

## IT'S CALLED PERILOUS TIMES FOR A REASON!

**2 Timothy 3:1 - This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.**

The landscape is indeed changing. This ain't mom and pop's Pentecost anymore. Amos' prophecy or warning regarding a spiritual famine was pointing directly to the tribulation period we know and understand, but... the warning was not limited to that period alone. There is a drift. There is a dearth on every level. There is a spiritual vacuum. I have spent much time and energy attempting to diagnose many of the same problems some are also investigating today. I often end up theologically and scripturally in Daniel 7.

Daniel 7 is extremely prophetic. Many books have been written on this one chapter alone. The four beasts of his vision are actually four kings that will rule. (17) In his vision, he named three of the beasts, but the fourth and last beast, which was the worst of them all, had no name attached to it. This no-name beast or nameless king would wreak the most havoc upon men ever. Finally, 7:25 is the most telling of the evil potential of this spirit. ("And he shall speak *great* words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High...")

We are currently feeling a combination and dovetailing of every end-time prophecy recorded in our Bible regarding the last-day judgments of God. The spirit of this fourth kingpin demon has no name. Consider that for a moment. Now, for the first time ever in church history, we don't know exactly what we are fighting. Or better yet.... "Who" we are fighting. We, too, can't put a name on it. We now define our enemy in the most generalized of terms. We lack an exclusive or specific name. We do, however, witness the devastation and final results of this demon.

In Daniel 7:7, we read... After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it *was* diverse from all the beasts that *were* before it; and it had ten horns.

19) Then I would know the truth of the fourth beast, which was diverse from all the others, exceeding dreadful, whose teeth *were of* iron, and his nails *of* brass, *which* devoured, brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with his feet.

This is the last end-time demon ruler God's people will encounter. This spirit is exactly what we are dealing with today. Whatever or whoever it is... it has been given much power to wreak immeasurable carnage with unmitigated force. We are now here at the end, contending with this beast that is soon to be given full official dominion and authority.

This beast will officially rule as a kingpin for the last seven years of human existence as we know it on Earth. This beast is a spirit, and while it has official dominion for the last seven years, it is not limited in operations till then. The restraining force that currently limits its full range of actions has not been removed. This demonic force is the actual strength, energy, and power that is behind the "little horn" or antichrist in Daniel 7. The little horn is the embodiment of the son of perdition or antichrist, and through this fourth kingly and beastly spirit will be how the lawless one will be able to rule and operate. He will be a demon-possessed man. Satan's counterfeit copycat program of destruction will be to mimic God's plan of redemption. The power the antichrist is given will be fashioned in the image of Satan. As Christ was God incarnate... the antichrist will be Satan incarnate. Satan in the form of man. Today, the spirit of antichrist now works among us. This is what we are fighting now, in my opinion.

1 John 2:18

18) Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.

1 John 4:3

3) And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that *spirit* of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.

By putting the above words of John's admonition with Daniel's sobering vision of last-day judgments, we have the perfect last-day storm. The spirit of Daniel's fourth audaciously vile beast is now working, and one could argue that it is intensely working more so than at any time in church history. No small wonder people are weary now. Wearing out the saints of the most high was an exclusive prophecy and violent trait of the fourth and final beast. No small wonder we are like deer in headlights.

No small wonder some fight the notion of quitting so often. No small wonder we fight depression. No small wonder it takes more prayer, worship, preaching, and pushing with less results than ever just to maintain. No small wonder there is a great falling away. (I actually read that somewhere once.) Imagine these things.

The biblical end-time revival or great harvest is a scriptural prophecy for ethnic Israel beginning during the tribulation period and climaxing in the millennium period. Jacob's trouble will also be the beginning of Jacob's spiritual restoration. The wrath of God will bring a mighty outpouring of God's Spirit in the end as God spiritually restores the nation of Israel.

Yes, the church has a future blessed hope. Yes, we, as the church, now can have blessed times of spiritual refreshing. Yes, we can now enjoy great moves of God. We can also emphatically expect and experience wonderful seasons of spiritual renewals and spiritual reaping. But the trendy hype many define in regard to the great end-time harvest of souls, or the mighty city converting revivals through the reaping of lost souls before the tribulation period, is simply not a biblical reality. The biblical reality is what has already been submitted above.

That is the reality moving forward. As the vice is tightened and we draw closer to the end, whatever spiritual breakthrough or revival-type success we enjoy now will be experienced on a here a little and there a little program or on a limited local scale, biblically speaking. This is not a fatalistic view, be sure, but a biblical view. It is what it is. It is a prophetic reality—too much Bible evidence to believe otherwise. God's prophetic workings will unfold as He has said, no matter what we think or do. His divine plan will proceed as forecasted. The forecasted warnings surrounding the day of great pressure has now finally arrived (Matt. 24:21). Soon, the day of wrath will follow thereafter (Rev. 6:16-17).

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Bill Pitman