

I in the previous chapter we saw that Jesus substitutionary atonement on our behalf (12:5<sup>i</sup>) took away any grounds that Satan had to accuse us before God. That is why he was cast out of heaven (12:7-12). With only a short time for him to seek retaliation against God (12:12<sup>ii</sup>), he makes war upon the woman and her seed (12:13-17). The 1260 days in which the two witnesses prophesy is said to be the same amount of time the woman, who represents believers, finds refuge, 1260 days (12:16<sup>iii</sup>). And when the two witnesses' testimony is complete God allows them to be killed, which seems to match the Antichrist making war on the saints and overcoming them in 13:7. Just as God will judge the spirits of those who have rejected His gracious offer of salvation and seal of the Holy Spirit, the Antichrist judges the bodies of those who reject his offer to mark them as his followers. Again, we see the perverse imitation of everything God does. That may be because Satan knows that God's ways are better than anything he could imagine. The major difference is that Satan can only act against us in a temporal way, which may be one reason for the repeated time frame of 42 months or 1260 days.

*<sup>1</sup> And I saw a beast rising out of the sea, with ten horns and seven heads, with ten diadems on its horns and blasphemous names on its heads. <sup>2</sup> And the beast that I saw was like a leopard; its feet were like a bear's, and its mouth was like a lion's mouth. And to it the dragon gave his power and his throne and great authority.* Revelation 13:1,2 Satan stands on the shore and calls forth the beast from the sea. In other words, from among the nations of the world, the sea of humanity. Rome arises to continue the attack on God by persecuting the body of Christ, the church. It is the fourth beast that consists of the previous world empires depicted in Daniel 7 as a leopard, a bear, and a lion (Daniel 7:1-7). This combination of the previous world powers not only emphasizes the ferocity of Rome but alludes to Rome representing all governments of man empowered by the dragon to persecute God's people. He is described as a mixture of beasts that tear their prey. The dragon, Satan, gives his power to the beast, his throne and great authority as well. This fact helped the early church understand what was behind the persecution.

This could be a description of all the governments of man, something like the image of a man we see in Daniel 2. The ten horns could be a parallel to the ten toes (Daniel 2:41-43<sup>iv</sup>). In chapter Revelation 17 verses 10<sup>v</sup> and 12<sup>vi</sup> the ten horns are called kings. They are probably those under complete sway of the beast. This beast is given the dragon's throne and authority. Remember that authority over the nations was offered to Jesus if he would worship Satan (Matthew 4:8,9<sup>vii</sup>; John 5:19<sup>viii</sup>). This ruler, referred to as the beast, will take the offer Jesus rejected, but it also shows us the power behind all governments that attack the children of God.

In verse one we are introduced to the beast that comes up out of the sea. We have seen that the seas represent people, but they also represent dark and unknown regions referred to as the abyss. Perhaps that is why the new earth is said to have no sea (21:1<sup>ix</sup>). The beast has ten horns and seven heads. That is what we read about the dragon in 12:3<sup>x</sup>. We have an evil parody of the Father and the Son who wears many diadems (19:12<sup>xi</sup>). The beast seems to be the visible manifestation of the invisible dragon as Jesus is the visible manifestation of the invisible God (Colossians 1:15<sup>xii</sup>). He bears His exact image.

The diadems or crowns represent kingly authority. Horns represent powers. There are blasphemous names on its heads. Blasphemy is claiming to be God. We read in 2

Thessalonians 2:4<sup>xiii</sup> that the Antichrist will declare that he is God. This is the same thing that the pharaohs and Caesars claimed. Domitian insisted on being called Lord and God!

What could a human do with Satan's power and authority? That is what we are about to find out. The final governmental leader will be viler than any before. But remember, Satan is subtle (Genesis 3:1<sup>xiv</sup>). He can appear as an angel of light (2 Corinthians 11:14<sup>xv</sup>). Most people will think he is their savior. Jesus warned us not to be deceived by false signs and wonders (Mark 13:21,22<sup>xvi</sup>). The Antichrist will no doubt be very persuasive, for he is said to have a mouth speaking great things represented by a lion's mouth (Daniel 7:8<sup>xvii</sup>, 20<sup>xviii</sup>). Jesus warned us that, if possible, even the very elect would be deceived by his signs and wonders (Matthew 24:24<sup>xix</sup>).

Man is so susceptible to the lying promises of power-hungry leaders. The kingdom of God will never come about by the leadership of any man other than the man who truly is God, Christ Jesus. His coming will be like lightning and every eye will see Him (Matthew 24:27<sup>xx</sup>). There will be no doubt then that He is God and that He is in charge. Until then, the best we can hope for is the better of numerous egos wanting to rule.

*<sup>3</sup> One of its heads seemed to have a mortal wound, but its mortal wound was healed, and the whole earth marveled as they followed the beast. <sup>4</sup> And they worshiped the dragon, for he had given his authority to the beast, and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast, and who can fight against it?"* Revelation 13:3,4 There is an interesting parallel with history in the description of the beast. Nero was predicted by astrologers to not really be dead but to have slipped away and be raising an army to return and take back Rome. He was thought to be a god, but he was such a brutal person that he killed his own mother. That is why many called him a beast. His persecution of Christians was the worst the world had seen to that point in history. During the end of the first century three different individuals claimed to be the return of Nero.

Some interpret this literally as one of the leaders of the ten horns/powers being mortally wounded by a sword but miraculously surviving (2 Thessalonians 2:8<sup>xxi</sup>). The world sees this one as incomparably great, asking, "*Who is like the beast and who can fight against it?*" (Mark 13:22,23<sup>xxii</sup>) Notice IT not HIM. The Greek form is neuter. That would lead me to believe it is a nation perhaps represented by a person. We can be sure the first recipients read this as the Roman empire. Perhaps they saw the wound as one of the attacks on the nation. Again, we see Satan imitating God's work in the death and resurrection of Jesus. The difference is that Jesus' death and resurrection secured our salvation while the Antichrist only hopes to deceive. According to verse 4, the deception is convincing, for the world worships dragon and the beast. The language is an evil twist on Exodus 15:11. "*Who is like you, O LORD, among the gods?*"

It is not just for the final seven-year period that this is written. There are false teachers in our day who would have you worship a Jesus of their own making, one who is tolerant of most every sin and perversion. If the world promotes it, you can be sure it is ungodly. I have met many people in our community who say they love Jesus, but the Jesus they worship is very different from the Jesus of Scripture. They would rather believe someone who claims to have channeled Jesus than the writings of the disciples whom Jesus chose to convey His message. We need to know the Scriptures to know if we are following the real Jesus.

That the antichrist figure in Revelation 13 is not just one character that takes power in the final 42 months of man's kingdoms *is supported by the Johannine epistles,*

where purely religious manifestations of the Antichrist are mentioned as already present, as well as to come in the future: “You have heard that Antichrist is coming; even now many antichrists have come” (1 John 2:18<sup>xxiii</sup>). “Who is the liar except the one who denies that Jesus is not the Christ? This is the antichrist” (2:22<sup>xxiv</sup>). “Every spirit not confessing Jesus is not from God. Even this is the spirit of Antichrist, which you have heard that he is coming. Even now he is already in the world” (4:4<sup>xxv</sup>). “Many deceivers have gone out into the world ... this is the deceiver and the Antichrist” (2 John 7<sup>xxvi</sup>). But it is also true that the Antichrist figure in 1 John also differs in some respects from that in Revelation 13.<sup>xxvii</sup>

It is a cliché that “you cannot fight city hall.” Movies champion the little guy that takes on government and wins because it is an exception to the rule. Bribery in our government goes on behind the scenes, but in the third world, it is blatant. The antichrist spirit seems so powerful that resistance is futile. Persecutors of Christians in much of the world are not held accountable. Many people in the world today worship the beast or one of his many temptations. The dragon would like you to think resistance futile. Remember that we overcome by the blood of the Lamb and the word of our testimony (12:11<sup>xxviii</sup>). It is in persevering to the death that we win in the end. It is not that our struggle might be hard, but rather that it is guaranteed to be hard (2 Timothy 3:12<sup>xxix</sup>). The prince of this world hates us because God loves us, and we are His instruments to free those who are captives of sin. He knows He will lose and that the Lamb wins, so he wants to make our short lives difficult to try to hinder us from being of service to our King. That is one reason James said to <sup>2</sup> *Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds*, James 1:2 Jesus said to “rejoice and be glad” because it means our reward in heaven is great. The antichrist spirit that rages against us raged against the prophets who were before us (Matthew 5:12<sup>xxx</sup>).

Some commentators interpret one of the beast’s heads receiving a mortal wound with a sword as the Word of God defeating Satan on the cross. They point to the sword in Revelation used by Christ in 2:12<sup>xxxi</sup>, 16<sup>xxxii</sup>; 19:15<sup>xxxiii</sup>, 21<sup>xxxiv</sup>. Satan lost his access to the heavenly court, but he lives and still has authority in this fallen world. However, it can be compared to D-day in World War 2. That victory was a death blow to Hitler’s regime, but the battles would continue until Germany surrendered. I would suggest that both views may be true. A world leader will survive a deathblow, and Satan received a death blow in Jesus’ death and resurrection.

<sup>5</sup> *And the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months.* <sup>6</sup> *It opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against God, blaspheming his name and his dwelling, that is, those who dwell in heaven.* Revelation 13:5,6 The haughty and blasphemous words are defined in 2 Thessalonians 2:4<sup>xiii</sup> as proclaiming himself to be God. This verse seems to point specifically to a world leader in the last days. Daniel 7 also tells us several times that he is given a mouth that speaks great things (Daniel 7:8, 20; 11:36<sup>xxv</sup>). It reminds me of films of Hitler. He spoke with such force and conviction that it mesmerized the audience. He was one of the many antichrists that John said were in the world. He was probably a foreshadow of one final antichrist figure to come. *Antiochus Epiphanes may have been the first fulfillment of Daniel’s prophecy, and the figure in the Revelation text is another fulfillment.*<sup>xxxvi</sup>

Romans worshiped the emperors as gods. They accused the Christians of every evil thing imaginable. But remember, this is all the work of Satan behind the scenes. When Rome was Christianized, the war against the body of Christ morphed into doctrinal corruption and ecclesiastical power. Governments and the Catholic church began to combine their authority, but it is still the dragon behind it all.

The final fulfillment of this one speaking blasphemies will be the beast whom the world worships. His blasphemies are not only claiming to be God but also speaking against the people of God, who in verse six are *His dwelling*. We are seated with Christ in the heavenly realms (Ephesians 2:6<sup>xxxvii</sup>). Paul declares that believers are the temple of God (1 Corinthians 3:16,17<sup>xxxviii</sup>). Our souls are untouchable, so the beast makes war on our bodies and our message to try to keep unbelievers from hearing the truth of the gospel. Some of the blasphemy we see even now as secular commentators tell the world that martyrs deserve their fate because they are polluting the world with their teaching. They claim Christian doctrine puts people in psychological oppression by telling them they are sinners, which keeps them from being fulfilled. Christians are considered backward and simpleminded to much of the modern world. In some countries we are considered enemies of the state because our ultimate allegiance is to Jesus.

Beale argues that the 42 months is figurative of the time from the ascension until the return of Christ. The dragon does have authority over this world during that time. It does seem that the world worships the beast right now. But at the same time the kingdom of God is marching forward, and the gates of hell cannot withstand our advance (Matthew 16:18<sup>xxxix</sup>). I would grant that in one sense his interpretation is true, but we should remember that this is taken from the book of Daniel where the 69 of the seventy weeks was a literal time period. Antiochus defilement of the temple was three and a half years. My conclusion is this will be a literal 42 months, half of the seventieth week, which is the seven last years of man's kingdoms.

*<sup>7</sup> Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them. And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation, <sup>8</sup> and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain.* Revelation 13:7,8 The beast knows his time is almost up, so with all that hinders him removed, it goes all-out in trying to rid the world of the Christian faith. Somehow it obtains worldwide authority to do so (Mark 13:19,20<sup>xi</sup>; Daniel 7:25<sup>xli</sup>). We can get a glimpse of how that may be possible when we see how the USA promises not to cooperate with nations that break sanctions on rogue nations. A powerful trading nation like America can influence the entire world with an economic threat. China is using its social credit system to control a billion lives economically and by limiting privileges to those who do not conform.

Remember that Lucifer's desire was to take the throne of God (Isaiah 14:13,14<sup>xlii</sup>). He wants the worship of mankind, which he alluded to in the temptation of Jesus in the wilderness. *<sup>8</sup> Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. <sup>9</sup> And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me."* Matthew 4:8,9 The only way he can have the worship of all people on earth is to rid the world of believers. It is not clear if he is completely successful in killing all Christians, but he does have the worship of *all* whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain.



This means there will come a time when there will be few if any who have not made their choice for or against Christ. To worship the beast and receive his mark is to have made a final choice against Christ (13:16,17<sup>xliii</sup>; 14:11<sup>xliv</sup>). In that day everyone will be sealed by the Holy Spirit or sealed with the mark of the beast.

*<sup>9</sup> If anyone has an ear, let him hear: <sup>10</sup> If anyone is to be taken captive, to captivity he goes; if anyone is to be slain with the sword, with the sword must he be slain. Here is a call for the endurance and faith of the saints.* Revelation 13:9,10 Verse 9 is the phrase we heard in Jesus' words to each of the churches. Ears to hear are a gift from God. Yet, we can refuse to use that gift. Jeremiah warned the Jews, *<sup>4</sup> You have neither listened nor inclined your ears to hear, although the LORD persistently sent to you all his servants the prophets,* Jeremiah 25:4 The people would not incline their ears to hear. Ezekiel spoke a similar message from God, *<sup>2</sup> "Son of man, you dwell in the midst of a rebellious house, who have eyes to see, but see not, who have ears to hear, but hear not, for they are a rebellious house.* Ezekiel 12:2 If our hearts are rebellious, we choose not to hear. It was the repeated indictment against Israel, and it is the same for mankind. God calls to every individual (John 1:9<sup>xlv</sup>). We respond or we harden our hearts.

What is it that we are to hear from this passage? This world is under the authority of the evil one (1 John 5:19<sup>xlvi</sup>). If we are living only for what it offers, we will be taken captive by our sin. Many will refuse to hear the warning of God that the beast only reigns for a short time and then the judgment, and by the sword of the Word that comes from the mouth of Jesus the followers of the beast will be slain. Has the world so captivated us that we will worship whatever gives us worldly things that our soul desires? It all depends on if we will hear and act on what we hear, taking the words to heart and living for what is eternal.

The message of chapter 13 is that this life is hard because the prince of this world is seeking to destroy our physical bodies. He hinders us from serving God and tries to make our lives unfruitful. But we also know that if we hear and obey we will endure. Endurance is a sign that you truly hear and have faith and are sanctified by the blood of the Lamb. Endurance declares you are kept by God as His own children (John 18:9<sup>xlvii</sup>). Keep on loving God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength. Do not get upset when the world acts in worldly ways and is unfair. Without Christ what else can they do? Love your neighbor, which Jesus defined as all who cross our path (Luke 10:36,37<sup>xlviii</sup>). By God's grace you may be His instrument to rescue them from darkness and invite them into the light of Christ. Your endurance demonstrates that your name is written in the Lamb's book of life.

Questions:

- 1 How does Satan imitate God's judgments? The difference?
- 2 How would the first recipients of the letter have understood the beast? Why?
- 3 How do we see that power at work today and in history?
- 4 What is the beast's blasphemy?
- 5 Who is the prince of this world and why does he hate us?
- 6 What was Satan's death blow? Compare to D-day.
- 7 What are some intermediate fulfillments of the mouth speaking great things?
- 8 What is Satan's motivation? 9 What is more important than having an ear to hear?
- 10 Describe the predestination and freewill in what we are to hear.

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<sup>i</sup> **Revelation 12:5 (ESV)**

<sup>5</sup> She gave birth to a male child, one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron, but her child was caught up to God and to his throne,

<sup>ii</sup> **Revelation 12:12 (ESV)**

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!”

<sup>iii</sup> **Revelation 12:16 (ESV)**

<sup>16</sup> But the earth came to the help of the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed the river that the dragon had poured from his mouth.

<sup>iv</sup> **Daniel 2:41-43 (ESV)**

<sup>41</sup> And as you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter’s clay and partly of iron, it shall be a divided kingdom, but some of the firmness of iron shall be in it, just as you saw iron mixed with the soft clay. <sup>42</sup> And as the toes of the feet were partly iron and partly clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly brittle. <sup>43</sup> As you saw the iron mixed with soft clay, so they will mix with one another in marriage, but they will not hold together, just as iron does not mix with clay.

<sup>v</sup> **Revelation 17:10 (ESV)**

<sup>10</sup> they are also seven kings, five of whom have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come, and when he does come he must remain only a little while.

<sup>vi</sup> **Revelation 17:12 (ESV)**

<sup>12</sup> And the ten horns that you saw are ten kings who have not yet received royal power, but they are to receive authority as kings for one hour, together with the beast.

<sup>vii</sup> **Matthew 4:8-9 (ESV)**

<sup>8</sup> Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.

<sup>9</sup> And he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.”

<sup>viii</sup> **John 5:19 (ESV)**

<sup>19</sup> So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise.

<sup>ix</sup> **Revelation 21:1 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.

<sup>x</sup> **Revelation 12:3 (ESV)**

<sup>3</sup> And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven diadems.

<sup>xi</sup> **Revelation 19:12 (ESV)**

<sup>12</sup> His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself.

<sup>xii</sup> **Colossians 1:15 (ESV)**

<sup>15</sup> He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

<sup>xiii</sup> **2 Thessalonians 2:4 (ESV)**

<sup>4</sup> who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God.

<sup>xiv</sup> **Genesis 3:1 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’”

<sup>xv</sup> **2 Corinthians 11:14 (ESV)**

<sup>14</sup> And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.

<sup>xvi</sup> **Mark 13:21-22 (ESV)**

<sup>21</sup> And then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or ‘Look, there he is!’ do not believe it. <sup>22</sup> For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform signs and wonders, to lead astray, if possible, the elect.

<sup>xvii</sup> **Daniel 7:8 (ESV)**

<sup>8</sup> I considered the horns, and behold, there came up among them another horn, a little one, before which three of the first horns were plucked up by the roots. And behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking great things.

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xviii **Daniel 7:20 (ESV)**

20 and about the ten horns that were on its head, and the other horn that came up and before which three of them fell, the horn that had eyes and a mouth that spoke great things, and that seemed greater than its companions.

xix **Matthew 24:24 (ESV)**

24 For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect.

xx **Matthew 24:27 (ESV)**

27 For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

xxi **2 Thessalonians 2:8 (ESV)**

8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming.

xxii **Mark 13:22-23 (ESV)**

22 For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform signs and wonders, to lead astray, if possible, the elect.

23 But be on guard; I have told you all things beforehand.

xxiii **1 John 2:18 (NIV)**

18 Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how we know it is the last hour.

xxiv **1 John 2:22 (NIV)**

22 Who is the liar? It is the man who denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a man is the antichrist--he denies the Father and the Son.

xxv **1 John 4:4 (ESV)**

4 Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

xxvi **2 John 1:7 (ESV)**

7 For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. Such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist.

xxvii G. K. Beale, *The Book of Revelation: A Commentary on the Greek Text*, New International Greek Testament Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI; Carlisle, Cumbria: W.B. Eerdmans; Paternoster Press, 1999), 686–687

xxviii **Revelation 12:11 (ESV)**

11 And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.

xxix **2 Timothy 3:12 (NIV)**

12 In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,

xxx **Matthew 5:12 (ESV)**

12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

xxxi **Revelation 2:12 (ESV)**

12 "And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write: 'The words of him who has the sharp two-edged sword.

xxxii **Revelation 2:16 (ESV)**

16 Therefore repent. If not, I will come to you soon and war against them with the sword of my mouth.

xxxiii **Revelation 19:15 (ESV)**

15 From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty.

xxxiv **Revelation 19:21 (ESV)**

21 And the rest were slain by the sword that came from the mouth of him who was sitting on the horse, and all the birds were gorged with their flesh.

xxxv **Daniel 11:36 (ESV)**

36 "And the king shall do as he wills. He shall exalt himself and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak astonishing things against the God of gods. He shall prosper till the indignation is accomplished; for what is decreed shall be done.

xxxvi G. K. Beale, *The Book of Revelation: A Commentary on the Greek Text*, New International Greek Testament Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI; Carlisle, Cumbria: W.B. Eerdmans; Paternoster Press, 1999), 695.

xxxvii **Ephesians 2:6 (ESV)**

6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

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xxxviii **1 Corinthians 3:16-17 (ESV)**

<sup>16</sup> Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? <sup>17</sup> If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

xxxix **Matthew 16:18 (ESV)**

<sup>18</sup> And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

xi **Mark 13:19-20 (ESV)**

<sup>19</sup> For in those days there will be such tribulation as has not been from the beginning of the creation that God created until now, and never will be.

<sup>20</sup> And if the Lord had not cut short the days, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect, whom he chose, he shortened the days.

xlii **Daniel 7:25 (ESV)**

<sup>25</sup> He shall speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and shall think to change the times and the law; and they shall be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time.

xliii **Isaiah 14:13-14 (ESV)**

<sup>13</sup> You said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; above the stars of God I will set my throne on high; I will sit on the mount of assembly in the far reaches of the north; <sup>14</sup> I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.'

xliiii **Rev 13:16,17** <sup>16</sup>Also it causes all, both small and great, both rich and poor, both free and slave, to be marked on the right hand or the forehead, <sup>17</sup>so that no one can buy or sell unless he has the mark, that is, the name of the beast or the number of its

xliiv **Revelation 14:11 (ESV)**

<sup>11</sup> And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever, and they have no rest, day or night, these worshipers of the beast and its image, and whoever receives the mark of its name."

xlv **John 1:9 (ESV)**

<sup>9</sup> The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.

xlvi **1 John 5:19 (ESV)**

<sup>19</sup> We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.

xlvii **John 18:9 (NIV)**

<sup>9</sup> This happened so that the words he had spoken would be fulfilled: "I have not lost one of those you gave me."

xlviii **Luke 10:36-37 (ESV)**

<sup>36</sup> Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?"

<sup>37</sup> He said, "The one who showed him mercy." And Jesus said to him, "You go, and do likewise."