



Endtimes Signs

False Christ's, Wars, Famines & Pestilences

In this Endtimes Signs article we are going to be discussing four more signs of the endtimes spoken by Jesus himself in the book of Matthew and chapter 24:3-8, 11.

“And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world? And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows. And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. KJV

Here is the Living Bible translation.

“When will this happen?” the disciples asked him later, as he sat on the slopes of the Mount of Olives. “What events will signal your return and the end of the world?” Jesus told them, “Don’t let anyone fool you. For many will come claiming to be the Messiah and will lead many astray. When you hear of wars beginning, this does not signal my return; these must come, but the end is not yet. The nations and kingdoms of the earth will rise against each other, and there will be famines and earthquakes in many places. But all this will be only the beginning of the horrors to come. And many false prophets will appear and lead many astray.”

Here are the signs that we will be looking at.

1. False Christ's and false prophets deceiving many
2. Wars and rumor of wars
3. Famine
4. Pestilence

Earthquakes are mentioned here as well but we will not be addressing that topic in this discussion. That will be for another discussion.

Now, before we begin a closer look at these four signs, we need to take a few minutes to connect some dots. By that I mean, there are a few more places in the Bible where these signs are mentioned and each one will shed some light on what might be going on here. So to connect our first dot we will take a look at the book of Revelation, chapter 6 and verses 1-8.

“ And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see. And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer.”

“And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see. And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword.”

“And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand. And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine.”

“And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, come and see. And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth.”

We will come back to this passage shortly, but let's at least list what is going on here.

1. A white horse with a rider, with a bow, a crown going forth to conquering

2. A red horse with a rider, was given a great sword, given power to take peace from the earth, that the inhabitants of the earth would kill one another

3. A black horse with a rider, who had a pair of balances, measuring wheat and barley, not permitted to hurt the oil and wine

4. A pale horse with a rider, known as death, Hell followed him, power was given them over one fourth of the earth, to kill with the sword, hunger, death and with the beasts of the earth

Ok, let's look at another scripture verse and connect another dot.

Ezekiel 14:12-22

The word of the LORD came again to me, saying, Son of man, when the land sinneth against me by trespassing grievously, then will I stretch out mine hand upon it, and will break the staff of the bread thereof, and will send famine upon it, and will cut off man and beast from it: Though these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, they should deliver but their own souls by their righteousness, saith the Lord GOD.

If I cause noisome beasts to pass through the land, and they spoil it, so that it be desolate, that no man may pass through because of the beasts: Though these three men were in it, as I live, saith the Lord GOD, they shall deliver neither sons nor daughters; they only shall be delivered, but the land shall be desolate.

Or if I bring a sword upon that land, and say, Sword, go through the land; so that I cut off man and beast from it: Though these three men were in it, as I live, saith the Lord GOD, they shall deliver neither sons nor daughters, but they only shall be delivered themselves.

Or if I send a pestilence into that land, and pour out my fury upon it in blood, to cut off from it man and beast: Though Noah, Daniel, and Job were in it, as I live, saith the Lord GOD, they shall deliver neither son nor daughter; they shall but deliver their own souls by their righteousness. For thus saith the Lord GOD; How much more when I send my four sore judgments upon Jerusalem, the sword, and the famine, and the noisome beast, and the pestilence, to cut off from it man and beast?

1. Sword

2. Famine

3. Noisome beast

4. Pestilence. These God called his four sore judgments.

Are you starting to recognize some similarities between the three scripture passages that we have looked at so far? One more passage to go. One more dot to connect.

Zechariah 6:1-6

And I turned, and lifted up mine eyes, and looked, and, behold, there came four chariots out from between two mountains; and the mountains were mountains of brass. In the first chariot were red horses; and in the second chariot black horses; And in the third chariot white horses; and in the fourth chariot grisled and bay horses. Then I answered and said unto the angel that talked with me, What are these, my lord? And the angel answered and said unto me, These are the four spirits of the heavens, which go forth from standing before the LORD of all the earth. The black horses which are therein go forth into the north country; and the white go forth after them; and the grisled go forth toward the south country. And the bay went forth, and sought to go that they might walk to and fro through the earth: and he said, Get you hence, walk to and fro through the earth. So they walked to and fro through the earth.

1. Chariot with white horses in it
2. Chariot with red horses in it
3. Chariot with black horses in it
4. Chariot with grisled and bay horses in it (Possibly speckled and tan or brown in color)

Do you see the similarity with Revelation Chapter 6 which mentions white, red, black and pale colored horses?

In the above passage of Zechariah 6 these four chariots and horses are called the four spirits of the heavens.

In Ezekiel 14 the four judgments are called God's four sore judgments.

In Revelation 6 four similar events are revealed when a Lamb (Jesus) opens a seal.

In Matthew 24 Jesus is answering his disciple's question about signs of his return and he mentions false christ's and prophets, wars, famine and pestilence.

What I want you to see here is that in Revelation 6 and Zechariah 6 symbolic pictures are being painted for us in the form of colored horses.

Then in Ezekiel 14 and Matthew 24, straight forward language reveals what is going on.

Okay, I know this is all quite a bit to keep visualized in your mind. You could make up a chart based upon the information given above in the 4 scriptures covered as a visual for yourself.

So let's take a closer look at Revelation chapter 6 for Jesus is unsealing a book that only he can unseal and the first four seals that are removed unveils the exact same message that he told his disciples when they asked him about the signs that would point to his return in the book of Matthew, chapter 24.

So in Matthew 24 we saw false christ's and false prophets and this represents the white horse in Revelation 6. More about this in a minute. Then in Matthew 24 Jesus mentions wars and rumor of wars and this represents the red horse in Revelation 6. Then in Matthew 24 Jesus mentions famines and this represents the black horse in Revelation 6. Then in Matthew 24 Jesus mentions pestilence and this represents the pale horse in Revelation 6.

Now back to seal number 1 being opened. It is believed by some that the white horse and its rider represents Jesus, Some see in Revelation chapter 19 Jesus returning on a white horse and assume that seal number one somehow represents Jesus also. Then there are those who see the white horse and its rider as the antichrist coming to power. I disagree with both of those interpretations and here is why.

1. Remember the colored horses in Zechariah chapter 6:1-6? They were identified as the four spirits of the heavens and they just happened to be riding in chariots. This was of course a symbolic picture being used to identify an event that was taking place. In the same way, the white horse and its rider, as well as the riders on the other three horses are just a part of the symbolism. Its not the rider that is important or the horse, but rather it is the event that they represent that is important.

2. In Revelation chapter 19:11-16, the apostle John sees a vision of Jesus returning on a white horse. Here is the scripture.

“I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to

strike down the nations. “He will rule them with an iron scepter.” He treads the wine press of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written, king of kings and lord of lords.”

Okay, this is another horse vision for the apostle John. This time the rider represents Jesus and the event is Jesus’ return to earth. But once again, John is seeing a symbolic vision and the symbolism is not to be taken literally.

Here’s an example. Do you think Jesus will return with a sword coming out of his mouth. Of course not. The sharp sword coming out of his mouth represents the ‘sword of the spirit’, or the word of God. Here are the verses.

Ephesians 6:17 And take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God.

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is quick and powerful and sharper than an two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of the soul and spirit and of the joints and marrow and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

The sharp sword coming out of Jesus’ mouth in this symbolic vision is the Word of God with which he will judge the thoughts and the intents of the hearts of the human race. Everything else in the vision is a symbolic description of who Jesus is and what he did.

If you really want to understand how Jesus will return you can read about it in Acts 1:9-11.

“And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.”

So my point here is that Jesus is not the rider on the white horse in Revelation chapter 6. The horse and its rider may be representative of a demonic spirit that is loosed in the world to cause deception.... false christ’s and false prophets, or wars, or famines or pestilence just as Jesus told his disciples about. Or it may be a symbolism of the results of what is occurring on earth because the nations have not obeyed the laws of God and have rejected Jesus as their savior.

With all that said, I end this discussion with the scripture verse that I started it with.

Matthew chapter 24:3-8, 11.

“And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world? And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows.” KJV

These four signs make up but a portion of the signs considered to be the beginning of sorrows. There will be many more signs that come into play which we will explore in other Endtime discussions. While some may think these four signs in Revelation are yet to be unsealed by Jesus, others believe that these seals were unsealed long ago and that we have been seeing in the earth today the full force of false christ's, false prophets, wars, famine and pestilence being manifested.

For those of you who may be interested, I have posted in PDF format a listing of false christ's and false prophets who appeared from the 17th through the 21st centuries.

I have also posted a PDF listing of predictions of Jesus' return that did not come to pass, from the time of Christ until our current day.

I have also posted PDF files concerning wars throughout human history, famines, as well as pestilences and the death tolls associated with each type of event.

While the four signs that we looked at above, in and of themselves, do not point to the imminent return of Jesus, a quick glance through the PDF's I posted clearly shows me the pain and suffering mankind has gone through over the millenniums, all because they would not follow the rules of their Creator.

So for now I leave you with what is probably the sign above all signs that points to the imminent return of Jesus Christ. A sign we will look at in a future Endtime sign discussion.

“And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.” Matthew 24:14