

THE REVEALING OF THE ANTICHRIST

Part 4 The Second Coming of Jesus Christ

The Second Coming of Jesus Christ and the End of the World, **can be rather confusing.**

There are many different events, in many different books of the Bible, by several different authors.

It can do your head in.

SLIDE *There's the prophet Daniel / Jesus in Matthew 24 / Paul in the books of Thessalonians / John in The Book of Revelation.*

HOW CAN WE MAKE SENSE OF ALL THESE THINGS?

HOW DO WE PIECE THESE THINGS TOGETHER INTO SOME SEMBLANCE OF ORDER?

IS THERE SOME KEY TO BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND THEM?

IS THERE A TIMELINE OF EVENTS?

THE FIRST THING IS: WE NEED TO MAKE CLEAR WHAT WE ARE TALKING ABOUT.

As we have previously mentioned: there is a distinction between

'THE COMING OF JESUS' AND 'THE DAY OF THE LORD'.

THEY MEAN TWO DIFFERENT THINGS.

'THE COMING OF JESUS'

Most of the time this refers to Jesus coming back for us His Saints to take us away to be with Him forever (1 Thessalonians 4:15-17)

THIS IS A VERY POSITIVE EVENT FOR US.

It involves the instant and miraculous transformation of our bodies and souls and our being caught up into the air to be with Jesus forever.

HOWEVER ...

'THE DAY OF THE LORD' INVOLVES MANY EVENTS ... mostly all negative ... And it culminates at The Return of Jesus to The Earth where He will sit upon His throne and judge the Living and The Dead (Matthew 25:32)

NB: The prophet Daniel / Jesus in Matthew 24 / Paul in the 2 Thessalonians / John in The Book of Revelation are mainly speaking about 'THE DAY OF THE LORD'

SO 'THE DAY OF THE LORD' is a comprehensive term like an umbrella that covers a period of time where many destructive events occur.

AS WELL AS 4 GLORIOUS EVENTS FOR BELIEVERS.

As we've said, this time culminates at **'THE DAY OF JUDGEMENT'** WHEN JESUS RETURNS TO THE EARTH ...

BUT IT'S IMPORTANT TO KNOW **WHEN THIS TIME COMMENCES**

SLIDE IT COMMENCES AT THE REVELATION OF THE ANTICHRIST

LOOK AT WHAT PAUL WROTE TO THE THESSALONIANS ...

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 **SLIDES x 2**

*Let no one deceive you by any means; for **that Day** will not come unless the falling away [*apostasias* = apostasy – defection from the truth] comes first and **the man of sin** [*lawlessness – anomias*] is revealed, the son of perdition [*destruction*: same term Jesus used for Judas in John 17:12] ⁴who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.*

This is also the case in **The Book of Revelation Chapter 6.**

There we see THE OPENING OF THE FIRST SEAL AT THE START OF THE DAY OF THE LORD and the first seal reveals THE FIRST OF 4 RIDERS OF 4 HORSES (commonly known as 'The four Riders of The Apocalypse').

ALL FOUR OF THESE RIDERS UNLEASH DESTRUCTIVE EVENTS ON THE EARTH.

REVELATION 6:1-2 Berean Study Bible **SLIDES x 2**

*Then I watched as the [little] Lamb opened one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures say in a thunderous voice, "Come!" ² So I looked and saw a white horse, and its rider held a bow. And he was given a crown [garland] and he rode out to overcome [*nike: subdue*] and conquer [*nike*].*

Chris Lambe Version: To keep on conquering till he had subdued all Under him.

Many people believe that this rider of a white horse is Jesus as He is described in Revelation 19:11.

BUT THAT CANNOT BE ... BECAUSE –

1. Each of the 4 horses and riders have a sinister nature and purpose
2. He goes out **to subdue and take control of mankind**. Jesus already has all authority in heaven and on earth and never forces anyone to come under His control.
3. In Our Text (2 Thessalonians 2:4) he is called, The son of destruction and this is what this rider is ... a son of destruction.

THIS IS THE ANTICHRIST and in line with our text (2 Thessalonians 2:3) **He is the first seal of disaster to be released**

- **WHY A WHITE HORSE?** Because initially He appears to be wholesome and righteous.
**‘THE DEVIL APPEARS AS AN ANGEL OF LIGHT.
AND THE ANTICHRIST IS THE COUNTERFEIT SAVIOUR – MESSIAH.**
- **WHAT DOES THE BOW & ARROW REPRESENT?**

Jeremiah 9:8 Berean Study Bible **SLIDE**

Their tongues are deadly arrows; they speak deception. With his mouth a man speaks peace to his neighbour, but in his heart he sets a trap for him.

THE ANTICHRIST’S WEAPON TO TO CONROL & SUBDUE THE NATIONS UNDER HIM IS THE SPEAKING OF LIES AND DECEPTION.

THIS ANTICHRIST SPEAKS GREAT WORDS – HE IS A GREAT ORATOR ... AN EFFECTIVE POLITICAL CAMPAIGNER ... BUT A PROFOUND LIAR LYING.

Revelation 13:5 **SLIDE**

And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months.

AN ENVIRONMENT OF DECEPTION

2 Thessalonians 2:3 **SLIDE**

Let no one deceive you by any means; for **that Day will not come unless the falling away [*apostasia* = apostasy – defection from the truth] comes first and **the man of sin is revealed**, the son of perdition.**

Jesus spoke the same words when referring to The End of Days

Matthew 24:4-5 Berean Study Bible **SLIDE**

*Jesus answered, “**See to it that no one deceives you.** ⁵For many will come in My name, claiming, ‘I am the Christ’ **and will deceive many.**”*

This Atmosphere of Deception is the perfect setting for the antichrist to be revealed.

He will slip into it as naturally as *a duck takes to water.*

**THE WORLD – THOSE WHO HAVE REJECTED THE GOSPEL OF THE GRACE OF GOD – WILL BE PRIMED, READY & NEEDY ...
HE WILL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE NEEDY.**

Counsellors say that when a person is going through the pain of a divorce or separation, they are most vulnerable to naively fall for anyone who comes along and shows them love and kindness ...

2 Thessalonians 2:9-10 New King James **SLIDE**

*The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and **lying wonders** ¹⁰ and with all unrighteous **deception** among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.*

2 Thessalonians 2:11-13 Berean Study Bible **SLIDE**

*¹¹For this reason **God will send them a powerful delusion so that they believe the lie,** ¹²in order that judgment may come upon all who have disbelieved the truth and delighted in wickedness.¹³But we should always thank God for you, brothers who are loved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning to be saved by the sanctification [separation] of the Spirit and by faith in the truth.*

THERE IS ALREADY GROWING A MORE ACCUTE SEPARATION OF THE CHURCH FROM THE WORLD & RELIGIOUS ERROR

The church has become worldly and the world has become churchy (Jim Hurn Faith Bible College 1978)

E.g. The Emergent Church – making the church look like the world to attract the world to the church. Many following this idea however, have forgotten to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

THE SECOND BEAST

Revelation 13:11-18 English Standard Version **SLIDE**

Then I saw another beast rising out of the earth. It had two horns like a lamb and it spoke like a dragon. ¹² *It exercises all the authority of the first beast in its presence and makes the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose mortal wound was healed.* ¹³ *It performs great signs, even making fire come down from heaven to earth in front of people,* ¹⁴ *and by the signs that it is allowed to work in the presence of The Beast it deceives those who dwell on earth, telling them to make an image for the beast that was wounded by the sword and yet lived.* ¹⁵ *And it was allowed to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast might even speak and might cause those who would not worship the image of the beast to be slain.* ¹⁶ *Also it causes all, both small and great, both rich and poor, both free and slave, to be marked on the right hand or the forehead,* ¹⁷ *so that no one can buy or sell unless he has the mark, that is, the name of the beast or the number of its name.* ¹⁸ *This calls for wisdom: let the one who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man, and his number is 666.*

**THERE WILL BE AN ARMY OF FALSE PROPHETS
NOT ONLY IN THE CHURCH ... BUT THE NEWS MEDIA
FALSE LEADERS ... FALSE PROPHETS SAYING THE SAME THING**

1 Timothy 4:1 Berean Study Bible

Now the Spirit expressly states that in later times some will abandon the faith to follow deceitful spirits and the teachings of demons.

2 Timothy 3:13 **SLIDE**

... Evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.

2 Timothy 4:3 Berean Study Bible

For the time will come when men will not tolerate sound doctrine, but with itching ears they will gather around themselves teachers to suit their own desires.

**THERE WILL BE AN AMALGAMATION OF ECONOMY, RELIGION,
POLITICS AND LEADERSHIP**

**THE False prophet, THE SECOND BEAST, will be a powerful
religious figure who will create ONE WORLD RELIGION AS THE
ANTICHRIST CREATES A NEW WORLD ORDER**

IN GOD'S TIME ONLY

**IN GOD'S TIME ...
FOR GOD'S PURPOSE**

GOD WILL USE THE ANTICHRIST FOR HIS PURPOSES

2 Thessalonians 2:6-8 **SLIDE**

*And now you know what is holding him [Anti-Christ] back so that **he may be revealed at the proper time.** ⁷ For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but **the one who now holds it back** will continue to do so till **he [The Holy Spirit] is taken out of the way.** ⁸ And **then the lawless one will be revealed**, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendour of his coming.*

NB: The Holy Spirit is taken 'Out of The Way' not 'Taken Away' from the earth as has been taught.

This means He stands to one side and allows God's purpose to be fulfilled.

The Evil in this world has been accumulating over the centuries as **God in His patience has HELD BACK HIS JUDGEMENT ... PATIENTLY ENDURING the horror of evil ...** waiting for all people to turn to His Son Jesus, believe ... AND BE SAVED.

BUT THE TIME IS COMING WHEN GOD WILL SAY, 'ENOUGH IS ENOUGH' LIKE HE DID WITH SODOM & GOMORRAH ... LIKE HE DID AT THE TIME OF NOAH'S FLOOD ...

AND THE DAY OF THE LORD WILL BEGIN WITH ALL ITS MANY DISASTERS ... WARNING PEOPLE THAT THE END IS NEAR!

THEN JESUS WILL RETURN TO THAT FINAL JUDGEMENT SEAT WHERE JUDGEMENT WILL BE PRONOUNCED FOR EVERY 'THOUGHT, WORD & DEED' OF ALL THE LIVING & THE DEAD, UNLESS YOU ARE A BORN-AGAIN BELIEVER AND FOUND IN 'THE BOOK OF LIFE'.

TO BE WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF LIFE AT THE JUDGEMENT SEAT, CANCELS OUT EVERY WRONG THOUGHT, WORD & DEED' YOU EVERY HAD, SAID & DID ... ALL PAID FOR BY THE PRECIOUS BLOOD OF JESUS ...

Furthermore ... being born again of His Spirit will qualify you to be taken out of the way from all the great catastrophes that are coming to this world JUST BEFORE THE FINAL JUDGEMENT ...

1 Thessalonians 5:2-3 & 9 Berean Study Bible **SLIDE**

*For **you** are fully aware that **the Day of the Lord** will come like a thief in the night. ³While **people** are saying, "Peace and security," destruction will come upon **them** suddenly, like labour pains on a pregnant woman, and **they** will not escape.*

*⁹For God has not appointed **us** to suffer wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

AND THAT WILL TAKE PLACE WHEN WE ARE TAKEN AWAY TO BE WITH JESUS IN THE AIR ...

Revelation 3:10 Berean Literal Bible **SLIDE**

*Because you have kept the word of My patient endurance, **I also will keep you out of the hour of the trial** being about to come upon the whole inhabited world, to try those dwelling upon the earth.*

WILL I BE FOUND WORTHY TO ESCAPE?

In the 1970s Larry Norman sang, 'YOU'VE BEEN LEFT BEHIND'. It had the phrase, 'I wish we'd all been ready' ...

Friends the one thing that will make you ready to be 'Caught Up' with Jesus and miss His outpouring of wrath will be Your Born-Again nature. No works you do can make you good enough ... only His work in you ...

WHEN WE WERE BORN-AGAIN WE RECEIVED A NEW NATURE ... THE NATURE OF CHRIST.

THAT NATURE IS THE ONLY THING THAT IS WORTHY OF BEING 'CAUGHT UP'.