

The Gospel Unashamed

"From the cowardice that shrinks from new truth, from the laziness that is content with half-truths, from the arrogance that thinks it knows all truth, O, God of Truth, deliver us."

A Controversial Newsletter "The Printed Voice of Summit Theological Seminary"

~ All articles written by Terry Carter unless otherwise stated ~

Vol. 38 No. 2

April 2025

Terry Carter, Editor

Daniel's Little Horn and the Man of Sin

As we read Paul's description of the man of sin in II Thessalonians chapter two, we cannot help but notice similarities with the little horn of Daniel chapter seven as follows:

1. The man of sin is described as a man while the little horn has eyes like a man.
2. The man of sin exalts himself above all that is worshipped and shows himself as God while the little horn speaks pompous words against the Most High.
3. The man of sin would be revealed when the restraining power was removed while the little horn would subdue three horns (kings or kingdoms) before him.
4. The man of sin was restrained in Paul's day (during the reign of the Roman Empire) while the little horn would come out of the fourth beast (the Roman Empire).
5. The man of sin will be destroyed by Jesus at His coming while the little horn is destroyed by the judgment of God.

While Paul gives characteristics of the man of sin that Daniel does not mention, regarding the little horn and vice-versa, this should not surprise us. This is no different than when Luke gives details that Matthew omits and vice-versa

when relating an event in the life of Jesus. What would be significant is if Paul gave details about the man of sin that simply could not be true of Daniel's little horn or vice-versa.

An example of this kind of problem is seen when considering the little horn of Daniel chapter seven and the little horn of Daniel chapter eight. While they do have some similar characteristics and do similar things, they simply cannot be the same for the following reasons:

1. The little horn of chapter seven comes out of the fourth beast which is the Roman Empire while the little horn of chapter eight comes out of the male goat which is Greece.
2. The horn of chapter seven comes out of ten horns uprooting three of them while the little horn of chapter eight comes out of one of four horns.
3. The little horn of chapter seven persecutes the saints for three and a half years while the little horn of chapter eight tramples the sanctuary for 2300 "evenings and mornings".
4. These two little horns arrive during a different era of history, arise from a different power (kingdom) in a different way, and persecute God's people for a different length of time.

The fact that both little horns demonstrate supreme arrogance and persecute God's people shows that they have the same kind of character but that is where the similarities end.

The same cannot be said of Paul's man of sin and the little horn of Daniel chapter seven. While both are arrogant and persecute God's people, the similarities go beyond this without conflicting aspects. Both are related to man. Both come into being during the time of the Roman Empire. Both are initially restrained by what is eventually removed. Both are destroyed by God.

Paul said that the mystery of lawlessness was already at work in his time, but it was being restrained. The little horn removes the three horns (kings or kingdoms) that were restraining him from emerging from the fourth beast which is Rome.

The man of sin must be more than a single man as the mystery of lawlessness was already at work in Paul's time but would not be destroyed until the coming of Jesus. The little horn has eyes like a man, but he is different from the ten horns (kings or kingdoms). Both seem to represent an organization (kingdom) that is headed by a succession of individual men.

Both the man of sin and the little horn would appear during the time of the Roman Empire and continue until God brings judgment upon them (the man of sin is specifically said to be destroyed by the brightness of Jesus' coming).

If the man of sin is not the same power as the little horn, how could they coexist? Both exalt themselves above every power including God Himself. Surely, they would fight to the death.

Either there are two powers, both of which claim to be above every other power, that come from Rome and remain until God brings judgment upon them or they are, in fact, the same. Both have the same character, do the same things, come to power in the same era of history, and exist until they are destroyed by the judgment of God.

Note: The previous article is an excerpt from *Daniel* by Terry Carter.