

THE UPWARD CALL

*Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet;
but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead,
**I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God
IN CHRIST JESUS.***

(Philippians 3:13-14 NASB)

#04-1063

Group of 7 (G7) & Group of 8 (G8)

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For the last several weeks, I have been laboring over the beasts that John saw in his Patmos vision and recorded in Revelation 13 and 17.

John saw a beast coming up out of the sea with 10 horns with diadems, indicating rulership, and 7 heads with blasphemous names (Revelation 13:1); a beast coming up out of the earth with 2 horns like a lamb but it speaks as a dragon (Revelation 13:11); and a beast coming up out of the abyss with 10 horns and 7 heads with an 8th head that is one of the 7 (Revelation 17:3-13). The angel told John that the 10 horns were **“ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but they receive authority as kings with the beast for one hour, and they give their power and authority to the beast.”**

In article #31, April 2010, *The Mark of the Beast as Signified by 666*, I made the point that the beasts should not be referred to with the personal, masculine pronoun *he* but with the indefinite, impersonal pronoun *it*. As such, we should not be looking for specific individuals as beasts but to something that has power and authority, such as an empire, a kingdom, a nation, a collection of nations joined in some unique way for a special purpose, or perhaps, a system, such as a financial or economic system.

A further proof of this thought is the fact that the beasts are described as collections of horns and heads. In other words, the horns and heads together are the beasts, with one exception; the 8th head is also called a beast. All together the horns and the heads are a beast, and any one component of the overall beast could also be called a beast, for it is part of the beast and comes out of it. If you consider most things in life, whether animate or inanimate, they are made up of various components, parts, or members. Joined together, the parts define the whole and are identified with the whole. For example, when a newborn comes out of a human mother's womb, it is a human just as the mother is. I believe this is a vital point in understanding the beasts, for it moves it away from searching for specific men called an antichrist and a false prophet to searching for something that has great power and authority. Both Daniel and John were told that the beasts were kingdoms or kings (e.g., Daniel 7:23-24; Revelation 17:8-13), but these designations do not necessarily refer to literal kings, such as a man sitting on a throne. Again, a kingdom or king signifies power and authority, whether it is vested in a single person or something much larger in scale and scope.

Another point that I made in article #31 is that the book of Revelation is interpreted at least six different ways. The **historic view** sees Revelation as a view of history with many, but not all, of the events that John saw as having already taken place. The **futuristic view** sees most of the events as yet future, taking place in the final days of our age during the period called the tribulation or great tribulation. Thus, both are historic views, but they differ over when the history timeline begins.

Obviously, knowing the identity or meaning of the 10 horns, the 7 heads, and then the 8th one determines one's view. It is safe to state that practically all commentators believe the fourth empire that Daniel saw was the Roman Empire and that the beasts come forth from this empire. The historic interpreters see the ten kingdoms as something *mostly* in the past in relation to the Roman Empire (i.e., its rise and fall) and the Roman Catholic Church (i.e., its rise, fall [head wound], and rise again). Among the futuristic interpreters, some see a ten-nation federation arising out of the European Union, and others see a ten-nation federation forming in the Middle East.

Well, there is obviously a lot of debate and controversy over this subject.

There is no doubt in my mind that Mystery Babylon, the great city reigning over the kings of the earth (riding on the beast), signifies *the* global power of our day that has a religious and financial component. Consequently, the beast must also have a financial component; what I have called **the global financial beast**.

The question is whether we can see some alignment of nations in our day that might be indicative of this beast. So, allow me to offer one possibility as some food for thought, so to speak.

Throughout history, there have been many empires. In his vision, Daniel saw the ancient Babylonian, Media-Persian, Greek, and Roman empires. In the 1900s, there **were ten major global empires**: British, Russian, German, French, Dutch, Belgium, Portuguese, Spanish, Italian, and Ottoman (Turkish). Interestingly, most of the territory of these relatively modern-day empires was included in whole or in part in the ancient Roman Empire. Russia may be the exception, but an argument could be made that some of its territory might have been included under Roman rule. Thus, it could be said that these ten empires came out of the Roman Empire. Let us carry this thought forward to our day.

According to its website, the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** is “an organization of 187 countries, working to foster global monetary cooperation, secure financial stability, facilitate international trade, promote high employment and sustainable economic growth, and reduce poverty around the world.” There are many components to the IMF, one of which is the International Monetary and Financial Committee (IMFC), which is “responsible for advising, and reporting to, the Board of Governors as it **manages and shapes the international monetary and financial system.**” Further, an IMF Factsheet (March 2010) states: “Political leaders and officials from around the world shape the work of the IMF through their various fora and bodies. With the IMF at **the center of the coordinated global response to events in international financial markets and the world’s economies**, understanding what these groups do and how they work is important.”

I trust that you see the great significance of the IMF’s mission to manage and shape the international monetary and financial system. As I have stated many times, I believe that the global financial system is a major component of Mystery Babylon. But also notice that the Factsheet refers to groups. These groups are designated by the number of its members: G7, G8, G10, G15, G20, and G24. Officially, they are called the “Group of,” such as the Group of 7. Given the beasts of the Bible, the G7, G8, and G10 should be of interest to us and worth watching very closely in the days ahead.

Group of Seven (**G7**) began in 1975 and is comprised of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The heads of state as well as their finance ministers and central bank governors meet annually and semi-annually to discuss and monitor developments in the world economy and assess economic policies.

Group of Eight (**G8**) began in 1998 and is comprised of the same nations as the G7, with the addition of Russia. The heads of state meet annually to discuss major economic and political issues.

Group of Ten (**G10**) began in 1962 with the establishment of the **General Arrangements to Borrow (GAB)**, which is an agreement for the member countries to provide additional funds to the IMF in the event their resources fall below the needs of its members. The G10 is comprised of Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Note: there are actually 11 members, but they have retained the G10 name.

Notice the similarity between the major empires of the early 1900’s and the ancient Roman Empire. With the exception of Japan, it could be said that all the countries come out of the same soil or seed. In the case of Canada and the United States, they are like two horns that came forth from the British Empire, which, at its peak in 1922, controlled one-quarter of all the land surface of the world, making it the largest empire in history. Also, notice that Russia was added to the seven as the eighth head to comprise the G8. Or, consider that the G10 is actually 11 nations but the 11th is of the 10 just as the 8th beast is of the seven.

Perhaps these groupings will play a major role as the global financial beast falls in one hour, just as the symbol of global economic power, the World Trade Center with its two towers (two horns), fell in one hour.

Dear beloved in Christ, let us not forget that Mystery Babylon in all its forms and character is a counterfeit to God’s building project, which is New Jerusalem, the dwelling of God *in* spirit, the Body of Christ. Let us dwell upon what God is doing. It won’t be long until the nations are introduced to the real thing and a new federation of nations is formed under the reign of the King of the nations!