

REV 6:5-6

“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.”

After the third seal is opened, the third creature tells John to go and see. John sees a black horse and the individual who rides on him has a scale in his hand; food is weighted out for money. This is a picture of famine and rationing of the world’s food supplies. It is possible that this happens following a nuclear war which would leave nuclear fallout and destruction of edible foods. Nuclear war does not only hurt living humans, but everything living. Food and food supplies are destroyed in the process of nuclear war as the radioactive waves pass through all living matter. This is then followed by the particles which then begin to fall on fields where food is growing to feed the populations. What is described is just enough food for one man to live on for one day’s wages.

Food will become very expensive for the daily wage earner but the rich may fare better. Oil and wine are prepackaged luxury foods that apparently will not be under the food-rationing program. In war, the perishable crops are disrupted. Pre-packaged food will probably be available for those who can afford it. Rationing of basic staples is common during times of war along with crop disruptions and this is what is being pictured here on a large portion of the earth. Food rationing will make it possible for government to gain near total control over the people. At this point in time, any true democracy in the world will be dead.

Black horse The third horse pictured is a black horse, which is used to depict famine elsewhere in scripture. (Jeremiah 4:28, Lamentations 4:8-9). Following the war, food will be in short supply on the planet and many will die.

Balances (Scales) This is the picture of commerce in the world. Today we are seeing socialism unfold as the coronavirus is shutting down the world from the way we know it. Capitalism had been the theme of success for many years, which makes it the idol of the earth, which often brings success without God. For many, their “God” has fallen due to the worldwide shutdown. Now the earth is ripe for someone to “pay their bills” and pay for every aspect of their lives. This is opening the door for a one world government.

The hope of success for the most part has been a godless and corrupt hope, which pushes sex without marriage, homosexuality, violence, murder and a host of other sins. Many of these

same countries reluctantly accept Christian missionaries and evangelism as an appeasement for free trade. The Gospel however continues to give people a choice, what really is important. In the tribulation period, people will be forced to choose the God of heaven or humanity.

Measure of wheat, or Quart of wheat The Greek word used here, *coi'nix Choinix*, is the amount of food a laboring man would eat in one meal. Wheat is a higher quality food than barley. The cost of wheat was one day's wages, or a denarius. Following the wars of the Red horse, the lack of food will cause world-wide inflation resulting in famine. The voice is coming from the center of the Throne, from the midst of the four living creatures. This could very well be the voice of Christ, reminding those who live on the Earth through Revelation chapter 6, that earthly food and commerce is not humanities' hope but God's word alone.

This too is the message in John chapter 6, as Christ explains the concept of eternal life versus the temporary life in this world. In **John 6:33-35** it says, *"**33For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.**" **34 Then they said to Him, "Lord, give us this bread always."** **35 And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst."***

Penny/Denarius An amount equivalent to what a day laborer would make. (**Matthew 20:2**) A full day of labor was required to have enough to eat for one day.

Three quarts/measures of barley This was a lower quality food than wheat. Barley was food for animals and the poor. Here the same penny/denarius will purchase 3 meals of barley versus one meal of wheat.

Oil and the wine These were foods of luxury and wealth. These items are contrasted to the wheat and barley, which require a whole day's labor. The wealthy will not suffer like those who will need food to get by on a daily basis.

I cannot stress enough, that this famine may not be just physical but spiritual, as well. During this time, I believe, that many churches will teach false doctrines. Even now there is a terrible famine of truth in the church. Never before have so many denied: the virgin birth of Christ, the Red Sea parted, Jonah being swallowed by the large fish, God as Father, Jesus is God with us, "Emmanuel". Many churches are ordaining homosexuals to preach. Secular Humanism makes man a god. How much more famine of the Spirit can we take? Truly there will be a physical famine, as well. Stay tuned to the voice of God. He will see you through it all. The third horseman of the Apocalypse, who rides out early in the Tribulation, will take a heavy toll in deaths and sickness. The black horse he rides is an obvious symbol of famine and disease, which often follow war.

This could be a message of hard times for all of mankind. "black" symbolizes:

- woe
- mourning
- terrible times
- famine, physical or spiritual
- evil
- opposite of goodness
- everything that opposes God

Christian Saints will be saved **IN** the famine and not **FROM** the famine. Noah was saved **IN** the flood, not **FROM** the flood. God can rain manna from heaven if necessary. I believe God will set up places of refuge where believers can run, so they can have physical and spiritual food.

God will not forsake the righteous.

In conclusion, **the black horse represents famine**. The scales represent control of the world. The money measurement lets us know that the cost of food will be higher than a days' wages. This period of time will be very hard for the world. We are fast approaching this place even now at the present time – look at the cost of food and how many things right now are scarce.

One interpretation of the oil and the wine represent commodities that only the rich could afford, and their being spared could mean the rich will be the only ones that can afford them during this time. On the other hand, the oil and the wine represent the Holy Spirit, and God may be saying He will not allow those that are filled with the Spirit of God to be hurt.

Regardless, this will be a hard time on the earth, and we need to stay close to the Spirit of God and listen to what He tells us. This will always guarantee our safety.

REV 6: 7-8

"And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see. And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth."



The Fourth Seal – A Pale Horse – This horse represents death. When the fourth seal is opened, the fourth creature that is around the throne tells John to go and see. John sees a sickly pale green horse. (*The Greek word $\chi\lambda\omega\rho\nu$ - chloros is used and it is more likely to be translated as green than pale.*)

The rider on him brought death and Hades follows with him. The passage implies that when this rider rides there will be hell on earth and that possibly this rider has some control over the underworld. The passage says that power was given to kill with weapons, lack of food, death (plague) and with savage animals of the earth. God uses the four judgments of sword, famine, wild beasts and pestilence to indicate He is allowing divine judgment to come.

In 2 Sa 24:13 says, ***“So Gad came to David, and told him, and said unto him, Shall seven years of famine come unto thee in thy land? or wilt thou flee three months before thine enemies, while they pursue thee? or that there be three days pestilence in thy land? now advise, and see what answer I shall return to him that sent me.”***

Some think the death from the beasts will be pestilences that cross over from animals to man. There is indication that the present coronavirus could have passed from bats or other animal sources.

The passage also indicates that these events will occur on one fourth of the earth's land surface. Disease often accompanies war but here germ warfare is probably also involved. These events may be describing a world war along with civil war that takes place between neo-Christian western nations and Islamic nations that becomes so bad the survivors will be looking for a leader that proposes absolute control of the world through world government and an all-inclusive world religion.

Hell/Hades As we go through the book of Revelation, we are constantly being informed of the location of those who died. Here for example we are told, the dead enter Hell or Hades. In the fifth seal we see the dead in Heaven. In chapter 14, those who receive the mark are warned about the *lake of fire*, in 15 we see those who die after rejecting the mark in Heaven. Many will die and enter an eternity apart from God as a result of these events. Here the dead are being swept into Hades or Hell.

Fourth of the earth The Greek word for Earth here is $g\eta$ which means the livable or arable earth. This verse informs us about the magnitude of the events taking place in the early part of the tribulation period. Today the earth's population is estimated at 7.1 billion, imagine $\frac{1}{4}$ of the population of the earth dying, the number would be well over 1.8 billion people.

John says the rider who sat on this horse **"was Death, and Hell 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."** One quarter of the earth's population, nearly 2 billion people, will die as a result of WWII. I believe that this has to do with wars, such as the one in Israel now, famine and drought worldwide, and death from hundreds of other things.

An example is the plant in Russia, Chernobyl, which exploded. "Chernobyl" means wormwood. The Bible says, **"a third of waters will become wormwood," Rev. 8:11.** I really believe this happens later in the scenario. That Hell/Hades follows Death shows that many of those slain are unbelievers, for upon death believers do not go to Hell/Hades but straight to the Savior's side.

This "pale" here, means a sickly color, a sickly green color, as if sick to the death. "Death, and Hell" are grouped, meaning a termination of our earthly dwelling. Death is inevitable for every one of us - death of the body that is. Hell does await some, but heaven awaits Christians. Hell is sometimes a word used for the grave although our spirit and soul are in heaven with Jesus at death for the believer.

In that particular instance, Hell would follow death, because our bodies lie in the grave until resurrection day. Death and a real hell are reserved for the lost. I really believe this is a time in the end that is spoken of as a time when men's hearts will fail them for fear of things that are coming upon the earth, **Luke 21:26.** We have the capability to knock the earth off of its axis with nuclear bombs. Fear is rampant, not only here in the U.S., but around the world. All it would take is for one crazy man or woman to push the wrong button and total destruction would occur.

The tribulation period will not be mild in any way. Horror scenes portrayed in the movies cannot begin to describe the events to take place in this period. For this reason, Jesus warned this is period unlike any in the history of the world and never to be repeated again. (**Matthew 24:21-22, Daniel 12:1, Jer. 30:7**)

The fourth horse and its' rider collect the results of the Red and Black horses. War brings death, causing famine resulting in more death. Another result from war and famine, the animals also turn on man. During this period, beasts of the earth see man as another food source. Animals will no longer have the inner fear of mankind.

The entire world will be in chaos. Death, disease, and perversion along with fear will grip the hearts of those that are on earth. People will think it can't get worse, and yet it will. We must be prepared in our own lives to face whatever is coming. We must listen to the Spirit of God and move when He says move and stop when He says stop. All those in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution, and some of us may be put to death, but we know that in the end, we have victory!!

In Summary of the four horsemen:

1. **The white horse:** It depicts that the antichrist is given power, and he goes forth to conquer.
2. **The red horse:** It was given power to take peace from the earth and was given a great sword to do that with.
3. **The black horse:** It caused judgment to come on the food, where it will cost a days' wages to purchase a meal. In spite of that the oil and the wine are not to be touched, which can represent the Holy Spirit. We will be not touched if we are filled with God's Spirit during this time.
4. **The pale horse represents death. And Hades.** This represents the power that follows conquering, loss of peace, and judgment on the food and economy. Death follows the first three horses.

The four horsemen are ready to ride. Are you dressed in your Heavenly Armor? Are you filled with the Spirit? Are your ears listening?



REV 6: 9-10-11

"⁹And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: ¹⁰And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? ¹¹And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellow servants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled."

John was [not told to go see](#) after the fifth seal was opened because what he saw was in heaven where he was located. He saw all the souls of the people under the altar who were slain for their testimony about Jesus. Those upon the earth at this time will get into the body of Christ by death of their body or by enduring until the end time gathering by the angels that occurs just prior to the marriage ceremony and just before the pouring out of the wrath of God on the earth. I believe from the point of the fifth seal there are approximately seven years until Jesus formally marries His bride in heaven before the Father.

The message at the opening of this fifth seal tells about the persecution and murder of believers for their testimony. This persecution did not begin at the opening of the fifth seal because the passage indicates it started when the [first martyrs](#) were killed in ancient times. This passage speaks of all the martyrs killed under harlot religion and under Satan's administration on the earth. What happened in the past only partly fulfills the number of souls that will be martyred because a great persecution starts now, at the time of this fifth seal. This last persecution will only last for a little season of time, but it will be very severe. The prayers of the martyrs will soon be answered by the judgments that come because of the wrath of the Lamb (Chapter 8). Since no judgment is coming yet from the Lord at this fifth seal, it is further proof that these seals occur before the time called the Day of the Lord.

The focus of this persecution of the saints being placed after the war of the four horsemen is significant. After the religious wars that in themselves kill many true Christians, the world's solution will be to form an all-inclusive harlot world religion that will claim that all paths lead to God. Those who say that Jesus is the only way to God will be outlawed as being bigoted, subversive, and dangerous people and a threat to world peace.

Even today, Christians who make the true claim that Islam is evil and satanic are labeled as being a threat to world peace by world leaders. This statement was even said by a past president who claims to be a Christian and should really know better. This policy of appeasement to satanic forces in the world by government is hypocritical and in the long term is a much greater threat to world peace than dealing with the truth. Consequently, because we will appease the problem and not deal with it until things get totally out of control a world war will occur. The solution to end the war will be to find scapegoats to blame the war on and this will include anyone who claims that there is only one true path to God. That is why after the wars of the four horsemen there is persecution on fundamental Christians by the all-inclusive tolerant [harlot world Church](#) that is intolerant to those who will not join them in their ecumenical endeavor to save the world.

Many that identify with true Christianity will have to make a choice to follow the Jesus of scripture and face persecution or to follow what the one world religion harlot dictates with its all-inclusive theology of tolerance and no proselytizing. After the fifth seal, persecution will come on the saints from this religious harlot who rides the beast, but a few years later this harlot herself will be destroyed by the Beast she rides (Chapter 17). Judgment is not coming from Jesus immediately to those on earth because they are told to rest a little season until their brethren are killed. This little season lasts only a few years until the end of the great tribulation for the Church on earth.

The souls of all martyrs slain for their testimony are held under an altar in Heaven. No man can number these martyrs (Rev. 7:9) They are still conscious of what happened during their lives. They want to be avenged for what happened to them. There are many theories about these people. Some believe that they are people that were martyred during the tribulation, some believe they are martyrs from the time of Cain and Abel. I personally believe they are all martyrs from the beginning of time, and believe these martyrs definitely want to see justice done on their behalf.

We have been taught that when we die that we are absent from the body and present with the Lord. (II Cor. 5:8.) Those that do not believe that, believe all that die are dead in the grave, and they have no mental capacity or ability. They believe that all thought stops at death, and they will be unconscious, or asleep until the resurrection of the dead. This is taught by the Adventist church. They take scriptures out of context to go along with their doctrine, but their doctrine is not built on the Word of God. Thank goodness we have the Bible as our source to refer to and to get our information from. We could be totally misled if we don't use the Word of God as our Teacher.

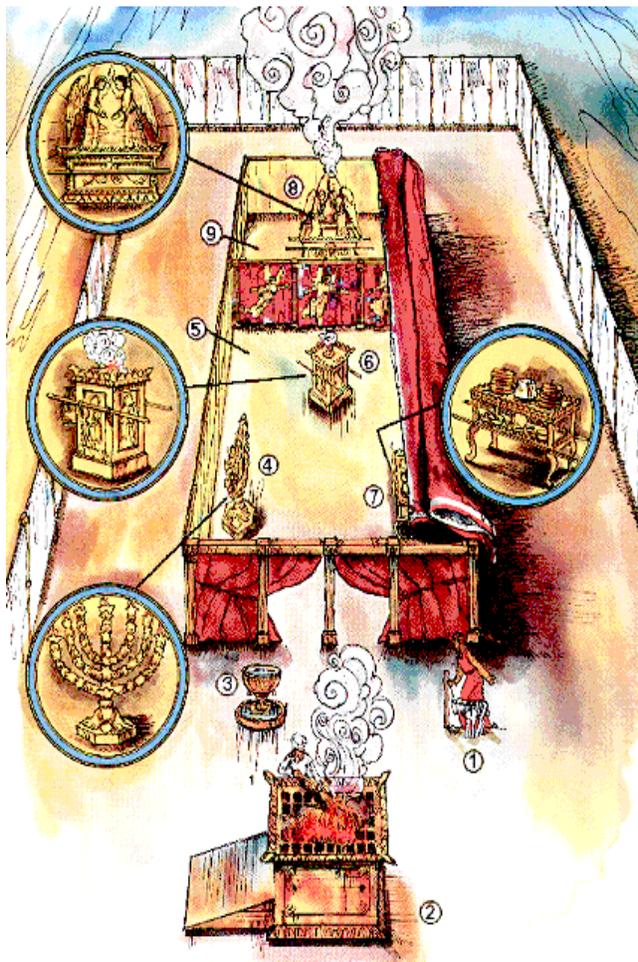
The First Martyr: Abel

As a point of reference, it will be helpful to look first at *the biblical account of the first martyr, Abel*:

Gen 4:8-11 *“**8**And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him. **9**And the LORD said unto Cain, ‘Where is Abel thy brother?’ And he said, I know not: Am I my brother's keeper? **10** And he said, ‘What hast thou done? The voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground.’ **11** And now art thou cursed from the earth, which hath opened her mouth to receive thy brother's blood from thy hand....”* Abel's blood, not Abel himself, cried out to the Lord.

Just like Jesus' blood is alive, so is our blood. The life of our flesh is in the blood. **Lev 17:11** (*For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.*) Without blood, our bodies do not remain alive. We must have the blood to sustain life. Ask anyone that has a low blood count and needs a transfusion. They become weak and will die without enough blood. Abel's blood cried out to God, and the blood is what is crying out under the altar. The blood has life and will continue to speak after death.

The word translated "souls" in **Revelation 6:9** in the Greek is *psuche*, G5590 in Strong's dictionary, which also has the meaning of *life* or *breath*. Since we have concluded that the blood carries the life and breath in **Leviticus 17:11**, it is the blood, which gives the soul life, that is crying out from under the altar. So, just what does "under the altar" mean, and *where* is this altar? For the answers we need to look at the altars of the Hebrew sanctuary or temple.



- 9)** 2nd Apartment
The Holy of Holies
- (8)** The Ark of the Testimony of
God containing the 10
commandments
- (7)** The Table of Showbread
- (6)** The Golden Altar of Incense
- (5)** 1st Apartment
The Holy place
- (4)** The Golden Candlestick
- (3)** The Laver
- (2)** The Brazen Altar of Burnt
Offerings
- (1)** The Sacrifice of the Lamb

In this illustration of two altars are depicted:

1. The altar of burnt offerings (2) in the outer court
2. the altar of incense (6) in the first apartment of the sanctuary, or holy place.

The Brazen Altar of Burnt Offering

Now again, we have determined that Revelation 6:9 refers to the blood of Christian martyrs as being "under the altar". This expression "under the altar" is explained by how sacrificial blood was used in the sanctuary:

Here is one example: Lev 4:7 ***“And the priest shall put some of the blood upon the horns of the altar of sweet incense before the LORD, which is in the tabernacle of the congregation; and shall pour all the blood of the bullock at the bottom of the altar of the burnt offering, which is at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.”*** (See also: Ex 29:12, Lev 4:18, 25, 30, 34, 5:9, 8:15, 9:9)

Note that only a small amount of the blood of the sacrifice was applied to the horns (at the top) of the altar of incense, but, *most of it was poured out on the ground at the bottom of the altar of burnt offerings.* Now as Christians are aware, the animal sacrifices of the Hebrew sanctuary were symbolic for the sacrifice and death of the lamb of God, those sacrifices represented the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. The animal blood poured out at the bottom of the altar of burnt offering was symbolic of the shed blood of Jesus Christ, spilled outside the gate. Therefore, the altar of burnt offering is symbolic of Christ's sacrifice.

Hebrews 9: 11-14 ***“11But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; 12Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. 13For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: 14How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience (conscience: the soul as distinguishing between what is morally good and bad, prompting to do the former and shun the latter, commending one, condemning the other) from dead works to serve the living God?”***

HEB 9:15-27 ***“15And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance. 16For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. 17For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth. 18Whereupon neither***

the first testament was dedicated without blood. 19 For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and of goats, with water, and scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book, and all the people, 20 Saying, This is the blood of the testament which God hath enjoined unto you. 21 Moreover he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle, and all the vessels of the ministry. 22 And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission. 23 It was therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. 24 For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us: 25 Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others; 26 For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. 27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: 28 So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.”

Jesus entered into the heavenly Holy of Holies and offered His innocent blood on the altar of incense. He fulfilled the price that had to be paid for our sins with his blood. Now His blood cries out for us and His blood is what protects us, cleanses us, and keeps us!

Because of this ultimate sacrifice, we are given the robe of righteousness. The great exchange occurs when we accept Christ as Lord and Savior. He takes off our filthy rags and gives us His robe of righteousness. John sees the martyrs given these robes, but they must wait for the rest of those that die in Christ to come together with them to become the bride that Jesus paid for with his innocent blood. They have been purified with the blood and are already in heaven, but the marriage supper of the lamb is for the entire body of Christ – His bride – not a bride with parts missing. Hallelujah, we are soon to be with

Jesus and be complete in Him!



