

The Riders of the Apocalypse – Part One

Open your Bible to Revelation chapter six. I plan to read verses 1-8. These verses describe the opening of the first four seals that sealed the book spoken of in chapter five.

Before I read Revelation 6:1-8, I need to press upon each of you the urgency of surrendering your heart to the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus is coming again and many of you are not right with God. Now think about these powerful words that also speak of our Lord's return. The Bible says:

“Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you;

And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,

In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe . . . in that day.”

Did you hear that word? Jesus will be revealed from heaven in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God and obey not the gospel. My friends, God has commanded all men to repent. Every man needs to stop running from the Lord.

If you are running from the Lord, you are not surrendered to Christ. Such a condition is evident because you have no interest in serving him. You have no interest in obeying him. You lack a personal relationship to Christ. Consequently, following him is not on your mind at all. You are lost. Sadly, some of you are religious but lost.

It is time to obey the gospel. The gospel brings us to the cross where we must face the horrible reality of our sin and guilt before a holy God. The love of Christ, manifest in his death for us, compels all to repent and turn from a life lived in defiance of God. The love of Christ manifest at the cross calls us from a life of indifference and neglect.

The power of the cross draws us to a place of repentance. The power of the cross brings us to a place of decision in which we die with Christ. We lay our life down at his feet. We embrace him and trust him as our Savior. We call upon his name and the same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead raises us up into new life in Christ.

Will you obey the gospel, or will you one day experience the vengeance of the Lord Jesus Christ? Nothing could be more serious. It is time to come to yourself and be saved before you slip into the darkness of eternal loss!

Now look with me at Revelation chapter six:

1And 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 saying, Come and see.

2And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer.

3And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see.

4And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword.

5And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand.

6And 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 thou hurt not the oil and the wine.

7And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see.

8And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth.

As we begin this chapter it is important to remember the opening of these seals occurs in heaven after Jesus is revealed as the only one worthy to take the book from his Father and to open the seals. As these seals are opened in heaven a corresponding action is released on the earth.

Two things immediately come to mind as we study these verses. First, we are going to witness this future event in heaven. The church will see the Lord Jesus open these seals one by one.

Next, the fact an opened seal corresponds to permitted action on earth reveals the overriding sovereignty of God in human history. While the spirit that now works in the children of disobedience aims at the creation of a global society in which the rule of God is ignored and despised, he that sits in the heavens shall laugh. The Lord shall have them in derision. Then shall he speak to them in his wrath and vex them in his sore displeasure (Psalm 2).

Now look again at verses one and two:

“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 saying, Come and see. And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer.”

The opening of the first seal allows the rise of the coming antichrist. He is seen riding a white horse in as much as the nations of the world will view him as their savior. He embodies the depth of Satanic deception deceiving the world with false signs and wonders in so much that if it were possible, he would deceive even the elect of God.

We should note that until this seal is opened by Jesus in heaven the man of sin cannot come on the world scene. The Bible says in 2 Thessalonians that the man of sin will be revealed in his time and ye know what withholds that he might be revealed in his time.

“For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the

Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”

The opening of this seal formally removes the restraining influence of the Holy Spirit who currently holds back the arrival of the man of sin. When this seal is broken antichrist will come to the forefront of the global stage. He will begin to ride as it were. This means he will gain the support of the world system and will assume the reins of global leadership. Thus, he is given a bow and a crown, which speaks of his acceptance as ruler of the new world order. In his position of power, he goes forth conquering and to conquer.

Furthermore, the opening of this first seal marks the beginning of Daniel's famous 70th week of prophecy determined upon Israel. A careful study of Daniel chapter nine reveals a seven-year period of world history yet to unfold upon Israel and the nations of the world.

Soon after his ascendancy to a place of global power Daniel reveals the man of sin confirms a seven-year covenant with Israel and her many hostile neighbors. However, the peace brokered by Satan's man leads to sudden destruction as his pseudo-peace ends by destroying many (Daniel 8:25).

Let me conclude this message with a dogmatic statement: *the world is ripe for the arrival of the antichrist, and he will absolutely come on the world scene. There will be a one-world government under his leadership. The Lord will allow it as the day of Christ begins to unfold.*

Now listen closely to the words of Jesus recorded in Matthew 24 as I conclude this message:

“For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.”

The deception of the last days culminating under the rule of antichrist will conquer the hearts of many souls. The delusion is said to be so powerful if it were possible the very elect would be deceived!

Be careful my friend. Any spiritual leader, or any teaching, that denies the Lord Jesus Christ and his work on the cross is a deception. Furthermore, any influence on your heart that leads you away from a personal decision to trust the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior is a deception. It is time to call upon the Lord and confess the Lord Jesus as your Savior. Do not be deceived. Do it today while there is yet time to be saved!