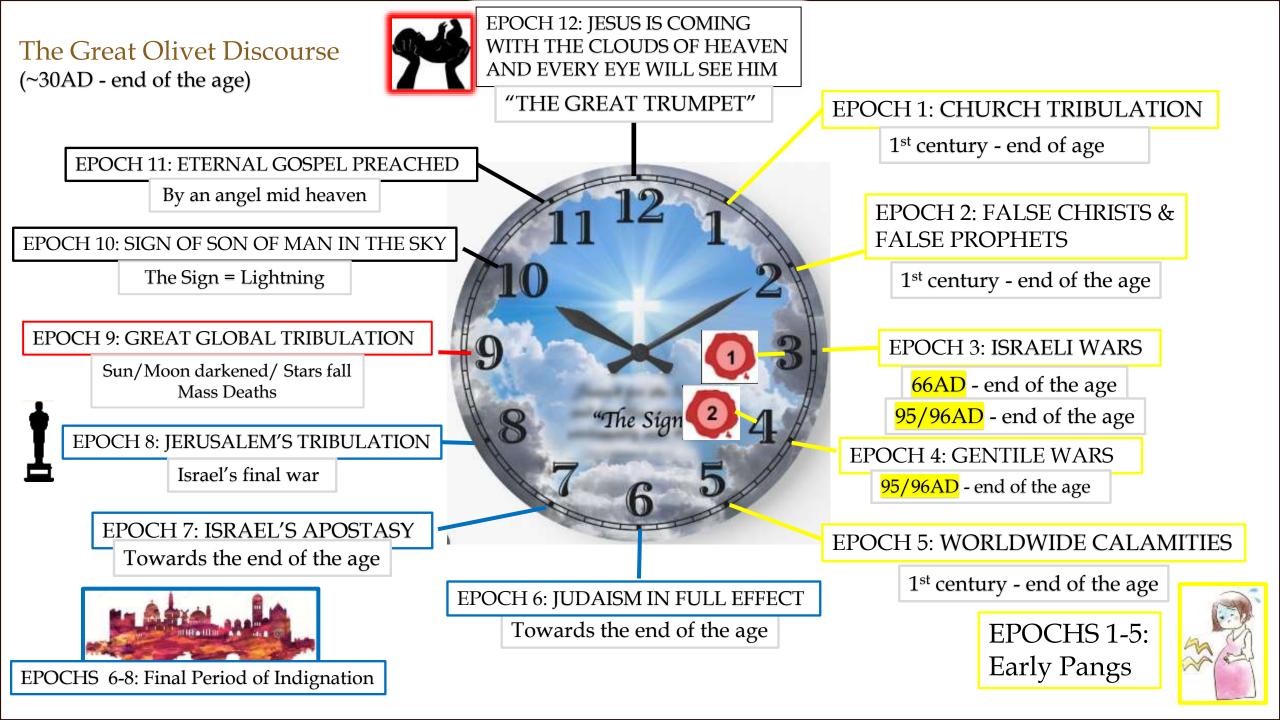
# The 3<sup>rd</sup> Seal: Rider on the Black Horse



Truth Matters Church, Inc.

### LAST STUDY

**We put geographic locations on the Seals**  $\bigcirc$  If not mentioned  $\rightarrow$  Israel centric [Seals 1 & 3]  $\checkmark$  If mentioned  $\rightarrow$  expands outside Israel [Seals 2 & 4] <sup>∞</sup> We summarized the riders on the 1<sup>st</sup> two horses [Seals 1 & 2]  $\bigcirc$  Rider on white horse → Bow + Crown + Conquering  $\bigcirc$  Rider on red horse  $\rightarrow$  Take Peace + Great Sword **R** I likened both of these riders as to tag team partners 3 Both are heavily involved in wars and the bloodshed of many 3 Beginning with Israel first, then the rest of the nations Reversion of the the set of the s



Today's Study

♥ Which brings us to today's study
 ♥ The 3<sup>rd</sup> Seal – Rider on the Black Horse

We're going to find that there is more to this vision than meets the eye
Because we're going to stay disciplined and not run to commentaries
Without further ado, let's re-read our passage of the 4 Horseman v1-8

And we'll pick things back up in verses 5-6

### Revelation 6

Revelation 6:1-8 (NASB)

The First Seal

1 Then I saw when the Lamb broke one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures saying as with a voice of thunder, "Come." 2 I looked, and behold, a white horse, and he who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.

The Second Seal

3 When He broke the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, "Come." 4 And another, a red horse, went out; and to him who sat on it, it was granted to take peace from the earth, and that men would slay one another; and a great sword was given to him.

### Revelation 6

The Third Seal

5 When He broke the third seal, I heard the third living creature saying, "Come." I looked, and behold, a black horse; and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand. 6 And I heard something like a voice in the center of the four living creatures saying, "A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not damage the oil and the wine."

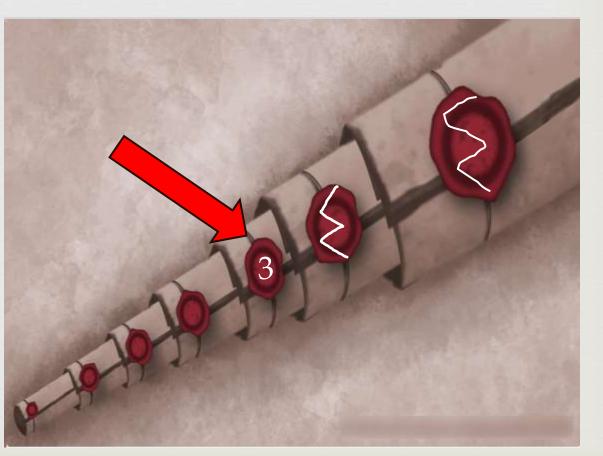
The Fourth Seal

7 When the Lamb broke the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, "Come." 8 I looked, and behold, an ashen horse; and he who sat on it had the name Death; and Hades was following with him. Authority was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword and with famine and with pestilence and by the wild beasts of the earth.

### Rev 6:5: The 3<sup>rd</sup> Seal

5 When He broke the third seal, I heard the third living creature saying, "Come." I looked, and behold, a black horse; and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand.

- "When He broke" follows after the breaking of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Seal– this vision continues to flow in sequence chronologically



### Rev 6:5: The 3<sup>rd</sup> Seal

5 When He broke the third seal, I heard the third living creature saying, "Come." I looked, and behold, a black horse; and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand.

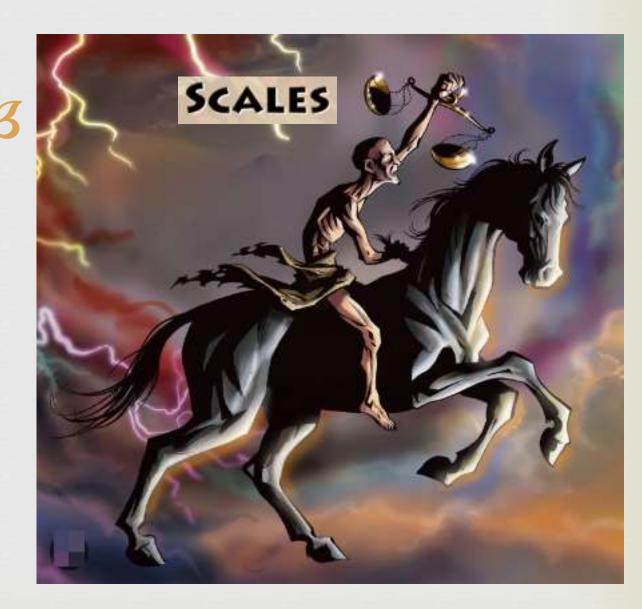
"black horse"

Here are some common teachings as to what this black horse is or symbolizes:
Implying sadness and want
Mourning, woe, darkness
Dark clouds of ignorance and superstition
Scarcity of true Christianity
Famine [most popular]



Here is a common depiction and some common teachings as to what pair of scales is or means:
Measuring grains and their prices
Spiritual to mean deprivation of daily bread
Scarcity of provisions
Famine [most popular]

But what does the Scripture say?
For this I'd like to look at both the Greek and OT



- "pair of scales" is zugos which means yoke (from root word zeugnumi, to join)
- Real of the OT equivalent word is old and is used 50x in the OT
- A yoke is placed on necks
   ■
- Here is an example of an actual physical yoke

- "pair of scales" is zugos which means yoke (from root word zeugnumi, to join)
- C The OT equivalent word is ol and is used 50x in the OT
- A yoke is placed on necks
- Reference And Andrew An





I surveyed all uses of  $\bar{o}l$  and zugos and yoke can be taken literally or figuratively depending on context here are some examples from the **OT**:

#### **R** Yoke = To be a slave:

When Jacob stole Isaac's blessing from Esau, part of that blessing was making Jacob Esau's master – Gen 27

But the time will come when Esau breaks that yoke from his neck Genesis 27:40 "By your [Esau's] sword you shall live,
And your brother [Jacob] you shall serve [become slave];
But it shall come about when you [Esau] become restless,
That you [Esau] will break his [Jacob's] yoke [ol] from your neck."



Here is another example in the OT where:

**A** Yoke = To be a slave:

CS When Israel was in bondage in Egypt, God broke the bars of their yoke: Leviticus 26:13 I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt so that you would not be their slaves, and I broke the bars of your yoke [ol] and made you walk erect.



Also in the OT:

#### **CR** Yoke = To be taken captive:

- Consequences of Israel's disobedience is to be overtaken by their enemies and taken captive

Deuteronomy 28:48 therefore you shall serve your enemies whom the LORD will send against you, in hunger, in thirst, in nakedness, and in the lack of all things; and He will put an **iron yoke** on your neck [and taken into captivity] until He has destroyed you.

☑ This is consistent with...



After Judah was taken into captivity God was described as breaking the yoke of the king of Babylon to allow the exiles of Judah to return:

Jeremiah 28:4 I am also going to bring back to this place [Jerusalem] Jeconiah the son of Jehoiakim, king of Judah, and all the exiles of Judah who went to Babylon,[in captivity]' declares the LORD, 'for I will break the yoke [ol] of the king of Babylon.'"



Another couple of examples of yoke or  $\bar{o}l$  in the **OT**:

#### **A** Yoke = heavy labor, burden or oppression:

After Rehoboam was made king (succeeded his father Solomon), all Israel asked him to lighten their heavy yoke (labor), and in return, they will serve him
1 Kings 12:4 "Your father [Solomon] made our yoke [ol] hard; now therefore lighten the hard service of your father and his heavy yoke [ol] which he put on us, and we will serve you."

#### 

Numbers 19:2 'Speak to the sons of Israel that they bring you an unblemished red heifer in which is no defect and on which a yoke [ol] has never been placed.



Those were examples from the OT, here are some examples from the **NT**:

#### **CR** Yoke = burden of observing the tradition of men and works:

Matthew 11:28-30 (Jesus make the following invitation)

28 "Come to Me, all who are weary and \*heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take My yoke (**zugos**) upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS. 30 For My yoke (**zugos**) is easy and My burden is light."

\*phortizo means load or to weigh down and it was used to describe how the lawyers of Jesus's day weighed men down with works too hard to bear: Luke 11:46 But He [Jesus] said, "Woe to you lawyers as well! For you weigh men down [phortizo] with burdens hard to bear [tradition of men and works], while you yourselves will not even touch the burdens with one of your fingers.



This is consistent with other examples in the NT...

#### **CR** Yoke = Burden of observing the Law and works:

Some Jews tried to persuade Messianic Jews that in addition to believing in Jesus as Savior, they also needed to be circumcised and obey the law of Moses. Paul/Barnabas brought this up with the apostles and here was Peter's response at the Council held at Jerusalem:

Acts 15:10-11

10 Now therefore why do you put God to the test by placing upon the neck of the disciples a yoke (**zugos**) which neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear [observing the Law and works]? 11 But we believe that we are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, in the same way as they also are."



Not only is yoke associated with the burden of law, works, tradition of men, but also: **A Yoke = to make one a slave (to works)**:

In Gal 4, Paul made a contrast between Sarah (free woman born of the promise) and Hagar (bondwoman born of the flesh – aka works)

Gal 5:1 It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke (**zugos**) of slavery [by relying on works to be accepted].



And one last example from the **NT**:

**CR** Yoke = slaves in general:

Similar to the OT, yoke may refer to a slave to master relationship 1 Timothy 6:1-2

1 All who are under the yoke (**zugos**) as slaves are to regard their own masters as worthy of all honor so that the name of God and our doctrine will not be spoken against. 2 Those who have believers as their masters must not be disrespectful to them because they are brethren, but must serve them all the more, because those who partake of the benefit are believers and beloved. Teach and preach these principles.

### CASE IN POINT

 Contrary to popular opinion, not once in the entire OT nor NT did yoke (ol or zugas) ever mean scales or the balancing of scales!

#### Rather depending on context yoke it could mean:

- **3** To be enslaved
- **3** To be taken captive
- Made subject to heavy labor, burden, or oppression
- **3** The burden of circumcision
- **Being a slave to works**
- **G** Describing a slave to master relationship
- **Oscribing a yoke placed on oxen**

Which means this common depiction and common teachings as to what pair of scales is or means:

- Measuring grains and their prices
- Scarcity of provisions

Spiritual to mean deprivation of daily breadFamine [most popular]



Which means this common depiction and common teachings as to what pair of scales is or means: SCALES

9

- Measuring grains and their prices
- 😪 Spiritual to mean depriva
- 🛯 Famine [most popular]

# CONJECTURE

- - ☑ 1x here in Rev 6 and you probably guessed it 1x in Zch 6
  - S Zch 1 had colored horses, none of them black
  - Image: Second second

### Zechariah 6

Zechariah 6:1-8 (NASB) – Zechariah sees in vision Four Chariots

1 Now I lifted up my eyes again and looked, and behold, four chariots were coming forth from between the two mountains; and the mountains were bronze mountains. 2 With the first chariot were red horses, with the second chariot black horses, 3 with the third chariot white horses, and with the fourth chariot strong dappled horses. 4 Then I spoke and said to the angel who was speaking with me, "What are these, my lord?" 5 The angel replied to me, "These are the four spirits of heaven, going forth after standing before the Lord of all the earth, 6 with one of which the black horses are going forth to the north country; and the white ones go forth after them, while the dappled ones go forth to the south country. 7 When the strong ones went out, they were eager to go to patrol the earth." And He said, "Go, patrol the earth." So they patrolled the earth. 8 Then He cried out to me and spoke to me saying, "See, those who are going to the land of the north have appeased My wrath in the land of the north."

# Zch1 | Zch6 | Rev6

What these 3 passages have in common are: **«Zch 1**: several colored horses ridden by angels **s** Red horses, sorrel (reddish-brown) horses, white horses **«Zch 6**: Four chariots of colored horses (presumably ridden by angels) **s** Red horses, black horses, white horses, dappled (spotted) horses **«Rev 6**: Four individual colored horses ridden by angels **s** White horse, Red horse, Black horse, Ashen (pale green) horse

None of these 3 comparative passages lends itself to anything spiritual or symbolic
 In all 3 instances, all groups consists of angels riding different colored horses and were sent to patrol the earth with a specific task
 That being said, I want to call our attention to the 2<sup>nd</sup> chariot (black horses) in Zch 6

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# "north country"

Rev 6 will be sent there too!

### Jeremiah 16

Jeremiah 16:14-15 (NASB)

14 "Therefore behold, days are coming," declares the LORD, "when it will no longer be said, 'As the LORD lives, who brought up the sons of Israel out of the land of Egypt,' 15 but, 'As the LORD lives, who brought up the sons of Israel from the land of the north and from all the countries where He had banished them.' For I will restore them to their own land which I gave to their fathers.

**R**"land of the north" was where Israel was banished into captivity

**Where were they taken into captivity at the fall of the divided kingdom?** 

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**Where were they taken into captivity at the fall of the divided kingdom?** 

A: Ancient Assyria and Babylon!

### DEDUCTION

- R The only other time a black horse was mentioned was in Zch 6
  - ☑ 2<sup>nd</sup> chariot of black horses
- ス Jer 16 points us to ancient Assyria/BabylonWhich leads to my deduction:
- I'm going to keep the vision in Rev 6 and this rider on a black horse towards ancient Assyria/Babylon
- ₩ Where does that fall in today's map?



# 1<sup>st</sup> Beast: like a Lion



# 1<sup>st</sup> Beast: like a Lion



### Rev 6:6: The 3<sup>rd</sup> Seal

More on that when we close, but let's now exposit our 2<sup>nd</sup> and final verse:

6 And I heard something like a voice in the center of the four living creatures saying, "A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not damage the oil and the wine."

- **∞** Let's approach this the same way we did v. 5
- Reverse and vision...

### Third Seal – Black Horse

 Pair of scales
 Prices for wheat, barley, oil and wine



### Third Seal – Black Horse

- Wheat, barley, oil and wine were staple foods in those times
- Barley was cheaper than wheat usually, important for the poor
- Oil essential for cooking
- Wine (juice) a solution for drinking water from old wells

### Quart of Wheat

- Quart of wheat, 3 quarts of barley
  - Scarcity, time of famine
  - A denarius a days wage
  - Ordinary times a denarius bought 12-15xs as much food
- Word of God is bread of life, Matt. 4:4
  - Jesus himself, John 6:35-38
  - Famine of the truth of the Bible

### No Harm to Oil and Wine

- Do no harm to oil and wine
  - Oil is symbolic of Holy Spirit
  - Wine is symbolic of blood of Jesus
- God is still working
  - Bible preserved
    - Faithfully copied
  - Attempts at reformation

## REBUTTAL

Most of that teaching is NOT supported by the original language nor in the OT
 Most read and interpreted this vision at face value (many commentaries form their interpretations by reading and translating this vision in English – not in Greek)

(∞, "quart" is choinix which is a dry measure
(∞, "a quart of wheat" is better rendered "a dry measure of wheat"
(∞, "three quarts of barley" is better rendered "three dry measures of barley"
(∞, Technically choinix is a dry measure of approx. a quart or liter
(∞, Not sure why interpreters of the Bible decided to make approx. absolute?
(∞, Anyhow both dry measures costs the same
(∞, 1x dry measure of wheat → costs 1 Denarius
(∞, 3x dry measures of barley → costs 1 Denarius

"a quart of wheat"

"three quarts of barley"

## "a denarius for the day"

Some worked 6am-6pm (12 hour shift)
Some worked 9am-6pm (9 hour shift)
Some worked 12pm-6pm (6 hour shift)
Some worked 3pm-6pm (3 hour shift)



"a <u>quart</u> of wheat" "three <u>quarts</u> of barley"

Thus, 1x measure of wheat and 3x measures of barley equated to a day's wage for a common laborer in Jesus's day

₨ So I agree with this statement – which seems to be the consensus out there

Rext I'd like to look at the last part of v.6 then we'll wrap this up...

# "do not damage the oil and wine"

"damage" is adikeō (from root adikos) which means to do wrong or act wickedly
The idea of adikeō is to injure as to treat unjustly or with contempt
NOTE: I'm not a fan of "damage" being the choice of word for adikeō because it doesn't account for the nuances of this word

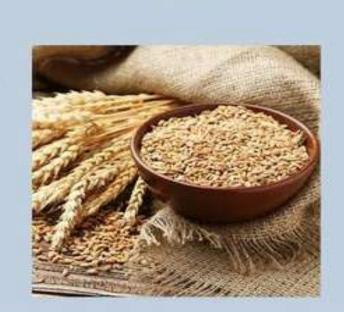
# "do not damage the oil and wine"

- Ix measure of wheat and 3x measures of barley will cost 1 denarius (a day's wage for the common laborer)
  - Reaning, I wouldn't be at all surprised if Denarius gets recirculated as a currency!
  - 础 With crypto currency, this is a probability and possibility
- Construction of the constr



# Q: What do these 4 commodities have in common?

Clue: the Torah



WHEAT



WINE

### BARLEY

Q: What do these 4 commodities have in common?

A: All 4 commodities are ingredients used in the temple offerings and sacrifices!

Which brings me to my conclusion...



WINE

### WHEAT



## Conclusion

I believe the 3<sup>rd</sup> Seal prophecy directly implicates Israel – not global famine
 Remember our approach, if a geographic location is not given - as is the case in this vision – by default we're focused on Israel

- And the black horse also implicates the "north country"
- Collectively, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Seal implicates Israel + the "north country"



## Conclusion

7

Furthermore – I believe the 3<sup>rd</sup> Seal prophecy definitely ties in with Daniel's 70 Week prophesy
 Here again is that prophesy...

### 70 Week Prophecy



# 70 Week Prophecy

Sometime after the 69<sup>th</sup> Week when Messiah (Christ) is cut-off:

Daniel 9:27 And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate."

Remember zugos or ōl can refer to the yoke of following the law and works

**G** This is encompassed in a "firm covenant"

**\*** wheat and barley are grain offerings!

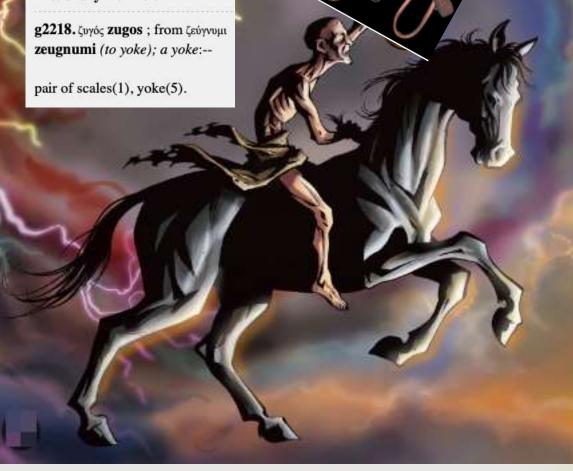
Here is what I believe is a more accurate depiction of this 3<sup>rd</sup> Seal and what it points to:

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- Israel will enter into a 7 year firm (gabar strong mighty) covenant
- It will include the "north country" (black horse destination) or ancient Assyria, Babylon
  - 🛯 Iraq, Syria, Iran, Turkey
  - Solution What do these nations share in common?

### **ζυγός** STRONG'S NUMBER:g2218

#### **Dictionary Definition**



Here is what I believe is a more accurate depiction of this 3<sup>rd</sup> Seal and what it points to:

- Israel will enter into a 7 year firm (gabar strong mighty) covenant
- It will include the "north country" (black horse destination) or ancient Assyria, Babylon
  - 🖙 Iraq, Syria, Iran, Turkey
  - ☞ A: They are all Muslim nations!

### **ζυγός** strong's number:g2218

#### **Dictionary Definition**

**g2218.** ζυγός **zugos** ; from ζεύγνυμι **zeugnumi** (to yoke); a yoke:--

pair of scales(1), yoke(5).

### **DEDUCTION:**

- I believe this vision of prophesy is speaking of the ultimate betrayal and harlotry that Israel will commit in the end times
- Meaning Israel will enter into a holy covenant and become yoked with middle eastern nations before they are destroyed
- A Meaning this prophesy could very well be pointing to this...

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### CONJECTURE

- Could this holy covenant also include Roman Catholicism?
- ✓ Yes only IF Rome is/was considered part of the "north country" or "country of the north" in the OT – the destination of the black horses
- Real But at a minimum Israel will become yoked with Islamic nations

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This holy covenant paves the way for Israel to rebuild the 3<sup>rd</sup> Temple construction and begin the daily sacrifices and grain offerings

This better explains and helps make sense of the 4 commodities (wheat, barley, oil, wine) are mentioned in this vision

This also helps explain why the vision says not to treat unjustly the oil + wine...

An example of this is because...

Exodus 29:38-41 stipulates the daily sacrifice (1 morning; 1 evening):

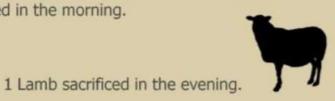
One year old lambs

- **Grain** offering
- Guess what is used for grain/drink Guess what is used for grain/drink offerings?

**Exodus 29:38** Now this is what you shall offer on the altar: two one year old lambs each day, continuously.



1 Lamb sacrificed in the morning.



Exodus 29:38-41 stipulates the daily sacrifice (1 morning; 1 evening):

ন্থে Grain offering: fine flour (<mark>wheat, barley) + oil</mark>

🛯 Drink offering – wine

Guess what else is part of the daily Temple duties that needs one of these commodities? **Exodus 29:38** Now this is what you shall offer on the altar: two one year old lambs each day, continuously.



1 Lamb sacrificed in the morning.

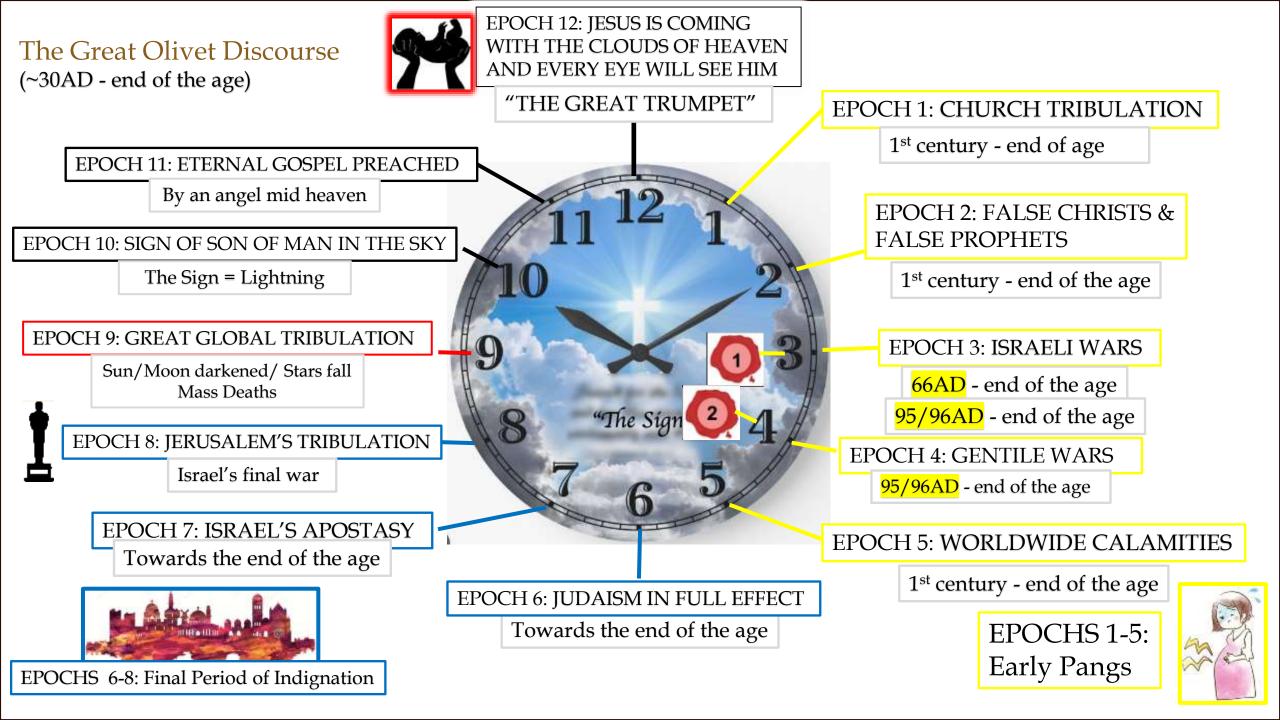


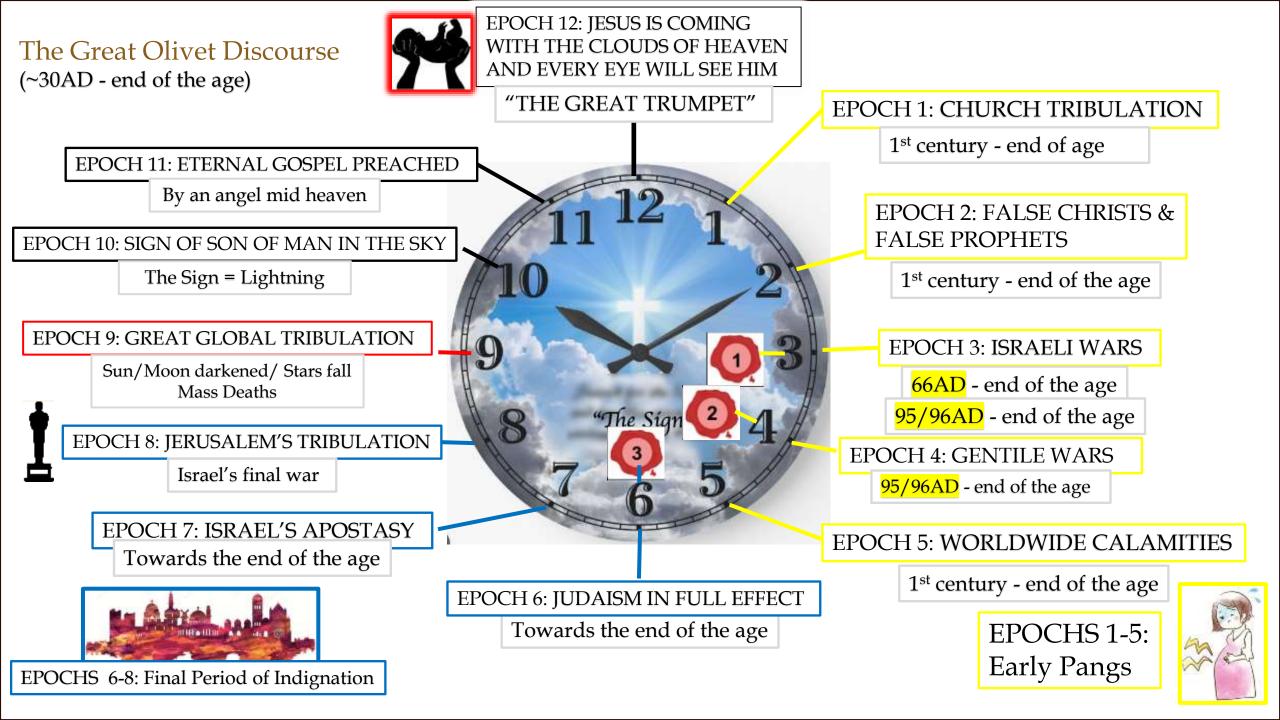
1 Lamb sacrificed in the evening

## **Lighting the Menorah**

Exodus 27:20 You shall charge the sons of Israel, that they bring you clear oil of beaten olives for the light, to make a lamp burn continually.







## In Closing

This folks I believe is a more biblically based looked into the 3<sup>rd</sup> Seal vision
 I don't believe this vision speaks to a global famine, but rather a unification of a holy covenant, the rebuilding of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Temple, the reinstitution of the daily sacrifices and grain offerings – which adequately explain the importance of the 4 precious commodities mentioned in this vision!
 Not to mention, this is consistent with
 Our learnings from our Daniel Series
 Our learning from the Great Olivet Discourse clock
 Which helps affirm that we are on the right track...

## In Closing

AMEN. AMEN.