



REVELATION 6.1-8 THE FOUR HORSEMEN

John MacArthur: “The Bible teaches that the world is headed inexorably not toward peace and unity, but toward a final, cataclysmic war, the battle of Armageddon (Rev 16:14–16).

Until that climactic holocaust, things will continue to deteriorate as the world falls deeper and deeper into chaos, confusion, and sin. As the end approaches, wars will increase, crime will escalate, there will be economic upheavals, and unprecedented natural disasters, such as earthquakes, floods, famines, and diseases (cf. Matt. 24:6–8). All those calamities will mark the outpouring of God’s wrath on the fallen, rebellious world.” ¹

Ezekiel 14:21 For thus says the Lord GOD:

“How much more it shall be when I send **My four severe judgments on Jerusalem**—the sword and famine and wild beasts and pestilence—to cut off man and beast from it?

Matthew 24:21–22

21 For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.

22 And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened.

1 Thessalonians 5:1–10

1 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need of anything to be written to you,

2 for you yourselves well know that **the day of the Lord is coming in the same way as a thief in the night.** (How would we know? **Matt 24 – Jesus**)

¹ MacArthur, J. (1999). *Revelation 1-11* (Re 6:3). Chicago: Moody Press.

3 Whenever **they** (not brothers of Paul, other people besides the beloved of Christ) say “**Peace and security,**” (a key phrase – upon which is marked as the time of Christ's soon coming for His church)

then sudden destruction will overtake **them** (same people as above) **like the birth pains of a pregnant woman,** (Who can stop that? Earthly, political and economic contractions that will become greater in severity and strength!)

and they (again, same unsaved people as above) **will not possibly escape.**

4 But you, **brothers** (fellow beloved in Christ – blood bought, born again, baptized, believers in Christ Jesus),

are not in the darkness, so that the day should catch you like a thief, (what makes us different? – the Word and the Spirit!)

5 for you are **all** sons of light and sons of day.

We are not of the night nor of darkness.

6 So then, we must not **sleep** like the rest, (a metaphor for being becoming and remaining watchful until the Rapture)

but must be on the alert and be self-controlled.

7 For those who sleep, sleep at **night**, (**night**, is this noting the time of our rapture?)

and those who get drunk, are drunk at night.

8 But because we are of the day, **we must be sober,**

by putting on **the breastplate of faith and love**

and as a **helmet the hope of salvation,**

9 **because God did not appoint us for wrath,**

but for the obtaining of salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

10 who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep,

we will live at the same time with him.

The Seven Sealed Scroll

- SEALS PLACED THROUGHOUT THE SCROLL
 - 7 seals – not just on the outside of the scroll
 - Opened progressively
 - **Another opinion:** **Mounce:** “It should be noted that the scroll is not actually opened until all seven seals are removed. So in a sense, the content of the scroll begins with chapter 8 and the sounding of the seven trumpets.”²

² Robert H. Mounce, *The Book of Revelation*, The New International Commentary on the New Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1997), 139.

The impact of the Horse figure:

- Horses were held in high honor among the Easterners
- Jews had a great fear of horses.
 - The horse in the Old Testament is the emblem of war.
See Job 39:25; Ps. 76:6; Prov. 21:31; Ezek. 26:10. ³

- Scripture forbade Jews from owning horses or chariots.

Isaiah 31:1 Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help,
And rely on horses,
Who trust in chariots because they are many,
And in horsemen because they are very strong,
But who do not look to the Holy One of Israel,
Nor seek the LORD!

Psalms 20:7 Some trust in chariots, and some in horses;
But we will remember the name of the LORD our God.

The time for singing has come to an end, the hour for judgement has arrived!

- **Thus begins a seven-year period of the most severe troubles the world will ever know.** This is “**the day of the Lord,**” the time when God breaks His age-long silence and speaks from heaven in mighty power. ⁴
- This seven-year period is clearly also the same as Daniel’s famous “**seventieth week**” (Daniel 9:24–27).
 - With respect to the unbelieving nation of Israel, it is to be “**the time of Jacob’s trouble**” (Jeremiah 30:7).
 - For the unbelieving Gentiles, it is the time of “**the indignation of the Lord upon all nations**” (Isaiah 34:2). ⁵

1st Seal

1 Now I saw when **the Lamb opened one of the seals;**

³ Marvin Richardson Vincent, *Word Studies in the New Testament*, vol. 2 (New York: Charles Scribner’s Sons, 1887), 493.

⁴ Henry M. Morris, *The Revelation Record: A Scientific and Devotional Commentary on the Prophetic Book of the End Times* (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale, 1983), 107.

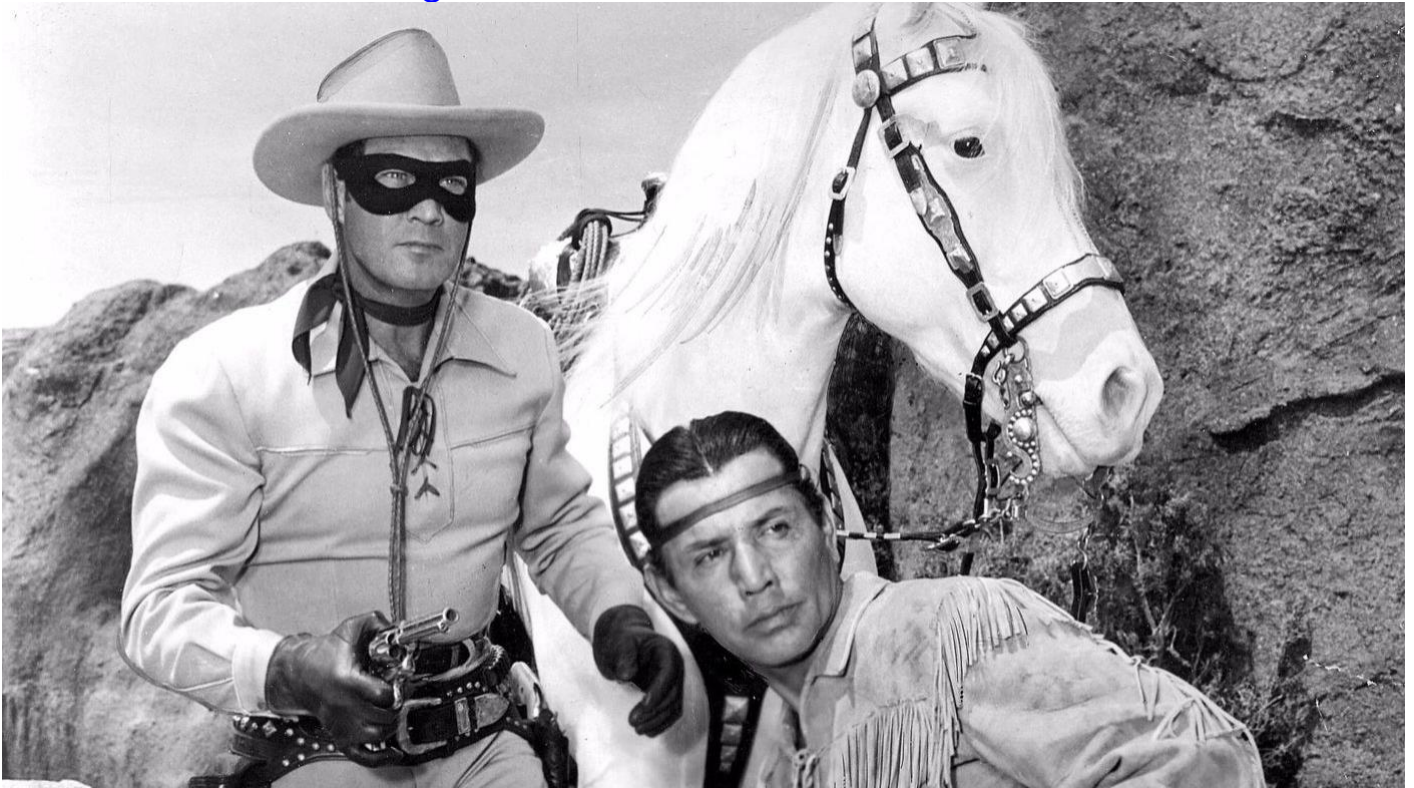
⁵ Henry M. Morris, *The Revelation Record: A Scientific and Devotional Commentary on the Prophetic Book of the End Times* (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale, 1983), 107.

and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder,
“Come and see!”

- In verses 1, 3, 5, and 7, the verb **“and see”** is not in many modern critical Greek texts. ⁶
 - **In this case the verb “come” is used in the sense of “go,”** as a command from the throne to the horsemen, rendered “saying, Go! and I saw and behold a white horse ... and he went forth.” ⁷

2 And I looked, and behold, **a white horse**.
He who sat on it had a bow;
and **a crown** was given to him,
and he went out conquering and to conquer.

- **Who is this rider of the White Horse with a bow but no arrows?**
 - White horses were always ridden by the good guy with a white hat—
The Lone Ranger



- This rider in Revelation is anything but a good guy
 - It is the Antichrist himself!

⁶ Jerome H. Smith, *The New Treasury of Scripture Knowledge: The Most Complete Listing of Cross References Available Anywhere—Every Verse, Every Theme, Every Important Word* (Nashville TN: Thomas Nelson, 1992), 1513.

⁷ Jerome H. Smith, *The New Treasury of Scripture Knowledge: The Most Complete Listing of Cross References Available Anywhere—Every Verse, Every Theme, Every Important Word* (Nashville TN: Thomas Nelson, 1992), 1513.



- Will we, as Christians see the Antichrist arise from the world stage?

- **ANSWER: An emphatic No!**

2 Thessalonians 2:1–12, 15-17

1 Now we ask you, brothers, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our assembling to him,

2 that you not be easily shaken from your composure, nor be troubled either by a spirit or by a message or by a letter alleged to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has arrived.

3 **Do not let anyone deceive you in any way,** for that day will not come unless

**the rebellion comes first,
and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of
destruction,**

4 who opposes and who exalts himself over every so-called god or object of worship, so that he sits down in the temple of God, proclaiming that he himself is God.

5 Do you not remember that while we were still with you, we were saying these things to you?

6 And you know that which restrains him now, so that he will be revealed in his own time.

7 For the mystery of lawlessness is at work already;
only the one who now restrains will do so until he is out of the way,

8 and then the lawless one will be revealed,

whom the Lord Jesus will slay with the breath of his mouth, and wipe out by the appearance of his coming,

9 whose coming is in accordance with the working of Satan, with all power and signs and lying wonders,

10 and **with every unrighteous deception** against those who are perishing, in place of which they did not accept the love of the truth, so that they would be saved.

11 And because of this, God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie,

12 in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth,

but delighted in unrighteousness.

15 Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle.

16 Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, **who has loved us and given us everlasting consolation and good hope by grace,**

17 comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work.

- How can Christians be comforted with the news that they will need to endure the wrath of God that will almost utterly destroy the entire earth?

A **crow** was given to him: (stephanos)

- στέφανος, ου, ὁ (s. next entry; Hom.+)
① a wreath made of foliage or designed to resemble foliage and worn by one of high status or held in high regard, wreath, crown. 8

John Hagee: “The Antichrist will be a man who makes his debut upon the stage of world history with hypnotic charm and charisma.

⁸ William Arndt, Frederick W. Danker, et al., *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 943.

He will probably come from the European Union or a country or confederation that was once a part of the Roman Empire, which stretched from Ireland to Egypt and included Turkey, Iraq and Iran.”

- Europe is waiting for a broker of peace.
- Israel is waiting for a broker of peace.
- Islam is waiting for the 12th Imam to be a broker of peace
- America is waiting for a broker of peace.
 - Trouble is that he will come at a great price that the entire world will pay.
 - **But not the church of Jesus Christ.**
 - Church must be gone in order for the Antichrist to reveal himself.
 - Flood didn't come until Noah and his family were sealed inside the Ark.
 - Sodom and Gomorrah weren't destroyed until Lot and his family were safe outside ground zero.
 - **Tribulation and Antichrist will not begin until the church family is safe inside the realm of heaven.**
 - **Daniel 12:1** “At that time Michael shall stand up,
The great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people;
And there shall be a time of trouble,
Such as never was since there was a nation,
Even to that time.
**And at that time your people shall be rescued,
Every one who is found written in the book.**
- We are the salt of the earth – we are a preserving influence.
 - When the salt is gone, or it loses its savor the preserving influence is gone.
- We are the “light of the world” – exemplifying Jesus everywhere we go.
 - When the light is gone there will only be darkness.
- **What will be strongest signal of the coming Tribulation?**

- **Deception, deception, deception, deception** – **4X** – Jesus says the end times will be primarily marked by **deception**.
Matthew 24:4-5 (NIV)
4 Jesus answered: “Watch out that no one **deceives** you.
5 For many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will **deceive** many.

Matthew 24:11 and many false prophets will appear and **deceive** many people.

Matthew 24:23-25 (NIV)

23 At that time if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or, ‘There he is!’ do not believe it.

24 For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles **to deceive even the elect**—if that were possible.

25 See, I have told you ahead of time.

- Many false Christs
- Many false prophets
- Many false signs and wonders.

2nd Seal:

3 When He opened **the second seal**,
I heard the second living creature saying, “GO!”

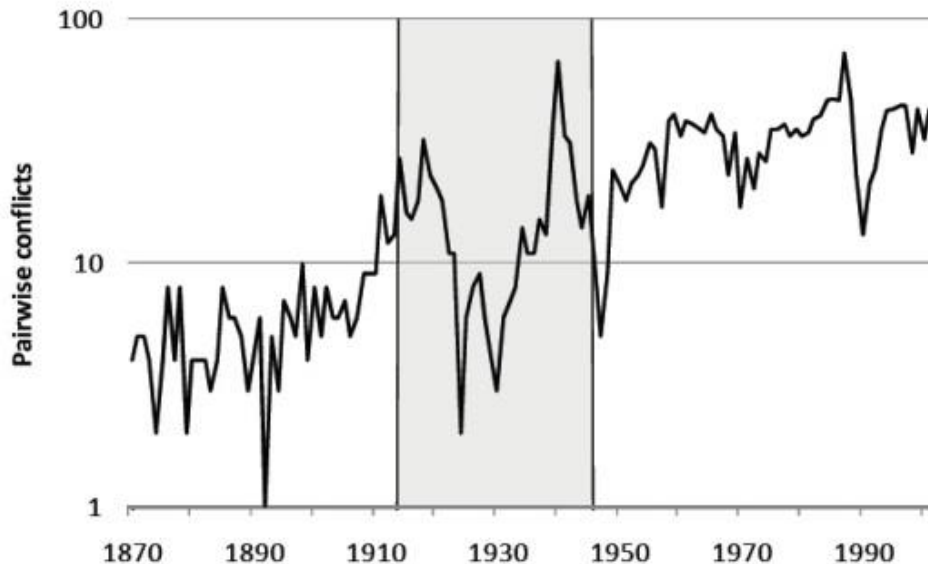
4 Another horse, **a fiery red horse**, went out.
And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth,
and that people should kill one another;
and there was given to him a great sword.

FIERY RED HORSE – the color of blood and war – an agent of war – he holds a great sword.

- **The short lived false peace of the White Horseman is replaced by nations fighting against other nations in degrees never before known.**
- **Of the past 3,400 years, humans have been entirely at peace for 268 of them, or just 8 percent of recorded history.** At least **108 million** people were killed in wars in

the twentieth century. Estimates for the total number killed in wars throughout all of human history range from 150 million to 1 billion. (Jul 6, 2003)

Figure 1. Militarized disputes between pairs of countries since 1870



- **Wars** – which lead to famines (**third seal**) – which lead to pestilences (**fourth seal**) – all just **the birth pangs** of things even greater in wrath to come.

Matthew 24:4-14 (NKJV)

4 And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you.

5 For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many.

6 **And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars.** See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.

7 For **nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.** And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places.

8 All these are the beginning of sorrows.

9 "Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake.

10 And then **many will be offended**, will betray one another, and will hate one another.

11 Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.

12 And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.

13 But he who endures to the end shall be saved.

14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

Psalm 2 (NKJV)

**1 Why do the nations rage,
And the people plot a vain thing?**

**2 The kings of the earth set themselves,
And the rulers take counsel together,
Against the Lord and against His Anointed, saying,**

3 "Let us break Their bonds in pieces
And cast away Their cords from us."

**4 He who sits in the heavens shall laugh;
The Lord shall hold them in derision.**

**5 Then He shall speak to them in His wrath,
And distress them in His deep displeasure:**

6 "Yet I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion."

7 "I will declare the decree: The Lord has said to Me,
'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.

8 Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance,
And the ends of the earth for Your possession.

9 You shall break them with a rod of iron;
You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel.' "

10 Now therefore, be wise, O kings;
Be instructed, you judges of the earth.

11 Serve the Lord with fear,
And rejoice with trembling.

**12 Kiss the Son, lest He be angry,
And you perish in the way,**

When His wrath is kindled but a little.
Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.

- **A great sword:**

- **Machaira (sword) refers to the short, stabbing sword a Roman soldier carried into battle. It was also a weapon used by assassins.**

The vision depicts a **great** sword to describe the extent of the war. Antichrist's false peace, then, will dissolve in a

maelstrom of battle, assassination, rebellion, revolt, and massacre. ⁹

- **The White Horseman leads it all down the drain for the world until Jesus comes back!**

Daniel 8:23-25 (NKJV)

23 “And in the latter time of their kingdom, When the transgressors have reached their fullness, **A king shall arise, Having fierce features, Who understands sinister schemes.**

24 His power shall be mighty, but not by his own power; He shall destroy fearfully, And shall prosper and thrive; He shall destroy the mighty, and also the holy people.

25 “Through his cunning **He shall cause deceit to prosper under his rule;** And he shall exalt himself in his heart. He shall destroy many in their prosperity. He shall even rise against the Prince of princes; **But he shall be broken without human means.**

Daniel 11:36-45 (NKJV)

36 “Then the king shall do according to his own will: **he shall exalt and magnify himself above every god, shall speak blasphemies against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the wrath has been accomplished; for what has been determined shall be done.**

37 He shall regard neither the God of his fathers nor the desire of women, nor regard any god; for he shall exalt himself above them all.

38 But in their place he shall honor a god of fortresses; and a god which his fathers did not know he shall honor with gold and silver, with precious stones and pleasant things.

39 Thus he shall act against the strongest fortresses with a foreign god, which he shall acknowledge, and advance its glory; and he shall cause them to rule over many, and divide the land for gain.

40 “At the time of the end the king of the South shall attack him; and the king of the North shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter the countries, overwhelm them, and pass through.

41 He shall also enter the Glorious Land, and many countries shall be overthrown; but these shall escape from his hand: Edom, Moab, and the prominent people of Ammon.

42 He shall stretch out his hand against the countries, and the land of Egypt shall not escape.

43 He shall have power over the treasures of gold and silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt; also the Libyans and Ethiopians shall follow at his heels.

44 But news from the east and the north shall trouble him; therefore he shall go out with great fury to destroy and annihilate many.

45 And he shall plant the tents of his palace between the seas and the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and no one will help him.

⁹ MacArthur, J. (1999). *Revelation 1-11* (180). Chicago: Moody Press.

3rd Seal:

5 When He opened **the third seal**,
I heard the third living creature say, "GO!"
So I looked, and behold, **a black horse**,
and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand.

Keep in mind – Jesus warned us all that there will come certain signs before He returns which are merely "birth pangs" of His second coming.

Matthew 24:7 For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. **And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places.**

- A **pestilence** is any virulent and highly infectious disease that can cause an epidemic or even a pandemic. The word can also be used about parasites causing large scale sickness and death.

Originally the word referred to the disease plague, which is called *pestis* in Latin.

6 And I heard a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, "A quart of wheat for **a denarius**, and three quarts of barley for **a denarius**; and do not harm the oil and the wine."

WORLDWIDE FAMINE, DISEASE, NATURAL CATASTROPHES

- "The measure spoken of here is the Greek measure of capacity of very ancient usage, the **choenix**. **As early as the time of Homer it was indicated as the amount of wage given to a workman for a full day's work** (Odyssey XIX:XXVIII). Herodotus also gives this as the measure of wheat consumed by each soldier in the army of Xerxes (VIII:CLXXXVII)." ¹⁰

¹⁰ Donald Grey Barnhouse, [Revelation](#) (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1971), 127.

“A day’s wages” refers to a silver coin, the Roman denarius, worth about 15 cents, which was **the normal wage for a worker for an entire day.** ¹¹

- No one will be able to afford oil or wine among common people.
- **Famine is the inevitable aftermath of war.** This will be a major cause of death in the Great Tribulation. The black color of the horse speaks of famine and death. ¹²

Wheat:

- **σῖτου [sitou], used of wheat in the context of hardship “as an indication of severe famine and rising prices** . . . Ignatius, in his fervent longing for martyrdom, uses this symbolic language . . . I am God’s wheat and will be ground by the teeth of the wild beasts.” ¹³
 - “Ordinarily, from sixteen to twenty measures were given for a denarius.” ¹⁴

Jack Van Impe: *“America, the world’s sole remaining superpower, does not seem to play a significant role in the end-time scenario as described by the prophets. Why? Some Scholars suggest America will be severely weakened – even neutralized – by the time the critical events, leading up to the Lord’s return, occur.*

Economic collapse? Moral decay? Poor leadership? Nuclear attack? All are possibilities.

The situation in Russia worsens with each passing day: a loaf of bread costs 1,500 rubles – about 8 percent of some monthly salaries. The average prices for rent, heat and electricity often increase as much as 250% in one month. The fee for public transportation has increased over 2000% since 1994. And to make matters worse, workers are simply not being paid in some enterprises.”

¹¹ Walvoord, John F., and Zuck, Roy B., *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*, (Wheaton, Illinois: Scripture Press Publications, Inc.) 1983, 1985.

¹² Walvoord, John F., and Zuck, Roy B., *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*, (Wheaton, Illinois: Scripture Press Publications, Inc.) 1983, 1985.

¹³ Danker, A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature, 752.

¹⁴ Fausset, The Revelation of St. John the Divine, Rev. 6:6.

John Hagee: "People ask, "Why would God allow a financial collapse in America?" I'll tell you why. Because the first commandment says, Thou shalt have no other gods before Me. And in America, money is God.

Billy Graham: "I have no doubt that a financial judgment day is coming for the United States unless our financial problems are addressed."

4th Seal:

7 When He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, "GO!"

8 So I looked, and behold, **a pale horse**. And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades followed with him.

And power was given to them **over a fourth of the earth**, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth.

A Pale Horse

- **Pale is χλωρός [chlōros] from which we derive chlorophyll**, which denotes the green pigments found in plants. It may denote a mottled appearance, like the sorrel or dappled horses in Zechariah's vision.

Here it denotes "the color of a person in sickness as contrasted with the appearance of health," for the name of the rider of the pale horse is death (θάνατος [thanatos]).

- Properly, "greenish-yellow," like young grass or unripe wheat. Homer applies it to honey, and Sophocles to the sand. Generally, "pale, pallid." Used of a mist, of sea-water, of a pale or bilious complexion. Thucydides uses it of the appearance of persons stricken with the plague (ii., 49). In Homer, it is used of the paleness of the face from fear, and so as directly descriptive of fear ("Iliad," x., 376; xv., 4). Of olive wood ("Odyssey," ix., 320, 379) of which the bark is gray. 15
- The word to describe the fourth horse's color, *chlōros* ("pale green"), is the color of grass and other vegetation in Mark [6:39](#) and Rev. [8:7](#); [9:4](#), but in the present connection, designates the yellowish green of decay, the pallor of death. It is a pale ashen color that images a face bleached because of terror. It recalls a corpse in the advanced state of corruption (Ford). 16

- **Jesus, alone, has the keys to death and hades:**
Revelation 1:18 I am He who lives, and was dead,

¹⁵ M. R. Vincent, *Vincent's Word Studies* (Escondido, CA: Ephesians Four Group, 2002), Rev. [6:8](#).

¹⁶ Thomas, *Revelation 1-7*, Rev. [6:8](#).

and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen.

And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.

- One day they will be destroyed in the lake of fire
- Death and Hades will; cease to exist.
 - Death claims the body while hades claims the soul of the dead. ¹⁷
 - Thus the picture is not that of people such as those in John's Christian community who had died, and would be in their graves awaiting resurrection, but of those who have rejected Christ and have been assigned to "Hades." ¹⁸

Revelation 20:13–15

13 The sea gave up the dead who were in it,

and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.

14 Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire.

This is the second death.

15 And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

2.7.5.3.3 - Four: the Entire World, the Earth

The number four appears in the book of Revelation in association with the living creatures (Rev. [4:6](#), [8](#); [5:6](#), [8](#); [6:1](#), [8](#); [14:3](#); [15:7](#); [19:4](#)), the four horsemen of the first seven seals (Rev. [6:1-8](#)), the four angels (Rev. [7:1-2](#)) standing on the four corners of the earth (Rev. [7:1](#)) holding back the four winds of the earth (Rev. [7:1](#)), the four horns of the altar (Rev. [9:13](#)), the four angels bound at the great river Euphrates (Rev. [9:14](#)) who are released to kill a third of all mankind, and the four corners of the earth to which Satan travels to gather the final battle (Rev. [20:8](#)).

The symbolic meaning of the number four in the book of Revelation seems clear: it is the signature of the world or of global effect.⁸¹

Four . . . is the signature of the world Four is stamped everywhere on this the organized world. Thus, not to speak of the four elements, the four seasons, neither of which are recognized in Scripture, we have the four winds (Eze. [37:9](#); Mat. [24:31](#); Rev. [7:1](#)); the four corners of the earth (Rev. [7:1](#); [20:8](#)); the four living creatures, emblems of all creaturely life (Rev. [4:6](#)), and each of these with four faces and four wings (Eze. [1:5-6](#)); the four beasts coming up from the sea, and representing the four great world-empires which in the providence of God should succeed one another (Dan. [7:3](#)); the four metals composing the image which sets forth the same phases of empire (Dan. [2:32-33](#)); the four Gospels, or the four-sided Gospel, in sign of its designation for all the world; the sheet tied at the four corners (Acts [10:11](#); [11:5](#)); the four horns, the sum total of the forces of the world as arrayed against the Church (Zec. [1:18](#)); the enumeration, wherever this is wished to be

¹⁷ Warren W. Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary*, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 588.

¹⁸ Gordon D. Fee, *Revelation*, New Covenant Commentary Series (Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2011), 95.

exhaustive of the inhabitants of the world by four, kindreds, tongues, peoples, and nations (Rev. [5:9](#) cf. [7:9](#); [10:11](#); [11:9](#); [14:6](#); [17:15](#)). For other significant enumerations by four, see Eze. [14:21](#); John [5:3](#); Rev. [6:8](#).⁸²

The first four of the seven seals, the “four horsemen of the apocalypse” (Rev. [6:1-8](#)), are each represented by a rider on a horse whose action has worldwide effects. The worldwide or global connotation of the number four derives from the directions of the compass (North, South, East, West, cf. Eze. [7:2](#)) and may be why there are four living creatures which are around the throne (Rev. [4:6](#)) surrounding it in all four primary directions. This same directional emphasis is seen in the camp of Israel which camped around the [tabernacle](#) in the wilderness in these four primary directions (Num. [2:1-34](#); [23:10](#)). This same arrangement is reflected in the tribal names associated with the twelve gates surrounding the New Jerusalem: three tribal names written on the gates in each of the four directions (Rev. [21:13](#)). The living creatures seen by John bear a striking resemblance to Ezekiel’s cherubim (Eze. [1:10](#); [10:14](#)) which appear to support the “chariot throne” of God as it travels in any direction (Eze. [1:12](#); [10:16-17](#)), yet with notable differences. Each of Ezekiel’s cherubim have four faces (a cherub or ox, a man, a lion, and an eagle) whereas John’s four living creatures each have a different face (a calf, a man, a lion, and an eagle). See [Four Gospels](#).

The global emphasis of the number four is also seen in the four angels which kill a third of all mankind.¹⁹

¹⁹ Contrary to the assertions of [preterists](#) who attempt to localize the global events of the book of Revelation to the Roman Empire.