

The 4 Beasts & 10 Horns of Daniel

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Part One: The Past

Judah Exiled to Babylon

It is 602 BC and Nebuchadnezzar king of *Babylon conquers the Kingdom of Judah*. The people of JUDAH are then deported as SLAVES to *Babylon* — just as God had foretold (2 Kings 24:8-17).

Daniel & His 3 Friends

Among the many Jews taken to Babylon is a young man named *Daniel* and his three friends Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. These four young men are very talented — therefore they are selected to serve in the king’s palace (Daniel 1:1-6). “God gave these four young men an unusual aptitude for learning the literature and science of the time. And God gave Daniel special ability in understanding the meanings of visions and dreams. When the three-year training period ordered by the king was completed, the chief official brought all the young men to King Nebuchadnezzar. The king talked with each of them, and none of them impressed him as much as *Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah*. So they were appointed to his regular staff of ADVISERS. In all matters requiring wisdom and balanced judgment, the king found the advice of these young men to be ten times better than that of all the magicians and enchanters in his entire kingdom” (Daniel 1:17-20; NLT).

Nebuchadnezzar’s Dream of a Great Statue

During this time king Nebuchadnezzar has a dream, and he wants the wise men of Babylon to interpret the dream for him. But he also wants them to tell him *what* he

has dreamed! And if they aren't able to do so, he declares that every single one of them will *die!*

Fortunately, God reveals the dream and its meaning to Daniel. Daniel then explains the dream and its meaning to Nebuchadnezzar. Daniel tells the king that in his dream he saw an ENORMOUS STATUE: the head of the statue was made of *gold*, its chest & arms of *silver*, its belly & thighs of *bronze*, its lower legs of *iron* and its feet partly of *iron & partly of clay*. Then a rock struck the statue on its FEET, which caused the whole statue to crumble. A huge wind then came and swept the pieces away without leaving a trace. The rock then became a huge mountain and filled the entire earth (Daniel 2:1-35).

Daniel Interprets the Dream

Daniel then interprets the dream for Nebuchadnezzar. He tells the king that the *head of gold* represents him (and his *Babylonian Empire*); the CHEST & ARMS OF SILVER represent the next empire that would follow his (the MEDO-PERSIAN EMPIRE); the *belly & thighs of bronze* represent the third kingdom (the *Greco-Macedonian Empire*); the LOWER LEGS OF IRON represent the fourth kingdom (the ROMAN EMPIRE); and the *feet of iron & clay* represent the last kingdom (a *resurrected Roman Empire* in the days just prior to the second coming of Jesus Christ). (Daniel 2:36-43)

Daniel then goes on to explain to Nebuchadnezzar that the Rock that destroyed the statue represents God and His Kingdom; that the Rock (Jesus Christ) would return to earth at the time of this last empire (a *revived "Holy Roman Empire"* consisting of TEN European nations) to destroy it and all other kingdoms; then Christ would set up the KINGDOM OF GOD on earth — which will last forever! (Daniel 2:44-47; Revelation 17:12-14, 5:10)

Daniel & His 3 Friends Are Promoted

“Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell prostrate before Daniel and paid him honor and ordered that an offering and incense be presented to him. The king said to Daniel, ‘Surely your God is the God of gods and the Lord of kings and a revealer of mysteries, for you were able to reveal this mystery.’ Then the king placed DANIEL in a high position and lavished many gifts on him. He made him *ruler over the entire province of Babylon* [similar to what happened to Joseph in Egypt!] and placed him in charge of all its wise men. Moreover, at Daniel's request the king appointed Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego [i.e. Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah] *administrators* over the province of Babylon, while Daniel himself remained at the

royal court” (Daniel 2:46-49).

Daniel’s Dream of Four Dreadful Beasts with Ten Horns

In due time, *Belshazzar* (Nebuchadnezzar’s *son*) becomes king of Babylon. It’s during Belshazzar’s first year of reign that *Daniel* has a dream — an extraordinary dream!

In Daniel’s dream *four great beasts* come up out of the sea. The first beast is like a LION; the second beast resembles a BEAR; the third beast looks like a LEOPARD; and the fourth beast “terrifying, dreadful, and very strong. It devoured and crushed its victims with HUGE IRON TEETH and trampled what was left beneath its feet. It was different from any of the other beasts, and it had *ten horns*” (Daniel 7:7; NLT).

“I was considering the [ten] horns, and there was *another horn, a little one*, coming up among them, before whom THREE OF THE FIRST HORNS were plucked out by the roots. And there, in this horn, were eyes like the eyes of a man, and *a mouth speaking pompous words*” (Daniel 7:8).

The Interpretation of the Four Beasts

The meaning of this dream (involving four frightful beasts) is *similar* (though it does differ a little) to the dream that king Nebuchadnezzar had many years earlier (when he dreamed of a *huge statue*: head of *gold*, chest and arms of *silver*, belly and thighs of *bronze*, lower legs of *iron*, and toes of iron and clay).

In this dream, the *lion* represents the *Babylonian Empire* (just like the head of gold in Nebuchadnezzar’s statue); the BEAR represents the kingdom that would replace Babylon — the MEDO-PERSIAN EMPIRE (thus corresponding to the chest and arms of silver of Nebuchadnezzar’s statue); the *leopard* represents the third kingdom — the *Greco-Macedonian Empire* (just like the belly and thighs of bronze); and the fourth beast with the HUGE IRON TEETH represents the fourth kingdom — the ROMAN EMPIRE (thus corresponding to the lower legs of iron).

But here is where the dreams are DIFFERENT: the *ten horns* do NOT represent the last kingdom — *a revived “Holy Roman Empire” composed of TEN contemporary European nations in the last days just prior to Christ’s return* — as the TEN TOES of iron and clay in Nebuchadnezzar’s dream do.

In this dream of the four beasts, the ten horns represent something entirely

DIFFERENT than the ten toes of Nebuchadnezzar's dream. In this dream the *ten HORNS* represent *ten SUCCESSIVE* (NOT concurrent) kings (or kingdoms) that would *come out of* the fourth beast (i.e. the Roman Empire).

“The fourth beast shall be a fourth kingdom on earth [the Roman Empire].... The ten horns are ten kings [or kingdoms] who shall arise *from this* kingdom...” (Daniel 7:23-24). In other words, the ten horns represent ten *succeeding* kingdoms that would grow OUT of the Roman Empire. Or put another way, the ten horns symbolize the ten stages of government continuing *out* of the Roman Empire after its fall in 476 AD. [I will speak more on these ten horns (i.e. kingdoms) later in this book.]

The Little Horn Speaks Boastful Words

But something else is *added* to Daniel's dream that wasn't in Nebuchadnezzar's dream: A LITTLE HORN SPEAKING POMPOUS WORDS — AND WHO UPROOTS THE FIRST THREE HORNS! (Daniel 7:8.) [I will speak more on the role that this little horn plays in uprooting the first three horns, as well as the meaning of all ten horns, later in this book.]

Daniel continues: “Then I wanted to know the true meaning of the... *other horn* that came up, before which THREE OF THEM FELL — the horn that looked more imposing than the others and that had eyes and A MOUTH THAT SPOKE BOASTFULLY. As I watched, *this horn was waging war against the saints* [God's people; *true* Christians] and defeating them” (Daniel 7:19-21; NIV).

The Little Horn Persecutes God's People & Tries to Change God's Law

“He [the little horn] shall speak POMPOUS WORDS AGAINST THE MOST HIGH, shall *persecute the saints of the Most High*, and shall intend to CHANGE TIMES AND LAW. Then the saints [*true* Christians] shall be given into his hand for a time and times and half a time” (Daniel 7:25).

Who is the Pompous Little Horn?

This boastful, arrogant individual (i.e. the little horn) would think to change times and laws, or as the NLT puts it: “He would try to *change* God's sacred festivals and laws.”

Yes, he most certainly would! Replacing God's festivals and Holy Days (Passover, Pentecost, Feast of Tabernacles, etc.) with *pagan* celebrations (Xmas, Easter, All Saints Day, etc.), and eliminating the fourth commandment (the keeping holy of

the *seventh-day Sabbath*) as well as the second commandment (the prohibition against *statues, images, and other idols*). This he has done and much more! Including the persecuting, torturing and killing of millions of *true* Christians throughout the centuries! Who has done this? The leader of the Roman Catholic Church — the *pope!*

The Demise of the Arrogant Horn

But the pompous horn (i.e. the pope) and his false religious system will be destroyed at Christ's return: "But the court will sit, and *his power will be taken away and completely destroyed forever*" (Daniel 7:26; NIV).

Daniel adds: "I watched till thrones were put in place, and the ANCIENT OF DAYS [God the Father] was seated; His garment was white as snow, and the hair of His head was like pure wool. His throne was a fiery flame, its wheels a burning fire; a fiery stream issued and came forth from before Him. A thousand thousands ministered to Him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court was seated, and the books were opened" (Daniel 7:9-10).

"I watched then because of the sound of *the pompous words which the horn was speaking*; I watched till the beast was slain, and its body destroyed and given to the burning flame.... I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the SON OF MAN [Jesus Christ], coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the ANCIENT OF DAYS, and they brought Him near before Him. Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a Kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His KINGDOM the one which shall not be destroyed" (Daniel 7:11-14).

True Christians to Inherit God's Kingdom

"And a judgment was made in favor of the saints [TRUE Christians] of the Most High, and the time came [at Christ's return] for the saints to possess the KINGDOM" (Daniel 7:22). "Then the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. His KINGDOM is an *everlasting* KINGDOM, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him" (Daniel 7:27).

Yes, Christ's KINGDOM, the KINGDOM OF GOD, shall finally arrive — *at the return of Jesus!* And what a fantastic world it will be! More wonderful than we could ever imagine! It will be an absolutely marvelous, breathtaking, sensational, joyful, phenomenal world! I will talk more on this topic later, but for now, let's get

back to Daniel and his amazing prophecies.

Daniel's Vision of a Ram and a Goat

It is now the third year of Belshazzar's reign and Daniel has an extraordinary vision (Daniel 8:1-2). In this vision a *ram* appears from the *east* and grows very great (Daniel 8:3-4). But then a GOAT from the WEST attacks the ram and destroys him; the goat then becomes exceedingly great (Daniel 8:5-8).

The ram (from the east) in Daniel's vision represents the *Medo-Persian Empire* (the kingdom that would succeed the present Babylonian Empire), while the GOAT (from the west) represents the GRECO-MACEDONIAN EMPIRE (the kingdom that would conquer the Medo-Persian Empire in 330 BC).

The Writing on the Wall

Several years later, "Belshazzar the king [of Babylon] made a great feast for a thousand of his lords, and drank wine in the presence of the thousand. While he tasted the wine, Belshazzar gave the command to bring the gold and silver vessels which his father Nebuchadnezzar had taken from the Temple which had been in Jerusalem, that the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines might drink from them. Then they brought the gold vessels that had been *taken from the Temple of the house of God which had been in Jerusalem*; and the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines drank from them. They drank wine, and PRAISED THE GODS OF GOLD AND SILVER, BRONZE AND IRON, WOOD AND STONE.

"In the same hour the *fingers of a man's hand appeared and wrote* opposite the lampstand on the plaster of the wall of the king's palace; and the king saw the part of the hand that wrote. Then the king's countenance changed, and his thoughts troubled him, so that the joints of his hips were loosened and his knees knocked against each other. The king cried aloud to bring in the astrologers, the Chaldeans, and the soothsayers. The king spoke, saying to the wise men of Babylon, 'Whoever reads this writing, and tells me its interpretation, shall be clothed with purple and have a chain of gold around his neck; and he shall be the third ruler in the kingdom.'

"Now all the king's wise men came, but they could not read the writing, or make known to the king its interpretation. Then King Belshazzar was greatly troubled, his countenance was changed, and his lords were astonished. The queen, because of the words of the king and his lords, came to the banquet hall. The queen spoke,

saying, ‘O king, live forever! Do not let your thoughts trouble you, nor let your countenance change. There is a man in your kingdom IN WHOM IS THE SPIRIT OF THE HOLY GOD. And in the days of your father, light and understanding and wisdom, like the wisdom of the gods, were found in him; and King Nebuchadnezzar your father — your father the king — made him chief of the magicians, astrologers, Chaldeans, and soothsayers. Inasmuch as an excellent spirit, knowledge, understanding, interpreting dreams, solving riddles, and explaining enigmas were found in this *Daniel*, whom the king named Belteshazzar, now let Daniel be called, and he will give the interpretation.’

“Then Daniel was brought in before the king. The king spoke, and said to Daniel, ‘Are you that Daniel who is one of the captives from Judah, whom my father the king brought from Judah? I have heard of you, that *the Spirit of God is in you*, and that light and understanding and excellent wisdom are found in you....’

Daniel Interprets the Writing

“Then Daniel answered, and said before the king, ‘...O king, the Most High God gave Nebuchadnezzar your father a kingdom and majesty, glory and honor. And because of the majesty that He gave him, all peoples, nations, and languages trembled and feared before him. Whomever he wished, he executed; whomever he wished, he kept alive; whomever he wished, he set up; and whomever he wished, he put down.

““But when his heart was lifted up, and his spirit was hardened in PRIDE, he was deposed from his kingly throne, and they took his glory from him. Then he was driven from the sons of men, his heart was made like the beasts, and his dwelling was with the wild donkeys. They fed him with grass like oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, till he knew that the Most High God rules in the kingdom of men, and appoints over it whomever He chooses.

““But you his son, Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, ALTHOUGH YOU KNEW ALL THIS. And *you have lifted yourself up against the Lord of heaven*. They have brought THE VESSELS OF HIS HOUSE before you, and you and your lords, your wives and your concubines, have drunk wine from them. And *you have praised the gods of silver and gold, bronze and iron, wood and stone*, which do not see or hear or know; and the God who holds your breath in His HAND and owns all your ways, you have not glorified.

““Then the fingers of the HAND were sent from Him, and this writing was written. ‘And this is the inscription that was written: MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN.

This is the interpretation of each word. Mene: God has numbered your kingdom, and finished it; Tekel: You have been weighed in the balances, and found wanting; Peres: *Your kingdom has been divided, and given to the Medes and Persians.*’

“Then Belshazzar gave the command, and they clothed Daniel with purple and put a chain of gold around his neck, and made a proclamation concerning him that he should be the third ruler in the kingdom. That very night Belshazzar, king of the Chaldeans, was *slain*. And DARIUS the MEDE received the kingdom, being about sixty-two years old” (Daniel 5:1-31).

Medo-Persian Empire

It is now 532 BC and the Jews have been slaves in Babylon for seventy years (Jeremiah 25:12- 13). But just as God foretold, the Medes and Persians have conquered the Babylonians, and Darius the Mede is king.

Seventy-Weeks Prophecy

During the reign of Darius the Mede, Daniel is given a stunning prophecy. God reveals to Daniel that the prophesied Messiah would eventually be *killed!* But then God takes it one step further by telling Daniel precisely *when* this event would occur! This is revealed to Daniel in this way: Daniel is first told that a decree allowing Jerusalem to be rebuilt would someday be issued — and that once this proclamation is made the Messiah would be killed *exactly* 483 years later! (Daniel 9:24-27; see appendix.)

The decree to rebuild Jerusalem (remember it had been destroyed by king Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon many years earlier) would eventually be issued by king Artaxerxes of Persia in 452 BC (Nehemiah 1 & 2). Therefore, according to Daniel’s prophecy, the Messiah would be killed in 32 AD!

This 70-WEEKS PROPHECY (as it is often called) also describes events that will take place during *the last seven years* prior to Christ’s return. It reveals how the coming ANTICHRIST will make an agreement with the Jews, allowing *animal sacrifices* to once again be implemented in Jerusalem. But then in the middle of this agreement (or after 3 1/2 years) he will suddenly stop the sacrifices. He will then place a statue of himself in the Temple and force everyone to worship it! (More on this later!)

The Jews Return to the Promised Land

Returning to our story, once Babylon is conquered by the Medes and Persians it’s

only a matter of time before the Jews are allowed to return to their homeland. So starting in 532 BC the people of Judah begin to trickle back to the Promised Land. But it wouldn't be until 452 BC that the Jews would be given official permission to rebuild *Jerusalem*. Eventually they would rebuild the city and the TEMPLE (though it wouldn't be as lavish as the one that Solomon had built). And they would also reinstitute *animal sacrifices* (Ezra 6).

During this time another astonishing prophecy is revealed to Daniel (*Daniel 11*). First, he is told that Persia would eventually go to war against *Greece* (which happened about 200 years later), and that a mighty king would arise (*Alexander the Great!*). Then at the height of his power his kingdom would be divided into four sections (Alexander died in 323 BC at the age of 32 and his empire was divided among his four generals).

Then this prophecy goes on to describe some of the battles that would ensue between two of these divisions (the "KING OF THE NORTH" and the "KING OF THE SOUTH") for the next 150 years or so. (The only reason that these two divisions are talked about and not the other two divisions is because only these two divisions would come in contact with and fight over Jerusalem and the rest of Judah/Israel. And since one of the king's reigned north of *Jerusalem*, he is referred to as the king of the north; and since the other king reigned south of *Jerusalem*, he is referred to as the king of the south).

This prophecy then goes on to describe a *despicable man* (Daniel 11:21-35) who would become king of the north (this is referring to *Antiochus IV Epiphanes* who ruled from 175 BC until 164 BC). It describes how he would become king by FLATTERY AND INTRIGUE. And how he would invade the *king of the south* (*Egypt*) and then return home with great riches. Later, he would invade Egypt again, but this time warships from western coastlands (*Rome!*) would scare him off, so he turns around and heads back to his homeland. But he stops off at Jerusalem where he does horrible things. He kills thousands of people and sells thousands more into slavery. He also takes over the Temple of God and *stops the daily sacrifices* (just as the ANTICHRIST will do in the end time). Then he sets up a sacrilegious object — *a statue of Zeus* that desecrates the Temple (the Antichrist will also set up a statue in the Temple — but his will be a statue of himself!).

He also pollutes and defiles the Temple by sacrificing swine in the Temple (the Bible condemns the eating and sacrificing of pigs; Deuteronomy 14:8; Isaiah 66:3). Then, all of a sudden, this prophecy *leaps forward* more than 2,175 years in the future — to the time just ahead of us now! (Daniel 11:35-45, 12:1-13) But, I'll

have to save the rest of this prophecy for later....

Jerusalem & the Temple Rebuilt & Animal Sacrifices Reinstated

Daniel would eventually die and as prophesied by God the Jews would rebuild Jerusalem and the Temple, as well as reinstitute animal sacrifices. But though they were back in the land that God had given them, they were NOT a self-governing independent nation. Instead they were under the yoke of the Medes and Persians.

Greco-Macedonian Empire

But then in 330 BC Alexander the Great would conquer the Medo-Persian Empire, and as a result the Greeks and Macedonians would rule over the Jews.

Roman Empire

But then the Greeks and Macedonians would fall to the Romans in the first century BC, resulting in the Jews becoming subjugated to Rome. Officially, the Roman Empire began in 27 BC with *Octavian Augustus* becoming its first emperor on January 16th. He would rule until his death on August 19th, 14 AD. Afterwards, many emperors would follow, ruling over a united Roman Empire, until in the year 395 AD, Emperor Theodosius would die, and the empire would become divided.

Roman Empire Divided Between East & West

Theodosius is the *last* ruler of a truly *united* Roman Empire. At his death (in 395) the Empire is divided into two halves: EAST (with its capital at CONSTANTINOPLE) and WEST (with its capital at ROME).

Though in theory only a division for administrative purposes, *the separation proves to be permanent*. The two sections (the Eastern Roman Empire and the Western Roman Empire) grow steadily apart, and are never again truly united. Each goes its own way towards a separate destiny.

Rome Falls

It is 476. Zeno rules the Eastern Empire at Constantinople (also known as the Byzantine Empire), while *Romulus Augustus* rules the Western Empire at Rome. By curious coincidence, Romulus bears the names of both the founder of Rome (*Romulus*) and of the Empire (*Augustus*) — both of which are about to fall.

On September 4, 476, Odoacer, a HERULI chieftain, overthrows the young emperor. The Western Empire has received a *deadly wound*. Rome has fallen! A “barbarian” now sits on the throne in Rome. The greatest power the world has ever

known is trampled in the dust. The Empire that had conquered the world is herself conquered! The ancient world is at an end. The Middle Ages have begun.

The Heruli, Goths & Lombards Reign

For the next several hundred years “barbarian” invaders will rule the Western Empire: the *Heruli, Ostrogoths, and Lombards*. These groups are “Christian,” but most are NOT “Catholic Christians.” Instead, they are ARIAN CHRISTIANS, who often persecute Catholics (and vice versa).

Catholicism Versus Arianism

The main difference between Arians and Catholics is their concept of God. Catholics believe in the *Trinity* — the idea that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are three Persons in one God — and that all three are equal and eternal. But the Arians reject the Trinity, believing that Christ was a *created* being. Both teachings however are wrong.

God is NOT a trinity. Nor was Christ created (John 1:1-18; Philippians 2:6-8). The God *Family* is composed of *two* distinct individuals: God the *Father* and Jesus Christ (the *Son* of God). *Both have always existed*. The Father and Son are ONE though. That is—they are ONE in purpose, mindset, goals, outlook, character, makeup, etc. — just as WE are to be ONE with THEM (John 17:11, 21-23)!

The Holy Spirit is NOT a member of the God Family, but is instead the power and essence of God. God — both the Father and the Son — are composed of Spirit — the Holy Spirit — and WE can be too! Those of us who attain to the first resurrection (at the return of Jesus) will no longer be made of flesh and blood. Instead, we will be composed of spirit — God’s Holy Spirit — as we will be His *literal* sons and daughters — *born into His very own Family!* (John 17:21-23; 1 Corinthians 15:50-54; 2 Corinthians 5:1-5; Daniel 12:2-3; Philippians 3:11, 3:21; Colossians 3:4; Luke 20:34-37; Psalms 17:15, 82:6; Romans 8:16-17.)

Therefore, *both* beliefs (both the Catholic and the Arian) are *false*. For God is NOT a trinity — nor was Christ created.

Let’s return now to our story.

Since the days of Constantine, the Roman Catholic Church has had the wholehearted support of the civil power — but not now. Therefore, something will have to be done about these hated Arian “heretics.”

Which brings us back to...

The Four Beasts of Daniel 7

Earlier in this book we discussed Daniel's dream of four great beasts (Daniel 7). I explained at that time that the first beast (the lion) represented the Babylonian Empire, the second beast (the bear) stood for the Medo-Persian Empire, the third beast (the leopard) depicted the Greco-Macedonian Empire, and the fourth beast (with its huge iron teeth) portrayed the Roman Empire.

With the fall of Rome, all four of these empires have now come to an end. But, we still have the *ten horns* (i.e. dynasties) that were prophesied to come *out* of the fourth empire — the Roman Empire.

Ten Horns to Reign One by One

“Then in my vision that night, I saw a fourth beast, terrifying, dreadful, and very strong. It devoured and crushed its victims with huge iron teeth and trampled what was left beneath its feet. It was different from any of the other beasts, and it had TEN HORNS” (Daniel 7:7; NLT).

“The fourth beast is a fourth kingdom [the Roman Empire] that will appear on earth. It will be different from all the other kingdoms and will devour the whole earth, trampling it down and crushing it. *The ten horns are ten kings who will come from this kingdom*” (Daniel 7:23-24; NIV).

As explained previously, the *ten HORNS* represent *ten SUCCESSIVE* kings (or dynasties) that would come *out* of the fourth beast (the Roman Empire). Or put another way, the ten horns symbolize the ten stages of government continuing *out* of the Roman Empire after its fall in 476 AD.

The Little Horn Uproots the First 3 Horns

But something else is *added* to Daniel's dream: a little pompous horn! “I was considering the [ten] horns, and there was *another horn, a little one*, coming up among them, before whom THREE OF THE FIRST HORNS were *plucked out* by the roots. And there, in this horn, were eyes like the eyes of a man, and *a mouth speaking pompous words*” (Daniel 7:8).

“He [the little horn] shall speak pompous words against the Most High, shall persecute the saints of the Most High, and shall intend to change times and law”

(Daniel 7:25). And “he will *subdue three kings*” (Daniel 7:24; NIV).

First 3 Horns: Heruli (1st horn), Goths (2nd horn), & Lombards (3rd horn)

As I explained previously in this book, this boastful, defiant little horn represents the leader of the Roman Catholic Church — that is, the pope. But what I didn’t mention then was that this little horn (i.e. the pope) would be responsible for the removal of the first three horns (governments) that would succeed the Roman Empire (after its fall in 476). And that is precisely what happened, as the popes (during this time) were instrumental in the overthrow of all *three* of these barbarian invaders (the HERULI, OSTROGOTHS, & LOMBARDS).

“Unlike the first three of the ten horns, the last seven horns or Roman revivals would all involve the blessing of the Roman *pope* — just as in the Late Roman Empire itself. He would be an intimate player in the various continuations of the empire of ancient Rome in the West” (John Ogwyn, *The Beast of Revelation*).

Heruli, Goths, & Lombards

As a result of the pope’s scheming, the Heruli fall at the end of the fifth century and the Ostrogoths in the middle of the sixth century. But by the middle of the eighth century the pope is still unable to rid himself of the last “barbarian heretics,” the Lombards. But that is about to change.

Pepin the Short

Northwest of Italy, a powerful kingdom is on the rise — the kingdom of the Franks. The Frankish tribes are ruled by a royal family of kings known as the Merovingians. The Franks are CATHOLIC (and are of GERMAN descent). The current king is Childeric III, but most of the power of the kingdom lies in the hands of the king’s chief minister or viceroy, *Pepin the Short*.

Pepin is ambitious. He covets the office of king itself. He asks Pope Zacharias for an opinion on the legitimacy of his bid. The pope replies that “*it is better that the man who has the real power should have the title of king instead of the man who has the mere title but no power.*”

In November 751, Archbishop Boniface, the papal legate, anoints Pepin king of the Franks at a gathering of Frankish nobles in the Merovingian capital of Soissons. Pepin is now “God’s anointed” and the Merovingian king Childeric III is deposed and imprisoned.

The Merovingians have reigned by right of conquest. But Pepin has now assumed the sovereignty *in the name of God*. He believes it is God's will that his family rule the Franks. Pepin accordingly styles himself *rex gratia Dei* ("king by the grace of God"), a title retained by his successors.

Pepin's new dynasty will be known as the CAROLINGIANS. The name derives from Pepin's father, Charles (Carolus) Martel (a.k.a. "the Hammer"), who had been viceroy before him.

Lombards Overthrown

It is November 753. Pope Stephen II crosses the stormy Alps and reaches Pepin's winter camp. The pope asks Pepin to come to Italy to help him overthrow the Lombards. At the same time, Pope Stephen personally anoints and crowns Pepin, and blesses Pepin's sons and heirs.

The Franks answer the call. Pepin invades Italy and defeats the Lombards. *He then gives all of the conquered Lombard territory to the pope!* This gift of conquered lands is called the "DONATION OF PEPIN." It cements the alliance between the Carolingians and the Catholic Church.

4th Horn: Franks

The first three horns (kingdoms) have now been uprooted (though the Lombards would continually try and reassert themselves in the area). But unlike the first three of the ten horns, the final seven horns (or Roman revivals) would all involve the blessing of the Roman pope, as he would be an *intimate* player in the various continuations of the empire of ancient Rome.

Pepin dies in 768. His sons Charles (Karl) and Carloman jointly succeed to the Frankish throne.

In 771, Carloman dies suddenly, and Charles becomes sole king of the Franks.

Urgent Plea

Pepin had delivered a crushing defeat to the Lombards, but he had not totally subdued them. The Church is now threatened once more. Rome needs a champion!

In 772, Charles receives an urgent plea for aid from Pope Adrian I, whose territories have been invaded by Desiderius, king of the Lombards.

Charles crosses the Alps from Geneva with two armies. In 774 he decisively overthrows the kingdom of the Lombards, deposes Desiderius and proclaims himself sovereign of the Lombards.

Charles is now master of Italy!

Charles takes the title *Rex Francorum et Longobardorum atque Patricius Romanorum* (“King of the Franks and Lombards and Patrician of the Romans”). The famous “IRON CROWN” of the Lombards — which will become one of the great historic symbols of Europe — is placed upon Charles’ head. *It will be used in subsequent centuries by Otto the Great, Napoleon and other sovereigns of Europe.*

Charles *confirms and expands* the DONATION made to the Papacy by his father. This territory will later be known as THE STATES OF THE CHURCH. [In the years ahead, the pope would even *add* to these lands, eventually even possessing territories in southern Italy as well as southern France (including the French city of Avignon). These territories (owned, controlled, and ruled by the Catholic Church) would eventually become known as the “PAPAL STATES.”]

Italy is again united for the first time in centuries. Charles is heralded as defender of the Church and guardian of the “Christian” faith. The Frankish monarchy and the Papacy stand in partnership against the enemies of civilization!

Charles is now the most conspicuous ruler in Europe. History will know him as Charlemagne — “Charles the Great.”

Central Event

In December of 800 AD, Charlemagne travels to Rome. On Xmas Day, the king of the Franks attends a service in St. Peter’s Basilica on Vatican Hill.

The stage is now set for one of the great scenes of all history.

Charlemagne kneels before the altar in worship. There is a dramatic hush in the church. As the great king rises, Pope Leo, without warning, suddenly turns around and places a golden crown on the monarch’s head!

Immediately the assembled people cry in unison: “Long life and victory to CHARLES AUGUSTUS, crowned by God, great and peace-giving Emperor of the Romans!”

The Pope has crowned Charlemagne as *Imperator Romanorum* — “EMPEROR OF THE ROMANS”!

Something profound has occurred. The West once more has an EMPEROR! Historians will look back on this as the *central event* of the entire Middle Ages.

“Christian” Caesar

The coronation of Charlemagne marks the restoration of the Western Roman Empire. Charlemagne is now officially a successor of the Roman emperors. The tradition of the Roman Caesars is revived. In Charlemagne, Western Europe now has a “Christian” Caesar — a Roman emperor born of *German* race!

The act also demonstrates that the memory of the once great Roman Empire still lives as a vital tradition in the hearts of Europeans.

“Holy” Roman Empire

Historians will view Charlemagne’s coronation as the *beginning of what will be known as the HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE!* The political foundation of the Middle Ages has been laid!

Charlemagne is ruler of nearly all the territories that had once constituted the Western Roman Empire. He has more than doubled the territory he had inherited from his father and brother. All France, nearly all of Germany and Austria, and all of Italy except the kingdom of Naples are his!

Under Charlemagne’s scepter Western Europe for the first time in centuries has something approaching unity. A new Roman Empire — *a new Europe* — has been born!

In 803, Charlemagne will stamp on his seal the words *Renovatio Romani Imperii* — “RENEWAL OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE.”

Papal “Coup”

There is yet another significance to the events of December 25, 800 AD. CHARLEMAGNE (*a German Frank of the Carolingian family*) has received the imperial crown at the hands of the Pope! The people see it as having come from God!

The message is clear to all: The imperial crown is a *papal gift*. The kingdoms of

this earth belong to the bishop of Rome: they are his to give — and to take away! Charlemagne has been taken unawares! He is reported to have grumbled that he would not have gone to church on that day if he had known the Pope's intentions. The emperor is not unhappy about being emperor. His misgivings are over the *manner* of the coronation. He has won his empire on the battlefield through military genius; he does not owe it to a pope. Yet Leo has made it appear so! Whatever his doubts, Charlemagne makes no protest, He quietly accepts the imperial crown from Leo.

The pope has cleverly executed a “coup.” In the eyes of all, the Papacy has been symbolically exalted above the authority of the secular power. A great legal precedent has been set.

“Marriage” of Church & State

Charlemagne holds no grudge. Pope and emperor have too many interests in common to permit ill feeling to exist. There has been a “MARRIAGE” formally linking the spiritual power of the pope with the temporal power of the emperor. The two are joint sovereigns on earth. *The “Holy” Roman Empire has begun!* The EMPIRE will now be regarded as God's chosen *political* organization over Western Christendom. The church at Rome is viewed as God's chosen instrument in *religious* matters. POPE and EMPEROR are regarded as God's appointed vice-regents on earth.

This *intimate alliance* of church and state serves the needs of both institutions. The empire exercises its political and military powers to defend the Roman Catholic Church and *enforce* religious uniformity. The church, in turn, acts as a “glue” for Europe, holding together the differing nationalities and cultures within the Empire by the tie of common religion.

Historian Will Durant writes, “Out of this *intimate* co-operation of Church and state came one of the most brilliant ideas in the history of statesmanship; the transformation of Charlemagne's realm into a HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE that should have behind it all the prestige, sanctity, and stability of both Imperial and papal Rome” (Will Durant, *The Story of Civilization*, vol. 4, pp. 468; Ogwyn).

Of course there was nothing at all holy about this union. For both the empire and the church were (and are) Satanic, as was this marriage! See Revelation 17!

“King Father of Europe”

Years later, on January 28, 814, Charlemagne dies. He is buried in the church he built at *Aachen, Germany*. His mammoth achievements will be lauded in popular legend and poetry for centuries to come.

CHARLEMAGNE HAS NOT ENDED AN AGE; HE HAS BEGUN ONE. He will be called *rex pater Europae* — “King father of Europe.” He has shown Europeans an ideal. He has bequeathed to them a common cultural and political tradition. Even in the distant 20th century, men will point to his model as a blueprint for European unity. Charlemagne has left his mark on European history as no other man. He has, in large measure, determined the political fate of Western Europe.

Catastrophe and Revival

Charlemagne’s empire survives him by only one generation. This *cyclical pattern of revival and disintegration* will be often repeated in centuries to come.

By 843, the Carolingian Empire of Charlemagne disappears. The political unity of Catholic Europe becomes a thing of the past.

In its weakness, Western Europe falls victim to invasions by Northmen, Saracens and Magyars. The Continent is again a political shambles.

Chaos in Rome

The Papacy is also in trouble. The Holy See is increasingly torn apart by factionalism. Intrigue becomes rampant. *The papal office is bought and sold* — and occasionally OBTAINED BY MURDER! The corruption and immorality of the Papacy during this period will prompt later historians to call it a “PORNOCRACY”!

The infamous “Cadaver Synod” serves as a bizarre illustration of the turmoil in Rome.

The body of former *Pope Formosus* (891-896) is exhumed by newly elected Pope Stephen VI in 896 and put on trial, charged with treason! The corpse is dressed in papal regalia, assaulted with questions and accusations, then dragged through the streets of Rome with a mob cheering on!

The next year, Pope Stephen is himself overthrown, imprisoned and strangled. Sergius III, pope from 904 to 911, attains the office after ordering the *murder* of his predecessor. His life of open sin with the noted *prostitute* Marozia brings

widespread disrepute upon the Papacy. Sergius fathers a number of sons by Marozia, among them the future Pope John XI (931-935). Sergius' reign begins a period known as "THE RULE OF THE HARLOTS." Under Pope John XII (955-964), *the Lateran palace becomes a literal brothel.*

New Champion Needed to Revive Empire

Chaos reigns in Rome—and throughout Europe.

The situation is grave. It becomes clear to many that the disunity and weakness in Europe is tied closely to the disunity and weakness of the Catholic Church — and vice versa.

Perceptive churchmen realize that they must call in a strong prince to again unite Europe. Western civilization must be saved!

With the Frankish realm in eclipse, Rome must look elsewhere for a champion to restore the tradition of imperial unity.

When the next great emperor appears in Western Europe in the middle of the 10th century, he will not be a Frank (like Charlemagne) but a *Saxon German*. As medieval Germany rises to a predominant position in the West, the dignity of the title of Roman Emperor will become permanently connected with that of the *king of Germany*.

The FIRST GERMAN REICH is about to appear on the scene!

5th Horn: Saxons

Rome, and all Italy, are in chaos. Pope John XII appeals to OTTO (king of the Germans) to restore order to the peninsula and to assist him against his adversaries. In 961 Otto sweeps into Italy and defeats the enemies of the pope.

Pope John recognizes Otto's position in Europe by crowning him HOLY ROMAN EMPEROR on February 2, 962. Not since that historic Xmas Day in 800 AD, when the Western Roman Empire was restored by the coronation of Charlemagne, has an event of such magnitude occurred.

Western Europe again has an Emperor! Charlemagne's Empire is REVIVED in an *alliance between Emperor and Church*. With the support of the Catholic Church, Otto reigns supreme throughout Western Christendom over the German *Reich*, or

Empire.

The year 962 marks the *restoration* of the imperial tradition. Later historians will view it as the beginning of what would later be officially styled the *Sacrum Romanum Imperium Nationis Germanicae* — the “Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation.”

Throughout the Middle Ages, the imperial title and GERMAN kingship will remain indissolubly united. It will be the kings of the *Germans*, crowned by the Pope, who will henceforth be named Holy Roman Emperors. GERMANY is the heart and core — *the power center* — of the Empire.

The octagonal Imperial crown of the Holy Roman Empire is made especially for the coronation of Otto in 962. For centuries to come, it will be the very *symbol* of the concept of European unity.

Otto “the Great” dies on May 7, 973. After him, his son (Otto II) reigns, followed by his son (Otto III).

During the reign of Otto III, Pope Gregory V dies. Gerbert of Aurillac becomes pope, with the name Sylvester II.

Pope Sylvester II Denounces Previous Popes As “Monsters” & “Antichrist”

Both Sylvester and Otto dream of an empire in which emperor and pope would serve as joint heads of a unified entity. Pope Sylvester II strives to raise the reputation of the papacy throughout Europe. He denounces some of his unworthy predecessors as “*monsters* of more than human iniquity,” and as “*Antichrist*, sitting in the temple of God and playing the part of God”!

6th Horn: Franconians

Henry II (1002-1024) is *the last of the Saxon rulers of Germany*. At his death, Conrad II, duke of Franconia, receives the imperial crown.

CONRAD II (1024-1039) is *the first Franconian or Salian German Emperor*. His reign begins what later historians will call the great period of the Holy Roman Empire. The reign of Conrad’s son Henry III (1039-1056) marks the ZENITH of German imperial power.

The Great Schism of 1054

It is during the reign of Henry III as Holy Roman Emperor that the final *great schism between the Western (Roman) and Eastern (Orthodox) churches takes place*. The break had existed for centuries and had grown progressively wider. In 1054 it becomes formal and complete when the *Pope at Rome and the Patriarch of Constantinople excommunicate each other*.

7th Horn: Hohenstaufens

With the death of Henry V in 1125, Germany and the Empire are beset by civil strife and chaos. Many fear the Empire will fall completely to pieces.

Two rival dynasties of German nobles scramble to gain the imperial throne — the Welfs (or Guelphs) and the Hohenstaufens. The Hohenstaufens are descended from Henry IV in the female line.

Finally, in 1138, CONRAD III comes to the German throne. Conrad — a grandson of Henry IV and nephew of Henry V — is *the first king of the Hohenstaufen family*. The Hohenstaufens will preside over the Empire until about the middle of the 13th century.

8th Horn: Habsburgs

Frederick II dies in 1250. He is the last of the great Hohenstaufens. With his death, the empire crumbles.

The Great Interregnum (1254-1273), as this period will be known to history, is a stormy and confused period. It is the *kaiserlose, schreckliche Zeit* — “the terrible time without an emperor.”

Western Europe is now about to enter a new phase.

The Great Interregnum comes to an end in 1273. In that year, the imperial crown is revived and given to the *Austrian Count Rudolf of Habsburg*. The Empire now has an Austrian head.

Rudolf is the first Habsburg to ascend the imperial throne. He will succeed in establishing some degree of order within the Empire.

The House of Habsburg will play a leading role in European affairs for *centuries* to come (though they wouldn't reign continuously, as they would be broken up by the Nassau and Luxembourg dynasties). The ideal of *universal rule* — unity under a

single authority — is by no means dead.

9th Horn: House of Nassau

Rudolf of Habsburg dies in July 1291. The German Imperial Electors — German princes who take part in choosing the Emperor — are concerned over the rapid rise of the Habsburgs. They therefore refuse to recognize the claims of Rudolf's son, and instead recognize Adolf of NASSAU as king of Germany.

A century and a half will pass before the next Habsburg sits on the imperial throne.

10th Horn: House of Luxembourg

Meanwhile, in 1355, Charles IV of LUXEMBOURG (now the German king and king of Bohemia) receives the crown of the Holy Roman Empire in Rome. In an effort to check growing political disorder, he issues the following year an imperial edict known as the "GOLDEN BULL."

This document spells out a precise procedure for the election and coronation of a German king. Seven German nobles — including the duke of Saxony, the margrave of Brandenburg and the archbishop of Trier — will henceforth determine who is to be king of the Germans. Election is to be by majority vote.

The Golden Bull becomes the constitution of the Holy Roman Empire, and *will remain its fundamental law for 4 1/2 centuries, until 1806.*

The Habsburgs Return

Having been held by members of the House of Luxembourg until 1437, the German imperial crown now comes *again* into the possession of the HABSBURGS. In 1438, the Habsburg Albert II of Austria is made king of Germany and he is recognized as Holy Roman Emperor.

Henceforth, the imperial title will be hereditary in the Habsburg family. The house of Habsburg is on its way to becoming the most potent political force in Europe.

The Fall of the Eastern Roman Empire

During the reign of the Habsburg Frederick III, the Eastern Roman Empire (a.k.a. the Byzantine Empire) is in eclipse. On May 29, 1453, the Ottoman Turks under Mohammed the Conqueror capture Byzantium (Constantinople; today Istanbul), *ending the Eastern Roman Empire.* After centuries of decline, the last vestige of the Roman Empire in the East is gone. MANY HISTORIANS WILL LATER REGARD

1453 AS THE ENDING DATE FOR THE MIDDLE AGES AND THE BEGINNING OF MODERN HISTORY.

Ninety-five Theses

Then in 1511, a German monk and educator named *Martin Luther* makes a pilgrimage to Rome. He is appalled at the corruption and vice he finds so openly practiced there. He has often heard the popular proverb, “If there is a hell, Rome is built over it.” Now he believes it!

After his return to Germany, Luther is further disturbed by the practice of *selling* Papal indulgences, or pardons for sin. The profitable selling of indulgences has become big business in many parts of Europe.

On October 31, 1517, Luther nails a document to the door of the court church at Wittenberg, Germany. On it are his “Ninety-five Theses” in criticism of selling Papal indulgences.

The documents are forwarded to Rome. In June 1520, Pope Leo X issues a Papal bull criticizing Luther’s teachings.

On December 10, 1520, Luther publicly burns the Papal bull. An ecclesiastical revolution to be known as the *Protestant Reformation* is now in full swing! It will spread like wildfire over Germany and beyond.

Luther is excommunicated in January 1521. Soon afterward, he is summoned by Emperor Charles V, a devout Catholic, to appear for a hearing before the Diet (assembly) of Worms, a German city on the Rhine.

But it is already too late to arrest the movement. The assembly settles nothing. Luther refuses to recant — and Charles declares war on the protestors.

Religious Unity Destroyed

German Protestantism gains rapid headway. Many German states sever themselves from the Roman Catholic Church. In 1531, the Lutheran princes within Charles’ Empire establish a defensive alliance known as the Schmalkaldic League. A threatened invasion by the Turks prevents Charles from taking immediate action against these “heretic” Lutherans.

By 1540, all North Germany is Lutheran.

Luther has demolished the old order. The religious unity of Europe is destroyed! Nations begin to go their separate ways.

The Reformation destroys the meaning of the office of Holy Roman Emperor. The Emperor now becomes the head of one party, the Catholics. Though the outward form of the Holy Roman Empire will continue for some centuries, it is never the same again.

The political as well as the spiritual muscle of the Papacy is eroded. To counteract the Protestant Reformation, the Roman Catholic Church organizes the “Counter-Reformation.” The Council of Trent (1545-63) decrees a thorough reform of the Church and clarifies Catholic doctrine. These efforts eliminate many of the abuses that had triggered the Protestant Reformation, and revitalize the Church in many parts of Europe.

But the Church has plummeted far from the zenith of its power, when Papal authority was felt and feared in every country in Europe. “The wars of religion and the collapse of church unity marked the end of theology as the decisive force in Western civilization,” a West German political figure, Franz Josef Strauss, will observe centuries later.

Charles V

In the meantime, Charles V is elected king of Germany in 1519. He is crowned at AACHEN in October 1520.

In the person of Charles the Spanish dominions are united with the Habsburg possessions in the Netherlands, Austria and elsewhere in Europe. Never had any monarch so many possessions!

Charles has more than 60 royal and princely titles, including king of Germany, archduke of Austria, duke of Burgundy, king of Castile and Aragon, king of Hungary — to name just a few.

Spain is, in itself, an empire — a *global* empire, with colonial territories even in the New World. The Empire of Charles V stretches from Vienna to Peru!

In February 1530, Pope Clement crowns Charles Holy Roman Emperor. *This is the last time that a Holy Roman Emperor will be crowned by a Pope.*

Historical Inspiration for Today

Disappointed in his ambitions and ill of health, Charles V abdicates and retires to a monastery in August 1556. He turns over the rule of Spain, the Netherlands and Italian holdings to his son Philip II. To his brother Ferdinand goes the imperial office and Habsburg lands in central Europe.

In August 1556, and after 35 years' rule, Charles — the last universal Emperor of the West — steps aside. Historians will consider him to have been the greatest monarch to bear the imperial crown since Charlemagne. He dies September 21, 1558.

Charles V was the last Emperor to actively attempt to realize the medieval ideal of a unified Empire embracing the entire Christian world. Inspired by the concept of a spiritually and politically united Christian realm, he had fought vigorously for a united Church.

More than four centuries after the death of Charles, a 20th century descendant — Otto von Habsburg — will write a biography of his illustrious ancestor. Dr. Habsburg will observe that “he [Charles V] was attempting not to conquer or to dominate, but to establish the nations in a free community of equal partners. His ultimate aim was to create an alliance of peoples who, while retaining their own individual characteristics and laws, would be linked together by a united Church and a common desire to defend the west.”

Dr. Habsburg will also note: “The ideas coming to the surface in this, the second half of the twentieth century, are surprisingly allied to those problems and concepts which preoccupied Charles.... Together with ECUMENICITY [the movement promoting Christian unity], European unity has become the major issue of our time.... The notion of a UNITED EUROPE is taking hold again. People are once again beginning to appreciate that religion and politics are indeed interdependent....”

In assessing the role of Charles V, Dr. Habsburg will observe: “Thus Charles V, once regarded as the last fighter in a rearguard action, is suddenly seen to have been a forerunner.... Our generation will find its historical inspiration in the concepts last embodied in the person, mind and political views of Charles V.... “Inasmuch as he represents an eternal ideal, the Emperor [Charles V], after more than five centuries, is still living among us — not only as our European ancestor, but as *a guide towards the centuries to come.*”

Napoleon Defeats Last Holy Roman Emperor

In the late 1790's Napoleon Bonaparte quickly rises to power in France. In May 1804 he is declared Emperor of France by the French government. Then on December 2, 1805, at the battle of Austerlitz, *he defeats* the Russo-Austrian army commanded by Tsar Alexander I and *Holy Roman Emperor Francis II*.

“Holy” Roman Empire Goes into the Abyss

On August 6, 1806, HOLY ROMAN EMPEROR FRANCIS II (of the House of Habsburg) formally *resigns* his titles and divests himself of the imperial crown. He will be recognized in history as “THE LAST HOLY ROMAN EMPEROR” (Wikipedia; article: “Francis II, Holy Roman Emperor”). *As a result, the “Holy” Roman Empire comes to an end!*

One Final Revival Yet to Come

Though the “Holy” Roman Empire ended in 1806, it is not completely dead, for it will be resuscitated one last time! For the Bible clearly states — that in the end-time, just prior to Christ's return, it will be resurrected back to life! And when it appears it will wreak havoc on an unsuspecting world! More on this final revival later.

Europe

Napoleon's reign comes to an end in 1814–15. Afterwards, the Congress of Vienna convenes to redraw the map of Europe and bring stability to the war-exhausted Continent.

Papal States

Italy at this time is divided into numerous INDEPENDENT STATES — and a great deal of the peninsula is dominated by AUSTRIA. But *most of central Italy (including Rome) is under the sovereign rule of the papacy* (called the Papal States) — and has been under the reign of the Catholic Church for some time. As you may recall, it first started in 754, when Pepin (the father of Charlemagne) gave the pope territory in central Italy (called the “donation of Pepin”) — land that he had captured from the Lombards (a Germanic tribe that controlled the area at that time). As the years passed by the papacy added to these lands, even possessing territories in southern Italy as well as southern France (including the French city of Avignon).

But now things are about to change!

Unification of Italy

Giuseppe Garibaldi (1807–1882) leads an army in 1860–1861 that conquers most of Italy. Now, the Papal States (or States of the Church) are seized and annexed to Italy. The Church's temporal power is shattered! Only ROME remains under Papal sovereignty.

Then in 1870 ROME is also conquered by Italian troops and becomes part of the Kingdom of Italy. Rome officially becomes the CAPITAL of a united Italy on July 2, 1871. *After 1,500 years, Rome is again the capital of Italy!*

But what of the Papacy?

The pope, Pius IX (1846-1878), has been stripped of his temporal power by troops of the Kingdom of Italy. He EXCOMMUNICATES the invaders, declares himself a prisoner in the Vatican and refuses to recognize the new kingdom. His successors, too, will become voluntary prisoners in their own palace. It will be six decades before reconciliation is effected.

Iron Chancellor

During this same time, much of Germany is under the control of Austria. But in the autumn of 1862, Otto von Bismarck becomes prime minister of Prussia.

At the very outset of his premiership, Bismarck stuns the world by declaring to the Ways and Means Committee of the Prussian Diet: *“The great questions of our day cannot be solved by speeches and majority votes, but by BLOOD and IRON.”* He is thereafter popularly known as the IRON CHANCELLOR.

Second Reich

In 1866, Prussia goes to war with Austria, thus beginning the Seven Weeks' War. It's an overwhelming Prussian victory. The northern German states are now united under Prussian leadership. BERLIN becomes the capital of this new Confederation. Four large southern German states though remain independent. In 1871, the four southern German states decide to unite with the North German Confederation. This new German Empire is called the *Second Reich*. (As you may recall, the First Reich began in 962 AD with the crowning of Otto the Great as Holy Roman Emperor by Pope John XII.) This Second Reich, born in 1871, will live 47 years (until 1918).

Triple Alliance

In 1882, Italy joins a military pact with Germany and Austria-Hungary, forming the *Triple Alliance*. It will remain in force until Italy's defection in 1915.

The ancient ties of Italy and Germany, extending back to the days of Charlemagne and Otto the Great, are reforged. It is the prelude to an era that will arise more than a half century later under Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini.

World War I

On June 28, 1914, a Serbian in the Balkan town of Sarajevo assassinates Archduke Francis Ferdinand — heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary. The great powers are caught in the webs of their alliances. The bloody event triggers World War I. It pits the Central Powers (the German Empire, Austro-Hungarian Empire, Ottoman Empire, and Bulgaria) against the Allied (Entente) Powers (France, Great Britain, Russia, Italy, USA, Romania, Japan, Serbia, Belgium, and Greece).

When the guns finally fall silent on November 11, 1918, a staggering 10 million lie dead. And the German Empire (the Second Reich) lies vanquished. Four major *imperial* powers — the German, Russian, Austro-Hungarian and Ottoman empires — no longer exist. The successor states of the former two lose a great amount of territory, while the latter two are dismantled entirely (Wikipedia article: World War I).

The four brutal, bloody years of conflict leave Europe devastated. Voices around the world proclaim this was “the war to end all wars.” It is a joyous day for the victors.

But for the vanquished, it is a dark and painful time. The victorious Allied nations dictate a peace treaty they will live to regret.

Germany is formally given all blame for the war. She is stripped of all her overseas colonies, demilitarized, and strapped with near impossible restitution payments.

The harsh terms of surrender imposed on defeated Germany will prove to be the seeds of a greater, more horrible war to come.

The abdication of the Kaiser (William II) is announced. Defeated Germany becomes a republic. A new German constitution is adopted at the city of Weimar. Many German war veterans are embittered by defeat and the humiliations imposed on Germany by the treaty of Versailles. Among them is a young *Gefreiter* (lance corporal) by the name of ADOLF HITLER.

Il Duce

Though a victor in the war, Italy gains little from the Treaty of Versailles. Italians complain that they have been robbed of their share of the spoils. A sense of injury and frustration grips the country.

Among the discontented is BENITO MUSSOLINI. Son of a poor blacksmith, Mussolini was born in 1883. An aggressive and ambitious child, he once declared to his startled mother, “One day I shall make the whole earth tremble!”

After the war, Mussolini launches a movement that becomes, in 1921, the Fascist party. Mussolini is *il Duce* — “the Leader” — of the ultranationalist, anti-Communist organization. His followers are mostly jobless, disgruntled war veterans. They adopt the black shirt as their uniform.

The following year Mussolini becomes prime minister of Italy. By degrees, he tightens his grip on the country and transforms his government into a DICTATORSHIP.

Mein Kampf

Meanwhile, in defeated Germany, the son of an obscure Austrian customs official becomes president of one of Germany’s many small parties — the National Socialist German Workers’ Party. He is a frustrated artist named ADOLF HITLER.

Hitler plots to seize power in a coup. In November 1923, he stages the Beer Hall *Putsch* at Munich, an attempt that fails to overthrow the Bavarian government. He is arrested and imprisoned for nine months at Landsberg, where he authors an ignored volume titled *Mein Kampf* (“My Struggle”). It will later become the bible of the NAZI movement.

Lateran Treaty

Back in Italy, on February 11, 1929, the *Lateran Treaty* is signed. It gives the pope full sovereignty and temporal power over the 110-acre VATICAN CITY, now the newest and smallest sovereign country in the world. A separate financial agreement compensates the Vatican for its surrender of claims to the old Papal States.

A concordat defines the position of the Church in the Fascist state. It establishes

Catholicism as the official religion of Italy.

The Third Reich

It's 1933 and Hitler becomes Chancellor of Germany.

The Weimar Republic is finished. A modern-day interregnum (a “time without an emperor”) has only lasted 14 years.

The Third Reich has begun!

Hitler asks the Reichstag to pass an enabling bill, giving his government FULL DICTATORIAL POWERS for four years. The parliament passes the sweeping legislation, and the *Nazis assume complete control of Germany*. In 1934, the offices of Chancellor and President are merged. Hitler assumes the title of *Fuehrer und Reichskanzler*.

In short order, the German dictator reinvigorates a demoralized country. He strengthens the shattered economy, reduces unemployment and raises the standard of living.

But Hitler's aims far transcend his own country's borders. He is convinced he has a great mission to perform. He feels destined to become ruler of a great Germanic Empire. He holds an unshakable conviction that the Reich will one day rule all of EUROPE — and from there seize the leadership of the entire WORLD! A new order will emerge in the world, with the German “master race” at its head!

Hitler compares himself with Charlemagne, Otto the Great and Napoleon. From his mountain fortress in Obersalzberg, overlooking Berchtesgaden, the Fuehrer has a panoramic view of the Untersberg. It is in this mountain, as legend has it, that Charlemagne still sleeps, and will one day arise to restore the past glory of the German Empire. “You see the Untersberg over there,” Hitler tells visitors in a mystical tone. “It is no accident that I have my residence opposite it.”

German-Italian Axis

In 1935, Mussolini invades and conquers ETHIOPIA as the League of Nations weakly stands by.

Next, the Italian dictator turns to Hitler as an ally. In October 1936, the “Berlin-Rome Axis” is formed. Hitler and Il Duce forge an agreement to coordinate their

foreign policies. As in the days of Otto the Great, Germany ties its destiny to Italy! In March 1938, Germany occupies Austria, which is quickly incorporated into the Greater German Reich. In September, Hitler demands and receives the cession of the Sudetenland area of Czechoslovakia (“my last territorial claim in Europe,” he says).

Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain of Britain foolishly and naively yields to Hitler’s demands, hoping against hope that concessions to the mad dictator will promote “peace in our time.”

In August 1939, Germany and Soviet Russia sign a nonaggression pact, guaranteeing Soviet nonintervention in Hitler’s ventures in the West. Hitler’s eastern flank is now secure. The stage is set. A catastrophe is about to engulf the world!

World War II

On September 1, 1939, Germany invades Poland. In response, Britain and France declare war on Germany. World War II has begun!

“From late 1939 to early 1941, in a series of campaigns and treaties, Germany conquers or subdues much of continental Europe.... Britain and the [British] Commonwealth remain the only major force continuing the fight against the Axis [Germany, Italy, and Japan]” (Wikipedia article: World War II).

The Holocaust

In the meantime, Hitler’s “final solution” to the “Jewish problem” is in full swing. Hitler’s goal: Exterminate all Jews! Millions of Jews are rounded up and shipped off to concentration camps. Six million (including women and children) will be slaughtered in the Holocaust. Years later, many German soldiers (when questioned about their participation in the brutal massacre) will grumble, “We were just following orders.”

Shattered Empires

At the outset of war, Germany seems invincible. Hitler subjects a whole continent, directly or indirectly, to his power. Not since the days when the Roman Empire was at its height has one man ruled such vast expanses in Europe.

But Hitler’s is a fleeting empire. In 1941, the German dictator makes Napoleon’s disastrous mistake of invading Russia. Operation Barbarossa is a fatal blunder.

Then Japan doesn't act much wiser when it attacks Pearl Harbor, bringing the United States into the conflict. The tide of the war begins to turn.

In the end, the *Fuehrer* and the *Duce* die within days of each other, their dreams of conquest and empire shattered.

Italian partisans execute Mussolini on April 28, 1945. His megalomaniac attempt to restore the Roman Empire ends in ruin. Hitler, it is declared, has committed suicide in his Berlin bunker on April 30, as his "Thousand-year Reich" crashes around him.

The war in Europe is over.

Italy is devastated. Germany lies in ruins. Some observers declare Germany will never rise again. Others say it will take at least 50, maybe even 100 years or more. *Privately, some Germans are thinking that no defeat is final.*

As the victors and vanquished alike pick up the pieces of their shattered and now-divided continent, a centuries-old concept again takes its rise in the minds of Europeans — the ideal of a UNITED STATES OF EUROPE. *Europe slowly sets out on the path toward its final — and most crucial — revival!*

Revival, Disaster, Revival, Disaster...

Europe has hit rock bottom. It has been the pattern of European history: catastrophe, followed by revival, followed by catastrophe.

The war-ravaged Continent slowly begins to pick up the pieces. The suffering and destruction of World War II prompt many to ask how such a catastrophe might be avoided in the future. Many wonder: Is Europe *doomed* to oscillate between order and chaos, between power and ignominy? Or might a new path toward peace and stability be found?

Age-old Ideal

In a celebrated speech at Zurich, Switzerland, in September 1946, Winston Churchill suggests a possible solution: "We must build a kind of *United States of Europe.*"

Once again, an age-old ideal resurfaces.

The devastation of two world wars has made the limitations of national sovereignty painfully evident. If Europe's individual nationalisms could be submerged within the context of European *supra* nationalism, many feel that future continental conflagrations could be averted. If Europe could become *one family* of nations, historic enmities could be put to rest.

The plan has highly significant overtones. For centuries, statesmen have advocated the union of European nations. Now, a fresh movement toward unity arises from the ashes of World War II.

But how to begin?

It is Churchill, among others, who again suggests a course: "The first step in the re-creation of the European family must be a partnership between France and Germany."

The reconciliation of these two age-old enemies is widely viewed as the essential cornerstone of peace in postwar Europe. In essence — *the re-creation of the Empire of Charlemagne!*

How, specifically, might this be achieved?

First Steps Toward Final Revival

A scheme is devised to unite France and Germany within a common venture designed to bind their economic destinies so tightly together that another intra-European war could not occur. The result is the *European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC)*, created by the Treaty of Paris in April 1951.

The ECSC is an initial step toward European integration. It creates a common transnational authority to pool French and West German iron, coal and steel resources. The project is extended to include Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg. It is "declared to be 'a first step in the *federation* of Europe'" (Wikipedia article: European Union).

The signing of the Treaty of Rome on March 25, 1957, creates the *European Economic Community (EEC)*, or Common Market. Its six charter members are the same countries associated in the ECSC.

The EEC's initial goal is to remove trade and economic barriers between its members and unify their economic policies. *But the ultimate hope is that the*

organization will be able to bring about the eventual political unification of Europe. Many hail the EEC as the nucleus of a future “UNITED STATES OF EUROPE”!

Mutual Need of Church & State

Again, Europe has set out on the road to UNITY. Previous pages in this book have shown that the Roman dream of a UNITED EUROPE has permeated the history of the Continent.

Along with the time-honored system of Roman-inspired government, another pattern has stood out in the panorama of European history: the *intimate relationship of the spiritual with the secular power.*

Throughout the Middle Ages, leaders considered the Church at Rome to be God’s chosen instrument in *spiritual* matters. The Holy Roman Empire was regarded as God’s chosen *political* organization over Western Christendom. POPE and EMPEROR were regarded as God’s vice-regents on earth.

This INTIMATE ALLIANCE of Church and State served the needs of both institutions. The Empire exercised its political and military powers to defend religion and *enforce internal submission* through religious uniformity. The Roman Church, in turn, acted as a glue for Europe, holding together the differing nationalities by the tie of common religion.

Throughout the centuries, the PAPACY and EMPIRE remained closely associated, their need for each other overriding disagreements of lesser importance. The future European Federation (a resurrected “Holy” Roman Empire) will be NO different.

The European Union

In 1993, the EEC or EC (European Community) became the *European Union* (or EU). Today (2012) it is composed of 27 member states, with 17 sharing a common currency (the Euro). Since its inception in 1951, as the ECSC (European Coal and Steel Community), it has evolved from a purely economic union to a *political union* as well.

United States of *Europe* Inevitable

What is transpiring on the Continent today is the refashioning of Europe into a new, yet old, alignment.

As George Bailey, in his perceptive book *Germans*, suggests: “Can we be sure that history has written FINIS to what was perhaps the grandest design ever conceived by man: the HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE?”

A UNITED STATES OF EUROPE is *inevitable*.

But unity is not a condition that nations achieve by some natural and unavoidable tendency. Unity is created or imposed by vigorous human action, by effort and will. *Europe therefore awaits a modern Charlemagne*, another Otto the Great — a champion (or “strongman”) to RESURRECT the tradition of imperial unity!

The coming *Renovatio imperii Romanorum* — restoration of the Empire of the Romans — will ASTOUND the world!

Europe — and the Church of Rome — will again be powers to reckon with.

Part Two: The Future

(the dates in this section are fictitious)

IN THE YEARS JUST AHEAD, several nations of Europe will indeed unite to form a powerful confederation. They will unite economically, politically, and MILITARILY. Today's European Union (EU) almost surely is that prophesied end-time Empire in its embryo stage. "A first step in the *federation* of Europe." But unlike today's union, this final alliance will NOT consist of twenty-seven nations. For the Bible clearly shows that this final configuration will be a coalition of just TEN leaders (governing TEN nations or perhaps TEN regions). These TEN rulers will ultimately give up their power and authority to just one man — the coming ANTICHRIST!

The Antichrist

In Revelation 13:1 a BEAST is described as having seven heads. But what do these seven heads represent? "The seven heads of the beast... represent seven kings [or kingdoms]. Five kings have already fallen, *the sixth now reigns* [the Roman Empire — since this was written around 95 A.D.], and the seventh is YET TO COME, but his reign will be brief" (Rev. 17:9–10 NLT).

So, the seven heads of this BEAST depict seven kings or kingdoms. The sixth head portrays the Roman Empire, while the first five heads represent empires that preceded the Roman Empire (the Babylonian, Medo-Persian, and the Greco-Macedonian Empires) — which we discussed earlier in this book.

But what about the seventh head — the one that is "yet to come" — what does it depict? This seventh head represents the LEADER of a revived end-time Roman Empire — that is — it represents the ANTICHRIST! And "all who dwell on the earth will worship him..." (Rev. 13:8).

Ten Rulers of the “Holy” Roman Empire

This BEAST of Revelation 13 is also described as having *ten* horns. But what are these ten horns? “The ten horns [of the *end-time* BEAST] which you saw are TEN kings who have received no kingdom as *yet*, but they receive authority for one hour [a brief period of time; just a few years] as kings *with* the BEAST [an end-time political leader]. These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the BEAST [i.e. the Antichrist!]” (Revelation 17:12- 13).

So, the ten horns of the END-TIME BEAST represent *ten political leaders who will eventually turn over their power and authority to the Antichrist*. These ten leaders will rule over ten European nations (or ten regions). This then will be the FINAL REVIVAL OF THE “HOLY” ROMAN EMPIRE!

The Beast & the 7-Year Treaty

At first the BEAST (i.e. the Antichrist) will appear to be wonderful. He will promote peace and the world will prosper at his hands (Revelation 18). He will even broker a 7-YEAR DEAL with Israel (and others) that will allow the Jews to once again *sacrifice animals* at their Temple in Jerusalem (Daniel 9:24-27; see appendix). This treaty (almost surely) will also result in bringing PEACE to the Middle East.

But the BEAST will be extremely sly, cunning, treacherous, and deceitful (Daniel 8:23-25). He will dupe many with his flattery (Daniel 11:32). And he shall be empowered by *Satan!* (Revelation 13:2-4.) He shall also have a great miracle working spiritual partner — “the FALSE PROPHET” — working with him side-by-side (Revelation 13:11-15, 16:13). Both shall be greatly influenced by DEMONS — if not even completely *possessed* by demons or the DEVIL himself! (Revelation 18:2, 16:13-14, 13:4.)

The Great Betrayal

In the middle of the 7-year agreement that the Antichrist makes with Israel he will double-cross the Jews. He will suddenly dispatch his army to put an end to the animal sacrifices. He will then proceed to *annihilate* the Jews. And those who are not savagely butchered will be shipped off as *slaves!* The HOLOCAUST will have returned! (Daniel 9:24-27; Luke 21:20-24; see appendix.)

It will all go something like this...

Europe’s New Leader

It is 2020, and the UNITED STATES OF EUROPE (a political alliance of TEN European nations) is the most powerful nation on earth. Recently, the rulers of these ten nations (or ten regions) turned over all of their power and authority to just one man — ROMAN Augustus. Europe's new leader has been given *absolute power* to rule as he sees fit. He is an incredibly brilliant man — an absolute genius! He has virtually single-handedly restored the world's economies after its collapse and meltdown just a short time ago.

As a result of Roman's innovative solutions to Europe's (and the world's) financial woes, Europe is now the economic king of the world! But Europe is not the only one to benefit from his ingenuity, as just about every nation on earth is now prospering and is no longer in financial ruin (Revelation 18:3).

The entire world is mesmerized by Roman's brilliance, charm, and charisma. Some have even begun to think of him as some sort of demigod (Daniel 11:36-37.)

Seven-Year Pact

It is now September 2020. Caesar Roman Augustus, Europe's miracle-working leader, has just brokered a deal with Israel and the nations of the Middle East. It's a SEVEN-YEAR TREATY that finally brings peace to the war-weary region. All nations are ecstatic. It's almost too good to be true. But it is true!

Roman is revered and idolized. Some are beginning to wonder if he is the long-awaited Messiah of Judaism, or the Mahdi of Islam, or even the Christ of Christianity. Many ask, "Could he possibly be the Savior of the world that we have been waiting for?"

Animal Sacrifices Restored

An integral part of the seven-year treaty that Roman orchestrates allows the Jews in Israel to reinstitute *animal sacrifices* at their newly built Temple — something that hasn't been done since 70 AD! (Daniel 9:27; see appendix.)

Amazing Miracles

Not too long afterwards, the Emperor stuns the world by doing all kinds of "miracles, signs and wonders!" (2 Thessalonians 2:9; NIV.) But he's not the only one! Roman's closest partner and chief ally — Pope Sixtus VI, the recently appointed bishop of Rome, is also doing astonishing miracles! "He performed great and miraculous signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven!" (Revelation 13:13; NIV.)

Pope Sixtus next has a statue made of the great Emperor. And to everyone's amazement the statue is able to talk! (Revelation 13:15.)

Mysterious Event

It is Monday, February 5, 2024. Something dramatic occurs on this day (Daniel 12:12). But what exactly that event is — isn't clear at this time. Perhaps it has something to do with God's true Church escaping from persecution (Revelation 12:14-16). I will be discussing this particular event in more detail later.

Animal Sacrifices Stopped

It is Thursday, March 21, 2024. The animal sacrifices have been going on in Jerusalem for 3½ years now. But suddenly, Caesar Roman Augustus orders his army to march into Jerusalem, go to the Temple, and stop the sacrifices! (Daniel 12:11.)

Abomination of Desolation

At the same time that the sacrifices are halted, the statue of Roman (that the pope had commissioned) is then set up in the Temple — for everyone to admire and worship! (Daniel 12:11.) And to everyone's astonishment “the statue commanded that anyone refusing to worship it must die” (Revelation 13:15; NLT)!

New World Order

Meanwhile, the Emperor's new world order, which involves an innovative worldwide trading system — is going exceedingly well. And just about every merchant in the world is quickly becoming rich! (Revelation 18:3.)

Mark of the Beast: 666 & Roman

It is Palm Sunday, March 24, 2024. Pope Sixtus is about to go on the Catholic International Television Station VIVIVI — where the whole world is eagerly awaiting his message. He then stuns the world in the middle of the live broadcast by declaring: “Our most holy Leader, Caesar Roman Augustus *is* the long-anticipated Messiah (of the Jews), the Mahdi (of the Muslims), and the Christ (of the Christians)! That is — he's the long-awaited SAVIOR of *all* religions, creeds, and faiths. He is the King of kings! And he is God!” Then he exclaims, “Bow down and worship him!”

The pope then goes on to proclaim: “In tribute to our wonderful king, everyone is now required to MARK their body — either on their right hand or forehead —

with the NAME of our beloved leader. Or if you like, you can have tattooed on your body ‘666’ instead!” Then he adds: “And any *heretic* who refuses to comply with this directive will no longer be able to buy or sell!” (See Revelation 13:16-18 & appendix.)

But there is one “small” catch to this new regulation. When someone receives the mark of “Roman” or “666” on their body, they are in essence pledging their allegiance to the Emperor and all that he stands for. That is, they are worshipping Roman and his (spiritual) father — Satan (the god of this world)! And they are also worshipping the high priest of Satan’s church — Pope Sixtus VI! (2 Corinthians 4:4; John 8:44; Revelation 17)

Just like the *false* trinity doctrine, everyone now has three gods to worship: the god of this world — Satan; the son of Satan (or the son of “god”) — Roman; and the high priest of Satan (or the high priest of “god”) — Sixtus!

Severe Penalty for All Who Worship the Beast & His Image, Or Accept His Mark

But what does the *real* GOD of the universe have to say about these arrogant *counterfeits*? “Then a third angel followed them, shouting, ‘Anyone who worships the BEAST and his STATUE or who *accepts* his MARK on the forehead or the hand must drink the wine of God’s wrath. It is poured out undiluted into God’s cup of wrath. And they will be TORMENTED with fire and burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and the Lamb. The smoke of their torment rises forever and ever, and they will have no relief day or night, for they have worshiped the BEAST and his STATUE and have *accepted* the MARK of his NAME!’” (Revelation 14:9-11; NLT.)

The Deadly Wound

It is Good Friday, March 29, 2024. Caesar Roman Augustus is sitting in the Temple of God in Jerusalem, proclaiming that he is God! (2 Thessalonians 2:4.) Suddenly a shot rings out, and before anyone can react, Roman is lying on the ground in a puddle of blood! He is rushed to the hospital, but it’s too late. He is dead on arrival!

The whole world is in shock! How could this happen! Who is responsible? What can be done?

Stranger Than Fiction

It is Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024 — just minutes before sunrise. Less than two days have passed since the assassination of Roman Augustus. The entire world is in mourning. His dead body has been placed in an open coffin. Thousands have paid their last respects.

Then as the sun begins to rise over the horizon, something unbelievable occurs. Roman Augustus comes back to life! Everyone is stunned! It is quickly announced over radio and television, as well as every other news outlet throughout the globe. Upon hearing the staggering news, millions take to the streets, chanting: “The Emperor is alive! He is God! The Emperor is alive! He is God!” (Revelation 13:3, 13:14, 17:8; Acts 19:28 & 34; especially NLT.)

The resurrection of Roman is utterly mind-boggling! The world is in awe! No one can believe it! But how has it happened? Many exclaim, “He *must be* God!” “The *fatal* wound has been healed! All the world marvels at this miracle and follows the BEAST in awe. They worship the DRAGON [*Satan!*] for giving the BEAST such power, and they worship the BEAST. ‘Is there anyone as great as the BEAST?’ they exclaim. ‘Who is able to fight against him?’” (Revelation 13:3-4; NLT; see also Revelation 17:8.)

“And he [the BEAST — the ANTICHRIST — ROMAN] was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months. Then *he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God*, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven. It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation. *All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have NOT been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb*” (Revelation 13:5-8).

Protection

Though much of the world is duped, those who are wholeheartedly obeying the *real* God are NOT deceived. These are the *true* Christians of the world who passionately keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus (Revelation 14:12). As a result, God allows them to *escape* to a place of safety, a place where they are protected from the Devil and his cohorts. But as they flee, Satan sends an army (“flood”) after them — but to no avail — for the earth opens up and swallows them alive! (Revelation 3:10, 12:14-16; Matthew 24:20-21.)

About 12,000 Christians (though there’s a slight chance it could be as many as 144,000) are “counted worthy to escape” (Luke 21:36; Revelation 7:3-8).

Persecution

However, many Christians do NOT escape. Because they are NOT zealously following God they have to suffer in the Great Tribulation. The Devil then pursues and persecutes them through the hands of the BEAST and the FALSE PROPHET! (Matthew 24:21; Revelation 3:14-22, 12:17, 6:9-11, 7:9-14, 13:7, 13:10; Daniel 7:25)

King of the South & King of the North

Around this same time, the king of the south (almost surely an Islamic confederacy led by EGYPT) attacks the king of the north (the European Union). But EUROPE (*led by Germany*) strikes back with a devastating blow. Many countries fall — including Egypt, Libya, and Ethiopia! Judah (modern-day “Israel”) is also attacked and conquered! Their wealth is plundered (Daniel 11:40-43). Jerusalem is destroyed. Homes and business are ransacked. Women are raped. Jews are rounded up and annihilated. And those who survive the onslaught are shipped off to foreign nations as *slaves* (Luke 21:20-24; Daniel 9:26-27; Zechariah 14:2; see appendix).

But the BEAST doesn't stop there! He then goes on a blitzkrieg campaign conquering many other nations as well — including US!

BOTH “Israel” AND Judah Suffer Terribly

“This is the message the LORD gave concerning *Israel* AND *Judah*: ‘This is what the LORD says: I have heard the people crying; there is only fear and trembling. Now let Me ask you a question: Do men give birth to babies? Then why do they stand there, ashen-faced, hands pressed against their sides like women about to give birth? In all history THERE HAS NEVER BEEN SUCH A TIME OF TERROR. It will be *a time of trouble for my people Israel*’” (Jeremiah 30:4-7; NLT).

As the prophet Jeremiah makes clear, it is a time of horrible suffering for “Israel.” This includes **BOTH** *Judah* (the small nation in the Middle East that calls itself “Israel” today — i.e. the Jews) **AS WELL AS** *the modern descendants of Israel* — the USA, England, Australia, New Zealand, and Canada! It also includes the *other* modern descendants of Israel (such as Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Denmark, Iceland, etc.). (For proof of this, please read “USA, Britain, & Israel in Prophecy.” This book is available for FREE at www.TheBibleComesAlive.com).

Germany (i.e. Assyria) Leads the Attack

But, who would dare to attack America? GERMANY! Germany *leads* a military invasion (with its European allies) — obliterating America and England! Other descendants of ancient Israel are also conquered! (For those who don't know, the GERMANS migrated into Europe from Asia many centuries ago — but back then they were called Assyrians!)

“ASSYRIAN, the rod of My anger, in whose hand is the club of My wrath! (Isaiah 10:5; NIV.) Or as the GNT renders this verse: The Lord said, “ASSYRIA! I use *Assyria* [modern-day *Germany!*] like a club to punish those with whom I am angry.” And God is plenty angry with US!

Appalling Sins of America & England

God uses the modern-day descendants of Assyria (Germany!) to punish America and England for our countless and atrocious sins! We condone and arrogantly boast of our “tolerance” and “acceptance” of such appalling evils as homosexuality, abortion, evolution, etc. We brashly assume we can do whatever we like without any fear of retribution from God! We defiantly think we can decide for ourselves what is right and what is wrong — and what is good and what is evil (the whole time thumbing our noses at God)!

We don't seem to realize that *only* our CREATOR has the WISDOM, LOVE, and the AUTHORITY to determine what is right and what is wrong. He allows us to *choose* between *doing* good or evil, but He has NOT given us the authority to determine what constitutes good and evil. Only He has that prerogative.

For example, take homosexuality. Many people today think that homosexuality is perfectly fine — that it's just an alternative life style. And yet the One who *created* sex clearly condemns it as a disgusting, vile perversion (Leviticus 18:22, 20:13; Romans 1:24-28; Jude 1:7; 2 Peter 2:6; Revelation 21:8). But we don't want to listen to our Creator, to the One who created sex. We think that we know better than Him — that we can figure it out on our own. We arrogantly assume that if we think homosexuality is okay — that it *must* be okay — that our Creator must be wrong — that He doesn't know what He is talking about!

We aren't much different than Adam and Eve. They also rejected what their Creator had told them and decided to determine on their own what they felt was right and wrong, and what was good and evil. Therefore, they took of the forbidden fruit — defiantly disobeying their Creator — the whole time listening to Satan and doing what he told them to do. From that moment on, the human race was headed down the wrong track — racing down the path leading to misery, suffering,

anguish, frustration, pain, and ultimately death.

And we are no different today. Satan is our god, just as he was for Adam and Eve. And until we realize this and wholeheartedly and thoroughly repent of our wrong thoughts, words, and actions, and repent of following Satan (the one who hates and despises us and only wants to see us suffer and die), and then start obeying and loving the One who created us, the One who loves us, the One who only wants what is best for us — then and only then will we truly have the things we want: peace, happiness, prosperity, and love — and ultimately eternal life.

Millions of “Israelites” Perish

Therefore, God chastises us for all of our awful sins — our lies, deceptions, dishonesty, insincerity, selfishness, greed, lust, adulteries, sexual perversions, pornography, vanity, arrogance, haughtiness, drunkenness, drugs, astrology, racism, hatred, cruelty, violence, rapes, robberies, murders, etc.

We are also corrected for our idolatry, and the worship of Satan and his demons in our pagan religious observances, rituals, and traditions (such as X-Mas, Easter, Halloween, etc.)!

As a result, a *third* of our inhabitants die by DISEASE and FAMINE! Another third of our people are SLAUGHTERED by a military invasion! And the final third are sent away into SLAVERY (with many of these also perishing)! (Ezekiel 5:12; Luke 21:24.) Hundreds of *millions* of our people wiped out!

Great Tribulation

“For then there will be GREAT TRIBULATION. For the trouble at that time will be *far more terrible than any there has ever been*, from the beginning of the world to this very day. Nor will there ever be anything like it again. But God has already reduced the number of days; had He not done so, **NOBODY WOULD SURVIVE**. For the sake of His chosen people, however, God will reduce the days” (Matthew 24:21; NKJV; Matthew 24:21-22; GNT; see also Daniel 12:1).

As Matthew points out, things will eventually get so bad that if God doesn't quickly intervene (by returning Jesus Christ) to put an end to the carnage, no human being would survive! Every man, woman and child on planet Earth would ultimately be exterminated in the bloodbath (including you and me)!

Two Witnesses Prophecy 1,260 Days

During this time, there are two servants of God (called the two witnesses and the two prophets) whom God raises up to warn and prophesy to the earth's inhabitants, and to punish mankind for their sins (Revelation 11:3-6). They begin their mission about four weeks after the sacrifices are halted and the statue of the BEAST is set up at the temple in Jerusalem (Daniel 12:11; Revelation 11:3).

These two servants of God are *hated* by the world. Why? Because they tell earth's inhabitants that their ways are evil. And the world *despises* those who testify against it. That's why Christ was hated. Jesus said, "The world... HATES Me, because I keep telling it how WICKED its ways are." And Jesus also stated, "You will be hated by all for My name's sake" (John 7:7-CJB; Mark 13:13-NKJV).

God's two prophets are then given tremendous power! "And I will give POWER to My two witnesses, and they will prophesy 1,260 days.... And if anyone wants to harm them, *fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies*. And if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this manner.

"These have POWER to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have POWER over waters to turn them to blood, and to *strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire*" (Revelation 11:3-6).

End-Time Elijah

Also during the end-time, a servant of God appears who comes in the power and spirit of the Old Testament prophet ELIJAH — just as John the Baptist did before Christ's first coming. And just as John prepared the way before Jesus' first appearance on this earth, this *end-time Elijah* prepares the way before Jesus' second coming. This prophet of God also "restores all things."

"And His disciples asked Him, saying, 'Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?' Jesus answered and said to them, 'Indeed, *Elijah is coming first and will restore all things*'" (Matthew 17:10-11; NKJV). (See also: Malachi 3:1-3, 4:5-6; Isaiah 40:3-5; Mark 9:11-12; Luke 1:11-17; 1 Kings 18:36-37.)

Is this end-time Elijah then one of the two witnesses? Almost surely!

Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse

In the sixth chapter of Revelation four horsemen are described. These four horses and their dreadful riders are often referred to as "the four horsemen of the apocalypse." One horse is white (representing religious deception), another horse

is red (portraying war), the third horse is black (depicting famine), and the last horse is pale green (symbolizing disease). These four riders NOW have the opportunity to ravage the earth. And once they finish their ride *one fourth of humanity lies dead*—about 2 BILLION people erased from the planet! (Revelation 6:8.)

A Great Multitude Martyred

During this time, a “GREAT MULTITUDE that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language” *repents* and turns to God. But unfortunately, they die as martyrs for the Word of God (Revelation 6:9-11, 7:9-17).

But in the end God will comfort them, and they will be rewarded with eternal life for their faithfulness! At that time “they shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat; for the Lamb [Jesus] who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters [eternal life]. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes” (Revelation 7:16-17; NKJV).

Heavenly Signs

Then “there was a *great earthquake*. The SUN became as dark as BLACK cloth, and the MOON became as red as BLOOD. Then the STARS of the sky FELL to the earth like green figs falling from trees shaken by mighty winds. And the sky was rolled up like a scroll and taken away. And all of the mountains and all of the islands disappeared. Then the kings of the earth, the rulers, the generals, the wealthy people, the people with great power, and every slave and every free person — all hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains. And they cried to the mountains and the rocks, ‘Fall on us and hide us from the face of the One who sits on the throne and from *the wrath of the Lamb*. For the great day of THEIR wrath has come, and who will be able to survive?’” (Revelation 6:12-17; NLT.)

These *heavenly signs* announce the end of Satan’s persecution upon mankind and the beginning of *God’s wrath* on an unrepentant and rebellious world! This period of time is referred to in the Bible as the “Day of the Lord.”

Day of Trumpets = Day of the Lord

It is Tuesday, October 13, 2026. Today is the “DAY OF TRUMPETS,” the fourth *annual holy day* in God’s master plan. This holy day depicts the DAY OF THE LORD, the day when God intervenes in human affairs to punish mankind for its

appalling sins.

For those who aren't aware, ALL of God's holy days have *important meaning and detail God's plan of salvation for mankind*. There are three annual celebrations that take place each year *prior to* this fourth holy day (the Day of Trumpets). They are: Passover, Days of Unleavened Bread, and Pentecost. Let's quickly review their meaning.

Passover & Days of Unleavened Bread

The *first* annual observance every year is PASSOVER (or Lord's Supper). This day is a *memorial of the death of Jesus*, the Lamb of God, who was sacrificed for the SINS of mankind.

Immediately following Passover are the DAYS OF UNLEAVENED BREAD. This celebration pictures the *removal of sin* from one's life (as leaven depicts sin during the seven days of unleavened bread).

Pentecost

Next in God's master plan is PENTECOST. On this day in 32 AD, Christ first gave His Holy Spirit to His followers. Therefore, this day represents the *receiving of God's Holy Spirit* so that a Christian can understand God's truth and be empowered to obey that truth. This day also represents those called in this age (prior to Christ's return) as a kind of *firstfruits* to God (James 1:18; Revelation 14:4; Romans 8:23; Leviticus 23:17, 20).

So how does someone *receive* God's Holy Spirit? A person receives God's Holy Spirit when they accept the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, truly repent of their sins, and then are properly baptized. At this point their past sins are forgiven (Acts 2:38). And if they endure until the end of their life, overcoming sin and being led by God's Spirit, they will be resurrected at the return of Jesus, at which time they will be given a wonderful, glorious, eternal body, and be part of God's very own Family as a *literal* son or daughter of GOD! (Matthew 24:13; Revelation 21:7; Acts 8:14; 1 Corinthians 15:12-58.)

Day of Trumpets *Pictures* Day of the Lord

As noted above, the fourth annual observance every year is the DAY OF TRUMPETS. This day represents the *future* time period when God intervenes in the affairs of mankind (called the DAY OF THE LORD). Each year this annual holy day is kept in anticipation of that future time when God intervenes in world

affairs. But that future time has NOW arrived — for *today* BEGINS the Day of the Lord!

This “Day” of the Lord actually lasts ONE YEAR — “for it is the *day* of the Lord’s vengeance; the *year* of recompense for the cause of Zion” (Isaiah 34:8). And it is portrayed by SEVEN TRUMPETS — hence its name — the Day of *Trumpets*.

“The great *day of the Lord* is near.... That day is a *day [or year] of wrath*, a day of trouble and distress, a day of devastation and desolation.... A day of TRUMPET and alarm against the fortified cities... I will bring distress upon men, and they shall walk like blind men, because they have SINNED against the Lord. Their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like refuse” (Zephaniah 1:14-17).

144,000 Protected

But first, before God exacts His punishment upon a defiant, arrogant, and rebellious humanity, He first MARKS those on earth who have repented of their sins and are keeping His commandments. These are those who “sigh and cry over all the abominations” that occur on this planet (Ezekiel 9:4-6). And even though thousands may be killed all around them, no harm shall befall them! (Psalm 91:7, 10.)

All together 144,000 people are *marked* or SEALED by God so that they can be PROTECTED from His punishment. These individuals who are protected and spared from the *Day of the Lord* are “servants of God” — converted, faithful, genuine Christians who have NOT worshiped the BEAST, his image, or received his mark (Revelation 7:1-4, 9:3-4, 14:1- 5).

Immediately after sealing the 144,000, the Day of the Lord begins!

Day of the Lord = Seven Trumpets

“When the Lamb broke the seventh seal, there was silence throughout heaven for about half an hour. And I saw the SEVEN ANGELS who stand before God, and they were given *seven trumpets*” (Revelation 8:1-2; NLT).

“Then the seven angels with the seven trumpets prepared to blow their mighty blasts” (Revelation 8:6; NLT).

First Trumpet

All green grass is burned up and one third of all trees incinerated (Revelation 8:7).

Second Trumpet

One third of the sea turns to blood, one third of the fish die, and one third of the ships destroyed (Revelation 8:8-9).

Third Trumpet

One third of the rivers and springs become poisonous (Revelation 8:10-11).

Fourth Trumpet

One third of the sun, moon, and stars become very dark — so dark that a third of the day and night is without light (Revelation 8:12).

Fifth Trumpet

Smoke, like the smoke of a great furnace, comes upon the earth, resulting in the sun and the air becoming darkened. And out of the smoke locusts come upon the earth. These locusts have power as scorpions and *they harm those people who do NOT have the seal of God on their forehead* (Rev. 9:1-4).

All humanity is then tormented — except for the 144,000 — who are supernaturally protected. These locusts do NOT kill mankind but only inflict great suffering (like the pain of a scorpion) for *five months*. The agony will be so bad that men will long to die! (Revelation 9:5-6.)

“And the shape of the locusts was like horses prepared for battle... and the sound of their wings was like the sound of chariots with many horses running into battle” (Revelation 9:7-10) — perhaps modern-day war planes and helicopters, or military drones (i.e. UAV’s: Unmanned Aerial Vehicles).

Sixth Trumpet

Now (with the sixth trumpet) we return to the “Holy” Roman Empire.

After destroying many nations, the European BEAST power is frightened, for news from the *east* and the *north* alarm’s him (Daniel 11:44). Yes, terrifying news! For an *enormous army* from NORTHERN & EASTERN ASIA (Russia, China, India, Japan, etc.) is gathering together — preparing to attack! Upon hearing the news, the BEAST becomes furious! And he goes “out in a great rage to destroy and annihilate many” (Daniel 11:44; NIV).

TWO HUNDRED MILLION SOLDIERS then go to war! As a result of this battle *one third* of mankind is killed—roughly 2 billion people slaughtered! (Revelation 9:13-18.)

“But the rest of mankind, who were not killed... did NOT repent of their works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk, and they did NOT repent of their murders or their sorceries [margin: drugs] or their sexual immorality or their thefts” (Revelation 9:20-21).

Six trumpets have now been blown. One remains. But before it sounds, let's check up on...

The Two Witnesses

The two witnesses have been proclaiming the word of God to the world for about $3\frac{1}{2}$ years now, and they have just finished their testimony. But suddenly, the BEAST attacks them, overcomes them, and kills them! (Revelation 11:7.)

“Then those from the peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations see their dead bodies for $3\frac{1}{2}$ days, but do not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves. And those who dwell on the earth rejoice over them, make merry, and send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth” (Revelation 11:9-10).

But after lying dead for $3\frac{1}{2}$ days God brings the two witnesses BACK TO LIFE! Then *great fear* enters those watching!

The two witnesses then stand on their feet and ascend to heaven in a cloud. Afterwards, there is a tremendous earthquake — resulting in the death of seven thousand people (Revelation 11:11-13).

Seventh Trumpet

It is now Saturday, October 2, 2027. Many people have been killed since the first trumpet sounded one year ago. Once again it is the Day of Trumpets (God's fourth annual holy day). And *the seventh and final trumpet is about to be blown!*

TODAY is the day that ALL of God's people throughout the ages have *long waited for*, including: Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob (Israel), Joseph,

Moses, David, Elijah, Elisha, Daniel, Job, Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel; as well as the rest of God's people from the Old Testament; also John the Baptist, Mary (Jesus' mother), Mary Magdalena, Martha, Peter, John, Paul, James, Stephen, Philip, Barnabas, Jude, Matthew, Mark, Luke, Timothy, Titus, Polycarp, Polycrates, and all true Christians (including those alive today). All of these have *deeply yearned for this day!* For this last and final trumpet pictures THE RETURN OF JESUS CHRIST AND THE RESURRECTION OF THE SAINTS!!

The Return of Jesus Christ! & The Resurrection of the Saints!

“Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall... all be changed — in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, *at the last trumpet*. For the trumpet will sound, and the DEAD WILL BE RAISED INCORRUPTIBLE, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on IMMORTALITY” (1 Corinthians 15:51-53; NKJV).

“For the *LORD Himself will descend* from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the [last] TRUMPET of God. And *the dead in Christ will rise first*. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the LORD in the air...” (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; NKJV).

“Then the *seventh* angel [with the seventh trumpet] sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, ‘The kingdoms of this world have become the KINGDOMS OF OUR LORD AND OF HIS CHRIST, and *He shall reign forever and ever!*’” (Revelation 11:15; NKJV).

“And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their testimony about Jesus, for proclaiming the word of God. And I saw the souls of those who had not worshiped the BEAST or his STATUE, nor accepted his MARK on their forehead or their hands. *They came to life again, and they reigned with Christ*” (Revelation 20:4; NLT).

After meeting Christ in the air, God's sons and daughters then descend with Jesus upon the Mount of Olives (a mountain ridge just east of Jerusalem) — Zechariah 14:4 & 1 Thessalonians 4:17.

Near Annihilation

As Jesus and the resurrected saints descend upon the Mount of Olives, the European and Asian powers are engaged in a monstrous battle. As they fight for world supremacy, the world lies on the *brink* of utter destruction — the complete

and total obliteration of the human race!

If the enormous power of the world's armies were actually unleashed, Satan's goal of erasing all life from this planet would become reality! But Christ steps in to put an end to the barrage of destruction that is occurring on earth — just before mankind is exterminated and blown into total oblivion! (Matthew 24:22.)

But are we thankful to God and do we receive Christ with open arms of appreciation, and REPENT of our foolish behavior? On the contrary! We do just the opposite! The military forces of the world stop fighting each other and instead *join in unison to war against Jesus Christ!* (Rev. 19:11-19.)

Final Seven Plagues

At this time Jesus unleashes His final seven plagues upon a corrupt and evil world.

First Plague

Foul and loathsome SORES come upon all those who have the MARK of the BEAST and those who worship his IMAGE (Revelation 16:2).

Second Plague

The SEA turns to BLOOD and all sea creatures die (Revelation 16:3).

Third Plague

Rivers, streams, and springs turn to blood (Revelation 16:4). Why would God do this? “You are righteous O Lord... because you have judged these things. For they have shed the BLOOD of saints and prophets, and You have given them blood to drink. For it is their just due” (Revelation 16:5-6).

Fourth Plague

The sun scorches man with INTENSE HEAT. But *mankind still refuses to repent!* Instead he blasphemes the name of God (Revelation 16:8-9).

Fifth Plague

The BEAST'S kingdom becomes full of DARKNESS, and humanity suffers FIERCE PAIN, *yet they still refuse to repent* of their wicked deeds! (Revelation 16:10-11.)

Sixth Plague

The Euphrates River dries up to allow the armies of the world to gather together

for *the battle of that great day of God Almighty* (Revelation 16:12-14). “And they [demons] gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, ARMAGEDDON” (Revelation 16:16).

Seventh Plague

A mammoth earthquake occurs, cities fall, islands and mountains vanish, and huge HAILSTONES (weighing about 100 pounds each) fall to the earth! (Revelation 16:18-21.)

Battle of that Great Day of God Almighty

Demons then gather the armies of the world together at ARMAGEDDON, as they prepare to attack Jesus Christ! (Revelation 16:14, 16.)

“Armageddon” literally means Mount Megiddo, a place about fifty miles north of Jerusalem. But no battle will be fought there. It will just be the place to get organized, to muster the troops together. From this staging area then they march south towards Jerusalem to *confront* the Son of God!

The troops of the world’s armies then stop in the valley of JEHOSHAPHAT (Joel 3:9-14). This deep valley or ravine borders Jerusalem on the east, between the city and the Mount of Olives. Today it is more commonly known as the KIDRON VALLEY.

Jehoshaphat means “judgment of the Eternal.” God will judge the rebellious and unrepentant nations of the world there for their disobedience and wicked ways! The world’s armies then attack! But to NO AVAIL — for they are instantly liquidated — and the birds of the earth then feast on their corpses! (Revelation 19:17-21.)

“Their flesh shall dissolve while they stand on their feet, their eyes shall dissolve in their sockets, and their tongues shall dissolve in their mouths”! (Zechariah 14:12; NKJV.)

Their shed blood then stretches for two hundred miles and is about five feet deep! (Revelation 14:20.)

Beast & False Prophet Punished

Jesus then captures ROMAN AUGUSTUS (i.e. the *Beast* — the *Antichrist*) and POPE SIXTUS VI (i.e. the *false prophet*) and throws them both into the lake of

fire! (Revelation 19:20.)

Satan Bound for 1,000 Years

It is Monday, October 11, 2027. Today is the DAY OF ATONEMENT, the *fifth annual holy day* of the year. This holy day PICTURES the Devil being put away, where he can no longer influence and deceive mankind (Leviticus 16:10).

The meaning of this day is about to be fulfilled!

“Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. He laid hold of the DRAGON, that SERPENT of old, who is the DEVIL and SATAN, and bound him for a thousand years; and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while” (Revelation 20:1-3; NKJV).

The Wedding Feast

It is Tuesday, October 12, 2027. The marriage of Christ with His bride — the true saints of God — is about to begin!

“Then I heard again what sounded like the shout of a huge crowd, or the roar of mighty ocean waves, or the crash of loud thunder: ‘Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns. Let us be glad and rejoice and honor Him. For the time has come for *the wedding feast of the Lamb*, and His bride has prepared herself. She is permitted to wear the finest white linen.’ (Fine linen represents the good deeds done by the people of God.) And the angel said, ‘Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb.’ And he added, ‘These are true words that come from God’” (Revelation 19:6-9; NLT).

The wedding feast then continues in heaven for four days.

Millennial Reign of Christ Begins

It is now Saturday, October 16, 2027. Jesus and the immortal children of God (the bride of Christ) have just returned to Earth. Today marks the *sixth annual holy day* of the year, the FEAST OF TABERNACLES. For the next EIGHT DAYS Jesus and the resurrected saints will celebrate this joyous festival (as well as the *Last Great Day — the seventh and final holy day*) with the inhabitants of the earth.

But what is the meaning of the *Feast of Tabernacles*? It pictures (just like the

seventh-day Sabbath day) the seventh millennium, the 1,000-year reign of Jesus Christ — which has just begun!

But what does the *Last Great Day* (the seventh & final holy day) depict? It represents the Great White Throne Judgment; an event that takes place AFTER the millennial reign of Christ. (More on this holy day later.)

For now, let's quickly recap the extraordinary events that have occurred during these last few weeks.

Remarkable Events of the Last 3 Weeks

Jesus returned on the *Day of Trumpets* — the FIRST DAY OF THE SEVENTH MONTH of the Biblical calendar — and the saints were resurrected back to life. The last seven plagues of Christ then began on the first day of this month and ended nine days later. Jesus defeated the armies of the world during this time, and the beast and false prophet were thrown into the lake of fire.

Then on the TENTH DAY OF THE SEVENTH MONTH — on the *Day of Atonement* — Satan the Devil was cast into the bottomless pit (where he will remain for 1,000 years).

Then from the eleventh day until the fifteenth day, the wedding feast of Jesus (with His bride) took place in heaven.

Next, Christ and the saints returned to earth on the FIFTEENTH DAY OF THE SEVENTH MONTH. *Then for the next eight days THEY celebrated the Feast of Tabernacles and the Last Great Day with the inhabitants of the earth.*

The millennial reign of Jesus Christ has officially begun!

1,000-Year Reign of Jesus

For the next 1,000 years Jesus Christ will reign on *earth* as King of kings and Lord of lords (Revelation 19:16, 20:4). And ruling with Him on earth as kings and priests during this 1,000-year period will be the saints of God (Revelation 1:6, 5:10, 20:4-6).

The true saints of God who are resurrected at the return of Jesus are no longer mortal, flesh and blood human beings. Instead they are immortal, incorruptible spirit beings — born into God's very own Family — as His *literal* sons and

daughters! (1 Corinthians 15:50-54; Daniel 7:22; John 3:5-6; 2 Corinthians 6:18; Romans 8:16-19, 21:7; John 1:12-13.)

God's immortal and glorified children then help Jesus in ruling over all those mortal, flesh and blood human beings who have survived the terrible events of the last few years (Revelation 2:26-27, 3:21).

And during the millennial reign of Christ, Satan will no longer be around to deceive and influence mankind (Revelation 20:1-3). Also, all of the modern-day descendants of the twelve tribes of Israel who have survived their captivity (as slaves in foreign countries) will be led back to the Promised Land! (Jeremiah 23:3-8, 50:4-5; Ezekiel 20:34-43, 36:24-28.)

With Satan removed and with Jesus ruling all nations in righteousness, the world quickly bursts into a haven of joy, peace, and prosperity! (Isa. 11:1-5.) The nations then turn their military weapons into farming equipment, for they will no longer have any use for such destructive instruments (Isa. 2:4). God even changes the behavior of wild beasts from fierce meat-eaters to gentle eaters of straw (Isa. 11:6-9).

It's a magnificent utopia — for God's laws and way of life are taught, administered, and upheld! (Isa. 2:2-3, 30:21). All nations are now celebrating the true Sabbath day as well as God's annual holy days (Zech. 14:16-19). This is all made possible because *God has given mankind a new Spirit — His Holy Spirit — that enables men and women everywhere to finally obey God, and to live in peace and harmony with their fellowman!*

New Heart & New Spirit

“Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness [see Gal. 5:19-22] and from all your idols. I will give you a NEW HEART and put a NEW SPIRIT within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. *I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them*” (Ezek. 36:25-27).

“Many people shall come and say, ‘Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; HE WILL TEACH US HIS WAYS, AND WE SHALL WALK IN HIS PATHS.’ For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall rebuke many people; *they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears*

into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore” (Isaiah 2:2-4).

Ferocious Animals No Longer Dangerous

“The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb. The leopard shall lie down with the young goat, the calf and the fatling together; and *a little child shall lead them*. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young ones shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play by the cobra’s hole, and the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper’s den. *They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea*. And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse [Jesus Christ], who shall stand as a banner to the people; for the Gentiles shall seek Him, and His resting place shall be glorious” (Isaiah 11:6-10).

Everyone & Everything Healed

“The wilderness and the wasteland shall be glad for them, and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose; it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice, even with joy and singing... Then the eyes of the *blind* shall be opened, and the ears of the *deaf* shall be unstopped. Then the *lame* shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the *dumb* sing. For waters shall burst forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert. The parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water; in the habitation of jackals, where each lay, there shall be grass with reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and a road, and it shall be called the Highway of Holiness... And the ransomed of the Lord [the twelve tribes of Israel] shall return, and come to Zion with singing, with everlasting joy on their heads. They shall obtain joy and gladness. And sorrow and sighing shall flee away” (Isaiah 35:1-10).

Prosperity for All

“Behold, the days are coming,” says the Lord, “When the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him who sows seed; the mountains shall drip with sweet wine. And all the hills shall flow with it. I will bring back the captives of My people Israel; they shall build the waste cities and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and drink wine from them; they shall also make gardens and eat fruit from them. I will plant them in their land, and no longer shall they be pulled up from the land I have given them,” says the Lord your God” (Amos 9:13-15).

“But *everyone shall sit under his vine and under his fig tree, and no one shall make them afraid*; for the mouth of the Lord of hosts has spoken... ‘In that day,’ says the Lord, ‘I will assemble the lame, I will gather the outcast and those whom I have

afflicted; I will make the lame a remnant, and the outcast a strong nation; so THE LORD WILL REIGN OVER THEM IN MOUNT ZION FROM NOW ON, EVEN FOREVER” (Micah 4:4).

“Thus says the Lord of hosts: ‘Old men and old women shall again sit in the streets of Jerusalem, each one with his staff in his hand because of great age. *The streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in its streets.*’ Thus says the Lord of hosts: ‘If it is marvelous in the eyes of the remnant of this people in these days, will it also be marvelous in My eyes?’ Says the Lord of hosts. Thus says the Lord of hosts: ‘Behold, I will save My people from the land of the east and from the land of the west; I will bring them back, and they shall dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. *They shall be My people and I will be their God, in truth and righteousness*” (Zechariah 8:4-8).

Satan Released from Prison

It is now 3027, and the wonderful 1,000-year reign of Jesus Christ has just ended. The world is joyful, prosperous, and at peace. But things are about to change! For Satan has just been released from his prison!

Upon being released from the Abyss, Satan immediately goes to work, deceiving millions! He then gathers an army together and they march together towards Jerusalem, eventually surrounding God’s beloved city. But fire comes down from heaven and devours them! Then the devil is cast into the lake of fire where he will remain for all eternity, never to harm or delude anyone, ever again! (Revelation 20:7-10.)

How sad it is, that even after the tremendously joyful, peaceful, and wonderful 1,000-year reign of Jesus Christ, that some would still rebel against Him.

Great White Throne Judgment

After this final rebellion is crushed we come to the “great white throne judgment” (Revelation 20:11-15). This time period is represented by the *seventh and final annual holy day* — “the Last Great Day.”

This is the time period when *everyone who has ever lived (since the creation of Adam and Eve) is now resurrected back to life* — EXCEPT FOR THE VERY FEW true servants of God who were resurrected 1,000 years previously (Revelation 20:4-6).

As a result, this *second resurrection* will include the vast, overwhelming majority of humans who have ever lived. Most of these men and women will now get their very first REAL opportunity for salvation — of being born into the very family of God and receiving eternal life.

Family & Friends Reunited

This will be a *very exciting time* — for we will now get the chance to be reunited with our former friends and loved ones! For our friends, parents, grandparents, great grandparents, uncles, aunts, etc. will now be resurrected back to life! And just think of all the people we will see and have the opportunity to meet and get to know. Such people as: Elvis Presley, Abraham Lincoln, Babe Ruth, Booker T. Washington, Jack Johnson, Martin Luther King Jr., Mary Elizabeth Bowser, Harriet Tubman, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Isadora Duncan, Cleopatra, Annie Oakley, Marie Antoinette, Anne Frank, Helen Keller, Thomas Edison, Anwar Sadat, Benjamin Franklin, Napoleon Bonaparte, Genghis Khan, Leonardo da Vinci, William Shakespeare, Ludwig van Beethoven, Alexander the Great, Charlemagne, Julius Caesar, Attila the Hun, Jessie James, Bonnie and Clyde, Esau, Ishmael, Samson, Delilah, plus millions more!

Most of those resurrected in this *second resurrection* will apparently live for one hundred years, to see if they are willing to accept the sacrifice of Jesus for their sins, and to prove it by living a life of obedience to God (Isaiah 65:20; Ezekiel 37; Matthew 11:20-24, 12:42-42; Revelation 20:4-6, 11-15).

[But those who committed an “unpardonable sin” during their first life will NOT live for a hundred years, but will instead be condemned and thrown into the lake of fire — where they will die instantly — this is called the *SECOND death* (Hebrews 10:26-29; Matthew 3:28-20; Hebrews 6:4-6; Revelation 20:14-15)].

Eternal Life for the Obedient

Then after living a hundred years, all will be “judged according to their *WORKS*, by the things which were written in the books [of the Bible?]” — Revelation 20:12.

All of those who repented and overcame the pulls of the flesh (with the help of God’s Holy Spirit) will now be born as God’s *literal* sons and daughters, and shall live for all eternity (Revelation 21:7). These are those who *keep* the commandments of God, and their name is written in the Book of Life (Revelation 14:12, 22:14).

Second Death for the Wicked

“But anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire” (Revelation 20:15). This includes all unrepentant sinners, those who refuse to look to God and turn from their evil ways. This is the SECOND DEATH. These individuals will cease to live ever again (Revelation 21:8, 21:27, 22:15).

New Heaven & New Earth

At this time, there will be no more human beings. For all humans who have ever lived will have become immortal, glorious spirit beings — the *literal* children of God!

[Except for those unrepentant individuals who had refused to live according to God’s way of life — the way of give (the way of kindness, goodness, cooperation, mercy and compassion) — but instead had chosen to live according to Satan’s way of get (the way of greed, lust, hatred and selfishness). These people were put to *death* in the lake of fire — the *second death* (Revelation 20:14-15)].

Kingdom of God

But everyone else (hopefully the vast, overwhelming majority!) will now be members of God’s Family and will live forever. At this time, God will create a *new heaven and a new earth* (Revelation 21:1). THEN GOD HIMSELF (THAT IS — GOD THE FATHER!) WILL FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME COME DOWN FROM HEAVEN AND DWELL WITH US!!

The Kingdom of God will have begun!

“Behold, the tabernacle [home] of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear away from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away” (Revelation 21:3-4).

“He who overcomes shall inherit ALL things [the *entire* UNIVERSE!], and I will be his God and he shall be My son” (Revelation 21:7).

Those born into God’s Family will now share the WHOLE UNIVERSE with God the Father and Jesus Christ — for all eternity!

Now we come to... THE BEGINNING...

APPENDIX

70 Weeks Prophecy (Daniel 9:24-27)

Part 1 of 2

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Dan. 9:24 “Seventy weeks are determined for your people and for your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sins, to make reconciliation for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy.

*70 weeks = 70 weeks x 7 days each = 490 days = 490 years
(using the “day for a year principle” that is common in Bible prophecy)*

25—Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince, there shall be 7 and 62 weeks; the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublesome times.

*From the command to rebuild Jerusalem until the Messiah shall be 7 weeks and 62 weeks, for a total of 69 weeks (also 69 weeks x 7 days = 476 days)
476 days = 476 years from the decree to restore Jerusalem.*

26—And after the 62 weeks [69 weeks in total: 7 + 62] Messiah shall be cut off [killed]. [In other words, 476 years after the decree to rebuild Jerusalem, the Messiah would be killed], but not for Himself [but for us]; And the people of the prince [leader; ruler; end-time political dictator; the Beast! The Antichrist!] who is to come shall destroy the city [Jerusalem] and the sanctuary [the temple]. The end of it shall be with a flood [army], and till the end of the war [WW III] desolations [destructions] are determined [will continue].

27—Then he shall confirm a covenant [treaty/agreement] with many [nations] for 1 week [7 years]; but in the middle of the week [after about 3½ years] He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering [actually 1290 days before the return of Christ — Dan. 12:11]. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate [or as he destroys everything in his path he shall make abominations], even until the consummation which is determined, is poured out on the desolate [or desolator — him].” [In other words, he will continue to destroy until he himself is destroyed.]

70 Weeks Prophecy (Daniel 9:24-27)

Part 2 of 2

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This is actually a 490-years prophecy: 70 weeks x 7 days each = 490 days; then using the “day for a year principle”: 490 days is equivalent to 490 years; though it’s really a 483-year prophecy followed by a 7-year prophecy (in the end-time) — for a total of 490 years.

Starting Point: Decree to rebuild Jerusalem — Dan. 9:25
Fulfilled by Nehemiah — Neh. 2:1-9 (about 452 B.C.)

Dan. 9:25 — 49 years after decree (7 weeks x 7 days each = 49 days or 49 years)
Complete restoration of Jerusalem? (about 403 B.C.)

Dan. 9:25-26 — 483 years after decree — Messiah to Appear
(as a “Prince?” — see Mat. 21:4-11; Luke 19:36-40; John 12:12-15)
7 weeks + 62 weeks = 69 weeks
69 weeks x 7 days each = 483 days or 483 years
483 years after decree = about 32 A.D.

Dan. 9:26 — 483 years after the decree Jesus would be killed = about 32 A.D.

70th Week: Man’s final 7 years prior to Christ’s return — Dan. 9:26-27

The beast — “the prince who is to come” — the political leader of a United Europe — will make an agreement with many for 7 years (almost surely an agreement to allow the daily sacrifices to begin in Jerusalem), but after about 3½ years (1290 days left to be exact — see Dan. 12:11) he will stop the daily sacrifices and set up the abomination that causes desolation (a statue of himself — see Rev. 13:14-15). And shortly afterwards (maybe on a Friday — and perhaps even “Good Friday”) he shall be killed (see Rev. 13:3, 12, 14; 17:8, 11). But he shall come back to life — maybe at sunrise Sunday morning (and perhaps even Easter Sunday)! Now we have 42 months left before Jesus Christ returns to this earth (Rev. 13:5).