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### **The Four Horsemen**

In chapter 5, verse 3 of the book of Revelation we are introduced to a seven-sealed scroll that “*no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open*”, “*or to look at.*” This scroll turns out to be nothing less than the title deed to the earth that only Jesus Christ Himself is worthy to take.

As the seals of this seven sealed scroll are opened, a judgment is poured out on Christ-rejecting mankind. The first four of these seals contains what is commonly referred to as the four horsemen of the Apocalypse. They are the white horse, the red horse, the black horse, and the pale horse. Many have suggested that the Antichrist is the rider of all four of these horses as that through his unrighteous reign upon this earth, all of these things come to pass.

As the first seal is opened, the white horse is introduced. This white horse is none other than the Antichrist himself presenting himself as some great conqueror. This is obvious when one looks at the fact that he carries a bow and has “*a crown*” upon his head “*that was given to him.*”

Many commentators will quickly point out that there is no way that this can be Jesus for two reasons. First, His return is not until chapter 19 when He returns with great splendor with all the saints of Heaven to judge, rule, and reign. This first horseman is clearly not the Second Coming of Christ.

Second, this first horseman has a bow and a crown “*which was given to him.*”

The lack of arrows with the bow speaks to the fact that he is all show and has no authority except what God allows him to have. Also, the crown was not earned, but was given to him by none other than Satan himself for only a short season. His authority will be fleeting. The peace that he claims to bring will be short lived when the second seal is opened and that sense of false peace is taken from the earth.

The second seal is opened and we are introduced to the red horse who was given permission to *“take peace from the earth, and that the people should kill one another.”* He is also given a great sword with which to execute his plan. In the truest sense, all Hell will break loose upon the earth when this second seal and rider are released. Most believe this will take place at the mid-point of the Tribulation period when the Antichrist breaks his covenant with Israel.

The third seal is opened and we are introduced to the black horse of famine as evidenced by the pair of scales in his hands. This speaks to the scarcity of food upon the earth during this time. There is no abundance and all must be carefully weighed.

Following the history of all wars; famine is always the first upon the scene despite the promises of the Antichrist. He promises much, but in the end, he delivers only famine, death, and judgment.

The fourth seal is opened and we are introduced to the pale horse of death. Death is always and inevitably the result of wars and famines. As a result of this fourth horseman, a fourth of all those who dwell upon the earth will die with the sword and hunger.