

The Course of World History

(Studies in Daniel and Revelation)

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Introduction

The course of world history is outlined in the books of Daniel and Revelation. These books speak of a huge statue, horrible beasts, horns, hills, and heads, all of which are interrelated, as God's Word seeks to unveil to the Bible student the course of world history. This will be a rewarding study knowing that history was prewritten by God and that history is really "His story." God planned from beginning to end the course of world history. He wrote the script and it will come to pass in the way He has planned.

Isaiah 14:24

"The LORD of hosts hath sworn, saying, Surely as I have thought, so shall it come to pass; and as I have purposed, so shall it stand."

Huge Statue

(Daniel 2)

Daniel envisions the course of world history from the days of King Nebuchadnezzar up to the time of Christ's Second Coming. Daniel's prophecies sweep across the great world empires that would arise on the world scene up to Christ's Second Coming to earth. What we have in Daniel's visions is a panoramic picture of the course, character, and consummation of the world kingdoms from Daniel's day to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ to earth to establish His own kingdom. This is what we might call *history prewritten*. From the time of Daniel to Christ's Second Coming four Gentile world empires would dominate the scene in a period of time known as the "times of the Gentiles" (Luke 21:20-24) or when the Gentile nations would control Israel. These times apparently began with the final Babylonian Captivity of the Jewish people in late 600's B.C. (when all Israel was taken captive) and they are scheduled to continue on through the time when the Antichrist is persecuting the Jews during the Tribulation Period. God designed the metal statue (Daniel 2) and

beast imagery (Daniel 7) of Daniel to portray these empires that would dominate the known world. We begin with the statue in Nebuchadnezzar's dream. The four Gentile world powers are represented by four different kinds of descriptive metals found on this huge and powerful statue.

Babylon

Daniel 2:31-32

"Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible. This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass. His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay."

The statue that Daniel saw was said to be a "great image" in that it was a large powerful image that towered high into the sky. It was also "terrible" in that it struck fear in the heart of Nebuchadnezzar. Daniel was called upon to interpret the meaning of this great and terrible statue. Daniel begins with Babylon, the empire that existed in his day, which was represented by the head of gold (Dan. 2:32) on the image. Daniel interpreted this golden head as descriptive of the king and his earthly kingdom of Babylon.

Daniel 2:37-38

"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."

The reference to the king would most certainly symbolize the Babylonian kingdom over which he ruled (vs. 37 – "thee a kingdom"). You cannot have a king without a kingdom. The ancient Orient regarded kings and kingdoms as being synonymous. Daniel says the statue represented a succession of kingdoms (2:37, 39, 40, 44). Therefore, a king is always synonymous with his kingdom. The head of gold included the kingdom of Babylon as well as Nebuchadnezzar the king. Why a golden head? The kingdom of Babylon was known

for its extensive use of gold in its images (god of Marduk) and buildings. Therefore, the metal of gold was an appropriate description of the Babylonian kingdom that existed in Daniel's day and the time of his writing. Babylon under the rule of King Nebuchadnezzar fits the description of the golden head on the statue. There could be no mistake. "Thou art this head of gold." Nebuchadnezzar and his Babylonian kingdom were represented by the head of gold. This would be the first world kingdom from Daniel's time and perspective that would dominate the world scene. One thing is certain. God gives kingdoms to men (Dan. 2:37-38) and He knows when to withdraw them from men (Dan. 2:21). This is evident when viewing the course of world history.

Medo-Persia

The breast and arms of the image were silver (Dan. 2:32) and this metallic description answers to the next world empire, which was the Medo-Persian kingdom (Dan. 2:39 – "after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee"). Daniel names this kingdom as the Medes and Persians (Dan. 5:28). The silver description was appropriate for this world kingdom since the Medo-Persian kingdom based its power on their money, which was silver. It also became known for its extensive tax system (Ezra 4:13; Dan. 11:2). The two arms coming together to form one breast in the vision (Dan. 2:32) pictures this kingdom perfectly. Two distinct peoples, the Medes and the Persians, were united together in 550 B.C. under the one king to form a great world power. However, Daniel records that this kingdom would be "inferior" (vs. 39) to the Babylonian kingdom for it would lack the unity the previous empire possessed. This is because it was a partnership empire. Later on Daniel names the kingdom that would rise on the world scene and overtake the Babylonian kingdom (Dan. 5:25 - 6:1). What happened here was the fulfillment of Daniel 2:39.

Greece

The next kingdom that would rise on the world scene and succeed the Medo-Persian kingdom would be the Gentile kingdom of Greece under Alexander the Great and his successors (Dan. 2:39 – "another third kingdom of brass"). One belly divided into two thighs was a perfect way to illustrate what would take place in this Grecian

kingdom. Alexander would die a drunkard's death at an early age and his kingdom would be divided into four leading generals. However, only two of the divisions played an important role in history. Those two divisions were headquartered in Syria and Egypt. Why did God represent Greece with the bronze or brass metal? The Greeks developed this metal and used it extensively in their implements of war. Thus, the kingdom was characterized by bronze. Greece would rule over the known world of this time. It is a fact that Alexander's kingdom ruled considerably more of the earth than did Babylon and Medo-Persia. Greece conquered Persia in 331 B.C.

Rome

The kingdom of Greece was then succeeded by a fourth Gentile kingdom represented by the legs of iron on the image (Dan. 2:33 – “His legs of iron”). God's portrayal of the Roman Empire with two legs was very fitting since in 364 A. D. the Roman Empire was divided in two divisions – the Western Roman Empire with Rome as its capital and the Eastern Roman empire with Constantinople as its capital. Iron was a perfect designation of Rome for this kingdom was known to use iron for its weaponry and war machine. Daniel 2:40 says that “the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron.” Iron was stronger than gold, silver, and bronze and for this reason it was said that it “breaketh all these” (the previous kingdoms represented by weaker metals) and that it would “break in pieces and bruise.” The previous world empires might be comparable to a bigger fish swallowing a smaller fish. The Medo-Persian Empire was a bigger fish and swallowed the Babylonian Empire, which was a smaller fish. The Grecian Empire swallowed the Medo-Persian kingdom for it was a bigger fish. So in once sense, each empire swallowed the previous one, and they were absorbed into a bigger fish and greater power (Dan. 2:40). Daniel says that the kingdom of Rome was stronger than any of the previous world empires.

Rome in its cruel conquest crushed all the empires that had preceded it in the sense that it swallowed up the lands and peoples that had been part of the three previous empires and assimilated (absorbed) those lands and peoples into itself. The bigger fish (Roman Empire) not only swallowed up or absorbed the kingdom of Greece but the previous empires that existed before Greece (Babylonian and Medo-

Persian). Rome absorbed all the previous world empires and became a dominant force in the known world. So Rome conquered Greece in 146 B. C. and it lasted until A.D. 476. Rome was really conquering all the previous empires that existed in the stomach of Greece - “all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise” (Dan. 2:40). This is significant for the end-time empire under the Antichrist is seen to absorb all the previous world empires and possess traits that existed in the previous empires (Rev. 13:2).

Revived Roman Empire

Daniel’s vision is designed to set forth a historical succession of kingdoms. When Daniel was writing he was speaking of those kingdoms that would rise to power centuries before they ever ruled. The same is true regarding the last would kingdom in the course of world history – the *revived* Roman Empire or *realigned* Roman Empire.

Daniel 2:41-42

“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.”

Between Daniel 2:40 and 2:41 we have what might be called a “prophetic skip” between two phases of the Roman Empire. Daniel skips over many centuries from the historical Roman Empire, which is now history, all the way to end-time prophecy concerning the Roman Empire. Why do I say this? It’s because the description given in verse 41 of ten toes was never historically fulfilled in the ancient Roman Empire. The historic Roman Empire never existed in a ten-kingdom form that was ruled by ten kings (vs. 44). The toes are interpreted as kings in verse 44. Other passages speak specifically of 10 kings in the end times (Dan. 7:24; Rev. 17:12). Thus, the “kings” of verse 44 correspond to the toes on the image mentioned in verse 41. They are also represented as the kingdoms and peoples of these kings in verse 43 that do not fully adhere to one another in polity and practice. There can be no question about the identity of the toes. They are 10 kings with their kingdoms of people that would come together under

the power of the Antichrist to revive the Roman Empire in the end times.

Since the Scripture sees this as a ten-nation confederacy, corresponding to the ten toes on the image, we must conclude that this is a phase of the Roman Empire that was never fulfilled historically, but will be fulfilled prophetically. *Daniel's downward movement on this image has depicted the passage of time.* Therefore, when he gets to the feet and toes of the image he is envisioning another period of time when a final form of Gentile world dominion would overtake the entire world. Since the feet and toes were actually part of the representation of the fourth Roman kingdom, the feet and toes must portray the Roman Empire in another stage and period of time. This is exactly what Daniel is portraying. The feet and toes represent the final stage of existence of this Roman Empire in contrast to the earlier leg stage, which was already fulfilled in history.

Ken Hasper remarks:

“Rome split into two sections in 395 A.D. The western part fell in 476 A.D. Charlemagne sought to revive it and formed the holy Roman Empire which lasted from 800-1452 A.D. Then the ‘toes’ completely split apart until this day. It is interesting to note how they are trying to reunite in our day! There are two good reasons why Rome must rise again ‘from the dead’ – (a) she was in power in the 69th week of Daniel – the 70th would logically continue right on (for the time between the weeks was not seen by Daniel – that is, the Church Age), (b) Rome is said to be destroyed by Christ’s Kingdom (Dan. 2:44).”

The Roman Empire did die as a ruling power on earth so it can once again reemerge as a world power in the end times. However, the Roman Empire was never really destroyed by any other nation. It simply fell apart. Rome was eventually divided up and became the modern nations of Europe and familiar Middle East countries that are dotted on our map today. This observation is very important for in the prophetic Scriptures we read about a revival of the old Roman Empire. Someday the old Roman Empire is going to once again raise its ugly head and dominate the world scene and this will be fulfilled by those European nations and surrounding countries that now exist

within the boundaries of the old Roman Empire. In the future the old Roman Empire will rise from its smoldering ashes and become a dominant world force under the Antichrist. This will find its fulfillment in the federation of nations within Europe and the boundaries of the Middle East. The official preparation for the reunification of the old Roman Empire began back in 1957 with the Treaty of Rome. Since this time the nations of Europe (EU) have been gradually coming together one by one.

There is an important point. The old Roman Empire (the two leg form of Daniel's prophecy – Daniel 2:33) was not destroyed in the same way that the empires preceding it were. It was not replaced by another world empire. Instead, in A.D. 476 the heart of the empire was conquered and divided up into pieces that eventually became the nations of Europe and countries on our Middle East maps. Since the collapse of this world empire numerous attempts have been made to bring the fractured pieces of the empire back together again. Charlemagne and Napoleon tried it and Hitler also tried it. But all attempts have failed. Nobody could put Humpty Dumpty together again. However, today before our very eyes, Humpty Dumpty is reemerging. The old Roman Empire is coming back to life and what we see happening today in Europe is the *preparation* for this final form of the Roman Empire. It is setting the stage for the reunification of this ancient empire that will form an unprecedented world power. The events of the 20th century provide the necessary framework for the reunification of Europe.

World War I and World War II brought the nations of Europe together. In the aftermath of World War II a dramatic change occurred. Instead of rebuilding for war, as they had done for 1,600 years, the nations of Europe decided to come together in a peaceful coalition that was originally called the Common Market. This began in 1957. This was the preconditions and precursor signs for a reunited, revived Roman Empire, or this second stage of the Roman Empire. The Old Roman Empire never died. It simply has been smoldering in what are now the nations of Europe and Middle Eastern countries. Before our very eyes the *preparations* are being made to reunite this Roman Empire into a world power. What we have seen developing in Europe the last fifty years looks strikingly similar to what the Bible predicts for the end times. The basic governmental and economical components are in

place for this to occur. The events we see taking shape today are the prelude and preparation for the reunited Roman Empire prophesied by Daniel over 2,500 years ago. The time of the ten kings could unfold upon the world rather suddenly as the end approaches. Global disorder may be a metamorphosis for the ten kings to rise to power.

Daniel tells us that when the final form of the Roman Empire reunites there will be some clashes. The prophetic text says that the feet and toes will be “part of potter’s clay, and part of iron” (Dan. 2:41) and this description or mixture is then interpreted to mean “the kingdom shall be divided.” This is what is going to take place in the future when the ten kings with their countries finally consolidate and merge into this one economic and military strength. Daniel tells us that the iron stands for strength (Dan. 2:41 – “be in it the strength of iron”) and the military strength of a united Europe and Middle East would be unprecedented. The United States would no longer be the world power. The United States of Europe would be born and become the world power.

Daniel then goes on to explain the weakness created by the clay mixture (Daniel 2:42). He says that the ten-nation kingdom or federation will be “partly strong” (militarily) while at the same time be “partly broken” (internally fractured). The mixture of clay within the iron represents the weakness of this union of nations and an internally fractured relationship. This less-than-perfect union is further described in Daniel 2:43. The ten countries or nations in this newly Revived Roman Empire will “mingle themselves with the seed of men” which means that these different people will unite together as a military force while at the same time they will not fully cleave or adhere to one another (“cleave one to another”) in the same “iron is not mixed with clay.” The clay mixture with the iron then depicts the internal weakness of this future Roman Empire. The nations that finally come together militarily will “be divided” (Dan. 2:41) and not “cleave one to another” (Dan. 2:43) because of the unusual diversities of cultures, ethnic backgrounds, and politics. None of these nations will want to lose their national identities and distinctives and therefore there will be an internal weakness that will never be resolved much like the weakness suggested by an iron and clay mixture. This was true of the Roman Empire of the past since a large variety of peoples were assimilated into the Roman Empire.

Since this is a human image we must conclude that it had ten toes (Dan. 2:41-42). The mention of “toes” is then significant, as we have already conferred. The number ten in relationship to the reemergence of the old Roman Empire is highly significant. The number ten represents how many nations will eventually come together under the Antichrist to form the reunited Roman Empire. This is clearly revealed in the context for the toes are representative as kings (Dan. 2:44) who will be living when the Messiah returns to establish His long awaited kingdom.

Eventually the Roman Empire represented in the nations of Europe and surrounding countries will converge together in ten key powers. There will be a consolidation of ten nations with their leaders, which will form the reunification of the Roman Empire of prophecy. This coming world empire will eventually dominate the world under the power and regime of the Antichrist. The Revived Roman Empire is represented by ten toes (Dan. 2:41-42), ten horns (Dan. 7:7), and ten kings (Dan. 2:44; 7:24; Rev. 17:12). We have seen that the interpretation of the ten toes and horns are to be understood as kings (Dan. 2:44, 7:24), along with their kingdoms, which will merge together in the end times under the power of the Antichrist. This is what the prophetic Scriptures predict as coming to pass in the future. Under the control of a central ruler (Antichrist) in the Middle East during the Great Tribulation will be 10 nations along with their leaders (Dan. 7:24 - “The 10 horns are 10 kings”).

The Stone Kingdom

Daniel 2:44-45

“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. 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.”

Daniel now envisions a stone kingdom that is going to be established at the end of world history that will last for the eternal ages of time. This speaks of the kingdom of Jesus Christ. This is not man's kingdom but God's kingdom for it is a stone that is cut out of a mountain without human hands. Man has nothing to do with this kingdom. God is going to establish His mountain kingdom on the earth someday. God is going to win! There is one kingdom that is going to outlast all previous earthly kingdoms. This is what Daniel is portraying.

The expression "the days of these kings" has reference to the ten kings that will be living when the Messiah or Lord Jesus Christ returns to earth to establish His earthly kingdom ("the God of heaven set up a kingdom"). When Jesus returns He is going to destroy all of the ten kingdoms that have banded together under the Antichrist (Rev. 17:14 – "The Lamb shall overcome them for he is Lord of lords and King of kings"). The stone kingdom of our Lord will smite this image on its feet, which represents the ten kingdoms under the power of the Antichrist.

Daniel 2:34 says:

"Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet *that were* of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces."

The falling stone from heaven hits the feet of this gigantic image causing the entire image to fall to the ground and shattering it to pieces like dust that can be blown in the wind. It's interesting that the entire statue is seen to fall to the ground, which represented the entire course of Gentile world history ("the iron" – Rome, "the brass" - Greece, "the clay" – Revived Roman Empire, "the silver" – Medio-Persia, "and the gold" - Babylon). Both the revived Roman Empire under the ten-kingdom confederation of the Antichrist (the feet and toes part of the image) and the previous world kingdoms (head, breast, and thighs) are seen to be simultaneously crushed together.

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 fact that the past historical world powers or kingdom are pictured as being destroyed at the end of time would indicate that they all survive in some measure in the final form of Gentile power (the ten kingdoms under the Antichrist). The toes (ten kings – revived Roman Empire) with the rest of the image (past historical empires) suffer defeat simultaneously. Evidently the final Gentile world power under the Antichrist will contain characteristics of all the previous world kingdoms (Rev. 13:1-2) so that when it is crushed the entire history and course of Gentile powers will suffer a debilitating blow. Latent in every world kingdom were facets of the previous kingdoms so that when Jesus returns to crush the final world kingdom all the past historical empires will come to an end finally and forever. His mountain kingdom will overtake every other previous kingdom that has ever existed in this world.

The stone is a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is one of the many figures of speech in the Bible used to describe Jesus Christ. Daniel 2:35 reveals how “the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.” This tells us that when Jesus returns as the stone to crush the world powers that He will establish a stone kingdom that will become like a great mountain which fills the entire earth. This of course speaks of stability, strength, and the unmovable and unending character of Christ’s eternal kingdom (“a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed” – Dan. 2:44). It will last forever. The course of world history will find its climax in the kingdom of Christ that will last for eternity. The imagery of a stone kingdom descending from on high suggests that Jesus Christ is going to crush all of the kingdoms of this world and at one climatic point in the future “The kingdoms of this world are become *the kingdoms* of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever” (Rev. 11:15).

Horrible Beasts

(Daniel 7)

In another vision that traces the history of the world empires (from our perspective), to the final form of Gentile rule in the Revived Roman

World Empire, Daniel comes to the same conclusion. When studying Daniel chapter seven we see the same emphasis of world empires emerging on to the world scene and then passing off to give way to the next empire.

In Daniel chapter seven we see the same course of world history represented this time by animals (Daniel 7:1-7). When studying this section of Scripture we will come to the same conclusion regarding the great world empires which have emerged on the world scene and then been conquered by stronger empires. Daniel prophesied that all of these events would occur and he prophesied centuries before these events took place. Today we look back in the history books or annal of history and know that they have occurred in the precise manner that Daniel predicted.

The Movement of God in the Nations

Daniel 7:1-3

“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.”

Since this was a dream the things that Daniel saw were symbols of real things. In this dream God gave Daniel visions of beasts rising out of the sea, which represented specific events that would take place in the future in relationship to world powers. In this dream Daniel saw a picture of a sea with four winds blowing across the sea and stirring up the sea into a chaotic state. The four winds represent the heavenly powers and forces by which God sets the nations of the world in motion (see Rev. 7:1). The four winds would indicate that the events which are going to occur would impact the known world and that these same events would come from the sovereign hand of God. The four winds speak of the movement of God throughout the world. The movements of the nations are in full accord with the providence of God. God is in control of this world and the course of human history. Nothing happens by chance. The winds then indicate God’s

movement to bring forth the great Gentile world empires (Dan. 2:21). God is in control of the course of human history. All will come to pass just as He planned.

The Sea of Gentile Humanity

Daniel remarks about the “great sea” which was known to all to be the Mediterranean Sea (Numb. 34:6-7; Jos. 1:4; 9:1; 15:11-12; 15:47; 23:4; Ezek. 47:10, 15, 19, 20; 48:28). It is a fact of history that the major Gentile world empires had their sphere of rule and power in the Mediterranean area. The four Gentile world empires would reach the Mediterranean coast as they continued to conquest their territories. All of the world empires of the Bible eventually held territory on the coastline of the Mediterranean. Therefore, it would be appropriate to use the Mediterranean Sea as a geographical area of their domain. One must remember that at the eastern end of the Mediterranean is the land of Palestine, which is the geographical center of the prophetic earth and the center of God’s activities with Israel and the Gentile nations at the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. The Gentile powers would emerge from the Mediterranean area, rule over Israel, and become world kingdoms.

However, the sea, like the winds and beasts, is symbolically portraying something other than just the Mediterranean Sea. The Scripture symbolism of the sea stands for the populace of humanity and more specifically the sea of Gentile humanity (Isa. 17:12-13; Jer. 46:7-9; 47:2; Matt. 13:47; Rev. 13:1, Rev. 17:1, 15).

Psalm 144:7 equates water with Gentile humanity:

“Send thine hand from above; rid me, and deliver me out of great waters, from the hand of strange children.”

The “strange children” were actually Israel’s Gentile enemies and foreigners who were trying to stop David’s kingdom from expanding and experiencing peace and prosperity.

Since Daniel was giving the course of Gentile world history the Mediterranean Sea, which he saw in this vision, would most certainly symbolically represent the Gentile kingdoms (Dan. 7:23) and prominent Gentile kings (Dan. 7:17) that would dominate world

history. The emphasis in this Scripture (Dan. 7:2-3) is that world powers, described as different animals and beasts, would emerge from a sea of Gentile humanity, out of which they are formed.

Both the kingdoms and kings that would dominate and control Israel throughout the centuries of time would originate from the sea of Gentile humanity. These people and their Gentile kingdoms or nations of power, along with their prominent kings (Dan. 2:44; 7:17), would dominate the Jews in that period of time known as “the times of the Gentiles” (Luke 21:24). Thus, the sea is always connected to Gentile peoples and the Gentile kingdoms of this world. Scripture clearly verifies this. The turbulence of the sea would represent the strife and restlessness of the masses of unsaved Gentile people (Isa. 57:20). The chaotic and restless sea represents the world of nations in turmoil. We live in a restless world that can never find true rest, peace, and significance until people in the sea of lost humanity turn to Christ (Matt. 11:28).

Babylon

Daniel saw four great beasts coming out of this wind-swept sea one after the other. So there was a succession of beasts rising out of the sea. This indicates how the Gentile world kingdoms or empires would systematically emerge on the world scene one after the other. The same kingdoms that were represented in Nebuchadnezzar’s image are now represented as beasts (“four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another”- Dan. 7:3). So the picture Daniel is given is that of the course of Gentile world history that would dominate the earth until the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

Daniel 7:4 reads:

“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.”

The winged lion represented the kingdom of Babylon that was in existence when Daniel received this dream. It corresponded to the head of gold on the image that Nebuchadnezzar saw (Dan. 2:32). The winged lion was the symbol of ancient Babylon. Sculptures of huge winged lions stood at the entrances of Babylonian royal

palaces. There was no mistaking the identification of this first beast in the train of Gentile kingdoms that would rule the world. Interesting, the lion and eagle were both symbols and emblems of Babylon and the greatest king of Babylon – Nebuchadnezzar (Jer. 4:7, 13; 50:17; Ezek. 17:3, 12). Lions and eagles have been regarded as the kings of the beasts and fowls. They represent strength and speed in their respective animal kingdoms. The lion represents great power and strength and the wings of the eagle signify swiftness of movement. Together they portray a terrible force. Nebuchadnezzar had a series of swift conquests over Syria, Palestine, Egypt and Tyre. The winged lion was a fitting description and representation of Babylon and its swift conquest of many people as it made itself world ruler of all nations during Nebuchadnezzar's reign (Hab. 1:6, 8).

As Daniel watched the lion, eventually the wings were plucked off and it was made to stand on its hind feet like a human being. Furthermore, a human heart was given to it. This scene speaks of King Nebuchadnezzar's experience. God inflicted him with lycanthropy, which is a delusion where one thinks that he is a wolf or some other wild animal. By the way, this is how the werewolf fable was started. Nebuchadnezzar was the werewolf of his day. God made him act and live like a wild beast for seven years (Dan. 4:16, 24-37). This reference is then to Nebuchadnezzar's insanity and the time he was debased and lived like an animal. The lesson is still true: Pride goes before a fall (Dan. 4:30-31, 37). In any event, In Daniel 7:4 the prophet was envisioning the experience of this king. After his wild animal episode the king was given a man's heart once again so he could think and function as a man. The king's experience was portraying how the kingdom of Babylon would become more humane in its treatment of people following Nebuchadnezzar's downfall and restoration. Babylon was known to stop conquering and become more civilized in its treatment of people later on in its existence as a kingdom. In short, Babylon lost its beastlike nature.

Medo-Persia

Daniel 7:5

“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.”

The second beast that rose from the sea was a bear. This represented the kingdom of Medo-Persia which replaced the Babylonian Empire in 539 B. C. This bear corresponds to the chest of arms and silver on the image of Daniel chapter two (Dan. 2:32). A bear is more massive in size and slower moving than a lion. The bear then represents how Medo-Persia would be much larger in size as a kingdom than was Babylon. The Medo-Persian army was noted for its huge size but slower movements. This kingdom under King Cyrus became powerful and unstoppable.

As Daniel observes the bear he notes that the bear had one of its sides raised higher than the other side. This indicates how in time the Persians gained the authority and power over the Medes. Persia was more powerful and absorbed the Medes. The bear had three ribs in its mouth. This indicates how the bear would devour or conquer three of its major enemies. These probably represented Lydia, Babylon, and Egypt, which were the three great kingdoms that were conquered by Medo-Persia, enabling this kingdom to gain world dominance. The bear was then told to continue to devour in spite of its great conquests. Medo-Persia was noted for its insatiable desire to conquer more territory and peoples. It did not move to conquer unless it had overwhelming force with which to crush all resistance. Xerxes' expedition against Greece was undertaken with 2,500,000 fighting men. It is easy to see how the movements of these enormous bodies of men would "devour much flesh" (Dan. 7:5).

Greece

Daniel 7:6

"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."

The third beast that Daniel saw was that of a leopard. However, it was not your usual leopard. It had four wings and four heads. This represented the next world kingdom that would rise to power over the Medes and Persians. It would be the kingdom of Greece, under the leadership of Alexander the Great, which parallels to the belly and thighs of bronze or brass on the image in Nebuchadnezzar's dream (Dan. 2:32). Greece finally overtook Medo-Persia in 331 B. C.

Leopards themselves were noted to be very fast (Hab. 1:8) but if you add four wings to them it signifies even greater swiftness and speed.

The lion devours, the bear crushes, and the leopard springs upon its prey. Thus, the four-winged leopard speaks of the way Greece conquered its enemies and took dominion of the known world. Greece conquered with leopard-like speed and swiftness. Under Alexander the Great (“a mighty king” - Dan. 11:3) Greece conquered the known world faster than any other ancient power. Alexander had the fastest moving army that was ever known. In eight years time the Greeks conquered more than 11,000 miles of territory from Greece in the west to India in the east. The lightening character of his conquests is without precedence in the ancient world and this is in keeping with the image of the winged leopard. The speed of Alexander’s conquests is a marvel to any student of history and war.

Alexander was a military and administrative genius and yet he died on June 13, 323 B. C. as a drunkard in a drunken debauch at Babylon. He was only thirty-two years old. Twenty years after his death his kingdom was divided into four parts by four leading generals of Alexander. These four divisions are represented by the four heads of the leopard (“the beast had also four heads” – Dan. 7:6). The four kingdoms were Egypt, Syria, Macedonia, and Asia Minor. The history books will reveal this to us. The amazing thing is that Daniel was prophesying of these events centuries before they occurred. He was prewriting history.

Daniel 11:4

“And when he (Alexander the Great) shall stand up, his kingdom shall be broken, and shall be divided toward the four winds of heaven; and not to his posterity, nor according to his dominion which he ruled: for his kingdom shall be plucked up, even for others beside those.”

This verse reveals the same information. Alexander’s kingdom was broken into four parts after his death. The “four winds of heaven” is another reference to the four-fold division of the Greek Empire. All students of history will readily recognize these facts. Greece was divided into four separate kingdoms.

Daniel 8:5-9

“And as I was considering, behold, an he goat came from the west on the face of the whole earth, and touched not the ground: and the goat *had* a notable horn between his eyes. And he came to the ram that had *two* horns, which I had seen standing before the river, and ran unto him in the fury of his power. And I saw him come close unto the ram, and he was moved with choler against him, and smote the ram, and brake his two horns: and there was no power in the ram to stand before him, but he cast him down to the ground, and stamped upon him: and there was none that could deliver the ram out of his hand. Therefore the he goat waxed very great: and when he was strong, the great horn was broken; and for it came up four notable ones toward the four winds of heaven. And out of one of them came forth a little horn, which waxed exceeding great, toward the south, and toward the east, and toward the pleasant *land*.”

In this vision Daniel likens Greece to a “he goat” (vs. 5) destroying a ram that had two horns (vv. 6-7). These two horns are interpreted as the united kings and kingdoms of Medo-Persia (vs. 20). The “notable horn” (vs. 5) was a reference to Alexander the Great (vs. 21). However, when Greece was in its pinnacle or strength the Bible records that the “great horn was broken” (vs. 8) which references Alexander’s untimely death. Then, as we have already seen, the kingdom of Greece was split up into four areas. Four different generals under Alexander became leaders of specific areas of Alexander’s empire. They are identified as four additional horns or “four notable ones toward the four winds of heaven” (vs. 8) and are interpreted in the context to mean that “four kingdoms shall stand up out of the nation” (vs. 22). History reveals that they were Cassander who ruled over Macedonia and Greece, Lysimachus who rules over Thrace, Bithynia, and most of Asia Minor, Seleucus who took Syria and the lands to the east including Babylonia, and Ptolemy who took Egypt and possibly Palestine and Arabia.

Daniel then reports how one horn (“a little horn”) actually grew out of one of the four horns on the goat (vs. 9). Since the horns referred to rulers this little horn must also refer to a ruler. History reveals that a strong ruler arose out of the Syrian dynasty. He is none other than the famed and feared prototype or original human model of the Antichrist. His name was Antiochus Epiphanies and his escapades

are outlined in Daniel's prophecy. This man was the eighth ruler in the Seleucid division of the Greek Empire and he ruled from 175-164 B.C. His sphere of rule was in the ancient land of Assyria or the areas of Syria, Babylonia, and Southern Asia Minor. This evil man persecuted the Jewish people ("stars" – vs. 10 with Dan. 12:2, Gen. 15:5, 22:17) attempting to destroy their religious beliefs. The Bible says "he shall destroy the mighty and the holy people" (vs. 24). Antiochus had circumcised babies hanged and decreed that Jews who obeyed the Law would be put to death. This evil man even took away their sacrificial system making a mockery of the Jewish alter (vs. 11). Antiochus placed a pig on the Jewish alter offering it to God in mockery. This man then becomes a prototype and forerunner of the actions of the Antichrist.

Rome

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."

The kingdom of Rome was the next great empire to dominate the world scene (Dan. 7:23). The four divisions of the Greek Empire fell to Rome in stages from 168-30 B. C. The empire of Rome is likened to a nondescript beast ("it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it") rising out of the sea. In other words, there was no animal description that could be given to this beast. However, the beast that Daniel saw was said to be "terrible and dreadful." Apparently this beast was so terrifying and ferocious that no living animal could represent it.

This beast corresponds to the legs of iron on Nebuchadnezzar's image in Daniel chapter two which referenced the Roman Empire and its strength. This beast is said to be "strong exceedingly." This was true of the Roman Empire in its conquests of the ancient world. Nothing could stand in Rome's way. The major emphasis of this beast was its destructive power for with its iron teeth (Rome used iron in their implements of war) the beast "devoured and brake in pieces."

Alexander's Grecian Empire moved rapidly but seldom crushed the people it conquered. By contrast the Roman Empire was ruthless in its destruction of civilizations and peoples killing thousands and taking captives by the hundreds of thousands and selling them into slavery. The Roman Empire, under the rulership of Julius Caesar and the other Caesars' who followed in his train, is pictured as a beast that devoured and crushed all of its enemies. Everything that was in this beast's path was ruthlessly trampled down by its feet ("and stamped the residue with the feet of it"). Nothing could stop this terrible ferocious beast from conquering. History reveals that Rome would devour and crush a much greater area than the earlier three kingdoms would. Thus, the mention of Rome's great devouring ability would suggest the extensive area that is conquered throughout the known world.

Daniel 7:19 adds some more description to this beast:

"Then I would know the truth of the fourth beast, which was diverse from all the others, exceeding dreadful, whose teeth *were of iron*, and his nails *of brass*; *which* devoured, brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with his feet."

The same beast is also said to have nails of brass and is once again given a frightful appearance of a wild monster eating and destroying everything in its path. When Daniel saw this beast with iron teeth, nails of bronze, and feet that trampled everything in its path he was undoubtedly stirred and frightened by its appearance. Rome fulfills the description of this monstrous beast. It was the empire that was in power during the time of Christ. It was this empire that gained more territory and power than any previous kingdom or empire. It indeed was a beast that was unparalleled in power, ferocity, size, and conquering ability.

Revived Roman Empire
("and it had ten horns")

Daniel 7:7 gives one more 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”). 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. The horns are then interpreted to mean ruling kings that would rise up and dominate a revived form of the Roman Empire.

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 of 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”). Daniel chapter two also envisions the revived Empire as being connected to the historical Roman Empire (Dan. 2:40-41). The fact that this end-time empire will “devour the whole earth” (Dan. 7:23) does not mean the Revived Roman Empire will *consist* of all the nations of the world; it means 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 will actually come against the Roman Empire before the Tribulation Period ends (Dan. 11:40-45). The horns are linked or connected with the Old Roman Empire (Dan. 7:7) and 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.

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). 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 says 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 that it could overtake three of them. With his political genius the Antichrist will overthrow three of the 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 may convince three kings to come

under his rule and authority. He might subdue them or overthrow their power by bringing them under his own umbrella of power. 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 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.

One thing is certain; 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 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 passages indicate that these 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. All the 10 kings will yield their power to support the beast (Rev. 17:12-13, 17), 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 (“one hour”) when 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. The ten kings will consolidate their empires under the Antichrist by the middle of the Tribulation Period. This consolidation of nations under the Antichrist will cause a war to break out at the middle of the Tribulation Period (Dan. 11:40-45), as other nations contest the Antichrist’s power in the Middle East. However, the Antichrist will defeat his enemies and rise to a place of world dominance and dictatorship (Rev. 13:3-8).

One thing is certain; 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 will be the new world Caesar that will rule the world through this powerful coalition of nations that are united together to form the revived Roman Empire of the end times (Rev. 13:3-4).

Heads, Hills, and Horns

(Revelation 17:9-14)

Revelation 17:9

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

This unusual expression ("the mind which hath wisdom") introduces a difficult and complex aspect of this end-time vision. The angel (Rev. 17:1) is saying that it will take much wisdom and spiritual insight to understand this symbolism of this end-time prophecy and specifically the meaning of the beast's kingdom. The truth that is being presented here in a symbolical fashion requires spiritual insight to be understood (Rev. 13:8). This is apparent for the difficulty of its interpretation has resulted in many various interpretations, some of which are far-fetched, and which have nothing to do with what John wanted to convey. In actuality, we see the course of world history represented by these seven mountains.

The interpretation of verse nine is being given because of something that was presented earlier in picture form within the same chapter.

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."

A woman was seen to be sitting upon a scarlet colored beast, which had seven heads and ten horns. In other words, the beast that this woman sits upon or controls is identified as a seven-headed dragonish type of monster. In verses nine and ten the interpretation of this vision is being given by the angel and only those who have wisdom will be able to discern the exact meaning of the vision. Wisdom comes from correct interpretation and proper exegesis of a text of Scripture. This particular text poses some interpretive challenges and therefore wisdom is needed if we are going to correctly understand it. So here we go and may God give us wisdom.

"The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth." The seven heads are said to be seven mountains on which the whore (harlot church) sits during the first half of the Tribulation Period before being destroyed by the beast or Antichrist and his kingdom at the midway point to give rise to world worship and dictatorship of the Antichrist (Rev. 17:16).

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 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.

The convening Parliament of World Religions in the summer of 1993 consisted of over 150 religions from Buddhism to Catholicism. All were represented at this meeting. The outcome of the meeting was "The Declaration of Global Ethic" which sought to outline the core values and beliefs common to all faiths." The stage is being set for the end-time apostate ecumenical church. So the woman represented in this vision is not merely the Roman Catholic Church with her city of Rome and the Vatican.

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 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 or kingdoms. The best interpretation is taken from the text itself.

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."

Verse ten is explaining the interpretation of verse nine and it literally reads, “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.”

I agree with these conclusions. We must remember that in the prophetic Scriptures mountains are symbolic of kingdoms (Dan. 2:35, 44-45; Jer. 51:25). 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. We also know that the reference to kings is also a reference to their kingdoms that they ruled since a king and the ruler’s kingdom was used interchangeably (Dan. 2:37-38, 44; 7:17; 23). 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 point is this. Since the mountains (vs. 9) represent kings or their corresponding kingdoms (vs. 10) they obviously cannot refer to literal mountains on which the city of Rome sits. Instead, they refer to historical and prophetic world kingdoms with their appropriate rulers or prominent kings. This is what John is teaching. *Thus, the scarlet-arrayed harlot (apostate ecumenical church) is seen to be a wicked religious system that is supported through the ages by seven world kingdoms.* She is seen riding all the ancient kingdoms of the world through history. These heads are then interpreted as mountain kingdoms on the landscape of history. The woman is seen riding the beast that had seven heads (Rev. 17:3). The seven heads on this

beast are then representative of the history and prophecy of the seven world mountain kingdoms (empires) with their prominent kings, which have supported pagan religion throughout the centuries of time. False religion has infected all the previous world kingdoms. The teaching is that every Gentile kingdom and king that ruled the known world has been supportive of pagan religion, which originated in the Mesopotamia area and the ancient city of Babylon (Gen. 11:1-9). The woman (pagan religion) has been riding the six heads or Gentile world empires of ancient history (Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome) and will do so in the future when the seventh head or revived Roman Empire takes shape under the power of the final Gentile king – the Antichrist.

The meaning of the heads (Rev. 17:3) is that they are representative of mountain-kingdoms (Rev. 17:9-10) or dominant kingdoms upon the landscape of world history which have ruled over Israel. The Bible is not talking about the geographical location of the beast's kingdom with the figure of seven heads or mountain kingdoms but the *history* of the world kingdoms that will culminate in the final world kingdom (the seventh head or mountain kingdom) under the rule of Antichrist. This dismisses the whole ideal that the city of Rome is being referenced. The city of Rome does not fit the description of seven heads or mountain kingdoms.

Charles Dyer said:

“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.”

Let's try and put everything in perspective. The woman, who is a religious entity of apostate and pagan religion (Rev. 17:5), has corrupted the six Gentile world empires of history, and will do so with the seventh world kingdom, which is the revived Roman Empire (Rev. 17:2). All the heads are seen to be corrupted by this harlot woman. She is once again seen riding the beast which is linked to the seventh head or final empire that will rule the world – the revived Roman Empire consisting of ten key kingdoms and kings (Rev. 17:12). The image of the beast has a dual emphasis throughout the book of Revelation. It refers to both the final empire of the Antichrist (seventh head) as well as the personal Antichrist. The term beast is then a

designation for both the personal Antichrist and his final seventh world empire that he rules (the revived Roman Empire). Confusion will exist if one does not interpret the term beast as having a dual emphasis – the kingdom of the Antichrist and the Antichrist himself (Rev. 13:1-10). This interpretation scheme fits the prophetic imagery of identifying a king with his kingdom (Dan. 2:37-38, 44).

So here is the prophetic scenario and “here is the mind which hath wisdom” (Rev. 17:9). The woman has religiously corrupted the six heads or world mountain kingdoms of ancient history with their prominent leaders and will do so with the final seventh head of prophecy, which is the revived Roman Empire, under the final king the Antichrist. The woman (a pagan religious system) has corrupted all the world kingdoms and will do so with the future world kingdom under the Antichrist. The Antichrist will likely come from the land of Assyria (Syria and Iraq) which will become the eastern sector of the newly Revived Roman Empire. Modern-day Syria and Iraq occupy the ancient land of Assyria. This land was part of the old Roman Empire.

The ancient Roman Empire covered a more extensive area than just Europe. It included such regions as Britain, Spain, and such areas as Egypt and Mesopotamia. The Antichrist will be linked with the people of the Roman Empire (Dan. 9:26). Of course, the Romans included those subjects inhabiting the whole empire at its zenith. They weren't simply Romans from Rome of Italy. They included citizens and subjects from such western regions as Britain and Spain and diverse regions such as those who live in Egypt and Assyria. Thus, the Antichrist's Roman connection will come from his emergence out of the land of the Roman Empire. He is Roman because he will be living inside the boundaries of the Old Roman Empire. In short, he will emerge from the same domain of the old Roman Empire from which the other ten kings of the revived Roman Empire have emerged (Dan. 7:24). However, the exact land from which the Antichrist emerges seems to be connected to the ancient land of Assyria.

The Antichrist is seen to come from the same land of Antiochus Epiphanes who was a powerful Syrian general and wicked ruler of the Grecian Kingdom who hated the Jews. The land and career of the Antichrist is linked to the historical figure of Antiochus Epiphanes and

the place where he once ruled as king (Dan. 8:23-25). The prophecy and tactics of the Syrian king Antiochus (Dan. 11:21-35) are linked to the prophecy of the Antichrist in the end times (Daniel 11:36-44). The end times related to the days of Antiochus are a foreshadowing of the end times related to the Antichrist. It's interesting that no difference between their kingships and areas of rule are mentioned between the historical and prophetic narratives. The two prophecies assume that both will be Assyrian kings and that they will seek to dominate all people.

We know that the domain of Syria became part of the Roman Empire in 64 B.C. as a result of Pompeii's conquest. This means that the Antichrist qualifies as Roman, since he is linked to the land of Assyria, which was part of the old Roman Empire. The "people of the prince that shall come" (Dan. 9:26) were Roman citizens. Daniel says that the coming prince (the Antichrist) is linked to these Roman people who destroyed Jerusalem in A. D. 70. This means that the Antichrist must come from some area in the domain of the old Roman Empire. Of course, it doesn't require that he must come out of Italy or its capital, Rome. It simply means he must be considered a Roman citizen within the boundaries of the original Roman Empire. This Roman Empire expanded to many countries and many different peoples became citizens of the Roman kingdom.

William Newell states the Antichrist will be one "who will arise from a definite locality originally included in the fourth of the great Gentiles world dominions of Daniel 2 and 7, which we know to have been the Roman Empire." Syria was part of the old Roman Empire. Therefore, if the Antichrist comes out of Syria like Antiochus, his forerunner, he would qualify as a Roman citizen of the ancient Roman Empire, since Rome captured this area. Since the Antichrist is to be linked to the Roman people we must be sure that he lives within the boundaries of the old Roman Empire. If he lies in the Syria region and comes forth from the ancient land of Assyria and Babylon he could be called "the Assyrian" (Micah 5:5) and still qualify as a Roman Caesar that can rule the Revived Roman Empire. The land of Syria/Iraq was in the eastern sector of the Roman Empire.

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).

My point is this. 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 is 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, which is undergoing construction even as we speak. Saddam Hussein has spent millions on rebuilding this city. Why? It's because Babylon will be the headquarters of religious apostasy (Rev. 17) and world commerce (Rev. 18) in the end times and it will all be connected to a man that has arisen from the ancient sands of Assyria.

The desire of pagan religion is once again being heard, "Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven" (Gen. 11:4). This scenario seems to fit into the sockets of Bible prophecy. We have a great harlot representative of a religious system (Rev. 17:5) that will influence the final world kingdom (Revived Roman Empire) and king (the Assyrian Antichrist) which are represented as the seventh head on the beast (Rev. 17:3). But this woman is also linked with the literal city of Babylon (Rev. 17:10) which will become the capital city, focal point, and headquarters of all world religion and commerce in the end times (Rev. 18). The site of modern Babylon is strategically located at the crossroads of Asia, Europe, and Africa and is not far from the Persian Gulf. It is also near the world's richest oil fields and has a virtually unlimited water supply from the Euphrates.

Those considerations led the famed historian Arnold Toynbee to proclaim that Babylon would be an ideal site for an important political and cultural center. He was right!

Both the religious apostasy and headquarters of the beast is linked to the city of Babylon. This is why we should keep our eyes on what is going on in Iraq, Syria, and the rebuilding of the ancient city of Babylon. Pagan religion and flowing oil (black gold) will allow this city to once again become a thriving headquarters for religious and economical prosperity. Both religion and commerce will work together in the end times in this rebuilt city and headquarters of the Assyrian Antichrist. The Antichrist will arise from the ancient sands and land of Assyria and take over the ten nations and kings that have linked together to represent the newly awakened and revived Roman Empire.

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). One way or other 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 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, which is the same area he has emerged from, 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 thorough this empire and world commerce center (Rev. 13:7-8).

The presence of the United States in the ancient land of Assyria today may very well be providing the groundwork and preparation for

all these events to transpire. More freedom and stability in this ancient Assyrian land may very well provide the necessary framework for this land to mushroom and become a world empire under the Antichrist. I believe that the restoration of Babylon and the Mesopotamian civilization in the land of Syria and Iraq is paving the way for its global significance in the end times. The ancient land of Assyria (Syria, Iraq, Babylon) has a prophetic destiny. It will be restored to its ancient glory and mighty Assyria and Babylon will become the capital city of religion and commerce of the revived, or should we say, revised Roman Empire (Isaiah 13; Jeremiah 51; Zechariah 5:5-11).

During the 1980's Iraq started rebuilding the ancient city of Babylon with the hope of turning it into a major tourist attraction. About six million a year was being spent on archaeological work and construction. At the same time the nation was involved in a war with Iran and Saddam Hussein was looking for a way to stir Iraqi anger against the Iranians. He remembered that Persia (Iran) helped destroy ancient Babylon. He then decided to pour hundreds of millions of dollars into rebuilding Babylon and to use it as a reminder that Iran previously attacked the city. Many of the ancient buildings, including the famous Tower of Babel, have now been rebuilt.

Here are some interesting facts about Iraq or the ancient land of Assyria. The Garden of Eden was in Iraq. Mesopotamia, which is now Iraq, was the cradle of civilization! Noah built the ark in Iraq. The Tower of Babel was in Iraq. Abraham was from Ur, which is in Southern Iraq! Isaac's wife Rebekah is from Nahor, which is in Iraq! Jacob met Rachel in Iraq. Jonah preached in Nineveh - which is in Iraq. Assyria, which is in Iraq, conquered the ten tribes of Israel. Amos cried out in Iraq! Babylon, which is in Iraq, destroyed Jerusalem. Daniel was in the lion's den in Iraq! The three Hebrew children were in the fire in Iraq (Jesus had been in Iraq also as the fourth person in the fiery furnace!) Belshazzar, the King of Babylon saw the "writing on the wall" in Iraq. Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, carried the Jews captive into Iraq. Ezekiel preached in Iraq. The wise men were from Iraq. Peter preached in Iraq. The book of Revelation speaks of the city of Babylon which was a city in Iraq! Israel is the nation most often mentioned in the Bible. But do you know which nation is second? It is Iraq! However, this is not the name

that is used in the Bible. The names used in the Bible are Babylon, Land of Shinar, and Mesopotamia. The word Mesopotamia means between the two rivers, more exactly between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. The name Iraq means country with deep roots. Indeed Iraq is a country with deep roots and is a very significant country and land in the Bible. No other nation, except Israel, has more history and prophecy associated with it than Iraq.

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.”

What are the seven heads (Rev. 17:3) or mountain kingdoms and kings (Rev. 17:9-10) that John is referencing in this verse? We are going to verify in this study that they refer to the seven world empires or kingdoms that have ruled the known world in their times. Five of these empires (Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece) had fallen or passed off the world scene. One was in existence during John’s day (Rome) and one was yet to come (Revived Roman Empire). 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.

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.”

These heads or Gentile kingdoms of power and rule over Israel are mentioned in history and prophecy as being infected by Babylonian religion and paganism (Rev. 17:5). The course of world history is represented by these seven heads. Some interpreters have simply

tried to identify the kings as prominent ruling Roman emperors who consecutively ruled in the Roman Empire up to John's day. This is not an acceptable interpretation for several reasons. First, John was envisioning seven different kingdoms and not just seven different rulers of the same kingdom. The history of different kingdoms lines up with Daniel's visions of the world empires (Daniel 2:32-44; 7:1-8). Second, the effect of Babylonian religion is portrayed as having an impact upon all world history and kingdoms (Rev. 17:5) – not just the kingdom (Rome) existing during John's day. Therefore, more than just one kingdom is represented in the seven-headed beast. Third, it is difficult to select the five Roman rulers who were most prominent in the same Roman kingdom. Instead of these five referring to individual kings ruling over the Roman Empire they refer to the great nations of the past who were empires and which were headed up by a prominent king. What nations were these?

When the Scriptures say "five are fallen" (Rev. 17:10) they are referring to the past historical empires who have come and passed off the world scene. These five kingdoms that are fallen, with their prominent kings mentioned in Scripture, are listed below.

"five are fallen" (Rev. 17:10)

1. Egypt - enslaved Israel for 400 years (Ex. 1-12)
*Prominent King - Pharaoh
2. Assyria - captured the northern kingdom of Israel (2 Kings 17)
*Prominent King – Sennacherib
3. Babylon - captured the southern kingdom of Israel (2 Kings 24)
*Prominent King – Nebuchadnezzar
4. Medo – Persia - absorbed the Babylonian Empire (Dan. 5:25-31)
*Prominent King – Cyrus
5. Greece – (absorbed the Medo-Persian Empire (Dan. 8:5-8)
*Prominent King – Alexander the Great

These five world empires refer to the past historical empires of history that have ruled the known world but have since passed off the world scene (“five are fallen”).

“and one is” (Rev. 17:10)

6. Rome – absorbed the Grecian Empire (Dan. 7:7; 9:26)
*Prominent King – Caesar

When the book of Revelation states “and one is” (Rev. 17:10) it is referring to the Roman Empire that was in existence in John’s day when he was writing. This would represent the sixth head on the beast vision (Rev. 17:3) and is interpreted as the sixth mountain kingdom (Rev. 17:9-10).

“the other is not yet come” (Rev. 17:10)

7. Revived Roman Empire – (ten kingdoms united together – Rev. 17:12) yet to rise as a world kingdom
*Prominent King – Antichrist

When the Scripture says that “the other is not yet come” (Rev. 17:10), this would be a direct reference to the seventh world empire, or the reunited Roman Empire of prophecy. This is represented by the seventh head on the beast vision (Rev. 17:3) which is then interpreted as the seventh mountain kingdom (Rev. 17:9-10). The visions found in chapters two and seven of Daniel, which explains the course of Gentile kingdoms that dominated the known world and Israel, line up perfectly with the seven heads on the beast vision (Rev. 17:3), which are interpreted as mountain kingdoms (Rev. 17:9-10). All of these prophecies are linked together and describe the course of Gentile kingdoms, as related to world history, and their dominance over the people of Israel (Luke 21:24). The repeated emphasis of seven heads on the beast in the book of Revelation (Rev. 12:3; 13:1; 17:3) represents the world kingdoms or empires that stretch from the beginning of the world to the kingdom of Christ (Rev. 11:15). The six heads portray how the different world kingdoms of ancient history will be a composite (embodiment or gathering together) into one final head (seventh head or kingdom) under the Antichrist (Rev. 13:2). In other words, certain facets or characteristics

of all the previous world kingdoms, represented by the empires of Babylon (the lion), Medo-Persia (bear), and Greece (leopard), will be seen in the final world power and kingdom of the end times, as well as its king (Antichrist).

The succession of world kingdoms (the heads on the beast) is designed to show how certain characteristics of the past six historical world kingdoms would be seen in the final or seventh head, which is the kingdom of the Antichrist, creating a hybrid kingdom that is related to the past kingdoms of ancient history (Rev. 13:1-3). In some way all of the ancient nations will experience a measure of political renewal and revival in the end times in the last Gentile kingdom (Revived Roman Empire) to rule the world and all will be destroyed with the return of the Messiah (Dan. 3:35, 44). Characteristics from the six previous heads or world kingdoms will culminate into one climactic seventh kingdom under the Antichrist. This is why they are all lined up together as heads on the beastly image. In addition, when the Antichrist finally becomes the undisputed individual ruler on the planet he will be “of the seven” (Rev. 17:11), which indicates that he will reflect characteristics of all the previous world kingdoms and their kings, and in some sense become an “eighth” (Rev. 17:11) kingdom and king, in and of himself. This will occur when the entire world bows down to specifically worship him as God (Rev. 13:14-15; 2 Thess. 2:4). When the Antichrist becomes the undisputed ruler and god of planet earth he will emerge as an independent eighth kingdom and king.

Thus, the heads represent the progression of Gentile kingdoms and their kings in relationship to Israel’s history, from Egypt (Pharaoh) to the Revived Roman Empire (Antichrist) of prophecy. The previous six heads or kingdoms will be reflected in the seventh kingdom (Revived Roman Empire – Rev. 13:2) and all seven heads or kingdoms will be reflected in the eighth kingdom and king (Rev. 17:11), which will be the personal Antichrist himself, who is independent of all the other kingdoms and kings. There will be a resurrection of all these ancient nations in the end times in the sense that they will be characteristically represented in the seventh head and final personal Antichrist.

Revelation 13:1-2

“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 (kingdom of Greece), and his feet were as the feet of a bear (kingdom of Medo-Persia), and his mouth as the mouth of a lion (kingdom of Babylon): and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.”

The beast once again has a dual emphasis and refers to both the kingdom of the Antichrist (Revived Roman Empire) and the personal Antichrist. This is because you can't have a kingdom without a king (Dan. 2:44). The beast of Revelation 13, like the beast of Revelation 17, is a composite image descriptive of both the final kingdom of the Antichrist (Revived Roman Empire) and the personal Antichrist. The personal Antichrist is emblematic of the kingdom he rules. Both he and his kingdom collectively is the beast of the book of Revelation. The point in all the beast verses is this. Both the kingdom of the Antichrist and personal Antichrist will follow in the train of the past Gentile kingdoms and kings that have ruled the known world and will possess similar traits of previous world kingdoms, as represented by Greece, Medo-Persia, and Babylon.

The kingdom of the Antichrist will be a Gentile kingdom and he will rule as a Gentile over his kingdom. The imagery of the “sea” is interpreted by Daniel to mean the sea of Gentile humanity out of which the world kingdoms would come (Daniel 7:1-3). We know this is true since the sea is linked to Gentile kingdoms (Ps. 144:7; Isa. 17:12-13; Jer. 46:7-9; 47:2) and since Daniel highlights each Gentile kingdom by giving animal and beastly figures that correspond to each world power (Babylon = lion, Medo-Persia = bear, Greece=leopard, Rome= terrible beast, Revived Roman Empire = terrible beast with ten horns). Revelation chapter 17 has shed light on the understanding of the numbers that are connected with the beastly vision in Revelation chapter 13. The seven heads refer to the history of Gentile empires (Rev. 17:9-10) that have been influenced by paganism and the future of a Revived Roman Empire that is also influenced (Rev. 17:1-5) by pagan anti-God religion, which stems from the historical past (Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persian, Greece, and Rome).

The emphasis in regards to prophecy is on the *seventh* head of the beast, 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 once again has ten horns with a crown on each horn. We have now seen that the end-time empire of the Antichrist will consist of ten kings (Rev. 17:12), which is represented by the “ten crowns” on the horns (Rev. 12:3). We also know that Daniel likened the ten horns on his image to ten kings that would arise on the world scene and give their countries to the power and rule of the Antichrist (Dan. 7:24).

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. The beast is then a picture of both his kingdom and personal king (Antichrist).

Revelation 13:2-3 says:

“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.”

The beast is pictured as possessing the same characteristics of the previous world kingdoms that were already outlined in Daniel 7:1-7. *The beast is a hybrid beast or mongrel and mixed breed, a composite of history’s Gentile kingdoms rolled into one.* It was seen to have the body of a leopard, which is descriptive of the Gentile kingdom of Greece (Dan. 7:6). Greece conquered the known world with great speed and swiftness. The same will be true about the beast’s future kingdom (Revived Roman Empire). The feet looked like the feet of a bear, which references the kingdom of Medo-Persia (Dan. 7:5). The feet of the bear would suggest strength, stability, and the ability to

conquer and trample down its enemies. It had the mouth of a lion, which answers to the kingdom of Babylon (Dan. 7:4). The mouth would suggest how the beast's kingdom would boast of great things like King Nebuchadnezzar (Dan. 4:30).

In summary, the final kingdom of Gentile kingdom would possess characteristics from all the previous kingdoms. It would conquer swiftly, control extensively, and communicate arrogantly. This beastly vision of Revelation 13:2-3 portrays how the final Gentile kingdom would possess characteristics of all the previous Gentile kingdoms and how the king (Antichrist) would also possess the same arrogance, pride, and power of the previous world rulers.

In one sense, the world kingdoms and kings of past history will unite together into a single Antichrist-kingdom and king at the end of history. The emphasis of the beast vision is on the seventh head *since the final Gentile kingdom and king will be the climax and composite of all the previous kingdoms and kings*. Daniel foresees his four kingdoms as a series of four snapshots through time but Revelation 13:2 portrays the same kingdoms united into a single snapshot at the end of time. This is further confirmed in 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 image of Nebuchadnezzar is seen to portray the four world kingdoms from the time of Daniel and envisions them all being destroyed at the end of time when the Messiah returns to earth. The four kingdoms depicted in the statue survive in some form throughout history, all four destined to be destroyed at the same time. The previous kingdoms existed in the area that the Roman Empire and Revived Roman Empire would control. Therefore, they are linked to the rise of this great end-time empire. Their previous existence ensured the existence of the future empire under the beast and therefore when the beast's Roman Empire is destroyed all the empires representative of Gentile ancient history would also be crushed. Therefore, we must conclude that each historical kingdom

will continue to exist in some form, at least characteristically, and unite into the final Gentile kingdom (Revived Roman Empire) under the Antichrist. Then, when the Messiah returns to establish the Millennial Kingdom, all the previous empires united together under the umbrella of the beast's Roman kingdom will be destroyed (Rev. 19:17-21).

Revelation 13:3

“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.”

This prophecy envisions an apparent dual death and restoration from the dead. One of the heads on the beastly vision was wounded in such a way that it suffered mortality. John seems to be teaching a death-to-life sequence. When John uses the descriptive language “as it were wounded to death” he was not stating that the beast does not actually die, or that it was not a genuine death (compare Revelation 5:6). The descriptive language is used to indicate the confirmation of the beast's death and his subsequent resurrection to life.

The dual emphasis of the beast must once again be taken into consideration since in verses 4-10 the personal Antichrist is clearly in view. The beast is both a kingdom (Revived Roman kingdom) and a king (personal Antichrist). The sixth head was the historical Roman kingdom that existed in John's day (Rev. 17:10). It would suffer a mortal wound and pass off the scene as a world power just like all the other previous kingdoms. The Roman Empire did die as a historical world power. But in time the deadly wound of this sixth head on the beast was seen to be healed. This speaks of a miraculous return from the historical past and a death that has already occurred in the past (Rev. 13:12). This will be true of both the kingdom of the beast (Revived Roman Empire) and the beast himself as a person (personal Antichrist). Both will return from the dead. This is a very interesting scenario.

In a very short period of time the reunification of the Roman Empire will take place under the power and leadership of the Antichrist (Rev. 17:12; Dan. 7:24). The ten individual co-ruling countries and kings, which have not yet been united together into one kingdom under one

ruler (“which have received no kingdom as yet” – Rev. 17:12), will come together under the Antichrist and “receive power as kings one hour with the beast” (Rev. 17:12). This hour presumably is the same length of the hour mentioned in Revelation 3:20 (seven years). The ten kings with their corresponding countries will give the Antichrist their formal authority and all at once the Roman Empire will be united as a superpower under one man. The Roman kingdom that was seemingly dead and gone will quickly reemerge and come back to life as a world power in the end times and eventually rule the world under the Antichrist (Rev. 13:7-8).

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. However, this poses a real problem since Satan is not given the authority over the realm of death (Rev. 1:18). There simply is no Biblical support that Satan has the power or is granted the power to raise even one soul from death or the grave. This gift is the sole prerogative of the Father and He has delegated this privilege only to His Son (John 5:24-29; 11:25-26). Since this is true, we must ask ourselves what the proper interpretation of this verse is in respect to the beast’s personal resurgence from the dead. How is the beast brought back to life? The answer is this. Reincarnation!

Many over the years have simply stated that the Antichrist will fake what appears to be a death and resurrection but this seems unlikely. As a result, more recent students of prophecy have begun to actually teach that the Antichrist will die and be brought back to life by Satan. However, this does not square with what the Bible says concerning God’s authority over death and resurrection (Rev. 1:18; 9:1-3). There is another scenario which seems to carry some interpretive weight. It’s the scenario of *reincarnation*. The Antichrist will make the bold claim and lie that he has been reincarnated as some ancient figure of the past which is connected with Assyria.

In Revelation 13:1-10 John is viewing the kingdoms and kings throughout the course of history. Since we are looking at history, both

the final kingdom (Revived Roman Empire) and king (personal Antichrist) are seen to have historical roots, which once again begin to grow, causing both a final kingdom and king to reemerge on the world scene in the end times. What a fascinating scenario this is!

The death of the sixth head was used as a picture to illustrate the death of the past Roman Empire. Therefore, it's the historical Roman Empire (sixth head) that received the mortal wound and died, so it could reemerge as the seventh head or kingdom of the world. In a similar way, the future Antichrist will also claim to have suffered a mortal wound in the historical past (perhaps during the era of the sixth head or kingdom), but has miraculously come back to life through reincarnation, in order to become the new Caesar to rule the world from this Revived Roman Empire.

Satan has said from the very beginning, "Ye shalt not surely die" (Gen. 3:4). This has been the lie of the ages that pagan religions have taught and believed. It is the lie of reincarnation. Millions believe this lie today. The New Age movement and eastern philosophy have all been supporters of the doctrine of reincarnation. I believe the pagan religious world and New Age Movement with its doctrine of karma or reincarnation is preparing the world to accept the testimony of a man who will make the bold claim that he has been reincarnated from the dead. Reincarnation is the satanic substitute for resurrection! Satan hates the doctrine of resurrection for it promises hope and eternal life through Jesus Christ (2 Tim. 1:10).

Satan denies the resurrection of Christ (this is why liberals deny it to this day) for he knows that it means eternal life for those who embrace its message. Therefore, Satan will not want to mimic Christ's resurrection. He opposes resurrection and substitutes reincarnation as the solution to man's problems. If man believes in reincarnation he suddenly has no accountability to God, no fear of death, and no future judgment for his sins. He is simply recycled into the next life. Death is simply a new door into the next life. Satan wants to promote this age-old lie of reincarnation and he will do this through the Antichrist.

Reincarnation is a possible and probable interpretation of the beast's death wound and resurgence back to life (Rev. 13:3). The Antichrist

will make the bold claim that he had died in the past as some popular legendary figure linked to the Roman Empire, or more specifically a king linked to his own Assyrian dynasty (Sargon, Shalmaneser, Sennacherib), and has now come back to life. He received a death wound in the past, as a world leader that ruled in the domain of the old Roman Empire, but he has now been reinstated once again as a capable world leader through reincarnation. Perhaps he will claim to be Nebuchadnezzar who was king of Babylon during the Babylonian Empire. Babylon was in the area of the old Assyrian dynasty. Since he will be the king of rebuilt Babylon he may claim to be King Nebuchadnezzar in the past life but now has been reincarnated. Perhaps he will go back even further and claim to be Nimrod who was the original founder of the city of Babylon (Gen. 10:8-9; Micah 5:6). The return of Nimrod, the founder of Babylon, may be a clever way to promote his kingship over the rebuilt Babylon.

It appears that the Antichrist will claim to come back to life from the ancient past through reincarnation and prove that his claim of reincarnation is a genuine experience through his supernatural abilities (2 Thess. 2:9). As a result, God will allow the world to believe Satan's age-old lie of reincarnation for they will believe that the Antichrist or beast has been recycled from a previous life existence as some kind of legendary figure (2 Thess. 2:11). The whole world will wonder in amazement in idolatrous worship (Rev. 13:8) as they accept the lie of reincarnation and worship a man who is apparently some legendary figure posing as the only true God and ruler of planet earth (2 Thess. 2:4). The entire unregenerate world will wonder and worship the beast in view of his reincarnation and New-Age godhood status (Rev. 13:8).

Revelation 17:8 records:

"The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is."

Remembering the dual nature of the beast we must understand the kingdom and king significance of this statement. In one sense, the kingdom of Rome that once thrived as a powerful kingdom during

John's day ("that was") would one day pass off the scene ("and is not") but come back to life as the revived Roman Empire of prophecy ("and yet is"). In another sense, the personal beast (Antichrist) will also claim to have existed as some legendary figure of the past ("that was") and which died ("and is not"). But he will also make the bold claim that he has been reincarnated and has come back to life ("and yet is").

This is a precise description of reincarnation. The Antichrist or beast will make the bold claim that he is a reincarnated individual from history and prove this is true by his miraculous abilities. The specific cause for the world's amazement will be Antichrist's reincarnation. Of course, this will be a lying wonder (2 Thess. 2:9). The Antichrist will not actually die in the past as some historical figure and come back to life. He never truly dies and comes back to life through reincarnation. This is simply a lie. The Antichrist will claim to receive a mortal wound in the past and then come back to life. This is why John sees the head dying and coming back to life (Rev. 13:3) which is then linked to the personal Antichrist (Rev. 13:12, 14).

Revelation 17:11 uses similar wording:

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

This verse means 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 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 and 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. Such a government would operate through a world headquarters, a world court, and even a world military.

Several references speak about the beast coming forth from the abyss (Rev. 17:8 - “and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit” and Rev. 11:7 – “the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit”). These references do not suggest a literal death and resurrection from the abyss but indicate that the Antichrist’s political and miraculous power is Satanic and demonic in origin (Rev. 13:4). In short, Satan will empower this man through a demon that will be left loose from the abyss. The abyss is a place where specific demons are bound waiting their judgment (Rev. 9:11; Luke 8:31). The truth is this. The Antichrist’s power, promotion, and politics will come from this hellish place. Apparently a demon spirit will be released from this prison house of wicked spirits and enter the beast. When the wicked spirit enters the man he will possess a demon spirit in his body that has come from the abyss. Hence, it can then be said that the beast himself has come from the abyss since he now has a demonic spirit inside of him that originated from the abyss.

The Scriptures speak about the demonic “prince of Persia” (Dan. 10:13) and “prince of Grecia” (Dan. 10:20). This tells us that other demonic princes are involved in the wickedness associated with the empires of world history. There was evidently a prince of Babylon and a prince of Rome that caused these wicked empires and kings to hate God and truth. Therefore, it’s not out of the question for a demonic prince previously associated with Rome or Assyria to enter the leader of the future Roman Empire – the Antichrist. This is why the Antichrist

will be endowed with supernatural abilities, superhuman intelligence, and charisma (Dan. 7:8, 20; 8:23; 2 Thess. 2:9). A particular demon will cause the Antichrist to be superhuman in various ways – mentally, supernaturally, and charismatically. Perhaps this demon will have previously possessed the very same historical figure that the Antichrist claims to be in his reincarnated state. This is at least a possible scenario.

This demon will also plant within the mind of the Antichrist the lie of reincarnation and enable him to sell it to the world. When demonic spirits enter people today they are known to take the identity of human beings, often claiming to be some important person from the past. Since these intelligent spirits are well acquainted with other people and places, it is easy for them to communicate facts about past historical people. They call and bring to the attention of those who they indwell real-life memories from centuries past. Such will be the case with the Antichrist. This will amaze the world. The demon spirit, which may have indwelt a previous king in past history and then become confined to the abyss (Luke 8:31), will actually be released from this place to indwell the end-time Antichrist, so it can be said that this demon indwelt man, who is now governed by this wicked spirit, has come from the abyss.

Conclusion

Revelation 12:3 now brings us back to our heads and horns imagery and once again relates this seven-headed monster to the working of Satan throughout the course of the world history.

“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.”

This seven-headed dragonish vision reveals that the seven world empires, which are identified by their crowned kings (“seven crowns”), are related to both history and prophecy. The course of world history can be viewed in one glance when looking at this seven-headed monster. The empires on the landscape of world history stretch from the days of Egypt to the Revived Roman Empire and they are directly empowered by Satan (Rev. 13:2). Satan is said to be

the dragon (Rev. 12:9), who is behind all the world kingdoms, infecting them with pagan religion and godless philosophy. He will influence the final Roman Empire (the seventh head) that is going to emerge on the world scene in the end times as a composite of all the previous pagan kingdoms and kings (Rev. 13:3).

Romans 12:3 reveals how satanically inspired the past historical heads or kingdoms were and how the seventh head or final kingdom will follow in the same train of satanic deception and power (Rev. 12:4). The “name” (Rev. 13:1) and “names” of blasphemy (Rev. 17:3) written upon the heads indicate how Satan has inspired the historical Gentile kingdoms and kings, along with the final Gentile ruler and his kingdom, to be pagan, and blaspheme the true God of Heaven (Dan. 11:36; Rev. 13:6). Both the kingdom of the beast and the personal beast himself will be satanically inspired.

The Bible once again predicts that there will be a Revived Roman Empire under the Antichrist consisting of “ten horns” which we have already interpreted as being ten kings that emerge from the same geographical region of the Roman Empire (Dan. 7:24; Rev. 17:12). The course of world history leading up the seventh or final world kingdom and king can be summarized in a final study box. The prophetic parallels cannot be easily dismissed.

Prophetic Parallels

“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).