

Current Affairs #54 – How the Kingdom of Darkness Enslaves Mankind

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We want to continue to look at these four horsemen. We have looked at the first one:

- One whose character is that of a conqueror going out to conquer, who operates by the strength of his own ability to overcome.
- He rides a white horse to give the picture of legitimate authority, but he really only has the crown, the *stephanos* (Strong's Greek 4735), of his own activities.
- He uses a bow and is in type like Nimrod, the founder of the city of Babel, which opposes God and is therefore in line with the type and shadow of that great evil kingdom depicted in Daniel 7 as a kingdom that crushes and devours the whole earth. It is a kingdom defined as a beast with ten horns in Daniel, and Revelation adds seven heads to complete the picture of this beast.

It is where we are going. When we get there, we will unpack what this systemic kingdom is, who is the little horn, and what is the role of the prostitute who rides on it, being the false representation of God. But before we get to all of that—being an inappropriate and false counterfeit that pretends to represent God, and those being the primary devices by which the enemy hopes to oppose the saints as the age comes to a close—I wanted to say again, as I have said numerous times before, it is not the first iteration of these things. They have been in the earth since creation, since the enemy appeared in the garden, but they have taken on a progressive form. What is unmistakable about them is that they are identifiable by the sameness of the spirit that they represent. These are all of a satanic character; and the kingdom of darkness is reflective of the cunning and craftiness of the demonic conceit that formed a kingdom for the entrapment of human beings.

Now because they are invisible, as all spirits are (even the human spirit is invisible), they are only knowable by the signature of that spirit, so to speak. Anything that is invisible is only known to exist by the effect it has. You know, the wind is invisible. And, in fact, the word for spirit is even the word *pneuma* (Strong's Greek 4151), or wind. Wind is invisible, so how do you know that it exists? Well, it moves things around in its path. You cannot see it, not without instrumentation, but it moves things in a certain way. For example, it moves the clouds in a certain direction; it affects the birds; it affects the trees, and so on.

These are simple and yet profound statements of the truth. God did not hide things so completely that they cannot be known. But a person who is approaching the realm of prophetic symbolism, looking in a linear direction and interpreting from a domestic point of view, has no chance of understanding what it means. It cannot be understood that way. That is why the Scriptures say that the carnal mind is enmity against God and, therefore, cannot understand anything related to the realm of spirit.¹

These four horsemen come at a time that coincides with the prophecies of Jesus concerning events upon the earth—what things will happen during the time known as birth pangs upon a pregnant woman. We identify these four horsemen as spirits, and we associate what they are able to do to what Jesus said would be the conditions of the earth. So, finally, in the last reference here to the rider on the white horse—conquering and to conquer, coming as he is upon a white horse, and having a crown based in his own cunning, guile, and accomplishments—this spirit brings into the earth a time of deception. One might even say a post-truth era, where there are “alternative truths” or “alternative facts.” His modus operandi is deception, and with deception he conquers, like a hunter disguises himself with a bow in order to strike from a hidden place. It seems to me that you cannot make the argument that this rider, this spirit, this conniving, deceptive, hidden, ambushing spirit is now here.

All of these things, once they appear on the scene, they will increase the force and range and effectiveness of what they have come to do. So deception is like a foundational piece, and people are in an environment where they cannot know the truth because of deception. By the way, the only way to know the truth is to have fellowship with the Person of the Truth: “I am the way, and the truth, and the life” (cf. John 14:6); that Person is the Lord Jesus Christ, whose Spirit lives within you and places you in the Father as He is in the Father. We are in the Father; the Father is in us; like He was in the Father, and the Father was in Him. So, we ought not to be subject to deception. We should know the truth, and the truth will set us free. We love the light, we walk in the light, and therefore, we are not going to be deceived. We are not subject to this operation of the rider on *this* white horse. We are not. But only if you keep your eye on the Lord, and only if you understand what the Spirit is saying to the church.

If you fall into the trap of offering linear opinions about what is going on, you will be as devoured as you will attempt to devour others by your reasoning. And that is exactly the effect of the second horseman. Here he is:

When He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, “Come and see” (Revelation 6:3 NKJV).

By the way, each of the living creatures speaks to introduce each of these demonic forces controlling the activities of men and defining the behaviors of humans, in mass, upon the earth at that time.

Another horse, fiery red, went out. And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth... (Revelation 6:4a).

Again, you note, it is permitted. You must understand that none of these activities can be undertaken apart from God granting permission. These horsemen, like the four angels—and I wonder about the connection between the two) later on in Revelation 9, these four angels are bound by the great river Euphrates and the command was given to loose them—you understand that demons, and the demonic, and the kingdom of darkness that represents the compendium of their efforts to attract men away from God by this deception, you understand that they are restrained by God.

But there is a time when the Restrainer does not restrain. But what we are noticing is, the lack of restraint does not come suddenly. It is gradual. That is why we have such an increase in lawlessness and wickedness. No, it is not a function of things being more thoroughly reported and covered. We genuinely live in different times. You cannot tell me that you do not know or feel in your soul that we are living in different times. If you feel that way, you are in such a minority. You can stop anybody on the street (do not tell them what you are asking) and just ask them, “Do you think times have changed since you were around?” People will look at you like you are crazy. We hear

people now on the news and in public media routinely say, “This is not like anything I have ever seen in my lifetime.” That is what is on everybody’s mouth, on everybody’s lips.

So, these four (or five) demonic spirits coming forth on four horses, their character, their modus operandi, their practice are all firmly identifiable as the ways, the means, and the methodologies of the kingdom of darkness. They operate behind the scenes. The rider on the white horse operates through deception. How does the rider on the red horse operate? It is this. Let’s read the whole piece, verse 4, and then let’s identify how he operates.

Another horse, fiery red, went out. And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth [OK, so that is a result: peace will be taken from the earth.] and that people [Which is an insert by the translators, and it is not an illogical insert.] should kill one another; and there was given to him a great sword (Revelation 6:4).

How does he accomplish taking peace from the earth? Again, they are invisible, so there is not a time when a figure will come forth in some global capital on a red horse or come riding or thundering across the sky, like the old cowboy song, *Ghost Riders in the Sky*, says; it is not that. They are invisible. How are you going to see them when they are here, when they are operating? By their activities—as these activities are manifested among human beings. How does he take peace from the earth? By turning people against each other. It is the people who kill one another.

Now, certainly a component of this people killing one another is by wars and rumors of wars.² That is the great sword, the primary instrument of war in the time when this was written. So he is given a great sword, which means he is given power to move nations toward war, to actually engage in war, and to spread the rumors of wars. What we are not noticing right now, while our heads are turned toward the coronavirus, is how close to war the United States is with China because of the clash of their interests. This is not so much an ideological war, communism against democracy; this is a war for market share. In fact, the war is already going on by sanctions and the responses of sanctions.

It has not yet come so openly to people killing one another; however, this connection of this spirit to the prophecies of Jesus about the birth pangs on a pregnant woman (Matthew 24, Mark 13, Luke 22-23), that connection is this: and brother will turn against brother, and because lawlessness will abound, the love of most will become cold.³ A man's enemies will be they of his own household (cf. Matthew 10:36). If you hate your brother without a cause, you have already committed murder in your heart.⁴ What is this spirit that results in bloodshed, in the death of mankind? What is it, the rider on the red horse? We talked about the manner in which he operates, by the sword, through wars and conquests and the like, but what is the name of this spirit? Simple. It is a spirit known as division. People will kill one another; that is the ultimate expression of division.

Tell me something. Would you say, today, in the earth, we are united as one nation under God, here in the United States? Would you say among the nations, we are all sitting around the campfire, proverbially singing *Kumbaya*? No. We are in a time of the fiercest competition between nations for power and position. And do you know what? It is only going to get worse. Why? Because now we are competing for resources. We are competing in an environment of growing scarcity for resources, and every motivation lies in the hearts of men for their personal survival. They will kill each other. So that is how you know this spirit that characterizes the rider on the red horse has come; and he has come, as the rider on the white horse has already come.

We are longing for the days of yesteryear. We talk about nations returning to a period of time when they were once great. But in spite of all the clamor and claim—and this is by no means a political statement. I do not care about the politics of nations. I care about informing the people of God about these prophetic symbols and signs so they are not caught up with the world that is perishing, even as it is caught up unawares in these massive forces moving through the earth at this time. But the idea of returning to pre-pandemic existence is a desire so strong that people can taste it. I wish I could join the chorus and say, “Yes. We will soon be back where all the restrictions are lifted, and so on.” And the restrictions will be lifted; do not misunderstand me. And I am not commenting about whether the restrictions should have been put in place before, or they should now be lifted, or how long they should last. That is none of my concern. I do not have an opinion about these things. I do not want to have an opinion about these things because it does not matter, and it simply distracts from the focus of warning and informing the people of God in a difficult time.

So he takes peace from the earth by turning people against each other and, therefore, the second spirit is that of division. The first spirit is the spirit of deception. Deception is the rider on the white horse; division is the rider on the red horse. We already know what the rider on the pale horse is: It is called Death and Hell. But let's look at the third of these riders.

When He opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come and see." So I looked, and behold, a black horse, and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand. And I heard a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, "A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine" (Revelation 6:5-6 NKJV).

This third creature, this third spirit is called scarcity. It was in World War II that Stalin used famine as a weapon of war to subjugate the Ukrainians. This is one of the untold stories of the Second World War, and in fact of the Russian hegemony over the Ukraine that followed. Ten million Ukrainians were murdered by Stalin using food—scarcity—as an instrument.

All three references are to some idea of food.

- "A quart of wheat for a denarius"—It was a quart (or a "measure" is what it says in the Greek), a measure of wheat for a day's wage. A denarius was typically a day's wage. A measure of wheat for a day's wage. It is the English term "quart."
- "...and three quarts of barley for a denarius"—Three quarts of barley for a day's wage.

In other words, you work your whole day to have a meal.

Again, this is not so much about economics as it is the use of food as a weapon to compel conformity to a mindset that is being brought forth on the earth through the agency of this great beast that is emerging in the earth, this systemic kingdom. The early actors to herd humanity toward that common direction, in which they appear to have no alternative, are these four horsemen, these four spirits. For a moment, leave off thinking about them as horsemen and think of them as spirits, because this kingdom, characterized as this beast of seven heads and ten horns, has certain spirits to it. Here, I am not talking necessarily about evil spirits, but I am talking about

the methodologies that are used that are concentrated in the reference to these riders on the horses. For example, you could say,

- It is a *spirit* of murder.
- It is a *spirit* of division.
- It is a *spirit* of deception.
- This is a *spirit* of fear, and it is the fear of scarcity, the fear of lack.

It takes us all the way back to the original deception of Satan, when he came into the garden and said, in effect, “Is there anything to eat around here?” And how mankind was relegated to toiling, and by the sweat of his brow supplying what he needed because he had turned away from tending the garden to agreeing with his enemy. Tending the garden, then, is a metaphor for simply being a custodian of the economy that God gives you. The alternative to that is the sweat of your brow, and it provides a potent weapon for herding people into a common direction where they may be controlled, in the aggregate, by the systems of this kingdom. These four horsemen are like the four harbingers of a time and season that is to culminate with all mankind being forced to take a position, either in the kingdom of darkness or in the Kingdom of God.

Needless to say, my brethren, the great emphasis now in the Kingdom of God is about bringing forth a mature people. Their maturity is that they trust God. They have faith in the Living God. That is what declares one as mature. Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him for righteousness.

We have already touched the rider on the fourth horse, and how he now perfects that which was originated by the rider on the third horse, which produces scarcity. Scarcity leads to hunger and death, and one of the ways of death is by beasts of the earth. That is the doorway into the understanding of the fourth beast. It is not talking about people being devoured by predatory animals. It is talking about people being devoured by *the* ultimate predator, who comes as the fourth, in a sequence of four, three of which have already come and been on the earth.

I want to connect this now so that in the next set of messages we can look at how these four horsemen, by the use of fear, headed people toward entrapment in the systemic order of this great beast. The four horsemen, again, are four spirits.

- The first is a spirit of deception.
- The second is the spirit of division.
- The third is the spirit of scarcity, or lack.
- And the fourth is the spirit of fear, characterized by Death and Hell.

These spirits will begin to be undisguised, plainly visible, in their activities among mankind and in the control that they will subsequently exert over mankind.

We are in the preliminary stages of that which is to come. You cannot go back. There is no going back. It does not depend on you or the collective human goodwill. Times have come out of the heavens onto the earth. It is imperative that you understand the times and you know what God is saying. It is the only way of moving through that which has now come: birth pangs on a pregnant woman, leading to the birth of a fully-grown man in the image and likeness of Christ, for and to the glory of God. Remember that. This is not about terror and fear and dread. It is about the earth yielding up that for which the earth was originally established. We will continue on to discuss the beast the next time.

Grace and peace be with you. I hope these messages are bringing peace to you, not by hiding things under the rug, sweeping things under the carpet, but by bringing them into the light so that you may know what you are facing. But, also, that you may know the comfort that God has already meant to give you by these prophetic utterances. Because these are meant as the hidden manna, the children's bread, that was laid aside for you since the ages began. So, therefore, may grace and peace be with you.

Endnotes:

1. See Romans 8:6-7 NKJV: "For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be."

2. See Matthew 24:6 NKJV: “And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.”
3. See Matthew 10:21 NKJV: “Now brother will deliver up brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death.”; see also Matthew 24:12-13NIV: “Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.”
4. See 1 John 3:15 NKJV: “Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.”