

# PROPHECY HOME BIBLE STUDY

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## Understanding The Endtime

The Prophet Daniel said concerning the time in which we live: “And they that understand among the people shall instruct many” (Daniel 11:33). This Prophecy Bible Study is designed as a direct fulfillment of this 2,600 year-old prophecy. After completion of this course, you will have an understanding of events presently occurring in our world. More importantly, you will know what is going to happen in the near future and what you should do about it.

## Preface

Every 2,000 years a major event in the plan of God for the human race takes place. Approximately 4000 B.C., Adam and Eve were created. Around 2000 B.C., Abraham was born. He became the father of the physical people of God on earth—the Jews, and the father of the spiritual people of God on earth—the church. Two-thousand years later, Jesus Christ was born. Now we stand on the brink of the next 2,000-year milestone. This historic point in time promises to be the most important ever since the beginning of the human race. Sometime around the year 2000 A.D., it seems certain that the second coming of Jesus to establish His 1000-year reign of peace will occur. This prophecy series called *Understanding The Endtime* will demonstrate from scripture how you can know that this is true.

### **Most prophecies in the Bible pertain to the endtime.**

When we talk about the endtime, we are not referring to the end-of-time. By endtime, we mean the end of this age. The scriptures are explicit that humanity will continue to exist for another 1,000 years during the earthly reign of Jesus Christ.

After writing the book of Daniel, Daniel prayed to understand the things he had written. God's reply is recorded in Daniel 12:9, "Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed *till the time of the end.*"

God explicitly states here that the prophecies given to Daniel are specifically for the people of the endtime. God made a sovereign decision 2,600 years ago to place prophecy in the hands of the endtime generation so we could know that Jesus Christ was soon to be revealed!

The goal of *Understanding the Endtime* is to assist the people who live in the endtime in preparing for the second coming of Jesus.

### **Can prophecy be understood?**

Some have said that no one can really understand the prophecies of the Bible. They have even stated that God did not intend for us to understand future events.

However, it has been estimated that one-third of the Bible is prophecy, and that ninety percent of those prophecies will be fulfilled in our time. Did God place these prophecies in His word as a cruel Joke, or did He intend for His people to understand them? Scripture plainly says that God will do nothing unless He first reveals it to His servants, the prophets (Amos 3:7). The things that God did not want us to know, He ordered John not to write. In Revelation 10:4 John recorded: "...and I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Seal up those things which the seven thunders uttered, and write them not." Apparently, if God allowed John to write what he saw, He intended for someone to understand what was written.

### **Faith in prophetic teaching has been shaken.**

Because many things have been taught concerning prophecy that did not come to pass, some have lost all faith in prophecy preaching. Yet, false doctrines on many subjects have been taught throughout the years: but, in spite of this, we still know that false doctrine does not invalidate the truth.

Many good men have taught things about prophecy that were proven to be incorrect, It merely wasn't yet time for these prophecies to be understood. Many things concerning prophecy that have never been understood before are being understood now. This is not because we are more intelligent or more spiritual than those good men who have diligently studied and prayed in years gone by. It is simply because we are the people of the time of the end. God has reserved understanding concerning endtime prophecy for the people of the endtime.

Even during the endtime, most people will not understand. Daniel 12:10 says of this time: "...None of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand."

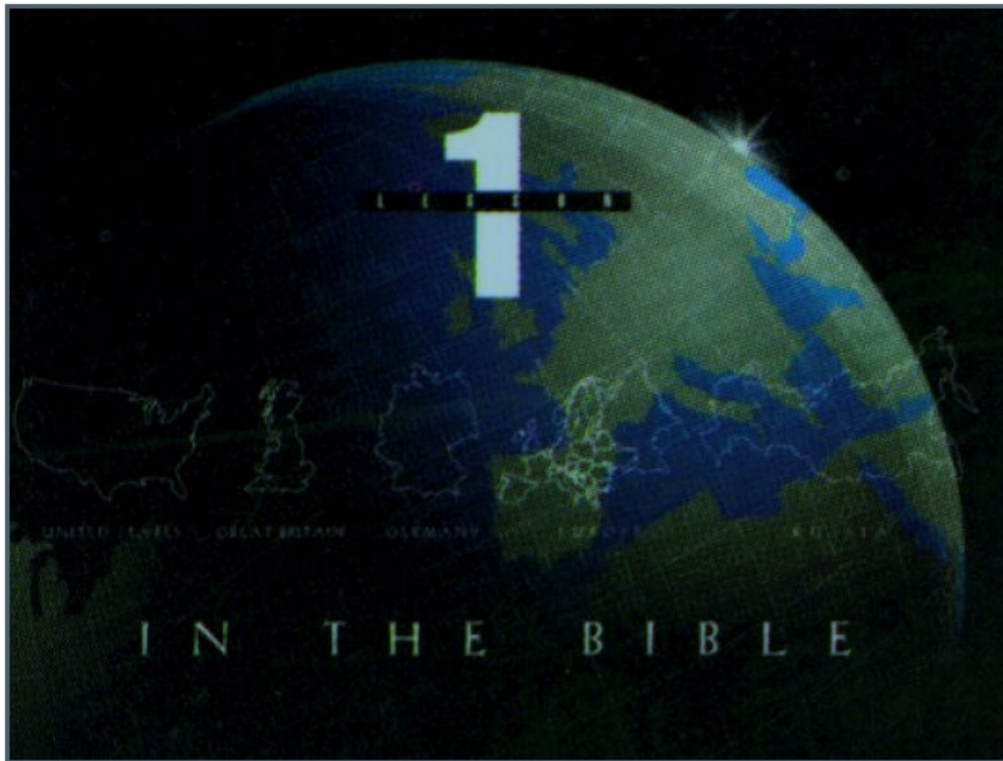
It would be a tragic mistake to discount the prophecies that God has given for this hour. Revelation 19:10 emphatically declares that "**The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of Prophecy.**"

Understanding the Endtime  
Prophecy Home Bible Study

LESSON 1

GREAT BRITAIN, THE UNITED STATES, RUSSIA, AND EUROPE IN THE BIBLE

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## Lesson 1

# GREAT BRITAIN, THE UNITED STATES, RUSSIA, AND EUROPE IN THE BIBLE

Supplemental Reading - *A Message for the President* by Irvin Baxter Jr.

As incredible as it may seem, the nations of Great Britain, the United States, Russia, and Europe are included in Bible prophecies which were written more than 2500 years ago! Many have stated that United States is not mentioned in the Bible at all. However, in this lesson we are going to give absolute proof that it is.

Daniel had a vision in which he saw four beasts. They were: a lion with eagle wings, a bear, a leopard with four heads, and a beast to which Daniel could give no name, but whose dominant characteristic was its ten horns.

### What do these beasts symbolize?

These great beasts, which are four, are four kings, which shall arise out of the earth. Daniel 7:17

Thus he said The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces. Daniel 7:23

**A Beast = A Kingdom or nation along with its ruler**

### When Will these nations exist?

I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow; and the hair of his head like the pure wool; his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire. Daniel 7:9

I beheld then because of the voice of the great words which the horn spake: I beheld even till the beast was slain, and his body destroyed, and given to the burning flame. As concerning the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away: yet their lives were prolonged for a season and time. Daniel 7:11-12

**These nations will all exist on earth at the time the Antichrist is killed by Jesus Christ.**

## JESUS Christ will return to earth during the lifetime of this nation.

### What do these beasts symbolize?

Each of these beasts symbolizes a king and his kingdom according to verse seventeen of this same chapter of Daniel: "These great beasts, which are four, are four kings, which shall arise out of earth." Verse twenty-three further states, "The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon the earth." So the first thing that we know for certain is that these beasts represent nations, along with their rulers.

### When will these nations exist?

The Bible teaches that, at the end of the church age in which we now live, Jesus Christ will return to earth, put down the thrones of all human governments, and setup His 1000-year reign of peace called kingdom of God. This event is recorded in Daniel 7:9, "I beheld till the thrones were cast down, the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair on his head like the pure white: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire."

The Bible records in many places that, immediately before the kingdom of God is established, a world government will rule the earth for a very short period of time. This world government will be led by a world dictator who is referred to in the Bible as the beast, the man of sin, the son of perdition, the little horn, or the Antichrist. When Jesus comes, he will destroy the Antichrist and cast him into the lake of fire.

The destruction of the Antichrist is described in verse 11:

"I beheld then because of the voice of the great words which the horn spake: I beheld even till the beast was slain, and his body destroyed, and given to the burning flame."

The horn that spake great words is the Antichrist. The Antichrist and his kingdom is destroyed when Jesus appears. At the same time that Jesus destroys the Antichrist, verse 12 tells us: "As concerning the rest of the beasts (nations), they had their dominion taken away: yet their lives were prolonged for a season and time."

When Jesus comes to the earth, in addition to destroying the Antichrist, He will remove all of the political leaders from power and replace their governments with His own. Even though the nations of the earth will not be permitted to govern themselves, some of them will be permitted to live under the government of God. This shows beyond all doubt that all of the nations prophesied in Daniel 7 will be in existence on earth when Jesus comes to establish His kingdom! If we can prove that these nations do exist right now, we can know that we live right now in the era in which Jesus' promised second coming will occur!

### Can we identify these nations?

When God picked symbols to represent nations, He did not pick them arbitrarily, nor did He choose symbol which had no significance. Rather He chose symbols that would be meaningful to the people who would live at the time of the prophecy's fulfillment. Let's examine the description of each symbol carefully.

#### ***The Lion***

Daniel 7:4,

"The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it."

Great Britain's official animal symbol is the lion. An article appearing in the *Indianapolis Star* on January 4, 1980, was entitled, "After The British Lion, The Russian Bear." On some of Britain's flags, there has been the image of the lion. It is common to see Britain referred to as the lion in news articles and in political cartoons. In *Webster's Third New International Dictionary* under "lion", it states that the lion is the symbol of Great Britain.

#### ***The bear***

Daniel 7:5,

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

This nation symbolized by the bear is Russia. It is common knowledge that Russia's symbol is the bear. An article in the January 4, 1980, issue of the *Indianapolis Star*, which we previously referred to, clearly illustrates this. On the covers of *Time* magazine on October 27, 1980, and on May 21, 1984, a bear was pictured to represent the nation of Russia. This prophecy written 2,500 years ago is unerringly being fulfilled now!

Note that the bear "...raised up itself on one side." Russia has always moved in aggression against the nations on the one side of her.

Since World War II she has controlled East Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, and Albania.

The bear is also shown having "...three ribs in the mouth of it." Although on this point we cannot be absolutely sure, the three ribs mentioned appear to represent Manchuria, Mongolia, and Sinkiang—the three huge provinces which Russia took from China by means of nineteenth century treaties. Since China feels that these treaties were imposed upon her unjustly, these three land areas have become bones of contention between Russia and China. Many armed flare-ups have occurred in these areas in recent years, and it is now feared that these border disputes may ignite an all-out war between these two giants.

The last voice of Daniel 7:5 was encouraging the bear to, "Arise, devour much flesh." Fulfillment of this portion of the prophecy concerning the bear obviously pertains to the revolutionary forces around the world encouraging Russia to push the communist revolution to the four corners of the globe. Many people believe that communism is dead; however, socialistic thinking has infiltrated almost every nation on earth. Russia does not believe in God, but God knew Russia and spoke of her before she ever came into existence as a nation!

### ***The eagle***

It is extremely interesting that the lion had "eagle's wings". A major nation today has the eagle for its national symbol. To identify that nation, we need only to look on the reverse side of the United States one dollar bill. There you will see the great seal of the United States which is the eagle. A radio commercial which was used to sell United States savings bonds during the Vietnam War era, said, "Go with the eagle—the red, white, and blue eagle. Buy United States savings bonds!" On the cover of *Time* magazine, October 27, 1980, an eagle was used to represent the United States.

An amazing thing about this prophecy is that the eagle's wings are shown coming out of the lion! Where did the United States of America come from? Out of her mother country of Great Britain, of course! And that's not all! Daniel said, "I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked...". In approximately 600 B.C., Daniel foresaw the breaking away of the eagle from the lion, graphically depicting the Declaration of Independence which occurred 2,374 years later in 1776 A.D.

Notice that, when the eagle's wings were plucked, the Bible says, "it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it." Not only does the United States use an eagle for its symbol, it also uses a man—Uncle Sam.

Why would God say that a man's heart would be given to the United States? Most nations will go to war against an enemy. When the enemy is defeated, they will plunder and spoil everything of value the defeated enemy has left. This has not been true with the United States. The U.S. will defeat a nation and then infuse the nation with billions of dollars to help it rebuild. No wonder God said a man's heart rather than the heart of a beast was given to the United States!

Before Great Britain, the United States, or Russia ever existed, Almighty God prophesied through Daniel in incredible detail concerning these nations!

### ***The leopard***

Daniel 7.6,

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

The next nation predicted for our time is symbolized by the leopard. It was said about the leopard that "...dominion was given to it."

Which nation, in the last 100 years, has had dominion in world affairs? It can't be the United States because she is the eagle. This can't refer to Russia, because she's the bear. There is a nation which has been the aggressor in the last three major wars on earth: the Franco-German War of 1870, World War I, and World War II. That nation is Germany.

Germany has been the dominant force in Europe for many years. She was forced to rebuild after World War II when she was almost totally destroyed, but Germany is once again dominating Europe. The European Union has become the world's number one economic power, and Germany is by far the strongest country among the nations of the European Union.

Only an act of God prevented Germany from conquering the world under Adolph Hitler's leadership. The German army had the Allied armies trapped by a pincer movement against the eighteen-mile-wide English Channel. The German blitzkrieg attack was grinding the Allied forces into mincemeat. Within three days the Allies would have been forced to sue for peace on Hitler's terms. However, on the brink of a great victory, Hitler feared that he was falling into a trap because it was all happening so easy. He ordered his armies to pause, pulling his generals back to command headquarters for reassessment. During this delay in Hitler's attack, the Allied forces strengthened their defenses, and, by mobilizing every available boat in Great Britain and France, they were able to evacuate Allied soldiers who would live to fight another day. When the operation began, the strategy counted on evacuating only about 45,000 men in the two days allotted for the plan. But because of Hitler's unexpected reassessment order, the Allies were able to rescue 338,226 troops. They were aided by bad weather which kept the German Air forces on the ground during much of the operation. When the Allied troops were finally forced to surrender, only about 40,000 Allied soldiers were captured. It is no wonder that this decisive turn of events is known as the "Miracle of Dunkirk"! (William L. Shirer, *The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich*, Greenwich: Fawcett Books, 1960, pp.968-970).

Notice in Daniel 7:6 that the LEOPARD had "four heads" The other three beasts (nations) of Daniel 7 had only one head each. In Bible prophecy a beast always represents a nation along with its ruler. Multiple heads on a beast represent the number of times that particular nation will rise and fall. Thus the four heads of the leopard spoken of in Daniel 7:6 represent Germany's First Reich, Second Reich, Third Reich (Hitler's regime), and the Fourth Reich which is now rising. A prominent United States politician has referred to the present restoration of power to West Germany as the Fourth Reich (George W. Ball, "Three and a Half Superpowers to Rule the World", *Life*, March 29, 1968, pg. 81). A new book has been written by Edwin Hartrich, *The Fourth and Richest Reich*; N.Y.: MacMillan, 1980. This Fourth Reich will reach its full power within the framework of a union of nations presently known as the European Union.

While seeking to understand the prophecy of Daniel and specifically the identity of the leopard, I had quite an unusual experience. I awakened one morning feeling a strong impression that I should purchase a newspaper. I felt that God was saying to me that there was information in that day's paper which would assist me in understanding the prophecies that I had been studying. I went to a local restaurant and purchased a paper. I felt so certain that God wanted to show me something that I examined the front page while still standing there by the dispenser. The first article I saw was headlined, "Germany Sells Leopard Tanks to Netherlands." I knew that the United States had named one of its aircraft the "Eagle Fighter" after its symbol, the eagle (see *Encyclopedia of Aviation* by Scribner's pg. 63). Since the time of that newspaper article, the German Leopard Tank has become the world's foremost tank and is the number one tank used in the armies of NATO.

## ***The ten-horned beast***

Daniel 7:7,

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

Only a description was given in Daniel 7 concerning the last beast. No name was given because the beast apparently did not resemble anything Daniel had ever seen. He said that the beast was "dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly." Note that the predominant characteristic of this beast was that it had "ten horns". Our examination to this point has already shown that these beasts represent kingdoms. But what do these "horns" represent?

"Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces. And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise."

The horns represent kings or rulers. The ten horns equal ten kings. The ten horns upon one single beast symbolize a union of ten different nations joining their power together and forming one great kingdom. Another picture of this ten nation union is given in Revelation 17:12-14, which was written 700 years after the book of Daniel:

"And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast. These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast. These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is the Lord of lords and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful."

This passage from Revelation refers to the same power as the ten-horned kingdom of Daniel 7:23-24, and reveals a very interesting fact about this power. The kingdom of the ten horns will be the last kingdom upon the face of the earth prior to the establishment of the Kingdom of God by Jesus Christ. Notice that these ten kings make war with the Lamb (Jesus Christ), and that the Lamb defeats them. This same truth is taught in Daniel 7:25-27. Judgment is to be poured out on the dictator who is to reign over the ten-kingdom union. The kingdom is taken from this ten-nation ruler and is given unto the people of the saints of the Most High God, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom.

In these prophecies we are given a very detailed description of the last world power that shall reign over the peoples of the earth immediately before the return of Jesus Christ.

## **Three possibilities**

One of the leading contenders to become the prophesied ten-horned kingdom is the European Union, formerly known as the Common Market.

In 1957 six nations in Europe joined themselves together by signing the Treaty of Rome. They hoped that this agreement would eventually lead them to become one great nation, They projected that their "federation in the making" could one day become known as the United States of Europe. It was by means of the Treaty of Rome that they made a commitment to begin removing barriers standing between their countries. The forming of a new federation was necessary because the old countries of Europe had been the traditional seats of power for more than 1,000 years. After World War II, however, the Soviet Union and the United States had emerged on the stage of world affairs as "superpowers", standing head and shoulders above the other nations of the world. Because of this new superpower reality of the nuclear age, the Soviet Union and the United States would make unilateral decisions



which affected their European friends, often without bothering to consult with them. If the European nations were consulted, it was more for the purpose of "informing" them of what had been unilaterally decided, rather than to seek for their opinions. The proud peoples of Europe, as a result, dreamed of establishing a third superpower that would be at least equal to, if not greater than, the United States and Russia. The Europeans reasoned that if the countries forming the heart of Europe were brought together in one great federation, they would form a union of 300 million people, thus qualifying themselves for superpower status.

The original six countries which signed the Treaty of Rome in 1957 were West Germany, France, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, and Belgium. Brussels, Belgium, was chosen for the headquarters of the Common Market, whose official name became the European Economic Community. The six members began working together to reduce tariffs and manufacturing restrictions, as well as other trade barriers between the countries. They even studied steps taken by the original 13 American colonies in creating the United States of America and patterned their course, to a great extent, accordingly.

The European Common Market became so successful that four other nations decided they were being left out of the course of history and, therefore, applied for membership. The four nations who applied were Great Britain, Northern Ireland, Denmark, and Norway. These were accepted into the union bringing the total number of member nations to ten. However, after being accepted, a public out-cry against joining the Common Market was raised in Norway, causing that government to hold a referendum in which the people of Norway voted against Common Market membership. In the end, then, only Great Britain, Northern Ireland, and Denmark joined the federation.

As a result of Norway's actions, the Common Market was left with only nine member nations, not ten. Finally, in May of 1980, the nation of Greece was granted full membership, effective January 1, 1981, finally bringing the number of nations to ten.

Great advances have been made toward uniting the Common Market countries. These countries now enjoy free trade between their member nations. An individual may grow crops in one country and sell them in another without taxation, just like a farmer in Indiana may raise corn and sell it in Ohio. Drivers' licenses are now valid in all member nations, and a common license plate is now issued. People are permitted to work in one country and live in another, just as Americans may live in one state and work in another. Many of the railroad boxcars carrying products across the continent are now labeled "Europe". These countries have also recently established a monetary system. It is thought that this new monetary system will develop its own currency, replacing the currency of the individual nations, and ultimately replacing the American dollar in world money markets as the world's dominant currency. The creation of this single currency is scheduled for 1997.

The parliament of the Common Market is now elected by means of direct elections rather than being appointed from the different member nations. The people of the member nations send their own congressmen to the congress (parliament) of the Common Market. As of January 1985, the Common Market began Issuing a European Passport to its citizens instead of a passport from Individual countries.

In 1986 two more nations, Portugal and Spain, were granted membership in the Common Market. On January 1, 1995, three more nations-Austria, Finland, and Sweden-became members. The number of nations in the European union now stands at fifteen. Obviously, some nations will have to drop out if this union is to become the ten-horned beast.

The strongest arguments for the European Union becoming the kingdom of the Antichrist are these: 1. This part of Europe is the historical center of the Holy Roman Empire. From other prophecies which we will study later, we can know for positive that the Antichrist will rule a revived Holy Roman Empire. 2. When the first coin of the European Union, the ECU, was printed, the picture of Charlemagne was chosen for its inscription. Charlemagne was the first emperor of the Holy Roman Empire. He was crowned in 800 A.D. by Pope Leo III. The present leaders of the Common Market know they are attempting to rebuild the Holy Roman Empire. That explains why they chose this inscription for their first coin.

Another power that could possibly become the ten-horned kingdom is a re-created Soviet Union. Many of the states of the ex-Soviet Union are unhappy with their loss of superpower status. There is much talk of a new union. If ten of these states would come together, they would immediately regain superpower status. They still have all the nuclear weaponry that kept the world in fear during the forty-four years of the Cold War. Many of these states were also a part of the Holy Roman Empire. Furthermore, Russia would be the dominate force in such a union, and it is Russia that will, ultimately lead the United Nations' invasion of Israel at the final Battle of Armageddon.

The last possibility is more remote, but cannot be Ignored. There are presently ten Palestinian leaders in the Middle East. Until now they have opposed Yasser Arafat's peace agreement with Israel; If they would decide to place their support behind Arafat, they might conceivably become the prophesied ten-nation union.

Whether one of these possibilities or some other ten-nation federation ultimately becomes the prophesied ten-nation union, we can be sure that there will be ten nations in the last-day political union over which the Antichrist will rule. We should be able to definitely identify the kingdom of the Antichrist in the very near future.

## **World dictator comes out of this ten-nation federation**

The origin of the future world leader, the Antichrist, is plainly given in Daniel 7:8,

"I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things."

The world dictator is definitely going to rise up among a ten-nation union. He is symbolized in this verse as the little horn with a mouth speaking great things.

We are told in verses 21 and 22 that this little horn "made war with the saints, and prevailed against them; Until the Ancient of days came." The world dictator, commonly known as the Antichrist, will rule until Jesus Christ Himself, who is the Ancient of days, comes back to the earth.

"The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces."  
Daniel 7:23

There have been five empires that have ruled the world since the time of Daniel: Babylon, MediaPersia, Greece, the Roman Empire, and the Holy Roman Empire. The kingdom of the Antichrist will be a continuation of the Holy Roman Empire. During the reign of the Antichrist, the real Christ, Jesus, will return to earth. He will establish the final world government, and He shall reign forever. His kingdom is described throughout the scriptures as the coming kingdom of God. Daniel 7:27 talks about His kingdom:

"And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him."

## God's Word doesn't miss

The prophecy of Daniel 7 is a clear picture of Great Britain, the United States, Russia, Germany, and the ten-nation union- the world powers which the Bible predicts will exist at the time of the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. The correlation of this prophecy to actual current events is too intricate and complex to be accidental or coincidental. In His divine providence Almighty God, more than 2,500 years ago, foretold that the nations of Great Britain, the United States, Russia, Germany, and the ten-horned kingdom would be the nations in existence on the earth when Christ returns! Every event predicted so far has come to pass exactly as God said that it would. To see, with our own eyes, the nations predicted in the Bible living together simultaneously is an incredible prophetic fulfillment!

Jesus taught us that "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away" (Matthew 24:35). If in this world anything is sure, it is that every prophecy shall be fulfilled, even to the smallest detail! It is incredible to know that we live in the time of the fulfillment of a great percentage of the Bible's prophecies and of the return of Jesus Christ to the earth!

## LESSON 2

### NEW WORLD ORDER IS WORLD GOVERNMENT

Novus Ordo Seclorum - Latin for New World Order

Bible prophesies a great world government

It will be established on earth just before Jesus Christ's second coming

New World Order will be kingdom of the Antichrist

I. Four beasts of Daniel merge into one

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B. Lion, bear, leopard; and ten horns all become one kingdom

1. Great Britain, Russia, Germany, and ten-nation union will form final world government

C. All 7 heads of Daniel 7 are on combined beast

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2. Emblem of the UN vs. Emblem of USSR

3. Cold War hindered the UN for forty years
4. UN has favored marxism

#### IV. The deadly wound

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1. One of seven heads was wounded to death
2. What are the seven heads?
  - a) One head of the lion, one head of the bear, four heads of the leopard, and one head of the ten-horn beast
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4. Germany is dead
  - a) Hitler's Third Reich cut in two

#### V The healing of the deadly wound

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##### A. "Three and A Half Super Powers to Rule the World"

1. "This division that festers like a rusty knife wound must someday be healed."

##### B. *USA Today*, August 14,1986

1. "The 25-mile wound that won't heal."

##### C. Berlin Wall fell, November 9,1989

##### D. *Time*, November 20,1989

1. "Wall of Shame, 1961 - 1989", "It was the most palpable evidence of a deep wound in European civilization-and it is finally gone."

#### VI. All the world wondered after the beast

##### A. Pope John Paul II, President Mikhail Gorbachev, and President George Bush met together a few days after the Wall fell.

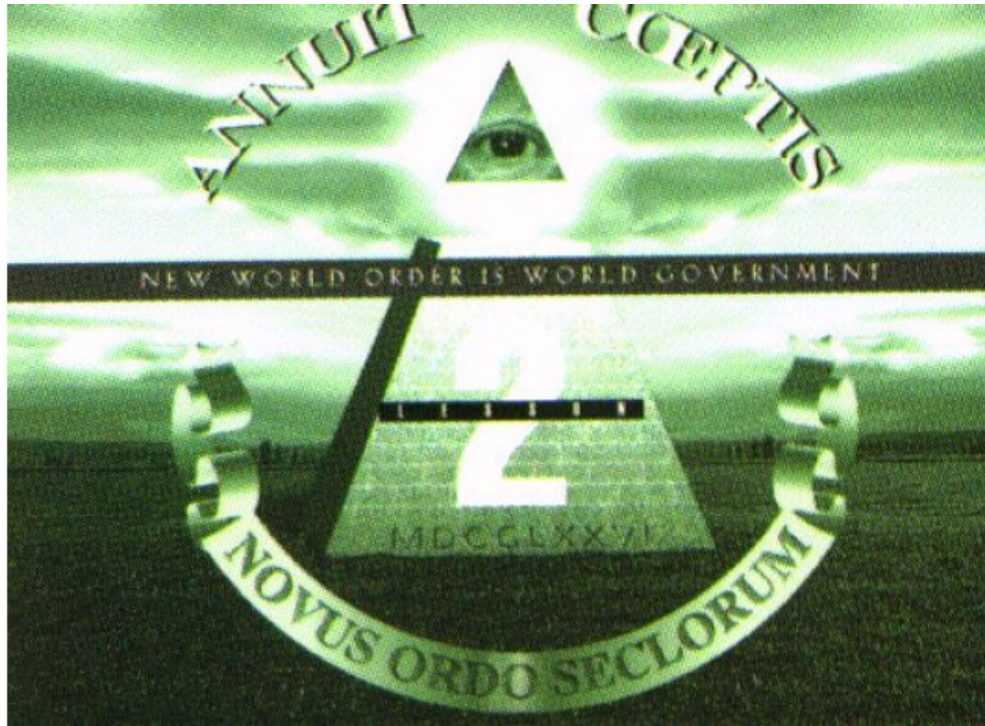
1. From that time on we began to hear-New World Order.

##### B. New era of promise

1. Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney said: "The world is in a new era of promise that started two years ago with the collapse of the Berlin Wall" (*Indianapolis Star*, September 29,1991).

##### C. Fall of Berlin Wall was the beginning of the New World Order

##### D. The Antichrist will soon appear



Lesson 2

## **NEW WORLD ORDER Is WORLD GOVERNMENT**

[Supplemental Reading- *New World Order* by Pat Robertson, *Global Tyranny-Step by Step* by William Jasper]

The Bible prophesies that a great world government will be established on earth just before Jesus Christ returns to establish His 1000-year reign of peace. This lesson explains which nations will play key roles in this world government, and proves that we are entering into it right now.

The picture of the pyramid and the all-seeing eye on this chart is a replica from the back of the U.S. one-dollar bill. Notice the words "novus ordo seclorum". This is Latin for New World Order. Novus is new; order is order; and seclorum is secular or world. This inscription-New World Order-has been on the dollar bill since the days of Franklin D. Roosevelt in the early 1930s.

We have heard a lot about New World Order over the last few years, but very few people really understand what is meant by the term. We will show that New World Order is world government-the world government that will soon be ruled by the Antichrist himself.

One amazing prophecy depicting this coming world government is found in Revelation 13:1-2,

"And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority."

The book of Revelation was written in 96 A.D., approximately 700 years after the book of Daniel. However, this passage in Revelation 13 uses the same symbols as the prophecy found in Daniel 7.

In Daniel 7 there were four beasts, but in Revelation 13 there is only one beast. This one beast, however, contains almost all of the characteristics of the four beasts described in Daniel 7. The Revelation beast has the body of the leopard (Germany), the feet of the bear (Russia), the mouth of the lion (Great Britain), and the ten horns of the ten-horned kingdom (Ten-nation alliance of the Antichrist). This combined beast is obviously depicting the merging of Great Britain, Russia, Germany, and the ten-nation union into one great world government. By reading a few verses further in this chapter, we can learn beyond all doubt that this union of nations will be the kingdom of the Antichrist.

This beast has seven heads, which is the total number of heads of the four beasts of Daniel 7; the lion had one head, the bear had one, the leopard had four, and the ten horned beast had one—totaling the seven heads described in Revelation 13.

We already established in lesson one that a beast symbolizes a nation. The fact that John, the writer of Revelation, saw one beast instead of the four separate beasts seen by Daniel, demonstrates that John saw these nations united together into one great government. In 1968, the world was at the height of the Cold War. It seemed almost impossible that Great Britain, Russia, Germany; and the other European countries would ever get together to form such a world government! Yet, the prophecy clearly foretold such an event.

On March 29, 1968, *Life* published an article entitled, "Three and One-half Superpowers to Rule the World." In this article, U.S. Under secretary-of-State George W. Ball proposed a world government very much like the prophecy describes. We have lived to see this prophecy and the words of Undersecretary -of-State Ball become reality.

## **A global language**

Although the Revelation beast has seven heads, the prophecy specifically says that the mouth of the beast would be the mouth of the lion. One of the main obstacles to establishing a world government is the language barrier. Knowing this, the world planners have already decided that English will be the official language of the New World Order. Right now, in order to fly international flights, a pilot is required to speak English. To work in the control tower of an international airport, you must speak English. Telephone operators who handle international calls are required to speak English. In many nations of the world, schools now require that English be studied as a second language, because it is acknowledged that English is the universal language in the present global society. Two-thousand years ago Almighty God said that the mouth of the endtime world government would be the mouth of the lion (England); and that prophecy is now coming to pass!

## **Where are the eagle's wings?**

The only element from Daniel 7 that does not appear in the world government beast of Revelation 13 is the wings of the eagle. This is of special interest since the eagle represents the United States of America. Why the eagle's wings don't appear in Revelation 13 will be explained in Lesson 3.

It is apparent that the United Nations is the organization within which these prophesied powers will form their world government. If the U.N. is to ultimately rule us all, we should probably know more about it than most of us do.

## **The history of the United Nations**

Many United States history books have for their final lesson a chapter which deals with the United Nations. One particular history book being read in school titled its last chapter, "Man's Last Hope For Peace". If the United Nations is indeed our last hope for peace, then we should acquire some understanding of its function and operation.

At the end of World War I, the League of Nations was formed in an attempt to insure that another world war would never be fought. Because the citizens of the United States feared such an alliance and its potential entanglements, the federal government was forced to decline participation, rendering the League of Nations useless. At the end of World War II, the nations of the world once again joined in a united effort to end all war by establishing a new world order through the United Nations. From its very inception, the United Nations was doomed to be merely a tool of world socialism.

One key American man responsible for the formation of the United Nations was Alger Hiss. He organized the American delegation and served as the acting secretary-general at the first U.N. meeting, which was held in San Francisco. Hiss also served on the steering and executive committees, and was charged with the responsibility of actually writing the charter. After playing such a dominant role in developing the charter of the U.N. and in the founding conference, a short three years later he was convicted in U.S. courts of lying to cover his activities as a communist spy!

Previous to this, Hiss accompanied President Franklin Roosevelt to the Yalta Conference where the carving up of Europe by the United States and Russia took place. At this time Roosevelt was a dying man; consequently, Alger Hiss carried the bulk of the negotiations for America. What Russia did not win on the battle field, she won at the peace table because her own agent (Hiss) was assisting President Roosevelt in the negotiations. It is easy, in light of this fact, to understand why Russia received so many concessions at the peace table at the end of World War II. And it is no wonder that the United Nations is nothing more than a tool of socialism!

The emblem of the Soviet Union is a globe with two sheaves of wheat around it, with the hammer and sickle super-imposed. The emblem of the United Nations is also a globe with two sheaves of wheat around it. When the insignia of the United Nations was designed, the hammer and sickle was left off because including it would have been only too obvious. However, Hiss designed the Structure of the United Nations to ultimately become a world socialistic government. Hiss was tried and convicted of being a communist spy, but his friends, the vast majority of whom were working towards the same goal as he was, were not convicted and remained in the highest echelons of government.

What has the United Nations done since its founding in 1945? It has constantly made decisions favoring the communist world, and has voted and spoken regularly against capitalism and democracy—while graciously allowing the United States to pay most of the bills for maintaining the forum! The U.N.'s attitudes and actions are clearly seen in the case of the sanctions it passed against the nation of Rhodesia, using the excuse that Rhodesia's white minority government violated human rights.

The Rhodesian government, led by Ian Smith, had always been pro-western in its views and loyalties. Because it was a friend of the U.S., American presidents would not recognize the economic sanctions imposed by the United Nations. The U.S.

continued to trade with Rhodesia enabling that nation to survive the sanctions. But during the first month of Jimmy Carter's presidency, Carter announced that the United States would begin to embargo Rhodesia, honoring the U.N. sanctions. As a result of the switch, the U.S., which had formerly purchased badly needed chromium from 'the nation of Rhodesia, was then forced to purchase it from our enemy the Soviet Union, the only other source supply. So under the guise of human rights, the U.S. boycotted Rhodesia, and bought the same materials from an enemy nation which possibly produced the chromium with slave labor!

Knowing that Rhodesia could not survive without trade from the United States, Ian Smith arranged for a transfer of power from his own hands to the hands of black moderates whom he felt would avoid turning their country over to the communists. The United Nations ruled that the transfer was not acceptable and refused to lift the sanctions previously imposed. Why? Because they wanted pro-Marxists to run Rhodesia! As a result of the insane policy of the U.N., which was backed by the U.S. under the leadership of Jimmy Carter, Rhodesia fell to the communists and was lost as a staunch friend of the United States. In the socialistic changes that followed, even, her name was changed: she is now known as Zimbabwe.

A more recent example of this type of action on the part of the U.S. government is Haiti. It is widely known that Haitian President Bertrand Aristide is a liberation-theologist. Liberation theology is a union between Catholicism and Marxism. Liberation theologians believe that, if Jesus Christ were on earth today, he would be a Marxist. Mr. Aristide, a Catholic priest, is a communist. Yet U.S. tax dollars and military might were used to reinstall his rule in Haiti!

Why would our government cooperate with such senseless undermining of the true interests of the United States? Only one answer surfaces. Our government is no longer acting in our own best national and personal interests, but is acting to lead the United States into a world government system.

World government is on its way, and the one-world leader is on the horizon preparing his ascent to power.

## **The deadly wound**

Revelation 13:3 says:

"And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast."

In attempting to understand the meaning of this passage, many people have assumed that the Antichrist, the great world leader who will arise; will be killed and afterwards be raised from the dead. A careful study of this passage, however, shows that it was one of the seven heads of the beast which was wounded to death.

Let's review what we have learned. What were the seven heads of the beasts? There were four on the leopard, one on the bear, one on the lion, and one on the ten-horned kingdom (of Daniel 7) Which of those seven heads could be said to have been wounded unto death?

Germany had plunged Europe into war three times within seventy years (Franco-German War of 1870, World War I, and World War II); To insure that this would never happen again, the Allies and Russia decided to divide Germany, half going to the East and half going to the West. In dividing Germany, the Allied forces intended to reduce the population and military potential of each power so that neither of them would have the capability to ever again lead the world into global war. East Germany fell under the control of Russia, and West Germany was controlled by the U.S., Great Britain, and France. It was declared at that time, "Germany is dead. She will never rise again." These statements were said of the Third Reich, depicted in the prophecies by the third head of the leopard.

## **The healing of the deadly wound**

In his article, "Three and A Half Super Powers", George Ball made a very interesting statement in reference to the division of Germany and the division of Europe. He said, "In terms of world politics the most dangerous of these problems is the division of Europe, which means the division of Germany. This division that festers like a rusty knife wound must someday be healed."

*USA Today*, August 14, 1986, described the Berlin Wall as "the 25-mile wound that won't heal."

In the November 20, 1989, issue of *Time* magazine, the article "Wall of Shame, 1961-1989," described the Berlin Wall like this: "It was the most palpable evidence of a deep wound in European civilization-and it is finally gone."

It is astonishing to read these references to the Berlin Wall, and to realize how close their wording is to the prophecy of Revelation 13:3.

On November 9, 1989, the Berlin Wall did come down, and soon thereafter East and West Germany were reunited. Within one month after the fall of the wall, Pope John Paul II, President Mikhail Gorbachev, and President George Bush met together. From that time on we began to hear continually from these three world leaders about the New World Order.

U.S. Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney said: "The world is in a new era of promise that started two years ago with the collapse of the Berlin Wall" (*Indianapolis Star*, September 29, 1991).

It was clearly seen by John in Revelation 13:3 that Germany would be divided and that her deadly wound would be healed. John stated clearly that the healing of the deadly wound would be the event that would cause the world to follow the world government beast over which the Antichrist will eventually rule. Since the Berlin Wall came down, the activity and influence of the United Nations has increased tremendously.

It appears that any time now we can expect the appearance on the world scene of that prophesied world leader, the Antichrist.

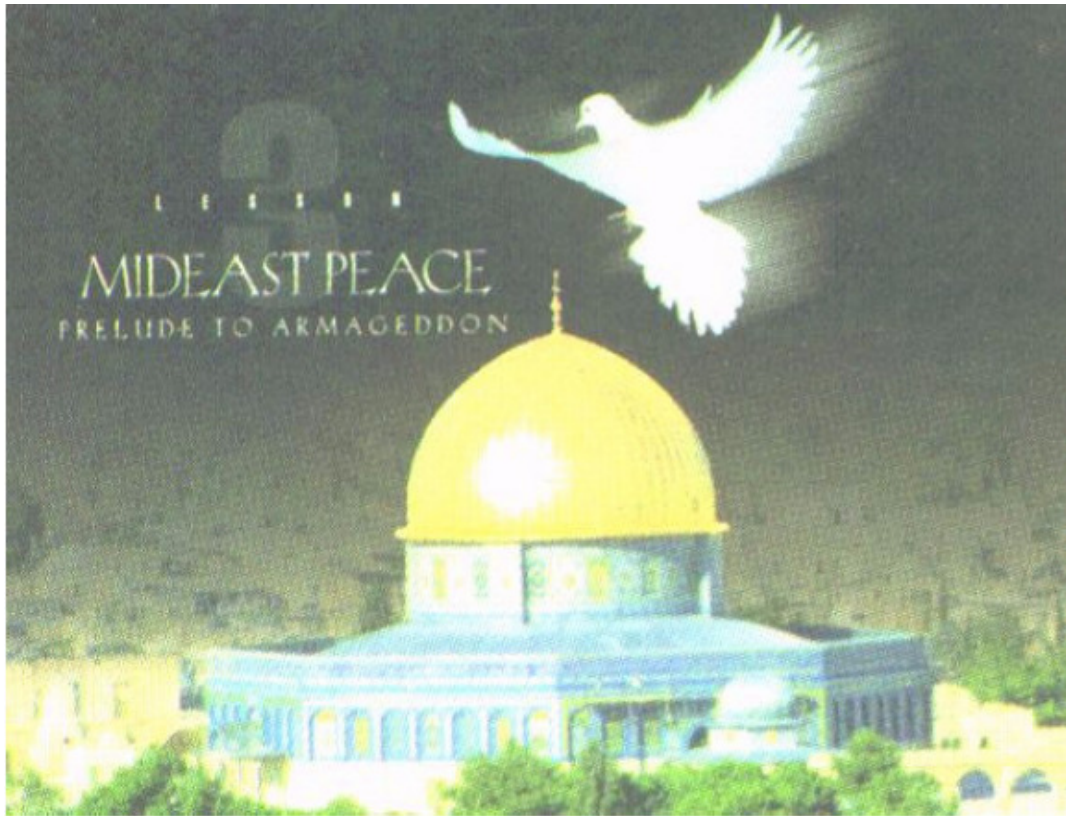
## Understanding The Endtime Prophecy Home Bible Study

### LESSON 3

#### MIDEAST PEACE--PRELUDE TO ARMAGEDDON

- I. Is the Israeli-PLO Agreement the beginning of the final seven years?  
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Supplemental Reading- Mideast *Treaty-Greatest Prophetic Fulfillment in 2000 Years* by Irvin Baxter Jr., *Ready to Rebuild* by Thomas Ice and Randall Price (Book), *Ready to Rebuild* by Jimmy DeYoung (Video), *In Search of Temple Treasures* by Randall Price (Book and video), *In Search of the Holy Temple* by The Temple Institute (Video)



### Lesson 3

## Mideast Peace-Prelude to Armageddon

Is the Israeli-PLO Agreement the beginning of the *final* seven years?

The Bible specifically prophesies a period of seven years which immediately precedes the world's last war, Armageddon. It is at Armageddon that Jesus Christ returns to earth to usher in His 1,000-year reign of peace.

During this seven-year period, there will be more prophetic fulfillment than in any other comparable time period in the history of the world. The Jewish Temple will be rebuilt in Jerusalem, and animal sacrifices, as were conducted in the Old Testament, will be resumed. A world government will take control on earth, and a powerful politician will become a world dictator. Halfway through the seven years, the worst religious and political persecution of all time will begin. Jesus called this time the Great Tribulation.

This prophesied seven-year period will be started by the "confirmation" of a covenant. The two all-important questions we want to consider are: 1. is the *Jerusalem Covenant* signed on May 19, 1993, the covenant referred to in the prophecy? 2. Was the signing of the Israeli-Palestinian agreement by Yasser Arafat and Yitzhak Rabin on September 13, 1993, the prophesied "confirming" of the covenant?!

The prophecy concerning the climactic seven years is found in Daniel 9:27;

"And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate."

There are five questions that must be answered if we are to understand this prophecy of Daniel 9:27: 1. What is the Abomination of Desolation? 2. How long is one week? 3. To what covenant does this refer? 4. What is the "confirming" of the covenant? 5. Who is "he" that confirms the covenant?



If we can answer these five questions, we have discovered five keys that will unveil to us the most important, prophetic fulfillment since the crucifixion of Jesus Christ.

"And he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate." Daniel 9:27

It is absolutely impossible for anyone to have a comprehensive understanding of endtime prophecy without thoroughly understanding what the Abomination of Desolation is. This event is referred to in both the Old and the New Testaments.

Jesus Christ spoke about the Abomination of Desolation in His famous Olivet Discourse in Matthew, chapter 24. His disciples were showing Jesus Israel's beautiful Second Temple that had been built by Zerubbabel and enlarged and refurbished by Herod the Great. The Temple was the pride of the Jewish nation and the center of its religious life.

Jesus shocked the disciples by saying, "There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down" (Matthew 24:2). This provoked the disciples to ask these questions in verse 3: "Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?" Jesus spent the rest of the 24th chapter of Matthew answering these questions.

In verse 15 he commented on the event called the **Abomination of Desolation**: "When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)"

When Jesus spoke of the Abomination of Desolation, he referred back to Daniel. However, Jesus included an additional piece of information not given in Daniel. He said the Abomination of Desolation would stand in the holy place. We'll learn more about that a little later.

Jesus went on to say in Matthew 24: "When you therefore see the abomination of desolation.. then let them which be in Judea flee into the mountains: Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house: Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes. And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days! But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day: For then shall be great tribulation such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be."

This is a very critical point! When you see the Abomination of Desolation, then you need to flee. If you live in the area of Jerusalem and Judea, flee into the mountains. If you are on your housetop, don't even come back down into your house to get your clothes; but immediately flee!

In verse 21 Jesus tells us why: "For then shall be great **tribulation such** as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be." The prophesied Great Tribulation is a three and one-half year period of the greatest political and religious persecution in the history of the world. This three and one-half years of Great Tribulation will continue until the final Battle of Armageddon. Jesus said that the event called the Abomination of Desolation is the event that will trigger the Great Tribulation. This is vital for us to understand! Jesus didn't tell them to flee before the Abomination of Desolation. He told them to flee when they saw the Abomination of Desolation.

We've learned something very critical to our understanding of the chronology of endtime events. Remember that Daniel said in the midst (or middle) of the week, he shall place the abomination that maketh desolate. This is the same "Abomination of Desolation" to which Jesus Christ referred. Jesus told us that in the middle of the week the Great Tribulation will begin. Many have thought that the Great Tribulation begins at the beginning of the seventieth week of Daniel. Jesus himself specifically states here that the tribulation begins in the middle of the week. What this means to us is, there is no such thing as a mid-tribulation rapture. The rapture either occurs before the Tribulation or after the Tribulation. If it occurs before the Tribulation, it can occur anytime up until the Abomination of Desolation. If it occurs after the Tribulation, it, will occur around the time of the Battle of Armageddon.

The Apostle Paul reveals more details in his writings concerning this pivotal event called the Abomination of Desolation. His comments are found in II Thessalonians 2:1-4:

"Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, that ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, 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."

The Apostle Paul is writing on the subject of "the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ," and "our gathering together unto him." He said, "That day shall not come except there come a falling away first." Many people think we must enter a period of backsliding from the church in these last times. However, this is not true. The falling away referred to here by the Apostle Paul has already occurred. The early church started out in a blaze of glory and apostolic power. As apostasy set into the church, it began to decline. One doctrine after another was changed until the church descended into what has historically been called the Dark Ages. From approximately 500 A.D. until 1500 A.D. the average person didn't even have a Bible. Since the people could not read the word of God for themselves, and since the clergy had become corrupt, much error filled the churches. Paul referred to this time of the Dark Ages as the falling away.

When God spoke to Martin Luther that "the just shall live by faith", the climb out of the Dark Ages and back to the original state of the church began. From then until now, one truth after another has been restored to the church. Even as the early apostolic

church was brought in with a blaze of glory, the last day church will go out at the time of the rapture with a mighty blaze of glory! We should not be looking for a great falling away now. We should be looking for the prophesied endtime revival! As Jesus Christ went up with a shout, he is coming back with a shout!

Paul states that there would be a falling away, and the Man of sin, the Son of Perdition, would be revealed. The Man of Sin, the Son of Perdition, the Beast, and the Antichrist are all synonymous terms. These refer to the prophesied world dictator which shall rule the entire world right before the establishment of the Kingdom of God by Jesus Christ..

Verse 4 tells us what the Antichrist will do. It says he "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, showing himself that he is God." When Jesus talked about the Abomination of Desolation in Matthew 24:15, he said the Abomination of Desolation would stand **in the holy place**. In II Thessalonians 2:4, the Apostle Paul talks about a time when the Antichrist will move **into the temple of God** and claim to be God. Paul and Jesus are both referring to the same event, the Abomination of Desolation.

At this present time there is no temple in Israel. However, there are many prophecies which teach that the Jewish Temple will be rebuilt in these last times. Daniel 9:27 states that, at the Abomination of Desolation, the Antichrist will make the sacrifice and the oblation to cease. He can't make these to cease unless they have first been reinstated. We will show extensively later in this study that preparation is being made right now to resume animal sacrifices and temple worship in Israel.

The Abomination of Desolation is when the Antichrist breaks the covenant which he will have confirmed three and one-half years before. He will make the Jewish animal sacrifice to cease and will sit in the rebuilt Jewish Temple proclaiming himself to be Messiah and God. This blasphemous event will begin the Great Tribulation.

### **What is meant by "one week"?**

We have previously shown that the Great Tribulation period spoken of by Jesus occupies the last half of Daniel's seventieth week. We need to know how long one week is as used in this prophecy.

Daniel 7:25 states:

"And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time."

This scripture gives a description of the Great Tribulation under the rule of the Antichrist. It specifically states here that the Antichrist will "wear out the saints" for a time and times and the dividing of time. A time is one year, times is two years, and the dividing of time is one-half year.

We know this because Revelation 13:5-7 teaches the Antichrist will make war with the saints for 42 months which equals three and one-half years:

"And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations."

Revelation 12:6 confirms in another way that the Tribulation will last for three and one-half years:

"And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days."

Three different descriptions of the length of the Great Tribulation are used: time, times, and the dividing of time; forty and two months; and one thousand two-hundred and sixty days. These all describe the same length of time, three and one-half years.

If the tribulation is three and one-half years long and occupies the last half of Daniel's seventieth week, then the first half of the week would also be three and one-half years. We can conclude then that, when Daniel spoke of one week, he was speaking of a week of years, a seven-year period.

Many people have believed that the Great Tribulation is seven years long. This is not true as we have shown above. It is true, however, that the seventieth week of Daniel is seven years in length. The first half of this seven years is not tribulation at all. During this first three and one-half years, the Antichrist is ascending to power through peace and diplomacy. The last three and one-half years is the Great Tribulation which begins with the Abomination of Desolation and culminates with the prophesied final Battle of Armageddon.

### **The future war in heaven**

"And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels." Revelation 12:7

At the same time the Abomination of Desolation occurs, the Bible teaches there will be an angelic war in heaven.

In Revelation 12:1-6, the Bible describes a woman clothed with the sun. The woman was travailing in birth to bring forth a child. A great red dragon stood before the woman, who was ready to be delivered, with the intent of devouring her child as soon as it was born. The woman gave birth to a man child who was to rule the nations with a rod of iron, and her child was caught up unto God, and to His throne.

The woman is Israel, the child is Jesus Christ, and the dragon is Satan. When Jesus was born, Satan, in fact, did attempt to kill Him. The wise men, traveling from afar to worship Jesus, stopped at Herod's palace attempting to find the King of the Jews that had been born. Herod knew nothing of Jesus but asked the wise men, when they found this King of the Jews, to return to him. Herod said that he, too, would like to worship the newborn king. The Scriptures tell us that Herod actually did not want to worship Jesus, but to kill him.

The wise men did find Jesus. After presenting to the Christ their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, they departed into their own country. God had warned the wise men in a dream not to return to Herod.

When Herod saw that he was mocked by the wise men, he issued an order to kill all male children from the age of two years and down in the Bethlehem area. Before this, however, the angel of the Lord had warned Joseph in a dream to flee with the child to Egypt. Consequently, Satan's goal of killing the Savior of the world was thwarted. God is always one step ahead of the Devil and always will be!

Joseph and Mary lived in Egypt with their child Jesus for approximately two years. After this time, God again appeared unto Joseph, saying, "Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and go into the land of Israel: for they are dead which sought the young child's life." Joseph, Mary, and Jesus returned to Nazareth where Jesus spent the remainder of his childhood.

From this account we see how Satan did attempt to devour Jesus as soon as he was born; but God protected this child which is destined to rule all nations with a rod of iron.

In Revelation 12:7-10 we read about the war in heaven that will take place at the same time that the Abomination of Desolation occurs:

"And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night."

This war in heaven has not yet occurred. We know this because, as a result of this war, the accuser of the brethren will be cast down. The accuser of the brethren is not cast down right now. In Job 1:6-12, when the angels came to present themselves before the Lord, Satan came also among them. The Lord said to Satan: "Hast thou considered my servant Job?" Satan made the accusation that Job only served God because of all the blessings that God had bestowed upon him. Satan was the accuser of Job in that day. He still is accusing God's people today. He wants to place us under the load of guilt and condemnation when there is "now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:1).

When this war in heaven does take place, Satan is no longer going to have access to heaven, as he did in the days of Job, and as he does at this present time. The Bible says, "the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night." Some have taught that this war in heaven took place before the creation of man. This cannot possibly be true because the above scripture explicitly states that before he was cast down, Satan accused the brethren before God day and night. Satan could not accuse brethren that didn't even yet exist. Furthermore, verse eleven states that "they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony." While Satan was accusing them, they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and they loved not their lives unto the death.

This proves that this prophesied war will take place after Calvary because the blood of the Lamb is available to those who are being accused by Satan.

## **What triggers this war?**

Revelation 12:12 says concerning Satan: "The devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time."

Satan has known from the beginning the amount of time he has to deceive the world. He knows that, from the fall of man to the ushering in of the Kingdom of God, there is to be approximately 6,000 years. That's why the demon cried out at Jesus in confusion, "Art thou come hither to torment us before the time?" (Matthew 8:29). Satan did not then understand that there were going to be two comings of Christ. He had no knowledge of the plan for divine redemption. He knew Jesus had come to earth 2,000 years early, but he didn't know why!

Satan does understand now. He knows today that we are only a few short years from the time when he will be bound in the bottomless pit for 1,000 years (Revelation 20:1-3). It is this knowledge that will drive him to make his final attack on the armies of heaven.

Three and one-half years before Satan is cast into the bottomless pit, he will try once again to overthrow God from His throne in heaven and to take that rulership for himself. However, the archangel Michael and his army will fight against Satan, and Satan will be defeated. It is at this time that Satan is cast out of heaven and confined to the earth.

Revelation 12:12 says:

"Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! For the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time."

When Satan realizes that he once again has been defeated, he will be exceedingly angry. He will know at this point that he only has three and one-half years left in which to work. In the evil of his imagination, he will still believe that he can defeat the Almighty God. He will launch his plan to accomplish on earth what he has been unable to achieve in heaven. He will launch the Great Tribulation. The Great Tribulation will be the wrath of Satan. The wrath of God will be immediately after the Great Tribulation. Matthew 24:29 teaches us this:

"Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken."

The sun being darkened, the moon being turned to blood, and the stars falling from heaven are all things that happen when the great day of God's wrath comes (Revelation 6:12-17).

Notice Revelation 12:13-14:

"And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child. And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle that she might fly into the wilderness into her place where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time from the face of the serpent."

There is that terminology again: "Time, and times, and half a time". When Satan is cast down into the earth, he will know that he has but a short time left. He will launch the Great Tribulation which continues for three and one-half years.

Notice that this all occurs simultaneously with the Abomination of Desolation. Until this time the world dictator, the Antichrist, has been ruling by peace and diplomacy. However, when the Abomination of Desolation occurs, the Antichrist undergoes a nature change and begins to rule with an iron fist. Could it be, when Satan is cast out of heaven and confined to the earth, that Lucifer himself will personally possess the Antichrist and will begin to rule the world through him? Whatever the case, these two simultaneous events, the war in heaven and the Abomination of Desolation, launch the Great Tribulation.

"And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent." Revelation 12:14

When God refers to the persecution of the woman, Israel, He says that there will be given to her two wings of a great eagle that she might fly into a place where she is protected for three and one-half years from the wrath of Satan. God will provide a place of refuge during the Great Tribulation for those in Israel who will believe the prophecies and act on them. The question is: what do the two wings of a great eagle represent?

We learned in Lesson 1 that the eagle is the symbol of the United States of America. When the four beasts of Daniel 7 merge into the one beast of Revelation 13 as explained in Lesson 2, the eagle's wings are not present. What happens to the United States? Why is it not represented in this world government beast? There are two possibilities.

The first reason could be that the United States is included under the lion since the eagle's wings were originally attached to the lion. This seems especially likely since American presidents have been the foremost proponents of the New World Order over the last few years. The second possibility is that the United States will not continue its present course toward absorption into world government. It is possible that those in America who do not want to surrender the sovereignty of the U.S. to world government will gain the upper hand. This could definitely happen since the Bible clearly states that Europe will be the dominant force in the endtime world government. Already we can see the balance of power shifting toward Europe as the value of the dollar nose-dives and the value of the Germany mark soars. The Scriptures seem to indicate that this last scenario is the one that will occur.

### **American-Israeli friendship prophesied**

Remember that the woman is Israel, and the eagle is the United States. When the Bible in Revelation 12:14 speaks of the woman being given two wings of a great eagle, it appears that those Jews who want to flee Israel in order to escape the pending persecution will be assisted by a massive American airlift. It is very possible they could be brought to the United States. Is it coincidental, at this strategic time in prophetic fulfillment, that Israel's only friend, the United States, just happens to have the symbol of the eagle?! That same friend just happens to have the mightiest airlift capabilities on the face of the earth!

In July of 1991, Jack Kemp, the U.S. Housing and Urban Development Secretary at that time, led more than 1,000 Christians in a spectacular gathering in Memphis, Tennessee, to support Israel and raise funds for the continued immigration of Soviet Jews to the Holy Land. The rally was held under the banner "On the Wings of Eagles" (*Jerusalem Post*, July 13, 1991). It appears that the eagle will continue to stand by Israel to the very end!

What an awesome book the Bible is! To see the amazingly accurate portrayal of modern nations in prophecy come to pass in minute detail, reminds us that God still controls the nations of the world and the affairs of men. These prophecies of modern nations prove infallibly that we are very near the second coming of Jesus Christ. Each of us should make absolutely certain that we are

prepared. We also should work as we never have before to help as many people as possible to be ready for this greatest of all events!

It is obvious that America has a special role to fulfill in the plan of God for these last times. If America is to fulfill that great destiny to which she has been called, there must be a genuine spiritual revival sweep this nation! We must bow ourselves in sincere prayer and return to a literal belief in God's Word as the sole guide for our lives and the life of our nation. This will not happen if we wait on someone else to do it. You and I must start now!

"And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week." Daniel 9:27

The Bible prophesies concerning a covenant that will be confirmed seven years before the Battle of Armageddon. It is at Armageddon that Jesus defeats the Antichrist and establishes His 1000-year reign of peace. This covenant must pertain to the status of Jerusalem, the rebuilding of the Jewish Temple, and the resumption of animal sacrifices. We know this because, when the covenant is broken, the Temple will be desecrated, and the sacrifice and oblation will be made to cease.

A document called the *Jerusalem Covenant* was drafted by Justice Menahem Elon, Deputy President of the Israeli Supreme Court. It was presented to the Jewish people on Jerusalem Day, May 28, 1992, the twenty-fifth anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem. Since Jerusalem was reunified by the Six-Day War in 1967, Jerusalem Day has been made an official national holiday in Israel. The *Jerusalem Covenant* was circulated among world Jewry throughout the world for one year. It was returned to Jerusalem for final signing on Jerusalem Day-May 19, 1993. Cabinet ministers, members of Israel's Knesset (Israel's Congress), and officials of the Israeli Defense Forces and police brass, were among the 1,500 attending the signing of the *Jerusalem Covenant*. The ceremony was marked by massive marches and solemn memorial services throughout Jerusalem. The covenant was signed by Israel's Prime Minister, President, Head of the Knesset, President of the Supreme Court, both of Israel's Chief Rabbis, the mayor of Jerusalem, and most other cabinet members and high officials.

The *Jerusalem Covenant* declares that United Jerusalem is the eternal capital of the state of Israel and that it must never be surrendered. It reaffirms that Jehovah chose to place His name in Jerusalem making it the spiritual center of the Jewish people. The covenant now hangs in the Israeli Knesset building.

The nation of Israel is divided on many issues. Some want to negotiate with the PLO. Others do not. Some want to trade land for peace, while others do not. But there is one issue on which the people of Israel almost unanimously agree. Almost one hundred percent of Israelis declare that the status of United Jerusalem is not negotiable.

The Palestinians, on the other hand, vow that there can be no genuine peace in the Middle East as long as Israel insists on retaining absolute sovereignty over all of Jerusalem. United Nations resolutions 242 and 338 call for Israel to withdraw from territories occupied during the 1967 War in exchange for peace within secure borders. Since East Jerusalem is part of these territories, the world's countries, including the United States, have refused to place their embassies in Jerusalem even though it is Israel's declared capital.

Most problems between Israel and the Arabs appear to be solvable. The final hurdle that seems to stand in the way of a permanent peace is the status of Jerusalem. When the peace talks began in Madrid, Spain, in October of 1991, it was agreed that Jerusalem was not to be discussed during the first stage of the talks. The Golan Heights and an interim agreement on Palestinian autonomy were to be the main areas of discussion. If an agreement on autonomy could be reached, then the future borders of Israel and possibly of a Palestinian state would be negotiated in the next stage of the talks. In the last few months, however, the Palestinians have relentlessly insisted that the final status of Jerusalem must be discussed now. This is probably one of the main factors that provoked leaders in Israel to enter into the *Jerusalem Covenant*.

Isn't it amazing that a covenant concerning Jerusalem would be signed exactly seven years before the year 2000! It appears that the *Jerusalem Covenant* is the covenant of Daniel 9:27 which the Antichrist will confirm!

## **The Confirming of the Covenant**

### **Was the Arab-Israeli agreement of September 13, 1993, the confirming of the covenant?**

"And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week." The wording of the prophecy in Daniel 9:27 leaves open two possibilities. Either the Antichrist himself will be the one who authors the covenant, or else the covenant will come into being and then later be confirmed by the Antichrist. If the *Jerusalem Covenant* is the covenant of Daniel 9:27, and it seems almost certain that it is, then the Antichrist will at some time confirm its provisions. To confirm means: to agree with, to strengthen, or to give approval.

## **Mideast peace accord**

On September 13, 1993, over 3,000 dignitaries from all over the world gathered on the White House lawn in Washington D.C. They had come to witness an event that most of them thought they would never see—the signing of an agreement between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Peace talks between the Israelis and the Arabs had begun in Madrid, Spain, in October of 1991. Several rounds of talks had been held with virtually no progress.

In June of 1992, Israeli elections were held. The Likud Party led by Yitzhak Shamir had campaigned on the promise that they would not surrender one inch of the territories captured in the 1967 War. "This is the land promised by God to our father Abraham," they said. The Labor Party led by Yitzhak Rabin promised to trade land for peace. They contended that peace could only be achieved through territorial compromise. Dreams of "Greater Israel" based on ancient prophecies of the Bible were only obstacles to peace promoted by religious radicals. The issue was clear cut. When the votes were in, Yitzhak Rabin and his Labor Party had won a smashing victory. Israel had clearly voted to trade land in exchange for peace.

During his campaign Rabin had promised to conclude an agreement on Palestinian autonomy within nine months of his election. After being in office for one year, it appeared that Israel was as far as ever from a peace agreement. The violence from the Palestinian intifada was wearing away at the patience of the Israeli people. An agreement with the Palestinians living within Israel was the most pressing need. The big obstacle blocking this possibility was Israel's refusal to recognize the PLO and its leader Yasser Arafat. Arafat had led terrorists attacks against Israel for thirty years, and Israel wanted no dealings with him. However, it became apparent that he had the loyalty of the Palestinian people. No significant decisions could be made by the Palestinian negotiators towards peace without his approval.

Quietly, Israel made contact with Arafat through the government of Norway. Secret talks were conducted in Oslo, Norway, and continued between Israel and the PLO for several months. Even the official Palestinian negotiators meeting publicly in Washington, D.C., were ignorant of these developments.

In early September of 1993, the shocking announcement was made that a breakthrough with the PLO was imminent. The next week Israel recognized the PLO as the only legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and Arafat acknowledged Israel's right to exist, while renouncing the PLO charter which called for the annihilation of the nation of Israel. All of this paved the way for one of the greatest spectacles in all of history.

When Yitzhak Rabin, Bill Clinton, and Yasser Arafat appeared on the White House lawn, the whole world looked on in amazement. Speeches were made by Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, PLO Chief Negotiator Mahmoud Abbas, Norway's Foreign Minister Johan Jorgen Holst, President Clinton, Russia's Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev, Yasser Arafat, and Yitzhak Rabin. The historic peace agreement was then signed on the same table used in 1979 by Anwar Sadat and Menachem Begin when signing the Camp David Accords, the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel. In the midst of the thunderous applause of ~ll the dignitaries present from around the world, Yasser Arafat extended his hand to Prime Minister Rabin. History's most famous handshake sealed the first ever peace accord between Israel and her 3,000 year old enemy the Palestinians (Philistines).

The agreement was only an interim agreement. It called for placing the Gaza Strip and Jericho under Palestinian autonomy (selfrule) by December of 1993. The Palestinians would have control over internal affairs including their own police force. Israel would remain responsible for external security. This interim arrangement was designed to see if Arafat could control the Palestinian militants and if Arabs and Israelis could live peaceably side by side. The agreement also called for negotiations concerning the **final status of Jerusalem** and the West Bank area, to begin not later than the beginning of the third year.

The Arab-Israeli agreement actually confirmed the *Jerusalem Covenant* in that it left Jerusalem in Israeli hand for the present time. The agreement also committed Israel to do what the *Jerusalem Covenant* said that she should never do.. negotiate concerning the future of Jerusalem. Since the peace accord temporarily confirmed the present status of Jerusalem, it can be said to have confirmed the "*Jerusalem Covenant*". If the Antichrist was present at the September 13, 1993, signing or if he has confirmed this agreement behind the scenes, then we have almost certainly entered the final seven years to Armageddon. If not, he must shortly appear to confirm the covenant at which time the final seven-year period will begin.

## Solving the "Jerusalem Problem"

"Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about...all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it."  
Zechariah 12:2-3

Since the 1967 Arab-Israeli War, disputes have raged over the Golan Heights, the West Bank, Gaza, and Jericho. But of all the complex issues facing the leaders in the Middle East, none compare in difficulty to the "Jerusalem Question".

Israel says she will never surrender control of Jerusalem. "Jerusalem is our eternal capital given to us by God, and we will never again allow it to be divided," they say. After being banished for 2,000 years from their Holy City and each year at Passover prayerfully saying, "Next year in Jerusalem," it is unthinkable to most Jews that they should consent to relinquish control of the very heartbeat of the Jewish nation. Israelis are divided on many issues. But there is one issue on which they almost unanimously agree Jerusalem must never be surrendered!

At the same time, the Palestinians say there will never be peace in the Middle East unless they have at least a part of Jerusalem for their capital.

Even though Israel formally annexed East Jerusalem in 1980 making United Jerusalem their capital, the world community, including the United States, has not recognized this move and has refused to place their embassies there. United Nations Resolutions 242 and 338 call for Israel to withdraw from occupied lands in exchange for peace within secure borders. In March of 1994, a U.N. resolution labeled East Jerusalem as occupied territory. The United States abstained from this portion of the resolution, but did not veto it.

The Jerusalem dispute is nothing new. Both Jews and Arabs staked claim to Jerusalem when Palestine was partitioned by the United Nations in 1948. The U.N. dealt with the problem then by declaring Jerusalem to be an international city. Israel reluctantly accepted this arrangement, but the Arabs wouldn't accept, at all, the creation of a Jewish nation in the Middle East. They launched a war the next day. When a cease-fire was finally declared, Jerusalem was divided with the most coveted part of Jerusalem, the Temple Mount, in Jordanian hands. This state of affairs continued until 1967 when Israel conquered the entire city and the entire West Bank area.

When the Israeli-PLO Peace Accord was signed on September 13, 1993, this interim agreement postponed dealing with the troublesome Jerusalem question. It provided for negotiations on the final status of Jerusalem and the West Bank to begin not later than the beginning of the third year from the implementing of Palestinian autonomy over Gaza and Jericho. Even though the Israeli government has publicly declared that the status of Jerusalem is not negotiable, the fact is that the Rabin government signed an agreement to negotiate the status of Jerusalem.

## What will happen?

The Bible explicitly states that Jerusalem will soon be returned to Gentile control, except for the area of the Temple itself. It will be under the control of the Jews, and they will build their Third Temple there. This prophecy is found in Revelation 11:1-2.

"And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein. But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months."

This prophecy definitely pertains to the endtimes. Notice, first of all, that the Jewish Temple will be completed by the time of this prophecy. If there were no temple, John could not be instructed to measure it.

This scripture tells us that the Gentiles will tread Jerusalem under foot for forty-two months (three and one-half years). This refers to the last 42 months before Armageddon during which time the Antichrist will rule the world (Revelation 13:5). Whether all of Jerusalem or just East Jerusalem will be under Gentile control, we can't say for sure. It is possible that the city will be internationalized, making every person on earth a citizen of the "City of Peace". Jerusalem would then serve as the capital to both Israel and the Palestinians.

In order for the Temple to be completed by the beginning of the Great Tribulation (the mid-point of the final seven years), construction would have to begin at least one year before the Tribulation begins. Rabbi Chaim Richman, Director of Public Affairs for the Temple Institute in Jerusalem, said that the Temple could be built in less than a year. It is the Temple Institute that has the architectural drawings for the Third Temple already prepared. We cannot say for certain, at this time, when the Great Tribulation will begin. But if it were to begin by 1997 (so that the final seven years would culminate by 2,000 A.D.), construction on the Temple would need to start by 1995 or 1996.

## Is it possible?

It appears that 1995 will bring additional peace developments in the Middle East. Israel and Egypt signed their peace agreement in 1979. Israel and Jordan concluded their treaty in October of 1994. This leaves only Lebanon and Syria as the neighbors to Israel that have not yet reached a peace agreement.

Syria has said that she will give peace in exchange for the return of the Golan Heights which Israel captured in the 1967 War. For a full and genuine peace, Rabin will agree to full withdrawal. Since Lebanon is under Syrian control, when Syria makes peace Lebanon will follow.

This leaves the Palestinians. Many obstacles were overcome by the Israel-PLO Accord signed on September 13, 1993. The greatest remaining obstacle is the control of Jerusalem. The population of East Jerusalem is still predominantly Arab. The two Arab holy places which dominate the Temple Mount area present ~ powerful argument for a continuing Arab presence. Yet, everyone knows that the Jewish nation will not long be content to possess control of its ancient temple site without rebuilding Israel's temple there.

One Jewish scholar believes the original Jewish Temple was not located on the present site of the Dome of the Rock. He believes the Temple was north of the Dome. This presents the possibility of building the Jewish Temple beside the Dome of the Rock without disturbing it. This would certainly produce a cozy ecumenical situation-Jews and Arabs all worshipping together on the Temple Mount. The New World Order has arrived for sure!

There are powerful Jewish forces that adamantly believe the Third Temple must be built on the present location of the Dome of the Rock. In December of 1993, the *Jerusalem Post* reported that secret talks had been held between Rabin and Arafat concerning the final resolution of the Jerusalem problem. Another publication stated that they had secretly determined the final status of the Temple Mount. Supposedly, Israel will control the northern half, presently occupied by the Dome of the Rock, and the Palestinians would possess the southern half where the Al Aqsa Mosque sits. This would enable Israel to rebuild her temple on its original site.

If this report proves to be true, then the prophecy of Revelation 11:1-2 will be fulfilled to the letter! Israel will control the temple area itself, but the outer court will be under Gentile control. Whether the prophecy is fulfilled by this scenario or in some other way, it will come to pass!

## **The Third Temple**

The Third Temple must be built in Israel before the pivotal event called the Abomination of Desolation can occur. Remember that the Abomination of Desolation is when the Antichrist, "Sitteth in the Temple of God, showing himself that he is God" (II Thessalonians 2:3-4).

The Jewish people have been banished from the Temple Mount since 70 A.D. Over thirty years after the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, Titus, the Roman general, invaded the land of Israel and the city of Jerusalem. He destroyed the city, burning it to the ground. The prophecy of Jesus found in Matthew 24 that not one stone would be left upon another was fulfilled by the Roman legions at that time.

From 70 A.D. until 1948, the Jewish people had no homeland. In 1948 the nation of Israel was reborn. However, the Temple Mount was still held by the nation of Jordan. When the temple area was recaptured in 1967, the Jews wept. I talked with Gershon Salomon, one of the soldiers that was on the Temple Mount at that time. He said, when the fighting stopped, the soldiers wept like babies. There was such an awesome presence of God as they stood on the location of the First and Second Temple for the first time in 2,000 years!

The joy of the Jewish people was quickly dashed to pieces. A few hours after the recapture, Moshe Dayan, the Defense Minister of Israel, announced that the Temple Mount would remain under Arab control. The rejoicing of the Jews was turned to sorrow. This action to religious Jews was absolutely beyond comprehension. Some Jews believe Messiah was on the verge of appearing at that time, but this blasphemous action caused him to turn away. Jews still cannot go to the Temple Mount area to pray, to offer sacrifices, and, above all, to build their Third Temple.

The First Temple was built by Solomon the son of King David. That temple was ultimately destroyed in 586 B.C. by Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon. The Second Temple was completed by Zerubbabel in 516 B.C. Later it was refurbished and made larger by Herod the Great. This is the temple that stood on the Temple Mount during the lifetime of Jesus Christ. The Second Temple was destroyed by the Roman General Titus in 70 A.D. From then until now, no Jewish temple has occupied the coveted Temple Mount.

## **Plans to rebuild**

The Jews presently are making plans to build the Third Temple. I personally interviewed Mr. Gershon Salomon, the head of the Temple Mount Faithful. He believes God has called him to rebuild the Jewish Temple and that it must be done before the year 2000. In 1990, Salomon and his Temple Mount Faithful attempted to place the cornerstone for the Third Temple on the Temple Mount. When the Arabs realized what was happening, they rioted. In the resulting melee, seventeen Arabs died. In order to keep the need to rebuild the Temple before the Israeli people, Salomon holds a symbolic cornerstone-laying each year. Because of the 1990 riots, he is not allowed access to the Temple Mount.

Another organization dedicated to rebuilding the temple is the Temple Institute. The Temple Institute is located in Jerusalem adjoining the Western Wall Plaza. They have recreated over one-half of the vessels and instruments necessary for the reinstatement of Old Testament temple worship. I have seen the priests' robes, the basin for catching the blood of the animals to be sacrificed, and the laver where the priests will be required to wash according to Old Testament instructions. They have the incense that must be burned and the harps for worship. At this present time, arrangements are being made to purchase red cattle such as are required in Numbers 19 for the resumption of sacrifice. Ashes from a red heifer of the third year must be mingled with water for the purification of the priests who will minister in the rebuilt temple.

## **The ark of the covenant**

Rabbi Chaim Richman of the Temple Institute stated that, according to the revered Jewish teacher Mammonides, various treasures from the First Temple are buried beneath the Temple Mount.

Rabbi Getz, the 82 year old chief rabbi of the Western Wall, said that they know for sure the location of the ark of the covenant, the candlesticks made by Moses, and the stone tablets containing the ten commandments.

Rabbi Shlomo Goren, the former chief rabbi of Israel, said that they were digging towards these items. The Arabs, fearing what would happen if the ark of the covenant and the ten commandments should be recovered, rioted. The Israeli government became fearful and ordered the digging to be stopped.

Matthew 24:15, II Thessalonians 2:4, and Revelation 11:1 all explicitly state that the Jewish Temple will be rebuilt in these endtimes. Can you imagine the effect on the people of the world when construction on the Israeli Temple begins?!

The year 1996 marks the 3,000th anniversary of the founding of Jerusalem. Elaborate plans are under way for a year of celebration of this momentous occasion. Wouldn't the Jews love to dedicate their Third Temple during this 3,000 year anniversary extravaganza!



When construction on the Third Temple begins, those who understand prophecy and its significance are going to know that we are in the last of the last times. The Jewish Temple will become the most tangible and visible evidence of prophetic fulfillment on earth. Great revival fervor will sweep the church of Jesus Christ, even as the program of the Antichrist gains momentum. Daniel 11:32 prophesied concerning this time: "And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall be corrupt by flatteries: **but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits.**"

## **Antichrist headquarters to be in Jerusalem**

"And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him." Daniel 11:45

We know that the Antichrist will move his throne to Jerusalem. We know this because the Bible explicitly states that he will sit in the Jewish Temple claiming to be God (II Thessalonians 2:3-4).

The scenario will most likely go something like this: Once Jerusalem is made an international city, all people of the world will be considered citizens of Jerusalem. It will be the focal point for the unity and the brotherhood of man.

In an interview published in *Parade Magazine* on April 3, 1994, Pope John Paul II said, "We trust that, with the approach of the year 2000, Jerusalem will become the city of peace for the entire world and that all the people will be able to meet there, in particular the believers in the religions that find their birthright in the faith of Abraham."

The time will come when the one-world dictator will have obtained world recognition of his leadership. He will reason in his mind:

I am the international leader of the world, therefore, wouldn't it be appropriate for my throne to be placed in the international city of the world-Jerusalem. I am a prophet of peace; I am a man of peace. Why should I not place my throne in Jerusalem, the city of peace? That's the rationale that the Antichrist will use.

There will, however, be a deeper reason behind the move of the Antichrist's throne to Jerusalem. Thousands of years ago God declared that He would place His name in the city of Jerusalem (I Kings 11:36). He planned for it to be the headquarters for the Jewish people on this earth.

Satan always wants to displace God. We have already discussed the future war that Satan will launch in heaven, trying to overthrow God. Since God has placed His name in Jerusalem, Satan will attempt to place his name and headquarters there, and he will succeed for a short time.

It's interesting to note that there have been discussions about moving the United Nations' headquarters from New York City where it is presently located. Having the U.N. headquarters in New York is incredibly expensive. Germany has recently offered free rent to the United Nations if it would move its headquarters to Bonn, Germany. If Jerusalem were to become the world's only international city, wouldn't it be appropriate to consider moving the headquarters for international peacekeeping to this international "City of Peace"?

Several attempts have been made to move armed United Nations' troops into Israel. The Israelis have steadfastly resisted this pressure, knowing that once the camel gets his nose into the tent, soon the whole camel will be in. Israel has repeatedly been censured by the United Nations and understands that she has few friends there. The headquarters of the U.N. observers who are already stationed in Israel is located on a mountain just south of the Mount of Olives. The Jews call this mountain the "Hill of Evil Counsel". How prophetic and how true!

The Antichrist will be a master at capitalizing on public opinion. When the Middle East Peace is concluded and Jerusalem is internationalized, the pull of the symbolism of that city will be irresistible to him. Shortly his throne will be in Jerusalem preparing for the time when he will move into the Temple, setting himself up as God and declaring himself to be the god of this world.

## **Animal rights activist revolt**

When the Jewish Third Temple is built, animal sacrifices will be resumed. Because the Jewish people do not believe that Jesus Christ was the lamb of God which takes away the sins of the world, religiously observant Jews believe they are still under commandment to offer the animal sacrifices of the Old Testament. Because they have had no temple, they have not fulfilled this obligation for nearly 2,000 years. We have previously shown that preparations are being made right now in Israel for the resumption of the Old Testament sacrifices.

When the Temple is completed and the sacrifices resumed, it will seem that a great religious revival is taking place in Israel. To those who know Jesus as the Lamb of God and as Messiah, it will merely be a signpost of prophetic fulfillment.

To other peoples of the world, this offering of live animals will be viewed as extreme barbarism. Environmentalists and animal rights activists will be absolutely incensed as the blood begins to flow from the Temple Mount. Recently a baboon liver was transplanted into a man in order to save his life. The animal rights activist picketed outside the hospital in protest of this cruelty to animals, even though it was being done to save the life of a human being! We are living in a time of escalating influence on the part of environmentalists and animal rights activists.

Can you imagine when the first animal sacrifice is performed? As the Rabbi plunges his knife into the throat of the first animal, CNN carries the story live around the world. As the blood gurgles from the throat of the animal, suddenly the cameras swing to the animal rights activists picketing on the Temple Mount. "Animals have rights too! Say no to 20th century barbarism!"

the signs will read. Animal rights activists around the world will march in protest. Newspaper headlines will scream: "Inhumane cruelty to animals!"

The Antichrist will have come to power on the platform of environmental issues. He will not be able to resist the cry of the animal rights activists for long; neither will he want to.

## **The broken treaty**

"In the midst of the week he shall 'cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease." Daniel 9:27

The roar of the animal rights activists will become deafening! They will be demanding that their one-world political leader, who we know as the Antichrist, stop this bloody massacre of animals.

Another factor concerning the Jews will begin to grate on the nerves of the New World Order leader. It is against Jewish teaching for a Gentile to enter the Jewish Temple. After the completion of the Temple, the Antichrist will have watched while the Jews conducted their elaborate cleansing of the Temple from the presence of Gentiles. The Old Testament instructs the Jewish people to not allow Gentiles inside of their temple. In the New Testament, the Apostle Paul was almost killed because it was rumored that he had taken Greeks into the Temple (Acts 21:28).

The Antichrist will view all of this as extreme Jewish religious exclusiveness. One of his most strongly held views will be that religious conflict has been the number one cause for war throughout history. In order to have peace on earth, he will feel obligated to irradicate all religious exclusiveness. The Antichrist will possibly be a Gentile. If so, he himself will not be permitted to enter the new temple that will quickly become one of the seven wonders of the world. He will chafe under what he views as this Jewish arrogance.

In the Old Testament Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, had captured the Jewish people, carrying the "best and the brightest" back to Babylon to be his servants. He also took from the Jewish Temple the beautiful gold and silver vessels devoted to the service of God. He had been warned that those were God's vessels and should be used only in His service. Nebuchadnezzar honored this warning and left the temple vessels in storage.

After Nebuchadnezzar's death, his grandson Belshazzar became the ruler of Babylon. At the zenith of his power, Belshazzar made his famous impious feast. He said within himself, "I am the king of Babylon. I rule the entire world." He decided that this exclusiveness of Jewish control over these golden vessels was ridiculous. He commanded that the sacred golden vessels be brought. As he drank from those vessels, the forefinger of a man's hand wrote in the plaster of the wall: ME'NE, ME'NE, TE'KEL, U-PHAR'SIN. Belshazzar's knees began to smite together in fear; he knew he had gone too far. He sent for Daniel the prophet who gave to Belshazzar the interpretation of the writing: "God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it. Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting. Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians."

History tells us that the handwriting came to pass that very night. Even while Belshazzar was partying, the Persian armies were invading the city of Babylon. Before the night was over, Belshazzar was dead.

This same disdain for restraint will cause the Antichrist to trigger the Abomination of Desolation. The controlled news media will begin to float the possibility that this wonderful world leader, who is bringing peace to the earth, is the Messiah. When the uproar about the animal sacrifices reaches its peak, the Antichrist will solve the problem by informing the Jews that the need for their sacrifices is over. "I am your Messiah," he will confess. He will then move into the Temple claiming to be God. This infamous event, which both Daniel and Jesus called the Abomination of Desolation, will signal the beginning of the Great Tribulation.

## **Who is "he" that confirms the covenant?**

"And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week." Daniel 9:27

There has been much dispute over who the "he" is that confirms the prophesied covenant in Daniel 9:27. The antecedent to which "he" refers is "the prince that shall come" in the preceding verse, Daniel 9:26.

Verse 26 states that the people of the "prince that shall come" shall destroy the city, and the sanctuary. This part of the prophecy was fulfilled when the Romans led by General Titus destroyed Jerusalem and the Second Temple in 70 A.D. The Bible explicitly teaches that the Antichrist will rule over a revived Holy Roman Empire (See Lesson 5). It is easy to understand why the Romans were called the "people" of the prince that shall come. The "prince that shall come" is the Antichrist, and the Antichrist is the "he" that shall confirm the covenant for seven years.

Daniel 11:21-45 provides a wealth of information about the Antichrist. It calls him the "prince of the covenant" in verse 22. It states that he will "have intelligence with them that forsake the holy covenant" in verse 30. And in verse 31 it says that he will take away the daily sacrifice, and place the Abomination of Desolation.

Finally in verse 45' it says that "he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him."

The "he" that confirms the covenant for seven years is the coming one-world dictator, the Antichrist. We will describe the Antichrist in detail later in these lessons.

## **Great religious revival**

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness,...it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness."

*A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens

After writing the book of Daniel, Daniel prayed to God requesting to understand his own writings. God replied in Daniel 12:9, "Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end."

God informed Daniel that the prophecies he had recorded were reserved for a specific people at a particular time. God chose in His divine sovereignty to place the special tool of fulfilled prophecy in the hands of the endtime church to assist the church with endtime revival. Prophecies that have never been understood before are being revealed now. This is not because we are any more intelligent or more spiritual than those who have previously spent countless hours studying God's word. God simply decided to place this powerful weapon in the hands of the endtime church for the final great harvest! Revelation 19:10 states that "the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

The key to great revival is faith. Faith always produces action. Hebrews 11 tells of the great exploits that have been accomplished through faith. A renewed and heightened faith will be responsible for the prophesied endtime revival just ahead.

Paul used prophecy to convince the Jews to believe. The Bible tells us that he would show them prophetically that, when Messiah

would come, he would suffer. After they were convinced, he would then preach to them the sufferings of Jesus and that Jesus was, in fact, the Christ.

Jesus prophesied to His disciples that He would die, be buried, and rise the third day. The scriptures say that He told them this so that, when it came to pass, they might believe.

## **The effect of prophetic fulfillment soon to be witnessed**

What will happen when construction begins on the Jewish Third Temple? What galvanizing effect will it have on God's people when animal sacrifices begin to be offered again in Jerusalem for the first time in 2,000 years? When the Antichrist is revealed, as II Thessalonians 2:3-4 promises he will be, what crystallizing effect will be produced? If the church understands the prophecies, the effect will be dramatic. According to scripture, the endtime church will be powerful and active.

## **Endtime revival is specifically prophesied.**

Many don't know what to expect spiritually for these last times. Some are even believing for a great falling away. The Bible explicitly prophesies a great revival for the times just ahead!

The Bible does say, "Because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold" (Matthew 24:12). But it also says, concerning the time when the Antichrist would be revealed in Daniel 11:32, "And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries: but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits." It may be the worst of times, but it shall also be the BEST OF TIMES!!

## **Racing the rapture**

We are the generation that is destined to race the rapture! The fulfilled prophecies of the endtime will be the greatest generator of faith since the physical presence of Jesus Christ upon the earth! The fervor of the book of Acts will be recreated. In Acts 2:44-47 it says,

"And all that believed were together, and had all things common; And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." This same fervor and dedication will soon seize the endtime church!

When the prophecies pertaining to Daniel's 70th week begin to be fulfilled, the people that do understand are going to make absolutely total commitments to the last day evangelization of the world. God's people will sell houses and lands. Millions of dollars will be mobilized for the reaching, one more time, of this generation. Even more important, Christians themselves are going to be totally mobilized for world evangelism. Even as the early Apostolic church worked daily with one accord in the temple and going from house to house, the last day Apostolic church is going to be totally mobilized in one final effort to reach this world for Jesus Christ before the Lord comes.

Daniel 11:33 declares, "And they that understand among the people shall instruct many." Our printing presses will run day and night. Every evening, all over America and throughout the world, Bible studies will be conducted as we race the rapture. Even

though this will be a time of tremendous evil as the Antichrist closes his trap on this world, yet, in the midst of it all, the Bible emphatically declares that they that "**KNOW THEIR GOD SHALL BE STRONG, AND DO EXPLOITS!**"

## LESSON 4

### THE Four HORSEMEN

#### I. Revelation 6:1-8

#### II. What do these horses symbolize?

##### A. Zechariah 6:1-8

1. Horses symbolize spirits

#### III. The red horse

- A. Communism is the red spirit
- B. Takes peace from the earth
- C. They kill one another.
- D. A great sword

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#### IV The black horse

- A. Capitalism is the black spirit
1. Balances=trade or commerce
- B. Prophetic stock market report

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#### V. The white horse

##### A. Catholicism is the white spirit

1. *Communism, Democracy, and Catholic Power* by Paul Blanshard
- B. Rider of white horse had a bow, but no arrows
- C. A crown was given to him
- D. White is the color used by the Pope
1. He dresses in white
2. His helicopter is white
3. His popemobile is white

#### VI. The pale horse

- A. Pale horse is death
1. Grisled and bay horses in Zechariah=pale horse of Revelation
- B. The tools of "Death" are the sword, hunger, the beasts of the earth
- C. Hell follows Death

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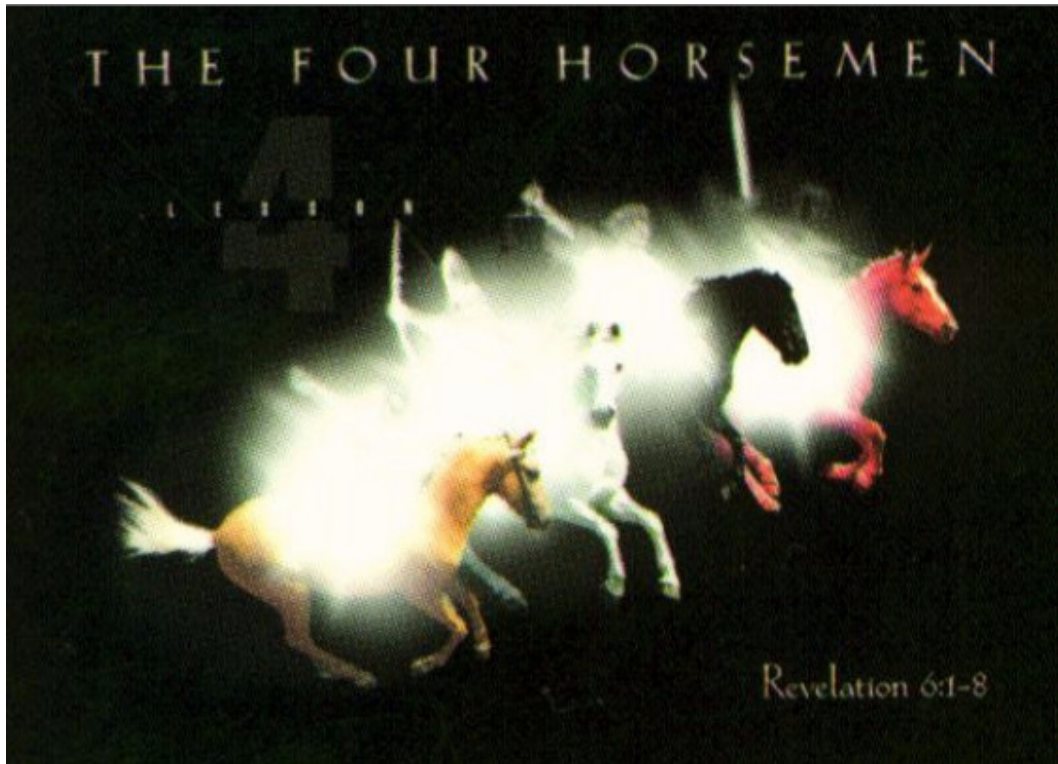
#### VII. Different spirits are dominant in different parts of the world

##### A. The black horses went forth into the "north country" (Zechariah 6:6)

1. Capitalist countries are in the northern hemisphere
2. Capitalism hinders God's Spirit
3. White horses followed into the north country
4. The grisled go into the southern hemisphere
- a) Poverty, famine, and disease are dominant in the southern hemisphere

#### VIII. Communism will be a form of government under the Antichrist

Supplemental Reading: <i>Keys of This Blood</i> by Malachi Martin, <i>Vatican, Moscow, Washington Alliance</i> by Avro Manhattan
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Lesson 4

## The Four Horsemen

The Bible prophesies about four great spirits which control the actions of human beings, leaders of governments, and ultimately, even the governments of the world themselves. One of these spirits will become the dominating force in the program of the future world dictator of the coming one-world government.

The Apostle John recorded this prophecy in Revelation 6:1-8;

"And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see. And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer. And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see. And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword. And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand. And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine. And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see. And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with the sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth."

The prophecy given to John in Revelation 6:1-8 was also given to the Prophet Zechariah in Zechariah 6:1-8;

"And I turned, and lifted up mine eyes, and looked, and behold, there came four chariots out from between two mountains; and the mountains were mountains of brass. In the first chariot were red horses; and in the second chariot black horses; and in the third chariot white horses; and in the fourth chariot grisled and bay horses. Then I answered and said unto the angel that talked with me, What are these, my lord? And the angel answered and

said unto me, These are the four SPIRITS of the heavens, which go forth from standing before the Lord of all the earth. The black horses which are therein go forth into the north country; and the white go forth after them; and the grisled go forth toward the south country. And the bay went forth, and sought to go that they might walk to and fro through the earth: and he said, Get you hence, walk to and fro through the earth. So they walked to and fro through the earth. Then cried he upon me, and spake unto me, saying, Behold, these that go toward the north country have quieted my spirit in the north country."

Here in Zechariah God told us that these horses and their riders symbolize spirits which go forth into the earth. We will see that the color of each of these horses is highly significant, and will be the key to identifying these spirits in our world today.

### **The red horse**

There is an international spirit in the earth today known as the "red" power. Nations who embrace Communism or Socialism are known as red nations. Red China, Red Russia, and Red Romania are just a few examples.

Revelation 6:4 states that "Power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth." Everywhere Communism raises its ugly head, revolution and war breaks out. Korea, Berlin, the Congo, Cuba, Vietnam, Afghanistan, and Nicaragua are just a few of the many examples.

The prophecy says that those controlled by this red spirit would kill one another. It has been estimated that 80 million Chinese have been killed in political purges in China since the Communists took over in 1948. Twenty million were killed in political purges in Russia by Josef Stalin. Everywhere Communist revolution goes there is bloodshed and death.

Finally, in the same verse, there was given to the rider of this red horse a great sword. What greater military might exists in the world today than the combined power of Russia and China? Is there a nation that would like to go to war against these two giants?! The red spirit which takes peace from the earth is Communism.

### **The black horse**

The rider on the black horse in Revelation 6:5 had a pair of balances in his hand. Balances are a symbol of trade or commerce. What international spirit in the world embodies the message of commerce? Capitalism, of course! The world's capitalistic nations enjoy higher standards of living than the other nations of the world.

This is reinforced in the next portion of this prophecy: "And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny" (Revelation 6:6). One of the things heard daily in the news of capitalistic countries is, "Dow Jones Industrials-up 3 cents; AT&T down a penny; Xerox is steady." This passage is a prophetic stock market report! Obviously, the stock markets are at the center of capitalistic economies.

Finally, in the same passage, the Bible says "... and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine." One of the quickest ways for a man to lose office in the political world of capitalism is for the economy of that nation to suffer under his administration. One of the major issues of any political campaign in the free world countries is that of the economy. Bill Clinton's central slogan during the 1992 U.S. presidential campaign was, "It's the economy, Stupid."

The December 9, 1966, issue of *Time* magazine, page 34, reported that a new coalition government had recently been formed in Germany between the Socialist Party and the Christian Democratic Party. In describing the union *Time* said, "... a grand coalition of the two major parties—the Christian Democrats and the Social Democrats, that have bitterly fought each other for years... [has been made]. A union of black and red, it was a marriage of convenience—but a stunning match nonetheless."

In political and news circles socialism is referred to as the "red power". Likewise, democracy is referred to as the "black power". God knew that this would be true; so He let the red horse symbolize Communism and the black horse symbolize Capitalism.

The black horse is the spirit of capitalism foreseen by God 2,000 years ago!

### **The white horse**

Paul Blanshard, in his very interesting political science book *Communism, Democracy and Catholic Power*, contends that almost every conflict between nations in modern history has' been produced by conflicts generated among three force—Communism, Capitalism, and Catholicism.

Catholicism perfectly fits the description of the white horse rider of Revelation. The Roman Catholic Pope almost always dresses in white. His helicopter and his popemobile are white.

White is used as a symbol of peace. The predominant message of Roman Catholicism is the message of peace. The Vatican has become a diplomatic peace center for the world. When peace is being negotiated between rulers of our world, the pope and other high officials of the Roman Catholic Church many times are consulted. Newspapers, magazines, books, television, and radio applaud his efforts towards peace. Pope Paul VI was the world's first religious leader to speak before the United Nations 'General Assembly. His message was, "Lay down your arms. War no more. Never again!"

Notice that the rider of the white horse in Revelation had a bow, but no arrows. He had weapons but was ,not shooting live ammunition. His weapons are peace, religion, and diplomacy.

A crown was given to the one sitting on the white horse. History teaches that the Pope originally had no crown, but today the Pope's crown is a tiara consisting of three crowns.

Revelation 6:2 states that the rider of the white horse went forth conquering and to conquer. Although Catholicism at present has no standing army, it is certainly a conquering power. When the majority of the people of a nation becomes Catholic, that nation is referred to as a "Catholic" nation. For this reason the Catholic Church has made a serious and concentrated effort to bring the American Catholic Church under its absolute control and to eradicate totally the American dissidents. (*People's Padre*, by Emmet McLoughlin, pg. 239). One of the Vatican's major goals is to conquer America. This is the spirit of the white horse! Conquering and to conquer is the 'spirit of the Roman Catholic Church.

## The pale horse

The Bible plainly states that the name of the one who sat on the pale horse was "Death", and "Hell" followed with him. In this passage, the significance of Hell following Death is what we must understand.

When people die, their individual fate is sealed. People who die in wickedness go immediately to hell (Luke 16:20-31). The sooner death can claim individuals, the less chance they have of being saved and entering into the Kingdom of God.

The tools of "Death" are: 1. The *sword*, which includes war, crime, and revolution; 2. *Hunger*; 3. *The beasts of the earth*. Notice that these forces are most prominent in the more backward nations of the earth.

The four horses of the four seals of Revelation 6:1-8, and Zechariah's horses pulling four chariots, represent Catholicism, Communism, Capitalism, and Death. Each of these spirits are international spirits: there are Catholic nations, Communistic nations, Capitalistic nations, and nations where famine, the sword, hunger, and the beasts of the earth rule.

Each of these four powers is an enemy to the true Church of Jesus Christ. Communism, with its accompanying doctrine of atheism, is very plainly an enemy of God's Church. As long as an individual is caught up with the spirit of Communism, it is impossible for that person to be saved.

Capitalism is the most subtle enemy of the church today. It does not directly oppose the true church of Jesus Christ, as Communism does. Rather Capitalism works against the Christian without him realizing it. When the spirit of Capitalism invades a home, the man works overtime at every opportunity or may even work two jobs. The woman leaves her children with a baby-sitter so that she can make an extra \$100-\$200 each week. Before long the family is so busy that there is no time left for church, prayer, Bible reading, or a family altar. All that matters in a home where the capitalistic spirit rules is living a little higher and having a little more. Capitalism is guilty of emptying the churches of America. It is the main reason churches are lacking in dedication and zeal. A definite change in America's religious position has occurred! The churches across America today have whittled away at their worship services until the majority have only one real service a week. Why? Because Capitalism has gripped our nation.

The angel speaking with Zechariah told him that the black horses went forth into the "north country" (Zechariah 6:6). More than 2,500 years ago, God foretold that Capitalism would exist in the northern countries! Look on a world map. You will find that every major capitalistic country is in the northern hemisphere. Note that Germany, France, Great Britain, the United States, and Canada are all northern countries. Isn't the accuracy of God's word amazing?!

In Zechariah 6:8, the angel cried, "Behold, these that go toward the north country have quieted my spirit in the north country." God is saying here that Capitalism has hindered the moving of His spirit in the northern countries, as we explained above. It is easier to get people to serve God in poverty stricken countries and in Communist countries than in America and other capitalistic nations. Capitalism breeds a spirit of selfishness and a "do-as-I-please" attitude which cannot exist in a true Christian. Jesus said, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me" (Matthew 16:24).

The grisled horses of Zechariah 6:6, representing poverty, disease, and famine, went toward the south country. This prophecy has definitely come to pass. Most all of your "have not" countries are located in the southern hemisphere. The average life span in some of these southern countries is as low as 40 years! The bay horses, representing death, walked to and fro through the earth.

The grisled and bay horses of Zechariah 6:3 represent the same thing as the pale horse seen by John in the book of Revelation. *Webster's Dictionary* says that a "pale" horse is one lacking in intensity of color, or void of luster. The colors "grisled" and "bay", according to Webster, are both lackluster colors; the grisled being a gray and the bay being a dull reddish brown. God knew that this spirit of disease and death would be most prevalent in the southern countries.

The most important thing about this prophecy of the four horses is the identification of the form of government that the last world government will assume. In a later chapter we will see that the beast representing the kingdom of the Antichrist is a "red" beast. This indicates that this last world government will be communistic.

At the beginning of World War II, only Russia (having only six percent of the world's population) was communistic. Today, a mere 50 years later, Communism rules 50 percent of the world's population and threatens to shortly engulf the entire world. What a gain in such a short time!

When the Berlin Wall fell, the world's news media shouted that communism was dead. However, the victory seemed somehow hollow when Mikhail Gorbachev, the leader of the Communist world, was given the Nobel Peace Prize for killing it. In an interview with *Time* magazine six months later, Gorbachev said: "As we dismantle the Stalinist system, we are not retreating from socialism but are moving toward it." He went on to say: "I'm convinced that the radical changes in Central and Eastern Europe in no way signal the collapse of socialism." (*Time*, June 4, 1990.) Either Mr. Gorbachev is horribly deceived or a lot of other people are!

While the communistic leaders smugly gloat over their fabulous success and their growing power, Almighty God calmly observes from heaven knowing that they are merely pawns in His mighty master plan.

## LESSON 5

### HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE-REVIVED

#### I. King Nebuchadnezzar's dream

- A. Daniel reveals the dream
- B. Daniel 2:31-35

#### II. Five powers will achieve world dominion Page 80

- A. Daniel 2:36-45-The meaning of the dream revealed
  - 1. Prophesied nations will rule the world-verse 39
- B. Babylon=Head of gold
- C. Media-Persia=Arms and breasts of silver
- D. Greece= Belly and thighs of brass
- E. Roman Empire=Legs of iron
- F Holy Roman Empire=Feet of iron and clay

#### III. The 'Holy Roman Empire

- A. Difference between Roman Empire and Holy Roman Empire
- B. Born when Pope Leo III placed crown on Charlemagne in 800 A.D.
- C. Always ruled by two men-a political leader and a religious leader
- D. The last world government will be ruled by two men-the Antichrist and the False Prophet (Revelation 19:19-20)

#### IV. The feet of the, image

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- A. Element of iron carried over from legs
- B. Clay represents the Roman Catholic Church
- C. Ten toes symbolize ten kings

#### V The end of human government

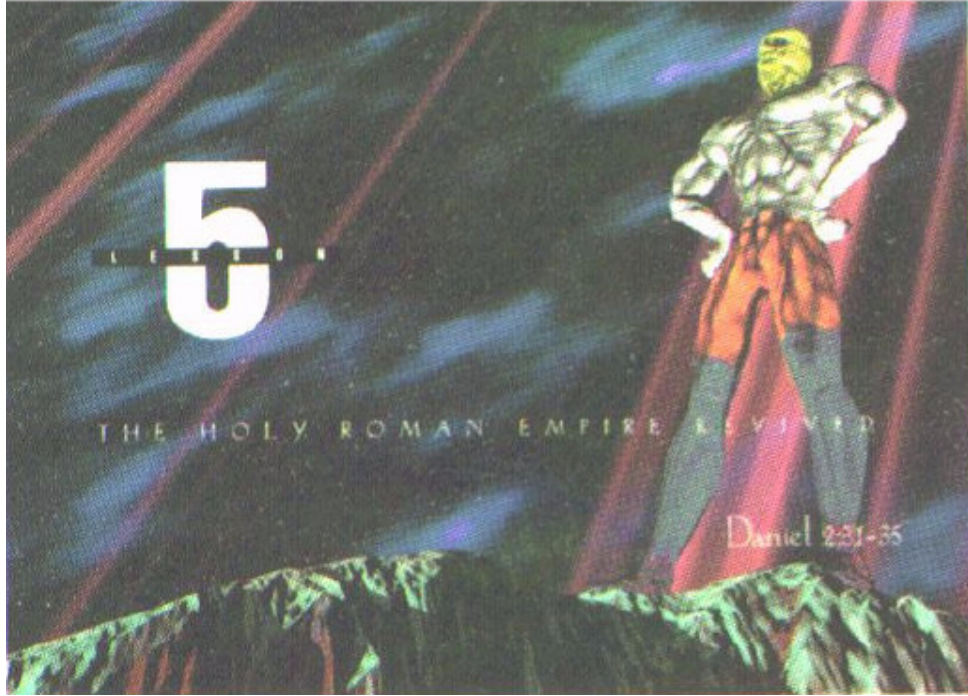
- A. Stone smites the image upon the feet
- B. Human government is abolished

#### VI. God's kingdom is established

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- A. Stone, representing Christ, filled the whole earth
- B. God's kingdom shall stand forever





## Lesson 5

### **Holy Roman Empire-Revived**

We are presently witnessing the revival of the Holy Roman Empire. The prophecy in the Bible which foretells this event is found in Daniel 2 in the form of a dream given to Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon. Upon awakening one morning, he remembered that he had dreamed a very unusual dream. However, he could not remember what he had dreamed. The event disturbed him so much that he called for his magicians, wise men, and astrologers, demanding that they reveal to him what he had dreamed and explain what his dream meant.

Of course, they were unable to do so and asked him to first tell them his dream, promising that they then would be able to give the meaning to the king.

Nebuchadnezzar realized their supposed wisdom and powers were false and commanded that all of the wise men under his realm be put to death. When the executioners arrived at the house of Daniel and announced that he was to be executed, he wanted to know why.

When Daniel heard the story of the king's dream, he promised that God would reveal the dream and the interpretation thereof to the king.

Daniel subsequently appeared before the king, recounted the dream, and gave the interpretation.

"Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible. This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass, His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay. Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of Iron and clay, and brake them to pieces. Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth."

As Daniel described the dream to Nebuchadnezzar, the king undoubtedly began to recall the details of his dream. He was astonished that God had revealed this secret to Daniel and realized that Daniel was a true prophet of God.

The dream depicted a great image whose head was of gold, breast and arms of silver, belly and thighs of brass, legs of Iron, and feet of Iron mingled with clay. Then a stone, which was cut out without hands, smote the image upon the feet. It broke the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver and the gold into pieces. As Nebuchadnezzar watched, the stone which smote the image grew until it became a great mountain and filled the earth.

#### **Five powers to achieve world dominion**

In Daniel 2:36-45, the meaning of the dream was revealed:

"This is the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king. Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory. And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou art this head of gold. And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee, and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth. And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things; and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise. And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay. And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken. And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay. And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever. Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure.

In the interpretation of the dream, Daniel said to the king, "Thou art this head of gold" (Daniel 2:38). Then he explained that, after Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom, another would rise which would be inferior to his kingdom. After that kingdom, yet a third kingdom would arise. This kingdom was represented by the belly and thighs of brass.

To fully understand the importance of this prophecy of Nebuchadnezzar's image, notice carefully Daniel 2:39. The key point to consider is the phrase "which shall bear rule over all the earth". We know that many nations have existed from the time of Daniel until now. However, only five empires have existed since Daniel's time which have ruled the entire world. They are the empires depicted in this image of Nebuchadnezzar's dream.

Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon ruled the known world of its day and was the head of gold. In the days of Belshazzar, the last king of Babylon, the hand of God wrote on his palace wall foretelling that his kingdom would fall that night and that his kingdom would be replaced by the kingdom of the Medes and the Persians (Daniel 2:40). History tells us that this did occur.

The empire of the Medes and the Persians is the kingdom symbolized by the arms and breasts of silver. This empire dominated the world for over 200 years, from the night that Babylon fell in 539 B.C. until it was defeated by the Grecians under Alexander the Great in 331 B.C.

The Grecian Empire is the third world empire of King Nebuchadnezzar's image which is symbolized by the belly and thighs of brass. Alexander the Great conquered the entire world by the time he reached his early thirties! He loved military conquest so much that he sat down and wept that there were no more worlds to conquer. Greece was the dominant force in the world for 134 years until defeated by the Romans in 197 B.C.

Then began the rule of the Roman Empire which was symbolized by the "legs of iron" (Daniel 2:40). The Roman Empire still ruled the world at the time of Jesus Christ. That's the reason there were Roman soldiers present at the crucifixion of Jesus. During the life of Christ, the entire world was under tribute to the Roman Empire. While He was ministering, the Jews often asked Jesus if they should pay tribute to Caesar, the Roman emperor (Matthew 22:17). The Jews hated paying taxes to the Romans. This Roman Empire continued for 500 years until it decayed from within and was overrun by barbarians.

The prophecy states that one more empire would rise which would rule over "all the earth". Until this last empire each section of the image in the king's dream had a completely different metal from the previous section. From the head of gold, to the arms and breasts of silver, to the belly and thighs of brass, and to the legs of iron, each is a change of metals. The feet, however, consist of two elements-iron and clay. The mixture indicates that the element of iron (the Roman Empire) from the legs would survive; however, another element (the clay) would be mixed in.

After the Roman Empire, came another empire which was related, but different. This latest empire was called the Holy Roman Empire. The Roman element, in fact, did survive, but another factor (symbolized by clay) was mixed with it.

### **The Holy Roman Empire**

In order to understand this part of the prophecy, the reader must understand the difference between the Roman Empire and the Holy Roman Empire. They are not the same. The Roman Empire existed during the time of Christ, and ceased to exist around 300 A.D. The Holy Roman Empire was founded in 800 A.D. when Pope Leo III crowned Charlemagne and proclaimed him to be the first emperor of the Holy Roman Empire. Charlemagne, also known as Charles the Great, became the pope's official protector.

From the time of Charlemagne until now, the Holy Roman Empire has risen and fallen several times. It has usually centered around a coalition including Germany and Italy, much like Charlemagne's rule over the Franks. The reason for its formation was that the pope desired to extend his influence over the entire world but did not have enough influence or power to fulfill his dream. The Holy Roman emperor also desired to extend his power over the entire earth, but did not have the power and influence to accomplish his goals either.

Thus the pope and the emperor agreed together to share their influence in order to establish the world dominating empire which they both sought. As a result, the kingdom became known as the Holy Roman Empire.

The Holy Roman Empire has always been ruled by two men, a political leader and a spiritual leader. The last world government will be ruled by two men-the Antichrist and the False Prophet (Revelation 19:19-20).

## **The feet of iron and clay**

Note that the iron element of the former Roman Empire remained, but that the new clay element, the Roman Catholic Church, had been added. Remember that the image in the king's dream had feet of iron mixed with clay. It is easy to see that the clay represents the Roman Catholic Church.

Notice Daniel 2:43: "...they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men." This refers to religious forces forming alliances with political forces. The Holy Roman Empire has always been a union of church and state.

The verse continues by stating that "...they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay." This passage has been explicitly fulfilled. Each time the Holy Roman Empire has been established, it has succeeded for only a short time. Each time, after reaching world domination, the pope and the emperor have begun to quarrel over which one between them was to be the final authority.

The pope has always held that the "spiritual" should rule over the "temporal". On the other hand, the emperor has insisted that he should have the last word. Because of the quarreling, their alliance would eventually disintegrate. It has certainly been as the scriptures said: the iron would not cleave to the clay!

## **The Great Stone**

The most important element of Nebuchadnezzar's dream is the "stone". The stone, which was cut out of the mountain, rolled down and smote the image upon the feet. The stone represents the Kingdom of God (Daniel 2:44). After it had destroyed the entire image, the stone grew until it filled the earth. This was a portrayal of the fact that, in the days of the ten kings (represented by the ten toes of Nebuchadnezzar's image), the God of Heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed.

We especially need to understand about the "ten toes" in the king's dream (Daniel 2:42-44). Although this passage does not specifically mention the number "ten", we know that two feet have ten toes. Other passages of Bible prophecy foretell that a union of ten kings will be the last power to rule the earth. It is during this final reign that Jesus Christ will come back to earth to establish His kingdom (the stone hewn from the mountain which grew until it filled the whole earth). Later, in Daniel 7:24, we are told, "And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise." In Daniel 7:26 the scriptures declare:

But the judgment shall sit, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and to destroy it unto the end. And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him."

Another prophecy which clearly predicts the same event is found in Revelation 17:12, "...the ten horns that thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast." In verse 14 of the same chapter of Revelation, we are told, "These shall make war with the Lamb (Jesus Christ), and the Lamb shall overcome them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings. And they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful."

As previously said, the last human government to rule upon the earth will be the union of ten kings. In some places in the Bible, they are described as "ten toes" and in other places as "ten horns". The important point is that the ten kings will rule just prior to the establishment of the Kingdom of God upon the earth.

In previous chapters this ten-nation kingdom has been discussed in greater detail. We learned that the ten-nation kingdom will almost certainly come out of Europe, which is the old seat of the Holy Roman Empire. Germany is once again the strongest force in Europe right now.

The Roman Catholic Church has played a very significant role in bringing about the formation of the European Common Market. It has been said that the Roman Catholic Church has representatives at all high level Common Market meetings. Further, we know that many of the countries making up the European Common Market membership are predominantly Roman Catholic. Those countries in the union which are not predominantly Roman Catholic have a mixture of Catholicism and Lutheranism. The modern ecumenical movement is presently merging these two bodies together, returning them to the status they enjoyed before the reformation. If some of the Common Market countries make up the final ten-nation union, it is easy to see that the Holy-Roman relationship is already firmly established!

The Holy Roman Empire is definitely being revived today! It will be in existence when Jesus Christ returns to the earth to set up His earthly reign. The Roman Catholic Church will have become so powerful by the time of Christ's coming that her influence will have spread over the entire world. These things are all being fulfilled right now!

## **God's kingdom is established**

The central theme of the entire Bible is that God's kingdom will some day be established upon the earth. The governments of men will be abolished, and Jesus Christ will return to earth to rule as King of kings and Lord of lords.

The stone, which smote the image representing human governments upon the feet of iron and clay, was the kingdom of Jesus Christ. Scripture prophesies that, when all human governments are destroyed, the kingdom of Jesus will grow, filling the entire earth.

Revelation 11:15 describes this momentous event:

"And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever."

## THE ANTICHRIST AND THE FALSE PROPHET

### I. Revelation 19:19-20

#### II. The Antichrist-The man of sin

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- A. Revelation 13:1-8
- B. The Antichrist is a man—Daniel 7:24-25
- C. He will confirm a covenant—Daniel 9:27
- D. Antichrist will arise among ten kings
- E. He will replace three king—Daniel 7:8
- F. Antichrist uses peace as a weapon—Daniel 8:25
- G. He will be preceded by seven kings—Revelation 17:10-11
- H. He will persecute God's people—Revelation 13:7, Daniel 7:21
- I. Antichrist will not regard the desire of women—Daniel 8.25
- J. The number of his name will be 66—Revelation 13:18

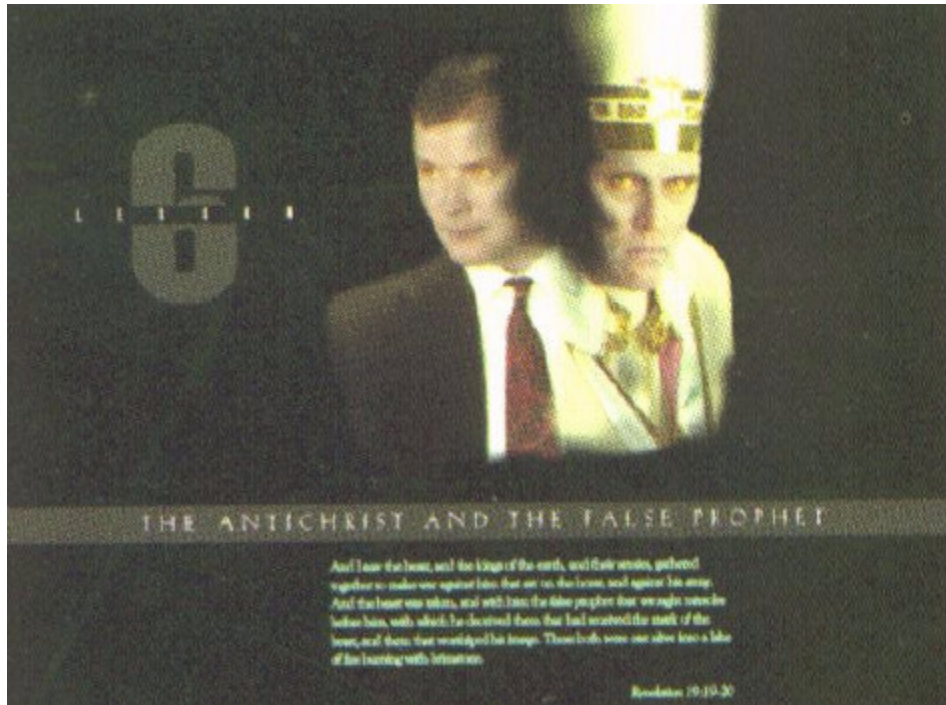
#### III. The False Prophet

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- A. Revelation 13 1118
- B. Looks like a lamb, but speaks like a dragon
- C. Persuades people to w9rshlp the Antichrist
- D. Deceives people by miracles he can, perform
- E. Participates in enforcing the mark of the beast
- F. Religious leader of Holy Roman Empire has always been the pope
  - 1. whoever is pope, at the time of the Antichrist, will be the False Prophet.

#### IV. Antichrist and False Prophet will be, destroyed by Jesus Christ at Armageddon

- A. Revelation 19:19-20
- B. They are in the lake of fire 1,000, years later, and destined, to be there forever-Revelation 20:10.



## Lesson 6

# The Antichrist and the False Prophet

"And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone." Revelation 19:19-20

The last day world government of the Antichrist will be the Holy Roman Empire revived. We know this because the ten toes of Nebuchadnezzar's image were of iron mingled with clay as explained in Lesson 5. The ten toes represent the ten kings that will fight against Jesus Christ at the time of His second coming at Armageddon. The Bible specifically says in Daniel 2:44, "And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed."

The Holy Roman Empire has always had two leaders—a political leader and a spiritual leader. The book of Revelation teaches that there will be two leaders in the endtime world government—the Antichrist and the False Prophet.

Since the prophecies concerning the endtime are all coming to pass now, it is certain that the Antichrist and the False Prophet are alive on earth at this present time. Both of them are undoubtedly in power right now or very near the reins of power. It is very likely that we already know the names of these men, but just do not yet know for certain who they are!

## The Antichrist

"And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority. And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast. And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him? And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations. And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world."

Remember that a beast symbolizes a kingdom, along with the ruler of that kingdom. As we learned in Lesson 2, this seven-headed, ten-horned beast of Revelation 13 is the world government of the Antichrist. It also represents the Antichrist himself.

## Identifying the Antichrist

"That day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition." II Thessalonians 2:3

The coming one-world dictator is called by several names in the Bible: the beast, the man of sin the: son of perdition, the little horn, and the prince of the covenant, among others. In this modern time he: is most commonly referred to as the Antichrist. There are fifty-three specific prophecies concerning the Antichrist in the books of Daniel, Revelation, and II Thessalonians alone. In this lesson we will discuss several of these prophecies in order to develop profile of this future world dictator.

### 1. The Antichrist is a man

Some have taught that the AntiChrist is a system and not a man. However, Daniel 7:24 as states that ten Kings shall arise. Another king will arise after them and will subdue three of the first ten. This king that replaces three will then wear out the saints of the most high until a time and times and the dividing of times [three and one half years],. Daniel,7:21, 22 says that the AntiChrist will make war with the saints until the ancient of days comes. This king, this man, will make war against the saints until Jesus returns. We can know for certain that the Antichrist is a man.

### 2. He will confirm a covenant for seven years.

Daniel 9:27 states that the Antichrist will confirm a covenant with many for seven years. It appear that- the *Jerusalem Covenant*; which was signed on May 19, 1993, is this prophesied, covenant. The *Jerusalem Covenant* declares that Jerusalem is the eternal capital of the nation of Israel. and must never be surrendered.

To confirm the covenant means to give agreement to, to make stronger, or to reinforce it. The Arab Israeli peace accord that was signed on September 13, 1993, did confirm the present status of Jerusalem-for now. If the Antichrist were present for the Mideast agreement signing, then the covenant has almost certainly been confirmed. However, we cannot at this time say whether or not this is the case.

### 3. The Antichrist will arise among a union of ten kings.

Daniel 7:24 prophesies that the Antichrist will come up among ten kings. These kings could undoubtedly also refer to presidents or prime ministers. These ten national leaders will be joined together in some type of federation such as the European Common Market or the Commonwealth of Independent States. Revelation 17:12-13 tells us that ten kings will give their power and strength unto the Antichrist.

### 4. The Antichrist will uproot three kings.

This prophecy is one of the most helpful in identifying the Antichrist because it is so specific. Daniel 7:8 says that a little horn will uproot three of ten horns. In this little horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things.

Daniel 7:24 explains this prophecy: "And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings."

When we see a man rise among a ten-nation union subduing three kings, it will be almost irrefutable proof that this man is the Antichrist.

### 5. His ten nation union will merge into a world government which he will dominate.

All of this was explained in Lesson 1 and Lesson 2.

### 6. His kingdom will be the revived Holy Roman Empire.

In the prophecy concerning Nebuchadnezzar's image which we studied in Lesson 5' the stone smote the image upon the feet of iron mingled with clay. The stone was Jesus Christ and His kingdom, and the feet of iron mingled with clay represented the kingdom of the Antichrist, the Holy Roman Empire, which the Lord will destroy when He comes.

### 7. The Antichrist will use peace as a weapon.

In December of 1993, *Time* magazine featured THE PEACEMAKERS, the four world leaders that *Time* chose for its "men of the year" for 1993. Peace is certainly the weapon of choice for any politician of this era who is ambitious for power. Daniel 8:25 says the Antichrist- "by peace shall destroy many.

### 8. He will apparently have power, lose power, and then regain it.

Revelation 17:8 reads, "The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is."

### 9. The Antichrist will be preceded by seven kings. He will be the eighth.

Exactly how this prophecy will be fulfilled is a matter of conjecture at this time. I'm sure it will become clearer as events unfold. Revelation 17:10-11 says it this way: "And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space. And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition."

Yitzhak Rab in is the eighth ruler of the modern state of Israel. Mikhail Gorbachev was the eighth leader of the Soviet Union. Time will tell if either of these circumstances is of any significance.

### 10. His look will be more stout than his fellows-Daniel 7:20.

Daniel 8:23 adds to this description of the looks of the Antichrist, describing him as a king of fierce countenance.

### 11. Three and one-half years after the confirming of the covenant, the Antichrist will sit in the rebuilt Jewish Temple claiming to be God—II Thessalonians 2:3-4.

When this event called the Abomination of Desolation occurs, those who understand prophecy will have irrefutable proof that this man is the Antichrist.

**12. He will be promoted by a miracle-working religious partner.**

Scripture teaches that the False Prophet will persuade the world to give allegiance to the Antichrist. We.. will learn more about the False Prophet later in this lesson.

**13. He will apparently be regarded as brilliant.**

Daniel 7:8 says that he will have a mouth speaking great things. Daniel 8:23 describes him as "understanding dark sentences".

**14. The Antichrist will persecute God's people.**

Revelation 13:7- "And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them." Daniel 7:21 states: "I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them."

**15. He will dominate the world, but will face resistance.**

Many have thought that the Antichrist will control every nook and cranny of the earth. However, this is not true. Revelation 12:14 teaches that, when the great tribulation begins, Israel will be flown to a place where she is protected from the persecution of the Antichrist and nourished for three and one-half years. Daniel 11:21-45 tells us that the Antichrist will fight at least four wars, two of them during the three and one-half years of the Great Tribulation. If he is in absolute and undisputed control, why is he fighting wars?

Toward the end of the tribulation, Daniel 11:44 states; "But tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him: therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many." From these scriptures we can see that the Antichrist will dominate the world, but his control will not be all-pervasive and absolute.

**16. He shall honor the God of forces. Daniel 11:38**

This apparently indicates that the Antichrist will control the armaments of the world. Daniel 11:31 says that arms shall stand on his part. Since entering the new Age of Aquarius, a favorite salutation of the new-agers has become- "The force be with you." It is almost certain that the Antichrist will be a new-age disciple.

**17. The Antichrist will think to change times and laws.**

The message of the Antichrist will be change, change, everything must change. Does this sound familiar? Established norms will be without value.

**18. He will not regard the desire of women. Daniel 11:37**

It has been taught from this scripture that the Antichrist would be a homosexual, and that is possible. However, what is the traditional "desire of women"? It has always been to have children. One of the central messages of the global planners is the need to control population growth. In China today there is a tax penalty on any family that has more than one child. Perhaps not regarding the desire of women refers to an enforced worldwide program of birth control.

**19. The number of his name will be 666\_\_**

There has been endless speculation. concerning the number 666. It is not likely that the number 666 will be literally stamped on the hand or on the forehead.

Revelation 13:18 says: "Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six." In Revelation 15.2 it specifically states that 666 will be the number of his name..

We don't know yet exactly how this prophecy will be fulfilled, hut it is obvious that there will be people of understanding on earth during the time of the Antichrist who will count the number of his name, and know for certain who he is!

## **The False Prophet**

"And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed. And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six.

Revelation 13:11-18

The Holy Roman Empire was founded in 800 A.D. when Pope Leo III placed a crown on the head of Charlemagne, pronouncing him emperor of the Holy Roman Empire. Since that time, the Holy Roman Empire has always been led by two men-a political leader and a religious leader. The revival of the Holy Roman Empire under the Antichrist will be no exception. Revelation 13:11-12 describes a personage that looks like a lamb but speaks like a dragon. He looks. like he represents the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ, but he really is under the control of the Devil. He will influence the people of the earth to give. allegiance to the Antichrist who will be leading the New World Order.

## **False Prophet will work miracles**

Revelation 13:13-14 says: "He doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast." Matthew 24:24 says. these signs and wonders would be so great that, if it were possible, they would cause the very elect to be deceived.

## **Catholic. prophecies predict an evil pope**

Many prophecies have come out of the Catholic Church stating that an evil pope will soon arise. Most think this will be the next pope after the present pope, John Paul II. It is amazing that such a teaching would surface within the Catholic Church itself at this strategic time.

## **False Prophet will be a pope**

We don't know for sure at this time who the False Prophet is. We can be certain, however, that whoever is pope at the time of the Antichrist will be the False Prophet!

## **The Antichrist and the False Prophet will be destroyed by Jesus Christ himself at Armageddon.**

According Revelation 17:14, the Antichrist and his world government will fight against the Lamb, Jesus Christ. Daniel 8:25 says that the Antichrist will stand up against the Prince of princes. This will occur at the last war ever to be fought on this earth-the Battle of Armageddon. At this time the Lord will consume the Antichrist with the spirit of his mouth, and destroy him with the brightness of his coming (II Thessalonians 2:8).

Revelation 19:19-20 describes the defeat of both the Antichrist and the False Prophet:

"And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone."

The Antichrist and the False Prophet will be cast alive into the lake of fire by Jesus Christ and will be tormented day and night for ever and ever (Revelation 20:10).

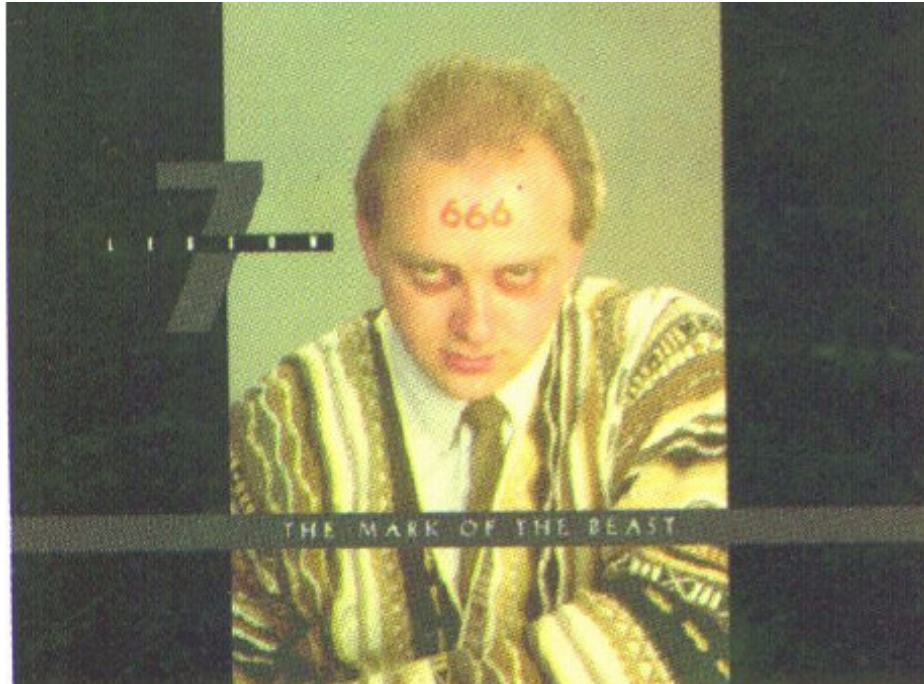
We will then crown Jesus Christ as King of kings and Lord of lords, and He shall reign forever. And of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end! Hallelujah!



## LESSON 7

### 66—THE MARK OF THE BEAST

- I. Revelation 13:18 —the most dreaded prophecy in scripture
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- III. The globalists' solution for war
  - A. One-world government
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- VI. The Mark of the Beast-Revelation 13:16-18
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    - 1. An implanted chip?
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- X. Electronic money
  - A. Unapproved persons become non-persons



## Lesson 7

# 666 The Mark of the Beast

Supplemental reading: *The Creature from Jekyll Island* by Edward Griffin

The most dreaded prophecy in scripture is the prophecy concerning 666-the mark of the beast. Books have been written about it.

Movies have been produced about it. It has been called the mark of Cain and the mark of the devil. Until recently, this dreaded subject has been projected into some far-distant future. However, it now appears that the time for the enactment of this prophesied cashless society is upon us. Never before has the admonition of the scripture been so pertinent- 'Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six" (Revelation 13:18).

### Three causes of war

Proponents of world government teach that there are three major causes of war on the earth: political conflicts, economic conflicts, and religious differences. They contend that, if we had one-world government, a global economy, and one-world religion, the root causes of war would be abolished, and an unprecedented era of peace and harmony would be ushered in. This theory sounds plausible, but it is not true. It is, however, the ideology presently energizing the powerful drive toward globalism.

The Bible teaches what the true cause of war on earth is. James 4:1-2 says, "From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members? Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not." War comes from the selfish nature of human beings. Until there is a fundamental nature change in the human race, there will always be war on the earth.

The globalists will achieve their goal of one-world government, a world economy, and a world religion. When they do, they will believe that a new age of peace and security has dawned. However, these developments will, in fact, plunge the world into a period of the greatest tyranny ever known to man.

Ultimately, the utopian plans for one-world government will disintegrate before the world planners' eyes. I Thessalonians 5:3 says, "For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape."

## **One-world economy**

Scripture teaches that a central part of this endtime world government plan will be total control of the economic activity of every nation and every individual. Tremendous progress has recently been made toward the planned one-world economy.

The master plan for creating a global economy consists of creating regional economic unions around the world first. Once this is accomplished, it will be easy to join these different regions into a global economic union. Let's examine 50InC of these regional economic unions that are now being formed.

## **The European Union**

The pacesetter in fulfilling this plan has been the European Common Market, now known as the European Union. The Common Market began in 1957 with six members. Its goal was to abolish all tariffs and trade barriers among member nations. By 1993 all trade barriers had been removed, and European membership had been increased to twelve nations. On January 1, 1995, three more nations were admitted to this union creating a common market of 380 million people. A common currency \_\_\_planned for the European Union by 1997, and a common foreign policy is to be adopted by 1999. Six Eastern European nations are also clamoring to be admitted just as soon as possible.

## **NAFTA**

Following the lead of the European Union, the United States, Canada, and Mexico negotiated the North American Free Trade Agreement. NAFTA, which came into effect in 1994, establishes a North American free trade zone. Plans are now in the offing to expand this common market to include 34 nations throughout North and South America.

## **APEC**

In November of 1994, members of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) met together. These include Japan, China, the four Asian tigers (Singapore, South Korea, Hong Kong, and Taiwan), the United States, Australia, Brunei, Canada, Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Thailand, Mexico, Papua New Guinea, and Chile. They agreed to the removing of all trade barriers amongst them by the year 2020. This would create a trading bloc of 1.6 billion people with a yearly trading volume of \$15 trillion. When you consider that the volume of the European Union is \$7 trillion and NAFTA is \$6.3 trillion, the global impact ~ APEC becomes astounding.

## **GATT**

Immediately on the heels of this rush to regional trade agreements, the United States Congress, in a special session, ratified the global trade agreement called the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. GATT is an arm of the United Nations and \_\_\_designed to control the economic activity of the entire world.

GATT became the World Trade Organization (WTO) when it began to function in January of 1995. The WTO has power to rule on complaints of unfair trade practices, and its decisions are binding. The most alarming thing about the WTO is that its proceedings are conducted in secret (the press is not allowed access), and the United States has no veto power. Furthermore, all nations have one vote each, regardless of size. A small nation like Cuba could cancel out the vote of the United States. Opponents to GATT contend that its ratification spells the end of U.S. sovereignty and an irreversible leap into world government.

## **Economic control will be used to force political and religious conformity.**

Economic sanctions are already the number one tool of the United Nations. If a nation does not comply with U.N. decisions, that nation is placed under economic sanctions. This means that all nations are not to trade with the offending nation. Many times being boycotted economically is painful enough that the nation being disciplined will buckle under to U.N. authority. If this doesn't achieve the desired result, the U.N. Security Council may then vote to resort to military action.

Many governments have been overthrown by this procedure in recent times. Iraq was placed under economic sanctions in 1990 after its invasion of Kuwait. When sanctions didn't achieve the desired result, military force was used. Sanctions were in force against South Africa for many years, finally resulting in Nelson Mandela taking over the government of that nation. The most recent example is Haiti. The United Nations placed sanctions against Haiti in an effort to force her military rulers out. The sanctions didn't seem to work. Only when a U.N. approved U.S. invasion was imminent did the military decide to capitulate.

## **Economic sanctions will soon be used to control the individual**

The secret to the power of the prophesied world government of the Antichrist will be its ability to control the individual citizen. *This* control will be possible through a new economic system in which every person will receive a personal identification number. Without this number an individual will not be permitted to participate in the economy.

## **The Mark of the Beast**

The prophecy which foretells this coming economic system is found in Revelation 13:16-18:

"And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six."

Note first that this is the same chapter in Revelation in which world government is foretold. The world's greatest religious leader, who will cooperate with the world dictator, is also referred to in this chapter. This is significant because this economic plan is going to be used to control the people of the world both politically and religiously, and it will all be done in the name of peace. Because politics and religion have long been sources of conflict, it will be rationalized that forcing a degree of conformity is wholly justifiable in the interest of the common good.

### **How will the program work?**

No man will be able to buy or to sell, during the latter part of the reign of the Antichrist, unless he has what the Bible calls the "mark of the beast" or the "number of his name" (Revelation 13:17). Cash, checks, and credit cards will all be abolished in favor of a personal identification number placed on the body. In this cashless, electronic funds transfer society it will be impossible to function economically without this personal identification number (PIN). A worldwide numbering system to remove cash and checks from our society is much further advanced right now than most people realize.

### **Forces behind current trends**

Several forces are pushing us toward an electronic funds transfer system—the cashless, checkless society. Many problems are created by the use of cash and checks. Banks must hire extensive staff to count and handle money. This manpower and the resulting wages paid would be saved if there were no cash. Additionally, cash is attractive to criminals since it is almost impossible to trace. If a foolproof electronic money system could be designed, much of the crime in our nation would be eliminated. Counterfeiting is a serious problem in a "cash" oriented society. Proponents of the cashless society say that, if there were no cash, there could be no counterfeiting.

Approximately one-third of the men incarcerated in the Indiana State Prison, in Michigan City, Indiana, are there for forgery of checks or for some type of bad check charges. Checks and checking practices contribute to crime and create many problems. Many businesses no longer accept checks as tender for goods purchased.

A fact not commonly known about checks is that the cost of processing checks by banks runs from fifty cents to one dollar per check. When you write a check to an individual, he normally deposits it in his bank. His bank then microfilms both sides of the check and then mails it to your bank for payment. Your bank then microfilms both sides of the check, deducting the money from your account.

The check is then either sent back to you by mail or filed somewhere in your bank. Approximately this same process is required for credit card purchases requiring a signature on paper. The same transaction conducted electronically would cost less than three cents. In a cashless society, approximately seventy cents per transaction would be saved.

Considering that some banks are handling up to two million paper transactions per day, this savings could amount to 1.4 million dollars per day! Multiplying even a conservative average savings by the number of banks in America, the cost of processing paper transactions becomes astronomical! The ease in accounting, the inventory advantages, and the avoidance of human error, all add to the desirability of moving into the electronic age.

The new economic system is also very attractive to the government. After the new system is fully installed, every transaction made by every individual would be recorded on a print-out sheet by every bank in America on a monthly basis. The individual account holder would receive a monthly copy of the transactions, and the bank would store the information in their data files. Should the Internal Revenue Service or any other governmental agency want an individual's bank records, they could instantly obtain a complete record of every dime deposited and where every cent was spent!

Famous Attorney F. Lee Bailey has proposed a law against having more than \$200 cash at any time. "All legal purchases can now be done electronically," he said. "Only drug dealers and criminals need cash."

## **The electronic society now?**

Some contend that an economic system, in which every person is required to have a number in order to buy or sell, is a long way off. Consider these questions. Do you have a social security number? Do you know anyone who does not have a Social Security number?

Can you hold a job in America without one? Can you open a bank account without one? We are obviously much closer to the day when a person must have a number in order to buy or sell than some people think! The government now requires a Social Security number for every child claimed as a dependent on your income tax return. Many states now automatically issue a Social Security number to newborns without it being requested.

In Denmark, every citizen has already received a ten digit number by which he is known to the government. In every dealing with the government, each individual must use that number. A growing number of other European nations are currently implementing similar plans. It is only a matter of time until America follows the steps of the European nations in developing such an identification system.

The *Indianapolis Star*, November 11, 1978, included an article by Otto Van Hapsburg about this subject of reducing people to mere numbers. He commented on the fact that everyone in Denmark had an individual number and where such systems will lead mankind. His comments brought about an uncomfortable reminder of the prophecies of George Orwell, in his famous book, *1984*.

In the September 15, 1980, issue of the *U.S. News and World Report*, Marvin Stone, editor, wrote an article which promoted the idea of a national identity card. He commented that any persons seeking jobs would be required to show their card.

In many high schools, students are required to carry an identification card at all times. Any student caught without the card in his possession may be expelled for three days. These are stepping stones which are bringing us closer and closer to the world identification system, which the Bible calls the "mark of the beast".

The technology for complete implementation of this numbering system is presently available in America, and electronic transfer systems are already being used here. Any retail establishment or any merchant who has an electronic cash register could be tied in with a central computer controlled by banks (or by the government, for that matter) within a few days.

One problem remains between the banking community and full implementation of the electronic banking system. They want to eliminate paper transactions completely. Even with electronic funds transfer capabilities, as they are now in practice, banks are still forced to use paper. This is because the only way the identity of a person can be proven, even when using identification cards, is by signature. In the present economic system, when a person calls the bank to claim they did not make a particular purchase which has appeared on their account, the bank can pull the receipt form signed by the purchaser and compare signatures, thus proving or disproving his role in the purchase.

The banking community is diligently searching for a way to insure that a person is who he says he is, without requiring a signature.

Once such a method for identification is devised, the handling of paper in personal transactions will be over, and many expensive manhours will be saved. This savings will amount to multiplied billions of dollars annually.

How will the banks accomplish personal identification without signatures? Several methods have been researched and developed.

One method is to make a voiceprint of the account holder. It has been scientifically proven that every human being has an individualized voiceprint. A computer can identify any person beyond doubt by taking a sampling of his voice and comparing it to the sampling of his voiceprint on file within the computer's data banks. However, the equipment for this particular method is quite expensive. Another method which could be used is identification by fingerprints. Again, there are technical difficulties which halt efforts to use this method.

## **The dreaded mark**

Another method for personal identification has been suggested in banking circles. This new method seems to satisfy all the needs of the banking community, the manufacturing industries, and the businesses who supply America with goods and services. It has been recommended that a special invisible number be implanted somewhere on the body. Progress has been made in America in developing a special ink which is invisible to the human eye but legible under a special light. The ink can be tattooed on the human body. Using such a numbering system, fraud and evasion would be nearly impossible. The development and implementation of such a system, on a nationwide basis would inevitably also lead to a worldwide system! It is easy to see that the prophecy of Revelation 13 is well on its way to fulfillment.

A computer expert recently made the statement that within one to two years a system utilizing a mark upon the body for personal identification could be set up for use throughout America. He added that the technology for accomplishing this is available right now!

A worldwide banking system has already been established. Banks from all over the world are tied together into a central computer system, a sort of clearing house among banks. One such banking system is located in Brussels, Belgium, (the same city in which the European Common Market has its headquarters). The system is called the "SWIFT" system. The meaning of "SWIFT" is "Society for Worldwide Inter Bank Financial Telecommunications". Virtually every large bank in the United States is directly connected to the "SWIFT" system. The primary design of the system is to permit a person to go anywhere in the world and, by means of a bank card or an individual number, be able to charge purchases or withdraw cash from an account.

It is important that other possible applications of this computer system be examined! By reprogramming the SWIFT system, an individual's personal financial transactions could be beamed around the world for use by any SWIFT interconnected firm or government. This kind of information in the hands of the wrong person could do incredible damage.

In previous chapters we have spoken of the coming great world dictator. To gain and maintain control, he will need much computerized information. The information contained in the 1990 U.S. Census, and all of the questions asked on the forms with their corresponding answers, are stored by the government's computers. Census data could be traced from a person's birth, and a history of movements, employment, and personal development could be maintained.

When Revelation 13:16 says that the Antichrist will cause every individual to receive a mark in his right hand or forehead, it seems to be unbelievable! However; these things become believable when it is known that experiments are being conducted in America to do the very things which were prophesied nearly 2,000 years ago. The fulfillment of this 2,000 year-old prophecy has never been possible until the invention of the computer and the super' information highway. These things clearly herald that Jesus Christ is coming back to the earth very soon.

In this time when the Bible is being mocked and many people are trying to discredit its truthfulness, the prophecies of the Bible are coming to pass in the most minute detail! Most people did not believe that Jesus was coming to earth the first time, and so did not receive Him. Most people today do not believe He is coming the second time, so consequently, again they will not receive Him. However, to those who are looking for Him, He will soon return!

## **National Data Bank**

When the world moves into the totally cashless electronic funds transfer society, a daily report on every individual similar to the one above will become possible. Adolf Hitler would have loved such a system at his fingertips. This system will become the central tool in the Antichrist's drive to create the global man and the long-dreamed-of New World Order!

All who take the mark will be eternally lost. Revelation 14:9-11 records the penalty for all those who take of the mark of the beast:

"And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.

The reason every person on earth must understand about the coming mark of the beast is because to participate in this world economic and religious scheme will result in eternal punishment in the lake of fire. There will be no hope for a person once he takes this mark.

## **Why will this punishment be so severe?**

What is so wrong about taking a mark in your hand or in your forehead? It will appear to be just another advancement in technology.

The thing that will cause receiving this mark to result in eternal, irrevocable damnation is that in order to receive this mark you will be required to pledge allegiance to the world government and join the one-religion. You will also be required to pledge absolute obedience to the Antichrist. This is the heart of Satan's master plan.

In order to enter God's kingdom, an individual must accept Jesus as savior and Lord and pledge obedience to Him. This is called repentance. After repentance, we take on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord by baptism in His name. Galatians 3:27 says: "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ."

Satan always imitates God. To enter the endtime kingdom of Satan, you will have to pledge obedience to the Antichrist and then receive his name in your hand or forehead. Revelation 13:17 says that the mark of the beast will be "the name of the beast, or the number of his name."

When a person repents and is baptized, God promised he would be filled with the Holy Spirit. When an individual pledges allegiance to the Antichrist and receives his name, he will receive Satan's spirit. He will become "demon possessed".

## **What will the mark be?**

The mark of the beast will almost certainly not be the literal number 666. Revelation 13:18 says:

"Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding' count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six." A person will have to have understanding in order to decipher the mark of the beast. Revelation 15:2 refers to the mark as "the number of his name.

All of us have become accustomed to scanning devices. Most all checkouts now use scanners to record and compute the amount of our purchases. If we use a credit card or a debit card for payment, it is scanned for the necessary information.

Lost or stolen credit cards and forged checks are a continual source of problems in our society. Technologies are now being developed that will make the need for cards or checks obsolete.

One technology gaining wide acceptance is the implanting of a computer chip under the skin. This is presently being used extensively on animals. This chip, smaller than a grain of rice, can hold the name of the pet, the address and phone number of the owner, and shot records of the animal. It is being implanted in cattle instead of branding. It is being placed under the skin of pets throughout the world. In Spain, every pet is required by law to have this computer chip implanted. Many cities in America are now requiring pets to have this chip.

Many proposals have been made recently suggesting the use of this computer chip in humans.

The *Springfield News*, August 12, 1993, published an article entitled, "Debit cards replacing checks." A subtopic of the article stated: "Soon you'll be able to forget your personal identification number, or PIN, and just wave your hand in front of the cash register.

Hand readers and optical chips that hold all and any sort of information about you are the up-and-coming technologies in the cashless society, said industry watcher Robert McKinley. But with this convenience will come big concerns about privacy and how to protect it in the future, he said."

An article entitled "E-money" appeared in the July 1995 issue of *Popular Science* magazine. This article explains the tremendous growth in the use of smart cards instead of cash and checks. Cubic Corp. is the leading maker of smart card systems and one of a number of companies and government agencies pushing the frontier of smart cards—the money of the future. Ronald Kane, a vice president of Cubic Corp. said, "If we had our way, we'd implant a chip behind everyone's ear in the maternity ward."

The days appear to be upon us when a mark in the hand or forehead will be used for all financial transactions. It certainly looks like we will see the fulfillment of these prophecies in the last half of the decade of the nineties.

## **The Great Tribulation**

Jesus prophesied about the Great Tribulation in Matthew 24:21; "For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be." Jesus said that the Abomination of Desolation would be the event that would begin the Great Tribulation (Matthew 24:15). We studied about the Abomination of Desolation in Lesson 3.

The Great Tribulation will be the Antichrist's attempt to force political and religious conformity to his New World Order upon all the people of the world. The Bible teaches that some of those who do not bow to the Antichrist will be persecuted and some will be killed. Revelation 13:8 says that all will worship the beast except those written in the Lamb's book of life. Those who don't worship the beast or receive his mark will live and reign with Christ a thousand years during His millennial kingdom (Revelation 20:4).

## **The end result of electronic money**

In the November, 1976, issue of *Reader's Digest*, the article entitled "Coming Soon! Electronic Money" was published. The article stated that in Minneapolis (and many other communities), people were then able to conduct financial transactions without leaving their homes. By pushing the right buttons on their touch-tone telephone, a computer could be directed to switch funds from personal accounts to pay directly any accounts owed. Except for a monthly statement, no paper work had to be involved.

'At the checkout counters of hundreds of grocery stores, cash and checks are no longer needed. The clerks simply slip a plastic debit card into an electronic terminal, connected by telephone lines to a bank's computer, The cost of the items purchased is instantly transferred from the person's bank account to the store's account.

The most chilling statement made in the *Reader's Digest* article is found in the last paragraph: "In 'this new electronic age, the enforcement of financial obligations will present few difficulties, since failure to pay up could be disastrous. The culprit might even be forced to undergo what electronic funds transfer men call 'plastic surgery'—the cutting off of his bank cards. Economically speaking, this would make him a non-person." People should certainly pay their bills. However, if a person's bank cards could be removed by so-called "plastic surgery" for non-payment, they might also be later removed for any other reasons deemed important by the government! If, as the Bible prophesies, a one-world religion is developed and an individual chooses not to cooperate, it might become convenient for the government to tag such dissidents as "non-persons". As a matter of fact, this is exactly what is going to happen! Such control over the citizenry is frightening!

It should be pointed out that the article in the *Reader's Digest* was not written by a religious evangelist, nor by some kind of a prophet with the ability to foresee the future, but by a modern economist who is supposed to be an expert in economic matters. Yet the author of the article, Ronald Schiller, is describing events foretold in the Bible more than 1,900 years ago!

Never before in history has it been possible for an economic program, as is described in the Bible, to exist. But with the tremendous technological advances recently made, these things are not only possible, but are developing 'even more rapidly than most realize.

Lesson 8

**THE COMING ONE-WORLD RELIGION**

I. Revelation 13:3-4,13:15

II. The judgment of the great whore

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A. Revelation 17:1-3

1. Horrible judgment is prophesied on someone on earth today
2. Who is it? Am I apart of it?

B. Who is the harlot?

1. The harlot is a city—Revelation 17:18

C. What are the waters?

1. Peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongue—Revelation 17:15

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1. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman (city) sitteth—Revelation 17:9
2. Rome: the city of seven hills

E. Woman clothed in red and purple

F. She was drunken with the blood of the saints—Revelation 17:6

1. Charles Tyndale

G. This woman will ride the red world government beast of the endtime, and she will participate in imposing the Great Tribulation upon the world

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C. Why a harlot for a false church?

1. True church is a woman—a virgin

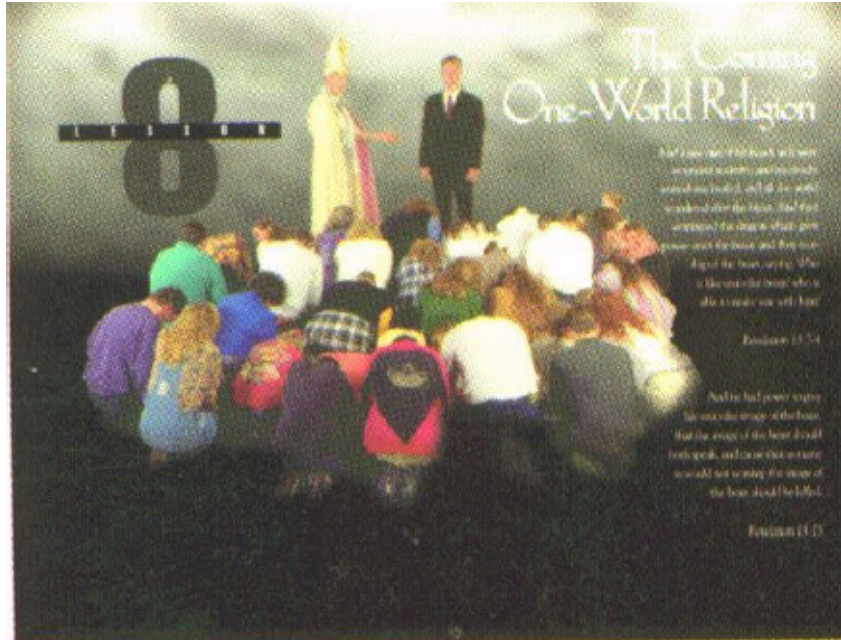
IV One-World Religion Forming Now!

A. The Mother of Harlots

1. Who are the daughters?

- a. Churches moving toward unity with the Mother Church
  - 1) Catholic—Evangelical Statement of unity
- b. "Southern Baptists embrace Catholics"
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- d. Catholic Catechism—Muslims also have salvation
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- f. The Global Ethic





## Lesson 8

### The Coming One-World Religion

Supplemental reading: *Jesuits* by Malachi Martin

Of the three forces blamed for war among men, religion has been the most frequent cause of conflict, by far. The drive for oneworld government and one-world economy has been much more prominent in the news than the push for religious unification. However, the behind-the-scenes progress toward religious union has been widespread and far-reaching.

The Bible clearly prophesies a worldwide political system and a worldwide religion for these times in which we live. Revelation 13:3-4 tells us that all the world will wonder after and worship the beast.

Revelation 13:15 says that all who refuse to pledge allegiance to the beast and his world religion will be persecuted and killed.

This lesson will explain the form this world religion will take, reveal who will participate in it, and show the position that true Christians should take to avoid entanglement with this global religion of the New World Order.

#### The judgment of the great whore

An incredibly detailed and accurate prophecy concerning the world religion of the endtime is found in Revelation 17:1-3:

"And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters: With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication. So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns."

The importance of understanding this passage is seen in the first verse. The angel said, "I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore." Here God pronounces judgment upon something or someone. By the context, we can know that it will occur during our lifetime. The question immediately arises, "Am I going to be included in this judgment?" If we don't understand on whom the judgment will fall, we ourselves could be included in this judgment! It is imperative for every person to understand this prophecy!

#### Who is the harlot?

The search for the answer concerning the identity of the harlot leads to an interesting discovery. Every symbol which surrounds this woman is interpreted in plain language in this very same chapter! Revelation 17:18 states: 'And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.' Clearly, then, the woman represents a city! According to this scripture, there is a city somewhere on earth right now, upon which God has pronounced judgment. People who live in this city would surely want to know of this prophecy so' that they can escape from this place which is cursed by Almighty God.

## What are the waters?

The next clue offered is also found in the first verse: the woman sat upon many waters. The waters are explained in verse 15 of this same chapter:

"The waters which thou sawest; where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues."

The picture is clearer now. The woman is a city which rules over peoples; multitudes, nations, and tongues. Apparently, this city is the headquarters of an international system.

## The seven heads

The beast upon which the woman sat had seven heads (Revelation 17:3). Revelation 17:9 explains the seven heads:

"The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth."

Look again at the clues. The woman is a city which rules over an international organization of some sort, and that city is located on seven mountains (or hills). If we can find a city which fulfills all these clues, we can understand this two-thousand year old prophecy that God has given to us for this time.

Such a place does exist! There is a city which is famous for the "seven hills" upon which it is located. The city of Rome is famous for being "THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS"! (See *World Book Encyclopedia*, 1976, Volume 16, p.405.) The seven hills of Rome are so famous that each hill has its own name. The names of these seven hills are: Aventine, Palatine, Capitoline, Quirinal, Viminal, Esquiline, and Caelian.

Is Rome the headquarters of a vast international system? Could she be said to "sit upon" peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues? Everyone knows that Rome is the headquarters of the Roman Catholic Church. Roman Catholicism boasts of more than 800 million members around the world. There are few nations, if any, on the earth which do not have a considerable Roman Catholic population.

Remember! The book of Revelation was written before there was an international power head-quartered in Rome! It was written before the Roman Catholic Church was even formed. God, however, knowing the end from the beginning, wanted men living in the last days to understand the truth about the power which claims to be the Church of Jesus Christ!

There is more evidence to examine. Look at Revelation 17:18:

"And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth."

Does Washington, D.C., Moscow, London, or Paris rule over the kings of the earth? Definitely not! But, Rome herself claims to rule over the kings of the earth. The Roman Catholic Church believes that she has the right to guide the political thinking of any and all of her members. Such a position makes it plain that, if a pope should choose to issue an order to a particular head of state who is a Roman Catholic, that leader would be bound to obey. Many nations have leaders who are Roman Catholic. What a frightening prospect!

During the Middle Ages (500-1500 A.D.), the popes named, removed, and replaced kings in Europe at will. The Roman Catholic Church believes that popes have the right to remove kings and emperors. (*Pontiff*, by Gordan Thomas and Max Morgan-Witts, pp. 201- 255, 274; Also: *Encyclopedia Americana* Volume 14, pg. 313;)

This teaching is based upon a concept which states that "spiritual" rules over "temporal". As recently as 100 years ago, European rulers were crowned by the pope. Napoleon planned to be crowned by the pope but a rift developed between his country and the Vatican, so his plans were not carried out.

When the pope is crowned, he is pronounced, "Father of kings and princes, the pastor of the universe, and the vicar of the earth of our Lord Jesus Christ". (*Encyclopedia Britannica*, 1971, Volume 22, pg. 907.) God foresaw these things before Roman Catholicism ever existed, and the prophets prophesied of these facts in minute detail so that sincere people would not be deceived.

Further detailed description of the harlot church is found in Revelation 17:4:

"And the woman was arrayed in **purple** and **scarlet colour**, and decked with **gold** and **precious stones** and **pearls**, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication."

If a papal parade were to be described, the attire of the cardinals, archbishops, and bishops would fit the above description perfectly. Scarlet (red) is the color worn by the cardinals. Non-cardinal archbishops and bishops wear purple (*The Criterion*, July 1, 1988). The cardinals, archbishops, and bishops make up the hierarchy of the Roman Church.

The pope's crown is gold, as is his throne. The pope and other members of the hierarchy wear heavy crucifixes which are made of gold. Pearls are often used by church members in the form of their rosary. Every single clue given in this prophecy fits the Roman Catholic in the most intricate detail.

Drunken with the blood of the saints In Revelation 17:6, John wrote:

"And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus."

Roman Catholicism stands at the head of the line of the persecutors of the true saints of God. It has been estimated that 68 million Christians have been put to death by the Roman Church because they refused to bow to her false doctrines.

Charles Tyndale, the translator of the Tyndale Bible, was "burned at the stake after a church trial. His crime? He was convicted of translating the Bible into the language of the common man.

Martin Luther was brought before an ecclesiastical court by the Roman Church at the Diet of Worms held in Worms, Germany. He was condemned to death for the crime of heresy. He escaped to the Protestant controlled part of Germany; consequently, the sentence was never executed.

In 1568 the Holy Office condemned all of the Netherlands to death as heretics (not to mention the unspeakable torture that came before death) (*The Rise of the Dutch Republic*, by John L. Motley, 1900 Edition, Volume 3, pg. 9).

There are countries today in which you cannot preach contrary to Roman Catholicism without endangering your life. This seems so foreign in the midst of the present ecumenical euphoria; but history shouts a warning if we will listen. Not only has Roman Catholicism been a persecutor of true Christians in the past, but the Bible prophesies that in the immediate future she is going to be a party to persecution such as the world has never seen.

This is the woman that will ride the red world government beast of the endtime, and she will participate in imposing the Great Tribulation upon the world. It is no wonder that God said that Roman Catholicism was drunken with the blood of the saints and the martyrs of Jesus!

### **Mystery Babylon**

In Revelation 17:5 the Bible says:

"And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH."

To understand the first part of this name which was written on the forehead of the woman, something must be known about Babylon. The first time Babylon is mentioned in the Bible is at the Tower of Babel, shortly after the flood of Noah's day (see Genesis 10:10 and Genesis 11). The idea behind building the tower which would reach to the heavens was that if another flood came, the people could save themselves by going up into the tower for safety. Thus, they would not have to depend on God to save them. Also, this great tower would serve as a monument to weld the people together into a single nation and government. They already had the same language. The spirit of Babylon which began at the Tower of Babel was the spirit of self-sufficiency. One ruler, one government, one language, and one economy for the world. Man thinks he can manage the world if he is given these things!

Babylon continued in the earth from this point on. She became prominent again during the reign of Nebuchadnezzar in 586 B.C. The spirit of Babylon rose up in Nebuchadnezzar one night, causing him to forget that God held control over the earth and could bring about the exaltation or the downfall of any ruler or kingdom. In his pride he exclaimed, "Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty?" (Daniel 4:30). Because of his pride; the kingdom was taken from Nebuchadnezzar. He was driven into the fields to roam there as a maniac until he acknowledged the supremacy of God.

His lesson was remembered but a short time. His grandson Belshazzar reigned over the kingdom of Babylon after him. One night Belshazzar held a great feast at which he was the center of attention. His subjects spent the evening bestowing upon him praise and adoration. In his exalted state, he sent for the gold and silver vessels which his grandfather had captured when his army sacked the temple in Israel. Those vessels were dedicated to God. As Belshazzar drank from those forbidden vessels, God wrote a message to him in the plaster of the wall: "God hath numbered thy kingdom and finished it. Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting. Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and the Persians" (Daniel 5:25-28). The spirit of Babylon once again brought God's judgment as it always has and always will.

Look again at the woman's name. The Bible did not say the woman's name was to be "Babylon", but "Mystery Babylon". In other words, she will not be called "Babylon", but she will have the same spirit of self-sufficiency that Babylon before her possessed. This is the spirit of man-made religion. True to form; Roman Catholicism does not believe that Jesus Christ is going to return in person to the earth to set up a 1,000 year kingdom of peace; but rather, they believe that through the spreading of the influence of Roman Catholicism, they will eventually gain enough power to rule the world and establish the pope as "King of kings". (*Catholic Prophecy* by Yves Dupont pp. 90, 91, 117) Adolf Hitler and Pope Pius XII planned a 1000 year "reich", but thankfully, they were defeated (*Decline & Fall of the Roman Church* by Malachi Martin pg. 101). Isn't it amazing how accurate Bible prophecy is, even though written almost 2,000 years ago? It is not fulfilled in just one or two points, but in every single detail, no matter how small!

### **Why a harlot?**

It is so startling that God would use a harlot to symbolize a false church. Why did God choose to do this? Once understood the symbolism becomes very clear.

God has always used a woman to symbolize a church. In II Corinthians 11:2 God's true church is symbolized as a woman-a virgin.

Fake churches are also symbolized as women, but as harlots (compromised women).

# One-World Religion Forming Now!

## The Mother of Harlots

This last portion of the name which God gave to Roman Catholicism is undoubtedly the most important in understanding about the woman. Notice first that Roman Catholicism was not only called a "harlot", but is also the "**MOTHER** of Harlots"! She apparently has a lot of daughter harlots that have come out from her!

## Who are the daughters?

It is easy to identify the daughter harlots that are offsprings of the mother. During the reign of Pope John XXIII, the Roman Church proclaimed, "We, the Mother Church, are opening our arms to all of our daughters to return home." The Daughters are the churches moving toward unity with the Mother Church. They will all unify together in the prophesied one-world religion and will be deceived into cooperation with the Antichrist and his New World Order.

This process is already far advanced. It began in earnest with Vatican Council II in the early 1960s. Many, including Pope John Paul II, believe the last thirty years of ecumenism will culminate by the year 2000 in the reuniting of all Christendom under one huge umbrella. These expectations do not appear to be unrealistic. As a matter of fact, the movement is already very far advanced.

On March 30, 1994, the *Indianapolis Star* carried an article titled, "Catholics, evangelicals affirm ties that bind." The subtitle was, "Statement recognizes that all are Christians, seeks to end attempts to convert each other." The article stated: "In what's being called a historic declaration, evangelicals, including Pat Robertson and Charles Colson, joined with conservative Roman Catholic leaders Tuesday in upholding the ties of faith that bind the nation's largest and most politically active religious groups. They urged Catholics and evangelicals to increase their efforts against abortion and pornography and to lobby for value-laden education, but to no longer hold each other at theological arm's length and to stop aggressive proselytizing of each other's flocks." The name of this ecumenical statement was:

*Evangelicals and Catholics Together: The Christian Mission in the Third Millennium.*

Another report appeared in the *Indianapolis Star* on June 17, 1994. Titled "Southern Baptists embrace Catholics", the article was subtitled, "National convention overwhelmingly endorses declaration of unity despite theological differences". The article reported:

"Southern Baptists and Roman Catholics can be more than political soul mates, the nation's largest Protestant denomination declared Thursday. In a major step toward ecumenism, the Southern Baptist Convention said born-again believers may be found in all Christian denominations, and endorsed Baptist-Catholic dialogue."

## Religious unity to include more than Christians

Pope John Paul II recently said, "We trust that, with the approach of the year 2000, Jerusalem will become the city of peace for the entire world and that all the people will be able to ~ in particular the believers in the religions that find their birthright in the faith of Abraham." (*Indianapolis Star, Parade Magazine*, April 3, 1994.) The Pope is obviously referring to the three major religious groups of the Middle East—Jews, Muslims, and Christians.

The Roman Catholic Church recently issued their first new catechism in approximately ~ years. One statement in the new catechism is absolutely astounding! On pages 242-243, it says: "The plan of salvation also includes those who acknowledge the Creator, in the first place amongst whom are the Muslims; these profess to hold the faith of Abraham, and together with us they adore the one, merciful God, mankind's judge on the last day." This incredibly states that Muslims are included in salvation. Muslims don't even believe Jesus Christ was the Messiah! Jesus said, "...if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins" (John 8:24).

One of the most startling evidences of the formation of a global religion was the Parliament of the World's Religions promoted by the United Nations. From August 28-September 5, 1993, six-thousand religious leaders, representing 125 religious groups from around the world, gathered in Chicago. Religions represented included: Bahais, Buddhists, Christians, Confucians, Hindus, Jains, Jews, Muslims, Native Americans, Neo-Pagans, Shintos, Sikhs, Taoists, Theosophists, Rastafarians, Unitarians, and Zoroastrians to name a few.

The stated purpose of the Parliament was to formulate a "global ethic" that would provide the basis for a non-biased, non-exclusive, religious world order. Following are a few quotes from the "global ethic".

## Parliament of the World's Religions —Quotes from The Global Ethic—

"We are women and men who have embraced the precepts and practices of the world's religions."

"We affirm that a common set of core values is found in the teachings of the religions, and that these form the basis of a global ethic."

"There already exist ancient guidelines for human behavior which are found in the teachings of the religions of the world and which are the condition for a sustainable world order."

"We must sink our narrow differences for the cause of the world community, practicing a culture of solidarity and relatedness."

***National Catholic Reporter***  
**August 28-September 4, 1993**

Amazingly, in all the text of the Global Religious Ethic, the word "God" did not appear one time! Obviously, while the world government and the one-world economy has been grabbing the headlines, the religious leaders have not been sitting idly by. They are diligently pursuing their part of Satan's master plan.. One-world government, one-world economy and one-world religion.

We are, right now, much further down the road to the prophesied world religion than most people realize!

### **Note to teacher:**

Additional material concerning the Mother of harlots and her daughters is contained in chapter 7 of *A Message for the President*.

If you feel your students would benefit, you might include these deeper truths in this lesson.

## LESSON 9

### **THE KINGDOM OF GOD**

#### I. What is the kingdom of God?

- A. Daniel 2:44
- B. Revelation 11:15
- C. Zechariah 14:9

#### II. The gospel of the kingdom

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- A. John the Baptist preached it—Matthew 3:1-2
- B. Jesus preached. the gospel of the kingdom throughout His ministry—Matthew 4:23
- C. The Apostles preached it—Luke 9:2

#### III. How do we enter the Kingdom of God?

- A. We must be born again—John 3:1-5

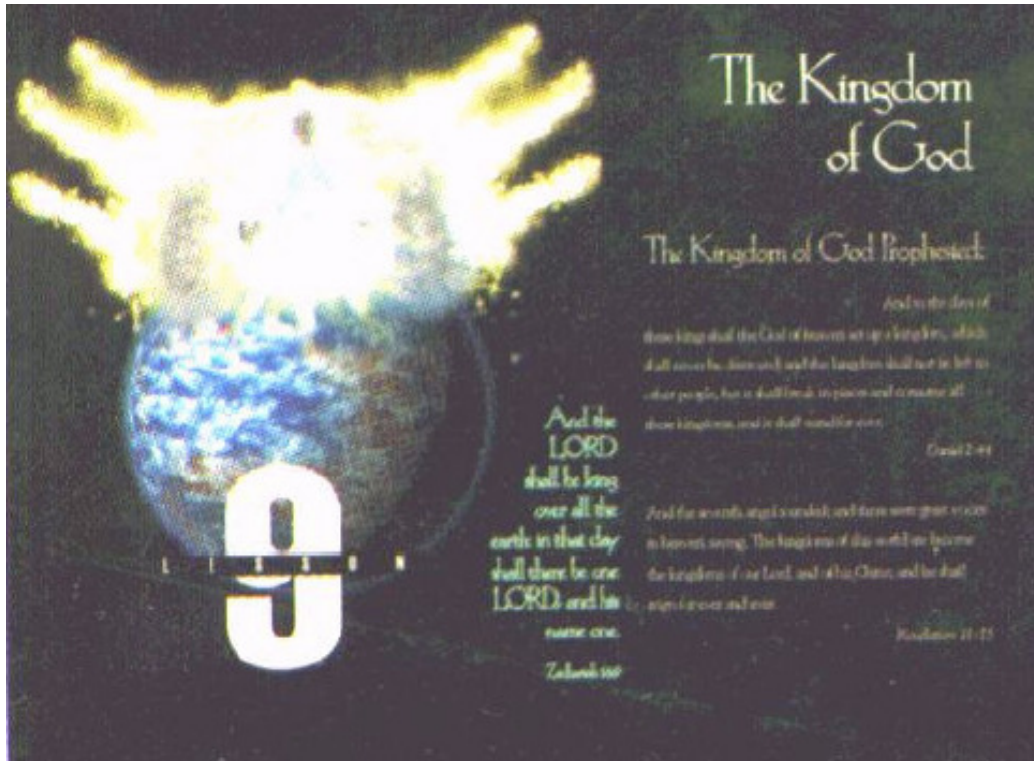
#### IV. What do we mean-Born Again?

- A. Salvation was authored at Calvary.
- B. What really happened at Calvary?
  - 1. Three steps of Calvary
    - a) Death
    - b) Burial
    - c) Resurrection

#### V The three steps of salvation

Page 1~1

- A. What is the gospel?— Corinthians 15:1-4
- B. Obeying the gospel—II Thessalonians 1:7-8
- C. How can we obey the gospel?
  - 1. Death=repentance
  - 2. Burial=baptism
  - 3. Resurrection=Holy Ghost
- D. Blood, water, spirit=born again
- E. Acts 2:38
- F When you are born again, you become a part of the kingdom of Jesus Christ



## Lesson 9

# The Kingdom of God

## What is the kingdom of God?

Since the disobedience of Adam and Eve in the beginning, mankind has governed himself according to his own will. From the beginning, God never intended for man to rule his own life. Jeremiah 10:23 states:

"O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps." The result has been crime, divorce, war, drug addiction, and heart break.

The Old Testament prophets prophesied that the time was coming when God would put down the governments of men and establish

His kingdom on earth, a kingdom that would never pass away or be destroyed.

Daniel 2:44 prophesied of this time:

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

"And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign **for ever and ever.**"

The Old Testament prophet Zechariah spoke very clearly in Zechariah 14:9 concerning the time when the kingdom of God would reign on earth:

"And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one.

## The gospel of the kingdom

The gospel of the kingdom is the message of the New Testament. John the Baptist preached it in Matthew 3:1-2:

"In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Jesus preached the gospel of the kingdom throughout His ministry.

"And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people."

"And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick."

It is easy to see that the message of the coming kingdom of God has been the theme of both the Old and New Testaments. The desire of God for the human race is that we would rule with Him as kings and priests in this coming kingdom.

## **How do we enter the Kingdom of God?**

Not everyone will be a part of this soon coming kingdom of Jesus Christ. In fact, Jesus said that few would be saved. How can we escape the rulership of the "god of this world"-Satan-and become a part of the kingdom of God?

This question is answered explicitly in John 3:1-5:

"There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him. Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."

Jesus states very clearly that an individual must be born again in order to enter the kingdom of God.

## **What do we mean-Born Again?**

The term "Born Again" is one of the most used phrases among present day religious people. Yet, if asked what the term "Born Again" means, ninety percent of the world's church members could not give a clear explanation. The vital importance of this study is shown in that Jesus said, "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3). Here Jesus is saying that TO BE BORN AGAIN IS TO BE SAVED. Being born again is the plan of salvation that Jesus authored at Calvary. It is imperative that we understand what is required for us to be born again!

## **Salvation was authored at Calvary.**

All agree that when Jesus went to the cross, he brought in the means of salvation for everyone who will accept it. But what really happened at Calvary? What can it do for me? How do I accept what was done there in my own personal life?!

## **What really happened at Calvary?**

Let's first consider what really happened at Calvary. There were three steps to the work of Christ—**death, burial, and resurrection.**

It is very easy to see that these three steps make up the act of being born again spoken of by Jesus. To die, to be buried, and to rise again—that's to be born again. So we see that Jesus through His death, burial, and resurrection bought for us the plan of being born again spoken of in John 3:3, whereby we receive salvation.

The fact that Jesus purchased a plan of salvation for us is the greatest news the world has ever received. The thing we must understand is that not only was it necessary for Jesus to do something, but also it is absolutely essential for us to act upon what he did. Jesus told Nicodemus, "Ye must be born again" (John 3:7).

The astonishing thing is that Nicodemus was a religious leader of his day; yet, he had no conception of what it meant to be born again! We find that the very same thing is true in the day in which we live. Many men who fill positions of spiritual leadership in our world have no real understanding of the "Born Again" experience. Nicodemus inquired of Jesus in John 3:4, "How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?"

Jesus answered, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." Nicodemus, you can't be born again of a woman. The second birth is a spiritual birth. Notice that Jesus said without being born again we cannot see or enter the kingdom of God. In other words, we cannot be saved.

## **The three steps of salvation**

Remember, there were three steps to Calvary—death, burial, and resurrection. The way to accept Calvary in our individual lives is to accept the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This is what we refer to as "accepting Christ".

## **Obeying the gospel**

The Apostle Paul taught that Jesus Christ would take flaming vengeance on all who did not obey the gospel.

"And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ."

II Thessalonians 1:7-8

## What is the gospel?

Paul taught that the three steps of Calvary were the gospel that we should preach. In I Corinthians 15:1-4 he defines the gospel very clearly:

"Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I have preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures."

Paul told us that the gospel is the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. How can we obey the death, burial, and resurrection?

In order to obey the gospel of the death, burial, and the resurrection of Jesus Christ, we don't have to literally die, literally be buried, and literally rise again. Jesus was our substitute and did this for us. All we must do is accept what he did by spiritually dying, symbolically being buried, and spiritually rising again.

## Death

We take on His death by repentance which is spiritual death. When a person truly repents, he dies out to his own will, renounces it forever, and vows to live from that time on according to the will of Jesus Christ.

## Burial

We take on His burial by baptism in water, by immersion into His name. Romans 6:4 says, "Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism". Baptism MUST be done by immersion; for something cannot be buried by sprinkling a little dirt on the top of it. That burial after a few days would certainly prove to be insufficient! Furthermore, EVERY baptism of which we have Biblical record was administered by immersion. That alone should determine our course of action concerning baptism.

## Resurrection

Finally, we partake of the resurrection of Jesus Christ by the infilling of the Holy Ghost. This is the new life that enables us to live as a Christian should.

We see then that being born again means to spiritually die-repent, symbolically be buried-baptism, and spiritually rise again-receive the Holy Ghost. In plain language an individual must repent of his sins, be baptized into the name of Jesus Christ by immersion, and receive the gift of the Holy Ghost in order to be born again.

I John 5:8 tells us,

"And there are three that bear witness in the earth, the **Spirit**, and the **water**, and the **blood**: and these three agree in one."

What is the one thing in which the spirit, water, and blood agree? It is the salvation plan of being born again. Blood covers our sins at repentance; the waters of baptism wash them away, thus making us clean for the spirit to come into our lives to dwell.

When the Roman soldiers thrust the spear into Jesus' side after he died, the scripture tells us that there came forth blood and water (John 19:34). This was for cleansing of the nations. It takes blood and water to eradicate sin. Blood is the cleansing agent, and water is the flushing agent. When a jar is washed for canning, soap and water are necessary to cleanse that jar so that it can be filled with good fruit. Likewise, blood and water are necessary to cleanse the human soul so that it may receive the spirit of Christ which is the Holy Ghost.

This teaching was verified by Peter on the Day of Pentecost when he was asked by the people, "What must we do?" His reply is recorded in Acts 2:38;

**"Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."**

Peter was clearly explaining to the people how to be born again. When we are born again, we become a part of the kingdom of Jesus Christ!



## LESSON 10 THE RAPTURE

I. I Thessalonians 4:16-18

II. I Corinthians 15:50-55

A. All born again Christians will be caught up to meet Jesus B. The marriage supper—Revelation 19:6-9

III. Jesus descends onto the Mount of Olives

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A. His bride, the church, will be with Him

IV The Jews rush to the Mount of Olives to meet Him

A. Armies of the Antichrist will be invading

B. Israel cries for Messiah to come and save them

C. When He appears, they fall to worship Him

1. What are these wounds ?—Zechariah 13:6

2. You are Jesus?

3. Jews mourn in sincere repentance—Zechariah 12:8-10

4. All Israel shall be saved—Romans 11:25-26

V Jesus defeats Antichrist at Armageddon

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A. Revelation 16:12-16

1. Euphrates River to dry up

B. Revelation 19:11-20 describes Armageddon

1. Worst battle in the history of the entire world

2. Blood flows to horse bridles

3. The Battle of Armageddon will be fought over ownership of the city of Jerusalem

4. The final battle between good and evil-Revelation 17:12-14

VI. Satan bound for 1,000 years A—Revelation 20:1-3

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VII. One-thousand years of peace begins A. World disarmament—Isaiah 2:1-4

VIII. Peace on earth, goodwill toward men

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A. Isaiah 11:6-10

1. Wolf and lamb lie down together

2. Cow and bear feed together

3. Lion eats straw with the ox



## Lesson 10

# The Rapture

At the second coming of Jesus Christ, all born again Christians will be caught up to meet Jesus in the air. This marvelous event is described in many places in scripture.

One thrilling account of the rapture is located in I Thessalonians 4:16-18:

"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words."

Notice that the rapture will be a catching away of both the dead in Christ and the living in Christ. We will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.

"Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?"

When the last trumpet sounds, the dead who were born again during their lifetimes will be resurrected from the dead. At the same time, the born again still alive on the earth will be transformed from mortal beings to immortal beings, This transformation will occur in a moment and in the twinkling of an eye. The dead in Christ and those yet living will then be caught up together to meet Jesus in the air.

Some have taught that we will disappear in the twinkling of an eye. However, that is not what the scripture teaches. It says we will be changed in the twinkling of an eye. The pattern for the rapture was set by Jesus when He ascended into heaven. He didn't instantaneously disappear. He ascended into the sky, and the disciples watched as He went. Finally, a cloud received Him out of their sight. It will happen the same way for the church. The people of the world will watch us go as we rise to meet Jesus in the air!

## The marriage supper

The born again church will be the bride, and Jesus Christ will be the bridegroom at the marriage supper. When Jesus rules upon earth as the King of kings, Revelation 5:9-10 says that His bride (His queen) will rule on earth with Him. The announcement of this marriage supper is described in Revelation 19:6-9:

"And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunders, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God."

When we meet the Lord in the air, all will have received the reward of eternal life. In addition to this, Jesus will pass out rewards of service. The Bible says that he that had produced ten talents would be ruler over ten cities in the kingdom of God. To those who produced five talents, they will be made ruler over five cities.

The crucial thing for everyone of us is that we must be full of God's spirit when He comes. Romans 8:11 tells us:

"But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you."

## Jesus descends onto the Mount of Olives

After the joining of Jesus to His bride, it will be time for Jesus and His church to return to earth for the Battle of Armageddon. The world government armies of the Antichrist will be coming against the nation of Israel in order to force her into submission to the United Nations and its New World Order. When Russia and all her allies launch their invasion of Israel, it will appear that the end of tiny Israel has come.

Realizing the hopelessness of their situation, the people of Israel will cry for their Messiah to come and save them.

Zechariah 14:1-4 describes the incredible events that will then take place:

"Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city. Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south."

The Jews believe from the above scripture that their Messiah will come to the Mount of Olives just outside of Jerusalem, and, in fact, He will.

The Jews rush to the Mount of Olives to meet Him

When Israel sees her Messiah coming in the sky and descending onto the Mount of Olives, all the people will rush to the mount to meet Him.

When they fall before their Messiah to worship Him, they will notice ugly scars in His hands and feet. Zechariah 13:6 tells us that the Jews will say: "...What are these wounds in thine hands?" Then Jesus will answer, "Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends."

The light of revelation will suddenly come upon the Jews. "Are you Jesus?", they will ask. He will say, "I am Jesus."

Zechariah 12:8-10 describes this remarkable scene in this way:

"in that day shall the LORD defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and he that is feeble among them at that day shall be as David; and the house of David shall be as God, as the angel of the LORD before them. And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn."

When the Jews realize the magnitude of what they have done, they will fall on their faces in bitter repentance.

"Messiah forgive us," they will say. "We have been so blind. We are so sorry!"

Jesus will then do what He always does when someone asks for forgiveness. He will forgive them.

Approximately two-thirds of the Jewish population will have been killed by the horrors of the Great Tribulation and the wrath of God. The surviving one-third will then turn to Jesus Christ and receive Him as their Messiah.

In Romans 11:25-26, the Apostle Paul spoke of this time:

"For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob."

## **Armageddon**

Jesus and His heavenly army, the church, will go out to meet the invading armies of the Antichrist for the final battle called Armageddon. Revelation 16:12-16 describes the preparations for the final battle this way:

"And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared. And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. Behold, I come as a *thief*. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame. And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon."

This 2,000-year-old prophecy states that the Euphrates River will be dried up so that the invading world government armies can come down against Israel at the time of the Battle of Armageddon. On January 13, 1990, the *Indianapolis Star* carried the headline, "Turkey will cut off flow of Euphrates for one month." The article stated that a huge reservoir had been built by Turkey. While filling up the reservoir, the flow of the Euphrates would be stopped for one month and a concrete plug for a diversion channel built. These things have now been done. With this newly built Ataturk Dam, Turkey has the ability to stop the Euphrates River at will. The area immediately below the Ataturk Dam 40 miles from the Syrian border, is the perfect place for Russia's armies to come down from the north for the Armageddon invasion. The conditions for fulfilling this prophecy are now in place.

Revelation 19:11-20 provides a graphic description of the events of Armageddon:

"And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood; and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses) clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations; and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS. And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great. And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone."

This Battle of Armageddon will be the worst battle in the history of the entire world. Revelation 14:20 says that blood came out of God's winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs (160 miles).

The Battle of Armageddon will be fought over ownership of the city of Jerusalem. Negotiations between Israel and the PLO concerning the final status of Jerusalem are scheduled to begin no later than May of 1996. When we see the focus of the world's attention centering on Jerusalem, it makes us know that the stage is being set right now for this final battle between good and evil.

The final outcome at Armageddon will be the destruction of the governments of this world, the casting of the Antichrist and the False Prophet into the lake of fire, and the crowning of Jesus as King. God will be King and Lord of lords. Satan will be defeated, and the era of the kingdom of begin.

## **Satan bound for 1,000 years**

The grand finale of Armageddon will be the casting of Satan into the bottomless pit so that the world will not have to contend with the devil for 1,000 years. Imagine life without a devil! This grand event is recorded in Revelation 20:1-3:

"And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season."

The world has believed that political conflicts, economic conflicts, and religious conflicts have been the sources of war since the beginning of time. When Satan is bound they will find that it was the devil that was the root cause of war the whole time. There will not be one war for 1,000 years.

"And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto It. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more."

At this present time disarmament seems to be but an elusive dream. When the kingdom of God is established, men will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruninghooks. There will be no weapons of destruction on the face of the earth.

## **Restoration of the original creation**

When the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ, rules the earth, the original purpose and design for the earth and its inhabitants will be fulfilled.

Life spans will be restored to their original length of almost 1,000 years. An individual dying at the age of one-hundred will be considered a child. Isaiah 65:20 says of this time: "There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed."

Isaiah 11:6-10 gives a wonderful description of this golden age of peace:

"The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice's den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea. And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious."

In God's kingdom even the animals will no longer kill one another. The cow and the bear shall eat grass in the field together. The lion will eat straw like the ox. There will be no more terror-stricken rabbits running for their lives. Peace and harmony will rule the earth. There will not be one war for one-thousand years. All of this will come to pass because JESUS SITS ON THE THRONE OF THE EARTH AND DWELLS IN THE HEARTS OF MEN!