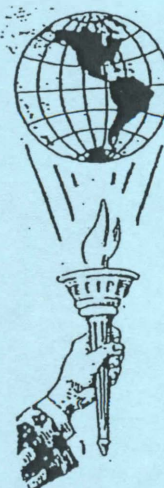
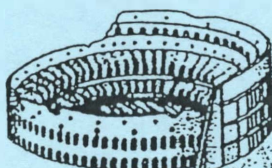
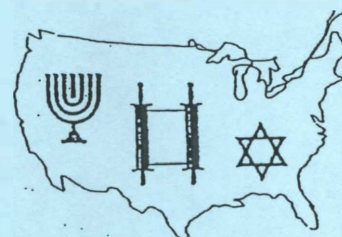


No Tricentennial for America?

A Balanced Biblical Discussion of the Future of America



★USA!

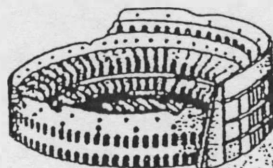


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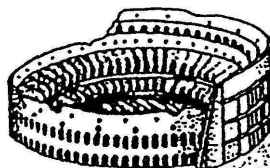
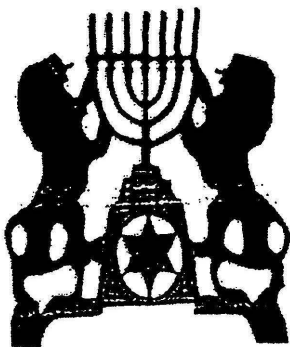
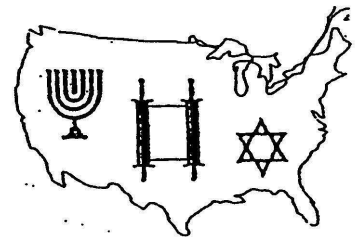


No Tricentennial for America?

A Balanced Biblical Discussion of the Future of America



★USA!



No Tricentennial for America?

America in Prophecy



INTRODUCTION:

The United States is the number one world power. With the events predicted for the tribulation and second advent drawing nearer, is it possible that our country is exempt from these major world events? Several clues as to the future of the United States may be gleaned from the Scriptures.

1A. THE REVIVAL OF ROME:

1b. The confederation of the ten kingdoms:

The final stage of the world's kingdoms will be a revival of the Roman Empire in the form of a ten-nation confederacy.



1c. The remarkable image of Daniel 2:

1d. King Nebuchadnezzar dreams of a great image, portraying the four major world kingdoms between Nebuchadnezzar's time and the establishment of the millennial kingdom.

2d. The final kingdom is Rome.

Rome's last stage, symbolized by the feet comprised of iron and clay, will be annihilated by Christ's kingdom (Dan. 2:35, 44).



2c. The ravaging beasts of Daniel 7:

1d. Daniel's vision involved four beasts, each representing a world kingdom from Daniel's day until Christ would replace the false Christ.

2d. The fourth beast with no counterpart in nature combines the worst features of the preceding three.

3d. The ten horns out of its head are ten kings (Dan. 7:20, 24).

4d. Another dictator arises who will subdue three kings and seven will voluntarily subject themselves to his rule.

5d. The ten horns correspond to the ten toes on the image and involve a ten-nation confederacy emerging out of the former Roman Empire.



DANIEL 7

2b. The coming of the world ruler:

1c. His designations:

1d. The Roman prince, apparently ruling from Rome: Dan. 9:26



DANIEL 2



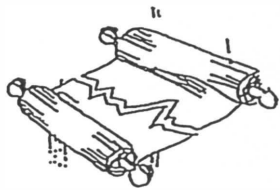


666

- 2d. Antichrist: 1 Jn. 2:18
- 3d. The little horn: Dan 7:8, 24, 26-27
- 4d. The willful king: Dan. 11:36
- 5d. The beast out of the sea: Rev. 13:1; cf. Isa. 17:12-13

2c. His dominion:

- 1d. For three and one half years he rules over ten nations.
- 1e. A strong power from the East prevents him from extending his rule worldwide.
- 2e. The former Iron Curtain was located virtually at the eastern limit of the ancient Roman Empire.



- 2d. For the last half of the tribulation Antichrist "shall devour the whole earth" (Dan. 7:23, 25).



2A. THE REVOLTS IN THE TRIBULATION:

- 1b. The chastisement of Russia: Ez. 38-39

- 1c. In the middle of the tribulation period Russia and his satellites invade Israel: Ez. 38-39

- 1d. Until the middle of the tribulation there will be Western and Eastern powers, much like the situation in recent years.
- 2d. The invaders will be totally destroyed by eight distinct divine judgments: Ez. 38:17-23

- 2c. The power vacuum caused by the demise of the Kings of the North prompts Antichrist to extend his rule.

- 2b. The campaign of Armageddon: Dan. 11:40-45

Even though Antichrist is world ruler, there will be challenges to his rule. A series of battles will erupt and this campaign is named after Armageddon (Rev. 16:16), the place where the most bloody battle will be fought. The blood will be up to the horse's bridle (approximately four feet) for two hundred miles (Rev. 14:20).

- 1c. Daniel gives the sequence of the attacks against Israel:

- 1d. The action by Egypt: Dan. 11:40a
- 2d. The attack by Russia: Dan. 11:40b
- 3d. The advance of Rome: Dan. 11:41-43



4d. The approach of the Asiatics: Dan. 11:44

5d. The advent of Christ: Dan. 11:45, cf. Rev. 19:14-20

3A. THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE USA TO END-TIME EVENTS:

1b. The attempts to discover America in prophecy:

Some expositors are more, some less dogmatic that America is mentioned in prophecy.

1c. Some identify Babylon with the USA.

Logsdon suggests that "the wealthy, powerful, wicked, God-forsaking endtime nation, spiritually called Babylon in prophecy" is the USA. (*Is the USA in Prophecy?*, p. 55)

Isaiah 18:1

2c. Some identify the nation of Isaiah 18 as the USA.

Woe to the land shadowing with wings, which is beyond the river of Ethiopia:-

1d. The land in question is the land overshadowed with wings (Is. 18:1). Since our nation's emblem is the eagle, the USA must be in view.

2d. Only gross spiritualizing can lead to that conclusion.

1e. The land is said to be beyond the rivers of Ethiopia, something hardly true of the USA.

2e. The eagle was the symbol of Rome and is presently a symbol of Germany, Austria, Spain, Poland, and other nations.



3c. Some see a reference to the United States in Ezekiel 38:13. "The merchants of Tarshish, with all the young lions thereof" protest against the invasion of Israel by a northern power. It is suggested that Tarshish is England and America is one of the young lions, or "colonies" of England. To find England or the United States in this passage involves blatant eisegesis, first reading these nations into the text.

Coder has well said, "many attempts have been made to find America in the prophetic Scriptures. All of them have been rejected by conservatives as violating sound rules of exegesis" (*The Final Chapter*, p. 84).

2b. The absence of references to America in prophecy:

Why is America not mentioned in prophecy, when other nations such as Edom, Moab, Ammon, Egypt, Libya, and Ethiopia—just to name a few (Dan. 11:41-43)—are prominently and repeatedly mentioned?

The USA is absent in prophecy, it is said by some, because:

- 1c. By the time of the rapture, America has passed out of existence. Does this mean Australia, Japan or South Africa which are also not mentioned have passed out of existence?

- 2c. America has been conquered by Russia.

This scenario, while suggested by many, is demonstrably false. If the USA were conquered by a nation today, that victorious nation would be a world power tomorrow. But according to Daniel 2 and 7, there can be four and only four world empires between Nebuchadnezzar's time (606 B.C.) and Christ's kingdom. These four kingdoms are identified as Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome. Also, until the middle of the tribulation period there are two major centers of power on earth: the Western Confederacy and Russia with his confederates. Russia which wants to be a world empire won't succeed. The USA, which could have been a world empire, refused to exercise its absolute power in the days following World War II.

- 3c. America is not mentioned because prophecy is primarily concerned with Israel and its immediate neighbors. Because of this, says Dr. Walvoord, "it is not surprising that geographical areas remote from this center of Biblical interest should not figure largely in prophecy" (*The Nations of Prophecy*, p. 172).

- 3b. The association of the USA with prophetic developments:

While specific references to the USA in the prophetic Scriptures are lacking, it is possible to suggest in a general way what will happen to America as part of the world's nations.



- 1c. After the rapture the seat of the Western powers shifts from Washington, D.C. to Rome.
- 2c. The USA will probably become a territorial extension of the Roman Empire under Antichrist's control.

The United States has its cultural, religious and linguistic roots in Western Europe. The revived Roman Empire need not necessarily be precisely within the borders of the territory controlled by the Romans in antiquity.

- 3c. With the disappearance of believers through the rapture, the USA will become anti-semitic. Every last Jew will return to the land (Ez. 37:21; 39:28c). Looking for a strong military protector, Israel will sign a treaty with Antichrist (Dan. 9:27).
- 4c. The United States will experience a time of unprecedented trouble, turmoil, and tribulation, a "time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation even to the same time" (Dan. 12:1). Since this "indignation of the Lord will come upon all nations" (Is. 34:2), this dreadful time would include the United States.
- 5c. A time of unparalleled salvation will characterize the world as God's 144,000 witnesses from among the twelve tribes of Israel will minister, so

that vast numbers of people will be saved, "a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues" (Rev. 7:9). Even in the United States where the Gospel has been preached for centuries, a host of individuals will be redeemed.

- 6c. During the last three and one half years of the tribulation period, American troops will invade Israel under the banner of Antichrist. All nations will be gathered against Jerusalem (Zech. 14:2). The kings of the whole earth will do battle in the land of Israel during the campaign of Armageddon (Rev. 16:14).
- 7c. America will be ruled by Jesus Christ who rules over the earth from Jerusalem (Psa. 2:6-8; Is. 2:3).

4A. THE RECOGNITION OF AMERICA'S DESTINY:



Paul, speaking to the Athenians on Mars Hill, told them a profound truth about God and His relationship to nations:

Acts 17:26 And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;



God has appointed concerning each nation its times and bounds or its chronological and geographical boundaries. This passage argues forcefully for the fact that God has a purpose for each nation. God brings a nation about at a specific point in time and at a particular location on earth because of a divine design for that nation.

While our nation is not mentioned specifically in prophecy, we can nevertheless infer God's destiny for the USA by contemplating the course of our country. There appear to be four discernible reasons why God has raised our country.



1b. The United States promotes missionary activity.

The very first settlers testified that they came here as the Mayflower Compact states, "for the glory of God, and the advancement of the Christian faith." In the New England confederation of 1780, the uniform testimony is "whereas we all came into these parts of America with one and the same end, namely, to advance the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ and enjoy the liberties of the gospel in purity with peace."

God has honored America for its missionary efforts. Of the world's 50,000 evangelical missionaries, 45,000 come from the USA. God needs a lighthouse for the world's unsaved right until the rapture, after which the 144,000 witnesses will be ministering.

2b. America protects the chosen people.

Ever since Roger Williams encouraged the persecuted Jews of Europe to settle in his colony, America has been a refuge for Jews. Of the world's 17 million Jewish people, 7 million live in the USA. With our national efforts the modern state of Israel was established.



Its continuation has been assured by the consistent support by the USA. God promises to bless those who would bless Israel (Gen. 12:3). God is blessing us and will bless us because of our special relationship to His special people. After the rapture, when our country becomes antisemitic, Antichrist will sign a treaty of protection with Israel. Until then it seems to be God's design for America to help Israel.

- 3b. America provides a home for the politically and religiously persecuted all around the world.



The Statue of Liberty best represents one aspect of America which appears to point toward our destiny as a house for the world's oppressed. It may well be that God has raised the USA in part to be a "Mother of Exiles." Such a refugee nation appears to be needed until the rapture.

God will not let America's sins go unpunished. But the well-deserved and long-delayed judgment will not come until the righteous have been removed. As He removed Noah and his family before He brought the flood and as He removed righteous Lot before the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, so God will remove the believers through the rapture before He sends His judgment upon the earth, including our beloved nation.

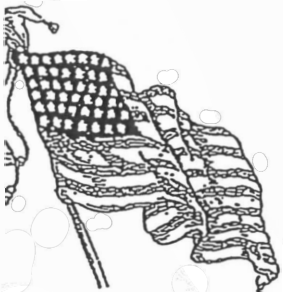
- 4b. America projects global stability.

It seems to be God's providential design for America to serve as a steadying force in the world, both economically and militarily. Even the *New York Times* admits that "the American economy is acting as a steadying force in volatile world" (1/7/16). While our Founding Fathers argued for an isolationism, the two world wars imposed on the USA a role of intervention which it did not seek, to save Europe from a calamitous, indeed catastrophic condition. America's unique role in the world can be easily demonstrated.

As Dennis Prager observes in *National Review* (9/17/13), in an article entitled "Yes, We are the World's Policeman" "U.S. troops around the world are the greatest preserver of liberty and peace . . . America's strength and willingness to use it has been the greatest force in history to liberty and world stability."

Prager correctly stresses that the world needs a policeman to curtail economic disruption, social chaos and the violent death of innocent people. If the USA were not functioning in this role the only possible alternative at the present moment would be a) No one b) Russia c) China d) Iran e) the United Nations. Dinesh D'Souza, in his superb volume, *America – Imagine the World Without Her*, comes to a similar conclusion.

In God's providence the USA plays that role, however imperfectly. We have the most vibrant economy and the most formidable military. It is impossible to imagine what the world situation would be like without America's protective presence. And one can only surmise that after the rapture, with the sudden disappearance of all believers, chaos and consternation will reign until Antichrist consolidates his empire. He, in turn, will be replaced by the Davidic Messiah whose world-wide kingdom of peace and righteousness has no end.



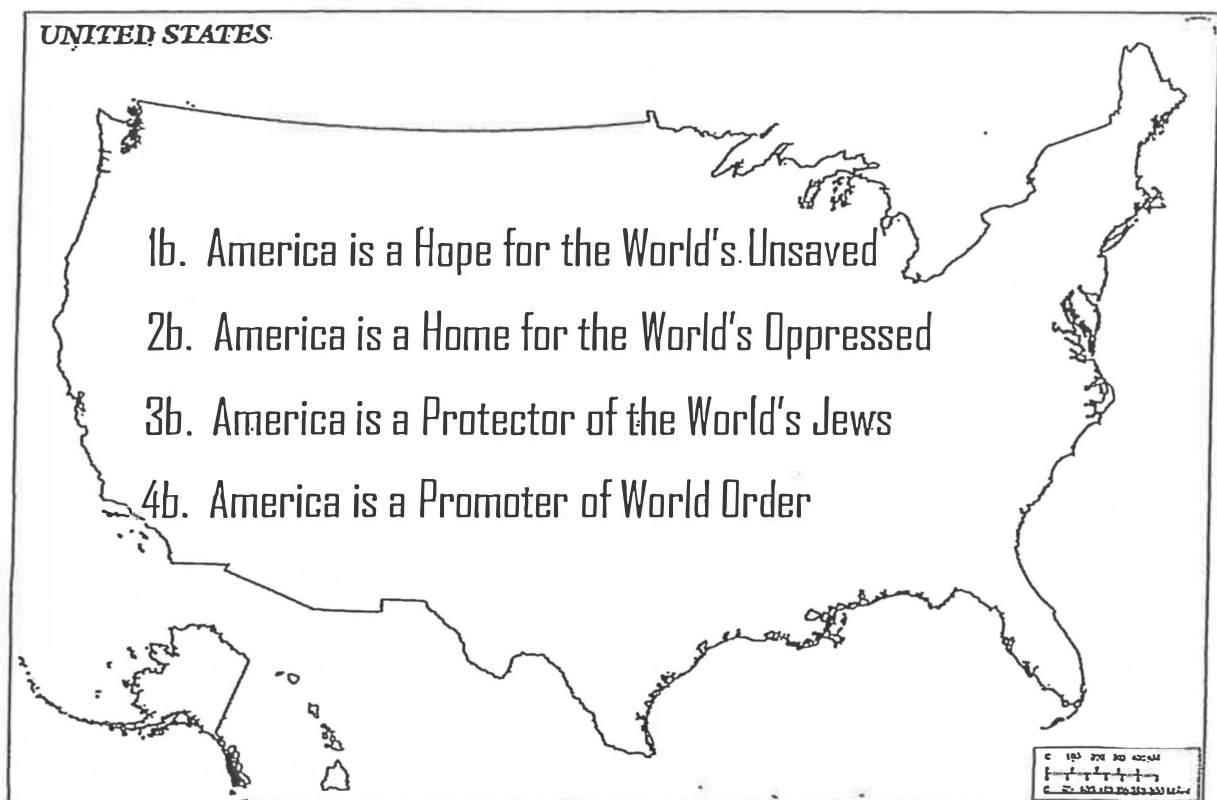
AMERICA'S DESTINY



1A. Scriptural Principles in America's Foundation:

- 1b. The Genuine Piety of Our Founding Fathers: Ex. 20:5-6
- 2b. The Gracious Promotion of the Jews: Gen. 12:3; Deut. 30:20
- 3b. The Great Preponderance of Christians: Gen. 18
- 4b. The Grand Purpose for America: Acts 17:26

2A. Special Providence in America's Function:



The divine design for the United States of America is not found in the pages of Scripture but in the persuasion of the colonialists, in the pen of our Founding Fathers and in the passage of time.

In these difficult times, especially during this election year, believers need to know where they stand biblically on their country. Of all peoples on earth, Americans have a right to be proud of their country. Especially our nation's heritage makes our country unique among the world's nations. The "land of the free and home of the brave" bequeathed to us by our forefathers needs to be appreciated and cherished, so that future generations will enjoy the blessings of liberty, passed on down to us with immense sacrifices and under God's providential care.



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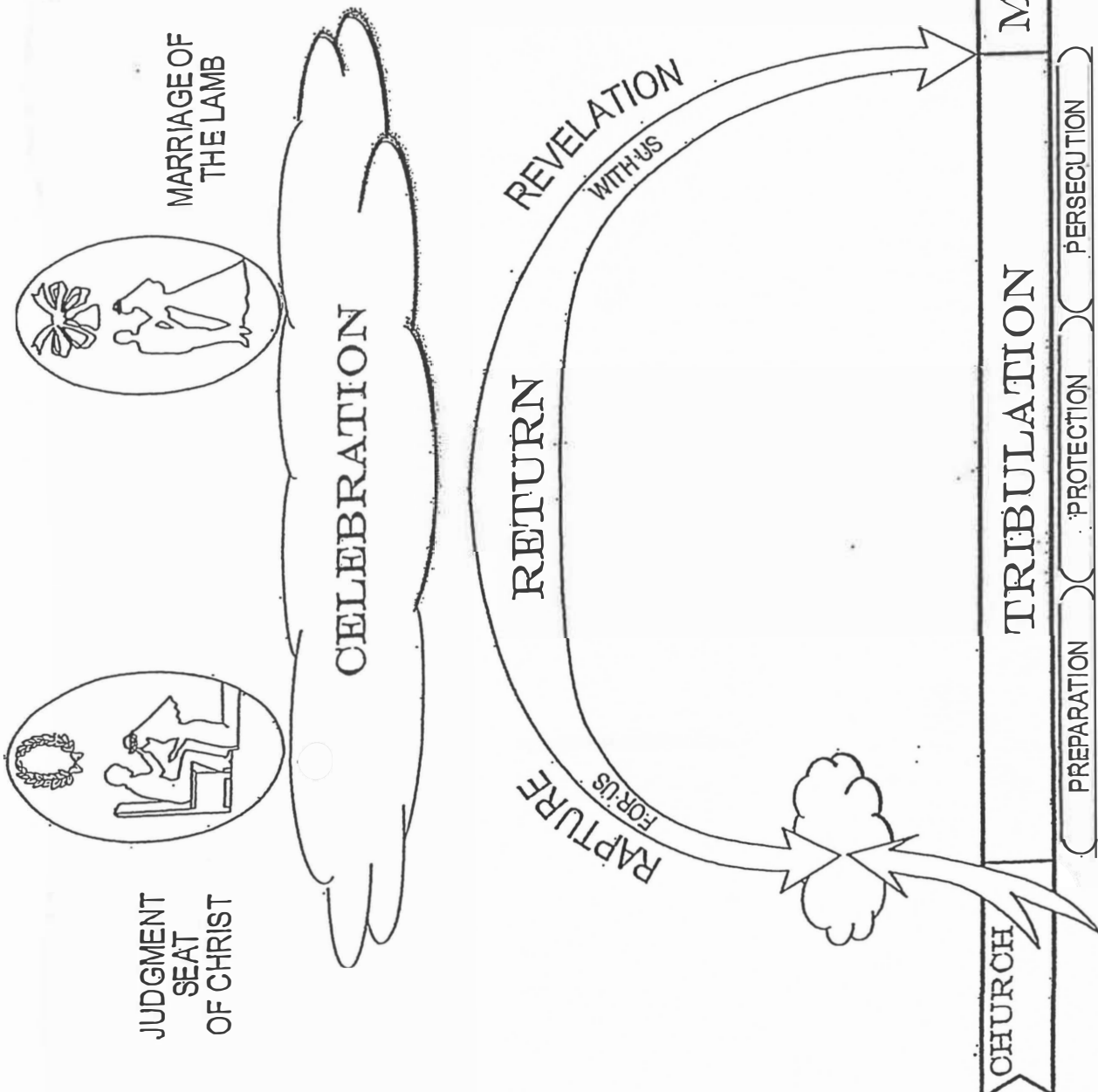
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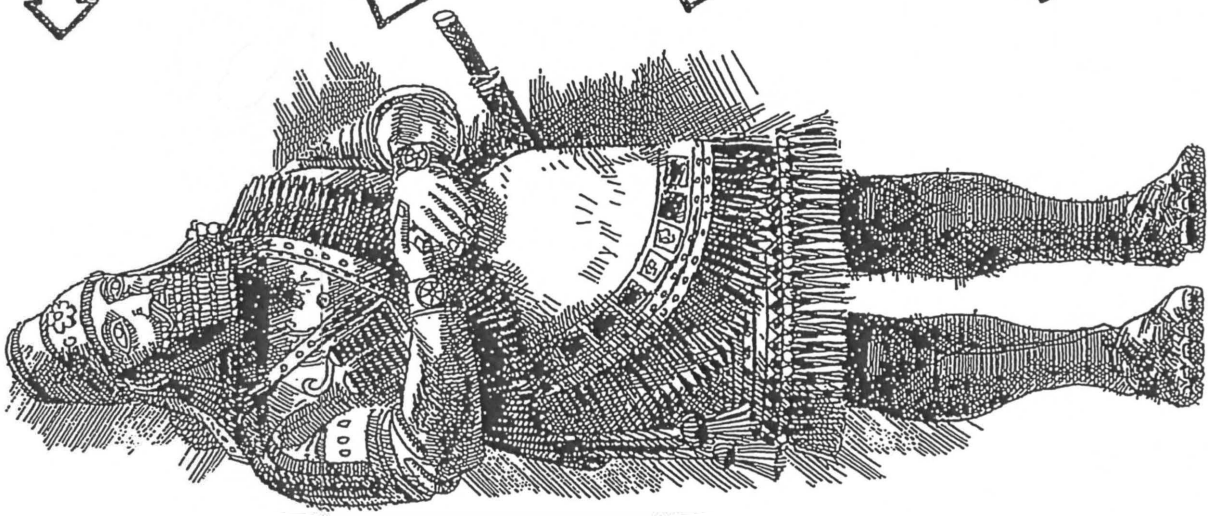
Eschatology Timeline



666



Manfred E. Kober, Th.D.



DANIEL 2



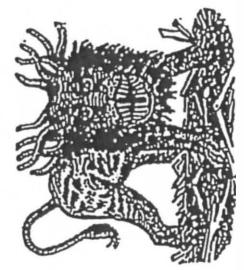
605-538 B.C.



538-331 B.C.

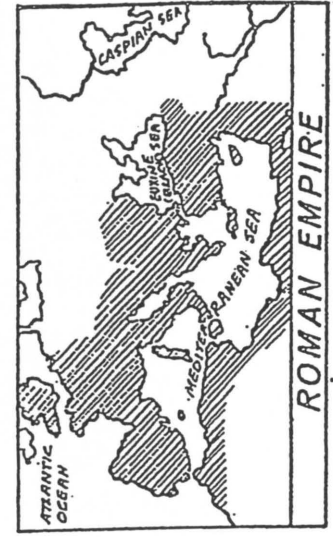
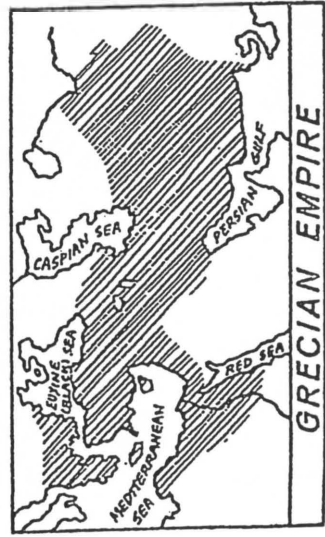
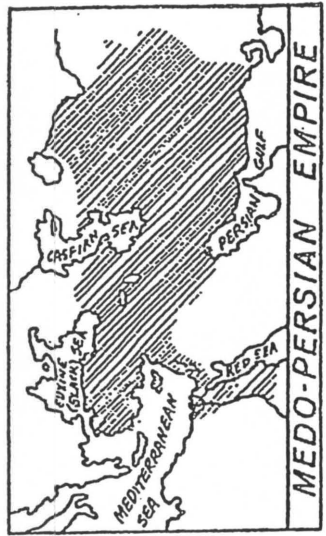
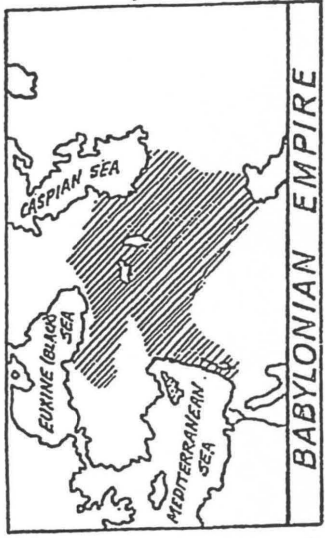


331-146 B.C.



DANIEL 7

146 B.C.-A.D. 500



Eschatology Timeline



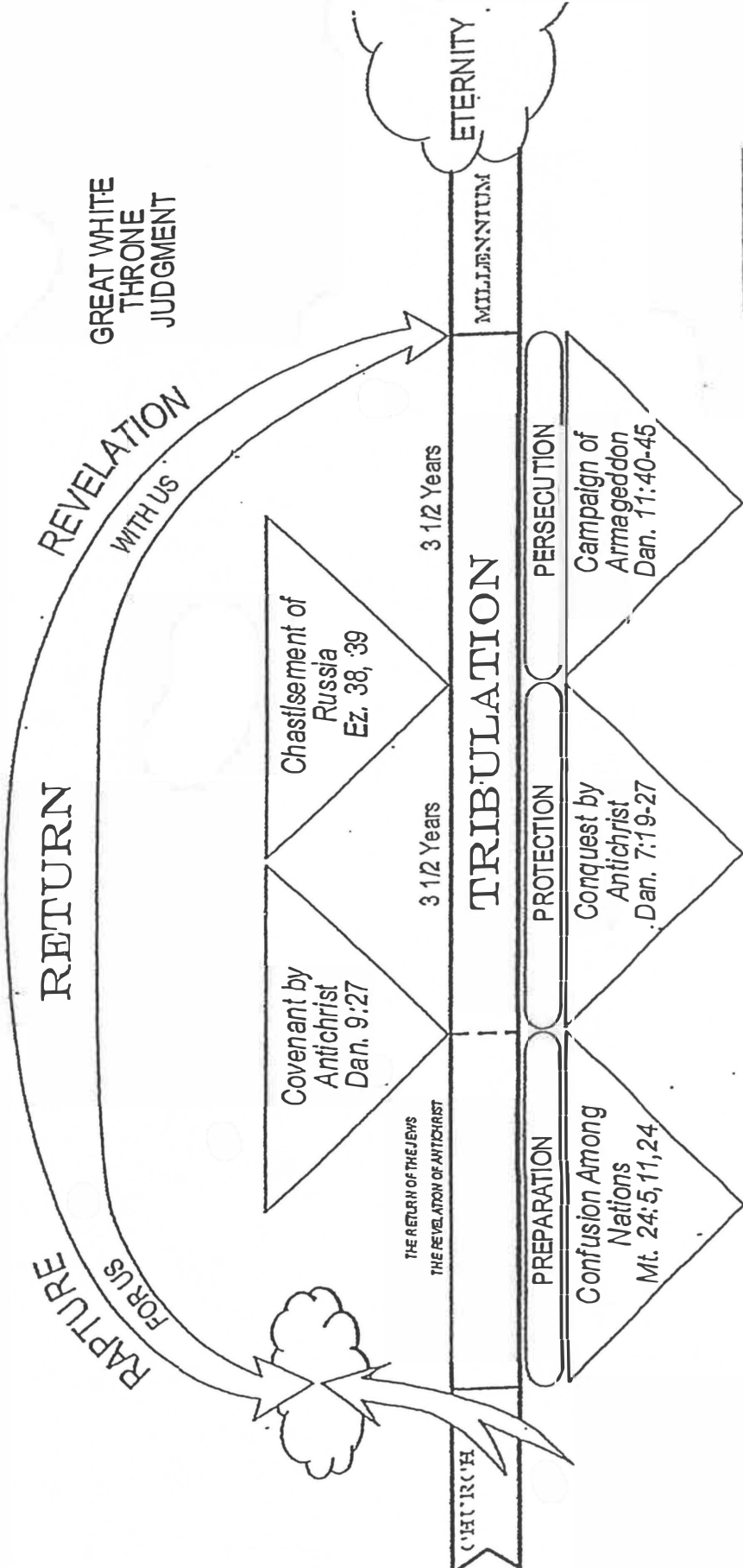
JUDGMENT
SEAT
OF CHRIST



MARRIAGE OF
THE LAMB



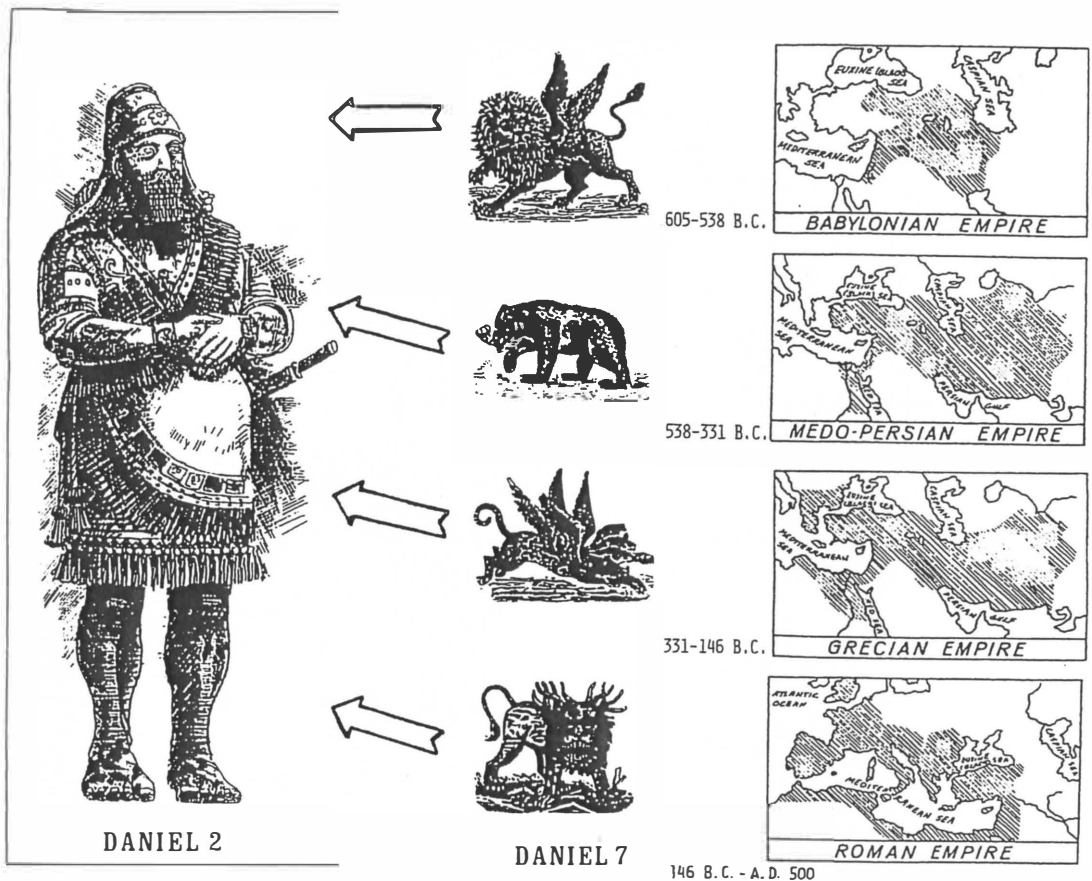
CELEBRATION



GREAT WHITE
THRONE
JUDGMENT



Manfred E. Kober, Th.D.



Nebuchadnezzar's dream of a beautiful image in Daniel 2 and Daniel's vision of four beasts in Daniel 7 predict the succession of world empires from the time of Nebuchadnezzar in the 7th century B.C. until the establishment of Christ's millennial kingdom. There can be four—and only four—world empires. Neither the Soviet Communists nor the Chinese, try as they might, will ever be successful. The USA could have extended its dominion world-wide after WW II, but did not do so. We are the only nation that could have ruled the world but did not take advantage of that opportunity. Why? Because it is not our destiny. Part of the destiny of the USA seems to be to preserve world order and to protect God's people Israel.

With the Christian influence from the USA after the Rapture, our country will lose its prominence and most likely will become a territorial extension of the Revived Roman Empire under Antichrist's rule. He will rule from Rome over ten nations for 3 ½ years and then over the entire world for the last 3 ½ years of the Tribulation. Daniel's fourth beast "shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces" (Dan. 7:23). Thus, only four world empires are predicted between Daniel's time and the Kingdom of Christ.

The existence of another world empire would require an additional appendage on the image in Daniel 2 and a fifth beast in Daniel 7. The empires of Babylon, Medo-Perisa, Greece, Rome and the revived Roman Empire are supplanted by Christ's kingdom. "The God in heaven shall set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed . . . but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever" (Dan. 2:44). At that time, the believer will fulfill his destiny, as he is privileged to participate in Christ's reign: "And judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom" (Dan. 7:22).