



MILESTONES '84



MILESTONES TO THE KINGDOM 1984

**A Review of
World Events
in the Light
of Bible Prophecy**

GRAHAM PEARCE

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PREFACE

1984 has not been a year of sensational new wars or loudly-proclaimed political earthquakes. It has rather been a year of general deterioration of all moral standards and principles, mixed with a growing sense of prosperity in the trading nations, despite grotesque forms of violence and unrest erupting in all parts of the world. It has been a year of strange mixture, of “mens hearts failing them for fear” whilst, as those in the days of Lot, they eat, drink, buy, sell, plant and build (Luke 21:26; 17:28).

There is an ominous foreboding settling over a world that has ostentatiously thrown off the restraints of Bible principles. “Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness . . .” (Ezek. 16:49). And that generation rightfully went into Divine judgment. All the marks of the Sodomite world are apparent today; even to the callous indifference towards the despair of the poor. Whilst 5,700,000 Ethiopians are on the verge of starvation, the Marxist regime spends 400 million dollars celebrating its 10 years of government — and the United States spends hundreds of millions to give an astronaut a free ride in space!

The voice of prophecy is a grand source of comfort in these times. Let us keep close to our Bibles, opening them prayerfully and listening to our Father’s Word. Let the message sink in deeply, turn it over, harvest the spirit and power of the message so that we have all our opinions and aspirations springing from the Word of the Living God.

May these following pages, interesting and enlightening as usual, help us to see our Father’s Hand behind all the troubles and evil of the nations. Pass on your Milestones, when read, to others so that our Brotherhood may be the more informed, alert to the ‘stealthy advent of the King of Israel’ and working industriously in His Name.

B.N. Luke
Secretary, December, 1984.

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Chapter 1:

A NEW INITIATIVE TO BRING ABOUT THE UNIFICATION OF WESTERN EUROPE.

France, West Germany, and the Vatican have taken new steps this year to create European Union. This is in line with prophecy concerning the 10-horned beast of Revelation 17.

PROPHECY THAT IS TO BE FULFILLED

Events at the coming of Christ are portrayed in Daniel's prophecies and in the Revelation. Nebuchadnezzar's Image in Daniel 2 belongs to the latter days — "*There is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days*" (v.28). This Image is yet to be erected and to be smitten on the feet by the Stone Power (v.34). The metal parts assembled as one Image indicate Europe, USSR and the Middle East (excluding Israel, Egypt, Sheba and Dedan) are to be bound together into a vast confederacy. The iron-clay feet and toes (representing Europe in its final socialist-'christian' phase on which the Image stands, have yet to be formed. The European-led confederacy represented by the Image is defeated at Armageddon at the hands of the Stone Power, with the result that the Image disintegrates; the metal parts are "*broken to pieces together*" (v.35). The ten toes are given special mention; they are kings or kingdoms at this time when the God of heaven sets up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed (v.44). By following through from Daniel to the Revelation we deduce that the ten toe kingdoms make the final opposition to Christ; they are the ten horns that make war with the Lamb.

There are several symbolic beasts in the Revelation describing the Roman power in various phases through history. The final beast is in Revelation 17. It is the scarlet coloured beast on which the harlot rides, with its ten horns that make war with the Lamb. It is eventually cast into the lake of fire along with the false prophet (Revelation 19). The ten horns of the Roman beast originated in the 5th century when various barbarian tribes invaded the Western Empire and then settled as part of the Empire. This is the beast of the sea of Revelation 13, with further details revealed in Rev. 8:7-11. We conclude that the ten-horned beast of chapter 17 is a modified form of the beast of the sea of chapter 13, and this directs our attention today to the countries of Western Europe. So we look for a unification of Western Europe to form this final beast on which the harlot rides.

Back in history for a moment, the ten-horned beast of the sea (France and the western Mediterranean countries) and the beast of the

earth (Germany and central Europe) existed through many centuries. But with the French Revolution at the end of the 18th century, these systems were broken up, producing “iron” fragments and the “miry clay” of the people’s power, socialism. Western and middle Europe broke up into various nation states, with frequent wars and rivalries. Germany and France fought three wars: 1871, 1914, 1939. One could discern no ten-horned beast in this period. But after the second world war the situation changed. The period 1948 to 1957 was an exciting time, prophetically speaking, as we saw the beginnings of this ten-horned beast in the establishment of the Western Union and the Common Market. Then for a decade or more there was stagnation. Nationalism prevailed with bitter disagreements as each country defended its own economic interests. Now in 1984 we have been seeing fresh activity in the development of the beast. This is of real interest to us as we watch for fulfilling prophecy and the approach of the day of the Lord.

There may be speculation as to which nations make up the final ten toes; but it is too early to be definite. The existence of approximately this number of separate nations is all that matters for the moment.

BACKGROUND TO WESTERN EUROPE OF TODAY

The Common Market and other organisations of Western Europe are so complex, that without some detail of them, recent happenings are not readily grasped.

The ending of the war in 1945 left Europe shattered, exhausted and wretched, both physically and morally. German domination had been stopped for a second time in the 20th century, but at a terrible price. Only with the help of America had this been done. And now Europe was dependent on America for vast aid to start restoring normal life and industry; this was provided in what became known as Marshall Aid. Two fears beset Europe: the power of the Soviet with its revolutionary propoganda and, as it particularly affected France, the fear of another revival of German military power and aggression. The first fear was dealt with by forming the NATO alliance, uniting America and Western Europe for defence purposes. The North Atlantic Treaty was signed in London in 1951, and humanly speaking, has been the major factor in keeping the ‘peace’ for over thirty years.

With regard to French fears, their first action was to devise a plan for a European army, called the European Defence Community (October 1950), but this was abandoned. Instead France turned to an economic approach for containing Germany. This was the creation of the European Coal and Steel Community. The Ruhr basin had been

the region of Germany's industrial strength, her heavy industries. After its war devastation, would Germany build it again? To prevent this, the concept was launched that the coal and steel industries of all the countries — Germany, France, Italy, Belgium, Holland, Benelux — should all come under the control of a supra-national authority with effective power to make decisions and enforce them. When the Schuman Plan Treaty creating "the European community of coal and steel" was signed in Paris 18th April 1951, it had in the preface what, to Bible students, was an exciting paragraph:

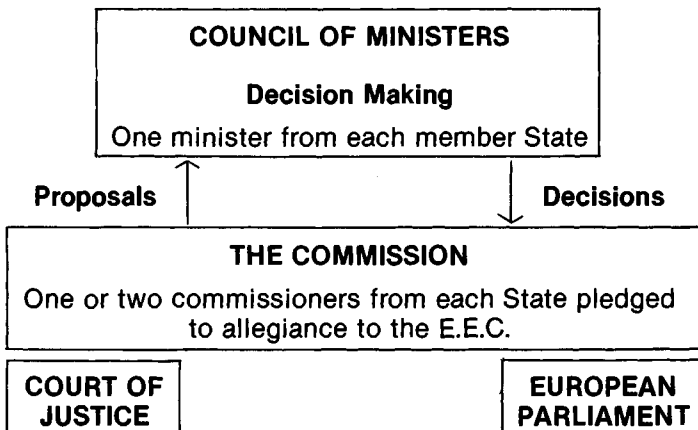
"Resolved to substitute for the rivalries of centuries a fusion of their essential interests to found by the creation of an economic community the first bases of a larger and deeper community between peoples long opposed by divisions costly in blood, and to found institutions capable of directing a destiny which henceforth will be shared" (para. 5).

This was the start: the iron and steel agreement was a working model of what was to become the Common Market, or more correctly, the European Economic Community (EEC).

In 1957 the various developments that had taken place were gathered up into the Treaty of Rome, signed by the six countries; and it is this treaty that gives authority to the European Economic Community. It is a very extensive document of 378 pages in the English Version. Its six sections have the headings: 1. Principles; 2. Basis of the Community; 3. Policy of the Community; 4. The Association of overseas Countries and Territories; 5. Institutions of the Community; 6. General and Final Provisions.

THE MACHINERY OF THE COMMON MARKET

The Treaty of Rome created a structure that can be expressed diagrammatically as below. (This information is from a Government booklet dated 1971).



The **Council** is the decision making body. The Treaty envisages majority voting, but national interests are still strong, and the veto is not infrequently invoked. The **Commission** and its supporting offices formulate the proposals on which the Council decide; they also carry out the decisions of the Council. The **Court of Justice** has the task of interpreting the meaning of the Treaty and any Community rules and regulations made under the provisions of the Treaty. The **European Parliament** is a separate entity. It has little direct authority, and has somewhat the relationship to the Council that the House of Lords and the Queen have to the House of Commons. It does have an ultimate authority that by a two-third majority it can compel the resignation of the whole Commission (but not the Council). "The Parliament debates all the major questions of Community policy; and members can put questions to the Commission and to the Council for written or oral reply about the Community's policy and administration". Some member states, France, Germany, Italy and Britain, nominate 36 members each to this Parliament, and other members a less number.

The six foreign ministers who signed the Treaty in 1957 were all Roman Catholics (they attended Mass with the Pope after signing the Treaty); and no doubt the Vatican was aiming to weld together these countries for its own ends. When the Treaty was signed, those who were looking for a United States of Europe saw the European Parliament as important. Though it could not be given at that time a law-making authority like the federal government in the USA, to which the various states are subject, it was hoped and intended that its status and control could be increased with time. It is the Parliament, significantly, that is the centre of the new moves we are about to report on.

There are various other European Organisations, and one of these must be mentioned before we deal with current affairs.

WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION

This organisation began in 1948 and took its present shape in 1954. It comprised the usual six member states plus Great Britain. At its inception it was concerned with European defence as an adjunct of NATO, sometimes called the "European pillar" of the Atlantic alliance. In 1954 there were the "Paris Agreements", which ended the military occupation of Germany, and allowed Germany to belong to NATO. Italy was also brought into the Union; and the U.K. undertook to maintain troops on the mainland of Europe. The Agreements still left various military limitations imposed on West Germany. The scope of the Union was not limited to defence, and the

Union was defined as an agreement on “economic, social, and cultural collaboration, and collective self-defence.”

FRANCE'S 1984 INITIATIVE

M. Mitterand took his turn as president of the Council of Ministers of the E.E.C. for the first half of this year, and France saw the time appropriate to attempt a breakthrough from the endless arguments in the Common Market, and to seek a more integrated Western Europe. Moves were made in two directions. The first was to raise the matter of “European Defence” — cooperation between European nations that avoided having the U.S. present for discussions and decisions. This we will look at a little later. The second move was, significantly, at the European parliament, in a speech by M. Mitterand on May 24th 1984.

DRAFT TREATY OF EUROPEAN UNION

The newspaper report of President Mitterand's speech was headed:

“MITTERAND FEDERAL STATE PLAN FOR EEC”

“In a remarkable speech to the European Parliament yesterday, M. Mitterand called for a new European Union that would effectively turn the Common Market into a federal state. The French President said there should be an end to the practice of majority voting under which individual members could veto E.E.C. policies.

“He dismissed the British budget problem as ‘petty squabbling’ and implied that if Britain did not feel ready to join the march toward European union, then it should be left behind.

“ ‘Any country could opt not to join the new union if it did not want to be involved in this further vision of Europe’ he declared.

“Earlier this week Mrs. Thatcher said that the Government strongly resisted any move to reduce the right to veto, adding that there should be no increase in the powers of the European Parliament.

“The new treaty called for by M. Mitterand would extend the E.E.C.'s competence in such areas as education, health, justice, security, and a joint move against terrorism.

“His remarks were widely interpreted as leading to a two-tiered Europe. M. Cheysson, the French Foreign Minister, said France wanted ministerial talks to begin ‘as soon as possible’ on the establishment of a European Union” (*Daily Telegraph 25.5.84*).

One sees in this a move to give authority to the European Parliament. The draft “Treaty of European Union” had been prepared by this Parliament. A vital section requires the existing E.E.C. Council of Ministers (the decision making body at present) to be replaced by “The Council of the Union”; and its decisions would

be by simple majority — though there would be a ten-year interim period.

Mrs. Thatcher and the British government, of course, have no liking for all this. The British interest is limited to a common market, a field of trading, with no yielding of national authority to a European government. The British government also takes a dim view of any suggestion of common European defence. British opposition to M. Mitterand's proposals was expressed in a Daily Telegraph article a week later with the heading, "E.E.C. 'Relaunch' Widens Gulf with Britain". We do not know how Britain will be separated from Europe, but more and more the lack of harmony becomes apparent.

EUROPEAN DEFENCE

The defence of Western Europe, with less dependence on the U.S., was the other line of movement by M. Mitterand to promote European Union. With typical French cleverness, he found a vehicle for this in reviving the existing, but dormant, W.E.U. — Western European Union. The move started early in the year and was reported in the French *Le Monde* under the title, "France moves to revive the 'pillar of the alliance' ". At a meeting in London, France said that steps should be taken to remove the remaining military restrictions on West Germany. With this accomplished, and putting Germany on equal terms with other countries, Germany would be willing to go along with France in stronger development of western European defence arrangements, less dependent on the U.S.A. (*Guardian* 4.3.84). This was not, in fact, the first move by M. Mitterand. Two years earlier, shortly after becoming President of France, he activated "the dormant military clauses of the German-French 1963 treaty, which provide for consultations on defence at all levels" (*D.T.* 4.10.84).

Rome was the venue for launching the European Defence Plan, and the decisions were given appropriate status by being called "**The Rome Declaration**". The day before the two-day meeting of foreign and defence ministers, the Financial Times had a review article in which it was commented that there was increasing dissatisfaction over the past four years with the tough anti-Soviet style of the U.S. leadership within NATO. The governments felt this had been counterproductive with Europe's public opinion.

The Rome Declaration formally reactivated the 30 year old W.E.U.. Limitation on Germany's conventional rearmament would cease on January 1986. There was unanimous agreement to strengthen the European 'pillar of defence' within the NATO alliance. Meetings

of the W.E.U. would be held twice a year, and more frequently among ambassadors (*F.T. 29.10.84*).

GERMANY'S STEADY SUPPORT

Germany and France have kept in close touch during these developments. Germany gives full support to what France is aiming at. Her steady support is expressed in the following situations:

1. December 1983: After the 'fiasco' of the E.E.C. Athens Summit, Herr Khol, Chancellor of West Germany, astonished the world by his attitude to Britain. The headline in the paper was:

"KHOL 'BAN BRITAIN' MOVE"

"The Common Market was astonished yesterday by reports that the West German Chancellor Herr Khol is proposing that decisions on the future of the E.E.C. should be taken only by the original six members, which would exclude Britain.

"According to the account, Herr Khol expressed doubts that further political unity could be achieved under present conditions" (*D.T. 14.12.83*).

2. March 1984: It was Herr Khol's refusal to pay Germany's share of Britain's refund that brought about the failure of the E.E.C. Brussels Summit (see later).

3. April 1984: Herr Kohl was greatly alarmed at President Reagan's 'Star Wars' programme. "The West Germans fear a space defence programme would protect only the U.S. It would uncouple Europe's security from America's." Herr Kohl said there would be a campaign in the autumn to lay the foundation for an autonomous European defence within NATO.

"The Bonn Government favours the recent French proposal to use the seven-nation Western European Union to lay the procedural groundwork for common defence ideas" (*G. 22.4.84*).

4. May 1984: Soon after M. Mitterand's address to the European Parliament supporting the draft Treaty of European Unity, Herr Kohl gave his support in an address at Oxford.

"He tacitly accepted the French thesis that German 'antinationalism, short-sighted pacificism, and neutralism' remained a danger that only closer European integration can counter. Then he reminded his listeners that the preamble to the E.E.C. Treaty made it clear that the founders of the Community committed themselves to an irreversible process of European integration. Their Community was more than just a bank into which members deposited money in the expectation they would subsequently be able to withdraw a larger sum. There was no doubt in his mind that greater unity would require 'tighter political organisation'" (*D.T. 29.6.84*).

5. June 1984: *Le Monde* gave a report on the 43rd regular Franco-German summit at Rambouillet, describing it as characterised by perfect understanding.

“Mitterand was able to assure himself that his position on the construction of Europe was understood and shared . . .”

Referring to the two forthcoming European conferences:

“In both cases Paris and Bonn will put up a united front, as Khol clearly explained to his guest” (*G. 10.6.84*).

Note that this was the 43rd regular summit meeting; surely an expression of the close cooperation between Germany and France.

6. June 1984: Herr Schmidt, a previous German Chancellor — the one who developed detente with the Soviet — spoke in the German Parliament, and is reported as follows:

“The Bonn Government said last week that it ‘largely agreed’ with a call by the former Chancellor Mr. Helmut Schmidt, that West Germany and France should join in a major defence initiative that would ease European fears of a threatened curtailment in size of the American forces here . . . Mr. Schmidt urged the strengthening of Europe’s conventional defence, under French leadership, to 30 field divisions, ‘that would be sufficient to defend the western part of Europe’. He also referred to a unilateral pledge by President Mitterand that France’s nuclear shield could be extended to Germany.

“The time is ripe for a common Franco-German initiative in the defence field which would also serve Europe’s political self-reliance” (*G. 9.7.84*).

7. September 1984: At Verdun there is a cemetery and church that commemorate the 348,550 Frenchmen and 328,000 Germans who lost their lives in the German offensive of February 1915 in the First World War. Mitterand arranged a Franco-German ceremony there in September, which he said would express the fact that “we are irreversibly committed on the basis of French-German friendship, on which hinge many other things”. At the vast Verdun cemetery, in the midst of the dark surrounding woods, the tolling bell of the small cathedral-like building, and the endless rows of crosses; Mitterand and Khol stood together alone.

“The President of France and the Chancellor of West Germany stood holding hands in incessant rain and everlasting mist in the middle of the dark forest that was the slaughterhouse of Verdun” (*G. 30.9.84*).

For an hour and a half they stood in the soaking rain. The French band played the German national anthem; the German band played the Marseillaise. The bell tolled. Throughout the ceremony of remembrance neither Head of State publicly spoke a word. Questioned the night before, Mitterand said the meeting would be symbolic.

“He thought the meeting at Verdun would be a moment of deep reflection and that he and the Chancellor would feel they had done something towards the history of their two peoples, something which might also give a new impetus to a political structure which might change the balance of the world”.

The friendship of these two men drawing France and Germany together reminds one of the stranger friendship between De Gaulle and Adenauer that brought about the Elysee Treaty of 1963, establishing German-French friendship.

Another more practical but nevertheless symbolic step between the two countries was the agreement in May to allow French and German nationals to cross freely from one country to the other without customs formalities, as if there was no national boundary. In contrast with this free movement of people between France and Germany, at about the same time France put up a barrier against the British by withdrawing the concession operating since 1948, that day trippers could go to France without a passport.

VARIOUS FORCES DRIVING FRANCE ALONG

God's intentions are carried out by the angels, and in general they have to work by influencing men indirectly to do what is needed. There are illustrations of this in Isaiah 10:7-15 and Daniel 10:13, 20, 21. It is interesting to assess the variety of forces driving France to promote European integration. These are the main factors:

1. The British obstinacy and the endless disagreements.
2. Fear of German neutralism and Germany seeking accommodation with the Soviet.
3. Dislike of America; and America's lessening interest in West Europe as she turns to the Pacific.
4. French affinity with the cultural and historical unity of Europe over a millennium, and fear of a Soviet grip on West Europe like that in East Europe, where there is no freedom nor rich culture.
5. The failure of French socialism over the past few years; and consciousness of the general industrial backwardness of France.
6. Catholic influence.

Items 2, 3, and 4 are touched on in chapter two. A brief reference to item 1, and some more information on 5 and 6, which are somewhat intertwined, will complete the picture.

BRITAIN'S TROUBLESOMENESS

This must be so well known that little need be said. The failures of the two E.E.C. Summits: Athens, December 1983; and Brussels, March 1984 — described as 'humiliating failure', 'fiasco', 'complete failure' — were blamed on Britain. After the failure of the Brussels Summit to satisfy Mrs. Thatcher over Britain's financial contribution to the Common Market, there was much ill feeling:

"By common acclaim she was now the villainess of the piece." "Her contribution to the disaster of the Brussels summit cannot be dissociated from her continuing behaviour since her shrill debut in Dublin more than four years ago. Her reputation for obstinacy and rapacity has built up into a store of ill will which must have contributed to her undoing just as victory seemed within her grasp" (*G. 1.4.84*).

It was the Brussels failure that led to the formulation of the draft Treaty of European Union. Immediately after the Brussels Summit, *Le Monde* had a bold headline "**Battle Plan For Europe**". Mitterand proposed a conference of all "those who want a Europe to be built".

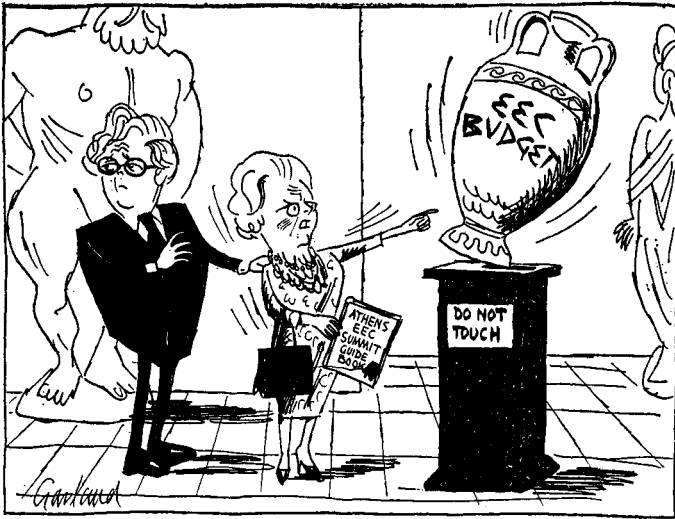
"What Paris would like to emphasise is the nature of the meeting called by Mitterand. Far more than a budgetary repair job, with or without the British, it would be a return to sources, a major collective reappraisal of Europe involving going back to the provisions of the Treaty of Rome and even solemnly confirming the Community member's attachment to its fundamental law" (*G. 1.4.84*).

The third E.E.C. Summit at Fontainebleau (Paris) in June reluctantly reached agreement on an outline for Britain's future payments, and agreed to pay the outstanding 400 million pound rebate. The bankruptcy of the E.E.C. was not resolved, and as late as November Britain is still saying it will not give approval to the emergency budget until there is "a firm commitment to strict control over future spending, particularly on agriculture" (*D.T. 22.11.84*).

Certainly the events of this year have widened the gap between Britain and Western Europe. And at the same time Britain has been like a catalyst, causing European Union to progress. So the angels work.

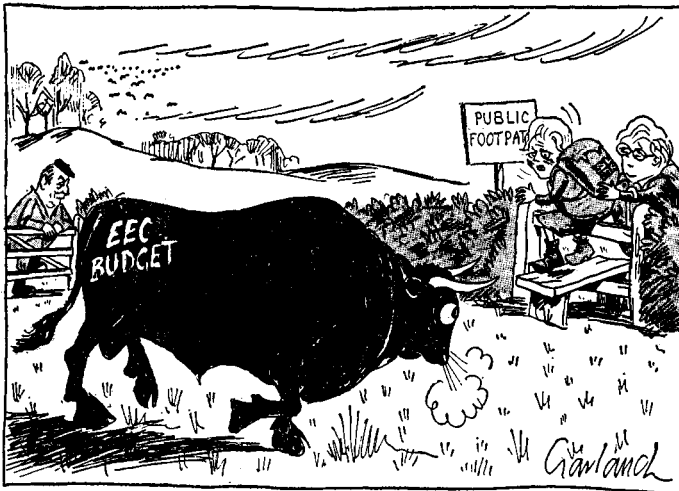
MODIFIED FRENCH SOCIALISM: MODIFIED CATHOLICISM

Changes in the political and religious scene in France are fascinating. After having governments controlled by Catholic political parties for decades, a Socialist government came to power in 1981 under President Mitterand. He launched a programme of full-blooded socialism in industry, welfare and education. After about two years he ran into massive financial difficulties and, in another direction, was faced with opposition from the Catholic Church over



"Exercising authority at the Athens' Summit"

the attempted suppression of the Catholic schools. His popularity plummeted. What did he do? Press on? Resign? No. He made a rapid fundamental change of course. He brought about the resignation of his Communist ministers; he determined on a course of modernising French industry towards new technology, free enterprise, efficiency and profit after the pattern of America; he granted the Church freedom in their Catholic schools. All this was labelled 'liberalism'



"Defeated at the Brussels' Summit in March"

rather than socialism. These changes are described in an article of September 30th headed "**France Bids Farewell to Socialist Dreams**". This new outlook was launched after six weeks 'mediation' during the parliamentary holidays. To mark the reality of the changed outlook, he dismissed his prime minister and installed a young 38 year old Catholic man with a modern industrial outlook to carry out the turn-about. How cleverly Mitterand disarmed the Opposition by adopting so many of their own ideas! The article points out that this turn round of the Socialist government is not so remarkable. The party, and Mitterand, have never been ardent Socialists like, say, the British Labour party. They have a strong dislike of Communism.

The Catholic Church's position has also changed, and the relation of Church and State has changed, probably aiding the European Union movement. The era of influential Catholic Trade Unions, Catholic political parties and governments, has gone. With the decline in religion, the French Catholics are in a minority and there are only a few Catholic ministers in the government. All this had resulted in the Catholic hierarchy keeping a low profile and having less influence. This low profile has now changed. The hierarchy was given a new leadership about the time Mitterand came to power.

"A new breed of bishops has come to the forefront. Influenced by Pope John Paul II and typified by Cardinal Lustinger, Archbishop of Paris, they are neither left wing nor right wing, neither progressive nor really conservative. Their intellectual powers are often above average" ("*The Church in Socialist France*", *Guardian* 1.1.84).

As in other countries, John Paul has been separating the hierarchy from direct secular situations so that it can be an independent vocal influence in its own right — a spiritual guide to the people. It can give support or oppose any government that happens to be in power. It can cooperate with a Socialist government.

The forceful character bringing this change in France is Cardinal Lustinger, an extremely able man with close relations — a 'hot line' — with the Pope. Strangely he is a Jew converted to Christianity, and yet still recognises his Jewishness. He keeps the Church's position before the public by his activities. He often appears on television and radio; mixes with the Paris intelligentsia; leads popular demonstrations; calls on ministers and other public figures.

"In the interests of the Church's new visibility, Lustinger makes use of radio and television whenever he can . . . Paradoxically he couches his very spiritual message in far from clerical language. When he speaks in public, he steers clear of church jargon. More at ease than most bishops when appearing on television, he is a remarkably compelling speaker". "Television viewers will have noted Lustinger's clarity of expression, intelligence, and conviction". "The Archbishop of Paris keeps in regular touch with political leaders of every complexion".

He has harmonious relations with the President Mitterand. His themes are similar to those of the Pope's — "the grand sentiments" of peace and justice.

One may suppose such a powerful man has a big influence on M. Mitterand and his Catholic Prime Minister in pushing forward European Union, a scheme in which the Pope is keenly interested. One should bear in mind, too, that Herr Kohl is a German Catholic. We see that more and more Catholics and Socialists are caused to cooperate — iron mixed with miry clay, the Pope's absolutism providing an iron element.

One is struck with the ability of the Papacy to have ready capable men able to adapt the Church to the changing political scene. Here in France is a pattern of how the Church will maintain its 'spiritual' influence over the people, and cooperate with the civil power, when she reaches that final glory ("I sit a queen and am no widow") in the future confederation of all Europe.

THE VATICAN AND ITALY

In line with the changed Vatican policy in France, the same change has occurred in Italy. A new Concordat this year replaces the one signed by Mussolini and the Pope in 1929 when the Vatican State was created.

"The Pope hailed yesterday the new Concordat between Italy and the Vatican under which Roman Catholicism will cease to be the state religion, and Rome's status as a 'sacred city' will disappear.

"The Pope called it a 'sign of the renewed harmony between Church and State'".

The rest of the article indicates that the Vatican has reluctantly agreed to yielding its privileged position in the face of mounting secular pressure.

"Privately, however, many senior churchmen are worried about the concessions the Vatican has made" (*D.T. 20.2.84*).

Italy has a Socialist government.

Chapter 2: U.S. GLOBAL INTERESTS AND WESTERN EUROPE.

America is increasingly looking towards the Pacific Ocean in trade and defence, and this has a significant effect on relations with Western Europe.

PACIFIC OCEAN COOPERATION

An historic change is said to be taking place. It is expressed in such newspaper headlines as follows:

“Gateway to America Now Faces the Orient”

“The Dawning of the Age of the Pacific”

“The Rising Sun in America’s Shadow”

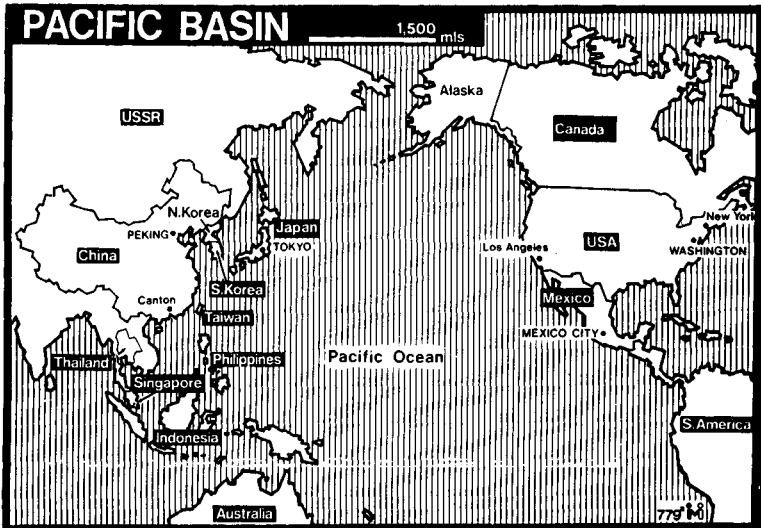
These were headings to full page articles during 1984. They express a change in the U.S. outlook. America is looking westward across the Pacific, with lessening interest eastward to Europe. The ‘watershed’ perhaps was last year when U.S. trade with nations across the Pacific overtook trade with Atlantic nations (G. 22.7.84). The trade figure in the Pacific was 121 billion dollars, and it is estimated that the Pacific basin trade will double in the 1980’s. Sixty per cent of all humanity lives in the Pacific region. Linked with this is the shift of the industrial centre of the U.S. from the eastern side of the country to California and the Pacific coast.

“California has become a self-sufficient industrial and financial giant with power to set the agenda for much of the rest of the nation’s economy, and to send to Washington presidents and members of Congress who will keep the state’s defense, oil, and other industries booming”. (G. 29.7.84)

Some current Californian names are the President, R. Reagan; Defence Minister Weinberger; Eagleburger, third ranking official in the State Department; and Clarke, until recently Reagan’s National Security Advisor. Over 10% of the U.S. population is in California.

The Pacific cooperation is mainly with Japan, though Taiwan, South Korea, Malaysia, Hong Kong and Singapore are all well developed industrial nations.

Cooperation between their two countries has been stepped up spectacularly at both research and production levels. A Japanese group, Nippon Kokan, has just acquired a 50% interest in the United States fourth largest steel concern, National Steel. Much of Boeing’s latest airliner consists of Japanese parts. Washington is even in the process of negotiating the use of the latest Japanese technologies in its armaments.



“Californian political leaders such as San Francisco Mayor Dianne Feinstein and Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley have travelled extensively in Japan and China to boost economic ties” (G. 22.7.84).

China with its 1,000 million population is now trying vigorously to catch up industrially. The past hostility has gone and there is industrial cooperation between Japan and China. Japan has promised China a two billion dollar loan.

DEFENCE COOPERATION

U.S. President Nixon was the first to visit China as a recognition of the growing importance of the Pacific Ocean. President Carter also made a visit; and this year President Reagan made a visit in April. Matters have developed sufficiently far for defence matters in the Pacific to be brought into focus, first with Japan, and then with China.

“The Americans would like to be able to take Japan’s self-defence as given, and reshape their own strategy accordingly. That means redeploying units of the Seventh Fleet to the Indian Ocean, closer to the Persian Gulf. To this end they would like Japan to assume responsibility for the defence of her sea lanes to the distance of 1,000 nautical miles” (G. 20.5.84).

“China and the United States are planning closer naval cooperation to counter what they regard as an increasing Soviet challenge in the Pacific”.

America is anxious to modernise China’s navy. **“Pacific Naval Line-up for U.S. and China”** was the headline covering the visit of the U.S. Naval Secretary to Peking. China is planning to modernise its

navy over the next decade by building five aircraft carriers and by developing a dozen new submarines carrying nuclear-tipped ballistic missiles (*D. T. 21.8.84*).

In contrast with this naval interest in the Pacific, a month or two earlier there was the headline, “**U.S. Sea View Turns Away From Declining NATO**”.

“A sombre picture of Nato’s decline at sea, with growing signs of a shift of American interest from Europe towards the Pacific, has emerged from the Alliance’s Atlantic Command biannual ‘Sea Link’ conference.

“Not one member of Reagan’s cabinet, nor a single Congressman was among the 78 American delegates at the conference” (*D. T. 18.6.84*).

U.S. GLOBAL CONFRONTATION: WESTERN EUROPE’S PAROCHIAL INTERESTS

In the last *Milestones* there was a chapter headed “**America and the Soviet — 1983: the year of confrontation**”. This expressed the new American attitude to the Soviet, set out by George Shultz in June of that year. “The doctrine of global opposition to the Soviet Union, as Mr. Shultz outlined it, is intended to replace the earlier U.S. Cold War policy of containment”. The developments in the Pacific should be seen in this broad context, and particularly the vital interest in the Persian Gulf. It is easy to understand the American impatience with Western Europe; the incompatibility of her world-wide view, and the ‘parochial’ view taken by Western Europe, whose concern is largely limited to its East European neighbours. The growing American attitude is that if Western Europe will not cooperate in the wider needs, then leave them to their own devices. Over the year there have been a variety of items giving expression to the growing gulf and antipathy between the two.

1. “**U.S. Attacks ‘Self-Centred’ Europeans**”
2. “**Europe Out of Tune with United States**”
3. “**As Atlantic Cousins Drift Apart will Defence Interests go West?**”
4. “**Bitter Recriminations at Conference on NATO**”
5. “**Kissinger’s Call to Halve American Troops in Europe**”

These headlines powerfully express the growing coolness between America and Western Europe; and make Europe more ready to turn to, or seek some compromise with, the Soviet.

Kissinger’s call to halve the U.S. force in Europe (item 5) was taken up later in Congress and was only narrowly defeated.

At the NATO conference (item 4): “Mutual recriminations within the Western alliance were voiced with unusual bitterness and candour by former senior European and United States politicians during a private conference in Brussels on Nato’s future”.

As to the ‘self-centred’ Europeans (item 1):

“Mr. Lawrence Eagleburger, number three in the State Department, gave vent to a widely-held American irritation with Europe in an appearance on Capitol Hill, home of Congress.”

“The Europeans, he said, have become so consumed with their own problems that it is ever more difficult to get Western Europe to look outside its own borders. As a result, he predicted ‘a shift in the centre of gravity of United States foreign policy from the transatlantic relationship toward the Pacific basin and particularly Japan’ ” (*D.T. 2.2.84*).

WESTERN EUROPE’S CORRESPONDING REACTION

Western Europe is likewise disenchanted with America. Reagan’s harsh attitude to the Soviet makes negotiations and the desired detente impossible. Popular movements, chiefly in West Germany and Holland, distrust America and press for some cooperation with the Soviet and probably a state of neutrality. The Dutch government will not at present install the Cruise and Pershing missiles, because of its strong ‘peace’ movement.

The ‘Star wars’ concept launched by Reagan is taken seriously, because it could replace nuclear weapons and leave Western Europe exposed to the overwhelming superiority of the Soviet’s conventional arms. The idea is no mere rhetoric: the U.S. have already allocated 26 billion dollars for the initial research. The basic idea is simple. When satellites detect the launching of nuclear missiles, the X-ray laser beam travelling at the speed of light would reach and destroy most of them in a few seconds, before they could reach their target.

The E.E.C., and France particularly, are strongly anti-American over the policy in Central America; and this generates further ill-feeling between the two.

“Western European nations have thrown their unconditional support behind the Contadora peace plan (drawn up by four involved countries —G.P.) for Central America, just as President Regan’s administration is about to embark on a campaign against the proposed accord” (*G. 7.10.84*).

France expressed her feelings by proposing sending mine-sweepers to remove mines placed by America.

Each year sees a widening gulf between the United States and Western Europe. And as we saw in chapter one, Western Europe is moving towards greater unity, so that it has more strength in carrying out its own negotiations with the Soviet.

REAGAN, THE BIBLE AND ARMAGEDDON

What work President Regan has to carry out in forwarding God's plan we do not know, but his consciousness that he has a work to perform no doubt gives him his confidence. Probably the angels bring about this state of mind. The reader may be interested in the following extracts from a full page article headed '**Reagan's Apocalypse Now**'.

"Regan has often expressed his religious determinism. The president believes in a divine plan which controls his life and the lives of others. He has said or implied that he sees God's hand guiding his own career.

"When Regan attained the governorship of California he told a reporter that he had committed his life into Christ's hands before the election. 'I've always believed there is a certain divine scheme in things', he said. 'I'm not quite able to explain how my election happened or why I am here, apart from believing it is part of God's plan for me'.

"He believes literally that Jesus walked on water and that the Red Sea parted for Moses and the Israelites. A scholar had claimed these two miracles were mirages, Reagan said, but a mirage could not account for the waters of the Red Sea closing on the armies of the Pharaoh and crushing them; and if the sight of Jesus walking on the water to his disciples in a boat was a mirage, 'What was the boat doing there?'. No, Reagan concluded, 'it will take more than mirage to do a successful rewrite of the world's all-time best seller — the Bible'."

"The point of reading the Bible is to realise that this world and our lives don't really belong to us. What the good Lord wants from each of us, and from this world, is up to Him, not you and me' " (G. 6.5.84).

Elsewhere in the article it is stated that Reagan believes in a real Armageddon war in the Middle East, and that he holds to the popular idea that born-again Christians will escape this by being taken away in the 'Rapture', though this last point is only a deduction from the fact that he is much influenced by the radio preacher Jerry Falwell.

Despite the immorality in America there still seems to be a respect for the Word of God. 1983 was the "Year of the Bible". The following is from "The Flame" June 1983:

"Earlier the 97th Congress had authorised and requested the President to issue the proclamation. In joint Resolution 165, the Senate and House of Representatives passed this significant legislation 'in recognition of both the formative influence the Bible has been on our nation, and our national need to study and apply the teachings of the Holy Scriptures'.

"In his historic proclamation, the President made the following statement:

'Today our beloved America, and indeed the whole world, is facing a decade of enormous challenge. As a people we may well be tested as we have seldom, if ever, been tested before. We will need resources of spirit even more than resources of technology, education, and armaments.

'There could be no more fitting moment than now to reflect with gratitude, humility, and urgency upon the wisdom revealed to us in the writing that Abraham Lincoln called 'the best gift God has ever given to man . . .'

'I encourage all citizens, each in his own or her own way, to re-examine and rediscover its priceless and timeless message' ''.

Chapter 3: PAPAL AND VATICAN OBJECTIVES.

Babylon the Great of Revelation 18 is the description of the final phase of the harlot system; it is shown there as very rich, powerful and world-wide in its influence and control. Many activities are working to this end.

POLAND

In the last *Milestones* we showed that despite the antagonism between Church and State, there has been reluctant cooperation between the two sides in Poland from the end of the second world war. The two sides need each other. The Pope's visit in 1983 was in a conciliatory mood, and Church and State both said the visit was a success, concluding with several hours of joint discussions. 1984 began with a five hour talk between Cardinal Glemp and General Jaruzelski. As a result, Glemp on his part agreed to restrain the attacks on the Government by his pro-Solidarity priests; and the Government on its part was expected to release political prisoners and abandon political trials. A government official said that the meeting "finally and irrevocably disposed of allegations of growing tensions between the Church and State" (*D. T. 7.1.84*). When Cardinal Glemp went to Rome to report on the talks he said negotiations to establish diplomatic relations between the Vatican and Poland were going well. It is the Vatican that is taking the initiative; an article in March says that—

"The Church for its part, is giving considerable ground in its search for 'normalisation' persistent rumours that at least 60 other priests are being shoved out to the sticks as part of the deal between the Cardinal and the General" (*G. 4.3.84*).

Other writers confirm that the Church has 'sacrificed' Walesa in its seeking accommodation with the Government.

The expected amnesty was announced in July at the 40th anniversary of the Communist rule in Poland.

"By any yardstick, the Polish amnesty is a dramatic move. Six hundred and fifty one prisoners are to be given amnesty during the next 30 days, together with nearly 35,000 criminals. The amnesty covers the four KOR dissidents whose trial for preparing to overthrow the Communist system had only just begun, as well as seven well-known Solidarity activists detained since martial law in 1981. Many other key figures of the Solidarity period are included in the amnesty" (*G. 29.7.84*).

Later the article says that the Church's objective will not be immediately realised.

“The draft law designed ‘to establish the Polish Church’ and to open the way to diplomatic relations with the Vatican is also in abeyance. All this may be a temporary eclipse of the Church — partly due to mistakes by the Polish primate, Cardinal Glemp, in recent weeks”.

So the rivalry cum cooperation continues. The developments in Poland are watched with equal concern by the Vatican and the Soviet. It is something of a trial of strength.

WILL THE POPE VISIT MOSCOW?

The following is from an article in the Toronto Star, Canada, February 25th 1984, sent by Bro. E. Farrar. The article is headed, “**Will Moscow Talk Peace with the Pope?**”

It is written by Adam Bromke, a professor of political science at McMaster University, and a visitor to Poland.

“... another peace initiative has gotten under way. It has been launched by the Catholic Church under personal guidance of John Paul II. Despite its difference in style it is no less daring than that of Trudeau’s. It may culminate in the Pope going to the Soviet Union.

“At the centre of the Pope’s diplomatic initiative stands the Polish Church. His visit last year was intended not only to enhearten his compatriots after the suppression of Solidarity, but also to signal the Vatican’s readiness for improvement of relations with the Communist states”.

Cardinal Glemp made an official visit to Hungary in October 1983. The delegation was given official welcome on arrival in Hungary, and again at Warsaw airport on its return. Thus the exchange of the church dignitaries was given a formal stamp of approval by the two Communist governments.

“Even more sensational have been the reports about Glemp’s plans to visit the Soviet Union next Spring . . . It is not unreasonable to conclude that Glemp’s mission may be to pave the way for a future papal visit to the Soviet Union.

“Meanwhile, Vatican diplomacy has succeeded in improving relations with some other Communist states in Eastern Europe” (*Czechoslovakia, Rumania, and Bulgaria are mentioned — G.P.*).

The writer then speculates on the usefulness of the Pope to the Soviet Union in the diplomatic isolation the Soviet is now in.

“John Paul’s balanced position between socialism and capitalism, moreover, makes it easier for the Communist leaders to accept him as a genuine partner. They profess to subscribe to his humanist values which they claim are inherent in Marxist tradition too.

“Finally, with the Communist ideology on the decline in Eastern Europe, the various governments there may even welcome the revival of the religious values among their people as a viable substitute. Commitment

to hard work, honesty, and social ties may be helpful in overcoming sloth, corruption and alienation which are rampant in the Communist societies”.

All this is of a somewhat speculative nature, but it shows us what the Vatican is aiming at. The Pope’s “peace initiative”, as it is called, may well be used by the Soviet to lull Western Europe into believing it has no aggressive intentions, and developing a detente that draws Western Europe away from America. The disillusionment and rebelliousness of the rising generation in the Communist countries has been commented on by several writers, and we may be reaching the point where the authorities decide that ‘religion’ is a useful aid in governing. This is what the Pope wants.

THE WASHINGTON-VATICAN AXIS

Alongside the Vatican-Moscow axis we have the Vatican-Washington axis. These phrases come from Avro Manhattan’s book, “The Vatican Moscow Washington Alliance” (1982), briefly reviewed in 1982 Milestones. The Vatican tries to manipulate both super powers for its own ends. The American people have been astonished at the public and outspoken support that the American bishops have given for the election of Reagan for a second term.

“The most blatant example of intervention in the American election has come from Cardinal John Krol of Philadelphia, who campaigned only for President Reagan at a recent re-election rally in Doylestown, Pennsylvania. Cardinal Krol . . . introduced President Reagan at the rally and praised his policies in extravagant terms” (G. 30.9.84).

Archbishop O’Connor of New York attacked the Democrat position, and Geraldine Ferraro (a Catholic!).

One is not surprised, of course, that the Pope is anxious for Reagan to be re-elected. The Soviet appreciate the powerful influence the Pope has on President Reagan (he has a ‘hot line’ to the Pope), and his several senior Catholic politicians. Therefore, from the Pope’s point of view, in his bargaining with the Soviet, this is a card in his hand, and he can extract from the Soviet concessions in exchange for getting U.S. policies more favourable to the Soviet.

In January 1984 the U.S. established full diplomatic relations with the Vatican. The ambassador designate, Mr. William Wilson, is a Californian, and an old friend of Reagan’s. When President Truman nominated an ambassador to the Vatican in 1951 there was a Protestant outcry, and the nomination had to be withdrawn. How the scene has changed in 30 years. The Pope’s visit to America was a big factor in changing the Protestant Church’s attitude.

JOHN PAUL II CHANGES THE STATUS OF THE CHURCH IN THE WORLD

The general effect of the important Second General Council, 1963-5, initiated by Pope John 23, was to move the Catholic Church into closer contact with the everyday world. One striking aspect was that some priests were trained in Marxist ideas, and in Africa and Central and South America they worked actively with the Marxist revolutionaries to 'liberate the poor and oppressed'. Also in France there were the worker priests. The effect of this was that "Christian socialism was contaminated with godless Marxism". This could be fatal to the Catholic Church's objective to lead Europe — and the world — in the 'spiritual' sphere. The Church must maintain its authority in the spiritual realm as superior to the civil and secular realms. To lose this authority would jeopardise the future 'cooperation' the Church hopes to attain with the Soviet.

So the line of action of the present Pope has been to command a separation of the sacred from the secular. He ordered the Jesuits to get out of Congress; he ordered the Latin American priests to cease their involvement in government offices, particularly priests holding high office in the Sandinista government and in Managua.

"Throughout his reign, now approaching the end of its sixth year, Pope John Paul II has expressed his hostility to what has become known as the theology of liberation as preached by many priests in Latin America. On Monday the sacred Congregation for the doctrine of the Faith, descendent of the office of the Holy Inquisition, issued its long if not enthusiastically awaited 'instructions on some aspects of the theology of liberation'" (*G. 9.9.84*).

Priests may speak out against the oppression of the poor, etc. from their lofty pinnacle of Church authority, but must not get mixed up with every day affairs.

The Pope has likewise rebuked his 26,000 strong Jesuit army.

"The present Pope has publicly assailed them for their 'worldliness', 'Marxist tendencies', 'secular trends', and for siding with revolutionary movements in Latin America" (*G 14.9.84*).

A new leader, the "Black Pope", named Hans Kolvenbach, has been installed over the Jesuits.

"He was said by a Vatican source to 'command the confidence' of the Pope."

Along a parallel line, the present Pope has steadily brought the Catholic Church back to her basic doctrines after the apparent yielding to other Christian sects following the liberating spirit expressed in the documents of the Second General Council. Despite the dialogues and 'Agreed Statements' of Commissions, nothing has

changed. This unyielding attitude on Catholic doctrine is but another aspect of the high authority claimed by the Catholic Church. They claim to speak for God and their doctrines carry that authority. The Pope balances this conservative position on doctrine with his emphasis on his pastoral mission. He is continually talking about morality and justice in fine scriptural phrases, beguiling the people that he is a good man and his Church is the moral leader in this decadent age. This will enhance his appeal when in the future he speaks to the nations to join together for peace and justice.

WORLD POWER THROUGH FINANCE

Now for a totally different aspect to that of the good, pastoral church! Throughout the centuries the Catholic Church has had outstanding wealth. There have been many ecclesiastical devices to accumulate wealth: penance; tithes; Peter's pence; rich people's wills; pilgrimages to shrines; church fees for pews, marriages and burials; lands and estates gifted or stolen. But the Churches' wealth today is of a different order of magnitude. A new aspect has emerged in the 20th century that has created greater wealth than ever before. Her financial and business wealth developed in the past fifty years is phenomenal. This throws new light on the picture of the final Babylon the Great described in Revelation 18. This chapter gives a picture of the final greatness and glory of the Babylon system when it faces Jesus Christ and is destroyed by the saints. At that time it will be the respected ecclesiastical element of the Nebuchadnezzar Image; and the final rallying point for the war by the ten horns against the Lamb. Whereas chapter 17 of Revelation shows the harlot sitting on the beast, controlling Europe, chapter 18 appears to have a wider context, something we can understand today. It is the picture of her sitting on 'many waters' — 'peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues'. Perhaps we may draw a parallel: As the New Jerusalem city will have Israel as its centre and the world as its empire, so the great Babylon city will have Europe as its centre and the world as its empire.

Certainly there is a world-wide aspect to chapter 18:

v.3— *"All nations have drunk of the wine of her fornication"*

v.23— *"for by thy sorceries all nations were deceived"*.

The chapter describes a truly vast and powerful dominion:

v.10— *"Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city"*

v.18— *"What city is like to this great city"*

v.23— *"thy merchants were the great men of the earth"*.

The comment on her exalted position is:

v.7—“*How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much sorrow and torment give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen and am no widow and shall see no sorrow*”.

But the dominant impression on reading the whole chapter is of great wealth.

v.16—“*Alas, alas, that great city that was clothed in fine linen, and purple, and scarlet, and decked with gold, and precious stones, and pearls. For in one hour is so great riches come to nought*”.

v.3—“*The merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies*”.

The figure being used is of a city made rich by her trading, like the figure used of Tyre of old in Ezekiel chapter 27.

vv.12, 13—“*No man buyeth her merchandise any more: the merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet, and all thyine wood, and all manner of vessels of most precious wood . . . and slaves and souls of men*”.

v.19—“*Alas, alas, that great city wherein were made rich all that have ships in the sea by reason of her costliness (‘wealth’ R.S.V.)*”.

Today Babylon’s ecclesiastical trading in ‘souls of men’ continues unabated. But we suggest that there is involved a wider ‘trading’. Her merchantmen are “the great men of the earth” (v.23). This is exactly the situation today with her involvement in the world of finance and business.

Some ten years ago those who read Avro Manhattan’s book **Vatican Billions** (1972) were astonished at the diversity of operations by the Catholic Church in the financial world. This new aspect of the Vatican’s activities was launched in 1929 when under the Lateran Treaty Mussolini paid the Church 750 million lira and 1,000 million in Italian bonds in compensation for the land and property confiscated in the previous century. This was, as it were, the launching capital for the new venture. Manhattan in his first edition showed the development of this project over the years. Now in a revised and enlarged edition he describes the Vatican activities over the past ten years. Part of the extra 100 pages is concerned with the intrigue and scandals in which the Vatican has been involved — cooperation with the Mafia and the Masonic Order; and the murder of the banker Calvi under Blackfriar’s bridge to avoid his making a disclosure on the 1.4 million dollars that appear to have got ‘lost’ in the Vatican system. But our present interest is not with this, but with the growth in wealth and

influence of the Vatican. The importance of this lies in the fact that with such financial control as the Vatican wields throughout the world, it can also influence politics and war in a big way.

The greatest detail in Manhattan's revised book concerns the Roman Catholic Church in the U.S.A.. A chapter headed "Member of the Billionaire Club of the U.S.A." begins and ends with these two paragraphs respectively:

"The Roman Catholic Church in the U.S. is an economic giant, not so much because she has penetrated the economic sinews of the giant corporations, trusts, and banks of America, but because she has accumulated lands and real estate, and controls institutions whose real, solid and material value in terms of money made her an economic colossus in her own right; indeed, perhaps the greatest colossus of all."

"The Catholic Church in America, therefore, operates like a giant corporation — not only as a potential maker or breaker of politicians at all levels, but equally as a financial giant consorting with her peers in the running of the economic life of the country".

He claims the hierarchy may know little about theology, but they have a "unique knowledge of rates of interest".

"In terms of business acumen and successful dollar operations, they can truly stand on a par with the chairman of any top oil, steel, or giant motor car trusts of America".

Manhattan refers to the Jesuits as a separate party from the hierarchy. He quotes from the German paper *Der Spiegel*:

"The Jesuits are one of the largest stockbrokers in the American steel company, Republic and National. They are also among the most important owners of the four greatest aircraft manufacturing companies in the U.S., Boeing, Lockheed, Douglas, and Curtis-Wright. Furthermore, they have a controlling interest in the Phillips Oil Co., which has a great many oil concessions in Venezuela".

The Catholic Church has similar financial investments in Europe.

"The Vatican, as we have already reiterated, has large investments with the Rothschilds of Britain, France and America, with the Hambros Bank, with the Credit Suisse in London and Zurich. In the United States, it has large investments with the Morgan Bank, the Chase Manhattan Bank, the First National Bank of New York, the Bankers Trust Company, and others. The Vatican, as we have already seen, has billions of shares in the most powerful international corporations, such as Gulf Oil, Shell, General Motors, Bethlehem Steel, General Electric, International Business Machines, TWA, etc.

An estimate is made that in the financial and business world the Church is worth 80 to 100 billion (100,000,000,000) dollars. And in addition to business wealth, there is the inestimable wealth, described in a chapter entitled "The Intangible Billions of the Catholic Church".

Throughout the world there is the wealth of historic architectural and artistic buildings and their contents. The actual gold and precious stones in these buildings and on numberless idols and shrines must be fabulous.

Yes, the Revelation, chapter 18, suggested such wealth, but not until this has developed in our time could we really appreciate it in its fulness. It was certainly not apparent to the same extent in Bro. Thomas' time. With such all-persuasive power the Catholic Church will drive the rulers of this world to fight against the Lord Jesus Christ. The 'great men' of the Church will not readily give up their wealth; nor will the 'great men' of the world who have cooperated in the 'trading'. But the outcome is certain. The bitter struggle in Europe is described as a lake of fire and brimstone into which the beast and the false prophet are cast. And when it is finished the nations that are left shall come to Jerusalem to worship, as Jeremiah says: "*O LORD, my strength, and my fortress, and my refuge in the day of affliction, the Gentiles shall come unto thee from the ends of the earth, and shall say, Surely our fathers have inherited lies, vanity, and things wherein there is no profit*" (Jer. 16:9).

Manhattan's final chapter is headed "Arbiter of the Western World". He opens it by saying that it has been calculated that if everything were to continue as at present, this 20th century phenomenon of the Catholic Church has gathered such momentum that at the close of the century, it "would own, control, and have a say, directly or indirectly in at least one-third of all sources of wealth of the western world".

It will be something of a surprise to learn that in the U.S. and Germany the Protestant Church is not much less wealthy than the Catholic Church, according to Avro Manhattan:

"The Protestant Church of Germany thus became one of the wealthiest churches of Europe, surpassed only by the Protestant churches of the U.S., where they are almost on a par with the Catholic Church with its wealth running into hundreds of billions of dollars".

So in this field, too, it is the harlot and her daughters.

Another book, by a Mr. Lo Nino, has recently been published on the Roman Catholic Church's business organisation and wealth. The writer was the former Rome correspondent of the magazine Business Week. No further details of the book are known.

Vatican Billions by Avro Manhattan, 1983, 305 pages, is published by Chick Publications, P.O. Box 662, Chino, CA 91710. U.S.A.

His other current book, The Vatican Moscow Washington Alliance, 1982, 352 pages, has the same publisher.

SHE SITS UPON MANY WATERS

The judgment of the “great whore” is introduced at the beginning of chapter 17. In the light of what we have just been considering, it would seem significant that the whore is first presented as “the whore that sitteth on many waters”; and not as the woman sitting upon a scarlet coloured beast. This surely emphasises that in the last phase of the Babylon system, Babylon will have spread her power and influence world-wide.

Additional to the world-wide business activity of the Catholic Church, there is another aspect of “sitting upon many waters”. This is the outstanding activity of the present Pope in perambulating the world, with his doctrine of peace and justice. By now he has visited Mexico, Poland, Ireland, the United States, Turkey, the Far East, Brazil, West Africa, France, Portugal, the United Kingdom, Argentina, Spain, Central America, Poland again, Austria.

Still another aspect of ‘sitting upon many waters’ is the Vatican broadcasting. “Today the Pope broadcasts in 35 different languages worldwide”. It now has “the largest rotating antenna of its kind in the world” says the Protestant Reformer, July 1983. The article quotes a figure for 1975 when Radio Vatican sent out the Catholic teaching to all the world for 8,322 hours of broadcasting.

As with broadcasting and television, the Catholic Church was quick to use still another channel of influence.

“The videos are being produced at Cetro Televisivo — Vatican Television Centre of CTV — which was founded on 22nd October 1983 with full Papal approval. Its purpose, according to Oliatta Danese (CTV secretary) is: “The development of the presence of life in the Church and of Christian culture according to the tradition of the Roman Catholic Church and its hierarchy, through the use of radio visual medias”.

Several typical videos are briefly described, with such titles as: “John Paul II, pilgrim in Lourdes”; “The Pope’s Rosary”; “Young men, you are the hope of the Church”. (*The Reformer*)

So we see an ancient apostate Church revelling in a new-found popularity, with political and social influence. This is one of the great phenomena of our times, so significant to the Saints. As Isaiah spoke of Babylon of old, so it may be said of Great Babylon:

“And thou saidst, I shall be a lady forever: so that thou didst not lay these things to thy heart, neither didst remember the latter end of it.

“Therefore hear now this, thou that art given to pleasures, that dwellest carelessly, that sayest in thine heart, I am, and none else beside me; I shall not sit as a widow, neither shall I know the loss of children:

“But these two things shall come to thee in a moment in one day, the loss of children, and widowhood: they shall come upon thee in their perfection for the multitude of thy sorceries, and for the great abundance of thine enchantments . . .

“Thus shall they be unto thee with whom thou hast laboured, even thy merchants, from thy youth: they shall wander every one to his quarter; none shall save thee” (Isa. 47:7, 8, 9, 15).

Chapter 4: ISRAEL, THE ARABS AND THE MIDDLE EAST.

The nation of Israel is economically, politically and morally in a bad way; this is the outcome of past events and attitudes. This present crisis may head to better things. It may be a preparing for the Elijah work of divine instruction.

THE GULF WAR

Our main interest in world affairs is always Israel, but a preliminary wider look at the Middle East will be useful. There continue two centres of tension, the Gulf and the Lebanon. The Gulf war was started by Iraq attacking Iran. It is now in its fourth year after various surges of bloody warfare. Nearly half a million men have been killed, and vast sums of money consumed. It is said that Saudi Arabia and the Gulf States have given some 50 million pounds in hard cash to Iraq. The various significant and interesting factors may be briefly listed:

1. Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and the Gulf States support Iraq in order to hold back the revolutionary Islamic forces of Khomeini from toppling their precarious regimes.
2. Russia has been supporting both sides. This year, as Iraq appeared to be going under, she has given open support to Iraq to keep the war going. Her object, presumably, is to weaken both contestants so that at the appropriate time she can impose her own power on the area.

"Iraq is expecting a major arms shipment from Russia . . . Advanced T-72 tanks, MIG 29 jets, and surface to air missiles — probably SS.21 — are due to arrive through the Jordanian port of Aquaba in August." (D.T. 4.6.84).

At a conference at Bagdad:

"The Soviet Delegate's support for Iraq was the most open expression yet of a new committed Russian policy in the Gulf" (D.T. 11.7.84)

Russia has penetrated much farther south than Iraq.

"Kuwait has just signed a major arms contract with the USSR under which Moscow will provide the Emirate with sophisticated military equipment to a total value of \$300 million. Kuwait will receive Soviet military experts who will be responsible for training its personnel". ((G. 26.8.84).

3. Iraq's duplicity, however is noted by her resumption of diplomatic relations with the United States! Four years of senseless warfare have made the Iraqis anxious for friends of any persuasion. Britain and France have also been involved in supplies of arms to Iraq.

4. A major Iranian land offensive against Iraq was expected in the Spring, but did not happen, probably because of the strengthening Iraq received. Instead, from May onwards Iran — and also Iraq — directed attacks towards the Gulf itself and the oil shipments. This brought the Gulf States, Oman, Saudi Arabia and the UAE more directly under attack, and they became alarmed. The result of this was a strengthening of the U.S. naval presence in the Gulf waters. Several Gulf Arab States organised military cooperation and defence, with the help of the U.S. Some headlines were:

“U.S. Seeks Bases as Gulf War Fears Grow” —12.4.84

“U.S. Ready to Intervene in Gulf” —27.5.84

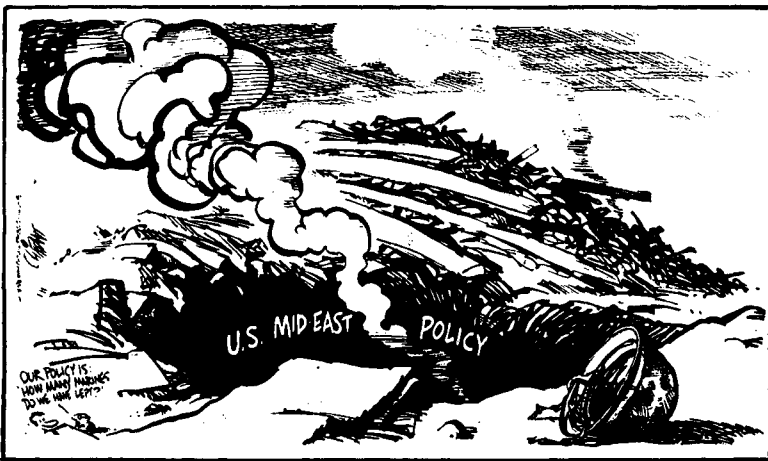
“Gulf States in Move to Unify Defences” —22.5.84

The whole coastline from Kuwait to Oman now has its own sophisticated warning system, and a coordinated missile and airbase linkage. Actual military activity in shooting down two Iranian planes early in June was something of a surprise.

5. No startling conclusions can be drawn from all this; though it may be noted that with Iraq fully engaged with Iran, this has given Syria the opportunity to exert itself in Lebanon, not having to worry about its hostile eastern neighbour.

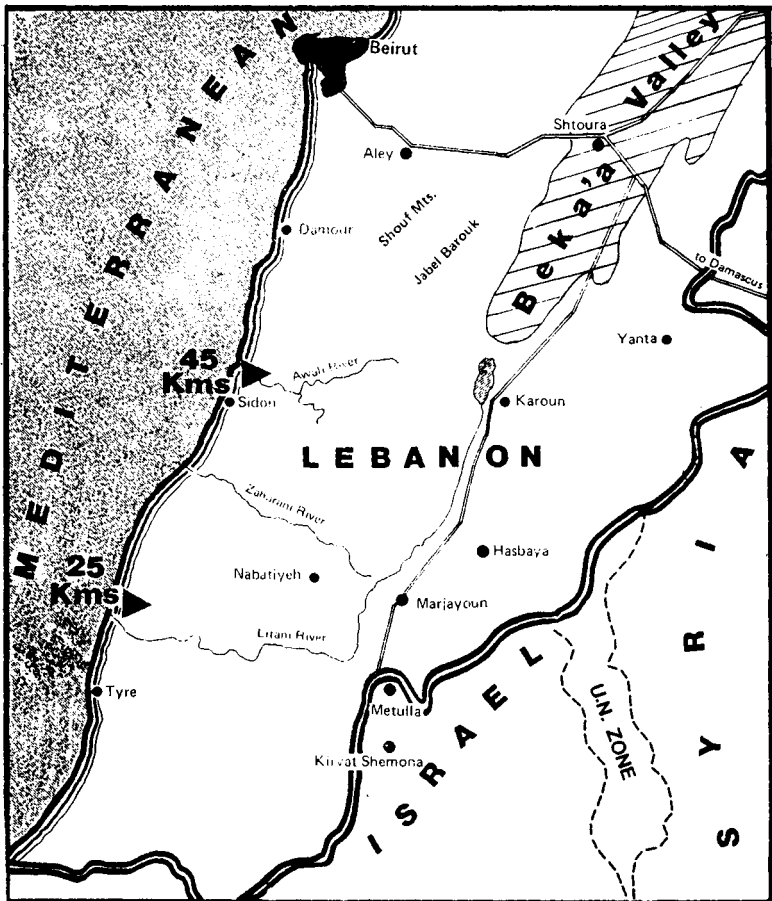
SYRIA PUSHES THE U.S. OUT OF THE NORTHERN REGION

The PLO were taken out of Lebanon in 1983, but this did not bring any respite to Lebanon. The country continued to be a battlefield



between Syria supported by the Soviet, and Israel supported by the U.S. The outcome of the struggle was that the U.S. was discredited and Syria emerged as the dominant power. Also the Soviet gained in standing; and Israel was left desperately trying to disentangle itself from the morass it had got into.

The U.S. made several miscalculations and suffered for it. After the PLO had been evacuated from Lebanon, instead of withdrawing the Peace-keeping Force, Reagan kept them in Lebanon, aiming to impose his ideas on Syria and bring about his Peace Plan settlement in the region. The U.S. marines suffered from increasing local hostility;



and then the Syrians joined in and shot down U.S. planes. The American battleship New Jersey responded by opening fire with its powerful 16 inch guns, blasting Syrian anti-aircraft batteries. This was the turning point. A newspaper headline ran:

“Sixth Fleet’s Shells Destroy U.S. Credibility” (*D.T. 5.1.84*).

The U.S. could not longer be regarded as an impartial mediator. After a further six months the end came. A Washington Post headline read:

“The Last of the U.S. Marines Creep Quietly Away” (*G. 12.8.84*).

In the interval from January to August President Reagan received another bitter rebuff. After a friendly visit to the U.S.A. by King Hussein of Jordan, Reagan expected him to agree, at last, to negotiate with Israel. Instead Hussein refused, and made a blunt attack on the U.S. policies. The Daily Telegraph reported as follows:

“Hussein’s Attack Shatters U.S. Mid-East Policy”:

“America’s Middle East policy was in tatters last night after a devastating rejection by King Hussein of Jordan of President Reagan’s peace initiative. The king . . . told Washington it had lost credibility in the region, and said that another Arab-Israel war was inevitable if America continued its huge military support for Israel” (*D.T. 16.3.84*).

About the same time Syria put pressure on Gemayal of Lebanon, and brought about the cancellation of the May 1983 Peace Agreement with Israel. From then on Syria was the effective ruler of Lebanon.

Not only had President Assad of Syria gained the upperhand in the region, but Syria had become militarily stronger than before the Lebanon war started. The Soviet not only had replaced what had been lost in the war, but had taken a stronger grip on the country.

“The Syrians lost approximately one billion dollars worth of equipment and it was replaced by two billion dollars worth. Sam-6s in the Beka Valley were replaced by the more formidable Sam-5s placed inside Syria. They are now situated on sites from which Syrians are excluded. The new missiles are manned by 5,000 Soviet soldiers and technicians and another 3,000 so-called advisors” (*Newsview 24.4.84*).

“As a result, the Soviet Union has built Syria a wide-ranging and effective defence system stretching from Aleppo in the north to the Jordanian border in the south” (*J.P. 11.12.84*).

The Syrians claim their missiles can reach as far south as the Negev.

The Jerusalem Post article just quoted from points out that Soviet civil developments in Syria increase its grip on Syria.

“This military build-up is reflected in the 1984 Syrian defense budget which allocated 58 percent of the national budget to the armed forces” (*Newsview 28.11.84*).

Even Israel's 25% is small compared with this. And Britain's expenditure is around 5%.

"The deep Russian involvement in Syria, Sela points out, extends beyond military matters. The USSR has built the Euphrates dam, has laid hundreds of kilometres of railways, and has constructed steel mills and other industrial plants. The Russians are also involved in a number of educational projects.

"Syria's communists, unlike other Arab countries, where they are imprisoned or even hanged, are part of the Country's Ba'ath-led coalition. The Soviet alliance with Syria is a very comprehensive one, and for the Kremlin it represents a success in a region where there have been many failures".

This development in Syria is what we should expect prophetically. In the original King of the North-King of the South situation in Daniel chapter 11, the Seleucids — King of the North — were established in Syria with Antioch on the Orantes as their capital. So today we look on Syria as a key country. It is appropriate, too, that the U.S. should be pushed out of Lebanon-Syria. It has no place in the northern group of countries.

ISRAEL'S MANY PROBLEMS

It is against this Middle East background that we look at Israel. She is in a sorry state: afraid of the Syrian-Soviet weaponry; still subject to terrorist raids into Israel just as before the start of 'Peace for Galilee' war began; economically bankrupt with over 100% annual inflation; everyone crying out for the soldiers to be evacuated from Lebanon before more are killed by snipers; having a parliament that is hesitant and quarrelsome.

We may ask, how has Israel come to this sorry plight? A look back over the past twenty years will help us to understand. In the early days of the State the nation was united, made sacrifices, and was proud of its achievements and moral strength. The peak was reached in the 'Six Day' war of 1967, when fighting on three fronts against overwhelming odds, they captured territory many times greater than they had previously possessed; and also they took the old city of Jerusalem. But the victory brought with it two adverse factors: it created an over-confident military attitude, and it brought responsibility for large areas where the people were hostile. In the 'Yom Kippur' war of 1973, Israel was taken by surprise, and nearly lost the war, leaving the nation shaken. This may be taken as a critical point in the unity of the nation. People were becoming conscious of the growing might and skill of their enemies; this in turn made them alarmed at the tremendous military burden, in men and money, that was imposed on their tiny

nation to keep their enemies at bay; alarmed, too, at the difficulty of governing territories where things got worse rather than better. The nation became divided. Two views developed. Begin and his Likud party believed that with sufficient military power they could impose peace on the region. Being in government, they continued to spend vast sums on the military while neglecting the economy of the nation. The Labour party, in Opposition, maintained that a negotiated peace settlement was necessary; that the army expenditure and the West Bank settlement plan must be curtailed.

When Begin launched the limited war of 'Peace for Galilee' in 1982, the secret aim of the army leaders was to take Beirut in the north, get Lebanon to agree to peace on a similar basis to that with Egypt; and thus achieve the desired security and stability. There was early military success, but this turned gradually to political if not military failure. With many dead, thousands wounded, and a general stalemate, the division of the nation became very apparent. Begin, conscious of his responsibility for the disaster (though he had been deceived) resigned — and more or less crept out of sight. At last the impossible expenditure on the military and the West Bank settlement, and years of living beyond their means with a generally high standard of living, had caught up with them. The economic crisis was tremendous, but no one seemed able to exert the necessary grip on the situation. Politicians and parties were noticeably selfish and quarrelsome, making emergency decisions impossible. An election in July made nothing better; no coalition of their many political parties could be made up to take the necessary strong line needed. In October a national government was eventually formed by the two main parties normally in opposition to each other, with the mandate to deal with the two most pressing problems, the economy and the evacuation from Lebanon. At the time of writing, the end of November, after weeks of argument, some kind of package for the economy has been put together, but how it will be received by the rank and file of the parties remains to be seen. There is some temporary respite through President Reagan, partly as an election ploy one suspects, granting Israel \$1.3 billion as a sum immediately available instead of in instalments. A writer in *Newsview* indicates the unwillingness of the nation to face the truth by saying that only some mighty financial crash, like the collapse of a main bank, will bring everyone to face reality.

The picture just sketched is widely accepted by a number of writers watching Israel. Here are several headings used by such writers:

"The Danger of Israel Lost in the Wilderness"

"Star of David on the Wane"

“Israel Waits to Reap the Whirlwind”

“No Way Out of Israel’s Chosen War”

Although the last mentioned article was written early in the year before the crisis deepened, it was a penetrating analysis, and a few quotations will confirm what has just been written.

“Total victory in the 1967 war propelled the Israel army into politics by turning a general such as Moshe Dayan into a media star and by placing the military in control of territory five times larger than the state it was supposed to defend.

“The Labour Party lost its grip over the military after 1967 and Mr. Begin was all too ready to give the army its head when he came to power ten years later. Men like General Sharon quickly climbed the political ladder and the military budget soared out of control.

“Today defence spending stands at 4.2 billion pounds annually, well over 25% of the 15 billion pounds budget. This colossal expenditure has deprived the government of funds for investment, which is one reason why Israel has suffered nearly zero growth rate for the last two years. . . . By contrast Egypt . . . (has an) annual 8% growth rate. Israelis are beginning to realise that ‘Eretz Israel’ and its attendant follies are burdens the country simply cannot afford”.

Speaking of the mood of the people in the face of the present economic crisis:

“There is no sign that this generation of Israel can recreate the historic moment when their grandfathers seized and defended the hard won grant of statehood from the United Nations. Instead a seething discontent with the decline in living standards has resurrected the questioning voices that were stifled for years by the fake prosperity and clarion calls of patriotism.

“Can Israel really afford Jewish settlements on the West Bank that are costing at least 142 million pounds a year, and probably closer to 500 million pounds if one takes into account all the indirect costs? What is the army doing in South Lebanon at the cost of 700,000 pounds a day when it is seemingly unable to prevent continuing casualties from guerrilla attacks? Why in a supposedly secular state do the religious parties have such a stranglehold over government — any government — that they can extort vast state funds for their small and intolerant constituency?

“The Knesset, Israel’s Parliament, is widely held in contempt by people of every class and religious persuasion who see regularly a handful of legislators slanging each other in an otherwise empty chamber”. (G. 5.2.84).

The behaviour of the Israelis, sadly, seems to be similar to that of people in Britain. The picture is sketched in several articles in *Newsview*.

“Though the family is normally seen as the heart of Jewish life, here in the Jewish State at least 23,000 boys and girls are in institutions because their parents are either unwilling or unable to care for them” (3.1.84).

“Israel has four shelters for battered women: each of them is constantly overcrowded or full to capacity. Apparently as many as 10% of Israeli wives are physically assaulted at some time or other and this sorry phenomenon cuts right across every social strata” (10.4.84).

“The boys they deal with (some girls are assisted too) cannot be placated with ping-pong or video games. Some have had police records since the age of nine. Some are drug users or dealers. And if not, they are vulnerable to trouble, spilling out of overcrowded apartments to roam the streets. Others are rebellious in school, or are unable or unwilling to find a job” (17.1.84).

In rather a different category, yet still expressing lawlessness, is the following:

“Israel is bracing itself for what promises to be one of its most sensational trials after 25 religious Jewish settlers were charged last week with terrorist crimes against Palestinians in the occupied territories.

“The charges include six of premeditated murder and 47 attempted murder. Eleven of the suspects are charged with terrorist activity and 14 with membership of a terrorist organisation.

“The suspects are alleged to have illegally equipped themselves with weapons and explosives stolen from the army and conspired to commit crimes intended to take vengeance upon and intimidate the Arab population” (G. .6.84).

One fascinating outcome of the indecisive election results is that the West Bank is sure to remain as a territory of Israel. The Labour Party that was earlier expected to obtain a decisive majority in Parliament failed to govern in their own right. Their view was that the West Bank could be paid as the price of peace! Yet Ezekiel had indicated that it was *upon the mountains of Israel* that Gog would be destroyed (38:21; 39:2, 4). Since Gog comes to spoil Israel then Israel must be living in these mountains at the fulfilment of the vision. Judea and Samaria are essentially the mountains of Israel and together they make up “the West Bank”. We conclude therefore that the election result in Israel ensures the fulfilment of Ezekiel’s prophecy that Israel will be inhabiting those mountains of Judea and Samaria when Russia invades.

THE GOOD THAT MAY FOLLOW

Gloomy as the picture is, no doubt Israel will rise to better things. Can we see anything significant in the present unhappy state? It may be that after a year or so of severely restricted living, the Israelis will be in a more sober, chastened, mood; and that through this deflated and

humiliated state they are being prepared to receive some divine instruction. We must never lose sight of that element in the divine programme that God will send Elijah **before** the great and dreadful day of the LORD.

Malachi's words are:

"Remember the law of Moses my servant which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments. Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth ('eretz'—land) with a curse". Mal. 4:4-6

Some of the implications of this prophecy are important and not always appreciated.

"Before the great and dreadful day of the LORD": Malachi's prophecy was addressed to Jews in the land, shortly after their return from Babylonian exile. So it is reasonable to understand that this prophecy applies primarily to those Jews who today have returned to the land. What is the "great and terrible day of Yahweh"? Clearly it relates to Armageddon as the context is speaking of this *"For, behold, the day cometh that shall burn as an oven, and all the proud yea and all that do wickedly, shall be as stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch" . . . "And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the LORD of hosts"* (Mal. 4:1-3). Zechariah also makes this clear with his multiple references to "the day of Yahweh" and speaking of the same matters (Zech. 12:2, 4, 6, 8, 9, 11; 13:1; 14:1).

So before the final invasion of Russia's confederacy upon Israel in the land, and after the Resurrection, there Malachi indicates that there will be some divine instruction by the hand of Elijah. The period may well be associated with the peace and prosperity prophesied by Ezekiel before the invasion (38:8, 11, 13, 14). These are two pleasing aspects of the future programme for Israel which at present is so beleaguered by grave political, financial and moral problems.

Isaiah chapter 17 gives a graphic description of this day of the LORD.

"In the day shalt thou make thy plant to grow, and in the morning shalt thou make thy seed to flourish: but the harvest shall be a heap in the day of grief and desperate sorrow" (v.11).

Then there is the description of the invading armies:

“Woe to the multitudes of many people, which make a noise like the noise of the sea and to the rushing of nations, that make a rushing like the rushing of mighty waters!” (v.12).

Finally the destruction of the host of the invader:

“And before the eventide trouble; and before the morning he is not. This is the portion of them that spoil us, and the lot of them that rob us” (v.14).

This is the dramatic end of Ezekiel’s northern lost that comes ‘to spoil us’, to ‘take a great spoil’ (38:13). In the extremity Zechariah tells us that *“Jerusalem is taken, the houses rifled, and the women ravished, and half of the city shall go into captivity”* (Zech. 14:1).

This is, indeed, the great and dreadful day of the LORD for those in the land. And Malachi says Elijah carries out a work of instruction before this.

THE ELIJAH WORK BEFORE CHRIST IS REVEALED TO THE NATIONS

There is Scriptural appropriateness in this view of Elijah’s work among Jewry in the land. It is surely true that even today the greater portion of Jewry are outside of the Land and that this means Elijah’s work of restoral must go on, after Armageddon, into the lands of the Gentiles as clearly expounded by Bro. Thomas.* These large companies of Jews will be brought through the nations unto the Land of Israel, passing over the Euphrates and the Red Sea in a kind of national baptism after the rebels have been purged from their ranks (Ezekiel 20:33-34; Isa. 11:11-16; Mic. 7:14-17). Yet the **predicament of these Jews in the land is more urgent than those abroad**. They inhabit the vortex of the coming day of judgment of God Almighty. Paul tells us that it is when a Redeemer comes to Zion that ungodliness is turned from Jacob and their sins removed (Rom. 11:26, 27) and Zechariah says, *“they shall look upon me whom they have pierced and they shall mourn for him . . .”* (Zech. 12:10). Yet these passages do not preclude a work of repentance **before** Christ *“to prepare the way of the Messenger of the Covenant”* (Mal. 3:1), **just as John Baptist did at the first coming**.

We know that the invasion of the land and its devastation has the effect of two thirds being killed and one third being saved:

“And it shall come to pass in all the land, saith the LORD, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein” (Zech. 13:8).

*See *“Mystery of the Covenant of the Holy Land Explained”*

The next verse enlarges on what happens to the third:

“and I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried; and they shall call on my name and I will hear them” (v.9).

Divine fire of judgment either destroys or refines. It destroys the two thirds and refines the third. So there must be some gold and silver material (even though it contains dross) for this refining fire to work on. The refining fire has the purpose of removing the dross from the gold and silver. Where has this ‘gold’ and ‘silver’ in the third part come from? Surely there must have been some sound instruction to create a change of heart that accepts the moral standards of the Law through Moses. Such is the requirement of Malachi’s words: *“Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel”*. It seems a proper conclusion that an Elijah work is essential to create some ‘silver’ and ‘gold’ for refining.

The simile of purifying metal in Zechariah is also used by Malachi in the section we are considering. Malachi uses almost identical words to Zechariah. In the third chapter, the Messenger of the Covenant—Jesus Christ—comes and sits as a refiner:

“But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner’s fire . . . And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver” (vv.2, 3).

Now Malachi tells us that before this refining there will be a preparatory work. In the previous verse he says that before the appearing of the Messenger of the Covenant to do the refining, a messenger will be sent to prepare the way before him. This messenger, Malachi tells us in the fourth chapter is Elijah; and the nature of his work is there described, as we have seen. So Malachi fills out the idea of the refining in Zechariah, and makes it clear that before the great and dreadful day of the LORD on latter-day Judah in the land, and their fiery deliverance by the Messenger of the Covenant, there is a preparatory work of instructing the people.

We may see this as the beginning of those gracious words in Jeremiah:

“Turn, O backsliding children, saith 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” (Jer. 3:14, 15).

This, of course, is in the future, for it leads to the time of the kingdom, when *“At that time they shall call Jerusalem the throne of the LORD”* (3:17).

“I will give you pastors after mine own heart”. If this begins with the Elijah work, the plural, pastors, suggests that Elijah is not alone, but he is helped by others — just as Elijah historically, as John Baptist, as Jesus, had helpers or disciples. This would mean that the resurrection has taken place before the Elijah work begins: for *“pastors according to mine heart”* must be resurrected faithful Jews. This sequence of events is possibly contained in Malachi’s record. Chapter three ends with the day of the LORD of hosts making up his jewels, and chapter four introduces fiery judgment — the wicked being burnt up as stubble. Then follows, *“But for you who fear my name (referring back to chapter three), the Sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in his wings. Ye shall go forth leaping like calves from the stall (with joy). And ye shall tread down the wicked . . . ”* (RSV). It is immediately after this picture of the resurrection that there is added the description of Elijah’s work before the day of the LORD.

Since Elijah’s work is after the resurrection, it makes us realise that though much has yet to happen in Israel, the day of our calling to judgment may be near.

THE PARALLEL WITH JOHN THE BAPTIST

It may help us to put into perspective what will be the effect of this Elijah work by remembering the parallel work carried out by John Baptist before the first coming. John Baptist came in *“the spirit and power of Elijah”*, and was a partial fulfilment of Malachi’s words. Jesus made it clear that John’s work was not the final fulfilment, for he told the disciples in response to their questioning: *“Elias truly cometh first and restoreth all things”* (Matt. 17:11). Elijah will be in charge of the whole restoration of the nation, those in the land, and those still scattered abroad. Now of John Baptist’s work it was prophesied:

“Many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God. And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord” (Luke 1:16, 17).

The time and circumstance in the future will be different, but the objective will be the same. Though John’s forceful preaching made a big impression, it did not change the nation. It was a minority — the ordinary people rather than the leaders and the ‘Jews’ — who were stirred up in expectancy and repentance from wickedness. So for the

future it will be the 'third' in the land that will be influenced. Whether Elijah will support his work with miracle as in his original ministry among the ten tribes, or whether it will be like John Baptist "*who did no miracle*", we do not know. The Elijah teaching will be concerned with the coming of Messiah, but probably will not deal specifically with Jesus of Nazareth as the Messiah. This comes at a later stage, after they have been delivered from the northern invasion, and as Zechariah says God "*will pour out upon the house of David and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and supplication: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced . . .*" (Zech. 12:10).

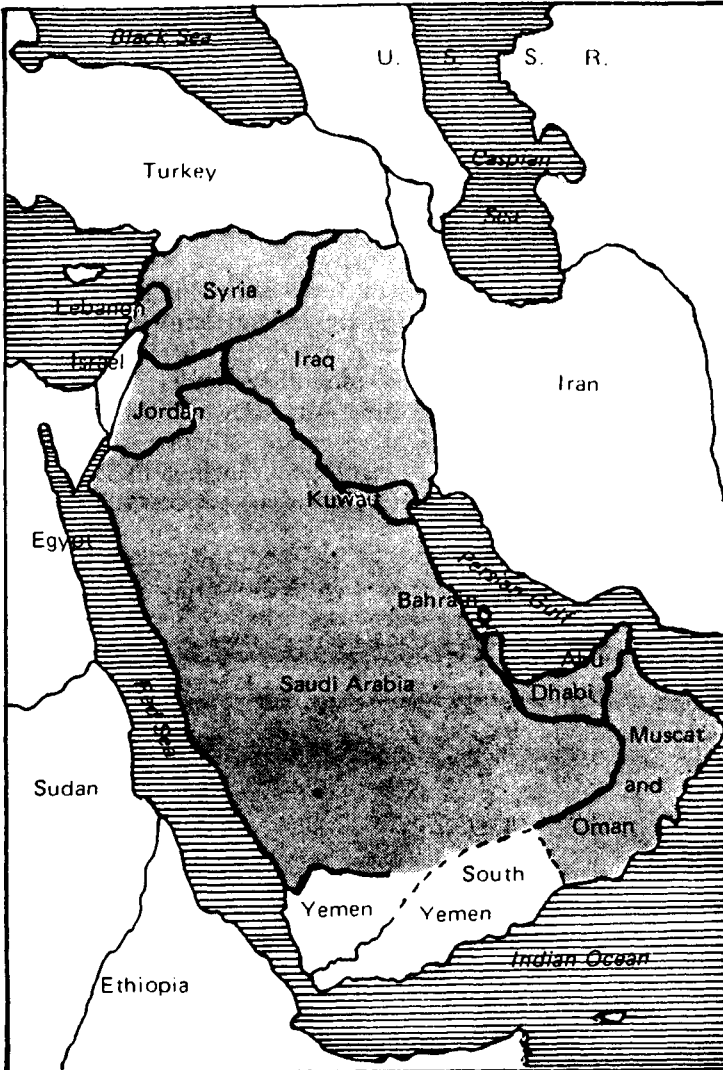
In Revelation 16:12, under the 6th vial, there is the important work of "*preparing the Way*" for the kings from the rising of the Sun — the saints. This preparing of the Way we ourselves have witnessed in the return of some of the Jews to the land and their organisation into a nation. May we not include in the 'preparing the Way' this work of Elijah, before the Messenger of the Covenant sits as the refiner of the silver?

The proposed outline of future events in the land before Christ is revealed raises the 'problem' in some brethren's minds concerning the start of the miraculous in the earth. Yet the situation is so very similar to that in John Baptist's day. At that time there had been 400 years of darkness, without prophet or miracle. To start gently, in this way of a John Baptist kind of voice in Israel is quite appropriate. And the divine hand will become more visible as events unfold.

We would expect that this return in part to the truth concerning Israel's God and the promises amongst the nation of Israel, will have some public effect. Almost certainly there will be a greater hostility by the Jews to the 'christian' desecration of their land and Jerusalem in particular. This may well be a factor in stirring up christendom to join in the invasion of the land and deal with 'infidel' Jewry. We know from Revelation 16:16 that after the resurrection and judgment indicated in verse 15, there is a period, probably years, in which there is a work of gathering the nations to Armageddon. These events in the land may well be part of the gathering process.

One other related matter may be mentioned: the difficulty we have in seeing peace established in the land, as required by Ezekiel 38. Israel's generally godless attitude today makes it seem inappropriate that God should grant them a state of peace, even though it is temporary. But if this Elijah teaching has developed some 'salt' in the nation, then in furthering his purpose God would respond in improving the lot of his people. It is many times laid down that there must be

a turning to God before he responds. Even so, the initiative, the grace, must come from God; and this would be expected at a time when God is about to favour Zion after long centuries of displeasure. Throughout the record of the kings, when a monarch started to do the right things, God granted help and success.



INTEGRATION OF THE SOUTHERN ARAB COUNTRIES

Until recent times the countries of the true Arabs have been made up largely of nomadic tribes, giving allegiance to their local chief. Now there is a strong modernising movement that is bringing with it a cooperation and degree of integration of these countries. This is of interest to us relative to the coming of Christ and the subjection of these peoples to him (Psalm 72:9; Isaiah 42:10-12). It would be difficult to negotiate peace and cooperation with a diverse group of peoples; but if they are somewhat integrated, submission and conformity to Christ's command can so much more easily be brought about.

In the 1981 Milestones we mentioned the formation of the Gulf Cooperation Council in May of that year. This was an agreement between six countries: the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, and Kuwait. Earlier in the present Milestones we have noted the activity of the Council in coordinating defence plans for these countries. Perhaps of greater interest is the growing cooperation in agriculture and industry.

A well produced brochure announces:
“**Middle East Agriculture 85:** agriculture, irrigation, and agri-industry show and conference 13-17 October 1985.”

The conference is to be held at Dubai International Trade Centre under the auspices of this Gulf Cooperation Council. Here are a few extracts from the brochure:

“The Gulf Cooperation Council . . . has laid plans for a unified strategy aimed at achieving self-sufficiency in food throughout the region by 2,000.

“Current budget allocations throughout the Gulf States are being channelled towards setting up a basic infrastructure on which to build a modern agricultural sector capable of meeting this objective.

“The Gulf Cooperation Council . . . have committed themselves to a joint plan for agricultural development. Latest figures show that the combined agricultural budget for GCC States in 1983 stood at US 10 billion dollars. This is confidently expected to reach US 13 billion dollars in 1984 and to dramatically increase over the coming decade”.

Details of the several countries are given. In Oman the current five year plan has a budget five times that of the previous budget for agriculture. Qatar aims to concentrate on vegetable and cereal production, greenhouse cultivation, poultry and dairy farming. In Saudi Arabia the 1984 harvest is expected to exceed domestic requirements.

Agricultural development has been allocated US 21 billion dollars under the current 5-year plan, in an effort to achieve self sufficiency.

On the industrial side an article on Oman gave some interesting figures. In addition to State-owned copper mining and refining, cement manufacture, etc., many small industries have been started:

“Since 1982, more than 640 small and medium-sized industries have come on stream, producing such items as plastics, food and dairy products, cement blocks, paper tissue and sanitary paper products, nails, tiles, liquid soap, footwear, polystyrene insulation material, aluminium window frames, animal feed, and wooden furniture” (*Export Times May 1984*).

Saudi Arabia has the world's largest airport, opened at the end of 1983. It cost 2.1 billion pounds. It has a control tower 243 ft high; and a mosque that holds 10,000 worshippers!

But this extravagant spending of their oil revenues is coming to an end. Oil production has had to be severely curtailed because of the glut on world markets. From peak earnings of one hundred and eleven billion dollars in 1981 Saudi Arabia oil revenues dropped to 46 billion dollars in 1983. The balance of payments dropped from a surplus of 45 billion dollars to a 2 billion dollar deficit in 1982, and an expected 25 billion deficit in 1983. The significance of this for Israel is that her greatest enemies will be weakened. Saudi Arabia has been handing over vast sums of money to Syria, Jordan, the PLO, etc, and this will now have to cease.

Chapter 5: “LIFT UP YOUR HEADS”.

1984 has been another action-packed year of drama. The angels have been very busy in every corner of the earth! As the moral condition of the earth plunges into an abysmal decline, the heavens light up with brilliant evidence that the King of glory shall soon be upon the earth again. The words of the Lord Jesus Christ become more poignant, *“And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh”* (Luke 21:28). What an increasing treasure are the words of the prophets as they shine through the gathering despair and gladden our hearts with the glorious prospect of the Kingdom of God.

“ . . . the path of the just is as the shining light that shineth more and more unto the perfect day. The way of the wicked is as darkness: they know not at what they stumble” (Prov. 4:18-19).

Yet it is a feature of the times that this Gospel of the Kingdom is increasingly irrelevant to the modern world. What is so drastically needed is so totally disregarded, even though there is no prevailing philosophy to provide an alternative hope for mankind. *“Men’s hearts failing them for fear”* and at the same time, these same hearts are *“overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life”* — just as Jesus warned (Luke 21:26, 34).

This ignorance of the Gospel of the Kingdom affects every strata of society. In chapter 1 the reader will have enjoyed the coverage of those exciting events that have in 1984 laid the foundation for a stronger push for a European Parliament in the coming years. Note how the Roman Catholic Church is central to all this movement. The original agreement in 1956 was entitled *“The Treaty of Rome”* and the accord was signed by the Christian (Roman Catholic) Democratic parties of the West European powers. Pope John Paul II is thoroughly supportive of this movement. Several of his proclamations in recent times are quite remarkable. He expressed his own conviction that **“The problem that assails us is really to save Europe and the world from the final catastrophe”**. He is *“enthralled by a compelling mission — he believes that he has a calling from God to unite Europe”* (Newsweek, 23.11.81). When standing in Santiago in the far west of Spain he pronounced what he described as a Declaration of Europe, viz., *“I, John Paul, son of the Polish nation which has always considered itself European by its origins, traditions, culture and vital relationships; Slavic among the Latins and Latin among the Slavs, . . . I, Bishop of Rome and Shepherd of the Universal Church, from Santiago, utter to*

you, **Europe of the ages**, a cry full of love: Find yourself again. Be yourself. **Discover your origins, revive your roots**".

From the point of view of Christadelphian understanding of prophecy, these words are electric! Here is a mighty force in the fashioning of men's minds saying that he sees his role as unifying the members of Europe, East and West into an Holy Roman confederacy of nations. In the 9th Century, great King Charlemagne of France spread his dominion through the divided tribes of Germany and Austria and then laid them all at the feet of Pope Leo II who crowned him Emperor of Rome on Christmas Day 799. Every description of Rome, before judgment, presents her as confident, aligned with strength and a Leader with dreams of future days of glory (Dan. 2:43, 7:8, 11, 26; 2 Thess. 2:8, 9, 10; Rev. 17:13, 14, 17). ". . . *for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen and am no widow and shall see no sorrow. Therefore shall her plagues come in one day . . . !*" (Rev. 18:7-8). There is a desire to reconstruct the Holy Roman Empire to "**expand the Kingdom of Christ** throughout the world" as the Pope expressed it in his home town of Krakow in 1983. There is not the slightest comprehension in his mind of the Gospel of the Kingdom! Christ's return is made entirely unnecessary and irrelevant, for the Pope has a mission of God to resurrect this historical Catholic union of nations; even if the iron must now be mixed with the atheistic Communist clay!

How exciting are these matters to the saints! How wonderfully significant are our studies of Bro. Thomas' "Eureka" in the light of these things. The Divine purpose is more beautifully perceived! The Holy Roman Empire held sway among the nations for a thousand years, a millennium! No darker period ever benighted mankind! From AD 800 to 1800 a terrible tyranny held sway over the mind, the soul and the bodies of men. Yet, arising out of this one thousand years, came this shorter period of freedom, of democracy, the fruits of the "liberty, equality, fraternity" of the French Revolution. While this spirit leads on to Armageddon, yet it has provided the saints with a marvellous opportunity to preach the Word. The Kingdom was coming, the Day was approaching, and heralds were appropriately required to announce the Gospel of the Kingdom!

Bro. Thomas issued three magazines, but the third one bore in its title the conviction of the editor's mind: "The Herald of the Kingdom and Age to Come". When he died he perceived that a people called the Christadelphians were left behind to continue the work begun. In the grand scheme of the Divine plan we can more clearly see our role! Let us rise up to fulfil our calling in these precious few years (or days) left to us. Let us hold on clearly and firmly to our heritage. The basic pattern of the prophetic message we **KNOW**. It is not up for question! —

for it is much fulfilled to our eternal thankfulness! Let us not be deluded by modern views that throw into confusion all our heritage of understanding. God has visited us; we have a remarkable heritage, unparalleled, and we would be truly foolish virgins if we cast this great light aside for ephemeral theories that self-confessedly provide no definite pattern of understanding.

"The secret things belong unto Yahweh our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children forever . . ."
(Deut. 29:29).

'THE EARTH WAS FILLED WITH VIOLENCE'

1984 has been a year of terrible violence from one end of the earth to the other. In Afghanistan and the Persian Gulf two four-year-old wars continue to mount their toll of dead, wounded and those made refugees. More than 500,000 lives are believed to have been lost between Iran and Iraq. Lebanon has continued to erupt periodically in flames of war and violence. Central America and Africa have areas of continuing Communist insurgencies, opposed by terrorist death squads. Cold-blooded assassination shook India when Mrs. Gandhi was cut down by revengeful Sikhs. The IRA took their cause to Brighton and all but succeeded in taking the life of the plucky Prime Minister of England. Two terrifying disasters, in Mexico City and Bhopal, India, highlighted the potential horror of a world continually resorting to modern technology. And while this panorama of terror filled every month of 1984, the people were drawn in fascination and wonderment at the implantation of a **baboon's heart** in "Baby Fae" and a **Jarvik — 7 artificial heart** in William Schroeder of Louisville!

While millions are spent on such exclusive medicine for the pampered few, millions of starving, homeless Africans subsist, waste and perish for lack of food, clothing and shelter. The money spent on one afternoon in the nuclear arms race — \$1.4 million per minute — could solve these problems overnight. This is a super form of mass violence for which the world leaders have no solution. O, how we long for David's Son — for *"he shall deliver the needy when he crieth; the poor also, and him that hath no helper"*! (Psa. 72:12).

But there is another form of violence growing in frightening proportions and this is much closer to every one of us. It is domestic violence, resulting in the selfish dissolution of the marriage bond and consequent disillusionment of the children. All the sensitive, tender affections of little ones are irreversibly seared when husband and wife abandon their vows and walk off to the call of their temporary infatuations! The humanist philosophies of Sigmund Freud are enshrined in

the doctrine of the radical individual. Stripped of its sophistication this doctrine simply says, “Do your own thing”! It is a carnal doctrine of selfishness and the rising generation loves it! Food, fun, leisure, excitement, lasciviousness, these are the goals of the age and they are increasingly lauded in the most bold and unabashed manner. The new wisdom has this to say as counsel to young women, “A catch is a man who’ll offer you, along with his hand in marriage, class, fame, talent, power or money. Women who marry catches with fame, power, class and talent need to look rich and promiscuous”. So the Prince of this world reigns in his last few hours of glory! This advice is **certain** to bring grief, disillusionment and instability into the lives of millions and the evidence for this is already abundant. Statistics in the U.S. show that in the last 20 years, the divorce rate has risen by 250% and the percentage of births that are illegitimate is now one in five! Each year in Australia there are 50,000 children thrown into disarray through the wickedness of divorce. These statistics can be paralleled around the world and represent to the perceptive mind a fundamental breakdown of society. The absence of Divine principles in their lives releases the restrictions on carnal lusts and mass violence at every level — with the inevitable result.

The pressure upon proper family life has greatly increased. We may think that this is a chance consequence of loose living but this is far from the full picture. Remarkably enough there are philosophies in the western world, principally in the so-called women’s liberation movement, that are actively seeking the destruction of the family unit. They want to revamp the roles of men and women as instituted by God in the beginning. They seek the dissolution of the maternal bond! Women may have children, indeed, when and how they so please to do but apart from that brief duty to society they are as free from domesticity as their husbands! 1984 saw the completion of the “Decade for Women”, In 1975 this was launched at the “U.N. International Women’s Year World Conference”. The aims of this Conference were expressed as follows:

“No woman should be authorised to stay at home to raise her children. Women should not have that choice, precisely because if there is such a choice, too many women will make that one. It is a way of forcing women in a certain direction — we see it as a part of a global reform of society which would not accept that old segregation between men and women, the home and the outside world. We think that every individual, woman as well as man, should work outside and have the possibility, either by communal living, collectives, or another way of organising the family, of solving the problem of child care — in my opinion, as long as the family and the myth of maternity and the maternal instinct are not destroyed, women will still be oppressed.”

The chief points in the ensuing “Plan of Action” were, destroy the family, promote open marriage and easy divorce, bring women into the work-force, provide free 24 hour child care centres and the promotion of lesbianism and the establishment of active women’s groups to lobby government on behalf of women!

These horrifying proposals have now been actively promoted for ten years and most countries have now endorsed the “U.N. Convention on the Elimination of all points of Discrimination against Women”. Through legislation and infiltration of education the Western democracies are being indoctrinated into these totally false and un-Biblical concepts and their rapid success is amazing and alarming. In a recent British survey it was found that “the march of equality has penetrated the marriage fortress so successfully that only one person in ten still expects the man to be sole breadwinner”! One third believe that **financial equality** and **independence** are the basis for the ideal marriage! Only one young girl in 20 expects her husband to support her.

Most of the younger teachers in our children’s schools would be in favour of these basic trends. This is the new bent of “social studies” and social matters are being urged by the socialist governments as the important concept for the curriculum of the future, more so even than the basic sciences. Little by little, openly or subtly, these ungodly philosophies are being put across to our children and to the community at large.

The Brotherhood’s urgent need is to strengthen its family ties around the Word of the living God. When the blessings of the faithful man were described by the Psalmist the central picture was a family grouped around a common table (Psalm 128:3). The father had brought in from the field the labour of his hands, abundantly blessed of Yahweh (v.2). His faithful and fruitful wife was “by the sides of his house” (v.3), a keeper of the home (Tit. 2:5), one in whom “the heart of her husband could safely trust” (Prov. 31:11). This family was totally independent of the philosophies of the heathen world and every influence was Israelitish and directed by the parents. In the picture presented, the children are intriguingly spoken of as “olive plants round about thy table”. Olive shoots spring up **around the parent tree**. They have only one value as the wood, though hard, is very slow growing and so twisted in its grain that no use has ever been found for it. This tree has only one use — the production of that precious oil which provided the light for the Holy Place of the Temple of God in which the priests officiated.

These sprightly little olive shoots are our children, the precious heritage of Yahweh who, alone in this mad world, are learning the

secret of producing the oil of the Word. No other tree can synthesis olive oil; no other children have the blessed opportunity to 'naturally' comprehend the Truth of the Word and make it shine like those from our Christadelphian families. The Psalmist's family was attached to Zion, no doubt attending the annual feasts that confirmed their fellowship in the congregation of Israel (v.5). Likewise faith-building activities, such as Bible Schools, special efforts and study days, will be strongly supported by those who are anxious to build their families in the Truth. This will supplement their personal Bible study and reading of the pioneer works of the Truth.

So long ago David enquired of God *"If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do"* (Psalm 11:3)? How our troubled world leads us to the same question today! The eye which sees the depth of the prevailing evil must then look above these things and see God's Hand in all our circumstances: *"In Yahweh put I my trust"* said David, *"The LORD is in His holy temple, the LORD's throne is in heaven: His eyes behold, His eyelids try, the children of men"* (v. 1, 3).

Everything is under control, and we can overcome, with our families, if we put our trust in our God.

“NO WAY OUT” (Luke 21:25)

1984 was a year in which Christ's prophecy became much more real. In Ethiopia's terrible famine, the gruelling and 'senseless' war in the Gulf, the unsolvable situation in Lebanon, the seething unrest in India, AIDS, the penetrating destructive forces to family life — this is true. There is no way out of “those things which are coming upon the earth” apart from “the Kingdom of God”.

May **Milestones 1984** cause us to “take heed . . . so that day” does not “come upon [us] unawares”.

May we be accounted worthy to **escape** and to stand before the Son of man.

