

THE TEN HORNS OF THE PROPHETIC HOUR

The meaning and identity of the prophetic ten toes of iron and clay noted in the Book of Daniel and the ten horns of the prophetic hour noted in the Book of Revelation are very important to understanding the end time events leading up to Christ's return to establish the Kingdom of God on earth.

However, over the centuries there has been little agreement among Bible Scholars concerning the meaning and identity of these ten toes and ten horns of the prophetic. There seem to be as many options as to exactly what these are as there are people to ask about their meanings.

But does it really matter if you know the meaning of the ten toes and the ten horns and does it really matter if you are able to recognize and identify them when they appear on the world scene? The answer is yes, That is, if you are living in the end times, because being able to recognize and identify these things could mean the difference between your life and death.

If you want to be able to understand the meaning of these ten toes and horns ten horns of the prophetic hour and be able to recognize and identify them, you need to pay careful attention to the information contained in this broadcast.

The majority of those who interpret Biblical prophecy believe that the ten toes and the ten horn of Daniel and Revelation refer to an economic alliance of nations in Europe as the Beast of the Book of Revelation and see this alliance of nations as the manifestation of the last of seven resurrections of the Roman Empire and its Babylonian religious system.

Although there may be some symbolic similarities between the religious and political system of ancient Rome and the Beast's religious and political system of government, it does not explain the ten nations of the prophetic hour that are aligned with the Beast, hate the Great Whore, and make war with Christ at his coming (Rev.17:12-14).

Moreover, the only reference in the entire Bible that could remotely refer to the Roman empire as a prophetic entity during the end of the age is found in Daniel 11:30, which says the ships of Chittim shall come against the king of the north. In ancient times, Chittim referred to the island of Cyprus and it can be associated with the Roman ships of Admiral Popilius in 168 B.C.. However, because there is no mention in the books of Daniel or Revelation about the Roman Empire, it seems highly unlikely that it plays a major role in the end of the age events.

In Daniel chapter 2 beginning in verse 31, Daniel begins to reveal the meaning of Nebuchadnezzar's dream, which will eventually lead to the identity of the ten horns of the prophetic hour and their importance to the end time events.

The Image and its Feet

In verse 31, Daniel begins to describe Nebuchadnezzar's dream and the image that he sees:

"Behold a certain great image! That image stood before you with a brilliant brightness; and its form was dreadful. The head of this image was of fine gold; its breasts and its arms were of silver, its belly and its thighs of bronze; its legs of iron, its feet were partly of iron and partly of clay" (Dan.2:31-33 Para.).

In verses 34 and 35 we see that the Stone smashes the feet of the great image:

"A stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them to pieces. Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold, were together broken into pieces, and they became like chaff on the summer threshing-floors; and the wind carried them away, so that no trace was found of them: and the stone that struck the image became a great mountain [government], and filled the whole earth" (Dan.2:34-35 Para.).

The ten toes attached to the feet of the image seem to be symbolic of an alliance of ten rulers and nations described in the second chapter of Daniel that have never materialized in history and neither has the stone's kingdom, which will destroy the ten toes. Therefore, there can be no doubt that these

prophecies are for the period of time associated with Christ's return in the future and that the stone that destroys the feet and toes is symbolic of Christ.

Continuing in verse 40 the prophecy speaks of a 4th kingdom.

"And the fourth kingdom shall be as strong as iron: inasmuch as iron crushes and smashes all things: and as the iron that shatters all these, it will crush and shatter. And as for the feet and toes that you saw, these shall be partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it the strength of iron, because you saw the iron mixed with potters clay. And as the toes of the feet were partly of iron, and partly of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly fragile. And as you saw this iron mixed with the clay of the clay, they shall be mixed with the seed of men: but they shall not adhere to one another, even as iron does not mix with clay" (Dan.2:40-43 Para.).

The fourth kingdom with its legs of iron and feet of iron and clay that will exist during the end of this age will be as strong as iron and seems to match the representation of the Sea Beast of Revelation chapter 13; however, the feet and toes of the image are both strong and weak, which is symbolic of a powerful alliance of nations that is divided in its aims and goals and/or has a very fragile balance between its weak and strong components.

The Ten Horns of the Prophetic Hour

Revelation 17, beginning in verse 12:

"And the ten horns you saw are ten kings, who have not yet received their kingdom; but will receive authority as kings one hour with the beast. These have one mind, and their power and authority they shall give to the beast. These will make war with the Lamb [Jesus Christ], and the Lamb will overcome them: because he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and the ones with him are the called and elect, and faithful ones" (Rev.17:12-14 Para.).

There are four important things to note concerning these ten rulers and their nations who will align themselves with the Sea Beast of Revelation chapter

13.

1. First the ten prophetic horns will not be allied with the Sea Beast's ten nation alliance until the last few days before Christ's return.
2. The ten horns will only be allowed to align themselves with the Sea Beast's alliance of nations for one prophetic hour, which is about 15 literal days.
3. The ten horns will give their total support to the Sea Beast's alliance.
4. The ten horns will fight Christ and the Saints of God when they return to conquer the earth.

The Sea Beast's alliance of ten nations called the Beast, along with the Earth Beast, which is the state religion of the Beast alliance of nations, will be given authority over the earth for 3½ years, whereas the ten nations of Revelation 17, verses 12-14 who are the feet and toes of Daniel chapter 2 will be controlled by the Sea Beast, which is the King of the North in Daniel chapter 11, and only exist under its control for one prophetic hour (fifteen days).

Therefore, these ten nations of the prophetic hour are not the Sea Beast, but only serve it for a short time, and because they are not the Sea Beast, the question of who these ten horns which are symbolic of ten nations of the prophetic hour are, still needs to be answered.

The Ten Toes and Ten Horns

Chapter two of Daniel describes an image with a head of gold, a chest and arms of silver, and a belly and thighs of brass. This image splits into two parts represented by its legs of iron. At the bottom of these two legs are feet with five toes each that are composed of iron and clay. It is in the days of these ten toes, which are rulers and nations, that the stone, which is Jesus Christ, will be cut out of a mountain, which is symbolic of the Kingdom of God, and smash the feet and toes (Dan.2:34-35).

The major thing that causes people confusion about the identity of the ten kings and nations symbolized by the ten toes in Daniel 2:34-35, the ten horns of Revelation 17, verses 12-14, and the ten horns of Daniel chapter 7, verse 7 and Revelation chapter 13, is not understanding that there are two distinct and separate 10 nation alliances being referred to in these scriptures. One ten nation alliance is the Beast (Which is also called the king of the north) who is allied with the Great Whore and the other ten nation alliance is an alliance of two groups of five nations that will combine to form the ten horns of the prophetic hour of Revelation 17 (which are also called the kings of the north and south).

When one carefully reads the description of king Nebuchadnezzar's image, one will notice that the head of gold is identified as Babylon under Nebuchadnezzar, and the silver portion, along with the other parts of brass, iron, and iron mixed with clay, are not identified. However, if chapter eight of Daniel is a parallel account of this image, history seems to indicate that the Medes and, probably, the Medo-Persian empire and the Greek empire under Alexander the Great are the symbolic fulfillment of the second and third empires symbolized by the great image of the second chapter of Daniel. This leaves the fourth empire still unidentified.

The Grecian kingdom was eventually divided into four sections out of which developed two kingdoms of the north and south: the Seleucid Empire with headquarters usually in northern Syria and the Ptolemaic Empire located in Egypt. Perhaps these empires are symbolic of the two legs of the image.

If the Seleucid and Ptolemaic Empires are representations of the ten toes and the ten horns of the prophetic hour, we should be looking for events to occur concerning the nations to the north and to the south of Jerusalem and Judea that are similar to the ones that occurred around 168-165 B.C. If these nations are representative of future events, a king of the north and a king of the south, who each control five nations or combinations of five nations, must come to power.

The Book of Daniel places the prophetic context of the ten toes and ten horns of the prophetic hour in

the kingdoms of the North and South that surround Jerusalem. Moreover, the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation almost exclusively focus on the peoples of the House of Israel who are scattered among the nations, the peoples of the House of Judah (the Israelis), the city of Jerusalem, and the Holy Temple.

Historically, the Seleucid kingdom of Syria and the Ptolemaic kingdom of Egypt were once the North and South kingdoms. Therefore, it is reasonable to expect the future north and south kings to be located in these geographical areas. Also, it should be fairly easy to determine who the king of the North (five nations) and the king of the South (five nations) are in relation to Jerusalem.

In order to identify the nations that are represented by the two legs and ten toes of Daniel and the ten horns of the prophetic hour of Revelation, we must find nations or groups of nations that fulfill all the criteria that are given for them:

These nations are separated into two groups of five nations each (Dan.2:40-43).

- They are to the north and to the south of Israel (Dan.11:6-15).
- They come together in one prophetic hour before Christ's return (Rev.17:12).
- They have an intense hatred of the Great Whore who represents a religion (Rev.17:16).
- Christ will destroy these nations at his return (Dan.2:44; Rev.17:14).

Because the two legs of Daniel's image (the kings of the north and south) were once located squarely in the Middle East (with Jerusalem at their center), it is logical that the ten future kings will also arise in that area. And that is just where the Bible places them; therefore, we should be looking for five nations located to the north and five to the south of Jerusalem.

The Nations Surrounding Israel

The only prophecies that speak of ten kings, horns and nations that will exist just before Christ returns

and war against Israel, the Jews, and Christ are found in the books of Psalms, Daniel, and Revelation. Daniel's prophecy only alludes to two separate groups of ten nations (the ten toes), but the Book of Revelation clearly defines two separate groups of ten nations: one that is the Sea Beast alliance of ten nations, and one nation alliance that serves the Sea Beast. Of these three books, only in Psalm 83 do we find the names of ten nations that oppose Israel (that is, the Jewish nation of Israel) during the end of the age.

Psalm 83 beginning in verse 1 says this:
(Paraphrased)

"O God do not keep yourself silent, do not be speechless; do not be still, O God For your enemies are roaring: and those who hate you have lifted up their head. They take shrewd council against your people [the Israelis]; they plot against your hidden ones. They have said, Come, let us cut them off from being a nation; and the nation of Israel will not be recalled again. For they have plotted together with one heart; they have made an agreement against you" (vs.1-5).

Notice the reference to the hidden ones. This is most likely a reference to the elect of the Sovereign Father's earthly children who are being protected in the holy land while they deliver the Sovereign Father's good news and warning messages prior to Christ's return. The goal of these people who plot against the Israelis is to wipe them from the face of the earth.

Continuing in verse 6 of psalm 83:

"Even the tents of Edom, and of the descendants of Ishmael, Moab, Hagarite; Gebal, Ammon, Amalek, Philistia and the inhabitants of Tyre. Also Assyria has joined with them: they are an arm to the sons of Lot" (vs.6-8).

Nowhere in recorded history do we see these nations allied against Israel; therefore, this Psalm is clearly a prophecy for the future, and it is highly likely that their modern-day descendants will be the nations that comprise the ten nations of the prophetic hour that will be allied with the Sea Beast and war

against the Israelis in the last days before Christ returns.

These Nations Destroy the Great Whore

Very close to Christ's return, and perhaps during the last two plagues that Christ pours out on the Beast alliance of nations and the world, the ten nation alliance of Psalm 83 that is to the north and south of Israel will be motivated to destroy the capital city of the Beast's Babylonian religious system:

Revelation chapter 17, beginning in verse 16, tells us this about the ten horns:

"And the ten horns which you saw on the beast, these will hate the whore, and will make her desolate and naked, and they will eat her flesh, and will burn her down with fire. For God gives it into their hearts to do his mind, and to act in one mind, and to give their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled. And the woman who you saw is the great city, having a kingdom over the kings of the earth" (Rev.17:16-18 Para.).

Although the scriptures do not say why these ten nations hate the Great Whore, when one understands the religions of these two ten nation alliances, it is easy to see that what takes place here is one powerful religious system destroying another powerful religious system with which it has major unreconcilable theological differences concerning who and what to worship.

Who is the Great Whore? Verse 18 says that,

"The woman you saw is the great city that has rule over the kings of the earth" (Rev.17:18 Para.).

In verse 9 and 10 of chapter 17 we are told that the woman sits on seven mountains, which is analogous to ruling over seven nations or power structures.

Given the description of this great religion and the total destruction of its geographical seat of power detailed in Revelation chapters 17,18 and 19. The only city in today's world that fits this criteria, and that rules over kings is Vatican City within the city of Rome. This seems to be the location of the great

and powerful end time religion that has its capital in a city close to the sea and that will meet its fate at the hands of the ten horns of the prophetic hour.

In Daniel chapter 2 beginning in verse 44, we read this about the image and its destruction:

"And in the days of these kings [those of the prophetic hour], the God of heaven shall set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people. It shall break in pieces and destroy all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. Because you saw that the stone [Jesus Christ] was cut out of the mountain without hands, and it broke the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold in pieces; the great God has made known to the king what shall occur after this" (Dan.2:44-45 Para.).

Jesus Christ will completely crush these ten Middle Eastern nations as well as the ten nation Beast alliance during the great battle at Armageddon. And after these evil alliances of nations are destroyed, the God of Heaven (Jesus Christ) will set up a government on earth that will be governed by spirit-beings forever.

One of the keys to unlocking the meaning of certain prophecies is to understand that some prophecies may have a duality of symbolism and fulfillment. This is clearly the case with some of the prophecies recorded in the Book of Daniel. Therefore, just before Christ returns, we should see events occurring among the nations that surround Israel that are similar to the ones that occurred in this area in 168-165 B.C.

Here is What to Look For

Psalm 83 reveals that there will be ten nations in the Middle East encompassing Jerusalem that will seek to destroy Israel. Because it is no secret that many of the nations that now surround Israel hate her and want her destroyed, what we should look for is ten autonomous nations in the Middle East that are inhabited by the modern descendants of the ten nations mentioned in Psalm 83. We should look for these nations to form two alliances: five to the north and five to the south of Israel. These nations will

constitute the ten toes of iron and clay of the great image of Daniel 2, verses 42-43, which are different from the ten-nation Beast.

One of the major events that will take place at least 3½ years before the destruction of the Beast alliance of nations, its religious system, and the return of Christ, is the halting of the sacrifices at the temple in Jerusalem and the invasion and occupation of Israel by the Beast's alliance of nations and Israel's Islamic neighbors. Anyone who is unfortunate enough to be in Israel when it is invaded and occupied will experience one of the most horrible and terrifying times in human history.

The Warning Signs

There are a number of warning signs that will be given to those living in the nation of Israel before this invasion. The first of these signs is the proclaiming of God the Father's good news message by the elect of God who are scattered throughout the world, the high priest of the temple system in Jerusalem, and another person who is likely to be a high ranking government official of Israel. This good news message will include the proclamation that the Kingdom of God will soon be established on earth:

Jesus said to his disciples:

"This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness to all nations; and then shall the end come" (Matt.24:14 KJV).

Most of the Christian Community today, think that they know what the Gospel of the Kingdom is; however, when the gospel of the kingdom spoken of by Jesus, is proclaimed to the world. Few will recognize it; because, most of what the world has been hearing as the gospel of the kingdom since the demise and disappearance of the early church has been a counterfeit of the true gospel of the kingdom.

John recorded this about two men who would come on the world scene about 3 ½ years prior to Christ's return.

"And I will give to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth. These are the two olive trees, and the two lamp-stands [candlesticks] before the God of the earth [See Zech.3:1-14]. And if anyone desires to harm them, fire comes out of their mouth and devours their enemies: and if any one desires to harm them, so it is right for him to be killed. These have the authority to shut up the heaven, that no rain may rain in the days of their prophecy [3½ years]: and they have authority over the waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with every plague, as often as they desire" (Rev.11:3-6 Para.).

The two events just mentioned must happen before the invasion and occupation of Israel, and should alert anyone who lives in Israel and who is paying attention to the prophetic sequence of events during the end times, that Christ's return is only a few short years away and that they should prepare themselves to leave Jerusalem and Israel when they see the final warning signs appear.

Two Obvious Signs to Flee

About 3½ years before the return of Christ, the Jews and the elect of God who are in the nation of Israel will be given two very clear signs that the invasion and occupation of Israel is imminent. Upon recognizing either of these warning signs, a person should immediately stop what they are doing and flee for their lives if they want to survive and escape captivity.

The First Warning Sign is noted in Luke chapter 21, beginning in verse 20:

"And when you shall see Jerusalem being encircled by armies, then know that its destruction is near. Let those in Judea flee to the mountains; and those in the midst of it, let them go out. And those who are out of town do not go into Jerusalem. For these are the days of vengeance when all things that have been written are to be fulfilled. But woe to the pregnant women, and those breast-feeding children in those days! for great distress will be on the earth and wrath on his people" (Lk.21:20-23 Para.).

The Armies

The reason that armies will surround Jerusalem is that an agreement will be made between the Beast alliance of nations and the Israelis to guarantee their protection. After this agreement is made, there will be peace and prosperity in the Middle East for a short time while the Beast alliance negotiates with Israel and her neighbors to calm the volatile political situation that exists among them.

This period of peace will allow the Jews to build a temple in order to worship their God in Jerusalem.

When this temple is completed, the Jews will institute the Levitical Priesthood and the sacrificial system at this temple. When this happens, the political scene will take a dramatic turn for the worse.

By instituting the Levitical Priesthood and animal sacrifices, the Jews will be unwittingly implying that the god of their Islamic neighbors is a false god and that the Jews are worshiping the only true God; therefore, Israel's neighbors will become very hostile toward her and will again openly seek to destroy her.

Israel's Islamic Neighbors

The prophecy in Daniel 11, verses 40-45 reveals that the nations to the north and south of Israel will stir up trouble by threatening to break their agreement of peace with Israel. Then, the king of the north who is the Beast and his alliance of nations will move against Egypt in order to honor its agreement to guarantee the peace. Egypt will be crushed along with several other Islamic nations in that geographical area. However, the prophecy specifically says that the ancient nations of Ammon and Moab, who are the Jordanians are left alone by the Beast alliance. A prophecy in Isaiah chapter 16 shows that these people are going to offer protection to the Jews that flee from Jerusalem and Israel. See Isa.16:1-5.

Jerusalem Surrounded

While the army of the Beast alliance is busy crushing the Arabs in Egypt and in North Africa, the Islamic nations to the north and east (Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Syria, etc.) will begin indicating that they are also about to break their peace agreement with Israel. When this happens, the Beast alliance of nations will send an army to Israel and Jerusalem under the pretense of protecting Israel from an invasion. The Israelis will welcome the protection of their allies' powerful army and they will feel secure from their neighbors' threat of invasion. However, the intentions of the Beast are more sinister; they intend to invade and destroy Israel and remove her as an obstacle to their plans of world domination.

The Second Warning Sign is given in Matthew chapter 24 and Mark chapter 13:

Matthew 24, verses 15 says:

"When you therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (let the reader understand:) Then let them which be in Judea flee into the mountains: Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house: Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes" (Matt.24:15-18 KJV).

Mark 13. verses 14-21

"But when you see the abomination of desolation, the one spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not (let the reader understand) then let those in Judea flee to the mountains: And he that is on the housetop, do not go down into his house and take anything out of it. And one in the field, do not return to get anything, not even a piece of clothing. But woe to the pregnant woman, and those with babies! Pray that this flight is not in the winter. For there will be affliction in these days such as has not been since the beginning of creation, and never again will be" (Mk.13:14-21 Para.). See also Dan.11:31; 12:11.

What is the Abomination of Desolation?

Because of the things that took place during past desecrations of the Jerusalem temple, many people are looking for the abomination of desolation to be something such as the sacrifice of an unclean animal on the holy altar, which was done by Antiochus Epiphanes, or the placing of the statue of the Olympian Zeus in the temple. It is important to understand that all of these past desecrations of the temple happened after Jerusalem was invaded and conquered. However, the prophecies concerning the future desecration of the temple clearly show that the abomination of desolation that will pollute the holy place will happen before an invasion and occupation of Jerusalem.

Once the temple is dedicated, there is no way that the Levitical Priesthood will allow anyone or anything to enter it that is not specifically authorized by the book of the law. Anyone attempting to do this will bring about a major confrontation between themselves, the guards of the temple, the worshipers, and the priesthood.

In his second letter to the Thessalonians, the Apostle Paul answers the question concerning what the future abomination of desolation will be.

2.Thessalonians 2:3-4 Paraphrased

"Do not let anyone deceive you in any way, because that day will not come, unless there first comes an apostasia [departure from the faith], and the man of sin is revealed, who is the son of perdition. This is the one who opposes and exalts himself over everything being called God, or object of worship, and he sits in the temple of God, as God; in order to show that he is a god" (vs.3-4).

The son of perdition is the Beast and leader of the alliance of nations called the Beast, and he will desecrate the temple; he is the abomination that makes desolate. This powerful spirit-being masquerading as a human will, in his arrogance, desecrate the temple of the true God in Jerusalem by entering into it and sitting there in defiance of the true God. He will do this in order to prove to the world that he is indeed a god, and that the true God

is no god.

This leader of the Beast alliance of nations will be the guarantor of the peace between Israel and her neighbors. When he surrounds Jerusalem with his armies, he may agree to put his life on the line for this agreement by entering into the temple area as a sign of his commitment. Ultimately, this will lead to his desecration of the holy place by entering into it as foretold by Jesus Christ, Daniel, and the apostle Paul.

SUMMARY

It is easy to understand why the Israelis will view the armies of their allies that surround Jerusalem as a protective force. There will likely be mass media coverage as the Beast's armies encircle Jerusalem, along with televised interviews with the dynamic, powerful, and charismatic leader of the Beast alliance of nations as he comes to Jerusalem under the pretense of protecting Israel.

It is also likely that his entrance into the temple in Jerusalem will be televised, because this event will cause a major confrontation between those who worship at the temple and the priesthood and the Beast leader.

Both of the warnings concerning the armies that surround Jerusalem and the desecration of the temple are extremely serious, because these two events are the prelude to the attack and brutal captivity that will come upon the Jews for the last 3½ years before Jesus Christ returns.

The instant one hears the news of either one of these events and understands what it means, they should immediately stop what they are doing and flee Jerusalem and Israel as quickly as possible, because there will be very little time in which to escape. There will be no time to collect one's belongings or warn others. Every second of delay will place one's life in extreme jeopardy. From what is said in the scriptural warnings, it is very clear that the window of opportunity for escape may be measured in minutes, perhaps less than an hour.

I see that my time is up, but if you want to know more about the prophecies concerning the sequence of events that are to happen during the end times or more about the other subjects that I have briefly touched on in this in this broadcast, Write to me at the address given in the following announcement./Until next time this is Bud Cocherell for Bible Research .org..

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