

Manna for Your Soul

A Portrait of the Little Horn

Wednesday March 8, 2006

“And he shall speak *great* words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.” **Daniel 7:25**

Looking at the Word:

Following forty days of fasting, Christ was approached by Satan offering him “the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them” (Matthew 4:8). That which Jesus Christ declined from the hand of Satan, Antichrist will accept (Revelation 13:4). In the early days of Antichrist’s rule, it will seem to be the dawning of a new golden age. The kingdom of Antichrist will epitomize the height of man’s glory, wisdom, and power. However, the dark underbelly of the beast will also be showcased by Antichrist’s spiritual arrogance and tyrannical oppression of God’s people, who refuse to acknowledge the divine prerogatives that Antichrist will claim for himself.

- **A Man Who Blasphemes God:** Blasphemy is a common theme wherever Antichrist and his kingdom are described in Scripture (Daniel 11:36; Revelation 13:5-6; 17:3). Satan’s desire to supplant God will find expression in public policy within the kingdom but also in the personal practice of Antichrist, the king (Isaiah 14:13-14; Revelation 13:4-15). The phrase “he shall speak words against the Most High” refers to Antichrist holding God up for public contempt and defamation, but it also points to Antichrist’s demand that he be the object of worship (Daniel 11:36; 2 Thessalonians 2:4). It has been said with Antichrist that we have “atheism, antitheism, and autotheism in its fullest development” (Jamieson, Fausset, & Brown, vol. 4, page 422).
- **A Man Who Persecutes God’s People:** The phrase “shall wear out (שָׁרַף *bela*) the saints of the most High” pictures the fabric of life for the saints becoming frayed and tattered through hard usage. The implication is that Antichrist’s oppressive rule will make daily life increasingly more difficult for all God’s people. In fact, elsewhere we are told that Antichrist goes to war against the saints (Daniel 7:21; Revelation 13:7). Since Satan cannot attack God directly, he will pour out his hatred upon God’s people. Neither Jews nor followers of the Lamb will worship the image of the beast; nor will they accept the mark of the beast upon their hand or forehead (Revelation 13:16-17). In addition to the economic hardship this will cause, John writes that many will be martyred for their refusal to bow their knee in worship (Revelation 20:4).
- **A Man Who Intends to Change the Times and Laws God Established for the World:** At creation, God established the duration of days, weeks, months, and years (Genesis 1:14-19; 2:1-3). Antichrist will attempt to change the calendar. The times of a man are in the hands of God (Psalm 31:15), yet Antichrist will seem to control life and death. God has set boundary lines in time for a nation’s existence (Daniel 2:21; 7:12; Acts 17:26). In addition, God has arranged for the “times and seasons” until Christ’s return to coincide with the end of the “times of the Gentiles” (Luke 21:24; Acts 1:7). Antichrist will attempt to block the former and to extend the latter of these two events. Furthermore, Antichrist, termed the “Wicked”, literally the “lawless one” (2 Thessalonians 2:8), will attempt to change the moral and religious laws of God for mankind.
- **A Man Whose Own Time Is Set:** At first it may seem like Antichrist will succeed in usurping God’s sovereignty over the times and laws of this world—but Antichrist’s own time is already set as part of God’s timetable for history. God’s time-leash on this beast is “a time and times and the dividing of time.” How long is that? The word “time” (יָדָן *iddan*) may refer to a “point” in time or a “span” in time (TWOT, p. 1054). While it is possible this enigmatic phrase may refer to an indefinite period of time, a comparison of Daniel’s vision with that given to John in Revelation yields a more precise accounting. This final period of time, just prior to Christ’s return when Antichrist will unleash his reign of terror against those who refuse him worship, will be limited to a time (year) and times (two years) and a dividing of time (half a year), or 3½ years altogether.

“a time and times and the dividing of time” Daniel 7:25	= “time, and times, and half a time” Revelation 12:14	= 1260 Days Revelation 12:6	= 42 months Revelation 11:2-3; 13:5	= 3 ½ Years
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Application and Meditation:

The Antichrist will rage on the world’s stage, but the Most High God will still reign. The times of men and nations remain in the hands of God. It is a comfort to the believer knowing that God is still guarding his soul regardless of the storms of life. It is also sobering to realize when the sands of time run out for a man (even an Antichrist) that there is no escaping God’s judgment. © 2006, Manna for Your Soul – all rights reserved