

THE THREE WOES

By; Bob Moore

Background

John wrote the Book of Revelation while exiled on the Isle of Patmos. The tiny pile of rocks in the Mediterranean Sea grew little vegetation and was intended to be the place where he would die from exposure and starvation. Previous attempts to execute him had failed. He had already been thrown into a vat of boiling oil, but survived. Most scholars date his book as being written in 96 AD, but one of Paul's letters speaks of the "*mystery of iniquity*" (2 Thes 2:7), which may refer to a place in the Book of Revelation where the corrupt woman wore the title "*MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH*" (Rev 17:5). That would place John's confinement on Patmos during Nero's persecutions and before Paul's martyrdom.

The Apocalypse is a commentary on Daniel's visions, unlocking some hidden parts that Jesus' first advent had clarified. Daniel prophesied the rise of four kingdoms that would conquer and oppress the Hebrew nation. Those four kingdoms are, in order: Babylon, Media/Persia, Greece, and Rome. It also revealed the rise of a fifth tyrant who reigns until the establishment of God's kingdom on earth. John's revelation discloses the plight of Christianity from the time of the apostles until the final judgment. Its primary focus is the destruction of the Roman Empire. Because Daniel lumps all four kingdoms together, with the rest of the kingdoms described in his second chapter as appendages of the Babylonian Kingdom, the fall of Rome as foretold by John is the fall of all those kingdoms, including Babylon. That overthrow as prophesied by John is revealed in four parts. After the opening of the seven seals that locked the sealed book, which only Jesus could open, seven angels, each with a trumpet, sound in succession. The opening of the seven seals foretells the advancement of the gospel throughout the Roman Empire. The gospel even extended beyond the Roman Empire. After the seventh sealed is opened, seven angels appear, each receiving their own trumpet. The sounding of the seven trumpets foretells the complete destruction of Babylon and its successors, which Daniel revealed. The blowing of the seven trumpets occupies the next eleven chapters.

The first four trumpets foretell the destruction of one-third of the Roman Empire. "*The third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up*" (Rev 8:7) at the sound of the first trumpet. "*The third part of the sea became blood; and the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died; and the third part of the ships were destroyed*" (Rev 8:8) at the sound of the second trumpet. "*The third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter*" (Rev 8:11) when the third trumpet sounded. "*The third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars; so as the third part of them was darkened, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise*" (Rev 8:12) when the fourth angel sounded.

One third of the Roman Empire, including the city of Rome, fell when ten barbaric tribes invaded the western third and won various parts throughout Europe. The division of one-third of the Roman Empire by ten invading kingdoms fulfilled Daniel's prophecy (Dan 2:41-43; 7:24-25). The fall of Rome, which Paul explained restrained a prophesied tyrannical ruler, opened the way for it to usurp power. Paul had revealed, "*For the mystery*

of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming” (2 Th 2:7-8). This wicked power is the same as Daniel’s little horn (Dan 7-8). He revealed, “And 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. And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time” (Dan 7:24-26). John described the same as “a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations” (Rev 13:5-7).

Once the first third of the Roman Empire fell to the Gothic tribes, John immediately revealed that three woes would follow. John saw another angel appear and announce three woes: *“And I beheld, and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound” (Rev 8:13)! Those woes destroy the remaining two parts of the Roman Empire, as well as the wicked power noted above that became vested in the Papacy. John calls its final destruction the fall of Babylon (Rev 14:8: 16: 18;2, 10.21) because that wicked office revived parts of the ancient Babylonian religion and wove them into the fabric of Christianity.*

The First Woe

John began his description of the first woe: *“And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit. And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit” (Rev 1:1-2).* The star that fell from heaven at the sounding of the fifth angel’s trumpet is Satan. In the beginning, he was an angel, the anointed cherub (Ezek 28:14), but he fell from heaven (2N 1:101) and became the enemy of righteousness (Mos 2:26; Alma 162:19). Jesus said, *“I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven” (Luke 10:18).* He was cast out by the blood of Jesus, which our Savior shed on the cross to save His people. John testified, *“And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan” (Rev 12:9).* Isaiah also prophesied Satan’s expulsion: *“How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations” (Is 14:12)! Isaiah added that the devil inherited the pit: “Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit” (Is 14:15).* Later, John revealed that Satan will be sealed in the bottomless pit during Jesus’ millennial reign on earth: *“And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, and cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season” (Rev 20:2-3).*

At the sounding of the fifth angel’s trumpet, Satan opened that pit. Smoke and locusts rushed out and brought the first woe. John’s Revelation continues, *“And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of*

the earth have power" (Rev 9:3). After Christianity converted the Roman Empire and extended the gospel of Jesus Christ into parts of northwestern Europe that were outside its boundaries, Satan opened the prison containing evil spirits to unleash destruction on those who had only professed Christ out of convenience. The victory of Christianity over Roman paganism, which is dated at the conversion of Constantine in 313, ended ten periods of persecutions that the Empire waged against Christians. When Rome became Christian, many who clung to some pagan precepts brought them into the church. Gnosticism had already made pagan falsehoods acceptable. The Lord allowed the destruction released from the pit to punish those who had not really been reborn by the gift of the Holy Ghost. John's Apocalypse states that the locusts "*should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God*" (Rev 9:4). The seal that those tormented by this plague did not possess refers to the reception of the Holy Spirit. Paul wrote the Ephesians, "*Ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise*" (Eph 1:13). Those who profess a belief in Jesus Christ, but do not mortify their natural impulses by crucifying the "*old man*" in baptism (Rom 6:3-6) do not abide in the Holy Ghost. They do not continually "*present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service*" (Rom 12:1), but they conform to this world, and refuse to be "*transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God*" (Rom 12:2). When people returned to pagan practices, they lost the presence of the Holy Ghost. They lost the seal of God. The church in Egypt led the way. During Decius' persecution, beginning in 250, people fled to the desert where they willingly martyred their passions, not according to Jesus' teachings where believers live to serve others, but according to the pagan philosophers. Their teachings quickly spread through Syria, Palestine, and North Africa. This is the second third of the Old Roman Empire that was to fall by divine judgment.

Jesus had told His disciples, "*Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Behold, I have told you before. Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not*" (Matt 24:23-26). The person in secret chambers is "*that man of sin [to] be revealed, the son of perdition; who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God*" (2 Thes 2:3-4). His ascension to sovereignty in the West, the first third of the Roman Empire to be invaded, finalized the "*falling away*" (2 Thes 2:3), or apostasy that Paul prophesied. Each pope is chosen by a closed session of Cardinals, who are locked in the Sistine Chapel until the election is over.

Mohammed is the false prophet that Jesus prophesied as coming from the desert. Mohammad was born in 570 AD, the same year that the Lombards, the tenth kingdom to do so, invaded Rome, pillaged what was left of the Imperial City, and divided the remaining part of the Empire for itself. The invasion ended Rome's control over the Lord's people as prophesied in Nebuchadnezzar's dream, which Daniel interpreted by the power of God. That interpretation foretold that Rome, which was represented by iron legs, would divide into ten kingdoms, represented by ten toes. He said, "*And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided*" (Dan 2:41). As the Pope rose to his temporal power to fill the void left by Rome's fall, he claimed the patrimony of Peter, which is symbolized by three keys. Janis was the Roman god of

beginnings, from whom the month of January is named. *“As the divine gatekeeper, he was depicted holding a porter’s staff in one hand and a set of keys in the other. According to the Roman poet Ovid (43 BCE-17 CE) these were the keys to the gates of heaven.”*¹ Cybele, whom the Romans regarded as Great Mother, possessed a key.² Two crossed keys adorn the tiara of India’s Brahma, just as Mithraism’s keys represent the sun-god’s authority. Mohammad’s family adopted a key to symbolize their role as guardian of the black Kaaba Stone of Mecca. The Islamic Moors, who advanced across North Africa and invaded Spain in the fifteenth century, displayed a key on their banner. *“The sword (says Mahomet) is the key of heaven and hell.”*³ Islamic literature speaks of Mohammad’s use of the key to loosen the fiery plague that came from the bottomless pit: *“Did not God give to his Legate [Mohammad] the power of heaven which is above, and the fire which is beneath? With the key did he not give him the title and power of a porter that he may open to those whom he shall have chosen.”*⁴

In 610, at the age of 40, Mohammad entered the cave of Hira at the foot of Mount Hira, three miles from Mecca, Arabia. He claimed that the angel Gabriel appeared to him in a dream and told him to read. When he awoke, he explained, *“It was though these words were written on my heart.”*⁵ He left and when he was *“half way on the mountain,”* he said that he heard a voice. Looking up, he saw Gabriel, who said, *“O Mohammed! thou art the messenger of Allah, and I am Gabriel.”*⁶ When Mohammad returned home and told his wife, Kadijah, who was fifteen years his elder, she was delighted and believed that he was a prophet. For the next several years, Mohammad frequently fell into seizures, in which he received portions of the Koran. During those seizures he *“sometimes growled like a camel, foamed at his mouth, and streamed with perspiration.”*⁷ *“Even the camel on which he might be sitting at the time moved fitfully.”*⁸ In 612, two years after announcing that he was a prophet, Mohammad publicly proclaimed that his mission was to convert all Christians and infidels (polytheists) to the Koran. He preached his monotheistic views at the Kabaal, a black cube that housed the polytheists’ idols. Mohammad’s grandfather had inherited the sacerdotal custody of the Kabaal.⁹ The most important god within it was named Allah, which Mohammed and his followers elevated as the only god.¹⁰ Mohammad’s lineage must have been an embarrassment to the Quraish, who were staunch polytheists. In 622, they grew weary of the self-proclaimed prophet and his followers preaching monotheism at their Kaaba. Under the guidance of Adu Sophian, the new head of the Meccan Quraish, they agreed *“that a sword from each tribe should be buried in his heart”*.¹¹ Mohammad fled Mecca for Medina, where he began organizing his followers into an army. He advocated that people should be converted by force instead of by persuasion. While the Koran imitated the

¹ C. Scott Littleton, *Gods, Goddesses, and Mythology*, Vol. 6 (Tarrytown, NY: Marshall Cavendish, 2005) 770.

² Alexander Hislop, *The Two Babylons* (Neptune, NJ: Loizeaux Brothers, 1959) 264-265.

³ Edward Gibbon, *The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, Vol. 3 (NY, NY: Harper & Brothers, 1841) 387.

⁴ Edward Bishop Elliot, *A Commentary on the Apocalypse*, 3rd Edition, Vol. 1 (Seeley, Burnside, and Seeley: London, UK, 1847) 424.

⁵ Will Durant, *The Story of Civilization*, Vol. 4, *The Age of Faith* (NY, NY: Simon & Schuster, 1950) 164.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Philip Schaff, *History of the Christian Church*, Vol. 4 (NY, NY: Charles Scribner’s Sons, 1908) 168.

⁸ Durant, 164.

⁹ Gibbon, 370.

¹⁰ Ibid., 384.

¹¹ Durant, 166.

Bible, it declared, "*O believers, do not hold Jews and Christians as your allies.*"¹² Mohammad also advocated, "*A drop of blood shed in cause of God, a night spent in arms, is of more avail than two months of fasting and prayer.*"¹³ By 629, Mohammad and his followers had won the hearts of many Arabian tribes. They even gained Mecca, where they broke the 360 idols in the Kabaal.¹⁴ Mohammad received the keys to the Kabaal, which keys have remained in the possession of his ancestors since then. By the time of his death in 632, "*the prophet received the submission of the tribes and cities, from the Euphrates to Aliah, at the head of the Red Sea.*"¹⁵ While Islam spread through Arabia during the life of Mohammad by robbery, raids, and his personal charisma, after his death his followers began the first Jihad. It was a holy war to convert others to their new religion. Their new leader, Abu Bakr, created the Mohammedan calendar, which begins in the year of Mohammad's flight from Mecca in 622.

Like a swarm of locusts out of the desert, scores of warriors on horseback raided neighboring realms. They came as the Midianites and their confederates did in the time of Israel's judges: "*They came as grasshoppers [locusts] for multitude; for both they and their camels were without number: and they entered into the land to destroy it*" (Judg 6:5). The Hebrew word translated *grasshoppers* is *locusts*. The Bedoween romance of Antar introduces the locust as the national emblem of the Ishmaelites,¹⁶ who were the Arab's ancestors. Arab tradition asserts that locusts bearing the inscription, "*We are the army of the great God*" dropped into Mohammad's hand.¹⁷ In 634, Caliph Umar began his rule. He conquered Jerusalem and established the Arab Empire. Within ten years, he destroyed over 4000 Christian places of worship. Gibbon reported that "*their military force was chiefly formed of cavalry and archers.*"¹⁸ Mohammed had declared in the Koran, "*God has given you . . . coats of mail for defense during war.*"¹⁹ They invented chained armor and overlaid their horses with sheetmetal, fulfilling the prophecy: "*And they had breastplates, as it were breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings was as the sound of chariots of many horses running to battle*" (Rev 9:9). They wore their hair long, as a woman, and bound it in a yellow turban, just like John foretold: "*On their heads were as it were crowns like gold, and their faces were as the faces of men. And they had hair as the hair of women*" (Rev 9:7-8). The Islamic Arabs are the plague of locusts that John foresaw: "*And the shapes of the locusts were like unto horses prepared unto battle*" (Rev 9:7).

The lifespan of a locust is five months, from April to September. They naturally appear in Syria, Palestine, Egypt, North Africa, and Spain. John had prophesied, "*And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months: and their torment was as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man*" (Rev 9:5). Caliph Omar and his successors conquered Syria and Palestine by 639, Egypt by 642, all of North Africa by 690, and Spain by 713. Those realms constitute the second third of the Roman Empire to fall. It fell to the Islamic Jihad because most Christians in those

¹² Sura 5:51 (Ahmed Ali) as quoted at <http://quran.wvpa.com/page/verse-5-51>.

¹³ Gibbon, 387.

¹⁴ Ibid, 392.

¹⁵ Ibid, 394.

¹⁶ Charles Foster, *Mahometanism Unveiled*, Vol. 1 (London, UK: J. Duncan, 1829) 217 at <https://archive.org/details/in.ernet.dli.2015.31686/page/n267>.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Gibbon, 412.

¹⁹ Sura: 16: 81 (Ahmed Ali) as quoted at <http://quran.wvpa.com/page/verse-16-81>.

realms were worshiping images, just as the pagans did before them. Unlike the naturally occurring locust, the Islamic locusts devoured neither grass nor tree. Instead, they devoured those people who did not have the seal of the Holy Ghost. John saw, *“And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads”* (Rev 9:4). A little later, John revealed that the name of the angel who sent them *“in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon”* (Rev 9:11). Both *Abaddon* and *Apollyon* mean *destroyer*. The invading Islamic Arabs either killed everyone who would not convert to Islam or placed a heavy tribute on those who submitted to their restrictions on worship, trade, commerce, dress, and travel, but they did not hurt either grass or trees. The sword proved a more powerful instrument of persuasion than preaching the gospel for those who had departed from the simplicity in Christ.

The first leader of the Islamic Arabs was Abu Bakr. He was a close companion of Mohammad, but not from the same clan. His election in 632 established the Rashidun Caliphate. He began the conquest of the Arabian Peninsula and ruled until his death in 634. Umar succeeded Abu Bakr and extended Islamic rule through Syria, Palestine and Persia, but was assassinated in 644. Uthman succeeded Umar. He began the conquest of Armenia, Fars and Khorasan, but was assassinated in 656. The council elected Ali. Unlike his three predecessors, Ali was from the same clan as Mohammad and regarded as the first real caliph after Mohammad by Shia Moslems. Supporters of the assassinated Uthman preferred Uthman’s cousin Muawiyah, who was governor of the Levant (Syria and Palestine). They revolted and compose the Sunni branch of Islam. The two groups fought each other in the first Arab civil war. The Sunnis won in 661 and established the Umayyad Caliphate with Muawiyah as its first Caliph. The Umayyad Caliphate was a Mecca clan and extended its dynasty from Spain in the West to India in the East and to the Caucasus Mountains in the North.

After conquering Spain, the Arab army advanced into France where it received a serious defeat at Tours in 732 by Charles Martel. Arab military advancement into Europe floundered and eventually (in 1492), was driven out. Meanwhile, non-Arab Moslems grew dissatisfied with their disenfranchisement. Only Arab Muslims had a say in its politics. The disfranchised Muslims also favored the acceptance of Christians within their territories, which were a considerable number, especially in Syria. They revolted in 746 and, under the leadership of Al-Mansur, conquered Kufa, a major Muslim center in Southern Iraq, in 749. They defeated Marwan II, the Umayyad caliph in 750. Al-Mansur was proclaimed Caliph on his way to Mecca in 753. He established the Abbasid Caliphate which lasted until 1258. He made Kufa the new capital of his caliphate, ending the dominance of Damascus in the Islamic political world. Al-Mansur established an era of tolerance toward Christians and peace toward neighboring nations, completely ending the first Jihad. In 762, he built a new capital at Baghdad, which he called the *City of Peace*. Iraq became the seat of Islamic power for many centuries. In 782, Islam formally ended aggression against Europe in the Treaty of Constantinople. That treaty specified that the Byzantine Roman Empire agreed to pay a yearly tribute to the Caliph of Baghdad in exchange for peace.

The first Islamic Jihad lasted exactly five prophetic months, just as John prophesied: *“And they had tails like unto scorpions, and there were stings in their tails: and their power was to hurt men five months”* (Rev 9:10). Using 30 days for each month, five months contains 150 days. The Bible teaches that one day in prophecy equals one year. The Lord

told Ezekiel, *"I have appointed thee each day for a year"* (Ezek 4:6). John predicted that the first Islamic Jihad would last 150 years.

Islam centers on the life of Mohammad. The middle date between his birth in 570 and his death in 632 is 601. Measuring 150 years from that year brings 751 the middle date for the end of the war-like Umayyad Caliphate (749) and the beginning of the peaceful Abbasid Caliphate (753). In addition, 150 years from the time that Mohammad announced his mission to forcibly convert everyone to the Koran (612) is 762, the year that Al-Mansur built Baghdad, the City of Peace. Likewise, 150 years from when Mohammad died and the first Jihad began (632) is 782, the date of the Treaty of Constantinople that formally ended the Jihad between the Arabs and the Byzantine Empire, the last part of the Roman Empire.

The next 150 years witnessed the height of Arab Islamic culture, but the affluence that it brought began to wear away its societal structures. During the 800s, the Abbasids created an army loyal only to their caliphate. Its members were mostly non-Arabs, the majority of whom had previously been slaves. Many of them were Turks. Considered by the Arabs as barbarians who were pressing on its eastern borders, the Arabs gradually brought them into their country, first as domestic servants and later as part of the military. Ishaq al-Mutassim, who began his reign in 833, *"surrounded himself with a bodyguard of 4000 Turkish soliders,"* who *"rode recklessly through the streets and committed unpunished crimes."*²⁰ Baghdad's caliphs became so unpopular that they built palaces outside the city at Samarra. Eight successive Caliphs made it their home from 836 to 892.²¹ Their declining respect and power led to a succession of ambitious claimants to the Caliphate, some of whom gained it by intrigue and murder. In 932, 150 years after the Treaty of Constantinople, Caliph Al-Muqtadir, who became Caliph in 908 at the age of 13, (the youngest to do so), was slain in a coup outside the city gate.²² Two years later in 934, the Persians *"stripped the Caliph of Bagdad of all temporal power and left him only the title Pontiff of Islam."*²³ That same year, ar-Radi bi'llah became the 20th Caliph of the Abbasid Caliphate. Increasing independence of the regional governors caused them to withhold their taxes. Al-Muqtadir dispatched his vizier, Ibn Muqla, to use the military to enforce submission, but he failed. Ibn Muqla's was dismissed, marking the final end of the independence of the Abbasid caliphs.²⁴ The decline of the Baghdad Caliphate, which lasted from 682 until 932, is the same length as its rise. That second 150 years is foreshowed by John's repetition of the five month span (Rev 9:5, 10).

As the second 150 years, the declining period of the Arab Caliphates, drew to its end, a Shia Caliphate arose. It helped bring the Baghdad Sunni Caliphate to its end. About 905 Abu Abdallah, an Islamic preacher in Tunisia (in North Africa) *"proclaimed the early coming of the Mahdi or Savior, and won such a following among the Berbers that he was able to overthrow the Aghlabid rule in Qairwan."*²⁵ Obeidallah ibn Muhammad, *"the alleged grandson of the Ismaili prophet Abdallah,"*²⁶ came from Arabia and inaugurated Abu

²⁰ Durant 201.

²¹ Ibid., 201.

²² <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Muqtadir>.

²³ Edward Bishop Elliott, *The Last Prophecy: An abridgment of E.B. Elliot's Horæ Apocalypticæ* (London, UK; James Nisbet and Co, 1884)133.

²⁴ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ar-Radi>.

²⁵ Durant, 284.

²⁶ Ibid.

Abdallah as king in 909. Ismaili refers to a Shia Muslim. Obeidallah also hailed Abu as the Mahdi. In that same year, Abu conquered Raqqada, the Aghlabid capital. Obeidallah claimed descend from Fatima, who was Mohammad's daughter, giving her name to the emerging empire. In 696, the Fatimids conquered Egypt and established their capital at Cairo. They eventually ruled all North Africa, as well as parts of Palestine and Syria. They became the southern kingdom foretold by Daniel in chapters 8 and 11. Their emerging power helped, destabilize the Baghdad Arab Caliphate, which allowed the second woe to unfold.

The Second Woe

Immediately after revealing the details of the first woe, John continued with the second. The sixth angel announced it with a trumpet: "*And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates. And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men*" (Rev 9:13-15). The second woe overthrew the remaining third of the old Roman Empire, known as the Byzantine Empire. Constantine built its capital and named it after him—Constantinople. The second woe was brought by another people, the Turks, but motivated by the same religion—Islam.

The Turks originated in Central Asia, an area east of the Caspian Sea called Turkestan. They began as nomadic tribes, with each group taking the name of its leader. They called their leader a Beg. Tughril became the Beg of the Seljuq Turks. He was a grandson of Seljug. His family served the ruler of Khwarazm, an area now in northern Iran and Afghanistan, until the Ozhuz Turks defeated them. Tughril asked sanctuary from Mas'ud, who ruled Ghazni, which included parts of Afghanistan, Pakistan and Punjab in India. Because Mas'ud considered the Ghazni Turks cultivated and nomadic Turks, like Tughril and his family, dangerous, he sent an army to defeat them.²⁷ The Seljuq Turks fearlessly beat Mas'ud's army "*under the stern but masterful Tughril Beg.*"²⁸ About 1040, Mas'ud led an army of 50,000 men and 12 to 60 war elephants to completely remove the Seljuq threat, but the smaller Seljuq army defeated them, too. "*This victory marked the foundation of the Seljuk Empire, which was now rapidly expanding towards West.*"²⁹ Its army advanced into southern Turkey, extending the Seljuq Empire from the Punjab area of India through Persia and against the borders of the Byzantine Empire.

As Tughril marched through Persia, he sent a delegation to Caliph Al-Qaim at Baghdad pledging allegiance to him and acceptance of Islam. In turn, the Caliph invited Turhril Beg to assist him in overthrowing his Buwayhid overlords. The Buwayhids were Shia Muslims and confederate with the Fatimid caliphs of Cairo. "*Tughril came in 1055 and the Buwayhids fell; al-Qaim married Tughril's niece*"³⁰ The conquering Turks took the title *Sultan*, which means *master*, and reduced the caliphs to "*merely a religious role.*"³¹ Tughril wanted to unite Islam under the Abbasid Caliphate and extended his rule in the surrounding territory. In 1058, Al-Qiam gave Tughril the title "*King of the East and West.*"³²

²⁷ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tughril>.

²⁸ Durant, 204.

²⁹ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tughril>.

³⁰ Durant, 204.

³¹ Ibid.

³² Ibid.

Two years later, while Tughril was away, “a coalition of Arab and Shia Buyid forces, financed and controlled by the Fatimids of Cairo and led by Basasiri, entered Baghdad.”³³ They imprisoned Al-Qaim, but Tughril returned to Baghdad and crushed the rebellion in 1060. In 1061, Tughril, who had taken the title of Sultan and wanted his heirs to have a lineage that would give them the hereditary right to lead Islam, demanded the hand of Al-Qaim’s daughter, who was “of the Prophet’s lineage.”³⁴ Al-Qaim refused until Tughril demanded the return of his niece, the caliph’s wife,³⁵ forcing the humiliated Al-Qaim to allow the marriage. The two were married in 1062. Some commentaries state the date as April 29, 1062.³⁶ That date marks the end of the Arab Bagdad Caliphates and the beginning of the Turkish Sultantes. Tughril was the complete master of Baghdad and the leader of an Islamic army that would eventually overthrow the Roman Byzantine Empire.

Tughril died childless in 1063. He had designated his ineffective nephew, Sulayman, the son of his brother Chaghri Beg Da’ud to succeed him, but two military commanders, Yaghi-Basan and Erdem, proclaimed Sulayman’s brother Alp Arslan the new ruler. He was crowned Sultan on April 27, 1064.³⁷ Alp Arslan conquered Armenia, Georgia, and Syria, but more important, he defeated Romanus Diogenes, the Byzantine Emperor, at the Battle of Manzikert in 1071. Instead of imprisoning him and besieging Constantinople, “Arslan treated him with all courtesy, released him on the promise of a royal ransom and dismissed him with gifts.”³⁸ Arslan died in 1072. His son Malik Shah succeeded him as Sultan of Bagdad. His general completed the conquest of Asia Minor, which was the part of the Byzantine Empire in Asia. Meanwhile, Malik Shah defeated the Karakhanids, the Turkish dynasty of central Asia.³⁹ In 1078, Malek sent his brother Tutush to Damascus to assist Atsiz ibn Abaq, a Turkish mercenary who had captured part of Syria and Palestine from the Fatimid Dynasty. Abaq had set his capital in Damascus, which was being besieged. After liberating Damascus, Tutish executed Abaq and installed himself as Sultan of Damascus. At his death in 1092, Tutush’s younger son Duqaq inherited Damascus, while Radwan, N older son, received Aleppo.⁴⁰ After the battle of Manzikert, Malik-Shah placed his commander Suleiman ibn Qutulmish, a distant cousin, in charge of that area, then called Anatolia. In 1075, Suleiman captured the Byzantine cities of Nicaea and Nicomedia. In 1077, he declared himself Sultan of an independent state and established his capital at Iconium. Suleiman was killed in Antioch in 1086 by Tutush. Tutush imprisoned Suleiman's son Kilij Arslan. That Seljuq Sultanate became known as Rum, which means *Rome* or *Romans*. The three Sultanates, one at Damascus, one a Aleppo, and one at Iconium were under the supervision of Malik Shah, the Sultan of Bagdad. The replacement of the Arab Caliphs by the Turk Sultans was complete.

When Malik Shah died in 1092, the Seljuq Empire fractured. The three Sultanates of Damascus, Aleppo, and Iconium became independent. “When Malik Shah died in 1092, Kilij

³³ <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Toghril-Beg>.

³⁴ D.S. Richards, *The Annals of the Saljuq Turks* (NY, NY: Routledge, 2002) 137.

³⁵ *Ibid.* 138.

³⁶ Matthew Trowell, *Who Am I?* (Toronto, Canada: Select Media, 2003) 289.

³⁷ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tughril>.

³⁸ Durant, 308.

³⁹ *Ibid.*, 308.

⁴⁰ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tutush_I.

Arslan was released and immediately established himself in his father's territories."⁴¹ The Sultanate at Bagdad remained, but equal with the other three. The division of the Seljuq Empire was a key factor in the success of the First Crusade, was lasted from 1095 to 1099 and resulted in a Christian victory in Palestine. That victory and subsequent crusades, which lasted until 1291, help keep it fractured and delayed the fall of the Byzantine Empire.

All four cities that became capitals of the divided Seliuk Empire existed before the Turks arrived. The four areas submitted to the Seljuks in the following order: Baghdad in 1062, at the humiliation of Al-Qaim, Damascus and Aleppo in 1079, with Aleppo becoming a separate Sultanate in 1092, and Iconium in 1077. Most older commentaries give the following dates: Baghdad in 1055, Damascus and Aleppo in 1079, and Iconium in 1080.⁴² These four Turkish Sultanates of Baghad, Damascus, Aleppo, and Iconium all lie in the watershed of Euphrates River and serve as the four angels of John's prophecy. He said, "*Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates. And the four angels were loosed*" (Rev 9:14-15). The expanding Mongols, who rapidly pushed the Turks further west, forced them to migrate in massive waves toward Baghdad, Damascus, Aleppo, and Iconium. It was from those four Seljiq Sultanates that the Turks launched repeated attacks against Constantinople, the capital of the Byzantine Empire.

The success of the Seljuq Empire paved the way for the Turks to destroy the last part of the Roman Empire, but its decline and eventual fragmentation delayed its conquest until the prophesied time. The Crusades, the Papacy's attempt to regain the Holy Land and the Merovingian effort to obtain the title *King of Zion*, also sapped the strength and resources of the Seljuq Sultanates. The Mongol invasion of Anatolia reduced the Rum Sultanate into numerous emirates. The last Crusade against the Turks ended in 1291 when the Christians lost their only remaining stronghold at Acre. In the early 1300s Osman I, originally transliterated as Othman, from which came the name Ottoman, founded the Ottoman dynasty. The Ottomans were from the Kayi tribe of Oghuz Turks. Osman became the Beg at the death of his father about 1280. He expanded his realm and defeated a Byzantine force sent to counter him at the Battle of Bapheus in 1301 or 1302. The Ottomans continued to enlarge their empire, primarily by defeating portions of the Byzantine Empire in Asia Minor. About 1354, they crossed into Europe and won parts of the Balkans. On April 6, 1453 they besieged Constantinople. It fell to the Turks on Pentecost Sunday, May 29, 1453. That victory is 391 years from the marriage of Tughril to Al-Qaim's daughter. John had prophesied, "*And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men*" (Rev 9:15). In ancient times an hour was consider one twelfth of daylight, or one-twelfth of a day. Since a day in prophecy represents a year, one hour represents one twelfth of a year, or a month. A day symbolizes one year and a month 30 years. A prophetic year represents 360 years. The sum of $360 + 30 + 1 + 1/12$ is 391 years and one month. If one accepts the the marriage of Tughril to Al-Qaim's daughter as being on April 27, 1062, then the fall of Constantinople is 391 years and one month later, confirming that the second woe described the fall of the Byzantine Empire, last part of the Roman Empire. The last third of the Roman Empire was destroyed, or as John framed it, "*a third part of men*" died.

⁴¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sultanate_of_Rum.

⁴² James Walker Hood, *The Plan of the Apocalypse* (York, PA: P. Anstadt & Sons, 1900) 67.

The fall of Constantinople caused Greek scholars to flee to the West bringing sufficient knowledge of the Greek language to help in the translation of the Bible. Johannes Gutenberg printed the first edition of the Bible two years later, in 1455 printing 180 copies, a remarkable feat in an era of handwritten copies. A generation later, Zwingli printed the first Greek copy of the New Testament. Within 10 years, Zwingli, Luther, and Tynsdale had printed their translations. The Reformation entered full bloom. In 1492, Columbus discovered the American Continent, opening a way for persecuted Christians to find refuge and complete the Reformation.

Meanwhile, The Ottoman Empire continue to expand into Europe, reaching parts of Germany and Poland. It even threatened the Papal States of Italy, drawing the Papacy's full attention and resources from the Reformation. In 1648, the European nations signed the Westphalia treaties. They ended both the 30 year war and the 80 year war. Both were wars over religion in which an estimated eight million people died. The treaties recognized the right of each nation to choose its religion and the right of each citizen to practice his religion in private if different than his state's established religion. The treaty ended the rule of the Papacy in any nation that chose a Protestant denomination. Meanwhile, the Ottoman Empire gained its largest territory under the reign of Suleiman the Magnificent, who died in 1566. A period of stagnation followed. In 1683, Grand Vizier Kara Mustafa Pasha led a huge army to attempt a second Ottoman siege of Vienna in the Great Turkish War of 1683–1699. The Ottoman forces were swept away by allied Habsburg, German, and Polish forces. The defeat at Vienna culminated in the Treaty of Karlowitz on January 26, 1699.⁴³ It not only ended the Great Turkish War, but began the decline of the Ottoman Empire. The second woe had past, but the Ottoman Empire did not end until 1918.

The Third Woe

John's Apocalypse spends the next few chapters detailing the expansion of the Gentiles after the Reformation, which liberated them from the "*man of sin*" (2 Thes 2:3). The Bishop of Rome rose to power after the fall of the first third of the Roman Empire, which included Rome itself. The ten barbarian kingdoms that divided that portion of the Roman Empire contained Israelites, who had been sown among them as the Old Testament prophets foretold (Hos 8:8, Zech 10:7-9). When their descendants were finally freed from the Papacy's despotic rule, God expand their dominion until the times of the Gentiles came to its end. That expansion established the promised ensign that is prophesied to gather the Lord's people: "*And he will lift up an ensign to the nations from far, and will hiss unto them from the end of the earth: and, behold, they shall come with speed swiftly*" (Is 5:26). That distant continent is the wilderness to which the church fled from the dragon, or the devil, who pursued her. John revealed, "*To the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent*" (Rev 12:14). It also led to the restoration of the everlasting gospel: "*And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people*" (Rev 14:6). The Gentiles' expansion also extended the good news of salvation around the world.

As the end of the times of the Gentiles approached, God dried up the source of Islamic temporal power. John's prophecy described it: "*And the sixth angel poured out his*

⁴³ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ottoman_Empire.

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" (Rev 16:12). The Ottoman Empire was finally conquered in World War I. British General Edmund Allenby defeated the Turks at Jerusalem and entered the city on December 11, 1917. The next year, he defeated them again in a more decisive victory at the Battle of Megiddo, which ended on September 25, 1918. It destroyed the Ottoman Army. During the next few years Turkish nationalists struggled to create a Republic of Turkey. Their goal was realized on November 1, 1922 when Turkey's Grand National Assembly abolished the Sultanate. The Treaty of Lausanne was signed on July 24 1923. On October 29 a republic was proclaimed, with Mustafa Kemal as its first president. Britain and France controlled Syria, Palestine, and Mesopotamia.

John saw that after the Euphrates dried, three foul ideologies appeared like frogs from the drying riverbed: "*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*" (Rev 16:13). Earlier, John revealed that the dragon is Satan. He said, "*And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan*" (Rev 12:9).

The beast in John's vision is the fourth kingdom in Daniel's vision, which was Rome. John described it: "*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*" (Rev 13:1). The fourth beast in Daniel's vision "*had 10 horns*" (Dan 7:7). Ancient kings wore horns as a crown, especially the horns of the beasts they had personally killed. According to Pherecydes of Syros, Kronos, or The Horned One, was "*the first before all others that ever wore a crown.*"⁴⁴ The horns on Daniel's fourth beast are crowns and show that the beast with ten horns is the same as the beast with ten crowns. That fourth beast represents the Roman Empire. Both Daniel and John revealed that a power rose out of the fourth beast. Daniel saw it as a little horn, which had "*a mouth speaking great things*" (Dan 7:8). Daniel added, "*He shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time*" (Dan 7:25). John saw a mouth appear on the beast. It "*spake great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven*" (Rev 13:5-6). This mouth on John's beast is the same mouth on Daniel's little horn. They symbolize the Papacy. The Pope replaced the Roman Emperor and its ceremonial pomp in the West, the first part of the Roman Empire that divided into ten kingdoms. The beast from which one of the frogs emerged when the Euphrates dried up represents the Papacy.

As already shown, the false prophet represents Mohammad, the prophet of Islam. The islamic religion perpetuates his teachings and is the vehicle by which his falsehoods continue to be propagated.

The Ideology from the Dragon

In 1753 Jean Astruc, a notable French Catholic physician, published a book in which he pointed out that Genesis used two different names for God. The first is *Elohim* and the second *Jehovah*. He suggested a reason: Moses used two different pre-existing histories to compile the Bible. Astruc's observation attracted little attention until German scholar, Johann Gottfried Eichhorn, who claimed to have made the discovery independently,

⁴⁴ Hislop, 35.

published over a span from 1780-83 his work *Introduction to the Old Testament*. He extended Astruc's conclusion to the entire Pentateuch, finding both Eloheim and Jehovah sections throughout the Mosaic books. He also observed that these two sections shared other characteristics beyond the name for God. In addition, he hypothesized that Deuteronomy was composed by another person during the reign of Josiah. Other scholars built on this beginning, eventually concluding that the Old Testament, especially the Pentateuch, came from at least four different sources. Believing that prophetic books like Isaiah and Daniel cannot accurately foretell the future, other academics argued that those books were really written or edited after some of the events that they predict actually happened. They also applied the same reasoning to the New Testament, claiming that the source for the synoptic gospels was a lost manuscript, which they call the *Q Manuscript*. They believed that presumed book served as the original source for the synoptic gospels, which were supposedly written decades, if not centuries later. Scholars began advocating that the Bible was not written by the people it says authored its books, but composed long after the events it reports. Likewise, they argue that it does not accurately report them.

This ideology, which is called *Higher Criticism*, grew in popularity until most academics embraced it and repeated it. They taught it in their classes, converting seminary students who carried it into their churches and preached its concepts from the pulpit. Nominal Christians eager for excuses to justify lax morals and deny any accountability to a divine judge embraced the new idea. Today, many people throughout once Christian cultures consider the Bible nothing more than a collection of myths and legends that are interspersed with inspiring ideals. This ideology came from the devil and is the single most important cause for the rampant disbelief permeating Gentile nations.

Advocates of Higher Criticism and its kindred ideologies such as Lower Criticism, fail to realize that the Bible reveals two names for God. The New Testament names them the Father and the Son. The Old Testament calls them El and Jehovah. That is why Jesus prayed to His heavenly Father while suffering on the cross, "*saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?*" (Matt 27:46). The value for Satan in ignoring this revelation concerning the Old Testament names of the Father and the Son is that the critical ideology not only undermines the authority of the Bible, but threatens the foundation of the Reformation.

The Ideology of the Beast

Karl Marx was born at Tier, Germany in 1818. He wrote his infamous pamphlet, *The Communist Manifesto*, at the age of 30, in 1848. He believed that capitalism, the financial engine for democracies, always developed two classes of people, the wealthy who own the businesses, and the workers, who sell their labor in exchange for wages. He maintained that the socio-economic differences between these two groups will always create tensions that destabilize capitalist societies. He offered an option, which is socialism. In a socialist society, the businesses are owned by society. Workers still earn wages, but the profits that would have flowed to business owners in a capitalistic society accrue to the society, which theoretically shares the profits equally with all workers. Marx expected that when given the opportunity, workers would revolt, throw off their wealthy oppressors, and form a socialist state. He ended his *Communist Manifesto*, "*Workers of all countries, unite.*"⁴⁵

⁴⁵ Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, *The Communist Manifesto* (Chicago, IL: Haymarket Books, 2005) 89.

Capitalism developed as democracies extended freedom to their citizens. Free people can make agreements with others, whether to buy or sell products, services, or labor. That freedom opened countless sources of creativity and invention. Unimagined merchandise and services appeared that greatly improved life and productivity. Meanwhile, competition for buyers improved quality and helped keep prices low. These factors resulted in a rising standard of living. While the workers' economic conditions lagged that of the wealthy, their financial trend was up. Marx had maintained that oppressed workers would abandon their national ties and revolt against their oppressive employers, especially when their political leaders sent them to war, but World War I proved otherwise. Owners, workers, and politicians joined together in defense of their homeland. The only workers enticed to throw off their wealthy overlords lived in monarchies, which by nature resist freedom. The Bolshevik Revolution toppled Russia's Czar and installed a Communist regime, but "*after the Russian Revolution, Communist coups were attempted in Budapest, Munich, and Berlin.*"⁴⁶ They all failed! Marxists in Hungary and Germany reevaluated their premises and concluded that Western culture "*had been thoroughly saturated by Christianity for 2000 years.*"⁴⁷ They set out to change that culture. German Marxists established an institute at Frankfurt University in 1923, for which they became known as the Frankfurt School. While they focused on de-Christianizing Western culture, Germany was already turning from it. According to Edgar Mower, the decline of Christianity in Germany began in 1860.⁴⁸ Germany had been a center in the development of Higher Criticism, but with the help of the Marxists, that trend accelerated after World War I. Richard Overy, in his book, *The Dictators*, states that "*from 1918 to 1931, 2.4 million Evangelical Christians formally renounced their faith as well as almost half a million Catholics. In Prussia, only 21% of the population took communion and in Hamburg only five percent of the population took communion.*"⁴⁹

Socialism is an economic philosophy, but Communism is both an economic and a political philosophy. Both want society to own all businesses and share their profits equally among the workers, but Communism requires that the government be the central owner and decision maker, not only of business, but of governmental matters, too. The rise of the National Socialist German Workers' Party, commonly called the Nazi Party, began as a socialist movement. Under Adolf Hitler it turned fascist, exhibiting little difference between it and Communist Russia under Stalin. Both put the state above the individual and both were totalitarian. Despite the similarities, the rise of Adolf Hitler as leader of the Nazi Party threatened the Frankfurt School. The Enabling Act, which gave Hitler absolute power, also outlawed the German Communist Party. In addition, most of members of the Communist leaning Frankfurt School were Jewish. It fled to America. "*With the assistance of Columbia University, they set up their new Frankfurt School in New York City and redirected their talents to undermine the culture of the country that had given them refuge.*"⁵⁰ They focused their attack on America's traditional and Christian foundations.

⁴⁶ Patrick J. Buchanan, *The Death of the West* (NY, NY: Thomas Dunn Books, 2002), 74.

⁴⁷ *Ibid.*, 76.

⁴⁸ http://www.americanthinker.com/2007/11/the_nazis_and_christianity.html.

⁴⁹ *Ibid.*

⁵⁰ Buchanan, 80.

Both Adolf Hitler and Heinrich Himmler, the head of Germany's Gestapo, admired the organization, dedication, and discipline of the Society of Jesus, commonly called Jesuits, which Loyola of Ignatius founded in 1540. They were instrumental in the Counter-Reformation and thoroughly involved in the Gunpowder Plot that tried to assassinate James I in 1605 and blow up Parliament.⁵¹ According to Walter Schellenberg, the head of Hitler's counterintelligence, "*The SS organization [Gestapo] had been constituted by Himmler according to the principles of the Jesuits' Order. Their regulations and Spiritual Exercises prescribed by Ignatius de Loyola were the model Himmler tried to copy exactly.*"⁵² Hitler, himself said, "*Until now, there has never been anything more grandiose, on earth, than the hierarchical organization of the Catholic Church. I transferred much of this organization into my own party.*"⁵³ Some maintain that the Nazis did not just try to emulate parts of the Catholic Church, but that they acted in league with it. Some claim that Bernhardt Staempfle, a Jesuit priest, was the ghost writer of Hitler's *Mein Kampf*.⁵⁴ Without dispute, Staempfle at least edited it.⁵⁵

While the extent of the Papacy's involvement in the rise and operation of Nazi Germany remains a matter of controversy and conjecture, the development of a dictatorial state in Central Europe has been a Vatican goal since the Reformation. The beast described in Revelation (Rev 13:1-8) had a "*mouth speaking great things and blasphemies,*" which refers to the Papacy that emerged as the "*man of sin*" (2 Thess 2:3) after the European part of the Roman Empire divided into ten kingdoms. The beast from which one of the frogs was prophesied to come is the Papacy. Its links to Germany's socialist efforts reveal that the ideology coming from the mouth of the beast is socialism. Interestingly, both Higher Criticism and socialism developed, at least in part, in Germany. Socialism is now being incorporated into many of Europe's political systems. Activists are working hard to make America a socialist state.

The Ideology of the False Prophet

The first two woes destroyed in succession the last two thirds of the Roman Empire. Both were perpetrated under Islam, the first by Islamic Arabs and the second by Islamic Turks. Mohammad was its initiator. He is the false prophet from whose mouth John prophesied that the third ideology would come. Like before, that ideology is Islam.

World War I left the Islamic world debilitated and fragmented. It was subject to British and French control. Those European nations divided the region into distinct nations. World War II further demoralized Moslems. During that war, Germany occupied most of their traditional territories where they fought the Allies throughout North Africa. When it was over, several prominent Arabs began calling for Arab unification. Michel Aflaq was one prominent promoter. He advocated Arab unity regardless of religious identity. He believed that Islam provides Arabs with "*the most brilliant picture of their language and literature, and the grandest part of their national history.*"⁵⁶ The Moslem religion is the foundation of their unifying cultural identity. Although a Lebanese Christian, Aflaq

⁵¹ Edward Dalton, *The Jesuits: Their Principles and Acts* (London, UK; W. H. Dalton, 1843) 215-216.

⁵² Edmond Paris, *The Secret History of the Jesuits* (Chino, CA: Chick Publications, 1975) 164.

⁵³ Anthony J. Sciolino, *The Holocaust, the Church, and the Law of Unintended Consequences* (Bloomington, IN: iUniverse, 2014) 92.

⁵⁴ Paris, 164.

⁵⁵ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bernhard_Stempfle.

⁵⁶ <http://www.weeklystandard.com/Content/Public/Articles/000/000/001/837uvzrs.asp?pg=2>.

recognized that the glories of Arab nationalism were intrinsically tied to Islam. He advocated, "*Muhammed was the epitome of all the Arabs. So let all the Arabs today be Muhammed.*"⁵⁷ As far as he was concerned, the way out of their shameful situation at that time was to resurrect their glorious past. He wrote *On the Way of Resurrection*. The English word *resurrection* is *ba'th* in Arabic. Aflaq organized the Ba'th Party in 1945 to help resurrect past Arab glories and lift the Arab peoples from Western control. That party came to power in Syria on March 8, 1963 and dominated Iraq from 1968 until the US coalition outlawed it in 2003. Saddam Hussein told an interviewer in 1980, "*It is Michel Aflaq who created the party and not I. How can I forget what Michel Aflaq has done for me? Had it not been for him, I would not be in this position.*"⁵⁸ According to the Iraq News, "*The motivation behind Baathist political thought and its leading supporters was the need to produce a means of reasserting the Arab spirit in the face of foreign domination. Moral and cultural deterioration, it was felt, had so weakened the Arabs that Western supremacy spread throughout the Middle East. Arabs needed a regeneration of the common heritage of people in the region to drive off debilitating external influences.*"⁵⁹

Motivated by the Christian hope for a Jewish homeland in Palestine so prevalent in Victorian England, the British government and its officers worked to establish the nation of Israel. After World War II, millions of European Jews, as well as those from other nations, migrated to Palestine, which the British had mandated in 1920 as a Jewish homeland. When the United Nations adopted the Partition Plan in 1947, which carved out an autonomous Jewish state, the Jewish Agency declared Israel's independence on May 14, 1948. Harry Truman, president of the United States, recognized the new nation on the same day, but the Jew's declaration of independence sparked the 1948 Arab-Israeli War. Israel won most of the former Mandate territory, while the West Bank and Gaza were held by neighboring Arab states. Today, Arabs view Israel as a western nation that does not belong in Arab territory. It not only is a continual agitation for the Arab states, but a source of Arab embarrassment. Every Arab aggression against Israel ended in defeat. In 1967 Israel won the six-day war and gained Jerusalem. That victory marked the end of the time of the Gentiles. Jesus had prophesied, "*And 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*" (Lu 21:24). The Jews' capture of Jerusalem meant that the times of the Gentiles had ended. On December 6, 2017, almost 100 years to the day after Jerusalem's liberation from Arab control, President Trump announced that the United States recognized the Holy City as Israel's capital. It moved its embassy to Jerusalem on May 14, 2018, exactly 70 years after the US recognized Israel as a nation.

Israel continues to exist in spite of a series of conflicts with Arab nations. Its continuing presence in the Moslem world is the unifying force among the various Islamic peoples. The Arabs' inability to defeat the Israelis in 1948, 1967, and 1972 demonstrated that traditional armies could not dislodge them. A new approach was needed and it turned out to be Islamic fundamentalism. That fundamentalism's first victory was the Iranian Revolution of 1979, which placed the Grand Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini as Iran's leader.

⁵⁷ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arab_nationalism.

⁵⁸ <http://www.weeklystandard.com/Content/Public/Articles/000/000/001/837uvzrs.asp>.

⁵⁹ http://www.iraqinews.com/party_baath_party.shtml.

The Revolution removed the last Shah of Iran, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, a Sunni and pro-Western leader, and ended the 2,500 year old Persian monarchy. Iran began sponsoring Islamic fundamental groups by training, financing, and weaponizing non-state militant actors, such as Hezbollah in Lebanon, Hamas in Gaza, the Islamic Jihad, and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PLO). The tactic of fundamental Islamic groups is not direct armed conflict, but terrorist activities in Israel and the Western nations that support her. Its goal is to promote fear. In addition, Islamic fundamental groups have adopted a policy of immigrating to other nations where they gather and grow their religion. This effort is not evangelistic as much as it is invasive. Europe has been especially susceptible. In the mid-1960s, its birthrate began falling. By 2000, *“the fertility rate of a European woman has fallen to 1.4 children, with 2.1 needed just to replace the existing population.”*⁶⁰ Europe now needs to bring in 1.4 billion immigrants by 2050 to maintain its present ratio of workers to every senior.⁶¹ Most immigrants come from northern Africa and the Middle-East, all Muslim nations. By 2000, *“there were five million Muslims in France, and between twelve and fifteen million in the European Union. There are fifteen hundred mosques in Germany. Islam has replaced Judaism as the second religion of Europe.”*⁶² By 2010, the Pew Forum estimated that there were 44 million Muslims in Europe (excluding Turkey), with 19 million in the European Union.⁶³ These statistics predate the mass migrations of the last three years. They also ignore the fact that most Muslims regularly attend mosques, but less than 4% of Christians attend church. The possibility of homegrown Islamic terrorists now living in most European nations is a present and real danger and will only become worse with time.

The Purpose of the Three Ideologies

According to John’s Revelation, the purpose of the three unclean ideologies, or three unclean frogs, is to gather the world’s nations to a great battle. He wrote, *“For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty”* (Rev 16:14). Middle-East tensions continue to draw the attention of Western nations. Their troops have been deployed in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Syria. Recently, Iran has assisted North Korea as both nations try to perfect a nuclear weapon. It resists Western sanctions by hijacking oil tankers in the Gully of Hormuz. In time those tensions will break into a great battle. John added, *“And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon”* (Rev 16:16).

Armageddon is the transliteration of the Greek word that means *hill of Megiddo*. Megiddo is a town by the foot of Mount Carmel. A pass near there links the Plain of Esdraelon on the East with the Plain of Sharon on the west and provides the best overland route from Mesopotamia, Babylon, and Assyria to Egypt. Its strategic location made it the site of many battles. Napoleon Bonaparte declared it as *“the most natural battleground of the whole earth.”*⁶⁴ There were at least 34 battles fought in the valley of Armageddon. It was where the Israelites defeated Sisera, the general for the Canaanite King Jaban (Judg 4 & 5). King Saul fought the Philistines there (1 Sam 31). Solomon battled Shishak in that

⁶⁰ Buchanan, 13.

⁶¹ Ibid., 22.

⁶² Ibid., 118.

⁶³ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam_in_Europe.

⁶⁴ Eric H. Cline, *The Battles of Armageddon* (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2002) 142.

valley (2 Chr 12:2-3). It was also the site where Elijah triumphed over the priests of Baal and God poured fire on his sacrifice according to the prophet's prayer (1K 18:19). Ahaziah, king of Judah, died there (2K 9:27). Pharaoh-Necho slew King Josiah at Megiddo when the Assyrians suffered defeat by the Egyptians (2K 23:29). The first known battle in that valley happened in the 15th century BC. When Pharaoh Thutmose III, also known as Thothmes, captured the area from the Canaanites, he said, *"It was worth a thousand cities."*⁶⁵ Four separate battles between Saladin and the Crusaders took place in that valley during the 12th century. Napoleon Bonaparte fought the Ottomans at Megiddo in 1799. In 1918, General Allenby chose that site to defeat the Ottoman Empire. Armageddon represents the final battle in which God will subdue all nations and defend His kingdom. In doing so, He will have *"made bare his holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God"* (Is 52:10).

The three frogs that John saw represent Higher Criticism, Socialism, and militant Islam, the doctrines of devils, which have weakened the Gentile nations until they are primed for destruction. In the height of their prosperity, they lost the moral and spiritual fiber that allowed them world dominion. Their birthrate declined, requiring the import of immigrant workers. Muslims came and dispersed Islamic terrorists throughout Europe. When fully prepared, the Lord will bring the European nations to judgment. Israel's prophets foretold it: *"Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles; prepare war, wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near; let them come up: beat your plowshares into swords and your pruninghooks into spears: let the weak say, I am strong. Assemble yourselves, and come, all ye heathen, and gather yourselves together round about: thither cause thy mighty ones to come down, O Lord. Let the heathen be wakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat: for there will I sit to judge all the heathen round about"* (Joel 3:9-12). The tensions in the Middle-East will erupt, bringing the Gentile nations to a culminating conflict. While their armies may fight at or near Megiddo, Islamic inhabitants living in Gentile nations will terrorize their citizens and burn their cities. Even Rome will be inflamed. The Vatican, the last vestige of ancient Babylon, will be completely destroyed by fire. John foresaw its destruction at the judgment of Armageddon: *"The great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath"* (Rev 16:19). Elsewhere, he revealed, *"There followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication"* (Rev 14:8). Every vestige of the Roman Empire, which was the final successor of Babylon, will be destroyed in retaliation for the Crusades. It will not rise again.

With the European nations ravaged by terrorism within their borders, they will be hard pressed to keep their armies in a foreign battle, especially with Russia siding with the Arab states. Only America will be able to lead the fight against the Islamic Army in the Middle East. Isaiah revealed that the defending army will come from the other side of the earth: *"The noise of a multitude in the mountains, like as of a great people; a tumultuous noise of the kingdoms of nations gathered together: the Lord of hosts mustereth the host of the battle. They come from a far country, from the end of heaven, even the Lord, and the weapons of his indignation, to destroy the whole land"* (Isa 13:4-5). Joel foretold how rockets would *"leap, like the noise of a flame of fire that devoureth the stubble"* (Joel 2:5) so that *"the earth*

⁶⁵ *Master Study Bible* (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 1983) 1323.

shall quake before them; the heavens shall tremble: the sun and the moon shall be dark, and the stars shall withdraw their shining" (Joel 2:10). The smoke of the bombings will be so intense that it will hide the moon, stars, and sun. John revealed that Armageddon's warfare will pollute the air. He continued, "*And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done*" (Rev 16:17). The air will be thick with fumes and likely filled with radiation. The earth will tremble. John added, "*And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great*" (Rev 16:18). The Revelator explained that the massive earthquake will divide the great city into thirds: "*And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath*" (Rev 16:19). With the fall of the Papacy, which continued the pomp and power of the Roman Emperor, the final third of that Empire is finally destroyed. The third woe passed.

Armageddon is more than the fall of Babylon and the destruction of the Gentile nations. It is called the valley of Jehoshaphat for what else happens. During the reign of Jehoshaphat (871-846 BC), "*the children of Moab, and the children of Ammon, and with them other [who lived at Seir] beside the Ammonites, came against Jehoshaphat to battle*" (2 Chr 20:1). Their army was much greater than Judah's, causing the Jews to fast and pray for deliverance. The Lord told them, "*To morrow go ye down against them: behold, they come up by the cliff of Ziz; and ye shall find them at the end of the brook, before the wilderness of Jeruel. Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the Lord with you, O Judah and Jerusalem: fear not, nor be dismayed; to morrow go out against them: for the Lord will be with you*" (2 Chr 20:16-17). When the Hebrew army went to the valley by the cliff of Ziz, they found that the invading army had fought among themselves and killed each other. "*When Judah came toward the watch tower in the wilderness, they looked unto the multitude, and, behold, they were dead bodies fallen to the earth, and none escaped*" (2 Chr 20:24). The prophets likened the judgment at Armageddon to the valley of Jehoshaphat because when Babylon falls and the Gentile nations are destroyed, all the heathens will fight among themselves and destroy each other. The Lord's army will prevail, not by victory, but by divine deliverance. Only those who confess Jesus Christ and conform to His kingdom will remain. The Book of Mormon reveals, "*They shall fall into the pit which they digged to ensnare the people of the Lord. And all that fight against Zion, shall be destroyed*" (1N 7:29-30).

The Preserved

After describing how the three ideologies, which John saw as frogs, gather the nations "*to the battle of that great day of God Almighty*" (Rev 16:14), but before identifying the name of the battle as *Armageddon*, the Revelator extended a promise to the Lord's people: "*Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame*" (Rev 16:15). Paul explained that the children of the kingdom would not be caught unprepared. He wrote, "*For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief*" (1 Thes 5:2-4). The Lord made the same promise in Old Testament times. Through Isaiah, the Holy Spirit said, "*Behold, they shall surely gather together, but not by me:*

whosoever shall gather together against thee shall fall for thy sake. Behold, I have created the smith that bloweth the coals in the fire, and that bringeth forth an instrument for his work; and I have created the waster to destroy. No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord” (Is 54:15-17). Although the fierce battle in the day of the Lord’s wrath will destroy the Gentile nations and annihilate every vestige of the old Roman Empire, bringing great earthquakes and nuclear radiation, the Lord will preserve His people. He will not let the wicked destroy the righteous nor interfere with the completion of His kingdom on earth. Nephi explained, “For the time soon cometh, that the fullness of the wrath of God shall be poured out upon all the children of men: for he will not suffer that the wicked shall destroy the righteous. Wherefore, he will preserve the righteous by his power, even if it be so that the fullness of his wrath must come, and the righteous be preserved, even unto the destruction of their enemies by fire” (1N 7:34-36).

The Lord will preserve His people by pouring His Spirit on them. This is prophesied to happen just before God’s wrath consumes the great and abominable church, as Nephi called it: *“And it came to pass that I beheld that the great mother of abominations did gather together in multitudes upon the face of all the earth, among all the nations of the Gentiles, to fight against the Lamb of God. And it came to pass that I, Nephi, beheld the power of the Lamb of God, that it descended upon the saints of the church of the Lamb, and upon the covenant people of the Lord, who were scattered upon all the face of the earth; and they were armed with righteousness and with the power of God in great glory” (1N 3:229-231). The Lord will pour spiritual power on all His people. Joel foretold it: “And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: and also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit” (Joel 2:28-29). The Lord will preserve His people by immersing them with righteousness and divine power. Like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, whom Nebuchadnezzar threw into the fiery furnace for refusing to worship a false god, Jesus will protect and deliver them.*

Conclusion

Daniel prophesied the succession of those nations that captured and oppressed the Lord’s people: Babylon, Media/Persia, Greece, and Rome. He also revealed that Rome would divide into ten nations. When all those kingdoms, including the first four, exist at the same time, Daniel added that God would set up His Kingdom on earth. John clarified Daniel’s prophecies, revealing them in light of Jesus’ mission and ministry. Those elucidations include: the conversion of the Roman Empire to the gospel of Jesus Christ; the destruction of the European third of the Empire by the ten barbarian kingdoms; the rise of the Papacy, which installed the antichrist in the Vatican and resurrected parts of ancient Babylon; and the occurrence of three woes. The first of three woes foretold how Islam terrorized and conquered the second third of the Roman Empire, which included North Africa, Syria, Palestine, Arabia, and Mesopotamia. The second woe reveals how Islam destroyed the Byzantine Empire, the last third of the Roman Empire. The third woe describes how Islam, along with Higher Criticism and Socialism, prepare the Gentile nations for destruction. Those nations are successors of the first third of the Roman Empire that was spared Islam’s jihads, but having rejected the everlasting gospel that the angel returned to earth (Rev 14:6), must perish in the judgments that incinerate the Papacy, the inheritor

to Babylon, and save the Lord's people from the present-day schemes aimed at enslaving them in devilish falsehoods.

Babylon fell in 537 BC, Persia in 590 BC, and Greece in 146 BC. Rome became Christian in 315. The first third of the Empire was divided by 570. The second third fell by 682 and the last third by 1453. All the nations that Daniel foresaw (Babylon, Media/Persia, Greece, Rome, and the ten nations that divided Rome) stood together from February 3, 1830 to September 25, 1918. God returned the everlasting gospel to earth on September 23, 1827 and set up His kingdom on April 6, 1830. The time of the Gentiles ended in 1967. By 1982, Iran had begun training, financing, and weaponizing non-state militant Islamic fundamentalist groups, some of whom have infiltrated most nations. Western nations are aligned against Arab states, primarily because of the existence of Israel, and are being drawn toward Armageddon, the great last battle of the Lord. Although it will destroy all nations, God will save His people. His kingdom will fill the earth.