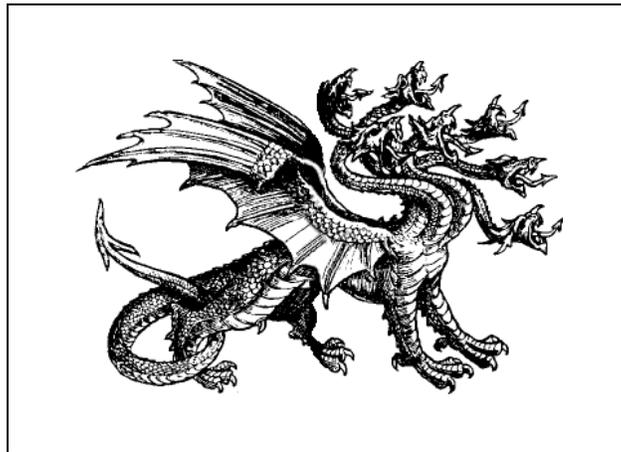


# Satan's Empires

Understanding the Dragon's Methodology



## UNSEALING DANIEL'S KINGDOMS

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# The Characteristics of Satan's Seven Empires

Put simply, the book of Daniel is a book of empires. In large part, the prophecy centers around visions revealing the rising and falling of empires and their replacements and the dramatic ending of the final empire of Antichrist by Jesus Christ to establish His Millennial Kingdom.

Daniel gives us the very first glimpse in Scripture of a prominent series of pagan empires we find in Chapters 2, 7, 8, 10 and 11. The focus of the book centers on the four empires of Babylon, Persia, Greece, and the Islamic Empire. Despite having such a pronounced role in Daniel's prophecy, the importance of these empires and their greater purpose are often misunderstood and overlooked. That's a shame because Daniel is possibly the most important book of prophecy in the Old Testament and the amount of space given to the topic of Gentile Kingdoms shows it as one of the largest, if not the largest, topic, in his prophecy.

Our God is an awesome God who can tell us about emerging empires before they ever appear! For the first time in Scripture, Daniel pulls back the curtain behind a succession of empires that will play a vital role throughout biblical history and especially in the Tribulation period.

## The Dragon on a Mission

In Revelation 12, we are introduced to a stunning picture of Satan revealed as a seven-headed dragon. This doesn't mean that Satan is a literal dragon with 7-heads. The depiction of him having seven heads is symbolic because God wants us to understand the enemy's long-term strategy of ruling the world through seven empires. The imagery suggests that Satan holds absolute sway over seven, designated empires. His influence of course affects all kingdoms and nations as he reigns as the god of the world. But Scripture emphasizes these seven empires have a special role in the dragon's mission to kill and destroy the Jewish people and their Messiah.

And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. And the dragon stood before the woman (Israel) who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born.

Revelation 12:4

The dragon's mission is to set up a successive series of empires that would give him absolute control over the land and the people of Israel. He designed them for the persecution and attempted annihilation of the Jews and for killing his mortal enemy the coming Messiah and to oppose anything that leads to salvation.

## He Will Crush Your Head

Satan did not know the exact moment of the birth of Messiah and so he began his disruption immediately after the fall with Cain and Abel. As time went on he adjusted his target from Abraham to Israel and to a redeemer who would come from the tribe of Judah (Gen. 49:10). With the arrival of David and the Davidic Covenant Satan's search was over. This was the line to pursue.

He then waited expectantly for the seed of the woman to come forth by appointing a large, pagan empire on duty who would always have control of the promised land and have a substantial military with plenty of human assets that he could martial to assault the Son of God at a moments notice.

The empires stretch from Egypt to Antichrist and were prompted in response to God's warning to Lucifer that we find in Genesis:

And I will put enmity between you (Satan) and the woman (Israel), and between your offspring (unsaved) and hers (Jews); he (Messiah) will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.

Genesis 3:15

From this verse we learn that immediately after the fall, God warned Satan that He would be sending a redeemer who will crush Satan's head. Satan's response was to 'not take the news sitting down.' He responded by ultimately adopting an iron-dome-like strategy, of setting up demonic-led empires that would assure his control over the people of Israel and who could swiftly murder the coming redeemer.

Revelation 12:4 gives us a clear picture that his strategy was to take out the coming Messiah before the coming One could 'crush his head.' His instruction for these empires was that whenever Messiah showed up, He would be killed immediately by whatever empire was on duty to prevent Him from crushing Satan. Until then, the evil rulers of the seven successive empires would have a free hand to persecute and kill as many Jews as God would allow.

## **Satan's Relentless Pursuit**

The following summarizes some of the key events of the dragon's evil intentions to put his plan in motion toward the woman's unborn child (Messiah).

Instances of his hostility surfaced in Cain's murder of Abel (Gen. 4:8), the corrupting of the line of Seth (Gen. 6:1-12), attempted rapes of Sarah (Gen. 12:10-20; 20:1-18) and Rebekah (Gen. 26:1-18), Rebekah's plan to cheat Esau out of his birthright and the consequent enmity of Esau against Jacob (Gen. 27), the murder of the male children in Egypt (Ex. 1:15-22), the many attempted murders of David (1 Sam. 18:10-11), Queen Athaliah's attempt to destroy the royal seed (2 Chron. 22:10), Haman's attempt to slaughter the Jews (Esther 3-9), and even the consistent attempts of the Israelites to murder their own children for sacrificial purposes points to the disruptor waging war against the Son (Lev. 18:21; 2 Kings 16:3; 2 Chron. 28:3; Ps. 106:37-38; Ezek. 16:20).

The attack of Herod against the children of Bethlehem (Matt. 2:16) and many other incidents during Jesus' earthly life, including His temptation, typify the ongoing attempt of the dragon to "devour" the woman's child once he was born. The most direct attempt was, of course, in the crucifixion of Christ.

## **Beasts, Mountains, Heads, Kingdoms & Empires**

In Bible prophecy, Satan's empires are referred to using three symbolic terms as either beasts, mountains or heads (Daniel 7 & 8; Revelation 13 & 17). Whichever symbol is used, all possessed the same enmity for Israel expressed here:

See how your enemies growl, how your foes rear their heads. With cunning they conspire against your people; they plot against those you cherish. 'Come, they say, let us destroy them as a nation, so that Israel's name is remembered no more.

Psalm 83:2-4

## Riddle-Like Prophecy Explained

The master list and sequential order of the seven empires is given in Revelation 17:9-11 where there are seven specific empires with the seventh one reviving in the last days and becoming the eighth empire.

The symbolism and riddle-like nature of the prophecy along with it switching emphasis from kingdoms to kings makes this passage tricky to interpret.

Here's a chart of Revelation 17: 9-11 and the interpretation.

**EIGHT SUCCESSIVE KINGDOMS**  
REVELATION 17:9-11

The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits. There are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come. When he comes, he must continue a short time. The beast that was, and is not, is also the eighth, and is of the seven, and goes to destruction.

**"5 HAVE FALLEN"**

1. Egypt
2. Assyria
3. Babylon
4. Persia
5. Greece

**"ONE IS"**

6. Rome (John wrote 95 AD)

**"ONE IS YET TO COME" (AFTER ROME)**

7. Islamic Caliphate

**EIGHTH KINGDOM: OTTOMAN REVIVED**  
THE BEAST IS THE EIGHTH AND IS OF THE SEVEN" (17:11)

## Common Features of Satan's Seven Empires



Here we will establish the common features of Satan's Empires and note at least NINE common characteristics of all 7 empires.

1. The empires are of significance because they play such an important role in relation to the history of Israel. All of them suppressed, persecuted, and sought to destroy the Jewish people, the Hebrews.
2. Except for Egypt which ruled over the Hebrews before they entered the promised land, each empire physically captured and controlled the promised land. For example: some have suggested Germany could qualify as the seventh head instead of the Ottoman empire because of the holocaust.

But Germany, although very evil having killed over six million Jews in the holocaust, does not meet the criteria as one of the devil's empires for a number of reasons including they never controlled the actual land of Israel.

3. All seven cultures within these empires were essentially pagan. They are part of an unreasoning beast to oppose God's plans of redemption. None of them are shown to have become believers with the exception of the brief conversion of Nineveh, the capitol of the Assyrian Empire which came about through the reluctant preaching of the Prophet Jonah.
4. All seven empires are noted in the Bible for their pride and over-confidence...even rising up to heaven. They are all symbolized as mountains and tall, lofty trees on one or more occasions in the Old Testament.
5. Each successive empire after Egypt conquered and supplanted the prior empire, each time expanding the realm of Satan's kingdom.
6. All seven of these kingdoms were Gentile kingdoms with ridged rulership structures enforced by dictators. The political rulers and the head of the religious system were one and the same person (religion and state were merged).
7. Every empire had an antichrist spirit that was anti-Yahweh, anti-Bible, anti-Trinity, anti-Christ, anti-Semitic and anti-Christian and was filled with hatred and blasphemy for God's plans and the Jewish people.

### **Three-Tier Leadership**

8. From Daniel 10 we discover that each beast empire is comprised of three tiers of leadership. The three-tiered leadership is made up of Satan, his high-ranking demonic princes and the human dictator-kings who rule the empires.

The scriptural definition of the term "beast" in Daniel and Revelation includes all 3 components when defining the 7 empires.

From Revelation 12 we learn that Satan of course is the dominant force behind the empires and is therefore the first tier of leadership orchestrating their rise and fall for his purposes (Rev. 12:3-4).

## The Second Tier: Demonic Princes

From Daniel 10 we learn the second tier of leadership within the beast are demonic rulers called “princes.” These are Satan’s high-level “generals” who rule the individual empires on behalf of Satan from the heavenlies. Just as Israel has their mighty prince Michael, Satan’s empires also have ruling commanders to enforce Satan’s plans as long as their empire is in power. In Daniel 10 we see that a different prince rules over each empire.

Gabriel explains how these princes pass the baton to the next empire and how they withstood him from delivering one of God’s most important prophecies to Daniel about Israel’s calendar and timeline.

But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the king/prince of Persia (Gabriel was detained in the heavenlies by the Persian prince because Persia was Satan’s current nation in power).

Then he said, “Do you know why I have come to you? And now I must return to fight with the prince of Persia; and when I have gone forth, indeed the prince of Greece (Demonic ruler over Satan’s 5<sup>th</sup> empire, Greece) will come (Since the Grecian Empire replaced the Persian Empire, the Grecian prince will be up next to rule in the heavenlies during the duration of the Grecian Empire).

Daniel 10:13, 20

The apostle Paul reveals Satan’s hierarchy and the levels of demonic rankings in Ephesians. The four designations describe the different layers and rankings of demons and the supernatural empire in which they operate. Satan’s forces of darkness are highly structured for the most destructive purposes (Col. 2:15; 1 Pet. 3:22).

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, powers, the rulers of the darkness of this age, and the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Ephesians 6:12

## The Eighth Empire

Satan's demon-princes come into play in much greater force in his final eighth empire. Once a Kingdom is conquered, the previous ruling prince is remanded to the abyss which is the holding cell for demons.

For the last empire Satan will release all seven of the previous ruling princes from the abyss to provide Antichrist with the added assistance of seven princes instead of just one.

The seven princes will return and work together to fulfill Satan's vision for the eighth beast-empire in the Tribulation period. Since the former 7 empires are some of the most deadly and ferocious kingdoms in history, it's hard to comprehend how frightening, vicious, and cruel the final beast empire will be since it has seven times the demonic power enforcing Satan's plans to exterminate Israel. This strategy will create a supercharged kingdom of evil to accomplish its mission of mayhem in the short time of the Tribulation.

## Princes From The Abyss

Just what additional indications does scripture provide for this? Consider how the following verses indicate the beast is made up of rulers who ascend from the abyss to form the last beast.

When they (2-Witnesses) finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them.

(The indication is that the forces of the beast came up from the abyss. In the NT, the abyss is the holding cell of demons).

Revelation 11:7

The beast that you saw was, and is not, and will ascend out of the bottomless pit and go to perdition. (The bottomless pit is simply another name for the abyss).

Revelation 17:8

## Apollyon The Destroyer

In Revelation 9 we learn that Satan is the undisputed ruler of the abyss and can release bound spirits to serve his purposes as God allows. For example, in the fifth trumpet judgment, during the 7-year Tribulation, millions of demonic spirits are temporarily paroled from their confinement in the abyss to torture the followers of the beast.

Then the fifth angel sounded: And I saw a star fall from heaven to the earth. To him was given the key to the bottomless pit (abyss). And he opened the bottomless pit, and smoke arose out of the pit like the smoke of a great furnace. So the sun and the air were darkened because of the smoke of the pit.

And they had as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit (abyss), whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, but in Greek he has the name Apollyon.

Revelation 9:1-2, 11

The “bottomless pit” or the “pit of the abyss” is mentioned seven times in Revelation. It always refers to the prison where some of the demonic hordes are incarcerated. And is the place of severest torment and isolation.

Here we see demons in the pit have a king over them whose name in Hebrew and Greek means “**destroyer**.” Although not stated directly, it seems likely the powerful destroying ruler over the abyss is Satan himself.

The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.

John 10:10

Giving Satan the key to the abyss to release demons shows how realistic it is for Satan to have God’s permission to release his seven demon princes to fulfill their roles in empowering the Beast.

## The Third Tier: Human Rulers... Kings

And finally, the **third tier** of leadership in every one of the seven beast empires is the human leaders or dictator-kings that rule the earthly empires. Each ruling king in some way, demonstrates the personality of Satan while carrying out the cruel and hateful, spirit of Antichrist.

Here is a list of the dominant kings and rulers of each empire:

Empire	King
1. Egypt	Pharaoh
2. Assyria	Sennacherib
3. Babylon	Nebuchadnezzar
4. Medo-Persia	Darius
5. Greece/Seleucid	Antiochus IV
6. Rome	Domitian
7. Islamic Caliphate	Muhammad
8. Ottoman Caliphate	Antichrist

## God's Sovereignty Over Satan's Empires

The three leadership tiers including Satan, his appointed princes and the human kings, all work in harmony carrying out Satan's purposes on earth against God and His chosen people. But God can intercede and override Satan's empires for His sovereign purposes any time He desires and He often does.

He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and raises up kings;  
He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding.

Daniel 2:21

## God is in Charge, Not Satan

When Jesus came in His first coming, the devil was so proud of his intricate empire system that he used it to tempt the Lord. We find the story in Matthew 4:8, *The devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.*

Satan displayed the glory and majesty of his empires showing Jesus how grand they were and using them to entice the Lord to forsake the Father and throw-in with the devil. The tempter's proposal of his glorious world system was so preposterous to Jesus that He dismissed him with a short, *"Away with you Satan."* Praise God for the powerful name of Jesus who can dismiss Satan with his breath.

God almighty has the ultimate rule in the affairs of men and it is only by His sovereign design that the Devil and his kingdoms are allowed to exist. The prophet Isaiah tells us that God planned the end from the beginning (Isa. 46:10) and therefore orchestrates His purposes above and even through the evil plans of Satan.

We know God is aware of Satan's strategy to employ his seven empires because we read about them in the Old Testament and God spells them out for us in the book of Revelation.

God graciously shares this information with us ahead of time so that His people will understand the devil's strategy and be more aware of what's coming. God is administrating history not watching history and all of history is intentionally playing out for His glory.

## God Uses Satan's Empires for His Divine Purposes

Throughout scripture we see how God uses these same empires for His divine purposes. For instance, the Apostle Paul states that God used Egypt's Pharaoh to display his power (Rom. 9:17). He also used Assyria as the *"rod of My anger"* and instrument of judgment against Israel (Isaiah 10:5-6). He did the same with Babylon against Judah (Hab. 1:6) and addresses Nebuchadnezzar as, *"My servant"* (Jer. 27:6).

## The Most High Rules The Kingdoms of Men

In Isaiah 44-45 God raises up the Persian King Cyrus saying, *“He is My shepherd, and he shall perform all My pleasure”* (44:28). Satan may think he raised up the Persia empire and it’s leader Cyrus to conquer the Babylonian empire but here we find God chose Cyrus to send the exiled Jews back to their homeland even providing them the supplies and building materials to rebuild Israel’s Temple.

It is also God who says He *“hooks”* Gog, the head of the Turkey-led Caliphate (Antichrist) and induces his armies (Ezek. 38) to invade Israel in the battle of Armageddon. And in a unique turn-of-events recorded in Daniel 4, God uses Nebuchadnezzar to sum up the Lord’s sovereignty over the nations.

The Most High rules in the kingdom of men, gives it to whomever He will, and sets over it the lowest of men. All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; He does according to His will in the army of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand or say to Him, *“What have You done?”*

Daniel 4:17, 35

So we learn that the trifold powers who make up the hierarchy of the beast are controlled by Satan and yet always under the sovereign hand of God Almighty!

I have made the earth, the man and the beast that are on the ground, by My great power and by My outstretched arm, and have given it to whom it seemed proper to Me.

Jeremiah 27:5

## Satan’s Watcher’s On Guard Duty

9. We’ve already touched on this final characteristic but it’s so crucial I will circle back one more time. Each empire was empowered and on duty for the purpose of standing guard to ambush and kill Messiah upon His arrival into the world. The empires were Satan’s watchers to keep an eye out for the coming redeemer. This was their common mission portrayed in Revelation 12 where the seven-headed dragon (Satan) is pictured waiting for the pregnant “woman” (Israel) to give birth so he could devour the “child” (Messiah).

And the dragon stood before the woman (Israel) who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born.

#### Revelation 12:4

From this symbolic portrayal we see the seven empires successively placed on duty down through history ready to destroy Christ until our Lord and Savior was finally captured, tortured and crucified by the Roman Empire, Satan's sixth empire on duty.

### **Mission Accomplished - A New Strategy for the Second Coming**

Just 500 years after John wrote the book of Revelation and Satan realized redemption was through the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus, the devil modified his plans for the seventh and eight empires. Since there was no longer a need to kill our Savior at His first coming, He adjusted his plans to create his most devious empire yet!

The seventh empire would possess an apocalyptic spirit and radical religious fervor never seen before in the previous empires. Daniel's prophecy describes it as, "*different from all the beasts that were before it*" (Daniel 7:7, 19). Daniel says of its final king Antichrist that he is the king of defense spending, "*He will honor the god of fortresses (war, Jihad)... a god whom his fathers did not know he shall honor with gold and silver, with precious stones and costly gifts*" (Daniel 11:38). This bazaar religious system will aid the enemy to carry out the more difficult responsibility of killing Jesus a second time at His Second Coming.

This time his plans would be carried out by a dedicated religious-political system with its own bible-like set of instructions and false god Allah who favors killing the Jewish people. The Muslim followers of the Satanically inspired system will be so deceived they will be looking for Jesus to kill Him when he returns to Israel at His Second Coming.

## Final Empire, Revived Ottoman Caliphate

The hard-core, political-religious system of the eighth empire is described in Scripture as the Mother of Harlots! This portrays it well suggesting it's the absolute worst deception and most evil system Satan ever concocted on mankind.

The revived Ottoman Caliphate will be led by Satan and ruled by ten kings with the help of seven demon princes and Antichrist. It's my conviction that each of the ten kings are alive and currently in power and one day soon will rise to their prophetic destiny and form the revived Islamic Caliphate.

The 10-King member states will soon come to the conclusion that their common interest in expanding the impact of Islam outweighs their separate national interests, and so will require collective action under the strategic umbrella of a Caliphate.

We are now in 2023 which marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the break-up of the Ottoman Caliphate in Turkey. Today the more radical, anti-Israel, Muslim nations, led by Turkey, are getting antsy and barking louder and working together.

The world will soon be shaken to its core with the rebirth of Satan's final empire. Revelation calls this empire "*the beast*." And the beast will be constantly fueled by his support team and the radical teachings of the Quran and Sharia Law.

Satan's new and most daring strategy is not too far away! We could even see the rise and establishment of the Ten-King Empire **BEFORE** the Rapture! Only the Lord knows the timing. It's arrival is one of the great signs yet to occur in prophecy and Antichrist can't appear until **AFTER** the Ten-King Empire arrives (Daniel 7:24).

So keep your eyes open, everything is in place and the stage is set! And keep looking for Jesus and listening for the upward call of the sound of the trumpet!

*For in just a little while, he who is coming will come and will not delay.*

Hebrews 10:37

## The Historical Succession of Satan's 7 Empires

Empire	Actions Taken Against Israel	Replaced By
<b>1. Egypt</b>	Egypt enslaved Israel for 430 years (Ex. 12:40) and Pharaoh attempted genocide by killing all Jewish baby boys by throwing them in the Nile River.	Assyria conquered Egypt in 701 BC (Isaiah 20:1–6)
<b>2. Assyria</b>	Conquered the 10 Northern Tribes of Israel in 722 BC and sent them into captivity, and nearly conquered Judah.	Babylon conquered Assyria in 612 BC
<b>3. Babylon</b>	Conquered Jerusalem and Judah in 586 BC, burned and destroyed Solomon's Temple and marched Israel into captivity to Babylon for 70 years.	Medo-Persia conquered Babylon in 539 BC (Daniel 5)
<b>4. Persia</b>	Haman, in the Persian Court, attempted mass genocide of the Jews.	Greece conquered Persia in 324 BC
<b>5. Greece</b>	Antiochus IV desecrated the temple and killed thousands of Jews who would not convert to paganism.	Rome conquered Greece (Seleucid Empire) in 64 BC
<b>6. Rome</b>	Rome crucified Jesus, persecuted the early church, burned the temple and destroyed Jerusalem in AD 70, and sent the Jews into captivity.	Islam (Ottoman Empire) conquered Byzantine Rome in 1453 AD
<b>7. Islamic Caliphate</b>	Killed millions of Jews and Christians during empire-building jihads. Crushed the nations where Christianity began, converting them to Islam. Built the Dome of the Rock on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem.	The Allies divided the Ottoman Empire after WWI (1923) It will be revived and become the 8 <sup>th</sup> Empire under Antichrist