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The First Seal: A White Horse

6: 1-2

The first seal: a white horse DIG: What are the similarities between the true Trinity and the counterfeit trinity? Who will energize the antichrist? What role does the antichrist play in the Great Tribulation? What offer will he accept that Christ rejected?

REFLECT: God did not appoint us to suffer wrath (First Thessalonians 5:9). How can you escape the wrath brought on by the antichrist during the Great Tribulation? Where is the universal Church at that time?

Picture **John** somewhere above Patmos, caught up in **his** vision to the very throne of **YHVH**. **The Lamb** is about to open **God's** scroll. **The four living creatures**, who carry out **Ha'Shem's** judgment, bow in silence. The twenty-four elders tremble in anticipation. The choir of ten thousand times ten thousand angels stops their worship and stands on tiptoe waiting to see what will happen next. Then **John**, as an eyewitness, reports: **I watched as the Lamb opened the first of the seven seals.**

What should happen next then is obvious. A page of writing should appear peeled back from the leather scroll and **Yochanan, the four living creatures** and the twenty-four elders should all crowd around to read that page. But this is no ordinary book! This is an illustrated, **God**-inspired volume whose pictures leap full-blown from the pages and thunder before them in full view.

Apparently, there is a brief moment between that time when **the Lamb** breaks open the seal and the time when the **four** horsemen of the Apocalypse can ride. In that instant they await **YHVH's** command like racehorses poised in the gate. The **four** horsemen cannot ride on their own command because of **God's** sovereign control; they pause for **ADONAI's** order to begin their journey. In that pause, as the riders await **the LORD's** command to ride, we learn several great lessons about these judgments.¹⁹³



Then I heard one of the four living creatures say in a voice like thunder to the first rider, "Come!" I looked, and there before me was a white horse! It's rider held a bow. And he was given a crown. And he rode out as a conqueror bent on conquest.

John introduces a man holding a **bow**, but **he** doesn't have arrows because **he** will appear to be a man of peace. After signing the seven-year covenant with Isra'el, the world will be clamoring for a **ruler** who can put an end to nuclear war, economic and environmental problems. **He** will be wearing a **crown as a conqueror bent on conquest**, but **his crown** will not be earned, **God** will give it to **him** for **His** purposes. It will be a *stephanos*, or the **crown** of victory. It is not the *diadem*, or the **crown** of royalty worn by **Christ** when **He** returns (**14:14, 19:12a**). After a short interlude of peace, **he** will abandon **his** peace program in an effort to dominate the world. **His** use of force to attain **his** goal will be a disaster, resulting in the persecution and death of all who oppose **him**. The result will be that the earth will have a charismatic leader negotiating counterfeit peace treaties.¹⁹⁴ **This first horseman is the antichrist, and He will play a major role in the Great Tribulation by bringing on war, famine and death.**

To fully understand **the antichrist**, **he** needs to be viewed in the context of the **counterfeit trinity**. When **Christ** returns **He** will be riding a **white horse (19:11)**, and this **counterfeit Christ** is seen here riding a **white horse**. An unholy trinity will be set up during the Great Tribulation (**13:1-17**). **Satan** will play the role of the **counterfeit Father**. Just as **the true Father** will give all **His** authority to **Christ**, **the Adversary** will give all **his** authority to **the antichrist**. The false prophet will also **counterfeit** the ministry of **the Holy Spirit**. Just as **the Ruach ha-Kodesh** calls mankind to worship **Messiah**, the false prophet will call mankind to worship **the antichrist**.

The antichrist has been given several names in the Bible. These names describe different aspects of **his** character. When taken altogether these names portray **him** as the essence of evil in the human realm, just as **Satan** is the essence of evil in the angelic realm. These are the different names of **the antichrist**:

The Seed of Satan (Genesis 3:15 KJV)

The Little Horn (Dani'el 7:8)

The King of Fierce Countenance (Dani'el 8:23 KJV)

The Ruler Who Will Come (Dani'el 9:26)

The Desolator (Dani'el 9:27 KJV)

The Willful King (Dani'el 11:36)

The Man of Sin (Second Thessalonians 2:3 KJV)

The Man Doomed to Destruction (Second Thessalonians 2:3)

The Lawless One (Second Thessalonians 2:8)

The Antichrist (First John 2:22)

The Beast (Revelation 11:7)

Although **the antichrist** may not be **his** most common name in the Bible, it is fitting. It describes **his** true intent, which is to oppose **Christ**. These various names merely describe the different aspects of **his** character that **he** uses in **his** opposition to **Messiah**. But in the end **he** is still a **counterfeit**. For just as **Christ** has a number of different names, titles and descriptions, so does **the antichrist**.

The true Son, Jesus Christ, had both a natural and a supernatural origin as a result of the virgin birth; the **counterfeit son, antichrist**, will have a natural origin and a **counterfeit** supernatural birth imitating a virgin birth. **Satan** cannot create life out of nothing. Only **YHVH** can create, only **the Eternal One** can call into existence that which did not exist. But **the antichrist** will deceive the nations into believing that **he**, like **Christ**, is born of a virgin. **Yeshua** is fully **God** and fully man, the true **God-man**; however, **the antichrist** will be presented to the world as a **counterfeit** god-man. The time is coming when **the lawless**

one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders and in every sort of evil that deceives those who will be perishing (Second Thessalonians 2:9-10). The Greek word translated **work** is *energeo*, which means *to energize*. Thus, **the Adversary himself** will energize the **antichrist** during the Great Tribulation.

In the final analysis, **the counterfeit son** will accept what **the true Son** rejected. **Satan** offered **the Messiah** all the kingdoms of the world if **the Son of God** would worship **him**. But **Yeshua** rejected the offer, saying only **ADONAI** should be worshiped (see my commentary on **The Life of Christ B1 - Jesus is Tempted in the Wilderness**). The same offer will be made to the **counterfeit son**, who will accept. This acceptance will mark the rise to political and religious control of the world (**Dani'el 11:38-39** and **Revelation 13:2**). **His rise to power is described in two passages.**

The first passage is Dani'el 8:23-25: There it tells us that **the king of fierce countenance (KJV)**, or the **antichrist**, will have the understanding of **dark sentences (KJV)**. This means that **he** will have the same supernatural abilities to **explain riddles and solve difficult problems** that **Dani'el** had in **Dani'el 5:12**. While **Dani'el's** source of **power** was **God**, the source of the **antichrist's power** will be **Satan**. **The antichrist** will have the power of the occult behind **him**. **He will become very strong, but not by his own power. Satan will energize him. He will cause deceit to prosper, and he will consider himself superior** to all others. This will lead **him** to proclaim **himself to be God** by setting an image of **himself** in the Most Holy Place in the Tribulation Temple (**Second Thessalonians 2:3-4; Revelation 13:3-9**). **He** will oppose **the Prince of princes**, or **Christ**, so **he** is surely **the antichrist**.

The second passage in Dani'el 11:36-39: Here **Dani'el** describes **the antichrist** as **the king who will do as he pleases**, characterized by self-exaltation above all men, even above **God Himself**. **Instead, he will honor a god of fortresses, or Satan. His great god** will be military might. **He** will believe that nothing can stand in **his** way because **he** will be under the total control of **Satan**. Unrestrained, because **the Holy Spirit** will lift **His** restraining power, **he** will appear to be invincible. Those who submit to **his** authority and confess **him** as **god** will be given positions of power and authority in **his** kingdom. Thus, **the antichrist** will be **Satan-controlled** and **Satan-energized**. Once **he** signs the seven year covenant with Isra'el there will be a brief period of peace as the world celebrates its new **hero**. But his ultimate goal is not peace. Just as Hitler would talk of peace while preparing for war, **the rider on the white horse** will soon set out to **conquer** the world.

Dear Almighty and Holy **Father**, We praise and worship **You**. Those who love **You** do not need to fear- neither the antichrist nor death. **You** are a strong tower. **ADONAI is a stronghold for the oppressed, a high tower in times of trouble (Psalms 9:10)**. It is such a comfort to know that **Your children (John 1:12, 3: 3; Romans 10:8-9)** can always run to **You** for protection. **The Name of ADONAI is a strong tower. The righteous one runs into it and is set safely up high. Proverbs 18:10)**. Death is already defeated and conquered by **Your** resurrection. **Messiah died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures (First Corinthians 15:4)**. That is great news for **His children (John 1:12.3:3; Roman 10:9-10)**. **Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed - in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last shofar. For the shofar will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we will be changed. . . "Death is swallowed up in victory" (First Corinthians 15:51-52, 54c)**. We love **You** and are at peace in **Your** care. In the holy name of **Your Son** and the power of **His** resurrection. Amen