

EU Military & Bible Prophecy

Europe to Establish Independent Military

by Irvin Baxter

To some, it's just a news report. To others, it's a sign of the way things ought to be. But for prophecy students, it's God.

With the announcement that the European Union is establishing its own military force, a very important endtime prophecy fulfillment is solidified. Already the EU is expanding to include 25 countries next year. It will also adopt a European Constitution and elect the first European president.

Is it just news or is it more? The fact is, Daniel 2 prophesies that in the latter days there will be a revival of a kingdom that will resemble the Roman Empire in many ways. It will include a religious element as well, and become the power base of the world government and its leader, the Antichrist.

With the birth of this new superpower of 450 million people, we are watching God's divine hand in action. He said it would be so, and it is. The EU has been in active development since 1957's signing of the Treaty of Rome, and it is coming to full fruition seemingly overnight before our eyes. It's the prophesied revival of the Holy Roman Empire.

The Politics

Consider 25 nation-states, a constitution, a president with teeth and now a military. It is this latter development of an EU military that puts the icing on the cake. The planned independent military wing, headquartered in Belgium, will exist outside of NATO. While this may undermine the basis of NATO, it is recognized that Europe will never be able to pull her weight in world affairs as an equal with the United States until she has her own military muscle and has the capacity to plan and execute European operations autonomously.

NATO is a mutual defense pact between the United States, Canada and

Europe to protect the West from Russia.

The United States has dominated world affairs because of unrivaled military and economic power. The European Union has been working on the economy with great success. By 2004, its population of 450 million will dwarf the U.S. population of 280 million. All the modern countries of Europe are now merging. According to Bible prophecy, we are watching a revival of the Holy Roman Empire.

The Prophecy

Throughout its 1,000-year history, the Holy Roman Empire has always had two leaders—political and religious. The prophecy in Daniel 2 teaches that this Holy Roman Empire will be the last empire on the earth. Let's take a step back and look at what it says.

Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, had a dream. Daniel recounted his dream and then provided the interpretation. The actual dream is recorded in Daniel 2:31-35, the interpretation in verses 36-45.

The dream depicted a great image whose head was of gold, breast and arms of silver, belly and thighs of brass, legs of iron, and feet of iron mingled with clay. Then a stone, which was cut out without hands, smote the image upon the feet. It broke the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver and the gold into pieces. As Nebuchadnezzar watched, the stone that smote the image grew until it became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

Through Daniel, God told Nebuchadnezzar that each section of the image stood for a world dominating empire that would be succeeded by another, and that the head of gold represented him and his kingdom, Babylon. The Media-Persian Empire, followed (breast and arms of silver). Then came Greece (belly and thighs of brass); and then the Roman Empire (legs of iron). Rome ruled the world dur-



This image from Nebuchadnezzar's dream in Daniel Chapter 2 has five distinct sections, each representing a world dominating empire. The last section, the feet of iron and clay, represent a latter day Holy Roman Empire. Enter the EU... (Endtime image)

ing the days of Jesus Christ, and continued until about 300 AD. There would not be another empire for the next 500 years.

The Last Empire

The prophecy states that one more empire would rise which would rule over "all the earth." Until this last empire, each section of the image in the king's dream had a completely different metal from the previous section. From the head of gold, to the arms and breasts of silver, to the belly and thighs of brass, and to the legs of iron, each is a total change of metals. The feet, however, consist of two elements—iron and clay. The mixture indicates that the element of iron (the Roman Empire) from the legs would survive; however, another element (the clay) would be mixed in.

After the Roman Empire came another empire, which was related, but different. This latest empire was called the Holy Roman Empire, founded 500 years later in 800 AD. It was a partnership between Charlemagne and Pope Leo III, a political leader and a spiritual leader. The last world government, which is now emerging, will also be ruled by two men. The

political leader will be the Antichrist, and the spiritual leader will be the False Prophet (Revelation 19:19-20).

Note that the iron element of the former Roman Empire remained, but that the new clay element, the Roman Catholic Church, had been added. Remember that the image in the king's dream had feet of iron mixed with clay. It is easy to see that the clay represents the Roman Catholic Church. The Holy Roman Empire has always been a union of church and state.

Often the pope was so powerful that he appointed the rulers of Europe. Upon



During the days of this last world empire, the God of heaven will destroy human government and establish His kingdom which shall reign forever. The stone that smites the image on the feet represents God; the feet symbolize the endtime world government—a union of politics and religion led by the Antichrist and False Prophet. (Endtime image)

their coronation, many European kings would make the obligatory trip to Rome on order to bow at the feet of the pope, kiss his foot, and receive his blessing. This refers to the scripture in Daniel 2:43 that says, "And whereas thou sawest iron mingled with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men." This refers to religion involving itself in politics, which is what happened under the guise of the Holy Roman Empire. If history holds true, the pope will probably have a very strong say in who will lead this final Holy Roman Empire.

The most important element of Nebuchadnezzar's dream is the "stone." The

stone, which was cut out of the mountain, rolled down and smote the image upon the feet. The stone represents the kingdom of God (v. 44). The feet of the image represent the Holy Roman Empire! This illustrates to us that the Holy Roman Empire will be in existence when Jesus returns to establish His kingdom.

The Ten-Horned Kingdom

The last part of the statue representing world image is the ten toes. The ten horns symbolize ten kings that will come together in the last days and become the power base of the Antichrist. The ten toes will be a revival or a continuation of the Holy Roman Empire.

Daniel 2:44-45 says, "And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed."

Another prophecy concerning this time is found in Revelation 17. Here, the Holy Roman Empire is depicted as a woman riding a beast. This beast has ten horns that symbolize ten kings that will rule at the end of the time of human government, and will fight against Jesus Christ. These ten kings will make war against the Lamb, Jesus Christ.

In Revelation 13, there is a seven-headed, ten-horned beast, which depicts the one-world government of the Antichrist. The beast is the

same as the one in Revelation 17 only that same seven-headed, ten-horned beast has a woman riding its back. The woman is called the Great Whore, or the Great Harlot. It can be proven conclusively that the woman is the Vatican, the Roman Catholic Church. This fits perfectly with the union between politics and religion that was prophesied by the iron mingled with clay. That prophecy was fulfilled by the founding of the Holy Roman Empire in 800 AD.

Religion and the EU

An article recently appeared in the *European Union Observer* entitled "Turkish Prime Minister Wants EU Constitution to Avoid Religious Reference." Pope John Paul II has repeatedly called for the inclusion of a statement in the EU's constitution that recognizes the historic relation-

ship between Europe and the Roman Catholic Church. He knows that the Holy Roman Empire cannot be a totally secular empire.

However, Turkey does not embrace Christianity in any form because it is nearly 98% Muslim. Turkey desperately wants to be included in the European Union because that's where the future is, but she is bitterly opposed to any religious stipulation. But throughout history, the current member nations have been tightly bound to the Vatican either through the Roman Catholic Church or through Protestantism, which originated from the Roman Catholic Church.

Twenty-Five Kings to Ten?

If the European Union is to fulfill the ten-king aspect of the prophecy, there will be some hurdles to overcome. How will 25 member states produce ten kings? Today, we cannot answer this question. Perhaps it will come in the form of a ten person inner circle or council. Such is being openly discussed. Time will certainly tell.

Betrayal and Victory

The Bible clearly prophesies a dual leadership. The Holy Roman Empire has always been a union of the strongest politician on the scene, possibly a future EU president, and the strongest religious leader who, historically has been the pope. Yet, the Bible says that the ten horns will hate the woman. It shall eat her flesh and burn her with fire. Revelation 17:16 says, "and the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire."

The stone, Jesus Christ, mentioned in Daniel 2:45, will then destroy world government and establish His kingdom on the earth. This gives us absolute proof that Jesus Christ will come back during the time of the soon-to-come revived Holy Roman Empire. 

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