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West Valley End-Time Ministries Newsletter

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(A Developing Ministry)



Darrell Chilson, Pastor

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Jessica Lindsey, Bible Instructor

How to Reach Our Team

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"We are living in the season of Christ's return."

The mission of West Valley Ministries is to help Christ's followers recognize the signs of His approaching return and be prepared for that Great Day.

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WVM Bible Class

Acts 6

Seven Chosen to Serve

1 Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. **2** Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. **3** Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; **4** but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

5 And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch, **6** whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them. **7** Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

Stephen Accused of Blasphemy

8 And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. **9** Then there arose some from what is called the Synagogue of the Freedmen (Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and those from Cilicia and Asia), disputing with Stephen. **10** And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the Spirit by which he spoke. **11** Then they secretly induced men to say, "We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God." **12** And they stirred up the people, the elders, and the scribes; and they came upon him, seized him, and brought him to the council. **13** They also set up false witnesses who said, "This man does not cease to speak blasphemous words against this holy place and the law; **14** for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and change the customs which Moses delivered to us."

15 And all who sat in the council, looking steadfastly at him, saw his face as the face of an angel.

Acts 7

The Trial and Death of Stephen

1 Then the high priest said, "Are these things so?"

2 And he said, "Brethren and fathers, listen: The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt in Haran, **3** and said to him, 'Get out of your country and from your relatives, and come to a land that I will show you.' **4** Then he came out of the land of the Chaldeans and dwelt in Haran. And from there, when his father was dead, He moved him to this land in which you now dwell. **5** And God gave him no inheritance in it, not even enough to set his foot on. But even when Abraham had no child, He promised to give it to him for a possession, and to his descendants after him. **6** But God spoke in this way: that his descendants would dwell in a foreign land, and that they would bring them into bondage and oppress them four hundred years. **7** 'And the nation to whom they will be in bondage I will judge,' said God, 'and after that they shall come out and serve Me in this place.' **8** Then He gave him the covenant of circumcision; and so Abraham begot Isaac and circumcised him on the eighth day; and Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot the twelve patriarchs.



WWM Bible Class

The Patriarchs in Egypt

9 “And the patriarchs, becoming envious, sold Joseph into Egypt. But God was with him **10** and delivered him out of all his troubles, and gave him favor and wisdom in the presence of Pharaoh, king of Egypt; and he made him governor over Egypt and all his house. **11** Now a famine and great trouble came over all the land of Egypt and Canaan, and our fathers found no sustenance. **12** But when Jacob heard that there was grain in Egypt, he sent out our fathers first. **13** And the second time Joseph was made known to his brothers, and Joseph’s family became known to the Pharaoh. **14** Then Joseph sent and called his father Jacob and all his relatives to him, seventy-five people. **15** So Jacob went down to Egypt; and he died, he and our fathers. **16** And they were carried back to Shechem and laid in the tomb that Abraham bought for a sum of money from the sons of Hamor, the father of Shechem.”

God Delivers Israel by Moses

17 “But when the time of the promise drew near which God had sworn to Abraham, the people grew and multiplied in Egypt **18** till another king arose who did not know Joseph. **19** This man dealt treacherously with our people, and oppressed our forefathers, making them expose their babies, so that they might not live. **20** At this time Moses was born, and was well pleasing to God; and he was brought up in his father’s house for three months. **21** But when he was set out, Pharaoh’s daughter took him away and brought him up as her own son. **22** And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and deeds. **23** “Now when he was forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brethren, the children of Israel. **24** And seeing one of them suffer wrong, he defended and avenged him who was oppressed, and struck down the Egyptian. **25** For he supposed that his brethren would have understood that God would deliver them by his hand, but they did not understand. **26** And the next day he appeared to two of them as they were fighting, and tried to reconcile them, saying, ‘Men, you are brethren; why do you wrong one another?’ **27** But he who did his neighbor wrong pushed him away, saying, ‘Who made you a ruler and a judge over us? **28** ‘Do you want to kill me as you did the Egyptian yesterday?’ **29** Then, at this saying, Moses fled and became a dweller in the land of Midian, where he had two sons.

30 “And when forty years had passed, an Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire in a bush, in the wilderness of Mount Sinai. **31** When Moses saw it, he marveled at the sight; and as he drew near to observe, the voice of the Lord came to him, **32** saying, ‘I am the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.’ And Moses trembled and dared not look. **33** ‘Then the LORD said to him, “Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground. **34** I have surely seen the oppression of My people who are in Egypt; I have heard their groaning and have come down to deliver them. And now come, I will send you to Egypt.” ’

35 “This Moses whom they rejected, saying, ‘Who made you a ruler and a judge?’ is the one God sent to be a ruler and a deliverer by the hand of the Angel who appeared to him in the bush. **36** He brought them out, after he had shown wonders and signs in the land of Egypt, and in the Red Sea, and in the wilderness forty years.

Israel Rebels Against God

37 “This is that Moses who said to the children of Israel, ‘The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear.’ **38** “This is he who was in the congregation in the wilderness with the Angel who spoke to him on Mount Sinai, and with our fathers, the one who received the living oracles to give to us, **39** whom our fathers would not obey, but rejected. And in their



WYM Bible Class

hearts they turned back to Egypt, **40** saying to Aaron, 'Make us gods to go before us; as for this Moses who brought us out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.' **41** And they made a calf in those days, offered sacrifices to the idol, and rejoiced in the works of their own hands. **42** Then God turned and gave them up to worship the host of heaven, as it is written in the book of the Prophets: 'Did you offer Me slaughtered animals and sacrifices during forty years in the wilderness, O house of Israel? **43** You also took up the tabernacle of Moloch, and the star of your god Remphan, images which you made to worship; and I will carry you away beyond Babylon.'

God's True Tabernacle

44 "Our fathers had the tabernacle of witness in the wilderness, as He appointed, instructing Moses to make it according to the pattern that he had seen, **45** which our fathers, having received it in turn, also brought with Joshua into the land possessed by the Gentiles, whom God drove out before the face of our fathers until the days of David, **46** who found favor before God and asked to find a dwelling for the God of Jacob. **47** But Solomon built Him a house.

48 "However, the Most High does not dwell in temples made with hands, as the prophet says:

49 'Heaven is My throne, and earth is My footstool. What house will you build for Me? says the LORD, or what is the place of My rest? **50** Has My hand not made all these things?'

Israel Resists the Holy Spirit

51 "You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you. **52** Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One, of whom you now have become the betrayers and murderers, **53** who have received the law by the direction of angels and have not kept it."

Stephen the Martyr

54 When they heard these things they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed at him with their teeth. **55** But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, **56** and said, "Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!"

57 Then they cried out with a loud voice, stopped their ears, and ran at him with one accord;

58 and they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul. **59** And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." **60** Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not charge them with this sin." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.



DANIEL'S PROPHECIES – DANIEL 8

Introduction to Daniel 8

It has been two years since Daniel received his vision of Daniel 7 – which was the subject of our study last time. Daniel's last vision was "in **the first year of Belshazzar** king of Babylon" Daniel 7:1. The first verse of Daniel 8 reads, "In **the third year of the reign of King Belshazzar** a vision appeared to me – to me, Daniel – after the one that appeared to me the first time" Daniel 8:1.

Belshazzar was the last king of the empire of Babylon, which had ruled the world for almost 70 years. Daniel 5 records the fateful night of Belshazzar's feast, during which an unseen hand had written on the palace walls, "God has numbered your kingdom, and finished it. You have been weighed in the balances, and found wanting. Your kingdom has been divided, and given the Medes and Persians" Daniel 5:26, 27. At that very moment, the Medes and Persians were diverting the waters of the River Euphrates and bringing their armies into the Babylonian fortress under the massive walls of the city.

In the dream vision of Daniel 2, Medo-Persia, symbolized by the chest and arms of **silver**, was the empire that was to succeed that of Babylon. In Daniel's vision of Daniel 7, Medo-Persia, symbolized by a **bear**, again succeeds the empire of Babylon. Now in Daniel 8, Medo-Persia is symbolized by a **ram** with two horns. Each of these visions repeat the prophecies of the one before, adding more insight into the identity and the character of each subsequent empire. Remember the original prophecy given to Nebuchadnezzar in reference to the image of his dream?

"You, O king, ... are this head of gold. But after you shall arise another kingdom inferior to your, then another, a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth....(Daniel 2:37, 39) – and so forth, until the "God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed" Daniel 2:37, 39-44.

And so, from the empire of Babylon to the Eternal Kingdom of God, each of these dreams and visions set forth before us the span of time from Daniel's day to the establishment of the eternal Kingdom of God, and Daniel 8 is no exception! **(See graphic on next page).**

The Medo-Persian Empire

Then I lifted my eyes and saw, and there, standing beside the river, was **a ram which had two horns, and the two horns were high; but one was higher than the other, and the higher one came up last.** I saw the ram pushing westward, northward, and southward, so that no animal could withstand him; nor was there any that could deliver from his hand, but he did according to his will and became great. Daniel 8:3, 4.

In this vision, the vision of Daniel 8, the kingdom of Babylon is omitted. Babylon is about to fall to Medo-Persia at the time Daniel is given this vision, and Medo-Persia is now the empire first to appear. Here it is described as a ram with two horns, one of which was higher than the other and came up last. This imagery describes the division of power within this empire. (Remember, horns in prophecy represent divisions of power within the same kingdom). The Medes, under Darius, began to reign in 539 B.C., but he died after two years of reign, and his nephew, Cyrus the Persian, took over the kingdom. And as the previous prophecy indicated by the **bear being raised up on one side**, Cyrus was the stronger of the two rulers and

Daniel End Time Visions


| Daniel 2 | Daniel 7 | Daniel 8 |
|--|--|--|
| <p>Nebuchadnezzar</p> <p>Babylon</p> <p>Media Persia</p> <p>Gold</p> <p>Silver</p> <p>Greece</p> <p>Bronze</p> <p>Rome</p> <p>Iron</p> <p>Partly iron, partly clay</p> <p>www.inHisWord.life</p> | <p>A lion with eagle wings. The wings were plucked off. It was lifted up from the ground and made to stand like a man. The mind of a man was given to it.</p> <p>A bear raised up on one side. It had 3 ribs in its mouth. It was told to "Arise, devour much flesh."</p> <p>A leopard with 4 wings of a bird on its back. It had 4 heads and dominion was given to it.</p> <p>A terrifying beast. It was different from the others; dreadful and exceedingly strong. It had iron teeth, bronze claws, and 10 horns. It devoured, broke in pieces and stamped what was left with its feet.</p> <p>A little horn came up among the 10 horns, before which 3 of the 10 were plucked up by the roots.</p> <p>The little horn had eyes of a man and a mouth speaking great things.</p> | <p>A ram with 2 horns, one higher than the other. He charged to the west, to the north and to the south.</p> <p>A goat came from the west across the face of the whole earth, without touching the ground. And he had a notable horn between his eyes.</p> <p>The goat trampled the ram. Later, his horn was broken and in its place came up 4 other horns toward the 4 winds of heaven.</p> <p>A little horn came up from one of the 4 horns. It grew exceedingly great toward the south, toward the east, and toward the glorious land.</p> <p>A little horn came up from one of the 4 horns. It grew exceedingly great toward the south, toward the east, and toward the glorious land.</p> |
| <p>STONE Cut from a Mountain</p> <p>In Nebuchadnezzar's dream, a stone was cut out, not by human hands, and struck the statue on its feet and broke it to pieces. Then it became a great mountain that filled the whole earth. This symbolizes Jesus Christ raising the kingdom of God that will never be overthrown and will never be destroyed. (Daniel 2:34, 35, 44, 45)</p> | <p>SON OF MAN (Jesus Christ)</p> <p>In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshipped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed. —Daniel 7:13, 14, 27</p> | <p>THE EVERLASTING KINGDOM OF GOD</p> |

**Antiochus Epiphanes —
(Antichrist in Type)**

END TIME ANTICHRIST

the Persians reigned until Alexander the Great overthrew the Medo-Persian empire in 331 B.C. This account is given in the next verses:

And as I was considering, **suddenly a male goat came from the west**, across the surface of the whole earth, without touching the ground; and **the goat had a notable horn between his eyes**. Then he came to the ram that had two horns, which I had seen standing beside the river, and ran at him with furious power. And I saw him confronting the ram; he was moved with rage against him, attacked the ram, and broke his two horns. There was no power in the ram to withstand him, but he cast him down to the ground and trampled him; and there was no one that could deliver the ram from his hand." Daniel 8:5-7.



In our previous studies, the account of history helped us fill in some of the details of the fulfillment of these visions – dates, names of kings, geography of their kingdoms, etc. However, **Babylon is named** in the first vision of Daniel 2 when Daniel tells Nebuchadnezzar, “You, O king, are this head of gold.” Then, when the message on the palace wall of Belshazzar announces his fate, it also identifies the empire that is taking his kingdom that very moment – “Your kingdom has been divided, and given to **the Medes and Persians.**” But Greece is not named by name until Daniel 8. The angel Gabriel tells Daniel the interpretation of the vision he saw in the following verses:

"The ram which you saw, having the two horns – they are the kings of Media and Persia. 21 "And the male goat is the kingdom of Greece. The large horn that is between its eyes is the first king [Alexander the Great]. As for the broken horn and the four that stood up in its place, four kingdoms shall arise out of that nation, but not with its power." Daniel 8:20-22.


Thus far, the Bible gives us the actual names of the empires of these three prophecies of Daniel 2, 7, and 8! We don't have to guess or look solely at the story of history to know for sure these are the first three of the five kingdoms to rule before Jesus comes. History then helps us understand the names and geography of the kingdoms which come next – **the “four kingdoms”** which arise out of Greece, represented by the four horns that replace the one which is broken in the last verse above. When Alexander the Great, “the first king,” died, the empire of Greece was divided up among Alexander's four generals – Lysimachus to the north (Thrace), Ptolemy to the south (Egypt), Cassander to the west (Macedonia), and Seleucus to the east (Syria). Thus, history once again confirms the prophecy.

“The Little Horn”

And **out of one of them [one of the four horns/kingdoms of Alexander the Great after his death] came a little horn** which grew exceedingly great toward the south, toward the east, and toward the Glorious Land [Palestine]. And it grew up to the host of heaven; and it cast down some of the host and some of the stars to the ground, and trampled them. He even exalted himself as high as the Prince of the host; and by him the daily sacrifices were taken away, and the place of His sanctuary was cast down. Because of transgression, an army was given over to the horn to oppose the daily sacrifices; and he cast truth down to the ground. He did all this and prospered. Then I heard a holy speaking; and another holy one said to that certain one who was speaking, "How long will the vision be, concerning the daily sacrifices and the transgression of desolation, the giving of both the sanctuary and the host to be trampled underfoot?" And he said to me, "For two thousand three hundred days [*evenings and mornings*]; then the sanctuary shall be cleansed." Daniel 8:9-14.

You, my reader, have no idea just how much controversy there has been among students of prophecy over just **who** this little horn power represents and **what period of time** is represented by the 2,300 days – or **2,300 evenings and mornings** as most Bible versions translate it, making the **time period 1150 days**. But as I have prayerfully studied this prophecy and read the commentaries of trusted Bible commentators, there is no question in my mind as to the truth of what I am about to write! The prophecy is certain, it makes sense, and it reveals once again the mind of God as He informs His Church of what to expect in the last days. Here goes:

- 1) The “little horn” is Antiochus Epiphanes, a Selucid – one of the kingdoms which emerged from the divisions of the empire of Alexander the Great when he died.

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- 2) Antiochus Epiphanes was the king of the Selucid empire from 175 B.C. until his death in 164 B.C.
 - 3) Antiochus began an era of persecution of the Jews in earnest in 171 B.C. During the period of his rule, it is estimated that he killed between 75,000 and 100,000 Jews.
 - 4) In December of 168 B.C., he seized Jerusalem, set up an idol of Zeus in the temple, and desecrated the altar by an offering of swine and sprinkling the pig's juices in the sanctuary. Sacrifice ended because the temple was desecrated.
 - 5) The Maccabean tribulation and revolt lasted from 168 – 165 B.C., at the end of which the sanctuary was "cleansed" by Judas Maccabeus in his restoration of the evening and morning sacrifices (2 Maccabees 10:1-5) – 1150 days, or 2,300 evenings and mornings.

But the "little horn" of Daniel 8 is not just Antiochus Epiphanes!


Antiochus is a "shadow" or a "type" of the Antichrist of the last days – of Revelation. He is the Old Testament "little horn" power who persecuted the Church of the Old Testament just as the Antichrist of Revelation will persecute the Church of the last days! Antiochus is described in Daniel 8:8, 9, as the little horn which "came **out of** [emerged from] one of the four horns" of the divided Grecian empire, extending his empire "exceedingly great toward the south, toward the east, and toward the Glorious Land [**Palestine**]." And "he even exalted himself as [equal with God]," caused the sacrifices of the temple to cease, and desecrated the temple, just as foretold in the prophecy! This all happened during the reign of Antiochus, who was a shadow of the Antichrist of Revelation! The prophecy of Daniel 8 has a dual application – one pertaining to Antiochus of the intertestamental period and the other to the last days – the end times. The angel Gabriel even told Daniel, "I am making known to you what shall happen in **the latter time of the indignation [wrath]**, for at the appointed time **the end shall be.**" Daniel 8:19. Notice the similarities between Antiochus and the Antichrist!

Key Similarities:

- **"Little Horn" Symbol:** Both are represented by the symbol of a "little horn".
- **Persecution:** Both are described as persecuting powers, targeting the "people of the saints".
- **Self-Exaltation and Blasphemy:** Both are depicted as self-exalting and blasphemous.
- **Deceit and Craftiness:** Both are described as crafty and cunning.
- **Targeting the Saints:** Both are focused on persecuting God's people.
- **Time of the End:** Their activities are said to extend to the time of the end.
- **Destruction:** Both are destined to be destroyed.

In Summary

The prophecies of Daniel 2, Daniel 7, and Daniel 8 are parallel prophecies that span in time from the time of Daniel, 600 years before the birth of Jesus, until the return of Jesus in the clouds of heaven to rescue His followers from the pursuit of Satan and his agencies of evil. These prophecies establish a template upon which we can superimpose the prophecies of Revelation, as we have certainly done in our previous study of the Book of Revelation.



Daniel's prophecies speak of **five** world empires that have held God's people in captivity, killed them, and presumed to elevate themselves above the God of heaven – Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Pagan Rome, and Papal Rome. Revelation speaks of both the Dragon (Satan) and the Beast (the human surrogate and personification of the devil) as having **seven** heads, or seven world empires, contiguous with the five empires of Daniel's prophecies plus the two empires before Daniel's time – Egypt and Assyria. In both Daniel's and John's accounts of the story of God's people, and the empires which enslaved them, oppressed them, and murdered them, the story is the same — from the birth of the nation of Israel until the deliverance of the Israel of the last days (the Church). The last empire to come against the Church of the last days is the “Holy Roman Empire” – the papacy, the Beast of Revelation 13, and the “harlot” of Revelation 17. Even now, the Church of Rome is gaining the ascendancy in the world which will place her in a position to fulfill her prophetic role just before Jesus comes. Even now, “all the world marvels and follows after the beast [the Church of Rome].” Revelation 13:3. The churches which once protested over her arrogance and cruelty – her heresies, her blasphemy, and her murderous wrath against those who refuse to submit to her authority – the churches which once protested the evils of the Catholic Church now embrace her as part of the Christian community and laud her influence and authority in the world – just as prophecy indicates it will be just before Jesus returns.

PROPHECY IN THE NEWS

We are living in the season of Christ's return! At no other time in history have news outlets been so busy and dominated by such prophetically relevant material as they have for the past six months! Since the election of Donald Trump on November 5, 2024 until now, the fulfillment of end time prophecies has rapidly been unfolding before us!

The latest events which have captured the attention of the world, the death of Pope Francis, the funeral of Pope Francis, and the election of Pope Francis' successor by the "conclave" of cardinals in the Sistine Chapel at the Vatican, have been carried by **every** media outlet, sending every other piece of news into the shadows. Just today, as I write this piece, a new pope has been elected — the **first American pope**, elected in part as a result of the wishes of Pope Francis (the **first Jesuit pope**) before his death.

For decades the Roman Catholic Church has been an institution of interest to the world. In my lifetime, I think Pope John Paul II was probably the first pope to win the acclaim of the world, and Mother Teresa has been lauded as the epitome of love for the poor and a model of selfless kindness by the world. Since about the turn of the century, Protestants and Evangelicals have been courting the favor of the Church of Rome (as she has them!) in abandonment of their biblical Christian heritage, in order to achieve some kind of unity with Catholic leaders in "Christian mission" to the world. The foundational premise of the Reformation, during which millions were martyred by the Church of Rome, has been compromised by Lutherans, **of all churches**, in a document entitled "Joint Declaration on Justification". Evangelicals and Catholics have signed an official document of common mission and identity. Statesmen and heads of state have been seeking diplomatic relations with the Vatican for years. In 1984, the United States officially established diplomatic relations with the Vatican by appointing William Wilson as the U S Ambassador to "the Holy See."

Once Catholicism was rightly considered a corrupt form of religion and a persecutor of the followers of Christ. Priests were infamous for molesting children. What was once considered evil now appears in a cloak of righteousness — as welcoming, spiritual, protective of the poor, and a part of the Christian community. **Haven't things changed?!** Now, more than ever before, "The whole world is filled with wonder and has been following, with great interest and awe, the movements of the "beast", saying, "Who is like the beast?" Revelation 13:3, 4.

They say, "a picture is worth a thousand words":





Our President and First Lady



France's President Emmanuel Macron and his wife Brigitte Macron



Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer and his wife



Norway's Crown Prince Haakon and Crown Princess Mette-Marit



Spain's King Felipe and Queen Letizia



Argentina's President Javier Milei



Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and wife

The “whole world” attended, or followed with great interest, the recent funeral of the Pope!

- ♦ 250,000 people attended in St. Peter’s Square
- ♦ Another 150,000 lined the procession route through Rome
- ♦ Millions more watched the funeral on TV — Newsweek reported 3.8 million
- ♦ “Apart from the important people and world leaders, what made Pope Francis’ funeral ‘potentially historic’ was the presence of a wholly inclusive crowd” — people young and old not even of the Catholic faith! *Times of India*.
- ♦ An unprecedented number of world leaders, heads of state and religious leaders of other faiths attended the funeral, our own president and first lady sitting preeminently on the front row

Just as the election of Donald Trump began an era of unprecedented world dominance by America — a necessary occurrence for our nation to ultimately lead the world in the worship of the beast, so the awe, attention and following after the movements of the papacy is prophetic in nature. Add to these changes in the political landscape of the world the union of Catholics, Protestants and Evangelicals in Christian mission and friendly comradery, and the stage is set for the next “Act” in the eschatological (end time) drama. In case you missed the opening sentence in this article, “We are living in the season of Christ’s return.”

The Vatican said there were delegations from about **130 countries** at the ceremony, with **50 heads of state** and **10 reigning monarchs** in attendance, including:

- Britain’s Prince William
- U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer
- French President Emmanuel Macron
- Germany’s President Frank-Walter Steinmeier
- Outgoing German Chancellor Olaf Scholz
- Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni
- United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres
- EU Commission Chief Ursula von der Leyen
- European Council President Antonio Costa
- Brazil’s President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva
- Argentina’s President Javier Milei
- Honduras’ President Xiomara Castro
- Philippines’ President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr.
- India’s President Droupadi Murmu
- President of the Central African Republic, Faustin-Archange Touadera
- President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Felix Tshisekedi
- President of Cape Verde Jose Maria Neves
- Senator Susan Collins led a bipartisan delegation of Catholic U.S. Senators to attend the pope’s funeral

Next Week: Another piece of prophetic news we must follow with great interest: President Trump has established a Religious Liberty Commission, composed of members of his own choosing — a commission which will be holding their meetings at the White House and reporting to the president. Will “religious liberty” be the objective of their deliberations, or will it be “religious conformity”? And who are the intended beneficiaries?

Stay tuned!