

THE  
APOCALYPSE  
HAS BEGUN



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REDEMPTION  PRESS

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Published by Redemption Press, PO Box 427, Enumclaw, WA 98022

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ISBN 13: 978-1-63232-102-2

Library of Congress Catalog Card Number: 2009904997

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# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

There are many people who have helped, made suggestions, edited, proof read, and encouraged me along the long road to this completed manuscript. They have been His conduits. With deep gratitude I thank them all.

However, my desire is that the focus of honor, gratitude, and thanks be to the real source of the book: The Living God. To Him this book is humbly dedicated.





# INTRODUCTION

Some years ago, I was introduced to the late Pastor Charles F. Noble of Mina, Nevada. He had developed a thesis that the four beasts of Daniel 7 were not ancient empires but modern nations. The thoughts of contemplating such an idea lay dormant with me for a number of years, because at the time I was a dyed-in-the-wool pretribulationist, and this thesis just didn't fit into my scheme of end-times thinking.

One day I took his book *Drama of the Ages* off the shelf and gave his thesis a second look. For better or for worse, this started my journey of thinking outside of the box. *Were the nineteenth and twentieth century eschatology expositors mistaken about the four beasts of Daniel 7? If so, could they have missed other prophetic events?* At that point, I began to question everything I had ever read regarding the end times.

By the time Marvin Rosenthal's book *The Pre-Wrath Rapture of the Church* came out in 1990, I had taken the position of a "three-and-one-half year tribulationist," because I could find no Scriptural basis for seven years of tribulation. Rosenthal's thesis regarding the rapture was the final element that made a cohesive whole out of the end-times pieces that I had been gathering.

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I am convinced that the nineteenth and twentieth century Bible scholars were attempting, to the best of their understanding and knowledge, to interpret the Scriptures correctly. However, they were at a tremendous disadvantage when they wrote their major works on eschatology. They were attempting to interpret the book of Daniel before it had been “unsealed” in 1948—the year that Israel, God’s Scriptural timepiece, was reborn as a sovereign nation after approximately 2,500 years of being scattered throughout the Gentile nations. This “rebirth” was also the event that marked the beginning of the “time of the end.”

Unfortunately, the misconceptions made by these Christian scholars have remained as major premises in the modern American evangelical end-times belief system. The following are just a few of the questionable positions they have presented regarding the end times:

- The rapture (the time when believing Christians will be caught up into heaven) will take place sometime before the opening of the last seven years of this age.
- The identity of the Beast of Daniel and Revelation will not be revealed until after the church has been raptured.
- The man called the Antichrist/Beast will come on the scene during the beginning of the last seven years and will somehow convince the nations of the world to form a one-world government over which he will rule.
- This despotic world ruler will receive a mortal head wound and then be resurrected.

If you have problems connecting the dots in this end-times picture, and if you also have a nagging feeling that something is missing, but you don’t know exactly what it is, then I invite you to read on.

My purpose in writing *The Apocalypse Has Begun* is not to offer an exhaustive compilation of end times events, because I don’t in any way pretend to have all the answers. Rather, I humbly hope to submit for your consideration my ideas and biblical research as small steps in the right direction for establishing a clearer view of God’s great plan for the end of the age, so that the world might be warned even as it was warned by Noah.

## CHAPTER 1



# THE FOURTH BEAST OF THE APOCALYPSE



Like the undetected flight of a stealth fighter plane, the beginning of the Apocalypse slipped in past the ever-vigilant aficionados of eschatology silently and unseen. It began with the birth of the European Single Market on December 31, 1992, an event that fulfilled the prophecy given in Revelation 17:12: “The ten horns you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but who for one hour will receive authority as kings along with the beast.” Jacques Delors, who was president of the Commission of the European Union (EU) at the time, received this kingdom along with the ten nations when the European Single Market was created in 1992.

The second event of the Apocalypse will take place during 2014 when the EU will move into fiscal and political union. At the same time they are expected to appoint Jacques Delors as the first and last president of that union. This event fulfills the prophecy given in Revelation 17:12–13 [The ten kings who received authority as kings for one hour along with the beast] ... “will give their power and authority to the beast.” The new president will not take this authority by force, as so many prophecy pundits have maintained, but will be appointed to the position.

## **How the Ten Nations Evolved**

From its very beginning in 1950, prophecy experts have been looking at the EU as a possible revival of the old Roman Empire as foretold in the book of Daniel. This concept of the EU is based on a dream of Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, as recorded in Daniel 2.

Nebuchadnezzar's Babylonian kingdom was the first great power of the biblical period known as "the times of the Gentiles" (see Luke 21:24). This biblical period began in 586 B.C., when Nebuchadnezzar invaded Israel, destroyed the Temple (the center of Jewish worship), and deported the Jews to Babylon.

In his dream, Nebuchadnezzar saw a huge, poly-metallic image of a man. The image had a head made of gold, chest and arms made of silver, and a belly and thighs made of bronze. The legs were made of iron, and the feet were iron mixed with clay. Then a stone came out of heaven and crushed the toes of the image, and the whole image collapsed and was blown away in the wind.

Nebuchadnezzar, being deeply troubled by this vision, sought the interpretation of the dream from his so-called wise men—the magicians, sorcerers, and astrologers of his court. The king insisted that the wise men give him the interpretation of his dream before he told it to them. He knew that the only way he could know their interpretation was correct was by first refusing to tell them what he had seen. The king then informed the wise men that if they didn't tell him the dream and its interpretation, they would all be put to death.

Daniel (one of the relocated Jews) was considered to be one of the wise men, because God had given him great knowledge and special understanding of literature and learning. In addition, "Daniel could understand visions and dreams of all kinds" (Dan. 1:17). Seemingly, Daniel was unaware of the decree, because when the king's guard arrived to carry him off to be killed with the other wise men, Daniel asked the guard what the problem was. When the guard told him about the king's decree, Daniel went to the king and asked him for a little time so that he, Daniel, might interpret the dream. The following is the interpretation of the dream that God gave to Daniel to pass on to the king:

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You, O king, are the king of kings. The God of heaven has given you the dominion and power and might and glory; in your hands he has placed mankind and the beasts of the field and the birds of the air. Wherever they live, he has made you ruler over them all. You are that head of gold.

After you, another kingdom will rise, inferior to yours. Next, a third kingdom, one of bronze, will rule over the whole earth. Finally, there will be a fourth kingdom, strong as iron—for iron breaks and smashes everything—and as iron breaks things to pieces, so it will crush and break all the others. Just as you saw that the feet and toes were partly of baked clay and partly of iron, so this will be a divided kingdom; yet it will have some of the strength of iron in it, even as you saw iron mixed with clay. As the toes were partly iron and partly clay, so this kingdom will be partly strong and partly brittle. And just as you saw the iron mixed with baked clay, so the people will be a mixture and will not remain united, any more than iron mixes with clay.

In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever. This is the meaning of the vision of the rock cut out of a mountain, but not by human hands—a rock that broke the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold to pieces.

—Daniel 2:37–45

Daniel began the interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's dream by telling the king that he was the head of gold he had seen in his dream. Daniel then went on to explain that the portions of the statue made of other metals represented the kingdoms that would follow Babylon in succession. In Daniel 2:38, we learn that the chest and arms of silver, the second great power, represented the Medo-Persian Empire, which conquered Babylon in 539 B.C. Then in Daniel 8:20–21, we learn that the belly and thighs of bronze represented Greece, which conquered the Medo-Persian Empire in 330 B.C. (In Daniel's prophecy, the ram, representing the kings of Media and Persia, is destroyed by a goat, representing the kingdom of Greece.) These amazing predictions could only have been God speaking through Daniel, because at the time,

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Greece consisted of a number of individual city-states and was not yet known as a country. In fact, the Medes and Persians ruled over the area called Thrace for some 200 years before it became Greece.

The fourth empire, represented by the legs of iron in the dream, is unnamed in Scripture, but because it historically succeeds the Greek Empire, we have to assume that it is the Roman Empire. After the death of Alexander the Great in 323 B.C., the Greek Empire was divided among his four generals. During the next several centuries, the Roman legions gradually began to conquer the remains of Alexander's Empire, until it controlled all of the Mediterranean and most of the known world at that time. In 395 A.D., the Roman Empire was divided into an Eastern Empire and a Western Empire. The legs of iron in Nebuchadnezzar's dream represented this division. Then in 800 A.D., the Western Empire became known as the Holy Roman Empire. The Pope took over the reins of the crumbling empire and crowned Charlemagne as its emperor. This kingdom was represented by the feet of the statue that were made of clay mixed with iron.

The Western Empire did not remain united for long. Individual kingdoms began to break off from it, and by the conclusion of the Thirty Years' War in 1648, the Peace of Westphalia had given the territories in the empire almost complete independence. Then in 1806, the empire suffered what appeared to be a mortal blow when the French emperor Napoleon defeated Francis II of Austria and forced him to resign the title of Holy Roman Emperor. However, the Roman Empire continued to limp along through the years in a crippled condition, as behind the scenes the Vatican still maintained its control on the Western Empire and its people.

In Daniel 2:42–44, after the prophet describes the toes of the statue made partly of iron and partly of clay, he goes on to state, "In the times of those kings ..." The kings under discussion at this point are those that make up the ten-toe kingdom and not the kings of the other metallic empires. Because the toes are connected to the legs of iron, we see that the toes represent a ten-nation confederation that will develop out of the Roman Empire.

At the end of the dream, Nebuchadnezzar sees a Rock coming out of heaven that smashes the toes of the statue, which represent the

Gentile empire of the last days. The entire statue is ground to powder and blown away in the wind. The Rock represents the Kingdom of God, which Jesus will set up at His return. He will do away with Satan's world system (the statue) and replace it with His millennial (1,000-year) reign on earth.

For approximately 2,500 years after Nebuchadnezzar conquered Israel in 586 B.C., Israel was not a sovereign nation. It wasn't until May 14, 1948, following a decision by the United Nations to create a Jewish state in Palestine, that the nation of Israel was reborn in the Promised Land (Isaiah 66:7–8). However, this event did not indicate the end of the times of the Gentiles, for those in power in Israel are still greatly influenced by their Gentile allies. In fact, the times of the Gentiles will only end when Christ's empire, defeats the forces of the Gentile empire at the battle of Armageddon, sets up His Millennial Kingdom, and collects the twelve scattered tribes from around the world.

### **The Horn Dilemma**

According to this interpretation of the prophecy in Daniel, the ten toes are a revival of the Roman Empire. The European Union is viewed by many as that revival. But here a problem emerges, because in Revelation 17:12–13, John uses horns to describe the ten nations instead of toes. The reason for this, I believe, is because of Daniel's vision in 7:2–13, which he describes as follows:

“In my vision at night I looked, and there before me were the four great winds of heaven churning up the great sea. Four great beasts, each different from the others, came up out of the sea.

The first was like a lion, and it had the wings of an eagle. I watched until its wings were torn off and it was lifted from the ground so that it stood on two feet as a man, and a heart of a man was given to it.

And there before me was a second beast, which looked like a bear. It was raised up on one of its sides, and it had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. It was told to, “Get up and eat your fill of flesh!”

After that, I looked and there before me was another beast, one that looked like a leopard. And on its back it had four wings like

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those of a bird. This beast had four heads, and it was given authority to rule.

And after that, in my vision at night I looked, and there before me was a fourth beast—terrifying and frightening and very powerful. It had large iron teeth; it crushed and devoured its victims and trampled underfoot whatever was left. It was different from all the other beasts, and it had ten horns.

While I was thinking about the horns, there before me was another horn, a little one, which came up among them; and three of the first horns were uprooted before it. The horn had eyes like the eyes of a man and a mouth that spoke boastfully.

As I looked,

Thrones were set in place, and the Ancient of Days took his seat.

His clothing was white as snow; the hair of his head was white like wool.

His throne was flaming with fire, and its wheels were all ablaze.

A river of fire was flowing, coming out before him.

Thousands upon thousands attended him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him.

The court was seated, and the books were opened.

Then I continued to watch because of the boastful words the horn was speaking. I kept looking until the beast was slain and its body destroyed and thrown into the blazing fire. (The other beasts had been stripped of their authority, but were allowed to live for a period of time.)”

The ten horns on the fourth beast of Daniel 7 are a representation of the ten toes on the statue in Daniel 2, but they are set in different contexts. The statue represents Satan’s world system, and the toes are part of that statue. The four beasts of Daniel 7, on the other hand, do not represent Satan’s world system but rather four modern nations. In Daniel 7, the fourth beast is not the Old Roman Empire with its ten horns (nations) that evolve later in the last days, as many have concluded. Rather, it is the image of a revived Roman Empire featuring the ten horn nations. Because the ten horns are a revival of the Roman Empire, the Roman Empire must be seen as part of the organic whole. To picture this merger in Daniel 7 a different way, think of it as an iceberg. The Roman Empire is that part of the iceberg under the water that holds up the EU (the ten horns) above the water.



### **In the Beginning**

On May 9, 1950, the foundation for the EU was laid when Robert Schuman, the French foreign minister, drew up a plan calling for Europe's nations to join together to exert joint control over the continent's coal and steel production, the most important materials for the armaments industry. Seven years later, in 1957, the European Common Market, as the EU was known at that time, was officially organized when six European nations joined the coalition. These nations were Germany, France, the Netherlands, Belgium, Italy, and Luxembourg. The document that drew them together was known as The Treaty of Rome.

Sixteen years later, in 1973, the United Kingdom, Denmark, and Ireland joined the European Economic Community (EEC), as the EU was known at that time. These three new members excited prophecy buffs, because they were convinced that the membership of one more nation would complete the prophesied ten nations described in Daniel 2:42–44. Greece became the tenth nation in 1981, but it soon became evident that there had to be something more cohesive among these nations than just the Common Market as it was set up at that time.

Four years later, in 1985, the catalyst for the political binding between these European nations appeared on the scene when Jacques Delors, the French Finance Minister, was appointed president of the Commission of the EEC. Delors had been a successful bank executive and an outstanding union negotiator. He made solid friendships with some of the important heads of state, which subtly enabled him to steer the EEC in the direction of a centralized government.

### **No Ten Horns**

Expectations of a ten-nation federation evaporated in 1986 when Spain and Portugal joined the EEC, bringing the grand total of member nations to twelve. No one realized at the time that with the membership of these two nations the biblical ten horns of the last Gentile empire had been completed: "The ten horns you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom" (Rev. 17:12).

A year later, in 1987, the EEC Council of Ministers passed the Single European Act, which set an objective of establishing a European

Single Market by December 31, 1992. Under this Single Market, the member countries were to remain sovereign but appear as one nation—much like the United States of America, only without a federal government. The governing authority for the Single Market consisted of the heads of state for all twelve member nations (known as the “Council of Ministers”), with each member nation rotating in the presidency for a six-month term. This fulfilled the biblical prophecy given in Revelation 17:12, which states that these “kings without a kingdom” will receive authority as kings “for one hour” (Rev. 17:12).

The plan of the Single Market was to bring about a barrier-free Europe by December 31, 1992. Under this system, it was hoped that people, goods, money, transportation, and services would be able to move freely between the borders of all member nations. Each nation agreed to abide by some 285 physical, technical, and fiscal directives drafted by the Commission, the administrative wing of the EU located in Brussels, Belgium. These directives were an attempt to standardize the multitude of differing regulations and codes in the member countries. (If you’ve ever gone to Europe and tried to plug in an American electrical appliance, you’re aware of the problem Europe faced in just one area of attempting to find uniformity).<sup>1</sup>

### **A Wobbly Start**

The Single Market was a sure-footed step forward in the European Community’s faltering march toward political union. In 1988, James M. Markham, chief of *The New York Times’* Paris bureau, wrote the following:

Sensing a deadline of historic proportions, European Community Governments have begun intensive campaigns to alert citizens, and particularly small and medium-sized businesses of the implications of “1992”—a shorthand that has simplified the work of headline writers in a dozen languages. Already European based, multi-national businesses constitute powerful pro-1992 lobbies. While American and Japanese concerns are opening more branches here to make sure they have a foot in the door, Belgium has created a ministry to deal with 1992, and Italian television has spawned two quiz shows to sensitize the public to the rendezvous.

It is rare for a Western European politician to deliver a policy statement without dedication of a significant passage to 1992. When Prime Minister Ciriaco de Mita of Italy presented his new government's program in April, he mentioned 1992 some sixteen times, and in a spring presidential campaign in France, the leading candidates vied to show their ardor for a unified Europe.<sup>2</sup>

Someone once said, "The Union is like a bicycle. Unless it keeps moving, it falls over." Delors was aware that this could happen with the EU, so he and his staff produced the Maastricht Treaty, which he named for the small city of Maastricht in the Netherlands where the Council of Ministers held their summit in June of 1991. This treaty, in addition to being an adjunct to the Single Market, provided the framework for future political unification for the members of the EU. It laid the foundation for agreement on a European Monetary Union (EMU) by January 1, 1999, and it embraced the populations of the member states as citizens of the EU. The member nations were to strive toward a common defense and foreign policy. All the while, Delors kept pushing and shoving the EU towards the Single Market system.

At the time, Delors and the Commission were concerned that the treaty would not be ratified as mandated by all twelve nations. Denmark and Britain had expressed some resistance toward the more federal look of the EU, and the Commission was fearful that these two nations might cast negative votes on the treaty. If this happened, Delors and his staff would have to go back to the drawing board to rewrite the whole plan and then come back to the Council of Ministers at a later date. This was a major concern, as they had worked long and hard to prepare the document. The Council was convinced that it was now or never to move toward a more federal stance for the EU.

Between 1991 and 1992, all twelve nations signed the Maastricht Treaty. However, only *ten* nations ratified the treaty at that time. As suspected, the two flies in the ointment were Denmark and Britain. Denmark attempted to ratify the treaty in 1992, but it was not received well by its public. In Great Britain, Prime Minister John Major expressed concern that he wouldn't be able to get enough support for the treaty, and he balked at presenting it to his Parliament in 1992.

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In order to prevent further delay, at the Edinburgh Summit on December 9, 1992, the Council gave Great Britain and Denmark opt-outs of certain sections of the treaty in hopes that these concessions would lead to easier ratification in those countries. Denmark was allowed to opt out from citizenship in the EU and from adopting a common European currency, defense, and foreign policy. Great Britain's opt-outs pertained to the Social Policy (which had to do with labor laws) and policies on common defense, foreign policy, and a common European currency.

With these concessions in place, all twelve countries entered the Maastricht Treaty on December 31, 1992, although Denmark and Great Britain did not ratify the treaty at that time. This finally occurred in November of 1993, when both Denmark and Britain ratified the treaty on the provision that they would be able to keep the opt-outs given to them by the other ten nations. With these items left out of their agreement to the treaty, there was not much left binding these two countries to the document. In other words, Britain and Denmark did not have the single-mindedness of the other ten nations, and in the years since, they have continued to maintain these opt-outs.

As of January 1, 1993, all passports issued in the Single Market carry the flag of the EU, and all auto license plates issued within the Union are imprinted with the EU flag. December 31, 1992 was surely the birth of something new and unparalleled in world history: twelve sovereign nations ruling over a very unique kind of country.

### **The Hub of the Revival**

The hub of the revival of the Roman Empire was not Rome, as would have been expected, but in Brussels, Belgium. The Berlaymont building in Brussels, the capital building for the EU, houses the Commission and some 20,000 "Eurocrats" who carry on the daily activities of the EU. Those who have seen this huge, black glass building from the air often comment that it looks like a glittering five-pointed star. How appropriate for Satan, the fallen star of darkness, incarnate in the man who will be the dreaded Beast of Revelation 13 to rule from the 13<sup>th</sup> floor (the top floor) of a building with such an appearance.

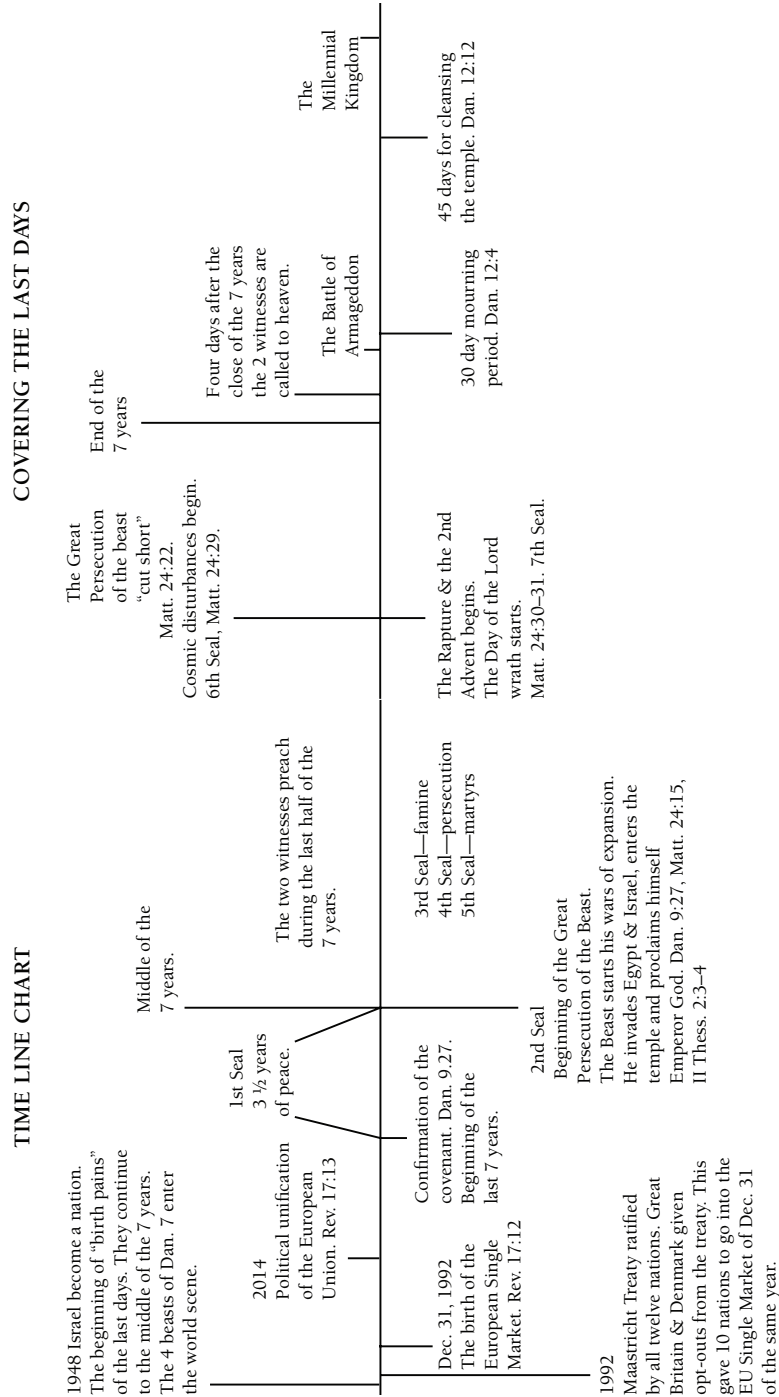
The city of Brussels has had an interesting past. In 700 A.D, the people of this then-small village, prompted by their fear of Satan and his minions, elected to have the archangel, Michael, as their patron saint. They made this choice because, according to Revelation 12, Michael will cast Satan out of heaven at the beginning of the last half of the seven years of this current age. It made no difference to the people of Brussels that Michael's official position is to protect the people of Israel. They were sure they could count on Michael's watchful eye over their village.

Down through the years, many artists in Brussels have attempted to reflect this other-world conflict between Michael and Satan. One excellent example of this is a beautiful gold leaf statuary representation of Michael standing victoriously over a defeated Satan located just inside the entrance of Saint Michael's Cathedral in downtown Brussels. Another example is the townhall building, which contains a representation of a defeated Satan on the very peak of the building. To this day, the two copper figures, patina covered by years of sun and rain, can be seen on top of the townhall tower. They appear as if frozen in a future time warp against the Brussels sky, foreshadowing God's final victory over evil.

In 1695, the king of France, attempting to overrun a nearby Belgian province, tried to distract the Belgian army by attacking the city of Brussels. The king ordered his generals to place their cannons along the top of a small ridge of hills on one side of Brussels and then shelled the city continuously for forty-eight hours. At the end of the second day, the French forces had almost leveled the main part of the city. The town hall should have been obliterated, but amazingly, the structure and its tower made it through without a scratch. It was as if something or someone had protected it.

We discover in Revelation 12:7–9 that when Michael casts Satan out of heaven, Satan will find himself on the earth. He will immediately incarnate himself in the Beast, whose headquarters will probably be within the black glass Berlaymont building in the city of Brussels. As it turns out, what the early people of Brussels were trying so desperately to avoid will prove to be a viper nestled in their bosom. In the last days, Brussels will be thrust into the world spotlight when it emerges as the vortex of power for the Beast of the Apocalypse.

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## **The Twelve Stars of the European Union**

According to an article in *Europe Magazine* in 1987, the Belgians minted the first coins in the new European Currency Unit for the collector's market only. Imprinted on the coins were twelve stars, symbolizing the twelve nations of the EU, and the bust of Emperor Charles the Fifth, who was born in the Belgian town of Ghent in 1500 and was crowned the ruler of the Holy Roman Empire in 1519. According to the article, Charles the Fifth was chosen to be immortalized on the currency because of the striking geographical similarity between the Holy Roman Empire and the European Common Market.<sup>3</sup>

Unfortunately, despite any similarities Europeans may see between the EU and the Holy Roman Empire, the Europe of today is anything but holy. For the most part, the continent is post-Christian. Even with a population of 370 million people who claim to have a Christian heritage, most Europeans have turned their backs on the Roman Catholic Church's version of Christianity. They have relegated Christianity to the age of the dinosaurs, and this condition has led to a lack of biblical knowledge that has caused most Europeans to be blinded to the darker implications of a unified Europe. Because of this blindness and their willingness to go along with a federal Europe, they are now merging into the fast lane on the apocalyptic autobahn.

The flag of the EU is composed of a circle of twelve gold stars against a royal blue background. At the time the flag was being created, the EU intended to grow in membership; however, they decided to limit the number of stars on the flag to twelve. It's interesting to note that in Revelation 12, the twelve tribes of Israel are represented by twelve stars, and the people who will be ruled by Satan (the EU) are also represented by twelve stars. Could this be a coincidence, or maybe a sign?

The anthem of the EU is a hymn Christians sing around the world called "Ode to Joy." Interestingly, the EU has changed the name of the anthem to "Ode to Freedom" (the words have been changed also). Little do the people of the EU realize that in just a short time, their "Ode to Freedom" will be trampled on by their new president, who will demand worship as God and turn Europe into a huge gulag existing only to worship him.

## **Growth and Setbacks**

On January 1, 1995, Jacques Delors's dream of a politically united Europe came one step closer to fulfillment when Sweden, Finland, and Austria joined the EU, bringing the total membership to fifteen. At the time, Norway's ruling party was also seeking membership in the EU, but the voters of that nation rejected membership through a popular referendum. Thus, these three nations would represent the last new members in the EU that Delors would witness as president of the Commission, as his second term in office concluded at the end of 1994.

In 1996, the Intergovernmental Conference was held in Turin, Italy. The objectives of the conference were to reorganize the institutions of the EU to prepare for taking in the Eastern Bloc nations as members and to get ready for the European Monetary Union (EMU). In order to qualify for this union, the nations of the EU had to meet a certain standard of economic and monetary stability. By January 1, 1999, eleven nations of the EU had successfully met these requirements. As some have said, the implementation of this single currency system (the "Euro") marked the true beginning of a united Europe.

Around this time, the EU started to receive criticisms from the rest of the world that there was no one at the wheel and the ship was adrift. The principle objection was that Europe had become an "economic giant but a political pygmy." The question many were asking was, "When I call Europe, who do I ask for?" The two main problems in the development of a political EU at this juncture were the fact that no one individual represented the Union and that the individual member nations were hesitant to give up any part of their national sovereignty.

On November 8, 2000, the Commission reported on the progress of the ten Eastern Bloc candidate countries towards membership and noted that these nations were fulfilling the requirements for membership. However, another candidate, Turkey, was experiencing some roadblocks due to the issue of human rights abuses. To gain acceptance in the EU, a country must not only have a functioning market economy capable of competition within the EU but also a stable democracy that respects human rights and the rule of law. The Commission ultimately



decided that Turkey would have to address this problem before it would be considered for membership in the EU.

It is my conviction that the leadership of the EU does not want Turkey to be a member, and that it will never be admitted to the Union. This is because a nation's voting influence in the EU is based on its population. Turkey is a Muslim nation, and because it would have the largest population of any of the EU members, it would be able to dominate any decision made in the EU parliament. Turkey's non-acceptance into the EU may push the nation into the arms of Islamic Turkish militant leaders, who have been lobbying Turkey's government to turn away from the West and install an Islamic state. If this happens, it is very probable that they will join the Russian invasion of Israel, called the "battle of Armageddon" in Ezekiel 38–39. In fact, many believe that the nation of Beth Togarmah, referred to in Ezekiel 38:6, is modern-day Turkey.

On February 26, 2001, the Treaty of Nice (a rewrite of the Maastricht Treaty) was signed by all fifteen EU member states; however, when a referendum on the treaty was held in Ireland, the public voted against it. Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahearn was able eventually to placate the Irish naysayers, and shortly thereafter, the treaty was ratified by all fifteen member nations. In terms of fulfilling biblical prophecy, it was important that Ireland stay in the EU, because that nation represents one of the original ten horns that entered into the Single Market with "one purpose." Ireland had to be in the EU at political unification, where the ten horns give their power and authority to the Beast.

Meanwhile, Great Britain and Denmark held on to the opt-outs from the Maastricht Treaty given to them earlier. Again, this is important, because even though Great Britain and Denmark were members of the EU before the Single Market went on line December 31, 1992, they are not counted as part of the ten horns because of these opt-outs to the Maastricht Treaty that occurred prior to the beginning of the Single Market.

On January 28, 2002, Euro coins and notes became the legal tender of the then twelve nations participating in the EMU, and circulation of all other currency in these member states ceased as of that date. Three other current members of the EU—Great Britain, Denmark,

and Sweden—kept their national currencies. The fact that Great Britain kept the sterling and the pound also has prophetic significance, in that it continues to maintain a political distance from those on the continent.

### **A New Constitution**

In December of 2001, the Council of the EU established a body known as the Convention on the Future of Europe. This convention was mainly concerned with framing a European constitution. An early draft for a constitution was ready for presentation to the EU members at the Thessaloniki Summit held in Greece in June of 2003. This draft of the constitution would become the foundation for the upcoming negotiations for the Future of Europe.

During the summit, measures were also put in place to eliminate the need for traveling summits and for a rotating six-month presidency. The EU presidency would be filled by an appointed individual for a renewable two-and-one-half year term. It was also decided during this time that a Minister of Foreign Affairs would be appointed in conjunction with this new long-term president. However, they did not form a federated government at that time.

On May 1, 2004, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Czechia, Hungary, and Cyprus became members of the EU, bringing the grand total to twenty-five countries and adding more than 100 million people to the Union. These later nations are important to the prophetic picture, because with their membership, there are no longer ten sovereign nations in Western Europe outside of the EU that could develop into another ten-horn confederation of Revelation 17. Now, the only way ten nations in Western Europe could attempt to repeat what happened during the birth of the EU is by their leaving all the benefits of the union and withdrawing from membership. These ten nations would also have to meet all the prerequisites set down in Revelation 17, which have already been met by the original ten nations of the Single Market. These prerequisites are:

1. Ten sovereign nations must come together in some sort of federation.

2. All ten nations must rule individually over this federation for a period of time (i.e. the former six-month rotating presidency in the EU).
3. A man must somehow be a part of this federation at its inception, yet his position must also be outside of the ten nations.
4. The ten nations must have “one purpose” to unify politically, and then give this man their individual power and authority.

As you can see, the chances for this scenario to take place a second time are extremely remote. Of course, ten nations could emerge from around the Mediterranean area, because ancient Rome also ruled in that area. However, except for those nations who already belong to the EU and the nation of Israel, that part of the world is basically Muslim, and will later fight against the Beast/Antichrist in the battle of Armageddon.

On June 18, 2004, the European Council in Brussels finalized the draft of the EU’s first constitution, and on October 29, 2004, the twenty-five European heads of state signed the document. Shortly after, in May and June of 2005, the French and the Dutch rejected the constitution by referendum, which threw the entire process of unification into chaos. The EU heads of state then decided to temporarily bypass the appointment of a long-term president and retain the six-month rotating presidency. Javier Solana was appointed for an indefinite period to be the new EU Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The Council of Ministers then decided to have a two-year time of “reflection” to find out what went wrong. Many leaders, such as English Prime Minister Tony Blair, declared the constitution to be dead, while others in the EU began scrambling to put Humpty Dumpty back together again. These Humpty-Dumpty builders softened the idea of a constitution by attempting to call it a “treaty,” but the other side still maintained it was a constitution. They claimed that the constitution represented a power grab by Brussels and that the adoption of it would move them one step closer to centralized control of the EU member states.

On January 1, 2007, Germany took over the six-month presidency of the EU, under the leadership of Chancellor Angela Merkel. She

immediately made the implementation of the constitution by 2009 one of her top priorities and designated the end of 2007 as the target date for completing the revision of the constitution. The same day Germany took over the EU presidency, Bulgaria and Romania joined the EU, bringing the total membership to twenty-seven countries.

### **The Lisbon Treaty**

After the two-year “time of reflection,” the EU heads of state met in Lisbon to consider the objections of the French and the Dutch to the EU constitution. Like the rejected constitution before it, the revised Lisbon Treaty proposed a long-term position for the president, although this presidency was now to be just a “figurehead” to replace the unwieldy six-month rotation system of the member nation’s leaders. In its place, the position of Foreign Minister was to have more political clout than that of the president.

Leaders of the twenty-seven nations in the EU signed the revised constitution in December of 2007, in a historic Lisbon Monastery. In an attempt to avoid a British referendum vote on the treaty, the British Labor government was again given key opt-outs on foreign policy, labor rights, taxes, and social security systems. The British government approved the treaty opt-outs, but again rejected the Euro currency.

Ireland rejected the Lisbon Treaty by referendum in June of 2008, just as they had rejected the Nice Treaty several years before. This was a big disappointment to the EU Council of Ministers, because the Council had again passed a resolution mandating that all of the member nations had to approve the treaty for it to go into effect. The Council of Ministers were quick to remind the Irish that they had become a wealthy nation because of the huge amounts of cash given to them by the EU. Nonetheless, in December of 2008, EU leaders agreed to a series of concessions to placate the Irish public into accepting the Lisbon Treaty. These concessions included provisions that the EU would not impose rules on Ireland concerning taxation and “ethical issues” (such as abortion, euthanasia, and gay marriages) and that the EU would not interfere with Ireland’s traditional neutrality. On October 2, 2009, the Irish ratified the Lisbon Treaty through a renewed referendum.

In June of 2008, just before the French were to assume the six-month presidency and the Council of Ministers' semiannual meeting, both houses of the British Parliament, with the Labour Party in the majority, and Queen Elizabeth II signed the United Kingdom's approval of the treaty. A few years before, Tony Blair's Labour Party had come to power in the United Kingdom on the promise that they would place a referendum before the people on membership in the European Union. Eighty-one percent of the British people had been in favor of this referendum, but now they were being denied their right to do so by the same Labour Party they had voted into power. Of course, this did not sit well with the leaders who represented the majority who wanted a referendum on the treaty, and they fought the decision furiously.

In my opinion, the eighty-one percent will eventually prevail, and Britain will withdraw from the EU. Prime Minister Cameron made a speech in 2013 outlining plans for a national referendum in 2015 on whether to enter a new relationship with Europe, or withdraw altogether. Unfortunately, 2015 will be too late since the EU will have politically unified in 2014.

Britain's withdrawal from the EU is prophetically important, because its withdrawal will be a strong indication that it is the lion beast in Daniel 7.

The slow pace toward political unification through the years has been the fact that the member nations didn't really want to give up their sovereignty. When the EU was forced to bail out the member state of Greece, with Spain and Ireland in the wings waiting their turn for a hand-out, it became evident to all that the Euro would suddenly fail if political unification was not realized in the near future.

### **Prophecy Fulfilled**

It is my conviction that the appointment of Jacques Delors by the Council of Ministers as the first president of a politically unified Europe will fulfill Revelation 17:13.

It makes no difference in terms of the fulfillment of Revelation 17:13 that by the time Delors is appointed to the presidency of a unified Europe more countries than the prophetic ten states had joined the EU. The original ten are still members of the EU. Daniel 7:8

makes a distinction between the ten horns and the later horns: “While I was thinking about the horns, there before me was another horn, a little one, which came up among them, and three of the first horns were uprooted before it.” This uprooting of three of the *first* horns, or nations, refers to three nations of the original prophetic ten horns of December 31, 1992. This infers that there are other nations that will join with the ten horns.

Dr. Ryrie, a professor at Dallas Theological Seminary, made the following statement in regard to the beginning of the events in the book of Revelation: “‘The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must shortly take place’ (Rev. 1:1). ‘Shortly.’ This word does not indicate that the events described in this book will necessarily occur soon, but when they do begin to happen they will come to pass swiftly (the same Greek word is translated “speedily” in Luke 18:8).”<sup>4</sup>

If Dr. Ryrie’s interpretation is correct, because Revelation 17:12 has now been fulfilled, and Verse 13 is about to be fulfilled, it shouldn’t be long before Delors confirms some kind of security treaty with the nation of Israel, which will begin the last seven years before Christ sets up His Millennial Kingdom on earth (see Dan. 9:24). Once Delors signs the treaty, there will be a period of three-and-one-half years before he becomes Satan incarnate. After that, he will live a supernatural life for 1,260 days. (See chapter 9 for an explanation of Daniel’s “seventy weeks” from Daniel 9:24–27.)

### Summary

The revival of the Roman Empire, represented by the toes of the statue of Daniel 2 and the horns of Daniel 7 and Revelation 17, has manifested itself as the modern-day confederation of nations called the European Union. Six countries came together in 1957 to sign the Treaty of Rome. This was the birth of the European Economic Community or “Common Market,” which laid the foundation for future political union.

In 1973, the United Kingdom, Denmark, and Ireland joined the EEC. Prophecy buffs became convinced that the membership of one more nation would complete the prophesied ten nations, which

occurred when Greece became the tenth nation in 1981. But these expectations evaporated in 1986, when Spain and Portugal also joined. What was not seen, however, was that biblical prophecy in fact had been fulfilled, because only ten of these nations had signed on to the “one purpose” of the Maastricht Treaty: “They have *one purpose* and will *give* their power and authority to the beast” (Rev. 17:13). England and Denmark took opt-outs, while still remaining within the Single Market, which left these two nations out of the “one purpose” of the other ten nations.

In 1985, Jacques Delors was appointed president of the Commission. Then June 21–22, 2003, at the Thessaloniki Summit, the EU members agreed to a constitution, to the appointment of a foreign minister, and to change the structure of the presidency from a six-month rotating schedule to a renewable two-and-one-half year term for a single individual. France and the Netherlands rejected the constitution by a referendum vote, which caused the Council of Ministers to use creative means to attempt to push through acceptance of a revised constitution.

The revised constitution was called the Lisbon Treaty. In June 2008, Ireland rejected the treaty by referendum, which delayed acceptance of the constitution until 2010. On October 2, 2009, the Irish were given opt-outs from the treaty, and with these concessions, they were brought back into the treaty. On January 1, 2010 the treaty went into force. However, the treaty didn’t bring in political unification. It won’t be until 2014 that unification will take place for twenty-six countries, Great Britain is expected to withdraw, and the Beast will be given all the powers of a politically unified Europe thus....

THE APOCALYPSE HAS BEGUN.