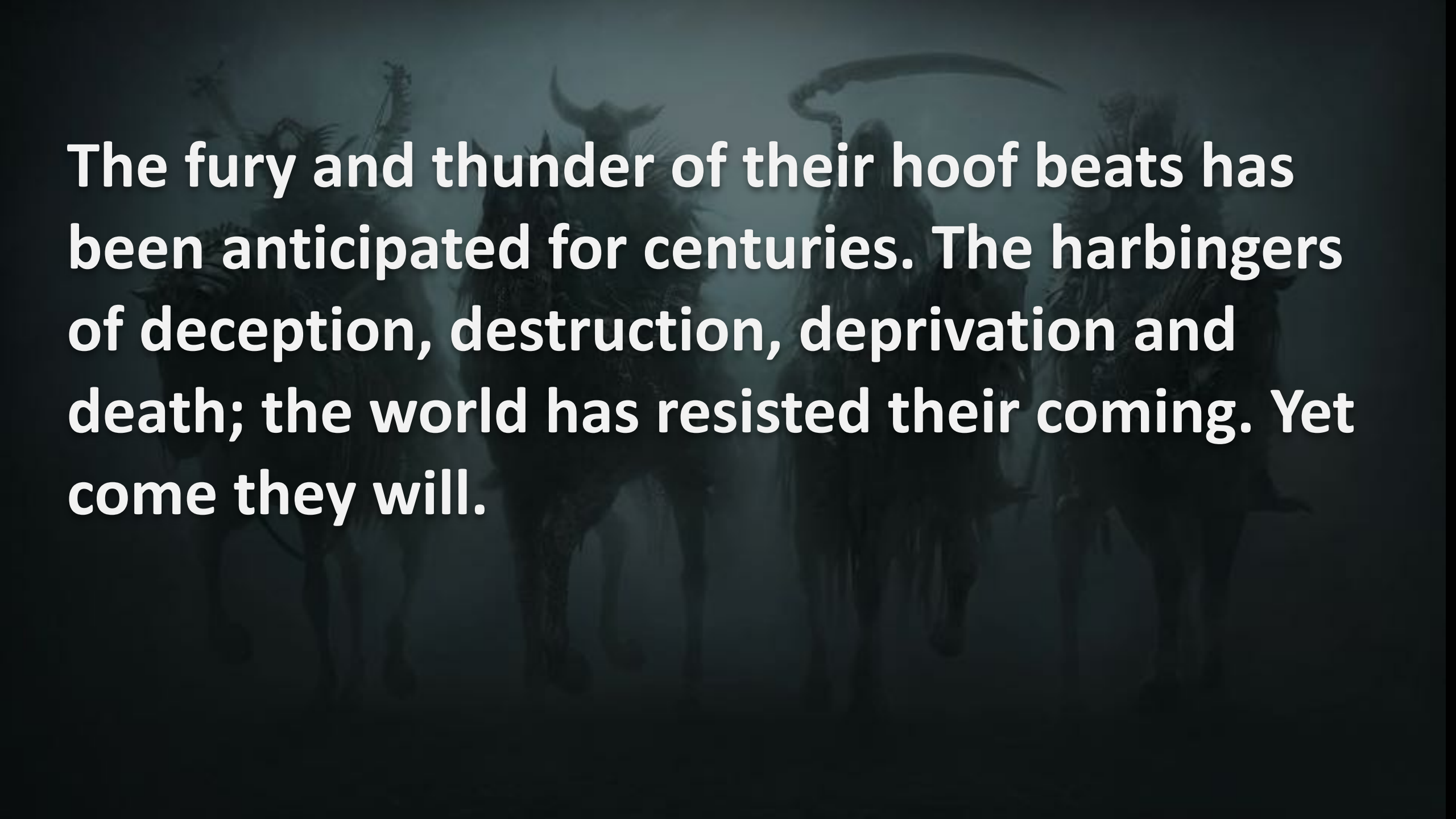
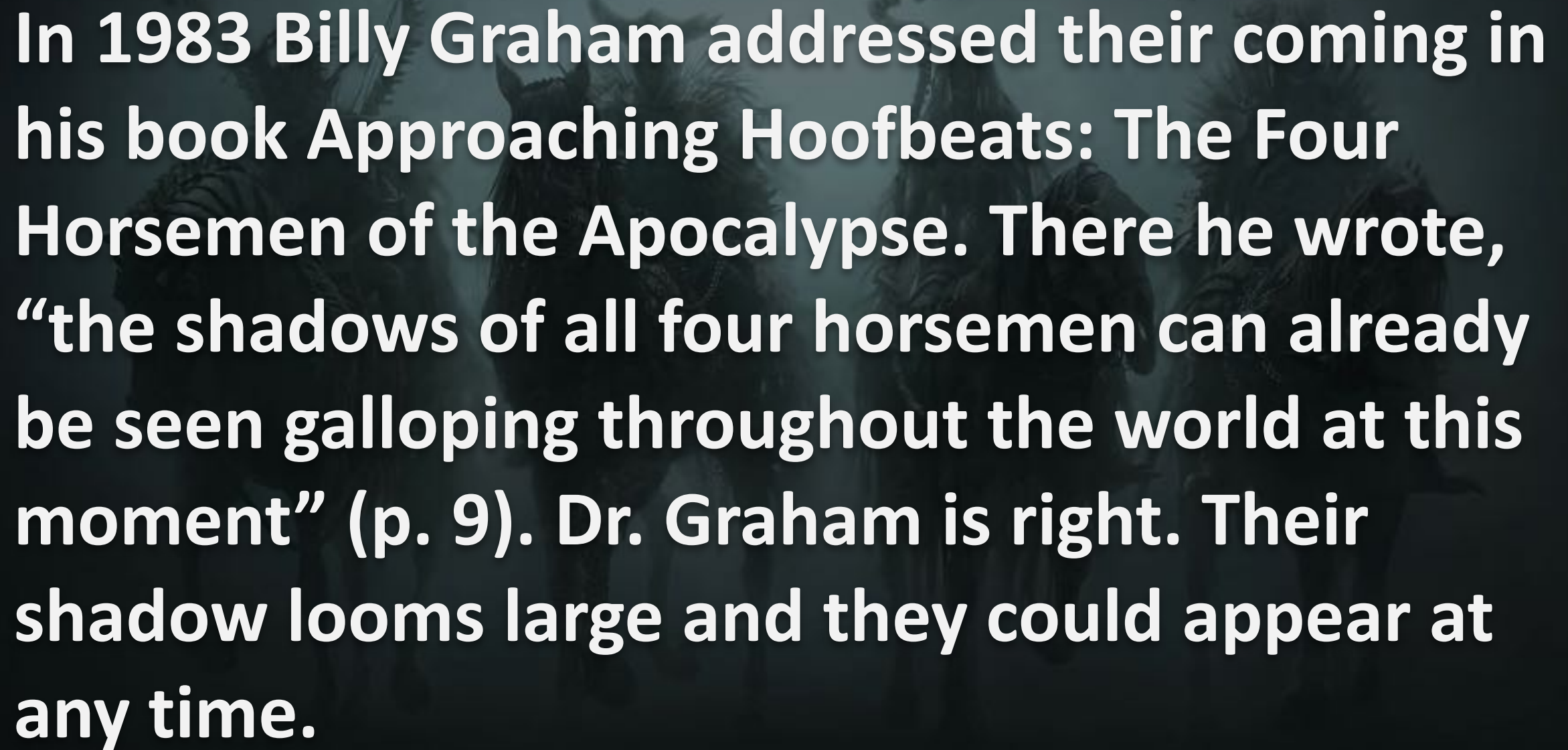




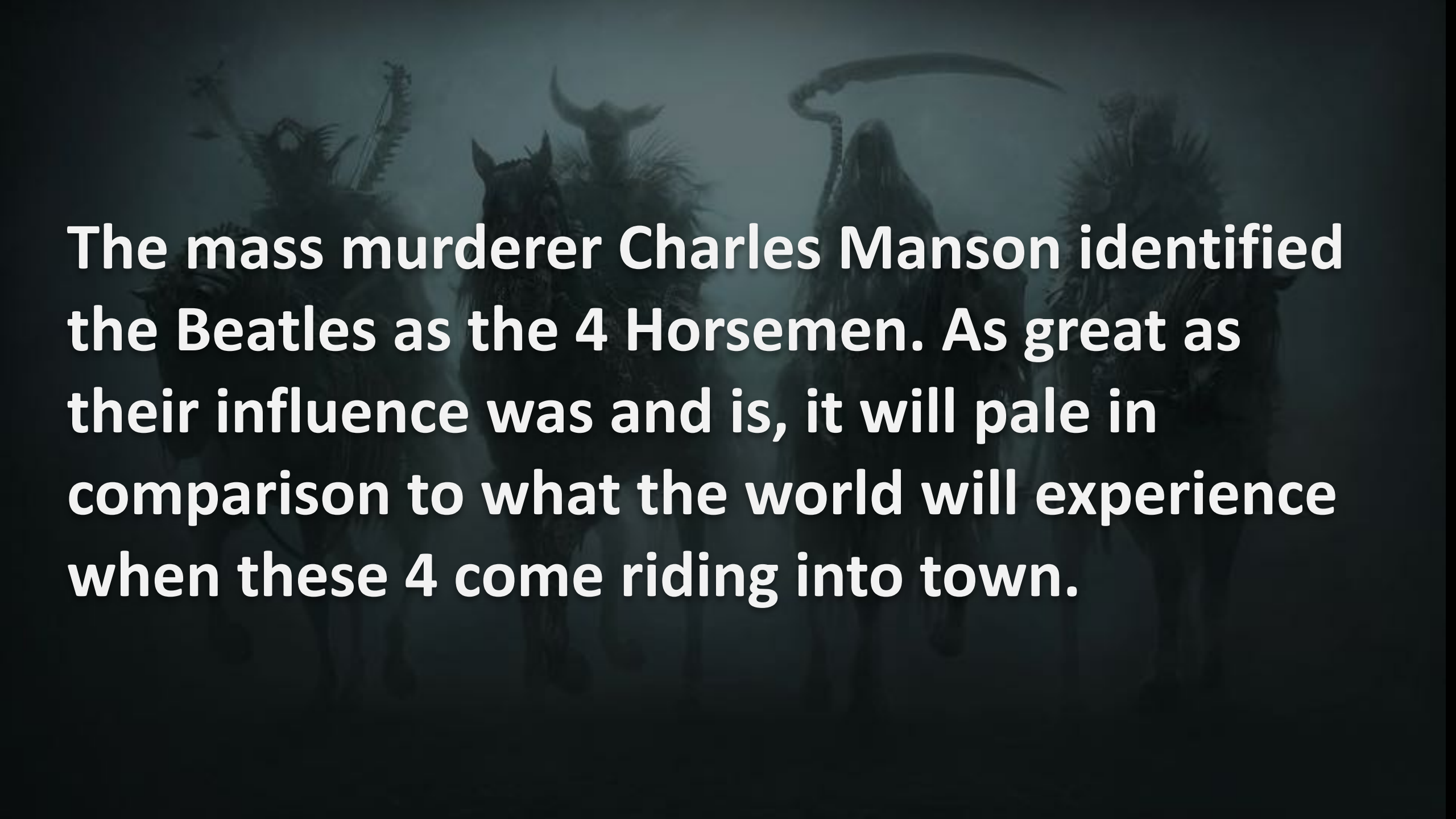
The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse
Revelation 6:1-8



The fury and thunder of their hoof beats has been anticipated for centuries. The harbingers of deception, destruction, deprivation and death; the world has resisted their coming. Yet come they will.

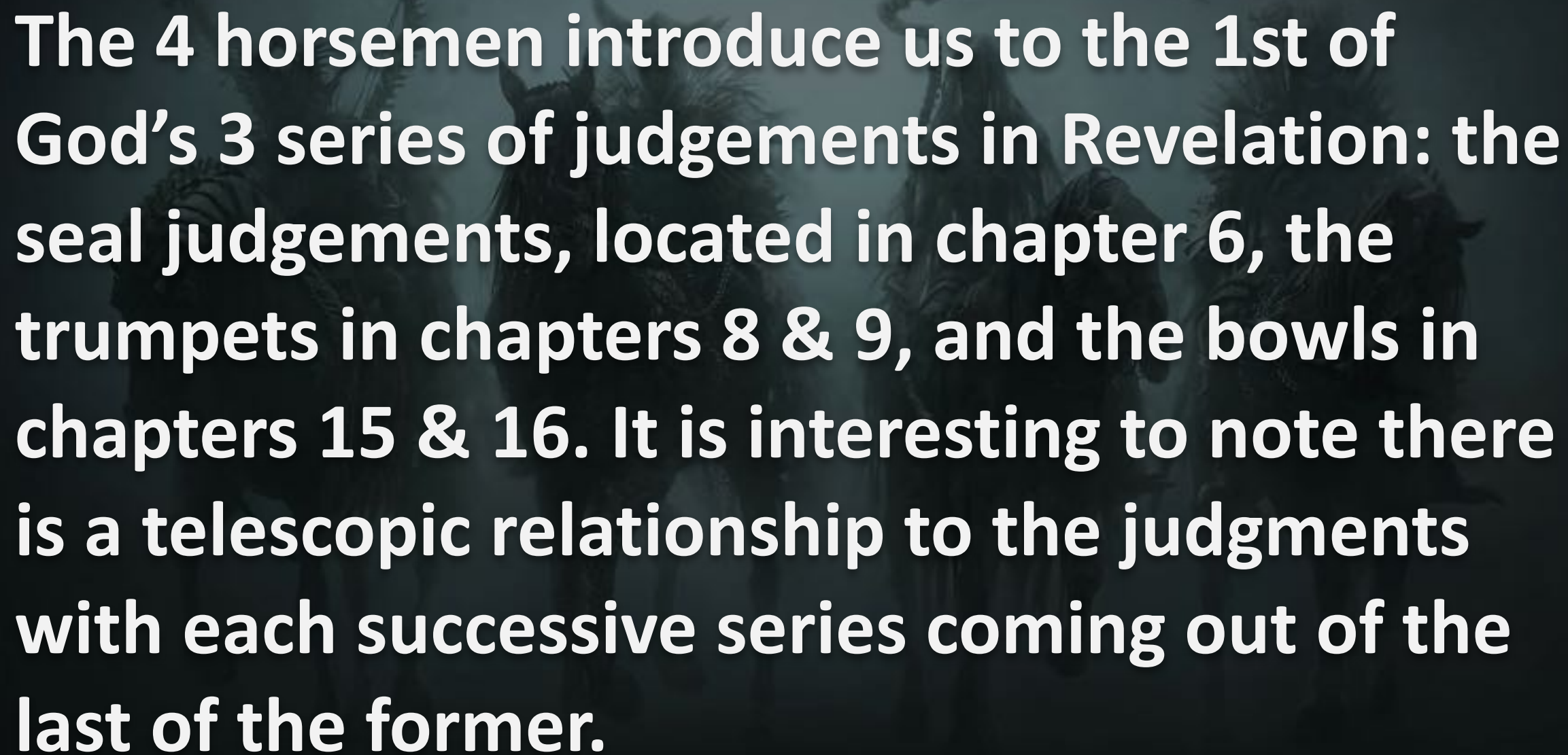


In 1983 Billy Graham addressed their coming in his book *Approaching Hoofbeats: The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse*. There he wrote, “the shadows of all four horsemen can already be seen galloping throughout the world at this moment” (p. 9). Dr. Graham is right. Their shadow looms large and they could appear at any time.

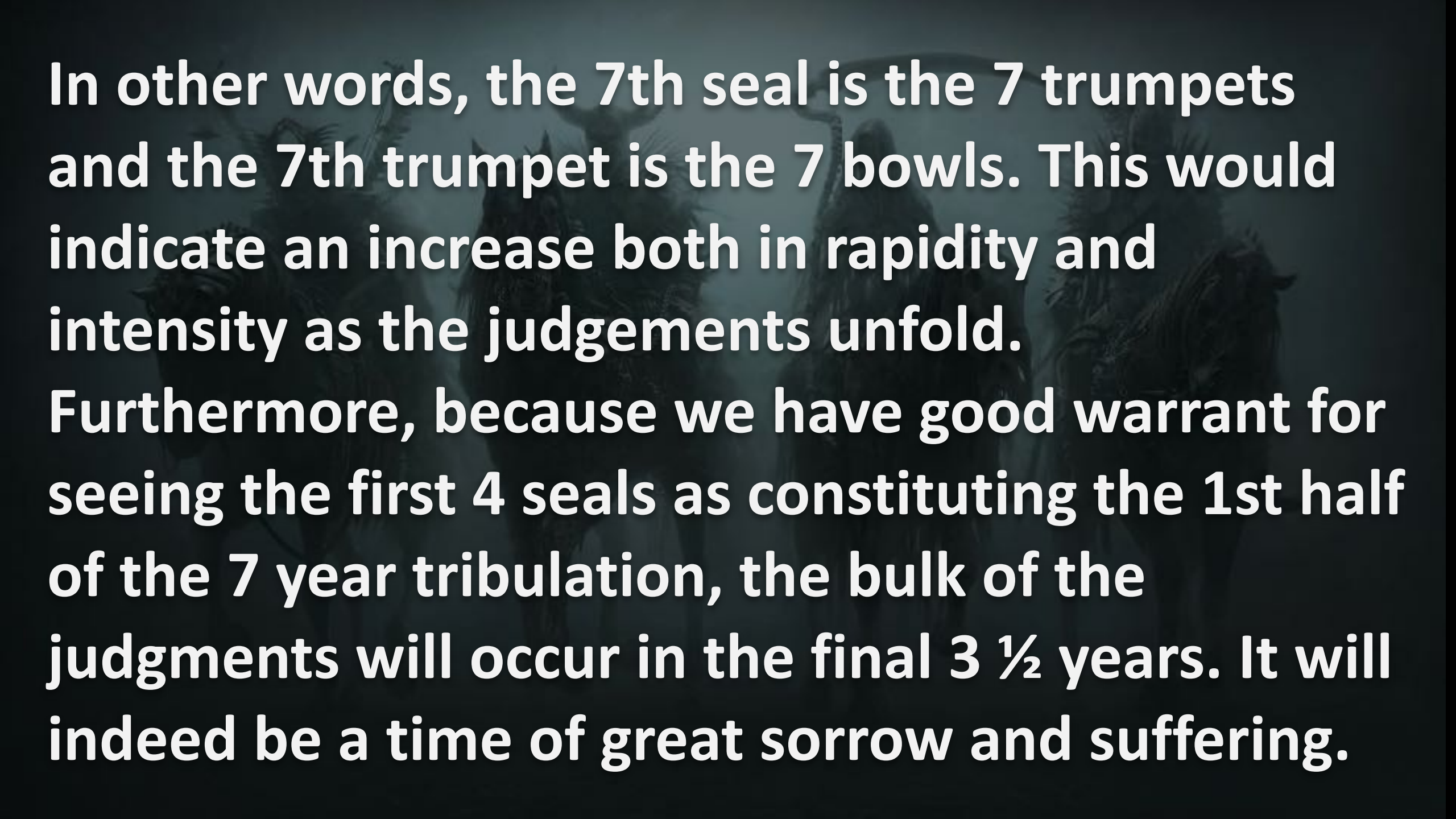
The background of the image is a dark, monochromatic scene depicting the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse. The figures are silhouetted against a slightly lighter, hazy background. From left to right, the figures appear to be: a figure with a crown or helmet, a figure with horns, a figure holding a scythe, and a figure with a crown or helmet. The overall mood is ominous and foreboding.

The mass murderer Charles Manson identified the Beatles as the 4 Horsemen. As great as their influence was and is, it will pale in comparison to what the world will experience when these 4 come riding into town.

Revelation 6-19 contains the heart of the end-time “Day of the Lord.” It is also called the “time of Jacob’s trouble” (Jeremiah 30:7), Daniel’s 70th week (Daniel 9:27) and the 7 year tribulation. Though the rapture is never specifically addressed in Revelation, the pre-tribulation view holds that it occurs before Revelation 6. 1 Thessalonians 5:9 says we are not destined for the wrath of the Day of the Lord.



The 4 horsemen introduce us to the 1st of God's 3 series of judgements in Revelation: the seal judgements, located in chapter 6, the trumpets in chapters 8 & 9, and the bowls in chapters 15 & 16. It is interesting to note there is a telescopic relationship to the judgments with each successive series coming out of the last of the former.

The background of the image is a dark, monochromatic illustration of the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse. The horses are depicted in profile, facing right, with their heads and necks visible. They are rendered in a style that is somewhat ethereal and somber, with a dark, muted color palette. The overall tone is serious and dramatic, fitting the apocalyptic subject matter of the text.

In other words, the 7th seal is the 7 trumpets and the 7th trumpet is the 7 bowls. This would indicate an increase both in rapidity and intensity as the judgements unfold.

Furthermore, because we have good warrant for seeing the first 4 seals as constituting the 1st half of the 7 year tribulation, the bulk of the judgments will occur in the final 3 ½ years. It will indeed be a time of great sorrow and suffering.

As we investigate the 4 horsemen it is interesting to note their Old Testament background in Zechariah 1:8-15; 6:1-8, Ezekiel 14:12-23, especially verse 21, and even Leviticus 26:18-28. But it is imperative that we note the words of Jesus as recorded in Matthew 24:5-8, Mark 13:7-9 and Luke 21:9-12. What we discover is a remarkable parallelism between the two.

Ezekiel 14:12-13 (CSB) 12 The word of the Lord came to me: 13 “Son of man, suppose a land sins against me by acting faithlessly, and I stretch out my hand against it to cut off its supply of bread, to send famine through it, and to wipe out both man and animal from it.

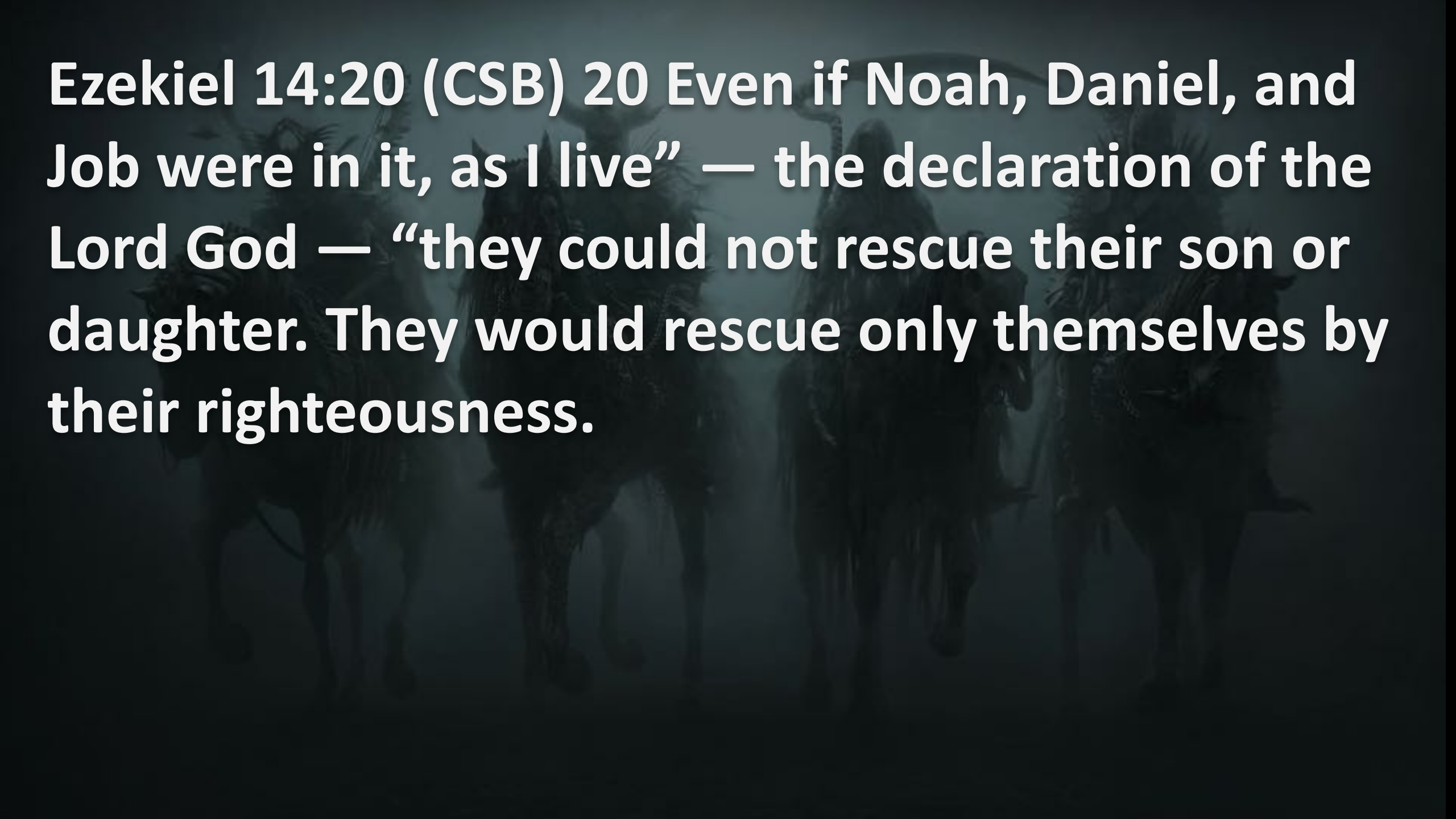
Ezekiel 14:14-15 (CSB) 14 Even if these three men — Noah, Daniel, and Job — were in it, they would rescue only themselves by their righteousness.” This is the declaration of the Lord God.

15 “Suppose I allow dangerous animals to pass through the land and depopulate it so that it becomes desolate, with no one passing through it for fear of the animals.

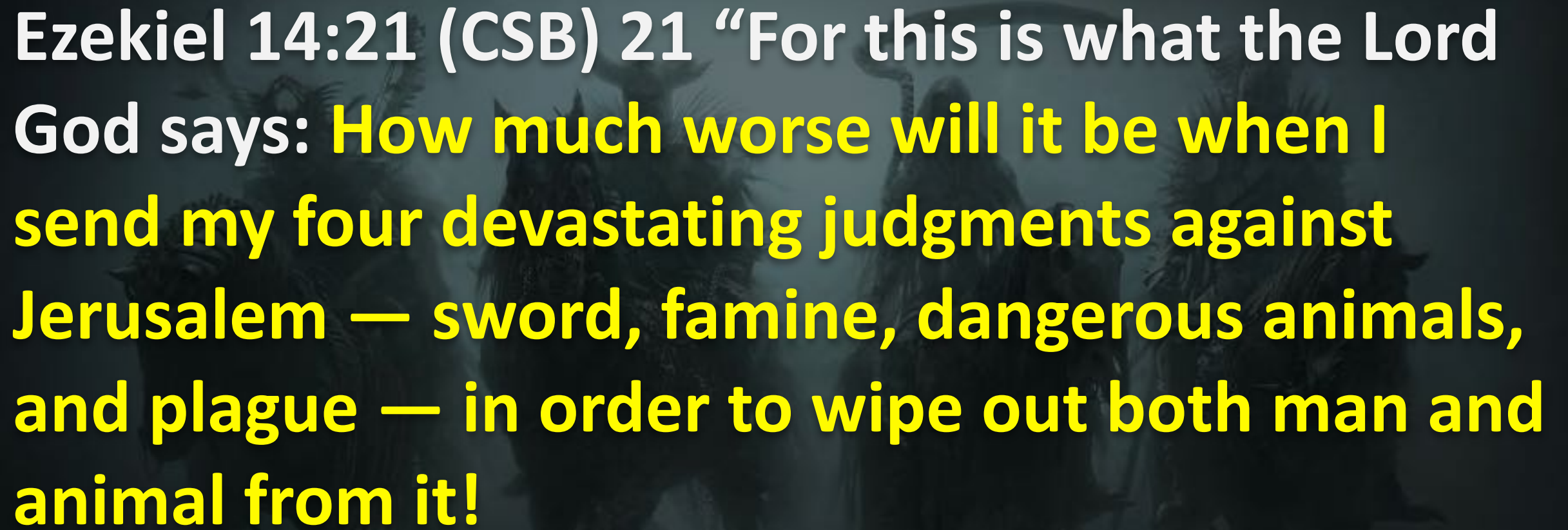
Ezekiel 14:16-17 (CSB) 16 Even if these three men were in it, as I live” — the declaration of the Lord God — “they could not rescue their sons or daughters. They alone would be rescued, but the land would be desolate.

17 “Or suppose I bring a sword against that land and say, ‘Let a sword pass through it,’ so that I wipe out both man and animal from it.

Ezekiel 14:18-19 (CSB) 18 Even if these three men were in it, as I live” — the declaration of the Lord God — “they could not rescue their sons or daughters, but they alone would be rescued. 19 “Or suppose I send a plague into that land and pour out my wrath on it with bloodshed to wipe out both man and animal from it

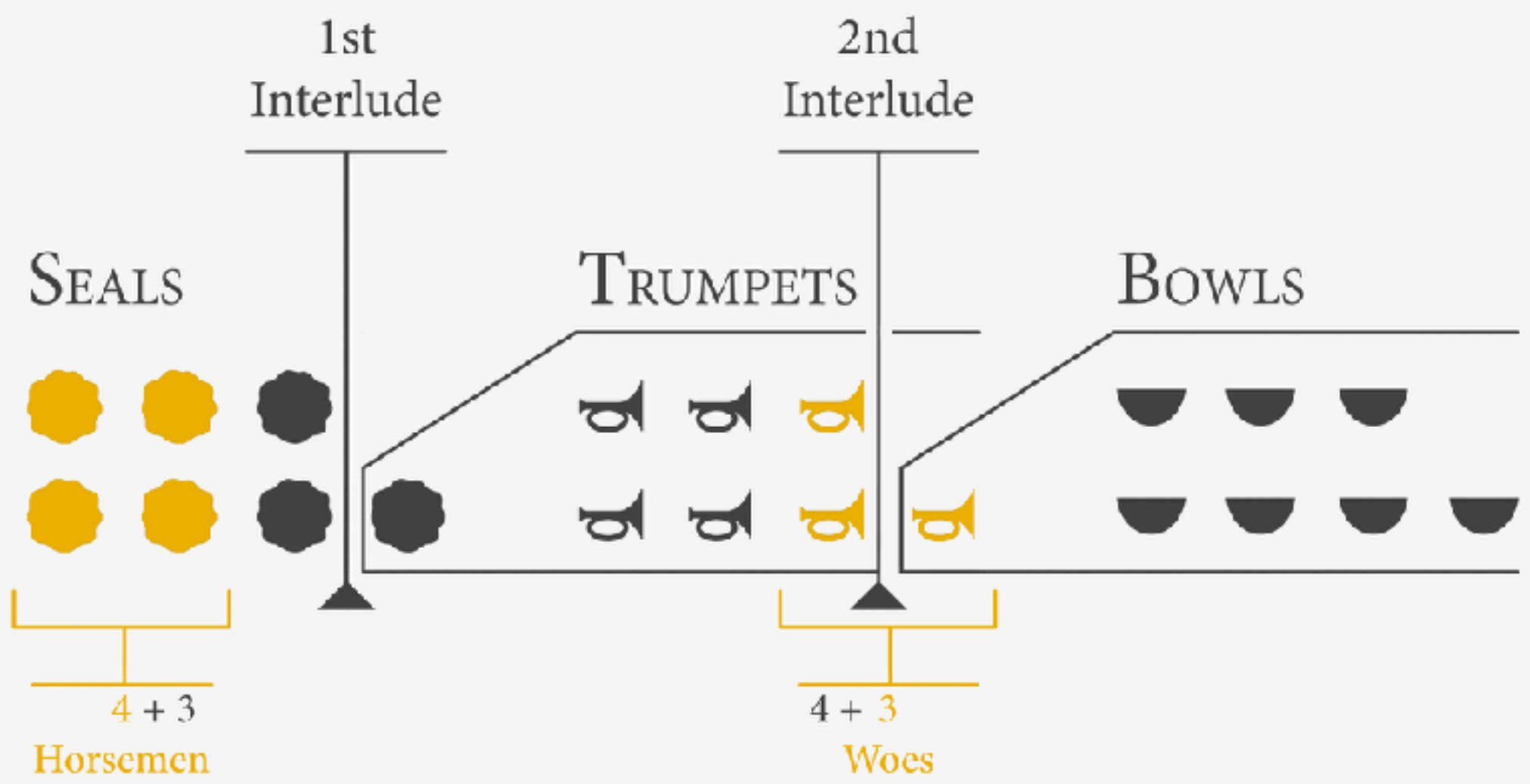


Ezekiel 14:20 (CSB) 20 Even if Noah, Daniel, and Job were in it, as I live” — the declaration of the Lord God — “they could not rescue their son or daughter. They would rescue only themselves by their righteousness.



Ezekiel 14:21 (CSB) 21 “For this is what the Lord God says: **How much worse will it be when I send my four devastating judgments against Jerusalem — sword, famine, dangerous animals, and plague — in order to wipe out both man and animal from it!**

And, the fact that in Matthew 24:8 Jesus says, “All these are the beginning of sorrows,” must be carefully considered. Because of our Lord’s statement, I believe we have good reason to see the 4 horsemen as constituting “the beginning of sorrows,” the 1st half of the 7 year tribulation. They represent, therefore, world trends and conditions which will develop during the first 3 ½ years.



Seals 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Trumpets 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Bowls 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

THE SEVEN SEALS OF REVELATION

| FIRST SEAL | SECOND SEAL | THIRD SEAL | FOURTH SEAL | FIFTH SEAL | SIXTH SEAL | SEVENTH SEAL |
|--|---|---|--|--|--|---|
| WHITE HORSE | RED HORSE | BLACK HORSE | PALE HORSE | MARTYRS CRY OUT | CELESTIAL SIGNS | RAPTURE |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <p>Rev 6: 2 Had a Bow Given a Crown Went out Conquering</p> | <p>Rev 6:4 Peace Removed Violence breaks out Has Sword</p> | <p>Rev 6:5-6 Balance Scales Huge Inflation Oil & Wine Spared</p> | <p>Rev 6:8 Death has Hades with him 1/4th earth Killed with sword, famine, death & beasts</p> | <p>Rev 6:9-11 Martyrs cry out How long? Not until number of brethren to be killed is complete</p> | <p>Rev 6:12-17 Earth quakes Sun darkens moon turns red Stars fall Sky Recedes like a scroll</p> | <p>Rev 8:1 Heaven silent about half hour Rev 11:12 Come up Here!</p> |







The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse
Revelation 6:1-8



The events symbolized by the four horsemen of the Apocalypse represent ongoing judgments in process while history unfolds. Our response should be one not of fear but of trust in the Lord. This scene showing the four horsemen is from a woodcut by Albrecht Dürer, AD 1498.

War

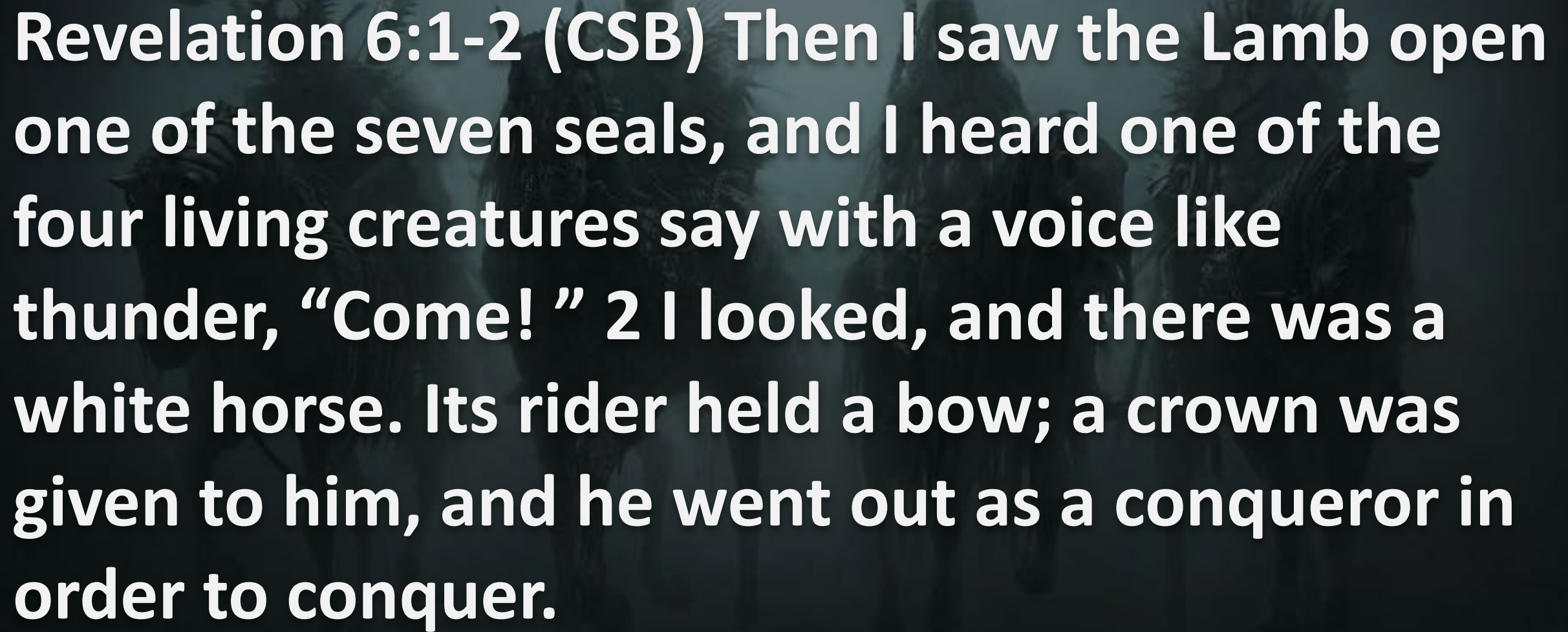
Pestilence

Famine

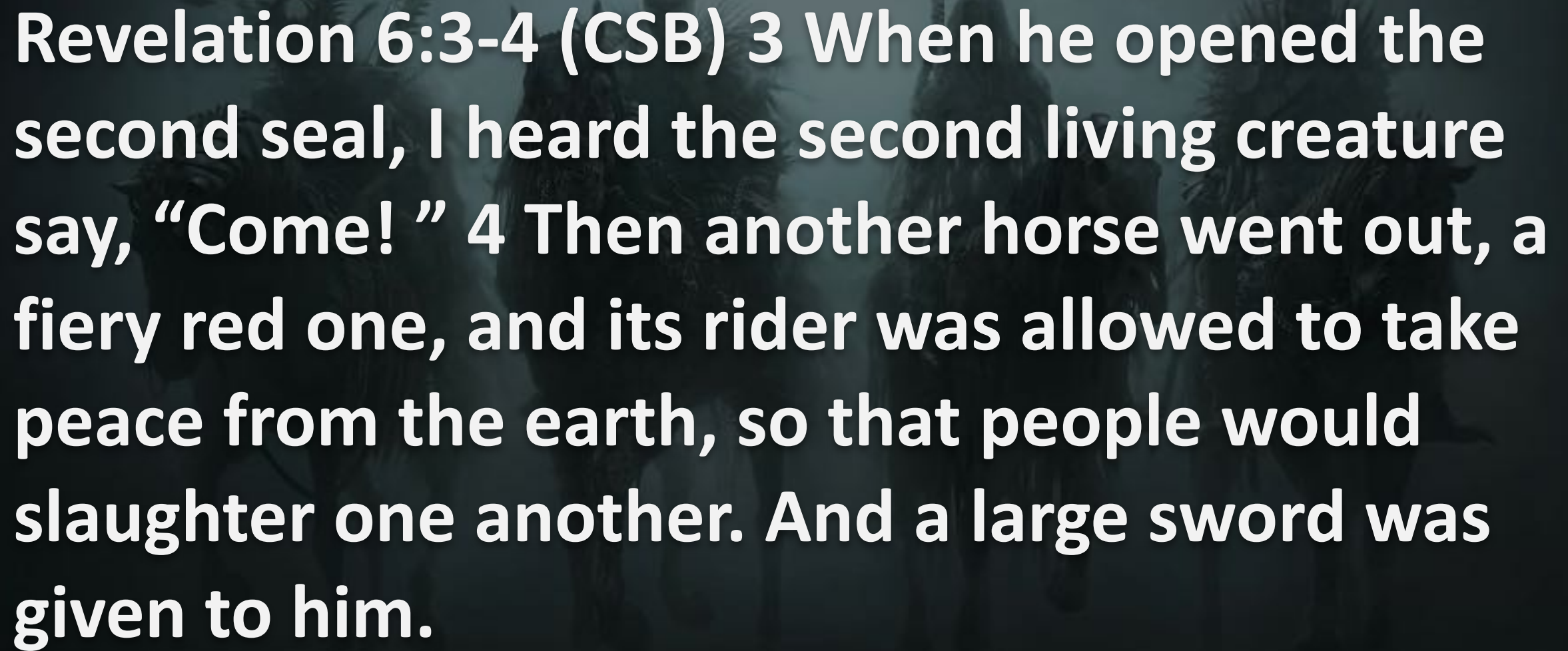
Death



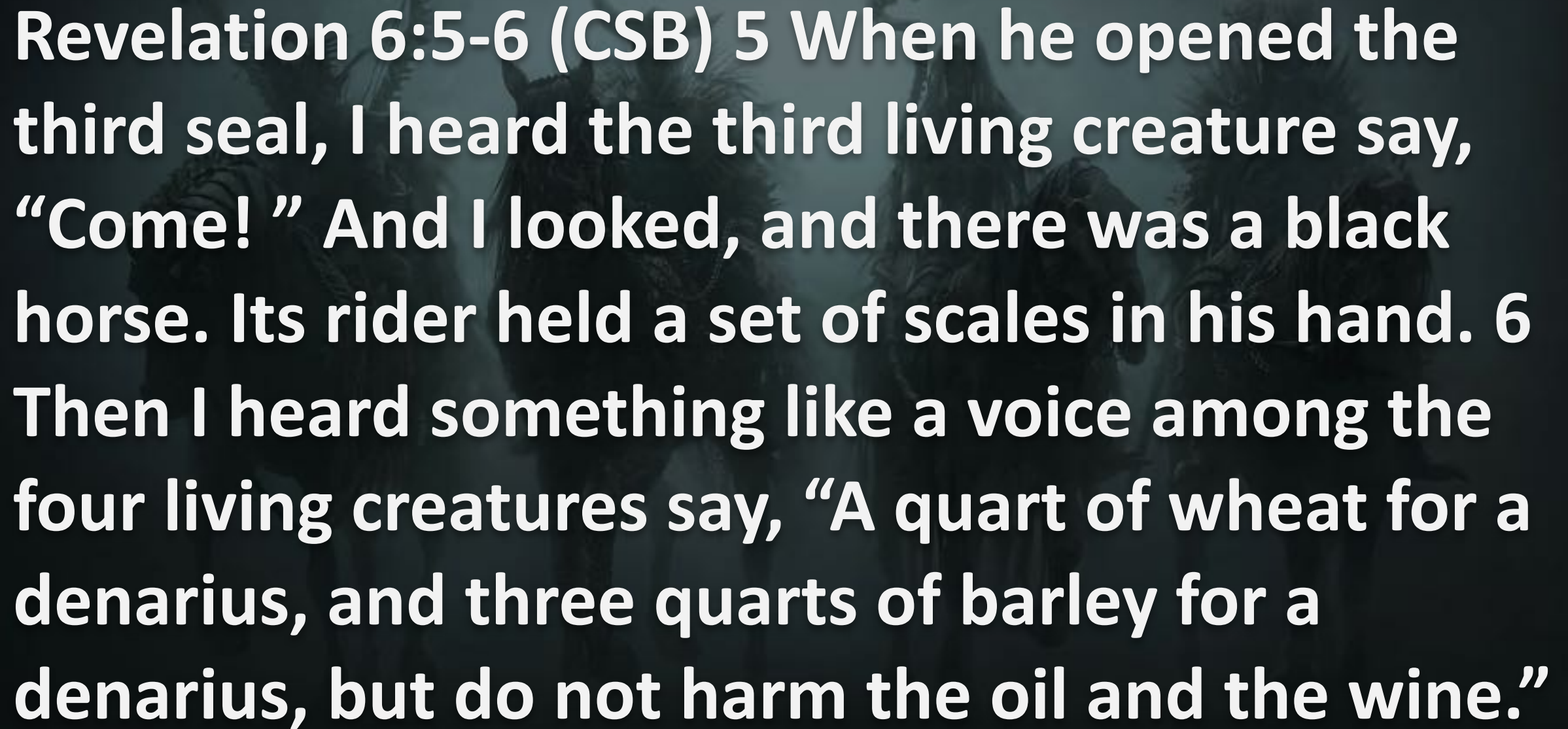
The Four Horses of the Apocalypse



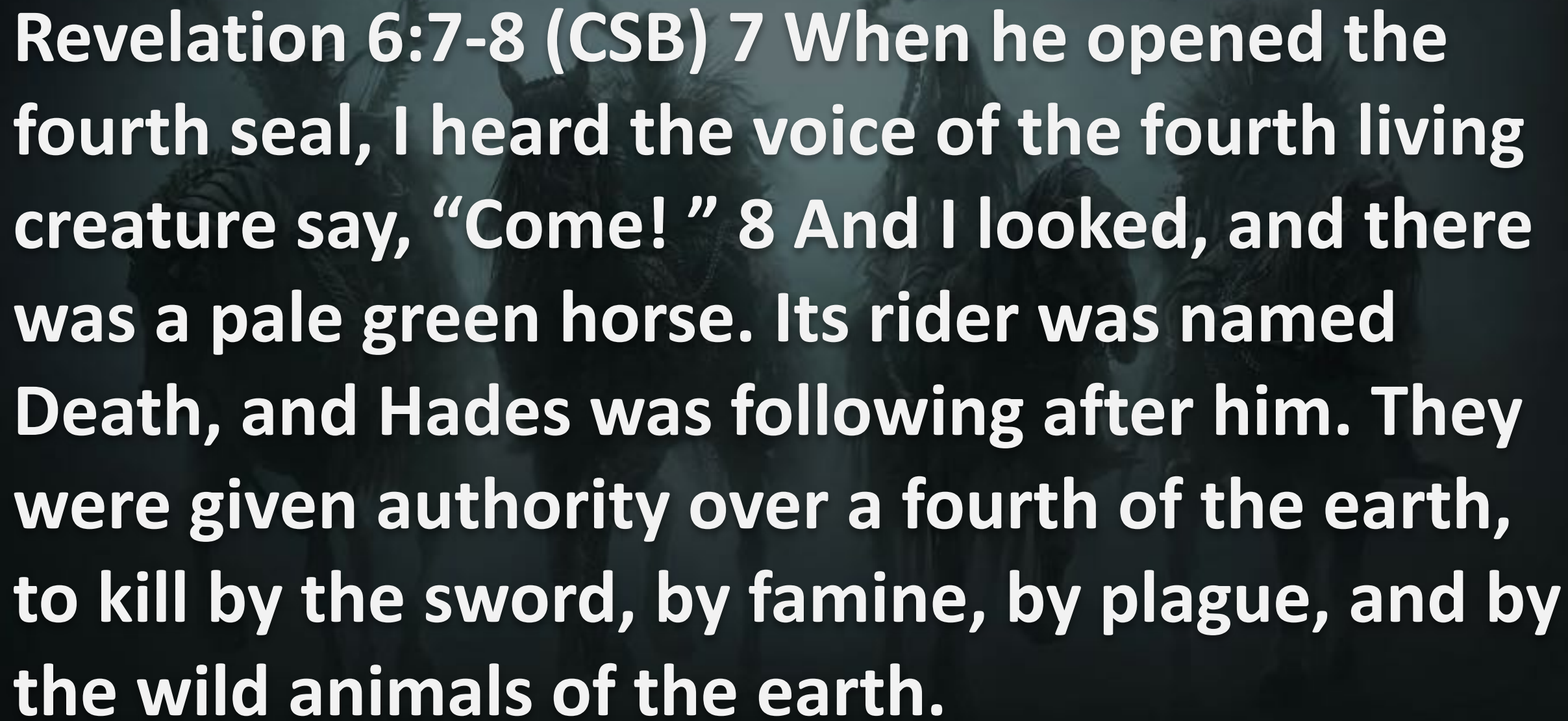
Revelation 6:1-2 (CSB) Then I saw the Lamb open one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures say with a voice like thunder, “Come!” 2 I looked, and there was a white horse. Its rider held a bow; a crown was given to him, and he went out as a conqueror in order to conquer.



Revelation 6:3-4 (CSB) 3 When he opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, “Come!” 4 Then another horse went out, a fiery red one, and its rider was allowed to take peace from the earth, so that people would slaughter one another. And a large sword was given to him.



Revelation 6:5-6 (CSB) 5 When he opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, “Come! ” And I looked, and there was a black horse. Its rider held a set of scales in his hand. 6 Then I heard something like a voice among the four living creatures say, “A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius, but do not harm the oil and the wine.”



Revelation 6:7-8 (CSB) 7 When he opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, “Come!” 8 And I looked, and there was a pale green horse. Its rider was named Death, and Hades was following after him. They were given authority over a fourth of the earth, to kill by the sword, by famine, by plague, and by the wild animals of the earth.

Symbolism of Colors in Revelation

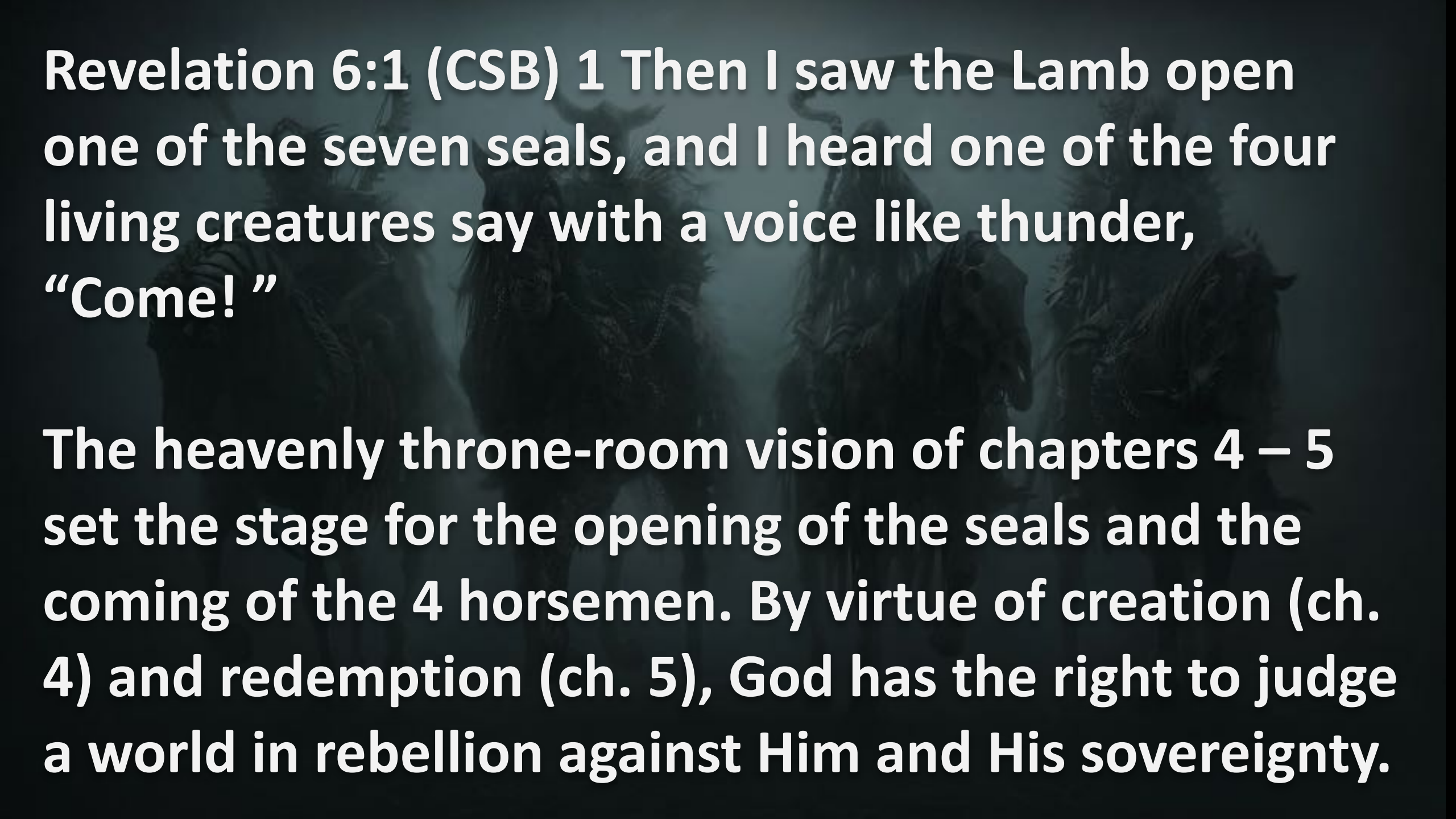
Revelation uses various colors to communicate symbolic meaning, as the following chart indicates:^a

| Color | Reference in Revelation | Symbolism |
|---------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| Golden | 1:13; 15:6; 17:14; 18:16 | Divinity, splendor |
| White | 1:14; 2:17; 3:4, 5, 18; 4:4; 6:2, 11; 7:9, 13, 14; 14:14; 19:11, 14, 14; 20:11 | Victory, purity, resurrection |
| Rainbow | 4:3; 10:1 | Omnipotence |
| Red | 6:4; 12:3 | Slaughter, war, violence |
| Black | 6:5, 12 | Disaster, economic hardship, famine |
| Light or pale green | 6:8; 8:7; 9:4 | Death |
| Blue | 9:17 | Smoke |
| Yellow | 9:17 | Sulfur |
| Fiery | 1:14; 2:18; 4:5; 10:1; 19:12 | Judgment |
| Purple and scarlet | 17:4; 18:16; cf. 18:12 | Royalty |



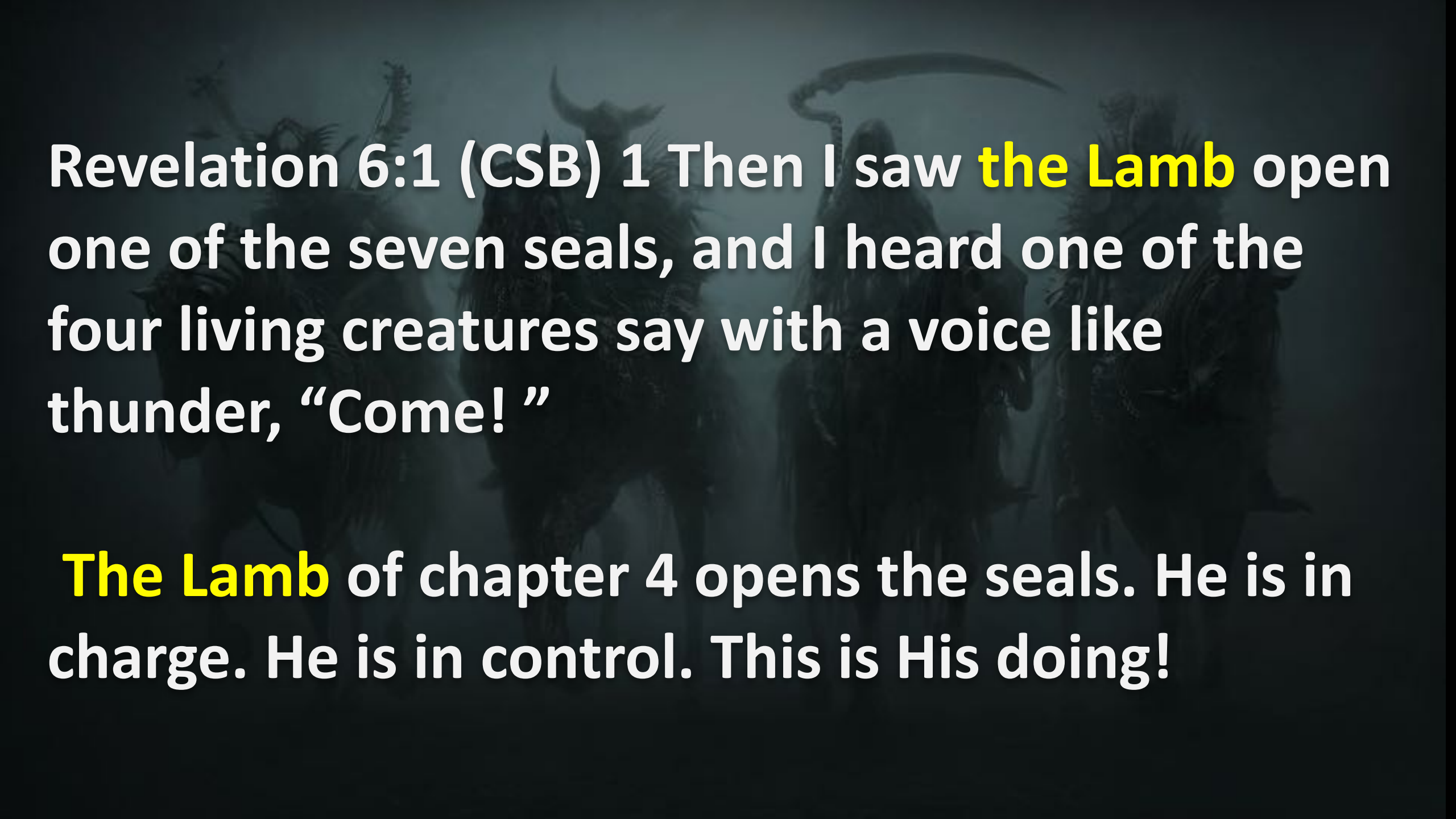
As you study the 4 horsemen...

**1. See that God is in complete control
(vs. 1, 3, 5, 7)**



Revelation 6:1 (CSB) 1 Then I saw the Lamb open one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures say with a voice like thunder, “Come!”

The heavenly throne-room vision of chapters 4 – 5 set the stage for the opening of the seals and the coming of the 4 horsemen. By virtue of creation (ch. 4) and redemption (ch. 5), God has the right to judge a world in rebellion against Him and His sovereignty.



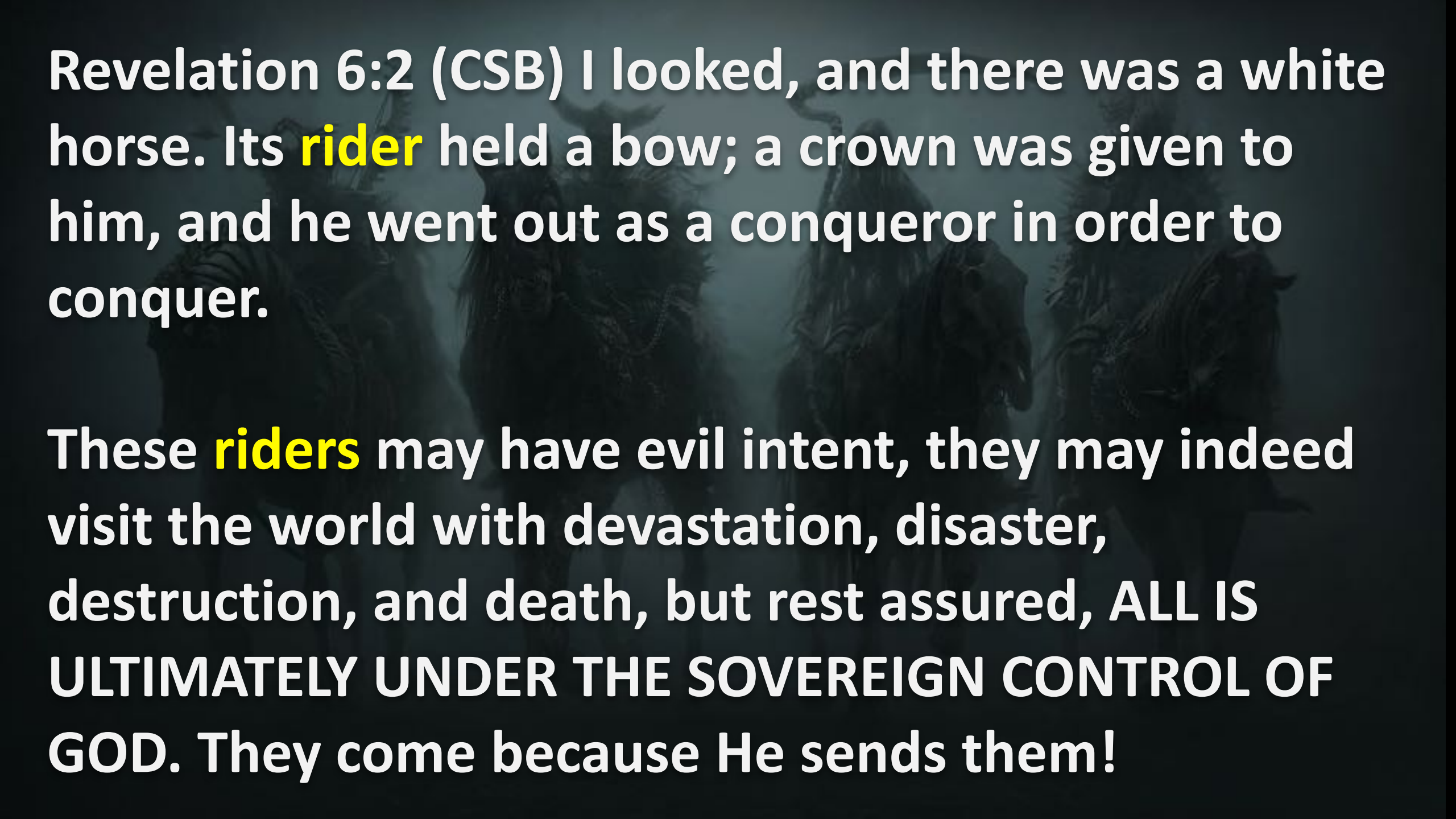
Revelation 6:1 (CSB) 1 Then I saw **the Lamb** open one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures say with a voice like thunder, “Come!”

The Lamb of chapter 4 opens the seals. He is in charge. He is in control. This is His doing!



Revelation 6:1 (CSB) 1 Then I saw the Lamb open one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures say with a **voice like thunder**, “Come!”

with a voice like thunder – (cf. 4:5) the voice comes from heaven’s throne. The thunder speaks of authority, judgment and impending storm. He simply and directly commands, come (pre. imp.). “Events will now take place on earth because of God’s sovereign direction in heaven” (Wiersbe, 62).



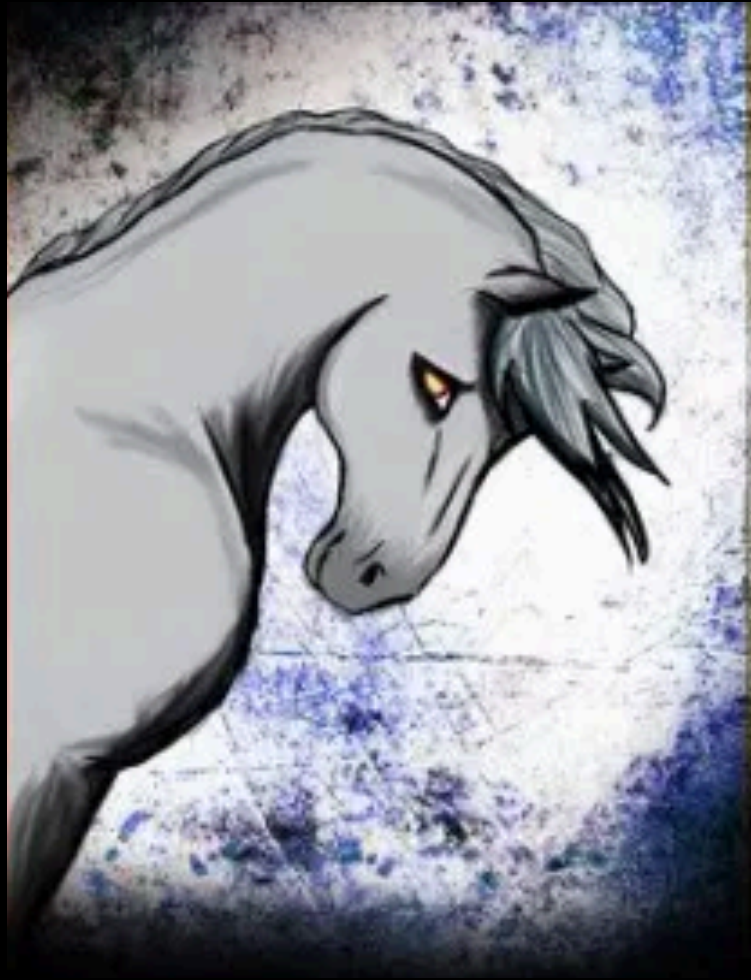
Revelation 6:2 (CSB) I looked, and there was a white horse. Its **rider** held a bow; a crown was given to him, and he went out as a conqueror in order to conquer.

These **riders** may have evil intent, they may indeed visit the world with devastation, disaster, destruction, and death, but rest assured, ALL IS ULTIMATELY UNDER THE SOVEREIGN CONTROL OF GOD. They come because He sends them!

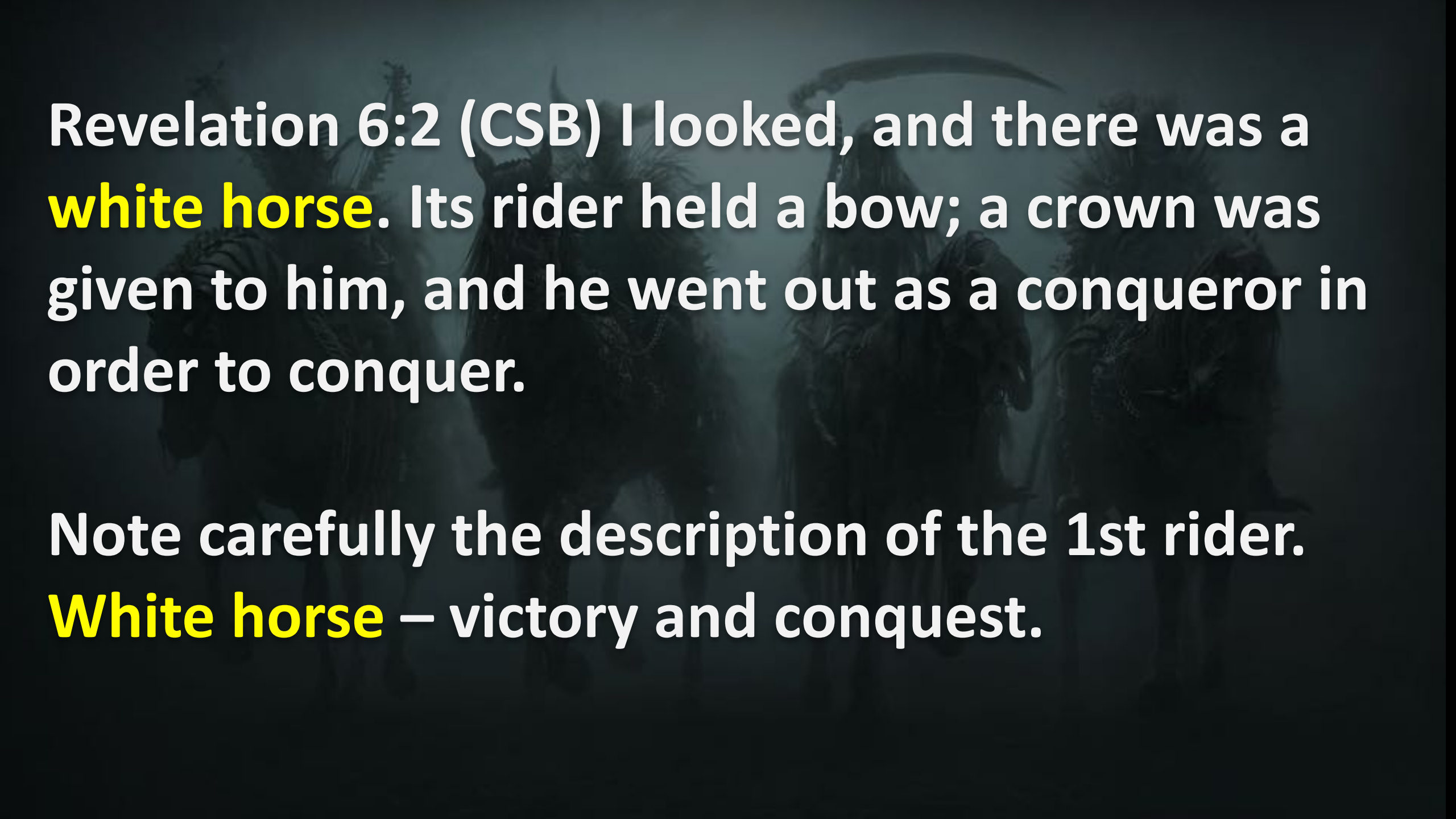


As you study the 4 horsemen...

- 1. See that God is in complete control
(vs. 1, 3, 5, 7)**
- 2. Survey the destruction (vs. 2, 4, 6,
8)**

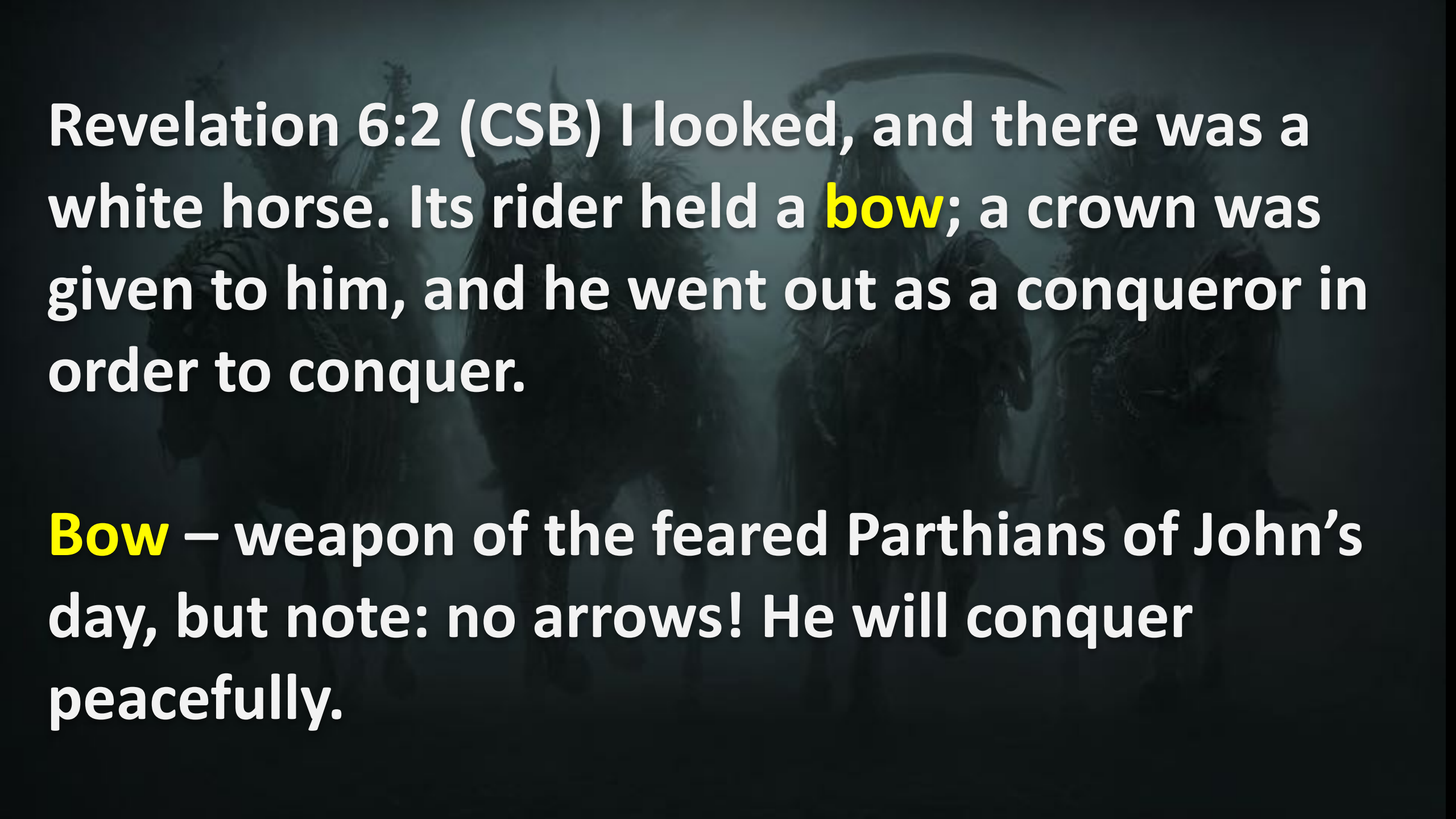


The White Horse Victory and Conquest



Revelation 6:2 (CSB) I looked, and there was a **white horse**. Its rider held a bow; a crown was given to him, and he went out as a conqueror in order to conquer.

Note carefully the description of the 1st rider.
White horse – victory and conquest.

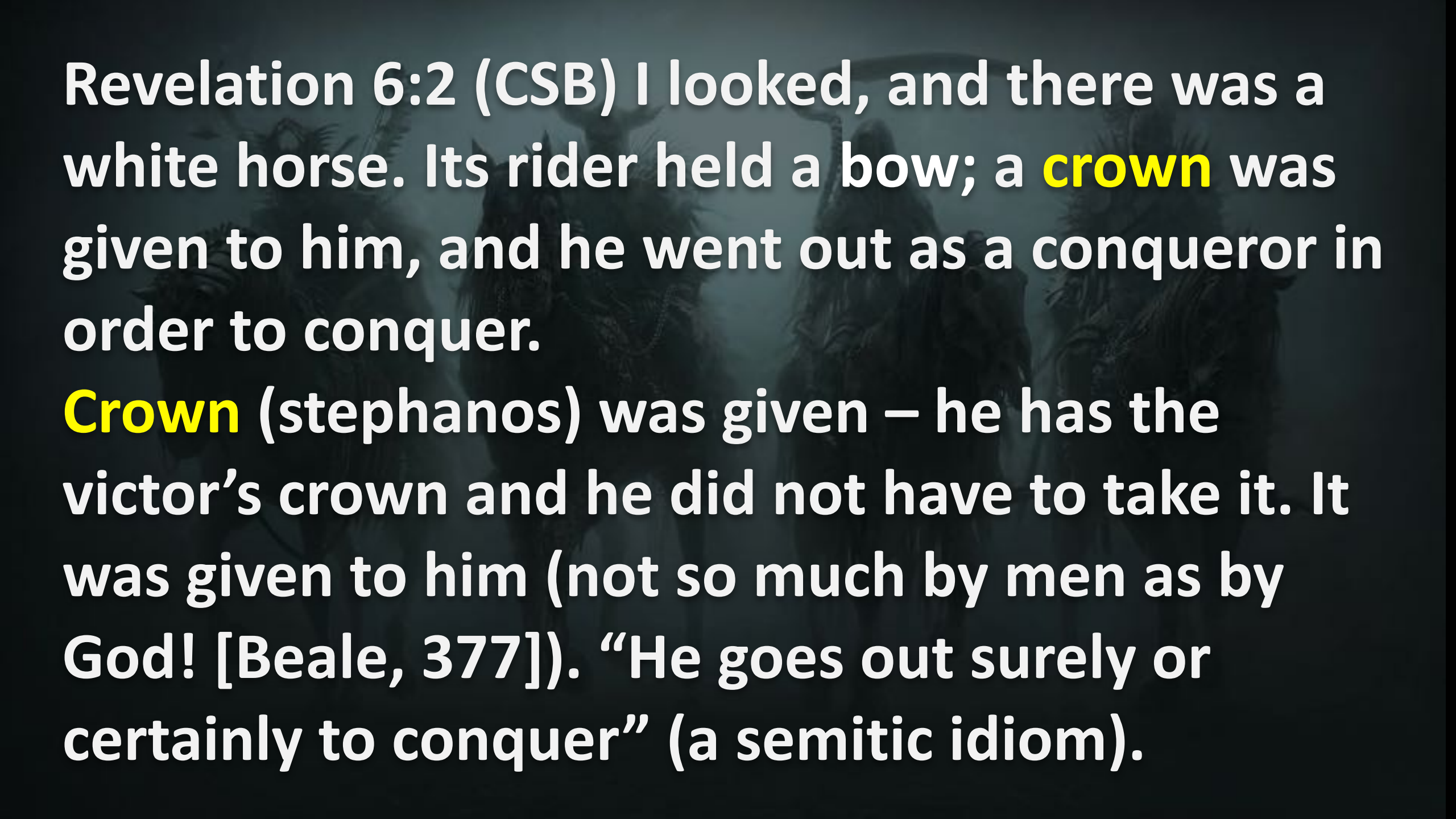


Revelation 6:2 (CSB) I looked, and there was a white horse. Its rider held a **bow**; a crown was given to him, and he went out as a conqueror in order to conquer.

Bow – weapon of the feared Parthians of John's day, but note: no arrows! He will conquer peacefully.

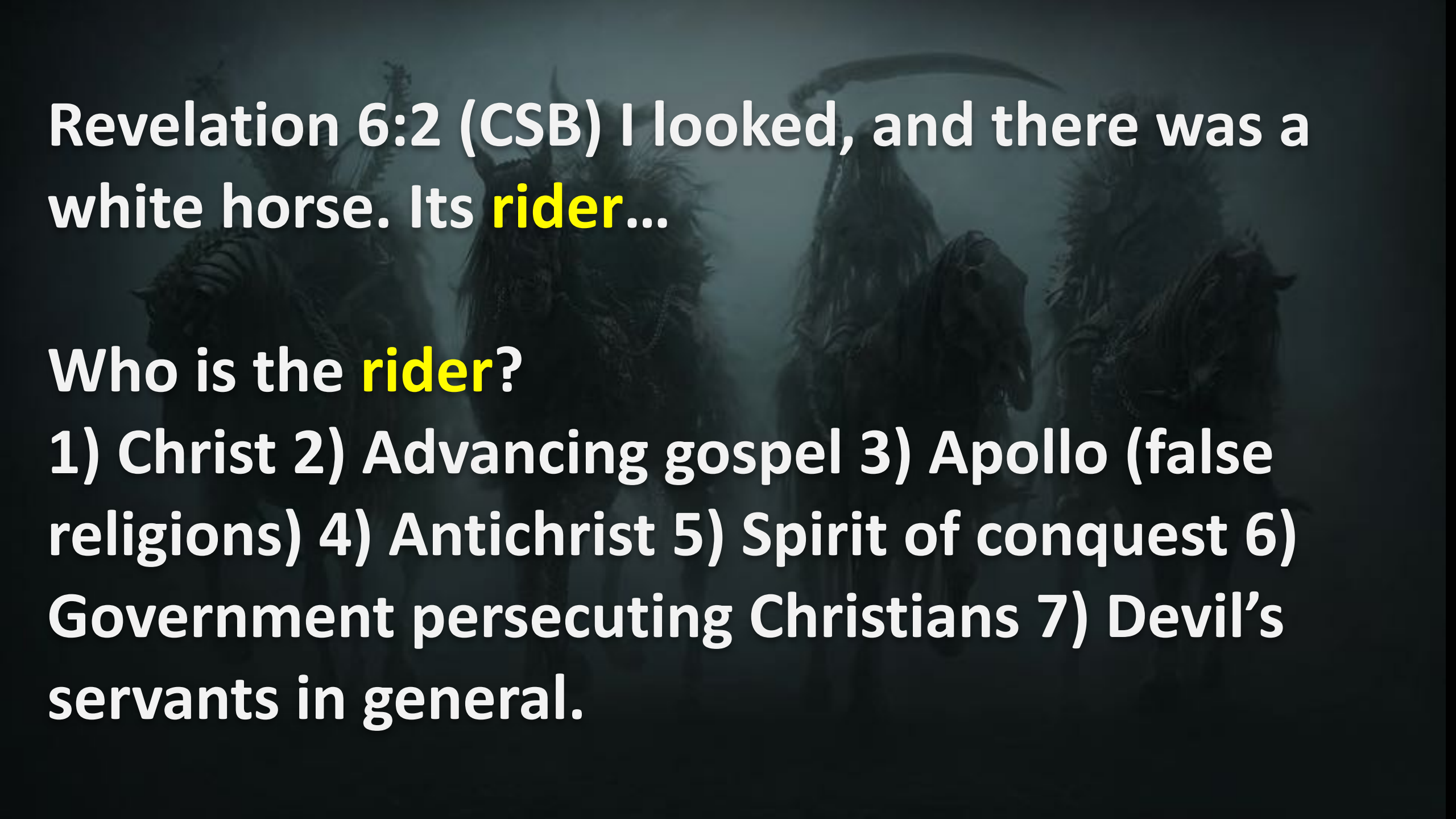
The white horse may symbolize military conquest or war, and some have identified it with the Parthians, who successfully defeated a Roman army three times. The Parthians had a highly developed armed cavalry made up of horsemen warriors like the sculpture shown here (Syria or Iraq, first to third century AD).





Revelation 6:2 (CSB) I looked, and there was a white horse. Its rider held a bow; a **crown** was given to him, and he went out as a conqueror in order to conquer.

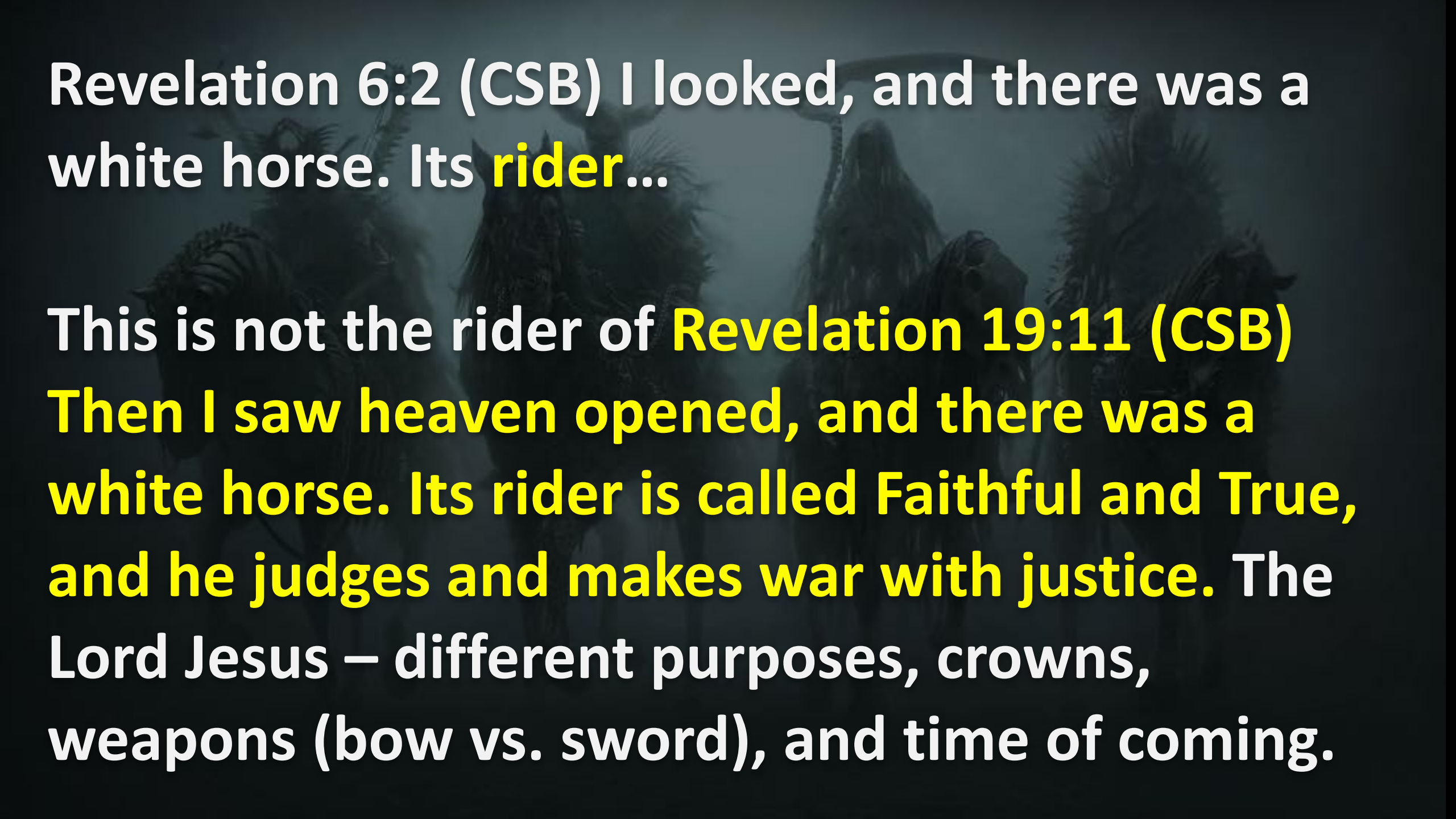
Crown (stephanos) was given – he has the victor’s crown and he did not have to take it. It was given to him (not so much by men as by God! [Beale, 377]). “He goes out surely or certainly to conquer” (a semitic idiom).



Revelation 6:2 (CSB) I looked, and there was a white horse. Its **rider**...

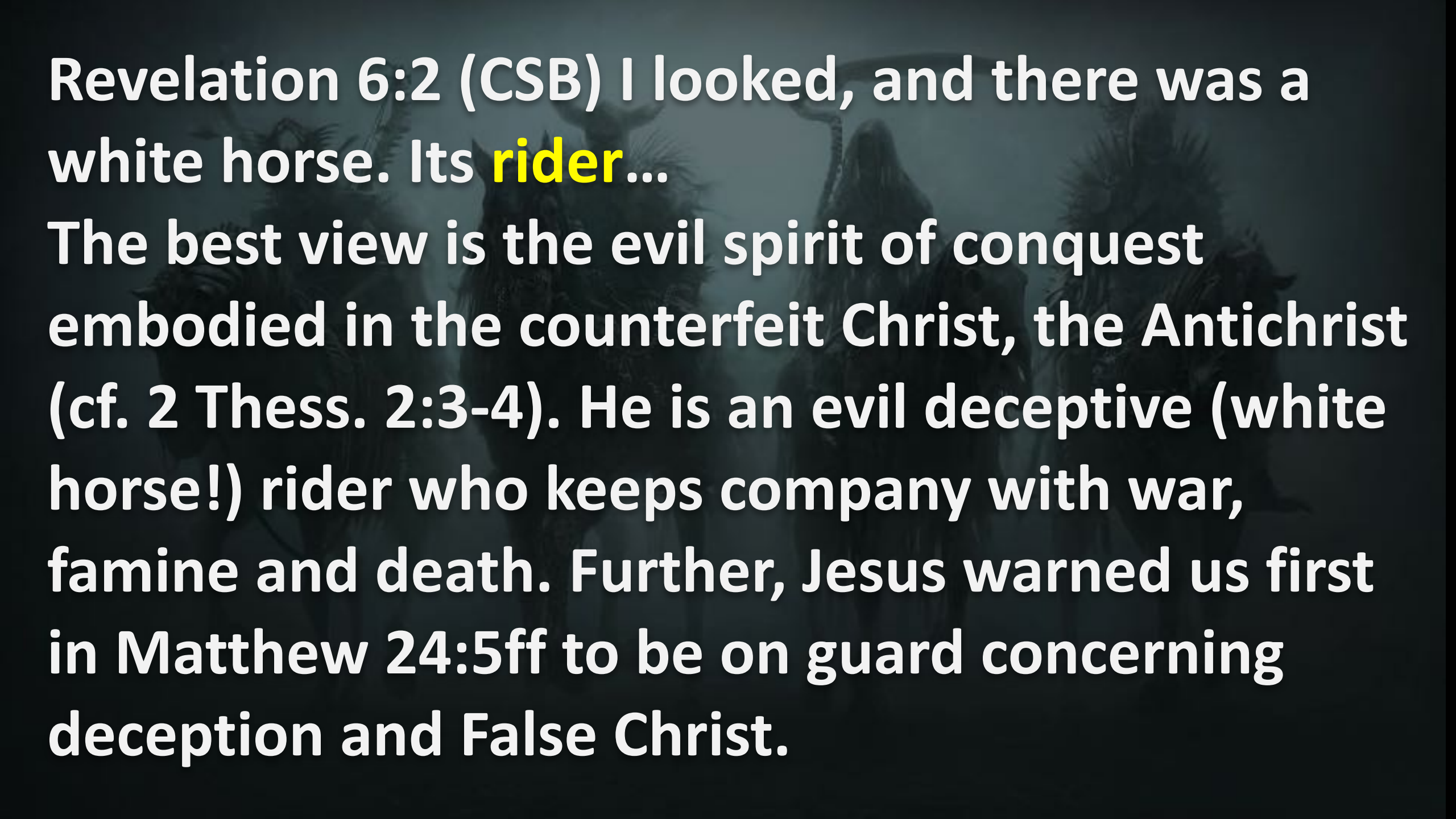
Who is the **rider**?

1) Christ 2) Advancing gospel 3) Apollo (false religions) 4) Antichrist 5) Spirit of conquest 6) Government persecuting Christians 7) Devil's servants in general.



Revelation 6:2 (CSB) I looked, and there was a white horse. Its **rider**...

This is not the rider of **Revelation 19:11 (CSB)**
Then I saw heaven opened, and there was a white horse. Its rider is called Faithful and True, and he judges and makes war with justice. The Lord Jesus – different purposes, crowns, weapons (bow vs. sword), and time of coming.

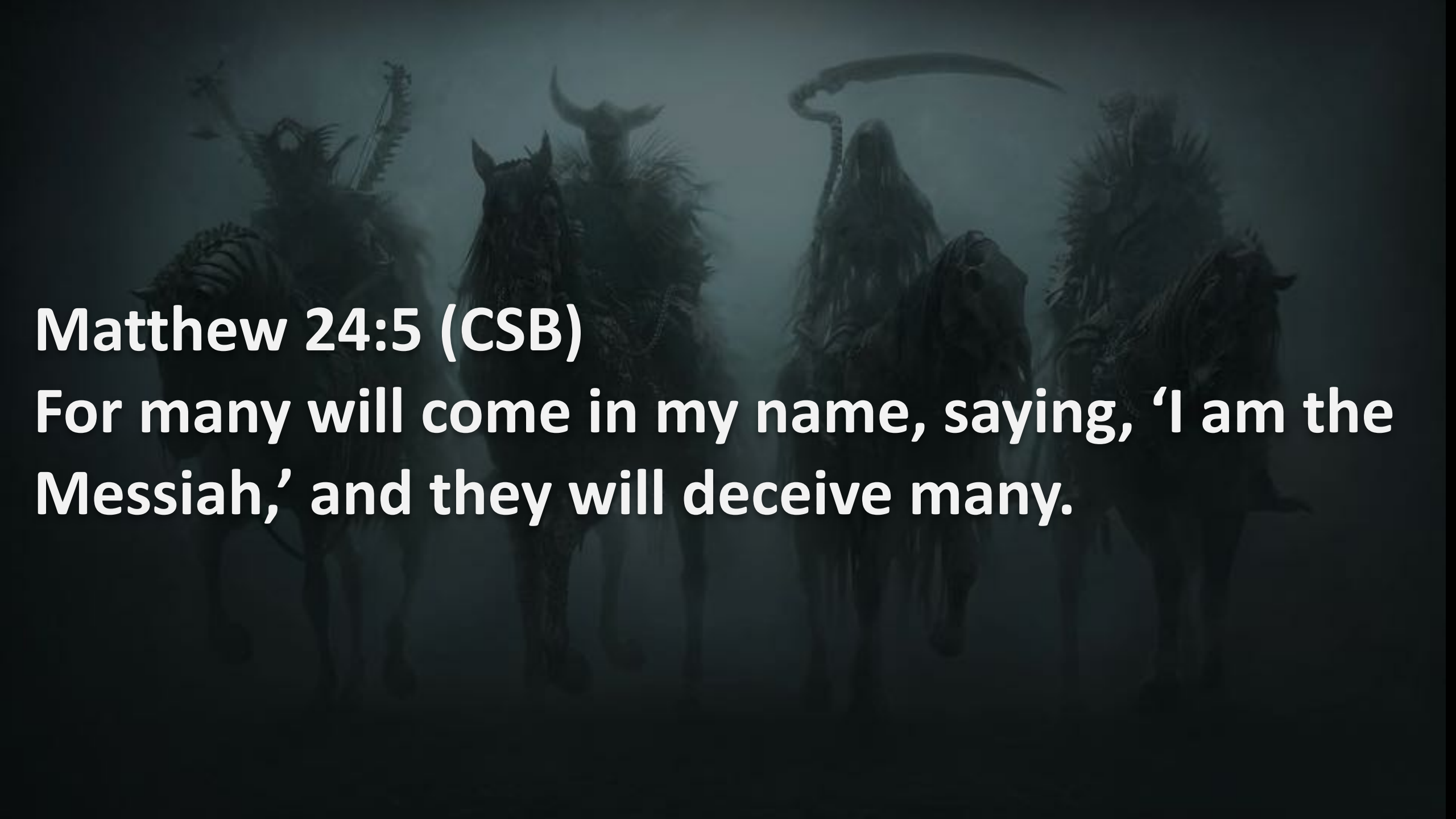


Revelation 6:2 (CSB) I looked, and there was a white horse. Its **rider**...

The best view is the evil spirit of conquest embodied in the counterfeit Christ, the Antichrist (cf. 2 Thess. 2:3-4). He is an evil deceptive (white horse!) rider who keeps company with war, famine and death. Further, Jesus warned us first in Matthew 24:5ff to be on guard concerning deception and False Christ.

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 (CSB)

Don't let anyone deceive you in any way. For that day will not come unless the apostasy comes first and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. 4 He opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he sits in God's temple, proclaiming that he himself is God.

A dark, atmospheric scene with silhouettes of horses and a figure with a scythe. The background is a dark, misty blue-grey. In the foreground, there are several dark silhouettes of horses. In the center, a figure is visible, wearing a long, dark, hooded robe and holding a scythe with a curved blade. The overall mood is somber and mysterious.

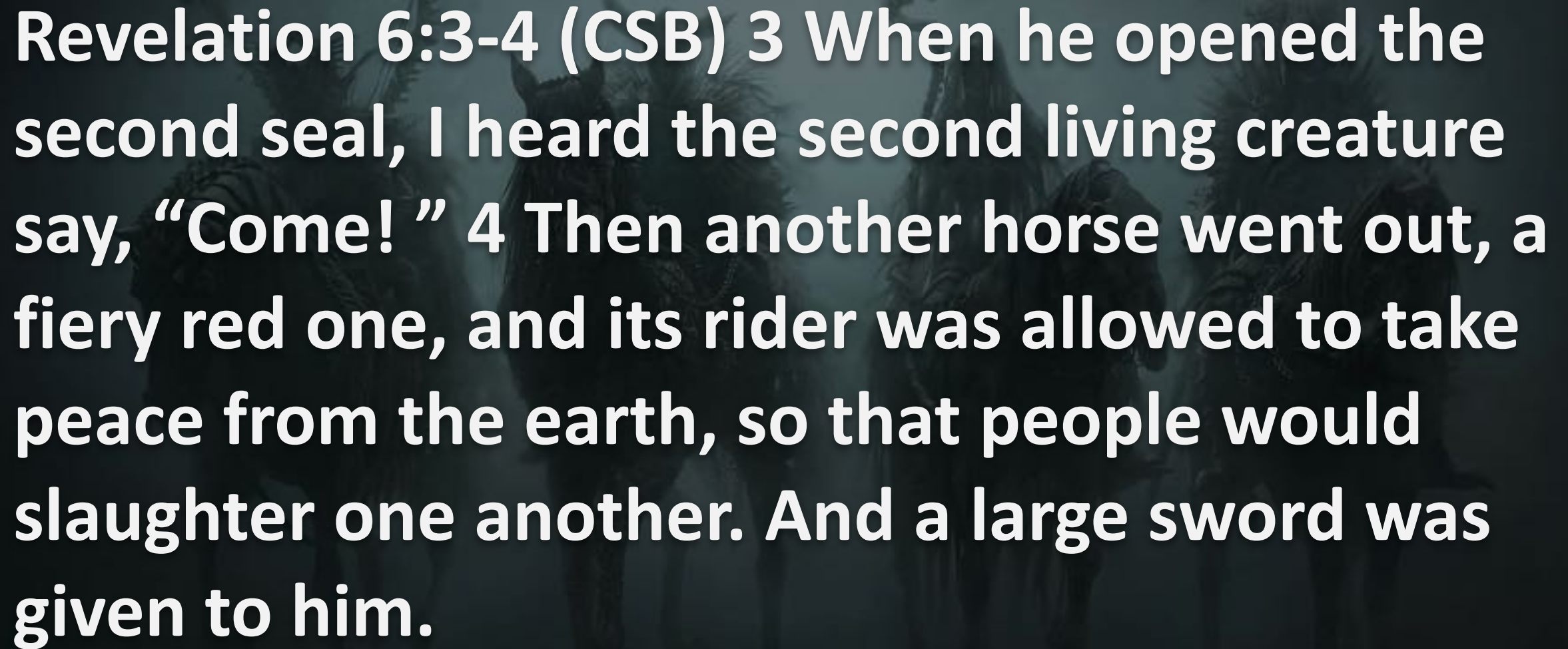
Matthew 24:5 (CSB)

For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Messiah,' and they will deceive many.



Application

The ultimate battle is always between truth and error, that which is real and that which is false. There will be great spiritual deception then (in the realm of the social and political!). There is great deception today. It separates the true from the fake, it reveals the genuine article and the real deal.

The background of the image is a dark, atmospheric scene depicting the four horsemen of the Apocalypse. In the center, a pale, skeletal figure with a long, curved scythe is mounted on a white horse. To the left, a dark horse is visible, and to the right, a red horse is partially seen. The overall tone is somber and ominous, with a blueish-grey color palette.

Revelation 6:3-4 (CSB) 3 When he opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, “Come!” 4 Then another horse went out, a fiery red one, and its rider was allowed to take peace from the earth, so that people would slaughter one another. And a large sword was given to him.

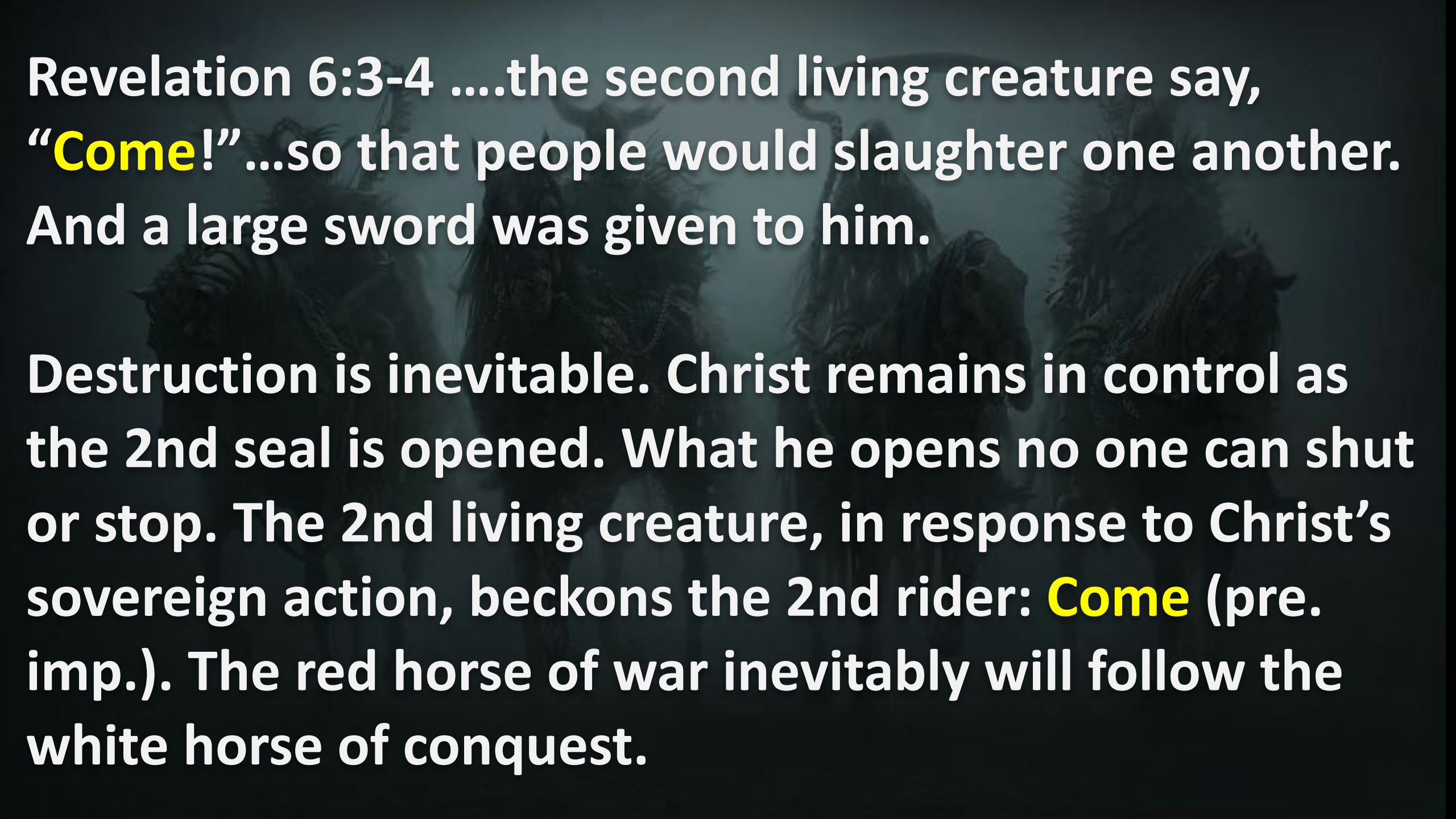


The Red Horse War and Destruction



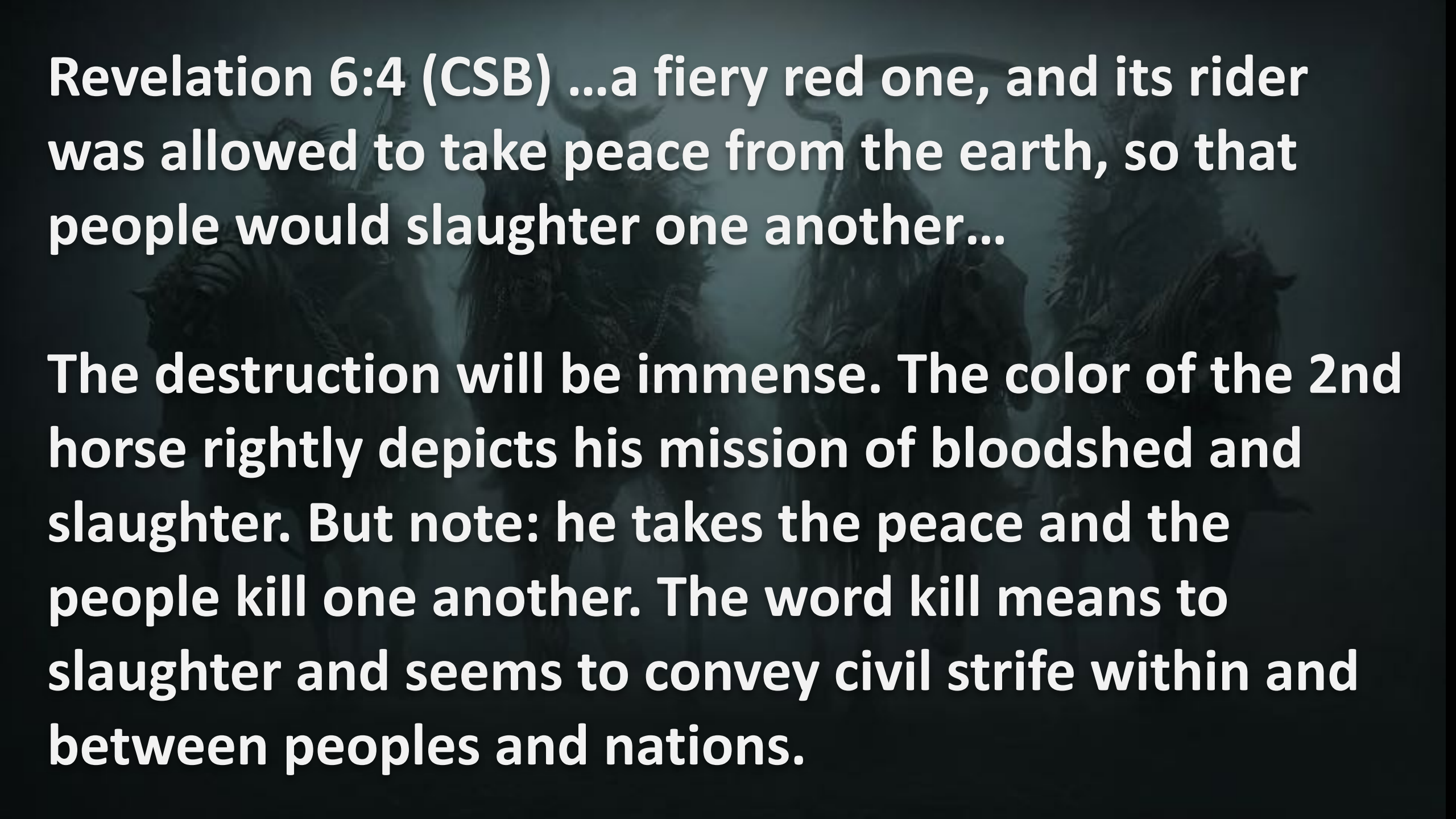
Revelation 6:4 ...another horse went out, a **fiery red one**, and its rider was allowed to take peace from the earth

(The Red Horse) The peace promised and provided by this conquering deceiver will be short-lived. He promises, as Satan always does, far more than he can deliver. The rider on the white horse carried a bow and no arrows. The rider on the red horse of war carries a sword of death and destruction.

The background of the slide features a dark, atmospheric scene with four horses. The horses are silhouetted against a slightly lighter, smoky or misty background, giving the impression of a dramatic, perhaps biblical, setting. The lighting is low, highlighting the textures of the horses' manes and the overall somber mood.

Revelation 6:3-4 ...the second living creature say, **“Come!”** ...so that people would slaughter one another. And a large sword was given to him.

Destruction is inevitable. Christ remains in control as the 2nd seal is opened. What he opens no one can shut or stop. The 2nd living creature, in response to Christ’s sovereign action, beckons the 2nd rider: **Come** (pre. imp.). The red horse of war inevitably will follow the white horse of conquest.



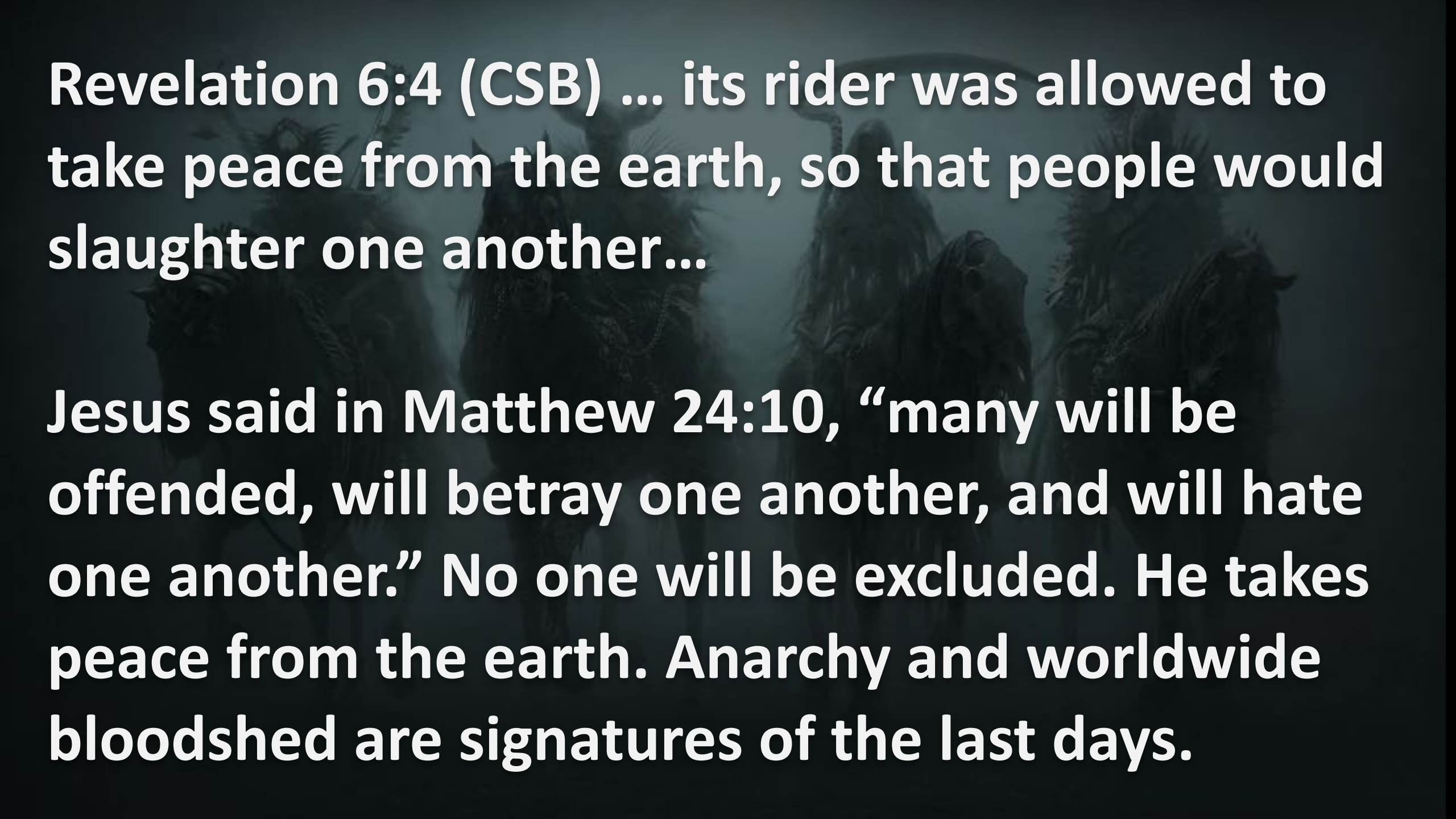
Revelation 6:4 (CSB) ...a fiery red one, and its rider was allowed to take peace from the earth, so that people would slaughter one another...

The destruction will be immense. The color of the 2nd horse rightly depicts his mission of bloodshed and slaughter. But note: he takes the peace and the people kill one another. The word kill means to slaughter and seems to convey civil strife within and between peoples and nations.

The background of the slide features a dark, atmospheric illustration of the four apocalyptic horses from the Book of Revelation. The horses are depicted in silhouette against a dark, misty background. From left to right, they are: a white horse with a crown, a red horse with a sword, a black horse with a pair of scales, and a pale green horse with a scythe. The overall tone is somber and ominous, reflecting the apocalyptic nature of the text being discussed.

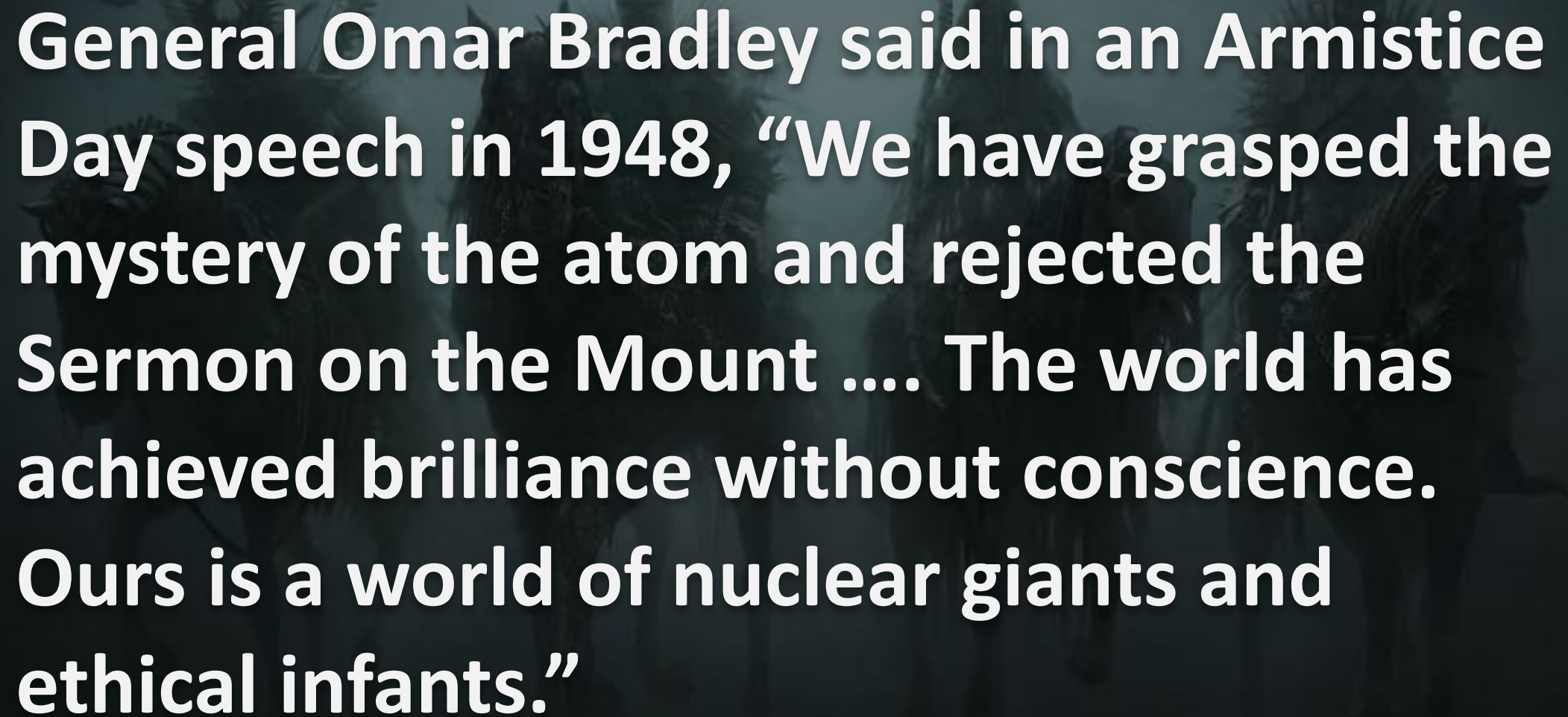
Revelation 6:4 (CSB) ...And a large **sword** was given to him.

The word for **sword** would support this for it speaks of a hidden dagger. Assassination and civil unrest, riots in the streets and rebellion against authority will run rampant. No one will be safe. One will live in constant fear of life not knowing who to trust.



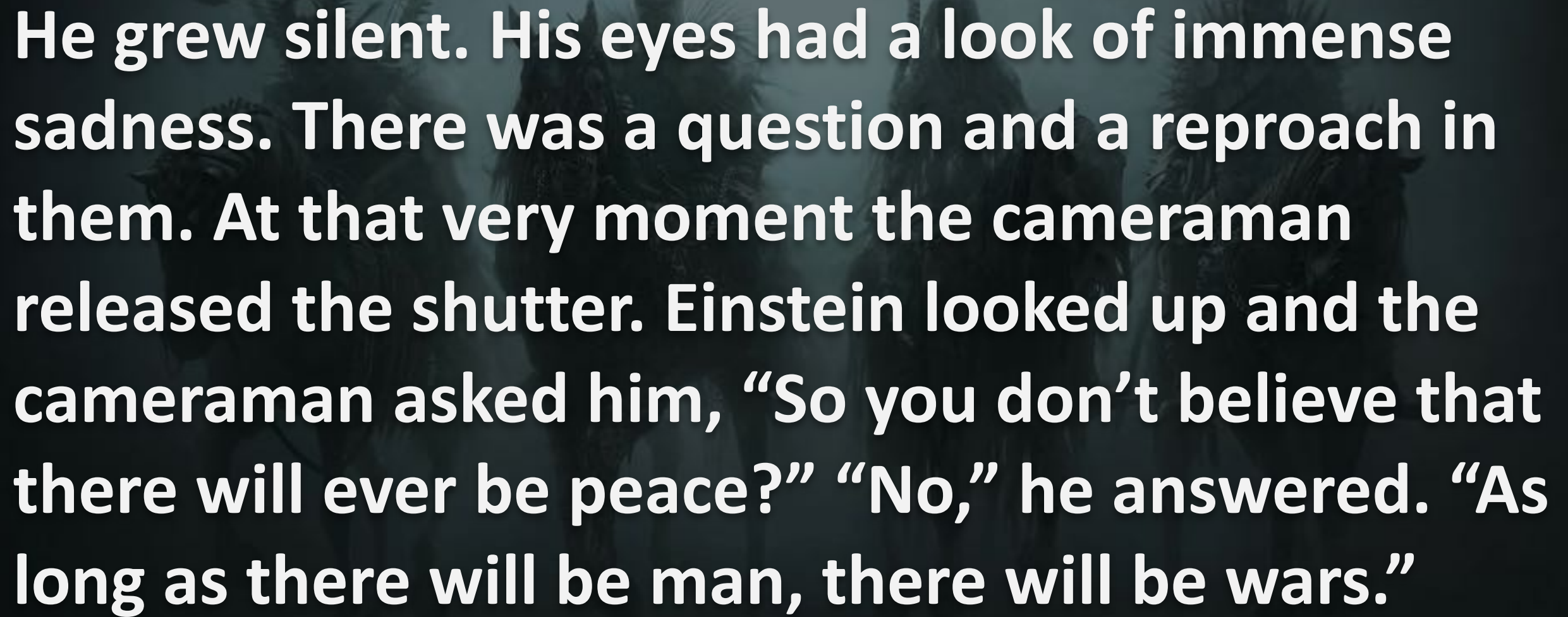
Revelation 6:4 (CSB) ... its rider was allowed to take peace from the earth, so that people would slaughter one another...

Jesus said in Matthew 24:10, “many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another.” No one will be excluded. He takes peace from the earth. Anarchy and worldwide bloodshed are signatures of the last days.



General Omar Bradley said in an Armistice Day speech in 1948, “We have grasped the mystery of the atom and rejected the Sermon on the Mount The world has achieved brilliance without conscience. Ours is a world of nuclear giants and ethical infants.”

During World War II, Albert Einstein helped bring a German photographer to the United States. They became friends, and the photographer took a number of pictures of Einstein. One day he looked into the camera and started talking. He spoke about his despair that his formula, $E=mc^2$, and his letter to President Roosevelt had made the atomic bomb possible, and his scientific research had resulted in the death of so many human beings.



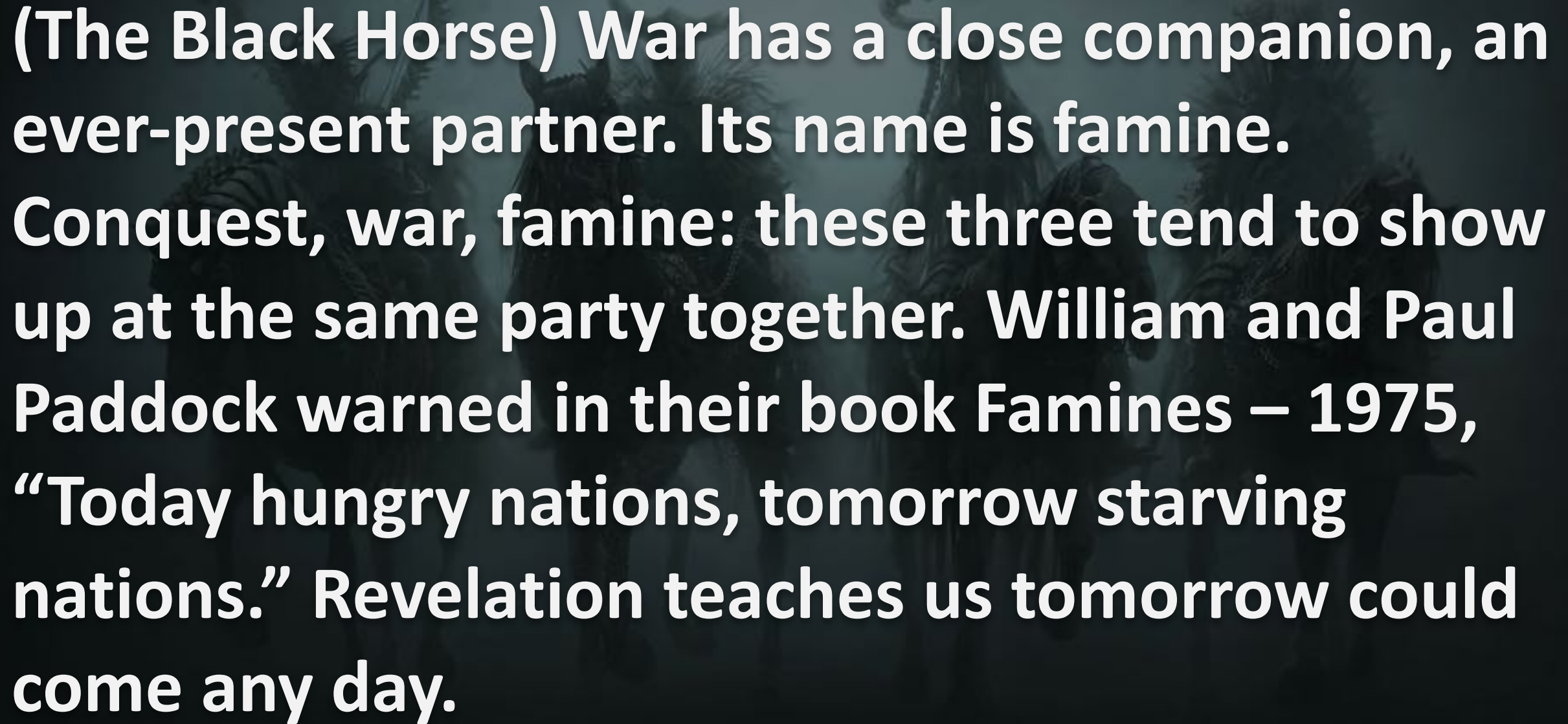
He grew silent. His eyes had a look of immense sadness. There was a question and a reproach in them. At that very moment the cameraman released the shutter. Einstein looked up and the cameraman asked him, "So you don't believe that there will ever be peace?" "No," he answered. "As long as there will be man, there will be wars."



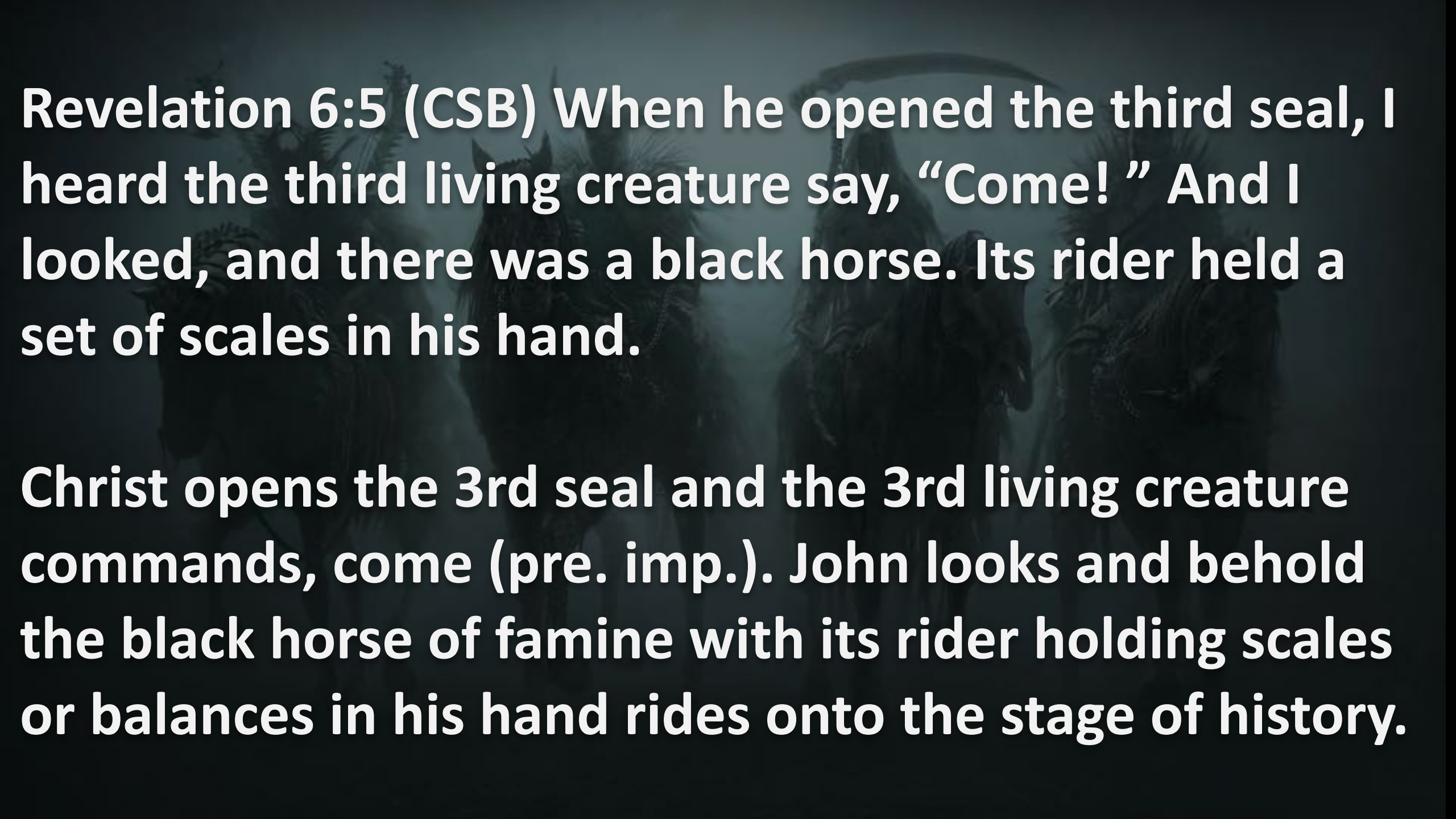
The Black Horse Inflation and Famine

Revelation 6:5-6 (CSB)

When he opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, “Come!” And I looked, and there was a black horse. Its rider held a set of scales in his hand. 6 Then I heard something like a voice among the four living creatures say, “A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius, but do not harm the oil and the wine.”



(The Black Horse) War has a close companion, an ever-present partner. Its name is famine. Conquest, war, famine: these three tend to show up at the same party together. William and Paul Paddock warned in their book Famines – 1975, “Today hungry nations, tomorrow starving nations.” Revelation teaches us tomorrow could come any day.

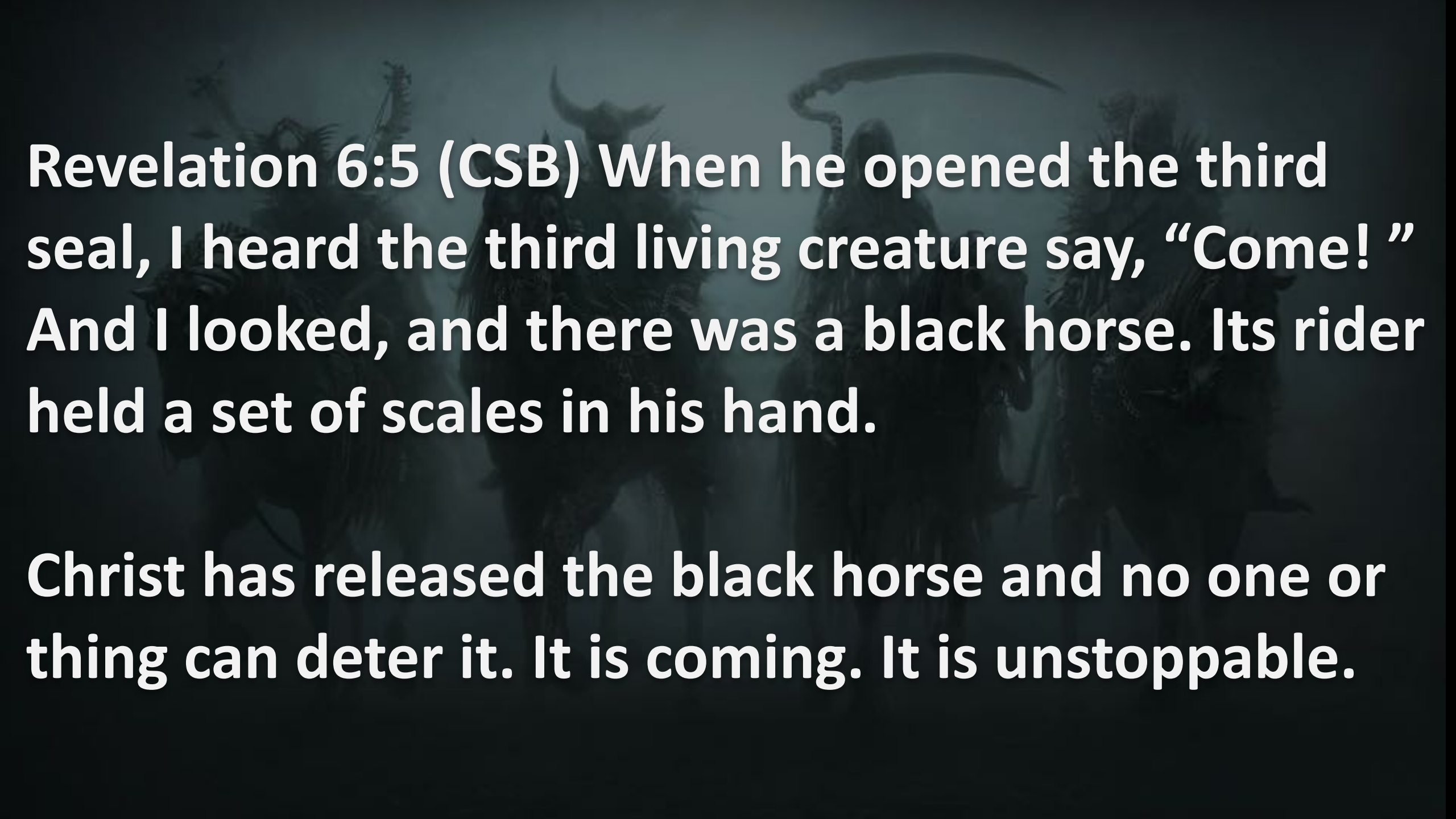


Revelation 6:5 (CSB) When he opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, “Come!” And I looked, and there was a black horse. Its rider held a set of scales in his hand.

Christ opens the 3rd seal and the 3rd living creature commands, come (pre. imp.). John looks and behold the black horse of famine with its rider holding scales or balances in his hand rides onto the stage of history.

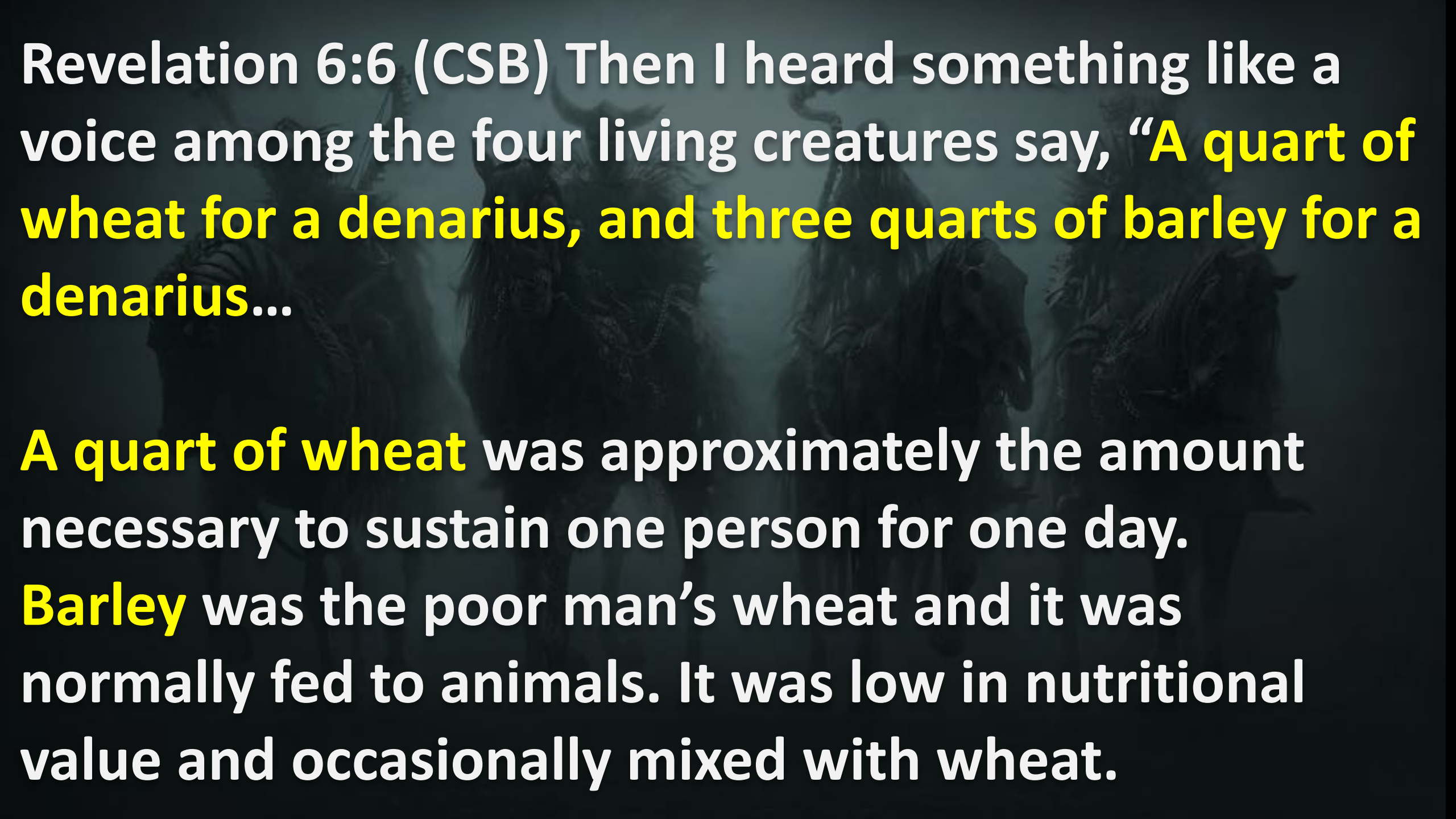


The rider on the black horse carries a pair of scales in his hand, which may have resembled these bronze scales from the Roman period.



Revelation 6:5 (CSB) When he opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, “Come!” And I looked, and there was a black horse. Its rider held a set of scales in his hand.

Christ has released the black horse and no one or thing can deter it. It is coming. It is unstoppable.

The background of the slide features four living creatures, likely the four horsemen of the Apocalypse, rendered in a dark, semi-transparent style. They are positioned behind the text, with their heads and necks visible. The overall color scheme is dark, with the text in white and yellow for emphasis.

Revelation 6:6 (CSB) Then I heard something like a voice among the four living creatures say, “**A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius...**”

A quart of wheat was approximately the amount necessary to sustain one person for one day.

Barley was the poor man’s wheat and it was normally fed to animals. It was low in nutritional value and occasionally mixed with wheat.



Revelation 6:6 ... for a **denarius**, and three quarts of barley for a **denarius**...

A denarius was basically a day's wage. In other words a man would work all day for just enough wheat to sustain him, or enough barley to barely keep his family alive. Inflation prices are 10-16 times above normal according to prices cited by Cicero for wheat sold in Sicily (Beasley-Murray, 133).



Revelation 6:6 ...**but do not harm the oil and the wine.**”

The phrase do not harm the oil and wine is less clear as to its meaning. Some see the phrase as setting a limit on the deprivation caused by the horse of famine. Others argue that oil and wine were the commodities of the wealthy. It may be that both interpretations are likely.



Revelation 6:6 ...**but do not harm the oil and the wine.**”

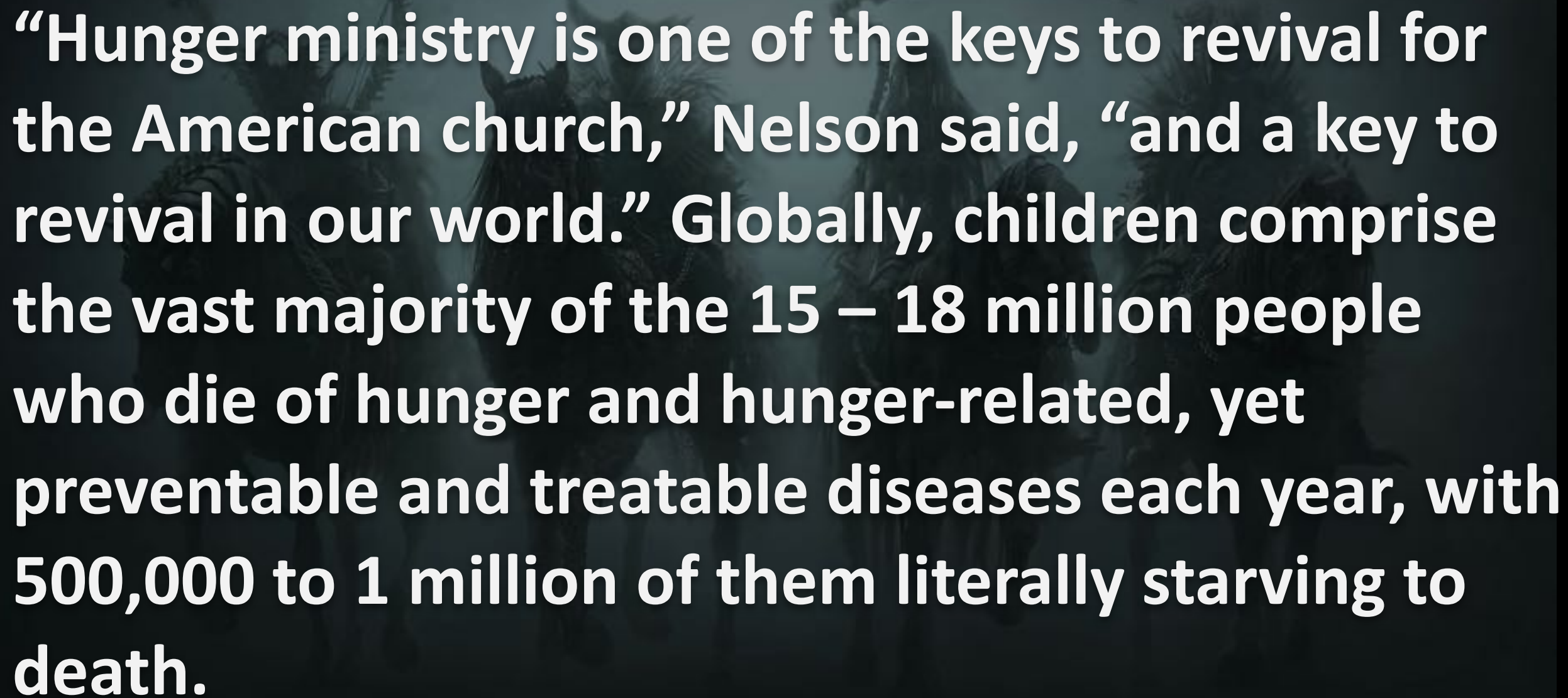
Craig S. Keener observes that ancient Mediterranean warfare permitted destroying standing crops like wheat but not the vines and olive trees, which would have produced long-term devastation and devalued the land being conquered. (NIV Application Commentary)

The background of the slide features a dark, atmospheric scene with four horses and their riders. The horses are dark-colored, and the riders are wearing long, dark, hooded robes. The scene is set in a misty or smoky environment, with a faint light source in the distance, creating a somber and mysterious mood. The text is overlaid on this background.

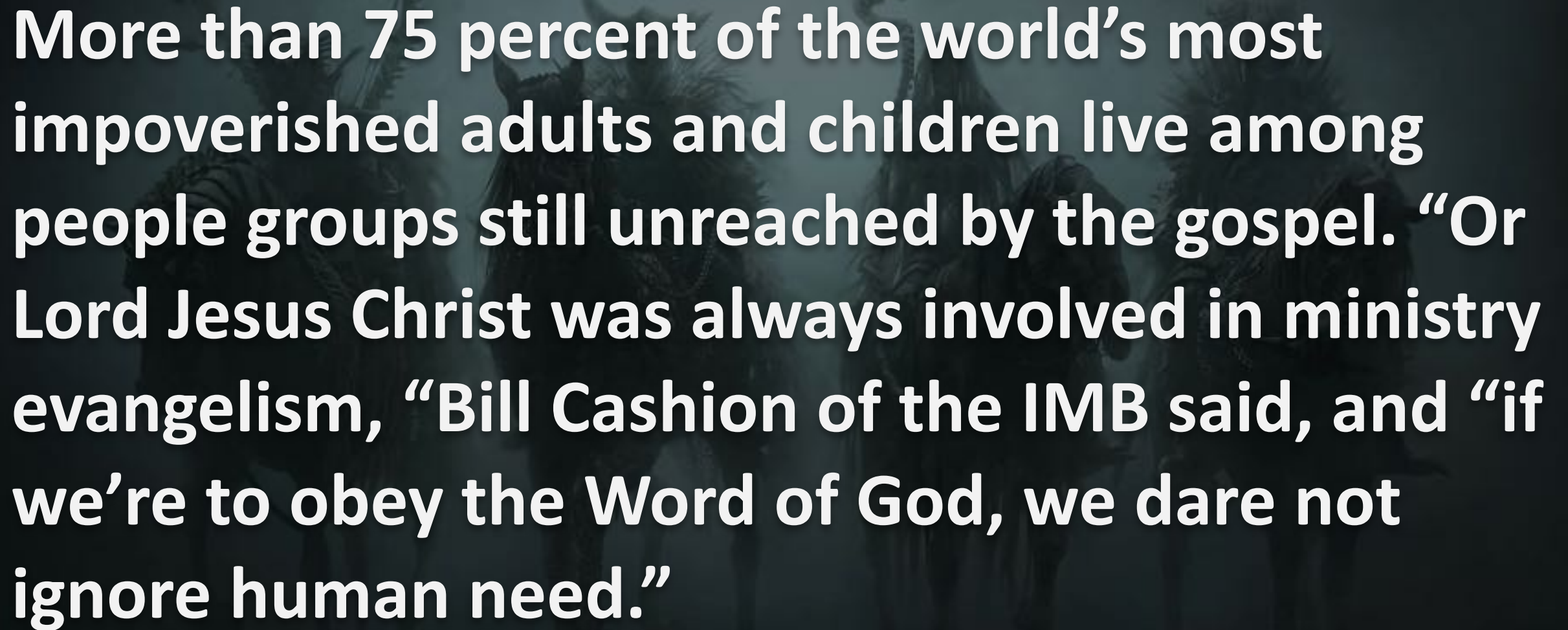
Revelation 6:6 ...**but do not harm the oil and the wine.**”

Food for the poor will be scarce and in short supply, while luxuries for the wealthy will not be harmed. Oil and wine will be affordable only by the more affluent. Though they are normally purchased by rich and poor alike, in this day they will be a luxury most cannot afford.

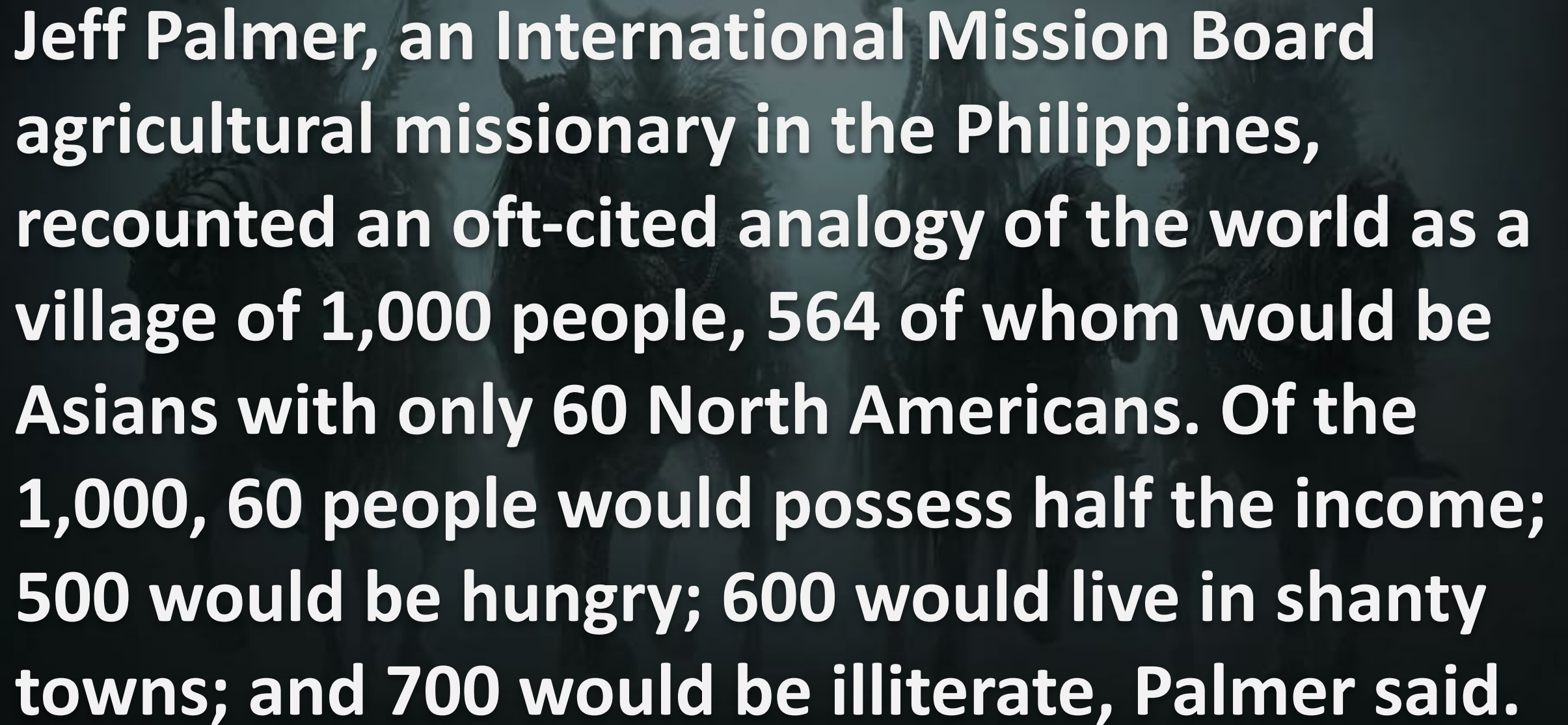
Steve Nelson, ERLC director of hunger concerns, has noted, “In terms of human life, this is our most pressing issue.” Compared to the total number of infants who have been killed in the 25 years since the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion, Nelson said an equal number of people will die in just 25 months from hunger and hunger-related illnesses.



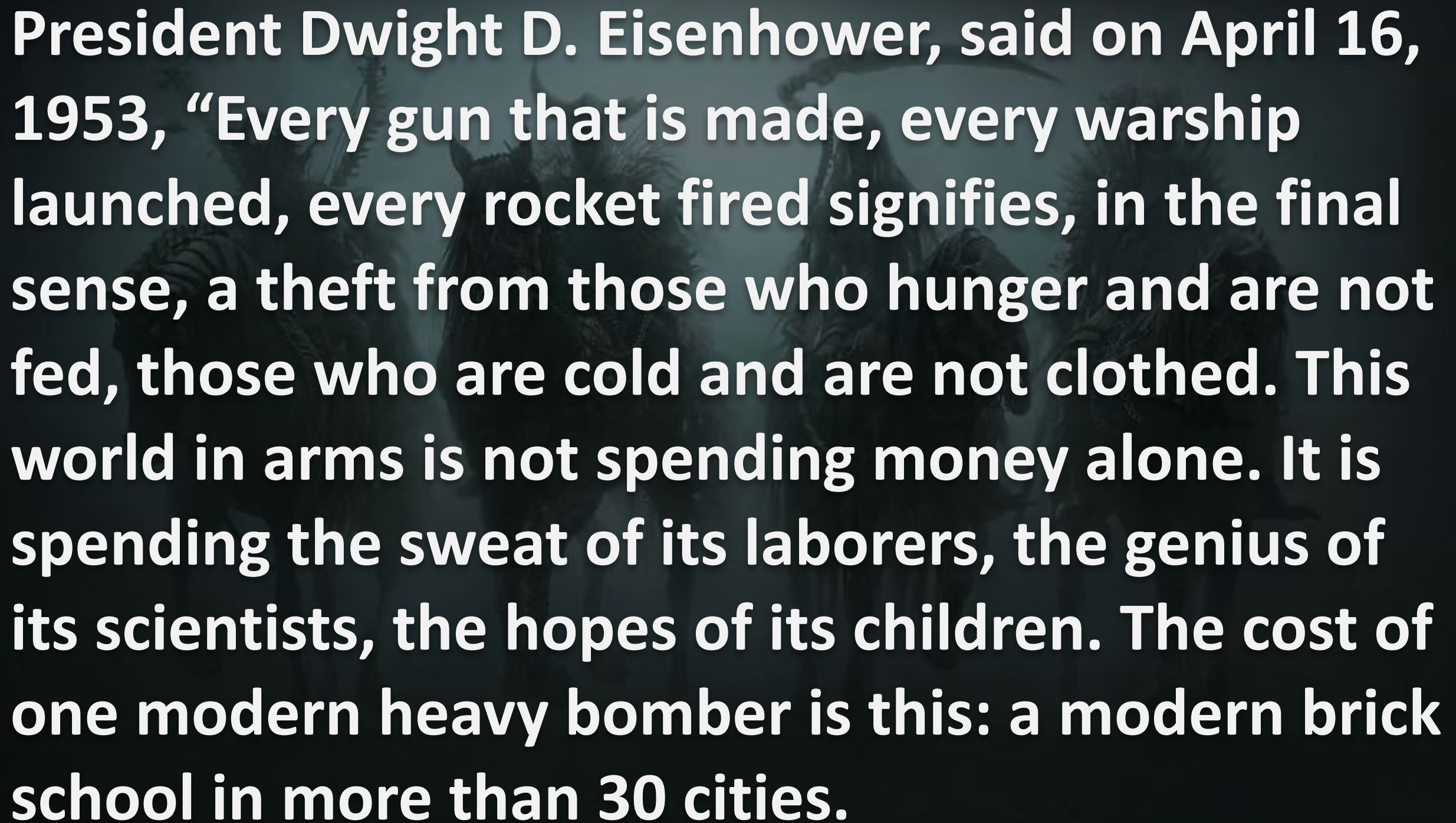
“Hunger ministry is one of the keys to revival for the American church,” Nelson said, “and a key to revival in our world.” Globally, children comprise the vast majority of the 15 – 18 million people who die of hunger and hunger-related, yet preventable and treatable diseases each year, with 500,000 to 1 million of them literally starving to death.



More than 75 percent of the world's most impoverished adults and children live among people groups still unreached by the gospel. "Or Lord Jesus Christ was always involved in ministry evangelism," Bill Cashion of the IMB said, and "if we're to obey the Word of God, we dare not ignore human need."



Jeff Palmer, an International Mission Board agricultural missionary in the Philippines, recounted an oft-cited analogy of the world as a village of 1,000 people, 564 of whom would be Asians with only 60 North Americans. Of the 1,000, 60 people would possess half the income; 500 would be hungry; 600 would live in shanty towns; and 700 would be illiterate, Palmer said.



President Dwight D. Eisenhower, said on April 16, 1953, “Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed. This world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children. The cost of one modern heavy bomber is this: a modern brick school in more than 30 cities.

It is electric power plants, each serving a town of 60,000 population. It is two fine, fully equipped hospitals. It is some 50 miles of concrete highway. We pay for a single fighter plane with a half million bushels of wheat. This, I repeat, is the best way of life to be found on the road the world has been taking. This is not a way of life at all, in any true sense. Under the cloud of threatening war, it is humanity hanging from a cross of iron.”

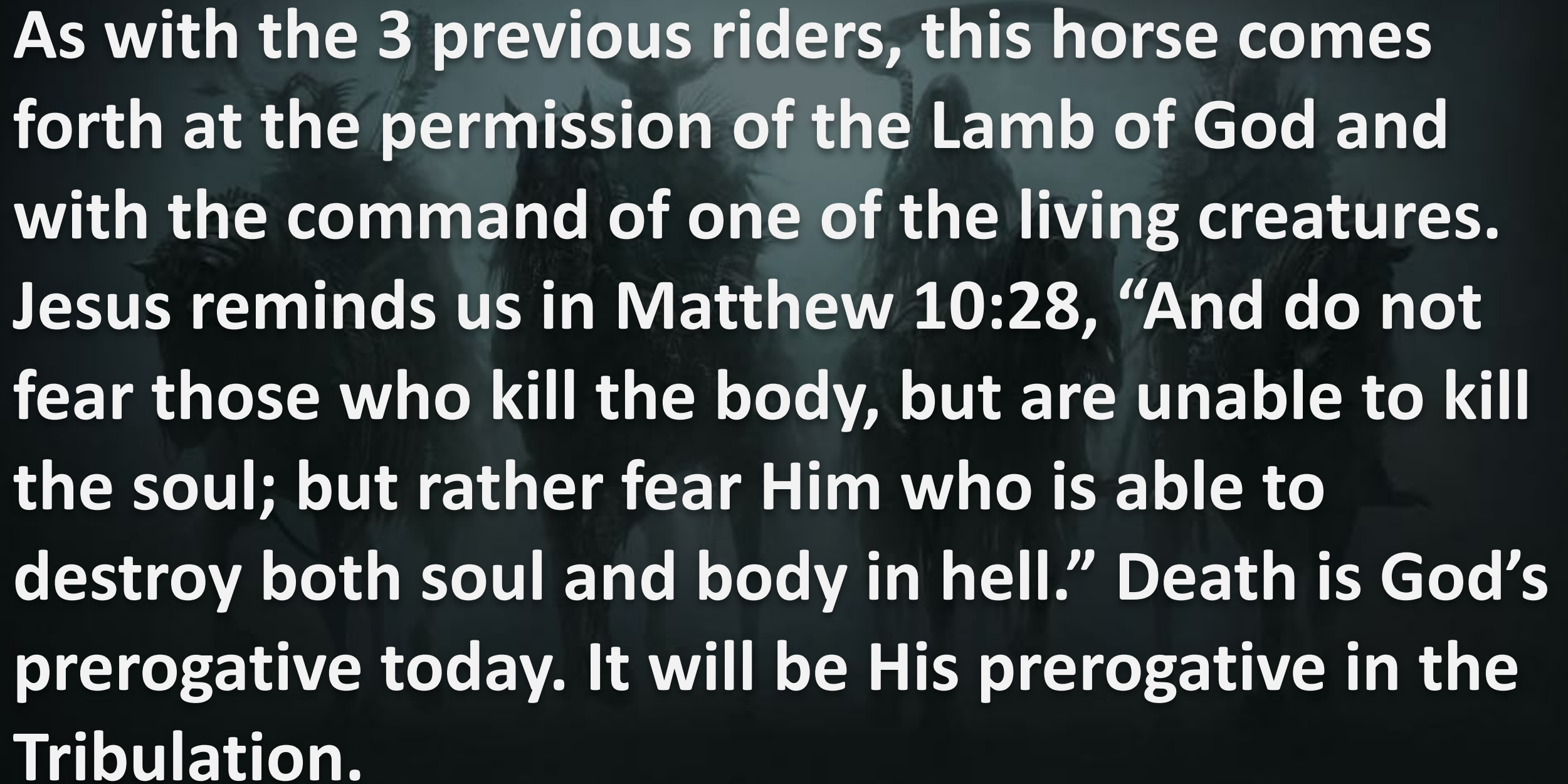


The Pale Horse Death and Hell

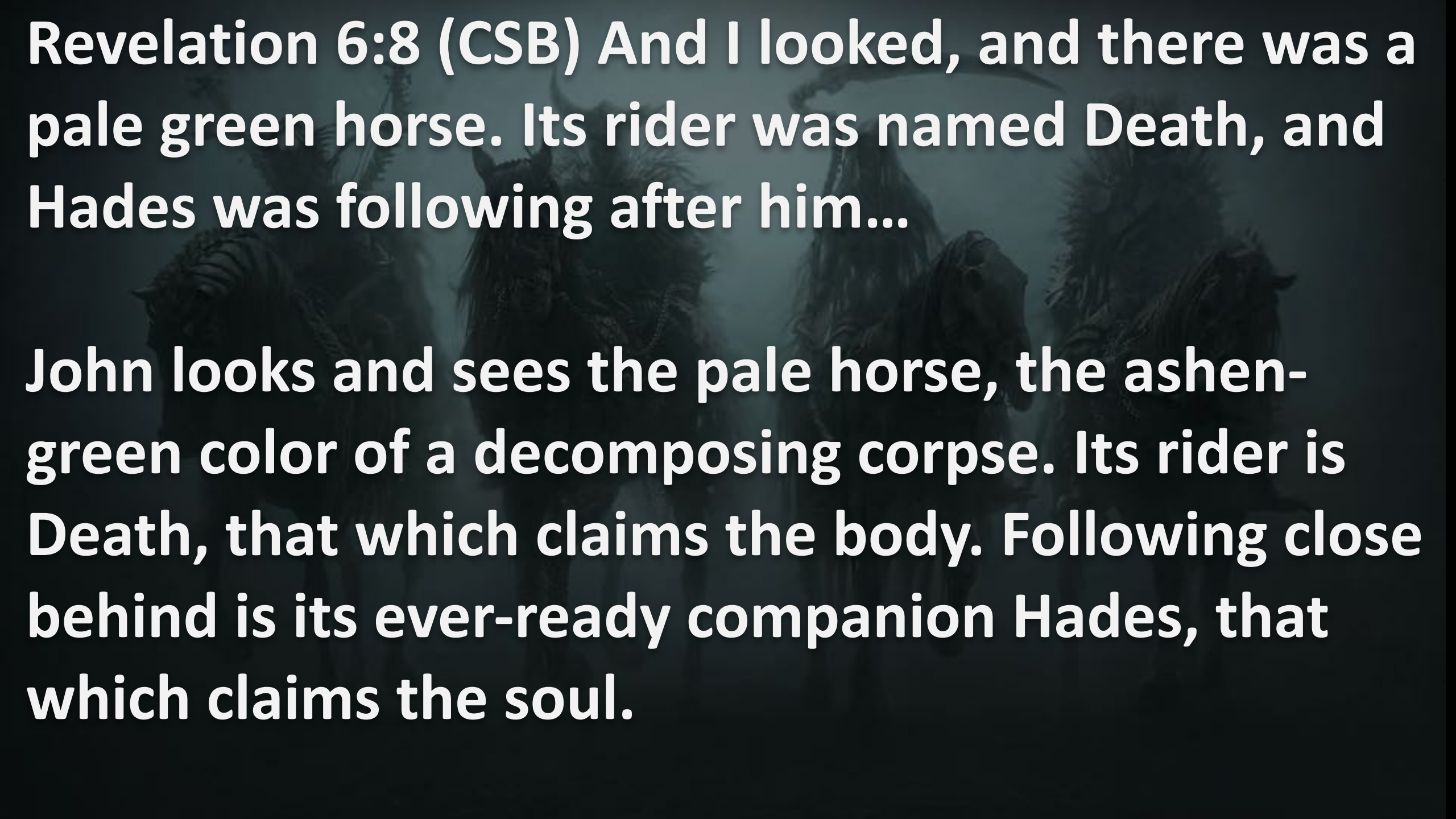
The background of the image is a dark, atmospheric scene depicting four riders on horseback, likely the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse. The central figure is a pale, greenish horse with a rider who appears to be Death, holding a scythe. The other three riders are on darker horses, and the overall scene is shrouded in a misty, dark blue-green light, creating a somber and ominous mood.

Revelation 6:7-8 (CSB)

When he opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, “Come!” 8 And I looked, and there was a pale green horse. Its rider was named Death, and Hades was following after him. They were given authority over a fourth of the earth, to kill by the sword, by famine, by plague, and by the wild animals of the earth.

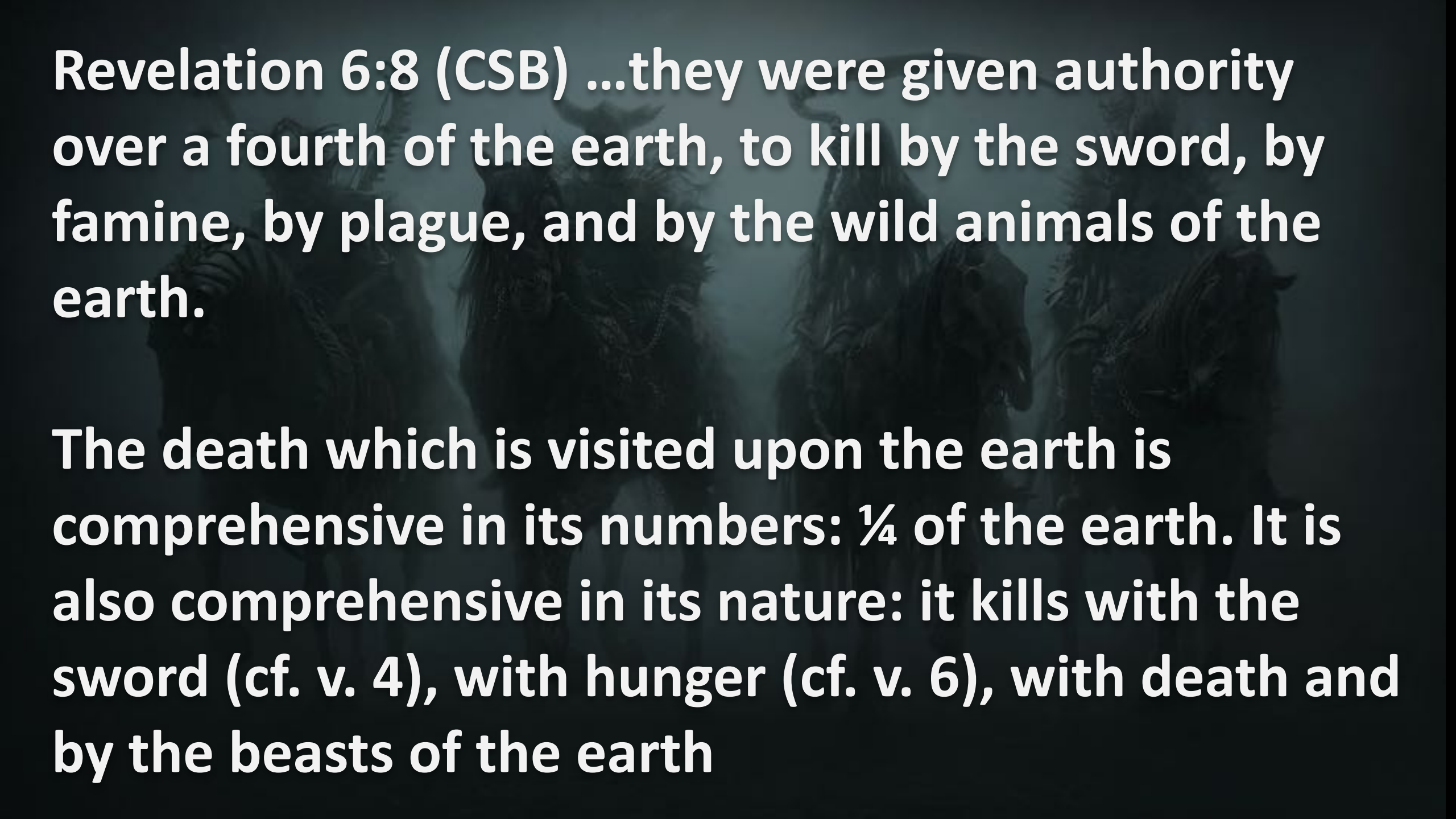


As with the 3 previous riders, this horse comes forth at the permission of the Lamb of God and with the command of one of the living creatures. Jesus reminds us in Matthew 10:28, “And do not fear those who kill the body, but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.” Death is God’s prerogative today. It will be His prerogative in the Tribulation.



Revelation 6:8 (CSB) And I looked, and there was a pale green horse. Its rider was named Death, and Hades was following after him...

John looks and sees the pale horse, the ashen-green color of a decomposing corpse. Its rider is Death, that which claims the body. Following close behind is its ever-ready companion Hades, that which claims the soul.



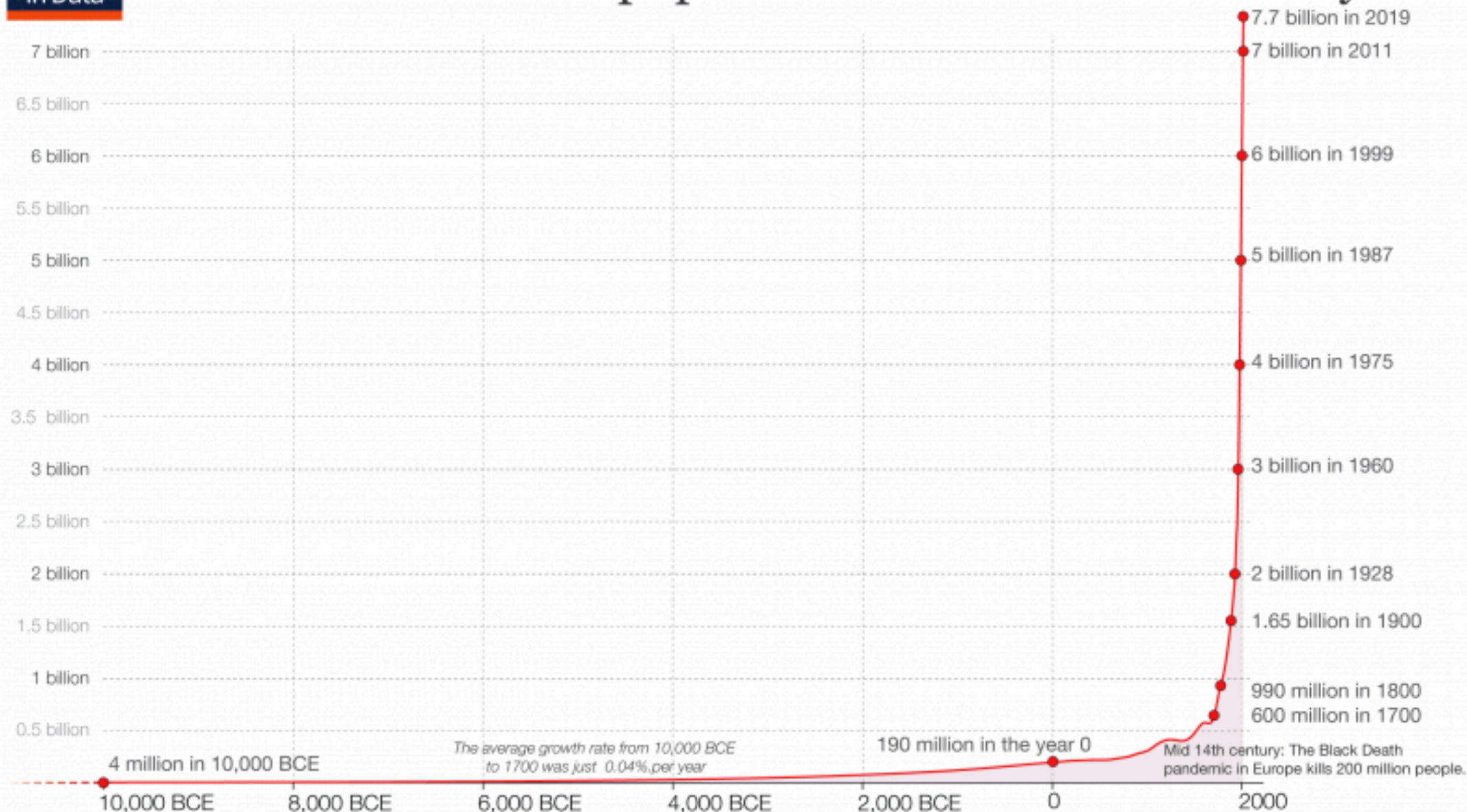
Revelation 6:8 (CSB) ...they were given authority over a fourth of the earth, to kill by the sword, by famine, by plague, and by the wild animals of the earth.

The death which is visited upon the earth is comprehensive in its numbers: $\frac{1}{4}$ of the earth. It is also comprehensive in its nature: it kills with the sword (cf. v. 4), with hunger (cf. v. 6), with death and by the beasts of the earth



In 1800 the world reached 1 billion in population.
In 1930 the world reached 2 billion in population.
In 1960 the world reached 3 billion in population.
In 1974 the world reached 4 billion in population.
In 1987 the world reached 5 billion in population.
In 1999 (Oct. 12 to be precise!) the world reached 6 billion in population.
Today - the World Population is 7.6 billion people.

The size of the world population over the last 12,000 years

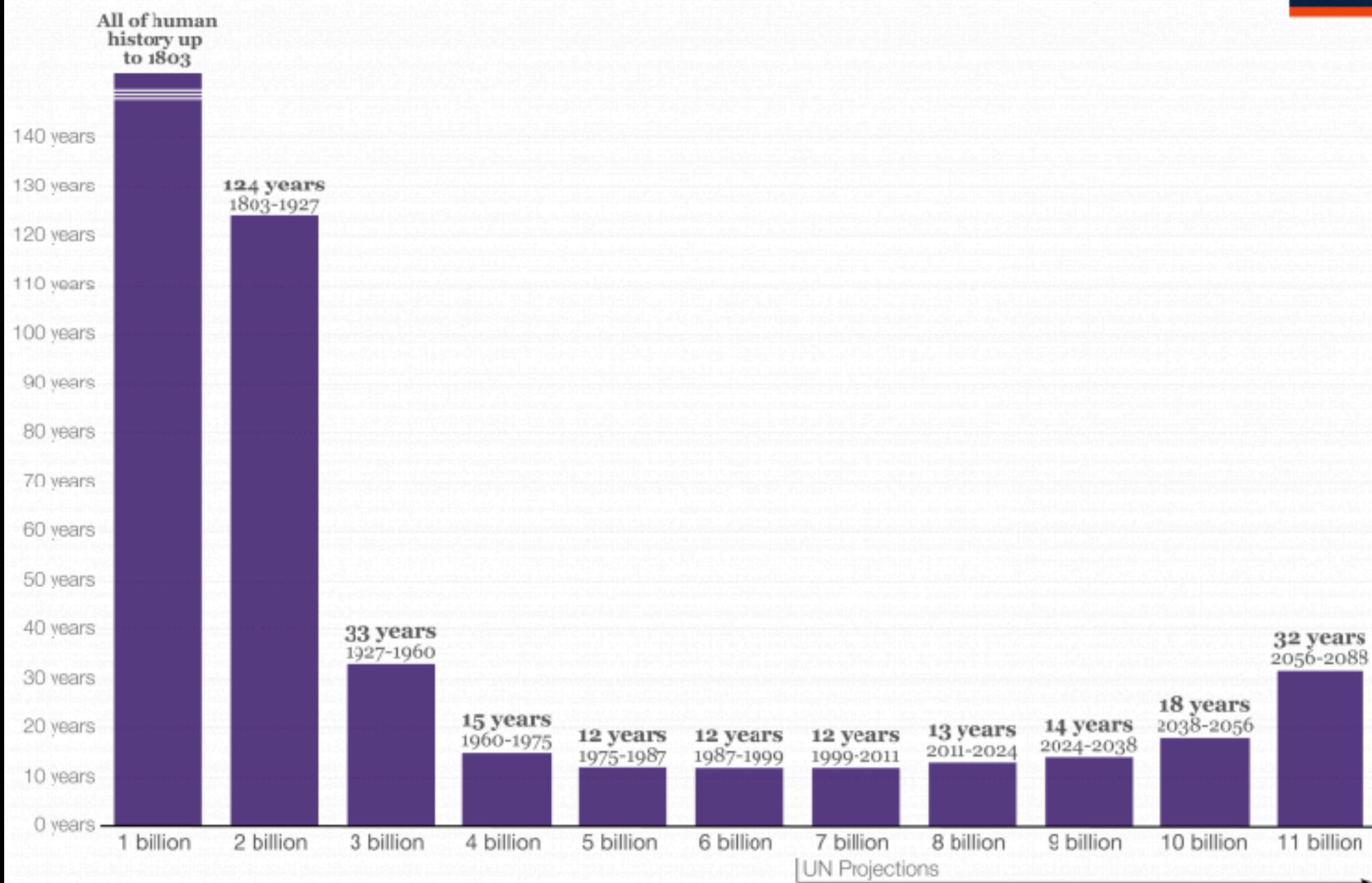


Based on estimates by the *History Database of the Global Environment (HYDE)* and the United Nations. On OurWorldinData.org you can download the annual data.

This is a visualization from OurWorldinData.org, where you find data and research on how the world is changing.

Licensed under [CC-BY-SA](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/) by the author Max Roser.

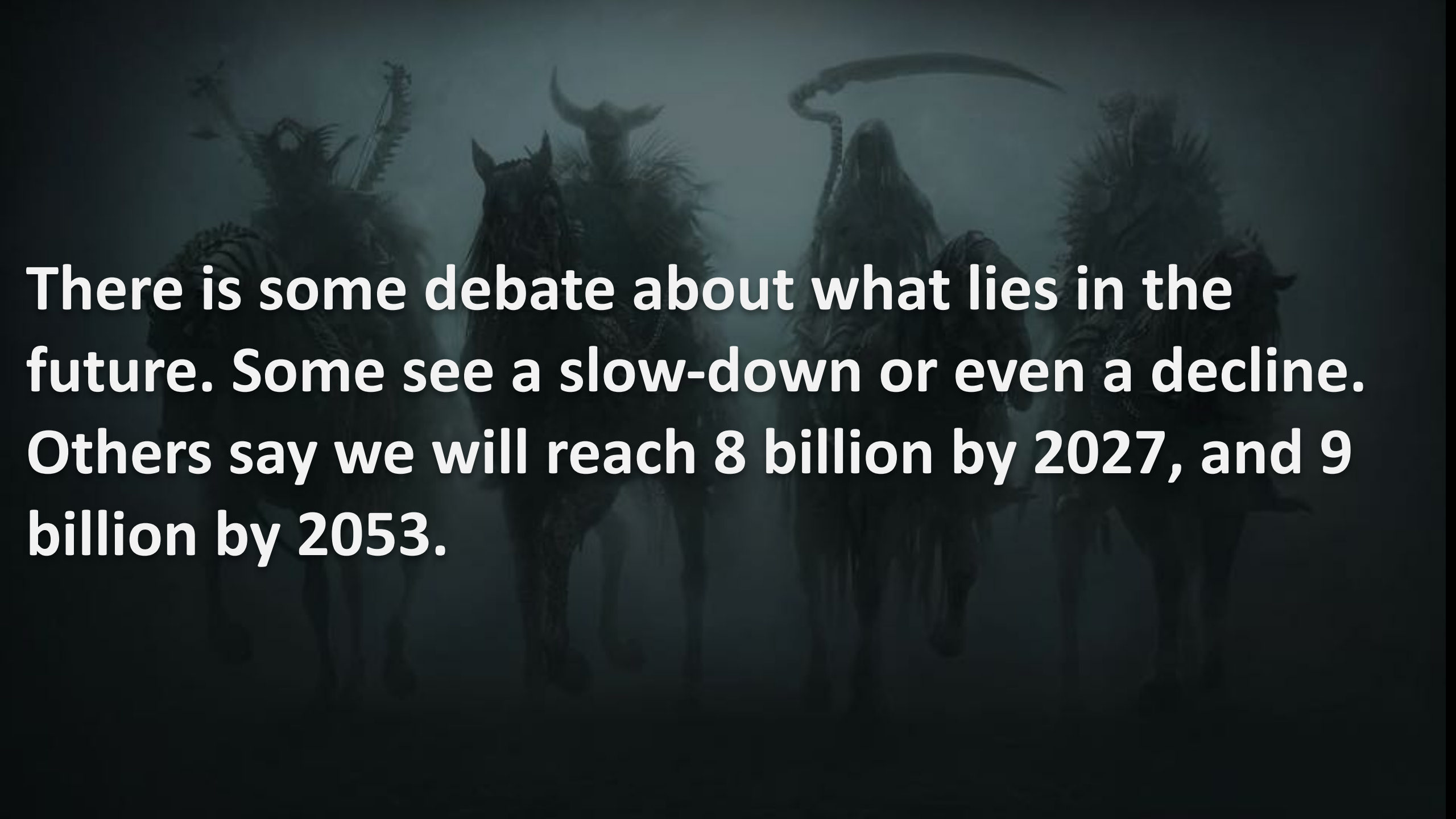
Time it took for the world population to increase by one billion



Data source: History Database of the Global Environment (HYDE); UNWorld Population Prospects (2015 Revision); UN Medium Projection (2015 Revision)

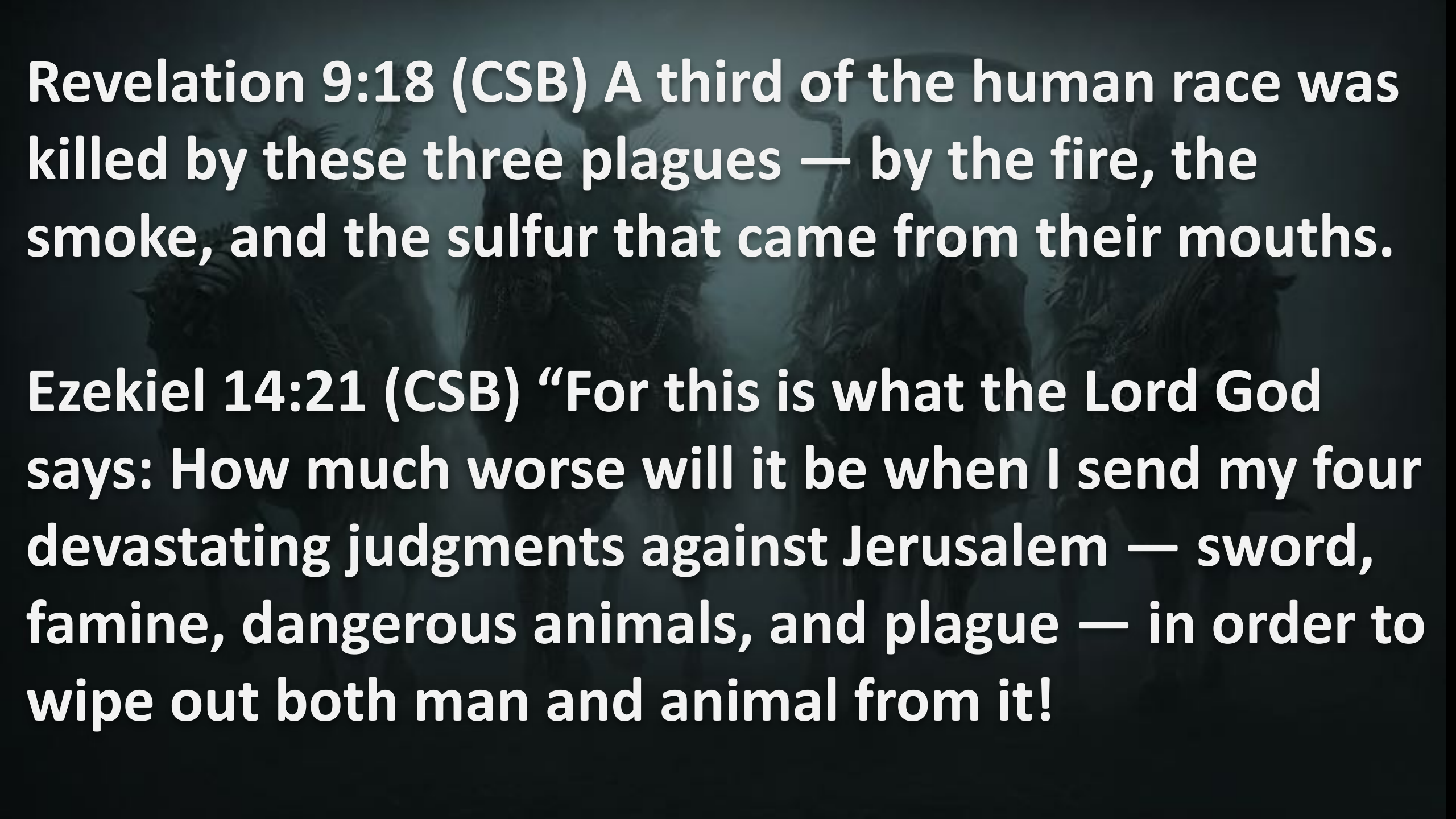
This is a visualization from [OurWorldinData.org](https://ourworldindata.org), where you find data and research on how the world is changing.

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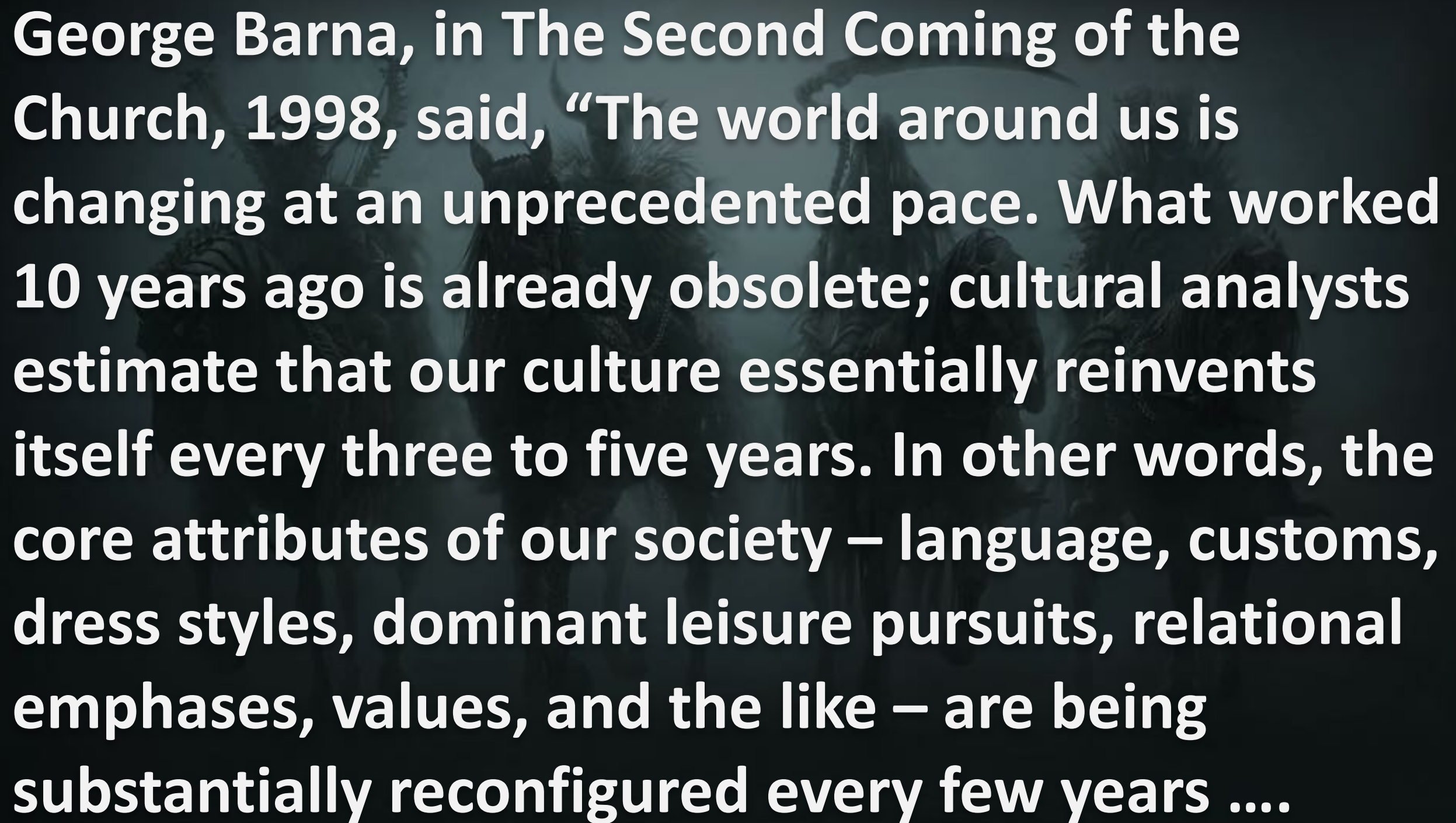
There is some debate about what lies in the future. Some see a slow-down or even a decline. Others say we will reach 8 billion by 2027, and 9 billion by 2053.

Think about it. In less than 4 years, 2 billion people will depart planet earth not by rapture, but by death. Later in Rev. 8:18, because of the 6th trumpet, 1/3 of those remaining will die. In less than 7 years, ½ of the world's population will be taken by the "grim reaper!" (cf. Ezekiel 14:21). In a world decimated by war and famine, even the wild beast will join in the carnage. Sound far-fetched and beyond reality? Not really.

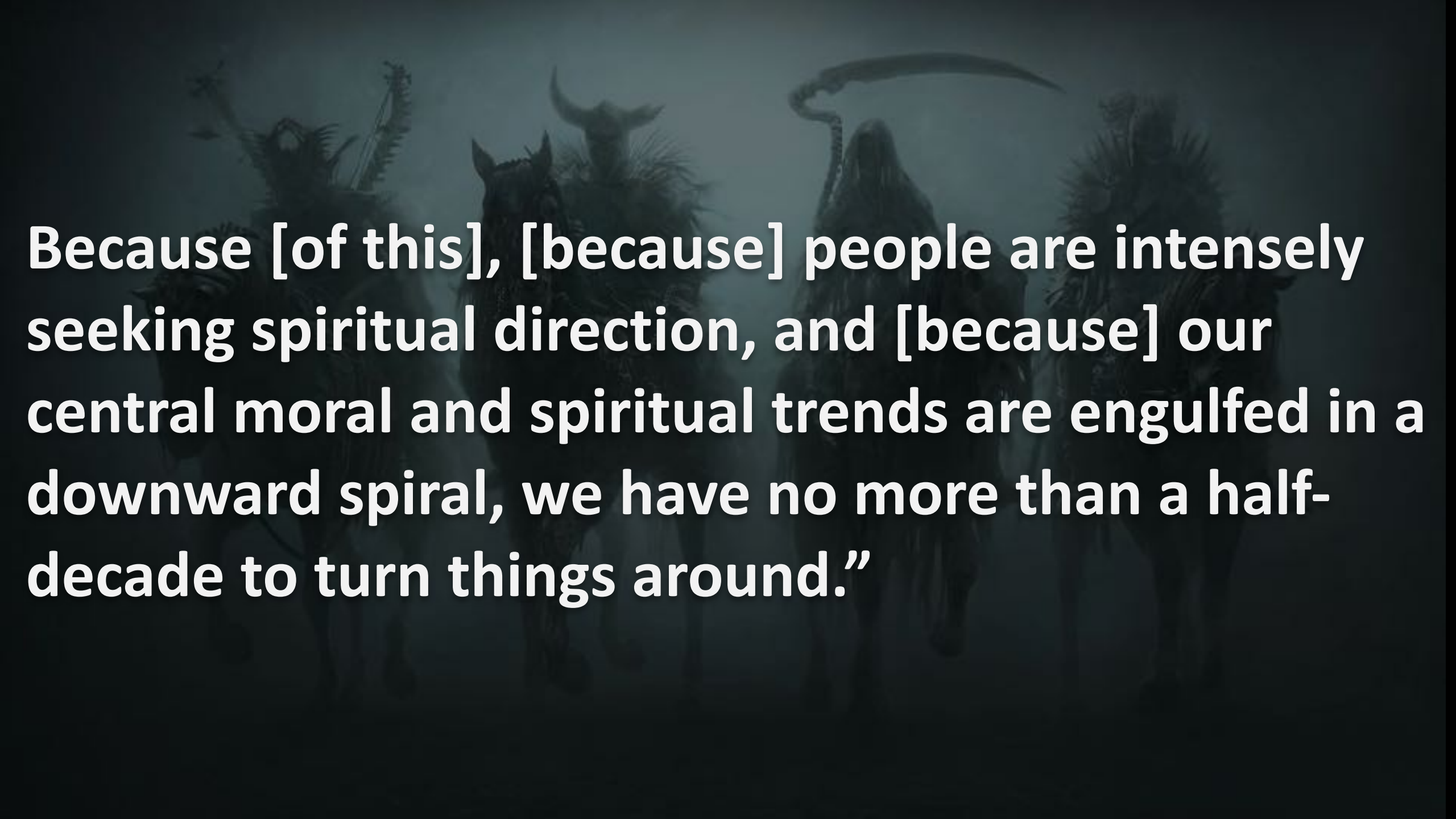


Revelation 9:18 (CSB) A third of the human race was killed by these three plagues — by the fire, the smoke, and the sulfur that came from their mouths.

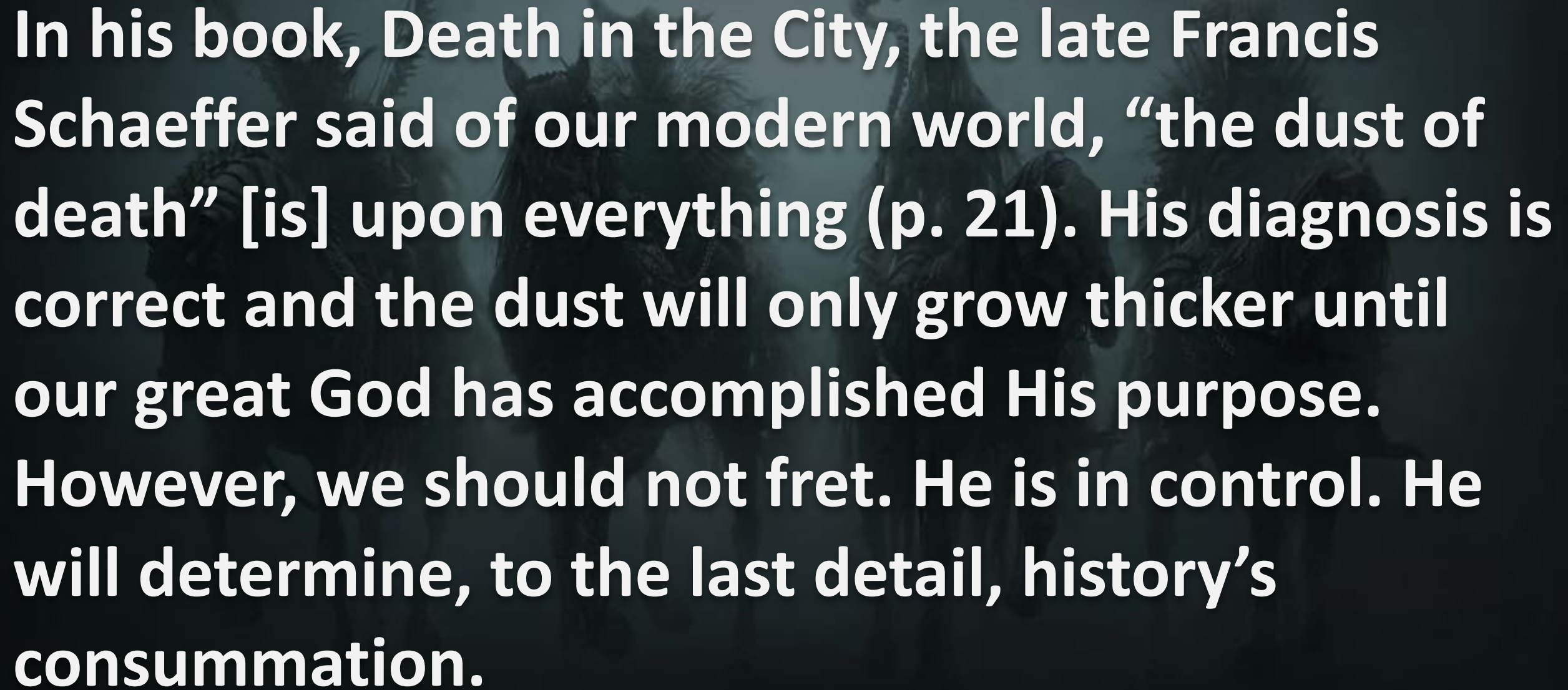
Ezekiel 14:21 (CSB) “For this is what the Lord God says: How much worse will it be when I send my four devastating judgments against Jerusalem — sword, famine, dangerous animals, and plague — in order to wipe out both man and animal from it!



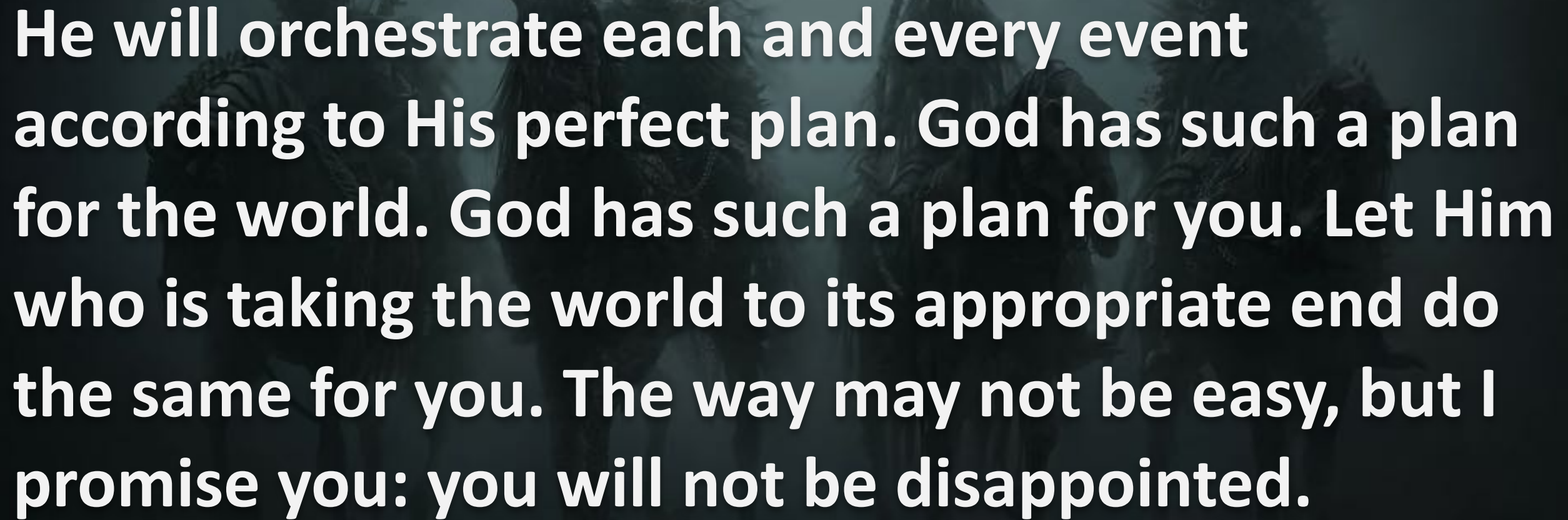
George Barna, in *The Second Coming of the Church*, 1998, said, “The world around us is changing at an unprecedented pace. What worked 10 years ago is already obsolete; cultural analysts estimate that our culture essentially reinvents itself every three to five years. In other words, the core attributes of our society – language, customs, dress styles, dominant leisure pursuits, relational emphases, values, and the like – are being substantially reconfigured every few years



Because [of this], [because] people are intensely seeking spiritual direction, and [because] our central moral and spiritual trends are engulfed in a downward spiral, we have no more than a half-decade to turn things around.”



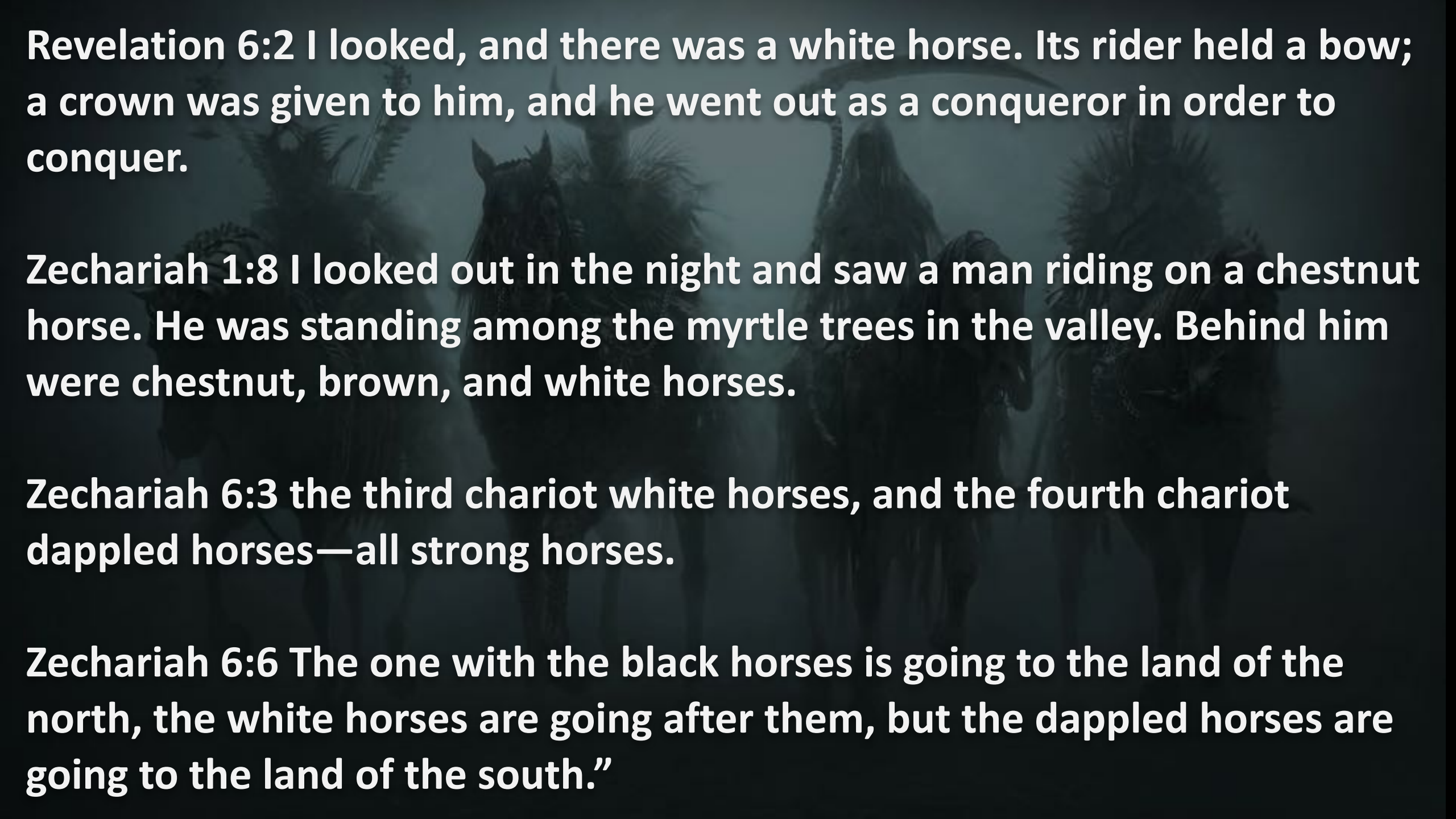
In his book, *Death in the City*, the late Francis Schaeffer said of our modern world, “the dust of death” [is] upon everything (p. 21). His diagnosis is correct and the dust will only grow thicker until our great God has accomplished His purpose. However, we should not fret. He is in control. He will determine, to the last detail, history’s consummation.



He will orchestrate each and every event according to His perfect plan. God has such a plan for the world. God has such a plan for you. Let Him who is taking the world to its appropriate end do the same for you. The way may not be easy, but I promise you: you will not be disappointed.



Old Testament Connections

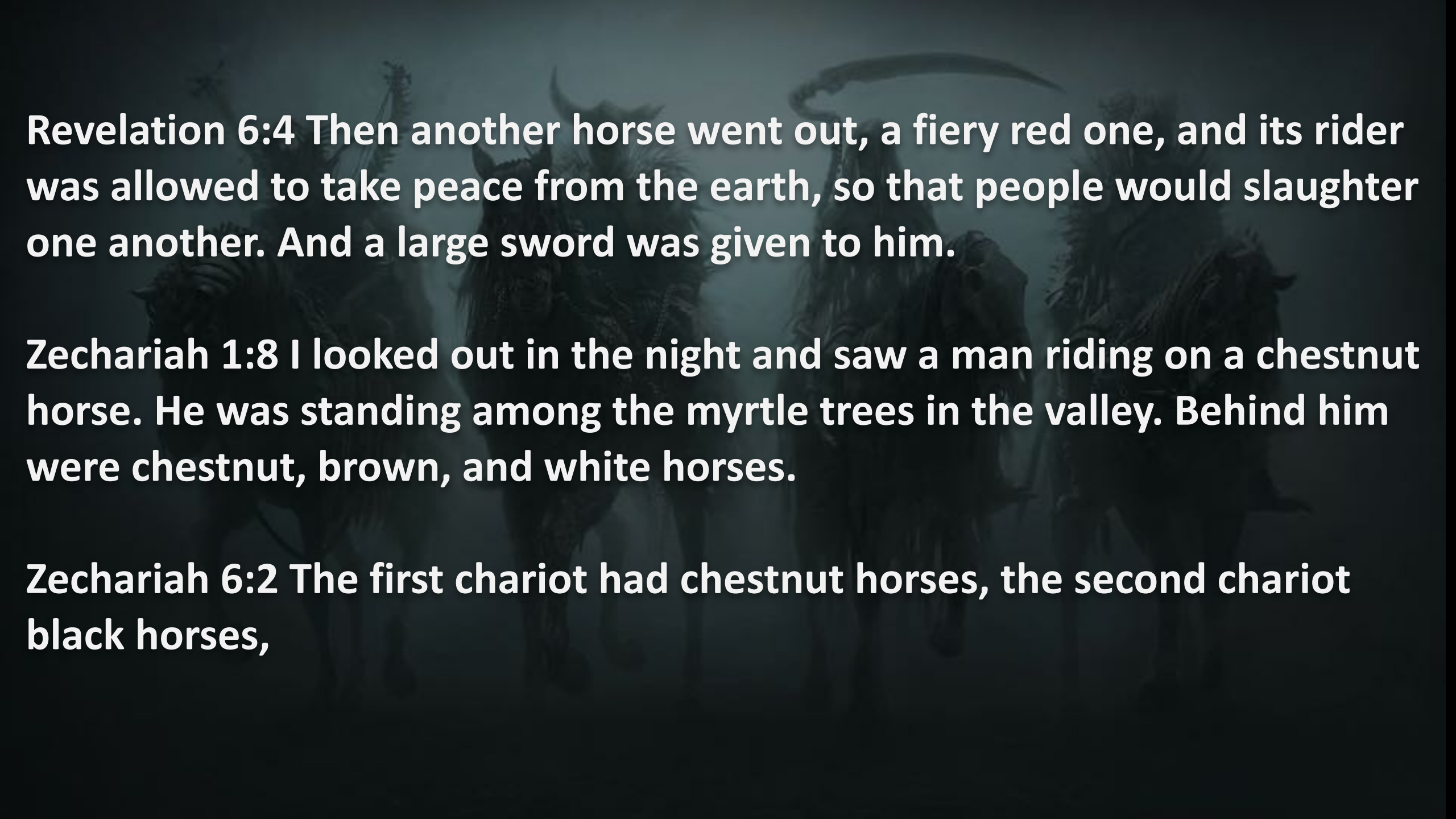


Revelation 6:2 I looked, and there was a white horse. Its rider held a bow; a crown was given to him, and he went out as a conqueror in order to conquer.

Zechariah 1:8 I looked out in the night and saw a man riding on a chestnut horse. He was standing among the myrtle trees in the valley. Behind him were chestnut, brown, and white horses.

Zechariah 6:3 the third chariot white horses, and the fourth chariot dappled horses—all strong horses.

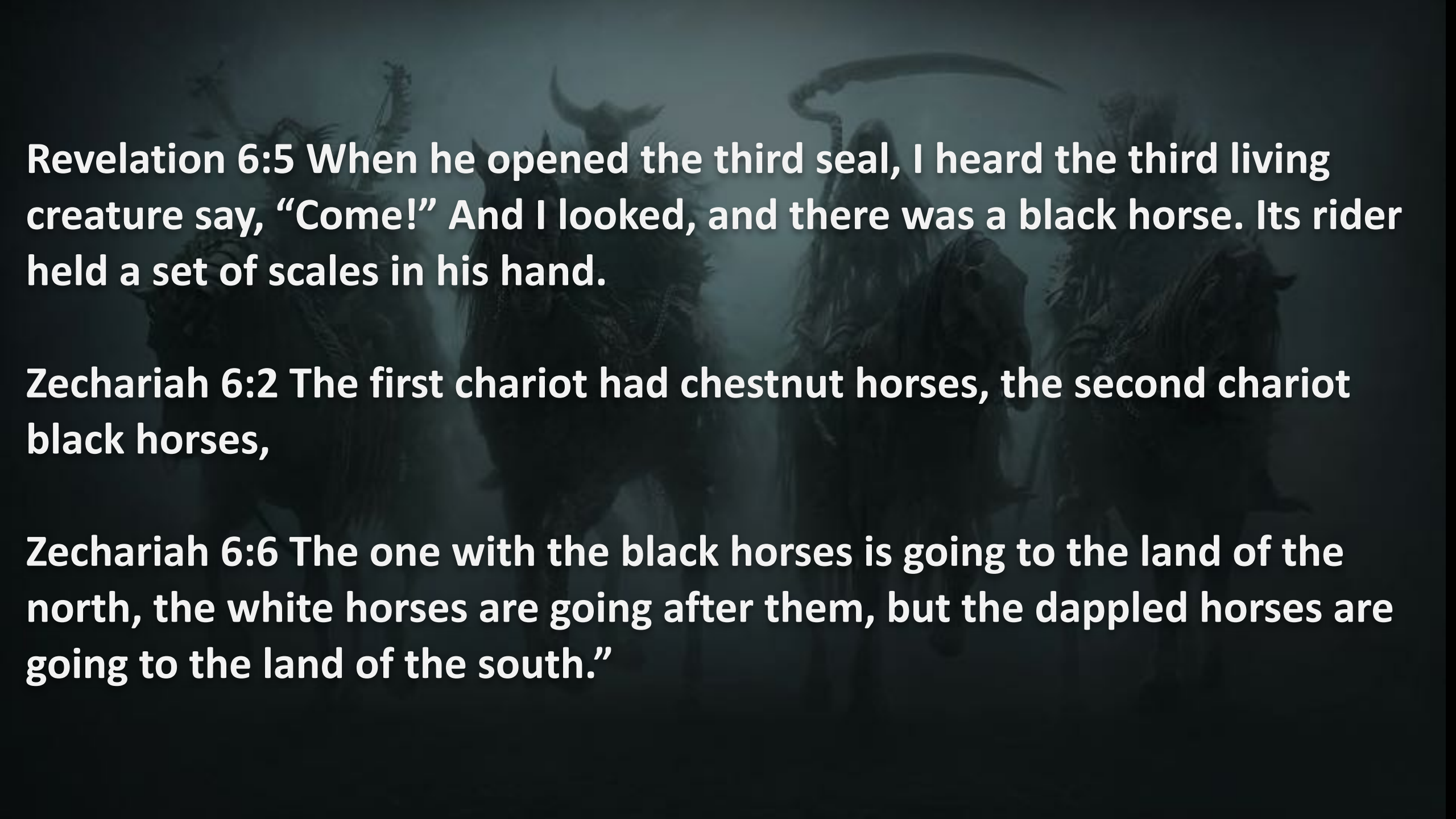
Zechariah 6:6 The one with the black horses is going to the land of the north, the white horses are going after them, but the dappled horses are going to the land of the south.”



Revelation 6:4 Then another horse went out, a fiery red one, and its rider was allowed to take peace from the earth, so that people would slaughter one another. And a large sword was given to him.

Zechariah 1:8 I looked out in the night and saw a man riding on a chestnut horse. He was standing among the myrtle trees in the valley. Behind him were chestnut, brown, and white horses.

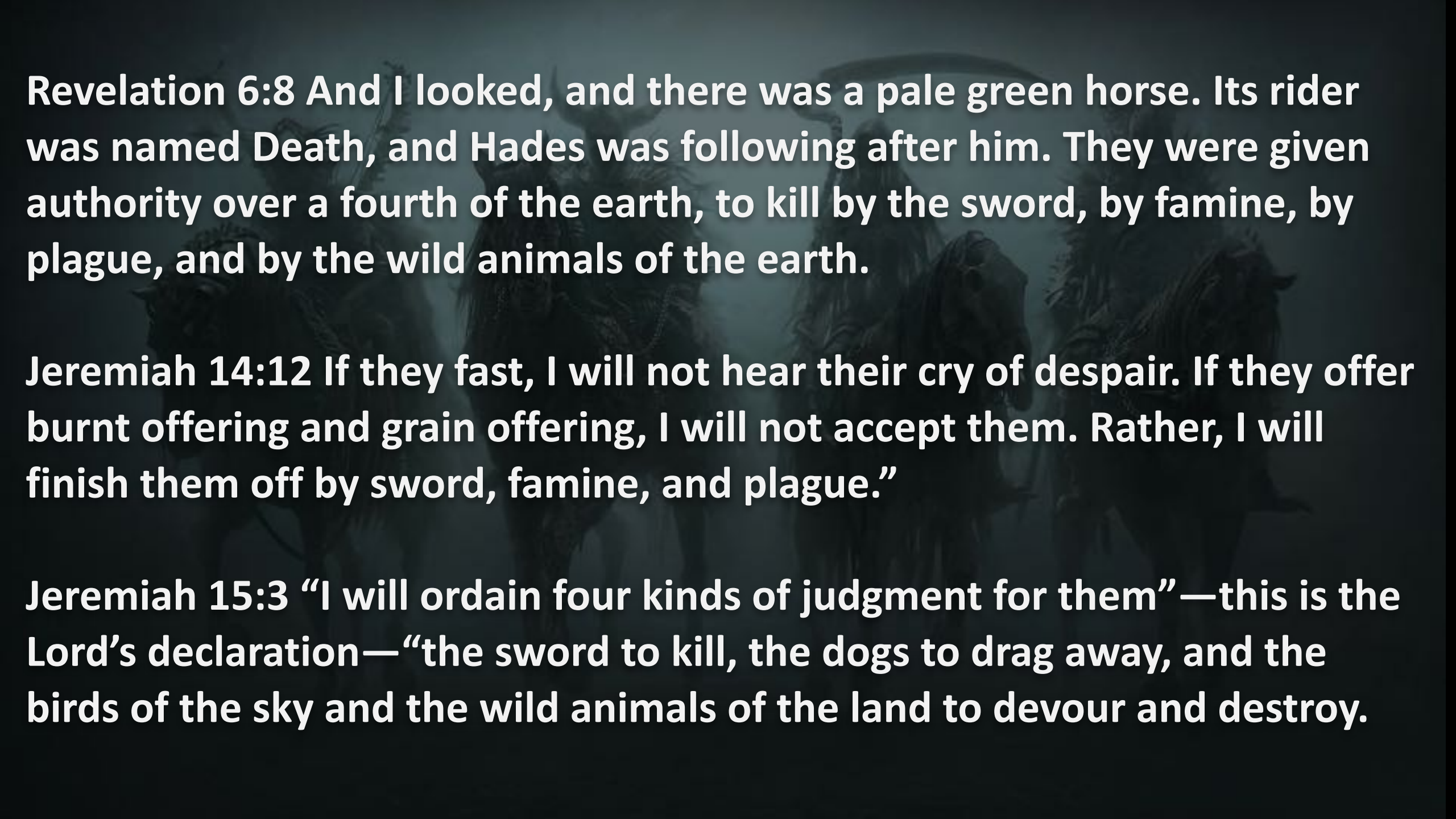
Zechariah 6:2 The first chariot had chestnut horses, the second chariot black horses,



Revelation 6:5 When he opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, “Come!” And I looked, and there was a black horse. Its rider held a set of scales in his hand.

Zechariah 6:2 The first chariot had chestnut horses, the second chariot black horses,

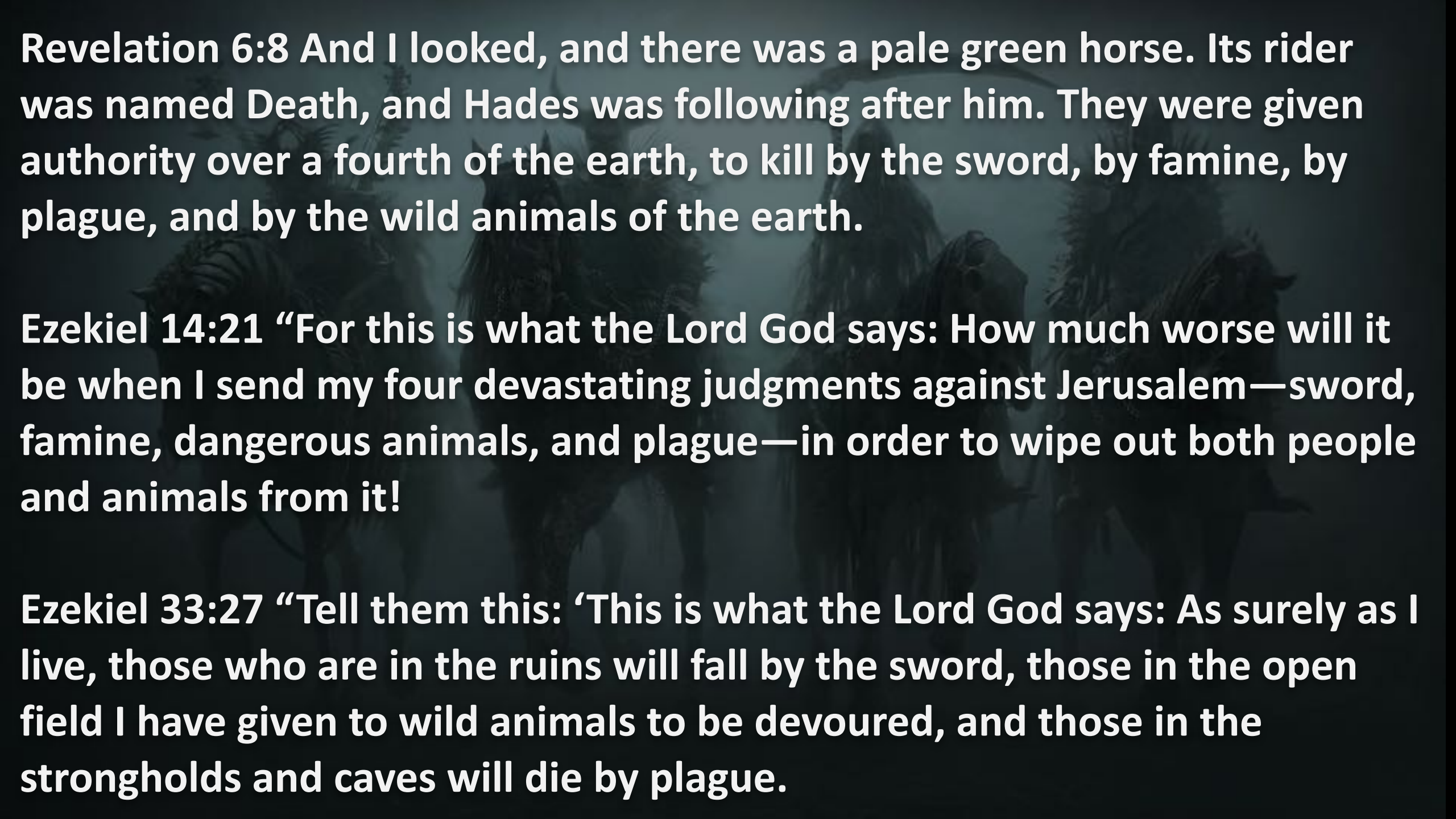
Zechariah 6:6 The one with the black horses is going to the land of the north, the white horses are going after them, but the dappled horses are going to the land of the south.”



Revelation 6:8 And I looked, and there was a pale green horse. Its rider was named Death, and Hades was following after him. They were given authority over a fourth of the earth, to kill by the sword, by famine, by plague, and by the wild animals of the earth.

Jeremiah 14:12 If they fast, I will not hear their cry of despair. If they offer burnt offering and grain offering, I will not accept them. Rather, I will finish them off by sword, famine, and plague.”

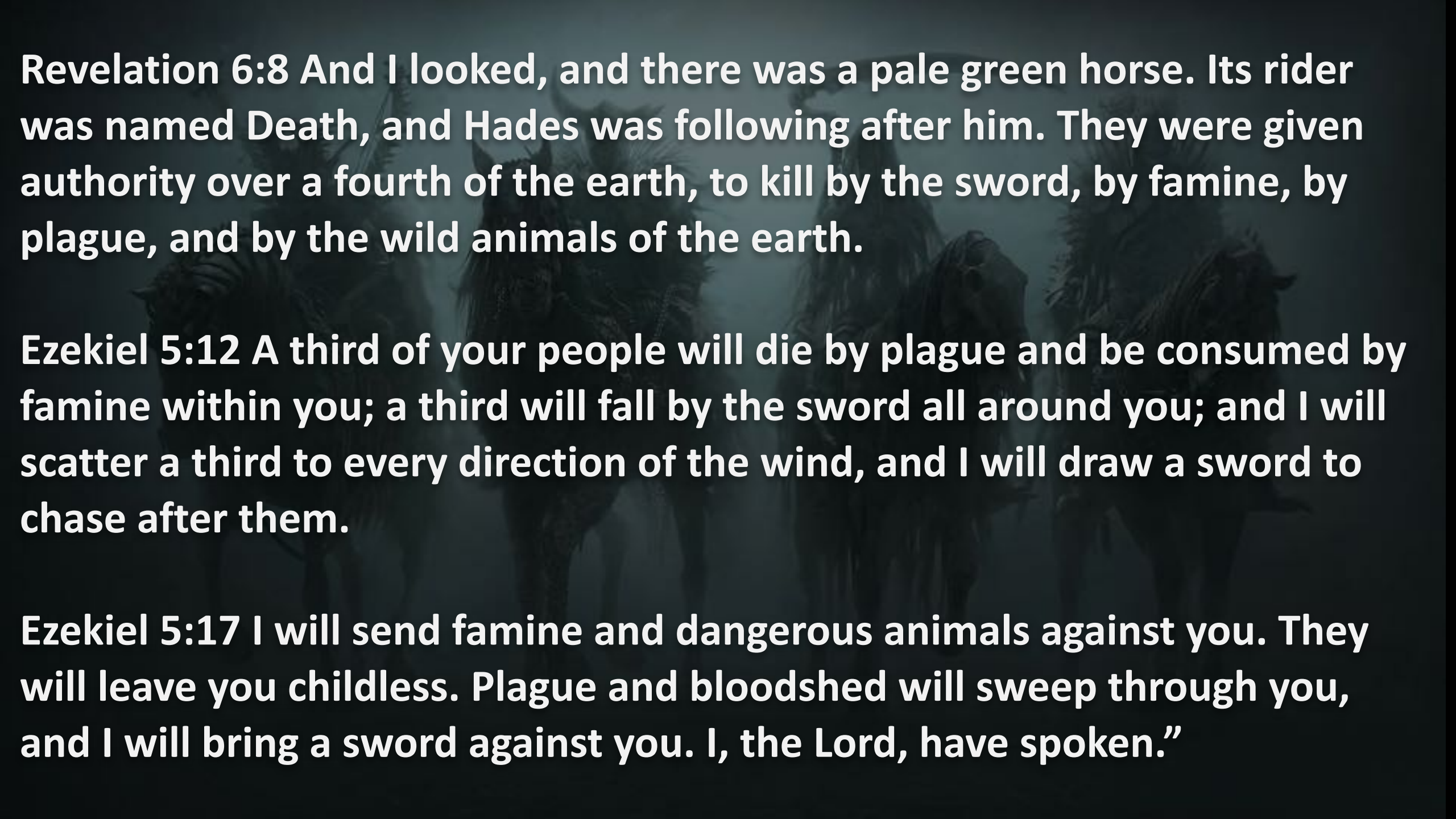
Jeremiah 15:3 “I will ordain four kinds of judgment for them”—this is the Lord’s declaration—“the sword to kill, the dogs to drag away, and the birds of the sky and the wild animals of the land to devour and destroy.



Revelation 6:8 And I looked, and there was a pale green horse. Its rider was named Death, and Hades was following after him. They were given authority over a fourth of the earth, to kill by the sword, by famine, by plague, and by the wild animals of the earth.

Ezekiel 14:21 “For this is what the Lord God says: How much worse will it be when I send my four devastating judgments against Jerusalem—sword, famine, dangerous animals, and plague—in order to wipe out both people and animals from it!

Ezekiel 33:27 “Tell them this: ‘This is what the Lord God says: As surely as I live, those who are in the ruins will fall by the sword, those in the open field I have given to wild animals to be devoured, and those in the strongholds and caves will die by plague.



Revelation 6:8 And I looked, and there was a pale green horse. Its rider was named Death, and Hades was following after him. They were given authority over a fourth of the earth, to kill by the sword, by famine, by plague, and by the wild animals of the earth.

Ezekiel 5:12 A third of your people will die by plague and be consumed by famine within you; a third will fall by the sword all around you; and I will scatter a third to every direction of the wind, and I will draw a sword to chase after them.

Ezekiel 5:17 I will send famine and dangerous animals against you. They will leave you childless. Plague and bloodshed will sweep through you, and I will bring a sword against you. I, the Lord, have spoken.”



The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse
Revelation 6:1-8