

DRAFT

WHAT IS MEANT BY “BABYLON THE GREAT IS FALLEN, IS FALLEN”

**Does the Babylonian system exist for 2520 years
or arise after 2520 years?**

Questions for discussion purposes

“And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, **Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen**, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.” (Revelation 18:2)



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This Bible Study should be read in conjunction with:

A Note on Revelation 17:11 by C White

Is Nimrod Typological of the end-time beast dictator? A Note by C White

Introductory Remarks

In this Bible study I briefly discuss the statement that “Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen” as found in Revelation 18:2 and pose several questions to generate discussion.

The only other scripture that uses the term “is fallen, is fallen” is Isaiah 21:8-9:

“And he cried, A lion: My lord, I stand continually upon the watchtower in the daytime, and I am set in my ward whole nights: {he...: or, cried as a lion} {whole...: or, every night}

And, behold, here cometh a chariot of men, *with* a couple of horsemen. And he answered and said, Babylon is **fallen**, is **fallen**; and all the graven images of her

gods he hath broken unto the ground." (Is 21:8-9)

There are two more scriptures referring to Babylon's fall, but the word "fallen" is only used once in both:

"Put yourselves in array against Babylon round about: all ye that bend the bow, shoot at her, spare no arrows: for she hath sinned against the LORD. Shout against her round about: she hath given her hand: her foundations are **fallen**, her walls are thrown down: for it *is* the vengeance of the LORD: take vengeance upon her; as she hath done, do unto her." (Jer 50:14-15)

"Babylon *hath been* a golden cup in the LORD'S hand, that made all the earth drunken: the nations have drunken of her wine; therefore the nations are mad. Babylon is suddenly **fallen** and destroyed: howl for her; take balm for her pain, if so be she may be healed." (Jer 51:7-8)

To find out more about this matter, let us take a peek at history.

Babylon's Multiple Falls

All-in-all, Babylon was invaded and captured about 18 times during its extraordinary history. So destructive were the invasions that by the first century BC, the Greek geographer, Strabo (63 BC-19 AD), wrote that Babylon was "in great part deserted" (Book XVI. 1.5).

A little later, Pliny wrote in *Natural History*, Vi. 30. that the temple of Bel was still standing, however "in all other respects the place has gone back to a desert."

Understanding Babylon's ancient fate and how this is typological of its future destruction on an even greater scale, has fascinated the Church of God for decades (as it has the Jehovah's Witnesses, some commentaries and groups descended from the Millerites).

For instance, on 22 September 1979 Dr Hoeh presented a sermon on the subject titled *Babylon the Great Returning*. During the sermon he discussed the Hebrew calendar, seven year land sabbath cycles and also how the nineteenth and twentieth centuries were the times of Israel's blessings – not the times of the gentiles.

Here are some salient points from the sermon:

- The tree in Daniel chapter 4 is symbolic of the kingdom and its ruler
- Daniel used the word *peres* (not *upharsin* as in writing on the wall). As such there is only one interpretation: Daniel was telling a message for that day
- He said that the kingdom would be numbered but was going to be numbered again (*mene*)
- Just as Nebuchadnezzar had 7 years pass over him, so Babylon would have 7

- times (2520 years) passed over it
- Chapter 5 helps us to understand chapter 4
 - The final empire is called Babylon the Great, not Medes the Great or Rome the great or any other intermediary empire
 - Babylon the Great cannot arise before the 2520 years is up
 - Nebuchadnezzar did not found Babylon
 - Antiochus is a type of the coming dictator
 - Babylon has affected all other empires after it – especially in religion
 - After 2520 years the tree stump would start growing again
 - This will start with a power move by Europe after October 1982. But exactly how long one just does not know.
 - This depends on how long it takes the tree to regrow – months or years
 - The reason why end-time Europe is called "Great" is because Babylon is back. It was not great for 2520 years [he seems to be saying here that the 7th restoration of Rome is Babylon]. This is why Europe is called Babylon in Jeremiah and Isaiah

The following month Dr Hoeh presented a follow-up sermon *Daniel Two – the Two Feet*. In it he offered further information on the two parts (east and west) of Roman revivals over time and their significance to last day prophecies:

- West Europe's capital was essentially in Vienna
- There is no such thing as a resurrection of one Roman Empire, but resurrections in East and West Europe [absolutely! The end-time system brings both sides together for a short time – Craig]
- Babylon in Rev 17 is political and religious; Babylon is described economically in Rev 18
- Austria is the history of a royal family [hint, hint – Craig]

These sermons are available for free download from www.friendsofsabbath.org/ABC.htm (click on the link [AC Lectures or Sermons](#) (Part II). Once that opens click on [Herman L Hoeh Studies & Sermons](#))

So it seems that the prophecy is referring to two separate falls for Babylon: in ancient times when the system really got underway. Then again in the end-time, when it finally meets its doom.

But, like so much prophecy, it may contain another layer of duality: there were 2 major falls in the 6th century BC which may type, in some way, it's future end.

It is not the only evil system on the planet – there are – and have been – others. But this Assyro-Babylonian system comes into direct conflict with the House of Israel and is its nemesis. It must be destroyed.

Turn to Revelation 17 where John writes of a "woman" called "Mystery, Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots and Abominations of the Earth." Yet in the following chapter he also writes of a city called "Babylon the Great."

Do the woman and city symbolise the exact same thing?

In chapter 17:16 the "woman" is destroyed by the "ten kings;" however the "kings of the earth" in chapter 18:9 "bemoan and lament" the destruction of the "city" which is destroyed by God, not by them or the 10 kings. Consider also the statement in the initial verse of chapter 18: "after these things," indicating that after the destruction of the woman by the Beast that the "city" is destroyed by God.

So chapter 17 refers to paganised 'Christianity' while the following chapter refers to the corporate socialist commercial power and global influence of Europe and its allies.

In other words the end-time Babylonian 'city' is the commercial arm of the Beast power. Note:

1. the Beast is the political-military power
2. the woman of Revelation 17 is its allied church or religious system
3. the city of Revelation 18 is its global commercial reach. See the appendix dealing with Revelation 18 for further information

This future fall of Babylon may be foreshadowed by its initial empire:

Cyrus captured ancient Babylon in 539BC with battles continuing on for several months. The city was not destroyed at this point – it continued to be a large metropolis after a relatively peaceful conquest.

Yet, what few realise, there was a further conquest of Babylon by the Persians!

This occurred in 522-21BC when it revolted and was later captured for Darius by general Zopyrus (see Herodotus 3. 151-159). One of the walls was destroyed and its 100 gates dismantled during this siege that lasted around 2 years.



Above is the reconstruction of the Ishtar Gate and Processional Way at the Pergamon Museum, Berlin. It was reconstructed from material excavated by Robert Koldewey and completed in the 1930s

So we see two separate falls of Babylon to the Medo-Persians.

Coming full circle, there will be 2 falls again – representing the 2 aspects of Babylon - in the last days.

Daniel 4:23 – Questions for discussion

We read the following in Daniel:

"I saw in the visions of my head as I lay in bed, and behold, a watcher, a holy one, came down from heaven.

He cried aloud and said thus, `Hew down the tree and cut off its branches, strip off its leaves and scatter its fruit; let the beasts flee from under it and the birds from its branches.

But leave the stump of its roots in the earth, bound with a band of iron and bronze, amid the tender grass of the field. Let him be wet with the dew of heaven; let his lot be with the beasts in the grass of the earth;

let his mind be changed from a man's, and let a beast's mind be given to him; and let **seven times** pass over him.

...

And whereas the king saw a watcher, a holy one, coming down from heaven and saying, `Hew down the tree and destroy it, but leave the stump of its roots in the earth, bound with a band of iron and bronze, in the tender grass of the field; and let him be wet with the dew of heaven; and let his lot be with the beasts of the field, till **seven times** pass over him';

this is the interpretation, O king: It is a decree of the Most High, which has come upon my lord the king,

that you shall be driven from among men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field; you shall be made to eat grass like an ox, and you shall be wet with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over you, till you know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men, and gives it to whom he will.

And as it was commanded to leave the stump of the roots of the tree, your kingdom shall be sure for you from the time that you know that Heaven rules." (Daniel 4:13-16, 23-26)

The seven times here refers directly to King Nebuchadnezzar. But, in similitude to other prophecies, may refer to 2520 prophetic years culminating in certain end-time events.

So what is Daniel getting at? Here are some possibilities:

1. That the end-time Babylon would not arise again after 2520 years after its fall in 539/38BC = 1982/83. Was Babylon restrained for 2520 years? For was not the Assyro-Babylonian system continued through Persia, Greece, Rome and the revivals of the Roman system? So how does this compute?

How could Babylon be restrained for 2520 years when it existed during that period? This has always puzzled me and, I might add, there was no official old WCG

position on this matter.

Norbert Link of the Church of the Eternal God has written an article about this which I have added as an appendix at the end of this study

2. Given that there was a second fall in 522-21BC if we add 2520 years = 1999/2000 when it would begin to lead or dominate again **IF** we have the correct interpretation of course (the *euro* was launched 1 January 1999). Leading or dominating doesn't mean that the Tribulation has begun; just that the EU is beginning to assert its authority leading to its dominance of the world
3. Or does this mean that its **unrestrained** dominance would be removed? For the conquest of Israel is prophesied for the last days and this system has not been able to conquer the House of Israel or Judah since the fall of Assyria and Babylon.

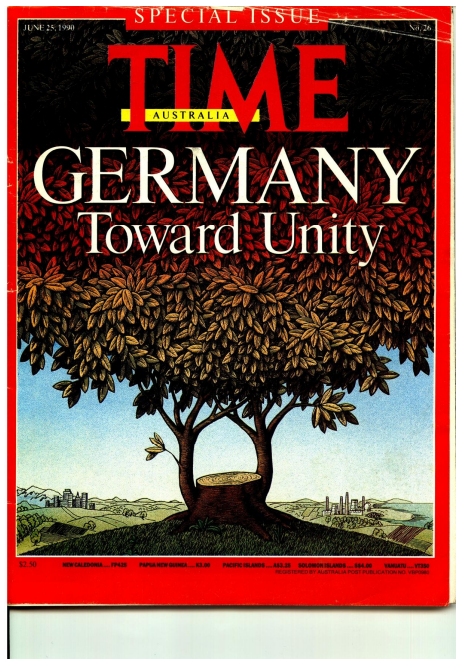
But now, with all restraints removed, it can begin to slowly dominate again with the eventual resulting conquest of the House of Israel some years or decades later.

The system has been beastly and lacking in quality in the past. But in the end time takes on more of a qualitative nature like the original Babylon. That could be why the 7th restoration of the Roman system is called Babylon in Revelation 18. That is why the Assyrian influence in this system is termed the 8th in Rev 17:11 and explained in the paper *A Note on Revelation 17:11*. In this regard, take careful note of the *New International Commentary on the New Testament*, page 314 by Robert H. Mounce:

"..."once was, now is not, and will come out of the Abyss"...is an obvious parody of the Lamb, who was put to death yet came back to life and now is alive forevermore (1:18; 2:18). The description is also an intentional antithesis to the One "who is, and who was, and is to come" (1:4, 8; 4:8)...It is this incredible power of resuscitation that causes the inhabitants of the earth to stand in awe. He is the beast of chapter 13 who has received a death-stroke in one of his heads and yet survived (13:3, 12, 14)"

4. The 7 years or 2520 days that King Nebuchadnezzar suffered is typological of the 7 years or world domination by the gentiles (including 3 ½ years of Tribulation) that I have written about so many times in other papers
5. That the end of the 2520 period refers to the return of Christ because the system, after punishment, acknowledges God rules the kingdom of men, much like King Nebuchadnezzar. If so, when does the 2520 years commence?

A number of other interpretations are possible, but the above would be the greatest interest to the Church of God. Let us continue to discuss and ponder the possibilities. Your input would be appreciated.



Amazing 25 June 1990 Time magazine cover!

Appendix: Revelation 18 and Associated Scriptures

(extracted from *A Note on the Three Woes and Babylon/Tyre Parallels* by C White)



EU poster (left) compared to an artist's depiction of the tower of Babel (right)

Revelation chapters 17 and 18 are not the only prophecies concerning prophetic Babylon. Ezekiel 27 labels this same system as 'Tyre'. Compare Revelation 18 with Ezekiel 27 (Tyre), Isaiah 47 & 48, Jeremiah 50 & 51 and other scriptures:

Revelation 18	Comment/Associated Scriptures
<p>1 And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory.</p> <p>2 And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.</p>	<p>Is 13:21-22</p>
<p>3 For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.</p>	<p>Dan. 8:25, 12-13. "Jer. 50 and 51 should be carefully studied in connection with these two ch., as many of the things predicted there await fulfillment in the coming evil days." (Bullinger, <i>Companion Bible</i>, p. 1907)</p>
<p>4 And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.</p>	<p>"My People" – Israel and the Church. See John 17:5; II Cor 6:17; Zech 2:6; Is. 49:20; 52:11; Hos 4:6-12. See also Jer. 50:4-9; Is 10:20, 24</p>
<p>5 For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities</p>	
<p>6 Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double</p>	<p>Jer 5:7; John 18:11</p>
<p>7 How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow.</p>	<p>Is 47:8</p>
<p>8 Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong <i>is</i> the Lord God who judgeth her.</p>	<p>Rev 17:16; Is 47:11; 13:20; Jer 50: 13, 39, 40; 51:29, 37, 43</p>
<p>9 And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning</p>	<p>Rev 17:2; Ezek 28: 18-19; 26:15-17</p>
<p>10 Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come</p>	<p>Is 47:11, 15</p>
<p>11 And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more:</p>	<p>Ezek 27:28-32</p>
<p>12 The merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet, and all thyine wood, and all manner vessels of ivory, and all manner vessels of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble,</p>	<p>Dan 8:25</p>

Revelation 18	Comment/Associated Scriptures
13 And cinnamon, and odours, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots, and slaves, and souls of men.	Ezek 27:13; Jer 50:11; Is 47:6
14 And the fruits that thy soul lusted after are departed from thee, and all things which were dainty and goodly are departed from thee, and thou shalt find them no more at all.	Jude 14
15 The merchants of these things, which were made rich by her, shall stand afar off for the fear of her torment, weeping and wailing,	Eph 6:17; Is 11:4; Is 63:1-4; Joel 3:13; Rev 14: 18-20
16 And saying, Alas, alas, that great city, that was clothed in fine linen, and purple, and scarlet, and decked with gold, and precious stones, and pearls!	The colours of the Vatican revealed here
17 For in one hour so great riches is come to nought. And every shipmaster, and all the company in ships, and sailors, and as many as trade by sea, stood afar off,	Ezek 27:29-30
18 And cried when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, What <i>city is</i> like unto this great city!	Different event to Ezek 39:17-22
19 And they cast dust on their heads, and cried, weeping and wailing, saying, Alas, alas, that great city, wherein were made rich all that had ships in the sea by reason of her costliness! for in one hour is she made desolate.	v.10; Is 47:11; Jer 50:24; 51:8
20 Rejoice over her, <i>thou</i> heaven, and <i>ye</i> holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her.	Rev 11:2; Is 47:6; Jer 50:28; 51:11
21 And a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast <i>it</i> into the sea, saying, Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all.	Zech 9:3-4; Ezek 26:20-21
22 And the voice of harpers, and musicians, and of pipers, and trumpeters, shall be heard no more at all in thee; and no craftsman, of whatsoever craft <i>he be</i> , shall be found any more in thee; and the sound of a millstone shall be heard no more at all in thee;	Is 13:19; Ezek 28:18-19
23 And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee: for thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy sorceries were all nations deceived.	Jer 25:10 Is 47:9
24 And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth.	Rev 3:8; 6:11; 7:9,14; 11:2; 12:17; 13:7,10,15; 16:6 17:6; 18:13; 19:2; 20:4 Is 47:6; Jer 50:11

From the above we can see that the Bible has much to say about the end-time Babylonian power

and its persecution of God's people.

Appendix: Does Nebuchadnezzar's dream in Daniel 4 have prophetic meaning

**Church of the Eternal God newsletter
Update 401 for the Week ending July 3rd, 2009**

Q & A

Does Nebuchadnezzar's dream in Daniel 4 have prophetic meaning for us today?

Over the years, many ideas have been advanced to the effect that Nebuchadnezzar's dream, as described in Daniel 4, has some kind of hidden prophetic meaning for us today. In the last [Q&A](#), we discussed Nebuchadnezzar's dream in much detail. We pointed out that the dream referred to that ancient king and predicted his seven years of insanity to punish his pride. We showed that the dream was fulfilled, exactly as God had pronounced it, and that King Nebuchadnezzar subsequently repented of his pride at the time when his sanity was restored to him.

Some have pointed at Nebuchadnezzar's "seven years" of insanity and applied it to seven "prophetic" years of punishment for the entire Babylonian Empire. The rationale goes something like this: A "prophetic" year of 360 DAYS is the equivalent of 360 YEARS. [The one day for one year PRINCIPLE is, in fact, biblical in some instances, and is described in passages such as Numbers 14:34 and Ezekiel 4:4-6.] If applied in this way, seven prophetic "years" of 360 "days" or "years" each, would amount to 2,520 years. Beginning to count with the time when Babylon fell (which occurred about 539 B.C.), one would reach the year 1982 A.D.

It is also claimed by some that the Babylonian Empire was somehow unproductive for 2,520 years after its ancient fall, but emerged again, beginning in 1982.

As one author puts it:

"The tree of the... dream may represent not only Nebuchadnezzar but the Babylonian Empire as well. Babylon fell in 539 B.C... In essence, the 'roots' of the tree remained to sprout anew in the future. Considering this, it has been proposed that the 'seven times' could be viewed as seven 360-day prophetic years. The prophetic 'day-for-a-year' principle... yields 2,520 years... perhaps stretching from the fall of ancient Babylon to the beginnings of its revival in modern times."

Another author wrote:

"Daniel records a prophecy about a tree (picturing the Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar) that was to be chopped down, but its stump and roots were to remain—bound by a band of brass and iron until seven times had passed... The king's seven years of insanity partially fulfilled the prophecy. However, the Bible also reveals that a prophetic year of 360 days is the equivalent of 360 years... Seven prophetic years (of 360 days) amount to 2,520 years. Babylon fell in 539 [B.C.]... Seven

prophetic times from 539 [B.C.] brings us to 1982—the date John Paul urged Europeans to 'give life to their roots.' Since 1982 the modern Babylon emerging in central Europe from its ancient roots has seen dramatic growth."

Depending on who is identified as modern Babylon, it is also said that the Catholic Church began in 1982 to exert its ever-growing influence on the countries of Europe; or that the nations of Europe experienced a revival, beginning in 1982 [pointing at a Scripture in Daniel 4, speaking of the band of iron and bronze around the tree (verses 15 and 23), which was allegedly loosed in 1982, or that the new leaders of modern Babylon, which are sometimes falsely claimed to be the USA and the Catholic Church, will begin to defeat the ancient Medes and Persians (which are alleged to be modern Iraq and Iran)]. Others make different claims, which are all related, somehow, to 2,520 years of punishment of "Babylon," followed by a revival and restoration to power.

To complicate matters even further, it is also claimed that Christ's reference to the "fulfillment" of the "times of the Gentiles" in Luke 21:24 relates, somehow, to Nebuchadnezzar's dream in Daniel 4. We have explained in a previous [Q&A](#) that the "times of the Gentiles" will be fulfilled when Christ returns. We also showed that Gentile kingdoms have ruled throughout the history of man.

Some of those who link "the times of the Gentiles" to Nebuchadnezzar's dream in Daniel 4 claim that this phrase speaks exclusively of the rule of the ancient and modern Babylonians and that the times of the Gentiles BEGAN in 1982 (when the 2,520 years-long insanity or punishment of Babylon was removed and Babylon's rule was restored). Others have claimed in the past that the times of the Gentiles would actually END in 1982, and that Christ would return BEFORE the times of the Gentiles were fulfilled. (Since Christ has not returned, that concept was subsequently dropped.) Others teach correctly (as we pointed out in our previous [Q&A](#)), that the times of the Gentiles will be fulfilled AT the time of Christ's return.

Can the concept that Daniel 4 contains a prophecy for the ancient and modern Babylonian EMPIRE be proven from Scripture? Is it even biblically POSSIBLE that this idea COULD BE correct?

When we carefully examine what the Bible DOES teach, the answer is, NO!

First of all, as pointed out in our previous [Q&A](#), there is not even the slightest hint in Daniel 4 that Nebuchadnezzar's dream of the cut-down tree refers to anyone but Nebuchadnezzar. He was indeed insane for seven years, living with the animals, but when he repented of his pride, the kingdom was restored to him. To apply this scenario of seven prophetic years of insanity to the Babylonian power is inaccurate, as Babylon was not "unproductive" or "paralyzed" from 539 B.C. to 1982 A.D.

In addition, the Bible shows that end-time modern Babylon will behave in a totally insane way and will be responsible for a worldwide catastrophe, which would lead to the annihilation of man if Christ were not to return to save man from himself. Therefore, it cannot possibly be suggested that Babylon was insane from 539 B.C. until 1982 A.D., but REPENTED of its pride and regained its sanity, beginning in 1982.

Those who claimed, albeit erroneously, that the times of the Gentiles would be fulfilled in 1982, after Christ's return, understood at least that Nebuchadnezzar's dream in Daniel 4, IF applied to

the Babylonian Empire, would require repentance before its kingdom or rule could be restored.

As one author wrote as early as 1953: "[1982 is the year] when the seven times of punishment would be fulfilled.... Since Zechariah 14:1-3 shows that Jesus Christ will return in order to deliver Jerusalem from the Gentiles, it is plain that the second coming of Christ will occur SHORTLY BEFORE the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled... Just as Nebuchadnezzar finally regained his throne and acknowledged God's authority, so the Gentile nations when their punishment is over, will come up to the kingdom of God and ask to learn of his ways (Micah 4:1-3) so that they also may become begotten and finally born into His kingdom as members of the ruling family of God."

Of course, the idea that Christ would come back prior to 1982 and that the punishment of modern Babylon would end in 1982 and that they would come to repentance in 1982 was clearly wrong. But at least it recognized the need for Babylon to REPENT--IF we WERE to apply Nebuchadnezzar's dream in Daniel 4 to 2,520 years of Babylonian punishment. Those who teach today that Babylon returned to power in 1982 don't even seem to recognize THAT.

We should also ask, what spectacular event occurred in 1982 which would have indicated that Babylon returned to power after 2,520 years of paralysis? As we have already seen, some of those who preach the prophetic meaning of the dream for the Babylonian system state that Pope John Paul gave a speech in 1982 encouraging Europe to discover its origins and give life to its roots. It is claimed that THIS SPEECH indicates, somehow, the return to power of modern Babylon and the beginning of the growth of the cut-down tree.

The whole concept that one can apply the "seven times" in Nebuchadnezzar's dream to "seven prophetic years" of 2,520 years seemed to have been invented by the Jehovah's Witnesses and the Watchtower Society. They claimed that the destruction of Jerusalem through Nebuchadnezzar [alleged to have occurred in 607 B.C.] began the times of the Gentiles which allegedly ended in 1914 when God allegedly reestablished His Kingdom in heaven. However, as we will show, that entire concept is biblically unconvincing.

First, we need to explain what the Bible says about the identity of modern Babylon. We need to comprehend who Babylon is. For instance, modern Babylon is not a combination of the USA and the Catholic Church, as it has been suggested, and, in passing, the modern Medes are not the Iraqis, either.

As we point out in our free booklets, ["Europe in Prophecy"](#) and ["Is That in the Bible?--The Mysteries of the Book of Revelation."](#) modern Babylon is identified in Revelation 17 as the "WOMAN riding the beast." That woman is a religious power which has been sitting on the LAST SEVEN POLITICAL AND MILITARY REVIVALS of the ancient Roman Empire. It is true that modern Babylon also describes the military and economic aspect of the Babylonian SYSTEM in Revelation 18, but the fact that the woman (the religious system) has been riding the last seven revivals of the beast (the political system) MUST NOT BE NEGLECTED. This PROVES that Babylon has not been dormant for 2,520 years. Quite to the contrary, BABYLON has been ALIVE and WELL for many centuries prior to 1982.

Note how Revelation 17 describes Babylon. In verse 3, we read that John sees in a vision "a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names of blasphemy, having SEVEN HEADS and TEN HORNS." Verse 5 explains that on the woman's forehead, the name was written:

"Mystery, Babylon the Great, The Mother of Harlots..."

That woman is further described as follows, in verse 18: "And the woman whom you saw is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth." That city is described, in verse 9, as being built on seven mountains or "hills" (compare, for example, the New International Version and the Living Bible).

Halley's Bible Handbook writes: "The description of Babylon the great... exactly fits Papal Rome." Ungers' Bible Handbook states that the woman "denotes a religious system... the woman has her headquarters in the Beast's capital, which is the seven-hilled city of Rome."

Focusing on the BEAST on which the woman sits, we learn in Revelation 17 that the seven heads of the beast are seven kings or kingdoms (verse 10). What John saw in that vision referred to a time when five of the seven kings or kingdoms had fallen, one was, and one was still to come (verse 10). When it comes, it will be ruled by the ten horns or ten kings, giving their power and authority to the beast (verses 12-13).

As we explain in our above-quoted literature, the seven heads of the beast on which the woman sits, are the seven last revivals of the ancient Roman Empire. In fact, Revelation 13 and Daniel 7 tell us that the ancient Roman Empire would be revived TEN times, but the first three revivals occurred through barbarian tribes which did not believe in the religion propagated by the woman. In fact, the woman was responsible for the demise of the rule of these barbarian tribes (the Vandals, the Heruli and the Ostrogoths). The woman did not sit on the first three revivals of the Roman Empire, but according to Revelation 17, she would and did sit on the last SEVEN of the ten revivals.

We learn from history that six of the last seven revivals have already occurred. These were revivals of political and military kingdoms cooperating with the woman--the religious power. Six of these last seven revivals have already occurred under Justinian (bringing about the Imperial Restoration of Europe, by uniting East and West Rome), Charlemagne (crowned Emperor by Pope Leo III), Otto the Great (crowned by Pope John XII), Charles V of Habsburg (crowned by Pope Clement VIII), Napoleon Bonaparte (crowned by Pope Pius VII) and Hitler/Mussolini (who worked closely together with Pope Pius XII).

For instance, under Charlemagne, the revival was called "HOLY Roman Empire," and under Otto the Great, it was called, "HOLY Roman Empire of the German Nation," indicating the RELIGIOUS and political nature of these revivals. The last and final revival of the ancient Roman Empire is happening right now in Europe.

To say that biblical Babylon was inactive for 2,520 years since its fall in 539 B.C. is historically inaccurate. In fact, going way back in history, Will Durant explained in "The Story of Civilization," that the Code of Justinian (who brought about the fourth resurrection of the Roman Empire) "enacted orthodox Christianity into law [and] acknowledged ecclesiastical leadership of the Roman Church, and ordered all Christian groups to submit to her authority."

In addition, and just focusing on modern events, it still cannot be legitimately said that the Pope's speech in 1982 signified the revival of the Babylonian system. For instance, it was as early as 1929 when the Lateran Treaties were signed between Mussolini and the Pope, establishing the Vatican

City State and the international character of the Holy See, and making Catholicism the official religion of Italy. Four years later, in 1933, Adolph Hitler signed a concordat with the Vatican, purportedly protecting the rights of the Catholic Church in Nazi Germany. Der Stern Online wrote in February of 2004 that Mussolini's and Hitler's fascist governments profited from the Lateran Treaties and the concordat, and that the Catholic Church supported the fascist propaganda.

Even when reviewing the very last and still ongoing revival of the ancient Roman Empire, the Pope's speech in 1982 was not a decisive event, either. We need to emphasize that the Common Market itself was started under the inspiration of Catholic politicians. The Telegraph wrote in 1991 that politicians "such as Adenauer of Germany, Paul-Henri Spaak, Jean Monnet and Robert Schumann... were all deeply influenced by Catholic social teaching." The Financial Times added on May 22, 1995 that the "idea of a united Europe" has been viewed as "essentially a Catholic concept." But that concept existed long before 1982. It was in 1957 that the Treaty of Rome was signed by the original six member states. It gave birth to the unification of Europe. Der Stern Online wrote that that treaty signaled the "beginning of the success story of Europe."

It should be obvious that 1982 was not a decisive year in the development of the last religious/political revival of the ancient Roman Empire. Notice, by contrast, the following years which DID represent milestones in the slow but sure unification of modern Europe. First of all, as mentioned, there is of course the signing of the Treaty of Rome in 1957, giving birth to the unification of Europe.

In addition, please note the following article, which was published in "Deutsche Welle" on June 27, 2009, celebrating the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Iron Curtain:

"On June 27 [1989,] exactly two decades ago, then Hungarian foreign minister Gyula Horn and his Austrian counterpart Alois Mock symbolically cut some barbed wire representing the Iron Curtain on the border separating their two countries. Two months later, on August 19, [1989,] some 600 East Germans escaped to the West during a picnic for peace organized at the Austro-Hungarian border during a period when the border gate opened for three hours. [The Wikipedia Encyclopedia adds that commencing with August 23, 1989, more than 13,000 East German tourists in Hungary escaped to Austria. Shortly thereafter, similar incidents occurred in neighboring Czechoslovakia.] In reality, Hungary had already begun to dismantle the Iron Curtain nearly two months earlier, on May 2, 1989."

The fall of the Iron Curtain was necessary to bring about a united Europe which would embrace eastern European nations.

The Berlin Wall fell on November 9, 1989, and Germany's reunification was formalized on October 3, 1990. Of course, a united Germany was and is necessary for a united EU.

On January 1, 1999, the euro was introduced. Newsweek wrote at the time: "The Euro will turn Europe into a superpower... Whether you love the Euro or hate it, know this; nothing so big has ever happened before." Again, a common currency was and is absolutely necessary for a powerful united Europe.

What we need to remember, then, is that Revelation 17 states that the WOMAN--BABYLON THE GREAT--sits on ALL of the seven last [political/religious] revivals of the Roman Empire. By no

stretch of the imagination can it be said, then, that Babylon had no influence on the world scene and that it was kept in chains for 2,520 years since its fall in 539 B.C., or, that the times of the Gentiles BEGAN 2,520 years after its fall; that is, in 1982.

The biblical prophecies and the historical records prove beyond the shadow of any doubt that the dream in Daniel 4 could not possibly be construed as a prophecy, stretching over 2,520 years, beginning with the fall of Babylon and an alleged revival in 1982. The dream in Daniel 4 related strictly and exclusively to the life of ancient King Nebuchadnezzar, containing the timeless message for us today that "the living may know That the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, Gives it to whomever He will, And sets over it the lowest ["basest," Authorized Version] of men" and that "those who walk in pride He is able to put down" (Daniel 4:17, 37).

For more information, you might want to view our video-recorded sermon on the topic, "[Babylon the Great.](#)"

Lead Writer: Norbert Link

Appendix: Would you please explain Nebuchadnezzar's dream, as recorded in Daniel 4?

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Much prophetic speculation has ensued pertaining to Nebuchadnezzar's dream in Daniel 4, but if we allow the Bible to interpret itself, the answer to the meaning of that dream becomes very clear. Note, first, the following highlights from that chapter. We are told that Nebuchadnezzar had a dream which made him afraid (verse 5), but none of the "wise men of Babylon" could explain the meaning of the dream. Finally, Daniel was brought before the king (verse 8). We will recall that Daniel had explained to the king his first dream about a statue, as recorded in Daniel 2.

Nebuchadnezzar described to Daniel his second dream and asked him to interpret the same for him. In the dream, Nebuchadnezzar had seen a strong tree, which was cut down, but the stump and roots in the earth would be preserved, "bound with a band of iron and bronze" (verse 15). Showing that the dream did not refer to an ordinary tree, the king continued to describe to Daniel that a watcher from heaven said: "The heart be changed from that of a man, Let him be given the heart of a beast, And let seven times pass over him" (verse 16).

Daniel proceeded to explain the meaning of the dream, as follows:

"(20) The tree that you saw, which grew and became strong... (22) It is you, O king, who have grown and become strong... (23) And inasmuch as the king saw a watcher, a holy one, coming down from heaven and saying, 'Chop down the tree and destroy it, but leave its stump and roots in the earth, bound with a band of iron and bronze in the tender grass of the field; let it be wet with the dew of heaven, and let him graze with the beasts of the field, till seven times pass over him'; (24) THIS IS THE INTERPRETATION, O KING, and this is the decree of the Most High... (25) They

shall drive you from men, your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make you eat grass like oxen. They shall wet you with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass OVER YOU, till you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses. (26) And inasmuch as they gave the command to leave the stump and roots of the tree, YOUR KINGDOM shall be assured TO YOU, AFTER YOU COME TO KNOW THAT HEAVEN RULES..."

After about twelve months, the fulfillment of the dream began to come to pass. Nebuchadnezzar, in his pride, glorified himself rather than God, and immediately, he was driven out from men to live with the beasts "for seven times," until, "at the end of the time," his understanding and his reason returned to him (verses 32, 34, 36). Nebuchadnezzar is reported as saying: "...I was restored to my kingdom, and excellent majesty was added to me. Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, all of whose works are truth, and His ways justice. And those who walk in pride He is able to put down" (Daniel 4:36-37).

Please note that this dream is strictly talking about events in Nebuchadnezzar's life. The dream referred specifically and exclusively to him--and not to anyone coming after him. Compare again Daniel 4:22, 25, 26, 32-33, 34.

This is remarkable because Nebuchadnezzar's first dream in Daniel 2 clearly is said to refer to future times and kingdoms, beginning with Nebuchadnezzar, and ending with the return of Christ. Nothing similar is remotely suggested to apply to Nebuchadnezzar's second dream in Daniel 4.

Let's notice what is said specifically in and about that dream:

(1) The Cut-Down Tree

Verse 14 tells us that the tree was to be cut down and that the beasts were commanded to flee away from under its branches. This means that the king's courtiers, officers, etc., all abandoned him as soon as his insanity appeared; and he soon fled from the society of men (compare Adam Clarke's Commentary on the Bible).

(2) The Stump and the Roots Remain

Verse 15 tells us that the stump and the roots should be left. Albert Barnes' Notes on the Bible explains:

"The word here used [for "stump"] implies that it was still alive, or that there was a germ which would send up a new shoot, so that the tree would live again. The idea is, that though the mighty tree would fall, yet there would remain vitality in the root, or the portion that would remain in the earth after the tree was cut down, and that this would spring up again - a most striking image of what would occur to Nebuchadnezzar after he should be cast down from his lofty throne, and be again restored to his reason and to power."

(3) Stump Bound With Band of Iron and Brass

We are also told, in verse 15, that the stump would be bound with "a band of iron and brass."

Barnes explains:

"This expression may be regarded as applicable either to the cut-down tree, or to the humbled monarch. If applied to the former, it would seem that the idea is, that the stump or root of a tree, deemed so valuable, would be carefully secured by an enclosure of iron or brass, either in the form of a hoop placed round the top of the stump, to preserve it from being opened or cracked by the heat of the sun, so as to admit moisture, which would rot it; or around the roots, to bind it together, with the hope that it would grow again; or it may refer to a railing or enclosure of iron or brass, to keep it from being plowed or dug up as worthless. In either case, it would be guarded with the hope that a tree so valuable might spring up again.

"If applied to the monarch - an explanation not inconsistent with the proper interpretation of the passage - it would seem to refer to some method of securing the royal maniac in bonds of iron and brass, as with the hope that his reason might still be restored, or with a view to keep him from inflicting fatal injury on himself. That the thing here referred to might be practiced in regard to a valuable tree cut down, or broken down, is by no means improbable; that it might be practiced in reference to the monarch is in accordance with the manner in which the insane have been treated in all ages and countries."

John Gill's Exposition to the Entire Bible adds:

"... the allusion is to his distracted condition afterwards related; it being usual to bind madmen with chains of iron or brass, to keep them from hurting themselves and others, as in [Mark 5:4]."

(4) Heart Changed for Seven Times

Verse 16 explains that the king's heart would be changed for seven times.

Barnes states regarding the king's changed heart:

"... some man was represented by the vision... The word heart here seems to refer to nature - 'let his nature or propensity cease to be that of a man, and become like that of a beast; let him cease to act as a man, and act as the beasts do...'"

Regarding "seven times," Barnes points out:

"The more common interpretation is what supposes that it was a year, and this will agree better with all the circumstances of the case than any other period... Josephus understands by it 'seven years'... While the Chaldee word is indeterminate in respect to the length of time, the most natural and obvious construction here and elsewhere, in the use of the word, is to refer it to years. Days or weeks would be obviously too short, and though in this place the word 'months' would perhaps embrace all that would be necessary, yet in the other places where the word occurs in Daniel it undoubtedly refers to years, and there is, therefore, a propriety in understanding it in the same manner here."

The Treasury of Scriptural Knowledge agrees, stating: "seven times: That is, seven years, a time in the prophetic language denoting a year."

The commentary of Jamieson, Fausset and Brown agrees ("times — that is, 'years.'"); and so do Gill ("seven years are meant"); and Adam Clarke's Commentary on the Bible, where we read:

"Let him continue in this state for seven years. I knew a man who was thus changed in his heart - in his imagination. He believed himself to be a bear, and would imitate the usual growl, etc.; and the case did not appear to be hypochondriacal. Whether he ever came to sound mind, I know not."

(5) The King's Restoration

After seven years of insanity, King Nebuchadnezzar became sane again and was restored to his kingdom, as was also clearly announced in the dream (verse 26).

Clarke writes:

"No new king was set up; Evil-merodach his son was regent during his father's insanity."

Gill adds:

"... another king should not be set up in his place; and though the kingdom and administration of it would depart from him for a while, yet it would be restored again, and be firm and stable..."

Verse 34 tells us that "at the end of the days," Nebuchadnezzar was restored to sanity. As Barnes explains, "That is, the time designated; to wit, the 'seven times' that were to pass over him." Gill adds that that phrase means: "Of the time fixed in the dream; that is, at the end of seven years."

(6) The Lion and the Man

Another reference to that incident is found in Daniel 7 where Daniel sees four beasts in a dream, representing four world-ruling kingdoms which would come up from the sea and arise out of the earth (verses 3, 17). The first beast was the Babylonian Empire under King Nebuchadnezzar. Verse 4 tells us that it "was like a lion, and had eagle's wings... till its wings were plucked off; and it was lifted up from the earth and made to stand on two feet like a man, and a man's heart was given to it." The reference to Nebuchadnezzar is unmistakable, who was living with the beasts for seven years--with the heart of an animal--and who was then restored by receiving again the heart of a man.

The commentary of Jamieson, Fausset and Brown explains this passage as follows:

"Nebuchadnezzar is called 'the lion' [Jeremiah 4:7]... So long as Nebuchadnezzar, in haughty pride, relied on his own strength, he forfeited the true dignity of man, and was therefore degraded to be with the beasts. [Daniel 4:16]: 'Let his heart be changed from man's, and let a beast's heart be given unto him.' But after he learned by this sore discipline that 'the Most High ruleth in the kingdom of men' [Daniel 4:35, 36], the change took place in him, 'a man's heart is given to him'; instead of his former beast's heart, he attains man's true position, namely, to be consciously dependent on God."

(7) Conclusion

It is abundantly clear from the biblical description of the dream and its interpretation, that the dream referred strictly and exclusively to the time of Nebuchadnezzar's insanity and subsequent discovery.

We are aware that some have alleged over the years that Daniel 4 would also refer to the curse or punishment of the Babylonian Empire for seven "prophetic" times or 2,520 years, beginning with the fall of Babylon in 539 B.C. They have also claimed that somehow, ancient Babylon would be restored to power after the time of its punishment, and that Christ's reference in Luke 21:24 to the fulfillment of the times of the Gentiles (see previous Q&A), would be somehow related to that punishment and/or restoration of Babylon.

However, there is no biblical support for any of these concepts. A follow-up Q&A will discuss in more detail why all of these speculations are faulty.

Lead Writer: Norbert Link

Appendix: What Are The Times Of The Gentiles?

Edited By David Smith

http://www.cognwm.org/articles/screenarticle.php?article_id=220

Saturday, August 1, 2009

When speaking of the Jews, Jesus told his disciples that "they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations, and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles until the "Times of the Gentiles be fulfilled" (Luke 21:24).

Notice that this prophecy is not speaking of a period of peace, but of war. It is a time when the Gentiles are conquering and destroying, when they are ruling themselves contrary to the way of God who is Creator and Ruler.

Remember that one of the keys to understanding this prophecy and all prophecy is duality. There is always a forerunner which is a type of another final great fulfillment. Christ was speaking of the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. by the Roman legions as a type of terrible world war prophesied to surge through our United States. Even Palestine and Jerusalem will again be trodden down by Gentile armies until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.

It is the common assumption that the times of the Gentiles are a period of blessing on the nations. It is argued that since God took away the blessing of being great and dominant from Israel and Judah and since the Gentiles for centuries have been dominant nations, that human rule is a blessing bestowed upon the Gentiles.

Nothing could be further from the truth!

Then again, many claim that the times of the Gentiles are synonymous with the times of Judah's punishment, that the Gentiles times have already ended, some say in 1914, others say in 1917 or 1936. But all these supposed dates for the ending of the times of the Gentiles are mere guesses!

The truth is that almost no one really knows what the times of the Gentiles are. And yet without an understanding of the meaning of this prophetic period you cannot grasp the real significance of present day world-shaking events or understand what's going to happen in the next several years. Let's not assume, let's study the Bible itself to see what these times really are.

Israel was promised great national blessings, including national greatness if they would obey God. But God also promised that if they obstinately refused to obey Him, if they refused to follow His laws and let Him rule their lives, then He would punish them for a period called seven times (Lev 26).

The Bible itself defines this period of seven times for us. If you turn to Revelation the 12th chapter, and compare vs. 6 and 14 you will see that the word time in prophecy simply means a year, hence seven times would be seven years or 2520 days.

Now let's notice another key. In Numbers 14:34, God said Israel would bear their iniquities in the wilderness after the number of days they searched the land of Canaan, forty days, each day for a year.

Then seven times or 2520 prophetic days would equal 2520 literal years! This period of seven times or 2520 years punishment did come upon Israel because they went their own way and would not submit to the rule of God. Israel went into captivity about 721 B.C. and did not become a great people again until their times of punishment ceased about 1800 A.D. At that time the descendants of the ancient House of Israel – America and Britain -- and the democratic peoples of the world, began to rise to such wealth and power as the world has never seen before – all because of the promises made to Abraham.

Also Palestine, after a punishment against the House of Judah, that began about 604 B.C., was brought back from the Gentile Turks in 1917 – exactly 2520 years later, when it came under the control of Great Britain, and finally the Jews.

The seven times of Israel's punishment was a period of great privation and suffering, of slavery and war, because they would not submit their wills and their ways to God, because they would not allow Him to rule their lives by His perfect laws, which could have brought them peace and prosperity and dominion.

Now that we understand the seven times punishment on Israel, let's understand the meaning of the times of the Gentiles.

The original prophecy to which Jesus had reference is found in the 4th chapter of Daniel. Christ understood that this prophetic vision of the great tree had reference to the times of the Gentiles as well as to Nebuchadnezzar's literal punishment.

Notice Daniel 4:17. This striking vision was not only to teach Nebuchadnezzar that God rules, but it is also "to the intent that the living may know that the most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whom he will and sets over it the basest of men."

So the Bible itself interprets this prophecy to have reference not only to the king of Babylon in that day, but also to teach the living – yes, all of the nations today that God is Supreme Ruler. Notice verses 20 and 22 of Daniel 4. The great tree represented the king. And what was to happen to him? "Let his heart be changed from man's and let a beast's heart be given him; and let seven times pass over him" (v. 16).

The king was to lose his understanding, to be cursed with insanity, he was to act and think like a wild ravenous beast, until he learned that the Creator rules over the affairs of men, till he learned that the only way to peace and security is through submission to the rule and laws of God instead of yielding to lust and human pride.

But the world and its leaders have not yet learned this needed lesson. The nations today still devour one another in war like wild beasts as they struggle to gain world conquest.

Most of the misunderstanding about this important prophecy results from not realizing that the seven literal times or years that passed over King Nebuchadnezzar were a type of the seven prophetic times of punishment upon the Gentiles.

Now turn to Daniel 2:38-39 where this is clearly explained. The king saw a great image composed of different metals and clay. The head of this image represents the kingdom of Babylon. Daniel tells King Nebuchadnezzar, "Thou art the head of gold. And after thee shall arise another kingdom."

The divisions of the great image represented various kingdoms of the Babylonish system. Yet Daniel designated the first kingdom by its supreme dictatorial king Nebuchadnezzar. The king, then, was a type of the kingdom of Babylon, because he had absolute power. Also by comparing Daniel 7:17,23 you will see that king and kingdom are used synonymously.

Remember that one of the punishments on the king was that his heart should be changed "from man's, and let a wild animal's heart be given him."

Have you ever noticed that Babylon, after it ceased conquering and when God began to deal with its leaders, was also given the heart of a man? Read Daniel 7:4. It stood "upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it."

Now let's notice what happened. King Nebuchadnezzar had the heart of a man but because of his sins he was afterward punished seven literal years. The ancient Chaldean kingdom had the heart of a man – it ceased to attack, conquer and destroy other nations, but because Babylon continued to sin and live contrary to God's ways it was punished for seven prophetic years or 2520 years.

Notice how the type is being fulfilled in the antitype. King Nebuchadnezzar because of his stubborn refusal to submit to the rule of God, the only way that would have brought him peace of mind and satisfaction was punished seven years by having his mind changed to that of a wild animal, until he learned that God ruled. He was dethroned and lived among the wild beasts.

In like manner, the Chaldean Empire of which he was a type was defeated and its dominion was taken from it. But just as Nebuchadnezzar continued to live like a wild beast, so the Babylonish system has continued with leaders having the minds of wild beasts. The Persians, Greeks, Romans – Europeans even to the days of Hitler and Mussolini have all been cursed with leaders who think and act like wild animals, leaders who glory in war and conquest. (Today, for the first time in the history of Israel (United States of America) a Gentile will sit on the throne of Israel.

Not one of the beasts, which followed the Chaldean Empire as described in Daniel 7, was given a man's heart. They all were like ferocious wild animals, conquering, pillaging, and destroying one another by intrigue, and alliances and war.

Nebuchadnezzar was forced to live among the wild beasts just as the successor nations of the Babylonish system have had to fight and struggle constantly against other Gentile nations who are also cursed with the same mind, the same desires to conquer and rule the world. That is why the Babylonish system under Hitler and Mussolini struggled against Russia. The leaders of Russia think and act like cunning wild beasts.

The ancient Chaldean Empire would not submit to God's rule and ways but wanted to rule its own way, the greatest curse that could happen to any nation. As a punishment God has allowed even to this very day the Gentile nations to rule themselves until they learn that only His ways are right and that He rules in the kingdoms of men. Just as Nebuchadnezzar finally regained his right mind and acknowledged God's authority, so the Gentile nations when their punishment is over, will come up to the kingdom of God and ask to learn of his way (Micah 4:1-3) so that they also may become begotten and finally born into His kingdom as members of the ruling Family of God.

Notice how present day events are explained by this prophecy. "All nations have been made drunk with the false teachings of the Babylonish system that has gripped this world for thousands of years until this world has become so confused and divided that people don't know which way to turn "(Rev. 18:3).

The return of Jesus Christ is getting closer all the time, but many catastrophic world events are going to happen between now and the time that this punishment upon the Gentiles is finished! These terrifying world-shaking events could possibly take place in our life time, this very last generation that may live in two worlds!

Remember what Jesus said in Luke 21:24? That Jerusalem would be trodden down of the Gentiles until the very completion of the times of the Gentiles! Since Zech. 14:1-3 shows that Jesus Christ will return in order to deliver Jerusalem from the Gentiles, it is plain that the 2nd coming of Christ will occur shortly before the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled! (Isa. 27:13; I Corth. 15:52.

As Christ said, of the second coming, "But of that day, and hour, knows no man!" But today's world-occurrences warn us that even now, it is near! Yes, it's later than you think!