THE FOUR HORSEMEN OF THE APOCALYPSE

Revelation is the last book of the Bible, and is Jesus Christ’s unveiling of the future to His servants showing major events that will take place prior to His second return to the earth (Revelation 1:1). Jesus will soon return to collect His believers, and judge those that have not accepted His Gospel. In Revelation chapter 6, God warns about Four Horsemen that fight the truth of Jesus. The Bible says Four Horsemen and their followers will have power over a quarter of the earth's population! The leader is the first horseman riding on a white horse, is given a crown demonstrating the highest ranking of the four, and conquers many. Jesus also gives clear warnings about a False Prophet, and the mark and image he sets up. Listen to the warnings of Jesus!

In his Holy Spirit vision, the Apostle John is shown a scroll with seven seals. No one other than Jesus can open the scroll. Only Jesus (“the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed”) is worthy to open the seven seals of Revelation. When Revelation says “has triumphed”, it means Jesus has risen from the dead.

Revelation 5: 2-5 And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, “Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?” But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it. I wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside. Then one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals.”

The Four Horsemen are described in the first four seals opened by Jesus Christ in Revelation chapter 6, verses 1-8. The Four Horsemen lead a vast spiritual war against the truth of Jesus, and conquer many with their false doctrine. False doctrine comes from a False Prophet. The first rider on the white horse claims to speak for God, but instead speaks for Satan. The First Horsemen’s religious deception is the first major trend to develop after Christ’s departure from earth—i.e., falsely representing the truth of God, which deceives many. Three others follow in quick succession right behind him, and have power over a quarter of the world's population.

Revelation is about a spiritual war between the truth of Jesus (“the Lamb”) and Satanic forces opposing Him. (Revelation 17:14 “They will wage war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will triumph over them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings—and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers.”)
The First Horseman on the White Horse Was Mohammad

Only the first rider on the white horse was given a crown. Thus, the first rider outranks the other three. (Revelation 6:1-2 “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.”) Since he wears a crown, he ranks highest as a chief prophet, but is a False Prophet on a white horse. All those deceived will look to this prophet for the message. They will call him the "Messenger." Mohammad, as the prophet, outranked those following him.

Mohammad's night ride to Jerusalem on a white horse fits the description the of the first rider. Islam claims Mohammad was taken to the outer court on the Temple Mount on a white horse, a place Revelation 11:2 says was set aside for gentiles, and does not belong to the people of God since it is "excluded." (Revelation 11:1-2 I was given a reed like a measuring rod and was told, “Go and measure the temple of God and the altar, with its worshipers. But exclude the outer court; do not measure it, because it has been given to the Gentiles.)

Mohammad Rode a White Horse on His Night Journey to Jerusalem in 620

He Looks Likes a Lamb But speaks Like a Dragon—The False Prophet

We can learn more about Mohammad from what the Bible tells us in Revelation chapter 13 about the False Prophet. The main human enemy of Jesus (in addition to Satan the spiritual enemy) will claim to speak for God, but instead really speaks for the dragon-Satan. He may not even know Satan is speaking through him. This individual in Revelation 13 is referred to as "the second beast of the earth" and "It had two horns like a lamb, but it spoke like a dragon." (Revelation 13:11-18). Obviously, he has a pious appearance ("looks like a lamb"), but underneath his words and actions are dark and Satanic ("speaks like a dragon").
Only Mohammad, Islam’s Last Prophet, Meets the Four Revelation Criteria of the False Prophet
The Four Horsemen cause much damage to followers of Jesus. All four fight the truth of Jesus—that he died and rose again for our sins. This is what the Koran claims—that Jesus is not God, did not die for our sins, and was not raised from the dead. Islam claims Mohammad is the messenger of Allah.

Islam says Mohammad is the last prophet, thus no Muslim will ever look for another prophet in the future. A False Prophet must be someone has been claiming to speak for a false god. According to Revelation, this person must have: 1) deceived the world (Revelation 13:14), 2) set up an image of false worship to the false God (Revelation 13:14-15), 3) given a mark, or statement of faith, to worship the false God (Revelation 13:16-18), and 4) he must also have a message with demonic words and spirits coming out of his mouth (Revelation 16:13-14). Mohammad did all four of these things. He is Islam’s last prophet and the False Prophet.

Mohammad received all the revelations from Allah to create the Koranic writings. Mohammad and the other three horsemen spread these false revelations. These writings deny Jesus is the Son of God, deny the crucifixion and resurrection, and block the only redemptive path to the true God.

The Next Three Riders Are the Three Caliphs that Followed Mohammad
The Four Horsemen produced a caliphate (“kingdom”) that was devastating to the truth of Jesus in the Bible. The leader of a caliphate is called a “caliph.” Mohammad was the first rider, followed by Abu Bakr, then Umar and finally Uthman. Historically, three major caliphates existed: the Rashidun Caliphate (632–661), the Umayyad Caliphate (661–750) and the Abbasid Caliphate (750–1258). The fourth major caliphate, the Ottoman Caliphate, established by the Ottoman Empire in 1517, was a manifestation whereby the Ottoman rulers claimed caliphal authority and lasted another 400 years until World War I.
The Four Horsemen Controlled a Quarter of the World

Revelation tells us the Four Horsemen will have power over one quarter of the world. (Revelation 6:8 "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.") The Four Horsemen set in motion the Umayyad Caliphate.

At its greatest extent, the Umayyad Caliphate (661-750) covered 15 million square kilometers (5.8 million square miles) and had power over 62 million people (estimated between 25% to 29% of the world’s population at that time), making it the one of the largest empires in history in both area and proportion of the world’s population. Today about 28% of the world is Islamic.

The “Rightly Guided Caliphs” is a term used in Sunni Islam to refer to the 30-year reign of the first four caliphs (successors) following the death of the Islamic prophet Mohammad, namely: Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman and Ali.

The name “Sunni” comes from the word Sunnah, referring to the exemplary behavior of the Islamic prophet Mohammad. The concept of "Rightly Guided Caliphs" originated with the later Abbasid Caliphate based in Baghdad. It is a reference to the Sunni imperative "Hold firmly to Mohammad’s example (sunnah) and that of the Rightly Guided Caliphs." Following Uthman, the Sunni-Shia split occurred. It has lasted 1,400 years and has produced fighting and killing to this day.

The image in Islam is the Kaaba in Mecca. The Kaaba contains the Blackstone-placed in it by Mohammad. All prayer must be directed towards the image. The mark, or statement of faith, is called the Shahada. Just by reciting the Shahada you become a Muslim. The statement of faith is: "There is no god but Allah. Mohammad is the Messenger of Allah."
Umayyad Caliphate Controls a Quarter of the World's Population
Abu Bakr Is the Rider on the Second Red Horse

Revelation tells us the second horseman is on a red horse. He does not rank as highly as the first because he does not wear a crown. (Revelation 6:3-4 When the Lamb opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, “Come!” 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. To him was given a large sword.) The second rider on the Red Horse of War was the 1st Caliph after Mohammad, Abu Bakr.

Mohammad received his revelations in a cave near Mecca. Mohammad then told Abu Bakr what had happened in the cave and how Allah had revealed to him the Koran, and made Mohammad his messenger. When Abu Bakr heard this from the prophet, he did not stop to think, he at once became a Muslim. He submitted to Islam with such determination that once the prophet Mohammad remarked, "I called people to Islam, everybody thought over it, at least for a while, but this was not the case with Abu Bakr, the moment I put Islam before him, he accepted it without any hesitation."

Abu Bakr became the first openly declared Muslim outside Mohammad’s family. Abu Bakr served as a trusted advisor to Mohammad. On his return from a business trip from Yemen, he was informed by friends that in his absence the prophet Mohammad had declared himself the Messenger of Allah, and proclaimed a new religion—the “new fortress god” described in Daniel chapter 11:37-38.

From 622 to 632, Abu Bakr was Mohammad’s chief adviser, but had no prominent public functions except that he conducted the pilgrimage to Mecca in 631, and led the public prayers to Allah in Medina during Mohammad’s last illness in 632. In 632 Abu Bakr became the first caliph.

Abu Bakr’s caliphate crushed the rebellion of the Arab tribes throughout the Arabian Peninsula in the successful Ridda Wars. Though the period of his caliphate covered only 27 months, it included successful invasions of the two most powerful empires of the time: the Sassanid Persian Empire and Byzantine Eastern Roman Empire.

In the last months of his rule, Abu Bakr sent general Khalid on conquests against the Persian Sassanid Empire in Mesopotamia and against the Byzantine Empire in Syria. This would set in motion a great Islamic Empire continued by Umar and then Uthman. In just a few short decades this would lead to one of the largest empires in history, and control a quarter of the world.
Umar Is the Rider on the Third Black Horse

Umar was the second caliph and followed Abu Bakr. Umar ruled from 634 to 644. Revelation tells us the third rider is on a black horse with a pair of scales. (Revelation 6:5-6 When the Lamb opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, “Come!” I looked, and there before me was a black horse! Its rider was holding a pair of scales in his hand. Then I heard what sounded like a voice among the four living creatures, saying, “Two pounds [quart] of wheat for a day’s wages, and six pounds [3 quarts] of barley for a day’s wages, and do not damage the oil and the wine!”) Among the many things Umar did was impose a new tax system.

Under Umar, the caliphate expanded at an unprecedented rate, defeating the Sassanid Empire and more than two-thirds of the Byzantine Empire. His attacks against the Sassanid Empire resulted in the conquest of Persia in under two years (642–644). After invading the Holy Land, and conquering Jerusalem in 637, Umar gave a covenant, or pact, that was a harsh treaty between the Muslims, Jews and Christians of Syria, Mesopotamia and Jerusalem. Umar "distributed the land for a price" (Daniel 11:39.) Umar instituted taxation on the conquered peoples, as illustrated by the pair of scales to calculate the tax.

Umar--"The King Will Do as He Pleases" in Daniel 11:36

Daniel was taken captive in 605 BC as part of the Babylonian captivity of Israel. Daniel finished his work around the year 530 BC, shortly after the capture of Babylon by Cyrus of Persia in 539 BC. In the book of Daniel (Daniel 11:36-45 and 7:23-25) he sees a future king who treats the Holy People very badly. This King defeats three kings, and changes the set times and laws.

This king has many battlefield conquests and invades the Holy Land. Today many people think this king is still in the future (perhaps the “Antichrist”), but almost certainly Daniel was writing about the second Muslim caliph after Mohammad named Umar. Daniel wrote this 1,200 years before Umar. Umar was murdered in a mosque in Media, and no one came to help him.
John Seems to Be Describing Umar’s New Taxation in Revelation 6:5-6

Let’s look carefully at what John wrote about the Third Seal with the Black Horse in Revelation 6:5-6: When the Lamb opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, “Come!” I looked, and there before me was a black horse! Its rider was holding a pair of scales in his hand. Then I heard what sounded like a voice among the four living creatures, saying, “Two pounds (quart) of wheat for a day’s wages (denarius), and six pounds (3 quarts) of barley for a day’s wages (denarius), and do not damage the oil and the wine!”

Most Bible commentators have interpreted this text to mean that a day’s wage (a denarius) will only purchase a quart of wheat or three quarts of barley. In ancient times, a denarius would normally buy about 10 quarts of wheat, and 2-3 times more in barley. Since this interpretation of Revelation gives wheat prices about 10 times higher than normal, they interpret this as a severe famine. Particularly since Revelation verse 8 later mentions the word “famine.” They believe Revelation describes a future condition where basic goods are sold at greatly inflated prices. Thus, the Black Horse rider depicts a future time of deep scarcity or famine.

But John does not use any words to indicate a transaction such as the actual buying of grain or a purchase of something. He does not indicate grain or food scarcity exist or are connected to wages. He simply writes: “Two pounds (quart) of wheat for a day’s wages (denarius), and six pounds (3 quarts) of barley for a day’s wages (denarius).” John does not write: “To buy a quart of wheat you must spend a day’s wage.” John could have just as well meant: “You owe a quart of wheat to the caliphate in tax for earning a day’s wages.”

Most Bible commentators are puzzled by the next part of the text: “and do not damage the oil and the wine!” They have no solid explanation for this, other than oil (olive oil) and wine are more expensive, and perhaps wealthy people in the famine can still afford these items. But it seems unlikely that olive oil and wine prices would not rise in a famine. In fact, they would probably rise even higher than basic grain prices. They would be harmed in a famine. So, what is John really trying to tell us about the Four Horsemen, power, crops, wine, oil, and wages? What do the scales mean? Why is the ratio 10 to 1?

Revelation 6:8 tells us the Four Horseman have power over a quarter of the world’s population. All conquering powers impose new taxes to fund their activities. The rider on the Black Horse seems to place some type of new yoke (bondage or servitude) on the land. A better understanding of the Revelation 6:5-6 text is that the Four Horsemen impose a new taxation system on these conquered people (the scales calculate the tax) such that when a person earns a day’s wage (a denarius) they must pay a tax rate equivalent of a providing a quart of wheat or three quarts of barley to the caliphate of the Four Horseman.

Since at normal prices a day’s wage would buy about 10 quarts of wheat, a one quart wheat tax example would give the new system income tax rate of about 10% of the daily wage, using normal grain prices. Apparently, the 10% tax is placed on labor related to raw crop grains such as wheat and barley, but finished products that are stored such as olive oil and wine are exempt. This is what Umar did.
The Zakat, Jizya, Kharaj and Ushr Islamic Taxes Instituted by the Four Horseman

The Islamic conquest of the Middle East brought four new taxes to the conquered peoples. The money was used to fund the Islamic State. The four types of taxes in Islam are called Zakat, Jizya, Kharaj and Ushr. These taxes were instituted by the Four Horsemen.

1. Zakat Tax: The Zakat is one of the five pillars of Islam. The Zakat tax rate is 2.5%. It is a tax partially designed for helping the poor, used to promote Islam, and fund jihad. The funds are partially used to bring more people into Islam—and deny Jesus Christ is the Son of God and risen Savior. Although technically Zakat was only for Muslims, overall many people were forced to convert to Islam and pay the Zakat, rather than the Jizya tax. The Zakat command is given in Koran 9:60.

Koran 9:60 “The Alms-tax is only for the poor and the needy, for those employed to administer it, for those whose hearts are converting to the (Islamic) faith, for freeing slaves, for those in debt, for Allah’s cause (Jihad fighters), and for needy travelers. This is an obligation from Allah. And Allah is All-Knowing, All-Wise.”

Shariah Law states only nine items are subject to the Zakat tax. Wheat and barley are part of the obligatory nine items. Olive oil and wine are specifically exempt. Shariah Law 657 states Zakat is obligatory in nine things: wheat, barley, dates, grapes (raisins), gold, silver, sheep, cows and camels. Source: https://www.al-islam.org/a-summary-of-rulings-makarim-shirazi/rules-zakah
2. **Jizya Tax:** The Jizya tax is a per capita yearly tax historically levied by Islamic states on certain non-Muslim subjects—called “dhimmis”—permanently residing in Muslim lands under Islamic law. The Koran and Islamic Hadiths mention Jizya without specifying its rate or amount. However, scholars largely agree that first Muslim rulers (the Four Horsemen) expanded systems of taxation and tribute in the conquered lands.

In lands conquered by the Muslims by force, the Jizya was imposed upon all who refused to convert to Islam in exchange for protection. This was a tax on Christians and Jews that refused to convert to Islam.

The Jizya could be paid with cash or crops such as wheat or barley. The tax could not be paid with pigs, or wine, or dead animals. The rate of Jizya varied until it was fixed and broadly implemented by Umar, the second caliph after the Prophet Mohammad and the first caliph Abu-Bakr. Umar is the third rider on the Black Horse with the scales.

Arab Christians and Jews were to be fought until they paid the jizya willingly and humbled. This is according to the Koran—that the Jizya was to be collected in humbling conditions. (Koran 9:29 “Fight those who do not believe in Allah, nor in the latter day, nor do they prohibit what Allah and His Apostle Mohammad have prohibited, nor follow the religion of truth, out of those who have been given the Book, until they pay the tax in acknowledgment of superiority and they are in a state of subjection.”)

Umar set in place the Jizya in Syria and Palestine. The Jizya was initially a measure of wheat together with one dinar per capita; then gold merchants and 40 dirhams on traders, taxing the rich heavily, the poor lightly and the middle classes moderately. Umar then imposed the Jizya upon all classes of Non-Muslim society, ordering a census of personal wealth to be carried out in all parts of the Islamic State. Later Uthman (the fourth horseman on the Green Horse) concluded that there were 550,000 “non-believers”, i.e., people who held to their Christian beliefs. Source: The Spread of Islam Throughout the World, Editors: Idris El Hareir and El Hadji Ravane M’Baye, pages 197-202. UNESCO, 2011

3. **Kharaj Tax:** The third Islamic tax is called Kharaj, which is a type of individual Islamic tax on agricultural land and its produce developed under Islamic Sharia law. Since most people lived in an agrarian society in the times of the Islamic conquests, this tax applied to most people—especially most workers. Kharaj refers to the land tax levied by the early Muslim rulers (the Four Horsemen) on their non-Muslim subjects, still collectively known as “dhimmi.” In an ancient Arab papyrus document, when the Kharaj tax is paid in kind, such as with wheat or barely, it is called a “food tax.” Source: The Spread of Islam Throughout the World, Editors: Idris El Hareir and El Hadji Ravane M’Baye, page 203. UNESCO, 2011

Umar “distributed the land for a price.” (Daniel 11:39) The phenomenal Muslim conquests by the Four Horsemen (Revelation 6:8 “They were given power over a fourth of the earth.”) created one major problem, namely what to do with the extensive lands conquered by the Muslims. For example, after the conquest of Iraq in 635, about two years before the Islamic conquest of Jerusalem in 637, the commander wrote to Umar. He wrote that the Muslims had asked him to divide the towns, people and land, including plantations and crops, among them. He refused to do this until Umar wrote back with his views. The troops that had come from Iraq and requested that Umar divide up the conquered territories.
Instead Umar allowed the conquered people to remain on the land and pay a Kharaj crop and land tax to the Islamic State. This is how he "distributed the land for a price." Umar set the tax at the established rate of 1 dinar and 3 ardabs of victuals (1 ardab equals 69.6 kg of wheat or barley). Source: The Spread of Islam Throughout the World, Editors: Idris El Hareir and El Hadji Ravane M’Baye, pages 202-204. UNESCO, 2011

Some land produced a higher return and tax. One governor wrote to Umar that ‘We have accepted types of produce with a higher value than wheat and barley’ – mentioning beans, grapes, dates and sesame – ‘which have been taxed at a rate of 8 dirhams, and what was previously sent to the caliph in cash and kind has been abolished.’ Source: as above

Umar wanted all conquered lands to remain as endowments for the benefit of the Muslim veterans who were a jihad force against those who had not converted to Islam. Once he had decided to leave the land in the possession of its owners, Umar had a land survey carried out, which produced a count of people, land, livestock, trees and palm trees. According to Theophanes, this was done in the thirtieth year of the rule of Heraclius (r. 610–41). The thirtieth year of Heraclius’ rule was in 640. Source: as above

4. Ushr Tax: Ushr is the obligatory income tax on farm produce which is 10% for most land crop usage and 5% for others. It must be paid by Muslims and non-Muslims. Ushr was also instituted by Umar. Muslim merchants paid 2.5%, non-Muslim subjects paid 5.0%, and those from non-Muslim lands called the ‘the House of War’, paid a Ushr tax of 10%. Another action Umar took with important economic consequences, and which encouraged people to convert to Islam, was allowing the poor and former slaves to become landowners with full rights to buy, sell and bequeath their land, in exchange for paying the Ushr tax (tithe), a tax levied on all people equally. Source: The Spread of Islam Throughout the World, Editors: Idris El Hareir and El Hadji Ravane M’Baye, pages 203-211. UNESCO, 2011
Uthman is the Rider on the Fourth Green Horse

Revelation tells us the fourth rider is on a pale green horse (Revelation 6:7-8 When the Lamb opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, “Come!” 8 I looked, and there before me was a pale horse! Its rider was named Death, and Hades 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.)

In many Bible footnotes, there is an explanation that the color is not pale, but rather pale green or green. The footnotes indicate the Greek word in verse 8 is chlóros: meaning pale green or green. This is the same derivative as in the word “chlorophyll”, which gives the green color of leaves.

Uthman centralized the administration of the caliphate and established the official version of the Koran. Uthman created a standardized copy of the Koran by gathering all copies across the caliphate and burning all but one. That is why Islamic scholars try to claim today there are no errors in the Koran—since they came from the one copy that was not burned. The other Korans with errors were different and were destroyed.

Uthman is critically important in Islamic history because after his death marked the beginning of open massive religious and civil war conflicts within the Islamic community (called the “Fitnah”). Uthman was also murdered by other Muslims. Following his death, Ali was chosen as the fourth caliph, but not before violent conflict broke out. War erupted when Ali became caliph, and he too was killed in fighting in the year 661 near the town of Kufa, now in present-day Iraq. The violence and war split the small community of Muslims into two branches that would never reunite. The war continued with Ali’s son, Hussein, leading the Shiites. "Hussein rejected the rule of the caliph at the time," says Vali Nasr, author of The Shia Revival. "He stood up to the caliph's very large army on the battlefield. He and 72 members of his family and companions fought against a very large Arab army of the caliph. They were all massacred." Hussein was decapitated and his head carried in tribute to the Sunni caliph in Damascus. His body was left on the battlefield at Karbala. Later it was buried there. The Sunni Shia split continues to this day. This is Daniel’s divided kingdom.

The Fifth Seal Next Describes all Believers Killed since the Apostles—Especially After the Four Horsemen

(Revelation 6: 9 When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained.) The Center for the Study of Global Christianity, an academic research center that monitors worldwide demographic trends in Christianity, estimates that between the years 2005 and 2015, 900,000 Christians were martyred — an average of 90,000 Christians each year. A list generated by Open Doors USA, a nonprofit organization focused on serving persecuted Christians, shows the Islamic countries from the Four Horsemen in Middle East account for nine out of the top ten countries ranked for extreme persecution of Christians. The ten countries are as follows:

1. North Korea
2. Somalia
3. Afghanistan
4. Pakistan
5. Sudan
6. Syria
7. Iraq
8. Iran
9. Yemen
10. Eritrea
White, Red, Black and Green are the Four Colors of the Horsemen—and Islam
The Bible makes clear the first three colors are white, red and black, but many translations give the fourth color as "pale". The correct translation is green, or pale green. The Greek word in verse 8 is χλωρός: pale green, pale Original Word: χλωρός, α, ον Transliteration: chlóros Short Definition: green, pale Definition: green, pale green

White, red, black and green are the colors of virtually all Islamic Middle East flags.
Palestine Liberation
Kuwait
Iran
Yemen
Western Sahara
Afghanistan
Turkey

Saudi Arabia

Pakistan

Tunisa

Shahada

ISIS