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**Appendix 1: Modern Religions, Cultures of Darkness**
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## 8: Iron/Clay Kingdom = Sea/Earth Beasts' Empire

**To sum things up so far: Through these prophetic visions in the Books of Daniel and Revelation, God is presenting to His people a realistic picture of the beast-like kingdoms that have come and gone through history.**

**And He is encouraging our faith. We are astounded by His grand foresight, which reminds us that God is in control. We see how John the apostle's amazing vision of the two End of the Age empires (in Revelation 13) pictured so far in advance the historical reality that is even now unfolding in our modern world; and of course, how Daniel's vision of the *"image"* (in Daniel 2) portrayed so simply the complex situation of our modern times (and of the near future).**

**These two visions (in Daniel 2 and Revelation 13) give us a basic outline of the dual nature of the final empire and how it will appear: physically, as a political alliance of two geographical territories, and spiritually, as the merger of the "religions" of Demagoguery and Materialism.**

**In addition to those two chapters, we have the Daniel 7 vision of *Beasts*. At this point it will help to draw attention to the unusual fact that no less than three times the *"fourth beast"* in Daniel 7 is said to be *"different from all the beasts that were before it"* (7:7,19,23) So what is it that makes this Beast *"different"*?**

**Probably, just the fact that this *"fourth beast"* with its *"ten horns"* reappears in Revelation 13 and 17, showing that it represents both the ancient Roman empire and the modern empire of the Antichrist. But there are some other points that can be mentioned.**

**The first clue appears in the Daniel 2 *"image"* in which a non-metal component appears in its feet: the *"clay"* mixed in with the metal of *"iron".* The second clue appears in Revelation 13 where we see an unusual (*"different"*) Beast who comes on the scene, rising out of the *"earth"* instead of the *"sea"*, as did all the other *Beasts* of the past.**

**Finally, in Revelation 17 we are told that *"the beast* [referring to the *Sea-Beast*]… *is himself also the eighth* [referring to the *Earth-Beast*]*, and is of the seven"* (17:11) If he is *"of the seven* [*Sea-Beasts*]", then how is he *"also the eighth"*? This, it would appear, is a way of accounting for the seven *Sea-Beasts* of history, plus the *Earth-Beast* (introduced in Revelation 13). This new Beast is both different from the other *Beasts* yet works alongside and joins with the 7th and final *Sea-Beast*.**

**And it confirms once more what was said in Daniel 7 – about the final *Beast* being *"different"* from all other *Beasts*. For in addition to being a *Sea-Beast*, this *"fourth beast"* of Daniel 7 is also an *Earth-Beast*. (For more information about the mystery of the *Eighth Head/Beast*, see [Appendix 4: "The Eighth Head/Beast"](#).)**

**This peculiar duality marks another way in which the End of the Age empire will differ from the empires of ancient times. Besides a dual physical geography, which was characteristic of Medo-Persia and Rome, the modern empire has also a dual cultural (or spiritual) geography.**

**And besides the presence of two empires, the End of the Age era will feature two rulers. Just as the golden head of the image was symbolic of a specific ruler (Nebuchadnezzar), so the iron and clay feet should also**

**symbolize two specific rulers. (Daniel 2:38) In the Book of Revelation they are called *Beasts*, and one of them is named specifically as the *False Prophet* (19:20, 20:10), and the other one is known as the Antichrist.**

**And although there are two separate rulers (and empires), yet they manage to operate simultaneously as one. In ancient times it was simpler. In the Daniel 2 vision of the *"image"*, the dual geographic empires of Medo-Persia and Rome were each symbolized by only one metal material (represented by silver and iron respectively). That meant the same regime, or same type of regime, was ruling in each territory.**

**But the feet portion of the image is different: It is made up of two materials, not just one, meaning there are two types of regimes involved. And since the two materials are mixed, that suggests something a little more complex, namely, the kind of union of two Beasts we learn about in Revelation 13; it goes beyond just a union of two territories.**

**East and West Rome had a uniform iron-only type of government and religion (of Caesar worship); it was the same metal empire split into two parts. But in the *"feet"* there is this mixed-up iron-clay government and religion (military Demagoguery mixed with economic Materialism) situated in a dual geographic empire.**

**This duality (two systems of government and religion) of the final empire is seen again in the Revelation 13 portrayal of two separate *Beasts* working together (rather than one *Beast* split into two geographical areas). It is said of the *Earth-Beast* that *"he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence."* (Revelation 13:12) The *"in his presence"* phrase makes it clear that the two *Beasts* are not rivals but are able to work together.**

**In our modern era, it is the inclusion of the *Earth-Beast's* (the *False Prophet's*) materialism that brings in an extra enticement to worship the other *Beast* from the *Sea* (the Antichrist). This is more than another form of emperor worship, as existed in the past; but integrated right in with that, the name of the Antichrist also brings access to the world's buying and selling activities.**

**Mammon and Emperor worship fuse together – a powerful combination**

**that will captivate much of the world in these *Last Days* of dominance by the forces of Darkness.**

**What a remarkable glimpse into the future were these revelations from so long ago! And how remarkable too that we can now finally see it taking shape in our present historical reality.**

**Both the vision of the *"image"* in Daniel 2 and of the two *"beasts"* in Revelation 13 reveal the uniqueness of our modern world compared to that of ancient times (which is why the Daniel 7 revelation pictures the final *Beast* as being *"different from all the others"* – 7:19). For the *Beast* is actually two *Beasts*, and they each operate in both territories.**

**In today's world, geographic/political expansion is not the only way to conquer, so it is possible for this to happen. The two superpowers (*"beasts"*) needn't confine themselves too much to geographic borders, in other words. The less visible boundaries of media and economic imperialism (what we might call "spiritual geography") have helped create this unusual state of affairs in our modern world.**

**In this way, adulation of the Antichrist, via media technology, can spread throughout the Eurasian empire, as well as some of the rest of the world. Likewise, the *False Prophet's* domain extends everywhere. We know this is possible, simply by observing how in our modern world financial power can be used to crush the economies of distant nations; or in how credit card companies have extended their operations into every corner of the world.**

**So this concept of *"spiritual geography"* has taken on a new twist. Unlike the ancient empires, the spiritual geography of each modern empire – by means of modern technology – spreads far beyond the boundaries of their physical conquest. (More on this in Post 10: Role of Technology)**

**And even more unusual, their "spiritual geographies" mix; they blend together to create this peculiar "religion" that is an offshoot of (what this study has proposed) the merger of the European and Asian land masses.**

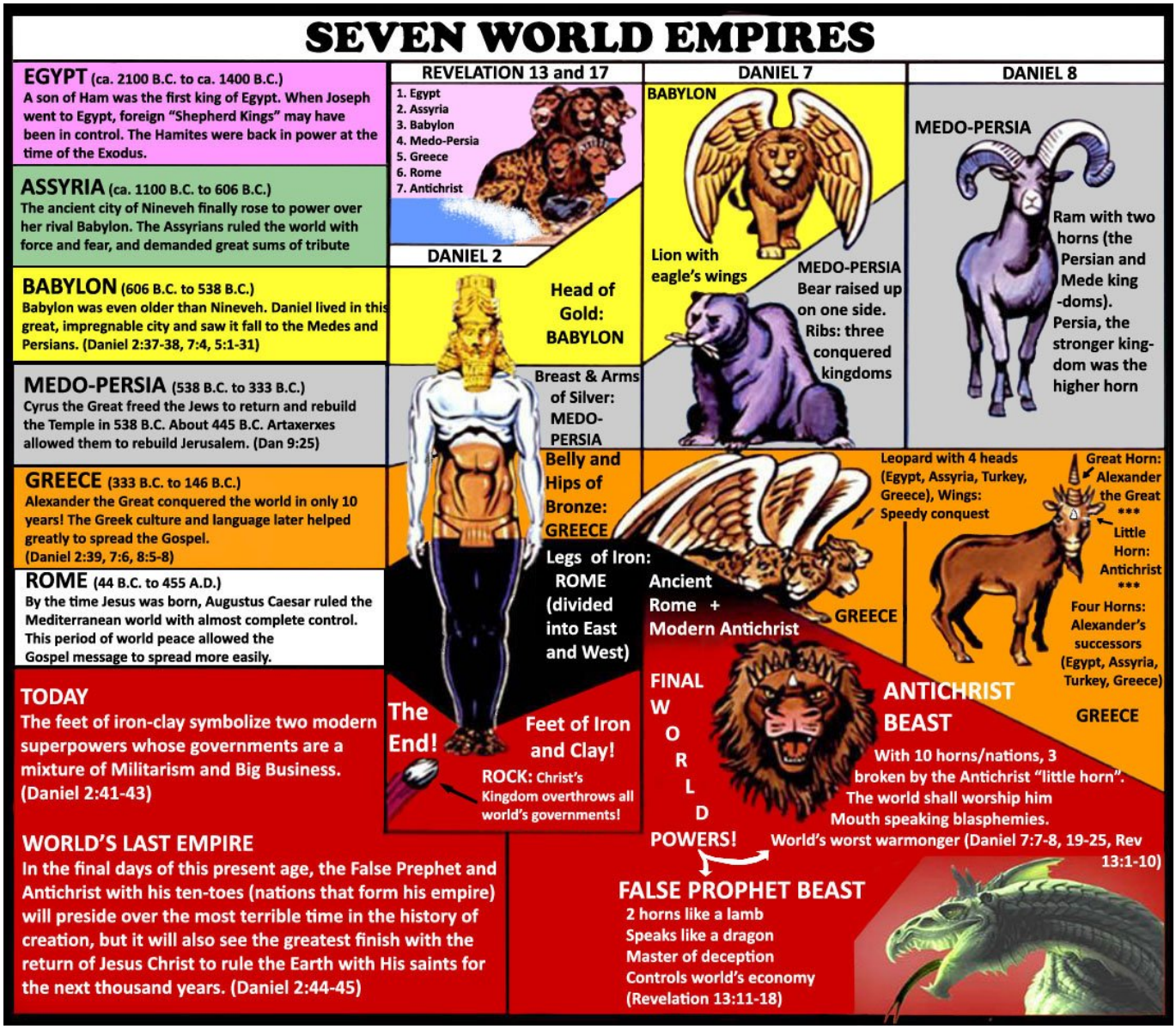
**The land masses themselves, of course, cannot blend together. And the**

**physical geography is therefore symbolized by the two separate feet of the *"image"*. But in the "spiritual geography" dimension, they do mix. And this unusual feature is expressed in various ways as,**

**1) *"iron mixed with miry clay"* in the feet of the Daniel 2 vision**
**2) the Sea and Earth Beasts working together in Revelation 13**
**3) *"the beast* [from the sea]… *is himself also the eighth* [the *Beast* from the *Earth*] in Revelation 17:11." (See Appendix 4: Eighth Head.)**

**Mammon-worship combines with Emperor-worship, and together they get a powerful grip on the world's allegiance. Or, in modern terms, the world's two main secular "religions" combine – Materialism (*"mark of the beast"* cashless society) and secular Demagoguery (Antichrist's military rule). In ancient times, this might have been called the union of the gods of war and wealth, Mars and Mammon; today, we might call it the union of Militarism and Materialism.**

**In the following more technical explanation of how all this works, we can look again at the diagram of empires (first encountered in Post 2 about "Spiritual and Physical Geography").**




**In the above picture (adapted from publication made during the *Jesus Revolution* era) the Daniel 2 *Image* section of it is linked with the *Beasts* of Daniel 7. The feet portion of the *Image* links with the *Fourth Beast* of Daniel 7, which symbolizes both the ancient Roman empire and the final empire.**

**About 50 years after the vision of the *"image"* in Daniel 2, Daniel received another vision: the same progression of empires, but symbolized in a different form – as *"beasts from the sea."* ("Daniel 7" in the above**

**illustration)**

> ***"And four great beasts came up from the sea… Those great beasts… are four kings, which shall arise."* (Daniel 7:3,17)**

**In these two chapters of Daniel 2 and 7, the Lord is portraying the same thing from different viewpoints. Thus, in the above diagram the metallic kingdoms in the Daniel 2 *"image"* are shown corresponding with the different *"beasts"* of Daniel 7.**

**Of peculiar interest is the *"dreadful fourth beast".* (Daniel 7:7) It corresponds to the *"fourth kingdom"* of the Daniel 2 *"image"* (the portion of it that includes both the *"iron legs"* and *"iron and clay feet"*). This Beast (with its ten horns and embellished description) represents more than just ancient Rome. Like a double-image exposure in photography, it includes the End Time empire. (For more information on how there can be such a long historical gap between ancient Rome and the modern day, see Footnote 1.)**

**And this resembles how the *"fourth kingdom"* of the *"image"* in Daniel 2 was portrayed. Although the legs clearly symbolize ancient Rome, it is in the *"feet"* region of the *"fourth kingdom"* that the Stone comes to crush the *"image"* and establish God's Kingdom on Earth.**

**Yet there is a certain amount of continuity: the iron in the legs continues on into the feet. Likewise, the *"dreadful"* features of the *"fourth* beast", found in ancient Rome, will also manifest, in an even more catastrophic way, in the final empire. (See Appendix 2: How Iron Continues in Today's World.)**

**Even though both legs and feet of the image are called the *"fourth kingdom"*, this tail end of the *"fourth kingdom"* could have been called the "fifth kingdom". That is, we can safely assume that the *"feet"* portion of the legs actually represents another empire, coming after the Roman empire.**

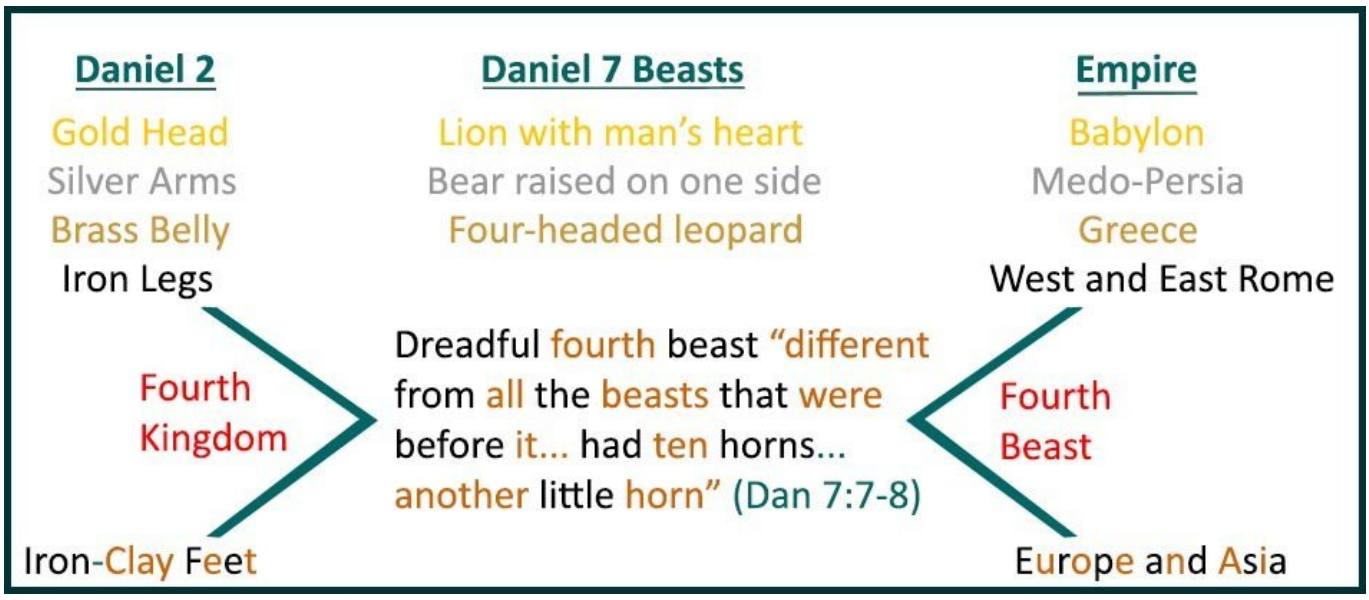
**This is that final era when the *"iron"* nature of government inherited long ago from Rome mixes with another substance – the *"miry clay"*… coming just before that climactic moment in history when the Stone hits**

**the feet of the *Image* and ushers in the Millennial reign of Christ on Earth.**

**There are other clues pointing to the fact that this *"fourth beast"* in Daniel 7 includes the End of the Age empire. Perhaps the most obvious is the presence of the *"ten horns"*; they re-appear in Revelation 12, 13, and 17 where it is clear that the setting is the End of the Age period of history.**

**Revelation 17:12 states, *"The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet."* They had not received their kingdom in John's day, during the era of the Roman Empire, because they were not part of that 6th *Head* of the *Beast.* At that time they were tribal societies, existing outside the boundaries of the Roman empire.**

**But now in the Modern Age they have become nations and are becoming part of the 7th *Head.* Interestingly, they have undergone a period of subjection in the Soviet Union and have, in a sense, received their kingdom in recent times. Their independence was given to them at the time of the Soviet Union's collapse in the early 1990's.**




**At this point (Daniel's time) in the ongoing revelation of the future, the distinction between the ancient and modern empires was rather vague and did not get clarified until about six centuries later.**

**When John the Apostle received his revelations, he saw a vision of two Beasts who were to arise in the Time of the End: the first one, a 10-horned *"beast from the sea",* who is a sort of reproduction of the same 10-horned *Beast* in Daniel 7 (except it has *7 Heads*), and a new and very different two-horned *"beast from the earth".* (Revelation 13:1,11) (Learn more about the significance of these 7 Heads in Footnote 2 and about the Horns in the post "Ten Horns Coming into View?".)**

**Since the materials cum body parts in the image of Daniel 2 correspond to the various *Beasts* in Daniel 7, then those materials/ body parts might also correspond with the *Beasts* mentioned in Revelation 13 and 17. Thus, we could add the following entries to the above chart, zooming in to more precisely match the *"iron and clay feet"* with their corresponding *"beasts"* (of Revelation 13):**

> **The *"iron"* in the *"feet"* matches with the 7-headed, 10-horned *Sea-Beast* of Revelation 13:1-10.**
>
> **The *"clay"* in the *"feet"* matches with the dragon-like *Earth-Beast* of Revelation 13:11-18.**

| Daniel 2 Feet | Revelation 13 Beasts | | Revelation 17:11 | Empire |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| IRON | Sea-Beast with 7 Heads and 10 horns | Beast # 7 | The Beast that was, and is not, is himself also the eighth | ? Russia+ China+ Europe(?) superpower ? |
| mixed with | | | | |
| CLAY | Earth-Beast who had 2 horns like a lamb and spoke as a dragon | Beast # 8 | | |

**So what all this means is that within the *"fourth beast/kingdom"*, besides the iron-only empire of Rome, there are two more empires, coming at the End of the Age, to be accounted for; they are the**

**simultaneous empires of the Antichrist and False Prophet. In Daniel 2 and 7 they are viewed as one *"fourth kingdom/fourth beast"*, and the full reality and distinctions don't emerge until later – in the 13th and 17th chapter of the *Revelation Book*.**

**As we've learned, the feet by themselves symbolize the apparent geographical division (Europe/Asia) while the iron and clay mixture, which is found in both feet, symbolizes the less tangible spiritual geography: the warlike metal power (Russia) in both *"feet"* of Europe and Asia, and the commercial clay powers (China/EU), also in both *"feet"* of Europe and Asia. (Of course, it is only an assumption right now that European nations will break away from U.S. influence to join the Russia-China combine.)**

**The Revelation 13 passage portrays the same from a different angle: describing the activities of two different Beasts and how they work closely together to forge a single empire.**

**This situation is coming about largely because the *"clay-earth"* power has grown stronger through the centuries – to the point where it has achieved supremacy in the modern world and become a Beast in its own right, as portrayed in Revelation 13:11-18. (See Appendix 3: Background History, Clay-Earth Bloc.)**

**And as the commercial forces have had to worm their way into the world's courts of power to survive, so the military-political systems, in order to stay afloat, have been forced to compromise and cooperate with the powers of big business. The symbolism of *"iron-clay"* reflects nicely the present historical landscape, with its mix of economic and military-political forces.**

**And this will be reflected in the religious realm also: there will be this mixing of Emperor worship and Mammon worship. In the economic-political domain, it appears the mixing has already happened on the micro level. Rome's *"iron"* style of government exists in every nation, while the *"clay"* style of commercial rule by the ultra-rich *"merchants"* has also expanded throughout the world. And the two exist side by side now in almost every country.**

**And on the macro level we are starting to see it nowadays in the**

**growing cooperation between Russia and China, and possibly the European Union later on.**

**To summarize, the *"image"* (pictured in Daniel 2) has two types of materials: the various metals, and then finally the clay material. This symbolic representation shows that two styles of government have existed in the world – the military-political (metal), which has dominated for a long time, and the business-commercial (clay), a late bloomer, coming to full power only in recent history (in the feet of the Daniel 2 image).**

**(Incidentally, to understand why this study has chosen the militarism-materialism power blocs, instead of dictatorship-democracy or other models, to represent the iron-clay symbolism, a review of the Appendix in Post 4: "Economic Superpower: the New Beast" is helpful.**

**So isn't it intriguing how the ancient revelations in the Daniel and Revelation Books had grasped these peculiar features of modern history so long before they would come to pass and become a reality that we are only now beginning to comprehend?**

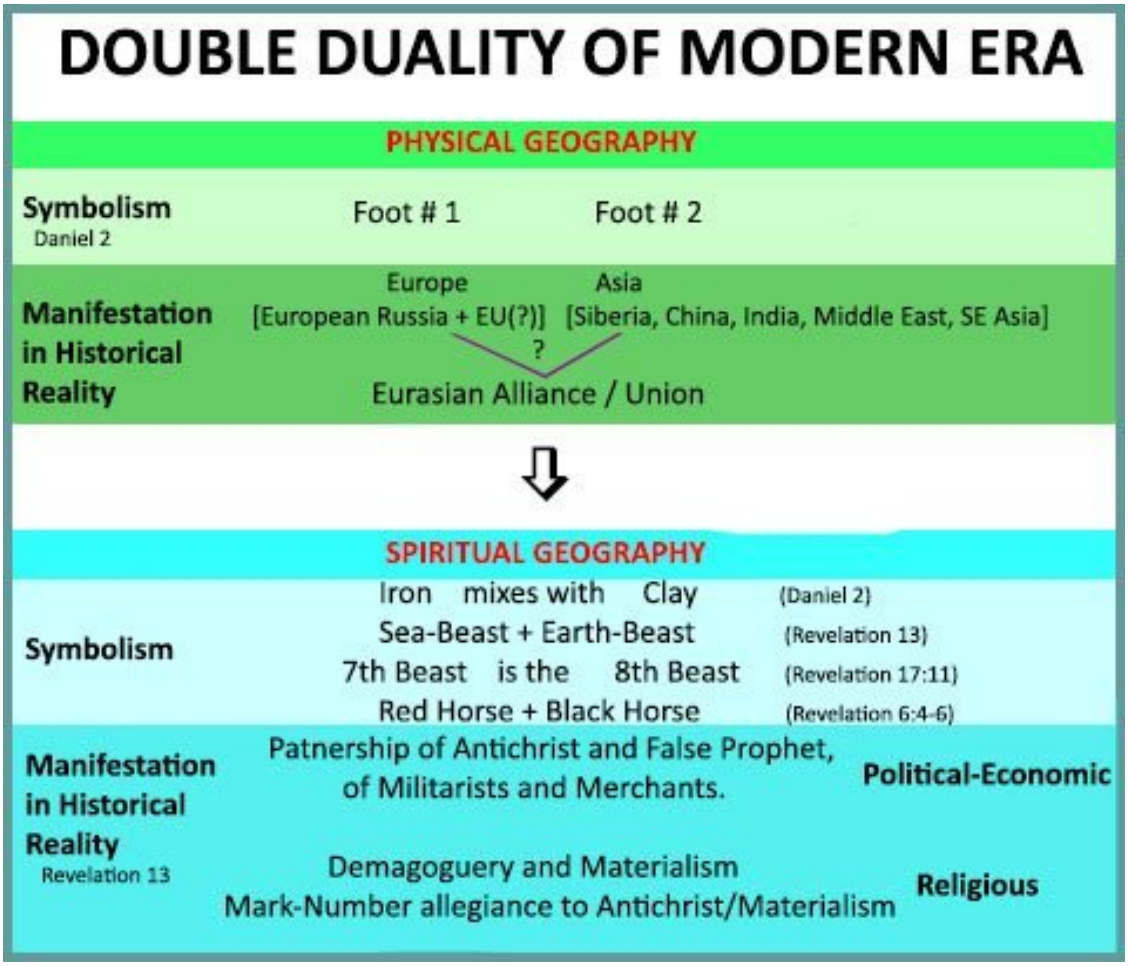
**First, it was Daniel's vision – such a clever, yet simple way for the Lord to illustrate the panorama of history, including the complex economic-political and religious situation of our modern times (*"iron mixed with miry clay"* in the *"feet"* – Daniel 2:41,43, KJV). Then later on, John the Apostle saw something similar from a different angle – two *"beasts"* from the *"earth"* and *"sea"* working closely together; and finally, he was given the angel's explanation about a two-beasts-in-one arrangement: *"The beast… is himself also the eighth and is of the seven"*. (Revelation 13, 17:11) (See Appendix 4: Eighth Head.)**

**We might call it a double duality. If the interpretations in this study are correct, we can say that**

**1) just as there are two legs (representing Europe and Asia), so there are**
**2) two parts to the warlike Sea-Beast (European Russia and Siberia) and**
**3) two parts to the commercial Earth-Beast (China and EU)**

**A peculiar "double duality": two territories occupied by two Beasts, each of whom resides in both territories. That picture may be over-simplified (or over-complicated), but hopefully, it gives at least the general outline.**

**Isn't it remarkable that the historical reality, that seems to be taking shape nowadays, merely reflects the Biblical symbolism: the "double duality" features of the two iron-and-clay feet in the Daniel 2 image and the two Beasts of Revelation 13?**




**<u>Some Food for Thought</u>:**

**This portrayal in Revelation 13 of the *"beast from the sea"* and the *"beast from the earth"* echoes a previous vision in chapter 6 of the *Book of Revelation*. It describes the *"red horse"* and *"black horse"* who are symbolic of spiritual forces – the**

**powers of war and greed, Militarism and Materialism – that were to be unleashed upon the Earth in these *Last Days* at the opening of the *"scroll* [of the future]… *sealed with seven seals".* (Revelation 5:1)**

**For centuries since the *Revelation Book* was written, these forces did not seem to manifest themselves in any greater measure than before – that is, not until recently when technology has begun to cause their destructive power to multiply enormously. (Revelation 6:3-6, 5:1-2) (It appears that the restraining forces against *"the mystery of lawlessness"* are being removed in our modern day, as mentioned in 2Thessalonins 2:7.)**

**The Revelation 13 chapter seems to portray these same spiritual forces from a more down-to-earth viewpoint, describing the actual military and economic strongholds from which these *Horses/Beasts* carry out their destructive influence in the earthly realm. And going even further with this, Daniel 2 also appears to symbolize, from another perspective, these spiritual forces of Militarism and Materialism – as *"iron and clay".***

**So, that's an interesting pattern in the Bible's tapestry that the Lord seems to have woven into the Daniel and Revelation Books.**

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**Continue to 9: *"The Kingdom Shall Be Divided"***

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## Footnote 1: Long Historical Gap

**One may wonder, how can these visions in Daniel 2 and 7 be interpreted to include such a long historical gap between ancient times and the modern day? See Post 5 and Post 6 in the series *When Is the Coming of Christ and the End of the Age?* And here is a quote from Post 3A in the series *Ancient Mideast Turmoil Telescopes into Modern Times:***

**Like a rudder, this *"prince of the* covenant" phrase [in Daniel 11:22] redirects the flow of the prophetic message. Or, we could say, like a marker or signpost it shows us where we are and**

**where we're headed. And so at this point the prophecy telescopes from the ancient Seleucid kingdom into the modern era (or near future). This is not as unusual as one might think; this peculiar sort of catapulting from an ancient historical era to the modern era pops up in all the other revelations Daniel had about the distant future.**

**For example, in the *"70 weeks"* prophecy there is a shift from ancient Roman times (in verse 26) straight into modern times (verse 27). There are similar shifts elsewhere: in chapter 2 about the vision of the *"image"*, the iron legs of Rome shift to the iron-clay feet of the End Time kingdom; in chapter 7, the *"fourth beast"* is symbolic of both ancient Rome and the modern Antichrist kingdom; in chapter 8 the revelation about the ancient Greek kingdom's rise to power switches suddenly into the End Time; there the clue was the phrase *"in the latter time of their kingdom"*. (8:23)**

**All these predictions in the *Book of Daniel* assume the existence of the Israeli nation. They were given to a Jewish prophet who was anticipating the coming of the Messiah and seeking God about the fate of his nation, which at the time looked rather bleak. So naturally, these predictions about the Second Coming are linked to the history and fate of the nation of Israel. But for almost 2,000 years there was no Israel (and no Second Coming either). So of course, there has to be a "jump" – from the ancient time to the distant future, a day when Israel would be restored as a nation (and a time when Earth is desperately in need of God's intervention).**

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## Footnote 2: Seven Heads of the Beast

**A seven-headed, ten-horned monster appears as a *"beast"* in Revelation 13 and 17 and another two-horned monster speaking as a *"dragon"* in chapter 13. Here we will look at the significance of the *7 Heads*. These *Heads* appear to be different manifestations of the same Beast who has appeared throughout history, showing that this final version will have the combined wisdom and might of all previous empires.**

**Here is a brief, and by no means complete, summary of features borrowed from previous empires that will empower the final empire to rule the world of the near-future:**

- **Egypt: deep spiritual links to the realm of Darkness, slave labour organization**
- **Assyria: ruthlessness**
- **Babylon: wisdom**
- **Medo-Persia: administration, practical genius**
- **Greece: charismatic ruler, speedy conquest of territory**
- **Rome: military-political administration**
- **Final head: modern technology**

**There is an interesting passage in Daniel 7 about some of these former *"beasts"*: *"As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was removed, but they were granted an extension of life for a season and a time."* (7:12, BSB) The empires of Babylon, Medo-Persia, and Greece all came to an end; but the *"extension of life"* mentioned in this passage may refer to the fact that they (and the other empires) will continue, spiritually at least, until the end. In that way their impact on the world can be felt once more in the final empire – which is why Revelation 13 and 17 describe it as *"having seven heads"*. (13:1, 17:3)**

**At that time when Christ returns, all the former *"beasts"* will be destroyed along with the final Beast. In the Daniel 2 vision *"a stone* (symbolic of Christ)… *struck the image on its feet of iron and clay* [the final empire]*, and broke them in pieces. Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold, all together were broken in pieces, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, so that not a trace of them could be found."* (Daniel 2:34-35) And this matches with the Daniel 7 passage: *"I watched till the beast was slain, and its body destroyed and given to the burning flame… the court shall be seated, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and destroy it forever."* (7:11, 26)**

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**Continue to 9: *“The Kingdom Shall Be Divided”***