

“IMAGE CASTING”

A musing of sorts but this morning, I’m looking at 2 Thess. 2:4.

4) Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

The original language claims that “sitteth” means to become steadfast or settled as one would firmly be set in their own abode as the authority conferred to a king in his kingdom. Set up. Sitting as to become a continual fixture.

I’ve often felt through the years that this verse is reflecting a literal and physical act involving the man of sin. Then after 3 1/2 years of building trust with the Jews, he mocks them by entering the tribulation temple to offer a repugnant sacrifice of desecration. Then he ascends to a throne or high place within the holy of holies between the cherubs and above the mercy seat. My concerns have always been, however, is this a permanent posture where he physically rules from the temple for the remainder of the tribulation? What I’m seeing is there is no scripture teaching that indicates that he will “rule” from the temple. This event will be fulfilled literally. It will be an entering and sitting down or setting up—a one-time setting up as in setting a precedent.

The Holy Place!

God told Moses in regards to His personal dealings with Israel and Israel’s potential transgressions that I will meet you at one place only. The mercy seat within the holy of holies. So we understand that it was the most holy place within the holy of holies. Subsequently, the antichrist will physically ascend “as God” to that special and ordained place within the temple (i.e., 2 Thess. 2:4). That is still where I stand today due to a literal interpretation of this scripture. But again, this violation could be a one-time physical entering to set a precedent. Then...?

Consider this...

In light of the advance of technology in this age, I do not retract from my long-standing posture of a literal entering into and physical “setting up” of the man of sin in the temple, but what about this? How does he continually abide after this unprecedented act?

Seven times the word “image” is mentioned in Revelation. Every single time it’s in direct correlation with the beast. The false prophet working with the beast or what we recognize as the man of sin, in chapter 13 verses 14-15, promotes the idea of the setting up of an image so as the man of sin might be worshipped globally. This universal image of the antichrist is the false prophet’s brainchild. Religion promotes the beast during the tribulation. This universal image will make it convenient for the entire world to worship the man through an image.

Image is defined in the original as a likeness or copy. In this sense, the man of sin projects a likeness or copy of himself from the holy place. Seeing that the man of sin is certainly not omnipresent in any literal sense, and he must be worshipped globally, could it be that his image is fueled by modern technology? This essentially creates an omnipresent image of the beast to be worshipped 24/7. Given the advent of the internet and big-screen monitors, this is all too possible. It could very well even be considered as logically conceivable. Can we say “Livestream”?

Religious Chaos!

I am pondering the notion, given the context of our current social protocols in society along with scriptural evidence, that both an inaugural physical or literal entrance into the temple by the man of sin is evident just because the Bible says so. Still, the continual or “steadfast abode” beyond the initial precedent, by physically ruling from the temple, is scripturally ambiguous and therefore most likely could be a big screen monitor “set up” or some form of high tech image casting in the holy place.

Whereby, instead of the Messiah of the Jews being worshipped, it will be an image, again, not of a physical man ruling from a physical temple throne, but an actual virtual image set-up of the man vomiting out his message through a continual Livestream advent.

Thus he becomes symbolically omnipresent in a cyber sense via image, and he will be steadfastly abiding symbolically in the temple according to scriptures in the holy place. He will then be sitting or set up in the temple. The probability is great that a monitor or some modern image casting device exalting and depicting his image will be mounted above the mercy seat as the new god to be worshipped or exalted (2 Thess. 2:4).

The Worst of Times!

This will cause the Jews to evacuate Jerusalem, as we are taught in Matthew 24:16-20 and reflected in Revelation 12. This occurs at the mid-point or 3 1/2 years into the 7-year period. The Jews will attempt to flee once the image is firmly in place or the abomination has begun. It will be a game-changer for the Jews as we know. The abomination of desolation as the beast turning against Israel by violating the signed covenant of Daniel 9 secures preeminence in the temple and ultimately a damnable universal control.

The symbolic setting up continually in the temple is a conferring of power via technology rather than a physical throne in the temple.

If this is a high probability and there is no biblical reason to doubt it nor a logical reason to reject it. Then this notion checks all the boxes of virtual reality moving forward. Given that possibility, then it makes reasonable sense why some of our men today cannot be comfortable projecting images in the sanctified confines of our “sanctuaries.” This trendy venue is the forerunner of a more sinister program and sensual platform to exalt a new god virtually during the final drama of the human family. Some places today should still be considered holy. Holy as in off-limits to the secular influences that project an image of God, but in reality, it is the extolling of man’s talents and ultimately the worship of man’s image.

If the Jews will consider this single act the abomination of all desolations regarding their place of worship, and if this assault against their God is enough to drive them and scatter them into the wilderness by fleeing Jerusalem in mass, then why are we today so complicit regarding the spirit of this venue? “Facebook” church promotes the face of man as man sets out to create God in the image of man. Seeing the face of man is paramount in image casting Pentecost today.

Show and Tell!

Also, the word “shewing” himself to be God in verse 4 means to show off. To project or exhibit a view. To figuratively and symbolically demonstrate or expose.

Shewing himself sitting, or abiding continually, as projecting an image that he is God, and God’s house now belongs to man, controlled by man, would exactly, clearly, and reflect the nature of any use of technology today that shows off the face and talents of men behind the deceitful pretense of holy worship.

While I believe in a literal interpretation of the entrance of the man of sin into the temple, again, there is no indication of a continual physical rule from the temple. The symbolism of Revelation’s language regarding the promotion of an image cannot be ignored—the projecting of an image from the temple.

“Shewing himself”

It is apparent that an image of the beast will be set up in the temple via technology in order to exhibit and project a view of the man and his message. This will be done according to Paul from the most holy place of the temple. We today should take note of our own image casting protocols in our own holy places now. What are we saying today? Is image casting in our own “sanctuaries” tantamount or tenable to abominations? The Jews would think so. God certainly is offended by the image casting of earthy man for holy worship, whereby the creature is worshipped and exalted above the creator. It is the spirit of the antichrist.

Divine Imagery!

There has only been one divine image of God ever projected among men and His glory, and that image will never be duplicated nor shared with another.

Hebrews 1:3

3) Who being the brightness of *his* glory, and the express image of his person....

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