

Revelation 17 Re-Examined

As a Parallel to Revelation 13

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Summary/Abstract

Historically, Adventists have identified both the beast of Revelation 17 and the woman riding it as the papacy. But in prophecy, a woman represents a church while a beast represents a nation or empire. A woman cannot empower herself. She needs the support of the state in order to ride and rule.

Modern Adventist expositors do the same with the first beast of Revelation 13, focusing exclusively on the papacy, ignoring that a religious power without political backing has no teeth. But, if we correctly identify the political power of the first beast of Revelation 13 as the Holy Roman Empire and its progenitor, the Franks, then we will be in a position to correctly identify the beast and harlot in Revelation 17 in their final two phases: 1) The first phase in Rev 17:1-10 parallels the first beast of Revelation 13, a revived Holy Roman Empire, and; 2) The second phase in Rev 17:11-18 parallels the second beast of the same chapter, the United States. This understanding will also help us identify the seven heads, the eighth head that follows the seven, and the ten horns that overthrow the harlot, eating her flesh, and burning her with fire.

Part 1

Background

Adventism is a revival movement that began in the 1840s and is based especially on Daniel 8:14 which points us to Christ's final cleansing of the heavenly sanctuary immediately before he returns: "Unto 2300 days, then shall the sanctuary be cleansed." According to the inspired statements and visions of Ellen White, the "midnight cry" that originally empowered the movement will be the same unifying force for God's people to the end of time.ⁱ

Five centuries ago, unity among the Protestant reformers was also key to their survival and success. They knew who they were in prophecy, the pure woman of Revelation 12, and they knew who their enemies were, the dragon, the harlot and the beast. This prophetic understanding united them in purpose and mission.

Early Adventists inherited this prophetic legacy that shapes our identity and informs our mission but, over time, our understanding has been blunted by our Laodicean condition. Physically rich but spiritual paupers, Christ testifies that we are both naked and blind. Our material prosperity has, to a large extent, put out our prophetic eyes.

But another factor compounding our blindness is a lack of logical rigor, of consistency of interpretation. Whereas a beast in prophecy is a political power and a woman is a church, when it comes to the beast of Revelation 17 Adventists have simply dropped that rule and identified both the

beast and the woman riding it as the papacy. But as stated above, a woman cannot ride and empower herself.

And we do the same with the first beast of Revelation 13. But, a century and a half ago, the pioneers of Adventism correctly identified the second beast of Revelation 13 as the United States. Why do we still draw a blank today on the political identity of the first beast? I suggest that if we had been better students of Scripture and history we would have soon seen that the political identity of the first beast of Revelation 13 is the Holy Roman Empire and its progenitor, the Franks, and we would have understood that this is the beast, in its two phases - Frankish and Holy Roman - which the papacy rode for 1260 years.

The Holy Roman Empire in History and Prophecy

Modern historians trace the Holy Roman Empire only as far back as 800 AD when the pope crowned Charlemagne *Emperor of the Romans*. But the papacy's **ecclesiastical** power was combined with secular power from 538 AD when Sunday laws were issued by the Frankish clergy at the [Third Council of Orleans](#).ⁱⁱ It should be underlined that the first measures taken by the Frankish beast and Roman Catholic harlot at the start of the 1260 days was the enforcement of Sunday sacredness. That is when the harlot mounted the beast and in the future, we can expect she will follow a similar course when her mortal wound is healed and she re-seats herself for her final ride.

Regarding the transfer of **secular** power from the ancient Roman Empire to the Holy Roman Empire, Wikipedia states:

While the office of emperor had been reestablished, the exact term for his realm as the "Holy Roman Empire" was not used until the 13th century, *although the Emperor's theoretical legitimacy from the beginning rested on the concept of [translatio imperii](#), that he held supreme power inherited from the ancient emperors of Rome*.ⁱⁱⁱ

As noted above, the ecclesiastical power was transferred and first exercised by the woman in 538. How did she exercise it? Through the secular arm, the Franks, the first European nation to convert to Catholicism. For this invaluable service, the papacy conferred on the Frankish monarchs the title *Eldest Sons of the Church* and designated the nation itself her *Eldest Daughter*. Still today, one and a half millennia later, the President of France retains this title and is automatically made a canon of the mother church, the Lateran Archbasilica. And the papacy still calls France her *Eldest Daughter*.

By the ninth century, the Franks under Charlemagne (Charles the Great) achieved empire status. His original agglomeration of kingdoms continued to wax and wane throughout the following millennium, sometimes undergoing major internal and territorial transformations. At the height of its long history, the Holy Roman Empire spanned three continents and enjoyed undisputed superpower status until it was toppled by Napoleon in the early nineteenth century.

Although the Holy Roman Empire's existence did not officially end until 1806,^{iv} after 1798, it was no longer "Holy", in spite of retaining its name, because the woman who rode it, the Holy See of Rome, and the papacy, had been deposed, and the bond between the Vatican and the Empire was dissolved.

Notice that within this history there is a direct line of succession from ancient Rome in these two entities – the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of imperial Rome to the papacy and the secular jurisdiction, first

to the Franks, who then created and passed the baton to the Holy Roman Empire, which, in the following centuries shifted its power base away from France eastward, northward and southward to Germany, the low countries, central Europe and Spain. Thus, both aspects of the beast-woman duo trace their origin directly to the fourth beast of Daniel 7, pagan Rome.

Notice also that the nation that originally forged the unholy alliance between church and state was the same nation that broke it - France. Whether this pattern of French and German leadership is repeated in the future, we can't predict, but given this history, we should expect that, according to the prophecy, the same beast eventually resurfaces in some form in Europe when its mortally wounded head is healed and the nations of Europe renew their fornication with the woman, breathing new life into her. It is at this point that Babylon remounts the beast and rides again.

Iron and Clay Re-Combined

One consequence of failing to identify the political power behind the first beast of Revelation 13 is the widely held view among Adventists that the powers of Europe will never reunite; that they will be like the feet of iron and clay of Daniel 2 that mix but do not cleave together. But history and prophecy do not support that view. Ellen White, in particular, saves us from that misunderstanding by telling us plainly that this mixture of iron and clay, rather than representing the separation of the European nations, represents their union by the fornication of church and state. It turns out that the imagery of Daniel 2 is the opposite of what many Adventists believe: It foretells the revival of the multi-headed beast of iron Rome ridden by the scarlet woman, clay Rome. Notice what Ellen White says:

The mingling of **churchcraft** and **statecraft** is represented by the iron and the clay. This union is weakening all the power of the churches. This investing the church with the power of the State will bring evil results. Ellen White, Ms63-1899.

The Seven Heads

Inspiration's depiction of the woman as the mother of harlots is another instance where Adventist expositors have been inconsistent in applying the principle of interpretation that 1) the parts of the beast that give it power, its heads and horns, are concurrent except where the text says otherwise and 2) failed to give weight to other statements by Ellen White that the first beast of Revelation 13 applies primarily to the future.

Regarding the first point, if the leopard of Daniel 7 has four heads, or if the lamb-like beast of Revelation 13 has two horns, the heads and horns are concurrent. That rule applies to the beast of Revelation 17 which has seven heads initially and then afterward, an eighth, and finally ten horns. When the woman rides it again, she is initially being carried by the power of the seven heads:

And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, *on which the woman sitteth*. Rev 17:9.

Regarding the second point, that the first beast of Revelation 13 as well as the beast of Revelation 17 apply to the future, we know that they are future because:

1. In the case of chapter 13, we're plainly told that it applies to the time when the mortal wound is healed.

2. In the case of chapter 17, John is told that he is going to be shown the time when the harlot, Babylon, is under judgment which is also future. Therefore every aspect of the beast carrying her, especially its seven heads, are in existence at the time of her judgment which is future:

“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: The seven heads are seven mountains, **on which the woman sitteth.***” Rev 17:1 and 9.

3. The woman of Revelation 17:5 is styled the *Mother of Harlots* indicating that she has corrupt daughters that are in league with her. The beast she rides has many similar titles, names of blasphemy, which suggests these names are the fallen Protestant religious organizations, her daughters, that lend her their support.

This is another important timing element. The Protestant denominations that came into being in the early sixteenth century made a complete break with Rome at that time. When they came out from Rome, they were not harlots, they were virgins. But from the history of the Adventist movement, we understand that when the Protestant churches of Europe and America rejected the first and second angel's messages in the 1840s they suffered a spiritual fall. However, even until our day they have not fallen to the point that they are “the hold of every foul spirit and the cage of every unclean and hateful bird.” Rev 18:2. This condition only occurs if and when these churches finally reject the second and third angels' messages under the latter rain and return to the fold of Rome. It is only after the woman, together with her daughters, fornicate with the state, that the woman comes under judgment. This is future.

The Revived Holy Roman Empire

Historically, the first ally of the Roman Catholic Church was the Franks who under Charlemagne grew into an empire that became the Holy Roman Empire. For much of its thousand-year history, the empire included the bulk of Central and Western Europe. In the future, when the mortal wound is healed, we can expect the rebirth of a United States of Europe that fornicates with Rome one final time.

January 1, 2025, marks the 67th anniversary of the European Economic Community (EEC), now the European Union (EU). The EEC was created by the Treaty of Rome, signed on March 25, 1957, on [Capitoline Hill](#), and went into effect on the first day of the following year. The creation of the EEC in the capital of the ancient Roman Empire among its monuments and ruins and in the shadow of the Vatican raised the eyebrows of some Adventists but few, if any, saw it as part of the fulfillment of Revelation 13. Most dismissed it either as a mere trade agreement and/or as a Pan-European dream that would never be realized because, as mentioned above, most Adventists believed, and still believe, that Daniel 2 teaches the nations of Europe will never confederate together again. But as pointed out earlier, this prophecy and Ellen White both indicate that at the end, when the mortal wound is healed, the churches of Christendom, Catholic and Protestant, will recombine. At this point, Babylon will remount the beast.

Healing the Mortal Wound

How does this happen? Revelation 17 describes the healing of the wounded head spoken of in Revelation 13. First, notice the setting:

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. (Rev 17:1-3 KJV).

The angel commissioned to show John the judgment of Babylon not only shows her demise but also her resurgence when she remounts the beast. The rejuvenation of the beast-harlot duo marks the start of their judgment because it is this act of fornication between church and state and its tyrannical oppression of God's people that marks the fall of Babylon and brings on her and on the beast the wrath of God.

The angel who shows John the judgment of Babylon is one of the seven angels that had the seven last plagues. These are judgments on the beast, the woman and the nations and peoples confederated with them. The first plague - painful, unhealing sores - afflicts those who have the mark of the beast; the third plague is on those who have shed the blood of God's people, which the scarlet beast and the scarlet woman will do; the fifth, darkness and pain, is poured on the kingdom of the beast.

The seventh and final plague targets Babylon. This plague is the only one that specifically names Babylon. The angel, therefore who shows John the judgment of the whore is no doubt this one, the seventh.

Notice what the angel does. He tells John to follow him into the future to the time when the mortal wound is healed and she remounts the beast. "Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters. . . 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.**" Rev 17:1, 3.

This future setting is key to understanding the symbols of the vision, the heads and horns. In Revelation 13 John is told that the first beast will be wounded but that the wound will be healed. In Revelation 17, John is shown the judgment of the woman **when the wound is healed** and she remounts the beast and fornicates for the last time with the nations of the earth.

Here is where many expositors have been tripped up. Uriah Smith, for example, viewed the seven heads as the seven phases of Roman government from its founding as a republic in the sixth century BC until its demise in the papal phase at the end of the world. Some Adventists still hold that view, but most have shifted from Smith's view to a succession of kingdoms starting with ancient Babylon and ending with the overthrow of spiritual Babylon. However, in the angel's explanation to John, the seven heads are symbols of the powers that support the whore **when** the wound is healed:

This calls for a mind with wisdom: the seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman is seated; *[Notice the phrase "is seated" shows that the woman is directly*

supported by these] they are also seven kings, five of whom have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come, and when he does come he must remain only a little while. Rev 17:9-10 ESV.

Therefore the seven heads are the political and religious powers on which the woman sits when she remounts the beast. Regarding the political powers, five of them will have fallen into submission to her; she, the sixth, will be dominant, and, finally, towards the end of her rule, a seventh will join the other six. When that occurs her reign is nearing its close because the seventh “must remain only a little while”. Rev 17:10 ESV.

Seven Heads = Seven Mountains and Seven Kingdoms

Regarding the heads, John is told they are symbols of two things: they are both kings and mountains, which indicates they are a combination of church and state, clay and iron; the fallen churches are the seven mountains that support the woman and the fallen states are seven kingdoms or nations that support her.

Most Bible students agree that the seven heads represent kings or kingdoms^v because the text directly states this: “the seven heads are . . . seven kings.” But, which seven kings or nations? Time will answer that question conclusively but the front runners are the ones that made up the backbone of the beast during its 1260 year rule – first France and then Germany.

The European Union now has 27 members, accounts for 6% of the world’s population and generates a gross domestic product (GDP) of around US\$16.6 trillion, about a sixth of global [GDP](#), making it the third-largest economy after the United States and China.^{vi}

But the EU in its present form cannot be the future six-plus-one coalition of the revived Pan-European empire. Scripture tells us the beast will be a confederacy of six nations, no doubt the strongest ones, joined by a seventh late-comer. As stated above, the two most likely charter members are Germany and France, followed perhaps by Italy, Spain and Austria, three of the most devoutly Catholic nations, and then by the Netherlands and/or the Scandinavian countries whose national churches reunite with Rome.

Of the seven, the one we can identify now with certainty is the sixth, the one that was wounded but then healed, the Vatican State. This little enclave in the city of Rome, although physically the smallest of nations at only 1/6 of a square mile, is the largest in terms of influence. And she is fabulously wealthy. Someone asks; “But isn’t the Vatican the woman?” Answer: The papacy is the woman, the sixth mountain, and the woman controls the Vatican State, the sixth kingdom.

Regarding the symbol of the mountain, mountains and high places in scripture and in history are associated with religious worship among the heathen and among God’s people as well. The tribes go up to Mt. Zion to worship at their appointed feasts; the false gods are found on mounts such as Olympus and Hermon. Revival occurred on Mt. Carmel. Christ was transfigured on the Mount. He ascended from the Mt. of Olives and He will return and descend with the New Jerusalem on the same mount. And Satan aspires to rule God’s people as King of the North, and attempts to usurp the rule of God from Mt. Zion which, according to Psalm 48:2, is the mountain on the north side of Jerusalem:

For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north. Isa 14:13.

Notice in Revelation 13 that when the beast was wounded, the wound was to only *one* of the seven heads.

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. And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. (Rev 13:3, 5).

Which head was wounded? As suggested above, the sixth, Catholicism, both as a religion and as a political kingdom. In 1798 when the papacy was humbled as a religion, the Papal States were also stripped from her. But the six heads or mountains of her daughters, the Protestant churches, were unscathed. The European Protestant churches were, as yet, not fallen and left intact when Napoleon humbled the papacy.

Notice also in the same passage that the beast is given power to rule for forty-two months **after** the wound is healed. Ellen White places both this chapter and Revelation 11 in the future. Both chapters tell us of a concurrent, literal 42-month period when 1) the beast rules and when 2) the Two Witnesses prophesy. It's when Babylon falls by her fornication with the beast that the second angel's message, "Babylon is fallen, is fallen" is given in power by the Witnesses who are a symbol of the church under the latter rain. But like the 3.5-year ministry of Christ, (42 months is 3.5 years) this knowledge of the duration of their ministry is not generally understood by the Christian world.

Nor is this date-setting because 1) the knowledge is sealed from the wicked who will not understand Daniel's prophecies Dan 12:4, 10; 2) No one knows when the 3.5 years begins until it happens; and 3) No one knows how soon, after the 3.5 years ends, that the Lord will return.

Seven Mountains and Seven Hills

For over two millennia, Rome has been known as the *City of Seven Hills*. It is a fitting allegory of the prophecy that Babylon will ride the seven hills of the beast. These seven hills or mounts are the mother harlot, and her six daughters just as the heads are the six political allies of the Vatican state.

The main branches of European Christianity are Catholicism, Swiss, Dutch and Scottish Calvinism, German, and Scandinavian Lutheranism, Anglicanism/Episcopalianism, Methodism and smaller denominations such as Baptists, Waldensians, Moravians, and Adventists.

Under renewed persecution, true Adventists will form a remnant with those who are called out of Babylon. Apostate European Adventists will join forces with the beast, the same course pursued by most German Adventists under Europe's most recent Antichrist, Adolf Hitler. The Nazi dream of establishing a Third Reich that would last a thousand years was founded on German identification with the Holy Roman Empire which likewise lasted a millennia. Wikipedia states:

The Third Reich, meaning "Third Realm" or "Third Empire", referred to the Nazi claim that Nazi Germany was the successor to the earlier [Holy Roman Empire](#) (800–1806) and [German Empire](#) (1871–1918).[ix](#)

Recap

The first part of Revelation 17 describes a revived Holy Roman Empire, a reunified Europe that fornicates with the harlot Babylon. How does this understanding fit with our belief that the USA, will lead the world in the final apostasy? This question is covered in Part 2.

Part 2

America in Revelation 17

Let's look at the second part of Revelation 17:

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. 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. . . until the words of God shall be fulfilled. (Rev 17:11-18 KJV).

This passage is one of the most difficult in scripture, one that “calls for a mind with wisdom” Rev 17:9 ESV, but fortunately God, through the spirit of prophecy, has at least partially opened up its meaning to us. Ellen White states:

In the seventeenth of Revelation is foretold the destruction of all the churches who corrupt themselves by idolatrous devotion to the service of the Papacy, those who have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication. . . The power which has the deepest inward corruption will make the greatest display, and will clothe itself with the most elaborate signs of power. . . *What is it that gives its kingdom to this power? Protestantism*, a power which while professing to have the temper and spirit of a lamb, and to be allied to heaven, speaks with the voice of a dragon. It is moved by a power from beneath. Letter to J.H. Kellogg by *Ellen White*, {Lt232-1899.20-22} emphasis added.

When Ellen White asks; “What is it that gives its kingdom to this power?” she is paraphrasing the emphasized portion of this text:

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. (Rev 17:12-14 KJV)

White's statement is helpful, but like the scripture itself, it requires our interpretation: Does she mean that 1) Protestantism is the power behind the eighth head or 2) Protestantism is the power behind the ten horns? Until recently, I thought she meant the ten horns represented Protestantism but now I understand her to be saying that Protestantism throws its support behind the eighth head of the beast, America. Just as the first seven heads of the beast represent both church and state combined - seven kings (nations) and seven mountains (fallen churches) - the same is true of the eighth because it is “of the seven”. The eighth head represents fallen Protestant America, church and state, harlot and beast combined.

Another reason that the Protestant churches are represented in the eighth head rather than the ten horns is that the reign of the horns is extremely brief - one hour. Even if prophetic time, a day for a year, is used here, one hour equals 30 days. (360 days per prophetic year / 12 hours per day (in scripture a day has 12 hours, not 24) = 30 days). We should expect that fallen Protestantism's role in final events will take longer than a month. The war that the beast wages against the Lamb and his followers lasts for 42 months in total, the American phase of it being likely longer than a year.

Thus the beast of Revelation 17 encapsulates the two branches of the healed beast of Revelation 13, 1) its Vatican-State-seven-head branch and 2) its American, eighth-head branch. But, notice the sequence: *Before* the lamb-like beast bids the earth to make an image of the first beast, the wound of the first beast is healed and the world wonders after it. America follows the path of Europe also combining church and state but, in the case of America, not making the pope the head.

In the book *The Great Controversy*, White indicates that while Romanism will be reinstated in Europe, America will chart its own course, and rather than adopting the papacy here, it will make an image of it: "Romanism in the Old World and apostate Protestantism in the New will pursue a similar course toward those who honor all the divine precepts." {GC 615.2}

The Eighth Head Identified

For generations, this point has been lost on Adventists who believe Catholicism will be the dominant church in America. While it is true that the papacy and Sunday sacredness will both be rallying points here, scripture and Ellen White say that America, rather than returning to Rome, makes an image of her.

Another identifier of America as the eighth head is that she is "of the seven, and goeth into perdition." Rev 17:11. This head is "of the seven" because America is a child of the Old World, of Great Britain. The last phrase, "goeth into perdition" indicates that the eighth head is a leading world power at the second coming of Christ when the beast and the false prophet are thrown alive into the lake of fire. Rev 19: 20.

The Ten Horns Identified - Solution 1

We come now to the ten horns that hurl the harlot from the beast, strip her naked, eat her flesh, and burn her with fire. Clearly, this event has global implications. I've found two solutions to the ten horns. Both appeal to me because they are not mutually exclusive. See what you think.

In the carnage of eighteenth-century Revolutionary France, we have the most gruesome historical precedent for the future humbling of Babylon at the hands of her own power base. This history was foretold in Revelation 11. (See *The Great Controversy*, by *Ellen White*, Chapter 15.) For centuries before the French Revolution, the Roman Catholic clergy of France had been the most violent persecutors of her scattered, faithful Christians, the Albigensians and Huguenots.

By systematically executing the most barbaric, bloody, unrelenting persecution, the state religion of France had become terminally corrupt and debased. As a result, the church had lost all credibility in the

eyes of the people who suddenly rose up like a tsunami against the wealthy aristocracy and the equally wealthy Roman Catholic clergy. France was convulsed by anarchy as the people threw off *all* restraint and *all* religion, becoming the first atheist nation in recorded history.

The change was seismic. The world and its ruling elite looked on appalled and horrified as enlightened, now barbarous France ate the flesh of the woman, stripped her naked of her wealth and power, and burnt her with fire. This initial fulfillment of Revelation 11 is a harbinger of the future fate of Babylon's apostate clergy, but one more harbinger would intervene.

The Great San Francisco Earthquake

Most Adventists are not aware that the next fulfillment of Revelation 11 occurred in the spring of 1906, in the Great San Francisco earthquake. Two weeks after the quake, Ellen White was on her way back home to the beautiful Napa Valley. Since the city was on route to her home, she stopped there and surveyed the damage. She describes what she saw:

Notwithstanding some of the buildings were of the most stable kind and were supposed to be proof against disaster, the city is a ruin. In some places the buildings are sunken into the ground. This city presents a most powerful picture of the inefficiency of human devising and human skill to withstand the carrying out of the Lord's mandate. {21MR 91.2}

Two paragraphs later, she makes the prophetic application:

Let all who would understand the meaning of these things read the eleventh chapter of Revelation. Read every verse, and learn the things that are yet to take place in the cities. Read also the scenes portrayed in the eighteenth chapter of the same book. {21MR 91.4}

According to White, the Great San Francisco earthquake, like the French Revolution, is a harbinger of the final application of this chapter and of the desolation God will bring on America's cities which have become like Sodom and Egypt. How will God do this? By the same seismic forces of nature that destroyed San Francisco and the ancient cities of the plain, *and* by the same violent passions of the working class that decimated eighteenth-century France.

We've had a foretaste of that spirit in the riots that plagued America in 2020 and caused \$2 billion in property damage, the costliest unrest and anarchy in American history. The "mostly peaceful" chaos and pillage of the cities,^{vii} were not racially based. Underneath, the same spirit of class hatred and anarchy fueled the inner-city mobs. The push to defund the police was a manifestation of the same desire for unrestrained license and blood as in Revolutionary France.

The 1906 quake and the 2020 riots are red flags for those living in the cities of things to come when Revelation 11 is repeated one final time by the beast and the ten horns who will strip the harlot naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire. To those living in the cities, the Lord says, "Be warned."

One consequence of not giving due weight to the prophecy in Revelation 17 of the downfall of the harlot at the hands of her own power-base is that Adventists generally believe the Papacy, combined with apostate Protestantism, will continue to the end and are the final Antichrist. But the Scripture says

otherwise. It forewarns that the harlot will be overthrown *before* the end by means of the lawlessness which Babylon herself teaches. It's this spirit of anarchy that recoils on her own head.

A second consequence of making Catholicism supported by apostate Protestantism the final Antichrist is that we assume that all the world, except for those who receive the seal of God, will convert to Christianity. But, as in Revolutionary France, the prophecy indicates that, rather than convert the world to the church, Satan converts the church to the world.

It is when the world is racked by war and anarchy that he completes the overthrow of the church in his impersonation of the universal Christ. Satan, as a glorified being, will say to humanity, as he has always said from the fall of Adam; "Live as you please. Heaven is your home, whether you call it nirvana (Buddhism), vaikuntha (Hinduism), gen eden (Judaism) or heaven (Christian) – it's all the same. Every spiritual path is holy because you are holy and are part of God. You (reprobates he might say) are my holy people."

Thus Satan, as the false Messiah, baptizes all forms of religion including Christianity, but in doing this he divorces Christianity from scripture, destroying it and degrading it to the level of paganism. He has one main requirement, Sunday worship, or sun worship because it is the outward sign of allegiance to him and a repudiation of the divine Covenant Law. And He validates his claim by bringing the fire of the sun down to earth in front of multitudes. (Rev 13:13). This is the final nail in the harlot's coffin because it removes the scruples of beleaguered Christians. The great majority of them join the world in adoration of this universalist Antichrist. Because most Christians will reject the three angels' messages they will accept this counterfeit.

That may seem fantastic, but doesn't it agree with 2 Thessalonians 2:3, 4?

Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; **Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.** (2Th 2:3-4).

All branches of Christianity, Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox, have been primed for this for centuries. By honoring Sunday as the day of worship rather than the Sabbath of the fourth commandment, they deny the validity of the law of God and his claim to worship as our Creator. Some do this ignorantly but many willfully ignore the fact that whoever transgresses one of God's commandments transgresses all. Without reverence for the law of God, they will become unmoored from Scripture and a prey for Satan's delusion that all paths lead to heaven.

The great wonderworking power of the imposter Messiah will convince many to trust more to their senses than in the word of God and to believe they are experiencing a higher level of spirituality than ever before, even while they reject the God of heaven and the religion of their fathers. By this occultic deception they are taken captive.

The point of the above discussion is to identify the connection between the ten horns that destroy the harlot and modern Marxists, despots, anarchists and occultists who, like in Revolutionary France overthrew the harlot and mortally wounded the beast.

But there is another scriptural match to the ten horns that is timely for us to consider because it bears on the message of the third angel. This solution draws on Daniel 11 and other scripture to interpret Revelation 17's ten horns. We'll look at this in the next part.

Part 3

The Ten Horns Identified - Solution 2

Part 2 dealt with America as the eighth head and offered one solution to the ten horns - atheistic, occultic socialism. In this Part, we'll look at a second solution, one that is compatible with the first.

The beast with seven heads and ten horns is pictured three times in Revelation, in Chapters 12, 13 and 17. In the first description, Revelation 12:3, the heads have crowns, in the second description, Revelation 13:1-3, the horns have crowns but in the third description, Revelation 17:3, neither the heads nor the horns have crowns. The meaning is that in Chapter 12 the beast-harlot duo rules by the power of the crowned heads, whereas the beast of Revelation 13 depicts a later phase when the woman riding the beast falls under the judgments of its ten horns. The lack of crowns on the beast of Revelation 17 indicates that the vision spans the transition of power from the heads to the horns.

Notice in all three descriptions there are seven heads but in the third description, Revelation 17, halfway through it an eighth head suddenly appears. This head confederates with the harlot as much and more than the first seven heads. Recall the words of the angel to John at the start of the chapter: "Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters." Rev 17:1. The three purposes of the angel in Revelation 17 are 1) to show John the future course of the harlot that brings the wrath of God upon her and the beast; 2) to reveal the time and the event when she begins to come under judgment - when she remounts the beast and persecutes God's people; and 3) to describe the progress of her judgment as she fulfills her three stages, European, American, and her final stage when the ten horns overthrow her. As mentioned above, the first two stages, European and American, overlap.

The Final Antichrist

The previous Part mentioned Satan's impersonation as the universalist Christ and showed how this deception contributes to the overthrow of the harlot. Writing to a friend on this, Ellen White stated:

In the last days, Satan will appear as an angel of light, with great power and heavenly glory, and claim to be the lord of the whole earth. He will declare that the Sabbath has been changed from the seventh to the first day of the week; and as lord of the first day of the week he will present this spurious sabbath as a test of loyalty to him. *Then will take place the final fulfilment of the Revelator's prophecy:*

"They worshiped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshiped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him? And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. . ." [Revelation 13:4-18 quoted.] Ellen White in Ms153-1902.8, 9, emphasis supplied.

The above quote is noteworthy because it applies the symbols of **both the first and second beast and its image** to Satan's impersonation of Christ. Ellen White is essentially saying that when the following

Scripture comes to pass, *which will not have been completely fulfilled by either beast*, only then will the prophecy be complete:

And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.
Rev 13:13-14 KJV.

To gain a better understanding of the ten horns, keep the above thought in mind as we turn to the last part of Daniel, which parallels Revelation 13 and 17 because it is Satan's impersonation of Christ that leads to, and immediately precedes, the harlot's demise at the hands of the ten horns.

Daniel 11 and the King of the North

Daniel 11 starting in verse 29, parallels Revelation 11, 13, and 17 to 19. In Daniel 11:29 forward, the lamb-like beast, the eighth head, takes action against the covenant, creating an image of the first beast:

At the time appointed he *[the US, which at this point becomes the King of the North]* shall return, and come toward the south; but it shall not be as the former, or as the latter. For the ships of Chittim shall come against him: *[Chittim is modern Cyprus, a small, island republic in the eastern Mediterranean 80 miles off the south coast of Turkey and west coast of Syria, geographically part of Asia. The island is divided into two states. Two-thirds of the island are Greek Cypriots and one-third, the northeastern portion, are Turkish Cypriots. Since neither state has a military that poses a threat to the US, Cyprus is symbolic of the Asian navies in this region that will cause the US to withdraw its military forces from this part of the world.]* therefore he shall be grieved, and return, and have indignation against the holy covenant: so shall he do; he shall even return, and have intelligence with them that forsake the holy covenant. And arms shall stand on his part, and they shall pollute the sanctuary of strength, and shall take away the daily sacrifice, and they shall place the abomination that maketh desolate. Dan 11:29-31.

Notice in the above text, that it is this unprecedented military humiliation that causes the King of the North, America, to set up the abomination of desolation by confederating with the fallen churches that forsake the "holy covenant", the Ten Commandments. This is when the eighth head suddenly appears. It is during this persecution in America that God's people shine and do great exploits for God's kingdom:

And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries: but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits. And they that understand among the people shall instruct many: yet they shall fall by the sword, and by flame, by captivity, and by spoil, many days. Now when they shall fall, they shall be holpen with a little help: but many shall cleave to them with flatteries. And some of them of understanding shall fall, to try them, and to purge, and to make them white, even to the time of the end: because it is yet for a time appointed. Dan 11:32-35.

In the next scene of this drama, from Daniel 11:36 to the end of the chapter, we have the impersonation of the Antichrist and the overthrow of the woman:

And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and **magnify himself above every god**, and shall speak marvelous things against the God of gods, and **shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished**: for that that is determined shall be done. Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, **nor the desire of women, nor regard any god**: for he shall magnify himself above all. But in his estate shall he honor **the God of forces**: and a god whom his fathers knew not shall he honor with gold, and silver, and with precious stones, and pleasant things. **Thus shall he do in the most strong holds with a strange god**, whom he shall acknowledge and increase with glory: and he shall cause them to rule over many, and shall divide the land for gain. Dan 11:36-39.

The above passage gives us several identifying features of the final Antichrist impostor. Here we see a unique kind of idolatry, an idolatry on steroids:

- And he shall **magnify himself above every god**, and
- shall speak marvelous things against the God of gods,. . .
- Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, **nor the desire of women**, *[A woman being a church, he will regard neither the true nor false churches.]*
- **nor regard any god**: for he shall magnify *himself* above all. Daniel 11:36 and 37.

This is the most revealing passage in the Old Testament of Satan's impersonation of Christ. The same traits of supreme self-exaltation are described in 2 Thessalonians of the man of sin.

Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself *above all that is called God* or that is worshiped, *[Christian or heathen]* so that he sits as God in the temple of God, *showing himself that he is God*. (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4).

This Antichrist goes beyond what the popes, ancient or modern, ever claimed. Whereas the popes have made many fantastic and blasphemous claims to be the vicar of Christ, the prophecy indicates that, at the end, this is taken to its ultimate maximum. This demonic character, Satan, claims to be the universal Christ of all of humanity, heathen and Christian, atheist and infidel, heaven and earth.

This is the most dramatic and alarming feature of the Antichrist **and the surest identifier**: while impersonating Christ, he rejects Him, substitutes a counterfeit, and like Nebuchadnezzar, requires the worship of himself above all other gods on the pain of death.

Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, **nor the desire of women** *[Women = Churches, impure woman, fallen church, pure woman, pure church]*, **nor regard any god**: **for he shall magnify himself above all**. Daniel 11:37.

Muslims have been expecting their messiah for centuries. To them, Satan will be the twelfth Mahdi, to Christians the returned Messiah, to Buddhists, Maitreya, to Hindus, Kalki, to Taoists, Li Hong, etc. Satan unites all in one grand apostasy, a truly global religion.

But notice, according to Daniel 11, he works especially through America to accomplish his plans. America becomes the King of the North in verse 29, the final successor of the Holy Roman Empire, and continues as such to the end when Michael stands up. In the final days of American world dominance, Satan will appear as this universalist Christ, and Protestant America will be the first to accept him. Sunday laws may be well advanced when he appears but they stop short of capital punishment. It is Satan himself, claiming to be Christ, who urges the final solution – the genocide of the righteous – thus bringing national ruin on America which, at this point, is Babylon.

How do we know Babylon in her final phase is Protestant America? Look carefully at her description in Revelation 18:

And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, *[Babylon is fallen because her churches have fornicated with the state]* 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. *[This applies to the lamb-like beast, the American Babylon, not the papacy. Whereas the papacy impoverishes her flock and the world, America is the world's economic powerhouse by which the merchants of the earth have waxed rich.]*

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. *[Beginning in 1842 when the call to come out of Babylon was first given, it was a call to come out of the fallen churches of America. Since 1842 Babylon has been identified within Adventism as applying especially to American Protestantism.]* For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.

Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double. How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow. *[This is a paraphrase of the boast of ancient Babylon (Isaiah 47:7-15) which thought that because of its unsurpassed wisdom, wealth, and military power, it was secure against all calamities. America mirrors the same attitude for the same reasons. Rather than standing by her motto "In God We Trust", she has largely exchanged her trust in God for trust in her technology, her gold and her naval/military power.]* Therefore shall her plagues come **in one day**, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her. *[In this verse, her plagues come in one day. In prophecy, a day equals a year. But in verses 10, 17, and 19 her final destruction comes in one hour – at most, 30 days. This agrees with the one-hour reign of the 10 horns of Revelation 17:12 who eat her flesh and burn her with fire. Someone says, What?! Protestant America cannibalized and burned with fire by her enemies?! Apparently so. We'll come to the identity of the ten horns momentarily.]*

And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning, Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in **one hour** is thy judgment come. And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more: The merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones. . . The merchants of these things, which were made rich by her, shall stand afar off for the fear of her torment, weeping and wailing, And saying, Alas, alas, that great city. . . **For in one hour** so great riches is come to nought. . . Alas, alas, that great city, wherein were made rich all that had ships in the sea by reason of her costliness! for in **one hour is she made desolate**. Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her. Rev 18:1-20.

America is the world's economic dynamo and home to many of the world's super-rich. The leading businessmen and capitalists of the earth have always had a prominent role in geopolitics but this is especially true in the last days. Many global capitalists are not American but for many years America, working with the World Trade Organization (WTO), the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), has set the rules in the global marketplace. The major league capitalists of the world and nations generally complied. But there is a growing revolt known as BRICS that threatens American hegemony.

Historically, wars often begin as financial conflicts and trade disputes. BRICS (an acronym for the first five member states, Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) was organized by Russia in 2009 to challenge American financial dominance by creating a trading block that is not dependent on the American dollar. BRICS currently has nine members representing 35% of the world's trade and 40% of its population. In the past year, many more nations have applied for membership or expressed an interest in joining.

According to Daniel 11:45, when America plants her tabernacle between the sea and the glorious holy mountain, meaning that the King of the North will impose a false worship and priesthood between God and his people^{viii}, it is when this occurs that he suddenly comes to an end with none to help him. The prophecy of Revelation 18 confirms *three* times that Babylon will be destroyed and burned with fire in one hour. Rev 18:10, 17 and 19. Who destroys her in one hour? Answer:

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. . . And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues. **And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire.** For God hath put in their hearts to fulfil his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled. And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth. Rev 17:12-18.

Only this can explain the grief and trauma in Revelation 18 of the world's capitalists and super-rich when they see the smoke of her burning. These care nothing for the papacy but, in contrast, their great financial interests are completely intertwined with and subject to the fate of the Babylonian (American) economy.

So what nations form the ten-horn alliance of Revelation 17 that destroys Babylon? The answer is found in the previous chapter:

And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, **that the way of the kings of the east** might be prepared. And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame. And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon. Rev 16:12-16.

Notice above that God uses the kings of the East to humble spiritual Babylon just as he used the kings of the East to humble and destroy literal Babylon. And he does it in the same way – by drying up the Euphrates. When Belshazzar was at the height of his power, feasting and blaspheming God by toasting the Babylonian gods with the sacred vessels of the sanctuary, the eastern kingdoms of Media and Persia were besieging the city. Belshazzar and the Babylonians scoffed at their enemies, convinced that Babylon was impregnable. But the Medes and Persians diverted and dried up the waters of the Euphrates which allowed their forces to march up the riverbed into the city.

This history will be repeated.^{ix} In the case of America, which is spiritual Babylon at this point, her destruction comes after the Euphrates is dried up, again making way for the kings of the East.

At the time of the end, the king of the south shall attack him, but the king of the north shall rush upon him like a whirlwind, with chariots and horsemen, and with many ships. And he shall come into countries and shall overflow and pass through. He shall come into the glorious land. And tens of thousands shall fall, but these shall be delivered out of his hand: Edom and Moab and the main part of the Ammonites. He shall stretch out his hand against the countries, and the land of Egypt shall not escape. He shall become ruler of the treasures of gold and of silver, and all the precious things of Egypt, and the Libyans and the Cushites shall follow in his train. **But news from the east and the north shall alarm him, and he shall go out with great fury to destroy and devote many to destruction.** And he shall pitch his palatial tents between the sea and the glorious holy mountain. Yet he shall come to his end, with none to help him. Dan 11:40-45 ESV

News from the east and north that the kings of the east are mustering for war causes the King of the North to take preemptive measures, overrunning the Middle-East but to no avail. The eastern powers still swiftly besiege and overthrow Babylon, the King of the North.

Regarding the Euphrates, if the drying up of it is literal, it is starting to happen. The level of the Euphrates has been dropping for several years due to drought and increased upstream water consumption by communities, industries and farmers to the north. If it is symbolic of the people groups living along the riparian valleys, these have been depopulated and destabilized by several decades of war and terrorism going back to the Iran-Iraq War (1980 to 1988) and continuing to today with the recent downfall of the Syrian government which can only further destabilize the region, Iraq in particular, and augment the flow of refugees from this area.

Notice in the prophecy the drying of the Euphrates comes at the same time that “three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.” These are “the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.” This plague of spiritual manifestations from the bottomless pit culminates when Satan appears, impersonating Christ, working great wonders. He is accepted first in America and then around the world as the universal Messiah of all faiths. It is when this impostor proclaims peace and safety to all who take his mark and death to those who don’t, that the kings of the East suddenly, in one hour, humble Babylon, strip her naked, and burn her with fire so that the smoke of her torment ascends to heaven.

This is when Michael stands up, Dan 12:1, and human history soon closes with the return of Christ who gathers us to himself with exceeding great joy, to live and reign with him eternally:

And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God: For true and righteous are his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand. And again they said, Alleluia. And her smoke rose up for ever and ever. And the four and twenty elders and the four beasts fell down and worshipped God that sat on the throne, saying, Amen; Alleluia. And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great.

And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.

And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy. 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. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. 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 an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great. 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. And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh. Rev 19:1-21.

i “While I was praying at the family altar, the Holy Ghost fell upon me, and I seemed to be rising higher and higher, far above the dark world. I turned to look for the Advent people in the world, but could not find them, when a voice said to me, “Look again, and look a little higher.” At this I raised my eyes, and saw a straight and narrow path, cast up high above the world. On this path the Advent people were traveling to the city, which was at the farther end of the path. **They had a bright light set up behind them at the beginning of the path, which an angel told me was the midnight cry.** Ellen White, *Early Writings*, p 14.1.

ii https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Third_Council_of_Orl%C3%A9ans

iii https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Holy_Roman_Empire#:~:text=While%20the%20office,%5B28%5D

iv https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Holy_Roman_Empire#:~:text=It%20developed%20in%20

v Some Adventist expositors regard the seven kings as literal kings or popes but this is not consistent with the symbolism of the prophecies where horns and heads represent nations or kingdoms. Often scripture will refer to a part as representing a whole. For example, it says in Psalms: “The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed. (Psa 2:2 KJV) In this text, the rulers represent the nations that empower them. It is these confederated nations, not merely their rulers, who make war against God’s people.

vi https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_Union#:~:text=Containing%205.8%25%20

vii “Mostly peaceful” as reported by mainstream media, which characterized the riots as a justified reaction to white oppression.

viii A second, literal application of this text should not be dismissed. According to the prophecy, the King of the North will sweep through many Middle Eastern nations at this time – Egypt, Libya, Ethiopia, and apparently set up a key temporary military base between the Mediterranean and Dead Seas in Israel. Some Adventist commentators say the text can only be symbolic because Jerusalem is no longer hallowed by God’s presence and the text must be symbolic. But this phrase and the parallel expression “glorious land” does not exclude a literal application. It can be taken as referring to Jerusalem’s past and future state, not its present condition.

ix Some Adventists hold that the kings of the east are the hosts of heaven because this is how the battle of Armageddon ends in Revelation 19 and Daniel 12. But the kings of the east are not the same as the armies of God because, as in the overthrow of ancient Babylon, God uses other nations first to humble the harlot, Babylon, **before** his return. This is evident in Revelation 18 where the merchants of the earth are not lamenting that the armies of Christ have come but that Babylon, who made them rich, has been burnt and pillaged by her enemies.