

Ride with the Devil: Double-Pan Balance Scales Illustrate Hyperinflation; the Illuminati's Hidden Agenda of Global Famine; Seiss on Divine Management of Economies; An Example: the Fall of Belshazzar: Handwriting on the Wall Interpreted by Daniel, Dan 5:26-28; All Human Authority Divinely Approved, Lk 19:10b-11a

Revelation 6:5 - And when He had broken the third seal, I heard the third angelic herald say, "Come!" Then I looked, and behold a black horse; and the rider had a pair of scales in his hand.

19. The scales indicate that the economic disaster will be in the form of inflation. The word for *scales* is the noun **ζυλός (zulos)**: the *balance* on a set of scales.
20. This word is used six times in the New Testament; five refer to a yoke for beasts of burden while the other is used in our passage for a "pair of scales." It functions as a synecdoche¹ for rising prices illustrated by the hyperinflated cost of food.
21. A set of scales consists of three major parts: (1) the **balance** which is the vertical center post, (2) the **beam** which is the horizontal bar affixed at its center point to the top of the balance, and (3) the **pans**, one each suspended at the extremities of the beam by three equidistant support lines.
22. The rider of the Black Horse is described by John as having one of these double-pan balance scales in his hand. Its symbolism, which will be revealed in the next verse, indicates scarcity of food and the resultant inflation of its prices.
23. Inflation always accompanies economic crises. The rider on the White Horse, either through incompetence or by design, makes decisions that are in opposition to the laws of divine establishment initially by deficit spending.
24. The First Horseman's problem-solving device for dealing with the red ink is to raise taxes, a desperate measure that only postpones the inevitable inflation.
25. When government spends money it does not have, it cannot recover by absorbing capital from the very engine that creates it which is free enterprise.
26. Credit cannot be healthy unless it is based on some standard that functions within the capitalistic system, e.g., (1) gold, (2) property, or (3) gross national product.
27. Attempts at "spreading the wealth" by deficit spending and increased taxation is based on hope and by that we do not imply confident expectation but rather the illusions of the Illuminati.
28. The intent of the First Horseman is to purposefully destroy the economy so that he can then seize power by promising to restore order, an order he imagines will place him at the helm of a global government.

¹ sa-nek'- da-kē: "A form of metaphor in which the part mentioned signifies the whole. A good synecdoche is based on an important part of the whole, the part most directly associated with the subject under discussion" (*Dictionary of Literary Terms* [Toronto: Coles Publishing Co., 1980], 197).

29. The Illuminati are confident they are the most knowledgeable creatures on the planet and thus it is not considered unthinkable by them to eliminate the unwashed benighted. The ravages of global inflation, resultant famine, and the conflicts and wars that created them are considered the price that must be paid to establish their socialistic paradise.
30. In other words, any means used are fully justified in order to accomplish the desired end. Absence of moral authority removes any restraint on a rapid advance toward the objective.
31. The specter of millions of people starving to death will be bemoaned by the Illuminati while they use it as a rhetorical veil to conceal while advancing their hidden agenda: the imposition of totalitarian tactics in order to solve the problem.
32. To illustrate, here are three quotes by Joseph Stalin:
 - 1) "Print is the sharpest weapon and the strongest weapon of our party."
 - 2) "We don't let them have ideas. Why would we let them have guns?"
 - 3) "Death is the solution to all problems—no man, no problems."
 - 4) "A single death is a tragedy; a million deaths is a statistic."²
33. Thus, in the hands of the Dictator riding the White Horse, famine becomes a weapon by which to eliminate the benighted.

Revelation 6:6 - Then I heard a voice in the center of the four angelic heralds saying, "A quart of wheat for a denarius and three quarts of barley for a denarius; furthermore, do not damage the olive oil and the wine."

1. Chapters 4 and 5 identify the source of the "voice in the center of the four angelic heralds" as Jesus Christ, referred to as the "Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David" (Revelation 5:5), and the "Lamb" (vv. 6, 8, 12, 13, and 6:1). What the voice says are indications of hyperinflation. The first example is "a quart of wheat for a denarius."
2. The word *quart* is the noun **χοῖνιξ (*choinix*)**, a measurement of dry weight that amounts to 1.92 pints,³ or just under a quart.
3. What is being measured is wheat which weighs about one pound per quart, less for a *choinix*, in dry measure. In this scene the scales held by the rider indicate both rationing and judgment.
4. The going price for the *choinix* of wheat is one denarius which in the first century was considered a day's wage.
5. The example emphasizes the inflationary status of the Tribulation's economy. Were a man to purchase a small measure of wheat his entire day's wage is spent. If he has a large family some will go without food much less other daily necessities of life.

² Retrieved from: http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/authors/j/joseph_stalin.html.

³ J. H. Moulton and G. Milligan, *Vocabulary of the Greek Testament* (London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1930; repr., Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1997), 689.

6. He could opt for barley, a cheaper grain at three *choenix* per denarius, however, the inflationary rate on these items in the time in which John writes is between ten and twelve times the average price. That same rate of inflation would be true for all other commodities.
7. There can be only one result of such an economic environment: mass starvation, disease, civil disobedience, and death.
8. The withdrawal of logistics is executed by the Dictator on the White Horse, but the permission to do so is granted by the divine decree, a principle referenced in this excerpt by Joseph A. Seiss:

People do not generally suppose that God has much to do with price-lists. They go up and down, and millions higggle over them every day, but no one thinks of anything Divine connected with them. But whether men realize it or not, price-lists are made in heaven. John hears the rates of corn and bread announced by the same heavenly powers by which these mystic horses are called into action. Whatever the weather, the crops, the quantities of money in the country, the extent of speculation in the market, or other subordinate causes may have to do with it, the prime and all-controlling cause is the decree of the throne. It is God, from whom we have our daily bread, and it is by His will that it is plentiful and cheap, or scarce and costly.

The prices here given, are judgment prices, indicative of extreme scarcity and distress. A *chœnix* is about a pint and a half of our measure, and it is the ordinary allowance of wheat to a man for one day's scanty subsistence. A *denarius* was the ordinary wages for a full day's labour. And when a *chœnix* of wheat costs a denarius, it is as much as a man can do to earn the bread he himself consumes, leaving nothing for his family or for his other wants.

But even at these ruinous rates, there is not wheat enough. People have to betake themselves to barley—the food of horses and beasts of burden. Yet the barley is as difficult of procurement as the wheat. In ordinary times, a denarius would buy twenty-four *chœnixes* of barley; but here a denarius will buy but *three*—the scanty allowance for a day's subsistence for a slave. The arrival of things at such a pass, accordingly argues a severity of hard times, distress, and want, almost beyond the power of imagination to depict. Yet, it is but the natural result of the state of things under the red horse. The two are closely connected as cause and effect. Take away peace from the earth, and inaugurate universal wars, civil strifes, and bloody feuds, and terrible scarcity of the means of subsistence must follow.⁴

9. The set of scales in this passage introduces the judgment of the divine decree upon those who enter into the Tribulation as unbelievers and thus victims of the political intrigue that commences with the rider of the White Horse.
10. We are reminded of another set of scales that foretold the judgment of Belshazzar, king of Chaldea. He was a corrupt, immoral hedonist and idolater. All who possess political power hold that office by permission of the divine decree and no longer. Belshazzar's disposition had reached such a low ebb that the Lord decided to remove him from office.

⁴ Joseph A. Seiss, *The Apocalypse: Lectures on the Book of Revelation* (1900; repr., New York: Cosimo Classics, 2007), 134.

11. He was informed of his demotion and his imminent demise under the sin unto death by a hand which inscribed the following on the palace wall:

מֵנֵא מֵנֵא טֶקֶל וּפְרָסִין (“*Mene’, mene’, tekel, upharsin.*”): “Weight of measurement, weight of measurement: a shekel and half minas.”

12. Nobody could solve this riddle until Daniel was brought in. He bored Belshazzar in the belly with a verbal auger by his scathing analysis of the king’s rulership over Chaldea and his despicable involvement in hedonism, idolatry, anti-Semitism, and blasphemy. Then Daniel translated the inscription as follows:

Daniel 5:26 - “‘MENE’, MENE’—God has numbered your kingdom and put an end to it.”

13. The literal translation is: “Weighed in the balances; weighed in the balances.” What is required of him by divine justice is in one pan while what Belshazzar produced is weighed in the other. They did not balance, thus God put an end to it.

Daniel 5:27 - “‘TEKEL’—you have been weighed on the scales and found deficient.”

14. The literal translation is “a shekel,” a silver coin that represented one fiftieth of a mina and worth about 66¢; it weighed about 224 grains (½ oz.). This represents how much gravitas Belshazzar had.

Daniel 5:28 - “‘Peres’—your kingdom has been divided and given over to the Meads and Persians.”

15. The literal translation is “half minas.” A mina, or *maneh*, was a silver coin that contained 50 shekels and weighed 11,200 grains (27¼ oz.). It was worth about \$34. These half minas represented the Meads and Persians, whose armies, led by Mead general Gobryas, were invading Babylon as Daniel spoke.
16. That night Belshazzar was killed and Darius the Mead became king of Chaldea. What Belshazzar never understood about the divine decree is what Nebuchadnezzar came to understand only after coming close to dying the sin unto death:

Daniel 4:32c - “... the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind and bestows it on whomever He wishes” [cf. v. 37].

17. When those who possess governmental authority depend on political power to advance their schemes they do so in jeopardy of encountering the wrath of divine power.

18. Pontius Pilate posed this question to our Lord in:

Luke 19:10b - “Do you not know that I have authority to release You, and I have authority to crucify You?”

v. 11a - Jesus answered, “You would have no authority over Me, unless it had been given you from above.”

19. This is the very same principle the Lord told Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel 4:32. Nebuchadnezzar learned from it, we don’t know about Pilate, but we do know that the Satan-possessed Dictator of the Tribulation did not.

20. One final mandate is given by the Lord to the rider of the Black Horse:
“... do not damage the olive oil and the wine.”
21. These are luxury items. In time of economic depression those who are prepared can actually make money. People get rich during times of economic disaster. In order to sustain those who will come to believe in Him for salvation, there needs to be a source of capitalism left functional.
22. Wheat and barley require constant attention during planting, growing, and harvesting before they can be marketed. This is why their cost is so high in times of disaster.
23. But olive trees and grapevines will produce their fruit regardless of the attention given them. The quality would suffer but they would both remain essential commodities that could be marketed.
24. In economic disaster, believers who are positive and have prepared their souls consistently in time of prosperity will be sustained by divine decree.
25. However, dreadful consequences transpire under the rulership of the Satan-possessed Dictator. The devastation from the warfare he foments and the economic disaster he causes results in the Fourth Horseman saddling up to ride.