

Insights In Prophecy

Unlock The Ancient Mysteries Of Daniel & Revelation

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13

LESSON

Lesson 13

THE COLORED HORSES & OPENING OF THE SEALS

Read Revelation 6

- **Determine The Meaning Of The Seven Seals**
- **Study What Is Represented By The Four Horsemen Of The Apocalypse**
- **Consider How The Sixth Seal Points To Total Desolation Of Planet Earth**

Daniel's book of prophecy was to be sealed until the end of time, according to the messenger (Daniel 12:4). In the Near East, the practice of sealing an important document was well-known. Royal seals were used for two reasons: First, to keep the contents safe and unaltered. Daniel's book of prophecy was certified to be an accurate transcript of what God had communicated to him. Second, to prove the scroll's authenticity and the contents were indeed true. Therefore, God was guaranteeing the preservation of Daniel's scroll, as well as its accuracy. This unusual measure was taken so that those living during the last days will have God's truth to warn and sustain them. Once the book is unsealed at the time of the end, insights into closing events would be better grasped, and God's counting Festival Calendar understood.



It is common practice to lift a hand and swear to tell the truth, as in ancient times (Genesis 14:22; Exodus 6:8; Ezekiel 20:5); however, Michael raised both right and left hands towards Heaven swearing an oath of divine assurance. He promised the final troubles would last no longer than three and a half (or a "part") years—meaning 3-4 years—an intense period of persecution that will purify the wise who adhere to the contents of the scroll (Daniel 12:6-10). This sworn *limited* period of persecution will be found accurate as we continue to study John's Revelation visions.

The scroll in Revelation 5 contained seven royal seals, which could only be broken open by the Lamb having imperial authority earned by His sacrificial wounds. This lesson focuses on the contents of the first six seals. Chapter 7 is a parenthesis—an insertion for enhanced enlightenment of the seals; then the seventh seal is found in Revelation chapter 8. The Lamb (Jesus) was declared worthy to break open the seals and reveal their mysterious content. Therefore, the scroll represents the contents of the book of Daniel—itsself part of Messiah's ancient Book of Truth (Daniel 10:21), which had been sealed earlier by Michael's proclamation (Daniel 12:4). Only Messiah could have both the authority to seal and unseal the book, in which are found the ageless mysteries of Almighty God.

When we begin to look for the meaning of the seals, we must remember what John saw was a revelation of Daniel's scroll being unsealed and rolled open to reveal its contents. How do we know? The first vision of the last days, which was given personally to Daniel (chapter 7), began with four animal creatures (governments) which will be overthrown by the conquering Messiah (v. 26). Revelation 6 also introduces four animals (governments) who, in turn, encounter the wrath of the conquering Lamb (vs. 15-16).

Various explanations have been offered over the course of time as to the identity of the four colored horses in the first four seals. Some sources believe they are representative of the history of the church between the time of Christ and the Second Coming. Others suggest end-time applications but leave little clue as to how they arrive at their conclusions. Comparing John and Daniel's prophecies help reveal the identity of the four horses. However, we recognize that these four horsemen are not men riding on flesh and blood horses but are *representative* of global powers that God will use to fulfill His divine plan at the

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end of the ages. There is a connection between the spiritual realm and natural world, both good and evil. Persecution from evil powers often provokes mankind to repent of their sins, to trust in a personal Savior and to follow Him.



The prophet Zechariah first mentions the four colored horse symbolism. Zechariah is a prophetic book bursting with predictive last-day language. There we will begin our adventure for insight into the meaning of the four horsemen, as well as referring once again back to Daniel and other Biblical passages. Zechariah 6:1-5 says, "I looked up again, and there before me were four chariots coming out from between two mountains—mountains of bronze. The first chariot had red horses, the second black, the third white, and the fourth dappled—all of them powerful. I asked the angel who was speaking to me, "What are these, my LORD?" The angel answered me, "These are the four spirits [winds/angels] of heaven, going out from standing in the presence of the LORD of the whole world."

1. In Revelation 6:1 the Lamb of God breaks open the first seal. Who or what then summons the white horse to "come"? _____

The four living creatures have been identified as the four spirits or "seraphims" as found in Isaiah 6:2 and Revelation 4 (refer to Lesson 12). The first angelic creature demands the white horse and rider to gallop onto the world scene. This clearly illustrates Heaven's control over earth's governments.

2. What connection do the four horses have with the four angelic creatures (Zechariah 6:1-5)? _____

The four "spirits" or "winds" go forth from standing before the LORD. We know the four angelic creatures of Revelation stand "around the throne" of God (Revelation 4:6).

3. What four stir up the four governmental animals in Daniel 7:2-3? _____

Heaven's four winds control events of this world, and political figures unknowingly "fulfill" God's will until His kingdom is ushered in (Revelation 17:17).

4. What do horses represent in prophecy (Revelation 9:16-18; Joel 2:1-5)? _____

Horses and horsemen represent the military might of nations. In Revelation 6 we see the symbolic horses of the end-time nations riding into action, but by verse 12 supernatural signs in the sky foretell the Day of the LORD and governments' destruction.

5. Joel 2:1-11 helps us understand Revelation 6. How? _____

6. In Revelation 6:2 the first rider sits astride the White Horse. Who are represented by the counterpart animal—the first creature of Daniel 7:4—the Lion's With Eagle's Wings? _____

The British-American alliance; therefore, the White Horse likewise would represent the same power base. White represents military victory; the rider's bow might signify instruments of war; and the crown—the imperial leadership of these nations in modern world politics.

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7. Revelation 6:3-4 introduces the Red Horse; what contemporary world power is known for their color red and symbolized as a Bear—the second animal in Daniel 7:5? _____

Daniel says the Russian Bear is told to "get up and eat your fill of [human] flesh." Likewise, the Red Horse of Revelation is given power to "take peace from the earth and to make men slay one another." While the White Horse's rider sports a "bow", the rider of the Red Horse is given a "large sword" of destruction by which he takes peace from the whole world. This sword is so breathtaking that fear overtakes the globe; the sword likely represents weapons of mass destruction.

Revelation 13:1-5 describes a massive beast of world governments created by combining Daniel's Leopard, Bear and Lion into a Beast—the New World Order. Although separate and distinct governments in Daniel's vision, in Revelation they are merged together as one ugly geo-political creature. As the last days begin, one of its heads will be hit with a deadly wound (nuclear attack), but the Beast will recover, and Antichrist will emerge from the ashes of war to rule for forty-two months—three and one-half years.

Revelation 13:14 forecasts a second figure of the end days—the False Prophet, who will make an image (statue) in honor of the world's united nations, which was "wounded by the sword and yet lived." The rider to wield a "sword" is the Red Horse's rider (6:4)—Russia, the Old Soviet Union. The Russian Federation will be the instigator of mass destruction, which in turn will usher in the Man of Sin (Antichrist) and renewed global unity for the survival of Planet Earth.



8. How many ribs does the Bear in Daniel 7:5 have in its mouth, as though having utterly devoured them? _____

Three ribs—Russia devours three countries to the bone.

9. How many crowns are discovered on the ten horns in Revelation 13:1, just before the 1260 day rule of Antichrist? _____

The Beast has ten horns and ten crowns in place.

10. Looking at Revelation 12:3, how many crowns are missing just before the 1260 day period of prophecy begins in 12:6 and 14? _____

Three crowns have vanished, signifying terrible destruction that has eliminated three nations/leaders.

11. We found in Daniel 7:7-8, in Lessons 4 and 5, the terrible Beast will be assaulted by the Bear. How many horns (countries) get torn out by the roots from this attack? _____

We believe the Terrible Beast represents the Western European Union of nations; here is where the Old Soviet Union will strike with a "large sword," devastating life and land in three countries in Europe.

12. Comparing Daniel 7 with Revelation 13, we notice governments of the world are working together sporting Seven Heads and Ten Horns in both books. Look up the creatures in Daniel 7:4-7 and count the number of heads and horns. Do they add up in the chart below to equal Revelation's count? _____

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WORLD GOVERNMENTS IN BOTH DANIEL AND REVELATION

The Daniel creatures—Lion, Bear, Leopard and Beast, show up in Revelation 13 as an amalgamated Beast comprised of Lion, Bear and Leopard; both have the equal number of heads and horns.

Daniel 7	Heads	Horns
Lion With Eagle's Wings (United Kingdom/United States)	_____	_____
Bear With Three Ribs (Russia)	_____	_____
Leopard With Four Heads (Eastern Asia)	_____	_____
Terrible Beast With Ten Horns (Western Europe)	_____	_____
Total of All—New World Order in Daniel	7	10

13. In Revelation 6:5-6 the third seal is broken, and the Black Horse is called upon by the third living creature to ride onto the scene. What was the third governmental power base paralleled in Daniel 7:6?

Likely we see China and Eastern Asian countries, known for grain production.

14. What scourge is indicated by "a quart of wheat for a day's wages"? _____

Famine will plague the world during the last days, and food supplies will be limited and expensive. Yeshua also predicted scarcities, along with increased military battles and natural disasters, which would begin the sorrows of the last days (Matthew 24:4-8). Wheat and barley are used to make bread, a basic food in ancient times. The oil and wine represent the common liquids for cooking and drinking, which are not to be uselessly destroyed.

In the spiritual sense, there will also be a scarcity of sacred truth and teachings during the last days. Amos 8:11-12 projects, "The days are coming," declares the Sovereign LORD, "when I will send a famine through the land—not a famine of food or a thirst for water, but a famine of hearing the words of the LORD. Men will stagger from sea to sea and wander from north to east, searching for the word of the LORD, but they will not find it." God's truths will continue to the end of time, but certainly not in great abundance. Oil and wine are spiritual elements; for this reason, Heaven demands that these two ingredients should not be damaged in the course of unleashing the global heat wave and a parched planet. Even when the power of the holy people is being broken down by persecution, spiritual truths will not be totally extinguished for those who hunger and thirst after righteousness (Matthew 5:6).

15. Revelation 6:7-8 exposes the fourth seal. The fourth rider (named "Death") and the Pale Horse is most terrifying. Hades—the grave—follows close behind. This military machine is distinct in description, and rules over a "_____ of the earth." Again, this is evidence that these four horses represent the four global governmental power-bases of the end days.

16. How does the fourth Pale (Green) Horse compare to the fourth creature in Daniel 7:7, and what modern power might this symbolize? _____

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Western European Union seems to be noted here. This area is most closely associated with the Man of Sin, from which he emerges as the "little horn"—the smallest country in the world—the Vatican (just .2 square miles).

The Wicked One—a beast/man estranged from his Jewish roots and from the Covenant of his ancestors—and his followers will eventually destroy those who defy his decrees of idolatry; the believers who keep the Commandments of God. While the previous horses and riders use military might and food rationing to secure control, Antichrist is associated with the four Biblical woes: the "sword" (armed forces), "famine" (withholding food), "death" (executions), and "beasts of the earth" (hungry wild animals who will feast on the sick, exposed and vulnerable, and unburied corpses; also, may refer to Islamic terrorists and other religious crusaders)—all used to induce obedience to his commands.

17. Compare Revelation 6:8 to Ezekiel 14:21-23. What city is specifically named to receive these four disasters? _____ Why (Ezekiel 14:6)? _____

Jerusalem is named, because her religious and political leaders—despite the warnings of the Scriptures—will compromise with the Man of Sin during the last days and will allow this global ruler onto the Temple Mount to set up his abomination (idol) in the closing moments of time.

For this reason, at the end of the 70 weeks (Daniel 9:24-27) God will bring upon Israel the most terrible punishments—the "four sore judgments." Daniel 9:26 predicts the "people [armies] of the ruler [Antichrist] who will come will destroy the city [Jerusalem] and the [rebuilt] Sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end [of time], and desolations [ruins] have been decreed."

This is why Jesus warned His followers of the end-days when they see "standing in the Holy Place the abomination that causes desolation, spoken of through the prophet Daniel" (Matthew 24:15), and when they see "Jerusalem surrounded by armies, you will know its desolation is near. Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains... for this is their time of punishment in fulfillment of all that has been written," (Luke 21:20-22) in the ancient prophecies—the Book of Truth.

18. Revelation 6:9-11 is the opening of the fifth seal. What does John see at its opening? _____

The souls of men are seen under the altar.

In ages past, the altar was used for sacrifice. Clearly, this passage symbolizes those who will give their lives in martyrdom. Daniel also speaks of the overcomers' end-time persecution (Daniel 7:21, 22, 25; 11:33-35; 12:10). As the voice of Abel's blood cried to God from the ground (Genesis 4:10, 15) and God took vengeance upon Cain, so the martyrs cry out for Almighty to repay their enemies. This passage does not teach that naked souls are literally huddled under a physical altar. The symbolism teaches that white robes represent the righteous acts of the believers (Revelation 19:8), which is the promised attire at their resurrection. On the other hand, there will no doubt be mistreated believers huddled together on earth, crying out to God for His divine retribution against their persecutors; punishment the Scriptures promise Messiah will bring to pass in due time (Isaiah 63:1-6; Nahum 1:2).

19. How much longer will the martyrs wait for God's wrath to be poured out upon the rebellious world (Revelation 6:11)? _____

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There will be a little period of waiting while a designated number of overcomers give their lives for the cause of Christ.

Persecution will be rampant, and the killing of God's people will be widespread around the globe. The church at Smyrna was warned about the final ten days when persecution will reach its zenith.

The Mysterious Ten Days Of Persecution

During the final moments just before the Day of the LORD, many believers will suffer martyrdom for their faith. Revelation 2:10 reveals a mysterious period that warns about this short but critical period of crisis: *"Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution **ten days**. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life."* Can you find the ten days just before the Day of the LORD on **The Kingdom Calendar**? Hint: there are exactly ten days between the Feast of Trumpets (Rosh Ha-Shanah) and the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur). This is the "little season" spoken of in Revelation 6:11 (KJV)—the "Ten Days of Awe," as known in Judaism, in which the "number of their fellow servants and brothers who were to be killed as they had been was completed"; then the thunderous voice of the Archangel will raise the martyred saints, and the final end—the Great Tribulation will commence.

20. Revelation 6:12-17 opens the sixth seal. What supernatural cosmic disturbances occur as a result?

This earthquake is not a localized shaking; it is worldwide, when the earth opens and mountain ranges will disappear and islands of people will slip into the sea. In its wake, tsunamis will rise up from the earth's shifting landmasses (Psalm 93:1-5) and walls of massive waves will pour over lands and peoples. A veil of complete darkness will encompass the globe as the sun, moon and stars are concealed. The stars falling to the earth may indicate a massive meteor shower and destructive fires that will plummet from the sky. And spiritually speaking, the falling stars portray the demise of fallen angels at the return of an avenging King.

21. When do these events occur, when comparing Matthew 24:29-31 and Joel 2:30-31? _____

The sixth seal events point to the Great Day of the LORD—what is referred to as Day 1335 (Daniel 12:12). The sky above will depart as a scroll to reveal the conquering King of kings.

22. Does Isaiah 34:2-4, 8-10 agree? _____ What is the result (Jeremiah 4:23-29)? _____

The earth will be left totally desolate.

23. Who will rise up to shake terribly the earth (Isaiah 2:12, 17-21; Daniel 12:1; Hebrews 12:26; Joel 3:14-16)? _____

On the Great Day of the LORD, the Father "Him who sits on the throne" will accompany His reigning Son, the King of kings, to destroy all evil and conquer every foe. From world leaders, royalty, military generals, the rich and powerful—all the way down to the impoverished, absolutely every unbeliever will be destroyed.

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Luke 21:25-28 says, "There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea [earthquakes and tsunamis]. Men will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

The chapter ends with an all-important question in Revelation 6:17, "the great day of their wrath is come, and who can stand?" The destruction will reach around the world, in a stark reversal of Planet Earth back to its condition before the creation of beauty and light, back to global darkness. Who can stand? Chapter seven is about to answer this question by identify the group sealed for protection, so their lives may be spared during the 40 day Great Tribulation.

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KING OF ISRAEL

קינג ופ יסראעל