

- (4) In place of the Jewish sacrifices, the "prince", now revealing himself in his true character, will set up an abominable idol in the temple, thus making the temple desolate. It is this outrageous and blatant act to which our Lord refers in the Olivet Discourse. The abomination of desolation will continue to stand in the temple until the end of the seven year period.
- (5) During the second half of Daniel's seventieth seven, there will be war and destruction and desolation. Thus the second half of the one seven will be a time of great distress and trouble.
- (6) At the end of the seventieth seven, the "prince" and his abominable idol that makes desolate will be destroyed, in the outpouring of God's Judgment.

Thus far we have seen that the abominable idol that makes the temple desolate, as spoken of by our Lord in the second section of the Olivet Discourse, is the same as that which will be set up in the temple in the middle of Daniel's seventieth seven. Our Lord said that this abominable, desolating idol will mark the Great Tribulation, after which He will return to earth in power and great glory. Note that by combining Christ's Discourse with Daniel's prediction, we learn that the Great Tribulation will fall into the same time-frame as Daniel's seventieth seven, and that the abominable desolating idol will be set up in the middle of that seven year period.

Who will it be that sets up this abomination that desolates? Daniel calls him "the coming prince" (Daniel 9:26), and says that he will do certain things by which he may be recognized. Although our Lord does not state who it is that will set up the abomination, the question is insistent, "Who is he?"

Is he a ruler of the revived Roman Empire (a kind of United Confederation of Europe) as some have suggested? Is he a new world messiah, who will offer himself to the world as savior from world starvation or from nuclear holocaust? Is he Satan incarnate, who will rule upon the earth during the second half of the seventieth seven in diabolical imitation of Christ's millennial reign? Who is this personage?

Two New Testament passages appear to throw additional light on the identity, characteristics, and actions of this personage.

3. Paul's Reference to the 'Man of Lawlessness

II Thessalonians 2:1-11

- (1) Now that we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, and our gathering together to Him,
- (2) that you may not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. (ὥς ὅτι ἐνέστηκεν ἡ ἡμέρα τοῦ κυρίου)