

The Islamic Antichrist Empire

I. Introduction

- a. As we've discussed, there are over 150 chapters in the Bible devoted to the end of the age. Portions of those chapters speak specifically about a key end time figure we call *the Antichrist*, as well as his empire and his "theology". The most sensible approach these scriptures is to take a prophetic-literal approach as opposed to a hyper allegorical approach.
- b. In our first session, we examined that although history is often traced through a western lens, the prophetic end time scriptures are not centered around the west, the end time storyline is heavily middle eastern and Jerusalem centric. Oddly enough, many bible interpreters believe that the Antichrist will arise from an end time revived Roman Empire (a predominantly western Empire). In this session, we'll examine common scriptures that speak about the Antichrist, to show that not only does the "*Revived Roman Empire Theory*", not fit the Biblical criteria, but the "*revived Islamic Caliphate approach*" does.
 - i. The Islamic Caliphate is the historical Islamic government/religious system led by a Caliph, which began shortly after the death of Muhammad, with the *Rashidun Caliphate* in 632. The Caliphate culminated in the Ottoman Empire, which officially came to an end in 1923.
- c. There are 4 primary scriptures that give insight into the Antichrist, His Empire, and his religion. ***Daniel 2, Daniel 7, Daniel 9:26, & Revelation 17***. These 4 scriptures will help us explore the Biblical characteristic of the Antichrists coming empire.

II. Daniel 2: Nebuchadnezzar's Dream Of A Giant Metallic Statue

(Daniel 2:31-33 NASB) "You, O king, were watching and behold, there was a single great statue; that statue, which was large and of extraordinary radiance, was standing in front of you, and its appearance was awesome. 32 The head of that statue was made of fine gold, its chest and its arms of silver, its belly and its thighs of bronze, 33 its legs of iron, and its feet partly of iron and partly of clay.

- a. Daniel interpreted Nebuchadnezzar's dream of a huge statue by saying each of the metallic sections represent a different kingdom/empire. The first section, the "*head of gold*" represents Nebuchadnezzar's Babylonian Kingdom (***Daniel 2:38***). The sections underneath the head, represent empires that would succeed Babylon. Daniel later mentions the *Medo-Persian Empire* and *Greek Empire* by name (***Daniel 8:20-21;10:20***), which helps us know that the chest and arms represent the Medo-Persian empire, and the belly and thighs represent the Greek empire.

(Daniel 2:38-39 NASB) "38...You [Nebuchadnezzar] are the head of gold. 39 And after you another kingdom will arise inferior to you [Medo-Persia], then another third kingdom of bronze [Greece], which will rule over all the earth."

- b. The 4th empire mentioned in ***Daniel 2:40-43*** has some unique qualifiers that help us identify what historical empire that scripture could be speaking of.
- c. The 4th kingdom would crush all of the other kingdoms – It's clear that the 4th kingdom would crush the other three empires. Contextually, to "*crush*" in this scripture means to conquer geographically, culturally, and religiously.

(Daniel 2:40 NASB) "Then there will be a fourth kingdom as strong as iron; just as iron smashes and crushes everything, so, like iron that crushes, it will smash and crush all these things."

- i. The Roman Empire only conquered about 1/3 of the regions controlled by Babylon, Medo-Persia, and Greece. The Islamic Caliphate fully conquered all of the lands (and more) of 3 previous empires.
 - ii. Culturally and religiously, the Roman Empire was typically tolerant and non destructive toward the regions it conquered. On the other hand, wherever the Islamic Caliphate spread, so did its totalitarian ideology of submission. The Caliphate's mission was to dominate and control cultural aspects such as; law, government, language, military, as well as sexual and hygienic practices, not to mention the religious practices of its conquered peoples.
- d. The 4th Kingdom would exist in two Phases **Daniel 2:33** - The statue had "*legs of iron*" and feet of "*part iron*", and "*part clay*". This fourth and fifth division of the statue gives us confident reason to believe that the 4th empire exists in two phases; a historical Islamic Caliphate (legs of iron) and revived Islamic Caliphate (feet of mixed iron and clay).

(Daniel 2:33 NASB) "its legs of iron, and its feet partly of iron and partly of clay."

- e. The 4th Kingdom would be divided **Daniel 2:41** - Many believe this speaks to a division in the Roman Empire (Western & Eastern divisions), however "*divided*" is a perfect term to describe Islam. Islam has two main divisions that exist today; Shi'a Muslims (successorship belongs to Muhammad's relatives) and Sunni Muslims (successorship belongs to Muhammad's companions).

(Daniel 2:41 NASB) "And in that you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, it will be a divided kingdom; but it will have within it some of the toughness of iron, since you saw the iron mixed with common clay."

- f. The 4th Kingdom would be "mixed" **Daniel 2:43** - The Aramaic word used (3 times) in this verse is "'arab" ('ereb in Hebrew). The descendants of Ishmael and Esau had intermarried among the various desert pagan tribes and had become known as the "*mixed ones*".

(Daniel 2:43 NASB) "In that you saw the iron mixed with common clay, they will combine with one another in their descendants; but they will not adhere to one another, just as iron does not combine with pottery."

- g. The Demise of the 4th Kingdom **Daniel 2:34-35** - The last aspect of the 4th kingdom is related to its demise. **Daniel 2:34-35** speak about the Messianic Kingdom, which will destroy the kingdom of the Antichrist, and in doing so, all 4 kingdoms (Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece) will be destroyed "*at the same time*". If the Roman Empire was fully revived today and Jesus returned and destroyed it, it would not fully destroy the geographical territories of Babylon, Medo-Persia, and Greece. But if the Islamic Caliphate were fully revived today and Jesus returned to conquer this empire, the other 3 empires would be completely destroyed as well.

(Daniel 2:34-35 NASB) "You continued watching until a stone was broken off without hands [The Messianic Kingdom], and it struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay, and crushed them. 35 Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed to pieces all at the same time"

III. Daniel 7 – Daniel's Vision of Four Beasts

- a. Most bible interpreters agree that **Daniel 7** is a recapitulation of **Daniel 2**, meaning they cover the same 4 empires. In **Daniel 7**, the story of these 4 empires is told now through a vision of 4 beasts. The first beast (a winged lion; **Daniel 7:4**) represents Babylon, the second beast (A lop-sided bear – **Daniel 7:5**) represents Medo-Persia, and the third beast (A 4-headed leopard – **Daniel 7:6**) represents The Greek empire.

(Daniel 7:2-3 NASB) “Daniel said, “I was looking in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea. 3 And four great beasts were coming up from the sea, different from one another.”

(Daniel 7:17 NASB) ““These great beasts, which are four in number, are four kings who will arise from the earth.”

- b. The 4th beast is emphasized here as a crushing, devouring, trampling empire. Again, when the Roman Empire conquered a people, it was known to be more constructive than destructive. However, when the Islamic Caliphate spread, it was an incredibly destructive force to the peoples and cultures it conquered.

(Daniel 7:7 NASB) “... behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and extremely strong; and it had large iron teeth. It devoured and crushed, and trampled down the remainder with its feet...”

(Daniel 7:23 NASB) “... ‘The fourth beast will be a fourth kingdom on the earth which will be different from all the other kingdoms, and will devour the whole earth and trample it down and crush it.’”

(Daniel 7:24 NASB) “As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings will arise...”

- c. This 4th beast is seen having “10 horns” which represents the Antichrist’s coalition of Kings (The Revived Islamic Caliphate).

(Daniel 7:7, 24 NASB) “7...It [the 4th beast] was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns... 24 As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings will arise...”

- d. From among the 10 horns, Daniel saw another “little horn” emerge, which is the introduction not just of an empire, but a leader of that empire, The Antichrist. The little horn will “utter great boasts” and persecute the people of God.

(Daniel 7:8 NASB) “While I was thinking about the horns, behold, another horn, a little one, came up among them, and three of the previous horns were plucked out before it; and behold, this horn possessed eyes like human eyes, and a mouth uttering great boasts”

(Daniel 7:24B NASB) “...and another [horn] will arise after them [10 horns], and he will be different from the previous ones and will humble three kings.”

(Daniel 7:20-21, 25 NASB) “and [to know] the meaning of the ten horns that were on its head, and the other horn which came up, and before which three of the horns fell, namely, that horn which had eyes and a mouth uttering great boasts, and which was larger in appearance than its associates. 21 I kept looking, and that horn was waging war with the saints and prevailing against them... 25 And he will speak against the Most High and wear down the saints of the Highest One”

- e. The significance of this scripture is to point to the historic crushing, devouring, and trampling nature of this 4th beast. Though it was under the Roman Empire that Jerusalem and the temple were destroyed in 70 A.D., the Jewish nation did not mostly live under an overly oppressed state under the Roman Empire. It’s hard to say that the Roman Empire “spoke against the Most High” and “waged war with the saints” and “wore them down”. Historically, Islam has continually crushed, devoured, and trampled the Jewish people and the Christian church, all while speaking against the “Highest One”.

IV. Daniel 9:26 – The People of the prince who is to come

(Daniel 9:26 NASB) “...The people [the primary followers] of the prince [The Antichrist] who is to come [At the end of the age] will destroy the city [Jerusalem] and the sanctuary [The Jewish Temple of the 1st Century]...”

- a. Because **Daniel 9:26** says that “the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary”, it’s commonly (erroneously) believed that this is speaking of the Roman Empire, because in

70 A.D. “Rome” destroyed Jerusalem and destroyed the temple. There’s a two-fold problem with this belief: 1) The historical problem 2) The grammatical problem

- b. The Historical problem – When we begin to dig just below the surface of the events of 70 A.D. we learn that a consensus of historians tell us that few soldiers who actually destroyed the Temple and Jerusalem were actually European or from Rome. By 70 A.D. the vast majority of the Roman army was made up of provincials (citizens who lived in the provinces, the outer fringes of the Empire, away from the capital of Rome).
 - i. Publius Cornelius Tacitus (a senator and historian of the Roman Empire) confirms that the legions and peoples who attacked Jerusalem were “provincials” from Syria. He writes, “*This force was accompanied by a strong contingent of Arabs, who hated the Jews with the usual hatred of neighbors*”.
 - ii. Titus Flavius Josephus (A historian from this time period) confirms that the Roman legions used to attack Jerusalem were stationed in Syria and the surrounding regions. He writes, “*Malchus also, the king of Arabia, sent 1,000 horsemen, besides 5,000 footmen...including the auxiliaries [volunteer soldiers] sent by the kings... when all were united together amounted to 60,000.*”
 - iii. Josephus also records that Titus (The conquer and later emperor of the Roman Empire) believed the Jewish temple was something to be respected, and when he was told that it was on fire, he ran to the temple to have them put out the fire. It was not the command of Rome to burn the temple; the “provincials”, out of their deep hatred toward the Jewish people, burned it down.
 - iv. It was understood that many soldiers that attacked Jerusalem were worshippers of a sun god. This was common among Middle-Easterners who worshiped different astral deities (*Islam still bows down to Allah, the god who is most often represented by the crescent moon*). These were clearly ancestors of the Muslim people.
- c. The Grammatical Problem – The word used for “people” in **Daniel 9:26** is the Hebrew word “am” which is an ethnic denotation. It is not referring to a geographic kingdom or empire, but the ethnicity of the people. This means that the ethnicity of those who burned Jerusalem and the temple are the “*people of the prince to come*” (i.e. Middle Eastern people).

V. Revelation 17 – The Final Beast Empire

(Revelation 17:3, 9-11 NASB) “And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness; and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast, full of blasphemous names, having seven heads and ten horns... 9 Here is the mind which has wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains upon which the woman sits, 10 and they are seven kings; five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; and when he comes, he must remain a little while. 11 The beast which was, and is not, is himself also an eighth and is one of the seven, and he goes to destruction.”

- a. Throughout scripture the symbol of a mountain refers to a kingdom (***Psalm 30:7; 68:15-16; Isaiah 2:2; 41:15; Jeremiah 51:25; Daniel 2:35; Habakkuk 3:6,10; Zechariah 4:17***). Understanding that Revelation’s seven mountains are a reference to 7 literal successive kingdoms that persecuted Israel, makes this passage easy to understand. The purpose of this passage is to expose Satan’s primary method of attacking the people of God through history; *he uses a pagan empire to attempt to destroy the Jewish people and God’s redemptive plan*.
- b. ***Five have fallen, one is*** – At the time John wrote the book of Revelation five of the kingdoms were past (five have fallen), but the sixth was presently in power (one is). That “one”(the 6th), was the Roman Empire. The first five historical empires were: Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, & Greece.

- c. ***The other has not yet come*** – This means the seventh Kingdom had not yet come at that time in history. The empire that conquered the Roman empire was the Turkish/Ottoman Empire or Islamic Caliphate which also persecuted Israel. Thus we can conclude the 7th kingdom is the Caliphate.
- d. ***The beast...is also an eighth and is one of the seven*** - We know that the Beast (antichrist) comes from an “*eighth*” pagan empire, which is “*one of the seven heads*”, now we only have to identify which one of the seven. What’s important in deciding “*which one*”, is remembering that ***Revelation 17*** is a recapitulation of ***Daniel 2*** and ***Daniel 7*** (Those chapters provide important context).
 - i. ***Revelation 13:2*** gives us more insight into the beast empire by telling us the Antichrist empire looks like a combination of the Babylonians, Medo-Persian, and Greek Empires. The only Empire that conquered the all of the other nations is the Islamic Caliphate.

(Revelation 13:2 NASB) “And the beast that I saw was like a leopard (Greece), and his feet were like those of a bear (Medo-Persia), and his mouth like the mouth of a lion (Babylon). And the dragon gave him his power and his throne, and great authority.”

- ii. ***Understanding the fatal head wound of the beast*** – ***Revelation 13:3*** tells us that the beast suffers a “fatal head wound”. While this might refer to a literal head wound, context can help us understand that it’s definitely referring to the “*death*” and “*revival*” of the final beast empire or Islamic Caliphate. The Islamic Caliphate was “*beheaded*” in 1924 when the Turkish reformer Mustafa Kemal Attaturk abolished the Caliphate.

(Revelation 13:3 NASB) “I saw one of his heads [kingdoms/empires] as if it had been fatally wounded, and his fatal wound was healed. And the whole earth was amazed and followed after the beast”

- iii. The eight kingdoms are as follows:

1. Egyptian Empire
2. Assyrian Empire
3. Babylonian Empire
4. Medo-Persian Empire
5. Greek Empire
6. Roman Empire
7. Islamic Caliphate
8. Revived Islamic Caliphate

VI. The “Theology” of the Antichrist

(Daniel 11:37-38 NASB) “And he [The Antichrist] will show no regard for the gods of his fathers or for the desire of women, nor will he show regard for any other god; for he will boast against them all. 38 But instead he will honor a god of fortresses, a god whom his fathers did not know; he will honor him with gold, silver, precious stones, and treasures.”

- a. Daniel gives us some important insight into the “*theology*” of the Antichrist. ***Daniel 11:37-38*** gives a sort of four-fold “*statement of faith*” that the Antichrist holds to. The first three parts of this scripture define what the Antichrist rejects or denies. The fourth part reveals what he affirms.

- b. The Antichrist rejects “the God of his fathers” – The Hebrew phrase used for “*God of his fathers*” is “*elohim ab*”. Every time this phrase is used in scripture it is in reference to “Yahweh”. Because of this, many people believe the Antichrist will be Jewish, however he could easily be an “*Ishmaelite*” or a descendant of any of Abraham’s sons live in the Middle East today. The main point of this first part of the scriptures is to say, that he shows no regard for Yahweh, The God of Abraham. Though Muslims might say that Allah is the same God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, Allah is more closely knit with the moon god that Abraham left behind when Yahweh called him out of Ur.
- c. The Antichrist rejects “the desire of women” – The phrase is commonly used to “*prove*” that the Antichrist will be a homosexual male. However most bible scholars understand this phrase is as a *Messianic reference to Jesus the Messiah*. “*The desire of women*” is the natural desire of Jewish women to become the mother of the promised Messiah. What this part of the scripture is saying is, that the Antichrist will reject Jesus, the Son of God, and our Messiah. Islam is clear in their belief that Jesus was not the Son of God. statements are written throughout the Dome of the Rock (which sits on the Temple Mount) that say God does not have a son.

(Luke 1:46-48 NASB) “And Mary said... For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed.”

- d. The Antichrist rejects “every other god” – Simply put, the antichrist will reject every other god. He will not be a “*universalist*” that is accepting of all world religions.
- e. The Antichrist affirms and honors, “a god of fortress” – Though the Antichrist rejects The Father and Son, as well as every other god, he does serve a “*god of fortress*”. The understanding of “*fortress*” here is “*means of protection*” or “*force*” which is can be expressed a “*god of war*”. The Antichrist will worship a god of war or “*Islamic jihad*” which can be defined as military campaign or holy wars.
- f. In light of this four-fold statement of faith, we can conclude that the Antichrist will not only speak against the God of the Bible, but against every other “*god*” too. When the Antichrist sits in the temple of God (***2 Thessalonians 2:3-4***), he will not claim to be God, but be better than God. From that place he will demand worship/loyalty from everyone on the planet and those who don’t worship him, will be persecuted, enslaved, or killed.

(2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 NASB) “No one is to deceive you in any way! For it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, 4 who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God.”

VII. Conclusion

- a. Again, Islam is the fastest growing religion in the world, with over 1.9 billion in the Islamic faith. By 2050 the number of Muslims will nearly equal the number of Christians. One has to ask, if this is a Jerusalem and Middle Eastern Centric storyline where most Middle Eastern countries are predominantly Islamic how would a non Islamic Antichrist win over the Middle East. The answer is simple; **The Antichrist will be Islam’s awaited Mahdi (Messiah figure)**.
 - i. The Mahdi is Islam’s “*Messiah*” figure. Muslim’s believe that the Mahdi will be the final Caliph (The chief Muslim civil and religious ruler) will appear in the end times to institute a global Islamic society. There has been call for the restoration of an Islamic Caliphate where the Mahdi can function as the final Caliph. The Mahdi is believed to lead a world revolution through jihad that will result in an Islamic “*great harvest*”.
 - ii. Muslim majority countries include: Turkey 98%, Syria 92.8%, Iran 99%, Iraq 99%, Saudi Arabia 92.7%, Egypt 95.3%, Libya 95.3%, Sudan 90.7%.