Trumpet Judgment	5 th Trumpet Judgment	6 th Trumpet Judgment	7 th Trumpet Judgment
4 th Bowl Judgment	5 th Bowl Judgment	6 th Bowl Judgment	7 th Bowl Judgment

THE JUDGMENTS		
<p>1st Seal Judgment ANTICHRIST</p> <p>White horse; rider holding a bow and wearing a crown. (6:1-2)</p>	<p>2nd Seal Judgment WAR</p> <p>Red horse; rider takes peace from Earth (6:3-4)</p>	<p>3rd Seal Judgment</p>
<p><i>The first four seals are commonly called the horsemen of the apocalypse.</i></p>		
<p>1st Trumpet Judgment</p>	<p>2nd Trumpet Judgment</p>	<p>3rd Trumpet Judgment</p>
<p>1st Bowl Judgment</p>	<p>2nd Bowl Judgment</p>	<p>3rd Bowl Judgment</p>