

ANTICHRIST — FROM EUROPE OR ISLAM?

PART ONE

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If we're now in the Latter Days ... and end-time prophecies are going to shortly be fulfilled — we can expect a powerful and evil leader to soon appear.

Generally thought he'll be possessed by Satan. Extremely evil. He will kill millions — even hundreds of millions.

Different Titles: The Beast ... The Man of Sin ... The son of Perdition ... The King of The North ... The Antichrist.

For most of my Church life ... I thought he'd be a European from the territory of the Holy Roman Empire (and probably he would be a German). 😊

That's all I ever heard for over 50 years.

But now: **I have good reason to think that the Antichrist will be Islamic!**

In terms of understanding prophecy and what lies ahead ... this is quite an important distinction. The Roman Empire — or Islam? Where should we be looking?

Initially ... let's review the basic "Antichrist scriptures":

Starting with Daniel — The Manual for the End-time.

Daniel 7:7-8

7 "After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, **a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong. It had huge iron teeth; it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the**

residue with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and **it had ten horns**.

8 I was considering the horns, **and there was another horn, a little one, coming up among them, before whom three of the first horns were plucked out by the roots**. And there, **in this horn, were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous words**.

A pompous Little Horn. Dominant Leader. The Antichrist!

Daniel 7:21-22

21 "I was watching; and **the same horn was making war against the saints, and prevailing against them,**
22 **until the Ancient of Days came, and a judgment was made in favor of the saints of the Most High, and the time came for the saints to possess the kingdom.**

Daniel 7:23-25

23 "Thus he said:

**'The fourth beast shall be
A fourth kingdom on earth,
Which shall be different from all other kingdoms,
And shall devour the whole earth,
Trample it and break it in pieces.**

24 **The ten horns are ten kings;
Who shall arise from this kingdom.
And another shall rise after them;
He shall be different from the first ones,
And shall subdue three kings. (*Subdue 3 horns*)**

25 **He shall speak pompous words against the Most High,
Shall persecute the saints of the Most High,
And shall intend to change times and law.**

Then the saints (*"saints" is in italics. Should be: THE TIMES AND LAW*) shall be given into his hand
For a time and times and half a time.

He shall trample the earth (land?) — destroys — persecutes the saints.

He reigns for time ... times ... and 1/2 a time(3½ years).

Not directly called “Antichrist” here — but it’s the same individual. **Seems to arise out of the 4th Beast Empire.** So ... who or what might that be?

Revelation 13:1-8

1 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. (*Looks like the Little Horn*)

6 **Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven.** (*He is ANTI — CHRIST!*)

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.**

Here we have The Beast and its leader. Empowered by the Devil. He makes war on the saints and overcomes them.

He is pompous. He blasphemes God.

He continues in power for 42 months (3½ years).

Looks pretty similar to The Little Horn of Daniel Chapter 7?

Again ... the term “The Antichrist” is not used.

1 John 2:18-19

18 Little children, **it is the last hour**; and as you have heard that **the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour.**

19 **They went out from us, but they were not of us**; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us.

The Antichrist is coming. In context ... John is talking about **SERIOUS DECEPTION** that could affect believers.

1 John 2:22-23

22 **Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son.**

23 **Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who acknowledges the Son has the Father also.**

However ... the more popular description of the Satanically-inspired ... wicked end-time leader borrows this terminology. And ... John does refer to the (singular!) Antichrist.

The end-time leader exalts himself “as God” — and directly opposes Jesus and His followers — so “Antichrist” is a fairly accurate term?

There is an Antichrist coming!

2 Thessalonians 2:1-4

1 Now, brethren, **concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ (PAROUSIA)** and our gathering together to Him, we ask you,
2 not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come.
3 **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,**
4 **who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.**

Also known as “man of sin” — man of lawlessness — **The Antichrist!** Sits “as God” in a temple.

2 Thessalonians 2:5-12

5 Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things?
6 And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time.
7 For **the mystery of lawlessness is already at work;** only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way.
8 And **then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.** (*Jesus puts paid to this lawless one at His Parousia*)
9 **The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders,**
10 **and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish,** because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. (**YOU WON'T BE DECEIVED IF YOU LOVE THE TRUTH!!!**)
11 And **for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie,**
12 that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

**This individual is on the scene at Jesus' Coming (soon??).
He comes in the power of Satan.**

Many will be deceived.

These scriptures all appear to be describing the same individual? Little Horn ... The Beast ... The Man of Sin ... The Antichrist.

No clue as to the origin? Other than the 4th Beast of Daniel Chapter 7.

Maybe the next scripture will help?

Daniel 9:20-22

20 Now while I was speaking, praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the LORD my God for the holy mountain of my God,

21 yes, while I was speaking in prayer, **the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning**, being caused to fly swiftly, **reached me about the time of the evening offering.**

22 And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, "**O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you skill to understand.**"

God sends The Angel Gabriel with a message.

Daniel 9:27

27 **Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week;** (70 Shabuas = 70 x 7 years = 490 years. 62 + 7 + 1)

But in the middle of the week

He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering.

And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate,

Even until the consummation, which is determined,
Is poured out on the desolate."

70 Weeks Prophecy!

Daniel 9:26

26 "And **after the sixty-two weeks**

Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself;

And the people of the prince who is to come (*The Antichrist*)

Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary.

The end of it shall be with a flood,

And till the end of the war desolations are determined.

The sanctuary and the city destroyed. Believed to be the Romans destruction under General Titus about 70 AD. Over 1 million Jews killed.

Daniel 9:27

27 **Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week;** (*a 7 year period*)

But in the middle of the week (*he reneges after 3½ years*)

He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering.

And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate.

Even until the consummation, which is determined,

Is poured out on the desolate/desolater.”

The “Prince who is to come” — who will stop the sacrifices ... set up an Abomination of Desolation in the temple — is the Antichrist individual.

Some dispute over this passage. **Some believe the Prince here is the Lord Jesus ... making the “New Covenant” and being crucified after a 3½ year ministry. MOST UNLIKELY!**

But ... according to popular logic ... since it was the Romans who destroyed Jerusalem and the temple in 70 AD — then the “Prince to come” — the Antichrist — must be a Roman. (Or at least a modern nation that was once part of the Roman Empire — France... Germany... Italy... etc)?

This — with a number of other scriptures — convinces many that the Antichrist will be from the “Roman World”. So ... we should watch Europe in the end-times (especially Germany!) One such scripture

(popular ... but I think “careless”) talks of a great harlot or city that rides a beast with 7 heads.

Revelation 17:7

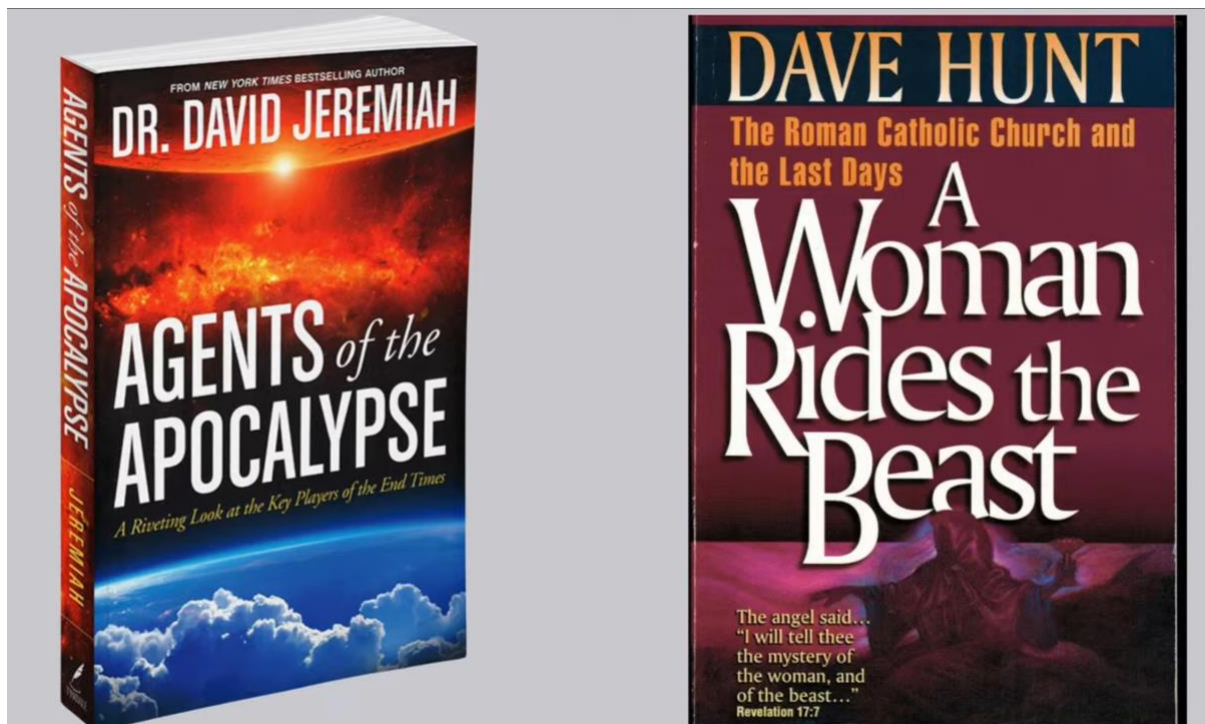
7 But the angel said to me, “Why did you marvel? **I will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, which has the seven heads and the ten horns.**

Revelation 17:9

9 “Here is the mind which has wisdom: **The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits.**

Lots of scholars conclude the city must be Rome? Rome is the “city on 7 hills”?? The end-time harlot — working with the Antichrist — is the city of Rome. (The Harlot often identified as the Vatican).

Dave Hunt ... author of the book “A Woman Rides The Beast” says of Revelation 17:9 “This merits our careful and prayerful attention. The woman is that great city ... furthermore she is built on 7 hills. Only one city has for more than 2,000 years been known as the city on 7 hills. The city is Rome”!



Revelation 17:9 talks of 7 MOUNTAINS — not hills!!! Rome is not sitting on 7 mountains.

So — Daniel Chapter 9 (allegedly) shows a Roman prince or Antichrist? Revelation Chapter 17 shows the key end-time city is Rome ... on 7 hills.

So ... the “majority view” is look to Rome/Europe for the Antichrist. **And probably the key foundation scripture — that sets people off on what I believe is a wrong direction — is Daniel Chapter 2 and Nebuchadnezzar’s dream of a great statue.**



Daniel 2:36-45

36 **“This is the dream.** Now we will tell the interpretation of it before the king.

37 **You, O king, are a king of kings. For the God of heaven has given you a kingdom, power, strength, and glory;**

38 and wherever the children of men dwell, or the beasts of the field and the birds of the heaven, He has given them into your hand, **and has made you ruler over them all— you are this head of gold.**

39 But **after you shall arise another kingdom inferior to yours; then another, a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth.**

40 And **the fourth kingdom shall be as strong as iron, inasmuch as iron breaks in pieces and shatters everything; and like iron that crushes, that kingdom will break in pieces and crush all the others.**

41 Whereas you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, **the kingdom shall be divided**; yet the strength of the iron shall be in it, just as you saw the iron mixed with ceramic clay.

42 And as the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of clay, **so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly fragile.**

43 As you saw iron mixed with ceramic clay, they will mingle with the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay.

44 And **in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.**

45 Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold—**the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure.**”

A key prophecy — takes us from the days of Nebuchadnezzar (Head of Gold) to the yet future Kingdom of God which will stand forever. This 4th kingdom is still around until Christ sets up his Kingdom.

This is a go-to-passage for almost all prophecy teachers.

The standard interpretation is:

GOLD: BABYLON
SILVER: MEDO-PERSIA (IRAN)
BRONZE: GREECE
IRON: ROME???

The Iron Kingdom continues right up to the Kingdom of God. So — today — we're coming to the end of the Iron Empire ... Rome! Next is Jesus' return and God's Kingdom.

There's general agreement about the first 3 Empires.

But: Why choose Rome for the 4th — the Iron Empire?

The teaching goes back a long time!

First recorded reference about 200 AD ... from **Hippolytus ... the Bishop of Rome**. “The legs of iron ... expressed the Romans ... who hold sovereignty at the moment”.

Jerome was hugely influential on church teaching. His commentary ... 408 AD: “Now the 4th Empire ... which clearly refers to the Romans ... is the Iron Empire which breaks in pieces and overcomes all others”.

That's the majority view right up to today!

Dr David Jeremiah (US Evangelist ...author ... preacher): “The legs of iron and the feet of iron represent Rome ... there is no way for it to be anything else. Because history proves Rome is the 4th Kingdom”.

AMPLIFIED BIBLE - DANIEL 2

Medo-Persia and Greece

³⁹ After you will arise another kingdom (Medo-Persia) inferior to you, and then a third kingdom of bronze (Greece under Alexander the Great), which will rule over all the earth.

Rome

⁴⁰ **Then a fourth kingdom (Rome)** will be strong as iron, for iron breaks to pieces and shatters all things; and like iron which crushes things in pieces, it will break and crush all these [others].

⁴¹ And as you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, it will be a divided kingdom; but there will be in it some of the durability *and* strength of iron, just as you saw the iron mixed with common clay. ⁴² As the [ten] toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of clay, so some of the kingdom will be strong, and *another* part of it will be brittle. ⁴³ And as you saw the iron mixed with common clay, so they will combine with one another in the seed of men; but they will not merge [for such diverse things or ideologies cannot unite], even as iron does not mix with clay.

Nearly all prophecy scholars expect a powerful ... charismatic end-time Antichrist.

MOST expect him to come from the Roman World. But is it possible that the long-held view is entirely wrong?

MY BELIEF IS THAT IT IS NOT ROME!!

MORE NEXT WEEK!