

**GIMME DAT END TIMES RELIGION – PART XV**

*This chapter may present somewhat of a challenge to the traditional view of End Times prophecy. Thus is the scenario that passes for the standard interpretation in many circles. The Antichrist will come on the scene after a war and / or a series of catastrophic events presenting Israel and the world with their last best hope for peace. So far so good! He will hale from the EU, which will be the Revived Roman Empire, - tied closely with the Church of Rome. (And that's where the problems start. As we've shown in the past, Scripture seems to indicate that the Antichrist will likely be a professing Muslim, coming as the Islamic Messiah, the Mahdi. In comparing the Islamic writings with the Bible, we see that the predicted careers of the Mahdi and the Antichrist are almost identical.) During the course of his reign Israel will be attacked by a leader named Gog from Magog, understood by many to be Russia. The Russians will lead a coalition that will include Iran, Turkey and many of the outer tier of the Islamic former Soviet Republics, - (all the 'STANS' – Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan etc.) That's essentially right, except for one rather big thing...The Scriptural evidence that Russia will be a part of that coalition is fairly controversial. In fact the Bible may have another prophetic role picked out for her. So let's begin.*

**THE 'STANDARD' PROPHETIC LINE**

**“Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters, with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication.”**

(Revelation 17:1-2)

Let's begin by looking at what has become the more traditional and popularly dominant view of prophetic interpretation. Here are the words of Daniel 7:7-8: **“After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong. It had huge iron teeth; it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns. I was considering the horns, and there was another horn, a little one, coming up among them, before whom three of the first horns were plucked out by the roots. And there, in this horn, were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous words.”**

Daniel is describing here both the system and the man that will dominate the 7-year period at the end of this age known as the Tribulation.

But why do Bible scholars believe that this refers to a revived Roman Empire? Well, let's look at some more Scripture. Daniel chapter 2 describes a dream given to Nebuchadnezzar, the King of Babylon. The dream has prophetic significance, - but is only able to be interpreted by Daniel. The King won't tell him, so Daniel learns of both the dream and its interpretation directly from God. The prophetic vision is one of a statue with its various parts representing the succession of empires that would rule the Middle East including the Holy Land. During the final empire, as Chuck Missler puts it, “God Himself would establish his own kingdom with the ‘stone cut without hands’”, (Daniel 2:45), the coming Messiah, Jesus Himself.<sup>1</sup> Historians have recognized that the empires of the statue represent in succession; - Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome. Each succeeding world power conquered and took the mantle of power from the previous. Now at the bottom of course, this statue of a man was divided into its 2 legs and then to 10 toes, - 5 in each foot. This division represents the division of the Roman Empire into its Western and Eastern halves during the Middle Ages. While the Western leg disintegrated, the Eastern Empire, known as Byzantium, survived in Constantinople until it was conquered in 1453. Hang on to that little nugget of information. It will become important later. But still: Why a New Rome?

Let's keep going. Daniel had another vision recorded in chapter seven. In this one he sees four beasts, - again depicting the four empires. And each of the **“four great beasts came up from the sea”**, (Daniel 7:2) representing the nations and peoples. **“The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings”**, (Daniel 7:4) - the very symbol of Babylon. The next was a bear representing Medo-Persia. Cyrus the Great conquered Babylon when he established the Persian Empire. Following

that was a leopard with four heads. The Armies of Alexander the Great conquered with the swiftness of a leopard, establishing an empire that stretched from Egypt to India. At his death his kingdom was divided among his four leading generals.<sup>2</sup> Finally, Daniel saw **“A fourth beast, exceedingly terrifying...different from all the beasts that had preceded it...[with] ten horns”**. (Daniel 7:7) These 10 horns of this beast, (and horns represent power), are the ten kings that comprise this manifestation of empire. Daniel 7:8 goes on to tell us: **“I was considering the horns, and there was another horn, a little one, coming up among them, before whom three of the first horns were plucked out by the roots. And there, in this horn, were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous words”**. This describes the rise of the Antichrist himself from within this imperial system.<sup>3</sup>

But there's more. Daniel 9:24-26 describes the exact timing of Christ's first coming, his execution and references the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple in AD 70. And it tells us who will work that destruction and why it is significant. **“And the people of the prince who is to come Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary.”** (Daniel 9:26) It was of course the Roman legions that wreaked their havoc on Jerusalem and the Second Temple in 70 AD; - specifically Legions V, X, XII, and XV.<sup>4</sup> So Bible scholars recognize that the **“prince who is to come”** will have some connection to the people that fulfilled this prophecy of destruction. So there will be some connection with the ancient Roman Empire. [But what will that connection be? We will revisit that question later.]

So let's return to the vision of the statue in Daniel 2. In verses 41 & 42, the prophet is giving the explanation of the final version of the final empire; The kingdom of the Antichrist. **“Whereas you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; yet the strength of the iron shall be in it, just as you saw the iron mixed with ceramic clay. And as the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly fragile”**. Many see the ethnically mixed European Union; - possessing essentially the borders of the Western leg of the old Roman Empire; - as The Revived Roman Empire. Others point to the UN with the ten horns being the 10 bio-regions into which the globe was divided.<sup>5</sup> Still others look at the burgeoning division of the world into 10 economic regions such as the EU and NAFTA.

So boiling all of this down, here's what we've got. The **“beast”** is a system, or kingdom of world domination. It will find its ultimate expression in the man that heads it, the Antichrist. Now look at the next verse as it describes a kingdom that will combine all the characteristics of the vision found in Daniel 7. Yes, the final world empire of Antichrist will take on the most fearful character of all the previous world empires. **“Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority.”** (Rev 13:2) This world power will draw its authority and its ability to govern from Satan himself. And it will well serve his destructive purposes.

### **The Case For The New Rome**

Writing for Contender Ministries, Jennifer Rast gives an interesting summary of the case for the EU as fulfillment of chapters 2 & 7 of Daniel. The European Union grew out of the European Coal and Steel Community formed in 1950. By 1965 the Treaty of Brussels began to put in place the rudimentary foundation of European government, for what many believe is the Revived Roman Empire. There were 10 member states in the original EU, and those ten remain the “permanent member states”. They now form what is known as the Western European Alliance.<sup>6</sup> The 10-nation Western European Union (WEU), revived by the Rome Declaration of 1984, serves as the legal & de facto military arm of the EU. Right now, both organizations are controlled by one man; Javier Solana. Solana serves as Secretary General for the WEU and Foreign Minister for the full EU.<sup>7</sup> He is at the head of this reviving Roman Empire. The really interesting part of all this is that the authority to legally wield that military power was granted on June 5, 2000, by something called the WEU Assembly Recommendation 666. In #12 of that bit of legislation, the High Representative, (Javier Solana), was granted the power to take personal control of the EU's armed forces in case of an emergency.<sup>8</sup> That legislation, - Recommendation 666, - has created an office / mechanism through which Solana, - or some future leader, - can assume authority of the whole of Europe, all the while maintaining the veneer of legality.

In 2007, Germany is at the head of the EU and is leading a drive for the consolidation of power within the organization through a drive to secure the ratification of the EU constitution. One official EU document reveals that “Europe wishes to be acknowledged alongside the United States of America as the voice of the West”. This is then an open bid for superpower status. And interestingly, in light of Recommendation 666, the essential next step that the EU strategy group looked at was the creation of a unified European Army.<sup>9</sup> With such a Continental Army, the EU could project power around the world.

Interestingly, Europe has already begun to flex its political muscle, attempting to insert its agenda into the politics of the Middle East. Remember the coming treaty of Daniel 9:27. Javier Solana has been active in promoting and predicting an imminent solution to the Arab / Israeli question. Lending his support to the Saudi-Arab peace initiative, he is promoting a ‘comprehensive peace’ plan to be implemented in the not too distant future.<sup>10</sup> High Commissioner Solana, has pointed Europe’s foreign policy markedly toward the Arab / Palestinian side. And Europe is uniting behind him. In the process he garnered the support of even former political opponents, with retiring French President Chirac saying, “We have finally decided that Europe will speak with one voice, that of Mr Solana”.<sup>11</sup>

That has become the official position of the Council of Europe. In a recent official publication, the EU identified “Europe with the rebuilding of Babel”, the ancient symbol of Man’s rebellion against God. A poster was put out showing the people of today’s Europe rebuilding the Tower of Babel with the motto “Europe: Many Tongues One Voice”.<sup>12</sup> So taken is the EU with this God-defying symbolism that it incorporated that very ‘unfinished Babel’ design into the parliament building in Strasbourg, France, - a replica that some of the European press has dubbed, “Eurobabel”.<sup>13</sup> Another favorite symbol of this New Europe is the Woman Riding the Beast, an echo of Revelation 17:7. Europe has embraced this symbolism in posters, stamps and statues.

### **An Alternate Prophetic Road**

But could this 10-horned beast mean more than just Europe, - or a revived Rome? After all, Daniel 7:23 tells us that this last kingdom “**will devour the whole earth**”. There are many Bible scholars that believe that this ‘beast’ will manifest itself in the form of a truly world government. The blueprint for such was laid out, - again in Rome, - by the Club of Rome back in 1972. It has since then been advanced by the World Constitution and Parliament Association, which works toward a constitutional world government and the dividing of the world into regions, - ten coincidentally, that their official documents refer to as “kingdoms”. Of course, Revelation refers to 10 kingdoms too, - all controlled by the Antichrist. Those divisions include the EU, the North American Union, and similar groups for Central Asia, Latin America, Central Africa and other regions throughout the world. This too would fulfill the prophetic requirement of a “**covenant with the many**”.<sup>14</sup>

Now, the idea that the government of the Antichrist will involve more than just the EU does NOT mean that the “**the prince who is to come**” (Daniel 9:26) will not be the one that ‘confirms’ the covenant. It does not mean that a Revived Rome, even united with a Christ-less church centered in Rome will not lead the world into the Tribulation. It just means that God’s fulfillments are beyond our present knowledge. “**For now we see through a glass darkly**”. (1Corinthians 13:12)

So that’s the standard case for the Roman Antichrist. But there’s a very good argument for an entirely different manifestation. Next we’ll begin to look at the compelling case for an Islamic Antichrist. And there may just be a way to reconcile some of the differences between the two views.

## **CLOSING IN ON DANIEL’S TREATY**

You have to love the specificity of Biblical prophecy. When God does something: - He goes for exact fulfillment. There is no mistaking for instance the famous prophecy of the seventy weeks found in Daniel 9. We’ve covered it before, so I won’t belabor it here. But in that chapter, Daniel is given a word that prophecies, - to the day, - the exact time that Jesus would come into his kingdom, the first time. That prophecy was fulfilled precisely on the first Palm Sunday, when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the back of a donkey, exactly 173,880 days after the proclamation to rebuild the Temple, - just as predicted.

Jump forward to today. Daniel 9 speaks again to our day, telling us to expect a treaty with the “**many**”, - a new Temple, and a reinstatement of the sacrificial system. Zechariah 12:2-3 tells us that Jerusalem will become “... **a cup of trembling unto all the people round about**” and “**a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it**”. There is coming a day in the not too distant future when this prophecy will be fulfilled. We begin to see its outlines even today.

With that light: Here are the recent developments we’ve seen. Israel’s PM Olmert & Palestinian leader Abbas have been meeting to put together the outline of a final status agreement before the Middle East Peace Conference to be held in Washington. Pushed by the US, it is hoped that the agreement might be announced at the summit at that time. All the major issues are already on the table. In many ways, the agreement may look a lot like the deal negotiated back in 2000, which was ultimately rejected by Yasser Arafat. That deal would have given the Palestinians the Temple Mount, East Jerusalem as well as Judea, Samaria and Gaza. Again, there are reports that the Israelis are willing to hand over control of the Temple Mount, - possibly to a group consisting of Jordan, Egypt and the Palestinian Authority.<sup>15</sup>

## **IRANIAN DEVELOPMENTS**

The short of it: Iran wants to build its own nukes. Israel, Europe & the US think that that’s a horribly dangerous idea. Now the continued Iranian intransigence seems to be steeling the backbone of at least the new, French President, Nicolas Sarkozy. In a recent speech, he came out strongly for strong new sanctions against Iran, as the only alternative to what he described as “catastrophic: the Iranian bomb or the bombing of Iran”. What’s remarkable, is that Sarkozy so clearly warned of the West’s intention to, - if necessary, - attack Iranian installations to stop Tehran from acquiring the bomb. Back in the spring, Russia warned its Middle Eastern ally that Iran might expect a US attack “coordinated with an Israeli strike against Syria”.<sup>16</sup> The French President’s remarks came on the heels of Pentagon evidence that Iran has stepped up the flow of arms into Iraq,<sup>17</sup> attacked Kurdish villages in Iraq,<sup>18</sup> and announced that they had developed a 2000 lbs smart bomb.<sup>19</sup>

## **THEY’VE BEEN COMING**

The White House has confirmed that Iraqi terrorists have been making their way across the border into the US since 2001, - well before the Iraq invasion. National Intelligence Director Mike McConnell revealed that members of terror groups such as Hezbollah have been apprehended and terror attacks thwarted, thereby saving lives. Typically, the Iraqis make their way to Central or South America and then work their way across the US / Mexican border, often with forged documents. Fourteen Iraqi nationals were caught in 2006, and seventeen more so far this year.<sup>20</sup>

## **FEAR OF THE GOSPEL**

There was good news from Afghanistan...with a catch. The Taliban agreed to give up the remaining South Korean missionary hostages it holds in exchange for the withdrawal of South Korean troops and a promise to stop all missionary activity.<sup>21</sup> The event just gives more evidence of a sad fact of our existence: The World System lives in dread of the Gospel message. This is true across the Muslim world where officially or unofficially, many are imprisoned, beaten, stoned or lose employment for their faith. Pastors are killed in Bangla Desh. Christian protesters are physically attacked at Gay Pride events (Philadelphia) and the ACLU lashed out at anything Christian that moves. Perhaps saddest of all is that portions of the Church have tried to make peace with the world by ‘*compromising*’ by choosing to ignore the Word of God on a whole range issues on which the Scriptures speak clearly. They instead preach a diluted gospel that calls for no real repentance. Isaiah 30:9-10 describes that rebellion: “...**this is a rebellious people, Lying children, Children who will not hear the law of the LORD; Who say to the seers, ‘Do not see,’ And to the prophets, ‘Do not prophesy to us right things; Speak to us smooth things, prophesy deceits.’”** Thus is the world in which we live!

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- <sup>1</sup> Chuck Missler, Europa Rising: Part I, Chuck Missler, 2003
  - <sup>2</sup> John MacArthur, The John MacArthur Study Bible, notes for Daniel 7:6
  - <sup>3</sup> Jennifer Rast, Is the E.U. the Revived Roman Empire?, Contender Ministries
  - <sup>4</sup> Chuck Missler, Europa Rising: Part I, Chuck Missler, 2003
  - <sup>5</sup> Jennifer Rast, Is the E.U. the Revived Roman Empire?, Contender Ministries
  - <sup>6</sup> Jennifer Rast, Is the E.U. the Revived Roman Empire?, Contender Ministries
  - <sup>7</sup> Hal Lindsey, 'Late Great Planet Earth' revisited, World Net Daily, December 16, 2004
  - <sup>8</sup> Herbert L Peters, Recommendation 666: The Rise of the Beast From the Sea, Chapter 11, December 2004
  - <sup>9</sup> Question of Peace or War in Europe, Spende, March 25, 2007
  - <sup>10</sup> Solana: Stage being set..., Jerusalem Post, March 31, 2007
  - <sup>11</sup> We have finally decided..., Financial Times, March 9, 2007
  - <sup>12</sup> Europe's Part in the End Times, The Watcher, (Monitored online on April 5, 2007)
  - <sup>13</sup> Jennifer Rast, Is the EU the Revived Roman Empire, Contender Ministries
  - <sup>14</sup> David Eells, Hidden Manna for the End Times, Chapter 11, The Ten King Covenant
  - <sup>15</sup> Aaron Klein, Holy forfeit!..., World Net Daily, August 28, 2007
  - <sup>16</sup> Sarkozy is first Western leader to speak out..., DEBKAFfile, August 28, 2007
  - <sup>17</sup> Iran has stepped up flow of weapons to Iraq, DEBKAFfile, August 27, 2007
  - <sup>18</sup> Collins & Taha, Iranians attack Kurdish rebels in Iraq, McClatchey Newspapers, August 23, 2007
  - <sup>19</sup> Iran develops 900-kg 'smart bomb', Y-Net News, Reuters, August 22, 2007
  - <sup>20</sup> Iraq terrorists caught, World Net Daily, August 23, 2007
  - <sup>21</sup> Amir Shah, Taliban Fee 3 South Korean Hostages, AP, ABC, August 29, 2007