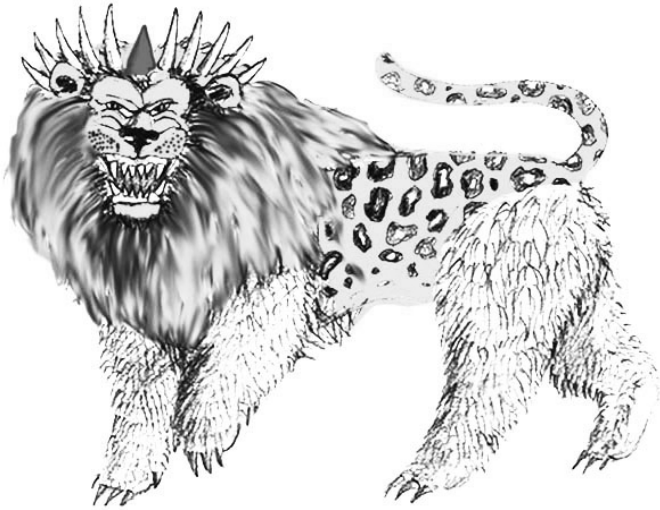


## *Section 3*

### *The Times of the Gentiles*



*“Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles,  
UNTIL the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled”  
(Luke 21:24).*

### ***The Times of the Gentiles (Daniel 2 & 7)***

**T**wo complete outlines of the Times of the Gentiles are given in chapters 2 and 7 of the Book of Daniel. Both of these visions cover the same period of history, from the time of the Babylonian Empire to the second coming of Christ.

The thing that makes this prophecy so interesting is that it is history told in advance of the events. Much of this prophecy has already been fulfilled, and today we live near the end of the Times of the Gentiles. We can look back at what was originally prophecy and see it fulfilled in the pages of history.

The first vision was given to a pagan king, Nebuchadnezzar, and the second to saintly Daniel.

Nebuchadnezzar, as an ungodly man of the world, would see the mighty empires of history, with their ruthless military conquests, amazing civil administrations, grand building programs, idolatrous religious systems and humanistic cultures, as something to be admired. It is most significant that Nebuchadnezzar saw the procession of empires through history as a glorious image made from the precious metals of the earth, whereas Daniel saw them as four vicious beasts.

The dreams show that there would be four kingdoms on earth before God sets up His kingdom over the whole earth. No doubt Nebuchadnezzar would have liked to think his kingdom would endure forever, after all, prior to Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom there had never been one kingdom that ruled over the world. Instead there had been the **Assyrian and the Egyptian Empires** that contended for supremacy. Hence Daniel addressed Nebuchadnezzar as **the first world monarch**, and said,

*"Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory. And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all"*  
(Dan 2:37-38).

Nebuchadnezzar's image symbolizes not only the Babylonian Empire, but all of the Gentile powers that would dominate the world scene till the time when *"one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven... his dominion is an everlasting dominion"* (Dan 7:13-14). Details of the dream are shown on page 52.

Not only was Nebuchadnezzar the first world ruler, but the beginning of his reign marked the beginning of *"the times of the Gentiles,"* which

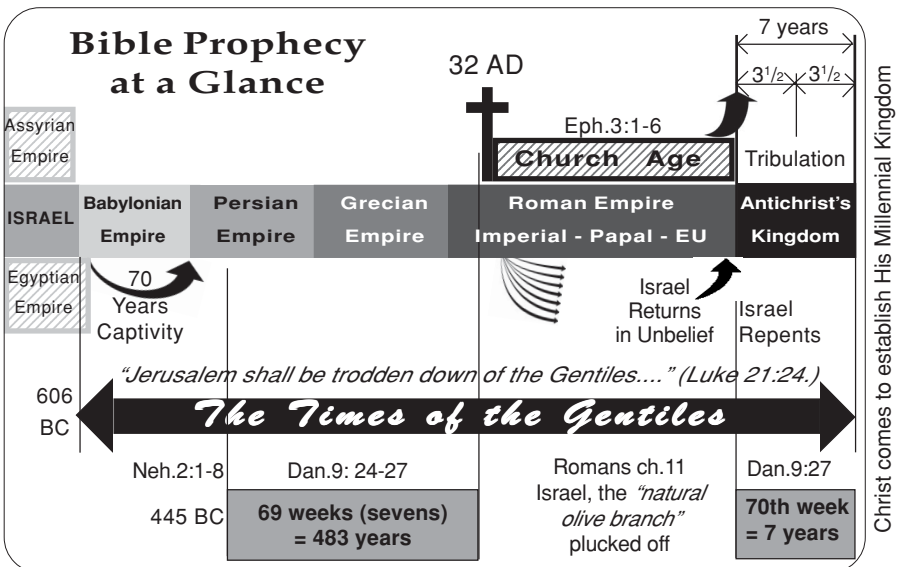
may be defined as the time when the nation of Israel lost its sovereignty and became subservient to Gentile nations.

Nebuchadnezzar's reign began with the death of his father, Nabopolassar, in the third year of Jehoiakim king of Judah (606 BC). The Second Book of Kings, chapters 24 and 25, tells the sad story of Israel's last nineteen years of rebellion against the Lord and against the king of Babylon, until Nebuchadnezzar's armies came for the third time and sacked Jerusalem, burning the Temple and breaking down the walls of the city. This final invasion was in 586 BC.

The first invasion was in Jehoiakim's third year. He was allowed to continue as king, but later revolted. During the second invasion and the siege of Jerusalem Jehoiakim died and his young son Jehoiachin was made king. Jehoiachin chose to surrender, and was taken to Babylon where he was exalted above the other captive kings 37 years later (2Kgs.25:27).

Jehoiachin's descendants can be traced down to Jesus Christ, as indicated in the genealogy recorded in Matthew chapter 1. Thus the throne of David never lacked for someone to sit upon the throne of David (Jer.33:17).

The last king of Judah was Zedekiah, who was Jehoiachin's uncle. He served the king of Babylon but later revolted and was captured during the third invasion. Zedekiah witnessed all of his sons being



slain, before his own eyes were put out (Jer.52:10,11; Ezek.12 :12,13).

Ezekiel describes Zedekiah as a “*profane and wicked prince.*”

*“Thus saith the Lord God; Remove the diadem, and take off the crown...I will overturn, overturn, overturn, it: and it (the throne) shall be no more, **UNTIL he come** (Jesus Christ) **whose right it is; and I will give it him**”* (Ezek 21:25-27).

Hosea also prophesied that Israel (the northern kingdom) would be without a king, lose its sovereignty, and come under Gentile control **until the last days.**

*“For the children of Israel shall abide many days without a king, and without a prince, and without a sacrifice...**Afterward** shall the children of Israel return, and seek the Lord their God, and David their king; and shall fear the LORD and his goodness **in the latter days**”* (Hos.3:4-5).

When Jesus came the Roman Empire was in firm control of the land of Israel. The Babylonian, Persian, and Grecian Empires had come and gone. The fourth empire held sway over the world from England to Babylon and Israel had no king on the throne of David. Furthermore, Jesus indicated that Israel would continue to be oppressed by the Gentiles and that Jerusalem would shortly be destroyed. He said,

*“And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh...And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the **TIMES OF THE GENTILES BE FULFILLED**”* (Luke 21:20-24).

We know that the words of the Lord Jesus were fulfilled in 70AD when the Romans destroyed the city, the Temple, and the nation. Those who survived were scattered across the Roman Empire and have continued thus for nearly 2,000 years, just as the Palestinian Covenant said would happen! (Deut.28-30).

The Times of the Gentiles has been running for over 2,500 years, and still Jerusalem is trodden down by Gentiles. The question of Jerusalem’s future is the final phase of peace negotiations discussed by Jews, Arabs, and the world, since the Oslo Agreement in 1999. A Muslim mosque is located on the Temple Mount and most nations of the world place their embassy buildings at Tel-Aviv, refusing to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. The United Nations considers Jerusalem “an international city”, as does the Vatican, while the Palestinians claim it as their capital city. While Jews pray at the Wailing Wall, the Temple Mount, where God has chosen to place His Name (Deut 12:5,11,14), continues under Gentile control, and will do so until “*he comes whose right it is*” (Ezek.21:27).

Since the birth of the Zionist Movement in 1881, Jews have been returning to the land, and the Jewish population has increased from 565,000 in 1945 to 5.3 million in 2004. Total population in Israel including non-Jews was 6.3 million in 2004, and forecasts predict this to rise to a total of 8 million by 2020AD.

Levites are collecting the “holy” half-shekel for the Temple service in anticipation of the day when the Temple will be rebuilt. However, we shall see in this study that Gentile occupation of Jerusalem will continue until the Lord comes at the end of the Great Tribulation.

A Temple will be built at Jerusalem during the Tribulation (Rev.11:1-2; 2Thess.2:4; Matt.24:15; Dan.9:27), but this will be occupied by the last leader of the fourth kingdom on earth - the Antichrist. When Jesus comes Antichrist will be cast into the lake of fire, and only then will the Times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.

### ***The Interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar’s Dream***

The interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream is given in Dan 2:36-49. The four parts of the image represent four kingdoms that would dominate the world scene from Daniel’s day right down to the last days, when God would set up a kingdom that would never be replaced. We read,

*“In the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever”* (Dan.2:44).

### ***The First Kingdom-A Head of Gold***

The first of these kingdoms was the Babylonian Empire, which covered from Babylon to Assyria in the north, Asia Minor (Turkey as we know it) in the west, and all of Israel and the land of Egypt in the south. At that time Nebuchadnezzar was the king of Babylon, and we read concerning him, *“Thou art this head of gold!”* (Dan2:38).

The duration of the Babylonian Empire was to be quite short, for Jeremiah had prophesied that it would last for only 70 years. He wrote, *“And it shall come to pass, when seventy years are accomplished, that I will punish the king of Babylon, and that nation, saith the LORD”* (Jer.25:12).

Babylon continued from 606BC to 536BC, when it was overthrown by Darius the Mede (Dan 5:30-31).

### ***The Second Kingdom-Shoulders of Silver***

A second kingdom was to replace the Babylonian Empire and this was represented by the shoulders of silver. We read:

*“And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee”* (Dan 2:39).

## *The Basics of Bible Prophecy*

This second kingdom undoubtedly was the Medo-Persian Empire. The two arms of the image indicated the dual nature of the original form of the kingdom, but as time went by it became known as the Persian Empire. It continued from 536 BC to 331 BC when it was overthrown by Alexander the Great; a period of 204 years.

The Persian Empire extended to the border of India in the east, Greece in the west, the Caucasus in the north, and included Egypt in the south.

### **The Third Kingdom-Belly and Thighs of Brass**

The third kingdom, represented by the belly and thighs of brass, was to have even greater territorial influence, for we read of *"another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth"* (Dan 2:39).

It was young Alexander who led inferior numbers of Grecian forces against the massive Persian armies. He was incensed at the way the king of Persia had humiliated the Greeks, and although he had only a comparatively small army and virtually no navy, he fought three battles across Asia Minor to break the power of Persia: Granicus 334BC; Issus 333BC; Gaugamela 331BC.

#### **A Head of Gold**

Babylonian Empire  
606 to 536BC

#### **Shoulders of Silver**

Persian Empire  
536 to 332BC

#### **Belly and Thighs of Brass**

Grecian Empire  
332 to 63BC

#### **Legs of Iron**

Imperial Roman Empire  
63BC to AD476

#### **Feet of part Iron and Clay**

Weakened form of  
Roman Empire  
AD476 to the present

#### **Ten Toes**

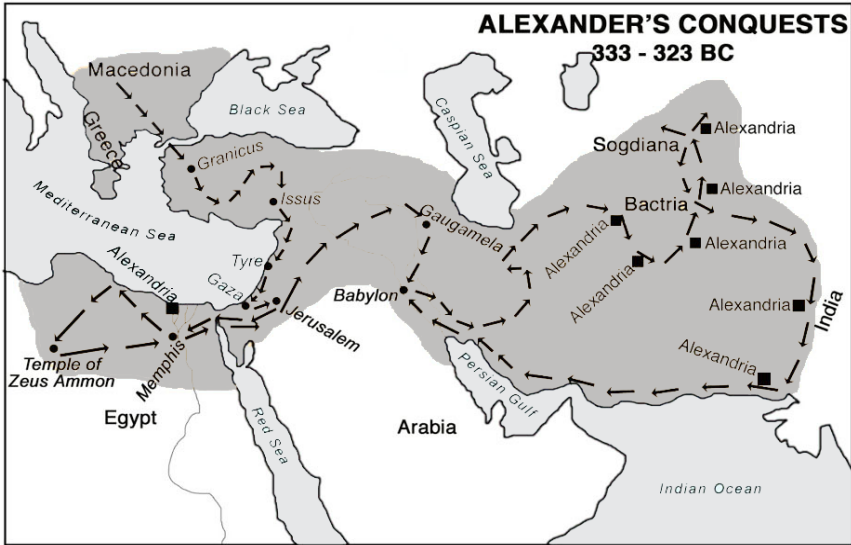
Revived Roman Empire-  
Antichrist's Kingdom  
in the Tribulation



Alexander captured Tyre (332BC) in fulfillment of the prophecy of Ezekiel (Ezek 27), and all the land of Egypt. By capturing all the eastern seaboard of the Mediterranean he neutralized the Persian navy which then had no land base. Alexander led his army through Central Asia to India, where he defeated King Porus who had come against him with an army of elephants. He returned to Babylon and died after a drunken feast in June 323BC.

**CHRIST'S MILLENNIAL KINGDOM**





After Alexander's death his family was killed and the kingdom was divided among his four generals, who then ruled the world from India to Europe. The Grecian Empire's control over Jerusalem lasted from 332BC to 63BC, a period of 269 years, after which we find the Roman Empire taking centre stage.

### ***The Fourth Kingdom-Legs of Iron***

The greatest attention is given to the fourth kingdom which was to arise in the earth, and it is described as legs of iron, feet part iron and part clay, and its final stage, 10 toes. This kingdom *"breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things"* (Dan.2:40).

In its early stages it would have the strength of the iron, but in its latter stages the feet and toes would be a mixture of strength and weakness, partly iron and partly clay.

In its final stage the fourth kingdom would be divided into 10 parts, and *"in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed"* (Dan.2:44).

The last stage of the fourth kingdom will terminate the *"times of the Gentiles."* Gentile powers will no longer tread down Jerusalem. This will bring in the promised kingdom of God on earth.

Without any doubt the fourth kingdom is the **Roman Empire** which took control of Jerusalem in 63BC. The Imperial stage of the Roman Empire continued from Caesar Augustus (31BC - became emperor



**BABYLON** overthrew Nineveh 612BC and Egypt about 570BC.

Jerusalem was invaded 606, 597 and 586BC.

Jeremiah foretold Babylon's collapse after 70 years (Jer.25:9-12).

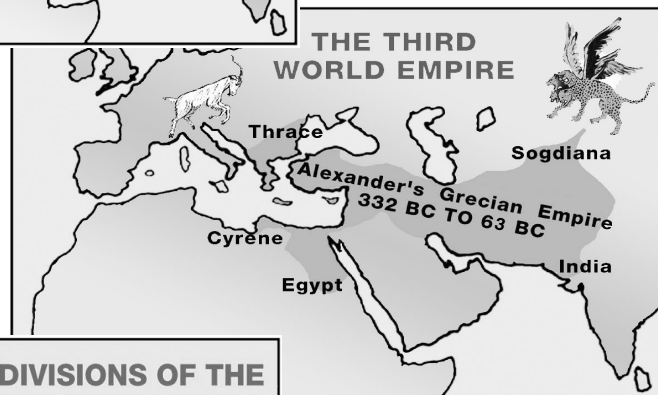


The **MEDES** and **PERSIANS** overthrew Babylon and Cyrus allowed the Jews to rebuild the Temple 536-516BC.

Artaxerxes allowed Nehemiah to build the city of Jerusalem in 445BC.

**GREECE**-Alexander the Great defeated Darius in three battles: 334, 333, and 331BC.

After his death in 323BC the kingdom divided into four parts by 306BC.



Daniel foretold the line of kings in the Seleucid and Ptolemaic kingdoms to the reign of Antiochus Epiphanes (175-163BC). The feast of Dedication remembers the cleansing of the Temple by the Maccabees on 25 December 165BC after Antiochus had polluted it. He stands as a "type" of a future Antichrist (Dan.11:36-45).



**ROME** - The Roman Republic conquered the world, and in 31BC Caesar Augustus began the Imperial period of government. In 63BC Pompey captured Palestine.

Imperial Rome in the west fell before the Germanic tribes in AD476. The Byzantine eastern Roman Empire continued till 1453 when Constantinople was overrun by the Ottoman Turks

The Germanic tribes were driven west and south by Asiatic peoples known as Huns and Avars. Thereafter the western Roman Empire was dominated by the papacy (AD600) and German influence in the Holy Roman Empire (AD800-1806)



On Christmas Day AD800 Pope Leo III crowned Charlemagne Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire. As the king of the Franks (Germans) he conquered the Lombards, Avars, and Saxons, Christianizing them and giving parts of Italy back to the pope.

There were 66 emperors of the Holy Roman Empire, 31 of whom were appointed by popes.

The Inquisitions (1232 to 19th c.) and Crusades (1096 to 1271) were only possible because of the union of the church and the state.

### *The Basics of Bible Prophecy*

27BC) till Rome was overrun by the Visigoths in AD410, Vandals in 455AD, and the last western emperor, Romulus Augustus, was deposed in 476AD. The **Imperial** Roman Empire therefore continued for 506 years, **but this was not the end of the Roman Empire.**

### ***Byzantine Roman Empire***

The Roman Empire was partitioned into eastern and western empires in 258AD although reunited for a while under Emperor Constantine. He moved the seat of government to Constantinople in 330AD.

The Byzantine Roman Empire in the east continued from 330AD till Constantinople was captured by the Ottoman Turks in 1453AD; a period of 1,123 years.

### ***The Papacy and the “Holy Roman Empire”***

Meanwhile in Rome we see the Church gaining more and more power. The bishops of Rome, because of their association with the emperors, had assumed a position of authority over other bishops, which ultimately led to the formation of the papacy in the time of Pope Gregory the Great (590-604AD).

In 800AD Pope Leo III separated from the eastern empire and crowned Charlemagne, the king of Germany, as Emperor of a new empire in the west known as the “Holy Roman Empire.” The emperors of this western empire were frequently appointed by the pope of the day and were usually either the king of Germany or the king of Austria.

It was not until the time of Napoleon (1806) that the last emperor, Francis II, renounced the title of “Emperor” and the “Holy Roman Empire” ceased. It had continued as the secular arm of the papacy for much of 1,006 years.

### ***Napoleon, Kaiser and Hitler***

Under Emperor Napoleon there was a bold attempt to unite all of Europe. He was proclaimed **King of Italy** in the cathedral at Milan, captured the Middle East and became master of Egypt. By 1812 he had much of Europe under his control or allied to him, including eastern and central Europe, Spain, Italy and Norway. He even captured Moscow, but failed to hold it. In 1814 Napoleon abdicated as Emperor and was exiled to the Island of Elbe. In 1815 he escaped, reorganized, but was finally defeated at the Battle of Waterloo. He died on the Island of St Helena in the South Atlantic in 1821.

The next attempt to reunite Europe was made by Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany in 1914-18 (World War I). The title “Kaiser” is the same

# The Fourth Kingdom - Rome

## The Roman Empire

"After this I saw ... a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth... and it had ten horns... and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking great things" (Dan 7:7-8).



**Monarchy**

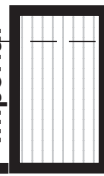


**Republic**

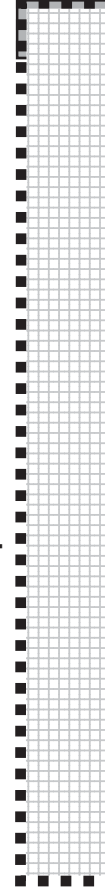


Ten Pagan Persecutions

**Imperial**

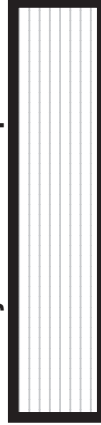


**Papal Rome**



Crusades and Inquisitions

**Holy Roman Empire**



1815

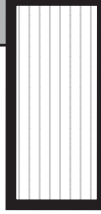
**Kaiser**

1918

**Hitler**

1945

**EU**



**Tribulation**

**Byzantine Eastern Roman Empire**

AD 330

1453

### *The Basics of Bible Prophecy*

as Caesar, the title given to the emperors of Rome, and was first assumed by the Prussian king, Kaiser Wilhem I, in 1870, following the unification of Germany and the formation of the German Empire. Kaiser Wilhelm II was the grandson of Kaiser Wilhelm I.

The Kaiser's attempt to extend the German Empire to embrace all of Europe failed in 1918 and he was forced to abdicate.

In 1939 another attempt was made to unite all of Europe, this time by Adolf Hitler. With Italy and Spain as partners Hitler's armies rampaged across Europe. Hitler claimed that his "Third Reich" would last for 1,000 years, but in 1945 his army and nation lay in ruins.

### ***European Union (EU)***

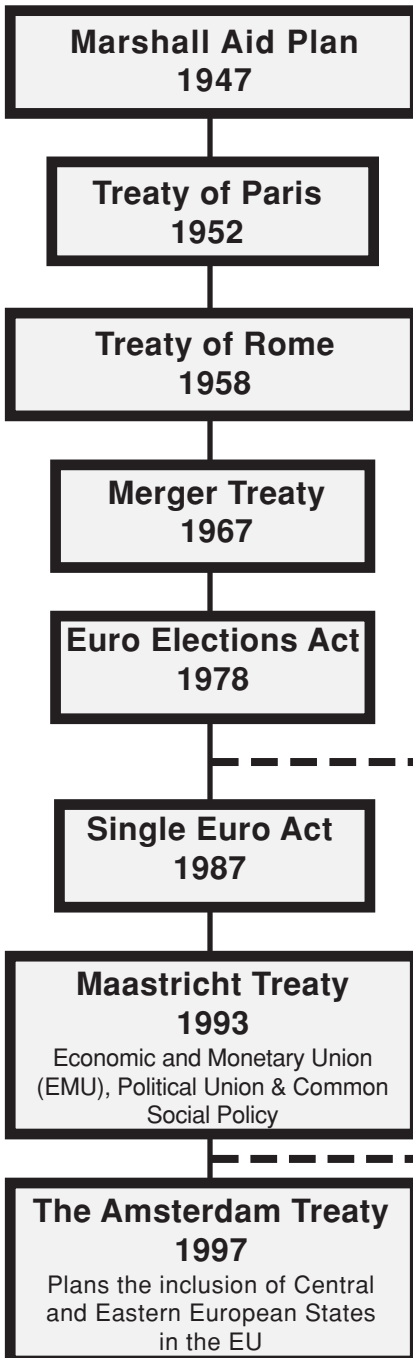
Following the failed attempts of Napoleon, the Kaiser, and Hitler to create a new Roman Empire, it was decided by the nations that the better way to achieve European unity was to work for an economic and political union, and thus prevent future wars.

After WWII America provided \$14billion in what was known as the Marshall Aid Plan for the reconstruction of the countries of Europe. It was important to America to have a united and strong Europe in view of the growing influence of Russian/International Communism.

At first Europe formed up into two separate economic communities known as the "Inner Six" (EEC) and the "Outer Seven" (EFTA). The EEC membership originally included only Germany, France, Italy, Belgium, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands (Holland), and was bound together by a number of treaties. Perhaps the following are the most important of these treaties:

- 1) The **Treaty of Rome** implemented in 1958 laid the foundation for European Union.
- 2) The **Maastricht Treaty** implemented in 1993 agreed to economic and monetary union on the one hand, and political union on the other.
- 3) The **Amsterdam Treaty** implemented in 1997 extends the provisions of the Maastricht Treaty and provides for the entry of central and eastern European countries which gained independence after the breakup of the Soviet Union in the period 1989 to 1991.

In 1998 there were eleven European nations which signed Partnership Agreements as a first step to joining the fifteen nations which made up what has become known as the European Union (EU).



In May 2004 ten nations were added to the EU bringing its total population to 455 million. Negotiations are continuing with other nations. Its common currency, the Euro, will ultimately dominate world financial markets, and its economic and political influence will be second to none.

Already the EU has a European parliament with a president, and its constitution was being finalized in 2004. The Schengen Agreement established in 1985 is eliminating internal borders and most countries in the EU now do not require border checks.

The EU views the Mediterranean as a European Lake and has begun to establish a Free Trade Zone

**Schengen Agreement**  
1985

Open Borders within the EU

around its shores. It expects to have this in place by the year 2010. This trade initiative will provide a market of 200 million people in the developing countries of North Africa and the Middle East.

**Euro-Mediterranean Partnership -1994**

By 2010, to establish a free-trade zone around the Mediterranean

The sphere of influence of the EU will then be similar to that of the old Roman Empire at its zenith.



### ***The Final Stage of the Roman Empire-Ten Toes***

The final stage of the Roman Empire will see a division of Europe into 10 states which will agree to give their allegiance to a man who the Bible calls the Antichrist. He is also called "*the beast*", "*the man of sin*", and "*the son of perdition*." We shall see more of this personality when we consider Daniel's vision as recorded in Daniel chapter 7. This division into 10 states is symbolized by the 10 toes of the image and corresponds to the 10 horns of the beast in Daniel ch. 7, and Revelation chapters 12,13, and 17. In Rev.17:12 we are told,

*"The ten horns which thou sawest **are ten kings**, which...receive power as kings one hour with the beast."*

Thus far we have seen that the fourth kingdom, symbolized by the legs, feet and toes of the image, represents the Roman Empire in its various forms. Under Imperial Rome it had the strength of the iron, but under the "Holy" Roman Empire and papacy it was like iron and clay - partly strong and partly weak. As we approach the end of the twentieth century we see a revival of the old Roman Empire, which shows every promise of becoming the dominant world power ready for the appearance of Antichrist and the 10 horns (kings).

### ***Christ's Second Coming- The Stone from Heaven***

Finally, Nebuchadnezzar saw in his dream:

*"A stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces...and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth" (Dan.2:34-35).*

This stone represents the Lord Jesus Christ at His second coming. Other Scriptures tell us that the Lord will smite the nations when He comes again. The Scripture records:

*"When the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord" (2Thess.1:7-8).*

*"Out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God" (Rev.19:15).*

*"For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle...Then shall the Lord go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle" (Zech.14:2-3).*



*“And they shall go into the holes of the rocks, and into the caves of the earth, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth” (Isa.2:19).*

*“And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall punish the host of the high ones that are on high, and the kings of the earth upon the earth. And they shall be gathered together, as prisoners are gathered in the pit” (Isa.24:21-22).*

The picture of a stone (meteorite) hurtling from space is terrifying indeed, but nothing to compare with the second coming of the “Rock of Ages.”

The period of Gentile world power is terminated by the return of Christ. After this we see Christ’s kingdom established as symbolized by the mountain which fills the whole earth.

A mountain is used elsewhere in Scripture to represent nations. Isaiah states:

*“And it shall come to pass in the last days, that **the mountain of the LORD’S house** shall be established in the **top of the mountains**, and shall be exalted **above the hills**; and **all nations shall flow unto it**...And he shall judge among **the nations**, and shall rebuke many people”(Isa.2:1-4).*

In Matthew’s Gospel chapters 24 and 25 we read that Christ will return immediately after the Tribulation, and one of the first things to occur will be the judgment of the **living nations** who survive the Tribulation. Those individuals who are saved will go alive into the millennial kingdom, but the unsaved will go away into everlasting punishment. The events will be as follows:

*“**Immediately after the tribulation** of those days shall the sun be darkened...and **then** shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and **then** shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory” (Matt. 24:29-30).*

*“**When** the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, **then** shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. **Then** shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, **inherit the kingdom**”(Matt. 25:31-34).*

## *The Basics of Bible Prophecy*

The long-awaited kingdom of God will only be established when the Times of the Gentiles is fulfilled, when the nation of Israel repents of its rejection of Messiah during the Tribulation, and when Christ personally reigns over the earth. The “*ten toes*”, representing the “*ten kings*” who receive power with Antichrist, will be the last stage of the fourth Gentile empire to tread down Jerusalem.

*“And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever” (Dan.2:44).*

### ***Daniel’s Dream - Daniel Chapter 7***

The **second** outline of the Times of the Gentiles was given in a dream to Daniel. He saw four beasts coming up out of the great sea as the four winds of heaven “*strove on the great sea*” (the Mediterranean). The first beast was a **lion** with eagle’s wings, the second a **bear** with three ribs in its mouth, the third was a **leopard** with four wings and four heads, and the fourth beast was “*dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth.*”

This fourth beast also had **ten horns** out of which came another **little horn**. The **little horn** plucked up three of those former horns. This “*little horn*” assumed human characteristics with “*eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things*”(Dan.7:8).

Finally Daniel sees one like the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven, and to Him is given

*“dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, 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” (Dan. 7:14).*

The interpretation of Daniel’s dream is similar to that which we have seen in Daniel chapter 2. To Nebuchadnezzar it appeared like a glorious image, but to saintly Daniel, as viscious beasts. Our heart condition will always determine how we view the world scene! The ungodly will delight in the world’s glitter and glamour but the believer will see it as “*vanity fair,*” for the world system has no time for God and is passing away.

### ***Four Beasts from the Great Sea- The Mediterranean***

Daniel’s dream, like the dream of Nebuchadnezzar, describes the span of time from 606BC when Jerusalem was first trodden down by the Gentiles until the second coming of Jesus Christ, as shown in the

graphic of the four beasts on page 65. The interpretation given in Scripture is concise.

*"These great beasts, which are four, are four kings, which shall arise out of the earth. But the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever" (Dan.7:17-18).*

Very briefly we are given the meaning of the entire dream, but then further details are given concerning the fourth beast.

Firstly note that the four great beasts come up from the *"great sea"* after the *"four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea"*.

The *"great sea"* is the Mediterranean Sea. This can be firmly established in the following Scriptures (Num.34:6,7; Deut.1:7; Josh.9:1; 15:12,47; 23:4; Ezek.47:10,15,19,20; and Ezek.48:28).

The *"four winds of heaven"* represent four angelic beings which do God's bidding. They are seen as four chariots with red, black, white, and griseled and bay horses in Zech.6:1-3, where we are told:

*"These are the four spirits (angelic beings) of the heavens, which go forth from standing before the Lord of all the earth" (Zech.6:5).*

It is interesting to note that all four world kingdoms occupied much of the land around the Mediterranean Sea, including Israel and Egypt.

In 1996 the Mediterranean was described as a **European Lake**. We have already pointed out that by the year 2010 the EU expects to have in place Free Trade arrangements with most North African and Middle East countries bordering the Mediterranean. It is called Euro-Med.

Europe needs external markets, and the North African and Middle Eastern developing nations located on her doorstep are a golden opportunity. Large aid packages are planned to encourage participation.



### ***A Lion with Eagle's Wings - The Babylonian Empire***

The symbols of the four beasts describe each succeeding empire. The lion with eagle's wings clearly identifies the Babylonian Empire, since sculptures of lions with wings guarded the gates of the royal palaces of the Babylonians. But Daniel saw the wings

*"plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it"(Dan 7:4).*

The reference to the humanizing of the lion obviously refers to what happened to Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel chapter 4, when the king was struck down for his pride and the angel said,

*"Let his heart be changed from man's, and let a **beast's heart** be given unto him" (Dan 4:16).*

As a consequence, for seven years Nebuchadnezzar

*"did eat grass as oxen... till his hairs were grown like eagles' feathers, and his nails like birds' claws"(Dan.4:33).*

After seven years Nebuchadnezzar's reason returned and he was restored to his throne. He acknowledged and praised the King of heaven. Hence we read that *"a man's heart was given to it"(Dan 7:4).*

### ***A Bear with Three Ribs in its Mouth - The Persian Empire***

The bear with three ribs in its mouth is heard to say, *"Arise, devour much flesh."* These three ribs refer to the 3 nations which made up the great Persian Empire. They were **Media, Babylon and Persia**. The conquests of these three nations which amalgamated to form the Persian Empire are aptly described as devouring much flesh, for Persian armies overran Egypt, Asia Minor, and even Greece! Herodotus, the Greek historian, claimed that when they crossed the Hellespont to enter Greece they brought an army of 2 million men and as many servants. This appears to be exaggerated and was more likely about 180,000 fighting men.

### ***A Leopard with Four Heads and Four Wings - The Grecian Empire***

The leopard with 4 heads and 4 wings describes the Grecian Empire which overthrew the vast Persian armies and neutralized their Mediterranean navy. It was led by Alexander the Great who, with lightning speed, in three decisive battles broke the power of Persia.

After Alexander's death at Babylon his family was killed and the kingdom was divided among his four generals, thus fulfilling the symbolism of the four wings and the four heads of the leopard.

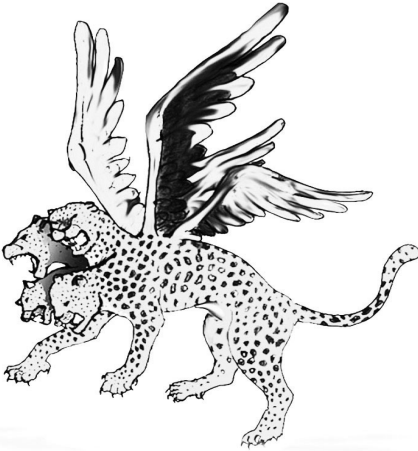
## ***The Four Beasts of Daniel's Dream (Dan 7)***



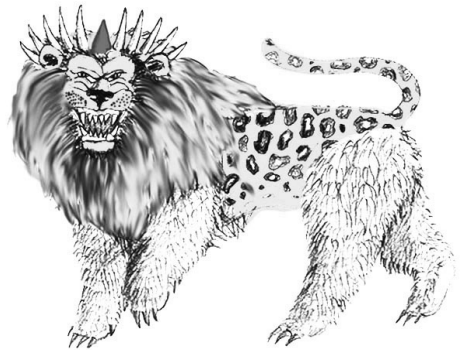
**1ST BEAST** - A Lion with  
Eagle's Wings depicting the  
Babylonian Empire  
606 BC to 536 BC



**2ND BEAST** - A Bear with  
3 Ribs in its Mouth depicting  
the Persian Empire  
536 BC to 332 BC



**3RD BEAST** - A Leopard with  
4 Heads & 4 Wings depicting  
the Grecian Empire  
332 BC to 63 BC



**4TH BEAST** - Dreadful and Terrible  
and Strong Exceedingly depicting  
the Roman Empire  
63 BC to the Coming of Christ

***A Beast with Iron Teeth and Ten Horns - The Roman Empire***

More is said about the fourth beast than all others before it. Daniel was deeply impressed by the vision of the fourth beast, and said,

*"Then I would know the truth of the fourth beast"(Dan.7:19).*

The character of the Roman Empire has changed over the centuries but it has always existed in one form or another. Details are shown in the chart on page 57.

Europe is now coming together under the banner of the EU and has a combined military force (NATO), a European parliament, a president, a police force, and many other associated activities including a space agency. In 1999 Europe introduced a common currency, the Euro, which will assist political union with a common foreign policy, a common social policy, and common security system!

Under the Schengen Agreement it is planned to allow free travel without border checks between member countries. By June 1997 eight out of fifteen countries had signed the Schengen Agreement. Others are following.

Since the release of the eastern European countries in 1989, and the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, many more countries are seeking admission to the EU.

The population of the 15 member nations in 1996 was 370 million, and with the admission of 10 countries in May 2004 this grew to 455 million. It could grow to 500 million!

Great efforts have been made to allay Russia's fears of a superpower forming on her western border, and security treaties were signed in May and July 1997 between Russia/NATO and Ukraine/NATO. These treaties permitted eastern European countries to join NATO. During the Kosovo crisis Hungary, Romania, and Poland were hurriedly admitted to NATO so that Russia could not fly supplies and men to the support of Serbia. When Russia requested permission to fly over these countries, permission was refused.

Europe's defence is currently maintained by NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation), which was originally set up by the United States during the cold war with the USSR to prevent the spread of international communism. Now that the USSR has been dissolved the EU has identified Islamic fundamentalism as its external security threat. It is interesting to observe efforts by Russia to revive the old Soviet Union under the banner of the CIS (Commonwealth of



Independent States), and also Russia's trade and military agreements with the Muslim world, especially Iran and Libya. A Russian trade route through Iran, from the Caspian Sea to the Indian Ocean, was officially opened in 2002 allowing trade with India and the Far East to reduce travel time by thirteen days

**Finally** the fourth empire is to have **10 divisions** represented by the **ten toes** of Nebuchadnezzar's dream and the **10 horns** of Daniel's dream. The "*little horn*," **Antichrist**, is to arise from among these 10 horns. From other Scriptures, such as Revelation chapters 13 and 17, it is clear that the "*little horn*" of Dan 7 will be the Antichrist, and it will be he who will head up the Roman Empire at the time of Christ's second coming. After this Christ will set up His everlasting kingdom.

**Seventh Day Adventists** claim the Roman Empire broke up into ten kingdoms in AD476, but history does not support this view. Scripture says, "*In the days of **these kings** shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed*" (Dan.2:44). The ten kings and the Antichrist must be alive when Christ returns.

**Preterists** claim the "*ten horns*" and "*little horn*" were Roman rulers from Pompey (63BC) to Emperor Vespasian (AD70), and that Christ returned "spiritually" in AD70. They also claim the "*ten horns*" represent the ten Roman provinces, whereas there were actually 54 Roman provinces. When Christ returns, "*every eye shall see him*" (Rev.1:7). This did not happen in AD70.

### ***The Harlot Woman Rides the Beast (Revelation Ch. 17)***

From Rev 17 we learn that the fourth beast comes to power under the guidance of a "harlot woman." Also, from Rev13 and 19 we can see that Antichrist has assistance from a "*false prophet*" who has miraculous powers.

The harlot woman can be identified from clues given in Scripture.

1) **She is international and political.** She is involved with the "*kings of the earth*" and sits upon "*many waters*", which we are told are "*peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues (languages)*" (Rev.17:1,2,15).

2) **She is religious and idolatrous** for she is "*MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS*" (Rev.17:5). In John's day the "mystery religions" of Rome were well known. Also, idolatry in Scripture is called spiritual whoredom and adultery (Ezek.16:1-36; 23:1-30; Hos.1:2; 4:12-19).



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3) **She is exceedingly rich.** She is “arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls”(Rev.17:4).

4) **She holds a golden cup** in her hand, “full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication (idolatry)”(Rev.17:4).

5) **She is a persecutor of Christians** and is “drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus” (Rev.17: 6).

6) **She sits on seven mountains** and is “that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth”, ie in AD 96 (Rev.17:9,18).

7) **She identifies with the beast** which we know is both the Roman Empire and its final ruler. She obviously has influence over the beast for she holds the reins (Rev.17:3, 11).

When all these clues are combined, we can come to no other conclusion than that the harlot woman is apostate Christendom headed up by the Church of Rome. The Church of Rome is international and political. It is a religious and idolatrous system. Its people are “made drunk with the wine of her fornication”, being stupified by superstitious material items such as medals, crucifixes, and rosary beads etc. The golden cup of the Mass is celebrated as a continual sacrifice, which constitutes a blasphemous, idolatrous act.

Rome is known as the “city of seven hills” and was reigning over the kings of the earth when John wrote the Book of Revelation in AD96 !

In the days of Imperial Rome the Caesars were the head of the pagan mystery religious system, claimed deity, and demanded their subjects offer sacrifices to them on pain of death. Many thousands of Christians died rather than submit to Caesar worship.



This graphic appeared in *Time* magazine 9 Dec.91 in an article about the EU

During the 1,006 years of the “Holy Roman Empire” the papacy appointed emperors, beginning with Charlmagne the king of Germany, and manipulated the secular powers to destroy “heretics”(Christians) and Jews. Today, with the revival of the old Roman Empire, we see it being guided (ridden) by the Church.

It is now a well established historical fact that the Vatican worked with Hitler and provided the “Ratline” escape route for Nazi war criminals after WW2! The Vatican Bank has been used to store Nazi gold, and Europe has been called “Fortress Christendom”.

Last-days Christianity is an ecumenical hotch-potch including idolatrous, liberal, charismatic, and humanistic religions. It has no anchor secured in the Word of God, for it has replaced the authority of a verbally inspired Bible with human reasoning, social programs, experimental religion, and/or church dogma.

It is interesting to note that the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, who is the leader of 250 million people from Orthodox Churches, stated in May 1997, "Preserving the unity of Europe is the foremost duty of all churches today", according to *New Europe* 24/5/97.

Plans were announced in May 1997 to arrange a meeting of Pope John Paul, the Patriarch of the Russian Orthodox Church, and Bartholomew I in Austria. This would be the first meeting of Orthodox and Catholic Churches since the Great Schism in 1054. There is no doubt the harlot woman is riding the beast.

### ***When will Antichrist be Revealed?***

We read that the 10 horns of the fourth beast are 10 kings which "*receive power as kings one hour with the beast*" (Rev.17:12), so the Revived Roman Empire must ultimately be divided into ten parts.

In 2005 there are 25 nations in the EU and more will be accepted subject to fulfilling the entry conditions. Once the Schengen Agreement has been fully implemented the internal borders will be of little consequence, and ultimately it will be divided into ten states.

According to Dan.9:27 Antichrist's kingdom will last for seven years. At first he will appear as a man of peace confirming a 7-year treaty with Israel and allowing the Jews to rebuild their Temple (Rev.11:1,2). After 3½ years he will break his treaty with Israel and set himself up as God in the Temple (2 Thess.2 :4). For the second 3½ years he will seek to liquidate Israel who, as a result of a massive Russian/Muslim invasion, will have turned to the Lord Jesus as their Messiah (Ezek.39:22).

Antichrist will not tolerate competition, even from apostate Christendom, and the ten kings will burn the harlot woman with fire (Rev.17:16-17). Obviously, the harlot woman can't be Antichrist as Seventh day Adventists assert.

During the last 3½ years Russian and Muslim power will have been broken (Ezekiel chapters 38 and 39), American power possibly broken (Ezek.39:6), and all remaining nations will be demonically drawn to the battle of Armageddon (Rev.16:12-16).

Scripture teaches that Antichrist will not appear until **AFTER the rapture of the Church**. "*For that day (the Tribulation) shall not come, EXCEPT there come a falling away first, and that man of sin (Antichrist)*

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be revealed" (2Thess. 2:3,4). The "falling away" is literally in the Greek "**the departure**", and in the context refers to the departure of the Church at the Rapture. Paul repeats the statement:

*"And now ye know what withholdeth that he (Antichrist) might be revealed in his time. For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth (hinders) (the Holy Spirit indwelling the Church) will let (hinder), **UNTIL** he be **taken out** of the way. And **then** shall that Wicked (one) be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume...with the brightness of his coming"* (2 Thess.2:6-8).

In the light of these Scriptures, Antichrist cannot appear until the Church is raptured, but apostate Christendom led by the papacy will continue on into the Great Tribulation in fellowship with Antichrist, until the ten kings burn her with fire (Rev.17:16-17).

### ***The Judgment of Antichrist.***

When Christ returns the beast will be destroyed.

*"And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him...These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone"* (Rev.19:20).

Paul wrote:

*"Then shall that Wicked (one) be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming"*(2Thess.2:8).

Daniel prophesied of Antichrist (Dan.7:26), the final Roman leader:

*"The judgment shall sit, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and to destroy it unto the end"* (That is, it would "entirely and forever cease" - Barnes page 75).

In Daniel 11:45 we read:

*"He shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas (Dead and Mediterranean Seas) in the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and NONE SHALL HELP HIM".*

No longer will the Temple in Jerusalem be occupied by "*the man of sin*". The nation of Israel, then repentant, will welcome its Messiah, and

*"shall look upon me (Christ) whom they have pierced (at Calvary)." (Zech.12:10).*

The Times of the Gentiles will then be finished, and Christ will establish His kingdom which will begin with the 1,000-year millennial reign and continue into the new heaven and new earth that will never pass away.

### ***Babel and Rome***

**The question of whether the ancient city of Babylon will be rebuilt in the last days is a matter of interest to many.** Some Christians have thought it would be reconstructed, but Scripture states that once destroyed and left desolate as it has been for centuries, it will never be rebuilt (Jer.50:39).



Mystery Babylon, however, is **identified with Rome** and is described as a harlot woman in Revelation chapters 17 and 18. She is destined to be burned with fire at the end of the Tribulation and unmistakably represents apostate Christendom headed up by the Church of Rome. The fact that she is seen riding the beast with ten horns indicates a close relationship with the revived Roman Empire.

Antichrist and the ten kings (ten horns) who make up the revived Roman Empire will turn on her at the end of the Tribulation as Antichrist demands exclusive, universal worship (Rev.17:16-17; 18:1-24).

The symbolism of a woman riding a beast is now commonly accepted as identification for the EU, and the new parliament building at Strasbourg has been designed to replicate the old paintings of the Tower of Babel.

The intention of the designers of the building has been stated: it was to reproduce an unfinished building signifying that they intended to complete what was unfinished in the original Tower of Babel when God confused the languages. The very thought of doing such a thing



**Left:** The EU Tower with an unfinished appearance like the Tower of Babel.

**Right:** Sculpture of a woman riding a beast outside the office of the Council of Europe.



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can only be construed as defiance against Almighty God and a triumph for idolatry and false religion.

There are several paintings of the Tower of Babel which inspired the designers, Architecture Studio Europe, a Paris-based company, as they designed the Strasbourg parliament building. These were produced by Matthieu Merian 1593-1650, Peter Bruegal 1525-1569, and Abel Grimmer (1604), and are shown on the right.

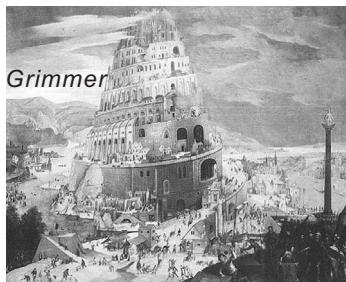
A caption, “many tongues, one voice”, on the EU poster shown in the bottom-right corner, indicates the EU unashamedly identifies with ancient Babel, when men rejected the living God in favour of heathenism.

The EU actually has two parliament houses; one in Brussels and the newer building in Strasbourg. Parliament meets in Strasbourg only one week of each month, except in August when they do not meet at all. The Strasbourg building opened in 1999, has 1,133 offices, and cost \$400 million. It is located on the French side of the German border and was the result of intense lobbying by the French government in 1992.

Many examples could be given of how the symbol of a woman riding the beast is becoming identified with the new world superpower emerging in Europe.



The Bible indicates that Gentile world power began with Babylon and will conclude with the fourth world empire, Rome, which will be identified with a harlot woman known as Mystery Babylon. There is no fifth kingdom before Christ returns to reign!

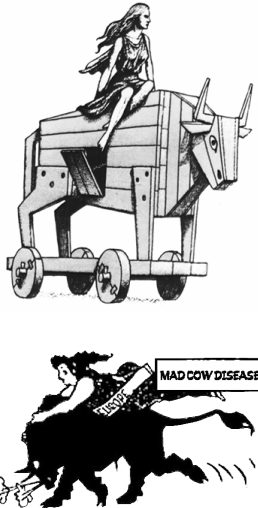






Pictures above and to the right, of a woman riding a beast, appeared in a *Time* magazine article on the European Union (EU) in December 1991.

**Below:** Penguin Books have adopted the symbolism of a woman and a beast on the cover of their book, *Companion to the European Union*.

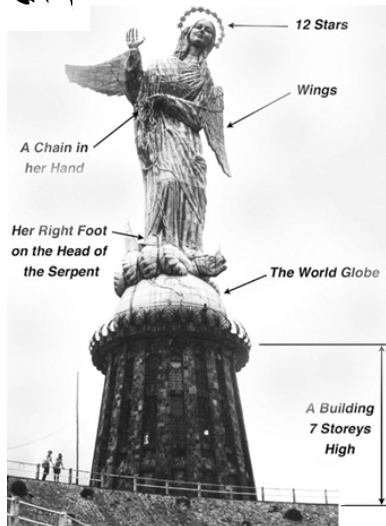


The twelve stars on the EU flag indicate the link with the harlot woman, "Mystery Babylon the Great" (Rev.17), apostate Christendom headed up by Rome.

**Below:** The "Virgin of Quito" with the twelve stars of Mary, over 200 feet high, towers above the city of Quito, Ecuador.



**Above** is a cartoon which appeared in the *Guardian Weekly* likening Britain's rush to join the EU to mad cow disease.



### ***Why the Woman Riding the Beast?***

Scripture speaks of a harlot woman riding a beast in Rev.17. She is seen sitting “upon many waters”, and the interpretation indicates she and the beast represent apostate Christendom and the Revived Roman Empire during the Great Tribulation. The EU has adopted this symbolism for itself, but why?

The answer may be found in mythology, which teaches that the many gods of the Greeks, called immortals, lived on the top of Mount Olympus.

Among these deities was Zeus, the son of Poseidon, who the pagan Greeks believed was the father of the gods, the supreme god, and god of the weather. The Romans called him Jupiter.

The story goes that Zeus saw **Europa**, the daughter of Agenor king of Tyre, gathering flowers, and was so overcome by her beauty that he transformed himself into a beautiful white bull in order to seduce her.

Having convinced the maiden that he was tame, Zeus encouraged her to sit on his back, whereupon he plunged into the Mediterranean and swam to the island of Crete. Upon arrival he revealed his true identity and Europa became his wife and the Queen of Crete.

Europa had three sons by Zeus: Minos, Sarpedon, and Rhadamanthys.



*(The Abduction of Europa by Antonio Carracci 1583-1618)*

The myth goes that her brothers were sent by their father to find her but did not return. Cilix searched for her and settled down in Asia Minor; the land was called Cilicia after him. Phoenix searched for his sister and founded Phoenicia.

During the Trojan War about 1200 BC, when the Greeks built the “wooden horse of Troy” in order to gain entry to that city, Zeus was on the side of the Greeks. Hence we see the sketch in *Time* magazine depicting a woman riding a wooden beast.

The symbol of a woman riding a beast was therefore well established in pagan religious thought. It is little wonder that the Bible uses the same symbols to describe the most blasphemous of all religions, apostate Christendom, as a harlot woman riding a beast. Mystery Babylon the Great is “the mystery of iniquity” which is working to place Antichrist on the throne of the revived Roman Empire and the whole world (2Thess.2:6-7).