

UNVEILED!

**The Ancient Secrets of Daniel &
The Revelation of Jesus Christ**

JOAN H. RICHARDSON

Unveiled!

The Ancient Secrets of Daniel & The Revelation of Jesus Christ

by Joan H. Richardson

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The Child

At Gibeon, the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream and asked Him to make a request. The thought of ruling a kingdom overwhelmed him. Solomon asked for wisdom and the ability to discern good from evil, and God promised to grant his request. After waking from his dream, he gave an offering on an altar and held a feast for his servants.

¹⁶ Then two prostitutes came to the king and stood before him. ¹⁷ The one woman said, "Oh, my lord, this woman and I live in the same house, and I gave birth to a child while she was in the house." ¹⁸ Then on the third day after I gave birth, this woman also gave birth. And we were alone. There was no one else with us in the house; only we two were in the house. ¹⁹ And this woman's son died in the night, because she lay on him. ²⁰ And she arose at midnight and took my son from beside me, while your servant slept, and laid him at her breast, and laid her dead son at my breast. ²¹ When I rose in the morning to nurse my child, behold, he was dead. But when I looked at him closely in the morning, behold, he was not the child that I had borne." ²² But the other woman said, "No, the living child is mine, and the dead child is yours." The first said, "No, the dead child is yours, and the living child is mine." Thus they spoke before the king.

²³ Then the king said, "The one says, 'This is my son that is alive, and your son is dead'; and the other says, 'No; but your son is dead, and my son is the living one.'" ²⁴ And the king said, "Bring me a sword." So a sword was brought before the king. ²⁵ And the king said, "Divide the living child in two, and give half to the one and half to the other." ²⁶ Then the woman whose son was alive said to the king, because her heart yearned for her son, "Oh, my lord, give her the living child, and by no means put him to death." But the other said, "He shall be neither mine nor yours; divide him." ²⁷ Then the king answered and said, "Give the living child to the first woman, and by no means put him to death; she is his mother." ²⁸ And all Israel heard of the judgment that the king had rendered, and they stood in awe of the king, because they perceived that the wisdom of God was in him to do justice. (1 Kg. 3:16-28 ESV)

The Child

The story is famous, but its mystery is shrouded. Though not an allegory, there's a message hidden in the true story of the two women. There is an ancient argument between envy and ownership that applies to Abraham's sons by different mothers, Hagar and Sarah, whose progeny are Arabs and Jews.

Ishmael was born of a servant in the natural way, but Isaac, of an aged and barren wife's faith and an old man's trust in a promise of God. This courtroom case was included in the Bible to lend insight to an age-old mystery: envy is kindred to hatred.

Both women in Solomon's court were harlots and each had birthed a child; however, one mother lay on hers, suffocating him as they slept. After her child's death, she coveted the other baby though caring nothing for the infant; she envied her friend's motherhood. They brought the living child before Solomon.

Ishmaelites and Israelites, present-day Arabs and Jews, have lived side by side as neighbors. Though both have been harlots, they were each given lands to protect and nourish.

Since their return to their homeland, the Jews have cultivated its fields, and the desert sands that had lain waste for millennia now thrive with life and greenery because they have faithfully cared for their land. Their half-brothers beside them have lived with similar soil but haven't tilled, cultivated, or seeded it, so the ground remains a vastly barren and fruitless desert.

Israel is the living child; Jerusalem is his heart. The one who gave him life nurtures and protects him as a true mother would. Her neighbors want to divide the land because they don't even care for their own, and certainly not for hers! In their envy, they would take the land away from her and destroy it, but the truth of the matter is plain to see: the child of the true mother lives.

No one can thwart the promises of God or prevent His words from their fulfillment; neither can anyone decimate the remnant of His people, because the God of Israel is truly God. There is no other God.

Solomon's gift of wisdom was made famous by his solution to the conflict. As the King judged the case between the two women, the Son of David will be enthroned in Jerusalem as King and Judge to declare the promises and to administer justice on behalf of the true mother on that Great Day when the case goes to Court.

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Part 2

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

And he said to me, "Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand."
(Rev. 22:10 NKJV)

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

CHAPTER 13

13 Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name. ² Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like *the feet of a bear*, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority. ³ And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast. ⁴ So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who *is* like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?"

⁵ And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months. ⁶ Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven. ⁷ It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation. ⁸ All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

⁹ If anyone has an ear, let him hear.

¹⁰ He who leads into captivity shall go into captivity; he who kills with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints. ¹¹ Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon. ¹² And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. ¹³ He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. ¹⁴ And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived. ¹⁵ He was granted *power* to give breath

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to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed.¹⁶ He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads,¹⁷ and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

¹⁸ Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666. (Revelation 13:1-18 NKJV) [Lit: “granted to give breath”]

Insights

The scene switches from 12 and picks up where Dan. 7 left off. The lion, the bear, and the leopard were Great Britain, the USSR, and the USA in WW2. John stood on the shore of the Mediterranean and saw a beast rise up from the same sea Daniel had seen in his vision while in Babylon. (Dan. 7) But this beast is the three beasts of Dan.7, united in Rev. 13. Its seven heads and ten horns make it look a little like the terrible beast from Daniel as in 13:2, the dragon gave it his throne and authority, making the dragon the first beast; the same one came from chapter 12.

Chapter 13 begins with a beast from WW2; now one of its heads was *as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed.* (13:3) “... *the head of Syria is Damascus*” in Is. 7:8. The heads of the beast were capitals of past empires that were given to Rome. France overcame Rome but Paris was given to her; afterward, Germany rose with nine others. The horns with crowns are kings with nations, which had no crowns in chapters 12 and 17. They had been granted crowns in 1920 but gave them to the terrible beast—the dragon of Germany. (See Rev. 17:12-13) Nine regained their crowns in 1947; the tenth in 1990.

The paradigm is in Dan. 8:3-4: the Prince of Persia was a ram; its two horns were the kings of his two kingdoms, seen as Medo-Persia’s Darius and Cyrus. The Prince of Greece was a goat with one great horn, Alexander the Great. The beasts are kings of great nations or empires, their kingdoms, but they are unseen. When a beast is given a mouth, it speaks through a man.

When he stood on the sand, John received another vision;

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the beast rises from the sea with the dragon's heads and horns since the dragon gave it his throne as we see in 13:1-2. One of its heads, the capital of Germany, had been mortally wounded in WW2; now it belonged to the beast. That head was spiritually Babylon. As the terrible beast, the dragon was forced to capitulate to this beast at the end of WW2 when the ten horns regained their lands and their crowns, nearly all by 1949, but Berlin was not healed until 1990. [The crowns mark their time in history.]

The war ended when the dragon's city Berlin was ruined. After WW2, the wounded city of the dragon's throne was healed in 13:3. When the beast gets a mouth, his man continues forty-two months and overcomes the saints. This is the first half of Daniel's 70th week and arrives with a two-horned lamb. (See Dan. 9:24-27)

Which Is What?

January 1, 1942: President Roosevelt had a plan: the "united nations" would coordinate the strategies of the Allies in WW2.¹²⁹ December 1943: Churchill, Stalin, and Roosevelt met in Tehran to organize the Allies against the Axis powers.¹³⁰ February 1945: they met again in Yalta in Ukraine's Crimea. There the unlikely trio drew up the plan for the UN. Conceived by America, it was confirmed by Great Britain and the USSR.¹³¹

In May 1945, *the dragon gave his throne, his power, and great authority* to the beast of 13:2, but the leopard was given *dominion*. (Dan. 7:6) Now the beast has seven heads without crowns since the monarchs had lost their empires in wars that divided them into nations. The capital cities had been healed, but Babylon was still wounded, now the head of the beast. Nine horns regained their crowns in 1947.¹³² W. Germany created a republic in 1949, but Berlin wasn't healed till October 3, 1990.¹³³

June 26, 1945: the twenty-six Allies met in a skating rink in Flushing Meadows, New York, "for world peace," signing the United Nations Charter right after the war.¹³⁴ The world idolized the leopard with a mouth like a lion and feet like a bear, and they idolized the dragon that gave him authority.

In Paul's day, the dragon had access to heaven. In 12:7-9, after Jesus ascended, Satan was banished to the earth.

¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the

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power of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. ¹³ Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. (Eph. 6:10-13)

Babel's people had emigrated across the earth with idols of Baal. Their cities grew into empires. The Seleucids took the title "King of Babylon" for themselves in the 4th century BC though they were Greeks.¹³⁵ But the Prince of Greece was not the King of Babylon; the dragon was; they built his temple in Pergamon.

When the Romans defeated the Greeks, they too adopted the Babylonian culture and its gods. After some time, the churches yielded to Rome, separating from the olive tree by despising the Jews—not all of them at first, but all who agreed with the councils that began in the 4th century. At the start, only a small percentage of the Roman Empire's churches denied the Hebrew Scriptures while deliberately receiving the paganism of Rome. Their reprieve from persecution pleased them.¹³⁶ Like leaven, the teachings spread throughout the empire, and a different gospel began to succeed that ended the injustices against them.

In the 5th century, the Roman church gained dominance over the others with a pope like a king who declared the dogma. In the 8th century, France acquired the Papal States to protect the fearful Roman popes from the invading jihadists of the East.¹³⁷ In 800, Pope Leo III formed the 2nd Roman Empire. Without a fixed capital for its government, it was as diverse as its kings from various lands, all members of the church of Rome.¹³⁸

In 962, its German kings bolstered its strength until 1806 when the First Consul of France, Napoleon Bonaparte, overcame the REGN. He favored the Jews but made the Roman church the official church of France, and the short-lived French Empire fell.

In 1871, the dragon carried his throne to his altar in Berlin but was slain in 1945 when his head was bruised. Babylon, the city of his throne, became the spiritual capital of the next beast. Its wound was evident in the head that was healed.

In chapter 17 [preceding 13], all seven heads [capitals] had

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kings; however, after the empires fell, the dragon was manifested in another as the eighth king that was of the seven; he was the scarlet beast in Rome who came out of the Huns and ruled the REGN. He later returned with Hitler.

Millennia ago, he'd been King of Babel, which birthed seven like herself; she mothered all seven harlot empires. Under the rule of Nebuchadnezzar, Babylon had professed faith in God but returned to the dark and was finally cursed. The eighth king of the seven was Satan, maker of every false religion on the earth. In WW2, his head was bruised, and he was slain and sent to hell.

¹⁹ 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.

²⁰ 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. (Rev. 19:19-20)

A kingdom rises but from the earth as if out of its grave just as the dragon rises to speak by his prophet who commands the world to worship the first beast whose wound was healed. The beast had gotten the dragon's head after the dragon was slain. Devils would work false miracles in the presence of the beast, the man who agrees with his prophet to mesmerize the world:

¹² And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. ¹³ He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. ¹⁴ And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived. (Rev. 13:12-14 NKJV)

One of the seven had its deadly wound healed. The dragon *was slain* in the war. (See Dan. 7:11; cf. Rev. 13:12) He preceded the beast (13:2) but gave it his head, which was crushed. His prophet works wonders and makes an image to the beast who

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was wounded by the sword. (See Rev. 13:12-14, p. 159) So *they worshiped the dragon who gave power to the beast, and they worshiped the beast. (13:4)*

Picture the image of Zeus, which Antiochus IV set up in the temple when he commanded the Jews to worship him and to bow to his image though the image was not of him, but of Zeus. Both the dragon and the beast will be worshiped by the world. The mark will be the number of the beast, but the image will be of the dragon. The prophet doesn't give breath to a man, but to an image by making it speak, and he himself speaks by the dragon.

Now all ten kings have crowns; nine were restored by the Paris Peace Treaties after the 2nd World War; however, the tenth had to be healed to regain its crown. Berlin had belonged to the dragon as Mystery Babylon. In Rev. 13, its ten horns are on the beast but they reunite with the dragon, the two-horned lamb, the scarlet beast of chapter 17. Let's read Rev. 17:16-17:

¹⁶ and the ten horns that thou didst see upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and shall burn her in fire,¹⁷ for God did give into their hearts to do its mind, and to make one mind, and to give their kingdom to the beast till the sayings of God may be complete,

In chapter 13, the world worships the beast with seven heads and ten horns, revering a king who overcomes the saints because, as enemies of God, the nations hate the saints. *As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long. (Rom. 8:36)*

Lacking crowns on its heads, the beast in 13 arrives after 17 where the heads and horns are equal to those on the dragon in chapter 12. It seems odd to look back at history from 13 by turning the pages forward to 17:12 where the dragon had ten horns, *which have received no kingdom as yet*, while here they have crowns—but that's how Revelation reveals history. The basic order is: chapter 12; 17:1-14; then Dan. 7; Rev. 13-16; then 17:15-18; 20:1-6; 8-9:1 and 20:7; finally, 9:2-11. The prophetic keys are in their words and timelines of history. (See pp. 289-90)

¹ And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and I saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his

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heads the name of blasphemy. ² 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. (Rev. 13:1-2 NKJV)

At the end, in 17:17, the prophecy returns all ten horns with crowns to the scarlet beast whose domain is most of Europe, Africa, and Asia, but not Israel. The ten kings reunite in Europe to re-mingle with the seed of men as the toes of the idol in Dan. 2; they return to the devil's alter ego, a two-horned lamb. Satan is finally destroyed after the thousand years.

Thrones are in their capital cities. This is confirmed in Ezk. 43:7 (p. 188) when the LORD declares the place of His throne is in the midst of Israel, referring to His city Jerusalem. The dragon had given his throne to the beast of the West. It had been his in Babylon and in Pergamon—the place of his throne. But the ghost of his city is one of his seven heads. Babylon, Iraq, never rises again, but her spirit travels the world to seduce kings into her sins. Her fatal attraction is another mystery, that of her iniquity.

“The beast is like a leopard with” describes the body of the beast that supports the throne as the scarlet beast had done before him. The dragon's throne had been in Pergamon; then in the church empire, paid by her coffers; the same beast supported her by Nazi war factories. Now the leopard supports the same capital by its taxpayers. Rome nailed Christ to the cross, but Jesus told His saints to pay taxes.

Healing Berlin

The head of a river is its origin; likewise, each head is the origin of its empire. Rome was the origin of the Roman Empire; Paris was the origin of the French. The origin of all seven had been Babel whose spirit fills the world. At Berlin's fall, the dragon's principality was ruined when *the beast was destroyed and his body was given to the burning flame. (Dan. 7:11)* Whoever healed the dragon's head healed Mystery Babylon.

³ One of its heads seemed to have a mortal wound, but its mortal wound was healed, and the whole earth marveled as they followed the beast. (Rev. 13:3 ESV)

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In chapter 17, the sixth king had been the Prince of Rome, the sixth head. After her fall, the dragon was the unseen king of its 2nd RE. The illegitimate REGN had been the Papal States, founded on a hoax. The alleged *Donation of Constantine* claimed the emperor had bequeathed his empire to the church.¹³⁹

In one thousand six years, the REGN fell to the seventh king who was soon defeated. The dragon returned to Berlin, the city of the Huns out of the Roman Empire of Germany. He lost the world wars, and E. Germany went to the USSR after France gave up her part, opting to rebuild Paris. W. Germany was governed by America and Great Britain until its republic began in 1949.¹⁴⁰

In 1948-49, Russia disconnected East Berlin from railways, highways, and waterways, leaving its people helpless, alienated, and starving—ironically, as isolated as the Jews they'd forced into ghettos several years before.¹⁴¹ Word spread about a wall, and twenty-four hundred Germans escaped to W. Berlin in one day.¹⁴² Overnight, on August 13, 1961, Communist troops built the wall around the city after its Chairman signed a pact with Premier Khrushchev, violating the Allies' agreement. Russia's defiance incited the cold war of Marxism against the free world.

Day and night, America, Great Britain, France, and others air-lifted food and supplies for their survival.¹⁴³ Most Berliners had adored Hitler, but eighteen years after the war, the Allies healed the dragon's head to save the world from Marxist socialism and communism, methodologies of the great spiritual war that continued behind the scenes.

In 1963, five days before shaking the pope's hand, J.F.K. spoke in West Berlin for families divided by the wall built by the Marxists to isolate East Berliners.¹⁴⁴ He famously said, "Ich bin ein Berliner!" But five months later, he was assassinated.¹⁴⁵

Socialism ruined Russia when the ideals of Karl Marx were disproved by the realities of life. In June 1987, Russians waited in long lines for bread when President Reagan stood at the wall in West Berlin and addressed the Premier: "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!"¹⁴⁶ However, healing Berlin was no easy job.

In the cold war between the USA and the USSR, East Berlin symbolized the oppression of communism when its people were strangely victimized by the war their favorite leader had begun. In 1989, the Iron Curtain lifted when the communists in East

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Germany resigned. In two days, the wall went down, and the world cheered for the city liberated by the nations that sacrificed their sons for a free world.¹⁴⁷ But socialism fell to bankruptcy after seventy years of Marxism in Russia, and the wall fell with it. Without the fear of God, not even free enterprise can succeed.

¹⁴ And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived. (Rev. 13:14 NKJV)

²³ "In the latter period of their rule, [I.e., the Greeks' rule]
When the transgressors have run *their course*,
A king will arise, [He appears in a human.]
Insolent and skilled in intrigue.

²⁴ "His power will be mighty, but not by his *own* power,
And he will destroy to an extraordinary degree
And prosper and perform *his will*;
He will destroy mighty men and the holy people.

²⁵ "And through his shrewdness
He will cause deceit to succeed by his influence;
And he will magnify *himself* in his heart,
And he will destroy many while *they are* at ease.
He will even oppose the Prince of princes, [the Messiah]
But he will be broken without human agency.
(Dan. 8:23-25 NASB) [A king like him appears in Rev. 13.]

The Seleucids' eighth king is the one whose image returns to the temple where he demands worship, speaking by a man.¹⁴⁸ Jesus prophesied that Daniel's writings would be repeated. As this age ends, an eighth king overcomes the saints, and the world worships him.

The Main Objectives

January 10, 1984: President Reagan recognized diplomatic relations with the Vatican and its ambassador to America, granting the church an embassy in Washington, D.C.¹⁴⁹ But the two-horned lamb would be a religio-political empire, re-establishing the two feet and ten toes in Dan. 2.

¹⁶ and the ten horns that thou didst see upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate

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and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and shall burn her in fire,¹⁷ for God did give into their hearts to do its mind, and to make one mind, and to give their kingdom to the beast till the sayings of God may be complete,¹⁸ and the woman that thou didst see is the great city that is having reign over the kings of the land.' (Rev. 17:16-18 YLT) [The scarlet beast loses his city to the beast across the sea.]

The beast of chapter 17 is the scarlet beast in the verses above. Having given up his throne to the next beast, the dragon has a mind to destroy the harlot. She was his whore but now sits on another beast with the kings of the earth. Ten of them target Mystery Babylon, having one mind with the scarlet beast again.

The church's apostasy is a sign to look up and prepare for what's coming. As we abandon sin to live by His Word, invisible powers test our faith until Jesus appears and takes us to Himself. *And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads, for your redemption draweth nigh. (Lk. 21:28)*

The lying prophet and the beast hate the God of Israel, and the prophet orders the mark of the beast as the man who speaks by the dragon and sets his image in the temple. Once before, the Jews had received the devil after Israel had taken in the culture of Greece, which was actually Babylon's culture. (See p. 76)

³¹ Forces from him shall appear and profane the temple and fortress, and shall take away the regular burnt offering. And they shall set up the abomination that makes desolate.³² He shall seduce with flattery those who violate the covenant, but the people who know their God shall stand firm and take action.³³ And the wise among the people shall make many understand, though for some days they shall stumble by sword and flame, by captivity and plunder.³⁴ When they stumble, they shall receive a little help. And many shall join themselves to them with flattery,³⁵ and some of the wise shall stumble, so that they may be refined, purified, and made white, until the time of the end, for it still awaits the appointed time.

³⁶ "And the king shall do as he wills. He shall exalt himself and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak astonishing things against the God of gods. He shall prosper till the indignation is accomplished; for

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what is decreed shall be done.³⁷ He shall pay no attention to the gods of his fathers, or to the one beloved by women. He shall not pay attention to any other god, for he shall magnify himself above all.³⁸ He shall honor the god of fortresses instead of these. A god whom his fathers did not know he shall honor with gold and silver, with precious stones and costly gifts.³⁹ He shall deal with the strongest fortresses with the help of a foreign god. Those who acknowledge him he shall load with honor. He shall make them rulers over many and shall divide the land for a price. (Dan. 11:31-39 ESV)

The passage above pertains to Antichrist. Nimrod was the eighth male in the line of Cush; Antiochus IV was the eighth Seleucid king; Attila was the eighth Hunnic king; *the eighth king of the seven* was the dragon of Germany. The dragon's kings were all eighth kings. Another will rise to fit the paradigm of the eighth king, taking his place beside the dragon.

The false prophet, the spokesman of the dragon, forces the mark of a man, and the world will worship him, but believers in Jesus Christ will reject him to be martyred. A lying prophet who adores idols will set his image in the temple.

The beast of chapter 13 speaks as a person who leads the UN and overcomes the saints. He is the next eighth king and rises with a prophet. His international armies will ransack Jerusalem.

²⁹ Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.³⁰ Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.³¹ And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.³² "Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer *is* near.³³ So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near—at the doors!³⁴ Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place.

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³⁵ Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away. (Mat. 24:29-35 NKJV)

Like the devil who coveted the throne of God, an eighth king is rising in the world today while the two-horned lamb is reforming his religio-political kingdom out of the earth as though out of its grave, speaking by the dragon that had led such a kingdom before and had persecuted true believers and Jews. The slaughter will cover the earth when his ten kings, which had no kingdom in chapter 17, give him their authority in Europe.

Desperate to unite the ancient Roman Empire, his modern kingdom is geographically the Roman-Ottoman Empire. As the two feet and their toes in the King's dream, the ten kings mingle their seed by the Eastern radicals in Europe. The Great Liar will rule a strong yet fragile religio-political union, vowing peace by forced conversions. He will enter the temple to take Jerusalem:

14 Behold, a day is coming for the LORD, when the spoil taken from you will be divided in your midst. ²For I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle, and the city shall be taken and the houses plundered and the women raped. Half of the city shall go out into exile, but the rest of the people shall not be cut off from the city. ³Then the LORD will go out and fight against those nations as when he fights on a day of battle. ⁴On that day his feet shall stand on the Mount of Olives that lies before Jerusalem on the east, and the Mount of Olives shall be split in two from east to west by a very wide valley, so that one half of the Mount shall move northward, and the other half southward. ⁵And you shall flee to the valley of my mountains, for the valley of the mountains shall reach to Azal. And you shall flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then the LORD my God will come, and all the holy ones with him. (Zec. 14:1-5 ESV)

In WW2, the Allies defeated the Nazis and rescued Israel. A generation later, the UN opposes Israel. The nations intend to destroy her though twenty-six of them had rescued the Jews, and thirty-three had voted for their land grant in 1947.¹⁵⁰ After the 1967 war, UN Resolution 242 confirmed that Israel's gained land was necessary for her self-defense and justified her.

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Now radicals have entered Europe from the East again, and nearly every nation on earth is a member of the UN though they are belligerent, fascist, anti-Zionists, condoning acts of terror, infanticide, and genocide—the savages are worldwide, warring with one another, yet they purport to be peace-loving in the UN.

After the bombing of Pearl Harbor, the U.S. went to war for self-preservation, not for the victimized Jews. Saving herself, she helped rescue Israel. Had the Lamb of God empowered a bear, a leopard, and a lion to conquer the dragon? Indeed, God can use anything for His purposes, which always succeed.

Five months after the war in Europe, Harry Truman made an historic decision: he ordered hydrogen bombs to be dropped on Japan. When he did, he hadn't planned to judge its government's hatred of the Jews, but his decision officially ended the war in the Pacific six years to the day it had all begun.¹⁵¹

Men hadn't considered the sting of sin; they'd thought WWI would be "the war to end all war."¹⁵² They hadn't believed there could be another armed conflict; yet twenty years later, World War 2 took the death toll to nearly seventy-seven million lives!

Soon after the war, a Marxist, Stalin overcame the war-torn lands of Eastern Europe and started pogroms by confiscating firearms. The Soviet KGB murdered ten million dissidents—opponents of Marxism, Christians, and Jews.¹⁵³ Karl Marx had conceived socialism in *The Communist Manifesto*, Stalin's guidebook to terror.¹⁵⁴ It naturally created a powerful ruling class, an elite group of fascists who ruled with an iron hand. Yet Russia remained in the UN, and more like her were welcomed to "the union of peace-loving nations."

After his death, Khrushchev relied on media to indoctrinate his people with lies. Opponents were shot or hanged or sent to Siberia's prisons for differing with his politically fascist rhetoric. Communism ruled its empire while its socialist ideals left multitudes ignorant, hungry, jobless, and impoverished. The ideology of wealth redistribution crashed the Russian economy; she went bankrupt in less than a lifetime.

The darkness is here. We should look up. The tribulation before Jesus appears is at hand. His wrath ensues to judge the earth in chapters 16 and 19. Warning us to be ready and avoid His wrath in 16:15, He returns as a thief at the last bowl.

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When the Lamb sent the leopard against the terrible beast and bruised the dragon's head, the prince of darkness gave his power and throne to the next beast whose divided union is ruled by Babylon. She is described in chapter 17 but with more details in 18 when the city is utterly destroyed when Jesus returns for His Kingdom in 19-20:6.

Rome Revisited

A replicate Wall of Babylon is the entryway to the Altar of Pergamon in Berlin. Its modeled columns filled the sky as beams of light split the darkness when Hitler spoke to Nüremberg.¹⁵⁵ Its facsimile was used as recently as 2008 when the President-elect stood at its podium above his eager spectators.¹⁵⁶

This war is not against flesh and blood, but against powers and deceptions. Now devils frenetically rush about in confusion, dreading their own destruction. Their followers are like prophets of Baal, destroying everything in sight to get their way.

On the papal crown, the “tri-regna” represents three “powers of the pope”: 1. the father of all kings; 2. the governor of the world; and 3. the Vicar of Christ.¹⁵⁷ But who is the King of kings? And who is the Lord of Lords?

No one is a substitute for the unique Son of God who walked sinless among us; who gave up His life for us to have eternal life; who entered hell for us; who rose to life by His own blood for us; who justified us by His grace through faith in Him. He said, *I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.* (Jn. 14:18) Christ alone is the begotten Son of God in the flesh, our only Mediator between the two—like a Bridge from here to there. No one is His equal; His Name is higher than every other name. [*Yeshua* = “YHWH saves.”] Reconsider what is profaned.

Though the consensus of our beliefs seems a reasonable way to unite the churches, we are remixing the leaven with the bread if we attempt to combine the true faith with the deceptions of the past. If we deny the truth, we make ourselves adulterers. If we are breathing, we ought to believe every word of God by which we have life, and in all honesty, properly divide the Scriptures:¹⁵ *Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.* (2 Tim. 2:15 NKJV)

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The next passages are repeated with the coming of the two-horned lamb. The same dragon was worshiped as Zeus in the days of Antiochus, the eighth Seleucid king. His spirit is unseen except by the men in whom he works his will, all eighth kings.

The dragon gave up Babylon with his throne but is the beast of all false religions. If we know our God, we will stand firm:

³¹ Forces from him shall appear and profane the temple and fortress, and shall take away the regular burnt offering. And they shall set up the abomination that makes desolate. ³² He shall seduce with flattery those who violate the covenant, but the people who know their God shall stand firm and take action. ³³ And the wise among the people shall make many understand, though for some days they shall stumble by sword and flame, by captivity and plunder. ³⁴ When they stumble, they shall receive a little help. And many shall join themselves to them with flattery, ³⁵ and some of the wise shall stumble, so that they may be refined, purified, and made white, until the time of the end, for it still awaits the appointed time.

³⁶ “And the king shall do as he wills. He shall exalt himself and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak astonishing things against the God of gods. He shall prosper till the indignation is accomplished; for what is decreed shall be done. ³⁷ He shall pay no attention to the gods of his fathers, or to the one beloved by women. He shall not pay attention to any other god, for he shall magnify himself above all. ³⁸ He shall honor the god of fortresses instead of these. A god whom his fathers did not know he shall honor with gold and silver, with precious stones and costly gifts. ³⁹ He shall deal with the strongest fortresses with the help of a foreign god. Those who acknowledge him he shall load with honor. He shall make them rulers over many and shall divide the land for a price. (Dan. 31-39 ESV) [He defames the new covenant.]

The prophet who worships Satan is proud and blasphemous, a deceiver who demands worship in the temple. He honors a god of fortresses—of destruction and war, a foreign god his fathers didn't know. The opportunist takes advantage and sells the land for personal gain.

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The Shortcut

The tribulation is the injustice of men, persecuting the saints; at Christ's appearing, He cuts it short *for the elect's sake*. His indignation is the justice of God that follows this passage:

¹⁵ "Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand),
¹⁶ "then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.
¹⁷ Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. ¹⁸ And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. ¹⁹ But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! ²⁰ And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath. ²¹ For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. ²² And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened. (Mat. 15-22 NKJV) [I.e., for the chosen ones]

There may be a short reprieve while 144,000 are sealed before His appearing. People will run after signs and wonders, believing the teachings of false prophets whose words should identify them. We can recognize them by the Scriptures; if we know them well, we won't be deceived. False teachers will say He has returned when He hasn't. He will appear and take us up to Himself before He returns. Jesus describes the event of His return below:

²³ "Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here *is* the Christ!' or 'There!' do not believe it. ²⁴ For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. ²⁵ See, I have told you beforehand.

²⁶ "Therefore if they say to you, 'Look, He is in the desert!' do not go out; or 'Look, He *is* in the inner rooms!' do not believe *it*. ²⁷ For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. ²⁸ For wherever the carcass is, there the eagles will be gathered together. [I.e., vultures] (Mat. 24:23-28 NKJV)

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Immediately after the tribulation, the following signs occur when He gathers His elect from the earth. The next verses refer to the days that are cut short:

²⁹ “Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ³⁰ Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. ³¹ And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

(Mat. 24:29-31 ESV; also Mark 13:24-27) [This doesn't occur after Armageddon, but before, when He comes on a cloud. The martyrs and those left standing are His elect at this time.]

“Immediately after the tribulation” refers to the persecution that is cut short for the elect. After the heavens are shaken, He comes in the clouds. Every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him.

¹⁶ For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: ¹⁷ Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.
(1 Thes. 4:16-17)

Notice that He descends with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and the trumpet of God—not the last trumpet, which is the seventh trumpet, blown by an angel after Yeshua reigns during the thousand years. (Rev. 8-11) Though we have heard and believed the words of men, now we must believe every word of God.

At His return, He comes *like lightning from east to west*, not on a cloud. The vultures eat the flesh of the dead, destroyed by His Sword—the power of His Word—in Armageddon. (24: 27-8)

After the martyrs rise, we who are alive and remain over will be taken up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in

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the air. After that, the next time He comes, He will return like lightning.

There will be rumors that Christ is on earth when He is not, but He will return! Though we study His words, the day and the hour are hidden from us. As He said, we should always keep watch and be ready, prepared for Him until He comes like a thief in the night. He will come sooner or later than we expect; will we be ready for Him?

Those who are chosen will be with Him in heaven when all the bowls of wrath leave the Sanctuary in chapters 14, 15, and 16. Then God destroys Babylon by the ten kings until His mighty ones return with Yeshua *in a flash*—to slay the armies in Armageddon and to save all that remains of Jacob.

One out of every two—half of the virgins will be short of oil, not filled with the Holy Spirit, not surrendered to His will. Half of the church will be left behind after seeing Him on a cloud because half of the church will not be ready at His coming. Half of us will be at ease, pleased by the deceptions.

Confident in our doctrines that differ from one another and from the pages of the Book—we are separated from God by the traditions of men. His coming will cause everyone to tremble at the great trumpet. Nothing is secret about this; Jesus explained all of these things ahead of time. He told us to be ready.

The enemy wants us to relax and enjoy the pleasures of this world, believing we're just sinners saved by grace, and that we can never be holy like Jesus, which contradicts the Word. If we indulge in this world as sinners do, we won't be ready to meet Him when He comes on the clouds. If our minds are on the earth, its foods, its pleasures, or its possessions, we're living for the flesh. *Woe unto them who call good evil, and evil good! (Is. 5:20)*

On the other hand, if we keep pressing in for the goal of the high calling of God in Jesus Christ, He prepares us to ascend to Himself. Whenever He comes for us, we'll be ready.

Before the vials of wrath are poured out, John sees us in heaven who resisted the beast and his mark in the tribulation. Immediately after that tribulation, the sun, moon, and stars cease to shine, and the heavens are shaken. Then Jesus appears in the clouds. Every eye will see Him as martyrs are taken up to Him, and the saints who remain rise together with them in the clouds.

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Fearing the wrath of God, those who don't rise will hide in caves and behind rocks, expecting His wrath. The virgins who lack enough oil will be left behind. The rest of the dead will rise on the last day.

¹² I saw when the Lamb opened the sixth seal, and there was a great earthquake. The sun became as black as sackcloth made of goat's hair, and the full moon became like blood. ¹³ The stars of heaven fell to the earth like a fig tree drops unripe figs when shaken by a great wind.

¹⁴ The heaven ripped apart like a scroll being rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved from their places.

¹⁵ Then the kings of the earth and the great men and the military commanders and the rich and the mighty and everyone—slave and free—hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains. ¹⁶ And they tell the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us, and hide us from the face of the One seated on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb." ¹⁷ For the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

(Revelation 6:1-17 TLV)

Men will fear His indignation when the heavens are shaken, and every mountain and island are moved from their places. This occurs immediately after the tribulation: "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. (Mat. 24:29)

After the tribulation, the world will be hiding in fear and anticipation of His wrath. That being the case, His indignation is not the same as the tribulation but follows the persecution of the saints.

After the tribulation, which is cut short for the sake of the elect, Christ appears in the clouds and shouts; the archangel cries out, and the trumpet of God is heard. Throughout the Scriptures, the Lord warns us to be on guard, watchful for the roaring lion that is seeking to destroy us in our carelessness. This is why we are adjured to live holy lives by the Holy Spirit who is Christ in us our hope of glory.

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Christians often quote Romans to deny works are essential to our salvation, but many scriptures, even those in Romans, speak to the contrary:

For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed, can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. (Rom. 8:6-8 NKJV)

If anyone doesn't have the Spirit of Christ, he doesn't belong to Christ. At His appearing, He shouts, raising the martyrs from the dead. They ascend to Him in the clouds. Then we who are alive and remain are caught up together to join them in the clouds and meet the Savior in the air. There is a prequalification for us who are taken up to join them in the clouds.

Those in unbelief are left to face the wrath of God. All who profess the faith but live carelessly are left behind when He appears. He told us to dress in righteousness and keep the faith because He will return like a thief. (See verse 15; cf. Lk.21:36) He told His followers, pray that ye may be accounted worthy to escape (KJV), not persecution, but His indignation:

³⁴ "Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you suddenly like a trap. ³⁵ For it will come on all those who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man." (Lk. 21:34-36 NIV)

Half the virgins lacked enough oil for their lamps; one in two were taken from the field, from their work, and in their sleep. Those who didn't put their gifts to use were robbed of what they thought they had. Are we prepared for the thief, or will our house be broken into? Are we faithful servants or sinners? Now is the time to judge ourselves or be judged with the world. (See Mat. 24:36-51; 25:1-30) Let's keep short accounts with God.