

1. The prophecy of Bishop Bemechobus (better known as Pseudo-Methodius, 7th century, Syrian)

The original text is a shortened Latin version of the “Revelationes” of Pseudo-Methodius (7th century, Syrian). The strange name “Bemechobus” may be a corruption of “beati Methodii” (“of the blessed Methodius”). This translation omits its initial recapitulation of biblical history...

The Book of Bemechobus, bishop and martyr of Christ, translated through his efforts from Hebrew and Greek into Latin; treating of the beginning of the world, with kingdoms, with nations, and with the end of the ages, and praised by the most illustrious and blessed Jerome in his works.

[Biblical history omitted]

...So God delivered the sons of Israel from the slavery of the children of Ishmael. These [i.e. the Arabs] shall, however, renew their enterprise, they shall destroy the land, shall invade the globe from the East unto the West, from the South to the North, as far as Rome. Their yoke shall weigh heavy on the heads of the people. There shall be no nation or realm that can fight against them, until the Times shall be accomplished. Only then shall they be defeated by the Christians; and the Roman empire, in its turn, shall take captive the children of Ishmael.

The Roman empire shall rule proudly over all the nations, once it has finally broken these profane ones. Were not the Hebrews, after reigning a number of years, vanquished by the Romans? For four thousand years the Babylonians reigned, and Rome defeated them. Victorious over Macedonia, and subjugating the Scythians by force of arms, Rome saw Africans, Spaniards, French, Germans, Swiss and Bretons in turn all fall at its feet.

Then the sons of Ishmael, leaving their deserts again, shall confront the Roman empire; that is what Scripture means by these words: "the arms of the south", of which Daniel spoke foreseeing these events.

This new invasion of the Ishmaelites shall be a punishment without measure or mercy. The Lord shall deliver all the nations into their hands because of the transgressions that we have committed against his laws. That is why God delivered us into the arms of the barbarians, because we have forgotten his divine precepts.

For the Christians shall give themselves up to a host of unlawful acts and shall defile themselves with the most disgraceful depravities, and that is why the Lord has delivered them [in advance] into the hands of the Saracens. Cappadocia, Licilia, the land of Syria, once subjected to the devastation, shall become a desert; their inhabitants shall be dragged off into captivity, while others shall perish by the sword.

Massacre and captivity await the Greeks. [North] Africa shall be made desolate, the Egyptians, the Orientals and the Asians shall be made to offer tribute in gold and silver. The Spanish shall perish by the sword. France, Germany and the land of the Goths, eaten up by a thousand scourges, shall see a host of their inhabitants carried off. The Romans shall be killed or put to flight; and pursuing their enemies as far as the islands of the sea, the sons of Ishmael shall invade at one and the same time the North and the East, the South and the West.

Jerusalem shall spew out again the captives from all the nations who shall be under their yoke, and their tributaries. All the treasures and ornaments of the churches made of gold, silver and precious stones shall become their property; the desolation shall be great, the churches burnt, and the corpses of the faithful shall be thrown where no one shall be able to find them to bury them.

The way of the Saracens shall spread from sea to sea: but for the nations, there shall be no more way at all. Their only way shall be called the 'via dolorosa', which they shall follow with the same affliction -- groaning, poor and rich alike. Blessed are those who have given us lights to follow. Saint Paul had foreseen it perfectly!

Thus it is that all the earth shall be delivered to the children of Ishmael, who shall bring dissolution in their wake. That is why the Lord called Ishmael, their father, the Instrument of War; and many cities shall be made desolate, for the sons of the desert shall come, and they are not men, but beings odious to men. They shall even be

seen putting pregnant women to the sword-point and immolating the priests in the sanctuary. They shall desecrate their churches, cohabiting there with women, and they shall bedeck themselves, both themselves and their spouses, with sacred ornaments. They shall attach their horses to the tombs of the faithful as though to a bush. There shall be a general tribulation among the Christians who inhabit the earth.

It is then that those who believe firmly in the Lord shall be clearly distinguishable. For the Lord shall not send these tribulations upon the Christians in order to cause the just and the believers to perish; but in order to see with certainty who the most faithful believers are: for Truth itself said it: "Blessed shall you be when you are persecuted for my name"; and indeed the prophets who preceded us were likewise persecuted, yet whoever shall persevere to the end shall be saved.

But after these days of tribulation, when the sons of Ishmael, clad in resplendent clothes of crimson and gold like bridegrooms, shall boast of the victories that they have everywhere achieved over the Christians who have been unable to escape their clutches, and shall say: "Behold how by our own might we have conquered the earth and all who live in it"; then the Lord God shall remember, in his mercy, his promise to those who worship him, to those who believe in Christ, and he shall deliver them from the yoke of the Saracens.

There shall emerge from Gaul [interpolation by the 16th century French editor!] a race of Christians who shall make war on them and shall pierce them with the sword, shall take away their women captive and shall slaughter their children. In their turn, the sons of Ishmael shall encounter both sword and tribulation. And the Lord shall return to them the evil that they shall have done in sevenfold measure. The Lord shall deliver them into the clutches of the Christians, whose empire shall be elevated above all empires. The yoke that the Christians shall impose on them shall be hard, and those that shall remain shall be slaves. The land, previously laid waste by them, shall then be pacified. The prisoners they had taken shall once again see their homelands, and the population shall grow and multiply.

The king of the Romans shall show great indignation against those who shall have denied Christ in Egypt or in Arabia. Peace and tranquillity shall be reborn on earth, a peace such as there has never

been, and such as there shall never be: happiness and rejoicing shall be everywhere. The world shall rest from its tribulations. That shall be the peace of which the Apostle said: "When tranquillity shall be achieved there shall be a sudden mortality: men shall be as they were in the days of Noah, eating and drinking, and becoming betrothed: fear shall be banished from their hearts."

In the very midst of this calm, there shall suddenly emerge from the north with Gog and Magog a nation which shall make the whole world tremble. Horrified, all men shall hide themselves in the mountains and among the rocks in order to flee their presence. They are not of the race of Japheth. Plague of the North, they shall devour human flesh and snakes, women and little children. No one shall be able to stand up against them. Seven years later, when they shall have taken the city of Joseph, the Lord shall send one of his princes against them, and, in a trice, shall strike them with the fire of the thunderbolt: the emperor of Greece shall come and shall rule over Jerusalem for seven years.

It is then that the Son of Perdition shall appear, the Antichrist. He shall be born in Chorazin, shall be brought up at Bethsaida, and shall reign in Capernaum, as the Lord said in the Gospel: "Woe to you, Chorazin; woe to you, Bethsaida; woe to you, Capernaum, if you are exalted to the skies, for you shall descend into hell."

Next the king of the Romans and Greeks shall go up to Golgotha, where the Lord condescended to suffer the torment of the cross for us. The king of the Romans shall take off his crown, then he shall place it on the head of Christ, shall raise his hands to Heaven, and shall give up his soul to the Lord, the king of the Christians; then shall appear the sign of the cross in Heaven; the child of perdition shall come in his turn, thinking that he is God. He shall perform a thousand miracles on earth. Through him the blind shall see, the lame shall walk, the deaf shall hear, the dead shall revive, such that, if it is possible, the elect themselves shall be deceived. He shall enter into Jerusalem, and shall seat himself in the temple as if he were the Son of God, and his heart, drunk with pride, shall forget that he is the son of a man and a woman of the tribe of Dan; deceiver and forger, he shall seduce through his miracles many credulous folk.

Then God shall send two of his most faithful servants, Enoch and Elias, preserved so that they may bear witness for him against his

enemy. Then the first who shall believe in Judah shall be last. Elias and Enoch shall attack him in the face of all the people, and shall convict him of imposture and falsity. The Jews of all the tribes of Israel shall then believe and shall be killed for Christ. The Antichrist, seized with rage, shall order the death of the saints of God, and of those that shall have added faith to their words. Then shall come the Son of God in person, our Lord Christ, carried on the clouds of heaven, surrounded by legions of angels and by celestial glory: immediately they shall put to death the Antichrist, the beast, the enemy, the seducer, and those that shall have lent him their support.

This shall be the consummation of the ages, and the Judgement shall commence before thousands of angels and hundreds of thousands of archangels and seraphim. The saints, the patriarchs, the prophets, the martyrs, the confessors, the virgins and all the saints together shall be grouped around Christ. Then both the just and the sinners shall give an account, in the presence of the Lord, of their actions.

The righteous shall be separated from the wicked. The righteous, radiant as the sun, shall follow the lamb of life and the King of heaven, whose radiance shall always be visible to them, and in whose company they shall remain for ever. The wicked shall descend into hell with the beast. The righteous shall live in eternity, and shall be endlessly glorified with the King of Heaven, while the wicked shall suffer without end. May the Lord save us from a like fate! The Lord who liveth for ever and ever. Amen.

[Note by 16th century editor] *You will find this prophecy under the three letters O,O,O in the Library of divine Victor, academy of Paris, in the very noble realm of France.*