

It's early morning in the Northwoods

That's the picture in Revelation 6:1-2. The quiet of heaven breaks when the Lamb opens the first seal, and the rider on the white horse charges forth.

Jesus warned us in **Matthew 24:5**, "For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many."

The first seal is a warning that the end-time deception will begin not with chaos, but with a counterfeit peace that lures the world into false security

This also starts of a new visionary sequence in Revelation

John is witnessing Jesus begin to break open the seven-sealed scroll

Which unleashes divine activity that reveals God's judgment, justice, and redemption plan

Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, Come and see Revelation 6:1 NKJV

When the Lamb opened one of the seals

**The Lamb** – A clear reference to Jesus Christ, the only one found worthy in **Revelation 5:5-7**

**Opened one of the seals** –this action initiates the unfolding of divine judgment

**One of the four living creatures** - These beings that were introduced in **Revelation 4:6**

**Voice like thunder** - Suggests divine authority and the seriousness of the event

Ἔρχου - Erchou – "**Come!**" is an imperative

Some manuscripts do not include "**and see**," focusing only on the command to "**Come**," possibly directed at the rider, not John

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 Revelation 6:2 NKJV

And I looked, and behold, a white horse...

"**White horse**" – Symbolic of conquest, victory, or purity

"**He who sat on it had a bow**" – A weapon often associated with distant attack or military force.

Notably, no arrows are mentioned, perhaps signifying a nonviolent or deceptive conquest

"A crown was given to him" – The word "crown" (Greek: stephanos) typically refers to a victor's crown, not a royal diadem (diadēma).

It is given, not earned or seized, indicating authority allowed by God

"He went out conquering and to conquer" – This phrase points to ongoing and determined conquest, possibly relentless and expansive

He comes "conquering and to conquer" without mention of bloodshed

He initially gains control through diplomacy, deception, and political agreements rather than outright war

Who is the Antichrist?

The term "antichrist" is a combination of anti, which means against or instead of Christ

The term "Antichrist" comes directly from the book of **1 John 2:22**, but the concept appears throughout Scripture under various names and symbols

The antichrist is a lying pretender who portrays himself as God **2 Thessalonians. 2:3-12**

The Antichrist is to be a future world leader empowered by Satan

He will oppose Christ, deceive many, and persecute God's people in the last days

Biblical Names and Titles for the Antichrist

Antichrist – "He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son" **1 John 2:22 NKJV**

The Man of Sin / Son of Perdition – "...the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition..." **2 Thessalonians 2:3 NKJV**

The Beast – from the sea **Revelation 13:1 NKJV**

The Little Horn – **Daniel 7:8, 24 NKJV**

The King of Fierce Countenance – **Daniel 8:23 NKJV**

The Lawless One – **2 Thessalonians 2:8 NKJV**

Each of these names highlights a different aspect of his character

He is Rebellious, deceptive, blasphemous, and violently opposed to God's kingdom

How does the Bible describe the Antichrist?

**Daniel 7–8**

Describes a “**little horn**” who rises from an invigorated empire, speaks blasphemies, changes times and laws, and persecutes the saints, **Daniel 7:25 NKJV**

This aligns with the Antichrist's role as a political and religious ruler

## **2 Thessalonians 2**

Paul describes a “**man of sin**” who **exalts himself above all that is called God**, sits in the temple of God, and declares himself to be God

**2 Thessalonians 2:3–8** states that he is restrained for now, but will be revealed in God’s timing

## **1 John 2:18; 4:3**

John is the only writer who actually uses the term “**Antichrist**”

He warns that “**many antichrists have come**” false teachers that foreshadow the final one **1 John 2:18 NKJV**

The Antichrist denies that Jesus is the Christ and comes in the spirit of deception

## **Revelation 13**

The Antichrist is symbolized as “**the beast from the sea**”

He receives power from the dragon (Satan), performs signs and wonders, and demands global worship

Characteristics of the Antichrist

How will he unite the nations

Charismatic leader – Gains global following **Revelation 13:3–4**

Blasphemous speaker – Speaks against God and His people **Daniel 7:25; Revelation 13:6**

Persecutor of the saints – Wages war against believers **Revelation 13:7**

Performs signs and wonders – To deceive the world **2 Thessalonians 2:9–10**

Seeks worship – Asserts divine status **2 Thessalonians 2:4**

When Does He Appear?

After the restrainer, the Holy Spirit or a divine limitation is removed **2 Thessalonians 2:7–8 NKJV**

His Rise at the start of the Tribulation (First Seal – **Revelation 6:1-2**)

In **Revelation 6:1-2**, the rider on the white horse represents the Antichrist

He comes “conquering and to conquer” without mention of bloodshed

This suggests he initially gains control through diplomacy, deception, and political agreements rather than outright war

**Daniel 9:27** says he will “confirm a covenant with many for one week”

(one prophetic week = seven years), which marks the start of the tribulation

His Full Control at the Midpoint (3½ years in or 42 months)

At the halfway mark of the seven years, **Daniel 9:27** and **2 Thessalonians 2:4** describe a dramatic shift

He breaks the covenant, desecrates the temple, and declares himself to be God

In **Matthew 25:15**, Jesus calls this the “abomination of desolation”

This begins the Great Tribulation, the most intense period of persecution and judgment in all history

### Timeline Summary

Beginning of Tribulation – Antichrist rises to global influence, likely through diplomacy and treaties (**Revelation 6:1-2, Daniel 9:27**).

Midpoint – He reveals his true nature, demands worship, and rules with absolute control (**2 Thessalonians 2:3-4, Revelation 13:5-7**).

End – Defeated by Jesus at His Second Coming (**Revelation 19:11-21**).

During the end times, specifically the tribulation period

Revelation and Daniel describe a 7-year period (Daniel’s 70th week), with the Antichrist taking central authority in the midpoint (**Daniel 9:27**).

Application for today, August 17

### Trusting the Lamb in Unfolding Judgment

As the Lamb, Jesus Christ, opens the first seal, we are reminded that He alone has the authority to initiate the events of God's final plan.

This moment marks the beginning of the judgments that will unfold upon the earth

Yet, what’s striking is not only the power and drama of the moment, but also the calm confidence in the Lamb’s control

The voice, like thunder, calls John to "**Come and see**"

An invitation not to panic, but to witness what God is sovereignly unveiling

Not everything that looks right is from God

We live in a world full of white horses, people, ideologies, movements, and promises that appear moral, peaceful, or victorious but are subtle imitations of truth

This verse reminds us to test everything by the Word of God and the Spirit of God.

Jesus warned us in **Matthew 24:5**, "**For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many.**"

The first seal is a warning that the end-time deception will begin not with chaos,

But with a counterfeit peace that lures the world into false security

Guard your heart with discernment

Don't be swayed by charisma or appearance; evaluate all things through Scripture and prayer

Stay rooted in the truth

Study the real so you won't be fooled by the counterfeit. The more you know Jesus, the easier it is to spot what isn't Him.

Beware of spiritual shortcuts

The world offers quick victories, easy peace, and popular "gospels." But only the Lamb offers true salvation and eternal peace

Questions for discernment:

Am I drawn to things that merely appear spiritual or successful?

Have I prayed for discernment to recognize the difference between true peace and false promises?

Is there a "white horse" in my life I need to reevaluate through the lens of God's Word?

**Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour 1 John 2:18 NKJV**