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The Third Seal: A Black Horse

6: 5-6

The third seal: a black horse DIG: How much will a quart of wheat cost during the Great Tribulation? How will the famine physically affect the people of the earth? How will it affect them spiritually? Do they see it as judgment and repent? Why or why not?

REFLECT: Where do you turn when things get out of control in your life? Do you think you can control your world? Ultimately, who is really in control? Who has their hands on the steering wheel of your life? What happens if there is an emergency? Do you instinctively grab the wheel? If need be, what would you have to do to let go?

The Lamb carefully **opened the third seal**. The leather scroll gently unrolls. At that moment, **the third living creature** steps to the center of **John's** vision and gives out **ADONAI's** command to **the third rider**, "**Come!**" Again, in the presence of **the Lamb of God**, the twenty-four elders, and angels emerges another **horse** and **rider**. Only this time the **horse** will be **black**, the color of grief and mourning, and its **rider** will bear yet a third warning to the peoples of the world . . . famine.



The color **black** is associated with famine in **Lamentations 5:10 (KJV)**. Famine is the logical consequence of worldwide war as food supplies are destroyed and those involved in food production are killed. **Jesus** also predicted this future famine when **He** said: **Nation will rise up against nation and kingdom against kingdom.**

There will be famines and earthquakes in various places (Matthew 24:7). Ha'Shem has used famine as a means of judgment in the past (**Leviticus 26:26; Deuteronomy 32:24; Second Kings 8:1; Psalm 105:16**), but this will be the most devastating in all of human history.²⁰¹ While the first **rider** had a bow and the second **rider** had a large sword, this third **rider was holding a pair of scales in his hand** for the purpose of measuring out grain that will sell at a greatly hyper inflated price.

Then I heard what sounded like a voice among the four living creatures. Since **the four living creatures** ministered around the throne (**4:6**), this is probably the **voice** of **YHVH, the One** sitting on the throne (**4:2-3**). **God** also speaks in relation with the fifth **seal (6:11)**. Like with **His** servant **Job (Job 2:3-6)**, **the LORD** has **Satan** on a short leash. **He** will only allow **the devil** to do so much damage. Things may seem to be out of control during the Great Tribulation, but in reality, the sovereign will of **God** will be working behind the scenes.

*Dear Heavenly **Father, You** are Almighty! Even when things look out of control- they are still in the palm of **Your** hand, waiting for the right time for **You** to execute judgement. **Isra'el, God's firstborn (Exodus 4:22)** became slaves after the death of Joseph when a new pharaoh came into power. They cried out to **God**, who already had the perfect plan and time for their redemption. It happened exactly as **God** said. No amount of opposition from the pharaoh could thwart **God's** mighty power. **Now the time that Bnei-Yisrael lived in Egypt was 430 years. So, it happened at the end of 430 years, to the very day that all the armies of ADONAI went out from the land of Egypt (Exodus 12:40)**. No amount of opposition from the anti-Christ can thwart **God's** decisive winning victory of the world battle for power at the end of the 7 years of Tribulation (**Revelation 19**). **God** will come out victorious! We praise your mighty power! In the holy name of **Your Son** and the power of **His** resurrection. Amen*

ADONAI revealed that **a quart of wheat** will cost the equivalent of **a day's wages**. But many will not be able to survive on that, so they will be forced to buy **barley**, a cheaper food that is usually fed to animals. **Three quarts of barley** will still cost the equivalent of **a day's wages**, so no money will be left for clothes, housing or transportation. There will be tremendous inflation. Survival will be the great issue of that time.

The **voice** of **the Eternal One** calls out one more instruction to **the third** horseman, who rides **the black horse** and carries the **scales** of judgment: **And do**

not damage the oil and the wine. Some have said this pictures the social injustice at that time. It will be the poor who will suffer, not the rich who could still purchase luxury items. However, **oil and wine** were not luxuries, but part of the basic supplies of life. Since the roots of the olive and vine go deeper, they would not be affected as much by a drought that would all but destroy the grain. Consequently the coming worldwide judgment of famine allowed by **God** will be tempered by mercy. For while there will be a great lack of food, there will be an abundance of medicine, for **the oil and wine** will **not** be damaged.²⁰²

The two witnesses will **shut up the sky so that it will not rain during the** three and a half years **they** will be **prophesying**. **And they will have the power to turn waters to blood and strike the earth with every kind of plague they want (to see link click [Dc - I Will Give Power to My Two Witnesses and They Will Prophecy for 1,260 Days](#)).** This drought will obviously bring about a worldwide famine, adding to the judgment of **the third** seal at the beginning of the Great Tribulation **(6:5-6)**.

Despite the initial success of the antichrist's global economic unity, a worldwide economic meltdown will occur. This will increase the need for global economic controls, including a personalized insignia for anyone to **buy or sell - the mark of the Beast (13:16)**.²⁰³ **Christ** is **the bread of life (John 6:35)**, but **the antichrist** will be the counterfeit bread of life. Like **the Adversary** whom **he** serves, **the Beast** will prove to be **a liar (John 8:44)** when **his** economic programs fail and result in famine. All this will take place during the first half of the Great Tribulation, but the worst is yet to come.