

Ten Horns Coming into View?

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Theories abound to explain that mysterious group of nations, the “*ten horns*” featured in the Bible chapters of Daniel 7 and Revelation 13 and 17. What do these *Horns* on the head of history’s final *Beast-empire* symbolize? In previous generations, no satisfactory answer could be given – simply because historical conditions did not yet match, accurately enough, the conditions set down in the prophetic passages mentioned above. But it appears, at last, those historical conditions are now coming into view.

How did the mystery of the *Ten Horns*’ identity come to my attention? It’s a funny story in a way, and I suppose it is worth a brief interlude here to tell it.

Back in the mid-1990’s, when considering the question of who are the *Ten Horns*, a peculiar thing happened. At the time my understanding was that somehow the European nations could fulfil this *Ten Horns* role. However, the European Union had grown somewhat in size, and I was beginning to think that Europe would fit better as the *Earth-Beast*, described in Revelation 13:11-18. If that were the case, then who could the *Ten Horns* be? The thought popped into my head that maybe the newly formed group of nations, formerly from the Soviet Union, known as the Commonwealth of Independent States, might fit that role. But no, that sounded too foolish, and I was pretty sure that there must be many more than just 10 of those states.

Anyway, it seemed only right that I should at least confirm what a silly idea it was, and should check it out. There happened to be a children’s atlas where I was staying at the time (in Mumbai, India). Fully expecting to have this new idea shattered, I was surprised to read that the Commonwealth of Independent States had a total of 11 nations. Hmm, well that’s pretty close, much closer than what I had thought. But then, as I continued to read, I became even more surprised, shocked in fact. The

atlas said that the C.I.S. consisted of 11 nations - Russia plus 10 smaller ones. So, instead of having the idea shattered, as I fully expected, my reading in the atlas only confirmed it. At this point I could sense the presence, quite strongly, of the Holy Spirit, along with a group of other spirit beings. And it was as if they were there to confirm the truthfulness of what I had just read. It was as if they were saying, "Well, did you get the point?" So all that to say, it was because of that incident that the faith was born in me to search out and understand this matter more fully and to go ahead and teach it (here on the website at least).

Before proceeding further, it may help to clear up a certain area of misunderstanding, one that has come about from a mis-translation of Revelation 17:16 in older Bible versions: "*And the ten horns which you saw on the beast, these will hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire.*" (NKJV) This translation makes it sound as if the *Ten Horns* are the ones doing the monumental job of destroying the *Great Harlot*. But where the above translation says "*ON the beast*", it should have said "*AND the beast*".

A more accurate translation reads,

"*And the ten horns that you saw AND THE BEAST, these will hate the harlot etc.*"

(found in newer Bible versions: [NIV](#), [ESV](#), [NLT](#), [NAS](#), and others). This translation more clearly shows that it is the *Beast* who destroys the *Great Harlot*... with the help of his *Ten Horns*, of course. (See [Appendix 1: "Translation Quirks"](#).)

According to the symbolism, these ten nations do not have any significant power of their own. A "beast" has all the organs, skeletal framework, musculature, limbs, everything that forms a body. It symbolizes a superpower (and its leader) with all the infrastructure - political-military organization, wealth, industry, population, weapons - everything that's needed to rule much of the world. The horns, on the other hand, are a small part of the body and can only do what their "head" wants them to do.

The “head” in this case is the Antichrist. In Daniel 7 he is portrayed also as “*another horn, a little one*” – but a horn that had “*eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking great things*”. (7:8) The *Ten Horns*, however, do not possess these characteristics, meaning they have nothing close to the same kind of power and influence. They are appendages and do not act independently of their *Beast* (the *Little Horn*) who directs them and uses them to fight against other predators and enemies. Their role is limited to that of helping to strengthen the *Beast* so he can carry out his war against the *Great Harlot*.

And yet, paradoxically, they do “*receive authority as kings for one hour, together with the beast*.” (Revelation 17:12) So what could all this mean?

At this stage, it would help to pinpoint who is the *Beast*. That is easy. Ezekiel 38-39 predicts that in the End of the Age era the northern power of Russia will invade the Middle East, especially the nation of Israel. As far as God is concerned, all the empires of human history are beast-like. But Russia, like the other *Beasts* mentioned in Daniel 7-8 and Revelation 13, will have that unique qualification of a Biblical Beast – namely, control over and occupation of the nation of Israel. (See Posts on [Ezekiel 38-39](#).)

Since the ten-horned beast likely originates in the Russian nation (according to Ezekiel 38-39), then it would seem natural that those ten horns should have a close relationship with Russia. Horns are supposed to be attached to the beast they are part of. This close connection is also suggested in Daniel 7:8 and 20 – “*There came up among them another horn (Antichrist from Russia)... that seemed greater than its companions.*” Even though the passage portrays this final empire as a “*beast*”, it also portrays its leader as a fellow comrade “*horn*”.

So who then might these horns be? The satellite nations on Russia’s border would appear to be the most likely candidates as the fulfillment of the *Ten Horns* symbolism.

The Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) is a regional intergovernmental organization of originally ten post-Soviet republics in Eurasia formed following the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991. (from Wikipedia: “Commonwealth of Independent

States")



These satellite nations have already partnered with Russia in the Commonwealth of Independent States (C.I.S.) organization. In the 1990's there were 11 nations in this group - Russia plus the 10 states of Belarus, Moldova, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan. (Turkmenistan, because of its economic independence, was able to maintain "associate" status rather than become a full member.) Since the 1990's, Ukraine and Georgia have dropped out due to the prospects of joining the European Union and/or NATO.

Interestingly, there is a prophetic passage about the *Ten Horns* with

the peculiar detail (mentioned three times) that “[the Beast] shall put down three kings; they would be “plucked up by the roots”. (Daniel 7:8,20,24) It is easy to foresee this could become the eventual fate of Ukraine and Georgia, and any other state (Moldova? or Azerbaijan?) drifting too far into the American anti-Russia camp.



The 10-horned Beast of Daniel 7 - “Terrifying and Dreadful and Exceedingly Strong” (7:7)

But then, we may wonder, what about some other nations with whom Russia is allied - such as some Middle Eastern ones or China? Perhaps, but

those nations are more distant and independent from Russia; it would be difficult to see how they might get “plucked up by the roots”

However, the C.I.S. nations are right there in Russia’s backyard and somewhat dependent on her economically and in other ways. So they are obliged, in spite of having their independence, to follow in Russia’s footsteps. And if they don’t, then, like some Latin American nations who’ve tried to deviate from American interests, they are likely to get “plucked up by the roots”.

There is another theory based on the Bilderberger Society’s projected carving up of the world into 10 super-states. Is it a good theory? Well, it could be if it weren’t for the fact that this theory probably reflects the agenda of the *Harlot* empire. According to Revelation 17-18, the *Harlot* empire is doomed to defeat. So then of course, she won’t be able to carry out the plans and agenda that she has in mind for the world. Another problem with the theory: it doesn’t account all that well for the various details about the *Ten Horns* that are mentioned in the chapters of Daniel 7 and Revelation 17 - especially the fact that they should be connected to Russia as minor powers on the world stage.

At this point we might wonder about the portrayal in Daniel 7, which seems to indicate that those *Ten Horns* should come out of nations that once belonged to the Roman empire. (See [Appendix 2](#) for further explanation as to why the horns do not have to be connected to ancient Rome.)

To better understand how the *Ten Horns* can be closely associated with Russia, a look at another symbolism in Daniel 7 might help. In verse 6, there is mention of a “*leopard*” Beast, having four wings and four heads. These peculiar features were mentioned to help identify this as the ancient Greek empire; the wings symbolized its speedy conquest of the Mideast world under Alexander, and the heads symbolized the later partition of it under four of Alexander’s generals.



The 4-headed Leopard of Daniel 7:6, Symbolic of Ancient Greece

Likewise, the portrayal of the *Ten Horns* can be thought of as a way to help us identify who the final “beast” is. It recognizes a peculiar feature about the Russian empire, that ten smaller nations are attached to it. As the four heads were an integral part of the Greek empire, so the *Horns* would likely symbolize nations that are an integral part of Russia.

The main difference is that, as “heads”, the four Greek divisions became empires in their own right and were quite independent. The “horn” symbolism shows that the ten nations are not supposed to be major centers of power in the world; otherwise, they should have been symbolized as “heads” perhaps, or “beasts”. But they are pictured as mere “horns”.

Of course, horns can do a lot of damage in those occasional times of duelling with other animals or predators. Although small, they may cause

a lot of damage because of the strategic military role they may play in the future war with the Great Harlot. (See [Appendix 3](#) about the Collective Security Treaty Organization.)

And the fact that these nations have joined the C.I.S. shows that they have made one step, at least, towards surrendering their independence, handing “*their power and authority to the beast*”, as mentioned in Revelation 17:13,17. “*Power and authority*” means their resources and quite a bit of their decision-making power. [[Appendix 4](#)] Those nations will allow themselves to come under the Russian sphere of influence, in other words. Again, it would be difficult to see how this might happen with any nations outside of Russia’s backyard.

So these nations will “*hand over their power and authority to the beast* (the Russian Federation)”. (17:13) Yet they will retain the outward symbols of sovereignty. And this, after all, is the stated goal of Russian foreign policy, as enshrined in the following statement:

To resolve pressing problems, we urge all foreign partners... to enforce the principle of the sovereign equality of states, which is enshrined in the UN Charter. It embodies the foundation for a democratic world order that the US and its allies do not accept.
[**excerpt from “[Foreign Ministry statement on the planned US ‘summit for democracy’](#)” by [The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, 1 December 2021](#)**]

And we could assume the same from the Revelation 13:1 statement about the Beast, “*having... ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns.*” (NKJV) They remain sovereign nations who have willingly given their resources and come under the authority of the Beast for the purpose of joining him in the war against the *Harlot* empire.

Then there is this unusual statement that “*the ten horns... have not yet received royal power, but they are to receive authority as kings for one hour, together with the beast.*” (17:12) They were not in existence in John the apostle’s day; they were tribal societies then, dwelling outside the boundaries of the old Roman empire. But in the modern day these nations (of the C.I.S.) have appeared on the world stage. So then, this is the time for them to be attached to the final modern End-of-the-Age empire. Not

only did those C.I.S. nations not exist in the days of ancient Rome, but even in modern times they were swallowed up in the old Soviet Union during the 20th century. Only in very recent history have they emerged out of subjugated status.

During Perestroika in the early 1990's, Russia, through the influence of its leader Mikhail Gorbachev, allowed these Soviet republics to choose independence; yet they remained in mutual association with Russia through the C.I.S., just as the Scripture states, "*they are to receive authority as kings... together with the beast.*" (17:12)

The re-structuring (Perestroika) of the Soviet Union in the early 1990's and the sudden appearance of its former republics as independent nations was certainly one of the more peculiar and outstanding events of the 20th century. And this extraordinary transition in the Soviet state was one that seems to fulfill precisely the situation that Revelation 17 describes.

As for the other former communist nations in eastern Europe (along with the former Soviet republics of Estonia, Lithuania, and Latvia), they have broken away completely now and have joined the European Union and NATO. They are no longer "*together with the beast*", in the way that the C.I.S. nations are who also gained their independence during the Perestroika era.

So, could it be that this peculiar and unique historical event - this bestowing of independence on the Soviet republics - was predicted long ago in this ancient passage of Scripture?

And another peculiar aspect about this event: The Ten Horns "*receive authority as kings... together with the beast.*" In other words, without the Beast, these nations would not have gained independence. Normally, nations fight bloody wars and gain their independence in spite of their over-ruler; the powerful nation never just hands it to them on a silver platter.

Perhaps because of this more friendly relationship, as that passage suggests, when conflict with the Great Harlot gets to the boiling point, and because of their mutual hatred for her, they willingly re-attach themselves to the Beast - unlike the forced cooperation in the days of the

Soviet Union.

And the ten horns which you saw, and the beast, these will hate the harlot... For God has put it in their hearts to execute His purpose by having a common purpose, and by giving their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God should be fulfilled. (17:16-17, NASB 1995)

These satellite nations around Russia were totally subjugated in the Soviet Union (“have not yet received royal power”). Then at last in the 1990’s, they “receive authority as kings”, their independence. But it is “together with the beast.” This independence was given to them by Russia, and they maintain close ties with her through their membership in the C.I.S.

So, it all fits rather well the description given in Revelation 17. In essence, the symbolism of *Beast* and *Ten Horns* appears to be the Lord’s way of identifying for us who the final *Beast* is – the resurrected version of the old Soviet Union, now known as the Russian Federation.

Of course, part of the prophecy hasn’t seen complete fulfillment yet: “these are of one mind, and they hand over their power and authority to the beast.” But it is not hard to foresee that, after the initial steps in the formation of the C.I.S., these weaker, formerly Communist nations could in future “hand over their power and authority to the beast”. (17:13)

Another aspect not fulfilled: Their independence will be short-lived – “receive authority as kings for one hour”. (17:12) So if this passage of Scripture in Revelation 17 is talking about these former Soviet states, then the time for their re-integration into Russia (when they “hand over... their authority”) can’t be very far away, it would appear.

Here are some helpful, practical details to consider: In a quote from Vladimir Putin about the breakup of the Soviet Union, he stated that the nation “lost 23.8 percent of its national territory, 48.5 percent of its population, 41 percent of its gross domestic product and 44.6 percent of its military capacity.” (from [**“Time to Get Over the Russophobia”**](#) by Patrick J. Buchanan – March 8, 2018)

If the smaller C.I.S. nations were to re-join Russia, the nation would

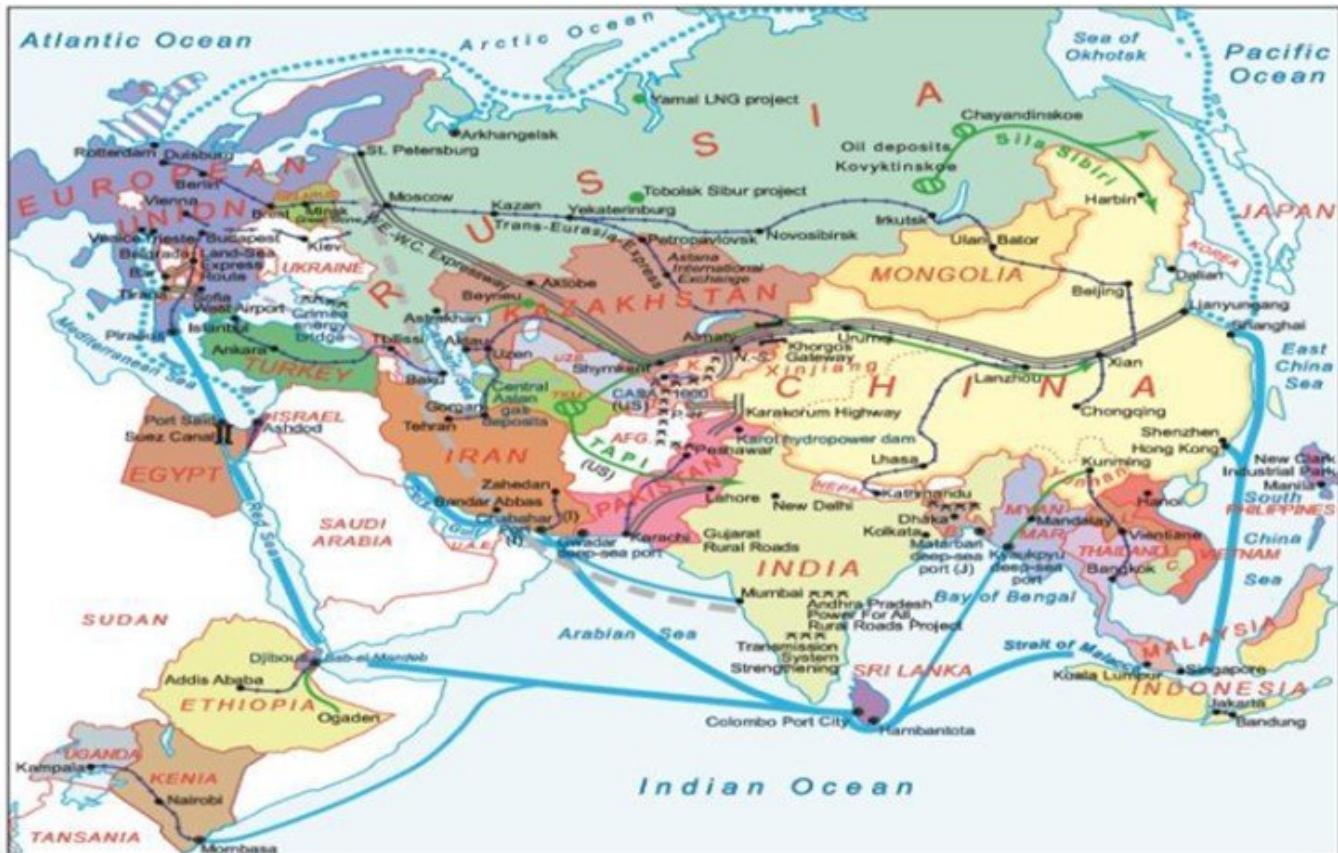
double in size, at least in population, resources, and power. The gain in land territory will be less; but considering that much of Russia is barren wasteland, that is quite a bit of territory.

It is being assumed here, for now, that the original 10 “permanent members” of the C.I.S. - Belarus, Moldova, Ukraine, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan - will be recognized as the “ten horns” of the ancient Biblical prophecies. This includes Ukraine and Georgia who have dropped out for the time being but will, from the looks of it, be forced to re-join in the future. Turkmenistan is not included since, at present, she is not a permanent member of the C.I.S.

This is only an assumption, of course. As history moves forward, then we will learn more precisely how this upcoming power arrangement will manifest.

Some other points to consider: Belarus, Ukraine, and Moldova on Russia’s western border serve as an important buffer zone against NATO-allied Europe. Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan occupy strategic locations along the borders of Russia, leading into the Mideast, and also have valuable reserves of oil and natural gas. Other C.I.S. nations have nuclear energy resources, navies and armies, transportation routes, sea ports, oil and other resources that Russia vitally needs.

And it should be added that the central Asian republics (Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan) are providing the rail transportation links between China and Russia, the Middle East, even Europe (if she’s willing). This gigantic infrastructure project (known as Belt and Road Initiative) is destined to turn Eurasia into a great economic powerhouse (that will rule the world of the near future).



Russia is climbing out of the second-class nation category and returning to her former superpower status. But she has not yet re-claimed those satellite nations that serve as a protective buffer zone (the way horns do) around her extensive and vulnerable borderland territory (as they used to do in the days of the old Soviet Union). Re-unification with the C.I.S. nations, as they *“hand over their power and authority to the beast”*, will empower Russia to again challenge the Great Harlot (as in the days of the Cold War)... and even defeat her militarily. (17:13) (Learn more on this subject in [Fall of the Great Harlot](#) series.)

We see then how these small C.I.S. nations could play a pivotal role in turning the tide in favor of Russia's (and the Antichrist's) ascendance to supreme power in the world. They could also be the Beast in the task God has permitted him to carry out of bringing about the fiery downfall of the Great Harlot, as pictured in Revelation 17-18.

By the way, this role of the final Beast is similar to the role of the

ancient Babylonian empire, whom God allowed to overrun Israel. And the reason? Israel was indulging in all sorts of oppression and waywardness and idolatry and had forgotten the God who had brought her forth and had forgotten to follow in His ways. Sad to say, that pretty well mirrors the situation in America today (and in modern Israel too for that matter).

Americans and many in the world today are unaware of how much America is responsible for - the amount of military devastation and economic deprivation that she has inflicted upon the world, upon the poorer nations of the world especially. As a nation that often claims to be the bastion of freedom, democracy, and Christianity, her behavior on the international stage has proclaimed just the opposite. So we should not be surprised if we sense that God's "spankings" (His judgments) will be coming her way in the not-too-distant future. (For more information see posts "[Warning Voice from Heaven](#)" and "[Shattering Delusions: News Excerpts](#)".)

Even now, the C.I.S. nations are serving as a sort of testing ground where a big showdown is taking place between U.S. and Russian interests. These small C.I.S. republics are quite vulnerable, but if they perceive Russia as a more reliable friend and support, then that may embolden them to resist the *Harlot* by returning to the Russian fold.

After the collapse of communism and break-up of the Soviet Union, the U.S. has tried to use these weaker nations as her backdoor entrance to surround Russia militarily, even to slip in and grab the resources of this once impregnable fortress of the former Soviet Union. Some of these countries have adopted, on the political level, a fence-sitting posture vis-à-vis America. This trend, however, could very well shift in a different direction as America's duplicity, belligerence, and self-serving intentions become more and more obvious.

In the last few years, Russia has adopted a nationalistic stance under her present ruler (Putin) and seems to be fortifying herself against U.S. attempts to infiltrate, not only her own borders, but also those of her C.I.S. neighbors. For these vulnerable nations of the C.I.S., it would be smarter for them to resist the U.S., to hang on to their resources, especially when they know they have the powerful backing of mother Russia. A good example of this happened in January, 2022:

Kazakhstan appealed to Russian and CSTO military forces to repel an inside revolt. The action was highly successful and served as a dramatic example of Russia's ability to fend off the destabilizing American influence in the region. Also, it exposed the futility of the C.I.S.'s fence-sitting posture (multi-vector policy). Probably also, it will encourage these and other Asian (maybe even European) nations to realize it will be smarter for them to jump fully on board the Russia-China juggernaut.

In the world of politics, alliances can shift rapidly. So, we'll have to wait and see how things pan out. The fact that the *Ten Horns* come to "hate the harlot" implies that these Horns will make a switch in their allegiance at some point. (17:16) Right after the break-up of the Soviet Union, they (and Russia) didn't "hate the harlot" and were allowing her to rob them of their resources.

But nowadays, as Russia re-strengthens herself, they will begin to shift their allegiance. Once they become aware of Russia's strong hand backing them, they will not cave in so easily to America's attempts to infiltrate and take them over. They will make some dramatic decisions to "hate the harlot" and "hand over their power and authority to the beast" instead. (17:13) This could trigger no small amount of conflict.

And because of this fragile state of affairs and Russian/C.I.S. nationalism, it wouldn't take much of a spark to ignite a war against the U.S. In short, the U.S. is courting disaster by meddling around so much in Russia's backyard. In fact, this has already begun to happen with Russia's "Special Military Operation" in Ukraine.

So it is foreseeable, judging lately by how Russia has conducted herself with some degree of wisdom and authority in foreign affairs (in stark contrast to American foreign policy), that a terrific backlash may occur from these small nations. They will come to realize where the real threat lies and that Russia is their protector as she tries to ward off America's incursions into her backyard and in the Middle East.

All in all, we can see - with the apparent arrival of the *Ten Horns* on the world stage - another developing "sign of the times" that human history is heading into that climactic era known as the End of the Age.

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Summary of reasons for identifying the C.I.S. (Commonwealth of Independent States) as the fulfillment of the prophetic passages about the *Ten Horns*:

- 1) The *Beast*, the final empire to come before the Return of Christ, according to Ezekiel 38-39, should be the Russian Federation.**
- 2) And Russia just happens to have the right number of 10 satellite nations bordering it: “*ten horns*” (mentioned seven times in Daniel 7:7,20,24; Revelation 13:1; 17:3,7,16).**
- 3) These nations were totally subjugated in the Soviet Union (“*have received no kingdom as yet*” - Revelation 17:12)**
- 4) Then at last in the 1990’s, they “*receive authority as kings*”, their independence. (Revelation 17:12)**
- 5) But it is “*together with the beast.*” (Revelation 17:12) This independence was given to them by Russia, and through the C.I.S. they have maintained close ties with her.**
- 6) The fact that these nations have joined the C.I.S. shows that they have made one step already towards handing “*their power and authority to the beast*” (Revelation 17:13,17). Yet they are able to keep their sovereignty (in accordance with Russian policy).**
- 7) The wars in Georgia and Ukraine appear to reveal them as two of the three nations that are to be “*plucked up by the roots*” because of their straying into the camp of the *Harlot* empire. (Daniel 7:8,20,24)**
- 8) Horns serve as protection for animals that have them, and these ten nations once served as protection for Soviet Russia; they provide a buffer zone, protecting her very lengthy border, especially now against the incursions of NATO and Europe. Horns also serve as attack weapons, and some of these nations may prove useful in that way in future military attacks.**

Appendix 1: Translation Quirks

Before the Modern Age and the rise of the American and Russian superpowers, scholars tried to interpret the *Harlot* in terms of the Roman empire. The collapse of West Rome came from the attacks of various

barbarian tribes and nations, and these attackers were thought to be the fulfillment of the *Ten Horns* symbolism. Since there was no major superpower involved in Rome's collapse, translators may have decided in this particular verse 16 to make it sound as if the *Ten Horns* had led the attack on the *Harlot* in order to make the passage agree better with the prevailing scholastic opinion of those days.

Well, it's difficult sometimes to avoid pounding a square peg into a round hole, to arrange the facts to fit one's theory. Hopefully, this Post is free, as much as possible, from such confirmation biases.

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Appendix 2: Why the 10 horns do not have to be connected to ancient Rome

Daniel 7 pictures "four great beasts" which "came up out of the sea." (7:3) The first three Beasts are easily understood to symbolize the successive empires of Babylon, Medo-Persia, and Greece. The "fourth beast" is described as "terrifying and dreadful and exceedingly strong. It had great iron teeth; it devoured and broke in pieces and stamped what was left with its feet... and it had ten horns." (7:7) This embellished description, along with the entire passage of Daniel 7, make it clear that this "fourth beast" symbolizes both ancient Rome and the End of the Age empire. And because the two are lumped together in one beast, it is natural to think that the 10 horns must come out of the remains of ancient Rome.



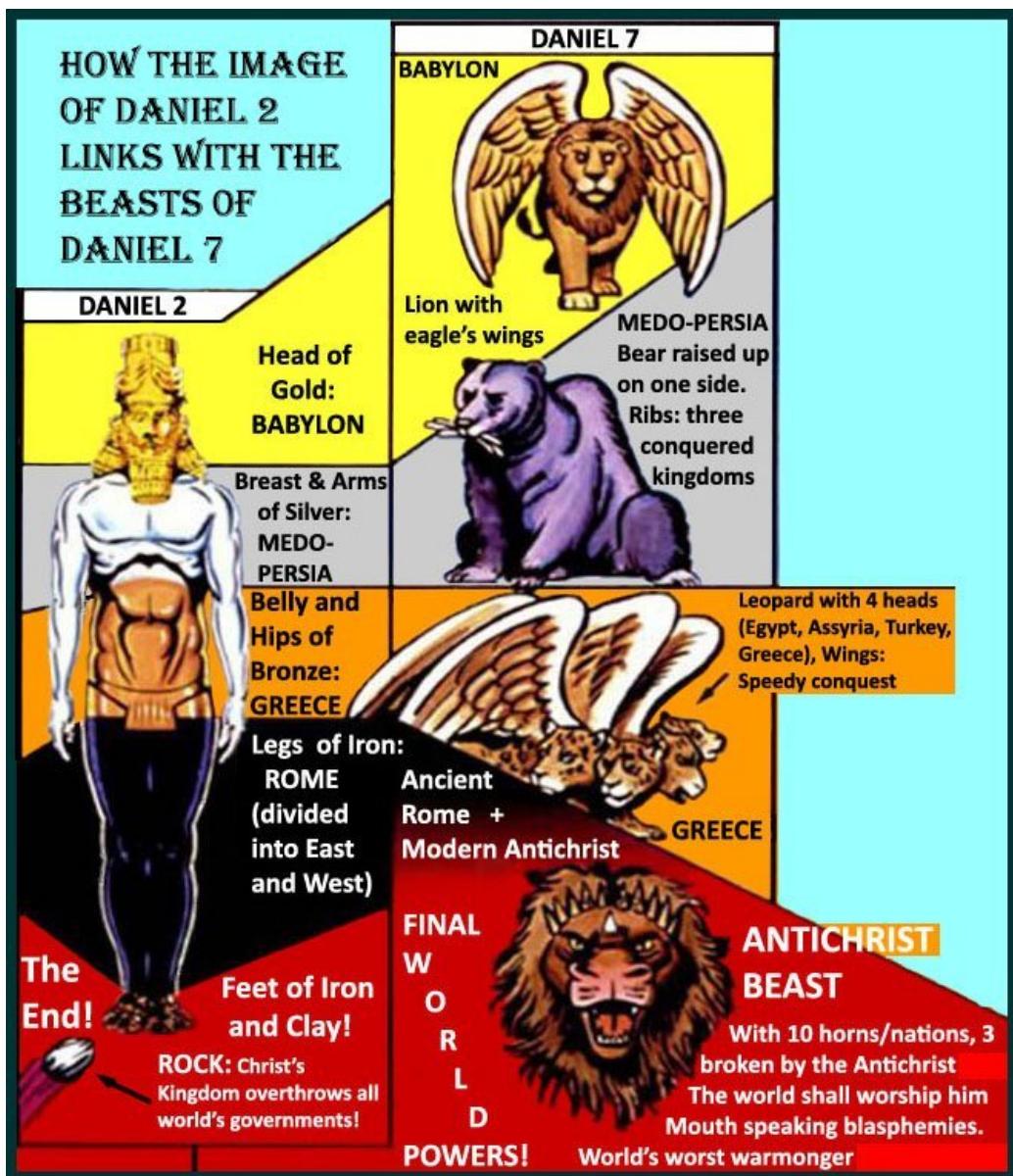
Daniel's Dream of Four Beasts

To be precise though, it is really a question of the modern *empire* arising out of the ancient one. And the horns are attached to the modern version of this Beast, not to the ancient Roman version.

So let us explore these questions: how can these two empires (symbolized in one Beast) be so different geographically - as ancient Rome and modern Russia? And how is it that the 10 Horns could be outgrowths of modern Russia rather than of ancient Rome or Europe? (The Capsule

Summary, "[Final Empire: Revival of Rome?](#)" may offer a more up-to-date and brief outline of these points, by the way.)

A key point to understand here is that much of the symbolism points here, not to any physical similarity between ancient and modern empires, but to their similarity in spirit. Daniel 7 displays prominently the beast-like nature of those empires - along with certain peculiar features that help to identify them.



And another

helpful key lies in the fact that the "four beasts" vision of Daniel 7

corresponds closely to Daniel's earlier vision in chapter 2 of "a great image" or statue. In this vision, what was known as the "*fourth beast*" in chapter 7, is called the "*fourth kingdom*" in chapter 2. This "*fourth kingdom*" straddles both legs and feet of the image, which corresponds to how the "*fourth beast*" from chapter 7 symbolizes both ancient and modern empires. (2:40; 7:7,23)

In the *Image* vision of Daniel 2, the "*fourth kingdom*" starts out as two legs made of iron (symbolic of the dual empire of East and West Rome) and continues into the feet. The legs body part represents the "physical geography" dimension. The "*iron*", symbolic of the iron character of Rome, represents the "spiritual geography" dimension; and this would correspond to the "*beast*" character of the "*fourth beast*", who in Daniel 7:7 is described as "*exceedingly strong*" - similar to the "*fourth kingdom*" in Daniel 2:40, which is described as being "*strong as iron, because iron breaks to pieces and shatters all things.*"

There are certain features that began with ancient Rome and have continued (or will continue) into the Modern Age and the upcoming final empire: republican government, powerful military strength, persecution of God's people, invasion of Jerusalem and the "*holy place*", the false demagogue they provide for the world to worship. (See the post "[How Iron Continues into Today's World](#)" for more information.) And that is why in chapters 2 and 7 they are visualized as one "*fourth kingdom*" and one "*fourth beast*", each of which includes both ancient Rome and the final empire. But perhaps the most important factor that ties the ancient and modern empires together is the fact that in both, Jesus Christ reveals Himself - first as the suffering Savior in Roman times and then, as the conquering Deliverer in the days of the final empire.

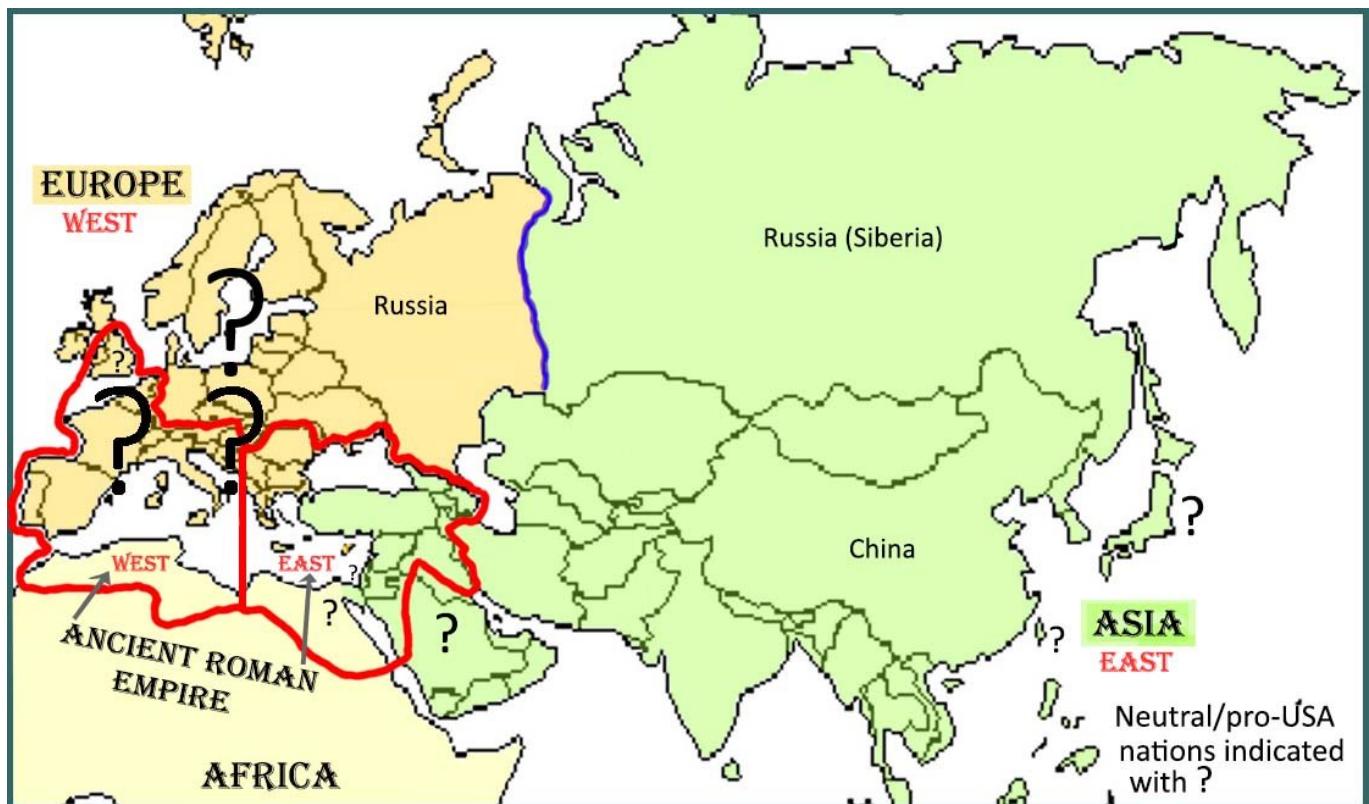


These common features, found in both ancient and modern empires, are not geographical but pertain to intangible features - those that contribute to or result from their *character* of military strength. In Daniel and Nebuchadnezzar's vision of the image, there is a spiritual continuity ("iron" symbolism in both legs and feet). This iron-like nature found in both ancient and modern empires in Daniel 2 corresponds to the beast-like character of the "*fourth beast*" in Daniel 7. This "spiritual" aspect of the symbolism does not focus on physical-geographical continuity (a big subject which is covered more thoroughly in [post 3](#) and [post 6](#) from the *Shape of the Future* series).

The "physical geography" of the "*fourth kingdom*" of the Daniel 2 *Image* is symbolized by the body parts of legs and feet. Since the foot is different from the leg, this should indicate that the geography of the final empire would differ from that of the previous one. And there is no question that the feet are symbolic of another empire, coming at a much later point in history - the final one at the End of the Age when the "*image*" is destroyed in preparation for the coming Kingdom of God. "*A stone... struck the image on its feet... But the stone... became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.*" (7:34-35)



So we would expect that the feet, being a different body part, would symbolize a different location geographically (and a shorter time span). In brief, the geographical shape of the future looks like this: the dual empire of ancient Rome, which consisted of European and Asian nations, will transform into a greatly enlarged dual empire of European and Asian nations: European Russia and some EU nations and the Asian territories of Siberia, China, India, SE Asia, and Middle East nations. (This also is a big subject and is covered more thoroughly in the post [**“Physical Geography - Which Two Territories?”**](#).)



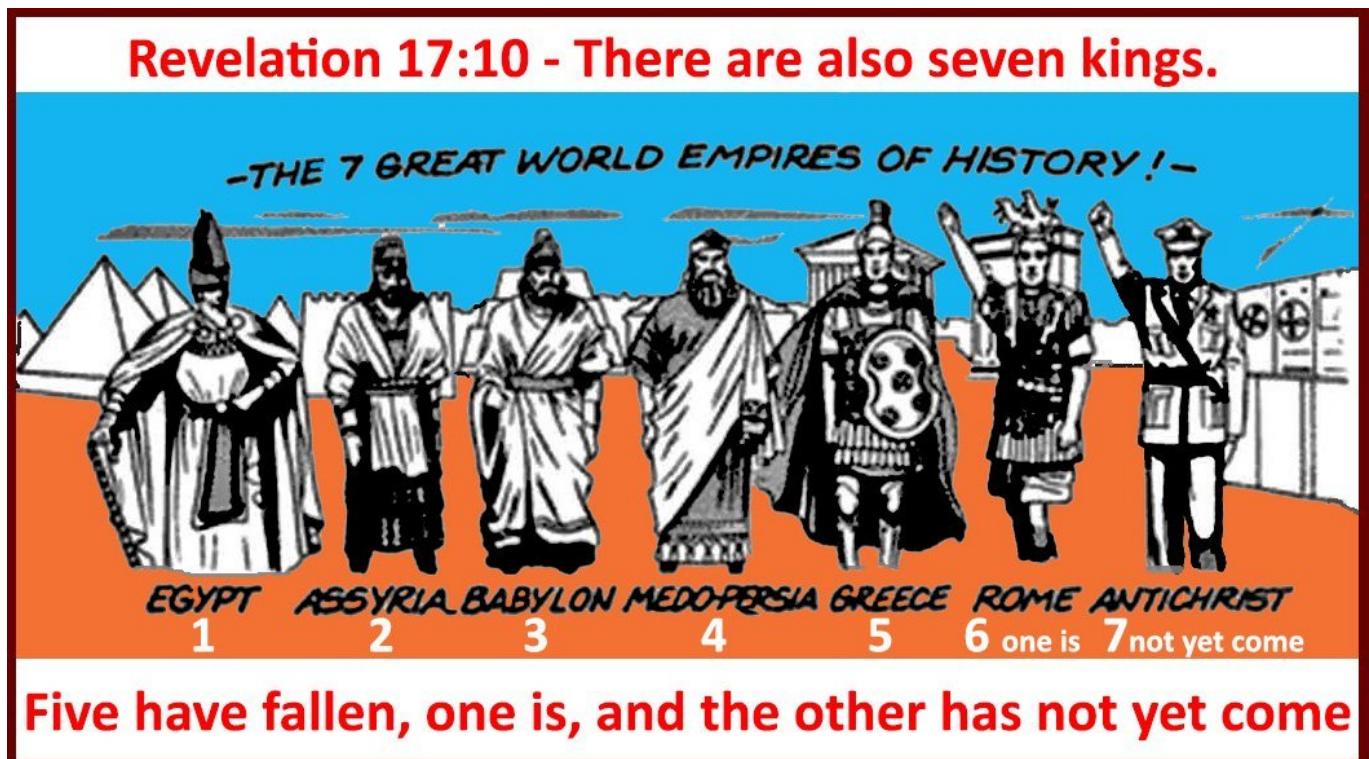
This future grouping of nations is speculative, of course, but it does seem consistent with the symbolism: the “feet” should represent a dual empire connected to the Roman empire “legs” of West and East Rome, as a more spread-out version of the same (Eurasia as it is now, split between European and Asian nations?).

This then shows how the modern empire is connected, geographically, to the ancient one. The *Ten Horns* are a geographical feature, yes, so how can they be connected to modern Russia instead of ancient Rome? The answer is simple; they're part of the modern empire, not the ancient one, so they don't have to be connected to ancient Rome.

This seems to be confirmed in the Daniel 2 vision, which draws particular attention to the toes of the feet (in verses 41-42). Toes are an outgrowth of the feet, not the legs. Assuming that the 10 toes allude to the 10 horns, then that points to the *Horns* as being connected directly to the modern empire of the feet, not the ancient one of the legs.

There is also Revelation 13 and 17, which envision the same ten-horned

Sea-Beast, having this time “seven heads”. This **Beast** symbolizes the final empire to come in our present Age. The **Heads** are 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; otherwise though, the **Heads** represent separate empires.



In John the apostle's day, the Roman empire (called “one is”) was in power, and the End of the Age empire had “not yet come.” (17:10) So it is said of the **Ten Horns** that they “have received no kingdom as yet,” which means they hadn't come into existence in John's day, at least not in their present form. (17:12, NKJV) It is the seventh **Head/Beast** who represents the modern empire, and it is separate from the sixth **Head/Beast** of ancient Rome (“one is” in John's day) and from the others (“five of whom have fallen”). (17:10) And this 7th **Head** is the one that possesses “ten horns”, and they do not belong to the 6th **Head** of ancient Rome.



And it is in the days of the rise of this final empire when, before our very eyes, has come to pass that peculiar political transformation: a group of ten nations being granted “authority as kings for one hour, together with the beast”.

From these various clues in the Daniel and Revelation Books, it should be safe to conclude that the *Ten Horns* are a group of modern nations that need not have any connection to ancient Rome.

Summary:

The “fourth beast” of Daniel 7 symbolizes two empires, ancient and modern. The modern version of it was re-envisioned later as the seven-headed *Beast* in Revelation 13 and 17, and it is this empire, not its *Ten Horns*, that connects to ancient Rome. And that “connection” happens in the spiritual geography dimension. That is, the BEAST-like nature and the IRON-like military strength are the features that continue from ancient

Roman times into the modern day. As for the *physical geography* dimension, the legs and feet of the image illustrate the final empire as a dual one... connected to ancient Rome - by virtue of being divided into European and Asian territories, which are like expanded versions of the ancient Roman empire. But otherwise, the different-body-parts symbolism (legs to feet) illustrates the fact that the geographical locations of the final dual empire will differ somewhat from the ancient Roman empire.

As for the *Ten Horns*, they are mentioned as a sort of clue to help identify who exactly is the final manifestation of the *Beast*. And they are attached to its modern version (its seventh *Head* as suggested in **Revelation 17:10-12**), not the ancient version. And so, they can arise anywhere from a vast territory that, from the looks of it, may stretch all the way from Europe through the Mideast to Siberia.

And since the “*fourth beast*” of Daniel 7 was pictured as a great military power, this would suggest that its *Ten Horns* will be attached to the modern military stronghold of Russia, which also happens to be depicted in **Ezekiel 38-39** as the conqueror of Israel and the Middle East in the End of the Age era of history.

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Appendix 3:

Another possible grouping of nations similar to the C.I.S. is in the process of formation, the Collective Security Treaty Organization:

“The CSTO, established in 2002, includes Russia, Armenia, Belarus, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan. It is a full-blown military alliance whose members have pledged to come to one another’s support in case of an attack. It is currently developing a rapid-reaction force similar to the one being built by NATO.” (“A New Cold War?” by Conn Hallinan, Foreign Policy in Focus, June 19, 2008)

Since 1994, Uzbekistan has left the alliance. How it will pan out in the end is difficult to tell. At any rate this is another possibility to consider, that this six-nation alliance might grow till it reaches that elusive formula

of 10 + 1 nations.

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Appendix 4:

From *Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament* (page 225):

Power: *dunamis* - *inherent power, power residing in a thing by virtue of its nature, or which a person or thing exerts and puts forth.* (page 159)

Authority: *exousia* - *the power of rule or government* (the power of him whose will and commands must be submitted to by others and obeyed, [generally translated as authority]).

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