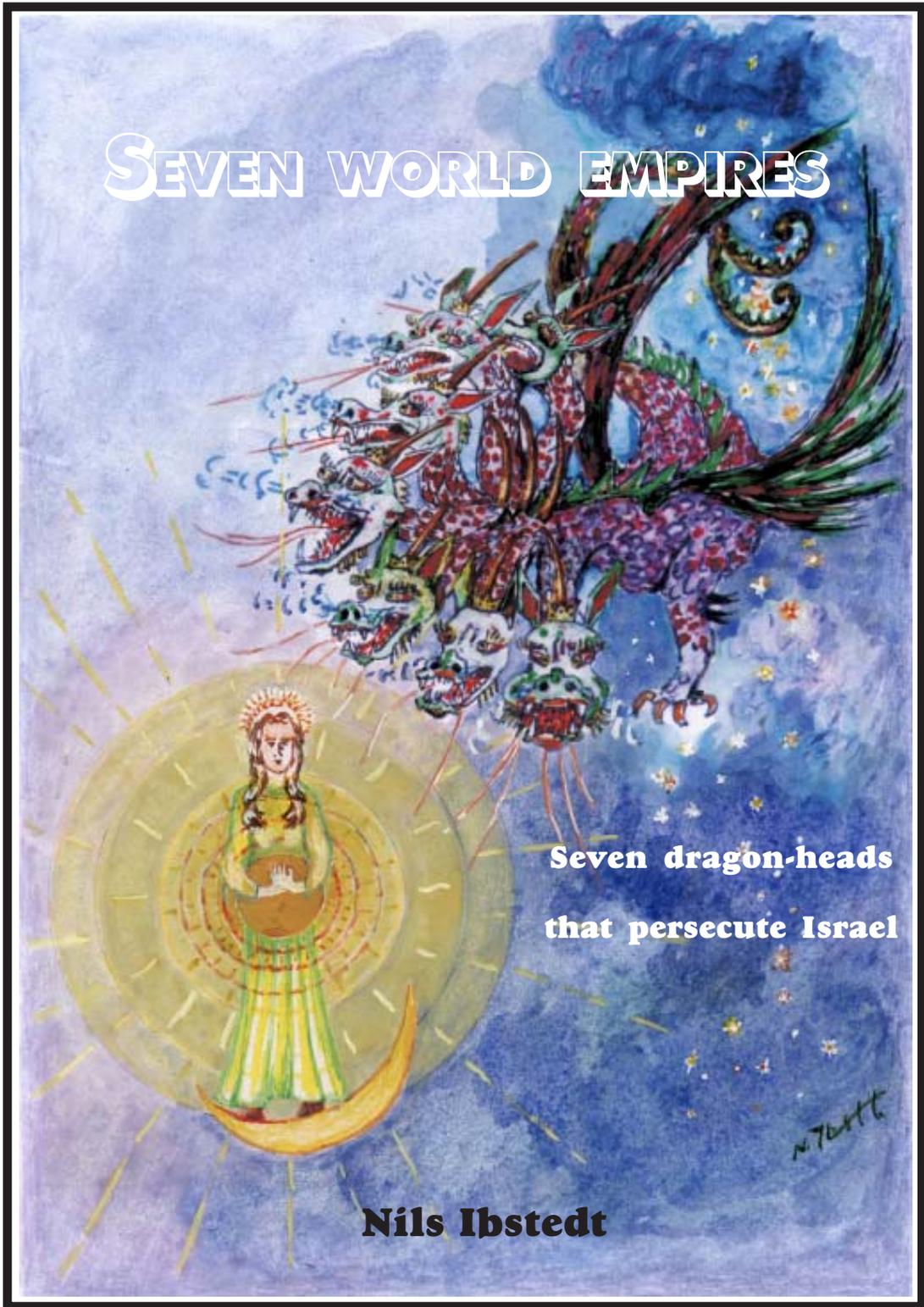


SEVEN WORLD EMPIRES



Seven dragon-heads
that persecute Israel

Nils Ibstedt

Chapter 33

THE SEVEN WORLD EMPIRES

1. The Egyptian Empire
2. The Assyrian Empire
3. The Babylonian Empire
4. The Medo-Persian Empire
5. The Greek Empire
6. The Roman Empire
7. The Empire of Antichrist I
(The little horn between the 10 horns)
8. The Empire of Antichrist II
(The little horn – became larger than its associates)
9. Conclusion
10. Antichrist's covenant with Israel for seven years

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Seven world empires

during the time of the gentiles. These empires were ruled by Satan and oppressed Israel, God's chosen nation, and are symbolized of a dragon (Satan) with 7 heads, 7 crowns and 10 horns in Revelation 13.

– There have been other world-empires (as the Ottoman-, Napoleon-, British Empires etc) but they have come to power when Israel was nullified as a state and they have not suppressed Israel.

1. Egypt. The first empire to oppress Israel. Egypt controlled Canaan during the time of the patriarchs.

SYMBOLS: 1. The first head of the dragon. Rev 12:3-6

2. The crocodile: Hebr. tannin = crocodile, Isa 51:9 = a serpent (a sea monster) Ex 7:9. The great dragon = tannin (sea-serpent), Ezek 29:3. The crocodile was a symbol on Egyptian coins. The crocodile is a symbol of Satan: Ps 74:13-14.



Egypt was ruled by satanic powers:

- Enslaved the Israelites in a tyrannic way for hundreds of years.
- Pharaoh ordered male-children of the Hebrews to be cast into the Nile.
- Pharaoh did not listen to God's command to set Israel free.
- and therefore Egypt was punished ten times with severe plagues.
- The exodus from Egypt took place about B C 1660.

3. The great eagle Ezek 17:7,15



Thotmes III, about 1500 B C, ruled Egypt from Ethiopia to Euphrates and created the first world-power. His empire was probably bigger than what is shown on this map.



1. The Egyptian Empire



EGYPT
– the first head
of the dragon

7 world empires

II. The Assyrian Empire

Assyria oppressed Israel several times during a period of 175 years.

Five invasions of Israel: (The Northern Kingdom)

1. By king Pul. Bought of with 1000 talents of silver. 2 Ki 1.
2. By king Tiglath-Pileser.
He took the land of Naphtali and carried the people captive. 2 Ki 15:29
3. A 2nd invasion by Tiglath-Pileser.
King Ahaz in Juda made alliance with Assyria. 2 Ki 16:9
4. By king Shalmaneser.
King Hosea became his servant. 2 Ki 17:3
5. 2nd invasion by Shalmaneser and Sargon II.
Complete destruction of the Northern Kingdom (Israel).
The 10 tribes taken captive to Assyria. 2 Ki 17:5; 18:9-12

Two invasions of Judah:

6. By Sennacherib. King Hezekiah prayed to God for help.
Isaiah's prophecy: 2 Ki 18:13-19, 35
185.000 Assyrians were slain by one angel.
7. By an Assyrian commander when he took king.
Manasseh as prisoner to Babylon. 2 Chr 33:11-13



ASSYRIEN
– the 2nd head of the dragon



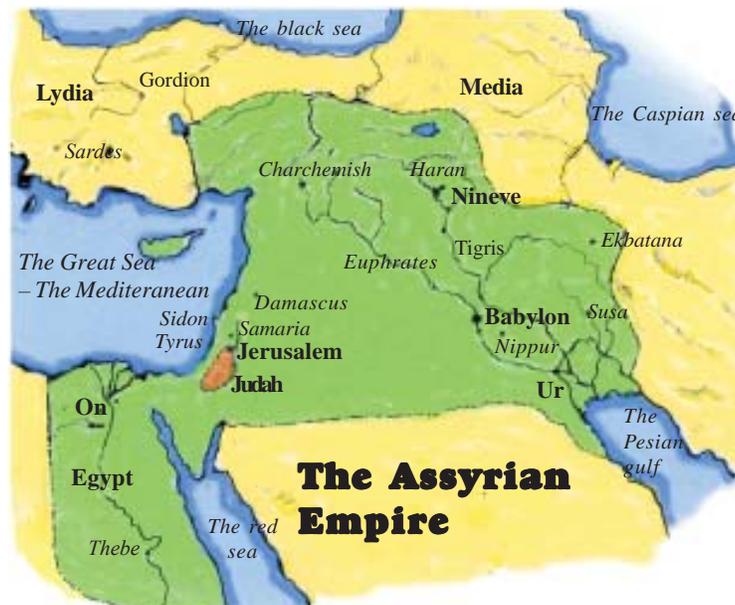
SYMBOLS:

1. **The 2nd head of the dragon.** Upp 12:3-6
2. **Lion.** Assyria is symbolized by a bloodthirsty lion. Jer 50:17,18. Nah 2:8-13

Sargon II wiped out Israel (The Northern Kingdom), 722 B C

Judah Land was never taken by the Assyrians.

Assyria ruled over Egypt, 621-652 B C



2. The Assyrian Empire

7 world empires

Symbolized of a dragon with 7 heads and 10 horns. Rev 12:3

III. The Babylonian Empire

SYMBOLIZED BY: The 3:rd head of the dragon Rev 12:3, 17:7, 9-14

2. **The head of gold:** Nebuchadnezzar, Dan 2:28

His son = Nabonius, sonson = Belshazzar.

3. **A lion with eagle's wings.** Dan 7:4; Jes 5:29; Jer 4:7, 48:19, 50:17

Lion = Strong and mighty king. Dan 7:4

Eagle's wings: = swiftness in conquests.

Nebuchadnezzar conquered parts of Assyria.

Wings being plucked = Nebuchadnezzar became insane.

Lifted up from earth = Regained his throne.

Given a mans heart = Became sane and humble.

4. **The great eagle.** Jer 48:40, 49:22; Hes 17:5; Hab 1:6-8



Babylonia oppressed Judah, burned Jerusalem and took prisoners captive to Babylon 6 times:

1. *The 1st siege: 605 B C: in the first year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar and in king Jehoiakim's 4th year of reign.*

The first train of captives in which Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah were taken captive.

2. *The 2nd siege: 598 B C: during king Nebuchadnezzar's 7th year of reign The 2nd train of captives: King Jechoniah put to death and thrown over the wall. 3.023 prisoners. Jer 52:28*

3. *The 3rd siege 597 B C: King Jehoiakim (Konja) taken captive and 10.000 men of war in the 3rd train of captives. 2 King 24:13-14*

4. *The 4th siege 586 B C: Jerusalem was destroyed. King Zedekiah and 832 prisoners taken captive to Babylon in his 11th year of reign. Jer 52:15,29*

5. *The 5th train of prisoners 581 B C. 745 Jews taken captive. Jer 40 - 44*

6. *The 6th train of prisoners 581 B C. Jews that had fled to Egypt were taken captive to Babylon. Josephus 222-7.*

BABYLONIA
-The 3:rd head of the dragon
The head of gold on the image



3. The Babylonian Empire



The Babylonian Empire is symbolized by a lion with eagle's wings. Dan 7:2-4

7 world empires

Symbolized of a dragon with 7 heads and 10 horns

IV. The Medo-Persian Empire

SYMBOLIZED BY:

1. **The 4th head of the dragon** Rev 12:3
2. **Breast and arms of silver on the image** Dan 2:39
3. **A bear with 3 ribs in his mouth** Dan 7:5

The ribs symbolize the Medo-Persian conquer of Babylonia, Lydia and Egypt.

The bear rised up on one side =

Persia had greater strength than Media.

4. **A ram with one lower horn and one bigger horn** Dan 8:3-9,20

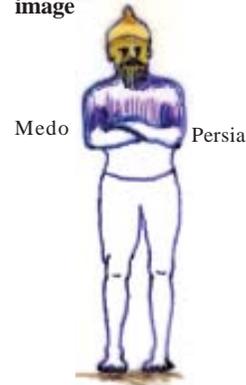
The lower horn = Darius of Media came to power first.

The higher horn that came later = Cyrus of Persia.

The horn was pushing toward West: conquered Babylonia, toward Northwest =attacked Lydia, and toward South = attacked Egypt.



MEDO-PERSIA
– The 4th head of the dragon and breast and arms of silver on the image



Oppression of Israel:

The Jews were near extermination during the time of queen Esther.

Esther 3:12-15

Three retrnrs:

1. 536 B C: Zerubbabel and 42.360 Jews. The temple rebuilt.
2. 457 B C: Ezra and 1754 males. Worship revived.
3. 444 B C: Nehemiah and a guard. The walls of Jerusalem were rebuilt.



4. The Medo-Persian Empire



The Medo-Persian Empire is symbolized by a bear with three ribs in his mouth. Dan 7:5
The ribs symbolize the Medo-Persian conquer of

7 world empires

Symbolized of a dragon with 7 heads and 10 horns. Rev 12:3

V. The Greek Empire. Symbolized by:

1. The 5th head of the dragon. Upp 12:3
2. Belly and thighs of bronze on the image Dan 2:32
3. A leopard with 4 heads and 4 wings. Dan 7:6

The leopard, a swift animal, which symbolizes:

- A. The swiftness of the conquest of Alexander the Great
- B. The 4 wings = the double swiftness in comparison with Babylon, a lion with 2 wings.
- C. The 4 heads (kings) symbolized the division of the Greek Empire into 4 kingdoms after Alexander's sudden death.

4. A male-goat with a big horn becoming 4 horns. Dan 8:5-8

The male-goat from the west = Greece (Javan) Dan 8:21

A. The goat is the symbol of Greece.

Alexander called his son: A. Ageus = A. the Goat

B. "Touched not the ground" = the swiftness of the conquests.

In 13 years Alexander conquered the Persian Empire, 336-323 B C.

C. "He smote the ram and broke his horns" = the conquest of Medo-Persia.

D. "In bitterness and great wrath" – Persia had invaded Greece 144 years earlier.

E. "The great horn was broken" = Alexander died suddenly at the age of 33.

F. "There came up 4 notable horns" = the division of Greece into 4 kingdoms:

Greece (Hellas), Phrygia, Syria and Egypt. Dan 8:20-23

GREEK DOMINION AND GOVERNMENT OVER JUDAH:

1. 332-300 B C, under the Seleucids = Greek kings of Syrian division.
2. 301-196 B C, under the Ptolemies = Greek kings in Egypt.
3. 199-167 B C, under the Seleucidian kings in Syria.
4. 175-169 B C, Antiochus Epifanes devastated Jerusalem (B C 168) and tried to exterminate the Jews and their beliefs. (Dan 11:21-34)
He became a forerunner to Antichrist. (Dan 11:35-45; 2 Thess 2:3-8)
5. 167-63 B C, a period of independence = the Maccabean period.

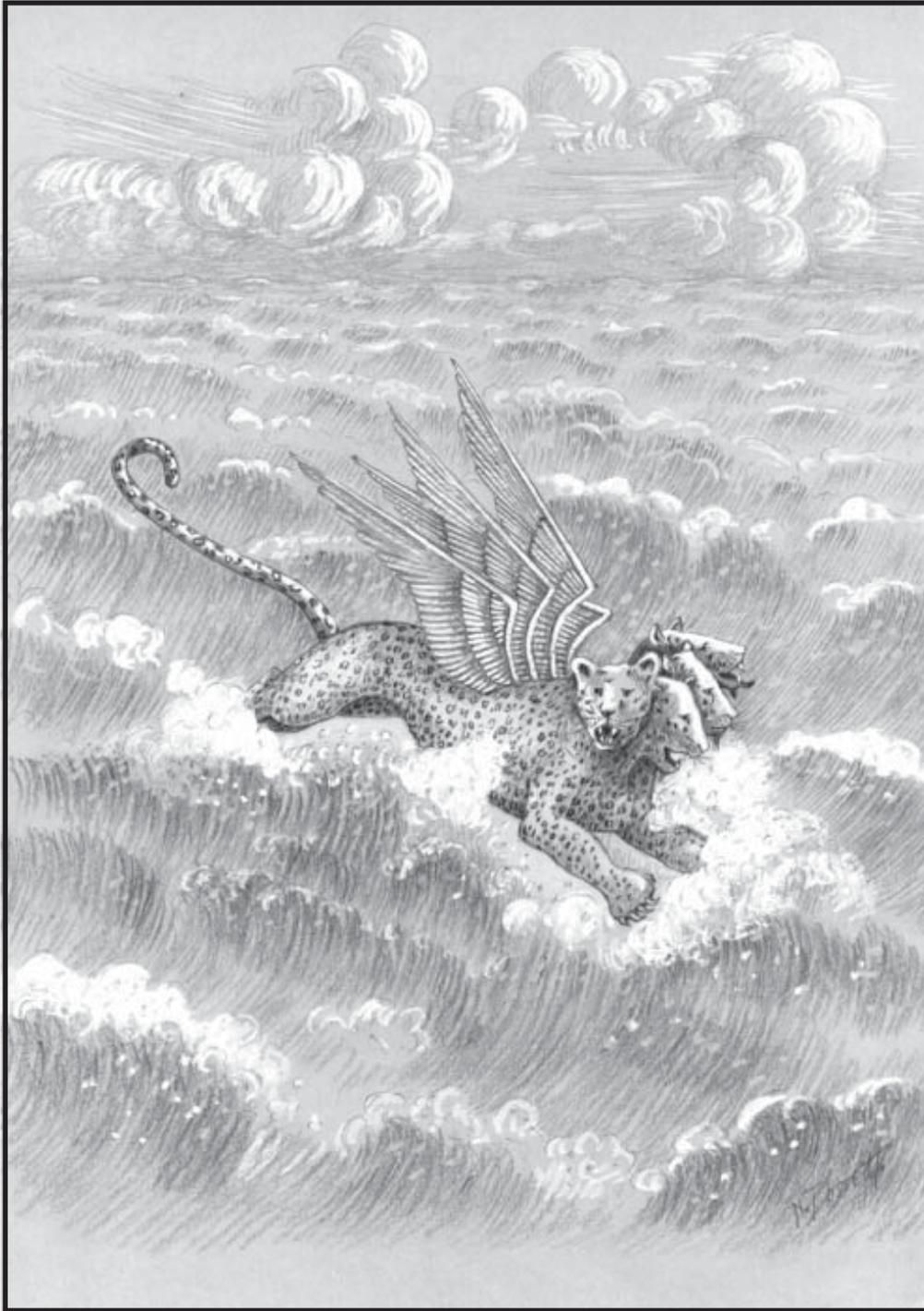


GREECE

– The 5th head of the dragon and belly and thighs of bronze on the imaged



5. The Greek Empire



*The Greek Empire is symbolized by
a leopard with 4 heads and 4 wings. Dan 7:6*

7 world empires

Symbolized of a dragon with 7 heads and 10 horns. Rev 12:3

VI. The Roman Empire. Founded B C 753. Conquered Greece B C 146.

Rome became the biggest and most enduring of all world powers.

Symbolized by: 1. The 6th head of the dragon.

2. The 2 legs on the image symbolize the West and East division. Dan 2:33,40

3. A strong and terrible beast. Dan 7:7-8,17

Legs and teeth of iron are a symbol of Rome's power and tyrannical rule.

4. The 10 horns are a later development of the Roman Empire.

Oppression of Israel: B C 63, Jerusalem was conquered by Pompey.

King Herod, a marionette to Rome, executed Jewish children in Betlehem.

Christ was crucified by Pontius Pilate during the reign

of Caesar Tiberius about B C 30.

A D 70: Caesar Vespasianus destroyed Jerusalem. A D 135: Israel was laid waste.

Persecution of Christians:

54-63: Caesar Nero started a persecution of Christians in Rome.

94-95: Caesar Domitian persecuted Christians in Minor Asia.

– The apostle John became a prisoner on the island of Patmos.

284-305: Caesar Diocletian persecuted Christians furiously.

306: Caesar Constantine became the first Christian emperor.

378-395: Caesar Theodosius made Christianity a state religion.

395: Rome divided into West-Rome and East-Rome.

476, Western Empire fell. 1453, Eastern Empire fell. Out of the ruins of the Western Empire arose the "Papal Empire" and "Rome" then ruled for 1000 years and is still influentiell through the Pope. The old Roman Empire will be renewed in some form in the endtime as the feet and the whole image will be crushed by a stone from outside – at Christ's return as King and Lord. Dan 2:44-45

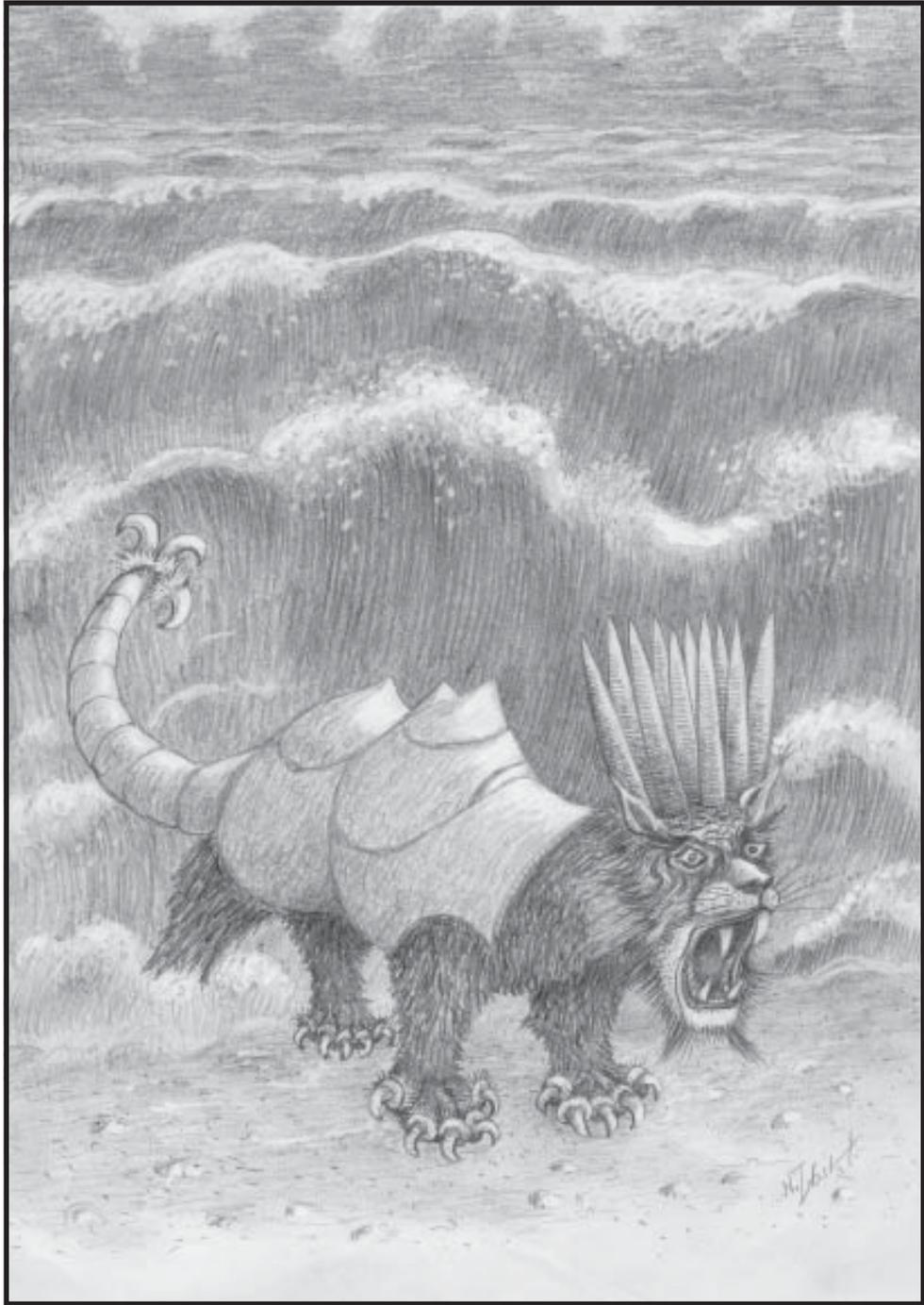


ROME

– the 6th head of the dragon and the two legs on the image



6. The Roman Empire



The Empire of the 10 horns in the endtime

7 world empires

Symbolized of a dragon with 7 heads and 10 horns.

VII. The Empire of the 10 horns in the endtime – when Antichrist is a small horn.

It will be the last world-power oppressing Israel during the times of the gentiles. It is a combination of all former world-empires – and a **revived form of the old Roman and Greek Empires**. It will rise in the endtime after that Israel has become a sovereign nation again.

– According to the vision of the image (Dan 2:34, 44-45) the Roman Empire (The fourth beast in the vision of Daniel, Dan 7:7) shall be present in the endtime at the time of Christ's second coming. The little stone from outside (Christ) shall crush the feet and thereby the whole image symbolizing the 7 world-empires that have oppressed Israel. Dan 2:45

Symbolized by: 1. The 7th head on the dragon. Rev 13:1 *The dragon's 7 heads and 10 horns speak about Satans power behind the 7 worldempires.*

2. Feet and toes of iron and clay on the image. Dan 2:33,40

- a. *The feet represents the Western and Eastern division of the old Roman Empire.*
- b. *The 10 toes correspond to the ten horns on the wild beast. Dan 7:7; Rev 13:1*
- c. *Clay speaks of weak "popular" majority governments.*
- d. *Iron = a symbol of dictatorships, which again will be dominant.*

3. Ten horns on the fourth "terrible" beast. Dan 7:7-8,17

10 horns = 10 "kings, presidents" that will rise (Dan 7:7,5; Upp 17:12) in this Empire in the endtime: "The 10 horns shall rule together with the beast (the little horn) for one hour", Upp 17:12

Description of the 10 horns: *The beast was different to all the other beasts and had 10 horns. Between them came forth a small horn different to the former which will subdue 3 other horns. It had eyes like a man and a mouth speaking words against God. (Dan 7:7-8; Rev 13:1; 17:14)*

Antichrist will first be a small horn between the ten horns.



The feet of iron mixed with clay = the Empire that will be crushed by Christ at his return. Dan 2:44



(Antichrist is first a little horn between the 10 horns)

The Empire of Antichrist – the Empire of the small horn

VIII. The 8th world-power

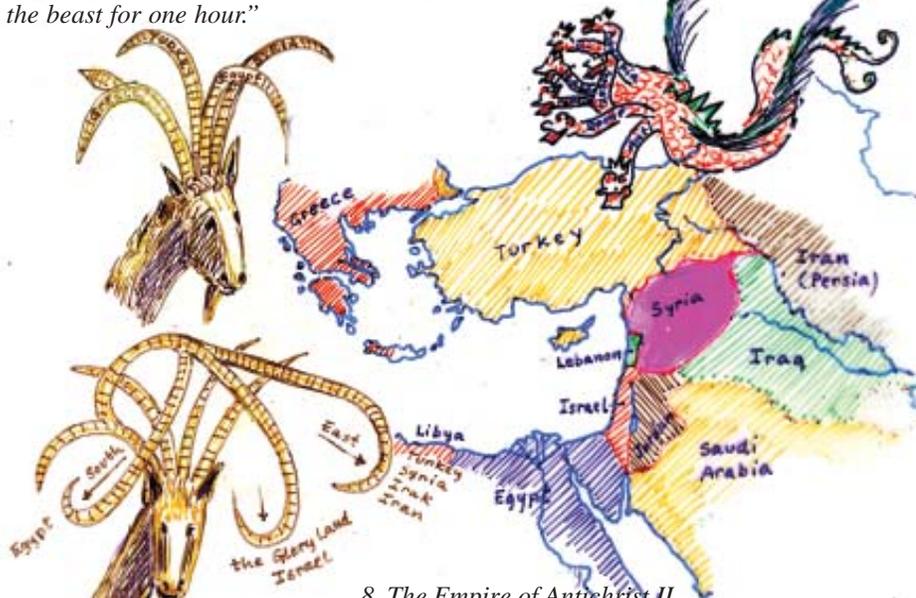
– is a prolongation of the seventh World-power through Antichrist's assumption of power (as the 8th king, Rev 17:11), symbolized by the whole dragon with its seven heads and of the wild beast in Dan 7:7, Rev 13:1. It will become the last world-power that shall oppress Israel during the time of gentiles. – Antichrist will start as a small horn (the 11th horn) in the Empire of the 10 horns in the endtime. The small horn will grow and become bigger than all the other and seize the power over the whole empire. His symbolical number is 666, Rev 13:18

Description of the small horn on the male goat (Greece): Dan 8:9-11

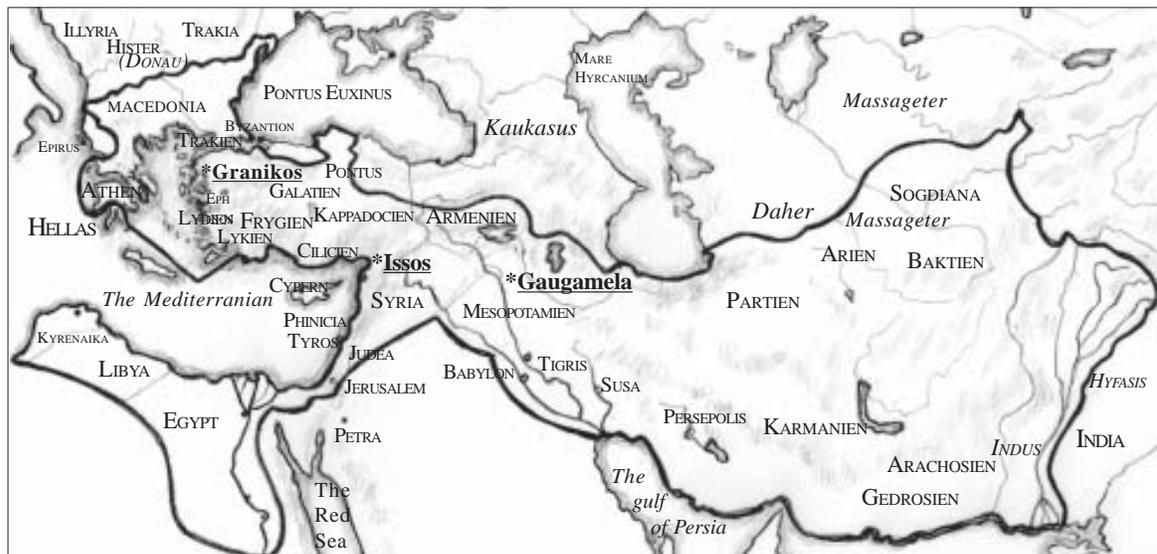
*"Then the male goat magnified himself exceedingly. But as soon as he was mighty, the large horn (of the male goat) was broken; and in its place there came up **four notable ones** toward the four winds of heaven. And out of one them came forth a rather **small horn** which grew exceedingly great toward the south, toward the east, and toward **the Beautiful Land.**"* (Israel)

Description of the beast in Rev 13:1-2: *The beast has "ten horns and seven heads" which symbolize the collected evil in all the 7 world-empires that have persecuted Israel. Satan (the dragon) will give the beast "all his power and his throne and great authority and it has blasphemous names on its head. The body was like a leopard (Greece), and his feet like a bear (Medo-Persian) and his mouth like that of a lion (Babylonia) and it has 10 horns" (Rome).* – **As the beast has symbols from all the other world-empires it shows that this empire will be a combination of all the earlier empires territories – a modified form of the old Greek- and Roman empires put together.**

Description of the beast in Rev 17: 9-12: *"The seven heads are seven mountains (countries) on which the woman sits, and they are seven kings; **five have fallen**, (Egypt, Assyria, Babylonia, Medo-Persia and Greece) **one is** (the 6th = Rome), **the other** (the 7th) **has not yet come** (the Empire of Antichrist with 10 horns – a revived form of the Roman- and Greek Empires in the endtime – West-Rome and an enlarged East-Rome); and when he comes, he must remain a little while. And the **beast** which was and is not, **is himself also an eighth**, and is one of the seven, and he goes to destruction. And the **ten horns** which you saw are ten kings, who have not yet received a kingdom, but they receive authority as kings with the beast for one hour."*



8. The Empire of Antichrist II
(The little horn become larger than its associates)



Map of the Empire of Alexander the Great – the Greek Empire

The Empire of the small horn (Antichrist). The revived West-Rome and Greek Empire put together.

Symbolized by: The male-goat with 4 horns (kings) on which a small horn came out from one of them. Dan 8:8. The small horn on the male-goat (Greece) is the same small horn as on the wild beast in Dan 7:8 and gives a detailed information which shows that Antichrist will come from a country in the east.

Explanation of the vision of the male goat:

1. **4 horns on the male-goat** = 4 divisions of the Greek Empire.
2. **"A small horn came out of one of them."** (Dan 7:8,24) "It will fling truth to the ground and it will prosper whatever it will do." Dan 8:12,24. The other (10) horns will "give their power and authority to the beast" (the Antichrist). Rev 17:13,17
3. **Antichrist (the small horn) will attack Israel:** "It became exceedingly great toward: south, east and to the Glory Land (Israel)." Dan 8:24; Mt 24:15-22; Rev 13:7
4. **The temple in Jerusalem will be rebuilt:** "By him the daily sacrifice was taken away and the place of the sanctuary was profaned." Dan 9:27; 12:11. "Therefore when you see the "abomination of desolation" which was spoken of through Daniel. the prophet, standing in the holy place... Mt 24:15; 2 Thess 2:8-9
5. **The reign of Antichrist will be 3½ years:** "How long"? – For "2.300 evening and morning sacrifices" = 1150 days = 3½ year. Dan 8:13; Rev 13:5
6. **A vision about the endtime:** "At the time of the end shall be the vision." Dan 8:17,26; 11:35; Mt 24:2; 2 Thess 2:3-10; Rev 17:14
7. **Antichrist's war against Messiah:** "It even magnified itself to be equal with the Commander of the host (the Prince of princes = Christ)." Dan 7:26,27; 11:35; Zech 14:1-4; 2 Thess 2:3-7; Rev 17:14; 19:11-21
8. **At Christ's return he will be "broken without hand"** Dan 2:45; 8:25; 2 Thess 2:8; Rev 17:14; 19:11:21
9. **Christ – the Son of man will be Lord of lords and King of kings.** "One like a Son of Man was coming... To Him was given dominion, glory and a kingdom, that all the peoples, nations, and men of every language might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion which will not pass away; and His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed." Dan 7:13-14; Rev 17:14

Conclusion

Since Israel became a sovereign state in 1948, the territories of the old Roman and Greek empires have revived in two separate associations, West-Rome in Eu (the Rome-treaty, 1957) and part of East-Rome and the Greek Empire in the Arabic League (which contains 23 Arabic states including PLO), plus a number of Islam-states, which together cover the territories of the old Greek Empire all along to the border of India (Indus).

The Eu is united in a common market to promote business and has become a political force, and the Islamic states have three things in common: They teach their children in their schools to hate Israel, they have as an aim to exterminate the state of Israel and they plan to make the Islamic faith a world religion and start a holy war toward the "decadent" Western world.

According to some Bibleteachers the "Little horn" (Antichrist) will come from a country in the region north of Israel.

Israel will be that axis on which the history of the endtime will circle.

DANIEL'S SEVENTIETH WEEK – THE LAST 7 YEARS OF THE TIMES OF GENTILES

A. Antichrist's covenant with Israel for 7 years (2,520 days)

*"And he (Antichrist) shall make a firm covenant with many (including Israel) for one week."
(7 years). Dan 9:27a*

During the first 3½ years of the week, Antichrist will rise to great authority and power. Dan 7:19-25; Rev 13:2

Antichrist (on the white horse with a bow) will disguise himself as a man of peace and at the same time "liberate" many countries ("...he went out conquering, and to conquer." Rev 6:2)



Israel, being in a tight situation, will join the covenant with Antichrist and he will help Israel the first 3½ years. Probably many Jews will believe that he is their Messiah, whom they have been waiting for so long.

B. Antichrist will brake the covenant with Israel after 3½ years

After 3½ years he will show his real intention to become a world-dictator and to be worshipped.

– *"In the middle of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and offerings to cease, and on the wing of horrors shall the desolater come to ruin, even until a complete destruction..." Dan 9:27b*

– *"Therefore when you see the "abomination of desolation" which was spoken of through Daniel, the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand). Mt 24:15; 2 Thess 2:8-9*

– *"...and the son of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God (his image), displaying himself as being God." 2 Thess 2:4*



At that time – at the time of the end:

1. *"And at the end time... he (Antichrist) will pitch the tents of his royal pavilion between the seas (the Mediterranean and the Dead Sea) in the glorious Holy Mountain (Zion), yet he will come to his end, and no one will help him." Dan 11:40-45*

2. *"Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people, will arise." Dan 12:1a. Michael stands up and casts Satan and his angels down to earth. Rev 12:7-9*

3. *At that time... "there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time..." Dan 12:1b ..."for then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, not ever shall." Mt 24:21; Rev 12:12*

4. *"And at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued. And many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt." Dan 12:1-2; Mt 24:30*

10. Antichrist's covenant with Israel for seven years

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