

BOOK OF DANIEL

UNDERSTANDING THE ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION – COREY STARK

I. INTRODUCTION (MT. 24:15)

A. Jesus called His people to watch for the “abomination of desolation” and then pointed us to the book of Daniel to gain understanding of it (Mt. 24:15). Daniel is the *only* Old Testament prophet to have seen the abomination of desolation. Both Paul and John elaborated on it in the New Testament (2 Thes. 2:2-4; Rev. 13:14-15). The abomination of desolation is the *first event* in the Bible that alerts the Church that the great tribulation has begun (Mt. 24:21). Believers often neglect this important exhortation of Jesus.

Mt. 24:15 “Therefore when you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place” (whoever reads, let him understand), 16 “then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. 17 Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. 18 And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes... 21 For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.

B. Matthew 24 gives Jesus’ *most detailed* teaching on the end times. In it, Jesus mentioned two men that we must understand if we are to view the end times from God’s perspective—Daniel and Noah. Jesus established His end-time teaching in relation to what happened in their life, message and ministry.

1. Jesus made three direct references to Daniel’s prophecies (Mt. 24:15; 21, 30):

a. The *abomination of desolation* (Mt. 24:15; Mk. 13:14; Dan. 8:13; 9:27; 11:31; 12:11).

Dan. 11:31 And forces shall be mustered by him, and they shall defile the sanctuary fortress; then they shall take away the daily sacrifices, and place there the abomination of desolation.

Mt. 24:15 “Therefore when you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place” (whoever reads, let him understand)...

b. The *Great Tribulation* (Mt. 24:21; Mk. 13:19; Dan. 12:1).

Dan. 12:1 At that time Michael shall stand up, the great prince who stands watch over your people; and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time.

Mt. 24:21 For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.

c. The *Son of Man* coming on the clouds (Mt. 24:30; Mk. 13:26; Dan. 7:13-14).

Dan. 7:13 Behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven!

Mt. 24: 30 The Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

2. Jesus also compared the people and circumstances in the end times to those in the days of Noah (Mt. 24:36-44; Lk. 17:26-27; Gen. 6-9).

Lk. 17:26 As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man...

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II. OVERVIEW: WHAT IS THE ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION?

A. The abomination of desolation is referred to *eight times* in the Bible. Daniel used a form of this phrase four times (Dan. 8:13; 9:27; 11:31; 12:11), two passages quote Jesus' use of it (Mt. 24:15; Mk. 13:14), and both Paul (2 Thes. 2:3-4) and John (Rev. 13:14, 15 [3x]; 14:9, 11; 15:2; 16:2; 19:20; 20:4) described the reality of it. We understand the abomination of desolation best by comparing Daniel's four references to it with what Jesus, Paul, and John said about it, as well as looking at its' Old Testament foreshadow (Dan. 4; Ezek. 8-10).

B. The abomination of desolation is the *central event* that helps us to understand Jesus' view of the end times. This is the *only specific* political and religious event that Jesus identified, which will let His people know that they are in the generation of His return and that the Great Tribulation has started (Mt. 24:15, 21).

Mt. 24:15 When you see the 'abomination of desolation'... 21 For then there will be great tribulation...

C. There are *many implications* associated with the abomination of desolation. For example, in order for the abomination to take place, Israel must first be a nation with governmental jurisdiction over Jerusalem, the temple must be rebuilt on its original site, and functioning with sacrifices according to the Law of Moses. Both Paul and John confirm Daniel's rebuilt temple (Dan. 8:11, 13, 14; 11:31; 2 Thes. 2:3-4; Rev. 11:1-2).

2 Thes. 2:3 The son of perdition, 4 who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshipped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

1. One major obstacle to the temple being rebuilt is that Al-Aqsa Mosque (Islam's third most holy site) and the Dome of the Rock stand on the Temple Mount (site of Solomon's temple). Scripture indicates that both the Jewish Temple and the Islamic Mosque may stand together on the temple mount (Rev. 11:1-2).

Rev. 11:1 Then I was given a reed like a measuring rod. And the angel stood, saying, "Rise and measure the temple of God, the altar, and those who worship there. 2 But leave out the court which is outside the temple [i.e. outer court], and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles. And they will tread the holy city underfoot for forty-two months [3½ years]."

2. The Antichrist will make a covenant with many nations to allow the temple to be rebuilt (Dan. 9:27). Then he will betray the covenant, stop the sacrifices and will seek to force Israel and the nations to embrace the abomination of desolation under the threat of death (2 Thes. 2:3-4; Rev. 13:14-15)

D. The abomination of desolation refers to *specific evil deeds* being done that are "abominable" to God. These evil deeds lead to the "desolation" or destruction of many people, cities and nations. In other words, it speaks of the greatest abominable deed in human history that will lead to the worldwide destruction of many.

1. The New Testament emphasizes the Antichrist setting up the abomination of desolation in the temple of God in the city of Jerusalem (Mt. 24:15; Mk. 13:14; 2 Thes. 2:3-4; Rev. 13:12-18).

Mk. 13:14 When you see the 'abomination of desolation'... standing where it ought not" [the temple]...

2. The Old Testament emphasizes the Antichrist using legislation to stop the Mosaic sacrifices to the God of Israel (Dan. 8:11, 12, 13; 9:27; 11:31; 12:11).

Dan. 8:11 By him the daily sacrifices were taken away, and the place of His sanctuary was cast down.

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E. The abomination of desolation is the *catalytic event* that will purify and mature the Church for victory by ushering in the great falling away of the insincere, while bringing in a great harvest of new believers, as well as preparing the nations for the final judgment of God.

1. The *abomination* to God will occur in two ways—each involving several different dynamics.

a. *Demands of the Antichrist*: The Antichrist will demand worship after he sets up his governmental throne in the holy place of the temple in Jerusalem and stops the daily sacrifices (2 Thes. 2:3-4). He will force hundreds of millions to accept his religion under the threat of death (Rev. 13:15).

b. *Responses of the people*: Hundreds of millions of people will accept this.

2. The *desolation* of people will occur in two ways—both related to the Antichrist’s demand of worship.

a. *Antichrist will cause desolation*: He will seek to destroy any who refuse his demand of worship. He will bring desolation to the people, cities, and nations who refuse his religion and practices.

b. *God will cause desolation*: God will destroy any who submit to the Antichrist’s demand of worship. He will bring judgment on the people, cities, and nations that accept his religious demands.

Rev. 14:9 If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, 10 he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation.

III. TWO PRIMARY COMPONENTS: THE IMAGE AND THE MARK

A. John was the only person to describe the abomination of desolation in relation to the False Prophet (Rev. 13:11-18). Two main components in “setting up” the abomination will be the *image of the Beast* and *mark of the Beast*. Both are used to deceive the multitudes and force them to accept the religion of the Antichrist. The Antichrist is called the “beast” 36 times in the book of Revelation, revealing his cruel and inhuman nature.

Rev. 13:15 He [False Prophet] was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed. 16 He causes all... to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, 17 and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

1. *Image of the Beast*: Listed ten times in the book of Revelation (Rev. 13:14, 15 [3x]; 14:9, 11; 15:2; 16:2; 19:20; 20:4). An image of the Antichrist will be set in the holy place of the rebuilt temple in Jerusalem. This image may combine cutting-edge technology (holographic image) with supernatural power, causing the image to breathe and speak. To elicit global worship, there must be a network set up with infrastructure throughout local “worship sanctuaries” that are connected to the temple in Jerusalem.

2. *Mark of the Beast*: Listed eight times in the book of Revelation (Rev. 13:16, 17; 14:9, 11; 15:2; 16:2; 19:20; 20:4). It will be illegal to refuse the mark and is a part of the abomination (Rev. 13:16-17). Those who refuse will not be allowed to buy or sell and will be seen as criminals of the state that are guilty of death. It is more than just an embedded chip, but a covenant of worship that you cannot accidentally receive, much like receiving Jesus for salvation. The mark will finance the empire of the Antichrist. Legislation will establish a global infrastructure to track and punish all who refuse to take the mark of the beast.

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IV. WILL THE ANTICHRIST REALLY CLAIM TO BE GOD?

A. Paul emphasized the actions of the Antichrist when describing the abomination (2 Thes. 2:3-4). From this passage many have concluded that the Antichrist will claim to be Yahweh, the God of Israel. But does he?

2 Thes. 2:3 The man of sin is revealed... 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... 9 The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders...

1. The Antichrist never claims to be Yahweh. He is an arrogant, self-exalting king that sits in God's temple, openly blasphemes the God of Israel and all that is sacred (Dan. 7:8, 11, 20, 25; 11:36; Rev. 13:6).

Dan. 11:36 The king... shall speak blasphemies against the God of gods.

Rev. 13:5 He was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies... 6 He opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven.

2. When the Antichrist sits in God's seat in the Temple, he is declaring himself to be his divine representative on earth. "In Hebraic thought, the Temple was viewed as the earthly location from which the governmental authority of God was extended to the earth. In other words, the Temple is God's seat." ¹

Ezek. 43:6 I heard Him... from the temple... 7 "This is the place of My throne... (Jer. 3:17)

3. "Throughout the Islamic world today there is a call for the restoration of the Islamic Caliphate. The Caliph (Khilifa) in Islam is the supreme political and religious leader of all Muslims. The Caliph is viewed as vice-regent for Allah on the earth" ² and "Jerusalem will be the location of the rightly guided caliphate and the center of Islamic rule, which will be headed by Imam al-Mahdi (Islam's messiah)." ³

"If you see him, go and give him your allegiance, even if you have to crawl over ice, because he is the Vice-regent (Khalifa) of Allah, the Mahdi [Messiah]." ⁴

4. In Revelation, John reveals that the Antichrist will be worshipped, refusal of which will be punishable by death. Therefore, many conclude that he must be viewed as a god. However, the Greek word used for "worship" is *proskyneō* G4352, which means to kiss the hand, to fall upon the knees and touch the ground with the forehead as an expression of profound reverence, or to prostrate oneself to pay homage to beings of superior rank, including rulers, priests, angels, false gods (demons) and the true God of Israel.

Rev. 13:4 So they worshiped the dragon [Satan] who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?"

5. Since the Islamic Caliph is the supreme political and religious leader Revelation 13:4 "could simply indicate that the people of the earth will display utter submission to him and his empire... Consider the fact that Islamic theology teaches that every Muslim is obligated to make a pledge of allegiance, known as *bay'ah*, to any sitting caliph, the refusal of which is punishable by death." ⁵

"Muhammad said: Those who obey me obey Allah, the Almighty. Those who disobey me disobey Allah, the Almighty. Those who obey my leader obey me and those who disobey my leader disobey me." ⁶

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B. Daniel also describes the actions of the Antichrist related to the abomination in his final vision (Dan. 10-12). While the Antichrist does blaspheme Yahweh, the God of Israel and virtually every other god, there is one god that he does honor, acknowledge and advance. Daniel 11:36-39 contains a fourfold statement of the religious beliefs of the Antichrist. The first three reveal what he rejects and the fourth reveals what he affirms.

Dan. 11:36 Then the king shall do according to his own will: he shall exalt and magnify himself above every god, shall speak blasphemies against the God of gods, and shall prosper... 37 He shall regard neither the God of his fathers nor the desire of women, nor regard any god; for he shall exalt himself above them all. 38 But in their place he shall honor a god of fortresses; and a god which his fathers did not know he shall honor with gold and silver, with precious stones and pleasant things. 39 Thus he shall act against the strongest fortresses with a foreign god, which he shall acknowledge, and advance its glory; and he shall cause them to rule over many, and divide the land for gain.

1. *He rejects the “God of his fathers”*: The Hebrew phrase used here is *elohim ab*, which is exclusively used as a reference to Yahweh, the God of Israel. From this many conclude that the Antichrist will be a Jewish apostate. Although he could be Jewish, just because “he rejects the God of his father Abraham, in no way does this prove that he is [exclusively] a Jew. He could just as easily be an Ishmaelite, Edomite or a descendent of any number of relatives of Abraham’s sons that fill much of the Middle East.”⁷ The point here is that the Antichrist will “show no regard” for Yahweh, the Lord God of the patriarchs.

a. While many claim that “the Antichrist will be Jewish, the biblical pattern proves otherwise. Every type or foreshadow of the Antichrist throughout Scripture has been a non-Jewish, Gentile leader. Whether Pharaoh, Sennacherib (the Assyrian), Nebuchadnezzar (the king of Babylon), or Antiochus IV Epiphanes, these were all non-Jewish pagan world leaders.”⁸

b. “While Muslim apologists will claim the Allah of Islam is, in fact, one and the same as the God of Abraham, this is merely Islamic propaganda. The Allah of Islam has far more in common with Sin, the moon god whom Abraham left behind in the desert, than with the Father God of the Bible.”⁹

2. *He rejects the “Desire of women”*: Some see this as an indication that the Antichrist will be homosexual, rejecting the desire for women. Others see it as referencing his *hatred* for women, legalizing their oppression. Still others see this as a reference for *children*, which is the great desire of a woman’s heart. Others see it as a reference for Jesus Christ, the Messiah and ultimate desire of all Jewish women.

a. “In light of Daniel’s Jewish background... the desire of women, is the natural desire of Jewish women to become the mother of the promised Messiah, the seed of the woman in Genesis 3:15.”¹⁰

Gen. 3:15 I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed...

b. The phrase “desire of women” is a Hebraic phrase referencing the Messiah and would have been understood in this way by Daniel’s original hearers. Ultimately this desire of Jewish women was realized and fulfilled in Mary, who rejoiced in being chosen as the blessed one... (Lk. 1:46-48).

3. From the above two phrases we see that the Antichrist rejects (1) the God of Israel; and (2) Jesus the Messiah. This two-fold rejection should be seen as a denunciation of God the Father and God the Son.

1 Jn. 2:22 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...

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a. In Psalm 2 David also repeats this two-fold rejection (Ps. 2:1-3).

Ps. 2:2 The kings of the earth... and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against His Anointed, saying, 3 “Let us break Their bonds in pieces and cast away Their cords from us.”

b. Jesus describes a time coming when those who don't know the Father and the Son will think that they're pleasing God by killing the saints (Jn. 16:2-3). This is challenging for those who see the Antichrist as a humanist. In that case, the verse wouldn't have said they were doing God service, but that they thought it was justifiable. “One religion in the world today stands out as a likely candidate to fulfill this prophecy on a global scale. In fact, in many parts of the world today, Christians are already killed regularly by Muslims who believe that such acts are pleasing to their god, Allah.”¹¹

Jn. 16:2 Yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service. 3 And these things they will do to you because they have not known the Father nor Me.

4. He rejects “every other god”: Beyond rejecting both the Father and the Son, the Antichrist will universally reject every other god and religion. However, “in their place” he will greatly honor one god.

5. He honors a “god of fortresses”: While rejecting God the Father and God the Son, the Antichrist does honor, act in the strength of, acknowledge and advance the glory of a “god of fortresses” (i.e. a god of war). He does not worship the God of the Jews, but rather a “foreign god” of an unnamed foreign people.

a. “When the full picture is considered, it is fair to say that this description could certainly be applied to a Muslim. Islamic doctrine rejects Yahweh in exchange for the Allah of the Qur'an. Islam denies Jesus as the Son of God and rejects the gods of every other religion. And certainly the Allah of Islam could be understood as the god of war, or jihad. If Islam is the religion of the Antichrist, then the phrase “a god whom his fathers did not know,” could easily be understood as a reference to Allah, the moon-and-war god of Arabia.”¹²

b. In Islamic tradition, the coming Mahdi (Islamic Messiah) will ride upon a white horse, as he establishes Sharia Law across the earth and leads the Muslim world to victory. Ironically, this tradition is based on the correct Muslim interpretation of the Christian Scriptures, which depict the Antichrist!

Rev. 6:2 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.

“It is clear that this man is the Mahdi who will ride the white horse and judge by the Qur'an (with justice) and with whom will be men with marks of prostration on their foreheads (from bowing in prayer with their head to the ground five times daily).”¹³

V. THE MAGNITUDE OF DESOLATION

A. Jesus referred to Daniel's teaching on the abomination of desolation and the great tribulation (Mt. 24:15-22). Besides the Flood, the greatest destruction in history was WWII in which fifty million people died in six years (1939-1945). Only one year prior to this no one knew the unprecedented death toll would occur. The great tribulation will be far greater. Remember, Jesus likened these days to the days of Noah (Lk. 17:26).

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Mt. 24:15 “Therefore when you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place” (whoever reads, let him understand), **16** “then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. **17** Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. **18** And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. **19** But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! **20** And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath. **21** For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. **22** And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved [physically survive]; but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened.

B. No flesh saved: Jesus elaborated on Daniel 12:1 by clarifying that if the great tribulation lasted longer than 3½ years no one would be saved from physical death, but all would be killed by either the Antichrist’s rage or by God’s judgment, related to the events of the abomination of desolation. There will still be hundreds of millions of people that survive, but compared to 8-10 billion the percentage is few (Isa. 24:6; Jer. 25:33).

Rev. 9:15 The four angels... were released to kill a third of mankind [2.5B out of 10B is 50x more WWII].

Isa. 13:11 I will punish the world for its evil, and the wicked for their iniquity... **12** I will make a mortal more rare than fine gold... **13** I will shake the heavens and the earth will move out of her place...

Isa. 24:1 The Lord makes the earth empty [of people]... **3** The land shall be entirely emptied... **6** The inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men are left.

VI. THE OUTPOURING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND GREAT HARVEST IN THE END TIMES

A. There is a dynamic relationship between the gospel being preached in power to all nations and the setting up the abomination of desolation with its escalating martyrdom and deception. The word “therefore” in verse 15 ties back to the gospel being preached in all nations in verse 14.

Mt. 24:14 This gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come. **15** Therefore when you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel...

B. The abomination of desolation is set up at the midpoint of the final seven years of natural human history. This occurs when the Antichrist is miraculously healed from a deadly head wound by a sword and takes his seat in the Jerusalem temple as vice-regent of a foreign god on earth. Interestingly, this happens in the same timeframe as Satan being cast to earth from heaven at the beginning of the great tribulation (Rev. 12:7-9). In response, the Holy Spirit is poured out in power across all the nations of the earth (Acts 2:17-19; Rev. 12:10).

Rev. 12:10 Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, “Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren... has been cast down.

C. God releases great power for the harvest related to exposing and overcoming the Antichrist (Rev. 11:3-6). The initial outpouring of the Holy Spirit was only partially fulfilled in Acts 2 in that only Jews in the city of Jerusalem received the baptism of the Spirit without any signs in the heavens, blood, fire or pillars of smoke (Acts 2:17-21). However, at this time every detail will be fulfilled, including signs, wonders and salvation.

Rev. 11:3 I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy 1,260 days [great tribulation]... **6** These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire.

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VII. CONCLUSION: WHAT WE KNOW SO FAR (DAN. 8:13)

- The abomination of desolation is the *first event* to initiate the great tribulation.
- The abomination of desolation is the *only specific* political and religious event that Jesus identified to alert the Church that the great tribulation has begun.
- There are *many implications* associated with the abomination of desolation, including Israel's governmental jurisdiction over Jerusalem, with a rebuilt temple, functioning with Mosaic sacrifices.
- The Antichrist will make a covenant with many nations to allow the Jewish temple to be rebuilt.
- The Antichrist will betray the covenant, stop the sacrifices and seek to force Israel and the nations to embrace the abomination of desolation under the threat of death.
- The abomination of desolation refers to *specific evil deeds* being done that are “abominable” to God. These evil deeds lead to the “desolation” or destruction of many people, cities and nations.
- The abomination of desolation is the *catalytic event* that purifies the victorious Church, escalates the great falling away, brings in a great harvest, and prepares the nations for the final judgment of God.
- The *abomination* to God occurs in two ways – the Antichrist's demand of worship and the people's submission to his religious demands.
- The *desolation* of people occurs in two ways – the Antichrist's destruction of those who refuse his religious demands and God's destruction of those who submit to the Antichrist's religious demands.
- Two main components in “setting up” the abomination are the *image of the Beast* and *mark of the Beast*.
- The False Prophet will deceive many by his supernatural power to accept the religion of the Antichrist.
- The Antichrist never claims to be a god, but rather vice-regent on earth of a foreign god.
- The coming Islamic Caliph is viewed as vice-regent for Allah on the earth.
- The Antichrist will establish his governmental rule from the Temple Mount in Jerusalem.
- The coming Islamic Caliph will establish his governmental rule from the Temple Mount in Jerusalem.
- The Antichrist will demand absolute submission and loyalty, refusal of which is punishable by death.
- The coming Islamic Caliph will demand absolute allegiance, known as *bay'ah*, the refusal of which is punishable by death.
- The Antichrist will deny God the Father and God the Son.
- The coming Islamic Caliph will deny God the Father and God the Son.
- The Antichrist will deny every other god and religion.
- The coming Islamic Caliph will deny every other god and religion but Islam.
- The Antichrist will honor a foreign god of fortresses or god of war.
- The coming Islamic Caliph will honor Allah, moon-and-war god of jihad.
- The Antichrist will ride upon a white horse, as he goes forth to conquer the nations.
- The coming Islamic Caliph will ride upon a white horse, as he establishes Sharia Law across the earth and leads the Muslim world to victory.
- The great tribulation will last for only 3½ years and far surpass WWII in its unprecedented death toll.
- God will pour out the Holy Spirit and power upon the victorious Church in context to bringing in the great harvest of new believers, while exposing the deception of the False Prophet and overcoming the Antichrist.

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Endnotes:

1. Joel Richardson, *Mideast Beast*, pg. 133
2. Joel Richardson, *Antichrist - Islam's Awaited Messiah*, pg. 43
3. Joel Richardson, *Antichrist - Islam's Awaited Messiah*, pg. 46
4. Ibn Maja, *Kitab al-Fitan* #4084 as quoted by Kabbani, pg. 231
5. Joel Richardson, *Mideast Beast*, pg. 135
6. Joel Richardson, *Mideast Beast*, pg. 136
7. Joel Richardson, *Mideast Beast*, pg. 127
8. Joel Richardson, *Mideast Beast*, pg. 127
9. Joel Richardson, *Mideast Beast*, pg. 127
10. John Walvoord, *Daniel*, pg. 274
11. Joel Richardson, *Mideast Beast*, pg. 130
12. Joel Richardson, *Mideast Beast*, pg. 131
13. Muhammad Ibn 'Izzat and Muhammad "arif, *Al Mahdi and the End of Time*, pg. 15