

SPIRIT OF LIFE MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL
A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION
SESSION 11: CHAPTER 6 PART 1

REV 6:1-2

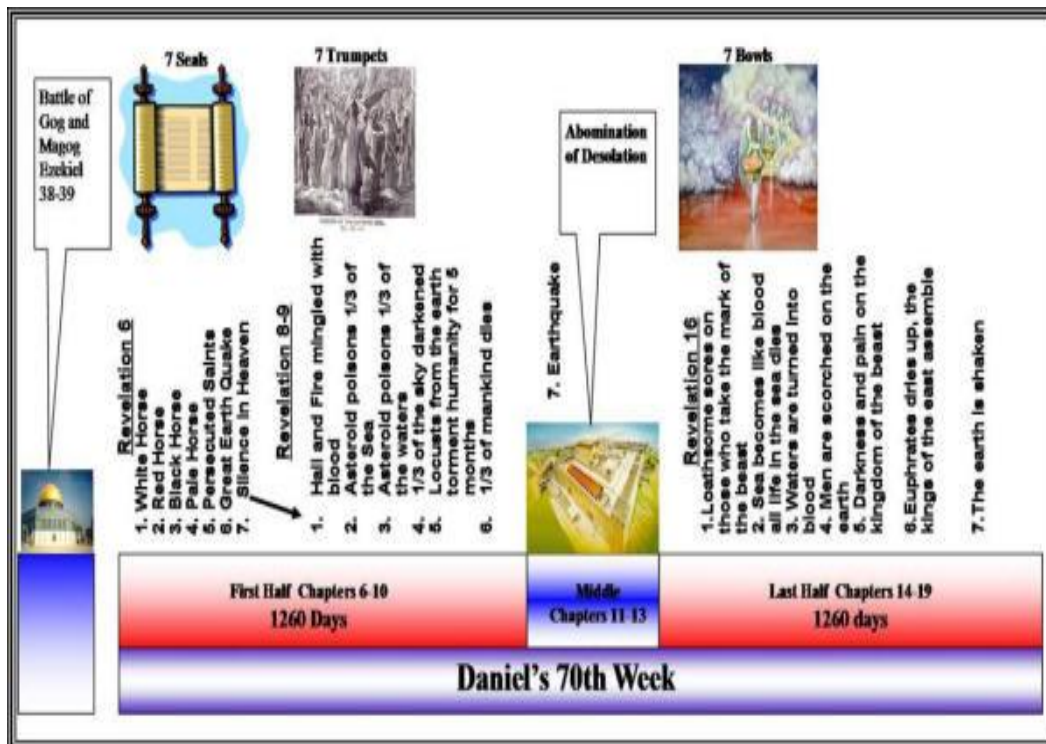
“¹And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see. ²And I saw: and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer.”



Chapter 6 begins with the opening of the seals on the scroll. John is reporting what he sees to the reader. The scene in chapter 6 continues from the events in chapters 4 and 5. In Chapter 4, John, caught up into heaven, saw God on his throne surrounded by the four living creatures, the 24 elders and all the angels of heaven. In chapter 5, we see a scroll, which no one in heaven, on the earth or under the earth can open. Then a lamb appears on the center of the throne of God. He alone can take the scroll and open it. Jesus Christ is represented as the slain lamb, which died for the sins of the world. He alone, who became man can take and open the scroll.

The scroll represents the title of the earth, the title Adam lost at the fall. In chapter 6, Jesus Christ, the Lamb, has the seven-sealed scroll. When Christ opens the seals, events begin to occur on the earth as Christ takes possession of the earth from the kings of the earth. By the opening of the seven seals events described in this chapter begin to unfold. The opening of the seventh seal brings the seven-angels with seven trumpets who complete the judgments in the first half of the tribulation period. In the book of Revelation we see the judgments of God presented in three phases: ***seals, trumpets, and bowls***.

1. The 7 seals and 7 trumpet judgments occur in the first half of the tribulation period.
2. The seven bowl judgments occur in the second half of the tribulation period.
3. The two halves of the tribulation period are separated by mid-point.
4. The whole tribulation period is a seven-year period according to **Daniel 9:27, and Revelation 11-13**.
5. The period begins with the agreement to allow Temple worship and sacrifice on Mt. Moriah. This same agreement broken with the stopping of sacrifice and setting up of the image in the Jewish Temple separates the first half from the second half.



The Lamb will now open the seven seals from the scroll one at a time and John will tell us what he sees. This period of time John will be observing in Revelation is also spoken of in the prophecies of Daniel and by Jesus in the Olivet discourse ([Matt. chapters 24-25](#)). This trilogy of passages should be studied and correlated by the wise student when seeking truth about these end time events.

First Seal: One of the four creatures tells John to go and see what the breaking of the first seal will bring. Since John was in heaven, he had to look at the events taking place on earth. He hears a noise of thunder; whatever John is about to see will get the world's attention.



John sees a white horse with a rider who has a bow. The role of this rider is to conquer. Some think that the rider on this white horse is Jesus Christ since he has a crown and rides a white horse. They say that this is a picture of the world being led to Jesus Christ. This view is problematic for a couple of reasons. We will see later in this book that Jesus actually wears many golden crowns of royalty and not just a simple victor's garland like the word crown could be translated here.

If this is Jesus, He is in riding in the company of three evil riders who soon follow. Many conquerors of the past have ridden white horses, so the fact that the rider is on a white horse proves nothing about whom he is. The weapon Jesus uses in other scripture passages is a two-edged sword, so a bow is totally out of character for Him. If that is not enough to prove it is not Jesus, Christianity, even as an identity, is not conquering in the world. Christianity is actually losing ground in percentages of the world population.

Furthermore, those who are truly Christian are a very small minority of those that claim a cultural identity with it. Another logical reason why it cannot be Jesus is that Jesus was in heaven with John opening the seal at the time John was shown this rider on the earth.

It is clear to me that this is not Jesus. This rider is a great future world leader. The bow is a symbol of his control over weapons of war. Since the rider shows no arrows, it could mean that he conquers by the threat of the power he displays and when this rider rides, he does not conquer using actual military force.

Daniel tells us there is one who is coming who, **"by peace will destroy many"**.

Dan 8:25 "And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many: he shall also stand up against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without hand."

Most experts in bible prophecy believe that this rider is the world leader that later will be indwelt by Satan and become the Beast Antichrist. This passage is speaking of his rise to power on earth that establishes the revived Roman Empire.

John is invited by one of the four living creatures to come and see what happens at the opening of the first seal. The opening of the first seal begins the tribulation period, *Daniel's 70th Week*, *The time of Jacob's trouble* (Jer. 30:7).

One prerequisite in the start of the tribulation, is the rebuilding of the Jewish Temple on Mt. Moriah and the establishment of sacrifice in worship. If the rapture occurs prior to the tribulation (Pre-tribulation), it is doubtful Christians will see the rebuilt Temple. However, there are events that must precede the building of the Jewish Temple. Covid19 has allowed some Jews to go into the temple area, but they do not have control of the Mount.

In order for a Jewish Temple to be built on the third most holy location to Islam, the building known as the *Dome of the Rock* must be removed. This is no small order, when we examine the earth's population as of this date, we see about 8 billion people, of which 2 billion are Muslim over 26% of the world's population. They would have a problem with Israel destroying a building which commemorates their prophet, Mohammad's supposed ascent into heaven, and

Islam's victory over Christianity and Judaism. Israel understands the current situation, and for this reason in 1967 when Israel defeated Jordan and conquered East Jerusalem, they allowed the Temple Mount to stay under Muslim control. Any move by Israel against the Dome of the Rock would unleash the Muslim world against Israel.

The Russian Islamic Invasion of Israel is found in (Ezekiel 38-39). The Bible clearly speaks of a day in the future in the "Latter years" (Ezek. 38:8) after "**Many days,**" after the Jews are gathered from the nations of the world back in the land of Israel, then they will be attacked.

Nations specifically mentioned in those attacks are Persia (Iran), Put (Libya) and Cush (Ethiopia) all three nations are Muslim today. Iran is openly hostile to Israel, supporting, arming, and equipping Hezbollah in southern Lebanon, pointing thousands of missiles toward Israel. Iran is also an ally of Syria, with a mutual defense treaty. Today, Syria is still officially at war with Israel.

Included in this alliance against Israel are the nations referred to as Gog and Magog and her allies from the far north of Israel, including Gomer and Togarmah. According to Ezekiel, this invasion into Israel will end in defeat for these attacking nations. To the far north of Israel is Russia. Currently Russia has formed an alliance with Iran. Russia built a nuclear reactor for Iran. Russia has also agreed to supply nuclear fuel to power up the reactor. Israel has threatened to attack the nuclear reactor to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear warheads to arm their missiles, the Shahab III, putting Israel in range of Iranian nuclear strike.

Such an attack against Iran could very well justify a Russian/Islamic invasion into Israel foretold by Ezekiel. A growing orthodox movement which threatens the Dome of the Rock has also brought threats from Iran against Israel.

Ezekiel 38:7-9, (NKJV) *"Prepare yourself and be ready, you and all your companies that are gathered about you; and be a guard for them. ⁸ After many days you will be visited. In the latter years you will come into the land of those brought back from the sword and gathered from many people on the mountains of Israel, which had long been desolate; they were brought out of the nations, and now all of them dwell safely. ⁹ You will ascend, coming like a storm, covering the land like a cloud, you and all your troops and many peoples with you."*

Following this defeat of the Russian/Muslim powers, Ezekiel specifically refers to a seven-year period where the people of Israel will utilize the remnants of equipment left by this invading army. Only 1/6 of the army survives, they are left to bury the dead. The seven-year period mentioned by Ezekiel corresponds to the seven-years of Daniel's 70th week. (Ezekiel 39:9)

The history of Israel is that Persia has never invaded the land of Israel after it was resettled by Jewish inhabitants. Assyria invaded Israel in 722 B.C., and Babylon invaded Judah three times,

(605, 597 and 586 B.C). Persia, however, did not need to invade Israel, because once Babylon was defeated, by Cyrus the Great, in 539B.C., Persia became masters of Israel and Judah. The invasion referred to by Ezekiel takes place in the future following a “long period of desolation” and a resettlement of Jews from the nations of the earth. This event is unique to the 20th and 21st century when Israel became a nation again in 1948. Israel becoming a nation again was an event Ezekiel wrote about in chapters 36, 37, 38, and 39, 2600 years ago. The chronological events in Ezekiel correspond to the end-time scenario both in Daniel and Revelation.

EZEKIEL	CONTENTS	PROPHETIC EVENTS
EZEKIEL 36	Israel promised to be restored, gathered from the nations.	In the 1800's Jews began returning to the land of Israel. In 1948, following the Holocaust Israel was allowed to become a nation again by the powers that be.
Ezekiel 37	Ezekiel sees Israel as valley of dry Bones which become a mighty army	Israel became a very powerful military force in the middle east after 5 wars. Today Israel is ranked as one of the most powerful nations on earth, even though their population is only 5 million.
Ezekiel 38	Alliance of nations invades the newly established nation of Israel, gathered out of the nations. God defeats the armies and Israel is victorious over Gog and Magog.	Russia, Iran, Syria and other nations have formed an anti-Israel alliance which very well could be the seed of Ezek. 38's fulfillment.
Ezekiel 39	Armies are buried in the land and Israel uses the remnants of their weapons for seven-years	This alliance of nations loses to Israel not because of Israel's might but because God intervenes.
Ezekiel 40-43	God gives Ezekiel the plans for a New Temple where God Himself will appear.	Following this defeat of Muslim nations Israel will be free to rebuild the Jewish Temple. This Temple however will be one built while Israel denies Jesus as messiah, and will desolated.



The invasion of Gog and Magog is seen as an “End Times” event by Judaism, Islam, and Christianity. Following the defeat of the Russian/Muslim powers, Israel will feel saved from its enemies. This will open the way for the rebuilding of the Jewish Temple. The Antichrist, who will come to power before or after this event will consolidate world power and guarantee Israel’s right to build the Temple.

REV 6:3-4

“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.”

In Verses 1 and 2 we learned of a man on the white horse. Since the Book of Revelation is filled with symbolism explained elsewhere in the Bible, let's look for the first mention of a man with a bow, hoping to get an additional clue to this rider's identity. It is found in **Genesis 21:20**, referring to Ishmael. As details of Islamic eschatology become more widely known, prophecy students are discovering a striking similarity between descriptions of al Mahdi, a Messianic figure from the Shiite tradition, and a figure Christians call the anti-Christ. (I'm not saying that al Mahdi is the Moslem anti-Christ, called the Dajjal, but that he resembles the Christian anti-Christ.)

Both come on the scene during a time of great turmoil on Earth. Both come claiming a desire to restore peace. Both have a seven-year reign. Both head a one world religion and one world government. Both claim supernatural origins, and both reigns end in a battle between good and evil that brings Earth's final judgment. The number of similarities between the two defies coincidence and continues to grow as knowledge of al Mahdi increases.

Now with the connection between the Bible's first archer and the man with a bow in Rev. 6, another piece of the puzzle may have fallen into place. Mohammed was descended from Kedar, the second son of Ishmael, and Al Mahdi is the 12th Iman descended from Mohammed. In **Revelation 13** where the Great Tribulation begins, we're told that He was given power to make war against the saints and to conquer them. And he was given authority over every tribe, people, language, and nation. (**Rev. 13:7**) If the rider on the red horse is Jesus, why would Jesus make war with the tribulation saints to conquer them? Like I said, while he fools people into thinking he's the Christ, he's really the anti-Christ.

This is the point at which the anti-Christ turns to war to establish his authority over human governments and move the world toward his religion. The Muslim prophecies say this will be Islam, of course, and the Koran teaches conversion or death as the only alternatives available to non-believers. Current Muslim demographic studies show that Europe, far into its post-Christian era, may already be on the verge of yielding to the growing Muslim influence, but other parts of the world will resist, causing much bloodshed.

Second seal: The second seal follows the first in chronological order. The Antichrist brings the earth into a false sense of peace following the battle of Gog and Magog and the reestablishment of Temple worship.



Fiery red: The words describing the second horse reveal his character. The Greek word for the color is, *Purrhos*, meaning having the color of fire, red. The red color of this horse is the color of red fire.

Granted: The second horse demonstrates the “False Peace” established by the rider on the white horse. The world wants peace, but without God, and for a short period they will seem like they have peace, without God, but then man’s nature will take hold and war will quickly follow.

Kill one another: The description of what follows, the three remaining horsemen, is what would happen following a nuclear war. We learn within this early period of the tribulation, ¼ of the earth’s population dies. The initial death will be from war as described by the Red horse. Today, nuclear war is more and more a possibility as nations continue to upgrade technology to defend themselves from potential assaults from their neighbors. India and Pakistan are a great example for these two nations by themselves have almost 1.2 billion people. Yet, both nations are increasing their nuclear and missile technology to outdo their neighbor. A nuclear war between these nations would not just affect those who die from missile strikes but food supplies and diseases, which would follow.

Great sword: The weapon used is called in the Greek a *mevga Megas* or great. The destruction humanity can inflict on humanity in the past pales in comparison to what can happen today. Nuclear weapons with greater fire power, held by smaller and smaller nations can turn the world into chaos. Historically, the great sword was a long two-handed weapon wielded by mighty warriors who received double the average soldier’s wage. With overwhelming strength, they hacked their way through enemy lines, leaving a gaping hole for the regular troops who followed. In just this way the anti-Christ will use supernatural power to tighten his grip on the world, enforcing his will upon the people of Earth. And remember, the Seal judgments are just the beginning of Daniel’s 70th week. The last half, called the Great Tribulation, is still to come and is significantly more deadly.



The second horseman is perhaps the most easily identifiable of the famed [Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse](#), since both of its symbols, the fiery **red color** and the great sword, are well known to represent war.

However, underlying this facile identification of the symbols are a few interesting details that add depth to them. The Greek word John uses for "red" is *purros* or *pyrros*, meaning "the color of fire" (compare our words "pyre," "pyromania," "pyrosis"). This is not the normal Greek word for red (*eruthros*), but a more specialized term that suggests fieriness or flickering reds, oranges, and yellows like a flame. It is the same word that John uses to describe the redness of the Dragon ([Satan](#)) in [Revelation 12:3](#) (the third and only other

occurrence is in a proper name, Sopater, (*Sopatros Purrou*), which is strangely not fully translated in **Acts 20:4**. This particular color intimates heat and ferocity like an out-of-control wildfire.

The Hebrew language does not have a similar, biblical term. However, the color red or scarlet in the Old Testament frequently symbolizes blood, whether the blood of sacrifice (**Leviticus 14:4, 6, 49-52**; see **Hebrews 9:19**) or the blood of violence (**II Kings 3:22-23**; **Isaiah 63:2-3**; **Nahum 2:3**; etc.).

Scarlet has two other interesting meanings: that of **wealth and luxury** (**II Samuel 1:24**; **Proverbs 31:21**; **Lamentations 4:5**; etc.; see **Matthew 27:28**; **Revelation 17:4**; **18:12, 16**) and of **sin** (**Isaiah 1:18**; see **Revelation 17:3**). One could make a case that all these meanings could apply to the second seal.

The horseman's "**great sword**" is a translation of *máchaira megálee*. Again, this is not the ordinary sword of war (*romfaia*) but a short sword or long knife like a dagger. Frequently, *máchaira* is the knife used to prepare a sacrifice or to slaughter an animal for food. It is also the sword worn by magistrates and executioners. That the red horseman's sword is "**great**" (*megálee*) means either that it is larger or longer than usual or that it is highly effective in doing its job. Surprisingly, *romfaia* appears in **Revelation 6:8**: "**And power was given to [the four horsemen] to kill with sword, with hunger, with death. . . .**" A "**great sword**," then, is the equivalent of a thoroughly effective instrument of death.

The sword is often a symbol of God's judgment.

David writes in **Psalm 7:12**, "**If [the wicked] does not turn back, He [God] will sharpen His sword.**" In **Isaiah 34:6, 8**, in the context of the Day of the Lord, God combines the sword of judgment with the idea of sacrifice and slaughter: "**The sword of the LORD is filled with blood, it is made overflowing with fatness, and with the blood of lambs and goats, with the fat of the kidneys of rams. For the LORD has a sacrifice in Bozrah, and a great slaughter in the land of Edom. . . . For it is the day of the LORD'S vengeance, the year of recompense for the cause of Zion.**"

Even to His own people, if they do not obey Him, God promises, "**I will bring a sword against you that will execute the vengeance of My covenant**" (**Leviticus 26:25**). Like this horseman, "**the sword of the LORD shall devour from one end of the land to the other end of the land; no flesh shall have peace**" (**Jeremiah 12:12**). Clearly, the purpose of the great sword given to the rider of the red horse is to inflict violent death on masses of people in divine judgment.

As if there never was any intent to obscure the meaning of this figure, John's description of the red horse says matter-of-factly, "**And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace**

from the earth, and that people should kill one another" (Revelation 6:4). This second seal plainly represents conflict, war, destruction, and bloody death. Of course, this parallels the second point in Jesus' Olivet Prophecy in **Matthew 24:6-7**: (NKJV) ***"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. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom."***

The wording implies an expected increase in conflicts due to the stresses of the time leading up to the end. In other words, amplified contention is a precursor of the end time.

It is interesting to note that the second seal is introduced by ***"the second living creature saying, 'Come and see'"*** (Revelation 6:3). Revelation 4:7 gives us the order of the living creatures as lion, calf, man, and eagle, so the living creature that introduces the seal of war is probably the calf.

Just as the first seal's introduction by the lion presages the white horseman's prime characteristic of ferocious pursuit of prey, so does the calf foretell the red horseman's main trait. The calf, young bull, or ox, as translations variously render it, is known for its staying power and strength (**Numbers 23:22; Psalm 144:14; Proverbs 14:4; Hosea 4:16**). An ox can pull a plow or wagon or turn a mill all day for days on end without complaint. Some have been known to work and work until they die from exhaustion. Rarely will one make its frustration or weariness known. A calf or ox will just keep going—a relentless, untiring worker.

We are to consider the red horse and his rider along the same lines. In this vein, they compose a picture of inevitable, unceasing, untiring, insatiable warfare. Perhaps we are to think of them in terms of a unicorn (wild ox), as God describes it in the book of Job (**Job 39:9-12**). A wild ox cannot be trusted to do its domesticated cousin's chores; he is just as likely to charge and gore anyone who tries to yoke him! Likewise, David cries out, ***"Deliver Me from the sword, . . . from the horns of the wild oxen!"*** (**Psalm 22:20-21**). Isaiah 34:7 uses the same imagery: ***"The wild oxen shall come down with them, and the young bulls with the mighty bulls; their land shall be soaked with blood, and their dust saturated with fatness."*** Though the ox can be a placid, indefatigable worker, a wild ox can be a gory terror!

The red horseman, with its fiery red horse, great sword, and relentless aggression, is a fearsome symbol of unremitting, intensifying, uncontrolled, horrific conflict. God intends this figure to instill terror in mankind in the **hope** that he will **repent** of his enmity and be saved from its destruction and death (**II Peter 3:9-13**). It is clear that the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse—the first four seals—parallel Jesus' prophecy in **Matthew 24:4-8**, which ends with the words, ***"All these are the beginning of sorrows."***

Our Savior is letting us know that deception, violence, scarcity, and disease are only preludes to the catastrophic events of the last days. We could paraphrase His remark as, "These calamities are par for the course under man's civilization—far worse is yet to come."

The progression of disasters—of false ideas leading to war, war to famine, famine to pestilence, pestilence to wild beasts—is vital to understanding the spiritual teaching underlying the Four Horsemen.

Through a kind of parable, Jesus is instructing us in the principle of cause and effect. If people believe the message of the father of [murder](#) (the devil) ([John 8:44](#)) rather than the Prince of [Peace](#) ([Isaiah 9:6](#)), they will eventually turn to murder and war to resolve their differences. Like the law of gravity, war causes shortages of food, producing malnutrition and opening the door to disease.

God is showing us that these sorrows trace their roots back to disobedience and rejection of Him. Mankind has built his civilization on a foundation of sand ([Matthew 7:24-27](#)), and it is no wonder that disasters ensue upon mankind with terrifying regularity. Because God is just, it cannot be otherwise. He has said, "*The wages of [sin](#) is death*" ([Romans 6:23](#)), and "*The soul who sins shall die*" ([Ezekiel 18:4](#)). In addition, He has given us two sets of blessings and cursings ([Leviticus 26](#) and [Deuteronomy 28](#)) to provide us frightening and vivid depictions of what happens when we disobey Him. The Four Horsemen are similar warnings or reminders that He is still on His throne, judging mankind for his sins.