

Corresponds to Program 20

THE RED HORSE STUDY GUIDE

CONFLICT ON EARTH

Revelation 6:3-4

As we continue to gallop along through history with the horses of Revelation, we should take a moment to remember the principles of interpretation. The first church was Ephesus, which covered the time period from AD 31 to AD 100. This is also the time period of the white horse. The second church was Smyrna, which extended from about AD 100 to AD 313. This is the time period of the red horse in our study.

Again, John heard another creature calling out, “Come and see.” Revelation is not a closed book that cannot be understood. The Lord pleads with us to “come and see.” Not only see about what is happening, but to see how good and faithful God is to His people. “Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!” Psalm 34:8. God is always inviting us into His presence!

The three last horses present a symbolic picture of how Satan works to nullify what Christ has accomplished. The white horse goes forth conquering and to conquer. It gains victory for Christ in the hearts of men and women all over the world. Satan is enraged (see Revelation 12:12). He knows that Christ has paid the redemption price for every person who has ever or will ever live (see Hebrews 2:9; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20). He seeks, therefore, to steal from Christ every soul he can (1 Peter 5:8). As Christ rides forth in the earth through His people, three horses follow. These other three horses represent Satan’s efforts to destroy everything that Christ has accomplished for us.



“It was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth...” **REVELATION 6:4**

First there is the red horse:

“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 should kill one another; and there was given to him a great sword.” Revelation 6:3-4.

This red horse represents the spirit of persecution which leads to bloodshed (2 Kings 3:22). The sword of persecution always follows the gospel proclamation. “The gospel proclamation brings a sword,” Christ warned, “because whenever people accept Me, opposition arises, even among family members” (loose paraphrase of Matthew 10:34-38).

This persecution was seen and felt by the apostolic church in consequence of their preaching and witnessing to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Again the horse here is symbolic of people, but not people who are covered with the righteousness of Christ as symbolized by the white horse. Instead, these people are symbolically identified with the color red.

The word “red” comes from the Greek *purros* (poor-hros’), which also means “having the color of fire.” This Greek

word is mentioned in Revelation 12 to describe the “great red dragon,” a symbol of Satan (Revelation 12:3, 9). Just as the word “white” (describing the first horse) is used only in reference to heavenly things, now we find the word “red” (describing this second horse) is used only in relation to Satan.

This red horse and rider are further described as taking peace from the earth. The Greek word for peace, *eirene* (i-ray’-nay), means, “the Messiah’s peace; the way that leads to peace (sal-

KEY SCRIPTURES / GREEK MEANING

Revelation 6:4 GRANTED TO TAKE PEACE

Psalms 34:8 THE LORD IS GOOD

Revelation 6:4 EIRENE MEANS, “THE MESSIAH’S PEACE; THE WAY THAT LEADS TO PEACE”

vation).” It also means, “Christianity, the tranquil state of a soul assured of its salvation through Christ.” In this red horse, we see a symbolic image of Satan’s influence to take the peace of God from people.

The red horse rider uses a “great sword” as a weapon. A sword, when used by God, represents His Word (see Ephesians 6:17).

When used by Satan, it represents persecution, both physical and verbal (Acts 12:2, Proverbs 12:18).

The red horse, then, represents the spirit of oppression aroused by Satan. Through the sword of persecution, he works to take the peace of Christ from men and women. Our safety is to stay connected with the white horse rider. ★

