

The First Horseman

Revelaton 6:1-2

By Phillip G. Kayser at DCC on 2-14-2016

Introduction

- I. Debate on the identity of this horseman
 - A. Last week we ruled out several theories
 - B. But what about the theory that this was Christ?
 1. Proponents for Christ give three reasons
 2. Several reasons why this cannot be Christ
 - a) The only point of identity between Revelation 6 and 19 is the white horse
 - b) The crowns are not the same in number or in meaning. This is στέφανος crown; chapter 19 has multiple διάδημα crowns
 - c) The bow is used as a symbol for both God and of unrighteous men; what interpretation does the Old Testament background passages give? The four groups of horses in Zech 6 do not support the "Jesus" interpretation.
 - d) The word "conquer" (νικάω) is used of both believers and the Beast (see 11:7; 13:7)
 - e) Having Jesus as the first rider actually minimizes His victory if you see the seals as sequential
 - f) How can Jesus both open the seals and emerge from the seals?
 - g) It is inappropriate for a mere creature to command Jesus to "Come!"
 - h) The first four horsemen parallel the first four judgments in Matthew 24:5-8
 - i) Could not the parallel of the "white horse" in both chapters 6 and 19 show a counterfeit messianism (as many commentaries maintain)?
 - j) The first four seals are grouped together just like the first four trumpets (8:7-13)
 - k) The phrase "there was given" (ἐδόθη) is used of the other horsemen as well as other demonic powers (6:4,8; 9:1,3,5; 13:5,7,14,15; etc.)
- II. Exposition of the first horseman of the apocalypse - the demonic reign of Tiberius (vv. 1-2)
 - A. Christ is sovereign over this horse and horseman (v. 1a)
 - B. This horse and horseman must obey the living creature that commands it to come (v. 1b)
 - C. Like the language of the Beast later in the book, the horse and rider represent both the demonic behind Tiberius and Tiberius himself (v. 2)
 - D. The horse is white, symbolizing a counterfeit Messiah and/or counterfeit graces (v. 2a)
 1. Counterfeit righteousness?
 2. Counterfeit peace - the pax Romana?
 3. Counterfeit victory?
 - E. Associated with a bow (v. 2b)
 - F. Associated with a στέφανος crown (v. 2c)
 - G. The goal of this horseman was total conquest (v. 2d)

Conclusion



Caesar Tiberius



Caesar Caligula



Caesar Claudius



Caesar Nero with Death & Hades

