

# Matthew Series

## Lesson #152

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Dean Bible Ministries

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# MATTHEW

## JESUS: KING OF THE JEWS

**The Seal Judgments and the Birth Pangs**  
**Matthew 24:4–8**

**Matt. 24:3, “Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, ‘Tell us, (1) when will these things be? And (2) what will be the sign of Your coming, and *the end of the age?*’ ”**

# **The Five Major “Discourses” or Teachings/ Instructions of Jesus in Matthew**

**Why are these important?**

**Matt. 28:19, “ ‘Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,**

**Matt. 28:20, “ ‘teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’ Amen.”**

# **The Five Major “Discourses” or Teachings/ Instructions of Jesus in Matthew**

- 1. Jesus instructs His disciples on the mountain (“Sermon on the Mount”),  
Matt. 5:1–7:28**

**Jesus instructs His disciples about the kind of righteousness which should characterize those who are prepared for the kingdom.**

**Matt. 7:28, “And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching,”**

# **The Five Major “Discourses” or Teachings/ Instructions of Jesus in Matthew**

## **2. Instructions to His disciples to go out, Matt. 10:1–11:1.**

**Jesus instructs His disciples to take the gospel of the Kingdom only to the house of Israel, not the Gentiles.**

**Matt. 11:1, “Now it came to pass, when Jesus finished commanding His twelve disciples, that He departed from there to teach and to preach in their cities.”**

# **The Five Major “Discourses” or Teachings/ Instructions of Jesus in Matthew**

## **3. Jesus instructs His disciples on previously unrevealed information about the Kingdom in parables, Matt. 13:1–53**

**Describes trends in the interim period before  
the arrival of the now postponed Kingdom.**

**Matt. 13:53, “Now it came to pass, when  
Jesus had finished these parables, that He  
departed from there.”**

## **The Five Major “Discourses” or Teachings/ Instructions of Jesus in Matthew**

### **4. Jesus instructs His disciples on humility and leadership with reference to the future Kingdom, Matt. 18:1–19:1**

**This is not addressed to the Church. No information is given about the Church Age, but the principles apply to any believer in preparation for the Kingdom.**

**Matt. 19:1, “Now it came to pass, when Jesus had finished these sayings, that He departed from Galilee and came to the region of Judea beyond the Jordan.”**



# **The Five Major “Discourses” or Teachings/ Instructions of Jesus in Matthew**

**5. Jesus instructs His disciples about His coming to establish His Kingdom, the events that immediately precede it, and the judgments that will follow it, Matt. 24:4–26:1.**

**Matt. 26:1, “Now it came to pass, when Jesus had finished all these sayings, that He said to His disciples,”**

# The Five Major “Discourses” or Teachings/ Instructions of Jesus in Matthew

Why are these important?

Matt. 28:19, “ ‘Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

Matt. 28:20, “ ‘teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’ Amen.”

# **Why is Prophecy Important?**

- 1. 27% was prophetic when it was given, about 17% is still unfulfilled, so we don't want to throw almost 1/5th of the Bible do we?**
- 2. Hope. Hope is central to Christian maturity; Rom. 5:3–5; Hope purifies.**

**Rom. 12:12, “rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer;”**

**Rom. 15:4, “For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.”**

**1 John 3:3, “And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.”**

- 1. Jesus is talking to them as Jews about Jewish prophecy.**
- 2. The Olivet Discourse is the last thing Jesus said to the Jews about Israel.**
- 3. Nothing in the Olivet Discourse is about Church Age believers or has direct application to Church Age believers.**
- 4. All living Church Age believers will be raptured and taken to Heaven before the beginning of the Tribulation.**

# Daniel's Seventy "Weeks" Seventy Periods of Sevens

**DAN. 9:24-27**

**The  
Coming  
Prince**

**Messiah  
Returns**



**3½  
years**

Third Temple  
(Tribulation)  
Dan 9:27

**3½  
years**

**The Tribulation is for ISRAEL**

# Daniel's Seventy "Weeks"

## The Time of Jacob's Trouble (Jer. 30:7)

The  
Coming  
Prince

**DAN. 9:24-27**

Messiah  
Returns

The "beginning of  
labor pains" Matt. 24:8

"but the end is not yet."  
Matt. 24:6



Increased labor  
pains:

"*then* the end will  
come." Matt. 24:14

**3½  
years**

Third Temple  
(Tribulation)  
Dan 9:27

**3½  
years**

**The Tribulation is for ISRAEL**



- 1. The first 3.5 years of Daniel's seventieth week: The *beginning of sorrows* (labor pains); Matt. 24:4–8**
- 2. The second 3.5 years of Daniel's seventieth week: Increased persecution of Jews after the Antichrist breaks the covenant; Matt. 24:9–12**

**Matt. 24:4, “And Jesus answered and said to them: ‘Take heed that no one deceives you.’ ”**

**βλέπω *blepō*  
pres act impera 2  
plur  
to see, watch,  
therefore, “Watch  
out, Stay alert”**

**πλανάω *planaō*  
aor act subj 3  
sing  
to deceive, lead  
astray, cause to  
wander**

**“The beginning of labor pains”**

**Isa. 13:6–13; Zeph. 1:14–18; Jer. 30:6–7;  
1 Thess. 5:2–3**

**1 Thess. 5:2, “For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night.**

**1 Thess. 5:3, “For when they say, ‘Peace and safety!’ then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.”**

**“The idea [in ancient Judaism] became entrenched that the coming of the Messiah will be preceded by greatly increased suffering. ... This will last seven years. And then, unexpectedly, the Messiah will come.”**

**~Raphael Patai, *The Messianic Texts*, 1979**

**“A prominent feature of Jewish eschatology, as represented by the rabbinic literature, was the time of trouble preceding Messiah’s coming. It was called ‘the birth pangs of the Messiah,’ sometimes more briefly translated as ‘the Messianic woes.’ ”**

**~Millar Burrows, *More Light on the Dead Sea Scrolls***

## Four Birth Pangs Were Part of These Woes:

- **Sword**
- **Famine**
- **Pestilence**
- **Wild beasts**

Probably based on:

**Ezek. 14:21, “For thus says the Lord GOD:  
‘How much more it shall be when I send My  
four severe judgments on Jerusalem—the  
sword and famine and wild beasts and  
pestilence—to cut off man and beast from  
it?’ ”**

**“Ancient Judaism taught that the birth pangs of the Messiah will take place during the seven years prior to the Messiah’s coming to usher in the Messianic Age. It also taught that these birth pangs will involve the sword (war), famine, pestilence, and wild beasts. It is interesting that ancient Judaism’s concept corresponds to the beginning of birth pangs and the first four seal judgments.”**

**~Renald Showers, *The Sign of His Coming***

## **The Beginning of Birth Pangs:**

**False Messiahs will arise (Matt. 24:5).**

**Many will be deceived by them into thinking the end has arrived.**

**This will likely be directed at the Jewish people, which suggests an increase in anti-Semitism.**

**There will then be wars and rumors of wars (Matt. 24:6).**

**Famines, pestilences, earthquakes develop.**





**Rapture  
of the  
Church**



**Heaven**

**Seal Judgments**

**Conquest**

**Famine**

**Martyrdom**

**7 Trumpets**



**White Horse**

**Black Horse**

**Martyrs**

**Open War**

**Physical  
Disturbances**



**Death**

**Trumpets**

**Red Horse**



**Ashen Horse**

**Lamb's Wrath**



**First 21 Months of Tribulation**

**Midpoint**

# **1. False Messiahs will mislead many (Matt. 24:5)**

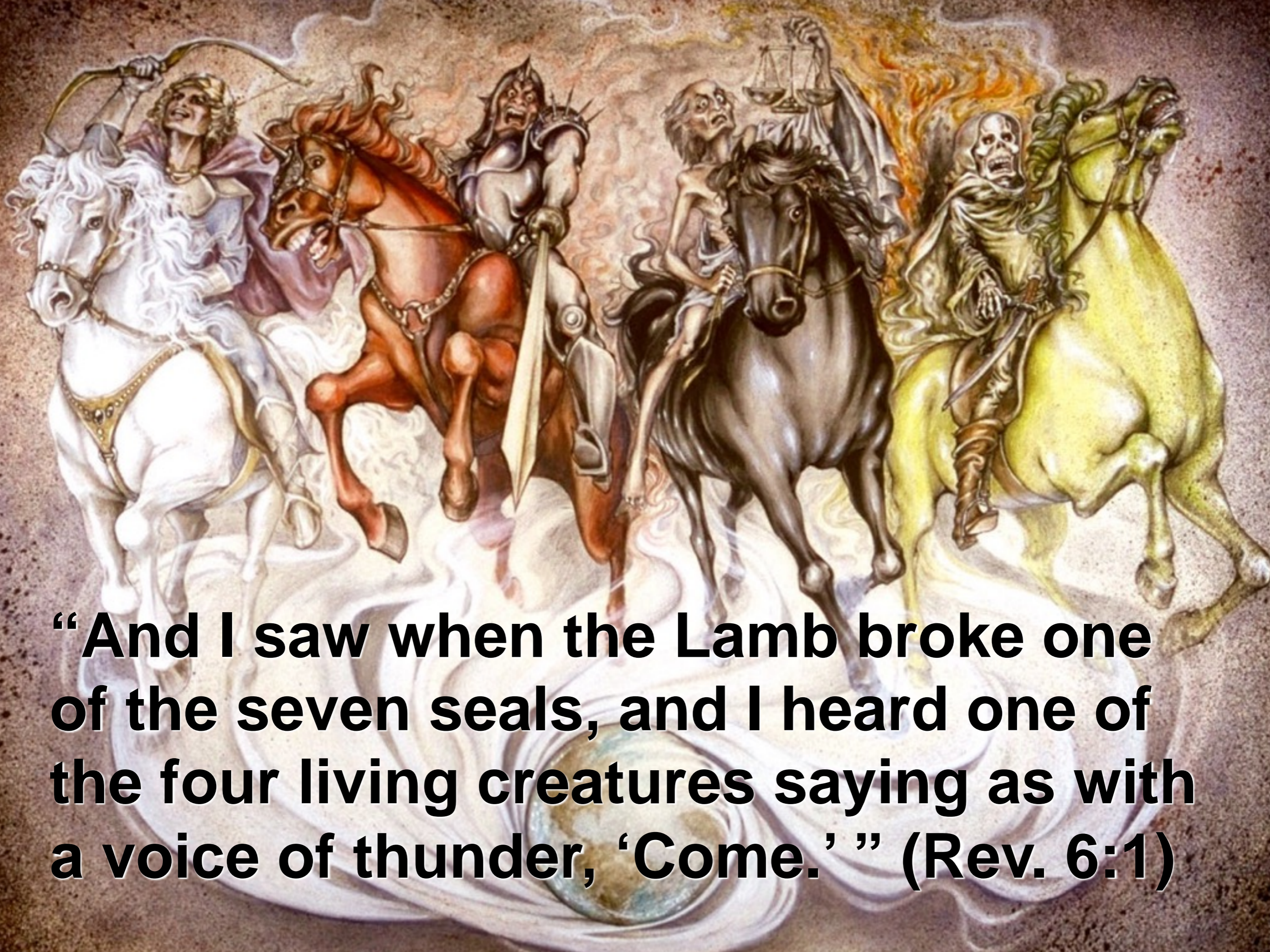
**Matt. 24:5, “For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many.”**

**“In the epistles of Paul it is never exactly such a thought as warning persons against false Christs. For there the Holy Ghost addresses us as Christians; and a Christian could not be deceived by a man’s pretensions to be Christ. It is most appropriate here, because the disciples are viewed in this chapter, as representatives, not of us Christians now, but of future godly Jews.”**

**~William Kelly, *Matthew*, 343–344**

**“The lack of evidence that anyone claimed messiahship between Jesus and *Bar-Kokhba* a hundred years later militates against our seeing the discourse as a *vaticinium ex eventu* [a prophecy of an event] concerning the first Jewish revolt (AD 66–73). False prophets figured in that revolt ... but one did not have to claim messiahship to be a false prophet.”**  
**Cf. Acts 5:36; 8:9; 21:38.**

**~Robert Gundry, *Matthew***



**“And I saw when the Lamb broke one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures saying as with a voice of thunder, ‘Come.’” (Rev. 6:1)**



**“And I looked, and behold, a white horse, and he who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him; and he went out conquering, and to conquer.”**  
**(Rev. 6:2)**

# **1. False Messiahs will mislead many (Matt. 24:5)**

**Dan. 7:20, “and the ten horns that were on its head, and the other horn which came up, before which three fell, namely, that horn which had eyes and a mouth which spoke pompous words, whose appearance was greater than his fellows.**

**Dan. 7:21, “I was watching; and the same horn was making war against the saints, and prevailing against them,”**

## **2. Wars, rumors of wars, nation rising against nation (Matt. 24:6–7)**

**Matt. 24:6, “And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.**

**Matt. 24:7, “For [*gar*—explains vs. 6] nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places.”**

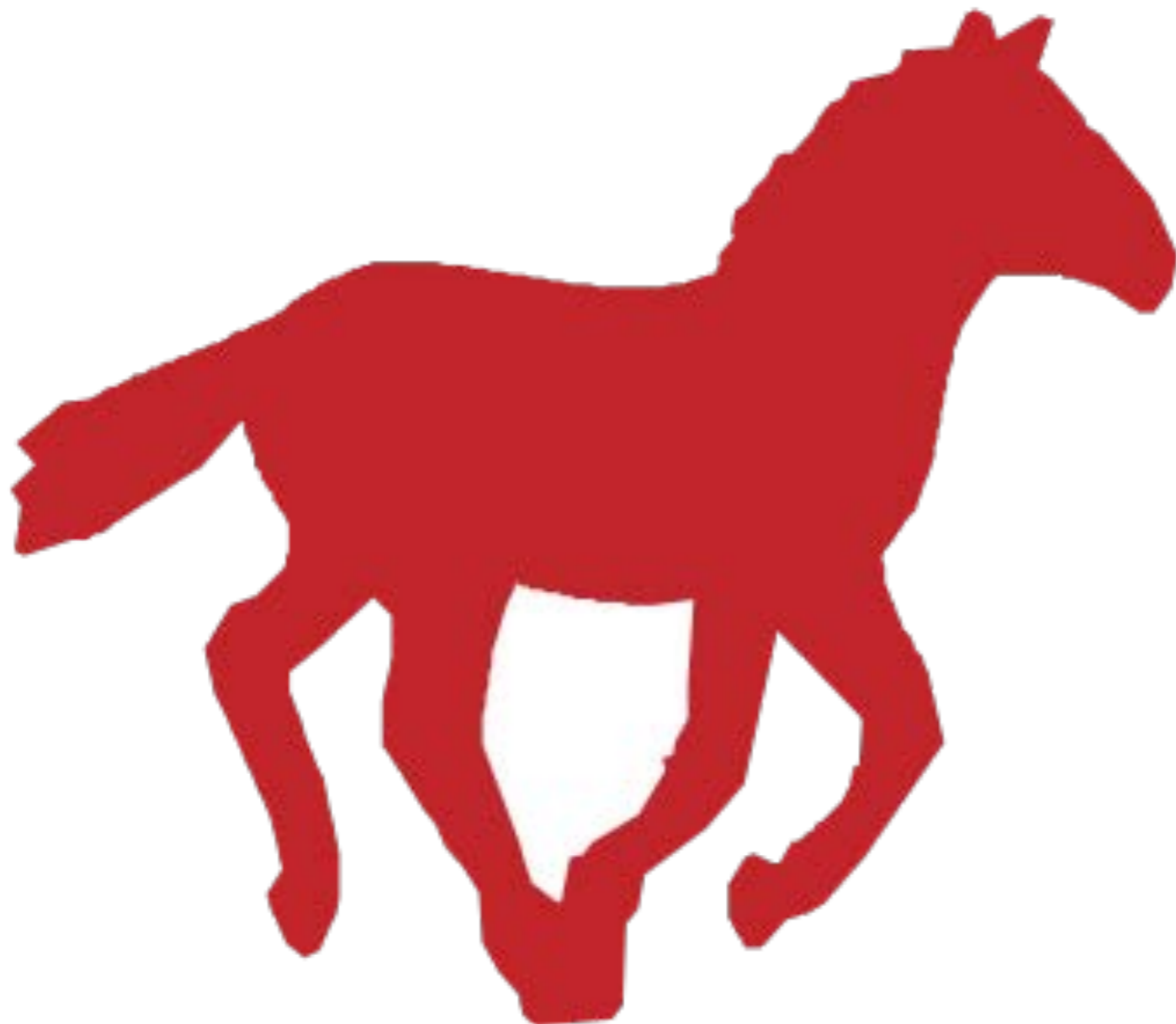


# RED HORSE JUDGMENT

Revelation 6:3–4



## Second Seal Judgment



**take peace**

**kill one another**

**great sword**

**blood**

**death**

## **2. Wars, rumors of wars, nation rising against nation (Matt. 24:6–7)**

**Rev. 6:3, “When He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, ‘Come and see.’”**

**Rev. 6:4, “Another horse, fiery red, went out. And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth, and that people should kill one another; and there was given to him a great sword.”**

## **2. Wars, rumors of wars, nation rising against nation (Matt. 24:6–7)**

**Dan. 7:23, “Thus he said: ‘The fourth beast shall be a fourth kingdom on earth, which shall be different from all other kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, trample it and break it in pieces.**

**Dan. 7:24, “ ‘The ten horns are ten kings who shall arise from this kingdom. And another shall rise after them; He shall be different from the first ones, and shall subdue three kings.’ ”**

### **3. Famines (Matt. 24:7)**

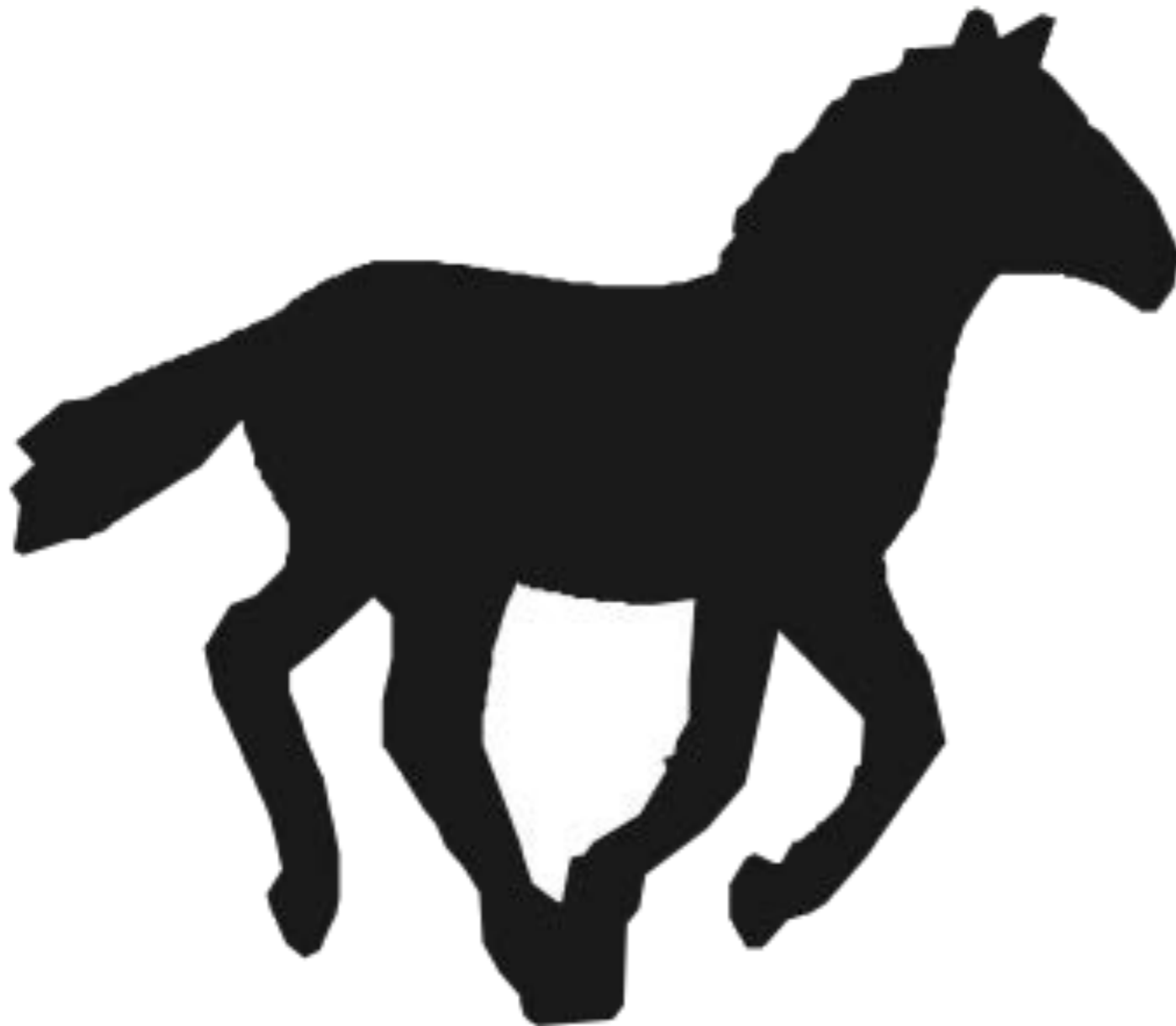
**Matt. 24:7, “For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places.”**

# BLACK HORSE JUDGMENT

Revelation 6:5–6



## Third Seal Judgment



pair of scales  
quart of wheat  
quart of barley  
no harm to oil  
no harm to wine

### **3. Famines (Matt. 24:7)**

**Rev. 6:5, “When He opened the third seal, I heard the 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.**

**Rev. 6:6, “And I heard a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, ‘A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine.’ ”**

#### **4. Death through pestilences and earthquakes (Matt. 24:7b)**

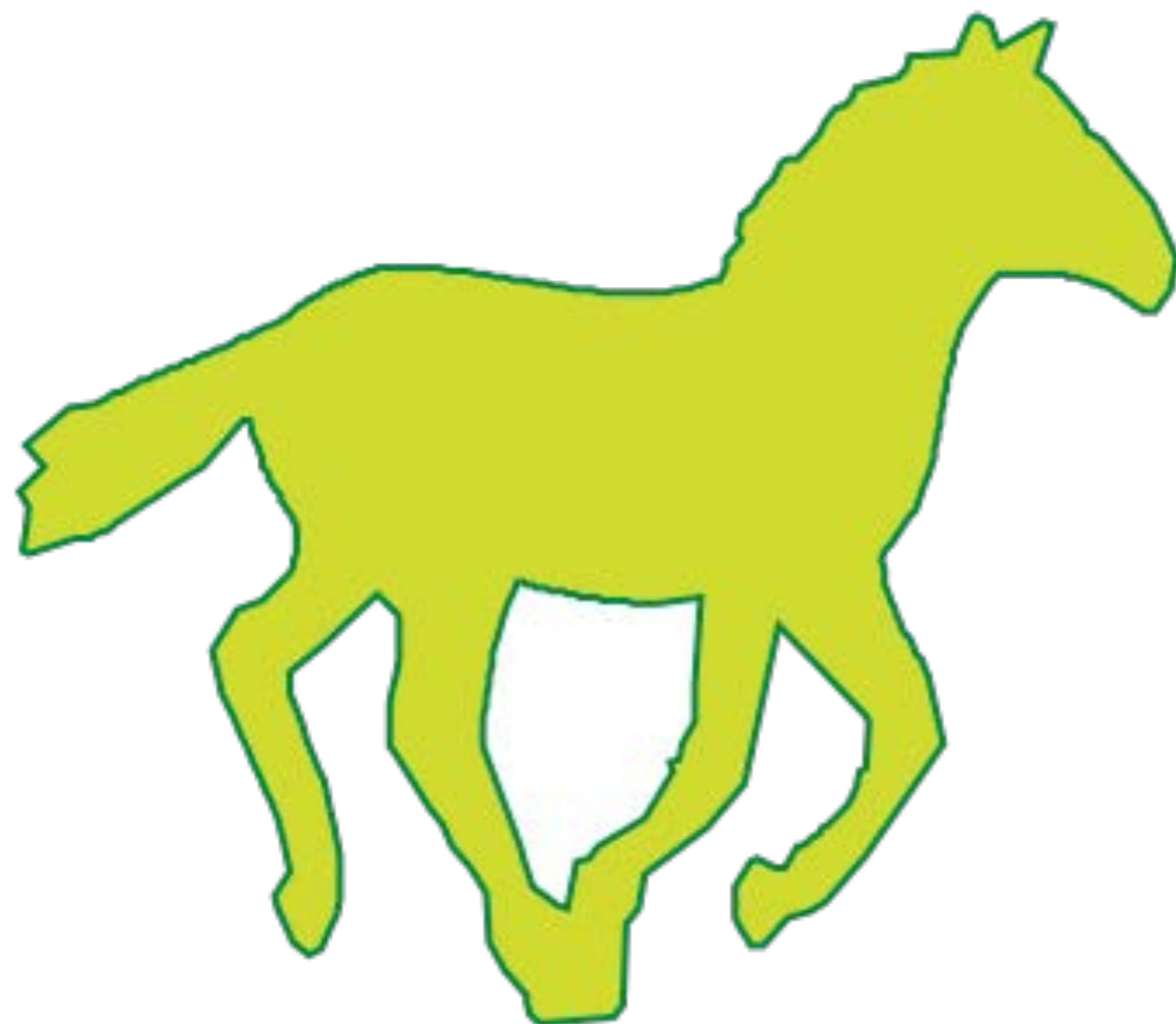
**Matt. 24:7, “For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places.”**

# ASHEN HORSE JUDGMENT

Revelation 6:7–8



## Fourth Seal Judgment



**Death**

**Hades**

**kill 1/4**

**kill with sword**

**famine**

**pestilence**

**wild beasts**



#### **4. Death through pestilences and earthquakes (Matt. 24:7b)**

**Rev. 6:7, “When He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, ‘Come and see.’”**

**Rev. 6:8, “So I looked, and behold, a pale horse. And the name of him 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.”**

# SIXTH SEAL JUDGMENT

Revelation 6:12–14

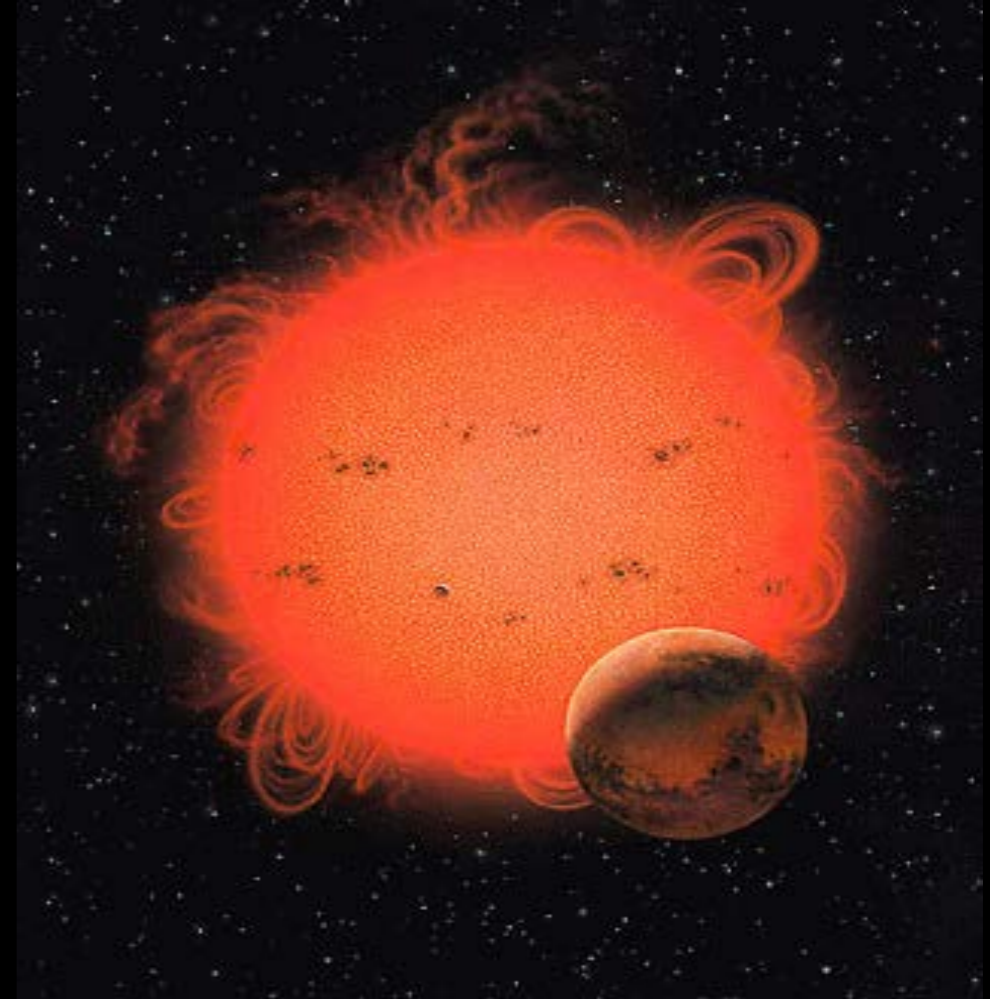
## Physical Disturbances



**6th  
Seal**

**Great Earthquake**  
**Sun, black as sackcloth**  
**Moon, like blood**  
**Stars, fell to earth**  
**Sky, split like a scroll**  
**Mountains & Islands,**  
**moved out of their place**

**Rev. 6:12, “I looked when  
He opened the sixth seal,  
and behold, there was a  
great earthquake;**

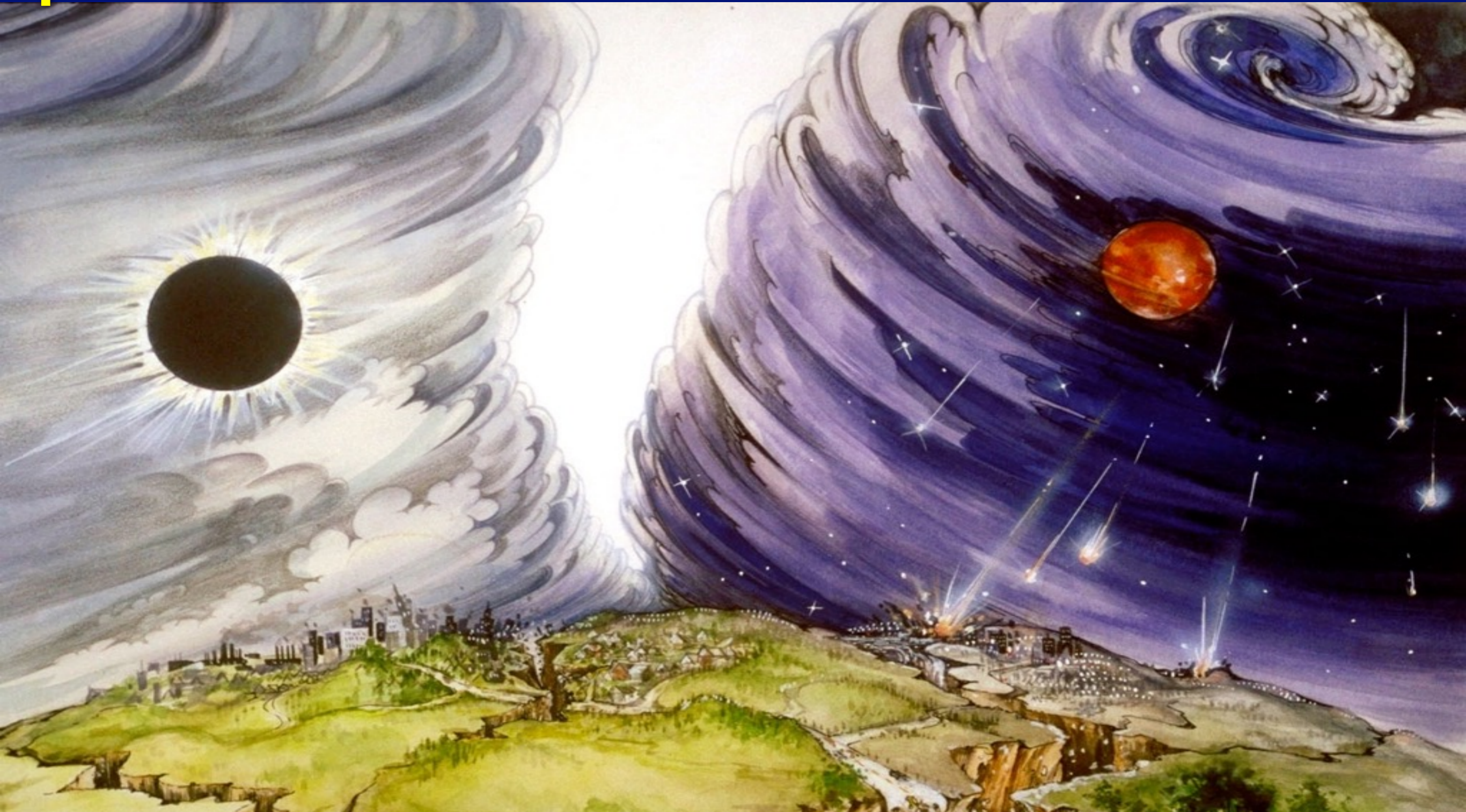


**and the sun became  
black as sackcloth of  
hair, and the moon  
became like blood.”**

**Rev. 6:13, “And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind.”**



**Rev. 6:14, “And the sky was split apart like a scroll when it is rolled up; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.”**



# “EARTH-DWELLER’S” RESPONSE

Rev. 6:15, “And the kings of the earth and the great men and the commanders and the rich and the strong and every slave and free man, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains;

Rev. 6:16, “and they said to the mountains and to the rocks, ‘Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the **wrath** of the Lamb; for the great day of their wrath has come; and who is able to stand?’ ”

**“The Book of Revelation, written about AD 95, mentions at least five earthquakes (Rev. 6:12–17; 8:5; 11:13, 19; 16:16–21). The final earthquake, mentioned in the seventh bowl of wrath, is described as ‘*a great earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth.*’ Now the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. And great Babylon was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath (Rev. 16:18–19).”**

**~Gordon Franz, *Earthquakes***

**The geologist, who developed the Richter scale, apparently had some contact with prophecy teachers. In 1969 he wrote, “*One notices with some amusement that certain religious groups have picked this rather unfortunate time to insist that the number of earthquakes is increasing. In part they are misled by the increasing number of small earthquakes that are being cataloged and listed by newer, more sensitive stations throughout the world. It is worth remarking that the number of great earthquakes from 1896 to 1906 (about twenty-five) was greater than in any ten-year interval since.*” (~Richter 1969: 44).**



**“In the last twenty years, we have definitely had an increase in the number of earthquakes we have been able to locate each year. This is because of the tremendous increase in the number of seismograph stations in the world and the many improvements in global communications. In 1931, there were about 350 stations operating in the world; today, there are more than 4,000 stations and the data now comes in rapidly from these stations by telex, computer, and satellite. This increase in the number of stations and the more timely receipt of data has allowed us and other seismological centers to locate many more small earthquakes which were undetected in earlier years, and we are able to locate earthquakes more rapidly.” ~USGS website**