

**HOPE OF
ISRAEL
MINISTRIES**

BIBLE

CORRESPONDENCE COURSE



“And I looked, and behold, a white horse. And he who sat on it had a bow...and he went out conquering...”

**Principles of Prophecy -- The White Horse
of Revelation 6:2**

Lesson 34

An Open Letter from the Staff...

In the Book of Revelation we find a disturbing vision of four fearsome horsemen (**Revelation 6:1-8**). Each of these horsemen is a **SYMBOL** of four major spiritual agencies that have determined the character of the so-called Christian Age from the time of the Messiah down to the present. The first -- and **GREATEST** -- in its effect is the **WHITE HORSE**, followed by the red, black and pale.

Over the centuries the enigmatic "four horsemen of the Apocalypse" have excited and **PUZZLED** students of the Bible -- causing much debate and controversy over their meaning. One horse in particular -- the **WHITE HORSE** -- has been at the center of this controversy. No one, it seems, has been able to **CORRECTLY** discern the exciting **TRUTH** about this horse!

Some people view Revelation as being so highly symbolic that it cannot be understood, or they take little care in interpreting it to come up with fantastic and **ERRONEOUS** results. But **YEHOVAH** God wants His people to understand, and He caused the Bible to be written to be understood and to provide guidance for them.

The **KEY** to understanding the Book of Revelation is the **SAME** as the key to understand other parts of the Bible -- **YOU MUST USE THE BIBLE TO INTERPRET THE BIBLE!** If we diligently search the Scriptures we will uncover in them the things used as symbols in the Book of Revelation. By comparing these Scripture texts we can clearly **UNDERSTAND** what the Revelation symbols mean.

The apostle John was steeped in the Old Testament and draws on the rich evocative imagery of the prophets. He knew -- as certainly as Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Daniel knew -- that what he wrote was directly given him by **YEHOVAH** God and stamped with His authority. So with this in mind, let us delve into one of the most mysterious and awesome of the four horsemen -- the **WHITE HORSE** of Revelation 6!



HOPE OF ISRAEL MINISTRIES BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE LESSON 34

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About Our Cover...

In the Book of Revelation we find a disturbing vision of four fearsome horsemen (6:1-8). The first and greatest in its effect is the **TRUE** gospel (the **WHITE** horse) -- followed by strife, heresies and death!

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The White Horse of Revelation 6:2

LESSON 34

Guesses of Men

In a booklet published by the Worldwide Church of God in 1976, entitled *The White Horse: False Religion* and authored by George Ritter, the following statement is made --

“The white horseman in Revelation 6...is the harbinger of a series of calamitous events that culminate in the prophesied Great Tribulation....From all indications...the white horse would correspond to the COUNTERFEIT CHRISTS and RELIGIOUS DECEPTION first mentioned in the Olivet prophecy....John’s horseman, after having given the world a slick religious feint, ‘went out conquering and to conquer.’ In the past...the first horseman of FALSE RELIGION had plenty of outside help. Much of it came from a well-oiled combination of a false church aligned with an autocratic state” (pp. 53-54).

In *The Book of Revelation Unveiled at Last* by Herbert W. Armstrong, a similar interpretation is promulgated:

“The first [seal] was a white horse. Many men, using human interpretation, have looked over into the 19th chapter of Revelation, where we find the description of the glorious return of Christ [sic] pictured as coming on a white horse, and have made the great error of deciding that this first seal, then, since it is a white horse, pictures the second coming of Christ. But Christ’s own revealing of the meaning is that THIS WHITE HORSE OF THE FIRST SEAL PICTURES EXACTLY THE OPPOSITE -- THOSE PREACHING A FALSE CHRIST, different from the Christ of the New Testament! It refers to this GREAT DECEPTION that has descended like a dark cloud to cover the earth and hide from it the glorious truth of God!” (pp. 22-23).

Howard B. Rand, in his book *Study in*



Some believe the white horse of Revelation 6 represents a false Messiah promulgating false religion.

Revelation, comes up with a different interpretation for the white horse of Revelation 6:

“The fact that horses are prominent in the first four seals clearly designates that the GOVERNMENT of this period [Roman] relies on the power and might of aggressive military strength to carry on and rule. The different colors [of the horses] denote the TYPE OF GOVERNMENT and KIND OF RULE exercised over the Empire....these horses, with their four riders, had a definite historical fulfillment in the ACTIVITIES OF IMPERIAL ROME....The white horse signifies justice and designates a period, while under military authority, yet one in which the crowned rider would be an EMPEROR and rule with magnanimity. The fact that he carried a bow indicates that those against whom he fought in

his campaigns of conquest WERE NOT CLOSE AT HAND, but at a distance, far from the center of government” (1985, p. 37).

To further complicate the issue Fred P. Miller states, in *Revelation: A Panorama of the Gospel Age*, the following --

“In the fulfillment of these figures there would naturally be a relation of the first four symbols [the four horsemen] historically, with the possibility of some overlapping in the fulfillment. Remember then, the design of the book is that the first four symbols...are INTER-RELATED. **1. White:** is a symbol of SOMETHING GOOD, the bow and crown of ARMORED AUTHORITY, and EXPANSION OF TERRITORY in conquest. So the FIRST PERIOD OF TIME AFTER [EMPEROR] DOMITIAN should be characterized historically as an unusually ‘good’ (righteous) period associated with conquest and expansion. When we look in a secular history book the PERIOD FOLLOWING DOMITIAN should say, ‘something good’” (1991, pp. 60-61).

The Commentator Erbes asserts that the rider of the white horse is the PARTHIAN

Emperor Nerva (96-98) ruled in the period following Domitian.



Emperor Trajan (98-117) also ruled in the period following Domitian.



KING VOLOGASES who, in 62 A.D., forced a Roman army to capitulate.

Not to be outdone Hermann Gunkel (German Old Testament scholar) was of the opinion that this first horseman was originally A SUN-GOD: “His horse is white (as in the white horse of the divine slayer of the dragon; the white horse of Mithras in the Avesta...” (*A critical and Exegetical Commentary on the Revelation of St. John*, by R.H. Charles).

The same volume states that “a great number of interpreters -- Victorinus, Primasius, Bede, Bullinger, Paraeus, Grotius, Vitringa, Dusterdieck...have identified the first horseman with the rider on the white horse in 19:11 sqq., i.e. THE MESSIAH.”

It appears that there is NO END to the GUESSES or “interpretations” available for this white horse: “Found in Revelation 6:1, 2, the first seal is an illustration of the general course of events, which are at this point beginning to come about on earth. We see a CONQUERING INSTIGATING WARFARE. This simply shows that a war will break out. 490. The first seal shows the INITIATION OF A SMALL

REGIONAL WAR” *Through the Prophet’s Eye*, by Marshall W. Best. 2000, p. 404).

Note what the Jehovah Witnesses’ publication *Then Is Finished the Mystery of God* has to say:

“The rider of this white horse is identified for us by Psalm 45, which is an inspired poem concerning a king. Verses 4-7, in prophetic address to this king, say: ‘In your splendor go on to success; ride in the cause of truth and humility and righteousness, and

your right hand will instruct you in fear-inspiring things. Your arrows are sharp -- under you peoples keep falling -- in the heart of the enemies of the king. God is your throne to time indefinite, even forever; the scepter of your kingship is a scepter of uprightness. You have loved righteousness and you hate wickedness. That is why God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of exultation more than your partners.' The prophetic words are applied more than five hundred years later by the writer of Hebrews 1:1, 2, 8, 9 to Jesus Christ, the Son of God. In agreement with this fact, other details of the vision to John prove that THE RIDER OF THE WHITE HORSE IS THE GLORIFIED HEAVENLY SON OF GOD, 'the Lion that is of the tribe of Judah.'

"...the rider on the white horse, Jesus Christ, would be used by Jehovah God TO OVERTHROW BABYLON THE GREAT, the world empire of false religion, and then AS THE GREATER CYRUS, to liberate Jehovah's people from her control" (1969, pp. 39-40, 42).

Funk and Wagnalls New Encyclopedia has yet another version --

"In the sixth chapter of his apocalyptic vision of God's purpose in the world, Saint John the Divine describes four horses, signifying respectively war (a red horse), CIVIL STRIFE (a white horse), hunger (a black horse), and death (a pale horse). The horses and their riders are frequently depicted in art and have come to be a symbol of THE EVILS OF THE EARTHLY WORLD" (volume 10, p. 217).

What utter confusion !

Moving now to the realm of the bizarre, we find this gem of convoluted reasoning:

"...in Genesis 1:14, the scripture talks about the stars and says, 'let them be for signs'. Thus we look to the stars for the horse who will bring forth the sign, or direction of God, of the



The winged horse Pegasus. Some claim this mythic horse is the white horse of Revelation 6!

fulfilling of all things, the return of Christ, Krishna, Buddha, Universal Love. As we look to the stars, we see the horse, and IT IS PEGASUS.

"Michel Mayor, and Didier Queloz of the General Observatory in Switzerland have reported the discovery of a large planet around a star in the PEGASUS constellation. This is confirmed by astronomers in the US. 'They do know that its behavior is unlike anything in the solar system.' Two teams of astronomers have made independent observations that they say establish for the first time, the existence of a planet around a star similar to the sun. Consider this. For the first time, a planet orbiting a sun like earth, has been found. It is found in THE SIGN OF THE HORSE, PEGASUS. It is found in the age of AQUARIUS. I ask you to consider this, the constellation PEGASUS, is in the Zodiacal Constellation, AQUARIUS.

"This planet appears white from the earth, it looks like a star. Nothing like it has been seen. It is white, and it is right where the prophecy of Revelation says it would be, in the sign of the Horse. PEGASUS. THE WHITE HORSE HAS ARRIVED. Think of the astronomers. They are so excited over this discover. Suddenly, behold this new planet appears. Now read Revelation 19:11, "And I saw heaven open, and behold, A WHITE HORSE" (*Has the White*

Horse of Revelation Appeared? By William T. Donahue).

Instead of stumbling around from one interpretation to another in utter confusion, let us look more closely at this horse and rider of Revelation 6:2. Let us determine -- using the WORD OF YEHOVAH GOD, THE BIBLE as a guide -- the TRUTH about this age-old enigma!

The HORSE as a Biblical Symbol

1. To correctly understand this portion of the Book of Revelation, we need to learn the significance of the horse as a Biblical symbol. For this information we must turn to the Old Testament because the horse is not mentioned in the New -- except in Revelation. **Job 39:19-22.**

COMMENT: Here YEHOVAH God holds the horse up to admiration because of its STRENGTH, its UTTER FEARLESSNESS, and its *refusal to be turned back by any form of danger.*

2. YEHOVAH further speaks of the horse's IRRESISTIBLE DETERMINATION and POWER TO ADVANCE in the face of armed resistance. **Job 39:24-25.**

COMMENT: These verses show that the horse is, first of all, the SYMBOL of *strength, might or force of a certain kind for conquest and for progress.*

3. The symbol of the horse and rider is as old as Jacob's prophecy in **Genesis 49:17.**

4. The same figure, in a similar sense, is found in the Song of Moses when the Israelites reached the far side of the Red Sea. **Exodus 15:1.**

COMMENT: From this we get the distinct idea that the horse represents the progress of some GREAT ENTERPRISE backed by strong military power. Therefore, anything that is pictured in the Bible as being carried forward by a horse is a MOVEMENT that is sustained by MIGHTY POWER -- one that advances into conflict against the opposing forces with *fearlessness* and with *great prospects of success.*

Other passages in the Bible reinforce this concept.

5. Notice **Isaiah 31:1.**

COMMENT: Note the words, "rely on horses...because they are very strong."

6. Read **Jeremiah 4:13.**

COMMENT: Note the words, "His horses are swifter than eagles."

7. Also check out **Jeremiah 12:5, Hosea 14:3** and **Psalms 33:17.**

COMMENT: Characterized as he is by strength combined with speed and fearlessness, the horse aptly symbolizes that form of spiritual vitality and power that sustains, energizes and carries forward -- despite all that opposes it. It represents a GREAT SPIRITUAL MOVEMENT, whether good or evil. It is apparent that this horse of **Revelation 6:2** presents a prophetic picture of the MIGHTY SPIRITUAL INFLUENCES, agencies or powers, that were to arise and go forth into the whole world at the beginning of the "Christian Era" -- and which were to impart to that era those special characteristics whereby it is SET APART from all previous periods in the world's history.

The Color WHITE

Revelation 6:2 states that its horse is WHITE in color. What does the color white represent?

We have already seen that some insist that the color white represents impurity and that the white horse of the first seal pictures "those preaching a false Christ, different from the Christ of the New Testament!" Can this be true? Does the Bible indicate that the color white represents impurity?

1. Read **II Chronicles 5:12.**

COMMENT: Here we see the Levites dressed in WHITE linen. Who were the Levites? The Levites were priests CHOSEN BY YEHOVAH God in place of all the firstborn of the other tribes.

2. Notice what Isaiah says in **Isaiah 1:16-18.**

The White Horse of Revelation 6:2



Priests in white robes assisting at the altar.

COMMENT: Here sins that have been washed away and made CLEAN are likened to the WHITENESS of snow.

3. What color garment was YEHOVAH God wearing in the prophet Daniel's vision? **Daniel 7:9**. What is YEHOVAH God likened to in **Psalms 11:7**?

COMMENT: If YEHOVAH God is the embodiment of righteousness, would He wear a garment that did not signify righteousness?

4. Is the color white CONTRASTED with wickedness in **Daniel 12:10**?

5. Does **Daniel 11:35** corroborate this?

COMMENT: Clearly, the color white represents the OPPOSITE of uncleanness or wickedness.

6. What about the Messiah? What was his appearance like when he was transfigured on the mount before Peter, James and John? **Matthew 17:2**.

COMMENT: Here we see that "his clothes became as WHITE as the light." Was this, then, the vision of a FALSE Messiah? **Verse 5**.

7. What does Luke say when recounting

the transfiguration on the mount? **Luke 9:29**. Notice Mark's highly descriptive account. **Mark 9:3**.

COMMENT: Would the Messiah, who never sinned, wear clothes that represent impurity or unrighteousness -- is this a vision of a FALSE Messiah? **Mark 9:7**.

8. When Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to the Messiah's tomb early on the morning of the First Day of the Week what did they find? **Matthew 28:2**. What was the color of the angel's clothing? **Verse 3**. Whose angel was this? **Verse 2**.

COMMENT: Would an angel of YEHOVAH God be dressed in a garment that represented impurity or wickedness?

9. When the two Marys entered the tomb of the Messiah, what did they see? **Mark 16:5**, **John 20:12**. What color clothing were the angels wearing? **Same verses**.

COMMENT: Once again, would angels of YEHOVAH God be wearing clothing of a color representing unrighteousness, wickedness or impurity?

10. What was the color of the apparel of the "men" in **Acts 1:10**?

COMMENT: The two "men" in this verse were apparently angels. Some Bibles reference this verse to **John 20:12**.

11. In **Matthew 23:27**, what does the Messiah liken the scribes and Pharisees to?

COMMENT: The Messiah drew this illustration from the custom of whitewashing graves in the vicinity of Jerusalem before the Passover to PROTECT VISITORS FROM BECOMING UNCLEAN by touching them during the celebrations.

12. In **Revelation 3:5**, what will we be clothed in if we overcome?

COMMENT: When we overcome sin we will be clothed in WHITE -- representing purity and righteousness. So how can the color white represent sin or false religion?

13. What were those "who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held" given to wear? **Revelation 6:11**.

Read also the **previous two verses**.

14. What were those in the “great multitude” clothed in? **Revelation 7:9** What further comments did the elder have regarding the “great multitude”? **Revelation 7:14**.

COMMENT: The great multitude “washed their robes and made them WHITE in the blood of the Lamb.” What does the blood of the Lamb (the Messiah) do? **Revelation 1:5**. The blood of the Messiah WASHES AWAY OUR SINS! Therefore, the color WHITE represents sinlessness or purity.

15. Finally, what does YEHOVAH God sit on in the third heaven? **Revelation 20:11**.

COMMENT: YEHOVAH sits on a “great WHITE throne.” Obviously, YEHOVAH God is the epitome of righteousness and purity, so how could His “great white throne” represent anything but holiness, purity and righteousness?

This is made very clear in the *Dictionary of the Bible* by James Hastings:

“In the NT white is used of natural objects and of linen, but chiefly as the SYMBOL OF PURITY OR INNOCENCE AND HOLINESS, as if the Transfiguration, or of ANGELS John 20:12, etc., the SAINTS Rev. 6:11, or THE THRONE OF GOD Rev. 20:11, or of victory Rev. 6:2, 19:11, 14.”

Notes Philip Mauro in *Things Which Soon Must Come to Pass* --

“The color of the horse, WHITE, bears strong testimony to the same effect; for, as we have already pointed out, this color is in every instance throughout the Book [the Bible] (unless this be an exception) USED TO DESIGNATE THINGS PECULIARLY DIVINE; and there is not the slightest imaginable reason for assuming that we have an exception here, and an exception SO GREAT as (according to the futurist view) to reverse the meaning of the symbol” (G.A.M. Publications, Sterling, VA. 1990, p. 193).

Mauro goes on to conclude:

“Those who make the white horse rider a symbol of the antichrist [or of false religion] of the last days, thereby reversing the meaning of the symbol which the Holy Spirit has here

employed, realize of course, that *the color of the horse contradicts their interpretation*. Hence they must needs resort to some expedient to meet the difficulty; and the expedient they have chosen is surely a curious one. They say (though with no proof at all to support it) that antichrist appears on a white horse in *imitation* of Christ” (*ibid.*, pp. 193-194).

It is therefore very obvious that the white horse of Revelation 6:2 CANNOT refer to false religion or to civil strife! Equating this horse with false religion or civil strife is at odds with ALL interpretations of the word “white” in the Bible!

The Wreath of a Warrior

According to the apostle John the rider of this white horse in **Revelation 6:2** was given a CROWN -- “and a crown was given to him...”.

In the original Greek the word for crown in this verse is *STEPHA.NOS*.

1. This *stepha.nos* or crown is mentioned in **II Timothy 4:8**. What is this crown called in this verse?

2. This particular crown is also mentioned in **Revelation 2:10**. What is the crown called in this verse?

COMMENT: This type of crown [*stepha.nos*] is employed figuratively by Paul and John as a SYMBOL OF CHRISTIAN TRIUMPH.

3. In **I Corinthians 9:25**, what is Paul comparing?

4. What is Paul discussing in **II Timothy 2:5**?

COMMENT: In the New Testament the victor’s crown at the games (*stepha.nos*) is used SYMBOLICALLY of the REWARD OF A FAITHFUL CHRISTIAN COURSE, the incorruptible *stepha.nos* being contrasted with the corruptible.

5. What is the hope or joy of the Christian in **I Thessalonians 2:19**? Is this hope a “crown [*stepha.nos*] of rejoicing? Same verse.

COMMENT: This hope or crown of re-



Bust of Greek athlete wearing the victor's crown or *stepha.nos*.

joining is to be in the presence of the Messiah at his coming.

6. What will the man who resists temptation receive? **James 1:12.**

7. What will we receive if we are faithful to YEHOVAH God until death? **Revelation 2:10, 3:11.**

8. In visions of heaven the crowns are prominent. What are the elders in **Revelation 4:4** wearing?

COMMENT: The elders are wearing crowns (*stepha.nos*) of gold. The wearing of gar-

lands and crowns on earth was obnoxious to the early Christians on account of pagan associations. Stress, therefore, was laid on the worth of the SYMBOLIC HEAVENLY GARLAND (*STEPHA.NOS*).

Two Crowns

In the New Testament two Greek words are used for the English word "crown." One is *stepha.nos* that we have just studied. The other is *DI.ADEMA*.

1. We find this word used in **Revelation 12:3**, where it is rendered "diadems." Who or what is wearing all these *di.ademas* or crowns in this verse?

2. Going, now, to **Revelation 13:1** we find the word *di.adema* used again. What is wearing all the crowns this time?

3. In **Revelation 19:12** we find another white horse, but the rider, in this case, is wearing many *di.ademas* -- NOT a *stepha.nos*!

COMMENT: In the New Testament, the Greek word *di.adema* (meaning "something bound about the head") is rendered either "crown" or "diadem" by modern translations. In the New King James version the "great, fiery red dragon" (Satan the Devil) has a diadem upon each of its seven heads. A crown adorns each of the ten horns of the symbolic seven-headed "beast" that ascends out of the "sea." The One called "Faithful and True," namely YEHOVAH God, likewise has upon His head "many crowns," indicating that He is the rightful source of AUTHORITY and POWER.

Now, if the WHITE HORSE and rider of **Revelation 6:2** represents false religion, the antichrist, civil strife or triumphant militarism then the rider should be wearing the DIADEM (*DI.ADEMA*) OF POWER AND RULERSHIP -- not the CROWN (*STEPHA.NOS*) OF CHRISTIAN TRIUMPH!

Notice what *Eerdman's Bible Dictionary* has to say --

"...in Revelation Gk. "Diadema" indicates a ROYAL CROWN, worn by the dragon

(12:3, UNLIKE the crown worn by the woman with child mentioned at V.1), the beast (13:1), and the rider of the white horse (19:12) who has many diadems because of his authority over all kings” (edited by Allen C. Myers).

The *Zondervan Pictorial Bible Dictionary* makes this comment:

“In the N.T. (Gr., *stephanos* and *diadema* are used). The first refers to a garland or chaplet such as was worn by a victorious athlete. THIS TYPE OF CROWN IS EMPLOYED FIGURATIVELY BY PAUL AND JOHN AS A SYMBOL OF CHRISTIAN TRIUMPH (II Tim. 4:8, Rev. 2:10). The diadem was a SYMBOL OF THE POWER TO RULE.”

Bows and Arrows

If we look closely at the rider of **Revelation 6:2** again, we will see that he is holding a BOW. What does this BOW represent?

1. The bow is employed figuratively as a weapon used by YEHOUAH God. **Job 6:4**.

COMMENT: Here Job speaks of “the arrows of the Almighty.”

2. We see the same picture in **Deuteronomy 32:23** and **42**.

3. Is this picture repeated in **Lamentations 2:4**?

4. Does YEHOUAH God use arrows as a weapon of deliverance in **Psalms 18:14**?

5. Does the Messiah use arrows as a means of deliverance? **Psalms 45:5**.

COMMENT: **Psalm 45** is a psalm of the glories of the Messiah and his bride the church or Ecclesia.

6. In **Psalms 77**, which discusses YEHOUAH’s redemptive work, we find the mention of arrows again. **Verse 17**.

7. What is the arrow called in **II Kings 13:17**?

COMMENT: These verses show that the BOW is a SYMBOL of that which discharges the messages of YEHOUAH God toward an intended target. In other words, it symbolizes THE PREACHING OF THE TRUE



Stylized picture of an archer with bow.

GOSPEL MESSAGE IN GENERAL and the INDIVIDUAL MESSENGER IN PARTICULAR.

8. Notice **Habakkuk 3:8-13**, where YEHOUAH God is seen as riding on *HORSES and chariots of salvation*.

COMMENT: In this highly figurative passage in which the prophet sees a vision, we can clearly see that the BOW is a SYMBOL OF YEHOUAH’S WORD in the day when He goes forth into all the world for the “salvation” of men -- as pictured in Revelation 19:11!

In these verses the mention of arrows implies that the royal Warrior had a bow, since in the other scriptures the mention of the bow implies the arrows.

According to most commentators the BOW implies victory, signifying JUDGMENTS laid up in store against offenders.

9. Notice **Zechariah 10:3-4**.

COMMENT: Here we find that Yeshua the Messiah is called THE BOW THAT WINS THE BATTLE!

10. This is also implied in **Isaiah 49:2**.

COMMENT: Owing to the suddenness with which the arrow inflicted wounds, and to the fact that such wounds often came from an unseen hand, the ARROW was used as a SYMBOL OF THE JUDGMENTS OF YEHOVAH GOD.

M'Clintoch and Strong, in their *Cyclopaedia of Biblical, Theological, and Ecclesiastical Literature*, highlight this amazing definition of the ARROW --

“The arrow is also used in a good sense to denote the efficiency and irresistible energy of the Word of God in the hands of the Messiah (Psa. XLV, 5; Isa. XLIV, 5; comp. Lowth’s note thereon).”

Writes Philip Mauro:

“Thus the Scriptures do (figuratively speaking) put a BOW and ARROWS into the hands of Christ and send him forth on a white horse, *in the ‘day of salvation.’* Whereas the Scriptures say NOT A WORD of any anti-christ’s [or false religion] going forth on a white horse (or any other), or of his carrying a bow. And inasmuch as WE CAN INTERPRET SCRIPTURE ONLY BY SCRIPTURE, we have in this case no choice but either to be guided by Scripture, and take this passage as referring to Christ *in the gospel*, or else to abandon Scripture entirely, in which case we are free to assign it to any character we please, whether real or imaginary” (*Things Which Soon Must Come to Pass*, p. 197).

So, once again, we see that the WHITE horseman of **Revelation 6:2** represents the TRUTH OF YEHOVAH GOD going out in great power! The Bible DOES

NOT say a single, solitary word about false religion or any Anti-christ going forth on a white horse -- this is purely in the imagination of false preachers and ministers who place their OWN interpretation on the Scriptures!

The White Horse Rides!

1. Had the Messiah prepared the way for the founding of his Ecclesia? **Matthew 4:24-25; Acts 26:26, last part**. How many were added to the New Testament Ecclesia in its first day of existence? **Acts 2:41**. Did it continue to grow? **Verse 47**.

2. Were miracles again performed by the same POWER that had been in Yeshua the Messiah? **Acts 2:43; 3:7; 5:12, 14-15, 16; 6:8**.

3. Did Peter and all the Apostles continue to SPEAK BOLDLY, the same POWER of the holy spirit motivating THEM? **Acts 2:14, 40; 3:4, 6, 12, 14-16; 4:8-10**.

4. Was the True Gospel heard and known by a great many -- the majority of all people living in Judea at the time? **Acts 2:6; 3:9, 10; 4:21**. How many now were members of the Ecclesia? **Acts 4:4; 5:14; 6:1, 7**.

COMMENT: These CAME OUT of the



Sheep naturally follow a leader. The Messiah likens his Ecclesia to a sheep -- a little flock. The Messiah said his sheep will hear his voice -- and follow him. The world does not hear him, and will not follow.

world -- they LEFT their Judean denominations. They were no longer of the world, but were FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT (**John 17:15-17; Romans 8:9**).

To whom at first did scattered Christians spread the Word? **Acts 11:19**. But then to whom? **Verses 20 and 21**.

COMMENT: This was done according to the will of the LIVING Messiah to work out his PLAN here below. For salvation was not to be limited to Judea.

5. To whom did PHILIP go? Acts 8:5, 6.

COMMENT: The Samaritans were Gentiles, descendants of Babylonian and other immigrants placed there by Assyrian kings and later rulers. Their religion was the old Babylonian religion, but much mixed with elements adopted from the neighboring Jews. Of all the Gentiles, the Samaritans would seem to have been the most prepared to accept the religion of the New Testament.

Simon, the chief in the Samaritan religion, was among those who listened to Philip. Who he was and what part he played in Church history will be made plain later.

6. What did the Apostles do when they realized the Messiah was calling Samaritans? Acts 8:14.

7. Had David sung of the day the gospel would go to Gentiles? Psalm 96:1, 3, 10. And did the prophets predict it? Isaiah 11:10. The Samaritans were already partly mixed with Judean renegades and also had circumcision and a perverted form of the law of Moses.

8. Did Peter still have to be shown at the time of Cornelius' conversion that all peoples could really become one in the Messiah? Acts 10:28, 34. Did YEHOVAH God then use Peter to officially inaugurate salvation to the Gentiles, with the same special "one-time-only" manifestations of the holy spirit as when first it was confirmed for the Judeans? Compare Acts 10:44-47 with 2:1-4.

COMMENT: Some today falsely claim Peter was still so completely a Judahite in his outlook, that he led a so-called "Judaizing party"

within the Ecclesia. This is a lie! The proof lies overlooked here in **Acts 11:6**.

Peter was staying at the house of one Simon A TANNER. Under Judahite ceremonial law, a tanner, by virtue of his occupation -- tanning the raw hides of dead animals -- was considered unclean. Had Peter been the thoroughgoing Judaizer some claim him to be, he would certainly have lodged elsewhere!

Here is proof Peter knew and practiced the same freedom from CEREMONIAL prohibitions as did Paul (**Colossians 2:20, 21**).

A little later we find Peter freely living and eating with Gentiles -- whose very persons were "unclean" and contaminating in Pharisaic doctrine. He mistakenly withdrew only when others arrived for fear THEY might not yet understand (**Galatians 2:12**).

9. Meanwhile, did Philip continue to preach the gospel to other Gentiles who had been prepared by previous conversion from heathenism to the Judean religion? Acts 8:26, 27, 40.

COMMENT: Azotus is the city of Ashdod -- one of the five ancient royal cities of the Philistines.

10. Does this mean that Christianity is, or ever could become, a Gentile religion? John 4:22; Romans 9:4, 5; Matthew 10:5, 6.

Why Paul's Work Among the Greeks?

1. Had Yeshua forewarned that his followers would be put out of the synagogues? John 16:2. That whoever would kill them would think he was serving YEHOVAH God? **Same verse.** Did this begin to come true in the persecution by Saul (afterward called Paul)? **Acts 8:3; 26:9-11; I Timothy 1:13.**

COMMENT: The earliest Christians -- almost all Judeans -- continued to meet in the synagogues. They regarded Christianity truly, as the fulfillment of the Old Testament religion. At first the majority of unconverted Judeans listened without rancor -- until the Pharisees stirred them up. Notice how in later times Paul always went and preached first in the synagogues and

places of prayer of the Judeans, and preached there until persecution drove him out (**Acts 13:5, 14; 14:1; 16:13**, etc.).

2. Did the Messiah strike Saul down and convert him? Read the whole of **chapter 9** and the **first part of chapter 22**.

COMMENT: Paul's conversion brought into the Church a man of great zeal, and the best of education. He had been trained "at the feet of Gamaliel" who was regarded as the greatest Judean teacher of the day.

3. Did the Messiah call Paul for a particular mission? **Acts 9:15; 26:16; Romans 11:13**.

COMMENT: Note that the Messiah called Paul or Saul to be a special "apostle to the GENTILES." But who, in this context, were the "Gentiles"?

4. What does Paul call the Roman Ecclesia? **Romans 1:13**.

5. Moving to **Romans 2:14-15**, what does Paul say the "Gentiles" do by nature?

COMMENT: Paul says the Roman Gentiles DO BY NATURE the things contained in the law and that they were showing the works of the law "written in their hearts."

6. Now in WHOM did YEHOVAH God write the law in their hearts? **Jeremiah 31:31** and **Hebrews 8:8 and 10**.

COMMENT: It was the HOUSE OF ISRAEL and the House of Judah! Did you notice what YEHOVAH said in **Hebrews 8:10**? "I will be their God, and they shall be My people." This statement could only apply to a "people" called ISRAEL, since these were the "people" that the covenants were made with and belonged to.

7. Now look at **Romans 4:1**. What does Paul refer to Abraham as?

COMMENT: Paul refers to Abraham OUR father "as pertaining to the flesh": "What shall we say then that Abraham OUR father, AS PERTAINING TO THE FLESH, hath found?" (KJV). What does this statement mean? The phrase "as pertaining to the flesh" could only mean that Abraham was a REAL FLESH AND BLOOD BIOLOGICAL FATHER TO THE

ROMAN "GENTILES"!

8. This also applies to the GREEK "GENTILES." **John 7:35**.

COMMENT: The word "Greek(s)," often used interchangeably with the word "Gentile(s)," is often used in the New Testament with reference to DISPERSED ISRAELITES. The apostle John acknowledged that dispersed Israelites were living AMONG the Greeks, and he recognized them AS BEING Greeks.

9. Notice **Acts 9:15**.

COMMENT: Years later, tradition states, after preaching to the dispersed Israelites all over the Greek-speaking world (**Romans 15:19**) and after going to Spain (**verse 28**) Paul went on even into Britain.

10. Did the other apostles recognize Paul's special responsibility of going to the dispersed Israelites known as "Gentiles"? **Galatians 2:8, 9**. But did Paul and Barnabas always go first to the Judahites (Jews) in that area? **Romans 1:16; 2:9, 10; Acts 13:42-48**.

COMMENT: Paul and Barnabas always went to the larger cities in the "Gentile" (dispersed Israelite) areas. Here they expected to find significant numbers of Judahites. Many such cities boasted a synagogue and an organized congregation.

Being of equal rank, when Paul and Barnabas found themselves in disagreement as to how best to prosecute the work in their area, they separated (**Acts 15:36-41**). Barnabas then continued his work to the Gentiles in the area of Cyprus and Egypt. Of his later work we hear next to nothing. Probably not a great many Gentile converts were made in those areas.

Paul's later work in Spain was no more prosperous or permanent than Barnabas' in Africa or the other apostles'. That is why Paul did not stay long in Spain.

11. Did "many thousands" -- probably the majority -- of the members of the Ecclesia continue to be Judahites (Jewish)? **Acts 21:20**. This was now about 30 years after the Ecclesia began. Were many of them former Pharisees? **Acts 15:5; 26:5**.



View of modern Ashdod with the Mediterranean Sea in the distance. Philip the evangelist (who was first a deacon -- Acts 6:5) came down here in one of the earliest evangelistic efforts beyond Judea.

What Was Peter's Job?

All the early lay members of the Ecclesia were scattered from Jerusalem. But what of the apostles?

1. What was the main commission given to the Twelve? Were they called specifically to go to the "lost sheep of the HOUSE OF ISRAEL? **Matthew 10:2-6**. But to do this they would have to leave Palestine! Only the Judahites -- HOUSE OF JUDAH -- had returned to Palestine from captivity.

2. Whom did Paul find left in Jerusalem about 38 A.D.? **Galatians 1:18, 19**.

COMMENT: Of the original Twelve, only Peter was there! The James mentioned here is the Messiah's brother, also mentioned in **Matthew 13:55**. He was not one of the original Twelve, although he had become an apostle. As late as the last six months of the Messiah's life, James did not believe in him (**John 7:5-8**).

3. When King Herod, about A.D. 42, martyred James, the brother of John, whom else did he find in Jerusalem? **Acts 12:1-3**.

COMMENT: Peter was there. But the

rest were long gone! Note that it was the season for the Days of Unleavened Bread. This probably accounts for the temporary presence of James.

4. When Paul again went up to Jerusalem in A.D. 49, whom did he find? **Galatians 2:9**.

COMMENT: Again, PETER (Cephas), James (the Messiah's brother) -- and John. Now it was John who was temporarily at headquarters in Jerusalem.

It is evident that most of the apostles had designated responsibilities elsewhere, which were occasionally interrupted either by trips to or temporary tours of duty at headquarters. Peter was most often at Jerusalem after the first 12 years in which the Syro-Palestinean area had been

thoroughly covered. But this does not mean that Peter settled back on an ecclesiastical throne and never left the city. Notice!

5. We have already noted Peter journeying to Samaria, Joppa, and other places around Palestine. Where else does the Bible show Peter traveled? **Galatians 2:11**. Then isn't it evident that part of Peter's job among the Twelve was to travel around and to coordinate the Work of the Ecclesias to the House of Israel and the Jews in the Near East?

6. On Peter's first trip, did John accompany him? **Acts 8:14**. Did the Church usually send out men by twos? **Luke 10:1; Acts 15:39**. Yeshua the Messiah designated John to be the one to supervise the whole Ecclesia after all the other apostles were dead (**John 21:22-23**).

COMMENT: This does NOT mean that Peter, or John, was ever the Head of the Ecclesia or in a pontifical office over the other apostles. Notice! Peter and John were SENT by the apostles collectively under the Messiah's inspiration.

Nor was Peter at ROME for a long period of time! It was another Simon, also called a Peter, who went to Rome and spent 25 years there. Rome, basically, was not a Christian

headquarters but was home to a number of Judahites and those of the Dispersion! When Paul wrote to the Romans -- in about 56 A.D. -- was there an organized congregation there to which to write? **Romans 1:7**. Yes, there was -- as early as 56 A.D.!

COMMENT: The Apostle PETER was not there when Paul wrote, but arrived later just before his death in 68 A.D. Paul devotes a whole

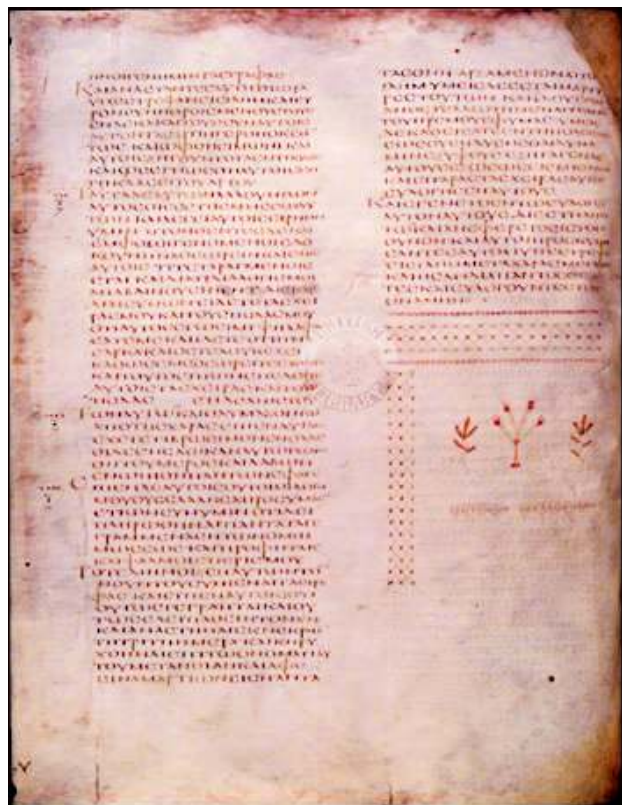
only unconverted Jews to whom he could preach? **Acts 28:15**.

COMMENT: There were congregations of Christians in south Italy (**verse 14**) as well as in Rome.

8. As late as Paul's SECOND imprisonment in Rome, was there still a congregation there? **Colossians 4:10-12, 14, Philippians 4:21-22**.



Photographic reproductions of the Codex Sinaiticus (above) and the Codex Alexandrinus (right). These manuscripts, written in Greek, have been corrupted by Greek scribes.



chapter to personal greetings to individuals (chapter 16) yet never once mentions Peter. What a slap in the face that would be if Peter were there!

Yet some today claim the apostle Peter arrived in Rome in 42 A.D.! But THAT Peter was not the apostle whom the Messiah baptized. Be sure to send for our articles, *Did the Apostle Peter Ever Visit Rome?* And *When Did the Apostle Peter Meet His Death?*

7. Somewhat later, when Paul in person arrived in Rome, did he call a CHURCH congregation to come to meet him, or were there

COMMENT: There were ministers of the CIRCUMCISION (Judahites) as well as a congregation of "Gentiles" -- those of the House of Israel -- in Rome.

9. One more mention of Peter requires our notice. Where was Peter, much later, after persecution and Roman-Jewish strife had virtually ended the Work in the Palestine area? **I Peter 5:13**. NOT at Rome. But at Babylon on the Euphrates! Where thousands of Judahites still lived, descended from those anciently carried there captive by Nebuchadnezzar.

Where Did the TWELVE Apostles Go?

Most of the “lost sheep of the HOUSE OF ISRAEL” were not in Palestine. Not since the ancient Assyrians had deported them. Where WERE they? Let us notice WHERE THE APOSTLES WENT.

1. As a headquarters apostle, Peter had also a certain responsibility toward the whole Ecclesia. In fulfilling this overall responsibility, did he write two epistles to congregations abroad? **I and II Peter**. To whom did he address the first epistle? **I Peter 1:1**.

COMMENT: These provinces were in northern and central Asia Minor (Turkey of today) along the southern shores of the Black Sea. They were non-Greek areas. The Galatia here mentioned is NORTHERN Galatia, not the southern Galatia PAUL visited and to which he wrote the Epistle to the Galatians. Archaeology has proven northern Galatia was non-Greek in language and culture.

Who lived in these provinces? Peter writes to people called “strangers” scattered throughout that land. It was not their homeland, then. Now compare **I Peter 2:10** with **Hosea 1:10-2:1**. Clearly both references are speaking of the same people -- Israel! In Peter’s day this region was a chief dwelling place of the “lost” tribes of Israel -- brother tribes to the Judahites who were the tribe of Judah.

Peter not only wrote to these people from Babylon, he visited them in person. As overall coordinator of the Ecclesias, he met and conferred with his brother Andrew there.

This region was greatly affected by the teaching of the apostles. And the effect remained for at least 2 generations. About 112 A.D., Pliny the Younger, governor of Bithynia, wrote to Roman Emperor Trajan that the temples of the old gods were almost forsaken and that Christians were everywhere a multitude!

2. Did James, the Messiah’s brother -- another headquarters apostle -- also write an epistle to all the twelve tribes -- WHEREVER they were SCATTERED? **James 1:1**. Shortly

after he wrote this epistle, James was slain -- martyred -- at the Temple in Jerusalem, about 62 A.D.

COMMENT: In addition to those in Bithynia and nearby, other Israelites were widely dispersed on three continents. But already, a major homeland was Britain. Here Peter next turned his steps. We are told that he spent MUCH TIME in Britain!

Peter died in February of 68 A.D., but in 80 or 81 A.D. Anacletus, Roman Pope, consecrated a tomb for “Peter” at Rome. Whoever was really buried there, this proves that the real apostle Peter was no longer alive -- had indeed been gone for some time -- or the fraud would soon have been exposed.

After Peter’s death, the supervision of **Trajan, Roman Emperor (98-117 A.D.)**. He allowed Christians peace instead of persecution -- though the law demanded persecution -- because truly repentant and converted Christians were obedient, peaceful, dependable -- the kind of subjects any government appreciates.



the whole Ecclesia under the Messiah was given to John, the last of the three “pillars” of headquarters (**Galatians 2:9**). He too wrote General Epistles to the Ecclesias at large -- **I, II and III John** -- and the **Book of Revelation**.

Such scanty information as we possess suggests that John only returned to the region of the eastern Mediterranean after many years absence. We hear nothing of him between the 40's and the 90's A.D. He may have been in Gaul, where French tradition declares Mary came (see **John 19:26-27**).

History tells us Peter's brother Andrew had the primary charge of the northern Asia Minor area to which Peter wrote. Andrew went all around the eastern and northeastern coasts of the Black Sea as far as the Crimea. Philip too worked in these areas, and far into Scythia.

Another apostle Philip is often confused with the first. Sometimes he is called an evangelist. We first meet this very zealous man as a deacon in **Acts 6:5**. He labored among the Grecian population on both sides of the Aegean Sea and in Gaul.

Bartholomew (Nathaniel) worked among Israelites then living in Cilicia, Armenia and beyond the Caspian. Thomas likewise went to those who still lived in the vast areas of the Iranian plateau. The northeastern part of this region was often called India in ancient times. Matthew (Levi) reached many in Scythia, on the west coast of the Caspian Sea, and in “Ethiopia” (an area of dark-skinned people in India). Thaddeus Lebbeus ministered in upper Mesopotamia, including Assyria proper.

Farther west, Matthias' sphere was Macedonia, Dacia -- modern Romania -- and areas in central Europe. Still farther, James of Alphaeus is said to have gone to Spain, Britain and Ireland, while Simon the Zealot was in North Africa, in Britain and other islands.

Did you notice how many reached Britain?

If you would like to know more about the later life and work of the apostles who so strangely disappear from the New Testament

account, write for the free article *Where Did the Twelve Apostles Go?*

End of the White Horse's Ride in Great Power

When the gospel first reached each new region, there were those YEHOVAH God had prepared to receive it. Church growth was spectacular. Soon, however, the first rush was over. Real conversions now came much more slowly, as the number of Christians in relation to the population of each region tended to reach its “saturation point.”

And now, side by side with success and growth, came increasing persecution -- it was now time for the RED HORSE to ride!.

Additional Reading...

The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse

The White Horse of Revelation 6!

Did the Apostle Peter Ever Visit Rome?

When Did the Apostle Peter Meet His Death?

Where Did the Twelve Apostles Go?

New Testament Gentiles and the *House of Israel*

Joseph of Arimathea and King David's Throne in Britain!

Answers to Questions in Lesson 33:

1. ritual 2. alone 3. Yes. 4. No 5. boldly 6. clean heart 7. His power -- His holy spirit. 8. No 9. Yes. 10. spiritually close 11. cried out 12. righteous. 13. No 14. hearts. 15. die eternal death

Check Your Progress...

Question 1: The horse in Scripture represents a great _____ movement.

Question 2: Job 39:24-25 shows the horse to have _____ and _____

Question 3: Is the color WHITE contrasted with wickedness in Daniel 12:10? _____

Question 4: What color outer garments did the Levites wear? _____

Question 5: Why were graves in the vicinity of Jerusalem whitewashed? _____

Question 6: When we overcome sin we will be clothed in white representing _____

Question 7: Is it TRUE the white horse of Rev. 6:2 represents false religion? _____

Question 8: The CROWN worn by the rider in Rev. 6:2 is employed figuratively by Paul and John as a _____

Question 9: Will the man who resists temptation receive the SAME sort of crown that the rider in Rev. 6:2 wears? _____

Question 10: What are the TWO Greek words translated “crown” in the New Testament? _____

Question 11: If the white horse and rider of Rev. 6:2 represents false religion, the anti-christ, civil strife, etc., then the rider should be wearing the _____

Question 12: The BOW symbolizes the _____

Question 13: In Habakkuk 3:8-13 the bow is a symbol of _____

Question 14: The ARROW was used as a symbol of _____

Question 15: In whom did YEHOVAH write the law in their hearts? _____

Question 16: The word “Greek(s)” is often used in the New Testament with reference to _____

The answers will be found in the next lesson. Approximately 3 weeks after receiving Lessons 33-36, you will receive a mail-in test that covers these four lessons. The test will be returned to you after grading. Following the completion of the Hope of Israel Bible Correspondence Course you will receive a **Certificate of Completion**. If you complete the course with a grade of 75% or better you will also receive an **Outstanding Student Award**.

