

Is Daniel 7 a Prophecy for Today?

Over the course of the last nearly two thousand years, countless would-be prophets have arisen, their claims to fame now long forgotten; and countless interpretations of the ancient Bible prophecies have been put forth, virtually all of which have proven to be incorrect. Century after century, there have always been people eager to believe that they were living in the so-called *latter days* or *the end of the age*. Many of us have experienced this very thing in our own church history. So I candidly admit that it is with a certain degree of caution that I approach the subject of this particular discussion, namely, is the famous prophecy contained in Daniel, chapter 7, applicable to and indeed unfolding in today's world?

The purpose of this study is simply to share with you a possibility, not an absolute certainty. Although others, as well as myself, have in the past either written or spoken on the subject of Daniel 7, I have felt for a long time that there were distinct differences between that particular prophecy and the one in the second chapter, both of which have traditionally been assumed to be saying the same thing. What I intend to present is not all necessarily my own private information, although certain aspects of the study may contain some personal insights. Neither is it intended in any way to be dogmatic, but is a topic that ought to provoke our interest and further study, an objective which I sincerely hope will be achieved in this paper.

Before commencing this study, I want to establish the premise upon which the following information is based. Because it is so important to keep the guiding principle in mind as one considers the evidence presented, I may even repeat the premise at some point during the discussion.

The grounds for the conclusions of this paper are 1) that we are at this point in time living in what the Scriptures describe as the *end-time* or *latter days*; 2) that the return of the Messiah is quite close, not necessarily immediate, but very near indeed; and 3) that the major international military and political powers of this time period are to be found in Bible prophecy, including the United States of America.

Remember that this is a postulation. Personally, I have very strong feelings that indeed we are near the end of this present age, but if we are not, then it becomes much more difficult to discuss with precision and specificity many of the Biblical prophecies having to do with the latter days. So, please keep the premise in mind upon which the article is based. If it proves to be that the return of the Messiah is, say, 100 years from now, or 500, or 1000, then obviously no definitive conclusions can possibly be drawn by believers of today. With that squarely in mind, let us then commence this study into what ought to be a most interesting and intriguing subject.

Any student of Bible prophecy is well aware that the book of Daniel is literally crammed full of dreams, visions, strange encounters, and graphic, detailed predictions for the future. The Messiah Himself considered the writings of this Jewish captive to be of great significance, for He specifically made reference to the now well-known passages recorded in Daniel 9 and 11, concerning the so-called *abomination of desolation*, an issue that we shall cover a little later in our study.

We know that Daniel was among a rather elite group of young men taken captive by the invading armies of Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, during the first of three major sieges against Jerusalem and the land of Judah, probably around

605 B.C. His ministry lasted the entire length of the Babylonian exile, and even over into Persian era under Cyrus the Great. It appears that his final prophecy was written approximately 536 B.C., when Daniel was in his eighties.

Daniel was quite possibly, even likely, a nobleman of Israel, for we read in the opening verses of the book the following royal instruction:

“And the king spoke unto Ashpenaz, the master of his eunuchs, that he should bring certain of the children of Israel, and of the king’s seed, and of the princes; children in whom was no blemish, but well favored, and skillful in all wisdom, and cunning in knowledge, and understanding science, and such as had ability in them to stand in the king’s palace, and whom they might teach the learning and the tongue of the Chaldeans” (Dan. 1:3-4).

It wasn’t long before Daniel and three of his young friends, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, distinguished themselves in the king’s service. These four royal scions were especially gifted by God in matters of knowledge and wisdom, and Daniel, in particular, was given the ability to interpret dreams and visions, his own and others. In fact, it is said of these four men that the king found them to be ten times more able than all the magicians and astrologers in Babylon! And, as we well know, all four were greatly tested under rather unique

circumstances—a situation that in many ways is a type of the tribulation period spoken of in the Bible as transpiring at the end of the age. This is particularly true with regard to the fact that king Nebuchadnezzar himself was the ancient type of the future *beast* power described in the book of Revelation; as well as the *image* he built, commanding all people to bow down to it or suffer death, even as will the infamous end-time evil ruler; and finally, the nature of the great tests that the four Jewish lads endured in the face of such extreme opposition.

THE KING’S FAMOUS DREAM

In the second year of Nebuchadnezzar’s reign, the king began having bizarre and disturbing dreams. None of the sorcerers of Babylon could supply the interpretation, and in his anger, a royal decree was issued requiring the death of every wise man in the kingdom, including Daniel and his three companions. These men, however, took the matter before Yahweh, and Daniel was given the answer to the king’s dream in a night vision. This divine revelation proved to be a great blessing, for it ended up saving the lives not only of the Jewish noblemen, but also all the wise men of Babylon!

Almost anyone interested in Bible prophecy is aware of king Nebuchadnezzar’s dream. In it he saw a great image or statue, with a

head of gold, chest of silver, mid-section of brass, legs of iron, and toes of iron mixed with clay. Based upon the fact it was revealed to Daniel that the head of gold represented Nebuchadnezzar himself and the Babylonian realm, the generally accepted understanding of this prophetic dream is as follows:

1. **Head of Gold - Babylon**
2. **Chest of Silver - Persia**
3. **Mid-section of Brass - Greece**
4. **Legs of Iron - Rome**
5. **Toes of Iron & Clay - 10 latter-day kings**

This interpretation is undoubtedly correct, and as such it represents a broad sweeping prophecy covering, if taken all the way down until today, over 2500 years of history. It predicts the four great successive world-ruling empires beginning with Babylon itself.

Some have questioned whether or not the prophecy of Daniel 2 should be understood as extending into modern times. The basis for such thinking may or may not be absolutely sound, but the gist of it goes like this: Since the great image's legs of iron are equated with the Roman Empire, it is supposed that the ten toes of iron and potter's clay symbolize 10 kings of Rome at or about the time of the Messiah's first advent. Of course, we know that the Roman Empire was in existence and in control of Judea during the first century, and it is interesting that 10 Roman emperors and/or key political/military leaders can be

seen to fit the description given for the ten toes of Nebuchadnezzar's image.

A question that immediately arises with respect to this interpretation concerns the fact that the ten toes or ten kings are said to appear during the so-called *latter days*, thus appearing to rule out a reference to the time of Christ. But this opposition is countered with the argument that the beginning of the New Testament Church era actually is considered by the Bible to be in the *latter days*. Evidence for such a position is cited from the following passage in Acts 2, with regard to Peter's quotation of a prophecy found in the book of Joel. This, of course, transpired on that famous day of Pentecost in 30 A.D. when the Holy Spirit was poured out on the 120 disciples gathered in the city of Jerusalem. In reference to the miraculous speaking in tongues episode wherein each attendee of the festival heard the disciples preach in their own individual language, note what Peter said:

"But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, You men of Judea, and you that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words: For these are not drunken as you suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day. But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel: *And it shall come to pass in THE LAST DAYS, says God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,*

and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: and on My servants and on My handmaidens I will pour out in those days of My Spirit, and they shall prophecy: and I will show wonders in the heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, fire, and vapor of smoke...And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Acts 2:14-19, 21).

How interesting it is that the apostle Peter was given to understand that this ancient prediction, uttered by the prophet Joel, of things that were prognosticated to occur in the *last days* had application to the very times in which he and the early disciples lived! In other words, Peter is saying that the term *last days* or *latter days* could correctly be ascribed to a time period even as early as the first century A.D. Such a statement certainly gives an expanded meaning to that oft-used phrase. Perhaps the best way to understand the term is that, according to Peter, the prophecy of Joel commenced on that day of Pentecost, and thus, from this perspective, the entire era from the first to the second advents of the Messiah could be considered the *latter days*, even though in a number of cases, that phrase would tend to lend itself to a more specific application.

Another issue that might seem difficult in adhering to an essentially first-century fulfillment of Nebuchadnezzar's dream image

is the fact that, according to Daniel 2:44:

“And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.”

If this statement is intended to be taken as applying only to the very end-time events at the Second Coming of the Messiah, then obviously the meaning is fairly simple and straightforward. And, quite frankly, the majority of New Testament passages dealing with the Kingdom of God do picture it as a coming event, which, in fact, it most assuredly is. That, however, does not necessarily have to be the only way in which this prophecy ought to be understood.

Although the Kingdom of God has not yet been fully established upon the earth in the manner of a literal government headed by the returned Christ Himself in Jerusalem, still the Scriptures give us good reason to believe that, according to God’s reckoning, that Kingdom really began with the first arrival of Yahshua to this earth and the fulfillment of the ministry in which He was engaged. For instance, the Savior spoke in this manner concerning the Kingdom:

“From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for

the kingdom of heaven is AT HAND” (Matt. 4:17).

“Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand. And if Satan cast out Satan, he is divided against himself; how shall then his kingdom stand?...But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is COME NEAR UNTO YOU” (Matt. 12:25-28).

“Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there has not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent TAKE IT by force” (Matt. 11:11-12).

And the apostle Paul makes the following statement regarding the Kingdom:

“Giving thanks unto the Father, which has made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who has delivered us from the power of darkness, and has TRANSLATED US into the KINGDOM of His dear Son” (Col. 1:12-13).

The Greek word rendered as *translated* in verse 13 is *methistano*, and it means *to transfer or carry away*. Please

understand, the reason I am quoting these passages of Scripture is **NOT** to disprove the notion that the Kingdom of God in its fullness is still a future state that will be completely established upon the earth by the Messiah at His return, for that is precisely what I believe the Bible teaches. The point, however, is that the same inspired book also contains statements that indicate the Kingdom in certain respects is a present condition for those who are truly converted by the Spirit of God. In fact, it would be very difficult to effectively argue against such a contention. Many people, however, from an anti-Protestant religious background often have trouble dealing with any concept of the Kingdom other than in its final institution upon the earth.

For the most part, I completely agree that the preponderance of Scriptural passages on this subject speak of the Kingdom as still yet to be brought in its completion to this world. On the other hand, it can certainly be said that the Kingdom of God in reality began in the past, and has been in the process of being built and increased through the centuries of time, during which the Almighty has been working with His people. So, when Daniel states that God will establish a kingdom in the days of the ten toes of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream image, there could conceivably be a double type of meaning involved, the first fulfillment having occurred in the first century A.D., and associated with the then existing Roman Empire, and the

final unfolding of the prophecy to transpire at the time of Christ's return, with it being connected to the precise end-time alignment of nations described in other parts of the Bible, such as Daniel 7, Daniel 11-12, Revelation 13 & 17, etc.

So, the proposal is that the record of Daniel 2 and the famous image of king Nebuchadnezzar is intended to give us the long-range prophetic view of the Gentile empires upon the earth, whereas other prophetic passages in the book of Daniel focus in on the specific latter-day events and situations, with their primary emphasis upon modern-day nations of the world, and only a secondary focus on the ancient world kingdoms.

THE IMPERIAL VIEW OF DANIEL 7

Although there are certainly other prophecies in Daniel 3-6, I want to focus upon the critical seventh chapter of this book. The typical prophetic understanding of this famous passage is fairly straightforward, in that it is generally considered to be a parallel to the previously discussed second chapter, and, from a certain perspective, there does appear to be truth to this conclusion, but by no means is this entirely so.

If the language of Daniel 2 and 7 is compared, there is an unquestionable link between the two. Let us keep in mind the basic

points of Nebuchadnezzar's image, as we go through the various aspects of chapter 7. First the actual vision itself.

"In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon Daniel had a dream and visions of his head upon his bed, and told the sum of the matter...I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea. And four beasts came up from the sea, diverse from one another. The first was like a LION, and had EAGLE'S WINGS: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it.

"And behold another beast, a second, like to a BEAR, and it raised up itself on one side, and it had three ribs in the mouth of it between the teeth of it: and they said thus unto it, Arise, devour much flesh.

"After this I beheld, and lo another, like a LEOPARD, which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl; the beast had also four heads; and dominion was given to it.

"After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a FOURTH BEAST, dreadful and terrible, and exceedingly strong; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and broke in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it;

and it had ten horns" (Dan. 7:1-7).

First of all, there are four facets to both prophecies. In chapter two, these are the four metals that constitute the image, gold, silver, brass, and iron respectively. In chapter seven, there are four beasts, namely, a lion, a bear, a leopard, and an unnamed creature of horrible proportions.

As you will recall, the four divisions of Nebuchadnezzar's dream image correspond to the Babylonian, Medo-Persian, and Greek empires, with the fourth being the Roman realm, the two legs of iron of which represent the eastern (Constantinople) and western (Rome) aspects of that kingdom.

From a certain point of view, which is almost surely a correct one, although not necessarily the main perspective, the prophecy of Daniel 7 can be related to that of chapter two in this manner. The lion would be comparable to the head of gold or Babylon, and there is an ancient connection of sorts between the symbol of the winged lion and the Chaldean empire.

The bear would represent the Medo-Persian empire, and again, there is a certain historical link between this animal and Persia. The fact that the bear in Daniel 7 is raised up on one side could conceivably indicate the ascendancy of Persia over the Medes.

The third beast is a leopard with wings and four heads. With respect to Nebuchadnezzar's image, this animal would correspond to the Greek empire of Alexander the Great. And, as is well known, upon his untimely death due to malaria in 323 B.C, the realm was parceled among four of his leading generals, namely, Seleucus I Nicator, Ptolemy I Soter, Lysimachus, and Cassander, the former two emerging as the major beneficiaries of the division, engendering the Seleucid and Ptolemaic empires, whose numerous political and military clashes are apparently forecast in the details of Daniel 11.

The enigmatic fourth beast of Daniel 7 is not designated by a specific animal as are the first three. It is, however, clearly the most powerful and destructive of the group. You will note that it is described as having *iron* teeth, a possible correlation with the fourth kingdom of Daniel 2, which is represented as being composed of *iron*, and would be equated with the Roman empire.

Although only briefly addressed, it is not difficult at all to perceive a connection between the language of Daniel 2 and 7. The question that I wish to raise, however, concerns whether or not this is the only possible interpretation of Daniel's vision in chapter 7. While I completely agree that there is an association with the four kingdoms of chapter 2, there is, I believe, good reason to conclude that the beasts of Daniel 7 may also have an

additional, more specific end-time nationalistic significance and application.

Dr. E. W. Bullinger, among the marginal notes on Daniel 7 in his *Companion Bible*, makes the following statement:

"V. 3. Four Great Beasts. These are not the four dominions of chapter 2. They (ch. 2) stand up one after the other, and each stands, successively, in the place of the other. These (ch. 7) are to arise in 'the days of' those last 'ten kings' of Daniel 2:44. These continue the last of Nebuchadnezzar's last dominion, and do EXIST TOGETHER" (p. 1192).

Frankly, I am inclined to agree with Bullinger's contention in this case, while still not abandoning the secondary connection between chapters 2 and 7, for there is clearly a certain kind of relationship evident. One reason for this line of thinking is found in Daniel 7:12. In the prior two verses, we read of the divine destruction unleashed upon the terrible fourth beast, after which Daniel writes:

"As concerning the rest of the beasts (the lion, bear, and leopard), they had their dominion taken away: yet their lives were prolonged for a season and a time."

This passage, although in need of further explanation, nevertheless, on its face appears to preclude the notion that the four

beasts symbolize successive world-ruling empires covering thousands of years in history, as is usually ascribed to the four great kingdoms of Daniel 2. Clearly, each one of those supplants the previous realm (Babylon, Medo/Persia, Greece, Rome). In the case of the four beasts of Daniel 7, the first three are still present and alive at the destruction of the fourth, so it would seem that this particular prophecy is speaking primarily with respect to the end-time, rather than to the long overview of history.

Furthermore, the aftermath of the fourth beast's demise is dealt with somewhat differently than what we read in Daniel 2 concerning the conclusion of Nebuchadnezzar's dream image. In the instance of Daniel 7, we are told the following:

"I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the SON OF MAN came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the ANCIENT OF DAYS, and they brought Him near before Him. And there was given Him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve Him: His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom that which shall not be destroyed" (Dan. 7:13-14).

The language here is far more specific with regard to the resolution of events compared with that of chapter 2. The *Son of Man* is an obvious reference to the

returning Messiah, a term which He Himself used during His earthly ministry. The *Ancient of Days* refers of course to the Father. We read in verse 13 that this *Son of Man* comes with the *clouds of heaven*, virtually the identical language used by Christ in connection with His Second Coming, and recorded in Matthew 24:30:

“And then shall appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven, and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of Man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.”

In Daniel 7:14, we notice that the *Son of Man* is then given dominion, glory, and a great kingdom that rules over all nations, and that will not be destroyed. Again, this statement agrees perfectly with the New Testament record in this regard, for we read in Revelation 11:15:

“And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of His Christ; and He shall reign forever and ever.”

And, in like manner, it is written in Hebrews 1:8:

“But unto the Son He says, Your throne, O God, is forever and ever: a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom.”

Putting the facts thus far deduced from Daniel 7 together, it is clear that the four beasts are co-existent, even up until the time of Christ's return and the institution of the Messianic kingdom upon the earth. This is what sets the prophecy of chapter 7 apart from that of chapter 2.

If we were therefore to view the four beasts as contemporaneous kingdoms, and the fact that all four are in existence at the Second Advent, then we are automatically discussing, not ancient empires, but current (at whatever time in history this might be) modern-day nations of great import in the world. If we were to go further and look at this prophecy from the perspective of our own time, what would we see? How would we view what we saw? Is there a logical and possibly correct way of connecting the prophetic language of Daniel 7 with recent and current conditions extant upon the earth?

THE NATIONALISTIC VIEW OF DANIEL 7

Taking each one of the four beasts and seeking to apply a current interpretation and a modern identification to them, we might conceivably derive the following scenario:

1. THE LION

The lion, as with all the particular animals in chapter 7, is a

symbol—a national symbol. With regard to the more modern era, the **LION** is most conspicuously associated with the nation of **GREAT BRITAIN**. In one form or another, it is found in numerous British coats of arms and other heraldic items.

This lion, however, has the wings of an **EAGLE**, which are subsequently removed. Please note that the first beast is clearly the lion, not the eagle, but there is just as obviously a connection between the two. Interestingly, many, if not most, of the ancient British symbols dealing with the lion picture the regal animal reared up on its feet and with wings on its back—precisely as the prophecy of Daniel states!

In modern terms, the **EAGLE** is universally recognized as the national symbol of the **UNITED STATES**. The Great Seal of the United States prominently features the famous and familiar bald eagle. Its image is to be found on the money of this country, and on buildings and monuments from coast to coast.

Even the most perfunctory glance at history reminds us that the United States of America sprang, to the greatest extent, from Great Britain, winning its independence via the Revolutionary War, which commenced in 1776. From that point on, Great Britain existed apart from America, and thus this historic occurrence is represented in the prophecy by the removal of the eagle's wings from the lion.

Of the great modern international powers, Great Britain was the first, and thus its symbol, the lion, is at the head of the list in Daniel 7. The lion is smaller than the bear, but larger than the leopard, and these size differentiations will come into play once the other beasts are identified.

In addition, the lion is considered to be the *king of beasts*, perhaps another reason for his being mentioned first, but also because, more than any of the modern national super-nations, Great Britain is most closely associated with *royalty*. Even to this day, a British royal family, the House of Windsor, continues to sit on the throne of England, and, contrary to what most people assume, also continues to wield great and widespread power throughout Europe and the world. England is one of the few nations in the world that has continued to preserve their monarchy. When one speaks of the *crown* today, Great Britain almost automatically comes to mind.

In its efforts to survive, a lion, though large and powerful, does have certain handicaps or disadvantages. Since they can only run at full-speed for a short distance, lions tend to hunt in groups, rather than alone, which increases their rate of success. For this reason also, it is usually necessary for lions to have very large territories for hunting. A pride is likely to cover many miles a day in search of food.

With respect to Great Britain and its identification with the lion, the above-mentioned traits correlate well with the tendencies of this historically powerful nation. Unlike certain other major international forces, the British are not really all that known for the lightning speed of their military attacks. In fact, they are rather famous for their very determined, yet somewhat plodding form of warfare. In order to satisfy its needs, Great Britain, much like the lion, has usually required a large amount of territory. It is, of course, world famous for its once-sprawling empire, literally circling the globe.

And speaking of much territory, it is significant that the lion tends to hunt large animals, preferably those who can't move extremely fast. In like manner, the British also have leaned toward conquering large, but rather slow-moving territories (i.e., Canada, Australia, South Africa, India). This is, of course, not meant as an insult to those particular countries, as all peoples have their own unique national characteristics.

The lion is also known for his loud roar. Under the best conditions, a lion's roar can be heard as far as 5 miles away! It uses this ability to its advantage. It is said in the Scriptures that the devil, like a roaring lion, goes about seeking whom he may devour.

It may be stretching things a bit, but in a manner of speaking, Great Britain might be understood

to also have a loud *roar*. Indeed, it has often threatened and bullied its enemies with loud rhetoric. Certainly in more recent times, Sir Winston Churchill comes to mind as a classic example of this kind of behavior.

2. THE BEAR

The BEAR as a national symbol in today's world is fairly easy to identify. In fact, the country that almost immediately comes to mind is RUSSIA. The Russian bear is famous the world over, and is considered synonymous with that nation and people.

Russia, of course, existed long before the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917, when it was under the imperial rule of the czars. It is interesting that the term *czar* is a form of the Latin word *caesar* (as well as the German title *kaiser*), and that the last ruling Russian dynasty was the R o m a n o v s (R o m a n s). Interestingly, Moscow at one time was a ctually known as *the third Rome* (after the city of Rome itself and Constantinople, the eastern capital of the empire, and the site of the Imperial Restoration under Justinian). Upon the murder of Czar Nicholas and his wife Alexandra, the country came under the eventual sway of Nikolai Lenin, and the rest, of course, is history.

The bear in Daniel 7:5 is shown lying on its side. The verse really means to say that the animal

was raised up on one side. The marginal rendering states that, *it raised up one dominion*. This would appear to indicate that the nation of Russia was somehow divided into two sides, most likely a reference to major political division. It is interesting, as some scholars have pointed out, that the modern notion of the political *left* and *right* originated with the people and events culminating in the 1917 Russian Revolution. Communism and socialism are now considered to be on the *left*, whereas fascism is of the *right*. The imperial reign of the czars would, of course, be on the *right*, so we see a clearly delineated conflict existing in pre-revolutionary Russia between the *right* and *left SIDES*. The fact that Daniel's prophecy states that the bear was raised up on one of its sides certainly is an indication that the *left* side gained dominion, which, in actuality, is precisely what transpired.

As for the three ribs in the bear's mouth, we are not directly given an interpretation, but obviously this has to be some kind of reference to peoples and territories conquered by the regime of the bear. Russia and later the Soviet Union stands alone as the most notorious of all the world nations with regard to the destruction of human life. The purges and pogroms of the infamous Joseph Stalin resulted in the unspeakable mass murder of over 50,000,000 people. No wonder the prophecy states that the bear is to *devour much flesh!*

The Soviet Union is well recognized as the most feared modern nation, invading one country after another, annexing them to its realm, and bringing the peoples under the subjection of Communist rule. The specific mention of **THREE RIBS** is perhaps meant to be understood as three countries. Since ribs are located on the sides of animals, we might be inclined to consider the fact that the USSR tended to follow a military policy of attacking and conquering the particular nations located all along the eastern *side* of Europe, forming what came to be known throughout the world as the *iron curtain*.

Among those nations brought under Soviet hegemony were two separate groups of three, namely the Baltic states of Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia, and the Transcaucasian countries of Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia. If the bear in Daniel 7 is indeed representative of Russia/USSR in the modern era, then either of these particular trios could easily be pictured by the three ribs in the animal's mouth.

Additionally, the Hebrew word for *rib* is *tsalah*, and in addition to its more familiar definition as an actual bone, can also mean *a side (of a person, an object, or the sky, i.e. quarter); a timber or plank; and a chamber*. If we were to think of *rib* in these terms, the reference in Daniel 7 to the ribs in the bear's mouth as being connected with the Russian aggression and military takeover of

the eastern side of Europe would not be far-fetched at all.

Tsalah is translated nearly half the time in the Old Testament as *a side chamber or chambers*. This is particular true with respect to the ark of the covenant (Ex. 25:12, the tabernacle (Ex. 26:20, the altar (Ex. 27:7, and the side chambers of the temple (1 Kgs. 6:5; Ezek. 41:5). When it is therefore used in Daniel 7 it is a likely reference to the military action of the modern nation of Russia or the Soviet Union against the *side chambers* of Europe (Poland, Romania, Yugoslavia, Hungary, Albania, Czechoslovakia, etc.).

The bear is the largest of the three named beasts in Daniel 7, even as the Soviet Union/Russia is literally gigantic compared with not only Great Britain, but with any other nation on earth! The bear is also, due in part to its great size, the strongest of the three animals, and, although we haven't yet discussed the interpretation of the leopard, suffice it to say that the military might of modern Russia or the U.S.S.R. has been and even continues to be greater than that of the other nations involved in this particular prophecy.

The bear, as a hunter, is quite skilled, but then so are the lion and the leopard, each of them depending upon their own unique strengths to enable them to be successful. The bear, unlike either the lion or the leopard, cannot depend as much on its speed in chasing down its prey. It moves

slower than the other two animals, and this trait has indeed been indicative of Russia as well. The Soviet Union, although exceedingly powerful and able, and like the bear, virtually without enemies, still has always been viewed as more of a plodding nation, depending upon its size and strength to achieve its goals. More than the lion or the leopard, the bear can also bully his opponents, a characteristic that has certainly been prominent historically with respect to Russia and its neighbors.

It is very interesting that, of all the animals listed in Daniel 7, the mother bear is *the* most protective and defensive of her cubs. And, in a manner of speaking, so has Russia been through the years. As we know, she is affectionately referred to by her adherents as the *motherland*!

Bears, more than any other ferocious beast of the earth, can outlast their opponents or prey. Since they are not equipped for the kind of speed that a big cat possesses, they use other abilities to ensure their success. While a bear can certainly be frightened enough to run at times, he is far more likely to turn ferocious when he feels cornered or attacked than does either a lion or a leopard. With regard to Russia, this trait brings to mind the disastrous campaign fought by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1812. The French Grand Arme'e, 500,000 strong, crossed the River Niemen on June 24th. A few days later, Napoleon stated: *I have come to finish off, once and for all, the Colossus of*

Northern Barbarism. The sword is drawn. They must be thrust back into their snow and ice, so that for a quarter of a century at least they will not be able to interfere with civilized Europe (With Napoleon in Russia: The Memoirs of General de Caulaincourt, Duke of Vicenza (From the original memoirs as edited by Jean Hanoteau. Abridged, edited, and with an introduction by George Libaire) (1935 William Morrow & Co. New York, p. 52).

Although infinitely confident of victory, and with troops and leadership skill second to none, Napoleon's great army was unable to achieve its desire quick victory over the Russians. Instead, the Russians continually evaded and outlasted the French, bogging them down until their provisions were gone, their horses dead, their wagons in disrepair, and their wounded uncared for.

The French began their retreat from Moscow on October 5, 1812, and on December 3rd, the emperor Napoleon issued the 29th *Bulletin* admitting the destruction of the French army.

The bear is also famous for its ability to survive the cold, and we find several varieties even as far north as the frozen Russian tundra and the Alaskan polar region. It may be rather instructive to recall that during World War II, on August 23, 1939, Germany and Russia signed a non-aggression pact, and yet within 2 years, Germany betrayed its agreement,

and launched *Operation Barbarossa*, the massive invasion along the entire eastern front. Like Napoleon, Hitler exuded confidence that he could annihilate the Russian bear, and at first it appeared that this would be the case. More people died in *Operation Barbarossa* than in any other military campaign in world history, even to this day.

When the German *blitzkrieg* failed to dislodge the embedded Russian troops, Hitler was furious. Joseph Stalin ordered every Russian citizen to kill without hesitation anyone suspected of being part of the enemy forces or their supporters. In effect, the Russian army grew considerably, holding off the German attacks until the brutal winter of 1941-42 set in. In temperatures as low as nearly 50 degrees below zero, the German troops were repulsed. Unaccustomed to fighting in such harsh and extreme conditions, the Nazi forces found it necessary to fall back and re-group.

In the spring of 1942, the bloodiest battle of World War II was fought at Stalingrad, forcing Hitler to retreat. Eventually, of course, the Russian army not only successfully bogged the Germans down, handing them a severe defeat, but because of their ability to withstand the bitterly cold winter, provided the turning point in the war. From that point forward, the Germans were in retreat, and the Russian advance toward the west proved to be the most decisively destructive

military campaign of the entire war, exceeding even that of the famous D-Day landing at Normandy on June 6, 1944.

One cannot help but be reminded of two particular Biblical passages, the first in Psalms 147:

“He (God) sends forth His commandment upon the earth: His word runs very swiftly. He gives SNOW like wool: He scatters the FROST like ashes. He casts forth His ICE like morsels: who can stand before His COLD?” (Psa. 147:15-7).

And the second reference is found in Job 38 as follows:

“Have you entered into the treasures of the SNOW? Or have you seen the treasures of the hail, which I have reserved against the time of trouble, against the day of BATTLE and WAR?” (Job 38:22-23).

3. THE LEOPARD

The third beast of Daniel 7 is described as being a leopard. The Hebrew word is *namer*. It is used several times in the Hebrew Scriptures. In most instances, the leopard is not a good omen, seeing that it is an animal of prey, stealthy, strong, and ferocious. It is, however, smaller than a lion or a bear, which we need to keep in mind for purposes of our present discussion.

Based upon the prophetic pattern that has been tentatively

established thus far, this third beast of Daniel 7 must represent a third powerful political/military entity within the time-frame of the lion and the bear. If the removal of the lion's (Great Britain's) wings is symbolic of the American Revolution, that would put the time at about 1776 or perhaps 1781 at the conclusion of the war. The Russian bear would then be seen both in its imperial form prior to the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution, and afterward in its incarnation as the Soviet Union, and finally, as the Russian Federation that exists today.

If we search out recent world history for a third great power that could be adequately denoted by the leopard, for what characteristics would we be looking? First of all, as was stated earlier, the leopard is a smaller animal than either the lion or the bear, so the nation represented by the leopard should, in some way, be a smaller or lesser nation than Great Britain and Russia.

In addition, the leopard follows both the lion and the bear in the Daniel 7 prophecy. This would indicate that the particular nation in question would rise to power after the first two, but, as we know, also be contemporaneous with them as well. Since the removal of the lion's wings may well be related to the time period of the American Revolution, then we could place Great Britain in the prophetic timeline at around 1776 or shortly thereafter. The bear rises to power after the lion, and, although in its

imperial phase, Russia was not without a certain prowess in the world, its rise to international greatness commenced with the October 1917 Revolution. Based on this information, we would be looking for the rise of the leopard kingdom at some point after 1917-18.

The leopard also has certain traits that might help identify the nation for which we seek. Because of its unusual coat, the leopard is rather easily camouflaged, thus its presence and potency are disguised. And, although smaller than either the lion or the bear, it is nonetheless a magnificent hunter, due in great part to its sly and furtive nature. The Bible always presents the leopard as an exceedingly strong and fierce beast, and according to Habakkuk 1:8, the leopard is an animal of great swiftness. So, the international power that is symbolized by the leopard in Daniel 7 would be of the type that, in spite of its lesser size, utilizes disguise, stealth, speed, and outright ferocity to achieve its objectives.

The third beast, you will recall, had wings on its back. In the modern vernacular, this could well relate to the supremacy of air power with regard to its military might. And, according to the *Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon (BDB)*, the use of the term *namer* or *leopard* in Jeremiah 5:6, is symbolic of Israel's calamities, where we read:

“A LEOPARD shall watch over their cities: every one that goes out thence shall be torn in pieces: because their transgressions are many, and their backslidings are increased.”

In fact, the reference in Jeremiah also includes the lion and the bear, along with the leopard, as enemies and persecutors of Israel. Some may not associate Great Britain with such activity, but that would be a major mistake. In spite of ostensible support from time to time, the English have, from the era of the Crusades, sought to exert control over the holy land and all of its treasures. And, of course, it goes without saying that the Soviet Union has never been and never will be anything other than an arch-enemy to Israel. This hostile attitude toward the Jewish people is especially prevalent in the third of these great international powers to rise in the modern era.

Along this same line, there is a forceful statement by Yahweh in the prophecy of Hosea, in which we find these very same three beasts prominently mentioned in connection with Israel. Please note the following from Hosea 13:

“According to their pasture, so were they filled; they were filled, and their heart was exalted; therefore have they forgotten Me. Therefore I will unto them as a LION: as a LEOPARD by the way will I observe them: I will meet them as a BEAR that is bereaved of her whelps, and will rend the caul of their heart, and

there will I devour them like a LION: the wild beasts shall tear them. O Israel, you have destroyed yourself; but in Me is your help” (Hos. 13:6-9).

Another reference to the leopard that is very telling can be found in the book of Jeremiah. In chapter 13, the prophet warns the Jews against the sin of pride, saying:

“Hear you, and give ear; be not proud: for the Lord has spoken...But if you will not hear it, my soul shall weep in secret places for your pride...because the Lord’s flock is carried away captive” (Jer. 13:15, 17).

He continues the admonition to repent, and then says:

“And if you say in your heart, Wherefore come these things upon me? For the greatness of your iniquity are your skirts discovered, and your heels made bare. Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the LEOPARD his spots? If so, then may you also do good, that are accustomed to do evil” (Jer. 13:22-23).

God uses the leopard in this instance to portray the great unlikelihood that Judah will indeed repent, by asking the rhetorical question, *Can the leopard change his spots?* The obvious answer is *no*, and, as we are aware, this very saying has come down as an axiom even to this day! It has become an accepted metaphor relating to the virtual certainty that the tendency

to do evil will simply not change. And indeed this characteristic is most descriptive of the third great international power to rise in the modern era, for this nation just seems to have a particular flaw in its national character that apparently compels them to repeat over and over again the same sins on a world scale.

A final point, before actually naming a specific regime, is the fact that the term *leopard* may also be understood in another way. For instance, in Revelation 13, where John describes the great beast which he envisioned, we read the following:

“And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea...and the beast which I saw was like unto a LEOPARD” (Rev. 13:1-2).

The word rendered *leopard* in verse 2, one aspect of a longer passage which, as we shall see, is most intimately connected with the prophecy of Daniel 7, is the Greek term *pardalis*, and while it can certainly be translated *leopard*, it also can be understood as *panther*. As we shall see, this fact may prove to be more significant than it might appear at first glance.

So let us now briefly recapitulate what we have covered. With regard to the third beast or the leopard of Daniel 7, we are looking for a nation which has the following traits:

1. It must be a modern-day nation.

2. It must have risen to international power after the time of the American Revolution against Great Britain (1776-1782) and after the time of the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia (1917-18).

3. It must be a nation that is smaller than either of the two preceding world powers.

4. It must be a nation whose rise to power was somewhat unexpected in that it was disguised, even as the leopard camouflages himself by the special outer coat that he possesses.

5. It must be by nature a fierce, indeed ferocious, nation of people.

6. It must be a nation with great military prowess.

7. It must be a nation whose military specializes in swift strikes.

8. It is a nation that has a strong source of air power.

9. It must be an enemy of Israel, specifically anti-Semitic.

10. It must be a nation that epitomizes evil, one whose nature doesn't change over time.

11. It is a nation that is somehow associated with the leopard or panther.

To be perfectly candid, there is really only one modern-day nation that fulfils each of these requirements and possesses each of these leopard-like characteristics, and, probably to the surprise of no one, that nation is the international power of GERMANY!

Germany, of course, is known by all as a major modern-day nation. Its rise to international power followed that of Great Britain and Russia. Of course the German presence was greatly felt in the conduct of World War I, but this was only a forerunner of a future German state that would astound the world. After its defeat, during the 1920's and 30's, primarily American and British powermongers on Wall Street and elsewhere, forced Germany into bankruptcy and political turmoil, and out of this foisted state came the rise of Adolph Hitler, a man handpicked and groomed by powerful financial and political forces for the express task of reuniting the German people and leading them into the conflagration we now know as the Second World War.

Because of how contrived and controlled events unfolded, Germany's rise to great international prominence was therefore couched in a way not unlike the nature of a leopard, taking most of the world by surprise! Many national leaders were totally duped by Hitler and the Nazis, even including Neville Chamberlain, the Prime Minister of England, leading to the debacle of the Munich Pact, signed in

1938. All of this sordid, diabolical history, including the deception and duplicity of the *Milner Group* and Lord Halifax, has been carefully researched and wonderfully written up in the classic work of Dr. Anthony Sutton, *Wall Street and the Rise of Hitler*. Every single person ought to read this revealing book, along with Dr. Sutton's equally superb treatise on *Wall Street and the Bolshevik Revolution*. These two works will give you the *plain truth* about what devilish powers really shaped the world during the 20th century, setting the stage for what is currently transpiring on the world scene, and the far worse tribulation that is to come!

With regard to the leopard's ability to strike quickly with an almost perfect combination of speed and power, one need look no further than the fact that Germany was the creator of the dreaded *blitzkrieg*, a term that literally means *lightning war*, the infamous sudden, swift, large-scale military offensive designed expressly to overwhelm the enemy and achieve a quick and decisive victory. This practice was so effectively utilized by the German air force and ground troops, that they were able to absolutely devastate much of Europe, before America ever even entered World War II.

And with regard to the wings on the back of the leopard, the Germans, more than any other participant in the Second World War, were the preeminent air power on earth. Even the very

mention of the notorious Nazi *Luftwaffe* sends chills down the spine. The German air war, including the development of the V-2 rocket used so destructively against England, gave the Axis powers control of the skies for much of the war.

In addition to the traits so far discussed, the fact that Germany has literally epitomized evil in our time is beyond question or debate. Both World Wars I & II were fought primarily against Germany. Like the leopard, the Germans did not and cannot change their nature. The infamous concentration camps of the Second World War certainly bear out this truth in the shed blood of millions who were slaughtered within their confines.

And who precisely were the victims of this German nature? To a great extent, it was the Jewish people in Europe. In fact, the *holocaust* is undoubtedly one of the most heinous atrocities ever perpetrated against any race of people in all of human history!

The last of the eleven characteristics listed earlier was the required association between the leopard and the third great modern international power, and in the case of Germany, we have a perfect match. This is particularly true if we use the alternative rendering of that word, which is the *panther*, for during World War II, at the very height of German international power, their primary tanks were called **PANTHERS**, and the tank divisions themselves

were named by the derivative word **PANZERS!**

One final thought with regard to the leopard in Daniel 7. Unlike either of the first two beasts, this third one not only has wings on its back, but it also has **FOUR HEADS**. With respect to the connection that this particular animal had to the ancient Greek empire of Alexander the Great (discussed earlier), the four heads related to the four-fold division of the kingdom among four of the emperor's leading generals. How, therefore, are we to understand the application of these four heads with regard to the nation of Germany?

In a study done by James Lloyd, a Bible prophecy writer, there is a very interesting series of *fours* with regard to Germany. For instance there were four major Germanic tribes—The Angles, Saxons, Alemans, and Franks. In later history, there were four **p r e e m i n e n t** German states—Bavaria, Prussia, Saxony, and Wurttemberg. Even the first federal government of Germany was comprised of four free cities loosely bound together (*The Lion, the Bear, & the Leopard*).

Perhaps the most astounding information regarding the number *four* and its relationship to the nation of Germany harkens back to the ancient Greek kingdom, which was, as you will recall, upon the death of Alexander the Great, divided among *four* of his leading generals. In like manner, at the

conclusion of World War II, upon the death (supposed) of Adolph Hitler, the administration of Germany was also divided among *four top generals*, one each from the United States (western sector), Great Britain (northwest sector), Russia (eastern sector), and France (southwestern sector), termed collectively the *Kommandatura*.

A final thought on this section of our study. Since the leopard is the third of Daniel 7's beasts, there is most likely a certain connection between the modern leopard and the ancient one, namely Alexander the Great and the Greek empire. As you can readily discern just from the present short discussion, there are clearly aspects that are common to both old and new.

For instance, Alexander was famous for his swift strikes against his enemies, even as the German's perfected the *blitzkrieg*. Both rulers were intent on literally conquering the world of their day. Interestingly, both Alexander the Great and Adolph Hitler were involved in the occult, and consulted spirit guides for direction and success in their military campaigns. And, the careers of both men were rather meteoric in their rise to power, the length of their reign, and their deaths at relatively early ages. Alexander ruled basically from 336-323 B.C., or a 13-year reign. Adolph Hitler apparently committed suicide (some suspect this never actually occurred, but that's another story entirely) in 1945. Thirteen years earlier would

have been approximately 1932-33, the precise time period when Hitler assumed the chancellorship of Germany.

Since the lion, the bear, and the leopard are pictured in the Bible as the enemies of God and of His people, it is very interesting that in the graphic description of the Messianic kingdom to come, we read in Isaiah 11:

“The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox...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” (Isa. 11:6-7, 9).

Although these verses are usually applied only to the actual physical animals mentioned, think about them as being symbolic of people—indeed the historic enemies of God and His family living in a new world, one of real peace, freedom and harmony together—a world wherein the very nature of mankind is genuinely changed by the Holy Spirit of Yahweh, and where the knowledge of God covers the earth as the waters cover the sea. Hopefully this is the kind of world each believer today is praying earnestly for the returning Messiah to establish upon this earth.

THE TERRIBLE 4th BEAST

The fourth beast of Daniel 7 is unique in that it is not associated with a particular physical animal, as are the first three. Daniel simply describes this creature in the following manner:

“After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and broke in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns” (Dan. 7:7).

The typical explanation is simply that this mysterious fourth beast is the Roman empire, and from the imperial perspective, this is correct. From the nationalistic point of view, however, such as we are considering in this discussion, Rome would not be an appropriate consideration.

Let's review the timetable we have thus far established. The lion, which for purposes of this study is equated with Great Britain, had its eagle's wings removed from it at the time of the American Revolution, commencing in 1776. From that time forward, England and her empire stood apart from the fledgling United States. By 1789, George Washington had been elected the first president of this country, and in 1803, the Louisiana Purchase was ceded by Napoleon to America, more than doubling

the size of the country, and signaling the beginning of major expansion on this side of the Atlantic.

The bear, representative in the modern era of Russia and later the Soviet Union, began its rise to power at the time of the Bolshevik Revolution in 1917. Although greatly influenced in the beginning stages by such luminaries as Alexander Kerensky, the revolutionist Leon Trotsky, and Vladimir Ilich Ulianov, better known as Nikoli Lenin, the leader of the Revolution and the first premier of the Soviet Union, it was the notorious Joseph Stalin who transformed imperial Russia into the modern-day U.S.S.R. with his ruthless pogroms and purges, his famous multi-year economic plans, and his special ability to play both sides against the middle in getting his way in geo-politics.

Daniel's third beast is the leopard, symbolic of the German republic, and the Third Reich of Adolf Hitler in particular, who, as head of the Nazi party, began his rise to power in the early 1930's. The German-led Axis powers went down to defeat in World War II, the surrender taking place in 1945.

And now, at this juncture in history, the fourth beast is introduced, so with regard to the timing, we are confronted with yet another great modern-day international power that came into being after the conclusion of the Second World War in 1945. If we were simply going to hazard a guess as to what nation this beast

represents, perhaps China might come to mind, or maybe certain Middle Eastern countries, or France. None of these, however, will suffice, for they simply do not meet the Scriptural criteria.

The fact is that without an actual animal with which to identify this fourth beast, we may not have enough hard information to make an accurate designation, at least not from Daniel 7. What we do know about the fourth beast is that it is more fierce and destructive than any of the preceding three powers. Think about just this one fact, along with the time factor involved. This doesn't yet pin the answer down, but one's imagination would not have to be necessarily working overtime to come up with a plausible conclusion.

Given its destructive capacity, we might also infer that the fourth beast is larger than the lion, the bear, or the leopard, which, in itself, is quite telling. It is also significant that Daniel describes this beast as the final great international power before the return of the Messiah and the end of the present age. It is said of him in verse 23:

"Thus he said, the fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be DIVERSE from all kingdoms, and shall DEVOUR the WHOLE EARTH, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces...and he (one of the beast's horns) shall speak great words against the Most High, and shall wear out

the saints of the Most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time" (Dan. 7:23, 25).

Let's note a few points contained in this passage. First of all, this fourth beast is said to be *diverse* from ALL KINGDOMS, not necessarily just the preceding three. The Hebrew actually means *altered or changed*. In other words, this fourth animal or kingdom is a very different kind of creature, and interestingly it is known only by the term *beast!*

And finally, Daniel tells us that this terrible fourth beast will be destroyed directly by the Almighty, for we read, beginning in verse 9:

"I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and hair of His head like the pure wool: His throne was like the fiery flame, and His wheels as burning fire. A fiery stream issued and came forth from before Him: thousand thousands ministered unto Him, and then thousand times ten thousand stood before Him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened. I beheld then because of the voice of the great words which the horn spoke: I beheld even till the beast was slain, and his body destroyed, and given to the burning flame...And I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with

the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought Him near before Him. And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom that all people, nations, and languages, should serve Him: His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom that which shall not be destroyed" (Dan. 7:9-14).

The fourth beast, therefore, will be in full power at the end of the present age, and will be destroyed by fire, after which the Messianic Kingdom will be established upon the earth.

We have gathered most of the pertinent information possible from Daniel 7, and, although we may indeed be capable of theorizing what entity this fourth beast may be, we really need to go to another area of the Bible to get the final clues. And where would that place in Scripture be? Why, to Revelation 13, of course, and for good reason, because it is there that we find the very same beasts mentioned in the prophecy of chapter 7.

THE BEAST THAT RISES FROM THE SEA

The book of Revelation, according to the testimony of its author, the apostle John, was written in exile from Patmos, a small rocky island some 15 miles west off the Ephesus coast in the Aegean Sea. It was apparently

written quite late in the first century, probably around 96 A.D., during the very latter portion of the emperor Domitian's reign, one marked by horrific persecution of the early believers.

Although this last book of the Bible contains information pertinent to various historical periods, it is, by its own admission, primarily end-time in its focus and predictions. And this is unquestionably true with respect to chapter 13, and the rise of an incredible entity out of the sea, known only by the same term as the fourth of Daniel's creatures, simply *the beast*.

Beginning in verse one, we read:

“And I (John) stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a BEAST rise up out of the SEA, having seven heads, and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the names of blasphemy.”

First of all, we note that this beast is seen rising up out of the sea. This is significant, especially when compared to a second beast which John sees that comes up out of the earth, which we shall discuss momentarily.

In Revelation 17, where we read the graphic account of end-time Babylon, it is described as sitting upon many WATERS (v. 1). When the angel explains more about this evil system, he says in verse 15:

“The WATERS which you saw, where the whore sits, are PEOPLES, and MULTITUDES, and NATIONS, and TONGUES.”

What does this tell us about this great beast that rises out of the sea? Without doubt, it means that the evil creature of Revelation 13 is directly associated with many nations and races of people. In assessing the meaning of this fact, don't forget the other factors that we have determined up until this point, including the time-frame involved.

Now, let's read verse 2, where we find one of the most startling prophetic connections to be found in Scripture:

“And the beast which I saw was like unto a LEOPARD, and his FEET were as the feet of a BEAR, and his MOUTH as the mouth of a LION: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and GREAT AUTHORITY.”

The end-time beast of Revelation 13 that rises out of the sea, that is connected in some major way to the nations and peoples of this world, is now seen as unequivocally related to the prophecy of Daniel 7, even to the point that the very animal symbols utilized by Daniel now appear in the description of John's beast.

In the past, the presence of the leopard, bear, and lion in the prophecy of Revelation 13 has usually been explained in terms of

the end-time beast power having overcome these former kingdoms, or that it somehow has assimilated and now possesses the traits of all these animals or ancient empires, but that is not what is being conveyed in this passage, and to consider the prediction from that perspective will inevitably lead one to an erroneous conclusion.

And yet in saying this, I do not discount the fact that a secondary aspect of the beast of Revelation does have a connection with the ancient past and the empires of Babylon, Persia, Greece and Rome, just as the lion, bear, and leopard of Daniel 7 have a certain, but in latter-day terms not necessarily a primary, relationship with those imperial realms. This was covered in an earlier section. Please remember that we are discussing both Daniel 7 and Revelation 13 in terms of the relative modern age, at least from 1776, when America won its independence from Great Britain, and then on down thus far into the near mid-20th century.

Verse 2 actually give us very important information that can be easily overlooked. We all know that the leopard, bear, and lion are mentioned and somehow involved, but we must think of these animals in terms of their modern-day international counterparts, meaning, of course, Great Britain, Russia, and Germany.

Now for the critical part of this verse. These three animals that comprise the initial portion of

Daniel 7 show up in the description of John's beast in Revelation 13, but they are present not as merely traits that have somehow been incorporated into a sort of composite beast, but as actual body parts of this gruesome end-time creature. Think about this—body parts are also known as **MEMBERS**. Revelation 13:2 is telling us outright that the lion, bear, and leopard nations are in the latter-days, not conquered foes or the relics of ancient empires, but actual **MEMBERS** of the great end-time beast power, which, based upon this information and the previously discussed fact that it is connected with many **NATIONS**, strongly implies that the beast is a gigantic coalition of some kind.

Remember that in the prophetic time-line of Daniel 7, we are at the conclusion of World War II, and the year is 1945. We are now looking for the rise of the fourth beast. It must come after the first three (although Daniel 7 clearly states that the lion, bear, and leopard will still be in existence), and now we know that indeed Great Britain, Russia, and Germany are members of it, along with many peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues.

Was there created shortly after the Second World War an alliance or federation of many nations, of which Great Britain, Russia, and Germany were eventually members? Is that great entity still in existence today? And is it gaining in strength and influence on the world scene?

Those questions probably seem almost rhetorical in nature, given the evidence so far presented, for any civilized human being knows full well the answers, even if they are not all aware of how this great international combine came into existence.

The 20th century saw two world wars fought, and at the conclusion of both, attempts were made to develop an assembly of nations that would ostensibly guarantee peace on earth. We have always been conditioned to believe that the formation of this kind of confederation originated from the desire of mankind to be free of war, that the people involved were men of good will, honesty, and integrity. Even a perfunctory investigation, however, reveals that this simply was never the case.

Most people merely assume that the attempts to gather together the nations of the world were the result of two devastating world wars, when, in reality, just the opposite is true! That is to say, the two great global conflagrations were arranged and fought in order to ensure the successful formation of such a body, capable of eventually ushering in a one-world government. If you wish to achieve a certain effect, you must necessarily have a cause! And when that cause is world war, with millions upon millions of casualties, one begins to get a much clearer view of just how sinister the nature of certain people and certain events really is.

It is outside the scope of this paper to delve deeply into the labyrinth of facts detailing the step-by-step process that has been followed for at least the last 100 years in setting the stage for the eventual establishment of a world-ruling body, controlled not by the member nations themselves or their representatives, but rather by an elite cartel of power-brokers, some American, some British, some European, and a smattering of others, who have no national loyalties, but are solely interested in achieving the dream of the ages, that is, to literally control the whole world, and reaping the untold profits thereby.

The achievement of this seemingly impossible goal has been the dedicated aim of a certain segment of the population for centuries and millennia of time, going back to the days of Cain in the pre-Flood world, and the rule of Nimrod in post-diluvian times. Although major steps have been taken historically toward the accomplishment of this objective, complete success has never yet been achieved. Not, that is, until the modern era. Now, the stage has indeed been set, and the Bible clearly reveals that at the end of this age, a huge combine of nations will be present in the world with the identical purpose in mind, and that on this one unique occasion, there will be success, short-lived as it might be.

The beast that rises up out of the sea, in terms of today's world, is presently being fulfilled by the **UNITED NATIONS**, an

organization formed in April of 1945. The planning for this August body has, as stated earlier, been in the works for many, many years. In 1909, the Federal Reserve System was established in the United States, giving America its own state bank, similar to and based on the European central banking system. In truth, however, though this entity bears the name *Federal* in its title, it is not a strict governmental agency, but a private institution, empowered to, among other things, regulate the monetary system of this country, and is especially well known for setting the interest rates at which people and businesses can borrow funds. The establishment of a central bank in the United States was imperative for those who sought to gain control over the monetary supply of this nation.

An additional function of central banks, beginning with those in Germany, France, England, and Italy, is to purposely fund wars, whether international or civil, often supporting both sides of the conflict. Historically, this action created a huge debt owed by the various countries involved, which, when they were unable to repay, precipitated either a direct central bank takeover, or more likely, indirect control, through gaining political leverage in getting key individuals elected to government positions, people who were favorable to the agenda of the banks and their controllers. This type of pressure resulted in the subtle takeover of many nations, with laws and regulations being passed that gave those who operate

behind the scenes the kind of financial and political clout necessary to fund their insatiable desire for more and more.

In the key year of 1913, just after the election of Woodrow Wilson as president, plans for a one world government began to move forward at greatly increased speed. The Federal Income Tax was imposed upon the American people in this year. Many citizens simply are not aware that prior to 1913, there was no official income tax in the United States. Why do such a thing at this particular moment in time?

The answer, stated briefly, was simply to fund America's entry into a planned and created World War, which, of course, would line the pockets of the already rich and famous, who always profit greatly from any kind of warfare. America's actual entry into the war was purposely withheld until after the presidential campaign of 1916, to ensure the re-election of the puppet-president, Woodrow Wilson.

After the successful conclusion of the war, president Wilson journeyed to Paris in 1919 with high hopes for the creation of what was later to be called *The League of Nations*. The efforts of Wilson and his handlers were most effective in helping establish the basis for the confederation, but the president was unable to persuade Congress to agree to U.S. participation. Many other nations joined, but the fact that America did not had the effect of torpedoing

the whole undertaking. The League of Nations, though existing in one form or another for a number of years, never achieved the success its framers intended.

From 1920 onward, it was the determined objective of the powerful forces that pushed so hard for American admittance to the League of Nations, to establish an international organization that could indeed be foisted off on the American citizenry as beneficial and acceptable.

The groundwork was laid by the creation in Britain of the Royal Institute for International Affairs, and a few years later, the Council on Foreign Relations in the United States. The power elite in England and America, including a number of leading Wall Street financial institutions, used their influence to press the U.S. Congress for the most damaging legislation against Germany for their part in World War I. This was especially true with regard to monetary matters. By the end of the 1920's, Germany was bankrupt.

This devastating situation created the atmosphere conducive to the cultivation and rise of the Nazi Party and Adolph Hitler, both of which were heavily financed by the very same group of super-wealthy individuals and corporations. Hitler assumed the chancellorship of Germany in 1934, and by 1939 was launching blitzkrieg strikes against several European and African nations. World War II was on!

Once the leading powers created a way for the United States to be drawn into the War, through much subterfuge and conspiracy allowing the Japanese to attack our relatively unguarded naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, the goal of the ages was finally in sight. During the latter 1930's and early 1940's, the same people involved in the original attempt at establishing a world-ruling government worked long and hard at devising the basis for a revived League of Nations that would, in the aftermath of World War II, finally be embraced by the nations of the world. The result, of course, was the creation of the United Nations in the year 1945.

THE BEAST THAT RISES FROM THE EARTH

Following his vision of the first beast--the one that rises out of the sea--the apostle John is immediately shown a second beast, this one, however, rising from the earth. Here's the descriptive passage from Revelation 13:

"And I beheld another beast coming up out of the EARTH, and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spoke as a dragon. And he exercises ALL THE POWER of the first beast (*Who is able to make war with him?* - Rev. 13:4) before him, and causes the earth and them which dwell therein to WORSHIP the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. And he does great wonders, so that he makes FIRE

COME DOWN from heaven on the earth in the sight of men...And he causes ALL, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: and that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name" (Rev. 13:11-13, 16-17).

This second beast is, as you can quickly determine, different from the first in a very interesting way. Instead of rising from the sea, we notice right away that this creature comes up out of the earth. Why the difference?

The waters, as we read in Revelation 17:15, are symbolic of peoples, nations, multitudes, and tongues, which is quite understandable given the nature and purpose of the first beast. No better description could be given to the United Nations, since it is the supreme organization in existence that seeks to bring all the world's nations and peoples under one great central hegemony. But what about the use of the word *earth* in the case of the second beast?

If the sea is representative of all the diverse nations, peoples, and languages, the earth could well be typical of just the opposite set of circumstances, that is, instead of multitudinous civilizations, it would symbolize a *wilderness*. There is a reasonable basis for drawing such a conclusion, because we read in this same book of Revelation the following statement:

"And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child. And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the WILDERNESS, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent. And the serpent cast out of his mouth WATER as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood. And the EARTH helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth" (Rev. 12:13-16).

In this passage, we see the terms *wilderness*, *earth*, and *water* used as descriptive and symbolic words. Again, if the *water* represents many peoples, in this particular case perhaps an army, then it would not be unreasonable to conclude that the *earth* could be a place devoid of people, or, in other words, *a wilderness*.

There is also another key way in which these two beasts differ one from another. The second monster has a different appearance, in that it is seen with the horns of a lamb, yet it speaks like a dragon. Most commentators over the years have generally interpreted this description to be indicative of a false religious leader, because it would seem that this second beast appeared to be lamb-like or Christ-like or perhaps Christian in nature, but that such

would only be a facade hiding the true nature of the dragon or Satan.

At first glance, this certainly sounds like a plausible explanation, but careful examination may prove otherwise. And the compelling evidence that strongly suggests another interpretation has to do with how these two beasts are similar, rather than different. For instance, the first beast has unparalleled power, given to it by the dragon (Rev. 13:2). So strong is it that the peoples of the world resign themselves to its might, saying, "Who is like unto the beast? Who is able to make war with him?" (Rev. 13:4).

Well, the Bible gives us the answer to the question, *Who is like unto the beast?* by telling us in Revelation 13:12 concerning the second creature:

"And he (second beast) exercises ALL THE POWER of the first beast before him."

So clearly, the second beast is just as powerful as the first great creature. This second great colossus, however, uses its impressive power for a specific set of purposes. Note the following, starting once again at the beginning of verse 12:

"And he exercises all the power of the first beast before him, and CAUSES the earth and them which dwell therein to WORSHIP the FIRST BEAST."

This passage establishes that these two beasts are closely related. It also demonstrates that they are co-existent. And, of course, it states that the second monster will use its power to force the peoples of the world to worship the first beast. So this second creature would appear to be committed to sponsoring the support and agenda of the first one.

If we conclude, for purposes of this present discussion, that the first beast is representative of the United Nations, then there must be existing at the same time yet another great nation, group of nations, or organization, one of whose dedicated purposes is to promote adherence to the U.N. and its plans for a one-world government.

Think back, if you will, to the year 1945, which is the last historical date in the unfolding prophecy we are studying. In that year, not only did the reign of the leopard—Adolph Hitler and the German military power—come to an end, but this was also the precise time when the United Nations was created.

Now the next issue is a simple one—where was this first beast brought into existence? Was it in Paris, France, as was the case with the failed League of Nations in 1920? No, Paris is out. How about London, or Moscow, or some place like The Hague in the Netherlands? No, none of these locales is correct. The United Nations charter was drawn up and officially signed in San Francisco,

CA., or put another way, the United Nations came into existence in, by, and through the aegis of the United States of America!

If the U.N. charter was made official in this nation, where did this unique organization make its ruling headquarters? Surely this would have been done in some other part of the world, if for no other reason that just to give at least the appearance of fairness. But that was not the case. As everyone knows, the United Nations has, from its inception, been headquartered squarely in America, and, of all places in this country—New York City, known as *Babylon on the Hudson!* Even the land upon which the U.N. building rests was given to it, not through donations collected from a wide variety of peoples, or a broad coalition or widely representative group, but rather by one of the most potent members of the power elite, the clever and deceptive David Rockefeller, through the family-controlled Chase Manhattan Bank, one of the most powerful financial channels through which the globalists operate!

The fact is that what we now know as the United Nations has been a long time in the making. It goes back in history, probably to about the very beginning of the human race. It tracks back to Cain, who first built cities (Gen. 4:17), and sought to gather people together so as to control them. It was from his progeny that the first weapons of war were forged (Gen. 4:22). The descendants of Cain,

listed in Genesis 4, in all probability comprised the original pantheon of gods and goddesses, which in the later post-Flood world appeared prominently in virtually every known ancient society.

Now no group of mere human beings can or will ever rule the entire world on their own. Such a goal is feasible solely through Satanic power, and then only if the Almighty permits it. In the past, demonically-led individuals and groups have made attempts, both great and small, in this direction in almost every generation of history, some meeting with a modicum of success, most with abject failure, yet with the goal still intact, and pertinent aspects of the plan being put into place and built upon from one era to another.

We are clearly told that the final beast power, as described in Revelation 13 will unquestionably have Satanic power and backing. In former times, even up until our own day, God has simply stepped in at appropriate moments in history to effectively thwart the efforts of certain men to achieve a one-world government.

Given the level of demonic activity in the pre-Flood world, as revealed in Genesis 6, I Peter 3:18-20, II Peter 2:4, and Jude 6, it would come as no great surprise to learn that one of the chief reasons for the great Deluge during the days of Noah was to eradicate the diabolical efforts to unite the world against the true God under an elite hierarchy of authority, empowered

by Satan and his cohorts—efforts which may have been allowed to approach a certain level of success before total destruction was unleashed. Remember that this is the first and only time in all of history that Yahweh chose to literally annihilate the human race, so serious was the situation upon the earth.

Recall also that the Messiah predicted that as it was in the days of Noah, so it would be during the time of His Second Coming. Consider the fact that the Bible plainly tells us that the end-time beast power will undoubtedly seek to bring the entire world under its dominance, and that it will be given its power, seat, and authority by the dragon; and that circumstances will become so untenable that were it not for the sake of the elect, **ALL FLESH** would once again be utterly destroyed! Looking at things in this light helps us to see the strong likelihood that the pre-Flood world probably descended into the same kind of hellish pit which is now ensnaring the entire modern world!

We can rest assured that the notorious incident at the tower of Babel, spearheaded by Nimrod, the son of Cush, both of whom can be demonstrated to have assumed the status of *gods*, is a classic example of the nearly successful efforts of evil men to rule the world, under the sway of Satan and his demons. Like their predecessors in the pre-Flood world, Cush and Nimrod perpetuated the Babylonian system

begun by Satan working in concert with Cain and his descendants.

We note in the Scriptures precisely what the real objective was in the tower of Babel episode. Reading from Genesis 11:4:

“And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven (*in whose top are the heavens - referring to the practice of inscribing the various demonic powers and heathen deities on the sides and top of the ziggurats*); and let us make a name, **LEST we be **SCATTERED** abroad upon the face of the whole earth” (Gen. 11:4).**

You see, the one thing the engineers of this ungodly uprising feared the most was being *scattered*. Their goal, therefore, was to take all necessary steps to keep control of the people. Of course, God perceived their intent, as we see in the following passage:

“And the Lord came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men built. And the Lord said, Behold, the **PEOPLE IS ONE, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now **NOTHING** will be **RESTRAINED** from them, which they have imagined to do” (Gen. 11:5-6).**

Nimrod, like the evil Cain before him, also grasped the strategic value of building cities, especially with regard to dominating the people. Most of the time we simply overlook the

fact that in the case of Babel, the instigators were not only erecting the infamous tower, but also constructing a city. City-building is indicative of the early global-controlling mind-set. The Bible goes on to tell us that:

“Cush begat Nimrod: he began to be a mighty one in the earth. He was a mighty hunter before the Lord (in place of Yahweh - signifying the likelihood of Nimrod’s deification): wherefore it is said, Even as Nimrod the mighty hunter before the Lord. And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel (Babylon), and Erech, and Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar. Out of that land went forth Asshur (Out of that land he [Nimrod] went forth into Assyria), and built Nineveh, and the city Rehoboth, and Calah, and Resen between Nineveh and Calah: the same is a great city” (Gen. 10:8-12).

When circumstances reached the point where God perceived that if He permitted Nimrod and his powermongers to succeed at Babel, they would not be restrained to then achieve the ultimate evil objective, He stepped in and did the very thing that they feared the most—He confused their languages, and scattered them abroad over the face of the whole earth, thus dealing a disastrous blow to this early post-Deluge attempt at controlling the entire human race!

Although it is impossible in this short study to chronicle the

involved evil machinations of a certain circle of *enlightened* operatives, whose ultimate objective has been to gain absolute power over the human race, suffice it to say that this desire and aim has never died out, its flames being fanned in every generation from the beginning until this very day. And it will culminate in what the Scriptures describe as the final beast power, at a critical point in time when the Almighty will allow Satan to attempt his most daring, diabolical, deceptive, and destructive strike ever against mankind! The rise of the beast from the sea will not be the result of some kind of accident, nor will be due to any sort of freakish circumstances. What the Bible describes in such graphic detail in the book of Revelation and elsewhere will be the direct product of thousands of years of Satanic planning, trial and error, one era after another, laying the groundwork, building upon the foundation, until the time is ripe for the unleashing of the most horrific monster the world will ever know or experience!

Throughout human history, not just the pre-Flood and immediate post-Flood eras, the world has experienced, though usually below its level of awareness, the relentless pursuit of world domination, especially since the Middle Ages onward, by a relatively small coterie of heavily monied international bankers, political manipulators, royal families, industrial magnates, key policy makers, certain powerful military personnel, a few religious

leaders, a myriad of secret societies, and a smattering of other skilled operatives. Many of history’s wars and revolutions, both major and minor, both across borders and civil, have been instigated to achieve particular goals in this plan. Many treaties, charters, national alliances, political assassinations, deposing of leaders, fiscal policies, educational systems, diplomatic maneuvers, corrupt press coverage, massive cover-ups, and a thousand other incidents and situations throughout the years, all form part of the ongoing attempt to secure control of the global community.

The Crusades, the American, French, and Bolshevik Revolutions, and World Wars I & II, for instance, were all initiated by powerful forces who never wielded a sword, or pulled a trigger, or pushed a detonator button! Great financial crises, such as the infamous stock market crash of 1929 and the subsequent Great Depression, the creation of socialism, communism, Nazism, and fascism, in America particularly--the outcome of presidential elections, but even more importantly, the ability to control the make-up of the executive branch of the government--key Cabinet members, presidential advisors, high-powered lawyers, Pentagon and State Department officials, etc.--the formation of foreign policies and international trade agreements, the establishment of any number of private and government *think tanks*, heavily funded philanthropic foundations, and the control of the

boards of huge multi-national corporations—all have played their roles in this unfolding drama!

Despite the strong feeling of patriotism that has been generated, due to manipulated tragic events of terrorism in America today, the facts of history speak loudly and cannot be denied. It is the United States and no other nation on earth who has been primarily responsible for the creation of the United Nations, the permanent home of the United Nations, the financial support of the United Nations, the effort to recruit all countries into the United Nations, and for controlling the vote of the crucial Security Council of the United Nations.

It is also the United States, above all other countries, who has sought to appear as a lamb to the rest of the world. This is not intended to badmouth the country, but anyone who is truly converted, aware of God's truth, and informed as to the atrocities performed, perpetuated, and exported by America, has to come clean and be honest about conditions as they really are. It is the United States who has established itself as *the* bastion of Christianity, *the* promoter of democracy, *the* champion of human rights, *the* chief advocate of peace, and *the* defender of freedom across the globe! No other nation in the modern era even approaches the efforts of this nation to make itself look like the great benefactor of mankind. In achieving this status, it has sought to export, peacefully or by the most extreme means

available, its form of government, its social system, its monetary policies, etc., and all ostensibly for the good of the rest of the world's people.

The fact that America has used its lamb-like cloak to hide its innumerable sins is not widely broadcast, and anyone who dares to point them out will, especially in today's political atmosphere, be immediately branded a traitor or worse. This is, of course, the precise climate that is needed for furthering the causes of those who desire to ultimately control the world. The day will come when anyone who opposes the powers that be will be dealt with in vicious terms. The punishment they receive will seem justified, since they will be perceived as enemies of the global community, opposers of peace, human rights, and freedom. It is a truly twisted world in which we live today, and bound to be worse before it mends. The one thing you and I can absolutely, positively depend upon is the fact that **NOTHING IS AS IT SEEMS!—BLACK IS WHITE AND DAY IS NIGHT!** And it will be this way until the end of the age is come. This is why the Word of God states unequivocally that in the latter days Satan the devil will have deceived the whole world!

It is not necessary in this discussion to enumerate all the major national sins of America. Of course, every country in the world and every person in the world, are all guilty of breaking the commandments of Yahweh. But the United States is the one nation

that has projected the image of the good guy with the white hat. It is by far the most powerful, richest, influential nation on earth. The problem is that it claims to be one thing, while sponsoring and approving quite another. It goes virtually without saying that America leads the world in murdering literally untold millions of human beings under the auspices of a woman's so-called *right to choose*, and that this *choice* is protected by the law of the land! Does any true believer actually think that God will be mocked with regard to this heinous crime? What about the swill that this country produces in the form of pornography, wretched music, homosexuality, including same-sex marriages, and an endless list of abominations that not only go unchecked, but continually are on the increase. The United States today has the world's highest divorce rate, and the sanctity of even heterosexual marriage is at an all-time low. This nation's various intelligence agencies, especially the CIA, have committed unspeakable crimes against humanity, both in this country and abroad, and have participated in the worst drug trafficking on the planet! The corruption abounding in Washington eclipses every other government in the world, and the list goes on and on and on. It goes without saying that our founding fathers would turn over in their graves were they to witness the level of degradation, filth, depravity, dishonesty, deception, and danger to which the government they created has fallen in these latter days!

And believe me when I say that no American, including you and me, really wants to know the depths of intrigue, deception, depravity, betrayal, ruthlessness, hidden agendas of evil, and literal association and interaction with purely demonic forces, that has and continues to transpire behind the scenes among the secret planners and manipulators in this world. To the average person, it all sounds just too fantastic, too far-fetched, and, with respect to the normal mind, it absolutely is! But nothing, and I do mean utterly **NOTHING** is too wretched, too evil, too horrendous, too taboo, for those who are bound up in this cartel of controllers seeking domination of the earth and its people! He that has an ear to hear, let him hear!!

The thing about it all is that the system adopted by the framers of the U.S. Constitution, although capable of producing good, cannot possibly realize its true potential unless those who administer the government of this country are honest and moral individuals. Otherwise, the American approach can be more easily manipulated and corrupted than almost any other method of government on earth, and this is precisely what has transpired over the years in the United States. So, while we all, from a certain perspective, may admire and appreciate the kind of system under which this country operates, we cannot afford to allow the good that may have been done to overshadow and blind us to the wickedness that has been so

cleverly cloaked by those who have fought and bought their way into the halls of power. If we fail to recognize this fact, we subject ourselves to the deceptive cover that has been spread over this land and its people, and we will not be capable of discerning why God's wrath toward us burns like a fire, and indeed why this nation will suffer untold punishment before all is said and done!

When Yahweh tells His people that He is going to require their very blood because of the sins of the nation, He is undoubtedly speaking to the United States more than any other country on earth today! Make no mistake about it, America, though riding the crest of the wave at this brief moment in history, is going down, and the entire world will be in utter shock and disbelief when it occurs!

If indeed we are living in the period that the Bible labels the *end-time*, the United Nations fulfills the role of the first beast of Revelation 13, and the United States the second beast to a tee! The first beast, you will recall, suffers a deadly wound, but is then healed as the world stands in amazement. Don't forget that in modern times, the United Nations started out as the League of Nations, but that attempt to create a one-world government ultimately failed, necessitating a recovery or healing, if you will. The result, of course, is the entity we now have headquartered in New York City to which virtually every civilized country in the world belongs.

We all know, of course, that the leader or **HEAD** of the United Nations holds the office of Secretary General. Just as a very interesting aside, if you go back to the founding year of 1945 and count the number of Secretaries General that have directed the affairs of the U.N., you will find that there have been precisely **SEVEN!** This fact may be more important than it might seem, given the information we are covering, and the realization that the book of Revelation clearly states that the beast which rises from the sea has exactly **SEVEN HEADS!**

In addition and certainly along the same lines, we read in Revelation 13 that this first beast also has ten horns. A horn is used in this instance to represent a king or a kingdom. We do not, however, have to think only in terms of actual royal blood with respect to a king, since in our day and time, this could easily be understood as a leader or perhaps by any number of particular titles, i.e., Minister, Administrator, Governor, Secretary, etc.

In like manner, in modern terms the use of the word *kingdom* could well be seen as *region* or *sector* or *territory*. I would guess that such reasoning would find agreement with most people today.

Again, it is very interesting and informative that, for a number of years now, the United Nations has had specific recorded plans to divide the entire world up into precisely **TEN** regional districts,

with an administrator of some sort in charge of governing the area. How important this fact proves to be clearly remains to be seen, but if it is perceived merely as another coincidence, we might do well to realize just how long the list of apparent incidental or accidental occurrences there are with regard to the United Nations seeming to fit the Biblical description of the end-time beast power. At some point, it would seem that the evidence has to become rather convincing!

The United States, on the other hand, is the one nation that has sought to cause the entire world to worship the first beast, that is, bow down or submit to its authority. This eventually will include the erasure of national boundaries, and the superceding of established national constitutions and sovereignty, and opposition to such impositions will receive swift and devastating recriminations, including death! Just compare where this world is headed with what the book of Revelation has to say about the beast and Babylon at the time of the end. If, and I emphasize if, we are living in that time, then what we are witnessing encroaching upon the world scene has to be viewed as nothing less than the direct fulfillment of Biblical prophecy!

In addition, the world role which America has taken on in this respect puts her in a position to perfectly fulfill latter-day Babylon, as described in the books of Revelation, Isaiah, and Jeremiah. Even though the second beast of

Revelation 13 is not mentioned outright beyond that chapter, it almost certainly is identified under another name a little later in the book. Remember that it is Babylon who rides the beast in Revelation 17, a precise description of the part played by the United States with regard to the U.N. It is Babylon who at the time of the end is the richest, mightiest, most glorious nation on the face of the earth, and today no other country exists, save America herself, who could remotely fulfil this inspired prediction. Truly, it does not take a rocket scientist to perceive that the United States in almost every respect looks exactly like what the Bible terms end-time *Babylon*!

For many of us, it is difficult, given our former church indoctrination, to comprehend that America could possibly be who the Bible identifies as fulfilling the role of latter-day Babylon, but this need not be the case. The fact that we may believe that the United States is, in reality, a part of Israel, having descended from one or more of the ancient 12 tribes, does not negate the possibility or even likelihood that this country could also be termed *Babylon*. The reason for this is simple. Babylon, although long ago the name of an actual race of people, originally was a system of government, a method for controlling people, of permeating every aspect of individual and national life with philosophies, approaches, policies, and positions intended to keep the populace relatively ignorant of the insider knowledge to which only the manipulators are privileged,

while at the same time providing a certain amount of security and comfort for the masses, in order to keep them satisfied and thus distracted from the real purposes that are being pursued and achieved. Therefore, *Babylon* is by no means restricted to a particular race of people, but could conceivably, in one form or another, be found entrenched among many, many peoples, or even the entire world!

Many might be amazed to discover that the Scriptures show clearly that in the end-time, Israel is **IN BABYLON** or, perhaps put another way, **BABYLON IS IN ISRAEL!** This is the reason Jeremiah prophesies:

"Babylon shall become heaps, a dwellingplace for dragons, an astonishment, and a hissing, without an inhabitant. They shall roar together like lions...I will bring them down like lambs to the slaughter, like rams with he goats. How is Sheshach taken! And how is the praise of the whole earth SURPRISED! How is Babylon become an ASTONISHMENT AMONG THE NATIONS! The sea is come up upon Babylon: she is covered with the multitude of the waves thereof. Her cities are a desolation, a dry land and a wilderness...and I will bring forth out of his mouth that which he has swallowed up: and the NATIONS shall NOT FLOW TOGETHER (U.N./U.S.?) any more unto him; yea, the wall of Babylon shall fall. MY PEOPLE, GO YOU OUT OF

THE MIDST OF HER, and deliver you every man his soul from the fierce anger of the Lord. And let not your heart faint or fear, for the rumor that shall be heard in the land; a rumor shall both come in one year, and after that in another year shall come a rumor, and violence in the land, ruler against ruler...As Babylon (U.S./British-led power elite) has caused the slain of Israel to fall, so at Babylon shall fall the slain of all the earth.

“YOU that have ESCAPED THE SWORD, GO AWAY, STAND NOT STILL; remember the Lord afar off, and let Jerusalem come into your mind. We are confounded, because we have heard reproach: shame has covered our faces: for STRANGERS are come into the sanctuaries of the Lord’s house...Though Babylon should mount up to heaven, and though she should fortify the height of her strength, yet from Me shall spoilers come unto her, says the Lord. A sound of a cry comes from Babylon, and great destruction from the land of the Chaldeans: because the Lord has spoiled Babylon, and destroyed out of her the great voice...Because the spoiler is come upon her, even upon Babylon, and her mighty men are taken, every one of their bows is broken: for the Lord God of recompences shall surely requite. And I will make drunk her princes, and her wise men, her captains, and her rulers, and her mighty men: and they sleep

a perpetual sleep, and not wake, says the King, whose name is the Lord of hosts...The broad walls of Babylon shall be utterly broken, and her high gates shall be burned with fire; and the people shall labor in vain, and the folk in the fire, and they shall be weary” (Jer. 51:37-58).

And this is precisely why the book of Revelation has God saying with the utmost urgency:

“COME OUT OF HER (Babylon), My people, that you be not partakers of her sins, and that you receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities” (Rev. 18:4-5).

When it is said that America is Babylon in today’s world, it is not intended as a reference to the average U.S. citizen, who is really much more of a captive pawn of other more sinister, more powerful, more destructive forces, which truly comprise Babylon at this time. (If you desire additional information on this and related subjects, please request the following *free* material – *Who is Babylon? 1-4; Babylon–That Mighty City!; The Specter of Globalism 1-8; The Illuminati–Fact or Fiction?; The Greatest Deception; The New Order of the Ages; The Origin of the New World Order*).

THE PROPHECY OF HABAKKUK

Not a great deal is known concerning the Biblical prophet named Habakkuk. His prophecy, however, short as it may be, contains latter-day information that is absolutely paramount to the kind of study in which are engaged. You may not have read this book very often. Seldom would any of us have heard a sermon on the prophecy of Habakkuk, but its applicability to the United States at this juncture in history is really quite astounding!

First of all, we need to establish when this prophecy is predicted to be fulfilled. Is it for some time in the remote past, or for today and the near future? Habakkuk received a vision from Yahweh, and, although he did not fully understand it or even agree with it at first, he was nevertheless told to record it. Note the following passage, beginning in chapter 2, verse 1:

“I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what He (God) will say unto me, and what I shall answer when I am reproved. And the Lord answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tablets, that he may run that reads it. For the vision is yet for an APPOINTED TIME, but AT THE END it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come” (Hab. 2:1-3).

Like most ancient Biblical prophecies, there is usually a specific, local, typical fulfillment that foreshadows the much later, and normally much greater, effectuation of the prediction. This prophecy also has far greater implications for the latter days. In the time of Habakkuk, God states that the vision was tarrying, but that the prophet should record the details, because in the end-time, every aspect of the prophecy would eventually be fulfilled.

Another key point to understand is the fact that the Almighty Himself specifically tells us through Habakkuk that the vision He is giving the prophet will not be believed and accepted. We read in chapter 1:5:

“Behold you among the heathen, and regard, and wonder marvelously: for I will work a work in your days, which you will NOT BELIEVE, though it be told you.”

This is significant to note, because there is something about this particular prophecy that is difficult for many to embrace, and it has altogether to do with the very subject we are currently discussing in this paper. What God is prophesying through Habakkuk is unprecedented, and when people hear of it, they simply cannot bring themselves to believe that it could be, because it will go against precious, long-held assumptions with regard to what peoples are really involved in the matter.

And what precisely is it about this prophecy that will seem incredible and impossible to those who hear or read it? God gives us the answer in the very next verse, where we read:

“For, lo, I raise up the CHALDEANS, that bitter and hasty nation, which shall MARCH through the breadth of the land, to POSSESS the dwelling places that are NOT theirs.”

If we look at this verse from The Tanakh, it reads even more clearly:

“For lo, I am raising up the Chaldeans, that fierce, impetuous nation, who CROSS THE EARTH’S WIDE SPACES to seize homes not their own” (Hab. 1:6).

When Yahweh states that He will raise up the *Chaldeans*, to whom is He referring? This is the crux of the issue. Chaldea is simply another name for BABYLON, and Chaldeans an alternate term for Babylonians. So, God is saying that IN THE END He is going to raise up the Babylonians, and they are going to do something that will ultimately affect the very course of history!

Now, lest we forget the premise upon which this study is based, please allow me to re-state it at this juncture. What we are considering are several of the key prophecies pertaining to the end-time, but we are doing so on the supposition that the time in which we now live and into which we

shall soon enter comprise that period the Bible terms the *latter days* or the *end of the age*. If, of course, it should turn out that we are not at all living in those times, then this interpretation cannot apply.

These latter-day Chaldeans or Babylonians are described in Habakkuk’s vision in the following manner:

“They are terrible and dreadful: their judgment and their dignity shall proceed of themselves” (Hab. 1:7).

This verse needs a little explanation in that the KJV rendition of the Hebrew is simply not all that clear. A better and more accurate rendering would be as follows from the Hebrew Scriptures known as *The Tanakh*:

“They (Chaldeans) are terrible, dreadful; they make THEIR OWN LAWS and rules” (Hab. 1:7).

This version now makes much better sense, and the description is far more appropriate to the actual powers involved in the prophecy. The Eternal then goes on to say of this latter-day Babylon:

“Their horses are swifter than the LEOPARDS, and are more fierce than the evening wolves: and their horsemen shall spread themselves, and their horsemen shall come from AFAR; they

shall FLY AS THE EAGLE that hastes to eat" (Hab. 1:8).

If, as we are supposing, the time period in which we live today is part of the Biblical latter-days, who do you think this Babylonian force could possibly be? It absolutely would have to be one of the most powerful nations on earth. Even the few descriptive verses we have been given clearly indicate this to be a fact. This great military combine is said to come from far away, flying across the wide spaces of the earth. They are more swift than leopards, which is in itself a most interesting statement, especially since we have already encountered the leopard in our study of Daniel 7 and Revelation 13, strongly suggesting that it is a reference to Germany, and particularly to the infamous Nazi air power (both in terms of fighter planes, as well as rocketry). Thus, it would seem apparent that the mention of leopards in connection with Habakkuk's prophecy is a strong indication that this great end-time Babylonian superpower has complete air supremacy.

The latter-day Chaldeans are said to be terrible, striking dread and fear into the hearts of those who oppose them. And they are known to be a people who devise their own rules by which they operate. In other words, they are not like the rest of the nations; they are, in effect, a law unto themselves. They are unchallenged and unchallengeable! They function as they please,

disregarding all other considerations.

This fierce armed force is described as coming from far off, from a place well away from the Middle East. *The Tanakh* says:

"Their steeds gallop—their steeds come FLYING FROM AFAR" (Hab. 1:8).

And, to top it all off, this end-time Babylon is compared to a very particular animal—one which we have already met in this study, and that is the **EAGLE!** In the modern world, the eagle has been and still remains the national symbol of the United States. Today, it is America who is totally without challenge in the world; it is America who makes the rules by which the game is played; it is America that strikes fear into the hearts of its enemies; it is America who has complete domination of the air, with its superior aircraft, satellite coverage, carriers, and missile systems; and, perhaps above all, it is America who today crosses the wide spaces of the earth to converge upon the Middle East, swooping down and covering the land.

Coupling these facts with all the other descriptions of end-time Babylon found in the Bible, if indeed our day is part of that predicted era, then the United States, by far the most prominent and powerful nation the world has ever known in all its history, is unquestionably a major player in Bible prophecy, and has no real

competition at this time in meeting the criteria for latter-day Babylon!

Would you not consider it an amazing omission if America were not mentioned in the prophecies of Scripture? How is such a thing even possible or thinkable, and yet there are many so-called *experts* on Bible prophecy who claim that this nation is simply not in all the many latter-day predictions. Most people in this country today simply cannot and will not believe the real and full truth about the United States, and what is taking place both in the public corridors of power in Washington, D.C., and especially in the private power centers in New York City and elsewhere.

The objective of American military power is not just Iraq, even though that nation is the latest conquest. Note what Habakkuk goes on to record concerning end-time Babylon:

"They shall all come, bent on violence: their faces shall sup up as the east wind, and they shall amass captives like sand. Kings they hold in derision, and princes are a joke to them; they laugh at every fortress, they pile up earth and capture it. Then they pass on like the wind. They transgress and incur guilt, for they ascribe their might to their god" (Hab. 1:9-11).

In verse 9, the King James Version states: **"They shall come all for violence; their faces shall sup up as the east wind."** The

better rendering from the Hebrew should read: **"They shall all come, bent on violence, the opposition of their faces TOWARD THE EAST."**

Note well that this end-time Babylonian armed force literally ignores rulers and scorns the leaders of nations. It derides every stronghold, as though they were nothing; it takes captives like sand! Who today, I ask you, is capable of doing this, and, even more importantly, who **IS** actually **DOING THIS** today?

The fact that in this prophetic description of latter-day Babylon it is said that it scoffs at kings and scorn princes, both plural, strongly indicates that its intention is not limited to just one conquest, but many. And, in the long run, the arrogant attitude and approach of Babylon toward the nations of the world, the violence and havoc that it wreaks in its numerous military conquests, will all come to a head in the near future, culminating in the retaliation of the world against it and the ultimate destruction of Babylon the Great! The prophet Jeremiah says:

"Hear then the plan that the Lord has devised against Babylon, and has purposed against the land of Chaldea: Surely the shepherd boys shall drag them away; surely the pasture shall be aghast because of them. At the sound of Babylon's capture the earth quakes, and an outcry is heard

among the nations" (Jer. 50:45-46).

My friends, a dangerous, deceptive, and destructive power has overtaken the United States and England, the prime components comprising end-time Babylon, viewing, as we are, our own era in the light of the latter-day period. Again I emphasize that average Americans and Brits are not Babylon, but rather are captives of the Babylonian force and influence that now controls the direction and operation of these nations.

At this point in time, what is the United States seeking to accomplish? Clearly it is to impose its power, its authority, its influence, and its form of government, upon the nations. It is literally attempting to conform the world to its own image. And does the Bible speak of an end-time *image*? Why yes, it does, and it is intimately associated with the second beast of Revelation 13, the beast that rises out of the earth, the beast who creates an *image*, and seeks to force the rest of the world to fall down before it and worship it; or, in other words, to capitulate to its authority. And all the while this is done in the name of making the world a safer place for democracy, freedom, human rights, and peace.

Thus, the deception is virtually complete, and were it not for God Almighty, nothing would stop this program for world domination! And in the eyes of Yahweh, this thing that is now

transpiring is unspeakably evil! There will be retribution, and a high price to pay, for God goes on to prophesy through Habakkuk concerning the end of Babylon, saying:

"The proud man (the Babylonian invaders) is RESTLESS and CANNOT STAY AT HOME. His APPETITE is large like that of Sheol (*the pit or grave*), and his greed is like death and CANNOT BE SATISFIED; he gather to himself ALL NATIONS. and collects people AS IF HE OWNED THEM. Shall not ALL, THESE [victims of his greed] take up a taunt against him, and in scoffing derision of him say, Woe to him who piles up that which is not his! How long will he possess it? And woe to him who loads himself with promissory notes for usury! Shall your debtors not RISE UP SUDDENLY who shall BITE YOU, exacting usury from you, and those awake who will vex you—toss you to and fro and make you tremble violently? Then you will be booty for them. Because you (Babylon) have plundered many nations, all who are left of the people shall plunder you, because of men's blood, and for the violence done to the earth, to the city and all the people who live in each city. Woe to him who obtains wicked gain for his house, who thinks that by so doing to set his NEST ON HIGH, that he may be preserved from calamity and delivered from the power of evil! You have devised shame to your

house by cutting off and putting an end to many peoples, and you have sinned against and forfeited your own life...The cup of wrath in the Lord's right hand will come around to you, O destroyer, and foul shame shall be upon your own glory!" (Hab. 2:5-10, 16).

If it proves to be true that this generation is indeed living in what the Bible calls the *time of the end*, then this prophecy of Habakkuk could well be a very accurate description of the present action of the United States and its partner Great Britain, as well as the ultimate demise and destruction of these nations. I believe that, due to the amazing closeness between this and many other predictions regarding latter-day Babylon, and the history, nature, and course taken by America, as well as the warning in Habakkuk that when these things arise on the world scene, most will simply not believe it, we must force ourselves to stay informed, watch carefully what is transpiring, consider closely the motives involved, and remain continually aware that the interpretation and fulfillment of these Bible prophecies could well be applicable to our time and to our peoples.

In saying all of this, I do not mean to state or imply that Americans are greater sinners than other nationalities, for we are taught that all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. In like manner, I do not believe that all U.S. government employees are

somehow knowingly involved in hideous, diabolical plans. Most citizens of this country, in fact, know very little of what is transpiring, and frankly care even less. Therefore, we as a people are perfectly positioned to be manipulated, propagandized, and made pawns in the dangerous game being played by the power elite of this world.

Whenever this subject comes up, the question invariably arises concerning the real nature of our current president, George W. Bush. Outwardly this man appears and claims to be a Christian. In this, he may well be quite sincere. But I am always reminded of the fact that the history of the Bush family, which has been carefully researched and documented, is not by and large one of super-patriotism and acting beneficently toward the average American. Rather it is a history of greed, corruption, secret societies, and elitism of the worst kind.

On the other hand, it may well be possible that this particular member of the Bush family is, in fact, what he claims to be. If so, he is certainly an exception with regard to his forefathers. At this point in time, the American president appears to be the great champion of democracy, freedom, and peace in the world. It is deemed a virtual act of treason to think otherwise or to question his motives or actions. As with many past presidents, however, it may not be the man himself who is truly in power, but rather those who surround him in various positions

of government, as well as those who remain concealed behind the scenes in the real corridors of power in the world today.

Historically, especially since the American Civil War, U.S. presidents, whether rated good or bad, left or right, have been little more than figureheads, mere puppets whose strings are pulled by other far more powerful forces. A few of them have sought to resist these higher powers, and it has cost them their reputations, their presidencies, and, in certain extreme instances, their very lives! Others have reluctantly given in, knowing that they were controlled by a consortium of major players operating behind the scenes, but hopeful that if they were to go along with the system, they could still possibly do some good. And, of course, there is the group of chief executives who have both knowingly and willingly bowed to the plans of those who actually control the White House.

Perhaps, to grant him the benefit of the doubt, George W. Bush is in the middle category. It is my personal opinion that his father was unquestionably in the latter group, because the facts reveal that he simply has been too entrenched in the efforts to create by one means or another a one-world government where the rich and powerful rule. Mr. Bush, Sr., and the Bush family in general, have been heavily involved in the oil industry for years, and their activity on behalf of the great petroleum cartels is well documented. Indeed, even George

W. Bush must have deep concerns with regard to the Middle East oil-producing nations versus the state of Israel. Most Americans believe that Mr. Bush is a friend of Israel, but do not lose sight of the fact that President Bush has numerous deeply-rooted connections to the Arab countries, and is one of the chief proponents of an independent Palestinian state within the confines of Israel.

Please realize that nothing in this article is emphatically **NOT** intended to outright slander anyone or any group. Most of those who share a COG background have felt for many years that America and Britain are both on a collision course with Almighty God because of their national and personal sins. If this is so, and I truly believe it is, then why should it be offensive or surprising to anyone that the actions of these nations and their leaders today should be highly suspect? It only stands to reason, and the truth is borne out by the facts, that the United States and Great Britain continue to be guilty of horrendous sins, and God will not be mocked in this matter.

Of course, it goes without saying that the United States has been greatly blessed of the Eternal, and, over the years of its existence has done good things. I, nor very many other Americans, would seriously consider giving up his citizenship for some other form of human government. But flag-waving and patriotic fervor are no substitute for repentance and obedience, and, frankly, even in spite of the carefully staged and,

sadly, tragic events of 9/11, this is quite simply not the time for such activity. Rather every American ought to be on his knees, searching his soul, crying out to God, **NOT** to bless America, as the endless billboards and mindless church marquees suggest, for the very gift of repentance, personally and nationally, for the utter overthrow of the abominable beast power that even now has much of this world in its death-grip, and for the Spirit of the Living Messiah to individually withstand the evil day and walk uprightly before the Lord! Anything less is, quite frankly, meaningless and ultimately worthless!

If those words offend anyone, I am truly sorry, not for saying them, but for the person involved. Americans have historically been able to coast their way through most of life in a way inconceivable and impossible for the rest of humanity. And though this has all been pleasurable, it has also worked against us grievously. God, in the sternest of warnings, shouts to America and Britain:

“Woe to those who are ATEASE in Zion, and to those on the mountain of Samaria who are CARELESS and feel SECURE, the notable men of the chief of the nations...O you who put far away the evil day of punishment, yet cause the sitting of violence upon you to come near. Woe to those who lie upon beds of ivory and stretch themselves upon their couches, and eat the lambs out of the flock, and the calves out of the midst of the stall; who

sing idle songs to the sound of the harp, and invent for themselves instruments of music...who drink wine in bowls, and anoint themselves with the finest oils, but are NOT GRIEVED and sick at heart OVER THE AFFLICTION AND RUIN OF JOSEPH! Therefore now shall they go captive with the first who go into exile, and the revelry of those who stretch themselves shall be ended. The Lord God has sworn by Himself...I ABHOR, reject, and despise the PRIDE and false, futile glory of Jacob, and I HATE his PALACES AND STRONGHOLDS” (Amos 6:1-8).

Instead of living in the lap of luxury, making assumptions that we are supreme, that nothing can touch us, God says we ought to be crying and sick at heart over the affliction of our nation! Indeed, instead of decorating our automobiles with American flags and thumbing our nose at the rest of the world, we ought to humble ourselves in tears before the throne of Yahweh in heaven!

We have had so much for so long that we feel we deserve it, and will do anything, legal or illegal, moral or immoral, to hold on to our little piece of the much-heralded American dream. Our blessings have gone to our heads, and Yahweh speaks to the very condition now infecting this nation when He says:

“Ephraim feeds on wind...he daily increases lies and

desolation...He (Jacob) took his brother by the heel in the womb, and his strength he had power with God...Therefore turn you to your God: keep mercy and judgment, and wait on your God continually. He is a MERCHANT, the balances of DECEIT are in his hand, and he LOVES TO OPPRESS. And Ephraim said, Yet I am become RICH, I have found me out substance: in all my labors they shall find NO INIQUITY IN ME that were sin!"

"When Ephraim (U.S. led latter-day Israel) spoke with authority and everyone trembled, he EXALTED HIMSELF in Israel; but when he offended in Baal, he died...According to their pasture, so they were filled; they were filled, and their heart was EXALTED; therefore have they FORGOTTEN ME. Therefore I will be unto them as a LION: as a LEOPARD by the way will I observe them; I will meet them as a BEAR bereaved of her whelps, and will rend the caul of their heart, and there will I devour them like a lion: the wild BEAST shall TEAR THEM. O Israel, you have destroyed yourself; but in Me in your help...The iniquity of Ephraim is bound up; his sin is HIDDEN. The sorrows of a travailing woman shall come upon him...Though he be fruitful among his brethren, an EAST WIND shall come up from the wilderness, and his spring shall become dry, and his fountain

shall be dried up" (Hos. 12: 1, 3, 6-8; 13:1, 6-9, 12-13, 15).

The exalted status of this nation has caused us to assume that we can do as we please in the world, and go our own way, and as our leaders have taken the hard-earned money of the U.S. middle-class and spread it all over the world in apparent acts of beneficence, Almighty God says that we have only been BUYING OUR LOVERS, that is, paying the prostitutes for services rendered! For, again in Hosea, we read:

"Israel is the same as swallowed up. Already they have become among the nations as a cheap vessel...For they are gone up to Assyria, a wild ass taking HER OWN WAY BY HERSELF; Ephraim has HIRED LOVERS. Yes, though with PRESENTS they hire lovers (ALLIES) among the nations, now will I gather them up, and in a little while they will sorrow and begin to DIMINISH" (Hos. 8:8-10).

And, while we put blind trust in our leaders and cheer them on as though they were the true defenders of the faith, God looks at us and says:

"Set the trumpet to your lips! The enemy comes as a great vulture...because they have broken My covenant, and transgressed against My law...They set up kings, but NOT FROM ME [therefore without My blessing]; they have made princes or removed them without consulting Me, therefore

I recognized them not!" (Hos. 8:1, 4).

Obviously, as you well know, I could go on and on. If we choose to ignore these and the innumerable other warnings from the Word of God, or claim that they do not apply to us but to ancient peoples or simply someone else, we are making the greatest mistake possible, and the repercussions will be devastating. Right now, as you read this article, powerful forces are at work in the world, determining the future of America and her few close allies. And, in spite of the fact that we are presently riding the crest of the wave, there is thundering crash awaiting us!

Please allow me to remind you that the Scriptures reveal that end-time Babylon, though greater by far than any other nation on earth, and though riding the very beast itself, will ultimately be hated and destroyed by the very nations who once trembled before her power, and who once envied her unparalleled wealth, for we read in Revelation 17:

"And the ten horns which saw upon the beast, these shall HATE THE WHORE (Babylon), and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and BURN HER WITH FIRE. For God has put in their hearts to fulfil His will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled" (Rev. 17:16-17).

Once again, let me close with the statement I made at the beginning of this study, and it is that the discussion of the relevancy of Daniel 7 is based entirely upon a three-fold premise: 1) that we are at this point in time living in what the Scriptures describe as the *end-time* or *latter days*; 2) that the return of the Messiah is quite close, not necessarily immediate, but very near indeed; and 3) that the major international military and political powers of this time period are to be found in Bible prophecy, including the United States of America.

One has to wonder if indeed the book of Daniel, filled as it is with so many prophetic visions, dreams, symbols, and signs, is not written or structured in a way somewhat differently than most of the other books of Bible prophecy. For instance, Daniel is quite careful to tell us fairly precisely when each of the visions or dreams occurred. For instance, king Nebuchadnezzar's famous dream, recorded in Daniel 2, is said to have transpired in the second year of his reign.

The interesting point is that the book of Daniel is not written in chronological order. The various dreams and visions appear to be placed in such a manner as to relate the content of the different prophecies. In chapter 5, we encounter the well know incident of Belshazzar's drunken feast, which in fact turned out to be the final night of both his reign and his life. But over in chapter 8, we are told of the vision

of the ram and the goat, which took place in Belshazzar's third year.

In addition, the prophecies given through Daniel appear to be connected in some way, for we observe certain symbols and signs and beasts recurring throughout the book. I mention these facts at the close of this discussion simply to say that the book of Daniel is an area of Scripture that has a very special design to it, and is worthy of much serious study by believers today, especially since so much of the material can be definitively seen as applying to the latter-days. Hopefully this will become a subject of study for someone in the near future.

In this regard, I might just suggest that the prophetic vision of Daniel 8 ought to be considered in the light of today's world. This is the aforementioned story of the devastating conflict between the ram with two horns and the rough he-goat with one great horn. Although this passage of Scripture is generally interpreted as applying to Alexander the Great's crushing defeat of Persia at the battle of Arbella in 331 B.C., the angel speaking to Daniel clearly states that the vision is for the time of the end.

Is it possible that, in this particular prophecy, the ancient Medo/Persian and Greek empires, in addition to being understood as actual history, might also be symbolic of crucial events in the Middle East in the latter days, wherein a great military power from the west overflows the

nations comprised by the ancient Medes and Persians? If so, then a connection to our very day is at least certainly feasible.

At this point in time, no human being can know of an absolute certainty when the end of the age will occur, and if someone tells you they do, I would suggest running from them like the wind! What we do know, however, and what we can come to know, ought to sober us all. Whether or not we will find ourselves living in the very end-time remains to be seen, but the handwriting does appear to be on the wall, and we would do well to take careful note of the signs of the times, reject the philosophy that puts down those who are willing to openly look into the evil things now transpiring, draw closer to the Almighty and His Son now as never before, put on the armor of God, and steel ourselves against the terror to come, that, having done all, we might stand (Eph. 6: 10-12)!

A few sources of information utilized in this article are: 1) *Best's Intelligence Review-March issue*; 2) *The Companion Bible*, ed. Dr. E. W. Bullinger; 3) *Christian Media Network*; 4) *Wall Street & the Rise of Hitler*, Dr. Anthony Sutton; 5) *The Immaculate Deception*, Russell S. Bowen; 6) *Wall Street and the Bolshevik Revolution*, Dr. Anthony Sutton; 7) *The Tanakh - The Hebrew Scriptures*.

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