

Revelation's Four Horsemen



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When you turn in the Bible to **Revelation Chapter 6**, you will find a marvelous vision of the four horsemen that gallop across the sky. These four horsemen reveal the future of Christianity from the first century down through time to the end of the dark ages.

In the prophecy of the four horsemen, God has revealed the history of Christianity more clearly than any other place in the Bible. Revelation's four horsemen represent four successive ages in the history of the church.

The author of this prophecy, and the one who opens the seals of this prophecy, is Jesus Christ Himself. Speaking Symbolically of Jesus as a Lamb, **Revelation 6:1** says, "Now 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.'"

When God says, "Come and see," He's trying to get our attention, therefore it must be important. Then the Bible says when the first seal opened, a white horse galloped symbolically across the sky. We continue reading in **Revelation 6:2** which says, "And 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."

When Jesus opens the seals He shows church history in phases. The first period is represented by a white horse. White is a symbol of purity, and the one riding that horse, wearing a crown is Jesus. He goes out "conquering and to conquer."

The first phase of the Christian church is pictured as a rider on a white horse conquering the forces of evil.

Every New Testament believer understood the images of a white horse. When a Roman general conquered the enemy he returned back riding on a white steed triumphantly. A white horse always represents conquest. The white horse represents a powerful, pure faith.

Four horses gallop across the sky. First the white horse; a powerful, pure faith. From AD 31, after the death of Christ, to AD 100 the disciples preached the truth of God's word powerfully.

The gospel of God's grace triumphed. There were churches raised up throughout Asia Minor, Galatia, Ephesus, and in Philippi. There were churches raised up in Corinth and Rome. Churches raised up throughout the Middle East.

Acts 5:14 says, "And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women." The New Testament Church exploded in growth. Tens of thousands accepted Christ. Nothing could stop the progress of Christianity in the 1st Century. Like a white horse victorious, like a white horse conquering, the Christian Church galloped across the sky.

The power of the gospel could not be stopped. When men and women do not compromise truth in their own life the church has power. When the church compromises it loses the power of the Holy Ghost. When the church turns truth into tradition, and turns the word of God into fables, the church loses the blessing of God.

The powerful New Testament Church, armed with the truth of God and filled with the Holy Spirit made an impact in the Roman world. Thousands and thousands were converted. Satan had to do something, and do it fast.

So the prophetic picture of the horses changes. The second seal opens and we see A red horse galloping across the sky. **Revelation 6:4** says, "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."

A red horse gallops across the sky with a sword dipped in blood. Satan saw that he could not stop the church. He had to do something. He began a fierce era of bloody persecution. He influenced political leaders to viciously persecute the Christians.

The red horse represents a bloody faith. Christians were taken to the Coliseum and thrown before lions. Just as the white horse represents a powerful, pure faith, the red horse represents a blood stained faith.

From AD 100 to AD 313 the Christians were persecuted terribly in this blood stained faith period. The White horse is apostolic power and purity; the Red horse is a blood stained faith. Where the white horse represents a Church triumphant, the red horse symbolizes a church persecuted.

But the church continued to grow. Satan persecuted it but he couldn't stop it. One early church writer wrote. "The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the gospel. The more you persecute us the more we grow." So Satan had to change his strategy again.

A third horse gallops across the sky. **Revelation 6:5** says, "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."

As the white horse represents purity, the black horse represents compromise. As the white horse represents truth, the black horse represents error. What about the pair of scales in the rider's hands. Those scales represent a church judged in the balances of God and found wanting; it's a compromised faith.

This black horse period represents the period in church history from AD 313 to AD 538.

The apostle Paul was concerned about these compromises in his day. In [Acts 20:29-30](#) Paul says to the leaders of the Christian church, “For I know this, after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock.

Paul died in the first century. That was the white horse period. In the next century savage wolves did persecute the Church. It was drenched with the blood of the martyrs. Satan tried to destroy God’s people His flock. During this bloody period of persecution Christians would be burned at the stake and thrown to lions.

The Apostle Paul says, “There will be savage wolves in the red horse period.” But then notice what he adds: “Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.” Paul says in the black horse period, religious leaders would arise. They would draw away disciples after themselves.

They would speak perverse or crooked things. There would be compromises which would creep into the Christian church. The church would become large. It would become powerful. The teachings of men would be substituted for the teachings of God. Human tradition would take the place of the Bible.

[Daniel 8:12](#) says, “... and he cast truth down to the ground. He did all this and prospered.” In the black horse period, during the fourth and fifth centuries, truth would be cast to the ground. Church history reveals that this prophecy is true.

In “**The Development of Christian Doctrine**,” page 372, the very famed Christian historian said this: “We are told by Eusebius that Constantine, in order to recommend the new religion to the heathen, transferred into it the outward ornaments to which they had been accustomed in their own.” Do you see the significance of this?

Constantine, the pagan Roman Emperor, united with the church after he became a Christian. And according to Eusebius the famed historian, Constantine transferred into Christianity the ornaments of paganism to make Christianity more acceptable to the pagans.

The teachings of Church councils replaced the teachings of the Bible. The authority of earthly priests replaced the authority of Jesus. Human works were substituted for the grace of Christ. Salvation through Christ was replaced by the requirements of the Church.

Simple Biblical faith taught, [Ephesians 2:8](#), “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God” But during this period of compromise, simple faith was replaced for certain pagan practices like bowing down before images and worshipping the saints. These practices were unknown in the early Christian church.

Satan could not destroy the church through persecution. So what he could not do, through the blood of the sword, he tried to do by getting religious leaders to compromise the truth. [Daniel 7:25](#) says, “He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, he shall persecute the saints of the Most High, and shall intend to change times and law”

God’s law, written with His own finger on tables of stone was compromised for human tradition. You say, “How was it that those commandments were compromised? Let’s be very specific.” One of the commandments says in [Exodus 20:4-5](#), “You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them.”

Why is it that God's commandments say, "You shall not make any graven image." Because if we kneel down before images, the image takes the place of God Himself. The holiness that should be ascribed to God is ascribed to the image. But, in the compromise period, images from paganism were actually brought into the Christian church.

Let me give you an example. There is a statute in St. Peter's cathedral in Rome. Today people revere it as a statue of Saint Peter. They even kiss the feet of this statute, so many times in fact, that the toes have fallen off and had to be repaired. What most people don't know however, is that this statue was originally made by the pagans as Jupiter with the sun god on his head.

It was renamed Peter and was brought into St. Peter's Cathedral in Rome. This was done to make the worship of Christ more palatable to the pagans. The church introduced the idea of saints living in heaven, and made statues to those saints, to make it easier for pagans in their worship.

Now even if someone did have an actual statute of Peter, the Bible clearly forbids the making of images and worshipping them. The Bible continues describing these compromises in these words. The compromising church would ". . . think to change times and laws. . ."

The Roman church's version of the Ten Commandments is different from God's version written on tables of stone in [Exodus 20](#). That's why for example, in the Catechism of the Roman Catholic's, you will not find the second commandment about bowing down to images. They have removed it from their Catechism because they use images.

It goes from the first commandment, "Thou shalt have no other God's before me," to the third, which becomes the second, in the Catholic Catechism, "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain."

The fourth commandment, "Remember the Sabbath," becomes the third, and the tenth commandment, "Thou shalt not covet," is cut in two; "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife," and "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's goods."

That's how the Roman Church ultimately comes up with Ten Commandments. The Roman church and the Roman state united to make Christianity more acceptable to the world.

This included introducing pagan sun worship into the Christian church and attempting to change the true Bible Sabbath. God created the world in six days and rested on the seventh day. The scripture says: During this age of compromise, the Pagan's day of the sun replaced the Bible Sabbath. Many a Christian accepted Sunday in honor of the resurrection to make Christianity more acceptable to the pagans that were worshipping on the first day of the week — Sunday, or the day of the Sun.

Do you see Satan's strategy here? Satan's strategy is this - He can't stop the white horse church, which is so powerful that it's winning converts everywhere. He can't stop the truth from marching on. He can't stop it with bloodshed and persecution. So Satan's master strategy was to influence powerful church leaders to unite with powerful state leaders in the black horse period. And they compromised God's Holy Word.

The pagan Roman Emperor Constantine united with the Roman Church in an attempt to unite his empire. Sunday was a vehicle of unity. You see, Idol worship, and Sunday worship, were more acceptable to the pagans. In the black horse period the church grew large but it lost its true power.

After these things, the fourth seal opens, which is the Pale Horse. [Revelation 6:8](#) says, “So I looked, and behold, a pale horse. And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades followed with him.

Imagine it. A rider and his horse, looking deathly pale. The Bible says, “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.”

During this period known as the dark ages, beginning in A.D. 538, the church grew large. It built great cathedrals. But there was a persecution of the true Bible believing Christians. Church and state united. The church was spiritually dead because it was seeking its power from the state instead of getting its power from God.

Here is an amazing statement: “Christianity became an established religion in the Roman Empire and took the place of Paganism... Christianity as it existed in the Dark Ages might be termed Baptized Paganism.” — **Church History Century 2, Ch. 2, Sec. 7**

Today, many of the so called Christian churches in our land are still following these pagan practices. What is Baptized paganism? You take idols and put them in the church; you baptize or worship the idol of Jupiter, re-name it Peter and it becomes baptized paganism.

You take Isis or Venus and call them the Virgin Mary and baby Jesus, and that’s baptized paganism. You substitute the pagan sun god’s day of worship for God’s Sabbath and that’s baptized paganism.

The 4th seal is a dead faith. The white horse — a pure faith; the red horse — a blood stained faith; the black horse — a compromised faith. The pale horse — a dead faith. These are the four horsemen of the Book of Revelation.

There was a union of church and state during the middle Ages. The decrees of the Church took the place of the teachings of the Bible. Faithful Christians were chained during the dark ages and were burned at the stake. During this period the steps of compromise led the church downward.

The traditions of man took the place of God’s word. Penances took the place of the grace of Jesus Christ. Indulgences were introduced; that is, you could pay money, and buy your way out of what was called purgatory. The church developed this idea, it’s not in the Bible. Purgatory was supposedly some state in between heaven and hell where the believers suffered if they were not quite good enough to go to heaven.

An indulgence was a payment of money to get them out of purgatory more quickly. The Bible says, “The living know that they shall die but the dead don’t know anything” [Ecclesiastics 9:5](#).

The Bible says, “Death is a rest until the resurrection.” The Bible never mentions purgatory because it doesn’t exist! It was made up by the church to extort money from the people.

Images came into the church and all sorts of compromises flooded in. The church hierarchy substituted the sun’s day for the Sabbath. Human dogmas replaced the clear teachings of God’s word. For centuries God’s truth was cast down. But would God’s truth be trodden down forever? No, God would restore His truths through honest hearted committed Christians who Love Him above all else.

Listen to this, [Jude 3](#). “Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.”

Here the Bible writer says God will raise up men and women to earnestly contend for the faith once delivered to the saints. The light of truth would shine again! God moved to raise up groups of people whose motto was "Faithfulness to God and His word."

One of these groups was the Waldensians. They were Bible-believing Christians who lived in Northern Italy and Southern France. The Waldensians restored the truth of the Bible and the Bible only. God raised up John Huss in Prague Czechoslovakia. He was a Catholic priest. As Huss studied the Bible he declared, "Obedience to God is my motto, not obedience to man."

God raised up another Catholic priest, a mighty man of God, Martin Luther. Martin Luther championed salvation by grace and grace alone, thus restoring the biblical doctrine that the Just shall live by faith. Then God raised up another man, John Calvin in Geneva Switzerland. Calvin's followers became the 'Presbyterians.'" who said, "We need the church for spiritual growth."

It took the Baptists or the "Anabaptist movement" to understand Christ's words about baptism. Wesley saw that the standards of the church were decaying. He saw that the amusements, pleasures and practices of the world were entering the Church. So God raised up John Wesley and showed him that when men and women study the Bible that they were to live holy and righteous lives.

God raised up a powerful preacher named William Miller to proclaim the truth of the second coming of our Lord. They became known as the Adventists. The Adventists were called Adventists because they were preaching the Advent, or Second Coming of Jesus Christ. Yes, God raised up this last day movement that would finally restore the truth about God's 10 commandments in a time of commandment breaking.

A last day movement that would take seriously God's instructions through Jesus, as found in [John 14:15](#), "If you love me, keep My commandments."

Truths lost sight of down through the ages would be restored at end time. God would restore the truth of the Bible instead of church Dogma. Jesus instead of Earthly Priests, Grace instead of Works, the Law of God instead of Religious Tradition, the Sabbath instead of Sunday, Baptism by immersion the way Jesus was baptized instead of sprinkling, The Resurrection instead of the pagan concept of the immortal soul, The Second Coming that ushers in Jesus' kingdom instead of an earthly Kingdom where the church unites with the state to gain political power.

Jesus would have a last day movement outlined in the Book of Revelation. His last day movement would accept all the truths of the denominations that had gone before it. His message would go to the ends of the earth to every nation, kindred, tongue and people. The Bible says in [Revelation 14:6-7](#), "Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel." Having what? The everlasting gospel.

It's the gospel of the New Testament. It is the gospel truth of God's word that would powerfully penetrate the world, to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people, saying with a loud voice, 'Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come.

At the time of God's judgment hour, God is calling all humanity back to the truths found in His word which were lost sight of during the ride of the Black and Pale horses.

God is calling all humanity back to worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.” God is calling all humanity back to worship the creator. God is calling all humanity back to accept the Sabbath as a symbol of His creative power.

In an age of evolution, God is restoring the truth about creation. God has a group of people restoring the truths lost sight of in the Dark Ages. The Bible’s last book, Revelation, identifies this group of people, and they are found in Revelation 14:12 which says, “Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.”

Let us be faithful to this call, Let us share God’s word with others near and far. Let us be found doing His will and working His works. Let us be found keeping all 10 of His commandments with a heart of Love for His Holy Word.

So there are the four horsemen of Revelation. They are the first four of the seven seals which the Lamb opens, revealing the era’s His church would pass through beginning with the first century till the time of fierce persecution ending around 1517 during the dark ages. Very briefly now, here is a quick overview of the fifth, sixth and seventh seals.

Under the 5th seal found in [Rev 6:9-11](#), you will see a symbolic representation of all those who were martyred throughout the ages, and especially those killed under the ride of the pale horse. These souls are symbolically calling out for justice, and God tells them to wait a little while because there are more martyrs to come. There will be more of His followers killed in the future, and when all of that is finished, God will avenge their blood. This time of delay or waiting, takes place during the time of the great Reformation, from AD 1517 to AD 1755.

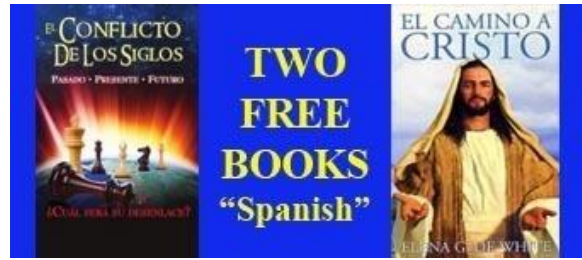
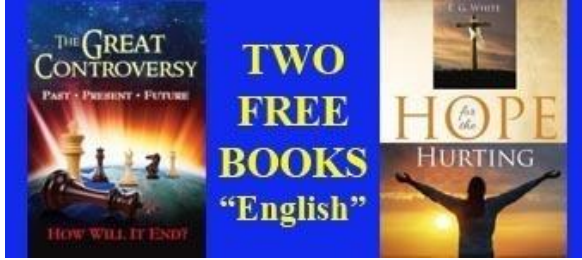
Under the 6th seal is the time of the Great Awakening. From 1755 till today and beyond, until the seventh seal is opened, in the not too distant future. After the opening of this seal are signs in the Sun, moon and stars. These are the very signs Jesus talks about in [Matthew 24:21-22, 29](#).

The Great Lisbon Earthquake taking place on Nov 1st, 1755. The Dark Day of May 19th, 1780 and the Stars Falling from the heavens on Nov. 13th, 1833. All in fulfilment of the prophecies to take place just before Jesus returns!

The 7th seal found in [Rev 8:1](#) speaks about the silence in Heaven, when Jesus returns with all the heavenly angels there will be none left in heaven, and therefore it is silent until Jesus returns from delivering His faithful followers.

It’s my prayer that you will be one of Jesus’ faithful people on that great day! To ensure that you are, just go to Jesus in prayer, and ask him to forgive your sins, to cleanse your heart and mind, and to give you the strength to follow His commandments out of a loving heart. Remembering His own words, “If you love me, keep my commandments” [John 14:15](#).

Therefore we conclude the messages of the 7 seals, beginning with the 4 horsemen of Revelation 6, and concluding with the Return of Jesus, depicts the church going through different periods of time which prophecy had foretold beforehand, and history has since validated as being accurate. The next seal to be opened is that of the soon return of Jesus for His people. It’s my prayer that you will be ready for His soon return!



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