

THE FOUR HORSEMEN OF THE APOCALYPSE
(Rev. 6:1-8)

- I. General Observations
 - A. John is an EYEWITNESS
 - B. The LAMB opens the SEALS (cf. 5:5-7; 3:7)
 - C. Each of the four LIVING CREATURES calls forth one RIDER
 - D. The series parallels conditions in the TRIBULATION (Mt. 24:4-31)
 - 1. WAR (Matt. 24:6-7; Rev. 6:3-4)
 - 2. FAMINE (Matt. 24:7; Rev. 6:5-6)
 - 3. DEATH (Matt. 24:7-9; Rev. 6:7-8)
 - 4. MARTYRDOM (Matt. 24:9-10, 16-22; Rev. 6:9-11)
 - 5. SUN darkened, MOON darkened, STARS falling
(Matt. 24:29; Rev. 6:12-14)
 - 6. Time of divine JUDGMENT (Matt. 24:32-25:36; Rev. 6:15-17)
- II. The First Seal Opened: The Rider on a WHITE Horse (Rev. 6:1-2)
 - A. John hears a noise like THUNDER
 - B. The rider carries a BOW, but no ARROWS in view
 - C. The rider is GIVEN a VICTOR'S CROWN
 - D. The rider sets out to CONQUER, and SUCCEEDS
 - 1. May be CHRIST HIMSELF (cf. 19:11-20)
 - a. WHITE would signify HOLINESS
 - b. BOW would signify LONG-DISTANCE conquest
 - c. CROWN would signify AUTHORITY

- d. Goal would be ULTIMATE conquest
 - 2. May be ANTICHRIST (cf. Dan. 9:26)
 - a. Riders are all SENT OUT by CHRIST
 - b. Antichrist will COUNTERFEIT Christ
- III. The Second Seal Opened: The Rider on a RED Horse (Rev. 6:3-4)
 - A. Rider is given power to take PEACE from the earth
 - B. Rider is given a “GREAT SWORD” (cf. Rev. 19:15)
 - C. Result is widespread SLAUGHTER among mankind (cf. 1 John 3:12)
 - D. Rider is identified as the personification of WAR
- IV. The Third Seal Opened: The Rider on a BLACK Horse (Rev. 6:5-6)
 - A. Rider carries a BALANCE in his hand
 - B. A voice from HEAVEN proclaims FAMINE on earth
 - 1. A little wheat or more barley for a DAY’S WAGES
 - 2. Oil and wine not AFFECTED, but not AFFORDABLE
 - C. Rider identified as the personification of FAMINE
- V. The Fourth Seal Opened: The Rider on an “ASHEN” Horse (Rev. 6:7-8a)
 - A. Ironically, the color of NEW LIFE (cf. Mark 6:39; Rev. 8:7; 9:4)
 - B. Identified as DEATH, followed by HADES
- VI. Summarizing the IMPACT of the Four Horsemen (Rev. 6:8b)
 - A. Spoken of as a GROUP with DELEGATED authority
 - B. Results in death of ONE FOURTH of HUMANITY (cf. Rev. 9:18)
 - 1. Through WARFARE
 - 2. Through STARVATION
 - 3. Through all forms of DEATH (pestilence?)
 - 4. Through the BEASTS of the EARTH