



For more perspectives and resources on world economic and financial trends of interest to Christians, visit Wilfred's website "<http://www.eternalvalue.com>" for additional resources and subscribe to the free newsletter *Eternal Value Review: World Review and Market Monitor*.

Last-Day Global Power Coalition: The Identity of the Final 10 Kings - Part III

By Wilfred Hahn



There is a famous saying: "Power is not always where it seems." How true! I learned that lesson as a young global securities analyst studying large conglomerate companies. Looking at some of their complex, interweaving corporate structures, it was not always obvious as to where the real power lay—i.e., just which corporate entity or joint venture partnership was pulling the real strings of control from behind the curtain.

The same encryption of power operates on the global level today. Though an organization (for example, the United Nations or the World Bank) may appear to be run on a democratic or equal-partnership basis, the reality can be very different. It is not an unfamiliar concept. There is a popular joke that married women often share. "The man may be the head but the woman is the neck. It is she who determines which way the head will turn." For obvious reasons, I would not want to give too much credence to the truth behind this joke, yet it does illustrate the point. Power does not always lie where it seems.

Niall Ferguson, the now-famous historian, ponders the question of power in the

world today in an article entitled, "What is Power?" He illustrates how difficult it is to define global power in our day. There are many sources and types; much of it is indirect. Simply being dominant in one or more power types is not sufficient to be one of the "kings" of the world. Quoting Ferguson, "So power is not just military power; or rather military power depends on economic growth and political institutions. [...] power is about monopolizing as far as possible what might be called the means of projection (of power). [...] power is tending to be dispersed. And the more it is dispersed, the less power there is."

Global power is found in an "uncleaving" mix (Daniel 2:43) of many sources.



Here is just a short listing: financial wealth, military power, technology, population size, economic size, oil and other strategic resources, terrorism, diplomacy, multinational companies, pools of investable capital such as pensions, religion, democracy, patriotism, dominance in international organizations such as the United Nations and others, strategic geography, knowledge, international cultural influence, and organizational efficiency. We could list many more. Indeed, world power is dispersed in our time and is very difficult to measure. Yet it is a combination of these power factors behind 10 specific kings — the 10 horns John saw in Revelation 17 — that will back the authority that will be given over to the final Antichrist for “one hour.”

The Conclusion

In this series we have explored the question of the identity of the last-day 10-king power coalition. In fact, in studying this topic, we have researched over 60 power factors in the world today, surveying approximately 200 countries and 13 scriptural characteristics that directly identify these kings, as well as many other indirect prophetic factors. The project has become so large and interesting, it has turned into a book project. But, without waiting for the book to be completed, what are our main conclusions for now?

There are several important ones. The first undoubtedly will seem anticlimactic. But it is the most crucial: Keep your options open — none of the popular theories such as the revived Roman Empire theory or the Holy Roman Empire or others can be validated 100 percent. That is not to say that all 10-nation kings cannot come from a future-day, widened European Union (EU). Yet, Scripture leaves open a number of other possibilities. Therefore, I believe this is the most im-

portant conclusion to heed: Do not become fixated on only one possible interpretation of what the final 10-toed kingdom will look like. The jury is still out. You may indeed be living in one of the countries that will become part of the future 10-king global power coalition.

Frankly, it is much too early to be able to clearly identify the 10-king coalition. There are several reasons for this. First, the final 10-king coalition will only appear out of the ethereal global sea sometime (likely) after the mid-point of the Great Tribulation. The good news for those who expect the Rapture is that we will not be on earth to know the final answer. The second reason, as already mentioned, is that there are a number of possible scenarios that the Bible leaves open. Given the range of scenarios, we produce a list of the most likely candidates to fill at least six or seven of the 10-king positions.

Yet, crucially, there is one more factor to consider. It is demon power. The Bible clearly illustrates that demonic princes were behind some, if not all, of the world's major empires. The prophet Daniel refers to both the prince of Greece and the prince of Persia (Daniel 10:20). The angelic being speaking to Daniel in this account mentions that he has been fighting the prince of Persia with Michael the archangel. Clearly, these latter entities are fallen angels. Ezekiel also gives a prophecy about the king of Tyre, and shows that Satan himself is the grand puppet master behind this king and his kingdom (Ezekiel 28:11). He certainly remains the guiding influence behind the world's concentrated commercialism and globalization today.

Suffice it to say the demonic forces are involved in the rise and fall of human kingdoms. How is it that Alexander the Great, coming from a small, undeveloped

The Bible clearly illustrates that demonic princes were behind some, if not all, of the world's major empires.



One of the main reasons cautioning us against accepting any conventional theories about the 10 kings is that the last of the four Gentile kingdoms Daniel saw was said to be uncommon.

Macedonian kingdom, could sweep almost the entire known world at that time, conquering it in only 13-14 years or so by the age of 33? How is it that an unlikely individual like Hitler could come to power and shake the entire world in less than a decade? In Ephesians 6:12, the Apostle Paul writes that we are “not fighting against flesh and blood,” but rather against *archons*, *exousias* and *kosmokratias* — demonic powers in high places.

Therefore, we must leave open the possibility that the Antichrist does not need to arise from a powerful country or a union of nations like the European Union. In fact, by today’s reference, we would need to conclude that he would not. Daniel 8 shows him arising from somewhere within the domain of the Hellenistic Empire (the four-part empire that emerged out of Alexander the Great’s conquests). Since he also is shown in Daniel 2, 7 and 9 to come from the later Roman Empire, he must therefore arise from an area that is common to both. That is a rather small area in Asia Minor and the Middle East, with a small portion of Europe included, where no “powerhouse” countries are located today (for example, Iraq, Turkey, Greece, Syria, Jordan and others). If indeed the Antichrist himself can arise from such unlikely circumstances, the same could apply to some of the final 10 kings.

Focusing on What Is Different

One of the main reasons cautioning us against accepting any conventional theories about the 10 kings is that the last of the four Gentile kingdoms Daniel saw was said to be uncommon. In fact, Bible prophecy expressly and repeatedly says that this last-day constellation of power is “different.” The prophet Daniel alerts us that the structure of this fourth and last empire would be “different from all the

former beasts” (Daniel 7:7) — in other words, it would be “different” from the structure of the previous regimes. This must be an important distinction, as twice more Daniel informs us that the nature of the fourth kingdom is truly different than anything before (Daniel 7:19, 23).

Therefore, to simply assume that a last-day Roman-type assembly of power in the world will be so easily and neatly recognizable may be an error. It could also serve to divert our attention from the real power sources and locations that are aligning for the future Antichrist. It is similar to the situation of a one-world currency. It already exists in principle, though few people can see it. (See “One-World-Order: Waiting for Godot?” *Midnight Call*, September 2006.)

Crucially, we learn that the last-day power regime is not united. Daniel says so in no unclear words, “[...] the people will be a mixture and will not remain united, any more than iron mixes with clay” (Daniel 2:43). Also, this image signifies that different types of powers are intermingled; some are strong as iron, and others are weak as brittle clay. We see here that there are 10 actual sovereign nations or power foci — the “ten toes” — though each have a mixed source of power and preside over nations of mixed races, tribes or ethnic groups. From this we can reasonably conclude that they will draw their strength from both soft and hard power.

And, to that end, our survey has also ranked all the major countries according to these two types of power. A summary of the top 25 candidates according to “power” that are likely to fill at least six to seven of these positions, is shown on page 29. However, several more important topics need to be quickly reviewed before we come to our candidate listing.





Why Europe's Rising Is Significant

Though I conclude that the European Union will likely not be the source of all 10 kings, we still can, and should, regard the rise of the European Union as a prophetically significant occurrence. Frankly, this Union is much too improbable, sudden, and important in world affairs to be considered an insignificant impulse of history. Besides, any shift of this monumental scope that also takes place after Israel has been born signifies that it indeed must play an important role in the preparation for future prophecy. We should not be fooled, or as Apostle Paul said, we are not "unaware of his schemes" (2 Corinthians 2:11). The same therefore should be said for an unprecedented development such as 25 nations voluntarily

coming together under the European Union umbrella during a time of peace or the smaller 10-nation group of the Western European Union (WEU). But what is their purpose?

There could be a number of reasons, many of which remain conjecture at this time. Could it be that a Roman Catholic resurgence blankets Europe (at least its southern parts), igniting strife with the Muslim world? (See "Will Europe Have Turkey?", *Midnight Call*, April 2005 for another perspective.) Or, do some of its core members become a major portion of the power bloc that later conspires with the Antichrist? There may at least be one other role behind the rising of the European Union, and this has to do with hemming in America.

Therefore, to simply assume that a last-day Roman-type assembly of power in the world will be so easily and neatly recognizable may be an error. It could also serve to divert our attention from the real power sources and locations that are aligning for the future Antichrist.

WHERE IS THE POWER? Searching for the Last-day Top-10 Kings

Top 25, ranked according to Soft and Direct Power

	Stemming from Roman People 70 AD (Dan. 9:26)	From Original Area of Roman Empire	Mainly Christian, Muslim or Jewish	Male King?	Soft Power Rank (Preliminary)	Direct Power Rank (Preliminary)	Overall Power Rank (Preliminary)
Country	Roman Origin (A Roman People or Offshoot)	Country July or partly located within original Roman Empire (1st to 2nd Century)	50% of population or more either Christian, Muslim or Jewish	Country Head is Male	Rank out of 166 Countries (1 is Highest)	Rank out of 166 Countries (1 is Highest)	Rank out of 166 Countries (1 is Highest)
1 United States	YES		YES	YES	5	1	1
2 United Kingdom	YES	YES	YES	YES	1	5	2
3 Canada	YES		YES	YES	7	2	3
4 Italy	YES	YES	YES	YES	4	7	4
5 France	YES	YES	YES	YES	2	9	5
6 Mexico	YES		YES	YES	12	4	6
7 Germany	YES	YES	YES	NO	3	17	8
8 Brazil	YES		YES	YES	18	3	9
9 Australia	YES		YES	YES	16	6	10
10 Spain	YES	YES	YES	YES	10	12	11
11 Netherlands	YES	YES	YES	YES	8	16	12
12 Austria	YES	YES	YES	YES	19	26	19
13 Belgium	YES	YES	YES	YES	6	40	20
14 Switzerland	YES	YES	YES	YES	11	38	21
15 Turkey	YES	YES	YES	YES	26	27	23
16 Saudi Arabia	?	PARTIAL	YES	YES	30	24	24
17 Greece	YES	YES	YES	YES	20	34	25
18 Venezuela	YES		YES	YES	31	25	26
19 Czech Republic	?	PARTIAL	YES	YES	27	30	27
20 Argentina	YES		YES	YES	36	23	28
21 Hungary	YES	YES	YES	YES	21	42	30
22 New Zealand	YES		YES	NO	37	33	31
23 Portugal	YES	YES	YES	YES	25	45	32
24 Romania	YES	YES	YES	YES	42	54	38
25 Slovakia	?	PARTIAL	YES	YES	34	68	40
57 Vatican	YES	YES	YES	YES	?	?	?

Source: Mulberry Press (2006)



Therefore, if the United States is to remain the world's top power, there can be no fulfillment of the last-day regime. Either one of two developments must first occur: One or more strong powers within the 10-king orb — sufficiently mighty to counterbalance the United States — must rise.



At present, America is still too economically and militarily powerful to qualify as one of the 10 toes.

The Problem of America

There can be no endtime Roman Empire as long as one superpower remains among the “Roman-type” nations. If that were not so, Daniel’s vision would not have included 10 toes, of which no more than two can be the biggest. While some toes are indeed bigger than others, they are not 10 times bigger, but rather represent a balance. Therefore, if the United States is to remain the world’s top power, there can be no fulfillment of the last-day regime. Either one of two developments must first occur: One or more strong powers within the 10-king orb — sufficiently mighty to counterbalance the United States — must rise. But since these countries do not include the kings of the East, these must emerge somewhere in the West. If not the former outcome, then America must decrease to the point that it becomes a more balanced part of the “clay and iron mix” confederacy of nations. (It is also possible, as already seems evident today, that some of the kings of the East— Revelation 16:12 — can also rise in power.)

Therefore, in either of these cases, we can still argue that a unified Europe can indeed be seen as a prophetically significant development as it becomes an agent of the process to the final last-day Roman-type empire even though the European Union itself likely does not qualify alone to raise the final 10 kings. And, finally, it is only logical that the world can

have no remaining superpower at that point in time. If so, it would not be necessary for the Antichrist to cobble together power from 10 different kings, if the sponsorship of only one superpower would have sufficed.

The Harlot That Controls the Beast

There is at least one more prophetic picture shown in the Bible that refers to the very short period that the 10 kings come into alignment. Someone other than the Antichrist is pulling the strings behind the kings. Wrote John, “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 17:3-4) The 10 kings may indeed have enough power collectively to allow the Antichrist to do as he pleases and to oppress the entire world. But, here, we clearly see that there is a third party, a harlot who controls the kings. The Bible clearly says this is the case: “And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth” (Revelation 17:18-KJV).

Her position as being on top implies that she is controlling or guiding the coalition of 10 kings, as would a rider



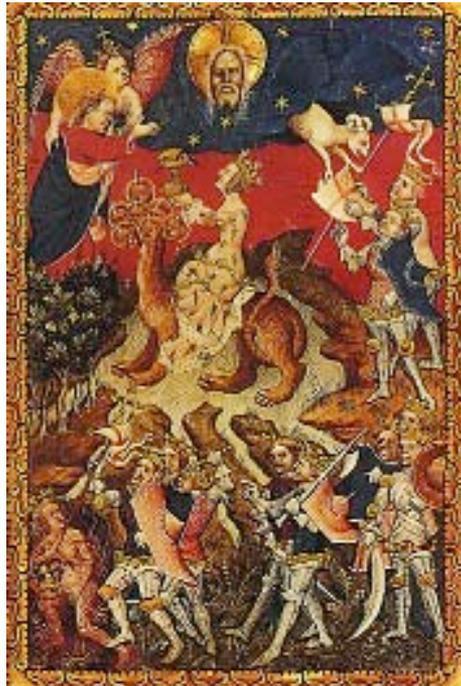
upon a horse. Taking this equestrian example, we recognize that we can guide a horse — indeed an entire team of horses — though their strength is much greater than any human. The average healthy human, at best, can only generate 10 percent of one horsepower. Then how can a diminutive female driver control a mighty team of horses? All she needs is to put a bit in their mouths.

Commented James, “When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go” (James 3:3-4).

Just what is the “bit” that is put in their mouths? “With her the kings of the earth committed adultery and the inhabitants of the earth were intoxicated with the wine of her adulteries” (Revelation 17: 3). We can at least safely assume that whatever the exact relationship of the harlot with the 10 kings, they together are committed to idolatry. My reasoning (though I am unable to fully develop this argument here) is that it probably will have to do with wealth and global trade. (See Revelation 18 describing a global trade colossus.) After all, it is the false prophet, not the Antichrist, who institutes the restriction on “selling and buying” (Revelation 13:10). Just who is this harlot, and can we trace her connections to various kings today?

The Harlot Has Daughters

A number of respected Bible teachers and prophecy experts conclude that the Roman Catholic Church is the harlot depicted as Mystery Babylon the Great, the mother of prostitutes in Revelation 17. Dave Hunt, in his gripping book, *A Woman Rides the Beast* (I have read it



But we must recognize that the pictures of the harlot given in Revelation 17 does not exactly apply to the present day, but extends right to a time nearer to the end of the Great Tribulation Period.

twice), makes a chilling and convicting case that indeed the Roman Catholic Church is (or will be) the final literal manifestation of these prophecies. He finds at least 14 telltale clues that identify her as such. Without a doubt, the Roman Catholic Church is the best-fitting candidate that the world has produced so far for the fulfillment of this literal, last-days prophecy.

But we must recognize that the pictures of the harlot given in Revelation 17 does not exactly apply to the present day, but extends right to a time nearer to the end of the Great Tribulation Period. Therefore, even though that time could be upon us very soon, it still does allow for the final manifestation of this harlot to evolve for a time longer.

As is well known, one of the characteristics of many significant prophecies is that they can have more than one fulfillment. There can be the near-term fulfillment, which proves the prophet true and



By Wilfred Hahn

Reading the Koran, one recognizes a significant influence from the “Book” — the word Mohammed uses for the Bible. Together, these daughters of Mystery Babylon identify themselves as having turned from Truth and the precepts of the one true God and his Son, Jesus Christ.



God-inspired, therefore validating the other future fulfillments. Yet, all of these fulfillments and their various types still are part of the same continuum that culminates in the final, literal occurrence in the last days.

In this sense, we can definitely agree with Dave Hunt that the Roman Catholic Church could indeed today be a major type of the embodiment of the harlot in the Revelation 17 prophecies. Yet, we recognize that the endtime saga is still rolling forward. Armageddon still lies in the future. As the harlot sits upon all of the historical kingdoms represented by the seven heads on the beast, she is also representative of all false religions down through the ages. Scripture does say that Mystery Babylon is the “mother of harlots.” While that is true historically, John the Revelator does also see her at that future time in the Tribulation (Revelation 17). Therefore, she must also have daughters during that era, having given rise to them in the first place.

Therefore, as a “harlot” applicable to the time in which we live today, it would be unfair to assume that the Roman Catholic Church stands accused alone. She may supply the main backbone of the last-days harlot, having made the largest contribution to a worldwide infrastructure of a false religious system; however,

we would be remiss to ignore some of her daughters. Among them must surely be some Christian Protestant sects. Many of the errors of the Roman Church and its early pagan influences have indeed been carried through the Reformation period.

We can also consider that among these “harlot” daughters will also likely number all the Islamic splinter groups — Shiite, Sunni, Wahabi, and myriad others. After all, Islam claims its roots in Abraham, the same patriarch of the Jews and Christians and claims fealty to the same God of Christians and Jews. Reading the Koran, one recognizes a significant influence from the “Book” — the word Mohammed uses for the Bible. Together, these daughters of Mystery Babylon identify themselves as having turned from Truth and the precepts of the one true God and his Son, Jesus Christ.

Therefore, in surveying the countries of today that might be candidates for the 10-king global power coalition, not only do we consider those that are predominantly Roman Catholic (at least 36 nations with over one-half million in population) but also all those that come from a historical Christian heritage as well as the Islamic nations drawing from the original Roman-type people.

Thoughts To Ponder

In this 3-part series, we have briefly touched upon an in-depth analysis and tested a number of theories (though far from conclusive). We have considered some interesting scenarios. What can we conclude? For most of the answers and interesting facts, you will have to wait for the book.

With respect to the 10 kings, we are still left with a number of possibilities. While we cannot prove the Revived Ro-



man Empire as being Europe alone, or that all 10 kings will come from this region, we do know for certain that all 10 kings will come from the people of the original Roman Empire as it existed around 70 A.D. (Please see Part I and II of this article series to review the significance of the “people” connection.) This group will dominate and control the world’s major power structures and machinery of that time. This machinery indeed grinds the world to dust.

After intensive study, I conclude that the jury is still out as to the exact identity and final form of the final 10-king coalition. Therefore, one should not become too beholden to any one theory. Yet, one of my favorite speculations is that it could take this form: three kings will come from the Islamic Middle East who are not part of Europe (these could number among the “rebels that have become completely wicked” — Daniel 8:23), six from Europe and possibly other parts of the Christian West. That leaves one. Who might that be?

There is one other king in Europe who is a real, absolute monarch — The Sovereign of the State of the Vatican City. It is one of the official titles of the pope. Indeed the Vatican is a country — though a city-state — even having its own currency and foreign ambassadors.

Finally, two other major conclusions present themselves among others that will be reviewed in the final book. The current signs of the times scream out the nearness of the onset of the Great Tribulation. The world’s systems and conditions that we see today are sufficient to already give birth to the events of the Great Tribulation.

One other inescapable conclusion is that America must decline in relative



power before Daniel’s interpretations will finally come into view. That may simply mean that other Roman-type countries wax greater, while the US loses some influence, or that the US indeed faces a much more serious relative decline. Which one of these outcomes will happen? Both or some combination of the two is possible. Yet, our research (particularly, our Country Vulnerability Index) suggests that America is today the most vulnerable of any major nation to significant hardships and decline in the near future.

And for a number of reasons, time is running out for many Roman-type countries, not just America, certainly including those in Europe. They are shrinking in relative size simply due to declining population growth, even while Islamic populations continue to surge.

The time of the final 10 kings is rapidly approaching. Major geopolitical earthquakes surely lie ahead. 📺

And for a number of reasons, time is running out for many Roman-type countries, not just America, certainly including those in Europe. They are shrinking in relative size simply due to declining population growth, even while Islamic populations continue to surge.