

Insights In Prophecy

Unlock The Ancient Mysteries Of Daniel & Revelation

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26

LESSON

Lesson 26

MYSTERY BABYLON & THE SEVEN POLITICAL LEADERS

Read Revelation 17

- **Focus On The Identity Of Mystery Babylon The Great**
- **Identify The Seven Rulers Of The End-times**

Revelation chapters 17 and 18 have been a source of speculation of sometimes bizarre reasoning over the centuries; and rightfully so, for this has been God's mystery held secret through the ages. The Reformers assigned MYSTERY BABYLON THE GREAT to Catholicism, but this idea has been either dismissed or downplayed by many Protestants today. Rome is thought to be the great city Babylon, and still others have written that Iraq's modern-day rebuilding constitutes Babylon of prophecy, or New York City fits the bill; but, future events will prove all these ideas wrong.

Added to the mysterious Babylon are the seven kings of Revelation 17, who are considered historical personalities by most commentaries. However, the chapter's true intent must be understood by first considering the source of the visions: Jesus—a *Jewish-born Messiah* (Revelation 1:1-3), and the author of the book of Revelation: John—a *Jewish prophet writing primarily about events affecting Israel and Jerusalem, to be delivered to seven churches made up primarily of Jewish converts to Yeshua*. In addition, the primary context of the book concerns future *last-day events*, including this all-important chapter.

The *end-time* context of the prophecies of Revelation is self-evident, so why would we apply chapter 17 to long-dead historical political leaders? Prophetic views, widely taught in theological training centers today, are rehashed interpretations of scholars and teachers who lived hundreds of years ago. These people are dead and gone; but God's Spirit is alive and well! Let God speak and let His Holy Word bear witness to the final unsealing that can enlighten believers, who must endure this final conflict and global upheaval.

The Two Cities Of Revelation Represent Two Women—One A Prostitute, The Other Messiah's Bride

Revelation 17 exposes the condition of the woman—the *great whore*—and the political landscape around the globe during the *final 40 days* known as the Great Tribulation, as the conflict of the ages nears its climax. Chapter 16 has just described the terrible global punishments of the seven bowls of God's wrath. Therefore, the seven kings of chapter 17, five of which are fallen, represent *end-time last-day world leaders* who have been killed in the plague disasters of the previous chapters, poured out against the nations. They are not, as has often been published in commentaries and books of prophecy, historical political personalities of ages past.



John provides a unique contrast between the two cities of Revelation, one wicked and one virtuous, and both are introduced by one of the seven angels. Revelation 17:1 communicates that "*One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls*" come to John inviting him to a desolate location to witness the judgment of the adulterous wife—the woman who left her first love to find wealth, protection and splendor from the Beast of nations. The Angel said, "*Come, I will show you the punishment of the great prostitute*" who sits on many waters" of the nations.

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The first woman turns from Heaven's favor and from God's husbandry to become a prostitute, and by doing so has enticed the whole world into her sin of rejecting Messiah and welcoming Antichrist. In symbolism she sits atop the Dragon of the sea, which signifies her global adoration and embrace particularly by the three Abrahamic religions—Judaism, Christianity and Islam—found throughout the "peoples, multitudes, nations and languages" of the world (v. 15).

Consider this in contrast to the description of the second woman later in Revelation 21:9; where, no doubt, the same Seventh Angel is introducing a virtuous woman: *"One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls"* came to John inviting him to a high mountain to see the honorable lady. The Angel said, *"Come, I will show you the Bride, the Wife of the Lamb."* He continued, *"And He carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,"* (v. 10).



1. What is the first woman's Biblical reputation (Revelation 17:2)? _____

There is great disappointment in Heaven, because of the prostitute's behavior. She was once the bride of Messiah, but now she will turn to the Man of Sin and the political leaders around the world to support and protect her. By doing so, she proves that she has forgotten her Covenant with God. Although loved by Almighty God, she has had a checkered background from the beginning. Historically, God's people honored Elohim with their lips, but their hearts were often far from Him. Yahweh freed the Israelites from Egyptian slavery, and they began their love affair with a Covenant relationship at Mt. Sinai, described as a marriage in the Scriptures. However, as Moses soon discovered, she often departed from her relationship with the Living God to prostitute with other religions of her day, and to worship images of wood and stone.

"Go and proclaim in the hearing of Jerusalem: "This is what the LORD says: "'I remember the devotion of your youth, how as a bride you loved Me and followed Me through the wilderness, through a land not sown. Israel was holy to the LORD, the firstfruits of His harvest; all who devoured her were held guilty, and disaster overtook them,'" declares the LORD," HOWEVER, "on your clothes is found the lifeblood of the innocent poor, though you did not catch them breaking in. Yet in spite of all this you say, 'I am innocent; He is not angry with me.' But I will pass judgment on you because you say, 'I have not sinned,'" Jeremiah 2:2-3; 34-35.

On a similar path, the early church began her walk with Christ, but she too departed from the way. In the centuries to follow Christianity's love for pagan idols and sun worship was so deeply rooted, that the Ten Commandments could not be accepted as they read. The religious hierarchy erased the second commandment against idolatry from her creeds and split the tenth commandment on covetousness into two, to maintain the count of ten. Nevertheless, revision of God's Holy Word is strictly forbidden (Matthew 5:17-19; Revelation 22:18-19).

The commands of the Decalogue have been cunningly altered and shortened to downplay the Law of God. The fourth commandment demands that we "Remember the seventh day" to keep it holy. Now the command has been tainted to read, "Remember to keep holy the LORD's Day." No priest, pope, theologian, church or religious organization has the right to change the ten precepts of Elohim, written in stone by His own hand. Still, it is man's obstinate nature to challenge God's Word, and to skirt around His clear commands for the sake of convenience and tradition.

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2. Revelation 17:2 says, "The kings of the earth committed adultery and the inhabitants of the earth were intoxicated with the wine of her adulteries." What does spiritual adultery imply, according to Jeremiah 3:8-9? _____

As noted, Judaism and Christianity turned from the living God to fall down before idols and icons made of wood and stone, popes and false prophets. In the last days, Catholic and Protestant Christians, Jews, Muslims and the whole world will be taken into idolatry through deceptive signs and miracles. Both liberal and Evangelical Christians, who should know better, will lose their good senses when they drink the wine of delusion. The long history of God's people defecting to the other side, who once followed His divine precepts, will continue during the counting periods of the appointed time of the end.

3. Jeremiah 7:17-20 parallels events at the end of time. How? _____

Long ago in Judah and in Jerusalem, the prophet Jeremiah reprimanded the Israelites for worshiping the ancient goddess Ishtar, the Queen of Heaven—known as the merciful mother who intercedes for her worshipers. During the appointed time of the end, the demonic goddess figure of the Virgin Mary, the Queen of Heaven, will once again be worshiped in Jerusalem's streets.

4. Why does God's judgment come against Jerusalem/Israel for her sins, according to Jeremiah 51:5-8? _____

Jerusalem will offer her cup of delusion to the whole world with joy and excitement, and the masses will be intoxicated to the point of losing their good judgment (Revelation 11:10). Her end will come along with those who join in her licentious and abominable activities. For a Biblical description of Israel's/Jerusalem's past failures illustrated as an adulterous wife, read Ezekiel chapter 16 at the end of this lesson.

5. The Seventh Angel moves John in vision to a desolate location. There he sees a symbolic scarlet beast covered with blasphemous names. Where does John find Babylon in Revelation 17:3? _____

She is found in the barren wilderness, where Israel long ago was lost in rebellion against God and Moses.

Exodus 16:1 tells of Israel's travel in the "Wilderness of Sin" on their way to Mount Sinai long ago, and about their constant complaints against Moses and God. The dry desert signifies a lack of Heaven's blessings—a spiritually desolate condition. In Revelation, the woman—fallen Jerusalem/Israel—is sitting on top and being carried along by the seven head and ten horn political Beast. The scarlet color signifies spiritual rebellion (Isaiah 1:16-18), and the blasphemy against the Holy One of Israel because of her outspoken and deceptive statements. The whole world focuses on Jerusalem as the hope of the nations—the International City of Peace. The "great city" is the pinnacle city of the globe, and the geopolitical Beast carries her, giving her constant attention and recognition.

6. The faithless woman of the last days is dressed how (Revelation 17:4)? _____

As we enter the end-times, she will be shaken and in shambles, but the nations will take her from the dirt and dismay to give her royal treatment; she will be dressed with purple and scarlet, and decked with jewels—the best her lovers can give her. She will be enticed by wealth, extravagance and luxury; all eyes will be on



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her; but, in her symbolic hand will be the golden cup with the intoxicating wine of abominations (idolatries) and adulteries, which she bids the nations to drink with her in honor of Antichrist.

7. How does she contrast the New Jerusalem—the beautiful woman who will replace her on the new earth (Revelation 21:2, 10-11)? _____

8. What is stamped in the harlot's forehead, as her title (Revelation 17:5)? _____

MYSTERY BABYLON THE GREAT THE MOTHER OF PROSTITUTES AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

9. Why has her Revelation identity, "Mystery Babylon" been, for the most part, hidden through the centuries until the end of time? _____

Jerusalem is the beloved city of the three Abrahamic religions of the world. She has been trampled upon through the centuries; how much more if the nations had known that she would displease God at the end? She is a loved city by all; such ill, we do not desire to fall on her. We "pray for the peace of Jerusalem" Psalm 122:6. Yet, our hearts ache for her final ruin, according to the Scriptures. Therefore, God has hidden her identity behind the mask of Mystery Babylon, Sodom and Egypt (Revelation 11:8); then, when the time of her greatest sin arrives, she would be exposed for her decisions along with those who climb into bed with her. How sad that the beloved city, through the actions of her leaders and citizens, will forsake Almighty God in adoration of Antichrist and his dumb idols—and the demons behind them; and, furthermore, will celebrate the deaths of God's last prophets, while inviting the robed Antichrist into her and onto her Temple Mount with his abomination.

The small nation of Israel and the great city Jerusalem will remain the focus of the world to the very end. She is the hope of the nations, the City of Peace. But, as the "mother" of prostitutes, she will have daughters who will follow in her foot-steps. The cities around the globe will celebrate her centrality to world events, and the world's religions will join her in their love for the Papal leader.

Revelation 17:6 records the woman is drunk with the blood of the saints and martyrs. She persecuted and killed many Hebrew prophets (Jeremiah 38:4; Matthew 23:35-38; I Thessalonians 2:14-15; Acts 7:52) who in their day bravely offered dire warnings about the city's pending desolation. The leaders hated the greatest prophet of all—Yeshua, who warned of the same sad end. The citizens were cautioned about Jerusalem's demise of 586 BC and 70 AD; and now, the last-day saints and prophets who by resolve give final notice of Jerusalem's desolation during the Great Tribulation will do so at their own peril.

10. What does Revelation 18:24 say of the women—the great city Babylon? _____

In her is found the blood of the prophets (of old, along with Jesus; and, finally, Moses and Elijah), and of the victors, and all killed on the earth. She carries much blame for the martyrdom of the faithful through the centuries, and now at the end of time as well.

11. Consider the passage Luke 13:33-35. What insight does this offer? _____

Because of Jerusalem's killing of God's prophets down through the centuries, including the true Messiah—Jesus, she is warned that fiery "desolation" is her final judgment.

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12. Lamentations 4:11-13 also supports this truth. How? _____

The Seven Head & Ten Horn Monstrous Beast

Revelation 17:6-7 points out how the prophet John was amazed by the splendor of the woman being carried on top of the seven head, ten horned horrific Beast (the symbolism noted: 7 heads X 10 horns = 70; the number 70 in Judaism represents the Gentile nations that originally came from Noah). Even John sensed the lure of the beautiful woman, and felt her entrapment, for he also loved the city; but, the Angel brought the prophet back to his senses by asking pointedly, "Why are you astonished?" John was then promised a disclosure of events, which would seem to focus less on the woman and more on the Beast that will carry her, and the satanic power that lifts the seductive woman to her position of honor.

Our studies have shown the *seven head-ten horned Beast* represents modern nations, as found in both Daniel and Revelation. The following chart of the New World Order visually illustrates the nations involved from the symbolic creatures of prophecy, and the harmony between the two books written hundreds of years apart. Revelation is a commentary on Daniel, and both reveal modern governments.



The Last-Days New World Order The Seven Heads—Ten Horns in Revelation and Daniel

Revelation 13:1-2

One Monstrous Beast Out of the Sea

With Smaller Characteristics of Leopard, Feet of a Bear, Mouth of a Lion
Seven Heads and Ten Horns7 Heads...10 Horns
Total: New World Order.....**7 Heads...10 Horns**

Daniel 7:1-7

Four Monstrous Beasts Out of the Sea

Lion With Eagle's Wings1 Head.....0 Horns
Bear With Three Ribs1 Head.....0 Horns
Leopard With Four Heads/Four Wings4 Heads.....0 Horns
Terrible Beast With Ten Horns1 Head...10 Horns
Total: New World Order**7 Heads....10 Horns**

Lion With Eagle's Wings representsGreat Britain/ United States
Bear With Three Ribs representsRussian Federation—Old Soviet Union
Leopard With Four Heads/Four WingsChina & Eastern Asia Nations
Terrible Beast With Ten HornsEuropean Union of Nations

While Daniel describes the four regions of power as separate and distinct beasts, John later saw them combined and working as one. In Daniel 7 the fourth and most dreadful beast is the European Union; however, in Revelation the sea monster only hints of the Lion, Leopard and Bear—again signifying the European Union's overwhelming power as it emerges the dominate player of the final days. This is the New World Order, or Grand Design described in the prophetic books. In both Daniel and Revelation, the emergence of the Beast(s) from the sea heralds the deceptive world leader who will rise out of the New World Order to rule for 1260 days.

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Seven Secret Kings & The Eighth Ruler

The remainder of Revelation 17, verses 8-18, adds even more to the mystery of the global political Beast. The chapter shifts from the seven political heads, illustrated in the chart above, to the seven crowned leaders of those power bases. In Revelation 12:3 we find the same structure. First, the passage introduces the Dragon with the "seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his head." By verse 9, we learn the Dragon is Satan, the demonic leader behind the monstrous Dragon. In Revelation 13:1-7 we again see the same structure. First, introducing the Beast with "seven heads and ten horns"; then, the message shifts to the leader himself who is also referred to as the "Beast"—the Lawless One. Likewise, here in Revelation 17:8 we notice the same framework—a shift from the politically allied Beast with "seven heads and ten horns" to the Beast leader, and the seven crowned leaders who rule over the seven political heads of the sea monster.

The chapter continues by focusing on the defeat of the Beast—the world's religious leader and his global religiosity, and the demise of the seven crowned political leaders. Again, we must remember the context of the chapter, which is concentrating on "end-time" catastrophes, not on historical leaders of the past.

The seven bowls of God's wrath have already been revealed (chapters 15-16), and have begun to be poured out. By this time in the visionary scenes, nations have fallen along with some of their political leaders. The world's Papal leader is struck dead after he sets up the abomination, for "the Beast [Antichrist], which you saw [earlier], once was [alive], now is not [alive], and will come out of the Abyss and go to his destruction." In fact, John is told the whole world will be astonished at the Beast's reappearance after having been struck down, for "he once was [alive], now is not [alive], and yet will come [alive, once again]," verse 8.

The people are warned to "come out of her [Jerusalem], My people, so that you will not share in her sins, so that you will not receive any of her plagues," Revelation 18:4. Why? The Beast has entered onto the Temple Mount to set up his abomination (Matthew 24:15). This horrific sin will bring Heaven's wrath. Without delay Messiah will "suddenly... come to His Temple; the Messenger [Michael, the Great Archangel] of the Covenant [deliverer of the Ten Commandments at Mount Sinai] ... but who can endure [remain alive at] the Day of His coming?" Malachi 3:1-2. John sees the judgment of the great city Jerusalem, and the massive ruin that befalls her. The prophet notices the Beast is not alive; yet, he is still to be found once again breathing and standing erect! This sounds like one final grand deception is about to be played upon the population again—the Beast who will not die.

"This calls for a mind with wisdom," John is told (vs. 9-11). "The seven heads are seven hills on which the woman sits. They are also seven kings [of the last days]. Five have fallen [in ruin; war; plagues.], one is [still alive], the other [the eighth] has not yet come; but when he does come, he must remain for a little while. The Beast who once was [alive], and now is not [alive], is an eighth king. He belongs to the seven and is going to his destruction." The number eight (8) is the recognized symbol in prophecy for both resurrection and a new beginning. Prophecy is therefore leading us to understand that the last and eighth ruler to arrive on the world scene is nothing less than a demonic power from the abyss, masquerading as the Messenger of light—displaying miraculous powers in one last stand against the true Messiah.

"Here is the mind which has wisdom," says Revelation 17:9; surely, we want to be wise in our assessment of this chapter. The seven heads of the political beast are seven hills (mountains, or national alliances) on which the woman sits atop. In other words, the governmental monster is identified by the seven global powers listed above in the New World Order chart, and the adulterous woman (Jerusalem), who sits atop the Beast, is identified as the supreme city of the nations. The seven hills are not representative of Rome

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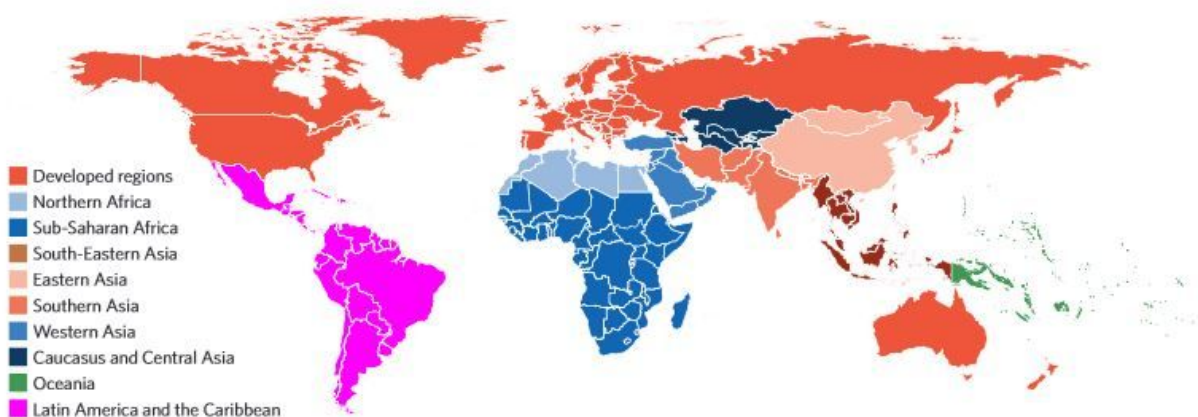
as many surmises, for the seven hills boast of seven kings. There are not seven kings reigning from the seven rolling hills of Rome; this is much bigger.

The Ten Regions Of The World

From here, the text shifts to another set of political rulers in verse 12. Daniel 2:21 says there will come a day when God “changes the [appointed] times and the seasons” at the same time “He removes kings and raises up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding.” Wisdom is a *gift* from God, so that we might gain the correct understanding about the rise and fall of political leaders in our day. The ten horns are ten kings who will have not yet ruled as the group of ten up to this point. However, in the closing moments of time, the global governments create a united front.

In the United Nations Annual Report: ***The Millennium Development Goals Report 2015***, we find the world has already been mapped into ten regions (see below); and, the following map and paragraph are found on page 71 of the report: *“This report presents data on progress towards the Millennium Development Goals for the world as a whole and for various country groupings. These are classified as “developing” regions and “developed” regions.* The developing regions are further broken down into the subregions shown on the map. These regional groupings are based on United Nations geographical divisions, with some modifications necessary to create, to the extent possible, groups of countries for which a meaningful analysis can be carried out. A complete list of countries included in each region and subregion is available at mdgs.un.org.”*

Regional groupings



Source: <http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Resources/Static/Products/Progress2015/English2015.pdf>

Although we do not yet know the how the final division of ten will look, we know the ten regions will be assigned and represented in prophecy by the ten kings at the very end of days.

The Evil Triumvirate—Satan, the Beast, and the False Prophet will unite the kings through a series of miraculous signs; and together, they will make plans to conquer the threat from the sky—the large mass

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that is heading towards Planet Earth—the Rock of disaster, which threatens mankind with global extinction. However, they will in truth be confronting the returning King of kings and His massive army.

14. How long will the ten kings rule with Satan and give their allegiance to the Beast (v. 12)? _____

In symbolic language, noting the futile shortness of time left for Planet Earth, they are said to rule only "one hour" together.

15. According to verse 14, what is the last purpose for their united front? _____

Satan and his cohorts will deceive the nations; the world's militaries will turn their weapons upon the returning Messiah and His army, likely believing it is a massive asteroid or aliens heading towards Planet Earth.

16. When Messiah returns to conquer all remaining sin and sinners, what group is coming with Him in the sky? _____

Those who are "called, chosen and faithful" victors, overcomers of the Beast, his number and name.

17. The following passages further identify this group, which returns with Messiah on the Great Day of the LORD—Day 1335 (1 Thessalonians 3:13; 4:14; Jude 14). Who are they? _____

"God [the Father] will bring [along] with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in Him [but who are raised to life on Yom Kippur]." Jude adds, "the LORD is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones [a great multitude that no man could count—Revelation 7:9] to judge... all the ungodly of all the ungodly acts they have done." Also, Michael's angels return to gather God's scattered elect (Matthew 24:30-31).

Revelation 17:15-16 identifies the "waters... where the prostitute sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations and languages." Jerusalem will be known as the pinnacle city—the great city of the earth, carried by the world's political powers, as the whole world marvels at her and gives her a great deal of attention.

18. However, what will the attitude of all the nations eventually be towards Jerusalem, and what will the armies of the earth do to her (Ezekiel 16:37-39)? _____

After having used her, the prostitute's lovers will despise her and will turn on her, leaving her naked.

19. Why does the Beast and nations turn against Jerusalem (Revelation 17:16-17)? _____

20. What is John's footnote to the whole chapter in Revelation 17:18 that points to the prostitute, Mystery Babylon, in a negative light? _____

The "great city" is openly and unequivocally identified in Revelation 11:8 as, "where also their [the two witnesses'] LORD was crucified." The message is clear; the city (although she was to be holy and a lighthouse of truth), that long ago rejoiced at the death of Yeshua, will one day in the future celebrate the death of His two last-day witnesses—Moses and Elijah. The "great city" will reject the two prophets, just as her religious leaders despised the greatest Prophet two thousand years ago; and, what was the result of

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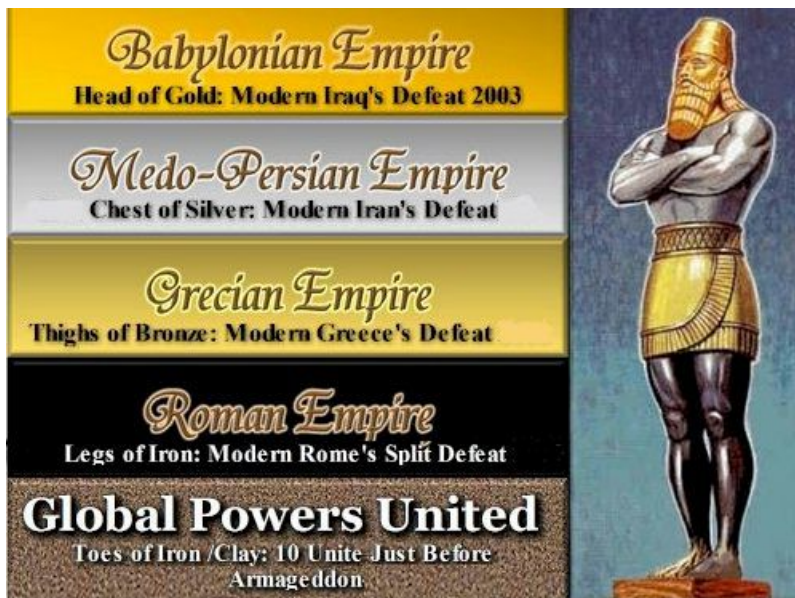
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Israel's/Jerusalem's rejection? The desolation of 70 A.D. is a reflection of the final ruin, which will fall speedily upon Jerusalem in the closing hours of time—by earthquake, destruction and fire.

In Daniel 2, King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream about a statue. No one could tell the monarch his dream, so Daniel asked his three friends to pray that God in His mercy would reveal the dream to him. Daniel 2:19-23 says, "During the night the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision. Then Daniel praised the God of heaven and said: "Praise be to the Name of God for ever and ever; wisdom and power are His. He changes times and seasons; He deposes kings and raises up others. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning. He reveals deep and hidden things; He knows what lies in darkness, and light dwells with Him. I thank and praise you, God of my ancestors: You have given me wisdom and power, You have made known to me what we asked of You, You have made known to us the dream of the king."

Daniel goes to the king and relays the dream as follows, "Your Majesty looked, and there before you stood a large statue—an enormous, dazzling statue, awesome in appearance. The head of the statue was made of pure gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of baked clay. While you were watching, a rock was cut out, but not by human hands. It struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and smashed them. Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were all broken to pieces and became like chaff on a threshing floor in the summer. The wind swept them away without leaving a trace. But the rock that struck the statue became a huge mountain and filled the whole earth," Daniel 2:31-35.

The prophet finishes with these details: "After you, another kingdom will arise, inferior to yours. Next, a third kingdom, one of bronze... Finally, there will be a fourth kingdom, strong as iron—for iron breaks and



smashes everything—and as iron breaks things to pieces, so it will crush and break all the others. Just as you saw that the feet and toes were partly of baked clay and partly of iron, so this will be a divided kingdom; yet it will have some of the strength of iron in it, even as you saw iron mixed with clay. As the toes were partly iron and partly clay, so this kingdom will be partly strong and partly brittle. And just as you saw the iron mixed with baked clay, so the people will be a mixture and will not remain united, any more than iron

mixes with clay. In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever. This is the meaning of the vision of the rock cut out of a mountain, but not by human hands—a rock that broke the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold to pieces," (39-45).

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Here we see a statue representing historical powers, Babylon, followed by the Medes and Persian, swallowed up by the Alexander the Great's Greece and followed by the Roman armies. All these powers were enemies and held sway over the people of Israel; however, we also notice the statue vision has contemporary fulfillment, because the final demise of the ten toes is a direct result of the returning King—the conquering Messiah in our day. Therefore, this statue has meaning for our modern times, because the whole statue crumbles upon the returning defeat of the Rock—King of kings.

So, what meaning does the statue have today? The chart above demonstrates the last-day fulfillment of the vision of Daniel 2. First, the head of gold is Babylon, which is modern-day Iraq. This country has, for the most part, now been defeated (2003-2011). The chest of silver—Medes and Persians, is today's Iran. Modern Iran will soon be defeated; Greece will then fall (either financially, or from a Russian attack); followed by the final defeat of Rome at the end of the appointed times, indicated by the Daniel 7:11-12 prediction: "Then I continued to watch because of the boastful words the [Vatican] horn was speaking. I kept looking until the [European] beast was slain and its body destroyed and thrown into the blazing fire. (The other beasts [governmental powers] had been stripped of their authority, but were allowed to live for a period of time.)" After Europe's fiery demise, attention turns to the ten toes of iron and clay (10 Regions of the World) that rule only one hour just before the return of Messiah.

After the demise of all human governments and all sinners, along with all evil angels, and after the imprisonment of Satan, the earth will be left in darkness, without form, and void of all life. Messiah will establish His Eternal Kingdom in Heaven, where He has gone to prepare a place for us and will come again and receive us unto Himself that where He is we may be also (John 14:1-4). After 1,000 years in the New Jerusalem in Heaven, His Kingdom will be transferred to this earth at the end of the millennial delay, when the New Jerusalem descends to a renewed Planet Earth after the Great White throne judgment and fiery demise of the old planet and all sinners.

The apostle Peter wrote, "Dear friends, this is now my second letter to you. I have written both of them as reminders to stimulate you to wholesome thinking. I want you to recall the words spoken in the past by the holy prophets and the command given by our LORD and Savior through your apostles. Above all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. They will say, "Where is this 'coming' He promised? Ever since our ancestors died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation." But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's word the heavens



came into being and the earth was formed out of water and by water. By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. By the same word *the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the Day of Judgment and destruction of the ungodly.*"

He continues, "But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the LORD a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The LORD is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. Instead He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. But the Day of the LORD will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the Day of GOD and speed its coming. That Day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with His promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells. So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with Him," 2 Peter 3:1-14.

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The Word Of The LORD *Jerusalem—An Adulterous Wife* Ezekiel 16

"The word of the LORD came to me: ² "Son of man, confront Jerusalem with her detestable practices ³ and say, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says to Jerusalem: Your ancestry and birth were in the land of the Canaanites; your father was an Amorite and your mother a Hittite. ⁴ On the day you were born your cord was not cut, nor were you washed with water to make you clean, nor were you rubbed with salt or wrapped in cloths. ⁵ No one looked on you with pity or had compassion enough to do any of these things for you. Rather, you were thrown out into the open field, for on the day you were born you were despised. ⁶ "Then I passed by and saw you kicking about in your blood, and as you lay there in your blood I said to you, "Live!" ⁷ I made you grow like a plant of the field. You grew and developed and entered puberty. Your breasts had formed and your hair had grown, yet you were stark naked. ⁸ "Later I passed by, and when I looked at you and saw that you were old enough for love, I spread the corner of my garment over you and covered your naked body. I gave you my solemn oath and entered into a covenant with you, declares the Sovereign LORD, and you became mine. ⁹ "I bathed you with water and washed the blood from you and put ointments on you. ¹⁰ I clothed you with an embroidered dress and put sandals of fine leather on you. I dressed you in fine linen and covered you with costly garments. ¹¹ I adorned you with jewelry: I put bracelets on your arms and a necklace around your neck, ¹² and I put a ring on your nose, earrings on your ears and a beautiful crown on your head. ¹³ So you were adorned with gold and silver; your clothes were of fine linen and costly fabric and embroidered cloth. Your food was honey, olive oil and the finest flour. You became very beautiful and rose to be a queen. ¹⁴ And your fame spread among the nations on account of your beauty, because the splendor I had given you made your beauty perfect, declares the Sovereign LORD. ¹⁵ But you trusted in your beauty and used your fame to become a prostitute. You lavished your favors on anyone who passed by and your beauty became his. ¹⁶ You took some of your garments to make gaudy high places, where you carried on your prostitution. You went to him, and he possessed your beauty. ¹⁷ You also took the fine jewelry I gave you, the jewelry made of my gold and silver, and you made for yourself male idols and engaged in prostitution with them. ¹⁸ And you took your embroidered clothes to put on them, and you offered my oil and incense before them. ¹⁹ Also the food I provided for you—the flour, olive oil and honey I gave you to eat—you offered as fragrant incense before them. That is what happened, declares the Sovereign LORD. ²⁰ And you took your sons and daughters whom you bore to me and sacrificed them as food to the idols. Was your prostitution not enough? ²¹ You slaughtered my children and sacrificed them to the idols. ²² In all your detestable practices and your prostitution you did not remember the days of your youth, when you were naked and bare, kicking about in your blood. ²³ Woe! Woe to you, declares the Sovereign LORD. In addition to all your other wickedness, ²⁴ you built a mound for yourself and made a lofty shrine in every public square. ²⁵ At every street corner you built your lofty shrines and degraded your beauty, spreading your legs with increasing promiscuity to anyone who passed by. ²⁶ You engaged in prostitution with the Egyptians, your neighbors with large genitals, and aroused my anger with your increasing promiscuity. ²⁷ So I stretched out my hand against you and reduced your territory; I gave you over to the greed of your enemies, the daughters of the Philistines, who were shocked by your lewd conduct. ²⁸ You engaged in prostitution with the Assyrians too, because you were insatiable; and even after that, you still were not satisfied. ²⁹ Then you increased your promiscuity to include Babylonia, a land of merchants, but even with this you were not satisfied. ³⁰ "I am filled with fury against you, declares the Sovereign LORD, when you do all these things, acting like a brazen prostitute! ³¹ When you built your mounds at every street corner and made your lofty shrines in every public square, you were unlike a prostitute, because you scorned payment. ³² You adulterous wife! You prefer strangers to your own husband! ³³ All prostitutes receive gifts, but you give gifts to all your lovers, bribing them to come to you from everywhere for your illicit favors. ³⁴ So in your prostitution you are the opposite of others; no one runs after you for your favors. You are the very

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opposite, for you give payment and none is given to you. ³⁵ “Therefore, you prostitute, hear the word of the LORD! ³⁶ This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Because you poured out your lust and exposed your naked body in your promiscuity with your lovers, and because of all your detestable idols, and because you gave them your children’s blood, ³⁷ therefore I am going to gather all your lovers, with whom you found pleasure, those you loved as well as those you hated. I will gather them against you from all around and will strip you in front of them, and they will see you stark naked. ³⁸ I will sentence you to the punishment of women who commit adultery and who shed blood; I will bring on you the blood vengeance of my wrath and jealous anger. ³⁹ Then I will deliver you into the hands of your lovers, and they will tear down your mounds and destroy your lofty shrines. They will strip you of your clothes and take your fine jewelry and leave you stark naked. ⁴⁰ They will bring a mob against you, who will stone you and hack you to pieces with their swords. ⁴¹ They will burn down your houses and inflict punishment on you in the sight of many women. I will put a stop to your prostitution, and you will no longer pay your lovers. ⁴² Then my wrath against you will subside and my jealous anger will turn away from you; I will be calm and no longer angry. ⁴³ Because you did not remember the days of your youth but enraged me with all these things, I will surely bring down on your head what you have done, declares the Sovereign LORD. Did you not add lewdness to all your other detestable practices? ⁴⁴ Everyone who quotes proverbs will quote this proverb about you: “Like mother, like daughter.” ⁴⁵ You are a true daughter of your mother, who despised her husband and her children; and you are a true sister of your sisters, who despised their husbands and their children. Your mother was a Hittite and your father an Amorite. ⁴⁶ Your older sister was Samaria, who lived to the north of you with her daughters; and your younger sister, who lived to the south of you with her daughters, was Sodom. ⁴⁷ You not only followed their ways and copied their detestable practices, but in all your ways you soon became more depraved than they. ⁴⁸ As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, your sister Sodom and her daughters never did what you and your daughters have done. ⁴⁹ Now this was the sin of your sister Sodom: She and her daughters were arrogant, overfed and unconcerned; they did not help the poor and needy. ⁵⁰ They were haughty and did detestable things before me. Therefore, I did away with them as you have seen. ⁵¹ Samaria did not commit half the sins you did. You have done more detestable things than they, and have made your sisters seem righteous by all these things you have done. ⁵² Bear your disgrace, for you have furnished some justification for your sisters. Because your sins were more vile than theirs, they appear more righteous than you. So then, be ashamed and bear your disgrace, for you have made your sisters appear righteous. ⁵³ “However, I will restore the fortunes of Sodom and her daughters and of Samaria and her daughters, and your fortunes along with them, ⁵⁴ so that you may bear your disgrace and be ashamed of all you have done in giving them comfort. ⁵⁵ And your sisters, Sodom with her daughters and Samaria with her daughters, will return to what they were before; and you and your daughters will return to what you were before. ⁵⁶ You would not even mention your sister Sodom in the day of your pride, ⁵⁷ before your wickedness was uncovered. Even so, you are now scorned by the daughters of Edom and all her neighbors and the daughters of the Philistines—all those around you who despise you. ⁵⁸ You will bear the consequences of your lewdness and your detestable practices, declares the LORD. ⁵⁹ “This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I will deal with you as you deserve, because you have despised my oath by breaking the covenant. ⁶⁰ Yet I will remember the covenant I made with you in the days of your youth, and I will establish an everlasting covenant with you. ⁶¹ Then you will remember your ways and be ashamed when you receive your sisters, both those who are older than you and those who are younger. I will give them to you as daughters, but not on the basis of my covenant with you. ⁶² So I will establish my covenant with you, and you will know that I am the LORD. ⁶³ Then, when I make atonement for you for all you have done, you will remember and be ashamed and never again open your mouth because of your humiliation, declares the Sovereign LORD.”