

Saturday, October 3, 2009—2009 West Michigan Grace Bible Conference--The Man of Sin and the Rise of Evil

Objectives

- Survey the first half of the Tribulation and the rise of Man of Sin.
- Demonstrate the nationality and personality of the Man of Sin as well as his ascent to power.
- Show how the signing of the covenant between the Man of Sin and Israel officially begins the 70th week of Daniel.

Satan Has a Seed

- Genesis 3:15—the woman is not the only one who has a seed in this verse. The Serpent also produces a seed. It is the seed of the woman who delivers the crushing mortal blow to the seed of the serpent in this verse.
- II Thessalonians 2:3—Paul identifies the seed of the Serpent by calling him the Man of Sin, the Son of Perdition.
 - The expression Man of Sin indicates that this person is a human being just as Jesus Christ took upon himself human flesh during his first advent.
 - The name of Man of Sin indicates the Anti-Christ's identity during the first half of the tribulation while the title Son of Perdition indicates his identity during the second half of the tribulation.
- These are the titles that Paul gives for the person the Scriptures identify as the Anti-Christ. In Revelation John calls him the Beast. In I John 2:18, 22, 4:3 John writes about the spirit of Anti-Christ.
- This person will be a counterfeit imitator of Christ.
 - II Thessalonians 2:8-9—this is the person the Lord will destroy at the second coming. This individual will also work lying wonders in his attempt to convince the world that he is God.
- According to II Thess. 2:3 this person has a dual identity. He is said to be the man of sin and the Son of Perdition.
 - The Man of Sin = 1st half of the tribulation
 - Son of Perdition = 2nd half of the tribulation

Origin and Nationality

- I heard a guy two weeks ago saying that Tony Blair was going to be the AC. Speculation abounds even amongst so called prophecy experts.
- All of the confusion that exists within the Body Christ about the end times steams from a failure to recognize the distinction between prophecy and mystery.
 - Acts 3—that which was spoken since the world began
 - Romans 16:25—that which kept secret since the world began
- Daniel 8 helps us with being able to identify the origin and nationality of the Anti-Christ.
- Daniel 8:1-14—Daniel sees a vision of a Ram and a He-Goat
- Daniel 8:21—the Angel Gabriel comes and explains the vision to Daniel
 - Ram with two horns = kings of Media and Persia
 - He-goat = Greece
 - Great Horn = the first king of Greece, Alexander the Great.
- History records exactly what Daniel foretells in advance, the Greeks under the leadership of Alexander the Great destroyed the Media Persian Empire.
- Daniel 8:8—speaks of the great horn (Alex) becoming great and then being broken when he is strong.
- This verse also speaks of four notable ones coming up in place of the great horn. When Alexander the Great died his kingdom was divided between his four generals.
 - Macedonia—Casander
 - Asia Minor—Lysmiachus
 - Syria—Seleucus
 - Egypt—Potolomy
- Daniel 8:9—makes it very clear that the little horn (Man of Sin) is going to come out of one of the four divisions of the Greek Empire.
- Daniel 8:29—this king of fierce countenance is going to be the one who makes war on the prince of princes and is broken without hand. Can there be any doubt as to who this person is?
- Isaiah 10:5-6—identifies the anti-Christ as being an Assyrian. This is the person God is going to use to punish his wayward nation.

- Isaiah 14:25, 30:31, 31:8, 52:4
- Micah 5:1-6

Ascent and Consolidation of Power

- Daniel 7 and 9 are critical to understanding how the anti-Christ becomes a world political leader.
- The standard interpretation of Daniel 7 is to line up this vision with the one recorded in Daniel 2.
 - Lion = Babylon
 - Bear = Media Persia
 - Leopard = Greece
 - Beast = Rome
- There are a couple reasons why this interpretation is not correct.
 - Daniel 7:1—Daniel has this vision during the reign of Balshavar the last king of Babylon.
 - Daniel 7:17—all four of the beasts are four kings which are future from where Daniel is standing. Therefore Babylon cannot be the Lion because Babylon is still in power.
 - Daniel 7:17—all four of the beasts are identified by God the Holy Spirit as kings rather than kingdoms as in Daniel 2.
 - Daniel 7:12—all of these kings are on the earth at the same time rather. In Daniel 2 the kingdom mentioned are sequential not concurrent.
- Daniel 7:19-20, 23-24--The fourth beast is the kingdom of the anti-Christ who will preside over a confederation of ten nations.
 - Psalm 83:5-8—records the ten nations who will align themselves with the Man of Sin.
- Daniel 7:24—the Man of Sin builds his kingdom by subduing three kings under his authority and leadership. The indication then is that the remaining seven will then capitulate to his authority.
- It will be through a political platform of world peace that the Man of Sin will deceive the world and convince Israel to enter into a covenant with him.
 - Daniel 8:25—“by peace shall destroy many”
 - Daniel 11:21—“he shall come in peaceably and obtain the kingdom by flatteries”
 - Psalm 55:15-21—“The words of his mouth were smoother than butter, but war was in his heart: his words were softer than oil, yet were they drawn swords.”
- Daniel 9:26—during the gap between the end of the 69th week and the beginning of the 70th there is going to be warfare of some sort.

- Matthew 24:6—Jesus warned of wars and rumors of wars that would be only the beginning of sorrows.
- Daniel 9:27—in the midst of these wars the Man of Sin is going to broker a peace agreement between Israel and her enemies. It is the signing of this covenant that begins the ticking of the prophetic clock and beginning the 7 year time period known as the tribulation.
 - The temple is rebuilt and the sacrificial system reinstated
 - In the midst of the week (after 3.5 years), the Man of Sin will show his true colors by committing the abomination of desolation.
- The anti-Christ has a two part career.
 - Revelation 6:1-2—1st half of the tribulation he is the Man of Sin, the rider on the white horse, the king of Assyria.
 - Revelation 13:1-3—2nd half of the tribulation he is the Son of Perdition, the Beast, Satan incarnate in human flesh.

The Prophetic Gap

- Christian books and movies such as the Left Behind Series have popularized the view that once the Rapture occurs the anti-Christ will reveal himself to the world immediately.
- This is probably not the case. There is a gap in the prophecy in Daniel 9 of an undisclosed amount of time. The entire dispensation of Grace was inserted into the gap in Daniel's prophecy. Which means there could be some time between when the Church is caught away and the revelation of the man of sin.