

THE FINAL HUMAN DICTATOR—PART 1

(Part 1—Selected Scriptures)

Last week, I shared a few comments with you about the final, future human dictator of mankind. In Daniel 7, he is called “the little horn.” In 2 Thess 2, he is called “the man of sin” and “the son of perdition” (or destruction). And in Revelation 13, he is called, “the Beast.”

One thing that is crucial for all of us to remember is that these symbolical names he is given and the horrible pictures that the word of God paints of him are **from God’s perspective**. He is a hideous beast, wreaking havoc wherever he goes. But Chuck Swindoll has pointed out that the way that the hurting and desperate people on earth will view him is completely different. Before we look at the passages in the Old and NT that speak of him, let’s briefly look at four misconceptions people have of him from Dr. Swindoll.

1. He will be wanted, not rejected.

This seems strange to us. That people will take his mark and turn their freedom over to him seems crazy. But don’t forget that in the 3.5 years prior to his enthronement as earth’s savior, the two prophets of God in Revelation 11 have been calling down all kinds of distress and suffering upon mankind due to their refusal to listen to God.

And when this Middle Eastern king is raised from the dead and empowered by Satan to kill those two prophets, the world will suddenly believe that he has all the answers and will be swept away by his power and charisma.

2. He will be appealing, not repulsive.

Again, the Bible pictures him as a repulsive and sinful Beast, but on a human level, to the people of earth who have seen billions of people die, he will come across as one of the most amazing humans to ever walk the earth. The Bible says that his oratory will be second to none, and most of the people on earth will ultimately be deceived by him and take his mark.

3. He will be super, not ordinary.

Swindoll says he will be like Kennedy, Churchill, Marx, Gandhi, MacArthur, Einstein, and Lincoln all rolled into one. People will worship him as God.

4. He will be a Gentile, not a Jew

Last week, we saw the world beasts in Daniel 7 coming out of the sea. The sea, in Scripture is a picture of the Gentile nations. Also, in Micah 5, he is called “the Assyrian.”

Now, with all of this in mind, let's go passage by passage and delve more deeply into the persona of the final human dictator called "the man of sin."

"The Little Horn" (Daniel 7)

In Daniel 7:7, Daniel describes a dreadful and terrible beast symbolizing the Roman Empire:

Daniel 7:7-----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.

This beast symbolizes the ancient Roman Empire as well as the future "revived Roman Empire" symbolized by the 10 horns. Now, notice verse 8:

Daniel 7:8-----⁸ I was considering the [ten] 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.

Why is this horn called "a little one"? It is because this Middle Eastern king that Daniel 11 calls "the king of the north" will be just that—a king reigning over a small part of the Middle East. But God who is sovereign over all human rule will allow him to flourish. First, v. 8 tells us that he will remove 3 of the 10 kings of the revived Roman Empire (maybe they refuse to submit to him and he takes them out).

"The King of the North" (Daniel 11)

Daniel 11 tells us that the little horn will go on to conquer larger countries until he becomes ruler over the entire earth. Daniel 11:43 says:

Daniel 11:43-----⁴³ He shall have power over the treasures of gold and silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt; also the Libyans and Ethiopians shall follow at his heels.

Once he becomes the world ruler, Daniel 11:36 tells us:

Daniel 11:36-----³⁶ "Then the king shall do according to his own will: he shall exalt and magnify himself above every god, shall speak blasphemies against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the wrath has been accomplished; for what has been determined shall be done.

While he is magnifying himself above every god, he is actually worshiping his own god. The beast will worship Satan:

Daniel 11:37–39-----³⁷ He shall regard neither the God of his fathers nor the desire of women, nor regard any god; for he shall exalt himself above them all. ³⁸ But in their place he shall honor a god

of fortresses; and a god which his fathers did not know he shall honor with gold and silver, with precious stones and pleasant things. ³⁹ Thus he shall act against the strongest fortresses with a foreign god, which he shall acknowledge, and advance its glory; and he shall cause them to rule over many, and divide the land for gain.

Let's do one more passage and we will save the passages in Revelation about "the man of sin" for next Sunday. Please turn to 2 Thessalonians 2.

"The Man of Sin ... The Son of Perdition" (2 Thessalonians 2)

(or, destruction)

To the believers in Thessalonica, Paul writes:

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4-----³ Let no one deceive you by any means; for **that Day** ["that Day" in the NT = the judgment seat of Christ] will not come unless **the falling away** ["the rebellion"] comes first, and **the man of sin** is revealed, **the son of perdition**, ⁴ who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

Due to time, we will not go into the timing of the first events in v. 4, but focus on the man of sin:

- **First, he "opposes** ... all that is called God or that is worshiped"
- **Second, he "exalts himself above** all that is called God or that is worshiped"
- **Third, he "sits as God** in the temple of God, **showing himself that he is God.**"

This is the "abomination of desolation" that Jesus spoke of when He said:

Matthew 24:15-16, 21-----"Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand), ¹⁶ "then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains ... ²¹ For then there will be **great tribulation** [the last 3.5 years of the 7 year trib], such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.

Political power won't be enough, he will want to be worshiped as well. He is like his father, the devil, who sought worship from Christ. (Next Sunday, we will look at how he will convince the world that he is God.)

Q & A