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IN SEARCH OF THE BEAST EMPIRE

And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space. And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition. And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast. These have one mind and give their power and strength unto the beast... these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate....

Revelation 17:9-13, 16

Scripture sometimes expresses the Beast as a nation and at other times as a person. As a person the Beast is so integrated with his empire that Beast and empire become one. In our search for the Beast, whether man or empire, it is significant to understand that Scripture teaches that the Beast will sign a treaty with Israel, guaranteeing her seven years of peace. With that guarantee the Jews will accept the Beast as Messiah.¹

It is worthwhile to recall again the statement made by Arthur Crawford, pastor and Bible teacher from Riverside Bible Church in Columbus, Ohio, on the who or what of the Beast-Messiah: "Two rabbis have suggested that as far as they are concerned, Messiah could be a set of nations, a world power that guaranteed their integrity, an individual, or organization - they don't care. Any of those [according to the rabbis] would meet the Biblical prophecies of Messiah." ²

In our search for the Beast, we are looking only for the empire and not the man.

We learned in the previous chapter that the seven heads of the Beast are (at the writing of this book) historic world powers - Nazi Germany being the seventh. Revelation 17:11 states that the eighth is the Beast empire. In Daniel 7:7, the prophet says that this Beast is different "from all the beasts that were before it." In Daniel 11:36-39 the prophet explains how the end-time Beast shall differ from all other previous gods, tyrants, and evil-doers:

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And the king [end-time Beast] shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation [his image in the Jewish Temple] be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done. Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, nor the desire of women, nor regard any god: for in his estate shall he honour the God of forces: and a god whom his fathers knew not shall he honour with gold, and silver, and with precious stones, and pleasant things. Thus shall he do in the most strong holds with a strange god, whom he shall acknowledge and increase with glory....³

That the Beast disregards traditional gods suggests that he will take his government out from under the mystic control of the Whore of Babylon (English Freemasonry). He will replace the traditional gods with "a strange god" called "the God of forces," whom he "increase[s] with glory."

What does the prophet Daniel mean by the phrase "the God of forces"? The Hebrew word *for forces* literally means "fortified place, fortress, or strength." Figuratively it means "defense."⁴ The word *strange* means "to respect." ⁵ The Beast will "increase" this god "with glory." The word *increase* means to "build up."⁶ And, the word *glory* means "riches."⁷

With these definitions in mind, we can interpret the passage as follows:

Daniel is revealing that the god of the end-time Beast will be an awesome "defense" force that the world "respects" - a defense force that is "built up" with "riches." We know that today's military armament is promoted as "defense," and that, ironically, military budgets are called "defense budgets." Revelation 13:4 confirms the awesome defense capability of the Beast: "Who is like unto the beast? Who is able to make war with him?"

Confirmation that we are living in the days prophesied by John and Daniel is also found in the world's monetary outlay on armament. On June 10, 1991, Reuters news syndicate reported in newspapers across our nation that during the decade of the 1980s, "global spending on arms approached \$1 trillion." In 1990 alone, says Reuters, "world spending on the military was about \$900 billion." This amounts to spend. mg almost \$2 million a minute on war and the weapons of war - an unprecedented amount in the annals of history.

The Beast Shall Arise Out of French Freemasonry

Scripture indicates that the Beast will rely on military might to gain and maintain power. We have in the course of this book seen how all

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French Masonic-backed revolutions have used military might, violence and terror to achieve their ends. We can conclude that the Beast will be a nation that, with the help of French Freemasonry, will cast out by revolution the horn of a monarchy and form a new nation. When this new nation matures, it will become a mighty nation with an awesome defense force - a nation that will, with one exception, have the same characteristics of ancient Rome.

The exception? The Beast will not follow the Mystery Babylonian religion of English Freemasonry, but will instead follow the atheist-humanist tradition of French Freemasonry.

The allegiance of the Beast to French Freemasonry is confirmed in Scripture. You recall that French Freemasonry declared in 1877 that there is no God. It proclaimed its secular humanism in the motto, "To the Glory of Humanity." Likewise, the Beast regards no god. And like French Freemasonry, which made a god of humanity, the Beast then "exalt[s] himself, and magnif[ies] himself above every god...."

Is there further Scriptural evidence to support this interpretation of the nature of the Beast? Dr. Alfred Rehwinkel in his book *The Flood* (1952) says Jesus prophesied an end-time world of atheist-humanists. In Matthew 24:37 Christ tells His disciples that the last days will be as it was in the days of Noah. Rehwinkel says that "The generation before the Flood was not a pagan or idolatrous race." ⁸ He says they were godless. Rehwinkel points to archaeological evidence which supports Scripture and his thesis, quoting Sir Charles Leonard Wooley, a British archaeologist, who has noted, "In no single [prehistoric] grave has there been any figure of a god, any symbol or ornament that strikes one as being of a religious nature."⁹

The Old Testament offers further insight into the atheistic, amoral humanism of the Beast and his antediluvian precursors. Genesis 6:4 informs us what antediluvian humanity was like: "There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown."

Rehwinkel unravels the enigmas of this passage from Genesis and applies it to the atheistic humanists of our day and world:

The Hebrew word [*nephilim*] means more than what we understand by the term "giant." It means those that fall upon others, brigands, thugs, tyrants. These *nephilim* were famous in that world. They had made a great name for themselves through their acts of violence, lawlessness, and corruption. They were known by all, and their statues were probably found in the antediluvian shrines of honor.

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There are *nephilim*, or giants, in the world today. They are the men who rule this world. They hold their councils in secret. They dispose of countries and millions of human beings as so many figures on a chessboard. They confiscate property that does not belong to them and condemn millions of innocent people to a horrible death of misery and starvation. They blot out whole cities of men, women, and children, with hell-born missiles of death, but they are applauded as great men and renowned, and their portraits and statues are given a place of honor in the halls of fame in our world today.¹⁰

Rehwinkel suggests that the "sons of God" were not supernatural beings, but powerful men who considered themselves as gods - a humanistic philosophy which follows atheism.¹¹ Likewise, we see that Daniel's Beast is atheistic because he "regards no god." The Beast reveals his humanist face when he declares himself as god. If the Beast-god arises out of French Freemasonry, it is understandable why (according to Revelation 17:16) he will destroy his competitor, English Freemasonry, which believes in many gods.

The apostle John also suggests that the Beast kingdom will come out of French Freemasonry. In Revelation 13:1, he saw the Beast "rise up out of the sea." The *sea* here is a figure of speech for the mass of people upon the earth, as Revelation 17:15 explains: "The waters which thou sawest. . . are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues." The French Masonic revolutions sprang from the grass roots of mass movements, and these movements then created democratic republics run by the people and for the people.

Unlike English Freemasonry, which wants a world government run by an elite aristocracy, French Freemasonry is working feverishly toward a Universal Democratic Republic run by the people. If the Beast arises out of French Freemasonry, naturally the Beast's empire will be a democratic republic, as was ancient Rome.

Are the Ten Crowns on the Seventh Head, or the Eighth?

Clarence Larkin, in *The Book of Revelation* (1919), pictures the Beast as having seven heads with ten crowned horns on the seventh head.¹² At first reading this would appear to be the description in Revelation 13:1: "And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns...."

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Revelation, however, does not specifically state that the ten horns are on the seventh head. Which head the crowned horns are on is a matter of interpretation. It could be that the ten horns are actually the eighth head in Revelation 17:10-11: "And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other [the seventh] is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space. And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven...."

In Revelation 13:3 we learn that one of the Beast's heads seemed to 'have a mortal wound, but its mortal wound was healed.'¹³ By interpreting the wounded and healed head in this passage as the seventh and eighth heads in Revelation 17:11, Larkin pictures the two as being one. He does this by changing the word "seven" to "seventh." He writes, "even he is the eighth, and is of the seventh..."¹⁴

Since he was writing in 1919, Larkin's interpretation is understandable; he wrote before the rise of Nazi Germany, the seventh head. Larkin agrees with Scripture that the Beast is the eighth head. But it is a matter of interpretation whether the Beast actually came out of the "seven[th]" head or out of one of the "seven."

Since 1919 we have been given almost three-quarters of a century of history to be illumined by Bible prophecy. We can hold this history up to Scripture and see what, from these years, is a possible fulfillment of prophecy. We can now see that the eighth head is not "of the *seven[th]*" for John describes his visions of the eighth head as if he himself were contemporary with the end times: "And the beast that was [sixth head of old Rome], and is not [slain head, or demise of old Rome], even he is the eighth [healed head, or revived Rome]...." Notice that John skips the seventh head, which we believe is Nazi Germany.

Our hypothesis is that the ten crowns (ten kings) are on the eighth head. This understanding is further strengthened by verse 12, where it is written that the Beast gives power to the ten kings, and by verse 13 where we are told "These [ten kings] have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast [eighth head]."

French Freemasonry Places the Ten Crowns on the Head of the Beast

Who or what are the "ten crowns" or kings that will adorn the head of the Beast? Prophecy scholars believe that the ten kings in Revelation 17:12 will be ten of the twelve member nations which make up the European Economic Community (EEC), or European Common Market. These scholars view the Common Market as the revived Roman empire,

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since the Common Market encompasses the western territory of the old Roman empire. They believe the EEC is the embryo of the Beast, the eighth world power recorded by John.

Grand Orient Freemasonry was the force behind the Treaty of Rome, which formed the EEC in 1957. Every president of the EEC has since been a Grand Orient Mason. Its current head (1993) is France's president, Francois Mitterrand,¹⁵ the most powerful 33rd degree Grand Orient Mason in Europe.

In 1957 the original signatories of the Treaty of Rome were six nations: France, West Germany, Italy, Belgium, The Netherlands, and Luxembourg. Their intent is eventually to unite Europe, a desire of French Freemasonry as far back as Napoleon Bonaparte, and that emerged again in 1848 when the Grand Orient first mentioned by name the idea of inaugurating the United States of Europe.

Dr. Walter Hallstein, 33rd degree Grand Orient Mason and past president of the EEC, detailed the vision of a United Europe in a speech in the 1960s:

Three phases of the European unification are to be noted. First, the customs union, second, the economic union, third, the political union... what we have created on the way to uniting Europe is a mighty economic-political union of which nothing may be sacrificed for any reason. Its value exists not only in what it is, but more in what it promises to become.... We may fully expect the great fusion of all economic, military, and political communities together into the United States of Europe.¹⁶

Charles de Gaulle, president of France from 1958 to 1969, used the EEC as an instrument in the service of French interests, attempting once in 1963 to unite Europe under its banner, with France the leader. De Gaulle failed when opposed by West Germany. 17

De Gaulle did, however, successfully oppose in 1958 and 1963 two attempts by Great Britain to join the EEC. For economic survival, London organized in 1959 the seven-nation European Free Trade Association (EFTA) with Austria, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, Finland, and Iceland. The purpose of the EFTA was to reduce tariffs on imports received from member countries. 18

As described in Revelation 17:9, this combination of seven nations could be considered the Whore of Babylon (English Freemasonry) sitting on seven heads. The EFTA, however, ceased operation when England, Denmark, and Ireland were allowed to join the European Common Market in 1973, the same year the seven-nation Trilateral Commission was founded by the Anglophile CFR.

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In 1981 Greece joined the Common Market, increasing the total to ten. Bible prophecy scholars were ecstatic. Since then Spain and Portugal have joined. The EEC, however, is still considered by prophecy scholars as part of the future revived Roman Empire, which entity, if this interpretation is correct, will in God's time consist of ten nations.

The EEC inaugurated the United States of Europe (USE) on December 31, 1992 - seven years to the day of year 2000. Ten of the twelve nations voted to accept the Eurodollar as common currency. The two holdouts were England and Ireland. In July 1993, both nations voted to accept the European currency. Although there are still twelve nations in the EEC, when the Beast burns London, Ireland will fall too, and there will be ten nations.

The Vision of the Beast Empire is confusing to the Prophets

The struggle between English and French Freemasonry has produced such a convoluted body of entangled nations, with so many conflicting interests, that it can only be described as a Beast. For example, four of the nations in French Freemasonry's European Common Market are also members of English Freemasonry's seven-nation Trilateral Commission - England, France, Germany, and Italy.

In looking at this convoluted mess, the prophet Daniel could hardly describe what he saw. He recorded in Daniel 7:7 that it was "dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly.. and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it...."

The apostle John appears to have had the same problem in his description. His account of the seven heads as seven nations and ten crowns as ten kings leave the reader asking where the crowns are located on the body of the Beast. John did not specifically mention on which of the seven heads (or eight) the ten horns were mounted. Although we believe they are on the eighth head, the debate continues among Bible prophecy scholars to this day.

The Beast's body, according to Revelation 13:2, is made up of a leopard, the head (or teeth) of a lion and the feet of a bear. Interestingly, the national emblems of England and Russia are the lion and the bear respectively. What nation the leopard represents is not yet clear. One fact is for certain, the ten European nations, or ten crowns in Revelation 17:12, are not the body of the Beast. The ten crowns are separate, as described in John's vision. Likewise, Daniel 7:7-8 reveals the same ten-plus-one Beast: "After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast.. and it had ten horns. I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn...."

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Bible commentators English and Bower state that the "little horn" is the same as the Beast, or the eighth world kingdom mentioned in Revelation 17:11.19 John said the Beast comes out of the seven, which means the Beast kingdom may come from both the historical seven empires and the end-time seven-nation Trilateral Commission. Daniel said the Beast comes up from among the ten, which means it may come from one of the twelve Common Market nations. By placing the three groups of nations side by side, we should be able to determine which kingdom or nation is the Beast kingdom by focusing on the one listed in all three groups:

Historic Seven	Trilateral Commission	Common Market
1. Egypt	1. United States	1. France
2. Assyria	2. Canada	2. Belgium
3. Babylon	3. England	3. Netherlands
4. Medo-Persia	4. Japan	4. Luxembourg
5. Greece	5. France	5. England

6. Rome
7. Nazi Germany

6. Italy (Rome)
7. Germany

6. Ireland
7. Denmark
8. Greece
9. Spain
10. Portugal
11. Italy (Rome)
12. Germany

Two nations are in all three columns - Rome and Germany. Many Bible prophecy scholars believe the Beast's headquarters will be based at Rome, especially those who view the Roman Church as Mystery Babylon. This would make the Beast and the Whore reign from the same city, which is unlikely if, as Revelation 17:16-17 says, the Beast permits the ten kings to burn the city of the Whore. In the process he would permit the burning of his own headquarters.

If the headquarters of the Whore of Babylon is not Rome, but London, then Rome could be a candidate for the headquarters of the Beast.

A revived political Rome does not, however, have to be ruled from old Rome. Daniel says the Beast or "little horn" - which means "new nation" or "young nation" - "came up [from] among" the ten European nations. Therefore, Rome, or any one of the other nine nations could have the same characteristics of ancient Rome. Or the Beast could be an eleventh nation, as the "little horn" suggests. Therefore, the Beast

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could be a young nation that was born, or "came up [from] among" the ten nations. More accurately stated, the Beast nation is a young nation whose population came from the territory of the ten European nations.

To identify the "little horn," which is revived Rome, we must consider the makeup of ancient Rome. Ancient Rome had 14 basic characteristics before its division by Constantine: (1) it was a democratic republic; (2) it had a divided balance of power; (3) it was based upon specific laws; (4) it protected the rights of Roman citizens; (5) it enforced an international law that all Roman citizens are equal; (6) it had a sordid history of slavery; (7) it operated under a capitalist system; (8) it authorized abortions; (9) it loved what we would call R-rated entertainment; (10) it offered state welfare programs funded by taxes; (11) it had a thriving business in lawsuits; (12) it was the melting-pot of the world; (13) it promoted sports as its favorite pastime; and (14) it displayed as its national emblem the single-headed Eagle with wings spread. After the division, the eagle became doubleheaded.²⁰

Germany as Revived Rome

Since the reign of Charlemagne as the first Holy Roman Emperor, German kings have been the most influential rulers in the Holy Roman Empire.²¹ As such, they became the new Caesars, or Kaisers in German. As Rev. Church says, "It seems that Germany plays a far more important role in the fulfillment of Bible prophecy than one might think at first glance. The thought that the future Antichrist could have his roots in Germany becomes more plausible when one considers the historical roots of the empire."²²

Germany's historic roots fit many of the requirements of revived Rome. Today Germany is a democratic republic, has a divided balance of power, is based upon specific laws, protects the rights of its citizens, operates under a capitalist system, and has a sordid history of slavery under Nazism.

Germany's most significant historic symbol, and resemblance to ancient Rome, is its national emblem, adopted from Constantine. When Constantine came to power in 306 A.D., he moved his headquarters from Rome to Constantinople in Asia Minor. His Eastern empire became known as the Byzantine Empire, or "the Second Rome." To symbolize the divided empire, Constantine transformed the Roman eagle from a single-head to a double-head. According to *Mackey's Encyclopedia of Freemasonry*, "Upon the dissolution of that empire, the emperors of Germany, who claimed their empire to be the representative of ancient Rome, assumed the double-headed eagle as their symbol... ²³

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Another reason that Germany could be revived Rome is found in Revelation 13:3. John says of the Beast, "And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed...."

As we have seen, the seventh head was Nazi Germany. The dividing of Germany into east and west after World War H may indicate the wounding of the seventh head. The "head healed" may refer to the recent reunification of both Germanys in October, 1990.

Germany, however, must be disqualified as revived Rome for two important reasons. First, Revelation 13:4

states that the Beast will be a military power second to none. At present Germany is not that military power, but that could change rapidly. Second, as a member of the European Common Market, Germany is one of the "ten horns," whereas Revelation 17:12 describes the Beast as being separate from the ten. Likewise, Daniel 7:8 describes the Beast, not as the ten horns, but as the "little horn" that "came up [from] among" the ten.

As stated earlier, the "little horn" implies a "young nation." Germany is millenniums old. And the phrase, "came up [from] among [the ten horns]," indicates that this "young nation" will be populated from the territory of the ten nations of the old Roman empire. Again, this cannot mean Germany, for Germany is still primarily populated strictly and proudly by Germanic races.

Russia as Revived Rome

Russia could also be a candidate for the Beast. Under the czars and the Soviets, Russia had a sordid history of slavery. Under the Soviets, Russia was a socialist republic, also with a large gulag slave population. Since December 1991, when the Soviet Union was dissolved, Russia became a democratic republic, and therefore can be considered a young nation (little horn). Moreover, Russia is attempting to operate under a capitalist system, as did old Rome.

Russia's most significant resemblance to old Rome goes back to the fall of Constantinople (the Second Rome) in 1453, when the Turks took that city. From that date, Russia has considered itself as the Third Rome.

In 1472, Ivan III was the first Russian emperor to call himself Czar, which is Russian for Caesar.~ *Mackey's Encyclopedia of Freemasonry* reports how Russia adopted the double-headed eagle as its emblem: "It was taken by Ivan III as his device on his marriage with Zoe Palaeologa (Sophia), daughter of Thomas of Morea, claimant to the imperial throne of Byzantium... [Ivan III] claimed to be the successor of the Eastern [Roman] Emperors."²⁵

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If we are to consider Russia as revived Rome, it must share all the characteristics of ancient Rome. Russia, however, has a long history of failing to protect the rights of her citizens and she certainly is not the melting-pot of the world today. Furthermore, according to the description given in Revelation 13 and 17, the headquarters of the Beast must be in a powerful nation with a strong economic, political and military base, identical to that of ancient Rome. When the Whore's city (London) is destroyed, the economy of the world can quickly be transferred to the headquarters of the Beast kingdom, where it will be controlled by his mark -666. This cannot be Russia. Modern Russia is a nation whose economic stability for three quarters of a century has depended upon financial infusions from the West.

The most significant reason that Russia cannot be the Beast kingdom is that she is not one of the seven historic or contemporary heads of the Beast, as Revelation 17:11 demands. Nor was her nation populated by emigrants from the territory of the old Roman Empire, as Daniel 7:8 requires. Furthermore, Ezekiel 38 and 39 indicates that Russia will be destroyed before the Beast kingdom can have military preeminence.

France as Revived Rome

France today, under the leadership of 33rd degree Grand Orient Freemason Francois Mitterrand, is preparing for the coming of Antichrist to head the long-awaited French Masonic United States of Europe founded on December 31, 1992. In 1983 Mitterrand hired a Japanese architect, I.M. Pei, to transform the courtyard of the old royal castle into a pyramid. The location of the pyramid is cynically symbolic of Masonry's triumph over both Christianity and the monarchical rule of France. Pei's pyramid is made of triangular glass windowpanes. The weekly *Insight* magazine, July 3, 1989 tells the story:

The number of windowpanes in Pei's pyramid - said to be 666- and the form of the pyramid itself are reflections of the president's [Mitterrand] passion for Masonic symbols, not to speak of his fondness of communing with the spirits of Earth that leads him every year, druid-like, to celebrate the spring equinox by pounding a wooden stick on a certain hill called Roche de Saultre in central France.²⁶

France, however, cannot be revived Rome, because it does not have all fourteen characteristics of ancient Rome. For example, France is

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not the melting-pot of the world, nor does she display the Eagle as her national emblem.

The United Nations as Revived Rome

In Revelation 17 the Beast is initially controlled by the Whore of Babylon, for she is riding on the back of the Beast. We have shown in chapter 24 that the United Nations is currently controlled by English Freemasonry, the modern Whore of Babylon. Moreover, both Freemasonries are allied politically in the United Nations, as they initially appear to be in the Beast. A problem of numbers, however, eliminates the United Nations at the present time as the kingdom of the Beast. The lack of distinct divisions of "ten nations" and "seven nations" in the General Assembly or the Security Council of the U.N. would suggest it is not the Beast.

Furthermore, the United Nations has no real military strength of its own, as the Beast must have. If the United Nations has any significance at all, it is by virtue of the nation on which soil it resides, and nothing more. The U.N.'s strength as a world power exists only because of the military might of the United States of America, and not because of its own power. The limits of U.N. power was effectively demonstrated in the recent war with Iraq - old Babylon. Had it not been for the dominant presence of U.S. armed forces, the U.N. would not have had the military might to back up its demands that Iraq leave Kuwait.

The United States of Europe as Revived Rome

To build a solid case for identifying the Beast kingdom, we must consider more recent developments in Europe, which may cause the European Economic Community (Common Market) to dissolve. The four primary structural organs of the EEC include the Commission, the Council of Ministers, the Court of Justice, and the European Parliament.²⁷ The European Parliament inaugurated the United States of Europe on December 31, 1992, exactly seven years to the day from the year 2000, the figure seven being a significant and prophetic number of years.

The United States of Europe, a phrase first coined in 1848 by French Freemasonry, is the much touted precursor to French Freemasonry's world government, and may itself be the ten horns on the head of the revived Roman Empire instead of ten of the twelve Common Market

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nations. This, of course, would exclude England and Ireland. The fulfillment of the prophecy in Revelation 17:12-13, and 16, indicates how this might happen. In this passage we see that the ten kings in the United States of Europe shall hate the Whore (London) and pledge their allegiance to the Beast. When the Beast gives the ten kings permission to burn London, Ireland will fall too.

The Ultimate Test will Identify Revived Rome

Scripture gives us the required wisdom with which we can irrefutably identify the Beast and his kingdom. This wisdom comes from understanding the mark of the Beast. Revelation 13:16-18 explains:

And he [the Beast] causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast; for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six.

The clue for identifying the Beast nation is found in a series of numbers that are listed as a triad of two numbers each (600 + 60 + 6), which adds up to 666. *Strong's Concordance* informs us that 666 is a Roman numeral.²⁸

Roman numerals, therefore, give the clue of how to identify the mark of the Beast. When the New Testament was written, Rome used a combination of six alphabet letters to make up all its numbers. The letters are: D C L X V I. (The letter "M" representing 1000 is a more recent invention. Originally it was CIC, with the right-hand C turned backwards. By connecting the two "C's" to the "I" in the middle, it gradually evolved into "M").

²⁹ The six original Roman numerals and their numerical values are:

**D - 500 **
|- 600

C	-	100	/	
L	-	50	\	
				- 60
X	-	10	/	
V	-	5	\	
				- 6
I	-	1	/	
Total				666

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When we group each of the letters above in order of two's we discover the exact fulfillment of Revelation 13:18. DC equals 600; LX equals 60; and VI equals 6 - "Six hundred threescore and six."

Applying this Scriptural wisdom we discover that the kingdom of the beast will be a revival of the old Roman Empire. Whatever nation this kingdom is, the ultimate test for identification comes from understanding his mark, or symbol, which is 666 in Roman numerals. Scripture says it will be tied to the medium of exchange.

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