

MILESTONES TO THE KINGDOM

**a review
of world events
in 1978
based on bible prophecy**

G. Pearce

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foreword

Surely nobody, with mind alerted to the requirements that Bible prophecy make upon the world scene, could have lived through 1978 without being stirred up by events that have taken place. Russia, Europe, the Vatican, America, Britain, Asia, Egypt and Israel have all been projected upon the world scene in most significant ways. All have provided their part in the end of an epoch.

And yet there is a note of warning in the exhortation of Scripture. Christ is represented as saying: "Be ye therefore ready: for the Son of man cometh at an hour ye think not (Luke 12:40).

His words presuppose the possibility of some being taken off guard, so that that day comes upon them unawares.

The book in the hand of the reader is designed to urge the need of readiness on his part. It emphasises that we are at the epoch of the Return, and particularly stresses that we do not have to await the invasion of the Middle East by Gog of Russia (Ezekiel 38) before the coming of Christ. In fact, the requirements of prophecy are that he should be in the earth long before the political crisis of the last days reaches its culminating point.

In view of the significance of events now taking place, the warning words of the Lord are applicable: "Take heed to yourselves, lest

at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you un-awares. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man (Luke 21:34-36).

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TODAY'S NEED

There seems need for the enforcement of the practical aspects of the Truth. What is the use or beauty of the Truth apart from those moral developments which are the basis of God's workings? The Kingdom without "gentleness and goodness and truth" would be no better than the hideous and hard-hearted systems of the present day which tread the poor under their feet. "Be zealous and repent, and do the first works," is an exhortation of the Master, which is of pretty general application throughout the world. Only those who "perfect holiness in the fear of Yahweh" will find favour with Him in the day when He makes up His jewels. It is necessary to prepare for the time beforehand. The holiness enjoined appertains to the body as well as to the mind, for "our bodies are the members of Christ." We are therefore to "cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit," and to "purify ourselves even as he is pure." The present is our time of opportunity to that end. Peter exhorted: "Account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation" (2 Pet. 3:15). By that he meant that any so-called delay provides opportunity to "make our calling and election sure." Let us apply ourselves to that need.

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preface

As the details of this review have been assembled, it has occasioned surprise as to how much there is to report over just one year. It brings to mind the words of Isaiah at the end of Chapter 60: "I the Lord will hasten it in His time". As a "Day of the Lord" approaches, so the events leading to that end are quickened.

The pattern of events outlined in *Milestones To The Kingdom 1977* still appears correct in 1978. Russian might gets mightier; western Europe's preparedness and will to fight gets less; America and Europe are more detached. For Germany and France in the front line the view is expressed that it would be futile to resist the might of the Soviet, and talk of "neutrality" is heard.

The running away of Turkey from NATO towards the Soviet is exciting; also the penetration of the Soviet right to the south of the Middle East by getting a grip on Afghanistan. This now threatens Persia, and leaves but a 100 miles jump across the tip of western Pakistan to reach the Indian Ocean. On the other flank the coup in South Yemen where the naval port of Aden is situated has brought about a thorough-going communist style government there. This, with Russia's grip on Ethiopia and Eritrea just across the vital southern straits of the Red Sea, has produced a double flanking pincer movement right into the Middle East region. No wonder the USA, is so anxious to establish a counter defensive position south of the land of Israel. With great determination President Carter has pursued his objective of making Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Israel his allies; his efforts reaching some success at the Camp David 'marathon'. This defensive build-up on land south of the land of Israel has been complemented by America's closer co-operation with India and Australia, and concern in the Indian Ocean. Before our very eyes a confederation south of the Holy Land is being built up. We are seeing a gradual change of global strategy from the long established East-West orientation to a North-South orientation. This is exactly what we should look for, with Israel in the centre of the North-South positions.

There have been many other significant events, — the Queen's Jubilee tour of the Commonwealth nations, ending in November 1977, and her opening of the Commonwealth Games in Canada, August 1978; the continuing disagreement between

Britain and her Common Market partners, highlighted by the Prime Minister's anti-European federation speech at the Lord Mayor of London's banquet; the progress of Roman Catholicism in the Satellite countries, and the progress of Communism in the Catholic countries.

The quickly moving scene provokes the question, When will Christ come and call us to his Judgment Seat? Thoughts on this are given in chapter three. Before this an outline of future events is sketched, and some notes provided to justify the proposals. Later in the book there are brief statements about Israel and Egypt in prophecy and about the nations around Israel.

The faithful have been waiting a long time for the Lord to return. The long wait has brought about the suggestion: Yes he will come, but not just now! But, as Peter commented in similar circumstances, at the end of the Mosaic Age, the "delay" is for our good: "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is long-suffering to usward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance". This was addressed to the believers; it is appropriate again today. It is a time for us to come to repentance. And then Peter adds: "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night . . ." So the Master himself warned, "Behold I come as a thief." "Blessed is he that watcheth and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame" (Rev. 16:14).

CRICK, ENGLAND

NOVEMBER, 1978

The Powers must appear in the Valley of Jehoshaphat, which is an element of the Apocalyptic Armageddon. But if no move is made in Europe they will never arrive at Jerusalem. Central Italy is a question big enough to set all the world on fire. It cannot be settled till it is adjudicated from Jerusalem; and as the decree of Jerusalem's destruction issued from Rome, so the destruction of Rome must issue from Jerusalem. The existing preparations for war, which must come before long, is all with reference to this end. The sooner the better; and the hotter the war, the sooner comes the crisis the saints are looking for and desiring. "Blessed is he that watches, and keeps his garments . . ." — J. Thomas.

CHAPTER ONE:

UNDERSTANDING THE PROPHETIC RECORD

WHAT PROFIT IS THERE IN PROPHECY?

Unfolding events in line with prophecy continue as thrilling as in previous years. There is much to write about for 1978. But a word of caution is needful at the beginning. The spirit of 1 Cor. 13, is appropriate to this field of interest. Paul said that though he understood all mysteries and all knowledge, and had not love, he would be as nothing. So in watching prophecy being currently fulfilled, we must be careful not to allow ourselves to be excited and talkative, yet not giving due consideration to the implications of what is happening. The words of Peter are appropriate: "Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved (the end of the Mosaic world), what manner of people ought ye to be in all holy conversation and Godliness, looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness" (2 Pet. 3:11-13).

In every age God has graciously given encouragement to His children by the word of prophecy, and our interest in this is very proper. It is a sad thing that today there is so little interest. Although we cannot know precisely when we shall be called to the Judgment, nevertheless seeing the prophetic word written so long ago, fulfilling before our very eyes, we must be impressed that God is not a God afar off, and that He is controlling the affairs of the world day by day; and, moreover, His purpose must very soon reach its completion. If we are giving attention to these things, we are more likely to maintain a right perspective on this present world, and realise that we must not be engrossed in that which is about to pass away. The exercising of the mind, comparing the scriptures, seeking to understand, will help us to keep our minds and hearts focussed on divine matters and away from the world. It will also give us encouragement in seeing the power and faithfulness of God. As prophecy is seen to be fulfilled, we shall be strengthened to trust in Him, and acknowledge that He condescends to take note of our little lives, and that He cares for us.

Our interest in prophecy fulfilling today primarily centres

round our waiting and watching for the Master's coming. It is an important and proper question: When in the sequence of events, will we be called to the Judgment Seat? Some thoughts on this are given in the next chapter. Relative to his coming is the right understanding of the sequence of events. If we have not understood correctly the outline of events relative to his coming, we shall not be able to make much of the significant events that unfold year by year. It seems desirable, therefore, to preface our review of 1978 with an outline of what we believe is the sequence of events that we should be expecting. This will be followed with some pointers as to when our Lord Jesus Christ returns.

THE CHIEF FUTURE EVENTS ACCORDING TO PROPHECY

The major events that lie ahead are briefly:

1. The uniting of East and West Europe under Russian supremacy.
2. This will be the main element in the standing up of Nebuchadnezzar's Image on its iron-clay feet "in the latter days" (Dan. 2). It will also be the establishing of the final phase of Daniel's fourth beast (Dan. 7).
3. The Roman Catholic church and the Vatican will be involved, and the phrase *Christian Socialist State* probably expresses this character of things.
4. The present East-West relation of Powers will become a North-South relation; this is already coming into view.
5. The destruction of Nebuchadnezzar's Image has two phases: the smiting on the feet that disintegrates the confederacy; the grinding to powder that follows. The Stone Power's impact on the feet takes place when the European confederacy invades the Holy Land (Armageddon) and is broken to pieces by Christ and the saints. The "grinding to powder" is the long warfare that follows, centring on Europe proper with the countries rallying round the Papal power.
6. There is only one grand invasion of the land by the Gentile nations. Each of the prophets deal with his immediate future, and then turns to a final day of trouble sketching it in terms of the immediate enemies of Israel. These various accounts from the prophets, therefore, should be pieced together as we do the four gospels. Taken together they provide a full picture. As with any major war, there will be several phases to this campaign against Israel and their land, and the nations surrounding Israel will be involved.
7. Before the great invasion takes place, Israel has to be at rest,

and also to become prosperous, that she might provide “a great spoil” (Ezek. 38). During this time of peace, an Elijah work of building up the faith of Israel in some measure will take place, (Mal. 4), though in the great time of trouble that follows, only one third are saved and purified (Zech. ch. 13).

8. In these future events concerning Israel and Europe, it is the saints, not the angels that are in charge of the work of God and Christ. Daniel says that following the four great beast kingdoms, “the saints of the Most High shall take the kingdom and possess the kingdom” (Dan. 7:18). So after the Judgment, the immortalised brethren of Christ will take over from the angels, and control the movement of nations in accordance with the divine plan.

Those who have studied the writings of Bro. Thomas, will recognise that this outline of events is essentially that which he gave. Although there has been in recent years much disagreement with this pattern of events, there is no doubt that unfolding events are demonstrating that it is a reliable forecast. Two lines of divergence from this pattern may be mentioned. A variety of writers, each with differing details of interpretation, have in common that the resurrection is near the end rather than at the beginning of events which we associate with Christ’s coming. Without commenting on how this fails to agree with the prophetic record, the point should be emphasised, that it is a dangerous hypothesis: those who believe this way are not expecting his imminent return, and will be caught unawares when he comes. The other novel arrangement of events is to give major prominence to the “Arab” nations around Israel, and suppose that when Christ delivers Israel, it will be delivering them from these surrounding nations, rather than a larger scale issue between “christian” nations and the Jews. An answer to this viewpoint is given, briefly, in chapter seven.

REASONS FOR ACCEPTING THIS SEQUENCE.

The grounds for holding to the sequence above have been given in some detail in the three booklets: *Russia, the Vatican, and the invasion of Israel*, *The Way to Jerusalem*, and *Babylon and Jerusalem*. A few notes that will help in study are given below.

1. In Daniel 7, the fourth beast, with its little horn and its brazen claws “to stamp the residue”, is prominent when Christ returns as the Ancient of Days. From this we deduce, (a) that the Roman Empire in some form is to re-emerge — East and West

Europe must be joined together; (b) that the Papal horn must be part of the system if it is to speak “great words” before the Ancient of Days, v.11; (c) that the military strength — the brazen claws — belongs to the eastern part of the Roman world, pointing to the dominance of Russia, moved into south-east Europe.

It should be remembered that the Roman Empire was governed for many centuries from Constantinople or Byzantium, and Russia is the heir to the Byzantine eastern world.

2. In Daniel 8, “the King” of v. 20 is readily deduced as being the Roman power, as it follows the Grecian Empire of vv. 21-22. Subsequent verses make it clear that this same Roman power is there to the very end, since it “stands” up against the Prince of princes” (v.25), to be “broken without hands” — by divine power. So, in some form, the old Roman power, which must include all Europe, is there when Christ returns.
3. This ‘King’ of Dan. 8 also figures in Dan. 11:36-39. These verses cover the centuries when the Roman power dominated all Europe and when it changed its pagan dress for a “christian” dress and honored “a new god” enthroned at Rome.

The statement that follows: “At the time of the end”, (v.40), is a little difficult to decipher, but using the information gleaned from Daniel 8, where it is clear that the “King” is the one who stands up against Christ, it is a fair conclusion that in v.40 the King of the North and the King, or Roman power, coalesce, and become the invader of the Holy Land. The end comes when he is about to establish himself “in the glorious holy mountain” to rule the world, and Michael, Israel’s great Prince, stands up to deliver his people. So the picture is of Russia and Europe going into the Holy Land in the Time of the End to be destroyed by Christ.

Those who like to say that the Time of the End (Dan. 11:40-44) has already been fulfilled by the Turk, leave us with the unreasonable proposition that in Daniel’s record of “what shall befall thy people in the latter days” (ch. 10:14,21) nothing is said about the final great conflict in Israel’s land, while a lesser happening at the hand of the Turk is given in great detail.

4. Despite recent criticism, there is historical evidence that the regions associated with the names Gomer and Magog in the confederacy of Ezekiel 38 are France and Germany. This means that all Europe is included, and the confederacy described corresponds roughly with the full extent of the Roman Empire.

5. The prophets of Israel made it clear that there would be a latter-day representative of Babylon who would oppress Israel, as in the days of the Chaldean Babylon — (please read Isa. 14:1-14; Jer. 51:1-25). It is not surprising therefore that in the Apocalypse, when Christ returns, the great enemy is called Babylon *the Great*. The apocalyptic Babylon, centred on Europe is a vast political system that has the spirit and character of the original Babylon. We must put together Isaiah 14, Jeremiah 51, Revelation 17,18 to obtain the full picture. If we do this, we shall conclude that the latter-day Babylon *the Great* centred on Europe, will seek to include in its territory the Holy Land and the Middle East, and set up world rulership in Jerusalem. So Christ's first attack on Babylon the Great will be in the Holy Land. (This will be an antitype of Cyrus entering Babylon via the dried up bed of the river Euphrates — Isa. ch. 45. Thus the Turkish power, the symbolic river Euphrates, is first dried up, Rev. 16:12, so that Israel, Christ and the saints, may operate there in the first attack on Babylon the Great). The information in Revelation 17, 18, tells us that there will be a strong religious element in the confederacy of Europe and other nations against Israel.
6. The period of peace in the land of Israel before the great invasion (Ezekiel 38) is suitable for a time of instruction expressed in Malachi 4:4-6, when Israel is being taught to remember the law of Moses . . . with the statutes and judgments, and the hearts of the children are being turned back to the faith of their fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob — “before the great and dreadful day of the Lord.” This will be the beginning of their being ‘made willing’ (Psa. 110:3). Such preliminary instruction, followed by the fiery trial of the invasion of their land, will be of a purifying process (Mal. 3:2,3; Zech. 13:8,9). Such a development is necessary for them to be in a position to say when they see him again, “Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord” (Mal. 23:39). As we shall see in the next chapter, it is proposed that the resurrected saints will be involved in this Elijah work among those of Israel already in the land; which indicates that our call to the Judgment Seat is very early in the divine programme.

CHAPTER TWO: THE CALL TO THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST — HOW SOON?

The Brethren of the last century will be amazed when they come to life again, to see how many years have gone by, and how this has allowed the extensive development of the nation of Israel in the land; the growth of the gigantic military and naval power of Russia; the opening up of 'darkest Africa' and other countries; the shrinking of the world through instant communication and jet-age flight so that world government seems reasonable. We who look upon this scene are made to realise God does not rush His programme, and that the events that still lie ahead doubtless will take more time than we perceive, with our limited enlightenment. Though there are various developments yet to take place before the invasion of the land, the most likely deduction is that our taking away to judgment will be soon. We will outline briefly the pointers to this conclusion.

The clearest picture comes from Revelation 16, where the events of our time are set out under the pouring out of the vials. The sequence under the 6th vial is:

1. Froglike spirits going forth to the whole habitable to gather the nations for the war of that great day of God Almighty (v.14).
2. Christ's advent as a thief, and the judgment — "lest he walk naked" (v.15).
3. "He gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon" (v.16).

The frog-like spirits of democracy-socialism-communism have been "going forth" from the Vatican, West Europe and East Europe in the past 25 years. (See *Babylon and Jerusalem* ch. 8). So the next event in this prophetic record is the coming of Jesus Christ — "as a thief". We should be on the alert for this, expecting him and making ready for him.

But more than this may be deduced from this scripture. After Christ's coming and his inspection of his disciples there is the gathering of the nations into the Holy Land. "Gathering is the key word. It means to *lead together, to collect*. What is involved in this "gathering"? The same phrase is used in v. 14, where the frog-like spirits likewise are "gathering". Here, clearly, is a process involving many years, in which policies are developed and positions taken up by the nations. So the development of idea from vv. 14-

16 is that a process of gathering, commencing as the result of the emergence of the frog-like spirits, is then taken over by Christ and the saints in its final stages, into the Holy Land for Armageddon. This final "gathering" under the supervision of the saints, will take time. They, like the angels now, will influence the policies of the nations to bring about the result God intends. So we may conclude that there will be a period of time after the saints have been joined to Christ before the invasion of the land. This places Christ's coming and the resurrection early in the programme. It would be in this period of time, also, that the peace in the land ensues, and the instruction of the Jews there is taking place.

The RV translation of v. 16, *they gathered*, that is, the frog spirits gathered — should be rejected. The subject is singular not plural in the Greek. See *Babylon and Jerusalem* p. 59.

Another pointer to the early date of the resurrection and judgment is the work in Israel "Before the great and dreadful day of the Lord", already referred to. In addition to what has already been said, consider Jeremiah 3:14-17.

"Turn, O backsliding children, said the Lord; for I am married unto you: and I will take you one of a city, and two of a family, and I will bring you to Zion: and I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding. And it shall come to pass, when ye be multiplied and increased in the land, in those days, saith the Lord, they shall say no more, the ark of the covenant of the Lord. At that time they shall call Jerusalem the throne of the Lord and all nations shall be gathered unto it".

So at an early stage, before Israel returns in large numbers to the land, God provides "pastors according to mine heart". Surely these are the resurrected saints. "One of a city and two of a family" would be appropriate for the present time; whereas after the invasion of the land the Jews are brought back in great numbers: "Who are these that fly as a cloud, and as doves to their windows? Surely the isles shall wait for me, and the ships of Tarshish first, to bring my sons from far" (Isaiah 60:8-9). We suggest that these pastors after God's heart are part of the Elijah mission to the Jews in the land, before the great and dreadful day of the Lord.

This view regarding a preaching by "pastors according to mine heart" to build up in Israel some degree of faith before their final day of trouble in the great invasion, so that they can respond with understanding when they are delivered, is supported by a consideration of the series of chapters on the restoration of Israel

in Ezekiel, chapters 34-48. It is not easy to decide on what time sequence there is between chapters 34 to 38. Rather than have one chapter beginning when the previous one has finished, it seems more reasonable to regard each chapter as dealing with a different aspect of the restoration; so that chapters may be running parallel. Nevertheless we would expect the various aspects to be arranged in an appropriate order — the first matters of the restoration being given first. The proposed structure of the chapters is as follows:

1. Chapter 34: new shepherds who care for the flock, under One Shepherd their prince.
2. Chapter 35: the enemy, typified by 'Mount Seir' removed from the land.
3. Chapter 36:1-15: the land blessed to provide livelihood and prosperity for returning Israel.
4. Chapter 36:16-38: the people's change of heart — a process over many years, involving the many Jews still in dispersion.
5. Chapter 37: *national* restoration in the figure of a new body, strong and endued with Spirit — the nation under the New Covenant and the administration of the saints.

Then two appendices, filling out special aspects —

6. Chapters 38-39: the preadventural return, brief prosperity, invasion and deliverance, by which God says, "Thus will I magnify myself, and sanctify myself, and I will be known in the eyes of many nations, and they shall know that I am the Lord — Yahweh".
7. Chapters 40-48: details of Israel's future constitution — the land division, the temple, the laws and worship.

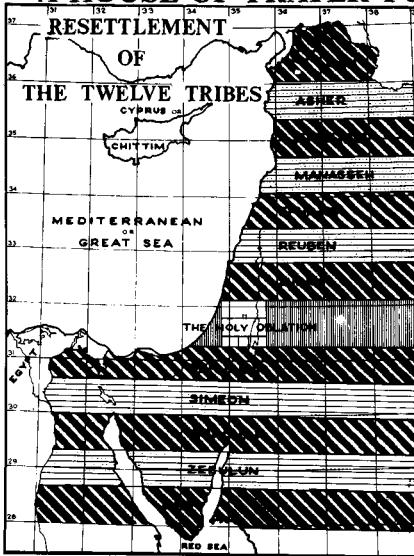
On the basis of this analysis, we have, in harmony with Jeremiah ch. 3, the new shepherds on the scene as the first item, chapter 34; indicating that we should expect the return of Christ and the Judgment at any time.

A few comments on chapter 35 and 37 are necessary. Regarding chapter 37 and the dry bones by stages becoming a mighty army, energised by God's spirit, it is a mistake to relate this to the people in the land at the present time. The present nation is a socialist state, a member of the United Nations, basically like the other Gentile nations. Moreover those in the land are but a small part of the whole nation, and will be much smaller after the destruction of two thirds. The great ingathering is a process after Armageddon which will present them as an army with flesh and bones but 'dead'. When they are inducted into the New Cove-

nant, and the immortal princes of Israel, under Messiah, are installed as their rulers, and their laws and worship are established, then figuratively the Spirit of God will have entered into the dead bodies. "Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them: and I will place them, and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in the midst of them for evermore. My tabernacle shall also be with them: yea, I will be their God and they shall be My people" vv. 26,27.

Regarding Mount Seir as Israel's enemy in Ezekiel chapter 35, this is dealt with in chapter seven.

A HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL NATIONS

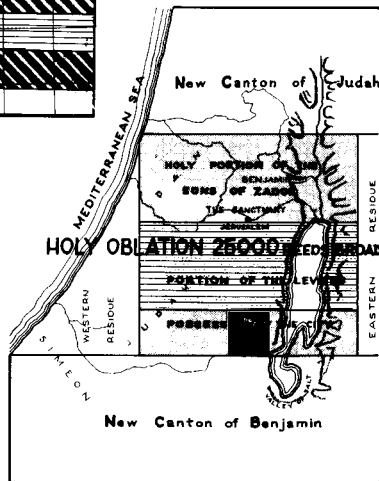


Jesus Christ taught them saying:
*"Is it not written, My house shall be called
of all nations the house of prayer?"*
(Mark 11:17; Isa. 56:7).

Israel is to be humbled, disciplined, educated, restored and elevated to the first dominion (Micah 4:8). Ungodliness will be turned away from Jacob by the Deliverer, (Rom. 11:26) and the nation revived "as in the days of old" (Amos 9:11; Acts 3:21). Israel will again be sectioned among the twelve tribes, and they will be allocated new areas as enumerated in Ezekiel 48. Over each of these tribes, one of the Apostles will reign as prince (Matt. 19:28), subject to the King of kings (Rev. 19:16) who will reign from Jerusalem (Luke 1:32-33; Matt. 5:35). The northern and southern boundaries are described as from the Euphrates to the Nile (Gen. 15:18—the Hebrew word related to the Nile, and not the brook of Egypt referred to elsewhere where a different word is used), and from "sea to sea" (Psa. 72:8) or from the Mediterranean to the Persian Gulf. Thus a greatly extended stretch of territory will be occupied by Israel as the chief of nations.

THE HOLY OBLATION

A section of the land, approximately 56 miles square (Ezek. 48:20), occupying practically all of Judah's ancient territory, (together with some of Dan's and Benjamin's) will be set apart for the specific use of Divine worship (Zech. 2:12). This territory will be divided into profane (Ezek. 48:15), holy (v. 14), and most holy (v. 12) sections. The southern-most portion will be given over for the City where visitors to the Land will be housed pending their call to the Temple for worship (Deut. 33:19). The central section will be given over to the Levites (the mortal priests of a lower course) who will assist immortal priests in the worship. The northern-most sector will be for the use of the Sons of Zadok — the immortalised priests. East end west of this Holy Oblation will be a section described as the Prince's portion (Ezek. 45:7). Those among the immortals or mortals whom he wishes to particularly honour, may find a place of residence in the Prince's portion in accordance with the terms set forth in Ezekiel 46:16-17.



CHAPTER THREE: RUSSIA AND EUROPE

WEST EUROPE'S GROWING SPIRIT OF SURRENDER

The new feature about Russia in the 1970's and in particular in 1977 has been her emergence as a world imperial power. Previously her expansion had been for centuries the extension of her own borders. But with the phenomenal development of her sea power, combined with air-power, she has acted effectively in Central Africa, the Horn of Africa, Aden, Afghanistan, S.E. Asia. This is seen as part of a master-plan to strangle the supply of oil, trade and raw materials to W. Europe. The take-over of W. Europe continues to be the Soviet's first objective, if possible without major conflict with the U.S.

Russia's preparation to take over W. Europe was illustrated in *Milestones to the Kingdom 1977* by the progress of the socialist-communist parties in all the western countries; by the vast number of spies and collaborators in these countries, especially in west Germany; by the military strength in the central Europe front; by the naval strength on the Baltic and Mediterranean flanks, supported by statistics; the treaties between Germany and the East, and the growing co-operation between Germany and the Soviet controlled countries.

In 1978 there is no outstanding event in Europe, but the sum of many developments shows an overall and significant change. The many pressures Russia is developing are having their due effect, and allowed to continue a few more years, W. Europe's will and intention to defend herself against the might of Russia will go. The disappearance of the USA superiority in nuclear weapons has taken away the restraint against a Russian conventional military invasion of W. Germany. Because of Russia's highly mobilised army positions on her eastern front, the West would have a mere 48 hours notice of an impending attack, and the remoteness of the USA, in such an event, and the slowness of Congress decisions, the dreadful devastation that a Russian style advance would bring, especially to W. Germany which would be in the front line — these are factors that are shaping public opinion. With this understandable fear of vast devastation, the governments in W. Europe have shown but a small response to President Carter's urging to strengthen Nato and spend more money on defence. It seems futile, and in addition there is an unwillingness to sacrifice

their pleasures and standard of living to find the money. There is evidence that both France and Germany have already secretly agreed to a position of neutrality when the day of crisis comes.

The overall Soviet strategy involving Europe was expressed by Brig. W.F.K. Thompson in the *Daily Telegraph* under the heading *Russia at the Traitors Gate*:

“The Soviet Union has never disguised its ideological aim of achieving world-wide Communism, nor its imperialist determination that this should be under the direction of the USSR. The Soviets, however, want victory, not war, at least, not a shooting war with the United States. Their chosen means to this end are external blackmail coupled with internal subversion.

“It follows that the USSR is unlikely to initiate military aggression against the Nato area. . .

“If this reasoning is sound, then the great danger to the West is not one of war but of surrender. The gradual surrender of Western interests in the face of an increasing potent and implicit military threat can, perhaps, already be seen in the day-to-day diplomacy of the United States and other members of Nato.

“It is, however, with the dangers of a more dramatic surrender to an explicit military threat by the USSR, made in support of demands contrary to Western interests, or in pursuit of Soviet strategic goals, and consequent creation of a major international crisis that I want to deal.

“Such crises must be expected, though where or when is unpredictable; maybe on Nato’s flanks, the Baltic approaches, Berlin or Yugoslavia; maybe outside the Nato area in the Middle East or Africa or elsewhere. To ensue that in such a crisis the Soviet will prevail, the USSR is forging two external means for coercing the West, which in conjunction with the fifth column within Nato countries are designed to bring about their surrender.

“The first instrument of blackmail is the explicit threat to use increasingly superior conventional forces in Europe when, for practical purposes, there exists a nuclear balance between the USSR and the USA. The second instrument of blackmail, which is being forged in Africa at this moment is the ability through political influence allied to maritime power to threaten to deny to the West the oil of the Middle East and the strategic raw materials of southern Africa.” (*Daily Telegraph* 1/5/78).

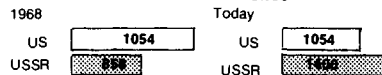
In more detail the European scene can be analysed as follows:

1. The gross inequality of military strength between the two sides.
2. The unreliability of USA support.

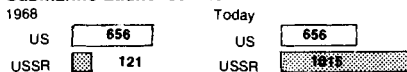
The shifting balance

Strategic Nuclear Forces

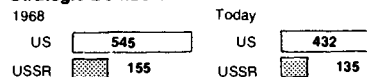
Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles



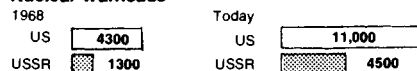
Submarine-Launched Missiles



Strategic Bombers

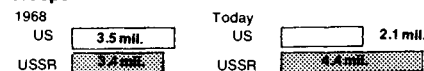


Nuclear Warheads

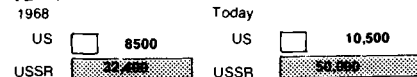


General-Purpose Forces

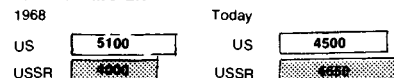
Troops



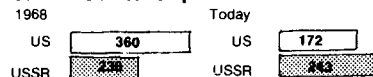
Tanks



Tactical Aircraft



Surface Combat Ships



Future danger:

Soviet gains in missile accuracy and warheads — plus other advances in last decade — will confront the entire US land-based missile force with threat of a knockout attack by 1983.

Source: US Dept of Defence, Congressional Budget Office, International Institute for Strategic Studies.

THE SHIFTING BALANCE (published in *The Bulletin*) graphically illustrates the growth of Russian power. The Preface of Elpis Israel states: "When Russia makes its grand move for the building-up of its Image-empire then let the reader know that the end of all things, as at present constituted, is at hand. The long-expected, but stealthy, advent of the King of Israel will be on the eve of becoming a fact; and salvation will be to those who not only looked for it, but have trimmed their lamps by believing the gospel of the kingdom unto the obedience of faith, and the perfection thereof in fruits meet for repentance." The times are thus significant.

3. Communist and fifth column penetration in the various countries.
4. Lack of will to maintain adequate defence; secret neutrality pacts.
5. Growing stranglehold on oil and raw materials supply.

RUSSIAN PREPARATIONS FOR CONVENTIONAL WAR

The future development this year of Soviet preparedness for action in Central Europe was expressed in the following article by Clare Hollingsworth in the *Daily Telegraph*. As we read it, imagine ourselves as West Germans living with this threat poised over us from the highlands of Czechoslovakia; it is not difficult to understand the growing mood that neutrality and guaranteed security are better than resistance. The article stated:

RUSSIANS STEP UP READINESS

“The 31 Russian divisions deployed in East Germany and Central Europe have recently increased their manpower and operational capability.

“The strength of each rifle division has been raised from 11,000 to 14,000 men.

“The number of tanks has been increased by 30 per cent. as the new T 72 tank has been issued to units while the tanks these theoretically replace have been retained. Thus the West is now confronted by 12,000 main battle tanks.

“In order to keep the 10 Russian tank divisions now stationed in East Germany supplied, a comprehensive logistic system has been introduced which is supported exclusively by Russian units.

“And the twenty Russian divisions deployed in East Germany have a broad corridor across Poland for supplies and reinforcements.

“Warsaw Pact power now deploy 33 combat divisions in the area between Stettin on the Baltic Sea and the border of Czechoslovakia in the south — the Oder Neisse line — according to intelligence estimates reaching Nato headquarters in Brussels.

“A further 22 divisions could be sent into the same area — to the east of Berlin — from the western sectors of the Soviet Union within 48 hours.

“Non-Russian Warsaw Pact forces are reported to have their own supply networks which are ‘understood’ to be able to operate without ‘foreign’ assistance.

“In addition, all air force supply bases have had their runways lengthened when necessary in order to enable them to

handle larger aircraft. Thus Aeroflot can reinforce the military transport fleet when an emergency airlift is required.” (*Daily Telegraph* 7/8/78).

The mighty armaments’ machine for the day of war is well expressed by the following extracts from an article in the Canadian weekly *Maclean’s Magazine* May 29, 1978, with the heading

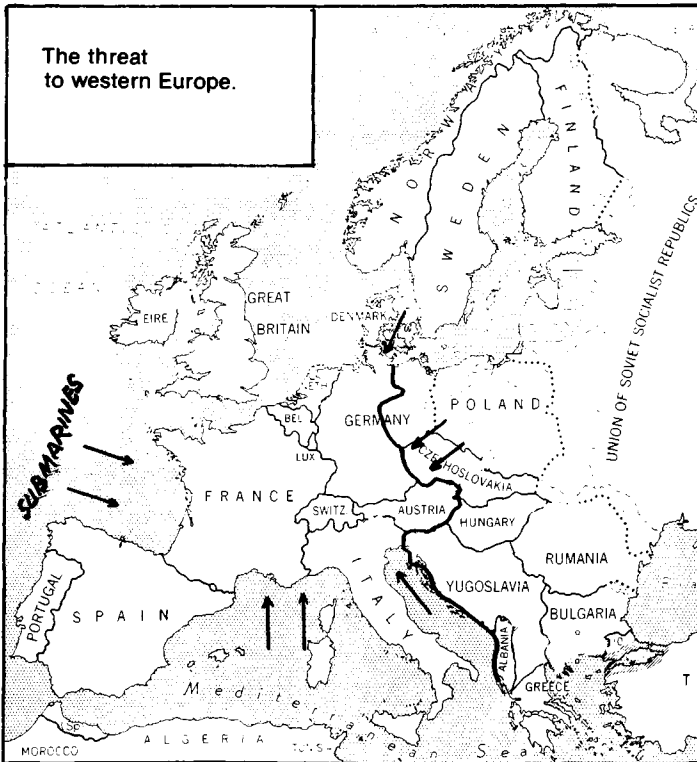
THE GATHERING STORM

Air force

“Over the next six years, U.S. analysts predict, the Soviet air force will grow from its present 4,200 planes to 10,000. For the last six the U.S.S.R. has built an average of three new fighter aircraft a day, 365 days a year. That’s double the U.S. production.”

Tanks

“While the U.S. produced an average of 469 tanks a year from 1972 to 1976, the Soviets have produced an annual 4,990.”



The extent of the Russian threat is illustrated by the contrasting figures published on page 19.

Armored personnel carriers and fighting vehicles:

“As the U.S. has been making 1,556 a year, the Soviets have produced an annual 4,990”

Artillery

“The U.S. makes 162 pieces a year, the Soviets average 1,310.”

The same picture can be stated in another way: over the years the western powers have spent 5% of their G.N.P. (Gross National Product) and the Soviet and allies 12-14%. The cumulative effect of this is tremendous.

INCREASING COOLNESS BETWEEN W. EUROPE AND AMERICA

With such a constant military threat on their borders, it is not surprising that western Europe weighs up critically the reliability of the United States. The growing mood in W. European countries is that because they are not sure of USA reliability in a time of crisis, it may be better to come to terms with the East. Several considerations generate these growing doubts. There is the fear that the USA President would not wholeheartedly come to the defence of the W. Europe; and in any case reinforcements would probably not arrive in time; and the decision to take nuclear action would be hesitant. In addition there is the general growing unfriendliness arising from opposing commercial, industrial, economic, and political views. From the days of De Gaulle, France has traditionally been anti-USA. Now W. Germany is increasingly irritated and uncooperative. The current situation was expressed by the W. German correspondent in the *Washington Post* headed:

GROWING WEST EUROPEAN DOUBTS ABOUT CARTER

“Jimmy Carter’s image as an American president able to lead the Western alliance and deal effectively with the Soviet Union appears to be in serious and worsening trouble in Western Europe . . .

“Perhaps the gravest fears are expressed by an experienced French official who travels widely in both East and West. ‘The situation is very frightening now. The Soviets have little or no respect for the American administration. They think it very soft. You have the exact reverse of Cuba in 1962 missile crisis when the Russians went in thinking they had a soft opponent and came out concluding the administration was tough.’

“American and French diplomats in particular, express concern about U.S.A.-German relations. The view that there are few if any people in the White House who pay enough attention or

know enough about the Germans is widespread. The fear is that the unprecedented number of problems that have suddenly yet steadily arisen in Bonn-Washington relations under the Carter administration will at some point alienate the Germans or lead to political changes here and a conservative assumption of power that are not foreseen in the White House.

“Someday we simply are going to turn around, and the Germans won’t be there when we need them,” said one U.S. diplomat.” (*The Guardian* 16/4/78).

The Washington Post return to the same topic in October with the headline: **EUROPEAN FEARS OF U.S. SELL-OUT** (*Guardian* 8.10.78).

President Carter’s style of ‘trial and error’ are considered fatal to successful foreign policy. Also his acting on moral principles without the power to enforce them is not effective.

The success already achieved by Russia in weakening the spirit of resistance in Western Europe is apparent from an article of R.H.C. Steed in *The Daily Telegraph* headed:

THE INTIMIDATION OF EUROPE

“Whether Turkey’s semi-defection will prove the last straw for that Nato camel’s overstrained but hitherto acrobatically flexible back I cannot say. I do feel bound, however, to point out that the alliance, after years of accelerating erosion, is now disintegrating before our eyes.

“This is already preventing Western reaction to Russian expansion, which is becoming daily more daring as a result. It is also causing an alarming decline in Nato’s morale and prestige, and to increasing submission, both inside and outside the alliance, to Soviet intimidation. The effects — military, political and psychological — of long years of neglect are now apparent.

“The over-all balance in quality — not only in weapons and efficiency, but also in the morale of troops — has moved to the other side. To this must be added the enormous assets of central position, central command by Russia, standardisation of equipment and economic self-sufficiency.

“For me the shock of realising the extent to which Europe was influenced by Russian intimidation came with the row over the neutron weapon. This was the made-to-measure answer, provided by America, to the threat from Russia’s four-to-one superiority in tanks and artillery.

“There were no technical, financial or political problems on the American side, and the assumption was that the Europeans would gratefully accept the weapon, as in five preceding years of

military-political discussions within Nato they had expressed every intention of doing.

“The Russians then unleashed a brilliantly concerted campaign of propaganda and diplomatic bullying against the neutron weapon. Public opinions were widely and deeply affected. Some caved in.

“The neutron incident revealed an alarming degree of European submission to Russian intimidation. A weapon that is essential for Europe’s defence against an outrageous assembly of Russian aggressive forces has been as good as abandoned without any prospect of compensation. There is an obvious implication of ‘chickening out’ about all this.” (*Daily Telegraph* 30.5.78).

The Editorial comment on Mr. Steed’s article was headed *The Western Sickness* —

“It is almost impossible to read Mr. Steed’s sombre article alongside without speculating gloomily on what has caused the slow but horrifying collapse of Western nerve, will-power and morale which it vividly describes. Some of the reasons for this Mr. Steed himself supplies or hints at. Others, like sloth, greed and lack of forethought for the morrow, are constantly and proverbially part of human nature.”

THE SOVIET ‘FIFTH COLUMN’ IN W. EUROPE

The promoting of this mood of ‘surrender’ is carried on by a host of spies and collaborators. This is easy in W. Germany, using East German people. A book by an escaped K.G.B. man, Aleksei Myagkov, giving an inside account of Russian espionage, was reviewed at the end of 1976. Here is an extract:

“West Germany is by far the most active field of foreign operations for the K.G.B. because of the opportunities for getting information about Nato through a horde of agents, manipulated from East Germany.

“The Potsdam directorate controls over 1,200 Russian K.G.B. officials engaged solely in directing espionage against West Germany and the Nato forces stationed there.

“All this is in addition to the huge espionage network directed against West Germany by East Germany, with which the K.G.B. co-operates closely. On top of this comes the K.G.B. departments concerned with Russian forces in East Germany, with watching East Germany and its forces, and with counter-espionage.

“Ex-Captain Myagkov states that the K.G.B. in East Germany has a network of about 8,000 agents and co-operators in West Germany and another 1,500 of East German nationality. There is

a back-up of files and archives on such an enormous scale that it must inevitably involve an elaborate computer system.” (*Daily Telegraph* 29.12.76).

A long article by Robert Moss on the same theme was headed: *K G B 'Active Measures': How Moscow seeks to deceive the West*. The kind of activities carried on are described: “Directorate ‘A’ (“A” for *active measures* — GP) was handling over 300 deception operations a year by the end of 1970. The current annual figure is believed to be more than 500. These include: planting material in the Western media; ghost-writing books; circulating of forged documents designed to mislead Western governments and intelligence services; smear campaigns against pro-Western politicians and prominent dissidents; running phony dissident groups to dupe the Western Press and discredit the real opposition inside Russia; formenting demonstrations and strikes.” (*Daily Telegraph* 17.4.78).

The variety of ways in which the Soviet works towards its objective, and the massive scale of its activities must frighten those who are aware of the position. It perhaps adds to the sombreness of the picture to know the Soviet is steadily following a 70 year old plan. “The encirclement of the West and the reduction of its economic hinterland in Asia and Africa projected 70 years ago by Lenin in his book on *Imperialism*, have proceeded apace” — Robert Strausz-Hupe, American diplomat (*Daily Telegraph* 21.8.78).

FRENCH LONG-STANDING CONCEPT OF NEUTRALITY

It is little realised that there has been a long-standing association of France and Russia, going back to the early 1960's. Since the days of De Gaulle, France was kept out of NATO, and has developed a special relationship with Russia. It was alleged that De Gaulle saw clearly the progress of Communism in Europe, and chose to save France from further war and destruction by agreeing not to fight against Russia. In his grand style he spoke of a future Europe “from the Atlantic to the Urals”. The Russians reciprocated this interest. Thus when Krushchev made his first visit to France in 1960, *The Times* (24.3.60) had as a heading, *Mr. Krushchev woos the French*. In his first speech on arrival, he described the Soviet Union and France as “the two great Powers of the European continent”, and went on to speak of “the importance of their adopting a common position, together with all countries devoted to peace”. In 1963 an initiative by De Gaulle was reported as follows: “De Gaulle has sent Mr. Krushchev pro-

posals for a sweeping reorganisation of Europe, reports from Eastern Europe said yesterday. The essentials are said to be the direct association of Russia with Western Europe, demilitarisation of Eastern Europe, and removal of American forces from France” — (*Daily Telegraph* 30.1.63)

Regular visits between the two countries developed. In April 1965 Mr. Gromyko visited Paris, and in October of that year the French foreign minister visited Moscow. This paved the way for De Gaulle's visit to Moscow in 1966. In his speech at the Kremlin he said: “We, Frenchmen, are visiting you today because we are convinced that the relations between us should be strengthened and multiplied in all areas. Indeed, we hold that more direct and extensive co-operation between us should help Europe take the road to unity, and the world to the road of equilibrium, progress and peace” (*Times* 22.6.66). Mr. Kosykin, the Soviet Prime Minister made an eight days' visit to Paris in December of that year. The joint statement after this visit began with the words: “A new and important step has been taken in the evolution of Franco-Soviet relations towards closer bonds of co-operation, understanding and friendship founded on the broad concordance between the essential national interests of the French and Soviet peoples.”

Since De Gaulle these contacts have been maintained, and the Gaullist party continues in power in France. The Communist party has become respectable in France and has grown greatly in size. (They had 10 members of parliament out of approximately 500 in 1978, they now have 86). But Moscow still prefers to hold to the Gaullist party and appears to reject the Communist party. This appeared to be the case in the 1978 elections. Before the election there was the prospect that Socialists and Communists in coalition could become the majority party. But a short while before the elections the Communists started disagreeing with the Socialists on defence and foreign policy, and gave their support to the policies of the Gaullists with regard to an independent nuclear deterrent and non-alignment with NATO. It is believed that this change was dictated by Moscow, who wanted the existing government of Giscard Destang to continue rather than have a Socialist-Communist government. It has been claimed that Giscard and Brezhnev have agreed on French neutrality and that when Russia acts, France will stick rigidly to her policy of not allowing NATO on her soil. This would destroy any worthwhile military strategy in W. Europe.

The Communist party is not unimportant — far from it. When the time comes it will be on the side of the Soviet. Its

members are men and women living inside French society who are able to carry out Soviet commands.

NEUTRALITY FOR WEST GERMANY AS WELL?

We reported extensively in *Milestones 1977* on the growing co-operation between W. Germany and the Soviet and satellite countries. W. Brandt when chancellor negotiated treaties with Moscow in 1970, with E. Germany in 1973, and later that year with Czechoslovakia, Hungary, and Bulgaria. Although Herr Brandt had to resign in 1974 his Socialist party is still in power, and the mutual interest between W. Germany and the Soviet continues to grow. The extent of this was high-lighted by President Brezhnev's visit to Bonn in May of this year. *The Guardian* reported that chancellor Schmidt, known for his cautiousness, hailed the visit as of long-term importance: "He wants this visit to be understood by the German public as a long-term Soviet commitment — going beyond Mr. Brezhnev's personal involvement — to improve relations with the Federal Republic and accept it as a major political negotiating partner as well as a useful and rich industrial power. That is why the German Chancellor has commented about the long-term economic co-operation agreement concluded between Germany and the Soviet Union in unusually lyrical terms: 'it is a political event without parallel in the recent history of the world. . .' The economic co-operation agreement to which the Russians attach even more significance than the Germans was drawn up in a quite unusual rush within the past four weeks. It ignores Chancellor Schmidt's frequent proposals to other western nations to adopt a common policy in trade and investment with the Communists. *By this agreement Germany is once again confirmed as the Soviet Union's leading industrial partner.*" (*Guardian* 14.5.78).

Shortly after this visit of Mr. Brezhnev to W. Germany, Robert Moss wrote a long article on inside information about this visit, and its implications. Here are some extracts:

"West Germany's Chancellor Schmidt is fed up with Washington. It is an open secret that he has taken a strong personal dislike to President Carter. But above all, as the leader of a country on the borders of the Warsaw Pact, Herr Schmidt is worried about the value of the American defence guarantee.

"It is not surprising that a Gaullist mood is rising in West Germany today. This could prove to be one of the most critical developments in post-war Europe. It could have positive effects if it leads the West Germans to seek with their fellow-Europeans

(especially the French) the means of collective self-reliance in the face of the Soviet threat.

“But the immediate danger to the Atlantic Alliance is not only the rift in the special relationship between Bonn and Washington that had grown up since 1945, but the risk that Schmidt — under pressure from the Russians and the Left wing of his own Social Democratic Part (S.P.D.) — will be brought to accept a new accommodation with Moscow.

“Behind the scenes, Left-wing leaders of the S.P.D. have been pressing for a break with Nato, arguing that given the confusion in Washington, America’s military presence in West Germany is a source of peril rather than a source of security.

“The main proponents of a radical shift in West Germany’s foreign relations, in addition to Bahr, are Willy Brandt and Herbert Wehner, the leader of the S.P.D. (the present government, G.P.) in the Bundestag.

“On the eve of Brezhnev’s visit to Bonn in May, Wehner and Bahr visited Moscow for preparatory talks. They were received by Brezhnev and had discussions with other leading Soviet figures . .

. . . The two sides are then said to have discussed the possibility of a phased withdrawal by West Germany from the Nato alliance. The Russians suggested that the formal renunciation of the freedom to join any alliance by the West Germans could provide the basis for a special relationship between Bonn and Moscow.” (*Daily Telegraph* 31.7.78)

Another aspect of W. Germany’s interest in the Soviet is her lack of any indigenous supply of the many materials needed in modern technology.

“Germany depends 100% on imports of uranium, chromium, antimony, chrome, gold, cobalt, copper, manganese, nickel, platinum, titanium, vanadium, tungsten, tin, asbestos, diamonds and phosphate; the dependence on imported petrol is 95%, iron 94%, lead 85% and fluorspar 70%” (*Perth Newsletter* Nov. 1977).

HOW NEAR TO THE ‘INVASION’ OF W. EUROPE?

The threat to W. Europe has been steadily growing for a decade; everyone is now conscious of it. One wonders how long such vast forces in East Europe remain inactive. Probably Russia requires just a few years more to complete her world-wide preparations. Brezhnev will soon be off the scene, and perhaps Providence will put the “man of destiny” in power. We can conjecture the situation. Russia bestriding the commercial world by her sea

control, making it apparent that vital raw materials and food can be withheld from W. Europe; massive military forces threatening from Central Europe; a sense of paralysis in government and public opinion, as the fifth columnists stir up alarm. W. Europe will accept the face-saving formula of "neutrality for peace". Peace and safety! No more war! The blessing of the Pope! The USA hesitant in view of Europe's unwillingness to stand firm. Then there would be a period of several years while pro-Soviet "Left" governments "peacefully" establish themselves.

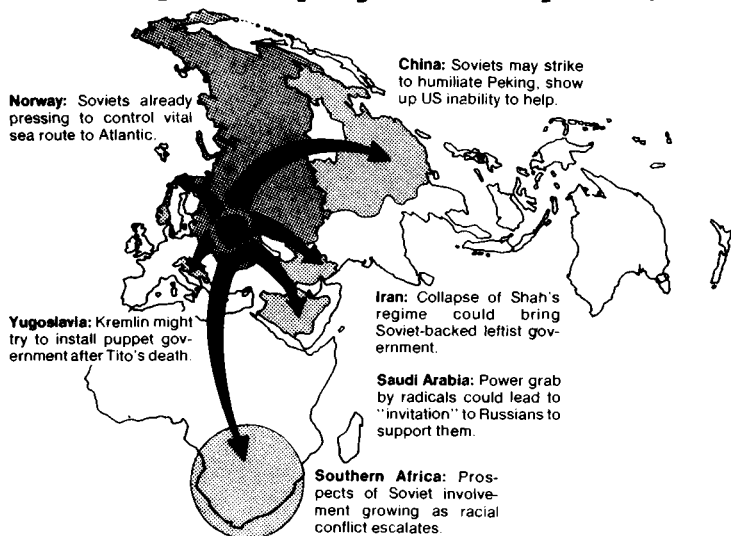
At this time Britain would be in isolation. This might well be our final time of testing. The universal fear created by the threat from the Continent would demand urgent preparations for national defence. This would by no means be limited to military preparations; the civilian side would be equally important. The challenge we should face — with no clauses about exemption on grounds of conscience — is whether we conform and help in the many passive local defence arrangements, or whether we stand aside. Perhaps the escape of those who stand aside, from a seemingly desperate situation, will be the call to Judgment.

Whereas the pointers are that in the take over of W. Germany and the rest of Western Europe there will be hardly any fighting, one should not picture a happy and co-operative east and west Europe. The communist invasion of Czechoslovakia by the Soviet 10 years ago shows the likely style of action. It was brutal, efficient and "peaceful" — peaceful because President Dubcek saw that resistance was hopeless and ordered no military defence. At one hour to midnight the invasion started: 20 divisions, 200,000 men, were on the move; 8 from the north to the W. German border; 4 from Poland, to cut Czechoslovakia in two; 4 from the east from Russia; and 4 from the south from Hungary and Bulgaria. Half an hour after midnight Prague radio broadcast: "The Presidium appeals to all citizens to remain calm and not to offer resistance to troops on the move. Our Army, Security Corps, and People's Militia have not been ordered to defend the country. By breakfast-time on August 21 the country was to all intents and purposes under Soviet occupation" (*Daily Telegraph* 21.8.78).

The key element in the surprise attack and its success was the co-operation of Communists in Czechoslovakia loyal to the Soviet, who had everything prepared. What followed? Russia promised to withdraw her troops after a short time. In fact, 90,000 of them are still there ten years later, and the Czechs, who hate the Russians, have no freedom. That is the Soviet's style. The Divine Record long ago spoke of these latter days. Habakkuk wrote his second chapter for the time of the end (v.3) and de-

scribes the dominant Power of the latter-day Babylon in these words, "Yea also, because he transgresseth by wine, he is a proud man, neither keepeth at home, who enlargeth his desire as hell, and is as death, and cannot be satisfied, but gathereth unto him all nations, and heapeth unto him all people: . . . Woe to him that increaseth that which is not his! how long? and to him that ladeth himself with thick clay", vv. 5,6. This is the picture that lies ahead for Europe. As Bro. Thomas put it *Russia triumphant, Europe in chains*.

Soviet power play: six top targets



There are six top targets that Russia has set in its drive for world domination as seen by political commentators. They are depicted above. Scripture indicates that Christ will be in the earth long before the drive on the Middle East. The fact that this is today seen as an objective of Russia indicates how close Christ's return may be.

CHAPTER FOUR: THE VATICAN AND THE SOVIET

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH IN SOVIET COUNTRIES

Over the years the persecution of the Church in the Satellite countries by the Soviet has been rather a misleading cry. *The Church* in this context is the Roman Catholic Church, and *persecution* was the inevitable Soviet opposition because it would not conform to the interests of the State. But because the Roman Catholics are generally a large proportion of the population and a strong influence in the Satellite countries, the Soviet and the Roman Catholic Church have gradually come to terms over the past ten years. This indicates that a future general agreement between the Vatican and the Soviet is not an unlikely event. The following is recent news of the increasing accommodation between the two.

POLAND

“The Catholic Church appears far more lively and prosperous than before the war, for not only do the Poles flock to mass on Sunday but churches are crowded for weekday services and there are more priests than there were 40 years ago. Nuns, too, are frequently to be seen in city and village streets.” (*Daily Telegraph* 30.10.77).

“Traditionally, the Catholic church has been the dominant religious factor in Poland. After 35 years of Communist rule, it is estimated that 90 percent of the country’s 34.4 million population are still active members of that church.

“Warily with carefully-studied tactics, Communist government and Catholic church in Poland are moving into positions of coexistence. A scenario unprecedented in the Communist world.

“Gierek went to the Vatican in December, the first Polish Communist party chief to do so, and had a friendly meeting with Pope Paul VI. Following that Vatican visit, Gierek and Wyszynski have been continuing talks that the church hopes will lead to legal recognition for the church and to the restoration of diplomatic ties between Poland and the Vatican.

“Hints have come from the government that restrictions will be eased on the printing and circulation of church newspapers. In the state schools, it is becoming easier for pupils to attend special classes for religious instruction.

“From time to time Wyszynski renews his call to the Polish people to keep the peace and boost their productivity in factory or

on the farm, so as to help the government ride out its economic difficulties.

“And tomorrow the churches in Communist Poland will be packed with Easter worshippers.” (*Vancouver Sun*. 25.3.78).

Gierek is the Communist party chief, and head of the government; Wyszynski is the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Poland, and Cardinal.

At the meeting with Gierek, the Pope is reported to have said: “The Church today can still make its positive contribution to the Polish community, particularly where respect for moral values is concerned . . . We have expressed a desire and wish for co-operation so that in a climate of trust in relations between Church and State, and in recognition of the proper tasks and mission of the Church in the contemporary reality of the country, we can act for the benefit of the unity of the Poles in creating a prosperous Poland”. (*Conflict Studies* No. 91 p. 15) What a remarkable degree of co-operation!

HUNGARY

Janos Kadar, the Hungarian Communist Party leader, also had an audience of the Pope in 1977. Quoting from the *Conflict Study* No. 91 on this visit: “To the Pope the Kadar visit marked ‘slow but uninterrupted progress over the last 14 years, which has seen the Holy See and the People’s Republic of Hungary brought closer together’. Accepting it as a sign of ‘new progress’, the Pontiff added: ‘We must open a dialogue, paying attention to the respect for the legitimate rights and interests of the Church and believers, but at the same time open to understanding the pre-occupations and actions of the State in those fields which are its proper domain’. The meeting was a ‘significant event’ in the process of normalising relations, which he hoped had been settled on a lasting basis” (p. 14).

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

The *Catholic Herald* (20.1.78) reported as follows: “Pope Paul’s policy of diplomatic negotiations with Communist regimes in Eastern Europe has scored a major victory for the Church in Czechoslovakia. The Vatican announced last week that the Czechoslovakian Government had officially recognised 78 year old Cardinal Fratisek Tomasek as the Archbishop of Prague.”

EAST GERMANY

Religion in the German Democratic Republic is more Protestant than Catholic. The following is from a report in the *Keston*

College News No. 2 1978:

“In East Germany, 6 March 1978 marked the official beginning of what promises to be a new era for the churches and for individual Christians. On that day Erich Honnecker, Head of State and of the ruling Socialist Unity Party, received the leadership of the Federation of Protestant Churches of the GDR in an unprecedented and highly publicised meeting . . . Now it has been conceded that the churches have a right not only to be tolerated, but to make their own distinctive contribution to society. Many years of patient and firm insistence on Christian independence by the church leadership has led to this positive response by the Communist Party.

“What is in it for Christians? To start with, permission to build some 55 new churches in new towns and suburbs — a radical reversal of previous government policy. Then, permission to broadcast on radio and television. The weekly church service on Radio DDR is to continue. In addition there will be a weekly bulletin of church news and views. More significant still, on major festivals the church will be given TV time.”

RUSSIA

The *Guardian* for 8/10/78 had a complete page on “Religious life in the USSR”. The concluding paragraph reads: “They both agree with the conclusions that Monsignor Etchegaray, archbishop of Marseilles, drew from his trip to the Soviet Union in 1976: ‘No one suspects the scale and intensity of religious life in the USSR. It is without any doubt the biggest volcano in Christendom’.”

THE BOOK ‘THE FINAL CONCLAVE’ AND THE NEW POPE

As the power of the Soviet increases and that of Western Europe weakens, more Vatican leaders realise that they will soon have to negotiate with the Soviet if they are to be on the winning side. This view has been given publicity in the book, published in January 1978 in America, *The Final Conclave*, by a former Jesuit priest, Malachi Martin. He was a professor at the Pontifical Bible Institute in Rome and a close associate of Pope John 23. The book has been reviewed in a variety of newspapers. The two main topics are that the Pope is in process of transferring much of his vast wealth to the U.S.A. in the hope of saving it; and that Pope Paul (now dead) is a sick man and will soon be off the scene; the next Pope being selected for his suitability to negotiate with the Soviet. Here are a few extracts from the reviews:

“He (Pope Paul) has in his head a vision of the future that Communism is inevitable and there is no point in pretending otherwise. So he wants to be on the winning side, and believes the Vatican will have to accommodate the Roman Catholic Church to that inevitability” (*Denver Post* 10.3.78):

“The general persuasion of the Vatican is that both Capitalism and Communism are totalitarian systems with nothing to choose between them,” Martin said.

“But it believes that the coming power in the world is a form of proletarian revolution embracing Italy, Spain, France and Portugal and Latin America. A lot of bishops are saying that starving babies will not be fed by capitalism and the only thing that will feed them is Socialism.

“Vatican planners have been approached by and are talking to the Russians and the East Europeans. The Russians are very keen on a deal whereby the new Pope will say to Catholics: You cannot share the Godless aspect of Communism, but you can share its economic and political system’ ” (*Northampton Chronicle and Echo* 5.4.78).

At the time of writing, Pope Paul and Pope John Paul I have passed off the scene and a new Pope, John Paul II, has just been elected. The information so far available indicates that he fits Martin’s forecast. He appears to be a man far better equipped to govern the vast Roman Catholic Establishment than his predecessor. At 58 he is a vigorous and active man, a brilliant intellect, a man disciplined by the rigours of Polish life under the Communists since 1945. He is a man of the working class, but appears to have a presence that carries authority and dignity. He was classed as a “moderate progressive” at the second Vatican General Council, 1962-5, which did so much to liberalise the Catholic Church in the eyes of the people.

The implications of changing from an Italian Pope to one from the Soviet-controlled eastern Europe will take time to be revealed, but they must be considerable. It would seem that the Conclave regarded relations with the Soviet as now of primary importance. As we have already reported on page 32. Poland is the first Satellite country where the Vatican and Soviet have worked out a reasonable degree of co-existence, mutual respect, and practical co-operation. It looks as if Pope John Paul II has been chosen as a man that will strike as tough a bargain as possible on behalf of his Church, with the Soviet. He has the advantage of many years of this sort of negotiations; and has seen the worthwhileness of an accommodation with the Soviet.

A few phrases from a long article by the editor of the *Catholic Herald* on the new Pope sketch his character, "he is a very strong man; you can see it in his face. At the Press reception last week he showed his papal aides he wasn't going to be hustled". "But his sternness and decisiveness is not the crude exercise of the power of office . . ." "At the same time he accepted the reality of the Communist regime". "His approach is pragmatic and existential, and he frequently uses words like liberation and solidarity which have come to be associated with Marxism". "Some people are seeing Wojtyla as a great anti-Communist crusader, but this is not his style. He accepts the reality of the Communist regimes but demands basic freedoms for the people and for individuals. He sees the situation as a complex one between Church and State, between God and Caesar. He is not, as he said last week, in the business of changing governments, but reminded the diplomats that good relations did not necessarily mean approval".

Norman St John-Stevan, Shadow Education minister, wrote in similar style. "There can be no doubt that the Ostpolitik of Popes John and Paul, opening up relations between the Vatican and the countries of the European Communist bloc, will continue and be intensified". ". . . leaving the task of coming to terms with (Italian) Communism to the Italian Conference of Bishops, whose primarily responsibility it is" (*Catholic Herald* 27.10.78).

The *Guardian Weekly* regarded this Pope's election as of sufficient world significance to put its comments on the front page for two weeks running. They expressed this growing world influence of the Papacy in the following words:

". . . Rome has rarely in recent decades ridden higher or with more self-confidence than now. The modernity which the Roman Church has suddenly donned with the choice of a cardinal from the Polish crucible must mark a decisive advance not only in the claim to the leadership of Christendom but in the more important claim to an understanding of all sorts and conditions of men. It is this understanding with which Pope John Paul II has already, this week, impressed a wider world, as he formerly impressed his diocese and country . . . But the Pope has given himself an apostolic mission, not a political one; he appears to transcend and not merely bridge the Christian-Marxist gulf; and it could transpire that in their astonishing choice the cardinals have found a combination of personal dynamism and hard experience to make a man for our times.

"The signs are, therefore, that the cardinals have placed the Church in experienced hands for what will almost certainly prove to be a testing period. And not only the Pope's hands, for his

commitment to share the government of the Church with the bishops in the field has been his major pledge this week. The papacy of old is disappearing with the short reign of John Paul I providing a bridge passage between one movement and another. If there remains a Curia with which the Pope must come to terms before he can forge the Church into a vital new instrument his experience with the secular but equally conservative Curia of the Communist Party in Poland will be of supreme benefit" (*Guardian* 29.10.78).

With this year's developments in the Soviet and the Vatican we can surely see the preparation of the revived Fourth Beast with its papal horn that will speak 'great words' and the feet with 'nails of brass' with which it will stamp the residue (Dan. 7:11,19).

THE SOFTENING OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH TO MARXISM

In her own field of action the Roman Catholic Church throughout this century has been moving to the left, as required by the prophecy of the frog-like spirit out of the mouth of the False Prophet (Rev. 16:14). She has been championing the worker, the oppressed and the people of the Third World. Her slogan has been *God and the people*. Until recently she has remained hostile to the Marxist position of progress for the wellbeing of the people without God. Constant pressure is slowly changing the Roman Catholic position to a degree that Roman Catholics hierarchy as well as laity, are now seeking common ground with Marxism. Without any official yielding of any of her rigid religious doctrines, the Church is allowing Christianity and Marxism to stand side by side. The signal for this practical co-operation was first given by Pope John 23 in his encyclical *Peace on Earth* in 1963. How far this has now developed is shown by a report of a meeting of the Religious Orders of the Church. The report was headed *Third World Catholics turn to Marxism*, and the opening paragraph reads: "At a recent meeting of 68 top leaders of the Orders, including Jesuits, Franciscans, Benedictines, and Dominicans, one speaker said they should free themselves from western capitalist ideology. One working group of Superiors-General at the session, which ended recently here, said: 'Our more courageous Religious are committed to Marxism'." (*Bournemouth Evening Echo*, 18.8.78).

Communists in Europe have been active in carrying out this 'secularising' of Catholics; leaving people still Catholic, going to Mass, but sympathetic to the philosophy of Marxism, and co-

operative with Communists. Among the intellectuals as well as the workers, the rising generation of Catholics in W. Europe are far less hostile to the Soviet. This will be an important factor in the confederation of Roman Catholic Western Europe with Marxist Eastern Europe. This slowly developing situation was set out in detail in *Conflict Studies* No. 87, September 1977, under the heading: *The long-term strategy of Italy's Communists*. It describes a strategy steadily carried out from 1945 by which Catholic youth has ceased to bother about Church doctrine, and is concerned selfishly with its own present well-being: it is Marxist in outlook. A few extracts will indicate what they claim is happening. "Italian Communism . . . has always supported reforms and social measures, introduced by the Christian Democrats and other centre parties, because it realised that the more the attention of Christians could be directed towards earthly 'realities' the more they would escape from the religious inspiration of their faith". "Gramsci analysed the situation clearly when he said that Communism must not fight against the Church, as happened in the Soviet Union, but must absorb the Catholics until they are completely identified with Marxism". "The State is to be conquered democratically, once the young have acquired a new conception of the world and the 'Marxist intellectuals' have taken up key posts in publishing houses, the mass media, schools, universities, the armed forces and the ministries". It looks as if the Communists in Italy are using Roman Catholic's standard strategy against the Roman Catholics. This Conflict Study proposes that the Communist strategy that has been so successful in Italy is similarly operating in all the E.E.C. countries. It is an ideological conquest, which takes time, but is effectually turning the mass of ordinary Catholics towards Marxism. We may expect that out of this struggle there will come a christian-socialist Europe, with Catholic doctrine and Marxism blended together.



A Tuareg tribesman and his son in the Mali desert. The threat of drought is always close, but in fact, the land is capable of producing good crops if properly developed.

WORLD FOOD SHORTAGE

The Third World is a term used to differentiate emerging countries from the main Western and Communist blocs. This area contains 70% of the world's population, but receives only 11% of its total productive income. All told, more than half the world's 4 billion persons — 2.3 billion — live in the poorest lands. Another 600 million are in not-so-poor countries, compared with 1.1 billion in relatively wealthy nations. The abject poverty and actual starvation that are found in many of the countries of the *third world* provide a fruitful source of Communist propaganda, and constitutes a major problem for the future. Between 1970 and 1975, some 70 million rural people throughout the world left their holdings and sought an urban way of life in the cities, adding to the problems of pollution and crime which already plague those trouble-spots. The problem is beyond solution on the part of man, and requires the infallible wisdom and omnipotent power of the King of Righteousness to handle it.

CHAPTER FIVE: HOW THE SOVIET AS WELL AS THE VATICAN USES 'CHRISTIANITY'

It is a grim picture how christianity today is being made to serve in the cause of violence and war. Both the Vatican and the Soviet declare loudly their pursuit of 'justice and peace' and bring in the gospel to justify revolution. In this development one can see how debased 'christianity' will be used by the nations to support their fight for their idea of 'justice and peace' against the righteous and authoritative demands of Christ when he comes. This chapter particularly illustrates how the Soviet harnesses 'christianity' for its own ends. But first a few items regarding the Vatican.

THE VATICAN

The Roman Catholic Church, centred on the Vatican, is a political as well as a religious system, and its present moral-political theme throughout the world is 'Justice and Peace'. Catholic commissions for Justice and Peace have been set up in practically every country of the world. Their professed aim is to give support for the worker, the oppressed, and the under-developed Third World. We know well how distorted the application of this theme is in N. Ireland. The oppressed (!) Catholics in Northern Ireland are being 'liberated' by the murderous I.R.A. Similarly regarding Rhodesia we have read of the dreadful inhuman terrorist attacks by the Patriotic Front, led by Nkomo and Mugabe. The *Catholic Herald* (17.3.78) explains that "Mr Mugabe is a Catholic and Mr. Nkomo is a Methodist but his wife and children are Catholics. His wife has been the President of the Catholic Women's Council for some time". In the interview with Mugabe the *Catholic Herald* quotes him as saying: "I am practising Christian principles by waging this struggle. The establishment of a just society is what Christianity would like to achieve. I take it that when the Church criticises the government for oppressing the people, they are at the same time advocating a campaign to bring about change. This is the campaign I am leading". Earlier he said: "The Catholic Church has done more than any other in the promotion of our cause. The Justice and Peace Commission has done tremendous work." That's clear enough — straight from the Catholic weekly paper. In the South American States, too, there has been similar violence and political intrigue involving the

Catholic Church. These matters of the Catholic Church are rarely exposed, and in general the public are only allowed to see such matters as a 'pious and saintly' John Paul being installed in Rome. The Pope is only a small part of a vast Establishment that has endured for many centuries, and operates Catholic control throughout the world. The Pope may only be a 'front man' largely controlled by the powerful Curia.

THE SOVIET

In this chapter we are not so much concerned with the Vatican system as with the parallel system of the Soviet. It is very little known that the Soviet in a parallel way with the Vatican, uses 'christianity' as a tool in its world power aims. In fact the Soviet also has its international 'Justice and Peace' programme in the name of christianity. In *Milestones 1977*, we made brief reference to how the Soviet-controlled Russian Church has taken a leading part in the World Council of Churches. We gave a quotation from the *Times* (21.11.61): "A Russian Church leader who is the youngest Archbishop in the world is playing a central role at the assembly of the World Council of Churches at Delhi. Archbishop Nikodim is only 32 years old".

"Nikodim's replacement of Nikolai, who for 17 years carried on the foreign policy tasks of the church, coincided with a drive by the Soviet authorities to make use of the Russian Orthodox Church for the advancement of Soviet foreign policy" (*Times* 21.11.61).

A good deal more detail of the Soviet's 'christian' activity has recently been revealed in the Conflict study entitled *The Christian Peace Conference* published January 1978 by the Institute for the Study of Conflict. To those who are looking, in the light of prophecy, for the co-operation of the Soviet and the Vatican it is very interesting reading. It adds to the picture of how similar the two systems are. The opening paragraph of the Summary of the Study reads as follows:

"This issue of Conflict Studies illustrates contrasting aspects of the Soviet Union's attitude to religion. In the main article, Laslo Revesz analyses a major Soviet international front organisation, the Christian Peace Conference, the purpose of which is to promote the view that Christianity and Communism are logical companions in the "revolutionary liberation movement", and that "socialism" — as interpreted in Moscow — is the logical aim of human rights. At home, however, the Soviet State continues to persecute Christians who assert their human right to practise their religion according to the dictates of their conscience."

THE SOVIET CHRISTIAN PEACE CONFERENCES

The Soviet Satellite countries have held a 'Christian World Conference for Peace' at three yearly intervals ever since the early 1960's. At the second conference in 1964 there were 1200 attending from 50 countries. The headquarters is at Prague in Czechoslovakia. The leaders in this movement are nominal Protestants from Czechoslovakia, Hungary and East Germany, together with those from the Orthodox churches. Some Protestants in the West are sympathetic: Billy Graham has participated in a Conference. The Organisation has set up subsidiary headquarters in Africa and Latin America, aiming to stir up the local 'christians' to a 'just' war of liberation.

The Organisation stands for revolution and a just war, based on christianity! The Conflict Study referred to quotes from Hungarian sources on CPC (Christian Peace Conference) writings:

"When Christians stand up for revolution, they do not derive their right to do so from the idea of revolution, but from the Gospel."

"Confronted by injustice all over the world we cannot be neutral, and we cannot submit to the role of mere observer. By the message of the Bible we are bound to take concrete decisions and to participate actively in any fight against injustice . . . That form of exploitation which characterises the capitalist system was recognised by the oecumenical movement as one of the causes of social injustice in the modern world."

The first Secretary-General Pospisil said: "It is not irony, but the logic of history that in the peace movement Christians openly and sincerely march side by side with the progressive elements of society, the Communists."

The Study in its conclusion says:

"The latest CPC actions and statements leave no doubt that it acts, in fact, for the Eastern bloc countries as one of their international transmission channels. A European movement which ten years ago was of little importance has today grown into a world-wide organisation with branches in Asia, Latin America and Africa."

The Russian Orthodox Church Metropolitan Nikodim, already referred to, has been President of the Christian Peace Conferences from the beginning in the early 1960's. The *Catholic Herald* reports: "September 5: Metropolitan Nikodim of Lenin-grad died in the Holy Father's arms during an audience to the Delegation of Non-Catholic Christians". It is interesting to note that only 11 days after becoming Pope, John Paul was making contact with this Soviet representative.

THE WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES (WCC)

The World Council of Churches is a world-wide association of non-Catholic churches, and includes in its membership the British Council of Churches, and the National Council of Churches in the USA. The CPC churches of Eastern Europe are also members: "The churches of the Communist countries, which through their respective 'national oecumenical committees' are officially represented in the Christian Peace Conference (and practically form its nucleus) are at the same time members of the World Council of Churches" (*Conflict Study* pg. 1). The WCC justifies its support of revolutionary activities in Africa, etc, in the same way as the CPC, — the gospel's demand for justice for the poor, and that requires revolution.

The Church of England, a member of the WCC, is adapting itself to Marxism. The Report of the recent Lambeth Conference, representing 70 millions of the Anglican communion, was received by *The Guardian*, with the heading: *Don't dismiss Marxism, Anglicans are told*". It begins: "Anglicans are advised to recognise that Marxism, at its best, is concerned with human issues which no Christian can ignore . . . also confirms the current thinking among churchmen that Marx should not be dismissed as anti-Christ". (8.10.78).

How Protestants are using "christianity" for political ends is expressed in a detailed review of the Fifth W.C.C. Assembly at Nairobi in 1976, in the Scottish *Bulwark*, Feb. 1977. A paragraph from the beginning and one from the end are as follows: "The Fifth W.C.C. Assembly at Nairobi was more like a meeting of the Organisation of African Unity (O.A.U.) or some other economic or political meeting than a Christian meeting". "The 'mission' of the WCC is clearly secular and seems to be highly political. The political emphasis was leftist. After sitting through the Assembly, I came out feeling it would take a miracle to save most African countries from Communism. The stage is set. Things mentioned in the book of Revelation may be near at hand, though I realise we cannot be dogmatic about this. The marriage between the political and ecclesiastical systems seems very likely in our own age". (pp. 13,17).

CONCLUSION

Piercing all this information together, one can see how "christianity", in all its sections, whether Catholic, Russian and Eastern Orthodox, or Protestant, is moving into a spirit of collaboration with Marxism. One can see this as a cement binding

together the Image of Nebuchadnezzar in opposition to the voice of Christ demanding submission to the laws of God. In the worst aspect of what we are watching on the world stage, we see both Soviet, the Vatican, and others using christianity as a tool; using the holy things of God and the precious name of Jesus Christ in their evil designs. Deception is the hall-mark of Vatican and Soviet activities. In these things we see an UNCLEAN spirit out of the mouth of the Dragon, and the False Prophet, and the Beast, gathering the nations to the battle of the great day of God Almighty. (Rev 16:14).



AN HISTORIC MOMENT! Accord between Catholicism and Communism? Pope John Paul II cordially greeting the Mayor of Rome — an ardent Communist.

CHAPTER SIX:

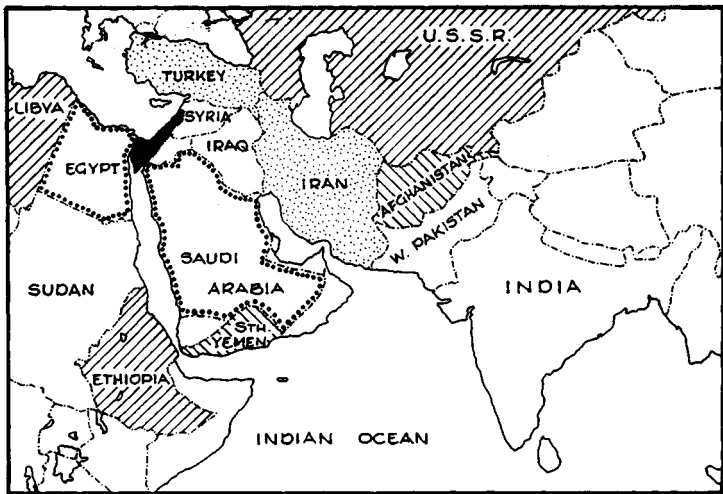
MIDDLE EAST STRATEGY OF THE USA AND SOVIET.

EAST-WEST BECOMING NORTH-SOUTH

We are currently witnessing a major change in the world scene, bringing world powers into a relationship prophesied long ago. Zechariah 6 clearly requires two "mountain" powers north and south of Jerusalem when Christ returns. These may be equated with the latter-day King of the North and King of the South of Daniel 11:40-45. In *Milestones 1977* (ch. 3), extensive evidence was given showing the rapid and unexpected development of a close relationship between USA and Saudi Arabia in the past five years or so. Their mutual interest lies in Saudi's need of American arms, technical know-how and modern industrial equipment to build up their country against Communist pressure; and America's desperate need of oil. More recently a similar mutual interest has developed between Egypt and the USA. After Sadat had realised the ill effects of being in the grip of the Soviet, he turned out most of the Russian technicians and started wooing America for aid. America, seeing the great value of having Egypt adjacent to Saudi Arabia, as its ally, responded. Also Saudi Arabia responded in giving extensive financial aid to Egypt for purchasing military equipment. So the USA became the supporter of Israel, Saudi Arabia and Egypt. From the USA point of view, the attaining of a state of peace between these countries is of great importance in her own interest. This has been the high-light of 1978, leading to the Camp David summit.

It is important for us to attempt to keep a USA point of view. W.Europe is useful to America as a container of Soviet expansion, but America does not depend on Europe for her livelihood; indeed W.Europe is a rival and competitor disliked by most financial and commercial leaders in the States. In contrast, the oil in the Middle East is vital; and in addition it is a lucrative market for American exports. So, if W.Europe continues on a path of weakness towards the Soviet, America is not likely to take on a major confrontation with the Soviet when an almost peaceful takeover of the West takes place. America is more concerned in maintaining her Middle East Persian Gulf position. This vital oil region is so remote from America that she needs to do all she can to strengthen her hold there; and also to co-operate with other friendly

powers in the southern hemisphere, as India and Australia. In broadest terms we are watching a slowly changing global situation from the well-recognised East-West confrontation, to a North-South confrontation. The line of this north-south relation runs roughly through the Mediterranean and Israel. We may expect that when Russia moves west in W. Europe, and then later moves south towards the Middle East, it is this latter situation that will be strongly resisted by the USA. It is wonderful that a situation relating to God's land, outlined in the prophets so long ago, is beginning to come to pass before our very eyes.



SAUDI ARABIA AND THE UNITED STATES

It is no exaggeration to say that Saudi Arabia is surrounded by Communist influenced countries. The map shows this. So we may expect in the present peace negotiations between Israel and Egypt, that her fear of Communism will be greater than her hostility to the Jewish hold on Jerusalem, and though making public protest, will acquiesce in what Egypt is doing.

USA relations continue to strengthen. Despite a furious Jewish lobby in the Congress and Senate, a Bill was passed in June 1978, to supply latest F-15 fighter planes to Saudi Arabia as well as to Israel. It is of interest that an American Jew, Senator Ribicoff, was the key figure in obtaining the favorable vote. Despite his Jewishness, he was compelled by his conscience to admit it was necessary in America's interests, to give full support to Saudi Arabia. Early in 1978, Ribicoff reluctantly visited Saudi Arabia to access the position. Ribicoff describes this as a revelatory trip. He

found American-trained Saudi ministers anxious to maintain their American connection, and already deeply committed to the United States financially. His entire image of Saudi Arabia changed” (*Guardian* 4.6.78). Another Senator expressed the deep concern of America to have Israel and Saudi as allies: “The Soviet noose around the Middle East is tightening. This is no time for us to make mistakes. In this area the interests of Saudi Arabia and Israel coincide. Both are anti-Soviet. Both actively promote our interests, as well as their own, by combatting radicalism in the region. Both are good friends of the United States. And both need our support” (*Guardian* 4.6.78). To aid the passage of the Bill, Saudi Arabia promised the USA that American engineers and ground staff would maintain the F-15 fighter jets, so that Israel could feel assured they would not be used for any surprise attack on Israel. The *Daily Telegraph* editorial saw this selling of advanced fighter planes to Saudi Arabia as confirming a new situation that had been developing for years. The editorial was headed: *A Changing Middle East*:

“President Carter’s package of proposed sales of jet combat fighters to Egypt and Saudi Arabia, as well as to Israel, signals a major new development in the Middle East. It is the outward and visible sign, perhaps slightly belated, that American vital interests in the area now go beyond ensuring the survival of Israel, though that still remains a top priority, as President Carter and Mr. Vance have made abundantly clear. What has emerged is that Egypt and Saudi Arabia (Egypt with its large population and strategic position on the map, Saudi Arabia with its oil and pro-Western attitude) have qualified as main American allies, and are going to be treated as such.

“Saudi Arabia has long been a vital American interest, with one-quarter of the world’s proved oil resources, and providing one-quarter of American oil imports. Over the past few years, however, she has progressed from being just an oil reservoir, with a quaint archaic life-style, into becoming a world Power, at least a world Power of the second rank, and at the top of the second rank at that. This derives partly from the importance to the global monetary system of her revenues and reserves, partly from her readiness to use the wealth to buttress anti-Communism in the Middle East.

“Egypt, likewise, by rejecting Russia, by offering peace to Israel, by going hell-bent for economic development — from which the whole area, especially including Israel, would benefit — has earned its place as a fit subject for American support. The American decision to supply the jet fighters — Congress permit-

ting — is the biggest substantive foreign policy move Mr. Carter has yet made. How tragic — though maybe understandable — it is that Israel's only reaction so far is to protest. Israel needs a great man at this moment. She does not appear to have one" (16.2.78).

Recognising the importance of the USA — Saudi alliance, the *Washington Post* section of the *Guardian* early in the year had a front page article with the heading: *Saudi Arabia and USA — A Global Power Relationship*. The emphasis of the article is summed up in the sentence "Saudi Arabia and its royal family have in four years moved swiftly towards the centre of USA calculations and objectives abroad". The article also shows how Saudi Arabia is using its wealth to bolster up the nearby countries to improve her own safety:

"By continuing to underwrite Egypt's economic and military development at a cost of several billion dollars a year, Saudi Arabia has made possible Anwar Sadat's daring attempt to negotiate a final settlement for the Arab world with Israel. Egypt, Syria, Jordan, the Palestinians and Lebanon must nervously watch Saudi reaction as they move toward or away from the negotiating table. This makes Saudi Arabia a silent but essential participant in the process.

"Saudi Arabia took the initiative in formulating a plan and putting up the money to get Somalia to break its military alliance with the Soviet Union. Saudi sources said Saudi Arabia has pumped \$200 million into the strategically located Horn of Africa to enable the Somalis to purchase arms in the West to replace Soviet weapons"

Her investment in the U.S. is so big that she can influence American politics and finance:

"Saudi power and influence in the United States also are rising in geometric progression. The United State relies on Saudi Arabia for 25 per cent of its imported petroleum supplies. The Saudis have put an estimated \$40 billion into the USA economy in the past four years, giving them enough leverage to affect USA interest rates and the strength of the dollar on foreign exchange markets in the unlikely events they should choose to do so.

"We are reaching the point where we are more dependent upon them than they are on us said a worried U.S. diplomat" (*Guardian* 1.1.78).

Who could have imagined, even ten years ago, that such modern power would be established south of the land of Israel, as is now presented in the co-operation of USA with Saudi Arabia, Israel and Egypt.

THE ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN PEACE NEGOTIATIONS

There is now little doubt that Sadat's visit to Jerusalem in November 1977, and the offer of peace with Israel was genuine. It was not a sudden impulse. Preparation had been going on for months with Rumania as the intermediary — (*Daily Telegraph* 17.11.77). Just before his visit, Sadat took a bold step and announced a ten years' moratorium on the repayment of the £2-3,000 million debt to Russia and the satellite countries. This signalled to the USA that Egypt was ready to depend wholly on her for aid, and wanted her support relative to Israel. America had already been giving vast economic aid since 1972. When the excitement of the visit had died down, it became apparent that Israel did not trust Sadat. Israel wanted peace as badly as Egypt, to ease the military burden and deal with chronically bad economic conditions, but ideas of national security dominated. This went on for six months or more. America was even more concerned about stability and peace in the region than Egypt, and so there came the bold move by President Carter of getting Begin and Sadat face to face in the seclusion of Camp David for as long as it was necessary to reach some agreement. He was so determined to get an agreement that it is reported he placed a restraint on President Sadat leaving Camp David. It was rather like the Cardinal's Conclave — they must agree before they can leave. The *Jerusalem Post International* 26.9.78 gives the "inside story". Weizman had for months been convinced that Sadat was genuine in his intention for peace, but not so Dayan and Begin. Dayan was the more openminded, so the first step was to convince him. Weizman persuaded Carter to persuade Sadat to meet Dayan on his own. After a few days, Sadat agreed. Dayan's outlook changed, and then both Dayan and Weizman gradually brought a change in Begin. The darkest hour was Thursday, some 11 days from the start. Reluctantly Begin gave in, agreeing to the withdrawal of settlements and the army from the Sinai peninsula as the price of peace with Egypt. The report gives some credit to Rosalynn, President Carter's wife. It was she who perceived that there was a common factor in the three men: they each had deeply held religious convictions. She suggested that the meeting should begin with prayer. "By the end of the conference the three men had progressed from an agreement to pray together to an agreement to make peace once and for all".

So Begin committed himself to peace with Egypt at the expense of security. The evacuation of Sinai (over several years) was a tremendous concession by Begin. It is to be expected that he will be anxious to complete the deal and arrive at normal

relations with Egypt. This is the safest way to be sure there will be no Egyptian surprise attack: to have plenty of Israelis walking the streets of Cairo. If Egypt and Israel are not hostile to each other, Israel will feel more safer from attack by the other hostile "Arab" nations; they would have little hope of success without Egypt. Egypt hopes to benefit greatly from Israeli know-how and co-operation, aided by generous financial aid from America.

On the supposition that the Israel-Egypt Peace Agreement is carried through, we may ponder that this could make the situation more suitable for the Judgment Seat at Sinai. With all the intense Israeli activity in the vicinity of Mount Sinai removed, and only 'policemen' patrolling a no-man's land this would seem to fit the requirements of the future.

EGYPT AND ISRAEL IN PROPHECY

Does the Bible have anything to say about Israel and Egypt in our times? In Bible times Israel and Egypt were usually co-operative. Ephraim and Manasseh were born in Egypt; Solomon took a wife out of Egypt; in the days of Assyria and Babylon Israel looked to Egypt for help; Jesus and his parents fled into Egypt. Is there any prophecy that indicates co-operation at the time of the End?

There are a number of chapters in the prophets regarding Egypt, among them Isaiah, chapters 19 and 20; Jeremiah, chapters 42,46; Ezekiel, chapters 29 to 32. The end of Isaiah 19 clearly belongs to the time of the setting up of the Kingdom: Egypt is to be made desolate for a short time and then healed. The only chapter that appears to have a bearing on the present is Isaiah 30. Primarily the chapter belongs to the time of Hezekiah and the destruction of Sennacherib's army outside Jerusalem. But the details in vv. 30,31 do not describe the silent destruction of Sennacherib's army, and are a forecast of the destruction of the latter-day Assyrian on the mountains of Israel, when "the name of Yahweh cometh from far, burning with His anger, and the burden thereof is heavy: His lips are full of indignation, and His tongue as a devouring fire" (v.27). That the chapter is dealing with the future as well as the past is confirmed by v.8: "Now go, write it before them in a table, and note it in a book, that it may be for the time to come for ever and ever"; or, as the margin says: "Heb. *the latter days*". On this basis it could well be inferred that Israel in the near future will repeat Israel's behaviour at the time of Hezekiah. So the chapter opens: "Woe to the rebellious children, said the Lord, that take counsel, but not of Me: and that cover with a covering, (Septuagint *make covenants*), but not of My spirit, that they may add sin to sin: that walk to down into Egypt, and have not asked at

My mouth; to strengthen themselves in the strength of Pharaoh, and to trust in the shadow of Egypt". Egypt today has not the strength of Egypt as in Hezekiah's day, but Egypt supported by the USA would be the counterpart. It will be true again, as in the past: "Therefore shall the strength of Pharaoh be your shame, and the trust in the shadow of Egypt your confusion" (v.3). Egypt is to come under the heel of the northern Power, as in days of old.

The fact that Egypt is not listed with the Gogian confederacy in Ezekiel 38, makes it likely that she will be confederate with the South Power until overrun by the Northern Power.

SHEBA, DEDAN, THE MERCHANTS OF TARSHISH AND ALL THE YOUNG LIONS

The Northern Invader is challenged by Sheba, Dedan and their associates, in the phrase — Art thou come to take a spoil? (Ezek. 38:13). Sheba and Dedan must have been important centres in Ezekiel's day. It was with great interest that a letter in the *Daily Telegraph* in 1976, headed *Site of Sheba* was studied. The first two paragraphs are as follows:

"SIR — Sheba was "Saba", one of the pre-Islamic 'Himyaritic' kingdoms of South Arabia from which incense was carried overland to Petra and Gaza, and thence to Egypt and Rome.

"Saba's capital was Marib, on the incense route, where ancient ruins include the famous dam and a temple known today as *Mahram Balqis*. In Arab legend *Balqis* was the queen of Sheba who visited Solomon (c. 960-930 B.C.). That visit may have connected with the incense trade."

Marib will be found in a modern map of Saudi Arabia! So, according to the above, Sheba was a kingdom situated in the country now called Saudi Arabia. As to Dedan, Jer. 49:8; Ezek. 25:13 speaks of it in conjunction with Edom, which now belongs to Jordan. How wonderful that Britain, and the USA — the strongest of the young lions, are now co-operating with these countries, and that all of them are intensely hostile to the Soviet. Here is the fulfilment of another prophecy taking shape before our very eyes.

Relative to the "young lions" of the Tarshish power, not only has the USA come from far to this area south of Israel, but nearer at hand there is India and Australia. News of India's continuing development as a modern Power, and of the association of India, Australia and the USA in the Indian Ocean, all add to this picture of a group of powers establishing a co-operating position south of Israel. "Sheba, Dedan and the young lions" gathers more meaning every year.

INDIA: A STRONG YOUNG LION

Early in 1978 President Carter made a world tour with his visit to India as the highlight. The newspaper headline ran: *New Carter Policy Woos India as Third World Leader*. This seeking closer links with India was classed as “a significant shift in American foreign policy” away from pre-occupation with Europe. Other items in his address to the New Delhi parliament are reported as follows.

“Mr. Carter heaped praise on his hosts not only for their concern for moral values, human rights and religious toleration, but for their ‘extraordinary’ achievements in material fields.

“The American President congratulated India on becoming a major industrial power: ‘Your economy ranks among the ten largest in the whole world . . . with increases in production in every important sector . . . which reflect great technological sophistication’ he told them.

“Advances in human welfare were even worthier, he went on, with life expectancy up by 20 years, literacy doubled, schooling tripled, university attendance up nine times.

“ . . . America would link India into its earth resources (Landsat) system which provides weather and other data for crop planning, and India would have a place aboard the American space shuttle in 1981, to set up its own communications system to Indian specifications.

“And what was more, Mr. Carter said, he had authorised shipment of nuclear fuel needed by Bombay’s Tarapur power station . . .

“But welcome though these gestures were Mr. Carter’s big message was that his Administration now looks to New Delhi to play ‘a worldwide leadership role’. (*Daily Telegraph* 3.1.78).

Another expression of India’s importance was a long article in the *Daily Telegraph* for March, with the title: *As India Grows Up*. Here are two extracts:

“Now there is a 17 million ton reserve of food grains, enough to carry India over a couple of years of severe crop failure, and there is a surplus on the balance of payments big enough to contribute considerably to inflation.”

“Behind all these successes there lies an enormous spread of competence. The armed forces are, if anything, better than ever, and the Civil Service is still first class at the higher levels. But now, in addition, India has an enormous pool of technocrats, engineers, accountants, bankers, computer programmers, economists, business school graduates. Only in the United States and the Soviet

Union is there a clearly larger pool, and India has been able to export thousands of people of university teaching quality to the West.”

Bright Hopes For India's Progress was the heading of another report in June “With a good report for her economic performance from the World Bank, India can look forward to a \$600 million aid loan for the current year.” (*Daily Telegraph* 8.6.78).

It is clear from all this that India is becoming a strong “young lion”, capable of contributing as much as the other senior Commonwealth people.

INDIAN OCEAN CO-OPERATION

The USA has also been developing closer military co-operation with Australia. Joint manoeuvres have been planned one headline announced: *USA to join Indian Ocean Manoeuvres*. The article declared: “The United States and Australian navies will conduct joint manoeuvres in the Indian Ocean, probably in October. Land-based strike craft are also expected to take part in the exercise.” “The joint exercise would ‘underline our commitment of Anzus’ and was also a ‘reaffirmation of our commitment to this region’, said Mr. Mondale (Vice-President of USA). Anzus is the regional defence pact signed by Australia, New Zealand, and the United States.” (*Daily Telegraph* 9.5.78).

Another pointer to the developing situation was the holding of the first Regional Commonwealth Summit in February: *Success of Sydney Summit sets example for Commonwealth* ran the heading. A dozen Commonwealth leaders met for four days. One result of the conference was the co-ordinating of their efforts. “Australia was given the job of arranging co-operation on trade, India on energy, Singapore on beating terrorism, and Malaysia on dealing with the drug problem” (*Daily Telegraph* 17.2.78).

RUSSIA'S PENETRATION OF THE MIDDLE EAST

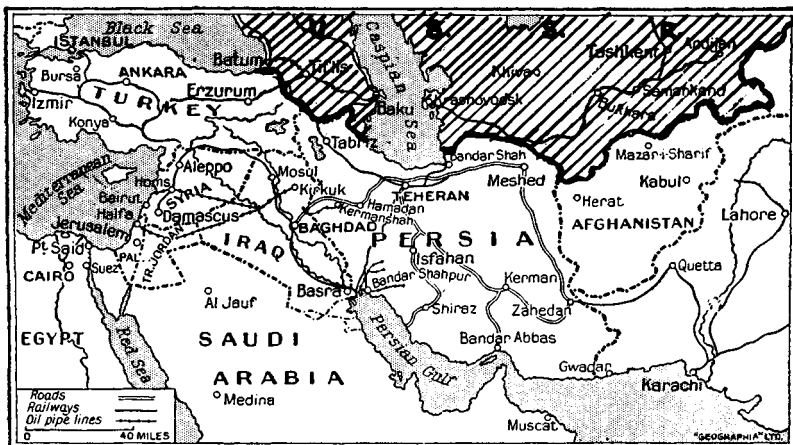
The ultimate objective of the northern invader is to capture Jerusalem. But before the military sweep into the Holy Land and the Middle East, the Gogian leader is already established as far south as Persia on the east flank, and Ethiopia on the west flank (Ezek. 38:5). Wonderfully in 1978 we have seen great Soviet progress on both these flanks. On the one flank we have seen a major effort in what is called the Horn of Africa. The Soviet has taken a tight grip on Ethiopia, and is now pushing into Eritrea to hold the coast line opposite to her base in South Yemen and Aden, so getting a stranglehold on the passage into the Red Sea and Suez Canal. On the other flank, there has been the surprise

coup in Afghanistan and the efficient grip on that country. From here she is already beginning to harass Persia by left-wing subversion and agitation. A look at the map will show that Persia is almost surrounded by Communist countries. From Afghanistan it is but a short 100 miles across the west tip of Pakistan for Russia to reach the Indian Ocean by land.

To be fitted into this "success" story for the Soviet is the changing attitude of Turkey manifest this year. Turkey has been openly swinging away from the USA and Nato, and towards the Soviet. Turkey not only bolsters up the southern flank of Europe, but she is the gateway into the Middle East. How excited our brethren of the last century would have been to see the things we are witnessing.

So with close relations with Syria and Iraq, and Turkey beginning to swing in the right direction, Russia is strengthening her position due north of the land. She also is pressing her influence southwards to the S.E. and S.W. of the land; all this being obviously good military strategy.

What we should also appreciate is, that in this progress into the Middle East and North Africa, together with her presence in the Indian Ocean, the Soviet is activating the USA to consolidate her position south of the land. Also because Saudi Arabia is genuinely alarmed, she presses the USA to greater preparation and opposition to the Soviet.



● Persia's (Iran's) problems are accentuated by her long borders with Russia. Afghanistan, Turkey, Syria and Iraq, all border states with Persia, are Soviet dominated. Bible prophecy indicates that all will be united with Russia when it descends upon the Middle East in its drive for world domination as predicted in the Prophetic Word (Ezekiel 38:15-16).

AFGHANISTAN IN THE SOVIET CAMP

Afghanistan has suddenly sprung into the news with such headings as: *Afghanistan: The Soviet Union's highway to the Indian Ocean* (Guardian 9.7.78); *Russians take key post in Afghan Army and State* (Daily Telegraph 7.8.78); *Moscow's new Afghan Base* (Daily Telegraph 7.8.78). It was the usual story; the coup in April came about by the Russians being "invited" into the country. "The Russians are in Kabul with the blessing of the Afghan government, are training the armed forces, and are about to undertake the planning of the economy and social life as well." (9.7.78).

The intervention had the usual Soviet speed and efficiency. The editorial for August 7th began: "Strategic Afghanistan, as our correspondent Bruce Loundon reports from Kabul, has now been firmly absorbed into the ever-spreading Soviet bloc, and is ready for action as a politico-military spearhead against Persia and Pakistan. In the record time of just over three months since the previous regime was overthrown by a Communist coup, 2,500 Russian officers and technicians have established control of the Afghan army. On the same pattern agents and experts have established Soviet supervision of political developments and the administration."

In the report referred to in the editorial Bruce London said: "Given Afghanistan's pivotal geographical position in relation to Persia and Pakistan, both primary targets for the Kremlin's hegemonistic designs, it seems certain that what Moscow wants is to ensure that the Communist take-over in Kabul is made 'irreversible'."

A look at the map will show how much more Persia is now threatened by the Soviet; on the west through Iraq, on the east through Afghanistan, and from the north directly from the Soviet territory. Also the map shows that the movement through the west corner of Pakistan could bring Russia to the Indian Ocean.

PERSIA THREATENED BY COMMUNIST SUBVERSION

We know from Ezekiel 38, that Persia is with the Gogian confederacy: "Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya with them" (v.5). Yet for the past 25 years Persia has been very much in the western camp. The Shah has been spending his vast oil wealth in attempting to transform Iran into a modern technology-based State like the western world. He has received a vast amount of modern military equipment and planes from the USA.

The Bible student has watched, wondering how the change

would come in Persia. It has been a matter like the “many ships” of the King of the North; eventually every word of God must come to pass. And now we see moves in the right direction, ‘right’ that is to say for the fulfilment of prophecy. Opposition has generally been sternly suppressed in Persia, but this year strong forces have surfaced. Starting in January there have been serious and widespread riots recurring at about 40 days intervals coinciding with religious activities. They have been well organised and well supplied with money. In part it is a reaction of the Shia Moslems to the Shah’s westernising policy, the religious leaders demanding a return to the Koran and the old way of life, the closing of night clubs and cinemas, etc. But in addition, the situation has been exploited by well trained Marxist rioters. The serious character of the rioting and its profound effect on the Shah can be gauged from these quotations: “Persia Riot leaves 100 wounded” was the headline of the front page news on 12 April (*Daily Telegraph*). “Shouting Down with the Shah thousands of demonstrators marched through the heart of Teheran yesterday as unrest which has led to violent clashes in towns across Persia erupted in the capital.”

A report in August was headed: *Palestinian aid for Persia’s Mobile Rioters*: “As rioting continued in Persia last night with renewed attacks on cinemas and banks, the Government claimed that ‘Extreme Leftist groups’ were orchestrating violence with the help of outside groups, including Palestinian guerrillas”.

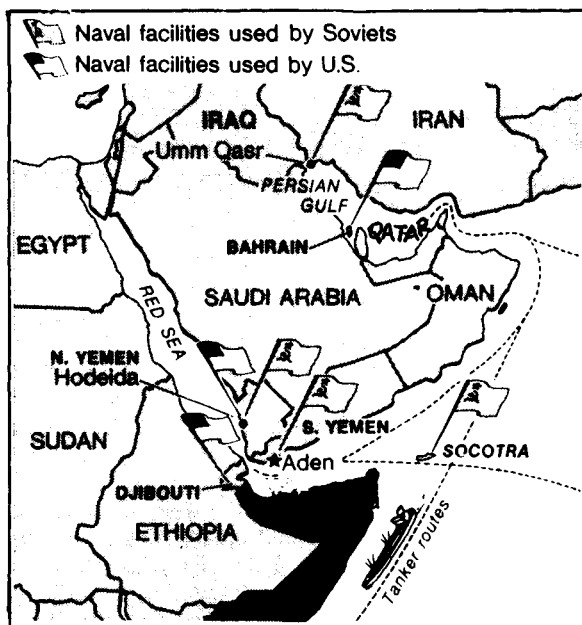
By the end of the month the Shah was forced to yield: *Riot-shaken Shah sacks ministers: changes to placate Moslem Zealots* were the headlines on the 28th April. A report on 19th September began: “ Persia’s Information Minister yesterday blamed many European Communist leaders for the riots which killed hundreds of anti-Government demonstrators in recent months.”

It is clear that Persia, surrounded on three sides by Soviet-influenced countries is subject to mounting pressures and intrigues. The Soviet is very skilful at exploiting the internal unrest of a country, aiming to bring about the overthrow of the Government.

SOUTH YEMEN AND ADEN

Moscow has had another success in this region this year. Ever since South Yemen became independent in 1967 there has been a government friendly to Russia. Its President Ali was anxious to preserve some independence, and in 1976 he established diplomatic relations with Saudi Arabia, and received £400 million aid on condition that the government restricted Russian activities. In a

coup on June 2nd 1978, the President was assassinated, and a full-blooded Communist-style government installed under Moscow's man, Fattah Ismail. They now claim to be the first truly Communist regime in the Arab world. The Cubans, as usual, are notably present: "600 Cubans of 'various military rank' have been in control of South Yemen military affairs for the past two months" (*Daily Telegraph* 29.6.78). With the full facilities of Aden at her disposal, and establishing herself on the opposite shore of the Straits of Bab Al-Mandeb in Eritrea, Russia now has a strangle-hold on the entrance to the Red Sea.



North Yemen is a small country but has a population of 9 millions, more populous than Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates put together. They are a vigorous and martial people. Although not at war with South Yemen, they associate with anti-Soviet Saudi Arabia, and are financially dependent on her.

THE HORN OF AFRICA

Russia, recognising the strategic importance of Ethiopia, changed sides from Somalia to Ethiopia in the long-standing war between the two countries. Nothing final has yet emerged; the Soviet has a strong grip on Ethiopia, and is giving military support

to the drive to the Red Sea coast. The latest news reads:

“High-level Russian and Cuban advisers are playing a key role in planning and directing Ethiopia’s campaign to defeat nationalist guerrillas in the Red Sea province of Eritrea, according to informed sources in Nairobi” (*Daily Telegraph* 4.8.78)

TURKEY SWINGS TOWARDS RUSSIA

Greece and Turkey represent the vital south-east flank of the NATO system, guarding against Soviet movement in a southerly direction. In the last few years they have become doubtful allies, with a critical situation developing this year in the change of attitude of Turkey.

Taking Greece first, we reported last year on the rapid progress of Communism in Greece over the past few years. The political scene is very confusing with a variety of Socialist, Communist and “democratic” parties. No doubt this is the sort of situation which favours Soviet intrigue, and consolidation. Greece is the key country when Tito of Yugoslavia dies. An “invasion” of Greece from Soviet-dominated Bulgaria would encircle Yugoslavia and Albania.

The changing attitude of Turkey may be dated from their invasion of Cyprus in 1975. As a consequence, American Congress placed an embargo on arms supply to Turkey. Turkey retaliated by closing the NATO Intelligence installations, vital to the surveillance of Russian activity in the eastern Mediterranean and the Black Sea. Forward American bases were also closed. Since then there has developed a general anti-American mood in Turkey. This was detailed in an article (*Daily Telegraph* 28.12.77) headed: *Turkey — where the writing is on the wall of the West*, with the sub-title: “How public opinion has become anti-Western.” While this deterioration relative to the West has been going on, Russia has been making progress, arranging joint industrial enterprises, cultural exchanges, and negotiating to supply electricity. An agreement concluded at the beginning of the year is estimated to be worth around £3,500 million. (*Perth Newsletter*, Aug. 1978).

The full extent of the change appeared at the NATO meeting in May 1978. President Carter arranged a summit meeting in an attempt to re-vitalise NATO. Before the meeting Mr. Ecevit, the Turkish Prime Minister, made it known that Turkey was no longer willing to give full support to NATO. *Turkey Refuses to Reaffirm faith in Nato* was the heading of the report. “Turkey has refused to support a declaration of renewed faith in the Atlantic Alliance which President Carter hope would be signed

by all 15 Nato Heads of State at the end of their summit meeting in Washington on May 31st" (*Daily Telegraph*).

The report also said that Gen. Demicioglu, Turkish Chief of Staff, had told a meeting of Chiefs of Defence Staffs that his country was revising its defence policy — "As a result of improved relations with the Soviet Union, Turkey would reorganise and redeploy its forces." After this NATO summit meeting, Mr. Ecevit met Mr. Brezhnev at the Kremlin. This was reported (*Daily Telegraph* 23.6.78) under the heading *Turkey and Russia Good Neighbours*. — "The Soviet Union announced last night approval by itself and Turkey of a political document declaring 'principles of good neighbourly and friendly relations' between the two countries." This slow swing-round of Turkey to some accomodation with Russia is surely an important step in the preparation for the eventual move of Russia into the Middle East. This, taken in conjunction with the sudden take-over of Afghanistan and its threat to Persia, is probably the highlight of 1978. With the control of Libya, Ethiopia, and Aden, her western flank is being prepared, and now we see the same sort of preparation on the eastern flank, relative to a drive into the Middle East and eventually to Jerusalem.



FALL OF A REGIME? Soviet-stimulated riots in Iran (Persia) threaten the Shah's regime, could result in a Russian dominated nation in accordance with Ezekiel 38:5.

CHAPTER SEVEN:

ISRAEL

THE WEST BANK, LEBANON, MORE ARMS

The scene in Israel has been dominated by the consequences of Sadat's visit to Jerusalem, leading to the Camp David meeting already reported on (See chapter 5). The debate in the Knesset (Parliament) as a prelude to approval of the Camp David Agreements, and the agreement to withdraw the settlements and army from Sinai, was a heart searching occasion; and the debate went on from 10-30am on Wednesday until 3-30am the following day. For Begin the decision was "a very painful matter", and he moved the resolution "with a sorrowful and painful heart, but with quiet conscience."

Agreement with Sadat over Sinai, leaves the situation largely unchanged on the West Bank. Begin only made minor concessions on the West Bank, and none over Jerusalem. Carter tried hard to persuade Begin to allow East Jerusalem to be part of the West Bank, but to no avail. Begin insisted on the complete withdrawal of the American letter of Jerusalem proposals before he would sign any of the Camp David Agreements. For Begin, quite apart from security considerations, the West Bank provokes deep emotional reactions. It is the Judea and Samaria of Bible times, and an essential part of Israel. Begin asserts that there will be no dismantling of settlements here. The map shows the extent of settlements. How Jordan will react to this toughness of Israel, at the time of writing it is too early to say. As commented in last year's review, Israel holding on to Judea and Samaria, and giving up Sinai is in keeping with the description in Ezekiel, ch. 38, that before the great northern invasion, they are a people dwelling "in the midst (Heb. — *navel*) of the land" (v.12).

In March 1978 Israeli military forces invaded south Lebanon, to break the grip of the P.L.O. terrorists on her north border. Eventually Israel reluctantly withdrew and gave place to a further UNO peace-keeping force: Fighting still goes on. Nothing decisive has emerged. Israel has recently declared she will if necessary take military action to prevent the Syrians from destroying the "christian" Lebanese. In addition to the concern for her security on her north border, Israel regards south Lebanon as part of the Old Testament Kingdom, and no doubt Begin and others would take this area if they could.

Tiny Israel is well aware of her importance to mighty USA in

her Middle East strategy and concern over oil, and continues to “demand” more and more arms and aid. Israel must be indebted to the USA to the tune of many billions of dollars over the years. Regarding 1978, *The Washington* correspondent writes, “More than 1.5 billion dollars worth of USA arms are to be transferred to Israel, American officials disclosed. This figure, the officials said, does not include the 35 F-15 and 75 F-16 fighter aircraft which were approved as part of the Carter administration’s controversial Middle East arms package.” (*Jerusalem Post* 18.7.78). Despite the probable peace agreement with Egypt, the kind of peace expressed in Ezekiel ch. 38, is not in sight. As the Northerner “thinks an evil thought” when he goes up to the land of unwalled villages, to them that are at rest, that dwell safely, it looks as if he has previously agreed to peace and neutrality in this area; as if this region has been made a buffer zone between North and South Powers. The invasion of the land is some way off.

Begin has imposed his personality and more authoritarian way of government on Israel. He appears to be widely accepted by the people. But he does not give much time to home needs, and the economy is still in the same chronically bad shape. There have been many industrial strikes in Israel, similar to this country. She is far from presenting a picture of much “silver and gold, cattle and goods, a great spoil” Ezekiel 38:13.

Morally there has emerged nothing that could be noted as an improvement.



THE WEST BANK:
Source of controversy
within Israel. Israeli
settlements are indicat-
ed by an asterisk.

BIBLE PROPHECY AND THE NATIONS 'ROUND ABOUT' ISRAEL

Understandably brethren in recent years have tried to relate events in the land of Israel over the past 25 years to the prophecies of the latter days. There has been an emphasis on the phrase "the nations round about" pointing to wars between the "Arab" nations and Israel. For instance one writer proposes that when Christ saves Israel it is from the power of the "Arab" nations, and not from the northern invader; Russia and her confederacy invading the land being an event afterwards. Writers differ widely one from another and it is not easy to summarise. A few relevant topics will be briefly set out. The argument may seem rather complicated to those who have not been involved in these ideas.

1. Was Zechariah 12 fulfilled in the 1967 war?

After the startling events of the seven day war it was proposed that this fulfilled Zechariah 12:6-7: "In that day will I make the governors of Judah like an hearth of fire among the wood, and like a torch of fire in a sheaf; and they shall devour all the people round about, on the right hand and on the left: and Jerusalem shall be inhabited again in her own place, even in Jerusalem." Looked at from ten years on, in 1978, this does not seem a very reasonable proposition.

There is a key phrase through this and the following chapter: *In that day*. It occurs at the beginning of our quotation, and it introduces many of the other verses in the chapter, binding together the various events in those verses, as happening at the same time. In ch. 12, it occurs in vv. 3,4,6,8,11; and in ch. 13, in vv. 1,2,4. So, if according to the proposition, Zech. 12:6 has been fulfilled, the various other verses relating to this wonderful day, — *In that day* — should also be fulfilled or be fulfilling. On this we comment: *verse 4* — God did not open His eyes upon the house of Israel; they are still estranged from the God of their fathers, *Verse 11* — The mourning because they have recognised the crucified Messiah has not taken place. Chapter 13, *verse 1* —: A fountain for sin and uncleanness has not been opened. No. "That day" is a great day of the Lord which has not yet arrived, and vv. 6-7 have not yet been fulfilled. Jerusalem (the restored polity) is not yet inhabiting her own place, that is the city of Jerusalem. Jerusalem is full of idols and uncleanness with a mixed population of Jews, Moslems and others.

2. Who are the nations "round about"?

The peoples and nations "round about" is a phrase occurring

in Zechariah 12, Ezek. 36, Obadiah, and other places relating to the time of the Restoration. Jeremiah, long ago, prophesied that God would bring again the captivity of Moab, Ammon, Elam “in the latter days” (48:47; 49:6; 49:39). This we have seen in Jordan and Persia; and various other nations too have come into existence in the Middle East, this constituting nations “round about” Israel. We must take this into account. They will be involved in the events that have to take place. But are we to exclude nations from afar from the company of those described as “round about”? The scripture gives the answer. “I will *GATHER*” is the key phrase used. Thus Joel 3:1,2 tells us: “For, behold, in those days, and in that time, when I shall bring again the captivity of Judah and Jerusalem, I will also *gather all nations*, and bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat . . .” Later in the chapter they are seen “round about”: “Assemble yourselves, and come, all ye heathen, and *gather yourselves together round about*: thither cause thy mighty ones to come down” (v.11). The Apocalypse tells us the same thing: “And he *gathered* them into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon” (16:16). So it is clear that when the nations have been gathered into the land, they are the nations “round about”, along with the local nations. And is not this the pattern of action today? The Super Powers work through the small nations, and only in a great crisis involve themselves with their own soldiers.

Ezekiel 36 speaks extensively concerning “the heathen that are about thee” — (cp. 4,5,6,7,15). After long centuries of desolation the mountains of Israel are to shoot forth her branches and yield her fruit to My people of Israel; and v. 15 adds, “Neither will I cause men to hear in thee the shame of the heathen *any more*, neither shalt thou bear the reproach of the people *any more*, saith the Lord God”. Note the phrase “any more”. It is clear that after the heathen round about have been destroyed, there shall not be any new invasion of the land, nor “any more” shame to Israel. Destroying the heathen round about, destroys the great powers as well as the local enemy. There are not two separate attacks on Israel and Jerusalem.

Returning to Zechariah 12, it is interesting that two Hebrew words are used for the people besieging Jerusalem. The one word is *amim* denoting tribes or peoples and the other is *goyim* foreign Gentile nations. Thus v. 3: “And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone to all peoples (*amim*) all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people (*goyim* R.V. ‘nations’) of the earth be gathered against it.” So it is reasonable to expect that both local countries and foreign Powers

will be involved in that day.

It is questionable whether there is any scripture speaking about the local nations round about Israel besieging Jerusalem, either in the days of the prophets or in the latter-days. But there is clear indication of the great Powers of the latter-days doing this. The latter-day Babylonish Power in Isaiah 14 seeks to “sit also upon the mount of the congregation, . . . I will be like the Most High” (vv. 13,14). Again, the northern Power is described as “planting the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain” (Dan. 11:45). Yet again in Zechariah 14:1 we have the gathering of all nations (*goyim*) against Jerusalem to battle. In the light of these three scriptures, it is not likely that, as is now proposed, the gathering of all the nations (*goyim*) of the earth against Jerusalem in Zechariah 12:2,3 refers to local nations only, even though the word “earth” can be translated “land”. All these scriptures refer to the one great event of *that* day. There is not a siege of Jerusalem by the local nations, and then a further one by the Great Powers later.

3. Does ‘Edom’ signify Arab nations only?

Edom is the land occupied by Esau and his descendants. Edom and Esau stand out in the prophets as an enemy of Israel in the latter-days. Two chapters that clearly involve Edom in the latter-days are Ezekiel 35, and Obadiah. It is recognised generally that there is no actual nation of Edom today: Edom’s territory is now in Jordan. Jeremiah 48:45 prophesied that Moab and Ammon would be revived in the latter days (modern Jordan) but “Concerning Edom” there is nothing said of a revival. So in our time “Edom” must be taken to represent people who behave like the original Edom to Israel; and like Esau’s behaviour to Jacob. Esau was a despiser of God’s promises, and hated his brother. This is true today of nations around Israel, and also of the “christian” Gentile nations. It is interesting that the Jews regard the Gentile nations as Esau, and they called the Roman captivity “galuth Edom”, (*Ministry of the Prophets, Isaiah*, ch. 34). In Acts 15, James, quoting from Amos 9:11, uses *Gentiles* in place of “Edom” in the original reference.

In the latter-day part of the prophecy of Obadiah, we have the phrases “house of Esau” and “house of Jacob”. Here are two dynastic Houses, two manner of people. With Christ returned, people will either accept the God of Jacob, and join the “house” of Jacob, or they will be in opposition and belong to the “house” of Esau. These two “houses” have always existed, and run parallel with the two seeds from Eden; the seed of the woman,

and the seed of the serpent. In Obadiah there occurs the opposing phrases "Mount Zion" and "Mount Seir". Mount Zion is the mountain Power associated with Israel, Jerusalem and the Promises, and is to conquer; Mount Esau is the Mountain Power of men of the flesh. It is in this way that we should look at Esau (Edom) in the latter-days. Edom finds representatives both in the Arab nations and in the "christian" nations.

Obadiah is the most detailed prophecy regarding Edom in the latter days. In recent attempts to interpret Obadiah, taking Edom to represent the hostile peoples around Israel, it has been proposed that the latter part of the chapter is being fulfilled now. We do not think this is so. The house of Jacob as a fire, the house of Joseph a flame, the house of Esau as stubble has not yet reached fulfilment. We believe the key verses are 15 and 16. This is a change point. The prophecy up to these verses belongs to the past, forward from these verses, it is in the future. In these two verses "Edom" is equated with "all the heathen". As Edom after the fall of Jerusalem had drunk upon My Holy mountain so "shall all the heathen drink continually . . . and shall be as though they had not been." If all the heathen are to be "as though they had not been," this is complete destruction and belongs to the future. Likewise in v.18, when the house of Jacob is the fire and the house of Esau for stubble, the verse ends "there shall not be any remaining of the house of Esau". This is not yet true, and belongs to the future.

Verses 19 and 20 at the end of the chapter speaks of Israel possessing various parts of the land. These verses follow verse 18, so that in the context they belong to the future. Even if some of these lands are possessed by Israel today, she will lose them again when the great Confederacy sweeps into the land. There is nothing permanent about Israel's successes today. As Isaiah recorded long ago, Israel would plant strange slips, and make the plants to grow, "but the harvest shall be a heap in the day of grief and desperate sorrow," when the nations rush into the land like the rushing of mighty waters (Isa. 17:10-12).

4. Psalm 83

Psalm 83 has been applied to the wars of the Arab nations against Israel. In this Psalm Israel's enemies "take crafty counsel", seeking to cut off Israel from being a nation. The Psalm may have an historical basis, but as a prophecy it extends to the final destruction of Israel's enemies, and cannot yet be fulfilled. The last verses read: "Let them be confounded and troubled for ever; yea, let them be put to shame, and perish; that men may know

that Thou, whose name alone is Yahweh, art the most High over all the earth." This has not yet come to pass. The detail of the confederacy, vv. 6-7, does not fit the Arab nations who have fought against Israel; Egypt the major power in these wars, is not mentioned. The time of the prophecy seems to be the same as that of the other prophecies we have glanced at; for the identical figure is used as in Zechariah 12, and Obadiah. In this Psalm, Israel is like a fire burning the wood, and as a flame setting on fire the mountains (v. 14).

Each prophet necessarily uses the circumstances of his own time to project the final day of trouble for Israel; and he can therefore only sketch future events in general terms. The Psalmist in this prophecy is limited by the immediate relationship of the countries of his time, and may not accurately describe the detailed situation at the end of the days. Here he indicates a combination of local nations and a great power Assur or Assyria. This declares the general principles for the future occasion.

CHAPTER EIGHT:

BRITAIN

THE QUEEN'S JUBILEE YEAR TOUR

Stepping back to 1977 for a moment, the Queen, in addition to her arduous touring of Britain, carried through a big programme of visiting the Commonwealth countries and the USA., returning to England in November. She was received everywhere with pleasure and affection. Her moral integrity, her good family life, her genuine interest in other people's problems, her lack of ostentation, have made her an example that people look up to. Her tour has provided a strong, intangible bond with the "young lions", ready for the world crisis that lies ahead. The loyalty and regard for her person is something stronger than the political and economic differences that produce problems from time to time.

In a commentary when she returned home, Henry Miller wrote in the *Daily Telegraph*: "She will never again doubt the affection in which she is held by countless people at home and abroad. Like her grandfather George V, who in his jubilee year declared: 'I never realised they loved me so much', the Queen according to those closest to her, has been deeply moved and affected by how much she now knows she is loved." The report referred to her theme of unity — "It was something which the Queen herself felt she had to emphasise out of conviction, and she was amazed as anybody by the responses it received almost everywhere she travelled." (*Daily Telegraph* 2.11.77).

The Jubilee tour was followed by a similar success in August 1978 when she opened the Commonwealth Games in Alberta. "Canadians and visitors from all over the world gave the Queen a massive demonstration of affection as she went on a walk-about in Edmonton City centre . . . Buckingham Palace officials doubted if the Royal Family has ever had a more enthusiastic reception on a walk-about." (*Daily Telegraph* 4.8.78).

It was said of Queen Victoria that she looked forward to handing over her crown to the New King in Jerusalem. Some of us hope that the present Queen Elizabeth — Hebrew *Elisheba* — will be the Queen of Sheba who attends on the greater than Solomon.

BRITAIN AND THE COMMON MARKET

De Gaulle used to say that the Anglo-Saxons were alien to European civilisation. Mr. Callagan more or less agreed with this

in his speech at the Lord Mayor's banquet. The *Guardian* gave a full report from which these extracts are taken: "He insisted that awareness of shared problems in the Community did not, of itself, 'abolish the historical differences between the way our economies have developed'." "Mr. Callaghan declared: 'In this spirit we do not believe that the Community can develop into a federation. It is our view that Europe will make most progress if the rights of national governments and parliaments are upheld'" (*Guardian* 20.11.77). While Britain has a Socialist government there is little likelihood of her being irreparably bound to Europe.

Over the year, four important issues have emphasised Britain's insular position: her unwillingness to share her oil, insisting that she has a special status as a producer; her insistence in keeping her fishing waters to herself; her continued objections to the basic E.E.C. agricultural policy CAP; and most recently, her hanging back from the European monetary union France and Germany have devised. The French view of Britain was reflected in an article in *Le Monde*. Here are two extracts:

"The saddening spectacle in Brussels these days come as confirmation that the British do not understand the language of the Community. The consequences of the breakdown in the talks can only be dismaying for continental fishermen, even if the remaining eight members of the E.E.C. do have substantial legal resources for resisting whatever claims Britain may unilaterally invoke in trying to hamper the activities of trawlers in British waters."

"After Britain re-negotiated its terms of accession to the EEC in 1975, and Wilson's successful referendum, it gave a solemn undertaking to behave like any other member-state of the Community. But the day-to-day record in Brussels demonstrates that the promises have not been kept. Whatever the issue — industry, agriculture, fishing, energy, or institutions — the British, when they are not hampering discussions, ask for special treatment" (*Guardian* 12.2.78). The arguments of British ministers on all these matters read sensibly to the English reader, and the British public generally are pleased that the government is not going to be bullied by the rest. What the outcome of all this will be in the short term, we shall have to wait and see; but long term Britain must return to her maritime Tyrian-Tarshish position, to fulfil her role of doing homage to the King (Psalm 45:12) and carrying out the task of bringing the Jews back to their land (Isa. 60:9).

From time to time items are reported that show that Britain still fulfils the position of the latter-day Tyre, though she has not

her old prosperity. The following was concerning the unease of the Banking community: "London's position as a world banking centre is precarious and could easily be lost in a short time through ill-judged Government actions, warns the British Banker's Association, in its evidence to the Wilson Committee investigating the City. London's position as the world's foremost banking centre is by no means totally secure and some business has been lost to other places . . ." (*Daily Telegraph* 19.12.77).

BRITAIN'S DECLINE

The wealth from the North Sea oil, masks the steady decline of the British economy over the past 20 years or more. An article in the *Guardian* had the dramatic headline: *Britain's Journey to the Third World*. It was full of figures measuring Britain's relative decline compared with other nations, and warning that a point can be reached when relative decline becomes absolute decline. "Since 1970 manufacturing output overall has grown by 4% — a deplorable performance in itself — but in key industries it has declined: down 4.5% in mechanical engineering, down 6.7% in vehicles, and in engineering overall — the heart of British industry — output barely kept up with the index."

"Between 1973 and 1976 output per head increased in West Germany by more than 10%, in France by more than 9%, and in Japan by more than 7%; in Britain it increased by only 1.2%."

For industrial production overall, growth in this period was Britain nil, while with others it ranged from 5.9% for Germany to 12.8% for Japan. Britain does not respond to discipline like other countries (part of her freedom-living spirit —) and so her demoralised society allows greed, selfishness and indolence to prevail. But we look on the brighter side of this. As with Israel of old, troublous times, and particularly famine, bring people to their knees. More dramatic events than the present may bring this about. A humbled Britain will yet praise the King in Zion. Events today to us are a sign that that day draws near.

A TERRIBLE WORLD FOR OUR CHILDREN

The prevailing violence, the selfish and aggressive spirit expressed in industrial strife, the moral permissiveness, make the world an unhappy and dangerous place for our children. A few facts should sober us, to make us prayerfully consider the guidance we give to our children. These figures were a comparison between 1953 and 1978, a period of 25 years:

Violence against people: 4,285, now 77,700.

Burglary or equivalent: 18,633, now 515,400.

Fraud and forgery: 3,920, now 119,900.

Malicious and criminal damage: 8,356, now 93,000.

The article went on to say that there is probably ten times more crime committed than recorded in the statistics (*Daily Telegraph* 13.3.78).

A few days after this article there was a column with the heading: *Pupil Anarchy Sweeps Schools* — “Thousands of pupils rampaged through schools and streets yesterday protesting against sanctions imposed on them by teachers.” The various towns mentioned were widely dispersed — Sandwell, West Midlands, Lowestoft; Hartlepool; Concett; Stoke; Willenhall, W.Midlands. (*Daily Telegraph* 10.4.78).

A month later there was a grim picture painting regarding immorality, chiefly among the young, much of which is not suitable for reproduction here. One paragraph will suffice: “The sex crime rate was never higher, this in spite of more so-called sex education available today. Perhaps the most disturbing feature of all is that it is the youngest teenager groups who are suffering most, not only numerically but in terms of venereal diseases, pelvic ill-health, attempted suicide, disillusionment and misery, predominantly female” (*Daily Telegraph* 10.4.78).

What will help our children, growing up in such a world? Their source of moral strength, their guidance, is the same as ours. Daily reading of the Word with our children from an early age is the only hope of carrying them safely through the difficult teenage years. They must feel united with their parents in a loving fear of the God of the Bible. This will help them to react like Joseph of old, “How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?” A knowledge from the Word of the strictness of God’s laws over sexual matters, a daily consciousness of responsibility before God for all His goodness to us, these things will create in our children a moral courage that will carry them through and help them to endure the jibes of being different. Start this daily reading with your children now. Do not delay. Find the time. Make the effort now rather than be sorry later. Do not feed your children’s impressionable minds on television, but provide for them creative recreation, and outward looking activities. And surely we must realise that our own conduct, in honest behaviour, in not compromising, in trusting in God and not complaining the way is hard, will help them.

DISSIMILARITY OF THE SEXES

The growth of wickedness and violence can be linked with

the wide acceptance of the Theory of Evolution, and the inevitable rejection, gradually, of the God of the Bible and his laws. Another first of the Theory of Evolution is the concept of equality of the sexes, and the drive for woman's "liberation", embodied in recent laws. The Biblical relationship of man to woman has been rejected. This proper relationship we know was established in the very constitution of things when Eve was made out of Adam, to be his help-meet. Paul expressed the relationship when writing to the Ephesian brethren: "For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the ecclesia: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the ecclesia is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ loved the ecclesia, and gave himself for it" (Eph. 5:23,24).

Let us take care that we are not unconsciously moulded by the voice of the world to what may seem to be its reasonable and enlightened view of woman's status, but which is contrary to God's law and wisdom.

A letter by a Consultant Child Psychiatrist has such good sense in it, and is in line with Bible teaching, that it is worth reproducing, to help us see things around us in their correct perspective.

"In their working fields the male and the female should be recognised for what they have always been in the past, of equal value but totally dissimilar.

"They were fashioned so in order that, complementing each other, they could make a perfect unity in the home and socially. They function, think, express, feel, fulfil, suffer, react and recover in a totally different way from each other. Yet they are equal, as equal as 12 old copper pence to one old silver shilling; the latter went into the gas meter but was no good in the station chocolate machine, which the former worked perfectly.

"Children cannot grow, develop and mature properly unless this discrimination is maintained. The newborn needs to be handled by the woman and be in concentrated feminine atmosphere, in order to make the important foundations for its personal life and liveliness: male midwives are a natural anathema. This female dominance should last, as the Eastern world knows better than the West, until the child is seven years old, when it must pass into the world dominated by its own sex in order that it may become self-assured in that sex.

"In some areas we see, already, dead-faced, unlively babies pushed along by the man, boys playing truant from needlework lessons, the less masculine adolescent confirmed in his disabilities

by his cooking and knitting, along with the girls in the secondary school, and the discipline problems in comprehensive co-education schools dominated not by the appropriate headmaster but by a headmistress.

“Anti-discrimination laws will make these destructive and distorting practices universally common. For society’s sake, therefore, it is necessary to resist this degenerative trend and move to restore the fundamental right, of which the female has been deprived increasingly for the last 50 years, the right of the girl to be educated and trained by full-time apprenticeship in her home, or equal institution, from the onset of adolescence, so that she may fulfil her rich, natural intuitive endowments as a woman, and be prepared for the profession for which she is so wonderfully specialised, that of Right Honourable Wife and Mother.”

Truly, as the Psalmist said “I am fearfully and wonderfully made.” Science has recently shown that the fundamental differences between male and female are built into our very being in the chemistry of our birth. “He (Professor H. J. Eysenck) explains how maleness and femaleness are first programmed when the child is conceived. Later on in the foetal stage, boys get a second dose of maleness through a hormone called *androgen*. Failure of this secretion to occur leaves an effeminate boy, though anatomically male. Females who receive this hormone in the foetal stage, either through drugs or through a genetic defect in the mother, grow up with typically masculine mannerisms and behaviour patterns, including not only dominant and aggressive modes of conduct but even preference for male toys, such as plastic soldiers.” (*Guardian* 12.3.78).

THE BELIEVER AND THE STATE

Though for the present there is much evil in this country, we should continue to be grateful that we have had freedom for so many years. The power of the open Bible in this land for so many centuries still lingers on. We should be mindful of this in carrying out the admonition of Paul to Timothy: “I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; for kings, and for all in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty” (1 Tim. 2:1,2).

There may not always be this freedom. We observe the growing influence of Marxism among British Socialists, expressed in the growing power of the State and its control of the lives of individuals; the disregard of the individual conscience in the pursuit of the “good” of the majority the subjecting of education and

law to the direction of the government. This has the quiet support of Roman Catholic leaders, provided their needs are looked after. A large proportion of the populace are indifferent and accept these changes. We may well find in time of crisis that the authorities are uncompromising, and there is little sympathy from the people around us. Now is the time to strengthen our faith that we may be able to stand in the evil day. Our position may well be like the few faithful in Israel whom Paul exhorted to endure to the end, by reminding them of the behaviour of the men of faith:

“These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth”. “For here we have no continuing city, but we seek one to come.”

Let us avoid being ensnared in worldly affairs, behaving like others in the pursuit of wealth, influence and ease, so that when a crisis demands our separateness, we are afraid and unwilling to be different.

Mrs Thatcher, leader of Opposition, has spoken up for the more “christian” outlook that used to prevail in this land. One wonders whether more people will come to see the need to get back to Biblical standards if decent civil life is to be preserved. The article referred to was headed *Religion and politics: a personal view by Margaret Thatcher, MP; The Moral Basis of a Free Society*. Two extracts are as follows:

“It seems to me that our Christian tradition has bequeathed to politics two great and permanent ideas, and that almost the whole of political wisdom consists in getting these two ideas into the right relationship with each other.

“The first is the notion that we are all members one of another. It is expressed most vividly in the Christian concept of the Church as the Body of Christ; from this we learn the importance of interdependence and the truth that the individual achieves his own fulfilment only in service to others and to God.

“The second, and equally important Christian contribution to political thinking, however, is that the individual is an end in himself, a responsible moral being endowed with the ability to choose between good and evil . . .

“ . . . There is one sphere in which the State has a positive role. As a nation, we are heirs to a Christian culture and a Christian moral tradition. I still believe that the vast majority of parents want their children to enter into that inheritance. Accordingly, I hold it to be the business of Government (though with proper respect for the consciences of all who dissent or who

belong to another religion) that our schools shall be places in which Christian belief and morality are taught” (*Daily Telegraph* 16.5.78).



Dutch police with wounded terrorists

A remarkable feature of modern life is the widespread violence in civilian life. Terrorism is on the increase; violence is almost a way of life; and is manifested throughout the world within all classes of society. It is reminiscent of the “days of Noah” (Gen. 6:11). At the same time standards are relaxed, crime is on the increase, and there is a growing and increasing impatience with restraints of any kind. The environment of the schools and of the world about us is such that special attention should be given to the home education of children in the light of the Word of God (see Deut. 6:6-7).

CHAPTER NINE:

“NATURAL” CALAMITIES AND JUDGMENTS OF GOD

EGYPTIAN PLAGUES

God chose to reveal His Power in Egypt by dreadful plagues. Natural elements were manipulated and directed to specific ends at the command of his servant Moses:— frogs, lice, flies, hail, locusts, darkness. Slowly the Egyptians were driven to acknowledge the God of Israel, as the God of all creation. Today we see the same power being revealed, but diffusely, as by an unseen Hand, creating abnormalities that men regard as chance. This year has seen plagues of locusts and grasshoppers, ½lb (224 gr.) weight hailstone storm, cyclones, earthquakes, storms and floods with increasing devastation. These phenomena will increase, contributing to “men’s hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth.”

1982: AN UNUSUAL YEAR

Outstanding and abnormal “natural” happenings are to be expected in the latter part of 1982. “At that time all nine planets will be on the same side of the sun. That happens once every 179 years, but in 1982 the nine planets will not only be on the same side of the sun, but in perfect alignment.” So declared *Newsweek* referring to this situation as *An Apocalyptic Prediction*. What will happen when all the planets come into one line and exert a united gravitational pull on our earth? These scientists speak of eight probable effects:

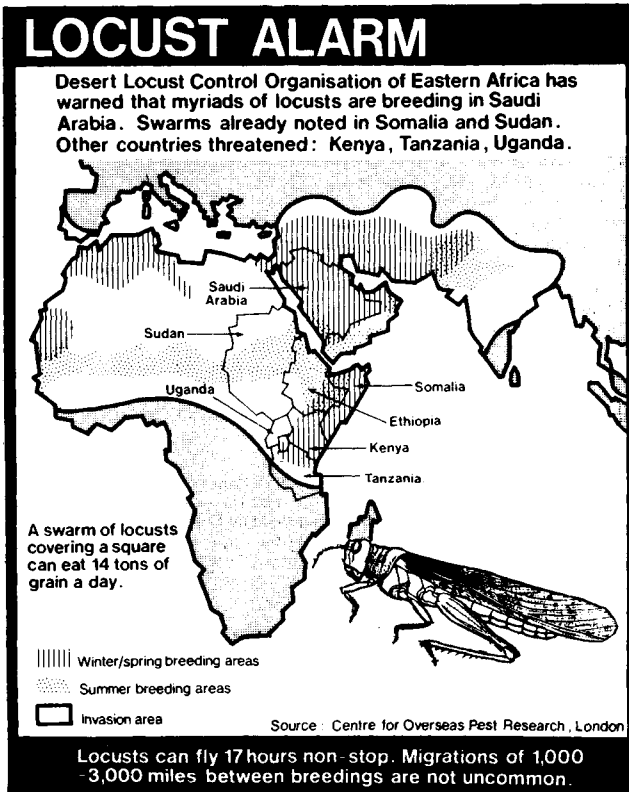
- (1) A disturbed magnetic activity in the sun, producing huge firestorms;
- (2) That the ionosphere of earth will be changed;
- (3) That radio and television communications will be disrupted;
- (4) That there will be weird lighting effects from aurora borealis;
- (5) There will be vast changes in wind patterns;
- (6) Rainfall and temperature patterns will change;
- (7) Earth’s rotation, and the length of the days may change;
- (8) Many earthquakes to occur.

Perhaps we shall find that this is planned in the divine programme to coincide with greater things than just natural happenings.

CALAMITIES IN 1978

A reproduction of a few headlines selected from newspaper cuttings will make us aware of God's voice against man in things classed as natural. All have happened before, yet one takes the impression that there is a growing intensity of such happenings.

1. LOCUST ALARM



2. GRASSHOPPER PLAGUE HITS CROPS

A devastating plague of billions of grasshoppers has hit Eastern Colorado and the neighbouring states of Kansas, Nebraska and Wyoming (*Daily Telegraph* 10.7.78).

3. 50 VILLAGES WIPED OUT IN CYCLONE

As vast destruction caused by the cyclone that flattened most of two districts of Andhra Pradesh State has revealed yesterday it

became clear that the death toll might well have doubled the 10,000 estimated yesterday. (*Daily Telegraph* 23.11.77).

4. DISEASES STRIKE IN THE WAKE OF INDIA'S RECURRING FLOODS.

Malaria, gastroenteritis, diarrhoea, are ravaging victims of northern India's floods . . . Millions of people are affected, and still more flooding is expected. (*Daily Telegraph* 12.9.78).

5. 24ft WAVE BRINGS FLOOD-HIT BENGAL TO DESPERATION

A million and a half people have been stranded in scattered pockets in the state by the worst floods India has known for centuries. (*Daily Telegraph* 3.10.78)

6. 20 DIE AS STORMS SWEEP EUROPE

At least 20 people were reported to have been killed by floods and landslides yesterday as gales and torrential rain swept large areas of Italy, Switzerland, Austria, Czechoslovakia, and southern Germany (*Daily Telegraph* 9.8.78).

7. 11,000 DIE AS EARTHQUAKE DESTROYS TOWN

Persia's worst earthquake for at least 15 years devastated the town of Tabas, in Khorasan Province, at the weekend, killing 11,000 . . . 40 villages were also destroyed and 60 suffered serious damage (*Daily Telegraph* 18.9.78).

8. SYRIA HAVOC BY HALF-POUND HAILSTONES

Some 60,000 people in northern Syria faced starvation after the nation's worst hailstorm for a century destroyed crops over a wide area (*Daily Telegraph* 8.6.78).

And what of man's behaviour:

18,000 USA MURDERS

"America had 18,000 murders last year, a one per cent drop". (*Daily Telegraph* 7.7.78).

What a contrast the foregoing presents to the prophesied future:

*“Behold he comes! your Leader comes
With might and honour crown’d;
A witness who shall spread My Name
To earth’s remotest bound.*

*See! nations hasten to his call
From ev’ry distant shore;
Isles, yet unknown shall bow to him,
And Israel’s God adore.*

*With joy and peace shall then be led
The glad converted lands;
The lofty mountains then shall sing,
The forests clap their hands.*

*Where briars grew midst barren wilds
Shall firs and myrtles spring;
And nature through its utmost bounds
Eternal praises sing.*

EPILOGUE

OUR PRESENT NEED

To rightly divide the word of truth is, first to study it without bias, or subjection to uninspired authority, or antiquity. Attend to what is written, as a child listens to a story. Study history, and ask questions, and be thankful for all the information you can get, even if you have to pay for it. While you are engaged in this pursuit, do not imagine that you are a workman. It is not easy to become a workman in such an age as this. The great names in theology, so much applauded by the world — a world that has been “wondering after the Beast” for more than twelve centuries — were not even apprentices; they were students of the classics and systems of divinity, not students of the word. If they had been, they would never have written such foolishness as passes current with their names. No; it is the result of much time and

labour to become adequately proficient for a right division of the word. Men who do not understand the prophets, have no scriptural pretensions to workmanship in the word. They can neither preach it, nor divide it. When a man comes to understand the gospel of the kingdom, believing and obeying it, he has then qualified himself to lay the foundation in others. Let him go on to perfection. Let him dive into the testimony, and let it dwell richly in him, with all wisdom. If he have ability to state intelligibly what he understands, then let him work away, as unto God, and not to man. Let him search out, and apply the testimony to the Covenants of Promise; to the territory; to the subjects; to the inheritors of the kingdom; to its throne and king; to his humiliation and exaltation; to the nations; to the mystery of the Name; to the Gentile fellowship of the mystery; to the identification of his majesty, and so forth. Here are topics to which the Word of Truth must be distributed, or "rightly divided", and he who can do this work most efficiently is the workman that has least reason to be ashamed before God, however much he may be slighted or reproached by men.

OUR FUTURE HOPE

All The World Christian

The time is coming when the anti-Christian, Mohammedan, and Pagan nations of the world, will all become the people of God, and, therefore, Christian. This is evident from the testimony of Scripture, which saith, "In that day there shall be a highway out of Egypt to Assyria, and the Assyrian shall come into Egypt, and the Egyptian into Assyria, and *the Egyptians shall serve with the Assyrians*. In that day shall Israel be the third with Egypt and Assyria, even *a blessing in the midst of the Land*: whom the Lord of Hosts shall bless, saying, Blessed be *Egypt My People*, and Assyria the work of My hands, and Israel *Mine inheritance*" (Isaiah 19:23). (*Elpis Israel*).

Sin Restrained

Such will be the order of things for a thousand years. But, though truth and righteousness will have gained the ascendancy and have prevailed for so long a period, sin will still exist in the flesh, and in some instances reveal itself in overt acts of disobedience. This is implied by the sayings "the sinner shall die accursed" (Isa. 65:20); and "whoso will not come up of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the Lord of Hosts, even upon them shall be no rain" (Zech. 14:16-19).

There will be no occasion to march an army into a country to put down rebellion; it will be quite effectual to bring it back to its allegiance to withhold from it the fruits of the earth. The spirit of insubordination will, however, smoulder among the nations until at the end of the thousand years the “*enmity*” against the Woman’s Seed burst forth again into a flame. If the Apostle felt the workings of “the law of sin” within him (Rom. 7:5), though obedient to “the law of the spirit of life”; need we wonder that this same “law of nature” should gather force in the hearts of nations subdued by fire and sword to the sovereignty of Israel’s King (*Elpis Israel*).

Only One Freeholder

The national tenancy of Canaan under the Law being leasehold, no purchases of freehold estates could be made in the land. If Israel had been a freeholder, the case would have been different. But the land belonged to the Lord; and they had no more right to grant it away in parcels for ever, than the tenant under a twenty-one years’ lease has to cut up his holding into lots, and sell them to purchasers for ever. Israel were the Lord’s tenants; and the Law said to them on the part of their Landlord, “the land shall not be sold for ever; for the land is Mine, and ye are *strangers and sojourners with Me*” (Lev. 25:23) so that “in all the land of your possession ye shall grant a redemption for the land” (Lev. 25:24). Hence, if poverty compelled a man to sell his farm, it was always redeemable by himself, or kin, according to certain conditions; but, if neither could raise the money to redeem, the estate was not lost to the original owner; for though it remained in the hands of the purchaser he was obliged to return it for nothing at the year of Jubilee (Lev. 25:23-28). Even under the new constitution, when the nation obtains everlasting possession, the servants of the Prince will have to surrender his territorial gifts at the year of liberty; while his sons will possess them for ever (Ezek. 46:16-18) (*Elpis Israel*).

Glory to God in the Highest

When the seven thunders have ceased to roll, the world will have been brought to its senses; as saith the prophet, “When thy judgments are in the earth, then will the inhabitants of the earth learn righteousness” (Isaiah 26:9). Then will the Gentiles wait for the law of the Messiah and submit with joy to His authority. “They shall go, and say, Come and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, and He will teach us of His ways, and we will walk in His paths” (Isaiah 2:3). “Then shall

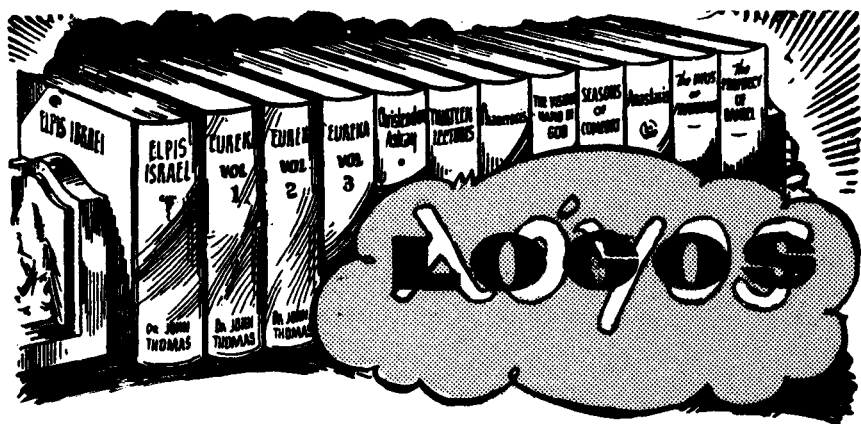
the law go forth of Zion, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall rebuke strong nations afar off, and they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more" (Micah 4:3). Then shall the Messiah's mission be brought manifestly before the world, when, in all the earth, he shall have established "Glory to God in the highest, over the earth, peace, and goodwill amongst men" (*Book Unsealed*).

The Lord Known In The Earth

The things the nations now delight in will then be an abomination to them; for "the Gentiles shall come unto the Lord from the ends of the earth, and shall say, *Surely our fathers have inherited lies, vanity, and things in which there is no profit*" (Jer. 16:19). When enlightened by the Lord this will be their judgment of the "names and denominations", Pagan, Mohammedan, Papal, and Protestant, which now as a covering veil spread over all nations (Isaiah 24:7), darken their understandings, and alienate them from the life of God. But when the King of Israel and His Saints shall rule the world, all these superstitions will be for ever abolished, and mankind will be of one faith and practice. They will speak one religious language, and serve Yahweh with unanimity; for, says He, "Then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the Lord with one consent" (Zeph. 3:2). This must, indeed, be the Lord's doing, for who among men has the wisdom, knowledge, and power to bring the nations to speak intelligibly on religious subjects, and to be of one religion! The sword only can prepare the way for this. Mankind must be made to "lick the dust like a serpent", before they will consent to change their creeds for eternal truth. Judgment will bring them to reason, and they will say at length, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the Temple of the God of Jacob; and *He* will teach us of His ways, and we will walk in His paths; for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem" (Isaiah 2:3). Under such teaching as this the work will be accomplished (*Elpis Israel*).

J. Thomas

*Even so, Come,
Lord Jesus!*



For over forty years (a generation in the wilderness of life) *Logos* has maintained a continuing voice in support of the expositions of the pioneers for its policy is based upon the doctrinal, prophetic, and practical standards established from the beginning of the Movement.

Within its pages world events are continuously considered in the light of Bible prophecy, to draw attention to the vital importance of Christ's appeal: "Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame" (Rev. 16:15).

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