

REVIVAL NEWS

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NOVEMBER 2021 **** NOVEMBER 2021 **** NOVEMBER 2021

THE RIDER ON THE WHITE HORSE

An exposé of Revelation 6:2

By Paul Galligan

In studying the Scripture, we must follow reliable principles of reading, understanding and comprehension so that we study that which is written and do not go beyond what is written. Some of these principles are:

- i. Accepting the Canon of Scripture, i.e., the sixty-six books of the Bible. May we suggest that one uses the most reliable translation of the original manuscripts of Scripture [the textus receptus – received text]. To this end we recommend the New King James Version and the Interlinear and translation work of Jay P Green. We also recommend Strong's Concordance with the best of Vines included.
- ii. In studying any word or phrase of Scripture, we compare Scripture with Scripture
- iii. We allow Scripture to interpret Scripture, not injecting our own ideas into the Scripture.
- iv. Teach and interpret Scripture in context. Every verse of Scripture always appears in a **passage** so that is the first context; every passage of Scripture is in a **chapter**; every chapter is in a **book**. Each book appears in a **Testament** and finally the complete context is the **whole Bible**.
- v. Ask your questions of Scripture and wait for Scriptural answers.

Preach the Gospel of the Kingdom

In introducing the exposé of **Revelation 6:2**, allow me to testify that God is speaking afresh to His church, about the preaching of the Gospel. Jesus said *“this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all nations, and then the end will come”* **Matthew 24:14**. Notice that it is the gospel of the kingdom which is to be preached.

This gospel is the good news of a new king and a great victory. The gospel of the kingdom affects nations. Jesus has given us *“Grace and apostleship for the obedience of the faith among all nations for His name”* **Romans 1:5**.

Setting the scene - Revelation 5:1-7

- v.1 - John was in the throne room and saw a scroll, sealed with seven seals
- v.2 – who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals
- v.3-4 – John wept because no one was worthy to open the scroll
- v.5 – the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seals

v.6 – when John looked to see the Lion, he saw a Lamb who had *“seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth”*. The seven horns represent authority and power to make war. Seven horns speak of total authority and power, and the fullness of the Holy Spirit is referred to here.

The first seal opened

In **Revelation 6:1**, John saw the Lamb open one of the seals, and a voice like thunder was heard saying *“Come and see”*.

“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”
Rev.6:2.

1. A WHITE HORSE

The first thing we note is the colour ‘white’. If we study the colour white in the Scriptures, we find that it is mentioned 18 times in the Book of Revelation, and every reference shows us that white is the colour of holiness and purity, and always refers to God, the angels or the saints, and never refers to Satan or things of darkness – obviously it cannot be dark and white at the same time.

Revelation 3:4 *“They shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy”*.

v.5 *“He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments”*.

Revelation 7:14 *“These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb”*.

[Other references in the book of Revelation to ‘white’: Rev.1:24, 2:17, 3:18, 4:4, 6:11, 7:9, 14:14, 15:6, 19:8, 19:11-14, 20:11].

Note the awesome reference to Jesus being transfigured in **Matthew 17:2** *“His clothes became as white as the light”*.

The colour gives us the nature of the horse: John saw a ‘white’ horse, a holy or pure horse!

2. THE “HORSE”

Horses often are linked to war and armies; the horse is symbolic of supernatural power and that power can be of God or a reference to demonic power.

Exodus 14:23 refers to *“all Pharaoh’s horses, his chariots, and his horsemen”*. Pharaoh is symbolic of Satan and his army of horsemen represent a demonic army, opposed to God and His people. **Exodus 15:1** speaks of the destruction of *“horse and its rider”*, thrown into the sea by God.

In **2 Kings 2:12** Elisha saw *“the chariot of Israel and its horsemen”*. Here the mighty power of God is manifest, appearing as a chariot with horsemen. This vision shows the enormous strength of God’s Spirit intervening in human affairs, bringing forth His divine will. These horses were of God: they represent the supernatural power of God breaking through into the earth realm.

In **Zechariah 6** there is reference to four horses and they are said to be *“four spirits of heaven, who go out from their station before the Lord of all the earth”*. In some mysterious

way they represent the Spirit of God, *“See, those who go toward the north country have given rest to My Spirit”* (v.8).

Again, in **Isaiah 63:13-14** the horse is referred to as being inextricably linked with *“the Spirit of YAHWEH”*. The verse says *“as a beast [a horse v.13] goes down into the valley, and the Spirit of YAHWEH causes him to rest, so lead Your people to make Yourself a glorious throne”*

So if ‘white’ refers to holiness and purity, and the ‘horse’ is referring to a spirit, our conclusion regarding the white horse is that the white horse refers to the Holy Spirit.

3. WHO IS SITTING ON THIS HORSE?

In **Revelation 6:2** we are not told who sat on the horse, but if we go to **Revelation 19:11-13** we find out who is sitting on the horse.

“Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war” Rev.19:11. Jesus is called Faithful and True, and Jesus is the only one who can judge and make war in righteousness.

“He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called the Word of God” v.13. In **John 1:1**, Jesus is referred to as the ‘Word’ and *“the Word was God”*. In **verse 14** we read *“And the Word became flesh”*.

The rider on the white horse is none other than the Word of God, who is Jesus. He is called Faithful and True, descriptive titles, but His name is called ‘the Word of God’.

So far we have discovered that the white horse is the Holy Spirit, and the rider of the white horse is the Word of God, that is, Jesus.

4. HE HAD A “BOW”

A “bow” is a weapon of war. In **2 Samuel 1:18**, David teaches the song of the Bow; it is in context of Saul and Jonathon perishing in the battle the day before.

The bow [SC Heb.#7918] figuratively means strength; bent with a purpose for shooting [to send forth arrows].

So what are the arrows? In **Psalms 45:5** – the arrows of Yahweh are in the heart of the King’s enemies; they are arrows of truth! Arrows of the word.

Hebrews 4:12 says that the word of God is *“sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit ... a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart”*. The word of God gets into our heart and it is with the heart that we believe unto righteousness (**Rom.10:10**).

The arrow of the Lord’s deliverance.

Elisha had commanded the young king to shoot an arrow out the window and then the prophet said, *“the arrow of YAHWEH’s deliverance and the arrow of deliverance from Syria” 2 Kings 13:17.*

In **Zechariah 9:13** God says *“For I have bent Judah, My bow, fitted the bow with Ephraim and raised up your sons O Zion”*. Then in **verse 14** God says, *“and His arrow will go forth like lightning”*

A quiver of sons

Psalm 127:4 Children can be YAHWEH's arrows, as we bring them up in the LORD. They can be 'shot forth'; sent out in the purpose of YAHWEH.

The rider has a bow to project the arrows of YAHWEH into the hearts of His enemies

5. A CROWN – he was given a crown

This is the Greek word '*stephanos*' – a garland of victory. This crown is for someone who wins the race, wins the victor's crown, overcoming, winning the fight. In **Revelation 6:2** the rider on the horse is given a '*stephanos*'. This is because of His great victory won through the cross and subsequent resurrection.

James promises that the overcomer will receive "*the crown of life*" **James 1:12** (also **Rev.2:10**).

Peter promises that elders who serve well will receive "*the crown of glory that does not fade away*" **1Peter 5:4**.

We are speaking of an individual crown where the person has overcome and won the race. In **Revelation 3:18** Jesus exhorts us to "*hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown*".

Let us compare the crown that Jesus, the rider, was given in **Revelation 6:2**, with the many crowns "*on His head*" in **Revelation 19:12**. The 'many crowns' is a different Greek word to the crown Jesus received in **Revelation 6:2**. This is the Greek word '*diadema*', a crown of a king. It is a symbol of kingly or imperial power.

Jesus appears in Rev.6:2 – with a victor's crown – His victory in becoming a man, being perfected, resurrected and going forth "*conquering and to conquer*" with the ability and authority to conquer nations with the "gospel of the kingdom"

Now He appears in **Rev.19:12** with many crowns, having conquered nations, carrying the crowns of the kings He has conquered.

The rider of the white horse was given a crown and He went forth and conquered many nations; He wore their crowns as the King of kings.

One could say that between **Revelation 6:2** and **Revelation 19:12**, are 2000 years of church history: the Gospel age.

6. CONQUERING AND TO CONQUER

Wherever Jesus goes He is conquering. Up until the time of the end He will be doing this. Jesus received all the authority after His resurrection (**Matthew 28:18**), and He said He would be with us "*until the end of the age*". He authorised the disciples to go forth conquering nations with the gospel and once again in our age [time] Jesus is authorising us to forth to conquer with the gospel. We are hearing exciting reports of the gospel being preached, of people coming to faith and being baptised and being filled with the Holy Spirit. We are hearing of extensive ministry from house to house, from village to village, and of a huge gathering of ministers [25,000] in Nigeria, praying in the Spirit together.

In **Luke 10:17** the disciples reported "*even the demons are subject to us in Your name*". Then in **verse 19** Jesus increases their authority saying "*I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you*".

We are called to be a witnessing church

In **Revelation 11:3-8** we have the description of the two witnesses. Many people have various and differing ideas about this passage, seeking to identify the two witnesses.

The two witnesses are said to be *“the two olive trees and the two lampstands”*. For more understanding of the ‘two olive trees’ go to **Zechariah 4:2-3**. There are two olive trees and two lampstands. Jesus tells us in **Revelation 1:20** that *“the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches”*. ‘Seven churches’ speaks of the complete, mature and perfected church. Two lampstands can literally be two churches, but there is only one church. Two is the number of witness, so this can be seen as a reference to the ‘witnessing church’ of the last days, given great power and authority to declare the mystery of God’s will, and no one and nothing can stop them fulfilling their ministry (**Rev.11:7**).

We know the authority of Jesus Christ, the authority of faith. The gospel is war; it is a message of victory over all of God’s enemies. It begins with preaching! There is a fresh season upon us; there is victory through the gospel of the kingdom.

THE MASTER PLAN

Jesus has all authority

He was raised up through *“the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,*

far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.

And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all” Ephesians 1:19b-23.

The church is being built

“On the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the spirit” Eph.2:19-22.

Jesus Himself *“gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers for the equipping [perfecting] of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ”* Eph.4:11-13.

The enemy is exposed

“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places” Eph.6:12.

The church is to deal with the enemy

Paul was given grace to preach *“among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to make all to see what is the fellowship of the mystery which from the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ*

to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord” Eph.3:8-11.

AMEN!

I wish to acknowledge Kevin J. Conner [late], for his excellent work “The Book of Revelation (an exposition)”, from which I have received understanding. I was privileged to meet Kevin in 1978 and he taught me how to study the word with Strong’s Concordance and Vines Expository Dictionary.