**Mathew 24:3-12 Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?”**

**And Jesus answered and said to them: “Take heed that no one deceives you. For *many* will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many. And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrows.**

**“Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name’s sake. And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.**

**THE FIRST SIX SEALS**

**The 1st seal of the scroll brings the White Horse – The Antichrist**

[**Revelation 6:1-2**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/6/1-2/s_1173001) **(NKJV) 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.**

1. **I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals**: From the previous chapter, we understand this scroll is the history and destiny of mankind and creation, and only Jesus — **the Lamb** — had the right to loosen the seals on this scroll.
   1. (Clarke) “It is worthy of remark that the opening of the seals is not merely a declaration of what God will do, but is the exhibition of a purpose then accomplished; for whenever the seal is opened, the sentence appears to be *executed*.”
2. **And I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, “Come and see.”** Each seal is associated with a living creature calling out “**come and see**” (or, it could be translated “**go forth**”) to each horseman.
3. **Behold, a *white* horse**: If one were to take their interpretive clues from cowboy movies and not from the Bible, it would be easy to believe the rider on the **white horse** is Jesus.
   1. Jesus does return on a **white horse** in [**Revelation 19:11-16**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/19/11-16/s_1186011) **Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.**
   2. But *this* horseman on this white horse is a **satanic** dictator who *imitates Jesus*. (Deceiver, Liar a Fake)
   3. He rules (**a crown was given**); he rules with **a bow** (no arrows), not a sword; and he exercises dominion over the earth (**went out conquering and to conquer**).
      1. But the *results* of his rule, as described in the following verses, show clearly that this is not Jesus.
      2. (Jennings) “The whole context and character of these seals absolutely forbid our thinking of this rider being the Lord Jesus, as so many affirm. *His* reign shall not bring war, famine, and strife in its train.”
      3. Those who think Revelation is mostly a book of *history* believe that this rider is Jesus, the apostles, or the Roman emperors.
      4. Those who believe that this is a *prophetic* passage, yet to be fulfilled, believe that this rider to be the *antichrist*.
   4. **He went out conquering and to conquer**: Taking this to be the final *satanic dictator* over men, we see that he will be more terrible than all previous dictators were.
      * 10 - Ivan the Terrible = Killed 60,000+ people
      * 9 - Vlad the Impaler = Killed 80,000 – 100,000 people
      * 8 - Idi Amin = Killed 300,000 – 500,000 people
      * 7 - Saddam Hussein = Killed 250,000 – 1 million people
      * 6 - Pol Pot = Killed 1.5 – 2 million people
      * 5 - Leopold ll = Killed 10+ million people
      * 4 - Adolf Hitler – Killed 19+ million people
      * 3 - Joseph Stalin – Killed 40+ million people
      * 2 - Genghis Khan = Killed 40+ million people
      * 1 - Mao Zedong = people Killed 40 – 70 million (Almost 200,000,000)
      1. Many through the years have thought that any one of these could be the antichrist, and they could have been, if the Lord had returned for his Bride.
      2. Since the devil has no clue when Jesus will return, so he must have someone ready to step in at any time.
      3. He will rule over men as a false messiah, and lead man in organized rebellion against God.
   5. **Come and see**: The modern political and social scene is certainly set for the emergence of such a political leader. All that waits is for the Lord to allow it in His timing after He takes His church from this earth (The Rapture/Catching away).
   6. The ***first* seal** opened brings this dictator to prominence. We understand that the seventieth week of [**Daniel 9**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/dan/9/1-27/s_859001) begins when this dictator will *confirm a covenant with* [the] *many*, referring to the Jewish people.
4. Many wonder if these four horsemen of [**Revelation 6**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/6/1-17/s_1173001) are connected with the seventieth week of Daniel and the great tribulation itself, or with the course of history up until that time. This initial appearance of the antichrist, connected with what we know about this leader from [**Daniel 9**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/dan/9/1-27/s_859001) shows that these four horsemen are connected with Daniel’s seventieth week and the great tribulation.

**The 2nd seal of the scroll brings the Red horse – War and Conflict**

[**Revelation 6:3-4**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/6/3-4/s_1173003) **When He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, “Come and see.” 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 shou*ld kill one another; and there was given to him a great sword.**

1. Anyone remember the PURGE movies from 2013 on (5-6 of them)?
   1. One a year, all crime is allowed for 12 hours including murder, the only people that you couldn’t kill were category 10 officials (politicians that were promoting the program)
   2. Supposedly inspired by a real-life event that took place in 217 – 497 BC.
   3. A week-long event called Saturnalia (in Rome once a year the people could do whatever they wanted including murder without consequences)
   4. Illinois passed a new law in 2023 ending cash bail, (it is called The Purge Law)
2. **Another horse, fiery red, went out. And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth**: This rider didn’t need to *bring* war and destruction. All he needed to do was ***take* peace from the earth**. Once this **peace** — God’s gift to man — was taken, men quickly rush in with war and destruction.
   1. Peace between men and among nations is a gift from God. It is not the *natural* state of relations between men.
3. **And it was granted**: This authority was **granted** to the horseman. This is, directly or indirectly, the judgment of God.
4. **That people should kill one another**: Our modern age is marked by war and conflict. Since 1946, there have been more than 285 wars/conflicts of some kind in the world, and at any given time there may be up to three dozen armed conflicts taking thousands of lives yearly.

**The 3rd seal of the scroll brings the Black horse – it brings Famine**

[**Revelation 6:5-6**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/6/5-6/s_1173005) **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. And I heard a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, “A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and *do not harm the oil and the wine*.”**

1. **A black horse, and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand**: The scales symbolized the need to carefully measure and ration food. This speaks of a time of *famine*.
2. **A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius**: These prices are about 12 times higher than normal. It means that it would cost a day’s wage to buy the ingredients for a loaf of bread.

* In the New Testament, a denarius was equal to a day’s wages for the common laborer.
* As of July 18, 2023 the average pay is $37.84 per hour or $302.72
* So, 1 quart of wheat or 3 quarts of Barley will cost about $303
* To make a loaf of bread will cost over $300 according to 2023 wages
  1. (Walvoord) This describes “a time of famine when life will be reduced to the barest necessities.”
  2. We see great famine in the world today, as of 2023 approximately 828 million people go to bed hungry each night.
  3. Can you imagine being hungry but going to bed hungry and not knowing if the will be anything to eat tomorrow?
  4. However, understanding the world’s dangerous environmental balance, it wouldn’t take much to plunge many into the kind of shortage and imbalance mentioned here.
  5. WW2 Every American was issued a series of ration books and you could ONLY buy that amount.
  6. Children were giving a little more like milk and O.J. to help their growth.
  7. Rationing of food was common in WW2 and was rationed until 1950s. Meat was the last item to be derationed in 1954, 9 years after the war ended.
  8. Covid-19 started Late 2019 – May 2023 and we saw people hording things especially Toilet paper.
  9. The price of eggs went to $6+ per dozen or $26 for a 5-dozen pack.

1. **Do not harm the oil and the wine**: Yet, the nicer things will be available for those who can afford them. There will still be **the oil and the wine** that should not be harmed.

**The 4th seal of the scroll brings the Pale horse – and it brings Death.**

[**Revelation 6:7-8**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/6/7-8/s_1173007) **When He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, “Come and see.” 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.**

1. **A pale horse. And the name of him who sat on it was Death**: This last rider shows that there will be a *tremendous death toll* from the dictatorship, war, famine and other calamities described by the previous three horsemen.
   1. How much is ¼ of the earth, 8 Billion/4 = 2,000,000,000
2. Our modern age has seen hundreds of millions killed by dictators, war, and famine. Yet all that will pale in comparison to the death toll coming in the wake of this ultimate dictator.
   1. No wonder Jesus said [**Matthew 24:21**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/mat/24/21/s_953021) **For then there will be great tribulation, such as *has not been since the beginning of the world* until this time, no, *nor ever shall be*.**
   2. **Power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill**: Power **was given** to the horseman, by God.
      1. Though all hell breaks loose on the earth, *God is very much in control*. He still holds the scroll and opens the seals.

**The 5th seal is opened**

[**Revelation 6:9-11**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/6/9-11/s_1173009) **When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. And they cried with a loud voice, saying, “How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?” Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both *the number of* their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they *were, was* completed.**

1. **I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God**: That these souls were **under the altar** emphasizes that their life blood was poured out as an offering to God.
   1. This idea is drawn from [**Leviticus 4:7**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/lev/4/7/s_94007) **And he shall pour the remaining blood at the base of the altar of the burnt offering**.
2. **Who had been slain for the word of God**: It is probably best to see this as the cry of *all* martyrs for God’s truth, not merely believers persecuted by the coming world leader, the first horseman of [**Revelation 6:1-2**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/6/1-2/s_1173001).
3. **And they cried with a loud voice**: These souls in heaven cried out for vengeance (**until You judge and avenge our blood**). We usually don’t think of God’s people crying out for vengeance, but here they made their cry to God, and leave the matter with Him.
   1. When God’s people are persecuted, He will set it right. It isn’t wrong for God’s people to ask Him to do what He promised to do.
   2. In this way the blood of Abel cried out from the ground for vengeance [**Genesis 4:10**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/gen/4/10/s_4010) **And He said, “What have you done? The voice of your brother’s blood cries out to Me from the ground.**
4. **It was said to them that they should rest a little while longer**: These saints were instructed to ***wait***.
   1. How long must they wait? **Until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed**.
   2. This may mean that they should wait until *all* God’s appointed martyrs are killed.

**The 6th seal is opened.**

[**Revelation 6:12-17**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/6/12-17/s_1173012) **I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place. And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?”**

1. **A great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. And the stars of heaven fell to the earth**: In the Bible, celestial disturbances are often connected with the coming of the Messiah. Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Joel, Zephaniah and Jesus Himself all described such things.
   1. Example: [**Zephaniah 1:14-16**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/zep/1/14-16/s_907014)(NKJV) *The great day of the LORD is near; It is near and hastens quickly. The noise of the day of the LORD is bitter; There the mighty men shall cry out. That day is a day of wrath, A Day of trouble and distress, A Day of devastation and desolation, A Day of darkness and gloominess, A Day of clouds and thick darkness, A Day of trumpet and alarm Against the fortified cities And against the high towers.*
   2. Or, [**Joel 2:10-11**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/joe/2/10-11/s_878010) *The earth quakes before them, The heavens tremble; The sun and moon grow dark, And the stars diminish their brightness. The LORD gives voice before His army, For His camp is very great; For strong is the One who executes His word. For the day of the LORD is great and very terrible; Who can endure it?*
2. **The sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. And the stars of heaven fell to the earth**: It is best to regard these pictures as *real*, but *poetic*. John did not use technically precise scientific language, but he simply described what he saw.
   1. SUN - Sackcloth, usually made of black goat hair, was used by the Israelites and their neighbors in times of mourning or social protest.
3. **And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves**: All people are equally brought low by God’s wrath. The judgment is all the more profound because it is the **wrath of the Lamb**.
   1. (L. Morris quoting Torrance) “It is the wrath of love, the wrath of sacrificial love which, having done the absolute utmost for us and our salvation, tells us as nothing else could the certainty with which evil awaits its doom at the hand of God.”
4. **Hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne**: They hid not only from the terror of the judgments, but **from the face of Him who sits on the throne**.
   1. Someone said “What sinners dread most is not death, but the revealed presence of God.”