

The Scroll of Revelation: An Interpretation of the First Seal

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Abstract

In Christian eschatology, there are several erroneous theories regarding the first seal mentioned in Revelation, chapter six. These errors result from an inaccurate understanding of the symbology which becomes apparent only in our modern age. This paper argues that the white horse and its rider who wears a crown and carries a bow represents a progression of technology that at first appears pure and good but ultimately leads to the devolution of human civilization. As a civilization, we can no longer survive without advanced technology; thus, technology has become our conqueror as predicted in passage.

The key to unlocking the book of Revelation is to realize what is happening around you at the time and match that to the predictions in the book. Jesus said of the end times:

“Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that it is near, right at the door.”¹

He means that as the events of the end times become more proximal, they become more obvious. It’s hard to look at the prophecies of Revelation or the Olivette Discourse² and see clearly what still so distant. It’s too fuzzy. Of course, if an event has already happened, we can see that clearly, and if an event is currently happening, we can see that, but if an event is yet to unfold, we must be astute regarding world events and look for when, where, and how the patterns that are forming match the prophecies.

This paper is not about the entire end times. Rather, it is about where we are right now. The idea is to establish a chronological foothold in the prophecy of Revelation, specifically the first of the seven seals, so that we may get a better view and look a little farther toward the occurrence of the second seal, and beyond that. We want to see as far as we can, in fact, so we might prepare spiritually and physically for the events God has preordained for our world. Understanding the end times is, after all, the Veridican way.

Notwithstanding, we are certainly at the first seal now. We know this because we have left the Church Age. The end of the Church Age is detailed in the first three chapters of Revelation, and as of that conclusion, we henceforth entered the pre-tribulation era. I encourage you to read my paper, *The Seven Churches of Revelation and the Advent of Veridicanism* for a detailed examination of that prophetic history.³

The first seal is represented in Revelation by the Lamb of God (Jesus Christ) opening the first seal of a scroll that is given to him by God. John sees this in his vision, and here’s how he recorded it:

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. 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.⁴

There are at least six traditional interpretations of this passage in mainstream Christian eschatology. In my opinion, they all miss the mark. In fact, the first two, which represent the two most common interpretations, literally contradict each other.

¹ Mark 13: 28-29 NIV

² Matthew 24-25, Mark 13, and Luke 21

³ "The Seven Churches of Revelation and the Advent of Veridicanism" Edward J. Gordon, January 21, 2022, (Black Spirit Publishing) Online. http://veridicans.org/library/Churches_of_Revelation_and_Veridicanism.pdf

⁴ Revelation 6:1-2 KJV

1. The white horse represents Jesus Christ. It represents his entry into the battle of the end-times, or if one considers the end-times to have begun when Jesus first came to Earth, then it represents the birth of Jesus of Nazareth, or his resurrection. In any case, it represents Jesus Christ.
2. The rider of the white horse represents the antichrist. This is the most common explanation. It is argued that since it somewhat resembles the symbolism of Jesus Christ as he is portrayed later on in Chapter 19, it is associated with Christ, but since the rider of the white horse rides at the beginning of the tribulation and doesn't have a sword (as Jesus is often depicted with), it is considered a fraud of Christ, and therefore, the antichrist.
3. The third most often encountered opinion is that the white horse and its rider represents all the false Christs who have come since the time of Jesus, and this would also include the antichrist.
4. The first seal represents the prosperity and expansion of the Roman Empire, or more specifically the Holy Roman Empire when it became Christianized in 380 A.D. This would be more of a *preterist* viewpoint and is not too common.⁵
5. Some speculate that the first seal is a kind of plague, though such an interpretation strains the understanding given that the pale horse (the fourth seal) is directly associated with a plague.
6. Some think it is a war, but this also strains our understanding given that the second horse, the red horse, is directly associated with a war.

The problem with all these interpretations is one of perspective. As previously mentioned, it can be hard to see something at a distance. We must come up close to really know what it is. That is certainly the case with the white horse of the first seal. The theories above were made by people who were not in the pre-tribulation era. Consequently, they were too far away to see it properly, but now because we are there, it has become clear to us.

The first seal represents *technology that causes harm*. We know this because he carries a bow. He doesn't carry arrows. He carries a bow, and what is a bow? It is a technology that brings harm.

When you think about it, there is no other reason for a bow to exist except to cause harm or death, and a bow is mechanical, it is manufactured based on applied principles of physics as opposed to say a rock or stick. A bow is an *invention* of mankind; it is not natural, and is in fact, one of the first technological inventions ever created. It dates back some 70,000 years, perhaps even earlier.⁶

⁵ *Preterism* is an eschatological opinion that all the events of Revelation have already happened, save for coming of the new heaven and earth of Revelation 20-22.

⁶ "Most recently, finds from a cave site in South Africa dating from 71,000 years ago have revealed complex stone blade points that resemble recent arrowheads, suggesting an even earlier origin for archery than widely thought." How old is the bow and arrow? *World Archery* (8 April 2019) <https://worldarchery.sport/news/166330/how-old-bow-and-arrow>

That said, our technology—any technology—at first seems benign and useful. It is pure and helpful. It helps us survive; therefore, the horse of the first seal is white. Its whiteness represents that pure good thing. Also, the moving horse itself represents the *progression* of the rider, the moving forth of technology.

That technology has been racing forward for a long time, but the conquering (and thus the opening of the first seal) began in April 1993. This is the exact month of the destruction of the Branch Davidians and the advent of Veridicanism, thus the end of the Church Age. It starts the pre-tribulation era. It is also when the software needed to access the World Wide Web first became available in the public domain.⁷

While other forms of technology could have foreshadowed the white horse and its rider (e.g., dependency on electricity, the invention of the computer, nuclear weaponry, etc.), the invention and propagation of the internet and the electronic devices that access it, such as computers and smartphones, bring the white horse and its rider into very sharp focus.

Notice, the rider wears a crown. This means at some point in our technological journey, technology becomes our king. It becomes our ruler. It no longer serves us; we serve it. Thus, our own technology *conquers* us.

An invention (bow) that seemed like a good idea at the time (white horse), took over our lives (a crown) and changed how we relate to one another as human beings. People now stare at their smartphones incessantly. Dating apps have replaced meeting people in person. Pornography is rampant and ubiquitous. No one bothers to write a letter to anyone anymore—we don't even e-mail now—we only text. Sometimes we tell another person we love them with nothing more than a quick emoji.

Colleges and classrooms of all kinds have gone online. All our information is stored in the cloud. All our knowledge comes from what Google tells us. Our socialization is accomplished through social media like Twitter and Facebook. It is controlling (conquering) every aspect of our lives. Without the internet and its associated apps, we couldn't even distribute food around the country. All our banking and finance is controlled through the internet. All our medical records are stored there, and more ominous signs are just ahead.

The addiction to online gaming, blockchain technology, artificial intelligence, virtual reality, drone technology, and robotics, all these things, coupled with the 5G speed of the modern internet will utterly dominate every aspect of our lives. It is turning us into automatons, and rather than increasing our knowledge and wisdom (like the white horse we thought it would be), humanity is becoming its dependent slaves. Technology has conquered us.

⁷ “On April 30, 1993, the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) put the web into the public domain a decision that has fundamentally altered the past quarter-century.” *On This Day 25 Years Ago, the Web Became Public Domain* David Grossman. Popular Mechanics (April 30, 2018) <https://www.popularmechanics.com/culture/web/a20104417/www-public-domain/>

Unfortunately, there's no turning back the clock. Our technological civilization, our conquered society, is what the world has become, and whether we like it or not, we are part of that world. The end times are upon us. The meaning of the first seal is obvious, and it has opened, and it is a warning to those in Christ to prepare mentally, spiritually, and physically, so we can withstand the tribulation and outsmart the forces that will come against the Elect.

So, what should the Elect do about it? We should overcome. In any way that we can, we must try to diminish your reliance on technology. We can use it, but we must not allow it to control us or make us dependent upon it, or let it rob us of our compassion and interaction with our neighbor.

It is not the purpose of this article to lay out the practical means by which any individual might overcome the white horse and its rider. The purpose of this article is merely to interpret the first seal of Revelation. It is to serve as an alert and encourage those in Christ that wherever we can, we want to be as un-conquered by technology as we can be.

—The End—