

The First Seal



Revelation 6:1-2

1 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 beasts saying,
Come and see.

2 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.

The Four Horsemen: The White Horse - [hyperlink](#)

Bow - God's Judgement

Psalms 7:11-12 NKJV

11 God *is* a just judge, And God is angry with *the wicked every day*.

12 If he does not turn back, He will sharpen His sword;

He bends [His bow](#) and makes it ready.

13 He also makes for himself [instruments of death](#);

He makes His [arrows into fiery shafts](#)

Psalms 45:4-5 NKJV

4 And in Your majesty ride prosperously because of truth, humility, and
righteousness; And Your right hand shall teach You awesome things.

5 Your [arrows are sharp](#) in the heart of the King's enemies;

The peoples fall under You.

Psalms 45:4-5 Amplified Bible (AMP)

And in Your majesty ride on triumphantly

For the cause of truth and humility and righteousness;

Let Your right hand guide You to awesome things.

Your [arrows are sharp](#);

The peoples ([nations](#)) fall under You;

[Your arrows pierce](#) the hearts of the King's enemies.

White Purity/Cleansing Royalty/priestly garments

Esther 8:15 King James Version

15 And Mordecai went out from the presence of the king in royal apparel of blue and white, and with a great crown of gold, and with a garment of fine linen and purple: and the city of Shushan rejoiced and was glad.

2 Chronicles 5:12 King James Version

12 Also the Levites which were the singers, all of them of Asaph, of Heman, of Jeduthun, with their sons and their brethren, being arrayed in white linen, having cymbals and psalteries and harps, stood at the east end of the altar, and with them an hundred and twenty priests sounding with trumpets.

Christ

<u>Daniel 7:9</u> 9 I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and <u>the Ancient of days did sit</u> , whose garment was <u>white as snow</u> , and <u>the hair of his head like the pure wool</u> : his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire.	<u>Daniel 11:35</u> 35 And some of them of understanding shall fall, to try them, and to purge, and <u>to make them white</u> , even to the time of the end: because it is yet for a time appointed. {Judgment}	<u>Daniel 12:10</u> 10 Many shall be purified, and <u>made white</u> , and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand.
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Matthew 7:15

Authorized (King James) Version (AKJV)

15 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

Darby Translation (DARBY)

15 But beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but within are ravening wolves.

Amplified Bible, Classic Edition (AMPC)

15 Beware of false prophets, who come to you dressed as sheep, but inside they are devouring wolves.

Messiah

Song of Solomon 5:10

10 My beloved is white and ruddy,
the chiefest among ten thousand.

Psalms 51:7

7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall
be clean: wash me, and I shall be
whiter than snow.

Isaiah 1:18

18 Come now, and let
us reason together, saith
the Lord: though your
sins be as scarlet, they
shall be **as white as
snow**; though they be
red like crimson, **they
shall be as wool.**

Revelation 1:14

His head and *his* hairs
were **white like wool**, as
white as snow; and his
eyes *were* as a flame of
fire;

Revelation 19:8

8 And to her was
granted that she should
be arrayed in fine linen,
clean and white: for the
fine linen is the
righteousness of saints.

Leprosy - Disobedience, Rebellion against God

Exodus 4:6

And the LORD said furthermore to him, Put now your hand into your bosom.
And he put his hand into his bosom: and when he took it out, behold, **his
hand was leprous as snow.**

2 Kings 5:27

The leprosy therefore of Naaman shall stick to you, and to your seed for ever.
And he went out from his presence **a leper as white as snow.**



Zechariah 6 New King James Version (NKJV)

Vision of the Four Chariots

Geographical Disbursement

6 Then I turned and raised my eyes and looked, and behold, four **chariots** were coming from between **two mountains, and the mountains were mountains of bronze**. 2 With **the first chariot were red horses**, with **the second chariot black horses**, 3 with the third chariot white horses, and with **the fourth chariot dappled horses**—strong *steeds*. 4 Then I answered and said to the angel who talked with me, “What *are* these, my lord?”

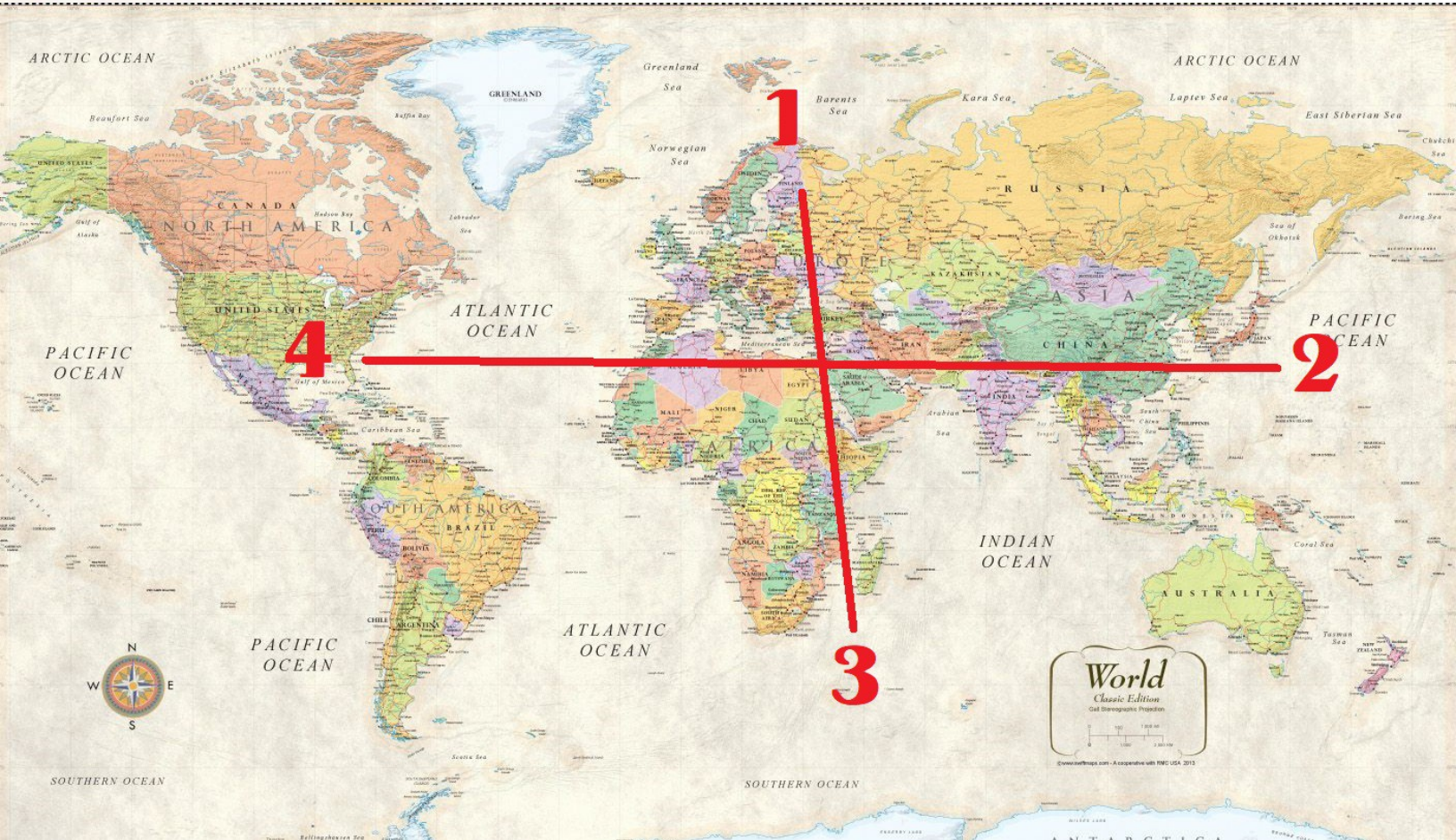
5 And the angel answered and said to me, “These **are four spirits of heaven**, who go out from *their* station before the Lord of all the earth.

6 [a]The one with **the black horses is going to the north country**, **the white are going after them**, and the dappled are going toward the south country.” 7 **Then the strong *steeds* went out, eager to go, that they might walk to and fro throughout the earth**. And He said, “Go, walk to and fro throughout the earth.” So they walked to and fro throughout the earth. 8 And He called to me, and spoke to me, saying, “See, those who go toward the north country have given rest to My Spirit in the north country.”

Common English Bible (CEB)	The Voice (VOICE)	Douay-Rheims 1899 American Edition (DRA)
8 Then he called out and said to me, “Look, the ones going north have provided rest for my spirit in the north. ”	Eternal One: 8 Watch, <i>Zechariah</i> . The horses going to the north land have appeased My restless, vengeful Spirit.	8 And he called me, and spoke to me, saying: Behold they that go forth into the land of the north, have quieted my spirit in the land of the north.

*[Mountains](#) – hyperlink PDF

*[Chariots of Heaven](#) – hyperlink PDF



Four Corners – throughout the Earth

“See, those who go toward the north country have given rest to My Spirit in the north country.”

qui•et

/ˈkwīət/

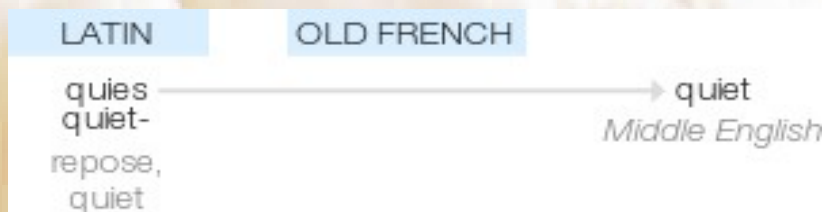
verb

NORTH AMERICAN

past tense: quieted; past participle: quieted

1. make or become silent, calm, or still.

Origin



Middle English

(originally as a noun denoting peace as opposed to war): via Old French, based on Latin *quies*, *quiet-* ‘repose, quiet’.

Genesis 6:3

New King James Version (NKJV)

3 And the Lord said, “**My Spirit shall not strive**[a] with man forever, for he *is* indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years.”

Amplified Bible (AMP)

3Then theLordsaid, “**My Spirit shall not strive** *and* remain with man forever, because he is indeed flesh [**sinful, corrupt—given over to sensual appetites**]; nevertheless his days shall yet be[a]a hundred and twenty years.”

Berean Study Bible

So the LORD said, “My Spirit will not contend with man forever, for he is mortal; his days shall be 120 years.”

Symbolism - Words of Deception

Psalm 64:1-4 King James Version

64 Hear my voice, O God, in my prayer: preserve my life from fear of the enemy.

2 Hide me from the secret counsel of the wicked; from the insurrection of the workers of iniquity:

3 Who whet their tongue like a sword, and **bend their bows** to shoot their arrows, **even bitter words**:

4 That they may shoot in secret at the perfect: suddenly do they shoot at him, and fear not.

Jeremiah 9:3 King James Version

3 And **they bend their tongues like their bow for lies**: but they are not valiant for the truth upon the earth; for they proceed from evil to evil, and they know not me, saith the Lord.

Hosea 7:16 King James Version

16 They return, but not to the most High: they are **like a deceitful bow**: their princes shall fall by the sword for **the rage of their tongue**: **this shall be their derision** in the land of Egypt.





CROWNS - Authority

Ezekiel 23:42 King James Version

42 And a voice of a multitude being at ease was with her: and with the men of the common sort were brought Sabeans from the wilderness, which put bracelets upon their hands, and **beautiful crowns upon their heads.**

Zechariah 6:11 King James Version

11 Then take silver and gold, and make **crowns**, and set them upon the head of Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest;

Zechariah 6:14 King James Version

14 And **the crowns** shall be to Helem, and to Tobijah, and to Jedaiah, and to Hen the son of Zephaniah, for a memorial in the temple of the Lord.

Revelation 4:4 King James Version

4 And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, **clothed in white raiment;** and they had on **their heads crowns of gold.**

Revelation 4:10 King James Version

10 The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and **cast their crowns** before the throne, saying,

Revelation 9:7 King James Version

7 And the shapes of ***the locusts** were like unto horses prepared unto battle; and on their heads were **as it were crowns** like gold, and their faces were as the faces of men.

***hyperlink** – [Locusts](#) & [Locust Destroyers](#)

Revelation 12:3 King James Version

3 And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and **seven crowns upon his heads**.

Revelation 13:1 King James Version

13 And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns **ten crowns**, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.

Revelation 19:12 King James Version

12 His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were **many crowns**; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.

Ezekiel 5:14-17 King James Version

14 Moreover I will make thee waste, and a reproach among the nations that are round about thee, in the sight of all that pass by.

15 So it shall be a reproach and a taunt, an instruction and an astonishment **unto the nations that are round about thee, when I shall execute judgments in thee in anger and in fury and in furious rebukes.** I the Lord have spoken it.

16 When I shall send upon them the evil **arrows of famine**, which shall be for their destruction, and which I will send to destroy you: and I will increase the famine upon you, and will break your staff of bread:

17 So will I send upon you famine and **evil beasts**, and they shall bereave thee: and pestilence and blood shall pass through thee; and I will bring **the sword** upon thee. I the Lord have spoken it.



The First Seal

The opening of the first four seals is the work of the Lamb and the four living creatures together. As the Lamb opens each of the seals, one of the living creatures gives the command, "*Come!*" A horse and rider go forth, apparently on earth. Actions in heaven are determining events on earth. The series recalls similar groups of four horsemen or **chariots sent throughout the earth** according to **Zechariah 1:8-11 and 6:1-7**. **The first horse is *white*, with a rider carrying a bow and wearing a crown riding out *as a conqueror bent on conquest* (v. 2).**

In the Vision of St. John, **white robes are given to the redeemed**, and the four-and-twenty elders stand clothed in white before the great white throne, and the Holy One that sitteth there white like wool; yet for all these accumulated associations with whatever is sweet, and honorable, and sublime, there yet lurks an elusive something in the innermost idea of this hue, which strikes more of panic to the soul than that redness which affrights in blood. This elusive quality it is, which causes the thought of whiteness, when divorced from more kindly associations, and coupled with any object terrible in itself, to heighten that terror to the farthest bounds.

The biblical perspective on the color white, in connection with the opening of the first seal, is more ambiguous than Melville assumed. If we recall the white stone promised to the angel at Pergamum (2:17) or the white garments mentioned in the letters to Sardis (3:4-5) and Laodicea (3:18), we might agree that the white horse was (in Melville's words) something "sweet, and honorable, and sublime." Reading the book for a second time, we would have this impression confirmed by recalling the figure on a **white horse in 19:11-16**, who bears such names as "Faithful and True" (19:11) and "the Word of God" (19:13). It is no surprise, therefore, that many have identified the rider on the *white horse* in chapter 6 either as Jesus himself or as the Christian message being proclaimed throughout the world.

But the second, third and fourth riders are bearers of judgment, not salvation, and it is natural to wonder if the same is not true of the first. Because an antichrist figure is by definition a counterfeit of Jesus Christ, any characteristic that identifies this first rider as the one serves equally well to identify him as the other. The phrase *as a conqueror bent on conquest* (v. 2) could point to Christ (3:20; 5:5), but it could just as easily point to the antichrist (Rissi 1966:73), who also "overpowers" or "conquers" (11:7; 13:7). Although the term *antichrist* (1 Jn 2:18; 4:3; 2 Jn 7) never occurs in the book of Revelation, the idea is conspicuous in chapters 13-20. More broadly, the rider on the white horse could represent false prophets or false messiahs (for example, Vos 1965:181-92) or even the god Apollo, who in Hellenistic mythology was linked to prophecy and was often depicted as carrying a bow (Kerkeslager 1993:116-21). Other interpretations are that he represents military conquest as a kind of abstraction (Wall 1991:110) or the dreaded Parthian empire beyond the eastern borders of Rome's dominion (for example, Boring 1989:122, "the only mounted archers in the first century; white horses were their trademark").

Although there will never be total agreement in regard to the first rider's identity, the concern over false prophets in chapters 2-3 suggests false prophecy as the most likely interpretation. This would parallel Jesus' last discourse in Mark, where false prophets are one of the signs, indeed the *first sign*, of the end of the age (Mk 13:5, 22). And to the degree that the antichrist figure in the book of Revelation is associated with false prophecy (see 13:11-17, as well as the pairing of "the beast and the false prophet" in 16:13; 19:20; 20:10), the first rider is "antichrist" as well.

The Opening of the First Four Seals

In John's vision the Lamb, who is Jesus of Nazareth and no one else, has been holding the seven-sealed scroll from the moment he took it from the hand of the one seated on the throne. Now he begins to open its seals. If the scroll is sealed in normal fashion, it obviously cannot be opened and read until all seven of its seals are broken. This prompts a question that John does not ask, but we cannot help asking, When in the book of Revelation is the scroll itself actually opened? We never see this happening, unless the scroll is the same as "the book of life" opened at the last judgment (20:12, 15; "scroll" and "book" are the same word in Greek). This "book of life," twice identified as belonging to the slain Lamb (13:8; 21:27), is said to contain a list of the names of all who would be redeemed (compare 3:5 and 17:8). But this scroll is simply one of many "books" or scrolls opened at the last judgment (20:12), while the scroll in chapter 5 is never explicitly described as a scroll "of life."

A more likely possibility is that the scroll taken by the Lamb in chapter 5 is the same one John will later see lying open in the hand of a mighty angel (10:2, 8-10). If so, the opening of the seventh and last seal (8:1) implies the opening of the scroll itself, or the opening of the scroll is visualized as a process taking place as the seals are broken, not afterward. As we have seen, the Greek word order in 5:2 and 5:5 (see NRSV) suggests that the scroll was to be opened first, and then its seals were to be opened, which makes no sense if taken literally. To John, opening the scroll and breaking the seals amount to the same thing, but even the opening of the scroll is not quite the same thing as looking into it or examining its contents. The latter is what must wait until chapter 10 or beyond. Only in chapter 10 is the scroll actually said to be "open" (10:2, 8), and only then are its contents revealed.

Preterist view

Johann Jakob Wettstein (18th century) identified the first Horseman as **Artabanus**, king of the **Parthians** who slaughtered the Jews in Babylon.[10] However, **Ernest Renan**, a 19th-century *modern rationalist preterist*, interpreted the *First Horseman* to be symbolic of the **Roman Empire**, with **Nero** as the **Antichrist**.^[11] This rider who "went forth conquering" was Rome's march toward Jerusalem in the year 67, to suppress *The Great Jewish Revolt*.^[17]

Historicist view

In the *historicist* views of **Nicholas de Lyra** (14th century), **Robert Fleming** (17th century), **Charles Daubuz** (c. 1720), **Thomas Scott** (18th century), and **Cuninghame**, they agreed that the *First Seal* opened thereupon the death of Christ.^[13]

Puritan **Joseph Mede** (1627) associated the opening of the *First Seal* to year 73, during the reign of **Vespasian**, just after *The Great Jewish Revolt*.

Campegius Vitringa (c. 1700), **Alexander Keith** (1832), and **Edward Bishop Elliott** (1837) considered this period to have started with the death of **Domitian** and **Nerva's** rise to power in the year 96. This began Rome's **Golden age** where the spread of the Gospel and Christianity flourished.^[18] To 17th-century Dutch Protestant theologian, Vitringa, it lasted up until **Decius** (249).^[19] However, a more common *historicist* view is that the *Golden age* ended with **Commodus** making peace with the Germans in year 180.^[17]

Futurist view

This rider represents the **antichrist** who will head the revived Roman Empire at the end of history.^[17]

Idealist view

This rider is a symbol of the progress of the gospel of the conquering Christ mentioned in **Rev. 5:5; 19:11-16**.^[17]



Deception - Spiritual Oscillation

Zechariah 1:8-10

8 I saw by night, and behold a man riding upon a red horse, and he stood among the myrtle trees that were in the bottom; and behind him were there **red horses, speckled, and white.**

9 Then said I, O my lord, what are these? And the angel that talked with me said unto me, I will shew thee what these be.

10 And the man that stood among the myrtle trees answered and said, These are they whom the LORD hath sent **to walk to and fro through the earth.**

Job 1:7

7 The Lord said to Satan, "From where have you come?" Then Satan answered the Lord, "**From roaming around on the earth and from walking around on it.**"

Lord hath sent to walk to and fro through the earth—If "Satan walks to and fro in the earth" (implying restless activity) on errands of mischief to God's people (Job 1:7), the Lord sends other angels to "walk to and fro" with unceasing activity everywhere to counterwork Satan's designs, and to defend His people

Psalm 34:7 (AMP)

The [**a**]angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him [with awe-inspired reverence and worship Him with obedience],
And He rescues [each of] them.

Psalm 91:11 (AMP)

For He will command His angels in regard to you,
To protect *and* defend *and* guard you in all your ways [of obedience and service].

Psalm 103:20-21 (AMP)

Bless the Lord, you His angels,
You mighty ones who do His commandments,
Obeying the voice of His word!
Bless the Lord, all you His hosts,
You who serve Him and do His will.

John 5:43 King James Version

43 I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive.

Judgment Consequences

Deuteronomy 32:23-25 King James Version

23 I will heap mischiefs upon them; **I will spend mine arrows upon them.**

24 They shall be burnt with hunger, and devoured with burning heat, and with bitter destruction: I will also send the teeth of beasts upon them, with the poison of serpents of the dust.

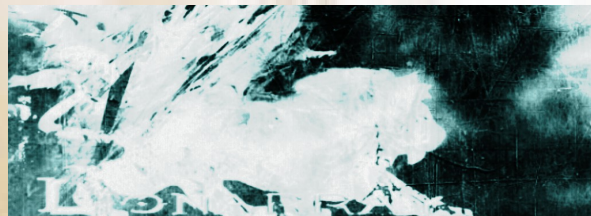
25 The sword without, and terror within, shall destroy both the young man and the virgin, the suckling also with the man of gray hairs.

Revelation 15:1-3 King James Version

15 And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvellous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God.

2 And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God.

3 And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints.





Great Deception

Matthew 24:5 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition (AMPC)

5 For many will come in (on the strength of)

**My name [[a]appropriating
the name which belongs to Me],
saying, I am the Christ (the Messiah),
and they will lead many astray.**