

31. The Book of Revelation—6:3-4

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(2-17-21)

For the audio & video for this weeks' study click [here](#).

Last week we started looking at Chapter 6 where Jesus (pictured as a Lamb) takes the scroll from the Father's right hand—the scroll written on the front and back and sealed with 7 seals.

As we have pointed out—this scroll is the title deed to the earth.

As we've already begun to see, when the Lord Jesus starts breaking the seals on the scroll—various judgments are poured out upon the earth and its inhabitants.

Let's review from last week—

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.

As we noted from our last study, the rider of this white horse is the Antichrist—even though some commentators identify him as Jesus Christ.

We said last time that we don't believe this rider is Jesus Christ for several reasons:

1. The crown he is wearing is a '*stephanos*' which is the crown of a conqueror (like the laurel wreath Roman generals would wear as they were honored for conquering their enemies in battle) and not a '*diadem*'—the crown of a king (as Jesus is seen wearing in Chapter 19).
2. He is pictured carrying a *bow* and not a sword—the sword being the weapon Jesus is seen with in the Book of Revelation.

As we said last time this '**bow**' might not represent a *weapon* but a covenant (check out last week's study).

The bottom line is that this rider isn't Jesus the true Christ, he's a false-Christ—the ultimate false-Christ known as the *Antichrist*. Of course, he doesn't come on the world scene riding an actual white horse—it's symbolic.

It's the Holy Spirit's way of telling us the Antichrist will appear on the world stage initially as a '*good guy*' (a man of peace employing diplomacy to bring about world peace) before revealing himself to be the ultimate bad guy (a blood thirsty military tyrant).

This is no doubt why he is pictured riding a *white horse*—he is trying to counterfeit the coming of the true Christ Who will be riding a white horse when He returns to establish His Kingdom (Chapter 19).

The Antichrist will probably come to power during a world crisis—possibly Ezekiel 38 & 39 which sounds like it includes some kind of limited nuclear exchange. In the face of the unmitigated terror that the people of this world will be experiencing, they will be screaming for someone to take control and restore peace and stability to the earth—

ENTER THE ANTICHRIST!

We think of ‘anti’ meaning ‘against’ or ‘opposed to’—but the Greek word could mean ‘in the place of.’

In other words, this man will be a false Christ—presenting himself in place of the true Christ (Messiah)—and much of the world is eagerly awaiting his arrival!

1. The **Jews** will believe that he is their Messiah who has finally come:

John 5:43 (NKJV)

⁴³ I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, him you will receive.

2. The **Muslims** will believe him to be the 12th Imam known as the Mahdi (Islamic messiah).

According to Shiites, the 12th imam disappeared as a child in the year 941 AD.

When he returns, they believe, he will reign on earth for seven years, before bringing about a final judgment and the end of the world. They also claim the Mahdi will reappear on Earth with Jesus:

"We read in the book Tazkarat ol-Olia, 'the Mahdi will come with Jesus son of Mary accompanying him.' ... Imam Mahdi will be the leader while Prophet Jesus will act as his lieutenant in the struggle against oppression and establishment of justice in the world..."

3. The **New Agers** will believe this man to be *their* messiah—the latest reincarnation of the Christ-spirit who has come to usher in the New Age for the earth.

They believe that Messiah Jesus was the reincarnation of the Christ-spirit for this present age—the Piscean Age.

They believe there is coming another leader (messiah, avatar) who will be the latest reincarnation of the Christ-spirit for the New Age—the Age of Aquarius.

I remember, back in the early 1980's when I was just a young pastor a full-page ad appeared in the Chicago Tribune announcing that Maitreya Buddha, the last reincarnation of the Christ spirit was alive on the earth and ready to reveal himself... (Comment)

It should not surprise anyone that the devil has been preparing people for the coming of a ‘messiah’ for many years—and now the people of this world are ripe to receive a global leader who will unite the world and bring peace—at least for a while:

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.

"Why will God let so many people be deceived by this man?"

2 Thessalonians 2:9-11 (NKJV)

⁹ The coming of the *lawless one* is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, ¹⁰ and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the

truth [the gospel], that they might be saved. ¹¹ And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie,

Revelation 6:2 (NKJV)

² And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him [not won in battle], and he went out conquering and to conquer.

The people of this world will beg him to be their leader (because of whatever global crisis is going on)—and yet the one behind the scenes that actually gives him power on earth is the devil!

Revelation 13:4 (NKJV)

⁴ So they worshiped the dragon [Satan] who gave authority to the beast [Antichrist]; and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?"

Now remember—as we study Revelation 6-19 we are going to be looking at the judgment of God being poured out upon this Christ rejecting world. This judgment is broken down into a series of 3 successive judgments in the form of the Seal; Trumpet; and Bowl Judgments.

These judgments together will purge the earth of the usurpers and earth-dwellers preparing it for Jesus return and the establishment His Kingdom—also known as the Kingdom Age.

It's hard to know exactly how these events will unfold chronologically because, as John presents them—he sometimes overlaps or repeats some of them. This is a Hebrew writing technique where an overview is presented of certain events—and then the writer zeros in on part of it to amplify it in greater detail for his readers.

For example, in Genesis Chapter 1 the Holy Spirit working through Moses gives us a quick overview of the entire 6 days of creation—but then in Chapter 2 he focuses in on the *sixth* day to amplify the creation of man who is the focus of the story of redemption.

In Matthew 24 when His disciples came to Jesus and asked Him, "*What will be the signs of Your coming and the end of the age?*"

In verses 4-14 He gives them a quick overview of the entire 7-year Tribulation Period—but then starting in verse 15 and running through verse 31, Jesus goes back and focuses on the last 3 ½ years to expand in greater detail what was going to happen in that particular part of the Tribulation Period.

The events we are going to be studying in Chapters 6-19 seem sequential (and many of them are) and yet as we study them—I think we'll see that they are not arranged in a strict chronological order.

The pattern of the Book of Revelation in this section (ch.6-19) is:

- After the 6th Seal Judgment there is a break—a parenthesis in ch.7.
- After the 6th Trumpet Judgment there is a long break, a parenthesis from ch.10-14 to review and amplify what has taken place on the earth during the Tribulation Period up until that point of time.

Understand, the seals encompass the entire period of the Tribulation (all 7 years)—culminating with the return of Christ.

- It seems best to understand the first four seals as taking place during the first half of the Tribulation.

- The fifth seal stretching from the first half of the Tribulation Period into the second half.
- And the sixth and seventh seals taking place during the final 3 ½ years called the “great tribulation” in Chapter 7:14.

As I have already pointed out—the seventh seal contains the seven trumpet judgments (8:1–11:19) and the seventh trumpet (11:15) contains the seven bowl judgments (16:1–21).

Again, I believe that the 7 seals contain all the judgments of God poured out upon the earth—all the way to the end when Jesus Christ returns. The unfolding of the seven seals parallels Jesus’ own prophetic message describing the end times and His return as recorded in Matthew 24:

First Seal—Antichrist Rises to Power

Revelation 6:2 (NKJV)

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.

Matthew 24:4-5 (NKJV)

⁴ And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you. ⁵ For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many.

Second Seal—Wars and Rumors of War

Revelation 6:3-4 (NKJV)

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

Matthew 24:6-7a (NKJV)

⁶ And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all *these things* must come to pass, but the end is not yet. ⁷ For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom...

Third Seal—Famine

Revelation 6:5-6 (NKJV)

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. 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."

Matthew 24:7b (NKJV)

⁷ ...And there will be famines...

Fourth Seal—Worldwide Death and Destruction

Revelation 6:7-8 (NKJV)

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

Matthew 24:7b (NKJV)

⁷ ...And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places.

Fifth Seal—Persecution and Martyrdom

Revelation 6:9-11 (NKJV)

⁹ When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. ¹⁰ And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" ¹¹ Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both *the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were*, was completed.

Matthew 24:9-10 (NKJV)

⁹ Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. ¹⁰ And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another.

Sixth Seal—Great Cosmic Signs

Revelation 6:12-14 (NKJV)

¹² I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. ¹³ And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. ¹⁴ Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place.

Matthew 24:29 (NKJV)

²⁹ "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

Luke 21:11b (NKJV)

¹¹ ...and there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven.

Seventh Seal—Final Judgments

The seventh seal (Revelation 8:1-6) reveals the final cataclysmic judgments, including all the devastation from the trumpet and bowl judgments.

During this time the gospel will be preached to everyone on planet earth—and then Jesus will return:

Matthew 24:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴ And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

Matthew 24:30-31 (NKJV)

³⁰ Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. ³¹ And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

Now, let's look at these seals a little more closely—

The First Seal

Revelation 6:2 (NKJV)

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.

As we have already stated, the Antichrist will come as a man of peace and will do what no man has ever been able to do—bring about world peace (especially in the Middle East)—at least for a little while.

Some people imagine he's going to be a 'hideous monster' because he is Satan's man—but I think just the opposite will be true.

Someone has said concerning this man:

- *He will have the oratorical skill of a John Kennedy*
- *The inspirational power of a Winston Churchill*
- *The determination of a Joseph Stalin*
- *The vision of a Karl Marx*
- *He will have the respectability of a Gandhi*
- *The military prowess of a Douglas MacArthur*
- *The charm of a Will Rogers*
- *And the genius of a King Solomon*

When it says in verse 2 that **"he went out conquering and to conquer"**—don't let that confuse you as to his role as a man of peace.

One author said,

"His conquest will be a "cold war" victory, a peace won by agreement, not conflict (Dan. 9:24–27). Even as the final doom of the world approaches—Antichrist will promise a golden age of peace and prosperity. In gratitude, the world will honor him and elevate him to the position of supreme leadership—but both the accolades and the peace will be short-lived."

Which brings us to the Second Seal—

The Second Seal

Revelation 6:3-4a (NKJV)

³ When He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, "Come and see." ⁴ Another horse, fiery red, went out...

The color red is often associated with terror and death—the red dragon (Revelation 12:3), the red beast (Revelation 17:3).

Revelation 6:4 (NKJV)

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.**

What's in view here is—merciless, world-wide slaughter.

Some have suggested that, if the *Antichrist* is the first rider who brings a temporary time of peace to the earth—the second rider could be the *false prophet*. (Revelation 13:15)

I think it's possible that the first and second riders—are one in the same person (Explain).

We know that the Antichrist initially comes as a man of peace—bringing about global peace by uniting the world into a one world government consisting of ten nations or regions ruled by 10 regional leaders (kings, prime ministers, presidents etc.).

In Daniel we learn that at one point—he (Antichrist) overthrows 3 of these rulers and seizes power and becomes a military tyrant.

What happens to cause him to turn and show his true colors?

Someone tries to assassinate him—

Revelation 13:3 (NKJV)

³ And *I saw* one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast.

Zechariah 11:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷ "Woe to the worthless shepherd, who leaves the flock! A sword *shall be* against his arm and against his right eye; His arm shall completely wither, and his right eye shall be totally blinded."

This assassination attempt will take place right around the mid-point of the 7-year period—his counterfeit resurrection will be when Satan enters into him and takes bodily control of this man.

Revelation 6:4 (NKJV)

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 [a satanically possessed Antichrist?].**

1 Thessalonians 5:2-3 (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.

There can and will be no peace until the Prince of Peace sets up His earthly kingdom (20:1–6).

The world's desperate desire for international peace will serve as the bait for the satanic trap.

One historian gives a parallel from history:

"It may seem incredible that the world, hovering on the brink of final disaster, could be so totally deceived. Yet that is precisely what happened on a smaller scale before the outbreak of the most devastating war to date, World War II. Adolf Hitler spelled out in detail his plans for conquest in his book Mein Kampf, published more

than a decade before World War II began. Yet, incredibly, the Western allies (particularly Britain and France) persisted in believing Hitler's false claim to be a man of peace. They stood idly by as he reoccupied the Rhineland (demilitarized after World War I), thus abrogating the Versailles Treaty, then annexed Austria, the Sudetenland, and Czechoslovakia. Desperate to appease Hitler and avoid war, British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain met with the Nazi dictator at Munich in 1938.

Upon his return to England, Chamberlain triumphantly waved a piece of paper (containing a worthless pledge of peace from Hitler) which he claimed guaranteed "peace with honor ... peace for our time." When Winston Churchill (one of the few never taken in by Hitler) rose in the House of Commons to declare that England had suffered a total, unmitigated defeat he was shouted down by angry members of Parliament. The deception was nearly universal; almost everyone misread Hitler's intentions. Only after he invaded Poland in September 1939 did the allies finally acknowledge the truth. By then it was too late to avoid the catastrophe of the Second World War."

Winston Churchill—

"Those who fail to learn from the mistakes of the past are doomed to repeat them."

In an article I just read today entitled: *"Gina Carano Was Right: The Disturbing Parallels Between 2021 America and 1932 Germany"*.

"America's political situation right now carries disturbing similarities to Germany just before the Third Reich. And it isn't people on the right who resemble Nazis.

1. Politicizing Everything

To the Nazi Party, everything was political. The party subordinated every sector of society and every human endeavor to its broader political and social agenda.

2. Violence as a political tool, bolstered by the State

Even when they did not officially hold power or command an electoral majority, Nazis were able to use violence to hurt their enemies and help themselves, benefiting from friends in high places — bureaucrats, judges, and business leaders — who, critically, helped them avoid consequences for breaking the law.

3. Group guilt, conspiracy theories, and blood libel

A central myth for the Nazis was the "stab in the back," claim that Germany's defeat in World War I and all its subsequent problems were due to treason from within, especially by Jews.

The myth was false, but crucially, it exploited real facts to exert a hold on the public. The leaders of the 1919 Communist uprisings in Germany, like the Spartacist uprising in Berlin and the short-lived Bavarian Soviet Republic—were substantially Jewish, which Nazis exploited to promote the idea of a "Jewist plot" that led to the loss of World War I. For the Nazis, it was never enough to oppose Communism. The party routinely blasted the concept of "Judeo-Bolshevism," conveniently merging its most-hated ideology with a scapegoat ethnic group.

From this, it's easy to draw a parallel to the endless witch hunt for "white supremacy" in every sector of American life. Jim Crow was real, and for a century after the Civil War racism was a very real part of American law and American society.

By now, though, "institutional (and systemic) racism" is little more than a conspiracy theory. Laws at all levels of government prohibit racial discrimination against blacks, often with severe penalties for doing so..."

For the Antichrist to unite the world in a one-world government—the America we know will have to fall and be replaced with a “global America”.

In other words, an America that is not unique or exceptional—just one of many subordinate to its global masters. One of the most widely read books of all time is *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* written by Edward Gibbon in 1788.

In it he gives five basic reasons why that great civilization withered and died:

1. *The undermining of the dignity and sanctity of the home, which is the basis for human society.*
2. *Higher and higher taxes; the spending of public money for free bread and circuses for the populace.*
3. *The mad craze for pleasure; sports becoming every year more exciting, more brutal, more immoral.*
4. *The building of great armaments when the real enemy was within—the decay of individual responsibility.*
5. *The decay of religion; faith fading into mere form, losing touch with life, losing power to guide the people.*
6. *“The oft-heard warning that history repeats itself has an ominous meaning in the light of the above.”*

If you would like to know more about what it means to be a Jesus-follower—please reach out to us. It would be our greatest privilege to lead you into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.

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