## The Four Horsemen

## Document

## 1.1

From the *Book of Revelation*, Chapter 6 (KJV)

1And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see.

2And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer.

3And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see.

4And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword.

5And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand.

*The Horsemen of the Apocalypse*, depicted in a woodcut by [Albrecht Dürer](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Albrecht_D%C3%BCrer) (ca. 1497–98)

6And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure[[1]](#footnote-1) of wheat for a [day’s wages], and three measures of barley for a [day’s wages]; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine.

7And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see.

8And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth.

**Questions to Consider:**

1. Who were the Four Horsemen? What did each horse symbolize?
2. Why would this passage have been so popular in the fourteenth century? What historical developments convinced Europeans that they were experiencing the Apocalypse? (List as many as you can from the notes that you took over the summer)

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| **Horse #1**  My Group’s answer  Teacher’s answer  **Events of 14th Century** | **Horse #2**  My Group’s answer  Teacher’s answer  **Events of 14th Century** |
| **Horse #3**  My Group’s answer  Teacher’s answer  **Events of 14th Century** | **Horse #4**  My Group’s answer  Teacher’s answer  **Events of 14th Century** |

1. about a litre [↑](#footnote-ref-1)