

BEFORE THE WRATH



*How the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse
Teach the Pre-Tribulation Rapture*

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1 Thess. 1:8-10

⁸For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place. Your faith toward God has gone out, so that we do not need to say anything.

⁹For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God,

¹⁰and to wait for His Son from heaven... even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

I. The Rapture is a Biblical Doctrine

- A. It's not some man-made fairy tale
- B. The Rapture is a future event for the church, that has not yet happened but can happen at any time - The return of Jesus is "imminent" = "It can happen at any moment"
- C. The Rapture is promised/discussed some 44 times in the NT

Other Rapture Passages			
John 14:1-3	1 Thess. 1:10	1 Tim. 6:14	James 5:7-9
1 Cor. 1:7-8	1 Thess. 2:19	2 Tim 4:1, 8	1 Peter 1:7, 13
Phil. 3:20-21	1 Thess. 5:9, 23	Titus 2:13	1 Peter 5:4
Col. 3:4	2 Thess. 2:1	Heb. 9:28	1 John 2:28-3:2

II. The Thessalonian Church Believed and Taught the Rapture

- A. Every Chapter in 1 & 2 Thessalonians includes verses and instructions about the Rapture
- B. The Theme of 1 & 2 Thessalonians is the Rapture and the important role the Rapture plays within the life of the Church
 - 1. They were a Changed church (vs. 9) "*turned to God from idols*"
 - 2. They were a Waiting church (vs. 10) "*and to wait for His Son from heaven*"
 - 3. They were a Serving church (vs. 9b) "*to serve the living and true God*"
 - 4. "Eagerly Waiting" for Jesus - Heb. 9:28; 2 Tim 4:8; Phil. 3:20

III. Before the Wrath: The Church Escapes the 7-Year Tribulation

A. One of the great promises in the Bible is that the Church will not face the Wrath of God in the 7-Year Tribulation - 1 Thess. 1:10; 5:9

¹⁰ and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who *delivers from the wrath to come*.

⁹ *God did not appoint us to suffer wrath* but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Thess. 5:9

B. Four Main Views for the Timing of the Rapture

- | | | |
|---|-----------|----------------------------|
| • | Pre-Trib | Before the Tribulation |
| • | Mid-Trib | Middle of the Tribulation |
| • | Pre-Wrath | 3/4 thru the Tribulation |
| • | Post-Trib | The end of the Tribulation |

C. When does the Wrath of God Begin in the 7-Year Tribulation?

1. Some teach the early days of the Tribulation are a time of peace. They're not!
2. There will be peace for Israel in the 1st half of Trib. but not the rest of the world
3. God's wrath begins with the breaking of the Seal Judgments on day one of the Trib.
4. When the seals are opened in heaven, the corresponding judgments fall on earth
5. **The 7 Seal Judgments occur in the first half of the Tribulation - These are the beginning of God's wrath - Rev. 6:16-17**

¹⁶ *They 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!*

¹⁷ *For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?*

IV. John's Rapture to Heaven BEFORE the Tribulation Begins - 28

A. The Chronological Order of the Book of Revelation

Chapters 1-3 - The Church Age

Chapters 4-5 - The **Raptured Church** in Heaven

Chapters 6-19 - The Players and Judgments of the Tribulation

B. The Father on the Throne - Rev. 4:1-4

After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, "Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this."

²Immediately I was in the Spirit; and a throne was set in heaven, and One sat on the throne. ³And He who sat there was like a jasper and a sardis stone in appearance; and there was a rainbow around the throne, like an emerald.

Stunning Colors Around the Throne

1. Jasper Stone - Crystal clear diamond (Rev. 21:11)
2. Jasper - Refracts the colors of the rainbow around the throne
3. Sardis stone - Fiery bright red
4. Rainbow - A cool, emerald-green hue, dominates the multi-colored rainbow

C. The Seven Sealed Scroll in the Father's Hand - 5:1, 7

*And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, **sealed with seven seals.** ⁷Then the Lamb came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.*

1. The Father holding the scroll shows His authority over the coming Judgments
2. The seven seals are the first seven judgments of the Tribulation
3. They begin the pouring out of God's Wrath in the first half of the Tribulation

V. The Symbolic Meaning of the Four Horsemen

A. The **Book of Zechariah** lays a foundation for understanding the book of Revelation, in a way similar to the book of Daniel

B. Four Horses in Zechariah 6:1-8

The four horses in Zechariah represent angelic messengers (“spirits” - vs. 5) sent out to execute judgment on behalf of the Lord. The symbolism portrays the military movement of angels patrolling the earth to carry out God’s judgments.

*6 I looked, and four chariots were coming... the first chariot had red horses, the second chariot black horses, ³the third chariot white horses, and the fourth chariot dappled horses. ⁴ Then I asked, “What are these, my lord?” ⁵ He replied, “These are **the four spirits of heaven**, going forth after standing before the Lord... ⁷And He said to them, “Go, patrol the earth.” So they were eager to patrol the earth.*

C. Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse - Rev. 6:1-8

1. The horses, colors and riders are all symbolic - They are not real horses
2. Horses (not turtles) depict swiftness and strength
3. **They represent angelic spirits sent out from heaven**, each with a different task, to disrupt earth at the start of the Tribulation
4. God has specific & predetermined plans for judgment (Dan. 9:26-27)

That’s a Tall Order

5. For these 4 horses or angelic “spirits” to be successful, it will require angelic rulers over every country, city, government and military on earth who lead thousands or millions of other angels to carry out God’s judgments as assigned to the 4 Horsemen

VI. Four Horsemen - The Source of all the Trouble!

1. Since this is the first judgment, it sets the stage for the whole Tribulation period
2. If you misinterpret the 4 Horsemen, you'll also miss their applications and perspective throughout the rest of the book of Revelation
3. **The 4 Horsemen are symbolically linked together** (4 Horses) to show their connection together as a unified mission. The four horses run side by side throughout the first half of the Tribulation.
4. Of the 21 judgments in the Tribulation, only these 4 horses combine together for **quadruple impact**. Four Horses show similarity indicating they are connected as a unit and are not just four, independent judgments.

Example: Death (#4) comes from Famine (#3) which comes from war (#2) which is launched by Antichrist (#1).

5. **God Uses Wicked Nations to Accomplish His Purposes**

Just as God used Babylon to destroy Judah and Jerusalem in 586 BC, in the Tribulation, He'll use the Islamic Caliphate as His battering ram to bring judgment

God used the wicked Babylonians - Hab. 1

⁵ *“Look at the nations and watch—and be utterly amazed. For I am going to do something in your days that you would not believe, even if you were told.*

⁶ ***I am** raising up the Babylonians, that ruthless and impetuous people, who sweep across the whole earth to seize dwellings not their own. ⁷ They are a feared and dreaded people; they are a law to themselves and promote their own honor.*

¹² **You, LORD, have appointed them to execute judgment!**

6. The four horses depict the arrival of the “beast” - The revived Islamic Empire. The Beast in Revelation is Satan's final empire: The Turkish led, 10 King Caliphate ruled by Antichrist. This wicked empire is God's tool to judge the world in the Tribulation.

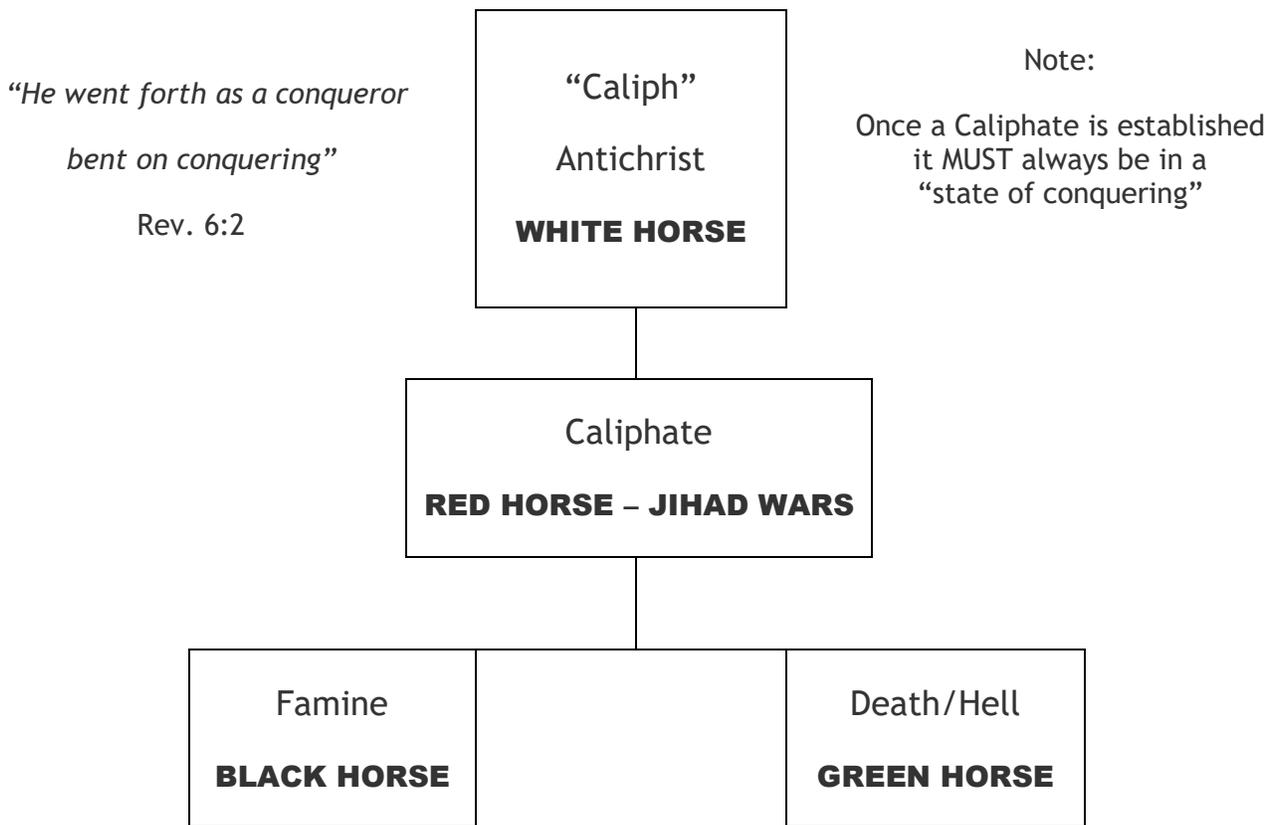
7. As with all former Islamic Caliphates, conquering through **Jihad war** will be used in Satan's last-ditch effort to gain control of the world for himself - **Dan. 12:6-7**

⁶ *How long will it be before these astonishing things are fulfilled? ⁷ When the power of the holy people (Israel) has been finally broken, all these things will be completed.*

VII. When God Goes To War

Taken as a whole, the 4 Horsemen depict how God judges the world using the BEAST, the 10-King Caliphate. God’s wrath is filled up, it’s time to act - Rom. 2:5

*⁵ According with your hardness and impenitent heart you are **treasuring up for yourself wrath** in the day of wrath and the righteous judgment of God*



- 1 **Antichrist** - Head of the Caliphate
- 2 **Jihad Wars** - Launched by the Caliphate
- 3 **Famine:** Destruction of earth’s resources from war
- 4 **Impact of War** = Death and Hell for 25%



What is the Islamic Caliphate?



1. The goal of a worldwide caliphate is **central** to the teaching of Islam
2. A caliphate is the concept of a single Islamic government ruling all Muslims. Somewhat similar to the Vatican for Catholics.
3. All Muslims believe they should unite in a worldwide caliphate.
4. The Caliphate is achieved by Jihad: *“The struggle to bring all things into submission to Allah”*
5. The last official Caliphate was the Turkish Ottoman Empire that ruled Islam from Istanbul for 500 years until defeated in WWI
6. The Ottoman’s last act before the end of WWI was to slaughter 1 million innocent Armenians

When will the last-days Caliphate arrive?

1. Bible prophecy describes the revival of a previous empire in last days. It further describes a Caliphate when 10 kings combine to form a single empire - Rev. 17:12-13
2. The rise and return of Turkey as the leading Sunni Muslim nation indicates the Caliphate is near
3. It’s possible the Islamic State, or Caliphate of Turkey could arrive **before the Rapture**
4. **The empire arrives first.** Then Antichrist rises from within the Caliphate - Dan. 7:24-25

What about Turkey’s Invasion of Syria?

1. Turkey’s invasion is one of the most important signs of the last days
2. For the first time, since being outlawed in 2014, Turkey launched military Jihad to slaughter non-conforming Muslims (Kurds) and capture new territory. Even more revealing is that the territory they’re taking is central to the Euphrates wars described in Revelation 9 and 16.

Muslim’s Elected to office - Tuesday - Nov. 5

26 Muslims were elected nationwide in the off-year Elections on November 5th, 2019 for a total of 34 Muslims Elected in 2019 - **The most in US History!**



White Horse
Antichrist



I looked, and there before me was a white horse! Its rider held a bow, and he was given a crown, and he rode out as a conqueror bent on conquest. (Rev. 6:2)

A. A Portrayal of Antichrist - “Anti” = False - “Christ” = Messiah - **A False Messiah**

B. **Riding a white horse**, similar to Jesus at His Second Coming (Rev. 19:11), is meant to depict Antichrist as a competing messiah

C. **Who is Antichrist? What does he believe? - 1 Jn. 2:22**

²² Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son.

D. The religious leader of Islam, more than any other religion, philosophy, or belief system, fulfills this biblical description of the theology of Antichrist

E. **The rider is symbolized by his military conquests - “Crown... Conquering”**

F. God will release angelic spirits to guarantee the success of Antichrist - Dan. 11:36

*³⁶ He (Antichrist) will be successful until the time of wrath is completed, **for what has been determined** must take place.*

G. Antichrist will wreak havoc and devastation - Dan. 8:24

*²⁴ He will become very strong, but not by his own power. He will cause **astounding devastation** and will succeed in whatever he does. He will destroy those who are mighty, and the holy people.*

Assassinations, revolts, massacres and wholesale slaughter and beheading!

H. Antichrist granted permission to kill Saints - Those saved in the Tribulation - Dan. 7:21

²¹ I watched, (Antichrist) was waging war against the holy people and defeating them



⁴ Then another horse came out, a fiery red one. Its rider was given power to take peace from the earth and to make people kill each other. He was given a large sword. (Rev. 6:4)

A. The blood-red appearance speaks of the holocaust of war that begins at the start of the Tribulation

Both Daniel (9:26) and Jesus (Mt. 24) warned of wars in the Tribulation

B. God will grant this Horse and its rider the power to create war - “given power”

C. The Red Horse is a depiction of the many Jihad wars launched by the Caliphate in a demonic attempt to subjugate the nations under Islam

D. In the book of Revelation, the ferocious Caliphate is referred to as the “BEAST” (13:1). The world fears the Beast and asks, “Who can make war with the beast?” (Rev. 13:4)

E. The Red Horse wields a “big sword” - Nuclear weapons - 9 Nuclear powered nations

USA, Russia, France, China, UK, Pakistan, India, Israel, North Korea and Iran

Tribulation deaths - 4- 7 Billion (WWI - 16 Million; WW2 - 75 Million)

F. Two Proofs to Ponder - Why there will not be a One-World Government

1. Wars are determined until the end of the Tribulation - Dan. 9:26

War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed.

2. Jesus Warned, Man will destroy himself (by war) - Mt. 24:22

²² *Unless the days are shortened, no flesh would be saved*

The RED HORSE does such a gruesome work and is so successful carrying out his mission - Jesus warned if He didn't intervene on time, no human would be alive - Mt. 24:22



Black Horse
Famine



I looked, and there was a black horse! Its rider was holding a pair of scales in his hand.

⁶ Then I heard a voice saying, “Two pounds of wheat for a day’s wages, and six pounds of barley for a day’s wages, and do not damage the oil and the wine!” (Rev. 6:5-6)

A. The pair of scales, used to weigh grain, indicates severe food rationing

How bad is it? A day’s wages to pay for a meal!

B. Earth’s resources diminished by war:

- Transportation halted
- Stock market crash and crash of the world’s currency
- Oil and gas fields bombed and no delivery system
- Planes aren’t flying
- Ships aren’t sailing
- Tractors can’t till the ground
- Grain fields are bombed and burning
- Sarin Gas or worse and WMD draining earth’s food reserves

C. The Red Horse of war is so successful that the world’s economy crumbles while governments try to forestall the inevitable with food rationing

D. The Two Witnesses stop the Rain - In the first half of the Tribulation

⁶ They (two witnesses) have power to shut up the heavens so that it will not rain during the time they are prophesying (3 ½ years); and they have power to turn the waters into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague - Rev. 11:6

E. Famine: A horrible way to die - Millions will perish

1. The world that rejected Jesus , finds they’re the brunt of His Wrath
2. God strips mankind from 2 places critical to his existence: Money and Food

³¹ Do not worry, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ ³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Math. 6:31,33



Green Horse

Islam



⁸ I looked, and there before me was a green horse! Its rider was named Death, and Hell was following close behind him. They were given power over a fourth of the earth to kill by sword, famine and plague, and by the wild beasts of the earth. (Rev. 6:8)

A. The green color and description helps identify this as the spirit of Islam and provides the Islamic linkage to the first three horses

Mankind will be slaughtered by “the sword, hunger, disease, and wild beasts. These are the same four judgments the Lord said he would send in **Ezekiel 14:21**

B. According to the CIA Fact Book, Green is the color of Islam

C. The spirit of the green horse has power over one fourth of the earth

1. Estimates of followers of Islam by country based on US State Department figures shows that one quarter of the world’s population is Muslim
2. Since Islam now has close to one quarter of the world’s population;

Then we are very near the beginning of the Tribulation

D. The Sword of Death!

1. Death is the trademark of Islam
2. Muslim clerics cynically boast:

“the West loves life BUT Islam loves death.”

3. The Quran teaches the only guaranteed path to paradise is martyrdom
4. Almost daily we read reports of Jihad and suicide attacks across the globe in the name of Allah and the religion of peace! Since then, there’s been over **22,594** additional deadly terror attacks according to **thereligionofpeace.com**

Too Many to Count

1. Depopulation by the Green Horse during the first half of the Tribulation

25% of 8 billion in 1260 days = _____ Daily

The Euphrates war, at the end of year four, kills another 25%

50% of 8 billion in 1680 days = _____ Daily

2. How can anyone regard calamities and wars that lead to the death of 2 billion people as not signifying God's wrath?

3. Aren't you glad the church will not go through the Tribulation? **Rev. 3:10**

¹⁰ Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which will come upon the whole world, to test those who live on the earth.

Looking forward to our Roundtrip Tour From Earth to Heaven and Back

Seven Tour Highlights

1. Meeting Jesus (1 Thess. 4:17) *"so shall we be with the Lord"*
2. Tour through space from Earth to Heaven
3. Being presented to the Father as spotless by the blood of the Lamb - Jude 24
4. Celebration in the Father's House for 7 years
5. Wedding Ceremony and Marriage of the Church/Bride to Jesus the Lamb - Rev. 19:7-9
6. Horseback ride, through space, back to earth with Jesus leading - Rev. 19:14
7. Reigning with Jesus on earth - Rev. 3:21

²⁰ He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." (Rev. 22:20)