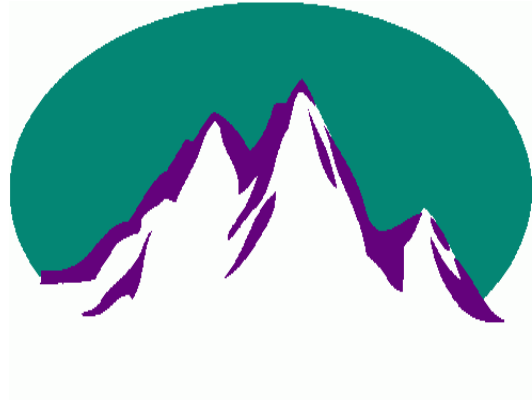


Heads, Hills, Horns, and Harlots

(Revelation 17:9-14)



By Pastor Kelly Sensenig

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Revelation 17:9

**“And here is the mind
which hath wisdom. The
seven heads are seven
mountains, on which the
woman sitteth.”**

“And here is the mind which hath wisdom.” As was the case for calculating the number of the Beast (Revelation 13:18), wisdom is required to understand the next portion of the mystery revealed by the angel. This means the truth that is about to be presented in these verses requires spiritual insight to be understood and the difficulty of correct interpretation is illustrated by the various ways it has been interpreted in the history of the church.

We want God to give us wisdom in understanding this rather complex and yet important prophecy. Many prophetic students have taught that the seven mountains on which the woman sits refer to the city of Rome which is called throughout history “the city of seven hills” However, there are some problems with this interpretation.

As Woods observes:

“If the seven mountains are to be taken as the seven hills of Rome, then it is difficult to see why special wisdom is said to be required in order to understand the revelation provided by the angel. It seems odd that the seven hills should be equated with the well-known topography of Rome because Revelation 17 indicates that the identification of the hills calls for special wisdom. Why should such a well-known geographical locale to John’s first century audience require special theological and symbolic insight for proper identification?”

We must understand that John does not have a specific, physical geographical site in view, when making this statement, but only a symbolic interpretation and understanding of the mountains.

What do these mountains represent? Many have postulated that the mountains represent the Seven Hills of Rome and conclude that a geographical location is portrayed. It is often suggested that the city of Rome will be the headquarters of the harlot church and the Roman Catholic Church will in once sense support, promote, and house the end-time harlot church. Thus, it's assumed that the seven-hilled city of Rome is in view and the Roman Catholic Church is the woman sitting upon the beast of Revelation 17:3. The interpretation has several problems.

First, the woman is not merely the Roman Catholic Church but the ecumenical church of many harlots (Rev. 17:5) or false religious systems tied together in the end-time. Although Romanism will take a lead role the end-time church will be an amalgamation of all false religions.

Second, the mention of seven mountains cannot refer to the city of Rome since the religious apostasy of the end-time is tied to the existence of another literal city (Rev. 17:18) which is clearly identified as the rebuilt city of Babylon (Rev. 18:2, 18-19).

Third, the term hills (Greek - bounos) does not refer to mountains (Greek - oros). Thus, hills and mountains are two different types of landscape. This would exclude the idea of the co-called Seven Hills of Rome.

Fourth, Rome itself actually has more than seven hills when studying the topography. Seven hills formed the nucleus of the ancient city on the left bank of the Tiber. However, as Rome expanded two other hills were included in the west of the river and the north.

Fifth, and most convincingly, the Bible clearly states that the mountains are not the hills of Rome. It actually states that they are kings along with their corresponding kingdoms. The best interpretation is taken from the text itself. Literally, verse 10 reads: "and are seven kings" giving the explanation of the mountains, as being a reference to kings with their corresponding kingdoms, throughout the course of history.

Revelation 17:9-10 explains the mountain imagery:

“And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth. And there are seven kings: (literally – “And are seven kings”) five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space.”

Verse ten is explaining the interpretation of verse nine and it literally reads in the Greek language, “and are seven kings.” In other words the seven mountains of verse nine relate to seven kings. This is very clear from the context. This verse explains what the mountains represent. They represent kings or those kingdoms that are ruled by prominent kings.

John Walvoord states:

“If the hills represent kings, then they do not refer to the seven hills of Rome, and the whole conclusion that Rome is the capital of ecclesiastical Babylon is brought into question.”

David Hocking states:

“To identify the seven heads as the seven hills (mountains) of the city of Rome is ignoring the clear statement of verse 10 (Rev. 17:10) that the seven mountains are seven kings.”

Charles Dyer also states:

“It is far more consistent to view the harlots ‘sitting’ as describing her control over the seven mountains instead of pointing to her physical location.”

I agree with these conclusions. The text literally identifies these hills as kings. We know that “mountains” or mountain imagery (Revelation 17:9) is used as a symbol for world kingdoms and kings, as we will see in this study. This symbolic (not literal) understanding of the seven mountains seems supported by the fact that the harlot (a symbolic figure) sits on or these seven mountains (symbolic of kings - Rev. 17:9-10) just as she sits on the many waters (symbolic of people - Rev. 17:1). Since the waters are symbolic of peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues (Rev. 17:15), consistency seems to dictate that the seven mountains are symbolic as well – they are symbolic of world kings and their kingdoms. In fact, the “ten horns” (vs. 12) are also symbolic. The entire woman and beast imagery from its heads, hills, and horns are all symbolic apocalyptic literature which

is designed to portray literal personages, people, and events of the end times.

The whole idea that the seven mountains on which the woman sits are reference to Seven Hills of Rome and that this mountain imagery represents the city of Rome simply cannot be supported from the text or substantiated from the context.

In interpreting the beast imagery, he tells us what the heads, hills, and horns represent. This is what we are going to discover in this study.

a. Heads

Revelation 17:9 says, “The seven heads are seven mountains”

There are previous verses dealing with these seven heads.

Revelation 12:3

“And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.”

In this verse Satan is connected with the heads.

Revelation 13:1

“And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.”

In this verse a beast is connected with the heads. The seven heads apparently represent a series of kings and kingdoms stretching throughout history that Satan (red dragon – Rev. 12:3), through the woman (Babylonian religion – Rev. 17:3), has influenced. The final “beast” (Rev. 13:1) is pictured with seven heads to indicate how *characteristics* from all the previous six world kingdoms of earth will culminate into a final seventh beast kingdom under the Antichrist (Rev. 13:1). Seven heads (kings), along with their corresponding kingdoms (empires), are seen aligned and linked together because they share similar qualities and traits among each other, the seventh being a final culmination of all the previous traits of the six heads. The final world kingdom (Revived Roman Empire) will gather

together traits from all the previous six world kingdoms; therefore, the seven heads signify a grafting together of all the previous kings and kingdoms into a final significant seventh kingdom ruled by the Antichrist, a final king.

Chapter seventeen (the key interpretive chapter) gives us the proper interpretation of these heads and sheds light on the previous verses we have talked about.

Revelation 17:3

“So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.”

The seven heads represent the course of world history in seven kingdoms as related to Israel’s earthly existence.

Revelation 17:9

“And here is the mind which hath wisdom.”

One again, we need wisdom in understanding this verse. This is because there is a *double symbolism and interpretation* of these mountains – they refer to both kingdoms and kings.

Revelation 17:10 literally reads “and kings they are seven” which actually gives the explanation and interpretation of the mountains. The seven mountains represent kings who have ruled the major six world kingdoms or empires of history and one king (the antichrist) that will rule a future final empire (Revived Roman Empire). Together they present the *course of world history in seven phases*. We will confirm this later in our study.

b. Hills

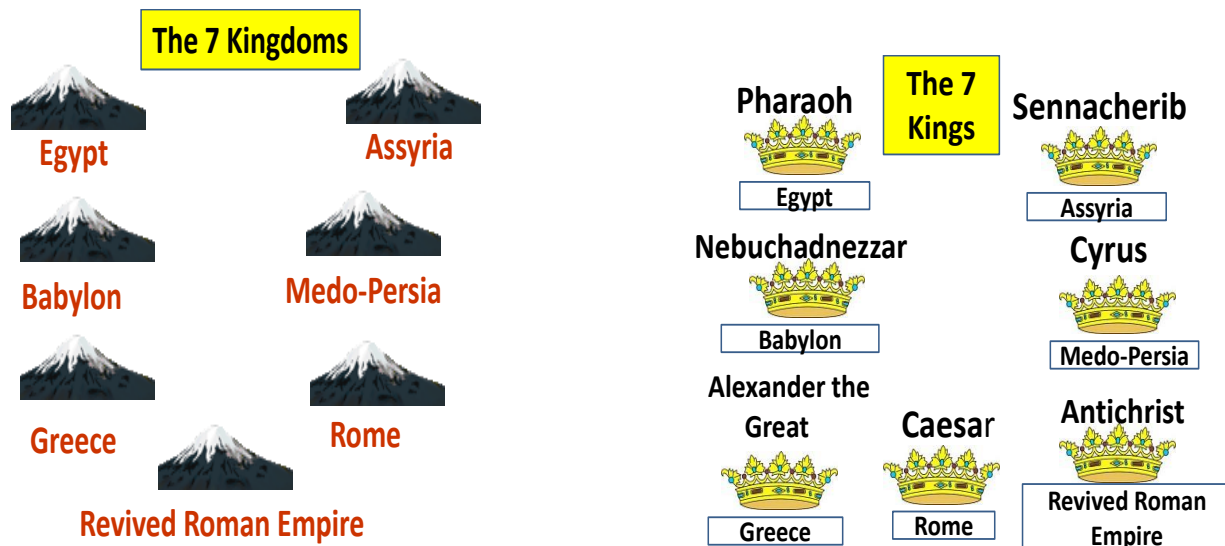
The interpretation of the hills or mountains, along with the heads, is relatively easy. They refer to major kings that have ruled throughout history. However, the wisdom we need in interpreting this passage is that the mountains also reference the kingdoms that these kings have ruled. There is a *dual emphasis* being portrayed.

In the prophetic Scriptures, when a king is referenced, so is his kingdom. Both are understood to be one and the same.

Renald Showers states: “The ancient Orient regarded kings and kingdoms as being synonymous. Thus, whenever a world king is being presented, his kingdom is also being referenced. This can be supported not only from the Oriental way of viewing kings, but also from the Scriptures.”

Note: In prophetic language it is sometimes difficult to separate a kingdom from its king. Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylon kingdom are used interchangeably (see Dan. 2:37-40). In fact, all four kingdoms (Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome), along with their kings are used interchangeably (see Dan. 2:44; 7:17, 23). The two concepts overlap; therefore, when a king is referenced, his kingdom is also understood as being referenced. This is what Revelation 17:9-10 is portraying and why we need wisdom in understanding this beast vision. The seven mountains are a double reference of the seven major kings, along with their kingdoms, which span the course of world history.

So the major kings of history and one of prophecy, along with their appropriate kingdoms, are portrayed in these verses.



It's interesting that in the prophetic language of Scripture a mountain is also symbolic or representative of a sphere of rule or world kingdom.

Daniel 2:35

“Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth” (the Millennial Kingdom).

Daniel 2:44-45

“And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom (Millennial Kingdom), which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever. Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure.”

In these verses the Millennial Kingdom is likened to a mountain.

Jeremiah 51:25

“Behold, I am against thee, O destroying mountain (Babylon), saith the Lord, which destroyest all the earth: and I will stretch out mine hand upon thee, and roll thee down from the rocks, and will make thee a burnt mountain.”

In this verse, Babylon is portrayed as a mountain. Prophetic imagery and consistent interpretation tells us that kingdoms are synonymous with mountains. A mountain is a giant mass that points to something that is immovable and strong. It is like a mighty fortress. Thus, a mountain is a fitting symbol for an earthly kingdom. Therefore, the seven mountains which can be viewed as kingdoms (Rev. 17:9) are depicting the seven world kingdoms which will in the end give way to the final stone or mountain kingdom under the Messiah (Dan. 2:44-45).

Revelation 17:9

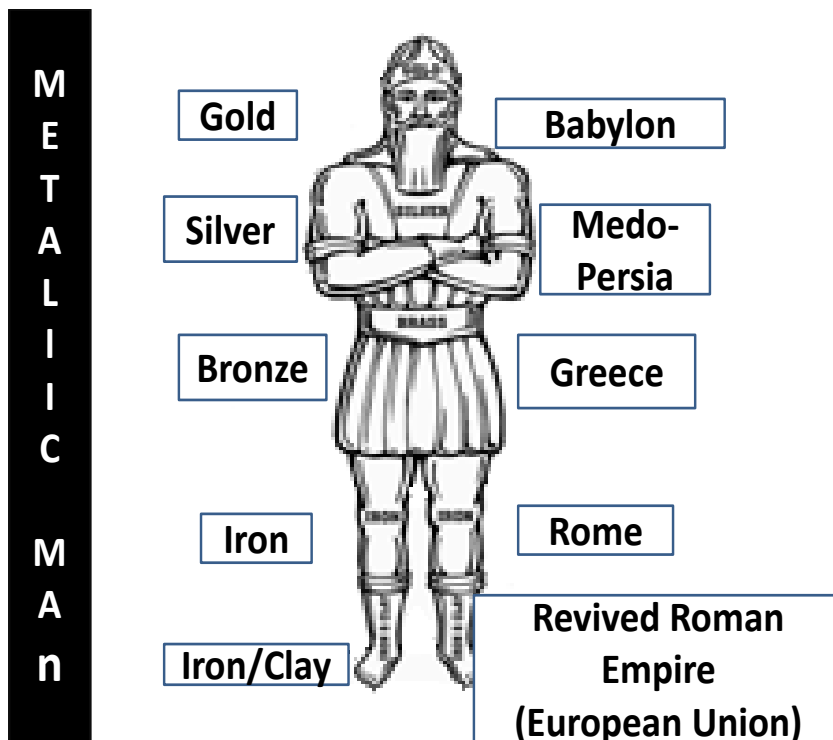
“And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains (which we have now seen can represent world kingdoms), on which the woman sitteth.”

Since prophetic language identifies mountains as kingdoms, the seven mountains must be a reference to the six kingdoms or empires throughout the course of world history which will culminate in one final kingdom (the seventh).

Daniel spoke of four “heads” or world empires starting from Babylon in his day and then moves to the next world empires of Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome in his metallic man vision (Daniel 2:37-40) and monster vision (Dan. 7:1-7). Two empires preceded those mentioned by Daniel which would be Egypt and Assyria.

Daniel 2:37-40

“Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory. And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou art this head of gold. And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee, and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth. And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise.”



A monster vision in Daniel 7 portrayed these same kingdoms from Babylon Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome, and finally the Revived Roman Empire.

Daniel 7:1-7

“In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon Daniel had a dream and visions of his head upon his bed: then he wrote the dream, and told the sum of the matters. Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea. And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another. The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it. And behold another beast, a second, like to a bear, and it raised up itself on one side, and it had three ribs in the mouth of it between the teeth of it: and they said thus unto it, Arise, devour much flesh. After this I beheld, and lo another, like a leopard, which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl; the beast had also four heads; and dominion was given to it. After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns.”



**Babylon and Nebuchadnezzar
represents the lion with wings**



**Medo-Persia and Cyrus
represents the bear**



Greece and Alexander the Great
is represented by the leopard
with four wings



Rome and Caesar Augustus
represented by the iron Beast

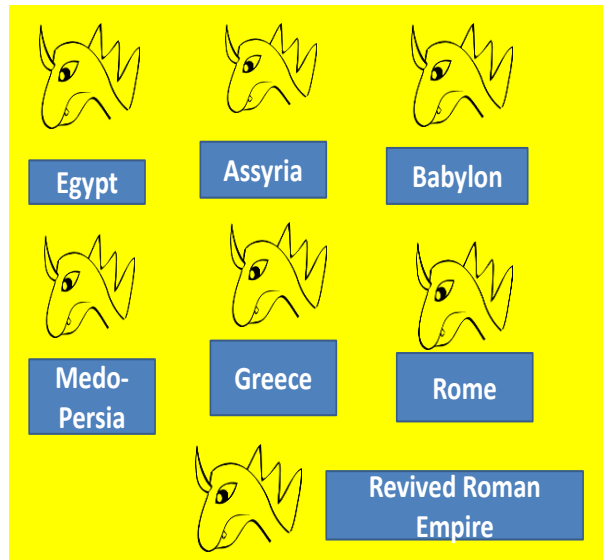


The ten horns represent the Revived Roman
Empire Under Antichrist

Daniel picked up the kingdoms from his day and spells them out very clearly to us. The 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th metallic and monster kingdoms represent the 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th heads on the beast vision. The other two previous kingdoms are very easy to identify. They are Egypt and Assyria.

So, the previous six heads or mountain kingdoms on the beast are easy to identify: Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome. The final seventh head or mountain kingdom would be a Revived Roman Empire in the federated states of Europe and the Middle East (the old domain of the Roman Empire).

The prophetic Scriptures fit together. The metallic statue of Daniel chapter 2 and the monster (beast) pictures of Daniel chapter 7 correspond to the heads on the beast of Revelation 17.



Note: Revelation 13:1-2 also reveals that some of the traits of the previous six world kingdoms will be present in the seventh and final kingdom that completes the course of world history (leopard = Greece, bear = Medo-Persia, lion = Babylon). Therefore, the beast of Revelation 13 is seen with seven heads indicating that certain traits from all the previous six world kingdoms or heads will be present in the final seventh kingdom.

Daniel’s Perspective (prophetic)

- *The lion = Babylon (vs. 4)
- *The bear = Medo-Persia (vs. 5)
- *The leopard = Greece (vs. 6)

John’s Perspective (historic)

- *The leopard = Greece (vs. 6)
- *The bear = Medo-Persia (vs. 5)
- *The lion = Babylon (vs. 4)

Revelation 13:1-2 is teaching that certain facets of the previous six kingdoms of world history will merge together and be seen in the seventh kingdom which completes the course and flow of world history. Therefore, the entire seventh world kingdom or empire is represented as possessing seven heads, which are in some sense linked together, since it is

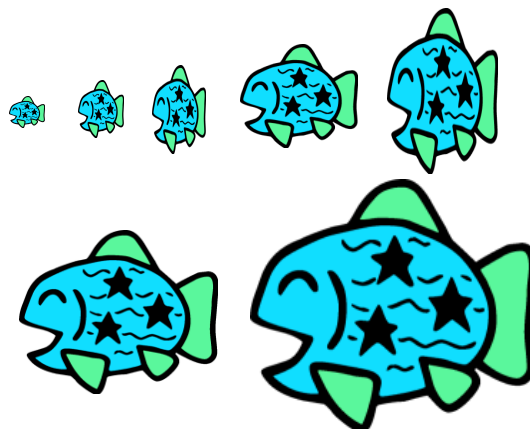
an amalgamation (mixing or merging together) of certain characteristics from all the previous kingdoms, which have now converged together into one final super power and king of the end times. In Daniel’s visions

“leopard” stands for the Grecian Empire, the “bear” Medo-Persia Empire, and the “lion” the Babylonian Empire. All six historical heads (kingdoms) are seen together with the seventh head (Revived Roman Empire) to indicate that the seventh kingdom will draw together all the previous kingdoms into one final kingdom.

Six previous kingdoms have controlled Israel and a final **seventh kingdom will yet control Israel, which in some measure will possess characteristics from all the previous world kingdoms (Rev. 13:1-2). The final kingdom is prefigured as *six kingdoms coming into one* since the final kingdom will possess features from all the previous kingdoms of world history.

The seven heads on the beast, which are seven world empires lined up beside one another, suggests that each empire absorbs one another and inherits many of the godless characteristics of the previous one. Characteristics of the previous six world kingdoms will merge into the final seventh world kingdom of the Antichrist which is the Revived Roman Empire (the *leopard* – the conquering speed of Greece, the *bear* – the huge size and strength of the Medo-Persia Empire, and the *lion* – the conquering power of Babylon – (Daniel 2, 7 with Rev. 13:2).

The chart below is a visual illustration of what John is portraying. One bigger fish eats a smaller fish and then another bigger fish comes along and eats the bigger fish that just ate the smaller fish and on and on it goes until six fish are eaten and only the seventh and biggest fish remains.



Each kingdom or empire in one sense swallowed one another as they were overtaken by the new world kingdom. Therefore, the final seventh kingdom will have swallowed and absorbed the previous six kingdoms and carry some of the former characteristics of the previous kingdoms (Rev. 13:1-2).

The seventh kingdom will be a compilation and completed picture of all the past historical kingdoms since all the previous kingdoms will in some sense be brought together into this one final kingdom under the Antichrist.

The next verse in Revelation reveals more detail about the specific kings that are associated with the seven individual world kingdoms.

Revelation 17:10

“And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space.”

As already stated, the text literally reads, “and kings they are seven” explaining that the mountains represent kings. As already mentioned, the ancient Orient and prophetic language does not separate a kingdom from its king (Dan. 2:37-38, 44; 7:17; 23); therefore, it is appropriate to identify mountains as kings along with the kingdoms they have ruled. Both are true. May God give us the wisdom to see and understand this! This is precisely what Revelation 17:9-10 is portraying (kingdoms and kings).

Note: Our King James Version translation implies the seven kings are an additional subject and gives the incorrect impression that the kings are different from the heads and mountains upon which the woman sits. When describing the ten horns a few verses later, a similar phrase occurs, where it clearly states “are ten kings” or literally, “ten kings they are” (Rev. 17:12).

Walvoord states this regarding Revelation 17:10:

“In the Greek there is not a word for ‘there,’ thus translated literally, the phrase is ‘and are seven kings.’ In other words, the kings are an explanation of what the mountains represent”

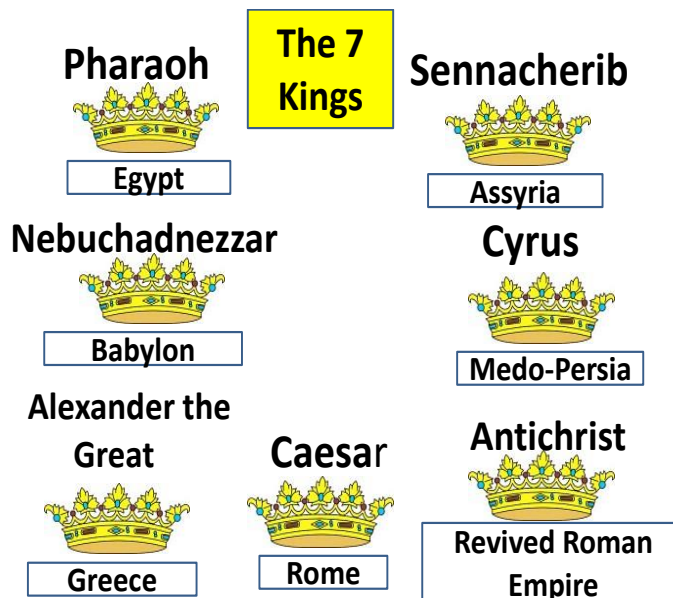
This verse is looking back to the mountain imagery in the previous verse. In other words, the mountain kingdoms are inseparably linked to the kings that ruled them. This is understandable. You can’t have a kingdom without a king. The fact that kings are associated with their appropriate kingdoms is seen in such children’s games as “King on the Mountain” which is an allegorical game of kings and kingdom association.

The Book of Revelation reveals that there were seven crowns (representative of kings) that were associated with the seven heads (kingdoms). You can have a kingdom without a king.

Revelation 12:3

“And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.

The “seven crowns upon his heads” (Rev. 12:3) refer to ruler’s crowns (diadems) and probably point to the seven great men or prominent leaders who headed up these individual world empires or kingdoms of the past and the one in the future.



Thus, we have a miniature picture or snapshot of the course of world history in seven phases - seven heads (world kingdoms) and seven crowns (indicating their rulers). Six have already come and gone, but there is a seventh superpower and king to emerge on the world scene, during the end times, which will be a composite or gathering together of certain characteristics from all the previous heads or kingdoms (Rev. 13:2).

Revelation 17:10

“And there are seven kings (which correspond to the previous kingdoms of verse 9): five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space.”

Once again, you can’t have a kingdom without a king! So in the Book of Revelation, we find the mention of seven heads as referencing seven mountain kingdoms (empires) of world history along with their

corresponding kings. The heads and crowns represent the progression of Gentile kingdoms and their kings in relationship to Israel's history.

The mountains picture the entire landscape of world history, from start to finish, and encompass the seven leading kingdoms and kings which rule over Israel – Egypt (Pharaoh), Assyria (Sennacherib), Babylon (Nebuchadnezzar), Medo-Persia (Cyrus) Greece (Alexander the Great), Rome (Caesar), Revived Roman Empire (Antichrist).

The seven heads on the dragon (Rev. 12:3) and the seven heads on the beast (Rev. 13:1; 17:3) represent the course of world history in seven consecutive phases as it relates to the earthly kingdoms that have controlled Israel, with a final seventh kingdom encompassing traits from all the previous world kingdoms (Rev. 13:2). Therefore, all the kingdoms are aligned together in a perfect seven.

Seven is the number of completion and therefore the seven heads represent the *course, completion, and compilation* (gathering together) of world history into one final kingdom. It portrays Gentile world governments at seven moments of history and one in prophecy. The final seventh kingdom will be a completed picture of the entire course of world history since a certain measure of all the previous kingdoms will be seen in the seventh kingdom.

All of history is moving toward the seventh head or final Gentile world kingdom. The previous six heads or world kingdoms and kings of history (antiquity) will find their ultimate fulfillment in a seventh head (kingdom) over which the Antichrist will rule.

Revelation 17:10

“And there are seven kings: **five are fallen**, and **one is**, and the other **is not yet come**; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space.”

The next page illustrates this with some mountain graphics.

“five are fallen”



Egypt



Assyria



Babylon



Medo-Persia



Greece

“and one is”



Rome

**The kingdom that ruled during
John’s day.**

“the other is not yet come”



**Revived Roman Empire
under the Antichrist**

According to Daniel’s prophecies, the previous six world kingdoms were in the general vicinity of the land of Israel, so the seventh world kingdom will also be in the same area that encompasses Europe and the Middle East. From John’s perspective, five heads or kingdoms that he knew about had already fallen – “five are fallen” (Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rev. 17:10) and the present kingdom of John’s day (Rome – “and one is”) would also eventually fall and pass off the scene. In short, John viewed the present sixth kingdom of Rome in his day, as following the other five kingdoms taught about in the Bible and the Book of Daniel chapter’s 2 and 7 (Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece). John looked back to these kingdoms while Daniel looked forward to these kingdoms. Once again, world Gentile kingdoms must be viewed from the perspective of the Biblical writers and the Scriptures that present them in relationship to Israel’s earthly existence.

Henry Morris writes:

“Though none of these empires ever actually ruled the whole world, each was the greatest kingdom of its own time, particularly in reference to the land and people of Israel and these kingdoms’ opposition to the proclamation of God’s Word and the accomplishment of His purposes in the world.”

Phillip Goodman says:

“Thus seven empires of history stand head and shoulders above others as instruments of Satan, the ruler of worldly kingdoms, as he seeks to obscure and obliterate God’s purpose through Israel.”

Revelation 17:10 reveals that “the other is not yet come.” This refers to the final seventh kingdom (Revived Roman Empire) with its leader or king the Antichrist. This final kingdom will complete the course of world history as it pertains to the Gentile world kingdoms of man.

Revelation 17:10 says this seventh kingdom will “continue a short space” which means the Antichrist and His kingdom will last for only seven years (the length of the Tribulation Period), which is a relatively short period of time, when compared to the other world kingdoms of history. This is the same time period described as “one hour” (Rev. 17:12) which is the length of the seven-year Tribulation Period – the length of time the Antichrist controls the ten kings and unites the Roman Empire in Europe. The final Roman Empire or ten-nation confederacy that is formed around the Mediterranean Sea will be short-lived.

c. Harlot

Now let’s recapture the main point of the vision in Revelation chapter seventeen.

- a. A harlot is seen sitting upon waters.

Revelation 17:1

“And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters.”



The waters are then interpreted as referring to great masses of people.

Revelation 17:15

“And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.”

The woman is a graphic picture of the apostate super church (“the mother of all harlots” – Rev. 17:5), which is an ecumenical church of the end times. She will be an amalgamation of every kind of religion, New Age philosophy, and even the cults. Everything from Catholicism, Liberal Protestantism, mysticism, to Pantheism will make up this false church.

This woman is religion gone wild! She will influence the unsaved masses throughout the earth during the first half of the Tribulation Period. The waters are interpreted as people that the harlot apostate system will influence, deceive, and impact (Rev. 17:12). The woman in Revelation 17 represents the religious apostate church, whose capital will be in the original place, where all religious departure against God began – Babylon. The city of Babylon is the original source of apostasy and pagan departure from God. This will be a smack in the face of God. Pagan religion will someday revert back to the original city (Babylon) where it began, and it will be a cesspool of apostasy during the end times, headquartered in a capital city that will essentially rule the earth with its charm, power, and influence.

John verifies this in verse 18:

“And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.”

John now gives the closing interpretation of the woman. If we miss this, we miss the literal return of the city of Babylon. The woman is going to be a literally city. This verse gives us the transition into chapter 18 and the discussion of the literal city of Babylon. In chapter 17, we discover the religious aspect of the city of Babylon. However, John wants to remind us that this woman is definitely a literal city of the end times who will house or support religious departure from God.

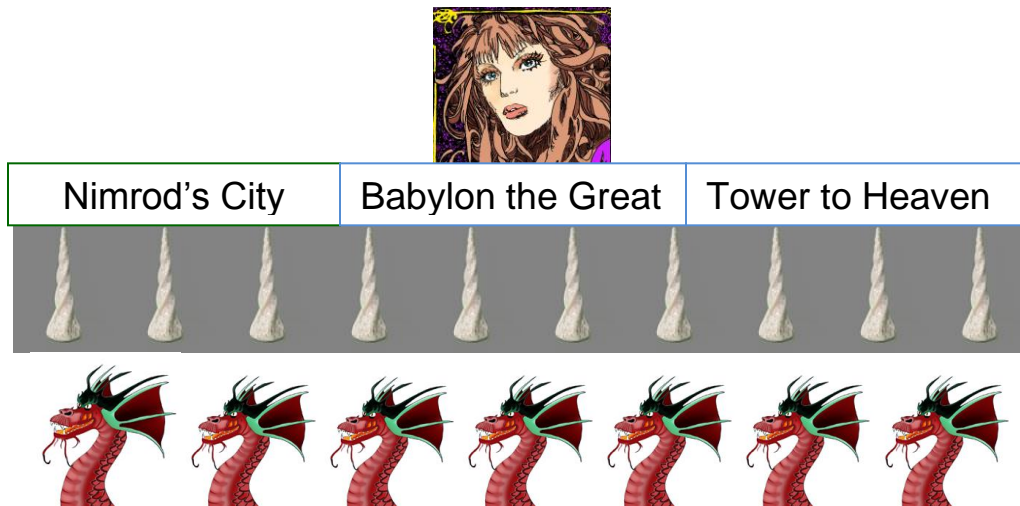
Some commentators deny that the great city is a literal city, preferring to see it as only a symbol of the religious aspect of Antichrist's empire. However, the woman can be easily and literally identified as the great city in which the final form of Babylonianism will reside. At the present time, this appears to be Rome, for this is where Babylonianism today has its headquarters. However, as we have seen, this is not the emphasis in chapter 17. The angel very clearly and repeatedly refers to the literal city of Babylon on the Euphrates in Revelation 17:18 and chapter 18.

That the Babylon of Bible prophecy is the actual, literal, city of Babylon, which will be rebuilt, can be verified, when comparing many other prophecies about the rise and fall of the city of Babylon during the end times (Isaiah 13; Jeremiah 51). The description of Babylon's destruction (Rev. 18:10, 18, 21) also suggests that an actual city is in view. Thus, a rebuilt city of Babylon will be closely identified with Antichrist's world empire, and become a religious and economical capital city during the seven-year Tribulation Period.

b. A harlot is seen riding the beast.

Revelation 17:3

“So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.”



This is beauty on the beast! There is something very important that we don't want to forget in this vision. Although the harlot church is not the

focus of this study, we must remember that this harlot woman (Babylonian religion and apostasy – Rev. 17:5) is seen riding the beast which has the seven heads. This means that she (apostate religion) has influenced the six previous world empires and also the seventh empire by imposing her false religious standards upon them. No Gentile kingdom has been without the influence of Babylonian harlotry. The same will be true of the final kingdom that is yet to come upon planet earth, the Revived Roman Empire with its final king, the Antichrist.

The Old Lutheran writer, Joseph Seiss says:

“It requires but a glance at history to see that spiritual harlotry has ever been the particular pet and delight of all the Beast-powers of time.”

Both Satan (Rev. 12:3) and the harlot woman (Rev. 17:3) are connected with the past, present, and future world empires or nations. Satan has always inspired the spiritual harlotry of the false, pagan, idolatrous religion of the woman (Babylon).

Rather than identifying these seven heads or kings in Revelation 17:3 and 10 with seven *historic* kingdoms, some try to find fulfillment of John’s vision in the events of the kings of first-century Rome. They believe the mountains refer to only the kings of ancient Rome. Most frequently, preterist interpreters (those who believe the Book of Revelation is primarily historically fulfilled) attempt to pick kings in such a way that Nero can be said to fulfill the predictions concerning the Beast. In doing so, they overlook inconsistencies in counting kings:

Alan F. Johnston wrote:

“To be sure there have been many attempts to fit the date of Revelation . . . into the emperor lists of the first century. . . . But immediately there are admitted problems. Where do we begin—with Julius Caesar or Caesar Augustus? Are we to exclude Galba, Otho, and Vitellius who had short, rival reigns? If so, how can they be excluded except on a completely arbitrary basis? A careful examination of the historic materials yields no satisfactory solution. If Revelation were written under Nero, there would be too few emperors; if under Domitian, too many. The original readers would have had no more information on these emperor successions than we do, and possibly even less. How many Americans can immediately name the last seven presidents? Furthermore, how could the eighth emperor who is identified as the beast also be one of the seven (Rev. 17:11)?”

There are serious problems when correlating these kings with early Rome and Roman history. One must take pot shots at who the Roman emperors might be. It's much easier to see them as kings that have ruled the major empires or kingdoms throughout world history.

Johnson also mentions of the seemingly arbitrary nature of attempting to identity the exact rulers of the six great world kingdoms, when he states:

“Seiss (followed recently by Ladd and Walvoord) has suggested an interpretation that takes the five-one-one to refer to successive world kingdoms that have oppressed the people of God: Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece (five fallen), Rome (one is), and a future world kingdom. While this solves some of the emperor succession problems and fits nicely, it too must admit arbitrary omissions, such as the devastating persecution of the people of God under the Seleucids of Syria, especially Antiochus IV, Epiphanes.”

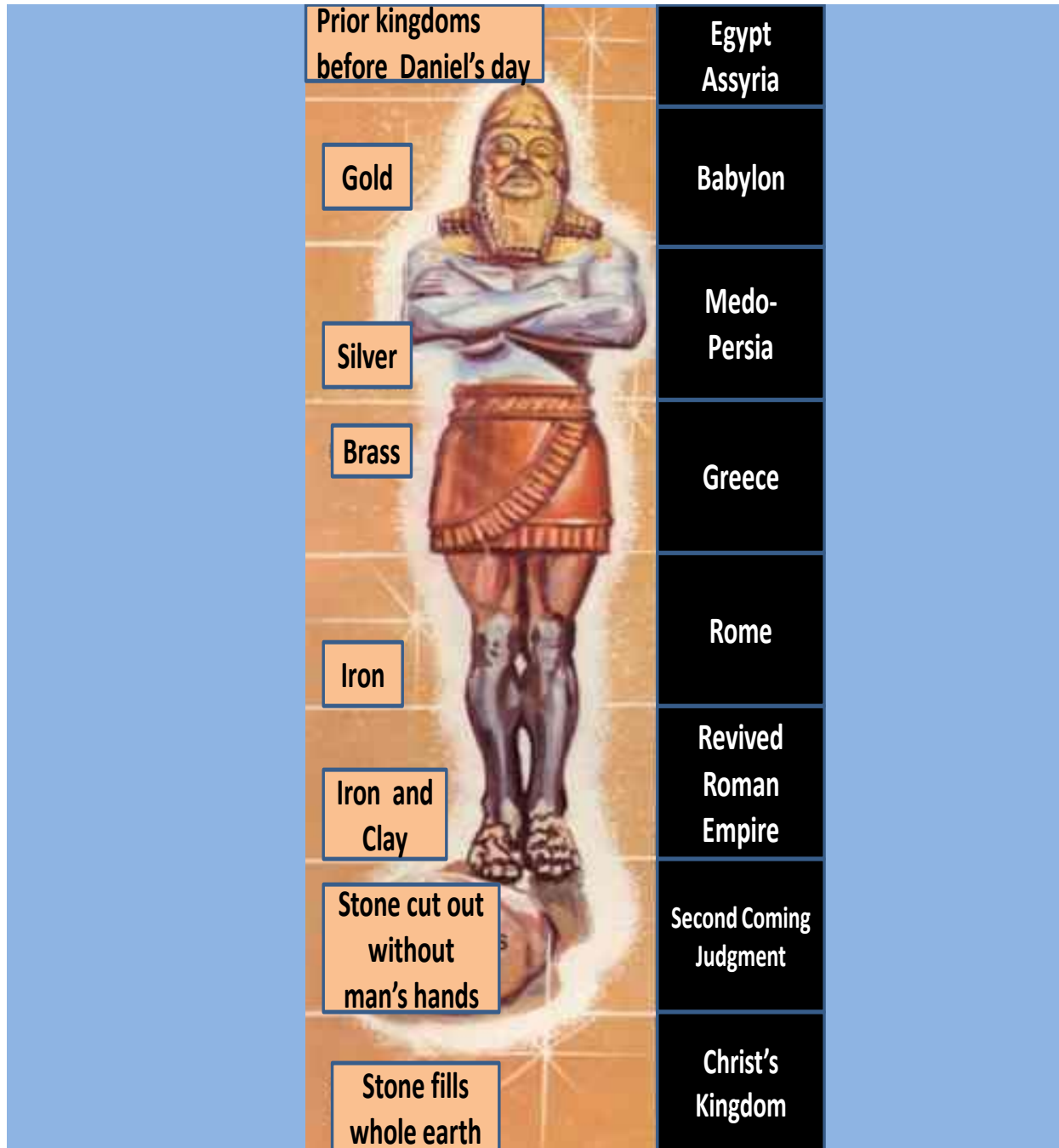
In answer to his argument the interpreter, who takes the mountains as referring to seven major world rulers, is not arbitrarily neglecting the Seleucids, but viewing the metallic vision (Dan. 2) and monster vision of Daniel (Dan. 7) as an inspired guide or outline of the major world kingdoms and rulers. The interpreter is to use the Scriptural guide to come to the conclusion regarding the identity of these kings instead of merely a historical guide.

A Review of the Seven World Kingdoms

Daniel's Metallic vision (metallic man) reveals the four major world empires from Daniel's time foreword.

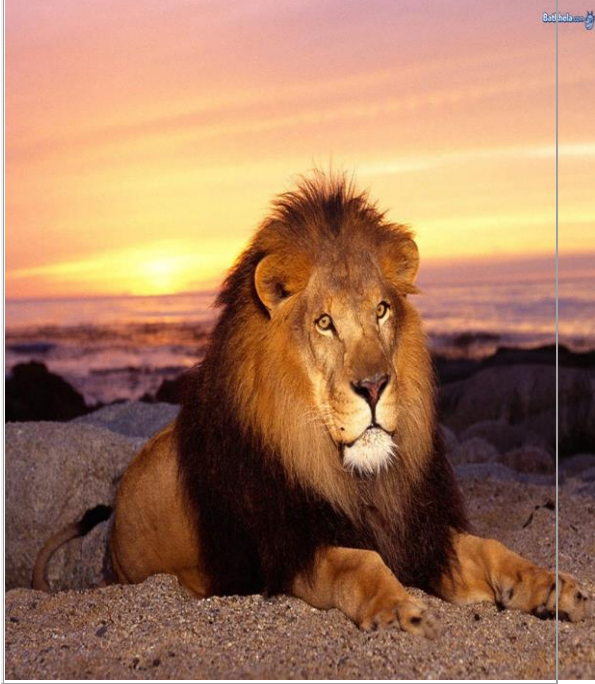
- Babylon and King Nebuchadnezzar was the head of gold on the metallic statue (Dan. 2:38 – “Thou art the head of gold”).
- Medo-Persia and King Cyrus represented the silver belly on the metallic statue (Dan. 2:39a – “another kingdom inferior to thee”)
- Greece and Alexander the Great represented the thighs of brass on metallic statue (Dan. 2:39b – “kingdom of brass”).

- Rome and Caesar Augustus (first Emperor of the Roman Empire) represented the legs of iron on the metallic statue (Dan. 2:40 – “and the fourth kingdom shall be as strong as iron”).



The Monster Visions of Daniel 7 reveals these same empires

The lion refers to Babylon and King Nebuchadnezzar (“the first was like a lion” – Dan. 7:4)



The bear refers to Medo-Persia and King Cyrus (“another beast, a second, like to a bear” – Dan. 7:5)



The leopard refers to Greece and Alexander the Great (“another, like a leopard” – Dan. 7:6).



The iron beast refers to Rome (“a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly, and it had great iron teeth” – Dan. 7:7).



Daniel's metallic and monster visions clearly represent Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome. It is apparent that the Seleucid Empire, an outgrowth of the disintegration of the Greek empire under Alexander, is not seen as any prominent kingdom. Although the Seleucid or Syrian kingdom is probably recognized in the four heads on the leopard beast (Dan. 7:6) and the four notable horns on the he-goat, in another of Daniel's visions (Dan. 8:8), it is not given the same prominence as the other world kingdoms. This is not an arbitrary decision by the futurist, but the plan and purpose of the Holy Spirit, Who provided Daniel with these visions.

The major empires, along with their kings, who ruled these world dynasty's, can be highlighted with some degree of certainty, and even if one cannot be dogmatic, he can make a valid point that the kings proposed are definitely linked to the major world powers according to Daniel's visions.

These seven mountains or kingdoms are the world empires that have arisen and will arise to fulfill God's plan (Dan. 2:21) in regards with His people Israel. In other words, they are world powers associated with Israel's existence.

Henry Morris writes:

"Though none of these empires ever actually ruled the whole world, each was the greatest kingdom of its own time, particularly in reference to the land and people of Israel and these kingdoms' opposition to the proclamation of God's Word and the accomplishment of His purposes in the world."

Phillip Goodman says:

"Thus seven empires of history stand head and shoulders above others as instruments of Satan, the ruler of worldly kingdoms, as he seeks to obscure and obliterate God's purpose through Israel."

Below is a list of the six world kingdoms and kings that have already existed and the one kingdom and king that will exist in the world prior to the Millennial Kingdom (stone Kingdom) when Christ reigns on earth. I've divided these kingdoms or empires into the seven phases of world history.

The Seven Phases of World History

Represented as seven heads and seven crowns
(Revelation 12:3, 13:1; 17:3, 9-10)

The seven phases of world history are represented as seven heads (kingdoms) along with their crowns (kings). It's like seven brides for seven brothers! Let's look at the seven phases of world history by giving an overview of the world kingdoms and their kings.

Phase One

First Head (Kingdom) = **Egypt** - enslaved Israel for 400 years
(Ex. 1-12)

First Crown (Prominent King) = **Pharaoh**

Phase Two

Second Head (Kingdom) = **Assyria** - captured the northern kingdom of Israel (2 Kings 17)

Second Crown (Prominent King) = **Sennacherib**

Phase Three

Third Head (Kingdom) = **Babylon** - captured the southern kingdom of Israel (2 Kings 24)

Third Crown (Prominent King) = **Nebuchadnezzar**

Phase Four

Fourth Head = **Medo – Persia** - absorbed the Babylonian Empire
(Dan. 5:25-31)

Fourth Crown (Prominent King) = **Cyrus**

Phase Five

Fifth Head = **Greece** – absorbed the Media-Persian Empire
(Dan. 8:5-8)

Fifth Crown (Prominent King) = **Alexander the Great**

Phase Six

Sixth Head = **Rome** - absorbed the Grecian Empire (Dan. 7:7; 9:26)

Sixth Crown (Prominent King) = **Caesar Augustus**

So what is the seventh world kingdom and crown (prominent king and individual ruler) that will dominate the world scene? Some might conclude that it's the United States or Russia? However, the next kingdom to dominate the entire world has not yet been formed or brought together.

Phase Seven

Seventh Head = **Revived Roman Empire** – a reunification of the old Roman Empire (Dan. 7:24)

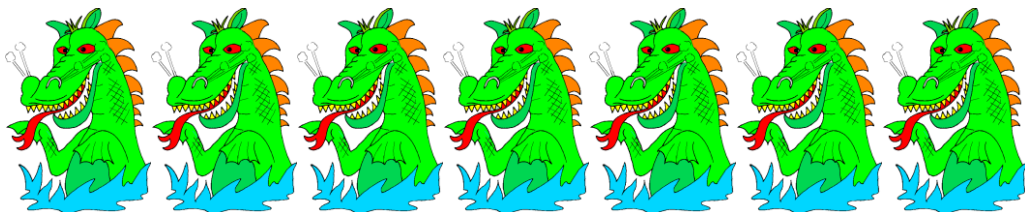
*It will be in the form of ten kings (Rev. 17:12) - a ten nation confederacy under one final king (represented by the ten horns in the beastly visions).

Seventh Crown (Prominent King) = **Antichrist**

Summarizing the Different Aspects of the Seven Kingdoms



In **Revelation 12:3**, the seven heads on the *dragon* represent seven consecutive world Gentile empires running their course under Satan's dominion or power (Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome, and Antichrist's future empire - the Revived Roman Empire) and how individual characteristics of each kingdom merge together, to form the last kingdom, as a result of Satan's work, who is the dragon (Rev. 12:9).

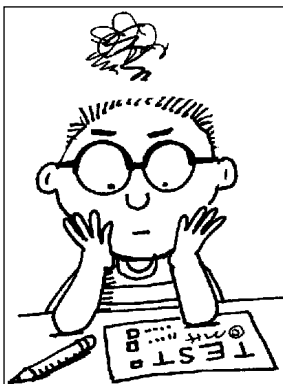


In **Revelation 13:1-2**, the seven heads on the *beast* out of the sea represent seven consecutive Gentile world empires running their course (Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome, and Antichrist's future empire – Revived Roman Empire) whose individual characteristics merge together under the Antichrist's leadership during the end times (Rev. 17:12-13).



In **Revelation 17:3, 9-10**, the seven heads on the beast with a *harlot* represent seven consecutive world Gentile empires running their course (Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome, and Antichrist's future empire - Revived Roman Empire), which have all been deceived by pagan religion, and how facets of the previous empires, along with their Babylonian, pagan religion, will merge together under the umbrella of the ecumenical, apostate church, during the first three and one half years of the Tribulation Period, and finally be represented in the personal Antichrist – the ultimate Babylonian god of the end times.

Once again, we must remember that in this vision a woman (representing false pagan religion, spiritual defection, religious apostasy) is seen riding the beast (Rev. 17:3), which means that she has been influencing the historical world kingdoms and kings with pagan and false religion and the same will be true in the final seventh beast kingdom (Revived Empire) with its king – the Antichrist.



Revelation 17:11 adds some more perplexing, prophetic details to our study.

Revelation 17:11

“And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition.”

As Dr. Bob Shelton says, “Don’t lose me in these prophetic woods!”

The explanation of “was and is not” (vs. 11) was already explained in Revelation 17:8 and picks up on what I believe to be the Antichrist’s past life, death, which is really an alleged reincarnation experience.

Revelation 13:1-3 reveals this amazing prophecy about the Antichrist. Here comes the beast: “And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as *the feet* of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority. And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.”

As we have already seen in this study, you cannot separate the kingdom from its king (Rev. 17:9-10). Following the composite imagery of the beast (kingdom and king), and the interrelationship between a king and kingdom (Dan. 2:44), one must also conclude that the personal beast will also experience a resurgence from the dead that will amaze the entire world (Rev. 13:12, 14). The Antichrist will apparently come back to life from what seems to be a previous death experience.

What does this death-to-life sequence mean? Satan does not possess the power to give life. Only God as the Creator can give life (**Acts 17:25**). This right or prerogative only belongs to God alone. However, some well-meaning expositors of Bible prophecy believe that Satan will temporarily be granted this power by God, during the future Tribulation Period, so he can raise the Antichrist from the dead. But this seems unlikely. Why would God grant Satan the authority to bring back life when He alone possesses that right?

This verse speaks about a beast restoration to life that will occur at the middle of the Tribulation Period. This will cause delusion and deception during this special season of time at the end of the age (2 Thess. 2:9-12). In other words, the Antichrist will come back to life, at least it will seem like this will take place.

Since Satan cannot raise the dead, John Walvoord makes this suggestion: “Another plausible explanation is that the final world ruler receives a wound which normally would be fatal but is miraculously healed by Satan. While the resurrection of a dead person seems to be beyond Satan’s power, the healing of a wound would be possible for Satan, and this may be the explanation.”

The wound of the Antichrist may seem to be fatal but the miraculous healing of the devil will bring about the Antichrist’s restoration to life. The Bible says that “his deadly wound was healed” – it does not say that the Antichrist actually died and was raised by the power of Satan. This seems to be Walvoord’s conclusion.

We know that the “heads” on this beast vision correspond to the descriptions of the animals in Revelation 13:3 and in the book of Daniel (Daniel 7) which refer to the past historical empires and leading figures in these empires (Egypt Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome, Revived Roman Empire). They represent the ancient emperies of history with one empire to reemerge during the End Times. John sees one of the “heads” on the beast to be wounded and the wound appears to be mortal or to the point of death. This is where the Antichrist comes into the picture.

If John is referring to what appears to be a death of the *seventh* head (the prophetic and Revived Roman Empire of the End Times) represented on the beast vision, then he is teaching that, at one point, the Revived Roman Empire with its leader the Antichrist, will suffer what appears to be a mortal wound, but will then be healed of this wound by the power of Satan, and become an eighth head (kingdom and leader) in and of himself (Rev. 17:11).

If John is looking back to the *sixth* head that dies (the past historical Roman Empire with its leading figure), or another empire head, then Revelation 13:3 is not teaching that the Antichrist will be harmed or killed during the Tribulation Period. What may be being represented in Revelation 13:3-4 is the lie of reincarnation. Since the language of Antichrist’s death is similar to what is stated in relation to the actual death of the Messiah (Rev. 5:6), we may need to look at Antichrist’s wound in a similar way – a wound that

results in actual death. However, since Satan cannot raise the dead, the Antichrist will make the bold claim that his predecessor, a Caesar of the past Roman Empire, has died and now has come back to life through reincarnation – not resurrection.

If John is referring to the death of the sixth head (the historical Roman Empire with its leading figure), then the Bible is teaching that the Antichrist will create the lie that he was a historical figure living in the ancient or past Roman Empire (the time period of the sixth head), who died, but who has now come back to life via reincarnation (the time period of the seventh head with ten horns and crowns = “seven heads and ten horns ... and crowns on the horns” - The Revived Roman Empire – Dan. 7:24. Rev. 17:12-13).

In other words, when the Antichrist comes on the world scene, at one point, he will claim to be a reincarnated figure of the past Roman Empire, perhaps Caesar himself, who has now reemerged as a seventh head (leader and king) through reincarnation to lead the Revived Roman Empire in Europe and the Middle East (the seventh kingdom). This man and his kingdom will dominate the world. In fact, he will at one-point claim independence from all previous kingdoms and kings and become an “eight” king and kingdom in and of himself (Rev. 17:11).

One thing is certain, Revelation 13:3 is not teaching that Satan will literally raise the Antichrist from the dead but that he will heal his deadly wound, which has appeared to be fatal, and restore him to life. This amazing feat will result in worldwide worship of the Antichrist during the last three and one half years of the Tribulation Period.



In summary, the death of the sixth head is not only referring to its empire (Roman Empire) but also to a historic king of the past. What was true of the past kingdom (it died in the past) will also be true of its king (he also died in the past). Apparently, the Antichrist will claim to be some legendary figure from the past, perhaps Caesar himself, of the ancient Roman Empire, and dupe the world into believing the godless lie of reincarnation. This

is a possible and probable interpretation of the beast's death wound and resurgence back to life.

The Antichrist will make the bold claim that he had died in the past, as some popular legendary figure (Pharaoh, Sennacherib, Nebuchadnezzar, Cyrus, Alexander the Great, Caesar, etc.) that ruled in the vicinity of the ancient Roman Empire, during the history of one of the previous heads or world empires, and which has now come back to life. He received a death wound in the past, during one of the historical periods of time represented in the first *six* heads (Rom. 13:3), but he has now been reinstated, once again, as a capable world leader through reincarnation. The world will believe this lie which is also merged with the lie that the Antichrist is the only true god that exists (2 Thess. 2:11). The new world Caesar of the ancient Roman Empire will once again claim to be Lord.

The Antichrist's prophetic connection to the ancient land of Assyria (Syrian-Mesopotamia-Babylonian-Seleucid Kingdom of Antiochus) cannot be easily dismissed (Isaiah 30:31; 31:8; Dan. 8:22-25). When the Bible prefigures Israel's enemies of the last days, preceding the Kingdom blessing, it uses the figure "the Assyrian" (Micah 5:4-7). These references have prophetic overtones attached to them as they envision a future day when the world's armies converge together to fight with the Antichrist in order to destroy the Messiah (Revelation 19:17-20). Antichrist and the world armies will come against Israel at the end of the Tribulation Period. Of course, Assyria was one of Israel's leading enemies during the past (Isaiah 10:5, 24; 14:25) and it will also be true in the future. When the expression "the Assyrian" is used in prophetic texts it has a special emphasis on the emergence of the Antichrist from the land of Assyria which in return becomes representative of all of Israel's enemies, particularly those of the end times, who have followed and fought with the Antichrist to destroy Jerusalem and the Jews (Zech. 12:1-9; 14:1-12).

There seems to be some good Scriptural evidence that proves the Antichrist will rise up from the land of Assyria (present day Iraq and Syria) which was part of the ancient Roman Empire and the birthplace of all pagan religion (Rev. 17:5 with Gen. 11-9). It's here that he will once again accommodate false religion (Rev. 17:3) in the rebuilt city of Babylon - the headquarters of religious apostasy (Rev. 17) and world commerce (Rev. 18), during the End Times, and it will all be connected to a man that has arisen from the ancient sands of Assyria.



Eight but out of the Seventh



When the Antichrist declares that he has allegedly come back to life, as a reincarnated figure of the past, at the middle of the Tribulation Period, he will eventually become an eighth king and kingdom all by himself (Revelation 17:11). Again, we need wisdom (vs. 9) in understanding this! In a mysterious way, the beast is represented by the seventh head, and yet, at one point, he becomes an eighth head! This is a strange cycle! Ultimately, the personal Antichrist will become an eighth independent kingdom and king which follows the seventh kingdom and king (Rev. 17:11 – “he is the eighth, and is of the seven”).

What can this possibly mean, being of the seventh and yet becoming an eighth? Some expositors suggest that the personal Antichrist is “of the seven” in the sense that he comes out of the seventh future Roman Empire that will be already formed by the ten kings (Dan. 7:8 with Rev. 17:12). In other words, the Antichrist emerges from a coalition that is already formed.

Daniel 7:8 records:

“I considered the horns (or kings), and, behold, there came up among them another little horn (Antichrist), 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.”

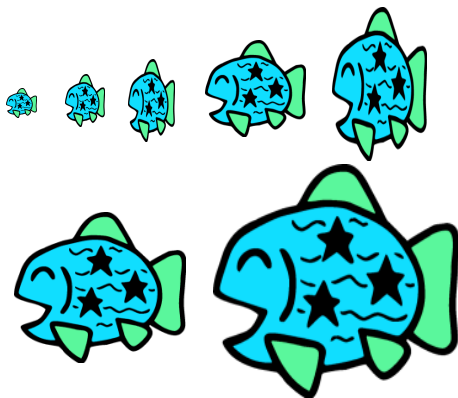
The text states there will be ten kings individually working together in some way during the Tribulation Period, but it does not say that they actually unite or merge together to form the Revived Roman Empire, without the help of the Antichrist. This text and others suggest that the Antichrist will actually unite the ten kings together with his genius and charisma (Rev. 17:12 – “receive power as kings one hour with the beast”). The short “one hour” probably refers to the second half of the Tribulation Period, the timeframe when the Antichrist finally unites these ten nations and kings together, in order to form the seventh head or kingdom that will influence the world. This will be the same time he destroys the harlot church (Rev. 17:16) and rises to the place of world dominance and universal worship (Rev. 13:3-8).

It will take the genius of the Antichrist to bring together all the leaders of Europe and the Middle East and unite the Roman Empire as an end-time Roman kingdom. Therefore, the Antichrist could not originate, or come from an already united Roman Empire (seventh head), since it will not be formed without his leadership.

This Revived Roman Empire which exists in the nations of Europe and the Middle East will presumably be formed during the Tribulation and the “little horn” (Dan. 7:8) will rise to power and eventually, by the middle of the Tribulation Period, gain the allegiance of all ten of the kings (Dan. 7:24; Rev. 17:12-13, 17).

So what does this mean when it says the Antichrist is “of the seven?” The fact that the Antichrist is “of the seven” (Rev. 17:11) means he is linked to the previous first seven kingdoms in some way, and suggests that the Antichrist partakes of the godless characteristics of all seven empires that have previously existed before him (Rev. 13:1-3), even his own seventh empire (Revived Roman Empire), which he rules for the second three and one half years of the Tribulation Period.

The seven heads or seven world empires lined up beside one another suggest that each empire absorbs one another and inherits many of the godless characteristics of the previous one. The seventh head or kingdom absorbed the evil characteristic of the previous six kingdoms and kings (Rev. 13:2). In a similar way, the “eighth” head or kingdom (Rev. 17:11), the personal Antichrist, absorbs the evil characteristics of the entire seven kingdoms and kings that precede it. Remember the fish example? One fish eats another fish and absorbs the other.



Each kingdom merges out of the previous kingdom and absorbs and retains some of the characteristics of the previous one. Therefore, it can be said that the Antichrist is “of the seven” (absorbing the characteristics of the other seven kingdoms) when he moves into world dictatorship, and becomes the eighth sole king, by the middle of the Tribulation Period. This is the time he becomes an evil tyrant, ruthlessly deifying himself and

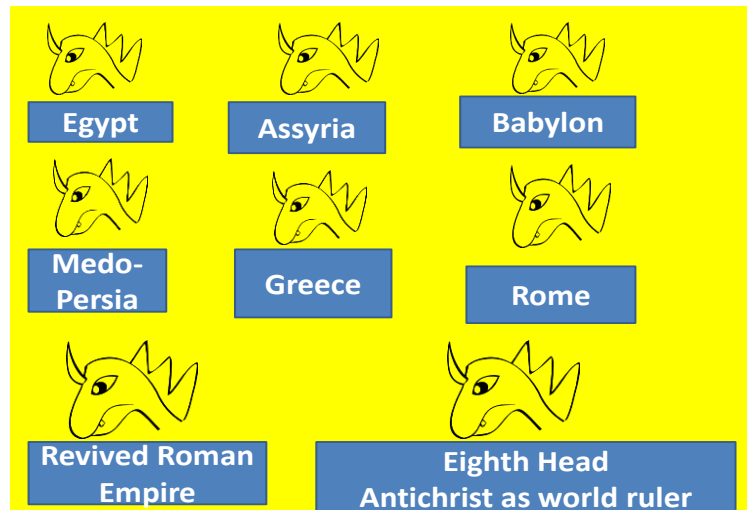
ruling the world, as an independent king, during the second half of the Tribulation Period.

At one point, during the middle of the Tribulation Period, the Antichrist takes control of the entire world, and then rules the earth throughout the second half of the Tribulation Period (Rev. 13:3-9). When he does this, he will rule the world as an “eighth” king that is in one sense independent of all other kingdoms and kings which have preceded him.



The Antichrist will become the biggest fish of all!

At the middle of the Tribulation Period, the Antichrist takes over world dictatorship and becomes the eighth head (leader and dynasty) of history. This is the time when the entire earth of unsaved humanity will worship the Antichrist (Rev. 13:8) and follow his dictatorship. The eight head sequence can be seen as follows:



The personal Antichrist will retain hellish and godless characteristics from all the other seven kingdoms and kings or the evil empires, rulers, dictators, and haters of God, which have previously existed on earth (“of the seven”), while at the same time he will become an “eighth” (individual king and dynasty) who rules ruthlessly during the second half of the Tribulation Period, without answering to anyone. This is the time when he deifies himself as a New Age god (Dan. 11:36; 2 Thess. 2:4) that is supposedly reincarnated from the dead (Rev. 17:8, 11 – “was and is not”); it’s the time

when he kills the harlot (Rev. 17:16) and takes full control over planet earth, causing the entire earth to worship him (Rev. 13:3-8). It's during this time he becomes representative of an "eighth" individual kingdom and king who moves according to His own will and purposes.



Seventh head – first half of the Tribulation Period.

Revived Roman Empire



Eighth head – second half of the Tribulation Period

Dictatorship of Antichrist

Again, Revelation 17:11 reveals that the personal beast, or Antichrist, will become an eighth ruling kingdom and king by himself, when he becomes the undisputed ruler of the world (Rev. 13:7). The fact that he is "of the seven" means that the beast partakes of the characteristics of the seven empires that have previously existed before him (Rev. 13:2). In one sense, when the Antichrist rules the world, he will be the composite

and product of all the previous kingdoms and kings that have gone before him from Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome, to the revived Roman Empire. He will be the epitome of evil and hatred for God that has existed in all other seven world kingdoms up to this point.

Each kingdom has absorbed the previous kingdom and is seen to exist up to the coming of Christ (Dan. 2:35, 44). Therefore, when the Antichrist becomes the undisputed ruler of planet earth, he will in some sense become "the eighth" ruling dynasty and king that will rule planet earth, which retains all the characteristics of the previous kingdoms ("of the seven"). He is of the seven in the sense that he possesses the same hellish and godless characteristics of the previous kingdoms, while becoming an eight independent kingdom and king in and of himself. This is the ultimate goal of the Antichrist. He wants all worship to center on him and this will happen by the middle of the Tribulation Period (Rev. 13:14-15).

The Antichrist will establish his own brand of world government as the eighth ruling kingdom and king – a New World Order (Rev. 17:11). He will rise to world dictatorship and transform the government into a satanic state. Globalists are now insisting that national government should surrender their sovereignty to a one-world government and ruler. Such a government would operate through a world headquarters, a world court, and even a world military.

Heads Up!

“Seven heads” (Rev. 12:3; 13:1; 17:3, 7) = “seven kingdoms” (Rev. 17:9; Dan. 2:31-43; 7:1-8, 24-25), along with their kings (Dan. 7:17), which correspond to Egypt (Pharaoh), Assyria (Sennacherib), Babylon (Nebuchadnezzar), Medo-Persia (Cyrus), Greece (Alexander), Rome (Caesar), Revived Roman Empire (Antichrist).

“Sixth head” wounded = Old Roman Empire wounded and brought back to life, along with a leader in the ancient past, who is allegedly brought back to life through reincarnation (Rev. 13:3, 12, 14) to rule the new world order or kingdom (Rev. 13:5).

“Seventh head” = Revived Roman Empire which is identified as ten toes (Dan. 2:41-42), ten horns (Dan. 7:7; 12:3; 13:3), ten crowns (Rev. 13:1), and ten kings (Rev. 17:12).

“Eight head” = the individual person of the Antichrist (Rev. 17:11), when he rules as the undisputed power of the world, and when all mankind worships him (Rev. 13:4, 8).

d. Horns

Revelation 17:12
“And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast.”

The ten horn imagery explains what the seventh head (Revived Roman Empire) will be like during the end times or the future, seven-year Tribulation Period. Presumably, the ten horns rested on the seventh head

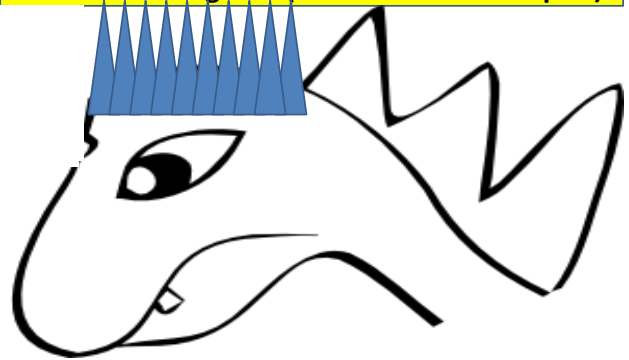
on the beastly vision. This is because the ten horns or ten kings will be final form of the Roman Empire during the end times.

This beast is having a bad horn day!!

The seventh head consists of ten kings and kingdoms in Europe and the Middle East (the area of the old Roman Empire) that will merge together in a great coalition to form the Roman Empire under the Antichrist, who will be the leader that actually brings the Roman Empire together.

When the Bible says they “received no kingdom as yet” it means that the ten kings during Daniel’s day had not yet come into power and ruled their individual kingdoms within the Roman Empire. This is something that is going to happen in the future. The kings were not in place to give their kingdoms to the Antichrist and unite the Roman Empire when John was writing. However, they are going to eventually rule their individual kingdoms within the old Roman Empire and turn them over the leadership of the Antichrist.

The horns represent the ten kings and kingdoms that make up the seventh head – the final world kingdom (Revived Roman Empire)



We have noted earlier that there were ten horns on the dragon (Rev. 12:3) and beast (Rev. 13:1), which were weird looking creatures that seem to come out of a mythological horror book. The placement of the ten horns in relation to the seven heads is not specifically stated. Although Scripture gives no explicit indication of their arrangement, we might properly conclude that all ten horns are found on one head - the seventh, or last, head (which portrays the Antichrist’s kingdom).

Robert Thomas concurs:

“If the seven heads stand for seven successive world empires, the ten horns must be on the seventh head to agree with Daniel’s placement of the ten horns at the time of the end (Dan. 7:24).”

The ten horns are the final form of the seventh head (Revived Roman Empire or kingdom). The horns mean that this final kingdom will consist of ten kings that have come together to give their allegiance to the Antichrist.

Horns in Scripture can also symbolize strength and power, both for attack and defense (1 Sam. 2:1, 10; 2 Sam. 22:3; Job 16:15; Pss. 18:2; 75:4–5; 89:17, 24; 92:10; 112:9; Jer. 48:25; Mic. 4:13). In the prophetic Scriptures of Daniel and Revelation, the ten horns represent the great power of the kings who will rule under Antichrist's absolute authority.

The interpretation of the ten horns that are upon the dragon (Rev. 12:3) and the beast (Rev. 13:1; 17:3) is clearly stated in our present study.

Revelation 17:12 gives us the unmistakable interpretation:

“And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast.”

The ten horns on the dragon (Rev. 12:3) and beastly visions (Rev. 13:1; 17:3) represent ten individual kings, along with their kingdoms, which will give their allegiance and individual kingdoms to the Antichrist. The ten horns become the Ten Nation Confederation of kingdoms within Europe that will join together in the form of ten kings. These are nations which were once a part of the old Roman Empire. Sometime during the Tribulation Period, these ten key European nations will begin seeking a way to confederate (join) together for political, military, and commercial reasons.

It is a confederation that will take place partly because of pressure from the king of the north (Russia), which according to Ezekiel 38, will invade Israel at the very beginning of the Tribulation Period and seek control over the Middle East and Europe. The threat of Russia and her allies in the Middle East will trigger the European nations to try and consolidate themselves together in order to counter these Islamic threats. Of course, they will ultimately unite because of a world-wide conspiracy led by Satan, to bring a man to power (the Antichrist), who will rule the kings and eventually take over the earth, as a tyrant and dictator that demands worship.

You will remember that on the beastly vision of Revelation 13, there were “ten crowns” seated on the ten horns of the beast, indicating that there will be ten individual kings brought together to form what is called the Revived Roman Empire (“and upon his horns ten crowns” - Rev. 13:1).



Daniel 7:7 gives a similar description of this beast when he says, “and it had ten horns.” The ten horns are interpreted by Daniel as referring to ten kings.

Daniel 7:24 explains: “And the ten horns out of this kingdom *are* ten kings *that* shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings.”

Daniel says that ten kings would arise out of the same area as the old Roman kingdom or empire (“out of this kingdom” – Roman Empire). In other words, these ten kings would have the same origin and possess the same geographical relationship to the previous Roman Empire. They will originate from the same region as the previous Roman Empire of history (Dan. 2:40-41). The horns are then interpreted to mean ruling kings that would rise up and dominate a revived form of the Roman Empire.

Daniel 7:24

“And the ten horns out of this kingdom (**historical Roman Empire**) **are ten kings** that shall arise: and another shall rise after them (**Antichrist**); and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings. “

Since the ten horns were part of the fourth beast (vs. 7), this would indicate that eventually the Roman Empire would be divided into ten rulers and countries. The Roman Empire would consist of a ten-nation confederation. However, since the ancient Roman Empire never consisted of a ten-nation confederation, this form of the fourth kingdom or Roman Empire must still be in the future.

This is precisely what the prophetic Scriptures indicate in both Old and New Testaments. The Roman Empire will be revived or come back to life in the

form or a ten-nation confederation. The ten horns then speak of Rome prophetically and how this historical empire that once devoured the earth (vs. 7) will once again raise its ugly head under the form of a ten-nation confederacy, headed up by the end-time king (the Antichrist). It's this Revived form of the Roman Empire that will once again "devour the whole earth" (Dan. 7:23).

Some suggest that these will be ten strong representative nations throughout the entire earth, such as America, Russia, China, Great Britain, Egypt, etc. This is an intriguing way to view Daniel's prophecies about the ten kings; however, this does not seem to be the case, since the nations are seen coming out of the same area, as the historical Roman Empire (Dan. 7:24 – "out of this kingdom"). The fact that this end-time empire devours the whole earth does not mean the Revived Roman Empire will *consist*, or be built of all the nations of the world, but that it will *control* or dominate the whole earth economically, politically, and religiously because of its size and power.

The Bible predicts how the northern, southern, and eastern coalitions of nations in other parts of the world will actually come against the Roman Empire to contest the Antichrist's power during the middle of the Tribulation Period (Dan. 11:40-45). The location of the horns (kingdoms and kings) are not referring to ten geographic regions worldwide but are specifically linked or connected with the geographical region of the Old Roman Empire (Dan. 2:40-41; 7:7). Therefore, the Revived Roman Empire of ten kingdoms, or empires, will encompass the same area as the former Roman Empire. Antichrist's Roman Empire will not be worldwide regionally, in its sphere or domain, but worldwide in its influence and power (Rev. 13:3-18).

Rome in her previous history controlled parts of Africa, Europe, the Mediterranean, and Middle East. Therefore, the ten kingdoms which make up the Revived Roman Empire will evidently come from these same historic geographical regions.

The ten horns (Dan. 7:7), represented as ten kings (Dan. 7:24), evidently correspond to the ten toes on Daniel's image in chapter two (Dan. 2:42), which also represent ten kings (Dan. 2:44).

Daniel 2:41-43 records:

“And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay. And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken.”



Antichrist's end-time, Roman Empire and kingdom will possess military might and yet have certain internal weaknesses, represented by the “iron mixed with miry clay.”

Walvoord suggests: “The final form of the kingdom will include diverse elements whether this refers to race, political idealism, or sectional interests; and this will prevent the final form of the kingdom from having a real unity.”

In summary, the ten horns (Dan. 7:7; Rev. 12:3; 17:3), ten toes (Dan. 2:44), and ten crowns (Rev. 13:1) all point to the ten kingdoms and kings (Rev. 17:12) that will be revived within the original boundaries of the Roman Empire. It's these ten kingdoms, under the Antichrist's leadership, that will “devour the whole earth” (Dan. 7:23), or take control over the political (Rev. 13), economic (Rev. 18), and religious (Rev. 13, 17) structures of the entire earth. The Antichrist through his ten-nation confederacy will rule planet earth.

One will search in vain to find any historical fulfillment of ten kings ruling the historical Roman Empire. Therefore, the description of the ten horns (Dan. 7:7), which are ten kings (Dan. 7:24), points to a revival and rebirth of the powerful Roman Empire in the end times. The Roman Empire is once again going to take center stage on earth. The European Union and the emergence of the “New Europe” are paving the way for this to happen. Rome is nearing the end of her season of hibernation and will be reborn in the nations of Europe and Middle East, which correspond to the boundaries of the old Roman Empire. Daniel's prophecies about the ten horns or ten kings coming to power project us into the future and what is going to happen when the Roman Empire comes back to life. Daniel says that these kings “shall arise” (vs. 24) in the future to co-rule the Roman Empire.

This is something that is going to transpire before the Messiah or “Ancient of days” returns to earth to establish His kingdom (Dan. 7:20-22). In other words, these ten kings under the power of the Antichrist would be in existence when Jesus Christ returns to earth (Dan. 2:44 - “And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom”). This tells us that this confederacy and rebirth of the Roman kingdom is going to take place in the future.

Daniel then goes on to tell us how these co-ruling kings are going to be overtaken by an eleventh king coming from another area in the Roman Empire. Daniel 7:24 says that “another shall rise after them.” This is a clear reference to the personal Antichrist (Dan. 7: 8, 20, 25) who is described in a similar fashion in the New Testament (2 Thess. 2:3-4, 7-8; 1 John 2:18). The Antichrist will be an eleventh king surfacing after the ten kings have already made their alliance to rule together. He is called a “little horn” (Dan. 7:8) that rises among the already established ten horns or kings.

What does this mean? It means that the Antichrist will initially have less power than the ten kings, since he begins his rise to power, after the ten kings are already established in their positions of rule. Although he will be smaller in power, he will not be like the other ten kings. The Antichrist will be “diverse from the first” (Dan. 7:24) ten kings that have already made their alliance together. He will be different in the following way. The ten kings will be content to be equals and co-rulers together, but the Antichrist will not be content to be an equal. He will be driven by the devil to be the chief ruler of the new confederation of kings. Therefore, on his rise to power he will subdue and overthrow three of the kings.

Daniel watched the beastly vision and saw that “there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots” (Dan. 7:8). He later speaks of “the other which came up (the Antichrist), and before whom three fell” (Dan. 7:20). Finally, he states that “he shall subdue three kings” (Dan. 7:24). These verses prophetically point to how the Antichrist will strategically and quickly rise to power. He will start as a “little horn” (Dan. 7:8) and quickly grow into a large horn and power. Daniel seems to suggest that the eleventh horn grew to be larger in appearance than the other ten horns, so it could overtake three of them.



With his political genius and supernatural abilities given to him by Satan (2Thess. 2:9; Rev. 12:3) the Antichrist will overthrow three of the horns or kings and countries.



How he will do this is not stated. Only the future will finally reveal this. However, with his military genius and demonic abilities the Antichrist will likely convince three kings to come under his rule and authority. It's also conceivable that he may receive the backing of seven kings, but not three of the kings, in this newly formed coalition in Europe and the Middle East. Three members of the Common Market may be particularly uncooperative and this will cause the Antichrist to take action. Because of their stubbornness to submit to his power he might subdue ("humble") or overthrow three of them by booting them out of the coalition and replacing them with three of his own kings. He may very well put in power people of his own choice in place of the three countries that he humbles. Then these three countries and the seven other kings will take their orders from him. This is a possible scenario but only the end times will reveal the exact strategy of the Antichrist.

The world today is looking for an economic Savior, not a spiritual Savior to deliver man from his sins. Someday there will be ten kings and countries that yield their power to the Antichrist and when this happens the Roman Empire will truly be united under one new Caesar. This is exactly what the New Testament teaches concerning horns on another beastly vision (Rev. 17:3, 12). The ten horns are ten kings that will be united together under the Antichrist to form an unprecedented military and economic force in the end

times. This is the teaching of the course of world history and prophecy. We live in a day and time when the alignment of these ten kings could be on our very doorstep. As stated before, this special connection between ten countries in the Middle East could unfold upon the world rather suddenly.

Daniel 7:7

“After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that *were* before it; and it had **ten horns**.”

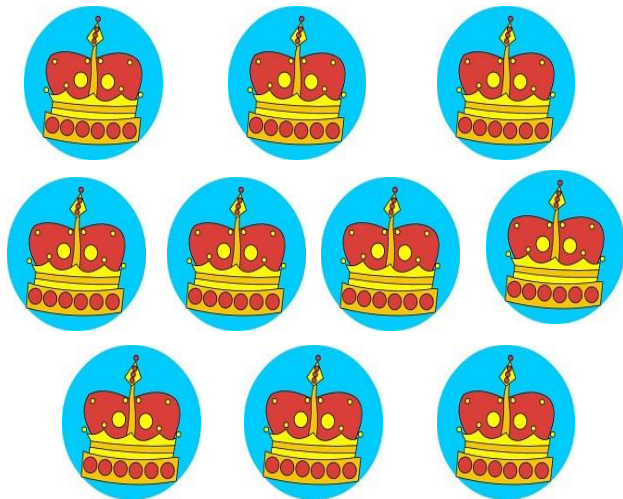
Daniel 7:24 also states:

“And the **ten horns** out of this kingdom *are ten kings* that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings.”

Revelation 17:12-13 once again verifies the number ten when saying:

“And the **ten horns** which thou sawest are **ten kings**, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast. These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.”

Revived Roman Empire = Ten Kings



These passages indicate that the ten kings are heads of the countries that will form an alliance in Europe and the Middle East which will support the future world ruler. The 10 kings will yield their power to support the beast (Rev. 17:13), who is the Middle East ruler that will emerge in the end time.

The ten king's antagonism toward Christ is indicated throughout the last three and one half years of the Tribulation Period or the "one hour" they rule under the Antichrist's power (Rev. 17:12). When Christ returns, these 10 kings and the Antichrist will war against Him but be defeated (Rev. 17:14). In any event, the prophetic scenario is this. Apparently, the ten kings will consolidate their empires under the Antichrist, by the middle of the seven-year Tribulation Period. This consolidation of nations under the Antichrist will result in his rise to world power and worship (Rev. 13:3-8).

The Antichrist will one day be the sole ruler of the Revived Roman Empire and accomplish something that no other person could do, since the days of the Roman Caesars. He will unite the Roman Empire by bringing together a monstrosity of modern nations in the federated states of Europe and the Middle East. Ultimately, the coming man of sin (2 Thess. 2:3) will be the new world Caesar that will rule the world through this powerful coalition of nations, which are united together to form the revived Roman Empire of the end times (Rev. 13:3-4).

Revelation 17:12 once again verifies the number ten when saying:
"And the **ten horns** which thou sawest are **ten kings**, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast."



The ten horns then speak of Rome prophetically and how this historical empire, which devoured the earth, will once again raise its ugly head under the form of a ten-nation confederacy of kings and kingdoms, headed up by the end-time prominent king (the Antichrist).

Once again, the emphasis in regards to prophecy is on the *seventh* head of the beast vision, which represents the ten-kingdom Roman Empire that the Antichrist will rule over. *It will be the climax and composite of all the previous kingdoms.* The beastly image has ten horns with a crown on each horn (Rev. 13:1), indicating that there will be ten kings and kingdoms that will merge together under the Antichrist's leadership (Rev. 17:12).



We also know that Revelation 17:12 and Daniel 7:24 likened the ten horns to ten kings that would arise on the world scene and give their countries to the power and rule of the Antichrist (Rev. 17:13).

Prophetic Parallels

“**ten toes**” (Dan. 2:41-42)

“**ten horns**” (Dan. 7:7, 20; Rev. 12:3, 13:1; 17:3, 7)

“**ten kings**” (Dan. 2:44; Dan. 7:24; Rev. 17:10, 12, 16)

The prophetic imagery written over the course of centuries correlates perfectly and reveals what is going to take place in the future. The kingdom of the Antichrist, over which he will rule, will consist of ten countries or kingdoms in the area of the old Roman Empire.

Honing in on the Horns



In summary, the ten horns on the beast vision (Rev. 17:3) are interpreted to mean ten kings (Rev. 17:12). This is what the Bible text clearly states. There can be no doubt to the interpretive meaning of these horns. Ten kings with their corresponding countries will tie the knot in their attempt to bring back to life the old Roman Empire. However, they will need a new Caesar or a man who they can follow if their new unity is going to be successful. They will need a man that can lead them and bring them into a binding relationship with him. This man will be the Antichrist and new Caesar of the revived Roman Empire.

The Antichrist will unite these kings together, possibly replacing three of them with kings (proxies) associated with his Assyrian connection (Dan. 7:20, 24). In some way, this Assyrian king will be able to gain control over ten kings or countries and have them under his domain. They will yield their individual powers to the Antichrist. Together, these kings will submit to his leadership (Rev. 17:12) and regime, bringing the old Roman Empire back to life. Furthermore, the beast's rebuilt capital (the city of Babylon) in the land of Assyria (Rev. 17-18), which is the same area he has emerged from (Micah 5:5-6), will become the center or focal point of all world religion and trade in this newly formed empire. The beast will eventually control the world through this empire and world commerce center (Rev. 13:7-8).

Revelation 17:14 now speaks of the end of these kings:

“These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.”

The agenda of the ten kings, like that of Satan and Antichrist, will be to wage war against the Lamb, at His Second Coming during the Battle of Armageddon. In Daniel 7:20-23, we prophetically read how the “Ancient of days” will return and destroy these kings.

Daniel 2:44 also prophetically anticipates:

“And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.”

The returning King will overtake these kings and establish His own kingdom!

In conclusion, the imagery of the heads, hills, horns, and harlot is historically and prophetically linked together. These symbols explain the course of ancient world history and prophecy, in relationship to pagan religion, and reveal to us what is going to occur during the End Times (seven-year Tribulation Period). What a privilege we have to read these prophecies, interpret them literally, and find the blessing that comes from studying prophecy and the Book of Revelation.



Revelation 1:3

“Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.”