

## Four Horses Of Revelation

'You are fairer than the children of men; grace is poured upon Your lips; therefore God has blessed You forever. Gird Your sword upon Your thigh O mighty One, in Your glory and Your majesty. In Your majesty ride on victoriously for the cause of truth and let Your right hand guide You to wondrous things. Your arrows are sharp; the people fall under You; Your darts pierce the hearts of the King's enemies. Your throne O God is forever and ever; the sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of Your Kingdom' (Psalm 45:2 to 6). Notice some key words have been underlined.

Zechariah the prophet wrote: 'I saw in the night, and behold a Man (Jesus) riding upon a red horse and He stood among the trees that were in a valley, and behind Him there were horses, red, flame-coloured and white. Then I asked, "What are these?" The angel said, "I will show you what these are." And the Man (Jesus) Who stood among the trees answered and said, "These are whom the Lord (God the Father) has sent to walk to and fro through the earth." And the men on the horses answered the Angel of the Lord (Jesus) Who stood among the trees and said, "We have walked to and fro through the earth and behold, all the earth is at rest and at peace" (Zechariah 1:8 to 11).

'And again I lifted up my eyes and saw and behold, four chariots came out from between two mountains; and the mountains were brass. The first chariot had red horses; the second chariot had black horses; the third chariot had white horses and the fourth chariot had spotted horses. Then I asked, "What are these?" The angel answered, "These are the four spirits of the heavens which go forth from presenting themselves before the Lord of all the earth. The chariot with the black horses is going to the north country and the white horses are going after them, and the spotted horses are going towards the south." And the Lord said to them, "Go. Walk to and fro upon the earth." So they walked upon the earth. Then the Lord summoned me and said, "Behold. These that go towards the north country have quieted My Spirit of wrath and have caused it to rest." (Zechariah 6:1 to 8). The scriptures do not tell us what direction the red horses and their chariot went.

The Apostle John wrote: 'Then I saw and the Lamb broke open one of the seven seals and in a voice of thunder, I heard one of the four living creatures call out "Come!" And I looked, and I saw a white horse, whose Rider carried a bow. And a crown was given to Him and He rode forth conquering and to conquer. And when the Lamb broke the second seal I heard the second living creature call out, "Come!" Another horse came out – flaming red. And its rider was able to take the peace from the earth, so that men killed one another; and he was given a huge sword. When the Lamb broke open the third seal, I heard the third living creature call out, "Come and look!" and I saw and behold, a black horse, and in his hand the rider had a pair of scales, and I heard a voice saying, "A litre of wheat for a day's wages; three litres of barley for a day's wages but do not harm the oil or the wine. When the Lamb broke open the fourth seal, I heard the fourth living creature call out, "Come!" so I looked and behold, a pale horse came out and its rider's name was Death; and Hades (the place of the dead) followed him closely. And they were given power over a quarter of the earth, to kill with the sword and with famine and plague and with wild beasts' (Revelation 6:1 to 8). There were seven seals but only four horses.

'And I saw heaven opened and behold a white horse appeared! The One Who was riding on it was Faithful and True, and He passed judgement and He wages war in righteousness ... and His name is The Word of God. The troops of heaven, clothed in fine linen followed Him on white horses. On His robe and on His thigh He has a name written: King of kings and Lord of lords ... then I saw the beast and leaders of the earth with their troops, all mustered for war against Him Who was mounted upon the white horse and His troops. And the beast was overpowered ... and the rest were killed with the sword (the Word of God) that issues from the mouth of Him Who is mounted upon the white horse' (Revelation 19:11 to 21).

We will take a closer look at the key underlined words and tie them in together. Notice in the first scripture written on the top of the first page, Jesus has a sword attached to His thigh (Psalm 45:3) then in the above verse, Jesus has a name written on His thigh (Revelation 19:16). The sword is symbolic of the Word of God, the name given to Jesus, Who is the King of kings and the Lord of lords. The sword – the Word of God issues forth from King Jesus' mouth. In other words, Jesus, Who is the Word of God, speaks out the Word of God to conquer His enemies. Jesus is the Man mentioned in Zechariah 1:8; He is the Lamb in Revelation 6:1; He is the majestic rider bringing truth in Psalm 45:4; His name is Faithful and True in Revelation 19:11; He was mounted on a white horse in Revelation 19:21; He is the conqueror in Revelation 6:2; He has arrows and darts in Psalm 45:5 and a bow in Revelation 6:2; He is named King in Revelation 19:16 and wears a crown in Revelation 6:2; He has a throne and a Kingdom in Psalm 45:6; He is riding a horse in all of the above verses; the four horses are four spirits in Zechariah 6:5; they carry the troops of heaven to bring judgement and wage war against the leaders of earth in Revelation 19:19; and all that serves to destroy the rest and peace upon the whole earth that the four horse-like spirits had seen and reported to God in Zechariah 1:10 & 6:7.

The horses mentioned in the above verses were not evil, nor were they visible to the naked eye. The horses, the trees, the valley, the chariots, the mountains and the men were all in heaven and could only be seen when God opened the spiritual eyes of the prophets who wrote about them. For example, we do not have brass mountains on our earth, so the scene would have been heaven. The horses did not seem to be like the horses we have on earth, because twice, Zechariah asked what they were. Logically speaking, if these animals were like the horses we are familiar with, the prophet would not have asked what they were. Moreover, the angels said they were spirits of heaven; or spirits that live in heaven and all of the horse-like animals were commanded from heaven. They were not the result of events that happen on earth; at the command of God, they brought about the events over the whole earth. Jesus rode the red horse in Zechariah 1:8, then He rode white horses in Revelation 6:2 & 19:11. Jesus rode a white horse during a heavenly battle, leading His troops who were also riding white horses. This confirms that the battles we have on earth are in reality, spiritual battles. The battle over Israel is a spiritual one, but it is being played out on earth.

The Rider of the white horse (Jesus) had the crown of a Conqueror. He went out conquering and to conquer and there was no power on earth that could overcome or defeat Him, so the first white horse is a 'picture' of King Jesus, riding out to bring the Gospel of truth to all the earth. It is a description of the One Who rode for the cause of truth as we read in Psalm 45:2 to 5. This is a divine Conqueror Who, at the time

He was sent out to bring the Gospel, wore one crown (Revelation 6:2). After He had been to earth and had conquered death and all His other enemies, He wore many crowns (Revelation 19:12). The arrows are the darts of Holy Spirit conviction that can pierce the human heart and bring repentance that leads to salvation. In the Psalm He carries arrows and darts, in Revelation He is carrying a bow to go with the arrows. That has already happened; Jesus has come to bring us the Gospel of truth and He is our King. Jesus will come again to clean up the earth and purge it of all evil but that has not happened yet. We are in between the two visits of Jesus.

There is no scripture that shows us that these spiritual events will be seen by humans who live on the earth, however, the events are played out on earth. The above events will be from the spiritual realm of heaven, but the judgements will be on the face of the whole earth, in the form of wars, plagues, earthquakes etc. We need to remember that time in heaven, and time on earth are vastly different. To the Lord, one day is the same as 1,000 years (2 Peter 3:8). We see that there was silence in heaven for about half an hour between the six and seventh seals being opened (Revelation 8:1). In heaven that was thirty minutes, but we do not know how long the corresponding time lapse was on earth. We do know, however, that the sequence of events was exact to the number of seals. For example, the first seal was opened first; the second was next, and so on. No definite time-frame was given for the events surrounding the seven seals, but if we read 'between the lines', we can see that the judgements take place about the time Israel becomes a nation, and when Jerusalem is divided, as it is now. For 2,000 years, Israel was called Palestine. The land is Israel once again and the Lord has turned His attention to Jerusalem, once again. 'Thus says the Lord, "I have returned to Jerusalem with compassion and mercy. My house shall be built in it and a measuring line shall be stretched out over Jerusalem"' (Zechariah 1:16). We can read about the measurements of the new, holy Jerusalem in Revelation 21:15 to 17.

We will return to the verse in Revelation 19:19. Notice the words, 'The beast and leaders of the earth with their troops, all mustered for war against Jesus and His troops', so part of this heavenly (spiritual) battle took place on earth. Whenever anybody attacks God's people, God takes the view that they have attacked Him personally (Acts 9:4 & 5). When we follow the Lord Jesus and He leads our way, we rarely see Him except through spiritual eyes. We know His will and we hear His voice only with our spiritual ears. When the five hundred Australian Light Horsemen freed Beersheba (near Jerusalem) from the Turks in 1917 in a decisive, swift and divine victory, the process to make Israel an independent nation, as prophesied in the Old Testament, had begun. The Australians would not have been aware that they were there by the command of Almighty God to take part in the process of fulfilling Old Testament prophecies. The use of horses to bring about this victory seems to fit in with the prophecies and would not have been a coincidence, plus, that occasion was the last time horses were ever used in battle in Israel. Were these riders the troops commanded from heaven, led by Jesus Himself? When we consider the miraculous victory won that day against all odds, we can assume this may be a possibility. The battle for Israel is a spiritual one, being fought in heaven, but played out on earth, and these battles are led by Jesus Himself. The riders would not have seen Jesus, but we can be sure He was there leading them to victory, because they were fulfilling prophecy. The Bible says the 'uttermost parts of the earth' will sing a song (Isaiah 24:16). Australia is the uttermost part of the earth – Praise the Lord.

The final prophetic events are yet to take place, however, the judgements the Lord has proclaimed over the whole earth have already begun. The four heavenly horses are the beginning of judgement and in world events, that is where we are now. We know that these seven seals are in the process of being opened, because when the first seal was opened, it was Jesus Himself Who rode out as a conqueror to bring the Gospel message from heaven. It seems that the next three seals were opened between 1914 and 1919. On earth, the time gap may have been 2,000 years between the release of the first and second horses, but in heaven, it may have been two days (2 Peter 3:8). The last three seals have not yet been opened. At the time Zechariah wrote down his vision, there was rest and peace over the whole earth (Zechariah 1:11). When the flame-coloured horse was released (Revelation 6:4), something was released on earth that causes war and conflict. This horse was ordered from heaven for judgement. Ever since the First World War broke out in 1914, there has not been peace or rest upon the earth. There has been a war being fought somewhere in the world since 1914. War brings fire – hence the flame-coloured horse.

The black horse with balance scales (Revelation 6:5) brought inflation upon the whole earth. Since the end of the First World War, prices which had been steady for hundreds of years, suddenly began to skyrocket upwards. Land and house prices are almost unaffordable. The cost of living has increased; the price of food has increased; water, a blessing from heaven was once completely free, now it is expensive. The government wants to put a tax on the air we breathe as a so-called carbon tax. Neither wealth nor social position will protect people from inflation. The black horse was sent in judgement upon the earth.

The oil and the wine (Revelation 6:6) are symbolic of the Holy Spirit and the blood of Jesus – or Holy Spirit filled Christians who are covered with the blood of the Lamb. It does not matter how tough things get in the world, the born-again, Spirit-filled Christians are protected. The Lord will always provide for us and will never let us down. Jesus said we are not to worry about what we will eat or wear, because the Lord knows we need those things and He will provide (Matthew 6:25; Luke 12:22). The horses from heaven were sent in judgement – but Christians do not come up for judgement (John 5:24), so we cannot be spiritually touched by this as long as we continue to live under the covering of the protection of the Lord. When we make the Lord our refuge, He supernaturally covers us with His loving protection (Psalm 91:1 to 16). Many thousands of people came to the Lord and were Spirit filled during the First World War. That period of time brought a revival – the untouchable oil and wine.

When the pale (sick-looking) horse was released (Revelation 6:8), one quarter of the earth was affected. This judgement brought death by sword (wars), famine (hunger, starvation), plagues (fatal illnesses on a large scale) and surprisingly, by wild animals. In 1918/1919, immediately at the end of the First World War, there was a terrible outbreak of a flu-like disease that killed huge numbers of people. Since that time, there have been regular outbreaks of epidemics, pandemics, famines, plagues, strange aforeunknown diseases (Ebola, AID's, HIV), suicides, street violence, murders, massacres, earthquakes, volcanoes, severe storms, floods and wars. The numbers of people who have been killed by wild animals has increased; by sharks, snakes, hippos, by both domestic and wild dogs and other wildlife. Rats, mosquitos

and fleas spread diseases that have killed millions. Think of the thousands killed every year by man-made events; in various wars, in motor vehicle accidents, airplane crashes and acts of terrorism. Terrorism is a new phenomenon and was unheard of until fairly recently. When we add all these events together, we see that these events collectively cause death to millions of people. Death claims the bodies of people; Hades claims the souls of people (Revelation 6:8). Only Jesus has the keys of death and Hades (Revelation 1:18), and only Jesus can save us from eternal death and Hades. We will eventually see the end of both of them. 'Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death' (Revelation 20:14), but that is not until the very end, about 1,000 years after Jesus has returned.

The big question is; Why? Why would the Lord send such dramatic judgements and wage war upon the whole earth? (Revelation 19:11). We need to remember that God is a righteous Judge (Psalm 7:11). The earth and everybody and everything on it belongs to God (Deuteronomy 10:14). He has sent divine judgment because of sin, iniquity and transgressions. 'Because the land and the earth are defiled and polluted by their inhabitants, because they have transgressed God's laws, disregarded His statutes and broken the everlasting covenant (made initially with Adam when he was created in the image and likeness of God; Genesis 1:26 to 30). Therefore a curse devours the earth (Genesis 3:17 to 19) and they who dwell in it suffer the punishment of their guilt. The inhabitants of the earth are scorched under the curse of God's wrath and few people will be left. But those who remain, will lift up their voices and they will shout for the majesty of the Lord and cry aloud from the sea, and glorify the name of the Lord, the God of Israel. From the uttermost parts of the earth we have heard songs; "Glory to the Righteous One." Terror, the pit of destruction and the snare are upon you, O inhabitant of the earth! He who flees at the noise of terror (terrorism!!!) will fall into the pit, and he who comes out of the pit will be caught in the snare. For the windows of heaven are opened and the foundations of the earth shake. The earth is utterly broken, the earth is rent asunder, the earth is shaken violently' (Isaiah 24:5, 6, 14 to 19). 'Here comes a call for the steadfastness (patience, endurance) of the people of God; those who keep God's commandments and their faith in Jesus' (Revelation 14:12). Sin is the reason for God's divine judgement over the earth. The one and only way we can escape His judgements, is to be born-again.

Isaiah says the windows of heaven opened, the judgement came and the earth was shaken (Isaiah 24:18). John saw the windows of heaven open and out came judgement (Revelation 19:11). We can see in the above verse, the judgement is upon the whole earth and the only protection comes by being supernaturally covered with the blood of Jesus, Who was born in Israel, and filled with the Spirit of the God of Israel. The Jews were the first to hear God's laws and the Gospel, and will become the last to be saved when all Israel is saved (Romans 11:26). The Gentiles were to last to hear the Gospel (Acts 13:46) and have been the first to be saved. 'Many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first' (Matthew 19:30) 'Those who are last will be first, and those who are first will be last. For many are called, but few are chosen' (Matthew 20:16). The judgements began about 1914 and will end only at the return of the Lord, when He comes to usher in the 1,000 years of peace (Revelation 20:4). There will be peace for 1,000 years, then a final war will take place as hoards swarm against Jerusalem, but the Lord will end that war with fire (Revelation 20:7 to 9). Eventually there will be a whole new heavens and a new earth

for God's people to dwell (Revelation 21:1) because this one will be completely destroyed by fire (Isaiah 65:17; Isaiah 66:22; 2 Peter 3:10 to 13).

What are the remaining three seals that are yet to be opened? The fifth seal; all the martyrs who have died for the name of Jesus will be revealed (Revelation 6:9 to 11). As far as we know, the fifth seal has not been opened yet. That will happen in heaven, and there is no scripture that tells us earth will see it. We will only find out the fifth seal has been opened, when the sixth seal events begin to take place. The sixth seal; a massive earthquake rocks the whole earth and the cosmos, terrifying people so much they will not be able to stand it and will cry out for the mountains to fall on top of them (Revelation 6:12 to 17). The seventh seal; an horrific storm, another massive earthquake, raging fires, a flaming meteor then a flaming comet hit the earth causing the rivers, dams and all water on the earth to become toxic, killing millions of people, then the earth becomes dark because a third of the sun, moon and stars darken (Revelation 8:1 to 13), and all that is just the beginning of the judgements that are coming upon the whole earth to bring people to repentance. For those who refuse to repent, there is more. 'And the rest of humanity who were not killed by these plagues even then did not repent of the works of their hands, of worshipping idols, of murders, of magic, theft or sexual vice' (Revelation 9:20 & 21). Hmm... we believe it is probably easier and less scary to repent and turn to God than have to face all these big, frightening events.

At the very end of this earth, 'The grace of the Lord Jesus our Messiah will be with all of God's chosen people, those set apart for God, to be exclusively His. Amen; so let it be' (Revelation 22:21).

Amen and God bless you.

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