

Revelation 6:5, 6

Third Seal: 313-538 (GC 42, 43, 45, 49-50)

- Rev 6:5-6

And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand. 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; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine. Revelation 6:5,6

➤ Understanding the meaning

A. a **black** horse

- Matt 24:7

For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.

➤ The black horse denotes darkness and error, the opposite of the gospel in its purity, symbolized by the white horse. It also represents mourning and mental distress.

- Jeremiah 14:2

Judah mourneth, and the gates thereof languish;
they are **black** unto the ground;
and the cry of Jerusalem is gone up.

- Jeremiah 8:21

For the hurt of the daughter of my people am I hurt; I am **black**;
astonishment hath taken hold on me.

- Joel 2:6
Before their face the people shall be much pained:
all faces shall gather **blackness**.

- Nahum 2:10
She is empty, and void, and waste:
and the heart melteth, and the knees smite together,
and much pain is in all loins,
and the faces of them all gather **blackness**.

➤ In our line of thoughts, in chapter 6, we have 1st white (clean and white, “Jesus only”), 2nd red, (war, blood) and 3rd black; in Matthew 24:7 after war, next comes (famines)

- Matthew 24:7
For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom:
and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in
divers places.

- Ezekiel 14:21
For thus saith the Lord GOD; How much more when I send my four
sore judgments upon Jerusalem, **the sword**, and **the famine**, and the
noisome **beast**, and the pestilence, to cut off from it man and beast?

- Lamentations 5:10
Our skin was black like an oven because of the terrible famine.

➤ He was trying to help them, to save them from fully denying and forsaking the God of their fathers.

The apostasy of Israel was an evil more dreadful than all the multiplied horrors of famine. God was seeking to free the people from their delusion and lead them to understand their accountability to the One to whom they owed their life and all things. He was trying to help them to recover their lost faith, and He must needs bring upon them great affliction. PK 127.2

And yet they were in **such terrible darkness** that they could not see that the justice of God was awakened against them because of their sins; and that this terrible calamity was sent in mercy to them, to save them from fully denying and forsaking the God of their fathers. RH September 23, 1873, par. 28

* The first famine recorded in ancient Rome. Various famines in Western Europe associated with the Fall of the Western Roman Empire and its sack by Alaric I. Between 400 and 800 AD, the population of the city of Rome fell by over 90%, mainly because of famine and plague.

B. he that sat on him

➤ The man of sin

- 2 Thessalonians 2:1-4

Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and **that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;** Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

Little by little, at first in stealth and silence, and then more openly as it increased in strength and gained control of the minds of men, the mystery of iniquity carried forward its deceptive and blasphemous work. Almost imperceptibly the customs of heathenism found their way into the Christian church. The spirit of compromise and conformity was restrained for a time by the fierce persecutions which the church endured under paganism. But as persecution ceased, and Christianity entered the courts and palaces of kings, she laid aside the humble simplicity of Christ and his apostles for the pomp and pride of pagan priests and rulers; and in place of the requirements of God, she substituted human theories and traditions. The nominal conversion of Constantine, in the early part of the fourth century, caused great rejoicing; and the world, cloaked with a form of righteousness, walked into the church. Now the work of corruption rapidly progressed. **Paganism**, while appearing to be vanquished, became the conqueror. Her spirit controlled the church. Her doctrines, ceremonies, and superstitions were incorporated into the faith and worship of the professed followers of Christ. GC88 49.2

➤ the plan of compromise

Seeing the failure of his efforts to crush out the truth by **persecution**, **(Red)** Satan had again resorted to the plan of **compromise which led to the great apostasy (Black)** and the formation of the Church of Rome. GC 298.2 (cf. GC 42-3, 45,49-50)

- Romans 8:35-39

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

Jesus Himself never purchased peace by compromise. His heart overflowed with love for the whole human race, but He was never indulgent to their sins. He was too much their friend to remain silent while they were pursuing a course that would ruin their souls,--the souls He had purchased with His own blood. He labored that man should be true to himself, true to his higher and eternal interest. The servants of Christ are called to the same work, and they should beware lest, in seeking to prevent discord, they surrender the truth. They are to "follow after the things which make for peace" (Rom. 14:19); but real peace can never be secured by compromising principle. And no man can be true to principle without exciting opposition. A Christianity that is spiritual will be opposed by the children of disobedience. But Jesus bade His disciples, "Fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul." Those who are true to God need not fear the power of men nor the enmity of Satan. In Christ their eternal life is secure. Their only fear should be lest they surrender the truth, and thus betray the trust with which God has honored them. DA 356

C. a pair of balances

- Samuel 2:3. (Hannah)

The Lord is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed.

- Psalm 62:9 (David)

Men of low degree are vanity, and men of high degree are a lie: to be laid in the balance, they are altogether lighter than vanity.

- Isaiah 26:7 (Isaiah)

Thou, most upright, dost weigh the path of the just.”

God weighs motives, purposes, character. All men are weighed in the balances of the sanctuary, and God would have all realize this fact.
OHC 139.3

➤ [Battle between two different standards](#)

- 2 Corinthians 6:14-18

Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

This compromise between **paganism** and **Christianity** resulted in the development of "the man of sin" GC 50

After a long and severe conflict, the faithful few decided to dissolve all union with the apostate church if she still refused to free herself from falsehood and idolatry. They saw that separation was an absolute necessity if they would obey the word of God....To secure peace and unity they were ready to make any concession consistent with fidelity to God; but they felt that even peace would be too dearly purchased at the sacrifice of principle. If unity could be secured only by the compromise of truth and righteousness, then let there be difference, and even war. GC 45

➤ [A voice in the midst of the four beasts](#)

- Revelation 5:6

And I beheld, and, lo, **in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts**, and in the midst of the elders, **stood a Lamb** as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.

➤ A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny

- 2 Kings 7:5-16 (In the time of Elisha)

“a measure of fine flour was sold for a shekel, and two measures of barley for a shekel,” as had been foretold by Elisha the day before.

- Matthew 20:2

And when he had agreed with the labourers for **a penny a day**, he sent them into his vineyard.

True measure is everything. It is the very law of God. He puts His law into the least of men’s acts and dealings, that learning and living it they may be elevated, ennobled, and sanctified in heart and affection—faithful in the least, the mere wheat measure... **The spiritual measure is God’s measure of the man.** 4LtMs, Ms 62, 1886, par. 27

- Ezekiel 43:10

Thou son of man, shew the house to the house of Israel, that they may be ashamed of their iniquities: and **let them measure the pattern.**

None need to err, none need to lose the golden moments of time in their short life’s history weighing human imperfections of professed Christians. Not one of us has any time to do this. The Lord has not placed line and plumb in human hands to measure character. 8LtMs, Lt 63a, 1893, par. 13

Jesus says, “I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.” All I can give either first or last is myself. If any one has been laboring for anything else except the Lord's glory, he will be disappointed in receiving a reward. The reception of **the penny** by the laborers represents the character that God will give to those who follow him. RH July 10, 1894, par. 7

➤ hurt not the oil and the wine

- Deuteronomy 32:10

He found him in a desert land, and in the waste howling wilderness; he led him about, he instructed him, he kept him as the apple of his eye.

Said the angel, "God's children are as the apple of His eye, and when you touch them to hurt them you touch the apple of God's eye." Said the angel, "The oil and the wine have been hurt. Hurt not the oil and the wine." 1EGWLM 508.1 (letters and manuscripts)

It is a solemn thing to die, but a far more solemn thing to live. Every thought and word and deed of our lives will meet us again. What we make of ourselves in probationary time, that we must remain to all eternity. Death brings dissolution to the body, but makes no change in the character. The coming of Christ does not change our characters; it only fixes them forever beyond all change. 5T 466.2

A character formed according to the divine likeness is the only treasure that we can take from this world to the next. Those who are under the instruction of Christ in this world will take every divine attainment with them to the heavenly mansions. And in heaven we are continually to improve. How important, then, is the development of character in this life. Christ's Object Lessons, 332

In order to secure man to Himself and ensure his eternal salvation, Christ left the royal courts of heaven and came to this earth, endured the agonies of sin and shame in man's stead, and died to make him free. In view of the infinite price paid for man's redemption, how dare any professing the name of Christ treat with indifference one of His little ones? How carefully should brethren and sisters in the church guard every word and action lest they hurt the oil and the wine! How patiently, kindly, and affectionately should they deal with **the purchase of the blood of Christ!** How faithfully and earnestly should they labor to lift up the desponding and the discouraged! How tenderly should they treat those who are trying to obey the truth and have no encouragement at home, who have constantly to breathe the atmosphere of unbelief and darkness! 5T 614-5