

THE SPIRIT OF ANTICHRIST?

JAMIE MCNAB

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When we last spoke ... we spent some time looking at the Abomination of Desolation.

It's the key sign Jesus gave of His coming.

Spoken of 4 times in the Book of Daniel. Most consider Daniel 9:27 is the most important. It shows that the Abomination is set up at the mid-point of Daniel's 70th "week" — 3½ years before being destroyed.

The Abomination coincides with the stopping of the Jewish sacrifices. And great destruction throughout Judea and Jerusalem.

Apart from Jesus ... the Apostle Paul also gave the same sign — in different words.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-7

1 Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you,

2 **not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come.**

3 Let no one deceive you by any means; **for that Day will not come unless the falling away 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.**

5 Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things?

6 And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time.

7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way.

The man of sin is revealed by sitting in the temple.

2 Thessalonians 2:8-12

8 **And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.**

9 **The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders,**

10 **and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth,** because they might be saved.

11 **And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie,**

12 **that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.**

Massive deception.

When you see the man of sin sitting himself in the temple ... you will know the countdown has begun.

We also saw that the desolation will be massive. DESOLATION — DESTRUCTION!

Zechariah 13:7 - 14:4

7 "Awake, O sword, against My Shepherd,
Against the Man who is My Companion,"
Says the LORD of hosts.

"Strike the Shepherd,
And the sheep will be scattered;
Then I will turn My hand against the little ones.

8 **And it shall come to pass in all the land,"**
Says the LORD,

"That two-thirds in it shall be cut off and die,
But one-third shall be left in it: (as captives)

9 I will bring the one-third through the fire,
Will refine them as silver is refined,
And test them as gold is tested.

**They will call on My name,
And I will answer them.
I will say, 'This is My people';
And each one will (then) say, 'The LORD is my God.' ”**

Chapter 14

1 Behold, the day of the LORD is coming,
And your spoil will be divided in your midst.

2 **For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem;**

The city shall be taken,

The houses rifled,

And the women ravished.

Half of the city shall go into captivity,

But the remnant of the people shall not be cut off from the city.

3 Then the LORD will go forth

And fight against those nations,

As He fights in the day of battle.

4 **And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives,**

Which faces Jerusalem on the east.

And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two,

From east to west,

Making a very large valley;

Half of the mountain shall move toward the north

And half of it toward the south.

Two-thirds will die. One-third will be taken captive. At the time of Jesus' return.

Hence Jesus' instructions to flee Jerusalem and Judea — URGENTLY!

What about those not living around Jerusalem? Do they flee? Where to? How do we flee?

It raises a question — whether these prophecies of Daniel and Revelation apply worldwide (including the USA ... Australia ... South Africa) ... or are they regional (Jerusalem and the surrounding Middle East countries)?

How do we know? Unfortunately — it is not always clear! Much will depend on the context. Sometimes it is fairly obvious. Compare:

Jesus' Great Commission: It was clearly to the whole world. Mark says preach to "every creature".

Matthew 28:18-19

18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "**All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.**

19 **Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,**

Go and make disciples of all the nations.

Salvation is available to all mankind. But many prophecies seem to be specific and regional.

Luke 2:1-3

1 And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus **that all the world should be registered.**

2 This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria.

3 **So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city.**

"All the world"? ... "everyone"? — not China ... India ... Russia. REGIONAL! Of the Roman Empire.

Daniel 2:26-31

26 The king answered and said to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, "Are you able to make known to me the dream which I have seen, and its interpretation?"

27 Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, "The secret which the king has demanded, the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, and the soothsayers cannot declare to the king.

28 But **there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days.** Your dream, and the visions of your head upon your bed, were these:

29 As for you, O king, thoughts came to your mind while on your bed, about what would come to pass after this; and He who reveals secrets has made known to you what will be.

30 But as for me, this secret has not been revealed to me because I have more wisdom than anyone living, but for our sakes who make known the interpretation to the king, and that you may know the thoughts of your heart.

31 “You, O king, were watching; and behold, a great image! This great image, whose splendour was excellent, stood before you; and its form was awesome.

Daniel 2:36-39

36 “This is the dream. Now we will tell the interpretation of it before the king.

37 **You, O king, are a king of kings. For the God of heaven has given you a kingdom, power, strength, and glory;**

38 **and wherever the children of men dwell, or the beasts of the field and the birds of the heaven, He has given them into your hand, and has made you ruler over them all—you are this head of gold.**

39 But after you shall arise another kingdom inferior to yours; then another, a third kingdom of bronze, **which shall rule over all the earth.**

Wherever men dwell — you rule them all? No. Just the area of his jurisdiction.

Subsequent Kingdoms — rule “over all the earth”?

Nebuchadnezzar didn’t rule over all men in the world. Just in his region. That was his interest — his “world”.

The prophecy of Daniel 2 is regional. “All the earth” is “Kol Ara” in Aramaic.

Daniel 7:23

23 “Thus he said:

‘The fourth beast shall be

A fourth kingdom on earth,

Which shall be different from all other kingdoms,

And shall devour the whole earth,

Trample it and break it in pieces.

The 4th Beast devours “the whole earth” — Kol Ara.

You can’t assume the 4th Beast (I would suggest Islam) ... devastates the entire world as you and I know it ... China ... Americas ... Japan ... India etc.

Much of prophecy relates to Jerusalem and its environs. Most nations names in prophecies are Middle Eastern (and Islamic).

May be a wider application ... but be cautious about extrapolating prophecies of Jerusalem ... Egypt ... Damascus ... Babylon — to San Antonio ... Los Angeles ... London!

Although — even if many end-time prophecies relate largely to Jerusalem and the surrounding nations — there would still be knock-on effects on the rest of the world. Economic chaos.

The context usually gives us a clue ... but some are rather ambiguous.

Ask: What is the scope of this prophecy? Don't assume a USA-centric or European-centric view!!

Moving on ...

We've talked about the Abomination of Desolation ... the man of sin. He purports to be as good as Jesus — if not even better. He claims to be god.

Commonly known in prophetic circles as The Antichrist — he comes "in place of" Christ ... and opposes Christ.

Whilst we can see he is most likely an Islamic figure ... linked to the he-goat of Daniel 8 and the Little Horn of the 4th Beast of Daniel 7 etc.

There is another indirect hint in the writings of the Apostle John that helps identify Islam as a very good fit.

1 John 2:18-23

18 Little children, it is the last hour; **and as you have heard that *the Antichrist is coming*, even now many antichrists have come**, by which we know that it is the last hour.

19 They (*the "little" antichrists*) went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us.

20 **But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things.**

21 I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and that no lie is of the truth.

22 **Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son.**

23 Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who acknowledges the Son has the Father also.

1 John 4:1-3

1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

2 **By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God,**

3 **and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.**

Antichrists and The Antichrist.

Obviously John can't comment on Islam itself! It didn't begin till circa 600 AD!

But the key teaching of Islam mirrors the spirit of Antichrist.

The Apostle John was dealing with a powerful heresy of his day.

Jesus was not the Son of God. Just a man. Gnostics taught that flesh is evil ... no divine being could "live" in evil flesh!

So the idea of a Father-Son relationship was rejected. Jesus was not the incarnate Son of the Father God.

That destroys the whole Plan of Salvation! If Jesus is not the Son of The Father — who gave His life for us — we have no hope.

Note:

1 John 2:22-23

22 **Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son.**

23 **Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who acknowledges the Son has the Father also.**

The Spirit of the Antichrist is to deny the Father and Son.

To deny Jesus is the Son is to deny and repudiate God The Father.

But that's what Islam does. It acknowledges Jesus as a prophet and messenger — but not a Son of God. And He did not die on a cross — did not shed His blood.

Quran Surah 19:88

“They said, ‘The Most Gracious has begotten a son!’ You have uttered a gross blasphemy. The heavens are about to shatter, the earth is about to tear asunder. Because they claim that the Most Gracious has begotten a son. It is not befitting the Most Gracious that He should beget a son”.

Quran Surah 9:30

“... the Christians call Christ the Son of Allah. That is a saying from their mouth. Allah's curse be upon them; how they are deluded away from the truth”!

So we have 1.8 billion Muslims who deny that Jesus is the Son of God. Deny that God can have a son. Deny that a Father-Son relationship can exist!

But this is exactly the core teaching of the Antichrist — “to deny the Father and The Son”.

Yet many so-called Christian leaders (including Pope Francis) ... seek ever-closer association with Islam “since we all worship the same god”!

We don't!

So it's interesting that a foundational teaching of Islam meets the Bible definition of Antichrist?

Conversely ... Europe and the Catholic Church in the “Apostles Creed” confirm public belief in a Father/Son relationship: “I believe in God, The Father

Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord”.

Not direct proof that the end-time Antichrist of Daniel will be Islamic ... but certainly supports that view? After all ...

Wouldn't the Antichrist have the spirit of Antichrist?

Moving on ...

One of the other key passages telling us what to expect leading up to Jesus' coming are the Seals of Revelation 6.

Let's review — but also test our “hypothesis” that Islam will dominate end-time prophecy.

I think we're familiar with the view that Jesus' Olivet Prophecy in Matthew 24 helps us understand what the seals mean? Accurate!

I believe Matthew 24 and Revelation 6 both relate solely to the end-time — Daniel's “70th week”? Not descriptions of conditions over the last 2,000 years.

Revelation 6:1-2

1 Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, “Come and see.”

2 And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.

The Rider on The White Horse. A great deceiver — of much of the world.

Traditionally view of the WWCG ... the Vatican or Papacy ... maybe a One-World church.

I would suggest that a good fit is Islam and The Mahdi?

Over 1.8 billion Muslims await the “Guided One”. The fulfilment of this White Horse.

Interestingly ... the Prophet Mohammed has more than 200 names such as:

Iklil = The Crown

Mansur = the Conqueror ... Victorious one

It is best not to be too dogmatic ... but Islam — a world-conquering religion revitalised by a charismatic end-time leader — seems plausible?

Revelation 6:3-4

3 When He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, "Come and see."

4 Another horse, fiery red, went out. And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth, and that people should kill one another; and there was given to him a great sword.

The Red Horse takes peace and security away. War!

"From the earth". But how much? Everywhere? Or within the region of the control of the White Horse?

Traditionally the WWCG said this is: European armies. Maybe a New World Order?

How about Islamic Jihad? Would that fit? Over 1,400 years of Islam ... killing about 270 million people.

Most wars in the world today are in Muslim nations — Syria ... Yemen ... Afghanistan ... Libya. Lots of unrest in Iraq ... Nigeria ... Pakistan ... Iran.

The Great Sword? Military might ... but historically swords have been key weapons of Islam fighters — especially of Damascus Steel.

One of the most popular boy's name is: Saifullah = Sword of God

Islam is a good fit ... as it tries to establish Islam and Sharia Law over much of the world.

Plausible (more than Germany or the Vatican)?!

Revelation 6:5-6

5 When He opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come and see." So I looked, and behold, a black horse, and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand.

6 And I heard a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, "A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine."

A Black Horse. Economic Turmoil: Shortages ... massive inflation?

If major wars — even regional wars in the Middle East and the Persian Gulf — there would be massive knock-on-effects across the world. Though especially terrible for those in the direct war-zone.

Interesting: "Pair of scales" = zugos in Greek.

Elsewhere translated "yoke". Thayer's Lexicon say "metaphorically, used of any burden or bondage (such as) ... that of slavery".

Historically — After Islamic invasion ... under Sharia Law ... all must either convert ... or accept "Dhimmi" status. Defined: "A subjugated second-class non-citizen — almost a slave — and who is subjected to dictatorial deprivation of all legal and human rights". Plus pays special tax.

Zugos is a perfect term to describe **the impact of Islam on conquered nations.**

Islam remains a good fit.

To be continued ... ☺



**NEW
TEMPLE**



FIERY RED HORSE



ISLAMIC JIHAD - 7TH CENTURY ONWARDS

APPROX 270 MILLION KILLED

**120 MILLION AFRICANS
80 MILLION HINDUS
60 MILLION CHRISTIANS
10 MILLION BUDDHISTS
+ OTHERS**



**SIEGE OF
VIENNA IN
1683**



THE BLACK HORSE

