

B. A Synthesis of these Passages

We have examined four passages that are chronologically significant for the development of a framework for the understanding of God's prophetic program: the Olivet Discourse, Daniel 9:21-27, II Thessalonians 2:1-11, and Revelation 13.

We have learned that in the middle of Daniel's seventieth seven the "coming prince" sets up the abominable, detestable idol that makes the temple and city of Jerusalem desolate. This action is the great identifying sign that marks the Great Tribulation period spoken of by our Lord in the Olivet Discourse. Could this "coming prince" be the "man of lawlessness" of II Thessalonians 2, as well as the first beast of Revelation 13? And could the abominable idol of Daniel 9 and the Olivet Discourse be the image of the beast spoken of Revelation 13? The answer to both these questions would seem to be yes.

If the personage spoken of in these four passages is one and the same, then we must ask two questions: (a) What will he be like? (b) How will he be recognized when he appears on the world scene?

Upon combination of the four passages, we can develop a profile of this personage, as follows:

1. He will be some kind of ruler or "prince", and will probably be a very powerful and influential figure.
2. At first he will present himself as a man of peace, and will seek to be a peacemaker.
3. At first he will be favorable to Israel, and to Jewish claims, acknowledging these claims by a firm treaty.
4. After a few years he will reveal himself in his true character and will break his treaty with Israel and perhaps his agreements with other nations and powers as well.
5. He will claim world dominion, and require absolute submission and allegiance by all peoples of the world. Thus a one-world government will be established.
6. He will gain control of all political, social, and economic structures, and will use them for his own purposes.
7. He will require religious worship of himself as a god by means of an amazing image, which will be erected in the temple in Jerusalem.
8. He will do lying wonders, deceptive amazing signs, thereby causing the people of the world to believe that he has supernatural powers. However, whatever power he has will be extended to him by Satan.
9. He will have at his side a religious leader, who will prophesy lies and cause people to worship this person and his amazing image. Thus a one-world religion will be established.
10. Those people who refuse to receive this man's mark of absolute allegiance will be discriminated against and persecuted; many of them will be put to death, including many believers.
11. Those people who willingly receive the mark of allegiance to this man will be doomed to everlasting torment in the lake of fire, the final hell.
12. At the end of his brief period of world dominion, this personage and his false prophet will be struck down (no doubt along with his image) and cast into the lake of fire by Christ at His Second Coming.