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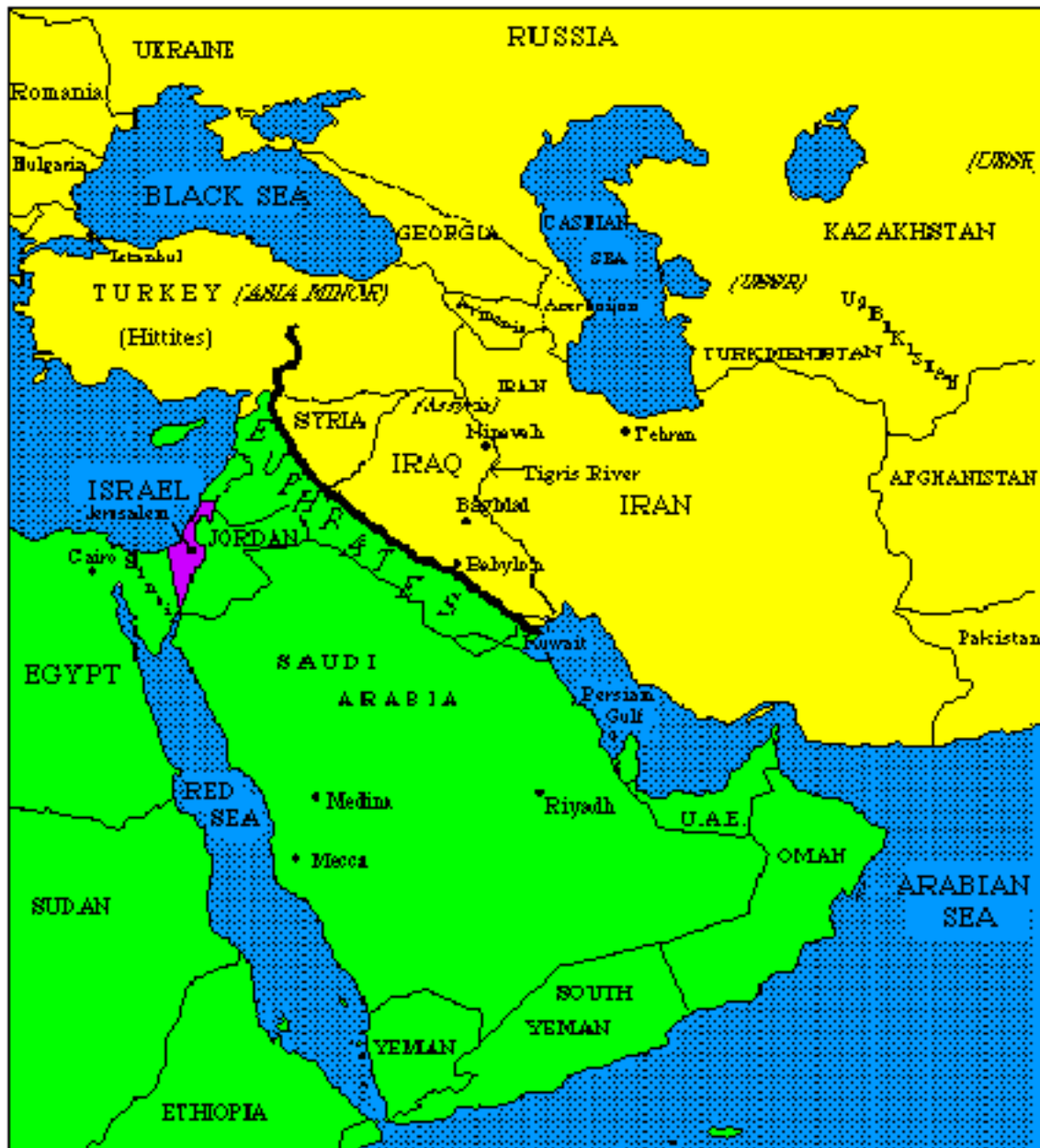
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EUPHRATES RIVER AND THE MIDDLE EAST



EUPHRATES RIVER VALLEY and the nations which surround it -- the battleground for the world's last war. Scripture predicts that this river will be the initial division between the North and the South when the nations of the world begin to align in preparation for the battle of Armageddon. At the end of the fighting, just before the last battle, Jesus will return with His Father in the glory of all the angels to take His throne at the moment of Judgment in the skies high above Jerusalem.

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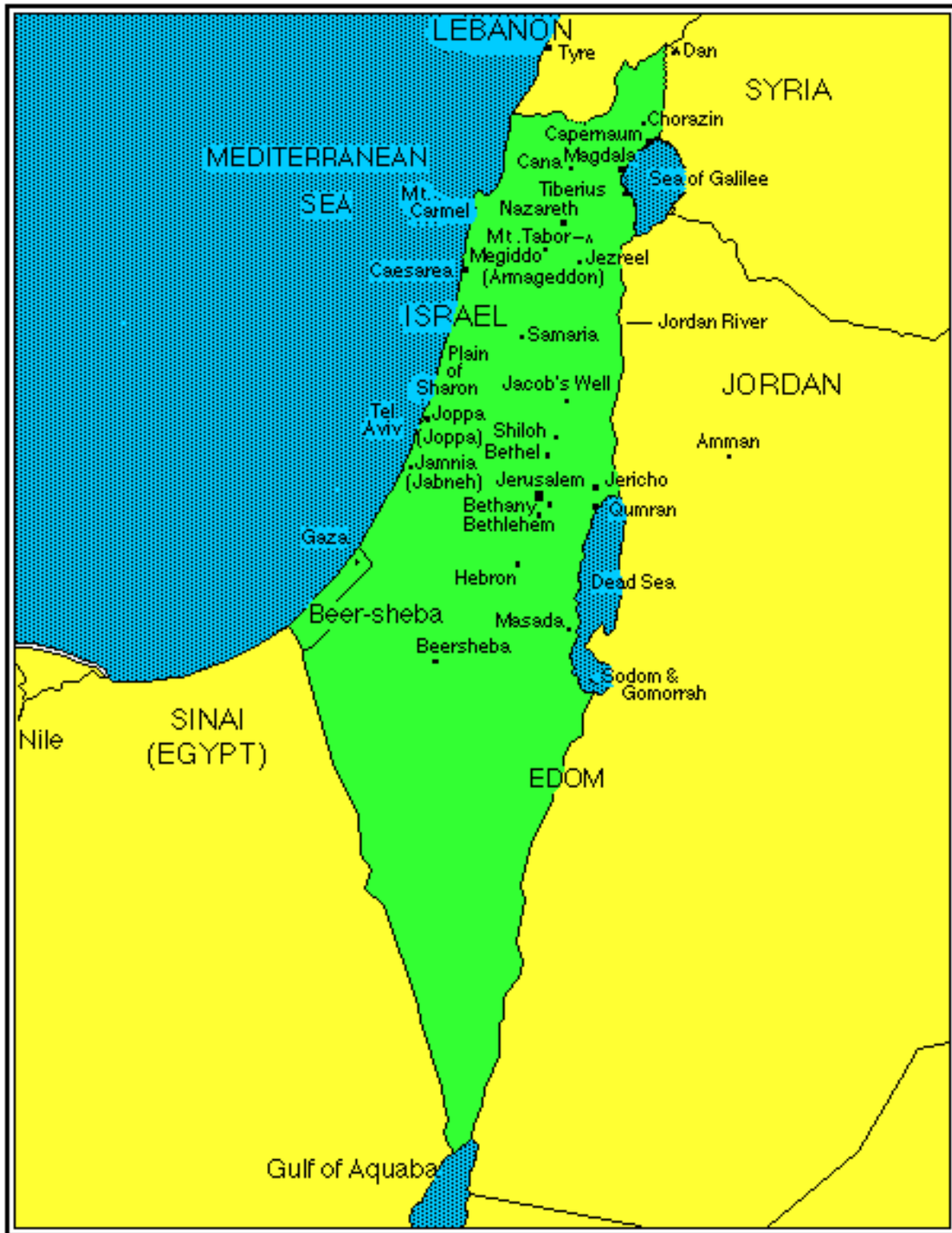
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Joel 2:1

HISTORIC ISRAEL-THE HOLY LAND



THE LAND OF ISRAEL and the nations which surround it. Place names used are those which are either biblical or most familiar. Most areas and towns in the land of Palestine carry multiple names, owing to a long succession of conquering armies.

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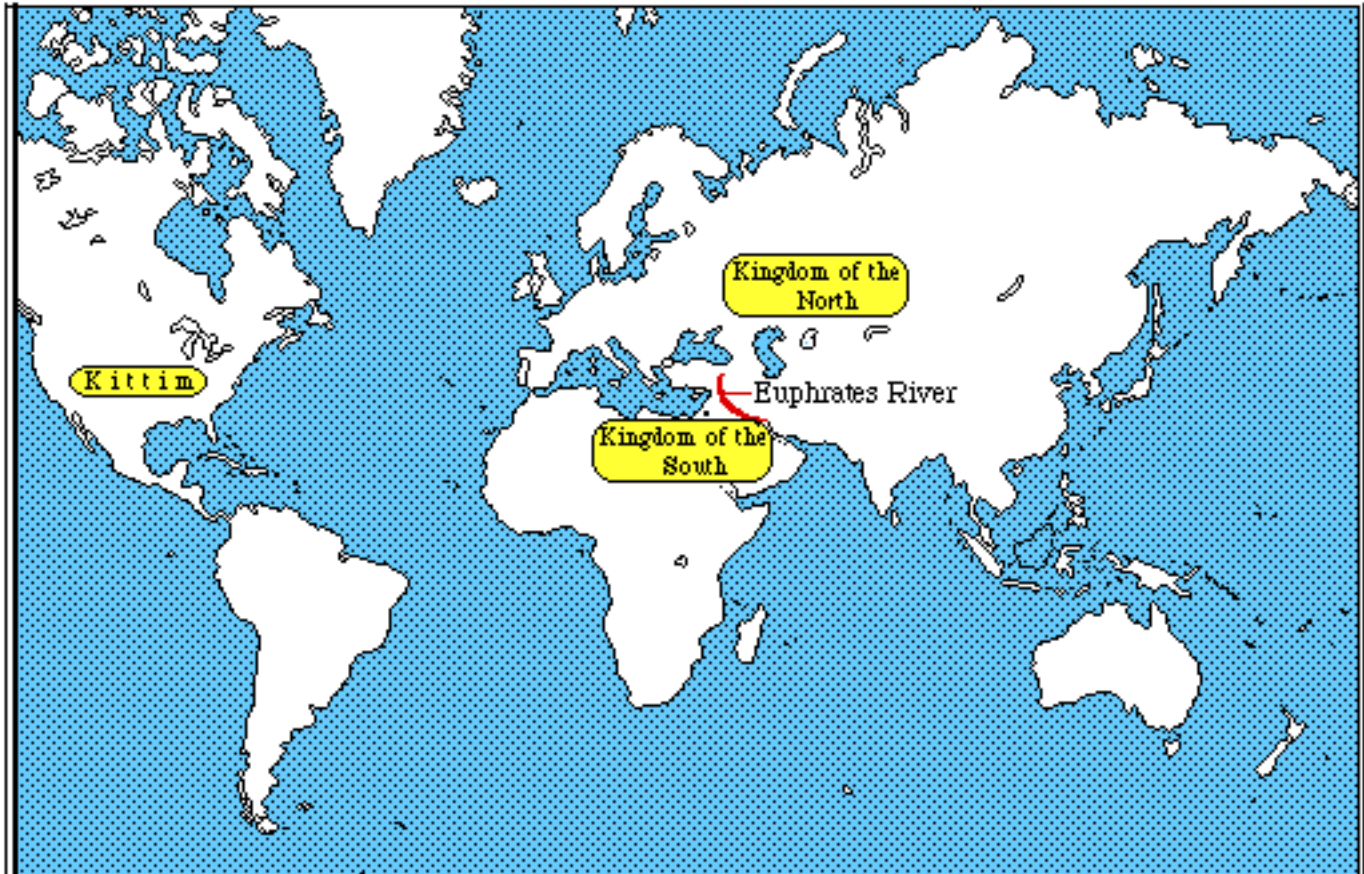
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THE NORTH AND THE SOUTH THE TWO KINGDOMS IN THE PROPHECIES OF DANIEL



WORLD MAP showing the likely relationship between the kingdoms of the North and South as described by the prophet Daniel when they ultimately align against each other along the Euphrates River in preparation for the great warfare of the last days. The 'ships of Kittim' will intervene, blocking the kingdom of the North as the dragon of scripture mounts its final attack against the people of God.

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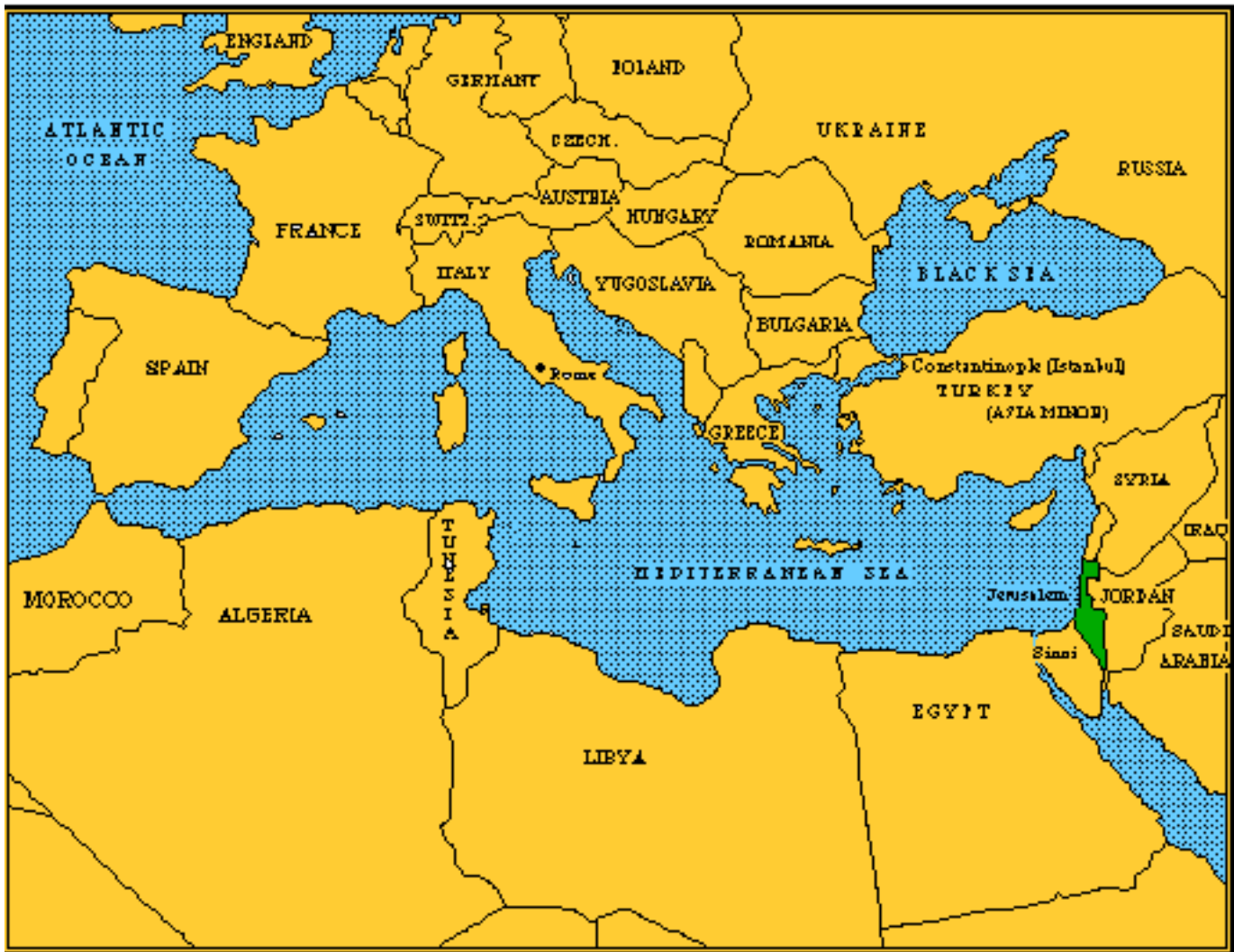
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EUROPE AND THE MEDITERRANEAN



THE LANDS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA will be heavily involved in the activities of the 'beast' when he rises to power. This great Rebel (and the eastern king who precedes him) will conquer most of the countries visible on this map. Ultimately, the beast will set up his headquarters in Rome and it will be his attempt to move it from there to Jerusalem that will be the mechanism for the final gathering of the world's armies at Armageddon.

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PAUL'S FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY



Paul, Barnabus and Mark begin the first in a series of missionary journeys across the Greek speaking world. The importance of these missions, especially those of Paul, cannot be overstated. So powerful did the Holy Spirit make their work, that in less than 3 centuries, the entire Roman empire -- the whole civilized world -- had converted to their message.

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PAUL'S SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY



On His second missionary journey, Paul was accompanied by Silas. They were joined later by Timothy at Lystra. Involved in a disagreement with Paul, Barnabas and Mark went to the island of Cypres. When Paul reached Troas, a city on the Aegean sea, he received a vision to go to Macedonia. In Athens Paul preached about the 'unknown God'. He stayed in Corinth about a year and a half where he worked at his trade as a tentmaker while preaching every sabbath. Upon his return to Caesarea, he went to Jerusalem to make a report of his work to the other apostles, and then returned to the hellenistic Christian base

at Antioch.

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PAUL'S THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY



On His third missionary journey, Paul spent two and a quarter years at Ephesus where he was joined by Apollos. As was his regular custom, Paul began his preaching in the synagogues. Once he had established a discipleship he moved to another meeting place where he could reach Gentiles as well. An enraged crowd in Ephesus, fanned by the silversmiths (who made idols), brought his residence there to a close, encouraging him to leave for Macedonia where he tried to patch up quarrels that had erupted in the Corinthian church. On his way home, Paul stopped at Miletas to bid farewell to the elders of the

church at Ephesus.

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PAUL TAKEN IN CHAINS TO ROME



Arrested in the temple in Jerusalem in A.D. 57, Paul was taken to Caesarea to be interrogated by Antonius Felix, the Roman governor. Felix was friendly to Paul and kept him at Caesarea for two years until he was replaced as governor by Festus. Festus offered to send Paul to Jerusalem to stand trial, but Paul requested trial in Rome -- his right as a Roman citizen.

Placed under guard by a Roman centurion named Julius, Paul was escorted to a boat at Caesarea. He was accompanied by Luke and Aristarchus, a Macedonian Christian from Thessalonica. The journey took them to Sidon and then to Myra in Lycia where another vessel was chartered. Sailing along the seacoast, they tried to get to Cnidus, but the winds would not cooperate and so they headed south to the island of Crete.

After putting into port at Fair Haven on the island of Crete, the boat captain tried to sail to Phoenix several miles away to spend the winter. But a storm called the 'northeaster' disrupted the plan. The boat foundered in the waves and became lost at sea under the leaden skies of the hurricane. It finally ended up a thousand miles away, shipwrecked on a

shoal on the tiny island of Malta. (See Acts 27 & 28).

Another ship took Paul to Puteoli in the Bay of Naples. From there, the party journeyed by land to Rome where news of Paul's arrival had preceded him. Many groups of Christians came to welcome him, appearing both at the Forum of Appius and the Three Taverns. Paul spent 2 years as a prisoner in Rome, chained to the soldier who guarded him. Apparently no trial was held and he was released in 63 A.D.

Paul was later martyred by Nero in Rome in 67 A.D.

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JACOB'S CHILDREN IN THE LAND OF ISRAEL



THE 12 TRIBES OF ISRAEL



At an assembly held in Shiloh, Joshua cast lots before the gathered tribes, and there according to the way the lots fell, Joshua apportioned the land among the Israelites according to their groupings. These 12 tribes were descended from the 12 sons of Jacob (Israel), borne of 2 wives, sisters Leah and Rachel, and 2 slave-wives given to him by the two sisters.

Rachel remained barren, so God opened the womb of Leah first. Leah conceived and gave birth to a son whom she named Reuben. Soon thereafter she also gave birth to Simeon, Levi and Judah. Rachel, seeing that she herself gave Jacob no offspring, became jealous of her sister Leah who had quickly produced four children for Jacob. So she gave her slave-girl, Bilhah to her husband as a wife that she might have a child through her. Bilhah gave birth to Dan and then Naphtali. Leah did the same, giving her slave-girl (Zilpah) to Jacob who conceived first Gad and then Asher. Afterward, Leah herself conceived Issachar, Zebulun and a daughter, Dinah. Finally, God remembered Rachel, Jacob's favorite, bringing Joseph to birth in her womb. After that, Rachel conceived Benjamin as well, bringing Jacob's male progeny to twelve.

When Jacob's sons reached early manhood, they became jealous of Joseph who was his father's favorite. They kidnapped him, and sold him to a caravan headed for Egypt. Living in the land of Egypt, Joseph became very important and powerful, overseeing all of Pharaoh's graineries. When a great famine swept the Middle East, Egypt remained fully stocked with food on account of Joseph's brilliant skill and foresight.

Knowing that Egypt had ample food, Jacob gathered his children and wives together and took them there to seek bread so that they not starve to death. Once there he discovered his missing long-lost favorite son. Joseph held no grudge against his brothers. He welcomed them all with open arms and gave them as much as they wanted to eat. As a reward for his generosity and love, Jacob adopted Joseph's two sons, Ephraim and Manesseh, and blessed them that they might also share in the tribal legacy God had promised Jacob concerning his twelve sons.

Because Joseph had borne two of the twelve, he became a patriarch himself, rising to a level above his brothers. He was accorded a position of supreme honor, joining Abraham, Isaac and Jacob as the progenitors of the twelve tribes. For this reason, he is not counted among the landowners.

Jacob's third son, Levi, was removed from landowning status as well, for it was in this

tribe that the priesthood of Israel was formed. The Levites became the caretakers of the religion. That is why neither Joseph nor Levi have their names ascribed to geographical areas on the map above.

Dan was first given land in an area that looked on Joppa, east of Benjamin. However, the Philistines resisted them there, blocking their efforts to capture the towns awarded to them in the original inheritance of the tribes. So the descendants of Dan headed north to a city called Leshem. Capturing this city, they renamed it 'Dan' after their ancestor, and settled there instead. This city proved to be the northernmost boundary of the land of Israel, stretching from Dan in the north to Beersheba in the south.

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THE SEVEN LAMPSTANDS ARE THE SEVEN CHURCHES



The secret of the seven stars and the seven golden lampstands is this: the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lamp-stands are the seven churches themselves. "Write to the church in Ephesus and say, 'Here is the message of the one who holds the seven stars in his right hand and who lives surrounded by the seven golden lampstands: I know all about you: how hard you work and how much you put up with. I know you cannot stand wicked men, and how you tested the impostors who called themselves apostles and proved they were liars. I know, too that you have patience, and have suffered for my name without growing tired. Nevertheless, I have this complaint to make; you have less love now than you used to. Think where you were before you fell; repent, and do as you used to at first, or else, if you will not repent, I shall come to you and take your lampstand from its place...' (Rev.2:1-5).

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THE WORLD'S MAJOR RELIGIONS BY SIZE

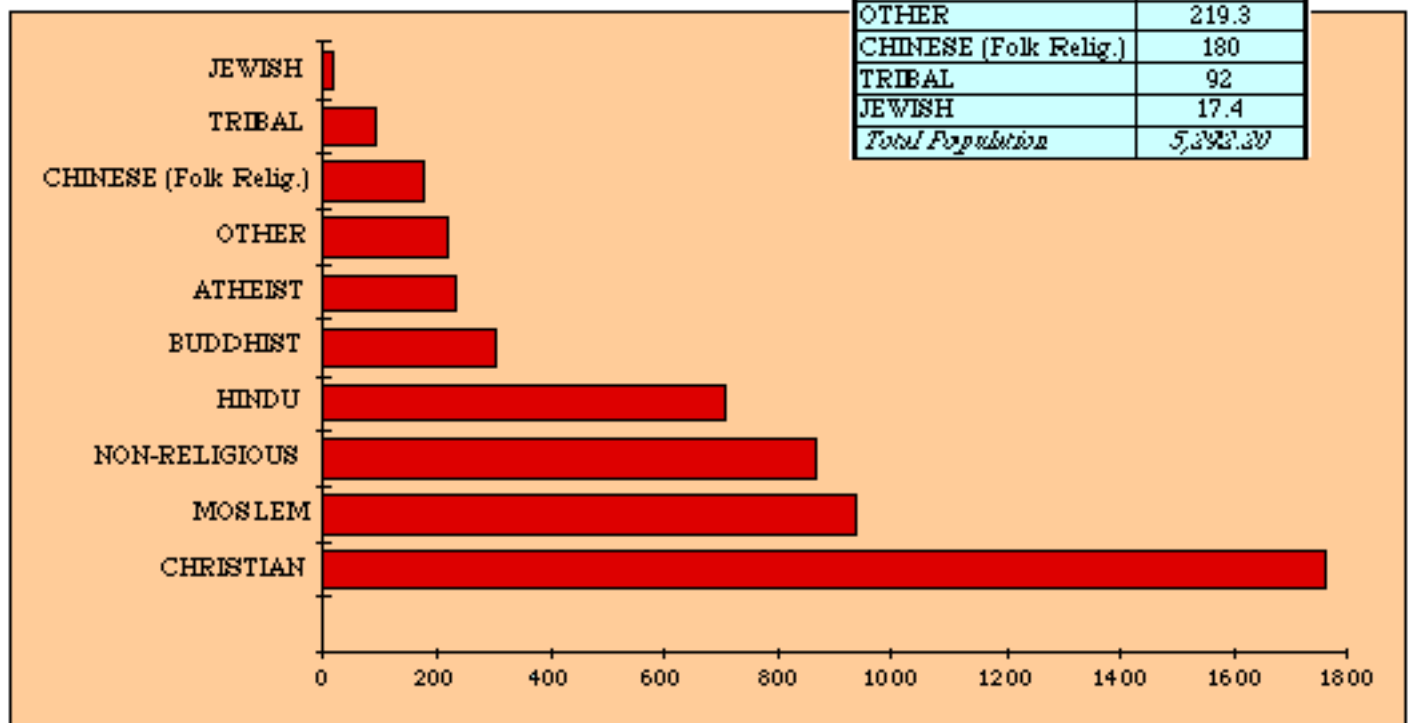
RELIGIOUS BELIEFS OF THE WORLD

(In Millions)

Adapted from the World Almanac 1992

Worldwide (In Millions)

CHRISTIAN	1758.8
MOSLEM	935
NON-RELIGIOUS	866
HINDU	705
BUDDHIST	303
ATHEIST	233
OTHER	219.3
CHINESE (Folk Relig.)	180
TRIBAL	92
JEWISH	17.4
<i>Total Population</i>	<i>5,392.30</i>



Some may find it surprising to discover that Christianity is not a minority religion in the world. As this graph illustrates, Christians far outnumber all other faiths and groups. Statistics from the World Almanac in 1992 showed that at the height of the millenium, the Christian population on earth measured one-third of all the world's inhabitants.

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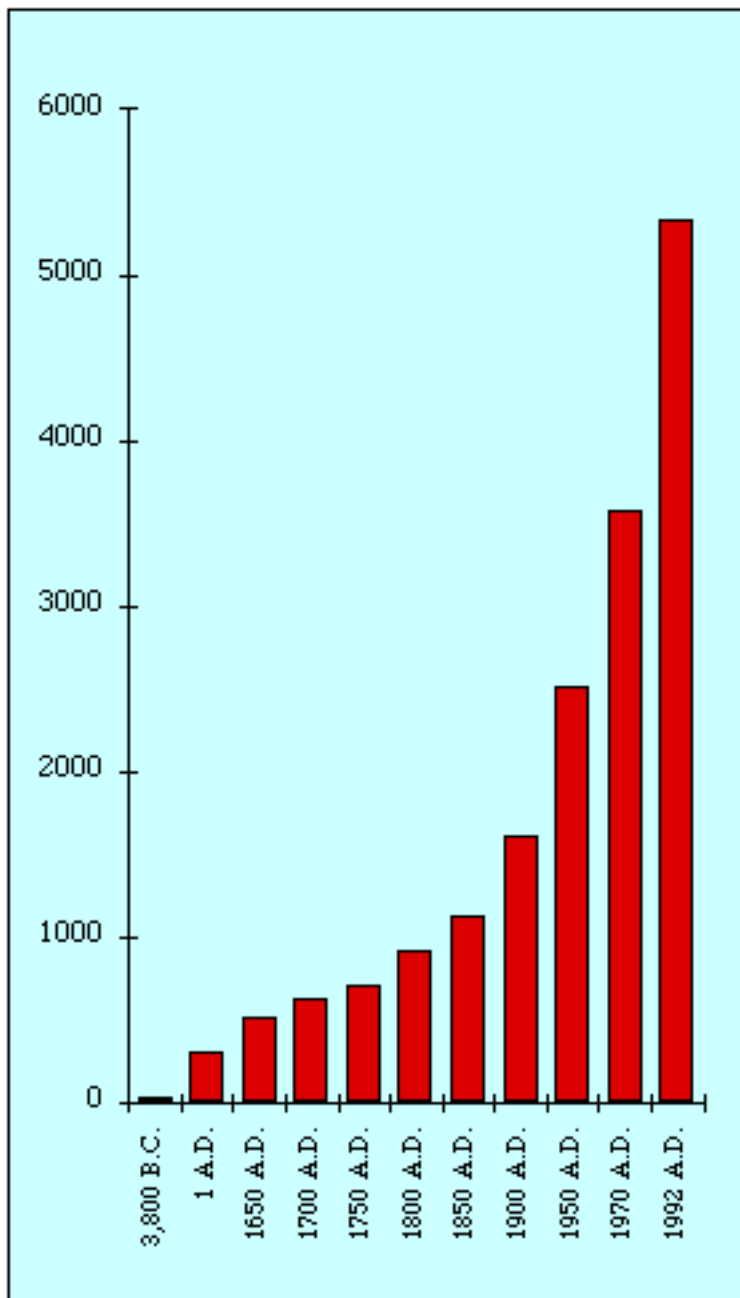
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"All Things Were Created
Through Him and For Him"

Colossians 1:16



6000 YEARS-THE AGE OF HUMAN CIVILIZATION



The 6000 Years
World Population Growth
During the Biblical Era
3,800 B.C. to 1992

Adapted from World Almanac - 1986

Biblical Year	Christian Year	Population In Millions
0	3,800 B.C.	25
3781	1 A.D.	300
5411	1650 A.D.	510
5461	1700 A.D.	625
5511	1750 A.D.	710
5561	1800 A.D.	910
5611	1850 A.D.	1,130
5661	1900 A.D.	1,600
5711	1950 A.D.	2,510
5731	1970 A.D.	3,576
5753	1992 A.D.	5,333

Jesus Christ appeared on earth very early in the history of human civilization as far as the world's population is concerned. The Bible says that God sent Jesus down from heaven when all was in readiness for harvest. As the figures above show, because of the logarithmic nature of the world's population growth, Christ's message has been able to touch virtually all of humanity in only 2000 years.

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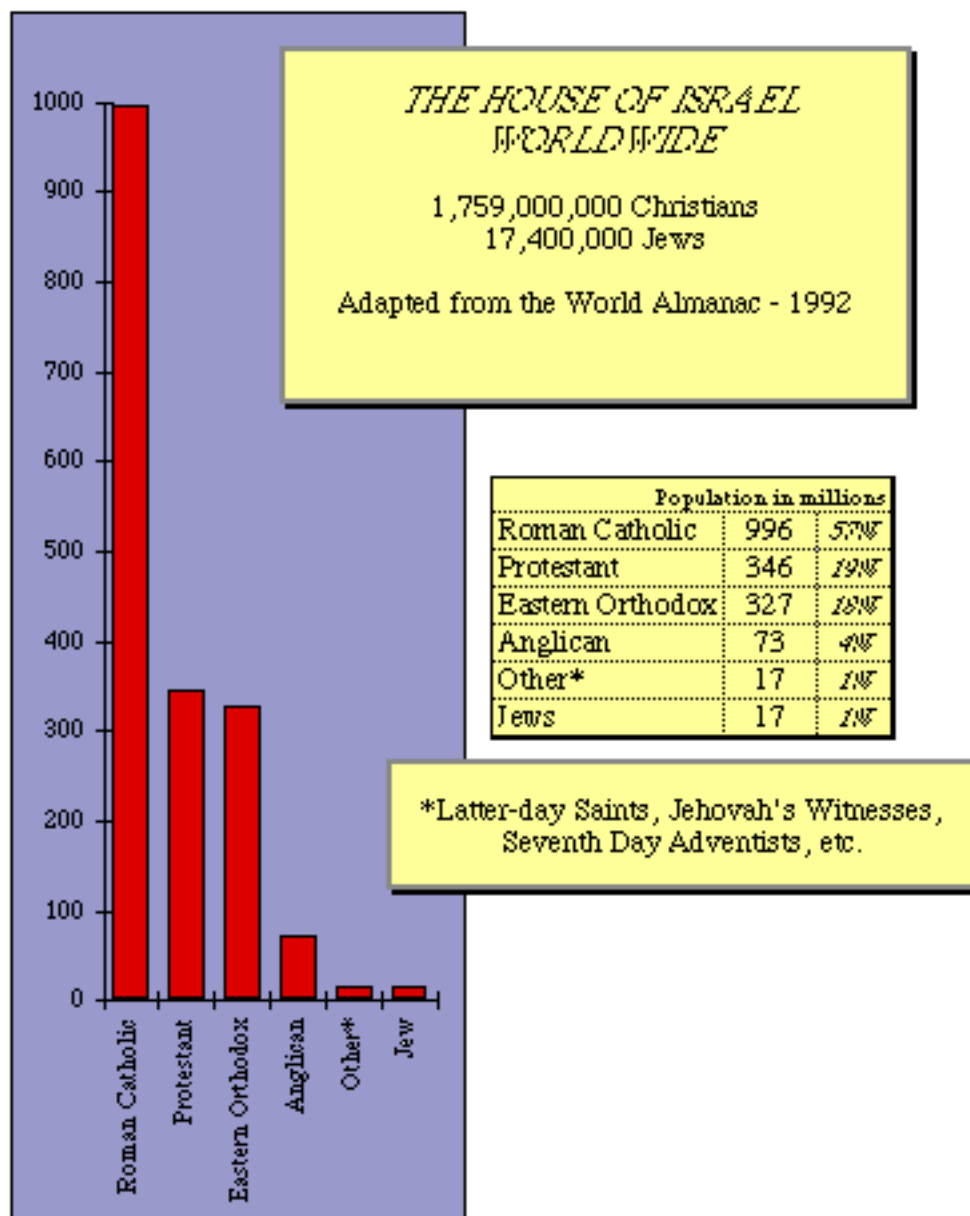
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**"I Tell You Most Solemnly,
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John 8:51

THE DIVIDED HOUSE OF ISRAEL AT THE PEAK OF THE MILLENIUM



The Millenium at its peak. One third of the population of the earth had joined the House of Israel according to 1992 World Almanac statistics. Today, as more and more people forsake their pledge, and join the growing secular movement, these numbers have begun to decline and are expected to drop drastically -- falling most precipitously, it is prophesied, during the years of the terrible tribulation predicted by the Bible just before the world's end.

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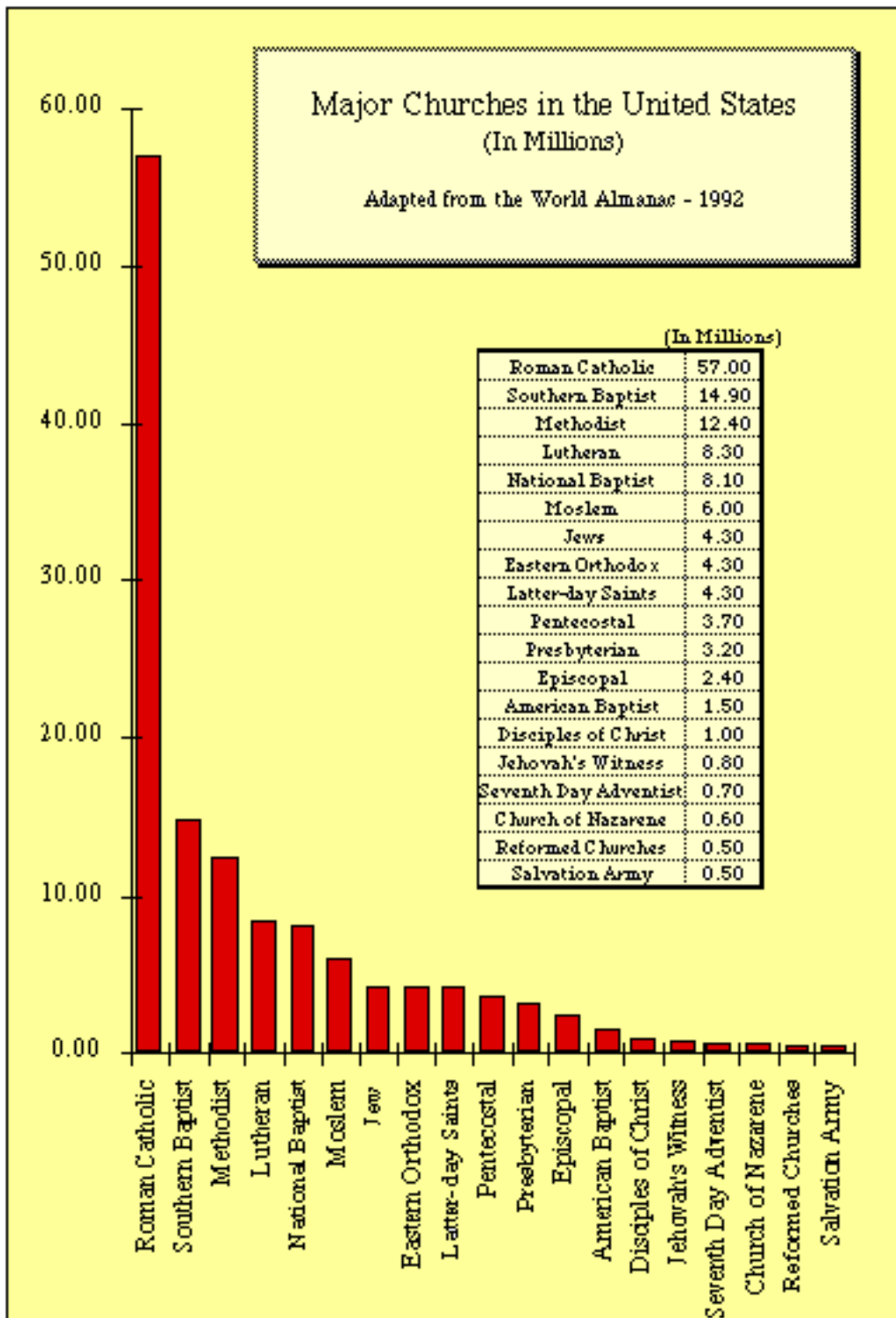
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UNITED STATES CHURCHES



Media accounts tend to promote the idea that Christians constitute a minority religious population in America. Statistics from the World Almanac show that just the opposite is

true. Christians are, by far, the most populous religious body in the United States. That is why the religious vote here remains such an important issue in public politics.

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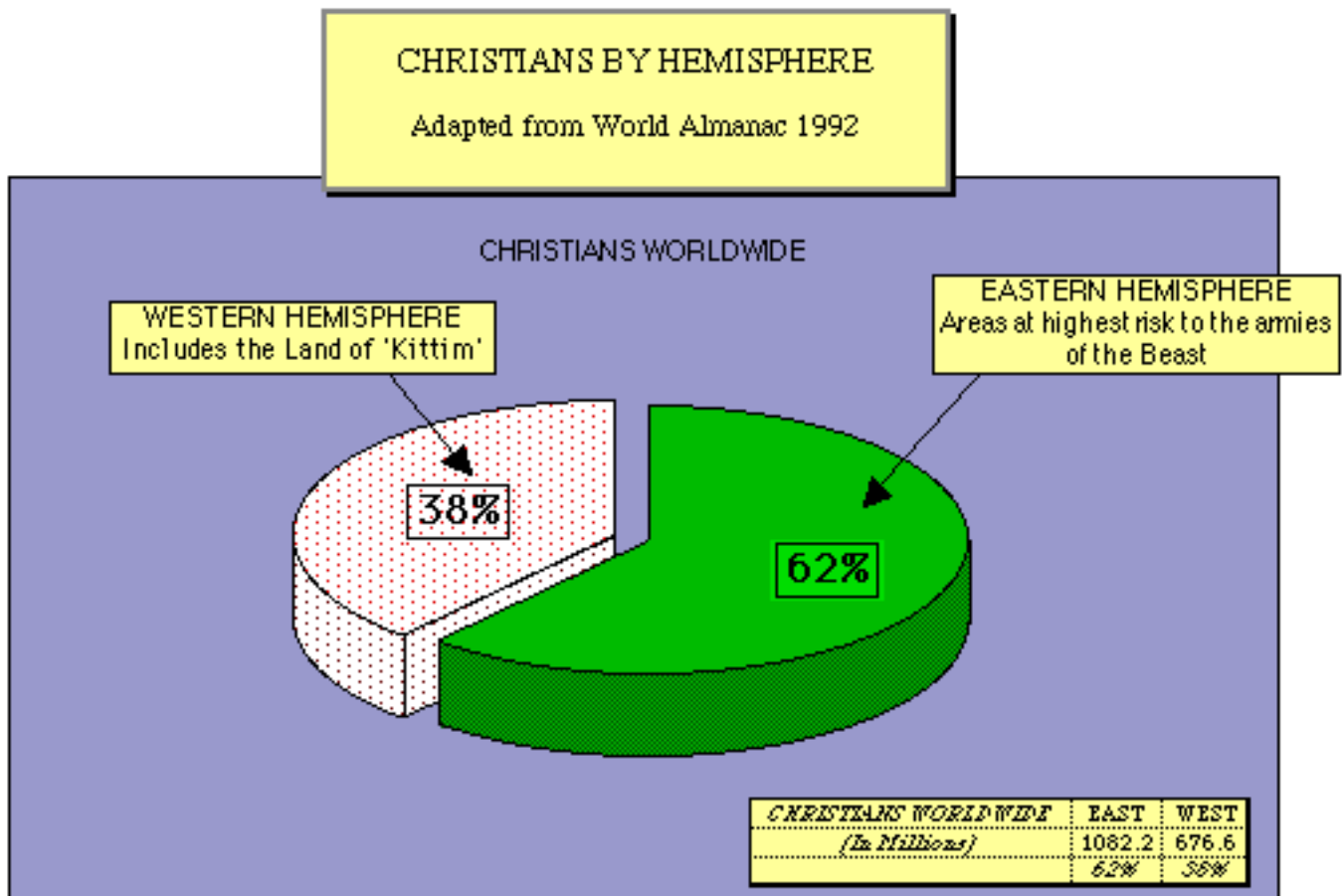
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CHRISTIANS IN THE EASTERN AND WESTERN HEMISPHERES



According to the Bible, the 'beast' is destined to rise in the Eastern Hemisphere, somewhere near the Black Sea. Daniel has prophesied that he, and the kings and nations surrounding him will turn the lands of this hemisphere into rubble in their mad and violent rampages, so heinous scripture terms this combat the 'tribulation'. These militant campaigns will harshly impact the entire House of Israel and include even the subjugation of large areas of the Western Hemisphere. The ships of a western nation called 'Kittim' are destined to halt the advances, but nothing at that point will be able to prevent what follows, because all these events, the Bible says, will set the stage for the world's final end.

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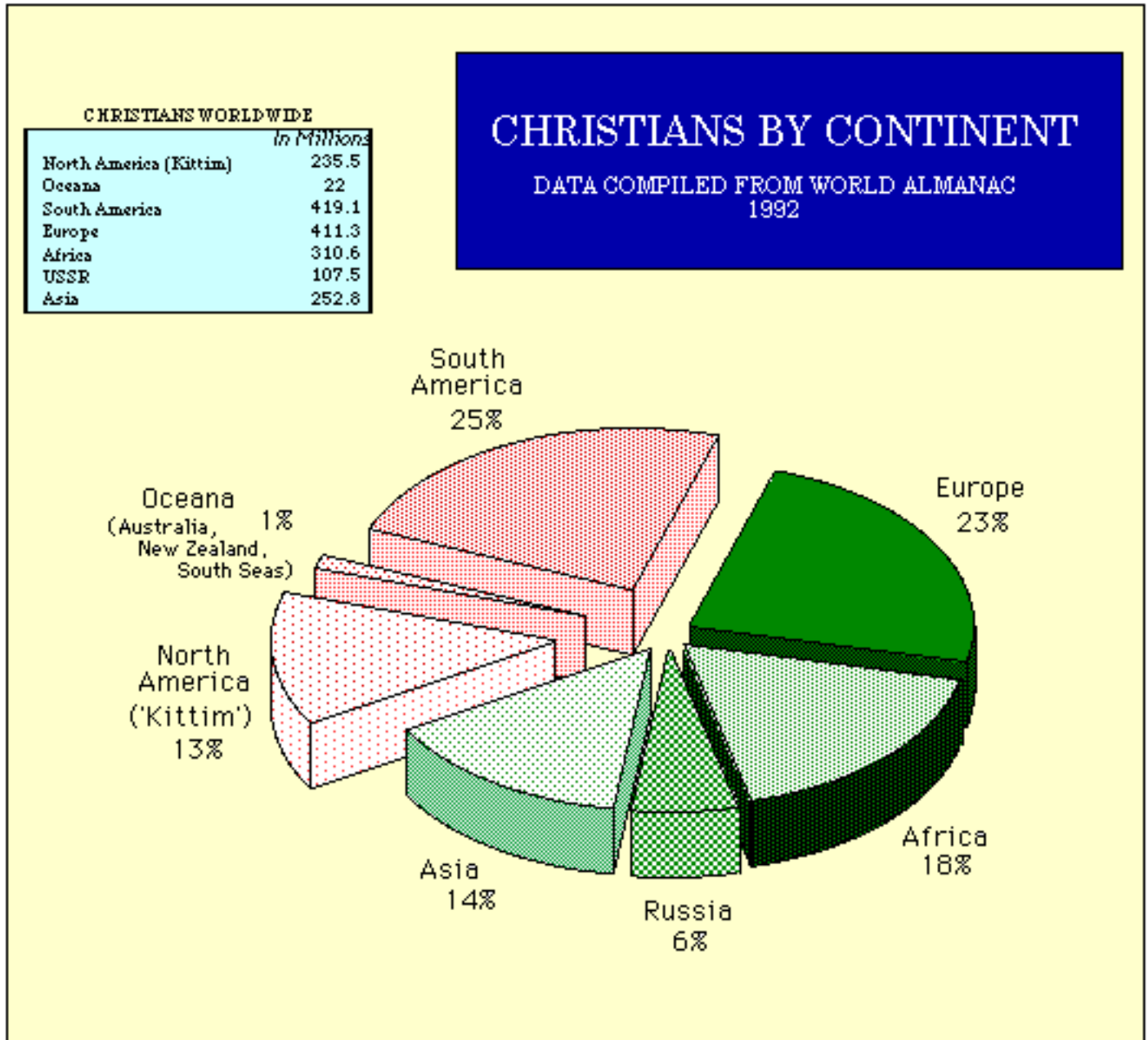
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CHRISTIANS BY CONTINENT



Like the 'Seven Hills' in the Book of Revelation, the seven continents of the world form 'Babylon', captive home to the widely scattered tribes of the House of Israel. In this graph showing the relative distribution of Christians worldwide, Russia, which sits half in Europe and half in Asia has been substituted for Antarctica, whose population is too small to measure.

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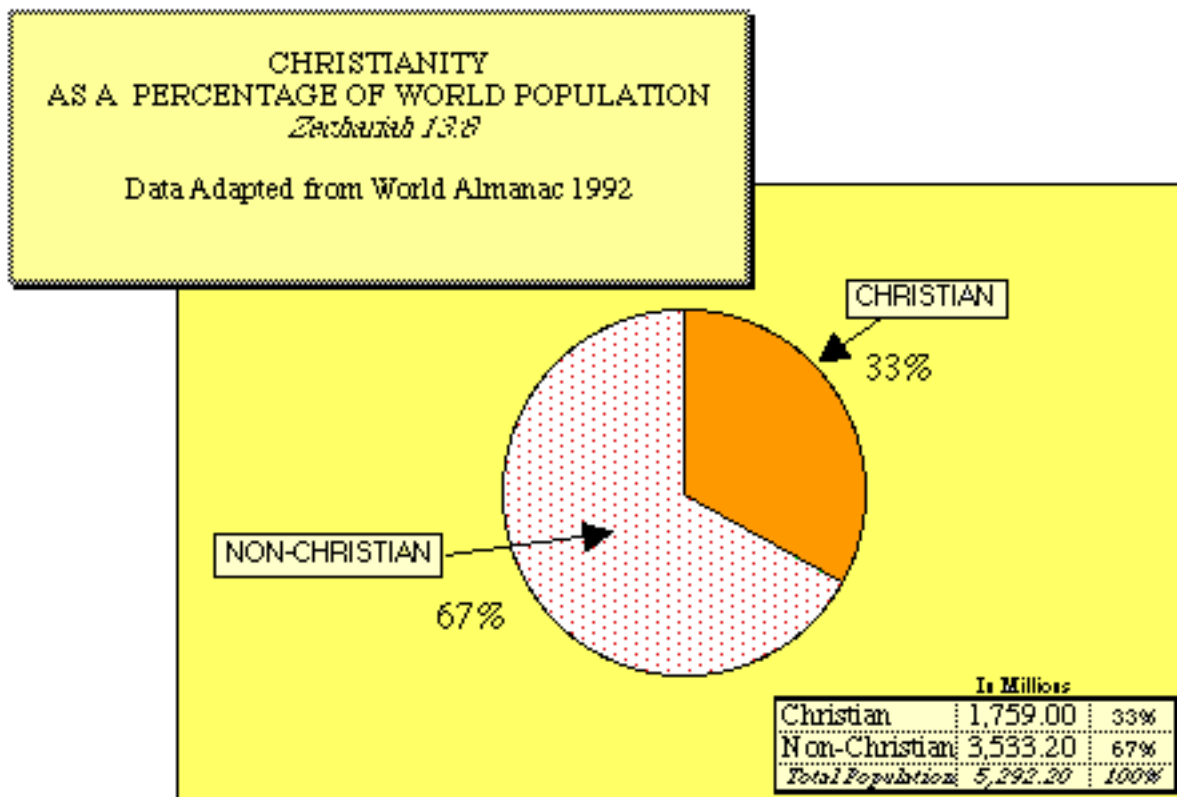
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"All Things Were Created
Through Him and For Him"

Colossians 1:16



ONE-THIRD SHALL BE PURIFIED



PROPHECY

"Awake, sword, against my shepherd and against the man who is my companion -- it is the Lord God Almighty who speaks. I am going to strike the shepherd so that the sheep may be scattered...and it will happen throughout this territory that two-thirds in it will be cut off and the remaining third will be left, I will lead that third into the fire, and refine them as silver is refined, test them as gold is tested. They will call on my name and I shall listen; and I shall say: 'These are my people; and each will say, 'The Lord is my God'."

Zechariah 13:7-9.

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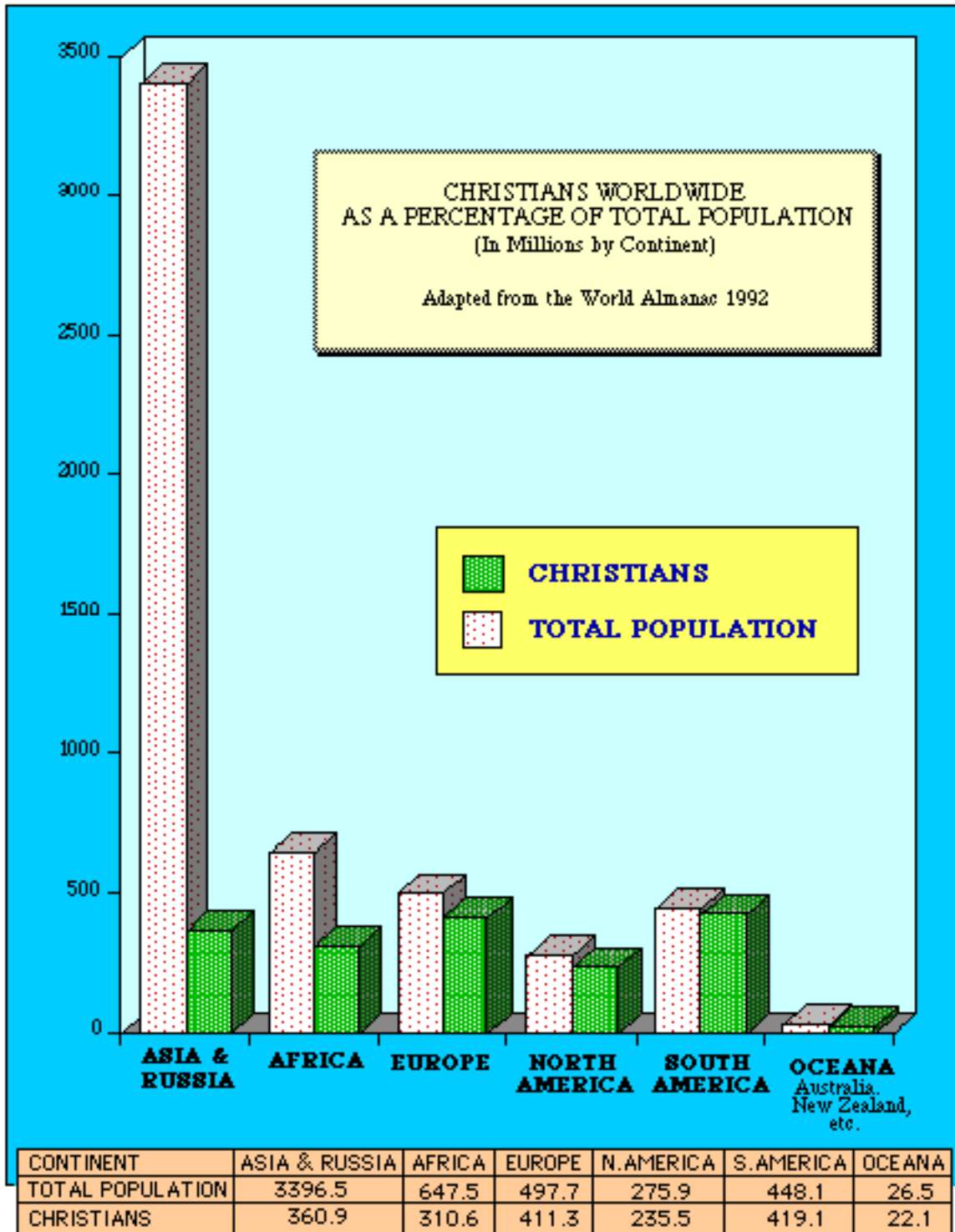
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John 8:51

CHRISTIANS AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL POPULATION



One can easily see in the graph above how the 'Great Rebel' of the last days will be able to mount an attack using eastern forces from the 'Far North' against Christians. These 1992 statistics show a non-Christian population in Asia dwarfing that of most of the rest of the world. Christians constitute the vast majority of the populations in Europe, Oceania and the Americas, but even in these countries, a recent and growing movement away from Christianity toward secularism has begun a serious erosion of this majority.

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