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## Last-Day Global Power Coalition Searching for the Last-Day 10 Kings - Part I

By Wilfred Hahn



According to at least five prophetic statements or visions recorded in the Bible (Daniel 2, 7, Revelation 12, 13, 17) 10 kings will come together to form a world-dominating power coalition in the last days.

**M**ight you be living in one of these countries that give rise to a top-10 last-day king? Whether or not you are, should it have an impact upon your life?

These are not frivolous questions. It remains a relevant and reasonable inquiry for everybody no matter which pre-millennial eschatological persuasion one may take. The power structures that give rise to the 10 domains of these kings will already be visible well ahead of the Tribulation Period. Therefore, though this final group of leaders could assemble rather suddenly and cannot be identified exactly until it occurs, the actual power machinery that underpins them can be identified in advance.

As such, given the late "last-day" times in which we live, it is extremely likely that the countries and power structures that give rise to these individual last-day kings are already

in view. The final 10 countries are surely jockeying into place. Together under the Antichrist, they soon will be in a position to crush, devour and trample underfoot everything else (Daniel 7:19). Then, just who might be these 10-day last-day kings?

### The Speculative Risks of Considering the 10 Kings

If any proposed list of 10 "kings" will still prove somewhat conjectural, why are we pursuing their identity? For at least three reasons: First, to again alert us to the uniqueness and urgency of our times. The period of the top-10 kings is near, one more of many signs that the season of our Lord's return is ever more imminent and the rapidly approaching time of "Jacob's trouble."

Second, to recognize that the nature of global power has become very opaque and



therefore, that which might seem obvious to the casual observer today could actually be deliberate diversion. We live in a time of globalism, an age where the nature of world power is very different from earlier times.

And lastly, our survey also will serve to “best fit” existing pre-millennial prophetic views to our present and future day, particularly the “Revived Roman Empire” and “Holy Roman Empire” theories as well as others. Not only will our “Last-Day Power Coalition Survey” offer some eye-opening possibilities, but also the conclusion that, at this point in world history, there are still reasons to yet keep an open mind as to the exact identity of the final 10 kings.

Is there any risk in searching Scripture and testing various views? No. In the end, the Bible will always prove itself true. Rest assured: We will conduct our study here with humility. The wonderful thing about God’s Word is that we are allowed to inquire without any fear of truth. We are safe in the knowledge that the Bible will always prove itself correct, no matter what we may think or speculate. At the very worst, we will at least gain a greater certainty of what we already believed.

As such, let’s consider Scripture and facts and take a fresh look at the possible identity of the 10 countries that may give rise to the 10 kings.

### Follow the Power and Money

Of the many characteristics that the Bible reveals about the last-day kings — all of which we will yet review — one of the most important concerns their power. The Bible says that these 10 kings “have one purpose and will give their power and authority to the beast” (Revelation 17:11). That is why our search will heavily focus on the sources of “power and authority” found in the globalized world of today. Of course, we will first consult the Bible to discover the key identifiers of these final, last-day kings. There are at

least 13 sets of such criteria as well as other clues.

But, surveying the world’s power structures in order to determine just from where the last-day kings are likely to emerge is not necessarily easy, though more information is available today than ever before. Power is not necessarily found where it may seem to exist. This should not be a surprise, as our enemy is both a liar and a deceiver (John 8:44, 2 John 1:7).

Discerning where real power lies in our world is more vulnerable to misdirection and conspiracy as perhaps never before. Popular perception cannot be trusted. Today, power takes many forms — from financial and economic to military, from technological to the soft power behind various global organizations such as the United Nations and the World Trade Organization. Out of this ethereal global sea rise 10 kings who then throw their support behind the Antichrist.

### The Revived Roman Empire

But if all 10 kings will come from Europe, what’s the point of studying what the Bible says about the final 10 kings? Well, that question would be putting the 10-king cartel before the hearse. Indeed, it is a widely received view that a Revived Roman Empire will give rise to these 10 kings and that the European Union (EU) is the fulfillment of this theory ... or, at the very least, the predecessor to this final empire. In fact, it is a view so firmly held in some circles — early, pre-EU versions having been around for at least 100 years if not more — that some consider it almost dogma. In fact, could all 10 kings come from Europe? And, exactly what Scriptures are used to substantiate this theory in the first case? We want to tackle these points first before proceeding in our search for the last-day 10 kings.

According to one of the forms of the revived empire view, some day the old Roman Empire will be rebuilt on its original founda-

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tions and will again control approximately the same geographic region that ancient Rome once held at its peak power. While this indeed could happen, Scripture does not necessarily require this form, nor actually does it provide airtight proof. Also difficult to establish is conclusive evidence that the European Union (EU) of today represents the fulfillment or future fulfilling of any such revival.

At one time, one of the earlier stages of the European Union was thought to represent these 10 kings exactly — especially when there were only 10 country members (after Greece joined in 1981 and before 1986 when Spain and Portugal acceded). While it is very possible that (future) leaders of European countries could represent most if not all of these 10 kings, there are a number of possibilities why the EU today alone may not represent the 10-king power coalition of the 7th head on the beast shown in Revelation 17. Could it be possible that the US, Canada or Brazil, for instance, might give rise to one of these kings?

Consider also that the original Roman Empire at its apex extended much farther east than the present-day EU, extending well into the Middle East. Parts of Syria and Iraq, as well as Egypt, were then considered Roman domain. Today these are not part of Europe. On the other hand, a large part of the EU today is outside of the original realm of the original Roman Empire. For example, the Scandinavian countries and parts of Germany and Great Britain lie externally. But more factors than just geography further our line of inquiry.

Whatever our conclusions, we can say in advance that it is almost totally implausible that the emergence of the EU today is not prophetically significant. Whether or not all



10 kings come from Europe, it is an unavoidable conclusion that it plays an important facilitating role in future prophetic fulfillment. The rather sudden rise of the EU is too remarkable to be regarded as a random event of history.

We will return to the significance of this and other points in Part III, particularly for America. For now, consider that Scripture gives no evidence of a single superpower numbering in this group of the final 10 kings. After all, if that were so, why would a 10-king coalition of kings be needed to give their pooled power — sufficient to dominate the world — to the Antichrist when a single superpower would suffice?

#### Searching for a Revived Roman Empire

Where do we find the primary Scripture support for the view that links the European Union of today as the prefigurement of a reviving Roman Empire? First, we do not find any specific prophecy that says any of the four Gentile kingdoms the prophet Daniel saw (Daniel 2 and 7) must be revived. Before we examine this point further, a very brief overview of Bible prophecy in this regard will be helpful.

In Daniel 2, the prophet Daniel interpreted that three more major kingdoms would arise after the Babylonian reign of King Nebuchadnezzar's line, the fourth of these being the an-



cient Roman Empire. To recall, his interpretation was in response to Nebuchadnezzar's dream of a tall statue with a head "made of pure gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of baked clay" (Daniel 3:32-33). Ten toes of iron and clay were also shown. Later, Daniel was again shown these same kingdoms in the form of four different creatures (Daniel 7). The last of these — the terrible, unrecognizable beast — had 10 horns which were interpreted to represent 10 kings.

In Revelation 17 we again see 10 kings shown as 10 horns, but this time on the seventh head of a beast, (which is also the final ruling form of the gentle fourth kingdom that Daniel saw) and corresponds to the 10 toes on the image and the 10 horns on the fourth beast portrayed in Daniel 2 and 7. This same beast is shown in Revelation 12 and 13 also having 10 horns. Undoubtedly, they must be significant, as we see this group of 10 reoccur quite often in Scripture.

#### The Roman Empire: Another Mystery

With respect to the longevity of the fourth and last kingdom, the only fact that Daniel tells us specifically is that it will last right to the time of the final 10 kings — the 10 toes shown in Daniel 2 and the 10 horns in Daniel 7. He makes no clear distinction between the ancient Roman Empire and its endtime version. John the Revelator, on the other hand, writing after the point in time that the mystery of the Church had already been revealed, splits Daniel's fourth Roman-type kingdom into two snapshots. He provided two pictures of the Roman-type Empire. They frame either side of the dispensation, his vision corresponding to the 69th and 70th weeks appointed to the Jews that also straddles this time gap. Between these points, almost 2,000 years have passed.

Combining the visions of both John and Daniel, we could conclude that the fourth

kingdom — the Roman-type kingdom — actually never goes away. Rather, it has been changing its form for over 2,000 years. Various scholars agree that the original Roman Empire never really disappeared entirely, only changing forms. Quoting H. G. Wells, an elitist who advocated a "world state," "The Roman Empire (throughout centuries of history) staggers, sprawls and is thrust off the stage, and reappears, and — if we may carry the image one step further — it is the Church of Rome which plays the part of the magician and keeps the corpse alive."<sup>1</sup>

To conclude on this point, we see that the Bible only gives us pictures of the last Gentile empire nearer its beginning and end. The first Rome existing at the time of John — the sixth king "that is" (Revelation 17:10) corresponding to the legs of iron of Nebuchadnezzar's vision (Daniel 2) — then morphs into the seventh empire from which is shown as feet of iron and clay with 10 toes (Daniel 2). These two forms — shown as the sixth and seventh "mountains" or "heads" in Revelation 17 — both stem from the era of the fourth ruler or Roman lineage, though the latter also incorporating characteristics of all four seen by Daniel (See the picture of the beast shown in Revelation 13.) Technically, nothing really revives; it only changes in form.

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### Roman by People or Geography?

Next, let’s look at the cornerstone proof statement used by proponents of the Revived Roman Empire theory. It is found in Daniel 9:26. There it says, “The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary.” This statement specifically refers to the destruction of Jerusalem and the Jewish temple, which occurred under Caesar Titus, in 70 A.D. Since the people of the Roman Empire destroyed the temple, it is then concluded that the final “ruler that will come” of the last days — the Antichrist who is initially backed by the 10 kings — must therefore be from the same empire. According to this logic, if the Roman kingdom doesn’t exist anymore, then it must revive if it is to take its original form.

Mainly from this one reference in Daniel 9 (but also others in Daniel 2:41-44, 7:8, 7:24-25), proponents conclude that there indeed will be a Revived Roman Empire — in other words, a coalition of nations coming together from the same approximate region of the Old Roman Empire — and that the EU of today is that entity, and if not yet, at least its precursor. Certainly, not all prophecy experts agree as to the exact identification of this empire nor that the EU is its precursor. However, the Bible makes very clear that the final 10 kings will come out of the fourth kingdom that Daniel saw — the Roman Empire: “The ten horns are ten kings who will come from this kingdom” (Daniel 7:24).

Let’s gently test this cornerstone statement. What does it actually say? Nowhere in Daniel 9 (specifically verse 26) is there any mention of countries or regions, only “people.” This is significant. The original Aramaic word used here for “people” (Daniel 9:26) does not mean a specific country or region but more a sense of “tribes” or a distinct society. Therefore, to be literally rigid on this interpretation, it is the “people” — the tribes and society — who razed the Jewish temple in 70 AD, not a specific region or countries of

the “ruler that will come” that is being identified. Moreover, in ancient times, a “people” always identifies an associated religion. Jews were Hebrews. Assyrians worshipped As-tarte, etc.

We must give consideration to this clear “people” connection. It is significant. People and tribes can move; geography does not. That being the case, we are alerted to follow the “people” for more clues.

### Why the Roman Empire Already Exists

Let’s continue pursuing other significant questions that concern the Roman identifier of “people.” Earlier, in the vision of the large human image (Daniel 2) we are informed that one of the meanings of the mix of iron and clay in its feet and toes refers to people. “The people will be a mixture and will not remain united, any more than iron mixes with clay” (Daniel 2:43). Remember, Daniel only identifies the “last-day ruler” as being associated with the same mixed “peoples” who destroy Jerusalem in 70 A.D.

Just who were these people? During the first century (at the very time that the people destroyed the temple), the Roman Empire encompassed many peoples from conquered nations. It was the practice of Rome to extend citizenship to the people of many of its conquests. Also, it allowed them to serve in the Roman Legion. While in earlier times, only Roman landowners were allowed to serve in the army, by the first century the Roman Legion was manned by many foreigners. Therefore, the “people” (the army) that destroyed Jerusalem were of varied heritage from southern Europe, the Middle East and other regions of the Roman Empire. They were all part of the Roman system and its extended society. They were all adherents of the “Roman Way” just as people in North America are part of the “American Way.”

As this was the case, it is not necessary that a future constellation of countries representing the Roman-type seventh mountain



must be of the same genetic lineage of the original Romans out of historic or present-day Italy or of the same exact region of the original empire. They can include people from other regions.

We can safely conclude at this point that the 10 kings and the final ruler will come out of this same constellation of people or extended society that destroyed the Jewish temple in 70 A.D. The same is true for the final “ruler” as he emerges from among the 10 horns (Daniel 7:8) that are kings. At the very least, they must be people of the population stock and/or society from which the Roman army was drawn in the first century A.D.

Assuming the literal sense of this “people” connection, it is only logical to conclude that a last-day empire related to Roman heritage could also include all the Roman-type offshoots that have populated the world. These may be countries stemming from peoples, tribes and nations of the Middle East, southern Europe, Britain or the Mediterranean circumference.

However, as there were only European “people” offshoots into the New World, such countries as the United States, Canada, Australia, Brazil, Argentina and others must be considered as being from the same societies from which the final “ruler will come.”

All of these Roman-type nations, as well as many present-day EU-member countries, are typified as Hellenistic, industrious, pluralistic, democratic, and many of them of Christian heritage. All of them derive from the same “tribes” as represented Rome in the first century A.D. and later. We will see that they also have other similarities.

### Thoughts To Ponder

In the final two parts of this series, we will focus our examination on the identi-

fication of the global coalition of 10 kings. To this point, we have simply established that the universe of “Roman-type” countries can be much larger than just European countries. Next, we will review 13 sets of clues that Scripture reveals about these 10 kings. Can we narrow this larger universe of countries to a smaller subset?

For example, we know that the final 10 countries giving rise to the 10 kings must have “power and authority” (Revelation 17:11) to give to the Antichrist and, but also not to be overlooked is the fact that a religious harlot robed in scarlet and purple rides upon them. John wrote, “I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was covered with blasphemous names and had seven heads and ten horns. The woman was dressed in purple and scarlet” (Revelation 17:2-3). We will want to find out who this religious harlot is and just which kings or countries she is controlling today. Could it be an ecumenical mish-mash of different religions under the tent of a Roman primate? If so, such facts that half of the world’s Roman Catholics is in the Americas, (only 26% are in Europe) will certainly influence our inquiry.<sup>2</sup>

With such clues we may be able propose some possible identities of just who these final 10 kings and countries may be. Can these kings all be European? Could it be that the rise of the EU is significant for no other major reason than to cause redistribution of world power among the final 10 kings? We will seek these answers. Of course, we must humbly remember that only fulfilled prophecy will prove the ultimate truth. (MC)

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### Endnotes

- 1 Wells, H.G. (1924), *The Outline of History*, New York. (Leigh, James, *Globalization 2005: Ever Buoyant Roman Empire: Re-emerging Europe in Post-Globalization*.)
- 2 Vatican Central Office of Church Statistics, *Statistical Yearbook of the Church*, 2002