

Prophecy of Revelation 17
George Tabac Aug. 4, 2001

Our subject today is prophetic in nature, hence we present our thoughts not dogmatically, but with a desire to stimulate our hearts and minds to be watching current events to see how they may be fulfilling prophecy.

I also would like to express my appreciation to the brethren that have made rather extensive studies of Revelation and have made their notes available to us. To all of them we're indebted and much that follows is based on their research.

We realize in the book of Revelation the Apostle John represents the **Church Class** through out the age. John in turn is instructed by various means.

1. Directly by Jesus (1:17-20)
2. By a voice from heaven (4:1 & 14:3)
3. By an Elder (5:5)
4. By an angel (10:9)
5. By a voice from the Throne (19:5, 9, 10)

6. **In this 17th chapter by ONE of the seven angels, which had the seven vials or bowls filled with 7 last plagues.**

Re 17:1 (NAS)

Then **one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls** came and spoke with me, saying, "Come here, I will show you the **judgment of the great harlot** who sits on many waters,

This opening verse of Revelation 17 helps us to see the time setting is the beginning of the harvest.

For we believe the angel or messenger referred to here as "one of the seven angels who had the 7 bowls," is referring to the 7th messenger to the church, - Bro Russell.

This angel first speaks here in chapter 17, and he continues to instruct John all the way to the end of the book.

As we trace the teachings of this angel to John from chapter 17 on, we will see all of them are things we learned from the ministry of Bro. Russell.

In this first verse, he shows us the judgment to come of the great harlot.

Who but Bro. Russell identified for us the casting off and final judgment of Babylon.

In 17:3 he takes us back to the 1260 year wilderness period.

Who but Bro. Russell explained to us the 1260 days of Daniel and the development and reign of the Man of Sin.

In Rev. 21:9 He explained who the bride class the body of Christ was, and how they would bless all the families of the earth.

Re 21:9

And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, ***Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife.***

He explained how the new government of earth would be led by Jesus and his bride, symbolized by the New Jerusalem in:

Re 21:10

And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me that great city, the ***Holy Jerusalem***, descending out of heaven from God,

In 21:15-17 The angel detailed the size of the new government. That it would consist of 144,000 members with Jesus.

Re 21:15, 17

And he that talked with me had a golden reed to measure the city, and the gates thereof, and the wall thereof. . . And he measured the wall thereof, ***an hundred and forty and four cubits***, according to the ***measure of a man, that is, of the angel.***

Bro. Russell was perhaps the first messenger since the early church to recognize that the New Jerusalem had a size, not just a great number of people who end up in heaven. It's walls of protection would consist of the Church of 144,000 members.

In the last phrase the angel implies he symbolizes a man. (Point) (According to the measure of a man, that is, of the angel.)

He brought to light the doctrine of Restitution and Two Salvations that were hidden for centuries in:

Re 22:2, 3

In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the ***healing of the nations... And there shall be no more curse.***

Our second volume details for us Chronology so we know where we are in the stream of time. The title of the volume was given by this symbolic angel.

Re 22:10

And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the ***"Time is at Hand."***

He explained the doctrine of the Great Company which had not been seen since the days of the Apostles in:

(Read 6 & 9 only now)

Re 19:6,9,10

6 And I heard as it were the voice of a **great multitude**, ...

9 And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.

10 And I fell at his feet to **worship him**. And he said unto me, **See thou do it not: I am thy fellow servant, and of thy brethren** that have the testimony of Jesus, **worship God.**

Then notice how this angel in verse 10, behooves us not to worship him:

10 And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellow servant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus, worship God.”

Notice he says I'm symbolizing only a man, one of your fellow brethren.

Then to really emphasize the point, the angel repeats this same admonition to us again in:

Re 22:8, 9

8 And I John saw these things, and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to **worship before the feet of the angel which shewed me these things**.

9 Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for **I am thy fellow servant, and of thy brethren** the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: **worship God**.

In essence the angel is admonishing us in the same way as Bro. Russell himself did, when he said that we are not to prove things by what he wrote, but by a “**Thus saith the Lord,**” or as the angel said, we are to “**Worship God,**” not his messenger.

Incidentally, having seen that one of the 7 angels who have the 7 vials to pour out the plagues is the 7th messenger, it would follow that the other six angels are the other six messengers to the Church.

Since they were raised in 1878 as Divine Spirit Beings, together with all the other sleeping saints, they would thus be in a position to pour out the plagues at God's appointed times.

But it might be asked, why would the seven messengers to the church be the ones to pour out the vials of plagues?

Perhaps because no other 7 individuals, would have a more comprehensive view of the persecutions done by the AntiChrist System. These persecutions took place throughout the age and these 7 messengers experienced and witnessed them as God's mouth pieces to each stage of the church.

So now it would be their responsibility to oversee God's retributive justice carried out.

Coming back to Revelation 17:

Re 17:1,2

And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the **judgment of the great harlot that sitteth upon many waters:**

2 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.

We notice the chapter is going to deal with the Judgment of Babylon the false church who's considered a harlot because instead of being a virgin espoused to Christ, she unites with the Kings or Civil governments of earth.

In our study we want to mention that the strong language used in describing the false church, is not referring to any single individual or any devoted, consecrated, sincere people in it, but rather it is describing symbolically the system overall and it's actions and persecutions throughout the ages.

When we view verses 1 and 3 together, we can identify all the actors in this vision.

(Read verse 3 only now)

Re 17:1,3

1 And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the **judgment of the great harlot that sitteth upon many waters: ...**

3 So he carried me away in the spirit into the **WILDERNESS:** and I saw **a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast**, full of names of blasphemy, **having seven heads and ten horns.**

In verse 3 John is given a vision of the 1260 year period of the true church being in the **wilderness condition**, from 539 AD to 1799.

During this time we have the false church pictured by a woman, **sitting on a scarlet colored beast.**

We would want to note a distinction about this beast. It is a **scarlet colored beast.** There are two other beasts mentioned in Revelation which are different.

Chapter 12 refers a **RED DRAGON**, and Chapter 13 to a **LEOPARD LIKE BEAST.** Each is different than the **SCARLET COLORED BEAST** of chapter 17.

When we speak of the beast in Revelation we most often tend to think of the Leopard like beast of chapter 13 who pictured **Papacy**, which had power 42 months to persecute the saints, and had the number 666 etc.

But this scarlet colored beast of chapter 17 IS NOT THE PAPACY. It pictures the COMMON PEOPLE who supported the false church.

Note in verse 1 the Harlot is **sitting upon many waters.** Waters here pictures people. In verse 3 the woman is sitting on a **scarlet colored beast.** Thus it's the angels way of telling us that the many waters she sits on, and the beast **are one and the same.**

The beast in other words pictures the many **common people** who in one form or another helped support the false system. She **SITS ON THE BEAST**. The beast is **supporting her**.

And just as a rider who sits on a horse **controls the horse with the reigns**, so in like manner the **system controlled the common people**.

Then in verse 3 were told the beast had **7 heads and 10 horns**.

Thus to recap:

The Woman Rider = The **False Church** which by harlotry rode or controlled the common people.

Body of the Beast = The **Common People** who directly or through coercion **Supported the False Church**. She rode this beast, showing she controlled it.

7 Heads of the Beast = The head of a beast is the part that does it's thinking and directs the body. Thus the heads pictured **Seven Successive Forms of Government or Leadership** throughout the age that were over the beast or people. These heads were also controlled by the woman.

10 Horns = Horns picture powers. Thus the 10 horns picture the **10 Supporting European Nations the Roman Empire was Divided Into**. Similar to the 10 toes of Nebuchadnezzars image.

When we consider the 10 horns we shouldn't think in terms of **exactly 10 and only 10 nations**. Throughout the age the number of the horns or nations that were the civil powers that supported the woman have sometimes been less and sometimes more.

The number **10 symbolizes earthly completeness**. Thus 10 horns is but a symbolic expression of the **complete** cycle of the disintegration of the original Roman Empire into it's numerous divisions and powers.

We go on the verse 4:

Re 17:4

And the woman was arrayed **in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls**, having a **golden cup** in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication:

The false church woman, is pictured in Royal robes as a **Queen**, because she indeed was united with the Kings of the earth and sat as a **Queen**.

She had a **golden cup** claiming to be the sole dispenser of Biblical Divine Truths, but in reality the cup was full of **religious falsehoods**.

Re 17:5

And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

The woman rider is given a name. ***Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots. Implying there are other harlots who followed in her example.*** Other religious systems like the mother, who also united with the kings of the earth.

Re 17:6,7

6 And I saw the woman drunk with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the witnesses of Jesus. When I saw her, I wondered greatly.

7 And the angel said to me, "Why do you wonder? ***I will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast*** that carries her, which has the seven heads and the ten horns.

The scene changes now to the harvest time again when the true church was given the correct understanding of the false church during her 1260 year reign. It caused the harvest church to look aghast with utter astonishment, at the history of the Gospel Age abominations done in the name of Christ.

Then in verse 7 and on, were told the scene is going to change. Rather than being told the ***history*** of the harlot woman, the angel is going to tell us the prophecy of ***her future*** – as well as the ***future of "The Beast that Carried her,"*** that is, what is in store for the common people who support the system

The prophecies of verses 8 through 13 are quite complex. We would like to begin by setting the stage with verses 9 and 10 and we will come back to verse 8 afterwards.

It's important to remember that the time setting of these next verses is the ***beginning of the Harvest.*** The time that the 7th Messenger speaks to the Church.

(Read up to "seven kings" now)

Re 17:9 (NAS)

9 "Here is the mind which has wisdom. The ***seven heads*** are seven mountains on which the woman sits.

10 and they are ***seven kings; five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come;*** and when he comes, he must remain a little while.

Let's carefully note what is being depicted. It's somewhat a recap of verse 3.

The woman pictures the False Church.

She sits on a Beast which pictures the common people who support the system.

This beast has 7 heads which are now called mountains, which picture the **7** successive forms of government or leadership throughout the age, that did the thinking for the beast or common people.

Then in verse 10 notice the symbology changes. The **7 heads of verse 9 become 7 Kings** in verse 10 which we'll get into shortly.

(Read from slide vs.9 & 10)

"The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits, and **they are seven kings.**" So the 7 heads now are called 7 Kings.

Now notice what it tells us about these 7 Heads or Kings:

(Read from slide) "**Five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come;** and when he comes, he must remain a little while."

In other words what it is telling us, is that at the beginning of the harvest when the 7th messenger is speaking, we're told **5 of these Kings or Heads have fallen**, or they **were gone**, that is they were **in the past**, they are **off the scene**.

"One was in existence, and one was yet to come."

That is, in Bro. Russell's day the **6th head or King was in existence**, and the **7th head of king would be some time in the future**, and it would remain but a short time.

Who are these 7 Heads now called 7 Kings?

Earlier we saw how the **woman sat on the beast controlling it**. Now notice in verse 9, the **Woman sits on these heads as well**,

"The seven heads are seven mountains **on which the woman sits**," implying she has **control of the heads as well**.

Since the woman thus **rode both the beast, and it's 7 heads**, it shows she **controlled both the beast and it's 7 heads**.

Thus it would seem the first of these 7 heads would of necessity, be a rulership that existed when the False Church first came into existence, and that the False Church in turn would have **a measure of control over**.

Thus we would suggest that these 7 successive heads began with:

THE SEVEN HEADS OF THE BEAST

1. **Justinian's Rome**, which first gives the Bishop of Rome the title Pontifex Maximus, or Chief Priest over all the others.
2. **Charlemagne's Empire**, which first allows the Papacy to crown the emperor.
3. **The Holy Roman Empire**, (799/ 962) AD to the "**Peace of Westphalia in 1648**."

(In 799 AD the system began it's 1000 year reign, but we may consider it from 962 AD when Otto the Great became Emperor and actually named the empire, **THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE**.)

(This third head continued until as Rev. 13:3 puts it, "I saw one of his heads as if it had been slain, and his fatal wound was healed." The wounding of the head as if slain began

with the great schism, when two and eventually three Popes literally fought a 40 year war against each other for control of the Church.

It continued with the Reformation upheaval by Martin Luther which again divided the empire into nations favoring Catholicism, against those favoring Protestantism. A 30 year war between them resulted.

In 1648 the war ended with the "Peace of Westphalia." The Church reorganized and there we believe the 4th Head came into being, when the head "that was wounded as if slain," was healed with a new 4th head coming into being.)

4. The Rejuvenated Holy Roman Empire after the Peace of Westphalia, to 1806.

5. Napoleonic Empire (1806) when Napoleon overthrew "The Holy Roman Empire."

At time of the Harvest Message the above "five heads had fallen" or were past.

6. The Victor Emanuel Dynasty began in 1870 = "One head Is," (in existence during the time of the 7th messenger, lasted till 1929.

(Victor Emanuel conquered all of Italy, took away the Papal States, but made Catholicism the State Religion, and gave other guarantees to the Vatican.)

7. The Nazi-Fascist Empire = (1929 to 1945) The head which was "yet to come" (in 7th messenger's day.)

(Began when Mussolini signed the Lateran Treaty with the Vatican in 1929. In return for the surrender of papal claims to Italian territory, the treaty granted the Pope a large sum of money and complete sovereignty over Vatican City. The Catholic religion was given a privileged status and became the state religion. Other Treaties were later signed between the Vatican and Hitler's political party, paving the way for Hitler coming to power.)

With this background let's go back now to verse 8 we skipped earlier.

Rev. 17:8

"The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to come up out of the abyss and go to destruction. And those who dwell on the earth, whose name has not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, will wonder when they see the beast, that he was and is not and will come.

Let's consider the phrase ***"The beast that you saw was, and is not,"*** a bit further.

When he says, "The beast that you saw WAS, and is NOT," we want to note it is ***NOT*** referring to the entire beast, but only to a ***portion of the beast.***

For the entire beast never went out of existence.

But rather, it is referring only to an ***ANARCHISTIC PORTION*** of the beast, that rose up against the Catholic Church ***during the French Revolution.***

That anarchistic phase of the beast is what is referred to when it says "**IT WAS,**" that is "it was," or rose up during the revolution, and then, **IT WAS NOT,**" when the anarchy ended.

The anarchistic phase went out of existence, when Napoleon quelled the insurrection, and reestablished the Roman Catholic Church as the official religion of France once again.

Thus at the time of the angels writing (Bro. Russell's day,) "**It was not,**" it was out of existence, **but it will rise again in the future as "The Lord's Great Army."**

After Napoleon's overthrow of "The Holy Roman Empire" in 1806, we find the next head of the beast comes into existence. The **Napoleonic Empire became the 5th head** when Napoleon proceeded to work with Papacy in reestablishing Catholicism as the state religion of France.

Now as we continue our study of chapter 17, we will find the same anarchistic portion of the beast repeatedly referred to, when the common people will rise up once again in opposition to the false system.

Re 17:11

And the beast that **was**, and **is not**, even he is **the eighth**, and is **of the seven**, and goeth into **perdition**.

It's the same uprising portion of the beast that is being referred to, that WAS, and IS NOT, but will rise again as an eighth and then will be destroyed.

Eighth what?

It can't be an eighth head for the beast we were told had only **seven heads**. There would only be 7 heads in the life of this beast over which the harlot would exercise control over.

This is why the symbology changed earlier from heads to Kings. Kings means rulers. When the uprising of the people against the harlot takes place, the people as a body will rise up and be as an **eighth ruler**, but they will not be controlled by the harlot as the 7 heads were.

But they will be "**of the seven,**" from the standpoint that this new 8th ruler will be as the uprising people that ruled during the French Revolution phase of the seven heads.

Then we notice this 8th king or ruler will after the uprising go into perdition or be destroyed.

We go on to verse 12.

(Read 17 later)

Rev. 17:12, 17 NAS

12 "The **ten horns** which you saw are **ten kings** who have not yet received **A KINGDOM**, but they receive authority as kings with the beast for one hour....

17 "For God has put it in their hearts to execute His purpose by having a common purpose, and by giving **THEIR KINGDOM** to the beast, until the words of God will be fulfilled.

The revelator now goes on to tell us what will happen to the ten horns.

Notice the 10 horns are now called 10 Kings, why?

Ever since Napoleon's time the supporting beast with it's 10 horns has been dwindling in it's support to it's head and harlot rider. The Nazi empire tried to increase the beast's size to include the entire continent of Europe, but failed.

By 1945 with the defeat of Nazism, the beast lost it's 7th head. Thus these 10 Kings are no longer horns on a beast, because there is no head to this beast to support. All 7 heads are gone.

The 10 however are still Kings or rulers of nations.

Now notice we are told these 10 kings have **not yet** received "A" kingdom (singular,) It doesn't say they haven't received kingdoms plural, for **they are kingdoms** or nations.

We've included verse 17 on this slide to show that these combined 10 kings will receive **A SINGULAR** kingdom for it says they will give **THEIR KINGDOM (singular,)** to the beast.

(Read verse 17 from slide above)

17 "For God has put it in their hearts to execute His purpose by having a common purpose, and by giving **THEIR KINGDOM (singular)** to the beast, until the words of God will be fulfilled.

What is this **singular Kingdom** that the 10 Kings will give to the beast?

We're going to digress from Revelation for a bit to consider what is currently happening in Europe regarding these 10 kings and the prophetic potential before us.

ANTI-TYPICAL 10 HORNS - KINGS

- After World War 2 – The **NATO ALLIANCE** was formed.

After World War 2 the NATO alliance was formed with the United States and European Nations to mutually help one another in the case of future attacks to any member nation.

The war weary nations of Europe formed another alliance between themselves in:

ANTI-TYPICAL 10 HORNS - KINGS

- After World War 2 – The **NATO ALLIANCE** was formed.
- 1954 **WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION** formed with 6 Nations

1954 called the Western European Union. It was an alliance formed originally with six nations to help promote mutual economic benefits. It included Great Britain, France, Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxemburg.

Initially what developed from this Union is what we know as the:

(Don't Read) ANTI-TYPICAL 10 HORNS

- After World War 2 – The **NATO ALLIANCE** was formed.
- 1954 **WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION** formed with 6 Nations
- **COMMON MARKET** formed to remove trade barriers

“Common Market,” which was formed to remove trade barriers between themselves.

(Don't Read) ANTI-TYPICAL 10 HORNS

- After World War 2 – The **NATO ALLIANCE** was formed.
- 1954 **WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION** formed with 6 Nations
- **COMMON MARKET** formed to remove trade barriers
- 1995 Western European Union **GREW TO 10 NATIONS**

By 1995 this Western European Union grew to 10 nations, when Spain, Portugal, Italy, and Greece were added. The Western European Union

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- 1995 Western European Union **GREW TO 10 NATIONS**
- Alliance name changed to **EUROPEAN UNION**

Then the Alliance name was changed to European Union by which it is known today. The next step of the Alliance was:

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- 1995 Western European Union **GREW TO 10 NATIONS**
- Alliance name changed to **EUROPEAN UNION**
- Forming of the European **MONETARY** Union

the forming of the European **Monetary** Union. It's objective was for Europe to develop their own currency to challenge the dominance of the dollar and of the United States leadership of the free world.

Europe resented the power exercised by the United States through its control of the world's money. Until recent times virtually all central banks in the world would exchange one currency for another based on the dollar.

(Mr. DeGaulle once complained bitterly that the Americans plundered Europe by printing bits of green paper and exchanging them for French industries. He tried and failed to force the US to back up payments in gold.)

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- 1954 **WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION** formed with 6 Nations
- **COMMON MARKET** formed to remove trade barriers
- 1995 Western European Union **GREW TO 10 NATIONS**
- Alliance name changed to **EUROPEAN UNION**
- Forming of the European **MONETARY** Union
- January 1999 a **NEW CURRENCY** came into being called the **EURO**

In January 1999 a new currency came into being called the **Euro**. By June 2002 there will be but one currency both notes and coins, for all but two members of the European Union.

Map of current 15 European Union Nations

Which today has grown to 15 nations shown here in the light color. The darker color is the nations that have applied for membership.

(Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxemburg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom.)

Thus by this time next year most all of Europe will have just one currency. Their economies and dominance should increase since European companies will no longer need to exchange their currencies from one to another thereby losing commissions.

Another area of European resentment that has existed for many years is how the United States virtually makes all the decisions regarding when and how NATO troops will be engaged.

This has led to what is perhaps the most significant recent development that took place last November. The 10 symbolic Kings of our Revelation 17 prophecy, agreed to go beyond their economic union:

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- 1954 **WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION** formed with 6 Nations
- **COMMON MARKET** formed to remove trade barriers
- 1995 Western European Union **GREW TO 10 NATIONS**
- Alliance name changed to **EUROPEAN UNION**
- Forming of the European **MONETARY** Union
- January 1999 a **NEW CURRENCY** came into being called the **EURO**
- In Nov. 2000 European Union form a **MILITARY ALLIANCE**

In Nov. 2000 the European Union formed a MILITARY Alliance.

According to the "Washington Post," on Nov. 21, 2000 the "European Union" defense ministers met together to form an initial military alliance of 60,000 troops. The official name given to this alliance is "European Security and Defense Policy.

The troops will be used as what they call a “Rapid Reaction Force,” that could act in crises on the continent when NATO, and in particular the United States, chooses not to engage.

It appears this initial force of 60,000 troops however is just a small beginning. For one month later the French defense minister Alan Richard stated that the

(Don't Read)

ANTI-TYPICAL 10 HORNS

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- **COMMON MARKET** formed to remove trade barriers
- 1995 Western European Union **GREW TO 10 NATIONS**
- Alliance name changed to **EUROPEAN UNION**
- European **MONETARY UNION** formed
- In Nov. 2000 European Union form a **MILITARY ALLIANCE**
- Rapid Reaction Force – First step of a full Fledged **EUROPEAN UNION ARMY**

Rapid Reaction Force was merely the **first step toward developing a full fledged European Union army.**

And at a following NATO foreign ministers meeting, a French official claimed that an independent European defense policy was inevitable.

(Quoting now) “The train is already moving. NATO is not on board. It is not the engine. It is not the tender or even in the passenger compartment. It is still on the platform.”
(Unquote.)

The Hand Writing seems to be on the wall. The European Union is growing at a rapid pace. They developed a common market, and a common currency. Now they have formed a common military alliance.

(Don't Read)

	European Union	United States
Population	373 Million	273 Million
Work Week	35 Hours	40 plus Hours
Vacation	4 to 6 Weeks	2 weeks
Gross National Product	\$8.332 Trillion	\$8.127 Trillion
Armed Forces	2,196,000	1,411,673
	Compulsory	Voluntary

Let's compare the European Union with the United States. The European Union has a population of 370 million. The population of the United States is some 273 million. Some 100 million people less.

In Europe the average work week is 35 hours not like 40 plus in the US.

Their average vacation time is 4 to 6 weeks compared to 2 weeks in the US. France has a Minimum vacation time of 5 weeks for all people.

Their combined gross national product exceeds that of the United States. \$8.332 Trillion, versus \$8.127 Trillion for the U.S.

Their present combined armed forces consist of 2,196,000 men, compared to only 1,393,000 of the US, 803,000 more than the US,

And they all have compulsory service in the armed forces, compared to a voluntary army for the US.

Many European leaders are committed to full union, - economic, military, and political.

They take their inspiration from Emperor Charlemagne, crowned by Pope Leo III in 800 AD, who had a vision of a United Christian Europe that would return the Continent to the glory of ancient Rome.

European leaders present an annual **Charlemagne Prize** to the individual who had contributed the most to the concept of European unity in the past year. In the year 2000 President Bill Clinton became the third American recipient.

After the European military alliance was formed in November the British Broadcasting Company World Analysis program raised the possibility of a new European Superpower when it asked: "In 1990 there were two superpowers. Now there is only one. Could there soon be another?"

Needless to say all of this is causing great concern to Washington, who wants to maintain a superiority and dominance over Western Europe.

It recently prompted Senators Helms and Smith to, (Quote) "Warn that it is neither in Europe's nor America's interests to undermine our proven national relationships in favor of one with a European **super-state** whose creation is being driven in part, by anti-American sentiment." (Unquote)

Another incidental area of disagreement between Europe and the United States that's worthy to note, involves the Middle East. America is viewed as Israel's main supporter while the European Union who is the largest contributor to the peace process tends to support Palestinian and Arab interests.

Is the European Union growing into a "super-state," or superpower?

Brethren I think the answer is Yes!

Not that the individual National language divisions will cease to exist, (for the 10 Kings continue on the seen in our prophecy,) but a collective cooperative will emerge that will yield a power far in excess of the individual nations.

What is developing at an ever increasing rate, is exactly what we should expect to fulfill the prophecy we've been studying.

(Read only up to kingdom:)

Rev. 17:12, 17 NAS
12 "The ten horns which you saw are **TEN KINGS** who have **NOT YET RECEIVED A KINGDOM**, but they receive authority as kings with the beast for one hour....

13 "These have one purpose, and they give their power and authority to the beast.

17 "For God has put it in their hearts to execute His purpose by having a common purpose, and by giving their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God will be fulfilled.

The 10 horns are the 10 kingdoms of Europe who have not yet received or become the **single combined, super-power Kingdom**, but as we've seen it's knocking at the door.

But when they receive this kingdom, note what will happen: (Read rest of above)

"they receive authority as kings with the beast for one hour."

13 "These have one purpose, and they give their power and authority to the beast.

17 "For God has put it in their hearts to execute His purpose by having a common purpose, and by giving their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God will be fulfilled.

In other words, when the 10 kingdoms of Europe receive or become this New United super kingdom status, **they will give or share the kingdom power and authority with the beast**, which as we've seen pictures the uprising common people, which in other prophecies are referred to as **"The Lord's Great Army."**

The power will be given by God for **"One Hour."** This is the same hour referred to in the next chapter. The hour in which Babylon is destroyed.

Re 18:10

Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for **in one hour is thy judgment come.**

Coming back to Revelation 17, we find the result of the cooperation of the 10 Kings and the beast is given in the next verse:

Re 17:14

These **shall 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, and chosen, and faithful.**

"These will make war with the Lamb." The alliance of the Kings and the beast will result in war against our Lord. That is, it would be against all our Lord's Kingdom interests, including the remaining Church members and the Great Company who will no doubt finish their course during the early part of this time.

But the Lamb, our glorified Lord as King of Kings will be victorious, together with His glorified saints who will then be with him, those who were called, chosen, and faithful unto death.

We go on to verse 15:

(Read 15 only now)

Re 17:15,16 (NAS)

15 And he *said to me, "The waters which you saw where the harlot sits, are peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues.

16 "And the **ten horns which you saw, AND the beast**, these will **hate the harlot** and will make her **desolate and naked, and will eat her flesh and will burn her up with fire.**

The angel reminds us again of the main characters in this vision.

The Harlot is Babylon, primarily the Mother but it includes her daughters. The beast she sits upon and controls are people of all nations that supported her.

(Read verse 16 above)

16 "And the ten horns which you saw, **AND** the beast, these will hate the harlot and will make her desolate and naked, and will eat her flesh and will burn her up with fire.

This is an important verse. King James translation says:

And the ten horns which thou sawest **UPON** the beast, these shall hate the whore etc.

The king James gives the thought that only the 10 horns hate the harlot and in turn destroy her.

This is not the thought of the Greek. Both the Siniatic and Alexandrian manuscripts have "the ten horns **AND** the beast shall hate the harlot.

What will cause them to hate the Harlot? In this vision it doesn't say, but from other scriptures we believe part of the reason is because of a worldwide spread of the truth of God's plan, the people will come to see her teachings are false.

This is the thought of the phrase that the 10 kings "**will make her naked,**" that is **expose her for what she really is.**

But in any case, what this scripture is saying, is the people who formerly supported the Harlot as she rode upon them, controlling their actions, will now, rise up as the Lord's great army, in opposition to her, just as they did in the French Revolution.

The beast "THAT WAS," will rise up again out of the abyss of inactivity, and together with the authority or cooperation of the United Ten Horns, will destroy the Harlot systems of Babylon.

Note how this prophecy is in complete harmony with the type of Jezebel, who similarly as this Harlot of Revelation, pictured Babylon. It was you recall Jezebel's own Eunuchs who previously ministered to her every wish, who threw her out the window, so here, those who previously supported her, will destroy her as a system.

Our Chapter ends with verses 17 and 18. We'll read verse 16 again to get the context.

Re 17:16-18

16 **"And the ten horns which you saw, AND the beast, these will hate the harlot** and will make her desolate and naked, and will eat her flesh and will burn her up with fire.

17 For God hath put in their hearts to fulfill his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, **UNTIL the words of God shall be fulfilled.**

18 And the woman which thou sawest is that great city (Babylon), which reigneth over the kings (Siniatic = kingdoms) of the earth.

God will allow the Lord's Great Army uprising to continue just long enough, **"until,"** until it fulfills his purpose of the burning of the tares and removal of the false systems.

Then will come the full blessings of the Kingdom for which we've prayed.

All the individuals who had part in these systems throughout the age will be raised from the dead. They will be taught our heavenly father's wonderful Plan, that Satan blinded them from understanding previously.

And the glorified church will give them every opportunity to receive everlasting life.

In Conclusion, the question might be asked, why did God give us prophecies such as this? Paul answers in:

1Th 5:4, 6

But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief...
Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.

Yes, God wants us to soberly watch current events that we might know where we are in the stream of time.

He gives us these prophecies to strengthen our faith, as we watch for the stately steppings of our Lord fulfilling prophecy.

Let us watch, and be sober!