

THE EMPIRES REFERRED IN DANIEL (Daniel 2, 7)

The Babylonian Empire – Iraq

The Medo-Persia Empire –Iran

The Hellenistic Empire -- -Greece

The Fourth Empire – Empire of Imperialism

A. The United Stage – the Roman Empire

B. the Divided Stage- the East-West balance of power

C. the One world Government Stage

D.The anti-Christ Stage – absolute imperialism

BABYLON

Founded by Nimrod, the great-grandson of Noah, Babylon is the originator of idolatry and of spiritual fornication. Its history leads us to believe that this city is more than just a Chaldean Empire, superbly constructed with hanging gardens, one of the Seven Wonders of the World today, with the tower of Babel, with its temples of worship and much more.

Babylon in its final form **represents** the great religio-political system of the last days. The doom of the ancient Babylon foreshadows the doom of “Babylon the Great, the mother of harlots and abominations of the earth” (Rev. 17:5).

Nebuchadnezzar was not only an historical figure, but he was also the exponent of the ungodly world leader at the end of the age. He represents the anti-Christ. The spirit of Babylonianism has never changed, nor will it ever change. It has followed a pattern from its inception beginning with Nimrod and it will continue to live on until the return of our Lord Jesus Christ.

There is a close parallel between Daniel three and Revelation thirteenth; in both chapters there is a ruling despot and an image to be worshiped. Like Nebuchadnezzar’s image, the image of the end time will be the object of wonder

and veneration throughout the world (Revelation 13). However, those who wouldn't bow down and worship the image will be put to death (Rev. 13:15), just as we read in Daniel 3:5 through the lives of Daniel's friends, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego. These three Hebrew young men are a type of the children of Israel who will be preserved in the great tribulation- the remnant. (Strauss)

The phrase, "Babylon has fallen, has fallen" is found once in the Old Testament in Isaiah 21:9, and twice in the New Testament in Revelation 14:8 and 18:2. This due to the fact that Babylon fell in 539 BC, and that Babylon the Great, the future city and world religious system, will fall at the end of days. (D.Fynn)

The tower of Babel stands in rebellion against God from the time when they decided to build a city and a tower whose top reached the sky, opposing what God had told them to do: "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth".

The fourth Empire, which is diverse from all the others, goes through five different stages. What makes the fourth empire beginning with Rome different from all the previous empires? Roman was a government of imperialism. Rome then was merely the first of five stages of the Fourth Empire of Imperialism.

Rome was part of the united stage, which lasted from 63 BC – A.D 364. In 364 A.D Rome was divided into an East and West division. The Western Roman Empire headquartered in Rome and the Eastern Roman Empire in Constantinople.

When the eastern division fell, the political rulers, scribes, and scholar fled northward into Russia and infiltrated the government there, setting up a Roman type of government (imperialism). They called them Czars, which is Russian for Caesar. After a while Russia gave herself the official title of the Third Roman Empire. After the collapse of European Communism, the eastern balance of power shifted to Russia and the Commonwealth of Independent States.

When the western division of power fell, from there it shifted to France. There it was called the Holy Roman Empire of the Frankish Nation. However, over a

hundred years later, Otto I of Germany defeated the Franks and set up the Holy Roman Empire of the German leaders named themselves Kaisers, which is German for Caesar. Since then, in 364 the two division stage began and continues to the present day. This balance of power will continue until it gives to the third stage, which is the One World Order.

One World Order is the next stage that the world will face. This fourth Empire will at some time control the whole world and it will devour it (Daniel 7:23). If literal interpretation is maintained, then the fourth Empire of Imperialism is yet to control the whole world in the formation of a one-world government.

Rome is the focus of the end time force of world spirituality, for the future leader in the person of the anti-Christ, will come from there. Rome existed as an empire during Christ's first advent and will exist again at Christ's Second Advent. It was the spiritual and political authority of the world during Christ's death and resurrection.

The anti-Christ, according to Daniel 9:27, is to come from the Roman Empire. Since the anti-Christ is to be a counterfeit son, he too will have both a natural and a supernatural origin by means of a counterfeit virgin conception. His supernatural origin is to be found in Genesis 3:15: And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed: he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel. This satanic enmity with woman can be seen to play itself out in the account of Genesis six, where he had some of his demons intermarry with human women for the purpose of perverting womankind in an attempt to nullify the messianic prophecy found in this verse, the seed of the woman- Christ shall bruise your head, (the head of Satan). The enmity against the Seed of the woman comes from the seed of Satan. If the Seed of woman is Messiah, the seed of Satan can only be the anti-Christ. From this passage we deduce that Satan will counterfeit the virgin conception and will someday impregnate a Roman woman who will give birth to Satan's seed, who is going to be the anti-Christ. Another passage dealing with this is II Thessalonians 2:9: Even he, whose coming is according to the working of Satan with all power and signs

and lying wonders.... As to his natural origin, his mother will be a woman of Roman nationality.