

8. What did John see when the forth seal was opened?

Revelation 6:7-8

Note: The Greek word used for "pale" is chloros, very similar to a dying plant. The church of God was reduced by man from the white of purity to a dying pale. The approximate date for the pale horse period is 538-1798 AD.

9. Would God permit truth to be cast down forever? Psalm 12:6-7

Proverbs 4:18

Steps to Compromise:

- Traditions
- Penances
- Indulgences
- Images
- Church hierarchy
- Human dogmas
- Pagan Sunday worship
- Immortality of the soul

The Faith of Jesus:

- Sabbath- God's end time people
- Miller - Second coming
- Wesley - Holiness
- Anabaptists - Baptism
- Calvin - Growth
- Luther - Grace
- Huss - Obedience
- Waldenses - Bible

God has worked through many reformers to restore the truth of His word.

Revelation's 4 Horseman	Greatest Issues	Satan's Counterfeit	God's truth
White horse: 31 – 100 AD	Authority	Councils	Bible
Red horse: 100 – 313 AD	Prayer	Images	Holy Spirit
Black horse: 313 – 538 AD	Salvation	Works	Grace
Pale horse: 538 – 1798 AD	Intercession	Priest/Mary	Jesus
First Great Awakening	Worship	Sunday	Sabbath
-1730's to 1740's	Death	Immortal soul	Sleep
Second Great Awakening	Baptism	Sprinkling	Immersion
-1830's to 1840's	Health	Laws Abolished	Eternal

The reason why there are so many denominations is because Satan worked through the beast power to confuse the truth of God's word. God worked over the years (1500's - 1800's) to restore the truth through faithful men such as Huss, Luther, Calvin, Wesley, and Miller. The problem was that the people who followed these men accepted the truths their leader discovered and didn't keep digging for more forgotten truth that God was trying to restore.

MY CHOICE: I want to follow the Bible above the traditions of man. I want to obey God rather than man and look for a church that teaches the truth.

Journey With Jesus



Lesson #18 The Four Horseman

If there is one God and one Bible why are there so many different Christian denominations? What is the message of Revelation's four horsemen? What do they tell us about early church history? How do they challenge us today to remain faithful to the word of God?

1. Where in the OT does John get the imagery of the horses?

Zechariah 1:8-10

Note: Revelation has 404 verses. 276 are quotes/imagery from the OT. John uses literal stories from the OT to draw out spiritual lessons for God's people at end-time. The four horsemen are an example of this.

2. What did John see when the first seal was opened? Revelation 6:2

Note: White is a symbol of purity. Acts 2:41 tells us of three thousand souls added to the church in one day. In the first century the church was in its infancy. It started out with pure motives and doctrines. In fact, Paul said that he had preached to "every creature under heaven" (Col 1:23). The church was conquering the world for Christ. It also would conquer in the future (Matt 16:18). The white horse is a symbol of the early church in its purity. The approximate date for the white horse period is 31-100 AD.

3. What did Jesus say of His church? Matthew 16:18

Note: One may think that Satan has destroyed the church Jesus built, but the lesson of the first horse tells us the opposite. Revelation 6:2 says that the church “went out conquering and to conquer.” The church conquered in the past and it will also succeed/conquer in the future.

“The progress of Christianity was not confined to the Roman Empire, but the new religion within a century after the death of its divine Author had already visited every part of the globe.” Edward Gibbon. History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire Chpt. 15 par. 54

4. What did John see when the second seal was opened up? Revelation 6:4

Note: Red is a symbol of bloodshed. Satan saw how the Christian faith was conquering hearts and minds everywhere. So he roused pagan emperors to try to crush it out. Historians date this period from about AD 100-313 during the rule of Roman Emperors Decius and Diocletian. The 10 worst years of persecution were from AD 303 to 313.

The world looked on and saw individuals who were willing to give up everything for their faith; Christians who were willing to die for what they believed. And the world took notice. It was an argument for the Christian faith that was hard to ignore. Pagan persecution failed to destroy the Christian church and the result was purity of faith and church growth. Satan then decided to change his strategy. He decided he would destroy the church from within through compromise rather than from without by persecution.

5. What did John see when the third seal was opened? Revelation 6:5

Note: Black is a symbol of spiritual darkness. The word of God brings light, (Psalm 119:105) but the Bible was taken out of the hands of men and they were left to superstition, error, and darkness. When the Roman emperor Constantine publicly accepted the Christian faith in AD 312, it spelled a new day for the church. Just a few years before, believers had been thrown to the lions in Rome, and hunted down like wild animals in North Africa. Now, Christianity was not hunted, but accepted. It became the official religion of the Roman Empire. The result, much of paganism was Christianized. Exodus 20:4-5 says, “You shall not make for yourself a carved image... you shall not bow down to them...” Statues like Jupiter were renamed to St.

Peter. The truth of the Bible was shifted to accommodate Pagan’s who entered the church. The Black horse period is approximately: 313 – 538 AD

6. What does Daniel say the little horn/antichrist would try to do to God’s law and the truth of God’s Word? Daniel 7:25, Daniel 8:12

Note: During this age of compromise the Pagan’s day of the sun replaced the Bible Sabbath.

“On the Venerable Day of the Sun let the magistrates and the people residing in the cities rest, and let all the workshops be closed.” Edict of Constantine 03/07/321AD.

“The retention of the old Pagan name of Dies Solis, for Sunday, is in a great measure, owing to the union of Pagan and Christian sentiment with which the first day of the week was recommended by Constantine to his subjects Pagan and Christian alike as the ‘venerable’ day of the sun.” History of the Christian Church p. 84

“The Protestants claim to stand upon the written word only. They profess to hold the Scripture alone as the standard of faith. They justify their revolt by the plea that the [Catholic] Church has apostatized from the written word and follows tradition. Now the Protestant claim, that they stand upon the written word only, is not true. Their profession of holding the Scripture alone as the standard of faith is false. “PROOF: The written word explicitly enjoins the observance of the seventh day as the Sabbath. They do not observe the seventh day but reject it. If they do truly hold the scripture alone as their standard, they would be observing the seventh day as is enjoined in the Scripture throughout. Yet they not only reject the observance of the Sabbath enjoined in the written word, but they have adopted and do practice the observance of Sunday, for which they have only the tradition of the [Catholic] Church. Consequently the claim of ‘Scripture alone as the standard,’ fails; and the doctrine of ‘Scripture and tradition’ as essential, is fully established, the Protestants themselves being judges.” Arch Bishop of Reggio 01/18/1562 Statement made during the 17th Session of the Council of Trent - 1545-1563

7. What was in the hand of the rider on the black horse? Revelation 6:5-6

Note: The balances denote commercialism. A measure is equivalent to a quart, which was a ration of wheat for a day in that time. The Roman penny, a denarius was worth about eleven cents, which was the equivalent of a day’s wages (Matthew 20:2). An entire day’s wage was spent for food (the gospel).

These prices of wheat and barley were between 8 to 16 times the normal asking price. Spiritually speaking, people were paying more and getting less. Indulgences were paid to the church to free dead family members from purgatory/hell and church office was purchased to the highest bidder. The needs of the heart were not met and people were going spiritually hungry.