

Prophecy in dreams and visions in Daniel and Revelation

Introduction

In this Bible study we will first study the dreams and visions, written in the book of Daniel. Then we will have a look into Revelation as well, because much of what is written in Revelation has a connection to what Daniel saw in the dreams.

These dreams are about mysteries that God wants to reveal. God wants to tell us what will happen in the latter days.

We will read the dreams together, but to get a better understanding I advise you to read the entire book of Daniel first, at least the following sections.

Daniel 2:1-3, 16, 26-45 The dream of Nebuchadnezzar.

Daniel 7:1-28 The vision about the four beasts.

Daniel 8:1-27 The vision of a Ram and a Goat.

The dream about the statue

We will first look into the dream of Nebuchadnezzar. In that dream is a point that has been overlooked by virtually most biblical scholars. The image Nebuchadnezzar saw in his dream was interpreted by Daniel. For completeness I put the whole passage below:

Daniel 2

³¹“You looked, O king, and there before you stood a large statue—an enormous, dazzling statue, awesome in appearance. ³²The head of the statue was made of pure gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, ³³its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of baked clay. ³⁴While you were watching, a rock was cut out, but not by human hands. It struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and smashed them. ³⁵Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were broken to pieces at the same time and became like chaff on a threshing floor in the summer. The wind swept them away without leaving a trace. But the rock that struck the statue became a huge mountain and filled the whole earth.

³⁶“This was the dream, and now we will interpret it to the king. ³⁷You, O king, are the king of kings. The God of heaven has given you dominion and power and might and glory; ³⁸in 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.

³⁹“After you, another kingdom will rise, inferior to yours. Next, a third kingdom, one of bronze, will rule over the

whole earth. ⁴⁰Finally, 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. ⁴¹Just 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. ⁴²As the toes were partly iron and partly clay, so this kingdom will be partly strong and partly brittle. ⁴³And 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.

⁴⁴“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. ⁴⁵This 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.

“The great God has shown the king what will take place in the future. The dream is true and the interpretation is trustworthy.”

We have seen that those different parts of the body depicts different kingdoms. They succeed each other.

What I am concerned now goes about the verses 34-35 and 44-45.

³⁵“Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were broken to pieces **at the same time**”

⁴⁴“In the time of **those kings**, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed,”

On the one hand it is made clear that all these kingdoms are contiguous, but on the other hand, it is also made clear that all these kingdoms will be crushed at THE SAME TIME. And all that will happen at the time that the God of heaven will establish His kingdom. God has not done that yet. So this prophecy have to come true. And that will happen when Jesus returns.

Let's have a closer read what it says. In verse 34 we read that a rock was cut out and it struck the statue at the feet of iron and clay. And then at the same time were simultaneously crushed the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver and gold crushed. So when the fourth kingdom will be destroyed the previous empires will be destroyed at the same time.

As we have often seen in other Bible studies, prophecies in the Bible have often a double layer of fulfillment. That is also the case here. The first fulfillment took place many centuries ago. The second fulfillment will take place in our days.

Daniel 2 is finally on the rise of the ten-toes-empire in the last days. This empire will rise and rule over the countries of the four ancient empires. It will be the kingdom of the Antichrist.

The fourth kingdom will revive, but then that kingdom, the feet of iron and clay, are crushed by the stone, which is Jesus. But at the same time, thereby the first three empires will be crushed too.

What does this mean?

Those countries that were dominated by these various rulers, will also be dominated by the ruler who rules over the revived fourth kingdom.

The dream and its interpretation are focused on the future. What should be clear is that the prophecy is about the countries and regions mentioned, namely Babylon and Mesopotamia large. God wasn't explaining Nebuchadnezzar the future would be in the Western world, but it was the future of the areas where Nebuchadnezzar ruled over.

The text that goes about the fourth kingdom says: *"⁴⁰Finally, 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."*

Did Rome conquered all these kingdoms? Did Rome crushed the Babylon empire, the Medo-Persian Empire (Iran), and the Greek empire? No it has not.

With that Rome is not in play anymore as the fourth kingdom.

If it is not the Roman empire, which empire is eligible? What kingdom has taken all three preceding empires?

An interesting question. And we will seek to answer.

But before we move on, we will discuss the text sheets which can be downloaded.

COMPARISON OF THE VISIONS UP TO AND INCLUDING THE THIRD EMPIRE

See **text sheet I**. This text page is divided into sections to make the comparison easier. ([Download the text sheets here](#)).

Initially, the three visions doesn't seem to have the same subject. But if we start putting them side by side, we see that they really are connected to each other. These visions are different examples, which are all of the same topic.

That subject is: The history of the world until the time of the end.

Boxes A text sheet 1

The image Nebuchadnezzar saw in his dream symbolized different time periods during which different empires are in power.

The first empire is that of Nebuchadnezzar. *"Thou, O king, art this head of gold."* (2:37-38). It is the Babylonian empire.

The same empire is also represented by the 'first' animal in Daniel 7:4.

Daniel 7:17 is in section A, because that text makes two things clear right away in context with the vision of the four animals:

- I. Those big animals, those four, are images of four kings. Four kings or kingdoms.
- II. These four kingdoms will exist within a time period which runs from Nebuchadnezzar till the time that *"the saints of the Most High will receive the kingship"*.

The born again Christians will receive kingship at Jesus' second coming. These four kingdoms, that Daniel is talking about, bridge the time between Nebuchadnezzar and Jesus' second coming.

The Texts of Daniel 8 in box A are introductory texts, then the image of the ram and the goat appears. Verse 19 clearly indicates that this picture relates to the time of the end. The Lord announces what will happen later in the time of wrath. So the subject is the time when God's wrath will be poured out upon this world.

Boxes B text sheet 1

In Daniel 2 the statue Nebuchadnezzar saw is further described and explained. From these texts it already seems clear that with this huge statue, a number of world powers is shown. The breast and arms are of another metal, less expensive than gold. This part of the statue is showing a second world power following the Babylonian empire. This second empire is that of the Medes and Persians.

This second empire in Daniel 7 is symbolized by the second beast, though without further explanation.

The ram, in the vision of Daniel 8, it appears to vs. 20, the symbol of the second empire. *"The two-horned ram that you saw represents the kings of Media and Persia."* About these four kings, God speaks in Daniel 10:1 and 11:2.

Boxes C of text sheet 1

Back to the statue that Nebuchadnezzar saw. The belly and thighs of brass. This will be the third kingdom. A third empire.

The third beast of Daniel 7, is then described, *“and it was given authority to rule.”* Again, no explanation can be found in Daniel in addition to the previously quoted text (verse 17) *“The four great beasts are four kingdoms”*

Continue to Daniel 8. The third kingdom is described here more detailed. It is symbolized by the goat. Verse 21 shows that it is the king of Greece. The first king of that world empire of Greece is shown by the great horn between the eyes of the shaggy goat.

The kingdom of the Medes and Persians will be overcome by the king of Greece. This king will be, according to this prophecy, great beyond measure. (We shall see that it all literally became true). That great king (of Greece) will *‘break off’*, and four kingdoms shall arise from his kingdom.

Exactly how this all will work out, (as seen from the time when Daniel lives) is told in Daniel 11. We begin with a brief introduction to the second, or the Persian empire, and then we will study this third Greek empire extensive, based on Daniel 11. The key to this prophecy is its incredible accuracy. For those who love history, this prophecy is a gem, for others it might be a little on the dry side. We will look into this prophecy because we can learn several things from it.

The content is only partially important, so we'll read this fast without going into detail. Note the incredible precision with which this prophecy is shown. That must have meaning.

For some of the readers of this study, the following part is not really interesting, for others it is. It is possible to skip this section and go straight through to page 8 in which nothing is missed on the main subject of the study. But remember that this very detailed prophecy is not for nothing in the Bible. The reliability of a prophet is in fact measured by coming out of the prophesied. And this prophecy was accurately fulfilled.

Daniel 11

The Second, or the Persian Empire.

Daniel 5:28

Belshazzar: *“Your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians.”*

Belshazzar was the son of Nebuchadnezzar. He was king over the mighty Babylonian empire, or the empire of the

Chaldeans. (First empire). God told him that his kingdom is broken and given to the Medes and Persians. This became reality when the Medes and Persians defeated the Babylonians. Belshazzar was slain (5:30), and Darius the Mede received the kingship (6:1). He was probably under-king under Kores.

Now we move on to Daniel 11.

This is a very extensive prophecy, which we will follow verse by verse. The angel who talked to Daniel says:

Daniel 11:1

“And in the first year of Darius the Mede, I took my stand to support and protect him (here speaks Daniels Prince Michael) “Now then, I tell you the truth:”

verse 2

“Three more kings will appear in Persia. . . .”

These three kings are the kings which follow Cyrus: Cambyses, Smerdes and Darius I Hystaspes.

verse 2b

“... and then a fourth, who will be far richer than all the others. When he has gained power by his wealth, he will stir up everyone against the kingdom of Greece.”

The fourth king was Xerxes I (485-465 BC). He led the Persian Wars against Greece. There followed still 8 Persian kings, but they are irrelevant for the purpose of prophecy. After the war, which Xerxes (the Persian) fought against Greece, King Philip of Macedonia adopted a plan for a major war to conquer the Persian Empire, with an army that consisted almost entirely of Greeks. He died before he could implement his plan.

verse 3

“Then a mighty king will appear, who will rule with great power and do as he pleases.”

The son of Philip of Macedon, Alexander the Great, took plans of his father and attacked Persia. He defeated the Persian army at the Battle of Issus. 333 BC (Daniel 8:5-6). Then he marched to Egypt and brought the Persian empire final devastating defeat at the Battle of Arbela. 331 BC

The third, or Greek empire

Alexander the Great defeats the Persians. Barely begun his reign, he died at age 33. June 323 BC

Daniel 11:4

“After he has appeared, his empire will be broken up and parceled out toward the four winds of heaven. It will not go

to his descendants, nor will it have the power he exercised, because his empire will be uprooted and given to others."

Alexander the great had no heirs. From his empire in 301 BC grew four empires. Four generals divided the empire of Alexander the Great.

5. The king of the South will become strong.

This is Ptolemy I Lagi (Soter), one of the four generals. He ruled over Egypt. The south means south of Israel.

but one of his commanders will become even stronger than he and will rule his own kingdom with great power.

Seleucus I Nicator, one of the generals of Ptolemy, was also strong. He conquered with troops of Ptolemy Babylon, and took possession of the throne, using the fact that Ptolemy was occupied with a war.

6. After some years, they will become allies. The daughter of the king of the South will go to the king of the North to make an alliance

After 50 years this took place exactly as described! The king of the North (Syria) was then Antiochus II Theos, the second successor of Seleucus I Nicator. The daughter of the king of the South is Berenice. Her father is Ptolemy Philadelphus II (285-247 BC). Antiochus II in 260 BC conducted a war against Ptolemy II which in 252 BC was ended by a marriage between Antiochus and Bernice.

But she will not retain her power, and he and his power will not last. In those days she will be handed over, together with her royal escort

After the birth of a son from that marriage, Ptolemy II (king of the south) died and Antiochus II (king of the North) reconciled with his first wife Laodice who poisoned him and the child of Berenice and then Berenice with her royal escort had slain.

and her father

Her father Ptolemy II of Egypt.

and the one who supported her.

Antiochus II, which married Berenice

7. One from her family line will arise to take her place. He will attack the forces of the king of the North and enter his fortress; he will fight against them and be victorious.

One from her family. This is the brother of Berenices. This is Euergetes Ptolemy III (247-221 BC government). This Ptolemy III would avenge the murder of his sister and attacked Dyrië 245 BC and defeated Seleucus II Callinicus.

8. He will also seize their gods, their metal images and their valuable articles of silver and gold and carry them off to Egypt. For some years he will leave the king of the North alone.

The inclusion of gods is a sign of complete victory.

9. Then the king of the North will invade the realm of the king of the South but will retreat to his own country.

This is the failed campaign of Seleucus III Callinacas in 240 BC

10. His sons will prepare for war and assemble a great army

The sons of the king of the north, Seleucus III Ceraunus (226-223 BC) and Antiochus III the Great (223-187 BC). These two sons of Seleucus II formed huge armies to wage war against Egypt, they wanted to avenge their father and recapture areas.

. . . . which will sweep on like an irresistible flood and carry the battle as far as his fortress.

Antiochus III took after 27 years his fort Seleucia again and he also conquered the territory of Syria, to Gaza, including Judea, in which way he completed last part of verse 10.

11. Then the king of the South will march out in a rage and fight against the king of the North, who will raise a large army, but it will be defeated.

I. e. Philopator Ptolemy IV (222-205 BC) He brought with an army of 20,000 men Antiochus III (the Great) a heavy defeat

12. When the army is carried off, the king of the South will be filled with pride and will slaughter many thousands, yet he will not remain triumphant.

. . . . and killed tens of thousands and added back Judea to Egypt.
Not triumphant is: not overcome.

13. Then he will turn his attention to the coastlands and will take many of them, but a commander will put an end to his insolence and will turn his insolence back upon him.

Ptolemy IV died in 205 BC and was succeeded by his four year-old son Ptolemy V Epiphanes (205-181 BC). Antiochus assembled a greater army, and he won big victories.

14. In those times many will rise against the king of the South.

Then he signed a treaty which Philip of Macedonia and others, they became allies against Egypt.

The violent men among your own people will rebel in fulfillment of the vision,

In addition they received help from some of the Jews, says the historian Josephus. It is the party of Tobiads. These Hellenistic minded Jews are by their action, without their awareness, striving to fulfill Daniel's prophecy about the coming reign of Antiochus Epiphanes before the appointed time.

but without success.

They will not succeed but fall victim to oppression (see 11:33)

15. Then the king of the North will come and build up siege ramps and will capture a fortified city. The forces of the South will be powerless to resist; even their best troops will not have the strength to stand.

Antiochus III, has driven back the Egyptian commander Scopas, who again subdued the Jews to Egypt, into the fortress Sidon and captured it in 198 BC.

16. The invader will do as he pleases; no one will be able to stand against him. He will establish himself in the Beautiful Land and will have the power to destroy it.

I. e. Antiochus III (the great) which marches against Egypt.

17. He will determine to come with the might of his entire kingdom and will make an alliance with the king of the South. And he will give him a daughter in marriage in order to overthrow the kingdom, but his plans will not succeed or help him.

"alliance' in Hebrew stands for 'equal conditions' or 'marriage'. The woman is Cleopatra, which is given to Ptolemy Epiphanes as a wife. But that daughter will not lend herself to the machinations of her father, but taking sides with her new homeland.

18. Then he will turn his attention to the coastlands and will take many of them,

Therefore Antiochus III turned his attention elsewhere and tried in 197 and 196 BC to win the islands and coasts of Asia Minor.

but a commander will put an end to his insolence and will turn his insolence back upon him.

But the Roman general Lucius Cornelius Scipio brought him a devastating defeat at the Battle of Magnesia in 190 BC

19. After this, he will turn back toward the fortresses of his own country but will stumble and fall, to be seen no more.

Antiochus then turned his attention to the fortresses of his own country, in the east and west. The Romans laid him heavy war contributions. Antiochus the third impoverished so much that he wanted to plunder the temple of Bel in Elymais, but he was beaten to death by the infuriated people in 187 BC.

20. His successor

This is Antiochus' son, Seleucus IV Philopator (187-176 BC).

will send out a tax collector to maintain the royal splendor

This Seleucus IV sent his tax collector Heliodorus through Judea to raise money.

In a few years, however, he will be destroyed, yet not in anger or in battle.

Heliodorus poisoned his king Seleucus IV after he had ruled only 11 years.

21. "He will be succeeded by a contemptible person who has not been given the honor of royalty.

This is the infamous Antiochus IV Epiphanes (175-164 BC), brother of Seleucus IV, but not his heir, as Seleucus IV had a son Demetrius. He is called here a despised man, because according to the law he was not intended for the throne.

He will invade the kingdom when its people feel secure, and he will seize it through intrigue.

Through various machinations, aided by his servant Eumenes, expels Antiochus IV Heliodorus and take the throne in 175 BC.

22. Then an overwhelming army will be swept away before him;

The opposition to this coronation will great, but he easily overcome this opposition.

both it and a prince of the covenant will be destroyed.

Some think this is the assassination of the high priest Onias III in 171 BC. Others believe that it is about one of the princes which Antiochus IV had a covenant with. (see vs. 23).

23. After coming to an agreement with him, he will act deceitfully, and with only a few people he will rise to power.

Although he first had only a few at his side he succeeded, through his devious maneuvers, deceit and flattery, to get more power and acquiring wealth.

24. When the richest provinces feel secure, he will invade them and will achieve what neither his fathers nor his forefathers did. He will distribute plunder, loot and wealth among his followers. He will plot the overthrow of fortresses —but only for a time.

He also attacked Galilee and Lower Egypt. His ancestors, the ancient kings of Syria, were the Jews benevolent, but they were now driven to desperation by the mad plan of this headstrong monarch.

25. "With a large army he will stir up his strength and courage against the king of the South.

Threatened with war by the ministers of Ptolemy VI Philometor (at that time the king of the South) which demanded Palestine (as the dowry of Cleopatra, the deceased Queen Mother), Antiochus IV sieged Egypt in 171 BC.

The king of the South will wage war with a large and very powerful army, but he will not be able to stand because of the plots devised against him.

He came face to face with his nephew, Ptolemy VI Philometor, the king of the south, which had also great army.

26. Those who eat from the king's provisions will try to destroy him; his army will be swept away, and many will fall in battle.

The Egyptian king was defeated through treachery of his officers and he was fooled by Antiochus IV.

27. The two kings, with their hearts bent on evil, will sit at the same table and lie to each other, but to no avail, because an end will still come at the appointed time.

After his victory at Pelusium, Antiochus IV marched to Mephis, and after the king of the south (Ptolemy Philometor) had fallen into his hands he tried to use him as a means to get the entire country to its knees. In 174 BC the uncle of the king of the south joined a banquet. Antiochus acted as if he wanted to conclude alliance with the young Ptolemy against his brother, Euergetes II, but each tried to cheat the other.

28. The king of the North will return to his own country with great wealth, but his heart will be set against the holy covenant. He will take action against it and then return to his own country.

With lots of loot he withdraw from Egypt to his own country. Coming through Palestine he turns against the Jews, killed many, and robbed the temple.

29. At the appointed time he will invade the South again, but this time the outcome will be different from what it was before.

In the same year he again attacked Egypt, but without his previous success, because Philo Meter (the king of the South) received help from from Rome.

30. ships of the western coastlands will oppose him,

The vessels are from the residents of Kition in Cyprus. They transported the Romans. These Romans forced, through Gaius Papillus Laenas, Antiochus IV, which has already penetrated deep into Egypt, to relinquish his conquests.

and he will lose heart. Then he will turn back and vent his fury against the holy covenant.

Anger at the humiliation, which the Romans him inflicted, Antiochus IV will have bitterness against the Jews and that's when he decided to start his plan to Hellenise his entire empire, in a violent way. He will implement plans to destroy Jewish religion into reality.

He will return and show favor to those who forsake the holy covenant.

He granted special favors to those Jews which would renounce their religion.

(from here prophetically to the coming Antichrist.)

31. "His armed forces will rise up to desecrate the temple fortress and will abolish the daily sacrifice. Then they will set up the abomination that causes desolation.

In 167 BC, the following year, was the low point of the horror. Antiochus IV sent troops to the holy land, the temple and the sanctuary were desecrated. (compare 8: 11. 24). He set the altar of the Greek god Zeus atop the altar and there were pigs sacrificed. (see "abomination" Deuteronomy 29:17; Kings 11 I: 5; 2 Kings 23: 24 and Ezekiel 20:7).

32. *With flattery he will corrupt those who have violated the covenant,*

Apostate Jews get special favors.

but the people who know their God will firmly resist him.

However many Jews didn't apostate and were very angry that the temple was profaned. Despite tribulations they stick to to the covenant with God.

33. *Those who are wise will instruct many, though for a time they will fall by the sword or be burned or captured or plundered.*

By their example, many come to realize that they can follow God better than Antiochus.

34. *When they fall, they will receive a little help,*

Those who loved God's covenant were led by priest Matthias who started a small rebellion against Antiochus. But that rebellion led to the recapturing of Jerusalem by Judah Maccabeus and restoring of the worship in the temple in 165 BC (revolt of the Maccabees).

and many who are not sincere will join them.

For fear that otherwise the liberators of them will take revenge, many apostates returned back to the old religion. But that return was only feigned.

35. *Some of the wise will stumble, so that they may be refined, purified and made spotless*

Stumbling in the sense of vs. 33 = prosecuted. The result is that the feigned returned shall feral off again.

until the time of the end, for it will still come at the appointed time.

This does not mean that it is the end of this present world, it can also be intended the end of time for this part of history, where this prophecy is talking about.

36. *"The king will do as he pleases. He will exalt and magnify himself above every god and will say unheard-of*

things against the God of gods. He will be successful until the time of wrath is completed, for what has been determined must take place.

Antiochus Epiphanes acted as protector of the Greek gods, but he put himself in fact on one line with the gods. Even on the coins he showed himself to be a god. The name Epiphanes means: Revealed (god). (Antiochus is always a type of Antichrist).

37. *He will show no regard for the gods of his fathers or for the one desired by women, nor will he regard any god, but will exalt himself above them all.*

That is Tammuz, in Greek: Adonis, the god of dying and new life emerging nature, the "thrice desirable", was especially revered through women.

38. *Instead of them, he will honor a god of fortresses; a god unknown to his fathers he will honor with gold and silver, with precious stones and costly gifts.*

Zeus Olympios is the god of fortresses for whom Antiochus in Anthiochius founded a statue and whose altar he put in Jerusalem on the burnt offering.

39. *He will attack the mightiest fortresses with the help of a foreign god and will greatly honor those who acknowledge him. He will make them rulers over many people and will distribute the land at a price.*

40. *"At the time of the end the king of the South will engage him in battle, and the king of the North will storm out against him with chariots and cavalry and a great fleet of ships. He will invade many countries and sweep through them like a flood.*

From that encounter in history we can't find anything, and that makes sense because of what is described here refers to a time yet to come. It says, "but in the end." This prophecy is still to be fulfilled.

We will now think a little bit about Daniel 11 and particularly about "the abomination of desolation".

Comments on Daniel 11 and the abomination of desolation.

The remarkable thing about this prophecy is that it so long and extremely detailed. The last five verses (40-45) have been expressed about the end times, but all preceding verses are about a period that has been past. I.e. at the time that Daniel heard this prophecy, it had yet to happen, but for us that live in the end-time this is all history.

The book of Daniel is a book written for those that live in the end-time.

Daniel 12:4

"But you, Daniel, close up and seal the words of the scroll until the time of the end."

Why would God give such a long and detailed prophecy about a period that will be history at the end-time?

The reliability of a prophet is measured by the coming true of the prophesy.

Deuteronomy 18:21-22

"You may say to yourselves, 'How can we know when a message has not been spoken by the LORD?'" 22 If what a prophet proclaims in the name of the LORD does not take place or come true, that is a message the LORD has not spoken. That prophet has spoken presumptuously. Do not be afraid of him. "

Daniel has much prophesied about the end times. If he only would have prophesied about the end, we wouldn't have had the opportunity to evaluate whether the prophet speaks words of God or not. Now in the prophecies of Daniel, however, large portions are now come true for 100%, we know that this prophet is indeed a prophet of God.

The fact that these prophecies were fulfilled literally tells a lot.

Isn't it quite logical, when a prophecy already literally came true for e.g. 80%, meaning that the prophesied happened as foretold, the remainder will come true literally too?!

The extreme precision with which the Greek history was foretold and came true, guarantees that the predicted end-time will be precisely and literally will come true too.

ANTHIOCHUS IV EPIFANES

This king gets the most attention in this prophecy. It is the last king of the Greek empire, and he is in many ways a type of the antichrist who will rise in the end-time. By comparison with the prophecy of Daniel 9 -the prophesy about the seventy sevens (year weeks)- it proves that the abomination of desolation, as mentioned in Daniel 11

(Antiochus IV) is only a type of the abomination of desolation in Daniel 9:27.

Daniel 9:23-27

"23 As soon as you began to pray, an answer was given, which I have come to tell you, for you are highly esteemed. Therefore, consider the message and understand the vision:

24 "Seventy 'sevens' are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy.

25 "Know and understand this: From the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One, the ruler, comes, there will be seven 'sevens,' and sixty-two 'sevens. ' It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble.

26 After the sixty-two 'sevens,' the Anointed One will be cut off and will have nothing. The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed.

27 He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven. ' In the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing I of the temple I he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him. "

Let's first determine what "seventy sevens" means. The King James translated those words in "seventy weeks". Now we have to determine what that term "week" mean. We have seen before that days are used as examples and were later years. Think about the forty days that the spies were in the land and the forty years that Israel had to go into the wilderness.

Literally, the word "weeks" means sevens. A week has seven days and is then in Daniel "7 years"
Compare also Leviticus 25:8

To understand how the ranking of those weeks is, we must follow the prophecy.

Daniel 9:24

"Seventy 'sevens' are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy."

There are seventy weeks determined to finish sin and eternal righteousness. When is that?
When did eternal justice revealed?

When Jesus came to earth and died for us.

Romans 3:21 en 22

"21 But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets

testify. 22 This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference “

Those seventy weeks = year-weeks = 490 years, run to the time of Jesus' death and resurrection.

When does that period of 70 weeks start?

Daniel 9:25

“Know and understand this: From the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One, the ruler, comes, there will be seven ‘sevens,’ and sixty-two ‘sevens.’ It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble.”

There are, as I understand, several interpretations of these 70 weeks. We will follow one. We shall see that these dates are not so important, because what happened in that 70th week, and is still going to happen, is clearly defined. When we consult these texts we will see that the end of the first half of this last week is clearly marked. Nevertheless, for completeness, we will see into one scenario.

These seventy weeks thus begin *‘the moment when the word went out to restore Jerusalem and rebuild . . .’*

This was in 453 BC when King Artaxerxes gave Nehemiah permission to rebuild Jerusalem. The rebuilding has lasted seven (year) weeks, i.e. 49 years, so it was 404 BC “And sixty-two ‘sevens.’ It will be rebuilt”. 62 weeks = 434 years. This is 30 AD. Thirty years after Jesus was born.

Daniel 9:26

“After the sixty-two ‘sevens,’ the Anointed One will be cut off and will have nothing. The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed.”

“After the sixty-two ‘sevens,’ (i. e. after the 7 + 62 weeks) the Anointed One will be cut off and will have nothing.”

Just to be clear: When we read that that the Anointed One will be cut off AFTER the aforementioned 62 weeks, in fact that is AFTER 69 weeks, then that happened in the 70th week.

Who is that anointed one who has been cut off while there was nothing against him?

As far as I know there is only ever one “Messiah be cut off, but not for himself” (KJV), and that is Jesus.

Jesus died after 30 AD, to be exact 3 ½ later. He was cut off, but not for Himself.

Now the second part of this verse:

“The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed.”

The people of a ruler to come. For centuries it has been assumed that ruler the Roman emperor Titus was. Because under his leadership, Jerusalem was destroyed, including the Temple in 70 AD. But Titus died on September 13, 81 AD to the consequences of fever, and that had nothing to do with "flood" as mentioned in the text.

Almost all Bible scholars explain "the flood" as an event at the end of time, either just before, or when Jesus returns.

There is another reason that Titus (or Rome) is not meant to be the ruler to come. We can see that clearly when we see that Jesus, in Matthew 24, shows that the abomination of desolation a person is who will set himself in the temple. Paul shows that the abomination of desolation sets himself up in the temple in order to show that he is a god. Titus has never did this.

That ruler who will come is not Titus, but who will it be?

We need to read that sentence good. These are the people of a ruler who shall come in the end. But the Romans destroyed Jerusalem and the temple, isn't it?

You would think, but it is somewhat more complicated. It was Titus who besieged Jerusalem, but his soldiers, the people did not come from Europe. Titus came with four legions into Judea:

The 10th Legion (Fretensis),
The 15th Legion (Appolinaris),
the 12th legion (Fulminata),
and the fifth legion (Macedonia).

All these legions took part in the destruction of Jerusalem, but it was the 10th legion that broke through the wall and burned the temple.

Each legion consisted of several cohorts. The tenth legion was composed of soldiers who came from Syria, Turkey and Arabia. And those are exactly the people that Jesus, at his return, will fight. From those people the Antichrist will come forward. More on this later.

Again the text:

“... The people of the ruler who will come”.

That ruler who comes, comes in the end time, but the people from which he comes, and that in 70 AD. Jerusalem and the temple destroyed, are the Turks, Syrians and Arabs. And those people will again wage war against Jerusalem.

Daniel 9:27

"He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven.' In the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing I of the temple I he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him."

This text is generally interpreted as meaning that the person (he) who will confirm the covenant with many for one week will be the Antichrist.

There is general agreement that the one who "set up an abomination that causes desolation" is the Antichrist. When we read Matthew 24:15 and 2 Thessalonians 2:4, we see clearly that he indeed is the Antichrist.

There is something in this section where I have to think about. I can't find a conclusive explanation for it. But it's not a breaking point for the rest of this study. In the previous text we read that the Messiah will be cut off in the seventieth week. In Revelation we read nothing about a period of seven years (the last seven of the seventy weeks of years), but only about the last 3½ years prior to the return of Jesus. So you could think that the first 3½ years have been. The idea is not strange, because we have already seen that Jesus was crucified AFTER the 69th week, so in the 70th week. And if the calculation is correct that I have demonstrated, then Jesus died exactly 3½ years later than the beginning of the 70th week.

Jesus had a public ministry that lasted 3 ½ years. When he died the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. Jesus was the ultimate sacrifice, the sacrifices in the Temple were no longer needed. In verse 27 we read that it was foretold that this would happen in the midst of the last year week, so there is a period of 3 ½ years to go.

However, there are Bible scholars who say that text can not be explained that Jesus ended the sacrifices. I doubt it, because it is very remarkable that in a supernatural way it was made clear that the sacrifices were no longer needed because the curtain of the temple tore from top to bottom.

But I also know that the Antichrist when he puts himself in the temple, the sacrifice will cease.

In this case, the first layer is the fulfillment by Jesus and the second layer the fulfillment by the anti-Jesus or the Antichrist.

Both play a key role in the last year-week. Jesus during his ministry of 3 ½ years on earth until his death, the Antichrist in the last 3 ½ years from the last year-week. We look first how Jesus fulfilled the first part of this text.

In my opinion this "He" is the same as the "Anointed One" who will die and even not for Himself. Jesus shall confirm the covenant that the Jews made with death. Isaiah speaks

about that:

Isaiah 28:14-18

"14 Therefore hear the word of the LORD, you scoffers who rule this people in Jerusalem.

15 You boast, "We have entered into a covenant with death, with the grave we have made an agreement. When an overwhelming scourge sweeps by, it cannot touch us, for we have made a lie our refuge and falsehood our hiding place. 16 So this is what the Sovereign LORD says: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation; the one who trusts will never be dismayed.

17 I will make justice the measuring line and righteousness the plumb line; hail will sweep away your refuge, the lie, and water will overflow your hiding place.

18 Your covenant with death will be annulled; your agreement with the grave will not stand. When the overwhelming scourge sweeps by, you will be beaten down by it."

Many other texts make clear that the Jews have a covenant with death. We will read two more verses:

Luke 4:29

"29 They got up, drove him out of the town, and took him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw him down the cliff. "

and John 7:25

"25 At that point some of the people of Jerusalem began to ask, "Isn't this the man they are trying to kill?"

The same last year-week of Daniel will also be completed by the Antichrist.

The Antichrist will, most likely, enter into a covenant with the Jews. The covenant will apply for seven years. This is again one year week.

In the first 3½ years there will be peace and very likely at that time the temple rebuilt. But around the mid-seven-year alliance the Antichrist will set himself in the temple proclaiming himself to be god. If he does, the sacrifices cease. From that moment on, God's history with Israel will continue and the second half of the last year-week of Daniel begins. So it runs parallel with the second half of the covenant that the Antichrist has concluded with the Jews. Then we will see that the Antichrist will not comply with the covenant of peace, and the great tribulation begins.

Back to Daniel.

"In the middle of the 'seven' (so after 3½ year) he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. . . . "

In the middle of the last year-week, when Jesus gave Himself as sacrifice, the veil of the temple tore from top to bottom (Matthew 27:51). God made it clear that Jesus was

the perfect sacrifice. Through Jesus' sacrifice slaughter and meat offering became redundant (cf. Hebrews 10).

All the prophecies concerning Jesus' coming, His work and His Kingship skip the era of the church. See for example Isaiah 9:6-7 and Zechariah 9:9-10.

So it also happens here in Daniel 9:27.

The time that Israel is temporarily set aside is skipped by God in prophecy. The time between Jesus' death and His return is temporarily set aside for Israel. In this prophesy as well.

In one breath the prophecy goes on to:

“. . . And on a wing [of the temple] (this is not in the Hebrew text - it is: And on a wing as abominations. . .) he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him. . . .“

And that desolator will cease the in honor restored sacrifices. This is the fulfillment of this prophecy of the second layer.

This destroyer will be there until the the end of times. Both Jesus as Paul speak of that destroyer. The destroyer, who will set himself in the temple of God. From the relevant parts of the Bible it shows that that destroyer comes just before Jesus returns.

Matthew 24:15

“15 So when you see standing in the holy place ‘the abomination that causes desolation,’ spoken of through the prophet Daniel—let the reader understand— 16 then let those who are in Judea,. . . .“

and 2 Thessalonians 2:4

“4 He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God’s temple, proclaiming himself to be God. “

This Temple will be rebuilt before Jesus returns. And they will set the sacrifices again, because they do not recognize the sacrifice of Jesus. The spiritual leaders of that time will renew their covenant with death as their predecessors in Jesus' days already entered. They will, as they once did, put not their trust in the Lord their God, but in a foreign power. In this case, not Egypt, but the ruler of a country north of Israel.

They will put their faith in the foolish shepherd.

Zechariah 11:15-17

“15 Then the LORD said to me, “Take again the equipment of a foolish shepherd. 16 For I am going to raise up a shepherd over the land who will not care for the lost, or seek the young, or heal the injured, or feed the healthy, but will eat the meat of the choice sheep, tearing off their

hoofs.

17 “Woe to the worthless shepherd, who deserts the flock! May the sword strike his arm and his right eye! May his arm be completely withered, his right eye totally blinded!”

You might wonder how that is so certain that the temple will be rebuilt? This is the conclusion on reading the aforementioned texts from Matthew and 2 Thessalonians. Jesus speaks of the abomination of desolation that will stand in the holy place. And Paul talks about the same person, saying that he will set himself in the temple of God. If the man of lawlessness, or the son of perdition, or the abomination of desolation, is set in the temple of God, it is not difficult to conclude that there should be a temple. Attempts by some people to place this event to the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD. leads nowhere on the following arguments.

Jesus locate in Matthew 24:15 the moment of seeing the abomination of desolation just before the great tribulation (vs. 21). That great tribulation is not the tribulation at 70 AD. because Jesus says in vs. 29: *“Immediately after the distress of those days “the sun will be darkened,. . . . vs. 30 At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky. . . . They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky. . . .“*

It will be apparent to all, both events have do not been. Paul also speaks of these things the same way. He puts the standing of the son of perdition in the temple of God, just before Jesus returns.

Daniel 12:11

“From the time that the daily sacrifice is abolished and the abomination that causes desolation is set up, there will be 1,290 days. “

And again the daily sacrifice will be abolished. This is not the same sacrifice which we read about in Daniel 9:27. Then, Jesus “put an end”.

Here, in Daniel 12:11 there is talk of “abolished” or “discontinued”.

When the sacrifices, by the sacrifice of Jesus, were no longer needed, God supernaturally showed that the time for sacrifices for forgiveness of sins is now over. The veil ripped from top to bottom. Probably the priests didn't see the ripping of the veil as a sign and simply continued the sacrifices.

In Daniel 12:11, the sacrifices stopped. Why should people stop sacrifice? The same verse says that there is set up an abomination. An abomination is an idol in the eyes of God. In the eyes of of the people it is a god. Later, we will come back to the question of who that

Antichrist and his prophet are, but it must be clear that they are spiritual leaders and perform great miracle. And they both are fanatic Muslims.

Daniel 8:11 is interesting in this context. Antiochus is again a type of the antichrist.

"It set itself up to be as great as the Prince of the host; it took away the daily sacrifice from him, and the place of his sanctuary was brought low."

From another part of the Bible, we know that the abomination of desolation, or the Antichrist, will do his work 1260 days. Yet Daniel 12:11 refers to 1290 days. I think here suggests that the antichrist will sit in the temple 30 days, where one will believe that he is God, the awaited Messiah, before the persecutions against the saints that have the testimony of Jesus, will begin.

As previously mentioned, Antiochus IV, is a type of antichrist. Antiochus put an end to the temple service by setting up a statue of his god (Zeus) in the temple, and by letting himself being worshipped as a god. The antichrist sets himself in the temple. He is the image of his father, the devil. He also wants to be worshipped as a god. As in the days of Antiochus likewise in the days of the Antichrist there will be "wise" who "will bring many to understand", but they will suffer persecution. It will be a time of distress like there never was.

And what is being said about Antiochus in Daniel 11:36, will be said about the Antichrist.

"The king will do as he pleases. He will exalt and magnify himself above every god and will say unheard-of things against the God of gods. He will be successful until the time of wrath is completed, for what has been determined must take place."

When the measure is full of God's wrath, he will pour his wrath on this earth at "the great and dreadful day of the Lord".

Fortunately, we don't have to be scared about all this, "For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. He died for us . . ." (1 Thessalonians 5:9)

Till so far Daniel 11 and the part about the abomination of desolation in Daniel 9.

Visions of Daniel on the Fourth Empire

COMMENTS ON TEXT SHEET 2a

Daniel 2:33

"its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of baked clay."

The image Nebuchadnezzar saw had two legs of iron. All parts of the body pictures of a kingdom, so do these legs. It is of the fourth kingdom.

Daniel 2:40

"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."

The first was the Babylonian or Chaldean empire. The second empire was of the Medes and Persians. The third empire was the empire of the Greeks. The fourth empire is that of the Romans, but as we saw earlier, it is about eastern part of the Roman Empire with its capital in Constantinople. The empire gradually became an Islamic empire.

THE FOURTH EMPIRE seen from Daniel 7

We have seen how Daniel explains the dream to Nebuchadnezzar. The statue shows four different, successive kingdoms. Later, Daniel sees himself a vision (in Daniel 7). We saw earlier that the listed animals correspond with the parts of the statue. Every animal represents, like every part of the statue, a kingdom. The fourth beast will be a special animal. Just like the statue: the legs, feet and toes, represent the fourth empire. Similarly, the fourth beast is a picture of the fourth empire.

Daniel 7:7 (a+b)

"7 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 former beasts, and it had ten horns."

". . . It was different from all the former beasts, and it had ten horns."

The ten horns represent the ten toes of the image that Nebuchadnezzar saw in his dream. That it was different from all previous ones is striking. The first empires were empires lead by kings or emperors. This fourth kingdom is different. Initially it is hard as iron and crushed everything, but in second instance it is a composite empire, although it has something of the hardness of the first period that it reigned, but it is different. It has ten toes, according to state statue, ten horns, according to the fourth beast.

Daniel 7:23

"23 He gave me this explanation: 'The fourth beast is a fourth kingdom that will appear on earth. It will be different from all the other kingdoms and will devour the whole earth, trampling it down and crushing it.'"

This verse clearly says that the fourth animal is the fourth kingdom. It will be a world power. Verse 7b. says that this animal had 10 horns.

Verse 24 explains what those ten horns mean *"The ten horns are ten kings who will come from this kingdom."*

TEN KINGS

These ten kings come from that fourth empire. They are also part of that fourth empire, as toes are part of the feet, and horns of the beast.

There are commentators that claim that these ten kings ten successive governments are. In a way one king follows the previous one after the other king ceased his reign.

That interpretation is incorrect, for two reasons:

A. Daniel 7:8

"8 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 horn had eyes like the eyes of a man and a mouth that spoke boastfully."

Daniel saw ten horns, between which another little horn rose. Three of the 10 horns were uprooted to make way to that little horn.

Daniel 7:24

"24 The ten horns are ten kings who will come from this kingdom. After them another king will arise, different from the earlier ones; he will subdue three kings. "

There will arise a new king (the little horn), who will subdue three kings. In a series of successive kings a new king can only subdue the last king, and not the last three.

B. The second reason that this is not a series of successive kings, we will now discussing:

Revelation speaks of a beast with seven heads and ten horns. Revelation 13:1 (See Text Sheet 2b block E)

"1 And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. He had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on his horns, and on each head a blasphemous name. "

Revelation 17:3,12,13 (See text-page 2b last column)

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

scarlet beast that was covered with blasphemous names and had seven heads and ten horns."

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. 13 They have one purpose and will give their power and authority to the beast." These horns are ten kings who didn't receive kingship yet, but they will get authority together with the Antichrist (which is the eleventh horn). Only when ten kings are king simultaneously, they can reign with the Antichrist.

Back to the description of the fourth beast. This beast has ten horns.

Daniel 7:24 (see text-sheet 2a Section E)

"24 The ten horns are ten kings who will come from this kingdom. After them another king will arise, different from the earlier ones; he will subdue three kings."

From the fourth kingdom shall ten kings arise. We have just seen that there is no series of kings, but a group of ten kingdoms. Nebuchadnezzar's dream, in which he saw the statue, also speaks about that group of ten kings. Nebuchadnezzar saw feet with toes. It is not written there, but feet usually have ten toes. Of these ten is said something.

Daniel 2:41-43 (see text-sheet 2a Section E)

"41 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.

42 As the toes were partly iron and partly clay, so this kingdom will be partly strong and partly brittle.

43 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."

Those feet and toes are composed of different materials. Iron and baked clay. Such mixing indicates that those ten kings will go together as by marriage covenant, but with each other they are not coherent.

Daniel 7:8 and 24b,25 (See page 2 Section F)

"8 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 horn had eyes like the eyes of a man and a mouth that spoke boastfully.

24 b. . . After them another king will arise, different from the earlier ones; he will subdue three kings.

25 He will speak against the Most High and oppress his saints and try to change the set times and the laws. The saints will be handed over to him for a time, times and half a time. "

But after those ten kings are come together in a union, another will arise (the little horn) to reign (the Antichrist), he will be different than the ten kings. Three of ten kings will be overthrown by him.

We will discuss in the next part about the little horn, who is an image of the Antichrist.

THE LITTLE HORN - THE ABOMINATION THAT CAUSES DESOLATION

Daniel speaks at five locations of the abomination of desolation, the antichrist.

1. Daniel 7:8, 24b, 25
2. Daniel 8:9-12, 24, 25 (here it's about Antiochus IV Epiphanes, but it is a double prophecy, according to 25b.)
3. Daniel 9:26,27
4. Daniel 11:31
5. Daniel 12:5-13

We will compare these Bible passages and see what we can learn from it. (Most texts are also on text page 2a and 2b)

Daniel 7:24 and 25

*"24 The ten horns are ten kings who will come from this kingdom. After them another king will arise, different from the earlier ones; he will subdue three kings.
25 He will speak against the Most High and oppress his saints and try to change the set times and the laws. The saints will be handed over to him for a time, times and half a time. "*

Ten kings will rule simultaneously. These ten kings will have power when the little horn comes up. The little horn, or the king who is imagined by the little horn, subdues three of the ten kings. He will also speak boast words against the Most High, to God. The eleventh king will fight (7:21) against the saints and even overcome them. The timetable for the eleventh king when he will do it all, will be a time, times and half a time.

Before we proceed with the study of these Bible passages that deal with the abomination of desolation, we must first talk about the following two questions.

1. When is that time: a time, times and half a time?

2. How long is that?

The abomination of desolation in Daniel, is described by the Lord as someone who will stand at the holy place.

Matthew 24:15 (see text sheet 2 Section F)

"15 So when you see standing in the holy place 'the abomination that causes desolation,' spoken of through the prophet Daniel—let the reader understand— then let those who are in Judea ,. . . . "

When that moment is arrived it's time to rush to escape if you live in Judea.

Matthew 24:21

"For then there will be great distress. . . . "

Paul also speaks of this event.

2 Thessalonians 2:1, 3, 4 (see text sheet 2 Section F)

*"1 Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers,
3 Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction.
4 He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God."*

Paul says: before we will be united with our Lord Jesus Christ when He comes, the man of lawlessness, the son of perdition, the adversary, will rise up and set himself in the temple of God.

So the great tribulation will begin after the abomination of desolation has revealed himself in the temple. The great tribulation will be 3½ years. And will be before Jesus comes back and we will be united with Him. The first question is now answered.

Daniel showed (in 7:25), that the time which the Antichrist was given would be: a time, times and half a time.

Revelation speaks about these things too. We shall come back at Revelation more in depth and that's why we will talk here only about the time element. Revelation 12 speaks mainly about a woman, her child and the dragon. Verse 6 says that the woman fled into the desert.

Revelation 12:6

"6 The woman fled into the desert to a place prepared for her by God, where she might be taken care of for 1,260 days."

So the woman would be maintained by God for 1260 days. After verse 6 we see that the devil is cast out of heaven. And then we read:

Revelation 12:13

“When the dragon (i.e. The devil-vs. 9) saw that he had been hurled to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child.”

Verse 14 tells essentially the same as verse 6.

Revelation 12:14

“The woman was given the two wings of a great eagle, so that she might fly to the place prepared for her in the desert, where she would be taken care of for a time, times and half a time, out of the serpent’s reach.”

As already said, verse 6 and 14 tell the same story as far as we speak about the time element. In verse 6 that period is: 1260 days. And in verse 14 is that: a time, times and half a time.

A time, times and half a time equals 1260 days. This is a period of 3½ year. The time is : 1 year, times: 2 years, and half a time: a half year.

The time that the Antichrist would do his destructive work is limited to 3½ year. This is reflected in Revelation 13, but we shall come back to it. The Antichrist shall at the end of those 3½ years be slain by Jesus.

2 Thessalonians 2:8

“8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming. “

We have thus established where the Antichrist would be revealed, namely *“ . . . in the temple of God”* (2 Thessalonians 2:4)

And how long he will perform his reign of terror:

“ . . . a time, times and half a time. “ I. e. 3½ year. And we determined when that will be: from 3½ year to the return of Jesus and our union with Him. So the conclusion is therefore that we will, when we are still alive, will experience the great tribulation.

Let us, now we know the Antichrist will reveal himself in the coming time, look into this subject more deeply to understand who he is and what he will do. Not because it is so nice to keep us busy with him, but to expose him as the Antichrist when he reveals himself.

Jesus puts the activities of the Antichrist, when he shows he is a god, at the beginning of the great tribulation. What is written in Matthew 24 about the great tribulation is said too in Luke 21. The same things are described here. Only there is the addition in verse 20:

Lucas 21:20

“When you see Jerusalem being surrounded by armies, you will know that its desolation is near.”

Verse 21 goes on:

“Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains . . .”

Matthew 24:15,16 en 20

“15 So when you see standing in the holy place ‘the abomination that causes desolation,’ spoken of through the prophet Daniel—let the reader understand— 16 then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

. . . . 20 Pray that your flight will not take place in winter or on the Sabbath. “

These passages, together with Luke 21, shows that Jerusalem will be surrounded by armies and that the abomination of desolation sets himself in the temple *“showing himself he is god.”*

The Antichrist sets himself in the temple. He will show himself as a god. Everything which has been prophesied in Daniel 8:10-12 and 24-25 will be fulfilled.

The texts at text sheet 2a in sections F and G, give a good picture of the Antichrist.

This Antichrist will. . . .

Daniel 7:8 have a mouth that speaks boastfully
7:21. . . . waging war against the saints and defeating them.
7:24b. . . subdue three kings.
7:25b. . . try to change the set times and the laws.
8:11. . . . take away the daily sacrifice from God
8:24. . . . become very strong, . . . and will succeed in whatever he does.
8:25. . . . cause deceit to prosper
8:25. . . . consider himself superior
Matthew 24:21. . . be the great oppressor.
2 Thessalonians 2:4. . . proclaiming himself to be God.
Revelation 13:4. . . . get his authority from the dragon (devil).

But, as we saw earlier, the power given to him last only 3½ years, and then he will be slain by the breath of Jesus. Jesus is the true Messiah. He is the true Christ. Antichrist can not stand against him, even he is the son of perdition.

Revelation 12

We talked a while on the book of Daniel. The visions therein focus on the end time. This is the time when the Antichrist will manifest himself and the “great tribulation” isn't just a word that indicates a certain period, but actually a great tribulation will prove to be.

We have already, briefly, talked about some verses of Revelation which cover the same things. To better understand where Daniel is talking about, we must now look more closely at a few chapters of Revelation.

Revelation 12:1-18 (please read in your own bible)

The first six verses are talking about the woman who bore the child.

Who is that woman?

In vs. 1 John sees a big sign, or a symbol, in heaven, but from verse 6 and 13 it appears that the symbol is on the earth.

Who ever this woman might be, *'She gave birth to a son, a male child, who will rule all the nations with an iron scepter.'* Of whom in the Bible is said that he will rule all nations with a rod of iron?

Psalm 2:7-9 talks in this context about the Messiah.

- 7 *“I will proclaim the decree of the LORD:
He said to me, “You are my Son;
today I have become your Father.*
- 8 *Ask of me,
and I will make the nations your inheritance,
the ends of the earth your possession.*
- 9 *You will rule them with an iron scepter;
you will dash them to pieces like pottery.”*

Revelation 2:26,27

“26 To him who overcomes and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations—

*27 ‘He will rule them with an iron scepter;
he will dash them to pieces like pottery’ —
just as I have received authority from my Father.”*

Jesus says that the believers will reign with Him and that they, like him, will rule with a iron rod.

Revelation 19:15

“15 Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. “He will rule them with an iron scepter. “He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty.”

Again it is, compared with 12:5, clearly, that “the male child” is Jesus, who will reign as King of kings.

The woman can't be Mary, because the woman is persecuted by the dragon, after he is cast out of heaven. And this will, as we will see, only happen in the last days.

Verses 1-6 give in a few words more events, sometimes thousands of years apart.

Let's look through these verses.

Revelation 12:1-6 (please read in your own bible)

John sees “a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head.” This is an image what we already have seen in the Bible.

Genesis 37:9-10

“9 Then he had another dream, and he told it to his brothers. “Listen,” he said, “I had another dream, and this time the sun and moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me.”

10 When he told his father as well as his brothers, his father rebuked him and said, “What is this dream you had? Will your mother and I and your brothers actually come and bow down to the ground before you?” “

Eleven stars bowed to Joseph. Joseph which was himself the twelfth star.

The twelve stars symbolize the twelve tribes of Israel. In Joseph's dream his father is the sun, and the moon his mother.

The woman in Revelation 12 is clothed with the Sun. This is an image of God the Father, who Israel with his glory clothed. Israel is God's chosen people.

The moon reflects the light of the Sun. In my opinion this mean that God's law was given to them. Not only the ten commandments, but the whole Bible, because by this Word, God reveals himself to men. This is the reflection of His glory.

The woman *“was pregnant and cried out in pain as she was about to give birth. . . She gave birth to a son, a male child, who will rule all the nations with an iron scepter. And her child was snatched up to God and to his throne.”*

As we saw earlier, that son is Jesus.

He is the long awaited Messiah. But by his death en resurrection He was caught up suddenly unto God and his throne.

At this point, the word of the revelation -or the word of prophecy-, goes right through to the end time. We have already seen this many times.

The period of the church is skipped in the prophecies about Israel.

This prophecy goes here again straight to the time of the end, i.e. the time that Israel plays a role again in God's plans. Verse 6 is an outline of what is more detailed in verses 13 through 18.

This is the time of the great tribulation.

Before we go on with these texts, however, we have to deal with the texts 7 through 12.

OVERCOME THE DRAGON

Revelation 12:7-12 (please read in your own bible)

There will be a war in heaven. Michael, according to Daniel 10:13 is one of the chief princes in heaven, is at war with the dragon.

The dragon loses. The dragon, who appears to be the devil, will be hurled on the earth.

verse 13 says:

"When the dragon saw that he had been hurled to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child."

Verse 14: *"The woman was given the two wings of a great eagle, so that she might fly to the place prepared for her in the desert, where she would be taken care of for a time, times and half a time, out of the serpent's reach."*

This story is in verse 6 too. And as we mentioned earlier, this all takes place within one period of 3½ year. (time, times and half one time).

Verse 12 says:

'woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you!

He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short.'

The devil knows that he has 3½ year, so he wants to pursue the woman. But as he finds that this fails, because God helps the woman to flee and is further taking care of her, the devil is very angry at the woman (Israel) and then we read in verse 17:

'and went off to make war against the rest of her offspring. . .'

So all these things will happen when the devil is cast out of heaven.

John sees all this in his mind and then he heard a loud voice in heaven.

About what that voice says we will talk hereafter.

THE TIME THE DEVIL AND HIS 'SON' IS GIVEN.

Revelation 12:10

"Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down."

Here we see a number of issues that we first need to examine to get a better understanding of Revelation 12.

- A. *Now have come.*
When is that?
- B. *Now have come the salvation*
What is the salvation?
- C. *Now have come . . . the power . . .*
What power is that?
- D. *The accuser of our brothers . . .*
Why the accuser?
- E. *The accuser of our brothers . . .*
Of whom are these brothers brothers?
- F. *Our brothers . . .*
Who are these brothers?

NOW HAVE COME. . .

This 'Now' gives a clear timing.

'Now' have come . . .

When is that?

The previous verse (9) says that the devil is hurled upon the earth.

When verse 10 begins with: *'Now have come. . . . '*, then it follows that the 'Now' is the moment when the devil have been hurled on the earth.

From that moment appears *'the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ.'*

Does the loud voice in heaven mean that this is the exact moment of the beginning of the kingdom of our God and His Christ?

No, because the loud voice says in verse 12b also: *'But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you!*

He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short."

How much time? That's not direct in the text. But indirectly it is there.

Revelation 12:13-16

"13 When the dragon saw that he had been hurled to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child.

14 The woman was given the two wings of a great eagle, so that she might fly to the place prepared for her in the desert, where she would be taken care of for a time, times and half a time, out of the serpent's reach.

15 Then from his mouth the serpent spewed water like a river, to overtake the woman and sweep her away with the torrent.

16 But the earth helped the woman by opening its mouth and swallowing the river that the dragon had spewed out of his mouth."

So the dragon saw that he was hurled to the earth, he wanted to pursue the woman that had given birth to the male child.

But the woman could escape and was at a place (verse 6 shows that it is the desert, think also of the exodus from Egypt) taken care of by God.

The time that God protects His people for the purgation of the devil is according verse 14

14: "a time, times and half a time" and that is, as we saw earlier (vs 6) "1,260 days."

When God protects His people 3½ years for the persecution of the devil, it was not to surrender them after that time to the persecution of the devil.

When that protection for the devil takes 3½ year, it means that after the 3½ year the devil has no power anymore.

It is, by the way, not the devil himself that persecuted God's people, those 3½ year, for he gives his power and his throne and great authority to the beast that rises from the sea.

Revelation 13:1-2

"1 And the dragon stood on the shore of the sea. And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. He had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on his horns, and on each head a blasphemous name.

2 The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion. The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority. "

This beast is the resurrected fourth empire (we'll get back to that later).

But he who is the real ruler, is the second beast from Revelation 13

Revelation 13:11-12

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

12 He exercised all the authority of the first beast on his behalf, and made the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose fatal wound had been healed."

... "He exercised all the authority of the first beast on his behalf"

To better understand this we take the United States of America as an example.

These States all have their own governor (king), yet they are connected to each other. They have a kind of marriage covenant with each other .

These United States have great power, but the one who really has the power is actually the president.

This president exercises all the power in front of the eyes of the governors.

Now there will come a time, according to the Bible, that the fourth Empire will revive, ten kings (rulers) will, by a covenant with each other, connect. From these united states a new king will arise. He will take all authority.

This king, in 2 Thessalonians he is called the son of perdition, will be slain by the Lord Jesus, when He comes. 2 Thessalonians 2:3,4 and 8

"3 Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for I that day will not come I until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. 4He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.

... 8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming."

When Jesus comes back He will deal with the nations that attack Israel. Then begins the millennial kingdom. Satan will be bound and the time of persecution, or the great tribulation is over. Then the time comes, whose voice bears witness in heaven: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ."

As we all lines up, we see

- that the devil will be cast out of heaven.
- that the time, which he sees it is short, will be 3½ years.
- that these 3½ years are the period of the great tribulation.
- that these 3½ years end due to the coming of Jesus.
- that the kingship over this world then will be implemented by God and His Christ.

NOW HAVE COME THE SALVATION AND THE POWER .

. .

Revelation 12:10

"10 Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. "

We have seen before what is meant by "Now"

Let's go see what appears after these 3½ years of tribulation.

First it says that salvation have come.

What is salvation?

Deliverance from sin and its consequences. What are the consequences of sin?

Be lost! Or as it used in 1 Corinthians: perish

1 Corinthians 1:18

"18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. "

'Be lost' contrasts 'be saved.'

Man, by his sin, has been lost for participation in God's plans. But there is still a possibility to be saved to participate in God's plans.

Romans 10:9-10

"if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."

"Be saved" it says. That is something that will become reality in the future.

When?

This is evident from the text we are working on: Revelation 12:10.

That is, as we saw earlier, when the kingdom comes to our God and His Christ.

From Romans 10 we see, there are other texts that confirm this, that deliverance is for all whom Jesus Christ, in this life, acknowledge as Lord.

Most Jews don't do that.

On them a partial hardening has come. But there comes a time when the hardening is no longer over them. It will be when the fullness of the Gentiles enters.

Romans 11:25,26

"25 I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers, so that you may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in. 26 And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written:

"The deliverer will come from Zion; he will turn godlessness away from Jacob. "

" . . . And so all Israel will be saved."

All Israel, so all twelve tribes, will be converted to Jesus and will therefore be used again in the great plan of God.

Romans 11:11,12

"11 Again I ask: Did they stumble so as to fall beyond recovery? Not at all! Rather, because of their transgression, salvation has come to the Gentiles to make Israel envious. 12 But if their transgression means riches for the world, and their loss means riches for the Gentiles, how much greater riches will their fullness bring!"

Because of the fall of Israel, the salvation came to the Gentiles.

The fall of Israel means riches for the world. And their failure proved to be riches for the Gentiles.

And then Paul says: *" . . . how much greater riches will their fullness bring!"*

If their failure appears to be riches for the Gentiles, how much riches will bring this people when they no longer fall short? That is, when they no longer reject Jesus, but accept Him.

Hosea 3:4,5

"4 For the Israelites will live many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred stones, without ephod or idol.

5 Afterward the Israelites will return and seek the LORD their God and David their king. They will come trembling to the LORD and to his blessings in the last days. "

In the future days (as our Dutch translation says) the Israelites will come to the Lord and his salvation.

" . . . AND THE POWER. . . "

Not only salvation and the kingdom appears when the devil will be cast out of heaven, but also the power.

Both the salvation, and the kingdom of God comes, but also the power.

What power is this? Read the next verse.

Acts 1:8

"8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you . . . "

It is the power of the Holy Spirit.

To whom will that power appear in Revelation 12:10?

Is meant here that God's Holy Spirit will be active only when the devil is cast out of heaven? Or is here referred to that God's Spirit will be poured upon *"all flesh"*?

(In another Bible study I talked about that when I compared Acts 2 Joel 2. Still in short: The outpouring of God's Spirit, which Acts 2 speaks about and which today is still poured out, is a foreshadowing of the outpouring that will take place when Israel will repent at Jesus' coming. See Joel 2.)

Based on the announcement: *"Now have come . . . "*, that is after the devil has been cast out of heaven, can the here mentioned "power" not be the outpouring of the Holy Spirit from Acts 2, but must it be the outpouring of Spirit on "all flesh" of Israel, when they repent at Jesus' coming as the Messiah.

Then the kingdom of God will be revealed and the power of His Christ.

THE ACCUSER OF OUR BROTHERS. . .

Salvation and power and the kingdom of God will only appear after the devil has been cast out of heaven and waged war against the saints for 3½ year.

This is shown in Revelation 12:10, where after the triumphant cry about the appearance of salvation and the power and the kingdom, is written: *"For the accuser of our brothers, has been hurled down. "*

Verse 11 says: *"They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death."*

The accuser has been conquered. How is he conquered? In his lawsuit!
The accuser accused the brethren day and night for our God.

This is an image we encounter in the courtroom. The suspect will appear with his lawyer and the accuser for court. The accused may defend himself. He is allowed to witness. If the court finds that the defendant has made a good testimony, then he is free and the case won by the defendant.

Now is written that the brothers have overcome the plaintiff (who is the Devil) *"by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony."*

The accuser had no valid grounds to God to continue the charges when the accused appealed to the blood of the Lamb and their testimonies were heard. The accuser had lost and the accused were the victors.

Does this victory mean, that they are immune for the devil? Not as human beings, because of them is said that they did not love their lives until death.

They conquered the devil, but were slain by him. How can this be?

Their victory has to do with the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony. The accuser could not win his case, because there was no basis for the charge anymore. The defendants accepted that they had to pay the debt, which was met by an Other. And their testimony was that they didn't accepted the mark of the beast on their hand or their foreheads.

The judge has also accepted that payment and terminates the charge.

The accused is the victor and the accuser the loser.

The accuser now displays his true nature, he is not seeking justice, but on the death of the accused. The accuser is the murderer from the beginning, he is the dragon, which has waged war against those who keep the commandments of God and the testimony of Jesus (vs. 17).

His indictment, that exclusion of eternal life as a requirement had, he lost. But, he is a bad loser and then goes to war against the saints.

Daniel 7 shows this.

The horn (the antichrist - the son of the devil) fights against the saints and overcomes them, they die a martyr's death.

Daniel 7:21,22

"As I watched, this horn was waging war against the saints and defeating them, 22 until the Ancient of Days came and

pronounced judgment in favor of the saints of the Most High, and the time came when they possessed the kingdom."

Those saints who were overcome receive kingship.

Revelation 12:11

". . . they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death."

Revelation 20:4

"I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years."

This is a wonderful prospect for those living in the great tribulation loose their lives. They receive a new, imperishable, eternal life with Jesus Christ and the kingship with Jesus Christ.

FROM WHOM ARE THE BROTHERS BROTHERS?

They are brothers of the one who says this all with a loud voice in heaven.

These brothers are people because of them is testified:

Revelation 12:11

*"They overcame him
by the blood of the Lamb
and by the word of their testimony;
they did not love their lives so much
as to shrink from death."*

Yet there is a voice in the heaven, who speaks to them as: our brothers.

Whoever says that in heaven, must be a brother of the accused.

Reasoning by, the voice in heaven must be the voice of a man. And that man in heaven is speaking also on behalf of at least an other man that is in heaven, because he's talking about: our brothers.

We know with certainty that two people are in heaven: Enoch and Elijah. But at the transfiguration of Jesus on the Mount, Jesus spoke not only with Elijah, but also with Moses. It is likely that Moses is in heaven too.

From one of them must be that loud voice that John heard in heaven.

OUR BROTHERS. . .

Who are these brothers?

We have just seen that they are brethren of Moses and Elijah.

Moses and Elijah were Israelites. It is therefore logical to assume that "our brothers" are Israelites.

But with good will, you can also assume that these are “human brothers”. Brothers of the human race. As in verse 11 clearly emerges is that these “brothers” know the Lord Jesus and accepted His redemptive work on the cross.

They are thus in any case Christians either from the Jews, or from the other tribes of Israel, either from the Gentiles.

It is with these “brothers” about the same group of people as in:

Revelation 12:17

“Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to make war against the rest of her offspring—those who obey God’s commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus.”

This group persecuted are also mentioned in Revelation 7. Revelation 7:9-17 (please read in your own bible)

On the basis of Revelation 12 it is not clear about who exactly they are.

This large crowd are certainly Christians, but as said before: whether they are from the Jews, or from other tribes of Israel, or out of the Gentiles, is not entirely clear.

One thing is very clear:

*“They overcame him (the devil)
by the blood of the Lamb
and by the word of their testimony;
they did not love their lives so much
as to shrink from death.”*

Revelation 12:13-18

Now we discussed the points A through F (from p. 18), we will continue with

Revelation 12:13-18 (please read in your own bible).

Verse 13. *“When the dragon saw that he had been hurled to the earth. . . .”*

There was war in heaven. The result of that war was that the dragon has been cast to the earth.

One of our Dutch translations puts it this way: *“And when the dragon saw that he was crashed to earth”*

This indicates that he realizes, as he was still “dizzy” from the “slam down”, he is now on the earth.

This is something he apparently had never thought that would happen.

And then as he realizes that, he just really got mad. That’s why we read in verse 12: *“woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you!*

He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short.”

In heaven, he has nothing to seek anymore, his job as accuser ends.

What was this indeed a diabolical work. First he brings man to sin and then he accuses those people in the heavenly court. On the basis of God’s commandments he seeks the death penalty. So has he achieved his goal: death of man, while God man had intended just for life. The vicious thing is that the devil, by lying, man seduced to commit sin, but for God’s court the devil is telling the truth.

His role as prosecutor, as he has been cast to the earth, is played out!

But his character remains. Everything where God has a purpose with, he wants to destroy.

And God still has a plan with Israel. Therefore, Satan pursued *“the woman. . . , who gave birth to a son, a male child”*

What once was done by Pharaoh, who pursued the Israelites, will happen again soon when the devil pursues the woman (Israel), God will protect them, or as Exodus 14:8 says:

The Israelites *“who were marching out boldly”*. Or as it is in the KJV: *“the children of Israel went out with an high hand.”* It is the hand of God, who will lead out the woman (Israel).

Revelation 12:14

“The woman was given the two wings of a great eagle, so that she might fly to the place prepared for her in the desert, where she would be taken care of for a time, times and half a time, out of the serpent’s reach.”

What is meant here with the wings of a great eagle?

Again, we can see a parallel with the exodus from Egypt into the desert and the exodus from Judea to the wilderness.

Exodus 19:4

Israel: *“You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself.”*

Also at the end of times, God will carry His people on eagles’ wings into the wilderness where He will take care of them, three and half years.

The serpent (devil) wants to prevent the escape of the woman (Israel) by drowning her in water, but the earth will help the woman.

This too is an image that already is in the Bible. The earth opens and swallows evil.

Exodus 15:11-12

11 *“Who among the gods is like you, O LORD?*

*Who is like you—
majestic in holiness,
awesome in glory,
working wonders?*

You stretched out your right hand

and the earth swallowed them.”

Compare also the story of the rebellion of Korah, Dathan and Abiram who, because they conspired against the Lord, were swallowed by the earth (Numbers 16 :1-35).

When the dragon then sees that all his efforts to persecute the woman (Israel) fails, he becomes very angry. The devil knows that he has lost, and in his anger he wants as many people drawn into destruction, and he cools his anger on the people of Messiah.

verse 17 *“Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to make war against the rest of her offspring—those who obey God’s commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus.”*

This verse shows us that outside those who will be maintained in the wilderness by God, there are more people who belong to the same genus. It’s not just the Jews he wants to persecute, but his anger is aimed at all who belong to the people of Israel. All twelve tribes will be under great tribulation..

From previous Bible studies, we know that there is a difference between the ten tribes kingdom “Israel” and the two tribes kingdom “Judah”.

The two tribes “Judah” or the Jews have now begun to inhabit the land of Israel. Jesus knew that this would happen again. He says in Matthew 24 in his speech on the last things:

Matthew 24:16-21

“ . . . then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. 17 Let no one on the roof of his house go down to take anything out of the house. 18 Let no one in the field go back to get his cloak. 19 How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! 20 Pray that your flight will not take place in winter or on the Sabbath. 21 For then there will be great distress, unequalled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equaled again.”

This tribulation is the period of persecution that Revelation 12 talks about.

Back to Revelation 12:17.

The dragon focuses his attack on the rest of her offspring, as already indicated that will be the remaining ten tribes and all Jews who could not flee.

But, you might say, it says the rest who obey the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus? Are they not Christians? Christians are also descendants Abraham, aren't they? (Romans 4:13-17). Indeed it can also point to Christians, we are indeed made one with the people of God.

We are grafted between the branches. But the prophecy as given here in Revelation 12 speaks of the woman and the rest of her offspring. It is quite clear the woman is in connection with bringing the Messiah into the world.

And this can not be said of Christians. We Christians are being added to that people, but that is a spiritual adding. Of Israel can be said, though it's occasionally, that they keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus (Messiah).

Do they have the testimony of Jesus?

Yes, because the Bible is the testimony of Jesus. (John 5: 39).

All this does not mean that Christians who are living at that time will not be part of the tribulation, because anyone who will refuse to receive the sign on the hand or head will therefore be persecuted.

Now that we have studied chapter twelve, we start with chapter 13.

By going so extensive into chapter 12, chapter 13 will be easier to understand. Without this preliminary study chapter 13 is a very difficult chapter, and especially to set it in a certain time frame.

Chapter 13 talks about a beast with ten horns and seven heads. This metaphor, we also met in Daniel, so we will see that both books talk about the same things.

Revelation 13

After we extensively discussed Revelation 12, in which we have seen that, particular Israel, will get it very hard to endure in the last 3½ years, and in which we have seen the role that Satan plays, we will proceed with Chapter 13. This Chapter has a large number of similarities with Daniel. And to better understand Chapter 13, we were started reading Chapter 12.

Revelation 13:1-9 (please read in your own bible).

verse 1 *“And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. He had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on his horns, and on each head a blasphemous name.”*

Same kind of description we see in Revelation 12:3. There it is a great red dragon. This is the same dragon of which verse 7 to 12 say that he was thrown to the earth.

Revelation 12 thus refers to the devil.

But in Revelation 13 we read in verse 2b:

“The dragon gave the beast (that's the beast that rises from the sea and that looks very similar to the dragon itself) his power and his throne and great authority.”

It is obvious that the beast that rises from the sea, is not the same as the dragon (read: Satan), because the dragon gives the beast his power, throne and might.

What, or who, is that beast of verse 1?

Let us take text-sheet 2a again. (The dream in the book of Daniel).

This fourth beast, as we already saw is the fourth Empire that will revive in the end time.

In Sections D and E are the texts dealing with the fourth beast of Daniel 7.

Daniel 7:7, 23, 24 show that this fourth beast will be the fourth kingdom on earth and that this will be a terrible and terrifying kingdom. It will consist of 10 kings, who, by a covenant (matrimonial) connect with each other (see Daniel 2:43).

But what about those seven heads in Revelation 13?

Daniel doesn't talk about.

Daniel speaks about the last beast as an animal with one head, but with 10 horns, which in turn represents kings.

Why is there this difference between Daniel and Revelation?

Daniel sees in this vision four animals.

1. The first was like a lion. (The Chaldean or Babylonian Empire. One animal with one head)
2. The second looked like a bear. (The Persian Empire. One animal with one head)
3. The third looked like a panther and it had four heads. (The four parts of the Greek empire. One animal with four heads)

4. The fourth, dreadful and terrible beast had ten horns. (One animal with one head. We don't know yet which Empire that will be, but we look into that shortly).

Four animals. But if we count the heads, we come to seven.

The fourth beast is the animal with the seventh head. But Revelation 13:1 describes that (one) animal, or that kingdom, that has seven heads.

The description of the heads we can read in:

Revelation 13:2

“The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion.”

The animals mentioned in this text are also mentioned in Daniel 7.

The remarkable thing is that the beast of Revelation 13:1 as a whole resembles each beast from Daniel 7.

Actually it is not as strange as it first appears.

Daniel 2 makes it clear that the stone that crushed the image at the feet, crushed with that all previous empires.

*“34While you were watching, a rock was cut out, but not by human hands. It struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and smashed them. 35Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were broken to pieces **at the same time** and became like chaff on a threshing floor in the summer. The wind swept them away without leaving a trace. But the rock that struck the statue became a huge mountain and filled the whole earth.”* (Daniel 2).

*44“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. 45This 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.”*

If the last empire, the revived fourth empire, which is the kingdom that is represented by the ten toes of the feet (in Daniel 2), is crushed, also will be crushed the legs of iron, the belly and thighs of brass, , the chest and arms of silver and the golden head, all at the same time.

All empires of the statue in Daniel 2 are united in the last fourth empire. Together they form the beast of Revelation 13:1. They form the revived fourth empire (i.e. the feet with ten toes) of the statue in Daniel 2.

This empire had conquered all previous empires. It was bigger and stronger than all previous empires. All countries which are depicted by the **panther** (or leopard) , and all the countries which are depicted by the **bear** and the **lion** were dominated by the fourth empire.

Revelation 13:3

"One of the heads (namely the last one) of the beast seemed to have had a fatal wound, but the fatal wound had been healed."

The seventh head was the head which belonged to the fourth beast. This head resembled, together with the animal, the fourth kingdom.

It's mortally wounded head will recover

From the Greek the text would be better translated to: *"And one of his heads was slaughtered. . ."* In this way it is an imitation of the slaughtered Lamb. *". . . and he healed by the touch of death".*

This is again one of the things the devil imitates God.

The things people say are also blasphemous imitations.

verse 4: *"Who is like the beast? Who can make war against him?"*

See also Exodus 15:11

"Who among the gods is like you, O LORD?

*Who is like you—
majestic in holiness,
awesome in glory,
working wonders?"*

And see Isaiah 46:5

"To whom will you compare me or count me equal?

To whom will you liken me that we may be compared?"

The beast that rises from the sea, resembles in everything to the dragon. It is his kingdom.

And it appears that all the kingdoms, which are symbolized by the seven heads, have been his kingdoms. The whole character of the dragon (Satan) was reflected in these kingdoms.

Also here he is again the great ape of God, who puts his character in His Kingdom, namely the Kingdom of Heaven.

This will be a Kingdom of peace.

And the kingdoms of the devil, are exactly the opposite of a kingdom of peace. These kingdoms were based solely on their armies.

As we will see Satan brings also a "son" in this world to assume kingship. The son of perdition is thus an imitation of the Son that God brought into the world to assume kingship.

The time that this latter empire of Satan on earth has the power, is the time following the hurling down of the devil on earth. And as we have seen, he has 3½ years. Verse 5 says this too *"The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise his authority for forty-two months."*

This is the same period of 3½ year.

THE BEAST OUT OF THE EARTH

Revelation 13:11-18 (please read in your own bible).

"Then I saw another beast, coming out of the earth. He had two horns like a lamb, but he spoke like a dragon."

". . . another beast. . ."

A few verses earlier we read about a beast that had seven heads and ten horns.

We have seen that here is meant the resurrected fourth Empire. This is a creation of the devil. It just likes in everything at him.

But now we read in verse 11 that John saw another beast. As we can read in Genesis, man was made in God's image and likeness.

Nothing is said of the animals, with which I don't want to say that the animals are made in the likeness of the devil, but from the story of the serpent in paradise, we know that the devil can manifest himself as a beast.

So John sees another beast coming up. This time there's not that this beast comes out of the sea, as in 13:1 (which is meant by people sea), but it says here (13:11) that this beast rises from the earth.

It could be shown that this "beast" is made of dust, such as men are made of dust. Therefore it could be that John wants to indicate that this "beast" is a human being.

Let's go on to Revelation 13:11.

". . . He (the beast) had two horns like a lamb, but he spoke like a dragon. . ."

In his appearance the beast will occur as the Lamb.

Who does not look well, or has no knowledge of the Bible, will think he is the Messiah.

It is not surprising that ignorant ones will think like that, because the Antichrist will do great wonders.

Revelation 13:13-14a

"And he (the beast) performed great and miraculous signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to earth in full view of men. ¹⁴Because of the signs he was given power to do on behalf of the first beast, he deceived the inhabitants of the earth. . ."

That this is indeed the Antichrist appears from a.o.:

2 Thessalonians 2:9

Here the coming of the Antichrist is set against the (re)coming of Jesus.

"The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, ¹⁰and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing . . ."

This sign of "fire from heaven" (Rev. 13:13) is an imitation of what the greatest prophet in the OT (Elijah) did, when he asked God to send fire from heaven to burn the sacrifice. (2 Kings 1:10).

When Jesus returns to this earth, He will put an end to a war that the (first) beast and the kings of the earth will wage against Israel and because Israel is God's people it's a war against God.

Revelation 19:19-20

"¹⁹Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to make war against the rider on the horse and his army. ²⁰But the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who had performed the miraculous signs on his behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped his image . . . "

The same is said by Paul when he talks about the lawless one:

2 Thessalonians 2:8

" . . . whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of His coming. "

We've now got a better idea who that second beast is, so it will not surprise us that it does occur as the Lamb, but in his speech shows that his father is the dragon (the devil). *" . . . but he spoke like a dragon."*

This antichrist will be the leader of the revived Fourth Empire.

Revelation 13:12

"He exercised all the authority of the first beast (the revived Fourth Empire) on his behalf . . ."

His government will be of a devilish character. Anyone who does not comply with the rules set by him will be slain.

A few chapters later in Revelation is further made clear who they are, who didn't worship that image or the beast, and who did not receive the mark, because they refused. They were slain, but the vision shows that the misery suffered is outweighed by the glory which is put away.

Revelation 20:4b

"And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years."

Revelation 17 speaks also of "the beast" with seven heads and ten horns.

We will hereafter include this passage in our Bible study.

Revelation 17

Revelation 17 (please read in your own bible).

The purpose of this chapter is that those who take note of that chapter will know that the great prostitute will be judged.

There are several theories about who the great prostitute is. One of the most well known is that it is Rome.

I think, and I am not alone, that it is not Rome. I shall give biblical clues that indicate that it can not be Rome.

Although I can understand that people think it is the papacy.

The prostitute sits upon many waters (v. 1). The angel explains to John that those waters are peoples, multitudes, nations and languages. So that whomever has power over those multitudes, nations, peoples and languages. This could refer to the Vatican (Rome), but it could also be another city that has spiritual, political, or economic power over nations.

The angel says: *"Come, I will show you the punishment of the great prostitute..."*

In chapter 21 says another of the seven angels something to John: *"Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb."*

The bride, pure and the impure whore.

Two opposing "women". The one connected to the Lamb (Jesus), the other with the Antichrist.

In both cases a spiritual thing.

The angel carries John in the spirit into the wilderness. Rome is not in a desert. But, you might say that you can also see this allegorically. It could be, but you can see it literally as well.

Later we will see that this is correct.

That woman is in a desert. She is the great city, which reigns over the kings of the earth. Is Rome reigning over the kings (rulers) of the earth?

Which city has power over the rulers of the earth?

Which city is sitting on a scarlet beast full of blasphemous names?

That beast, where she sits, has seven heads and ten horns. This is the beast of Revelation 13:1. The beast that got his power and his throne from the dragon (the devil). That whore, that city, sits on the beast and is very rich. Decked with gold, precious stones and pearls. Which city in a desert is so vast rich?

On her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, Babylon the great, mother of prostitutes and of the abominations of the earth. (verse 5).

It is **not** about ancient Babylon, the city in Iraq, it is a mystery. The name of that mystery is Babylon. It is a spiritual term. In fact the opposite is the New Jerusalem.

It says that she is the mother of prostitutes and abominations of the earth. This is an Oriental expression, it is a superlative. Saddam Hussein said about the Gulf war that it was the mother of all wars. Here in Revelation this expression does not mean that she is the origin of all prostitutes.

The woman was drunk with the blood of the saints, the blood of those who bore testimony to Jesus. (verse 6). This could refer to the Vatican (Rome). But there is another religion that has this on her conscience. Even now, after the year 2000, there are 100,000 Christians killed in Communist and Muslim countries. According to Open Doors 80% in Muslim countries.

The angel explains who or what that beast is. verse 8 *"The beast, which you saw, once was, now is not, and will come up out of the Abyss and go to his destruction. . . (end of verse 8) the beast, because he once was, now is not, and yet will come."*

verse 9 *"The seven heads are seven hills on which the woman sits."*

verse 10

*"They are **also** seven kings.:*

- *Five have fallen,*
- *one is*
- *the other has not yet come; but when he does come, he must remain for a little while.*
- *The beast who once was, and now is not, is an eighth king. He belongs to the seven and is going to his destruction."* (It comes from the seven kingdoms. Seven and eight are thus more or less one.)

The beast was there, and for a certain time it was not there, but it will rise again.

It is explained by many scholars that this is Rome, the city on seven hills. Now it is undeniably true that Rome was adorned with gold, and that it has shed so much blood of the saints, but has Rome been sitting (or sits) on seven mountains which are also seven kings, each with a blasphemous name?

How can these texts, here in Revelation 17, to help us better understand what that last empire will be?

Mountains in the Bible are empires (kingdoms). It's not just seven kingdoms, but also kings.

Five of these kingdoms have fallen at the time that John wrote this. (verse 10).

1. The Egyptian Empire
2. The Assyrian Empire
3. The Babylonian Empire

4. The Persian Empire
5. The Greek Empire
One is (verse 10), which was
6. the Roman empire.
And the other, the seventh,
7. has not come yet.

What we must do is determine what the seventh empire is. Verse 10 shows that the eighth empire more or less is equal to the seventh empire.

Often it is interpreted that the eighth empire will be a revival of the Roman empire, and to be honest I have to admit that I have thought that for a long time. But if we look at the numbers, we see that, as the eighth empire is a revival of the seventh empire, and that's it, because it is so in the Bible, then both the sixth, seventh and eighth empires would be Roman. Neither the Bible nor history support this idea.

A little history.

The great Roman Empire was divided into two parts in 395 AD., the Eastern and the Western part. The Eastern part became known as the Byzantine empire. In 476 AD. the Western capital, Rome, fell by the invasion of German tribes (the Visigoths), or the Barbarians. Although the Western part of the empire had fallen the eastern part was there, with Constantinople as its capital. In 1453 AD. it was conquered by Turkish Muslims. It became known as the Ottoman empire. They ruled the entire Middle East, including Jerusalem. All previous empires have ruled over Jerusalem. It is important to see this because the Bible is always focused on Jerusalem. Not on America or Europe. Jerusalem is according to the Bible the center of the world.

The Turkish Ottoman empire was the seat of the Islamic Caliphate, but the Caliphate has been around longer. The Islamic Caliphate of Umar Ibn Al-Khattab invaded, as early as 637 AD., Jerusalem.

The Turkish Ottoman empire ended in 1922 AD. In 1923 AD. The Islamic Caliphate was abolished.

There was no leader. Islam was mortally wounded. The Islamic world is waiting today for the reestablishment of the Caliphate. (Revelation 17:8). They expect their Messiah, the Mahdi, the new Caliph, the Christians expect their Messiah, Jesus.

The only empire that fulfills the patterns necessary for the seventh empire to describe is the Islamic empire. All of the previous Empires are now Muslim countries. The seventh empire, here in Revelation 17 (the fourth kingdom in Daniel 2), is an Islamic empire.

"11 The beast who once was, and now is not, is an eighth king. He belongs to the seven and is going to his destruction."

This last kingdom, the revived Islamic empire, will be the empire of the Antichrist.

Ten kings of that empire will make war against the Lamb but the Lamb will overcome.

Revelation 17 and 18 are not the only parts in the Bible that talk about Babylon.

So let's look at some end-time prophecies in the Old Testament that speak of Babylon. The Old and New Testaments are complementary.

Isaiah 21:9.

"Babylon has fallen, has fallen!"

Here the same words are used as in Revelation 18:2.

There are also names mentioned in Isaiah 21 of cities and countries.

Verse 11. *An oracle concerning Dumah*

Verse 13. *An oracle concerning Arabia*

Verse 16. *all the pomp of Kedar will come to an end.*

When we read about Babylon, we read here in the context of Dumah, Arabia and Kedar. These sites are located in the desert at the sea. (verse 1).

Babylon is located at great waters according to Jeremiah 51:13.

Arabia is called by Muslims, Al-Jazeera Al-Arabia, literally the Arabic island or peninsula. Also, the "desert at the sea". These places here mentioned in the Bible make it clear that this is not intended to be Rome, or even the literal Babylon.

The desert to the sea can not be something else than Arabia surrounded by the Persian Gulf, Indian Ocean and Red Sea.

Duma is in Saudi Arabia near Yathrib (Medina) and is now called "Dumat al-Jandal".

Duma in Isaiah 21:1 is associated with Seir. And Seir in Genesis 32:3 is associated with Edom.

As we read in Isaiah 34 about God's judgement on Edom, Edom is in fact affected by God's judgement (verse 5), we see that this judgement "a day of vengeance" is "a year of retribution, to uphold Zion's cause."(8).

Edomites are descendants of Esau, they are Arabs. They will be destroyed by God in the days of God's vengeance. Arabs do not live in Italy (Rome).

Psalms 137:7-8 shows that the Edomites are the daughter of Babylon. (Born of Babylon). They are destined to be destroyed.

Another prophecy about Babylon. This time in Isaiah 13.

19 "Babylon, the jewel of kingdoms,
the glory of the Babylonians' pride,
will be overthrown by God
like Sodom and Gomorrah.

20 She will never be inhabited
or lived in through all generations;
no Arab will pitch his tent there"

Arabs are not Romans or Catholics.

This is again the day of God's vengeance. The Lord's day. (verse 9). Ancient Babylon was never destroyed, it has been dilapidated, but never as Sodom and Gomorrah turned upside down.

This is about mystery Babylon. What is described here, is in the context of the Lord who will have mercy on Jacob, and settle them in their own land (14:1).

Jeremiah 49:1 tells us that the cry of Edom be heard by the Red Sea. We know that Edom lived mainly in contemporary Jordan. But the Bible gives a larger area in Ezekiel 25:12-15. Edom extends from Teman to Dedan. Teman is Yemen today and Dedan was an ancient city in central Saudi Arabia (Al-Ula).

Large Edom contained the entire west coast of the Arabian Peninsula.

Jeremiah is speaking of the latter-day judgment of mystery Babylon, which is connected with Edom.

This all sounds not as the location of Rome. It is clear that we see here the Middle East. Arabia.

And there are many more scriptures that indicate that the Lord will judge (crush) all the Islamic countries.

Babylon-Isaiah ;

Assyria and Philistia (Palestinians)- Isaiah 14;

Moab-Isaiah 15;

Damascus-Isaiah 17;

Ethiopia (Sudan and Somalia)-Isaiah 18;

Egypt-Isaiah 19; **Ethiopia and Egypt**-Isaiah 20;

Babylon (Iraq -Edom and Arabia)-Isaiah 21;

Tyre (Lebanon)-Isaiah 23.

Psalms 83:7-9 mentions 10 nations, all are Islamic now. The 10 kings of Revelation 17?

Also in Ezekiel are several end-time prophecies against countries in the Middle East. All of these are Muslim Empires.

As Daniel prayed three times daily to the Lord, to which place he bent down? He bent toward Jerusalem.

Which city the Muslims are aimed when they pray? To Mecca!

Mecca in Saudi Arabia. The country surrounded by seas.

The country that has the rulers of the earth in its pocket because of the oil (wine). The country that merchants of the earth made rich by what they pay for their import with their overwhelming wealth. The country that let a large amount of foreign workers work without giving them a chance to become citizens (slaves).

They use their oil to the rulers of the world to commit treason against Israel.

The false religion they adhere teaches that the blood of Jews and Christians must flow. The heart of the false religion is Mecca!

ONCE AGAIN DANIEL 2 AND 7

Let's take a brief look at Daniel 2 and 7. The fourth kingdom, and the fourth beast.

In Nebuchadnezzar's statue we see: *"40 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."*

And in the night vision of Daniel we see: *"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."*

This is clearly the same kingdom.

And that is even more clear when we see that the mentioned kingdoms, but also all prior thereto, will be destroyed by Jesus, the Stone that broke from the mountain. (Daniel 2:34-35).

Note that in 2:35 says: *"Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were broken to pieces **at the same time**"*

The first three empires actually still lived on in the empires that conquered them. When the Persians conquered the Babylonian empire the Babylonians stayed just living there, their language, their land, the people who lived there were the same ones, and so it was with the empires who have followed, but with the destruction of the fourth empire they will all **at the same time** be crushed.

And they will be crushed by the "Stone" that came loose from the mountain, Jesus. *"26 But the court will sit, and his power (the Antichrist) will be taken away and completely destroyed forever."* (Daniel 7:26).

Thus we see that the revived fourth empire is the empire that there will be when Jesus returns. And this empire, as it were, lies over the the previous kingdoms. It includes all the the previous empires. And that is indeed the case with Islam.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE MAIN POINTS

In the book of Daniel we read different visions, which make it clear that there would be four kingdoms:

1. Babel
2. Persians
3. Greeks
4. Muslims

The Romans didn't reign over all the territory Nebucadnessar reigned over. That's why it is not mentioned in Daniël.

This fourth empire was mortally wounded, but will come to life again at the latter days. And this is the time just before Jesus returns to earth.

It is a creation of the devil. The son of the devil will be the ruler. He is the Antichrist. The Islamic messiah, the Mahdi.

Israel, at that time, will take in different ways an important place in history.

First, the Antichrist will set himself in the temple in Jerusalem to show himself that he is a god.

Second, the wrath of the devil, who is cast down on the earth, is focused on the people from which the Messiah has come.

Thirdly, there will be a great war, Jerusalem will be destroyed, but the war will be in fact directed against the Lamb.

Fourth, it will be in Israel, that Jesus will return and set his feet on the Mount of Olives. He will put an end to the chaos and violence. The Antichrist will be slain by the breath of the Lord.

Fifthly, the people of Israel will be reunited and be living on the mountains of Israel.

Sixth, the Lord will pour out His Spirit on His people and they will know the Lord.

Seventh, Israel is the center of God's Government on this earth. This government will be there in this way for a thousand years, after those 1000 years of peace, a brief rebellion will occur, but fire from heaven will put a stop to it. Then the new heavens and new earth will come with the heavenly Jerusalem as its capital, which comes down from heaven on the new earth.

Let us, Christians, like Daniel, humble ourselves to the Lord. Let us pay attention to the prophecies, just as Daniel did (Daniel 9:2).

Let us also pray to God that his word will become a reality. Let us pray for Israel that takes such an important place in God's plans.

Daniel prayed for the release of his people although he already knew that God had given a word. He prayed for the restoration of Israel, although he knew that God had already promised. Let us learn a lesson from it and pray for the release of God's people in the countries where they are bound (by political, but also by economic forces) and the restoration of Israel led by the Messiah Jesus.

Postscript:

As I said, I thought for a long time that Rome was the fourth empire. The insights of writers like Joel Richardson (The Antichrist) and Walid Shoebat (God's War on Terror), learned me to understand texts which I never understood. I thank them for that.

There is much more to say about the Antichrist and the countries who will be involved in battle in the latter days.

Also on the "number 666" is a whole new and interesting look possible. It's all in the above books.