SIGNS OF THE TIMES

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It is absolutely necessary that we discern accurately the time in which we live. If we fail in discernment, and project time beyond where it ought to be, then we are likely to miss the momentous events of our time, and if we see time as being too early, the result will be the same, we will miss what God is doing in our time.

Only by the Spirit of God can we accurately determine where the hands of the clock of God are pointing, at this time.

The Lord Jesus Christ gave us signs to follow, so that we might know the time in which we are, BUT we cannot interpret them naturally but only spiritually. There are natural signs and spiritual signs. The things that God determines in the heavenlies are manifested in the earth some time after. It follows therefore, that the things we see happening around us are really the manifestations of spiritual rather than natural forces.

In order therefore, to find the answers we seek concerning time, we must therefore look to the Spirit and not just keep our eyes on the natural signs. A sign in the natural can only qualify as an END TIME sign when we are able to discern from the Word of God, that both the spiritual and natural say the same thing.

THE SIGN OF THE DESTRUCTION OF THE TEMPLE:

Matthew 24:2 “And Jesus said unto them, see ye not all these things? Verily I say unto you There shall not be left one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.”

This word of the Lord was a quotation from Daniel who prophesied that the people of the Anti-Christ would destroy a Temple. Jesus Christ identified the temple that would be destroyed by the People of the Anti-Christ. Let us get that scripture from:

Daniel 9:26 “And after three score and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the Prince that shall come, shall destroy the city and the sanctuary;--“
We see from this scripture, that the city and temple which should be destroyed would be the very temple and city where Jesus was speaking to His disciples. Daniel identified it by saying that it would happen after, “Messiah be cut off.”

The spiritual implications of all this is that God was about to institute the Everlasting Temple, and the old temple had to Go. The God of heaven was about to Tabernacle Himself within man and that would be the THIRD TEMPLE, and the final house of God on earth.

I Corinthian 3:16-17 “Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

3:17 “If any man defile the temple of God him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.”

This prophecy of Daniel went further; It said that the people of the Anti-Christ would destroy the temple. History tells us that Titus, the Roman general destroyed the temple and the city of Jerusalem about A.D.70. It would seem then, that the Scriptures indicate that the Anti-Christ would come out of Rome.

Even as the natural temple was destroyed, so it is that one of the signs of the End-Time is that the destruction of the natural will occur while the spiritual Temple (which we are) is coming forth.

I will just quote one Scripture which says exactly this:

Isaiah 26:20-21 “Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast.”

16:21 “For, behold, the Lord cometh out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall not more cover her slain.”

THE SIGN OF THE BIRTH OF THE BEAST:

One of the greatest signs of our time is the coming forth of the beast in our midst. In order to understand this, we must first understand what is meant in Scripture by the word “Beast”.

God’s Divine Order is the Spirit of God over Man’s Spirit; Man’s spirit over his Soul; and Man’s Soul over his Body.

When this order is broken either to put body over soul or Soul over spirit, then MAN BECOMES A BEAST. The difference between a man and a beast is that man has the spirit of man, and the beast thought he has soul, does not have
spirit. It is the spirit of man in him which makes him conscious of God as his Father.

The Word of God tells us therefore, that at the time of the end there will arise a man who will be called “The Beast”. In another dimension he would seize the world as his kingdom; and that in the dimension of the spirit, there would be a spirit of the beast which would minister mostly to the children of disobedience.

Let me therefore give scriptures for each of these so that we might begin on a scriptural understanding:

THE MAN:

Daniel 8:23-25 “And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors have come to the full, a king of fierce countenance and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up;”

8:24 “And his power shall be mighty but not by his own power, and he shall destroy wonderfully and shall prosper, and practice and he shall destroy the mighty and holy people.”

8:25 “And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand: and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by (peace) prosperity shall destroy many, he shall also stand up against the prince of princes but shall be broken without hand.”

The context to this passage begins with Daniel having a vision. God sent an angel to explain the meaning of the vision to him, and the angel explained that the vision was for the End Time and it would be to the last end of the indignation or tribulation. In verse 21 the angel describes Alexander the Great as the first King of Greece. At his death he said four kings would take over the kingdom and form on of these would come the anti-christ. Verse 23 which is quoted above speaks of this anti-christ beast appearing in the End-time and heading a kingdom that would use craft, the preaching of peace, the preaching of prosperity, and by these means would destroy many. There is much detail in this and other passages in Daniel describing the man, the spirit and the Kingdom, but this passage and on in 2 Thessalonians describes the man the best.

2 Thes. 2:3- “Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away (apostasy) first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; (son of satan or the destroyer)

THE SPIRIT:
I John 4:3 "And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of anti-christ, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world."

3 John 7 “For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.”

These writings of John in the first century after Jesus Christ, speaks of anti-christ being in the church and in the world as a spirit. It surely could not have been referring to those who confess Jesus Christ with their mouths. Spirits do not confess with their mouths, if mouths they have, but they do confess by manifestations through human vessels and otherwise.

The true meaning of this scripture then, speaks of Jesus Christ manifesting in our bodies, and no matter what one says, and what works one does, if Christ does not show forth in his life, then he is not confessing Jesus Christ by his life, and it follows that his is the spirit of the anit-christ.

Since spirits must manifest in humans in order to express themselves, the coming forth of the ‘man of sin’ or ‘lawless one’ is to find its full expression in the human realm at the end of time and just before the coming of Jesus Christ. This in itself says, however, that the manifestation of the beast nature, or antichrist nature is not a new thing, but that it was manifesting in the world and in the Church since the beginning.

It is very important therefore, that we see the spiritual manifestations in our time, and be able to escape the very nature of Satan by imbibing the nature of Christ. Let us look then, at the spiritual manifestations that Daniel wrote of and compare them with some of the manifestations in our midst today:

1. THE FULLNESS OF TRANSGRESSION –

The word fullness could be better translated as “completion”. The spirits of evil are always trying to maximize upon the things they have the authority to do. We can see therefore, that the things which were done in the past that are by spirits are increasing in their evil and intensity, and are coming to a point of the fullness of evil or a completion of transgression.

Every sin and iniquity must in our time come to its completion. The continued escalation of violence and murder in our midst is greater than it ever has been at any time. In recent years there has been the growing incidence of mass murders. Recently a man confessed to killing two hundred persons, and it seems common place to hear of one of these cases where many persons are murdered by one or two individuals. We cannot here name them all, but on the whole we can see a terrible deterioration in human thinking. The new morality is in effect immorality, and there is an increasing impact upon all the people even upon the Christians. The fornication and adultery which was in
the Corinthian church has escalated in the church at large, the adultery among the ministry is a common thing. The spirits of divorce are striking at the very roots of the churches and every home is under the pressure of their attacks. The sins homosexuality mentioned by Paul in Romans 1, as showing its ugly head in that church, has increased in the modern church to such a proportion that the thinking of many of the leaders are being twisted to entertain and accommodate it.

THE REASON FOR THIS IS SPIRITUAL –

Spiritual harlotry produces a natural manifestation. The people of the church seem for the most part to wear the same clothes as the people of the world. In former time we used to know the women of the ‘oldest profession’ by the clothes they wore, but now-a-days everybody seems to be wearing the clothes of the women of the ‘oldest profession.’

Proverbs 7:10 “And behold there met him a woman with the attire of an harlot, and subtil of heart.”

The spirit that rules this generation is a spirit of harlotry. This is the spirit which causes men of God to enter into politics; Mixing of the things of God with worldliness – mixing, mixing, mixing – Spiritual adultery causes the manifestation of natural adultery. The sisters who dress up their little girls in shorts and dress themselves in those sexy attires (dress of the harlot) are under the pressure of these spirits and should know that they are endangering the life and spiritual well-being of their children. I am sure some of my readers are revolted at what I am saying, but before you cancel your listing for this magazine, please ask yourself the question: Would Jesus wear these shorts, or would Mary the mother of Jesus do so?

Blindness is come upon the Christians- This is a sign of the end of time. Even as Samson was blinded by Delilah so the modern church and ministry are blinded by the Harlot Church:

I Timothy 4:1-2 “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; (demons)”

4:2 “Speaking lies in hypocrisy having their conscience seared with a hot iron:”

Some Christian parents even agree for their children to go with sinners. (those who are not born-again of the Blood of Jesus Christ). When God spoke of the Jews not mixing with the other nations, He laid down a spiritual principle that children of God should not marry the children of the world.
2 Corinthians 6:14 “Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?”

As the Beast Nature is being birthed in the world, the spirit of Anti-christ is being birthed in the church. Please remember that when man begins to submit to another spirit apart from the Spirit of God, then he begins to become a “beast”. The Soul must be ruled by a spirit. If it is not ruled by the Spirit of God then it is ruled by the spirit of the Devil. Many of my readers will challenge the position of the Anti-Christ being birthed in the church. Let us therefore read

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 (Rotherham)

2:3 “That no man may cheat you in any one respect. Because that day will not set in except the REVOLT come first, and there be revealed the man of lawlessness, the son of destruction, 2:4 the one who opposeth and exalteth himself on high against every one called God or an object of worship; So that he, within the Sanctuary of God, shall take his seat – Showeth himself forth that he is God.”

Our Lord Jesus Christ spoke in Matthew 24:15 that the “Abomination of Desolation”, (sin of destruction, which is REVOLT against God) would have rule over the Holy Place Church in the end time.

WE OBSERVE THIS SPIRITUAL REVOLT IN THE CHURCH IN MANY FORMS:

1. The rejection of Jesus Christ as Lord. Most Christians accept Jesus Christ as their Savior, but although they will call him Lord, will not really make him lord of their lives. They still participate in worldliness and thus still remain slaves of sinful habits etc.

2. God’s divine Order is rejected by the churches and ministers. The ORDER OF GOD dictates that God the Father gives life to Christ the Son; Christ the Son sends the Holy Ghost with His authority; The Holy Ghost presides over the Human spirit and the spirit over the Soul and the soul over the Body. The Order is broken when MAN PRESIDES OVER THE CHURCH AND NOT GOD. If God presided over the churches then they would all be one under God. Now that man presides over the church one day they will all be one UNDER MAN – This man the Scripture says will be the ANTI-CHRIST.

3. The Seminaries of Theological learning are all humanistic in the sense that they teach the doctrines of man and create proselytes unto themselves, and foster denominationalism which is not of God.

4. The LOVE OF GOD is superseded by the love of church sect and every abomination that appeals to the masses.
5. Good is rejected as evil and evil exalted as good, Darkness in the church is lauded as light and light as darkness. For example, those who are practicing psychology in the church are more acceptable to the people than those who practice Godology.

6. The ministry which is ordained of God – the five-fold ministry = is in most places rejected in place of the one ordained of man and his carnal institutions.

7. A rebellion against righteousness where virtue is scoffed at and vice and bizarre and lewd behavior are lauded.

The chief spirits therefore, which motivate the world of today are driving mankind towards a swift and calamitous end.

THE SPIRIT OF DESTRUCTION:

Never before in the history of humanity, has the total destruction of all living things been possible at the hands of man. Jesus said it in Matthew 24:21-22, that but for the sake of the select faithful few, “no flesh would be saved.”

The power of destruction in the arsenals of the world is awesome, and every day this power is increasing. Man is turning his attention skyward and actually building platforms of destruction in space, and planning to build colonies on the Moon in order to be in an advantageous position to shoot at his enemies.

IT IS MY PERSONAL BELIEF THAT GOD WILL NOT ALLOW THIS TO BE COMPLETED; IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THIS IS THE SAME AS THE TOWER OF BABEL.

“He shall destroy wonderfully,” is a terrible phrase to consider when we know the power of the atom bombs and the other satanic weapons which have been conceived are even more dreadful in their power to maim and destroy human life. Some of these weapons are described in Revelation 9 (ask for the tapes on Revelation) verse 4 and 9-11.

THE SPIRIT OF CRAFT:

Craftiness has in our time become a virtue among men, even among Christians, although the scriptures speak of it as a vice.

“And He shall destroy the mighty and the holy people.” There is an area of Christians who will be destroyed by the enemy as the judgment of God upon a lukewarm church. In Revelation 11:2, in Daniel 7:21-22, we read of this destruction upon the church, but not without hope that with the coming of
the ‘Ancient of Days’, or Christ within His church, or Christ within His elect, the judgment will be given to the Saints and the saints will eventually possess the kingdom.

One of the chief marks of the antichrist spirit is that whatsoever it cannot conquer by craft and deception, it will try to destroy by physical force.

“BY PROSPERITY SHALL DESTROY MANY” –

The spirit of the antichrist preaches security to those who are not secure. Security is in Jesus Christ and the Father God only. Many will feel secure in a doctrine as the denominations teach. Some feel secure in the doctrine of prosperity. This is an antichrist doctrine which tells men that gain is godliness. ([I Tim. 6:5](http://sonlightdevotional.org/)). The stated position of Jesus:

**Luke 4:18** “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor: He hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised.”

Above is the work of the Holy Spirit not only in Christ Jesus, but also in us. The Spirit of God, therefore, will lead us to preach to the poor, not that they should be rich, but **RICH IN CHRIST**. Any other preaching comes from another spirit, which is the spirit of the antichrist.

“HE SHALL BE BROKEN WITHOUT HANDS”:

This is one of the greatest promises in the Bible. The Antichrist and all his satanic forces will be overcome and destroyed, without **HUMAN ORGANIZATION**. Many of the churches believe that their organization will bring in the Kingdom of God, but this is a fallacy.

The stone cut out of the mountain, ‘without hands’, means that God Himself will form a Body of believers who will be under the headship Jesus Christ. The organizations or denominations will be destroyed. The people who are in them will either go to the Lord or to the antichrist.

**THE KINGDOM OF THE BEAST:**

The Kingdom of the Beast will include:

1. **THE BEAST** – The one world ruler to whom the nations will give their loyalty and their kingdoms.
2. **The Antichrist** – who will be putting up himself as Christ and deceiving many, and;

3. **The False Prophet** – who will be assistant to the Antichrist in his work of deceiving the people.

**THE KINGDOM OF THE BEAST:**

_Revelation 13:1_ “And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns, ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.”

This beast is a Union of Nations like the United Nations Organization. It will have TEN ruling heads and SEVEN nations. The reason for this assumption is that the horns in Daniel 7:19 as described by the angel were two kings. Again in Revelation 17:12 the ten horns were ten kings.

This Organization will be a coming together of Seven Totalitarian Nations – **The reason for this assumption** is that the **Crowns** were on the horns and not on the heads, which means that the **Power** was with the individual heads and not with the nations. It is evident then, that this scripture is saying that at the end of time this world will be going into dictatorship rather than democracies.

**It is very interesting** to note that the beast or dragon which persecuted the woman in Revelation 12 had the same seven heads and ten horns, but that the crowns were on the heads rather than the horns. This says that the persecution of the church, which is already begun in a subtle way, will come from what would seem to be a democratic beast like our present **United Nations**.

This democratic beast however will be superseded by a Totalitarian Beast which will be completely given over to the **Antichrist** position and will blaspheme God.

The change from our present democratic stand to one that is absolutely totalitarian, is very hard to conceive at present, **but after a devastation of atomic war**, people will be so frightened that they will be glad to give authority to anyone who promises “PEACE” and seems to be capable of preventing another holocaust.

_Revelation 13:2_ “And the beast which I saw was like unto a **LION**, and his feet were as the feet of a **BEAR**, and his mouth as the mouth of a **LION** and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.”

There is something strange in this verse, and I do not believe that there are coincidences in Scripture, therefore, I see a certain implication here which I will share with you: In Daniel chapter Seven, beginning with verse three,
Daniel saw in his vision FOUR great beasts coming up out of the NATIONS. The first one was like a LION (Nebuchadnezzar’s kingdom), the second was like a BEAR (the Kingdom of the Meads and Persians), the third was the Greek empire under Alexander the Great which was like the LEOPARD.

In Revelation 13 quoted above we see the picture of the fourth beast which was more terrible than all of them put together, but which contained the image of the other three.

The peculiar thing is that these symbols represent three of our modern nations: The Lion represents England and the whole British Commonwealth of Nations; (which might also include the United States) the Bear represents Russia and all its satellite nations; the Leopard represents France.

Note the wording of the Revelation 13 passage: It says the beast was, “Like unto a Leopard.” Could it mean then that this final horror of an Organization will come out of France? It could be!

The symbol of the leopard was given to Alexander the Great because of the swiftness of his terror upon his enemies. His attack was particularly designed to use the element of surprise to conquer his enemies. He would position the fastest horses in his army at an advantageous point to make a swift sweep down upon his enemies, and within minutes he and his elite corps would be in their midst hacking and tearing them to pieces.

This then will be the mark of the terror of the FOURTH kingdom. With the modern technology available today and with airplanes reaching up to “Mach 4” in speed, an enemy traveling near the speed of a bullet might well be able to appear in our midst before we could bat an eye lid. **This would be the very fullness of what Alexander the Great began to do.**

**THE SIGN OF THE MARK OF THE BEAST:**

The mark of the beast will be in the forehead. **The mark of God will be in the forehead.** We are basically talking about minds that are given over to Satan as the mark of the beast, and minds that are given over to God as the mark of God in the forehead. This could not represent a sudden uncontrolled thing happening to any individual, but it must be a deliberate decisive act on the part of the individual to take such a mark. God has so made humanity that no spirit can forcibly take a person, that person must by his or her will, give himself to that spirit. This law (Romans 6:16) applies both to the Spirit of God as well as to the spirits of the enemy.

At present we can discern the mark of the beast being taken by many willing persons. I have never before seen so many people who cannot reason humanly or godly, but theirs is a certain twisted reason that seems so strange to us who have the mind of Christ on any subject.

http://sonlightdevotional.org/
A case in point is the shooting down of Flight 007 – the Korean jet liner, killing 290 persons, by the Russians. They gave a reason which was not human, but so demonic that it sounded strange to us humans. They said because it was flying over their secret installations, it was a U.S. spy plane loaded with passengers, and that they were not sorry, they would do it again. It spoke of lawlessness in a nation and its military institution; that they did not recognize the laws of God to bring them and their works into judgment, and they think they are a law unto themselves – they do not know God, NO SUCH DEED WILL GO UNPUNISHED.

The Kingdom of the Beast therefore, will consist of beasts of all sizes and statures; the thing that will be common among them is that they will be submitting to the spirits of Satan and they will all be antichrist.

Let us therefore as children of the light, trim our lamps and be ready, for the day of His appearing is upon us and we are the generation in the “Sides of the North” which Psalms 48 sings about – We are the Zion of God – WE ARE THE OVERCOMERS.