

The Role of the Church and the End-Time Harvest

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“Now I saw the Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard one of these four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, “Come and see.”

And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.

When He opened the second seal, I heard a second living creature saying, “Come and see.”

Another horse, fiery red, went out. And it was granted to the one who sat on it and take peace from the earth, and that people should kill one another; and there was given to him a great sword.

When He opened the third seal, I heard a 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 fourth living creatures saying, “A quart of wheat for denarius, and three quarts of barley for denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine.”

When He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, “Come and see.”

So I looked, and behold, a pale horse. And the name of it who sat on it was Death, and Hades followed with him. And power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth.” Revelation 6:1-8 (NKJV)

From John’s vision recorded in Rev 6:1-8, we find four different horses depicting the events that will lead to the end of the age. The four horses are each described as white, red, black and pale respectively. The four colours are significant and give a Biblical perspective of the times we live. Do you know where we are in God’s calendar? And what we are to do? I believe we are living in a time of great harvest where we have tremendous opportunities to reach out and preach the gospel. God is moving and doing great and mighty things all over the world.

As we consider this passage, let us look at this rider of these horses. The rider of the white horse went out conquering and to conquer (verse 2) while the rider of the red horse had a great sword which signified war and bloodshed (verse 4). The rider of the black horse had a pair of scales in his hand which symbolizes hunger and shortage of food on the earth (verse 5). The fourth or last rider rode on a pale horse and his name was Death (verse 8). In this message, we will examine the significance of the rider of the white horse.

The rider of the white horse depicts the times which we are living. The other three horses and their riders symbolised the time of trouble, hardship, famine and death which came upon this wicked world. The white horse speaks of purity and righteousness. The rider had a bow which was a weapon of warfare. He also had a crown which spoke of his royalty. This describes Christ and His Church.

The Church is strong and victorious, “and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it” (Matthew 16:18). We are conquerors in Christ Jesus, we are the conquering Church; that is why we see such a harvest of souls all over the world. The Church is pure and righteous. We are given many weapons of warfare such as prayer of the Word of God and we are called to be a royal priesthood. We are conquering by the power of the Holy Spirit. We are to go out and rescue the lost and dying who are in Satan’s domain. We have the message of salvation. Jesus is the Saviour of all sinners and He is the Deliverer from the power of sin and the Baptiser of the Holy Spirit. He gives us power to live a conquering life.

The challenge is for the Church to reach out to the lost now. Our governments in the world do not have the answer. Politicians, scientists and or even military power cannot save us but the gospel of Jesus Christ can. The church is commanded to go forth. We are to be witnesses “to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

The white horse must be ahead of the other horses. In other words, we need to reach the lost before the judgment comes. In Revelation 14:14-20, it says that there is a harvest of wheat followed by the “grapes of wrath” which signifies the harvest of Judgment. The Church needs to rise up and do the work of God before it is too late. Jesus gave us an illustration in Matthew 13:24-30 in the parable of the wheat and tares.

He explains its meaning in Matthew 13:36-43. He who sowed the good seed was the Son of Man, the field was the world, and the good seeds were the sons of the kingdom, but the tares were the sons of the wicked one. The enemy who sowed the tares was the Devil, the harvest was the end of age and the reapers were the angels or God’s messengers. Therefore as the tares were gathered and burned in the fire, so it would be at the end of this age. Therefore, we need to do evangelism before the end comes and before the enemy sows his seed of wickedness. There will come a harvest of the good seed during which the tares will be also gathered and burned. God has His time for the end of age. We need to work while it is day. (John 9:4) We are the answer for the destiny of his nation. The only way our nation, our family can be saved is when we, the Church, rise up. Be bold and courageous for the

Lord your God is with you! He has called us to be like the rider of the white horse, taking the message of the gospel of Jesus Christ to the whole world. Be faithful, be industrious and committed! We can be a witness today, before it is too late!

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