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## THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

### *"All the King's Horses"*

6:1-8

**Revelation 6:1** Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, "Come and see."

**Revelation 6:2** And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.

**Revelation 6:3** When He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, "Come and see."

**Revelation 6:4** Another horse, fiery red, went out. And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth, and that *people* should kill one another; and there was given to him a great sword.

**Revelation 6:5** When He opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come and see." So I looked, and behold, a black horse, and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand.

**Revelation 6:6** And I heard a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, "A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine."

**Revelation 6:7** When He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, "Come and see."

**Revelation 6:8** So I looked, and behold, a pale horse. And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades followed with him. And power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth.

Jesus gave us the outline for the Revelation back in chapter one, verse nineteen, when He said,

Revelation 1:19 Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

The **things** John had **seen** were in chapter one. It was the vision of the risen Jesus Christ. The **things which are** were chapters two and three. It was (and is) the church age in which we live – from the ascension of Jesus until His coming to rapture the church.

Starting in chapter four there we see **the things which will take place after this**. It begins with the rapture of the church in chapters four and five. Now it continues with the seven-year Tribulation on the earth.

Revelation 6:1 Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals...

So begins the time of Jacob's trouble; the seventieth week of Daniel; the Tribulation. There are at least thirty-five names for the seven year Tribulation.<sup>1</sup>

Chapters six through nineteen describe it. If you first follow the opening of all seven seals you find chapters six, eight, nine, fifteen, sixteen, nineteen and twenty are in chronological order. The chapters in-between those are like footnotes or parentheses that give details of the events being described.

There are seven seals to be opened. When the seventh seal is opened, seven trumpets are blown. When the seventh trumpet is blown, seven bowls of wrath are poured out upon the earth. Together they describe the great day of God's wrath, the time we more commonly call the Great Tribulation.

Jesus likened the Great Tribulation to a woman in labor about to deliver a baby. Labor pains generally start slowly and then intensify up to the delivery. The Great Tribulation is like that. The first six seals, although all opened in chapter six, follow one another at a relatively slow pace. The events they describe span a period of about three and one half years - the first half of the Great Tribulation.

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<sup>1</sup> Mark Hitchcock, *101 Answers*

At the seventh seal the trumpets describe events from about the midpoint of the Great Tribulation on towards the end.

When the seventh trumpet is blown, the Great Tribulation intensifies again with the pouring out of the seven bowls of wrath. This occurs in rapid succession, describing events at the very end of the Great Tribulation. When the seventh and final bowl of wrath is poured out Jesus Christ returns to earth and it is delivered.

**Revelation 6:1** Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, "Come and see."

The angel speaks **with a voice like thunder**. That's because a storm is about to break forth on the earth.

When he says, **Come and see**, the word means *proceed*. It is a word of command from God's throne. The time has finally arrived for Jesus to *proceed* and redeem the universe out of Satan's control.

**Revelation 6:2** And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.

The four horsemen of the apocalypse are a familiar literary and artistic image. This first horseman is often thought to represent Jesus since the Lord returns in His Second Coming on a white horse. But this rider is not representing Jesus Christ. It is representing the man we commonly refer to as the antichrist. He is represented as coming on a white horse because he is a counterfeit of Jesus. He appears at the very beginning of the Great Tribulation bringing the world an unprecedented peace.

How do we know he brings peace? Notice he has a **bow**. Don't automatically conclude that this is describing a bow that an archer would carry. The first use of the word **bow** in Scripture is just after the flood of Noah's day when God promised He would put a **bow** in the clouds - what we call a rainbow. That **bow** was to be the sign of a covenant.

Thus this rider on the white horse comes with a covenant. We believe it is the same covenant Daniel was told about.

**Daniel 9:27** Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, Even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate."

In Daniel's famous prophecy, **one week** is one week of years or seven years. It is the Great Tribulation.

It's clear that the covenant brings peace. **Sacrifice and offering** refer to the rebuilding of a Jewish Temple and the renewing of worship and sacrifice there.

The antichrist will seem to solve the tensions in the Middle East between Jews and their neighbors. The Jews will be allowed to rebuild their Temple at Jerusalem. He will bring peace on the earth. The antichrist has other names, titles, and descriptions in the Bible:

1. The Beast (Revelation 11:7; 13).
2. The Idol Shepherd (Zechariah 11:16-17).
3. The Little Horn (Daniel 7 & 8).
4. The Prince that shall come (Daniel 9:26).
5. The Willful King (Daniel 11:36).
6. The False Prophet (Revelation 13).
7. The Lawless One (Second Thessalonians 2:8).
8. The Man of Sin (Second Thessalonians 2:3).
9. The Son of Perdition (Second Thessalonians 2:3).

He will have many marvelous talents and abilities:

1. He will be an intellectual genius (Daniel 7:20; 8:23; Ezekiel 28:3).
2. He will be a persuasive orator (Daniel 7:20; Revelation 13:2).
3. He will be a shrewd politician (Daniel 11:21).
4. He will be a commercial genius (Daniel 8:25; Revelation 13:17; Psalm 52:7; Daniel 11:38, 43; Ezekiel 28:4,5).
5. He will be a military leader (Daniel 8:24; Revelation 6:2; 13:4; Isaiah 4:16).

"In all, there are more than one hundred passages that describe the origin, nationality, character, career, kingdom, and final doom of the antichrist" (Mark Hitchcock).



He wears a **crown**. It is the word that describes a victory wreath, not the crown of a sovereign ruler.

Let me clarify one thing: The antichrist isn't in heaven waiting to ride out on a white horse! The actual rider is a mighty angel whose release from heaven represents the rise of antichrist on the earth. As these angels ride forth, their release from heaven releases events on the earth that they represent.

By this we are to understand that God is in control of the events as they unfold.

The peace is short-lived as you see the second horseman ride forth:

**Revelation 6:3** When He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, "Come and see."

**Revelation 6:4** Another horse, fiery red, went out. And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth, and that **people** should kill one another; and there was given to him a great sword.

Notice that each of the four cherubim (**living creatures**) surrounding God's throne in Heaven are involved in the release of the horses and horsemen. It is an intricately choreographed scene in which the activity in Heaven represents what occurs on the earth. John sees the Heavenly power behind the earthly drama.

The second horseman, the second mighty angel, represents the next series of events on the earth: War. There will be wars and rumors of wars as nation rises up against nation.

**Revelation 6:5** When He opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come and see." So I looked, and behold, a black horse, and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand.

**Revelation 6:6** And I heard a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, "A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine."

This third horseman represents the next series of events on the earth: Scarcity brought on by war and the forced rationing of goods. A **denarius** is one day's wages, enough money to buy three meals. A **quart of wheat** is what one person would eat at one meal. **Barley** was

considered animal food. Some people will be forced to eat animal food.

At the same time there is no problem obtaining **oil and wine**. This is the equivalent of luxury items. In other words, the rich will be unaffected, while the poor are devastated.

**Revelation 6:7** When He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, "Come and see."

**Revelation 6:8** So I looked, and behold, a pale horse. And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades followed with him. And power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth.

**Death** refers to the body, **Hades** to the soul. One fourth the population of the earth is killed. If there are six billion people on the earth, one fourth would be one and one half billion.

1. **Sword** refers to continuing wars.
2. **Hunger** is the ensuing scarcities and famine.
3. **Death** refers to plagues and pestilences.
4. **Beasts** refers to living organisms of any size, and could even be a reference to microscopic killers, such as viruses.

This is just the beginning of the storm of the centuries. Things will get much worse as we go on in the Revelation. Especially after the mid-point at the breaking of the seventh seal.

I pause to point out that John is safe in heaven as the seals are opened. If you were with us when we studied chapters four and five you know that John was raptured to heaven prior to the seals being opened. He is a type of your being raptured to heaven prior to the seals being opened. You will be safe in heaven during the great day of God's wrath.

Let me qualify that statement: You'll be safe then if Jesus is your Savior now. He has not appointed His saints to wrath; He will keep them from the hour of trial that is coming upon the whole earth.

But you must be born-again.

The next many chapters will show us awful judgments upon the earth.  
Upon people.

Let's think deeply about serving the Lord so more can be warned and  
won before He removes His church to the safety of Heaven.

