

WHO IS THE BEAST?

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INTRODUCTION

Reference is made in the book of Daniel and Revelation to a “beast” who shall arise in the end time and gain power over all nations. He will be an extremely arrogant dictator, anti-God, anti-religious and anti-Semitic, and will wage war on the Christian community and put many to death. With a powerful confederacy of anti-Israel nations, he will invade the land of Israel and many Jews will be massacred in the assault. After occupying the land for a short period of time Jesus Christ will return and do battle with him. After destroying the beast and his armies, Jesus will re-establish the throne of David at Jerusalem and rule the world from the new Jerusalem.

The battle between Christ and the beast will be the battle of Armageddon and the events leading up to this involving the beast, will be clear and unmistakable signs of the second coming of Christ. It is not surprising therefore that those who eagerly anticipate this event take an interest in the signs leading up to it, and are curious to know the identity of the beast.

Over a period of time various identities have been suggested. Many believe the beast is the Roman Catholic church. Others have identified him with Hitler, Henry Kissinger, the E.C. a computer and even an extra-terrestrial being! Bizarre notions on a subject often eventuate as a result of human imagination being allowed to run riot!

This treatise is not interested or concerned with human imaginations or assumptions but what the Bible teaches on the subject. After all, it is the Bible that introduced the beast in the first place, so we should let the Bible explain his identity to us.

The question is therefore: What answer does the Bible give to the question: “Who is the beast?”



WHO IS THE BEAST?

We read in Heb. 1:1 that at various times and in different ways God has spoken. It is quite reasonable to expect that if God made us in His image to be His children and wants us to know Him and His purpose, that He would communicate with us. How else could we know Him and His ways? The sun, moon, stars, beasts, birds and the bees etc can't tell us. They can bear witness to the existence of a creator but they cannot communicate with us or inform us who God actually is and what His purpose is. So, as Scripture declares: "God has spoken at different times and in various ways."

We read in Job 33:14-15: "For God speaks in one way yea in two. In a dream and a vision of the night." And again in Num. 12:6-8: "If there be a prophet among you, I the Lord will make Myself known to him in a vision and will speak to him in a dream. Not so with my servant Moses: with him I will speak mouth to mouth openly, not obscurely and the similitude of the Lord he shall see (referring to an angel). Not in riddles, but plain speech."

God has spoken to many men many times, and the messages have been faithfully recorded in the Scriptures. For that reason the apostle Paul says in 2 Tim. 3:16: "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for instruction and learning." 2 Pet. 1:20-21: "No prophecy in the Scriptures is a person's private opinion. For the prophecy came not at any time by the will (impulse) of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved (inspired) by the Holy Spirit."

In the days of Moses, God spoke in a loud audible voice at Mount Sinai to the whole nation of Israel who were on an exodus from Egypt heading for the promised land. It has been estimated that there were about 2 million of them and they all heard the voice of God talking to them. How do we know? Because Moses recorded it, and the record has been preserved. Can we be sure that God actually spoke those words that Moses recorded? Yes! Because the instruction that was given included information on hygiene, sanitation, diet and several other things - information that was not known, or appreciated for at least another 3,000 years till the microscope was invented and bacteria were discovered. It is clear from what Moses was told about hygiene, sanitation and diet, that the Author knew His bacteriology. It was not until many centuries later that the sense of what was taught was appreciated and implemented in various hygiene and sanitation rules and regulations. No man on earth at

the time that God spoke to Moses knew the scientific significance of the regulations that were given.

There are many references in the Bible to God revealing information through dreams and visions. There are of course dreams and dreams. There are dreams inspired by the human spirit and there are dreams inspired by the Holy Spirit. The human spirit (the subconscious mind) can trigger off dreams and the Bible recognizes this. Solomon wrote in Ecc. 5:3: "The more you worry, the more you are likely to have bad dreams" (Good News Bible). Most of us have had the experience of dreams or a nightmare as a result of being worried or fearful about something. The human spirit can trigger off dreams which can be quite amazing some- times.

NO ORDINARY DREAM

In the book of Daniel we have the case of a man who was concerned about something resulting in him having a dream. But on this occasion the dream was not inspired by the human spirit but the Holy Spirit. The man was Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon and it happened at a time when the Jewish captives, including Daniel were actually living at Babylon. At the time Babylon was the super power of the day. Prior to her was the kingdom of Assyria and prior to that there had been the kingdom of Egypt. So Babylon was the third super power to arise in the ancient Biblical world, i.e. in the Middle East. Naturally the king of Babylon would wonder how long the Babylonian kingdom was going to last. Would she be conquered - would she be superseded? If so, when, and by whom? These would be natural considerations of any king over any kingdom in any time of history.

Well, according to Dan. 2:29: one night the king was lying on his bed not able to go to sleep, wondering what the future held for him and his kingdom. How many of us have ever done that - wondered about the future of the nations? Where is it all going to end? Is it going to end up under a mushroom cloud? Is there a future for our planet or is our planet destined to extinction? Many people are asking these questions today.

Nebuchadnezzar was given a dream in relation to this very issue. It was a revelation from God, no question about that. It was no ordinary dream and he knew it. He called for his spiritual advisors and asked them to tell him the dream and to give the interpretation. But they failed, so he pronounced the death sentence upon them. He probably had his suspicions about the qualifications of these men and this convinced him that they

were not Divinely inspired. At the time, Daniel was a captive in Babylon and was implicated because he had been put into the same group that came under the death sentence. So when he heard about it he went in before the king and begged him to delay the execution to give him time to seek his God concerning the dream, and the king granted the request. We read in chapter 2 that Daniel went aside with his friends and they prayed to God about this matter. Verse 19 gives the result: “Then was the secret revealed to Daniel in a night vision.”

God did an amazing thing; He duplicated the dream, causing Daniel to have exactly the same dream enabling him to tell the king what he dreamed. But more than that, God also gave Daniel the interpretation.

METALS POINTING TO THE FUTURE

The dream concerned a terrifying image of a man that consisted of different metals. The head was made of gold, the chest and arms were made of silver, the belly and the thighs were made of brass, the legs were made of iron, and the feet and toes were part iron and part clay (a mixture). In the dream, a stone (or rock) then came down from heaven at tremendous speed and force and hit the image on the feet. The result was, due to the image being top heavy, that it fell over and broke into pieces. The stone grew and increased in size, then rolled over the metals, crushing them into a powder. The wind of the summer threshing floor then came up and blew it all away, but the stone kept growing until it filled the whole earth. That was the dream.

Daniel had to interpret the dream and God gave him the interpretation, enabling him to say to the king: “You O king are represented by that head of gold.”

There can be no question about it: The head of gold represented the kingdom of Babylon over which Nebuchadnezzar was the king. And then Daniel said: “After you will come another inferior kingdom.” So we learn from this that the metals represented succeeding kingdoms of men starting with Babylon. The next kingdom to succeed Babylon, represented by the chest and arms of silver, was the Medo-Persian kingdom. The kingdom that succeeded them, represented by the belly and thighs of brass was the Greek kingdom, and the legs of iron represented the Roman Empire. The feet and toes represented the last phase of the kingdoms of men which would exist when the Lord Jesus Christ returns because he is represented by the stone that comes hurtling down from heaven. He is, as many Scriptures declare, “the rock,” and he is going to come from heaven with

power and force (cp. Matt. 21:42-44. 1 Cor. 10:4). When he comes, the whole world will know about it because we read in Isaiah chapter 2 that he is going to shake terribly the whole earth. This will cause an earthquake of unprecedented magnitude which will shake not just an island or two, or a continent or two, but the whole earth. Rev. 16:18-20 says the cities of the nations will fall. The kingdoms of this world will “become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ and he shall reign forever and forever” (Rev. 11:15).

DRAMATIC TIMES AHEAD

Very dramatic times are coming for planet earth! Dan. 2:44-45 explains the meaning of the stone coming and growing and filling the earth; it is the Divine explanation: “The God of heaven shall set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed. It shall break in pieces and consume all other kingdoms and it shall stand forever.” Dan. 2 is therefore quite a remarkable prophecy predicting in advance from the time of king Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, the succession of world powers covering a period of 2,600 years.

What human spirit could possibly project into the future to that degree? Who, only 100 years ago could have predicted the decline of the British Empire? Who, during the time of world war two when the Nazis were killing millions of Jews, could have predicted that Germany would fall and the nation of Israel would rise and be revived? Who could have predicted the fall of the Berlin wall, the collapse of communism, or the break-up of the Soviet Union? These events happened so quickly and unpredictably.

What horoscope declared such developments? Bible prophecy is nothing like astrology. It is in a league of its own - the big time league! It is not a hit and miss or win some lose some affair like astrology where sooner or later what is predicted will inevitably happen to somebody somewhere at some stage. No! Bible prophecy predicts the unpredictable and what we have in Dan. 2. is just an example of what you get when the Divine Spirit is inspiring and predicting the future.

So we understand from the prophecy in Dan. 2 that history is not hurtling ahead aimlessly and uncontrollably towards some unknown future destination. We read in Dan. 4:17: “God rules in the kingdoms of men and sets up over them whomsoever He will.” He is the ultimate chess player. He has complete control of history and is moving everything according to His plan and according to His purpose. It is all heading to the

grand finale when His son the King of Kings and Lord of Lords will come back and rule the world.

After a certain succession of kingdoms of the world and the rule of man, the kingdom of God is going to be established. This is the blessed hope of the Christian faith. This is what Jesus told us to pray for when he said: “Thy kingdom come Thy will be done in earth even as it is in heaven.” This is what God promised to do way back in Moses’ day, saying: “As truly as I live all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord” (Num. 14:21).

Our planet is not destined for extermination or annihilation. Man has the power to do this today and Jesus warned that this would be the case when he was asked what the signs of his coming would be. He said that world history would climax in a time of unprecedented tribulation, and unless he came and cut it short: “no living thing would survive” (Matt. 24:22). We are dangerously close to that situation today. There are enough nuclear warheads stockpiled to completely destroy all life upon the planet. But it is not going to happen. There will be tribulation and a time of trouble such as never was but it is not going to result in the annihilation of all life upon the planet. The Bible tells us that God created the earth to be inhabited and it will ultimately be inhabited by righteous people when the kingdom of God is established.

BEASTS POINTING TO THE FUTURE

Some years after Nebuchadnezzar had the prophetic dream of the metallic image, Daniel had a Divinely inspired dream which is recorded in Daniel chapter 7. This dream actually related to the same subject as Nebuchadnezzar’s dream i.e. the succession of human kingdoms leading up to God’s kingdom, but Daniel was given additional information. Instead of the kingdoms of men being represented by metals they were represented by beasts.

The Hebrew word for “beasts” does not mean domestic or tame beasts, but wild beasts. That these kingdoms should be represented by beasts is quite appropriate because secular nations and governments are like beasts, in the sense that they don’t know God and are ignorant of His purposes. Beasts are aggressive and prey upon one another. They devour one another and secular nations that don’t know God are very much like that. So it is quite fitting that they should be referred to as beasts. We read in Ps. 49:20 that man, no matter how honoured, if he doesn’t know and understand God’s will and ways is like the beasts that perish. Such men

are like beasts in life and like beasts in death. Solomon in Ecc. 3:18 said: "I hope in my heart that God might make it clear to men that they are themselves beasts."

Have you ever seen an animal standing in the field looking up to heaven contemplating whether or not there is a God, and meditating on who God is? Animals do not do this. They are mostly looking down and around for food and to gratify their own animalistic lusts and desires. Many men are like that, being earth bound in their vision and thinking. So it is quite appropriate that the Bible symbology should liken them to beasts.

Referring to the 4 beasts, Dan. 4:17 says: "These 4 beasts are 4 kings." Now you rarely get kings without kingdoms, for kings reign over kingdoms. So when it says they are kings, it is also referring to kingdoms, and v23 actually uses the word "kingdoms." The 4 beasts represent 4 kingdoms of the world which were to arise out of the earth.

The first beast was a lion and this corresponds with the head of gold on the image, signifying the kingdom of Babylon. The second beast was a bear and this corresponds with the chest and arms of silver on the metallic image, referring to the Medo-Persian power. The third beast was a leopard which corresponds with the belly and thighs of brass on the image and is referring to the kingdom of Greece. The fourth beast was a dreadful, terrible and extremely strong beast. It had great iron teeth and it devoured and broke in pieces, and it stamped the residue with its feet. This beast with its iron teeth corresponds with the legs of iron and refers to the Roman Empire.

Prior to Babylon there had been the kingdom of Assyria, and prior to that the kingdom of Egypt. Assyria is also referred to as a lion in Jer. 50:17 and Egypt is referred to as a dragon, i.e. a crocodile (Ezk. 29:3. Isa. 27:1. 51:9). Altogether we have reference to 6 beasts - Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece and Rome.

However, Daniel was given additional information. In verse 7 reference is made to 10 horns which correspond with the toes on the metallic image which the stone struck. But v8 goes on to say that another i.e. an 11th horn, referred to as "a little horn" comes up among the 10 and becomes a very powerful beast. The significance of all this is explained in v24 where we are told the 10 horns represent 10 kings (kingdoms) that will arise i.e. after the iron-legs phase representing the Roman Empire. Verse 24 says that the other little horn (the 11th horn) which comes up among the 10 represents another king or kingdom that will arise at the time of the 10 kings and will grow into a very powerful regime. In v11

this little horn is referred to as “the Beast.” Like Hitler who was a little man and who had small insignificant beginnings but who grew into such a formidable force - “a beast” - so shall this little horn in Dan. 7.

So then, adding the 10 horn kingdom and the little horn kingdom to those other 6 (Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece and Rome), we have a total of 8 kingdoms - 8 beasts.

Now if the 10 horns and little horn relate to the feet and toes of the image, it is evident that they are end time powers existing at the time of Christ’s return because the stone which descends from heaven and strikes the feet and the toes, represents the second coming of Jesus Christ. The stone could hardly smite the feet and toes if the powers represented by them did not exist when Jesus returns. This is common sense. There can be no doubt that the feet and toes represent human powers or kingdoms that exist at the time that Jesus Christ returns to the earth. It is certainly made clear in Dan. 7:20-27 that the little horn which becomes the beast and which arises at the time of the ten horns, exists at the time of Christ’s return when the kingdom of God will be established on the earth. This is what we read in v21-22: “The little horn (beast) will prevail until the ancient of days (Christ) comes, at which time judgement will be given to the saints and they shall possess the kingdom.”

A LARGE GAP OF TIME

It is evident that there is a large gap of time not covered in these prophecies in Dan. 2 and 7. The gap is between the Roman Empire and the end time beast and 10 kings i.e. between the legs of iron and the toes. The Roman Empire (legs of iron) was in power at the first coming of Jesus Christ. The Romans in fact nailed him to the cross. But after continuing for some centuries the Roman Empire came to an end as all human kingdoms do. It was invaded by barbarian tribes from the north who carved the Empire up among them resulting in the many different European nations that we have today. There were not exactly or only 10 barbarian tribes as some would like to think in order to apply the 10 toes to them. Neither can the toes be applied to the E.C. which once numbered 10 members but not now.

Why then, it will be asked, does Bible prophecy relate to the successive kingdoms of Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece and Rome and then leave a big gap after the Roman kingdom through to the end time feet and toes stage? The answer is: because of the nation of Israel - because the nation ceased to exist during this period.

It is important to understand that the nation of Israel is central to Bible prophecy. It is the focal centre - the geographical centre of Bible prophecy. It really is the key point of reference. All Bible prophecy revolves around the nation of Israel because the Israelites are the people of the Book. It was people chosen by God from Israel that were inspired to write the Scriptures. Israel is referred to in Isa. 43:10 as God's witnesses. They are a sign people and the fact of the matter is that only the nations which affect the fortunes, misfortunes and destiny of the nation of Israel come within the scope of Bible prophecy. It is just as well that this is the case when one considers how many nations have existed upon the earth since the beginning of time. If Bible prophecy set out to concern itself with every little movement of every nation, many volumes would be required to contain and explain all the information. This is a specialised subject and it requires a specialised focus; and that focus is Israel. This is where many people have gone off the rails because they have lost the centre - the reference point. Because the nation of Israel ceased to exist during the centuries after the Roman Empire, other nations during that period are not mentioned in the prophetic Word.

Egypt is mentioned because the nation of Israel was enslaved by, and delivered from that nation. Assyria is mentioned because she invaded northern Israel, destroyed the cities, killed many of the Israelites and took the survivors away into captivity.

Babylon is mentioned because she invaded southern Israel, destroyed cities there including Jerusalem along with the temple and took surviving Jews back to Babylon as captives.

Persia is mentioned because she conquered Babylon, and continued the Gentile rule over the Jews. The Persian king Cyrus, who was prophesied in Isa. 45:1 several centuries before he was born, gave the Jews permission to return to their land to rebuild the temple. And a later Persian king gave them permission to rebuild the capital city of Jerusalem in Nehemiah's day.

The Greek kingdom is mentioned because it ruled over Israel as well. One Greek ruler, Antiochus Epiphanes, invaded Israel, killed many Jews, desecrated the temple and stopped the daily sacrifice in fulfilment of Dan. 11:31.

The Roman kingdom is mentioned because they also invaded Israel and occupied the land prior to the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ. Later in A.D. 70, in fulfilment of a prophecy in Dan.9:26 as well as Jesus' prophecy in Lk. 21:20, the Romans destroyed the city of Jerusalem. They also destroyed the temple, massacred thousands of Jews and drove the rest

of them out of their land.

For the next 1,900 years after this, the nation of Israel ceased to exist. The Jews were in exile scattered throughout all nations of the earth exactly as Bible prophecy foretold. Jesus said in Lk. 21:24: “They shall fall by the edge of the sword and shall be led away captive into all nations, and Jerusalem shall be trodden down by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.” The word “until” defines a limit to the time that Jerusalem would be trodden down and that the Jews would be in exile. This is why the Barbarians who invaded the Roman empire are not covered in Daniel’s prophecy, much as some try to make the prophecy fit them. At the time of the Barbarians the nation of Israel did not exist, and the Barbarians were nowhere near the land. That is why there is a gap in Daniel’s prophecy after the Roman empire. However, Bible prophecy made it clear that the national identity of the Jews would be preserved during their long exile and that they would ultimately be gathered back to their land and become a nation again.

Jer. 30:11: “The Lord says to Israel: though I make a full end of all nations where I scatter you, I will never make a full end of you but I will discipline you in measure and not by any means leave you unpunished.”

Jer. 31:10: “Hear the Word of the Lord O ye nations (where the Jews were scattered) and declare it to the distant islands saying, he who scattered Israel will surely re-gather him and guard him as a shepherd does his flock.”

Ez. 37:21-22: “Thus says the Lord God, behold I will take the children of Israel from among the nations where they have gone; I will gather them from every direction and bring them back into their own land and I will make them one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel and one king shall be king to them all.”

Who is this king? There has never been a king in the land of Israel ruling over the Jews on the throne of David ever since the last king Zedekiah was deposed in 587 B.C. The Jews returned from Babylon but never had a king, and the throne of David has never been set up since.

The king referred to in Ezk. 37 is clearly the Messiah. The first and second part of the prophecy has been fulfilled, for the Jews have been regathered to their land and are one nation again. The third and final part of the prophecy is yet to be fulfilled for they have not got their king yet, but he is coming soon. Two thirds of the prophecy has been fulfilled and the remaining third is yet to happen. Bible prophecies such as this clearly teach that the nation of Israel had to exist again before Christ returned to the earth and before the battle of Armageddon could take place. This

should be evident from the fact that Armageddon is a Hebrew name and relates to a place in the land of Israel where Jesus is going to do battle with the nations who have invaded the land with the intention of destroying the nation of Israel. This is where the 10 horns and the beast come into focus. The book of Revelation picks up on this theme and provides further information.

THE TEN HORNS AND DRAGON

We are introduced to the 10 horns in Rev.12 where reference is made to them being on a dragon. This dragon is seen attacking a woman who has a crown of 12 stars. This is all symbolic of course. The 12 stars clearly point to Israel. 12 stars are only applied to the nation of Israel in Scripture. It all started back in Joseph's day when he had a vision of 11 stars bowing down to him (the twelfth star Gen. 37:9-10). Also compare Dan. 8:9-10, 21-24. The 12 stars represented the 12 sons of Jacob who became the 12 tribes of Israel. On this basis it is concluded that the woman in Revelation with the 12 stars represents the nation of Israel. She, along with the dragon is said to be in heaven which symbolizes power, particularly political power in this case Cp. Dan. 4:20-22. Isa. 14:4-15. It is symbolic of the political power which Israel has attained since the Jews have returned to the land. Basically this woman in heaven with the 12 stars represents the revived and restored nation of Israel which we see today, which is the super power in the Middle East at the moment.

Who then, we might ask, is the dragon with the 10 horns that attacks the woman? As far as the Bible is concerned as pointed out earlier, the dragon is a symbol of Egypt (Ezk. 29:1-3. Ps. 74:13-14. Isa. 27:1. 51:9) The dragon refers to the crocodile which swam in the Nile and which was regarded as a scaly serpent-fish, due to its long swishing tail. Rev. 12:9 therefore says that the dragon is "that old serpent called the devil and satan." The snake was also one of the symbols of ancient Egypt and the Pharaohs wore a replica of one on their crown. The Bible therefore refers to Egypt not only as a dragon but also as a serpent in Isa. 27:1. The sense in which Egypt is referred to as "that old serpent" is indicated in Isa. 51:9 where reference is made to her being the dragon "in the ancient days, in the generations of old" (Authorised Version). The dragon in Rev. 12 must therefore be identified with an old historic enemy of Israel, which Egypt was, and not a later foe like Rome which was a new enemy when the revelation was given to John in the first century A.D. In relation to Israel, Egypt has certainly had a history of being "devil" (false accuser) and

“satan” (adversary). One thing is certain: the serpent-dragon in Rev. 12, having 7 heads and 10 horns, does not refer to the serpent in Gen. 3.

The dragon in Rev. 12 does not refer to Egypt alone because he has got 10 horns which represent 10 other powers or nations that support him and fight for him as an animal fights with its horns. As we shall see, the 10 horns represent Moslem nations like Egypt herself. The dragon with 10 horns therefore involves 11 nations i.e. Egypt and 10 allies. It represents an anti-Israel confederacy.

The dragon is also referred to as being in heaven, alongside the woman with 12 stars in Rev. 12. This signifies that the dragon would also attain political power. Significantly enough, during the same era that Israel has attained power, so also have Moslem nations, mainly due to the bargaining power of oil - that liquid gold which nations depend upon so much.

At the moment there is a peace treaty between Egypt and Israel, but Bible prophecy indicates it will not last. Islamic fundamentalists and extremists who are extremely anti-Israel will probably change the situation in Egypt. They have been trying to do this for some time and will ultimately succeed as they did in Iran which has changed dramatically since the Shah was removed. He was pro-west and a friend of Israel, but once the Islamic fundamentalists got a foothold, everything changed. They are extremely anti-Israel and Bible prophecy foresaw this and spoke about it.

We had a preview of Egypt's potential for an anti-Israel attitude several decades ago when Abdul Nassar, president of Egypt at the time, who was extremely anti-Israel, stirred up and incited the Egyptians as well as other Moslem nations against Israel. A full scale war took place, but Israel came out of it the victor. It was clearly not the time for Armageddon and the second coming of Christ but it was a sign - a preview of things to come. Joel 3:19 reveals that prior to Armageddon, Egypt will become guilty of violence towards the Jews and will shed innocent blood in their land. So the present relationship between Egypt and Israel will eventually change for the worse.

Rev. 12:4 depicts the dragon casting down one third of the stars that belong to the woman i.e. one third of Israel's population. On the basis of today's population in Israel that would be about 2 million Jews. But when the prophecy is finally fulfilled the population may be much greater and therefore involve an even higher number of casualties. It is evident that Egypt and her 10 Moslem allies are going to ultimately have success against Israel. Their dream of conquering Israel will be fulfilled for a short

period of time.

But, if we read on in Rev. 12 we see that Michael the archangel intervenes and deals with the dragon power and casts the invading forces out. The power that a single angel can wield over invading forces can be seen in 2 Kng. 19:35 where reference is made to one destroying 185,000 Assyrians. One angel is perfectly able to wipe out a whole army! But for a time the dragon will rule and prevail over Israel, until Michael the archangel steps in. The fact that Michael is, as we read in Dan. 12:1, an angel specially appointed by God to supervise and defend the nation of Israel, confirms that the woman with 12 stars in Rev. 12 must be Israel.

If Michael gets the victory over the dragon and casts him out, removing the Arab threat against Israel, there will be a time of peace and rest in the land of Israel. This would probably be the time that the Jews will rebuild the temple. We know from Scripture that there is going to be a Jewish temple in the land in the end time prior to the coming of Christ, which means the Moslem mosque that is on the temple site will have to be removed; as this is the site where the Jews would want to rebuild their temple.

The Jewish temple is not likely to be rebuilt before the Moslem invasion because the first thing they would want to do in the event of a successful invasion would be to destroy it if it was there. But we know from the Scriptures that a temple has to be in existence when the beast invades because he will be sitting in it at the time of Christ's return.

It may be that prior to the Moslem invasion, the Jews will remove the mosque in preparation for the building of their temple. Being the third most holy mosque in the Moslem world, this will incite them to declare a Jihad and invade before it can be built. (The declaration of this Jihad is prophesied in Joel 3:9). If so, it would not be until Michael intervenes and removes the enemy, creating peace and rest in the land, that Israel will be able to build the temple.

The Islamic powers will not take kindly to being defeated and cast out of the land by Michael. Rev. 12 says: "The dragon is angry" - no doubt at failing to stay in possession of the land which he wants so badly. This is where the "little horn" who becomes the beast comes into the picture. Like the dragon, he is also anti-Israel. Not only is he anti-Israel but also anti-God, which the 10 horns are not, because being Moslem they are theistic i.e. they believe in God. Not so with the beast - he is anti-God and he occupies a very prominent place in the book of Revelation.

According to Rev. 13:2 the dragon transfers his power to the beast. Having failed to achieve his purpose, being cast out of the land of Israel,

the dragon needs help and support, so he transfers his power to the beast, and for that reason the beast is depicted with the 10 horns. They are the horns of the dragon - Islamic powers transferred to the beast. Otherwise if the beast had 10 of his own horns as well, the transfer of the dragon's power (which is his horns) would result in the beast ending up with 20 horns. But he doesn't, he only ends up with 10 horns. There are only 10 horns. They start with the dragon and are then transferred to the beast.

Reference in Dan. 7:8, 24 to the beast attacking and subduing 3 of the 10 horns probably also has a bearing on the 10 transferring their power to him.

SEVEN HEADS

The beast is also depicted with 7 heads and the significance of these is explained in Rev. 17:9-10 where we are informed that they represent 7 kings which involves 7 kingdoms. It says: "... 5 have fallen, 1 (the 6th) is in power, and the other (the 7th) is not yet come. And when he comes he must continue a short space, and the beast ... is the 8th." We learn from this that the 7 heads represent 7 different successive kingdoms during history, whereas the 10 horns represent 10 contemporary powers belonging to the same kingdom at the end of history in the end time. Instead of the 7 kingdoms being represented by 7 separate beasts, they are represented by 7 heads on one and the same beast. The one beast with 7 heads is therefore a panoramic picture of the beasts involved in the past and future history of the nation of Israel.

The 5 that had fallen were Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia and Greece. At the time that this Revelation was given they had been and gone. The 6th one that was in power when Revelation was given in the first century which the beast "is not" was of course the Roman empire. The 7th which was to come for a short time is obviously the dragon and for this reason the dragon is depicted with the 7 heads. Unless he was one of those kingdoms represented by the heads he would not be depicted with the heads! He certainly could not have been one of the 6 heads which have been accounted for in history, so he must be the 7th head. We therefore read in Rev. 17:11 that the end time beast "is the 8th" i.e. the 8th power in history to gain the ascendancy over the nation of Israel in the holy land. Being the 8th really confirms that the dragon is the 7th because this beast comes to power after the dragon!

WHO IS THE BEAST?

This brings us to the question: Who is the end time beast? We have identified the preceding 7 beasts, but who is the 8th and last beast?

Fortunately again, Scripture gives us the answer. We don't have to guess or assume. The answer is in Rev. 19:17-18 where reference is made to a call being made to the birds of the air to come and gather themselves together to the supper of the great God to eat the flesh of the beast and the 10 horns that are going to be killed at the battle of Armageddon by Christ when he returns. The marginal reference in most Bibles accepts that this statement is quoting Ezk. 39:17 which refers to birds and animals eating the flesh of armies which invade the land of Israel in the latter years. The Spirit of God is telling us here that the beast and the kings being devoured by the birds in Rev. 19 are the same armies referred to in Ezk. 39. Who then, are these armies?

GOG, PRINCE OF ROSH

If we go back to Ezk. 39 we find that it is the sequel to Ezk. 38 and this gives us an important connection. Ezk. 38:2 refers to the leader of the invasion force as "Gog of the land of Magog, prince of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal" (Revised Version). Most authorities agree that Rosh is the ancient name of Russia and that Magog, Meshech and Tubal were areas around the Black and Caspian seas which is southern Russia today. On this basis it is believed that the end time beast will be Russia and that the leader, "Gog," who is referred to as "the king of the north" in Dan. 11 and "the man of sin" in 2 Thes. 2 is going to come from Russia, probably southern Russia. Ezk. 38:15 says that he comes from the "uttermost (far) parts of the north." This is in relation to the land of Israel which is always the geographical centre of Bible prophecy. So we are told here the specific point of the compass from which this power is going to come - the far or uttermost parts of the north in relation to the land of Israel. The area of southern Russia would certainly fit into that category as far as the land of Israel was concerned in Bible times.

666

Gog is a symbolical name not a real name. Scripture does not actually reveal the real name of the beast but we are told in Rev. 13 that he involves a man, and that the number of his name is 666 i.e. the numerical

value of his name is 666. He will obviously be of a nationality whose letters of the alphabet have a numerical value, as for example the Greek language. In fact, in view of the reference in Rev. 13:2 to the beast looking like a leopard, which symbolized the Greek power in Dan. 7:6; he may be of Greek extraction and have a Greek name. Those who understand the number of his name will be able to discern his identity when he starts to rise to power. This is the reason for the Spirit of God giving us this information so that we will recognize him and be able to prepare ourselves for him as we see him starting to rise. We will be able to calculate the numerical value of his name when he is finally manifested.

The symbolical name "Gog" means "high," "exalted," "imposing;" (like a mountain) which is quite fitting because he is haughty, arrogant and egotistical. Dan. 11:36-38 says: "He shall do according to his will." He is a dictator and answers to nobody. He will have tremendous power and authority - more than any other leader in the whole of human history. "He shall exalt himself and he shall magnify himself above every God and will speak outrageous things against the God of Gods. He shall have no regard for the God of his ancestors (the Czars were religious) ... nor regard any God, for he shall magnify himself above them all. Instead of them he shall honour the god of forces (munitions) which his ancestors did not know" (Dan. 11:36-38). What sort of munitions could be referred to here? There are reasons as shall be pointed out, for believing it could be nuclear.

2 Thes. 2:3-4 refers to this man as "the man of sin." Why? Because he will be the sum total - the full embodiment of sin. Everything that sin, and the depravity of sin is capable of, this man will manifest. Paul says in these verses that "he will oppose and exalt himself above every God that there is (i.e. every so-called god) and every object of worship, and he will take his seat in the temple of God (the Jewish temple in Jerusalem) proclaiming himself to be God." Consistent with this are references in Revelation to the beast demanding to be worshipped and treated as a god by all nations and kindreds and tongues.

There is nothing new under the sun! Rulers in the past have deified themselves, proclaiming themselves to be gods on earth and demanding to be worshipped by the people, and this man will do the same. The only difference is that those rulers in the past did have their own gods and worshipped them, but this man of sin won't acknowledge or worship any god. He will claim to be the only god and will refuse to allow those under his power and authority to acknowledge and worship others. This will be a more extreme version of the previous communist regime in Russia which

was anti-theistic and anti-Semitic.

The man of sin is unquestionably anti-theistic - an atheist. He therefore cannot be the Pope as many in the past have believed. The Roman Catholic church along with its Popes is referred to in Rev. 17, not as the beast but as a harlot, which is a Biblical term used for an apostate religious system. Rev. 17:16 through into Rev. 18 says that the beast and the 10 horns hate the harlot. It is evident from this that the harlot is not the beast. They are entirely separate and distinct powers. Being anti-God and therefore anti-religious, it is not surprising that the beast will hate a powerful religious institution such as the Roman Catholic church. The 10 horns, being Islamic nations, will hate her as well. Prophecies in Daniel and Revelation reveal that the beast will also hate the true Christian community and will wage war against them, putting many to death (Dan. 7:21-25. Rev. 11:7. 13:7).

ROME DESTROYED

Rev. 17:16 goes on to say that the beast and 10 horns will burn the great city of the harlot with fire. This great city, referred to in Rev. 17:9 as having 7 hills, is Rome, because it says in v18: "This is that great city which rules over the kings of the earth." At the time that this prophecy was given to John in the first century A.D, Rome ruled the nations and the city had 7 hills.

If the beast and 10 horns completely burn and destroy the city of Rome "within an hour" as is stated in Rev. 18, what kind of fire could that be? With what kind of fire could a city the size of Rome be burned and destroyed within an hour? There is only one kind of fire that could do that, namely: nuclear. In view of this it is significant that since the break up of the Soviet Union, nuclear missiles have gone missing. But it is possible that when the beast comes to power, he will have them or have access to them and will use them.

How could nations fight against a power that has no hesitation or compunction about sending nuclear warheads on cities like Rome and threatens to send more on other cities unless the nations submit to his rule? Is it no wonder that it says in Revelation: "Who can make war with the beast?" What a dilemma this will be for nations like America, Britain, France and other nations even though they also have access to nuclear warheads. They are not likely to retaliate against a maniac who drops a warhead on a city like Rome, by sending their own nuclear weapons upon a city or cities in an attempt to kill this man. No! The cities and nations of

the world will be held to ransom by this man and will have to submit to him. “Who can make war with the beast?” is the exclamation that will be expressed at that time. He will possibly be like Bin Laden whose precise whereabouts could not be ascertained.

One would have to be a spiritual contortionist to make the beast the Roman Catholic church and it is a continual source of amazement that many have tried to do this. Various expositors are still trying to do it today, with the result that if the Roman Catholic church is the beast, it would have to destroy itself, because the Vatican is in Rome and if Rome is destroyed, the Vatican, which is the nerve centre of the Roman Catholic church, will go up in smoke with it.

Prior to the beast coming to power, the Roman Catholic church will exercise influence over the nations that ultimately come under his power. This is signified in Rev. 17:1-3 by the harlot sitting upon the beast. But in the end, the beast bucks her off his back and burns her with fire. Once again a clear distinction is made here between the beast and the harlot.

THE BEAST WAS AND IS NOT

Rev. 17:11 declares that “the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven.” This suggests that the end time beast will be a revival or repetition of a previous beast. We can narrow him down to being a repetition of one of the first five, because the words “is not” mean he is not the sixth beast (Rome) which existed at the time when these words were declared. And, in view of the statement that the beast “was,” it is clear that he could not be the seventh (the dragon) who was “yet to come.”

The end time beast must therefore be a repetition of one of the first 5 heads which were Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia and Greece.

It cannot be Egypt because the dragon is Egypt and is the seventh head, and as we shall see: the beast invades Egypt in the end time.

Neither is it likely to be Assyria or Babylon because both of these races have become extinct. Iraq occupies the territory originally occupied by Assyria and Babylon and will, as we shall see, be a confederate of the beast but not the beast himself.

The same applies to Persia which is Iran today. She is referred to as a confederate of the beast in Ezk. 38:5, and is not the beast himself.

GREECE

By this process of elimination we are left with Greece, which is interesting in the light of Daniel chapter eleven. Throughout this chapter, reference is made to “the king of the north” and refers to the Greek Selucidae kingdom north of Israel, which occupied the territories now known as Turkey, Syria, Iran, Iraq and Afghanistan. Out of this kingdom, around 175 B.C. arose a particularly evil and vile anti-Israel king by the name of Antiochus Epiphanes. He invaded Israel resulting in many Israelites being slain, and the survivors were subjected to a time of tribulation. The daily sacrifice was stopped for 3½ years; the temple was desecrated and an abomination was set up. Copies of the law were burned, priests were massacred and infants who were circumcised were slaughtered and hung around their mother’s necks. It was a terrible time for the Jews and a very dark and dismal period in their history.

It was such a significant period in Israel’s history that a specific prophecy was given relating to it, recorded in Daniel chapter 8. In this chapter reference is made to a he-goat which signifies Greece, and the goat had a notable horn which represented the first king, Alexander the Great. The great horn was broken and in its place came up 4 notable ones towards the 4 points of the compass. These 4 horns represented 4 of Alexander’s generals who took over his empire after his death. Out of one of these 4 came forth a “little horn” who became powerful, expanding to the south and east and toward Palestine. He grew strong enough to attack the army of heaven (Israel’s army), and cast some of the stars (Israelites) to the ground and trampled upon them, treading them under foot. He even magnified himself against the God of Israel and stopped the daily sacrifice being offered to God on the altar at Jerusalem and cast his temple down.

The little horn that did all this was Antiochus Epiphanes, who was a descendant of Seleucus Nicator, the Greek general who ruled over the area of Alexander’s empire north of Israel; known as the Selueucidae kingdom. It was clearly part of the Greek kingdom originally established by Alexander the Great, and the prophecy in Dan. 8 concerning the Greek empire leads up to this point. It is the main objective of the prophecy.

Significantly enough, the man of sin - Gog - the eighth beast phase, is also referred to as a “little horn” in Dan. 7 and “king of the north” in Dan. 11:40-. In fact, what is said about the end time little horn and king of the north is so similar to what is said about the little horn in Dan. 8, some have concluded that they refer to one and the same power. This would not be surprising if one was a revival of the other! It is to be expected that a

power that is a revival of the past, will closely resemble it.

For this reason the section in Dan. 11 which refers to Antiochus as the king of the north flows straight into the time of the end and refers to the leader of the end time invasion forces by the same title. This surely implies that the end time invasion of Israel and the tribulation it causes, will be a repetition or revival of the history that took place during the period of the Greek empire, represented by the fifth head on the beast.

For this reason it is stated in Rev. 13:2 that the beast “looked like a leopard,” i.e. the dominant characteristic was that of a leopard. In Dan. 7:6 the leopard is the beast chosen by the Spirit to represent the Greek empire, and it was in a section of this empire that the little horn in Dan. 8 emerged. In view of this it is reasonable to conclude that the end time beast, like Antiochus Epiphanes, will be “king of the north.” He will have jurisdiction over the same territories of Turkey, Syria, Iraq, Iran and Afghanistan and much more, and will invade Israel causing much death, destruction and tribulation. He will, as did Antiochus, take away the daily sacrifice, set up an abomination, desecrate the temple and tread Jerusalem underfoot for 3½ years.

In every respect the end time king of the north will be a revival and repetition of Antiochus Epiphanes.

A COMPOSITE BEAST

The beast in Revelation is a composite beast, containing characteristics of the beasts in Dan. 7. It looks like a leopard with feet like a bear and a mouth like a lion (Rev. 13:2). In Dan. 7 the leopard represented Greece, including the Selucidæ kingdom; the lion represented Babylon (Iraq), and the bear represented Persia (Iran). This confirms that the territory over which the beast will have jurisdiction will be at least the area ruled by Antiochus Epiphanes. The end time beast will incorporate both European and Middle eastern nations. He will ultimately have power over all nations kindreds and tongues (Rev. 13:7-8), and control the monetary system of the world (Rev. 13:17).

Rolling and incorporating the different beasts into one reminds us of the metals in the metallic image in Dan. 2 which, although different, and representative of beast phases i.e. successive empires, will nevertheless all be destroyed “together” at Armageddon (Dan. 2:35). This also indicates, as in the case of the different beasts which are formed together into one beast in Rev. 13, that the territories represented by the metals will all be confederated under one head in the latter days, forming the most powerful

empire in world history.

AT REST WITHOUT WALLS

Coming back to Ezk. 38, it is interesting to note that v11 says: “Israel will be at rest dwelling safely and securely without walls, bars and gates.” This is speaking about no defence system in Israel and no threat of attack or war prior to the beast invading. This would only make sense if the threat of war with the surrounding Moslem countries had been removed. Such will be the case if the dragon in Rev. 12 who is defeated and cast out by Michael represents those Moslem countries. Such a time of rest and peace would be a good time to rebuild the Jewish temple and reinstate the daily sacrifice, both of which have to exist when the beast invades the land. According to 2 Thes. 2:4 the man of sin will be sitting in the temple when Christ comes, and it is stated in Dan. 12:11 that the daily sacrifice will be taken away. In order to be taken away it must first be reinstated by the Jews. Dan. 12:11 teaches that the taking away of the daily sacrifice will be the starting date of the end time prophetic time periods, i.e. the 1,260, and 1,290 and 1,335 days which are mentioned in Dan. 12.

WHO ARE THE 10 HORNS?

It should be evident that the 10 horns of the dragon become allies or confederates of the beast and support his invasion of Israel. This invasion is not only referred to in Ezk. 38 but Dan. 11:40-45, and Joel’s prophecies as well; and these Scriptures actually refer to the beast’s allies by name. This enables us to identify the 10 horns. They are as follows:

1. Iran (“Persia” Ezk. 38:5).
2. Ethiopia (Ezk. 38:5).
3. Libya (Ezk. 38:5).
4. Gomer (Ezk. 38:6) the region of the Caucasus and beyond.
5. Turkey (“Togarmah” Ezk. 38:6).
6. Jordan (“Edom, Moab and Ammon” Dan. 11:41. Ps. 83).
7. Lebanon (“Tyre and Zidon” Joel 3:4 Ps. 83).
8. Palestinians (“Palestine” Joel 3:4)
9. Iraq (“Assyria” Mic. 5:5. Ps. 83).
10. Syria An historical enemy, involved in many wars against Israel and no doubt the end time war. Since Israel became a nation in 1948, Syria has been one of the main opponents and antagonists of Israel.

So there you have it, the 10 allies of the beast who will link up with him, hoping that with his support they will achieve what they failed to achieve by themselves as a result of Michael intervening.

A BRITTLE COMBINATION

Significantly enough, the feet and toes of the image are a mixture of iron and clay which is not a cohesive mix. This is not surprising when you consider that the beast and 10 horns involve a mixture of communism and Mohamadism. The communists and the Islamic nations are diametrically opposed to each other as far as a basic philosophy of life is concerned. One is atheistic in its philosophy, and the other is theistic. The only reason these two can come together as a military unit is because of political expediency. They have a common goal which is to destroy Israel. It is the anti-Israel spirit that unites them and enables them to join forces to invade.

It is significant that the word “mixed” in Dan. 2:41-43 which relates to iron mixed with clay, comes from the Hebrew word “arab” and is used in relation to Arab tribes in Jer. 25:24. These are the people of mixed ancestry, who have never remained united and cohesive, always quarrelling and falling out with themselves and others, except in one particular case: they are almost always solidly united in their hatred of Israel and in their ambition to seize her land.

EGYPT EXCLUDED

Egypt is not included among the allies of the beast in the end because it is evident from Dan. 11:42-43 that sometime before the invasion takes place, she falls out with the beast, resulting in him invading her land when he invades Israel. Verse 40 says: “The king of the south (Egypt) shall push at (provoke) the king of the north.” Egypt is going to do something provocative; resulting in being invaded rather than be an ally of the invader.

Dan. 11:41 says: “Many in the glorious land (Israel) are going to be overthrown.” We have already seen that the dragon will cast down one third of the stars of Israel when he invades i.e. one third of Israel’s population. As a result of the second invasion by the beast, more Israelites will be overthrown, probably another third, because a prophecy in Zech. 13:8 says that a total of two thirds in the land will be cut off. If so, each invasion will cause the death of millions of Jews. It is no wonder that

Jesus said there is going to be a time of trouble such as never was nor ever shall be since there was a nation upon the earth, and this will be particularly applicable to the nation of Israel.

Dan. 11:45 says the king of the north (the beast) will plant himself on the Temple Mount in Israel when he invades. The apostle Paul refers to this in 2 Thes. 2. He says the man of sin will sit in the temple of God (as an act of desecration) proclaiming himself to be God, and will be destroyed by the brightness of Christ's coming. It is clearly at that point of time that Christ descends from heaven.

Excluding Egypt from the beast's allies who invade Israel, does not in any way contradict what has been said about the 10 horns of the dragon being transferred to the beast, because Egypt was not one of the horns. Egypt is the dragon and the 10 horns are 10 nations that initially support Egypt. The dragon with the 10 horns actually represents 11 powers. For that reason, the beast in Revelation is only referred to as having 10 horns.

CONCLUSION

By way of conclusion here is a summary of the main points:

We have seen that Bible prophecy teaches that as a prelude to the second coming and the battle of Armageddon, the Jews had to return to their land. They have done that. They had to become a nation again and they have done that. They had to repossess Jerusalem their ancient capital city and they have done that. They had to repossess the temple mount. They have done that. They had to be surrounded by anti-Israel Moslem nations and that is the situation today for the most part. These nations will ultimately invade and possess Israel for a short period of time before Jesus returns and deals with them at the battle of Armageddon. We have also seen that the extermination of life on our planet will be a very real possibility at the time that Jesus Christ returns. We are living in that situation today.

Most of the end time prophecies that are signs of the second coming of Christ have been fulfilled or are in the process of being fulfilled. They are not difficult to believe, because we can see them all fulfilled or fulfilling before our very eyes. The same applies to the metallic image. Of all the successive stages represented by the different metals, four fifths of the prophecy has been fulfilled. Who could doubt that the final fifth will also be fulfilled? You do not have to be a rocket scientist to work out that we are living in very significant times - the countdown period to the battle of Armageddon and the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ!

“But who may abide the day of his coming? And who shall stand when he appears?” “Those who fear the Lord and speak often to one another (about the Lord!) and they shall be mine, says the Lord of hosts, My special treasure on the day when I act, and I will spare them as a man spares his own son that serves him” (Mal. 3:2, 16-17).



Some of the subjects covered in this booklet, such as the beast, dragon, harlot, end time Jewish temple and the prophetic time-periods; are covered more fully in books written by the same author, entitled:
“The End Time Jewish Temple in Bible Prophecy” and
“Things Old and New From the Book of Revelation.”
They can be downloaded from www.bibletruthrestored.org.