

Having succeeded in the discussion of what is the truth, having succeeded in painting a different picture of the truth than is the truth, the lawless one—the term “lawless” is *anomia*,<sup>1</sup> which means he operates outside of principles; he is not bound by set principles.<sup>2</sup> In the set of teachings on “The Man Above the Waters” [see Current Affairs #38], there is a man above the waters, and there are two on either side of the river, and they said to the man above the waters, “When shall these things be?” The answer included that the enemy, Satan, will “try to change the set times and the laws.”<sup>3</sup> When you try to change the laws, you are lawless—because the word for “lawless” is the word *anomia*, which is to operate outside of the law. But the configuration of the language here is quite telling, quite revealing actually: “trying to change the set times and the law.” Let me see if I can find it very quickly. In the Book of Daniel, the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter,

*Then I, Daniel, looked; and there stood two others, one on this riverbank and the other on that riverbank. And one said to the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, “How long shall the fulfillment of these wonders be?”*

*Then I heard the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand to heaven, and swore by Him who lives forever, that it shall be for a time, times, and half a time; and when the power of the holy people has been completely shattered, all these things shall be finished (Daniel 12:5-7 NKJV).*

Daniel had further questions, but he was told simply to go his way, that he would sleep in the dust of the earth, and he would be raised at the last day. I was looking for a particular thing, and so I will have to go back to my readings in the Book of Revelation, but it was that he will try to change

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All Scripture quotations are from the NKJV Bible, unless otherwise noted.

<sup>1</sup> See *anomia*, Strong’s Greek 458 - <https://biblehub.com/greek/458.htm>

<sup>2</sup> See 2 Thessalonians 2:9-10: “The coming of the *lawless one* is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.”

<sup>3</sup> See Daniel 7:25: “He shall speak *pompous* words against the Most High, Shall persecute the saints of the Most High, And shall intend to change times and law. Then *the saints* shall be given into his hand For a time and times and half a time.”

the set times and the laws. That is unequivocally the reference to the coming forth of the agency by whom the set times and laws are changed, and that would be the lawless one.

The lawless one deceives those who dwell on the earth. Even the church that has fallen away now may be classified as those who dwell on the earth, because they have left their high estate. Falling away from the truth has been described earlier in the Book of Revelation when the Spirit was speaking to the seven churches of Asia, saying, “You have left your first love. Repent, lest your candlestick be removed.”<sup>4</sup> Because this was not an impossible outcome. It was recognized that at the end of the age, this would happen—that some would leave their first love. When you depart from the standards of the word and of the truth—the standard of the word in alignment with the Spirit that produces the truth—you are caught in your own imagination, and it is easy then to change the set times and the laws.

You do not actually extend the time for anything and you do not actually change what God has said, but in the minds of others, it will be the old things God has said interpreted in this very different way that is pleasing to everybody. That, you see, is the fruit of the tree that is pleasing to those eyes and desirable to make you wise—the same deception<sup>5</sup>—and people will eat of it because their soul’s desire is to feast upon the wisdom that is carnal, sensual, and devilish.<sup>6</sup> That is why they are deceived. They perish because, and this is the plain statement of Scripture: people fall away because they do not love the truth, but they take pleasure in unrighteousness.<sup>7</sup> This is the Scripture. I am quoting the Scriptures to you. People fall away because they do not love the truth, and they take pleasure in unrighteousness.

So for them, to change the set times is to be deceived into thinking that the Day of the Lord is not imminent, and to change the boundaries and the structure of spiritual things to becoming that which

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<sup>4</sup> See Revelation 2:4-5: “Nevertheless I have *this* against you, that you have left your first love. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.”

<sup>5</sup> See Genesis 3:6: “So when the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food, that it *was* pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make *one* wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.”

<sup>6</sup> See James 3:15 KJV: “This wisdom descendeth not from above, but *is* earthly, sensual, devilish.”

<sup>7</sup> See 2 Thessalonians 2:2:9-12.

is popular, that which people will agree with. The church is already there. We do not really have to reach for that, do we? The church is already at the point where, if people agree with it, then it is the truth.

After performing these great signs and deceiving those who dwell on the earth, he instructs the people of the earth to make an image of the beast—the one who was wounded by the sword and lived.<sup>8</sup>

*He 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. He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, ... (Revelation 13:15-16).*

I will come back to that, but I want to focus on this image of the beast. This beast, first of all, is the *kosmos*,<sup>9</sup> the compendium of systems, so it is not possible to actually make an image of it—a physical representation of it, such as one would make an image of a lion or a bear or a leopard. So, it is a concept. It is fascinating, the word that is used here. The word “image” is the word *eikón*,<sup>10</sup> and it has five different meanings. One of the meanings—as is used in connection with Christ, in whom the entire fullness of the Godhead dwells<sup>11</sup>—is as Colossians 1:15 speaks of that: He is the image of the invisible God.<sup>12</sup> And that is the principle. So an *eikón* may be a thing fashioned, but mostly it is about projecting the power and the relevance of the thing that is invisible. The necessity of making an image of the beast is the requirement that people have something to worship.

The idea here that he is structuring, in a public square someplace, an Old Testament style image of a god is not correct. He is defining what it means to be a good citizen of the *kosmos*. This goes hand in hand with why there is a requirement to receive the image of the beast on one’s forehead

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<sup>8</sup> See Revelation 13:11-14.

<sup>9</sup> See *kosmos*, Strong’s Greek 2889 - <https://biblehub.com/greek/2889.htm>

<sup>10</sup> See *eikón*, Strong’s Greek 1504 - <https://biblehub.com/greek/1504.htm>

<sup>11</sup> See Colossians 2:9: “For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily;” see also Colossians 1:19.

<sup>12</sup> See Colossians 1:15 (emphasis added): “He is the **image** of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.”

and on one's right hand. Because the image of the beast on the forehead speaks to and references what is going on in your mind. It is a mental shift, and it reflects a cultural shift, so it is what you believe. And an image on your right hand is a reference to your strength, your economy. That is why it says you cannot buy or sell without having this mark of the beast. He is not talking about creating an image, as I said, in some public square someplace; he is talking about a mental construct to which all the people of the earth now, all the dwellers of the earth, have granted mental acquiescence, having departed from the truth.

You have conflict of ideas, because this is the war of words, and he synthesizes the essence of what the *kosmos* is. So, it is a philosophical construct that he requires you to have. And on the basis of a philosophical construct—so the number on the forehead—you have a changed mindset. And the number on the right hand means that you now may participate in that which sustains your life, because it is an entire process by which you are being cultured to believe your provision and your protection comes from the *kosmos*.

As is true so often in Scripture, here is the thing. He causes as many... Let me read a few more verses to bring it into the focus.

*And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived. He 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. He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, 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 (Revelation 13:14-17).*

The Book of Revelation is—let me use a term that is a computer term—hardwired to the Book of Daniel. The references flow back and forth easily. Now Daniel is not the only prophetic book that is referenced in the Book of Revelation, but it is the primary Old Testament prophet and prophetic book referenced in the Book of Revelation. In the Book of Daniel, the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter, there is a story

of how Nebuchadnezzar created an image of gold and caused everyone to fall down and worship it. Let me read it to you. This is Daniel, chapter 3. The similarity is striking, and it will shock you when you see what I am going to show you. It has to do with the number 6—two sixes.

*Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold, whose height was sixty cubits and its width six cubits. He set it up in the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon (Daniel 3:1).*

What did he do? This image was an alter-ego of Nebuchadnezzar. Now why would he do that? Because, you see, Nebuchadnezzar was on a rampage conquering the world, and he brought all these different people into Babylon. He needed to unify them under a certain religion that would give clarity to the right of Nebuchadnezzar to rule all these diverse peoples. Nebuchadnezzar had defeated Pharaoh in Egypt, for example; he had defeated the Assyrians; he certainly had defeated the Israelites. And by itself, Babylon was a series of provinces that had been unified by Nebuchadnezzar. So he had a diverse kingdom, and his need to unify the diverse kingdom was the motivation for creating this image of gold. Continuing the reading in Daniel, chapter 3.

*And King Nebuchadnezzar sent word to gather together the satraps, the administrators, the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the judges, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces, to come to the dedication of the image which King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. So the satraps, the administrators, the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the judges, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces gathered together for the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up; and they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up. Then a herald cried aloud: “To you it is commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages, [\[Did you not just read that in Revelation, chapter 13? This is his version of the whole earth.\]](#) that at the time you hear the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, you shall fall down and worship the gold image that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up; [\[Here is the continuing parallel:\]](#) and whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.”*

*So at that time, when all the people heard the sound of the horn, flute, harp, and lyre, in symphony with all kinds of music, all the people, nations, and languages fell down and worshiped the gold image which King Nebuchadnezzar had set up (Daniel 3:2-7, comments added in brackets).*

Do you see any parallel between this and this man of lawlessness? Let me go back and read it then. Revelation, chapter 13—this is the man of lawlessness, this lamb that sounds like a dragon (a lamb that looks like a domestic lamb but sounds like a dragon), the deceiver in appearance:

*And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed (Revelation 13:12).*

His is the role of Nebuchadnezzar. And what is the purpose of the establishment of this image of the beast? What was the purpose of Nebuchadnezzar's establishing this image? By the way, it is an image of gold—60 cubits (I do not have it in mind exactly what that looks like, but it is pretty powerful; it is pretty impressive: that much gold in a statue). I doubt it was solid gold, but even molded gold in a statue 60 cubits by 6 cubits wide is pretty impressive. So it has an hegemonic influence, meaning, you look at that sight and the question is, "Who would not agree that that is the god that should be worshiped?" And here is the king who has captured everybody, conquered everyone and brought them into his domain. Now he is unifying them by this image. It is a similar thing.

In fact, Nebuchadnezzar's image is a type and shadow. The purpose of types and shadows is that we, through patience and comfort of the Scriptures, might have understanding, and therefore have hope.<sup>13</sup> What we know from the making of this image that he required all peoples, nations, and languages to fall down and worship is that his intent was to consolidate his rule. Now this was an actual image created, and Nebuchadnezzar instructed the creation of it and paid for it. That is the type and shadow. The succeeding picture is that of a lawless one, one who plays outside of the

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<sup>13</sup> See Romans 15:4: "For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope."

rules, whose emergence causes the church to fall away. He creates a mental structure, like an image of gold, and it is resplendent—the promise of economic well-being, the promise of social order, the promise of good health. All of these things are implied. All of the seven systems of the *kosmos* are implied in this mental structure, this philosophical/theological view that has been contrived by this man of lawlessness. Because he plays outside of the rules, he is not bound by anything other than promoting the power and the absolute control of this invisible, Satanic kingdom. He is exercising all of the power of the first beast on behalf of the beast.

So the image of the beast here is not a building, or a structure, or some shaped or formed entity; it is a spiritual thing. And it may be used much in the same way as one of the meanings of the word *eikón* as it applies to Christ: Christ is the image of the invisible God. Meaning, in Christ, everything that is accurately representative of God dwelt in a bodily form. The continuation of this principle is that everything that is the image and likeness of God dwells in the Body of Christ.<sup>14</sup>

What, then, is this image of the beast that is being created? It is the incarnation, as it were, or the forming into ideas of something that is a complete and total rivalry to the Body of Christ. The world in the end of the age, as the Body of Christ emerges in its glory, will have a competing image in the earth. The image of God is in Christ; the image of Christ in the earth is us. The image of the beast, which is of course the offspring of Satan,<sup>15</sup> will also have its coalesced following, and it will be well-defined: it will be defined by the seven systems of the *kosmos* as they are formed into a functioning philosophy under a religious perspective. This character is the one who, like Nebuchadnezzar, causes everybody to worship the image of this beast. This is the key: it is the

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<sup>14</sup> See Romans 8:29: “For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.”

See 2 Corinthians 3:18: “But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.”

See 1 Corinthians 15:48-49: “As *was* the *man* of dust, so also *are* those *who are made* of dust; and as *is* the heavenly *Man*, so also *are* those *who are* heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the *man* of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly *Man*.”

See Ephesians 1:22-23: “And He put all *things* under His feet, and gave Him *to be* head over all *things* to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.”

See Ephesians 4:13: “till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;”

<sup>15</sup> See Genesis 3:15: “And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”

way that Satan consolidates his rule over the minds of men, just like Nebuchadnezzar consolidated his rule over the minds of the diverse peoples that he had brought to Babylon. This image is how Nebuchadnezzar did it. This philosophy is how Satan will do it. This is the image.

That is why we presently live in a time called the post-truth era. Everything is up for grabs. Nobody actually is certain about what the truth is anymore. And when you have the party that claims to represent Christians being as grotesquely infected by this spirit as the other party is, we are well on our way to seeing the image of the beast rise up amongst the nations of mankind. It is how the enemy captures the minds of people's souls and how he deceives the whole earth. Just like Nebuchadnezzar, if you do not worship it, he will have you killed, because it is terror that enforces it. He may not actually have your head cut off, but he might as well if you cannot buy or sell. That is the pressure. That is where he applies the pressure point.

I am Sam Soleyn, and that is the image of the beast. We will continue our discussion. Bye-bye.