

THE GOLDEN THREAD OF PROPHECY

“Those who take only a surface view of the Scriptures will, with their superficial knowledge, which they think is very deep, talk of the contradictions of the Bible, and question the authority of the Scriptures. But those whose hearts are in harmony with truth and duty will search the Scriptures with a heart prepared to receive divine impressions. The illuminated soul sees a spiritual unity, one grand golden thread running through the whole, but it requires patience, thought, and prayer to trace out the precious golden thread.” 7BC 945

Lesson #13

The Sequence of Revelation 17

In Daniel 2 we see the Great Image, where we have Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Pagan Rome and Papal Rome in the feet of Iron and Clay, as well as United States of America and the ten toes of United Nations. The stone that smites the image on the feet is Kingdom of Jesus as represented in the 144,000, whose description we see in verse 44, 45:

Daniel 2:44, 45 “And in the days of these kings (the ten toes, the confederate nations) shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever. Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure.”

‘Without hands’ means without human help; in other words it is no human devising but is something that God has done. If we look at how the temple of Solomon was built and how God builds His spiritual temple we see a correlation.

1 Kings 6:7 “And the house, when it was in building, was built of stone made ready before it was brought thither: so that there was neither hammer nor axe nor any tool of iron heard in the house, while it was in building.”

The temple was not built on site but each stone was prepared prior to building it into the temple Ellen White comments on this telling us that this is the type of God’s spiritual temple and how each of us are hewn and squared for the building. The hammer and axe that does the hewing and squaring is the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the One who produces the 144,000.

Ephesians 2:21, 22; “In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.”

It is the Holy Spirit Who builds this spiritual temple and the time when this temple is set up is when the Holy Spirit is poured out without measure at the Latter Rain and this is the time of the setting up of the kingdom.

1 Peter 2:4-8 “To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, 5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to

offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. 7 Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, 8 And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.”

The Bible says that God’s people are lively stones, likened unto the Chief Cornerstone, which is Jesus Christ. Then it says that those who reject Christ will actually be ground to powder by the Stone and on the image it is the Stone, the 144,000, that God uses to smite the image on the feet during the final time of the Papacy. God uses His 144,000; His people on the earth to prove His power in many different ways.

You know we often hear people say, or maybe we say ourselves, “why did God choose me to hear this message?” or “why did He choose me to do anything?” I often think that He chose me because I am the worst of the worst, that’s why.

If you take Hebrews 11, for example, with all the champions of faith, and yet when you look at their lives and realize that the Bible records sins in their lives and the list gets worse and worse. One of the last ones recorded is Rahab the harlot, and here she is mentioned as a champion of faith. Then it tells us that they cannot receive the promise without us. God looks down the scope of time and He takes the worst of the worst to make up the 144,000 to prove that Satan’s lie that humans can’t keep the law is a fallacy. Jesus Christ hews us and He shapes us like unto Himself, a stone. It is beautiful as we think of all that this has to tell us.

Revelation 17

We don’t want to say that the foundations of the past were not sound but we need to look more deeply for added information. When Wm. Miller and the Millerites came to their understanding, they looked at the last kingdom in Bible Prophecy as indeed making up ten. They thought that this was the last piece in the Image of Daniel 2 and then Christ was to come.

Our understanding is the same, it’s still ten, and there is still a kingdom that’s made under Christ but there is a present truth application. The Bible shows us that history is an example and type for us on whom the ends of the world are come. We see this is the first and the last, the beginning and the end. The Millerite history is serious sacred history that has laid our foundation at the first angel. That’s the foundation and if the foundations be destroyed—what can the righteous do. We need to understand our foundations.

Revelation 17:1-14

We are going to do a verse by verse breakdown and look at some of the intricate things there and tie it into Daniel 2 and 11:40-45.

Revelation 17:17:1 “And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters: 2 With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication. 3 So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.”

When John was given this vision he is taken into the ‘wilderness’. As a student of prophecy we need to know what the ‘wilderness’ is. If we look back at Revelation 12 the wilderness is

mentioned twice. There is something that is connected with the wilderness that we need to understand.

Revelation 12:5, “And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.

The ‘man child’ is Christ, Who was caught up to God in AD 31 and this was at the time of the power of Pagan Rome.

Revelation 12:6 And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.”

1260 days: this represents the 1260 years of Papal supremacy. In verse 5 it is Pagan Rome and in Verse 6 it is Papal Rome. God’s prophets want us to understand the dual aspects of Rome. Rome establishes the vision. Pagan and Papal Rome are mentioned and connected with the wilderness where the woman was taken during a time period, the 1260 years of Papal supremacy.

Revelation 12:14 “And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.”

This adds up also to 1260 days which are 1260 years; same time period; the ‘wilderness’ time period; the 1260 years of Papal supremacy. We know then that in Rev. 17:3, John is carried to this time period, but is he at the beginning of the time period, in the midst of it or at the end of it? There is a mystery there that God has given us clues to be able to decipher. If we don’t understand where John is in the vision, we can get many wrong ideas.

Some men who have given us powerful principles of Bible prophecy go off here on this point by failing to use their own principles. So let’s find out where John is.

Revelation 17:4 And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: 5 And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.”

Notice that she is already described as being the mother of harlots; therefore the daughters that came out of Rome in this vision are designated already as harlots. Now when the reformation of 1517 was beginning, they were on their way, but was the reformation completed? No, it wasn’t a complete reformation because they came to a place where they stopped. They became harlots, still retaining some of the doctrines of Rome. At this point in the game, she is the mother of harlots. She wasn’t the mother of harlots at the beginning of this period; it was towards the end, as the churches began to separate, but never came all the way out. Now notice verse 6:

Drunken

Revelation 17:6 “And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration.”

John sees this mother of harlots drunken with the blood of the saints. We know that during that 1260 year time period she was persecuting the saints, and we know that it is not just one drink that makes one drunken, it is a binge of drinking and at the end you become drunken. So it is not at the beginning of the 1260 years, or at the middle, but it is towards the end. Christ said that He would cut these days short for the sake of the righteous, so it is to the end of this time period that John brings us; near the time of 1798. John’s vision here is a vision of the 1798 time period.

Revelation 17:7 “And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns. 8 The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they beheld the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.”

Beast Thou Sawest

Notice: ‘That thou sawest’—past tense

It ‘was’—past tense

It ‘Is not’—present tense it ‘is not’ in 1798

It ‘Shall ascend’—future

It ‘Shall go into perdition’—future finality

Ascend out of the bottomless pit—will come up again out of its circumstances.

There is only one ‘Beast Power’ that fits this description and that is the Papacy. It is the ‘Mother of Harlots’, ‘Great Babylon’.

Note: “and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world”

Here is another key point. The Bible gives us much information so we can understand its message. Compare with Revelation 13:8:

“And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.”

They Shall Wonder

Now notice the end of verse 8; “and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder . . . when they beheld the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.” First it said “and is not”—then it says “and yet is”.

This “and yet is” repetition tells us something more here. In the period that the Beast Power was not; 1798-1840s, Protestant America was still carrying the woman in their hearts. The Reformation was not complete—the Woman still lived in her daughters, who held on to Sunday Worship the mark of the Beast’s Power. She was still there and yet they did not know it. This is why God had to separate a people and this is the whole cleansing period—first and second cleansing—that took place in the Millerite movement to prepare a people separated from Rome and complete the reformation.

Revelation 17:9 “And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth. 10 And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space. 11 And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition.”

There are many confused presentations of these verses and we have to look carefully not to wrest the meaning here. The Bible here is NOT talking about individuals here but kingdoms in prophecy; Kingdoms; not seven popes. We will take it point by point:

Five Kingdoms have already fallen when John sees this vision.

Golden Thread of Prophecy: 13—The Sequence of Revelation 17

1. Babylon
2. Medo-Persia
3. Greece
4. Pagan Rome
5. Papal Rome

The Fifth one here is the Papacy as it is finished also at the time of 1798. Notice these five agree perfectly with the prophecies in Daniel 2, 7, and 8. This is important because the prophets are subject to the prophets, and prophecy is all one whole, no part is to be interpreted in a way that does not agree with the rest. All of these five had fallen by 1798.

Which kingdom was now on the stage of action in 1798? It is United States of America.

6. USA
7. United Nations (N.W.O)
8. Papacy (resurrected)

At this time we are told the “other is not yet come”, and when he would come he “must continue a short space”; a short period of time. Notice verse 11:

11 “And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition.”

This is the Papacy that ‘was and is not’, and it goes on to say he will come back as the eighth, and is of the seven, and goes into perdition. So we know that there are seven and there is an eighth one that comes and it is the Papacy again.

The Eighth Head (The Papacy)

Notice that there are seven heads on this beast, there is not an eight head on this beast, so we know the number eight is symbolic. The number eight in prophecy is symbolic of resurrection, and the Papacy always appears as a number eight. Notice these examples:

Daniel 7:7, 8 – Rome divided into 10 kingdoms, the papal horn was a separate power, it (the papal horn) uprooted 3 of the first horns leaving 7 with itself being the 8th but of the 7 (it was in Italy one of the remaining horns).

Daniel 8:3, 5, 8, 9 – 2 horns on ram, 1 horn on the goat, and 4 horns divided to the four winds, the little horn is the 8th

Revelation 13:1, 3 – 7 heads on the beast, 1 receives a deadly wound and then is resurrected as the 8th but of the 7.

Bible prophecy’s number for the Papacy is eight.

Eight the Number of Resurrection

The first day of the week is mentioned 8 times in the New Testament; reminding us of the resurrection of Christ (see Matthew 28:1; Mark 16:2, 9; Luke 24:1; John 20:1, 19; Acts 20:7; 2 Corinthians 16:2).

Circumcision was to be performed on the 8th day a symbol of baptism or the new birth (see Leviticus 12:1-3; Luke 1:59; Acts 7:8; Philippians 3:5; Colossians 2:11-13; Romans 6:3, 4).

The eighth in this prophecy refers to resurrection—when the deadly wound is healed.

Which power comes into the picture between the USA and the resurrected Papacy?

Revelation 17:12 “And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast.”

This ‘one who has not yet come’ is a kingdom made up of a confederacy of ten kings. So the ten horns match with the ten toes in Daniel 2 which represents the United Nations of the world also known as the ‘New World Order’. (NWO)

Revelation 17:13 “These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast. 14 These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.”

The Seven Mountains of Rome

Revelation 17:9 “And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth.”

“At last he beheld in the distance the seven-hilled city. ‘With deep emotion he [Luther] prostrated himself upon the earth, exclaiming: ‘Holy Rome, I salute thee!’” The Great Controversy, 124

The Vatican, the city of Rome is on seven hills, seven mountains. That is where she sits; she literally sits in a city on seven mountains. But there is more that she sits upon:

What She Sits Upon

A ‘woman’ in Bible Prophecy represents a church, a religious entity.

Seven heads: horns, kings, kingdoms. Vs. 9 These heads are civil powers, the woman sits on these civil powers. It is the woman who is in control.

Seven mountains: churches. Vs. 9 These are symbolic of churches; she sits on these religious powers. The number seven represents completion—she sits on all the churches of the world. She is the leading moral authority in the world. Is she that today? Yes, she surely is.

Notice Isaiah 4:1: “And in that day seven women shall take hold of one man, saying, We will eat our own bread, and wear our own apparel: only let us be called by thy name, to take away our reproach.”

This is referring to the last days when God is going to cleanse away the filth of Zion and raise up a pure people to serve Him. In this time the seven—or all of the women, religious powers want to take the name of Rome. This is a last day situation, seven women under one man.

“A woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast.” Vs. 3

She sits here on a symbol of world civil power, and she is in control. If you are riding a horse, you are the one in control. She has the reins and the beast has the muscle power.

“I will show unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters.” Vs. 1 Here she sits upon many waters, which stand for peoples, nations, and multitudes.

“The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.” Vs. 15

Seven Heads

Seven heads: horns, kings, kingdoms. Vs. 9

The seven heads represent civil authority. Pagan Rome was the symbol of civil power. Pagan Rome disintegrated into ten kingdoms, and then seven. The seven European kings gave their military and civil authority to the papacy, while also changing their legal religious profession from pagan to Catholic. The seven heads represent one part of what the whore rules over at the end. That part is the state. A beast is also a symbol of civil power.

“A woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast.” Vs. 3

Seven Mountains

“Are seven mountains”: churches. Vs. 9 In the verse she also sits upon seven mountains. Mountains represent churches.

Daniel 11:45; “And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him.”

9:16, “O Lord, according to all thy righteousness, I beseech thee, let thine anger and thy fury be turned away from thy city Jerusalem, thy holy mountain: because for our sins, and for the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and thy people are become a reproach to all that are about us.”

Daniel 9:20 “And whiles I was speaking, and praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the LORD my God for the holy mountain of my God;”

Isaiah 4:1 “And in that day seven women shall take hold of one man, saying, We will eat our own bread, and wear our own apparel: only let us be called by thy name, to take away our reproach.”

The Angel with the Seven Vials

Revelation 17:1 “And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters:”

Revelation 16:1 “And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth.”

Revelation 16:13 “And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. 14 For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

15 “Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame. 16 And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.

17 “And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done. 18 And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great. 19 And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her

the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath.”

“By the decree enforcing the institution of the papacy in violation of the law of God, our nation [the United States] will disconnect herself fully from righteousness. When Protestantism shall stretch her hand across the gulf to grasp the hand of the Roman power, when she shall reach over the abyss to clasp hands with spiritualism, when, under the influence of this threefold union, our country shall repudiate every principle of its Constitution as a Protestant and republican government, and shall make provision for the propagation of papal falsehoods and delusions, then we may know that the time has come for the marvelous working of Satan and that the end is near.

“Through the two great errors, the immortality of the soul and Sunday sacredness, Satan will bring the people under his deceptions. While the former lays the foundation of spiritualism, the latter creates a bond of sympathy with Rome. The Protestants of the United States will be foremost in stretching their hands across the gulf to grasp the hand of spiritualism; they will reach over the abyss to clasp hands with the Roman power; and under the influence of this threefold union, this country will follow in the steps of Rome in trampling on the rights of conscience. . . .

“Papists, Protestants, and worldling will alike accept the form of godliness without the power, and they will see in this union a grand movement for the conversion of the world and the ushering in of the long-expected millennium.” Maranatha, 190

“...Kings and rulers and governors have placed upon themselves the brand of antichrist, and are represented as the dragon who goes to make war with the saints—with those who keep the commandments of God and who have the faith of Jesus. In their enmity against the people of God, they show themselves guilty also of the choice of Barabbas instead of Christ.” Testimony to Ministers, 38

Three Powers	Dragon	Beast	False Prophet
Religious Aspect	Spiritualism	Catholicism	Apostate Protestantism
Civil Aspect	United Nations	Papacy	USA

Great Babylon 666

1. Babylon
2. Medo-Persia
3. Greece
4. Pagan Rome
5. Papal Rome
6. **USA**
6. **United Nations (N.W.O)**
6. **Papacy**