



VICTORY

Hamas supporters celebrate their election victory.
AP Photo / Muhammed Muheisen



ABOVE Muslim painting depicts the Twelfth Mahdi's horse with Islam's green flag. Counter-clockwise spiral symbolizes death.

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The translation of Revelation 6:8 in the King James Version reads: "And I looked, and behold a pale horse." The Greek word that was translated 'pale' is chloros. Strong's Exhaustive Concordance gives the definition of chloros as "green or pale." The word chloros is the root word for chlorophyll, the pigment in plants that make them green. Knowing this, we have to ask if the passage shouldn't really have been translated "Behold a green horse." The New Revised Standard Version of the Bible actually renders the passage: "I looked and there was a pale green horse." ▶

Behold a Green Horse... Is Islam in the Bible?

AND I LOOKED, AND BEHOLD A 'GREEN' HORSE: AND HIS NAME THAT SAT ON HIM WAS DEATH, AND HELL FOLLOWED WITH HIM."

REVELATION 6:8



Green

—THE COLOR OF ISLAM. WITH THE POWERFUL RESURGENCE OF ISLAM IN THE WORLD, MANY PEOPLE ARE WONDERING WHY THE MOVEMENT THAT HOLDS SWAY OVER ONE-FOURTH OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION IS NOT MENTIONED IN THE PROPHECIES OF THE BIBLE. WOULD IT STARTLE YOU TO KNOW THAT THE OFFICIAL COLOR OF ISLAM IS GREEN? AND IS IT POSSIBLE THAT THIS RELATES IN ANY WAY WITH THE GREEN HORSE OF REVELATION 6:8?

IN ORDER TO CONSIDER THIS POSSIBILITY, LET'S REVIEW WHAT THE OTHER THREE HORSES IN THIS PROPHECY SYMBOLIZE. ZECHARIAH 6 GIVES ANOTHER ACCOUNT OF THIS SAME PROPHECY. IN VERSE 5, THE ANGEL TOLD ZECHARIAH THAT THE HORSES REPRESENTED SPIRITS, WHICH GO FORTH INTO THE EARTH.

THE RED HORSE

There is an international spirit in the earth today known as the "red" power. Nations who embrace communism (or socialism) are known as red nations. Red China, Red Russia, and Red Romania are just a few examples.

Revelation 6:4 states that "Power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth." Everywhere communism has raised its ugly head, revolution and war has broken out. Korea, Berlin, the Congo, Cuba, Vietnam, Afghanistan, and Nicaragua are just a few of the many examples.

The prophecy says that those controlled by this red spirit would kill one another. It has been estimated that 80 million Chinese have been killed in political purges since the communists took over China in 1948. Twenty million were killed in political purges in Russia by Josef Stalin. Everywhere communist revolution has gone, there has been bloodshed and death.

Finally, in the same verse, there was given to the rider of this red horse a great sword.

verse, there the rider of this great sword. What military might exists in the world today than the combined power of Russia and China? Is there a nation that would like to go to war against these two giants? The red spirit, which takes peace from the earth, is communism.

THE BLACK HORSE

The rider on the black horse in Revelation 6:5 had a pair of balances in his hand. Balances are a symbol of trade and commerce. What international spirit in the world embodies the message of commerce? Capitalism, of course! The world's capitalist nations enjoy higher standards of living than the other nations of the world.

This is reinforced in the next portion of this prophecy: "And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny" (Revelation 6:6). One of the things heard daily in the news of capitalist countries is, "Dow Jones Industrials—up 3 cents; AT&T down a penny; Xerox is steady." This passage is a pro-

phetic stock market report! Obviously, the stock markets are at the center of capitalist economies.

Finally, in the same passage, the Bible says "... and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine." One of the quickest ways for a man to lose office in the political world of capitalism is for the economy of that nation to suffer under his administration. One of the major issues of any political campaign in the free-world countries is that of the economy. Bill Clinton's slogan during the 1992 U.S. presidential campaign was, "It's the economy, stupid."

The December 9, 1966 issue of *Time* magazine, page 34, reported that a new coalition government had recently been formed in Germany between the Socialist Party and the Christian Democratic Party. In describing the union, *Time* said, "... a grand coalition of the two major parties—the Christian Democrats and the Social Democrats, that have bitterly fought each other for years...[has been made]. A union of black and red, it was a marriage of convenience—but a stunning match nonetheless."

In political and news circles socialism is referred to as the "red power". Likewise, democracy is referred to as the "black power". God knew that this would be true; so He let the red horse symbolize communism and the black horse symbolize capitalism.

The black horse is the spirit of capitalism foreseen by God 2,000 years ago!

THE WHITE HORSE

In political science book *Communism, Democracy and Catholic Power*, Paul Blanshard contends that almost every conflict between nations in modern history has been produced by conflicts generated among three forces—Communism, Capitalism, and Catholicism.

Catholicism perfectly fits the description of the white horse rider of Revelation 6:2. It is Roman Catholic custom that the pope dresses in white. His helicopter is white; his jet airplane is white; and his pope-mobile is white. If he had a horse, I wonder what color it would be?

White is used as a symbol of peace. The predominant message of Roman Catholicism is the message of peace. The Vatican has become a diplomatic peace center for the world. When peace is being negotiated between rulers of our world, the pope and other high officials of the Roman Catholic Church are often consulted. Newspapers, magazines, books, television and radio applaud his efforts towards peace. Pope Paul VI was the world's first religious leader to speak before the United Nations General Assembly. His message was, "Lay down your arms. War no more. Never again!"

A crown was given to the one sitting on the white horse. History teaches that the pope originally had no crown, but today the pope's crown is a tiara consisting of three crowns.

Revelation 6:2 states that the rider of the white horse went forth conquering and to conquer. Although Catholicism at present has no standing army, it is certainly a conquering power. When the majority of the people of a nation becomes Catholic, that nation is referred to as a "Catholic" nation. One of the Vatican's major goals is to conquer America. This is the spirit of the white horse! Conquering and to conquer is the spirit of the Roman Catholic Church.

THE GREEN HORSE

Could the green horse be a prophetic symbol of Islam?

Islam certainly fits into the pattern of the previous three world movements symbolized by Catholicism, Communism and Capitalism. These are all powerful international movements that affect the course of the nations that embrace them, and they each have symbolic colors that match one of the four horses of the apocalypse.

In his book, *Militant Islam Reaches America*, Daniel Pipes describes the rise of Islam in a very interesting way: "The collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 prompted loose talk about Islam replacing Marxism-Leninism as the West's necessary enemy. In symbolic terms, it was said that green (Islam's color) had replaced red (communism's color) in the West's rogues' gallery."

Let's look at the entire prophecy about the pale green horse: "And I looked, and behold a pale (green) horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth."

Since the color of the horse can legitimately be translated as green, and since the official color of Islam is green, that aspect of the prophecy certainly fits.

The rider of the green horse was Death. Islam has become synonymous with the dreaded suicide bomber. Almost daily we are receiving reports of deadly suicide attacks in Israel, Iraq, Spain, or London.

The prophecy says that hell followed the rider of Death. Islam teaches their suicide bombers that paradise follows their act of martyrdom. But scripture teaches that all murderers will have their part in the lake of fire (Revelation 21:8).

The spirit of the green horse is described as having power over the fourth part of the earth. Estimates of follow-

ers of Islam by country based on U.S. State Department figures yield a total of 1.48 billion (Wikipedia Encyclopedia). This would be exactly one-fourth of the world's population.

The death horse rider was to kill with the sword, hunger, and death. Each of these forces thrives where Islam reigns. Islamic countries are known for the proliferation of violence, poverty and disease.

IS THE TIMING RIGHT?

The prophecy of the green horse occurs under the 4th Seal. The 5th Seal that immediately follows (Revelation 6:9-11) is the time of the great tribulation. The 6th Seal (Revelation 6:12-17) describes the Second Coming of the Lord at the time of the Battle of Armageddon.

It is clear from many events that we are very near the beginning of the great tribulation right now. If the 4th horse rider actually is the present resurgence of Islam, the timing is absolutely perfect.

FOURTH HORSE'S LOCATION

In Zechariah 6, it states that the black horse went into the north country. The prophecy is amazingly accurate since capitalist countries are located in the northern hemisphere.

The passage then says that the fourth horse went into the south country. This too is amazingly accurate since over 96.5% of the world's Muslims live in Africa and southern Asia, and Islam's capital, Mecca, is south of Israel.

PROBLEMS WITH THIS VIEW

The passage concerning the death rider says that it will kill with the "beasts" of the earth. Exactly how killing with "the beasts of the earth" would fit under the reign of Islam is not exactly clear unless it refers to the jungles of Africa where Islam is strong.

In the Zechariah 6 account of the "four horse" prophecy, there are white, red and black horses exactly as in Revelation 6. However, the horses that pulled the fourth chariot were not described as green. They were described as grizzled and bay, dappled, dappled gray or spotted (depending on the translation you use). If this is the exact same prophecy as Revelation 6, and it certainly appears to be, then this discrepancy would cast doubt on the fourth horse representing Islam.

I have always taught that the pale horse represents exactly what it says...death. Unless further light can be shed on the fourth horse of Zechariah 6, I have to believe that is still the correct understanding.

However, we have to admit that many aspects of the 4th Seal rider seem to refer to Islam in a very interesting way. □