

# The Book Sealed with 7 Seals, II

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1. There is an interpretation in Adventism that takes the 4 horses in the vision of the book sealed with 7 seals in Revelation as representing the Christian church, and the colors of the horses as indicators of its spiritual climate over the centuries
  - white horse--a pure church; apostolic times
  - red horse--the church being persecuted by pagan Rome
  - black horse--the church in spiritual apostasy; rise of the papal institution
  - pale horse--the church being persecuted by papal Rome during the Dark Ages
2. This interpretation is faulty for failing to consider the following points:
  - a. this interpretation does not take into consideration the connection between the visions of Revelation with the visions of Zechariah
  - b. horses in prophecy are used for battle and for inflicting damage (**Rev 9:9-11**); they are not used as indicators for the spiritual climate of the church
  - c. the horses in the vision of the seals need to be thought of as agencies that bring the wrath of God on the enemies of the church, in order to be consistent with the use of horses in the visions of Zechariah (**Zech 6:1-8**)
  - d. this interpretation also fails to consider the use of language that invokes covenant curses in the breaking of the 4 seals (**Deut 28**)
3. To see the spiritual climate of the church, during the time of the breaking of the seals, see the seven churches;
4. To understand the true messages of the breaking of the first four seals, Zechariah's vision of the 4 horns and the 4 carpenters need to be taken into account (**Zech 1:18-21**)
  - a. the 4 horns are the heathen powers in New Testament times which are scattering the powers of the church, spiritual Israel
  - b. the 4 carpenters take on the form of the 4 living creatures who are stationed around the throne of God and executing God's commands to "fray", terrify and counteract the work of the powers that are scattering the power of the church

## The Scattering Powers in the New Testament Times

5. The powers that scatter and antagonize the Church of Christ in the New Testament are as follows
  - a. Time of the opening of the first seal (apostolic times)--the unbelieving Jews stir up the Gentiles to move against the early church and scatter it (**Acts 8:1; Acts 14:1-2**)
  - b. Time of the opening of the second seal--pagan Rome scatters the Jewish people and then the Christian church until its dissolution in 476 A.D. (**Dan 11:20-24**)
  - c. Time of the opening of the third seal--apostasy of the mainline Christian church; spiritual scattering of the power of the church
  - d. Time of the opening of the fourth seal--the papal power scatters the power of the holy people for a time, times and half a time or 1260 years (**Dan 12:7**)

6. it will be clearly seen therefore that Zechariah's vision of the 4 horns has a larger application in New Testament times and this vision serves as a key to interpret the meaning and message of the opening of the first 4 seals of John's vision of the 7 seals

## The Work of Fraying the Heathen Powers in the New Testament

7. Zechariah's 4 carpenters reappear in Revelation as the 4 living creatures who each unleash the 4 judgment horses on the enemies of the church:
  - a. The time of the opening of the **first seal**-- the living creature that has the appearance of a lion unleashes a white horse with a rider who conquers with a bow (**Rev 6:1-2**)
    - i. The church is the agency used by the first living creature to war against the heathen powers that scattered the powers of the church
    - ii. The church uses the Word of God to subjugate the Gentiles, resulting in their conversion
    - iii. The conversion of the Gentiles under the powerful ministration of the pure apostolic church is positive judgment on the heathen
    - iv. The lion-like appearance of the first living creature which is responsible for unleashing the church on the Gentiles matches the victorious march of the church against her enemies
    - v. The military language used to describe the subjugation (conversion) of the Gentiles by the church agrees with **Amos 9:11**, a prophecy about the subjugation of the heathen by David and which is given a spiritual application by the apostles (**Acts 15:6-17**)
  - b. The time of the opening of the **second seal**--the living creature that has the appearance of an ox unleashes a red horse whose rider has a great sword to take away peace from the earth and that they should kill one another (**Rev 6:3-4**)
    - i. Great slaughter in the Roman empire by the Barbarians (Alaric, Genseric, Attila, Odoacer)
    - ii. Death by the sword is one of the covenant curses (Deut 28:22)
  - c. The time of the opening of the **third seal-(Rev 6:5-6)**--the living creature which has the appearance of a man unleashed a black horse with a rider having a pair of balances in his hand
    - i. the famine of the word of God is indicated in his scourge on the fallen church (**Amos 9:11-12**)
    - ii. hunger is one of the covenant curses (**Deut 28:48**); this temporal curse is spiritualized in the breaking of the seals
  - d. The time of the opening of the **fourth seal-(Rev 6:7-8)**--the living creature which has the appearance of an eagle unleashes a pale horse with a rider who kills with death, the sword and the beasts of the earth
    - i. The papacy receives a wound by a sword in 1798 (**Rev 13:10, 14**)

- ii. The power that inflicts that deadly wound is France in 1798; France is called the beast rising out of the bottomless pit in **Rev 11:7**;
- iii. being ravaged by the beasts of the field is one of the covenant curses for the unfaithful and disobedient (**Deut 28:26**)