

Chapters of History in Daniel and Revelation

Several chapters of the Bible have prophesied a comprehensive history that is now primarily in the remote past. Finding several chapters in Daniel and Revelation a bit puzzling on this account, the writer would like to have had a brief but comprehensive set of comments to suggest profitable study or research for any given verse. It should be clear, concise, historically accurate, and symbols harmonizing from one chapter to another. Lacking this, the interpretive paraphrase below was researched and prepared. It is not intended to be the last word on any verse, and it is certainly fallible, but if others will be saved consecrated time in research then it will have been worth the effort.

Contents

Daniel	2:31-35	Nebuchadnezzar's Image
"	7: 1-28	Four Beasts
"	8: 1-27	Last Three Beasts
"	11: 1-12:3	History explained
Revelation	12: 1-18	Dragon and the Woman
"	13: 1-18	Ten-horned and Two-horned Beasts
"	17: 1-18	Beast and Harlot exposed

Dan 2:1 (ASV)

1 And in the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, Nebuchadnezzar dreamed dreams; and his spirit was troubled, and his sleep went from him.

31 Thou, O king, sawest, and, behold, a great image. This image, which was mighty, and whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the aspect thereof was terrible.

32 As for this image, its head was of fine gold, its breast and its arms of silver, its belly and its thighs of brass,

33 its legs of iron, its feet part of iron, and part of clay.

34 Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon its feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them in pieces.

Dan 2:1

1 Nebuchadnezzar had a vision of the future about BC 605 or 623.

2:31 As the mighty men of this age would view things, the kingdom of this world is magnificent.

32 It reached its greatest glory in the Babylonian Empire, which is best known for its heathen pantheon (exported to Egypt, Greece, Rome, and thence to the Gothic peoples), astrology, the Hanging (or Terraced) Gardens of Babylon, and swift armies. Next in order and glory comes the Empire of the Medes and Persians, which is best known for improvements in imperial administration, constant law, enormous architecture, and massive army strategy. Third in succession and glory was the Grecian Empire, with its contributions to colonization and commerce, medicine, philosophy, and mathematics.

33 The fourth was the Roman Empire, greatest in strength but least in glory. Imperial Rome contributed in the fields of government and military strategy, road building, and little else, inheriting most other arts and skills from the three previous empires. Papal Rome was markedly different from all that preceded, in that some lands were governed by royalty while side-by-side others were governed by ecclesiastics; the two forms did not mix well. The Papal Empire proceeded principally from ten peoples of Europe (see Dan 7:7).

34 Meanwhile, god was forming a kingdom of priests, and at Christ's return he began setting up the kingdom by resurrecting the sleeping saints, and the heavenly kingdom destroys the kingdom of this world.

35 Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken in pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing-floors; and the wind carried them away, so that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth. (ASV)

35 All its elements are crushed at once, and even the last vestiges of their culture will be erased during the Millennial Kingdom. But the heavenly kingdom will extend itself to earth for the ultimate blessing of all the families of the earth forever.

Four Beasts

Dan 7:1-14 (ASV)

1 In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon Daniel had a dream and visions of his head upon his bed: then he wrote the dream and told the sum of the matters.

2 Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of heaven brake forth upon the great sea.

3 And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another.

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

5 And, behold, another beast, a second, like to a bear; and it was raised up on one side, and three ribs were in its mouth between its teeth: and they said thus unto it, Arise, devour much flesh.

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

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

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

9 I beheld till thrones were placed, and one that was ancient of days did sit: his raiment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames, *and* the wheels thereof burning fire.

10 A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousands of thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened.

11 I beheld at that time because of the voice of the great words which the horn spake; I beheld even till the beast was slain, and its body destroyed, and it was given to be burned with fire.

12 And as for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away: yet their lives were prolonged for a season and a time.

Dan 7:1-14

1 Some time between BC 555 and 550 Daniel saw and recorded this prophecy:

2 Wars from four different directions moved the masses of humanity,

3 And four great kingdoms (empires) arose from the peoples, each different from the other.

4 Babylon was the first and greatest of these empires, its armies both powerful and swift. But it lost its speed, was exalted, and then became wicked (or fearful).

5 Medo-Persia then conquered with massive armies; the Persian side was greater; and it devoured Lydia, Babylonia, and Egypt; and its slaughter was massive.

6 Then the Grecian (Macedonian) Empire conquered powerfully and swiftly; its capitals were successively: Pella in Macedonia, Alexandria in Egypt, Antioch in Syria, and one in Thrace (cf. Dan 8:8).

7 And then came Rome conquering by power and terror alone. The Roman Empire was different (primarily later, in the Papal phase), and out of it will ten nations (tribes) arise: Heruli, Ostrogoths, Lombards, Allemanni (Germans), Anglo-Saxons, Franks, Burgundians, Visigoths, Suevi, and Vandals.

8 And during their time the Pope began to exercise civil power in Rome, so that the Heruli, Ostrogoths, and Lombards were all dissolved into the Kingdom of Italy. The popes had the wisdom of men but boasted of higher authority.

9 Finally, Christ and His church will reign as kings (or, the kings of this world will be cast down) and the Eternal God will exercise power: He is righteous and pure; His rule purifies that which is good and destroys the evil wherever it goes.

10 Purification of good and destruction of evil go before Him, the Ancient Worthies serve Him, and the whole world will be judged in the Millennial Kingdom of Christ, when the word of God (the Bible) will be understood by all.

11 I watched because of the boasting of the Pope; I watched until Rome lost its power, and (Western) Europe was ruined and utterly destroyed.

12 And as for Babylon, Medo-Persia, and Greece (Macedonia?), they lost their power, yet they (or their cultures) continued to exist for some time afterwards.

13 I saw in the night-visions, and, behold, there came with the clouds of heaven one like unto a son of man, and he came even to the ancient of days, and they brought him near before him.

14 And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all the peoples, nations, and languages should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.

15 As for me, Daniel, my spirit was grieved in the midst of my body, and the visions of my head troubled me.

16 I came near unto one of them that stood by, and asked him the truth concerning all this. So he told me, and made me know the interpretation of the things.

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

18 But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever.

19 Then I desired to know the truth concerning the fourth beast, which was diverse from all of them, exceeding terrible, whose teeth were of iron, and its nails of brass; which devoured, brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with its feet;

20 and concerning the ten horns that were on its head, and the other *horn* which came up, and before which three fell, even that horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spake great things, whose look was more stout than its fellows.

21 I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them;

22 until the ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the Most High, and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom.

23 Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be a fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all the kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces.

24 And as for the ten horns, out of this kingdom shall ten kings arise: and another shall arise after them; and he shall be diverse from the former, and he shall put down three kings.

25 And he shall speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High; and he shall think to change the times and the law; and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and half a time.

13 And behold, Christ's Second Advent is approved of God.

14 And Christ received dominion, glory, and the Millennial Kingdom, that all the families of the earth should serve Him: His dominion will be for ever, it shall neither fade away nor be destroyed.

15 The vision is distressing.

16 I Daniel asked an angel who knew, so he explained the vision.

17 These four great beasts represent four great empires with their emperors who rise through governmental ranks.

18 But when the true saints govern the earth it will be for all the ages of eternity

19 Then I Daniel wanted to know about the fourth beast that was different in composition, very intimidating, whose government devours, whose armies tear apart, and that slays, crushes, and oppresses wherever it goes;

20 And the meaning of the ten powers on its head, and the power that arose and put down three of the others, the one with craftiness and boastful claims, and that gained more power than its associates.

21 I Daniel watched as this power waged war against the faithful Christians and overpowered them;

22 until God sent Christ again for the Judgment Day, and faithful Christians were resurrected and given the kingdom.

23 Then it was explained: Rome, the fourth beast, will add little of cultural value but will differ in the role of religion, and it will slay and oppress without mercy.

24 And in AD 476 Odoacer, becoming king of the Heruli, will slay the head of the beast by conquering Rome and terminating the West Roman Empire, and the residue will be ten nations: Heruli, Ostrogoths, Lombards, Allemanni, Anglo-Saxons, Franks, Burgundians, Visigoths, Suevi, and Vandals [Bavarians, Huns, or Irish have all been suggested instead of the Vandals]; and when the pope is left in control of Rome about AD 539, he will begin his rise, and it is Papal government that will be different from all other kingdoms, and the Heruli, Ostrogoths, and Lombards will be incorporated into the Rome-dominated Kingdom of Italy.

25 And Papacy will blaspheme the character of God and wear down the faithful Christians, and will attempt to establish the Kingdom of Christ in his own way and before the time, and the faithful will be oppressed by Papal government 1260 years from AD 539 to 1799, when the office of Pope will be temporarily terminated (by Napoleon).

26 But the judgment shall be set, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and to destroy it unto the end.

27 And the kingdom and the dominion, and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High: his kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.

28 Here is the end of the matter. As for me, Daniel, my thoughts much troubled me, and my countenance was changed in me: but I kept the matter in my heart.

26 But God will judge, and Papal government will be dissolved, and the entire Papal system will disintegrate in the Gospel Age harvest and be utterly obliterated in the hearts of the people during the Millennial Kingdom.

27 And the Millennial Kingdom will be given to the Ancient Worthies, who are under Christ and the true church, who are under God; and after Satan's final little season the Kingdom of God will continue forever, and all peoples will serve him with a pure heart and of their own free will

28 And there is no sequel to eternity. Much of Gospel Age history is dreadful, but the lessons should be taken to heart.

Last Three Beasts

Dan 8:1-14 (ASV)

1 In the third year of the reign of king Belshazzar a vision appeared unto me, even unto me, Daniel, after that which appeared unto me at the first.

2 And I saw in the vision; now it was so, that when I saw, I was in Shushan the palace, which is in the province of Elam; and I saw in the vision, and I was by the river Ulai.

3 Then I lifted up mine eyes, and saw, and, behold, there stood before the river a ram which had two horns: and the two horns were high; but one was higher than the other, and the higher came up last.

4 I saw the ram pushing westward, and northward, and southward; and no beasts could stand before him, neither was there any that could deliver out of his hand; but he did according to his will, and magnified himself.

5 And as I was considering, behold, a he-goat came from the west over the face of the whole earth, and touched not the ground: and the goat had a notable horn between his eyes.

6 And he came to the ram that had the two horns, which I saw standing before the river, and ran upon him in the fury of his power.

7 And I saw him come close unto the ram, and he was moved with anger against him, and smote the ram, and brake his two horns; and there was no power in the ram to stand before him; but he cast him down to the ground, and trampled upon him; and there was none that could deliver the ram out of his hand.

8 And the he-goat magnified himself exceedingly: and when he was strong, the great horn was broken; and instead of it there came up four notable *horns* toward the four winds of heaven.

9 And out of one of them came forth a little horn, which waxed exceeding great, toward the south, and toward the east, and toward the glorious *land*.

Dan 8:1-14

1 In Belshazzar's 3rd year of reigning over Babylon, i.e., BC 553 (or possibly as late as BC 548), Daniel received another symbolic vision of things to come.

2 In the vision I was in the capitol of Elam (a province between Babylon and Persia) on the (east?) side of the Ulai River (modern Karkheh River?).

3 I saw a ram also on the (east) side of the river representing the Medo-Persian Kingdom. the Medes were dominant until the Persian King Cyrus the Great met the Median King Astyages in BC 549, and thereafter the Persian emperors led Medo-Persia to new greatness.

4 Medo-Persia conquered the fabulously wealthy Kingdom of Lydia to the west in BC 546, Babylon in the North in BC 539 October 12, and Egypt to the south in BC 525, and they conquered all opposition and built magnificent cities and palaces.

5 And then a he-goat representing the Grecian (Macedonian) Empire came from the west in BC 334 under Alexander, and went with amazing speed over all the land of the Persian Empire.

6 And Grecia came against Medo-Persia with all its strength,

7 And Grecia destroyed both Median and Persian power and utterly destroyed their empire, and conquered everywhere it went.

8 And Grecia became great. But in BC 323 Alexander suddenly died, and the Empire was divided between Macedonia to the west under Cassander (and then the Antigonid kings), Egypt to the south under the Ptolemys, Syria to the east under the Seleucids, and Thrace to the north (under Lysimachus and/or the later Roman emperors who ruled from Constantinople)

9 And to the west (wind?) Rome grew up (amid Greek culture), and conquered Carthage and all North Africa, Asia Minor and Judea.

10 And it waxed great, even to the host of heaven; and some of the host and of the stars it cast down to the ground, and trampled upon them.

11 Yea, it magnified itself, even to the prince of the host; and it took away from him the continual *burnt-offering*, and the place of his sanctuary was cast down.

12 And the host was given over *to it* together with the continual *burnt-offering* through transgression; and it cast down truth to the ground, and it did *its pleasure* and prospered.

13 Then I heard a holy one speaking; and another holy one said unto that certain one who spake, How long shall be the vision *concerning* the continual *burnt-offering*, and the transgression that maketh desolate, to give both the sanctuary and the host to be trodden under foot?

14 And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred evenings *and* mornings; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.

15 And it came to pass, when I, even I Daniel, had seen the vision, that I sought to understand it; and, behold, there stood before me as the appearance of a man.

16 And I heard a man's voice between *the banks of* the Ulai, which called, and said, Gabriel, make this man to understand the vision.

17 So he came near where I stood; and when he came, I was affrighted, and fell upon my face: but he said unto me, Understand, O son of man; for the vision belongeth to the time of the end.

18 Now as he was speaking with me, I fell into a deep sleep with my face toward the ground; but he touched me, and set me upright.

19 And he said, Behold, I will make thee know what shall be in the latter time of the indignation; for it belongeth to the appointed time of the end.

20 The ram which thou sawest, that had the two horns, they are the kings of Media and Persia.

21 And the rough he-goat is the king of Greece: and the great horn that is between his eyes is the first king.

22 And as for that which was broken, in the place whereof four stood up, four kingdoms shall stand up out of the nation, but not with his power.

23 And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors are come to the full, a king of fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up.

10 And Roman Emperor Constantine (AD 313-337) placed himself as an arbiter of the Christian Church and caused many prominent Christians to become involved in the world, where they were subjugated.

11 Then the Roman pope put himself on a par with Christ, and he substituted masses and saint-worship for the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, and justification by faith was thrown down.

12 And on account of the sins of the spirit-begotten, Christians and Christ's salvation will not be kept from Papal oppression, and Papacy will suppress the truth and will do as it pleases.

13 But faithful Christians want to know how long righteousness will be oppressed.

14 The answer is that it (Roman power? Median-to-Roman power? oppression of the Lord's people?) will last 2300 years,¹ and afterwards the righteous will be justified (by the day of wrath?).

15 I Daniel wanted to understand, and I saw a man representing Michael,

16 And he commanded to make it understandable,

17 And it was explained that the vision pertains to the last age of the present evil world.

18 Be alert and be righteous,

19 And you may understand the fourth and final indignation during the Gospel Age.

20 The two-horned ram represents the Medo-Persian Empire;

21 And the shaggy goat represents the Grecian Empire, and the large horn is Alexander, king of Macedonia (BC336-323),

22 And on his death four kingdoms will dominate: (1) Macedonia (BC 323-310), (2) Egypt (310-198), (3) Syria (198-166), and (4) Thrace (predominantly after AD 330),

23 And after the capital of the Roman Empire has been moved to Constantinople in Thrace, after much imperial unrighteousness, Papacy will arise in Rome, skilled in lawlessness and intrigue,

¹ The Roman rise commences immediately after the Gauls sack Rome in BC 387; 2300 years later brings one to the beginning of World War I in AD 1914. There may be other possibilities which are more attractive. Look for beginnings between BC 553 and about BC 264.

24 And his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power; and he shall destroy wonderfully, and shall prosper and do *his pleasure*; and he shall destroy the mighty ones and the holy people.

25 And through his policy he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and in *their* security shall he destroy many: he shall also stand up against the prince of princes; but he shall be broken without hand.

26 And the vision of the evenings and mornings which hath been told is true: but shut thou up the vision; for it belongeth to many days *to come*.

27 And I, Daniel, fainted, and was sick certain days; then I rose up, and did the king's business: and I wondered at the vision, but none understood it.

24 And it will reign by manipulating the kings of this world, and it will corrupt terribly and succeed, and it will destroy powers of this world and destroy the people of the true saints (or, destroy the people of the Holies? i.e., the true church?)

25 Papacy will deceive, exalt itself, destroy the unsuspecting, and oppose the way of Jesus Christ, but the Lord will see to its destruction;

26 And the vision of the 2300 years is sure, but it will not be understood before its time.

27 And the thought of what was to happen made Daniel sick.

Daniel 11

An historical explanation

Daniel 11 (ASV-1901)

1. And as for me, in the first year of Darius the Mede, I stood up to confirm and strengthen him.

2. And now I will show thee the truth. Behold, there shall stand up yet three kings in Persia; and the fourth shall be far richer than they all: and when he is waxed strong through his riches, he shall stir up all against the realm of Greece.

3. And a mighty king shall stand up, that shall rule with great dominion, and do according to his will.

4. And when he shall stand up, his kingdom shall be broken, and shall be divided toward the four winds of heaven, but not to his posterity, nor according to his dominion wherewith he ruled; for his kingdom shall be plucked up, even for others besides these.

5. And the king of the south shall be strong, and *one* of his princes; and he shall be strong above him, and have dominion; his dominion shall be a great dominion.

6. And at the end of years they shall join themselves together; and the daughter of the king of the south shall come to the king of the north to make an agreement: but she shall not retain the strength of her arm; neither shall he stand, nor his arm; but she shall be given up, and they that brought her, and he that begat her, and he that strengthened her in those times.

7. But out of a shoot from her roots shall one stand up in his place, who shall come unto the army, and shall enter into the fortress of the king of the north, and shall deal against them, and shall prevail:

8. And also their gods, with their molten images, *and* with their goodly vessels of silver and gold, shall he carry captive into Egypt; and he shall refrain some years from the king of the north.

9. And he shall come into the realm of the king of the south, but he shall return into his own land.

10. And his sons shall war, and shall assemble a multitude of great forces, which shall come on, and overflow, and pass through; and they shall return and war, even to his fortress.

Paraphrase (from history)

1. In the year BC538 the LORD's angel raised up Darius the Mede (who likely reigned just one year in the province of Babylon.)

2. Cyrus, Cambyses, and Darius will come to power in Persia. Then Xerxes will gain the most wealth of all, and he will gather all available nations in BC481 for an (unsuccessful) invasion of Grecia [Javan = Ionia].

3. And some time later in BC336 Alexander of Macedonia will arise and unite Grecia behind him and will be victorious everywhere he goes.

4. But in the peak of his power Alexander will suddenly die in BC323, and his empire will be divided up into Macedonia (and Greece) to the west, Egypt to the south, Syria-Babylonia to the east, and Thrace to the north. Alexander's family will all be slain within 13 years, and his generals and their successors will take these parts of the empire, though with much less power.

5. Then Ptolemy I Soter (BC323-285) became king in Egypt, and he protected General Seleucus, and Seleucus in BC312 retook Syria and Babylon and began reigning as Seleucus I Nicator (312-281); in BC301 he again defeated Antigonus, and after Lysimachus had conquered Macedonia and annexed it to Thrace, Seleucus conquered Lysimachus, and so Syria ruled the larger part of Alexander's empire. (Soon north Thrace was lost, and Macedonia became the Antigonid Kingdom under Gonatas.)

6. And a few Syro-Egyptian wars later and many years later Ptolemy II Philadelphus (285-246, sponsor of the Septuagint?) will make a covenant with Antiochus II Theos (261-246), so that Antiochus will divorce his wife Laodice and marry Berenice, the daughter of Ptolemy II; but after Ptolemy's death Antiochus shall visit Laodice and her children, and then Laodice shall poison Antiochus and cause also Berenice and her son and all her Egyptian attendants to be slain, and Laodice shall secure the throne of Syria for her son Seleucus II Callinicus (246-225);

7. But Berenice's brother Ptolemy III Evergetes (246-222) will come with vengeance, and will be welcomed by the city of Seleucia, and will conquer as far as Babylon;

8. And he will carry an immense spoil back to Egypt, including the idols the Persians had taken away, and he himself will attack Syria no more.

9. And in BC243 Seleucus will try but utterly fail to recover southern and coastal Syria, then struggles with his brother Hierax will keep him at home.

10. And Seleucus' sons, Seleucus III Soter (225-223) and Antiochus III Magnus (The Great, 223-187) will raise a great army, and Antiochus will retake Seleucia and conquer Judea, even to the border of Egypt;

11. And the king of the south shall be moved with anger, and shall come forth and fight with him, even with the king of the north; and he shall set forth a great multitude, and the multitude shall be given into his hand.

12. And the multitude shall be lifted up, and his heart shall be exalted; and he shall cast down tens of thousands, but he shall not prevail.

13. And the king of the north shall return, and shall set forth a multitude greater than the former; and he shall come on at the end of the times, *even of years*, with a great army and with much substance.

14. And in those times there shall many stand up against the king of the south: also the children of the violent among thy people shall lift themselves up to establish the vision; but they shall fall.

15. So the king of the north shall come, and cast up a mound, and take a well-fortified city: and the forces of the south shall not stand, neither his chosen people, neither shall there be any strength to stand.

16. But he that cometh against him shall do according to his own will, and none shall stand before him; and he shall stand in the glorious land, and in his hand shall be destruction.

17. And he shall set his face to come with the strength of his whole kingdom, and with him equitable conditions; and he shall perform them: and he shall give him the daughter of women, to corrupt her; but she shall not stand, neither be for him.

18. After this shall he turn his face unto the isles, and shall take many: but a prince shall cause the reproach offered by him to cease; yea, moreover, he shall cause his reproach to turn upon him.

19. Then he shall turn his face toward the fortresses of his own land; but he shall stumble and fall, and shall not be found.

20. Then shall stand up in his place one that shall cause an exactor to pass through the glory of the kingdom; but within few days he shall be destroyed, neither in anger, nor in battle.

21. And in his place shall stand up a contemptible person, to whom they had not given the honor of the kingdom: but he shall come in time of security, and shall obtain the kingdom by flatteries.

22. And the overwhelming forces shall be overwhelmed from before him, and shall be broken; yea, also the prince of the covenant.

23. And after the league made with him he shall work deceitfully; for he shall come up, and shall become strong, with a small people.

11. And in BC217 Ptolemy IV Philopator (222-203) will press the Fourth Syrian war at Raphia (20 mi. SW of Gaza) with an army of 70,000 foot soldiers, 5,000 horsemen and 73 elephants, and will defeat 62,000 soldiers, 6,000 horsemen and 102 larger (Asian) elephants.

12. When he will take multitudes captive, he will give himself to vice and will seek to enter into the Temple at Jerusalem, and returning to Alexandria in anger he will slay 40,000 Jews, but Egypt will be weakened;

13. For Antiochus will strengthen himself and raise a still larger army and will retake Judea in BC201 from the child-king Ptolemy V Epiphanes (203-181).

14. In the days of Ptolemy V, Antiochus, Philip V of Macedonia, and many nations will turn against Egypt; and the rebels of Judea also, but the Egyptian general Scopas will conquer them;

15. Then will Antiochus return (and defeat Scopas at Panium) and besiege him at Sidon: three elite relief forces will fail; so Scopas and his army will surrender and be humiliated, about BC200.

16. But Antiochus will conquer at will, (and will be welcomed by the Jews,) and the battlefield will be Judea.

17. Antiochus will seek to gain Egypt by strategy and in a peace treaty will give his daughter Cleopatra I (ca. 195-174) to Ptolemy, ca. BC195, with a dowry to have included Judea. But Cleopatra will not help her father.

18. Antiochus will capture many Mediterranean ports, but the Roman general Scipio will defeat him and put him twelve years to tribute in BC189.

19. To raise the tribute he will attempt to plunder the temple of Jupiter Belus in Elymias, but he will be slain with all his attendants.

20. Then Seleucus IV Philopator (187-175) will collect the annual 1000-talents tribute for the Romans, and will send Heliodorus to rob the Temple in Jerusalem, but a few years later Heliodorus will slay him (and attempt to seize the throne).

21. And though Demetrius, the son of Seleucus, is the rightful heir, and Heliodorus and Ptolemy VI Philometor (181-146), son of Cleopatra, will also seek the throne, Demetrius' uncle Antiochus IV Epiphanes (175-164) will flatter the Pergamuns and Syrians and buy off the Romans, and become king and live lasciviously;

22. And all opposition forces will be dissipated, and Jason will bribe him to take the office of high priest in Jerusalem from his brother Onias III, but their youngest brother Menelaus will offer a bigger bribe and thus in turn replace Jason as high priest. [Those who piously refused to accept the appointment of a Gentile king became the Pharisees; the wealthy minority became known as the Sadducees.]

23. Antiochus will use friendship pacts for treachery and will thus obtain Judea.

24. In time of security shall he come even upon the fattest places of the province; and he shall do that which his fathers have not done, nor his fathers' fathers; he shall scatter among them prey, and spoil, and substance: yea, he shall devise his devices against the strongholds, even for a time.

25. And he shall stir up his power and his courage against the king of the south with a great army; and the king of the south shall war in battle with an exceeding great and mighty army; but he shall not stand; for they shall devise devices against him.

26. Yea, they that eat of his dainties shall destroy him, and his army shall overflow; and many shall fall down slain.

27. And as for both these kings, their hearts shall be to do mischief, and they shall speak lies at one table: but it shall not prosper; for yet the end shall be at the time appointed.

28. Then shall he return into his land with great substance; and his heart *shall be* against the holy covenant; and he shall do *his pleasure*, and return to his own land.

29. At the time appointed he shall return, and come into the south; but it shall not be in the latter time as it was in the former.

30. For ships of Kittim shall come against him; therefore he shall be grieved, and shall return, and have indignation against the holy covenant, and shall do *his pleasure*: he shall even return, and have regard unto them that forsake the holy covenant.

31. And forces shall stand on his part, and they shall profane the sanctuary, even the fortress, and shall take away the continual *burnt-offering*, and they shall set up the abomination that maketh desolate.

32. And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he pervert by flatteries; but the people that know their God shall be strong, and do *exploits*.

33. And they that are wise among the people shall instruct many; yet they shall fall by the sword and by flame, by captivity and by spoil, *many* days.

34. Now when they shall fall, they shall be helped with a little help; but many shall join themselves unto them with flatteries.

35. And some of them that are wise shall fall, to refine them, and to purify, and to make them white, even to the time of the end; because it is yet for the time appointed.

24. He will be extravagant and will prefer intrigue to armed force for awhile;

25. And then in BC169 he will go into Egypt and take the land from Pelusium to Memphis, for Ptolemy's allies will desert to Antiochus,

26. And Ptolemy will be ruined by his own ministers, and his army will be beaten, and many will be slain;

27. And they will confer for peace but will plot each other's destruction, yet neither will succeed.

28. And Antiochus will take much spoils with him. And en route to his own land, finding that Jason (had heard he was dead and) had taken Jerusalem, Antiochus shall capture the city, slay 40,000, sell another 40,000 as slaves, pollute the Temple and altar with swine, profane the Most Holy, and take the golden vessels.

29. But Antiochus shall fail in his plot to set Physcon against his brother Ptolemy VI, and so in BC168 he shall again come into Egypt, but with different results;

30. For Mediterranean (Roman) ships shall come to Alexandria, and Popilius will order him to withdraw. And Antiochus shall send his tax collector Apollonius to Jerusalem, slaughter many people, outlaw Judaism, consecrate the Temple to Jupiter Olympus, and compel all by penalty of death to conform to the religion of the Greeks. [Then Judea revolted in BC166 under the Maccabees. Antiochus died raving mad. The priesthood did not support the revolt; so when it was successful, Simon Maccabee was appointed high priest ca. BC140. The Zadokite priesthood then withdrew from the Jewish community and formed the Qumran community in the desert, from whom came the Dead Sea Scrolls.]

31. And the Roman forces will take his kingdom (and Judea) in BC63, and they will crucify Christ (at the insistence of the Jews) in AD33 April 3, and destroy the Temple (and all Jerusalem) in AD68-70, (decimate/exile Jewry,) and set up the Roman Catholic Church in the image of the Babylonian/Greek/Roman pantheon;²

32. And those who sin against the Lord's people will heathen Rome corrupt by promotion and wealth, but in spite of it the truly Christian will be zealous for Him and grow stronger.

33. And Christians will make converts throughout the Empire (and beyond), even though Rome will slay them, burn them, imprison them, and confiscate their goods for many centuries.

34. Now after the Diocletian persecution Constantine will grant relief in March 313, and then many unregenerate will also profess Christianity;

35. Then still more faithful Christians will be slain even until the Gospel Age harvest, but it will not hurt the spiritual development of the true church.

² Note parallels to Antiochus, who removed the high priest at the urging of a Jew, plundered the Temple, and established the heathen worship with Jupiter/Satan at the head.

36. And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods; and he shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished; for that which is determined shall be done.

37. Neither shall he regard the gods of his fathers, nor the desire of women, nor regard any god; for he shall magnify himself above all.

38. But in his place shall he honor the god of fortresses; and a god whom his fathers knew not shall he honor with gold, and silver, and with precious stones, and pleasant things.

39. And he shall deal with the strongest fortresses by the help of a foreign god: whosoever acknowledgeth *him* he will increase with glory; and he shall cause them to rule over many, and shall divide the land for a price.

40. And at the time of the end shall the king of the south contend with him; and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass through.

41. He shall enter also into the glorious land, and many *countries* shall be overthrown; but these shall be delivered out of his hand: Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon.

42. He shall stretch forth his hand also upon the countries; and the land of Egypt shall not escape.

43. But he shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt; and the Libyans and the Ethiopians shall be at his steps.

44. But tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him; and he shall go forth with great fury to destroy and utterly to sweep away many.

45. And he shall plant the tents of his palace between the sea and the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him.

12:1 And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince who standeth for the children of thy people; and there shall be a time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.

2. And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

3. And they that are wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.

36. Then the Pope will be his own law and will exalt himself above everything in earth or heaven and will accuse God of eternal torture, etc., and he will succeed for many centuries, reaching his peak power under Innocent III in AD1198-1216;

37. The Pope will exalt himself above the Roman pantheon, will impose clerical celibacy, and will put down every other god, true or false:

38. But instead he will respect only the right of might and will install the worship of Mary and patron saints and will build immense institutions for that worship;

39. And he will employ Mariolatry against the Almighty and His people, he will crown and rule over the kings and emperors of Europe, and he will extort bribes for distributing lands.

40. And in later times the Ottoman Empire will threaten the papacy, and England will rebel from Rome under Henry VIII and subsequently establish a vast empire, taking some of it from Roman Catholic countries.

41. The British will intercede in the 1878 Berlin Congress of Nations to open up Palestine, and will conquer many lands, but Trans-Jordan and its capitol Amman will be unaffected at this time.

42. And Britain will occupy Egypt in 1882 and many countries;

43. And they will control vast mineral and archaeological treasures; and from Egypt they will begin expanding into the Libyan desert and into Black Africa.

44. But military preparations in Germany and the other Central Powers will cause Britain to engage in World War I.

45. And in December 1917 British General Allenby will take Jerusalem, and assume mandate over Palestine, but the mighty British Empire will subsequently disintegrate and die. [Consequently, Israel was reborn on 1948 May 15.]

12:1 And at the time of the end shall Christ return with strength ("all power") to bring Israel back, starting in 1878, and then World War I will begin the greatest worldwide time of trouble since the Flood, and thereafter He will complete His church;

2. And all the world's dead will be resurrected in the Millennial Kingdom, those who obey and progress will receive everlasting life and the honor that goes with it, but those who will persist in disobedience will be cut off in second death and be regarded odiously;

3. And the wise body of Christ will shine together as the Sun in the Kingdom of their Father, and the Ancient Worthies will lead the multitudes back to righteousness and will each shine for ever and ever.

Scripture text is from the American Standard Version (1901).

Notes on Daniel 11

by verse

1. A good case for Darius being Astyages [*Greek*, Cyaxares, or Xerxes], the last ruler of the Medes, and father-in-law of Cyrus the Persian, is made in "Darius the Mede," *Bible Study Monthly* 57, 5, p108-110, Sept./Oct. 1980 [England].

2. Here begins the explanation promised in Dan 10:14. Some may prefer to add Bardiya (*Greek*, Smerdis) immediately after Cambyses, and drop Cyrus, as the latter had already "stood up" by Cyrus' 3rd year. [Current ignorance as to whether he was really Bardiya, the other son of Cyrus, or Gaumata, a Magian from the Medes, is well summarized in "The Cambridge Ancient History", 2nd Edn., ed. John Boardman, N.G.L. Hammond, D.M. Lewis, M. Ostwald, vol. 4; Cambridge Univ. Press, 1988.]

4. In response to Antigonus' claim to Alexander's undivided empire, Ptolemy, Cassander, Lysimachus, and Seleucus united against him in the Spring of BC315. In BC305 the allies divided the empire into four parts and declared themselves kings: Ptolemy I, king of Egypt; Seleucus I, king of Syria/Babylon; Lysimachus, king of Thrace; and Cassander, king of Macedonia/Greece.^{3*} Compare these four new kings with the four horns of Dan 8:8 and four wings of Dan 7:6 (cf. also the four heads). [Antigonus died in BC301 at the decisive battle of Ipsus, the largest battle in Grecian history, with 75,000 on each side. But his descendants took the Macedonian Kingdom.]

5. As Macedonian domination of Judea is at this point already past, and Thrace never dominated Judea (until Constantine moved his capitol there in AD 330, at Constantinople), the LORD's people are henceforward concerned only with the king(s) of the south and the king(s) of the north, i.e., of Egypt and of Syria - until the coming of Rome. ["Princes" = military chiefs.]

6. The Berenice II episode triggered the series of events that ended Ptolemaic rule in Judea. Years which have little impact on Judea (including the preceding twenty five) are ignored in the prophecies.

The five Syrian Wars were:

- 1a. BC 280 - 279 (or Carian War, or Damascus War)
- 1b. ca. 276 - 272 [in Syria, Judea not involved]
2. ca. 260 - 255 [primarily in Asia Minor]
3. 246 - 241 [revenge war, north of Judea]
4. 219 - 217 [Egypt keeps Judea]
5. 201 - ca.195 [Egypt loses Judea to Syria]

11. Ptolemy may have had only 50,000 foot soldiers. Polybius' history is ambiguous.

30. The Maccabean Revolt was not the LORD's kingdom, and was only partially successful; so it is ignored in the prophecy.

31. "Profane" (*Heb.* "chahal"), Gesenius: "pierce through" - i.e., "crucify."

"The sanctuary, even the fortress" - Christ as high priest and king.

40. "Time of the end" - period of the decline and fall of the Papal Roman Empire.

41. Britain took Trans-Jordan from the Ottoman Empire (Turkey) only after taking Jerusalem, i.e., in 1918. [Alternatively, this could refer to the first British entry into Palestine, as an ally of Turkey against Napoleon.]

12:1. "At that time" - that is, during the time spoken of in 11:40-45, which includes 1874. Christ's return impacts both fleshly and spiritual Israel. "Children of thy people...thy people" - fleshly Israel...spiritual Israel.

2. What is explicitly stated for one group (e.g., everlasting life) implies the opposite for the other group (e.g., second death), and vice-versa (honor vs. shame and contempt). This is common Hebrew expression.

The *soft* parts of this explanation appear to be: 41. whether 40 (or 120) years respite for Trans-Jordan fulfills "deliverance", and 43. if British occupation of desert qualifies Libya as being "at his steps" (=in his path?). [Verse 24 can be elaborated.] The strengths are that it is in chronological order, it appears consistent with history as we now know it, and it stresses events of greatest concern to fleshly Israel and spiritual Israel.

RECOMMENDED REFERENCES

"Daniel the Beloved of Jehovah;" Brooklyn: Pastoral Bible Inst., 1928.

³ Coins of all four kingdoms, many showing their king's head with diadem, still testify to "King _____" (Ptolemy...Cleopatra; Seleucus, Antiochus...; Lysimachus; Demetrius...Philip, Perseus). E.g., see Charles Seltman, "Greek Coins"; London: Methuen, 1933.

[Randolph Elwood Streeter (d. Dec. 1924) wrote chapters 1-13. Chapters 14-16 were added posthumously and might be considered of lesser quality.]

Max Cary, "A History of the Greek World from 323 to 146 B.C.", 2nd edn.; London: Methuen, 1951.

Selected Rulers of the Grecian Empire

The important kings/queen and regents of Macedonia were:

Kings/Queen		Regents	
BC			
359-336	Philip II		–
336-323	Alexander III (Great)		–
323-317	Philip III Arridaeus	323-319	Antipater
		319-317	Polyperchon
317-316	Olympias (mother, Alex. III)	317-	Cassander (son of Antipater)
305-297	Cassander (son of Antipater)		
294-288	Demetrius I (son of Antigonus I, son-in-law of Antipater)		
288-281	Lysimachus (king of Thrace)		
276-239	Antigonus II Gonatas		
229-221	Antigonus III Doson		
221-179	Philip V		
179-167	Perseus		
	[conquered by Rome]		

Other Grecian Kings/Queens

Egypt		Syria/Babylon		Thrace
305-285	Ptolemy I Soter	305-281	Seleucus I Nicator	305-281 Lysimachus
285-246	Ptolemy II Philadelphus	281-261	Antiochus I Soter	[end of Kingdom
		261-247	Antiochus II Theos	of Thrace]
246-221	Ptolemy III Evergetes I	247-226	Seleucus II Callinicus	
		226-223	Seleucus III Soter	
221-203	Ptolemy IV Philopator	223-187	Antiochus III (the Great)	
203-181	Ptolemy V Epiphanes	187-175	Seleucus IV Philopator	
181-145	Ptolemy VI Philometor	175-163	Antiochus IV Epiphanes [the worst!]	
		162-150	Demetrius I Soter	
		150-	Demetrius II vs. Balas, etc.	
145-116	Ptolemy VII (Physcon)	139-129	Antiochus VII Sidetes	
116-108	Ptolemy VIII (Lathyrus)	125- 96	Antiochus VIII Grypus	
108- 88	Ptolemy IX Alexander I			
88- 80	Ptolemy VIII [again]			
80- 51	Ptolemy XI (Auletes)			
51- 30	Cleopatra VII			
	[conquered by Rome]			
			[conquered by Armenia BC83-69]	
			[conquered by Rome BC63]	

90Dec16

Daniel 11 Supplement

An alternative historical explanation

View of C.T. Russell, S.S. Vol. 3, Thy Kingdom Come (1891), p23-63.

Daniel 11:1-13 remain as before (verses generally agreed upon).

Paraphrase (from history)

Comment

14. Antiochus and Philip V of Macedonia will endeavor to partition the Ptolemaic kingdom, and many peoples will support them; "the sons of the breakers...of thy people" - the Romans - shall arise to come into prophesied power. The Grecian kings will fall within 150 years (or, Rome will eventually fall).

15. Then will Antiochus return (and defeat the Egyptian general Scopas at Panium) and besiege Scopas at Sidon, three of Egypt's elite relief forces will fail; so they will surrender and be humiliated.

16. But Rome shall conquer Syria and Judea in BC63, Pompey will slay 12,000 at Jerusalem, damage the Temple, tear down the city walls, and impose tribute.

17. Pompey, then Julius Caesar, will be guardian of Ptolemy VII and Cleopatra (51-30), 3,000 Jews will join Antipater the Idumean [Edomite] in support of Caesar, who will take Cleopatra and corrupt her, but she will later defect to his rival Mark Anthony.

Who gave Cleopatra?

18. Caesar will leave Egypt to defeat Pharnaces, king of the Cimmerian [Gomerian] Bosphorus. (Latter part of verse is obscure.)

What is the reproach?

19. After cleaning up in Asia Minor, Egypt, and Spain, Caesar will return to Rome as dictator for life, and be assassinated in BC44.

20. He will be succeeded by Octavius (Augustus), BC44-AD14, best known for his taxations (25% of annual income for citizens, 12.5% for freed men) [Lk 2:1]; he will die peacefully within a few years after his last taxation (AD6 or 13), or a few years after the zenith of his power.

few days?

21. He will be succeeded by Tiberius, AD14-37, a cruel, sensuous, and debauched ruler, who will receive the kingdom through the intercession of his mother Livia (then married to Augustus).

22. Tiberius will finally be murdered by the praetorian prefect Macro. Jesus Christ will also be crucified during his reign.

sequence?

23. After the Senate recognizes Tiberius, he will rule by organizing the Praetorian Guard, comprising only 10,000-20,000 soldiers. [Uriah Smith backtracks and applies this prophecy to the league made between the Jews and Rome in BC161.]

24. Augustus and his successors will choose to preserve the peace of the kingdom, rather than make substantial acquisitions.

25. Queen Zenobia of Palmyra will rebel in AD269-272, taking Egypt, Syria, and Asia Minor, but Aurelian will vanquish her and return to Rome with great spoils.

she or he?

26. Aurelian will be assassinated by his own generals; his army will be successful, though many will be slain.

27. The dying Imperial powers and the rising Ecclesiastical powers will conspire together, but their union will be postponed (to AD539, lest it bring the 1260 years to an end prematurely).

28. Aurelian will return to Rome with great spoils, and issue edicts against Christians in his 5th year, but he will die before many can be martyred.

sequence?

29. {Parenthetically, Napoleon will again invade Egypt (see vs. 40), but it won't be like in the days of Cleopatra or Zenobia.

Why a parenthesis here?

30. The British navy under Adm. Nelson (as an ally of Rome) will hinder Napoleon's conquest. Napoleon will momentarily sign a concordat with the pope, but he shall change his mind and operate against the Church of Rome. }

31. Papal power shall arise, polluting principles of both civil government and true religion, setting up Transubstantiation and the Sacrifices of the Mass as the abomination that maketh desolate (the sacrifice of Christ).

32. Unfaithful professing Christians will fall easy prey to Papal flatteries. But the faithful among Christians will be strengthened by the persecutions.

33. The Lord's host - the "wise" - shall teach the faithful, though the faithful shall be hunted, imprisoned, racked, tortured, and put to death (AD539-1799).

34. Amidst the Papal persecutions, the Reformation will give some respite. But kings and princes will give honors and titles to Protestants to corrupt them.

35. Some leaders, reformers, and teachers - although they expose Papacy's errors - shall fall, which will try the faithful few to cleanse them.

36. Napoleon shall do whatever he attempts and shall exalt himself over the other mighty rulers, and he will denounce the pope; he will prosper until papacy is subjected and its influence over the minds of the people is broken. [Gen. Berthier took the pope prisoner to France 1798 Feb. 20, where he died in 1799. (Napoleon then took charge and prevented election of a new pope until March 1800.)]

37. Napoleon will show no respect to Papacy or to Protestant sects; he will be controlled only by his own personal ambition.

38. Instead of Ecclesiasticism, he will honor military power; he will bring great spoils back to France.

39. Napoleon will put his friends into power in foreign lands, demanding absolute loyalty but no bribes.

40. Napoleon will war against Egypt from May 1798, and against the British army and navy (which destroyed his fleet of 13 ships 1798 Aug. 1), until his return to France 1799 Oct. 9, which begins the time of the end for Rome and this world.

[U. Smith and R.E. Streeter say Turkey here becomes king of the north.]

41. He shall campaign in Palestine and Syria 1799 March-May and conquer Joppa and many other cities, but he will by-pass Trans-Jordan.

good

42. Napoleon will return and defeat 10,000 Turks at Aboukir, thus reestablishing his authority over the treasures of Egypt.

43. He will retain authority over the treasures of Egypt [until his departure to France] (without opposition from Libya and Ethiopia?).

44. But tidings of an alliance against France by the Ottoman Empire, England, Russia, Austria, and Naples will bring him quickly back to France, and he will make war against them.

45. Napoleon will encamp and fight at Mt. Tabor (the mount of transfiguration). [He also visited Mt. Sinai.] But in 1821 May 5 he shall die in exile, with none to help him.

sequence problem

12:1. Then (between 1799 and 1914) will Christ return with power for Israel, the church, and ultimately the whole world, and the greatest worldwide trouble since the Flood will begin in 1914, and thereafter will be the salvation of Israel and all those desiring to be God's people.

2. In the resurrection, all who do well will receive eternal life, but many will be ashamed of what they had previously done.

3. And the church will shine as the Sun in the Kingdom of their Father; the ancient worthies and other honorables will be honored proportionately to their honorable efforts.

90De25

Daniel 11 Supplement

An alternative historical explanation
View of R.E. Streeter (ca. 1924).

The principal differences are confined to the Ottoman Turks as a fulfillment of vss. 40-45:

Paraphrase (from history)

40. And at the time for the decline and fall of the Papal Roman Empire, the Saracens (Arabs) will attack Christendom [seizing Spain, Sicily and Calabria, and attacking Rome in AD846], and then the Ottoman Turks [north of Judea] in the 14th-17th centuries will come with large armies and navies and take what had been the East Roman Empire away from Christendom.

41. The Turks under Selim I will take Palestine in 1516, and Suliman will take Hungary, Babylonia, and many nations early in the Reformation, but the desert Arabs will not be conquered.

42. They will subjugate most of the Near East and the Balkans, and Egypt will have been taken in 1517.

43. They will be masters of Egypt (until the coming of the British in 1882), and they will rule North Africa in the 16th and 17th centuries.

44. After 1928: Something about "the Eastern question" and involving Europe would cause Turkey to amass its full strength, but be expelled from Europe,

45. And to make its last stand against Papacy in Palestine/Israel.

[Cf. Ez 38-39, Gog/Magog...Togarmah.]

Comment

Are the Saracens too early?

But Trans-Jordan was taken

non-chronological

What about Ethiopia(=Cush)?

attractive cross-reference

Notes

43. While "Cush" predominately denotes Black Africa (esp. Ethiopia and Sudan), it occasionally refers to other black countries. Perhaps it could refer to Shinar (= Sumeria, = Old Babylonia)? or to the islands in the Indian Ocean also conquered and ruled by the Ottomans? Nevertheless, this appears to be a weak point.

45. The Turks' loss of Palestine to the British in Dec. 1917 might also be studied as a potential fulfillment of "he shall come to his end" (though the alliance of the Central Powers could also violate "and none shall help him").

J\Dan11ww90Dc07

The Dragon and the Woman

Rev 12:1-18 (ASV)

1 And a great sign was seen in heaven: a woman arrayed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars;

2 and she was the child; and she crieth out, travailing in birth, and in pain to be delivered.

3 And there was seen another sign in heaven: and behold, a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his heads seven diadems.

4 And his tail draweth the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon standeth before the woman that is about to be delivered, that when she is delivered he may devour her child.

5 And she was delivered of a son, a man child, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and unto his throne.

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

7 And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels *going forth* to war with the dragon; and the dragon warred and his angels;

8 And they prevailed not, neither was their place found any more in heaven.

9 And the great dragon was cast down, the old serpent, he that is called the Devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world; he was cast down to the earth, and his angels were cast down with him.

10 And I heard a great voice in heaven, saying, Now is come the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, who accuseth 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 loved not their life even unto death.

12 Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe for the earth and for the sea: because the devil is gone down unto you, having great wrath, knowing that he hath but a short time.

13 And when the dragon saw that he was cast down to the earth, he persecuted the woman that brought forth the man *child*.

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

Rev 12:1-18

1 A remarkable symbolic picture of spiritual things was seen: The grace covenant with the Old and New Testaments and the 12 apostles:

2 Christ during His First Advent was straitened by the things which He suffered.

3 Another symbolic picture of spiritual things was seen: a bloody Tyrant, the inspiration of Babylon, Medo-Persia, Macedonia (Grecia), Egypt, Syria, Rome and Thrace; and the inspiration for the Roman remnants: the Heruli, Ostrogoths, Lombards (all absorbed into Italy), Anglo-Saxons (English), Allemanni (Germans), Franks (French), Burgundians, Visigoths (Spanish), Suevi (Portuguese), and one other (Vandals?); the first seven were successive world capitals, with one ruling ca. 95 AD.

4 Satan's followers corrupted many religious leaders: And Herod, the chief priest, scribes, Pharisees, and the Roman government were all employed to finally exterminate Christ;

5 But Christ had been fully developed under the grace covenant; so he was resurrected and ascended into heaven with all power.

6 And the grace covenant operated outside the great religious systems, especially during the height of Papal domination ca. 539-1799 AD.

7 Christ and His followers struggled spiritually against the wiles of Satan, and Satan and his followers fought back,

8 But the heathen religion, that worshipped Satan outright, lost and was outlawed:

9 Then Satan in his four characteristics - corruptions of power, wisdom, love, and justice - and the other heathen gods were no longer worshipped (directly).

10 and Christians expressed relief at the spiritual vindication of their Lord in the eyes of the world, and the fall of their accuser (devil):

11 Christians overcame not with weapons of Satan but with the sacrifice of Christ, and personal witness, even unto death.

12 Let the spiritually-minded rejoice, but the earthly-minded should worry because Satan has a few more centuries.

13 And when Satan saw that people would no longer worship him as Jupiter (Wotan, Zeus, Osiris, Ashur, Marduk, Baal, etc.), he used civil governments the more strongly to persecute the (children of the) grace covenant;

14 And the covenant was given strength to operate outside the great system of deception for AD 539-1799;

15 And the serpent cast out of his mouth after the woman water as a river, that he might cause her to be carried away by the stream.

16 And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth and swallowed up the river which the dragon cast out of his mouth.

17 And the dragon waxed wroth with the woman, and went away to make war with the rest of her seed, that keep the commandments of God, and hold the testimony of Jesus:

18 and he stood upon the sand of the sea.

15 And Satan as deceiver used the French Revolution to set great masses of people against Christianity;

16 But the nations of Europe became limited monarchies to reabsorb the discontented masses.

17 And Satan kept trying by using governments to disrupt the operation of the covenant, and tried other means to destroy the rest of the true church,

18 And he used populist movements.

The Ten-Horned and Two-Horned Beasts

Rev 13:1-18 (ASV)

1 And I saw a beast coming up out of the sea, having ten horns, and seven heads, and on his horns ten diadems, and upon his heads names of blasphemy.

2 And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as *the feet* of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his throne, and great authority.

3 And *I saw* one of his heads as though it had been smitten unto death; and his death-stroke was healed: and the whole earth wondered after the beast;

4 and they worshipped the dragon, because he gave his authority unto the beast; and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? And who is able to war with him?

5 and there was given to him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and there was given to him authority to continue forty and two months.

6 And he opened his mouth for blasphemies against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, *even* them that dwell in the heaven.

7 And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and there was given to him authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation.

8 And all that dwell on the earth shall worship him, *every one* whose name hath not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb that hath been slain.

9 If any man hath an ear, let him hear.

Rev 13:1-18

1 And I saw Papal government arising out of unstable social conditions, having all the characteristics of Satan himself, only now since AD 476 the ten nations were reigning. All seven capitals had professed the divine right of kings.⁴

2 And Papal government looked (culturally?) like the Grecian Empire, walked heavily like the Medes and Persians, and devoured (or spoke) like Babylon: and Satan gave his power, throne, and authority to the Papacy.

3 the West Roman Empire was terminated in 476 by Odoacer and his Heruli nation, but decades later the pope spearheaded a revival of Roman power, and the whole world was amazed that Rome had again become the capital of the world;

4 And they worshipped Satan through the medium of papal government, saying, Nothing can stand against papacy;

5 And papal government claimed to be of God and Christ, etc.; and it was permitted to continue from AD 539 to 1799, when Napoleon (temporarily) prevented both election and installation of a new pope.

6 And papal pronouncements blasphemed God, misrepresenting His character and faithful Christians also.

7 [*first sentence may be spurious*] And Satan gave Papacy civil authority over all lands where true spiritual Israel was;

8 And everyone not spiritually-minded will submit to Papacy, because they are not yet on trial for life.

9 But this understanding is only for the spirit-begotten:

⁴ Odoacer, leader of the Heruli, captured Rome and terminated the diadem of the West Roman Empire in AD 476, and thereupon created for himself the diadem of Italy (reigning from Ravenna). The following other nations began minting their own coins around or shortly after AD 476, and they soon show the diadem added to their kings (with approximate year of issue): Vandals (490), Franks (500), Ostrogoths (535), Allemanni (540), Burgundians (570), Visigoths (580), Anglo-Saxons (600), and Lombards (690). The diadem on coinage represented the right to conduct business throughout the former Roman Empire.

10 If any man *is* for captivity, into captivity he goeth: if any man shall kill with the sword, with the sword must he be killed. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.

11 And I saw another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like unto lamb, and he spake as a dragon.

12 And he exerciseth all the authority of the first beast in his sight. And he maketh the earth and them dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose death-stroke was healed.

13 And he doeth great signs, that he should even make fire to come down out of heaven upon the earth in the sight of men.

14 And he deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by reason of the signs which it was given him to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast who hath the stroke of the sword and lived.

15 And it was given *unto him* to give breath to it, *even* to the image to the breast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as should not worship the image of the beast should be killed.

16 And he causeth all, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free and the bond, that there be given them a mark on their right hand, or upon their forehead;

17 and that no man should be able to buy or to sell, save he that hath the mark, *even* the name of the beast or the number of his name.

18 Here is wisdom. He that hath understanding, let him count the number of the beast; for it is the number of a man: and his number is Six hundred and sixty and six.

10 They who now rule will be ruled over (in Christ's Kingdom), those who profess to slay by the word of God will be slain according to it (in the Gospel Age harvest); this justifies the patience of the saints

11 And I saw another kingdom arising out of stable conditions; the Kingdom of England and Ireland (or Anglo-Saxons) professed to be Christian but spoke like Satan;

12 And this kingdom exercised power like Rome, although Rome was still powerful. And at first he supported Rome, that had been nothing in AD 476-538.

13 And Henry VIII claimed God was the power behind his destructiveness,

14 And he deceived the people, and persuaded them to form the Anglican church-state in the image of Papal Rome;

15 And this king, as head over both state and church, used this union vigorously to destroy both Catholics and non-Anglican Protestants.

16 And he compelled all to either go along with the unholy spirit or to be in heart-sympathy with it:

17 And no one else was allowed to prosper.

18 This takes wisdom: Let the faithful Christian sum up Roman domination thus: This reign is not from God but from fallen man, and its number 666 means totally corrupt. In the Greek the number was formed (e.g., in the 3rd century Chester Beatty Papyrus) by inserting the symbol of the serpent into (the abbreviation of) the name of Christ [$\chi\xi\varsigma$]. The numerical equivalent of the ancient Greek word for Rome, Lateinos, is (30+1+300+5+10+50+70+200 =) 666 (as suggested by Irenaeus around AD 180). Romiith, the Hebrew for Roman (*kingdom*); Vicarivs Filii Dei (Vicar of the Son of God, said to have been inscribed by one of the popes over the door of the Vatican⁵), Vicarivs Generalis Dei in Terris (Universal Vicar of God in Earth, E.B. Elliott thinks it was an appellation given the Pope at the Council of Trent), Dux Cleri (Head of the Clergy, Foxe says Walter Brute proposed this solution), and Pavlo V. Vice Deo (Pope Paul V, like God, 1605-1621; appellation by a Jesuit in a thesis dedication, which created a stir in Venice), all in Latin; and even Catoolikee Lateen, the Arabic for Roman Catholic, all add up to 666 in their respective languages.

⁵ Whether it was/is on the papal tiara remains to be determined.

The Beast and Harlot Exposed

Rev 17:1-18 (ASV)

1 And there came one of the seven angels that had the seven bowls, and spake with me, saying, Come hither, I will show thee the judgment of the great harlot that sitteth upon many waters;

2 with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and they that dwell in the earth were made drunken with the wine of her fornication.

3 And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness: and I saw a woman sitting upon a scarlet-colored beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.

4 And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and decked with gold and precious stone and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations, even the unclean things of her fornication,

5 and upon her forehead a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF THE HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

6 And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I wondered with a great wonder.

7 And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou wonder? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and the ten horns.

8 The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and is about to come up out of the abyss, and to go into perdition. And they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, *they* whose name hath not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast, how that he was, and is not, and shall come.

9 Here is the mind that hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth:

10 and they are seven kings; the five are fallen, the one is, the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a little while.

11 And the beast that was, and is not, is himself also an eighth, and is of the seven; and he goeth into perdition.

12 And the ten horns that thou sawest are ten kings, who have received no kingdom as yet; but they receive authority as kings, with the beast, for one hour.

13 These have one mind, and they give their power and authority unto the beast.

14 These shall war against the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them, for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings; and they *also shall overcome* that are with him, called and chosen and faithful.

Rev 17:1-18

1 One of the seven messengers said, I will show you the judgment of the Roman Church which lives off many peoples:

2 Who has united herself with earthly kings instead of Christ, and by her teachings the people have become insane towards truth and righteousness;

3 And he took me outside denominationalism altogether, and then I could see the Roman Church controlling the bloody beast of worldly government, now claiming Rome to be the Eternal City authorized by God, which is blasphemy. In the world where Christians and Jews sojourned there were seven world capitals and then ten remnant (all Germanic) nations.

4 And the Roman Church was clothed in royal apparel, gilded with those promises actually reserved for the bride of Christ, and she offers abominable teachings and dirty works disguised as the divine will:

5 And her mind was known only to the initiated: Babylon the Great, the mother church from which sprang many, many state-churches and all kinds of abominations;

6 And I saw that the Roman Church was insane from slaying those of the little flock and other Christians: And she amazed me.

7 And the messenger asked why I was amazed, and said, I will reveal to you what the Roman Church and governments are all about, with their seven capitals and ten remnant nations:

8 The Roman capital goes out of existence temporarily and will revive, but will alter be destroyed utterly. And all who will not be on trial for life before the Millennium will be amazed.

9 The wise shall know: the seven heads are the seven kingdoms whose traditions have gone into making the Roman Church,

10 And they are seven capitals: Babylon, Medo-Persia, Macedonia (Grecia), Egypt, and Syria successively ruled and fell, Rome is reigning in AD 95, and Thrace will reign (again?) when the capital of the Empire is moved to Constantinople (early 4th century AD).

11 And the government that goes temporarily out of existence will revive as Papal Rome, as an eighth (like iron and miry clay), but Papal Rome is still part of the kingdom of this world and will be destroyed.

12 And the ten horns are ten kingdoms not existing in AD 95 (Ashkenaz in Gen 10), but they will become independent later;

13 They have one intention, and they support Rome.

14 These nations may profess to be Christian but they oppose Christ, and Christ and His church will defeat them because Christ is stronger.

15 And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the harlot sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.

16 And the ten horns which thou sawest, and the beast, these shall hate the harlot, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and shall burn her utterly with fire.

17 For God did put in their hearts to do his mind, and to come to one mind, and to give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God should be accomplished.

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

15 And he told me the waters that the harlot dominates are (all?) the families of the earth.

16 And then the ten nations and Roman government will change and turn against the Roman church and will destroy, expose, expropriate, and destroy her completely;

17 For God maketh the wrath of men to praise Him, even in letting them support the Roman beast until the day of vengeance.

18 And the woman represents the great Roman church which has a kingdom over the (other) earthly kingdoms.

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Variations

There exist alternative viewpoints for several greater or smaller parts of these chapters.

Dan 2: The principal question is in vss. 34-35, whether the smiting of the image occurred in World War I, will occur in Armageddon, or is a continuous process from World War I to Armageddon.

Dan 7: There are a number of slight variations in identifying the ten horns; compare SS Vol. 1, p. 258 with Vol. 3, p. 76-77; also Streeter p. 183-192 and C.J. Woodworth p. 184. But Streeter p. 202-215 identifies them as the Ten Papal States.

There is also a question whether Thrace was a head ca. BC 300 or in the 4th-5th centuries AD, or both.

Dan 8: The little horn was identified as Antiochus Epiphanes by most Jews and Christians until the 19th century. Elliott, Guinness, and Streeter think it is Mohammedanism.

The 2300 days in SS Vol. 3, p. 107, 119 is given from BC 454 to AD 1846, when an Evangelical Alliance was convoked. Streeter p. 276-277 gives it from Ezra's departure BC 457 Nisan 1 to Turkish acquiescence to halt executions of Christian converts AD 1844 March 21.

Dan 11: Opinions begin to diverge in vs. 6, where some take the King of the North to be Grecia and Rome (SS Vol. 3, p. 27). Opinions come together and diverge often through the chapter. E.g., all agree vs. 17 refers to Cleopatra, but which Cleopatra? (There were several between BC 185 and 30.) In the main, SS Vol. 3, p. 28-37 endorses the Adventist view through vs. 31, and then applies the last of the chapter to Napoleon. Streeter p. 387-403 applies the last of the chapter to the Ottoman Empire. Other possibilities, Russia or Rome, are not known to have advocates.

Rev 12: The woman, man-child, and dragon are identified as the Gospel church, Man of Sin (papal heirarchy), and Pagan Rome by Z1881 Dec., p. 5-7, C.J. Woodworth and the Adventists. Some additional modifications are implied by this view. Streeter's interpretations are intermediate.

Rev 13: Elliott, Newton, and others identify the two-horned beast with one or another aspect of Papacy, while Adventists say the United States. The image is applied by Z1913 Nov. 15, p. 342-344 to the Evangelical Alliance, awaiting vitalization. Many others concur.

Rev 17: The seven heads are identified by Z1879 Dec. p. 2 and Z1896 Nov. 15, p. 269 as successive forms of Roman government until now, and are variously specified by C.J. Woodworth p. 267-268 and Streeter II, p. 368. C.J. Woodworth p. 269 makes the reign of the ten kings subsequent to World War I, but Streeter p. 373 and most others make it contemporaneous with the reign of the beast (mainly past).

In sum, it may be well to quote Z1913 p. 344, "We state with positiveness the opinions of the writer and the reasons therefor, but leave the final decision with each head and heart in all matters, without attempting more."

Note: Radically different views of these chapters are offered by the Jesuits. Francisco Ribera devised the Futurist interpretation in AD 1591 that the beast (Antichrist) would not come until the end of the age, and so with most of Revelation. Luis de Acazar devised the Praeterist interpretation in AD 1614 that the beast had been Pagan Rome and that Revelation was fulfilled before the rise of Papal Rome. In recent times evangelicalist Protestant denominations have bought the Futurist view almost to a man (and no longer protest). Either view avoids identification of the Antichrist with Papacy.