

THE AMAZING PROPHECY OF THE GREAT WORLD EMPIRES

In the Bible, especially in the books of Daniel (Dan.) and in Revelation (Rev.), many events both historical and present-day are clearly prophesied. A careful study of these books helps us to see God's purpose in the history of nations. It helps us to understand the true meaning and purpose of life and the plan of salvation for mankind through God's Son Jesus Christ.

Over 2600 years ago, the prophet Daniel foretold the rise of the great world empires, namely **Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome,** and what is known in the present-day as **Europe**. In a dream, Daniel saw a great image whose body parts symbolized the exact sequence of those world empires: "This image's head was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay" (Dan. 2:32-33). Those great world empires and their unique characteristics were revealed to the prophet, this time symbolized as beasts. "Those great beasts, which are four, are four kings which arise..." (Dan. 7:17), as "...the four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea" (Dan. 7:2). Rev. 17:15 explains that "water" represents "peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues", while "winds" symbolize wars (Jeremiah 4:11-16). The four winds of heaven, which strove upon the great sea, represent the terrible conquests by which those kingdoms came to power.

BABYLON

The head of gold and the lion (a popular Symbol of Babylon) represent the **Babylonian World Empire (608-538 BC)**. The eagle's wings describe the speedy conquests by Nebuchadnezzar.

Dan. 7:4 The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings.

MEDO-PERSIA

In the year 538 BC, the dual empire of the **Medes and Persians** was established. The three ribs in the bear's mouth represent the conquered countries of Lydia, Babylon and Egypt. The Persians were stronger than the Medes and remained in power longer (Note: It raised up itself on one side).

Dan. 7:5 The second was like a bear, and it raised up itself on one side, and had three ribs in its mouth.

GREECE

The very rapid victories (represented by the four wings) under Alexander the Great made **Greece** the World power (331 BC). After Alexander's death the Empire was divided into 4 parts by his four generals: Thrace, Syria, Macedonia, and Egypt (Note the four heads).

Dan. 7:6 Another was like a leopard, which had on its back four wings of a bird.

THE ROMAN EMPIRE

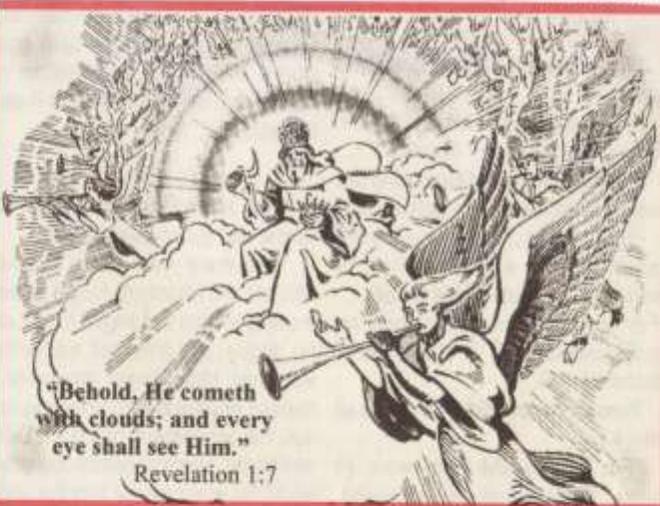
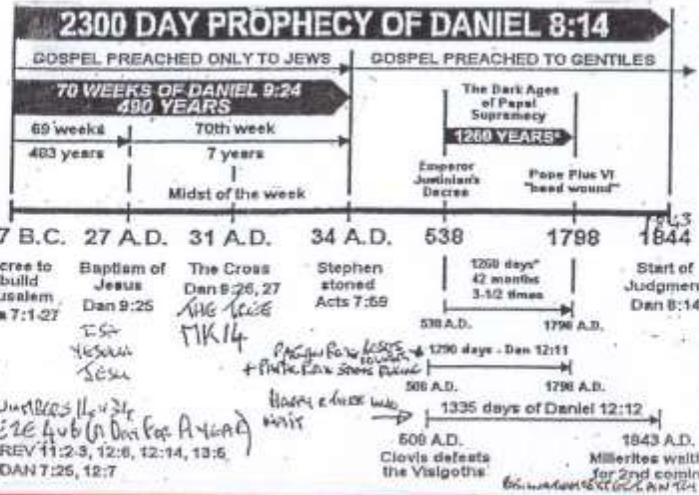
In the year 168 BC, the **Romans** established the fourth World Empire. Because of the severity and intolerance with which they subdued other nations, this Empire was known as "The Iron Kingdom" (Note the iron legs of the image and the teeth of the beast).

Dan. 7:7 The fourth beast was dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong. It had huge iron teeth: it was devouring, breaking in pieces... and it had ten horns.

EUROPE

Because of mass migration (351-476 AD), the Roman Empire was broken up into 10 smaller European kingdoms (Note the 10 horns and 10 toes). The divided thriving horns and the not cleaving together even as the mixing of iron with clay of the 10 toes represents the impossibility of a lasting United Europe.

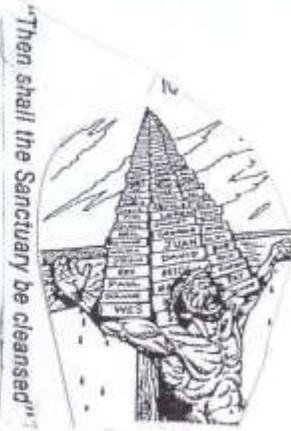
Dan. 7:24 The ten horns are ten kings who shall arise from this kingdom.



STUDY NOTES

THE LAST MESSAGE OF MERCY

THE PROPHET Daniel saw that at a time when man is trying to unite the European Nations and the world is being increasingly visited by catastrophes and wars, a great stone will hit the image upon his feet and completely destroy it. This stone represents the **Coming of Jesus Christ (Dan 2:34-35, 4; Psalm 18:32)**. Christ will come again soon in the clouds of heaven with his angels, visible to all mankind (Rev 1:). In order to prepare mankind for this event and to help them to stand in the judgment, God, in His love, is warning mankind with a last message of mercy found in **Revelation 14:6-12**.



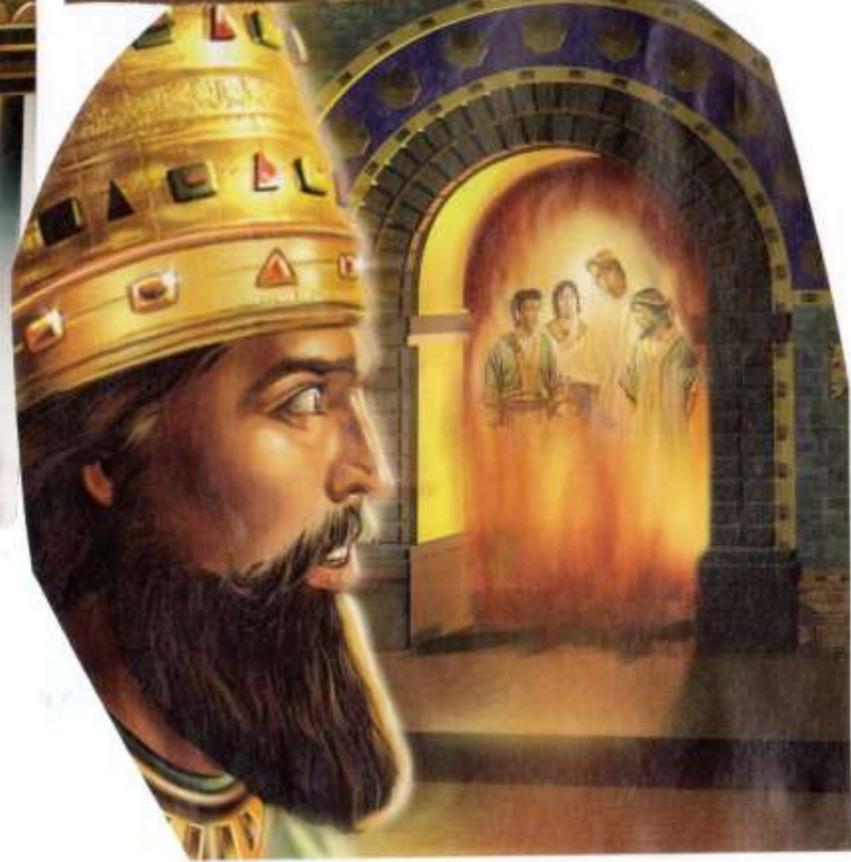
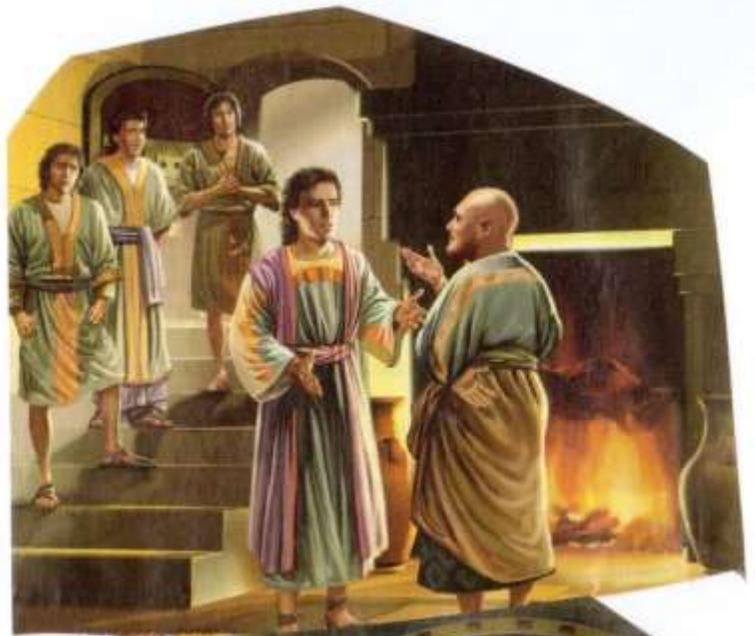
To get the company right...
THE TOTAL PERSON
...You need to get the people right.



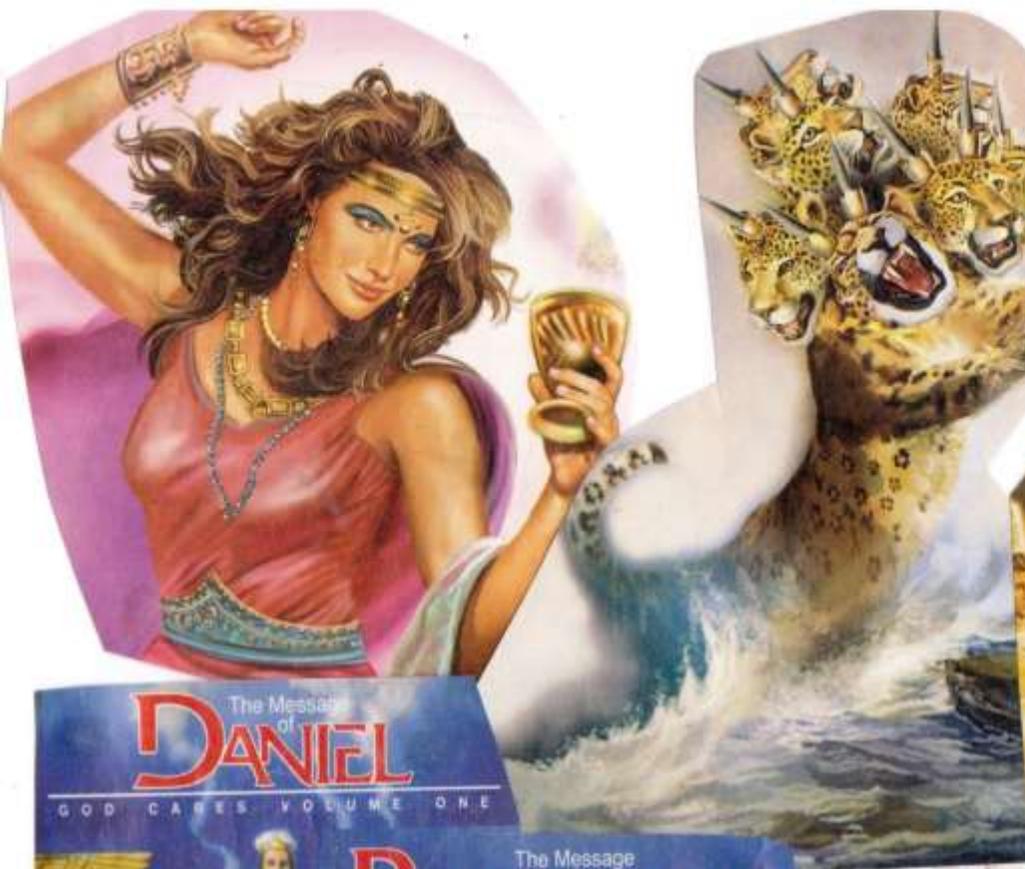


"As I looked, thrones were set in place ... the court was seated, and the books were opened (Daniel 7:9, 10).

The Hour of God's Judgment



STUDY NOTES



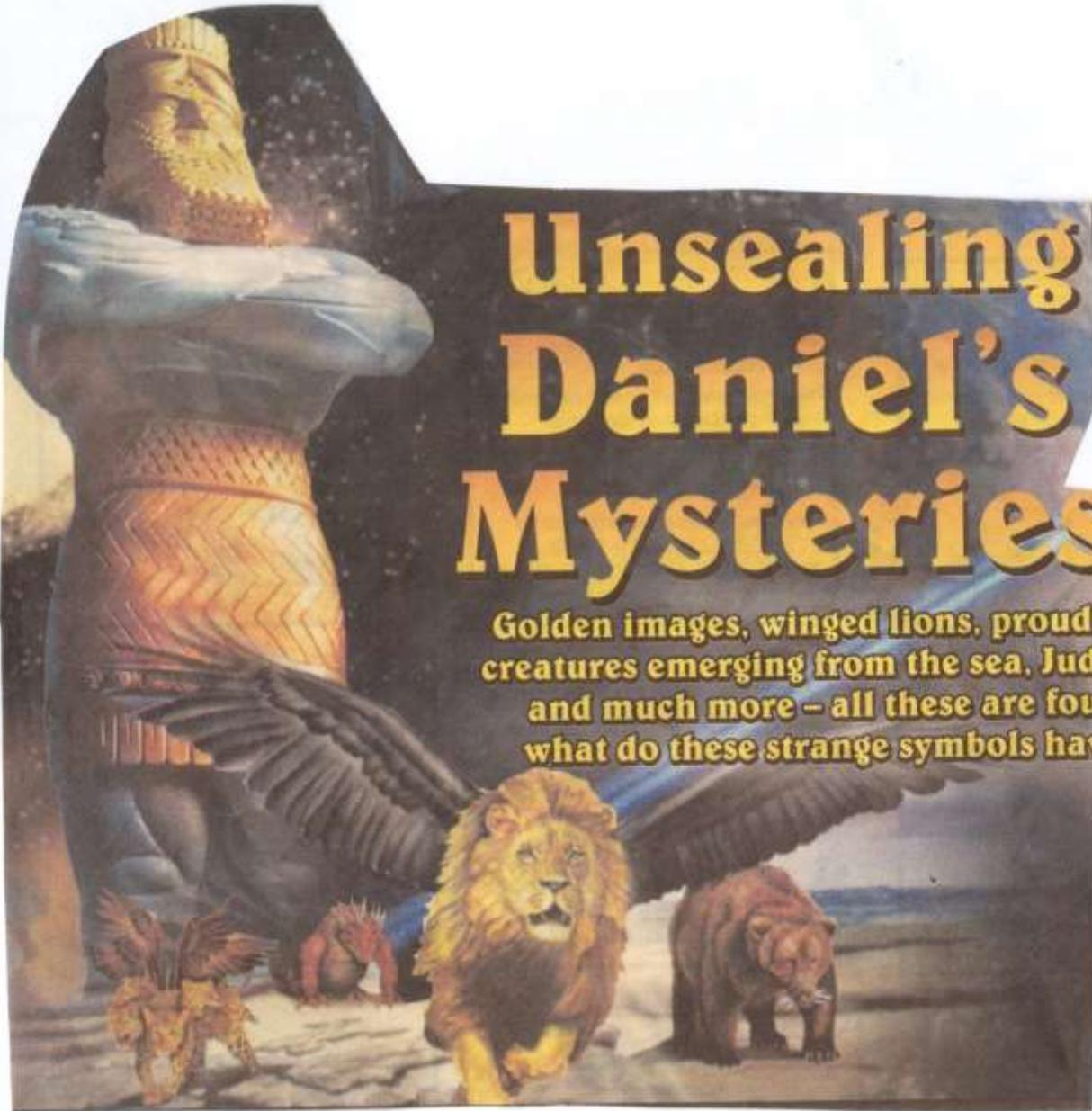
The Message of
DANIEL
GOD CARES VOLUME ONE



The Message of
REVELATION
GOD CARES VOLUME TWO

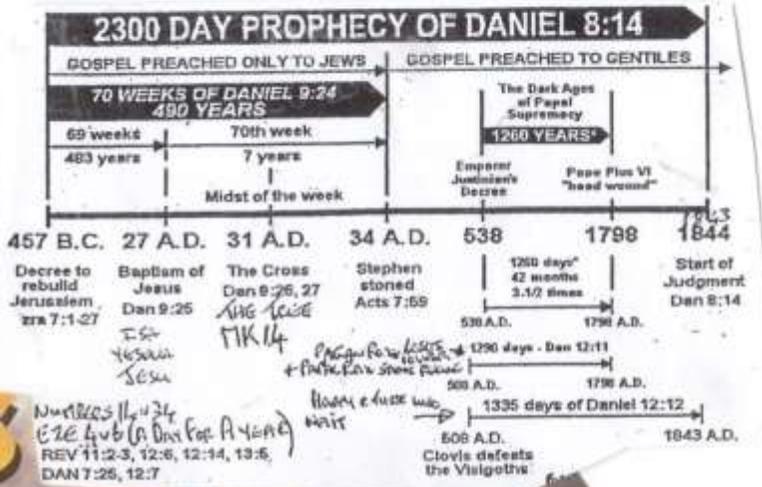


STUDY
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Unsealing Daniel's Mysteries

Golden images, winged lions, proud kings, strange and magnificent creatures emerging from the sea. Judgement Day, the holy Sanctuary and much more – all these are found in the book of Daniel. But what do these strange symbols have to do with our present day?



PROPHECY AND WORLD HISTORY



TODAY the signs of the times tell us that we are standing on the threshold of grave and controversial events. It seems that the entire world is in an uproar. Before our eyes, the prophecy of Jesus in reference to the events just before His second coming are being fulfilled: "And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars.... For nation will rise against nation... And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrows" (Matt. 24:6-8). The present and future are of great interest for all mankind. More and more people realize that something great and decisive is about to take place; that the world is on the brink of an overwhelming crisis. The daily news is filled with catastrophes and violence of every kind. Jesus Himself prophesied that during the time of the end there would be "... on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity..." and "Men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth..." (Luke 21:25-26).

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A UNIQUE WORLD POWER

THE PROPHET then saw another power rising in Europe: "I was considering the horns, and there was another little horn coming up among them." (Dan. 7:8). This power has the following Identification Marks:

- 1. IT COMES UP AMONG THE 10 HORNS** (Dan. 7:8)
The papacy (508 AD) was that "little horn", which came up among the 10 Germanic tribes.
- 2. IT UPROOTS THREE HORNS** (Dan. 7:8)
The Heruli, the Vandals and the Ostrogoths resisted the power of this "little horn" and were "plucked out by the roots"—in other words, completely destroyed.
- 3. IT IS DIFFERENT THAN THE PREVIOUS HORNS** (Dan. 7:24)
The papacy was different. It consisted of a union between Church and State, where the Church was the dominating power.
- 4. IT IS STRONGER THAN THE OTHER HORNS** (Dan. 7:20)
In fact, the papacy grew to a world power within a very short time. During "The Dark Ages," people were forced to accept the Catholic faith (Crusades). Over centuries, even kings and emperors of Europe were forced to humbly submit to the decisions of the papacy.



5. IT IS PRESUMPTUOUS AND SPEAKS BLASPHEMY (Dan. 7:25)
"He shall even rise against the Prince of princes" (Dan. 8:25). He is "the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God" (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4). All three scriptures describe the same power that claims to be Christian, yet possesses an antichristian mind. The following quote shows in truth to what degree the papacy blasphemes God: "On this earth we are holding the place of Almighty God" (Encyc. Pope Leo XIII, 6-20-1894). To address the pope as "Holy Father" is blasphemy. Jesus himself warns in Matthew 23:9 "Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven." Despite those clear words in the Bible many popes have through the centuries claimed infallibility, which God alone possesses (Rev. 15:4), and even the claimed ability to forgive sins, which belongs to God only (Luke 5:21).



6. IT PERSECUTES THE SAINTS OF THE MOST HIGH (Dan. 7:25)
The Crusades, the proceedings against the heretics, the torture-chambers of the Inquisition, and the burning of the heretics are a known and dark chapter of the papacy. The historian W.H. Lecky writes: "That the church of Rome shed more innocent blood than any other institution, which ever existed on this earth, will be questioned by no one that has an adequate knowledge of history... It is impossible to arrive at an



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Dan. 2:34 ... while a stone ... struck the image on its feet ... and broke them in pieces.