

Daniel & Revelation End-time Prophecies Sermon Series
Study #36: Black Horse “Christians”
Revelation 6:5, 6
Bible Sermon Study Notes by Cary Rodgers, pastor

In the first two visions of Revelation Chapters 1 – 6 Jesus is giving us a clear distinction of His True Pure Church of Light vs. a False Church full of corruption.

Horses	Rider	Represents	Meaning
Seal One – White	Jesus	Pure Church	Pure and victorious church
Seal Two – Fire Red	Jesus	Persecuted Church	Must go through the fire to stay pure

Each horse in the first four seals represents the Christian church. **The first two horses depicts God’s true church.** The white horse represents God’s faithful church who is pure, giving the light of God Truth. The Fire red horse represents God’s faithful who **MUST** go through a time of persecution. Jesus rides the white horse through the fire to keep the faithful pure.

What did John see when Jesus opened the third seal?

Revelation 6:5-6

5 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**.

6 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.**

Here John sees a black horse with a rider with a pair of balances in his hand.

What does the black horse represent?

White represents purity and the light of God’s truth. Black is the complete opposite of white. Black is the darkest color **that does not absorb visible light. Black is the complete ABSENCE of LIGHT.**

The black horse represents a corrupted church with the absence of the TRUE LIGHT! The true Jesus has been replaced with a false Jesus that reflects the imagination of men. The black horse is humanism and idolatry covered over with the profession of Christianity.

In other words, the black horse has a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof from such TURN AWAY.” - 2 Timothy 3:5. In other words, this represents Black Horse “Christians”. You don’t want to be a part of black horse Christians.

What is the cause of Black Horse Christians?

Lamentations 5:7, 10

7 Our fathers have sinned, and are not; and **we have borne (carried on) their iniquities.**

10 Our **skin was black** like an oven because of the **terrible famine.**

What type of famine causes Black Horse Christians?

Amos 8:11

11 Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD:

Black Horse Christians are in a spiritual famine in deep darkness. The main cause of this spiritual famine is the total rejection of God's Light of Truth and His everlasting covenant.

Iniquities are sins of presumption. Presumptuous sins are deliberate acts of sin despite the clear evidence and instructions from Divine authority, God.

Numbers 15:30-31

30 But the soul that doeth *ought (sin)* presumptuously, whether he be born in the land, or a stranger, the same reproacheth the LORD; and that soul shall be cut off from among his people.

31 Because he hath despised the word of the LORD, and hath broken his commandment, that soul shall utterly be cut off; his iniquity shall be upon him.

Black Horse Christianity is an institutionalized and organized system of rebellion!

Those who are a part of it are in a famine, destitute of TRUTH because they reject the Light, Jesus Christ. When they reject the Light, the Light rejects them and leaves them in utter darkness.

Isaiah 5:13

13 Therefore my people are gone into captivity, because they **have no knowledge**: and their honourable men are famished, and their multitude dried up with thirst.

If the preachers are famished and suffering from spiritual famine how can they feed the people! As a result, the congregation is dried up and are also in a severe famine of truth!

Why do they have NO KNOWLEDGE?

Hosea 4:6

6 My people are **destroyed for lack of knowledge**: because thou hast **rejected knowledge**, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast **forgotten the law of thy God**, I will also forget thy children.

Even though the light of God's truth has been clearly revealed to them they purposely reject the truth.

Israel the name that means "God prevails" rejected God's light, His truth, Jesus -not only individually but also as an organized institution! Rebellion against God's explicit Truth became part of the culture of Israel. Sermons of "darkness" and rebellion were taught from the synagogues and schools. Multitudes and generations of children were raised in the system of rebellion. Sin was lightly regarded and excused.

Isaiah 59:1-4

1 Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear:

2 But your **iniquities have separated between you and your God**, and your sins have hid his face from you, that **he will not hear**.

3 For your hands are defiled with blood, and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies, your tongue hath muttered perverseness.

4 **None calleth for justice, nor any pleadeth for truth**: they **trust in vanity**, and **speak lies**; they conceive mischief, and **bring forth iniquity**.

Despite Israel's rejection of TRUTH, they still believed that they still had the favor of God. Does God look lightly on sin, does He forget? Even though rebellion has been organized and taught to many generations, it does not change! It is still SIN, presumptuous sin, rebelliousness!

Who does the person riding the black horse represent?

Going back to Revelation 6:5, since the Black horse is a depiction of a church of darkness, corruption, and rebellion, the person riding the horse is also corrupt. The person of darkness has control and authority over this corrupt system of rebellion. **Because of the great famine devoid of truth you can image that the person riding the black horse is suffering from great starvation. Even though the rider is spiritually skin and bones and extremely weak he sits on the black horse as one in authority and control. The rider of the black horse represents the corrupt ministers and church leaders.**

What is the person riding the black horse holding in his hand?

Revelation 6:5 "...a pair of balances in his hand."

What does the pair of balances in the black horse rider's hand represent?

In the judicial system a pair of balances is supposed to symbolize due process of weighing the evidence of each person's court case to determine if they are guilty or not. **Remember in Isaiah 59:14, those in rebellion are not calling for justice.**

A pair of balances was used for buying and selling of goods especially in ancient times. Instead of the rider weighing out the evidence of truth or sin, he is selling stuff!

What is the rider selling?

Revelation 6:6 "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**"

What does wheat and barley represent?

Wheat and barley are whole grains used to make bread. Bread can be made entirely of wheat or barley or it can be a mixture of both.

Did you know that wheat and barley are key ingredients in Ezekiel bread?

Ezekiel 4:9

9 "Take thou also unto thee **wheat, and barley**, and beans, and lentiles, and millet, and fitches, and put them in one vessel, and make thee bread thereof..."

Who is the bread of life?

John 6:35

35 And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.

Those who eat the BREAD of Life are suppose to share Jesus in His fullness and TRUTH without the taint of sin. Jesus was our example without sin.

If we want to be whole spirituality we must eat the Bread of life whole without any compromise in the ingredients. **Also we are to freely share God's Bread of Life with others. We are not to sell it!**

What did Jesus do with the bread that he miraculously multiplied among thousands of hungry people?

Jesus did not set up a stand and have his disciples sell bread and fish plates. They freely distributed to the hungry people. They gathered up the leftovers and shared that with even more people who were not there. **(Matthew 14:14 - 21)**

What is the principle of sharing the everlasting gospel of Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life?

Matthew 10:7-8 (Jesus)

7 And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.

8 Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: **freely ye have received, freely give.**

Why is the rider on the black horse only able to sell the ingredients for bread, wheat and barley, but not the bread as a whole? What does the Voice in the midst of the beast say to the rider on the black horse?

Revelation 6:6 “...see thou hurt not the oil and the wine.”

In the Bible the oil represents the Holy Spirit:

Zechariah 4:3, 6

3 And two olive trees by it, one upon the right side of the bowl, and the other upon the left side thereof.

6 Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.

The wine (unfermented grape juice) represents the spilled blood of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins:

Matthew 26:27-29

27 And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it;

28 For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

29 But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.

When a meat (meal, grain like wheat or barley) offering was brought to the sanctuary as an offering to the Lord, it had to be mingled with oil. If the offering was unleavened bread, that bread had to be mingled with oil.

(Meat Offering – Lev. 2 – Voluntary: Showed honor and respect to God in worship. Acknowledged that all we have belongs to God)

Leviticus 2:1, 4

1 And when any will offer a meat offering unto the LORD, his offering shall be of fine flour; and he shall pour oil upon it, and put frankincense thereon:

4 And if thou bring an oblation of a meat offering baked in the oven, it shall be unleavened cakes of fine flour mingled with oil, or unleavened wafers anointed with oil.

Jesus is the unleavened bread mingled with the anointing of the Holy Ghost. Jesus spilled His blood for those who repent, confess, turn from sin and are converted. Those who eat the true Bread of life also receive the gift of the Holy Ghost and are cleansed through the blood of Jesus Christ.

Without the oil of the Holy Ghost and the blood of Jesus we have no hope. This is what makes it TRUTH.

God told the rider of the black horse to touch NOT the oil and the blood! Even though the rider on the black horse was selling the wheat and the barley he could not sell the oil and the wine.

What is the main message here? You cannot buy the Holy Spirit and the blood of Jesus neither can they be sold!

The Holy Spirit leads us to all TRUTH, Jesus Christ, who spilled His blood for the remission of sin.

What is a "Wheat or barley" gospel only?

The rider of the black horse can only sell the partial ingredients. In other words, the corrupt ministers riding the black horse are not Holy Spirit led and covered by the blood of Jesus, they are selling only partial ingredients of the gospel. They are selling a false gospel without the power of the Holy Ghost and the blood of Jesus that gives victory over sin.

Black horse ministers sell a gospel of grace with no victory over sin. They sell a church gospel of worldly entertainment and amusements. They sell "itching ear" sermons that tickle the imaginations and lust of others.

How much does the black horse rider sell the wheat and the barley?

Revelation 6:6 "...A **measure of wheat for a penny**, and **three measures of barley for a penny.**"

Penny (Greek) dēnaron [denarius] = "containing ten"

"1) A Roman silver coin in NT time. It took its name from it being equal to ten "asses", a number after 217 B.C. increased to sixteen (about 3.898 grams or .1375 oz.). **It was the principal silver coin of the Roman empire.** From the parable of the labourers in the vineyard, it would seem that a denarius was then the **ordinary pay for a day's wages.** (Mat_20:2-13)" - Thayer Definition

The more that the black horse rider can sell his false gospel the more money he can make! Even though the Black horse rider is a system of rebellion and starvation of the truth, they still require their members to support them in their “tenths”, tithes. The black horse riders teach that the more they give to them the more they will get back. The Black horse Christians continue to buy from the rider of the horse by giving their tithes and offerings as insurance to their salvation.

If the riders are suffering from famine what are those who support them going to get from them in return? NOTHING! There is nothing to eat! Remember, they cannot make bread without the oil and they need the unfermented wine representing the blood! The members starve.

Why do black horse riders (church corporations of rebellion and its ministers) sell instead of give the whole gospel of Truth?

2 Peter 2:1-3

1 But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

2 And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.

3 And through covetousness shall they with **feigned words make merchandise of you**: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.

The black horse church and its ministers are all about the money! Jesus calls them hirelings. They are Satan’s agents to deceive others from God’s whole truth.

Like the church of Pergamos the black horse riders teach the doctrine of Balaam of greed and lust over money. They also teach the doctrine of the Nicolaitans of cheap grace without the commandments of God. Like the church of Thyatira, they allow the doctrines of Jezebel to be taught.

Jesus is represented as the unleavened bread of life. The leaven represented sin. Jesus has no sin. His bread was unfermented like the wine from pure grape juice. The fermentation also represents sin.

The black horse Christians and their ministers are tainted with corruption and sin. In their rebellion, they don’t have the ability to make unleavened bread of life. Their wheat and barley is corrupted. So what is made from the wheat and barley that they are selling?

What does corrupted (fermented) wheat and barley make? **Intoxicating alcohol like whiskey and vodka!**

“Whiskey is type of distilled alcoholic beverage, generally made from fermented grain mash including **barley**, corn, rye, and **wheat**.” - The Economic Times, “10 Alcoholic Drinks”, August 22, 2018.

“Satan gathered the fallen angels together to devise some way of doing the most possible evil to the human family. One proposition after another was made, till finally Satan himself thought of a plan. He would take the fruit of the vine, also wheat, and other things given by God as food, and would convert them into poisons, which would ruin man's physical, mental, and moral powers, and so overcome the senses that Satan should have

full control. Under the influence of liquor, men would be led to commit crimes of all kinds. Through perverted appetite the world would be made corrupt. By leading men to drink alcohol, Satan would cause them to descend lower and lower in the scale.

Satan has succeeded in turning the world from God. The blessings provided in God's love and mercy he has turned into a deadly curse. {RH, April 16, 1901 "Warfare Between Good and Evil}

Spiritually, the rider on the black horse can only sell corrupted wheat and barley as raw ingredients for the corruption, contamination, and fermentation of the gospel. This spiritual alcohol is strong and intoxicating and will make ALL those who drink it DRUNK and CONFUSED with no spiritual perception.

The black horse with its rider is comparable to the false church of Babylon that "have made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication." - **Revelation 14:8**. The wine of wrath is also fermented wine that will make all those who drink it confused and drunk. This fermented wine represents false doctrines of Babylon. All those who drink the wine of Babylon will reject TRUTH and be in a state of fornication against God.

Historical Application

Compromising Church = 323 AD – 538 AD

Remember, after the church was greatly persecuted at the time of the Roman Empire many of the church leaders compromised God's truth. They sold false doctrine and deception to gain political power with the Roman Empire which eventually led to the papacy in 538 AD.

The black horse corresponds with the historical prophetic period of Pergamos (Doctrine of Balaam & Nicolaitans)

Last Day Application

The black horse represents an organized and institutionalized corporate church system of rebellion and corruption. This specifically applies to the SDA corporate General Conference church and all its institutions! Its rebellion and apostasy is embedded in the corporate church culture. This is going on now! They sell compromise and the majority buy it!

Seven key apostasies

1. Ecumenical relationships with Babylon by joining hands with Papal Rome and its affiliates. For example, church officials of the SDA corporate church such as Ganoune Diop, Director, Public Affairs and Religious Liberty and president of the Conference of Secretaries of Christian World Communions had a face to face audience with papacy in Vatican, October 2016.
2. Spiritualism (spiritual formation, contemplative prayer, puppetry, and humanism) is currently taught in churches and universities.
3. Worldliness in churches and schools – lovers of pleasure – promotion of Hollywood movies, etc...
4. Idolatry.... making of graven images... at SDA schools and Universities ... goddess of reason....
5. SDA Hospitals and Clinics use poisonous drugging business and abortions!
6. Abandoned positions on the beast, mark of the beast and Papal Rome – Remember the "Great Hope" book fraud.

7. Support of the LGBT movement!

Latest development on the SDA corporate church support of the LGBT movement within the church.

Remember the church's official document on Homosexuality by the SDA seminary in October 2015:

“An Understanding of Biblical View on Homosexual Practice and Pastoral Care,” which said that “non-practicing gay persons should be welcomed into membership and church office.”

“we strongly affirm that homosexual persons have a place in the Seventh-day Adventist Church”

“recent literature denies the possibility that gay and lesbian persons can be changed, and even claims that change attempts are harmful.”

“Lead Them Home: Loving LGBT+ People in the Church” at 2018 SDA Teacher’s Convention, August 6 - 9

Presenter: Bill Henson, Founder & President of LTH (show slide)

“SDA Teachers Convention: ‘God Freed me to Listen & Learn Passionately’”

“This week, Bill Henson presented Posture Shift at the 2018 Teachers Convention, a conference designed to equip Christian teachers in the Seventh-Day Adventist education system.”

“As mentioned in our [previous post](#), of hundreds of educational workshops, Lead Them Home’s workshop was one of the top 5 most recommended workshops by the 2018 Teachers Convention organizers.”

“A learning environment that nourishes LGBT+ students mentally, spiritually, emotionally, and socially drastically improves outcomes for their well-being in adolescence and adulthood. We thank God for the SDA denomination, which is seeking to provide just such an environment for non-straight students growing up in their school systems!” - <https://www.leadthemhome.org/2018/08/sda-teachers-convention-god-freed-me-to-listen-learn-passionately.html#.W6ZA7PZRdhH>

“On The Road To Rainbow Theology” by Andy Roman, September 7, 2018, Advent Messenger - <http://adventmessenger.org/on-the-road-to-a-rainbow-theology/>

“The North American Division [NAD] has come out with a new book that contains many of the tenants of the gay agenda, and now they are pushing this godless, immoral propaganda upon the rest of the church. Guiding Families of LGBT+ Loved Ones – Adventist Edition is a 71 page book prepared for Adventist families and ministry leaders.”

“This book is published and distributed by the NAD and is being used by pastors and teachers as a “resource guide” to help obtain a correct “posture shift” on LGBT+

issues. Guiding Families of LGBT+ Loved Ones – Adventist Edition lays out new rules that the NAD wants to implement in our churches, schools and institutions when dealing with the LGBT+ dilemma. It was written by a non-Adventist “expert” and author Bill Henson. The NAD took his book and repackaged it by adding some Bible verses, the church logo and the NAD name and address.”

“Guiding Families of LGBT+ Loved Ones, p. 43, paragraph 3 states the following:
Most gay people simply do not change throughout their entire lifetime
Even with religious instruction or therapy LGBT+ people don’t generally change
If someone does change, its because they are still transitioning”

“Guiding Families of LGBT+ Loved Ones, p. 44, paragraphs 3 and 4 states the following:

Don’t use theology or the Bible when discussing human sexuality
People are not sinners because of their sexual orientation
People are not sinners because of their gender identity
We are all sinners because we were ‘born into sin’ ”

(Show video clip of Dan Jackson’s support - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O3D_fr1l_Y4)

Romans chapter 1 Prophectic FULLFILLment!

Romans 1:22-28, 32

22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,

23 And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.

24 Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:

25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

26 For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:

27 And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.

28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;

Jeremiah 11:10-11 (institutionalized rebellion!)

10 They are turned back to the iniquities of their forefathers, which refused to hear my words; and they went after other gods to serve them: the house of Israel and the house of Judah have broken my covenant which I made with their fathers.

11 Therefore thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will bring evil upon them, which they shall not be able to escape; and though they shall cry unto me, I will not hearken unto them.

A large class of SDA church leaders and members

“As the storm approaches, a large class who have professed faith in the third angel's message, but have not been sanctified through obedience to the truth, abandon their position and join the ranks of the opposition. By uniting with the world and partaking of its spirit, they have come to view matters in nearly the same light; and when the test is brought, they are prepared to choose the easy, popular side. Men of talent and pleasing

address, who once rejoiced in the truth, employ their powers to deceive and mislead souls. They become the most bitter enemies of their former brethren. When Sabbathkeepers are brought before the courts to answer for their faith, these apostates are the most efficient agents of Satan to misrepresent and accuse them, and by false reports and insinuations to stir up the rulers against them.” Great Controversy p. 608

“The enemy of souls has sought to bring in the supposition that a great reformation was to take place among Seventh-day Adventists, and that this reformation would consist in giving up the doctrines which stand as the pillars of our faith, and engaging in a process of reorganization. Were this reformation to take place, what would result? The principles of truth that God in His wisdom has given to the remnant church, would be discarded. Our religion would be changed. The fundamental principles that have sustained the work for the last fifty years would be accounted as error. A new organization would be established. Books of a new order would be written. A system of intellectual philosophy would be introduced. The founders of this system would go into the cities, and do a wonderful work. The Sabbath of course, would be lightly regarded, as also the God who created it. Nothing would be allowed to stand in the way of the new movement. The leaders would teach that virtue is better than vice, but God being removed, they would place their dependence on human power, which, without God, is worthless. Their foundation would be built on the sand, and storm and tempest would sweep away the structure.” Select Message Vol 1 page 204

During the mark of the beast crisis the corporate church will abandon their position on the seventh-day Sabbath and embrace Sunday worship.

“Indifference and neutrality in a religious crisis is regarded of God as a grievous crime and equal to the very worst type of hostility against God. “ {3T 280.3}

“ The voice of the true watchman needs now to be heard all along the line, "The morning cometh, and also the night" (Isaiah 21:12). The trumpet must give a certain sound for we are in the great day of the Lord's preparation. . . . There are many doctrines current in our world. There is many a religion current that numbers its thousands and tens of thousands, but there is but one that bears the superscription and the stamp of God. There is a religion of man and a religion of God. We must have our souls riveted to the eternal Rock.” (4T 368)

Isaiah 58:1

1 Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins.

Listen, can Black Horse Christians stay in this state of institutionalized rebellion without impunity (punishment)? NO!

Jeremiah 49:12

12 For thus saith the LORD; Behold, they whose judgment was not to drink of the cup have assuredly drunken; and art thou he that shall altogether go unpunished? thou shalt not go unpunished, but thou shalt surely drink of it.

What will happen to those who drink the wine of Babylon?

Revelation 14:10

10 The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:

What does John see when Jesus opens the fourth seal? To be continued...