

"will try to change the set times and the laws" (v. 25). Holders of the Maccabean view, claiming that Daniel was written during the reign of Antiochus Epiphanes, say that these words refer to that ruler's attempt to do away with Jewish beliefs and customs. Holders of the evangelical view say that such an interpretation is ruled out by the fact that the horns come from the fourth empire rather than the third, or Hellenistic, to which Antiochus Epiphanes belonged. If one looks for a past fulfillment in the history of the Roman empire the only event that might reasonably be suggested as having fulfilled this description came near its beginning (even before it was called an empire) when Julius Caesar introduced a new calendar that was standard in the western world for more than fifteen hundred years, and also made many desirable improvements in Roman law. Since Julius Caesar came so early in the history of the Roman empire and was not preceded by ten kings of whom he overthrew three, this must be ruled out as a fulfillment. Hardly any recent interpreter would think that Julius Caesar was the predicted "little horn."

The other new fact contained in the bystander's interpretation is that the saints will be handed over to the little horn "for a time, times and half a time." There is no evidence in the context to determine the exact application of these words, though it is not unreasonable to suggest that a period of three and a half years is meant.

Many guesses have been made about the identity of the Antichrist. We can be sure that all that is clearly stated in the Bible will certainly occur, but we ought to reserve judgment on details that God has not revealed. The prophecies were not given to satisfy curiosity, but to encourage God's people to stand true, knowing that His will is always best.

Verses 26-27 again parallel the three great events in the dynamic portion of Nebuchadnezzar's dream. The first part of verse 26 shows the supernatural origin of the force that will destroy the boastful horn. The rest of the verse predicts the complete destruction of the Antichrist and all that he represents. Verse 27 tells of the establishment of the universal