



The Third Seal

Famines



The Black Horse Famine Comes Riding (Matthew 24:7)



The Olivet Discourse corresponding prophecy:

Matthew 24: 7 "...and there shall be famines"

Revelation 6:5-6 "And when He had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and he that sat on him had a set of balances in his hand. And I heard a voice in the mist of the four beast say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measure of barley for a penny; and see you hurt not the oil and wine".



The Black Horse represents famine, which is the result of the conquest and the wars of the first two seals. The bread by “measure and weight” signifies scarcity of food (Ezek. 4:10-17). A measure was about 1 quart, a slave’s daily ration, an amount usually purchased for about 2 cents. One could usually buy 8 measures of wheat or 24 measures of barley for a penny, but during this future famine only 1 measure of wheat or 3 measures of barley can be purchased for a penny. This will make food 8 times higher than in normal times.

Special Note: The Denarius was a distinctively Roman coin. A silver coin is nearly equivalent to the Greek Drachma. We learn in Matthew 20 that it was a typical daily wage for a laborer, but the owner of the vineyard in



the parable of Matt. 20, chose to be more generous. The Denarius was also a day's pay for a Roman soldier and the coin required for the Roman tax. The Good Samaritan gave the innkeeper two of them to care for the robbery victim. In other Biblical references the word “Denarius” is used in terms of many such coins. Different debtors owed 50, 100, and 500 denarii. The 5000 men plus their families could not have been fed with 200 denarii worth of food. The perfume that anointed Jesus at Bethany could have been sold for over 300 denarii.

THE GREAT FAMINE

