**These Perilous Times**

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**Introduction to Revelation**

**Part VII**

**The Seven Seals-The Third Seal**

A. The Lamb Opens the Third Seal: “…I beheld a black horse…” Revelation 6:5&6. Sug-

 gested prophetic/historical time-period A.D. 313-538 The same era as the church at

 Pergamum (Rev. 2:12-17).

1. In the context of this text the color black is symbolic of “spiritual darkness” that entered the church during this historical/prophetic time-period. The church of Rome began replacing God’s word “light” (Psalms119:105; Isa. 5:20; I John 1:5-7) with pagan rituals, customs and man-made traditions.
2. The rider of the black horse has a pair of balances/scales in his right hand. The use of scales and /or balances have but one purpose-to weigh something and determine its truth worth or value. In the context of this portion of scripture the balances symbolize the weighing of one’s character (Job 31:4-6; Ps. 63: 8-10; Isa. 40:10-12; Dan. 5:25-28). The high price for a measure (a measure is 6 ½ bushels) of wheat and barley for a penny (equivalent to a day’s wages for laborers and soldiers during that time period usually bought much more food) symbolizes a spiritual famine for God’s Word in the church (Amos 8:11, 12).
* Wheat also symbolizes God’s people Matt. 13:25-30
1. Oil and Wine.
* Oil symbolizes the Holy Spirit Zacariah 4:2-6; Matt. 25:1-8.

B. Andrews Bible Commentary-Book II, The New Testament, pp. 1955, 1956. “When

 Christ opened the third seal a black horse appeared. John saw the rider holding a scale

 for weighing food in his hand and heard an announcement from one of the four living

 creatures regarding the prices of wheat and barley. In ancient Israel grain oil and wine

 (grape juice) were the basic necessities of life (Duet 11:14; Joel 2:19) and to make and

 eat bread by carefully weighing the grain indicated great scarcity or famine (Lev.

 26:26; Ezek. 4:16) … Black is opposite of white, so if the white horse symbolizes the

 purity of the gospel being preached the black horse denotes the absence or further

 corruption of the gospel….”

C. Roy Allan Anderson. Unfolding the Revelation, Mountain View, CA, Pacific Press

 Publishing Assn., 1953, 1961, 19 74, pp. 65-68. “The word of corruption truly pro-

 gresses fast. How the church had fallen from her high estate! Beginning in purity and

 power, the church became corrupted and now is in subjection to the powers of dark-

 ness. Commercialism replaced piety. Black, the symbol of evil, error, defeat, and

 moral and spiritual darkness, has replaced the purity with which she began her con-

 quests… During this period of spiritual famine, a cheaper grade of spiritual food was

 being offered to the people, and they could only receive the smallest amount of the

 word of God. Tradition and the teachings of the Catholic fathers were being taught

 rather than the pure doctrines of Christ…”

D. Steven N. Haskel. History of the Seer of Patmos, South Lancaster Mass., South Lan

 caster Printing Co., 1905, pp. 109-142. “… The church during the fourth and fifth cen-

 turies dictating to men what they should believe, and how they should worship.

 This was the period when Christianity was replaced by the papacy, and man was

 exalted as the vicegerent of God on earth…”

**What does this mean for us?**

**Obvious Signs Do Tell The Season**

“And this is the condemnation that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.” John 3:19 NKJV

“Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying I Am the Light of the world, He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.” John 8:12 NKJV

“Then Jesus said to them. A little while longer the Light is with you. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you: he who walks in darkness does not know where he is going. While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light…” John 12:25, 36 NKJV

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