

## **Chapter 16**

### **Seal Two - The Red Horse**

*“When He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, ‘Come and see.’ 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.”*  
*(Revelation 6:3-4)*

The red horse: Symbol of war and destruction, and an attitude of anger. It was a Saturday afternoon at a family reunion on my mother's side of the family. It was threatening rain and so everyone who was still outdoors immediately sought shelter. It was thundering and lightening as well and common sense told me that we should go inside away from the possibility of being struck. Yet somehow there was no fear and it was as if a small voice said, "Don't worry; everything will be okay," and so I sat down by my father where a few chairs had been set out. There was a large umbrella canopy there and we moved our chairs under it. As the rain began to fall we sat in the dry, just my Dad and I, and talked.

I don't remember ever having a conversation quite like that one with my Dad. It was an honor and a privilege to hear him talk because for the first time in my life he was talking about the war – the Korean War. I had known all along that he had been there, but had not realized the kind of action he saw and was a part of. My father told of three major battles that raged during the war namely, Bloody Ridge where 2700 UN Forces were killed and up to 15,000 North Koreans and Chinese; Heartbreak Ridge where 3700 American and French troops died and up to 25,000 North Korean and Chinese; and Pork Chop Hill where 258 UN and Americans died along with 1500 North Koreans and Chinese. I was mesmerized as he told of these conflicts. He had experienced an American soldier crawling up to him for help, where the man died at his feet before Dad could get him help. He told of lying on the ground as enemy bullets struck all around him. He spoke about a buddy who died in the night at Pork Chop Hill.

My own military experiences were petty compared to his. I was in for three years under the Reagan administration. The only thing that happened during my time was the invasion of Granada that only lasted about a month and a half. A small number of US forces were deployed there while I remained safe and secure in Washington, D.C.

War is a terrible thing. It always involves loss of life and regardless of which side suffers casualties it is non-the-less tragic. The history of America, like that of many nations around the world, is marked by war – Times of fighting for what is right, protecting our way of life, property and loved ones. Now don't get me wrong for what I am about to write; I want to go on record as saying that I do love my country. I served for a time and although it was peaceful service for me I could have been called upon at any time to defend and protect. But we must realize that in most wars throughout history, whether barbarians, Romans, or Christian Crusaders, the many men and women that died were merely pawns in the hands of leaders who controlled and commanded. We are no different. If our president deems it necessary he will

send troops out to do what they have been trained to do, while they remain safe and secure in their brick and mortar fortresses. Sometimes, even though those who are putting their lives on the line are doing what they do with the attitude of patriotism, those in control have far different motives.

War leaves cities, towns and villages in heaps of rubble and turn beautiful hills, forests, and meadows barren and destitute of life. It affects people for generations to come. It often results in poverty and ruination for the innocent that must figure out how to etch out a living amidst the rubble and barrenness.

World War I was named “The War to End All Wars.” It not only divided nations but resulted in the deaths of approximately 16.5 million people (which included 6.8 million civilians). It did not end all wars as was promised. Around twenty years later another world wide war broke out – World War II which resulted in the deaths of between 62-78 million people, which includes 40-52 million civilians. After this war other conflicts have come and gone. There was the Korean War, the War of Vietnam, then the Gulf War, and in our current times, the Iraq War and the Afghanistan War. The last two wars are a part of the war on terrorism, a different kind of war. Yes people still die. Weapons are discharged, towns and villages are destroyed. The difference is that this war can break out on any continent and in any country in the world. It is not a war with certain countries but a war between ideals. Even though the governments involved have gone to great lengths to keep it from being called a religious war, yet our adversaries insist on making it about destroying Christians and Jews. They have never been secretive about it.

This war will be very difficult to win if winning is possible at all. In all other wars a country could be defeated either by crippling them or often by eliminating their leader. While we were right to look for and bring Osama bin Laden to justice for the catastrophe of 9-11, even though he has been eliminated from the picture, the war on terror is not over because when one leader goes down another simply steps up to take his place. I fear that this war will continue. If we succeed in defeating the Taliban forces in Afghanistan they will only crop up in another country such as Algeria or Somalia or perhaps even closer to the United States. If the truth were known I feel certain that these forces have at least a small representation in every nation on the earth. And now we have ISIS – The worst of the terrorist forces yet.

I believe that this conflict will open the door to lead into the time of the Red Horseman. Jesus said in Matthew 24:6 and Mark 13:7 that in the last days we will hear of wars and rumors of wars. These will take place before the end. However they are leading up to the end.

When the Antichrist begins his reign of peace he will do just as all before him has done. He will use his bow (as we saw with the rider of the white horse) to wage a war to usher in that plan of peace. As he switches his mount from the white horse to the red horse we are told that the rider will actually take peace from the earth and to enable and influence people to kill one another and further that he is given a great sword – a powerful weapon and/or influence in the waging of this war. I believe that this war will be one to force people, governments, beliefs and ideals to merge so as to do away with their differences.

The two most powerful forms of government in today's world are those of democracy and that of communism. There was a time when most thought that the Antichrist would rise from communism. However, with the fall of the Soviet Union, the most influential communistic government, that idea began to fade.

As the world became more and more dependent on oil for energy and with the vast supplies found in the Mid-East they began to grow rich. Along with wealth came the desire for power and the ability to develop weapons. Now they have the ability to wage war. Most of these Arabic countries have not tried to hide their hatred for Americans, because of their designation as a Christian country, and Jews because of very long-term problems that stem all the way back to Biblical days. They are the modern day threat. Their false religion is quickly growing and spreading throughout the world. They are now the power to fear. The Antichrist will have to enforce compromises in order to appease Christians, Jews and Moslems.

This so called time of peace will only come with the strictest of rules of compromise unacceptable to all three religious powers and will result in high casualties on all three fronts. There will be war like the world has never before witnessed all in the name of peace.

The truth is that real and lasting peace will never come to earth as long as the devil – The true world power behind the Antichrist, reigns. But don't be afraid! Don't let your heart fail you for fear. The day is coming as seen later in the Book of Revelation, when the Lion of Judah, The Lamb as He had been slain – Jesus Christ, will finally open that last seal. Time as man has measured will be no more and He will stand with one foot on the land and one on the sea and finally claim His redeemed property. The devil will lose his power and false authority and will be once and for all defeated. War will be no more because the enemies of true peace will be eradicated and Christ will eternally reign!

Until that day the devil will rage war in the hearts of mankind. The finality will come in this war of the antichrist and will be followed with catastrophic results. If we are the generation that will see this take place be prepared. How? There is only one way. We may try to stockpile food and supplies. We may arm ourselves with weapons of our own. But in truth all that we do will never be enough. The only way we can be prepared is to be in tune with God the Father, His plan for us in Jesus Christ, and spend time listening to the Holy Spirit in our hearts. Whatever He tells us is the right thing. If we are alive and witness these things then we must be assured in our hearts that God's great Divine plan for our lives will be fulfilled in this too.

If this war takes our lives because of our faith then know that we will be among those who stand on that sea of glass mingled with fire and blood. If it does not then we have a further mission in which God intends to use us. Either way we can say with the great Apostle Paul, "To live is Christ; to die is gain."

The horses are coming and we cannot stop them. Still we have hope in knowing that their arrival and devastating passage will only serve to further usher in the coming of our Master, our Savior, Jesus Christ, the Son of God Who lives forever more!