

WHO ARE THE FOUR HORSEMEN OF THE APOCALYPSE?

Rev 6:1-8 "And I saw, and behold a, white horse and there went out another horse that was red... and I beheld, and lo a black horse... and I looked and behold a pale horse... and Hell followed with him..."

If we listen carefully we can almost hear the hoofbeats of these four horses pounding upon the earth. They never get tired or are in need of sleep and their riders have been riding since the beginning of the world and will continue to do so until the end of time. These varied colored horses and their riders strike terror in our hearts, they frighten us. They are riding now and trampling upon us. Who are these fearful horsemen and what are they going to do? With trembling voices we ask the question...

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1. THE RED HORSE AND RIDER



WHO IS HE

Our text says, "And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another; and there was given unto him a

great sword." War! Bloodshed! The red horse is splattered and dripping with blood. O horrible rider, how you strike terror into our hearts. Concerning the red horse Jesus said, "Ye shall hear of wars and rumors of war — for nation shall rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom," [Matt 24:6-7](#).

WHAT DOES HE DO?

You can hear the rumble of his hoofbeats all over the world. Only God alone knows how many millions of people have met a violent death, directly or indirectly, because of the red rider. He has been riding since the fall of man into sin and has greater power and might today than ever before in history. No peace conference can stop him, he takes peace from the earth because his sword is great enough to reach unto the ends of the earth. He turns men into brutal beasts that are at each other's throats and behind him he leaves a trail of weeping, misery, and destruction. Pick up your newspaper, Somewhere, somehow, the red horseman is riding on the face of the earth.

2. THE BLACK HORSE AND RIDER



WHO IS HE?

Again we read, "And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand. And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and, see thou hurt not the oil and wine." Famine, blackness, despair. This rider usually follows in the steps of the red horseman. When a war is in progress, or is past, it is the black riders turn to torment and torture man. Jesus clearly foretold all this in [Matt 24:7](#), "There shall be famines and pestilences." Hunger and disease usually go hand in hand.

WHAT DOES HE DO?

The black horse of famine wrecks the food supply so that it takes *a* day's wages for enough food to hold body and soul together. The rich can still afford their luxuries of oil and wine for in a famine the rich get richer and the poor get poorer. There are hordes of people at the present time who are dying of starvation. The black horse leaves a trail of pain, sickness, destitution, despair, weakness, misery, and blackness. Thank the dear Lord, America has been spared from this terrible rider and *may* He in His grace keep him always from our shores.

If you think the red and black riders are terrible, look at the next rider, the King of Terrors.

3. THE PALE HORSE AND RIDER



WHO IS HE?

With trembling voice we read, "And I looked and behold a pale horse; and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him." Pale and lifeless death! We tremble at thy hoofbeats. Death is riding, not creeping or walking; he is full of courage and power. O pale and bloodless rider, what the other horsemen miss, you get. Scientists and doctors have tried to stop the king of terrors, but none can escape his pale and bloodless eyes.

WHAT DOES HE DO?

From Abel down to the present time he has trampled all beneath his feet. The pale horse crushes the little flowers and those in full bloom

beneath his hoofs. He rides and rides, who knows when our turn will come to be trampled to death?

The greatest horror of all is hell riding with death, for they are like companions. Hell is waiting to engulf all who are trampled by the pale horse and comparatively few are spared that indescribable torment and dread. The pale horse leaves behind him a trail of coffins, graves, tombstones, and cemeteries.

When we think of the world in the light of these horsemen, we begin to despair and cry out, "Is there no hope or help?" Wait, wait, there is hope for we have forgotten the most important rider of all. By all means let us now consider...

4. THE WHITE HORSE AND RIDER



WHO IS HE?

"And I saw, behold a white horse and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him; and he went forth conquering, and to conquer." The rider on the white horse is JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD! He rides in purity and holiness and has a bow that shoots arrows which can penetrate the hardest of hearts. He has a crown for he is the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords.

WHAT DOES HE DO?

"He went forth conquering and to conquer."

The church with Christ at the head has conquered throughout all ages among men. By the preaching of the law the church shows the need of a Savior and "by the sweet Gospel the hearts of men are converted and turned to Jesus as the only Savior. His army is an army of volunteers and Christ rides confidently before them, assured of victory. All who believe that they washed in His blood are saved and have joined the ranks behind the white horseman. His followers love mission work for it the means of "conquering, and to conquer." The church tries to plant the Gospel of Jesus from shore to shore, and He is the only hope for man in life and death. Jesus also told us of His conquering in [Matt 24:14](#), "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come."

APPLICATION

Let the bloody rider come, let the black horse take away all our earthly goods and possessions, we still have our treasures in heaven. Let the pale rider come and hell come on, Christ has overcome them, and we can cry out in triumph, "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?" Through Him on the white horse we conquer all enemies. The hoofbeats of these horses are getting louder and louder, but above the rumble we hear the white horse. All ye nations believe in Him and be saved for He is our only hope now and forever. Christians, follow Him, fight for Him, and conquer with Him. With powerful voices we sing, "Onward Christian soldiers, marching as to war, with the cross of Jesus going on before." Hallelujah! AMEN.

PRAYER

O King of Kings and Lord of Lords, we believe in Thee, we trust Thee, we love Thee, **we** follow Thee, we fight for Thee. Keep us ever as Thy good soldiers of the cross, dearest Savior, ever fighting Thy battles and conquering in Thy name. "We fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless." Praise be to Thee O holy Conqueror, who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. AMEN

