

The Voice of Truth # 488

The Opening of the First Seal

We come now to the study of the sixth chapter of Revelation when Christ, as the Lamb of the tribe of Judah and the Lamb that was slain, begins to open or break the seals of the seven sealed book. This begins the time of Jacob's trouble or the great tribulation period.

Let me call your attention in the first place to this fact, time is divided into different dispensations, or ages. First, there is the age of innocence, which dates from the creation of Adam to his expulsion from the Garden of Eden. Then second, is the dispensation of conscience, which covers a period of time from the fall of Adam to the Flood. Third, there is the dispensation of government, which dates from the flood to the building of the Tower of Babel. Fourth, there is the dispensation of the patriarchs, which cover a period of time from the call of Abraham to the call of Moses. Fifth, there is the age of law, which extends from Moses to the birth of Christ. Sixth, from the crucifixion of Christ to the rapture of the Church is known as the Church Age. Seventh, from the rapture of the Church to Christ's coming with his saints to set up his kingdom on earth is the Tribulation Period. Now, that's the period we're going to study between the 6th and the 19th chapter of Revelation. Eighth, from the coming of Christ to set up his kingdom on earth, to the resurrection of the wicked dead is known as the Kingdom Age.

Through all these dispensations, all sinners who are saved, are saved by grace and grace alone. God has had only one way to save lost sinners, and that is by and through the Lord Jesus Christ, crucified, buried, risen and exalted. Each of these dispensations ends in the failure of man and the fall of the judgment of God upon sinful and rebellious man. We also notice that at the close of each of these periods of time, the God of heaven comes down. When Adam sinned, God came down and expelled Adam from the garden. When the age of conscience ended, God came down and destroyed the earth with a flood. At the close of the age of government, God came down, confused the language, and scattered the people.

At the close of the age of the patriarchs, we find the Jews in Egypt and Joseph in a coffin, and God comes down to visit judgment on Egypt and deliver his people, the Jews, from Egyptian bondage. At the close of the age of law, again God comes down, Christ is born, and judgment falls on the Jew, and the age of the church begins. We are now nearing the end of the church age, when God will come down and the rapture of the church will take place. Then will follow the tribulation period when judgment will be poured out upon the world that has rejected the Son of God, and the earthly reign of Christ will be ushered in. Then at the close of this age, fire will be rained from heaven and destroy those who rebel against Christ, and Satan will be cast into the lake of fire with all his angels and demon spirits. Man has failed under every condition. He is depraved, he is enmity against God. He is a rebel, and a child of wrath, a fit subject for hell, he hates God and his son.

Our study today is Revelation, the sixth chapter, which begins the tribulation period of judgment. Now open your Bibles and let's read the first two verses of this sixth chapter. Listen, will you? **And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were, the noise of thunder, one of the four living creatures saying, Come. And 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.** In the fifth chapter, which we studied in our last lesson, we saw the Lord Jesus Christ, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Lamb that had been slain, step forth from the bosom of the Father and take the seven sealed book from the hands of Jehovah who sat on the throne, then all creation fell down and acknowledged him as the one who had prevailed or overcome, and praised him for redemption. Here in the opening of this 6th chapter, we see the Lord Jesus Christ breaking the seals of this book. Let us see the type of judgments that are going to be met out to a Christless world, preparatory to Christ taking over the throne of David and the rulership of this world, making the kingdoms of this world his kingdom.

When the Lord had opened the first seal, John said he heard, what? The noise of thunder. This indicates coming judgment. The clouds of wrath began to gather as we see seal after seal broken, these clouds of judgment grow more terrible until they end in the battle of Armageddon. In the 19th chapter of Revelation, he said

that in the midst of this noise of thunder, he heard one of the four living creatures say, Come. This living creature was not speaking to John, as it would seem to indicate in your first reading of those words, **Come and see**, but he was speaking to someone else. Then John said, **I saw, and behold, a white horse, and he that sat on him had a bow**. Now get this description now; He that sat on him had a bow. He was a warlord, and a crown was given unto him. He hadn't earned it in battle, but it was given unto him. And he went forth conquering and to conquer. Here we have the revelation, or the unveiling of the Antichrist, the son of Satan, who will take over this earth after Christ comes and takes his own out. Now, he had a bow, but no arrow.

He had a bow. He was a warlord coming upon the scene, but coming peaceably. He was riding a white horse, an imitation of Christ. There are several questions that are immediately raised in our minds. Who is the Antichrist? Where did he come from? What is his purpose? And why does the Lord God of Heaven permit the son of Satan to have such power and to rule and reign on this earth for a definite period of time?

Who is the Antichrist, is the first question we raise. Now let us turn back to Genesis. 3:15, listen; **and I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed. It shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel**. We have here, the seed of the woman and the seed of the serpent. Now let me confess right here; There is very little literature that I find on the Antichrist. Now, Christ is the seed of the woman, and at the appointed time was born of woman, **but when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law**. The seed of the serpent will also be revealed in his time, 2 Thessalonians 2:6. And now you know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. We see here in Genesis 3:15 the beginning of two streams of human life. They start, they flow on in ever increasing strength and volume. There is the righteous stream, and there is the unrighteous stream. At the end of the righteous stream, we may say, which begins with Seth, is the Lord Jesus Christ, the world's Redeemer. At the end of the unrighteous stream, which begins with Cain, is the Antichrist, the climatic character and constantly prophesied of.

Now, let's notice the Antichrist in prophecy. We find throughout the Old and New Testaments that he is spoken of between 50 and 100 times. Let me call your attention to a few of them. In Genesis 3:15, **he is called the seed of the serpent.** Psalms 5:6, he is pictured as **the bloody and deceitful man.** Psalms 10:18, **the man of the earth.** Psalms 37:10, **the wicked** or the lawless **one.** Isaiah 10:24, as **the Assyrian.** Isaiah 14:4, as **the king of Babylon,** the oppressor. He is seen in Isaiah 14:12 as **Lucifer, the sun of the morning, the day star.** He is also pictured in Isaiah 14:19 as **the abominable branch.** Then in Ezekiel 28:2, as **the prince of Tyrus.** Daniel speaks of him in Daniel 7:8 as **the little horn.** In Daniel 8:23, as **the king of a fierce countenance.** In Daniel 9:26, **the prince that shall come,** Daniel 11:36, **the willful king.** Zechariah 11:16, as **the idol shepherd.** Then in John 8:44, **the lie.** In 2 Thessalonians 2:3, **the man of sin,** or the son of perdition. In 2 Thessalonians 2:8, **the lawless one.** In 1 John 2:18, **the Antichrist.** in Revelation 6:2, as **the rider of the white horse** being revealed and manifested in his time as he comes forth to take over the world as the economic savior. Now, we don't have time to give you all those references, but if you write to us, we'll send you not only this message, but other messages on the Antichrist. This gives you some idea how the writers throughout the Bible saw this Antichrist in prophecy. And just as Christ came forth in his time, so will the Antichrist be manifested in his time. The world is fast shaping up, politically and religiously, for the acceptance of the Antichrist when he comes upon the scene, as soon as the church is taken out of the world. The outstanding trend during the past 25 years in national and international government has been toward centralization of governmental control. Democracy is a failure. No longer do we have true democracy. There is a growing belief in all parts of the world for a one-man government. This being advocated throughout the world - the need of one man to take over all the governments of the world. If the wrong man happens to reach this position as dictator, and that will be the Antichrist, then nothing but chaos will ensue. Whether you believe it or not, we are living in a world fast drifting toward destruction, and we find it clamoring for one universal head. Everywhere you turn today, a world, which has rejected Christ, is looking and listening for a world voice who will be able to coordinate not only for one nation, but for all nations simultaneously. Emerson Fosdick said, "We are looking for that man!" We are looking for another! That's exactly what the modernistic world is looking for. The Bible is very definite that there will come, in a time of world crisis, such a man

brought forth by Satan. This world crisis will come when the Lord Jesus Christ comes for his own. The Antichrist cannot be manifested until after the Lord Jesus comes for his own according to 2 Thessalonians 2:7. **For the mystery of iniquity doth already work, only he who now letteth, or hindereth, will hinder until he be taken out of the way.** Paul is speaking here of the church and the Holy Spirit. When the Lord Jesus Christ comes for his own, the Holy Spirit will accompany the host of believers and present them to the Lord Jesus Christ, and **then shall that wicked one be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming.**

Yes, the Antichrist, the son of Satan, is as definitely prophesied throughout the entire Bible as Christ was prophesied and spoken of. As Christ, the seed of the woman, in the fulness of the time was revealed, born of a woman, so in the fulness of time shall the seed of the serpent, the son of Satan, be manifested, born of a woman. He will come forth in God's time to take over the kingdoms of this world and rule them for seven years, according to Daniel's 70th week of years.

Now let's notice some of the outstanding characteristics of this coming world dictator. First, he'll be a great orator. Daniel 7:20 says, **He has a mouth that spake very great things, whose look was more stout than his fellows.** Revelation 13:2, **And the beast which I saw was like a leopard, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion. And the dragon gave him his power and his throne, and great authority.**

So, if you'll read Revelation 6:2 again, you'll find that he has a bow, but no arrow. He is riding on a white stallion, an imitator of Christ, but no crown, which shows he arises from the masses of people, slowly making his way to the front, gaining authority and winning by flattery. He'll be a very austere politician. Daniel 11:21 says, **and in his estate shall stand up a vile person to whom they shall not give the honor of the kingdom, but he shall come in peaceably and obtain the kingdom by flatteries.** Isn't that true in governmental circles today? This world ruler will be a commercial wizard, according to Daniel 8:25, **and through his policy also he shall cause manufacturing to prosper in his hand, and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many.** Yes, he shall so control, or have control, of all the commerce of the world, that according to

Revelation 13:17, **no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.** Don't you think for one moment, my friends, that we are not headed for such a world condition. This coming world ruler will come upon the scene as an economic savior, because the kingdoms of this world at this time are headed toward chaos. As we study the word of God further, we see that this world ruler will be a great military genius according to Daniel 8:24, **and his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power, and he shall destroy wonderfully, and shall prosper, and practice, and shall destroy the mighty and the holy people.** Then in Isaiah 14:16, the prophet speaking of this world antichrist, **is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms?** The Bible also pictures this coming world antichrist as a great successful ruler or governor, Revelation 13:7, **and it was given unto him to make war with the saints and overcome them, and power was given him over all kindreds, tongues, and nations.** Then in Revelation 17:17, we see how all this is brought to pass and why he is such a ruler, **for God hath put in their hearts to fulfill his will.** Now, you get that. **God has put in their hearts to fulfill his will.** God's putting in their hearts to fulfil his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast or Antichrist until the words of God shall be fulfilled. God will bring it pass, just like he prophesied through his word.

Now, the question is asked, why does God put in the hearts of the multitudes to give their allegiance unto such a ruler? Turn to 2 Thessalonians 2:10, **because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them a strong delusion that they should believe the lie, that they all might be damned who believe not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.** Isn't that an awful state the world's in today? Then Christ said in John 5:43, **I am come in my Father's name, and you receive me not. If another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive.** When Christ came unto his own, his own received him not. Christ was in the world, the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. According to Isaiah 53:2, man sees no beauty in Christ that he should desire him. Man in his depraved state, with his rebellious attitude, has turned away from Christ and will not have him. This is true from every angle. If you do not believe it, walk up to a crowd of men, women, and young people, from any walk of life, whether religious or otherwise, preachers or laymen, and begin to talk about Christ and his sacrifice on the cross for sinners,

his death as our substitute, and see how quickly the majority will have business somewhere else. Whether you believe it or not, God is fast giving up this world to a strong delusion to believe a lie. And brother, it's going faster than I ever dreamed. In the first chapter of Romans God said, **God also gave them up to uncleanness**. I want you to read that first chapter of Romans, will you, and how God gives them up.

Now, how is this thing happening today? Let me give you that thought, Will you? How is this thing happening today? It's hard to believe that the world will drift to such a state spiritually that it will accept the Antichrist. But let me show you how the world is being prepared now, religiously, for the acceptance of such a religious leader. It is being prepared by the preaching of another gospel, which is not the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. This new gospel that is being preached today is a new type and kind of preaching. It employs the same language, but its content is not the same, and its emphasis is not on blood redemption in Christ. There is no Holy Spirit conviction manifested and no Bible repentance experienced. This new gospel is not opposed to the human race, but rather is friendly and appeals to the dignity of man and wins him by flattery, which is the spirit of the Antichrist. This new gospel is the source of oceans of good, clean, fun, and innocent enjoyment. It does not interfere with the old life. It does not seek to change it, but lets it live for its own pleasure. This new gospel takes great delight in singing religious choruses, in organizing various religious clubs or youth movements, and seeks to entertain them by watching religious movies instead of singing cabaret songs. It has a religious veneer, and its emphasis is on enjoyment, but the fun and pleasure is on a higher moral religious plane. This new gospel brings the world into the churches, preaches similarities, and pats each other on the back. It makes no unpleasant demands, but says, let's all cooperate and get on together. This new gospel offers the same things the world does. It lets the members curse, smoke, dance, rob God, live impure lives, but never warns them. This new gospel which is the spirit of the Antichrist seeks to give the sin-mad world what it clamors after on a higher religious basis. Its emphasis is on getting professions of faith, members into the Church, raising their budgets, and getting along with the world, and getting along with every damnable heresy under the sun. The gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ does not, and will not, bargain with the world, but demands a complete separation and irresistible surrender. The gospel

of Christ recognizes the total depravity of man and does not seek to mend, add to, make over, or renovate the natural man, but it demands and gives a new creation in Christ Jesus our Lord. Now, you let that soak in. Bible repentance demands that the sinner see the state he is in, acknowledge it before God and throw himself completely upon Christ for mercy. That's right. And God offers to **that** sinner eternal life. The gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ does not and will not try to keep on good terms with anybody. It strikes swiftly and hard and uncompromisingly. And when the gospel has finished its work in the heart of the man you once knew, you know that man no more, for he is a new creation in Christ Jesus. This gospel of Christ the world hates, fights, despises, and as a result it is being given over to a strong delusion to believe **the lie**, the Antichrist, who is coming on the scene; and we see him here riding a white horse as the world's economic savior. My friends, who are you today? Do you know Christ? Do you know Christ? Are you a worshiper of Christ or the Antichrist? Do you know the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, which is Christ crucified, buried and risen? Or, do you know the new gospel, the new type of gospel that's letting you live as you please, act as you please, do as you please? My friend, do you know Christ?