

PROPHETIC TRUTHS FOR TODAY

Unveiling the End-Time Events

by

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CHAPTER SIX

GENTILE NATIONS IN COMMOTION— NEARING ARMAGEDDON

“They answered again and said, Let the king tell his servants the dream, and we will show the interpretation of it” (Daniel 2:7).

IT BEHOOVES God’s people to find out what lies ahead, and how the present age will culminate, especially with reference to Gentile governmental systems. The Scriptures reveal distinctly that *Gentile nations are doomed*. This may not be a very complimentary statement to make, but it is true nevertheless.

In the *Olivet Discourse* Jesus used the expression, **“The times of the Gentiles”** (Luke 21:24). It was the longest answer Jesus ever gave to a few short questions which the disciples posed.

THE TIMES OF THE GENTILES BEGAN WITH NEBUCHADNEZZAR

God raised up this great ruler *to chastise the disobedient nation Judah*. Nebuchadnezzar began his reign in the year 606 B.C., and the mighty king was synonymous with the rise of Babylon.

The Times of the Gentiles will continue until the last of these world dominions will be overthrown by the personal intervention of Jesus Christ at the close of the Great Tribulation.

The Book of Daniel, especially chapters 2 and 7, gives you the timetable and the blueprint for the entire period. In other words, the Times of the Gentiles cover the total number of centuries during which time the various governmental systems are activated and subsequently being moved off the political arena.

In this long time-period Jerusalem will be trodden down; that is, *the old city will be under the jurisdiction of those with whom God has no covenant relationship*.

When the last of these confederacies is over thrown by the Son of God, a new world order will be established—*the Millennium*.

FOUR EMPIRES ARE PRESENTED

Daniel, who interpreted correctly the remarkable dream of King Nebuchadnezzar, depicted the rise and the expansion of these political systems as well as their demise.

The great metallic image, which was presented in the form of a man, constituted the prophetic significance of these Gentile systems as they emerged successively in history.

The *head of gold* represented the Babylonian kingdom, which lasted from 606 to 537 B.C. It also corresponded to the first beast mentioned in chapter 7, the lion. Ancient history has corroborated precisely the prophetic presentation by Daniel the prophet.

Babylon was followed by the kingdom of the Medes and Persians, a dual empire which existed from 537 to 331 B.C. The *chest and arms* in the image, as well as the bear, which was the corresponding beast of chapter 7, depict the second world empire of prophetic history. The Medes and the Persians conquered by brute force. Xerxes once led two and one-half million against his foes.

In the year 331 B.C. this great domain was overthrown by the Greco-Macedonian Empire which succeeded the rule of the Medes and Persians. Greece held sway as the third world power in history until the year 146 B.C. The *belly and the thighs of brass* in the image reveals the third system of Gentile world dominions. And in chapter 7 the corresponding beast is the leopard. This swiftly moving beast depicts Alexander the Great, who conquered the known world at the age of 32. Alexander's successors, however, were unable to hold together this vast domain, and it fell apart subsequently.

The last empire to rise in this prophetic blueprint was Rome. It emerged in the year 146 B.C. Daniel states in the second chapter, "**And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron.**" Its specific identification with the metallic image is fully given in this statement: "**His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay.**"

There is no distinct beast mentioned in chapter 7, as we find, e.g., with reference to the other kingdoms set forth. The beast is simply a nondescript creature, or a monstrosity, having the characteristics of all the beasts. Imperial Rome reached the zenith of power and glory under Caesar Augustus, who held sway over vast areas at the time Christ was born. The great image also depicts two legs of iron.

Historically the empire divided in the year 395 A.D. into the Eastern and Western wings. And in the year 476 the Western Empire fell, although Roman influence continued throughout the medieval period. The Eastern wing also collapsed subsequently.

As we follow Daniel's timetable of world empires, this brings us down to *the feet and the toes* of the great image. Notice, this is the only part of the image which has not seen its fulfillment in history. In other words, at least five-sixths of the total predictions regarding world governments have been fulfilled literally.

Daniel stated specifically that in the latter days, or at the time approaching the end of Gentile world dominions, there would emerge *a ten-kingdom confederacy*. This is represented by the ten toes on the feet of the image. For nearly 1500 years there have been no signs of fulfillment of this prophetic portrayal with reference to the final form of Gentile dominion.

In the last two decades, however, we have witnessed some fundamental changes taking place within the geographical boundaries of the old Roman Empire. These current developments match the last part of Daniel's outline of the final political systems. It seems obvious to students of prophecy that we have witnessed a preliminary development which will lead to the ultimate formation of a great confederacy within the boundaries of the old empire.

A few years ago there was created in western Europe, The North Atlantic Treaty Organization, or NATO, as it is usually identified. The military counterpart of the political arrangement has the name, The Supreme Headquarters of the Atlantic Powers in Europe, or the shortened form, SHAPE. Here, then, we see in the West actually *the United States of Europe emerging*.

Such an arrangement Winston Churchill had visualized and promoted while he served as Britain's first minister. With the more recent *common market* arrangement, we see a further solidification and crystallization of the western confederacy. Britain recently cast her lot with this economic program which strengthens the western European Union very substantially. For the first time since the fall of the Roman Empire we have witnessed a preliminary development in Europe which conforms to Daniel's prophecy.

Bible prophecy also sets forth the interesting development that the ten kingdoms *will surrender* all their sovereignty to the beast. This will not be difficult when the world situation becomes precarious. We may recall a few years ago that France turned over to General Charles De Gaulle all the governmental machinery of France; that is, when that nation was at the point of political disintegration.

This is precisely what the United States of Europe will do in the End-Times. These rulers will turn over their sovereignty *to the beast, or the political Antichrist*.

THE NORTHERN CONFEDERACY

The second of the great End-Time confederacies is portrayed by the prophet Ezekiel in chapters 38 and 39.

He sets forth the great colossus from the North. The Bible spot light is on Russia. If the Bible is not in Russia, you may be certain that Russia is in the Bible. The Northern confederacy will invade Israel's land in the End-Time.

Ezekiel states that this army will swoop down like a whirlwind in order to take possession of the unwallied cities. It is interesting to point out that all the new cities built in Palestine are unwallied, including Tel Aviv, the all-Jewish city of 300,000, which has risen since the close of World War I.

As late as 40 years ago Israel was a desert, or a land of waste places. It is stated that the ruler of the North will endeavor to take the spoils of the land. Only in our time is this literally possible. Leading chemists have estimated that the total value of all the *chemicals in the Dead Sea add up to one-half of the wealth of the world.*

A few years ago I saw a Palestinian chemical company extracting these hidden values from the Dead Sea. One hundred pounds of its water have some *29 pounds of chemical content*, while oceanic water has only 6 pounds with an inferior quality. The armies from the North will rush in to take the spoils, but God Almighty will rain fire, brimstone, and hail upon the invasion army. Complete destruction will come to these hordes, and the blow will be shattering in scope.

This invasion is the move that will trigger the march of the other armies, and it will be the first in a series of steps which will involve action from Gentile dominions in the End-Time.

Joel refers to the partitioning of the land as one of the developments of the latter days. This was realized in the late 40's during the Arab-Jewish war. Russia is strategically perched to move in this direction. In 1958 President Eisenhower received Congressional authorization to land troops in Lebanon. The Russian attempt to unbalance the Middle East seemed imminent, hence the American action to block that move was taken. The whole area is like a powder keg. Its strategic location is a great asset to whatever world power gets jurisdiction over the region.

THE KINGS OF THE EAST

The third great End-Time confederacy is the one depicted in Revelation, chapter 11.

In the Orient, or in the direction of the rising sun, that is, the East, a great movement will sweep on westward. These diabolical and demon-energized hordes will cross the Euphrates (the old barrier between the East and the West) and move eventually into Israel's land. Not since the days of Alexander the Great has there been any significant activity in this area of the world. But within the last two decades, India and Indonesia have secured their independence, while China has come under a communistic dictatorship.

In the middle 50's a great conference was held at Bandung, Indonesia, when over one billion Asiatics were represented. These former sleeping giants have become active and their leaders have served notice to the western powers that the yellow races no longer will play a secondary role in world affairs.

The Book of Revelation reveals that these incredible numbers will be organized and that they will meet the other great forces in Israel's land. Only in our own decade has it been possible to see any developments in the Far East which dovetail into the great prophetic events pertaining to the End-Times.

Only a few decades ago China was impotent. Other nations walked in, as it were, and established their extra-territorial rights. All this is of the past. China has become one of the great political powers on earth. The preliminary activities, in line with Bible predictions, may be seen in this area of the earth.

THE KING OF THE SOUTH

In the final period of Gentile rule, Africa and the Mohammedan world will take on great strength and resourcefulness. Already the Arab League is formed. Moreover, nearly all of Africa is seething with revolution and the masses are motivated by a fanatical brand of nationalism. Nassar of the United Arab Republic seeks to become the spokesman for the Arab belt, but so far he has not succeeded in realizing his goal. Instead in the whole area of the South we see developments which are extremely significant in conjunction with Bible prophecy.

As one looks at the total world picture in our time, it is not difficult to see that the stage is being set for the final Armageddon.

Revelation, chapters 17-19, depicts the greatest massing together of armed forces that this earth has ever witnessed. The Normandy invasion in the year 1944 will be overshadowed completely when the armies of the great End-Time confederacies will start to move and eventually become involved in the battle of the nations.

In the final struggle the political world ruler, the Antichrist, will seek to make war against the Lamb. Our Lord will come in dazzling power and resplendent glory and quickly the evil actors will be eliminated from the arena.

The ecclesiastical Antichrist also will assume his position of power in the last great apostasy. According to II Thessalonians 2:8, he will seat himself in the temple of God (not the church) demanding worship. The Jewish temple (a temporary structure) will be rebuilt when the beast makes a covenant with the Jewish nation at the beginning of the 70th year-week. When that covenant is broken in the middle of the week, all hell will break loose upon the Jews who are in the land. Except that the days be shortened (the time limited) no one could survive. The Lord of glory will overpower Satan's forces in the last great struggle during the final Tribulation period.

Daniel also tells about the stone that will fall, one not cut with human hands; it will fall upon the great image (representing the Gentile governmental systems) and it will topple. Daniel reveals that this stone will later expand into a great mountain which will cover the earth. Mountains in the Scriptures represent kingdoms. Here, then, we see depicted the millennial kingdom, a period which may be called the golden age for the earth.

Hundreds of references to this period may be found in Old Testament prophecies. Isaiah 9:6 is perhaps one of the clearest references to this glorious day. The Messianic glory will fill all the earth. It is then the full realization of our Lord's Prayer will come, "**Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth . . .**"

With the overthrow of Satan, the beast, and the false prophet, the kingdom age will be introduced. The Times of the Gentiles will end, and the Day of the Lord will have come. Jesus Christ as the true son of David will initiate a golden age, an era of universal peace, when the inhabitants of the earth will learn righteousness. In other words, it will be a warless world.

Swords and spears will be reconverted into garden tools. This period is the millennium to which we find six references in the 20th chapter of Revelation.

As one looks upon the world today with its frightening forces of evil moving to a climax, it should be easy to see that the preliminary developments are here, or the stage is being set for the final Armageddon.

All the Gentile systems depicted in the Bible prophecy may be identified historically, and even the final pattern has witnessed a remarkable correlation with the Biblical predictions. We are now witnessing a final death-grapple between the forces of tyranny and those representing the free world. Dictatorship is stronger than democracies as iron is stronger than clay.

These two elements are irreconcilable. They cannot be fused.

Co-existence may be a desirable goal which seems necessary, but the Scriptures do not point to such a reconciliation. The forces which are now loose no man can tame. Gentile nations are moving towards the battle of the nations. Fortunately for those who are believers, it will not involve them.

The Church will be raptured before the last world-shaking events will transpire. Indeed Gentile nations are in commotion and this will continue until the final Armageddon.

~ end of chapter 6 ~

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