The END TIMES



A fascinating interpretation of Ancient Prophecies forecasting the last days of the Middle East

Sal Smario

WELCOME TO THE PREVIEW

".. the words are closed up and sealed until the time of the end." (Daniel 12:9)

INTRODUCTION

The secrets hidden in the prophecies of the End Times have inspired the imagination of countless writers of both fiction and Biblical interpretations throughout the ages.

The subject of the last days is one that has always teetered on a line between fantasy and reality. Indeed, the desire to find the truth about the end of the world and the true message of wisdom hidden in the ancient prophecies has launched countless quests.

Today the hunt is heating up as those who study these ancient prophecies have become armed by the increased knowledge promised within the prophecies themselves and can, literally, feel that the time has come. Across the world, new generations of fiction writers have sprung up and are turning their focus toward the ultimate discoveries that lie hidden, as scripture puts it, in time itself.

Like all great quests, this adventure is hotly contested by all those who seek after the knowledge of the secrets that have eluded so many for so long down through the ages.

The reality is that the key to understanding the prophetic words on the End Times is awareness. In order to become aware one must understand *where* to look, *what* to look for, and *why* you must look there to see it according to the prophecies.

Awareness begins by understanding that the key to all end time prophecy are the Prophecies of Daniel, which were written specifically to the Jews about themselves and their Holy City, Jerusalem. There is no need for fiction, only exploration of the history of the Jews and Jerusalem as the sands of time blow across the landscape of the territory that today is called the Middle East.

What makes this prophecy the key is the fact that, in the prophecy, God ordered this word to be "sealed until the time of the end," at which point knowledge concerning the prophesied end time

events of the Jews and Jerusalem would be increased. Thus, all other end time prophecy concerning the Jews and Jerusalem had to key on the revelation of this one sealed prophecy.

This "sealing" made it a mystery. A mystery, as defined by the Apostle Paul, is a secret hidden in the mind of God that cannot be known or understood until God reveals it. Since it would be revealed at the time of the end, time itself is the revelator. Thus, the revelation of the prophecy could be seen by those watching for it when it arrived in history, provided they knew *where* to look, and *what* to look for.

The following interpretation is a guide through Daniel's incredible visions and the story that time has created, and is presently revealing, on the Middle East stage of history from the days of King Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon right up to the present.

Because Daniel's end time prophecy is historic in its fulfillment, after you become aware of it, you can watch it unfold in the newspapers and on television screens everyday. It will become a fact in your life, and any prior confusion will fade before your own observations of unfolding history and the knowledge of *why* you are looking there to see it.

It's a remarkable revelation! No interpretation is needed. History itself is the revealer, as the prophecy set the revelation of it in time. And that time has come.

Your personal journey to understanding the hidden truth about the End Times begins with your awareness. The journey to awareness begins with the prophecy that sets the geographical boundaries. With the boundaries established, other visions go on to set the timing and the players, creating a path across that territory over centuries of time, through specific kingdoms and rulers, ending with a final ruler whose ultimate goal is the annihilation of the Jews, and the desolation of the State of Israel.

Today, with 20/20 hindsight, we can look back along the path of time within those prophetic geographical boundaries and reconstruct how the present-day Middle East conflict may have arrived on today's stage of history from out of its ancient prophetic past.

History itself has spawned this fascinating interpretation of those ancient prophecies.

Our interpretation of end time prophecy is not intended to reflect a preference to, or personal indictment of, any of the people and places referenced in this book. It is an impartial work following serious Eschatological pathology.

We begin our story with a look at Daniel, the seer, who interpreted King Nebuchadnezzar's dream in order to save not only his own life, but the lives of others as well. Thus was the dramatic beginning for one of history's great prophets.

Enjoy the adventure.

The Scriptures are reproduced in the King James Version, but any translation will suffice. Though words of the translators differ, the story is the same in any translation and in any language.

Chapter 9
THE ROAD OVER TIME AND PLACE



Traveling down the prophetic road of history, created through time, over the lands of the Middle East, allows one to grasp how God used the concept of Empires (kingdoms) to keep track of time from the beginning to the end of the Jewish Covenant.

It is a continuous road, unbroken from their captivity in Egypt, to the wrath that will drive them back to God in their final days.

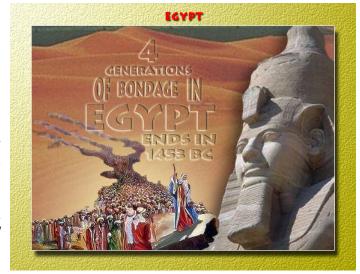
These illustrations are graphic demonstrations of that long, unbroken road, over time and place, of the Jewish people and their covenant with God. The road begins in Egypt and ends sometime in the future when God will return to complete His covenant with them.

The goal of this book is to identify the landscape of the end time stage of history. It is based upon the prophecy of Daniel because of what it has revealed, and is revealing on the stage of history today. Long before Daniel was even born, the covenant with God's chosen people was being acted out on the stage of history.

For the purpose of this summary, we will begin when they were in bondage in Egypt.

We start there because, in Revelation 17, an explanation is given to John by an angel that sets the stage for understanding the timing of the complete prophetic road.

The angel is answering John's question about "the beast that was and is not and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit."



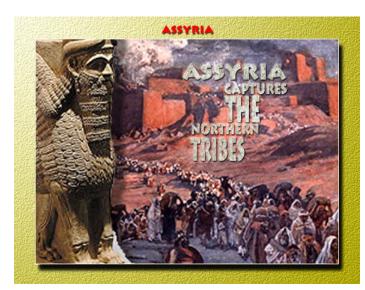
The angel tells John that the beast with the seven heads that he was seeing was actually seven kingdoms with seven kings. Five of the seven were fallen, one is, and one is yet to come; and when it does come, it's going to be around for only a short time.

"The beast that was, and is not, and shall ascend, who is even the eighth, and is of the seven, and goes into perdition" identifies the spiritual ruler of the final kingdom depicted in Daniel's prophecy by the toes that grow out of the feet. He will be the spiritual head (dominion) of one of the seven kings that make up this beast with seven heads and ten horns; such as the *Prince of*

Grecia or Prince of Persia.

What interests us in this part of the story are the five kingdoms that had fallen before John was on the scene. You can't understand Daniel if you don't start there.

Even before Daniel began prophesying, two kingdoms had oppressed the Jews. Their first bondage began in Egypt and ended after four generations when Moses got them set free. The



roadway of the Jewish Covenant with God begins in Egypt.

As you can see by the illustration, this journey is one that comes out of the Earth; therefore, it's easy to follow it on the Earth because the Earth operates on a fixed timetable which is set by the rising and setting of the sun. This rising and setting of the sun is the way the Jews keep their religious timetable even today. God set His times for the arrival of their Messiah and the completion of their covenant on the Jewish calendar using the sun, the moon, and the time of the year.

However, for our purpose now, what we need to know in order to develop the landscape of the End Times as outlined in Daniel and Revelation is that Egypt was the first of the five kings that had already fallen, as revealed to John by the angel.

Following Egypt, Assyria was the second kingdom to take them into bondage. After they were set free from Egypt and had settled in the Promised Land, Sennacherib, king of Assyria took the ten northern tribes into bondage.

Therefore, even before Daniel began his prophecy, the Chosen People had been oppressed by two kingdoms, Egypt and Assyria.

By beginning with Egypt, the lineup of the five fallen kingdoms out of the eight kingdoms in the Revelation 17 prophecy can be understood.

In Revelation John was shown all of this by an angel who described the entire scenario, not just the part that Daniel saw. Daniel was not even living when the first two kingdoms oppressed his people.

Daniel was just a boy when Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon took the southern tribes of Judah, Benjamin and Levi into bondage, long after Egypt and Assyria had passed from the scene.

Once again, remember that prophecy is like looking at a mountain range far out in the distance; the front hills seem to melt into the ones behind, and it all appears to be a single silhouette. As

you get closer and closer, you begin to see that there are valleys inbetween.

You will miss the insight into prophecy unless you understand this concept. You must link all of God's Word on the same subject together. God has used different people at different times to continue His story as time has traveled down the road toward the completion of His plan.

The next in succession of those five fallen kingdoms is Babylon. Babylon was the first of Daniel's

PAYADOO

PAYADOO

PAYADOO

PAYADOO

PAYADOO

PARADOO

PAR

kingdoms and the head of gold on the image of Nebuchadnezzar.

However, it is Revelation 17's third kingdom.

Babylon was depicted as a Lion with specific features and characteristics in Daniel's dream.

Chapter 12

THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM

Currently, there are Moslem kings and rulers living on the land that once made up the Hashemite Kingdom of Muhammad. The Hashemite Kingdom is the land that grew out of the Seleucid



portion of the old Grecian Empire which, in the first century, was partly ruled by Rome. These modern Moslem Kings and rulers, led by the Hashemite King, are presently engaged in trying to make peace with Israel.

The modern day Hashemite kingdom has an interesting road of its own concerning its entry onto the stage of Middle Eastern history.

As direct descendents of the Prophet Muhammad, today, the Hashemite family is a unifying factor interwoven into the life of modern Jordan.

The once great Kingdom that had occupied most of what is today called the Middle East is now reduced to the tiny Kingdom of Jordan. However, the way Jordan's kingdom came into existence, or as the prophecy says, "grew up among them", is

THE BOUNDARIES MAP

SELECTION OF MUHAMMAD

ROME

MOSLEM

quite interesting; and because of the importance of this kingdom to the prophecy in the modern day, we need to understand how it "grew up."

The modern day stage of history in the Middle East had its beginning in 1916.

During World War I the Arabs joined the British against the Ottomans. In the revolt of 1916, Colonel T.E. Lawrence ("of Arabia"), assisted the Arabs in cutting the Hejaz railway. In July 1917 the army of Prince Faysal ibn Husayn (of the Hashemite Dynasty) captured al 'Aqabah, and by October 1918 Amman and Damascus were in Allied hands.

In 1920 the Conference of San Remo (Italy) created two mandates, allotting the one over Palestine to Great Britain and the one over Syria to France. This act effectively separated the area now covered by Israel and Jordan from that of Syria.

In November 1920 Abdullah I, the Hashemite King Faysal's brother, arrived in Ma'an, then part of the Hejaz region, with 2,000 armed supporters. He was intent on raising the tribes to attack the French, who had forced Faysal to relinquish his newly founded kingdom in Syria. By April 1921, however, the British had prevailed upon Abdullah to take over as ruler of what then became known as Transjordan.

In effect, Turkish rule in Transjordan was simply replaced by British rule. The mandate

Chapter 13

THE FINAL TURN IN THE ROAD

Time has moved on since the meeting of the Arab kings at Sharm el Sheikh, and now we know who wanted peace with Israel and who didn't. The Little Horn character of Daniel's prophecy,



with the official endorsement of the non dissenting kings, has been introduced for world recognition as he brings to life the role of the peacemaker.

With Daniel 7:8 calling for the uprooting of three of the ten horns to make room for the little horn and his plan, it seems clear from the meeting that the three dissenters to peace with Israel have become excellent candidates for those historical roles predicted by the prophecy.

The newly selected Little Horn did, in fact, find a way to peace in the Middle East. It was ratified by not only all of the Arab Kings, with the three dissenters excepted, but by all of the world's major powers.

The plan was called <u>The Two Basket Plan</u>: one basket for commerce and one basket for security.

To ad sweetener to the commerce basket, Jordan was awarded a free trade agreement. Together with Israel, who also has a free trade agreement, they put the Middle East on equal footing in matters of trade with the United States.

The pledge of security for Israel was in the other basket. All of the assenting nations would guarantee Israel's security. Once the agreement was reached, the Plan was presented at a meeting of the Arab League in Lebanon by Crown Prince Abdullah (now King Abdullah) of Saudi Arabia, under the name of The Roadmap.

Once again, the three dissenting nations of Iraq, Syria, and Libya voiced their opposition to ever making peace with Israel, and vowed to take action to stop it.

Hence, history has recorded the path of the dissenters to peace with Israel.

Uprooting can be accomplished in many ways, as history is demonstrating. In the case of Iraq, the leader, Saddam Hussein, was literally pulled up out of a hole in the ground like a carrot being uprooted.

On the other hand Libya chose to uproot itself through an attitude adjustment, changing its mind instead of its government. They are now all for a peaceful settlement between the Arabs and the Jews. They have invited the Jews to reopen diplomatic relations with them, and have even invited the Jews to come and live in peace in Libya.

In the case of Syria, we are witnessing an uprooting that can only be described as total "melt-down." Corruption from the top down in Syria's government, coupled with a mild case of

incompetence is what is getting Syria's Bashar Assad uprooted.

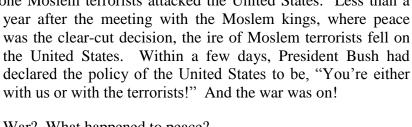
Although still in power as this book goes to press, the on going news shows that King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia and President Mubarak of Egypt have abandoned Assad and have notified President Chirac of France that they are supporting the establishment of a new government in exile, in France, with the former Vice President Khaddam who lives in exile in Paris.

In essence, Assad has been uprooted; he just hasn't been dealt with as yet. However, it's an inevitable happening.

We don't want to get ahead of ourselves in the chronology of the events though. While all of this was going on, many other historical events were taking place; mile stones were reached that are paralleling the Daniel prophecy on the present day stage of history in the world and the Middle East.

The kings that left that meeting on October 17, 2000 in Sharm el Sheikh left there seeking a way to make peace with Israel through their selected representative, the Hashemite King.

Then, on September 11, twenty one Moslem terrorists attacked the United States. Less than a



War? What happened to peace?

Perhaps we could understand the answer to that a little better if we understood what might be a significant underlying cause of the attack on 9/11.

Notwithstanding the volumes that it would take to explain the complexity of the Arab World, I offer this general overview of

what might be taking place in the struggle between the people of the Arab world and their future.

EPILOGUE

The Book of Daniel is made up of 12 chapters, and someone who's unfamiliar with scriptural history may wonder why we've chosen some chapters and not others.

The Book of Daniel recounts many stories of Daniel's career and that of his friends, and it covers some seventy years. We have the story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, thrown into the furnace for defying the King's edict to worship an image; miraculously, they emerged unharmed. We can't know if the story is historical, just as we can't know if an Angel really shut the lion's mouth to spare Daniel's life. These are questions of faith.

However if a prophetic vision is claimed to be interpreted by an Angel (or an alligator, for that matter), it can be tested if it is historical in its prediction. The results from that test (its historical interpretation) can be debated.

We have attempted to interpret Daniel's prophecy by using all of the significant material available to us in his writings, and by applying that material to the events of history.

Daniel wasn't reading or writing the 'Book' of Daniel. Neither was Daniel reading the 'Book' of Jeremiah. He had come across a particular scroll in the writings of Jeremiah that informed him of the seventy years that had been prophesied against his people.

Similarly the "Book of Daniel" is made up of individual scrolls, written over many years. They comprise a collection of writings which were eventually translated and compiled into a book. From these writings come the most instructive visions concerning the end of the Jewish Covenant.

As the Word itself testifies, there is only one true test of a prophet. What he says comes to pass.