

Revelation Chapter 6.

The things hereafter

Study 10

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The First Seal The White Horse

Chapter 6 verse 1

And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four Beasts (or Zoa, living creatures) saying Come and see. And I saw and behold a white horse and he who sat on him had a bow and a crown was given unto him and he went forth conquering and to conquer.

“Come and see” is an invitation to the rider on the horse by one of the Zoa or living creatures; the invitation is not to John because he is already on the scene. “And see” is missing in many of the early manuscripts which shows the change of meaning just a couple of words can make. So the Zoa’s command was Come, and thus the introduction of the Antichrist who could not enter the world scene until God said so. This is the beginning of the wars and devastation the world had not seen as yet.

On the white horse sat a man with a bow, who was given a crown. To have been given a crown is a sign of power and authority given to him by Satan and accepted by the people

This rider on a white horse is not Christ as some teach. At first glance that view is quite attractive but inappropriate due to the fact that the context of our verse tells us this horse and it’s rider is one of four all bearing weapons or powers of death and destruction as enemies of Christ. A crown of acceptance was given to him. Remember at this time the world will be in a much greater mess than it is today.

The rhetoric and promises the Antichrist will make will convince the peoples of that time that he will improve and repair the situation for the better. We know that today’s world is in turmoil, we all read the papers or watch Television news and see the horrors in many countries where they are fighting and killing their own people causing them to flee to other counties and starve. Humanitarian aid cannot keep up with the increasing problem. When I was a young boy there simply were no murders heard of, today there are murders and killings every day. No amount of talk from the G8, or the Parliaments of the world has the answer, they are all impotent! So that means the world problems get worse and worse with no check on its progress.

Under the plan of God, who is in total control, this man on a white horse with a bow with no arrows enters the scene. You have noticed the absent of arrows which indicates that although he looks menacing and is under the influence of Satan they are both under the control of Almighty God and limited in their actions and what they do is known to God. We have noticed that the early manuscripts do not have the words “and see” so the verse starts “Come” which may well be the command of God, using one of the Zoas, or living creatures revealing the Antichrist according to 2 Thess. 2; 3 to the world to start his evil deeds.

2 Thess. 2; 3

Let no man deceive you by any means for that day shall not come except there come a falling away first and that man of sin be revealed the son of perdition.

The words 'falling away' are another example of miss-leading translation, it should read 'that day shall not come except there come a departure first, and this speaks of the Rapture.

God knows the wicked sinful state of the world and the sin of the people in it. The 'end' could well have been very different if man chose to be peaceful and loving and obeyed God. But they chose their own way, a way of sin and rebellion towards Him. So He sent His only Son who died on a Roman cross to pay the price of our sin, but man rejected Him but God could not leave man to his own destruction so He made a way of escape. In God's great plan He will use this being- the Antichrist, which is under the control of Satan, to bring this age to a close.

This man emerges as the little horn of Daniel, in Daniel Chapter 8 verse 23 and 24 mentions the state of our world much as we have outlined above:

Daniel 8:23

And in the latter time of their kingdom when the transgressors are come to the full, a king of fierce countenance and understanding dark sentences shall stand up.

In the latter time of their kingdom refers to the time of the coming of the Antichrist. When the transgressors are come to the full, refers mainly to the nation of Israel in particular at the height of her guilt by accepting the Antichrist instead of Jesus their Messiah as referred to in John 5.

John 5: 43

I am come in My Father's name and you receive me not, if another shall come in his own name him you will receive.

A king of fierce countenance and understanding dark sentences (Daniel 8.23) refers to the Antichrist having a majestic presence and superhuman knowledge inspired by Satan. But behind his pleasant ways and pleasant rhetoric is a darkness the world has not seen before. It is this man the people, particularly Israel will show allegiance to. His fierce countenance will make all people fear him.

Revelation 6: 2

...and he went forth conquering and to conquer.

So we see the first seal opened by the Lamb who was found worthy to reveal a rider on a white horse suggesting conquest, a rider with a bow with no arrows yet a symbol of violence, he is given a crown signifies despotic rule, and his going forth conquering and to conquer expressing his lust for power and world domination.

The Second Seal The Red Horse

Revelation 6: 3

When He (Christ the Lamb) had opened the second seal, I heard the second Beast (Zoa) say Come and see.

Once again 'and see' is omitted from the early manuscripts. We see here that all events on earth are decided first in heaven and this time the Red horse is called forth and this depicts war and bloodshed. The rider is given a great sword, not just a sword but a great sword, a weapon that depicts great violence and destruction and he is given the ability to take away peace from the earth. This man, who is now revealed as the Antichrist, who is all powerful as this blood-thirsty terrorist robs the people of peace and security and turns their hearts to killing, murder, robbery and debauchery. As we watch our TV and read

the papers we can see it would not take much to excite people to war. When someone creates a riot in any town, when windows are broken and fire is thrown, when stones and petrol filled bottles are used the people, because of frustration, no jobs, marriage problems, illness and sin sickness rebellion against God, become like animals and are ready to steal, kill and destroy all within their sight. A day or so earlier they many well have been playing ball with their children in the park.

When the true identity of the Antichrist is revealed anarchy will be very much worse because the influence of the love of Christ and the Church will have been taken out of the world.

2. Thess. 7-10

For the mystery of iniquity does already work only he (the Church) who now lets (who now hinders evil) will let (who will continue to hinder evil) until he (the Church) be taken out of the way. And then (after the Rapture of the Church) shall that Wicked (the Antichrist) be revealed whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of His mouth and destroy with the Brightness of His coming.

This is compelling evidence that the Rapture takes place before the Great Tribulation.

Matthew 24:21

For then shall be great tribulation such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time no, nor ever shall be.

This man the Antichrist will take away your peace; you will not be able to take a stand for peace or truth, for justice or anything that relates to honesty or goodness. The Antichrist is a man of sin motivated by Satan himself. No matter how much you try to stand up for peace and truth it will be on pain of death.

In the book of Job we read that God told Satan that he could do what he wanted to Job but he was not to touch his life. As we know Satan had a great time robbing Job of all that he had but his life was spared and God replaced all he lost and more because God was in control. Here we see the same thing, Satan is using the Antichrist to rob the world of peace, of security, of common sense, and responsibility to one another and the spirit of bloodshed, murder and killing one another will overtake the world. More people will be killed during the time of the Great Tribulation than at any similar time frame in history.

The Third Seal The Black Horse

Revelation 6. 5-6

And when He had opened the third Seal I heard the Third Beast (or Zoa, Living Creature) say, Come and see, and I beheld and lo a black horse and he who sat on him had a pair of balances (or scales) 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 you hurt not the oil and the wine.

The black horse is a symbol of famine which is the result of war. We see again at this present time the dreadful pictures of little children starved of food, picking up tiny scraps here and there off the barren filthy water soaked earth. We are shown little babies with strained bewildered faces looking up into mothers face with eyes begging for food only hours before death all the result of war. Make no mistake this man of sin will bring most of the world to its knees to bring it into submission to his will. We know this because the Bible says this man; the Antichrist has a pair of balances in his hand.

Verse 6

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 hurt not the oil and the wine.

The olive and the grape need no cultivation and their ruthless destruction is forbidden, even the Antichrist may have to take notice of that! With the difference in currency, and inflation worldwide we cannot be certain the value that a penny has in any one country but it is very obvious it will be very difficult indeed to buy or sell food when the Antichrist rules. A penny or the equivalent in any country will not buy much added to the squabbling and stealing that will go on, you can imagine the scene when peace is nowhere to be found. And don't forget no-one will be able to buy or sell without his mark on your hand or head, his number will be 666! This will occur in the second 3 and one half years of the tribulation.

The Fourth Seal The Pale Horse

Once again the Lamb who alone was worthy to open the Book steps forward and opens the fourth Seal.

Chapter 6: 7-8

And when He had opened the fourth Seal I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, 'Come and see'. And I looked and behold a pale horse and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with the sword and with hunger and with death and with the beasts of the earth.

With the summons 'Come' by the fourth Zoa or living creature a Pale horse appears and the name of its rider is Death and he is closely followed by Hell. Hell will always follow Death if you are not a born again Christian following the Lord with all your heart. This section of the Bible also has the answer to those who believe they will come back to earth when they die as a cat or a horse or some majestic figure of history. Hebrews 9; 27 says *it is appointed unto men once to die but after this the judgment*. After Death you are bound for Hell, God says so. Jesus, by his own death and resurrection has destroyed Death and brought life and immortality to those who accept Him as Lord and Saviour. There will be no Death or Hell in the new heaven and the new earth. Under the judgement of Him who has the keys of Death and Hell they will be consigned to the Second Death which is none other than the Death of Death and Hell.

This lethal power exercised here is *given* to the pale rider; it is permitted to these riders to bring about tribulation to the earth. Together they bring trouble, loss of peace, starvation, wars, fights, mistrust, famine and a whole lot more. The intensified calamity these horsemen will bring is because there will be no spiritual restraint on the earth. The Rapture will have taken all the Saints and their righteous influence from the earth so wickedness will prevail. The Bible tells us even the wild beasts of the earth will loose their restraint and attack and bring about Death. We note that if this power of death and destruction was given to them by God we also note that it is God Himself who will bring judgment to the earth for the rebellion, disobedience, and rejection of His Son Jesus Christ. Death in this context and from the Greek is the word 'Thanatos' meaning pestilence. We think of the Pharaoh and the Egyptians who underwent all manner of plagues and pestilence before they let Israel go. This 'Death' from this rider was spread to a fourth part of the earth. We sit in our comfortable homes and our comfortable pews at church, we read Revelation with scepticism and you think I am exaggerating thinking it can't be that bad because we have nothing in history to compare it with. We have no idea of the great tribulation we face if we do not know Jesus. The martyrdom of the saints in Chapter 6 verse 8 onwards is primarily inside the Old Roman Empire territory where the great whore of Chapter 17 dominates the 10 kings.

Before we go on to the Fifth Seal I would like to deal with the sentences that mention the words 'whole World' or 'whole Earth'. I believe the Antichrist will dominate the parts of the earth that relate to the areas of the Old Roman Empire. I believe he will control the lands and kings of the 10 kingdoms reflected by the 10 horns in Daniel 7 and the 10 toes of Nebuchadnezzar's image, and where 3 kings (or horns) will be overtaken by the Antichrist; these kingdoms have not yet been established.

You are aware that when we say ‘the whole town was there to see it’ we know that everybody that lives in that town was not in attendance! And ‘I have told you a hundred times’ means I have told you lots of times but not one hundred! This is called ‘synecdoche’ and whilst it is a part of our language we exaggerate to prove a point.

In the case of the Antichrist he will rule over the 10 kings and their countries in the Old Roman Empire area as foretold in Daniel’s prophecy of the ten Horns mentioned above and the 10 toes of Nebuchadnezzar’s image in Daniel 2v33.

Daniel 11:41 Speaking of Antichrist:

He shall also enter the Glorious Land, and many countries shall be overthrown; but these shall escape from his hand: Edom, Moab, and the prominent people of Ammon.

Also Daniel 11:29-31

If you believe the Antichrist *will* rule over the whole earth I respect your belief because I will not be here so it won’t matter to me!

The Fifth Seal The Souls of the Martyred Saints

And when He had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the Altar the souls of them who were slain for the Word of God, and for the testimony they held. And they cried with a loud voice saying, how long O Lord Holy and True do you judge and avenge our blood on them who dwell on the earth?

With the opening of the fifth seal there is no trumpet sound, no voice, no horse or rider. John is now given a vision of the souls of those who have suffered and been killed for the sake of the Gospel.

Revelation 12:11

And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony and they loved not their lives unto death.

These martyrs had been slain by the enemies of the Word of God and the gospel they had preached. These souls were proof that men can be killed and the body is lost to the earth but the soul and spirit lives on. It is the soul you give to the Lord in repentance at salvation and it is the soul that is kept by God until the end of this age. These souls that were kept under the Altar included such as Simon whose surname was Zelotes preached the gospel in many parts of the world including Britain where he was crucified. Paul asked the soldiers if he could pray, that done he offered his neck to the sword. Bartholomew, Preached in several countries and translated the Gospel of Mathew into Indian, he lived in India for many years but in the end was cruelly beaten and then crucified by idol worshipers. After preaching the Gospel for many years Luke was hanged by the priests of Greece. Andrew was also crucified on a cross. Mark was dragged round the streets by the people of Alexandria until his body was in pieces ending his life under their merciless hands. All these souls and very many others from all parts of the world were to be found under the Altar, they were crying out to God to avenge their blood on their killers.

God who is the great and final judge will deal with their killers at a later stage but in the mean time they were each given a robe symbolizing the Righteousness of Sainthood (Rev: 19:8). God told them to rest a while longer until some of their fellow servants on the earth who should also be killed. Isn’t it amazing that God knows those who will die for the sake of the Gospel, He knows whose soul will take its place under the Altar and wait for justification.

It is a blessing to know the bullet fired from a gun held by an assassin who now thinks he has dealt, once and for all with the Christian who lies before him, but it will backfire on him and God will bring justification when that soul stands before his great God in a glorified body and his murderer screams for mercy from hell. And what about the men in the past who torched the wood that lay around the cross of the martyr in the town square with an audience of town’s folk waiting to see how long this one would

take to die. They see the body burn and die but do not see the soul wend its way to heaven and victory to wait with millions of others until God calls everything to a Holt.

The book of Revelation shows us that martyrs have a special importance in the mind of God. Satan seems never to learn that martyrdom takes a precious, faithful witness in death, and it looks very much like a defeat to mankind. Martyrdom may be damaging for the Church universal and a setback to all who believe, but martyrdom over and over again leads to the increase of the Gospel and blessing to the Lords people everywhere. Maybe that's because all martyrs who die for the Gospel know deeply in their hearts that death on this earth is only the beginning of eternity with Christ in heaven.

Here are some of the names the Antichrist is known by;

The beast. *I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns and on his heads a blasphemous name. Rev; 13.1*

The man of Sin. *Let no man deceive you by any means, for that Day will not come unless there is a falling away first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition. 2 Thess. 2; 3.*

The lawless one. *The lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord Jesus will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. 2 Thess. 2, 8*

The abomination *When you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel the prophet standing in the Holy Place...Mat.24.15*

The little horn *I was considering the horns and there was another horn, a little one coming up among them before whom three of the first horns were plucked out by the roots. And there, in this horn were eyes like a man and a mouth speaking pompous words Daniel 7.8*

The insolent king *In the latter time of their kingdom when the transgressors have reached their fullness, a king shall arise, having fierce features.*

The worthless shepherd *I will raise up a shepherd in the land who will not care for those who are cut off, nor seek the young, nor heal those that are broken, nor feed those that still stand. But he will eat the flesh of the fat and tear their hooves in pieces. Woe to the worthless shepherd who leaves the flock. Zechariah 11. 16-17*

The Antichrist *Little children it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come...Who is a liar, but he who denies the Father and the Son. 1.John 2.18, 22*

The Sixth Seal God's Wrath and Judgment

The opening of this Seal releases and sets in motion the apocalyptic events and graphically depicts the terror of God's wrath and judgment. It is at this point some believe to be the beginning of the three and one half years being half of the seven years of tribulation and continues with the trumpet and vial judgements to the end of the week or seven years. When God is wrath all earth, heaven and hell knows about it.

This is how wrath God can get:

2. Samuel 22:8

When David cried for help; then the earth shook and trembled; the foundations of heaven moved and shook because He was wrath.

God operates in love and mercy towards us, but He judges the righteous and is angry with the wicked every day (Ps. 7.11). God's anger continues against the wicked as long as their wickedness continues.

But the wonder of God is that He still loves us and wants us to become totally His and be saved from the tribulations of the Book of Revelation. However the choice is yours.

Revelation 6 12. 13

And I beheld when He (Christ) had opened the sixth Seal and lo there was a great earthquake and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair and the moon became as blood. And the stars of Heaven fell unto the earth even as a fig tree casts her untimely figs when she is shaken of a mighty wind.

The Lord uses the fig tree which many had in their gardens at the time. They knew that when the strong winds blew the weaker figs, the ones not strongly grafted onto the vine would fall to the ground and rot. The Lord likened the stars of heaven to these figs, falling from the sky. We in this age are used to seeing meteorites skim across the sky on the earth's atmosphere and disappear from view. In the end of days these shooting stars and meteorites will fall to the earth causing a great deal of damage to everyone. Those not firmly grounded in their Saviour will not stand in the end time.

We must remember these are the beginning of the last days of earth, and the days to the coming of the Lord are now very short indeed. Samuel records this time very well in 2 Samuel 22 verses 8;

Then the Earth shook and trembled; the foundations of heaven moved and shook because He was wrath.

This verse graphically depicts the terror of God's wrath and judgment. He is able to move the Heavens and make them shake, He can make the Earth reel and rock and the foundations of heaven tremble and quake in His anger.

Haggai 2. 6.

For thus says the Lord of Hosts; yet a little while and I will shake the heavens and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land. And I will shake all nations and the desire of all nations shall come and I will fill this House with Glory says the Lord of Hosts.

Why would God shake the Earth, why make the foundations of the Heavens tremble and shake? His wrath is such to give us warning signs that it is time to repent and turn back to Him while there is time. It is all because of the sin of the world. Sin cannot enter Heaven, God cannot look upon sin, and it was sin that Adam and Eve brought into the world because of disobedience to the Word of God. God wanted to make a way for mankind to get back into fellowship with Him again so a sacrifice was needed, a sacrifice that was pure and spotless. The only sacrifice that could meet that condition was Jesus, God's only Son. God gave His only Son to die on a Roman cross and Jesus was willing to give Himself up to die and take our place. Since that time, some 2000 years ago, man has rejected God's offer of forgiveness of their sins, and rejected Jesus too.

Tell me, if you had offered your only son to die for a large group of people and that group rejected your offer and turned their back on your son, how would you feel? Remember God has feelings too.

God has continually pleaded with man to turn to Him ever since Jesus died on that cross; and man has always rejected His outstretched hand, and that offer of salvation and forgiveness must come to an end. It is that end we are studying now... the end of this age as we know it and God wants retribution. He is using these verses and these visions and these men on these horses with their plagues and wars and horrible things to bring this end about. Most people are fully aware of what may happen in the end. Peoples of the world are not ignorant of the end of days but their minds are still made up to ignore God.

Revelation 6. 12.

The opening of the 6th seal reveals a great Earthquake. This cataclysmic shaking is so big it reduces all human structures to rubble. We have seen this on Television too; mankind is helpless when nature strikes in such a way. My wife and I have been fortunate enough to visit Pompeii in Italy, what a place! Pompeii, with its beautiful dwellings, wonderful mosaics, clever roads and pavements were ruined and brought to nothing under some 20 feet of rock, pumice and dust by the Earthquake from Vesuvius on the 24th August AD 79. We have seen bodies frozen in the position they were in when the red hot ash

fell on them, some running, some children huddled up to their mothers and the two of them becoming one piece of solid ash. What will it be like when great earthquakes of such enormous size that brings the world to a stop with myriads of 'life' frozen solid within its Ash?

The sun becomes black as sackcloth; sackcloth is jet black because it is made from black goats, indicative of the darkness of their unbelief as the day of grace comes to an end. Our verse tells us of great earthquakes, the sun becoming black, the moon becoming as blood, the stars falling to the earth, the heavens parting as a scroll, the mountains and islands moved out of place. Whatever the meaning of all this which we may not fully understand, there is no doubt that God will make His presents felt in no uncertain terms. It would seem that everything that has been stable and reliable for centuries, even from creation, will be moved and shaken under the power of God to show exactly who is in control and to get the attention of the sinner and the enemies of Christ once and for all.

Revelation 6 verse 15

And the kings of the earth and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains and the mighty men, and every bondman, every free man, hid themselves in dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, fall on us and hide us from the face of Him that sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb; For the great day of His wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

The judgment of God is absolute. Read this verse again, no one but no one is excluded, all mankind, Kings and Queens, those rich enough to buy their way out of any trouble or difficulty, those who rely on their power and authority that has served them well in their business or political life, the poor and needy, those who rely on hand-outs and state charity, those in prison and those who consider themselves free are all brought down to one common denominator, they all run and try to hide from the wrath of almighty God. All desperate attempts to hide from God or call the mountains to fall on them will prove utterly futile. It is strange that to be crushed by mountains will seem to be preferable than to meet their creator and ask forgiveness. It would seem that people will know that the judgment of God who sits on the throne is a fearful thing. The ungodly will believe that death will end the present suffering and torment and to die will release them from it all, but that is not the case. Judgment will follow and everlasting death.

Hebrews 9; 27

And it is appointed unto men once to die but after this the judgment.

Nahum 1; 6

Who can stand before His indignation? And who can abide in the fierceness of His anger? His fury is poured out like fire and the rocks are thrown down by Him.

Revelation 6 verse 17

For the great day of his wrath is come: and who shall be able to stand?

Jeremiah 15;19 says

If you return then I will bring you again and you shall stand before Me. He says He will restore you so when that great day of grace comes to an end you will not be found with the unrepentant multitudes, where the divine judgment has overtaken them and it is too late to turn to Christ.

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