

PROPHETIC JIG-SAW PUZZLES

Theodore A. Smith

(We respectfully present this paper as a study and nothing more to all our readers. We are only a student and not an expositor of the book of Revelation. A number of brethren are good students and some may find flaws in our presentation. We all realize that prophecy is only partly understood before it is fulfilled. We trust that none will misunderstand us as being dogmatic, and any difference we might have should cause no separation or hard feelings. —Theodore A. Smith)

Our Heavenly Father has given us several prophetic pictures of empires starting with Babylon as the first universal empire, and ending with Rome, the fourth and last universal empire. The first picture was given in a dream to Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, and the last picture was given to John the Revelator on the lonely Isle of Patmos where he received a great many prophetic pictures in the form of symbols which make up the book of Revelation. Symbols were used to keep the information hidden from all except those for whom the information was intended to instruct and comfort. These prophetic pictures remind us somewhat of jig-saw puzzles. A jig-saw puzzle is made up of a great number of odd-shaped pieces and these have to be fitted together to correspond to a picture accompanying the puzzle.

The prophetic jig-saw puzzles are found in the book of Daniel, second and seventh chapters, and in the book of Revelation, chapters 12, 13, 17, 18 and 19. There are at least three keys we have to work with. First the prophetic records; second, a knowledge of history; third, a knowledge of the Divine Plan; and we are greatly dependent too, upon the assistance of “apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers.” Eph. 4:11.

Daniel’s explanation of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream is about a great human image. This is recorded in Dan. 2:31 to 45. Fenton’s translation words this in an interesting fashion: “You, King, were looking, and saw a Great Image. This Image which was great, and its splendor dazzling, stood before you, and its aspect was terrible.” The head of this image was of “fine gold,” and Daniel interpreted this to represent Nebuchadnezzar himself. The breast and arms were of silver, and Daniel said this represented a Kingdom “inferior to Nebuchadnezzar.” The belly and thighs were of brass, and this third kingdom would “rule over all the country”, so Daniel said. “Then a fourth kingdom that will be as strong as Iron. Because as Iron breaks and crushes all, so like iron it will break all in pieces and crush. And as you saw its feet and toes were formed part of clay, and part of iron; that Kingdom will be a divided one; yet the firmness of iron will be in it, because you saw the iron mixed with tempered clay. So as the toes were of iron, and part of clay, part of that Empire will be strong, and part brittle; and as you observed the iron was mixed with

tempered clay, they will mix themselves with the races of mankind;—but will not stick together with each other, as iron does not unite with clay.”

Daniel informed the King further about his dream: “You looked at it until a stone was cut without hands and thrown against the iron and clay feet of the Image, and brake them to pieces. Then at once, the Iron, Clay, Brass, and Gold were broken, and became like chaff from threshing wheat, and the whole were carried away by the wind, and no rest was found for them; but the stone that struck the Image became a Great Mountain, and filled the earth!”

With the aid of history we conclude that the four great universal empires were Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece and finally Rome. Daniel informed the king that “in the days of those kings, the God of Heaven will establish an Everlasting Empire, and Indestructible, —whose Sovereignty will not be transferred to another People. It will subdue and break all the Kingdoms, and will stand for ever. And as you saw a stone cut from a rock,—but not by hands,—which broke the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold;—the GREAT GOD has revealed to the King what will come after now,—and the Dream is certain, and my Interpretation true!”

“Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell on his face and did reverence to Daniel, and commanded to present a gift and perfumes to him. Then the King addressed Daniel and said: ‘I know by a proof that your God is a God of Gods, who makes kings, and reveals the hidden, since you have been able to disclose this hidden thing!’”

This prophetic jig-saw puzzle apparently is a picture of the Times of the Gentiles—606 B.C. to 1914 A.D. We suggest a careful reading of Reprint page 5631, last three paragraphs, and 5632 first four paragraphs and compare this with the language of Dan. 2:34, 35. The “breaking in pieces” seems to be a long process. The pieces have to be crushed until they “become like the chaff or the summer threshing-floor,” and then “the wind [anarchy] can carry them away that no place can be found for them.”

Turning to the 1916 Foreword of Vol. IV, page iii we read: “The Bible points out that about this time (the time the Pastor was speaking of was after the War when the kingdoms would be financially weakened and in great fear of anarchy), the Nominal Church systems of the world will rise to great prominence again in connection with the Civil powers.” In the next paragraph we read: “But the Bible declares that this reign ‘as a queen’ will be a short one, and that the fall of Babylon will be tremendous—like a great millstone cast into the sea. It will be during the power of this so-called ‘queen,’ for a little season, that the world will be under a great strain as respects any presentation of the Truth. And those found loyal to God and to principle will doubtless suffer therefore.” The next paragraph is extremely interesting and important.

The expectation of the Pastor was a condition similar to that which obtained in Spain for the past thirty years under Franco, the dictator. Church and State ruled with a high hand, and everything in opposition was crushed; and the Pastor expected this to be a more or less universal condition. But what really took place in Europe was not what the Pastor expected at all. A man in Germany wrote a book some time AFTER the Pastor died. This man was Adolf Hitler. His idea was that the German people were a master race and an effort should be made to bring that race to a dominant position in the world. The book Hitler wrote was entitled *Mein Kampf* (My Struggle) and was almost 1000 pages in length; and it revealed the insane thinking of Hitler. Hitler had dreams of empire and World War II stemmed from his ideas. The great pleas were “LAW AND ORDER” and “Communism must be destroyed.” This was not merely an effort to preserve the status quo, but the building of a mighty empire (Germany, the Third Reich); and this was something the Pastor did not foresee, as there was no way for him to foresee this.

Hitler was selected to be a Dictator; and the financial powers and ecclesiastical powers supported Hitler; and woe to those who would not fall into line! And Hitler had a “final solution” for the Jews—death! and over six million Jews perished in the gas chambers or through ill treatment and starvation. None of this was anticipated by the Pastor as there was no clear prophecy on which to base a prediction or form an expectation.

It took gigantic power to subdue Hitler and he came very near to victory! Mussolini entered the picture as a fellow-dictator. He too had empire dreams; and he, along with Hitler met with defeat. I can remember a news reel after Mussolini’s death and I saw him strung up by the heels, stone dead! We repeat—the circumstances that led up to World War II were not understood by the Pastor as they involved the man Hitler with his race superiority ideas and these surfaced years after the Pastor died.

We believe it is reasonable to conclude that World War II was a continuation of the crushing processes of the stone which struck the Image in 1914. Neither Hitler nor Mussolini fulfilled the prophecy of Revelation 17:16 about the “eating of the flesh and burning with fire” of the “woman” called “Babylon the Great.” It could even be truthfully stated that they did just the opposite—both dictators favored the woman in various ways. It is in the news right now that the Italian people are making efforts to get free of the treaty that was signed Feb. 11, 1929 giving the Vatican special favors—political, financial and religious. The two dictators are dead, but the ecclesiastical elements are still alive. But when the event takes place that is pictured so vividly as the casting of a great millstone into the sea, the whole world will know what has happened. This “casting into the sea” will be an outstanding world-shaking event of major proportions.

Now we turn to another prophetic jig-saw puzzle. This is found in Daniel, 7th chapter. Daniel also had a dream, only his dream was not about a great human image but of four

dreadful beasts. These beasts represent the same four universal empires, but more and different details are given. We are not going to consider the first three beasts, but only the fourth. This beast had ten horns; and we note that the other beasts of Rev. 12 (called the red dragon), and the beast of Rev. 13, and the scarlet colored beast of chapter 17, all had ten horns. The fact that all of these beasts had ten horns would suggest that they all belonged to the same family—all ruling from Rome.

V. 7 seems to fit the empire of Rome perfectly as revealed to us by history: “and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it; and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns.” Rome was strong in its original pagan form and diverse from the other three beasts. It was noted for its military power and its laws, and it stamped the others with its feet.

We take particular notice of the fact that this beast had ten horns AND there was another horn called “little” and it plucked up three of the other horns by the roots to make room for itself. Horn is a symbol of power. This was apparently a “little” power, but it had “eyes like the eyes of man and a mouth speaking great things.” “Eyes like a man” would signify sagacity or acuteness of mental discernment—in other words, it was smarter than the other ten horns. And it had a “mouth speaking great things.” It had a “look more stout than his fellows.” And it was said of this horn that it would “make war with the saints, and prevailed against them.” And it would “speak great words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.”

This reminds us of the chapter in Vol. II entitled THE MAN OF SIN. The time feature “time and times and the dividing of time” would be 1260 years starting in 539 A.D. and ending in 1799, when Napoleon humiliated this “little horn” to the dust. And in 1870 all temporal power was taken from this “little horn” and V. 26 would seem to apply at that time: “But the judgment shall sit, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and to destroy it unto the end.” The consuming and destruction is a gradual process. The light of truth is awakening mankind and the result is the doing away of superstition and ignorance and the support of the “little horn” is being gradually eroded until it will finally be no more. (See middle of paragraph 1 on page 37 of Volume IV.) In 1870 at an Ecumenical Council was the time when the Pope expressed the doctrine of infallibility, and it was in this same year that he lost all temporal possessions and authority. (Vol. I, page 259, 260)

Now to the book of Revelation we have some more jig-saw puzzles to consider. They are all about the same empire of Daniel 7. First there is a dragon, and it had seven heads with crowns upon the heads, and ten horns without crowns. Next there is a beast with seven heads and ten horns, and this time the crowns are upon the horns. And it was said

the dragon gave power to this beast. Thirdly, there is a scarlet colored beast and it has 7 heads and 10 horns, with no crowns on either the heads or the horns, and this beast has a woman sitting upon it and she is dressed in gorgeous attire. This beast is finally destroyed—the end of the Roman empire.

It is generally understood that the Roman empire is pictured by these animals. The first, called a dragon was the Roman empire in its pagan form, and it gave life to the second beast, or surrendered power to the second beast; and the final beast, the scarlet colored beast is destroyed.

To assist us in an attempt to arrange the pieces of this jig-saw puzzle, a brief consideration of history may be assistful to grasp the significance of these wonderful symbols. We learn from history that the Roman empire ruling from the city of Rome was first a pagan empire. This power was flourishing when our Lord was on earth at his first advent. Several centuries later vast hordes came down from the north countries and plundered the Roman empire. The empire by this time had become more and more corrupt and weak, and finally the seat of the empire, the civil power was moved to Constantinople, and this left the Western part of the empire wide open for some power to take over and rule from the city of Rome.

History records the fact that Western Rome became Christian in profession and was dominated by a powerful church which claimed to rule “by the grace of God.” In time this powerful church rulership was humbled to the dust by Napoleon and the date 1799 figures prominently in this humbling. And in the year 1870 this once powerful church rulership was deprived of all temporal possessions. This powerful church still exists and wields a mighty power in the lives of millions of people; but it no longer crowns and uncrowns kings as it did for centuries previous to 1799. Quoting from Volume II, page 289, top, we read: “...even today, when its power is outwardly broken and it is shorn of civil dominion, it rules the world and controls kingdoms secretly, under cover, more thoroughly than the Roman emperors ever ruled the kings subordinate to them.”

It is gradually being weakened and is in a very precarious position, being faced with enemies (particularly in Italy itself) who will completely destroy her when the time comes for this world-shaking event. With this mini-view of history let us turn to the book of Revelation and see how many of the pieces of this jig-saw puzzle we can put together.

We are not particularly interested at this time in trying to fit all the parts of the jig-saw puzzle of Revelation 12, so we shall be very brief and then on to Revelation 13. The true church started out as a pure woman “clothed with the sun and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars.” (Rev. 12:1) The sun would represent the pure gospel light; the moon would represent the light of the Law dispensation; and the twelve stars would represent the twelve apostles. History tells us that there was a great

struggle on the part of Pagan Rome (“the great red dragon,” 12:3) to maintain its supreme position; but the influence of the Christian religion had the effect of displacing the Pagan religion of many gods (12:7 to 9); but by this time the Christian religion had become corrupt and mixed with Pagan ideas. This was true when Constantine became emperor and embraced the Christian religion making it the religion of the empire. Then it was that the true woman had to flee and go into a wilderness condition “where she had a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days” (12:6).

We shall make Rev. 13:1 as our starting point for the putting together of as many of the pieces as we can of the jig-saw puzzle. This verse speaks of a beast rising up out of the sea. The word “sea” represents a state of mankind, unstable, restless; and this fits perfectly the time location when Western Rome was in a bad state. This is expressed so well on page 289, par. 2 of Vol. II: “the imperial power was shattered by political dissensions and was beginning to decay.” And page 294, par. 2: “The removal of the seat of empire to Constantinople, the exposure of the city of Rome to the invasion of the barbarians from the north, the continual changes of generals and governors in the now fast falling empire, left the bishop of the church at Rome the most permanent and most honored official there; and his gradually increasing prestige was heightened as well by the removal of the rival splendors of the imperial court to Constantinople as by the reverence attaching to the very name of Rome, among all the peoples of the world.” So this beast, this aspect of the Roman empire took form when the empire was in a disorganized and restless state. Then it was that bishops in various cities were aspiring to be recognized as the supreme head of the Christian church; and finally the bishop of Rome was recognized and became the supreme religious ruler and claimed that he was Christ’s vicegerent.

This beast had ten horns that were crowned—they reigned under the doctrine of the “divine right of kings” authorized by the bishop who claimed to be Christ’s vicegerent. This beast had a head that was “wounded unto death and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.” (V. 3.) The Pastor thought that Papacy was the fifth head of the successive rulerships of the Roman empire. (Reprint page 55, par. 5, and column two, par. 2.) It is a fact of history that the Reformation struck a terrible blow upon this fifth head of Roman power, but the deadly wound was healed. This is explained very well in Vol. III, page 50, par. 1: “Napoleon’s work together with the French Revolution, broke the spell of religious superstition, humbled the pride of self-exalted religious lords, awakened the world to a fuller sense of the powers and prerogatives of manhood and broke the Papal domination against which the religious Reformation had PREVIOUSLY struck a death-blow, but which its after course had healed.”

This beast “was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations. And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.” (Verses 5 to 8.) The fulfillment of these terrible things is outlined for us in Vol. II, in the chapter on the Man of Sin, pages 299 to 329.

There is a time feature that enables us to locate the life of this beast from the standpoint of chronology: “power was given unto him to continue forty and two months” (V. 5). In symbolic time this would be 1260 days or 1260 years. As to the fourth beast of Daniel 7, we note a time period of “a time and times and the dividing of time”, also 1260 years: 539 A.D. to 1799 A.D.

And now we come to the third and last jig-saw puzzle. In some ways, it is the most fascinating of all, as it involves a scarlet colored beast, upon whom is seated a gorgeously attired woman with a horrible name: “MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.” And last, but not least, this puzzle informs us of the destruction of both the woman and the beast which carried her; and the final words are sublime in declaring the Lord’s judgment. Rev. 19:1-3: “And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God: for true and righteous are his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand; and again they said, Alleluia. And her smoke rose up for ever and ever.” We notice it does not say the smoke of the burning of the beast, but the smoke from the burning of the great harlot. She was a horrible personage and the earth needed to be rid of her forever.

The first verse (17:1) is very significant. John was invited by one of the angels having the seven vials (vials of wrath to be poured out upon the great whore) to come and see what would be the “judgment” of “the great whore that sitteth upon many waters.” (“The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations and tongues”—V. 15.) She is an especially evil woman: “With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication”—V. 2. John was “carried away in the spirit into the wilderness” (the vision could not be seen except John was in a condition of complete separation from worldly ideas and formalities), and from this vantage point John saw a startling sight: “a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns”.

The woman was gorgeously attired, but identified with filthiness: “And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls [symbolically, everything that would attract worldlings, not having the Lord’s spirit], having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication.” Think of it! The inhabitants of the earth made drunk from such a cup!

And what a name written on her forehead!: “MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.” She was the mother of great evils committed on the earth! The woman too was drunk, but with a different wine—drunk with BLOOD: “the blood of saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus.” Could there be anything more specific than this to identify the woman?! WHAT SYMBOLIC WOMAN DRANK THE BLOOD OF SAINTS AND THE MARTYRS OF JESUS in past centuries?! There is only one such woman! (17:5, 6.)

Verse 6 says that John, when he saw the woman, “wondered with great admiration.” Weymouth says John “was filled with utter astonishment.” And the angel said to John: “Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns. The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition.” This seems to suggest that there must be a time when the beast is out of sight for a time, and then ascends out of the bottomless pit and then it goes into perdition—“destruction,” Diaglott. Moffatt says: “the beast you have seen was, is not, but to rise from the abyss—yet to perdition he shall go.” (The woman herself does not go into the abyss.)

Verse 9 gives us another clue to assist us in our identification of this woman: “And here is the mind which hath wisdom, The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth.” This is something that is very literal in meaning. The Berean notes are very assistful: “The common name of Rome in St. John’s day was ‘The seven-hilled city’. Every Latin poet of note during a period of 500 years alludes to Rome’s seven hills, and the medals and coins of the day represent Rome as a woman sitting upon seven hills.”

Verses 10, 11 and 12 form part of the jig-saw puzzle picture. The problem is to find the pieces of history that will fit the picture. One phrase in V. 11 is very useful and simple: whatever the “eighth, and is of the seven” turns out to be, it will go “into perdition” or destruction, and if something goes into destruction, that is the end of it!—the FINISH.

As to the “ten horns” (ten kings, v. 12), V. 13 says that they “have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.” This could mean that the ten kings unitedly form an empire supporting the woman—theirs is civil power, while the woman exercises religious power. This sounds like the Holy Roman Empire—799 to 1799, the thousand years of the counterfeit reign of Christ. The beast was “scarlet colored”—could

this mean that the HOLY Roman Empire posed as representing the shed blood of Christ, the ransom? It was “HOLY” in name.

These ten kings “make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them; for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings; and they that are with him are called, chosen, and faithful.” (V. 14) This reminds us of the promise to the overcomers—Rev. 2:26, 27: “And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations; and he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.” The ten kingdoms will be no match for the superior power of the “King of kings, Lord of lords” and his faithful followers as pictured by Rev. 19:11 to 16.

Verse 16 is very revealing as to what the ten horns of the beast will do to the woman: “these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire.” The ten kingdoms have eaten practically all the flesh of Papacy—in plain language they have taken landed estates away from Papacy. The “burning with fire” in the full sense is still future—anarchy; and the signs along this line are pretty ominous. The consuming process is very gradual. Here is a clipping dated Nov. 26, 1976: “Roman Catholicism will no longer be Italy’s state religion and Rome will no longer be ‘sacred,’ but left-wing parties are not sure the proposed revision of a 1929 concordat with the Vatican is going far enough. The Communists, Italy’s second largest party after Andreotti’s Christian democrats, said there were some ‘positive’ aspects to the draft, but they needed time to think it over.” Moffatt renders the latter part of the verse in an interesting fashion: “confer their royal power upon the beast.” Yes, these ten kingdoms did willingly confer their royal power so the beast could function as an empire.

V. 18: “And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of earth.” Papal Rome fulfilled this to the letter.

Chapter 18 gives us additional information about the woman. “And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory.” The increase of knowledge, the circulation of truth, “lightens” the earth and evil in civil and religious power is exposed to all and this means trouble upon those who have misused their power for selfish purposes.

The proclamation is made “WITH A STRONG VOICE, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.” This reminds us of the list of “hateful birds” on page 163 of Volume III.

V. 3: “For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.” This last expression is very meaningful. The “merchants of the earth” could include the nobles and dignitaries of the Church along with all the influential of earth who worked in harmony with the woman—these were favored and enriched in every possible way to satisfy their selfish human hearts. Think of the millions of money paid to the woman over past centuries for her favors in religious matters. Think of the worship and reverence given to the dignitaries of the woman. Think of the submission of the lower classes—the kissing of hands, the kissing of toes, the crawling on knees—century after century! Notice the phrase ending V. 13: “and slaves and souls of men.”

Verses 4 and 5: “And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.” “My people” refers to the “wheat” class who are no longer to “grow up together with the tares” but are now to “come out.” (Matt. 13:30) The warning is given: “that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.”

The trouble upon the woman is to be very severe—what she meted out to others is to be meted out to her—she is to receive “double according to her works”, i.e. she is to receive the SAME treatment that she meted out to others. When we think of the French Revolution and the Russian Revolution we gain somewhat of an idea of what is in store for the woman. V. 6 to 8: “Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled, fill to her double. How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow.” “Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her.” “Utterly burned with fire” is her final fate—destruction, death!

The next few verses are very revealing: “And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning, **STANDING AFAR OFF** for fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come.” Yes, when the “kings” see her “burning” they are not going to run to her assistance, because it will be dangerous to do so. Rather they are going to “**STAND AFAR OFF.**” Many centuries ago, in the very early days, Papacy would call to kings to come to her assistance, and military power would be given her to maintain her position. But not now! Things are altogether different! The peoples of the horns are disillusioned and are in a hateful mood toward the woman. The “waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations and tongues”—these waters are

angry and are lashing up against the rocks—“the sea and the waves are roaring.” (Luke 21:25)

The “merchants” also lament and “shall stand AFAR OFF for the fear of her torment”. No one feels safe to try to rescue the woman when she is going through the agonies of her destruction. The “shipmasters and all the company in ships and sailors, and as many as trade by sea, STOOD AFAR OFF, and cried when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying What city is like unto this great city! And they cast dust on their heads, and cried, weeping and wailing, saying, Alas, alas, that great city, wherein were made rich all that had ships in the sea by reason of her costliness! for in one hour is she made desolate.” Many, many have gained by their association with the woman; but when she is being tormented and burned with fire, all profitable dealings are at an end! (Rev. 18:11 to 19.)

But another class is exhorted to “Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her.” How differently different classes of people look upon the same event! (V. 20.)

Her end is accompanied with violence as she is cast into the sea (restless masses). “And a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast it into the sea, saying, Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all.” This is still future for the woman—the city is still in existence and exerting a strong influence in the lives of millions of people in religious matters. If the “great city Babylon is to be thrown down as a great millstone cast into the sea” then we can expect to see a great commotion which will attract the attention of the whole world. This will indeed be a crisis of major proportions in the minds of millions of people who still submit to the religious dictates of the woman.

The verses that follow show how thorough will be the desolation of Babylon: “And the voice of harpers, and musicians, and of pipers, and trumpeters, shall be heard no more at all in thee; and no craftsman shall be found any more in thee; and the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee: for thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy sorceries were all nations deceived. And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth.”

That this is a picture of absolute desolation is evident from the words of Jer. 25:10 and 11, when speaking of Israel’s condition when serving the king of Babylon seventy years: “Moreover I will take from them the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride, the sound of the millstones, and the light of the candle. And this whole land shall be a desolation, and an astonishment; and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years.”

Rev. 19:1 to 3 declares the end of the matter: “And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power unto the Lord our God: for true and righteous are his judgments; for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand. And again they said, Alleluia. And her smoke rose up for ever and ever.” A lesson to mankind, never to be forgotten!

As a postscript, we mention that if any are interested in Rev. 13:11 to 18 about the two-horned beast, we call attention to item #114 which is entitled A FEW OBSERVATIONS ON PROPHECY. This is made up of 12 pages, largely from quotes from the Pastor’s pen. On page 12 there is a quote from the long foreword in Vol. IV, dated 1912. There the Pastor continued to speak of the “two-horned Beast” even though one of the horns was discarded many years ago. As Papacy played the leading role in religion in Europe in past centuries, the thought comes to mind that possibly the fulfillment of the prophecy concerning the two-horned beast may take place here in the U.S. as this Beast has to do with the Protestant religion, and the Protestant religion has been very prominent here in the United States.

Another thing: a number of brethren have noticed a fact of history that may have a bearing upon one of the parallels. We are all familiar with the fact that Titus came against Israel and in the year 70 A.D. Israel suffered a terrible defeat. However it has been noted that there was another defeat suffered by Israel 65 years later and history tells us that his defeat was final and complete. This is touched upon by the Pastor in the June, 1 Tower (Reprint page 232, par. 3), but the Pastor did not see any significance in this as a parallel. But now that the time has lengthened out, this fact of Jewish history may be significant and taken into account. The Reprint reference reads as follows: “A people massacred by thousands, yea more, in A.D. 70, 1,300,000 perished at the destruction of their city and temple, and 97,000 were carried captive. 60 years after, in attempting to return, half a million were slaughtered. In A.D. 135 Emperor Hadrian destroyed 50 castles, 800 cities and slew 530,000.” This would suggest that the Jewish national existence had not ended fully in A.D. 70. This same event of history is mentioned in Vol. II, page 304, par. 3, as a quote from Mosheim, the historian: “...the fate of that city had been sealed by Hadrian (A.D. 135)...” Bar Kokhba was the Jew that attempted to reestablish the Jewish people in Palestine, but in three years his efforts were crushed completely.

If this turns out to be a significant date from the standpoint of the parallels of the destruction of the Nominal Jewish House and the Nominal Christian House, then we add 65 years to the parallel date 1914, which would terminate in 1979; and we will not have very long to wait to see if this is right. The time of destruction then, would not be at the end of 40 years in each case, but 105 years. 30 A.D. plus 105 years would be 135 A.D. 1874 A.D. plus 105 would be 1979 A.D. There is nothing vital here to our Christian faith

or our walk and service in the Narrow Way; but it is interesting, and our Heavenly Father is no doubt pleased that we are interested in the outworking of his plan in prophecy and history.

In conclusion: our interest has been centered at this time in the judgment of the “WOMAN”. Some brethren may believe they can fit the jig-saw pieces of the circumstances of Hitler and Mussolini and World War II into the picture given us in Revelation 17 and 18. We have not made any attempt to do this; and we give others liberty to study and reason on such matters; and as long as any of us keep our thoughts and ideas well within the bounds of logic, facts and the Divine Plan, we think it is profitable to try to understand prophecy as much as we can. We will say this however—it is our belief that the Pastor merely envisioned a powerful effort to maintain the status quo when he expressed his thoughts in Volume IV (1916 Foreword, page iii). He did not foresee the empire building as attempted by Hitler and Mussolini. I am convinced of this since I made a review of Hitler’s book, MEIN KAMPF (MY STRUGGLE), and William L. Shirer’s book entitled THE RISE AND FALL OF THE THIRD REICH—a History of Nazi Germany.