

**Family Night Special Feature Study**  
**What in the World is Going On?**

**What in the World is Going On Study Schedule**

WEEK	DATE	TOPIC	SUMMARY
<b>THREE</b>	<b>January 28</b>	<b>Modern Europe... Ancient Rome</b>	The new Europe is becoming more powerful each year. Why is this important in God's plan for prophecy to be fulfilled?

**NOTE:**

Allow Dr. David Jeremiah to challenge you with his pertinent message, *What in the World Is Going On? 10 Prophetic Clues You Cannot Afford to Ignore* and discover the hope we have in Christ.

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Joyce Center @ University of Notre Dame  
 113 Joyce Center.....Notre Dame, IN 46556  
 Start: 7:00 pm Doors Open: 5:30 pm

**Study #3 – Modern Europe, Ancient Rome**

We have come to our third study in the topic of Biblical Prophecy and its relevance with regard to our modern day times. It is important that we read, see, and hear the warning that is being sounded in the Scriptures and made a reality in our culture and our times. The study that we focus on today is about the rise of the great empire in which the Anti-Christ will come from which many prophetic scholars believe will be the revival of the Roman empire.

**Middle East News Headlines**

**'Iran and Syria trying to replace PLO' 1-30-09**

The Palestinian Authority on Thursday accused Iran and Syria of encouraging Hamas and other radical groups to establish a new leadership that would challenge the PLO's claim to be the "sole and legitimate" representative of the Palestinians.

**Turkish PM given hero's welcome 1-30-09**

Turkey's PM has received a hero's welcome on his return to Istanbul after he stormed out of a debate about Gaza at the World Economic Forum in Davos.

**'Israel warned Syria during Gaza op: If Hizbullah attacks we'll attack you' 1-27-09**

During Operation Cast Lead, Israel warned Syria that it would bomb sites and facilities in Damascus if Hizbullah fires rockets on Israeli towns and communities in the North, Egyptian paper Al Ahram reported Tuesday.

**Hamas breaks Gaza ceasefire, kills Israeli soldier 1-27-09**

One Israeli soldier was killed and three others were wounded on Tuesday morning when terrorists in the Gaza Strip detonated a roadside bomb against their patrol vehicle along the border fence.

**Ahmadined demands prosecution of Israel leaders 1-16-09**

Iranian President calls on Arab, Muslim countries to 'boycott all products of the Zionist entity'. Israel's indiscriminate offensive against Gaza was condemned at a summit in Qatar on Friday, with Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad calling for the prosecution of Israeli leaders by an international court.

**Syrian president calls for cutting all ties with Israel 1-16-09**

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad called on Friday for all Arab countries with diplomatic ties to Israel to close their embassies in the Jewish state.

- *What is the importance of these headlines with regard to Biblical Prophecy?*

## The Prophecy from Daniel 2

Our study tonight will focus on the Biblical Prophecy that points to a great kingdom that will arise in the last days and consume the world with great power and authority. We see in Revelation that the Anti-Christ will come from the rise of this great superpower. The Biblical Prophecy is seen in **Daniel 2:31-44 (NASB)**. We will divide this text into three parts for better understanding.

### The King's Dream

<sup>31</sup> "You, O king, were looking and behold, there was a single great statue; that statue, which was large and of extraordinary splendor, was standing in front of you, and its appearance was awesome. <sup>32</sup> "The head of that statue *was made* of fine gold, its breast and its arms of silver, its belly and its thighs of bronze, <sup>33</sup> its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. <sup>34</sup> "You continued looking until a stone <sup>R79</sup> was cut out without <sup>R80</sup> hands, and it struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and crushed them. <sup>35</sup> "Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were crushed all at the same time and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away so that not a trace of them was found. But the stone that struck the statue became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

### The Interpretation

#### Babylon the First Kingdom

<sup>36</sup> "This *was* the dream; now we will tell its interpretation before the king. <sup>37</sup> "You, O king, are the king of kings, to whom the God of heaven has given the kingdom, the power, the strength and the glory; <sup>38</sup> and wherever the sons of men dwell, *or* the beasts of the field, or the birds of the sky, He has given *them* into your hand and has caused you to rule over them all. You are the head of gold.

#### Medo-Persia and Greece

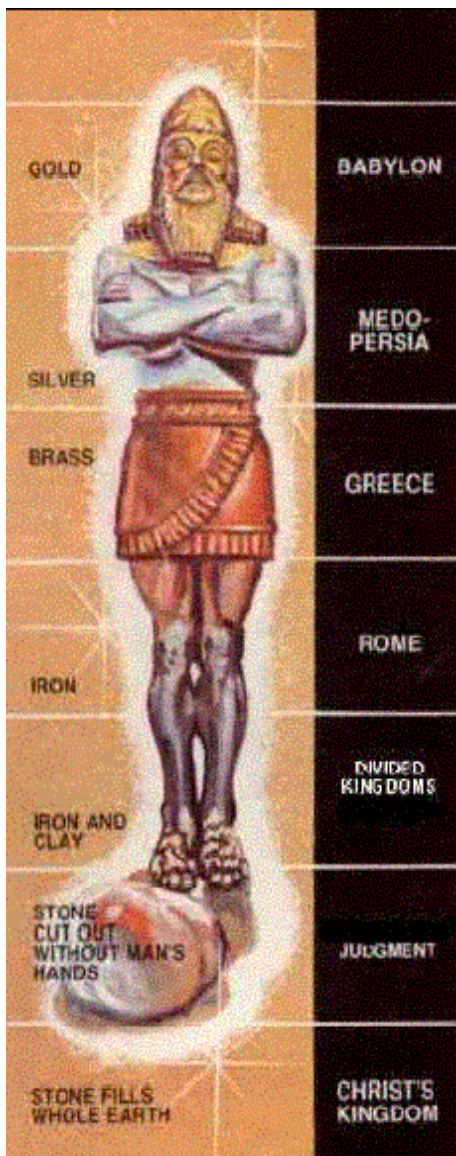
<sup>39</sup> "After you there will arise another kingdom inferior to you, then another third kingdom of bronze, which will rule over all the earth.

#### Rome

<sup>40</sup> "Then there will be a fourth kingdom as strong as iron; inasmuch as iron crushes and shatters all things, so, like iron that breaks in pieces, it will crush and break all these in pieces. <sup>41</sup> "In that you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, it will be a divided kingdom; but it will have in it the toughness of iron, inasmuch as you saw the iron mixed with common clay. <sup>42</sup> "As the toes of the feet *were* partly of iron and partly of pottery, *so* some of the kingdom will be strong and part of it will be brittle. <sup>43</sup> "And in that you saw the iron mixed with common clay, they will combine with one another in the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, even as iron does not combine with pottery.

#### The Divine Kingdom

<sup>44</sup> "In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and *that* kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever. <sup>45</sup> "Inasmuch as you saw that a stone was cut out of the mountain without hands and that it crushed the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold, the great God has made known to the king what will take place in the future; so the dream is true and its interpretation is trustworthy."



*What are key words our phrases that stand out to you in verses 36-40? Explain.*

## Examination of Daniel 2

Our desire is to divide Daniel 2 into different sections in order to help us make sense of the prophecy that was given from the Lord and especially the ramifications that it has upon our culture and times today.

### Head of Gold = Babylonian Empire (Daniel 2:36-38)

Daniel interprets the dream for the king and declares that he and his kingdom is the first part of the vision that represents the head of gold. Pay attention to these facts:

- Chief Deity of Babylon – Marduk “The god of Gold”
- Nebuchadnezzar craved wealth, power, and gold.
- **Daniel 3:1** – Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold...

### Breast and Arms of Silver = Medo-Persian Empire (Daniel 2:32,39)

- The Medo-Persian empire conquered Babylon in 539 BC and remained in power for 200 years.
- **Daniel 5:28** – “`PERES'--your kingdom has been divided and given over to the Medes and Persians.”

### Belly and Thighs of Bronze = Grecian Empire (Daniel 2:39)

- The Kingdom of bronze represents the empire of Greece and the kingdom of Philip of Macedon and Alexander the Great.
- Alexander’s soldiers armored themselves in bronze and brass breastplates, helmets, shields, & swords.
- **Daniel 8:21-22** – “The shaggy goat represents the kingdom of Greece, and the large horn that is between his eyes is the first king.”<sup>22</sup> “The broken horn and the four horns that arose in its place represent four kingdoms which will arise from his nation, although not with his power.

Pay attention to this important note. History tells us that Alexander the Great was the “prominent horn” (Dan. 8:5) of the Grecian Empire. With the death of Alexander the Great, in 323 B.C., the prominent horn was broken off and was replaced by four horns (four kingdoms) which emerged from the Grecian Empire (Daniel 8:22). The Grecian Empire was subdivided into four major sections: *Greece* (ruled by Cassander), *Asia Minor* (ruled by Lysimachus), composed mostly of present-day *Turkey, Egypt* (ruled by Ptolemy), and *Mesopotamia and Syria* (ruled by Seleucus).

### Legs of Iron = Roman Empire (Daniel 2:40)

The fourth empire represented is that of Roman Empire. History proves that Rome was the successor of the great Greek empire. It was powerful and strong and historians continue to use the term iron when referring to its rule. It would rule with an *iron fist, iron grip, iron heel, or with its iron legion’s*. This empire came into existence about 50 years before the birth of Christ.

The Roman Empire was divided about 395 A.D. into two political areas: the Latin speaking west with its capital as Rome and the Greek speaking East with its capitol as Constantinople. This represents the two legs of the Roman Empire.

We see that in Daniel 7:1-14 that the four beasts represent the four kingdoms from Daniel 2.

- |                             |                                  |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| • <b>Lion = Babylon</b>     | • <b>Leopard = Greece</b>        |
| • <b>Bear = Medo-Persia</b> | • <b>Terrifying Beast = Rome</b> |

*Why does God give greater clarity to Daniel’s vision in Daniel 7?*

## The Rise of Roman European Empire

The remainder of our study brings us to the rise of the Roman Empire that comes about in verses 40-43. Let us look at this text once again as a refresher.

## Rise of Rome

<sup>40</sup> "Then there will be a fourth kingdom as strong as iron; inasmuch as iron crushes and shatters all things, so, like iron that breaks in pieces, it will crush and break all these in pieces. <sup>41</sup> "In that you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, it will be a divided kingdom; but it will have in it the toughness of iron, inasmuch as you saw the iron mixed with common clay. <sup>42</sup> "As the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of pottery, so some of the kingdom will be strong and part of it will be brittle. <sup>43</sup> "And in that you saw the iron mixed with common clay, they will combine with one another in the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, even as iron does not combine with pottery.

- ***What are key words our phrases that stand out to you in this text? Explain.***

Observe in this text that the fourth kingdom is suddenly divided into 10 basic kingdoms and these kingdoms are going to rise to become a great superpower which will eventually give rise to a great superpower leader that will overpower the world.

- ***When will this great superpower come to rise?***

**Daniel 2:44** – "In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever.

We could once again be seeing the fulfillment of prophecy right before our very eyes as we observe the rise of the Roman Empire come about again. The Roman Empire was broken into two legs and on these legs were two feet with these feet there were ten toes that represented ten kingdoms.

### ***What does the Scripture tell us about these ten kingdoms in Daniel 2:41-43?***

- <sup>41</sup> "In that you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, it will be a divided kingdom; but it will have in it the toughness of iron, inasmuch as you saw the iron mixed with common clay. <sup>42</sup> "As the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of pottery, so some of the kingdom will be strong and part of it will be brittle. <sup>43</sup> "And in that you saw the iron mixed with common clay, they will combine with one another in the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, even as iron does not combine with pottery.

We see in this text that a new Roman Empire will come about in the form of a coalition of sorts. They will be united but divided. We see this coming to fruition in the form of the European Union as it is gaining power and stability over the last five years. We have seen this union gain momentum and power over the last five years with great speed but observe the timeline of its birth.

## **Timeline of the Development of the European Union**

### **May 9, 1950 – The Schuman Declaration**

French Foreign Minister, Robert Schuman announces a plan conceived by French businessman Jean Monet to pool European coal and steel production under a common authority. The result was the creation of the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) in 1951 consisting of France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium, and Luxembourg.

### **March 25, 1957 - The Treaty of Rome**

The six ECSC member states agree to set up a common market called The European Economic Community (EEC) which went into effect in January 1958.

### **January 1, 1973 - First Expansion of the Community**

Three nations are added to the community — Denmark, Ireland, and Britain. Later additions include Greece (1981), Spain and Portugal (1986), and Austria, Finland, and Sweden (1995).

### **June 7-10, 1979 - First Elections**

Members of the European Parliament are directly elected for the first time. Previously the parliaments of the member nations had appointed the representatives.

## **February 7, 1992 - Maastricht Treaty**

This treaty transforms the EEC from a strictly economic union to one that is both economic and political, creating the European Union in 1993.

## **December 13, 2007 – The Treaty of Lisbon**

European leaders gathered in Lisbon, Portugal, to sign the Treaty of Lisbon which represents an attempt to further strengthen the European Union, increasing its powers as a superstate while diminishing the national sovereignty of its 27 member states.

- As of **January 27, 2007** there are over 27 nations as part of the European Union with a population of over 450 million people.

The European Union is broken into three branches of a government style of system as described by David Jeremiah on page 62 of *“What in the World is Going on?”*:

**Section #1 – Parliament** – Considered to be the *“Voice of the People”* because the citizens of the EU elect its 785 members. It passes the European laws in conjunction with the council.

**Section #2 – Council of European Union** – The council consists of one member per state giving it 27 members who are also heads of their national governments. They help pass laws, establish foreign policies and security policies. It is currently undergoing a ratification process to reduce the membership of the council from 27 to 17 and to elect a full-time president for a 2 ½ year extendable term replacing the current presidency that changes every six months.

### **Blair reappears on shortlist to head EU**

By Tony Barber in Brussels...Published: January 11 2009 17:48

Tony Blair, the former UK prime minister, is re-emerging as a possible choice to be the European Union's first full-time president after four momentous crises reinforced the argument for having a high-profile international personality in the job. According to EU officials and diplomats, the impressive performance of Nicolas Sarkozy, France's president, during his six-month spell in charge of the EU last year has strengthened the hand of those who say a big name should guide the 27-nation bloc.

**Section #3 – European Commission** – This commission is made up of 27 representatives from the different states of the union and their job is to draft new laws and implement policies and funding.

### **Is the Euro the New Dollar?**

Time Magazine...Thursday, Jan. 01, 2009...By Leo Cendrowicz / Brussels

Europe's single currency has come of age early. The euro turns 10 on Jan. 1, a milestone for one of the most powerful symbols of European identity. It has already endured a rite of passage over the past few months, as the global financial crisis battered European markets yet failed to fluster the euro. And, like any debutante, it has its suitors: a string of countries lining up to dump their national currencies and join the euro zone.

It's a remarkable achievement for a currency whose only global rival is the U.S. dollar. The greenback has more than two centuries of history behind it. But it wasn't until Jan. 1, 1999 that 11 E.U. countries locked their national currencies together into a fixed exchange rate. Three years later, physical coins and notes became available, replacing national cash in a massive changeover operation.

We see a new rise of power coming from the European Union and it is setting the stage for a global superpower to influence the world in a tremendous way. Pay attention to what Scripture declares. Even though the rest of the world is rejoicing over the rise of this new Roman Empire. God declares that it will be united and at the same time divided.

- *What ways could this European Union be united and divided at the same time?*
  - **Observe these headlines**

EU Approves Resolution to Force Homosexual "Marriage" Acceptance, in All Member States

Britain 'must set population limit to safeguard national security' say experts

EU to launch biometric passports by summer

Gaza conflict spreads to Europe with Jews attacked

Mediterranean Union agrees on Barcelona as headquarters, Arab-Israeli role

From Cross to Crescent in Paris - Islam spreads throughout Europe

- Look at these two images associated with the EU and reflect on what you observe.

### The Tower of Babel



An amazing poster was issued by the European Union, showing the Tower of Babel and carrying the slogan: "Many tongues, one voice." In case the point was lost, a crane in the background was shown rebuilding the tower. Above the Tower of Babel were shown the eurostars, but inverted, as in witchcraft, with the central points downwards.

Mystical Babylon is now being rebuilt in Europe, with the centerpiece of this new government as an actual parliament building in Strasbourg, France. Even the secular press could not miss the connection between the old and new towers of Babel. They labeled the new French structure "The Tower of Euro-Babel." Nigel Farage is a member of the European Parliament who belongs to the United Kingdom Independence Party, said in an article just after the opening day: "We realize we are not merely entering a building, but being allowed access to the temple of a bold new empire."<sup>4</sup>

*What do you observe in this image and its relation to prophecy?*

### A Woman Riding a Beast



Another demonic biblical symbol that is being used in conjunction with the European Union is the one from Revelation 17 where a "great harlot" is depicted riding a beast. For some strange and unknown reason this symbol is being used to represent the EU! For example, when Britain issued a stamp to commemorate the first European Parliament elections in 1979, the picture on the stamp depicted a woman riding a beast.

According to the Rev. Dr. Ian Paisley, a Northern Ireland Protestant minister and member of the European Parliament, the woman on a beast is now the official picture of the EU. He points out that the multi-million dollar new parliament building in Brussels, Belgium, contains a dome with a colossal painting, three times life size, of a woman riding a beast.

In Strasbourg, France, the rival parliamentary building (the one with the Tower of Babel) features a mural of a naked woman riding a beast. Likewise, the new Brussels headquarters of the Council of Europe contains a bronze statue of a woman riding a beast, and the beast is depicted riding on waves, just as in Revelation 17.

*What do you observe in this image and its relation to prophecy?*

### Final Challenge and Thought

Pay careful attention to history. The **Western "Leg"** of the Roman Empire fragmented into numerous regions, populated by various peoples. Over time, the Germanic tribes set up new kingdoms: the

Visigoths in Spain, the Franks in Gaul (which eventually became France and Germany), the Angles and Saxons in Britain, and the Lombards in Italy. Through uncountable changes over many centuries, the western Roman Empire has evolved into most of today's European Union (EU). By and large, the overwhelmingly dominant power of today's western "leg" of the old Roman Empire lies with five nations, which could be the 5 "toes" on one foot of Nebuchadnezzar's statue:

**Britain, France, Germany, Italy, and Spain**

In 293 A.D., the Roman Emperor Diocletian shifted the center of the Roman Empire eastward, to Byzantium. The **Eastern "Leg"** of the empire became known as the Byzantine Empire or the Eastern Roman Empire. In 326, Constantine renamed Byzantium as Constantinopolis. Today, this is Istanbul, **Turkey**.

Over centuries, the Byzantine Empire also underwent many changes. Finally, in 1453, the Osmanli, a nomadic tribe in Turkey, conquered the Byzantine capital, Constantinople. Thus began the Ottoman Empire, named after the first ruler, Osman. The great Ottoman Empire, essentially, was a *continuation* of the Byzantine or eastern "leg" of the Roman Empire, and it lasted for almost six centuries, until 1924. The Ottoman Turks headed one of the greatest imperial powers in history. The Ottoman Empire was a theocracy, with the sultans dedicated to the advancement of the Sunni branch of Islam through military means.

With the decline of the Ottoman Empire, *four dominant states arose*: Greece, Turkey, Syria, and Egypt—which were restorations of the four heads of Daniel's third beast, the Grecian Empire. The dominant power of today's eastern "leg" of the old Roman Empire lies with six nations—five of which may be considered the 5 "toes" on the other foot of Nebuchadnezzar's statue:

**Egypt, Greece, Iran, Iraq, Syria, and Turkey.**

- *Could the ten kingdoms already exist?*
- *Is the rise of the Roman Empire going to show us the rise of the Anti-Christ in our lifetime?*

The challenge has been laid before us by Christ himself. Will we open our eyes and observe the changing of the seasons in which we live? Will we open our hearts and minds to see the signs of the end or will we ignore the signs and settle back in our easy chairs? God is alive and active more than ever before and the Word of God is pointing to the great return of the King.

***Are you ready?***

### **Bibliography**

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