

UNLOCKING PROPHECY #17

Revelation's Four Horsemen: Why So Many Denominations?

Bible prophecy clearly reveals why there are so many denominations

- † Amos 3:7, *"Surely [or certainly] the Lord GOD does nothing, unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets."*
- † Revelation's four horsemen represent four successive ages in the history of the church.
- † Jesus opens the seals of this prophecy about the history of the Christian church.

First Seal: White Horse

- † *"Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, 'Come and see.' 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" (Revelation 6:1-2).*
- † White is a symbol of purity. (Examples: Mt 17:2; 28:3; Mk 9:3; Lk 9:29; Jn 20:12; Acts 1:10; Rev 3:4; 3:18; 4:4; 6:11; 7:9; 7:13-14; 19:11,14)
- † The white horse represents a powerful, pure faith.
- † From AD 31, after the death of Christ, to AD 100 the disciples preached the truth of God's Word powerfully.
- † Acts 5:14, *"And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women."*
- † Nothing could stop the progress of Christianity in the 1st Century.
- † Colossians 1:23, *"If indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister."*

Second Seal: Red Horse

- † *"Another horse, fiery red, 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" (Revelation 6:4).*
- † Satan saw that he could not stop the church. So he began a fierce era of bloody persecution. He influenced political leaders to viciously persecute the Christians. The red horse represents a bloody faith.
- † From AD 100 to AD 313. The Christians were persecuted terribly in the blood stained faith period.
- † One early church writer wrote, "The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the gospel. The more you persecute us the more we grow." So Satan changed the strategy from persecution to something else.

Third Seal: Black Horse

- † Revelation 6:5, *"When He opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, 'Come and see.' So I looked, and behold, a black horse, and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand."*
- † Satan's method - introduce compromise. His master strategy brings pagan practices into the church. As the white horse represents truth, the black horse represents error.
- † The pair of scales represents a church judged in the balances of God and found wanting; a compromised faith.
- † This black horse period represents the period in church history from AD 313 to AD 538
- † Acts 20:29, 30, *"For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves."*
- † 2 Thessalonians 2:3, "Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day [Second Coming] shall not come, except there come a **falling away** first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of

perdition;” Falling away in the Greek is Apostasia—or Apostasy. Paul predicted the church would fall into Great Apostasy. This happened during the third and fourth seal under the Roman Papacy.

- † The teachings of men would be substituted for the teachings of God.
- † Daniel 8:12, “. . . and he cast truth down to the ground. He did all this and prospered.”
- † Human works were substituted for the grace of Christ. Salvation through Christ was replaced by the requirements of the Church.
- † Ephesians 2:8, “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God.”
- † Daniel 7:25, “He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, shall persecute the saints of the Most High, and shall intend to change times and law....”
- † God’s law, written with His own finger on tables of stone was compromised for human tradition. Exodus 20:4, 5, “You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them.” The Catholic Catechism drops this commandment, pushing all the other commandments one ahead—making 9, so they split the 10th commandment about coveting into two (not coveting neighbor’s wife or house, etc.).
- † The Roman church and the Roman state united to make Christianity more acceptable to the world. They claimed to have authority to change the Sabbath day. But God’s Word says, “Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made” (Genesis 2:3).
- † In a Doctrinal Catechism page 174, Stephen Keenan, the Catholic author of the Catechism which is written in a question answer format, says: Question: “How do you prove that the church has power to institute festivals of precept?” Answer: “Had she not such power, she could not have done that in which all modern religionists agree with her; –she could not have substituted the observance of Sunday the first day of the week, for the observance of Saturday the seventh day, a change for which there is no Scriptural authority.”

Fourth Seal: Pale Horse

- † “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.”
- † “Christianity became an established religion in the Roman Empire and took the place of Paganism...Christianity as it existed in the Dark Ages might be termed Baptized Paganism” (*Church History Century 2, Ch. 2, Sec. 7*).
- † This period is known as the dark ages (or middle ages), from A.D. 538 - 1798
- † The pale horse represents a dead faith.
- † *Steps of Compromise*: traditions, confessional, Indulgences, Purgatory, Images, church hierarchy, Sunday keeping, Human dogmas

The Gradual Revealing of Truth

- † The Waldensians (from Northern Italy and Southern France) in the 1300 & 1400’s restored the truth of the Bible and the Bible only.
- † John Huss (Prague, Czechoslovakia): “Obedience to God is my motto, not obedience to man.”
- † Martin Luther who championed salvation by grace and grace alone
- † Just as it took 500 years for the church to go from the white horse of pure apostolic faith to the pale horse of spiritual deadness, it took time for God’s faithful followers to grasp glimpses of truth lost sight of down through the ages.
- † John Calvin: “We need the church for spiritual growth.”
- † Anabaptists: baptism by immersion
- † John Wesley: holiness. God is calling us to the high standards of Christ.
- † William Miller: second coming (advent) of Jesus
- † Seventh-day Adventists: 7th day Sabbath of the 4th commandment—all 10 commandments (Rev.14:12). John 14:15, “If you love Me, keep My commandments.”R