

30. The Book of Revelation—6:1-2

A message by Pastor Phil Ballmaier
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Last week in our study of Revelation I said—*"We have now come to the moment most of you have been patiently waiting for—the place in the Book of Revelation that people often think of when the book is mentioned—Chapters 6-19"*.

But then after a few minutes, I looked at the clock and realized—we were out of time and had to stop!

Let me just pick it up tonight by saying that in Revelation 6 through 19 John records God pouring His wrath (judgment) out upon this Christ rejecting, rebellious world.

This will be a 7-year worldwide judgment called—the Tribulation Period.

As I said last time, this will be a period of tribulation the likes of which the people of this world have never seen nor at this point can even imagine. Nothing people have ever seen or read will be able to prepare them for what is about to come upon this planet as recorded in Revelation 6-19. So, as we have been pointing out—at the start of Chapter 4, John is raptured into heaven where he spends Chapter 4 and 5 describing what he sees.

In Chapter 5, Jesus (pictured as a little lamb) takes the scroll out of the Father's right hand—which now brings us to Chapter 6.

CHAPTER 6

Revelation 6:1 (NKJV)

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

This takes us back to Chapter 5:1—

Revelation 5:1 (NKJV)

¹ And I saw in the right *hand* of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals.

When you think of a scroll sealed with 7 seals—don't think of a long piece of paper rolled up with 7 seals lined up along the outer edge.

The word '**scroll**' is literally '*book*' and could speak of a rolled-up scroll—but it could also be referring to a document that is folded flatly numerous times and not necessarily a document rolled up. The way these scrolls were opened and read was that you broke the first seal and either unrolled or unfolded it and read that section.

Then you would unfold or unroll the document to the next seal where you would break it and read the next section of the document—and you'd continue breaking seals and reading sections until you finished reading the entire scroll.

As we have already stated, this scroll is the title deed to the earth—Jesus having died to pay the price of redemption to take back the world from the control of Satan.

And now we see in Chapter 6 how Jesus is beginning to take possession of what He has bought and paid for with His own blood. Remember we said that after Jesus died, rose from the dead and ascended back to His Father—we read in Psalm 110 (a Messianic psalm):

Psalms 110:1 (NKJV)

¹ ...The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool."

Well, here in Revelation 5 Jesus is no longer *sitting*—He's standing! He now steps forward—for the time has come for Him to take possession of what He has bought and paid for on Calvary's Cross.

But before He can take possession of the earth—there is a little unfinished business that has to be taken care of first. He has to dispossess the earth of the usurpers (Satan, the Antichrist and his followers)—which is what Chapters 6 through 19 are all about!

As Jesus takes the scroll out the Father's right hand and breaks the first seal—a judgment is brought to the earth. He then unrolls or unfolds the scroll until He comes to the second seal which upon breaking—more judgments are unleashed upon the inhabitants of the earth and so on.

Just so you understand—the seventh seal contains the 7 trumpet judgments, and the 7th trumpet judgment contains the 7 bowl judgments—so technically the last *seal* contains all the remaining judgments that God will pour out upon the world.

That information will be important later on—so hang onto to it.

Revelation 6:1-2 (NKJV)

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." 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.

There are many commentators who interpret this rider to be Jesus Christ—why?

Because He is riding a white horse and we all know that the good guys ride the white horses—or at least that's what the old black and white westerns taught us (it was easy to pick out the good guys from the bad guys back then)—but that's make believe.

In real life, if I wanted to rob a bank back then I would have put on a white hat, white clothes and would have gotten myself a white horse because—that's what you do if you're a *bad* guy wanting to deceive people into thinking you're one of the *good* guys!

In Matthew 7, Jesus warned us to beware of this very practice—how that Satan would dress his wolves in *sheep's* clothing to make his bad guys look like good guys.

That Satan, as the prince of darkness, would disguise *himself* as an angel of light to deceive—and would direct his ministers (servants) to do the same, deceiving people into thinking they were "*ministers of righteousness*". (2 Corinthians 11:14-15)

And that's exactly what this rider in Revelation 6:2 is—a deceiver! **A false Christ not the real Jesus Christ.**

How do we know that?

- Because first of all—he is wearing a *crown*.
 - “Big deal” some would say—“Jesus is seen wearing a crown in the Book of Revelation.”
- Yes, but **the crown Jesus is seen wearing is a diadem**—the crown of a King.
 - This person is wearing a *stephanos*—the crown of a conqueror (like the laurel wreath Roman generals would be given to wear in their homecoming victory parades after they had conquered their enemies).
 - Secondly, we know this **isn't Jesus** because—he is holding a *bow*.

Whenever Jesus is seen holding a weapon in Revelation it's always—a *sword*.

Besides, where is Jesus at this moment?—He's in heaven breaking the seals on this scroll which begins to unleash God's judgments upon the earth.

He doesn't break this first seal, drop the scroll, run down to the earth, and jump on a horse to become this first rider!

This rider is the first judgment of God upon the inhabitants of earth—which means he **CAN NOT** be the Lord Jesus Christ who is not a 'judgment'—He is the JUDGE! (John 5:22; 2 Timothy 4:1)

And Judge Jesus doesn't come to the earth until the end of the Great Tribulation Period—we see Him returning to the earth in Revelation 19:

Revelation 19:11-16 (NKJV)

¹¹ Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him *was* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. ¹² His eyes *were* like a flame of fire, and on His head *were* many **crowns** (diadems—the crowns of a king). He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. ¹³ He *was* clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. ¹⁴ And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. ¹⁵ Now out of His mouth goes **a sharp sword**, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. ¹⁶ And He has on *His* robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

So, in Revelation 19 we see the coming of Jesus to the earth—Who is of course the true Christ!

This character we see in Revelation 6:2 is a false-Christ—the ultimate false-Christ known as the *Antichrist* who appears on the world stage initially as a 'good guy' (that's why he is pictured riding a white horse) before revealing himself to be the ultimate bad guy!

The Bible tells us he will come on the world scene as a man of peace who will be the consummate politician, and policy maker. Furthermore, the Bible teaches he will rise to power as the leader of a one world government—I believe not long after the Church is raptured to heaven.

He will probably come on the scene when the world is going through some kind of global crisis (limited nuclear war; total financial collapse of the world banking system—not to mention the chaos and panic caused by the disappearance of millions and millions of people all over the world due to the Rapture!).

And with his supernatural brilliance, political savvy, and Satanic power—he will ‘*save mankind*’ by solving the world’s problems, bringing enemy nations together and ushering in a new era of global peace and prosperity.

However, Paul the Apostle tells us—

1 Thessalonians 5:3 (NKJV)

³ For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.

We see him (Antichrist) here pictured carrying a ‘**bow.**’

The fact that he isn’t seen carrying any arrows could reinforce the idea that he doesn’t initially come as a man of war—he initially comes as a man of peace thrust into power by the leaders of the world who see him as a messiah-like figure (many will believe him to be the actual Messiah)—the savior of mankind!

It isn’t until the mid-point of the Tribulation Period that he becomes a blood thirsty, military tyrant killing anyone who gets in his way or refuses to bow to him as god. However, the *bow* doesn’t have to represent a weapon—it could represent a covenant.

The very first time the word ‘bow’ appears in the Bible is in Genesis 9:13 where it is associated with a covenant—the Noahic Covenant:

Genesis 9:13 (KJV)

¹³ I do set my **bow** in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a **covenant** between me and the earth.

Daniel 9:27 speaks of the coming of the Antichrist—who’s coming is associated with a covenant:

Daniel 9:27 (NKJV)

²⁷ Then he [*Antichrist*] 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...

As we come to Revelation 6-19, we come to a period of time that the Bible has more to say about than any other period in human history.

It is often referred to as the 70th Week of Daniel, the Tribulation Period, 1260 days, “*a time, times and half a time*”—but also “*the time of Jacob’s trouble*” (Jeremiah 30:7).

It’s called “*the time of Jacob’s trouble*” because it will be a time when Satan will be targeting the Jewish people in particular for destruction (read Matthew 24 where Israel and not the Church is in view).

This 7-year period (the last 7 years of human history as we know it) officially begins when the Antichrist signs a peace treaty with the nation of Israel—which I believe will include a provision for them to rebuild their Temple on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. (Revelation 11)

The prophecy in Daniel 9 (which Jesus alludes to in Matthew 24 verse 15) is important because it gives us critical information concerning the coming of the Antichrist onto the world scene.

If the **'bow'** spoken of in Revelation 6:2 as seen in the hand of the Antichrist when he comes is in fact a *covenant*—it would coincide with the prophecy in the Book of Daniel Chapter 9 (turn to it).

Remember that the Chapter starts out with Daniel in Babylonian captivity having read the scroll of the prophet Jeremiah where Jeremiah had prophesied that the captivity would last seventy years (Jeremiah 25:11).

Daniel knew when the captivity began and adding 70 years to that date realizes that there was only 3 years left before it would be over, and the children of Israel would be allowed to go home.

Daniel knows he's too old to go back with them—but he becomes very burdened to know what will happen to his people once they return back to their land—or in other words, what does the future hold for the people of God?

And so, because of his concern for his people he begins to pray (Daniel 9:3-19) and in response, God sent the angel Gabriel to give him one of the greatest prophecies in the Bible dealing with the future of the Jewish people—but also the entire world!

Daniel 9:24 (NKJV)

"Seventy weeks are determined For your people and for your holy city...

The Hebrew is literally, **"Seventy sevens ('sabuim') are determined for your people (Jews) and for your holy city (Jerusalem)."** The Hebrew word for **'seven'** could mean either *'seven days'* or *'seven years'* depending on the context.

Here in this passage, the context is clearly referring to seventy 7-year periods of time.

So, Gabriel is telling Daniel that God has determined ("set aside") 70 "7-year" periods (490 years of 360 days each for a total of 173,880 days) to deal with the Jewish people and the holy city, Jerusalem.

We are told in verse 24 that the purpose of these 490 years will be—

1. *To finish the transgression,*
2. *To make an end of sins,*
3. *To make reconciliation for iniquity,*
4. *To bring in everlasting righteousness,*
5. *To seal up vision and prophecy,*
6. *And to anoint the Most Holy.*

Remember that Daniel's prayer was out of concern for his people because they were being punished for their national sins—which was why they were taken to Babylon as captives.

Daniel was burdened to know if his people had learned their lesson through the captivity or once they returned to the Land of Promise—would they continue in their sins and be judged by God once again? If they did return

to their same old rebellion—would it mean that the promises God gave to them of a coming Messiah and Kingdom be withdrawn?

Gabriel’s prophecy in these verses (verse 24-27) gives the answer to that—Messiah will come and the Kingdom will be established. In fact, Gabriel now goes on to tell Daniel the exact day when Messiah would present Himself to the nation of Israel as their King.

Daniel 9:25 (NKJV)

²⁵ "Know therefore and understand, *That* from the going forth of the command To restore and build Jerusalem Until Messiah the Prince, *There shall be* seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; The street shall be built again, and the wall, Even in troublesome times.

To understand this prophecy where God through the angel Gabriel tells Daniel the exact day Messiah would come—you’ll have to check out our Daniel study.

Daniel 9:26 tells us something shocking—that when Messiah (Israel’s King) comes—He would not reign but instead would be killed—

Daniel 9:26 (NKJV)

"And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself...

In other words, after the seven weeks and sixty-two weeks (sixty-nine weeks total), Messiah shall be ‘**cut off**’ (the Hebrew word means executed for a capital offense) “**but not for Himself**”— He would be executed for a capital crime, but He would be innocent of the charges (Isaiah 53:5-6).

Daniel 9:26 (NKJV)

"And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; **And the people of the prince who is to come Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary...**

The people and the prince who is to come who destroys the city of Jerusalem and the Temple (sanctuary)—is a reference to the Roman general Titus and his troops who destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple in 70 A.D.

But as we have said many times before—with prophecy there is often a short-term, partial fulfillment—and then a long-term ultimate fulfillment. The short-term partial fulfillment of Daniel 9:26 is Titus and the armies of Rome destroying Jerusalem and the Temple—Jesus Himself prophesied about this:

Luke 21:20, 24 (NKJV)

"But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near... And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

Daniel 9:26 (NKJV)

...And the people of the prince who is to come Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, And till the end of the war desolations are determined.

The phrase, “**the end of it shall be with a flood**” describes the way Jerusalem was finally destroyed—by the Roman army sweeping over the city “*like a flood.*”

So, as I said, the short-term partial fulfillment of verse 26 is General Titus and the Roman army—but the long-term ultimate fulfillment is the Antichrist and his armies.

That last phrase **“till the end of the war desolations are determined”** I believe is a reference to the time the Antichrist sets up his image in the Holy of Holies in the rebuilt temple in Jerusalem and desolates (desecrates) it, making it unusable for the worship of God—or as Jesus called it in Matthew 24:15—*“the abomination of desolation”*.

From that time **“till the end of the war”** is a reference to when Jesus returns and defeats the Antichrist in battle ending the *“war of rebellion”* he is waging against the true and living God and His Son (Revelation 19:1-16).

Until that time the temple will continue to be desolate until Jesus returns—at which time the Kingdom is established, the Millennial Temple is erected, and the worship of the true God in Jerusalem is begun again.

Verse 27 focuses on the Antichrist exclusively—

Daniel 9:27 (NKJV)

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."

“Then he [Antichrist] shall confirm a covenant with many [Israel] for one week”.

The Hebrew word for *covenant* can be translated “treaty”.

Daniel 9:27 tells us that when the Antichrist signs a peace treaty with Israel—the 7-year Tribulation Period (“one week”) will officially begin and will culminate with the return of Jesus Christ to establish His Kingdom.

“Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week (midpoint of the Tribulation Period) **He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering”** (of the true God in the rebuilt Temple).

Matthew 24:15-16 (NKJV)

"Therefore when you see the '*abomination of desolation,*' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains...

Revelation 12:6 (NKJV)

Then the woman [Israel] fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days [the last 3 ½ years of the Trib. Period].

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 (NKJV)

Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come* unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

Revelation 13:14-15 (NKJV)

And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived. He was granted *power* to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed.

“And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate...” (verse 27a)

One author comments—

*“**Abominations** translates an ancient Hebrew word (shiqquwts) that is connected to horrific idolatry (Deuteronomy 29:17, 1 Kings 11:5–7, 2 Kings 23:13). The idea is that the coming prince (Antichrist) breaks the covenant and brings an end to sacrifice and offering by desecrating the holy of holies of the temple with a horrific idolatry.”*

“Even until the consummation, which is determined, is poured out on the desolate.” (verse 27b)

This breaking of the covenant by the Antichrist and the abomination of desolation he brings into the Holy of Holies—has a promised **consummation** (conclusion).

When Jesus returns, He will bring to an end all the abominations of the Antichrist and complete everything described in Daniel 9:24.

But when He returns, His first order of business will be to judge the Antichrist—

Daniel 7:11 (NKJV)

"I watched then because of the sound of the pompous words which the horn was speaking; I watched till the beast was slain, and its body destroyed and given to the burning flame.

Revelation 19:20 (NKJV)

²⁰ Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.

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