

UNRAVELLING THE BOOK OF REVELATION | SESSION 24

THE FIRST SEAL

(REVELATION 6:1-2)



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“Come and see!” was the thunderous invitation of one of the four living creatures.

This invitation was **repeated four times in Revelation 6**, once for each of the first four seals. God is emphasizing the importance of **knowing the why and the what, the reasons and the intricacies behind the first four seals, and to develop clarity concerning what is going to happen**. “*Come*” is an invitation to draw near to His heart **so as to understand the why behind all the happenings**. Because it is not by our own wisdom, but **only** by the revelation of the Lord that we can truly understand. “**See**” is an invitation to **see clearly, to develop clarity concerning what is going to happen and when the events will happen**.



Revelation 6 – 18 is the **End-Time plan of God to transit the world from this age to the Age-to-come**. And it starts off with the first seal, which is **the man on the white horse**. The first seal is **the rising up of the Antichrist as the most powerful, prominent and influential world leader**. Prior to that, he was largely unnoticed – that is why he was also known as the *“little horn”* (Dan. 7:8).

Some people interpret the man on the white horse in Revelation 6:2 to be Jesus. **It cannot be Jesus because Jesus is the one who opens the first seal (Rev. 6:1)**. If He is the one who opens the seal, it does not make sense that He releases Himself from it.



If you compare this man on the white horse to Jesus in Revelation 19:11-16, **this man carries a bow, but Jesus in Revelation 19 uses a sword.**

Another difference is that **this man in Revelation 6 has only one crown, whereas Jesus has many crowns on His head (Rev. 19:12).** Lastly, this man comes at the **beginning of the Great Tribulation, whereas Jesus' Second Coming happens at the end of the Great Tribulation.**

Revelation 6:2 gives us **five descriptions of the Antichrist:**

I. HORSE – HE IS RIDING ON A HORSE

Horse represents the military might and power of the Antichrist. He will have the most powerful army in the world and they will be swift, strong and will dominate the world.

II. WHITE – WHITE HORSE

Why is the Antichrist riding on a white horse? This is because he is the counterfeit Messiah and he will appear to be good and righteous to many, especially in the initial stage.

III. A CROWN IS GIVEN TO HIM

Authority is given to the Antichrist. His authority comes from three sources.

God is the primary source. He gave the Antichrist authority for 3 ½ years to prevail over the saints (Dan. 7:21-25; Rev. 13:5,7). The other sources of the Antichrist's authority and power are Satan and man (Rev. 13:2-4).

IV. HE HAD A BOW

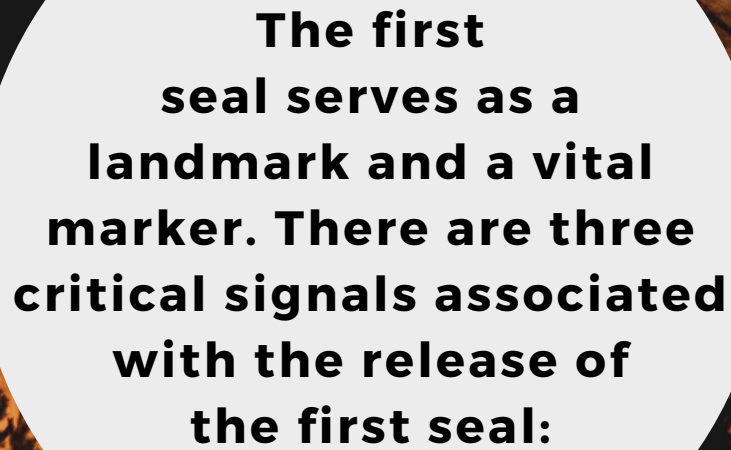
The Antichrist carries an **arrowless bow** because he uses **deceptive diplomacy initially** to bring about **conquest and victories without bloodshed**. The arrowless bow is like a threat of war without actual war breaking out.

V. HE WENT OUT CONQUERING AND TO CONQUER

The Antichrist will have a string of successful conquests, which is unprecedented in human history.

Initially the conquests will be achieved through cunning political manoeuvring; many nations will form alliances and pledge allegiance to him. But this will soon escalate to military aggression, resulting in wars all over the world (second seal). This will in turn lead on to devastating economic crisis and worldwide famine (third seal).

The second half of the phrase, which is "*He went out to conquer*", reveals that the Antichrist has a definitive action plan to conquer the world.



**The first
seal serves as a
landmark and a vital
marker. There are three
critical signals associated
with the release of
the first seal:**

I. IT WILL SIGNAL THE BEGINNING OF THE GREAT TRIBULATION

(MATT. 24:15-21; DAN. 9:27; DAN. 12:1,7; REV. 6:2)

When we see the emergence of the Antichrist as the prominent and powerful world leader, we know that **human history has 3 ½ years left and the Great Tribulation is about to begin.** Hence this is a crucial marker that the Church needs to take note of.

A wide-angle photograph of St. Stephen's Basilica in Budapest, Hungary, taken from across the Danube River. The basilica's large red-tiled dome and multiple spires are prominent against a cloudy sky at dusk or dawn. The city's buildings and the river are visible in the foreground and background.


II. IT WILL SIGNAL THE RISE OF THE ANTICHRIST AS THE PROMINENT LEADER ON THE WORLD STAGE

The Antichrist will suddenly arise onto the world stage as the influential political leader who will have control over four spheres – political, military, religious and economic.

The Bible uses the term “*little horn*” to describe the Antichrist because though he was already around before that, no one took him seriously until the final 3 ½ years (Dan. 7:8).


He will be powerful, capable and charismatic, and he will seem to have an answer to all the issues that the world is facing, e.g., economic crises, political crises, pandemics, climate change, etc.

There will be two groups of people in the Church, one group with understanding, and the other without (1 Thes. 5:3-5). The latter will be deceived by the Antichrist. They will celebrate his rise and the false “peace and safety” he brings forth through the signing of the peace treaty with Israel and the surrounding nations.



III. IT WILL SIGNAL THE SHIFT IN PRAYER FOCUS FOR THE END-TIME CHURCH

The arising of the Antichrist will be a **major turning point**. There will be a major shift in the prayer focus of the Church and the way we pray will be different. We will be partnering with the Lord to release the seal, trumpet and bowl judgments upon the Antichrist and his empire.



We mentioned earlier that God is the primary source of authority for the Antichrist.

WHY DID GOD RAISE UP THE ANTICHRIST?

God can use anyone He wants but we need to understand His heart. We see Biblical precedents whereby God raises up evil kings to discipline His people. One example is King Nebuchadnezzar (Joel 2:1-11; Hab. 1).

Three reasons why God raises up the Antichrist:



1 TO REFINE AND PURIFY HIS PEOPLE (DAN. 11:36)

2 TO CAUSE ISRAEL TO TURN BACK TO YESHUA

Zechariah 13:8-9 tells us that the Antichrist will severely persecute the Jewish people, killing two-thirds of the Jewish people around the world. The remaining one-third will have their backs against the wall. Their eyes will be divinely opened to see that Yeshua is truly their Messiah and Deliverer, and they will call on His name and they will be saved!

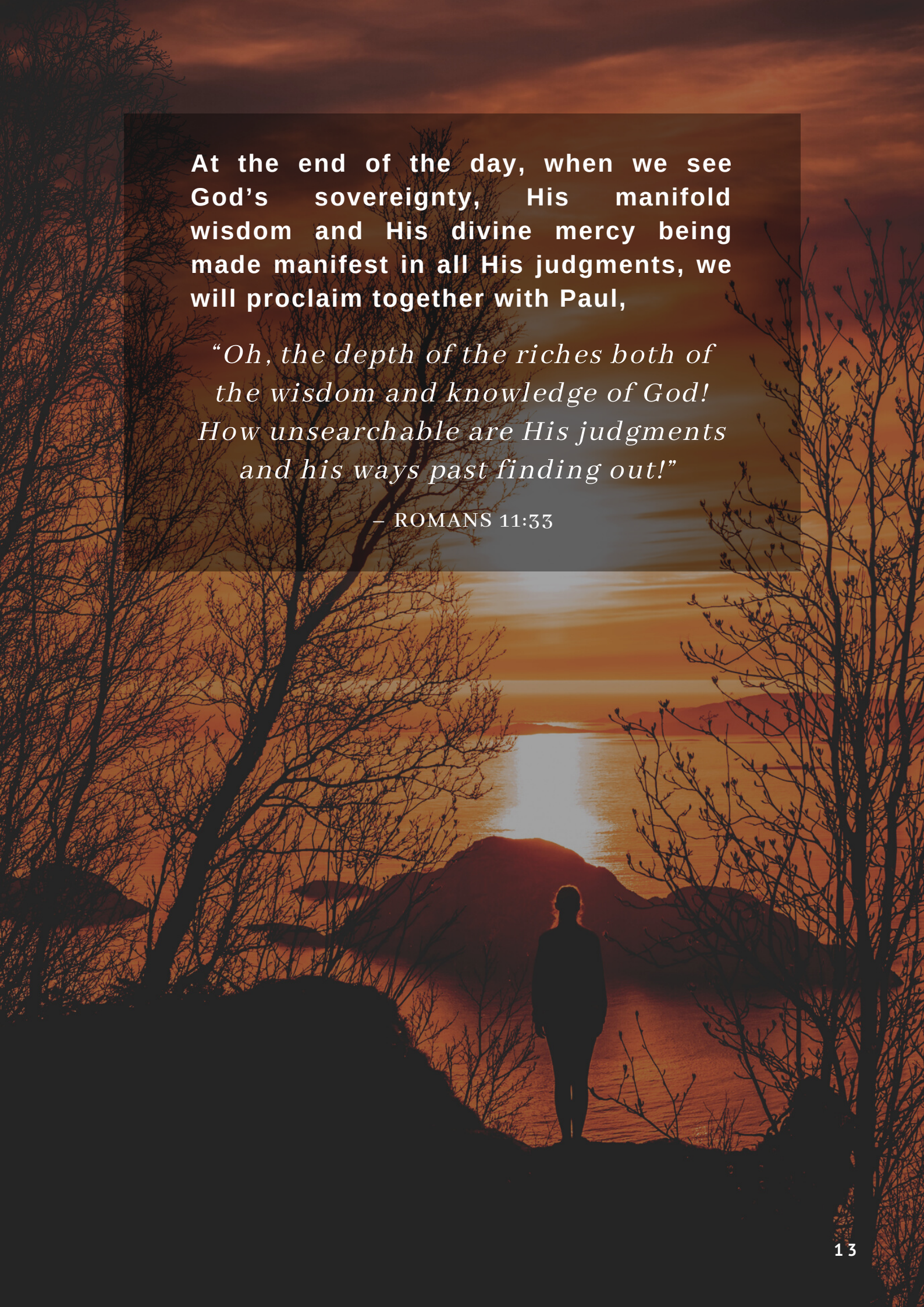
3 TO JUDGE THE HARLOT-BABYLON

There are two major evil powers raised up by God at the End of the Age to separate the sheep from the goats, the wheat from the tares.

The Harlot-Babylon is a **powerful economic and religious entity** raised up in the first 3 ½ years of the final seven years. She will seduce and deceive many believers to compromise and to commit spiritual fornication with her (Rev. 17:2). Those who do not align with her will be persecuted (Rev. 17:6).

In the final 3 ½ years, the Antichrist will **totally destroy the Harlot-Babylon** (Rev. 17:16-17). He will usurp the religious system and the economic network established by the harlot and turn it into the Mark-of-the-Beast economic system.

The first four seals are released by Jesus primarily to judge the Harlot and the nations who are aligned with her, through the hand of the Antichrist. Of course, at the end of the Great Tribulation, the Antichrist himself will be judged. He will be thrown into the lake of fire!

A person stands on a dark, silhouetted hill in the foreground, looking out over a vast landscape. In the middle ground, a calm body of water reflects the warm, golden light of a setting or rising sun. The background features rolling hills and mountains under a sky filled with soft, orange and yellow clouds. Bare tree branches frame the scene on both sides, adding a sense of depth and tranquility. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

At the end of the day, when we see
God's sovereignty, His manifold
wisdom and His divine mercy being
made manifest in all His judgments, we
will proclaim together with Paul,

*"Oh, the depth of the riches both of
the wisdom and knowledge of God!
How unsearchable are His judgments
and his ways past finding out!"*

— ROMANS 11:33



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