



Signs of the End

Revelation 6:1-17 Matthew 24:3-14, 29-31

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The Book of Revelation pictures the End Times as a scroll that has seven seals; and only the Lord Jesus, who **died** and who has **risen** from the dead --- *the Lamb Who was Slain but yet is Standing* (Rev 5:6) --- can open the scroll and reveal to us what is in it.

When Jesus does open the scroll, the first thing He reveals to us are the **signs of the End Times**; things that will *continually* be happening *around the world* and *throughout history* as the day of His sudden return gets closer.

The signs of the End Times in the book of Revelation are pictured as **FOUR HORSEMEN**¹ who ride across the earth bringing havoc and evil on the land and on people. The **FOUR HORSEMEN** represent the signs of the End.

The **WHITE HORSE AND RIDER** warn us of **False teachers and their deadly doctrines**. Jesus repeatedly warned us of false teachers leading people astray. The New Testament teaches us that false doctrines are like yeast and gangrene: they grow, spread, and destroy. In fact, 26 of the 27 New Testament books warn us of wolves in sheep's clothing.

The **RED HORSE AND RIDER** tell us of **Wars and rumors of wars**. This horse and rider warn us of untold bloodshed, violence, murders, crime, and all kinds of mayhem, malice, rioting, and chaos. Peace and tranquility will be the exception during the End Times.

¹ As with all the images of the book of Revelation, the FOUR HORSEMEN are Old Testament images reused in the book of Revelation. See Zechariah 1:8-11; 6:1-8, Ezekiel 14;12-23 for example. The *extreme value* of this is that we are not left to create our own interpretations, rather, **Scripture Interprets Scripture** for us! The false teachings concerning Revelation arise from false teachers creating their own false ideas of what the images mean, neglecting what Scripture has already taught us!

The **BLACK HORSE AND RIDER** tell of **famine and drought**. It teaches us that there will be inequality in the world, that people will suffer greatly, that many will die from famine and drought and all the terrible effects that come with it.

The **PALE HORSE AND RIDER** warn us of **disease and pestilence**. Throughout the End Times, there will always be people dying from disease, epidemics, plagues, and wild animals.

Heaven and Earth
creak and crack like
an old house ready to
fall apart and collapse
and act in every way
as though they know
that the world is soon
to come to an end
and that The Day is
close at hand.

Martin Luther

In addition to these **4 TERRIBLE HORSES AND RIDERS**, we learn that Christians especially be **persecuted and martyred**, literally it says, “*butchered like animals.*” This will happen simply because they trusted in Jesus and took their stand on His Holy Word. No wonder we are taught to remain faithful *even until death*, and God will give us the Crown of Eternal life.

For **Unbelievers**, these **FOUR HORSEMEN OF THE APOCALYPSE** are warnings of coming judgment for people’s rebellion against God and His Word. The message is clear: if you think that these four horses and riders are bad – Judgment Day will be 1,000 times worse: **repent while you still have time! The signs of the end are like blaring sirens that have been sounding throughout the earth for the past 2,000 years warning unbelievers to repent of their sins while there is still time!**

For **Believers**, the **FOUR HORSEMEN OF THE APOCALYPSE** are also calls to repentance! Whenever you see or hear about a sign of the end, take time to repent! Turn from your sins, confess them to God, and trust in God’s mercy to forgive you. Remind yourself that you belong to the Lord; His death and resurrection have brought you into His Kingdom, where your sins are forgiven. You live your life in these End Times differently than those without Christ. You live holy and godly lives of faith, understanding the times and recognizing the signs of the end. **The signs are meant to strengthen your faith as your turn from sin and trust God’s mercy.**

If you ever get caught up in any of these signs of the end, somehow or someday, and you have to face suffering, troubles, or persecution; then **patiently endure** your affliction, **remain faithful**, to **hold to God’s Word** and Promises, and **trust in the Lord** Jesus through it all. **Believers in Christ are NOT EXEMPT from the effects of this corrupt and evil world.** The signs of the end happen to believers and unbelievers alike.

These signs of the end teach us that the world is getting worse and worse and not better. In the Book of Revelation, the intensity of evil increases until finally the Lord comes and destroys it all. Just about every story you hear about in the news today is connected to one of the signs of the end. The signs are **everywhere ALL THE TIME** as the world descends deeper into darkness and evil. Remember Jesus said, "*If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened.*" (Matthew 24:22).

There will never be a “golden age” where all the world’s problems will be solved. There never will be “peace and tranquility”, or even equality on earth. Those things will have to wait for Heaven. The **FOUR HORSEMEN OF THE APOCALYPSE** continually gallop worldwide throughout the entire End Times bringing all kinds of evil, pain and suffering on people.

Finally, there is one other sign of the end.

The book of Revelation does not highlight it as such, but Jesus does in the Gospels. The most important sign of the end is the preaching of the Gospel in the midst of all the evil and chaos of the **FOUR HORSEMEN**.

This **GOSPEL** of the kingdom will be **proclaimed** throughout the whole world as a **testimony** to all nations, and then the end will come. MATTHEW 24:14

The preaching of the Gospel is the **sign of God's grace** in this collapsing world. The Good News of the Lord Jesus Christ is **THE ONLY HOPE THERE IS** before Judgment Day arrives.

The Gospel is the message of Christ, who gave His life on a cross for all people, and rose from the dead on the third day, so that all people will repent and believe that they are forgiven. God gives eternal life to all men -- The Gospel is that promise! The Gospel is the divine verdict of “Not Guilty!” that Jesus earned for us in His death and resurrection. The Gospel forgives your sins and gives you all the blessings of salvation!

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Today believe in this Gospel Good News!
Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved!

The Gospel is not only preached and taught; but it is also lived. **It is seen in you as you live loving and compassionate lives interacting with other people.** When you help and serve other people, they see Christ in you, and you have an opportunity to verbally share Jesus and His forgiveness with them. Remember, no one comes to faith through your good works; your good works prepare people to hear the Gospel, and as they hear the Good News of Jesus, faith is created.

We are to be compassionate to others – you come alongside other people to comfort them and help them. You can give them courage for the fear they have; you can give the peace for the guilt they carry; you can give hope for the dread of death and dying they feel. You trust God's mercy; you know the Promises of forgiveness and eternal life; you know Christ's death and resurrection --- **share that with others!** Let other people know the Gospel – the Good News – about Jesus while there is still time!

The signs of the end remind us that there is an urgency in these End Times. **Time is short.** It has already been 2,000 years since the Lord promised to come. He will come like a thief in the night. His last words in the book of Revelation are “**Yes, I am coming soon! Amen!**”

By trusting God's mercy in Christ, you are ready for him to come. **But your family and friends may not be.** Reach out to them while you still can! Be compassionate! Tell them about Jesus and His death and resurrection that brings forgiveness and eternal life.

In the Book of Revelation, Jesus revealed the signs of the end to us using the image of the **FOUR HORSEMEN OF THE APOCALYPSE.**

Those **SIGNS OF THE END** are now everywhere, everyday.

Don't get numb to the signs!
Don't take them for granted!
Don't forget what they mean!

The signs of the end mean that Jesus is coming – and He is coming soon!

Repent of your sins and trust in God's mercy in the Lord Jesus Christ while you still can! Amen!