

The Black Horse of Apocalypse – What is it? Produced and designed by Gaetan

Another name for the Book of Revelation is the Apocalypse, which means “*a revelation concerning the future.*” The four horsemen of the Apocalypse reveal the truth about religion, war, and economics, and set the stage for the events that the vision is yet to cover. In chapter 6, when the Lord begins to open the seals of this book, the future is revealed, the entire future of the world!



This seven-sealed book, actually a scroll--was really the Book of the Future, the Book of the Revelation which God had promised to give to John the apostle.

When no other man could be found worthy to open the Book of Prophecy, only Jesus, the Lamb of God who came before the throne, was found worthy to open the Book.

(Revelation 5:1-9)

Each one of these seals are really only capsule histories on events that the vision is yet to uncover in greater detail throughout the remainder of the book of Revelation.



In this study we will focus on the 3rd seal, the 3rd horse of Apocalypse – the Black Horse.

“And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand.”



“And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine.” (Rev.6:5-6)

Wheat ... Barley ... Oil ... Wine – The three main crops of Israel in ancient times were grains, grapes from which wine was made, and olives, which were processed into oil.



This was written in the first century. The “*penny*” here is not a modern penny but a Denarius which was a small Roman coin made of silver. It was considered the equivalent of an entire day’s wage, as noted in the parable of Jesus where all the labourers worked for a penny a day.

*“For the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is a householder, which went out early in the morning to hire labourers into his vineyard. And when he had agreed with the labourers **for a penny a day**, he sent them into his vineyard. (Matthew 20:1-2)*





A "*measure*" equaled about one quart and ordinarily a penny could have purchased fifteen to twenty measures.

The very high prices indicate famine conditions, with a day's wage only enough to buy wheat for one person. While the less desirable grain (barley) could feed three people for a day, larger families would still go hungry. The prices were much higher than normal, reflecting scarcity and hardship.

Sound familiar?

Even the colour of the horse itself represents famine. The prophet Jeremiah wrote during a similar time in Israel:

***"Our skin was black like an oven...because of the terrible famine."
(Lamentations 5:10)***



"...and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine."

Oil and wine throughout scripture are synonymous with abundance or luxury. The fact that they were to "*hurt not*" indicates a situation where wealth and luxury are existing alongside famine and poverty; not an unusual situation to say the least...



...a ghastly paradox in which children starve to death in Africa and Asia while American cattlemen shoot their livestock and leave them rotting to protest high feed prices.



Could this black horse's rider with the "pair of balances in his hand" symbolise these rich merchants and the multinational big corporations?



Only one other verse
in all the Bible
pictures a man
holding balances in
his hand:

***"He is a merchant;
the balances of deceit
are in his hand: he
loves to oppress."
(Hosea 12:7)***



Another Prophet,
Amos, also said
that these
merchants...

*"...set forth wheat,
making the ephah,
(or measure)
small, and the
shekel,
(or price paid),
great, and falsifying
the balances by
deceit...that
swallow up the
needy, even to
make the poor of
the land to fail."
(Amos 8:4-6)*



The black horse, then, represents famine and poverty maintained by the rich who refuse to share with those in need. This horse is responsible for today's economic situation.



This inequality in the world's wealth, however, was not created by God. It is true that famines are sometimes caused by lack of rain or some climate conditions, but the majority of famine and its resultant poverty is created by man himself through his wars and greed!



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At the Battle of Armageddon, Jesus Christ, the rider of the White Horse, will take over this World and set up His Kingdom on Earth, to rule and run it the way it should have been run, if man could have obeyed God! Thank God, Christ's soon Return will end the oppression of the Black Horse when...

“The meek shall inherit the Earth.” (Matthew 5:5)

Are you prepared for His coming? If you haven't done it yet, take the time to ask the Lord to come into your heart and life at this very moment by praying this simple prayer:

"Jesus, please forgive all my faults and sin. I believe that You are the Son of God and that You died for me. I invite You into my heart and life. Thank you for your gift of eternal life and please fill me with Your Holy Spirit so I can change my ways and make a difference for good in others' lives. And help me to read and understand Your Word as I want to know You better and follow You more closely. Amen."

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