

# REVELATION – SERMON 33

## *THE FOUR HORSEMEN – PART 2*

### Revelation 6:1-8

#### INTRODUCTION

- Many of today's generation have never been personally impacted by war, and have a false sense of peace and security.
- Such will be the case in the coming "day of the Lord", the tribulation, "For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape." (1 Thessalonians 5:2-3)
- Today we continue to study the opening of the first four seals, and the four horsemen they introduce.
- The horse in Scripture almost uniformly is connected to warfare, and the strength of a nation's might was often connected to the number of war horses they possessed.
- The Lord gives a magnificent description of the war horse in Job 39:19-25
- The four horsemen are then representative of great and terrible judgments that will come upon the earth during the tribulation
- These global catastrophes will bring suffering, destruction and death on a scale that this world has never seen

#### I. THE WHITE HORSEMAN OF THE DECEIVING PRINCE (1-2)

- A. White represents the appearance of righteousness (2 Corinthians 11:13-15)
- B. An arrowless bow represents conquest by political means rather than military force (Daniel 9:27)
- C. His crown represents his global rule and conquest over all other kings (Revelation 17:12-13)
- D. This character is prominent throughout the scriptures and bears many other titles
  1. The serpent's seed (Genesis 3:15)
  2. The little horn (Daniel 7:8; 8:9)
  3. The king of fierce countenance (Daniel 8:23)
  4. The prince that shall come (Daniel 9:26-27)

5. The idol shepherd (Zechariah 11:16-17)
6. The man of sin (2 Thessalonians 2:3)
7. The son of perdition (2 Thessalonians 2:3)
8. That wicked (2 Thessalonians 2:8)
9. Antichrist (1 John 2:18)
10. The beast (Revelation 11:7; 13:1)

## **II. THE RED HORSEMAN OF DESTRUCTIVE POWER (3-4)**

### **A. The colour red indicates fire, bloodshed and war**

1. Satan is represented as “a great red dragon” (Revelation 12:3) and the woman is arrayed in scarlet and sitting upon a scarlet coloured beast (Revelation 17:3-4)

### **B. He takes peace from the earth**

1. The false peace of the antichrist quickly gives way to global war
2. This will affect all the inhabitants of the earth, as he takes peace “from the earth”
3. Note that God grants him to “take peace” from earth, rather than to bring war
  - a. Man’s natural condition is not one of peace and love towards his fellow man
  - b. From Cain’s murder of his brother, Abel, the history of mankind has been predominately one of hateful conflict (Genesis 4:8; 6:11)
  - c. Hatred and murder proceeds from the wicked heart of man, and is characteristic of the unregenerate (Matthew 15:19; John 8:44; Titus 3:3; James 4:1)
  - d. The only reason there is peace found on earth today is because God has graciously granted it
  - e. When this peace is taken, man will be unrestrained to fulfil the murderous designs of his wicked heart
4. From this point, the rest of the tribulation will be marked by continuous murders (Revelation 9:21)

### **C. The people will “kill one another”**

1. The word for “kill” means to “butcher, slaughter, maim, slay and wound”

2. This will be proof that man is not inherently good, as the humanists assert, but is totally depraved, as the scriptures declare (Isaiah 64:6; Jeremiah 17:9)

D. He is given a great sword

1. This sword is the soldier's long sword used in battle and denotes authority to make war
2. It is thought by some that it at this point that Russia and her allies invade Israel in the battle of Gog and Magog (Ezekiel 38-39), though others place it at the sixth seal
3. Note that while God gives this horseman a sword, it is ultimately God's sword of fury that is sent among the inhabitants of the earth (Jeremiah 25:15-17)

### III. THE BLACK HORSEMAN OF DEARTH AND PRIVATION (5-6)

A. Black is often used representatively in scripture, and usually negatively

1. Mourning and anguish (Jeremiah 8:21; 14:2)
2. Fear, apprehension and distress (Joel 2:6)
3. Afflictions as a result of drought and famine (Job 30:30; Jeremiah 14:2; Lamentations 4:8; Lamentations 5:10)

B. A pair of balances in his hand

1. The scales represent scarcity of food
2. This famine is likely the consequence of war, but may be from climatic events also
3. Famine, along with wars, pestilences and earthquakes was also prophesied by the Lord Jesus in Matthew 24:7

C. Food prices will escalate

1. The voice in v.6 is God's voice
2. A penny was a standard day's wage for a labourer (Matthew 20:2)
3. A measure of grain is the amount required to make a small loaf of bread
4. Therefore it will cost a day's wage to buy the ingredients for a loaf of bread
5. Yet the oil and wine (luxury fare) will still be available to the wealthy, who will not be as greatly affected as the poor – it will be a time of great inequality
6. As the tribulation progresses, the beast will assume control of the world economy, possibly using control of food supply as the means (Revelation 13:17)

#### IV. THE PALE HORSEMAN OF DEATH AND PERDITION (7-8)

##### A. Pale indicates a deathly pallor

1. The Greek *chloros* is a pale green hue, the colour of a human corpse

##### B. Death and hell

1. These two are often found together in scripture (2 Samuel 22:6; Psalm 6:5 18:5; 49:14; 55:15; 89:48; 116:3; Proverbs 5:5; 7:27; Isaiah 28:15,18; Hosea 13:14; Habakkuk 2:5; 1 Corinthians 15:55; Revelation 1:18; 6:8; 20:13-14)
2. Death relates to the body, while hell relates to the soul (Luke 16:22-23)
3. Note that we all must suffer the first, but we all need not suffer the second

##### C. They kill a fourth of the world's population

1. There are four forms of death described:
  - a. With sword – warfare
  - b. With hunger – famine
  - c. With death – pestilence, plagues, disease
  - d. With beasts (cf. Amos 5:18-20)
2. The image is one of inescapable judgment (cf. Ezekiel 5:15-17)

#### CONCLUSION

1. While unimaginable tribulation is coming upon this world, the Christian can take comfort that God's sovereign hand remains in control of all things
2. The wicked have no peace with God, nor peace with man
3. The true and lasting peace comes only through the Lord Jesus Christ, the Prince of peace (Luke 2:14)
4. Do you have peace with God, and do you follow peace with all men?
5. Death and hell claim lives and souls around us every day
6. Yet there is One who has the keys of hell and of death (Revelation 1:18)
7. Those who come to him can face death with joy, and shall not be hurt of the second death (Revelation 2:11)
8. Those who know the terror of the Lord have a duty to persuade others (2 Corinthians 5:11)