

## *Weighed in the Balances –*

# **U.S.A Riding to Collapse as World Superpower**

Military analyst warns that the U.S. is headed for a giant fall and collapse as a world superpower. Economists warn us that the dollar is falling and in danger of collapse, the national debt is worrisome, bankruptcies are increasing in the housing market, and aliens are pouring across our borders. Is the sun setting on the “American Empire”? Was it foretold in the pages of Holy Scripture? What will replace the U.S. as the dominant world political, economic and military power? Has the U.S.A. been weighed in the balances and found wanting? What do the “signs of the times” tell us?

William F. Dankenbring

In the gospel of Matthew, the Messiah, Jesus Christ, tells the political and religious leaders of His day, “When it is evening you say, It will be fair weather, for the sky is red. And in the morning, It will be stormy today, for the sky is red and has a gloomy and threatening look. You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times?” (Matt.16:3, Amplified Parallel Bible).

There are many signs in the world today that the United States is headed for dire trouble as a nation and world superpower. The signs are ominous, purulent, and festering. The signs are increasing, the red lights are flashing, “DANGER, DANGER, DANGER!”

### *Signs of the Times*

One of the indicators of a world frightened about the future is the price of gold. The yellow metal leaped to over \$800 per ounce, the highest in about thirty years. When Bernake cut interest rates in August, the dollar crashed, oil soared from the low \$70s to over \$98 collars a barrel, and gold skyrocketed to \$848 dollars an ounce.

Not only gold, but the commodities index surged 8.1 percent in September, the most since July 1975. And wheat, due to drought in Australia and elsewhere, has gone

crazy, surging o a record of \$9.51 per bushel, more than triple its price just two years ago!

Meanwhile, the Federal Reserve, caught between a rock and a hard place, has once again lowered interest rates, further reducing the value of the dollar, which is imploding on foreign markets. The dollar disaster is one of the most “massive, most powerful mega-trends of our generation,” reports Martin D. Weiss, a well-known financial analyst. He goes on, “The political and economic realities behind it are unstoppable.”

The primary cause of the collapse of the dollar is the great real estate bust and mortgage meltdown, which will last at least through 2008, he says. To prevent a total collapse in the mortgage market and a recession in an election year, the Federal Reserve is using the power of the printing press to unleash waves of newly-created paper dollars -- each one worth less and less.

China, Saudi Arabia, and the oil-rich Middle Eastern nations are no longer using the dollar as their premier reserve currency but beginning to utilize the Euro and other currencies as well. As Weiss puts it, they are “already heading for the exits. They’re beginning to bypass U.S. stocks,, bonds and Treasuries, and they’re starting to invest their money elsewhere.”

The “bottom line,” says Weiss, “The Fed’s hyper-injection of easy money has been like pouring gasoline on a smoldering fire. Now, with the housing market continuing to sink,, it’s getting ready to pour in even more fuel . . . gutting the value of the dollar.”

When Alan Greenspan became Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board in August of 1987, the U.S. Federal debt was a total of \$2.35 trillion dollars. Today it is nearly \$9 trillion, and David Walker, the Comptroller General of the U.S., says it will increase to \$50 trillion during the next 20 years, bankrupting our country (if we survive so long!).

When Alan Greenspan became Chairman of the Fed in 1987, the American dollar was the reserve currency of the world. The dollar lost almost 40% of its value in relation to the Euro between 2002 and 2005, and has been devastated in 2007, losing another 10%. Many nations are beginning to diversify their holdings away from the dollar.

The U.S. dollar continues to tumble. Investors are rushing into foreign currencies, sending them to all time highs. The value of the Euro, the Canadian dollar, the Aussie and New Zealand dollars are surging against the U.S. dollar. Other investors are fleeing the dollar and buying gold, now over \$800 an ounce, the highest in nearly three decades!

Is the bell tolling for the United States as a world mega-power?

*A Military Analyst Speaks Out*

According to *The World Today*, the United States may collapse as a superpower. On June 1, 2007, reporter: Eleanor Hall interviewed a Canadian military analyst and historian who has served in the armed forces and has written on international affairs for more than two decades. He is issuing a warning today about the collapse of the United States as a superpower.

In his latest book, *The Mess they Made: the Middle East after Iraq*, Gwynne Dyer says there's no doubt that the US will withdraw its troops from Iraq once President George W. Bush leaves office.

But he predicts that already that war has set in motion events that will radically transform not only the Middle East but the role of the United States in the world..

In the interview, Hall asked: "There've been a series of conflicts in the Middle East over the last 40 years, why do you see this latest war in Iraq as likely to be so transformative for the region?"

Gwynne Dyer answered: "Well the Americans actually have never committed troops in the Middle East, never actually fought a war in the Middle East, the United States, before. I think this is having an impact on the American public, comparable to the impact on the American public in the Vietnam War though the casualties are far lower this time. So now, there is developing, a Middle Eastern allergy in American public opinion, rather similar to the South East Asian allergy that you had by the end of the 1960s.

"That is transformative because if America is not there enforcing the status quo, the status quo probably collapses. It is very old and shoddy. The regimes of the Arab world, with zero exceptions, except for Iraq, where the Americans overthrew Saddam, have all been in power for at least forty years.

"They're all dictatorships or absolute monarchies, most of them are corrupt beyond imagining. So this is a very unstable status quo, maintained by American subsidies, American troops, American guarantees, and when those are withdrawn, I think that there will be very large changes in the Middle East.

The interview, done in Sydney, Australia, continues:

"ELEANOR HALL: You're certain that all of those will be withdrawn, not just the US troops, but the US subsidies as well?

"GWYNNE DYER: Not all and not right away, but enough to create a momentum, in which Congress will be reluctant to vote new funds, Congress will be very suspicious about new commitments to support Arab regimes, and meanwhile the momentum in the streets in the Arab world will be moving very rapidly in the favour of the revolutionaries. And that's what they are, after all, the Islamists, after all, are political revolutionaries, they're not just religious fanatics.

“ELEANOR HALL: So what will be the shape of the Middle East at that point?”

“GWYNNE DYER: I think that you’re going to see some, I can't tell you which ones, but some Arab regimes fall in the next five years, fall to Islamists of various variety .Some of them perhaps very radical, some of them less so.”

The military analyst was asked about the future role of the United States, and the world, after the Iraq debacle.

“ELEANOR HALL: You suggest that the Iraq war could also transform the role of the US in the world, that it's actually done far more damage to US power and prestige than the Vietnam War. What are you predicting for the US?”

“GWYNNE DYER: Well, think about the Vietnam War for a moment. The United States suffered a humiliating defeat and frankly the US armed forces were a complete shambles for 10 years after that. And yet, within five years, it was all forgiven and forgotten. And in the world at large by the end of the 1970’s, the United States was back as the leader of the free world -trusted, beloved by all, well, by most. That could happen again, if the US pulls out of Iraq, as soon as Mr. Bush leaves power .

“Which is what I think will happen. About 10 minutes after the inauguration of the next President in January 2009, the evacuation starts. However, there is the possibility that the United States before Mr. Bush leaves will attack Iran. And if that happens, I think we have a very different outcome. Former National Security Adviser in the United States, Zbigniew Brzezinski is on record as saying if the United States attacks Iran, it will lose its place in the world. And I think he’s right.”

Toward the close of the interview, Dyer was asked about the U.S. attacking Iran and the consequences that would ensue. He declared: “If they attacked Iran, they would lose, and of course, the Iranians would close the Gulf to the tanker traffic, and so suddenly there's a global economic crisis, and then in two or three months we get America off the hook, somehow and get the Gulf reopened. But by that time, frankly, I think NATO will have broken up, I think the Russians will have decided they'd better make a deal with the Chinese, it would change the look of the chessboard very dramatically.

“ELEANOR HALL: Why would it change it so dramatically, when you’re saying that the Iraq war, you’re expecting that the world and the American people will forgive the Bush administration, why wouldn't they equally forgive it for a disastrous war in Iran, were that to happen?”

“GWYNNE DYER: It’s the rogue state phenomenon. I mean, this could be another unprovoked, illegal American attack on a sovereign state. It would actually convince a great many people that the United States is congenitally a rogue state.

“A senior Japanese diplomat said to me, last year, he said ‘You know the United States is a twelve year old with a shotgun.’ And what he meant was that as the United States begins to suspect that it’s past the apogee of its trajectory , its on the way down, as a great power no longer on the way up or at the top securely, that it is becoming extremely erratic, that is lashing out in all sorts of ways to try and slow or stop what it perceives as incipient decline.

“So there is concern that we're getting into rather deep water here, that we may be going into an era where the Americans become highly unpredictable and quite dangerous.”

### *Dangerous New World*

With the collapse of the world’s last remaining superpower, what kind of world would result? Believe it or not, the Bible tells us the future in advance. The present state of the world, and the world order to come, are magnified in Bible prophecy.

An astonishing prophecy for our time is given in the book of Daniel.

In the book of Daniel the prophet is a most puzzling prophecy that has dumfounded Biblical students and researchers for thousands of years. It is found in chapter 8. We read: “In the third year of King Belshazzar’s reign, I, Daniel, had a vision . . . In my vision I saw myself in the citadel of Susa in the province of Elam; in the vision I was beside the Ulai Canal. I looked up, and there before me was a ram with two horns, standing beside the canal, and the horns were long. One of the horns was longer than the other but grew up later. I watched the ram as he charged toward the west and the north and the south. No animal could stand against him, and none could rescue from his power. He did as he pleased and became great.

“As I was thinking about this, suddenly a goat with a prominent horn between his eyes came from the WEST, crossing the whole earth without touching the ground. He came toward the two-horned ram I had seen standing beside the canal and charged at him in great rage. I saw him attack the ram furiously, striking the ram and shattering his two horns. The ram was powerless to stand against him; the goat knocked him to the ground and trampled on him, and none could rescue the ram from his power. The goat became very great, but at the height of his power his large horn was broken off, and in its place four prominent horns grew up toward the four winds of heaven” (Dan.8:1-8).

The angel Gabriel explains to Daniel the basic meaning of this vision. In verse 20, he says, “The two-horned ram that you saw represents the kings of Media and Persia” -- that is, the Persian Empire. “The shaggy goat is the king of Greece, and the large horn between his eyes is the first king” -- that is, Alexander the Great. “The four horns that replaced the one that was broken off represent four kingdoms that will emerge from his nation but will not have the same power” (vs.20-22). After the death of Alexander by fever in Babylon, his natural brother and two sons were murdered. The kingdom was therefore divided up between Alexander’s four top generals, with

Seleucus obtaining Syria and Babylon in the east, Cassander ruling Greece and Macedonia in the west, Ptolemy ruling in Egypt to the south, and Lysimachus ruling over Thrace, Cappadocia, and northern Asia Minor in the north.

This prophecy was amazingly fulfilled. Alexander's forces -- composed of 30,000 mobile cavalry -- moved so rapidly it was as if they traveled "without touching the ground" (v.5). He attacked the Persians with fury and unheard-of violence, representing the concentrated wrath of Greece against the Persians because of previous Persian invasions of Greece and the cruelty they had shown, as well as Darius's attempts to seduce Alexander's soldiers to treachery. In the Greco-Persian battles, Adam Clarke tells us in his commentary:

"The conflicts between the Greeks and the Persians were excessively severe. Alexander FIRST vanquished the generals of Darius, at the river Granicus, in Phrygia; he next attacked and totally routed Darius, at the straits of Issus, in Cilicia; and afterwards at the plains of Arbela, in Assyria. One can hardly read these words, says Bishop Newton 'the ram -- which I had seen standing by the river, ran unto him in the fury of his power,' without having the image of Darius' army STANDING AND GUARDING THE RIVER GRANICUS; and of Alexander on the other side, with his forces plunging in swimming across the stream, and rushing on the enemy, with all the FIRE AND FURY that can be conceived" (Clarke's Commentary, vol.1, p.597, emphasis mine throughout).

The date of Alexander's world-changing, bench-mark invasion of Asia was 334 B.C. Thus the date of the vision of the shaggy goat smashing the two-horned ram begins with this incredible victory of the Greeks over the Persian army in 334 B.C.

But after Alexander's lightning-like conquests, he mysteriously died in Babylon and his kingdom was divided. The prophetic vision of Daniel 8 then continues: "Out of one of them [the four horns or kings that divided up the Empire] came another horn, which started small but grew in power to the south and to the east and toward the Beautiful Land. It grew until it reached the host of the heavens, and it threw some of the starry host down to the earth and trampled on them. 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. Because of REBELLION, the host of the saints, and the daily sacrifice were given over to it. It prospered in everything it did, and truth was thrown to the ground.

"Then I heard a holy one speaking, and another holy one said to him, '*How long will it take for the vision to be fulfilled* -- the vision concerning the daily sacrifice, the rebellion that causes desolation, and the surrender of the sanctuary and of the host that will be trampled underfoot?' He said to me, 'It will take 2,300 evenings and mornings; then the sanctuary will be reconsecrated'" (Dan.8:9-14). What is the real meaning of this strange vision?

### ***The Role of Antiochus Epiphanes***

All Bible students and commentators recognize that the "little horn" that grew up

and became powerful, and which invaded the Holy Land, took away the daily sacrifice and desolated the Temple of God in Jerusalem, was Antiochus Epiphanes, the king of Syria. His empire spread across the whole Middle East, and he hated the religion of the Jews. Says the *Critical, Experimental Commentary* by Jamieson, Faussett and Brown:

“This horn is explained (v.23) to be ‘a king of fierce countenance,’ etc. Antiochus Epiphanes is meant. Greece, with all its refinement, produces the first -- ie., the Old Testament ANTICHRIST. Antiochus had an extraordinary love of art, which expressed itself in grand temples. He wished to substitute Zeus Olympus for Jehovah at Jerusalem. Thus, first, heathen civilization from below and revealed religion from above came into collision. Identifying himself with Jupiter, his aim was to make his own worship universal (cf. v.25 with ch.11:36): so mad was he in this that he was called Epimanes (maniac) instead of Epiphanes (illustrious). None of the previous world rulers . . . had systematically opposed the Jews’ religious worship. . . . He is the forerunner of the final Antichrist, standing in the same relation to the first advent of Christ that Antichrist does to His second coming” (vol.1, p.427).

The prophecy of Daniel was fulfilled to the very letter. Many in Israel were adopting Hellenistic customs, erecting theaters, gymnasiums, began regarding all religions as alike -- much like our modern western world and its new-found thrust for entertainment, sports, fashion, and in religion “church unity” and respect for all religions. Jews sacrificed to God, but also sent money to pay for sacrifices to Hercules. In the book of Maccabees, we read: “Many also of the Israelites consented to his [Antiochus’] religion, and sacrificed unto idols, and profaned the Sabbath” (I Macc.1:20-53).

### ***What Does This Mean for Today?***

As many Bible students are aware, Biblical prophecy is DUAL in fulfillment. There is often a historical fulfillment, and then a latter day or end time fulfillment, for which the former fulfillment was an “type”!

Let’s analyze this prophecy in terms of today’s world events and situation.

Notice Daniel 8:17. We read the awesome, staggering words – “Understand, son of man, that the *vision refers to the TIME OF THE END*”! And in verse 19, we read: “Look, I am making known to you what *shall happen in the LATTER TIME of the indignation; for at the APPOINTED TIME the end shall be*” (NKJV).

How, then, does this amazing prophecy of conquest and desolation apply to our day? How is it being fulfilled in OUR time?

George W. Bush, President of the United States, with Tony Blair, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, launched a mighty war against Saddam Hussein, the brutal dictator of Iraq, who has been squirreling away weapons of mass destruction and aiding and abetting terrorism around the world. The U.S. tried to obtain U.N. approval of its war against Iraq, and lost several months as it delayed attacking until March, 2003.

When the attack came, the armed forces assaulted Saddam with unparalleled fury and fire, similar to the way Alexander the Great attacked ancient Persia. Even as Alexander's forces rushed upon the Persians with FURY, so American and British forces have rushed with FURY upon the forces of Saddam Hussein – "SHOCK AND AWE," the military described the campaign.

Notice the prophecy, again. The "male goat came from the WEST, *across the surface of the WHOLE EARTH, WITHOUT TOUCHING THE GROUND*; and the goat had a NOTABLE HORN between his eyes. Then he came to the ram that had two horns, which I had seen standing beside the river, and *ran at him with FURIOUS POWER*. And I saw him confronting the ram; he was moved with RAGE against him, attacked the ram, and broke his two horns. There was no power in the ram to withstand him, but he cast him down to the ground and trampled him; and there was no one that could deliver the ram out of his hand" (Dan.8:5-7).

Our military came from the WEST. Our forces traveled by sea and by air. They hardly "touched the ground" as they proceeded to seize the offensive.

It is noteworthy that ancient Alexander the Great had a personal grievance against Darius, the king of the Persians. Darius had endeavored to bribe his captains and had labored to induce some of his friends to *assassinate* him. Says Adam Clarke, "Alexander, finding this, would listen to no proposals of peace; and was *determined never to rest* till he had destroyed Darius and his whole empire" (Clarke's Commentary, vol.2, page 597).

It is a fact that there is a personal element in the wrath of George Bush against Saddam. After the Gulf War, when his father, President George Bush, Sr., visited Kuwait, during the Clinton presidency, a plot was discovered, hatched by Saddam, to assassinate the elder George Bush, and was barely nipped in the bud. In retaliation, Clinton merely lobbed a few cruise missiles at a few targets in Iraq, and did virtually nothing. It was left to the son of George Bush, now president of the United States, to exact retribution for the attempt to assassinate his father.

Interestingly, the Iraqis are descended from the ancient Assyrians. In Scripture, God also calls the king of the Persian Empire the "king of Assyria" (Ezra 6:22). Thus Alexander the Great attacked the king of "Assyria," even as George Bush has attacked an end-time dictator of "Assyria."

### ***Four Kingdoms***

After Alexander's victory in the war against Persia and the east, he and his men partied at Babylon, where he fell ill, and soon died, at the age of 33. Shortly after his death, his two sons were killed, and his kingdom was divided up into four kingdoms – Seleucus had Syria and Babylon; Lysimachus had Asia Minor; Ptolemy had Egypt; and Cassander had Greece.

Notice the words of Daniel: “Therefore the male goat grew very great; but when he became strong, the large horn was broken, and in place of it four notable ones came up toward the four winds of heaven” (Dan.8:8).

As prophecy is DUAL, this means that the victory celebration after Iraq War will not last very long. For the large horn will be ‘broken.’ The Hebrew word for “broken” here is *shabar* and literally means “to burst, break down, break in pieces, break up, crush, destroy, quench, hurt.”

The prophecy states that out of this scene, instead of ONE superpower in the world, the kingdom will be divided up “toward the four winds of heaven” – that is, the West (United States), North (Europe), East (Russia and China), and South – the Muslim world, including Egypt, the Arabian states and Muslim Africa (Dan.8:8).

“And out of one of them came a *little horn* which grew exceedingly great toward the south, toward the east, and toward the Glorious Land. And it grew up to the host of heaven; and it cast down some of the host and some of the stars to the ground, and trampled them. He even exalted himself as high as the Prince of the host; and by him the daily sacrifice was taken away, and the place of his sanctuary was cast down. Because of transgression, an army was given over to the horn to oppose the daily sacrifices; and he cast truth down to the ground. He did all this and prospered” (Dan.8:9-12).

Here we see a NEW world arrangement, following the decline of the great superpower in the West. FOUR regions begin to vie for influence and world control.

In the wake of the Iraq War and its devastating consequences for the Middle East, much restructuring will have to be done among the nations. We will very likely see the reorganization of the United Nations, especially the Security Council.

With the demise of the United States as the world’s one unique “superpower,” as it is today, the world order will shift. World power will realign. Prophecy indicates there will be four geographical world powers to replace it – the United States and Britain in the West, the European Union, Russia and China in the Eastern hemisphere, and the Muslim world in the South.

Four regional power centers will replace the simplicity of ONE world superpower!

But soon thereafter, out of this fragmented world system, there shall arise a ruler who begins “small,” but begins to consolidate power to himself so that the WHOLE WORLD follows his leadership. He becomes the HEAD of the New World Order!

### ***The Little Horn***

Notice how the angelic messenger describes this man, who UNITES the four

world regions into a world government, probably through the auspices of a strengthened and revamped UNITED NATIONS!

“And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors have reached their fullness, A KING shall arise, having *fierce features [countenance]*, who understands sinister schemes. His power shall be mighty, but not by his own power [the powerful nations leading the United Nations will give him their support!]; he shall destroy fearfully [margin, “extraordinarily”], and shall prosper and thrive; he shall destroy the mighty, and also the holy people” (Dan.8:23-24).

“Through his cunning he shall cause deceit to prosper under his rule [“hand”]; and he shall exalt himself in his heart. He shall destroy many in their prosperity. He shall even rise against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without human means [“hand”] (Dan.8:25).

Daniel was then told, “Seal up the vision, for it refers to *many days in the future*” (verse 26). The vision so astonished Daniel that the color drained from his face (verse 27). It was a fearsome vision of the future – of things shortly to come to pass in OUR OWN DAY!

### ***The Coming Tribulation***

In Islamic tradition Allah’s kingdom will not be established until Moslems kill all the Jews and subject them to Islamic rule. This Islamic “holy war” is aimed at Christians as well as Jews. The Moslem war chant goes something like this: “*Today we fight on Saturday, tomorrow on Sunday.*” The meaning is, they first intend to destroy Israel and then establish Islamic rule over all the nations that embrace “Christianity.”

The Western world will unite against the growing threat of Muslim terrorism. The focus of the struggle will be the Middle East.

The Word of God prophesies: “Behold, *I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling* unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem. And in that day will I make *Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people*: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it” (Zechariah 12:2-3).

In ancient times it was Antiochus Epiphanes who led the struggle over Israel, and brought on the forerunner of the future “Great Tribulation.” He polluted the Temple of God, destroyed every Bible his soldiers could discover, and persecuted and killed all who would not forsake the true worship of Almighty God.

Even so, in these last days, following the great war against Iraq, a man will arise who will once again lift himself up against the God of gods, the Ruler of Heaven, and he will “destroy many in their prosperity” (Dan.8:25). He will stop the daily sacrifices in a rebuilt Temple of God, for a time, and “cast truth down to the ground” (verse 12).

He will “destroy the mighty, and also the holy people” (verse 24). This will be the violence of the end-time Great Tribulation!

### *A Palestinian State*

The key is the Middle East. The fight is over Jerusalem. The whole world is intent on redrawing the map of the Middle East, and to take land from the Jews and give it to the Palestinians, to create a Palestinian state.

Even Jewish leaders have succumbed to the plot. The Quartet of nations – the United States, Europe, Russia, and the United Nations – have agreed to establish a Palestinian state in Gaza and on the West Bank of the Jordan River. They hope that this will lead to “peace” in the Middle East! But will this agreement, even now being drawn up and fashioned, really work?

God warns in the prophecies of Isaiah, “The fortified city will disappear from Ephraim [the United States – see our articles on our national identity]. . . In that day the glory of Jacob will fade; the fat of his body will waste away. It will be as when the reaper gathers the standing grain and harvests the grain with his arm – as when a man glean heads of grain in the Valley of Rephaim [the dead]. Yet some gleanings will remain . . . .

“You have forgotten God your Saviour; you have not remembered the Rock, your fortress” (Isaiah 17:3-5, 10).

We are bringing God’s wrath upon ourselves, as a people. When America forsakes Judah, the nation of Israel, she breaks God’s covenant. At this time God is carefully watching events as they unfold. He notes in heaven that in a landmark vote taken by the Security Council of the United Nations, on a resolution *introduced by the United States*, approval for the establishment of a Palestinian state passed by an overwhelming vote of 14-1. Syria was the only dissenter, claiming it did not go far enough.

God’s Word thunders that the proposed “Road Map to Peace” in the Middle East and the giving up of the promised Land of Israel to Palestinians is a complete abomination in His sight!

God declares in anger: “Therefore hear ye the word of the Lord, ye afflicted men, and ye princes of this people that is in Jerusalem. Because ye have said, We have made a COVENANT WITH HADES, AND AGREEMENTS WITH DEATH; if the rushing storm should pass, it shall not come upon us: we have made FALSEHOOD OUR HOPE, and by falsehood shall we be protected: therefore thus saith the Lord, even the Lord, Behold, I lay for the foundations of Sion a costly stone, a choice, a corner-stone, a precious stone, for its foundations; and he that believes on him shall by no means be ashamed.

"And I will cause judgment to be for hope, and my compassion shall be for just measures, and *ye that trust vainly in falsehood shall FALL: for the storm shall by no means pass by you, except it also take away your covenant of death, and your trust in Hades shall by no means stand:* if the rushing storm should come upon you, ye shall be beaten down by it. Whenever it shall pass by, it shall take you; morning by morning it shall pass by in the day, and in the night there shall be an evil hope" (Isa.28:14-19).

The so-called Middle East Peace Agreement will fail to bring peace. It will prove to be an unmitigated disaster. In God's sight, these accords constitute a "covenant with Hades," an "agreement with death." Their signing represents a major departure from the truth of God -- an end-time apostasy. The Peace Agreement is based on worthless promises and tissues of lies, and hate-filled falsehood. The world should have learned its lesson from the dismal record of the failure of the Oslo Accords.

### ***Prophecy Fulfilled!***

In the first fulfillment of Daniel 8, Alexander the Great was the king of Greece, and world ruler for a time. He "Hellenized" the world with Greek values, philosophy, and religion.

In the end of days fulfillment of Daniel 8, it is clear that George W. Bush and the United States represent the "shaggy goat" from the West that destroys in fury the "butcher of Baghdad." America, like ancient Greece, has also imparted its values, culture, philosophy and life-style to the rest of the world. The English language has "Englicized" the world, and American culture has conquered much of the world through commerce, pop music, motion pictures, and 'Hollywood.' The "American way" is in many respects a modern version of ancient "Hellenism," where freedom is paramount, including democracy and religious multi-culturalism. These "values" are not all good values, but like Hellenism, they dominate the world today.

### ***America In Prophecy***

God's Word prophesies of the United States, today, "Ephraim also is like a silly dove" (Hos.7:11). God compares Ephraim with a "silly dove" which seeks allies in the world. Even today, the United States seeks to build a "coalition against terror," and tries to make "allies" of its enemies – including Syria, Iran, and even the Palestinians – to combat the threat of international terrorism.

This strategy has already back-fired, as Iran coddles and helps terrorists to escape from Afghanistan. Truly, a "silly dove" is a very apt description of the foolishness of American foreign policy!

In Biblical prophecy for the end times, the United States is the birthright tribe of "Ephraim," second son of Joseph. For proof of this identification, write for our fee article "The United States in Prophecy!"

The prophet Hosea said of the U.S. or Ephraim, “Ephraim has hired lovers” (Hos.8:9). The United States makes alliances and pays foreign nations to co-operate in its fight against terror. Back-room deals were struck with the Russians, and Pakistan leaders, to gain their support in the war on terror, the Taliban, and Al Qaeda.

Isaiah declares, of Ephraim, or the U.S., in the end of days, “Fortresses shall cease from Ephraim,” and “In that day the mass of Jacob shall dwindle, and the fatness of his body become lean” (Isa.17:3-4). The Amplified Parallel Bible has it “And in that day the former glory of Jacob [Israel – his might, his population, his prosperity] *shall be ENFEEBLED, and the fat of his flesh shall become lean*” (verse 4).

### ***The Handwriting is on the Wall***

The Moffatt translation puts it this way: “Then shall Jacob’s strength be sapped, his lusty vigour languish; ‘twill be as when the standing corn is reaped, the ears in armfuls, or as when olive-trees are shaken, and little there is left to glean, two or three berries on the top-most bough, four or five berries on the twigs” (verses 4-6).

Our nation, renowned for its “fat” and “obesity,” is going to become *LEAN* and waste away. Prosperity will be replaced by slim pickings!

Truly, as the prophet predicted, “the fat of his flesh shall become lean.” The Hebrew word for “lean” here is *razah* and means, “to emaciate,” “make thin,” “famish, wax lean.” Gesenius’ Hebrew Lexicon defines it further, “to spread out, to make thin and lean, hence to consume, to destroy.” He says the primary idea appears to be that of “scraping, scraping away”– to become “emaciated, enfeebled.”

Could that happen to our so proud nation? Have we not become as proud and arrogant as ancient Babylon? Have our national leaders not become proud, haughty?

During a raucous feast being celebrated by the Babylonian king Belshazzar, using the implements of the Temple of God as their serving and drinking vessels, a strange thing occurred. As they were carried away by the wine, “That very hour, the fingers of a man’s hand appeared, writing on the plaster of the royal palace, opposite the lampstand. The king saw the palm of the hand as it wrote, and the king’s fresh colour paled, his thoughts alarmed him, the muscles of his thighs relaxed, and his knees struck one against another” (Daniel 5:5-6, Moffatt).

The king appealed to his wise men and astrologers to interpret the writing on the wall, but none could do so. Finally, someone remembered Daniel, the Hebrew who served under Nebuchadnezzar, so he was called upon.

Daniel came, rejected all the king’s gifts and promises of entitlement, but interpreted the strange writing for him.

The king of Babylon, Belshazzar, had known how his ancestor Nebuchadnezzar

had become proud, and lifted himself up, and was punished by going mad, and forced to eat grass like an ox for seven years, because of his arrogance (Dan.4:1-37). Yet he, too, became arrogant and proud.

God's prophet Daniel warned him, "Yet you his son, O Belshazzar, have not humbled yourself, though you knew all this; you uplifted yourself against the Lord of heaven . . . . You have not glorified the God who holds in his own power your breath of life and all your destiny. Hence the palm of the hand was sent from his presence, and this writing was inscribed. This is the inscription:

*Mene, Tekel, Peres*

"The meaning of it is: *Mene* (numbered), God has numbered the days of your kingdom and ended it; *Tekel* (weighed), you are weighed in the scales and found wanting; *Peres* (divided), your kingdom is divided up and assigned to the Medes and the Persians" (Dan.5:22-28).

That very night Belshazzar, the Babylonian king, was killed and Darius the Mede entered his city, capturing Babylon, and began reigning at the age of 62 (Dan. 5:30). The Greek historian Herodotus describes the incredible capture of the city in his history, as does the Jewish historian Josephus.

Most Bible scholars have missed the entire point of this prophecy. It, too, has a hidden, secret, arcane END OF DAYS meaning, which only God can reveal. These strange, eerie words – *Mene, mene, tekel, parsin* have a special meaning.

*Mene* is the minah. *Tekel* is the shekel. *Parsin* or "*Upharsin*", as the King James Version has it, is *peres* in the plural, meaning "halves." *These are all Hebrew weights designating monetary values!*

We are told to "halve" or "divide" these weights into their lowest common denomination (like dividing dollars into pennies). So what monetary value or equivalent do we come up with?

Originally the minah consisted of 50 shekels (*The Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible* ("Weights")). The shekel was subdivided into *gerahs*, 20 *gerahs* to the shekel. Therefore let's do as Daniel said, and divide everything into the smallest number – into *gerahs*.

Mene (minah)	=	1,000 gerahs
Mene (minah)	=	1,000 gerahs
Shekel	=	20 gerahs
Peres (half)	=	500 gerahs
<i>Total</i>	=	<i>2520</i>

The word *peres* means "half," so taking "half" of a *minah* or *mene* gives us 500 *gerahs*. We end up with a total of 2,520 *gerahs*. This compares with the punishment

upon king Nebuchadnezzar of 7 x 360 days, or 7 years! (One prophetic year equals 360 days, the length of the original year). If the “gerah” represents one “day,” then 2,520 gerahs equals 2,520 days – or seven prophetic YEARS in fulfillment!

This number “seven years” is very interesting. Not only did Nebuchadnezzar eat grass for 7 years, but God warns His people Israel that they would suffer “seven times” or “seven years” for their wickedness, when they transgressed His covenant! (see Leviticus 26:18, 21, 24, 28). A “time” equals a “year” being fulfilled.

Compare the following: 42 months (Rev.11:2) = 1260 days (Rev.11:3). Divide 42 into 1260 and you get 30 day months. 42 months, 12 months to a year, equals 3 ½ years. 3 ½ years is exactly one half of 7 years. 1260 days times 2 = 2520 days.

Compare also: The “virgin” bride of Christ, the Church who are faithful,, will be protected “in the wilderness” for 1260 days (Rev.12:6). This period of time equals “a time, times, and half a time”(Rev.12:14). Thus 3 ½ times equals 42 months = 1260 days.

Therefore, Daniel’s 2520 gerahs – 2520 days or SEVEN YEARS in prophetic end-time fulfillment!

This is the same as a WEEK (7) of YEARS – or the final “week” of Daniel’s 70 weeks prophecy (Dan.9:27) – which = the FINAL WEEK OF YEARS, OR THE FINAL SEVEN YEARS OF THIS END-TIME AGE BEFORE THE COMING OF THE MESSIAH!

Here again the figure or number 2,520 results from deciphering the prophecy! *Here again*, then, God tells us the punishment, this time upon the *kingdom* of Babylon, and not just the king,

Ancient Babylon was located on the Euphrates River in ancient Mesopotamia. After it fell, its world empire became that of the Persians, and their empire fell to the Greeks under Alexander the Great, and the Greek Empire was transferred to the Romans, with ancient Rome becoming the “New Babylon.”

Rome fell in 476 A.D., and was replaced by others, but its legacy continued through the following centuries when it was revived under Emperor Justinian in 554 A.D.. and then continued down through the “Holy Roman Empire” through the Middle Ages. It finally fell when Napoleon was defeated at Waterloo in 1814.

### ***Resurrections of the Roman Empire***

<b>Head</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Kingdom</b>
1st head	554 A.D.	Emperor Justinian of Rome
2nd head	800 A.D.	Charlemagne of the

3rd head	961 A.D.	Franks Otto the Great of Germany
4th head	1519 A.D.	Charles V of Austria
5th head	1804 A.D.	Napoleon Bonaparte of France
6th head	1929-45 A.D.	Mussolini/Hitler of Italy and Germany

In A.D. 554, Emperor Justinian cobbled together what was called “the Imperial Restoration of the Roman Empire.” This was the first revival, or first “head” to spring out of the ancient Roman Empire, successively.

Another, second revival, or “head,” was accomplished by the Frankish king Charlemagne, on Christmas Day, the year 800 A.D., when he was crowned as Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire by Pope Leo III. He was the son of Pepin the Short, who founded the Carolingian dynasty. Pepin became king in 751 A.D. and Pope Steven II gave his approval when he anointed Pepin and his sons in 754.

Charlemagne created a vast empire in the west including much of the old Roman Empire. “He was the first Germanic ruler to assume the title of emperor, and the ‘empire’ he *revived* lasted in one form or another for *a thousand years*” (“Charlemagne,” *Worldbook Encyclopedia*, vol.3, p.291). Did you notice? The *Worldbook* plainly says that his kingdom was a “revival” of the Roman Empire!

The third revival or “head” was the German King Otto I, the Great. Otto “was the first king to become Holy Roman Emperor. . . In 941 he crossed the Alps and declared himself the king of Italy . . . In 961, Otto crossed the Alps to put down an uprising in Rome. For this service, Pope John XII crowned him emperor of what was later known as the Holy Roman Empire” (“Otto I, the Great,” *Worldbook*, vol.14, page 666-667).

The fourth revival or “head” was the Hapsburg dynasty. Rudolf Hapsburg became the first member of the Hapsburg family to be elected Holy Roman Emperor in 1273. From 1438 until 1806, when Napoleon conquered Germany and the Hapsburgs, and their Holy Roman Empire, most of the emperors were Hapsburgs. Charles the Great, of the Hapsburg dynasty, was also known as Charles V (1500-1558) and ruled over more countries than any other European monarch. He became King Charles I of Spain in 1516, and was made Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire in 1519.

The fifth head of the revived Roman Empire was none other than Napoleon Bonaparte of France, who ended the Hapsburg dynasty. Napoleon conquered all continental Europe. He triumphed in Italy, invaded Egypt, conquered Austria, and in May, 1804, the French senate voted him the title of Emperor. “The coronation ceremonies took place at Notre Dame cathedral on December 2. As the pope prepared to crown him, Napoleon snatched the crown from the pontiff’s hands and placed it on his

own head, to show that he had personally won the right to wear it” (“Napoleon,” *Worldbook*, vol.14, page 14).

Interestingly, from the Imperial Restoration of the Roman Empire, in 554 A.D., till the fall of Napoleon, in 1814 A.D., lies a period of 1,260 years exactly. The “beast” was prophesied to rule for a period of “42 months” (Rev.13:5), speaking “blasphemies,” and this certainly occurred during the Middle Ages, throughout the time when the Roman Catholic Church sat astride all these revivals of the Roman Empire! 42 months, in prophecy is a term of 42 30-day months, or 1260 days. In Bible prophecy, a “day” often equals a literal “year” in being fulfilled (see Num.14:34; Ezek.4:4-6). Thus the Beast throughout the Middle Ages reigned from 554 to 1814 – a period of 1260 consecutive years, before its reign was terminated by the British conquest of Napoleon Bonaparte and the French “head” of the Beast! “So closed a government that dated from Augustus Caesar” (West, p.337).

The sixth revival of the “Holy Roman Empire” was attempted by the Fascist dictator of Italy, Benito Mussolini (1883-1945). Mussolini founded Fascism and ruled as dictator of Italy for almost 21 years. He attempted to build Italy into a great empire and took the title *Il Duce* (“the leader”). He signed a concordat with the Vatican in 1929, giving the Pope temporal powers in Vatican City. Mussolini urged the people of Italy to rebuild the glories of ancient Rome. He invaded and conquered Ethiopia in 1935-36. His reign ended, however, with the Allied victory over Italy in 1945. Associated with him in his “New World Order” was Adolf Hitler, of Nazi Germany. Both of them died in 1945.

### ***End-Time Babylon***

Today, the predominant world superpower is the United States. New York City has been compared to ancient Rome. It is the financial capital of the world. The U.S. is the world’s strongest military power. But it is showing signs of decay and decadence.

It can certainly be compared to ancient Babylon, in more ways than one!

Could this ancient prophecy, then, of the “Handwriting on the Wall,” have a DIRECT APPLICATION to the modern UNITED STATES OF AMERICA?

The year 2007 is a benchmark year in terms of Bible Prophecy. It is noted to be a year of transition and change – and that has been happening worldwide.

2007 is exactly 40 years (a Biblical “generation” – Numbers 14:32-34) from 1967, the miraculous Six Day War when Israel recaptured the Temple Mount and defeated all the surrounding Arab nations and recaptured the West Bank and Golan Heights and Old City of Jerusalem and the Sinai peninsula.

*Today the Israelis are on the verge of giving it all back to the Muslims, the Palestinians, under worldwide pressure from the United States, Europe and United Nations!*

*And TODAY God says to America and her allies, "YOU HAVE BEEN WEIGHED IN THE BALANCES, AND FOUND WANTING"!*

End-time "Babylon" today is represented by the United States and her allies in Europe, and the members of the global trading bloc (compare with Rev.18), a great merchantile union governing world trade.

Does this mean, then, that the United States and the modern Babylon have "2520" gerahs left – SEVEN YEARS – the final seven years of Daniel's 70 weeks prophecy – before the MESSIAH comes and ushers in the Kingdom of God?

This time-table would suggest that the final "seven years" could be from 2007 to 2014 A.D. – and then the nations will see the "sign" of the Son of Man in heaven. (Matt.24:30-31; Rev.6:14-17).

### ***The Final Resurrection***

The seventh and final resurrection, revival, or "head" of the Roman Empire is "yet to come." And when it does come, it will "continue a short space" (Rev.17:10). This final resurrection will apparently last only seven years – the final seven years before the coming of the Messiah to bring it to its final debacle. It is being cobbled together around us by trade and military alliances. NAFTA, the coming Union of the United States, Canada and Mexico, the European Union, coming all together to forge one last "BABYLON THE GREAT" (Rev.18).

This final revival will rule with "ten horns" and will be the final resurrection of this ancient world-ruling system of government which in one sense dates back to ancient Nimrod, who founded the first world government this side of the Flood, in ancient Babylonia. Write for our articles, "Coming Soon – a New Roman Empire?" and "The Beast of Seven Heads and Ten Horns Revealed!"

This final revival is also called "the eighth" (Rev.17:11) but "belongs to the seven." How will this system be different, so that it is called "the eighth"? Unlike the previous empires, which were all nations grown to great power, this final resurrection will be a *system of nations*, where the "ten kings" or "kingdoms" GIVE (willingly) THEIR POWER AND AUTHORITY to one man – the "Beast." He will not be ruler over a particular country, but will be different, in that he will be the Head of the entire group of countries – that is, the United Nations – the New World Government! That will be the "eighth" system but the "seventh" head of the revived "Roman Empire"!

The shocking truth is unknown to millions. The fact is, America is PART OF END-TIME BABYLON!

The End-time "Babylon" is the UNITED WESTERN WORLD, and the United States is playing a major role in its creation, formulation, and governance!

We, like Belshazzar of old, have become arrogant, proud, lifted up in our own eyes!

### *God's Warning to Us*

America has been lifted up to the top of the nations. But God says, "When Ephraim spoke, trembling, he exalted himself in Israel; but when he offended through Baal worship, he died. Now they sin more and more, and have made for themselves molded images, idols of their silver" (Hos.13:1-2).

God thunders, "WOE to the crown of PRIDE, to the drunkards of Ephraim, whose glorious beauty is a *fading* flower . . . . The crown of PRIDE, the drunkards of Ephraim, shall be trodden under feet. And the glorious beauty, which is on the head of the fat valley, shall be a *fading* flower, and as the hasty fruit before the summer . . ." (Isaiah 28:1-4).

The word for "fading" in these verses in Isaiah is the Hebrew word *nabel*, #5034 in Strong's Concordance, and means "to wilt; gen. to fall away, fail, faint; fig. to be foolish or (mor.) wicked; caus. to despise, disgrace – disgrace, dishonour, lightly esteem, fade (away), fall (down), do foolishly, come to nought, make vile, wither."

When our nation was humble, in our beginnings, God blessed us abundantly, and intervened on our behalf. But now we have grown proud, self-sufficient, and have forgotten God, our Maker, and Redeemer. Now we sin, "more and more." Truly, judgment is coming!

God goes on, "When they had pasture, they were filled; they were filled and their heart was exalted; therefore they forgot Me. So I will be to them like a *lion*; like a *leopard* by the road I will lurk; I will meet them like a *bear* deprived of her cubs" (Hos.13:6-8). Notice the three images – a lion, a bear, and a leopard. Could this not be a reference to the "Beast" – the New World Order – rising up, which will "devour" Ephraim and ravage the land? The bear is a symbol of Russia; the leopard could be a symbol of the Arab nations (Africa and the Middle East); the lion is sometimes a symbol of Assyria (modern Germany-Austria) (Nahum 2:11); of Babylon (Jer.4:7; Joel 1:6); and Egypt (Ezek.32:2).

May our nation come to its senses, and return to God, and declare a day of Fasting and Prayer, like Israel did, and plead to God for mercy and forgiveness – before it is too late! " 'Even now,' declares the LORD, 'return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning.' Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity" (Joel 2:12-13, NIV).

The choice is ours. The balances are being weighed. Judgment is near! "The time has now come, God's reign is near: *repent and believe the gospel*" (Mark 1:15, Moffatt).

