

THE WHITE HORSE

One of the major prophecies John records in the Book of Revelation that is to occur before Christ returns to establish the Sovereign God's religion and government to rule the earth concerns a White Horse and its rider.

The apostle John says in Revelation chapter 6, beginning in verse 1:

"And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures, like a sound of thunder, saying, Come and see. And I saw, and behold a white horse! and the one sitting on it had a bow. And a crown was given to him, and he went out overcoming, and that he might overcome" (Rev.6:1-2 Para.).

There are many opinions as to exactly what this white horse represents and what the rider does as there are people to give an opinion, but does it really matter if you are able to understand what the White Horse and its rider symbolize? Will this understanding be of any benefit to you?

The answer is, Yes! That is, if you are living in the end times, and if you consider yourself a true follower of God and are serious about your salvation. If so, you might want to pay careful attention to the information about the White Horse and its rider contained in this broadcast.

Revelation chapter 1, verse 1, says:

"The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him, to show his servants things which must shortly come to pass . . ." (Rev.1:1 Para.).

The first key to understand the symbolic and prophetic meaning of the White Horse and its rider, is that the prophecy is given so that the Sovereign Father's earthly children can understand what he and Jesus Christ are planning to do concerning the end of human rule on earth. And because it is probable that humanity is living in the time just before Christ returns, it is extremely important for the servants of the Sovereign Father to

understand the message that Christ sent to them through John.

Continuing in chapter 1, verses 10 and 11:

"I was in the spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet, Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What you see, write in a book, and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia; to Ephesus, and to Smyrna, and to Pergamos, and to Thyatira, and to Sardis, and to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea" (Rev.1:10-11 KJV).

Through the power of the holy spirit, the apostle John was projected far into the future, to a time just before the return of Christ. The information given to him was to be sent to seven churches that were in Asia, but why was he supposed to give the message only to seven of the churches in Asia?

One reason seems to be that these seven churches were centers of mail distribution and on a mail route that began and ended with the first and last churches mentioned, which indicates a prophetic progression of events with a beginning and ending point. It is also interesting that, in the end of the age, the Laodicean church seems to receive the severest persecution of all the seven churches and that their persecution ends just before Christ returns.

The number seven is used in the Bible to symbolize a division of time, spiritual perfection, completeness, finality, and bringing to an end. Within the messages to these seven churches we see all of these symbolic meanings. Depicted in six of these seven churches are attitudes and behaviors that cause people to lose their salvation, if they do not change them prior to the first resurrection.

THE FIRST FIVE SEALS

The first five seals contain a number of events and conditions that threaten the health, welfare, and safety of the earth's population, including the Sovereign Father's earthly children who are his personal representatives and priesthood on earth.

In Matthew 24 we read that one day after being at the temple, Jesus began to tell his disciples about events that would happen after his death.

Beginning in verse 3:

"And as he was sitting on the Mount of Olives the disciples came to him privately, and asked, Tell us when shall these things come to pass? And what will be the sign of your coming, and the end of the age?" (v3).

The disciples wanted to know three things: When the temple would be destroyed, when Jesus would restore national Israel to prominence, and when the current phase of humanity would end:

Verses 4 and 5:

"Jesus answered them and said, See that no one mislead you. For many will come in my name, saying, I am the Christ. And they will mislead many" (vs.4-5).

Before the advent of Jesus and his ministry, there had been a number of people that came describing themselves as the savior of humanity and of national Israel. Jesus was, in essence, telling them that they could expect to see more false Christ's that would deceive people in the future.

Continuing in verse 6:

"But you will begin to hear of wars, and rumors of wars, but see that you are not troubled. For these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation will be raised against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, plagues, and earthquakes in many places. But these are the beginning of sorrows" (vs.6-8).

A casual reading of these scriptures seems to indicate that things on the world scene will continue as they always have. However, we must remember that Jesus gave this prophecy during one of those rare periods of human history when there was relative peace throughout the world, which is why he places these statements in the future tense.

These events are just the beginning of a period of sorrow upon the earth and probably have been going on for a long time. It is therefore logical to assume that what Christ said to his disciples was also meant to be understood by future generations of his followers who would live after he opened the first seal containing the White Horse and its rider.

After foretelling a future martyrdom and hatred for those who would follow him and his teachings Jesus again returns to the topic of religious deception in verses 11 through 13:

"And many false prophets will arise, and will mislead many. And because lawlessness shall have been multiplied, the love of many will grow cold. But the one that endures to the end, that one will be saved" (vs.11-13).

Verses 11 through 13 show a progressive prophecy that continues past the life time of John and into the very end of the age, ending at the first resurrection. Christ, again, warns of the rise of people who will teach a false religious system of worship that is in opposition to that of his heavenly Father. Because of the increasing wickedness in the world, many will fail in their calling to salvation; only those who continue to be faithful will be saved.

THE FOUR HORSEMEN

There are four things to keep in mind as we solve the mystery of the White Horse and its rider.

1. All four mysterious horses and their riders are all sent forth by Jesus Christ to do his Father's will in initiating an end to human rule on earth.
2. The things that are mentioned concerning the riders of the red, black, and pale-green horses, such as war among nations, civil strife, the high cost and the scarcity of food, famine, and death from wild animals are all common to the human experience.

3. The responsibilities of the four riders and the events and conditions that they cause do not seem to be tied to any specific event, narrow time period, or specific point in time. Therefore, it seems logical that all the these horsemen will continue to ride until a time just before Christ returns.
4. Although it is Jesus Christ who sends forth these riders, Satan and his cohorts use the circumstances and events caused by these riders as tools to continue to deceive humanity and to help bring about Satan's one-world governmental and religious system, which will rule the earth in the end times, just before Christ returns.

THE RIDER OF THE WHITE HORSE

For the Sovereign Father's earthly children, understanding the meaning of the White Horse is extremely important, because he is the only rider that specifically concerns them and their relationship with their heavenly Father and their Savior, Jesus Christ:

Revelation chapter 6, beginning in verse 1:

"And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures, like a sound of thunder, saying, Come and see. And I saw, and behold a White Horse ! and the one sitting on it had a bow. And a crown was given to him, and he went out overcoming, and that he might overcome" (Rev.6:1-2 Para.).

It is Christ who opens the first seal of the scroll that contains the events that will lead to his return and the end of human rule on earth. Why is this important to understand? It is important, because it demonstrates that it is Jesus Christ that orchestrates all of the events that will take place during the end of the age.

The prophecy concerning the White Horse and its rider does not tell us who the first rider is, why he has a bow, why he is given a crown, or what he is to conquer. Therefore, in order to gain any

understanding into who this mysterious horse and its rider is and what the symbolism means, it is necessary to use logical deduction predicated on Greek word meanings along with scriptural analogies and historical information.

The White Horse

The color white is frequently symbolic of purity and righteousness. Christ, his angelic host, and the Sovereign Father's earthly children are often pictured as being clothed in white. When Christ returns to conquer the earth, he and his vast army will be clothed in white and riding upon White Horses:

Some who study prophecy believe that the color white is symbolic of Satan's religious deception; however, this is highly unlikely because the color white is never mentioned in the same context with Satan, false religion, or evil spirits.

THE BOW AND THE CROWN

Because the rider of the White Horse is given a bow and a crown, understanding the symbolic meaning of these two items sheds light on what the rider's mission is, and how it is to be accomplished.

The Bow

Although there are many scriptures that speak of God's wrath and judgement being as arrows aimed against the wicked of the world and against rebellious Israel, there are also references that show God using arrows shot from a bow to take corrective measures against his elect children, in order to awaken them to their sinful condition and their need for repentance.

Deuteronomy

In Deuteronomy chapter 32, there is a prophecy concerning the end of the age that says that, The Creator God who became the Messiah will punish his people for their rebellion and send his arrows upon them:

God said:

"For a fire has been kindled in my anger, and it burns to the lowest Sheol, and consumes the earth and its produce; and sets fire the foundations of the mountains. I will heap evils upon them, I will use my arrows on them. I will send on them exhaustion by famine, and desolation by burning heat, and bitter destruction . . ." (Deut.32:22-24 Para.).

Job

The Job laments that God and his truths cause him great distress when there is disharmony between himself and God. Job says:

"For the arrows of the Almighty are within me; their fury is drinking my spirit; the terrors of God are set against me" (Job 6:4 Para.).

David

As King David reflected on his errors in judgement and behavior before God, David asks God to have mercy on him when he errs. And speaks of God's truths as arrows that strike deep within his inner being and cause mental agony and sorrow. David said:

"O Lord do not rebuke me in your wrath, and do not chasten me in your fury. For your arrows sink within me, and your hand presses heavily upon me" (Psa.38:1-2 Para.).

Jeremiah

Jeremiah speaks of God's punishment upon his children because of their rebellion and lack of love and zeal toward him. Jeremiah says that God's arrows pierce deep into the very being of the rebellious. Jeremiah said:

"He has deflected my ways, and has torn me to pieces; he made me desolate. He has bent his bow, and set me as a mark for the arrow. He has caused the sons of the quiver to enter into my inward parts" (Lam.3:11-13 Para.).

Cause no Harm

Although the rider of the White Horse has a bow, which is a weapon used for killing, there is no indication that his bow is used for this purpose. This is important, because neither of the next two prophecies associated with this rider indicate that he is sent to harm people, unlike the riders of the red, black, and pale-green horses. The lack of any evidence that this rider is sent to harm people is an indication that he is sent for a far different purpose than the other three riders.

A Crown

The English word crown used in Revelation 6:2 is from the Greek word 'stephanos', which refers to the laurel wreath that is placed upon the head of someone who is victorious in an athletic event.

Because this rider bears the victorious crown of an athlete, it seems logical that the crown is symbolic of one or more of the following:

Meeting a challenge and being victorious.

One who, in some way, has the responsibility for the event in which the crown is given as a prize.

One who is responsible for keeping the crown safe. And/or has the authority to present a crown to those who are victorious.

Overcoming

The last phrase in Revelation 6:2, which is translated into English translations as 'overcoming', 'that he might overcome', and 'conquering' and 'to conquer' (KJV) is an interpretation of the Greek word 'nikao', which can mean to 'conquer', 'overcome', 'prevail', or 'obtain victory'.

There is no reference in this text that the rider of the White Horse goes forth to make war or cause harm, because the rider is given a stephanos, which is laurel wreath to wear on his head, instead of a diedema, which is crown of authority. Therefore, it seems that the word ('nikao') has the meaning of a continuance of the thought of victory, as in an athletic event or some other type of situation in which one must win in order to be given the victor's

crown.

The apostle Paul often spoke of the process of overcoming as being analogous to a foot race, wherein there are only winners and losers. In speaking of his ministry of the gospel and how those who were called to partake of it should strive to control their lives in order to obtain an eternal victory, Paul says:

"Do you not know that those running in a stadium indeed all run, but only one receives the prize? So run in such a way that you may obtain the prize" (1.Cor.9:24 Para.). See also Gal.2:2-5; Phil.2:16; 3:14; Heb.12:1.

There are many scriptures that speak of the elect of God being given a crown of life as a reward for their overcoming the flesh and living a righteous life before the Father. There are also many warnings about losing one's rewards (one's crown) through neglect or sin. Therefore, it is likely that the crown of the rider of the white horse has something to do with Jesus Christ, who is the first person to obtain victor over the flesh. This crown is probably also associated with God's children in their process of overcoming in order to obtain a crown of life.

It is important to point out that Christ is the one whom the Father has authorized to care for his earthly sons and to reward those who overcome the flesh with the crown of life. See Jn.6:33-40; 10:27-30; 17:2.

The Process of Overcoming

There are many aspects to the process of overcoming, such as overcoming the pulls of the flesh and the world, wrong attitudes, and behaviors. During this overcoming process, there is a major danger of which one must be continually be aware, in order to remain consistent in one's effort to be victorious over evil. This danger has to do with falling prey to religious deception and, as a result, being led away from the truth of God and his ways. Concerning this real danger, Jesus warned:

"See that no one mislead you. For many will come in my name, saying, I am the Christ. And they will

mislead many" (Matt.24:4-5 Para.).

Jesus also said:

And that "Many false prophets will arise, and will mislead many. And because lawlessness shall have been multiplied, the love of many will grow cold. But the one that endures to the end, that one will be saved" (Matt.24:11-13 Para.). See also Jer.29:8-9; Eph.5:6; Col.2:8; 2.Thes.2:7-8.

Is there religious deception today concerning Christ and his message. Absolutely! Today, there are over 20,000 different groups and organizations that profess to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ. And all of these feel that their particular interpretation of Jesus' teachings and the Bible is acceptable to God.

Because both the Old and New Testaments record that there is only one faith and one method of worship that is acceptable to God, logic tells us that, if any one of these thousands of differing groups is correct in their worship of God, then all the others are incorrect and stand condemned as worshiping a false god and teaching and practicing a worship system that is in opposition to the Sovereign Father and his son, the Savior of mankind. The question you have to answer, Is, which one of these thousands of differing Christian denominations is correct, or are any of them correct?

Although it seems clear that the rider of the White Horse does not come to destroy or cause harm, there is a great and powerful spirit being that does come to destroy humanity, especially the elect of God:

The apostle Peter warns:

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, walks about as a roaring lion seeking those he may destroy" (1.Pet.5:8 Para.).

Being keenly aware of religious deception is extremely important to one who is seeking to worship the true God.

Satanic Deception

Satanic deception has been occurring for centuries. Many have said that Jesus is the Christ, but they do not preach what he taught; they preach a message of disobedience to the laws of God. A good example of this are the multitudes of quasi-Christians today who profess to follow Christ, but do not obey the laws, precepts, and principles that he taught.

Satan is the Great Deceiver and there is no doubt that his activities are on the increase. He does not want any to believe the truth of God or to understand God's plan for humanity. It is also clear that this powerful evil spirit has already been deceiving most of the world religiously, philosophically, and politically:

The apostle John recorded this about Satan in Revelation 12, verse 9:

"And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, that deceives the whole world" (Rev.12:9 KJV).

It is also apparent that Satan has a vast following of people comprised of organizations, churches, and ministers through whom he deceives many people. The apostle Paul said of these people:

"For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works" (2.Cor.11:13-15 KJV).

Judgement Upon the Elect of God

The rider of the White Horse has a bow with which to shoot arrows, and arrows are symbolic of the discipline process God uses to help his children grow toward spiritual maturity. Moreover, the crown that this rider wears is symbolic of one who is victorious in some sort of contest or endeavor. Therefore, it seems highly likely that one of the responsibilities of this rider of the White Horse has to do with God's children and their effort to mature

spiritually and gain salvation.

The apostle Peter said:

"The time has come to begin the judgement from the house of the God, and it first begins with us, what will be the end of the ones disobeying the gospel of God?" (1.Pet.4:17 Para.).

Peter says judgement has begun with those who have been called to repentance during the gospel age of salvation. Why? It is because they, above all other people on earth that have been called first to become sons of the Father's new creation and have been allowed to know and understand the plan and purpose that he has for humanity. Therefore, the Father holds them accountable for this awesome opportunity and responsibility:

The Righteous and Ancient Israel

The scriptures clearly show that the Creator God who became Jesus Christ, always warned his people before any major punishment of the wicked. We see such warning given to and through Noah, Abraham, Lot, and Moses. God constantly reprimanded ancient Israel for their evil ways and encouraged them to repent so that he could bless them.

When Israel rebelled against God, he would warn them of an impending punishment if they didn't repent. When they continued to rebel, he would send armies to kill them, conquerors to place them into captivity, cause sickness to come upon them, and send many other types of punishment. Why did he do this? He did this to get their attention and to show them the consequences of breaking their covenant with him.

The Creator God reprimanded and punished his chosen people of ancient Israel; therefore, why should we think it strange or out of place that the Sovereign Father would have his Son do the same kind of things in regard to his earthly children whom he has called to salvation during this age and who are promised far greater rewards than those under the first covenant with national Israel?

John the Baptist said the following in reference to those called to salvation during this age:

"I baptize you with water to repentance: but he that comes after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the holy spirit and fire. Whose winnowing fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his threshing floor, and gather his wheat into the barn; and he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire" (Matt.3:11-12 Para.).

Here, John refers to three kinds of baptism—water, holy spirit, and fire—and the separating of wheat from the chaff. The baptism with fire indicates severe trial and testing. The separation of the wheat from the chaff refers to the righteous being given access to the Kingdom of God and the wicked having their existence terminated forever—death by fire. See Matt.13:19-30; Isa.28:24-29.

Because wheat is symbolic of the elect of God and John records that Christ cleans the wheat of impurities, one might ask how are the elect of God purged of impurity?

Although there is only one way that a person can have their sins washed away and forgiven by God the Father through the blood of Christ, there are a number of ways that a person becomes aware that they need to make a change in their attitude and/or behavior. The following are some of the ways in which a person becomes aware that they need to change:

Through self examination, study of God's word, and prayer to the Father for understanding of what his will is in one's life.

Through the normal daily circumstances and experiences of life and an effort to apply God's ways to one's circumstances and experiences.

Through the direct intervention of Jesus Christ on the Father's behalf.

Being made aware of one's need to change through God's direct intervention is spoken of in the scriptures as the trial by fire and is the least

desirable way to become aware of one's need for change.

It is through the process of growing toward spiritual maturity that the elect are purged of impurity for the Father's spiritual Family and Kingdom. How easily one proceeds through this process, is largely dependent on one's attitude and willingness to grow spiritually.

The prophet Daniel was told this concerning the end times and the Father's earthly children:

"Go your way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end. Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand" (Dan.12:9-10 KJV). See also Dan.11:35.

Although the Father's wise children who live during the end of the age will be able to understand prophecies concerning the end times, there is a very serious message that warns of trials and tests that will come upon some of them prior to their receiving salvation and entering into the Father's spiritual Family and Kingdom.

From the beginning of humanity to the advent of Christ, the Patriarchs and all others whom the Father chose to participate in the first resurrection were corrected, tried, and tested by the Creator God (the God who became Jesus Christ) through the experiences of life as they progressed toward spiritual maturity. It is clear that those of the early church were also corrected, tried, and tested by Jesus Christ (who is the head of the church). All who follow God's way in the end of the age will also go through this same growth process in order to receive the crown of life.

THE WARNINGS TO THE CHURCHES

God never punishes his people without first giving them ample warning and an opportunity to repent. Those called to repentance and salvation during the gospel age of salvation, above all others, have no excuse for not understanding what the Father expects of them; therefore, extremely serious

warnings and corrective measures are used in order to bring about their repentance.

The following are some of the things that Jesus said he will cause to come upon the elect of God who stray from God the Father's way of life and refuse to repent, perform the task they have been called to do, and grow toward spiritual maturity:

1. The Ephesians are warned that unless they repent, Jesus will remove their lamp-stand (the truth of God will be withdrawn from them). The removal of this lamp-stand will result in their spiritual death, and they will not be able to enter the Family and Kingdom of God. See Rev.2:1-7.
2. To Smyrna, Jesus says that he is going to allow Satan to throw them into prison and afflict them. However, if they are faithful they will obtain the crown of life—eternal and immortal life as the Father's sons. See Rev.2:8-11.
3. Jesus tells those of Pergamos to repent or he will war against them with the sword of his mouth (the truth of God). See Eph.6:17; Heb.4:12-13; Rev.1:16; 2:16.
4. To Thyatira, Jesus says that unless they repent of their idolatry, he will kill them. See Rev.2:20-23.
5. He tells Sardis that if they will not repent, he will sneak up on them as a thief. The implication is that if they do not pay attention, he will remove their crown of life. See Rev.3:1-4.
6. He warns those of Philadelphia to be cautious and hold onto their crown, or someone would take it from them. See Rev.3:11.
7. The Laodiceans are warned that, because of their spiritual laziness, they are going to have to endure severe trials in order to obtain salvation. See Rev.3:17-18.

Remember that the first verse of the Book of Revelation speaks of things that will have their fulfillment shortly after the revelation is given. It is obvious that most of what was revealed did not happen during John's lifetime or during the centuries that have passed since then. However, some of these things were partly fulfilled as noted in the messages to the seven churches.

It is also evident from what is said about the churches of Philadelphia and Laodicea that they are symbolic of two literal groups of the elect of God that will exist in the very end of the age, just prior to the return of Christ. Because of the specific information given concerning the seven churches, it becomes clear that the messages to the seven churches contain literal and prophetic information that applied to John's day and still applies to those who will live during the end of the age.

It is clear from what Jesus Christ says in Revelation chapters 2 and 3 that he is going to cause severe trials to come upon the elect of God who have the attitudes and behaviors that he details in the messages to the seven churches.

Therefore, it seems that the White horse and its rider are sent out to the elect of God to encourage them to take seriously the calling and opportunity that they have been given to participate in the first resurrection. And if necessary, this rider is authorized to encourage the elect with trials and persecution.

Who is the rider of the White Horse? Perhaps, he is the spirit-being who has the responsibility to oversee the vast host of angelic beings that have been assigned to minister to the elect of God and carry out the instructions of Jesus Christ concerning them and their spiritual growth.

I see that my time is up, but if you want to know more about the prophecies concerning the end times or more about the other subjects that I have briefly touched on in this in this broadcast, Write to me at the at the address given in the following announcement. Until next time this is Bud Cocherell for Bible Research .org.

File CB33 6/08