

Chapter 5 A “Revived” Roman Empire?

Introduction. We have laid the foundation that Islam fulfills multiple prophecies of the final world empire at enmity with God. We have several more passages to cover, but before we do, we must address the “traditional” view held by many experts in Bible prophecy. This view interprets Rome as the fourth (and also final) kingdom to be at enmity with God in the Last Days. This view generally holds that a “revived Roman Empire” will arise in the Last Days to be led by the Antichrist who brings the world under a “one world religion” and a “one world currency” (In this chapter, we will refer to the “revived Roman Empire view” as the “Roman view.”). We will not do an exhaustive study of this view as there are many resources available to this end (do a Google search using the words, “revived Roman Empire” and the resources available will be plentiful). This chapter will present reasons why a Roman view does not fulfill Bible prophecy of the Last Days. In fact, it is because of the absence of fulfillment that so many variations of this view are present, all of which require a future fulfillment because the *historical past is without fulfillment*.¹ In reviewing the Roman view, we will look at several primary scriptures that are used to support this view: Daniel 2:33, 40-45, 7:7-27, 9:26, and Revelation 12. The chapter will be divided into two parts. The first part will review the Roman view using the modern day European Union as the “revived Rome” (The European Union has some characteristics found in Bible prophecy) The second part will interpret Revelation 12 and the role the Ancient Roman Empire has in fulfilling this prophecy.

To Summarize the Roman View. It is the prevailing view of many Bible scholars from the earliest days of the Church that the four beasts of Daniel 7 are the same four traditionally interpreted in the dream of Nebuchadnezzar of Daniel 2 to be Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and the Ancient Roman Empire.²

St Jerome was one of the early Church’s most prominent scholars. He was the first translator of the Bible into Latin (the Vulgate). His translation was the authorized version of the Catholic Church until Vatican II in the twentieth century.³ St Jerome’s commentary on Daniel, written in the early 5th century AD (Jerome died in 420 AD, *before the complete collapse of the Roman Empire in 476*) states what has become the traditional view, even from the earliest of the Church’s scholarship:

“We should therefore concur with the traditional interpretation of all the commentators of the Christian Church, that at the end of the world, when the Roman Empire is to be destroyed, there shall be ten kings who will partition the Roman world amongst themselves.”⁴
(Emphasis added)

Thus, according to St Jerome, “*all the commentators of the Christian Church*” interpreted Rome (Ancient) to be this fourth kingdom that would rise to power, again, at the end of the world. As we discussed in the preceding chapter, this view of Rome as the fourth beast of Daniel 7 is chronologically supported by history predating the time of Christ. *Rome conquered the Greeks (146BC) after the Greeks had conquered Medo-Persia (331 BC), and Media-Persia had conquered Babylon (539 BC)*. Thus, Rome was the successor empire to the Greeks in the Middle East, and the fourth in dominion of these four successive empires, beginning with

Babylon, and thus fulfilling a “chronological” interpretation of the four empires in Daniel 7 and the four parts of the statue of Daniel 2. Rome was also the kingdom in power when Christianity began, 30 AD (Daniel 2:44). Rome continued its dominance until Rome’s (Western) collapse in 476 AD. In the century before the collapse of the Western Roman Empire, the Eastern Empire had chosen Constantinople as the capital of the Roman Empire (330 AD). The Western Empire was, in some respects, “revived” when, in 800 AD, Charlemagne was named Emperor by the Pope. To many theologians, the “Holy Roman Empire” (the revived Western Empire) and the Eastern Roman Empire fit the “divided” characteristic of Nebuchadnezzar’s statue of Daniel 2:41. Similarly, the melding of politics and religion, fits the characteristic of “feet partly of iron and partly of clay” of Daniel 2:41.⁵ In addition, Daniel 9:26’s reference to the “*people of the prince who is to come*” was interpreted to be Rome because, historically, the Romans defeated the Jews, destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple in 70 AD, a clear fulfillment of the phrase “*will destroy the city and the sanctuary.*”⁶ It was as if Daniel 9:26 sealed the Roman view completely. Who could interpret any empire other than Rome as the fourth empire since Rome had destroyed the Temple in 70 AD, after “*the Messiah [was] cut off*” (Daniel 9:26). Having started down this path, to depart from it thereafter became near to impossible for interpreters. If one dared turn back from the traditional Roman view, (or the second minority view, the Greeks and the successors of Alexander⁷), he (or she) was received with a theological obstinance impossible to overcome!

Other modern day scholars summarize the Roman view similarly. For example, John Walvoord describes this fourth and final empire of Daniel 2 as “Gentile world powers”:

“This prophetic revelation makes clear that the kingdom from heaven is not a spiritual kingdom which by spiritual processes will gradually conquer the earth, but rather a sudden catastrophic judgment from heaven destroying the political kingdoms of the Gentiles. This will pave the way for a political millennial kingdom which will begin with the second coming of Christ. The revelation gives no support to either the amillennial view that the kingdom is a spiritual kingdom now on earth or to the postmillennial view that the kingdom will gradually gain control over the earth spiritually in a thousand years or more. The destruction of the Gentile world powers is an event, not a process and will be fulfilled by Christ in the Second Coming.”⁸ (Emphasis added)

To Walvoord, “Gentile world powers” is further defined by Daniel 7:7. There, the ten horns of the fourth beast are interpreted to be the ten future leaders of the “future Roman Empire”:

“The fourth kingdom was not named but was historically fulfilled by the Roman Empire. As described in 7:7, it crushed and devoured the countries which it conquered. The ten horns represented a future Roman Empire which will reappear in the end time. . . . It is obvious to many expositors that the first three kingdoms have come and gone in history, represented by Babylon, Medo-Persia, and Greece. The fourth empire, though not named here, has been identified as the Roman Empire as it was historically. The last stage of the Roman Empire, described here as the ten-horn stage and becoming a world empire, has never been fulfilled. In fact, the whole present age intervenes between the Roman Empire and this future world empire, . . .”⁹ (Emphasis added)

Another modern day interpreter, David Reagan, the founder and director of Lion & Lamb Ministries, in responding to Joel Richardson’s book, “*Antichrist: Islam’s Awaited Messiah,*” (which holds to the “Islamic Paradigm”), states as follows:

“There are other serious problems with Richardson's scenario that he does not acknowledge. How, for example, does he explain the miraculous resurrection of the Roman Empire in the form of the European Union? It's a development that prophecy experts have been telling us to watch for, and those alerts go back several hundred years. Is the revival of the Roman Empire just an accident of history? I think not. It is going to serve as the platform for the ascension of the Antichrist.”¹⁰ (Emphasis added)

The Modern Variation of the Roman View. The problem with the Roman view is that history, until the 20th century, provided no possible fulfillment of the Roman view. This was in spite of the many interpreters who for “hundreds of years” had been telling us to “watch for its revival.” Constantine made Constantinople (modern day “Istanbul”) the capital of the Roman Empire in 330 AD. To the modernist, Rome, Italy, would never again serve as the seat of world power. In the 20th century, however, a “partnering” of the countries of Europe caused interpreters to begin to “fill in the blanks” and identify the European Union as the “revived” Roman empire of the Last Days. According to David Reagan in his response to Joel Richardson (above quoted), the European Union is the “miraculous resurrection” of the Roman Empire that we have been looking for. A website on this topic states similarly:

“This final world kingdom, we believe, is far along in the process of coming together today in the form of the European Union (EU). The fifth world empire symbolized in the statue is prophesied to be an extension of the fourth kingdom. That is exactly what the EU is, an extension of the ancient Roman Empire. It is, we are convinced, the feet and toes of the man-image, the reviving of the unity that was once Europe in all its power and glory.”¹¹ (Emphasis added)

If the European Union (EU) is to be the fulfillment of the fourth (and also final) empire of prophetic scripture, it must conform to Bible prophecies in its origin as well as in its evolution to its modern day status. Interpreters can no longer enjoy the “luxury” of waiting for the future to fulfill the characteristics of the final kingdom at enmity with God since the EU has a history. The EU must fulfill Bible prophecy in its history. If it fulfills Bible prophecy in its history, then it is a candidate for fulfillment in the future. As we will see, it does not in most respects.

The Unfulfilled Characteristics of Daniel 2. In our preceding chapter, we interpreted Islam to fulfill all of the characteristics of the statue in Nebuchadnezzar's dream. In this chapter, we will review how Rome fails them. We will begin with a brief history of the EU.

The European Union has evolved to its present twenty-seven member nation status (2010)¹² after having been formed in 1951 by six European countries. “The Inner Six” (Belgium, Germany, France, Italy, Luxembourg, and Netherlands) executed the Treaty of Paris (or the Treaty of the European Coal and Steel Community) on April 18, 1951, and formed the European Coal and Steel Community.¹³ Since then, the EU has evolved from this six member group to add many more countries and sign several additional treaties, both new and amended. The European Economic Community and the European Energy Community were added in 1957.¹⁴ The EU itself was not formed until 1992 by the “Treaty of Maastricht” (formally, the “Treaty on European Union”). This Treaty was signed on February 7, 1992 by the members of the European Community in Maastricht, the Netherlands, and was put into force on November 1, 1993. This Treaty created the European Union and led to the creation of the single European currency, the euro (those who hold to the Roman view see this as a partial fulfillment

of Revelation 13:17) The Treaty of Maastricht also created the “three pillars” of the EU.¹⁵ The “three pillars” are the three primary areas within the European community for which the EU takes responsibility: the “European Community Pillar,” the “Common Foreign and Security Policy Pillar,” and the “Justice and Home Affairs Pillar.”¹⁶ The twenty-seven member states that presently comprise the EU, also include the former ten member, Western European Union, the defense arm of the European member states formed with the execution of the Treaty of Brussels on October 23, 1954. The Western European Union was formed by five “full member” nations on March 17, 1948, Belgium, France, Luxembourg, Netherlands, and the United Kingdom. On October 23, 1954, two more nations were added to the Western European Union, Germany and Italy. In November, 1988, Portugal and Spain were added, and in 1992, Greece was added, bringing the total number of “full member nations” in the Western European Union to ten. Through the Treaty of Lisbon, the EU’s “three pillars” were merged to “become one person,” and the “operational capabilities” of the Western European Union were transferred to the EU on January 1, 2002, eventually bringing an end to the operations of the Western European Union. The Treaty of Lisbon, the current governing document for the EU, went into force on December 1, 2009.¹⁷ The reason for the enactment of the Treaty of Lisbon is summarized on the website of the EU as follows:

“In a constantly changing, ever more interconnected world, Europe is grappling with new issues: globalisation, demographic shifts, climate change, the need for sustainable energy sources and new security threats. These are the challenges facing Europe in the 21st century. Borders count for very little in the light of these challenges. The EU countries cannot meet them alone. But acting as one, Europe can deliver results and respond to the concerns of the public. For this, Europe needs to modernise. The EU has recently expanded from 15 to 27 members; . . . The treaty signed in Lisbon on 13 December 2007 sets out to do just that. When European leaders reached agreement on the new rules, they were thinking of the political, economic and social changes going on, and the need to live up to the hopes and expectations of the European public. . . . As a result, the EU is more democratic and its core values are better served.”¹⁸ (Emphasis added)

The Treaty of Lisbon is so new that the official website of the European Union (at May 28, 2010) has not been updated for its recently enacted laws. Also, there seems to be quite a difference of viewpoints on what the Treaty of Lisbon has really done for the EU (according to the many Internet options available from a Google search), including the impact on the sovereignty of the member states of the EU.¹⁹

A Divided Empire. Daniel 2:41 states that the final empire at enmity with God will be a “divided empire.” The EU is not a divided empire, but an organization of independent countries seeking to empower the whole through their unification. The EU is an economic and political union of countries that has chosen to combine with one another to gain a singular strength through their combination. Decision making is “delegated” to member states so that decisions made benefit the whole, rather than individual members. This is the opposite of the characteristic of Daniel 2:41. Consider the following quote from the official website of the European Union:

“The European Union (EU) is not a federation like the United States. Nor is it simply an organisation for co-operation between governments, like the United Nations. It is, in fact, unique. The countries that make up the EU (its ‘member states’) remain independent sovereign nations but they pool their sovereignty in order to gain a strength and world influence none of them could have on their own. Pooling sovereignty means, in practice, that

the member states delegate some of their decision-making powers to shared institutions they have created, so that decisions on specific matters of joint interest can be made democratically at European level."²⁰ (Emphasis added)

They will not Adhere to One Another. Daniel 2:43 further defines the "divided" nature of the final empire when it states, "*they will not adhere to one another.*" The metaphor for "not adhering" is the composition of the feet and toes of the statue with iron and clay (or pottery). Iron and clay are two types of matter that have characteristics opposite to one another – *they will not "adhere, or stick, to one another.*" However, the kingdom will still be one kingdom but its parts will not be united.²¹ New American Standard Exhaustive Concordance defines the Hebrew word, "*debeq,*" as "to cling," and the New American Standard Bible translates it as "adhere."²² Similarly, Brown, Driver, Briggs Hebrew lexicon defines the word as "to cling."²³ Thus, from a Biblical perspective the text is telling us that this one empire will be composed of two parts but the parts will not "adhere" to one another, they will not be united.

The European Union does not meet this characteristic. According to the EU, it is by the "pooling" of individual "sovereignty" that the group of European nations combine. Each member, having chosen for the benefit of the whole rather the separate parts, finds its benefit in "combining" with the other nations. To fulfill the requirement of Daniel 2:41, the history of the EU would have to include the inability of the nations to form a "union." The history of the EU is the opposite of the "divided" requirement of Daniel 2:41 as well as the "failure to adhere" requirement. The fact that it has grown from an original six members to its present group of twenty-seven is irrefutable evidence that the EU fails the requirements of both Daniel 2:41 and 2:43.

The Empire will "Combine in the Seed of Men." Daniel 2:43 states that the final empire at enmity with God will "combine in the seed of men." The Aramaic word is "arab," and the New American Standard Concordance defines the word as "to mix."²⁴ Brown Driver Briggs defines it likewise.²⁵ On what basis could the EU ever fulfill this prophecy? The combination of the EU has nothing to do with the mixing of the "seed of men." Bible scholar Stephen Miller quotes Driver, *Daniel*, p 30, that this phrase possibly refers to "contractual matrimonial alliances."²⁶ If so, on what basis could the EU ever fulfill this prophecy? Are we to conclude that in the future, the EU will change its admission requirements so that future admission to the EU will be based upon matrimonial alliances of sons and daughters of nonmember nations to member nations? Hardly possible.

The Empire will be at Enmity with God. The final world empire symbolized by the feet of the statue is prophesied by Daniel 2:35, 44, to be destroyed by the "stone" that is cut out of the mountain "without hands." This phrase means that God will be the one who destroys this final kingdom (only God can cut "without hands"), and when He does, the Millennial Kingdom of Christ will be the event that is "brought in" (Daniel 9:24), and, the "enduring kingdom" will be that of Christ and His "saints" (Revelation 20:4).

Those who hold to the Roman view point to the recent action on the part of the EU to remove all references to "God" or "Christianity" from the preamble of the proposed Constitution of the EU. Quoting from the Conference on this question:

"Recalling, among other things, Europe's cultural, religious and humanistic inheritance, and invoking the desire of the peoples of Europe to transcend their ancient divisions in order to forge a common destiny, the Preamble largely addresses the same themes as addressed in

the Preambles to the existing Treaties. New themes are also added, such as humanism and the reason and national identity of peoples. The issue of whether the Preamble should contain any reference to God or to Christian values and the Greco-Latin heritage was debated long and hard by the Convention. A consensus was reached, so that the Preamble ended up containing a reference to Europe's "cultural, religious and humanistic inheritance", a formula which was acceptable to all the Convention members."²⁷

In other words, all references to "God" or "Christianity" were removed from the Preamble of the Constitution and replaced with the words "cultural, religious, and humanistic inheritance." Therefore, according to this view, the EU is likely to become that instrument led by the Antichrist in a humanistic one-world religion because God, and Christianity, have been removed from the organizing documents of the EU (now making it more likely to be at enmity with God).²⁸ This view is an incorrect interpretation of the prophecy. When the EU removed religious language from the proposed EU constitution, its actions were to further remove it from consideration as a possible fulfillment of Daniel 2. The future empire will be one that includes religious language in its foundational documents not excludes this language. The actions of the EU serve to make it "religiously neutral." The final empire will not be religiously neutral. In fact, based on Revelation 13:8, the world will worship "beast" that leads this empire. If the world is prophesied to "worship" the "beast" then certainly some form of religion, some form of spirituality, will be a central part of this final empire that the beast leads.

The final kingdom is prophesied to be composed of parts that are strong and parts that are weak (brittle). Daniel 2:40 describes the fourth kingdom as having the "toughness of iron," in as much as "iron crushes and shatters all things. . . ." Daniel 2:42 continues to describe the toes of the feet as composed of "iron" and "pottery," interpreted to mean some of the kingdom will be strong and some of it will be brittle (easily broken). Consider the history of the EU. We have stated that the EU evolved out of the European Coal and Steel Community and the execution of the Treaty of Paris in 1951 by the "inner six," Belgium, Germany, France, Italy, and Luxembourg. Out of this six, which might be the "strong" of the group? Which is the "superpower"? Do you see a "Russia," "China," or "United States" in the group? The same might be said for the "ten member" group of the Western European Union formed in 1954 by the Treaty of Brussels. The initial "union" of the Western European Union (WEU) was "created by the Treaty on Economic, Social and Cultural Collaboration and Collective Self-Defense signed at Brussels on 17 March 1948 (the Brussels Treaty)."²⁹ The primary purpose of the WEU was "self-defense" within the context of World War 2 being waged in Europe. The official website gives the following history explaining the purpose for the creation of the WEU:

*"The Brussels Treaty was signed by Belgium, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. Conceived largely as a response to Soviet moves to impose control over the countries of Central Europe, . . . Its main feature was the commitment to mutual Defense should any of the signatories be the victim of an armed attack in Europe. In September 1948, military co-operation was initiated in the framework of the Brussels Treaty Organisation. A plan for common Defense was adopted, involving the integration of air defences and a joint command organisation."*³⁰

The WEU was the "defense arm" of the five nations of Europe formed in response to Soviet aggression in Europe. The five founding nations of the WEU were Belgium, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom. Of this five, and, in relation to this five, which is the "superpower" nation qualifying it to be as strong as "iron"? Which is the "brittle," i.e,

easily broken, in comparison to the others? In the post World War 2 history of which the EU was created and has existed, these nations are of the same relative strength one to the other. This is, in fact, the foundational reason for the existence of the Union(s) of these nations. This is particularly the case when one compares any of the EU members to a modern day “superpower” such as the United States, Russia, or China. It is only in their union do they become a “superpower.” Individually and separately the nations are relatively the same in power.

So how can the EU fulfill this requirement? It can't. It is not composed of strong and weak parts.

The final kingdom is prophesied to be a “different kingdom.” We move to Daniel 7:7 which includes the characteristic that the fourth beast will be “different” from the three which precede it. In our previous chapter, we discussed the meaning of “different” for both Daniel 7:7 and also Daniel 7:19. We concluded that the fourth kingdom would not be a “political” kingdom as the prior kingdoms, but rather, a religious kingdom. This conclusion is further supported by the many references to “worship” in Revelation 13.

Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome were all political kingdoms. The European Union is a union of sovereign political countries just as these prior kingdoms were. The official website of the European Union states:

“The European Union (EU) is not a federation like the United States. Nor is it simply an organisation for co-operation between governments, like the United Nations. It is, in fact, unique. The countries that make up the EU (its ‘member states’) remain independent sovereign nations but they pool their sovereignty in order to gain a strength and world influence none of them could have on their own. Pooling sovereignty means, in practice, that the member states delegate some of their decision-making powers to shared institutions they have created, so that decisions on specific matters of joint interest can be made democratically at the European level.”³¹ (Emphasis added)

The nations comprising the European Union join together for the purpose of “. . . *gaining strength and world influence none of them could have on their own.*” The European Union is no different than the empires of the Babylonians, Medo-Persians, Greeks or Romans except that they are many nations aligned together for a political or related purpose rather than a single nation. Because we have more than one nation joining with other nations for the same political purpose does not make the organization of the nations “different” than the individual nations of Babylon, Media-Persia, the Greeks or Rome. The EU in its present form fails this prophetic requirement.

The fourth kingdom will have “ten horns.” Daniel 7:7 states that the fourth beast has ten horns. All of these horns are present when the beast first appears in Daniel's vision. They do not come up chronologically, one after the other, as would be the case if the ten represented ten successive leaders (in Revelation 17:10, horns come up at different times. The text states the reason is because the kings will reign at different times, successive to one another).³² This is significant in Daniel 7 because one of the horns (the “little horn”) is distinguished by its coming up “*after*” the ten. Thus, the text is careful to reflect the “when” of leadership for these ten leaders as well as the “little horn” after them (Daniel 7:7-8). Applying this criteria to Ancient Rome's history fails to bring a match. Historically, there is *no group* of ten Roman emperors (or leadership council) that reigned simultaneously. Rome, past, fails to fulfill this requirement.³³

As we have stated in the history of the creation of the predecessor groups to the EU, this requirement is also not present for these groups. Neither the WEU or the European Coal and Steel Community were formed by ten nations coming together at the same time. The WEU was formed by five; the European Coal and Steel Community by six. As the WEU (the defensive arm) grew, it eventually had ten members, but not in its beginning.

The three horns uprooted. Daniel 7:7-8 represents the fourth kingdom in the beginning of its days. Daniel 7:21-28 represents this same kingdom at the end of the age, probably the Tribulation period, the seven years preceding the return of Christ. We know time passes from the inception of this empire because of the phrase, *"I kept looking. . ."* This phrase begins the 21st verse, and alerts us that time has passed since the earlier event in Daniel's vision. Also, we know time has passed because Daniel 7:23 prophesies that this fourth kingdom will *"devour the whole earth and tread it down and crush it."* Daniel 7:23 has not been fulfilled, yet. Thus, to Daniel, there is a "parenthesis" of time between the beginning of the fourth kingdom (7:7-8) and the end of the fourth kingdom (7:21f). For the EU to fulfill this passage, there must have been an "uprooting" of three kingdoms by a fourth kingdom (of the ten kingdoms) at the beginning of its history. The EU fails this characteristic. Three kingdoms of the ten have not been uprooted by a fourth. So far as the latter part of Daniel's vision beginning in 7:21, the Roman view is like all other interpretations – this is a future event that has yet to take place.

What if Europe Becomes Predominantly Muslim? Suppose, however, that modern day Europe (composed of those countries that made up the Roman Empire) one day becomes governed by "Sharia," i.e., the Qur'an? In other words, suppose in the future the populations of separate European countries become predominantly Muslim and because of the Muslim majority changes are made in the governance of the countries of Europe? Consider the following highlight from Pew Forum on the changing demographics of modern day Europe:

"Throughout Europe today, it is not uncommon to see women wearing headscarves and men with skull caps and beards. On many European streets, shops now sport signs in Arabic and other Near Eastern languages and sell an array of exotic looking products from the Middle East and other parts of the Islamic world. Indeed, in the space of a few decades, whole neighborhoods in cities like Birmingham, Rotterdam and Paris have been transformed. Streets that have witnessed hundreds of years of European history are now playing host to a decidedly non-Western people and culture. This is the new Europe, one in which a rapidly growing Muslim population is making its presence felt in societies that until recently were largely homogeneous. Muslims are still very much minorities in Western and Central European countries, making up roughly 5 percent of the European Union's total population. But a number of demographic trends point to dramatic change in the years ahead. Islam is already the fastest-growing religion in Europe. Driven by immigration and high birthrates, the number of Muslims on the continent has tripled in the last 30 years. Most demographers forecast a similar or even higher rate of growth in the coming decades."³⁴ (Emphasis added)

And, similarly, from the Brookings Institute:

"Islam may still be a faraway religion for millions of Americans. But for Europeans it is local politics. The 15 million Muslims of the European Union (EU)—up to three times as many as live in the United States—are becoming a more powerful political force than the fabled Arab street. . . . Today, the Muslim birth rate in Europe is three times higher. . . If current trends

continue, the Muslim population of Europe will nearly double by 2015, while the non-Muslim population will shrink by 3.5 percent."³⁵ (Emphasis added)

And finally from Professor Philip Jenkins of Penn State University:

"In most European nations, Muslim communities have birthrates three times larger than their non-Muslim neighbors. France, Germany, and the Netherlands could by the 2030s have Muslim minorities of around 20 to 25 percent of the population, and those proportions will grow as the century progresses. Moreover, while Islam is undeniably growing, Christianity—at least in terms of active practice—is clearly shrinking. . . . Some observers see Europe making a wholesale transition into the Muslim world. Bernard Lewis remarked in a 2004 interview that "Current trends show Europe will have a Muslim majority by the end of the 21st century at the latest. . . ." Bat Ye'or (the pseudonym of British author Giselle Littman) envisages an emerging Muslim-dominated subcontinent of Eurabia in which remaining Christians and Jews might enjoy some tenuous kind of second-class status not unlike Ottoman dhimmitude, and writes of the emerging Euro-Arab axis."³⁶ (Emphasis added)

Whether by conquest or population growth, if Muslims replace the democracies of Europe with Sharia, (governance based on the Qur'an), the end result is the same. The "revived Roman Empire" model *will become a viable option* to fulfill Bible prophecies of the Last Days. A Muslim Europe will meet the "different" characteristic as well as the other characteristics of Daniel 2, including "divided," "strong and weak," and "combines in the seed of men." Islam may not have conquered the world by jihad, but it will have achieved dominion all the same.

The People of the Prince Who is to Come. Daniel 9:26 includes a very important prophecy that must be interpreted relative to the Roman view. This verse frequently causes interpreters to conclude that the Antichrist will rise from a revived Roman Empire to lead the world in a one-world religion and currency. The text states:

Daniel 9:26 *"Then after the sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing, and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. And its end will come with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined."*

The prevailing interpretation is that the "*people of the prince who is to come*" are the Romans. Rome (Ancient) destroyed Jerusalem in 70 AD, including the complete destruction of the Temple. This destruction is an historical fact so how can the interpreter posit any view other than a "revived Rome" as the city of the Antichrist future? Of the commentaries on Daniel most helpful to this writer, all of them take this or a related view.³⁷ Of those commentators who hold to the "Islamic Paradigm," the "prince who is to come" is Muhammad, and the "people" of this prince are the Persians and Arabs who are said to comprise much of the Roman army that attacked Jerusalem in 70 AD.³⁸ The soldiers of Arabic and Persian descent were paid mercenaries of the Romans and were of significant numbers to meet the requirement of the text as, "the people of the prince to come." This writer follows the Islamic Paradigm and also identifies the "prince who is to come" as Muhammad. The "people of the prince who is to come" are Muslims but not for the reasons aforementioned.

In a future chapter, we will discuss the "seventy weeks" of Daniel 9:24-27. However, for now, we

need only address the meaning of one part of Daniel 9:26. In part, the text states, “*Then, after the 62 weeks the Messiah will be cut off and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. . .*” The only “identifier” of the “people of the prince who is to come” is the dating in history when the Messiah is “cut off” and the “city” and the “sanctuary” are destroyed. If the event is the crucifixion of Christ in 30 AD followed by the destruction of the Temple in 70 AD, then the Roman view is the correct view since the Romans destroyed Jerusalem on this date. But suppose the “cutting off” of Messiah is not fulfilled at the crucifixion of Christ; and, suppose the destruction of the city and the sanctuary are not fulfilled with the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple in 70 AD by the Romans?

When Was Messiah “Cut off”? The reference to time in Daniel 9:26 is the phrase “*after the 62 weeks the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing.*” We will discuss the 62 weeks in a later chapter. The word “after” used in the text tells us that sometime subsequent to Messiah “being cut off” other things will happen. If we determine when Messiah is “cut off to have nothing,” then we will have a beginning point for the “after” to begin. How can it be said that Messiah was “cut off and (had) nothing” at the one time in human history that God was “in Christ” reconciling the world to Himself, and *about to begin His Church* (2 Corinthians 5:18-19)?

Jesus was not, in fact, “cut off” and “(had) nothing” when He was crucified. The Church began with 12 apostles, eleven of whom were living at the time of the Resurrection, and all of whom were living at the time of the crucifixion. Then, within 40 days of the resurrection, 120 persons gathered in a small room, awaiting the power of the Holy Spirit just after the ascension of Jesus Christ (Acts 2:15). The Holy Spirit indwelt these 120 persons to birth the Church of Jesus Christ, a Church that one day would become the largest religion known to humanity. How, then, can this period be what Daniel 9:26 is referring to as a time of being “cut off” and “having nothing?” What Christianity did have was the promise of the Father in the soon coming of the Holy Spirit. Christianity also had 120 believers waiting for the coming of the Spirit; and from these 120, the Church was already born, that birth having occurred at the Resurrection of Jesus Christ! Hardly what we would declare as “nothing”!

Christianity in 30 AD and years following was like a seed that the followers of Christ would continually sow. Christianity would extend through the entire Middle East, North Africa, and Asia, and then the entire world.³⁹ It was during the years of Nero (60 AD, in Rome) that persecutions of Christians began by the Romans. When the persecutions did begin, the persecutions actually spread the faith to far greater lands, eventually to reach Rome through the conversion of the Emperor Constantine in 312 AD. At no time did the *Roman persecutions of Christians result in the destruction of Jerusalem or the Temple*. That event occurred against the Jews, and when it did, it would be a mistake to say that this event resulted in the Messiah “having nothing.” Jews, were “cut off,” but not Christians; and, if not Christians, then not Messiah. It is important that we keep the Jews and the destruction of Jerusalem separate from what happened to Messiah and His followers. If the Messiah is “cut off and (had) nothing” then Christianity *must be similarly affected*. Christ is the head of the Church and the Church is the Body of Christ. The two are irrevocably connected. Christ is the “first born” of many brethren (Romans 8:29) and His Church is the “Church of the first-born” (Hebrews 12:23). In order for Messiah and His followers to be “cut off,” the prophecy would only apply to the three days that Christ was in the grave and His followers thought Him to have been a victim of the Jewish spiritual leadership.

Also, the text tells us that the destruction of the “sanctuary” and the “city” is the consequence of the Messiah being “cut off and having nothing.”⁴⁰ Therefore, when Messiah is “cut off,” the

“people of the prince who is to come” will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The two events in the text are linked, one happening simultaneously and a result of the previous. How can this refer to the crucifixion of Christ and the destruction of the Temple when the events are separated by 40 years, and the destruction of the Temple had nothing to do with Messiah being “cut off” in the first place? These two events are not linked. They are separate, unrelated events. Likewise, nothing similar happened to Christians at the time of Jerusalem’s destruction in 70 AD by the Romans. The only affect on Christians living in Jerusalem was that some of them became victims of another man’s war!

The “Cutting Off” of Christianity from the Middle East. Daniel 9:26 is not referring to the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD but to the destruction of Constantinople, the last great Christian city east of Europe in the 15th century AD.⁴¹ Constantinople, the capital of the Eastern Roman Empire, was defeated by Sultan Mehmet II and his Ottoman Turk forces on May 29th, 1453 AD using new “gunpowder siege artillery.”⁴² The capture of the City communicated to Christendom and to the world the superiority of Islam over Christianity, a triumph that had been sought by Islam for almost 800 years.⁴³ Historian Roger Crowley’s account of this epic city and its battle follows:

“For a thousand years Constantinople was quite simply the city: fabulously wealthy, imperial, intimidating - and Christian. Single-handedly it blunted early Arab enthusiasm for Holy War; when a second wave of Islamic warriors swept out of the Asian steppes in the Middle Ages, Constantinople was the ultimate prize: ‘The Red Apple’. It was a city that had always lived under threat. On average it had survived a siege every forty years for a millennium – until the Ottoman Sultan, Mehmet II, twenty-one years old and hungry for glory, rode up to the walls in April 1453 with a huge army, ‘numberless as the stars. . . . For fifty-five days a tiny group of defenders defied the huge Ottoman army in a seesawing contest fought on land, at sea – and underground. During the course of events, the largest cannon ever built was directed against the world’s most formidable defensive system, Ottoman ships were hauled overland into the Golden Horn, and the morale of defenders was crucially undermined by unnerving portents. At the centre is the contest between two inspirational leaders, Mehmed II and Constantine XI, fighting for empire and religious faith, and an astonishing finale in a few short hours on 29 May 1453 – a defining moment for medieval history.”⁴⁴

Daniel 9:26's reference to the “sanctuary” that is destroyed is not the Temple in Jerusalem in 70 AD by the Romans, but the great Cathedral, “Hagia Sophia,” the Church of the Holy Wisdom, located in Constantinople and hailed as the largest church in the world for literally hundreds of years. The Church was desecrated and converted to a mosque on May 29th, 1453, by the Ottoman forces. Everything of Jesus Christ and His saints was destroyed, removed from the holy sanctuary, never to be used in the service and worship of Christ again.

Constantinople, the capital city of the Eastern Roman Empire, is thus described:

“The capital of the Eastern Roman Empire, the city that was identified with the life of Byzantine empire, was founded by the Roman Constantine I, . . . The city was founded on 8 November 324 and it was inaugurated on 11 May 330. The capital was named “New Rome”. . . and later was renamed Constantinople . . .”⁴⁵ (Emphasis added)

And further,

“It was the possibilities of this site — what it offered for trade, defense, and food — that made Constantinople the key to imperial destinies and brought so many armies to its gate. “The seat of the Roman Empire is Constantinople,” wrote George Trapezuntios, “and he who is and remains Emperor of the Romans is also the Emperor of the whole earth.”⁴⁶

“Hagia Sophia” (also referred to as “St Sophia”), the great Church of Christendom in the East, served for over 900 years as the seat of the Patriarch of Constantinople.⁴⁷ *Hagia Sophia was to Christianity what the Temple was to Judaism.* One historian relates an account of the Hagia Sophia from a visitor to the city:

“Anchored in the center of the city like a mighty ship was the great church of St. Sophia, built by Justinian in only six years and dedicated in 537. It was the most extraordinary building in late antiquity, a structure whose immensity was matched only by its splendor. The huge levitated dome was an incomprehensible miracle to eyewitnesses. “It seems,” said Procopius, “not to rest upon solid masonry but to cover the space beneath as though suspended from heaven.” It encased a volume of space so vast that those seeing it for the first time were left literally speechless. The vaulting, decorated with four acres of gold mosaic, was so brilliant, according to Paul the Silentiary, that “the golden stream of rays pours down and strikes the eyes of men, so that they can scarcely bear to look,” while its wealth of colored marbles moved him to poetic trance. They looked as though they were “powdered with stars. . . like milk splashed over a surface of shining black or like the sea or emerald stone, or again like blue cornflowers in grass, with here and there a drift of snow.”⁴⁸

The description of the epic battle between Christians and Muslims at Constantinople was ultimately a battle not over a city but a battle between two faiths. This is precisely what Daniel 9:26 is referring to in the phrase “cut off and have nothing.” The statement has little to do with bricks and mortar, but with the saints, the followers of Jesus Christ, the principal center of Christianity in the Middle East, the birthplace of Christianity, and westward to the continent of Europe. Such lands in the 15th century were completely in the control of Islam but for Constantinople and its surrounds. Historian Roger Crowley describes the isolation of Constantinople and Christianity from the West when the Muslims defeated neighboring “Varna”:

“It was a significant moment in the holy war between Christianity and Islam. After 350 years the defeat at Varna extinguished the appetite in the West for crusading; never again would Christendom unite to try to drive the Muslims out of Europe. It confirmed the Ottoman presence in the Balkans and left Constantinople emphatically isolated as an enclave within the Islamic world, reducing the likelihood of Western help in the event of Ottoman attack.⁴⁹ (Emphasis added)

The pre-conquest plight of Christians in Constantinople is similarly described by historian, Ira Lapidus, who tells of mass conversions of Christians to Islam in Anatolia towns and cities:

“The absorption of the former Byzantine Empire by Turkish-Muslim conquerors led to the eventual conversion of Anatolia and thus added new territories to the domain of Islam. Before the Turkish migrations, the vast majority of the Greek, Armenian, Georgian, and Syrian populations of Anatolia had been Christian. By the fifteenth century more than 90 percent of the population was Muslim. Some of this change was due to the immigration of a large Muslim population, but in great part it was caused by the conversion of Christians to Islam. These conversions were basically due to the breakdown of Anatolian Christianity

through the weakening of the Byzantine state and the Greek Orthodox Church, and the collapse of Anatolian society in the face of Turkish migrations. In the late thirteenth and fourteenth centuries the Turks excluded bishops and metropolitans from their sees. Church revenues and properties were confiscated. Hospitals, schools, orphanages, and monasteries were destroyed or abandoned, and the Anatolian Christian population was left without leadership and social services. The remaining Christian clerics had to turn to Turkish authorities to handle internal disputes on terms that only further weakened Christian institutions.”⁵⁰(Emphasis added)

Constantinople, the city named after the first Roman Emperor to convert to Christianity was thereafter known as “Istanbul,” the name the city carries to this day. Historian Crowley describes the conflict as one between spiritual foes not between nations or political interests:

“The Muslims referred to their adversary as “the despicable infidels,” “the wretched unbelievers,” “the enemies of the Faith”; in response they were called “pagans,” “heathen infidels,” “the faithless Turks” (by the Christians). Constantinople was the front line in a long distance struggle between Islam and Christianity for the true faith. It was a place where different versions of the truth had confronted each other in war and truce for 800 years, and it was here in the spring of 1453 that new and lasting attitudes between the two great monotheisms were to be cemented in one intense moment of history.”⁵¹ (Emphasis added)

When Constantinople fell to the Muslims, the entire country of Turkey and everything East of Europe all but ceased to exist as a land inhabited by Christians. The seven churches of Revelation all were located in modern day Turkey. None of them exist today, a clear evidence that Christianity was effectively “cut off” with the fall of Constantinople. Hence, “Christianity” was “cutoff” not with the fall of Jerusalem almost 1500 years earlier, but with the fall of Constantinople in 1453.

Historian Philip Jenkins describes the impact to Christianity of the fall of Constantinople:

“The traumatic religious implications can be suggested if we imagine a world in which Christians or Jews annexed and converted the cities of Mecca and Medina, demolishing the Ka’ba and turning the Great Mosque into a splendid cathedral or synagogue. The very thought would be blasphemy for pious Muslims; and for Christians throughout eastern Europe and the Middle East, likewise, the fall of Constantinople was “the day the world ended.””⁵² (Emphasis added)

Here is a description of the Muslim destruction of the city. See if the destruction described does not fulfill the remainder of the prophecy of Daniel 9:26 which states, “*And its end will come with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined.*”

“(Sultan) Mehmet then processed into the heart of the city to inspect the buildings that he had visualized so clearly from afar. . . . He was probably sobered rather than impressed by what he saw. It resembled a human Pompeii more than the City of Gold. Uncontrolled, the army had forgotten the edict to leave the fabric of the buildings untouched. They had fallen on Constantinople, according to Kritovoulos, with a measure of exaggeration, “like a fire or a whirlwind. . . the whole city was deserted and emptied and appeared ravaged and charred as if by fire. . . the only houses left had been devastated, so ruined that they struck fear in the hearts of all that saw them because of the enormous devastation. Although he had

promised his army three days of looting, it had effectively been picked clean in one. . . . Long lines of captives were being herded into makeshift tents outside the fosse. Almost the whole population of 50,000 had been led away to the ships and the camp; maybe 4,000 had been killed in the day's fighting. Separated from their families, children could be heard calling out for their mothers, men for their wives, all "dumb founded by such a catastrophe." In the Ottoman camp there were fires and festivities, singing and dancing to pipes and drums. Horses were dressed in the robes of priests and the crucifix was mockingly paraded through the Ottoman camp, topped with a Turkish cap. Booty was traded, precious stones bought and sold. Men were said to become rich overnight "by buying jewels for a few pence," "gold and silver were traded for the price of tin."⁵³

The desecration of Hagia Sophia described in like manner:

"The soldiers then turned their attention to the fabric of the church. They hacked the icons to pieces, stripping away the valuable metal frames and seized "in an instant the precious and holy relics which were kept safe in the sanctuary, the vessels of gold and silver and other valuable materials." Then rapidly all the other fixtures and fittings followed, things that the Muslims considered both idolatrous affronts to God and rightful booty for soldiers — the chains, candelabra, and lamps, the iconostasis, the altar and its coverings, the church furniture, the emperor's chair — in a short time everything was either seized and carried off or destroyed in situ, leaving the great church "ransacked and desolate," according to Doukas. The great church reverted to a shell."⁵⁴

The Hagia Sophia, the renowned Church of Christendom in the Middle Ages, still exists today, but not as a Church. After its conversion to a mosque (which it served for many years), it was then converted to a museum.

I could go on and on. The "prince who is to come" is Muhammad. The "people of the prince who is to come" are the Muslims. The sanctuary and city that were destroyed *after* the 62nd week was not Jerusalem and the Temple in 70 AD, but Constantinople and Hagia Sophia on May 29th, 1453. And why does it matter? Because in the 70th week another will come from this same "people of the prince who is to come" (Daniel 9:27). This one will be the Antichrist. He will arise from within Islam, the religion of the "people of the prince to come" not from Rome.

Part 2 - Where is Rome in Bible Prophecy?

So where is Rome? The powerful ancient Roman Empire and her infamous Legions were victorious over the third beast of Daniel 7, the Greeks, the successor kingdom to Babylon and Media-Persia. Rome seems quite naturally to fulfill the prophecy of the fourth beast of Daniel. After all, Rome was the next in line of succession to Media-Persia. It was the "fourth" in that line; so, how can Rome not be in the Biblical texts of the Last Days? Plus, Rome continued its dominion through the time of Christ's crucifixion. Pilate, the Roman Governor, actually ordered Christ's execution. What's just as important, persecution of both Jews and Christians occurred during Roman dominion. So, Rome must be in prophetic scripture – or, we've missed something!

Rome is there; just not where we have been looking. Rome is in the New Testament book of Revelation, 12th chapter, not in Daniel 2, 7, or 9; Revelation 13 or 17. As we will see, Revelation

12 is a prophecy that has both been fulfilled and is still being fulfilled. Rome had a very significant role in this fulfillment (but not all). Rome's role was fulfilled with Rome's dominion in the first - fourth centuries, AD, in the persecution of Jews and Christians subsequent to the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This persecution ended after Constantine became sole emperor of the Roman Empire through a miraculous victory over his Western rival, Maxentius. Following the battle, Constantine converted to Christianity which ended persecution for Christians.

The miracle that led to Constantine's conversion occurred at the Battle of Milvian Bridge (312 AD) when Constantine's forces encountered those of Constantine's Western rival, Maxentius, outside Rome (312 AD).⁵⁵ Maxentius (West) and Constantine (East) were vying for sole claim to the office of Roman Emperor. The armies of each gathered outside of Rome in a battle to decide who would be sole emperor. Constantine's forces were heavily outnumbered by those of Maxentius. On the day before the battle, Constantine and his army saw a cross of light imposed over the sun. Attached to it, in Greek characters, were the words, *"In this sign you shall conquer."* The sign included the first two letters of the Greek word translated, "Christ." That night Christ appeared to Constantine in a dream and told him to make a replica of the sign he had seen in the noon-day sky and place it on the armor of each of his soldiers. Constantine's army placed this sign on their shields prior to their battle with Maxentius, and against all odds, Constantine's army was successful. The "sign" under which Constantine conquered became the event that made Constantine sole Emperor of the Roman Empire. It also resulted in Constantine's conversion. It was the miracle that revealed the reality of the risen Christ and His finished work on Calvary some 300 years before. At the Battle of Milvian Bridge, the risen Christ appeared to Constantine much like He had to Saul (the Apostle Paul, Acts 9:1-9) on the Damascus Road; and now Christ did so in the "language" that Constantine could understand – a miraculous victory over a heavily outmanned force. Thus, *this event proved to be the end of persecution of Christians by the Romans. Eventually, Rome was "Christianized" with this event being the "seed" that filled the entire known world of Constantine's day with the good news of Jesus Christ.*

Revelation 12 and the Apostle John's Vision. In the 12th chapter of Revelation, the Apostle John is given a "sign." A "woman" is about to give birth to a male child. The woman is clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. Then another "sign" is given John. A great red "dragon" appears having seven heads with seven diadems, and ten horns. The dragon stands before the woman to devour her child. The woman gives birth to her son, but amazingly, the dragon, although standing before the woman, is unable to destroy the child. The son is "caught up" to heaven (12:5), and the woman is persecuted by the dragon. The woman is given divine nourishment "in the wilderness" for "one thousand two hundred and sixty days" (12:6). The dragon, seeing that he has "only a short time" (12:12) continues his persecution (12:13), but now it appears to include the offspring of the woman (12:11), that is, those who "hold to the testimony of Jesus" (12:17). The "two wings of the great eagle" are given to the woman that she might "fly" to the wilderness where she is nourished from the presence of the dragon, for a "time, times, and half a time" (12:14). The dragon responds by pouring a "river" of water out of his mouth (12:15) to drown the woman. The earth saves the woman by "swallowing" up the river of water (12:16). Finally, the dragon, enraged with the woman, continues his persecution of the woman. The text is now specific as to who the war is waged against: ". . . [those] who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus" (12:17).

Here is what some of the symbolism in the text represents: the “dragon” is satan, the serpent of old (Revelation 12:9). The “male child” is Jesus Christ as implied in 12:5, and named in 12:11, 12:17. When the text states, “the child is caught up to heaven” (12:5), it is referring to the ascension of Jesus Christ to the right hand of God following His crucifixion and resurrection in AD 30. The “woman” is a metaphor of the nation of Israel, the covenant people of God. Our interpretation that the woman is national Israel is supported by several Bible scholars, all of whom note that an almost identical description of Israel is found in Joseph’s dream as found in Genesis 37:9.⁵⁶ The “offspring of the woman” is Christianity (those who “hold to the testimony of Jesus”; Revelation 12:17).

The seven heads and ten horns of the dragon. The text of Revelation 12 has two specific groups that the dragon persecutes – Jews and Christians. Therefore, the heads and horns must symbolize the instruments through whom satan will accomplish his persecutions. We have already seen this in other passages. In Daniel 7, “horns” represented “kings” or the “kingdoms” that they led (Daniel 7:24, 8:20). In Revelation 12, we have two groups that are persecuted. Since two groups are persecuted, then each group of heads/horns must represent the “kings” through whom satan waged his persecution against one of these two groups. To know which represents which group, we need look at history to find a match with seven persecutions and ten persecutions for either the Jews or Christians. Here is an interesting “coincidence.” The Jews have historically been persecuted by the following primary nations/kingdoms over its history:

1. Egypt (1200 BC?)
2. Assyria (722 BC)
3. Babylon (586 BC)
4. Media-Persia (539 BC)
5. Greece (350 BC)
6. Rome (146 BC)
7. Islam (638 BC and following)

As we will see, Christians were persecuted by ten Roman Emperors until the time of Constantine, 312 AD. We have seven persecutions of the Jews in their historical past, and ten persecutions of the Christians. Coincidence? Not to me.

Also, the Christian persecutions are, of course, post crucifixion of Christ and therefore the Romans are the primary group that fulfills this aspect of Revelation 12. The Jewish persecutions include the time before Christ. The text supports a pre-Christ “look back” because what John sees in heaven is already present. It is a “sign” to him of what already exists (the woman) and what is going to exist (Christian persecution). The first sign uses the metaphor taken from Joseph’s dream of Genesis 37 which supports the interpretation that, relative to Israel, we are not to limit our interpretation to periods prior to Christ but all of Israel history.

Revelation 12 is unlike Daniel 2, 7, 9. In each of these other passages, multiple characteristics were given to help identify the instrument through whom the persecution was waged. Why is Revelation 12 absent of any such characteristics? The interpreter is given no help to identify the seven heads and ten horns. Why not? The same thing might be said for the “son” in Revelation 12. How do we know that the son is Christ? And how do we know that when He is “caught up” the text is referring to the ascension of the Lamb to the right hand of God? Because the text has already told us these things in earlier chapters of Revelation. Revelation 12 does not stand

alone in Bible prophecy, it is not the first chapter of Bible prophecy. The reason why no characteristics are given to identify the heads and horns in Revelation 12 is because the interpreter is to use those characteristics already given (in Daniel and other places in the Bible) as the basis upon which to interpret Revelation 12.

For example, in a later chapter, we will interpret Revelation 13. We will see that Revelation 13:3 includes the three beasts of Daniel 7, i.e., the lion, bear, and leopard, but now they are each a separate part of another beast, the beast from the sea of Revelation 13. It is like they have become “incarnate” in the beast from the sea. Why? Because Revelation 13 looks to Daniel 7 for its proper interpretation. Likewise, Revelation 12 looks to Daniel 2 for its interpretation. The heads of the dragon are defined in the parts of the statue of Daniel 2. We interpreted the statue of Daniel 2 to symbolize the five nations beginning with Babylon, and continuing through Media-Persia, Greece, Rome, and Islam. Historically, the Egyptians made Israel slaves, perhaps as early as 1200 BC. The Assyrians had already defeated the Northern Kingdom of Israel in 722 BC. Thus, if we add these two earlier dominions that occurred prior to the first listed in Daniel 2, i.e., Babylon, we come to seven kingdoms that persecuted the Jews.

The conclusion thus far? The persecutions of Israel are symbolized by the seven heads of the dragon. The persecutions of Christians are symbolized by the ten horns of the dragon. We will later discuss the Christian persecution but we must first discuss the metaphor given that tells us that the Jews will be saved from the dragon. At this point in Israel’s history, Romans are represented by the sixth head.

Who is “the great eagle”? *The imperial eagle was the insignia of ancient Rome. It was carried on standards held by those leading the way for the Roman army.*⁵⁷ Eric Cline, Professor of Anthropology at George Washington University, describes the significance of the imperial eagle to the Roman legion:

*“The eagle standard was the most important of all those carried by each Roman legion. On the pole of the standard, which bore a golden eagle at its top, was affixed the abbreviation “SPQR,” which stood for “senatus populusque romanus”—in English, “the Senate and the people of Rome.” The ultimate disgrace for any Roman legion was to have its eagle standard captured in battle. That happened only very rarely, and an eagle’s loss usually meant that the legion had been annihilated.*⁵⁸

Thus, the great eagle represents the imperial insignia of the mighty Roman Empire. When the text states that the “wings of the great eagle” were given to the woman, the text is telling us that God will provide a way of escape from the Romans for the woman. The “wings” are a metaphor of this escape. The great eagle, Rome, will not be successful in its quest to annihilate the woman. We will see this in more detail in the sections following.

An alternate interpretation sees the “two wings of the great eagle” to represent Constantine’s conversion at the Battle of Milvian Bridge just before his battle with Maxentius. As stated, Constantine and his men saw a cross in the noon sky formed by the first two Greek letters of “Christ.” The message “In this sign you shall conquer,” was a part of the noon day vision. That night, Christ appeared to Constantine in a dream and told him to place the two Greek letters as an emblem on the armor of each of his soldiers. He did so. Against all odds, Constantine and his men were successful against Maxentius and his army. From this point forward the persecutions of Christians ended. The “two wings of the great eagle” might be referring to this

event. *The problem with this view, of course, is that the “wings of the eagle” are given to the woman (12:14), not the offspring of the woman.*

First Jewish Rebellion - the Great War with Rome. History records two separate Jewish rebellions against the Romans. The first rebellion is referred to as the “The Great War with Rome”⁵⁹ (66 - 73 AD) and the second as the “Second Jewish Revolt” (132 - 135 AD) (or, the “Bar Kokhba Revolt”).⁶⁰ The first rebellion included the siege and destruction of Jerusalem by Titus (Emperor Vespasian’s son), culminating in the destruction of the Temple and Jerusalem’s complete destruction and fall in AD 70. This rebellion began when Florus, the Roman procurator based in Caesarea, took seventeen talents from the sacred treasury of the Temple in the year 66 AD.⁶¹ The Jews rebelled seeing Florus’ action as another in a long list of sacrileges against their faith and specifically their Temple. Conflict ensued and escalated with many Jews being killed by the Roman legion followed by several victories of the Jews over the Romans (the greatest was over the 12th Legion led by Cestius (the 12th Legion’s “eagle standard” was lost to the Jews during this battle, an event considered a disgrace to a Roman Legion.⁶²). Next, civil war erupted *within the Jewish people* in Jerusalem between those who wanted peace with the Romans regardless of the reason and those who wanted deliverance from the Romans regardless of the cost.

The culmination of the First Jewish Rebellion was the arrival of Titus to begin a siege of Jerusalem with his Roman army estimated at 65,000 strong. The details of the Roman siege of Jerusalem is beyond the scope of this writing, but a quote from historian Josephus of the burning of the Temple is evidence of the horror of the event:

*“While the holy house was on fire, every thing was plundered that came to hand, and ten thousand of those that were caught were slain; nor was there a commiseration of any age, or any reverence of gravity, but children, and old men, and profane persons, and priests were all slain in the same manner; so that this war went round all sorts of men, and brought them to destruction, and as well those that made supplication for their lives, as those that defended themselves by fighting. The flame was also carried a long way, and made an echo, together with the groans of those that were slain; and because this hill was high, and the works at the temple were very great, one would have thought the whole city had been on fire. Nor can one imagine any thing either greater or more terrible than this noise; for there was at once a shout of the Roman legions, who were marching all together, and a sad clamor of the seditious, who were now surrounded with fire and sword. The people also that were left above were beaten back upon the enemy, and under a great consternation, and made sad moans at the calamity they were under; the multitude also that was in the city joined in this outcry with those that were upon the hill. And besides, many of those that were worn away by the famine, and their mouths almost closed, when they saw the fire of the holy house, they exerted their utmost strength, and brake out into groans and outcries again.”*⁶³

The date the Temple was consumed with fire was August 28, 70 AD. (The ninth of Abib, Jewish calendar). Interestingly, this was the same date that Solomon’s Temple (the first Temple) was burned by the Babylonians six hundred and fifty years earlier (586BC).⁶⁴

Masada - an extension of time for 3 ½ years. Following the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD, Jewish zealots known as “Sicarii” fled to the remote and fortified mountain fort of Masada outside Jerusalem where other zealots had previously taken control from Roman soldiers garrisoned there. Emil Schurer describes as follows:

"The Sicarii, under the leadership of Eleazar, . . . had established themselves in this fortress at the very beginning of the war, and since then controlled it. The siege was extremely difficult, since the rock on which the city was built was so high and precipitous on every side that it was almost impossible to bring up siege instruments. . . . But the Romans managed to overcome this obstacle also by the use of fire. When Eleazar saw that there was no longer any hope of resisting the assault, he addressed the garrison, asking them first to kill their own families, and then one another. This was done. When the Romans entered, they discovered with horror that no work remained for them to do. Thus the last bulwark of the revolt was conquered, in April of probably, AD 74."⁶⁵

The Jewish *holdout* at Masada lasted from shortly after the fall of Jerusalem in AD 70 until AD 74, a span of 3½ years; or, "one thousand two hundred and sixty days." *Masada was located in the mountains outside Judea, in the "wilderness."* According to historian, Josephus, Masada was built by Herod the Great in 37 - 31 BC as a refuge for himself in the event of a Jewish revolt against his leadership. Interestingly, the fort was actually used by the Jews as their fortress having been *prepared by God for them (through the work of Herod) as a place of survival!* Notice the prophecy of Revelation 12:6, "And the woman fled into the wilderness where she had a place prepared by God, so that there she might be nourished for one thousand two hundred and sixty days." With the fall of Jerusalem in 70 AD, the Jewish revolt against Rome all but ended, save for Masada.⁶⁶ Masada acted as a fortress of protection against the Romans – for "one thousand two hundred and sixty days."

What did Masada accomplish for the Jews, particularly, since those zealots who sought to extend the Jewish Roman War all died at Masada? The 3½ years served as a distraction to the Roman military stationed in Palestine. It allowed those few Jews who survived the fall of Jerusalem, plus those who lived in surrounding towns and villages, a reprieve. Notice also that Revelation 12:6 states that the "place prepared for the woman" was a place for her to be "nourished." That is, Israel recovered from its wounds while the Romans focused all their attention on the Jews at Masada. In the process, the promise of God given to His covenant people so many years before was fulfilled: a "*remnant*" was preserved from annihilation by the *Gentiles*. In this case, the second possible annihilation was not from the Babylonians in 586BC, but a successor kingdom to them, the Romans. In any event, God did not save the Jews from the Babylonians only to have them destroyed by the Romans!

Ezekiel 6:8 *"However, I shall leave a remnant, for you will have those who escaped the sword among the nations when you are scattered among the countries."*

Second Jewish Revolt. The Second Jewish Revolt, the "Bar Kokhba Revolt," occurred 62 years later under Roman Emperor Hadrian. This second revolt resulted from Emperor Hadrian's acts of "founding a city of his own at Jerusalem on the site of the ruined one, calling it "Aelia Capitolina."⁶⁷ "Aelia" came from Hadrian's gentile name, "Aelius," while "Capitolina" came from Hadrian's dedication and erection of a temple to his god, Zeus.⁶⁸ This temple was erected by Hadrian on the Temple Mount, amidst the ruins of Herod's Temple (destroyed by the Romans in 70 AD). To Jews, this was considered an "abomination desolation" similar to that occurring when Antiochus IV Epiphanes attempted to replace Judaism with "Hellenism," the Greek religion, in 167BC. Antiochus' act is prophesied in Daniel 11:31 some 400 years before it occurred. It was an act to end Judaism, the religion of God's covenant people. Had Antiochus been successful, "Israel" would have ceased to exist; for it is through her religion and her relationship to *Yahweh*, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (renamed "Israel" by God, Genesis 32:28),

that distinguished Israel among the nations. The Jews preferred death rather than to allow their faith to cease to exist. The Jewish revolt known as the Maccabee Revolt was the Jewish response. Approximately 3½ years later, the Maccabean Revolt was successful in restoring the Temple to Jewish hands, and the complete defeat of the Seleucid forces led by Antiochus.⁶⁹ The annual 8-day celebration of “Hanukkah” still commemorates the rededication of the Temple as a result of the Maccabean Revolt.⁷⁰

Fast forward to the year 132 AD: the Jews are once again faced with an “abomination desolation,” but this time at the hand of Roman Emperor Hadrian. In addition to building a pagan temple on the ruins of the Temple Mount, Hadrian forbade the practice of circumcision, the celebration of the sabbath, and the study of the Torah by Jews.⁷¹ Thus, the issue the Jews faced was the same issue that occurred with Antiochus in 167 BC - the continuance of their faith. Although their Temple no longer existed, their religion did; circumcision, the study of the Torah, the celebration of the sabbath had all sustained the faith.⁷² Once again, the Jews, preferred death rather than to allow their faith to cease to exist. They revolted in the Bar Kokhba Revolt, 132-135 AD. The Jews were led in their revolt by Simon Ben Kosiba (whose name was changed to “Bar Kokhba” by Rabbi Akiba⁷³) who they acclaimed as their “Messiah,” the prophesied “star of Jacob” (Numbers 24:17), who would restore their land taken by the Roman oppressors. But unlike the Maccabean Revolt of 167BC, the Bar Kokhba revolt failed, completely.

In the aftermath of the failed Bar Kokhba Revolt, Jews were no longer allowed to live or even visit Jerusalem until Constantine’s conversion in the fourth century. Constantine allowed Jews to visit Jerusalem, once a year, to commemorate the destruction of Herod’s Temple in AD 70.⁷⁴ From the time of the failed Bar Kokhba Revolt until Constantine’s conversion in the fourth century, any Jew seen in Jerusalem was punishable by death.⁷⁵

The Second Jewish Revolt also concluded in a fort in the wilderness. This second fort is not as well known as the first, Masada. The second fort was called “Bethel.” Schurer gives this description:

“The last refuge of Bar Kokhba and his supporters was the strong mountain fort of Bethel, not very far from Jerusalem according to Eusebius, and in all probability on the site of present-day Bettir, 10 km south-west of Jerusalem. . . . After long and stubborn resistance, this bulwark too was taken in the 18th year of Hadrian = A.D. 134/135 on the 9th Ab, according to rabbinical tradition. . . . With the fall of Bethel, the three and a half years of war (A.D. 132- 135) were at an end.”⁷⁶ (Emphasis added)

The 2nd Jewish Revolt lasted the same length of time as the holdout at Masada sixty-two years earlier: *three and a half years!* This is the same time period as that identified in Rev 12:6, 14. The reason why the scripture uses two different ways to refer to the same duration of time, i.e., 3 ½ years, is because it is referring to two separate historical events. Also interesting is that the destruction of the Temple by the Babylonians, the destruction of Herod’s Temple by the Romans, the defeat of the Jews at Masada, and the defeat of the Jews at Bethel, all occurred on the same calendar date, 9th of Abib, the first calendar month of the Hebrew calendar.

But what is the point? Both Jewish revolts ended differently than the successful Maccabean Revolt. The zealots were defeated at both Masada and Bethel; *yet, Israel survived and Judaism continued.* Even though both of the 3½ year revolts ended in defeat, the woman, Israel, nor her

covenant relationship with Jehovah God, was ended, and the religion of the Jewish people continued! This is in spite of the fact that the Temple, destroyed in 70 AD by the Romans, was no more.

Israel was spared from annihilation; against all odds, the Romans were unable to destroy her; the remnant was protected by the very hand of God.

Who are ten horns of the dragon? In Foxe's *Christian Martyrs of the World*, author John Foxe names ten separate persecutions from the ascension of Christ (AD 30) to the conversion of Constantine in the fourth century AD.⁷⁷ The persecutions were not successive persecutions under successive Roman emperors; rather, they total ten persecutions in number. In those ten persecutions of Christians, the words of the Revelation are fulfilled:

Revelation 12:10 *"And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, who accuses them before our God day and night. 11 "And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even to death." (Emphasis added)*

The seven heads with seven diadems are the seven Roman Emperors who persecuted the Jews until the time of Nero and the fall of Jerusalem, 70 AD. This is the reason why the seven heads have "diadems," i.e., crowns, signifying the individual emperors that ruled Rome during this period. The ten horns are the ten separate persecutions listed by Foxe until Constantine's conversion in the fourth century AD, beginning with Nero and ending with Diocletian, AD 303.

The dragon pours water out its mouth and the earth swallowed up the water. The text gives us another clue:

Revelation 12:15 *"And the serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, so that he might cause her to be swept away with the flood. 16 And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and drank up the river which the dragon poured out of his mouth."*

Here is what the text means. The woman is Israel, the covenant people of God. The dragon is satan. The phrase, "water poured out of the dragon's mouth," symbolizes satan's persecutions of the Jewish people from the conversion of Roman Emperor Constantine (312 AD) through the present day. The "water" is a metaphor for the "spirits of demons" that act as satan's instruments of persecution within humanity against the Jews. Here is a similar passage which describes "spirits of demons" coming out of the mouth of the dragon:

Revelation 16:13 *"And I saw coming out of the mouth of the dragon and out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet, three unclean spirits like frogs; 14 for they are spirits of demons, . . ." (Emphasis added)*

These "spirits of demons" (coming out of the "mouth of the dragon") are the "spirits" which have persecuted the "woman," Israel, for almost 2000 years. Having lost her homeland, Jerusalem, to the Romans in 70 AD (and then again in 135 AD), the Jews were "scattered to the nations" in what Bible scholars have come to describe as the "2nd diaspora."⁷⁸ That is, from the time of the

2nd Jewish-Roman war, the Bar Kokhba Revolt, 135 AD, the Jewish people were permanently banished from Jerusalem. They were scattered throughout Asia, Europe, and the entire world. Everywhere the Jews went, satan “poured water out of his mouth” after them. Yet, the people and their religion survived satan’s persecutions. The survival of the Jews and Judaism is what the text is referring to when it states the “*earth opened its mouth and drank up the river the dragon poured out of its mouth*” (12:16). The survival of the Jewish people is by the hand of God in the same way that God saved a remnant of the Jews when Jerusalem was destroyed by the Babylonians in 586BC. God was their “sanctuary” then; and He was, and is, her sanctuary in the 2nd diaspora among the nations:

Ezekiel 6:8 *"However, I shall leave a remnant, for you will have those who escaped the sword among the nations when you are scattered among the countries."*

Ezekiel 11:16 *"Therefore say, 'Thus says the Lord God, 'Though I had removed them far away among the nations and though I had scattered them among the countries, yet I was a sanctuary for them a little while in the countries where they had gone.'"*

This is precisely what God promised to do for his covenant people, Israel, since the time of Abraham. God always saved the remnant in times of national crisis; and promised that He would one day bring them back to Jerusalem from their scattered places.

Isaiah 11:11 *"Then it will happen on that day that the Lord will again recover the second time with His hand the remnant of His people, who will remain, From Assyria, Egypt, Pathros, Cush, Elam, Shinar, Hamath, And from the islands of the sea. 12 And He will lift up a standard for the nations, And will assemble the banished ones of Israel, And will gather the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth."*

This prophecy was fulfilled in the Twentieth century, when Israel was granted status as a “homeland for the Jewish people” by the United Nations. The decision was codified in the “Declaration of the Establishment of the State of Israel” on 14 May, 1948, by the United Nations.⁷⁹ The Jews later enacted the “Law of Return” which provided “a solution to the Jewish people’s “problem”--to reestablish a home for the entire Jewish people in *Eretz Yisrael*, the Land of Israel.” Thus, from the Bar Kokhba Revolt, 135 AD to May 14, 1948, the Jewish people were scattered among the nations as the “earth” swallowed up the dragon’s “river” of persecution. The prophecy of Ezekiel written almost 2600 years before was fulfilled:

Ezekiel 34:11 *"For thus says the Lord God, "Behold, I Myself will search for My sheep and seek them out. 12 "As a shepherd cares for his herd in the day when he is among his scattered sheep, so I will care for My sheep and will deliver them from all the places to which they were scattered on a cloudy and gloomy day. 13 "I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries and bring them to their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the streams, and in all the inhabited places of the land."*
(Emphasis added)

Satan’s Continued Persecution of Jews. Remember our “*thread*” in Last Days’ Bible prophecies? Holy war. Holy war waged against the children of God, i.e, Jews and Christians, by a kingdom at enmity with God. Find holy war and you will find satan’s instrument. Rome was satan’s instrument in the days following the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ; but now, we have

found another thread: *anti-Semitism*, i.e., any act against the religion, the culture, the ethnicity of Jews, including an action to eliminate Israel's right to exist.

We saw the thread of anti-Semitism when Antiochus attempted to replace Judaism with Hellenism in 167BC; again, when Rome destroyed the Temple and all of Jerusalem in 70 AD; and lastly in 135 AD, when Emperor Hadrian built a pagan temple on the ruins of the Temple Mount, including his prohibition against circumcision, Sabbath observance, and the study of the Torah. All of these efforts were an attempt to destroy the Jewish people and the Jewish religion; and all were unsuccessful.

We see the exact same effort taking place ever since then to the modern time by Islam's never ending struggle to eliminate Israel. As an example of Islam's anti-Semitism, here is the summary from the book flap of, *The Legacy of Islamic Antisemitism*, written by Andrew Bostom:

*"This comprehensive, meticulously documented collection of scholarly articles presents indisputable evidence that a readily discernible, uniquely Islamic antisemitism—a specific Muslim hatred of Jews—has been expressed continuously since the advent of Islam. Debunking the conventional wisdom, which continues to assert that Muslim animosity toward Jews is entirely a 20th-century phenomenon fueled mainly by the protracted Arab-Israeli conflict, leading scholars provide example after example of antisemitic motifs in Muslim documents reaching back to the beginnings of Islam. The contributors show that the Koran itself is a significant source of hostility toward Jews, . . . Numerous complementary historical accounts illustrate the resulting plight of Jewish communities in the Muslim world across space and time, culminating in the genocidal threat posed to the Jews of Israel today. . . ."*⁸⁰

When it comes to evidence of Islam's anti-Semitism, we need only look at the Qur'an itself (Abdel Haleem translation):

Qur'an 5:60, "Say, 'Shall I tell you who deserves a worse punishment from God than [the one you wish upon] us? Those God distanced from Himself, was angry with, and condemned as apes and pigs. . ." (Emphasis added)

Qur'an 2:65, "You know about those of you who broke the Sabbath, and so We said to them, 'Be like apes!'" (Emphasis added)

Qur'an 7:165-166, "When they ignored [the warning] they were given, We saved those who forbade evil, and punished the wrongdoers severely because of their disobedience. When, in their arrogance, they persisted in doing what they had been forbidden to do, We said to them, 'Be like apes! Be outcasts!' (Emphasis added)

Does that sound like anti-Semitism to you? Jews, the "*descendants of apes and pigs*"? Finally, just one quote from Iran's president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad (I could fill the entire book with similar quotes):

"Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. (Reuters) Ahmadinejad tells West: Accept Israel's 'imminent collapse' By DPA and Haaretz Services, Friday, July 18, 2008.

"Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad called on the West Wednesday to acknowledge

Israel's "imminent collapse." Speaking to a crowd on a visit to the southern port of Bushehr, where Iran's first light-water nuclear power plant is being built by Russia, Ahmadinejad further incited his listeners to "stop supporting the Zionists, as [their] regime reached its final stage." "Accept that the life of Zionists will sooner or later come to an end," the Iranian president said in a televised speech. He added, "What we have right now is the last chapter [of Israeli atrocities] which the Palestinians and regional nations will confront and eventually turn in Palestine's favor." Iran does not acknowledge Israel and Ahmadinejad has in the past sparked international outcry by referring to the systematic murder of six million Jews in World War II as a "myth" and calling for Israel to be "wiped off the map."⁸¹

The Iranian president's commitment to "wipe Israel off the map" is not a Twentieth century phenomenon. It's been going on for thousands of years. The sons of Ishmael have been conspiring against God's "treasured ones" since before the fall of Jerusalem to the Babylonians in 586BC. Here is how King David put it in the 83rd Psalm (all the other nations included as "enemies of God" are Muslim nations today):

Psalm 83:1 "O God, do not remain quiet; Do not be silent and, O God, do not be still. 2 For, behold, Thine enemies make an uproar; And those who hate Thee have exalted themselves. 3 They make shrewd plans against Thy people, And conspire together against Thy treasured ones. 4 They have said, "Come, and let us wipe them out as a nation, That the name of Israel be remembered no more." 5 For they have conspired together with one mind; Against Thee do they make a covenant: 6 The tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites; Moab, and the Hagrites; 7 Gebal, and Ammon, and Amalek; Philistia with the inhabitants of Tyre; 8 Assyria also has joined with them; They have become a help to the children of Lot." (Emphasis added)

The point? *Find a nation advocating the end of Israel's existence and you have just found the hand of satan.* It's not a revived Rome we are looking for. Rome was one of satan's early "hands;" an earlier "cloak." God removed satan's Roman cloak when Roman Emperor Constantine was converted to Christianity. *Satan has now cloaked himself in another, in Islam,* the ancient sons of Ishmael. God will remove that cloak as well, but not as he did with Rome's cloak. The cloak of Islam will eventually be removed by its roots; *satan will be judged.* Satan, the beast, and the false prophet, will all be thrown into the Lake of Fire, eternally.

Conclusion. Rome is satan incarnate in the dragon of Revelation 12. The seven heads and seven diadems symbolize the seven kingdoms that persecuted the Jews beginning with the Egyptians through Islam. The ten horns symbolize the persecution of Christians from the time of Nero, 64 AD, until the time of Constantine's conversion, AD 312. The two wilderness "nourishments" of the woman for approximately 3 ½ years, each, symbolize the continuation of "life" given to Israel during two specific historical revolts necessitated by a threat to its national and spiritual existence. These revolts allowed Israel to be "nourished" by God that she might be sustained. The "water" poured out of the "mouth of the dragon" symbolizes the demonic persecution of Jews which scattered them to the nations. Yet, the "earth" swallowed up the "water"; the Jews were sustained as God became their "sanctuary" wherever Jews lived. The prophecy of the returning scattered peoples of Ezekiel 34:11-13 and Isaiah 11:11 was fulfilled when in 1948, Israel became a state, and Jews from all over the world returned to Jerusalem.

The dragon is still "pouring out water" to drown the Jews; *he just has a different spigot – Islam!*

Forget Rome. Rome will not be "rising from her ashes."

Summary of Key Points in Chapter 5	
Point 1	Rome fails to fulfill key prophetic characteristics to enable it to be the Last Days' Kingdom at enmity with God.
Point 2	Rome is the "great eagle" found in Revelation 12:14 that persecuted the "woman," Israel. The "great wings" of the eagle are a metaphor for the wings of God that saved the woman from Roman persecution.
Point 3	The "wilderness" which allowed the "woman," Israel, to be nourished in two separate periods of 3½ years each symbolizes two separate Jewish revolts against Rome, each of which threatened Israel's right to exist. God acted on both occasions to spare Israel from destruction.
Point 4	The "seven heads" of the dragon symbolize seven kingdoms that have persecuted the Jews since the days of Egypt through the modern time and Islam.
Point 5	The "ten horns" of the dragon symbolize ten persecutions of Christians beginning with Roman Emperor Nero (64 AD) and ending with Roman Emperor Diocletian (303 AD). Constantine's conversion to Christianity in 312 AD brought the persecutions to an end.
Point 6	The "water" poured out of the dragon's mouth symbolizes satan's persecutions of the Jews since the time of Constantine to the present day. The "earth" that swallowed the water symbolizes the act of God to protect the scattered Jews throughout the nations, until their return to their homeland in 1948.
Point 7	Islam's anti-Semitism can be seen in Old Testament scripture of the sons of Edom and Ishmael who sought to eliminate Israel. The sons of Edom and Ishmael are the forerunners of the Muslims, today.
Point 8	The return of the Jews to Israel in 1948 and the establishment of the Nation of Israel by act of the United Nations is the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy of Isaiah 11:11-12, Ezekiel 34:11-13, God recovered the remnant of His people a second time.

Chapter 5 - Endnotes

- 1 John F. Walvoord, *Every Prophecy of the Bible*, p. 235.
- 2 Stephen R. Miller, p. 196f.
- 3 Haggith, p. 334, and, available at, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vulgate>, at May 8, 2008.
- 4 St Jerome, *Jerome's Commentary on Daniel translated by Gleason L. Archer, Jr.*, p. 77.
- 5 David Haggith, *Prophets of the Apocalypse*, pp. 316-318.
- 6 Stephen R. Miller, p. 268.
- 7 Edward J. Young, *The Prophecy of Daniel*, p. 147-148.
- 8 John F. Walvoord, *Every Prophecy of the Bible*, p. 218-219.
- 9 John F. Walvoord, p. 231, 233.
- 10 <http://www.lambion.us/2009/01/antichrist-muslim-antichrist-islams.html> (accessed May 19, 2010).
- 11 <http://www.raptureready.com/rr-eu.html> (accessed May 12, 2010).
- 12 http://europa.eu/index_en.htm (accessed May 18, 2010).
- 13 "Fact Sheets on the European Union," 2007 Edition. Author of the publication: European Parliament. Official responsible: Ismael Olivares Martinez, Director. p. 11.
- 14 Ibid.
- 15 <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/en/treaties/dat/11992M/htm/11992M.html#0001000001> (accessed May 20, 2010), as summarized at http://europa.eu/abc/treaties/index_en.htm (accessed May 20, 2010).
- 16 http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maastricht_Treaty (accessed May 20, 2010).
- 17 http://europa.eu/lisbon_treaty/take/index_en.htm (accessed May 20, 2010).
- 18 http://europa.eu/lisbon_treaty/take/index_en.htm (accessed May 20, 2010).
- 19 <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/6901353.stm> (accessed May 28, 2010).
- 20 http://europa.eu/institutions/index_en.htm (accessed May 12, 2010).
- 21 Stephen R. Miller, p. 98.
- 22 *New American Standard Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible*. Anaheim, CA: Foundation Publications, 1998. WORDsearch CROSS e-book.
- 23 Brown, Francis, S.R. Driver, Charles A. Briggs. *The Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon*. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin and Company, 1906. WORDsearch CROSS e-book.
- 24 *New American Standard Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible*. Anaheim, CA: Foundation Publications, 1998. WORDsearch CROSS e-book.

- 25 Brown, Francis, S.R. Driver, Charles A. Briggs. *The Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon*. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin and Company, 1906. WORDsearch CROSS e-book.
- 26 Stephen R. Miller, p. 98, footnote 81.
- 27 http://europa.eu/scadplus/european_convention/objectives_en.htm (accessed May 20, 2010).
- 28 <http://www.contenderministries.org/prophecy/romanempire.php> (accessed May 20, 2010).
- 29 <http://www.weu.int/> (accessed May 22, 2010).
- 30 Ibid.
- 31 http://europa.eu/institutions/index_en.htm (accessed May 12, 2010).
- 32 Stephen R. Miller, p. 201.
- 33 David Haggith, *Prophets of the Apocalypse*, p. 267.
- 34 http://pewforum.org/uploadedfiles/Topics/Religious_Affiliation/Muslim/muslims-europe-2005.pdf (accessed May 12, 2010).
- 35 http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2003/03middleeast_taspinar.aspx?p=1 (accessed May 12, 2010).
- 36 Philip Jenkins, "Demographics, Religion, and the Future of Europe," *Orbis*, Volume 50, Issue 3, Summer 2006, Pages 519-539.
- 37A C Gaebelein, *The Prophet Daniel*, p. 142; Edward J. Young, *The Prophecy of Daniel*, p. 207; Stephen R. Miller, *Daniel, New American Commentary*, p. 253.
- 38 Walid Shoebat and Joel Richardson, *God's War on Terror*, 2008 Top Executive Media, page 350.
- 39 Philip Jenkins, *The Lost History of Christianity, The Thousand Year Golden Age of the Church in the Middle East, Africa, and Asia - and How it Died*, p. 47f.
- 40 Edward J. Young, p. 207
- 41 Marshall G. S. Hodgson, *The Venture of Islam, Vol 2, The Expansion of Islam in the Middle Periods*, p. 424, 427.
- 42 Marshall G. S. Hodgson, p. 560.
- 43 Roger Crowley, *1453, The Holy War for Constantinople and the Clash of Islam and the West*, p. 6.
- 44 Available at, <http://www.rogercrowley.co.uk/constantinople.htm>, at February 28, 2010.
- 45 Available at, <http://www.agiasofia.com/erotisis/constantinople.html>, at February 8, 2010.
- 46 Roger Crowley, *1453, The Holy War for Constantinople and the Clash of Islam and the West*, p. 6.
- 47 [http://orthodoxwiki.org/Hagia_Sophia_\(Constantinople\)](http://orthodoxwiki.org/Hagia_Sophia_(Constantinople))
- 48 Roger Crowley, *1453, The Holy War for Constantinople and the Clash of Islam and the West*, p. 18.
- 49 Crowley, p. 41.

50Ira M. Lapidus, *A History of Islamic Societies*, p. 251-252.

51Crowley, p. 19.

52Philip Jenkins, p. 138.

53Crowley, p. 232-233.

54Crowley, p. 228.

55 Available at, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constantine_I_of_the_Roman_Empire#cite_note-150, at June 10, 2008.

56 Robert L. Thomas, *Revelation 8-22*, p. 120; Garland Ladd, *A Commentary on the Revelation*, p. 167.

57 David Haggith, *Prophets of the Apocalypse*, p. 246.

58Eric H. Cline, *Jerusalem Besieged, From Ancient Canaan to Modern Israel*, p 116.

59 Emil Schurer, *The History of the Jewish People in the Age of Jesus Christ, Vol 1*, p. 485.

60 Eric H. Cline, p. 97.

61 Eric H. Cline, p. 112.

62 Eric H. Cline, p. 117f.

63 Josephus, Flavius. *The Works of Flavius Josephus. Translated by William Whiston. Hartford, CN: S. S. Scranton, 1905. The Wars of the Jews, Book 6, chapter 5.1* WORDsearch CROSS e-book.

64 Eric H. Cline, p. 127.

65 Schurer, vol 1, pp. 511-512.

66 James C. Vanderkam, *An Introduction to Early Judaism*, p 44, states that there were actually three separate holdouts of the Jews, all of which were forts. Herodium and Macherus were two other fortresses, but both of these fell quickly to the Romans.

67 Schurer, vol 1, p. 537.

68 Available at, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aelia_Capitolina, at May 24, 2008.

69 Schurer, vol 1, p. 540, 537, 555.

70 James C. Vanderkam, p. 20.

71 Schurer, vol 1, p. 555.

72 James C. Vanderkam, p. 45.

73 Schurer, vol 1, p. 543.

74 Schurer, vol 1, p. 556.

75 Schurer, vol 1, p. 553.

76 Schurer, vol 1, pp. 551-552.

77 John Foxe, *Foxe's Christian Martyr's of the World*, pp. 8 - 21.

78 The ^{first} Diaspora was when Jerusalem was destroyed at the hands of the Babylonians in 586BC, and those surviving were scattered to the nations or taken into exile in Babylon.

79 Available at, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Homeland_for_the_Jewish_people, at June 23, 2008.

80 Available at, <http://www.andrewbostom.org/content/view/28/53/>, at July 25, 2008.

81 Available at, <http://www.haaretz.com/hasen/spages/949628.html>, at July 26, 2008.