

War

Revelation 6:3-4, Revelation 13:5

Slide 1

The four horsemen of Revelation 6 are among the most well-known characters in the Bible.

For centuries, the world has searched for the meaning of these four horsemen and their arrival upon the world's stage.

But now, in our generation, we can see their ominous shadows upon the world.

The arrival of these horsemen is so close, that if we place our ears to the ground, we can hear their hoofbeats as they prepare to be set loose.

Last week, when Jesus opened that first seal, He released a rider on a white horse.

The Bible identified this rider as the beast, because he'll be a monster far more terrifying than anything the world has ever known.

He'll explode upon the world scene with promises of world peace, but instead of peace, he'll bring world conquest and terrible destruction.

He'll be a global dictator forcing every person to take his mark without which no one will be able to buy or sell.

The deadly terror of this rider, that should strike fear in the heart of everyone, is that all who take his mark, will forever lose their soul, and those who refuse to take his mark will have their heads cut off.

It's these acts of conquest and his deception of false peace that ultimately leads to the opening of the second seal.

Revelation 6:3-4, *“When the Lamb opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, ‘Come!’ Then another horse came out, a fiery red one. Its rider was given power to take peace from the earth and to make people kill each other. To him was given a large sword.”*

When Jesus opens the second seal, He releases a fiery red horse, known as a horse of war.

This prophecy reveals three things about this future rider and his red horse. First, he takes peace from the earth. Second, he'll cause people to kill each other. Third, he's given a *“large sword.”*

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The first thing about this red horse that should capture your attention is that he's given the authority to take peace from the earth.

Immediately after the rapture, and before the start of the tribulation, there'll be at least two great wars, one being the Magog War of Ezekiel 38, and the other is a world war that will probably be World War III.

However, for the red horse to take peace from the earth, there must first be a time of peace.

What that says to me is that after the rapture, and after the world experiences a world war, the antichrist will suddenly appear on the world stage with promises of peace.

When Jesus opens the first seal and allows the antichrist to ride across the world stage, he won't be wearing a black t-shirt with a picture of an upside-down cross that says, *“I am the antichrist.”*

He'll be a world politician with real answers for world peace, who, in his quest for world peace, will forge a 7-year peace covenant with Israel and other nations fulfilling the prophecy of Daniel 9:27.

I personally believe he'll establish a covenant of peace with Israel, because after the Magog War and the Psalm 83 war, Israel will be a very powerful, end time nation of military might with an influential economy.

The antichrist, and the world, will recognize that, in order to have world peace, Israel must be a part of that peace.

But here's the point; this covenant of peace, is a false peace without God. It's a peace that rejects God.

In spite of God delivering Israel from Magog's armies, Israel will believe the antichrist is their promised Messiah and will turn to him for their peace rather than to God.

The issue is, God doesn't want Israel, or anyone, to believe and trust in the false peace of the antichrist.

In order to turn the world away from the false peace of the antichrist, Jesus opens the second seal, allowing the red horse to take away this false peace. This is done because true peace without God is impossible.

Even today, world leaders constantly try to establish peace, but it never works because you can't have peace without God.

World leaders also desire a one world government with a leader to guide them so they can establish peace on their terms; which, again, is peace without God.

The problem is, God says, *"There is no peace for the wicked."*

That's why, when Jesus opens the second seal, He allows the red horse to take away this false peace from the earth.

True peace isn't found in the antichrist, but only in Jesus Christ, Who is the Prince of peace.

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Second, how will the rider of the red horse take peace from the world? He'll do it in two ways.

First, he'll cause people to kill each other, and second, he's given a sword which he'll use to bring forth great and terrible wars that are beyond our comprehension.

When I visualize this picture of people killing each other, I think of Jesus' words when He said in Matthew 24:12, *"Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold."*

Today, there is a dramatic increase of lawlessness and evil, not seen since the days of Noah, rising all over the world. This is a sign that the spirit of antichrist is increasing.

However, as bad as it is now, after the rapture, and after the red horse is set loose, there'll be a level of lawlessness and killing that'll far surpass anything we seen today.

Spectrum News reported in 2022 that hate crimes and murder rose 44% in major cities all over America, breaking records.

I realize people have been killing each other since the dawn of time, but what we're seeing today is just a taste of what's to come, and after the rapture, it'll explode across the world.

Think about this. When the rapture happens, and every believer in Christ is immediately removed from this world of sin, the only people left on earth will be lawless unbelievers who've rejected God.

Get that picture in your mind. Those who're left behind will be overwhelmed with fear and despair. Lawlessness will become the rule of life with a survivalist attitude to either kill or be killed.

The rapture will cause mass confusion and a worldwide economic collapse that's beyond our ability to imagine. Nations will collapse. Banks will fail. Food will be scarce.

As this red horse sprints across the world destroying peace, lawlessness that has been held in check by the Spirit of God, will be completely removed, and a unprecedented level of chaos and evil will skyrocket all over the world bringing worldwide death.

With that in mind, look at Revelation 13,

Revelation 13:5-7, "The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise its authority for forty-two months. It opened its mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander his name and his dwelling place and those who live in heaven. It was given power to wage war against God's holy people and to conquer them. And it was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation."

The antichrist will have a major role in the world's killing spree. He'll turn those who hate God, against those who love God, and cause the world to believe that those who love God are the enemy who must be killed.

Imagine a world so lawless that they'll joyfully kill those who choose Jesus over the mark of the beast. How will they do that?

Revelation 20:4, "I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony about Jesus and because of the word of God."

They had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years.”

I believe there'll be a massive number of people who'll turn to Jesus after the rapture, but they'll pay with their lives when they stand against the antichrist.

So, my point is, if you don't know Jesus, now is the time to repent, because once the rapture happens, you'll be left behind to face a world of terror.

A world that's so evil, there're no words powerful enough to describe its horrors and wrath.

Killings and wars in the tribulation will be so bad that Jesus said in Matthew 24:21, *“For then there will be great distress, unequaled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equaled again.”*

Jesus Christ, Who never lies, said the last days will be time of great and terrible tribulation. Even Paul said the last days would be perilous times, and full of lawlessness.

So, as bad as things are now, the world hasn't seen the fullness of perilous times that's still to come.

When Jesus opens that second seal releasing the red horse, lawlessness and killing will be unchecked and rampant all over the world.

The signs of lawlessness are a warning that the red horse is preparing for his gallop across the world. It's a warning that the rapture is near, and that judgment is coming for the people of planet earth.

Slide 4

When Jesus releases the red horse, beside taking peace from the earth and causing people to kill each other, he's given a *"large sword."*

It's shocking and appalling the magnitude of death this red horse will bring upon the world when he uses this *"large sword."*

Even though the world has always been plagued with wars, when Jesus opens the second seal and releases red horse of war, the world will experience wars, above all wars.

The wars in the tribulation won't just be world wars, but nuclear wars that will far surpass anything the world has ever known.

This red horse of war will bring forth a massive world war that'll result in the death of $\frac{1}{4}$ of the world's population.

Get that picture in your mind. In first part of the tribulation, $\frac{1}{4}$ of the world's population dies from war and famine.

No wonder Jesus said in Luke 21:26, *"People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken."*

It's no wonder Jesus called this time period *"The Great Tribulation."* More than $\frac{1}{4}$ of the world's population will be killed in the first $3\frac{1}{2}$ years, and at least another $\frac{1}{3}$ of the world's population will be killed in the second half.

That's almost 60% of the world's population and that doesn't count all the other killings and deaths that happen in this time.

One fourth of the world's population equals around 2 billion people. That's more than all the people in the entire western hemisphere.

It'll be so bad in the last days that Jesus said in Matthew 24:22, *“If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened.”*

A very interesting point about this red horse, is that in the days of Jesus, there was no technology available that could kill every person on the planet.

We're the first generation in history that has the technology to fulfill this prophecy, and many other prophecies that speak of world wars and nuclear weapons.

Not only is it now possible, but there are nations who're making that very threat. We live in the age of nuclear weapons, and Bible prophecy reveals there will be nuclear wars in the final days.

According to the Center for Defense, the United States has more than 35,000 nuclear weapons and each one is 25,000 times more powerful than the Hiroshima bomb of 1945.

It's estimated that Russia and China not only have more nuclear weapons than the United States, but they also have unique nuclear Bombs that are more devastating than any other weapon on earth.

The thing about weapon technology is that the greater the technology, the greater the deaths.

We have land-based missiles, submarine missiles, bombers with missiles, and missiles in outer space.

The United States, Russia, and China have thousands of Intercontinental thermal-nuclear missiles that can reach any part of the world in less than 30 minutes.

Just in case you think any huge conflict is years away, consider that on February 3, 2023, WorthyNews.com posted an article by retired Israeli Col. Jacques Neriah.

He stated, *“A pre-emptive Israeli strike on Iran’s nuclear facilities is no longer a “maybe” for Israeli PM Netanyahu, but is only a matter of “when” to do it, and how much preparation is needed.”*

These major nuclear wars of the tribulation that result in the death of over half of the world’s population don’t include additional wars like the campaign wars of the antichrist, and the last days battle of Armageddon.

My point is, in the days of Jesus and the prophets, there were no weapons that could destroy the world.

But now, in our lifetime, we have the exact kind of weapons that Bible prophecy said would exist in the final days. Weapons that can bring worldwide destruction and death.

So, when Jesus releases the four horsemen, they will sprint across the world, bringing wars, and death to so many souls that it staggers the mind.

We are the first generation in history that has the capability to fulfill all of these end time prophecies.

To me, that’s direct proof that the Bible’s true, that Bible prophecy is 100% accurate, and that we’re very close to the days of Christ’s return.

Slide 5

Conclusion

In closing, even though Susen says I’m losing my hearing, I can hear the pounding hoofbeats of these four horsemen.

The Bible says, *“When we see this day approaching, and when we hear the hoofbeats of the four horsemen, then know without any doubt, that the time of Jesus return for His church is very near.”*

This is exactly why Jesus said in Mark 13:29-30, *“Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that it is near, right at the door. Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened.”*

It’s shocking the number of people, including Christians, who’re totally unaware of these prophetic signs and just how close we are to what’s about to happen.

The world’s indifferent to the things of God and especially Bible prophecy. Those who reject Christ will face a world so terrible that Jesus said men’s hearts would fail them and that it’ll be the worst time in human history.

But glory be to God, for those who’re in Christ, know Christ, and love Christ, we’ll not be here when these terrible judgments strike the world.

Instead, we’ll be with the Lord, singing praises to His name, and watching from heaven as these events unfold.

But again, those who’re left behind will face a world gone mad, filled with horrors so terrible that it’s impossible to describe.

If you’re thinking, *“I don’t want to be here when this all goes down.”* Then, now is the time to turn to Jesus and receive His gift of salvation.

John 3:16, *“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”*

Jesus said, you must be born again, which is to be born spiritually by believing that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and the only way of Salvation.

Believing in Jesus Christ is absolutely the only way to miss the horrific events that are coming to planet earth.

What a blessing it is to know that those who're born again in Christ Jesus, won't see one single day of the tribulation. Instead, we'll be removed from this world in the great event called the Rapture.