## The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse

he four horsemen are the symbol of *Prophecy Made Easy*. Let's take a look at "the four horsemen of the apocalypse." Doesn't that sound fascinating?

Actually, the last book of the Bible is named "Revelation," but the term *apocalypse*—the Greek word from which it is translated—carries a fascination all its own. So . . . "the four horsemen of the *apocalypse*," rather than "the four horsemen of *Revelation*"!

In chapter 5 of Revelation, someone is holding a mystery book—the book of the future. This mysterious book has seven chapters, known as "seven seals." All the angels wanted to see inside this mystery book that deals with future events, but no one could be found who was worthy to open it. The angels were discouraged until Jesus, the only one worthy to open it, took the book and opened it.

Jesus opened chapter 1 of the book, "the first seal," and there was revealed a vision of a white horse. The rider had a bow in his hand and arrows strapped to his back. He was wearing the crown of a king. He galloped into the future to spread the gospel and to conquer the world for the

Lord. This represented the victorious church, following the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The apostle Paul saw into the future. God revealed to him that the church would compromise with the pagan world, and the world would walk right into the church and take over. 2 Thessalonians 2:3-5. "Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day, the day of the Lord, will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple proclaiming himself to be God." Paul here foresaw the rise of the papacy. The apostasy of the papacy did not take God by surprise. He foretold it all. No wonder the Bible was hated by the papacy over its centuries of rule. (See the Appendix.) Notice the words, "He will oppose and will exalt himself." You probably remember that this was the very sin that got the devil to rebel against God in the first place. Isaiah 14:13, 14.

## The Four Horses: White, Red, Black, and Pale

The changes in the Christian church—its apostasies—are revealed in the changes in the colors of the horses. The first horse is white. The second horse is red. The third horse is black. And finally, the last horse is a pale color—the color of death. Each of the four horses and the four horsemen of Revelation deal with a different period of time. They deal with the first four of seven segments of time from the death of Christ to the second coming of Christ.

The first horse and rider, white in color, represent the church going out in victory, sharing the gospel. The time, however, eventually came where the church actually became a persecuting power, pictured here as a rider on a red horse with a sword in his hand. The church turned on its own members, killing over fifty million in a period of just over one thousand years of rule. The crime of many who were killed was the "crime" of reading the Bible. Most history books that told the truth about this have been carefully destroyed. The one still available in bookstores today is *Fox's Book of Martyrs*, written By George Fox over four hundred years ago. The apostate church is pictured in Revelation 17:6 as "drunk with the blood of the saints, the blood of those who bore testimony to Jesus."

The black horse is next. The rider of the black horse is seen holding the scales of death. A voice screams out, "A quart of wheat for a day's wages." There seemed to be a spiritual famine for the Word of God. The same voice said, "Do not damage the oil and the wine!" Even though the established Christian church rebelled against God, the Spirit of God and His graces were

not wholly extinguished. Through this period of time, God always had those who remained true to Him.

It was against the law even to own a Bible, another "crime" punishable by death. The "light of the world"-Jesus-was shut out, and darkness replaced the light of the gospel. It was the time of the black horse; we call it the "dark" ages. Superstition controlled daily life. The pale-colored horse of death came galloping forward, and the church was filled with spiritual death. The four horses are just the first four chapters of this mystery book of the future. There remain three more chapters in the book.

The fifth chapter deals with an appeal by those who had been killed by the church in persecution. It is as though they are saying, "God, please punish those who killed us in your name" This can be understood from the fact that their bodies are found "under an altar crying out for justice."

We live in chapter six of this mysterious book of the future. Remember, it has seven chapters. Chapter six opens with the earth shaking mightily, the sun being darkened and appearing black. Next, the moon looked as if it had been dipped in blood. And then the stars of heaven fell as thick and fast as late-ripening figs fall from a tree when shaken by a strong wind. "I watched as he opened the sixth seal. There was a great earthquake. The sun turned black like sackcloth made of goat hair, the whole moon turned blood red, and the stars in the sky fell to earth, as late figs drop from a fig tree when shaken by a strong wind. "Revelation 6:12, 13.

These are the opening signs announcing that Jesus would come again soon. First, the earth shook mightily. This was commonly called the Lisbon earthquake of November 1, 1755. It was the most terrible earthquake ever recorded. It involved most of Europe and Africa and even reached America, Great Britain, and Ireland. It covered more than four million square miles.

Next came the great dark day of May 19, 1780. Since the time of Moses, no period of darkness of equal density, extent, and duration has ever been recorded. Joel prophesied, "The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and terrible day of the Lord come." Joel 2:31. After midnight, the darkness disappeared, and the moon, when first seen, had the appearance of blood.

Next was a vision of stars falling as thick and fast as late-ripening figs fall from a tree when shaken by a strong wind. Read in history books about the fulfillment of this great meteoric shower of November 13, 1833. These were signs that the soon return of Christ was near. A couple hundred years have passed since these signs occurred, but in the light of eternity, that is a very short time. Jesus will come again soon.

Read about these events in history. Revelation chapter 6, verse 14 explains that these were only an early warning to the inhabitants of the earth of what is yet to come. The next vision is that of the sky seeming to disappear as if someone had rolled it up like a scroll. Mountains sink out of sight, and entire islands disappear. Kings, heads of governments, political figures, military commanders, the rich, the powerful, and all others, whether oppressed or free, who have turned against God, hide in the caves left by those disappearing mountains, shouting to the mountains and the rocks to help them hide from the coming One wrapped in flaming fire. Those who just a little while earlier were persecuting God's children now scream out, "The day of God's judgment has come, and who can stand?"

The second coming of Christ is also described in Psalm 50:3, 4: "Our God comes and will not be silent; a fire devours before him, and around him a tempest rages. He summons the heavens above and the earth, that he may judge his people." He will not keep silent while his children are mistreated. He will fight for His children, and He will win and bring His children—you and me—home to be with Him forever!

Are you ready for Jesus to come? Now is the time to prepare. When the mountains sink and the islands disappear, it will be too late. I believe the period of silence in heaven in chapter 7, "the seventh seal," is the silence left when all the angels leave heaven and travel with Jesus to Planet Earth. Jesus says: "The harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels." Matthew 13:39, KJV. This is one sight everyone will see and hear and feel! There will be nothing secret about this great and wonderful day!

Are you ready for Jesus to come? Why not invite Christ into your heart today? You can learn how to accept Christ into your heart by reading "The Secret of a Life of Super Power," located in the Introduction—or "What Did Jesus Do for Me?"—number 19 of the Appendix at the back of this book.

I invite you to join me in the beautiful New Jerusalem. And I encourage you to invite others. One way to do that is through the distribution of this life-changing book. Won't you share several with your family and friends? After Jesus Christ comes again, I plan to know each of you that are choosing to live with Jesus Christ in the beautiful earth made new. We will be friends throughout eternity! Today I'll be praying for you, and I thank you for praying for me. May God richly bless you, child of God!

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Glen Walker is a graduate of California College for Health Sciences and Southern Adventist University. At the University, he was Prison Ministries Leader. He grew up in complete ignorance of Jesus, the Bible, and of the truths of the Bible. At the age of 19, he met a Christian who shared many of the truths that you now read in *Prophecy Made Easy*. He is currently a writer and lay evangelistic speaker. He is also a registered respiratory therapist. His area of expertise is in speaking on Christ in Bible prophecy.

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