

The Ten Toes, Ten Horns, and Ten Kings

Study Guide - The Adventist Watchman

As a youth growing up in the Seventh-day Adventist Church, I was traditionally taught that the Ten Toes on Nebuchadnezzar's Image, the Ten Horns that arose before the Little Horn, and the Ten Kings of Revelation represented ten Germanic Tribes. If you are unfamiliar with these Germanic tribes and need a basic understanding of who they are and how they are interpreted as part of Bible prophecy, I hope this brief explanation will suffice:

Somewhere around the fifth century, the Roman Empire was bombarded by tribes of individuals living north of its borders. The reason for this bombardment was due to an Asiatic tribe called the Huns. The Huns began attacking the other northern tribes and forced them to flood into the Roman Empire seeking shelter. Eventually, these tribes would cause the downfall of the Western Roman Empire, which most historians date approximately 476 AD. However, the Eastern Roman Empire, also known as the Byzantine Empire, would continue for approximately a thousand years afterward.

Most Seventh-day Adventists believe that ten of these tribes represent the Ten Toes on Daniels' statue, the Ten Horns before the Little Horn, and the Ten Kings at the end of the world. According to Uriah Smith's Daniel and Revelation book (DAR), These ten tribes were the "*Huns, Ostrogoths, Visigoths, Franks, Vandals, Suevi, Burgundians, Heruli, Anglo-Saxons, and Lombards.*" DAR 59

However, if you study the history of this theory, you will discover that even non-Adventist Christians have also historically believed that these Ten Horns represent ten Germanic tribes.

For example, on page 98, of EB Elliot's book, *Horae Apocalypticae*, he says the Ten Horns were the "*Anglo Saxons, the Franks, Allemans, Burgundians, Visigoths, Suevi, Vandals, Heruli, Bavarians, and Ostrogoths.*"

On pages 5-6 in Nicco Macavelli's book, *The History of Florence*, he says that the Ten Horns consisted of "*Zeno, reigning in Constantinople, commanded the whole eastern empire; the Ostrogoths, ruled Mesia and Pannonia; the Visigoths, Suavi, and Alans held Gascony and Spain; The Vandals, Africa, the Franks and Burgundians, France; and the Eruli and Turingi, Italy.*"

So who are the Ten Horns? It Depends on which Bible scholar you ask! As Seventh-day Adventists, Uriah Smith's view of the Ten Horns is a view that is widely accepted in our denomination. However, after closely studying the prophecies of Daniel, I now see these ten components in a whole new light. If you recall, in our study on the Seven Heads, we discovered that these heads were seven governments of the following world powers:

- 1). Egypt
- 2). Assyria

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3). Babylon

4). Medo-Persia

5). Greece

6). Pagan Rome

7). Papal Rome

Now, think about this: If these Seven Heads represented seven governments, then the Ten Horns are likely the kingships of these governments who ruled prior to the Roman Empire. And those ten kingships were:

1). The Egyptian Kingship

2). The Assyrian Kingship

3). The Babylonian Kingship

4.) The Median Kingship

5). The Persian Kingship

6). The Greek Kingship (Alexander the Great)

7). The Macedonian Kingship

8). The Asia Minor Kingship

9). The Seleucid Kingship

10). The Ptolemaic Kingship

In other words, the seven heads and the Ten Horns refer to the same entities—one refers to the governments of those powers who ruled the known world, and the other refers to the lineage of monarchs who ruled those governments.

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The Ten Toes in Daniel 7 and 8

As I began studying the prophecies relating to the Ten Horns, I realized that our misinterpretation of the Ten Horns originates from a misapplication of the Little Horn in Daniel 7. What misapplication you ask? The misapplication that interprets the Little Horn in Daniel 7 as the Papacy *only*, and the Little Horn in Daniel 8 as both the Pagan and Papal phases of the Roman Empire.

Uriah Smith perfectly highlights this subtle difference:

Regarding the Little Horn in Daniel 7, he says, "***This little horn, as we shall have occasion to notice more fully hereafter, was the papacy. The three horns plucked up before it were the Heruli, the Ostrogoths, and the Vandals. And the reason why they were plucked up was because they were opposed to the arrogant claims of the papal hierarchy, and hence to the supremacy in the church of the bishop of Rome.***" DAR 118

Now, watch how Smith interprets the Little Horn in Daniel 8: "***This little horn must be understood to symbolize Rome in its entire history including its two phases, pagan and papal.***" DAR 176

Uriah Smith and Ellen White both wrote that the Little Horn in Daniel 7 is the Papacy. Please be advised, that I'm not disputing that fact; however, you must understand that the Little Horn in Daniel 7 is not just the Papacy; it's the Papacy *and* Pagan Rome. Nevertheless, it's not enough for me to just tell you, I need to prove it to you.

Notice how the Ten Horns and the Little Horn are introduced in Daniel 7:
"After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns. I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things." **Daniel 7:7-8**

As Seventh-day Adventists, we are taught that the Little Horn (Papacy) destroyed three of the Germanic Tribes. And according to Uriah Smith, here's how the Papacy destroyed them:

Heruli

"Zeno, the emperor of the East, and friend of the pope, was anxious to drive Odoacer out of Italy...Theodoric had come to the throne of the Ostrogothic kingdom. Zeno gave him

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permission to march against Odoacer, and take possession of Italy. Accordingly, after a three years' war, the Herulian kingdom in Italy was overthrown." DAR 132

Vandals

"While the Catholics were thus feeling the restraining power of an Arian king in Italy, they were suffering a violent persecution from the Arian Vandals in Africa...Such was the position of affairs, when, in 533, Justinian entered upon his Vandal and Gothic wars. Wishing to secure the influence of the pope and the Catholic party, he issued that memorable decree which was to constitute the pope the head of all the churches.... But no decree of this nature could be carried into effect until the Arian horns which stood in its way, were plucked up. The Vandals fell before the victorious arms of Belisarius in 534." Dar 134-135

Ostrogoths

"The edict of the emperor Justinian, dated A. D. 533, made the bishop of Rome the head of all the churches. But this edict could not go into effect until the Arian Ostrogoths, the last of the three horns that were plucked up to make room for the papacy, were driven from Rome; and this was not accomplished, as already shown, till A. D. 538." DAR 141

Problems with Uriah Smith's view of the three plucked-up horns.

So essentially Uriah Smith suggests that out of the Ten Horns, the Papacy destroyed the three that were opposed to its doctrines. These three were the Heruli in 493, the Vandals in 534, and the Ostrogoths in 538.

This interpretation is believed by most Seventh-day Adventists. You'll hear this in our Daniel and Revelation seminars and read this interpretation in many of our prophecy books. This is the view that I have believed, taught, and even argued for in the past. However, once I began fasting and praying for a better understanding of prophecy, it was then that I began to see that the three plucked-up horns CANNOT be the Heruli, Vandals, and Ostrogoths. Let me show you why I came to this conclusion:

Reason 1: The Papacy did not subdue these three kingdoms

According to Dan 7:24, "*...the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall SUBDUE three kings.*"

Let me ask you a question. Was there anything in the above three excerpts from Uriah Smith's book that remotely suggests that the Papacy was the entity that subdued these three nations? It is true that the Ostrogoths and Vandals were destroyed by Justinian who wanted to relieve the Catholics, but his main motivation was the reconquest of the

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territories being occupied by the Germanic tribes. And even if his only motivation was to relieve the Catholics, our traditional view of the Little Horn prohibits us from assigning the Little Horn symbol to any other entities, including the Emperor of Rome.

Then Uriah Smith says the Heruli were destroyed by a friend of a friend of the Pope, who was actually the ruler of another Germanic tribe. Think about it! Emperor Zeno gave Theodoric permission to march against Odoacer but because Theodoric was given permission by Zeno, who was friends with the Pope, this is proof the Papacy subdued the Heruli. Just read the text, and you will see that the first problem with our interpretation is that the Papacy did NOT subdue any of these kingdoms.

Reason 2: These three kingdoms fell before the Papacy was established.

According to Uriah Smith and Ellen White, the Papacy was established in 538 AD. If the Little Horn represented the Papacy, which arose to supremacy in 538, how can the Papacy be behind the destruction of the Heruli in 493, and the Vandals in 533? Now do you see why this interpretation is problematic? And that's why you must understand that the Ten Horns on the Beast represent the ten kingdoms that consecutively ruled the world before the Roman Empire.

The Ten Horns and the Little Horn in Daniel 8

Once you become open to the reality of this new view of the Ten Horns, you will see that Daniel 8 tells us exactly who the Ten Horns are. Notice Daniel 8:20 says, "*The ram which thou sawest having **two horns** are the kings of Media and Persia.*"

Ask yourself this question. Why are we ignoring the Bible when it clearly identifies two horns out of the ten? But it doesn't stop there. Notice what the next verse says: "*And the rough goat is the king of Grecia: and the great **horn** that is between his eyes is the first king.*"

Daniel 8:21

But there's more. Verse 22 says, "*Now that being broken, whereas **four** [horns] stood up for it, four kingdoms shall stand up out of the nation.*" **Daniel 8:22**

And we should know that these four horns were the four divisions of Alexanders divided kingdom: Macedonia, Asia Minor, the Ptolemaic Empire, and the Seleucid Empire.

Do you see it? Daniel 8 has already mapped out seven of the Ten Horns for us.

1. The kings of Media (vs. 20)
2. The kings of Persia (vs. 20)

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3. The king of Greece (vs. 21)
4. The kings of Macedonia (vs. 22)
5. The kings of Asia Minor (vs. 22)
6. The kings of the Ptolemaic Empire (vs. 22)
7. The kings of the Seleucid Empire (vs. 22)

We have no reason to believe that the kings of Egypt, Assyria, and Babylon wouldn't be symbolized as horns. Thus, we can see that the Bible tells us exactly who the Ten Horns are in Daniel 8.

Repeat and Expand

As a Seventh-day Adventist, it's become apparent to me that we are forgetting one of our cardinal rules when it comes to interpreting Daniel 7— we are forgetting to apply Repeat and Expand principles.

Repeat and Expand declares that when a prophecy repeats, it expounds on that prophecy and provides more detail. For some odd reason, we have abandoned this principle when it comes to Daniel 7 and 8. If we were applying that principle, then we would look at Daniel 8, and see that it's expounding on the Ten Horns and the Little Horn. This veering away from our core principles of interpretation has, unfortunately, led us to interpret the Little Horn as the Papacy in Daniel 7, but then both phases of the Roman Empire in Daniel 8. And then it also has caused us to interpret the Horns as Germanic tribes in Daniel 7 and then as kings of world powers in Daniel 8.

Often, we accuse Evangelicals of bad interpretation rules when they apply the Little Horn to Rome in Daniel 7 but then apply it to Antiochus Epiphanes in Daniel 8. We say, "How can you interpret the same symbol as two different powers?" Well, the same thing we are accusing them of, is the same thing we are doing. If the Horns in Daniel 8 are the kings of the world, then the Horns in Daniel 7 are the same. And if the Little Horn in Daniel 8 represents both phases of the Roman Empire, then the Little Horn in Daniel 7 must be the same.

The Three Plucked-up Horns Identified

Now that we understand who the Little Horn is and who the Ten Horns are, the question we must now answer is—Which three horns were plucked up by the Little Horn? Now, what I'm about to show you is that, even though you may not see it yet, Daniel 8 reveals this to

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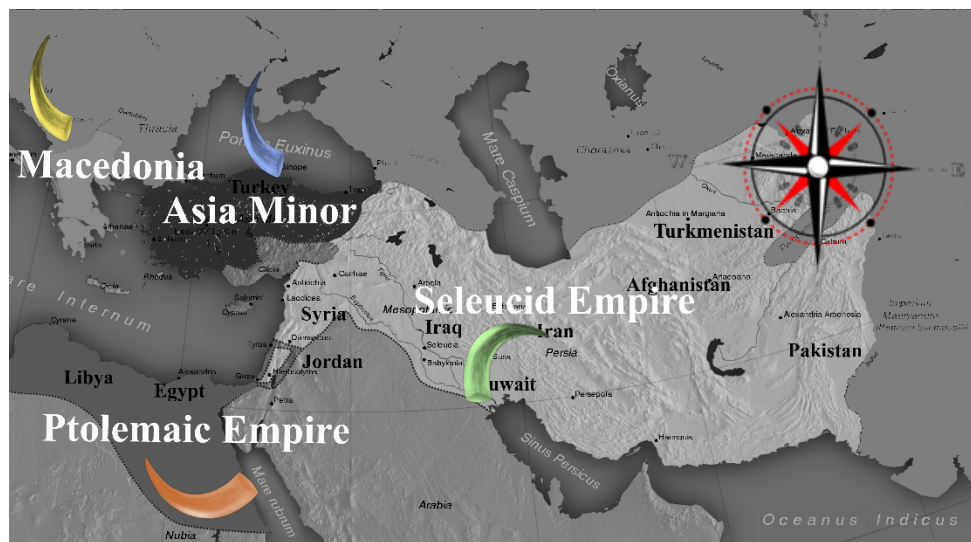
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us. And when you do see it, you will realize that Daniel 7 and 8 are telling the same narrative of the Little Horn and the three subdued horns. Let's open your eyes.

Out of one of them

Daniel 8:8-9 says, *"Therefore the he goat waxed very great: and when he was strong, the great horn was broken; and for it came up four notable ones toward the four winds of heaven. And out of one of them came forth a little horn, which waxed exceeding great, toward the south, and toward the east, and toward the pleasant land."*

Here, we see four horns coming up towards the four winds of heaven, and then out of one of them came a Little Horn. You should understand that when Alexander's kingdom fell, there was war and strife in the north, south, east, and west. These compass directions were also known as the four winds of heaven. And through this war and strife, four kingdoms would arise: Macedonia in the west, Asia Minor in the north, the Ptolemaic Kingdom in the south, and the Seleucid Kingdom in the east (see below).



And just like the four kingdoms arose out of that strife and warfare, another horn known as the Little Horn (Pagan Rome) would also arise from the strife in one of those established compass directions. To understand which direction it's referring to, all you would need to know is from where Rome originated.

Everyone should know that Rome originated in what we know today as Italy, and Italy is west of Greece, so Rome arose OUT of the WESTERN wind. And so when Daniel 8:9 says, *"out of one of them,"* you must understand that the rising of Rome in the west reveals that when it arose to power it had to have conquered the Macedonian horn which was situated

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in the western part of Alexander's divided kingdom. Thus, Rome as the Little Horn entered this prophecy through the conquest of the Macedonian kingdom in 168 BC.

Waxed Great Towards the South

Then the text says that Rome waxed great towards the south. Here's what the historical record says:

After awarding both Egypt and Cyprus to Rome, Ptolemy XI was placed on the throne by the Roman general Cornelius Sulla. (https://www.worldhistory.org/Ptolemaic_Dynasty/)

Although Rome would formally conquer Ptolemaic Egypt in 30 BC, Rome was already making political decisions for Egypt as early as 80 BC. Thus, the prophecy confirms that Rome waxed great towards the south.

Waxed Great Towards the East

And finally, Rome would conquer the remnants of the Seleucid Empire in 64 BC. Now, the question may arise—What happened to Asia Minor? History reveals that Seleucus conquered Asia Minor in 281 BC at the Battle of Corupedium. Although he attempted to also conquer Macedonia, Seleucus would end up dying before completing the task. In essence, when Seleucus conquered Asia Minor, it left the divided Empire with three horns instead of four! Thus, Rome came out of the west, making Macedonia a Roman province in 168 BC, it waxed great towards the South when it began usurping its authority over Egypt's monarchy in 80 BC, then it went towards the east by conquering the Seleucid Empire in 64 BC. Not only does the text tell us who Rome dominated, it actually tells us the order in which they were dominated!

Daniel 8 supplies the narrative for Daniel 7

In case you didn't realize it, the narrative we just uncovered in Daniel 8 is the same narrative revealed in Daniel 7. When the text says, the Little Horn shall subdue three horns, those three horns were the same three divisions of Alexander's divided kingdom. In essence, in order for Rome to become the world power, it needed to conquer those three kingships.

Now, it should start making sense to you. The Little Horn in both Daniel 7 and Daniel 8 begin as Pagan Rome, but transition to Papal Rome. Thus, the Little Horn is ultimately the Papacy, but both chapters reveal how the Papacy received its power—the power that came by way of Pagan Rome after it conquered the three remaining kingships of the known world.

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The Transition to Papal Rome

Daniel 7 transitions from Pagan Rome to Papal Rome, when it says, “...*and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things.*”

Daniel 8 transitions from Pagan Rome to Papal Rome when it says it waxed great, “...*toward the pleasant land.*” (I will produce a future study on this to show you that this is NOT Jerusalem)

Obvious Questions

Now, the obvious question is—How can the fourth Beast and the Little Horn in Daniel 7 both represent the Roman Empire, when the prophecy shows the Little Horn clearly rose up after the fourth Beast had been established?

This is why Repeat and Expand is so important. Later visions give us proper context for earlier visions. So even though Daniel 7 appears to suggest the horns as rising after Pagan Rome was established, Daniel 8 expands on this vision to make sure we understand that they were previous kingships, but only 3 of them were actually ruling at the time of Rome and were the only three subdued by Rome. In essence, I want you to see Daniel 7 as a prophecy that’s giving two narratives in one chapter.

- 1). The first narrative is about four Beasts that represent four kingdoms and the fourth one in Rome.
- 2). The second narrative is that after it reveals the fourth Beast, it then zooms into that fourth Beast and now provides a narrative about the kings of that Beast. That narrative is that the kingship of the fourth beast would begin like the previous world powers, but they would slowly evolve into kings (Popes) that elevate themselves in place of Jehovah.

Another question that many of you may be asking is—Why does Daniel 7 give the impression that the Roman Kingship rose up in the midst of the other kingships when in fact most of them were no longer world powers?

Daniel 7:12 answers this question when it says, “*As concerning the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away: yet their lives were prolonged for a season and time.*” In essence, though the previous world powers lost their dominion, their lives are supernaturally in suspended animation. In this manner, they still existed when Rome arose, and they will re-enter prophecy’s stage in the last days as the Ten Kings in Revelation.

The Ten Kings in Daniel 11

The prophecy of Daniel 11 begins at the time of Persia but takes us all the way to the end of the world. For some reason, a majority of Adventists interpret the last few verses of

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Daniel 11 as symbolic. This symbolism placed at the end of Daniel 11 cheapens the prophecy and robs it of its intended meaning. However, once we see the prophecy for what it is, we will see that it gives us a map of the time of the end, and from this map, we can gather the area from which the Ten Kings arise at the end of the world.

Please understand that I will not be discussing the identity of the King of the North or what event the prophecy is revealing. We are simply looking at the territory that Daniel 11 is giving us which gives us a clue as to where the Ten Kings will arise from.

Here is what the prophecy says:

He shall enter also into the glorious land, and many countries shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon.

Daniel 11:41 - From this text, we see the glorious land as **Israel** or **Palestine**. And Edom, Moab, and Ammon as the modern country of **Jordan**.

He shall stretch forth his hand also upon the countries: and the land of Egypt shall not escape.

Daniel 11:42 - Here the prophecy moves into North Africa and **Egypt** enters the prophecy.

But he shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt: and the Libyans and the Ethiopians shall be at his steps. **Daniel 11:43** - Continuing its venture into North Africa, the prophecy then introduces Libya and Ethiopia. Here, **Ethiopia** refers more or less to the modern country of **Sudan**, thus the prophecy reveals the country bordering Egypt's western border (Libya) and the country bordering Egypt's southern border (Sudan).

But tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him: therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many. **Daniel 11:44** - The east and the north

refer to the same territories of Alexander's divided kingdom. The north was called Asia Minor, which is modern-day **Turkey**. The East represented all the Middle Eastern countries from **Syria to Pakistan**.

Now from this account at the end of Daniel 11, we can somewhat create a map of the territory of the world that will be in the final conflict. Although we cannot say which kingdoms the Ten Kings will arise from, we can be assured that they will come from the regions mentioned at the end of Daniel 11.

Now, let's take a look at the map Daniel 11 has established for us:

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The countries of verse 41 are in green.

The countries of verses 42-43 are in yellow.

The countries of verse 44 are in orange (north) and purple (east).

Here is the territory that is relevant to prophecy according to Daniel 11 and the territory that the Ten Kings will most likely arise from in the last days.

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The Ten Kings in Revelation

The book of Revelation reveals these Ten Kings in three of its chapters—Revelation 12, 13, and 17. In Revelation 12, we see a Dragon, in Revelation 13 a Beast, and in Revelation 17 a combination that we call the Beast of the Apocalypse.

The Dragon

In Revelation 12 we see a Dragon with Seven Heads and Ten Horns. You should understand that heads represent governments, and horns represent kingships that rule through those governments. Now, notice how those Seven Heads and Ten Horns are presented in this chapter:

“And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads”. **Revelation 12:3**

Here you should notice that the Seven Heads have seven crowns. However, by the mere fact that the heads are governments and exercise a certain amount of power, it is logical for them to have crowns symbolizing that power. However, one would wonder, why do the Ten Horns not have crowns? A principle that you will often hear me repeat is that Revelation 17 provides context for Revelation 12 and 13. So we look to chapter 17 to provide context as to why the Ten Horns are crownless. Notice what vs. 12 says:

“And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet...”

Here we should see that this text refers to the crownless horns of the Dragon. At the time of John, every kingship from Egypt to Greece had officially been conquered at one time or another.

- The Egyptian horn was conquered by the Assyrian horn.
- The Assyrian horn was conquered by the Babylonian horn.
- The Babylonian horn was conquered by the Median horn.
- The Median horn was conquered by the Persian horn.
- The Persian horn was conquered by the Greek horn.
- The divided Greek horns were ultimately absorbed by the Little Horn.

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Thus, at the time of Imperial Rome, they were all seen as crownless horns.

The Beast

In Revelation 13, we see a Beast. This Beast also has Seven Heads and Ten Horns. But notice how the heads and horns are portrayed in verse 1 of this chapter:

"And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy."

Here, you should notice that the Ten Horns now have crowns. Knowing Revelation 17 provides context for Revelation 13, we look to the same chapter to provide an understanding of what occurred that now shows the Ten Horns with crowns. Again verse 12 tells us what changed:

"...but receive power as kings one hour with the beast.

Now, you should understand what is happening. Under the dispensation of the Dragon, we have Rome as the preeminent superpower and those Ten Kings that were conquered are, in a sense, lying dormant on prophecy's stage.

I want you to view the Dragon and the Beast as if they are dispensations for Satan's kingdom. The dispensation of the Dragon began with Egypt but culminated with the Roman Empire. It was under the rule of Pagan Rome that the Ten Kings all lay dormant, but it was the same Pagan government that always existed. However, during the Dark Ages, the dispensation of the Dragon transitioned to the dispensation of the Beast. The dispensation of the Beast continues to the end of the world, and it is under this dispensation that the Ten Kings are resurrected in one form or another. And thus, it is under the dispensation of the Beast (Papal Rome) that the Ten Kings regain their crowns.

Now, the text also reveals that under the dispensation of the Beast, the Seven Heads have blasphemy on them. Again, we look at Revelation 17 to gain an understanding. Notice what the text says:

*"So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns." **Revelation 17:3***

Now we understand why Blasphemy is on the Seven Heads. It is under this dispensation that that Satan's government successfully mixes Paganism with Christianity. This produces an abomination that continues to the end of the world.

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The Beast of the Apocalypse

Revelation 17 features a Beast. This Beast is not the same Beast featured in Revelation 13:1. It is an upgrade. It's Papal Rome 2.0. The Beast of the Apocalypse is an alliance of sorts. Notice it has the scarlet color—a clear reference to the Dragon in Revelation 12. This tells us that Pagan principles are at its core. It has the Harlot sitting on it. She began as Catholicism of the Dark Ages but transitions in the last days to a world order based upon Papal principles. And finally, it is enforced through the United States of America as the world's final superpower. But this is not the only symbol that is part of this conglomerate. In this Beast is the history of the five fallen heads, which are the governments of Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, and Greece. These five fallen heads are the governments of the Ten Horns. All are joined together in the last days for Satan's last push to be like the Most High. It is regarding this time, that Ellen White makes the following statement:

"These have one mind." There will be a universal bond of union, one great harmony, a confederacy of Satan's forces. "And shall give their power and strength unto the beast." Thus is manifested the same arbitrary, oppressive power against religious liberty, freedom to worship God according to the dictates of conscience, as was manifested by the papacy, when in the past it persecuted those who dared to refuse to conform with the religious rites and ceremonies of Romanism." Last Day Events p. 136

Checking Ellen White against Scripture we find support for her statement in Revelation 17:13 when it says, *"These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast."*

The Ten Horns become the Kings of the East

What you must understand is that the Ten Kings were all based in territories east of the Roman Empire. This reveals to us that the Ten Horns are also represented in the last days as the Kings of the East.

According to Revelation 16:12, when *"the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared."*

This prophecy is actually based on a historical event. The historical record reveals that Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon fell because the Persians diverted the Euphrates River; this allowed them to walk on the riverbed into that great city and cause its downfall. In essence,

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Kings came from the east and dried up the Euphrates resulting in the fall of Babylon. Well, at the end of the world, there is a spiritual Babylon. This Babylon refers to a combination of nations and an amalgamation of religions. However, the Ten Kings join Babylon through spiritual deception as the Kings of the East. The Euphrates refers to their people who become part of the alliance with Babylon and are tricked by its religious deceptions. However, the spiritual Euphrates dries up during the sixth plague when they see Babylon for what it is. I believe Ellen White may have alluded to this series of events in the following statement:

"The people see that they have been deluded. They accuse one another of having led them to destruction; but all unite in heaping their bitterest condemnation upon the ministers. Unfaithful pastors have prophesied smooth things; they have led their hearers to make void the law of God and to persecute those who would keep it holy. Now, in their despair, these teachers confess before the world their work of deception. The multitudes are filled with fury. "We are lost!" they cry, "and you are the cause of our ruin;" and they turn upon the false shepherds. The very ones that once admired them most will pronounce the most dreadful curses upon them. The very hands that once crowned them with laurels will be raised for their destruction. The swords which were to slay God's people are now employed to destroy their enemies. Everywhere there is strife and bloodshed." The Great Controversy p. 655

Once the Kings of the East turn against the false religious system of Babylon. The prophecy of the Ten Kings is fulfilled. Here's what the prophecy says:

"And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire." Revelation 17:16

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Daniel 2 - The Destruction of the Ten Toes

As Seventh-day Adventists, we often see Nebuchadnezzar's Image as culminating with the Papal Roman Empire. However, because we view the Ten Toes as ten Germanic tribes, we have a difficult time determining when in history those toes existed. Some illustrations place the feet culminating at the fall of the Western Empire in 476 AD. Others place the culmination of the prophecy with the introduction of the Papacy in 538 AD. However, knowing the prophecy continues to the end of the world we declare it from 476 to the Second Coming. However, the problem with this theory is that at no time in history do we find Rome divided into ten Germanic tribes that were infused with the Papacy. As a matter of fact, our traditional view of the Germanic tribes is that three of them were destroyed by the Papacy before the Papacy was established. I believe this problem can be alleviated if we see the image with a different set of eyes.

Nebuchadnezzar's Image like you've never seen it

I want you to see Nebuchadnezzar's image in a new light. Instead of thinking of the image as a list of nations, I want you to see it as the narrative for the end of the world. But first, you must understand that the head of gold, in a sense, includes Egypt and Assyria. Now, to be clear, the Bible specifically says that Babylon is the only power that is represented by the head of gold. However, using Repeat and Expand, we discover that Babylon is somewhat inclusive of the two world powers that preceded it. When we look at Daniel 7, we see Babylon's successor, Medo-Persia. Its symbol is a bear. However, this bear had three ribs in its mouth. The ribs indicate the remains of what was demolished. Thus we understand that one of those ribs represented Babylon's leftovers. However, what did the other two ribs represent? The leftover of the world powers that preceded Babylon—Egypt and Assyria.

In this manner, we can almost say that Babylon was inclusive of three world powers. Now, what you also must understand is that Spiritual Babylon is also inclusive of three world powers. These powers are the Dragon, the Beast, and the False Prophet.

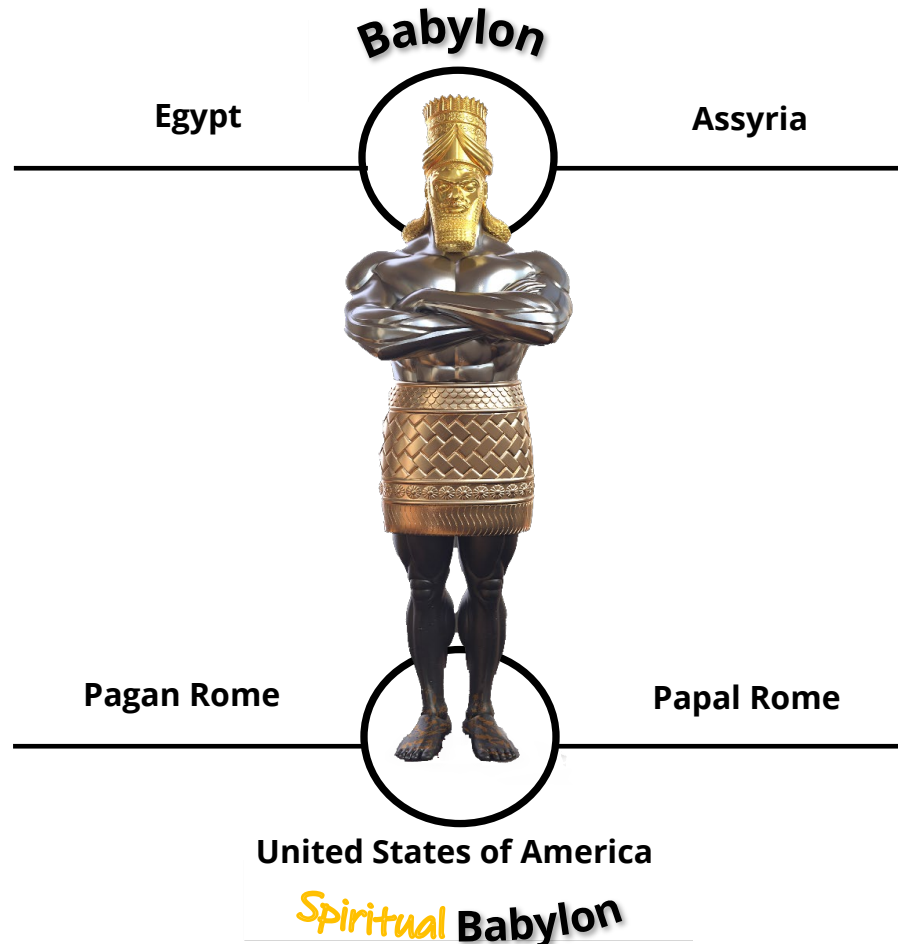
"And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet." Revelation 16:13

These three powers make up the three divisions of Spiritual Babylon. We know there are three divisions because the Scriptures declare that "... *the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God...*" **Revelation 16:19**

Like the three phases at the top of the image, it's imperative that you see there are also three phases at the bottom of the image. (See image on next page)

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Now that you understand the three phases of iron, you should now see that Spiritual Babylon is represented in the feet and toes of iron and clay. We understand that the original iron was Imperial Rome, and the clay was the Papacy. However, you also must understand that Rome has three phases: Pagan Rome, Papal Rome, and Protestant Rome (aka, the United States of America). Spiritually they represent three religions: Paganism, Papalism, and False Protestantism. These three form the foundation for the Harlot's end-time religion. Notice the name found on the Harlot's forehead in sense refers to this threefold union:

And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

Revelation 17:5

Babylon the Great = Paganism.

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Mother of Harlots = Catholicism of the Dark Ages who adopted Pagan traditions.

Abominations of the Earth = Protestants who adopt Catholic traditions.

The End of the Toes

According to the prophecy, here's what happens to the toes:

"And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay." **Daniel 2:41**

According to the text, Spiritual Babylon is the kingdom referred to in verse 41. That kingdom is the alliance of the last days. This union has the strength channeled from Imperial Rome. Rome's strengths were military, financial, and political might. The United States provides the military. Europe provides the financial power, but it needs political. It needs to be an alliance of nations. It must have a global impact. Thus, the Harlot system brings them into the fold. Miracles are performed in the last day by demons pretending to be deities. Regarding this illusion, Ellen White says the following:

"As we near the close of time, there will be greater and still greater external parade of heathen power; heathen deities will manifest their signal power, and will exhibit themselves before the cities of the world." Testimonies to Ministers p. 117

Again, the Messenger of the Lord provides further insight when she declares that Satan will also personate Christ Himself!

As the crowning act in the great drama of deception, Satan himself will personate Christ. Darkness before Dawn p. 41

So when this alliance is brought together it will have the strength of Rome's iron, but it will be mixed with the Clay of Papal traditions. This is why verse 42 says the kingdom is partly strong, but it's partly brittle. The Ten Kings of the East make this alliance brittle as they are brought in through deception. This deception was introduced by the United States of America in Revelation 13:14

And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.

Daniel 2:43 reveals that this alliance doesn't last for long.

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And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay.

Soon after the alliance is formed, the plagues begin falling and the people of the Spiritual Euphrates realize they've been deceived. Thus, just like iron and clay don't mix, the alliance can't contain its cohesion.

At the end of the image, the prophecy makes an interesting claim. It says, *"And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever."* **Daniel 2:44**

"In the days of these kings," suggests that the kings of all the previous world powers will be destroyed at the end of time. But how can this be? It's because, in a special sense, the Ten Kings represent all the previous world powers that ruled from the time God called a people to Himself. The reason they are present at the end of time is because when Christ is crowned King of kings, He will be crowned in the presence of all the previous nations who falsely claimed that title. Finally, we see that the stone cut out of a mountain became a mountain upon this earth. The symbolism of Daniel 2:45 is somewhat ambiguous; however, we should understand that a mountain is also symbolic of a kingdom. Thus, Christ brings the Kingdom of Heaven upon earth. In essence, the New Earth will be a chip off the old block!

Ellen White's Statements on the Ten Toes

You may not know this but Ellen White makes a few statements that refer to the Ten Toes. Here's what she says:

"We have come to a time when God's sacred work is represented by the feet of the image in which the iron was mixed with the miry clay."
Manuscript Releases Vol 1 p.51

Here she seems to suggest that the toes of iron and clay represent God's sacred work. How can this be? Well, look at what else she says later in that same paragraph:

The mingling of church craft and state craft is represented by the iron and the clay. This union is weakening all the power of the churches. This investing the church with the power of the state will bring evil results. Ibid.

From these texts, many Seventh-day Adventists believe the Ten Toes represent Protestant churches. However, let's try to understand what Ellen White was saying and try to determine why she made this connection.

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Notice how Ellen White viewed Nebuchadnezzar's Image:

"While representing the kingdoms of this earth, the image that was revealed to Nebuchadnezzar also fitly represented deterioration of religion." Review and Herald February 6, 1900

The above quotation is very important. The reason is that it explains the previous two quotations. Ellen White understood the image represented the kingdoms of this world, but she often viewed the image from a position of religious deterioration. She made the connection that since America is the final world power, and the feet and toes were the final component of the image, that the Protestants must be in the feet and toes. She wasn't wrong, she just didn't have the full picture as you and I have today. America will be the last superpower of this world, and thus when America tells the world to make an image to Rome, and the Ten Toes join that union, they will, in effect, be under the influence of Protestant America.

This is the understanding of the Ten Toes, Ten Horns, and Ten Kings that I believe is expressed in God's Word. Not only that, I believe it is also supported by Ellen White's inspiration better than the ten Germanic tribes. Your prophetic eyes will take some time to adjust to this view of the Ten Kings, so continue praying and studying and ask God to open your eyes, and you will see that there's a whole world of prophecy that we have yet to uncover. This journey has just begun. We're only scratching the surface of what God is revealing to the Adventist Church. Stay tuned...you won't believe what's next.

- THE ADVENTIST WATCHMAN -