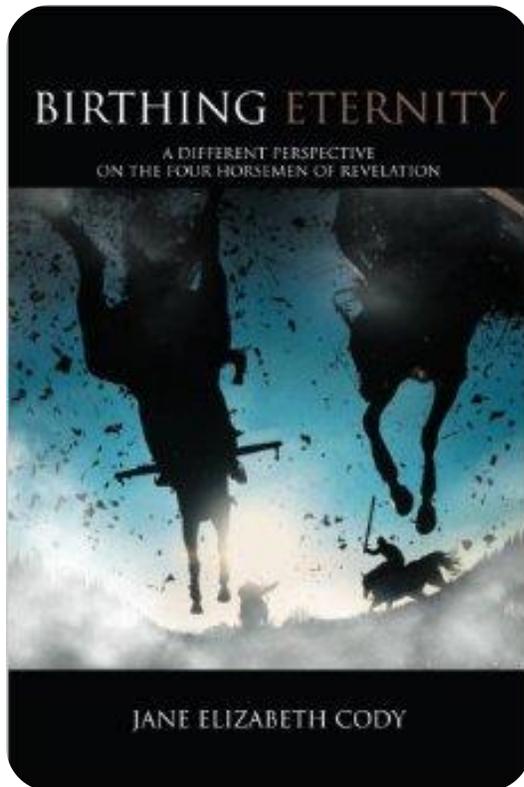




The Four Horses of the Apocalypse



*A Group Study for
Jane Elizabeth Cody's
Book, Birthing
Eternity*

Michael Mann

JANE ELIZABETH CODY

DISCLAIMERS

Although I have met Jane Cody and have enjoyed her book, she never asked me to write this. I lead a small group Bible study in our apartment complex, and wrote this for the benefit of our group. We have been looking at prophesy as “pattern and recurrence,” rather than from the traditional Western view of “prediction and fulfillment.”

In many cases the Bible presents us with a repeating circle of God’s intervention that is first seen in the life of one of the patriarchs. Later we see recurrence of the pattern in the life of the nation of Israel. Finally, we see the pattern again as God deals with the Church or the world at large.

The Four Horses of the Apocalypse are harbingers of judgments upon the entire world, the like which has never been, but the prototype and pattern for them is found in the writings of Daniel, Ezekiel, Isaiah, Joel, and others. Before reading *Birthing Eternity*, I thought the Four Horsemen to be set in the future beyond my lifetime, or that they would ride out in quick succession after the rapture of the Church. I do not know Jane Cody’s views on the rapture, as there is no mention of it in her book. Whatever they may be, I have a new outlook on the Book of Revelation, and find myself more willing to listen respectfully to those who do not share the hope that the Church will be spared the worst of what lies ahead.

Having recently moved to the Southern United States, I found it necessary to think very carefully about how Ms. Cody’s views on the rider of the black horse will be interpreted by people of color who have endured so much hardship due to racism. I was born white, but saved in an all-black church long ago, and belong to a predominantly black church family today. I have encountered hostility from Southern whites and blacks to the suggestion that the black horse represents a worldwide movement affecting the status of people of African descent. Such a movement has occurred during my lifetime, whether we care to consider it as part of the end times or not.

This study expresses my own thoughts on the book and does not necessarily reflect the opinions of the book’s author. The homework questions are my questions, and the answers in the Teacher Key are my answers. Let me be very clear that I do not pretend to know the future or what God meant when he caused prophesy to be written. I do believe the promise Jesus gave for keeping the words of this prophesy within our hearts and minds.

BLESSED IS HE WHO READS AND THOSE WHO HEAR THE WORDS OF
THIS PROPHECY, AND KEEP THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE WRITTEN IN
IT; FOR THE TIME IS NEAR. (REVELATION 1:3, NKJV)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Week 1	Introduction	4
Homework for Week 2		7
Week 3	The White Horse	8
Homework for Week 4		10
Week 5	The Red Horse	11
Homework for Week 6		16
Week 7	The Black Horse	17
Homework for Week 8		19
Week 9	The Green Horse	20
Homework for Week 10		23

WEEK 1 – INTRODUCTION

Spec-u-la-tion (spĕk'yə-lā'shən) *n.*
from late Latin *speculationem*
"contemplation, observation," from
Latin *speculatus*, "observe," from
specere "to look at, view":

1. Ideas or guesses about something that is not known.
2. Reasoning based on inconclusive evidence; conjecture or supposition.
3. A conclusion, opinion, or theory reached by conjecture.



Speculation – everyone does it. I have heard pastors stand in the pulpit and decry any form of speculation, and then do it themselves in the same sermon. I do it when I read the Bible to help myself understand, but personal speculation can be dangerous because we often form opinions on false assumptions that lead to strange doctrines and even stranger practices. We must build our doctrine and lifestyle on things that are clearly revealed in the Word of God. Only He knows the whole story on anything, whether it took place in the past, is going on right now, or is yet future. When a prophet spoke or wrote by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the words were true, but we cannot understand them until after they are accomplished. Until that time, “we see through a glass, darkly” (1 Cor. 13:12).

Why Study This?

I am taking pains to say we can't place speculation on the same level as scripture, but we can easily fall into the opposite error of closing our eyes and stopping our ears to prophesy. A study like this can cause problems for a person who only reads a few verses without connecting them to the whole message, but for the individual with a passion to “hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches” there is treasure buried here. When you go underground to mine precious metals, you have to sift and purify what you draw out. Jane Cody has opened a rich vein of ore—now we must process it to make it profitable.

I believe *Birthing Eternity* is an important book. The author is certainly a person with a passion to understand what God is saying to our own generation of believers. Her proposal is this: that the ride of the four horsemen is already well-underway, so we can look at this prophesy with the advantage of hindsight that previous generations of believers did not enjoy. With twenty centuries of commentary on the Bible by the world's best-trained and brightest minds at our disposal, it is rare to hear anything completely new on the subject of prophesy. It is even rarer for new ideas not to conflict with doctrine that is on solid scriptural ground. Jane Cody's views on the four horsemen have altered the way I interpret historical events and the daily news. For this, I offer my heartfelt thanks for writing it.

Why Call it *Birthing Eternity*?

The author uncovers the language of betrothal, marriage, pregnancy, and childbirth in statements Jesus and others made about the coming kingdom. She states, “The bride has been betrothed, the marriage has been consummated, the Holy Spirit has come upon the bride, and she has conceived.” We do not know what day the child will be born, but we can mark the stages of development from conception to birth.” The nearness of the birth becomes obvious when a woman enters labor. Jesus proclaimed his kingdom in Luke 4:16-21, a passage Jews read on the Day of Atonement at the start of a Jubilee year. It was the thirtieth jubilee since the Exodus. Very soon, the author says, “there will have been 40 jubilees since the Church was conceived, 70 since the ketubah was proclaimed at Mt. Sinai, and 120 since the creation of mankind.”

And the LORD said, “My Spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh, yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.”

Genesis 6:3, AV

This was not a limit on the lifespan of individuals, for many outlived it including Abraham. The author believes the grammar suggests that 120 is the “year” of mankind, or 120 jubilees (6,000 years). If this is the case, then the birth of the Kingdom Age is near, right at our door.

Outline for Group Study

Group study requires us to break a subject down into small enough parcels to open and discuss them in an hour’s time together. Anyone with a great curiosity for the subject should read the entire 412-page book, or at least purchase a copy and browse it to see what the arguments are: <http://www.amazon.com/Birthing-Eternity-Different-Perspective-Revelation/dp/1449783368>.

Not everyone, however, has the patience or background for this kind of study. My purpose is to make the book’s main assertions and arguments accessible to those who do not benefit very much from reading scholarly material. We will devote two weeks to an introduction, and two weeks to each of the four horses from Revelation Chapter Six. In the odd weeks you will consider the verses that describe the ride of each horse and take a brief look at events that appear to fulfill them. In the even weeks you will discuss homework questions to help you dive deeper into the subject and to share your discoveries and insights as a group.

Setting the Stage

Revelation is the last book in the New Testament. The original was in Greek, called the “Apocalypse” of John, which means “the uncovering” or “the revealing”. In the first verse, John calls it “The revelation of Jesus Christ”. He was the youngest of the twelve Apostles of Jesus, and lived the longest to a very great age. By the time of the Jewish revolt and destruction of the temple (AD 66-70), Peter had been executed. John was in the Roman Province of Asia, the country we now call Turkey. He served as the “Elder” (Presbyter or overseer) for seven churches. Sometime around AD 90-93 he was exiled to the island of Patmos “for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.” There are traditions concerning his sentencing, but few facts to go on. Upon Emperor Domitian’s death in AD 96 John was freed to return to his home in Ephesus. Dio Cassius wrote,

[Emperor] Nerva also released all who were on trial for maiestas (high treason) and restored the exile (Cary 1995:361).

Eusebius adds:

The sentences of Domitian were annulled, and the Roman Senate decreed the return of those who had been unjustly banished and the restoration of their property...the Apostle John, after his banishment to the island, took up his abode at Ephesus (Lake 1980:241).

The life of an exile was not the same as being a prisoner, and we have no evidence that Patmos was a prison colony, though it would have had a jail. He was free to move about upon the island, which was home to a harbor, a city, an acropolis or government complex, three pagan temples, and fishing villages. There are numerous traditions about miracles John performed either on the way to Patmos, or upon the island. From these, it appears that he had the respect of its governor on account of the miracles, and many believed as a result of his preaching. Church tradition also says that Procorus, mentioned in Acts 6:5, came into exile with him and acted as his secretary.

The Big Picture

Our study focuses on Revelation 6, but it should be read as a part of the entire book, and not in isolation. The book begins with many of the apostles martyred, John in exile, and the Church in disarray due to official persecution. It ends with the visible arrival of the kingdom with Jesus as King of kings and Lord of lords, and the Church as his Bride.

John addresses his book “to the seven churches which are in Asia”, meaning the churches under his leadership, but this is also the first of many sevens he will write. The first instance of “seven” in the Bible is in Genesis.

Thus heaven and earth and all their adornment were finished. And on the seventh day God finished the works He made, and He rested on the seventh day from all the works He made. Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it because in it He rested from all His works God began to make.

Genesis 2:1-3 OSB (LXX)

Seven, therefore, is associated with finishing or completeness, rest from works, and sanctification, meaning that something was set apart as holy. All of these figures apply “to the seven churches in Asia”, in that they also represent in miniature the finished or complete Church, they rest from their works in Christ (Hebrews 4:1-10), and are sanctified to God as holy (saints). Keep in mind that seven = finished = complete = resting = blessed = sanctified = holy.

There is a great deal we might say about the first few chapters of Revelation, but the main points are:

- That the entire book is prophesy (Rev. 1:3)
- That it is written to the seven churches or complete Church (Rev. 1:4)
- That grace and peace are granted her from the Father, from the seven Spirits or Holy Spirit, and from Jesus Christ, the Ruler over the kings of the earth (Rev. 1:4-5)
- That the Church is like seven golden lamp stands in that we display the Light of the world (Rev. 1:20)

- That although the seven churches have issues (Rev. Chapters 2-3), Jesus stands in the midst of the seven candlesticks and his messengers to the churches are in his right (or blessing) hand.

From all this we must recognize that although the Church has certain historical and present-day problems, we can “rest” in Jesus because he has sanctified us as his own by grace through faith in him, halleluiah. Believers have forgiveness of sins and “royal priesthood” status in the kingdom (1 Pet. 2:9) as a finished work of Jesus, period.

TO HIM WHO LOVED US AND WASHED US FROM OUR SINS IN HIS OWN
BLOOD, AND HAS MADE US KINGS AND PRIESTS TO HIS GOD AND
FATHER, TO HIM BE GLORY AND DOMINION FOREVER AND EVER.
AMEN. (REVELATION 1:5-6)

HOMEWORK FOR WEEK 2

Take an overview of the entire study by reading Revelation Chapters 1-6 and Daniel Chapter 7. Next week you (the group) will discuss your answers to the following questions:

1. Review Rev. 4. Who is seated upon the throne? What verses tell us this?

2. Are the four “living creatures” animals, humans, or angels? Where in the Old Testament do we meet four creatures with the same faces?
 - In the Bible, what does a lion represent? Give a verse.
 - In the Bible, what does an ox represent? Give a verse.
 - In the Bible, what does an eagle represent? Give a verse.
 - Why is the face of a man in this grouping? How is he like the other three?

3. What other OT prophet saw “four great beasts” come up out of the sea? What kind of beasts were they? What does the angel tell him they represent?

4. What does the number four signify in the Bible? Give a verse. What does the number four signify in the physical universe?

5. Based on your previous experience with Bible study, do you think the four faces and four beasts are related or not related in meaning?

Check one: Probably related Probably not related
Why do you think this?

6. Review Rev. 5. What is the object in the right hand of the One on the throne? There are numerous speculations about what this writing is. Think carefully about the whole Book of Revelation—the big picture, not the details. Think about the Person on the throne and what he knows that no one can find out. Who opens and reads it? Think about the scrolls that make up the Old Testament. Where did they come from, and what do they contain?

Based on your answers to the above questions, what do you think this scroll is?

WEEK 3 – THE WHITE HORSE

Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, "Come and see." And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.

Revelation 6:1, NKJV

The scroll has seven seals, with the breaking of the first four seals corresponding to the rides of the four horsemen. When we see four movements sweep the entire world (not just one continent) we might consider them as candidates for these four riders.

The Number Four

In the Bible, the number four speaks of the cosmos, world, or space-time. On the fourth day of creation, God made the sun, moon, and stars that give us our seasons (times) and bearings (directions). The four points of the compass and four winds represent global matters. The four gospels are a witness to the entrance of God's Son into the dimensions of height, width, depth, and time. Each Gospel has traditionally been represented by one of the faces of the cherubim in Ezekiel's vision (Ez. 1:10). The lion's face corresponds to the Gospel of Matthew, which presents him as the Lion of Judah and coming king. The face of the ox corresponds to Mark's gospel, who presents him as the suffering servant. Luke emphasizes his humanity and is represented by the face of a man. John gives us the transcendent Logos, portrayed by the all-seeing eagle from heaven. Four nails held Jesus to the cross, an altar for the redemption of the entire world.

Four in Prophecy

In Daniel Chapter 7 he viewed the distant future and saw the four winds blow violently upon the sea, and afterward four large beasts rising out of the sea like a lion, a bear, a leopard, and a fearsome beast with huge iron teeth and ten horns. A little horn uprooted three of the horns, and it spoke arrogant things. Verse 17 tells us the beasts are four kingdoms that will rise and fall. A majority of commentators take these kingdoms to be Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Rome, corresponding with Nebuchadnezzar's dream of four great kingdoms from Daniel Chapter 2. There were two great kingdoms before Nebuchadnezzar in Babel and Egypt, making six in all, to be followed by the seventh in which Christ will give us rest from the despotism of human rule.

John saw a vision (Revelation 13) in which a beast rises from the sea with seven heads and ten horns with ten crowns, having the body of the leopard, the feet of the bear, and the mouth of the lion. This composite beast appears to have some of the characteristics of each of the kingdoms that came before. He is the last great king before Christ returns.



When Did the White Horse Ride?

Daniel wrote:

Close up these words and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase.

Daniel 12:4, NKJV

Writing as a trained historian, Jane Cody believes the two events that ushered in the modern era were the development of reliable trans-oceanic travel (many shall run to and fro), and the invention of the printing press (knowledge shall increase). The Gutenberg press was invented in 1440, and Columbus sailed across the Atlantic in 1492. She places the beginning of “the time of the end” in the 15th century; global travel and the availability of information have only multiplied since that time.

She decided to use the four faces in Ezekiel, the four beasts in Daniel’s vision, and the composite beast John saw to help her understand the four horses that go out into the world with the opening of the first four seals:

The White Horse	The Red Horse	The Black Horse	The Green Horse
Rider has a bow and is given a crown	Rider is given a great sword	Rider is holding a yoke or scales	Rider named Death is with Hades or <i>Sheol</i> .
Cherub with the face of a lion	Cherub with the face of a bull, ox, or calf	Cherub with the face of a man	Cherub with the face of an eagle
Kingdom like a lion with an eagle’s wings	Kingdom like a bear with 3 ribs in its mouth	Kingdom like a leopard with 4 bird’s wings and 4 heads	Terrifying kingdom with iron teeth and 10 horns
Beast with the mouth of a lion...	The feet of a bear...	The body of a leopard;	Having 7 heads and 10 horns

Mystery of the White Horse

This rider had a bow and was given a crown. The remnants of the old empires after Rome fell apart fought countless wars over who would rise to world power. In some cases the successful kings were literally handed a crown instead of being born to one. Modern warfare began with the “infantry revolution” of the 15th century. Phalanxes of pikemen were able to take down charging horses so that infantry could surge in to slaughter the unhorsed riders, as a deadly hail of arrows took out the ranks bringing up the rear. With the introduction of the longbow, large numbers of archers made it possible to nullify the advantages of cavalry, formations, and personal armor that were the backbone of Old World warfare. Archers were inexpensive to train and equip, and the side with the largest number of them usually won. The bow was eventually replaced with bayoneted rifles, machine guns, and artillery, but it made large infantries the norm.

In this time, the white kings of Europe began to project royal power across the seas to conquer huge colonial domains in Africa, India, the Americas, and the islands. By the 19th century the global grab for territory held most of earth’s land mass under the rule of a handful of Europeans. It was the first time in recorded history that someone could say “the sun never sets on the British empire”.

Mystery of the Lion with Eagle's Wings

The first was like a lioness, and it had wings like an eagle. I looked on until its wings were plucked out, and it was driven from the earth and made to stand on human feet; and a human heart was given to it.

Daniel 7:4 OSB (LXX)

If you place the heraldry (shield and flag emblems) of the kings of Europe on a map, the pattern follows Daniel's prophesy. The kings of the West used a lion, while kings in Eastern Europe used the eagle. The head of the lion pointed west, and the wings pointed east. With the fall of the German and Ottoman Empires, the eastern kingdoms became republics, plucking the wings from the kingly lion. The remaining royals of England, Spain, Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden, and Norway have since accepted a ceremonial role as power has gone from them to parliaments and democratic elections. With the democratization of the white monarchies, the white horseman made way for the next rider to sweep the earth.



HOMEWORK FOR WEEK 4

Read through the sections in *Birthing Eternity* that concern the ride of the White Horse. Next week you (the group) will discuss your answers to the following questions:

1. Read Genesis 1:14-19. What did God create on Day Four, and what do these things represent?
 - Did the 4th dimension of time exist upon earth prior to Day Four?
 - Who is the “greater light” that rules over the Kingdom of Day? Give a verse.
 - Who is the “lesser light” that rules over the Kingdom of Night? Give a verse.
 - Who is portrayed in the Bible to be like the stars of heaven? Give a verse.
 - What are signs? Will there be signs in the sun, moon, and stars in the end times?
 - How do these things help us understand the four horsemen of Revelation 6?
2. Review Ezekiel 1, Daniel 17, and Revelation 13. In your opinion, are these visions related in meaning, or completely unrelated? Ezekiel 1 was definitely written in 593 BC, while the estimated date of Daniel 17 is 54 years later.¹ Did Daniel have the Book of Ezekiel at the time he wrote his vision? If the three visions are related in your view, what theme do they have in common?
3. Based on your answer to questions 1 and 2, are we justified in drawing upon the visions of Ezekiel and Daniel to understand the four horsemen of the Apocalypse? What is the “lynchpin” or joining image that ties these visions to Revelation 5? Give the verses.
4. How do we know when the opening of the first seal takes place in Revelation 6:1? Where is Jesus when he opens the seal? Is he inside or outside of time? Can we be certain that it is still in the future? If so, show it from scripture. If not, then is it reasonable to say that Jesus may have begun opening the seals of the scroll and that we are living in the end times?
5. In your view, based on your answers above, is the bow in the rider’s hand a literal bow—a weapon of times past—or does it represent something bowlike in the future?
6. Many commentators call the rider of the white horse Antichrist, and say he must be Assyrian (Kurdish) because he carries a bow. Can you refute this view from your research on questions 2 and 3?

¹ <http://biblehub.com/timeline/old.htm>

WEEK 5 – THE RED HORSE

When He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, “Come and see.” Another horse, fiery red, went out. And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth, and that [people] should kill one another; and there was given to him a great sword.

Revelation 6:3-4

A Horse of another Color

In this instance the word for “another” is *allos*, meaning “another of the same kind.” It was a second world movement that swept across the globe for dominion over it, but this one had no king and flew a fiery red flag. “People” was added to the verse by the translators, but the sense is that, as this rider sweeps the earth, they (the earth) would kill one another. It was not the warring of kings, but now became a bloody struggle of the peoples—or *proletariat*—for the revolutionary overthrow of King, Prince, Pope, and Church that characterized history prior to this. They rose up and wrested control of the wealth and means of production from the families that held it by forming the working class into a force strong enough to take it from them.



Mystery of the Red Horse

The clues we have to go on are these: the horse is red; its rider takes peace from the earth, the people kill one another, and the rider is given a great sword. If the white horse was the hegemony of European kings over the earth, this second world movement was Communism, a vicious tyranny of revolution put into power by the working class. The author marks the beginning of this ride with the publication of the Communist Manifesto in 1848 by Karl Marx and Fredrich Engels. The Communist movement had two different views on how to achieve equality for mankind. Marx and Engles envisioned an orderly progression from Capitalism through Socialism and leading to true Communism. The far-left believed it could not be achieved gradually. Instead, Communism would be instituted by armed revolution. The end justified the means, so anyone opposing the new “equality” would have to be killed. In most cases the ones opposing it were the ones who had property, wealth, or productive means of some kind—the upper and middle classes.

Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel (1770-1831) was a German idealist whose writing influenced the new order. The Hegelian Principle was *Thesis-Antithesis-Synthesis*; the way in which power is achieved in the world today. *Thesis* is the status quo or existing system of governing, while *anti-thesis* is an opposite system challenging it, producing conflict. After a protracted battle in which neither side wins, the people grow weary of the conflict and demand change. Change is then offered as the *synthesis* of the opposing views, or a compromise. In this case the status quo was Capitalism, the opposite was Communism, and the compromise was Socialism. The ruling elites funded both sides of these conflicts—and still do—because it is in their interest to keep the conflict going.

Mystery of the Bear and the Bull

After this, behold, there was a second beast like a bear. It rose up on one side and had three ribs in its mouth, between its teeth. Thus they said to it, "Arise, devour much flesh!"

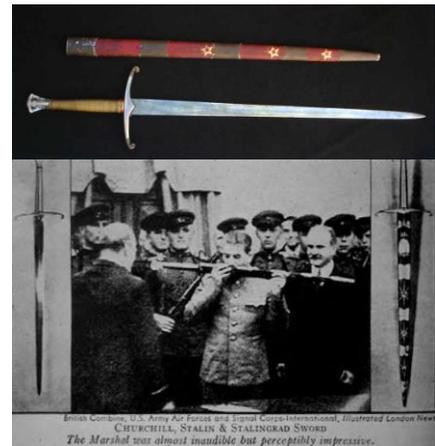
Daniel 7:5, OSB (LXX)

Please review the second column of the chart on page 9. In the "free world", stock prices control the movement of wealth, swinging between bull and bear markets. The bull market is capitalism rising, while the bear is his *antithesis*, creating a never-ending conflict in which the rich become wealthier with each cycle by convincing the masses to buy high and sell low, while they make a fortune on the market's alternating confidence and fear. The exhausted population counters this pillage by enacting laws to redistribute wealth in a more equitable fashion, thus the West has become Socialist by demanding protection from the wealthy.

The ride of the Red Horse can be characterized by *Mishka* the Russian Bear on the one hand, and as John Bull on the other, the English Uncle Sam and champion of the free market system. There is no "right" side. The bloody conflict of world wars was intended to exhaust it so that a New Socialist Order would replace the existing one and pave the way for World Government. The territory of the old Roman Empire became divided by an "Iron Curtain" with Communism rising up on one side of it, and Capitalism remaining on the other side. Thus the bear rises on one side.

Mystery of the Great Sword

The rider of the Red Horse was given a great sword. The author recounts events taking place at the Teheran Conference in 1943 between Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin. In this conference Roosevelt and Churchill ceded Eastern Europe to Stalin in exchange for his support against Hitler. As a token of gratitude, Churchill presented Stalin with the Sword of Stalingrad. Engraved upon it were the words, "TO THE STEEL HEARTED CITIZENS OF STALINGRAD – THE GIFT OF KING GEORGE VI – IN TOKEN OF THE HOMAGE OF THE BRITISH PEOPLE". It is as if the King of England passed the baton of world power from the White Horse of Royalty to the Red Horse of Revolution.



Mystery of the Three Ribs

Thus God brought a trance upon Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and filled up the flesh in its place. Then the Lord God built the rib He took from Adam into a woman, and brought her to him. So Adam said, "This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh. She shall be called woman, because she was taken out of man. For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh." Now the two were naked, both Adam and his wife, and were not ashamed.

Genesis 2:21-25, OSB (LXX)

The rib is Womankind. In the bear's mouth are three women that say to it, "Arise, eat much flesh!" World feminism rose "in the mouth" of Communism. A careful review of feminist history shows that all the early leaders were openly Communist. Feminism produced three movements beginning in the same year as the Communist Manifesto. Women's Suffrage for voting rights occurred between 1848 and 1920. The "second wave" or Modern Woman movement occurred from 1920-1965, emphasizing the right to smoke, leave the home, and do "man's" work. The Woman's Liberation movement of the early 1970's was the third rib, emphasizing reproductive rights.

Feminism is the voice and power behind the right to free abortions on demand. With the cry, *Arise, eat much flesh* it has killed millions of innocent babies in a worldwide slaughter that dwarfs into insignificance the casualties of all the wars that have been fought during the same time. Women around the globe joined the rebellion of the Red Horse to overthrow the roles of men in their households and the morals of the Church over marriage, sex, and child-bearing.



HOMEWORK FOR WEEK 6

Read through the sections in *Birthing Eternity* that concern the ride of the Red Horse. Next week you (the group) will discuss your answers to the following questions:

1. When kings ruled the earth, men fought in wars as a duty of loyalty to them. Politics was a matter for kings and their ministers to decide. What changed with the riding out of the Red Horse? To what did men give their loyalty when their kings were overthrown?
2. The result of the Red Horse's ride was revolution, but it was not only against kings and property owners. Name several other institutions that have been transformed by revolution beginning in 1848 until the present time.
3. Hegel described the mechanism that brings a population to the boiling point so that they fight, and then to exhaustion so that they demand change in the way they are governed. This mechanism works on a grand scale toward world government, but also effects national and local politics, and even families. In each of the institutions you listed in question #2, how does unending conflict contribute toward global changes in governance?
4. Who benefits the most from this kind of conflict? How do they increase the benefits they derive from it?
5. Suppose the White Horse rule of Church and king over the earth to be Hegel's *thesis*, or status quo. Suppose the Red Horse to be his *anti-thesis*, or the opposition that produces conflict. What, in your view, is the *synthesis* or compromise that this conflict has produced world-wide?
6. What lies do we tell ourselves when we engage in politics or revolution of any kind to justify our participation in it? What personal sins do these lies cover up?

WEEK 7 – THE BLACK HORSE

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

The Rise of Black Power

The White and Red Horses are easier to identify because the events that point to them are settled history. Moving forward from the Cold War, the things of history are within the memory of the living. “Black Power” was a cry I heard as a boy living near Oakland, California, the birthplace of the Black Panthers. When I was born, Many African Americans were employed in menial occupations like farming, sanitation, cooking, and housekeeping. At the time of this writing, the President of the United States and leader of the free world is black. How did this happen? Is this part of the ride of the Horses of the Apocalypse?

By 1952, blacks around the world began to throw off the vestiges of white colonial rule worldwide. The push for equal rights in the US occurred simultaneously with the ending of foreign rule in the African nations. The black horse in Greek is the *melas* horse, the root of our word *melanin*, the pigment that makes skin black. *Brown v. Board of Education* was in 1952, ending school segregation. Beginning in December of 1951 with Libya, and ending in April of 1980 with South Africa, every nation in Africa was free and independent. For this to happen in just 28 years is hard to grasp in its impact upon the world.

Mystery of the Scales

The word translated “scales” in this verse is *zygos*, a word that means “yoke” in every other instance it is used (example Mt 11:29, “take my yoke upon you, and learn of me”). The rider of this horse has a yoke in his hand, a symbol of bondage. How can he free the Black man yet bring bondage upon the whole world? The clue to this is the voice from the altar, which says a denarius (a day’s wages) will only buy a quart of wheat or three quarts of barley. By the end of this ride, a working man will not be able to amass any kind of wealth, for it will take all his income to provide bread for his family. Even those with high wages are affected as their investments in stocks, bonds, currencies, and retirement funds are regularly raided, often leaving less than they invested after inflation.

During this period of time the availability of unsecured debt has brought about personal and national financial bondage of a magnitude that is hard to comprehend. Debt is ubiquitous: mortgages, student loans, credit card balances, the national debt, and the global wealth-killer *inflation*.



Mystery of the Grain, Oil, and Wine

Genetically modified organisms (GMOs) have revolutionized farming practices world-wide in an attempt to get more food from less arable land without losing crops to pests and plant diseases. Foods are cheaply mass-produced and treated with pesticides, herbicides, preservatives, and flavor-enhancing chemicals that are toxic over time and reduce our ability to stay well. Two industries have gone largely unharmed: the oil industry, and the alcoholic beverage industry. The whole earth has become addicted to the wealth black petroleum generates, as all the classes numb themselves into a stupor with wine, beer, and spirits. Whatever else happens to the world economy, no lasting harm is allowed for the oil or the wine.

The Face of a Man

The Black Horse was introduced by the third living creature, the one with the face of a man. Simultaneous with the rise of civil rights, we have seen a new world view replace the hypocritical Christianity of the White Horse, and the failed Atheism of the Red. Secular Humanism is the world's answer or *synthesis* of the two extremes, the politically-correct worldview today. Christians favor the rule of God. Atheists favor survival of the fittest. The answer was to say that man is the image of God and fittest to rule.

Mystery of the Leopard

The figure of the leopard was well-known in John's time as the mount of Dionysus or Bacchus, the god of wine and ecstasy. Images usually had him riding upon a leopard's back, or reclining on a leopard's skin. No other beast was as readily associated with intoxication and "free love" as the leopard—symbolic of the "sexual revolution" and substance addictions that swallowed the world whole during the civil rights decades. In the mosaic to the right, his scarf is a snake. It appears to be a key to understanding the Black Horse and its rider:



Woe to you that desire the day of the LORD! To what end is it for you? The day of the LORD is darkness, and not light. As if a man did flee from a lion, and a bear met him; or went into the house, and leaned his hand on the wall, and a serpent bit him.

Amos 5:18-19 KJV

First the lion came conquering, and then a bear rising up and devouring. Just when the world feels at ease for a moment, a snake bites him inside his own home. The Hebrew for snake is *nashak*, which has two meanings: to bite, and to pay interest. The four wings on the leopard's back give it power to sweep across the earth in just a few decades. A possible suggestion for the four heads is

four concurrent world systems of Democracy, Socialism, Communism, and Sharia competing to rule the earth in our times.

HOMEWORK FOR WEEK 8

Read through the sections in *Birth of Eternity* that concern the ride of the Black Horse. Next week you (the group) will discuss your answers to the following questions:

1. Read Matthew 24:6-7. Look up the Greek word translated “nation” in verse 7. What does this word mean? Does it point toward the ride of the Black Horse? If so, how? If not, why?
2. Which translation of *zygos* in Rev. 6:5 makes more sense to you—scales, or a yoke? Why?
3. What impact did the freedom of Africa from outside rule and equal treatment of Blacks in the free world have on the way political power is exercised in the world today? Is the political system *more*, or is it *less* hypocritical in the way it treats minorities today? Explain your answer.
4. What are your impressions of Barak Obama as a US President and world leader? Do you think his election is connected to the ride of the Black Horse, or is that too far of a stretch? Explain your answer.
5. Imagine a hypothetical world in which the majority of voters and leaders were Black. Do you think governments would move further toward Democracy, Socialism, Communism, or Sharia?
6. In the image of the Pagan god Dionysus, he has a snake for a scarf, which he is holding open to reveal his nakedness. Does this image disturb you in any way? What does it say about the generation in which we live?

WEEK 9 – THE GREEN HORSE

When he opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of a beast saying, “Come.” And I saw a pale horse, and the name of him who sat upon it was Death, and Sheol joined him and authority was given to him over a fourth of The Earth to kill with the sword, with starvation, with Death, and by the animals of The Earth.

Revelation 6:7-8, Aramaic Bible in Plain English

The Chloros Horse

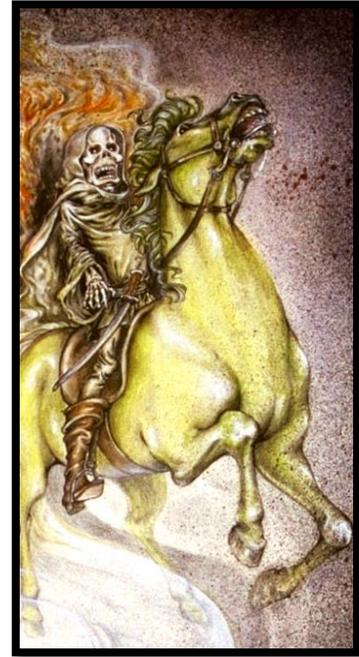
The Aramaic version renders the four “living creatures” as beasts because of their faces, but we should not doubt that they are angels because of Ezekiel’s vision of the same four beings (Ez. 1:10). Different versions translate the color of this horse as pale, ashen, sickly pale or pale green, but the Greek word *chloros* simply means green. We get our word chlorophyll from it, the color of leaves and grass. If this global movement flies a flag, it is green.

In the OT, *Death and Sheol* are frequently mentioned together.² Some English translations use *Death and Hell*. I chose this translation because *Sheol* means the grave, the pit, or the abode of the dead. *Hades* and *Hell* do not always mean this. The rider is Death, and with him is his usual sidekick, the Grave. Proverbs 27:30 and 30:15-16 tell us that *Sheol*—or the Grave—is never satisfied or says “Enough”. No matter how much death there is, it always has room for more.

The author proposes two candidates that are in process of sweeping the world beneath a green banner: Environmentalism, and Islam. Not every Islamic country has a green flag, but on the map of flags to the right it is the dominant color in the Islamic world.

Power Over a Fourth of the Earth

One fourth of the earth’s land mass (excluding oceans) is .25 x 149 million km² or 37.25 million km². 28.5 km² (or 19%) is currently within Muslim-majority nations, but that area is still increasing. One-fourth of the earth’s surface area (including oceans) is .25 x 510 million km² or 127.5 km². The nations that ratified the Kyoto Protocol (starting in 1995) make up 127,213,206 km². Rounding-off to the nearest whole number, that is 25% of the earth. The United Nations said the Kyoto Protocol “provides the essential architecture for any future international agreement on climate change.” It plans to do this by redistributing wealth from developed nations to the under-developed world. This amounts to World Socialism with



² Psalm 49:14, 55:15, 89:48, 116:3, Is. 28:15-18, Hab. 2:5

respect to the earth's wealth and natural resources. International authority will prevail as the "answer" for the conflict between rising population and the environment. In Hegelian terms, an environment that supports mankind is the *thesis* or current condition. The Environmentalist Movement gives rising population as the *anti-thesis* or destructive force on the environment. Their *synthesis*, or solution to this problem is already obvious: reduce population as quickly as possible to a much smaller "sustainable" number of people. This will be achieved in four ways by Death and the Grave.

Sword, Starvation, Death, and Beasts

Rev. 6:8 mentions four ways that Death will come. The sword is usually taken as a symbol representing any kind of military power, but it may just mean what it says, a sharpened piece of steel. In nations that adopt Sharia Law, the life of a person who refuses to convert to Islam is forfeit. The prescribed penalty in the Koran is beheading with a sword. In Revelation 20:4 John sees "the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshipped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands." From this, it appears that beheading will continue under the reign of antichrist in a manner similar to Sharia Law.

Starvation can happen for different reasons, but in recent history much of it has been deliberate. Calls for food aid in the third world cause developed nations and aid groups to send food and medical supplies into devastated areas, but delivering it is problematic. The warring factions attack airports, docks, and food convoys to take it for their supporters, while deliberately starving out their political opponents and any not taking sides.

How does a person die by "death?" The author proposes the *fatwa*, or death sentence, as a possible meaning of this. When Islamic religious leaders proclaim "death" for someone or for some group, the faithful rise up and kill that person or group. We have seen it used for authors, cartoonists, and movie makers who say or write anything about Muhammad. Historically the *fatwa* has been used against entire nations.

Beasts or animals are the last method of bringing death under the Green Horse. As I am writing this in January 2015, Oxitec, an English genetic firm has produced mosquitoes that can mate with natural mosquitoes in South Florida to kill their offspring in an effort to control the pesticide-resistant carriers of Dengue and Break-bone fever. This is a beneficial example, but it is not difficult to imagine mosquitoes or other animals engineered to bite humans with a deadly pathogen. Revelation 9:5-10 speaks of God responding to this by sending locusts with scorpion stingers with specific instructions on what they can feed on and whom to attack.

This week in Foreign Affairs, a publication of the Council on Foreign Relations, Jamie Metzl wrote,

The prospect of genetic engineering will be exciting to some, frightening to others, and challenging for all. If not adequately addressed, it will also likely lead to major conflict both within societies and globally. But although the science of human genetic engineering is charging forward at an exponential rate, the global policy framework for ensuring this scientific progress does not lead to destabilizing conflict barely exists at all. The time has come for a meaningful dialogue on the national security implications of the human genetic revolution that can lay the conceptual foundation

for a future global policy structure seeking to prevent dangerous future conflict and abuse.

Mystery of the Eagle's Face

Each horse was introduced by a living creature with a different face. This last one has the face of an eagle. The Eagle represents the omniscience of God, the all-seeing eye above us in the heavens; but in the time in which we live governments have satellites in orbit and drones in the skies capable of seeing and recording the movements of every living thing on the planet. This last world power will have unprecedented knowledge about everyone, friend and foe alike. If knowledge is power, then this kind of knowledge will eventually be used to exert power and suppress resistance.

We are the first generation of the Church in which these things appear not as distant future prophecies, but as present world dangers. Each of the problems that accompany the Green Horse demands a global solution. As Hegel predicted, when the people become exhausted by conflict, they will accept the solution, which will require a world government.

The Last Beast

The last beast that Daniel saw rise from the sea is not one found in nature as the lion, bear, and leopard are. It has iron teeth, ten horns, and the rest he leaves to the imagination, but John fills in the details. It has the mouth of a lion, the feet of a bear, and the body of a leopard. This would seem to be symbolic rather than a literal beast, except that today our genetic engineers are experimentally combining parts from humans and animals to make terrifying new chimeras.

This monster is a major character in the Book of Revelation, called *the beast*, as we learn that he will head the last world empire before Christ returns. As this beast is a chimera of those that came before, he will possess elements from the previous world empires and movements, but eclipse them all in ferocity, deception, and inhumanity.

The Fifth Seal

Birth of Eternity closes with the recognition that if we are living in the days of the last horse, then the next event that is before us is the opening of the fifth seal:

When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed.

Revelation 6:9-11 NKJV

The author challenges believers on their readiness to become martyrs for the word of God and the testimony they hold. In many parts of the world this is already occurring. Many believers fell in wars between competing powers in Europe. They fell in great numbers before the tide of Communist revolutions. They have died in genocides in the struggle for self-determination in Africa,

Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Syria, and in other parts of the world. Perhaps our view of events written upon the scroll with seven seals has been too narrow and futuristic.

HOMEWORK FOR WEEK 10 – FINAL

Read through the sections in *Birthing Eternity* that concern the ride of the Green Horse. Next week you (the group) will discuss your answers to the following questions:

1. Read Psalms 49:14, 55:15, 89:48, 116:3; Is. 28:15-18; and Hab. 2:5. What do these verses tell us about the two riders of the Green Horse?

2. The author proposes two “green” movements that are sweeping across the earth today: Environmentalism and Islam. Both believe firmly that the way to a better world is through the elimination of a majority of earth’s population. Both also hope to establish justice globally through a single world authority or Caliphate. Do you think either of them deserves to be called “Death?” Do you think either of them deserves comparison with the grave? Why or why not?

3. Read Matthew Chapter 24 carefully. In your view, is Jesus talking about the same things as the Book of Revelation? Why or why not?

4. If your answer to question 3 was affirmative, then which verses from Matthew 24 would you put with each of the seals?
 - a. First Seal (White Horse) –
 - b. Second Seal (Red Horse) –
 - c. Third Seal (Black Horse) –
 - d. Fourth Seal (Green Horse) –
 - e. Fifth Seal (The Martyrs) –
 - f. Sixth Seal (Cosmic Disturbances)-
 - g. Seventh Seal (Judgments) –

5. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, and go on to read 5:1-11 from the next chapter.
 - a. What is Paul comparing to the labor pains of a pregnant woman? Who are “they” that will say, “peace and safety?”

 - b. When do you think the events in 4:16-17 will occur? Before or after which seal? What Bible passages support your answer?

 - c. What do you think 1 Th. 5:9 means? Does he mean physical salvation, or eternal salvation here?

TEACHER KEY FOR WEEK 2 - INTRODUCTION

Take an overview of the entire study by reading Revelation Chapters 1-6, and Daniel Chapter 7. Next week you (the group) will discuss your answers to the following questions:

7. Review Rev. 4. Who is seated upon the throne? What verses tell us this?
V2 One like a jasper and sardius; v5 with seven lamps of fire (all light); v8 creatures say, "Lord God Almighty" (3 names) to Him; v11 elders say "You created all things"; 5:6-7 the Lamb with seven horns (all power) and seven eyes (all seeing) came and took...out of the right hand of Him. Interesting, that the seven lamps of fire in 4:5 are the same as the seven eyes of the Lamb in 5:6. Both are called the seven Spirits of God. John saw a Trinity of sevens occupying the throne, with the creatures saying "Holy, holy, holy"; 3 sevens = 3 holies.
8. Are the four living creatures animals, human, or angelic? Where in the Old Testament do we meet four creatures with the same faces? **Angelic. They are the same as the cherubim that carry the chariot of the Lord upon their backs in Ezekiel 1. Their faces are described in Ez. 1:10 with the faces of a man, lion, ox, and eagle. John lists them: lion, calf, man, and eagle.**

In the Bible, what does a lion represent? Give a verse. **The king. Key verse Genesis 49:9**

In the Bible, what does an ox represent? Give a verse. **A servant. Ex. 20:17; 1Ti.5:17-18**

In the Bible, what does an eagle represent? Give a verse. **All-seeing God in heaven. Ex. 19:4**

Why is the face of a man in this grouping? How is he like the other three? **2 ways:**

unregenerated, man is a beast; but in Christ we are God's image upon the earth. Christ is like the lion (a king), the ox (a servant), a man (the second Adam), and the eagle (divine).

9. What other OT prophet saw "four great beasts" come up out of the sea? What kind of beasts were they? What does the angel tell him they represent? **Daniel 7:3, 17. A lion with wings, a bear, a leopard with 4 heads and 4 bird wings, and a beast with iron teeth. They are kingdoms.**
10. What does the number four signify in the Bible? Give a verse. What does the number four signify in physical science?

The temporal world of four dimensions: height, width, length, and time. Is. 11:12 four corners of the earth. Gen 2:10 the four rivers that water the earth. Jer. 49:36 four quarters of heaven (space). Ez. 37:9 the four winds-north, south, east, and west.

11. Based on your previous experience with Bible study, do you think the four faces and four beasts are related or not related in meaning?

Check one: **Probably related** Probably not related

Why do you think this?

The Holy Spirit is consistent in his metaphors. Find out what it means the first time and it means the same thing every time.

12. Review Rev. 5. What is the object in the right hand of the Person on the throne? **A scroll.** There are numerous speculations about what this writing is. Think carefully about the

whole Book of Revelation—the big picture, not the details. Think about the Person on the throne and what he knows that no one can find out. Who opens and reads it? Think about the separate scrolls that make up the Old Testament. Where did they come from, and what do they contain?

Based on your answers to the above questions, what do you think this scroll is?

In a synagogue, the books of the Old Testament are kept on separate scrolls. A scroll in this context is a book containing God's plan and decrees, which no man can ever find out unless the Holy Spirit reveals it (Rev 1:10). This scroll is a revelation that in subsequent chapters is opened one seal at a time until is completely read. Only Jesus can read it, because he is the author of it (as the Father - Is.9:6 calls him this), and the fulfiller of it (the Son). Remember that Jesus is the WORD OF GOD (Jn. 1:1). Thus this scroll is the Revelation of Jesus Christ (Rev. 1:1). With the exception of the part John was commanded not to write (Rev. 10:4), we have this scroll in front of us right now.

TEACHER KEY FOR WEEK 4 – THE WHITE HORSE

Read through the sections in Birthing Eternity that concern the ride of the white horse. Next week you (the group) will discuss your answers to the following questions:

7. Read Genesis 1:14-19. What did God create on Day Four, and what do these things represent? **Lights for illumination, signs, and seasons. He made the sun, moon, and stars.**
 - Did the 4th dimension of time exist upon earth prior to Day Four? **God said, “let them be for days and years.”**
 - Who is the “greater light” that rules over the Kingdom of Day? Give a verse. **Ps 19:1-7; 84:11; Is 9:2; Mal 4:2; Mt 4:16; Lk 1:78; Ro 10:18 (applying Ps 19); 2Pe 1:19; Rev 1:16, 2:28, 22:16; the sun rose on the 4th day, Jesus was born in the 4th millennium—for evening came before morning in creation.**
 - Who is the “lesser light” that rules over the Kingdom of Night? Give a verse. **2 Cor 11:14; Eph 5:8-14, 6:12; 1 Jn 2:8-11**
 - Who is portrayed in the Bible to be like the stars of heaven? Give a verse. **Gen 37:9; Job 38:7**
 - What are signs? Will there be signs in the sun, moon, and stars in the end times? **Lk 21:25**
 - How do these things help us understand the four horsemen of Revelation 6? **There are seven seals that reveal the times following John, which I take to mean following the Roman Empire (the fourth beast). The four horses speak of global movements, not local ones. The riders of the four horses appear to be human, but they are propelled by the horses in a pre-determined path as are the sun, moon, and stars. The struggle is between the greater and lesser lights for dominance over the earth. The Church replaced the Roman Empire and literally dominated the world, but as the seals are opened she holds less and less influence. As the fifth seal opens, the remaining saints are martyred by John’s composite beast. When the sixth seal is opened, the signs in the sun, moon, and stars are given.**

2. Review Ezekiel 1, Daniel 7, and Revelation 13. Ezekiel 1 was definitely written in 593 BC, while the estimated date of Daniel 7 is 54 years later.³ Did Daniel have the Book of Ezekiel at the time he wrote his vision? **We don’t know, but it is likely due to his position.** If the three visions are related in your view, what theme do they have in common? **Ezekiel 1 is not about future events or kingdoms, it is God’s personal arrival in judgment upon Judah for her adultery toward God. If there is a common theme, it has to be the impending arrival of God to judge the world and exalt his Church.**

3. Based on your answer to questions 1 and 2, are we justified in drawing upon the visions of Ezekiel and Daniel to understand the four horsemen of the Apocalypse? What is the “lynchpin” or joining image that ties these visions to Revelation 13? Give the verses. **1-8**

I think we can justify doing this. The lynchpin is “THE beast”, the most terrible of all the beasts, with iron teeth, seven heads, and ten horns; with the mouth of a lion, the feet of a bear, and the body of a leopard. The uniting figure bringing judgment is antichrist.

³ <http://biblehub.com/timeline/old.htm>

- 4 How do we know when the opening of the first seal takes place in Revelation 6:1? Where is Jesus when he opens the seal? Can we be certain that it is still in the future? If so, show it from scripture. If not, then is it reasonable to say that Jesus may have begun opening the seals of the scroll and that we are living in the end times?

We don't know, unless history reveals that it has been fulfilled in full detail. In Rev 6:1 Jesus is at the throne of God where he takes and opens the scroll. The NT says he is there right now, acting as our High Priest (Rom 8:34, Heb 7:25, 1 Jn. 2:1). There is no biblical mandate to put this scene in our future, though it was a future event when John wrote it. Revelation is not entirely sequential, as indeed the whole Bible is not. Genesis 1 gives the outline, and Genesis 2 goes back to fill in some details. Deuteronomy goes back to summarize and clarify Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers. Kings gives the account of the kings, but Chronicles goes back and covers the same time period from the viewpoint of the prophets. The prophets were arranged in the Bible according to the length of their scrolls, not in sequential order, with the large books first, small books next, and the least accepted ones (the Writings) last. Revelation does the same thing by introducing broad themes, and then going back in time to fill in the details. This means an event can be introduced in Revelation 6 that is detailed later in Revelation 13. This is the way Jews write a book.

I have long considered the length of time since Jesus rose from the tomb and wondered why it is taking so long for his words to be fulfilled. Perhaps they are already being fulfilled, but we have not noticed it because we are part of them.

- 5 In your view, based on your answers above, is the bow in the rider's hand a literal bow—a weapon of times past—or does it represent something bowlike in the future?

I think it is a bow that shoots arrows, as God states, and not something that fires nuclear missiles. The rider was given power (a crown) because he was willing to ride out to conquer the world with his bowmen, infantry, and ships. This happened five centuries ago, before tanks, bombers, and missiles.

- 6 Many commentators call the rider of the white horse Antichrist, and say he must be Assyrian (Kurdish) because he carries a bow. It is true that the Assyrians prided themselves on their horseback archers. Can you refute this view from your research on the questions above?

I think we can. Antichrist is the composite beast who follows the four beast kingdoms, but retains parts of their natures and brings them all back to life. If he rides any of the horses to world power it would be the last one, because when he comes judgment follows soon after. If the Ride of the White Horse was fulfilled under European Colonialism, then it cannot be the antichrist.

TEACHER KEY FOR WEEK 6 – THE RED HORSE

Read through the sections in *Birthing Eternity* that concern the ride of the Red Horse. Next week you (the group) will discuss your answers to the following questions:

7. When kings ruled the earth, men fought in wars as a duty of loyalty to them. Politics was a matter for kings and their ministers to decide. What changed with the riding out of the Red Horse? To what did men give their loyalty when their kings were overthrown?

Men began to give their loyalty to ideals and world-views, making politics a public matter.

8. The result of the Red Horse's ride was revolution, but it was not only against kings and property owners. Name several other institutions that have been transformed by revolution beginning in 1848 until the present time.

Democracy (one man, one vote) and representative governments replaced royal power. These systems submit minorities to the will of the majority, setting up the primary conflicts for the ride of the Black Horse. Majorities are won through selective reporting of facts and through propaganda. This poisons ideals and world-views in the public arena, eroding the loyalties of the governed to the point where continual revolution is possible.

Feminism has eroded the roles of men in both public and domestic arenas, and the role of the Church in safeguarding marriage, sex, and the right to be born.

9. Hegel described the mechanism that brings a population to the boiling point so that they fight, and then to exhaustion so that they demand change in the way they are governed. This mechanism works on a grand scale toward world government, but also effects national and local politics, and even families. In each of the institutions you listed in question #2, how does unending conflict contribute toward global changes in governance?

As long as there is disagreement, people can be divided and their attention and energy diverted to fighting each other instead of preserving the current system (democracy). If the differences between Republican and Democrat become wide enough, it opens the door for a new party (Socialist, Libertarian, Tea Party, or Green Party) to gather support and sweep both of them away by offering to change the system.

People will always vote to take resources from those who possess them and redistribute them to themselves; hence Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and the Affordable Care Act all move the US toward Socialism. World government will also take from productive economies and give it to "programs" for the poor that only insure they will remain dependent, while the administrators of the programs become very rich indeed.

10. Who benefits the most from this kind of conflict? How do they increase the benefits they derive from it?

Governments benefit by growing in size and power to "address" problems. Government employees benefit. Programs for the redistribution of wealth and their employees benefit. Non-Profits benefit. Political action groups benefit. Labor unions benefit. The easiest way to increase the benefits of conflict is to fund both sides. If an organization makes donations to opposing parties, they are benefitting.

11. Suppose the White Horse rule of Church and king over the earth to be Hegel's *thesis*, or existing system. Suppose the Red Horse to be his *anti-thesis*, or the opposition that produces conflict. What, in your view, is the *synthesis* or compromise that this conflict has produced world-wide?

Kingdoms were the existing system in the West with republics in the East. Communism took the republics down brutally and oppressed their populations. The West embraced democracy and capitalism which resulted in a difficult life for the majority, who voted for social programs to make life easier. The result has been that both the communists and the democracies have moved toward Socialism, a system all now embrace.

12. What lies do we tell ourselves when we engage in politics or revolution of any kind to justify our participation in it? What personal sins do these lies cover up?

We either tell ourselves that we fight for principles and a better world, or we say that we are just fighting for fairness and equality. The sin this covers is that we think human action can heal the world. God's way for us is to endure hardship cheerfully and to love our neighbor.

HOMEWORK FOR WEEK 8 – THE BLACK HORSE

Read through the sections in *Birthing Eternity* that concern the ride of the Black Horse. Next week you (the group) will discuss your answers to the following questions:

7. Read Matthew 24:6-7. Look up the Greek word translated “nation” in verse 7. What does this word mean? Does it point toward the ride of the Black Horse? If so, how? If not, why? *Ethnos is the word from which we get “ethnic”. Jesus may be speaking specifically about racial struggle, ethnic cleansing, and genocides rather than wars.*
8. Which translation of *zygos* in Rev. 6:5 makes more sense to you—scales, or a yoke? Why? *I like both, but the Greek word means yoke. The scales are a symbol of justice, and so this rider comes preaching a message of freedom and social justice. What men do with their new freedoms is embrace the gods of debt, intoxication, and sex; thus it places them back under a yoke of slavery again.*
9. What impact did the freedom of Africa from outside rule and equal treatment of Blacks in the free world have on the way political power is exercised in the world today? Is the political system *more*, or is it *less* hypocritical in the way it treats minorities today? Explain your answer.
Equal rights for Blacks became equal rights for everyone, including gays, lesbians, trans-genders, alcoholics, drug addicts, prison inmates, illegal aliens, and polygamists. What used to be sin is now an occasion for a parade. Governments thrive on this because sin increases social problems, and the answer to social problems is to create more government programs, mandates, and power. The infusion of free money into governmental programs is also intoxicating and addicting, producing national debt on a scale never seen in history.
10. What are your impressions of Barak Obama as a US President and world leader? Do you think his election is connected to the ride of the Black Horse, or is that too far of a stretch? Explain your answer.
In my view he is an embodiment of the Black Horse’s Rider. No person in history has presided over as large a redistribution of wealth or debt. Under his administration states have been encouraged to legalize pot and declare the war on drugs a loss. He displays a mixture of democratic, socialistic, communistic, and Sharia values in his words and actions.
11. Imagine a hypothetical world in which the majority of voters and leaders were Black. Do you think governments would move further toward Democracy, Socialism, Communism, or Sharia? *African republics seem to begin with democracy, but when a party comes to power it crumbles into Socialism (spending) and military dictatorship to avoid losing it. In Islamic Africa there is new push to use genocides and forced conversions to establish Sharia.*
12. In the image of the Pagan god Dionysus, he has a snake for a scarf, which he is holding up to reveal his nakedness. Does this image disturb you in any way? What does it say about the generation in which we live? *Yes it does. It reminds me of Ham showing Noah’s nakedness. The snake’s beguilement of Eve exposed their nakedness, but God covered them. Our generation has little shame for any display of nudity. Instead we revel in sexual liberation, wine, and credit cards. Dionysus rules the earth today.*

HOMEWORK FOR WEEK 10 – THE GREEN HORSE

Read through the sections in *Birthing Eternity* that concern the ride of the Green Horse. Next week you (the group) will discuss your answers to the following questions:

6. Read Psalm 49; 55:15-19, 89:48, 116:1-16; Is. 28:15-18; and Hab. 1:13; 2:1-5. What do these verses tell us about Death and the Grave?

Ps. 49:7-“No man can redeem the life of another [from death]... v15-but God will redeem my life from the grave... v11 their tombs will remain their houses forever... v13-This is the fate of those who trust in themselves.” Ps. 55:16 “But I cry to God, and the Lord saves me.”

Ps116:14 “I will lift up the cup of salvation” to the Jew this is the Passover Cup remembering when death passed over them; to the Church it is the Eucharist. Ps. 116:15 “precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.” Is. 28 compares the “covenant” with death and the grave with making a lie their refuge and falsehood their hiding place. Hab. 1-2 The Lord names the Book of Revelation; it awaits an appointed time. In it he will reveal his answer to the wickedness of men. V4 – “He” is antichrist. “he is as greedy as the Grave, and like death is never satisfied.” Taken together, these verses seem to link Death and Grave to antichrist.

7. The author proposes two “green” movements that are sweeping across the earth today: Environmentalism and Islam. Both believe firmly that the way to a better world is either through the “conversion” or elimination of a majority of earth’s population. Both also hope to establish justice globally through a single world authority or Caliphate. Do you think either of them deserves to be called “Death?” Do you think either of them deserves comparison with the Grave? Why or why not? **I think it interesting that in the OT, Death always has a sidekick, Grave. In Revelation the last beast also has a sidekick, the false prophet. Environmentalism seeks world political power and may well set up a world authority framework that could be turned over to the antichrist in a future time of crisis, as suggested by Rev. 17:12. Islam seeks world spiritual power, so in that sense might reflect the false prophet as a new Mohammad.**

We have based all our Bible studies on the idea that prophesy is pattern and recurrence, so there have been many antichrists (1 Jn. 2:18; 2 Jn. 1:7 say this). The horses may also have multiple human riders, but one person seems to stand out as the most representative rider in any given moment. Today, the most influential person from the royal families is Prince Charles. The most influential Communist world leader is Vladimir Putin. The most influential world leader with black heritage is Barak Obama. It is still hard to say who will emerge as the human riders of the Green Horse.

8. Read Matthew Chapter 24 carefully. In your view, is Jesus talking about the same things as the Book of Revelation? Why or why not?

Yes. Jesus stated that the temple would be destroyed. The disciples asked two questions: When will these things be? What will be the sign of your coming and the end of the age? In this chapter Jesus answers both questions. We know that the temple was destroyed in 70 A.D. so a part of his answer points to that. We also know that he has not come to end the age, so parts of his answer point to events tied to the opening of the seven seals.

9. If your answer to question 3 was yes, then which verses from Matthew 24 would you put with each of the seals?
- First Seal (White Horse) – v6
 - Second Seal (Red Horse) – v7a
 - Third Seal (Black Horse) – v7b
 - Fourth Seal (Green Horse) – v8-9
 - Fifth Seal (The Martyrs) – v9-14
 - Sixth Seal (Cosmic Disturbances)- v29-31
 - Seventh Seal (Judgments) – v34-37
10. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, and go on to read 5:1-11 from the next chapter. For the full picture, read all of chapters 3-5.
- What is Paul comparing to the labor pains of a pregnant woman? Who are “they” that will say, “peace and safety?”
See v4 – “they” are in darkness, while “you” are sons of light. Those in darkness will have sudden destruction come like the labor pains upon a woman whose time has arrived.
 - What do you think 1 Th. 5:9 means? Does he mean physical salvation, or eternal salvation here?
See v10. This salvation comes to us “whether we wake or sleep” (meaning whether we are alive or dead when he comes – as alluded to in 4:15). The verse therefore does not mean the Church will be spared tribulation. See 1 Th. 3:4.
 - When do you think the events in 4:16-17 will occur? Before or after which seal? What Bible passages support your answer?
After much study and examination of the arguments, I just don’t know. The teachers I grew up under believe the rapture comes before the first seal, corresponding to John hearing a voice like a trumpet saying, “Come up here” in Rev. 4:1. That is my preferred view. I see Enoch and Lot as types of the Church. Enoch was taken to heaven before the flood; Lot was taken out of Sodom just before the fire fell. The types suggest that it is before the seventh seal when God pours out his judgments on the earth for the evil men have done. It also suggests that God may wait until men have done those evil things. “They will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for my name’s sake.” It could therefore follow the fifth seal. Mt. 24:29-30 appears to put it after the sixth seal. I have settled this matter in my mind by seeing Lot as a married man who was one with his wife. He was taken away, but she looked back and was not spared. He was “awake” and she was “asleep” to use Paul’s words. If the Church is like them, then some would be taken and others left (Mt. 24:40).
- Peter and Paul seem convinced that it could happen at any time (1 Pet. 4:7 and 1 Cor. 7:29-31). As far as I am concerned, today would be just perfect.
-Michael Mann