

Revealing The Soon-Coming All-Powerful Sovereign World Ruler

[Part 8]

The Beginning Of The Judgement Of God

In all secular and Bible-based literature, no other characters have evoked the discussion and conjecture as the four horsemen of the Apocalypse.

I believe that because scriptures present these four horsemen against a background of God's wrath and judgement, most humans have reacted with total disbelief.

Most say:-

The judgements such as these cannot be real.

The world is full of too many good men and women for such plagues and famines to be real.

People do **not** deserve such harsh judgement from a God who is supposed to be a God of love.

Forget the whole idea.

Such a judgement will never happen.

Even in the darkest and most fearsome times, human nature never gives up the hope of something better will happen in the future.

As one poet said "*Hope springs eternal in the human breast.*"

Humans have never abandoned their unfounded hope of lasting peace.

Politicians have learned that they can gather many votes by fanning the hopes of constituents for a better world in the future under their direction.

Their appeal is based largely on promises to solve all economic and social problems.

Even in the realm of the Church and religion, we hear expressions of hope that religious unity can be achieved.

These church leaders fondly hope that social problems will go away once everyone is worshipping in one large church.

I have cited these often expressed hopes because they are in sharp contrast to what we see concerning the future four horsemen of revelation.

In presenting this God-given truth I expect my popularity will disappear, as what we see is in stark contrast to the natural human desires for peace, tranquillity and unity.

But I am committed to the truth of God's Word, whether or not it is popular.

The truth is that all of these human hopes we have reviewed are vain hopes.

This world is never going to get better under human government.

The sixth chapter of revelation begins abruptly with the opening of the mysterious seals that I believe have to do with the title deed to planet earth.

One of the living creatures cries out with a voice like thunder, “*come.*”

This is the long-awaited signal to the four horsemen that the hour has come for them to gallop forth on their missions of judgement.

When Jesus was on the earth over two thousand years ago, He told His hearers that the “*day of the Lord*” was coming.

Matthew 12:36-37 [NIV] “***But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.***”

A personal warning by the Judge Himself.

1 Corinthians 5:5 [NIV] “***hand this man over to Satan, so that the sinful nature may be destroyed and his spirit saved on the day of the Lord.***”

The Day of the Lord was very real to Paul who had been taught directly by Jesus Christ in Arabia [see **Galatians 1:15-17**].

2 Peter 3:10-13 [NIV] “***But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.***”

What we are reading and about to read in Revelation was very real to the apostle Peter.

According to the scriptures patience, the ability to wait, is one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit [see **Galatians 5:22-23**].

Human nature does **not** like to wait.

Our natural impatience cries out to God “*Oh God, how long? How long?*”

God replies in effect “*Why are you in such a hurry? We have an eternity stretching before us. Why get excited and so irritated?*”

Apparently the four symbolic horses had been prepared and waiting, “*champing at the bit.*”

But they had to wait for events on earth and in heaven to run their course before they could go into action.

Humans however have **not** been so patient, and some have concluded that Jesus will **not** return.

Revelation 6:1-2 [NIV] “***I watched as the Lamb opened the first of the seven seals. Then I heard one of the four living creatures say in a voice like thunder, “Come!” I looked, and there before me was a white horse! Its rider held a bow, and he was given a crown, and he rode out as a conqueror bent on conquest.***”

This white horse and rider **cannot** be Jesus Christ within this context, because it is Jesus Christ Who frees the horseman to go forth.

Because all four horsemen are connected with judgement we must identify the rider of the white horse as one who will prove to be a deceiver of humanity and a curse.

Most scholars look upon this rider as the antichrist.

The antichrist will come just before the return of Jesus Christ.

1 John 4:1-3 [NIV] *“Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because **many false prophets have gone out into the world.** This is how you can recognise the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but **every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist,** which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.”*

The antichrist is destined to appear as a person at some future time of world crisis.

But the spirit of antichrist has been with us from the conception of humanity.

Daniel 8:23-25 [NIV] *“In the latter part of their reign, when rebels have become completely wicked, a stern-faced king, a master of intrigue, will arise. He will become very strong, but not by his own power. He will cause astounding devastation and will succeed in whatever he does. **He will destroy the mighty men and the holy people. He will cause deceit to prosper, and he will consider himself superior.** When they feel secure, he will destroy many and take his stand against the Prince of princes. **Yet he will be destroyed, but not by human power.”***

As with much prophecy this is dual, first a human example then an end time spirit-led example.

The stern faced king describes both Antiochus IV Epiphanes who reportedly went insane and died in 164 B.C. and the antichrist at the end of human history.

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 [NIV] *“**Don’t let anyone deceive you in any way, for [that day will not come] until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction.** He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshipped, so that **he sets himself up in God’s temple, proclaiming himself to be God.”***

This is a clear description of the antichrist.

Matthew 24:3-4 [NIV] *“As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. “Tell us,” they said, “when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?” **Jesus answered: “Watch out that no-one deceives you.”***

Many people will be deceived.

Matthew 24:9-13 [NIV] *“**Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me.** At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, and **many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved.**”*

True Christians will be persecuted and even put to death, many others will turn away and follow the false antichrist.

The antichrist will use religious interests to establish his power over the people.

The antichrist will, posing as Christ, encourage all denominations to unite under one leader.

Preaching that the key to Christian unity is to be tolerant, to love everyone!

As this happens the antichrist will take over and put his stamp on all the world.

Something similar to this has already happened.

While men and woman are intent on “*brotherhood*”, love and unity, teachers and leaders are busy telling our young people in high school and college that God did **not** create the heavens and the earth, that Adam and Eve did **not** really exist, and that Jesus Christ’s resurrection from the dead is a myth.

Yes, an antichrist is destined to enter the world scene.

His control will be through duplicity and delusion.

The antichrist will as we have read appear to be an amiable person, able to lead all the divergent political, economic and religious forces into short term unity.

1 Thessalonians 5:3 [NIV] *“While people are saying, “Peace and safety”, destruction will come on them suddenly, as labour pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.”*

Ultimately the antichrist will be able to talk much about peace and prosperity through unity.

But during his regime, war will come, and that armed conflict will be the signal for the second horse to appear.

Revelation 6:3-4 [NIV] *“When the Lamb opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, “Come!” Then another horse came out, a fiery red one. Its rider was given power to take peace from the earth and to make men slay each other. To him was given a large sword.”*

The second horseman was the instrument to delude humans to kill each other.

The antichrist’s campaign of religious brotherhood and international peace will be short-lived.

Satan is the world’s greatest counterfeiter, and he is behind the duplicity of this counterfeit Christ!

Suppose for a moment some person or force in our world could proclaim that tomorrow morning all wars and all conflict would cease.

Proclaim that all soldiers, sailors and airmen are to return home, all military bases are to close then all the entrenched military industrial complex would be no more.

Complete world disarmament, no nation permitted to go to war ever again.

What would follow in the wake of such a worldwide edict?

We all know the answer.

The worst economic depression in the history of humanity, would quickly develop.

Where would the world governments find jobs for the millions of people who are directly and indirectly part of defence and military establishments?

The antichrist had promised prosperity and peace, but to achieve it he will have to resort to war and to conquest.

When this horseman rides forth any temporary treaties of peace and co-operation will be disregarded.

This rider with the great sword in his hand surely represents human capacity to wage international war.

What is always the aftermath of war?

Revelation 6:5-6 [NIV] *“When the Lamb opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, “Come!” I looked, and there before me was a black horse! Its rider was holding a pair of scales in his hand. Then I heard what sounded like a voice among the four living creatures, saying, “A quart of wheat for a day’s wages, and three quarts of barley for a day’s wages, and do not damage the oil and the wine!”*”

The description of the rider of the black horse and what he brings with him is clearly famine on a massive scale.

This should not be surprising to us as we have all seen how famine and hunger follow quickly on the heels of war and the total disdain for human life that war generates.

Revelation 6:7-8 [NIV] *“When the Lamb opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, “Come!” I looked, and there before me was a pale horse! Its rider was named Death, and Hades was following close behind him. They were given power over a fourth of the earth to kill by sword, famine and plague, and by the wild beasts of the earth.”*

Inevitably there is no mistaking the fourth horse and its rider.

Death is his name.

This comes after the power of the sword in the form of famine, plague and wild beasts.

Plague is the name for all the diseases that quickly break out from rotting corpses that no-one has time to mourn or to bury.

Wild predators will be feeding on these rotting bodies.

You may by now be accusing me of extreme pessimism.

So be it.

But I must agree with what the vision given to the apostle John, for it is a part of God’s Word, the Holy Christian Bible.

John 10:35 [NIV] *“... scripture cannot be broken.”*

We must **not** just pick and choose which scriptures we accept and which we reject.

2 Peter 1:20-21 [NIV] *“Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”*

We must allow scripture to interpret itself.

Isaiah 28:9-10, 13-14 [King James] *“Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little:” ... “But the word of the LORD was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little; that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken. Wherefore hear the word of the LORD, ye scornful men, that rule this people which is in Jerusalem.”*

Just as we have already seen, we need to add the words of Jesus Christ to the vision given to apostle John to receive the full teaching on our future and the return of Jesus Christ.

This passage of scripture is referring directly to the Assyrians who had the same attitude towards God's Word, spoken here by Isaiah, as most people do today.

But in the end they will be knocked backward by the power of the Word, that is Jesus Christ, and be snared and captured.

Things will **not** get better for humanity while the horses of the apocalypse are pawing the ground and champing at the bit, awaiting the signal to gallop forth.

At the close of this article I want to tie into the loosing of these four horsemen, with John's vision of all who had died as martyrs, whose human spirits were in the safe keeping of God under His throne.

Revelation 6:9-11 [NIV] *“When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained. They called out in a loud voice, “How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?” Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to wait a little longer, until the number of their fellow-servants and brothers who were to be killed as they had been was completed.”*

This passage of scripture is telling us two things:-

1. All who had died in Christ, as faithful servants of Christ, were also awaiting the return of Jesus Christ for them to step into eternity with Him.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 [NIV] *“Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage each other with these words.”*

This is referring to the same group of faithful Christians that John saw in vision.

They are still asleep in death awaiting a resurrection at Christ's return.

[More will be addressed on this subject in a future article in this series.]

In God's eyes these martyrs had already received the “*fine linen*” that was the clothing of the future bride of Jesus Christ. [see **Revelation 19:7-8**]

2. More Christians were going to become martyrs for their loyalty to their Saviour Jesus Christ.

This would continue to happen to some right up to the return of Jesus Christ.

Matthew 23:34 [NIV] *“Therefore I am sending you prophets and wise men and teachers. Some of them you will kill and crucify; others you will flog in your synagogues and pursue from town to town.”*

Much of this persecution will come from religious leaders who have been deceived by Satan.

Matthew 24:9-11 [NIV] *“Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people.”*

This persecution will increase as the return of Jesus Christ draws near.

John 16:1-4 [NIV] *“All this I have told you so that you will not go astray. **They will put you out of the synagogue; in fact, a time is coming when anyone who kills you will think he is offering a service to God.** They will do such things because they have not known the Father or me. I have told you this, so that **when the time comes you will remember that I warned you.** I did not tell you this at first because I was with you.”*

This shows just how effective the dark deception of Satan can be the minds of people claiming to be serving God!

Romans 12:19-21 [NIV] *“**Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” says the Lord.** On the contrary: “If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.” **Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.**”*

The Word of God, the Christian Bible, clearly tells us that vengeance does **not** belong to us, but is only something that God in all His wisdom and total knowledge can do.

As Christians, we should willingly live for and serve our Creator God in what is a hostile world.

God is telling us to be patient and kind to even those who are persecuting us.

Any vengeance that is necessary will be God’s Holy vengeance.

“Heap burning coals on his head,” this is referring to the fanned furnace that eventually melts even the hardest of metals.

The context shows that our acts of love towards those who are hurting us, physically or mentally, will eventually soften their hard hatred.

The best way to get rid of enemies is to turn them into friends by acts of love for them.

Finally in this article I would like to share with you my greatest concern for this generation of human beings.

The wisest and most brilliant humans are playing a dangerous game with what should be the secrets of our Creator God.

For the first time in the history of humanity, the secret of the composition of matter has been released, and we have the death and destruction of nuclear power becoming more menacing every year.

The common people repress their fears and doubts by seeking physical pleasure and living selfishly, intent only on themselves.

While the world is falling apart the pampered lifestyle of the majority are spending billions on fun and on pleasure and on what they call excitement.

We may have differing opinions about the symbols and details of prophetic warnings, we may even choose to be ignorant of these warnings, but God’s truth is available as to the future of humanity.

God’s truth is something we **cannot** get around or in the end ignore.

Into human history the horsemen of the apocalypse will come riding forth in God’s chosen time.

We need to be praying to God that we:-

- a) Become more detached from this evil and selfish society.
- b) That we may recognise the soft, silky, deceptive voice of the spirit that is opposed to Jesus Christ, the antichrist.
- c) That we will stand faithfully with those who are the true disciples of Jesus Christ, even if it means martyrdom.

I hope this is the way you feel and pray about what is happening to humanity in our generation.

Come Lord Jesus, please come soon and save humanity from its own nature.