

Chapter 12

Western Civilization

Israel withstands an awesome attack
Two wicked beasts lead this assault

The prophet Daniel foresaw the Roman Empire hundreds of years before it was established. In Daniel's vision, the Roman Empire was to be the fourth and final great world empire. Just as Jerusalem is symbolic of an eternal heaven, Rome is symbolic of the eternal hell.

TABLE 12-1: DANIEL'S FOUR GREAT EMPIRES

MAJOR EMPIRE	CHAPTER 2	CHAPTER 7	CHAPTER 8	IDENTIFICATION
BABYLONIA 626 BC – 539 BC	Head of Gold	Lion		Daniel 2:48
MEDO-PERSIA 539 BC – 330 BC	Chest and Arms of Silver	Bear	Ram	Daniel 8:20
GREECE 330 BC – 167 BC (includes Ptolemies/ Seleucids)	Belly and Thighs of Bronze	Leopard	Goat	Daniel 8:21
ROME 63 BC – The End	Legs of Iron; Feet of Clay	Terrifying and Frightening Beast		Daniel 9:26 <i>people of the ruler ... were Roman</i>

Beast Out Of the Sea

Thrown from heaven, an ancient serpent-dragon (Satan) travels to earth. Upon arrival, Satan immediately calls to his son, the Roman Empire *beast* coming up out of the sea. *And the dragon stood on the shore of the sea. And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. He had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on his horns, and on each head a blasphemous name.* (Revelation 13:1)

This less than charming son-of-Satan is described in detail. That the *beast once was, now is not, and yet will come* refers to the tendency of the Roman Empire to wax and wane. (Revelation 17:8) For example, The Roman Empire remained alive far beyond the so-called “Fall of Rome” in 476 AD; the Eastern Roman Empire did not fall until 1453. The Holy Roman Empire was an alliance of western European nations ruled by Frankish and German kings; it prospered from 800 AD to 1806 AD.

Since 1957, many European nations have signed the “Treaty of Rome,” which founded the European Economic Community. This treaty was signed at the city hall building of Rome.⁽¹⁾ Later, the enlarged 12-member European Community joined with six European Free Trade Association nations to form the European Economic Area. The 1992 Treaty of Maastricht, also called the Treaty on European Union, further united Europe. The infamous *beast out of the sea*, first foretold twenty-five hundred years ago in the Old Testament, is growing within these institutions. (Daniel 7:7)

Decades of nonstop integration have produced a contemporary Roman Empire. Centralized European institutions have increased in size and authority. Member nations signed a proposed European Union constitution October 29, 2004; the signing ceremony once again was the city hall building in Rome.⁽²⁾ This constitution requires ratification by each member nation; even if never ratified, the Roman texture to this modern European empire remains.

The birth of this empire consisted of Italy (Rome) plus seventeen additional nations, for 18 total nations. Prophecy foretold the birth of this economic *beast*—that the founding nations would unify in three groups of six nations each. (Revelation 13:18)

$$6 + 6 + 6 = 18 \text{ nations}$$
$$(6 \ 6 \ 6)$$

The Beast out of the Sea

This calls for wisdom. If anyone has insight, let him calculate the number of the beast, for it is man's number. His number is 666. (Revelation 13:18)

SIX European Economic Community charter members:

(1) Belgium (2) Netherlands (3) Luxembourg (4) France (5) Italy (6) West Germany

SIX nation members added to form the European Community:

(1) United Kingdom (2) Spain (3) Portugal (4) Greece (5) Denmark (6) Ireland.

SIX European Free Trade Association members → European Economic Area:

(1) Austria (2) Finland (3) Iceland (4) Norway (5) Sweden (6) Liechtenstein



Six charter members of the European Economic Community (EEC) – formed by the Treaty of Rome – came into force January 1, 1958.



Six additional nations join the EEC before it became the European Community, effective November 1, 1993.



Six members of the European Free Trade Association combine with the European Community—to form the European Economic Area. January 1, 2004

The Beast of Rome

Daniel also identified Rome as the final great empire. *The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary.* (Daniel 9:26; Appendix 3) This prophecy refers to events that occurred in 70 AD. The people were Roman soldiers, *the city* was Jerusalem, and *the sanctuary* was the Second Temple. Accordingly, the Romans are *the people of the ruler* in the end times; the final empire must be a Roman confederation of nations.



SIGNATURE CEREMONY City Hall of Rome

Six nations sign the Treaty of Rome, to establish the European Economic Community.

March 25, 1957

Europa, the European Union web portal

Other scriptures identify the dominant end-time super power as being a Roman Empire. John wrote: *The woman you saw is the great city that rules over the kings of the earth.* (Revelation 17:18) At the time Revelation was written, Rome was, in fact, *the great city that rules over the kings of the earth.* That same city will rule *over the kings* (world leaders) during the end-times.

The world's great unfaithful church is a woman named "Babylon." This woman is geographically collocated (sits) upon the empire's capital city. *"This calls for a mind with wisdom. The seven heads are seven hills on which the woman sits.* (Revelation 17:9) Romulus and Remus founded Rome on *seven hills*: Capitoline, Palatine, Aventine, Caelian, Esquiline, Quirinal, and Viminal. Even with the Seven Hills of Rome being common knowledge, spiritual mysteries take discernment. A *mind with wisdom* is needed, because seeing Rome as the preeminent city for deception requires unlocking perhaps the greatest delusion in history.

Many believe the Roman Empire was a great civilization. Yet Rome boasts of an ancient coliseum, where Romans fed Christians to lions. Pride in this coliseum is analogous to Germans being proud of Dachau, which is a World War II prison camp where Nazi rulers executed millions of Jews. Rome brought gladiators, crucifixions, and the government that crucified Jesus.

Countless millions believe that the Roman Catholic Church is the one true church. Yet its priests are notorious for homosexual child abuse. It should be as simple as counting the *seven hills*—to know this church is a counterfeit. However, since there is an underlying spiritual force of immense proportions, it takes *wisdom* to comprehend this *mystery*.

Antichrist

Past rulers of the Roman Empire are nearly as famous as the Empire itself. Rulers include Julius Caesar, Augustus Caesar, Nero, Domitian, and Constantine. Starting 800 AD, popes anointed the rulers of the Holy Roman Empire. This version of the Roman Empire ended a thousand years later with another emperor, Napoleon. World War II alliances revived this Germany-Rome alliance of the Holy Roman Empire, as German Chancellor Adolph Hitler collaborated with Benito Mussolini, the Prime Minister of Italy. Yet none of these iniquitous rulers will compare with the end-time ruler over Europe, the Antichrist.

The primary beast in Revelation refers to Antichrist and the Roman Empire that he rules. Antichrist turns his focus from Europe, to world domination at Temple Mount in Jerusalem at the 42-month point. In like manner, the authority (life span) of this beast is limited to the initial forty-two months of the end-times. *The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise his authority for forty-two months.* (Revelation 13:5)

TABLE 12-2: FAMILY RESEMBLANCE

Character	Type	Color	Heads	Horns	Crowns
Satan (Dragon) (Revelation 12)	False Father	Red	Seven	Ten	<i>seven crowns on his heads</i>
Europe (Beast #1) (Revelation 13,17)	False Son	Scarlet	Seven	Ten	<i>ten crowns on his horns</i>

The support the dragon (Satan) provides the beast (Antichrist, Rome) is impressive. *The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority.* (Revelation 13:2) However, remember that Satan first offered this kingdom to Jesus: *Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."* (Matthew 4:8-9)

This Roman Empire will eventually govern nations far beyond its initial eighteen members. *The whole world was astonished and followed the beast. Men worshipped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worship the beast and asked, "Who is like the beast? Who can make war against him?"* (Revelation 13:3-4)

The Roman Empire will devour the entire earth. *"He gave me this explanation: The fourth beast is a fourth kingdom that will appear on earth. It will be different from all the other kingdoms and will devour the whole earth, trampling it down and crushing it."* (Daniel 7:23) *And he was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation.* (Revelation 13:7) In recent history, nations unite through economic agreements, normally a Free Trade Agreement.

Antichrist will be *given power to make war against the saints and to conquer them.* (Revelation 13:7) This is a military conquest only; by standing firm unto death, believers honor God and win the spiritual battle.

By watching the European Economic Area (EEA), which is the infamous beast out of the sea, it is possible to approximate how much time remains before Antichrist takes control of Europe. (Appendix 5)

Beast out of the Earth

As the *beast out of the sea* (Europe) follows the *dragon* (Satan), the *beast out of the earth* (America) supports Europe. Both beasts derive economic and political power from western civilization. The false prophet is the leader of this second beast. (Revelation 19:20) The false prophet is normally interpreted as being a religious leader; yet no scripture requires him to be religious. Any person who says, "God chose me to lead you to safety" then leads people to destruction, is a false prophet. A false prophet claims to possess authority from God, and then leads people to destruction.

Then I saw another beast, coming out of the earth. He had two horns like a lamb, but he spoke like a dragon. (Revelation 13:11) The American beast has *two horns like a lamb*—at some level, this beast will appear harmless, like a lamb. Yet this beast *spoke like a dragon*—speaking with the authority of Satan, the consummate dragon. This American beast will require everyone submit to the European beast. This beast *exercised all the authority of the first beast on his behalf, and made the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast.* (Revelation 13:12) Like the European beast, the American beast will consist of a political leader and its subordinate nations.

The United States is this second beast. One horn is Canada (or possibly French Quebec). The other is Mexico (or possibly Latin America). The North American Free Trade Agreement gave birth to this second beast. Its future could see the strengthening of the Organization of American States, or full implementation of the Free Trade Area of the Americas. An American Union, much like the European Union, is possible. (3, 4)

TABLE 12-3: THE EVIL TRINITY

Spiritual Force	Union	Follows
Satan	The entire planet	Self
Beast out of the Sea	Europe—and beyond	Antichrist
Beast out of the Earth	Americas	False Prophet

Credible Deceptions

Satan is not so much concerned with causing people to do evil acts, but instead to believe deceptions. *And he performed great and miraculous signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to earth in full view of men.* (Revelation 13:13) Scripture states that the beast and false prophet *deluded those who had received the mark of the beast.* (Revelation 19:20)

Jesus warned concerning the charm of false teachers. *“Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves.* (Matthew 7:15) Jesus also spoke specifically about end-time deceivers. *“For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect—if that were possible. See, I have told you ahead of time.”* (Matthew 24:24-25) The elect are those people who belong to God.

Paul also warned about end-time deceptions. *The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.* (2 Thessalonians 2:9-10)

The false prophet will be a master of deception. *Because of the signs he was given power to do on behalf of the first beast, he deceived the inhabitants of the earth. He ordered them to set up an image in honor of the beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived. He was given power to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that it could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed.* (Revelation 13:14-15) Daniel and Jesus also spoke of this deception, as being an abomination at the Third temple. (Daniel 9:27; 11:31; 12:11; Matthew 24:15)

Ancient kings used the same deception. *King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, ninety feet high and nine feet wide, and set it up ... in the province of Babylon. ... Then the herald loudly proclaimed, "... you must fall down and worship the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. Whoever does not fall down and worship will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace."* (Daniel 3:1-7)

No Place to Hide

It is impossible to love both God and money; each person is capable of loving only one or the other. A person "loves" whatever he serves with greatest urgency. Whatever is relegated to secondary importance is "despised." Jesus said, *"No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money."* (Matthew 6:24)

Mechanisms for controlling the world's economy are already in place. The initial step was to incorporate countries into a Free Trade Area, which is an agreement between countries to reduce or eliminate trade barriers. The next level of integration is a Common Market, which allows mobility of labor and capital within its region. The remaining steps are a Monetary Union, then a complete Political Union. Today, a ruler capable of controlling the global Free Trade Areas can rule the world.

The European Union accomplished the first large-scale integration of nations. Similar organizations are in various stages of evolution worldwide.

TABLE 12-4: WORLD TRADE BLOCKS

Regional Block	Population	Nations	Established
South Asian Free Trade Area	1,467,000,000	7	2004
China – as a Free Trade Area	1,314,000,000	1	2000 BC
African Economic Community	622,000,000	51	1994
ASEAN Free Trade Area Association of Southeast Asian Nations	553,000,000	10	1992
European Union (European Economic Area)	496,000,000	27	1957
North American Free Trade Agreement	430,000,000	3	1994
South American Community of Nations	370,000,000	12	2004
Eurasian Economic Community	208,000,000	6	2001

From a monetary standpoint, Antichrist and the false prophet will have the power to demand of everyone, “accept or perish.” Concerning the false prophet: *He also forced everyone, small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on his right hand or on his forehead, so that no one could buy or sell unless he had the mark.* (Revelation 13:16-17)

Even tremendous economic prosperity cannot meet needs for eternal security and intimate relationship. Only God can meet such needs. When compared to the value of God, believers must “despise” monetary belongings, if necessary to the point of declining shelter, clothing, and food. Christians must demonstrate faithfulness to God, regardless of circumstances.

He who has an ear, let him hear.

If anyone is to go into captivity, into captivity he will go.

If anyone is to be killed with the sword, with the sword he will be killed.

This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of the saints.

(Revelation 13:9-10)

Notes:

1. Wikipedia. *Treaty of Rome*. Apr 22, 2009.
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Treaty_of_Rome
2. Wikipedia. *Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe*. Apr 22, 2009.
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Treaty_establishing_a_Constitution_for_Europe
3. Department of Press and Communications. *Organization of American States*. Apr 9, 2009
<http://www.oas.org/>
4. Wikipedia. *Free Trade Area of the Americas*. Apr 22, 2009.
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Free_Trade_Area_of_the_Americas