

Elder Vernon Johnson

Numbers

Three and One Half

The Opposing Beast in this Covenant Age

Satan is the archenemy of the Lord's obedient children. He routinely seeks to deceive, devour, and destroy them. Yet he cannot touch their eternal life. His trouble that he causes them is in this life. One of the devices of Satan is to gather together a multinational government under his spiritual control to attempt to wreck havoc upon the Lord's obedient children. There is a prophecy in the book of Daniel and another in the book of Revelation that speaks of this multinational beast that stands in opposition to the Lord's people who worship him in spirit and in truth in His kingdom:

1. Dan. 7:25 "And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time."
2. Rev. 13:5 "And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months."

The phrases "time and times and the dividing of time" and "forty and two months" speak to us of this beastly opposition to the saints of God would continue throughout the New Testament covenant age. Both phrases are equivalent to three and a half years. Three and a half is the bible number representing a covenant. There are two covenants of worship: Old Testament and New Testament. The number three and a half represents both these two covenants. Three and a half plus three and a half makes a total of seven. Seven is the bible number of completion. Thus, the two covenants together are the complete revealed word of God.

It is apparent in the above quoted verses that the beast is in opposition to God's obedient children. The beast seeks to wear out the saints of the most High and to change times and laws (this is designed to make it impossible according to man's laws to worship God in Spirit and in truth). The beast also speaks great things and blasphemies against the Most High and seeks to enslave the Lord's obedient children. While we can expect this opposition to continue throughout this New Covenant age, we also recognize that our help comes from God and it is he who delivers us and helps us in our struggles against this beastly opposition.