

“And when he had opened the Fourth Seal I heard the voice of the fourth Living One saying come and see. And I saw and behold a pale horse, and he who sits upon him, the name for him is death; and Hades follows with him; and there was given to them authority to kill upon the fourth part of the earth with sword, and with famine and with pestilence and under the beasts of the earth”.

Translation from Dr Thomas' Eureka.

Section 4 to read from Eureka to read page 185 – 209 Blue page 199 – 223 Brown.

The period in history covered is 235 -301 CE/AD, some 66 years. From the end of the Severan Dynasty until the arrival of Diocletian.

There were some 27 emperors during this epoch, with many ruling for less than a year and several rivals ruling at the same time. Only Diocletian himself ruled for longer than 6 years. It is fitting that the rider of the Roman horse was now “death” as it was the most sanguine of periods and unparalleled in any other time in history with two years where six then five emperors reigned in the same year. It was chaotic and stank of mortality in all its worst excesses.

There were also 11 so called popes so it was not just Emperors with a quick rate of turn over. Novatian lived during this period. Hades truly followed the rider death. The corrupt and blasphemous church was full of dead men's bones as the imaginary Hades of Greek mythology also was. The church was yet to ride the beast but it *“Hades followed with him”*. The Catholic imposter was yet to be elevated to the throne.

The next seal followed the black horse and its rider. The suffering under the third seal was to be eclipsed by the death and torments experienced under this seal. It was not a great time to be alive but there were disciples who held to the Truth even if they were few in number and ill-considered by official historians.

This horse was Pale, or chloros in the Greek, a sickly green colour which typifies the pall of corruption and death which hung over the Empire. There was little left of its glory at this stage in its demise. It was not just unpleasant to be a believer as it was in the times of open persecution but that it was unpleasant for both commoners and noble people on an everyday basis. The wages for their immorality and lack of spirituality were being paid over to them, Rome was reaping what it had sowed.

There are four harbingers of doom listed here. With sword, with hunger, with death and with the beasts of the earth the Almighty afflicted those whom He had cursed. These were symbolic of the all-encompassing strife that filled the landscape. Internal violence, disastrous and counterproductive economic policies, disease and agricultural failures all added to the burden.

The wild beasts are not a literal reference to wolves or wild dogs running amok so much as the unleashing of the barbarian hordes which now viewed the provinces of Rome as a place for plunder and conquest. The former bastion of civilisation was now open to incursions. These would accelerate in later centuries, but the seeds were being sown in the weakness which Rome now exuded. History generally reckons this so-called

Migration period from 375 with the arrival of the Huns from the eastern steps, but some date the era to 300 hence the inclusion of this time period in our interpretation of the details. However, there is more direct evidence of this understanding.

Paul in Titus 1v12 cites the Cretans as “evil wild beasts” so we have Biblical authority to interpret wild beasts as men. Especially those unacquainted with gospel truth in any form having loved the ignorance of their barbarian ways. There is a record in Roman history of “every province of the Roman earth was **afflicted by barbarous invaders** and military tyrants” as Gibbon relates in his epic work the Rise and Fall of the Roman Empire. This was speaking of the period 248 -268.

Diocletian attempted to reorder the Empire into smaller administrative units as he concluded that politically it had expanded too far for it be successfully ruled by one man from one place. This followed an earlier attempt at a similar solution to the dilemma of over expansion. Rome had become too large to be successfully governed. Only Christ will be able to achieve good universal government over such a large and diverse area. Only Christ has the solutions to mankind’s problems, economic, and political as well as spiritual.

He divided the provinces into four and organised a segregation of power between Two Caesars and Two Augustus’ so that there could be a more efficient government in operation in the various parts. It is significant that the verses themselves point to this division of Rome when it details “*power was given unto them over the **fourth** part of the earth*”. One of the four division, Italy, the heartland suffered particularly badly. Previously it had been spared some of the worst aspects of the earlier afflictions under the punishing seals. Even the first seal was a curse as the bloated expansive policies of the vain glorious Emperors of the White horse period set the inevitable wheels in motion for its later implosion, ruin to follow the hubris.

These four were The Praefect of the East, Egypt, Syria, Turkey and Thrace.

The Praefect of Illyricum. Diocletian was from modern day Croatia (Split) so it was not named after the more well-known Greeks. This consisted of Pannonia, Dacia (Romania) Macedonia and Greece. Smaller but still affluent.

The Praefect of Italy which included Rhaetia to the Danube and most of Northern Africa including Libya and Morocco.

The Praefect of Gaul, this included Spain and Britain.

The way that this all fits together gives vindication of the correctness of the interpretation. Those fellow believers who lived through this period would no doubt have had even more reasons to align the unfolding of history in this way. It was given chiefly for them not us in the 21st century.