The Beasts of the Earth

Dear Culture Contrarians,

A friend of mine recently mentioned that animals kill a lot of people during the tribulation. He was talking about the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse. Revelation 6 gives us the four riders in some detail. It seems that the four are actually riding together and not chronologically. The first three are unnamed and described by their color. They bring judgments on the “earth-dwellers.” “Earth-dwellers” is a descriptive term in Revelation for those who have believed the lies of the Antichrist.

Revelation 6 is an overview of the entire seven-year Tribulation period, but it seems like the Horsemen play a role in the first part of the seven years. Many have identified the rider of the white horse as the Antichrist; he certainly fits the description. War and famine follow his conquests, although “famine” indicates that luxury items are not impacted: “don’t harm the oil and the wine.” My interest today is the fourth horseman whose color is green. I don’t know why translators opted for “pale.” Everywhere else the term is translated green. Personally, I’d be more afraid of a green horse than a pale one. The green horse’s rider is named, unlike the other 3. His name is “Death,” and Hades (the place where unbelieving dead go) follows him. A fourth of the earth’s population is killed “by the sword, and by hunger, and by death, and by the beasts of the earth.” To be killed “by death” may be an Old Testament reference implying that the killed person is separated from God and experiences a very bad death, such as a death accompanied by destruction, misery, and damnation.

To be “killed by the beasts of the earth” is especially graphic. With the previous three killings accompanying the fourth horseman (sword, hunger, and death) he uses a preposition indicating “how, or by what means” hence “with.” Here, however, he uses a different preposition, typically translated “under.” They are killed “under” the beasts of the earth. “Beasts” is used of non-domesticated animals that will hurt you, including snakes! (Acts 28:4-5)

The ecologically-green horse includes beasts tackling people and killing them, just as they would kill other prey. Today the prevailing thought sees animals as our friends, the world as our mother, and nature as a safe, beneficial place. If only people would stop interfering! Killing an animal is called “murder,” because humans, in the evolutionary scheme, are nothing more than very smart animals. The problem, they say, is the people on the planet, and not the planet itself.

Our forefathers worked to eradicate dangerous animals that killed their children. Our children are working to reintroduce these animals into “the wild,” because animals that kill people are an important part of the green way of thinking… Let Nature be free; no cars, no planes, no guns. It is okay, they say, for the wild animals to hunt humans, and let them be on foot as they flee! “Earth-dwellers” do NOT have a Creator; NOR do they see mankind as exercising dominion over the earth. It is perfectly appropriate for Death to ride an eco-green horse and for the wild beasts of the earth to hunt down the earth-dwellers. Death will come under teeth and claws of the wild animals they worshiped.

Keep a bullet in the chamber when you go into the forest. Oh, and the forest is coming to you.