

Bible study

A Note on Revelation 17:11

by Craig White

Revelation 17:11 has been a mystery for decades:

“And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition.”

How could the eighth be of the seven? What does it mean? Is the end-time Assyria concealed within prophetic Babylon?

Could history help to provide the answers?

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7 And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns.

8 The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.

9 And here *is* the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth.

10 And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, *and* the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space.

11 And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition.

12 And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast.

13 These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.

14 These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him *are* called, and chosen, and faithful.

15 And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.

16 And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire.

17 For God hath put in their hearts to fulfil his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled.

18 And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.

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NB: This paper should be read in conjunction with *Pax Germanica & US of Europe – or a New World Order/Babylon Theory – which is the correct doctrine?*

Introduction

It was around 1973 or 1974 that I questioned my first ministerial contact in the Church of God about why Assyria is not directly mentioned in Daniel 7 and Revelation 17 and 18. My feeling was that it was residing there, but hidden for some reason.

I notice over the years that little has been written on mysterious scripture contained in Revelation 17:11. It is one point of prophecy not deeply investigated according to this writer's understanding.

Nor does the writer establish any solution. He merely explores the issues and compares views on the subject.

For an historical background on this, it should be noted that Herbert W Armstrong wrote in his booklet *Who is the Beast?*:

"The 7th head with its 10 horns, in the 17th chapter, will be, as the 17th chapter explains, the revival of the BEAST, the Roman Empire, "out of the bottomless pit" by a "United States of Europe," or federation of 10 European nations centered within the bounds of the old Roman Empire. (Rev. 17:12-18.) This is actually beginning today! The entire beast of Rev. 17 -- the revivals of the Roman Empire -- is a part "of the seven" heads of Rev. 13 and Dan. 7 because it comprises the last seven horns. **Yet this revived Roman Empire is "the eighth" system differing from the seven before it.**" (Rev. 17:11) [emphasis mine]

Herbert Armstrong could see that as the 7th revival of Rome was also described as an 8th, this meant it was different to the others.

The original version of *The Beast of Revelation* by John Ogwyn (since updated) presents one view. According to an e-mail sent me the following is the case:

"The 1996-1999 version states on or around page 38: "As we have learned, the seven heads of the scarlet Beast of Revelation 17 are seven successive kingdoms (v. 10)--the seven resurrections of the Holy Roman Empire. We have already examined the first six. The coming seventh head is also described as "the eighth, and is of the seven" (v. 11). It is the "eighth" Holy Roman system if you count the scarlet Beast itself--that is, the original Holy Roman Empire in the days of Constantine--as the first one."

To me this is by far the simplest explanation. The "Holy Roman Empire" became a name for the Germanic revivals but the Imperium was already viewed as God's agency on earth through His Church prior to that. Of course, the first HRE was not Justinian's revival. Rather the first was the original Roman Empire following the time of Constantine and especially following the time of Theodosius, when he made Roman Catholicism the official religion of the empire. Thus the final Beast power is the eighth HRE system as well as the seventh REVIVAL of the HRE system."

Garner Ted Armstrong, in his booklet, *Who, What is the "Beast" of Revelation?*, does not refer to this scripture. Nor does another Church leader in his booklet on *Who or What is the Beast of Revelation?* This is within the overall tradition of the CoGs. Most do not address it directly or in detail because it is difficult to understand (please note that this statement is definitely not an attack upon them – it is rather attempting to gather an historical perspective to the issue).

The Seventh-day Adventists' interpretation is that "*And the beast that was*" refers to the Papacy during a 1,260 year period. The wording "*and is not*" is a reference to the Papacy after 1798. "*Even he is the eighth*" they feel refers to a deadly wound of the Papacy being fully healed "*and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition.*" To them, John experienced a vision that saw a Beast that had been in power for 1,260 years, but at John's time "*is not*" in power.

Other interpretations abound, but the above sample should suffice for this paper.

The questions that now need to be addressed are:

1. why is the 7th also called an 8th?
2. how is it different to the others?

Concerning this revival of the Roman system, various positions have been taken concerning when it ended or will end. Here are some of these ideas – the reason for listing them will become clearer during the course of this paper:

1. the Holy Roman Empire (HRE) system ended in 1806 with the abolition of the HRE and has gone underground ever since (ie the Second and Third Reich's apparently do not qualify to be part of this system)
2. the second Reich doesn't qualify but the Third does (there was no concordat between the Second Reich and the Vatican). Dr Hoeh once took this position
3. John Ogwyn's view outlined above
4. the Third Reich doesn't as it had too much neo-paganism but the Second Reich does
5. the Second and Third Reich's do qualify, but with their defeat, the next power is identified in Ezekiel 38 & 39 (ie the HRE won't rise again)
6. After the fall of Hitler, it is the Third Rome (Russia) that will be the end-time power, consisting of 10 nations of the former USSR
7. Or it will be 10 Arabic nations.

With this in mind, it should be noted that none of the various Roman revivals are a perfect fit, but they do fulfill the prophecy. No successive empire or system perfectly matches its predecessors.

Nor did Hitler – this is common knowledge. As we shall see, neither did Napoleon. For the purpose of this paper, a look at Napoleon may help in some way to understand the final revival of the Beast system.

Four Holy Roman Empire Revivals

The Church has taught for decades that there have been six restorations of the Roman Empire with one more to appear.

Let us first consider the word *empire*. It is a derivation of the Latin *imperium*, coined after the Roman Empire, established in 31 BC. In Europe, the term *empire* was applied by western states that believed that they were successor kingdoms to the Roman Empire (ie the Byzantine Empire and the Holy Roman Empire). The term was later extended to mean a group of lands ruled by a king or queen over other kings or queens. For instance, until 1918, Germany had 6 kings and an Emperor (Wilhelm II).

Long after the Western Empire fell, the Empire was inherited by Charlemagne of the Germanic Frankish empire.

Charlemagne's crowning in AD 800 began the reign of the Carolingians (**AD 800-924**) which is regarded by many historians as a revival of the Roman Empire. This crowning by the Pope while kneeling in prayer before the alter of St Peter may have been a complete surprise to him according to some sources. His Empire included all the old Western Roman Empire (with the exception of most of Spain and southern Italy) plus large areas east of the Rhine never ruled by Rome. He even minted coins with the inscription "Empire Restored"!

Charlemagne's rule was followed by German Emperors such as Otto the Great (AD 936) who was himself crowned at Aachen (Charlemagne's capital) and his coronation banquet was of Roman origin. (The Ottonians, Salians and Hohenstaufen's ruled **AD 962-1250**).

When the Crusades occupied and divided up the old Eastern Roman Empire and Constantinople in the 12th and 13th centuries, this effectively linked East and West and they decided to award the imperial crown to Count Baldwin of Flanders. These two halves have more-or-less remained to this day ethnically and religiously divided (the West became increasingly Latinised and the East Graecised), but seeking co-operation. Wars and desire for unity come and go in this region. The Holy Roman Empire generally occupied the West while the Hapsburg Dynastic lands which were mainly outside of the Empire, were in the East. Later the Hapsburgs ruled both halves (**AD 1273-1806**) and Charles V was their most prominent ruler.

Upon the splitting of the Eastern and Western Roman Empires, the eastern was usurped by the Macedonian, Serbian and Bulgarian kingdoms. With the fall of Constantinople in 1402, two small states continued the eastern tradition – Trebizond and Niceia. Later the Byzantine Empire was restored but fell to the Turks in 1453.

Note: Some aspects of the Eastern Empire transferred to Imperial Russia under the auspices of Ivan III (the Great) who was regarded as the first national sovereign of Russia.). Even Peter the Great claimed to continue it and became Czar (ie Caesar) of Russia. But it was truly the nations of central Europe more-or-less within the lands of the Hapsburg's, that inherited the eastern leg – these became known as the Austrian Empire and later still the Austro-Hungarian Empire in the nineteenth century.

It is now time to consider the Hapsburgs – long reigning European leaders. Who were they?

The variations of the name range from Hapsburg, Habsburg and Habisburch.

The Hapsburgs were of German Swiss origin and one of the longest ruling royal families of Europe. They took their name from a family castle, Habichtsburg, in Switzerland which was built by Bishop Wener of Strasbourg in 1020AD. Translated it means 'Hawk's Castle'.

As historians note, the story of the Hapsburgs is also the story of Europe for centuries. While most royals in Europe were associated with their homeland, the Hapsburgs, of German roots, commanded a number of nations. Separately the family's vast realm included Austria, Hungary, Bohemia, the Netherlands, Spain and Mexico.

Among their legacy were Charles I of Spain (ie Charles V of the HRE), Philip I, Philip II, Philip III. Charles V united Spain and Germany which accelerated their power. It was Philip II who built huge navies and armies. But their Catholic zeal led to terrible wars, turning Spain and Germany into backwaters for some time.

It was they that were crucial in turning back the Islamic Ottoman invasion of Europe.

It should also be recalled that it was Arch Duke Franz Ferdinand's assassination, a member of the Hapsburg family, that led to WWI. So, this royal family is key to many European events. Will it be so again in the future?

The RCC and the Napoleonic Question

In the 12th and 13th centuries, when the German Emperor's powers were being dismantled, the Popes accumulated the titles, ranks, offices and duties of the Emperors and the Empire; the Church's Curia used the structure and procedures of the Imperial chancery; the Emperor's vestments were usurped by the Popes and so forth. In other words, it cloned much of the basic structure of the Roman Empire and adapted it for its own ends.

The first Pope was Leo I, in a real sense.

"During the reign of Leo I, the Church set up, within the Roman Empire, an ecclesiastical state which, in its constitution and its administrative system, was shaping itself upon the imperial model" (quoted in *Who is the Beast?*, pages 23-24).

Yet tensions between the Holy Roman Emperors and the Popes continued from that time on. This tension and vying for control has not ceased since. The love-hate relationship between the two aspects of the successors to the Roman Empire has continued ever since and will come to the fore again in the last days. Tensions between the pagan Roman spirit of Emperor worship (that is divine kings who reign as incarnations of the gods) and the 'Holy' Roman Catholic element will resurface close to the end as revealed in Revelation 17:16-18; Is 47:1-18.

Did Napoleon represent the fifth revival of the Roman system? And if so, might his empire's characteristics supply us with some clues as to that of the final Roman Empire?

In my paper *Pax Germanica & US of Europe – or a New World Order/Babylon Theory – which is the correct doctrine?* I wrote the following which may be of assistance in attempting to get to the bottom of the issue:

“Although he was not legally leader of the Holy Roman Empire as such, in spirit Napoleon fulfilled the role of a leader of the Holy Roman Empire in the west³⁰ **(AD1804-1814/15)** and even considered himself to be the successor to Charlemagne. But Napoleon was never permitted to gain control of the official Imperial Insignia. Francis II rescued them from Aachen and Nuremberg where they were whisked to various destinations before ending up in Vienna in 1801. On 6 August 1806 Francis II illegally abolished the Holy Roman Empire to prevent Napoleon taking possession of it and the crown (he previously created the Austrian Empire in 1804 which later became known as the Austro-Hungarian Empire, which was continuum of the eastern half of this Roman system.)”

There is no doubt that he had this maneuver in mind for the two years from the time that Napoleon had himself declared Emperor in 1804 – he could see that Napoleon had grander ideas in mind.

In July 1806 Napoleon had merged several kingdoms and duchies together into a single Confederation of the Rhine (part of the core of the old Holy Roman Empire) which became a vassal state under the protection of France. They also supplied a huge number of troops to Napoleon's Russian invasion. The medieval feudal allegiances of most of the old HRE were ended. No wonder Francis II renounced the title of Holy Roman Emperor, remaining as Francis I, Austrian Emperor, over the eastern leg of this system.

So, in effect, the Holy Roman Empire split into two clear halves. It was no longer called the HRE, but in reality those parts still limped on, awaiting another reunion for their political and religious causes.

Due to the inability of his wife, Josephine, to have a child, Napoleon sent an ambassador to Russia to request the hand of the Russian Emperor's sister. The request was refused via diplomatic channels. With immediacy, Napoleon demands the hand of the Emperor of Austria's 19 year old daughter. Francis I of Austria and the famous Metternich, believed that such a marriage would in their best interests and they persuaded Marie Louise to agree.

Napoleon annulled his marriage to Josephine and married Marie Louise in April 1810, creating a link to the Holy Roman Empire and royalty. Eleven months later she bore him a son who Napoleon titled 'the King of Rome'. His full name was François Charles Joseph Bonaparte (1811-1832) or Napoleon II. He lived at the Austrian court in Vienna. Francis I made him Duke of Reichstag in 1818. The term 'King of Rome' was taken from the Holy Roman Emperors who were titled similarly.

With Austria linked to France via an imperial marriage and defeated in war, it is unable to provide any means to oppose France. Diplomacy was now the only course of action, and a course championed by Metternich.

Two Halves of Napoleon's Empire: a type

It seems that the Holy Roman Empire split into two competing halves: France and the German Confederation in the West with the Austrian Empire in the East. **Historian Heer labels this Empire as a 'secret Holy Roman Empire'** which was finally destroyed in 1918. In other words it continued in another form (perhaps underground?) and in spirit for decades - the Beast system continued in the East after the Western part fell with Napoleon.

Note: Francis II was known as the Emperor of Austria and it is these eastern lands that later became known as the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The Empire as such actually commenced in 1867 as a compromise between the Habsburg monarchy and the Hungarian nobility in an attempt to maintain the Austrian Empire. The compromise was signed in February 1867 by Franz Joseph of Austria and a delegation from Hungary which established the Dual Monarchy. It is as if it were the eastern leg of the system attempting to keep alive under a different guise.

Although defeated by Bismarck in 1866 to ensure that Prussia led a united Germany and not Austria, Austria joined the 'Three Emperor's League' six years later (Germany, Austro-Hungary, Russia).

Figure 1 Österreich Über Alles

It should be noted that the credo **Österreich Über Alles** literally means 'Austria Over All' in German! German was the Hapsburg's native tongue. This credo had its origin with Hapsburg Emperor Frederick III's anagram, A.E.I.O.U., which was inscribed upon his personal possessions (he was Holy Roman Emperor from 1415-93; German King - 1440-93).

It is thought that A.E.I.O.U. stands for *Austria Est Imperare Orbi Universo* or *Austria Erit In Orbe Ultima*. From the Latin, it means *Austria is destined to rule the world* and the latter as *Austria will be in existence until the end of the world*. In German it is translated as *Alles Erdreich ist Österreich untertan* - *all the earth is subject to Austria*. Presumably the Nazis emulated this in their **Deutschland Über Alles** catch cry.

This eastern empire continued until defeated in World War One.

The German leg of this system was known as the Second Reich. Its revival under Hitler was known as the Third Reich. His Reich absorbed Austria and included close cooperation from the fascists of eastern Europe and neutrality or low-level assistance from the fascists in the Iberian Peninsula (ie Spain and Portugal). The overseas colonies and territories of the fascist Vichy France were also part of that global system.

Continuing quotes from my paper:

"The northern and western parts began to revive with Bismarck absorbing the lands which were part of the Confederation of the Rhine and allied with the Austro-Hungarian Empire. After World War II, for decades Europe, under the control of Russia in the East and dominated by America in the West, has been kept from restoring her vast Empire. Memories are fading in the Anglo-Saxon nations of our traditional enemies: the Holy Roman Empire, Germany and the Austro-Hungarian Empire which has led to our politicians lending support toward a United Europe, which, they believe, will assist in building a world superstructure, when, in fact, it will turn upon them ...

Napoleon convinced the German princes to quit the Holy Roman Empire and come together as the Confederation of the Rhine which included much of southern Germany (his Empire would never have survived if the Rhineland German states did not join in his system) which resulted in him absorbing much of the western part of the Holy Roman Empire. He divorced his first wife, Josephine, and married the Archduchess Marie Louise, daughter of Emperor Francis II of Austria in 1810. Their son became the 'King of Rome' and imperial eagles and banners were adorned upon his cradle. One historian actually states that:

"After the French Revolution ... **Napoleon (allied with the Hapsburgs) set out to recreate the Holy Roman Empire**".
(Abendsen 1989: 12) [emphasis mine]

Another says:

"Francis I, Louis XIV, Napoleon, saw themselves as the Holy Roman Empire's legitimate heirs. Popes waged a thousand-year-long battle with emperors for the right to Rome." (Heer 1967: 1)

Indeed the revolution of 1789-1814 considered itself as alternately as the Roman Republic and the Holy Roman Empire. He followed the tradition of the Emperor-Pope tensions over the centuries (the Emperor representing the Roman Emperor system and the Popes the power behind the throne, manipulating and carniving); during the crowning ceremony, he took the crown from the Pope and crowned himself Emperor in 1804 and the following year proclaimed himself King of Italy. He also arrested Pope Pius VI and took him captive to France not unlike the 'Babylonian captivity' period in the thirteenth century when the French king took the Pope captive to Avignon. The Papal States were annexed, the churches plundered and a pagan edifice erected outside of St Peter's. Emperor versus Papal wishes to be worshipped as God on earth continued and this intense rivalry will culminate in the last days (see Rev 17:16). "Understandably, after 1809 many Catholics began to regard Napoleon as anti-Christian". (Seward 1988: 225)"

Napoleon was furious at the Pope's backing for the anti-French forces and attacked the Papal States.

The Swiss guard was replaced by French troops who attempted to force him to renounce his temporal power – which he refused. As a result he was subjected to abuse and insults and taken into captivity. After capturing the Pope, Napoleon took him to prison where he died some weeks later.

The wealth of Rome was taken to Paris – not just the palaces of the nobility, but also the museums and even the Papal residence. Contractors and agents hired by the French government to perform much of the robbery. The rest was by the soldiers seeking some form of pay.

This was not the first time that Pius VI experience difficulties with a Government. Joseph II, Holy Roman Emperor, attempted to reform the Catholic Church by suppressing the monasteries and attempting to appoint clergy. Spain, Portugal and even Italy attempted similar reforms!

Yet by 1801 he made peace with the Vatican via a concordat which reestablished the Catholic Church in France, but left the State sanctioned Gaullist Church in place (the Revolution's Civil Constitution of the Clergy in 1790 set up a State Church).

Napoleon needed the Church – it was becoming more popular in France and he wanted its backing and unification of the clergy. So, the terms of the Concordat in 1801 recognised the Catholic Church as the religion of most French. However, Archbishops and bishops were to be nominated by the Government, it was the Pope who would confer the office. Church property which was confiscated was restored. (The concordat was revoked in 1905).

Just three years later, Napoleon forced Pope Pius VII to consecrate him as Emperor. But at the last possible moment, seized the crown from the Pope's hands and crowned himself with a pagan crown of golden laurel, somewhat like a Roman Emperor! Simultaneously he kept one hand on his sword hilt to demonstrate that he was a military leader and his system was one that used force to get its way.

According to various sources (including the website *Explorations in Politics*, <http://interzone.com/~cheung/SUM.dir/polit7.html>) Napoleon apparently coined the term *United States of Europe*.

"I can drag all Europe after me and in these days I regard Europe as a rotten old whore who has to do my pleasure when I possess such an army...There must be one legal code, one court of appeals and one currency for all Europe. The European nations must be melted into a single nation and Paris must become capital of the world. Can I help it if so much power is sweeping me on to a world dictatorship?"

And later:

"The first impetus has been given; and after the fall and the disappearance of my system, it seems to me that the only way in which an equilibrium can be achieved in Europe is through a league of nations."

He tried to impress his will upon Russia too and assembled a Grand Army in 1803 with the Confederation of the Rhine, Austria and Prussia providing troops for him to invade Russia (just as Hitler was assisted by other nations as was Germany in WW1). The Grand Army also included some Poles, Spanish, Swiss, Croats, Italians and Dalmatians.

Continuing with the paper:

“Other beastly characteristics were: he was "hero-worshipped" according to Desmond Seward in *Napoleon and Hitler. A Comparative Biography*. He also planned the invasion of Britain and, like Alexander the Great, he planned to invade Persia and India (not unlike the Germans in both WWI and WWII). While he was no Catholic, he recognised that most French were Catholic and saw it as a stabilising force, useful to him and his political-military ambitions. **However, given that he was not German and not strictly of the Holy Roman Empire (although part of the Empire joined him under the Confederation of the Rhine), his revival of the Roman Empire is seemingly an anomaly.**

Similarly, Hitler's neo-paganism (despite his relationship with the Catholic Church) was also in a sense an anomaly.

Upon his abdication in 1814, he was granted the island of Elba as a sovereign principality. His wife received the duchies of Parma, Piacenza, and Guastalla, with sovereign power; both maintained their imperial titles! "So closed a government that dated from August Caesar" (ie from 31BC) writes West (West's *Modern History*, page 377, quoted in *Who is the Beast?*, page 10). However, after his attempt to re-take his empire the following year in the 100 days war, he was defeated at Waterloo and sent to live on St Helena as a prisoner for the rest of his days.

He, like the Teutonic Knights and later Germany in World Wars I and II, invaded Russia, only to be defeated. He also invaded the Near East in similitude to the Crusaders and Hitler and like Hitler and the Germans in World War I, had plans to invade Britain (history repeats and repeats). Hitler's fascination with Napoleon went so far as to actually invading Russia by crossing the Nieman River, the same river that Napoleon crossed in AD 1812, on the exact same day of the year, June 22.

When Hitler entered Paris in June 1940 upon the capitulation of France, he visited the tomb of Napoleon gazing upon it for almost an hour. Considering that he spent only 5-6 hours in the city, the amount of time spent absorbed in Napoleon's tomb may betray the spirit behind him.

To take the place of the defunct Holy Roman Empire in the West, the Germanic Confederation was formed as an act of the famous Congress of Vienna 8 June 1815 (but later abolished by Prussia in 1866 and the territories eventually absorbed into the German Second Reich in **1871 until it fell**). In spirit, the system lived on, even 'underground' or not obvious, as one may put it. It lay in the hearts of aristocrats, princes and politicians for decades, awaiting a rebirth. For instance, Frederick William IV of Germany dreamt of a revived Holy Roman Empire to replace the German Confederation, "in which Prussia would play a glorious role, but secondary to that of the Hapsburgs" (Herzstein 1966:64 pp7-8)."

Note my comments: “However, given that he was not German and not strictly of the Holy Roman Empire (although part of the Empire joined him under the Confederation of the Rhine, which mainstay is recognised as Bavaria and which presaged a united Germany under Bismarck), his revival of the Roman Empire is seemingly an anomaly. Similarly, Hitler's neo-paganism (despite his relationship with the Catholic Church) was also in a sense an anomaly.”

However, during his captivity he seemingly tried to reconcile himself with his religious roots. He complained that he did not have a chaplain.

"It would rest my soul to hear Mass", he said.

And so, his old enemy, Pius VII, requested that the British agree to the wish and the Abbé Vignali became his chaplain. On 20 April, 1821, Napoleon stated that

"I was born in the Catholic religion. I wish to fulfill the duties it imposes, and receive the succour it administers."

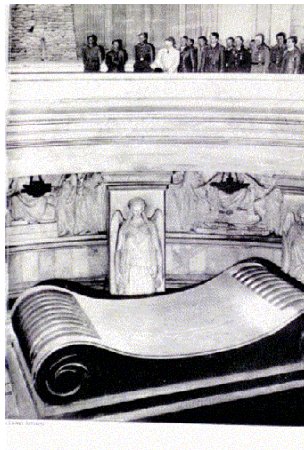
It seemed that he had affirmed his belief in God and read out verbally the Gospels, Acts of the Apostles and the Old Testament. He even spoke thus of Pope Pius VII:

"an old man full of tolerance and light". Adding that "Fatal circumstances, embroiled our cabinets. I regret it exceedingly."

Given the above, let us now explore a possible solution to the query.

Comparing Napoleon and Hitler

What might we learn from Napoleon, given that in all likelihood he was a type of the end-time Beast? Like Napoleon, most agree that Hitler was typological of the final Beast. It follows that a comparison of the two might reveal some interesting information.



Hitler transfixed by Napoleon's tomb

Note their differences and similarities:

Figure 2 A Comparison of Napoleon and Hitler

Napoleon:

Hitler:

Napoleon:	Hitler:
Did not gain control of the HRE regalia and in particular the Spear of Longinus. All leaders of the revived Roman system had control of these regalia and the Spear, except Napoleon	Gained control of the HRE regalia and the Spear of Longinus
Non-German/Austrian (but of noble background). All leaders of the revived Roman system have been Germanic, except Napoleon	German, but born in Austria
Did not officially claim to continue the Roman or Holy Roman Empires and his actions led to the abolition of the HRE	Claimed to revive the Holy Roman Empire (the Third Reich)
Liberated the Jews (undid the restrictions placed on them in old Europe)	Persecuted the Jews
Married the Austrian daughter of the last Emperor of the HRE	Married a 'common' woman
Called their son 'the King of Rome'	Offspring, if any, unknown
In effect established a new hereditary system whereby relatives and loyal commanders were appointed as kings and other chief positions all over Europe	Set up SS breeding farms to breed a new ruling class – a super race
Signed a concordat with the RCC	Signed a concordat with the RCC
Acted like a Roman Emperor	Acted like a Roman Emperor
Added the German lands of the defunct HRE to his Empire	Added the Saar and other areas to Germany
Called himself Emperor	Called himself <i>Fuhrer</i> (= Leader)
Incorporated some Roman symbols	Incorporated some Roman symbols
Invaded Russia	Invaded Russia
Invaded the Middle East	Invaded the Middle East
Had plans to invade the British Isles	Had plans to invade the British Isles (followed by North America – much like the Germans in WW1)

Napoleon:

Prussians and other Germans turn on and fight Napoleon

Took the Pope captive

Hitler:

Prussians and Germans at heart of Hitler's and previous HRE revivals

Had plans to eliminate the RCC

So, in some crucial areas, Napoleon falls short of representing the Roman system. But in others ways he did fulfill it. As such, he is an anomaly, yet he represents a revival of the Germanic Holy Roman system.

But so was Hitler – he was far more vicious than previous dictators and more neo-pagan. He was also more successful and was on the verge of world conquest. His biggest mistake was in invading Russia rather than working with them and leaving millions of troops to finalise the conquest of North Africa. Peoples in Iraq and Iran viewed him as a friend and would have happily joined forces with him in the planned invasion of India with Japan.



Hitler's pagan sun symbol

What can we learn from the above trends?: Do Napoleon and Hitler throw any light on the final restoration of the Roman system?

We might deduce the following from the above development and trends within the Assyro-Babylonian-Roman system (a knowledge of Church of God prophetic tradition is needed to understand the following):

1. these systems are becoming increasingly aggressive and terrible
2. the RCC is gradually losing influence over them
3. the dictator's self-glorification is becoming more pronounced
4. they are getting closer to Anglo-Saxon-Keltic conquest

This demonstrates that a gradual pattern or trend is emerging which may result in the following:

1. A European Union in two parts of 5 nations or groups of nations each (more-or-less comprising the western Holy Roman Empire nations and the eastern Austro-Hungarian lands)

2. It may initially have a President and a King who is a descendant of the Hapsburg's and claim to be a continuum of the Holy Roman Empire
3. Given the right conditions (eg economic collapse), it will fall under tighter controls and develop into a dictatorship
4. Germany (and the German Austrians) will take over the leadership of this grouping of nations, forging the two halves into a single Fascist State
5. The 10 kings will give their power to the European leader (whether he be a President or the King who becomes Emperor)
6. With pressure from the East, the Union will unravel to some extent (just as it had done on previous occasions)
7. Given the above, the Beast will turn upon the RCC (given that it will not be able to provide salvation from the Eastern forces) and proclaim Emperor worship thinking that he, alone, can do it
8. Germany (and a few allies) may then stand alone against the East. This will be the greatest hate-filled race war in history.

Steps 7 and 8 may provide us with the fulfillment of the prophecy “the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven”.

If so, what other scriptures and historical events may support this position?

Conclusion: Assyria concealed - the last revival of Rome

This 8th revival will have its own peculiarities like Napoleon and Hitler. It will be part of and an outgrowth of the 7th revival, yet be an 8th. Just as Napoleon and Hitler were betrayed by their allies and had to fight on their own in the end, so will the Assyrian heart of the 7th revival? It will turn upon the RCC and the Emperor will probably demand worship in competition with the RCC.¹

Now consider: ancient Assyria, in a sense, was a part of, but wasn't part of, the imperial image of Daniel 7. It preceded it, but somehow was a part of it. The ensuing empires were influenced by its aggressiveness and structures. But Assyria fell prior to the image being prophesied in the book of Daniel. For further background information see the paper ***Assur and Nimrod in Conflict: Ancient roots of modern international tensions?***

Now, because Assyria had already fallen by the time Daniel prophesied, it does not mean that it had no influence on the Babylonian system. Rather, it meant that the Assyrian people migrated elsewhere – Babylon is mentioned as the head of the image, not Assyria.

¹ Where will that place the Pope? Will he switch sides to Emperor worship? It is not clear what will occur. This is something to think through.

It was Assyria that commenced the system in Mesopotamia that is sometimes labeled the 'Babylonian system'. The Babylonians inherited that system and adopted the Assyrian military methods. However, they were not as brutal and devastating as the Assyrian war machine. For instance, the wings of the beast in Daniel and Revelation seem to reveal the Assyrian influence; while the human head may indicate a more humane system.

Note what Daniel says about these wings:

"Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea.

And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another.

The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it". (Daniel 7:3-4)



The first beast of Daniel 7

This presents us with a prophetic clue: the wings of a divinity symbolizes protection for the people that follow that particular god. This motif is found all over the Middle East. When the wings are found upon a human form it is the god Assur that is represented; without it is the sun god Shamash that is represented.

The winged gods appear in different forms including a winged disc or winged eagle. The latter because the eagle was obviously the most powerful and terrible creature of the air.

In Nimrud for example, statues and inscriptions of a bull's body with man's head and eagle's wings are portrayed. These huge statues stand near the entrance to royal palaces – they symbolized the sovereign's terrible power of life and death.



The Assyrian statue

Similarly Anzu, the Babylonian demi-god, has eagle's wings and talons with a lion's paws and face. The powerful god Ellil appointed Anzu to guard the bath chamber, but instead, out of jealousy, stole Ellil's Tablet of Destinies. This Tablet provides power to bring into reality that which is uttered.

One wonders if there is a very vague recollection of Lucifer's treachery toward God Almighty?

In a further Babylonian tale, the god Shanash rose from the mountains with rays zipping forth from his shoulders.² The underworld is a place that he enters and exits at will through the gates in the mountains. **The scorpion-men were custodians of this underworld bringing into remembrance Rev 9:1-11.**

In any event, search as you may and you will not find Assur amongst the Babylonian pantheon. He was the chief of the Assyrian gods but Merodach was the chief of the Babylonian gods³. Unlike Babylon, the Assyrian King was represented very closely by the chief god (Assur) possibly inferring that Assur⁴ was a real person – an ancestor that was worshipped and whom, over time, became a god. Further, it may also infer some form of king worship.

There is a further Biblical clue which is contained in Jeremiah:

“Cut off the sower from Babylon, and him that handleth the sickle in the time of harvest: for fear of the oppressing sword they shall turn every one to his people, and they shall flee every one to his own land.

Israel *is* a scattered sheep; the lions have driven *him* away: first the king of Assyria hath devoured him; and last this Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon hath broken his bones.

Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will punish the king of Babylon and his land, as I have punished the king of Assyria”. (Jer 50:16-18)

Note: there are two lions: Assyria and Babylon. Did the lion found in Daniel 7 symbolise Babylon given that Assyria had already fallen? Or did it symbolize Assyrian influence morphing into Babylon?:

“And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another.

The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it”. (Daniel 7:3-4)

Could it be that the lion here is Assyria followed by the lion-man, Nebuchadnezzar, symbol of Babylon? Does this symbolize that the Babylonian system, although a continuum of Assyria in spirit, was also more humane?

The following quote may help to explain this transformation:

² Compare Mal 4:2

³ Merodach was also known as Asari. The host of heaven was known as Ansar which the Greeks called Assoros. And in Cappadocia Assur was known as Asir. Whether there is a connection between these similar names has yet to be proven.

⁴ Assur's spouse was Zer-panitum

"Thorkild Jacobsen, in his seminal work, *Treasures of Darkness*, characterizes Sumerian religion in terms of the concept of "immanence". The abstraction of deity in early Sumeria, in other words, was developed from primitive attempts at conceptualizing the forces which comprised the natural world and the phenomena therein. It is a naturally pantheistic mindset, subject to plurality limited only by the extent of intelligible divisions in nature itself. These early deities took forms which were intrinsically tied to the phenomena they represented; hence Ninurta, the ancient Sumerian thunder-god, was conceptualized as a great winged lion, whose roars thundered across the lands in times of storm. *As the society developed, these deities gradually anthropomorphized; slowly taking human form, and attendant human personas.* [emphasis mine]

"The gods were detached gradually from the phenomena of nature and of culture to which they had been tied and took a certain distance from them." {20} With these broadened personalities came broadened roles, as the germ of the numinal phenomena blossomed to cover a wide range of related abstractions. Thus, as the concept of the deity Ninurta progressed, for example, he came to be viewed as possessing a human form; and his role broadened from that of a primitive thunder god, to a God of war and of the spring storms which brought fertility to the land. While society's views of the divine and their roles in the cosmos were expanding, however, the strong ties of these gods to the related numina of the deity would remain a central feature of the Sumerian religion. The central role of mankind in this cosmic scheme was service to the gods. {21}

The theocentric liturgy, as we would call it, was entirely identified with the "support of the gods," in other words with the provision to these high personalities of all that was needed or useful to lead an opulent and agreeable life entirely devoted to the government of the universe, a life even better and more blessed than that of the kings of the earth {22}.⁵

Could this be reflected in the last days? When at the end of the Babylonian System (remember it is called Babylon in the book of Revelation, not Assyria), Germany will be forced to go it alone (or at least be abandoned by some of its allies). Many of their European allies may forsake her, leaving her vulnerable to eastern attack and eventual conquest.

In other words, just as Assyria preceded the Babylonian sequence of empires, it was part of it. So, in the last days, Assyria is part of the Babylonian system, but is borne separately, virtually on its own. It goes forth to destroy in a beserker rage that Daniel 11:44 implies.

In frustration at not being able to conquer the entire world once again, modern Assyria explodes into a murderous temper inspired by Satan.

But the sons of Assur were never meant to inherit the world. They have tried and tried again with Satan behind their attempts. The following papers provide further information on this: ***Assur and Israel – Contenders for the Birthright*** and ***German Plans to invade Britain and America in World Wars 1 & 2.***

⁵ Extracted from <http://www.gatewaystobabylon.com/religion/sumrel1.htm>. The footnotes in the text are: 20 - Jean Bottéro, *Mesopotamia : Writing, Reasoning, and The Gods*, p. 217; 21 - see preceding section; 22 - Bottéro, *Supra* note 12, at 225

Yet God has another people in mind to inherit the world – Israel. For further information on Israel's role during the millennium see the paper ***What will Israel be doing in the World Tomorrow?***

Finally, is this the way, the 7th is also regarded as the 8th restoration of the Roman system? Could this resolve the issue?

Only time will tell.

Figure 3 Various Theories

System/Dictator	Deficiency in terms of HRE linkages	Two legs issues	Comment
Roman Empire	Pre-RCC during most of its existence	Divided into Western and Eastern Empires	Emperor worship. Takes over Middle East and had plans for India
Various HRE emperors and restorations	None	Hapsburg's territories in the east formed the Eastern leg	'Wounded' Roman system revived from the East. Confederation, not a totalitarian system. A few conflicts with RCC. Terrible wars. Not as vicious as Napoleon or Germans in WW 1 & 2. Teutonic Knights invade Russia. Crusaders invade Middle East
Napoleon	Non-German. Did not gain the Imperial regalia. Turned on the RCC	Included a north-eastern zone called 'Confederation of the Rhine'. Austria remained separate	Invades Middle East and Russia with a large no. of German troops. Politically 'wounded' in 1814 and revived his chances in 1815
Bismarck and Germany up to WW1	Did not have a concordat with the RCC (unlike all the others). Bismarck Protestant, not Catholic. Prussian, Protestant north dominated the Empire, not the RCC Catholic south/Bavaria	Cooperation of Germany and Austro-Hungarian Empire	Invades Russia. Plans to invade Middle East and India
Mussolini	Italy/Rome subservient to Hitler. He was a deist	Second of 3 blocs working with Hitler (3 rd comprised eastern European nations)	Irreligious but signed concordat with Vatican. Invades North Africa
Hitler and Germany up to WW2	Planned to destroy the RCC. A deist, but signed a concordat in Rome in 1933	Cooperation from fascist dictators in the east. Absorbed Austria	Invades North Africa. Literally wounded by a bomb. Revived Germany's potential during the 'Battle of the Bulge'. Invades Russia and plans to invade India with Japan.
Final Beast dictator	At end of Tribulation turns on the RCC, destroying it. Does the False Prophet switch from being head of RCC to promoting Emperor	Will comprise of 5 nations or groups of nations in each Western and Eastern Europe	Invades Russia and Middle East and probably India. Full circle back to Roman Emperor worship and conflict with 'Christianity'. May be 'wounded'

System/Dictator	Deficiency in terms of HRE linkages	Two legs issues	Comment
Satan	worship?		in some way Uses same ongoing system, but prefers to be worshipped through a man. Is placed into the pit but released after 1,000 years. Similar to Napoleon's and Hitler's political wounds and revivals.

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