

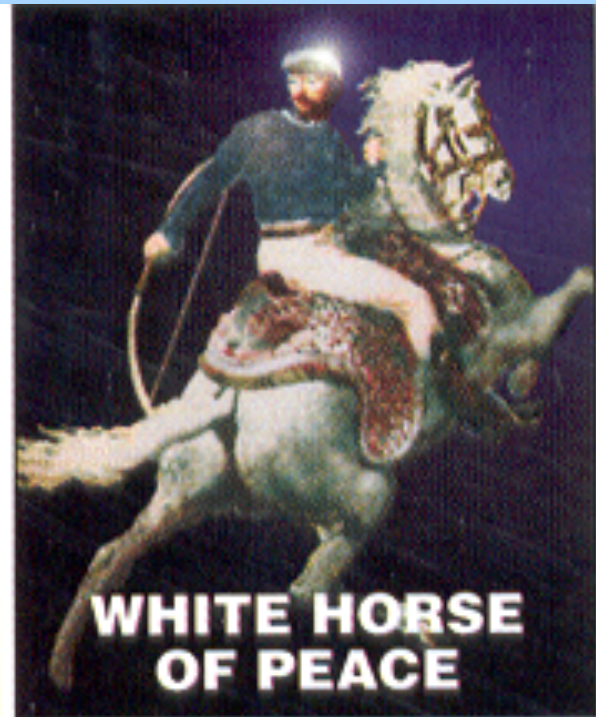
# The seven sealed scroll

- In Revelation chapters 5 and 6 the Lamb opens the sealed scroll and reveals “what must take place after this” (4:1).
- Events in the pagan Roman Empire to the fall of paganism are revealed in the first six seals.
- The 7<sup>th</sup> Seal is divided into 7 Trumpets.
- In Revelation 8 and 9 the trumpets summon the armies which caused the downfall, first of the Western and then of the Eastern Roman Empires.

## **FIRST SEAL**

**A.D. 98 to 324**

“...Come and see. And 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**.” Revelation 6:1,2.



White: a long period of peace and prosperity

Horse: a recognized symbol of the Roman state

Bowman: gospel preaching gradually overcoming Paganism

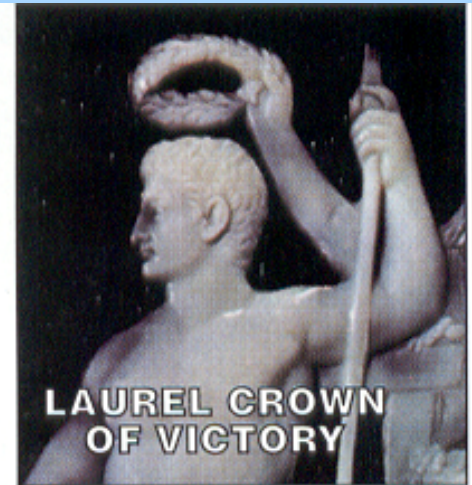
Crown: coronal wreath for eventual victory

**THE BOWMAN  
(CHRISTIANITY)  
CONQUERS  
PAGAN ROME**

Compare  
Hab 3:9; Zech 9:13;  
2 Cor 10:3-5;  
Eph 6: 12-19;  
(Isa 32:17.)

**LAROUSSE HISTORY**

“...to everyone the reign of Trajan seemed like a return to the **golden age**... It was during the reign of Antonius that the Roman Empire reached the zenith of its **power and prosperity**... Marcus Aurelius had absolute need of **domestic peace**...” pages 208/9.



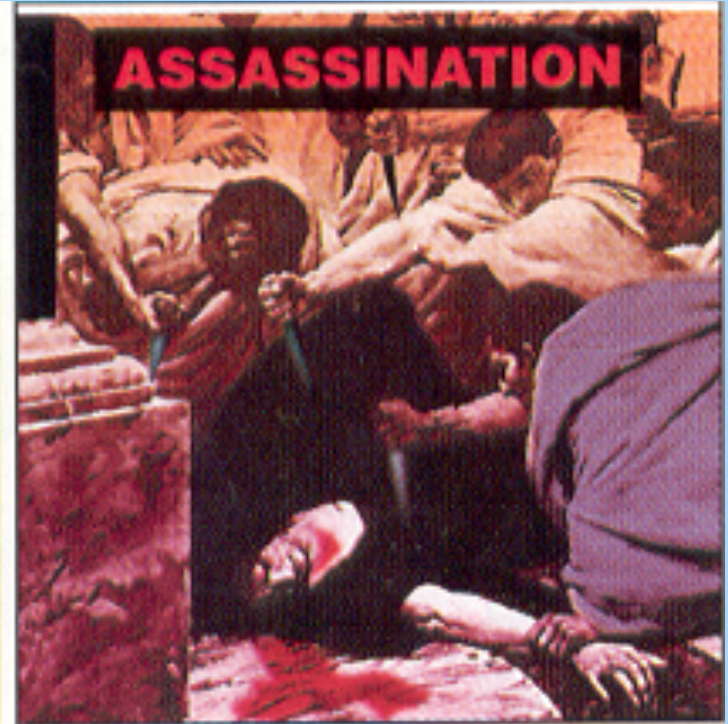
The bowman did not kill people, for, as Paul wrote, “the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds” 2 Cor 10:4



## **SECOND SEAL**

**A.D. 183 to 212**

“...Come and see. And 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**..” Revelation 6:4.



Red: indicates sin and bloodshed

A period of violence, particularly assassination of emperors.

Sword: the Greek word ‘machaira’ means a dagger



## **EMPIRE DESCENDS INTO CIVIL WAR**

A RED HORSE  
The wording  
clearly indicates  
civil war.

- \* Emperor Commodus poisoned & strangled.
- \* Emperor Pertinax—stabbed.
- \* Julian — beheaded.
- \* Civil war — two generals beheaded.
- \* Many put to death with wives & children.



In this time when “peace was taken from the earth” there was terrible loss of life, no fewer than 2000 people daily at the worst.

# **THIRD SEAL**

**A.D. 212**

**TO 235**

**BLACK  
PERIOD OF  
GREAT  
AFFLICTION**  
(c/p Job 30:26-31)

“...And 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. And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine...” Revelation 6:5,6.

Black: lamentation and mourning

Balance holder: magistrate and lawgiver

Grain at famine prices, then taxes were cut by Severus, the last emperor of the period, to “hurt not the oil and the wine”, these being the last element in the harvesting year



## LAROUSSE HISTORY

“...The growing cost of the armed forces and the inflation which accompanied it compelled the emperors to increase existing **taxes** and invent new ones.. The spirit of the times was, moreover, very susceptible to the message of Christianity which made great advances...” pages 217/8.



Laws enacted, with crippling taxation, resulted in farms deserted, shortages and distress.



## **FOURTH SEAL**

**A.D. 235 TO 303**

“And when he had opened the fourth seal... 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**..” Revelation 6:7,8.



Pale: sickly greenish colour.

Death and Hades ride the Roman horse.

Fourth part: the Italian praefecture, one of four administrative areas.

Sword: large iron sword of the Thracians. Hunger

and death: famine and pestilence, 5000 die per day in Rome Wild

beasts: barbarian invasion

**EMPIRE ON  
VERGE OF  
COLLAPSE**

**FAMINE  
PLAGUE  
SLAUGHTER  
& INVASION**

**c/p**

**Titus 1:12.**

**LAROUSSE HISTORY**

“For nearly half a century the Roman world had been on the verge of chaos, and the consequences were incalculable. The Empire emerged from the period *in a state of collapse*. Wherever the Barbarians had passed they had left behind them **waste and ruin**, while the peasants...were ravaged... Many of them had been slaughtered and many others had **died of starvation**.” p. 218/220.

Barbarian invasions, by Franks, Alemanni, Goths and Persians, carried death and destruction to the Italian quarter of the empire.



## **FIFTH SEAL**

**A.D.303 TO 312**

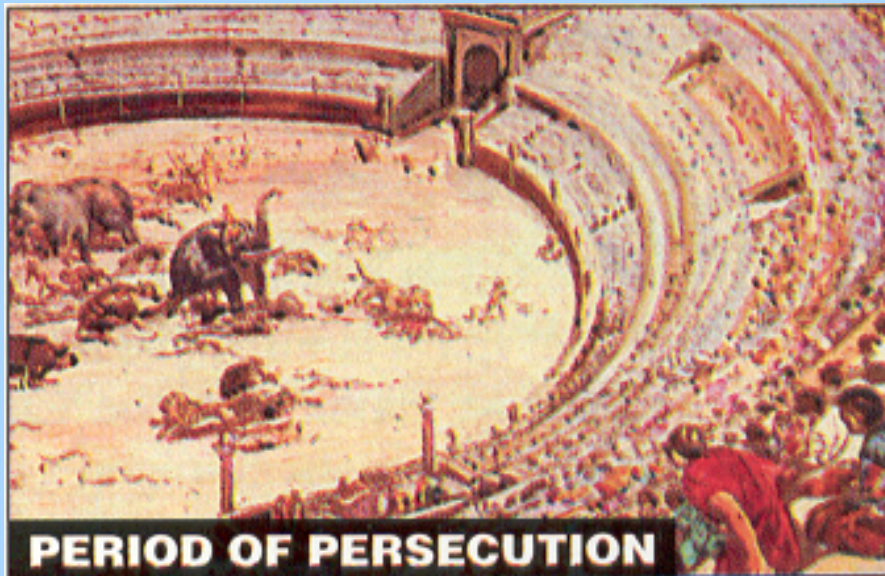


**DIOCLETIAN**

“And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were **slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held**: And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and **avenge our blood** on them that dwell on the earth?....” Revelation 6:9-11.

The well known severe persecution of Christians by Diocletian. Dead saints given rest under the Altar (Christ) until resurrection. They were to be avenged by events of the Sixth Seal.





## LAROUSSE HISTORY

“Diocletian set about the task of restoring the moral unity of the Empire, which at once brought him into **conflict with Christianity**... In 303 several edicts were published ordering books sacred to Christians to be seized. First the clergy and then the faithful were legally obliged to offer sacrifice in the Roman manner.” p. 224.

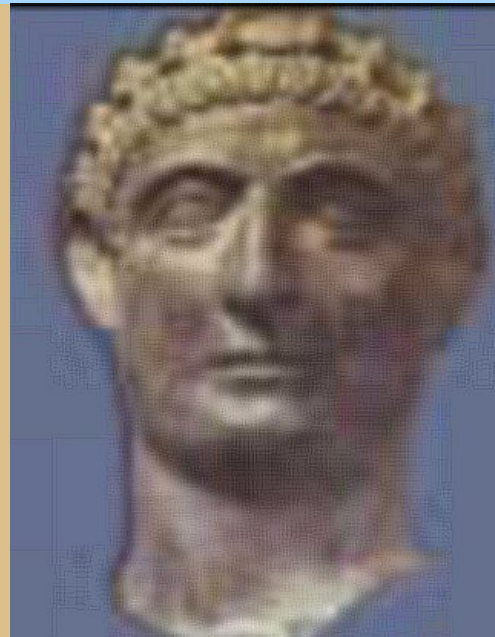
Terrible persecution of Christians extended throughout the Roman Empire, and added thousands to the number of victims under the altar. The sufferings of the saints, both in body and in mind, were of great severity.

**SIXTH SEAL**  
**A.D. 312 TO 324**

“I beheld when he had opened  
the  
sixth seal, and, lo, there was a  
**great earthquake...** And the  
**heaven departed** as a scroll ...

Hide us from the face of **him**  
**that sitteth on the throne**, and  
from the wrath of the Lamb:.”

Revelation 6:12-17.



**Constantine**

**LAROUSSE  
HISTORY**

“At this moment  
the Empire had  
finally broken  
with Roman  
pagan tradition  
and a new era  
was about to  
begin”

Earthquake is the usual symbol of political upheaval. This scene of great destruction is the overthrow of Pagan Rome by Constantine. The pagan ruling heaven departed, due to the judgment of Christ.



***THE GREAT POLITICAL  
UPHEAVAL IN THE ROMAN  
EMPIRE & THE CHANGE OF  
CONSTITUTION IN FAVOUR  
OF CHRISTIANITY***

The Battle of Milvian Bridge (left) brought Constantine to the throne.

Pagans saw their defeat as “the wrath of the Lamb” (Christ) against their gods.

c/p language of Isa 34:4,5; Isa 13:10.

People of those days recognized that this revolution was a retribution by the God of the Christians.

Note the accuracy of the 6 Seals in foretelling Roman events during 230 years.



<b><u>REV.</u></b>	<b><u>VISION</u></b>	<b><u>TIME PERIOD OF THE INTERPRETATION</u></b>
4:1-5:14	Throne and elders	In the Kingdom with the earth at rest.
6:1-17	6 seals-judgements ‘	Events in Western Roman Empire (AD 96-324).
7:1-17	Sealing of 144,000	Description of the righteous in the kingdom.
8:1-13	4 trumpets-judgements	Events in Western Roman Empire (AD 395-476).
9:1-12	5 <sup>th</sup> trumpet (1 <sup>st</sup> woe)	Events In Eastern Roman Empire (AD 632-932).
9: 13-21	6 <sup>th</sup> trumpet (2 <sup>nd</sup> woe)	Events In Eastern Roman Empire (AD 1062-1453)
10:1-11	Rainbowed angel	Description of the righteous judging and teaching the nations.
11:1-14	Holy City and 2 witnesses (2nd woe)	Events in Western Empire (AD 312-1794)
11:15-19	Wrath of God on the nations (7th trumpet, 3rd woe)	Events in the earth leading to establishment of the kingdom.



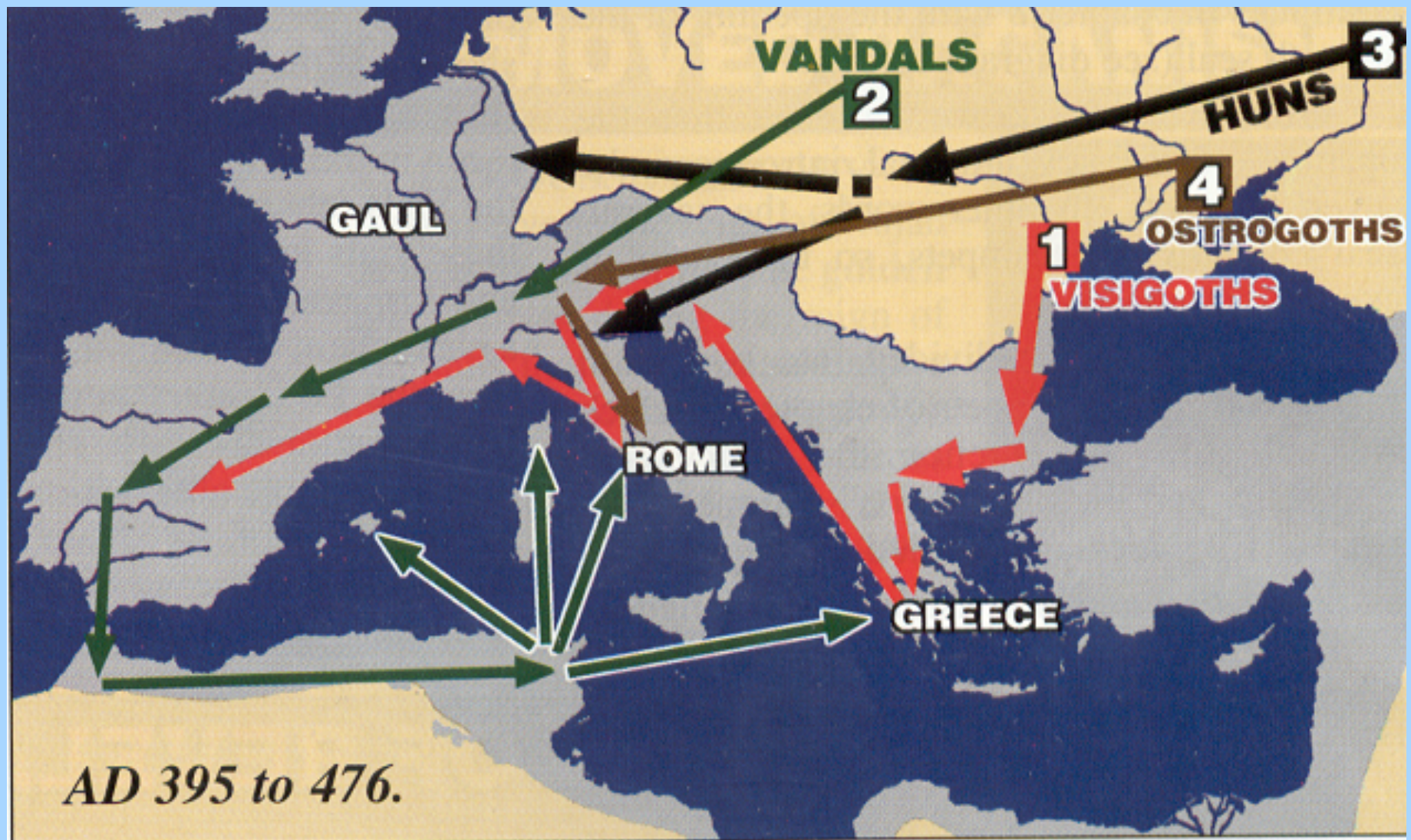
“The first angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up.”— Revelation 8:7.

**ALARIC KING OF  
THE VISIGOTHS  
STORMS ITALY &  
GAUL AD 395**

c/p language of  
Isa 28:2; Isa 30:30.31.  
Affects Western third of  
the (Catholic) Empire—  
see map above this chart.

The trumpets summon the armies that caused the Fall of the Western and Eastern Roman Empires. A third part was the Latin Western Empire (affected by trumpets 1 to 4)





*Four Barbarian invasions of the Western Roman Empire*





## GIBBON'S DECLINE & FALL

“Alaric...marched to the gates of Rome... At the hour of midnight the Salarian gate was silently opened, and the inhabitants were awakened by the tremendous sound of **the Gothic trumpet.**”

## LAROUSSE HISTORY

“For eight hundred years no invader had ever taken Rome, and its fall **echoed from end to end** of the stricken empire” pages 243.

Alaric “felt a secret and preternatural impulse which directed, and even compelled, his march to the gates of Rome” (Gibbon)



“And the second angel sounded, and as it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea: and the third part of the sea became blood;.And the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died; and the third part of the ships were destroyed”— Revelation 8:8,9.

**THE TERRIBLE  
GENSERIC & THE  
VANDALS RAVAGE  
THE SEA-COASTS  
A.D. 429...**

c/p language of Jeremiah 51:25. A burning mountain is a destroying power- in this case, of sea coasts & the Roman navy.

People of the coasts and islands of the Mediterranean sea were destroyed by the Vandals. North Africa, the granary of the Empire and source of Rome's prosperity, was lost.





## GIBBON

“the wind became favourable to the designs of Genseric. He manned his largest ships of war (and) towed many large barks filled with **combustible materials**... these **destructive vessels** were impelled against **the fleet** of the unguarded and unsuspecting Romans.”

“The fury of the Vandals was confined to the limits of the Western empire” as Genseric allowed the winds “to transport us to the guilty coast whose inhabitants have provoked the divine justice” (quoted by Gibbon)

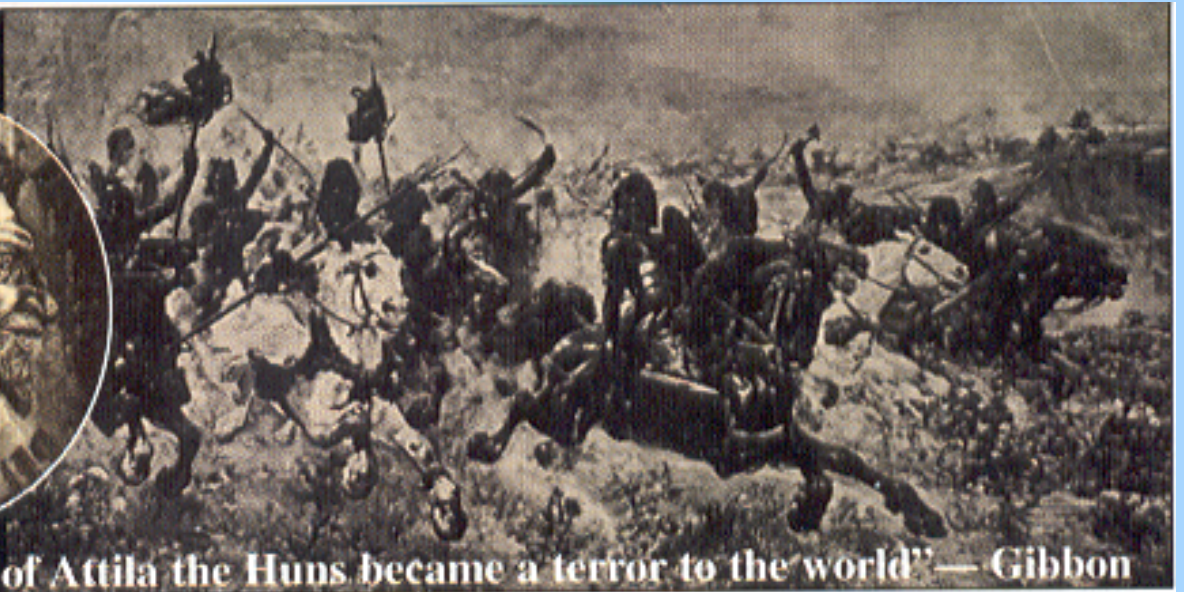




“ And the third angel sounded, and there fell **a great star** from heaven, **burning** as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters; And the name of the star is called Wormwood: and the third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter..”— Revelation 8:10,11.

A **blazing meteor** is symbolic of a great destroying power, rapid in its progress and causing much destruction, but of brief duration. A river named Wormwood was in the Illyrian region ruled by Attila.

**ATTILA THE HUN  
TURNS  
CITIES TO  
ASHES  
AD 451  
“THE  
SWORD OF  
MARS”  
Gibbon**



**“In the reign of Attila the Huns became a terror to the world”— Gibbon**

The ‘rivers and fountains of waters’ in the Alpine regions of Northern Italy, fed by mountain snows, were in that part of the Roman Empire chiefly devastated by Attila the Hun.



“And the fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars; so as the third part of them was darkened, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise..”—  
Revelation 8:12.

***THE OSTROGOTHS  
MARCH INTO  
ITALY: ROME'S  
RULING POWERS  
DARKENED &  
GOTHS BEGIN  
THEIR 60 YEAR  
REIGN.***

This is the eclipse of the entire Western Empire. The emperor had become a mere puppet in the hands of barbarian officials, and finally all governing positions (sun, moon and stars) were extinguished.



## LAROUSSE HISTORY

“In the course of these endless conflicts, the Western Empire had politically ceased to exist.” pages 246.

Theodoric (left) was the first Gothic king to reign from Rome. His reign brought the end of Imperial Rome.



Revelation 8 concludes with a warning of woes to come when the three remaining trumpets are sounded.

The Eastern territories were the third of the Empire lost to Islam.

The final third, the Greek speaking Byzantine (Eastern Roman) Empire, fell to the Turks.

In the language of the Bible, Midianites of Arabia are called “grasshoppers” (or locusts—Revised Version). See Judges 6:1-6 and 7:12. This was the region of Mahomet.

“And the fifth angel sounded... and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit.... And there came out of the smoke **locusts** upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.... And the shapes of **the locusts were like unto horses prepared unto battle**; and on their heads were as it were crowns like gold, and their faces were as the faces of men...” — Revelation 9:1-11.



Mahomet turned the Arabs to one God, Allah, and against all idolaters.

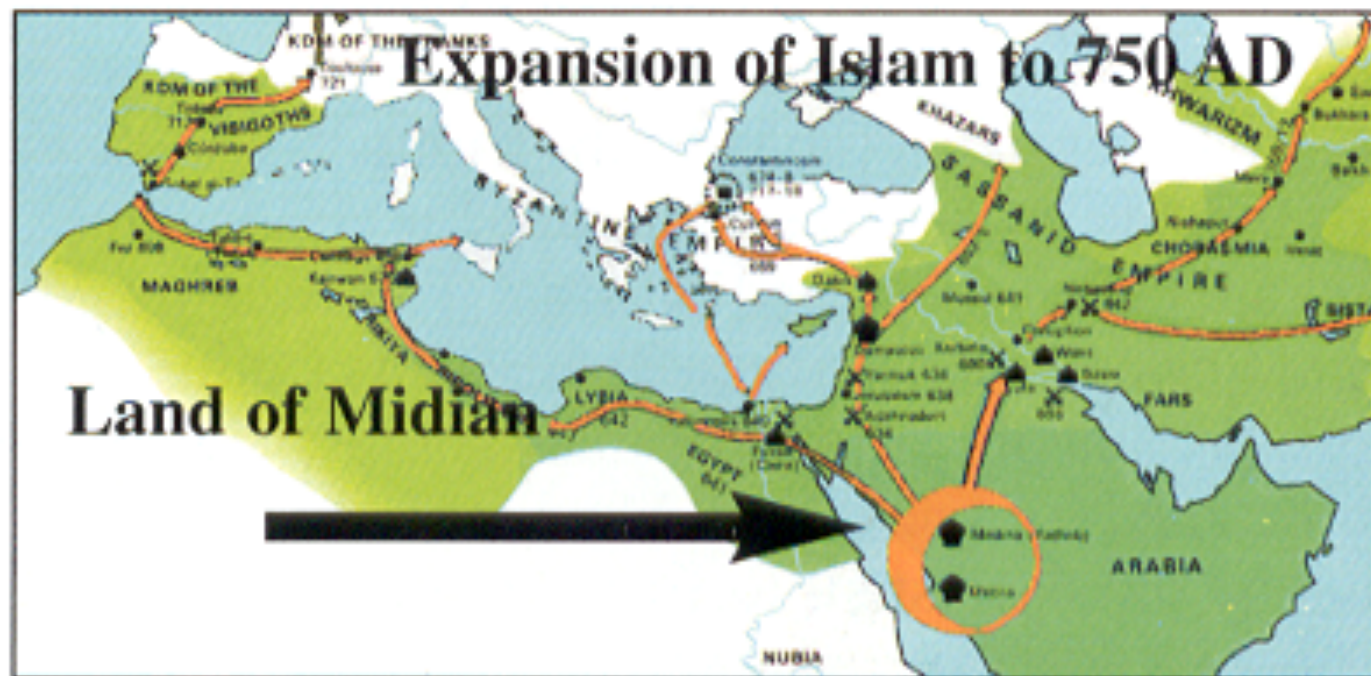
Moslem armies came through ‘the pit’, the deep valley containing the Dead Sea.

Locusts & scorpions are Arab symbols & Arabian dangers. Arabs had horse cavalry, yellow turbans (crowns) and bearded faces.



## LAROUSSE HISTORY

“Between 674 and 677 Moslem squadrons reappeared each spring... In 737 Leo III suffered several raids from Asia Minor, and two years later, 150,000 Moslems, **stripping the country bare in their passage**, advanced as far as Nicea...” p. 265.





## The Sixth Trumpet

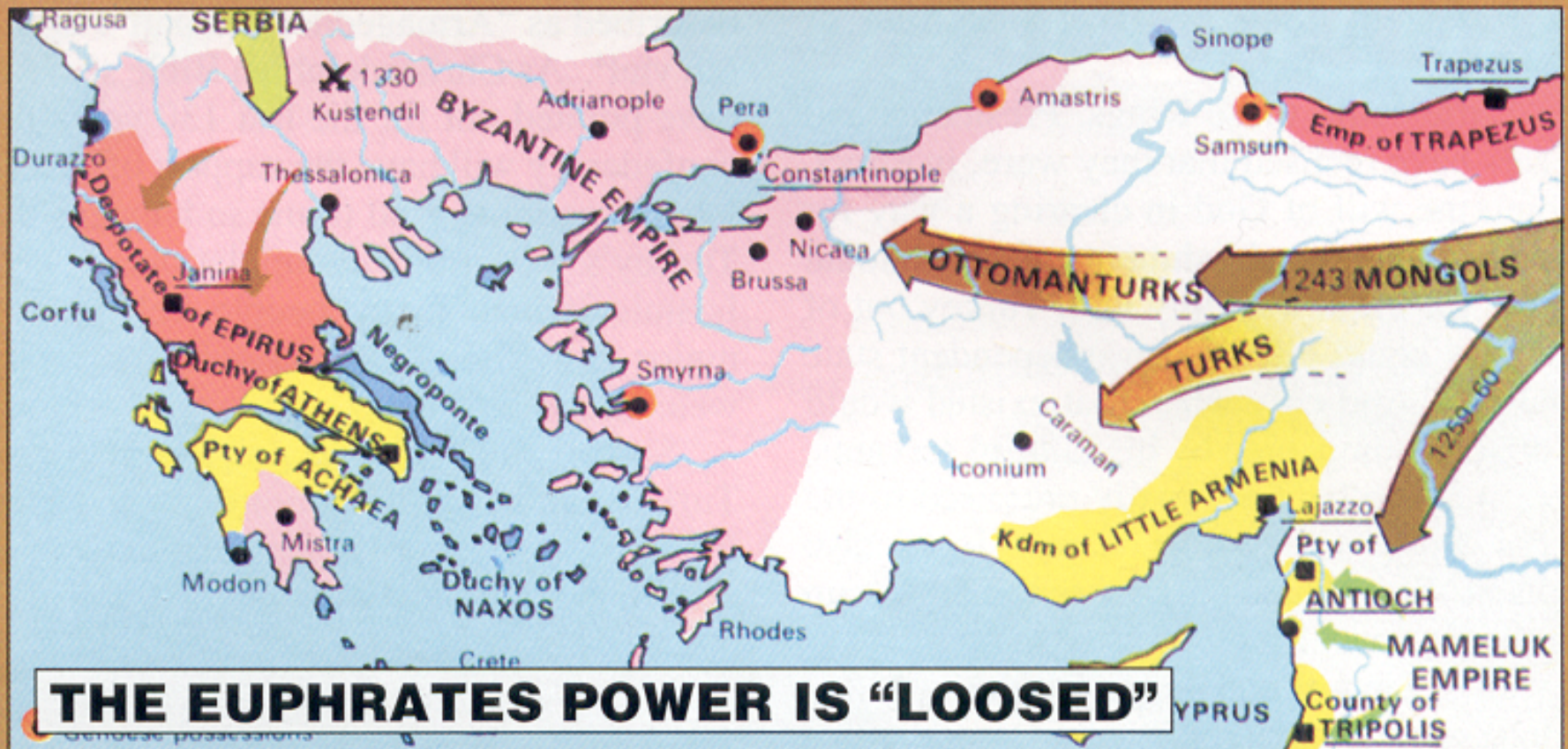
And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound **in the great river Euphrates**. And the **four angels were loosed**, which were prepared for **an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year**, for to **slay the third part of men**. And the number of the army of the horsemen *were* **two hundred thousand thousand**: and I heard the number of them. And thus I saw the horses in the vision; and out of their **mouths issued fire and smoke and brimstone**. And **the rest of the men** which were not killed by these plagues yet **repented not** of the works of their hands, **that they should not worship** devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: **which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk:**     **Rev 9:13-21**



**FOUR POWERS** were unleashed in 1062. (1) The Seljuk Turks. (2) The Moguls & Tartars under Zingis Khan, and then (3) Moguls under Tamerlane. Finally, Mohammed II (4) besieged and took Constantinople(below) in 1453.



# THE FALL OF CONSTANTINOPLE & THE RISE OF A TURKISH EMPIRE





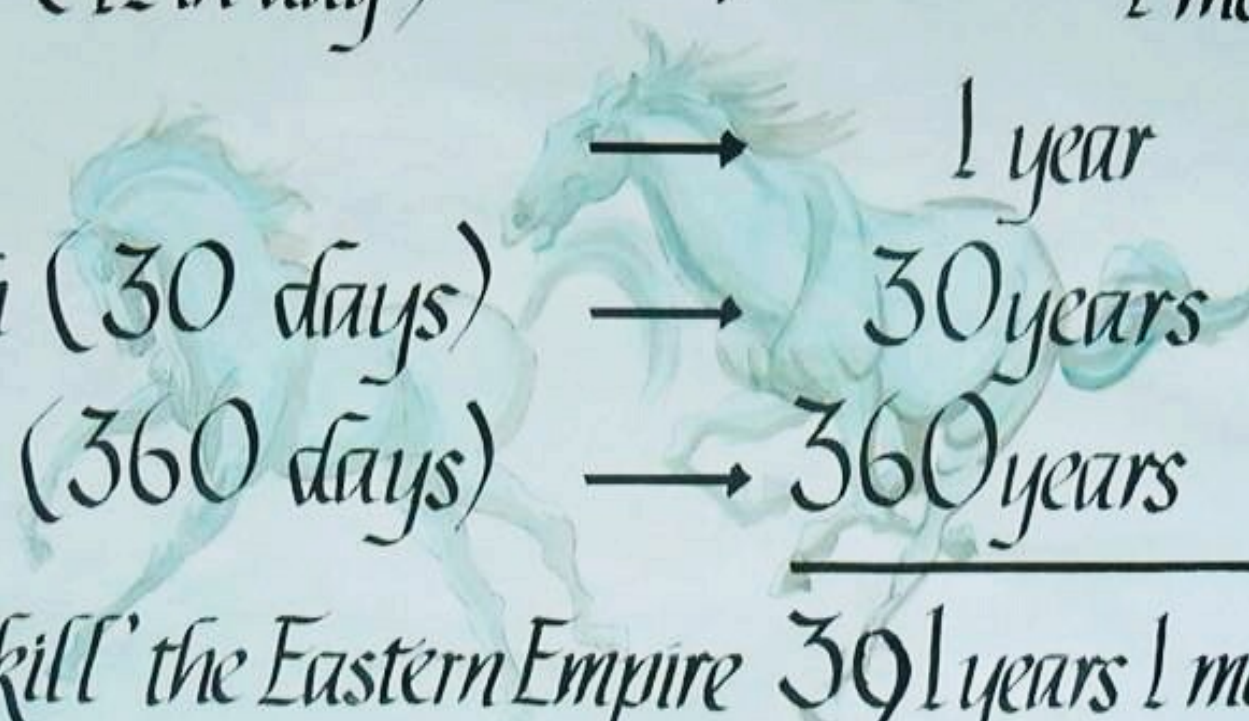


Sultan Mahomet II (above) conqueror of Constantinople, capital of the Byzantine (Eastern Roman) Empire in 1453. The painting (right) depicts the battle for the city.



**The Fall of Constantinople 1453**





1 hour ( $\frac{1}{12}$  th day)  $\longrightarrow$  1 month  
1 day  $\longrightarrow$  1 year  
1 month (30 days)  $\longrightarrow$  30 years  
1 year (360 days)  $\longrightarrow$  360 years  

---

Time to 'kill' the Eastern Empire 391 years 1 month

The Turk, Togrul Beg, married the Caliph's daughter in 1062;  
391 years 1 month later, Constantinople fell to the Turks.





# The Seventh Trumpet

And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, **The kingdoms of this world are become *the kingdoms* of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.** And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God, Saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned. And the **nations were angry, and thy wrath is come,** and the time of **the dead, that they should be judged,** and that thou shouldest **give reward unto thy servants** the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest **destroy them which destroy the earth.**

- Rev 11: 15-18