



Ambassador College

CORRESPONDENCE COURSE

An International Course of Biblical Understanding



Common Market Headquarters

LESSON 11

About Our Cover ...

Our cover shows one of the four wings of the new multimillion dollar headquarters of the European Economic Community, located in Brussels, Belgium. This building clearly demonstrates Europe's determination to unite. Her future prosperity and peace depend upon unity, and every European nation knows it. The long-standing dream of ONE EUROPE looks back to the ancient Roman Empire and the pax romana (the Roman peace) as a golden age of unity - a unity which will be RESTORED! This lesson shows what the Bible predicts will happen.

Ambassador College Photo

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COMING- A NEW ROMAN EMPIRE!

Emerging on the world scene is an economic and political COLOSSUS prophesied to shake this world and dramatically affect the course of the future. A new "Roman Empire" is being molded which will greatly influence YOUR life!

Who would have thought it possible? Twenty-five years ago people scoffed and exclaimed, "It will never happen. Europe will never rise again. Europe will never be united. Look at the blood-soaked record of history for the proof."

But today, before our eyes, we see history in the making - a united Europe emerging from disunity and the intrigue of the past, to take its place in world councils.

Already the population of the Common Market nations is greater than that of the United States, with more nations clamoring to become members of the European Community. But economic unity in Europe is only the first step toward a more solidly united Europe.

The next projected step? A POLITICAL union.

The potential is tremendous. A united Europe can be an awesome force for world peace and economic stability and prosperity. Or, if misguided, misdirected or unrestrained, an enormous power for evil.

Out of the Ashes

To many observers on the world scene, it appears that no less than a miracle has occurred. At the end of World War II in 1945, most of Europe lay devastated. Many European cities were mere heaps of rubble and entire countries lay in ruin. Sixty million refugees existed at near the starvation level.

Far-sighted Winston Churchill saw the need for reconciliation among nations - particularly of France and Germany. And noting the menace posed by the Soviet Union to world peace, on September 19, 1946 he proclaimed in Zurich, Switzerland: "We must build a kind of United States of Europe." He foresaw the potential good that could arise from a wisely led, politically sound, militarily secure United States of Europe.



TOTAL RUIN - Hanover, Germany lay in utter ruin at the end of World War II. West Germany, member of the European Economic Community, has been completely rebuilt, and now has one of the strongest economies in the world.

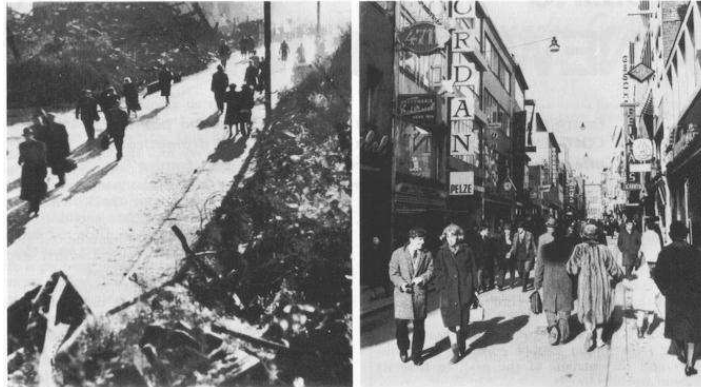
Since Churchill's remarkable words, others caught the vision and many now labor unceasingly to bring about the European union he spoke of.

The first real step toward European unity came in 1950 when Robert Schuman, then French Foreign Minister, submitted a proposal drafted by Jean Monnet for the pooling of the coal and steel resources of France and Germany, and other countries in Europe which wanted to participate. Six nations - France, Germany, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg - accepted the proposal, and in 1952 the European Coal and Steel Community was formed.

That historic step paved the way for the next step - the formation of the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) and the European Economic Community (EEC) by the same six nations on January 1, 1958.

Since that time, the nations of the "Common Market" have prospered. They have removed all customs duties between

them. A European Parliament has been formed, composed of representatives of the member nations. Thus the nations of Europe have made significant strides in their quest for unity.



Wide World Photo

OUT OF THE ASHES - Cologne, Germany, at the end of World War II - and, right, rebuilt 20 years later. Shown is Hohe Strasse - in 1945 a mass of debris and ruin, now a prosperous commercial street. Europe is more prosperous today than before the war!

What Is Planned

What does the future hold for the nations of the Common Market? What do its creators and planners envision?

The eventual aim is total economic, political and military integration - so that all the member countries act with one will and one voice in world affairs. When that happens, a "United States of Europe" will stand on an equal footing with both the United States and Russia, or any other power bloc that could arise in the world.

Political union, realistic planners know, is necessary to secure economic stability. Political muscle is needed so that Europe will not become an economic pawn of other world power groups in the future.

But political union, without military power, would still be ineffective. Military muscle, European leaders declare, will also be needed to make the political strength of a united Europe viable.

Whether or not the present member nations will be the exact ones to eventually form a political entity, it cannot be denied that the world is seeing a seeming "miracle" taking place on a grand scale. A tremendous new awesome colossus is now taking shape in continental Europe!

What Will Happen?

Where are current economic, political and military trends leading? Will complete European union ever be achieved? And if a new political and military colossus does emerge in Europe, how will it eventually affect world affairs?

There can be no doubt such a colossus would exercise tremendous influence around the world. Its voice would be listened to in world councils. Such a power *could* become a mighty force for world peace and stability. Human beings, however, have character flaws and weaknesses. And so there is also the possibility the wrong type of leader could emerge and take charge of such a power, and lead the world to unparalleled disaster!

What *is really* going to happen? Can we know?

Politicians, newsmen, and world leaders are generally very hesitant about predicting the outcome of world affairs. But we do not need to be ignorant of this matter.

The Bible plainly reveals that the drive for European unity will ultimately lead to the emergence of a final revival of the ROMAN EMPIRE! A new empire is being fashioned in Europe - a new political power which will be big enough to challenge, and rival, the United States and the Soviet Union!

European Supergiant!

Whether the present European Community will evolve into the final revival of the Roman Empire, or whether other events, false starts and groupings will intervene first, the Bible does not tell. Nor does prophecy reveal precisely which nations or blocs of nations will compose the final union which will become the revived Roman Empire. For that knowledge, we are told to "watch" (Matt. 24:42-43). However, Biblical prophecies do indicate this empire will arise in the same general areas of Southern, Central and Western Europe in which the original Roman Empire and all its previous revivals have existed.

How will this new Roman Empire use its power? What actions will it perform? What decisions will it make? In this lesson you will study the answers revealed in Bible prophecy. You will come to understand what is destined to occur in Europe,

and begin to see how it will affect you and your loved ones.

LESSON 11

The Roman Empire Was to Continue

In the last lesson, we saw described the four great empires that were to dominate the world - the Babylonian, Persian, Greek and Roman Empires. We saw how the Roman Empire incorporated all the most outstanding strengths of the previous empires. We saw that the Apostle John referred to it as a "beast" (Rev. 13: 1). We also saw that a "second beast" - a religious or ecclesiastical government patterned after the first beast - arose, professing to be Christian but sustaining many *pagan* practices because it was, at heart, merely paganism cloaked in Christian garb. We learned that the Roman Empire received a "deadly wound" when the Empire in the West was overrun by barbarians - but the "deadly wound" was healed in 554 A.D. when the Roman Empire in the West was *officially restored*.

Let's pick up the Biblical account at this point.

1. Which one of the heads of the beast John saw received a deadly wound? Rev. 13:3.

COMMENT: Remember, the first six of the seven heads of the beast John saw stood for the Babylonian Empire, Medo-Persian Empire and the Grecian Empire with its four divisions. The only "head" still existing at the time John saw this beast in vision was the Roman Empire. The Roman Empire is therefore the "one of his [seven] heads" that was wounded to death in the vision.

By the fifth century, Rome had been weakened by internal decay - moral, social, economic and political. Meanwhile, beyond the Roman frontiers, the rest of Europe was in uproar. Vandals, Goths, Burgundians, Huns, Heruli and others were on the march. The empire could no longer defend itself against them, and Roman territory was seized on every front.

The "deadly wound," then, was the one administered to the original Roman Empire in its last decaying stages by the barbarians who overran it and plundered Rome.

2. When the beast's seventh head - the Roman Empire - received its deadly wound, was this the end, or was it to be revived? Rev. 13:3.

COMMENT: Notice that the text does *not* say the *whole* beast died. Only one of its *heads* was wounded to death. The *one head* died. But the beast system continued, and later the "deadly wound was *healed*." In other words, this very same "head," the Roman head, was later revived and continued to exist.

3. Is the Roman Empire, which is also symbolized by the legs and feet of Nebuchadnezzar's great image (Dan. 2), prophesied to be in existence at the *end* of this age - at the second coming of Christ when the Kingdom of God will be established? Dan. 2:33-35, 41-45. Does the great "stone" clearly picture Jesus Christ who will finally replace the empire with His government? Acts 4:10-11.

COMMENT: The stone does *not*, as many have assumed, represent the Christian Church which was established in the first century A.D. Why? Because the church did *not in any way* smash or destroy the Roman Empire.

4. Since we learned that the fourth beast of Daniel 7 and the beast of Revelation 13:1-2 both represent the Roman Empire, we know the ten horns of each beast are obviously the same. But what do these "horns" represent? Dan. 7:24.

COMMENT: The Bible plainly interprets these symbols for us. The horns are "ten kings" or *kingdoms* (the prophecies use "king" and "kingdom" synonymously - notice Daniel 2:38, last part, and verse 39). We shall see that these ten kings or kingdoms *bridge* the whole time from the original Roman Empire to our day!

The First Three Horns

1. Were three of the fourth beast's (the Roman Empire's) ten horns to be completely destroyed? Dan. 7:8. Notice now which three governments comprise these first three "horns."

COMMENT: Some historians arbitrarily date the "fall of Rome" in 476 A.D. But there was no great "fall" at that time. What actually happened in that year is that the last official "emperor of the West" - himself a mere child irregularly elevated by his father, a military commander, to the throne which had long since been removed from Rome to Ravenna - was deposed by Odovacar, a German commander of the Roman armies in Italy, which were mostly composed at that time of Germanic *Heruli* mercenaries.

Actually, however, Vandals and others had already carved out for themselves empires from former Roman territory before 476. The vaunted power of the irresistible Roman Empire had vanished prior to this date as a result of internal moral and economic sickness. Even that vestige of power which remained at Constantinople in the East was only a

shadow of Rome's former glory and power.

The Vandals (429 A.D.) had seized the very source of Roman power - the "granary" of North Africa, greatly weakening the empire (see Bury, *The Invasion of Europe by the Barbarians*, p. 161). In 455 A.D., they sacked Rome itself and held it for a brief space of time.

Gaiseric, king of the Vandals, made an agreement with the Eastern Roman Emperor at Constantinople - including a compact to cement it by a royal marriage with the emperor's daughter - thus "legitimizing" his rule of Roman territory. Thus his kingdom became a *part* and a *continuation* of the Roman SYSTEM. The Vandalic kingdom constituted the *first* of the three "horns."

Though wars ensued, the Vandal king, shortly before his death in 477 A.D., again made peace with "Rome" and restored Sicily to the Italian government, which was now under Odovacar. The Vandal kingdom continued in North Africa until 533 A.D.

In Italy, Odovacar, backed by the power of his Heruli soldiers, was recognized by the emperor of the East and given the titles of "patrician" and "king." His kingdom also perpetuated the Roman system, but did not heal the wound - for "barbarians" continued to exercise the actual power. This constituted the *second horn* (476-493 A. D.).

Finally, there was the kingdom of the Ostrogoths, 493-554 A.D. - the *third horn*. The emperor in the East had informally commissioned the Ostrogoths under Theodoric to destroy the power of Odovacar in Italy. In 497 A. D., he officially recognized the establishment of their rule. Nevertheless, they too were shortly to be driven out of Italy and disappear.

These three kingdoms ("horns") or governments, though essentially independent and barbarian (the Ostrogoths, Vandals and Odovacar were all "Christians" of the Arian persuasion), each *professed* to carry on the Roman Empire, and filled a transition period between the "deadly wound" and its "healing."



Wide World Photo

ROMAN RUINS - Ancient ruins still remain in Rome, Italy as reminders of the past glory and great military power of the world-ruling Roman Empire. Shown is a seventh century Catholic Church set amid remains of temples to Emperor Vespasian and to Saturn, and other ruins.

2. Who caused these first three horns to be plucked up? Dan. 7:8. What was the description of this "little horn"? Same verse, and verses 20, 24. *Why* were they uprooted?

COMMENT: The "little horn" was responsible for uprooting the first three horns because they did not submit to the dogma and authority of the Roman Church. At least in name, most of the barbarians acknowledged the Arian brand of Christianity, but the Roman Church led the Italian population to hate them, and the emperor in Constantinople was influenced to act against them as a heretical sect.

Most of Odovacar's Heruli were slaughtered, chiefly at the hands of the Italian population, on a prearranged day in accordance with a well-kept secret plot. An ecclesiastical writer called this slaughter a "sacrificial massacre" (quoted in Bury, *The Invasion of Europe by the Barbarians*, p. 184 - this book gives a very clear picture of the events and background of this period).

Now we'll see how the Vandal and Ostrogothic "horns" were also uprooted and destroyed at the instigation of this same "little horn" as another (the fourth) horn arose.

The "Deadly Wound" Healed

It was the fourth horn (or government) which really "healed" the deadly wound and restored, or *resurrected*, the Roman Empire. Justinian at that time was emperor of the surviving Eastern division. Largely to augment the power of the Bishop of Rome, he sent his armies to wage war and to uproot the Vandals and the Ostrogoths.

His general, Belisarius, rapidly defeated the Vandals and soon reconquered all of North Africa. He then transported his soldiers to Italy. The Italian population welcomed them as liberators. In 554 A.D., Justinian's army (then commanded by

Narses) entered Rome in triumph, bringing about what is known as the "Imperial Restoration."

Justinian restored to their original owners the Italian estates which the Heruli and Ostrogoths had seized, and restored as much as possible the *form* of the Roman government. In order to clarify the law, he caused all the laws accumulated over five centuries to be collected and codified. This was the famous "Law of Justinian," the "Roman" law which ruled most of Western Europe throughout the ensuing centuries.

Thus the "head" of the beast which had been fatally wounded was "healed," and the renewed empire fulfilled the prophecy of the *fourth horn*.

1. How long was the healed beast to continue? Rev. 13:5.

COMMENT: As we learned in Lesson 10, the healed beast was to continue to exist for 1260 years. At the end of that time its existence was again to be interrupted - but even so it was not yet to be permanently destroyed.

Beast Continues Into Our Time!

Now let's understand which governments were represented by the "horns" that reigned in the territory of the Roman Empire after the "Imperial Restoration."

The *fifth horn* was the Frankish kingdom (French) of Charlemagne and his successors. The *land of Italy* and most of Western Europe had fallen into the hands of the Franks while the power of Justinian's successors had greatly declined. On Christmas day, 800 A.D., the Pope crowned Charlemagne and transferred to him the title of Roman Emperor. This empire was later partitioned, according to the Frankish custom, among several heirs to the throne, and consequently lost its strength.

As a result, the kingdom of the Saxons - which comprised approximately the territory of modern Germany - began to exercise the real control in Europe. In 962 A.D., the Pope legitimized this control by the coronation of Otto (I) the Great, who assumed the crown of *Italy also*, the entire realm becoming known as the "Holy Roman Empire." This was the *sixth horn*.

During the twelfth and thirteenth centuries a great internal power struggle took place between the Popes and Holy Roman Emperors, finally resulting in the Great Interregnum - a period without an emperor, lasting from 1254 to 1273 A.D.

The empire, however, still existed. In 1273 its headship was assigned to Rudolf of the Hapsburg dynasty (Austrian). This was the *seventh horn*, which continued to rule until the time of Napoleon Bonaparte.

Napoleon conquered nearly all of Europe and overthrew the Holy Roman Empire by force of arms. His kingdom (French) then became the short-lived *eighth horn*. Napoleon crowned himself in 1804. Seizing the crown from the very hands of the Pope who had traveled all the way to Paris to crown him, he placed it upon his own head, thus becoming emperor of the French. The following year he also took the title King of Italy.

But when Napoleon was crushed in 1814 by the allied armies of Britain, Prussia and other European states, the healed beast's existence was *suspended*. From 554 A.D. to 1814 A.D., the duration of the church-ruled healed beast had been exactly 1260 years - just as had been prophesied! (Rev. 13:5.) "So closed," says *West's Modern History*, p. 377, "a government that dated from Augustus Caesar."

The Beast of Revelation 17

Now let's consider the "beast" of Revelation 17. It represents the same "beast" system and provides us additional prophetic details concerning the time after Napoleon and down to our own day.

1. Does the beast of Revelation 17, like the beast of Revelation 13, have seven heads and ten horns? Verse 3. But now notice a significant difference. Who or what sits upon or *dominates all seven* heads of this beast? Same verse.

COMMENT: In Biblical terminology a "woman" represents a church (11 Cor. 11:2; Eph. 5:23-25; Rev. 12:17). Therefore, the "whore" (Rev. 17:1, 4) represents a great *fallen* church - a FALSE church system! Since it rides the "beast," it is obviously a church that deals in politics.

It is important to note that the "seven heads" of this beast which the whore rides represent the same political powers as the *last seven* "horns" of the beast of Revelation 13:1-2. That is, the *heads* of one beast are the equivalent of the *last seven horns* of the other. This is evident from the fact that the great false church was to dominate politically the *last seven* revivals of the Roman Empire, symbolized as "horns" in Revelation 13, and as "heads" in Revelation 17.

2. Does Revelation 17:8, 10 show that the beast, as a government, was *to cease - though only temporarily* - after five of its revivals?

COMMENT: After Napoleon's fall, the "Holy" Roman Empire split up. Each Italian, German, or Netherlands principality became independent. Italy was broken up into twelve separate little states. At this time eight of the original ten "horns" of Revelation 13 - five of the seven "heads" of Revelation 17 - had arisen and fallen. The beast then went temporarily

into a non-existent condition symbolized as the "bottomless pit."

3. What does the Bible say of the sixth head of the beast of Revelation 17, which is equivalent to the *ninth* horn of the beast of Revelation 13? Rev. 17:8, 10. Notice the words "yet is" in verse 8 and "one is" in verse 10.

COMMENT: The sixth head, pictured as existing in the end time, at which *time this prophecy would be understood*, was the head which began with Garibaldi in Italy and Bismarck in Germany and culminated in the Mussolini-Hitler dynasty (1870-1945 A.D.).

In 1870-71, Garibaldi seized Rome and succeeded in uniting all the Italian states into the one nation of Italy. Italy then entered the race for colonies and acquired Libya, Eritrea and Italian Somaliland in Africa.

In 1870, also, Otto von Bismarck united all Germany and defeated the French in the Franco-Prussian War. At that time the German Empire was re-established.

In 1929, Mussolini entered into a concordat with the papacy (just as Napoleon had) defining the official relationship between Italy and the Vatican state. (A *concordat* is an agreement made by the papal see with a secular power, offering the protection of the church to political rulers who promise in return to defend the church and to guarantee the authority of her teaching over the people.)

In 1935 Mussolini attacked and conquered Ethiopia. Adding this to Italian Somaliland, Eritrea, Libya and later Albania, he proclaimed his empire a resurrection of the *Roman Empire!* (The king of Italy, Victor Emmanuel III, assumed the title of Emperor, though Mussolini exercised the real power.) He then allied himself with Nazi Germany under Adolf Hitler.

This was the insignificant, *feeble*, short-lived *ninth horn* of the beast of Revelation 13 - the *sixth head* of the beast of Revelation 17 - the *sixth resurrection* of the empire since the "deadly wound was healed" in 554 A.D. It is described in verse 8 of Revelation 17 as "the beast that was, and is not, and yet is." Italy was so unimportant internationally that, as a mighty Roman Empire, it really "was not" - and yet it was - at least *in name!*

In World War II, this weak, almost insignificant *ninth horn* or *sixth head* was defeated and destroyed. The beast dropped for the second time into the "bottomless pit."

One More Revival to Come!

The church-dominated Roman Empire existed for 1260 years as God had prophesied. Then it ceased to exist with the downfall of Napoleon Bonaparte in 1814. In 1870 it began to revive again, but was completely crushed a *second time* in 1945.

But "there are *seven kings*" says prophecy, and one "is not yet come" (Rev. 17:10). So one is YET TO COME! Yet *once more* this religio-political system is to revive, arising out of the symbolic "bottomless pit" to form the *seventh* head of Revelation 17 or *tenth* and FINAL "horn" of Revelation 13:1-2 and Daniel 7!

1. What are the "seven heads" of the beast called in Revelation 17:9?

COMMENT: There are seven *literal* hills on which Rome is built, symbolic of the seven *kingdoms* or revivals of the Roman Empire over which the Roman church was to rule. It was May 9, 1936, that Mussolini hailed "after fifteen centuries the resurgence of the empire on the *fated hills of Rome*" (Salvemini, *Prelude to World War II*, p. 446).

But the "mind that hath wisdom" is to see beyond the symbol. Let's continue.

2. Is "mountain" another Bible *symbol* which pictures a nation or kingdom? Isa. 2:2-3; Dan. 2:35. What does Revelation 17:10 clearly state these seven mountains represent? (Remember that the word "king" stands for the kingdom he rules.)

3. Note the words "one is, and the other is not yet come" in Revelation 17:10. Does this verse prove that these revivals were to be successive kingdoms that ruled the Roman Empire after its restoration in 554 A.D.?

COMMENT: The kingdoms are clearly *successive* revivals of the one empire. As prophesied, a great religious authority sat astride each of these revivals from Justinian to Mussolini. Obviously, therefore, the same religious power will dominate the seventh and last resurrection of the Roman Empire yet to come.

4. What else are we told about the beast of Revelation 17? Rev. 17:11.

COMMENT: Here this church-dominated empire is actually called an "eighth" beast, but yet it is *one of the "seven."* How can this be? What are the "seven" this verse is talking about?

Let's see: the Chaldean Empire, Persia, the four divisions of Greece and the original Roman Empire add up to seven, as symbolized by the heads of the beast of Revelation 13. These seven heads were not dominated by religion. Pagan Rome was the seventh head and was wounded to death. Yet later Rome continued as a revived - "healed" - beast (described in Revelation 17). Its system is called the "eighth" in Revelation 17:11 because it is DIFFERENT from the previous seven - that is, it has always been ridden by a fallen "woman," the symbol for a great apostate church - representing a union of *church and state* - and yet it is a part of the original seventh, and hence "of the seven."

A Powerful Union of Nations

1. What do the ten horns of the beast of Revelation 17 represent? Rev. 17:12. What will they do? Verse 13.

COMMENT: These horns represent "ten kings," or nations (or blocs of nations) which will comprise the seventh, or last, resurrection of the Roman Empire.

Each of these nations' rulers will receive power to rule "one hour" - a short time - WITH the beast in its last revival and will together support and strengthen the beast. Therefore *these* ten "horns" are necessarily *contemporaneous* - all existing at the same time.

2. Is this seventh revival of the empire plainly yet ahead of us - just *before* the second coming of Christ? Rev. 17:14.

COMMENT: This verse, in agreement with all the other prophecies showing the beast's last revival, sets the time for this prophesied "one hour" (verse 12).

3. In what other way does the Bible picture these same ten contemporaneous kingdoms? Dan. 2:41-42. Does verse 28 set the time? What will Christ do to this union of nations at His coming? Verses 34 and 44.

COMMENT: It is precisely during the brief "hour" when these nations are united that Jesus Christ will return to this earth to break up these kingdoms and absorb their lands and peoples into His Kingdom!

4. How will the ten attempt to make their union permanent - is it by mixing of the nationalities? Dan. 2:43. Note the words "mingle themselves with the seed of men." Will the attempt succeed? Same verse and verse 41.

COMMENT: The ten "toes" (nations or blocs of nations) can only stick together for a *short time*, just as iron and clay will not permanently stick together. As iron and clay have different natures, so do the peoples of Europe. Some have the strength and cohesiveness of iron, while others are like clay which is soft when wet and brittle when dry.

5. Does Revelation 17: 10 verify that these nations will remain together only a short time?

Great Prosperity of Coming Colossus

The final revival of the Roman Empire - destined to occur in this twentieth century - will be a great trading and commercial power. For a short period of time it will enjoy truly *fantastic* prosperity!

1. Is "prosperity" a *means* by which a "little horn" will "destroy many"? Dan. 8:25, and see margin. The word "peace" in this verse can also be translated "Prosperity."

COMMENT: This "little horn" described in Daniel 8:9-11, 23-25 (not the same as the "little horn" of Daniel 7) represents the last king or leader of the system which began at Babylon - the coming political ruler of the "beast." He will actually wage WAR against the "holy ones" of God - the saints - and Christ Himself!

Antiochus Epiphanes, discussed in the last lesson, whom many commentators say fulfilled this prophecy, was merely a *type* of this coming king.

2. Does Revelation 18:2-3, especially the last part of verse 3, speak about trade with a *modern* "Babylon"? Are the merchants of the earth made rich through "the abundance of her delicacies" (literally, "the power of her wanton super-strength")? Verse 3 and verses 12-13.

COMMENT: Remember that the ancient Babylon had long passed into history before the Apostle John saw these visions of a *modern* "Babylon" and wrote the book of Revelation. And notice that this Babylon is represented as a "she" - since it will be a church-state system, unlike the original Babylon. This prosperous *modern* "Babylon" is called "Babylon the Great" in Revelation 17:5.

It is interesting to notice that the very *number* of the beast's name (666) is associated in the Bible with *great prosperity* (I Kings 10:14; II Chron. 9:13). Furthermore, scholars have said that there are only two common nouns in the Greek language which have a numerical value of 666. Interestingly, they are the words for "tradition" and "prosperity" (see *A Critical and Experimental Commentary* by Jamieson, Faucett and Brown).

The Great False Prophet

Unity among nations, peaceful cooperation, economic stability are GOOD, as long as the power of the union is wisely directed into wholesome, constructive, peaceful channels. However, Bible prophecy reveals that ultimately European union is going to be abused - *misguided*! The military power of a combination of ten nations or blocs of nations is going to be used in an attempt to FIGHT CHRIST at His second coming to this earth! (Rev. 17:14.)

Can you imagine it? How, you might wonder, could people be *deceived* into actually fighting against Jesus Christ? The answer is simple. They will be led to do so in the name of religion!

In the world today we see increasing interest in astrology, occultism, fortune-telling, witchcraft - any supposed

manifestation of the supernatural. Soon, according to the prophecies of your Bible, a great "false prophet" is going to appear who will perform miracles and wonders which will sweep MILLIONS into one vast ages-old religious system!

1. Did Jesus prophesy that in the "last days" false Christs and false prophets would arise who would show great signs and wonders, and deceive *many*? Matt. 24:4-5, 24.

2. Just before the second coming of Christ, is one particular "man of sin" going to perform great miracles and *lying* wonders? 11 Thes. 2:3-4, 8-9. By whose power will he perform them? Verse 9. *Why* will he perform them - as a deliberate attempt to deceive people? Verse 10.

COMMENT: Satan, who has always desired to be God, ruling over all, will for a brief period of time attempt to palm himself off as God by placing his human instrument in a supreme religious office on earth.

This man will be a performer of miracles - supposed "proofs" that he is God. Millions will be deluded by his mighty signs - "lying wonders." He will be *worshipped* "as [very] God" and will apply God's own titles to himself.

The term "lying wonder" does not necessarily imply that the wonder itself is a lie. The miracle may be real enough, but the miracle *causes those who see it* TO BELIEVE A LIE - that is, causes them to believe that the agent of Satan the devil is God! (See a similar example in Job 1: 12, 16, where people mistook Satanically caused fire from heaven to be "the fire of God.")

3. Who will this "false prophet" deceive by his miracles - those people who have the "mark of the beast" and who worship the "image of the beast"? Rev. 19:20.

4. Will the false prophet be working in cooperation with the beast and a dragon when Christ comes? Rev. 16:13-14. Who or what is the "dragon"? Rev. 12:9.

5. Do the works of the end-time "false prophet" or "man of sin," compare closely with those of the religious system pictured in Revelation 13:11-17?

COMMENT: Notice that both perform miracles. Both deceive the people. Both have a close working relationship with the beast and its "mark." Clearly the great "false prophet" to come will be of the same religious system!

The Great Fall of "Babylon the Great"

1. Why will God judge and condemn the religio-political system of the coming Roman Empire? Rev. 14:8; 17:5-6; 18:1-5.

2. What did Daniel say about the time when the final beast and its ecclesiastical "little horn" will be destroyed? Dan. 7:11-12. Do these scriptures show us that the whole system will end completely?

COMMENT: Both the political and religious aspects of the modern Roman Empire will suddenly be destroyed - obliterated - unlike the earlier empires which temporarily survived their fall in a subordinate status.

3. Does Isaiah 13 refer not only to the ancient city of Babylon on the Euphrates, but primarily to a Babylon in the "day of the Lord" - the time of God's intervention in world affairs? Isa. 13:1, 9-13. Does this chapter reiterate that this "city's" (or kingdom's) destruction will be *total* and *permanent*? Verse 19.

COMMENT: It is no coincidence that immediately following this passage of scripture which continues unbroken in thought through Isaiah 14:11, verse 12 then takes us back to the *original* fall of Lucifer. For the fall of modern Babylon marks the end of everything Lucifer, now called Satan, has worked for on this earth for thousands of years. He is pictured as the actual "king" (verse 4) of the entire Babylonish system because he completely controls the human king described in Isaiah 14:16-20 and in Revelation 19:20.

So complete is this coming destruction of modern Babylon that the wicked will *never again* "rise, nor possess the land, nor fill the face of the world with cities" (Isa. 14:21-22).



European Community Photo
EEC PARLIAMENT - The European Economic Community Parliament is shown in session in Strasbourg, France.

4. Whom will God use as His instrument to fight against modern Babylon? Isa. 13:17; 21:2, 9; Jer. 51:11.

COMMENT: The modern Medes will come out of Russia, where their ancestors settled after they left ancient Media. (We will also see that the united nations of the Roman Empire will then have a part in destroying the religious stranglehold from their necks, and Jesus Christ will Himself also take part in its complete destruction!)

"Daughter of Babylon" Utterly Destroyed!

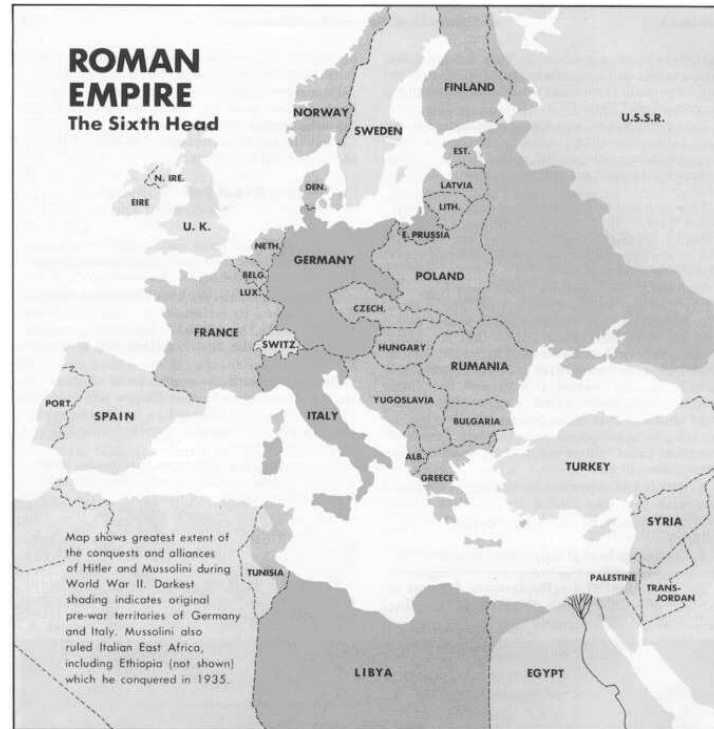
1. Read the 47th chapter of Isaiah. Does God speak very plainly about a *woman* - a "*daughter*" of [the ancient] Babylon"? Isa. 47:1. Is she the "lady of [who rules over] kingdoms"? Verse 5. Has she persecuted God's people? Verse 6. Is she accustomed to living luxuriously? Verses 1, 7; Rev. 18:7. Does she pose as a "virgin" while actually being a harlot spiritually? Rev. 17:2; 18:9. Does she have spiritual "children" - the result of her harlotry - like herself? Isa. 47:8-9; Rev. 17:5.

COMMENT: How clear that this "daughter" of Babylon is the same as the "whore" of Revelation 17 which sits astride the beast.

Now turn to the 50th chapter of Jeremiah. Here also are significant verses which describe the fall of modern Babylon. Notice especially verses 2-3, 8-9. Then in verse 12, "Babylon" is called a "mother" (recall Rev. 17:5). She is to be *utterly* destroyed (verses 13, 23, 26, 39-40). Verse 42 again makes it plain that the prophecy concerns a "daughter" - that is a *female* and *later* version of the ancient Babylon. Therefore, we see that much of Jeremiah 50 refers to the end time.

Chapter 51 continues God's sentence. See especially verses 6-8. Here God's people are warned to flee *modern* "Babylon" which is symbolized by "a golden cup" (compare with Rev. 17:4), representing the attractive, but false, doctrines by which she has made all nations *spiritually drunk!* (Compare Jer. 51:7 with Rev. 17:2.)

Now notice Jeremiah 51:13: "O thou that dwellest upon many waters [rules over many nations and peoples - see Rev. 17:15], abundant in treasures [has great economic prosperity], thine end is come, and the measure of thy covetousness."



2. How quickly will the end of the "daughter of Babylon" come? Jer. 51:8; Isa. 47:11; Rev. 18:8, 10. Will she be made "naked" - her lack of righteousness exposed? Isa. 47:3. What will happen to her, spiritual advisors? Verses 13-14.

3. When the nations comprising the future colossus see that the religious system which has ruled over them has DECEIVED them, and will not be able to deliver them from the threat of destruction coming from the north and east, what will they do? Rev. 17:16. Note the words "burn her with fire," and see Rev. 18:6, 8.

COMMENT: Because of her greed, corruption and false promises, the "kings" (leaders) and people of Europe will come to "hate the whore." They will turn against her. They will give the bearer of the "cup" (of *spiritual* drunkenness which causes great suffering and sorrow) a *double portion* of her own medicine which she has meted out to so many.

She will stand "desolate" - alone - and "naked" - stripped bare of her pretensions so that all may see her filthiness and shame in its true light. They will rebel against her government, *eat her flesh* (seize and confiscate her properties) and *burn her with fire!*

4. Will Christ also take a hand Himself in destroying both the dominion of the beast and the daughter of Babylon? Rev. 14:9-11; 16:2, 8-10, 19.



American Stock Photo

ITALIAN-GERMAN AXIS - Benito Mussolini (left), allied himself in the 30s with Adolf Hitler (right), who during World War II and Italy's weakness really ruled the short-lived sixth revival of the Roman Empire.

Fall of Modern "Tyre"

Now we are prepared to see the *duality* in an-other important prophecy of the Old Testament. It is the prophecy against "Tyre" found in Ezekiel 27 and 28.

1. Does a "prince" of Tyre put himself in the "seat of God" and show himself as *God* - as we have seen the "false prophet" will do in our time? Ezek. 28:2, 6, 9. Is he wise and prosperous through commerce? Verses 3-5.

COMMENT: Tyre, located about 100 miles north of Jerusalem on the Mediterranean seacoast, was one of the greatest trading cities of the ancient world, and is a *type* of a great modern commercial system. Notice that the entire 27th chapter of Ezekiel is devoted to an account of her trade and prosperity. God prophesies her modern antitype shall be utterly destroyed!

The *human* ruler of Tyre is referred to as a "prince." But the real KING of Tyre is described in the verses beginning with Ezekiel 28:12. He is none other than Satan the devil! A part of Satan's history is given here because *he* is the real head and author of the great worldly system pictured. And in Isaiah 14, remember, Satan was shown to be the king over the system there called "Babylon" (Isa. 14:4).

2. Is modern "Tyre's" fate to be burned? Ezek. 28:18. Will it forever cease to exist? Verse 19.

COMMENT: In this chapter, the type and anti-type of Satan the devil and modern Tyre are blended together. Verse 16 speaks of the trade and violence of modern Tyre; verse 18 speaks of FIRE brought forth by God consuming the system.

3. What will then be the attitude of some of the leaders of today's human society who have formed leagues and partnerships with modern "Tyre"? Compare Ezekiel 27:28-33 with Revelation 18:9-10. What about the merchants of the earth, and others whose god is money? Rev. 18:11, 15-19. Will they make any effort to save her? Verse 10; Isa. 47:15.

COMMENT: Clearly modern Tyre and Babylon are synonymous - and suffer the same fate!

4. Will the servants of God who were martyred by this religio-political system be completely avenged at that time? Rev. 18:20. Will modern "Babylon" ever again be rebuilt? Verses 21-23.



"Come Out of Her My People!"

1. What is God's warning to us today? Rev. 18:4.

If we come OUT of the system of modern Babylon and her spiritual daughters, and turn whole-heartedly to Him, will God protect us through the days of trouble and death that lie ahead? Luke 21:36; Rev. 3:10; 7:1-3; 12:14-16.

COMMENT: The future events you have studied in advance with this lesson are certain to occur.

They are as inevitable as the rising and setting of the sun. God has prophesied throughout His Word of a rising super religio-political colossus in Europe which will astound this world! A few years ago fulfillment of these prophecies would have seemed incredible - even preposterous - to many. But no more. You won't have long to wait.

Perhaps as much as 90 percent of all Bible prophecy refers - at least in TYPE - to our generation! All the prophets spoke of *our* time. *Our* generation is destined to see the "time of the end," "the latter days," "the LAST days."

God has now opened many of these prophecies to *your* understanding. You have had a glimpse into the soon-coming future. The question is: what are you going to do about it? What Will YOU DO with this knowledge? Will you heed God's warning in Revelation 18:4?

Don't be deceived into bearing the "mark" of the beast, or the "name" of the beast, or his "number" - lest *you* suffer the seven last plagues with modern "Babylon"! (Rev. 16:1-2.)

A CHART SHOWING PROPHECIES OF REIGN OF GENTILE KINGDOMS								
Dan. 2 The IMAGE	Daniel 7 The FOUR BEASTS (State) (Church)	Dan. 8 The RAM and GOAT	Revelation 13 The BEAST and IMAGE (State) (Church)		Rev. 17 BABYLON and BEAST	EXPLANA- TION of Symbols	The EVENTS Fulfilled in HISTORY	
Head of GOLD v. 32, 39	1st BEAST like LION v. 4					1st HEAD of prophetic BABYLON	The CHALDEAN EMPIRE (Babylon) 625-539 B.C.	
Breast and arms of SILVER v. 32, 39	2nd BEAST (BEAR) v. 5		RAM with 2 horns v. 3, 4, 20			2nd head of prophetic BABYLON	The PERSIAN EMPIRE (Medo-Persia) 559-330 B.C.	
Belly and thighs of BRASS v. 32, 39	3rd BEAST (LEOPARD) 4 heads v. 6		HE-GOAT with great horn and 4 notable ones v. 5-8, 21, 22			3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th HEADS of prophetic BABYLON	GREECE, under Alexander the Great, and four divisions, 334-31 B.C.	
Legs of IRON v. 33, 40-43	4th BEAST strong like IRON with 10 HORNS v. 7, 23, 24			The BEAST with 7 HEADS and 10 HORNS v. 1, 2		7th HEAD of prophetic BABYLON, with ten HORNS	The ROMAN EMPIRE, from 31 B.C., later in 2 divisions, West and East	
				The DEADLY WOUND v. 3			Barbarian conquest of the ROMAN EMPIRE fifth century A.D.	
	1st HORN (uprooted)			1st HORN		These three horns, adherents of the Arian form of "Christianity," destroyed at behest of the "little Horn"	The VANDALS 429-533 A.D.	
	2nd HORN (uprooted)			2nd HORN			The HERULI, Odovacar's government, 476-493 A.D.	
	3rd HORN (uprooted)			3rd HORN			The OSTROGOTHS 493-554 A.D.	
		LITTLE HORN among ten v. 8, 20-22, 24-27			Two-horned "LAMB- DRAGON" and "IMAGE" v. 11-18	SCARLET WOMAN who rode the BEAST v. 1, 2	Ruled the Beast, so- called BABYLON the GREAT	STATE CHURCH and its copy ("image") of the Roman Empire
	4th HORN			1st of REMAINING 7 horns— DEADLY WOUND HEALED (to continue 1260 years) v. 5	↑ 554-1814 = 1260 YEARS BEAST CONTINUED ↓	1st HEAD of BEAST (healed) ridden by Scarlet Woman	Since the "Woman" never rode any of the 7 heads of the 1st 4 Beasts, but did mount and ride the last 7 horns of Daniel's 4th Beast, it follows that the last 7 horns of Dan. 7 and Rev. 13 are the 7 HEADS of Rev. 17	"IMPERIAL RESTORATION" of the Roman Empire in the West by Justinian, 554 A.D.
	5th HORN			2nd of remaining 7 HORNS		2nd HEAD ridden by Woman	FRANKISH KINGDOM	
	6th HORN			3rd of remaining 7 HORNS		3rd HEAD ridden by Woman	HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE (German head)	
	7th HORN			4th of remaining 7 HORNS		4th HEAD ridden by Woman	HAPSBURG DYNASTY (Austrian head)	
	8th HORN			5th of remaining 7 HORNS		5th HEAD ridden by Woman	(5 are now fallen)	NAPOLION'S KINGDOM (French head)
In 1814, just 1260 years after "deadly wound" was healed, the "HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE" was dissolved. "So closed a government that dated from Augustus Caesar" (West, p. 377).								
	9th HORN			6th of remaining 7 HORNS		6th HEAD ridden by Woman	(One IS) Rev. 17:10	ITALY, united by Garibaldi, 1870 to 1945
The ten TOES	10th HORN			7th and last HORN	Beast ascends out of pit	7th head and ten HORNS	(One yet to come)	Revived ROMAN EMPIRE of 10 nations or groups of nations

This chart will help you understand and correlate various prophecies concerning the stages or revivals of the Roman Empire. Use it with Lessons 10 and 11.

To print chart: Right click on chart. Click "Save Image As" on the small menu. Open ProphecyChart_L11.jpg in your Image Editor / Viewer program. Click on Print. Print at 100%. It should print out at 9.62 x 7.02 inches.

TEST YOUR MEMORY

This quiz is designed to help you remember the important facts you learned in the lesson. You simply circle or underline each correct answer. After you've finished the test, check your choices with the correct answers listed on page 14, and then rate yourself.

1 . The European Common Market

A. is evidence that Europe is determined to unite. **B.** has a slightly smaller population than the United States of America. **C.** has not been a commercial success. **D.** is clearly composed of the very nations prophesied to form the final revival of the Roman Empire.

2. The Roman Empire

A. ended for all time in the fifth century. **B.** suddenly fell in 476 A.D. **C.** was succeeded by ten contemporaneous kingdoms in its territory. **D.** is prophesied to exist in the end time at the coming of Christ.

3. The first three horns of the first beast John described in Revelation 13

A. correspond to the three horns Daniel (chapter 7) saw uprooted by a "little horn." **B.** were in no way a continuation of Rome. **C.** healed the beast's "deadly wound." **D.** symbolized the Visigoths, Alans and Lombards.

4. Rome's "deadly wound" was healed by

A. the Vandals, Heruli and Ostrogoths. **B.** Justinian in 554 A.D. **C.** the papacy. **D.** Constantine the Great.

5. During the Middle Ages, the Roman Empire

A. was not continued in the empire of Charlemagne. **B.** ceased to exist. **C.** became the "Holy Roman Empire" composed principally of Germany and Italy. **D.** remained free of any religious influence.

6. The Roman Empire ascended from the symbolic "bottomless pit" about

A. 1804 with the rise of Napoleon. **B.** 1870 with Garibaldi's unification of Italy. **C.** 1914 with the beginning of; World War I. **D.** 1939 with the beginning of World War II.

7. The most recent revival of the Roman Empire

A. ended with Napoleon's defeat at Waterloo. **B.** occurred in the United States. **C.** was the Austro-Hungarian Empire. **D.** was dominated by Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini.

8. The beast of Revelation 17 differs from the first beast of Revelation 13 in that

A. this whole beast - all seven heads (its revivals) and ten horns (yet to appear) - are "ridden" by a church. **B.** - it doesn't differ. **C.** it merely symbolizes Satan. **D.** it represents a false church, not an empire.

9. The ten horns of the beast of Revelation 17 correspond to

A. the ten horns of the beast of Daniel 7. **B.** the horns of the first beast of Revelation 13. **C.** the toes of Daniel 2. **D.** any number of additional successive revivals that may yet occur.

10. The ten-nation political union described in Revelation 17:12 will

A. endure for a long time. **B.** be the signal Christ's return is very near. **C.** be economically impoverished. **D.** be as solidly united as is a chunk of iron.

TRUE OR FALSE

11. The ten horns of the beasts of Revelation 17 and 13:1-2 represent the same kings. **T F**

12. The sixth "head" or revival of the beast in Revelation 17 lasted 1260 years. **T F**

13. The "false prophet" will perform great miracles to deceive the world, and will sit in a high religious office, posing as very God. **T F**

14. The union of nations comprising the final revival of the Roman Empire will destroy the "woman" - the church - which will have ruled them. **T F**

15. God is very tolerant of this world's false religions. **T F**

MATCHING

Draw a line from each phrase in the left-hand column to the correctly related phrase in the right-hand column.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 16. Modern Medes | A. Napoleon |
| | B. "Man of sin" |
| 17. Female "Babylon" | C. Teutonic barbarians |
| | D. Utter destruction |
| 18. Golden cup | E. Ancient Babylon |
| | F. False doctrines |
| 19. The "false prophet" | G. Germans |
| | H. Great false church |
| 20. Babylon's fate | I. Great prosperity |
| | J. Attack modern Babylon |

ANSWERS TO QUIZ

- | | | | |
|------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. A | 6. B | 11. F | 16. J |
| 2. D | 7. D | 12. F | 17. H |
| 3. A | 8. A | 13. T | 18. F |
| 4. B | 9. C | 14. T | 19. B |
| 5. C | 10. B | 15. F | 20. D |

Rate Yourself

- 19-20 correct ----- excellent
 16-18 correct ----- good
 13-15 correct ----- fair