

Revelation Lesson 77
The First Seal: The Antichrist

Revelation 6:1-2 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. 2 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.

Well folks, our Revival being over, we now start our regular Revelation schedule on Sunday evenings! Today we observe with John as the Tribulation begins as the Antichrist signs a Peace Treaty with the nation of Israel for 7 years and then the Two Witnesses start their 3.5 year preaching ministry.... (LISTEN TO AUDIO CLIP)

And I saw – John again notes that he actually SAW this. Now folks, this HAS to be simply amazing as John is really, truly observing, hearing and experiencing the future as revealed to him in Heaven. As I have previously noted, John was ACTUALLY in the 3rd Heaven (per Revelation 4:1-2), hence he was a true Time-Traveller and had moved into Heaven where there is no time (per Genesis 1:14-15)

when the Lamb opened one of the seals, - Oliver B. Greene says: The judgments under the seals...do not occur at the same time. Also note that the Lamb is connected with the judgments under the seals but the angels are connected with the trumpet judgments and Almighty God (the Father) is connected with the vials or bowls of God's Wrath. (See Handout)

and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, - This sound similar to thunder is heralding the coming judgment. If you will it is to get someone's attention, and this has John's undivided attention. Please understand that John isn't hard of hearing (he did just hear the animals on Earth prasing the Lord a few moments ago). Thunder always gets peoples attention warning them that a STORM is on the way. Danger is approaching.

one of the four beasts saying, Come and see. - Notice that John is called upon by one of the 4 beasts (the Seraphim) to come and see. This implies that where he was standing he could not see what was about to happen, so John is called upon to come closer and observe the Rise of the Antichrist.

And I saw, - Again John denotes that he actually saw this event. So what did he see? The first horseman of the Apocalypse!

and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him - Now behold my dearly beloved – the great guessing game for many theologians. We Christians are not alone however.

The Jews wonder about their white horses of Prophecy in Zechariah 1:8; 6:3 & 6. Back in the 2008 Presidential Race, many US Mormons pondered about their own White Horse Prophecy, purported to have been made in 1843 by their prophet (a false one I might add) that one day the US Constitution would hang like a thread and will be saved by the efforts of the White Horse. Mormons saw the Revelation 6:2 white horse and rider in the light of Joseph Smith's words and believed that former Governor Mitt Romney would be the Rider on the White Horse.

Meanwhile, Muslims have read Revelation also, in Islamic belief there is the Mahdi (the Guided One) who is the prophesied redeemer of Islam who will rule for (depending on the school of interpretation) 7, 9 or 19 years before the Day of Allah's judgment and will ride the world of wrong doing, injustice and tyranny. Muhammad said: The world will not come to an end until the Arabs

are ruled by a man from my family whose name is the same as mine and whose father's name is the same as my father's. (which is Abdullah which means servant of God). This Muslim redeemer will appear during the time of their one-eyed Islamic Anti-christ as well as an Islamic dictator from Damascus. It is believed the Mahdi will ride a white horse. Two Muslim scholars say: "I find the Mahdi in the books of the Prophets....For instance, the Book of Revelation says: "An I saw and behold a white horse. He that sat on him [...] went forth conquering and to conquer. Then they state: It is clear that this man is the Mahdi who will ride the white horse and judge by the Koran (with Justice) and with whom will be men with marks of Prostration (zabiba) on their foreheads." WHAT!???? Oh yes, that's what THEY say.....hang onto that for a moment.

Now in Christianity, there's been A LOT of speculation as to WHO the rider of the White Horse is. Some say the rider was Vespasian (as a general, before he became Emperor) or Titus (again as a general before he was Emperor).

Some say the rider is none other than Jesus Christ. Pastor Peter Ruckman states: "All the major seminaries for the last 200 years have taught that the white horse rider of this verse is Jesus Christ (per Rev. 19:11-16) gradually conquering the world through the Church and the Sacraments. [Hence this smacks of Catholic interpretation] The slightest of comparisons of this ride with the One in Revelation 19:11 shows that the two are NOT the same. The rider of Revelation 19:11 come out of Heaven; this one doesn't. The one in Revelation 19:12 has many crowns; the one here has a crown. The rider of Revelation 19:15 has a sharp sword; this one has a bow. The rider of Revelation 19:14 is followed by the armies which were in Heaven; this one is followed by Death and Hell."

Some say that the rider was representative of the Parthian Calvary in that they would destroy the Romans and their Empire. Others holding similar views like this speculate that it represents Gentile rulers who have held or will hold dominion over the Jews.

Still others (myself included) believe this rider is none other than the Antichrist. Now there are many references and prophecies in the Bible in regards to the Antichrist: Daniel 7:8, 24-27; 9:26-27; 11:36-45; Zechariah 11:16-17; Matthew 24:15-16 (refers to Daniel 9:27; 11:31; 12:11); Mark 13:14; 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4, 8; 1 John 2:18 & 22; Revelation 6:2; 13:1-10; 14:9 & 11; 15:2; 16:2; 17:3, 13; 19:19-20; 20:10.

In the Bible there are several titles for the Antichrist: Well, we'll start off with that one: Antichrist – 1 John 2:22; The Little Horn – Daniel 7:8; The King of Fierce Countenance – Daniel 8:23; The prince of the People that shall come – Daniel 9:26a; The one who makes desolate – Daniel 9:27; The Vile Person – Daniel 11:21; The "willful" king – Daniel 11:36; The Idol Shepherd – Zechariah 11:16-17; The Abomination of Desolation - Matthew 24:15; The Man of Sin – 2 Thessalonians 2:3; The Son of Perdition – 2 Thessalonians 2:3; The Wicked one – 2 Thessalonians 2:8; The Beast – Revelation 11:7; 13:1; 14:9; 15:2; 16:2; 17:3 & 13; 19:20; 20:10.

There have been many through the years to speculate as to the identity of the Antichrist. The most common among historists say Nero or Caligula.

Martin Luther said the Pope was the Antichrist. Some today say Pope Francis I is the Antichrist.

Some like A. W. Pink said that Antichrist will be Judas Iscariot (resurrected or reincarnated) based on the fact that both will deceive, both betray and primarily, both have the title: "the Son of Perdition" (see John 17:12 & 2 Thessalonians 2:3). Now, first understand that this title means one doomed to destruction or damnation. They even calculated this to match 666 as JUDAS RAISED. Listen more and I will show you why he cannot be the Antichrist.

Others have said: Alexander the Great, Vladimir Putin, Prince Charles, Prince William, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, Mussalini, Hitler, Napoleon, Kaiser Wilhelm II (He himself believed that Germany was the land of monarchy and therefore of Christ, and that England was the land of liberalism and therefore of Satan and the Anti-Christ. He argued that the English ruling classes were "Freemasons thoroughly infected by Juda". Wilhelm asserted that the "British people must be *liberated* from *Antichrist Juda*. We must drive Juda out of England just as he has been chased out of the Continent.").

Others have said it would be Tony Blair, Mikhail Gorbach, Henry Kissinger, Saddam Hussein or some other world leader like the President: Reagan, George H. W. Bush, Clinton and George W. Bush have all been pinpointed, but none so much as Barack H. Obama. Consider: They first start with Luke 10:18 and say that while the verse was written in Greek proponents contend it must have been stated in Aramic (which is close to Hebrew). Then they use Strong's to define Lightning in Hebrew as the word: Baraq (pronounced BA-RACK). Then they look at the word "heaven" and say that while it can refer to the Heaven of God, it can refer to the heights or high places. They then appeal to Isa. 14 and the 5 I wills of Satan matching the word "heights" used there to Strong's 1116 – Bamah which is just that the heights. So they say that Satan in the flesh is BARAK BAMAH.

In the Bible, Antichrist has many predecessors and types as found in and interpreted in: Nimrod: Genesis 10:8; 11:1-9; Pharaoh: Ex. 1:11 & 22; 5:2; Amalek: Ex. 17; Deut. 25:19; 1 Sam. 15; Balaam: Numbers 22-24; Sennacherib: 2 Kings 18:13-19:37; Nebuchadnezzar: 2 Kings 24; Habakkuk 1:6-11 and Daniel 2-4; Antiochus Epiphanes IV: Daniel 8:9-25; 11:36-45; Titus: Daniel 9:26.

While these all no doubt have possessed the spirit of Antichrist which is defined in 1 John 2:18 Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time." And 1 John 2:22 Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son." And then in 1 John 4:3 And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world." and finally in 2 John 1:7 For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist."

Again, while these have had the markings of an antichrist by and large, WE – the Church - Simply CANNOT KNOW WHO HE IS because of 2 Thessalonians 2:3-8 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; 4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God. 5 Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? 6 And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. 7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. 8 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:"

The above passage teaches as McGee rightly says: "Paul says that before the Day of the Lord begins there must first come a removing. There are two kinds of removing that are going to take place. First, the organized church will depart from the faith—that is what we call apostasy. But there will be *total* apostasy when the Lord comes, and that cannot take place until the true church is removed. The Lord asked, "... when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith ... ?" (Luke 18:8). When He says "faith," He means that body of truth which He left here. The answer to His question is no, He will not find the faith here when He returns. There will be total apostasy because of two things: (1) the organization of

the church has departed from the faith—it has apostatized and (2) there has been another departure, the departure of the true church from the earth. The departure of the true church leads into the total apostatizing of the organized church. The Day of the Lord cannot begin—nor the Great Tribulation period—until the departure of the true church has taken place.”

Next we observe that the Antichrist cannot be revealed that such a viewpoint is 100% accurate for the saved of the Church (the Body of Christ – not the LOCAL church) are SEALED by the Holy Ghost until the Day of Redemption per Ephesians 4:30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.” Notice again, McGee's words: “Lawlessness will continue to get worse and worse, but the Holy [Ghost] will not let Satan go all the way in this age. When the Holy [Ghost] will be removed, it will be like taking the stopper out of the bottle—the liquid of lawlessness will pour out all over the world in that day. When will the Holy [Ghost] be taken out? He will be taken out with the church. Won't the Holy [Ghost] be in the world during the Great Tribulation? Yes. Wasn't He in the world before Pentecost? He surely was. He was present in the days of the Old Testament, but He was on a different mission. And He will be on a different mission after the church is removed. Now the Spirit of God is sealing us until the day of redemption when He will present us and deliver us to the Lord Jesus. If He didn't do that, we would never make it. After He does that, I believe He will come back to the earth to resume His former mission down here. But He will not hinder evil—He will let the Devil have his day for a while. Believe me, I don't want to be on the earth when the Devil has it! It looks bad enough to me as it is today; so I don't want to be here when it is turned over to him.”

Now when we look at all those details in Daniel and other scriptures about the antichrist, we begin to get a picture of what he'll be like however. While we CANNOT know WHO he is, we CAN know a little of what he'll be like.

When we read Daniel 7:8, 11, 21 & 25-26 we learn: He will speak popously and arrogantly, persecute and make war against the saints of God for 3.5 years (time = 1 year, times = 2 years, dividing of time = half a year = 3.5 years), intend to change the times and laws (which more than likely speaks to religious laws, kingdoms, etc.) and will eventually be destroyed and his body thrown into the flames (Lake of Fire). Then when we read Daniel 11 we learn Antichrist will: Magnify himself above God, blaspheme the True God, he will deny the God (not GODS) of his fathers, he will not desire women (some say this means he will be a Sodomite), he will put trust in the military, be a brutal conqueror, control the world's finances and meet his end in Israel per verse 45. Also the Antichrist will be assassinated and be raised back to life per Rev. 13:3-4, 7-8.

Finally we also note that the antichrist will be of Greco-Roman descent. Revelation 13:1 indicates the beast arose from the sea. Recall that water represents masses of people and usually Gentiles. Daniel 8:8-9 suggests that the “small horn” comes from the four Grecian horns indicating he will be part Greek in his heritage. Some have looked at Daniel 11:37 “God of his fathers” and translated it as gods to further emphasize a pagan gentile origin for “God of his fathers” folks contend refers to a Jewish heritage. Why would a Jew become the world ruler during what Luke 21:24 calls the times of the Gentiles? I think we have showed that the Antichrist will NOT be Jewish. Some have said the Antichrist will be from the tribe of Dan while others remember said Judas Iscariot could be the Antichrist. Again I think this is not possible because as I will note further in Daniel 9:26-27 that the Antichrist will be a Gentile and NOT a Jew.

had a bow; - Some wonder what not a sword? Why the Bow? Most kings when they went out to war might use a sword (like Jesus does later) yet that also implies (except in Jesus' case) close hand to hand combat. So we observe in the Bible, when wars were fought with the bow and arrow, the ARROWS were specifically mentioned. Look in Numbers 24:8, Psalm 45 and Zechariah 9:14. Here we see a break with the Biblical symbolism. Why? Look at: 1 Thessalonians 5:3 For when

they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.” They think THEY ARE SAFE now. The effects of the Rapture have shaken the world and chaos ensued, but now one has an arrowless bow which implies a bloodless victory most likely via diplomacy. Some point to a worldwide possible disarmament policy wherein the future world government will have “official” firepower in order to prevent wars – or so they think. I want to hasten to add here that I think the “sword” will come out later and in a different form.

and a crown was given unto him: - Now some wonder who gave him the crown? While God allows this to happen for His divine purposes, it seems that the Devil gave the rider on the white horse the crown per Luke 4:6 And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it.” First we see that he is called in Daniel 9:26 a “prince” or ruler of the people that shall come. That refers to the people that destroyed Jerusalem, which in historical fulfillment is no doubt the Romans. Thus this further implies per Daniel 2:33, 40-45 that he will be in charge of the Revised Roman Empire – more than likely the European Union AND then in turn become the ruler of a 10 nation Confederacy which will consist of all the nations of the world which will be given him by Satan – who will empower his rule.

and he went forth conquering, and to conquer. If you will note European Demographics in that for a culture to maintain itself a fertility rate of 2.11 must happen within the nation. If it succumbs to 1.3 it is impossible to preserve the culture for it would take 80-100 years to correct itself. In the US our fertility rate is 1.6 but with the addition of illegal immigrants it is 2.11.

For example, in England the fertility rate is 1.8, France 1.6, Greece and Germany 1.3, Italy 1.2 and Spain 1.1. Within the 31 Nations of the European Union the rate is 1.38. Yet Europe is NOT declining in population since 1990 some 90% of Europe's Immigration is ISLAMIC immigration.

In France, they have 1.8 children per family, Muslims have 8.1 per family. By 2027 1 in 5 Frenchmen will be Muslim and by 2042 France will be a Islamic Republic. Since 1970 the Muslim Population of Great Britian rose from 82,000 to 2.5 Million (a 30 fold increase) In the Netherlands in 2003 50% of the babies born are Muslim in 15 years half the population will be Muslim. In Russia the population boasts of 23 Million Muslims by 2023 40% of the Army will be Muslim (can we say Ezekiel 38-39 war?). In Belgium 25% of the Population is Muslim and 50% of newborns are Muslim. The Belgian governemt stated that 1/3 of European children will be Muslim by 2025. The German Government stated that Germany will be a Muslim state by 2050. Indeed the former ruler of Libya, Mommar Kadafai said: There are signs Allah will grant victory to Islam in Europe without swords. In 1970 in the US there were 100,000 Muslims in 2008 there were 9 million.

It is my personal opinion that the Antichrist will come from a converted European family that will have deep Islamic roots and he will rise to power in the EU on that Muslim power base. He will rise to power and be accepted as the Mahdi by Muslims. Yet he will go on to denounce the “god of his fathers” as he makes an alliance with a one world church (Possibly the church of Rome) and with the nation of Israel for 7 years of peace.

He will unite the world into a 10 nation/kingdom confederation according to Daniel 7:11-14 & Revelation 17:12-13. See handout (Look at the “unions” - Central Asian, EU, African, South Amer, Arab Union, Pacific, NAU – that's 7 total!). It isn't that far off. As I mentioned about the NAU, talks have already been in the works about it since 1994 with the passage of NAFTA. The easiest way to solve the “immigration” problem would be to unite Canada, the US and Mexico into one, devalue the spiralling out of control dollar and replace it with the Amero (like the Euro).