

Perspective

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March 7, 2026

Is the U.S. the Coming Beast Power?

As surprising as it may seem, there are those who believe the United States is the prophesied beast power mentioned in Revelation 13. They look at Revelation 13:4: *“Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?”* The United States is a formidable force of military power. No other country exceeds it in military might. The United States took down Venezuela in one day. The military arrested President Nicolás Maduro and his wife, Cilia Flores, for their role in narco-terrorism conspiracy. This was also demonstrated by the precision airstrikes in the 12-Day War when “Operation Midnight Hammer” was launched against Iran’s nuclear sites, and recently with “Operation Epic Fury” which began on February 28. This time, the U.S. said its goal was to both completely disable Iran’s nuclear efforts and also prompt change in government leadership. Those who think the U.S. is the beast also believe the United States will cause all the nations of the world to forge an allegiance with the papacy which will worship the Beast fulfilling Revelation 13:14-15. Still others posit the notion that the U.S. is the king of the North and that Israel is the king of the South. They believe the current conflict with Iran supports that idea. Could this possibly be the case? You need to know how to give an answer.

Formidable buildup of Naval and Airforce war materiel

According to military analysts, the U.S. has assembled their largest military deployment near Iran since the Iraq War at the outset of “Operation Iraqi Freedom” in 2003. Though it is far smaller than what the United States used in 2003 against Iraq for major combat operations, this armada consists of two carrier strike groups, over 50 fighter jets, and Patriot and THAAD systems staged near Iran.

Interestingly, most of the 292 U.S. Naval ships are in port or in maintenance and training, with less than a fifth of the force at sea for operations. There are a total of 49 Navy ships at sea conducting operations, 20 of which are in or around the Middle East. That means 41% of Navy ships are ready for military operations in the Mideast.

Historical context of the king of the North and South

The concept of the “King of the North” and the “King of the South” was a part of a prophetic vision Daniel the prophet recorded in Daniel 11. Jerusalem is juxtapositioned between these two kings. Historically, after the death of Alexander the Great in 333 B.C., his four leading generals divided his great empire into four regions. The Seleucid Empire, ruling Syria and parts of Asia Minor came to dominate the North, while the Ptolemaic Empire of Egypt dominated the South. Daniel 11 gives details of various conflicts, alliances, and betrayals between these two powers. Daniel also records this prophetic concept of two powers, the king of the North and the king of the South, was to exist in the end time. Daniel 11:40 states: *“At the time of the end the king of the South 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.”*

The two kings will exist in the end times. Some jump to a false conclusion. They think because the United States has such a powerful military, it is referenced in Daniel 11:40.

The reasoning that the U.S. is the King of the North is flawed from the start. First, the United States is in the West. Notice what the King of the North does in Daniel 11:41-42: *“He shall also enter the Glorious Land, and many countries shall be overthrown; but these shall escape from his hand: Edom, Moab, and the prominent people of Ammon. He shall stretch out his hand against the countries, and the land of Egypt shall not escape.”*

This king enters with the purpose to conquer Israel and Jerusalem and many other countries, including Moab and Ammon, which is modern Jordan, and Edom, which is Turkey today, and even Egypt. This end-time king, which undoubtedly lines up with the beast of Revelation 13, will be a ferocious leader who will wage war to dominate.

The purpose of the U.S.-Israeli strike on Iran is to knock out their potential to wage nuclear war, and to check its support of international terrorism. “Operation Epic Fury,” as the U.S. Department of Defense has called the strikes, follows months of U.S. military buildup in the region. After the goals of the United States are accomplished, it will be left to the Iranian people to form whatever government will exist. President Trump said

this to the people of Iran in an 8-minute speech posted online: “For many years, you have asked for America’s help. But you never got it. No president was willing to do what I am willing to do tonight. Now you have a president who is giving you what you want. So, let’s see how you respond. America is backing you with overwhelming strength and devastating force. Now is the time to seize control of your destiny, and to unleash the prosperous and glorious future that is close within your reach. This is the moment for action. Do not let it pass. May God bless the brave men and women of America’s armed forces. May God bless the United States of America. May God bless you all. Thank you.”

Freedom isn’t free

The late President John F. Kennedy said, “Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe to assure the survival and the success of liberty.”

The U.S. has always been willing to sacrifice for the freedom of other peoples. President Trump came to the aid of an oppressed people in Iran which has repeatedly publicly called the United States the Great Satan. They slaughtered thousands of their own people, killed thousands of Americans, as well as others through terrorism.

Wikiquote.org has a quote from Secretary of State, General Colin Powell, before an MTV Washington studio audience with remotes throughout the world; He was asked questions on issues, such as the global war on terrorism: “Far from being the Great Satan, I would say that we are the Great Protector. We have sent men and women from the armed forces of the United States to other parts of the world throughout the past century to put down oppression. We defeated Fascism. We defeated Communism. We saved Europe in World War I and World War II. We were willing to do it, glad to do it. We went to Korea. We went to Vietnam. All in the interest of preserving the rights of people. And when all those conflicts were over, what did we do? Did we stay and conquer? Did we say, ‘Okay, we defeated Germany. Now Germany belongs to us? We defeated Japan, so Japan belongs to us? No. What did we do? We built them up. We gave them democratic systems which they have embraced totally to their soul. And did we ask for any land? No, the only land we ever asked for was enough land to bury our dead. And that is the kind of nation we are.”

The United States is not beastlike, but has sought peaceful resolutions through diplomacy rather than fighting wars. This has been the aim of all the free countries of the Western World. However, if there is ever just cause, the United States, Britain, and its allies have been willing to make great sacrifices for the freedom of other people. The Iranian people have cried out for the last 47 years since the Islamic Republic with its oppressive theocratic government, since it was established in 1979. Iran has morality police; they mainly enforce laws to regulate Islamic dress. They ensure women wear the hijab (head covering), but it also polices whether clothing is too tight, if the body shows too much, if your sleeves are up, or your jeans are torn (Iranian American Council).

The end-time “Beast” will be beastlike

The Beast will come on the scene under the pretense of being a peacemaker, but he will desire to devour nations. When the goals and objectives are reached by the United States in Iran, we will withdraw and go home, as we always have.

Daniel 11:36 describes this coming despotic leader: *“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.”*

He will viciously gobble up virtually all nations of the Mideast. Then Daniel 11:45 says, *“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.”*

II Thessalonians 2:3-4 informs us further: he *“opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.”*

The finale of it all this is the 2nd coming of Jesus Christ. He will arrest the Beast and the False Prophet and cast them into a lake of fire. Revelation 19:20 shows their final demise: *“Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.”*

Finally, our great Lord will begin to bring about real peace in this world! Then His saints will be privileged to reign with Him in total harmony for 1000 years! Peace and prosperity will be provided all around the world.