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The Second Seal: A Red Horse
6: 3-4

The second seal: a red horse DIG: What power was given to the rider on the red horse? Why would the Lamb allow this to happen? What effect will it have on the people of the earth? Will it draw them closer to God or drive them away from Him? Why?

REFLECT: When turmoil and strife come into your life how does it affect your relationship with the Lord? Do you draw near to Him or keep Him at arm's distance?

Again, somewhere above Patmos, **John** stands trembling before **God's** eternal throne. The white **horse** bearing the **rider** who deceives the world has galloped from the scroll and down the walls of heaven to wreak havoc on **the earth**. **When the Lamb opened the second seal, John heard the** next cherub say to **the second rider**, **"Come!"** And immediately **another horse came out, a fiery red one. Red** symbolizes the blood that will flow as a result of the wars that **he** will bring. **The antichrist** will barely have **his peace** program off the ground when **Jesus** breaks **the second seal**.

Mankind has always longed for **peace**. There have been **peace** treaties, disarmament conferences, leagues of nations, **peace** prizes and demonstrations for **peace** – all seeking somehow to bring a lasting world **peace**. All have failed. But when **the antichrist** comes to **power** there will be a tremendous surge of optimism and the world will expect a long period of **peace and safety**. **While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape (First Thessalonians 5:3).** From their point of view, those pesky Christians and messianic believers will also have disappeared, and there will be nothing to restrain full enjoyment of all the pleasures and excesses in the sinful hearts of mankind around the world.[195]

*Dear powerful and holy **Father**, We worship **You**. When evil is all around and it*

*seems like there is no reason to hope- those who love **You** can trust in **Your** sure word, that those who love and follow **You**, **You** are preparing a home for them in heaven and will return to take them to live to live with **You** in heaven forever **(John 14:1-3)! For I consider the sufferings of this present time not worthy to be compared with the coming glory to be revealed to us (Romans 8:18).** Death is a defeated enemy. Heaven is a reality for all who love and follow **Yeshua** as their **Lord** and **Savior (Romans 10:9-10). In heaven there will be no crying, no dying, no sadness, nor pain (Revelation 21:4). Heaven** will be a home of everlasting peace and joy! We love **You** and will not focus on **pain** and evil but we will bring to mind often that **You** have redeemed **Your** children and will bring them to live with **You** forever! We love and praise **You**. In **Your** holy **Son's** name and power of **His** resurrection. Amen*

Its rider was given power to take peace from the earth. Notice that **Yeshua** gave the **rider power**. All that will happen will be under the sovereign control of **the Lord**. **He** will allow the false **peace**, war, famine and death to bring about **His** desired ends. On the other hand, the seven seal judgments, the seven trumpet judgments and the seven bowl judgments reflect the wrath of **Ha'Shem**, to be poured out on an unrepentant world. But sometime early in the first half of the Great Tribulation, during the beginning of the **birth pains (Matthew 24:8; Mark 13:7-8; Luke 21:9)**, world **peace** turns into world war as the **rider** on **the red horse** has **his** way. Describing this time, **Christ** said: **You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom (Matthew 24:6-7a).**[196]

And the rider was given power to make men slay each other on an unprecedented scale. The **peace and safety** that the world seemingly wanted so desperately will not last. In spite of themselves, mankind would soon be fighting each other again. There would not only be wars between nations and kingdoms, but there would be no end to the fighting. Racial strife will increase, as will labor troubles. Civil war will erupt within nations, and organized crime will be rampant. Individual feuds will generate waves of murders and a state of anarchy will prevail. The police and the army will hardly make a dent in the strife. Things will only get worse and worse because **God** will send them **a strong delusion** and they will delight **in wickedness (Second Thessalonians 2:11)**.[197]



The first **rider** was given a bow, but the second **rider was given a great sword (KJV).** The **sword** refers to the dagger-like *machaira* of assassination, uprising and warfare. It was also **a sword** used by assassins and would be appropriate for this sort of bloody warfare.[198] This **sword** is not the *rhomphaia* of order and justice that comes from the mouth of **Messiah (1:16)**. **John's** vision describes **a great sword** to picture the extent of the war. **The antichrist will become very strong, but not by his own power.** Again **ADONAI** gave this **great sword** to **the antichrist** for **His** own purposes. **He will cause astounding devastation and will succeed in whatever he does. He** will destroy **mighty men** and kill many of **God's people** whom **John** will see **under the alter** in heaven **(6:9).**

Since **the antichrist** comes as **a conqueror bent on** worldwide **conquest**, the **70th seven** of **Dani'el** will enter into a new phase of war. There will be three wars during the Great Tribulation. The opening of the second seal begins the first of these wars. The second war takes place in the middle of the Great Tribulation (**to see link click De – The Events in the Middle of the Great Tribulation**), and the third, which is the eight stage campaign of Armageddon (see **Ex – The Eight Stage Campaign of Armageddon**), will come at the end of the Great Tribulation when **Yeshua Messiah** returns (see **Ev – The Basis for the Second Coming of Jesus Christ**).[199]

The antichrist will be the counterfeit prince of **peace**. **The LORD** will show the world **he** is a fake by causing **his** phony **peace** programs to fail. All **his** talk of **peace** will dissolve into a bloody holocaust. The rider on the **red horse** will take his

great sword and plunge it into the sinful hearts of men and women who will **exchange the truth of God for a lie (Romans 1:25a)**. **Yeshua** is the true **Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6c)** and hope of any permanent **peace** by means of the United Nations or any other human effort is doomed to failure. When the leaders of the world rejected **Him**, they rejected the only solution to their problems.[200] The scene will turn ugly and remain that way until **the King** returns to establish **His** Kingdom on **the earth (19:11** to **20:6)**. Famine always follows war, and that is what we see next.