

Parallel Worlds: A Biblical View of the EU

Discussions about the European Union often reduce to economics or immigration. But is there a deeper issue here? A *spiritual* world is operating largely unseen and in parallel with the observed world (there is plenty of evidence for this in the Bible). Does this spiritual world have anything to say about observed world governments - even the EU? The Bible talks about an on-going spiritual battle between good and evil, truth and error. So, what we observe on the political scene is probably a visible manifestation of this battle. If so, on which side is the EU? Let's see if Bible prophecy has anything to say on the issue.

Israel is the Key

The key to an answer lies with the nation of Israel. Daniel chapters 2 and 7 describe four secular governments that will rule over Israel before the end of this age (before Christ returns), and the last of these is the Roman Empire! Wait a minute - didn't tyrannical Roman rule over Israel end around 313 AD with the creation of the Byzantine form of the Roman Empire? Yes ... and no. The point here is that Daniel's prophecies strongly imply that a form of the ancient Roman Empire will emerge in its historical crushing and controlling form at the end of this age. Revelation chapters 13 and 17 endorse Daniel and refer to the final empire as 'the beast', born out of previous empires. Revelation 13 describes a crushing world government with complete control over individuals. So let's take a look at Europe today and see if there is a close fit with Bible prophecy.

The Religious Connection

Charlemagne (c800 AD) envisaged a unified Christian Empire - a Holy Roman Empire. Other leaders had that vision after him and today the EU works very closely with the Vatican (Rev 17.3-9). We note that the strange 'Europa and the bull' symbol - a woman riding a beast (Rev 17.3) - is common throughout the EU. Some believe it symbolizes an ecclesiastical system riding (and by implication, controlling) a secular governmental system. And rather than believe the official explanation, some believe that the EU flag (12 golden stars on a blue background) actually reflects a Roman Catholic interpretation of Rev 12.1.

Strength and Weakness: Iron & Clay

The EU Constitution omits the word 'God', and prophecy indicates that the EU will be led by one who exalts himself above God (Dan 11.37). The EU Constitution claims 'absolute power' over member states. In other words, EU law has supremacy over the law of member states, just like a devouring uncontrollable beast (Dan 7.19). Like ancient Rome, this system seems 'strong as iron' (Dan 2.41), dominating member states. Just as ancient Rome granted full citizenship to provincials *en masse* to secure their loyalty, the 1992 EU Maastricht Treaty forced all citizens of member states to become citizens of the EU. On the other hand, the EU has a fundamental weakness in that member states tend not to adhere to each other. The Bible implies that, like iron and clay, they never will adhere (Dan 2.43).

EU Defiance

It appears that the EU Parliament building in Strasbourg is deliberately built to look 'unfinished', as in the unfinished tower of Babel, which was a monument to glorify man rather than God. And the pagan Pergamon Altar now resides in restored form in the Pergamon Museum, Berlin. In Roman times, Pergamum (Pergamon) was the centre of the imperial pagan religion and Christ saw it as the place of Satan's throne (Rev 2.13). So a pagan altar from Satan's throne is now on show in the EU!

World Government

A common prophetic interpretation of the feet and toes of 'iron and clay' in Dan 2.33,42 is that they symbolize the revived Roman Empire and the heart of a world government. Elsewhere this is described as a 'ten-horned beast' born out of the historical Babylonian, Persian, Greek and Roman Empires (Dan 7.19,20, Rev 13.2). We note that the Club of Rome and the UN see the world divided into ten political-economic regions. Thankfully, this crushing world government will be short-lived (Rev 13.5, Rev 17.10) as the feet of iron and clay are struck and broken at the Second Coming of Christ (Dan 2.34). The EU and all remnants of godless world government will be removed forever (Dan 2.35, Dan 7.11,26, Rev 19.20).

Conclusion

Most of us formulate our view of the EU from politicians, the media and financial experts. Some Bible readers will dispute the prophetic interpretation (but then need to furnish an alternative). But a few see prophecy as coming from a more reliable source than man. It comes from a transcendent source - the God of the Bible. Who do we trust, man or God?

More at <http://seekingtruth.co.uk/europe.htm> Contact: talk12@seekingtruth.co.uk
