



Set Times and Laws

Planned before creation, Almighty God foreknew the outcome of all things. A rebellion in heaven was foreknown. God, the Great Creator, drew up the set times within His grand plan for creation in heaven and on earth that would allow for choices and consequences in preparation of the great fall into rebellion of creation in heaven. He knew rebels would try to usurp His rule. He knew He would have to build a legal case against them. He knew it would involve a terrifying war in heaven that would spillover onto earth. Mankind will be rudely awakened upon their arrival on earth.

The little horn of Daniel will play the key role in the final battle on earth. Satan will watch on the side lines. **“He will speak out against the Most High and oppress the saints of the Most High, intending to change the appointed times and laws; and the saints will be given into his hand for a time, and times, and half a time”** (Daniel 7:25).

One of the key words in that verse is “intending.” The little horn will speak against the Almighty God of Israel and persecute the saints with the intension of disqualifying the authority of the God of Israel, the Almighty God and persecute the saints who ally with Him. The saints will suffer mockery and ridicule from the little horn and his whole coalition for three and a half years.

At this time, the little horn of Daniel will be a cornered beast desperately trying to change the times allocated by Almighty God and set into His grand plan for all creation in heaven and on earth. He will also try to change laws—God’s laws that lead to His judgement and sentencing. He will try to set a precedent that would force his pardon within Almighty God’s eternal legal structure. He will fail because he is not the God of all gods; he is not the eternal Law-maker, he is not the Great Creator.

Time, times and a half has been allocated to the little horn at the close of this evil age to test the loyalty of all creation in both heaven and on earth. He will be successful only because he is allowed his set time.

THE GREAT REBELLION BEGINS IN HEAVEN AND SPILLS OVER ONTO EARTH

The image of the great statue in Daniel describes the rise and overthrow of kingdoms on earth. The great rebellion in heaven is mirrored on earth through the great statue. Three powerful beastly kingdoms ruled by kings in heaven with regents on earth have risen and fallen. The final

beastly kingdom will be terrifying and horrible. The final rebel ruler over the unsightly beastly force will be a highly skilful manipulator and deceiver.

“His power will be great, but it will not be his own. He will cause terrible destruction and succeed in whatever he does. He will destroy the mighty along with the saints” (Daniel 8:24).

A great shift in power will take place in heaven that will impact all of mankind on earth. The reign of the ten kings from heaven, who will be given rulership over earth for one hour, will not initially be evil through and through.

“In the latter part of their reign, when the rebellion has reached its full measure, an insolent king, skilled in intrigue, will come to the throne” (Daniel 8:23).

Rebellion in heaven will swell, fully and completely, igniting war. Michael, the Archangel with his army will overpower the rebellion led by Satan and his coalition of one-third of the angels. They will be thrown down to earth (Revelation 12:7).

People on earth will see their fall, which will appear in the form of an alien arrival with great power and magnitude.

The ten kings will, however, over a short period of time, become completely wicked in all they do, then, a vile character will rise. He will be given by Satan, his great power, authority and his throne (Revelation 13:2) and take the reign of Wickedness after overthrowing three of the ten kings.

THE RISE OF THE LITTLE HORN

Many people today are pointing to mortals as the enemy, the Antichrist. The little horn is a picture of the Antichrist. **“Who is the liar, except the one denying that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one denying the Father and the Son”** (1 John 2:22).

The little horn in Daniel is a vile spirit being who overpowers and subdues three kings in heaven. He is ambitious because there can only one way he can save himself and his fellow rebels. He needs to change God’s set times and laws. He needs to extend the set times and set a new legal precedent of forgiveness of sins for fallen spirit beings. He wants to change the consequences for sin.

“It grew as high as the host of heaven, and it cast down some of the host and some of the stars to the earth, and trampled them. It magnified itself, even to the Prince of the host; it removed His daily [sacrifice] and overthrew the place of His sanctuary” (Daniel 8:10).

This rebel spiritual being will become powerful and go up against God’s army and angels in heaven. He will overpower some in God’s army and some of the angels. People on earth will be swept up into this raging war. The overpowered military and angels will be thrown down to earth and trampled. This display will bring terror and immense fear to mere mortals watching.

The little horn will delight in this success and rise to stand as an equal to Jesus Christ, the Prince of princes. The Messiah is mankind's intercessor. Daily, he comes before Almighty God to intercede for the sins of mankind. He, alone, is qualified as mankind's intercessor. Yet, the little horn will rise to stand against Jesus Christ in heaven to stop intercession for mankind and direct attention to himself as their only saviour.

The little horn will take supreme power after he overthrows three of the ten kings in heaven ruling over the nations on earth. "And the ten horns are ten kings who will rise from this kingdom. After them another king, different from the earlier ones, **will rise and subdue three kings**" (Daniel 7:24). These ten kings are the same recorded by the Apostle John. "The ten horns you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but will receive one hour of authority as kings, along with the beast" (Revelation 17:12). This rebel coalition will terrify mankind and they will surrender, knowing it cannot be overthrown by mere mortals.

These rebel rulers are part of a great rogue coalition of powerful rulers, powers and principalities in heaven that the Apostle Paul identified are mankind's only enemies (Ephesians 6:12). This rogue coalition will expand as loyalty to Almighty God is tested. Leading members of God's courts in heaven have all dissented Almighty God (Ezekiel 31). They have joined the rebel forces attempting to overthrow the Almighty, All Powerful, Great Creator. The little horn of Daniel will lead and bring the close of this evil age. He will be allowed to rise and test creation in heaven.

THE LITTLE HORN ATTACKS THE MIGHTY AND THE SAINTS

"Some of the host and some of the stars" will be cast down to earth and trampled. The host in Daniel 8 refers to members of God's army and the stars refer to angels. Mankind will witness the overthrow of some of God's army and some of His angels. It will be a time like no other ever to have occurred on earth previously. The little horn will declare himself to be mankind's intercessor when he usurps the Prince of princes by stopping the Messiah's daily intercession for mankind in heaven and the sanctuary of the Prince of princes is declared powerless. He will then, in heaven, declare himself to be the Messiah of mankind and their intercessor and ultimate judge.

"And in the rebellion, **the host and the daily [sacrifice] were given over to the horn, and it flung truth to the ground and prospered in whatever it did**" (Daniel 8:11).

The word "sacrifice" in Daniel 8 was added by interpreters. The daily work of Jesus Christ in heaven in his sanctuary, where he is today, is his intercession for the sins of mankind, which he alone is qualified because of his perfect sacrifice. Repentant mankind receives God's Holy Spirit, which allows them into the Messiah under his righteous covering. "Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:1). The spirit of Jesus Christ knows the heart of the saints. "In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know how we ought to pray, but **the Spirit Himself intercedes for us** with groans too deep for words. And He who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because **the Spirit**

intercedes for the saints according to the will of God” (Romans 8:26-27). The Spirit of Jesus Christ who intercedes for repentant mankind.

The sole purpose of sacrifices in ancient times was to teach God’s people about sin. The sacrifice of an innocent life of a specific animal without defect was a type of what was to come—the sacrifice of the life of Jesus Christ, the lamb without defect. God Almighty takes no pleasure in animal sacrifices. “Instead, those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins, because **it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.** Therefore, when Christ came into the world, He said: **“Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, but a body You prepared for Me”** (Hebrews 10:3-5).

Christ was the sacrifice; he does not conduct sacrifices in heaven or on earth. The daily that is stopped is his intercession for mankind.

The little horn totally discards all truth and is allowed to prosper in his plans but only for the set time assigned by Almighty God.

The vision of the evenings and the mornings specifies the exact time, the little horn is allowed to rule. “It will take 2,300 evenings and mornings; then **the sanctuary will be reconsecrated”** (Daniel 8:14).

God Almighty is fully in-charge. The Messiah’s sanctuary will be reconsecrated after the set time is complete. God is building His legal case against all rebels in heaven and on earth. It will be a very confusing and troubling time for mankind who do not understand the prophecy recorded in the book of Daniel. Most theologians have not incorporated the spiritual war in heaven and its spillover onto earth into their teaching of end-time prophecy.

THE LITTLE HORN, GOD OF ALL GODS

The little horn will declare himself as the supreme god over all gods. While he cannot claim to be the Almighty God, he degrades and rages against the God of gods to discredit Him and use his own successes as merits of proof that he is more powerful than the Supreme, Almighty God.

“Then the king will do as he pleases and will **exalt and magnify himself above every god, and he will speak monstrous things against the God of gods. He will be successful until the time of wrath is completed, for what has been decreed must be accomplished.** He will show no regard for the gods of his fathers, nor for the one desired by women, nor for any other god, because **he will magnify himself above them all”** (Daniel 11:36-37).

While events may appear that this vile character is all powerful, he remains limited to the time the Almighty God has decreed.

The event that desecrates all creation in heaven and on earth is his declaration that he can save them. This rebel is the abomination in the holy place. He is the vile character instrumental in the spiritual destruction of mankind during this final great battle. He will pollute the sanctuary

with his unholy presence and his claim that his blemished sacrifice is acceptable and can pay the price for sin. He will promote compromise instead of perfection. He will try to establish a theological precedent that will allow spiritual rebels a legal mechanism for forgiveness of their sins.

His temple fortress will be built with walls and a trained army. He will be fully equipped for war not peace.

THE SAINTS WILL TAKE THE LEGAL WITNESS TO THE WORLD

The saints will complete the legal witness to mankind who submit to the rule of this unholy coalition. Judgement will be brought upon them during this final period. Allegiance to the Almighty God and His eternal laws and righteous ways is mankind's only hope for life.

“And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. So when you see standing in the holy place ‘the abomination of desolation,’ described by the prophet Daniel (let the reader understand), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains” (Matthew 24:14-16).

“His forces will rise up and desecrate the temple fortress. They will abolish the daily [sacrifice] and set up the abomination of desolation. With flattery he will corrupt those who violate the covenant, but the people who know their God will firmly resist him” (Daniel 11:31-32).

The little horn will do all he can to woo God's people away from their covenant with Him. The abomination of desolation is designed to trick God's people into following a different king with a different set of laws and ways. God's covenant people who know Him will not be tricked. They understand the prophecies in the book of Daniel and will firmly resist the lies and deceit of this vile rebel.

The unsightly fourth beast of Daniel is not a coalition of nations on earth. It is a spiritual rebel force untouchable by mortals.

“After this, as I watched in my vision in the night, suddenly **a fourth beast appeared**, and it was **terrifying—dreadful and extremely strong—with large iron teeth. It devoured and crushed; then it trampled underfoot whatever was left. It was different from all the beasts before it, and it had ten horns**” (Daniel 7:7).

Only another spiritual army can take down this raging coalition in its madness.

“Through his craft and by his hand, he will cause deceit to prosper, and in his own mind he will make himself great. In a time of peace he will destroy many, and **he will even stand against the Prince of princes. Yet he will be broken off, but not by human hands**” (Daniel 8:25).

“As you watched, **a stone was cut out, but not by human hands. It struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay, and crushed them**” (Daniel 2:34).

Jesus Christ will crush this detestable, colossal dark force.

What is coming onto earth will push all past world wars, atrocities, despicable violations of holy practices into insignificance. What is coming will be a display of raw spiritual power and force by rebel and raging fallen heavenly beings fighting to regain power and control, fighting for their preservation by trying to change God's set times of events and God's eternal laws that define sin that leads to destruction. It will be exactly as Jesus described, "For at that time there will be great tribulation, **unmatched from the beginning of the world until now, and never to be seen again. If those days had not been cut short, nobody would be saved.** But for the sake of the elect, those days will be cut short" (Matthew 24:21-22).

The little horn will attempt to change the Great Creator's set times for events in order to extending his time of rule to gain access to setting a legal mechanism that would excuse their rebellion.

How long will it take? "**It will be for a time, times and half a time.** When the power of the holy people has been finally broken, all these things will be completed" (Daniel 12:7). The set times and laws determined by Almighty God cannot be changed by no other than the Great Creator Himself—the Holy Supreme Being of all existence. What has been decreed will take place.

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