

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

Part 10: Trumpets 5-6: The Rise of the 8th Head of the Beast, Islamic Empires, & Fall of the 7th Head, the Eastern Roman Empire

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

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PART 10

TRUMPETS 5-6: THE RISE OF THE 8TH HEAD OF THE BEAST, ISLAMIC EMPIRES, & FALL OF THE 7TH HEAD, THE EASTERN ROMAN EMPIRE

In Part 9, we showed that the Sixth Seal is a prophetic picture of upheaval in the Earth and in the Heavens: a great earthquake that shook the Mediterranean world in the Fourth Century; a total solar eclipse was visible throughout the Roman Empire in the Fifth Century; a blood-red total lunar eclipse appeared over the Roman Empire in the same year that Rome was sacked by the Vandals (455); and intense meteoric and cometary impact activity in the period 400-600.

These events were signs of God’s judgment on the Roman Empire, leading to the fall of Rome in 476, marking the end of the Western Roman Empire (6th Head of the Beast).

We also showed that the Seventh Seal reveals preparations for the Seven Trumpets, Trumpets 1-4 revealing a prophetic picture of Earth being bombarded with showers of cometary debris and a cataclysmic volcanic eruption that changed the course of human history. The resulting catastrophic global climate change caused the fall of civilizations around the world in the mid-Sixth Century. These events set into motion a sequence of events that resulted in the rise of the Islamic Empires (8th Head of the Beast), as revealed in the prophetic picture of the Fifth and Sixth Trumpets, the subject of this part of our prophecy study.

WARNING OF THE FIFTH AND SIXTH TRUMPETS

The Word of God warns of the terrible judgment of the Fifth and Sixth Trumpets:

And I looked, and I heard an eagle flying in midheaven, saying with a loud voice, “Woe, woe, woe, to those who dwell on the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!” (Revelation 8:13, emphasis added).

This warning follows Trumpets 1-4, which prophesied the terrible events of the Sixth Century – cosmic impacts and a gigantic volcanic eruption that dimmed the sun and caused a catastrophic global climate change resulting in the collapse of civilizations worldwide, including the weakening of the Eastern Roman (Byzantine) Empire, the 7th Head of the Beast.

FIFTH TRUMPET – RISE OF ISLAMIC EMPIRES, THE 8TH HEAD OF THE BEAST

The Roman Empire in the East was greatly weakened by the events prophesied by Trumpets 1-4, creating the conditions that led to the rise and spread of the Islamic Empires, the 8th Head of the Beast, as revealed by the Fifth and Sixth Trumpet Prophecies.

Let's begin our study with the Fifth Trumpet, which describes the rise and spread of Islam out of Arabia in the Seventh and Eighth Centuries:

Rev. 9:1 And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star from heaven which had fallen to the earth; and the key of the bottomless pit was given to him.

Rev. 9:2 And he opened the bottomless pit; and smoke went up out of the pit, like the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by the smoke of the pit.

Rev. 9:3 And out of the smoke came forth locusts upon the earth; and power was given them, as the scorpions of the earth have power.

Rev. 9:4 And they were told that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, nor any green thing, nor any tree, but only the men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.

Rev. 9:5 And they were not permitted to kill anyone, but to torment for five months; and their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it stings a man.

Rev. 9:6 And in those days men will seek death and will not find it; and they will long to die and death flees from them.

Rev. 9:7 And the appearance of the locusts was like horses prepared for battle; and on their heads, as it were, crowns like gold, and their faces were like the faces of men.

Rev. 9:8 And they had hair like the hair of women, and their teeth were like the teeth of lions.

Rev. 9:9 And they had breastplates like breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings was like the sound of chariots, of many horses rushing to battle.

Rev. 9:10 And they have tails like scorpions, and stings; and in their tails is their power to hurt men for five months.

Rev. 9:11 They have as king over them, the angel of the abyss; his name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in the Greek he has the name Apollyon.

Rev. 9:12 The first woe is past; behold, two woes are still coming after these things.

DEMONS OF ISLAM RELEASED FROM THE ABYSS

The Fifth Trumpet describes demons being released from the lowest parts of Hell by an angel who has the key to the Bottomless Pit:

And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw **a star from heaven which had fallen to the earth**; and the **key of the bottomless pit [Abyss] was given to him**. **And he opened the bottomless pit**; and smoke went up out of the pit, like the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by the smoke of the pit (Revelation 9:1-2, emphasis added).

In this context, the star that fell from Heaven is not a comet (as described in the Third Trumpet Prophecy) but is the fallen angel who was given the key to the Bottomless Pit, also called the Abyss, the dwelling place of demons in the depths of Hell.¹

They have as king over them, the angel of the abyss; his name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in the Greek he has the name Apollyon (Revelation 9:11).

The name of the king of the demons is Abaddon (Hebrew meaning “destruction”) and Apollyon (Greek meaning “Destroyer”).² Note the similarity between the name Apollyon and Apollo³, the name of the Greek god of light and the sun, prophecy and healing – one of Satan’s manifestations. It is Satan who is ruler over all the fallen angels, also called demons.

Yeshua saw Satan’s fall from Heaven, which He described as appearing “like lightning”:

¹ The Greek word *abussos* (Strong’s #12) translates as “abyss” or “bottomless pit” (Luke 8:31; Revelation 9:1-2, 11; 11:7; 17:8; 20:1, 3).

² Apollyon (Strong’s #623).

³ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apollo> - accessed October 15, 2014.

And the seventy returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name.” And He [Yeshua] said to them, “**I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning**. Behold, I have given you authority to tread upon serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall injure you. Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven” (Luke 10:17-20, emphasis added).

Yeshua’s description of Satan falling from Heaven like “lightning” is consistent with the description in Revelation 9:1 of “a star from heaven which had fallen to the earth”. The description of lighting is similar to that of a “falling star”, a fast-streaking light through the sky.

In describing Satan’s fall, Yeshua was responding to His disciples, whom He had sent out with great power and authority in His name. His disciples marveled that Yeshua’s name gave them authority over demons (fallen angels). Yeshua responded by saying that He had given them authority over demonic spirits, which He refers to as “serpents” and “scorpions”.

Yeshua’s reference to demons as scorpions links to the demons released from the Abyss of Hell that are described as locusts with tails like scorpions:

And out of the smoke came forth **locusts** upon the earth; and power was given them, as the **scorpions** of the earth have power. ... And they were not permitted to kill anyone, but to torment for five months; and their torment was **like the torment of a scorpion** when it stings a man. ... And the appearance of the locusts was like horses prepared for battle; and on their heads, as it were, crowns like gold, and their faces were like the faces of men. And they had hair like the hair of women, and their teeth were like the teeth of lions. And they had breastplates like breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings was like the sound of chariots, of many horses rushing to battle. And **they have tails like scorpions**, and stings... (Revelation 9:3, 5, 7, 8-10, emphasis added).

The demons are described as having the appearance of locusts (grasshoppers), with faces like men, crowns like gold, hair like women, teeth like lions, breastplates of iron, and tails like scorpions. We can certainly take this description literally because demons can appear in many forms, including forms that combine the features of different creatures. A review of Wikipedia's "List of Legendary Creatures", which contains references to various types of demons, shows that many take the form of "hybrid" creatures, meaning they possess an unnatural combination of features from entirely different creatures.⁴

The demons shown being released in the Fifth Trumpet Prophecy are associated with Islam. From Islam's beginning to today, they are still active to deceive and bring destruction on humanity. As the Word of God clearly shows, Satan and the fallen angels (demons) are behind every false religion in the world.

MUHAMMAD'S DEMONIC ENCOUNTERS

Muhammad unified Arabia into a single political-religious state under the banner of Islam. The revelations Muhammad received did not come from God, but from a deceiving demon:

Born in about 570 CE in the Arabian city of Mecca,[11][12] Muhammad was orphaned at an early age and brought up under the care of his uncle Abu Talib. He later worked mostly as a merchant, as well as a shepherd, and was first married by age 25.[13] **Being in the habit of periodically retreating to a cave in the surrounding mountains for several nights of seclusion and prayer**, he later reported that it was there, at age 40,[11][14] that **he received his first revelation from God**. Three years after this event Muhammad started preaching these revelations publicly, proclaiming that "God is One", that complete "surrender" to Him (lit. *islām*) is the only way ... acceptable to God, and that he himself was a prophet and messenger of God, in the same vein as other Islamic prophets[15][16][17] (emphasis added).⁵

⁴ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_legendary_creatures

⁵ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad> - introductory information.

Muhammad claimed to have received messages from the angel Gabriel, which are recorded in the Quran, the holy book of Islam. However, it is clear that the messages Muhammad received came from a demonic source because they fundamentally contradict the Word of God. For example, Islam teaches that Yeshua (Jesus) is not the Son of God or God and that He was not crucified, therefore denying that Yeshua is the only way of salvation (John 14:6).

COMMAND NOT TO HURT THE GRASS OR ANY GREEN THING

The demons released from the Abyss were not permitted to harm green vegetation:

And they were told that they should **not hurt the grass of the earth, nor any green thing, nor any tree**, but only the men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads (Revelation 9:4, emphasis added).

The demons associated with Islam influenced Muhammad and his followers. That they were not allowed to destroy vegetation is demonstrated by Muhammad's and Abu-Bakr's instructions relating to war:

The following instructions were given by the Prophet to the troops dispatched against the Byzantine force ... : "... **destroy not the means of their subsistence, nor their fruit trees and touch not palm**" ([4]).

The Khalifa Abu-Bakr also gave the following instructions to the commander of an army in the Syrian battle: "**Destroy no palm-trees, nor burn any fields of corn or wheat, cut down no fruit trees**, nor do any mischief of cattle, only such as you kill for the necessity of subsistence" ([5]).

Similar instructions were given by the succeeding Khalifas to their respective commanders of the troops ...⁶ (emphasis added).

⁶ http://www.islambasics.com/view.php?bkID=107&chapter=38#_ftn5

DEMONS OF ISLAM TORMENT THE MEDITERRANEAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN WORLD

During the initial spread of Islam throughout the Mediterranean and Middle Eastern world, the demons of Islam tormented but did not completely destroy humanity:

And they were **not given authority to kill them, but to torment them for five months**. Their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it strikes a man (Revelation 9:5, NKJV, emphasis added).

And **they were not permitted to kill anyone, but to torment for five months**; and their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it stings a man (Revelation 9:5, NASB, emphasis added).

The New American Standard Bible translates “not permitted to kill *anyone*”. However, the more accurate translation is “not permitted to kill *them*”. King James, New King James, Amplified, and New International Bible versions correctly translate “them” from the Greek text.

This is an important distinction in understanding the meaning of this verse in the context of the rise and spread of Islam throughout the Mediterranean world. We must also know who “them” refers to, which is answered in Revelation 9:20-21.

And the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, **did not repent of the works of their hands, so as not to worship demons, and the idols of gold and of silver and of brass and of stone and of wood**, which can neither see nor hear nor walk; and **they did not repent of their murders nor of their sorceries nor of their immorality nor of their thefts** (Revelation 9:20-21, emphasis added).

The “them” refers to those who made religious images for worship, referred to as “idols of gold and silver and of brass and of stone and of wood”. God forbids the making of any religious image for worship:

“You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth” (Exodus 20:4).

The Apostate Church of Rome deleted the Second Commandment forbidding the making of religious images. (In order to keep the number of commandments the same, the Tenth Commandment was divided into two commandments.) Demons can attach to these forbidden religious images and respond to people who look to them and pray to them, thus opening the door and giving permission for demons to operate in a person’s life.

As we have previously detailed, the Apostasy the apostle Paul warned would come was and is the Apostate Church of Rome. (See Part 6 “The Man of Lawlessness and the Apostasy – Emperor Constantine & the Roman Church” at www.messengers-of-messiah.org). The Roman Church replaces true Biblical salvation with a sacramental system of salvation, and replaces Biblical doctrines with unbiblical doctrines, including the making and use of images strictly forbidden by the Second Commandment.

Islam, with its prohibition of idols, waged war against the idolatrous Roman Church. Islam was God’s judgment on the Apostate Church of Rome, and those who trusted in it for their salvation and participated in the worship of demons by looking to and praying to forbidden religious images. Just as God used the Assyrian Empire (2nd Head of the Beast), the Babylonian Empire (3rd Head of the Beast), and the Roman Empire (6th Head of the Beast) as instruments of His judgment for Israel’s idolatry, God used the Islamic Empires (8th Head of the Beast) as instruments of His judgment on the idolatrous Church of the Roman Empire. But God did not allow Islam to totally destroy the Apostate Church of Rome or every one of its members. This is what is meant by the demons of Islam being allowed to torment but not to kill.

FIVE MONTHS REPRESENT 150 YEARS

The demons of Islam were given authority to torment their enemies for “five months”. In this context, five months refers to a period of about 150 years, based upon a day representing one year, as explained by the Lord to the prophet Ezekiel:

“When you have completed these, you shall lie down a second time, but on your right side, and bear the iniquity of the house of Judah; I have assigned it to you for forty days, **a day for each year**” (Ezekiel 4:6, emphasis added).

Another example is the Seventy Weeks Prophecy of Daniel, in which one week represents a period of seven years (Daniel 9:24-27). Applying this same interpretation to Revelation 9:5, five months represent a period of approximately 150 days or 150 years. (Note: The Biblical calendar months alternate between 29 and 30 days; $5 \times 29.5 = 147.5$ days or years.) During this period of time, Islam was born and spread extensively throughout the Mediterranean and Middle Eastern world by Muslim Arabs, beginning with Muhammad.⁷

INITIAL SPREAD OF ISLAM DURING THE FIRST 150 YEARS

Wikipedia’s article “Spread of Islam”⁸ divides the expansion of Islam into 5 phases:

1. Phase 1: Early Caliphs and Umayyads (610-750)
2. Phase 2: The Abbasids (750-1258)
3. Phase 3: Dissolution of the Abbasids and the emergence of the Seljuks and Ottomans (950-1450)
4. Phase 4: Ottoman Empire (1299-1924)
5. Phase 5: Post-Ottomans – present

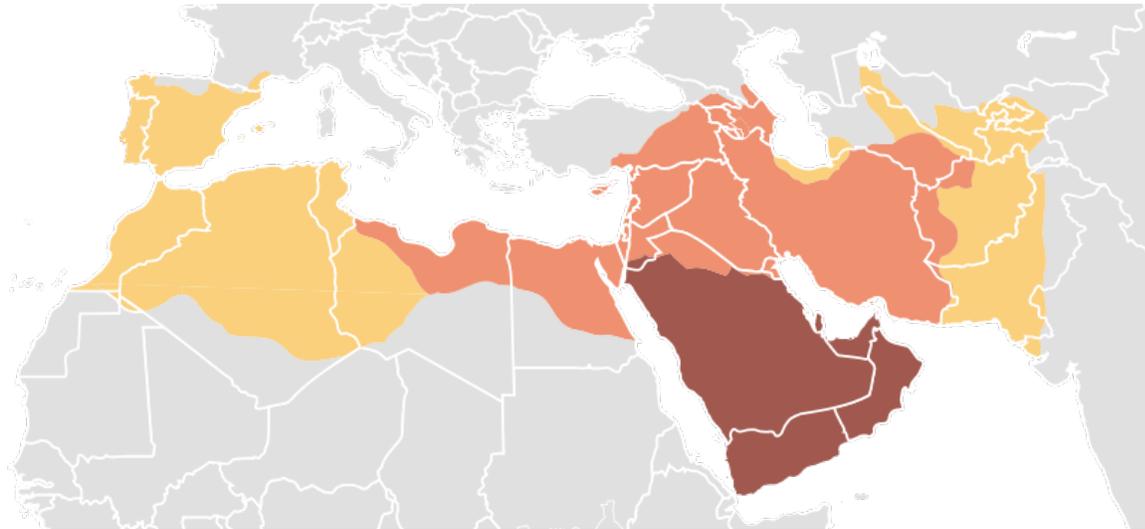
⁷ Arabs are descended from Ishmael, son of Abraham by the Egyptian maid Hagar.

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

The five-month or approximately 150-year-period described by the Fifth Trumpet Prophecy fits well with Phase 1: Early Caliphs and Umayyads (610-750). During this time, Arab Islam exploded outward from Arabia and into vast areas of the Mediterranean and Middle East.

EXPANSION OF ISLAMIC EMPIRES

This map shows the expansion of Islamic Empires (Caliphates)



The Caliphate, 622–750⁹

Expansion under Muhammad, 622-632 (maroon)

Expansion during the Rashidun Caliphs, 632-661 (coral)

Expansion during the Umayyad Caliphate, 661-750 (yellow)

Note: Caliphate refers to an Islamic state led by a caliph, a supreme political and religious leader. The term caliphate also applies to successions of Islamic Empires that have existed in the Middle East and Southwest Asia.¹⁰

According to Wikipedia¹¹, the four major caliphates established after Muhammad's death were:

⁹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Map_of_expansion_of_Caliphate.svg

¹⁰ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caliphate>

¹¹ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caliphate>

1. Rashidun Caliphate (632-661)
2. Umayyad Caliphate (661-750)
3. Abbasid Caliphate (750-1258)
4. Ottoman Caliphate (1453-1924).

Significantly, the first three of four main caliphates were Arab. But by the middle of the Tenth Century, Arab influence declined as non-Arab Islamic Empires rose to power:

By 940, however, the power of the Caliphate under the Abbasids was waning as **non-Arabs**, particularly the **Berbers** of the Maghreb, the **Turks**, and later, in the latter half of the 13th century, the **Mamluks** in Egypt, **gained influence**, and the various subordinate sultans and emirs became increasingly independent (emphasis added).¹²

The last of the four major Islamic caliphates, the Turkish Ottoman Empire, conquered the Eastern Roman (Byzantine) Empire and made Constantinople its capital. This was the end of the 7th Head of the Beast and the beginning of the last and greatest Islamic Empire, the 8th Head of the Beast. As always, Jerusalem is the center of Biblical prophecy, and the Heads of the Beast represent empires that ruled Jerusalem and the Land of Israel. This is also the case for the four major caliphates that are part of the 8th Head of the Beast.

JERUSALEM CONQUERED BY THE 8TH HEAD OF THE BEAST, ISLAMIC EMPIRES

In 637, Islamic forces conquered Jerusalem, taking it from the Eastern Roman (Byzantine) Empire. Here we see a transition from the 7th Head of the Beast to the 8th Head of the Beast ruling Jerusalem and the Land of Israel.

636–7: Siege of Jerusalem (637) – Caliph Umar the Great conquers Jerusalem and enters the city on foot, following the decisive defeat of the Byzantine Empire at the Battle of Yarmouk a few months earlier.[3] Patriarch Sophronius and Umar

¹² <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caliphate> - section “Abbasids (750-1258)”.

are reported to have agreed the Covenant of Umar I, which guaranteed Christians freedom of religion but prohibited Jews from living in the city according to Muhammad ibn Jarir al-Tabari. **Jerusalem becomes part of the Jund Filastin province of the Arab Caliphate** (emphasis added).¹³

THE Umayyad CALIPHATE AND KEY EVENTS IN JERUSALEM'S HISTORY

In 661, Jerusalem came under control of the Umayyad Empire. The Umayyad family was an Arab family originating in Mecca.

Under the Umayyads, the Caliphate grew rapidly in territory. Islamic rule expanded westward across North Africa and into Hispania [Spain] and eastward through Persia and ultimately to the western lands of Indus Valley, in modern day Pakistan. This made it **one of the largest unitary states in history and one of the few states to ever extend direct rule over three continents (Africa, Europe, and Asia)** (emphasis added).¹⁴

Key events of prophetic significance in Jerusalem's history during this period include:

- 661: **Muawiyah I is ordained as Caliph of the Islamic world in Jerusalem** following the assassination of Ali in Kufa, ending the First Fitna [Islamic civil war] and marking the **beginning of the Umayyad Empire.**
- 687–691: **The Dome of the Rock is built [on the Temple Mount]** by Caliph Abd al-Malik ibn Marwan during the Second Fitna, becoming the world's first great work of Islamic architecture.[3]
- 705: The Umayyad Caliph Al-Walid I builds the Masjid al-Aqsa [Al Aqsa Mosque on the Temple Mount].
- 744–750: Riots in Jerusalem and other major Syrian cities during the reign of Marwan II,

¹³ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_Jerusalem - "Timeline of Jerusalem", section "Rashidun, Umayyad and Abbasid Caliphates period".

¹⁴ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caliphate> - section "Umayyads (661-750)".

quelled in 745–6. **The Umayyad army is subsequently defeated in 750 at the Battle of the Zab by the Abbasids, who take control of the entire empire including Jerusalem** (emphasis added).¹⁵

The Umayyad Empire (Caliphate) is prophetically important because it was the largest Islamic Empire (and fifth largest empire in the world) by land area and population.¹⁶ In addition, the Umayyads built the Dome of the Rock on the site of the Jerusalem Temple and the Al Aqsa Mosque on the southern end of the Temple Mount. To this day, they stand as symbols of Islam’s domination of the Temple Mount, where the Muslim authority that governs the Temple Mount does not allow Jews or Christians to pray.

Umayyad Caliphate at its Greatest Extent.¹⁷



¹⁵ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_Jerusalem - “Timeline of Jerusalem”, section “Rashidun, Umayyad and Abbasid Caliphates period”.

¹⁶ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_empires - section “Largest empires by land area and population”.

¹⁷ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Umayyad750ADloc.png>

THE SIXTH TRUMPET – RISE OF THE TURKS AND THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE

Let's continue our study with the Sixth Trumpet, which describes the rise of the last and greatest of all the Islamic Empires, the Ottoman Empire:

Rev. 9:13 And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God,

Rev. 9:14 one saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates."

Rev. 9:15 And the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released, so that they might kill a third of mankind.

Rev. 9:16 And the number of the armies of the horsemen was two hundred million; I heard the number of them.

Rev. 9:17 And this is how I saw in the vision the horses and those who sat on them: the riders had breastplates the color of fire and of hyacinth and of brimstone; and the heads of the horses are like the heads of lions; and out of their mouths proceed fire and smoke and brimstone.

Rev. 9:18 A third of mankind was killed by these three plagues, by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone, which proceeded out of their mouths.

Rev. 9:19 For the power of the horses is in their mouths and in their tails; for their tails are like serpents and have heads; and with them they do harm.

Rev. 9:20 And the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, so as not to worship demons, and the idols of gold and of silver and of brass and of stone and of wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk;

Rev. 9:21 and they did not repent of their murders nor of their sorceries nor of their immorality nor of their thefts.

THE RISE OF THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE AND FALL OF THE EASTERN ROMAN (BYZANTINE) EMPIRE

For the interpretation of the Sixth Trumpet Prophecy, we agree with and quote from the Historicist interpretation in the book, *Revelation – Four Views: A Parallel Commentary*:

The **third of mankind (v. 15) upon whom this woe falls** is the eastern third, or Grecian portion of what had been the Roman Empire. This was **the Byzantine Empire, with its capital at Constantinople.**

Shortly before the year 1000, a fierce and numerous people known as the Tartars moved from the area of the Caspian Sea to new settlements on the eastern banks of the Euphrates. Under the leadership of Togrul, the Turkomans or Turkmen, as they came to be called, established a formidable empire in western Asia. **The Turkmen conquered Baghdad, the capital of the Saracen empire, in 1055, and converted to the Islamic religion.** Persia and India being subjugated, it would have seemed natural for the **Turks to expand west across the Euphrates.** “Yet for a long time they had now been inactive, and it would seem **they had been bound or restrained** by some mighty power from moving in their conquests to the West” (Barnes) [Albert Barnes, *Notes, Explanatory and Practical, on the Book of Revelation*, 1856].

Under Togrul’s son Alp Arslan and his successor Malek Shah, **the Turks crossed the Euphrates and made assaults upon the Byzantine Empire.** The Turkish empire in those days was divided into four principalities under Shah’s four sons. Almost four hundred years later, **in 1453, the Turks — by this time known as the Ottoman Empire — conquered Constantinople, bringing to an end the last vestige of the Roman Empire in the east.**

The Turkish hordes are the horsemen (v. 16) depicted in this vision. The increments of time: an **hour**, and a **day**, and a **month**, and a **year** (v. 15) are

to be added together. **Calculating by the year-for-a-day method**, an **hour** is either one twelfth or one twenty-fourth of a year; a **day** is a year; a **month** is 30 years; and a **year** is either 360 or 365 years, depending upon whose calendar (Jewish or Roman) is followed. Thus the aggregate period totals either 391 years and 15 days, or else 396 years and 106 days.

Elliot and Barnes favor the use of the Julian calendar of 365 days, extending the period of this calamity to 396 years and 106 days [We agree with this method of counting because we are dealing with the fall of the Eastern Roman Empire, which used the Julian calendar]. **Beginning the reckoning at about 1055, in which the Turks took Baghdad [Iraq] and overturned the empire of the caliphs (Arab rulers)**, it is thus possible to calculate **the end of the period as the year 1453, when Constantinople and the Byzantine Empire fell** (emphasis added).¹⁸

“A THIRD OF MANKIND” KILLED BY MYRIADS OF TURKISH HORSEMEN

The Sixth Trumpet Prophecy describes great “armies of horsemen” that kill “a third of mankind”, referring to the Middle Eastern and Mediterranean world:

And the **sixth angel sounded**, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, one saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, **“Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates.”** And the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released, so that they might kill a third of mankind. And **the number of the armies of the horsemen was two hundred million**; I heard the number of them (Revelation 9:13-16, emphasis added).

The point of reference is the Euphrates River, showing the context is the lands of the Beast, the Mediterranean and Middle Eastern world (See Part 5: The Beasts of Revelation & Daniel). As

¹⁸ Steve Gregg, *Revelation – Four Views: A Parallel Commentary*, pp. 186, 188.

we have previously shown in this study, references to “all the earth” or the “whole earth” must be interpreted within the context, and do not necessarily or even usually refer to the entire planet.¹⁹ In the same way, the reference in Revelation 9:15-16 to great armies killing “a third of mankind” does not refer to all the people living on the planet, but to those living in the Mediterranean and Middle Eastern world, the area of the empires of the Beast.

The Sixth Seal Prophecy shows the rise of the Turks, who adopted Islam as their religion and created the greatest Islamic Empire of all times, the Ottoman Empire:

The **Ottoman Empire** (/ˈɒtəmən/; Ottoman Turkish: *عُثْمَانِيَّة عَلِيَّة دَوْلَت*, *Devlet-i Aliyye-i Osmâniyye*, Modern Turkish: *Osmanlı İmparatorluğu*), also historically referred to as the **Turkish Empire** or **Turkey**, was an empire founded by Oghuz Turks under Osman Bey in north-western Anatolia in 1299.[7] **With the conquest of Constantinople by Mehmed II in 1453, the Ottoman state was transformed into an empire.**[8][9][10]

During the 16th and 17th centuries, in particular at the height of its power under the reign of Suleiman the Magnificent, the Ottoman Empire was a powerful multinational, multilingual empire controlling much of Southeast Europe, Western Asia, the Caucasus, North Africa, and the Horn of Africa.[11] At the beginning of the 17th century the empire contained 32 provinces and numerous vassal states. Some of these were later absorbed into the empire, while others were granted various types of autonomy during the course of centuries.[dn 5]

¹⁹ Biblical references to “all the earth” or the “whole earth” are correctly interpreted by understanding the context, and generally refer to a particular region, rather than to the entire planet. For example, in Daniel 7:23, “the whole earth” refers to the Roman Empire; in Daniel 8:5, “the whole earth” refers to the Persian Empire that Alexander the Great conquered; in Jeremiah 51:7, 49 and Daniel 4:1, 20, “all the earth” refers to the Babylonian Empire; in Daniel 2:39, “all the earth” refers to Alexander the Great’s Empire; and in 1 Kings 10:24, “all the earth” refers to the Mediterranean and Middle Eastern world that heard about King Solomon.

With [Constantinople](#) as its capital and control of lands around the [Mediterranean basin](#), the **Ottoman Empire was at the centre of interactions between the Eastern and Western worlds for six centuries** (emphasis added).²⁰

“TWO MYRIADS OF MYRIADS” – INNUMERABLE TURKISH HORSEMEN

In the Greek text, the literal translation of the number of this great army is “two myriads of myriads”.²¹ The Greek word *urias* (Strong’s #3461) can mean “a ten-thousand” or it can mean “a myriad or indefinite number”.²² In this context, the number is not a definite number, but instead refers to an indefinite number, too many to be counted. In English, the words that can be used to describe this great army are “countless”, “without number”, or “innumerable”. The use of the Greek word meaning “two”, and the Greek word for “myriad” twice, emphasizes the great number, **not** the specific number of 200 million, which is based on the incorrect interpretation of myriad meaning 10,000 in this context (2 x 10,000 x 10,000 = 200,000,000).

The term **two hundred million** (v. 16) can be translated “two myriad myriads,” which can refer to an indefinite number. Elliot says that the Turks and Tartars had the custom of using the term *myriads* in the numbering of their troops. Gibbon writes [in *The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*] of “the myriads of the Turkish horse overspreading the Greek frontier.”²³

How interesting and significant that the Turks had the custom of using the term “myriads” in the numbering of troops. This is a unique connection between the term “myriads” and the Turkish troops that migrated from central Asia westward into the Middle East and Mediterranean area.

... during the [Muslim conquests](#), the Turks entered the Muslim world proper as [servants](#), during the booty of Arab raids and conquests.[80] **The Turks began**

²⁰ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ottoman_Empire - introductory information, accessed October 12, 2014.

²¹ Alfred Marshall, *The Interlinear KJV-NIV Parallel New Testament in Greek and English*, p. 745.

²² Spiros Zodhiates, *The Hebrew-Greek Key Word Study Bible*, New Testament Dictionary, p. 2226.

²³ Gregg, p. 190.

converting to Islam after **Muslim conquest of Transoxiana** through the efforts of **missionaries, Sufis, and merchants**. Although initiated by the **Arabs**, the **conversion** of the Turks to Islam was filtered through **Persian** and Central Asian culture. Under the **Umayyads**, most were domestic servants, whilst under the **Abbasids**, **increasing numbers were trained as soldiers**.^[80] **By the ninth century, Turkish commanders were leading the caliphs' Turkish troops into battle**. As the Abbasid caliphate declined, Turkish officers assumed more military and political power taking over or establishing provincial dynasties with their own corps of Turkish troops.^[80]²⁴

The Turks eventually rose to such power that they dominated the Middle East for many centuries.²⁵ They were outstanding horse-archers, fitting the Sixth Century Prophecy referring to “the armies of the horsemen”:

Their military advantages were listed as superbly trained horses, superior riding skills, determination in battle, speed and accuracy of archery even when on the move, great use of lassos, self-sufficiency on campaign, and a supposed ability to maintain and even manufacture their own equipment.²⁶

TURKISH HORSEMAN IDENTIFIED BY THEIR COLORS AND USE OF POWERFUL ARTILLERY

The Sixth Seal Prophecy identifies the colors of this great army and its use of gunpowder and artillery, referred to as “fire and smoke and brimstone”:

And this is how I saw in the vision the horses and those who sat on them: **the riders had breastplates the color of fire and of hyacinth and of brimstone;**

²⁴ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkish_people - section “Prehistory, Ancient era and Early Middle Ages”, accessed October 11, 2014.

²⁵ David Nicolle, *Armies of the Muslim Conquest*, 34.

²⁶ Nicolle, p. 34.

and the heads of the horses are like the heads of lions; and out of their mouths proceed **fire and smoke and brimstone** (Revelation 9:17, emphasis added).

The Ottoman Turks possessed the most powerful artillery in their time, which required the use of gunpowder. One of gunpowder's essential components is sulfur, which the Bible refers to as brimstone.²⁷

The colors of this army as described by the Sixth Seal Prophecy match the colors of the Ottoman Turkish army:

The color of the breastplates, **fiery red, hyacinth blue, and sulfur yellow** (v. 17), are those “for which the Turks have always been remarkable (*Treasury*). Daubuz remarked, “From their first appearance the Ottomans have affected to wear warlike apparel of scarlet, blue, and yellow.”

Matthew Henry joins with Elliot, Barnes, and others in taking the **fire, smoke, and brimstone** (v. 18) as a reference to artillery, for great guns were first used by the Turks at the siege of Constantinople. The armies under Sultan Mahomet were armed with 67 cannons. The smallest fired a stone shot weighing 200 pounds. The largest, with a bore of three feet, could hurl a 1,200-pound ball.

The reference to **their power** being in the **tails** (v. 19) of the horses calls to mind the *pashas* by which the authority of high-ranking Turks was exhibited. These are made by attaching two or three horse tails to a pole as a standard.²⁸

The Ottoman Turkish army's powerful artillery was instrumental in conquering Constantinople, resulting in the fall of the Eastern Roman (Byzantine) Empire (7th Head of the Beast):

... when **Sultan Mehmet II** laid siege to Constantinople in April 1453, he used 68

²⁷ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sulfur> - section “Antiquity”, accessed October 12, 2014.

²⁸ Gregg, pp. 190, 192.

Hungarian-made cannon, the largest of which was 26 feet (7.9 m) long and weighed 20 tons. **This fired a 1,200 pound stone cannonball**, and required an operating crew of 200 men.[39] Two such bombards had initially been offered to the Byzantines by the Hungarian artillery expert Urban, which were **the pinnacle of gunpowder technology at the time**; he boasted that they could reduce "even the walls of Babylon".[38] However, the fact that the Byzantines could not afford it illustrates the financial costs of artillery at the time. These cannon also needed 70 oxen and 10,000 men just to transport them.[38] They were extremely loud, adding to their psychological impact, and Mehmet believed that those who unexpectedly heard it would be struck dumb.[38]

The 55 day bombardment of Constantinople left massive destruction, as recounted by the Greek chronicler Kritovoulos:

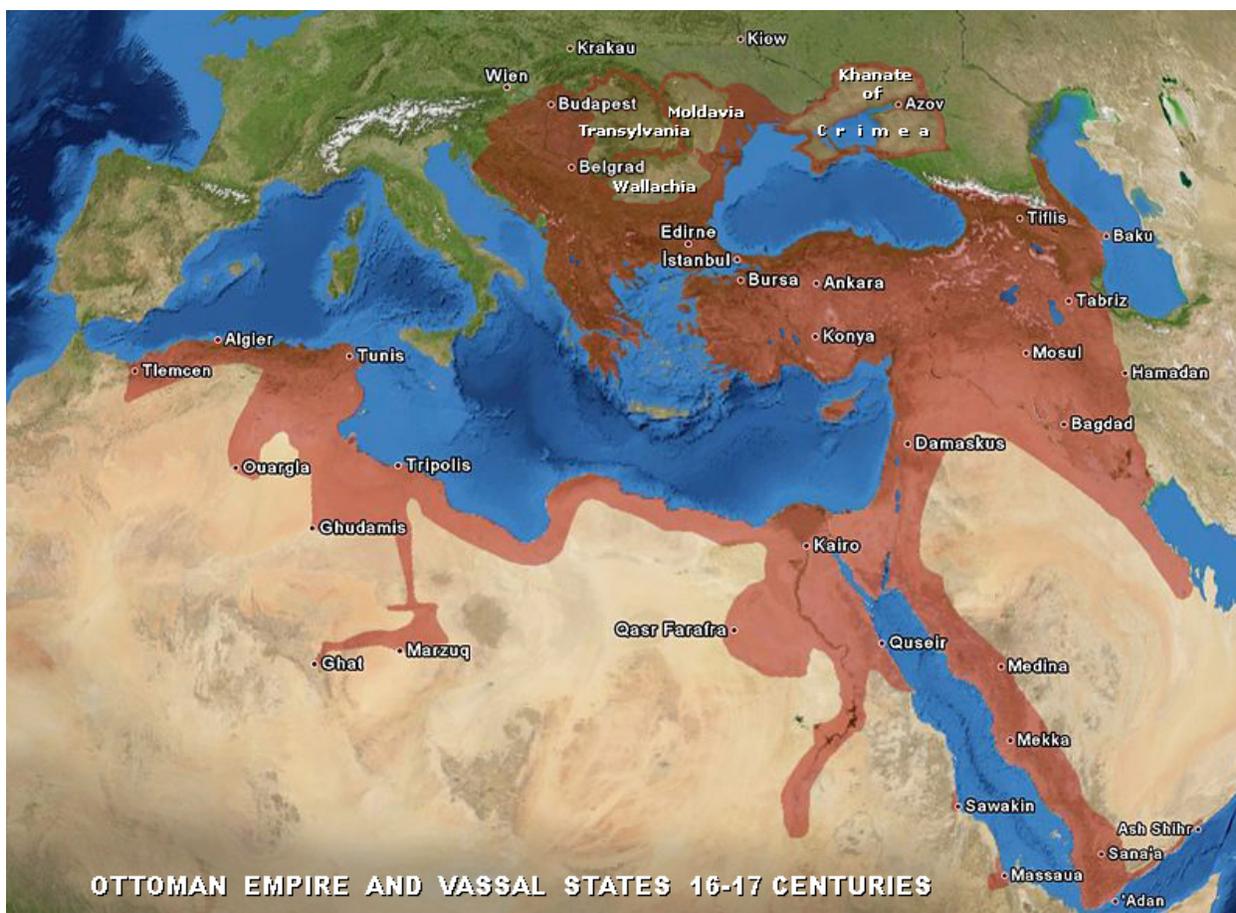
And the stone, borne with enormous force and velocity, hit the wall, which it immediately shook and knocked down and was itself broken into many fragments and scattered, hurling the pieces everywhere and killing those who happened to be nearby.—[38]

Byzantine counter artillery allowed them to repel any visible Turkish weapons, and the defenders repulsed any attempts to storm any broken points in the walls and hastily repaired any damage. However, the walls could not be adapted for artillery, and towers were not good gun emplacements. There was even worry that the largest Byzantine cannon could cause more damage to their own walls than the Turkish cannon.[38] **Gunpowder had also made the formerly devastating Greek fire obsolete, and with the final fall of what had once been the strongest walls in Europe on May 29, "it was the end of an era in more ways than one"**[38] (emphasis added).²⁹

²⁹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gunpowder_artillery_in_the_Middle_Ages - section "Byzantine and Ottoman Empires"; accessed October 9, 2014.

As the Fifth Trumpet Prophecy reveals the rise and initial spread of Islamic Empires, the Sixth Trumpet Prophecy reveals the rise of the last and greatest of all the Islamic Empires, the Ottoman Empire. As we have shown, the Seal and Trumpet Prophecies reveal a cohesive and comprehensive prophetic picture of the great empires of the Mediterranean and Middle Eastern world: the Western Roman Empire (6th Head of the Beast); the Eastern Roman (Byzantine) Empire (7th Head of the Beast); and the Islamic Empires (8th Head of the Beast) (See Part 5: The Beasts of Revelation & Daniel at www.messengers-of-messiah.org).

Ottoman Empire and Vassal States 16-17 Centuries.³⁰

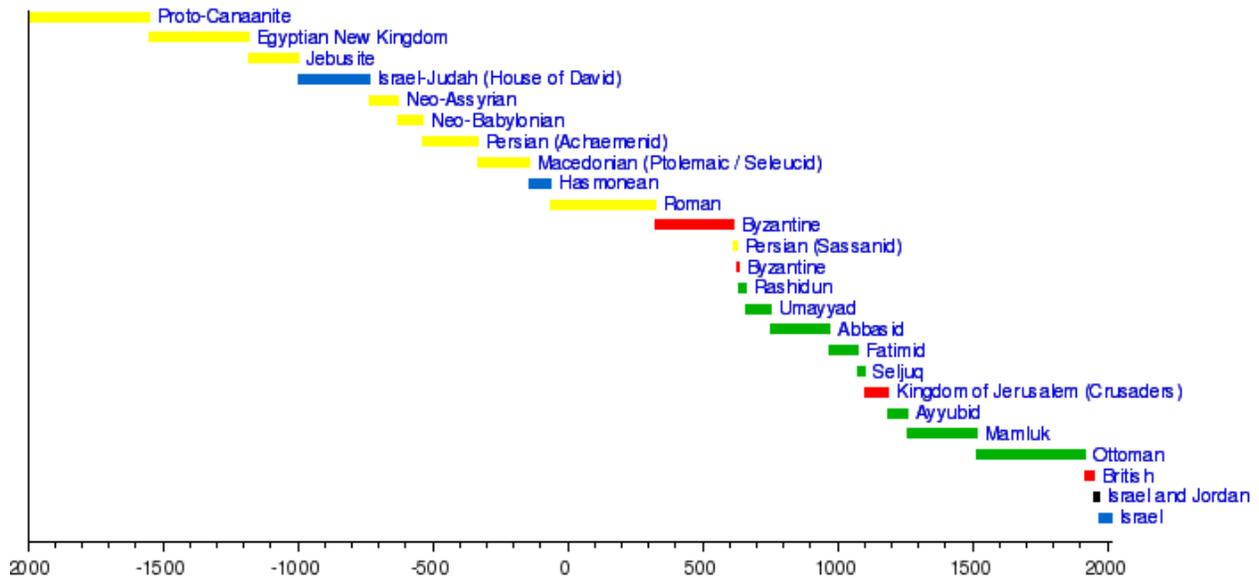


³⁰ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Ottoman_Empire_16-17th_century.jpg

JERUSALEM RULED BY ISLAMIC EMPIRES

Jerusalem is at the center of all Biblical prophecy. The Heads of the Beast from the Sea represent the great empires that ruled Jerusalem and the Land of Israel. The 8th Head of the Beast represents the Islamic Empires.

Overview of Jerusalem’s historical periods³¹



Jerusalem was ruled by a succession of Islamic Empires. The first Islamic Empires that ruled Jerusalem were Arab Empires:

1. Rashidun Empire
2. Umayyad Empire
3. Abbasid Empire
4. Fatimid Empire

The Arab Islamic Empires were followed by non-Arab Islamic Empires that also ruled Jerusalem:

³¹ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem> - “Overview of Jerusalem’s historical periods”.

1. Seljuk Empire (Turkish)³²
2. Ayyubid Empire (Kurdish)³³
3. Mamluk Sultanate of Egypt (mixed ethnic groups, primarily Turkish, Circassian, and Georgian)³⁴
4. Ottoman Empire (Turkish)³⁵

ARAB ISLAMIC EMPIRES THAT RULED JERUSALEM (MAPS)

RASHIDUN EMPIRE reached its greatest extent under Caliph Uthman, in 654³⁶



³² http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seljuq_dynasty http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seljuk_Empire

³³ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ayyubid_dynasty

³⁴ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mamluk_Sultanate - click on Mamluke Sultanate to access article.

³⁵ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ottoman_Empire

³⁶ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rashidun_Caliphate -

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rashidun_Caliphate#/media/File:Mohammad_adil-Rashidun-empire-at-its-peak-close.PNG

UMMAYYAD EMPIRE at its greatest extent 750³⁷



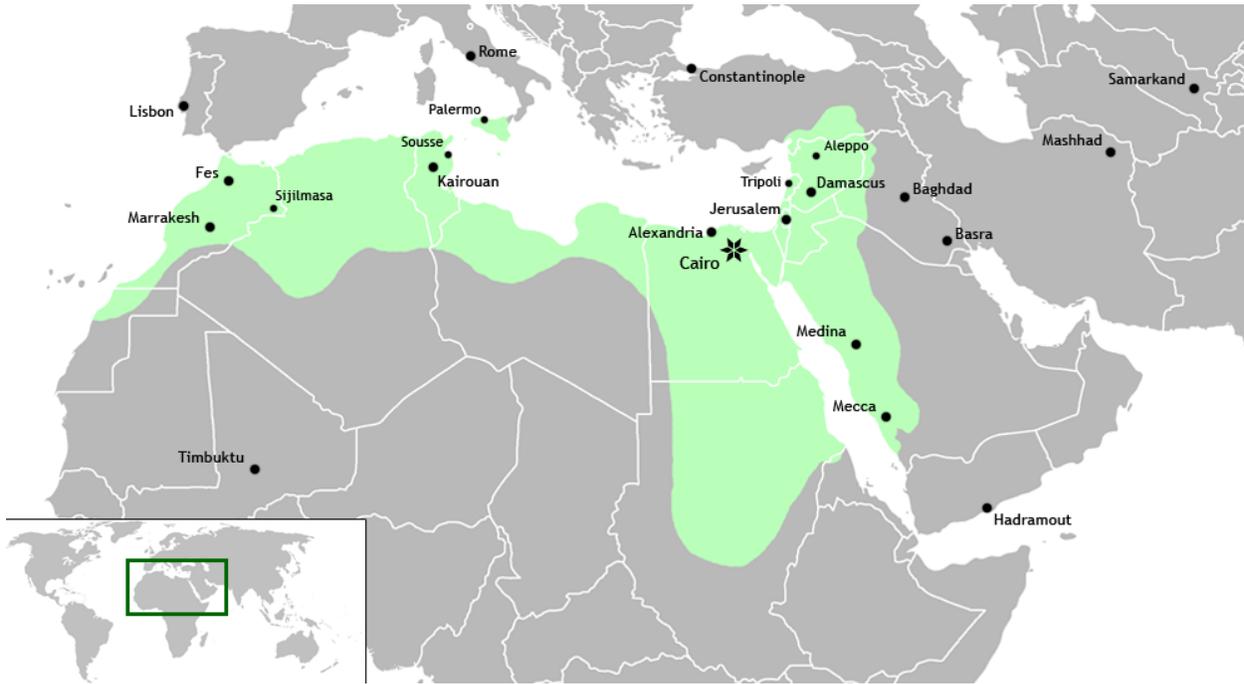
³⁷ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Umayyad750ADloc.png>

ABBASID EMPIRE at its greatest extent, c. 850.³⁸



³⁸ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Abbasids850.png>

FATAMID EMPIRE at its peak, c. 1069³⁹



³⁹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fatimid_Caliphate#mediaviewer/File:Fatimid_Islamic_Caliphate.png - accessed October 14, 2014.

NON-ARAB ISLAMIC EMPIRES THAT RULED JERUSALEM (MAPS)

SELJUK EMPIRE – The Great Seljuk Empire in 1092, upon the death of Malik Shah⁴⁰



⁴⁰ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seljuq_dynasty#mediaviewer/File:Seljuk_Empire_locator_map.svg

AYYUBID EMPIRE – Greatest extent under Saladin 1188⁴¹



⁴¹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ayyubid_dynasty#mediaviewer/File:AyyubidGreatest.png

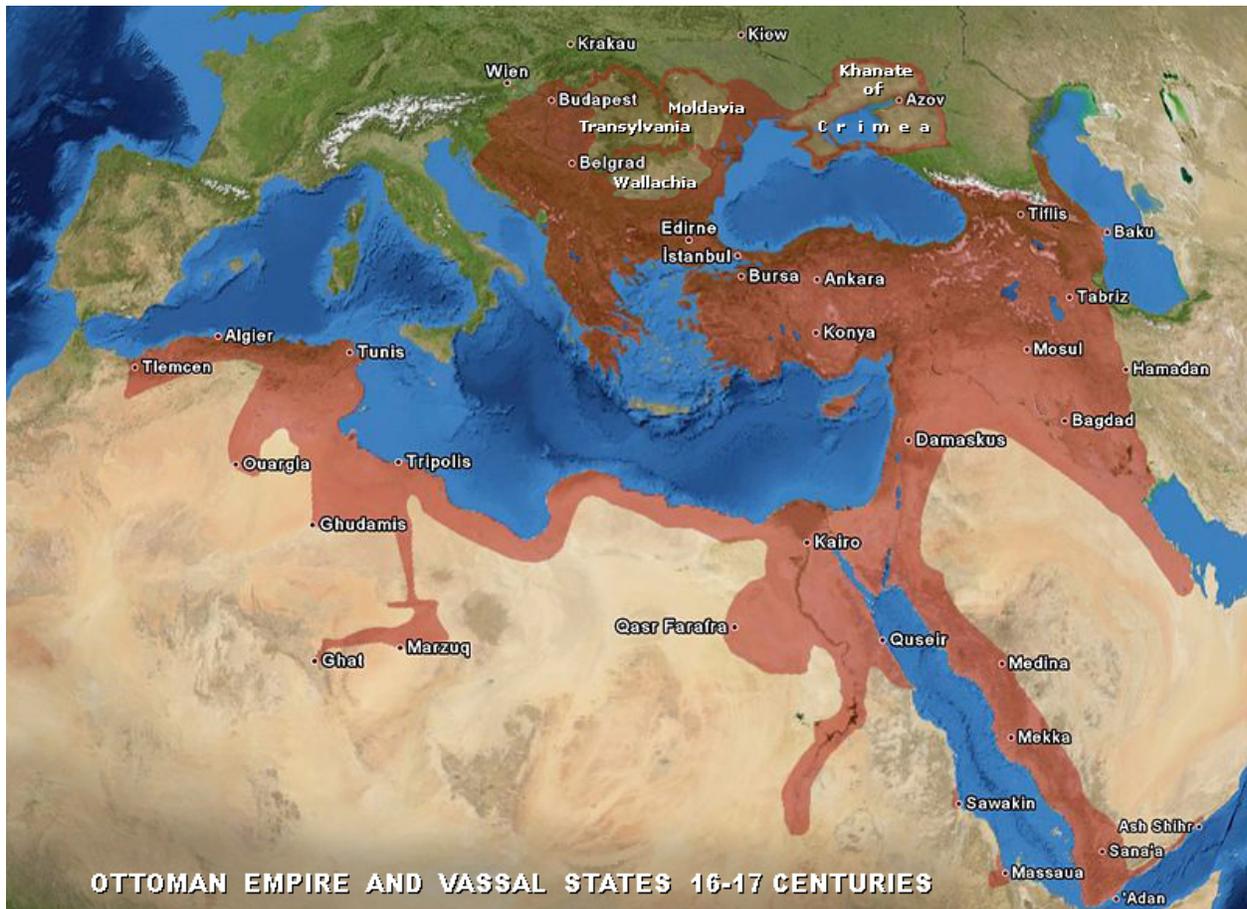
MAMLUK SULTANATE OF EYGPT c. 1279⁴²



⁴² [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mamluk_Sultanate_\(Cairo\)#mediaviewer/File:Mamluks1279.png](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mamluk_Sultanate_(Cairo)#mediaviewer/File:Mamluks1279.png) - accessed October 14, 2014.

OTTOMAN EMPIRE 16-17 CENTURIES

Greatest extent with vassal states of the Ottoman Empire in 1590⁴³



⁴³ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ottoman_Empire

DANIEL'S PROPHECIES: ISLAMIC RULE OF THE LAND OF ISRAEL

DANIEL 11:40-45

The Book of Daniel and the Book of Revelation provide a parallel prophetic picture of the empires that ruled Jerusalem and the Land of Israel. (We have detailed those empires in Part 5 The Beasts of Revelation & Daniel.)

The great empires of the Mediterranean and Middle East ruled Jerusalem and that is why the Word of God contains prophecies about them. The books of Daniel and Revelation are foundational to understanding these empires and should always be studied together for the full prophetic picture, as we have done in our prophecy study, *A New Look at the Book of Revelation and Daniel End-Time Prophecies*.

Remember that Jerusalem is at the center of God's plan of redemption. For this reason, there has always been a spiritual and physical battle over Jerusalem. That battle is about to come to its conclusion with Messiah Yeshua's return.

We have studied the prophecies of the Fifth and Sixth Trumpets showing the rise and spread of Islamic Empires throughout the Mediterranean and Middle East. Now we will study Daniel 11:40-45 that also shows the rise and fall of Islamic Empires (8th Head of the Beast), as well as the fall of the Eastern Roman (Byzantine) Empire (7th Head of the Beast).

Daniel Chapter 11 shows key prophetic events leading up to the First and Second Comings of Messiah Yeshua, beginning with the Persian Empire (4th Head of the Beast) and ending with the Islamic Empires (8th Head of the Beast).

To understand the context and correctly interpret Daniel 11:40-45, we need to go back to verses 36-39:

“Then the king will do as he pleases, and he will exalt and magnify himself above every god, and will speak monstrous things against the God of gods; and he will prosper until the indignation is finished, for that which is decreed will be done. And he will show no regard for the gods of his fathers or for the desire of women, nor will he show regard for any other god; for he will magnify himself above them all. But instead he will honor a god of fortresses, a god whom his fathers did not know; he will honor him with gold, silver, costly stones, and treasures. And he will take action against the strongest of fortresses with the help of a foreign god; he will give great honor to those who acknowledge him, and he will cause them to rule over the many, and will parcel out land for a price” (Daniel 11:36-39).

We have previously shown that Daniel 11:36-39 is about Roman Emperor Constantine, who is called the Man of Lawlessness in 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4. (See Part 6 The Man of Lawlessness & the Apostasy – Emperor Constantine & the Roman Church).

Constantine ruled the Roman Empire and built a new capital in the East, called Constantinople. After the fall of the Western Roman Empire (6th Head of the Beast) in 476, the Eastern Roman (Byzantine) Empire (7th Head of the Beast) continued to exist for another thousand years. In 1453, the Ottoman Turks conquered the Eastern Roman Empire. This marked the actual beginning of the Ottoman Empire, the last Islamic Empire of the 8th Head of the Beast.

As we read Daniel 11:40-45, we need to place it in the context of the previous verses in order to correctly identify the “him” referred to in verse 40. This is a reference back to the man described in verses 36-39, who we have identified as the Roman Emperor Constantine, and his empire, the Roman Empire in the East that remained after the fall of the Roman Empire in the West.

With this understanding, let’s read Daniel 11:40-45 for an overview of these prophecies, after which we will break it down and examine each part in more detail:

Dan. 11:40 “And at the end time the [Islamic] king [kingdom] of the South will collide with him [Constantine’s Eastern Roman Empire], and the [Islamic] king [kingdom] of the North will storm against him [Constantine’s Eastern Roman Empire] with chariots, with horsemen, and with many ships; and he [the Islamic kingdom of the North] will enter countries, overflow them, and pass through.

Dan. 11:41 “He [the Islamic kingdom of the North] will also enter the Beautiful Land [Israel], and many countries will fall; but these will be rescued out of his hand: Edom, Moab and the foremost of the sons of Ammon.

Dan. 11:42 “Then he will stretch out his hand against other countries, and the land of Egypt will not escape.

Dan. 11:43 “But he will gain control over the hidden treasures of gold and silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt; and Libyans and Ethiopians will follow at his heels.

Dan. 11:44 “But rumors from the East and from the North will disturb him, and he will go forth with great wrath to destroy and annihilate many.

Dan. 11:45 “And he will pitch the tents of his royal pavilion between the seas and the beautiful Holy Mountain [Temple Mount]; yet he will come to his end, and no one will help him.”

As previously explained, prophecies in Daniel and the Book of Revelation provide a parallel prophetic picture of the great empires that had and would rule Jerusalem and the Land of Israel, from the perspective in time that these prophecies were shown. As we more closely examine Daniel 11:40-45, we will see how these prophecies parallel the prophecies of the Fifth and Sixth Trumpets in the Book of Revelation.

THE ISLAMIC KINGDOM OF THE SOUTH – DANIEL 11:40

“And at the end time **the [Islamic] king [kingdom] of the South will collide with him [Constantine’s Eastern Roman Empire]** ... (Daniel 11:40, emphasis added).

Note that the reference to “the end time” refers to the period from the First to the Second Comings of Messiah Yeshua, and is not limited to the time just before Yeshua’s return. In addition, as explained in Part 5, the word translated “king” can also represent a kingdom.

The “him” refers back to the previous verses dealing with Constantine and, by extension, also refers to his empire. From this we see that Daniel 11:40 describes a collision between the Islamic Empire of the South and Constantine’s Empire, the Eastern Roman (Byzantine) Empire. At the time, the Eastern Roman (Byzantine) Empire ruled Jerusalem, the reference point from which the points of the compass are to be understood. Therefore, the Islamic Kingdom (Empire) of the South is the Islamic Empire that first emerged south of Jerusalem.

The Kingdom of the South refers to the Islamic Empire that originated in Arabia, with its power center in Mecca. Mecca was the birthplace of Muhammad. Two miles from Mecca, Muhammad had his first demonic revelations in a cave. Mecca is the holiest city of Islam. All Muslims face Mecca when they pray. All able Muslims are required to make pilgrimage to Mecca, where the Kaaba, Islam’s holiest shrine, is located.⁴⁴

As the Arabs expanded their Islamic Kingdom out of the south, they conquered lands belonging to Constantine’s Eastern (Byzantine) Roman Empire. By 650, the Eastern Roman (Byzantine) Empire had lost all of its southern provinces except the Exarchate of Africa to the Arab Caliphate.⁴⁵

⁴⁴ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mecca> - introductory information.

⁴⁵ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Byzantiumby650AD.svg>

Animated map of this expansion - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Mohammad_adil-Rashidun_empire-slide.gif

Just before Islam's birth, the Eastern Roman (Byzantine) Empire looked like this:

Eastern Roman (Byzantine) Empire 600 AD⁴⁶



By 650, the Eastern Roman (Byzantine) Empire looked like this:⁴⁷



⁴⁶ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Roman_Empire_600_AD.PNG

⁴⁷ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Byzantiumby650AD.svg>

Animated map of this expansion - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Mohammad_adil-Rashidun_empire-slide.gif

As we can see, the prophecy in Daniel 11:40 about the “kingdom of the South” that came into conflict with the Eastern Roman (Byzantine) Empire corresponds to the Fifth Trumpet Prophecy in the Book of Revelation revealing the rise and spread of the Islamic Empire out of Arabia.

THE ISLAMIC KINGDOM OF THE NORTH – DANIEL 11:40

“And at the end time the [Islamic] king [kingdom] of the South will collide with him [Constantine’s Eastern Roman Empire], and **the [Islamic] king [kingdom] of the North [Ottoman Empire] will storm against him [Constantine’s Eastern Roman Empire]** with chariots, with horsemen, and with many ships; and he [Ottoman Empire] will enter countries, overflow them, and pass through” (Daniel 11:40, emphasis added).

As previously explained, Daniel 11:40 shows the Kingdom of the South is the Islamic Empire originating from Arabia, the birthplace of Muhammad and Islam. This Islamic Empire began to expand and spread throughout the Middle Eastern and Mediterranean world, taking land away from the Eastern Roman (Byzantine) Empire.

“the [Islamic] king [kingdom] of the North [Ottoman Empire] will storm against him [Constantine’s Eastern Roman Empire]” –

In the same verse, following this prophetic picture is another prophetic picture of the Islamic Kingdom (Empire) of the North attacking the Eastern Roman (Byzantine) Empire, referring to an Islamic Empire that emerges north of Jerusalem.

What we see in Daniel 11:40 is the same prophetic picture shown in the prophecies of the Fifth and Sixth Trumpets. The Fifth Trumpet shows the rise of the Islamic Empire from the south in Arabia. The Sixth Trumpet shows the rise of the Islamic Empire from the north, referring to the Ottoman Empire, the last of the Islamic Empires.

Daniel 11:40-45 reveals the big prophetic picture of the Islamic Empires, from the first Islamic Empire arising out of Arabia (Kingdom of the South) to the last and greatest Islamic Empire, the Ottoman Empire (Kingdom of the North). The Eastern Roman (Byzantine) Empire was attacked by these Islamic Empires from the south and north, losing more and more territory to Islam and eventually being conquered by the Ottoman Empire.

The first center of Islamic power was Mecca. Over time, various Islamic Empires had their capitals in the north, including Damascus, Baghdad, and lastly Constantinople, which had been the capital of Constantine's Christian Roman Empire.

As we continue to examine Daniel 11:40-45, we will see that the Islamic Kingdom of the North is confirmed to be the Ottoman Empire.

During the 8th and 9th centuries, **Turkish tribes were pushed out of their lands in Central Asia by the invading Mongols.** They converted to Islam and began traveling westward. The Seljuk tribe rose to power, but often conflicted with the other, nomadic Turkish tribes. The Seljuks sent one of these tribes to Anatolia, in the Byzantine Empire, and **from this tribe arose the Ottoman Empire.**

The Ottoman Turks were originally centered in modern-day Turkey, but soon began to spread out into Europe and the Middle East, conquering lands. They were tremendous fighters and the already weakened Byzantine Empire was on the verge of collapse. Finally, **in 1453, they destroyed Constantinople, and with it, the last vestiges of the Byzantine Empire.** Constantinople was renamed Istanbul (emphasis added).⁴⁸

The Ottoman Empire ruled Jerusalem for 400 years (1517-1917), longer than any other Islamic Empire. This and the fact that it conquered the Eastern Roman (Byzantine) Empire make it of great prophetic significance.

⁴⁸ http://www.ifcj.org/site/PageNavigator/sfi_about_history_ottoman

THE EXPANSION OF THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE FROM 1300 TO 1700 (MAPS)

The following series of maps shows the expansion of the Ottoman Empire from 1300 to 1700, clearly showing the fulfillment of Daniel’s prophecy that the Ottoman Empire would conquer many lands:

“... and he [Ottoman Empire] will enter countries, overflow them, and pass through” (Daniel 11:40).

Ottoman Empire 1300⁴⁹



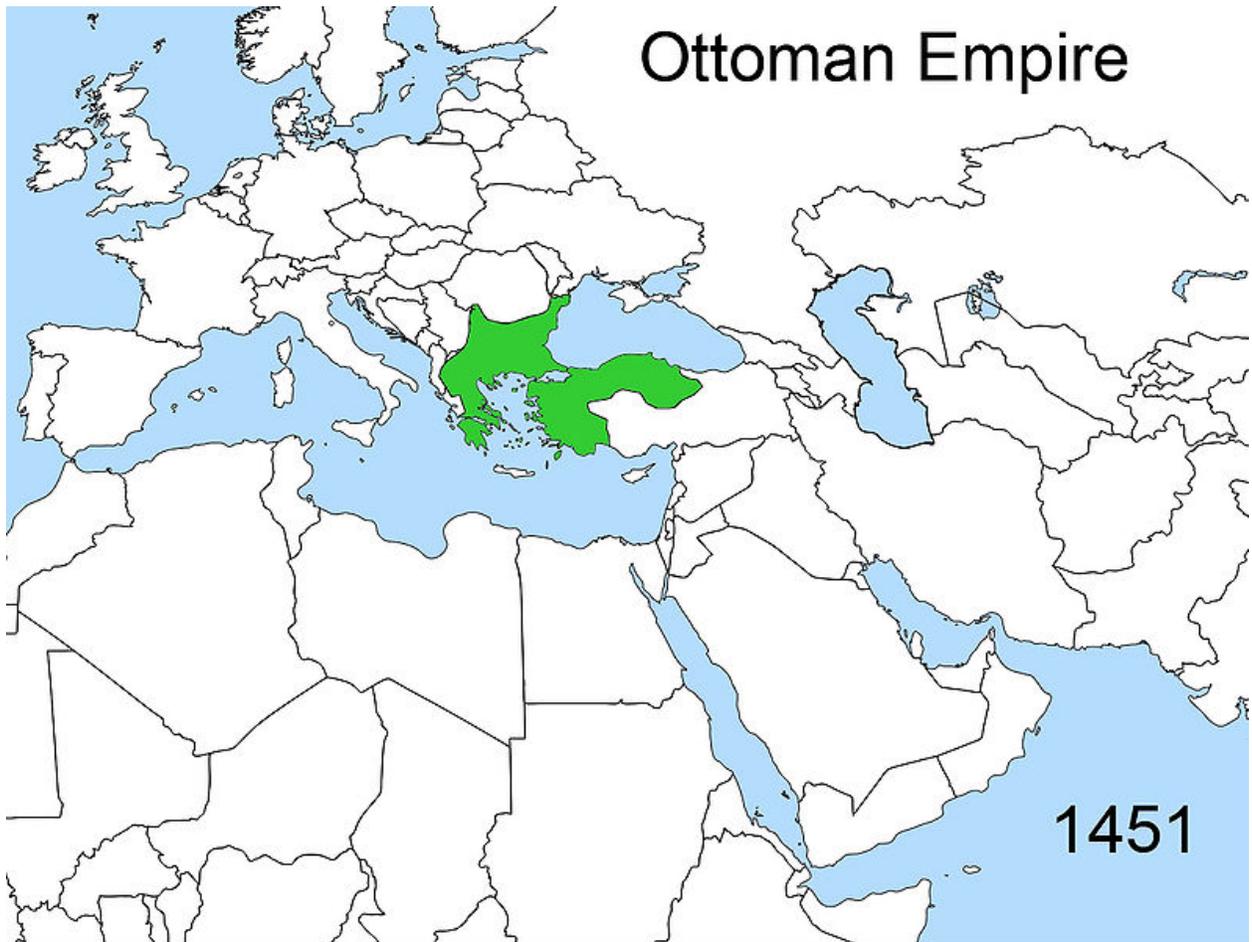
⁴⁹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Territorial_changes_of_the_Ottoman_Empire_1300.jpg

Ottoman Empire 1359⁵⁰



⁵⁰ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Territorial_changes_of_the_Ottoman_Empire_1359.jpg

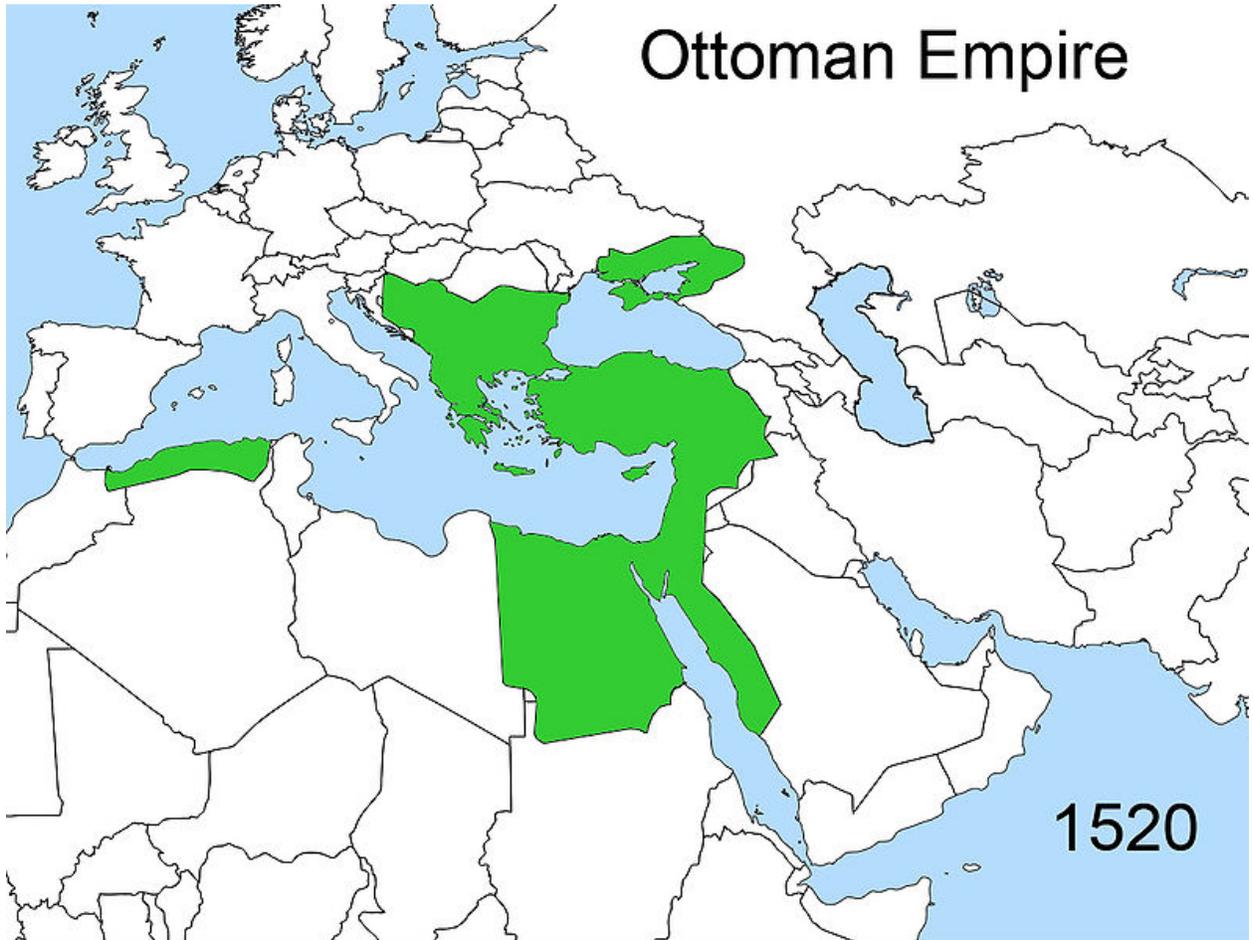
Ottoman Empire 1451⁵¹



⁵¹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Territorial_changes_of_the_Ottoman_Empire_1451.jpg

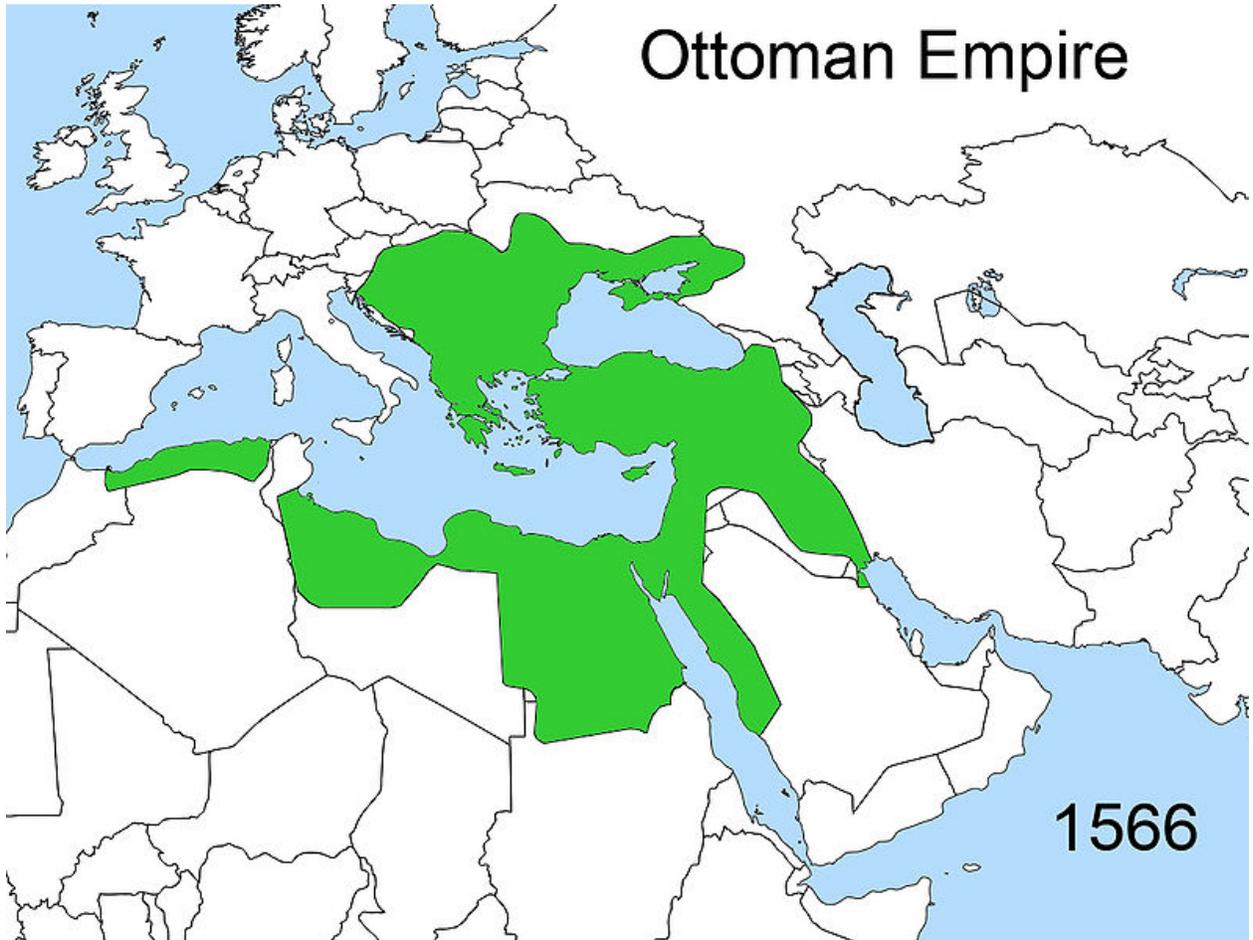


⁵² http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Territorial_changes_of_the_Ottoman_Empire_1481.jpg

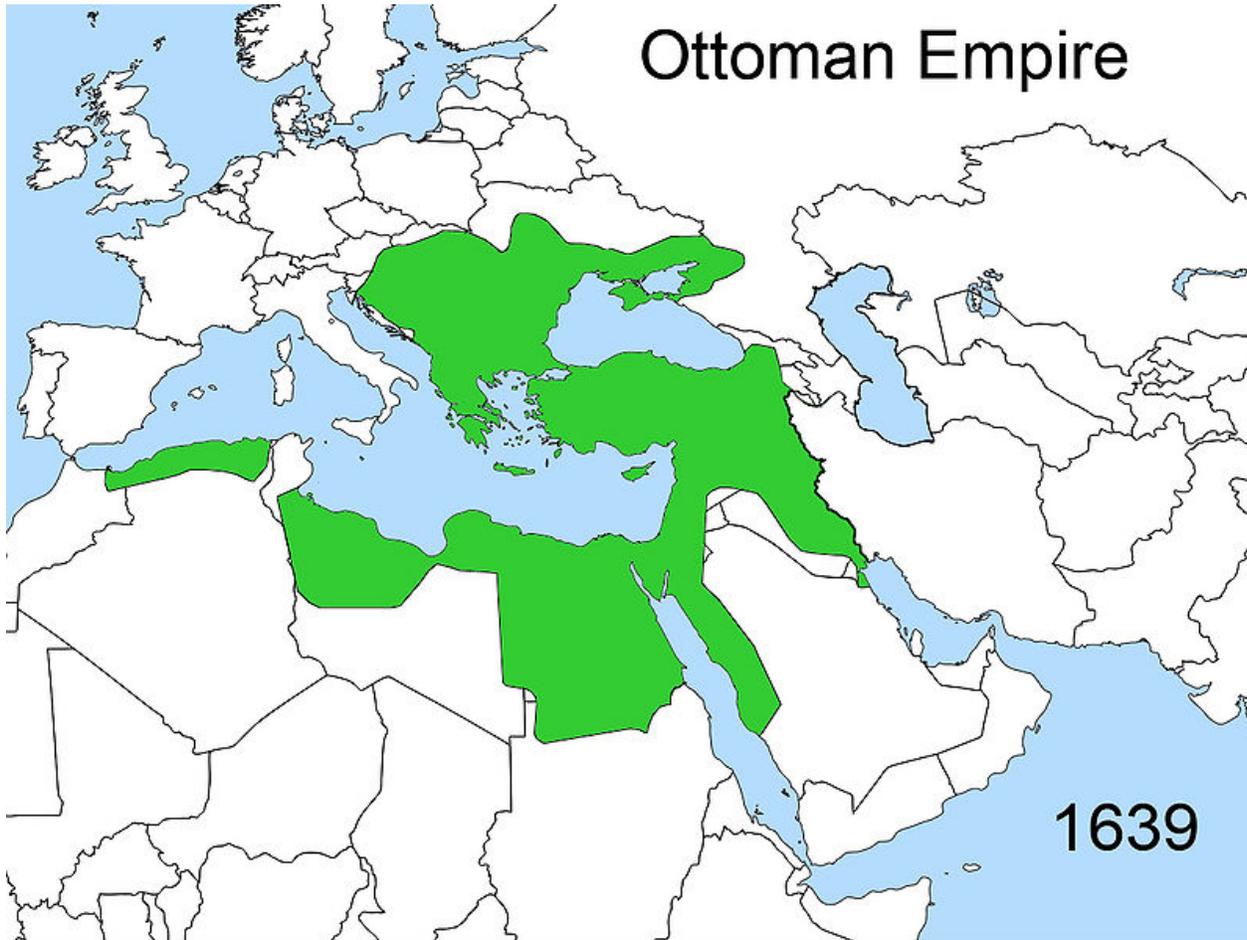


⁵³ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Territorial_changes_of_the_Ottoman_Empire_1520.jpg

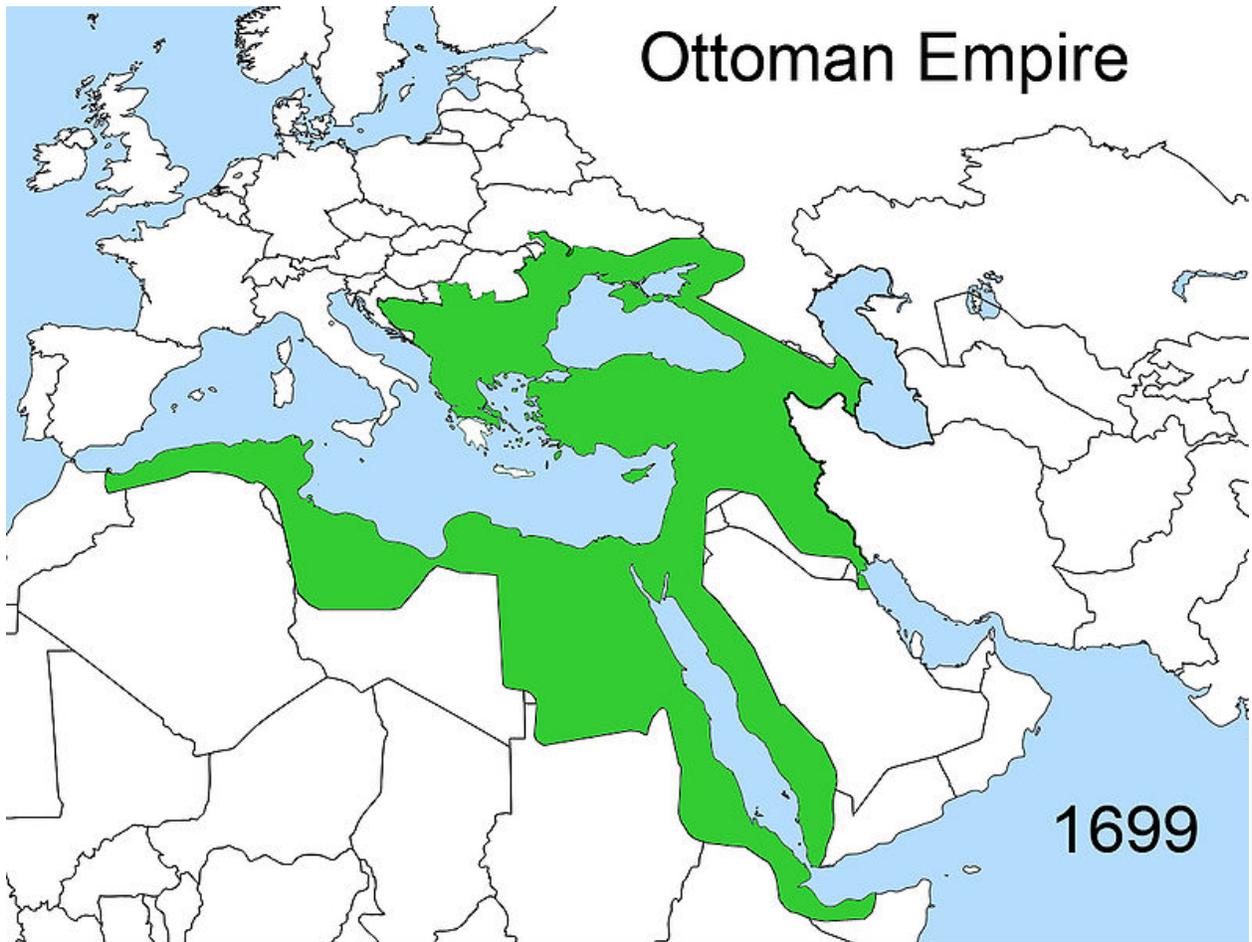
Ottoman Empire 1566⁵⁴



⁵⁴ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Territorial_changes_of_the_Ottoman_Empire_1566.jpg



⁵⁵ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Territorial_changes_of_the_Ottoman_Empire_1639.jpg



⁵⁶ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Territorial_changes_of_the_Ottoman_Empire_1699.jpg

THE OTTOMAN MILITARY – DANIEL 11:40

“... **the [Islamic] king [kingdom] of the North [Ottoman Empire]** will storm against him [Constantine’s Eastern Roman Empire] with chariots, **with horsemen**, and with many ships; and he [Ottoman Empire] will enter countries, overflow them, and pass through” (Daniel 11:40, emphasis added).

The prophecy regarding the horsemen of the Kingdom of the North is significant because the Ottoman Turks were known for their skilled and fierce cavalry:

The earliest form of the Ottoman military was an steppe-nomadic cavalry force.^[1] This was centralized by Osman I from Turkoman tribesmen inhabiting western Anatolia [Turkey] in the late 13th century.

These horsemen became an irregular force of raiders used as storm troops, armed with simple weapons like bows and spears. ...

Orhan I organized a standing army paid by salary rather than booty or fiefs. **The infantry were called yayas and the cavalry was known as müsellems.** The force was made up by foreign mercenaries for the most part ...

The Ottomans began using guns sometime between 1444 and 1448. ... Following that, other troop types began to appear, such as the regular rifle infantry (Piyade Topçu, literally "foot artillery"), **regular cavalry armed with rifles** (Süvari Topçu Neferi, literally "mounted artillery soldier") and bombardiers (Humbaracı), consisting of grenadiers who threw explosives called khumbara and the soldiers who served the artillery with maintenance and powder supplies (emphasis added).^{57, 58}

⁵⁷ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military_of_the_Ottoman_Empire - section “Foundation of the Ottoman Military 1300-1453”.

⁵⁸ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ottoman_weapons - section “Artillery - Origins”.

THE OTTOMAN NAVY – DANIEL 11:40

“... **the [Islamic] king [kingdom] of the North [Ottoman Empire]** will storm against him [Constantine’s Eastern Roman Empire] with chariots, with horsemen, and **with many ships**; and he [Ottoman Empire] will enter countries, overflow them, and pass through” (Daniel 11:40, emphasis added).

The prophecy regarding the “many ships” of the Kingdom of the North is significant because the navy of the Ottoman Turks was essential to its expansion.

The first pre-Ottoman Turkish naval fleet in Anatolia (today Turkey) was formed in 1081, following the conquest of several Aegean coast cities. In 1090, the Turkish fleet defeated a Byzantine fleet off the western coast of Anatolia near the island of Chios.⁵⁹

The first Ottoman naval victory took place in 1308, followed by Ottoman expansion into the territories of the Aegean, Black, Ionian and Adriatic Seas in the 1300s-1400s.⁶⁰

Between 1387 and 1423 **the Ottoman fleet contributed to the territorial expansions of the Ottoman Empire** on the Balkan peninsula and the Black Sea coasts of Anatolia.⁶¹

The Ottoman Navy vastly contributed to the expansion of the Empire's territories on the European continent. It initiated the conquest of North Africa, with the addition of Algeria and Egypt to the Ottoman Empire in 1517 (emphasis added).⁶²

⁵⁹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ottoman_Navy - section “Pre-Ottoman”.

⁶⁰ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ottoman_Navy - section “Expansion to the Aegean, Black, Ionian and Adriatic Seas”.

⁶¹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ottoman_Navy - section “Expansion to the Aegean, Black, Ionian and Adriatic Seas”.

⁶² http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ottoman_Empire - section “Military”.

OTTOMAN CONQUEST OF THE EASTERN ROMAN (BYZANTINE) EMPIRE

The Ottoman Empire, the last and greatest of the Islamic Empires (8th Head of the Beast), conquered the Eastern Roman (Byzantine) Empire (7th Head of the Beast), and expanded throughout the Mediterranean world – the world of the Beast from the Sea:

In 1453 the Ottoman fleet participated in the historic conquests of Constantinople, Gökçeada, Lemnos and Thasos. The conquest of the Duchy of Athens in Morea was completed between 1458 and 1460, followed by the conquest of the Empire of Trebizond and the Genoese colony of Amasra in 1461, which brought an end to the final vestiges of the Byzantine Empire (emphasis added).⁶³

In the years following their conquest of Constantinople in 1453, the Ottoman Turks had dominated the Mediterranean with their fleets of galleys (emphasis added).⁶⁴

Constantinople, the capital of the Eastern Roman Christian world for over a thousand years, became the capital of the Islamic Ottoman Empire.⁶⁵ The Hagia Sophia (“Holy Wisdom”) Basilica (Church), seat of the Patriarchate of Constantinople, was converted into a mosque:

Constantinople was taken by the Ottomans on 29 May 1453. In accordance with the custom at the time Sultan **Mehmet II** allowed his troops three days of unbridled pillage once the city fell, after which he would claim its contents himself.[27][28] **Hagia Sophia was not exempted from the pillage**, becoming its focal point as the invaders believed it to contain the greatest treasures of the city.[29] Shortly after the city's defenses collapsed, pillagers made their way to the Hagia Sophia and battered down its doors.[30] Throughout the siege

⁶³ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ottoman_Navy - section “Growth (1453-1683)”.

⁶⁴ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ottoman_Navy - section “Black Sea operations”.

⁶⁵ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constantinople> - introductory information, accessed October 13, 2014.

worshippers participated in the Holy Liturgy and Prayer of the Hours at the Hagia Sophia, and the church formed a refuge for many of those who were unable to contribute to the city's defense, such as women, children and elderly.[31][32] **Trapped in the church, congregants and refugees became spoils to be divided amongst the Ottoman invaders. The building was desecrated and looted, and occupants enslaved, violated or slaughtered;**[29] while elderly and infirm were killed, women and girls were raped and the remainder chained and sold into slavery.[30] Priests continued to perform Christian rites until stopped by the invaders.[30] **When the Sultan and his cohort entered the church, he insisted it should be at once transformed into a mosque.** One of the **Ulama** then climbed the pulpit and recited the **Shahada** [26][33] (emphasis added).⁶⁶

OTTOMAN EXPANSION INTO THE EASTERN AND WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN

Starting from the conquest of Syria in **1516, the Ottoman fleet of Selim I started expanding the Ottoman territories towards the Levant⁶⁷ and the Mediterranean coasts of North Africa.** Between 1516 and 1517 Algeria was conquered from Spain ... which was followed by the **conquest of Egypt and the end of the Mameluke Empire in 1517.** In 1522 the strategic island of Rhodes ... was conquered. ...

In 1527 the Ottoman fleet participated in the conquest of Dalmatia, Croatia, Slavonia and Bosnia. **In 1529 the Ottoman fleet under Salih Reis and Aydin Reis destroyed the Spanish fleet** of Rodrigo Portundo near the Isle of Formentera. This was followed by the first conquest of Tunisia from Spain and the reconquest of Morea by the fleet of Hayreddin Barbarossa, whose fleet later conquered the islands belonging to the Duchy of Naxos in 1537. Afterwards, the Ottoman fleet laid siege on the Venetian island of Corfu, and landed on the coasts

⁶⁶ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hagia_Sophia - section "Mosque (1453-1935)", accessed October 13, 2014.

⁶⁷ Levant – the Eastern Mediterranean region, including what is today Cyprus, Lebanon, Syria, Israel, Jordan, and part of southern Turkey (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Levant>).

of Calabria and Puglia, which forced the Republic of Venice and Habsburg Spain of Charles V to ask the Pope to create a Holy League consisting of Spain, the Republic of Venice, the Republic of Genoa, the Papal States and the Knights of Malta. The joint fleet was commanded by Charles V's top admiral, Andrea Doria. **The Holy League and the Ottoman fleet** under the command of Hayreddin barbarossa met in **September 1538 at the Battle of Preveza, which is often considered the greatest Turkish naval victory in history**. In 1543 the Ottoman fleet participated with French forces in the Siege of Nice, which at the time was part of the Duchy of Savoy. Afterwards, Francis I of France enabled the Ottoman fleet to overwinter in the French harbor of Toulon. This unique Ottoman occupation of Toulon allowed the Ottomans to attack Hapsburg Spanish and Italian ports (enemies of France); they left Toulon in May 1544. ...

In 1541, 1544, 1552 and 1555 the Spanish-Italian fleet of Charles V under the command of Andrea Doria were **defeated in Algiers, Naples, Ponza and Piombino**, respectively (emphasis added).⁶⁸

Between 1547 and 1548, Yemen was reconquered from the Portuguese, while in the Persian Gulf and Arabian Sea, other important Portuguese ports such as Oman and Qatar were conquered in 1552.[2] ...

The Ottoman naval victory at the Battle of Preveza in 1538 and the Battle of Djerba in 1560 ensured the Ottoman supremacy in the Mediterranean Sea for several decades, until the Ottomans suffered their first ever military defeat at the hands of the Europeans at the Battle of Lepanto (1571). But the defeat at Lepanto, despite being much celebrated in Europe, was only a temporary setback: it could not reverse the Ottoman conquest of Cyprus, and within a year, the Ottomans built an equally large fleet, which in 1574 conquered Tunisia from Spain. This completed the Ottoman conquest of North Africa, following the

⁶⁸ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ottoman_Navy - section "Expansion to the Levant and Maghreb, operations in the West Mediterranean".

operations of the Ottoman fleet under Turgut Reis which had earlier conquered Libya (1551); and of the fleet under Salih Reis which had conquered the coasts of Morocco beyond the Strait of Gibraltar in 1553 (emphasis added).⁶⁹

OTTOMAN CONQUEST OF ISRAEL – DANIEL 11:41

“He [the Ottoman Empire] will also enter the Beautiful Land [Israel], and many countries will fall; but these will be rescued out of his hand: Edom, Moab and the foremost of the sons of Ammon” (Daniel 11:41, emphasis added).

The “Beautiful Land” is a reference to the Land of Israel. The Ottoman Empire conquered Jerusalem in December 1516 and ruled the Land of Israel for 400 years, longer than any other Islamic Empire.

In December 1917, Turkish forces in Jerusalem surrendered to British forces under General Allenby. It is interesting to note that the liberation of Jerusalem from Ottoman rule took place during Hanukkah (Feast of Dedication – John 10:22), the time Messiah Yeshua was conceived.⁷⁰

MANY COUNTRIES FALL TO THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE – DANIEL 11:41

“He [the Ottoman Empire] will also enter the Beautiful Land [Israel], and many countries will fall; but these will be rescued out of his hand: Edom, Moab and the foremost of the sons of Ammon” (Daniel 11:41, emphasis added).

Many countries fell to the Ottoman Empire as it grew from a small state into one of the largest empires in the world, encompassing lands throughout the Mediterranean and Middle East.

⁶⁹ ⁶⁹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ottoman_Navy - section “Operations in the Indian Ocean and the final conquests in North Africa”.

⁷⁰ See Part 3 of this study, “Daniel’s 70 Weeks Prophetic Timetable”.

EDOM, MOAB, AND AMMON ESCAPE OTTOMAN RULE – DANIEL 11:41

“He [the Ottoman Empire] will also enter the Beautiful Land [Israel], and many countries will fall; but **these will be rescued out of his hand: Edom, Moab and the foremost of the sons of Ammon**” (Daniel 11:41, emphasis added).

Bedouins living in the areas of ancient Edom, Moab, and Ammon – areas south, east, and northeast of the Dead Sea – were never actually ruled by the Ottoman Empire due to their nomadic way of life. Although the Ottoman Empire tried to incorporate them into the empire, they remained basically independent:

Historically, the Bedouin engaged in **nomadic herding, agriculture and sometimes fishing**. They also earned income by transporting goods and people[7] across the desert. Scarcity of water and of permanent pastoral land required them to move constantly.⁷¹

In the late 19th century, many Bedouin began transition to a semi-nomadic life. One of the factors was the influence of the Ottoman empire authorities[8] who started a forced sedentarization of the Bedouin living on its territory. **The Ottoman authorities viewed the Bedouin as a threat to the state's control** and worked hard on establishing law and order in the Negev[9] (emphasis added).

Under the Tanzimat reforms in 1858 a new Ottoman Land Law was issued which offered legal grounds for the displacement of the Bedouin. As the Ottoman Empire gradually lost power, this law instituted an unprecedented land registration process which was also meant to boost the empire's tax base. **Few Bedouin opted to register their lands with the Ottoman Tapu, due to lack of enforcement by the Ottomans, illiteracy, refusal to pay taxes and lack of relevance of written documentation of ownership to the Bedouin way of life at that time.**[10] ...

⁷¹ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bedouin> - section “Early history”.

In Orientalist historiography, **the Negev Bedouin have been described as remaining largely unaffected by changes in the outside world until recently. Their society was often considered a "world without time"**[12] (emphasis added).⁷²

OTTOMAN CONQUEST OF EGYPT, LIBYA, AND ETHIOPIA – DANIEL 11:42-43

“Then he [Ottoman Empire] will stretch out his hand against other countries, and the land of Egypt will not escape. But **he [Ottoman Empire] will gain control over the hidden treasures of gold and silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt; and Libyans and Ethiopians** will follow at his heels” (Daniel 11:42-43, emphasis added).

The Ottoman Empire conquered Egypt, as well as the land of the Libyans and Ethiopians.

THE FALL OF THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE – DANIEL 11:44-45

“But **rumors from the East and from the North will disturb him [Ottoman Empire]**, and he will go forth with great wrath to destroy and annihilate many. And he [Ottoman Empire] will pitch the tents of his royal pavilion between the seas and the beautiful Holy Mountain [Temple Mount]; yet **he will come to his end**, and no one will help him” (Daniel 11:44-45, emphasis added).

Daniel 11:44-45 shows the fall of the Ottoman Empire. These verses focus on what happened from the perspective of Jerusalem, as we can see from the reference to the “Holy Mountain”, referring to the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. As a result of World War I, the Ottoman Empire was dissolved and 400 years of Ottoman rule over Jerusalem and the Land of Israel came to an end.

⁷² <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bedouin> - section “Ottoman period”.

“... rumors from the East and from the North will disturb him [Ottoman Empire]” –

At the onset of the war, British and French forces opened two fronts against the Ottoman Empire – one in the North (Gallipoli) and one in the East (Mesopotamia).

The Ottoman Empire joined the Central Powers in the war, the secret Ottoman–German Alliance having been signed in August 1914.[92] It threatened Russia's Caucasian territories and Britain's communications with India via the Suez Canal. ...

The British and French opened overseas fronts with the Gallipoli (1915) and Mesopotamian campaigns. In Gallipoli, the Ottoman Empire successfully repelled the British, French, and Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZACs). In Mesopotamia, by contrast, after the disastrous Siege of Kut (1915–16), **British Imperial forces reorganised and captured Baghdad in March 1917** (emphasis added).⁷³

“he [Ottoman Empire] will go forth with great wrath to destroy and annihilate many” –

The Ottoman Empire defeated the British and French forces at Gallipoli, one of the greatest Ottoman victories during World War I. (See map next page.)

⁷³ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_I - section “Ottoman Empire”.

Gallipoli Peninsula⁷⁴



The Gallipoli campaign was intended to force Germany's ally, Turkey, out of the war. It began as a naval campaign, with British battleships sent to attack Constantinople (now Istanbul). This failed when the warships were unable to force a way through the straits known as the Dardanelles. A third of the battleships were sunk or disabled on a single day, 18 March 1915 (emphasis added).⁷⁵

More about the Gallipoli Campaign from Wikipedia:

The Gallipoli Campaign, also known as the Dardanelles Campaign, the Battle of Gallipoli or the Battle of Çanakkale ... was a World War I campaign that took

⁷⁴ <http://www.awm.gov.au/exhibitions/dawn/plan/>

⁷⁵ <http://www.awm.gov.au/exhibitions/dawn/plan/>

place on the Gallipoli peninsula[6] in the Ottoman Empire between 25 April 1915 and 9 January 1916. The peninsula forms the northern bank of the Dardanelles, a strait that provides a sea route to what was then the Russian Empire, one of the Allied powers during the war. Intending to secure it, therefore, **Russia's fellow allies Britain and France launched a naval attack followed by an amphibious landing on the peninsula with the eventual aim of capturing the Ottoman capital of Constantinople (modern-day Istanbul).**[7] The naval attack was repelled and, after eight months' fighting, with many casualties on both sides, the land campaign also failed and the invasion force was withdrawn to Egypt.

The campaign was one of the greatest Ottoman victories during the war and is considered a major Allied failure. In Turkey, it is regarded as a defining moment in the nation's history: a final surge in the defence of the motherland as the Ottoman Empire crumbled (emphasis added).⁷⁶

After the defeat of the British at Gallipoli, Britain's invading force was withdrawn to Egypt:

The Sinai and Palestine Campaign of the Middle Eastern theatre of World War I was fought between the British Empire and the Ottoman Empire supported by the German Empire. It started with an Ottoman attempt at raiding the Suez Canal in 1915, and ended with the [Armistice of Mudros](#) in 1918, leading to the cession of [Ottoman Syria and Palestine](#).⁷⁷

... the Suez Canal was successfully defended from Ottoman attacks in 1915 and 1916; in August, a joint German and Ottoman force was defeated at the Battle of Romani by the ANZAC Mounted and the 52nd (Lowland) Infantry Divisions. **Following this victory, a British Empire Egyptian Expeditionary Force advanced across the Sinai Peninsula, pushing Ottoman forces back in the**

⁷⁶ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gallipoli_Campaign

⁷⁷ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sinai_and_Palestine_Campaign

Battle of Magdhaba in December and the Battle of Rafa on the border between the Egyptian Sinai and Ottoman Palestine in January 1917 (emphasis added).⁷⁸

THE END OF OTTOMAN RULE IN ISRAEL – DANIEL 11:45

“And he [Ottoman Empire] will pitch the tents of his royal pavilion between the seas and the beautiful Holy Mountain [Temple Mount]; yet he will come to his end, and no one will help him” (Daniel 11:45, emphasis added).

The “seas” referred to are the Mediterranean Sea and Dead Sea. In World War 1, the Ottoman Empire gathered an army in Palestine (Israel).⁷⁹ The Battle of Jerusalem in 1917 took place between British and Ottoman forces on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea north of Jaffa, into the Judean Hills around Jerusalem. The Ottoman Seventh Army fought in the Judean hills near Jerusalem. The Ottoman Eighth Army fought north of Jaffa on the Mediterranean coast.⁸⁰

The British defeated the Ottomans and captured Jerusalem on January 11, 1917.

As a result of these victories, British Empire forces captured Jerusalem and established a new strategically strong fortified line. This line ran from well to the north of Jaffa on the maritime plain, across the Judean Hills to Bireh north of Jerusalem, and continued eastwards of the Mount of Olives. With the capture of the road from Beersheba to Jerusalem via Hebron and Bethlehem, together with substantial Ottoman territory south of Jerusalem, the city was secured. **On 11 December, General Edmund Allenby respectfully entered the Old City on foot** through the Jaffa Gate instead of horse or vehicles to show respect for the holy city (emphasis added).^{81,82}

⁷⁸ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_I - section “Ottoman Empire”.

⁷⁹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dissolution_of_the_Ottoman_Empire - section “War with Britain and France”.

⁸⁰ [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Jerusalem_\(1917\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Jerusalem_(1917)) - to access article, do a search for “Wikipedia Battle of Jerusalem 1917”.

⁸¹ [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Jerusalem_\(1917\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Jerusalem_(1917)) - to access article, do a search for “Wikipedia Battle of Jerusalem 1917”.

⁸² Allenby’s Entry into Jerusalem, The Times, 11 Dec 1917 (diagram)

This was the beginning of the end of Ottoman rule in Palestine (Israel):

The British began their Sinai and Palestine Campaign in 1915. **The war reached southern Palestine in 1917**, progressing to Gaza and around Jerusalem by the end of the year. **The British secured Jerusalem in December 1917**. They moved into the Jordan valley in 1918 and a campaign by the Entente [Allies of World War I] into northern Palestine led to victory at Megiddo in September.

The British were formally awarded the mandate to govern the region in 1922.⁸³

The British Mandate in Palestine lasted from 1917-1948 until the reestablishment of the nation of Israel after two thousand years.

After World War I, the Ottoman Empire was dissolved and partitioned by the Allies. (See maps following pages.)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Allenby%27s_Entry_into_Jerusalem,_The_Times,_11_Dec_1917.png

General Allenby at the Gates of Jerusalem, December 11, 1917 (YouTube – 4:51 minutes)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TikadKincsk> (Hebrew with written English placards)

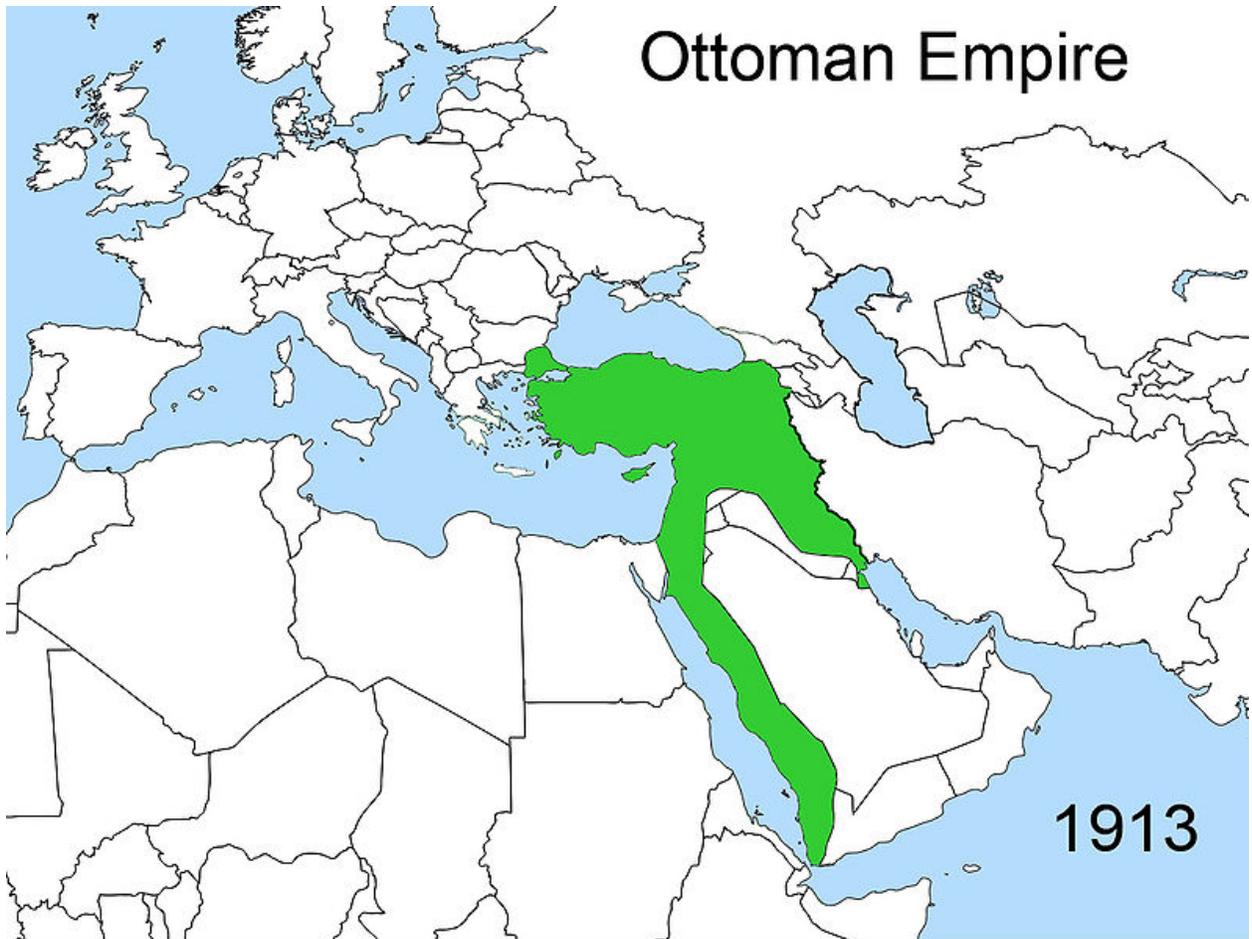
Longer video (13:35 minutes) of General Allenby's Entry into Jerusalem, December 11, 1917

(Newsreels are explained in detail in "Synopsis") <http://www.colonialfilm.org.uk/node/6131>

⁸³ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palestine> - section "Modern period".

THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE BEFORE WW1

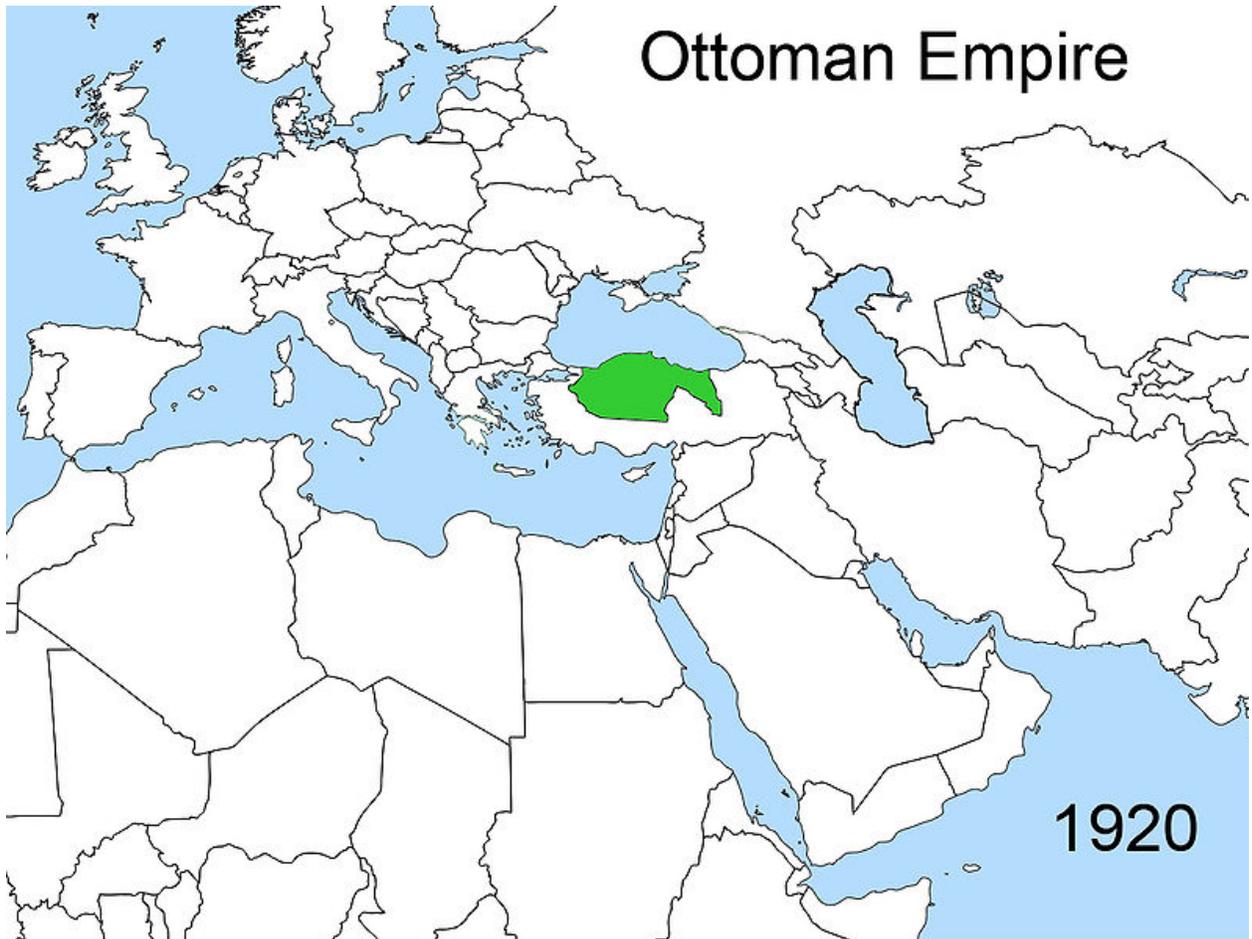
Ottoman Empire 1913⁸⁴



⁸⁴ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Territorial_changes_of_the_Ottoman_Empire_1913b.jpg

THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE AFTER WW1

Ottoman Empire 1920⁸⁵



⁸⁵ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Territorial_changes_of_the_Ottoman_Empire_1920.jpg

Republic of Turkey 1923⁸⁶



⁸⁶ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Territorial_changes_of_the_Ottoman_Empire_1923.jpg

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