

## Making Sense of The Future

Much of what is now history had been recorded prophetically in detail centuries before it took place. There it provided reassurance to the respective generations that it would serve. So now we are privileged to have this same well-proven source of prophecy to guide and reassure us in things that are current and those yet future. The primary value of these prophecies is not to satisfy our curiosity, but to reassure those who do and will experience them as they actually take place.

As of today, besides the rise of the fifth empire, we are left with 3-1/2 years to complete the seventieth week foretold in Daniel chapter nine. By that time the world will have been cleansed of human corruption, and made fit for the new management.

But as this time draws near, extreme calamities will come into play. Initially, they will be the result of human behavior, followed by geological and astronomical events, and some will arise directly from the spiritual realm. The sum of all these categories will decimate the global population by at least fifty percent!

The behavior and strength we need to walk, is covered by various encouragements concerning alertness, and diligence in fulfilling our respective callings. Mt.24:4-51 is a well known section that describes extreme times of persecution and hardships. The basic instructions involve remaining faithful in the face of challenges, and in hearing God's wisdom on how to overcome in persecution. 1Pet.4:7-19 also speaks of faithfully ministering, enduring persecution, standing firm, and our responsibilities during tumultuous times.

Although it's been two thousand years since the Bible was written, we still see things prophesied back then becoming active in recent times. The rebirth of Israel as a nation in the 1940s is a prime example of this. But to prevent Israel from repeating the blasphemy that scattered them in the first place, a powerful enemy prevents them from performing blood sacrifice on the temple mount.

The next clear and repeatedly prophesied event will be a centralized global government. In order to understand this one, we need to gather clear but scattered pixels from various parts of the bible.

The first reference to this empire is found in Daniel two, where the five empires that would rule the world were prophesied. During the description of this final empire, its' instability is mentioned three times. A few more details come to light in Daniel chapter seven. This was written at a time when Babylon (the first empire) is about to be conquered, and the four remaining empires are portrayed.

By today, three of these empires (Medea-Persia, Greece, and Rome), have faded into history. In this seventh chapter's description of the final empire, it is described as brutally aggressive, and neutralizing whatever would not submit to it.

This final empire is also mentioned in Revelation chapter six as the rider of the first of four horses. This series of horses is activated by Jesus as he opens the first of seven seals. Nothing more is said about this rider, but the context makes it clear that this is the final empire to exist before the rule of mankind collapses into chaos.

The pivotal reality is that peace requires war. This final global empire will control enough of the world to prevent humanity from destroying itself for just a little longer. Like Babylon and like Rome, this seemingly bully-conqueror will continue to maintain some level of peace through force.

Believers should thank God for this, as the apostle Paul did in recognizing the benefits of the Roman government of his own day. Even while incarcerated in a Roman prison, Paul recognized that without this protection he would have been killed by the Jews.

Similarly, the persecution of believers in this final period will not be from the government, but from those who are rebelling against it.

But when God withdraws his hand and allows this final empire to fall, that which has restrained the “day of the Lord” will be withdrawn, and the nature of mankind will be released to do its thing. The resulting chaos will release all manner of prejudice and hatred.

Another prophesy in Daniel 2, is the stone cut without hands – representing the kingdom of God. There we see it terminating the reign of mankind over the earth by landing on the feet of the statue, and then pounding it into dust.

Again, we see chapter seven referencing this final empire, as it describes the manner in which it is destroyed. The tool of this destruction is rebellion from within, which disintegrates the empire into chaos. We also see in this chapter that God is judging mankind at this point, and forever removing him from control over the earth.

A third tie-in is the opening of the second seal in Revelation six. This seal – the second horse – releases global civil war and bloodshed upon humanity. As commonly witnessed in situations of civil war, this leads to starvation and multiple other causes of death. These are referenced by seals and horses three and four.

The total body count for these first four seals is given as one fourth of the total population. Keep in mind that for seals two through four, all God had to do was to cease protecting mankind from itself.

A second and more obviously supernatural phase begins with the breaking of the fifth seal. In Revelation 6:9-11 we see the case against those who have been persecuting Christians addressed. Rather than mankind being the agent of destruction in this case, the earth itself begins to convulse. So catastrophic are these actions, that people everywhere recognize them as God’s vengeance.

There is then another pause, as an inventory of God’s people shrouds them with special protection during the intensification and increasingly spiritual nature of the plagues. On a historic note, recall that God’s people in Egypt also received special protection.

The final 3-1/2 years of man-controlled government will protect those who are committed to serving God, while still making salvation available to those remaining behind – at the cost of extreme persecution, and often their very lives. For details on this final period, open 13065-The Rogue Empire.