

Origin of Antichrist

Nostradamus had numerous verses, which have been interpreted as concerning the “Third Antichrist” and his origins. Let’s examine some of them first and then see what Bible prophecy says on this subject:

De l'Orient viendra le coeur punique,
Fascher Adrie, et les hoirs Romulides,
Accompagne de la classe Libique,
Trembler Melites, et proches Isles vuides.
Century 1 quatrain 9

From the Orient shall come the treacherous one, To strike at Italy (Heirs of Romulus) from the Adriatic sea, With his Libyan fleet, The inhabitants of Malta and of the nearby islands shall tremble.

Some took this verse to say the third Antichrist would arise out of Libya and stage an attack on Italy, which is located just across the Mediterranean. Gaddafi was named as a candidate to fulfill this prophecy. Gaddafi, who ruled with a iron hand, was removed in a civil war and Libya is now another “failed state,” the result of western intervention in helping the rebels, including radical jihadists, dispose of a toothless old wolf. It is unlikely another Libyan leader will rise to power who will threaten Italy, a member of NATO.

Hannibal was a Carthaginian. The City of Carthage is in present Tunisia, next door to Libya. Carthage was established by the great maritime nation of Phoenicia. Until Rome destroyed the Carthaginian fleet and leveled Carthage (Punic Wars 264-146 BC), Carthage was Rome’s

greatest threat. Hannibal, a Carthaginian and master strategist, crossed the Pyrenees & Alps in northern Italy with a small army, savaging the Italian Peninsula for many years. With some support from Gallic tribes and with his fabled Numidian (Berber) light cavalry, he outwitted the Romans in a series of bloody battles. In the Battle of Cannae Hannibal defeated a superior Roman army through a strategy of double envelopment.

As an advocate of the cyclical repetition of history, Nostradamus probably believed that the events of the Punic Wars would be repeated in that a new Antichrist would rise in greater “Libya” and attack Italy, just like Hannibal had.

Prince Lybinique puissant en Occident,
Francois d'Arabe viendra tant enflammer;
Scavans aux lettres sera condescendent,
La langue Arabe en Francois translater.
Century 3 quatrain 27

A Libyan head of state recognized by the west as being very powerful, Shall inflame the hearts of many Arab nations against the French, Then a man of letters, will consent, To translate Arabic into the French language.

This hasn't happened. It may be at some point that a Muslim fundamentalist jihadist leader will arise from Libya, since the jihadists are taking control of a large part of the country, but Bible prophecy, which is historically inerrant (although Bible prophecy interpreters, who don't specifically agree amongst themselves, can certainly be wrong), offers a different scenario. With respect to translating Arabic into

French all one has to do these days is download a free translation App on one's i-phone.

Unlike Nostradamus, the Bible reveals only one Antichrist, not three.

The prevalent view of writers on **Bible** prophecy has been that the Antichrist would not be a Libyan, but a Roman, ruling over a ten nation European confederacy. They cite such Biblical verses as (in bold):

Daniel 9:26-27 New King James Version (NKJV)

25

Messiah shall be **cut off**, but not for Himself;
And the people **of the prince who is to come (*Antichrist*)**
Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary.
The end of it *shall be* with a flood,
And till the end of the war desolations are determined.

27

Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week;
But in the middle of the week
He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering.
And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes
desolate,
Even until the consummation, which is determined,
Is poured out on the desolate.”

In Daniel 9:24-25 Daniel prophesied that the Messiah would be “cut off” (murdered) 490 years after the decree of a Persian king, most likely Artaxerxes to rebuild the city of Jerusalem. For those mathematically inclined this is

extensively worked in Sir Robert Anderson's book *The Coming Prince*. Messiah is cut off "but not for Himself," but as a sacrifice for our sin for those who turn to Him.

This is a free gift. Just ask Him now: "Jesus, forgive my sins. I turn my life over to you. Please take charge of my life. I ask you to be my Lord and Savior." If you prayed this brief prayer, you are covered with the blood of the Lamb, your sins forgiven, and the Holy Spirit is now indwelling in you, giving you eternal life.

We are then told that the people of **the prince who is to come** shall destroy the sanctuary. Herod's Temple in Jerusalem was destroyed by the "Romans" in A.D. 70. The Roman General Titus led the legions which burned down the Temple. But Titus **was not the prince who is to come** because he did not "confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week" bring an end to sacrifice and offering.

This verse takes us from Daniel's time into a time warp and hurtles us into the far future when Antichrist makes a covenant with Israel (some type of peace treaty, Daniel 9:27)), but breaks it in the middle of the week (3.5 years later), and then desecrates the rebuilt Temple by sitting in the Temple and "setting himself forth as God" (II Thes. 2:3-4). The Jewish people rebel and Antichrist wages war to destroy them.

He destroys two thirds of the population of Israel and one third flees to Petra or Bozra in Jordan. In desperation the

Jews will turn to their Messiah (Jesus, Yeshua, the Christ). This is confirmed by the following verses:

Mourning for the Pierced One

10 “And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for *his* only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.

In Hosea 5:15 God is the speaker and states:

Hosea 5:15 New King James Version (NKJV)

15

I will return again to My place
Till they acknowledge their offense.
Then they will seek My face;
In their affliction they will earnestly seek Me

Dr. Arnold G. Fruchtenbaum in his analytical & thorough book *The Footsteps of the Messiah* (page 306) asks, “When did God ever leave Heaven? God left Heaven at the incarnation in the Person of Jesus of Nazareth. Then because of one specific offense (the word is singular) committed against Him, He returned to Heaven at the ascension from the Mount of Olives. This verse further states that he will not come back to the earth until the offense that caused Him to return to Heaven is acknowledged or confessed.”

He points out that the actual killing of Jesus was by Gentile, not Jewish hands. A Gentile judge condemned and sentenced Him. Gentile soldiers crucified Him. “But all this

is ultimately irrelevant for, regardless of Jewish acceptance or Jewish rejection, Jesus would have had to die anyway to become the sacrifice for sin. The national offense of Israel was in the rejection of His Messiahship. According to this verse, only when this offense is acknowledged or confessed will Messiah return to the earth.”

Jesus clearly states the exact condition when he will return:

Matthew 23:37-39 New King James Version (NKJV)

37 “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under *her* wings, but you were not willing! **38** See! Your house is left to you desolate; **39** for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, ***‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!’*** ”

The Messiah, Jesus, returns riding a white horse, wearing many crowns, flames afire, leading an army of angels in answer to the desperate prayer of the weary remnant in Bozra and makes quick work of the Antichrist and his armies. The first few verses of the *Battle Hymn of the Republic* by Julia Howe illustrates this:

*Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath
are stored;
He hath loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible swift
sword:
His truth is marching on.*

From Where Will Antichrist Arise?

Nostradamus has him coming from an Arabian country:

De la felice Arabie contrade,
Naistra puissant de loy Mohamétique,
Vexer l'Espagne, conquerer la Grenade,
Et puis par mer a la gent Lygustique.
Century 5 quatrain 55

From one of the Arabian countries, Shall be born someone powerful, from the laws of Mohammed, Who will offend Spain and conquer its city Grenada, And then by sea (shall be harmful) to the Italians.

Nostradamus has Antichrist invading Spain and conquering the city of Grenada. This seems in harmony with Nostradamus's cyclical pattern of history. History repeats itself. In an invasion of Spain, Berbers, recently converted to Islam, and Arab Umayyad armies occupied swaths of Spain and extended their conquests into French Provence until repulsed from Provence in 732 A.D. The northern Christian kingdoms eventually retook Spain. The last Muslim emirate, [Granada](#), was defeated by the armies of [Castile](#) and [Aragon](#) under [Isabella](#) and [Ferdinand](#) in 1492. But for Nostradamus, since history is reoccurring, this will happen again under his "third" Antichrist, and the reach of this Antichrist will even harm the Italians.

'Antichrist trois bien trois annichilez,
Vingt et sept ans sang durera sa guerre,
Les heretiques morts, captifs exilez,
Son corps humain eau rougie, greslie terre.

Century 8 quatrain 77

The third Antichrist, gets annihilated, His war shall last for twenty seven years, The heretics are all dead; all of the prisoners are now exiled, His body (the Antichrist) has reddened the waters, and the earth has been scorched.

Nostradamus prophesies his Antichrist will reign for 27 years and is then destroyed.

Most expounders of Biblical prophecy will have Antichrist arising in Rome, because per Daniel 9:26-27 after Messiah, Jesus, is “cut off” or killed, the people **of the prince who is to come** shall destroy the city and the sanctuary.

Rome’s legions under their general Titus destroyed the temple at Jerusalem in 70 A.D. Titus however, as discussed above, is not “the prince to come.” Bible prophecy predicts the temple will be rebuilt in the last days and then be desecrated by the Antichrist, the embodiment of Satan, a dictatorial world ruler, who miraculously recovers from a fatal head wound.

Gotquestions.org greatly expounds on this event otherwise know as the “abomination of desolation:”

“Whatever the future abomination of desolation is, it will leave no doubt in anyone’s mind that the one perpetrating it is the person known as the Antichrist. Revelation 13:14 describes him making some kind of image which all are forced to worship. Turning the temple of the living God into a place of worship for the Antichrist is truly an “abomination.” Those who are alive and remain during the tribulation should be watchful and recognize that this event is the beginning of

3 1/2 years of the worst of the tribulation period and that the return of the Lord Jesus is imminent. 'Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man' (Luke 21:36).''

The Old Testament prophet Daniel informs us that it is the **people** of the prince who is to come who destroyed the Herodian temple (took place in 70 A.D.).

Therefore if we can identify the origin of the **people**, we will determine where the "prince who is to come," or Antichrist, will be from.

It is not accurate to say that the **people** were Romans, and therefore the Antichrist is from Rome. The Roman empire's eastern boundary extended from Spain, to Britain, to the Rhine, to Rumania, to Parthia or present day Persia. It incorporated many **people** of diverse tribes and ethnic groups. The Apostle Paul was a Roman, a Roman citizen, but came from Tarsus, a coastal city in present day Turkey.

Rome recruited its legions from throughout its empire. Quoting <http://www.myscripturestudies.com/2011/09/who-were-legions-of-rome.html> which presents a very thorough discussion of the composition of the Roman legions which destroyed the temple in Jerusalem in 70 A.D.:

"....most of the Roman soldiers were recruited from the kingdoms and provinces where their garrisons were located, the legions that were stationed in the Middle East were the Arab and Syrian peoples of "The Levant". The Levant is the Eastern Mediterranean, a geographic and cultural region today that consists of Cyprus, Israel,

Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Syria, and part of southern Turkey.”

Josephus, the historian and knowledgeable Jewish general, captured by Titus, states:

"The greatest part of the Roman garrison was raised out of Syria; and being thus related to the Syrian part, they were ready to assist it." –The Wars of The Jews: History of the Destruction of Jerusalem By Flavius Josephus Trans. William Whiston BOOK II: CHAPTER 13 Paragraph 7.

The specific legions which destroyed the temple according to the historian Josephus were:

Legion XV Apollinaris - Syria - stationed by Nero to Syria in 61-62 AD

Legion V Macedonica - Judea or Moesia

Legion XII Fulminata - Asia Minor/Syria (had fought Parthians in 58-63 AD)

Legion X Fretensis - Syria, Judea

Legion III Gallica - Syria

Since the majority of **the people** who destroyed the temple were Syrians, the prince who is to come, ***the Antichrist, will most likely be Syrian.***

This is not a particularly startling conclusion since Old Testament prophets such as Isaiah and Micah refer to the Antichrist as the “Assyrian.” According to Wikipedia the Assyrian empire was centered on the Upper [Tigris river](#), in [northern Mesopotamia](#) (modern northern [Iraq](#), northeastern [Syria](#) and southeastern [Turkey](#)). So very possibly the Antichrist will come from northeastern Syria. The Antichrist’s

invasion of the Holy Land is prophesied by both the prophets Isaiah and Micah in the following verses:

Isaiah 10:24 New King James Version (NKJV)

24 Therefore thus says the Lord God of hosts: “O My people, who dwell in Zion, *do not be afraid of the Assyrian*. He shall strike you with a rod and lift up his staff against you, in the manner of Egypt.”

Isaiah 14:25 New King James Version (NKJV)

25

*That I will break the Assyrian in My land,
And on My mountains tread him underfoot.
Then his yoke shall be removed from them,
And his burden removed from their shoulders.*

Micah 5:4-6 New King James Version (NKJV)

4

And He shall stand and feed *His flock*
In the strength of the Lord,
In the majesty of the name of the Lord His God;
And they shall abide,
For now He shall be great
To the ends of the earth;

5

And this *One* shall be peace.
*When the Assyrian comes into our land,
And when he treads in our palaces,
Then we will raise against him
Seven shepherds and eight princely men.*

6

They shall waste with the sword the land of Assyria,
And the land of Nimrod at its entrances;
Thus He shall deliver us from the Assyrian,

When he comes into our land
And when he treads within our borders.

Isaiah 31:8 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

8

*And the Assyrian will fall by a sword not of man,
And a sword not of man will devour him.
So he will not escape the sword*

When Christ returns in response to the pleas of the remnant of Israel who have fled to the wilderness in Bozrah, He will make short work of the Antichrist. The Antichrist will not be slain by the sword of man.

2 Thessalonians 2:8 New King James Version (NKJV)

8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.

Simply the “brightness” of the Lord will be enough to destroy the Antichrist. Darkness cannot coexist with light and a man possessed by the spirit of Satan is nothing before the piercing glory of the embodiment of the Triune God. The armies of the Lord accompanying Him will not have to lift a finger.

In Isaiah 31 the Assyrian will be devoured “not by a sword of man.” In 2 Thessalonians 2:8, the “lawless one” or Antichrist is destroyed by the “brightness of His coming.” Both Isaiah and Paul are referring to the same individual. The “Assyrian” of Isaiah IS the “lawless one” of Paul. He is also the “Little Horn” of Daniel who is destroyed “without human means:”

Daniel 8:25 New King James Version (NKJV)

25

“Through his cunning
He shall cause deceit to prosper under his rule;^[a]
And he shall exalt *himself* in his heart.
He shall destroy many in *their* prosperity.
He shall even rise against the Prince of princes;
But he shall be broken without *human* means.

The Assyrian, the Little Horn and the “lawless one” are all destroyed without human means by the Lord of Hosts, the Prince of princes. They all share the same end because ***they are all the same Antichrist Satanic entity.***

Clarence Larkin, an engineer who became a Baptist pastor and foremost authority in Biblical prophecy (died in 1924), wrote a unique book entitled *The Book of Revelation*. In the chapter “The Vision of the ‘Kings of the North and South” he states:

“‘Antichrist’ shall come out of SYRIA, and as Syria included Assyriathe ‘Little Horn’ of Daniel is the same as the ‘Assyrian’ of Isaiah.”

Daniel was informed by the angel Gabriel (Daniel 8) that the He Goat he had seen in his vision (Daniel 8), which destroyed the Ram, represented the Grecian Empire (the He Goat possessed one big horn) and the Medo-Persian Empire (possessed two horns).

Daniel’s original vision:

Daniel 8:7-8New King James Version (NKJV)

7 And I saw him confronting the ram; he was moved with rage against him, attacked the ram, and broke his two horns. There was no power in the ram to withstand him, but he cast him down to the ground and trampled him; and there was no one that could deliver the ram from his hand.

8 Therefore the male goat grew very great; but when he became strong, the large horn was broken, and in place of it **four notable ones** came up toward the four winds of heaven.

Gabriel's interpretation.

Daniel 8:16-22New King James Version (NKJV)

16 And I heard a man's voice between *the banks of* the Ulai, who called, and said, "Gabriel, make this *man* understand the vision." 17 So he came near where I stood, and when he came I was afraid and fell on my face; but he said to me, "Understand, son of man, that the vision *refers* to the time of the end."

18 Now, as he was speaking with me, I was in a deep sleep with my face to the ground; but he touched me, and stood me upright. 19 And he said, "Look, I am making known to you what shall happen in the latter time of the indignation; for at the appointed time the end *shall be*. 20 The ram which you saw, having the two horns—*they are* the kings of Media and Persia. 21 And the male goat *is* the kingdom^[a] of Greece. The large horn that *is* between its eyes *is* the first king. 22 As for the broken *horn* and the four that stood up in its place, four kingdoms shall arise out of that nation, but not with its power.

Alexander had no heir; so his territories were divided among four of his generals. Lysimachus took nearly the whole of Asia Minor; Cassander had Greece; Seleucus possessed Syria and the East; while Ptolemy claimed Egypt and Palestine.

At this point Gabriel takes us into a time warp into the distant future and describes Antichrist and his fate. We know this is the case because he states in the “latter time” and “it refers to many days in the future”:

Daniel 8:23-26 New King James Version (NKJV) (*italicized words are author's*)

23

“And in the latter time of their kingdom,
When the transgressors have reached their fullness,
A king shall arise,
Having fierce features,
Who understands sinister schemes.

24

His power shall be mighty, but not by his own power (*he shall be imbued with Satanic power*);
He shall destroy fearfully,
And shall prosper and thrive;
He shall destroy the mighty, and *also* the holy people.

25

“Through his cunning
He shall cause deceit to prosper under his rule;^[a]
And he shall exalt *himself* in his heart.
He shall destroy many in *their* prosperity.
He shall even rise against the Prince of princes (*the Lord*);
But he shall be broken without *human* means.^[b]

26

“And the vision of the evenings and mornings

Which was told is true;
Therefore seal up the vision,
For *it refers to many days in the future.*”

Daniel 11:36-45New King James Version (NKJV), (*italicized words are author's*)

36 “Then the king shall do according to his own will: he shall exalt and magnify himself above every god, shall speak blasphemies against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the wrath has been accomplished; for what has been determined shall be done. 37 He shall regard neither the God^[a] of his fathers nor the desire of women, nor regard any god; for he shall exalt himself above *them* all. 38 But in their place he shall honor a god of fortresses (*a military man*); and a god which his fathers did not know he shall honor with gold and silver, with precious stones and pleasant things. 39 Thus he shall act against the strongest fortresses with a foreign god, which he shall acknowledge, *and* advance *its* glory; and he shall cause them to rule over many, and divide the land for gain.

The Antichrist or the Assyrian or the “Lawless One” is also the **King of the North**. Israel will enter a covenant (a peace treaty, Daniel 9:27) with a fierce new conquering power to its north, which disembowels three nations. Peace treaties are generally entered between belligerent or potentially belligerent foes, generally geographical neighbors.

Syria borders the northern border of Israel. Daniel 11:5-36 describes the wars of the King of the North (Syria) and the King of the South (Egypt). These are the historical wars

between the Seleucids in Syria and the Ptolomies of Egypt, who are in the lineage of Alexander's two generals.

In great detail Daniel 11 describes the future coming of Antiochus Epiphanes. **Gotquestions.org** *relates the historical record:*

Antiochus Epiphanes was a Greek king of the Seleucid Empire who reigned over Syria from 175 BC until 164 BC. He is famous for almost conquering Egypt and for his brutal persecution of the Jews, which precipitated the Maccabean revolt. Antiochus Epiphanes was a ruthless and often capricious ruler. He is properly Antiochus IV, but he took upon himself the title "Epiphanes," which means "illustrious one" or "god manifest." However, his bizarre and blasphemous behavior earned him another nickname among the Jews: "Epimanes," which means "mad one."

An altercation between Antiochus Epiphanes and a Roman ambassador by the name of Gaius Popillius Laenas is the origin of the saying "to draw a line in the sand." When Antiochus brought his army against Egypt in 168 BC, Popillius stood in his way and gave him a message from the Roman Senate ordering him to stop the attack. Antiochus responded that he would think it over and discuss it with his council, at which point Popillius drew a circle in the sand around Antiochus and told him that, if he did not give the Roman Senate an answer before crossing over the line in the sand, Rome would declare war. Antiochus decided to withdraw as Rome had requested (<http://www.gotquestions.org/Antiochus-Epiphanes.html>).

In frustration Antiochus moved his troops north and terrorized the Holy Land:

Gotquestions.org: In an act of brazen disrespect, Antiochus raided the temple in Jerusalem, stealing its treasures, setting up an altar to Zeus, and sacrificing swine on the altar. When the Jews expressed their outrage over the profaning of the temple, Antiochus responded by slaughtering a great number of the Jews and selling others into

slavery. He issued even more draconian decrees: performing the rite of circumcision was punishable by death, and Jews everywhere were ordered to sacrifice to pagan gods and eat pig flesh.

The Jewish response was to take up arms and fight. In 167—166 BC, Judas Maccabaeus led the Jews in a series of victories over the military forces of the Syrian-Greeks. After vanquishing Antiochus and the Seleucids, the Jews cleaned and restored the temple in 165.

Daniel 11:32-33 prophesies the Maccabean revolt. It is very important to note that *at the end of the section prophesying Antiochus Epiphanes, Daniel again time shifts to the future, to the “time of the end” and enters a description of the Antichrist (Daniel 36). Daniel thereby reveals to us that Antiochus Epiphanes was a type of Antichrist and that the Assyrian will be very similar, also from SYRIA:*

The Northern King’s Conquests, Daniel 11 (*italicized words are author’s*)

40 “At the time of the end (*end times event*) the king of the South (*Egypt*) shall attack him; and the king of the North shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter the countries, overwhelm *them*, and pass through. **41** He shall also enter the Glorious Land, and many *countries* shall be overthrown; but these shall escape from his hand: **Edom, Moab** (the remnant will flee to Petra in present day Jordan, Biblical “Moab”), and the prominent people of **Ammon** . **42** He shall stretch out his hand against the countries, and the land of Egypt shall not escape. **43** He shall have power over the treasures of gold and silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt; also the Libyans and Ethiopians *shall follow* at his heels. **44** But news from the east and the north shall trouble him; therefore he shall go out with great

fury to destroy and annihilate many. **45** And he shall plant the tents of his palace between the seas and the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and no one will help him.

Daniel 11:40-45 prophesies that at the time of the end, the King of the South (Egypt), will attack the King of the North (Antichrist). The King of the North shall strike back in force, traversing the Glorious Land (the Holy Land, Israel). What transpires is *at the time of the end* (an end time event).

This cannot be Antiochus Epiphanes who reigned until 164 B.C.. Antichrist will be troubled by news from the east and the north. It appears he shall still go out with great fury, to destroy the remnant taking refuge in the wilderness of Bozrah, and there he shall come to his end by the “brightness” of the Prince of princes (above) and no one shall or be able to help him (2 Thessalonians 2:8).

We are looking at regional warfare in the **Middle East** between Antichrist and the King of the South, or Egypt. This warfare parallels the *historical* wars between the Seleucids of Syria and the Ptolemies of Egypt when Alexander the Great’s empire was split among his four generals. It’s a stretch to say that this is a European leader involved in Middle East warfare.

Additional Evidence On Where Antichrist Will Arise From

The Arab Spring has not brought stable democracies, as its western proponents had hoped for, but in Syria it has resulted in a continuing civil war, a proxy war

now including Russia, and a humanitarian disaster. It has also empowered extremist groups such as ISIS in Syria and Iraq, which seem to rise from and thrive on the destabilization and downfall of older authoritarian regimes, as seen in Iraq and Libya, and now Syria.

Antichrist will arise from a “storm tossed sea,” from a turbulent political climate (Daniel 7:2-3), from the eastern part of the Roman Empire, the Fourth Beast with ten horns depicted in Daniel 7:8.

He is the “little horn” which will rise from among the ten horns, and he will “pull out” or uproot three of the ten horns. The “little horn” possesses “eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth uttering great boasts” (Daniel 7:8)

In Revelation 20:4 the Apostle John in a vision sees, (italics are author’s):

“the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received *his* mark on their foreheads or on their hands.”

So the punishment for those who don’t worship the beast (*Antichrist*) is **beheading**. For those who do not accept its violent branch of Islam, beheading is the punishment administered by ISIS.

Does this mean that ISIS or a similar jihadist group will eventually conquer three countries in the Middle East including Syria and establish itself as the undisputed leader of a seven kingdom confederacy?

Does this mean that at some point a leader from this part of the world, a wolf in sheep's clothes, will arise and establish a 7 year covenant with Israel, which he will break after 3.5 years and desecrate the rebuilt temple?

The prophecy regarding the covenant is certain since it is an inerrant Bible prophecy. Whether ISIS will spawn the Antichrist or some other entity, even one which defeats ISIS, remains to be seen.

Antichrist will be hailed as a great regional peacemaker, but at some point he uproots three kings (Daniel 7:24b) and gains sufficient political power to sign a "covenant" with Israel, which marks the beginning of the Tribulation. The three kings he uproots are rulers in the ten kingdoms into which the world has been divided (Daniel 7:24 a).

He presents himself as a "peacemaker" when he signs the covenant:

Revelation 6:2 New King James Version (NKJV)

2 And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.

Although the first horseman of the apocalypse has a bow, it is not armed with an arrow, possibly indicating that this horseman will conquer through peace initially.

This correlates with the covenant made with Israel, the “phony” peace, which the Antichrist will break in the “middle of the week” (Daniel 9:27), 3.5 years after it is signed. After all, Antichrist’s god is a god of fortresses! The peacemaker turns into a ruthless conqueror.

Most scholars in Bible prophecy have argued Antichrist will come from Rome, citing the following verse, in addition to Daniel 9:26-27, already discussed:

Revelation 17:8-12 New King James Version (NKJV), (italics mine)

8 The beast that you saw was, and is not, and will ascend out of the bottomless pit and go to perdition. And those who dwell on the earth will marvel, whose names are not written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world, when they see the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.^[a]

9 “Here *is* the mind which has wisdom: ***The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits.*** 10 There are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, *and* the other has not yet come. And when he comes, he must continue a short time. 11 The beast that was, and is not, is himself also the eighth, and is of the seven, and is going to perdition.

12 “The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast.

They have argued that Rome sits on seven hills, therefore the woman who sits on the seven hills, representing Antichrist’s false religious system headed by the “False Prophet,” (Antichrist’s sidekick, very much like Himmler and the SS orchestrated Hitler’s Aryan mythology), is Roman, so

Antichrist must also be Roman. Many evangelicals say that the false religious system has something to do with the Catholic Church and its pontiff, the Pope.

The only problem with this interpretation is there are many cities which claim to be built on seven hills, some in Asia and Europe as listed below, so we shouldn't be Roman-centric,
(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_cities_claimed_to_be_built_on_seven_hills#Asia):

Asia

- [Amman, Jordan](#)
- [Jerusalem, Israel](#)
- [Macau](#)
- [Mecca, Saudi Arabia](#)
- [Mumbai Saat Dweep Samuh](#) (now joined, into a peninsula)
- [Tehran, Iran](#)
- [Thiruvananthapuram, India](#)
- [Tirumala, India](#) In Asia, there are few cities on seven hills, except in India. One of the hill town of Tirumala is precisely where the Temple of Seven Hills, the [Tirumala Venkateswara](#). This temple is affirmed to be the most active place of worship in the world.

Europe

- [Abergavenny, South Wales, United Kingdom](#)
- [Armagh, in Northern Ireland, United Kingdom](#)
- [Athens, Greece](#). The historical seven hills of Athens are [Acropolis](#), [Areopagus](#), [Philopappus Hill](#) (or Hill of the [Muses](#)), Hill of the [Nymphs](#), [Pnyx](#), [Mount Lycabettus](#), and Mount [Anchesmos](#) (or [Tourkovounia](#)).
- [Bamberg, Bavaria, Germany](#), The seven hills of Bamberg are; Cathedral Hill, Michaelsberg, Kaulberg/Obere Pfarre, Stefansberg, Jakobsberg, Altenburger Hill, and Abtsberg.
- [Barcelona, Catalonia, Spain](#) said to be built on Mont Tàber, La Rovira, El Coll, El Carmel, La Peira, El Putxet and [Montjuïc](#)
- [Bath, England, United Kingdom](#)

- Besançon, France
- Bergen, Norway (see Seven Mountains, Bergen)
- Brussels, Belgium, said to be built on St.Michielsberg, Koudenberg, Warmoesberg, Kruidtuin, Kunstberg, Zavel and St.Pietersberg
- Budapest, Hungary
- Cagliari, Sardinia, Italy
- Cáceres, Spain^[19]
- Ceuta, Spain
- Coatbridge, Scotland, United Kingdom
- Edinburgh, Scotland, United Kingdom (see Hills of Edinburgh)
- Gorzów Wielkopolski, Poland
- Iași, Romania (see Seven hills of Iași)
- Istanbul, Turkey (see Seven hills of Istanbul)
- Kaposvár, Hungary
- Kiev, Ukraine Borichev, Shchekovitsa, Starokievska and Khorevitsa.^[20]
- Lisbon, Portugal, São Jorge, São Vicente, Sant'Ana, Santo André, Chagas, Santa Catarina, São Roque
- Lviv, Ukraine
- Madrid, Spain ^[21]
- Moscow, Russia (See Seven hills of Moscow)
- Nijmegen, Netherlands
- Plovdiv, Bulgaria
- Prague, Czech Republic, said to be built on seven or nine hills: Hradčany, Vítkov, (Opyš), Větrov, Skalka, (Emauzy), Vyšehrad, Karlov and Petřín
- Pula, Croatia
- Rome, Italy (see Seven hills of Rome)
- Saint-Étienne, France
- Sandomierz, Poland
- Sheffield, England, United Kingdom
- Smolensk, Russia
- Telšiai, Lithuania
- Torquay, England, United Kingdom
- Turku, Finland
- Veszprém, Hungary
- Vilnius, Lithuania
- Zevenbergen, Netherlands

In conclusion in interpreting Bible prophecy, the Antichrist, the Assyrian, the Little Horn, the King of the North, the “lawless one” are one and the same and will very likely arise from Syria.

Nostradamus informs us, as already seen, that the third Antichrist will arise from one of the “Arabian countries”:

De la felice Arabie contrade,
Naistra puissant de loy Mohamétique,
Vexer l'Espagne, conquerer la Grenade,
Et puis par mer a la gent Lygustique.
Century 5 quatrain 55

From one of the Arabian countries, Shall be born someone powerful, from the laws of Mohammed, Who will offend Spain and conquer its city Grenada, And then by sea (shall be harmful) to the Italians.

However, the power and destruction of Nostradamus’s Antichrist appears limited to Mediterranean Europe and appears more a reenactment of the Moorish conquests in Europe than anything else. This conforms to Nostradamus’s view that history is cyclical and historical events repeat themselves. This author does not give it very much weight, although it is in the general “ballpark.”

Bible prophecy however as proven in hundreds of instances (see Josh McDowell, *Evidence That Demands A Verdict* for fulfilled Biblical prophecies) is inerrant, although the interpretations, including this author’s, may not be.

