

From a Messianic Jewish perspective, the opening of the seals and the release of the Four Horsemen in Revelation 6 are not viewed as random, chaotic disasters. Instead, **they are interpreted as the direct execution of Torah covenant judgments**, patterned after specific prophecies in **Zechariah and Ezekiel**.

Messianic scholars emphasize that these horsemen represent the *Chevlai Mashiach* (the "Birth Pangs of the Messiah") preceding the final redemption of Israel.

1.1. The Hebraic Framework: [Leviticus 26](#) and [Ezekiel 14](#)

Before identifying the individual horses, Messianic theology establishes *why* these specific judgments occur. They are directly

tied to the **Covenant Curses** outlined in the Torah.[3]

- **The Four Sore Judgments:** In [Leviticus 26:21-26](#), God warns Israel that if they walk contrary to Him, He will bring four specific plagues: **Sword, Famine, Wild Beasts, and Pestilence.**
- **The Prophetic Echo:** [Ezekiel 14:21](#) mirrors this perfectly, calling them "*my four sore judgments upon Jerusalem.*"
- **The Revelation Connection:** Revelation 6:8 explicitly summarizes the power given to the horsemen using these exact four categories: "*to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth.*" Messianic Jews see the horsemen as the ultimate, global enforcement of this Torah-based cosmic law.

1.2. The Direct Parallel to Zechariah's Visions

The imagery of colored horses pulling chariots comes directly from the Hebrew prophet Zechariah ([Zechariah 1:8-11](#) and [6:1-8](#)).

- In Zechariah, these horses are described as **spirits/winds of heaven** (*Ruchot HaShamayim*) patrolling the earth under divine orders.
- Messianic teachers note that John is not inventing new symbols; he is showing that the angelic forces hidden in Zechariah's time have finally been un-tethered by the Lamb to execute their final missions.

1.3. Decoding the Four Horsemen

[THE FOUR HORSEMEN: COVENANT ENFORCERS]

— White Horse	--> Deception / False Peace (Anti-Messiah)
— Red Horse	--> Terror / Civil War (Loss of Shalom)
— Black Horse	--> Economic Scarcity / Famine
— Pale Horse	--> Pestilence & Sheol (Mass Mortality)

The White Horse (Deception & The False Messiah)

- *The Text:* A rider with a bow, given a crown, riding out to conquer (Rev 6:2).
- *The Messianic View:* Most Messianic scholars identify this rider **not** as Yeshua, but as the **Anti-Messiah (*Anti-Mashiach* or *Armilus* in Rabbinic literature)**.
- *The Clue:* He carries a bow but *no arrows*, signifying he conquers through a false, bloodless peace or deceptive diplomacy. This fulfills Yeshua's warning in Matthew 24:5: "*Many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Messiah,' and they will lead many astray.*"

The Red Horse (The Removal of *Shalom*)

- *The Text:* A fiery red horse whose rider is given a great sword to take peace from the earth (Rev 6:3-4).
- *The Messianic View:* Red (*Adom*) is linguistically linked to **Edom and blood**. Edom in Jewish thought represents the spirit of violent, anti-God empires.
- *The Judgement:* This horseman removes **Shalom** (divine peace and societal order), unleashing global warfare, ethnic strife, and civil chaos. It is the direct fulfillment of the "wars and rumors of wars" predicted in the Olivet Discourse.

The Black Horse (Famine & Economic Control)

- *The Text:* A rider holding a pair of scales, balancing hyper-inflated food prices (Rev 6:5-6).

- ***The Messianic View:*** In the Tanakh, "eating bread by weight" is a specific idiom for **severe famine and rationing** (Leviticus 26:26).
- ***The Olive Oil & Wine:*** The command to "*not harm the oil and the wine*" carries deep Temple significance. Oil and wine were essential for the daily sacrifices (*Nesachim*). Messianic teachers interpret this as a sign of divine restraint—even in global economic collapse, God preserves a remnant and protects the spiritual elements designated for His purposes.



The Pale Horse (Pestilence & *Sheol*)

- ***The Text:*** A sickly green/pale (*Chloros*) horse whose rider is Death, followed closely by *Sheol* (the Grave) (Rev 6:7-8).
- ***The Messianic View:*** The Greek *chloros* is the color of decaying vegetation or

corpse-like skin. In Hebrew thought, this horse represents **Dever (Pestilence)**.

- *The Authority:* This rider marks the culmination of the previous three. The sword (Red Horse) and famine (Black Horse) naturally birth disease and pestilence (Pale Horse), resulting in the death of a quarter of the earth.

1.4. The Prophetic Purpose: Shaking the Nations

To a Messianic believer, the Four Horsemen are not a sign that God has lost control. They are the beginning of the **shaking of the nations (*Goyim*)**.

This intense tribulation is designed to break human self-sufficiency, purge wickedness from the earth, and ultimately cause a desperate, besieged Israel to cry out for her

true Messiah, fulfilling Yeshua's words: *"You will not see me again until you say, 'Baruch Haba B'shem Adonai' (Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord)."*

The opening of the first four seals leads directly into the fifth and sixth seals, where the focus shifts heavily toward Israel and the heavens.