

Simon Attwood

The saints of the Most High

‘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’.

Daniel 7:25

Blasphemous outbursts against God, hatred and violence towards God's people! The daily news can make us fearful about the future, especially when we think of younger ones, but what of our fellow believers who live in or near places where Christians suffer for the Lord Jesus now? May we be faithful in interceding for them (Heb. 13:3).

Thank God we ‘wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us’ – or better our Deliverer – ‘from the wrath to come’ (1 Thess. 1:10). We won’t go through the terrors of the tribulation when the Holy Spirit ceases to restrain the forces of evil in this world and God’s judgment falls upon it (2 Thess. 2:6, 7). For the Spirit will have gone with the Church.

But ‘saints of the most high places’ (as Daniel 7:25 should read) will be here, and the little horn (Dan 7:8) – the leader of the revived Roman empire, the fourth beast of Daniel 7 and the first beast of Revelation 13 – will wear them out. Even so they’ll be delivered, for in losing their lives they’ll have a heavenly part in the everlasting kingdom of the Lord Jesus (Dan. 7:22). The word ‘they’ in verse 25 does not refer to these saints but to the Jewish times and laws they will seek to observe. The beast will have these things in his hand for up to three-and-a-half years but not the saints themselves, however much they suffer.

May this encourage us in our day. No matter what happens, no one can seize us out of our Lord's hand or out of His Father's hand (John 10:28, 29). On His way to Gethsemane the Lord Jesus said to His disciples: 'These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.' Then He prayed to His Father to 'keep them' (John 16:33; 17:15). Let's take these wonderful words for ourselves.

Oude Sporen 2015

