

Sunday November 2nd 2014  
From Here To Eternity  
Part Seven

1). Re 6:2 *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.*

a). We will remember from last week that we had begun to look at the events which will transpire once the man of sin has been revealed 'in his own time' and we had seen these events unfolding with respect to unbelieving Israel and the Lord's prophets, the 2 witnesses, who will be sent to call the nation to repentance as the rider on the white horse begins his journey – Re 11:3 ¶ *"And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth."*

b). We had seen Antichrist come to prominence through deception and cunning within the context of his understanding 'sinister schemes', pictured through the symbolism of the white horse, the bow without arrows and the 'stephanos' crown, all of which create an illusion of peace.

c). We had also noted that during the 3 ½ years of the ministry of the 2 witnesses that Antichrist is not idle, but maneuvers his way, through intrigue, to seize the kingdom - Da 11:21 ¶ *"And in his place shall arise a vile person, to whom they will not give the honor of royalty; but he shall come in peaceably, and seize the kingdom by intrigue."*

d). And we will also remember that these actions taking place on the earth must be seen in conjunction with that which will be taking place in the heavens at the same time – and in order to add some more detail to these events we had begun to look at some verses from Daniel Chapter 7 and Revelation Chapter 13.

e). Before we return to these verses though let's deal with one final thing concerning faithful Christians following the events at Christ's Judgment Seat.

2). So if we set the scene we will remember that the separation of the faithful from the unfaithful will have taken place instantly following the resurrection/rapture and that those who will have heard the words, 'Well done good and faithful servant', will have received the salvation of their souls-

now finding themselves completely apart from sin they will have been identified as the Bride, as joint heirs with Christ and will have been adopted as firstborn sons with all the rights and privileges that accompany the firstborn status. They will be the many sons brought to glory, in possession of the 7 overcomers' promises and will have received a covering of glory in preparation for wearing the robes of rulership during the Millennial Kingdom – for the first time since Adam was created in the Garden these individuals will now be in the image and likeness of God – fully redeemed and ready to rule - 2Ti 4:7 *I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.*

a). Now as there will be 7 years and 75 days beyond the events of the Judgment Seat before the beginning of the Millennial Kingdom when their rulership of the earth will begin it is an often asked question as to what those found faithful at Christ's Judgment Seat will be doing during the time when the Lord is redeeming the inheritance and where they will be while this is happening.

b). Any kind of precise detail on this subject is not available to us in the scriptures, but in a general sense we are able, from the types, to have an idea - Ru 3:14 ¶ *So she lay at his feet until morning, and she arose before one could recognize another. Then he said, "Do not let it be known that the woman came to the threshing floor." 15 Also he said, "Bring the shawl that is on you and hold it." And when she held it, he measured six ephahs of barley, and laid it on her. Then she went into the city. 16 So when she came to her mother-in-law, she said, "Is that you, my daughter?" Then she told her all that the man had done for her. 17 And she said, "These six ephahs of barley he gave me; for he said to me, 'Do not go empty-handed to your mother-in-law.'" 18 Then she said, "Sit still, my daughter, until you know how the matter will turn out; for the man will not rest until he has concluded the matter this day."*

c). If we look at our verses here from Ruth Chapter 3 we see that following Ruth being identified on Boaz's threshing floor and while he goes to redeem the inheritance for her, Ruth 'went into the city', and once there she is to 'sit still, my daughter, until you know how the matter will turn out' knowing that the man, Boaz, will not enter into rest 'until he has concluded the matter this day'.

d). Within the type of Joseph and Asenath in Genesis Chapters 41-45, we find Asenath in a different part of Pharaoh's palace, separate from Joseph,

while Joseph is dealing with his brothers and similarly within the type of Moses and Zipporah in Exodus, Zipporah remains with her father while Moses returns to deliver Israel from Egypt.

e). And so, putting all this together we can know that those found faithful at the Judgment Seat will remain in the New Jerusalem and will neither be with Christ nor accompany Him to the earth during the unfolding of the events of the 7 year Tribulation and the 75 days that preceded the Millennial Kingdom as He deals with Israel and the Gentile nations.

f). Instead of being with the Lord the faithful will have to 'sit still' and wait, knowing that the Man, Jesus Christ, will not enter into the Day of Rest until He has concluded the matter on the earth 'this day', at the conclusion of Man's Day.

g). Anything beyond this seen in the types would be pure speculation on our part and therefore of no value – suffice it to say that had the Lord found it necessary for us to know the complete detail of this He would have told us, and the fact that He hasn't means that is exactly where we need to leave it.

3). So then, the detail of that to be experienced by those found faithful during this time that we know as the redemption of the inheritance, the Tribulation, Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> week, is not there in the scriptures, but there is an abundance of detail that God does provide in His Word concerning both Israel, the Gentile nations and the man of sin during this time that we do need to know – so let's return to the verses from Daniel Chapter 7 and Revelation Chapter 13 to put together some more of the detail provided for us.

a). Da 7:1 ¶ *In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel had a dream and visions of his head while on his bed. Then he wrote down the dream, telling the main facts. 2 Daniel spoke, saying, "I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the Great Sea. 3 "And four great beasts came up from the sea, each different from the other. 4 "The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings. I watched till its wings were plucked off; and it was lifted up from the earth and made to stand on two feet like a man, and a man's heart was given to it. 5 "And suddenly another beast, a second, like a bear. It was raised up on one side, and had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. And they said thus to it: 'Arise, devour much flesh!' 6 "After this I looked, and there was another, like a leopard, which had on its back four wings of a bird. The beast also had four heads, and dominion was given to it. 7 "After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong. It had huge iron teeth; it was devouring, breaking in pieces,*

*and trampling the residue with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns. 8 "I was considering the horns, and there was another horn, a little one, coming up among them, before whom three of the first horns were plucked out by the roots. And there, in this horn, were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous words.*

b). Now we will remember from our previous studies that the 4 beasts seen in this chapter correspond to the 4 parts of the image from Nebuchadnezzar's dream in Daniel Chapter 2 – the Babylonian kingdom of Nebuchadnezzar himself – the beast like a lion with eagle's wings, followed by the Medes and the Persians – the beast like a bear with 3 ribs in its mouth and then the Greeks under Alexander the Great – the beast like a leopard with 4 wings like a bird and 4 heads, leaving a fourth kingdom – 'dreadful and terrible' yet to be revealed.

c). And in connection with these 4 interrelated kingdoms we see that 'the four winds of heaven were stirring up the Great Sea' and the 4 beasts 'came up from the sea' – and as we read this we realize that we are of course not dealing with a literal picture here but rather with metaphor and the use of numbers.

d). The sea, as we know, is used in scripture as a metaphor for the Gentile nations as we can see from - Isa 60:5 *Then you shall see and become radiant, And your heart shall swell with joy; Because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, The wealth of the Gentiles shall come to you.* In this verse it is plain that 'the abundance of the sea' and 'the wealth of the Gentiles' are synonymous.

e). The sea can also be a metaphor for the place of the dead as we see from - Re 20:13 *The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.*

f). And it is of course through the context in which the metaphor is used that we know that the 4 beasts coming out of the sea refer to kings and kingdoms rising to prominence from the Gentile nations.

g). In conjunction with this the number 4, 4 winds, 4 corners, 4 beasts, is used to signify that which relates solely to the earth – these then are kings of the earth, kings who rule the whole earth, rising up to world domination out of the Gentile nations and are all Babylonian.

h). The 4 winds 'stirring up' the 'Great Sea' pictures turmoil in the Gentile nations in connection with Israel, the land covenanted to Abraham,

Isaac and Jacob and Israel's unbelief during the latter part of Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> week – turmoil brought about through angelic activity according to –  
Re 7:1 ¶ *After these things I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, on the sea, or on any tree. 2 Then I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God. And he cried with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea, 3 saying, "Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads."*

i). Historically, and foreshadowing this future time, we see a divided Israel in the land covenanted to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob during the days when the Babylonians completed Israel's captivity, and although the Theocracy was still in existence until the last 2 tribes were taken into captivity, the divided nation was spiritually bankrupt through unbelief. And so it is within the overall context of Israel, the land and the nation in unbelief that these particular worldwide kingdoms must be seen.

j). Jon 1:11 ¶ *Then they said to him, "What shall we do to you that the sea may be calm for us?" -for the sea was growing more tempestuous. 12 And he said to them, "Pick me up and throw me into the sea; then the sea will become calm for you. For I know that this great tempest is because of me."*

These verses from the beginning of the Book of Jonah show us this very thing, prophetically looking forward to the time when Israel still in unbelief will again be sent captive into the Gentile nations at the mid-point of the Tribulation.

k). That the 'sea' is 'growing more tempestuous' in anticipation of this future event can be witnessed on the news every day.

l). Now the thing to note from the verses in Daniel Chapter 7 is that we see these 4 kingdoms as sequential, interrelated, kingdoms, but they are not sequential within an historical chronology, but sequential with regards to the Babylon/Assyria/Israel connection – the things we have seen from our previous studies – and we might remember that these kingdoms must be seen as sequential because Daniel is dealing with a timeframe of 490 sequential years, a period of time that has a singular focus - Da 9:24 *"Seventy weeks are determined For your people and for your holy city, To finish the transgression, To make an end of sins, To make reconciliation for iniquity, To bring in everlasting righteousness, To seal up vision and prophecy, And to anoint the Most Holy."*

m). And as we had seen last week when God begins dealing with Israel once again He is dealing with a nation in the same state of spiritual bankruptcy as that which existed 2 millenniums beforehand and from this perspective the dispensation allotted to the 'church' does not enter into the equation at all – and so looking at this from God's perspective, focused on His dealings with His people Israel, the 4<sup>th</sup> kingdom ruled by the 4<sup>th</sup> beast comes directly out of the 3<sup>rd</sup> kingdom with the historical events between the fading of the Greco-Babylonian kingdom and the rise of the kingdom of Antichrist just not there.

n). 6 *"After this I looked, and there was another, like a leopard, which had on its back four wings of a bird. The beast also had four heads, and dominion was given to it.*

The 3<sup>rd</sup> beast which was 'like a leopard' is seen to have 4 wings 'of a bird' on its back and has 4 heads and is a metaphorical presentation of the kingdom of Alexander the Great who was succeeded on his death by his 4 generals who divided his kingdom between them – and as we will remember it is out of the geographical area covered by the northern part of Alexander's divided kingdom that the Antichrist will come, just as we had seen in Daniel Chapter 8 Da 8:8 *Therefore the male goat grew very great; but when he became strong, the large horn was broken, and in place of it four notable ones came up toward the four winds of heaven. 9 And out of one of them came a little horn which grew exceedingly great toward the south, toward the east, and toward the Glorious Land. 10 And it grew up to the host of heaven; and it cast down some of the host and some of the stars to the ground, and trampled them. 11 He even exalted himself as high as the Prince of the host; and by him the daily sacrifices were taken away, and the place of His sanctuary was cast down.*

o). The little horn in Daniel Chapter 8 is another representation of the 4<sup>th</sup> beast from Chapter 7 and according to the scripture he is different from the previous 3, being described as 'dreadful and terrible' – and this difference can be marked in two notable ways, firstly because he is the literal son of Satan, the seed of the serpent spoken of in the Garden and secondly because the kingdom he desires is not just an earthly one, but the complete rule of the heavens and the earth.

4). If we then go into Revelation Chapter 13 we will find this - Re 13:1 ¶ *Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name. 2 Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet*

*were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority. 3 And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast. 4 So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?" 5 And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months. 6 Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven. 7 It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation.*

a). Immediately we will note in the first 2 verses parallel imagery with that seen in Daniel Chapter 7 – The Apostle John is standing ‘on the sand of the sea’ and ‘a beast’ is rising up out of the sea and is described as ‘like a leopard, his feet like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion’ – a composite form then of the original 3 beasts from Daniel Chapter 7, in reverse order.

b). What is being presented here should be obvious to us – the beast rising out of the sea is the 4<sup>th</sup> beast from Daniel Chapter 7 and he is shown to be the natural successor to and inextricably connected with the worldwide Babylonian kingdoms that have preceded him – his rule is from the same geographical area with its center in Babylon just as with the previous 3 and he is by physical birth an ‘Assyrian’ – Mic 5:6 *They shall waste with the sword the land of Assyria, And the land of Nimrod at its entrances; Thus He shall deliver us from the Assyrian, When he comes into our land And when he treads within our borders.*

c). Then at the end of Revelation 13:2 we see - *The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority.*

By comparing scripture with scripture we know that the ‘dragon’ is a metaphor for Satan, the fallen angel who presently holds the scepter of rulership over the earth. And we see that Satan gives his power, his throne and great authority to the beast that rises up out of the sea.

d). Now although the previous 3 forms of this kingdom would have been under Satan’s jurisdiction, the rulers of those kingdoms were never given the power and authority bestowed upon the man of sin – and again here we see a counterfeit, a counterfeit of the Father giving all He has to the Son.

e). Antichrist receives the very thing that had been offered to the Lord by Satan in the temptation in the wilderness - Lu 4:5 *Then the devil, taking Him*

*up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. 6 And the devil said to Him, "All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. 7 "Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours."*

f). Now we might remember this from - Da 8:23 *"And in the latter time of their kingdom, When the transgressors have reached their fullness, A king shall arise, Having fierce features, Who understands sinister schemes. 24 His power shall be mighty, but not by his own power; He shall destroy fearfully, And shall prosper and thrive; He shall destroy the mighty, and also the holy people.* We see in v24 that Antichrist's power 'shall be mighty, but not by his own power' – this is the very thing that we have just seen at the conclusion of Revelation 13:2

5). So then, on the earth Antichrist has made covenant with Israel and for the first 3 ½ years of the Tribulation is by intrigue, through the implementation of sinister schemes, moving his way towards establishing the 4<sup>th</sup> worldwide kingdom seen in Daniel with its central power base in Babylon. And it is at this mid-point in the Tribulation that the mask of deception is removed and extraordinary events take place – events that we would have to see as happening so close together as to be almost concurrent with one another – but let's start with that which sets all this in motion - Re 12:1 ¶ *Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars. 2 Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth. 3 And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. 4 His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born. 5 She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne. 6 Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days. 7 And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, 8 but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. 9 So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.*

a). In these verses then we see a 'woman' about to give birth, a fiery red dragon standing before the woman ready to devour her child – we see the child born and then immediately caught up to God and His throne – the woman who has just given birth flees into the wilderness to a place God has prepared for her, where she will be taken care of for 1260 days – 3 ½ years – we see war breaking out in heaven and the dragon and his angels cast out of heaven to the earth.

b). Once again, let's remember that these are real events that are described through the use of figurative language and metaphor – the woman is a representation of the nation of Israel, and her description in v1 takes us to Joseph's dreams in - Ge 37:9 *Then he dreamed still another dream and told it to his brothers, and said, "Look, I have dreamed another dream. And this time, the sun, the moon, and the eleven stars bowed down to me."*

c). To understand the male child who is born we must go back to the ministry of the 2 witnesses during the first 3 ½ years of the Tribulation and remember the 144000 Jews, 12000 from each of the 12 tribes who are converted as a result of their ministry. These 144000 are the ones seen in Revelation Chapter 7 and then seen in heaven in - Re 14:1 ¶ *Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His Father's name written on their foreheads.*

d). It is this group who are the firstfruits of what will be a nationally converted Israel at the end of the Tribulation that Satan, through the Antichrist, seeks to destroy and these are taken into heaven as we have seen both to protect them and prepare them for the ministry they will have to the Gentile nations once they return to the earth during the final 3 ½ years of the Tribulation.

e). And it is at this point, when Satan and his angels are cast out of heaven, no longer having access to that realm that Satan gives his power and throne and great authority to his son.

f). And it is at this same point in time that we come to the opening of the second seal on the 7 sealed scroll - Re 6:3 ¶ *When He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, "Come and see." 4 Another horse, fiery red, went out. And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth, and that people should kill one another; and there was given to him a great sword.*

g). That which we see with the opening of the 2<sup>nd</sup> seal comes as a direct result of what has taken place through the opening of the 1st seal.

h). The rider on the horse is still the Antichrist but the horse is no longer white but now fiery red in color speaking of judgment and the illusion of peace that he had established 3 ½ years earlier is now taken from the earth and the bow with no arrows which he carried then is now replaced with 'a great sword'.

6). We will though have to continue with this next time – if the Lord is willing.