

ROME OR ISLAM

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Many people have got burned out on prophecy ... and ... on religion in general.

We have to approach Bible prophecy properly.

2 Timothy 3:16 (NKJV)

16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

We will be mature and thoroughly equipped for every good work.

1 Peter 4:7-10 (NKJV)

7 But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers.

8 And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins."

9 Be hospitable to one another without grumbling.

10 As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

Matthew 24:32-33 (NKJV)

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! (When you see these prophecies coming to pass ... you will know that Jesus return is near).

Matthew 24:23-26 (NKJV)

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.** (This will happen ... at the very end time)

25 **See, I have told you beforehand.**(a warning!!)

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.

Right prophecy should help us to not be deceived. We should know the true signs.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-5 (NKJV)

1 Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ 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; (certain events have to happen first) 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.

5 Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? (Don't you understand that certain things have to happen first ... to help protect you against deception!)

Revelation 1:1-3 (NKJV)

1 **The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants—things which must shortly take place.** (This comes from God The Father) And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John,

2 who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw.

3 **Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.** (there is a blessing if you read and keep the words of this prophecy)

The Book of Daniel is the key to the book of Revelation.

Matthew 24:11-16 (NKJV)

11 **Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.**

12 And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.

13 **But he who endures to the end shall be saved.**

14 **And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.**

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.**

Daniel 12:1-9 (NKJV)

1 "At that time Michael shall stand up, The great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people;

And there shall be a time of trouble,

Such as never was since there was a nation,

Even to that time.

And at that time your people shall be delivered,
Every one who is found written in the book.

2 And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake,
Some to everlasting life,

Some to shame and everlasting contempt. (a resurrection being referred to)

3 Those who are wise shall shine Like the brightness of the firmament, And those who turn many to righteousness Like the stars forever and ever.

4 "But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase."

5 Then I, Daniel, looked; and there stood two others, one on this riverbank and the other on that riverbank.

6 And one said to the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, "How long shall the fulfillment of these wonders be?"

7 Then I heard the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand to heaven, and swore by Him who lives forever, that it shall be for a time, times, and half a time; and when the power of the holy people has been completely shattered, all these things shall be finished.

8 Although I heard, I did not understand. Then I said, "My lord, what shall be the end of these things?"

9 And he said, "Go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end."

Commentaries before the end-time have to be questionable.

Daniel 2:27-49 (NKJV)

27 Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, "The secret which the king has demanded, the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, and the soothsayers cannot declare to the king.

28 But there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days. Your dream, and the visions of your head upon your bed, were these:

29 As for you, O king, thoughts came to your mind while on your bed, about what would come to pass after this; and He who reveals secrets has made known to you what will be.

30 But as for me, this secret has not been revealed to me because I have more wisdom than anyone living, but for our sakes who make known the interpretation to the king, and that you may know the thoughts of your heart.

31 "You, O king, were watching; and behold, a great image! (statue) This great image, whose splendour was excellent, stood before you; and its form was awesome.

32 This image's head was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze,

33 its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay.

34 You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces.

35 Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

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. (The Babylonian Empire ... what we today call Iraq)

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.”

46 Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell on his face, prostrate before Daniel, and commanded that they should present an offering and incense to him.

47 The king answered Daniel, and said, “Truly your God is the God of gods, the Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, since you could reveal this secret.”

48 Then the king promoted Daniel and gave him many great gifts; and he made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief administrator over all the wise men of Babylon.

49 Also Daniel petitioned the king, and he set Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego over the affairs of the province of Babylon; but **Daniel sat in the gate of the king.**

Over the next few weeks ... we will ...

1. Read the scriptures to help us to be reminded of what the narrative text says

2. We will review our traditional understanding
3. Suggest an alternative

The Iron Kingdom will be there when Christ returns.

Many people have been looking to The Roman Empire for the last 2,000 years as a fulfilment. It happens to be a very popular view. A lot of people are looking to Europe.

Hippolytus in about 200 AD said that the iron legs represent Rome. Later on ... Jerome in 408 AD said that the iron legs were Rome. You can't blame these guys. If you look around ... Rome is everywhere. This view continued for centuries. Luther believed this. Calvin believed this. Right down to today. Hal Lindsay in his book, "The Late Great Planet Earth" believed the same.

No question that the silver kingdom is Medo-Persia and the bronze kingdom is Greece. However, an alternative view sees the iron legs as **the Islamic Realm**. And if that is the case ... then the events that are happening right now may be more relevant to be watching than the EU, Rome, Vatican.

But is that just pure speculation? Or ... is there some Biblical support?

Daniel 2:40 (NKJV)

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.

This 4th kingdom will shatter, crush ... pulverise all the other kingdoms. Here's the catch. Rome didn't fulfill that prophecy! Rome didn't conquer Babylon. Never conquered Persia or crushed Greece.

The Roman Empire for 1 year did annex one piece at the edge of Babylon. They did defeat Greece. But the scriptures say that Greece will be pulverised and crushed. Did Rome do this? No! The Romans never went in to conquer ... pulverise and crush. So Daniel 2:40 requires us to have an empire that pulverises and crushes all the other kingdoms.

What about the Islamic Realm? The Islamic Realm got under way about 600 AD ... and the Arab/Islamic world exploded onto the scene. There were major conquests in the name of Allah. At one time ... The Muslim Empire was bigger than the British Empire. They conquered Arabia, North Africa, Middle East (including Bablyon and Persia) ... also much of Europe ... even including Spain and parts of France.

The Islamic way was and is to obliterate all of the religions in the countries that they took/take over and pulverised. They destroy, obliterate ... anything ... religion ... language ... culture ... law!

The Islamic Realm have done what Daniel 2:40 said.

Daniel 2:41-43 (NKJV)

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.

Daniel 2:43 (NET)

43 And in that you saw iron mixed with wet clay, so people will be mixed (Arab) with one another without adhering to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay.

Revelation 20:1-4 (NKJV)

1 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

2 He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years;

3 and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.

4 And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. **Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. (Notice the penalty for those who didn't bow down to this beast ... BEHEADING!!)** And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

It is interesting that beheading has always been a very popular form of punishment in Islam. You have seen recent reports of ISIS beheading people. Beheading for example is still carried out today in Saudi Arabia as their form of capital punishment. So ... just maybe ... Revelation 20:4 is a hint of an Islamic Beast?

Islam is the fastest growing religion in the world. One in every five people on the earth are Muslim.

So what should we be watching? We may not want to be putting all of our attention to Europe and The Vatican. Maybe we should be looking at The Middle East. It would be no surprise if ... bearing in mind that the Bible is based in the Middle East (Israel, Judah, Assyria, Babylon, Egypt) ... that the Middle East will play a major part in the end-time.

