PROPHETIC HISTORY OF HUMAN EMPIRE

From Nimrod's Babylon to the Holy Roman Beast

Tracing the Four World Empires of Daniel 2, the Ten Forms of Rome, the Seven Heads of Blasphemy, and the Woman Who Rides the Beast in the Book of Revelation

Introduction: The Blueprint of Human Rule

Human history often looks like an endless series of random wars, political accidents, and disconnected dynasties. Yet when we open the pages of the Bible, we discover that Almighty God laid out the entire political timeline of human civilization centuries in advance. Through dreams, visions, and precise symbolic language, Scripture reveals a single continuous thread stretching from the ancient plains of Shinar right up to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

At the heart of this prophetic blueprint is a towering statue seen in a dream by King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, recorded in the second chapter of the Book of Daniel. That great metallic image teaches us a foundational truth: during the entire era of human self-rule only four predominant world empires would arise to dominate the earth. Each empire would conquer and replace the one before it, moving downward from head to toe, until the fourth and final empire is shattered not by another human army, but by the direct intervention of God Himself.

When we connect Daniel's vision of these four empires with the later prophecies of Daniel 7 and the Book of Revelation, every piece of the puzzle locks into place. Because the fourth empire—Rome—is the very kingdom still standing in its final form when Christ returns to establish the Kingdom of God, the mysterious seven-headed, ten-horned beast of Revelation cannot be a collection of ancient empires that died out thousands of years ago. Instead, those ten horns and seven heads represent ten successive phases or forms of that fourth Roman kingdom, with only the last seven bearing the title of blasphemy by claiming to be a 'Holy Roman Empire.' And riding atop this political beast is a powerful religious system—the Roman Catholic Church—which has aligned itself with, crowned, and steered these European empires for centuries.

> **Daniel 2:28 (KJV)**

> *"But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days. Thy dream, and the visions of thy head upon thy bed, are these;"*

Chapter 1: Nebuchadnezzar's Great Image and the Four Empires

Around 603 B.C., while Judah was being carried into captivity, King Nebuchadnezzar lay on his bed in Babylon wondering what would happen to his vast empire in the centuries ahead. God answered the king's unspoken thoughts by sending a vivid dream that terrified him so deeply he forgot its details upon waking, yet knew it carried world-altering significance. When Babylon's astrologers and magicians failed to tell the king what he had dreamed, the prophet Daniel stepped forward, giving all glory to the God of heaven.

> **Daniel 2:31–35 (KJV)**
> *"Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible. This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass, His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay. Thou sawest till that 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. Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth."*

Notice the extraordinary clarity of this vision. Nebuchadnezzar saw a single human statue divided into four distinct metallic sections, ending in feet made of iron mixed with clay. Then, a supernatural stone—cut out without human hands—struck the statue specifically on its feet, obliterating the entire structure and growing into a mountain that filled the whole earth. Daniel did not leave the meaning of these metals to human guesswork; God immediately gave him the exact interpretation.

> **Daniel 2:37–45 (KJV)**
> *"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. Thou art this head of gold. And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee, and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth. And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron*

> *that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise. And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay. And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken. And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay. 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. Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure."*

Every detail of Daniel's explanation establishes an unbreakable prophetic framework:

- **Four Sequential World Empires:** There are only four predominant Gentile empires from Nebuchadnezzar's day until the return of Christ—represented by the head of gold, the breast and arms of silver, the belly and thighs of brass, and the legs of iron.
- **Continuity of the Fourth Empire:** The feet and toes do not represent a fifth empire. They are still made of iron—the exact metal of the fourth empire—now mixed with clay. The fourth empire continues in a divided, revived state right down to the end of the age.
- **Destruction at Christ's Coming:** The Stone cut without hands is Jesus Christ returning in power and glory (1 Peter 2:6–8; Matthew 21:44). Because the Stone strikes the feet of iron and clay, the fourth empire must still exist on earth when Christ returns to replace all human government with the everlasting Kingdom of God.

Chapter 2: The Head of Gold — Babylon and Its Roots in Nimrod

Daniel looked directly at Nebuchadnezzar and declared, 'Thou art this head of gold.' Babylon stood at the pinnacle of absolute autocratic power, splendor, and wealth. Yet while Nebuchadnezzar brought the Neo-Babylonian Empire to its golden zenith, the spiritual and political roots of Babylon reach back more than fifteen hundred years earlier to the aftermath of Noah's Flood and a rebellious figure named Nimrod.

> **Genesis 10:8–10 (KJV)**
> *"And Cush begat Nimrod: he began to be a mighty one in the earth. He was a mighty hunter before the LORD: wherefore it is said, Even as Nimrod the mighty hunter before the LORD. And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, and Erech, and Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar."*

Right after the global deluge, God commanded humanity to scatter across the earth and replenish it. Instead, Nimrod—whose very name comes from the Hebrew root meaning 'to rebel'—gathered mankind together on the plain of Shinar in direct defiance of God. There he founded Babel (which became Babylon), the world's first organized empire, uniting political tyranny with false religion.

> **Genesis 11:4, 8–9 (KJV)**
> *"And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth. ... So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city. Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the LORD did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the LORD scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth."*

Nimrod's Babel established the DNA of every Gentile empire that followed: centralized human government attempting to replace God, exalt man, and enforce religious conformity through state power. Centuries later, Nebuchadnezzar rebuilt that same city of Babylon into an architectural marvel—complete with double walls, the Ishtar Gate, and the Hanging Gardens—ruling as an absolute monarch whose word was law. Notice how Daniel describes Nebuchadnezzar's unchecked authority:

> **Daniel 5:18–19 (KJV)**
> *"O thou king, the most high God gave Nebuchadnezzar thy father a kingdom, and majesty, and glory, and honour: And for the majesty that he gave him, all people, nations, and languages, trembled and feared before him: whom he would he slew; and whom he would he kept alive; and whom he would he set up; and whom he would he put down."*

Because Nebuchadnezzar held absolute, unchallenged sovereignty, Babylon was rightly symbolized by pure gold—the noblest and heaviest of metals. Yet Babylon's pride led to its downfall. In 539 B.C., while Nebuchadnezzar's grandson Belshazzar hosted a drunken feast using the sacred vessels stolen from Solomon's Temple in Jerusalem, a disembodied hand wrote Babylon's death sentence upon the palace wall.

> **Daniel 5:25–28, 30–31 (KJV)**
> *"And this is the writing that was written, MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN. This is the interpretation of the thing: MENE; God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it. TEKEL; Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting. PERES; Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians. ... In that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain. And Darius the Median took the kingdom, being about threescore and two years old."*

Chapter 3: The Breast of Silver and the Belly of Brass

The Medo-Persian Empire: Breast and Arms of Silver

Just as Daniel foretold, Babylon fell in a single night to the combined armies of the Medes and Persians under Cyrus the Great. This second world empire corresponded precisely to the breast and two arms of silver in Nebuchadnezzar's statue. Notice the anatomical accuracy of God's symbolism: just as a human chest has two arms united to one torso, the Medo-Persian Empire was a dual coalition of two peoples—the Medes and the Persians—joined together into a single superpower.

Why was Medo-Persia represented by silver rather than gold? Because silver is inferior in value to gold, though greater in physical mass. Unlike Nebuchadnezzar, whose personal word could change any law on a whim, Persian kings were bound by the rigid, unalterable laws of the Medes and Persians. Even when King Darius wanted to rescue Daniel from the lions' den, he could not overturn his own decree:

> **Daniel 6:14–15 (KJV)**
> *"Then the king, when he heard these words, was sore displeased with himself, and set his heart on Daniel to deliver him: and he laboured till the going down of the sun to deliver him. Then these men assembled unto the king, and said unto the king, Know, O king, that the law of the Medes and Persians is, That no decree nor statute which the king establisheth may be changed."*

In Daniel 7, where God showed the same four empires under the symbol of four wild beasts rising out of the sea, Medo-Persia appeared as a lopsided bear raised up on one side (reflecting how the Persians grew stronger than the Medes) with three ribs in its mouth (Babylon, Lydia, and Egypt). And in Daniel 8, the angel Gabriel explicitly named this second empire so no student of Scripture could ever mistake its identity:

> **Daniel 8:20 (KJV)**
> *"The ram which thou sawest having two horns are the kings of Media and Persia."*

The Greco-Macedonian Empire: Belly and Thighs of Brass

For two centuries, the massive silver empire of Medo-Persia dominated the Near East, even attempting to invade Greece under Darius and Xerxes. Then, in the fourth century B.C., a young military genius swept out of Macedonia to fulfill the next section of Nebuchadnezzar's statue: the belly and thighs of brass.

Led by Alexander the Great, the Greco-Macedonian forces moved with breathtaking speed. In barely a decade (334–323 B.C.), Alexander shattered the colossal armies of Persian King

Darius III at the battles of Granicus, Issus, and Gaugamela, conquering everything from Greece and Egypt across Mesopotamia all the way to the borders of India. Fittingly, Greek soldiers were famous throughout the ancient world as 'brazen-coated Greeks,' wearing bronze helmets, bronze breastplates, bronze shields, and carrying bronze swords.

In Daniel 7, this third empire is depicted as a four-winged leopard—symbolizing extraordinary speed—and in Daniel 8, Gabriel directly identifies Alexander's kingdom by name:

> **Daniel 8:5, 7–8, 21–22 (KJV)**
> *"And as I was considering, behold, an he goat came from the west on the face of the whole earth, and touched not the ground: and the goat had a notable horn between his eyes. ... And I saw him come close unto the ram, and he was moved with choler against him, and smote the ram, and brake his two horns: and there was no power in the ram to stand before him, but he cast him down to the ground, and stamped upon him: and there was none that could deliver the ram out of his hand. Therefore the he goat waxed very great: and when he was strong, the great horn was broken; and for it came up four notable ones toward the four winds of heaven. ... And the rough goat is the king of Grecia: and the great horn that is between his eyes is the first king. Now that being broken, whereas four stood up for it, four kingdoms shall stand up out of the nation, but not in his power."*

History confirms every syllable of this prophecy. At the height of his power, at just thirty-two years old, Alexander the Great died suddenly in Babylon in 323 B.C. ('when he was strong, the great horn was broken'). His empire did not pass to his infant son; instead, it fractured into four Hellenistic divisions ruled by his four top generals—Cassander (Macedonia and Greece), Lysimachus (Thrace and Asia Minor), Seleucus (Syria and Mesopotamia), and Ptolemy (Egypt)—represented by the thighs of brass and the four horns of the goat.

Chapter 4: The Legs of Iron — The Rise of Rome

Following Babylon (gold), Medo-Persia (silver), and Greco-Macedonia (brass), there remained only one more Gentile world empire in Nebuchadnezzar's vision: the fourth kingdom, symbolized by two strong legs of iron.

> **Daniel 2:40 (KJV)**
> *"And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise."*

Step by step through the second and first centuries B.C., the iron legions of Rome marched outward from the Italian peninsula, crushing the four divisions of Alexander's Greek empire one by one—Macedonia in 168 B.C., Greece in 146 B.C., Seleucid Syria in 64 B.C., and

Ptolemaic Egypt under Cleopatra in 30 B.C. Rome forged an empire unlike anything the world had ever seen, stretching from the misty hills of Scotland to the sands of Mesopotamia, and from the Rhine and Danube rivers down to the Sahara Desert.

In Daniel 7, when the prophet saw this same fourth empire in his own night vision, no earthly animal could adequately capture its ruthless, iron-fisted nature:

> **Daniel 7:7, 19, 23 (KJV)**
> *"After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns. ... Then I would know the truth of the fourth beast, which was diverse from all the others, exceeding dreadful, whose teeth were of iron, and his nails of brass; which devoured, brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with his feet; ... Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces."*

Even the two legs of iron in Nebuchadnezzar's statue mirrored Rome's actual historical structure. In A.D. 285, Emperor Diocletian formally divided the administration of the Roman Empire into two halves—the Western Roman Empire (centered in Rome) and the Eastern Roman Empire (centered in Constantinople). Two legs of iron supporting one mighty empire!

Crucially, Rome was the empire ruling Judea when Jesus Christ was born in Bethlehem, when He was crucified under the Roman governor Pontius Pilate, and when Roman legions under Titus destroyed Jerusalem and burned the Temple in A.D. 70. And according to Daniel 2, Rome—in its evolving, continuing forms—is the final human empire that remains on the world stage until Christ returns.

Chapter 5: Why the Fourth Empire Continues Until Christ's Return

One of the most important keys to understanding Bible prophecy is recognizing that God never envisioned a fifth world empire between Rome and the Kingdom of God. Look again at the sequence in Daniel 2: gold, silver, brass, iron, and finally feet and toes of iron mixed with clay. There is no fifth metal. The iron of Rome runs all the way down from the thighs through the legs and into the very toes upon which the Stone crashes.

> **Daniel 2:44 (KJV)**
> *"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."*

Consider what this proves beyond a shadow of a doubt:

- **No Gap in Prophetic Continuity:** When the Western Roman Empire collapsed in A.D. 476 under waves of Germanic tribes, Rome did not vanish from prophecy. Instead, the solid iron legs transitioned into the feet of iron mixed with clay—a fractured European system retaining Roman imperial identity, law, and ambition, yet unable to permanently fuse into a single monolithic state ('they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay').
- **The Parallel Between Daniel 7 and Revelation 13 & 17:** In Daniel 7:7, the fourth beast (Rome) has ten horns. In Revelation 13 and Revelation 17, the Apostle John is shown a scarlet-colored beast with seven heads and ten horns—the exact same fourth Roman empire viewed across its entire historical lifespan and into the end times.
- **Christ's Victory Over the Fourth Beast:** Daniel 7:11 tells us plainly what happens to this fourth beast at the end of the age: 'I beheld then because of the voice of the great words which the horn spake: I beheld even till the beast was slain, and his body destroyed, and given to the burning flame.' Likewise, Revelation 19:19–20 shows Jesus Christ returning on a white horse to defeat the beast and cast it into the lake of fire.

Because the fourth empire is the Roman Empire, and because it persists through successive revivals until Christ destroys it at His Second Coming, every symbol attached to the beast in Revelation 13 and Revelation 17 must be understood as phases and manifestations of Rome.

Chapter 6: The Seven Heads and Ten Horns of Revelation

In the Book of Revelation, God zooms in on the fourth empire of Daniel's statue—Rome—and gives us a detailed breakdown of its political and spiritual evolution. Let us read carefully what John saw in Revelation 13 and Revelation 17.

> **Revelation 13:1–3 (KJV)**
> *"And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority. And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast."*

Notice that this beast combines the traits of the earlier empires—lion (Babylon), bear (Medo-Persia), and leopard (Greece)—because Rome absorbed the territories, philosophies, and pagan traditions of all three predecessors. Even more striking is what John saw in Revelation 17, where an angel explicitly explains the meaning of the seven heads and ten horns:

> **Revelation 17:3, 7, 9–12 (KJV)**
> *"So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. ... And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns. ... And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth. And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space. And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition. And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast."*

Look closely at the precise wording of Scripture here. Why does the beast have ten horns, yet only seven heads—and why is it specifically written in Revelation 13:1 that 'upon his heads [is] the name of blasphemy'?

The answer unlocks the entire prophetic timeline of European history:

- **Ten Successive Forms of the Roman Kingdom:** The ten horns represent ten successive resurrections, dynasties, or forms of the Roman Empire following the fall of ancient pagan Rome in A.D. 476. They are ten sequential phases of that fourth kingdom stretching from the collapse of the Western Roman Empire down to the final ten-king coalition at the return of Christ.
- **Why Only Seven Heads Have the Name of Blasphemy:** Out of those ten forms of the Roman kingdom, the first three revivals were secular or barbarian-Arian kingdoms that conquered Italy and ruled Rome without claiming divine religious authority or calling themselves 'Holy.' However, beginning with the fourth revival in A.D. 554, the restored Roman Empire entered into an official union with the papacy. From that moment onward, the last seven heads openly bore 'the name of blasphemy'—presenting themselves to the world not merely as a political state, but as a sacred, divine Christian empire: 'The Holy Roman Empire.'

In Scripture, what is the biblical definition of blasphemy? Blasphemy occurs when a mortal man, institution, or earthly kingdom claims the titles, prerogatives, or worship that belong exclusively to God Almighty (Mark 2:7; John 10:33; 2 Thessalonians 2:3–4). For a ruthless, iron-fisted empire rooted in pagan Rome and Nimrod's Babylon to call itself 'Holy'—and for its rulers to claim they reign as God's supreme earthly representatives—is the very essence of wearing 'the name of blasphemy' upon its heads.

Chapter 7: Tracing the Ten Forms of Rome and the Seven Heads of Blasphemy

When we examine European history from the fall of Rome in A.D. 476 to the modern era, we find ten distinct manifestations of the Roman kingdom. The first three forms ended the ancient Western Empire and ruled Italy as Germanic kingdoms—receiving the 'deadly wound' of Revelation 13:3—before the deadly wound was healed and the seven blasphemous 'Holy Roman' heads arose.

Form	Historical Manifestation	Era	Prophetic Status
Horn 1	Vandals (Kingdom of Genseric)	A.D. 429–533	Secular/Arian Phase (No Blasphemy Name)
Horn 2	Heruli (Kingdom of Odoacer)	A.D. 476–493	Secular/Arian Phase (Deadly Wound Inflicted)
Horn 3	Ostrogoths (Theodoric's Kingdom)	A.D. 493–553	Secular/Arian Phase (Uprooted Before Papal Union)
Horn 4 (Head 1)	Justinian's Imperial Restoration	A.D. 554–750s	1st Blasphemous Head — Deadly Wound Healed
Horn 5 (Head 2)	Frankish Empire (Charlemagne)	A.D. 800–924	2nd Blasphemous Head — Crowned by Pope Leo III
Horn 6 (Head 3)	German Holy Roman Empire (Otto I)	A.D. 962–1250	3rd Blasphemous Head — 'Sacrum Romanum Imperium'
Horn 7 (Head 4)	Habsburg Dynasty (Charles V)	A.D. 1519–1806	4th Blasphemous Head — Holy Roman Empire
Horn 8 (Head 5)	Napoleonic Empire	A.D. 1804–1815	5th Blasphemous Head — Crowned in Presence of Pius VII
Horn 9 (Head 6)	Mussolini & Axis Roman Revival	A.D. 1929–1945	6th Blasphemous Head — Lateran Treaty & Concordats
Horn 10 (Head 7)	Final End-Time European Union / Beast	Future / End Age	7th Blasphemous Head — Destroyed by Christ

The First Three Horns: Uprooted Before the Holy Roman Era

In Daniel 7:8, the prophet saw a 'little horn' rise up among the horns of the fourth beast, before whom 'there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots.' History records that after the Western Roman Empire collapsed in A.D. 476, three Germanic kingdoms—the Vandals, the Heruli, and the Ostrogoths—occupied Rome, North Africa, and Italy. Because all three adhered to Arianism rather than Roman Catholicism, they rejected the spiritual supremacy of the Bishop of Rome. None of these three ever called themselves 'Holy,' and none aligned with the Roman Church.

Through the military campaigns of Eastern Roman Emperor Justinian I, all three of those horns were completely uprooted: the Vandals were destroyed in A.D. 533, the Heruli had already been crushed in A.D. 493, and the Ostrogoths were driven out of Rome and annihilated by A.D. 553. With those three obstacles removed, the stage was set for the healing of Rome's deadly wound and the birth of the seven blasphemous heads.

The Seven Blasphemous Heads: 'The Holy Roman Empire'

- **1st Blasphemous Head — Justinian's Imperial Restoration (A.D. 554):** In A.D. 533, Emperor Justinian issued a decree recognizing the Bishop of Rome as the 'head of all the holy churches,' and in A.D. 554 he enacted the Pragmatic Sanction, uniting church and state under Roman law. Rome's deadly wound was healed, inaugurating the first head bearing the blasphemous claim of sacred imperial rule.
- **2nd Blasphemous Head — Charlemagne's Frankish Empire (A.D. 800):** On Christmas Day, December 25, A.D. 800, Pope Leo III placed an imperial crown upon the head of Charlemagne inside St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, proclaiming him 'Emperor of the Romans.' For the first time in Western Europe, the papacy directly crowned a Germanic king as ruler of a sacred Roman Empire.
- **3rd Blasphemous Head — The German Holy Roman Empire of Otto the Great (A.D. 962):** In A.D. 962, Pope John XII crowned Otto I as Roman Emperor in Rome. Under Otto and his successors (notably Frederick Barbarossa), the empire officially adopted the exact Latin title Sacrum Romanum Imperium—literally 'The Holy Roman Empire'—fulfilling Revelation 13:1 to the letter.
- **4th Blasphemous Head — The Habsburg Dynasty (A.D. 1519–1806):** Under Emperor Charles V and the Catholic House of Habsburg, the Holy Roman Empire spanned Spain, Austria, Germany, Italy, the Low Countries, and vast colonies across the globe. Charles V was the last emperor formally crowned by a pope (Clement VII in 1530), defending Catholic hegemony against the Protestant Reformation.
- **5th Blasphemous Head — Napoleon Bonaparte's French Empire (A.D. 1804–1815):** After dissolving the Habsburg Holy Roman Empire in 1806, Napoleon resurrected the Roman imperial model across Europe. He summoned Pope Pius VII to Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris for his coronation in 1804, adopted the Roman eagle as his standard, titled his son 'King of Rome,' and ruled continental Europe under the Napoleonic Code.
- **6th Blasphemous Head — The Mussolini-Hitler Axis Revival (A.D. 1929–1945):** In 1929, Benito Mussolini signed the Lateran Treaty with Pope Pius XI, restoring Vatican City as an independent sovereign state and proclaiming the rebirth of the Roman Empire, while Adolf Hitler styled his regime the 'Third Reich'—consciously claiming succession from the First Reich (the Holy Roman Empire) and signing the 1933 Reichskonkordat with the Vatican.
- **7th Blasphemous Head — The Final End-Time Revival (Future):** Revelation 17:10–12 foretells one final, short-lived manifestation of this Roman beast system in the last days, when ten contemporary European leaders give their power and strength unto the beast for 'one hour'—right before Jesus Christ returns to destroy it forever.

Chapter 8: The Woman Who Rides the Beast — Mystery Babylon

In Revelation 17, God does not merely show us the political beast with seven heads and ten horns. He also reveals who is sitting on top of the beast, guiding its direction, and sharing in its power: a richly dressed, intoxicating woman called 'MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT.'

> **Revelation 17:1–6 (KJV)**
> *"And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters: With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication. So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration."*

In biblical symbolism, a woman consistently represents a church or religious body. God calls His faithful people a chaste virgin espoused to Christ (2 Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 5:25–27), whereas an unfaithful religious system that compromises with paganism and courts political rulers is called a harlot (Ezekiel 16:15–32; James 4:4). Look at the unmistakable identifying marks Scripture gives for this woman:

- **1. Her Geographic Seat Is the City of Seven Hills — Rome:** Revelation 17:9 states, 'The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth,' and verse 18 adds, 'And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.' In John's day, only one city on earth ruled over the kings of the earth and was universally known as the City of Seven Hills: Rome (the Aventine, Caelian, Capitoline, Esquiline, Palatine, Quirinal, and Viminal hills).
- **2. She Rides and Steers the Beast (Church-State Union):** A rider does not walk beside a beast; a rider sits above it, holds the reins, and directs where it goes. Throughout the history of the seven blasphemous heads of the Holy Roman Empire, the Roman Catholic Church has continuously aligned itself with European imperial government—crowning emperors, blessing armies, signing concordats, and wielding political influence over kings and nations ('With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication').
- **3. Her Signature Colors and Wealth — Purple, Scarlet, and Gold:** Revelation 17:4 describes her as 'arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand.' For over a thousand years, purple and

scarlet have been the official liturgical colors of Roman Catholic bishops and cardinals, while the golden chalice (cup) stands at the center of the Mass.

- **4. Her Spiritual Lineage — 'Mystery, Babylon the Great':** Why is a Roman church given the name 'Babylon'? Because when ancient Babylon fell, its pagan priesthood, mother-child worship, sun-day veneration, ritual vestments, and title of Pontifex Maximus ('Supreme Bridge-Builder') migrated westward to Pergamos and ultimately settled in Rome. Rather than abolishing these Babylonian customs, the Roman Church absorbed them under Christian names—preserving Nimrod's ancient Babylonian religion inside an imperial Roman framework.
- **5. 'Drunken With the Blood of the Saints':** Revelation 17:6 reveals that this church-state alliance persecuted and slaughtered true believers who held fast to the Word of God alone. During the centuries of the Inquisition, the Crusades against the Waldenses and Albigenses, and the wars of the Counter-Reformation, millions of Bible-believing Christians were tortured, burned at the stake, and executed by the civil sword of the Holy Roman beast at the instigation of the woman riding it.

> **Revelation 18:2–4, 24 (KJV)**
> *"And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies. And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. ... And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth."*

Chapter 9: The Stone Cut Without Hands — Christ's Coming Kingdom

The story of Nebuchadnezzar's statue and Revelation's seven-headed beast does not end in tragedy or human triumph. It ends with the glorious return of the rightful King of kings. Both Daniel 2 and Revelation 17–19 converge on the exact same climax: the final ten-king revival of the Roman beast turns against the harlot, and immediately afterward, Jesus Christ descends from heaven to destroy the fourth empire and establish the Kingdom of God over the entire earth.

> **Revelation 17:12–14 (KJV)**
> *"And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast. These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast. These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall*

> *overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful."*

Look at how seamlessly Revelation 17:14 mirrors Daniel 2:34–35 and 44. In Daniel 2, the Stone cut out without human hands strikes the feet of iron and clay, grinding gold, silver, brass, iron, and clay into dust that blows away in the wind, while the Stone grows into a mountain that fills the whole earth. In Revelation 19, John describes that exact moment in vivid detail:

> **Revelation 19:11, 15–16, 19–20 (KJV)**
> *"And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. … And 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. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS. … And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone."*

What Nimrod began in rebellion at Babel, what Nebuchadnezzar crowned in gold at Babylon, what Persia, Greece, and Rome carried forward in silver, brass, and iron, and what the Catholic Church and the Holy Roman Empire dressed in the garments of blasphemy—all of it comes to a permanent end at the appearing of Jesus Christ.

> **Daniel 7:26–27 (KJV)**
> *"But the judgment shall sit, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and to destroy it unto the end. And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him."*

> **Revelation 11:15 (KJV)**
> *"And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever."*

Conclusion: Seeing History Through God's Eyes

When we place Daniel 2, Daniel 7, Genesis 10–11, and Revelation 13, 17, and 18 side by side, the fog of human history clears away. God gave humanity a crystal-clear roadmap:

- **Four World Empires:** Babylon (rooted in Nimrod's Babel and brought to golden glory by Nebuchadnezzar), Medo-Persia (silver), Greco-Macedonia under Alexander the Great (brass), and Rome (iron).
- **The Continuity of Rome:** Because the fourth empire is shattered directly by Jesus Christ at His Second Coming, Rome never disappeared; it endured in divided iron-and-clay forms across European history.
- **Ten Horns and Seven Heads of Blasphemy:** The ten horns of Revelation represent ten successive forms of the Roman kingdom after A.D. 476. The first three were secular/Arian kingdoms, while only the last seven aligned with the papacy and bore 'the name of blasphemy' by styling themselves 'The Holy Roman Empire.'
- **The Woman Riding the Beast:** The Roman Catholic Church—seated on Rome's seven hills, clothed in purple and scarlet, carrying the spiritual legacy of Nimrod's Babylon, and perpetually allied with European state power—is the harlot riding the beast.
- **The Eternal Victory of Christ:** Very soon, the Stone cut without hands will strike the final revival of that fourth empire, sweeping away every trace of Babylon and Rome forever and ushering in the righteous, everlasting Kingdom of God.

> **Daniel 2:45 (KJV)**
>
> *"Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure."*