Bonus Lesson on Rev 6

conquering kings of the earth who have charged to and fro, overcoming mighty nations
and claiming sovereignty (the ‘crown’) over them. What happens when the ‘seals’ are
opened is that the forces of human conquest and oppression are allowed to do their
worst, before the divine purpose, which is to deal with the world’s ills, can be read from
the scroll.
This fits well, too, with the second, third and fourth horsemen. The second, the
fiery red horse whose rider takes from the earth even the superficial appearance of
peace, is well known in every century. The black horse, third in line, signifies the
economic problems which so often lie at the root of violence within and between
nations. Ordinary commodities, the staple diet of poor people, shoot up in price; luxury
items, oil and wine, stay the same, allowing the rich once more to get richer at the
expense of the poor. The pale horse, carrying Death on its back and with Hades, the
abode of the dead, as a personified creature following behind, is the ultimate threat of
every tyrant and every anarchist. Human history records that again and again war,
famine and a thousand other things have carried people off before their time.
These four are the basic ills which humans inflict upon one another. They charge
off around the world, and must be allowed to do this in order that the saving message
of the scroll can have its full effect. I have suggested, and we must follow this through in
due course, that they are allowed to do their worst because
abode ca, o gs asfore their time.