

A New Look at the Books of Revelation & Daniel End-Time Prophecies

Part 5: The Beasts of Revelation & Daniel

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A NEW LOOK AT THE BOOKS OF REVELATION & DANIEL END-TIME PROPHECIES

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PART 5

THE BEASTS OF REVELATION & DANIEL

THE SEVEN HEADS OF THE BEAST FROM THE SEA REPRESENT SEVEN EMPIRES

And he [Satan] stood on the sand of the seashore. And I saw **a beast** coming up out of the sea, **having ten horns and seven heads**, and on his [its] horns were ten diadems, and on his [its] heads were blasphemous names. And the beast which I saw was like a leopard, and his [its] feet were like those of a bear, and his [its] mouth like the mouth of a lion. And **the dragon [Satan] gave him [it]**

his power and his throne and great authority (Revelation 13:1-2, emphasis added).

“Here is the mind which has wisdom. The **seven heads are seven mountains** on which the woman sits, and they are **seven kings [kingdoms]; five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come**; and when he [it] comes, he [it] must remain a little while. And the **beast which was and is not**, is himself [itself] also an **eighth, and is one of the seven**, and he [it] goes to destruction” (Revelation 17:9-11, emphasis added).

The word translated “king” represents “kingdom”.¹ The Greek word translated “he”, referring to the Beast, is more accurately translated “it”, as translated in the English Standard Version (ESV). In the Book of Revelation, the word “beast” refers to Satan’s ungodly empires, not to an individual human being. The same usage of the word “beast” occurs in the Book of Daniel (Daniel 7).

The 7 Heads of the Beast from the Sea represent 7 great kingdoms or empires. In addition, the 8th Head represents an 8th Empire associated with the Beast. The 7 Heads are also described as 7 Mountains, mountains representing great kingdoms or empires. The figurative use of the word “mountain” to represent a great kingdom is also found in Daniel’s prophecies regarding the Kingdom of God (Daniel 2:35, 44).

Satan, represented by the Dragon, empowers the ungodly kingdoms of this world (Revelation 13:2). Satan offered the kingdoms of the world under his dominion to Yeshua (Matthew 4:8-9; Luke 4:5-7).

And he [Satan] led Him [Yeshua] up and showed Him **all the kingdoms of the world** in a moment of time. And the devil said to Him, “I will give You all this domain and its glory; for **it has been handed over to me, and I give it to**

¹ Strong’s #935, *basileus*, means king, ruler, also relating to kingship and kingdom (*Mounce’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old & New Testament Words*, p. 379.)

whomever I wish. Therefore if You worship before me, it shall all be Yours”
(Luke 4:5-7, emphasis added).

The 8 empires of the Beast from the Sea are:

1. Egyptian Empire
2. Assyrian Empire
3. Babylonian Empire
4. Media-Persian Empire
5. Greek Empire
6. Roman Empire (Early Roman Empire; later Western Roman Empire with Rome as its capital)
7. Byzantine Empire (Eastern Roman Empire with Constantinople as its capital)
8. Islamic Empires (a series of Islamic empires over time; prophetically the various Islamic empires are part of the same political/religious system)

“And the beast which I saw was like a leopard and his [its] feet were like those of a bear, and his [its] mouth like the mouth of a lion” (Revelation 13:2) –

The Beast from the Sea is described as being “like a leopard”, having “feet ... like those of a bear”, and a “mouth like the mouth of a lion”. These animal images, representing empires, link to the Four Beasts of Daniel (Daniel 7). (See below “The Four Beasts of Daniel Represent Four Empires”).

The leopard represents the Greek Empire:

“After this I kept looking, and behold, another one, like a **leopard**, which had on its back four wings of a bird; the beast also had four heads, and dominion was given to it” (Daniel 7:6, emphasis added).

The bear represents the Media-Persian Empire:

“And behold, another beast, a second one, resembling a **bear**. And it was raised up on one side, and three ribs were in its mouth between its teeth; and thus they said to it, ‘Arise, devour much meat!’” (Daniel 7:5, emphasis added).

The lion represents the Babylonian Empire:

“The first was like a **lion** and had the wings of an eagle. I kept looking until its wings were plucked, and it was lifted up from the ground and made to stand on two feet like a man; a human mind also was given to it” (Daniel 7:4, emphasis added).

The Roman Empire rose to power as the greatest empire of the ancient Mediterranean world. As it grew, it conquered and incorporated territories of previous empires. This is why the Beast from the Sea in Revelation is described as having the features of the beasts in Daniel’s prophecies representing these previous empires. The Woman that sits on the Beast represents the city of Rome, the capital and power center of this vast and powerful empire (Revelation 17:3).

“five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come” (Revelation 17:10) –

At the time the apostle John recorded his visions, the first five empires had fallen (Egypt, Assyria, Babylonia, Media-Persia, Greece); one existed: Rome; and the 7th was yet to come: the Eastern Roman (Byzantine) Empire.

“the beast which was and is not” (Revelation 17:11) –

The Beast represents Satan’s ungodly world empires of the Mediterranean and Middle East. Over time one empire would rise to power and then collapse, to be replaced by the next empire that would also undergo the same cycle of rise and fall. This is what is meant by “the beast was and is not” – as one “head” or empire fell, it ceased to exist, but was replaced by another empire. The Beast continued to live in another form.

“beast ... having ten horns” (Revelation 13:1) –

The 10 Horns of the Beast represent 10 Germanic Kingdoms that rose into power after the fall of the Western Roman Empire, the 6th Head of the Beast (see section below “The Ten Horns of the Beast of Revelation Represent Ten Germanic Kingdoms”).

THE WOMAN THAT SITS ON THE BEAST REPRESENTS THE CITY OF ROME

The Woman that sits on the Beast represents the city of Rome, named after the goddess Roma:

And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness; and I saw a **woman sitting on a scarlet beast**, full of blasphemous names, having seven heads and ten horns. And the woman was clothed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a gold cup full of abominations and of the unclean things of her immorality, and upon her forehead a name was written, a mystery, “BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.” And I saw **the woman drunk with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the witnesses of Jesus [Yeshua]**. And when I saw her, I wondered greatly (Revelation 17:3-6, bold emphasis added).

“And the **woman whom you saw is the great city**, which reigns over the kings of the earth” (Revelation 17:18, bold emphasis added).

The city of Rome became the center of various pagan religions, including the mystery religion cults of the ancient Mediterranean and Middle Eastern world. As Rome conquered and expanded its domain, the various mystery religion cults – such as the mystery cult of Isis from Egypt, the mystery cult of Cybele from Asia Minor, and the mystery cult of Mithras from Persia – were brought back to Rome. The origin of pagan religion and mystery cults was Babylon and this is why Rome is referred to as “Babylon the Great, the Mother of harlots”.

The Harlot represents idolatrous religion, sexual immorality representing spiritual unfaithfulness to God. We see the same picture in the Lord calling His unfaithful people Israel and Judah by the same name (Psalm 106:39; Isaiah 1:21; Jeremiah 3:8; Ezekiel 6:9; 20:30). In contrast to the Harlot, the True Church of Messiah Yeshua is represented as His faithful Bride (Revelation 19:7; 21:9).

Both Pagan Rome and Papal Rome severely persecuted and killed the “saints”, true believers in Messiah Yeshua² (Revelation 17:6). During the Protestant Reformation, those who did not bow to Rome’s Papal authority were exterminated, tortured and killed in horrible ways.³ From the earliest times, even before the bishops of Rome assumed the title of pope, they sought to bring all other churches throughout the empire under their authority. Those who did not comply with Rome’s authority were persecuted and removed from influence in one way or another. This is the way Papal Rome established primacy over all the other heads of the various churches throughout the empire.

THE HEALED 6TH HEAD OF THE BEAST REPRESENTS PAPAL ROME

The 6th Head of the Beast, representing the early Roman Empire and later Western Roman Empire, appeared to receive a fatal wound that was healed, representing the rise of Papal Rome:

And I saw **one of his [its] heads as if it had been slain, and his [its] fatal wound was healed.** And the whole earth was amazed and followed after the beast (Revelation 13:3, emphasis added).

When the last Roman emperor, Romulus Augustus, was deposed with the fall of Rome in A.D. 476, marking the end of the Western Roman Empire, it appeared to be a “fatal wound”. But that

² His Hebrew name is *Yeshua*, the shortened form of *Yehoshua* (Joshua), meaning “YHVH is salvation”. YHVH (*Yehovah*) is the name of God. Messiah (Hebrew: *Mashiach*) means “anointed” (Greek: *Christos*, or Christ). *Yeshua HaMashiach* means “Yeshua the Messiah”.

³ *The New Foxe’s Book of Martyrs* by John Foxe (see References).

wound was “healed” by the rise in power of Papal Rome in its place.⁴ It is interesting to note that the last emperor of the Western Roman Empire was named after the founder of Rome, Romulus, and the first emperor of Rome, Augustus. No other Roman emperor had ever taken the name of its founder. So Pagan Rome began with Romulus and Pagan Christian Rome ended with Romulus, an interesting prophetic picture. (Note: The Christianity of Rome was/is not true Biblical Christianity, but a form of Pagan Christianity; hence, “Pagan Christian Rome”.)

The Papacy wielded tremendous political power and authority in the past and continues to be a major political force with a constituency of over one billion Roman Catholics throughout the world today. The Pope is the head of state of the sovereign nation, the Vatican City State, unlike any other religious leader. The Pope rules like the Roman Emperors ruled, with supreme authority.

The Roman Papacy is the longest, continuously operating institution in the world, making it truly unique and remarkable:

The Holy See (Latin: *Sancta Sedes*, Italian: *Santa Sede*) is the episcopal jurisdiction of the Catholic Church in Rome. **The primacy of Rome makes its bishop the worldwide leader of the church, commonly known as the Pope. Since Rome is the preeminent episcopal see of the Church, it contains the central government of the church,** including various agencies essential to administration. Diplomatically, the Holy See acts and speaks for the whole Roman Catholic Church. It is also recognized by other subjects of international law as a sovereign entity, headed by the Pope, with which diplomatic relations can be maintained." ^{[1][2]}

⁴ Romulus Augustus was deposed on September 4, A.D. 476. The date according to the Biblical Hebrew calendar was Elul 28 (Saturday), two days before the start of the Biblical New Year on Tishri 1 (Monday), prophetically significant because it follows God’s prophetic timetable based upon the Appointed Times of the Lord (see Part 2 “The 70 Weeks Prophecy of Daniel”, section “The Biblical Calendar & the Biblical Holy Days”).

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Romulus_Augustus - <http://www.abdicate.net/cal.aspx>

Often incorrectly referred to as "the Vatican", the Holy See is not the same entity as the Vatican City State, which came into existence only in 1929; the Holy See, the episcopal see of Rome, dates back to early Christian times. Ambassadors are officially accredited not to the Vatican City State but to "the Holy See", and papal representatives to states and international organizations are recognized as representing the Holy See, not the Vatican City State (emphasis added).⁵

The nations of the world maintain diplomatic relations with Papal Rome. The CIA confers with the Vatican because of its vast network of information/intelligence gathering capabilities extending all over the world through its dedicated priests, nuns, and lay members.⁶ The power of the Papacy is not to be underestimated in today's world and the Papacy works to advance its (often hidden) agenda in world affairs.

The heart of ancient Rome continues to beat within the Roman Church because the paganism of the mystery cult religions is at its core, covered with a thin veneer of what appears to be Biblical. However, there is a fundamental difference between true Biblical Christianity and Roman Christianity. Pagan Roman Christianity is the Apostasy that apostle Paul warned would be established by the Man of Lawlessness. (See Part 6, "The Man of Lawlessness & the Apostasy – Emperor Constantine & the Roman Church".)

THE STATUE OF DANIEL REPRESENTS EMPIRES & NATIONS

God revealed the meaning of the Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar's dream to Daniel:

“You, O king, were looking and behold, there was a single **great statue**; that statue, which was large and of extraordinary splendor, was standing in front of you, and its appearance was awesome. **The head of that statue was made of fine gold, its breast and its arms of silver, its belly and its thighs of bronze, its legs**

⁵ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Holy_See

⁶ Gordon Thomas, *Gideon's Spies: The Secret History of the Mossad*, pp. 215-216, 234-235.

of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay” (Daniel 2:31-33, emphasis added).

The Statue represents empires, kingdoms, and nations that would follow after Babylon:

1. Babylonian Empire (Gold Head)
2. Media-Persian Empire (Silver Breast and Arms)
3. Greek Empire (Bronze Belly and Thighs)
4. Roman Empire (Iron Legs – the two legs represent the Western and Eastern Roman Empire)
5. Germanic Kingdoms/Empires; European Nations (Iron Portion of Feet and Toes)
6. Islamic Empires; Islamic Nations (Clay Portion of Feet and Toes)

In the dream, God revealed the same great empires that would rule the world as we see in the Book of Revelation, except starting with King Nebuchadnezzar’s Babylonian Empire that existed at the time the dream was given. There was no need to show the Egyptian or Assyrian empires that had come before Nebuchadnezzar, as the dream shows the empires that would come into power after the fall of the Babylonian Empire. John’s vision of the Beast from the Sea with 7 Heads (plus an 8th Head) reveals the complete prophetic picture of all the major empires that would be central to Biblical prophecy and the history of Israel.

The two Silver Arms of the Statue represent the two kingdoms of Media and Persia that were united into the Media-Persia Empire.

The Bronze Belly represents Alexander the Great’s Greek Empire. The Two Thighs represent the Syrian Seleucid (“king of the north”) and Egyptian Ptolemaic (“king of the south”) kingdoms arising from Alexander’s empire. These two kingdoms battled for control of the Land of Israel and Jerusalem, the prophetic center of God’s plan of redemption (Daniel 11:5-35).⁷

⁷ Alexander’s empire was divided into four kingdoms. The two Bronze Thighs represent the two kingdoms that are in Daniel’s prophecies because of their conflict over the Land of Israel.

The Iron Legs represent the two divisions of the Roman Empire: Western Roman Empire with Rome as its capital, and Eastern Roman (Byzantine) Empire with Constantinople as its capital.

The Iron Portion of the Feet and Toes represents the 10 Germanic Kingdoms that rose to power after the fall of Rome and the European nations that emerged from these Germanic Kingdoms.

The Clay Portion of the Feet and Toes represents the Islamic Empires that rose to power throughout the Mediterranean and Middle East and the Islamic nations that emerged after the fall of the last and greatest Islamic Empire, the Ottoman Empire.

“And in that you saw the **feet and toes, partly of potter’s clay and partly of iron, it [4th Kingdom] will be a divided kingdom**; but it will have in it the toughness of iron, inasmuch as you saw the iron mixed with common clay. And as the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of pottery, so some of the kingdom will be strong and part of it will be brittle. And in that you saw the **iron mixed with common clay**, they will **combine with one another in the seed of men**; but they will **not adhere to one another**, even as iron does not combine with pottery” (Daniel 2:41-43, emphasis added).

“it [4th Kingdom] will be a divided kingdom” (Daniel 2:41) –

The Roman Empire became a “divided kingdom” – divided into Roman/Byzantine and Islamic empires, eventually giving rise to Christian and Islamic nations.

“they [Iron and Clay] will combine with one another in the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another” (Daniel 2:43) –

The Iron (Roman Christian) and Clay (Islamic) portions combining “with one another in the seed of men” represents the (limited) genetic combination of peoples of these empires as they have come into contact with each other, intermarrying and interbreeding. However, for the most part

Christian and Islamic peoples have remained separate, not been compatible, and have not come together as one people (“they will not adhere to one another”).

The Eastern Roman (Byzantine) Empire fell to Islam (8th Head of the Beast). There was a succession of Islamic empires until the last and greatest Islamic Empire, the Ottoman Empire. In 1453, the city of Constantinople fell to the Ottoman Turks and was renamed Istanbul, marking the end of the Byzantine Empire (7th Head of the Beast). In 1590, at the height of its power, the Ottoman Empire controlled much of southeast Europe, Western Asia, and North Africa.⁸

The kingdoms of this world – the nations of today – will become the kingdom of our Lord Messiah Yeshua at His Second Coming:

And the seventh angel sounded; and there arose loud voices in heaven, saying,
“The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord, and of His
Christ [Messiah]; and He will reign forever and ever” (Revelation 11:15).

The Stone not cut with human hands is shown striking the Statue on its Feet and Toes of Iron and Clay, representing the world’s nations and governmental systems as they presently exist:

“You continued looking until **a stone was cut out without hands, and it struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay, and crushed them.** Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were crushed all at the same time, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away so that not a trace of them was found. But **the stone that struck the statue became a great mountain and filled the whole earth**” (Daniel 2:34-35, emphasis added).

The Stone was “cut out without hands”, meaning it was not of human agency or power. The Stone becomes a Great Mountain, representing the Kingdom of God established by Messiah

⁸ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ottoman_Empire

Yeshua when He returns to rule from Jerusalem for one thousand years during the Messianic Age/Millennial Kingdom (Revelation 11:15; 20:1-3).

“I kept looking in the night visions, And behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, And He came up to the Ancient of Days And was presented before Him. And to Him was given dominion, Glory and a kingdom, That all the peoples, nations, and men of every language Might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion Which will not pass away; And His kingdom is one Which will not be destroyed” (Daniel 7:13-14).

THE FOUR BEASTS OF DANIEL REPRESENT FOUR EMPIRES

Daniel’s vision of 4 Beasts from the Sea, representing 4 empires, confirms and expands the prophetic picture of 4 empires represented by the Statue in Nebuchadnezzar’s dream:

Daniel said, “I was looking in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the **great sea**. And **four great beasts were coming up from the sea**, different from one another. **The first was like a lion and had the wings of an eagle**. I kept looking until its wings were plucked, and it was lifted up from the ground and made to stand on two feet like a man; a human mind also was given to it. And behold, another **beast, a second one, resembling a bear**. And it was raised up on one side, and three ribs were in its mouth between its teeth; and thus they said to it, ‘Arise, devour much meat!’ After this I kept looking, and behold, **another one, like a leopard**, which had on its back **four wings of a bird; the beast also had four heads**, and dominion was given to it. After this I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, a **fourth beast, dreadful and terrifying and extremely strong**; and it had large iron teeth. It devoured and crushed, and trampled down the remainder with its feet; and it was different from all the beasts that were before it, and **it had ten horns**” (Daniel 7:2-7, emphasis added).

“the great sea. ... four great beasts were coming up from the sea” (Daniel 7:2-3) –

The 4 Beasts came up from the “great sea” (Daniel 7:2), like the Beast with 7 Heads from the Sea (Revelation 13:1). The “Great Sea” may represent the Mediterranean Sea that was central to the Roman Empire and formed the western border of Israel (Numbers 34:6; Joshua 1:4; 15:12; 23:4).

The Sea may also symbolically represent the Abyss, the domain of Satan and the abode of demons (fallen angels) in the deepest part of Hell (Luke 8:31; Revelation 9:11; 11:7; 17:8; 20:1, 3). Satan and the angels that followed him in rebellion against God were cast out of Heaven (Luke 10:18; Revelation 12:7-9). Fallen angels operate in this world to deceive and destroy humanity (Ephesians 6:11-12). For example, the “princes” of Persia and Greece refer to powerful fallen angels over these two particular empires (Daniel 10:13, 20). Fallen angels, also known as demons, are released from the Abyss into the world to bring death and destruction (Revelation 9:1-3, 7-11, 14-17). This is why the apostle Paul tells us:

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places (Ephesians 6:12).

In Daniel 7:2, the Hebrew word *yam* (Strong’s #3220 and #3221) translates as “sea”.⁹ “In the ancient world, the sea was considered a place of chaos and hostility and was often feared as an unruly monster.”¹⁰ In Revelation 13:1, the Greek word *thalassa* (Strong’s #2281) also translates as “sea” and:

denotes a large body of water, such as a sea or ocean. ... Although *thalassa* usually simply denotes a physical body of water, it also has **deeper theological significance**. ... in Revelation it is one of the three parts of the cosmos or created

⁹ Jay P. Green, Sr., *The Interlinear Hebrew-Aramaic Old Testament*, Vol. 3, p. 2056.

¹⁰ *Mounce’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old & New Testament Words*, p. 619.

order (Rev. 5:13; 10:6). ... In this view of the created world, *thalassa* symbolized **chaos and death** (emphasis added).¹¹

The Greek word *abussos* (Strong's #12), translated "abyss", is used to refer to the dwelling place of demons/fallen angels (Luke 8:31; Revelation 9:11; 11:7; 17:8; 20:1, 3). The word can also translate as "depth", "underworld" or "deep, (bottomless) pit".¹² The domain of the fallen angels, called the Abyss, can in a symbolic way be referred to as a sea because of its depth.

The 4 Beasts represent 4 empires, corresponding to the 4 empires represented by the gold, silver, bronze, and iron of the Statue in Nebuchadnezzar's dream:

1. Babylonian Empire – lion with wings of an eagle

2. Media-Persian Empire – bear with three ribs in its mouth; the three ribs represent the three empires conquered by Media-Persia: Babylon, Egypt, and Lydia (Asia Minor).

3. Greek Empire – leopard with four wings of a bird, signifying the swift nature of Alexander the Great's conquests; and four heads, representing the division of Alexander's empire into four kingdoms.

4. Roman Empire – dreadful, terrifying, strong beast with large iron teeth, representing Rome's great military strength that devoured and crushed the other beasts, representing Rome's conquest of the territories of previous kingdoms.

"Thus he said: '**The fourth beast will be a fourth kingdom on the earth**, which will be different from all the other kingdoms, and **it will devour the whole earth** and tread it down and crush it'" (Daniel 7:23, emphasis added).

¹¹ Mounce, p. 620.

¹² William F. Arndt and F. Wilbur Gingrich, *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*, p. 2. Spiros Zodhiates, *The Hebrew-Greek Key Study Bible*, section *Greek Dictionary of the New Testament*, p. 7.

“it [4th Beast] will devour the whole earth” (Daniel 7:23) –

The 4th Beast was prophesied to “devour the whole earth”, referring to the Roman Empire conquering and incorporating the territories of the Babylonian Empire (lion), the Media-Persian Empire (bear), and the Greek Empire (leopard), into its ever expanding empire.

Note that “whole earth” in this context refers to the ancient civilizations of the Mediterranean and Middle Eastern world, not to the entire planet Earth. Context must always be taken into account in interpretation. There are other places in the Word of God where “whole earth” refers to a particular region, not to the whole planet. The Book of Daniel refers to “all the earth”, “whole earth”, and “to the end of the earth”, relating to the Babylonian Empire of Nebuchadnezzar and the Greek Empire of Alexander the Great.

Nebuchadnezzar the king to all the peoples, nations, and men of every language that live in all the earth: “May your peace abound! (Daniel 4:1, emphasis added).

‘The tree that you saw, which became large and grew strong, whose height reached to the sky and was visible to **all the earth** ... it is you, O king [Nebuchadnezzar]; for you have become great and grown strong, and your majesty has become great and reached to the sky and **your dominion to the end of the earth**’ (Daniel 4:20, 22, emphasis added).

While I was observing, behold, a male goat was coming from the west over the surface of **the whole earth** without touching the ground; and the goat had a conspicuous horn [Alexander the Great] between his eyes (Daniel 8:5, emphasis added).

The Beast from the Sea with 7 Heads reveals the same prophetic picture of a great empire more powerful than any other before that conquered territories of the previous great empires of the ancient Mediterranean and Middle Eastern world.

And I saw a beast coming up out of the sea, having ten horns and seven heads, and on his [its] horns were ten diadems, and on his [its] heads were blasphemous names. And **the beast which I saw was like a leopard, and his [its] feet were like those of a bear, and his [its] mouth like the mouth of a lion.** And the dragon [Satan] gave him [it] his power and his throne and great authority (Revelation 13:1b-2).

Daniel had another vision relating to the vision of the 4 Beasts (Daniel 7), revealing more detail about the beasts representing these empires (Daniel 8):

1. Media-Persian Empire – represented by a ram with two horns; the longer horn represents the Persian Empire that conquered the Median Empire and united the two empires. The Persian Empire expanded westward, northward, and southward (Daniel 8:3-4).

2. Greek Empire – represented by a male goat coming from the west (Greece) moving over the whole earth without touching the ground, showing the speed of Alexander the Great’s conquest of the Media-Persian Empire, represented by the shattering of the ram’s two horns; the “conspicuous horn” represents Alexander (Daniel 8:5-7).

The “large horn” of the male goat was “broken”, representing Alexander’s death. In place of the large horn arose “four conspicuous horns toward the four winds of heaven”, representing the division of Alexander’s empire by four of his generals into four smaller empires (Daniel 8:8-9): Macedonia (west); Egypt (south); Syria and Babylon (north); and Persia (east) – the “four heads” representing these four dominions (Daniel 7:6).

THE TIME OF THE END

Note that “the time of the end” does not necessarily refer only to the time we are living in, as is often interpreted, but needs to be understood in its broader context. For example, “the time of the end” in Daniel 8:17 relates to historical events leading up to Yeshua’s First Coming. The

prophecies deal with the empires of Media, Persia, Greece, and four kingdoms resulting from the division of Alexander's Empire (Daniel 8:17-26).

So he [the angel Gabriel] came near to where I was standing, and when he came I [Daniel] was frightened and fell on my face; but he said to me, "Son of man, understand that **the vision pertains to the time of the end.**" Now while he was talking with me, I sank into a deep sleep with my face to the ground; but he touched me and made me stand upright. And he said, "Behold, I am going to let you know what will occur at the final period of the indignation, for **it pertains to the appointed time of the end.** The ram which you saw with the two horns represents the **kings of Media and Persia.** And the shaggy goat represents the **kingdom of Greece,** and the large horn that is between his eyes is the first king [Alexander the Great]. And the broken horn and the four horns that arose in its place represent **four kingdoms which will arise from his nation,** although not with his power. And in the latter period of their rule, When the transgressors have run their course, A **king [Antiochus IV]** will arise Insolent and skilled in intrigue. And his power will be mighty, but not by his own power, And he will destroy to an extraordinary degree And prosper and perform his will; He will destroy mighty men and the holy people [faithful Jewish people]. And through his shrewdness He will cause deceit to succeed by his influence; And he will magnify himself in his heart, And he will destroy many while they are at ease. He will even oppose the Prince of princes, But he will be broken without human agency. And the vision of the evenings and mornings Which has been told is true; But keep the vision secret, **For it pertains to many days in the future**" (Daniel 8:17-26, emphasis added).

The vision shown to Daniel took place in the 6th century B.C., hundreds of years before the prophesied historical events. Daniel was told that the vision related to the "time of the end" (Daniel 8:17) and that these events would take place "many days in the future" (Daniel 8:26). As history shows, these events took place in the period of time leading up to the First Coming of Yeshua and the subsequent destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in A.D. 70.

In the 4th century B.C., Alexander rose to power and conquered the Persian Empire. After his death in 323 B.C., his empire was divided into four kingdoms. From one of the four kingdoms (Seleucid) rising into power after Alexander's death, a king would rise "in the latter period of their rule" (Daniel 8:23), who would "destroy the holy people", the faithful Jewish people (Daniel 8:24), and who would be "broken without human agency" (Daniel 8:35). This refers to Antiochus IV ("the small horn" – Daniel 8:9), who desecrated the Jerusalem Temple (Daniel 8:11-14); forbid the Biblical faith; destroyed faithful Jewish people, referred to as "stars" of "the host of heaven" (Daniel 8:10); and died of insanity (Daniel 8:35). The reference to 2,300 evenings and mornings has to do with the period of time the Jerusalem Temple was desecrated by pagan sacrifices until it was cleansed and restored. (For more details on this subject, see Part 4 "The Abomination of Desolation & the Roman Destruction of Jerusalem", section "The Abomination of Desolation & the Little Horn".)

The events relating to Antiochus IV took place in the 2nd century B.C. In the 1st century A.D., Yeshua established the New Covenant and the Romans destroyed Jerusalem forty years later. Therefore, we can see from the context that "the time of the end" referred to in Daniel 8:17 relates to the First Coming of Messiah Yeshua and the end of the nation of Judah in A.D. 70. The terrible time of total destruction of Jerusalem and exile is what is referred to in Daniel 12:1.

"Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people, will arise. And there will be **a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time**; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued" (Daniel 12:1, emphasis added).

This was "a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a [Jewish] nation". The nation of Judah was totally destroyed, over 1 million Jews died, another 90,000 were sold into slavery, and the Jewish people were exiled from the Land of Israel for almost 2,000 years. But those who heeded Messiah Yeshua's warning to flee Jerusalem were spared ("your people, everyone who is found written in the book [of life], will be rescued").

THE BEAST FROM THE EARTH REPRESENTS THE CHRISTIAN ROMAN EMPIRE

The Beast from the Earth with 2 Horns is described in Revelation 13:11-18.

And I saw another **beast coming up out of the earth; and he [it] had two horns** like a lamb, and he [it] spoke as a dragon (Revelation 13:11, emphasis added).

As we have noted in regard to the Beast from the Sea, the Greek word translated “he” is more accurately translated “it” because the Beast from the Earth represents an empire, not an individual. (Again, the English Standard Version translates this correctly.)

As we have previously seen, the image of a “beast” represents an empire, not an individual person. The 2 Horns represent the two divisions of the Christian Roman Empire and their respective centers of power: Rome, the capital of the Western Roman Empire; and Constantinople, the capital of the Eastern Roman (Byzantine) Empire.

The Roman Emperor Constantine I (the Great) founded Constantinople in A.D. 330 to be the “New Rome” of the Roman Empire. After the fall of Rome and the Western Empire in A.D. 476, the Eastern Roman Empire, also known as the Byzantine Empire, continued for another thousand years until the fall of Constantinople to the Ottoman Turks in A.D. 1453.

And I saw **another beast coming up out of the earth [Christian Roman Empire]; and he [it] had two horns like a lamb, and he [it] spoke as a dragon.** And he [it] exercises all the authority of the first beast [Pagan Roman Empire] in his [its] presence. And he [it] **makes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast [Pagan Roman Empire], whose fatal wound was healed** (Revelation 13:11-12, emphasis added).

The Beast from the Earth [Christian Roman Empire] “exercises all the authority of the first beast [Pagan Roman Empire] in his [its] presence” (Revelation 13:12) –

The Beast from the Earth with 2 Horns “exercises all the authority of the first beast” meaning that the Christian Roman Empire exercised all the power and authority of the Pagan Roman Empire (6th Head of the Beast from the Sea). Unlike previous empires that had come and gone (“the beast which was and is not” – Revelation 17:8, 11), the Pagan Roman Empire did not fall at this time but was transformed into the Christian Roman Empire. This is why the Second Beast (Beast from the Earth) is referred to as exercising all the power of the First Beast (Beast from the Sea) “in its presence”.

The Beast from the Earth [Christian Roman Empire] has “two horns like a lamb [Messiah Yeshua], and he [it] spoke as a dragon [Satan]” (Revelation 13:11) –

The Beast from the Earth had “two horns like a lamb”, but “spoke as a dragon”. The lamb represents the Christian Roman Empire having the appearance of being Christian (the Lamb representing Messiah Yeshua) while in fact having the nature of a dragon, representing Satan. This is because Roman Christianity is a form of Pagan Christianity, not true Biblical Christianity. The paganism corrupts the true Word of God and leads people to a counterfeit salvation (sacramental salvation) rather than true Biblical salvation. (See Part 6 “The Man of Lawlessness & the Apostasy – Emperor Constantine & the Roman Church”).

The Beast from the Earth [Christian Roman Empire] “makes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast [Pagan Roman Empire], whose fatal wound was healed” (Revelation 13:12) –

The Beast from the Earth, the Christian Roman Empire, “makes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose fatal wound was healed”. The First Beast represents the Pagan Roman Empire (6th Head of the Beast from the Sea). The meaning is that all the peoples of the Christian Roman Empire were in fact worshipping according to pagan beliefs, traditions, customs, etc. that developed out of the religion of the Pagan Roman Empire. The paganism was

modified, “Christianized”, dressed up to have the appearance of being Biblical – like a wolf in sheep’s clothing.

The “fatal wound [that] was healed” refers to the fall of Rome and the Western Roman Empire:

And I saw **one of his [its] heads as if it had been slain, and his [its] fatal wound was healed**. And **the whole earth was amazed and followed after the beast; and they worshiped the dragon [Satan]**, because he gave his authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, “Who is like the beast, and who is able to wage war with him?” (Revelation 13:3-4, emphasis added).

“one of his [its] heads as if it had been slain, and his [its] fatal wound was healed” (Revelation 13:3) –

The head that appeared to have received a “fatal wound” and “been slain” was the 6th Head of the Beast from the Sea, representing Rome and the Western Roman Empire. When Rome fell in A.D. 476, it appeared to have been fatally wounded never to rise again. However, the fatal wound was healed as Papal Rome rose into great power and authority in place of Pagan Rome.

“the whole earth was amazed and followed after the beast” (Revelation 13:3) –

In this context, “the whole earth” refers to the entire Roman world. After the fall of Rome and the Western Roman Empire, and the rise of the Germanic Kingdoms, the peoples of Western Europe continued to follow the false religious system of the Beast. (Note: “whole earth” must be interpreted in context and does not refer to the entire planet. See section above “The Four Beasts of Daniel Represent Four Empires” for explanation.)

“they worshiped the dragon [Satan] ... and they worshiped the beast” (Revelation 13:4) –

In following the false religion of the Beast, the Apostate Roman Church, people actually worship Satan because “he gave his authority to the beast”. Those who trust in the false church for

salvation are not following the true Biblical way of salvation. Those who bow down to images forbidden by God are not giving worship to God but rather to Satan. The Pope, who claims to be the sole and supreme head of the one and only true church, is a false Christ who usurps the place of Messiah Yeshua, the one and only true Head of His Church. (The True Church of Messiah Yeshua, called the Bride, is made up of all persons indwelt by God's Holy Spirit.)

“Who is like the beast, and who is able to wage war with him?” (Revelation 13:4) –

For many centuries, Papal Rome wielded tremendous power. Those who did not submit to the authority of the Papacy were destroyed one way or another.

THE TEN HORNS OF THE BEAST OF REVELATION REPRESENT TEN GERMANIC KINGDOMS

The Beast from the Sea with 7 Heads has 10 Horns, representing 10 Kingdoms:

And I saw a **beast coming up out of the sea, having ten horns** and seven heads, and on his [its] horns were ten diadems [kingly crowns], and on his [its] heads were blasphemous names (Revelation 13:1b, emphasis added).

“And **the ten horns which you saw are ten kings [kingdoms]**, who have not yet received a kingdom, but they receive authority as kings [kingdoms] with the beast for one hour” (Revelation 17:12, emphasis added).

“the ten horns ... are ten kings [kingdoms]” (Revelation 17:12) –

In the Word of God, a horn symbolizes a power or authority and can represent a king or a kingdom. The word translated “king” can also represent a “kingdom”. In this context, the 10 Horns represent 10 Germanic Kingdoms that rose to power with the collapse of the Western Roman Empire (6th Head of the Beast). Daniel also prophesied concerning these 10 Horns. (See below “The Ten Horns of Daniel Represent Ten Germanic Kingdoms”.)

“who have not yet received a kingdom” (Revelation 17:12) –

At the time of John’s vision, these 10 kingdoms had not yet come into existence. In time, they would rise into power as the Western Roman Empire disintegrated and collapsed.

“they receive authority as kings [kingdoms] with the beast” (Revelation 17:12) –

These 10 kingdoms would rise into power “with the beast”, meaning that these kingdoms would be established in territory that had been part of the Roman Empire and the peoples of these kingdoms would become Romanized and Catholicized (converted to Roman Catholicism and loyal to the Papacy). To become “Romanized” means to be influenced by and adopt Roman culture, language, and religion. The Germanic peoples were greatly influenced by Roman language, culture, law, architecture, military, etc. Over time, the cultures and languages of the Germanic peoples who made up these 10 kingdoms blended with Roman culture and language, forming the basis of Western European Civilization. Today’s Romance languages, including Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, and French, developed from Latin. And today’s Western European nations developed out of these Germanic kingdoms.

“for one hour” (Revelation 17:12) –

These 10 kingdoms would be temporary, some lasting longer than others; “for one hour” meaning a relatively short time as compared to the long rule of the Roman Empire.¹³

THE TEN GERMANIC KINGDOMS OF THE BEAST

During the 5th century, as the Western Roman Empire weakened militarily and politically, there were large-scale migrations of Germanic tribes into the empire.¹⁴ These Germanic peoples

¹³ Rome was founded in 753 B.C. The Roman Kingdom became the Roman Republic and finally the Roman Empire. In A.D. 476, Rome fell, marking the end of the Western Roman Empire.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rome>

¹⁴ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Germanic_peoples

gained control of the empire's lands and established independent kingdoms. The 10 Germanic Kingdoms¹⁵ are:

1. Kingdom of the Visigoths – southern Gaul and Hispania (southern France, Spain and Portugal)
2. Kingdom of the Vandals – North African coast (Algeria, Tunisia), Sardinia and Corsica
3. Kingdom of Odoacer – Italy
4. Kingdom of the Ostrogoths – Italy and region northeast of Italy (Austria, Hungary, Croatia, Bosnia, Serbia)
5. Kingdom of the Franks – Gaul (France); Charlemagne expanded the Frankish kingdom into much of western and central Europe, including Italy, transforming the kingdom into an empire
6. Kingdom of the Suevians – northwest Hispania (northern Portugal, northwest Spain)

¹⁵ See Wikipedia for information about each of the ten Germanic tribes. Note that Huns were not Germanic but Asian people from Central Asia. After the death of Attila the Hun, the Hunnic Empire collapsed. The Huns never became Romanized or Catholicized and never established any lasting presence in the area. That is why they are not one of the 10 Horns of Revelation 17:12. Links to maps - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Invasions_of_the_Roman_Empire_1.png - Germanic invasions. http://www.shadowedrealm.com/medieval-maps/political/view/peoples_and_kingdoms_in_the_west - The area of the Alamanni is not labeled as a kingdom but still qualifies as one of the 10 kingdoms because it was for a time an independent principality ruled by a king. The area of the Angles, Saxons, and Jutes was located in SE Britain. Even though not labeled as a kingdom on this map, these combined peoples did form a kingdom in Britain and are considered one of the 10 kingdoms. The Kingdom of Syagrius is not one of the 10 kingdoms because Syagrius was Roman, not Germanic. His kingdom was conquered and incorporated into the Kingdom of the Franks. http://www.shadowedrealm.com/medieval-maps/political/view/germanic_kingdoms_and_east_roman_empire_486 - Kingdom of Visigoths labeled Kingdom of West Goths; Goths divided into Visigoths (Western Goths) and Ostrogoths (Eastern Goths). Main change from previous map is the Kingdom of the Franks has enlarged to include the territory of the Kingdom of Syagrius, who was defeated by Clovis 1 in 486. http://www.shadowedrealm.com/medieval-maps/political/view/barbarian_and_byzantine_empires - Kingdom of Odoacer in Italy conquered by Ostrogoths; enlarged Ostrogoth Kingdom (Empire); emergence of Suevian Kingdom; Kingdom (Empire) of Franks enlarged by conquest of Kingdom of Alamanni and part of Kingdom of Visigoths (S. France). http://www.shadowedrealm.com/medieval-maps/political/view/europe_and_the_east_roman_empire - Kingdom of Ostrogoths conquered by Byzantine Empire; Byzantine Italy conquered by Lombards, establishing Lombard Kingdom.

Conquered by the Visigoths (584-585)

7. Kingdom of the Burgundians – southeastern Gaul (southeastern France, western Switzerland, northern Italy)

Conquered by the Franks (534)

8. Kingdom of the Alamanni – (eastern France, northwestern Switzerland)

Conquered by the Franks under Clovis I (496)

9. Kingdom of the Anglo-Saxons – southeastern Britain

10. Kingdom of the Lombards – Italy

Conquered by the Franks under Charlemagne (774)

In the Italian peninsula there was a succession of three Germanic Kingdoms: Kingdom of Odoacer; Kingdom of the Ostrogoths; and Kingdom of the Lombards.

IMPORTANT KINGS OF THE GERMANIC KINGDOMS

Important kings of the Germanic kingdoms include:

1. Alaric I (Visigoth) sacked Rome in 410.¹⁶
2. Genseric (Vandal) sacked Rome in 455.
3. Odoacer deposed Romulus Augustus, last emperor of the Western Roman Empire, in 476.
4. Totila (Ostrogoth) sacked Rome in 546.
5. Theodoric the Great (Ostrogoth) conquered by the Byzantine Empire in 553.
6. Clovis I (509-511) united the Frankish tribes; first Roman Catholic Germanic king.
7. Pepin the Short (Frank) established the Papal States by the Donation of Pepin (754-756).
8. Charlemagne (768-814) King of the Franks & Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire.

¹⁶ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sack_of_Rome

The 10 Germanic Kingdoms became Roman Catholic and allied with Papal Rome. The Pope claimed authority over the Germanic kings. Without the sanction of the Pope, Germanic kings had no authority to rule the Roman Catholic peoples of their kingdoms. This prophetic picture is revealed in Revelation 17:13.

“These [the 10 Germanic Kingdoms] have one purpose and they give their power and authority to the beast” (Revelation 17:13).

The 10 Germanic Kingdoms are part of the Beast, the part that rose out of the 6th Head of the Beast. Papal Rome is also part of the Beast, the part that rose out of the healed 6th Head of the Beast. While the Western Roman Empire fell, the legacy of the Roman Empire was preserved in the Germanic Kingdoms and in Papal Rome. Both parts of the Beast worked together but also came into conflict with each other. Because of their alliance with Papal Rome, the Germanic Kingdoms were in opposition to the Lamb of God, Messiah Yeshua:

“These [the 10 Germanic Kingdoms] will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, because He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those who are with Him are the called and chosen and faithful” (Revelation 17:14).

Prior to their conversion to Roman Catholicism and alliance with Papal Rome, the Germanic tribes that established the Germanic kingdoms had invaded the Western Roman Empire as a hostile force, wreaking destruction on the Roman Empire, sacking Rome, and eventually conquering all of the Western Roman Empire. This was also prophesied:

“And the ten horns [10 Germanic Kingdoms] which you saw, and the beast, these will **hate the harlot [Rome] and will make her desolate and naked, and will eat her flesh and will burn her up with fire.** For God has put it in their hearts to execute His purpose by having a common purpose, and by giving their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God should be fulfilled” (Revelation 17:16-17, emphasis added).

The “harlot” represents the city of Rome, the capital of the Western Roman Empire. The 10 Horns “eating her flesh” represent the Germanic Kingdoms taking land away from the Western Roman Empire; “burning her up with fire” and “making her desolate and naked” represent the destruction of the Western Roman Empire by these Germanic peoples.

THE TEN HORNS OF DANIEL REPRESENT TEN GERMANIC KINGDOMS

We have previously identified the four kingdoms represented by “four great beasts” of Daniel’s “night visions” (Daniel 7). The 4th Beast represents the Roman Empire:

“After this I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, a **fourth beast [Roman Empire]**, dreadful and terrifying and extremely strong; and it had large **iron teeth**. It devoured and crushed, and trampled down the remainder with its feet; and it was different from all the beasts that were before it, and **it had ten horns**” (Daniel 7:7, emphasis added).

“fourth beast [Roman Empire], dreadful and terrifying and extremely strong; and it had large iron teeth” (Daniel 7:7) –

The 4th Beast has Teeth of Iron like the Legs of Iron of the Statue in Nebuchadnezzar’s dream (Daniel 2). The Iron represents the Roman Empire; the 2 Iron Legs represent the Western and Eastern Roman (Byzantine) Empires. The 4th Beast is stronger and more powerful than the preceding empires, and conquers a far greater area of the ancient world.

“it [Roman Empire] had ten horns” (Daniel 7:7) –

The 4th Beast, like the Beast from the Sea with 7 Heads, has 10 Horns (Revelation 13:1). The same prophetic pattern is revealed in the dreams and visions experienced by Daniel and John, showing the empires that would rule the world at which Israel was the center. Therefore, the 10

Horns of Daniel show the same prophetic picture as the 10 Horns of the Beast of Revelation. They represent 10 Germanic Kingdoms that would rise out of the Roman Empire after its fall.

THE LITTLE HORN OF THE 4TH BEAST REPRESENTS PAPAL ROME

Among the 10 Horns representing 10 Germanic Kingdoms, a “Little Horn” arises:

“While I was contemplating the [ten] horns, behold, **another horn, a little one**, came up among them, and **three of the first horns were pulled out by the roots before it**; and behold, this horn possessed eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth uttering great boasts” (Daniel 7:8, emphasis added).

Note that this is not the same horn described as a “small horn” in Daniel 8:9-26, a horn that rose from the Greek Empire. We have previously identified this horn as Antiochus IV Epiphanes, ruler of the Greek-Syrian Empire. But the “Little Horn” described in Daniel 7:8 relates to the Roman Empire, not the Greek Empire.

“three of the first horns were pulled out by the roots before it” (Daniel 7:8) –

The Little Horn, representing the Roman Papacy, rose to power among the 10 Germanic Kingdoms. Three of the 10 Germanic Kingdoms fell from power as the Little Horn/Papal Rome rose to power.

and the meaning of the ten horns [10 Germanic Kingdoms] that were on its head, and **the other horn [Little Horn] which came up, and before which three of them [three Germanic Kingdoms] fell**, namely, that horn which had eyes and a mouth uttering great boasts, and which was larger in appearance than its associates (Daniel 7:20, emphasis added).

‘As for the ten horns [10 Germanic Kingdoms], out of this [4th] kingdom [Roman Empire] ten kings [kingdoms] will arise; and **another [Little Horn] will arise**

after them, and he [it] will be different from the previous ones and will subdue three kings [kingdoms]’ (Daniel 7:24, emphasis added).

“another [Little Horn] will arise after them ... [it] will be different from the previous ones” (Daniel 7:24) –

The Little Horn that was “different from the previous ones” represents Papal Rome, which rose to great power after the fall of Rome and the Western Roman Empire. It was different from the previous kingdoms in that Papal Rome was a religious power rather than a secular power.

“... the other horn [Little Horn/Papal Rome] which came up, and before which three of them [three Germanic Kingdoms] fell ...” (Daniel 7:20) –

“[it] [Little Horn/Papal Rome] ... will subdue three kings [kingdoms]” (Daniel 7:24) –

The Little Horn, Papal Rome, “will subdue three kings [kingdoms]”. The word translated “king” can also represent “kingdom”, as we have previously noted (Revelation 17:9-11). The word translated “subdue” can also be translated “humble”, meaning that the position of three Germanic kingdoms was lowered or removed in relation to the position of the Roman Papacy.¹⁷

As Rome and the Western Roman Empire began to disintegrate and collapse with wave after wave of Germanic invasions, Papal Rome continued to exist and even take the place of the government of the city of Rome after its fall in A.D. 476. In Italy, three Germanic Kingdoms successively rose and fell from power:

1. Kingdom of Odoacer (476-493)¹⁸
2. Kingdom of the Ostrogoths (493-553)¹⁹
3. Kingdom of the Lombards (568-774)²⁰

¹⁷ *Shephal* (Strong’s #8214) “to humble”, *New Wilson’s Old Testament Word Studies*, p. 427. *Daniel*, ArtScroll Tanach Series, p. 211, translates *shephal* as “humble” rather than “subdue”.

¹⁸ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Odoacer>

¹⁹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ostrogothic_Kingdom

In 754, Pepin the Short, king of the Franks, defeated the Lombards, who had conquered territory in Italy ruled by the Byzantine government. Rather than return these territories to the Byzantine (Eastern) Roman Emperor, Pepin donated them to the Pope of Rome (called the Donation of Pepin). As a result, the Pope became the temporal ruler of the Papal States of Italy, with Rome as the capital of the Papal Kingdom.²¹ (See Part 6 “The Man of Lawlessness & the Apostasy – Emperor Constantine & the Roman Church” for more about the prophetic significance of the Donation of Pepin.)

The Donation of Pepin establishing the Pope as a temporal (civil) ruler over the Papal States is of great prophetic significance. As the Pope claimed to be God’s representative on earth and therefore the highest spiritual and earthly authority, the Pope claimed to have authority over all the kings of the various Germanic Kingdoms. Now the Pope had actual temporal power in addition to his (falsely) claimed spiritual authority and supremacy, fitting the prophecies about the Papal Horn:

... another [Little Horn/Papal Rome] will arise after them, and he [it] will be different from the previous ones ... (Daniel 7:24).

... that horn [Papal Rome] which had eyes and a mouth uttering great boasts, and which was larger in appearance than its associates (Daniel 7:20).

In fact, the Roman Papacy wielded real political power over the Germanic kings.

When Leo III crowned Charlemagne (800), he established the precedent that, in the West, no man would be emperor without anointment by a pope.[56]²²

²⁰ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kingdom_of_the_Lombards

²¹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Donation_of_Pepin - <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rome>

²² <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pope> - article “Pope”, section “Medieval Age”.

The Pope also had the power of excommunication. Kings who did not bow to the Pope's authority could be excommunicated, with the result that they and their people were cut off from the Roman Church that claimed to be the only way of salvation. There was often a power struggle between the popes and the Germanic kings, even as there was an alliance because of the Roman Catholic faith of the Germanic peoples.

Popes like Alexander VI, an ambitious if spectacularly corrupt politician, and Pope Julius II, a formidable general and statesman, were not afraid to use power to achieve their own ends, which included increasing the power of the papacy. **This political and temporal authority was demonstrated through the papal role in the Holy Roman Empire** (especially prominent during periods of contention with the Emperors, such as during the Pontificates of Pope Gregory VII and Pope Alexander III). **Papal bulls, interdict, and excommunication (or the threat thereof) have been used many times to increase papal power.** The Bull *Laudabiliter* in 1155 authorized Henry II of England to invade Ireland. In 1207, Innocent III placed England under interdict until King John made his kingdom a fiefdom to the Pope, complete with yearly tribute, saying, "we offer and freely yield...to our lord Pope Innocent III and his catholic successors, the whole kingdom of England and the whole kingdom of Ireland with all their rights and appurtenances [*sic*] for the remission of our sins"[135] The Bull *Inter caetera* in 1493 led to the Treaty of Tordesillas in 1494, which divided the world into areas of Spanish and Portuguese rule. The Bull *Regnans in Excelsis* in 1570 excommunicated Elizabeth I of England and declared that all her subjects were released from all allegiance to her (emphasis added).²³

True believers who refused to bow to the authority of Papal Rome were persecuted, tortured and killed, just as Pagan Rome had persecuted, tortured and killed believers in Messiah Yeshua. Those who did not conform to its doctrines and practices were marginalized or eliminated. During the Protestant Reformation, many reformers were horribly tortured and killed, including

²³ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pope> - article "Pope", section "Political Role".

burned at the stake, for the crime of wanting to reform the Roman Church and make the Word of God available to the people in their own languages.

“I kept looking, and **that horn [Little Horn/Papal Rome] was waging war with the saints [believers]** and overpowering them [all who refused to bow to the authority of Papal Rome]” (Daniel 7:21).

‘And he [it - Little Horn/Papal Rome] will speak out against the Most High and wear down the saints [believers] of the Highest One, and **he [it] [Papal Rome] will intend to make alterations in [God’s appointed] times and in [God’s] law;** and they will be given into his [its] hand for a time, times, and half a time’ (Daniel 7:25).

In claiming to take the place of Messiah Yeshua on earth as the sole and supreme head of the church as well as the highest earthly authority, the Pope fits the definition of “antichrist” – one that replaces and opposes Messiah Yeshua. This is blasphemous:

“Then I kept looking because of the sound of the **boastful words which the horn [Papal Rome] was speaking;** I kept looking until the beast was slain, and its body was destroyed and given to the burning fire” (Daniel 7:11, emphasis added).

“he [it] [Papal Rome] will intend to make alterations in [God’s appointed] times and in [God’s] law” (Daniel 7:25) –

Just as Rome was the power center of the Roman Empire, Papal Rome became the power center of the Apostate Roman Church. The early bishops of Rome (later called popes) began the process of making “alterations” in the Appointed Times of the Lord, the true Biblical Holy Days (Leviticus 23). (See Part 2 “The 70 Weeks Prophecy of Daniel – The New Covenant Is the Covenant of Daniel 9:27, section “The Biblical Calendar & the Biblical Holy Days”).

For example, the date of Passover observance (called Easter) was changed so as not to follow the Biblical (Jewish) observance.²⁴ When the Roman Emperor Constantine established the church of the Roman Empire, the change in Passover observance was sanctioned at the Council of Nicaea (A.D. 325) and made binding for all churches throughout the empire. In addition, Sunday, the day in honor of the sun god, replaced the Biblical Sabbath (Friday evening to Saturday evening); and Christmas, the day honoring the rebirth of the sun god, was adopted. Over time, the Papacy added more and more pagan holidays that were modified (“Christianized”) to appear Biblical. The effect was to erase and obscure the true prophetic pattern and timetable revealed by the Appointed Times of the Lord.

In addition to changing God’s times, the Papacy changed God’s law by adopting unbiblical beliefs, doctrines, and practices that had their origins in paganism. Wherever Roman Catholicism has spread throughout the world, it has absorbed and assimilated native pagan beliefs, rituals, customs, idols, etc., which are modified in such a way as to appear “Christian”.

“boastful words which the horn [Papal Rome] was speaking” (Daniel 7:11) –

“a mouth uttering great boasts” (Daniel 7:8) –

The false claim of the Pope to be God’s sole and supreme representative on earth is boastful and blasphemous. To claim the right to replace God’s Word with unbiblical doctrines and to replace God’s true Biblical Holy Days with pagan holidays is also boastful and blasphemous.

“they will be given into his [its] [Papal Rome’s] hand for a time, times, and half a time” (Daniel 7:25) –

²⁴ Anicetus, Bishop of Rome (c. 153-168), tried to convince Polycarp, a disciple of the apostle John (who recorded the Book of Revelation), not to observe Passover as it had always been observed by the apostles, Yeshua’s disciples. Churches in the East, including the seven churches of the Book of Revelation, continued to observe Passover according to the Biblical commandment (Leviticus 23:5). Around 195, Bishop of Rome Victor tried to excommunicate those who adhered to the Biblical observance.
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quartodecimanism> http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Easter_controversy
Regarding the error of a Sunday resurrection, see “The Biblical Sabbath Day Is the Day of the Resurrection” (Chapter 12) www.messengers-of-messiah.org

The Papacy's power and authority will come to an end at some time in the future, after a period of time referred to as "a time, times, and half a time". The Papacy and the Apostate Church of Rome will be judged and destroyed ("the Harlot" of Revelation 18). This prophecy of judgment is also found in Daniel's prophecies regarding the fate of the Little Horn:

'But the court will sit for judgment, and **his [its] dominion will be taken away, annihilated and destroyed forever**. Then the sovereignty, the dominion, and the greatness of all the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be given to the people of the saints [believers] of the Highest One; His [Messiah Yeshua's] kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all the dominions will serve and obey Him' (Daniel 7:26-27, emphasis added).

This will take place at Messiah Yeshua's Second Coming, as prophesied by Messiah Yeshua (Matthew 24:30; Mark 13:26; Luke 21:27) and also by the prophet Daniel:

"I kept looking in the night visions, And behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, And He came up to the Ancient of Days And was presented before Him. And **to Him was given dominion, Glory and a kingdom**, That all the peoples, nations, and men of every language Might serve Him. **His dominion is an everlasting dominion Which will not pass away;** And His kingdom is one Which will not be destroyed" (Daniel 7:13-14, emphasis added).

"And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever. Inasmuch as you saw that a stone was cut out of the mountain without hands and that it crushed the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold, the great God has made known to the king what will take place in the future; so the dream is true, and its interpretation is trustworthy" (Daniel 2:44-45).

THE GREAT HARLOT REPRESENTS PAPAL ROME

Both the Book of Daniel and the Book of Revelation reveal the rise of Papal Rome and its future judgment:

“And **the woman** whom you saw is **the great city [Rome]**, which reigns over the kings of the earth” (Revelation 17:18, emphasis added).

And one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and spoke with me, saying, “Come here, I shall show you the judgment of **the great harlot [Pagan Rome/Papal Rome]** who sits on many waters [rules over many peoples], with whom the kings [rulers] of the earth committed acts of immorality, and those who dwell on the earth were made drunk with the wine of her immorality” (Revelation 17:1-2, emphasis added).

“the great harlot [Pagan Rome/Papal Rome] who sits on many waters [rules over many peoples]” (Revelation 17:1) –

The waters represent the peoples ruled by Rome:

And he said to me, “The waters which you saw where the harlot [Rome] sits, are peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues (Revelation 17:15).

Rome ruled the ancient Roman Empire and Papal Rome rose as a great political power after the fall of Rome in A.D. 476. Rome continues to be the center of government of the Roman Catholic Church.

“with whom the kings of the earth committed acts of immorality” (Revelation 17:2) –

Rome exercised control over the kings of the earth in ancient times. Rome’s authority continued through the Papacy. During the Middle Ages, European kings worked with the Papacy because

the Papacy had the power to make a king legitimate or not. Without the approval of the Pope, a king could fall from power due to the lack of support by his Roman Catholic subjects. The Papacy continues to exercise great political influence in the world today.

“those who dwell on the earth were made drunk with the wine of her [Rome’s] immorality” (Revelation 17:2) –

Being “made drunk” with the “wine of her immorality” represents people being deceived by and in bondage to a false religious system that leads them to their destruction. The Woman, the Mother of Harlots, is identified as Rome:

And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness; and **I saw a woman [city of Rome] sitting on a scarlet beast [Roman Empire/Papal Empire], full of blasphemous names**, having seven heads and ten horns. And the woman was clothed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a gold cup full of abominations and of the unclean things of her immorality, and upon her forehead a name was written, a mystery, **“BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH”** (Revelation 17:3-5, bold emphasis added).

And I saw **the woman [city of Rome] drunk with the blood of the saints [believers], and with the blood of the witnesses of Jesus [Yeshua]**. And when I saw her, I wondered greatly (Revelation 17:6, emphasis added).

“I saw a woman [city of Rome] sitting on a scarlet beast [Roman Empire/Papal Empire]” (Revelation 17:3) –

The color red is associated with the Roman Empire. The scarlet Beast represents the Roman Empire. The Woman sitting on the scarlet Beast represents the city of Rome. Rome was/is the

power center of the Beast that represents the Roman Empire and what came out of the Roman Empire in its same likeness, the Papacy and its Apostate Roman Church.

“scarlet beast [Roman Empire/Papal Empire], full of blasphemous names” (Revelation 17:3) –

The Beast – representing the Roman Empire and the Papacy that rose out of it – is full of blasphemous names. The Biblical concept of blasphemy refers to a disrespectful attitude toward God and includes idolatry, persecuting God’s people, and claiming the position of God.

“the woman [city of Rome] was clothed in purple and scarlet” (Revelation 17:4) –

The Woman, representing the city of Rome, is “clothed in purple and scarlet”. These are the colors associated with Pagan Rome and also with Papal Rome, which was made in the same image or likeness of Pagan Rome (Revelation 13:14-15).

Red was associated with the Roman Empire (for example, military standards, soldiers’ robes, Roman Senators red-striped tunics, etc.); purple symbolized royalty and only the Roman Emperor could wear a solid purple robe; Roman senators wore a red or purple-striped tunic.

In the Roman Catholic Church, the Cardinals wear scarlet red and the Bishops wear purple. The Pope also wears red (including red shoes) and purple, although he generally wears white.

The *cappa magna* [long, liturgical mantle], now worn according to Roman usage by cardinals, bishops, and certain specially privileged prelates on occasions of ceremony, is not strictly a liturgical vestment, but is only a glorified *cappa choralis*, or choir cope. **Its colour for cardinals is ordinarily red, and for bishops violet (bold emphasis added).²⁵**

²⁵ <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/04351a.htm> - article “Cope”, section “History”.

In choir dress, chaplains of His Holiness wear their purple-trimmed black cassocks [ankle-length robe] with a cotta, but **bishops ... use ... cassocks that are fully purple (this purple corresponds more closely with a Roman purple and is approximated as fuchsia) with scarlet trim, while those of cardinals are fully scarlet with scarlet trim.** Cardinals have the additional distinction of having both choir cassock sleeves and the fascia made of scarlet watered-silk. The *cut* of the choir cassock is still a Roman-cut or French-cut Roman cassock.²⁶

**“the woman [city of Rome] ... adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls”
(Revelation 17:4) –**

The Woman, Rome, was a beautiful city adorned with magnificent temples, grand monuments, and architectural wonders. Rome deteriorated after its fall but under the Papacy once again became a beautiful city, with magnificent churches, monuments, and architectural wonders of the Roman Catholic world. The glory of the ancient city was renewed by the Papacy.

**“a gold cup full of abominations and of the unclean things of her [Rome’s] immorality”
(Revelation 17:4) –**

The gold cup the Woman holds is full of “abominations”, things that are spiritually unclean and detestable to God, referring to idolatrous religion. The Woman is a Harlot because of her immorality, her adultery, which represents idolatrous religion. The Woman represents Pagan Rome and Papal Rome, which perverts and corrupts the Word of God and substitutes an idolatrous form of worship.

The gold cup can also be seen to represent the Eucharistic chalice used in the Roman Catholic Mass. This cup is typically made of gold and used to contain the wine that is claimed to change into the blood of Christ. The cup is “full of abominations” and “unclean” things because of the idolatrous claim that the wine and bread become the blood, body, soul and divinity of Christ.

²⁶ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cassock> - article “Cassock”, section “Western Practice – Roman Catholic”

God forbids the drinking of blood, yet the priest drinks what is claimed to be the blood of Christ from the chalice. The gold cup symbolizes all that is an abomination and spiritually unclean in the sight of God with regard to the Roman Church and its pagan corruption of Biblical truth.

“upon her [city of Rome’s] forehead a name was written, a mystery, ‘BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH’” (Revelation 17:5) –

The city of Rome became the center of the ancient world’s pagan mystery religion cults. From all over the ancient world, from Egypt to Babylon and from Asia Minor to Greece, the various mystery religion cults were brought to Rome and adopted by the Romans. Rome can certainly be called “Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots”, because Rome became the center of all the idolatrous religions that first originated in Babylon and spread throughout the ancient world. Rome also became the center of the Roman Church, the apostate church corrupted by the idolatrous mystery religion cults of ancient Rome. The Harlot represents idolatrous religion, sexual immorality representing spiritual unfaithfulness to God (Psalm 106:39; Isaiah 1:21; Jeremiah 3:8; Ezekiel 6:9; 20:30).

The Roman Church is an apostate church because of its false sacramental system of salvation; false claim that the Pope is the head of the one true church; false claim that there is no salvation outside of the Roman Church; idolatrous images; transubstantiation; purgatory; unbiblical doctrines and cult of Mary; prayer to saints; cult of relics; celibate priesthood; unbiblical and mystical forms of prayer and meditation; pagan holidays; and elements of sun-god worship.

Supernatural signs associated with the Roman Church are Satanic/demonic in nature (2 Thessalonians 2:9; Revelation 13:13). God does not work miracles through images, such as weeping and bleeding statues and paintings, forbidden according to the Second Commandment (Exodus 20:4). God does not contradict His Word by sending apparitions that give unbiblical

messages. God has never performed a supernatural sign, such as the Miracle of the Sun at Fatima, to confirm unbiblical messages of such apparitions.²⁷

However, Satan would perform a miracle associated with the sun because since ancient times, he has presented himself as the greatest of gods, the sun god, known by many names in many cultures, including Egyptian Ra, Horus, and Aten; Babylonian Baal; Greek Helios and Apollo; Persian Mithras; Roman Sol Invictus; Aztec Tonatiuh; and the sun gods of African, Chinese, and Indonesian mythologies, as well as Buddhism and Hinduism (Luke 10:18; 2 Corinthians 11:14; Revelation 13:13). Many deities associated with the sun appear as goddesses rather than gods.²⁸ This is certainly significant in regard to the Miracle of the Sun associated with the demon (perhaps Satan himself) that goes by the name of “Our Lady” and the “Queen of Heaven” (Jeremiah 7:18; 44:17-19, 25).

Elements of sun god worship (such as the halo; monstrance; solar disk communion wafer), sun god pagan holidays and solar calendar (Sunday; December 25th birthday of the sun god) are clearly evident in Roman Catholicism.²⁹ It is no coincidence, therefore, that the Miracle of the Sun is associated with Marian apparitions.

“the woman [city of Rome] drunk with the blood of the saints [believers], and with the blood of the witnesses of Jesus [Yeshua]” (Revelation 17:6) –

The Woman, representing both Pagan Rome and Papal Rome, persecuted and killed true believers in Messiah Yeshua. In ancient times, Vatican Hill was the site of the Roman Emperor Caligula’s and later Nero’s circus, where many Christian martyrdoms and crucifixions took place.³⁰ In fact, the Egyptian Obelisk standing in front of Saint Peter’s Basilica was located in the circus of Caligula and Nero, where it was visible to Christian martyrs before they died.³¹

²⁷ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Miracle_of_the_Sun

²⁸ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Solar_deity - article “Solar deity”, section “Male and female”.

²⁹ Richard Rives, *Too Long in the Sun and Time Is the Ally of Deceit* (<http://www.toolong.com>).

³⁰ “The Vatican” www.mariamilan.com/ancient_rome/vatican.htm

³¹ *Rome Reports (Vaticano)*, EWTN, aired August 8, 2011.

Vatican Hill (in Latin, *Mons Vaticanus*) is the name given, long before the founding of Christianity, to one of the hills on the side of the Tiber opposite the traditional seven hills of Rome. It may have been the site of an Etruscan town called *Vaticum*.

The name "Vatican" has often been thought to derive from the Latin "vates", meaning "seer, soothsayer", though this is uncertain and it is also possible that "Vaticanus" comes from an unrelated Etruscan loan-word. [1] Indeed, the Vatican Hill was the home of the Vates long before pre-Christian Rome. Vaticanus, also known as Vagitanus, was an Etruscan god of prophecy, and his temple was built on the ancient site of Vaticanum (Vatican Hill). [2]

In the 1st century AD, the Vatican Hill was outside the city limits and so could feature a circus (the circus of Nero) and a cemetery. St. Peter's Basilica is built over this cemetery ... (bold emphasis added).³²

Saint Peter's Basilica, with its altar and black serpentine columns, sits on Vatican Hill above a pagan necropolis (city of the dead), in ancient times a place of divination by pagan soothsayers. What more fitting place for Satan's Throne in this world than on Vatican Hill in Rome? (The apostle Peter was not the first pope and was not buried in the pagan cemetery under Saint Peter's. In 1953, his ossuary was discovered in a tomb on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem.)³³

THE JUDGMENT AND DESTRUCTION OF PAPAL ROME

According to Daniel's prophecies, the Roman Papacy, represented by the Little Horn arising among the 10 Horns (representing the 10 Germanic Kingdoms) will be destroyed:

³² http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vatican_Hill

³³ *Peter's Tomb Recently Discovered in Jerusalem* by F. Paul Peterson – <http://www.messengers-of-messiah.org/NewPDF/peters-jerusalem-tomb.pdf>

“Then I kept looking because of the sound of the boastful words which **the horn [Little Horn]** was speaking; I kept looking until **the beast [4th beast, Rome, associated with Papal Rome]** was slain, and its body was destroyed and given to the burning fire. As for the rest of the beasts [kingdoms], their dominion was taken away, but an extension of life was granted to them for an appointed period of time” (Daniel 7:11-12, emphasis added).

“I kept looking, and that horn [Papal Rome] was waging war with the saints [true believers] and overpowering them until the Ancient of Days came, and **judgment was passed in favor of the saints of the Highest One**, and the time arrived when the saints took possession of the kingdom” (Daniel 7:21-22, emphasis added).

‘But the court will sit for judgment, and **his [its] [Papal Rome] dominion will be taken away, annihilated and destroyed forever**. Then the sovereignty, the dominion, and the greatness of all the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be given to the people of the saints of the Highest One; His [Messiah Yeshua’s] kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all the dominions will serve and obey Him’ (Daniel 7:26-27, emphasis added)

The Horn associated with the 4th Beast (Rome) represents Papal Rome and the Apostate Roman Church, which will be judged and destroyed. When Messiah Yeshua returns, there will be no place for the Pope who falsely claims to be the sole and supreme head of the Church. Yeshua will establish God’s Kingdom on Earth and rule from Jerusalem, not Rome, during the Millennial Kingdom/Messianic Age (Daniel 2:34-35, 44-45; Revelation 20:2-4).

Revelation 18 also describes the destruction the Apostate Roman Church, called Babylon the Great, Mother of Harlots, and the Great Harlot (Revelation 14:7-8; 16:19; 17:1, 5; 18:2, 10, 21; 19:2).

“For this reason **in one day her plagues will come, pestilence and mourning and famine, and she will be burned up with fire**; for the Lord God who judges her is strong. ... Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you saints and apostles and

prophets, because God has pronounced judgment for you against her” (Revelation 18:8, 20, emphasis added).

After the destruction of the Apostate Roman Church, “the rest of the beasts” are granted “an extension of life ... for an appointed period of time”:

As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but **an extension of life was granted to them for an appointed period of time**” (Daniel 7:11b-12, emphasis added).

This period of time refers to the Millennial Kingdom/Messianic Age, when Messiah Yeshua establishes God’s Kingdom on Earth and rules from Jerusalem. The “rest of the beasts” with “an extension of life” refer to the nations that rose from the Beast that will not be destroyed. People living during the Millennial Kingdom will have the opportunity to come to the knowledge of the truth that Yeshua is the Messiah and the only way of salvation. At the end of the Millennial Kingdom, Satan is released to deceive the nations again, and each and every person will have the choice to either follow the truth or believe a lie and rebel against God (Revelation 20:3, 7-8). Then final judgment comes and this earth passes away, and the New Heaven, New Earth, and New Jerusalem of Eternity are revealed (Revelation 20:9; 21:1-2).

UNITY MOVEMENT JOINS ALL CHRISTIANS WITH PAPAL ROME

The ecumenical agenda of the Papacy is to bring all Christians back into unity with the Roman Catholic Church. The Church of the Roman Empire was one church until it split in 1054 into the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox churches. Later, the Protestant Reformation resulted in more Christians separating from Roman Catholicism, forming various Protestant churches. Today there are also non-denominational groups and churches that are separate from the Roman Catholic Church. However, the goal of the Papacy is to bring all Christians back into unity with Rome’s “Holy Mother Church”.

The two main branches of the Apostate Church, Roman Catholicism and Eastern Orthodoxy, share the same basic unbiblical doctrines and are therefore fundamentally and prophetically one and the same church, with the Pope in Rome being the most prominent head. There is a strong movement to reunite the two branches to restore the unity of the Roman Church:

Top Roman Catholic and Orthodox dignitaries declared Monday that the time has come to close the ages-old rifts between the ancient branches of Christianity and bring East and West closer together.

Representing the world's 1.1 billion Catholics and more than 250 million Christian Orthodox, sixty bishops, metropolitans and cardinals — 30 from each side — convened in the Serbian capital Belgrade for a renewed "theological" dialogue while acknowledging that much wider issues are involved.

"East and West have been estranged from each other since the 11th century," said Orthodox Metropolitan John Zizioulas, referring to the historic schism in 1054 when the spiritual leaders in the Vatican and in Constantinople — now Istanbul, Turkey — severed ties over the rising influence of the papacy.

That split was sealed then with an exchange of anathemas — spiritual repudiations, which were lifted in the 20th century but only with halting progress toward restoring bonds.

"We experience in our time that European nations unite and create one family," he said. **"It is time to recover the ancient unity. ... East and West meet now not only on the theological level, but also on the political level."**

Cardinal Walter Kasper, **the Vatican's most senior figure on Christian unity, said the long-separated branches should turn to their "unity in God, one faith, one baptism."**

"We look to the future to build unity for Europe," he added.

The week-long gathering in Belgrade is intended to re-start the top-level dialogue after formal talks broke off six years ago.

It is also a fresh start under **Pope Benedict XVI, who has appealed to all Christians to unite against what he considers rampant secularism and declining faith in the West** (emphasis added).³⁴

The statement made in regard to the goal of restoring the political and religious unity of the ancient world is remarkable – "**It is time to recover the ancient unity. ... East and West meet now not only on the theological level, but also on the political level.**" The Beast of Revelation represents the ungodly political-religious systems (empires) of the ancient world, in particular the political-religious system of Rome, out of which today's nations emerged. The Beast has gone through various transformations over thousands of years and continues to exist to this day.

While Pope Benedict XVI works to unite all Christians, not just Orthodox Christians, under the supreme headship of the Papacy, the Lord tells His people to "come out of her", referring to the Apostate Roman Church (Revelation 18:4).

And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, "**Come out of her, my people,** that you may not participate in her sins and that you may not receive of her plagues; for her sins have piled up as high as heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities" (Revelation 18:4-5, emphasis added).

UNITY MOVEMENT JOINS WORLD RELIGIONS WITH PAPAL ROME

Not only does the Papacy seek to unite all Christians under Papal Rome, but it also seeks to bring major world religions under the influence and leadership of the Pope. Inter-religious dialogue,

³⁴ "Roman Catholic, Orthodox Church Dignitaries Seek Unity", *Associated Press*, September 18, 2006 (<http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,214366,00.html>).

meetings, and international conferences bring the Pope and other Catholic hosts together with high-level Muslims, Protestants, Orthodox Christians, Anglicans, Zoroastrians, Jews, Baha'is, Buddhists, Hindus, Sikhs, and Shintoists.³⁵

Many look to the Pope as the holiest of men. Indeed, his titles include “Your Holiness” and “Holy Father”. The adulation of the Pope is a form of idolatry. But the Word of God says:

“And do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven” (Matthew 23:9).

And what does the Word of God say about those who promote a false gospel and compromise Biblical truth for the sake of unity:

For such men are **false apostles, deceitful workers**, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ [Messiah]. **And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.** Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their deeds (2 Corinthians 11:13-15, emphasis added).

DEMONIC “VIRGIN MARY” IS MOTHER OF FALSE RELIGIONS

The most powerful unifier of Islam (religion of the 8th Head of the Beast) and Apostate Christianity (religion of the 6th and 7th Heads of the Beast) is the Roman Catholic “Virgin Mary”. The messages of Marian apparitions are clearly unbiblical and therefore come from a demonic

³⁵ “World religious leaders hold their own G8 summit” by Philip Pullella, *Reuters*, June 18 2009 (<http://blogs.reuters.com/faithworld/2009/06/18/world-religious-leaders-hold-their-own-g8-summit/>); “Best of 2011. October: Pope and World religious leaders meet in Assisi to call for peace”, *Rome Reports*, December 30, 2011 (<http://www.romereports.com/palio/best-of-2011-october-pope-and-world-religious-leaders-meet-in-assisi-to-call-for-peace-english-5755.html#.UPC4iaXN8qY>); “World Religious leaders meet in Rome and Florence” by Lisa Palmieri Billig, *Vatican Insider*, November 6, 2012 (<http://vaticaninsider.lastampa.it/en/news/detail/articolo/religioni-religions-19485/>).

source masquerading as the mother of Yeshua. In one of the messages at Medjugorje, the apparition says that Muslims, Catholics, and Orthodox Christians are all her children.³⁶

This unifying message does not come from the God of the Bible, who is not the same god as Allah of Islam. The Virgin Mary of the Apostate Roman Church is not the Biblical Mary. In Roman Catholicism, she is known by many titles, including the Queen of Heaven.³⁷ This is the title of an ancient pagan goddess who is referred to in the Bible (Jeremiah 7:18; 44:17-19; 44:25). The goddess is known by many names throughout pagan religions. This is how the demonic apparitions of the Roman Catholic Virgin Mary work to unite the world's false religions under Rome. We see this at the shrine of Our Lady in Fatima, Portugal:

Arguably, the most popular apparition site that Muslims visit is the shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in Portugal. Fatima was said to be Muhammad's favorite daughter. Furthermore, Muhammad reportedly stated that Fatima has the highest place in heaven after the Virgin Mary. ...

Fatima may be the most famous Marian shrine where Muslims go to pray and pay homage to the Queen of Heaven, yet Fatima is hardly unique. In 2004, Reuters News Service wrote, in an article entitled "Twist of globalization: All faiths come together", that Hindus, Buddhists, Muslims and other pilgrims regularly worship at famous Roman Catholic shrines to the Virgin Mary. They drink holy water, light votive candles, and pray fervently to the Madonna. The article explains that many pilgrims venerate her like one of their own goddesses.¹¹²

Furthermore, in recent years apparitions of Mary have been reported in several Muslim nations including Iraq, Syria, Egypt, Turkey, and others. Veneration has

³⁶ Jim Tetlow, Roger Oakland, and Brad Myers, *Queen of Rome, Queen of Islam, Queen of All: The Marian apparitions' plan to unite all religions under the Roman Catholic Church*, p. 10.

Free online copy – www.eternal-productions.org/PDFS/Queen.pdf

³⁷ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Queen_of_Heaven

increased as more and more claim they have experienced a miracle at a Marian shrine (emphasis added).³⁸

We can expect more apparitions of the demonic “Virgin Mary” of the Apostate Roman Church in the time leading up to Messiah Yeshua’s soon return (2 Thessalonians 2:9-10; Revelation 13:13-14). It is important to note that demonic manifestations of the false “Virgin Mary” also occur within the Orthodox Christian Church, showing the fundamental unity in nature of both divisions of the original Church of the Roman Empire.

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³⁸ Tetlow, pp. 36-37. Free online copy of *Queen of Rome, Queen of Islam, Queen of All* <http://www.eternal-productions.org/PDFS/Queen.pdf>

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