

Daniel 7:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

The little horn's blasphemous career continues: '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.' The phrase 'speak great words against the most High' indicates sustained blasphemy. 'Wear out' (Aramaic: *belah*, exhaust, harass) describes relentless persecution. Attempting to 'change times and laws' shows rebellion against God's established order. The 'time and times and dividing of time' (3.5 times/years) appears throughout apocalyptic literature as period of tribulation (Revelation 11:2-3; 12:6, 14; 13:5).

Historical Context

Antiochus IV persecuted Jews, forbade Sabbath and circumcision, changed feast times, and attempted to Hellenize Jewish religion—partial fulfillment. The language exceeds Antiochus, pointing to Antichrist's future persecution (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4; Revelation 13:5-7). The 3.5 years appears throughout Scripture as period of intense but limited persecution. God's sovereignty limits persecution's duration—saints given into the oppressor's hand for predetermined time only. Throughout history, this passage encouraged persecuted believers that suffering has divine limits.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does the limited duration (3.5 times) provide hope that even intense persecution has God-appointed boundaries?
2. What does the attempt to change times and laws teach about rebellion's ultimate goal—usurping God's authority over creation's order?

Interlinear Text

וְכַל יִן	לְצַד	עֲלִיָּא	יִמַּל ל	וּלְקַדִּישׁ י	
great words	against	the most High	And he shall speak	the saints	
H4406	H6655	H5943	H4449	H6922	
עֲלִיּוֹן יִן	וְיָבֵל א	וְיִסְבֶּר ר	לְהַשְׁנִיָּה	זְמַנֵּי יִן	וְדָת
of the most High	and shall wear out	and think	to change	times	and laws
H5946	H1080	H5452	H8133	H2166	H1882
וְיִתְּיָב וִן	בְּיַד ה	עַד	עַדְוִי	עַדְוִי	וּפְלֵג
and they shall be given	into his hand	until	a time	a time	and the dividing
H3052	H3028	H5705	H5732	H5732	H6387
עַדְוִי					
a time					
H5732					

Additional Cross-References

Daniel 12:7 (Holy): And I heard the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven, and swore by him that liveth for ever that it shall be for a time, times, and an half;

and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished.

Revelation 12:14 (Parallel theme): And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.

2 Thessalonians 2:4 (Parallel theme): Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

Revelation 12:6 (Parallel theme): And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.

Daniel 2:21 (Parallel theme): And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding:

Revelation 18:24 (Holy): And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth.

Daniel 7:20 (Parallel theme): And of the ten horns that were in his head, and of the other which came up, and before whom three fell; even of that horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spake very great things, whose look was more stout than his fellows.

Isaiah 37:23 (Holy): Whom hast thou reproached and blasphemed? and against whom hast thou exalted thy voice, and lifted up thine eyes on high? even against the Holy One of Israel.

Daniel 7:8 (Parallel theme): I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things.

Revelation 17:6 (Holy): And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration.

