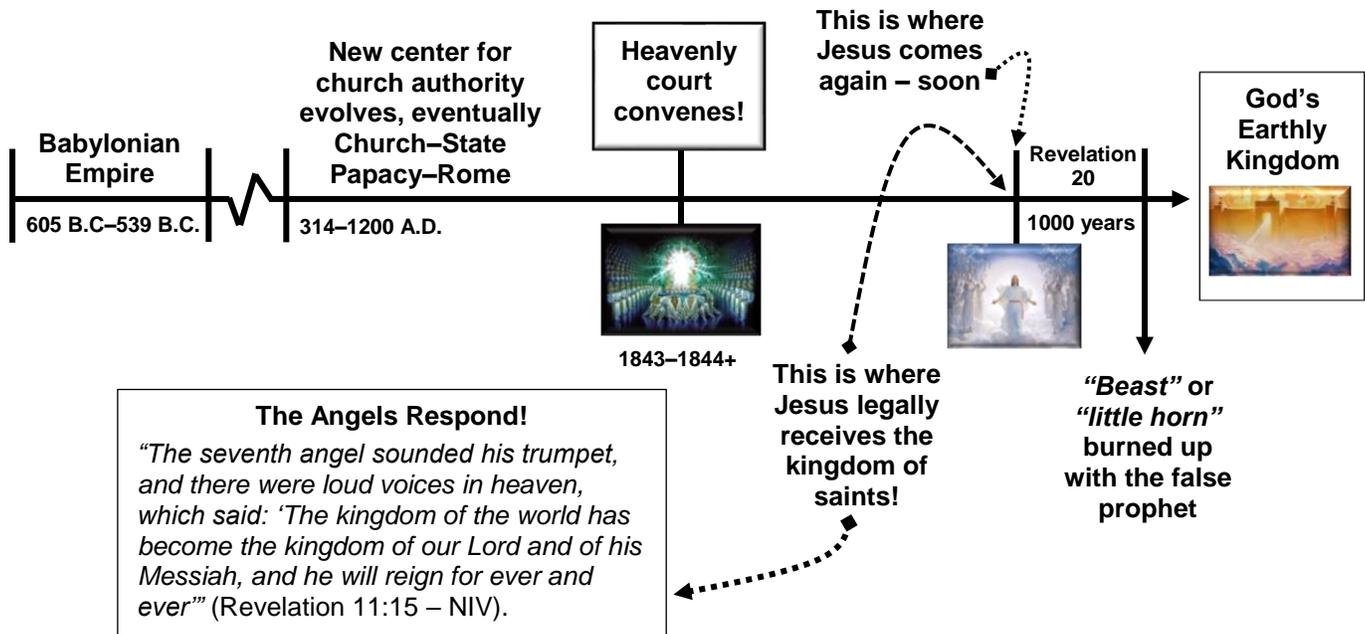


Prophetic Evolution – In the Book of Daniel

Paul tells us about this time: “According to the Lord’s word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. **And so we will be with the Lord forever**” (I Thessalonians 4:15-17 – NIV).



Now we can add wonderful information to our graph:



Serious questions:

- “If Jesus is coming soon, does that mean the kingdom will be made up even before then?” That’s what the Bible says.
- “How much before?” We aren’t sure – but we have many reasons to believe that that judicial process is now underway!

- We are told that the judgment of the living begins shortly before that last three and a half years begins (Revelation 11:1-2) – likely only a few months.

The sad words penned by Jeremiah should be the dread of everyone: *“The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved”* (Jeremiah 8:20).

To this point Daniel has taken us through this period:

Babylonian Empire —————> 1843 —————> 1000 years —————> God’s Final Earthly Kingdom
1844+

Daniel has another prophecy that is stunning. It addresses the last three and a half years just before Jesus comes. That is so important that most of the Book of Revelation fits into that short space of time.

- Our study of the evolution of prophecy in Daniel wouldn’t be complete unless we visited that story.
- It is found within Daniel 8 to 12.
- Since it unfolds deeper insights for our day, we look carefully at it.

When Gabriel and Jesus talk about “The Time of the End” (Daniel 8):

Daniel had been in Babylon 55 years when God gave him another “animal” vision. Many significant symbols were introduced that clearly appeal to our time.

The seer found himself in Shushan (the city that would later be famous for Queen Esther) by the river Ulai that flowed along its northeastern side. He was in or by its great palace (Daniel 8:2). ***This is most interesting – because:***

- Shushan or Susa did not exist at that time.
- It was destroyed by the last great Assyrian King Ashurbanipal around 649 B.C. It wouldn’t be rebuilt until 521 B.C. under Darius the Great.
- This means that Daniel’s vision has either a spiritual meaning or some future meaning – or perhaps both!

Here is what Daniel then observed:

“Then I lifted up mine eyes, and saw, and, behold, there stood before the river a ram which had two horns: and the two horns were high; but one was higher than the other, and the higher came up last. I saw the ram pushing westward, and northward, and southward; so that no beasts might stand before him, neither was there any that could deliver out of his hand; but he did according to his will, and became great” (Daniel 8:4 – KJV).

Gabriel later tells Daniel that this ram represented Medo-Persia (Daniel 8:20).

- That means, by the historic sequence we already know, that Babylon has fallen (a familiar note in Revelation 14 and 18)!

- What was a “bear” in Daniel 7 is now a “ram” here in Daniel 8! What is going on? ***There must be a new meaning or prophecy unfolding!***

Horns give power to the beast they are on; here, the greater of the two horns comes up last.

- We must discover what two powers help this ram.
- It is coming out of the east – the direction of deliverance – the direction that Jesus will come from when He returns to earth (implied in Matthew 24:27).

Let’s fill in some details! Cyrus the Great was the Medo-Persian general who brought down Babylon in 539 B.C. ***Here’s what is stunning:***

Long before he was born God told Isaiah (~690 B.C.) Cyrus’ name **AND** that he would be the king to free Daniel’s people from Babylon.



Cyrus was to be so important to God that He gave him divine epithets:

<u>Cyrus</u> (Isaiah 44:28)	<u>Jesus Would Become</u>
1. My shepherd (Isaiah 44:28)	The good shepherd (John 10:11)
2. His anointed (Isaiah 45:1)	God’s anointed (Acts 10:38)
3. Came from the east (Isaiah 46:11)	Will come from the east (Matt 24:27)
4. Set the captives free (Isaiah 45:13)	Deliverance to captives (Luke 4:16)
5. Raised up in righteousness (Isaiah 45:13)	The Righteousness (I John 2:1)

We have moved from secular/religious meaning of those nations to something deeply spiritual. When Daniel said, I “*lifted up my eyes,*” it is a saying (an idiom) that he would discover a Ram Messiah (like Abraham did on Mt. Moriah with his son Isaac). This Medo-Persia, Cyrus, ram represents “Ram Jesus.” Riveting this deeper comes this wonderful thought:

“While I, Daniel, was watching the vision, I sought to understand it. Now one who appeared to be a man was standing before me. Then I heard a human voice coming from between the banks of the Ulai. It called out, ‘Gabriel, enable this person to understand the vision’” (Daniel 8:16 – NET).



Whoever this “man” is with the voice from the middle of the Ulai River, He is superior to Gabriel because He is giving him direction. This represents, again, Jesus.

In Revelation 17:15 we are told that water (not the sea) represents people, nations, languages, etc. This Ulai represents some group of people that He wants to address with this prophecy information! Could it be us?

The two horns represent two groups of people who give power to the mission of Ram Jesus. This beautiful beginning suddenly changes!

Daniel now sees a horrifying scene:



“While I was contemplating all this, a male goat was coming from the west over the surface of all the land without touching the ground. This goat had a conspicuous horn between its eyes. It came to the two-horned ram that I had seen standing beside the canal and rushed against it with raging strength. I saw it approaching the ram. It went into a fit of rage against the ram and struck it and broke off its two horns. The ram had no ability to resist it. The goat hurled the ram to the ground and trampled it. No one could deliver the ram from its power. The goat became very great, but at the height of its power the large horn was broken off, and in its place four prominent horns grew up toward the four winds of heaven” (Daniel 8:5-8 – NIV).



The Hebrew in this chapter says that this goat is a “*rough he-goat*.” That is a Hebraic symbol for Satan. Gabriel later says that it represents the next kingdom, Greece (Daniel 8:21).

Historically , its initial single horn would be Alexander the Great. But there has to be another meaning in this chapter. Recall: he wanted to be like God. In Daniel 7 Greece was a leopard. In Revelation 13:1 the antichrist sea beast was like a leopard! Interesting!

What single horn entity have we seen in a previous prophecy that acted like Satan? The papal antichrist. Here that horn is broken and four arise in its place. ***This has profound significance!***

Before we can describe all of these symbols, we must take a leap forward to other verses right here in Daniel 8, so we don’t get stuck in the past!

“So he [Gabriel] approached the place where I was standing. As he came, I felt terrified and fell flat on the ground. Then he said to me, ‘Understand, son of man, that the vision pertains to the time of the end’ Then he said, ‘I am going to inform you about what will happen in the latter time of wrath, for the vision pertains to the appointed time of the end” (Daniel 8:17, 19 – NET).

Those verses are filled with amazing information. Even before Gabriel said that the ram and the rough he-goat represented those nations (Medo-Persia and Greece – verses 20-21), he told Daniel that this prophecy was for the “*time of the end*,” called an “*appointed time*.” Even that might be understood in various ways with one exception – the little phrase “*latter time of wrath*.”

- “*Latter time*” is *acharith* in Hebrew and is associated with Christ’s Second Coming.
- The Hebrew word for “*wrath*” is *zaam*. With minor exceptions, it refers to God’s wrath.
- That is clearly explained in Revelation 14 to 16 just before He comes again!
- Two example verses:
 1. “*That person will also drink of the wine of **God’s anger** that has been mixed undiluted in the **cup of his wrath**, and he will be tortured with fire and sulfur in front of the holy angels and in front of the Lamb*” (Revelation 14:10 – NET). In verses 15 and 16 He is coming for the harvest of souls.
 2. “*Then I saw another great and astounding sign in heaven: seven angels who have seven final plagues (they are final because in them **God’s anger is completed**)*” (Revelation 15:1 – NET).



This conflict between the ram, Jesus, and the rough he-goat, Satan, here in Daniel 8 introduces a prophecy of the final standoff between Christ and Satan just before Jesus returns. This occurs at the “time of the end,” when God begins to vindicate His law, His people and Himself.

Is there more information in Daniel regarding this “time of the end” or “appointed time?” Yes – here it is:

- At an “*appointed time*” the “*vile person*” will make his debut once again (Daniel 11:29).
- At the “*time of the end*” at the “*appointed time*” God’s people will be purified and made spotless (Daniel 11:35 – NIV).
- At the “*time of the end*” the “*king of the north*” (the papacy) will engage militarily the “*king of the south*” (Islam) (Daniel 11:40).
- When the “*king of the north*” comes to his end (Daniel 11:45), Michael stands up, God’s people are delivered and a special resurrection occurs (Daniel 12:1-2).
- All these things will be completed in a three-and-a-half year period (Daniel 12:7) that Jesus said wouldn’t be understood until the “*time of the end.*” The word in that verse for “*time*” is *moed*, meaning a special “set aside time.” Interesting – that is the same word used for the “*appointed time*”!

Now we have been given amazing insight as to why there were two applications for the first two nation prophecies in Daniel!

1. In Nebuchadnezzar’s great image, the nations came onto the scene sequentially. But when the stone hit its feet, ***all the nations*** came down at once

(Daniel 2:34-35, 44). There would be at the end of time a *final “nation” application*.

2. When the animal/nation prophecy that Daniel saw ended, he was told that those nations would “*live on,*” meaning that another fulfillment would occur later (Daniel 7:12).

This study in Daniel 8 of the ram and the he-goat is the introduction of that *final application* when those *nations* are used as *spiritual metaphors*.

At the “*time of the end*” we can now see:

- Babylon has fallen – it is not in this prophecy
 - Medo-Persia (Christ) and Greece (Satan) war
- } All related to the “*time of the end*”!

But – where is Rome? Or where is that sequenced Roman papal power in Daniel 8?

God’s End-Time Prophecy of “Rome”

Recall that the great horn of the Greek rough he-goat was broken. Though this literally represents Alexander the Great historically, it represents the papacy as a force supporting Satan in the end. When was it broken?

- Pepin the Short became king of the Franks (later France) in 751 A.D. until his death in 768.
- In 754 and 756 he led an army into Italy to defeat the Lombards, who had taken over land that would later become northern Italy.
- Because of a special friendship Pepin had with the bishop of Rome (“Pope” Zachary) and his successor (“Pope” Stephen II), he donated much of that conquered area to the Roman Church. It became known as “**The Papal States.**”

That is truly when the papacy became a church and state power. That would bring authority to the Church as never before. This would remain, with minor periods of time, until 1870, when the newly formed government/state of Italy would conquer and take those Papal States and then, finally, Rome from the Church.



- Suddenly, in 1870, that Church was without a state.
- The “*horn*” of the Roman beast was broken – the beast was wounded.
- Revelation 13:17 says that that “*deadly wound*” would be healed!

Daniel 8 says, however, that four horns came up in its place. What might that mean?

These would be “*horns*” or powers that would serve Satan’s agenda at the end of time!

1. The papacy as a church–state rose again in 1929 with the Lateran Treaty.
2. Islam rose throughout the world after the fall of the Ottoman Empire. It began to aggressively grow after the fall of the Shah of Iran in 1979. Today (2019) one out of every five individuals in the world follows Islam.
3. Mysticism rose and became a major force along with Theosophy by the end of the nineteenth century. Moving this into the limelight was Helena Blavatsky, when she published *The Secret Doctrine* in 1888.
4. Apostate Protestantism began to take on a new face in the 1800's with John Darby's *Dispensationalism*. It was adopted, modified, and made popular in the United States by C. I. Scofield's *Reference Bible* and morphed into what is seen as the Evangelical Movement in America.

Daniel 8 has another drama that unfolds related to this “time of the end.”

The Second Rise of the Little Horn (Number 1 above in 1929)

Though four powers or horns will support what Satan wants as we approach the end, God wants us to place a special focus on one of those horns He calls, once again, a “*little horn*.” That is why Daniel 8:9-12 speaks about this power, and Gabriel, later yet, calls him a “*king*” (Daniel 8:23). Then this angel details this “*king*” in Daniel 11 as a “*vile person*” who become the “*king of the north*” (11:40). In Revelation John records this power:

- As a sea beast (Revelation 13).
- As a beast (Revelation 11:7, 17:3)
- As a harlot on a beast (Revelation 17:3)

This is stunning prophecy where God wants us to recognize ***this power that is*** at variance with His Word and His will. In fact, John notes in Revelation 17 that the seven-headed beast is associated with seven hills. That is a clue that this Church/power is in the “City of the Seven Hills” or Rome. The main focus at the “*time of the end*” is on the second rise of papal Rome.

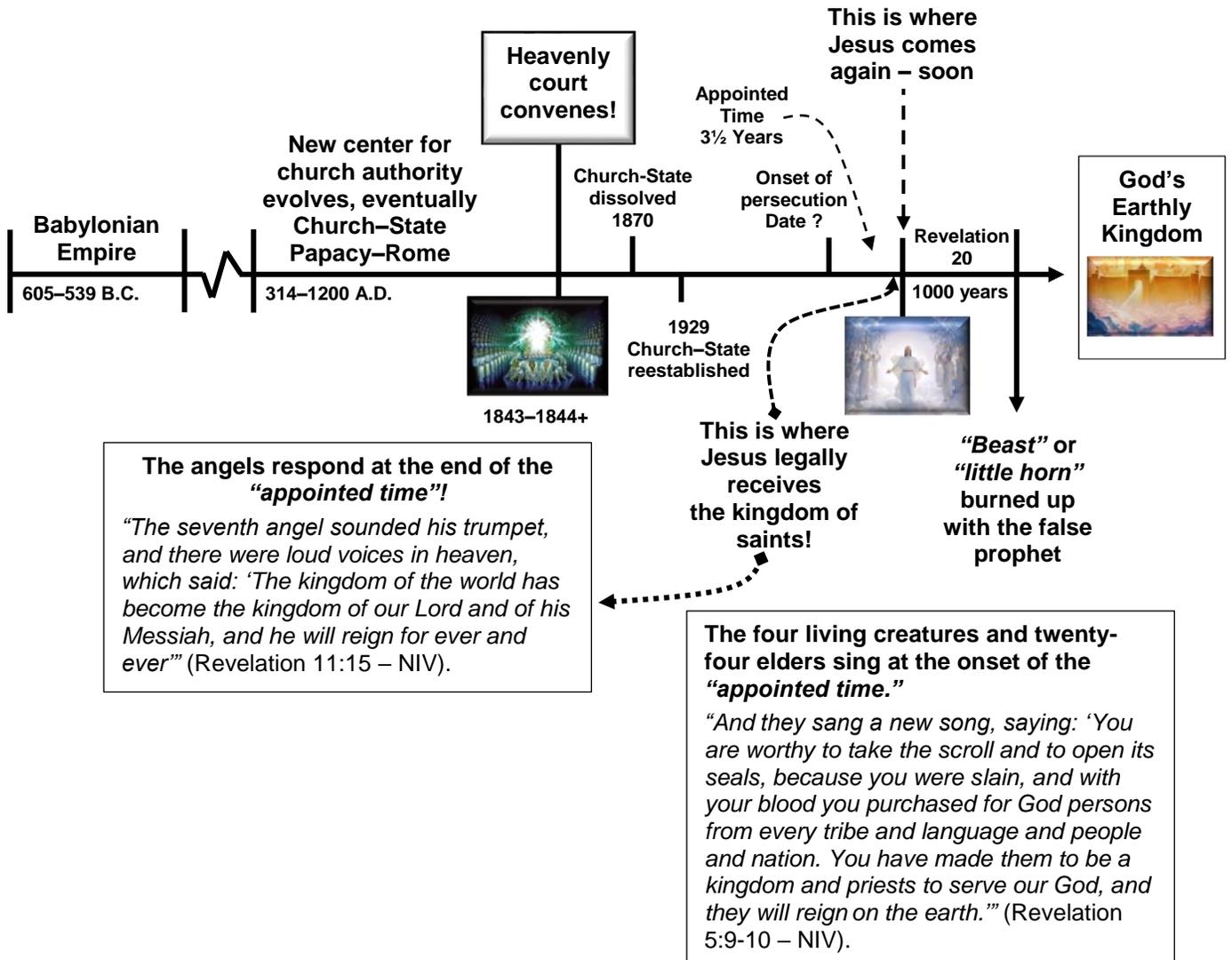
“Show what the Word of God declares is to take place on this earth. ***The God who gave Daniel instruction regarding the closing scenes of this earth’s history*** will certainly confirm the testimony of His servants as at the appointed time they give the loud cry.”¹

“Then Daniel will stand in his lot, to give his testimony. The attention of our churches must be aroused. We are standing upon the borders of the greatest event in the world’s history, and Satan must not have power over the people of God, causing them to sleep on. ***The papacy will appear in its power.*** All must now

¹ *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 21, p. 436 (emphasis added).

arouse and search the Scriptures, for God will make known to His faithful ones what shall be in the last time. The word of the Lord is to come to His people in power.²

We now finalize our Daniel graph:



Revelation Centers on the Final Rise of the Papacy

This begins with a focus on the pale horse (Revelation 6:7-8) then jumps from a timing narrative to Revelation 16 and 17.

- A harlot (apostate church) is riding on a beast (a nation/kingdom) and her name is Babylon, a "mother of harlots."
- This prophetic story is divided into three parts: (1) Its rise in 1929 when its church and state rule was restored, followed by seven heads/popes. Of prophetic significance is the sixth head, Pope John Paul II. It is when his tenure began that

² Manuscript Releases, vol. 21, p. 437 (emphasis added).

a major focus on end-time prophecy was to begin (1978). (2) a waiting period when the world begins to focus on Rome and its leader (where we are now!). (3) A time that is alluded to in Revelation 13 that lasts forty-two months (Revelation 13:5) – the narrative of the sea beast. This will be a very difficult time for God’s people!

“The spirit of persecution manifested by paganism and the papacy is ***again to be revealed***. Prophecy declares that this power will say ‘to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast’ [Revelation 13:14.] The image is made to the first or leopard-like beast, which is the one brought to view in the third angel’s message. By ***this first beast is represented the Roman Church***, an ecclesiastical body clothed with civil power, having authority to punish all dissenters. The image to the beast represents another religious body clothed with similar power. The formation of this image is the work of that beast whose peaceful rise and mild professions render it so striking a symbol of the United States. Here is to be found an image of the papacy. When the churches of our land, uniting upon such points of faith as are held by them in common, shall influence the State to enforce their decrees and sustain their institutions, then will Protestant America have formed an image of the Roman hierarchy. Then the true church will be assailed by persecution, as were God’s ancient people.... Persecution always follows religious favoritism on the part of secular governments.”³

³ *Spirit of Prophecy*, vol. 4, p. 277 (emphasis added).

Graph Summarizing this Antichrist Power in Revelation:

The Three Beast Prophecies of Revelation

