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**A
White, Red, Black
and
Pale Horse**

(2019)

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Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

A White, Red, Black and Pale Horse.

THE WHITE HORSE

- **Revelation 6:1–2:** Now I watched when the Lamb opened one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures say with a voice like thunder, “Come!”² And I looked, and behold, a white horse! And its rider had a bow, and a crown was given to him, and he came out conquering, and to conquer.

Generally, the colour of each horse signifies the mission of the rider. Horses were used to carry military commanders, skilled warriors and chariots which means that the horse was a symbol of war, destruction, suffering, bloodshed, and death, however, the horses of armies who won the battle became a symbol of triumph, victory, prosperity, and happiness and were used in festivals that celebrated such victories.

Crown: in this verse comes from the Greek word (stephanos) and refers to the garland or wreath a conqueror wore.

The white horse and its rider (being Christ) in chapter nineteen is spoken of as wearing on his head many crowns of diadems, (Greek, diademata) (Rev. 19:11-12), which are not a simple crown of wreaths, but a crown of royalty and is associated with the hosts of heaven, which means in the context of this chapter, the white horse and its rider is not a symbol of Christ, but of a Roman Emperor and by extension the head of any nation that has a similar character and vast power and influence over the nations.

The white horse and its rider are an emblem of Roman conquest and victory. The rider is armed with a bow (a symbol of weapons of war) the expectation is that war, famine, death, and pestilence would continue until the true King comes (Rev. 19:11-16) and destroys the antichristian ten-horned beast system and the prostitute woman who corrupted multitudes and deceived nations by her sexual immorality.

It signifies the strong, warlike, and conquering state of the Roman empire, and the rider with a bow and crown refers to one of its renowned Emperors crowned with great power and authority who not only went forth conquering kingdoms, towns and villages and subduing all people to submit to the rule of Rome, but also one that persecuted Christians with great cruelty and aggressively set about to destroy churches and the Christian faith. Prophetically and by extension this can also refer to a future king or world ruler of the same character, power, and authority who rises-up in the latter days.

THE RED HORSE

- **Revelation 6:3–4:** When he opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, “Come!”⁴ And out came another horse, bright red. Its rider was permitted to take peace from the earth, so that people should slay one another, and he was given a great sword.

The rider on the red horse represents war and of all following future secular kings and rulers who continue to conquer kingdoms and nations through war until Christ returns on his white horse as King of kings and Lord of lords. (Rev. 19:11-15). This idea is certainly in harmony with the continuing history that followed the Roman Empire since every following generation has been marked by conquests, wars, bloodshed.

Power was given to him to take peace from the earth, that they should kill one another, this statement, clearly shows that this emblem denotes a time of slaughter. It refers to those that ruled the affairs of the Roman empire at that time and to the fierce, powerful, and cruel Roman Emperor (or General) capable of the most inhuman actions especially against Christians.

To take peace from the earth: (v4), refers to the Roman empire which, is sometimes referred to as the whole world, because of the multitudes of kingdoms and nations it conquered and the vast regions of land it ruled.

THE BLACK HORSE

- **Revelation 6:5–6:** When he opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, “Come!” And I looked, and behold, a black horse! And its rider had a pair of scales in his hand. ⁶ And I heard what seemed to be 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 wine!”

The following verses show that the colour black in the Scriptures can signify fear, famine, and death.

- Our skin is hot (black in KJV) as an oven with the burning heat of famine. (Lam. 5:10).
- Blow a trumpet in Zion; sound an alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming; it is near, ² a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness there is spread upon the mountains a great and powerful people; their like has never been before, nor will be again after them through the years of all generations. (Joel 2:1-2).
- Before them (a powerful army) peoples are in anguish; all faces grow pale (gather blackness in KJV). (Joel 2:6).
- Desolate! Desolation and ruin! Hearts melt and knees tremble; anguish is in all loins; all faces grow pale! (All, gather blackness in KJV). (Nahum 2:10).

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From these verses, we learn that black symbolises the following two things:

1. Severe suffering, sorrow, distress, anguish, because of extreme famine (Lam. 5:10).
2. Great fear, calamity, desolation, and ruin, because of war and the invasion of mighty armies.

Prophetically the black horse: signifies a spiritual famine of God’s word especially of the Gospel that saves to eternal life, and of faithful teachers becoming scarce, because of affliction and persecutions, or because of the love of money, fame, power, and importance.

Spiritual blackness; signifies a lack of spiritual light, and denotes the church gradually being filled with false prophets, teachers, superstition, schisms, heresies, and errors corrupting much of the global Christian world.

Utter darkness, blackness and gloom can refer to the day of the LORD’s judgment unlike any that has ever been on earth before.

THE PALE HORSE

- **Revelation 6:7–8:** When he opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, “Come!”⁸ And I looked, and behold, a pale horse! And its rider’s name was Death, and Hades followed him. And they were given authority over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword and with famine and with pestilence and by wild beasts of the earth.

The role of the pale horse and its rider is to bring death, for Hades (the grave) followed him, he also receives the victims of the previous riders killed by the sword (i.e., wars), famines and pestilence.

THE FOUR HORSES AND ROME

At the time, John was having these visions Rome was expanding its empire. Most commentators agree that these horses and their rider refers to the period of the Roman Empire, but there is a difference of opinion as to what specific period of Rome’s rule they apply to and which Roman Emperor the rider of the horse symbolises.

During Rome’s conquest of kingdoms their fierce and strong armies continually marched forward to conquer, destroy, and expand the Roman Empire across the land. There were battles in which thousands were killed and Roman subjects who did not submit to Roman rule were treated miserably and with oppression and during the ten renowned Roman persecutions thousands of Jews were brutally mocked, cruelly beaten, imprisoned, and killed as were multitudes of Christians.

It is impossible in these notes to present a complete account of Roman history and of its Caesars and Emperors of this period, of time. To discover which Emperor each horse and rider refers to would not only involve a very vast study of Roman history, but also fill many pages, so to keep things simple and brief this study will simply accept the reality that each horse and its rider represents a specific period of Roman history.

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However, these horses and their rider are not limited to this period, of time, but by extension can prophetically be, seen as symbols of future nations, kings, and events to come upon the world in the latter days. It could be said that the partial fulfilment of these four horses during the era of Rome was a prelude to far more powerful kings and their weapons of war (i.e., weapons of mass destruction) and events that will not be limited a partial area of earth, but affect the entire globe.

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.
