

THE PALE HORSE

Going by the current progression of situations that have today dissipated upon this earth, it is vividly clear that the horsemen of the apocalypse have continued to debouch-on forward unimpeded. This tenor must continue because of the critical end dispensation that the church has entered into, towards the most anticipated coming of the Lord in the rapture. Unless mankind repents. These prophecies were eloquently given by the Lord Jesus in Matthew 24, Mark 13, and Luke 21; thence had to be accurately fulfilled in accordance with the fullness of time. These four horsemen of the apocalypse cardinaly symbolize the final endtime culmination of the most traumatic and horrendous sorrows to ever befall rebellious mankind. They paint one of the most gruesome and ominous pictures ever to transpire upon mankind, in this very critical pre-rapture season.

7When the Lamb opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, "Come!" 8I looked, and there before me was a pale horse! Its rider was named Death, and Hades was following close behind him. They were given power over a fourth of the earth to kill by sword, famine and plague, and by the wild beasts of the earth (Rev 6:7-8).

Warning

It is very important that the church becomes very intelligent and smart to the fact that in the prophetic order of things, it is the first three horsemen of the apocalypse that sound the warning for the church to repent, turn away from sin, and prepare for rapture in absolute holiness. The release of the horseman of the black horse of the apocalypse essentially marked the last warning to the church, that anytime now the wedding of the Lamb may take place. And that is why the effects of the third horseman of the apocalypse are greatly aggravated. But, when the four horseman of the apocalypse is released, he rides a pale horse and his name is death. He comes to destroy and kill upto to a quarter of the global population. That event of the release of the pale horseman, only takes place after the holy church of Christ (elect) have been taken up in rapture. As long as the church is still on the earth, the Holy Spirit holds back such a tremendous holocaust. But when the church, the holy habitation of the Holy Spirit has been taken up in rapture, then calamity befalls. Therefore, this July 29 2009 prophecy, of the coming of the rider of the pale horse, is a very stern warning that tells the church that any time now, the rapture may occur. However, considering the speed with which the prophecy on the coming of the black horse was fulfilled in a record twenty-three days, then one can only conclude that there is a prophetic acceleration going on in heaven; and that this prophecy on the release of the pale horseman, will also be released very soon. And when he does get released, the holy and righteous glorious church of Christ will have been raptured, however remnant she may be.

And Hades Follows Closeby

The key word-marker on the identity of this fourth horseman comes from the fact that, he is the only horseman whose real name is given in the bible. His name is death and hades follows him very closely. However, the main identity marker of this fourth horseman of the apocalypse, is Pale. For reasons emanating from the aftermath that he unleashes across the earth, this fourth horseman can also essentially be referred to as pestilence. Pale exemplifies ashen appearance, like the colour of ash. It is this ashy appearance that marks the characteristic of the dead. Likewise, Hades betokens the Hebrew word sheol. While Sheol is considered to be hell, biblical reference locates it as a place beneath the earth (Num 16:30), and under the waters (Job 26:5). The Word of God precisely elaborates that all the dead must descend there, never to return (Job 7:9, 16), with the exception of those who are directly taken up into the rapture of the church. Evidence of which is also found in the Old Testament, whereby Enoch and Elijah went straight into heaven, without ever seeing death; having been raptured (Gen 5:24; II Kgs 2:11). For all those who will miss the rapture, and go into sheol (hades) they will all be treated equally regardless of what their former status, religious (whether bishops or pastors), economic, political, health, or wealth, had been on the earth (Job 3:13-19; Ezekiel 32:18-32). And in order to truly perceive the gravity of the impact that the pale horseman levies on the church, one should have

to comprehend that in Sheol there will be “neither doing nor thinking, neither understanding nor wisdom” for all her inhabitants (Ecc 9:10). The mystery of it all, is that God Almighty in his sovereign power, reigns the entire universe from heaven to Sheol (Ps 139:7-8; Job 26:6). And that can only intimate that death also belongs to God's domain, the reason for which mankind has no escape route except that he returns to God Almighty himself, for his salvation and restitution (I Sam 2:6). Conversely, despite God's power over Sheol, the dead will not have any form of communication whatsoever with the Lord, once they enter into hades (Ps 88:6). Neither can they worship Jehovah nor can they praise him once in Sheol (Is 38:18; Ps 30:9). It is considerable to remember that Sheol is also referred to as abaddon, gehenna, a place known as the abode of the dead, the gloomy abyss, the underworld, or pit. Our Lord Jesus in his own words portrayed hades as a place of torment that is reserved for the wicked who will not have made it into the rapture of the church (Luke 16:19-31). The cruel description of hades (sheol), exhibited above by the Holy Spirit, is essentially meant to give mankind a little glimpse of what beholds in the future, if he continues in his rebellion and disobedience to God. The irony in mankind's disobedience though, arises from the fact that our Lord Jesus, as a matter of fact, conquered death and shut down the hades. All that Jehovah God in heaven ever required of mankind, is that he repents, turns away from sin, and prepares the way for the Coming of the Lord.

18 I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades (Rev 1:18).

Pale in colour

At the mere mention of pale, one normally is prompted to think of someone who is feeling sick, anaemic-looking, deathly looking, or ailing. Pale is a direct translation from a Greek word called chloros. Chloros basically signifies the colour of chlorophyll, the property that gives plants their healthy, green colour. But, used in the biblical context, pale then becomes the colour of disease or sickness, the reason for which other biblical translations describe the pale horse as an ash-coloured horse. The bible also defines it as horse sickly-green or an ashy-pale horse. Albeit, we know that Christ Jesus the revelator, is the only one who has the authority to correctly translate for the church the meaning and implication of the release of the pale horse. This, as we have mentioned, is because only Christ Jesus has the ascendancy to break open even the fourth seal on the scroll.

1 There will be great earthquakes, famines and pestilences in various places, and fearful events and great signs from heaven (Luke 21:11).

The man of the pale horse signifies global encircling plagues and pandemics that are occurring now and soon to appear. The pronouncement in 2009 by the Geneva-based World Health Organization (WHO), that the H1N1 SwineFlu has now developed into a full fledged global pandemic, gives a classical testimony that the season of the pale horseman is at hand, and about to befall mankind. Even greater global pandemics are soon going to be reported all across the globe, as the rider of the pale horse traverses the four ends of the earth. Global pandemics are going to be the greatest challenge for mankind to surmount in this last hour prior to rapture. The manner in which the HIV/AIDS pandemic has scourged mankind especially this year 2009, with over 23 million infected, just underscores how bad things have gotten. It is prudent to recollect that HIV/AIDS cannot be cured, to the extent that even the Anti-retroviral therapy (ARTs) are intended to merely prolong the lives of the infected. A relationship surely exists between the second, third and fourth horseman. God Almighty releases these horsemen to counter the gross disobedience and worldliness that mankind has adopted towards him, in this age.

9 “Therefore I bring charges against you again,” declares the Lord. “And I will bring charges against your children's children (Jer 2:9).

It is surely the Lord that has now smitten the earth with such traumatic experiences, as never witnessed before (Dan 12:1). And yet the Lord vividly asserts that those whose names will be found written in the book of life of the Lamb, will be delivered. That can only imply that for mankind to suffer the tragedies of the horsemen, it must be an act of his personal choice. The pale horseman of the apocalypse saps away the livelihood and healthiness of mankind to the point that he lives the human being shrivelled and faint. He does this by intensifying the horrific effects of disease and sickness across the fibre of mankind. The overall effect of this fourth

horseman appears to be that of rendering man totally unproductive and ineffective as a result of scavenging ravages of disease.

17 yes, this is what the Lord Almighty says: "I will send the sword, famine and plague against them and I will make them like poor figs that are so bad they cannot be eaten. 18 I will pursue them with the sword, famine and plague and will make them abhorrent to all the kingdoms of the earth and an object of cursing and horror, of scorn and reproach, among all the nations where I drive them (Jer 29:17-18).

Like did the Lord warn Israel before the onset of any calamity, so has he warned not only the church but also the nations of the earth to repent, lest they be faced by the consequences of rebellion.

24 "See how the siege ramps are built up to take the city. Because of the sword, famine and plague, the city will be handed over to the Babylonians who are attacking it. What you said has happened, as you now see (Jer 32:24).

When the Lord engaged Israel over her rejection of his covenant, and the contradictions in her worship, he always never failed to remind her of the original covenant that he laid before her as he redeemed her Egyptian slavery. Jehovah raised Israel as a nation of priests, to the extent that when Israel worshipped the most high God, it was intended to demonstrate what true worship looks like to the heathen communities. And these things were written in the bible by the Holy Spirit, that the church too may realise that the way christians would worship the Lord in their daily lives, would act as a perfect example of how mankind should honour the Lord with their lives.

It is a calling to evangelism. But just as Israel failed to rise up to her stature, so have today's christians failed to live upto their full stature in Word. By this, a controversy has brewed between not only the church and the Lord, but also the nations and the Lord. Since God is just, he would have to admonish sin as he purifies the way for the Coming of the Messiah in the rapture.

17 "Therefore, this is what the Lord says: You have not obeyed me; you have not proclaimed freedom for your fellow countrymen. So I now proclaim 'freedom' for you, declares the Lord -'freedom' to fall by the sword, plague and famine. I will make you abhorrent to all the kingdoms of the earth (Jer 34:17).

A failure to repent in this last dispensation prior to rapture, can only imply that either the sword, famine and disease will bring them to death, or if they survive thereof, they would be in utter captivity during tribulation and beyond. The ultimate redemption of man from death and hades was already achieved at the greatest feat at Calvary and on High when Jesus resurrected from the dead. In fact, he locked the hades and took away the key that no man may go there again. The only requirement arrayed before mankind for such tremendous spiritual inheritance of triumph over death and hades, is that he repents in Christ Jesus. Only an unrepentant heart will enter into the hades, just as said he about the Israelites who opted to recycle back to Egypt after redemption from slavery.

16 then the sword you fear will overtake you there, and the famine you dread will follow you into Egypt, and there you will die. 17 Indeed, all who are determined to go to Egypt to settle there will die by the sword, famine and plague; not one of them will survive or escape the disaster I will bring on them.' (Jer 42:16-17).

The second (sword), third (famine) and fourth (pestilence) horsemen derive their effects and origin directly from the first horseman called deception. This is because whoever escapes the lie of the first horseman, is indeed a repentant heart and hence delivered from the multiplying effects of the latter horsemen. Right now, the entire human population of the earth stands at a risk of witnessing multi-millions of people who will perish from worldwide global disease pandemics caused by the manifestations of the pale horseman. The effects of this fourth horseman will kill a total of upto one fourth of the earth's population . That summation will combine those dead from wars to those who perish from economic distress, famine, global recession; to those who die from sickness and disease. This gross level of sorrows is conveyed about on mankind as a result of his unabated rebellion towards his Creator Jehovah Yahweh. Mankind's refusal to comply with God's requirements, coupled with his rejection of the Lord's sovereignty will cause him this self-inflicted genocide. And yet, God Almighty would have loved to give mankind peace and joy unspeakable, other than a holocaust.

10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full (John 10:10).

God in his infinite plan for mankind intends that man lives a life free from suffering here on earth, and an eternal life of peace and joy in heaven. That is the true definition of the abundant life that Jehovah celebrates in John 10:10.

Forewarned

As all these pangs take centre stage in the troubled life of today's modern man, no christian can claim that they were not forewarned on the devastating effects of the horsemen. The scripture has been without ambiguity on the fact that these horsemen would be released in consecutive succession, at this hour prior to the wedding feast of the Lamb. The testimony of which is the book of Daniel, which, in its entirety, is an endtime prophecy. The phenomenon brought to the earth by these four horsemen were truly foretold by Daniel the Prophet in Daniel 12:1, and by our precious Lord Jesus in Matthew 24. Modernity and today's post-modernism do not fit into God's requirements for mankind. The Lord's benchmark standard of holiness cuts across centuries, and also binds all nations. As did the Lord command Israel, that if they would follow his holy requirements they would be blessed; so has he commanded this generation. Likewise, as did the Lord chide Israel that a failure to abide by his requirements would be an automatic curse, so it is with this generation. God does not change, for which reason he gave us Jesus Christ of Nazareth as our intercessor before him. The purpose for which the Lord surrendered Jesus the Lamb of God, to die on the cross, was that whoever believes in him, and follows the teachings of the Christ, would not suffer the consequences of sin.

1And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the Lord thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth: 2And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God. 3Blessed shalt thou be in the city, and blessed shalt thou be in the field. 4Blessed shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy ground, and the fruit of thy cattle, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep 5Blessed shall be thy basket and thy store. 6Blessed shalt thou be when thou comest in, and blessed shalt thou be when thou goest out. 7The Lord shall cause thine enemies that rise up against thee to be smitten before thy face: they shall come out against thee one way, and flee before thee seven ways. 8The Lord shall command the blessing upon thee in thy storehouses, and in all that thou settest thine hand unto; and he shall bless thee in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee. 9The Lord shall establish thee an holy people unto himself, as he hath sworn unto thee, if thou shalt keep the commandments of the Lord thy God, and walk in his ways. 10And all people of the earth shall see that thou art called by the name of the Lord; and they shall be afraid of thee. 11And the Lord shall make thee plenteous in goods, in the fruit of thy body, and in the fruit of thy cattle, and in the fruit of thy ground, in the land which the Lord sware unto thy fathers to give thee. 12The Lord shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow. 13And the Lord shall make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath; if that thou hearken unto the commandments of the Lord thy God, which I command thee this day, to observe and to do them: 14And thou shalt not go aside from any of the words which I command thee this day, to the right hand, or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them. 15But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee: 16Cursed shalt thou be in the city, and cursed shalt thou be in the field. 17Cursed shall be thy basket and thy store. 18Cursed shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy land, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep. 19Cursed shalt thou be when thou comest in, and cursed shalt thou be when thou goest out. 20The Lord shall send upon thee cursing, vexation, and rebuke, in all that thou settest thine hand unto for to do, until thou be destroyed, and until thou perish quickly; because of the wickedness of thy doings, whereby thou hast forsaken me. 21The Lord shall make the pestilence cleave unto thee, until he have consumed thee from off the land, whither thou goest to possess it. 22The Lord shall smite thee with a consumption, and with a fever, and with an inflammation, and with an extreme burning, and with the sword, and with

blasting, and with mildew; and they shall pursue thee until thou perish. 23And thy heaven that is over thy head shall be brass, and the earth that is under thee shall be iron. 24The Lord shall make the rain of thy land powder and dust: from heaven shall it come down upon thee, until thou be destroyed. 25The Lord shall cause thee to be smitten before thine enemies: thou shalt go out one way against them, and flee seven ways before them: and shalt be removed into all the kingdoms of the earth. 26And thy carcase shall be meat unto all fowls of the air, and unto the beasts of the earth, and no man shall fray them away. 27The Lord will smite thee with the botch of Egypt, and with the emerods, and with the scab, and with the itch, whereof thou canst not be healed. 28The Lord shall smite thee with madness, and blindness, and astonishment of heart: (Deut 28:1-28).

In this scripture, when the Lord vows that he shall smite mankind with consumption, he literally means chronic degenerative diseases such as HIV/AIDS that totally consume one's body and fibre to no remedy. On the other hand, when God said and fever, he insinuated inflammation such as through malaria and communicative diseases like influenzas. Equally, when Jehovah referred to extreme burnings and with the sword and with blasting and with the mildew and with the blotch of Egypt; he indubitably referred to elephantiasis. By mentioning emerods, Jehovah signified tumours and cancers, etc in that order. Scabs and itching essentially referred to scurvy and rickets, aggravated psoriasis and other nutrient-deficiencies. To condense it all Deut 28:29 is hence meant to give the greatest depiction yet. The state of utter hopelessness of mankind's suffering that these and other innumerable scourges would bring on the earth. One can only envisage the increased intensity and gravity with which the pale horseman of the apocalypse brings about such utter hopelessness and scourge-related afflictions to the earth in this era, right before rapture. In other words, all the pestilence-related sorrows described in Deuteronomy 28, as grave as they are, they are virtually escalated a zillion-fold in this dispensation right before the rapture.

Global HIV/AIDS Pandemic

A closer examination of the startling statistics on the global spread of the HIV/AIDS pandemic in 2009 reveals just how vulnerable mankind can be outside the holy will of the Lord. Figures have been floated that apportion the African continent with the largest share, and increasingly among the young who are even born infected. To take HIV/AIDS as a case-study, on the impact of the pale horse of the apocalypse, one is able to come up with a true prototype of how his effects are greatly ramified. Let alone the abhorrent physical suffering of the HIV/AIDS patients as they succumb to all the opportunistic infections such as multi-drug-resistant (MDR) tuberculosis, among others. The mental anguish with which the rider of the pale horse of the apocalypse weighs down on family is totally unbearable. The rider of the pale horse grossly impacts family and community as disease gives rise to large numbers of orphans and widows. Nevertheless, the economic impacts of HIV/AIDS cannot be ignored as it eats on the active labour force, reducing it to mere withered and ailing workers, let alone the sickly population it builds, a population that cannot participate in active agricultural production. That in itself escalates famine. No one will be immune to this horrific trauma.

26And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the Lord that healeth thee (Ex 15:26).

The only way mankind can escape the debilitating effects of the pestilences in this last season prior to the rapture, is through a complete and an unwavering obedience to the Lord. God himself promises to protect mankind from the ravaging effects of pestilences, including the most severe of this dispensation.

15And the Lord will take away from thee all sickness, and will put none of the evil diseases of Egypt, which thou knowest, upon thee; but will lay them upon all them that hate thee (Deut 7:15). For as long as Israel walked in humble obedience before the Lord, Jehovah himself promised that He would keep away the pestilences, never to afflict her. And because God is just, he did

not forget to caution them that the enemies of God would be subjected to the full wrath of the putrefying effects of pestilences. This tells us, as the church of Christ, that God is more than capable to protect man from the ravaging effects of pestilences. By inference, it also refers that the Lord is able to shield the obedient church from the utter destruction and humiliation of the devastating effects of the pale horseman. The greatest controversy in unleashing the man of the pale horse, appears to be centred around the rebellion of mankind towards God, and his unbelievable readiness to serve other gods.

22So that the generation to come of your children that shall rise up after you, and the stranger that shall come from a far land, shall say, when they see the plagues of that land, and the sicknesses which the Lord hath laid upon it; 23And that the whole land thereof is brimstone, and salt, and burning, that it is not sown, nor beareth, nor any grass groweth therein, like the overthrow of Sodom, and Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboim, which the Lord overthrew in his anger, and in his wrath: 24Even all nations shall say, Wherefore hath the Lord done thus unto this land? what meaneth the heat of this great anger? 25Then men shall say, Because they have forsaken the covenant of the Lord God of their fathers, which he made with them when he brought them forth out of the land of Egypt: (Deut 29:22-25).

Again and again, it boils down to man forsaking the covenant he had with the Lord; that the debilitating effects of pestilences may eat up his body.