

ISLAM AND THE GREAT HARLOT

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1.10.16

I have spoken of the vision of Daniel 2. Whether the 4th kingdom ... of Iron - is it Rome or Europe. I have suggested not.

Historically, Rome did not smash ... pulverise the other 3 Kingdoms. Islam seems to fit.

We have looked at the vision of Daniel 8 ... the Ram (2 horns) goes to war ... North ... South ... West. Later ... there is a counter attack by the He-Goat with its large Notable Horn. The Ram and The He-Goat are said to be Iran and Javan (Turkey).

Speculate that may be the next big event in prophecy? Perhaps? Maybe watching Iran and Turkey going to war. Both Iran and Turkey feature prominently in the news. Both are powerful nations. Turkey is returning to its religious roots ... more of a fundamental Islamic state. President Erdogan appears to have a vision of the Ottoman Empire? Iran has recently recovered upwards of \$150 billion and has visions of exercising its version of Shia Islam dominations. Well worth watching!

Daniel 8:4 (NKJV)

4 I saw the ram (Iran) pushing westward, northward, and southward, so that no animal could withstand him; nor was there any that could deliver from his hand, but he did according to his will and became great.

So ... when Iran gets going in the end-tine ... nothing can stop it. There are none to withstand or deliver. Iran being extraordinarily powerful.

In the last few months:

Iran - S300 Surface-Air missiles. (Purchased from Russia). No one then would be able to overcome them ... only the US would be able to do that. No other country has the ability to overcome these missiles. This week ... Zulfikar Ballistic Missiles unveiled which are very accurate with multiple warheads?

Turkey - Just 2 days ago ... Erdogan has been on the "warpath" yet again. He has controversially queried the Treaty in 1923 that gave control of many islands to Greece. Mr Erdogan doesn't like this any longer. He wants them back. These "now Greek Islands" belong to Turkey.

So ... Iran and Turkey ... both very active. Watch!

Last week we reviewed the 4 Beasts of Daniel 7 ... Lion ... Bear ... Leopard (with his 4 heads) ... and The Great and Terrible Beast. (Islam).

Modern-day Iraq ... Iran ... Javan/Turkey ... 4th Beast "different from all of the others". Islam? With 10 horns = 10 Islamic Kingdoms. One powerful little horn arises that subdues 3 others (Egypt, Libya and Sudan?) ... and this "horn" persecutes the saints for times, time and half a time = 3.5 years.

Many Islamic nations already persecute "Christians" ... burn churches ... persecute... and kill. With more to come.

Finally last week we looked at the 2 Beasts of Revelation 13.

Revelation 13:1-7 (NKJV) ... composite Beast of Daniel 7

1 Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And **I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads** (*Lion, Bear, Leopard x 4,*

Terrible Beast) and ten horns, (*4th Terrible Beast* and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name.

2 Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion.

The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority.

3 And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, (*Rome was sacked in 476 AD? Islam ... when the Ottoman Islamic Empire ended ... 1922-1924?*) and his deadly wound was healed.

And all the world marvelled and followed the beast.

4 So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?"

5 And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months. (*42 months ... The Roman view = 1,260 years = 554 AD-1814 ... which would be history. Or soon? The Islamic Empire with the saints at his mercy for 42 months = 3.5 years*)

6 Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven.

7 It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation.

The 2nd Beast

Revelation 13:11-18 (NKJV)

11 Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon.

12 And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. (*In my view ... The Ottoman Empire which has to be healed ... soon*)

13 He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men.

14 And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived.

15 He was granted power to give breath to the image/likeness of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed.

16 He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads,

17 and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

18 Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666.

Who or what is the 2nd Beast?

1. The Seventh Day Adventists believe this is the USA ... that will enforce Sunday worship
2. The Traditional View: Papacy/Vatican looks like a lamb ... but he has the dragon behind him ... religious authority (the Pope is over a billion Catholics) or ... city-state (Vatican City) and its Political power
3. The Islamic alternative: Islamic Antichrist/Caliph (not around today) ... the most authoritative person in Islam. He has complete ... total authority (religious and political) over the 1st Beast (Islamic Empire of 10 Nations)

Verse 16-17 ... you can't buy or sell without:

Mark = Charagma ... on your forehead/right hand

Name of Beast

Number of His Name

The options for the "Mark":

- (A) Traditional View: Sunday worship enforced. Is that plausible today?
- (B) Electronic Chip/Tattoo on your hand or forehead. Technology is getting there. Your credit card could be switched off, etc.
- (C) If Islamic Empire is the Beast ... then another option.

But ... one thing to note here: GOD'S EXTREME WRATH. God will not be pleased if anyone takes the Mark of The Beast.

Revelation 14:9-12 (NKJV)

9 Then **a third angel** followed them, saying with a loud voice, "**If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand,**

10 he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. **He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.**

11 And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and **they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name."** *(If we receive the Mark ... God will pour out His wrath ... undiluted! Worship is a declaration of allegiance ... loyalty ... aspect of the heart ... not just accepting an external mark)*

12 Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.

Revelation 16:1-2 (NKJV)

1 Then I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, "Go and pour out the bowls of the wrath of God on the earth."

2 So the first went and poured out his bowl upon the earth, and a foul and loathsome sore came upon the men who had the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image.

Revelation 19:19-21 (NKJV)

19 And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army.

20 Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.

21 And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.

Revelation 20:4 (NKJV)

4 And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

This is to do primarily with WORSHIP ... not just physical. A "Mark" on the forehead or hand doesn't necessarily have to be literal ... visible ... physical to us. Maybe something that only God can see.

Revelation 9:1-4 (NKJV)

1 Then **the fifth angel sounded**: And I saw a star fallen from heaven to the earth. To him was given the key to the bottomless pit.

2 And he opened the bottomless pit, and smoke arose out of the pit like the smoke of a great furnace. So the sun and the air were darkened because of the smoke of the pit.

3 Then out of the smoke locusts (demons) came upon the earth. And to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.

4 **They were commanded not to harm the grass of the earth, or any green thing, or any tree, but only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.** *(This pictures allegiance and loyalty to God! Not a physical mark or seal)*

Now. Sabbath-keeping could be seen as a sign:

Exodus 31:12-17 (NKJV)

12 And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 13 "Speak also to the children of Israel, saying: '**Surely My Sabbaths you shall keep, for it is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I am the Lord who sanctifies you.**

14 **You shall keep the Sabbath, therefore, for it is holy to you.**

Everyone who profanes it shall surely be put to death; for whoever does any work on it, that person shall be cut off from among his people.

15 Work shall be done for six days, but **the seventh is the Sabbath of rest, holy to the Lord. Whoever does any work on the Sabbath day, he shall surely be put to death.**

16 Therefore the children of Israel **shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations as a perpetual covenant.**

17 **It is a sign between Me and the children of Israel forever;** for in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day He rested and was refreshed.' "

It affects the mind ... and your right hand ... because you aren't doing any servile work. So ... the Seventh Day Adventists and traditional view of Rome/Papacy ... is that Sabbath-keeping is stamped out and Sunday-keeping is enforced.

Then the State will kill those who refuse to keep Sundays. Not impossible? But Europe today is very secular. People refer to Europe as being post-Christian. It is hard to see Sunday being enforced as a religious day universally? (Also ... the scriptures refer to worship ... allegiance ... not just having Sunday as an official day off work).

Also. Would most governments really be that bothered about relatively small number of Sabbath-keepers across Europe? So not impossible ... but highly unlikely.

If the Islamic view of the Beasts is correct ... then ... WHAT COULD IT BE? It need not necessarily be a visible ... physical mark. But ... would definitely include allegiance ... loyalty ... worship.

What about the number 666? Ronald Reagan? Prince Charles. Hilary Clinton? Pope (Vicarius Filei Dei)? Barack Obama? There have been lots of attempts to count letters ... in Latin ... Greek ... up to 666.

May be so ... but curious feature 666 written in Greek as:

CHI-XI-STIGMA

600-60-6

The speculation here is: What if John in vision wasn't reading a number at all? He saw multitudes of people ... armies ... all marked with 3 characters ... or letters ... on their arms and foreheads. What if he couldn't read letters ... he didn't know the language ... so just drew 3 characters? Copyists thereafter didn't understand what John

had drawn ... thought he had written CHI-XI-STIGMA rather poorly ... so "corrected it" to read 666.

It so happens that virtually the identical characters appear in Arabic. Three letters that are extraordinarily common on HEADBANDS AND ARMBANDS OF ISLAMIC JIHADISTS!!

It spells out, "In the name of Allah" ... the 1st 2 characters and the 2 crossed swords = Symbol of Islam.

If you compare them side by side ... they are almost identical ... so copyists could easily have misunderstood the originals. (See illustration at the end of these notes)

So Revelation 13:18 could read, **"Here is wisdom, let him who has understanding count the multitude of The Beast. For it is the multitude of a man (i.e. Mohammed = "Mohameddans"): his multitude is "In the name of Allah".**

Maybe dual? Physical headbands and armbands ...are symbolic ... but the key is ... their allegiance to Mohammed and to Allah (who is Satan). "Subjugated" if you don't!!

Maybe the solution or maybe not. If the actual count to 666 ... still looking? Watchful!

Since we're in Revelation ... let's look at another key player ... the Great Harlot. Two complete chapters of the 22 chapters in Revelation are about the Harlot and her destruction.

We've just been looking at allegiance and loyalty to a false god ... taking the mark ... having an allegiance ... thus incurring God's wrath.

The Great Harlot is the key figure in this false worship.

Revelation 17:1-6 (NKJV)

1 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me, "Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters, with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication."

3 So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.

4 The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication.

5 And on her forehead a name was written:

MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

6 I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marvelled with great amazement.

We can be familiar with the text.

Harlot = False Religion ... worship of another god

Verse 15 ... Then he said to me, "The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues. (*It has global influence*)

Verse 18 ... And the woman whom you saw is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth." (*A specific location*)

Where? The clue is in verse 3. The "wilderness" = Greek:Eremos ... desert ... lonely place.

Revelation 17:3 (NIV UK)

3 ... the angel carried me away in the Spirit into a desert. There I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast ...

Revelation 17:3 (Voice)

3 ... In the middle of a vast desert, I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet-coloured beast ...

If this is to be taken literally ... Rome or New York ... are they lonely desert places?

If we hypothetically plug in Mecca, in Saudi Arabia ... it harmonises with Islamic content of Daniel 2, 7, 8 and Revelation 13.

So ... Mecca could be a good fit. What do we know about Mecca?

Birthplace of Islam

Spiritual Centre of Islam

Greatest Holy City

1.7 billion Muslims pray towards it five times per day

At least once in your life you must make a Hajj ... pilgrimage ... to Mecca. Every year ... about 2-3 million people go to Mecca.

In September 2016 ... Iran banned its pilgrims from going: Bad Blood!

Verse 4 ... The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, ...

Royalty and Wealth:

- A. Traditional View: Colours of Roman Catholic cardinals ... the wealth of the Roman Catholic Church
- B. Alternative: Great wealth of the City of Mecca. 15,000 royals ... billionaires ... lavish ... almost obscene lifestyles. Some residents call it "Las Vegas" ... it's getting so bad over there.

Plus huge wealth of Saudi Arabia from its oil (wine of its fornication?). Possibly an extra reason why Iran is so hostile? And why they want control of Islam.

Verse 5 ... And on her forehead a name was written:

MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

Mystery Babylon ... the Catholic Church ... the "Mother Church" ... not the original Babylon in Iraq. It needs to be revealed who this mystery Babylon is ... an end-time descendant or daughter?

"Mother of Harlots" ... Roman Catholic and Protestants? Or ... a Middle-East term like Saddam's 'Mother of all battles' ... i.e. THE GREATEST OF ALL HARLOTS. The worst.

Verse 6 ... **I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus.** And when I saw her, I marvelled with great amazement.

In many many Islamic countries today ... try being any sort of "Christian". Back in the 500's AD ... much of the Middle East ... North Africa ... was "Christian". They are all now Islamic. Today you either convert ... or be subjugated ...or be killed. Islam is intolerant (of all religions ... Hindus ... Buddhists). The Quran instructs Jihad against all ... even the "people of The Book" (Jews and Christians).

The worst places to be "Christian" include Iraq ... Syria ... Afghanistan ... Sudan ... Iran ... Pakistan ... Saudi Arabia. All Muslim!!

Revelation 17:7-18 (NKJV)

7 But the angel said to me, "Why did you marvel? **I will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, which has the seven heads and the ten horns.**

8 The beast that you saw was, and is not, and will ascend out of the bottomless pit and go to perdition. And those who dwell on the earth will marvel, whose names are not written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world, when they see the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.

9 "Here is the mind which has wisdom: **The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits.**

10 **There are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, and the other has not yet come.** And when he comes, he must continue a short time.

11 **The beast that was, and is not, is himself also the eighth, and is of the seven, and is going to perdition.**

12 **"The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast.**

13 These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast.

14 **These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful."**

15 **Then he said to me, "The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues.**

16 **And the ten horns which you saw on the beast, these will hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire.**

17 For God has put it into their hearts to fulfill His purpose, to be of one mind, and to give their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled.

18 **And the woman whom you saw is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth."**

Verses 7-11 ... 7 mountains representing 7 King(dom)s ... not 7 hills (not Rome).

Who are the 7 kingdoms (Empires)? 5 have fallen ... one is ... present ... in existence ... and one yet to come. (clue!!)

We can go in a couple of directions with the clue.

I suggest: John says "one is" ... referring to one empire at his time ... writing circa 90 AD ... Rome. 5 fallen ... Rome is ... and one more yet to come after John's time. Generally held that these 7 empires that Satan (Dragon) has used to persecute ... dominate ... rule ... God's people over centuries (including Jerusalem, God's city at times).

Are there 7 Kingdoms that could do that? So ... possibly:

1. Egypt (slavery before Exodus)
2. Assyria (took captive the House of Israel)
3. Babylon (took Jeremiah and Daniel captive)
4. Medo-Persia
5. Greece
6. Rome ... John writing Revelation in 90 AD
7. Islamic Caliphate ... probably 1453 to its deadly wound in 1922

In some ways ... historical accuracy maybe not too important? It's what lies immediately ahead that will concern us all!

Verse 11 ... There's an 8th King(dom). Yet he is one of the first 7 ... who will return again ... be restored ... bringing the Beast back to life. Which of the 7? Which Empire to be restored?

In context with all we've covered so far ... suggest it's the 7th ... Islamic Caliphate ... end-time Islamic Antichrist. The deadly wound will be healed. Turkey is probably going to restore that.

Revelation 13:3 (NKJV)

3 And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed.

All in context of the judgment of the Great Harlot ... the great City in the Desert.

I don't personally see Rome as a strong contender. The traditional view ... Bible Correspondence Course, etc. Would be:

7 mountains ... 1. Justinian 2. Charlemagne 3. Otto The Great 4. Charles The Great (of the Hapsburg Empire) 5. Napoleon 6. Italy under Mussolini ... 7. One final resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire yet to come.

Clue? 5 fallen ... one is ... and one yet to come?

Mr HWA took the view that "one is" referred to the time when the prophecy of Revelation 17 would be understood ... in his day when he was first studying in the 1930's-1940's.

In the 1930's ... to be fair to him ... HWA believed the end was imminent right then. He looked around at Hitler, Mussolini ... the whole world at war ... carnage and death. He decided that Italy must be the Empire that "is" ... the sixth.

Pretty shaky? HWA totally misread world conditions and prophecy. He was miles off the mark. Examples:

March 1938 Plain Truth. "Mussolini and the Pope will hatch up an idea of setting up a world HQ at Jerusalem ... and so Mussolini's armies will entire Palestine (Daniel 11:41) and eventually will capture half of the city of Jerusalem".

January 1939 Plain Truth. "Mussolini will fight Christ".

May/June 1941 Plain Truth. "Hitler now emerges as the 'Beast of Revelation'".

HWA's views of 80 years ago ... might have looked right at the time ... but clearly in error ... to apply "one is" to Italy and Mussolini in the 1930's seems very unlikely?

Verses 12-14 ... Ten Nations ... combining together with the Beast and fighting Christ. Europe? I'm not comfortable with that view. Or ... Islamic confederation?

War with Jesus ... End-time

Verses 15-18 ... Ten Horns/kingdoms ... hate Harlot. (Mecca and all she stands for). Burn with Fire ... modern weaponry... missiles ... nuclear?

Many Islamic countries hate Mecca and/or are jealous of Saudi Arabia ... power ... influence ... its dealings with the West. It is corrupt. They see it as apostate and decadent.

Revelation 18:1-8 (NKJV)

1 After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory. 2 And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird! (There are still unclean foods today)

3 For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury."

4 And I heard another voice from heaven saying, "Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues.

5 For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.

6 Render to her just as she rendered to you, and repay her double according to her works; in the cup which she has mixed, mix double for her.

7 In the measure that she glorified herself and lived luxuriously, (*sensually*) in the same measure give her torment and sorrow; for she says in her heart, 'I sit as queen, and am no widow, and will not see sorrow.'

8 Therefore her plagues will come in one day—death and mourning and famine. And she will be utterly burned with fire, for strong is the Lord God who judges her.

The Judgment of the Harlot/Great City

Verse 8 ... destruction in one day!!

Amplified ... "... completely consumed"

The Voice ... "... incinerated with fire"

This great city called here "BABYLON THE GREAT" totally destroyed in one day! Rome? New York? Mecca?

Remember: Rev 17:5 Mystery Babylon. Not the original in Iraq
Rev 17:3 In the wilderness, desert (Mecca fits perfectly)
Rev 17:6 Persecutes and kills the saints
Has relationships with Kings ... Presidents ... CEO's of earth
Uses its resource of wine to buy favours and luxuries
(Oil?)

As far as I'm concerned ... the best fit ... in context ... the downfall and destruction of Mecca ... the home of Islam.

You could almost look forward to this .. the final end of Islam and Mecca.

The image shows the Arabic calligraphy for the Basmala, "In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful." The text is written in a stylized, cursive script. The word "Allah" is the largest and most prominent, with "Ar-Rahman" and "Ar-Rahim" written in smaller, flowing characters to its left.

In The Name of Allah

The image shows the Arabic calligraphy for the Greek number 666, which is the sum of the numerical values of the letters in the Basmala. The text is written in a stylized, cursive script, with the number 666 being the largest and most prominent, and the Basmala written in smaller, flowing characters to its left.

The Greek number 666

