

*Series: ISRAEL'S IMPENDING INDIGNATION*

Understanding the Prophecies of Daniel

## **THE REVIVAL OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE**

Daniel chapter 7

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| 1. The Times of The Gentiles                                   | 2. The Revival of the Roman Empire | 3. Daniel's 69 weeks           |
| 4. The Church Age and Rapture before the 70 <sup>th</sup> week | 5. The Anti-Christ                 | 6. The Rise of End-Time Powers |

It is clear from Daniel 2:44, that a supernatural blow from God will shatter the fourth kingdom. However, Rome was not shattered by a supernatural event in the fall of Rome in 476 A.D. nor the fall of Constantinople and the subsequent collapse of the last vestiges of the Byzantine Empire in 1453 A.D. If the Roman/Byzantine Empire had been destroyed supernaturally by God, then the Mediterranean world would now be under the eternal rule of God's saints. The times of the Gentiles would have ended, and Israel would be the head of all nations (7:27). This is not the situation at all. This begs the question, in what manner did this final form of the Roman Empire fall?

Rome, the fourth and final Gentile power, endured until approximately the fifth century A.D. before gradually fading from prominence and ceasing to exist as a major empire. It was never destroyed, it simply lost its status as the dominant Gentile power it once held. However, God reveals in both Daniel chapters 2 and 7 that the next significant event following the decline of this fourth Gentile power will be the establishment of His kingdom on Earth. This is affirmed in Daniel 2:40 and 7:18. We learn that a stone, cut from a mountain without human hands, will destroy the feet and toes of the image representing the Gentile power, which is symbolized by ten kings depicted as the ten toes. This stone will grow until it becomes a great mountain that fills the earth—representing God's kingdom. According to scripture, this stone, later identified as the Messiah, the returning Jesus, will fulfill this purpose when a ten-nation confederation emerges from the fourth empire.

Covenant Reformed theology wrongly asserts that the Church has replaced Israel and that the Church is the spiritual Kingdom that ruled the ancient regions of the empire. Furthermore, it teaches that this spiritual Kingdom of Christ will become increasingly significant and usher in the Kingdom before Christ's return. They completely get the entire context of the Jewish Gospel of Matthew wrong, confusing the "Gospel of the Kingdom" as the same Gospel of the death, burial and resurrection. They believe the gospel of "the kingdom" being preached all over the world will usher in the coming of Christ, when that verse is in context of the 144,000 witnesses during the Tribulation after the Rapture. However most of them with the exception of James Kennedy and Evangelism explosion are evangelistically sterile from strict Calvinism.

If the stone from heaven crushed the Roman Empire, the times of the Gentile domination of Israel and Jews should have ended, putting Israel at the head of all nations (7:27). However, the reality was quite the opposite. Gentile state-run churches, through their theological beliefs and crusades, consistently oppressed both the Jews and Jerusalem. The Roman Catholic Church, Lutherans and Anglicans were not the persecuted "holy people" but rather the persecutors.

In Daniel 2:40-42, it is stated that "the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron," and that "the toes of the feet were part of iron and part of clay, indicating that the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly broken." This passage references Nebuchadnezzar's vision from approximately 2,600 years ago, in which he dreamt of a statue. The statue featured a head of gold, a chest and arms of silver, belly of brass, and legs of iron, with feet and ten toes made from a mixture of iron and clay—symbolizing a combination of brittleness and strength. The unstable alloy symbolizes the weak alliance of the final union of the fourth Gentile world power.

This is reinforced in Daniel chapter 7 which is a parallel passage to Daniel 2. In this chapter, the dream is attributed to King Nebuchadnezzar, the ruler of Babylon, while in chapter 7, Daniel receives the vision from God, in which, he

envisions four beasts coming up out of the sea. As in Daniel 2, the four beasts coming up out of the sea depict the same four gentile world powers portrayed in the colossal statue.

THE FOURTH BEAST, IDENTIFIED AS ANCIENT ROME, IS MORE FORMIDABLE THAN THE PREVIOUS THREE.

It is noted that “it had ten horns” (7:7), and “the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise.” (7:24).<sup>i</sup>

In Daniel 7, we encounter the same truths found in chapter 2. After the fourth gentile kingdom on the earth, we observed this Revived Roman Empire comprised of ten segments, just before Jesus’ return to establish God’s kingdom.

### **History of the demise of the Roman Empire**

The decline of Rome was first evidenced by an east-west division in 324 A.D. Before this time the city of Rome served as the only capital. The establishment of a second capital city, Constantinople, initiated the split between the Eastern and Western spheres of influence. This division is symbolized by the two iron legs of the 4<sup>th</sup> empire in Daniel 2:41.

The next stage in Rome’s downward spiral occurred with the fall of the oldest capital city in 476 A.D. With this collapse, the entire Empirical weight shifted to the shoulders of Constantinople. The prediction that the kingdom would be “*partly strong and partly broken*” (2:42) became reality with this transition.

While the fall of the city of Rome in 476 A.D. was the end of an era, emperors continued to exert force over most of the realm for another 1,000 years. Modern-day historians refer to this period as the “Byzantine Empire.” This title is derived from Byzantium, the former name of Constantinople. The name was changed in honor of the Emperor Constantine the Great. Today it is known as the Istanbul, Turkey.

An expert on this era and its culture noted: “In reality, there did exist a Roman State centered in Constantinople.” Cyril Mango, author of *Byzantium, The New Roman Empire*, went on to say, “The Roman Empire may have gradually shed its northern provinces, but it still extended from Gibraltar to the Euphrates. . .”<sup>ii</sup>

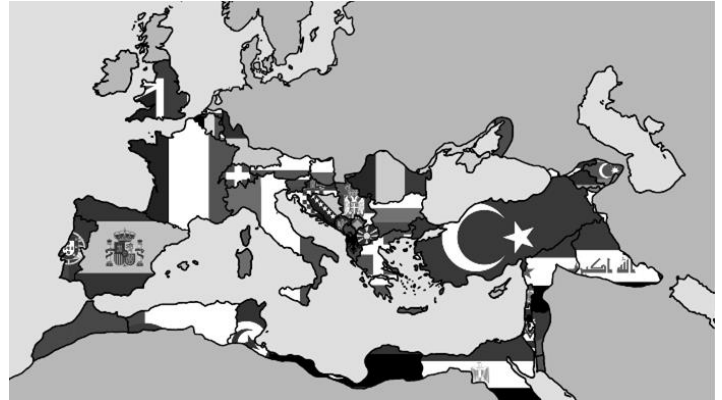
The next step down for the Roman Empire was prophesied in Daniel 2:43, “*they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave to one another, even as iron is not mixed with clay.*” This melting pot syndrome was both regional and religious. Cyril Mango said, “towards the end of the eighth century, we find a population that had been so thoroughly churned up that it is difficult to tell what ethnic group were living where and in what numbers. Yet with all the intermingling, experts grasp at straws to find any feelings of solidarity that unified the multinational subjects of the Empire. Religion, just as much as any other element, seemed to be the cause for divisions among the regional groups. The imperially imposed religion often falsely called ‘Christianity,’ was rife with splinter groups. There was always some godless zealot inciting a program against so-called ‘heretical groups,’ that is people of other faiths. These intolerant sects added to the already disintegrating empire and brought to pass the saying, “They shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay” (2:43).

When did that empire ever function as ten separate kingdoms ruled by royal dignitaries? What is the prophetic significance of the ten-toed, ten-horned division of the fourth empire which we recognize as Rome?

The key to the above questions is determined in Daniel 7:8, 25. All ten of these kings will be in existence at the same time. During their reign, another king will come to power and conquer three kings and become emperor. Following this international upheaval, he would lead the ten-nation confederation in an unprecedented persecution of God’s people (7:20, 24, 25). This boastful king will allow at least seven of the kings to retain their royal position. At no time in history has any Roman emperor shared his glory with other kings in this manner. Kingdoms were always absorbed, stripped of their dissenting kings, and replaced by puppet regents subject to the one emperor as in the case of Herod the Great of New Testament times. The conclusion is that no aspect of Roman history parallels the ten-nation confederation seen in

(Daniel 2:24; 7:8,25). There was no instantaneous supernatural destruction. The nations no longer unified by the common bond of Imperial Rome began to gradually separate along lines of regional and religious identity. C.I. Scofield comments, "Fragments of the ancient Roman Empire have never ceased to exist as separated kingdoms. It was the Imperial form of government which ceased. . ."

Fragmented as it may be the governance of the real politic of that ancient power began to reunify for the first time in 500 years. On March 25, 1956, six countries rising from the heartland of the Empire met together in the ancient capital city of Rome at the invitation of the Vatican. They signed an agreement called, "The Treaty of Rome" which was ratified by their parliaments on January 1, 1958. From this meeting, the European Economic Community (E.E.C.) was forged. Its original six members were: Belgium, France, West Germany, Italy, Luxemburg, and the Netherlands. By January 1, 1981, the joining of Ireland, Great Britain, Denmark, and Greece brought to ten the number of members. This sparked prophetic anticipation and eschatological speculation not seen since the establishment of the modern State of Israel. Despite all the tabloid eschatology there were solid underlying connections with scripture seen in this formation.



The purpose for the establishment of the E.E.C. was the creation of one strong voice representing the fragmented countries of Europe. In his book, *The Common Market*, M. Deniau said, "With the coming of peace (in 1945) it became . . . clearer that the world's destiny lay in the hands of two great world powers, the U.S. and the U.S.S.R., and that Europe could only make their voices heard by allying themselves with one of the great Powers." Unwilling to let the superpowers dictate the destiny of Europe and the world, these nations included in the "Treaty of Rome" the following aims:

- To end centuries of rivalry in Europe
- To recover some of the world influence that European nations separately have lost.
- To be a stronger force for world peace and to introduce by their exertions and by their example a more stable system of international law and order based on consent, not conquest.

Summing it up, M. Deniau added: "It must not be forgotten that both the starting point and the final goal lie in the political field, even though the route towards European unity may follow a somewhat devious course through the field of trade and economics."<sup>iii</sup>

"Throughout its life, the E.E.C. has become increasingly political. At The Hague, a common market summit held in 1969 the 'heads of State reaffirmed their belief in the political objectives which give the community (E.E.C.) its meaning and purport.' Vaughn in his book, *Post-War Integration in Europe*, went on to say that a common conviction held by the E.E.C. was "the relaxation of international tension and preservation of world equilibrium and peace."

Daniel prophesied this priority on Middle East peace. He foretold that from the ten horns a *little horn* would rise to rule the ten kings (7:24). This end-day emperor of the revived Roman Empire is identified as the Beast (Daniel 7:11; Revelation 19:20). His rise to power will be initiated by the signing of a seven-year peace covenant with Israel (Daniel 9:27). When the ten-kingdom Roman confederation is reduced in the defeat of three kings by this 'little horn,' then a peace treaty can be offered with Daniel's 'Holy people' and 'with many.' 'It is significant not only to note the general policy of peace declared by the EEC, but specifically the target of their influence: the Middle East.' In Keesling's Research Report on the foreign policy of the EEC he noted that the foreign ministers, 'in an attempt to express a collective view on the Middle East following the war of October 1973, approved on November 6 a declaration' . . . of readiness to do all in

their power to contribute to peace.’ It seems likely that those European nations will be the womb giving birth to the 11<sup>th</sup> horn: *the Beast* under whose direction they will be powerful enough to back up a promise of peace to Israel.

Not only does this international reunification signal the beginning of the end of the “*times of the Gentiles*,” it heralds the sequential millennium of grandeur for Israel under the reign of the Messiah Jesus Son of David. God specifically states, “*in the days of these (10) kings, shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed*” (Daniel 2:44).

Although not in its final prophesied form, the Apocalyptic Rome may have begun the gestation process of rebirth preceding the Tribulation that



could manifest in the ten horns and an eleventh *little horn*, who is the peacemaking, miracle-working Anti-Christ. The timing of the rise of the eleventh horn coming later than the initial formulation of the ten horns upon the beast has given rise to the belief that the ten-nation confederation will likely be fully functional before the Rapture.”<sup>iv</sup> Although the name of the EEC has changed to the European Union; E.U. and although the name and the number of members continually fluctuate, (now 27 after Great Britain’s “Brexit” in 2020), it is incredible however to realize that we are witnessing the reunification of the fourth empire that was prophesied over 2600 years ago. Paul addressed the Church of Thessalonica to put to rest the fears that were experiencing the Tribulation/Day of the Lord. It could not begin until the unveiling of the “Man of sin, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God” (2 Thess. 2:3,4). Only time will reveal the unsealing of this monstrous 10-horned Beast and only after the Rapture will earth dwellers see the uprising of the Beast the Anti-Christ, signified by the 11th horn of Daniel 7. At best it is speculation to identify the final ten kings and the eleventh horn, the anti-Christ. There seems to have been calls for peace ever since Israel’s establishment because of the insatiable efforts to annihilate her, however, the calls for peace since the Oct. 7, 2023 massacres and the 500-day plus war has increased the volume exponentially. The world is clamoring for that one strong man who can guarantee peace. The current US president is proposing a solution that is a non-starter with Israel’s Arab neighbors and is roundly rejected by the European Union member states. Although the timing is not right, His provocative suggestion at least has reignited the debate as to a viable solution. Jesus warned there will be more wars and rumors of wars to come but “the end is not yet.” Sadly the world will accept a false-christ’s promise of a 7 year covenant of peace. The greatest prophetic fulfillment that certainly began the immeasurable countdown to that final gentile ruler is the establishment of the state of Israel 76 years ago and the significant regathering of the nation of Israel from every nation (Jer. 31:17). Israel is God’s super sign of end times and Jeremiah says that “in those days” and “at that time,” (Jer. 30:3; 31:1) the Messiah will return and set up His eternal Kingdom. He alone, The Prince of Peace can bring real peace. “Maranatha!” Even so come quickly Lord Jesus. Let’s tell everyone how they can know him.

<sup>i</sup> Ibid., pp 1-12

<sup>ii</sup> <https://archive.org/details/byzantiumempireo0000mang>

<sup>iii</sup> [https://www.bing.com/search?q=The+Common+Market%2C+M.+Deniau&cvid=603707c482394a70995c807c940d31b8&gs\\_lcrp=EgRIZGdlKgYIABB](https://www.bing.com/search?q=The+Common+Market%2C+M.+Deniau&cvid=603707c482394a70995c807c940d31b8&gs_lcrp=EgRIZGdlKgYIABB)

<sup>iv</sup> The Times of The Gentiles, Star of Hope Magazine, Ken Overby, Messianic Ministry To Israel, V121A, Chattanooga , TN, 1984. Pp5-9