

MILESTONES



1996

MILESTONES TO THE KINGDOM

***A Review of the
World Events of
1996 in the light
of Bible Prophecy***

Don Pearce

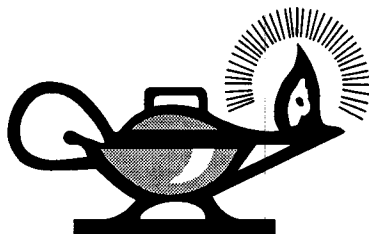
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PREFACE

It is a very unequal world that leaves behind the year 1996 and boldly moves on to this present twelve months. That inequality generates its own tensions, within countries and between countries. In the 1950's and 60's it seemed that there was a general recognition that the richer states should help the more backward and that the great resources of the world should be more equally distributed. There was a greater conscience among the general population of the developed world and that moved individuals and governments to do more to lift the living standards of the 'third world'.

No doubt there is still some endeavour to help in this way. But one senses an increasing silence and anonymity in much of Africa, Asia and South America, continents that are teeming with population but desperately backward with the gap between them and the Western world increasing all the time. A visitor to the Philippines is deeply impressed, once the brief glitter of some parts of Manila is passed, with the amazing simplicity of life. Is it possible, in the same world, that the vast majority on those 7,000 islands still live on essential rice when the developed countries have such a daily abundance of good and varied foods? Is it possible that the average Australian earns about \$600 per week, when the average Indonesian factory worker receives \$20 for many more hours?

These and hundreds of other anomalies could be mentioned, but all of them have only one solution—the coming of a universal King with kindness and justice in his mind and policy. Even if governments today wished to help, and many do, their ability to do so is very restricted. They are democratically elected and their policy decisions must suit the interests of their electorates. Men and women are essentially selfish by nature and thus concerned with their own interests and advantage. Only rarely and briefly are they concerned with the plight of other people. The horrors of a Rwanda massacre or exiles may move them for a week or two, but then it is gone. The worries on the domestic front, where uncertainty and instability are ever threatening their economic standing, soon swamp out the concern of others. How can we keep up our second or third car if the economy is not maintained! So the rich get richer and the poor fall further behind. And the never-ending run of world-entertaining sporting events draws the carnal mind to matters of frivolity and stupidity and things wherein there is no profit.

Christ will change all this, for “He shall deliver the needy when he crieth; the poor also and him that hath no helper. He shall spare the poor and needy, and shall save the souls of the needy. He shall redeem their soul from deceit and violence: and precious shall their blood be in His sight” (Psalm 72:12-14). What glorious words are these! How wonderfully refreshing! This is not some second-deputised officer, this is the King—the universal King. Here we have his mind revealed—how He thinks,

what He wants to see done, what He will indeed perform. The cause of the poor and needy, the eternally down-trodden and disadvantaged will be of principal concern to him, not an occasional thought, but a main plank in his policy platform. This policy of mercy will ensure the stability of His reign and the unity of His Kingdom. “All kings shall fall down before him” because he will deliver the needy when he crieth! (verses 11-12).

These things have great implications to our present lives. We cannot reign with this king of righteousness unless we think like He thinks. We cannot be chosen for a work of merciful emancipation unless we are living now outside of our own personal interests. We surely will not be chosen to execute justice with Christ in the day of glory (Isa. 32:1) if we are tight-fisted now, and unconcerned with the plight of our needy brethren and sisters, of the poor and outcast in our streets or the growing depression of the third world. We are not called upon to fix now the present problems, but they surely must be in our heart. We must be people with wide hearts, loving mercy and justice for that is our role in the age to come.

Since all in the present climate leads to self and not to God, it is a **growing challenge** to maintain right attitudes, to love mercy, to practice justice, to love righteousness, to hate evil, to be Christ-minded in a world of increasing greed and material obsession.

The time of our probation is rapidly decreasing. This present review of 1996 is full of interesting and significant trends. It is a sign of our times that so much of this information is never heard in the daily newspapers of the western democracies! Yet the year has been full of remarkable portends that confirm to us that the Bible prophecy is the expression of a living God, Who created the world with wonderful purpose and is working inexorably to fulfil it.

Let us be His people in 1997 like never before. Let the Brotherhood rejoice in its purposes, giving full concentration and enthusiasm to the Lord’s work. Let our families be strong for good things, receiving daily inspiration from “the readings” made relevant and interesting by wise and faithful parents. May *Milestones* help us to that end.

May our Father help us all to maintain our walk in the strait and narrow path which alone leads to life

B. N. Luke
Secretary, CSSS

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Abbreviations used

Books and Publications

- BIPAC** Britain Israel Public Affairs Centre. Newsletter published fortnightly. £35 a year UK. Overseas rate on application.
Write to BIPAC, 21-22 Gt. Sutton St., London, EC1V 0DN Fax 0171 490 4785
- CFI** Conservative Friends of Israel. (i.e. political). Monthly newsletter. £10 a year. Write to 45B Westbourne Terrace, London W2 3UR. Fax 0171 224 8941
- CH** Catholic Herald.
- DT** Daily Telegraph
- EC** The Economist magazine, weekly. News-stand or subscription. 25 St James's St., London, SW1A 1HG Fax 0171 839 2968
- Enc. Brit.** Encyclopaedia Britannica 14th edition (1929)
- JP** Jerusalem Post International edition, published weekly
- ST** Sunday Telegraph, sister paper to Daily Telegraph.
- TE** The European, published weekly
- Time** The Time magazine, published weekly
- TR** The Reformer. Published bimonthly. "The Official organ of the Protestant Alliance". A valuable source of information on matters of concern to Protestants. Minimum subscription £4., overseas £6. The Protestant Alliance, 77 Amptill Rd., Flitwick, Bedford MK45 1BD. Tel 01525 712348
- TT** The Times. London Daily

Other abbreviations

- [] Author's notes
- EU** European Union. Was the EEC, then the EC, now the EU. The Common Market
- GDP** Gross Domestic Product. Measure of the income generated by a country, usually expressed in terms of \$ per person
- GNP** Gross National Product. Similar to above, but includes income from overseas investments as well.

\$1Billion = £660,000,000

\$1Million = £660,000 approximately. \$ are always US\$.

Some of the books referred to are available at special prices from *Milestones* - please ask for book list, address page 2

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- Cover photo © *Reuters*. Inauguration of Russian President Boris Yeltsin

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Author's notes

I am grateful for items which readers have sent me. The sources below indicate the publications that I regularly see, so if an interesting item appears in some other magazine please let me see it, ensuring the date and source are indicated. Please let me know if you wish me to acknowledge its receipt.

Conventional terminology is used to describe parts of Israel—i.e. West Bank; people—i.e. the Palestinians; places—i.e. holy sites.

Sources are given where appropriate. Remember that the dates on weekly publications are when they are published—the event could have taken place 7–10 days earlier. Where publications show two dates i.e. 23–29th Nov., only the first date is indicated i.e. 23–11–96.

Chapter 1:

PREPARING THE NATIONS FOR ARMAGEDDON

Introduction

Some years seem to throw up earth changing moments—the fall of Communism, the fall of the Berlin Wall, for example. 1996 seems to have been a year of subtle changes on many fronts. Well, that was until much of Milestones had been written, and then on the very last day of 1996 came the news that Yeltsin was to reinstate the Tsar! What a thrill that was. The Dragon really was coming alive! As it happened it fitted so well with the theme that this year's Milestones has taken of looking at the Dragon, the Beast and the False Prophet. A few extra paragraphs have been slotted in as the importance of this move by Yeltsin sinks in. The Romanovs are of German descent!

1996 saw the ending of the 70th jubilee year on the Jewish New Year last October. (Based on Bro. W.H. Carter's Times and Seasons). It could well be that momentous events will unfold during the coming few months as we begin a new cycle of Jubilee years. [Written before the end of the year—we didn't have to wait long!] We do not attempt to forecast the day nor the hour. Suffice it to say that we surely will expect the Kingdom to be fully implemented by the end of this next cycle of Jubilee years. It was in the first year—if our understanding of chronology is correct—of the 70th jubilee cycle that the UN approved the partition plan (November 1947) that led to the setting up of the State of Israel in the same Jewish Year (May 1948). What a lot has happened during that jubilee cycle that has now ended!

We wish to look at the events of 1996 within the framework of the unfolding fulfilment of the 6th vial. In this vial period we have the Master's message to his followers, acquainting them with the events which prepare the nations for the gathering to the battle of Armageddon. Bound up with these details is the warning of the Master's return and the call to the Judgement Seat.

So in the first five chapters of Milestones, we elaborate the theme of the development of the nations as indicated by the 6th vial. We then take two chapters looking at the events of 1996 regarding the drive of the EU to monetary union—a very significant step along the road to shaping Europe—and Britain—for their future roles. In the next chapter we see other important happenings in Britain in 1996, preparing her for her future calling. We then look at significant events in Israel, again important as Israel is the place to which the nations will be drawn to battle. A couple more chapters deal with other matters which seem notable. Our final chapter then comes back to the message contained in

the 6th vial concerning the call for the saints to judgement. It is a chapter of warning and encouragement and action as we await the Master's return.

The quickening pace of progress

The events of the 6th vial have occupied a long period of time. The earlier vials were fulfilled in relatively quick succession, flowing out of the French Revolution. Under the vials—bowls of God's wrath—His judgements were poured out upon the aristocratic and ecclesiastical powers in Europe. These were judgements for the persecutions of His witnesses. The first 5 vials spanned from 1789 to around 1810, although their effects were being felt for very much longer.

The details of the 6th vial have been unfolding for nearly two centuries! Does this mean our understanding of prophecy is wrong? No! Events have vindicated our traditional understanding of these things. The transformation of Europe and the Middle East, and the preparation of the nations has been a mammoth task. What is so thrilling is to see the quickening pace in the past few years in the preparations of the nations for this gathering to battle upon the mountains of Israel. Here they meet their end under the mighty hand of Christ and the immortalized saints.

The 6th vial commenced with *the drying up of the river Euphrates*.

“And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared”
Rev. 16:12

As the Euphrates has its source in the heart of Turkey, and the drying up of a river is normally as the result of changes at the source, we recognize this as being an apt symbol for the shrinkage of the power of Turkey. Once a vast empire, step by step she lost land. The spirit of revolution swept through her Empire, causing it to disintegrate, piece by piece, culminating with the events of the 1st World War when she was driven back to her present day boundaries. This resulted in the appearance, in the Middle East, of countries which gained their independence or came into existence only in this century.

It was a necessary step for the gathering of the nations *to the place called in the Hebrew tongue, Armageddon*, that there should be a place where **Hebrew** was spoken. The emergence of Israel as an independent country, with Hebrew as the official language, just 50 years ago, confirms the correctness of our long held expectation that Israel would be re-established in their own land.

The development of the nation of Israel is not touched upon in this 6th vial. Old Testament prophets such as Ezekiel 38 had spoken in detail of the latter-day Israel.

Instead, this prophecy concentrates on the development of Europe. This is the arena with which the book of Revelation is mainly concerned—the conflict between the false church and the saints.

What are we looking for?

We are looking for a latter-day situation which matches that revealed to John -

“And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of **the dragon**, and out of the mouth of **the beast**, and out of the mouth of **the false prophet**”. Rev. 16:13

We shall spend the next three chapters amplifying these symbols. Two of them have appeared earlier in the book of Revelation. The Dragon and the Beast are familiar. What is significant is the introduction of a new symbol during this vial period—the False Prophet. The Roman Catholic Hierarchy, formerly symbolized by **the Image of the Beast** (Rev. 13) now takes on a new appearance—**the False Prophet**.

Although there have been considerable changes in Europe since the pouring out of the first five vials, it is only in the past few years that we have been able to see a clearer picture of the latter-day appearance of the **Dragon**, the **Beast** and the **False Prophet**, brought before us in this 6th vial.

Let us trace the development of these three symbols, and see how the events of the past year fit in with our expectations. This section of the book of Revelation is also of great interest because it also carries with it a very serious warning to 20th century believers.

Lessons for saints

Tucked between the detail of the preparation of the nations for this battle and their actual gathering to battle in Israel, is a verse of warning which the Lord Jesus saw as appropriate for those living at this period in history.

“Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.” Rev. 16:15

Few would deny the correctness of Jesus’ understanding of the situation that would prevail at this time period of his return. In the words of the prophet Isaiah, *darkness shall cover the earth and gross darkness the people* (60:2). True this reflects the state of the earth when the saints have been called away, when Israel has been defeated before her enemies; the earth will then be truly dark. But we are rapidly getting towards this condition. How can we watch if we don’t know which way to look—if we are being driven to and fro with conflicting ideas? How can we keep our garments—the garments that we have been provided with, if we fall asleep on the job? To remain awake through the night watch is hard, very

hard. We make it all the harder if we allow our minds to be diverted from the task in hand—upholding the light of Truth till the Master come.

What does give us encouragement during the long hours of the night is the signs of the impending dawn. They are many. Let us lift up our heads for our redemption draws nigh. Let us see the unfolding of Christ's message concerning the things that will be in these last days.

The way of the kings from the sun's risings

The reason for the drying up of the river Euphrates is stated as being a necessary preparation in order *that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared* (v. 12). Who are these kings? They are Christ and the saints. The Greek word for east is *anatole* and here it is plural and means **risings**, and here it is coupled with the word *helios*—sun. So it is not referring here to a general direction but is a wonderful symbol—**kings that come from a sun's risings**. We believe that it is a reference to the resurrected and glorified saints with the Lord Jesus. It is Malachi that speaks of the day when for a certain class of people -

“But unto **you that fear my name** shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.”
Mal. 4:2

All of history is under the control of God. The removing of the power of Turkey was an important step in setting the scene for the return of Christ, to prepare his followers for the work that will occupy them—the pouring out of the 7th vial, which contains the seven thunders. This will bring about the abolition of the kingdom of men and the exaltation of the Kingdom of God. So these things are of close interest to each one of us.

John recorded what he saw next in the unfolding vision.

Three unclean spirits like frogs

“And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.”
Rev. 16:13

These spirits are “unclean”—from God's viewpoint. These frog-like spirits are not in harmony with God's ways. They represent the thinking of the flesh, hence **unclean**. Bearing in mind that this account of the vials is looking at events flowing out of the French Revolution it is not hard to see the connection between France and the frogs. “Froggies” has long been the British nickname for the French. It is based on history. One of the Pope's visits this year was to France. One of the places he visited was Rheims, to celebrate the 1500th anniversary of the “conversion” of Clovis,

France's first "christian" king¹. This conversion secured for France the title *the eldest son of the Church*.



Clovis' kingdom of the Franks

"christian" princess and then later converted. He held his kingdom together with the help of the church. Although Clovis is also termed the first of the German Kings—eventually the Holy Roman Empire was to grow out of the divisions after his death², yet he laid the foundation of the French empire. The Encyclopaedia Britannica has this comment.

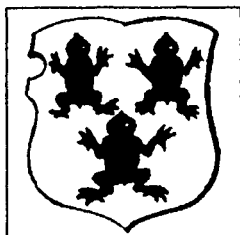
"For his part Clovis well understood that he would never bring Gaul beneath his sceptre without the support of the Church, and the Catholic Gallo-Romans who were tired of anarchy. Clovis laid the foundations of the French state by his conversion to Christianity .. rather than his victory over the Alemanni at Tolbiac (496). From that time forth his conquests took on the character of holy wars. .. Clovis, like the Christian emperors before him, became for the Church a new David. Finally, the Eastern emperor, Anastasius, by sending him the consular emblems gave legal sanction to his rule, even as the Church had sanctified his military conquests."

France. Enc. Brit. 14th ed.

The linkage of **frogs** to France is illustrated in Elpis Israel with these pictures.

¹ Incidentally this shows the difficulties of chronology, as the Pope was working on a conversion date in September 496, which one reference books puts at Christmas 497 and another some time in 498.

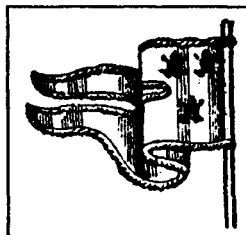
² See *Milestones* 1994 pages 67-69.



**Arms of *Pharamond*
1st Frankish king,
around AD 420**



**Medal found in tomb
of Clovis' father**



**Clovis' banner,
from tapestry in
Rheims Cathedral**

So this time period in France is associated with three frogs. A time when the monarch ruled with the consent of the people, and a time of working with the church to consolidate that power over a large empire.

This is what caused problems to many of the French when the Pope came to celebrate this anniversary of Clovis' conversion. Since 1905 France has been a so called secular state, where state and religion are supposed to be kept separate. Yet she was partially funding these celebrations! Indeed, under President Chirac's patronage a committee of leading churchmen, politicians and historians was set up to arrange the celebrations! (TE 13-4-96) The Pope was welcomed by President Chirac and the Prime Minister, Alain Juppé, saw him off.

What we are increasingly seeing is this working together of Church and State for the benefit of both. We are seeing this both in Europe and Russia.

There is an irony. The spirit of the French Revolution is expressed in its rallying cry—(in English) *Liberty, Equality, Fraternity*. This was the cry that swept through Europe, causing the down-fall of the aristocracy and the ecclesiastical powers. Initially it succeeded. The monarchy was destroyed and the power of the church broken. The place of religion was taken by the goddess of reason.

In time, the pendulum began to swing back. Religion was reinstated in Western Europe. We shall see in the next chapter how this is happening in Russia, and in chapter four how this spirit of revolution is to be found in the very centre which felt the full force of its revolutionary power—the Church!

This revolutionary power inspired countries to rebellion, overthrowing the yoke of Turkey, hastening its drying up.

This same spirit pervades the world today in the form of Socialism. It promises liberty, but there is no true Liberty, except that which is found in the gospel. There is no true Equality—this also can only be found in the true gospel. There is no true Fraternity, “a body of people united in interests, aims, etc.” except that which will be found within the New Covenant. What is particularly interesting is to see this spirit now coming out of the mouth of the Dragon, the Beast and the False Prophet.

“Two features stand out in the history of the past [200] years since the French Revolution. The first is the growth of intense nationalism, the second is the unparalleled increase in the rate of human ‘progress’.

“Let us take the second feature first. The revolutionary spirit—liberty, equality, fraternity—was the assertion of the rights and power of the people. As the government passed into the hands of the people, education of the masses followed. This in turn generated new and tremendous forces in the economic, scientific, and social worlds.... and the peoples everywhere feel the power.

“With these great changes there has come a developing tide of godlessness; education, science, invention, industrial development have given man a sense of great importance... He does not want God. When Christ comes back in the earth, and demands the submission of Europe to his laws, he will be met with defiance. A vast image of human power will be formed against him—that Image of Nebuchadnezzar of the latter days—and the nations will confederate against him. (Psa. 2)”.

G. Pearce, in G. Holton’s *The Dragon and the Lamb*.

Out of the mouths

The frog-like spirits come out of the mouth of these three centres. To *come out of the mouth* indicates that the source is in the head. It is thus an apt symbol to indicate that this is official policy. This represents the thinking of these three latter-day powers. They are also described as being *the spirits of demons*. The demons were the intermediaries between the gods and the earth. So today the demons symbolize the officials whose task it is to put into practice the official policies. It is also interesting that it was the demon spirits that were thought to cause madness, as reflected in the casting out of demons by Jesus. Britain is well aware of the madness of many of the policies which come out of the mouth of the Beast. We shall see some of these mad policies in chapter 7.

Also they *work wonders, or signs*—the same word used of Jesus’ miracles—deceiving the beholders, into thinking that what they see and hear is true and carries divine approval.

The purpose of these frog like spirits is to gather the nations to the battle of Armageddon.

Chapter 2:

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE DRAGON

Introduction

The Dragon is a symbol that we first meet in Revelation chapter 12. Here it is a great red Dragon, representing the pagan empire and its emperors. The Dragon is cast out of “heaven” to the “earth” by the man child born to the woman with the 12 stars, a symbol of the overthrow of the pagan Roman emperors by Constantine, who established christianity as the state religion. This was not the end of the Dragon however. He continued his persecuting work against the true believers.

“And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child.” Rev. 12:13

When Constantine moved the seat of the Roman empire to Constantinople, he established the Dragon power there. It was no longer pagan but apostate christian. It still remained the persecutor of the true believers. This change of location left the city of Rome free to develop later under the papacy. The Dragon flourished in its new centre. We next read of the Dragon in Revelation 13, where the Dragon supports the Beast of the Sea which rises in the west.

“And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.

And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?” Rev. 13:3, 4

Constantine brought Roman thought and architecture with him to the seven-hilled city of Constantinople. The main imperial buildings were constructed on Roman models. It was known as the 2nd Rome. State and Church worked hand-in-hand. Did the Dragon come to an end when Constantinople fell in 1453? No! Let’s trace the dragon to the present day.

The spread of civilization

The Byzantine empire which Constantine founded (named after the small town of Byzantium, which he rebuilt and called Constantinople after himself) brought Greek and Roman culture together. It was rich in its blending of the two great civilizations.

“The Holy Roman empire of western Europe had in its own day a contemporary and a rival—that eastern Roman empire...from AD 395 to 1453, the Roman empire continued at Constantinople—not as a theory and an idea, but as a simple and daily reality of politics and administration. In one sense the East Roman empire was more

young Rus statehood in the epoch of the vigorous development of feudalism. It also undoubtedly helped in the development of Russian culture, bringing it closer to the cultural treasures of Byzantium, in the spread of education, and the creation of literary and artistic works of great value.”

B. A. Rybakov, quoted in *A History of Russia*. P. Dukes

The third Rome

When Constantinople fell, Moscow was ready to take up the reigns of the Dragon power. Moscow became known as the 3rd Rome. Its architecture was based upon Constantinople’s. Its laws and language were based upon Byzantium’s.

“But as, when Rome fell, the Catholic Church survived, and ultimately found itself a new empire of the West, so, when Constantinople fell, the Orthodox Church continued its life, and found for itself a new empire of the East—the empire of Russia...and henceforth the Russian emperors became, in theory and very largely in fact, the successors of the old East Roman emperors, the heads of the Orthodox Church, with the mission of vengeance on Islam for the fall of Constantinople.”
Empire. Enc. Brit. 14th ed.

The fall of Constantinople nearly coincided with the accession of Ivan III in 1462.

“Moscow had become the political as well as the cultural centre of the Russian lands.. . It was a period in which the basic territory of Russia was welded into a single state and completely liberated from the Tartar yoke, and in which the political foundations of that state took shape.

“...Ivan III was celebrating his own comparable performance by assuming the title of Tsar [alternative spelling—Czar. The Russian form of the Latin title—Caesar]. This title was derived from the first Rome by way of the second, Byzantium, the niece of the last emperor of which became Ivan’s second wife in 1472. Furthermore, Ivan adapted Byzantium ritual for his own court, and took the double-headed eagle of the Palaeologoi [the last of the Byzantine emperors] to accompany the Kievan St George as a royal coat-of-arms. The Church assisted the formation of Tsarist self-confidence through the following years with its development of formal coronation, elaboration of saintly contributions to Russian history and the promulgation of Moscow as the Third Rome.”

A History of Russia, P. Dukes

So began the grip of the Tsars and the Church on Russia, lasting for five centuries, until brought to an end by the effects of the French Revolution reaching Russia in 1917, with ‘The Great October Socialist Revolution’.

During this long period the Tsars absorbed the Byzantium concept, that the Emperor, the “Basileus”, was God’s representative on earth, the successor of Constantine.

“The court of Moscow was organized on the Byzantine model, and the Tzar defined his own powers in words which could have been used by the Byzantine Basileus [emperor]: ‘The autocratic regime comes from God and the Tzar carries out God’s wishes. He wields every power over all things and it is his duty to provide for the salvation of his people which God has entrusted to his care’ ” ibid.

Just as in the French revolution, this was the power that the communists fought against. With the murder of the royal household, the reign of the Tsars ended in 1917.

Then began the long experiment in socialism under the communist leaders. Religion was suppressed, church buildings used for other purposes, or left to fall into decay. The double-headed eagle gave way to the Hammer and Sickle. Economically, it proved disastrous. There was no incentive for private enterprise. The State controlled every aspect of life. However, just as in France, this abolition of religion could not last.

It was President Gorbachev who realized that changes had to be made. He observed that people needed religion to sustain their spirits. As he travelled around the world he spoke to church leaders. He saw the changes in Poland where the Pope had been working with the American CIA to overthrow communism, or at least work with it to bring religious freedom.¹

In 1988 he realized that religion should be harnessed, not suppressed. He called the Russian Patriarch, and five attendant Metropolitans and apologized for the mistakes of the past. There would be a “new law on freedom of conscience . . . which will reflect the interests of religious organizations.” He continued

“Believers are Soviet people, workers, patriots, and they have the full right to express their convictions with dignity. *Perestroika*, democratization and openness concern them as well—in full measure and without any restrictions. This is especially true of ethics and morals, a domain where universal norms and customs are so helpful for our common cause.”

Quoted in Gorbachev, *Glasnost & the Gospel*. M. Bourdeaux

The following year he paid a historic visit to the Pope at the Vatican. They agreed to work together to further the liberation of religion.

¹ Reviewed in *Milestones* 93, ch. 3. This year further details have emerged which are briefly touched on in ch. 4.

Gorbachev continues to have contact with the Pope, and in fact they had their third meeting in November 1996 (CH 22-11-96).

The work begun in Poland now spread like a fire throughout Russia and eastern Europe. Soviet communism, as we knew it disappeared, to be replaced by a different brand—Russian communism, with the Russian Church at its heart. The spirit of the French Revolution brought about a revolution of the revolution. For 70 years soviet Communism acted as brake on the progress of the Dragon's development. With that brake released, the Dragon is moving forward at great speed. All political parties now espouse the Church, including the Russian Communist party.

Rekindling Russia's Tzarist past

What has been very exciting to see in the past year or two, is the drive of Yeltsin to revive the Tzarist roots of Russia.

Following his election victory in June 96, in spite of ill health, Yeltsin held an inauguration ceremony in August, full of pomp such as had not been seen since the coronation of the last Tzar, Nicholas II, 100 years earlier! Papers carried pictures of him standing, with the Russian Patriarch alongside, under a huge banner of the double headed eagle. What was interesting was that on the flag was a picture of St George riding a horse, slaying a dragon! The very symbols adopted by Ivan III some 500 years earlier!

He was "blessed" by the Orthodox Patriarch Alexei II, who said

"On this remarkable day for you and for Russia I ask you Boris Nikolayevich, to listen to the voice of Russia, the voice of its ancient history, the voice of the Russians who elected you." TT 10-08-96

Yeltsin to reinstate the Tsar!

On the last day of 1996, *The Daily Telegraph* carried two thrilling headlines. The dragon really was coming alive!

"Yeltsin welcomes back heir to the Tsar"

"Romanovs to revive the Russian dream—Yeltsin sees his future in the Tsars"

"The heir apparent to the last Tsar is to be reinstated as the head of Russia's imperial family by President Yeltsin in Moscow early next year, a Kremlin source said yesterday.

"Grand Duke Georgy Mikhailovich Romanov, 15, is to return to Russia with his mother, Grand Duchess Maria Vladimirovna, and grandmother, Grand Duchess Leonida Georgyevna, who live in Madrid.

"Although the Kremlin has kept the move secret the senior source confirmed that Mr Yeltsin had signed a decree that would officially

reinstate the family, which has been living in exile since 1918 when the Bolsheviks massacred the last Tsar, Nicholas II, and his family.

“He said a former senior bodyguard to Mr Yeltsin would be tutor to Grand Duke Georgy, who is to enter the Suvorovsky military academy in Moscow.

“Russian monarchists hope that the family’s return will coincide with the Grand Duke Georgy’s 16th birthday on March 13. According to the rules of the Russian nobility, he will then have reached the age of majority and can officially be crowned Tsar.” DT 31-12-96

It is part of a Kremlin programme called *The Russian National Idea*. One of the programme co-ordinators compared it with President Roosevelt’s concept of the *American Dream* which gave Americans something to believe in after the Depression.

“We need people and institutions that stand above politics and can be impartial arbiters.” DT 31-12-96

The Romanovs

The Romanov family have been Tsars since 1613. Bearing in mind that Gog is of the land of Magog—Germany, it is exciting to discover that they are a German family.

“The Romanoffs [Romanovs] were not of Rurik stock, [the line of the previous Tsars] nor were they even of very ancient lineage. They descended from a German nobleman who had emigrated to Moscow early in the 14th century. His fifth son, nicknamed Koshka (the cat), became head of the family of Koshkins, many of whom were prominent at the court of Moscow in the 14th and 15th centuries. Early in the 16th century one of them, whose first name was Roman, called himself Romanoff. His daughter Anastasia, was Ivan the Terrible’s first wife; it was her son Theodor, who was the last Tsar of the Rurik dynasty.

“...Theodor and his wife were forced to divorce and become a monk and nun, ... It was their son Michael who was elected Tsar in 1613.

“The main work of the Romanoff dynasty was to extend Russia up to her natural geographic limits and turn her into a European State from the semi-Asiatic one she had become after being under Tartar rule.

“A curious feature of the first Romanoffs is that notwithstanding their efforts to rule in accordance with the people’s wishes, and though each of them in turn manifested a total lack of personal ambition, circumstances so imperiously demanded a strong hand that autocracy was evolved and imposed upon a succession of totally ungrasping autocrats.” *Romanoff Dynasty*. Enc. Brit. 14th ed.

How interesting that the Michael too was 16 when made Tsar!

Just outside the city of Moscow, on church land has been erected a bronze statue of the last Tsar, Nicholas II. Described by Soviet history books as the man that massacred starving workers, this is the first major public monument to him. There are many who would like to see him canonized as a “saint and martyr”. DT 24-5-96

Rebuilding the empire

Yeltsin’s treaty with Belarus is interesting. It begins to rebuild the empire that was lost in 1991 when the Soviet disintegrated into the Commonwealth of Independent States. The Daily Telegraph headed the news with

“Russia takes small step back to empire”

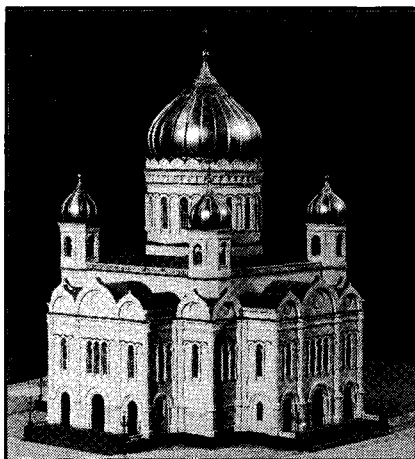
“The communist dream of rebuilding the Soviet Union took a step forward yesterday when Russia formed a ‘Community of Sovereign States’ with its western neighbour, the former Soviet republic of Belarus. The agreement, signed with great pomp in the Kremlin and blessed by the Russian Orthodox Patriarch Alexy II, will extend Russia’s strategic sphere to the borders of Poland for the first time since the USSR’s collapse in 1991.

“The name of the Community, with the Russian initials SSR, was chosen to recall the defunct superpower. It is open to the other 13 members of the former Soviet Union, though none has so far shown the enthusiasm of Belarus, which has neither the wealth nor the sense of national identity to exist as an independent state.” DT 3-4-96

The Russian Orthodox Church

The Russian Patriarch, Alexei II was recruited as a KGB agent in 1958, just after his 29th birthday, according to newly released KGB reports. He was awarded the Certificate of Honour by the KGB in 1988. (CH 16-8-96)

The city of Moscow has spent millions of roubles over the last 5 years to transform it into “one of the world’s major business, historical and cultural centres”. This is preparatory for the celebration in September 1997 of the 850th anniversary of the founding of the city. The sky



Model of the new cathedral

line has been dominated by the rebuilding of the “Christ the Saviour” Cathedral, the new jewel in the crown of the Orthodox Church and the city of Moscow. It opened its doors for “Holy Mass” at Easter, just 15 months after work began. The main church should be completed by next September. The whole project is due for completion by 2000. \$250 million is being spent on this building, which is a replica of the cathedral used by the Tzars, which was blown up by Stalin in 1931.

“Although the Russian church has strongly re-exerted its influence since communism’s demise, Russian politicians of varied stripes are just as strongly trying to identify church with state once again, as in Tzarist times. President Boris Yeltsin, who received a jewelled egg from Alexei at the Easter Mass in Moscow’s cathedral, earlier this month asked the Patriarch to bless the new treaty with Belarus, reviving a Tzarist custom. Ominously, this trend is serving to make the church a symbol of nationalist ambitions. Politicians pay tribute to the faith as an oblique expression of solidarity with ethnic Russians in neighbouring former Soviet lands, including Estonia, which some in Moscow would love to rule again.”

Time 29-4-96

We see the growing emergence of the Dragon power. Church and state are working together. We see Yeltsin’s desires for power. His autocratic style of government, is to some extent modelled on the Tzars. We can expect this trend to continue. With the new lease of life given by his seeming successful heart operation, Yeltsin plans a future which revives Russia’s Tsarist past. Truly the dragon is stirring in to life!

One day she is to take possession of Constantinople—today called Istanbul. Daniel’s little horn of the goat (ch. 8) corresponds to the Dragon power, and indicates the continuing Greek, Constantinople theme. This may not be until her drive southward, to the land of Israel. With the probable re-emergence of the Tzar, to be trained at a military college, it is not difficult to foresee this happening. As we quoted earlier, the Tsar’s mission was “vengeance on Islam for the fall of Constantinople!” After all, Russia has already sought to keep the Moslem “infidel” at bay in the savage battles which have been fought this year in Chechnya and in Afghanistan’s Kabul against her Moslem enemies.

Chapter 3:

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE BEAST

Introduction

We have examined the growth of the Dragon in the previous chapter. We now look at the Beast. It is Daniel in his 7th chapter who describes the four beasts—the kingdom of men in its various phases. This vision revealed to Daniel mirrors the dream of Nebuchadnezzar. The book of Revelation is concerned with the 4th beast—corresponding to the iron of the image, representing Rome. The Roman empire became divided into east and west following the move of the capital to Constantinople. In the east, as we have seen, the Roman empire flourished with the Roman emperor in Constantinople working hand in hand with the eastern church. In the west things initially were grim. With the Emperor so far away, it allowed the barbarians to come down and seize the city of Rome in AD 476. Rome was controlled by the Goths until they in turn were driven out, and Rome once more came under the control of the Emperor in Constantinople. Again, with the seat of government so far away, it enabled the Bishop of Rome to grow in political power and influence. This was enhanced when the Emperor Justinian in AD 533 and the Emperor Phocas in 606/610 declared the Pope to be supreme over the bishops of other centres.

*Faced with further invasions, the Pope appealed to Pepin, the ruler of the Franks, to come and save him from the Lombards. This he did, and was anointed as Patricius Romanorum (patrician of Rome—a member of the hereditary aristocracy of ancient Rome). His son Charlemagne was crowned Emperor of the Romans at Rome by Pope Leo III in AD 800. Thus was set up the Holy Roman Empire, with church and state co-operating until the fall of the Hapsburgs under the 4th vial, in 1806. We refer the reader to Milestones 1994 chapter 9 for a fuller detail of the various phases of the Beast—the **beast of the sea**, the **beast of the earth** and the **image of the beast**. The summary panel opposite gives the basic details*

What we want to look at is the latter-day reappearance of the Beast.

The Beast of Western Europe

It is evident from the co-existence in the latter-days of the Beast and the Dragon, that we are to expect that alongside the Dragon developments in the east—of church and state working together as it did in the past—that a similar system will be found in the west—the beast territory of the past. Revelation 17 describes it in its last phase as a **scarlet coloured beast**.

We do not have to look far to see a rapidly emerging beast situation in the west. Modern western Europe developed out of the ruins of World War 2.

Germany's dreams of power, backed by the church, came to naught, as indeed it had earlier in the WW 1.

Tabulation of the details of the Beasts¹

<i>Beast</i>	<i>Scriptural Reference</i>	<i>Details</i>	<i>Approximate Interpretation</i>
Red Dragon	ch. 12 v.v. 3, 9	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Seven heads (crowned). 2. Ten horns. 3. Called "the old serpent, Devil and Satan." 	Whole Pagan Roman World
Beast of the Sea	ch. 13 v.v. 1-7 & v. 12	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Seven heads 2. Ten horns (crowned). 3. The dragon yielded to him throne and authority 4. A head wounded and then healed 5. Given a lion-mouth speaking blasphemies. 6. Power to make war against the saints 1,260 years (42 months) 	France and the Latin Kingdoms with the Papacy
Beast of the Earth	ch. 13:11	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Two horns like a lamb. 2. Speaks as a dragon 3. Exercises all the authority of the sea beast "in his sight" 4. Causes all to worship the sea beast. 	Germanic Holy Roman Empire with the Papacy
Image of the beast	ch. 13:14-18	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The earth beast causes an image of the sea beast to be made 2. He gives life to the Image. 3. The Image practices, speaks and causes all who will not worship it to be killed. 	The Papacy and the States of the Church
Scarlet coloured beast	ch. 17 ch. 19:19-21	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Seven heads. 2. Ten horns 3. Full of names of blasphemy. 4. Carries the harlot 5. Its horns make war with the Lamb and the Lamb overcomes them 6. Described in enigmatical terms 7. Is cast into the lake of fire. 	Europe and the Catholic Church in the Time of the End

¹ From *Babylon (Rome) and Jerusalem*. G. Pearce, page 51.

This was a blow to both the Church and to Germany. The Papacy having been shorn of its lands in 1870, had been willing to back Hitler's plans, knowing the power it would bring if they had been successful. However it has succeeded through peace to achieve a remarkable influence over the policies and politicians of Europe. We are witnessing the revival of the Beast in the European Union.

Rome's involvement in the politics and social policy of the European Union

This long title is in fact a heading in an interesting booklet entitled *European Union and Roman Catholic influence in Britain*. This is a write up of a talk given by David Samuel on October 28th 1995, organized by the Protestant Reformation Society.

He sketches the history of the European Union from its roots in the Holy Roman Empire, to today. Historically it rested on two main pillars—the Roman Catholic Church and power of Germany. Quoting from Edmond Paris' book *The Vatican against Europe*, he states

“The papacy ever since the days of Charlemagne has not ceased to lean upon the Germans, in order to impose its authority and extend its influence throughout Europe.”

The power that was lost in the last century has step by step been regained. Germany has remained the means to achieve that ultimate goal, of becoming the state religion and so controlling people's lives. We must not see the church as merely a religious organization, but a political one as well, as we shall see in the next chapter.

Thus in WW 1 a Roman Catholic writer, René Boyllesve stated

“The church seeks not virtue, but herself, her aim and her recruitment; her true concern is the constant swelling of her ranks, the strengthening of her power. Are you then surprised at her predilection for Germany despite the latter's crimes? The Church and Germany? But they are sisters. Both love themselves for themselves alone and are hypnotised by their own powers: both know perfect organization, discipline, hierarchy and contempt of liberty; both know how to justify their methods; both exercise dissimulation and hypocrisy; in short both are opposed to the Christian spirit” quoted in *The Vatican Against Europe*

In Hitler the church again saw a champion. Hitler's plans used similar concepts to those we see driving the EU today. The dream of Nazi Professor Funke was that

“.. The individual will be replaced by the people, the world market will be replaced by *Lebensraum* (living space) [room to spread out] and capital will be replaced by the organization of labour.”

quoted in *Treason at Maastricht* R. Atkinson, N. McWhirter

This is what we see today. Collective decisions to the exclusion of individuality. An insular view rather than a world view, and a social chapter or charter controlling the organization of labour.

The failure of the Nazi dream has not deterred the dream of a church/state co-operation. Chancellor Konrad Adenauer came to power, an ardent Catholic, and close to the Pope, in fact his Privy Chancellor.

“Nothing has changed. The pious Adenauer has replaced Hitler, but he continues his policy, serving the same interests, and supported by the same allies. It is indeed the same battle of the same people against the same enemies” Abbé Boulrier quoted in *Vatican against Europe*

Adenauer declared that Germany had a divine mission to save Western Europe!

Robert Schuman was the author of the Franco-German Coal and Steel Production Plan set up in the '50's and the forerunner of the E.U. He was an ardent Catholic, and is being considered as a candidate for “sainthood”.

Jacques Delors, who was until recently the President of the E.C. was a driving spirit behind the new Europe.

“Few ... imagined there could be any connection between the Commission president's enthusiasm for religion and his Euro-federalism. Few, that is, apart from a handful of his closest advisors, including a Belgian ex-priest, who believe there is now a spiritual void in Britain and other EEC countries; and that Mr. Delors should fill that void by subtly turning European federalism into a semi-religious crusade.

“Ancient religious differences...are at the heart of the conflict besetting the Maastricht Treaty on European Union; and religion—or at least some kind of peculiar new Euro-spirituality inspired by Brussels—is the answer to the Community's spiritual crisis.”

ST 28-2-93

Otto von Habsburg is a direct descendant of the ruling family and is an E.M.P. A dedicated Catholic layman who has said “Europe is not only a great power, but ... in the first place it is a spiritual entity .. this rebirth of our Christian [Roman catholic] culture.” He hopes for the rebirth of the Holy Roman Empire.

Chancellor Kohl—the “chancellor of Europe”

Like many countries in Europe, in Germany the Christian Democratic Party holds sway. It is a Roman Catholic party and seeks to put forward the social and political thinking of the church. Germany's current leader, Chancellor Kohl, sees his destiny in leading Europe through a strong Germany.

This year he became the longest serving German Chancellor since Bismark (the chancellor from 1871-1890). He is anxious to fulfill his dream, while he has time. It is expressed in the headline to this section which appeared in *Time* magazine 30-9-96.

Newsweek ran an article on him (April 1st 1996) headed

“The True Believer”

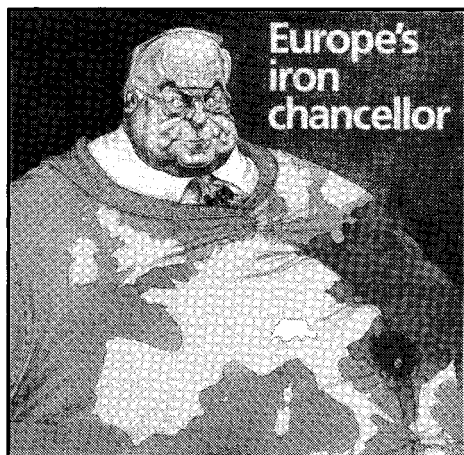
“Helmut Kohl now stands where few Germans in the postwar era have ever wanted to be: out in front and increasingly alone, pushing a controversial agenda forward. He is *Herr Europa* now, applying both vision and political clout to the dream of a unified, borderless Europe. In his pursuit of that vision, those closest to him say, the chancellor still harbours no doubts—publicly or privately. ‘If we Germans don’t make our contribution to European unity, then we have failed in the face of history.’ ‘He is a True Believer’, says one colleague who has known the chancellor for years. ‘Let there be no doubt about that.’ ”

“He was born into a deeply Roman Catholic family....

“His most important [ally], by far was Konrad Adenauer, whose legacy Kohl has ever since sought to uphold. It was Adenauer who defined what has ever since been perhaps the central mission of every German chancellor: tending to the relationship between the two historic enemies, the French and the Germans. Kohl throughout his career has often called himself ‘Adenauer’s political grandson,’ and he has certainly behaved like it.

“He stressed Germany’s determination to remain embedded in the West. Not long after that, Kohl made what may turn out to be the most fateful decision of his career in order to convince the French that he meant what he said. He agreed to Paris’s position in the run up to the Maastricht meeting, that monetary union be made an early symbol of Europe’s political commitment to deeper union.”

He is prepared to give up the mighty Deutschemark for the euro. He must be convinced of the success of the integration. We will examine this issue in chapter 6, suffice it to say that he wants the initial Euro



**Chancellor Kohl as depicted on
Economist publicity leaflet**

club to be a small one, with just Germany, France, the Benelux countries, Austria (and perhaps Ireland). (*Time* 30-9-96).

Apart from Ireland, that's an almost identical map to that of the West and East Frankish Kingdom of the two sons of Charlemagne in AD 870. (See *Milestones* 1994 ch. 9.) Everyone else would belong to an outer group.

Germany has the largest population in Western Europe, (France is bigger in terms of land mass). Germany's economy is the world's 3rd largest, behind the U.S. and Japan. She is Europe's superpower with exports valued at \$500 billion. Her currency is second only to the dollar. Her economy towers above her E.U. partners. He spoke of Germany's position in a TV interview last year:

"United Germany is .. number one in Europe. We have about 80m people. We are the country with the strongest economy. We are particularly well organized, which is very important in a modern industrial society . . . we have our pluses and minuses. But taking everything together, we will (not get into trouble) if we take our place in the (European) house. Naturally the others accept that we will need the biggest flat."

EC 9-11-96

Berlin—Germany's new capital

Berlin was designated the capital for post war Germany, but Bonn has remained the seat of government and the de-facto capital. This is due to change in 1999. Berlin, with all its associations will once again become the seat of government. Some 140 foreign embassies are due to relocate to here.

"Certainly a Germany led from Berlin will be far different than one led from Bonn. Author Johannes Gross, who coined the name 'Berlin Republic' ...said, 'The Berlin Republic may be legally identical to the Bonn Republic. Socially, politically, culturally, it is not.' "

Time 30-9-96

Berlin is set to be the leading city of Europe.

"Assertion of that power will give the future Berlin Republic an authority in matters far beyond the economic. Germany's foreign policy will become more assertive—indeed, it already has. The German language will become second only to English as a medium of commercial communication. German cultural values—as expressed in music, movies, books and fashion—can be expected to contend with the ubiquitous Anglo-Saxon influences, rather than acquiescing to them."

Time 30-9-96

France—"the elder daughter"

President Chirac of France, visited the Pope earlier in the year—the first French President to do so for 37 years. He assured the Pope that

“the eldest daughter [son?] of the church” would remain faithful to its Christian heritage.

“.. Chirac became the latest holder of the 390-year-old title of sole honorary canon of Saint John Lateran’s, an office awarded to French kings, and subsequently presidents, in return for keeping Protestantism at bay.”
ST 21-1-96

St. John Lateran is the “cathedral of the Popes” and “the Mother Church and the head of all churches of the city and of the world” (*Urbis et Orbis*). Originally constructed by Constantine over the alleged tomb of Peter, but extensively rebuilt after the sackings of the Goths and Normans, and two earthquakes. Little remains of the original. It was here in AD 800 that Charlemagne was crowned as emperor—the start of the Holy Roman Empire (*Vatican*. Enc. Brit 14th.). The ceremony therefore carries many connotations.

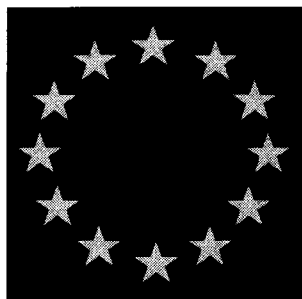
The European Flag

In spite of the enlargement of the EU from 12 members to presently 15 members, with others waiting to join, the flag still shows 12 stars. There are various explanations as to the origin of the 12 stars. It is generally agreed that its origin is shrouded in uncertainty. Some claim 12 was chosen because it signified completeness[!]. Others that it was based upon the tapestry in Cologne Cathedral which shows Mary crowned with 12 stars. *The Reformer* ran an article (May-June 1996) with a quote from a person who claimed to have been told by somebody who claimed to have designed it, that it was based on the 12 stars around Mary on the “Miraculous Medal of the Rue de Bac.”¹

The *European Newspaper* stated

“...The 12 starred European Flag was the official emblem of the Council of Europe from 1955 and was adopted by the European union in 1986. Some say the inspiration came from the halo of the Madonna in Strasbourg Cathedral...”
TE 14-12-96

The European Union in its own booklet *Europe’s Star Choice* said:



The EU emblem

¹ “Mary standing on a globe crushing a serpent’s head. Obverse: The letter M surmounted by a cross and below twin hearts of Jesus (circled by thorns) and Mary (pierced by sword) circled by 12 stars.”
Encyclopaedia of Catholicism.

“...It was subsequently realized that at the date of ratification of the flag coincided, inter alia, [among other things] with the feast of the Immaculate Conception and there was further recognition by the (Roman) Catholic Church when it recalled the vision of Saint Catherine-Labore who, in the Rue du Bac in Paris in 1876 saw the same symbol of a crown and 12 stars being carried on a banner around the world representing Peace, Joy and Happiness”

It also describes Strasbourg as “a city which symbolizes the dream of Franco-German integration”. Interestingly, when I tried to obtain a copy of this booklet in December, I was informed it had been withdrawn, “because of its religious overtones.” It seems that the Reformer article caused a stir!

We see from several strands there seem to be links to Mary—the Roman Church mis-interprets¹ Revelation 12 as a vision of Mary with a crown of 12 stars. The worship of Mary is at the heart of the Catholic church, and promoted vigorously by the present Pope. On his world travels he tries to visit “shrines of the Madonna.”

“Wherever he went, in whatever the country, there was one appointment John Paul II never missed: a visit to a shrine of the Holy Virgin. The sight of him standing before statues and picture of the Madonna and begging her protection for workers, nations, the sick, seminaries, universities and hospitals—praying for her to bring peace to the world—became a trademark of his papacy.

“At the time of Vatican II a majority of the bishops had not even wanted Paul VI to give Mary the formal title “Mother of the Church” lest ecumenical sensibilities be offended. But once Karol Wojtyla became Roman pontiff, he began to crack down on a recalcitrant Western Catholic community, imposing on it a systematic aggrandizement of the cult of Mary.” *His Holiness*, Bernstein, Politi.

Truly we are seeing a *scarlet coloured beast, ridden by the harlot woman* in the Europe that is rising. Church and state are working together behind the scenes. If as we expect, Britain stands aside from the rush towards monetary and political union, then we can expect an even faster development. Britain is acting as a brake at the moment.

¹ The 12 stars represent the authority of Rome. There had been 12 Caesars up to John's day, which the woman—the Christian community—now received as her crown of victory.

Chapter 4:

DEVELOPMENT OF THE FALSE PROPHET

Introduction

We now look at this third element, this new symbol of the False Prophet. We have seen in looking at the Beast, how entwined the Church and Europe are. This is to be expected from the past history.

As head of the Roman Catholic Church, the Pope sees himself in the role of the spiritual head of Europe. Not just western Europe, but eastern Europe as well. "The two lungs of Europe". That's why he strove to overthrow communism with its suppression of religion.

The present EU consists of about 61 million Protestants and 199 million Roman Catholics. These are of course nominal members. Church attendances figures for Catholics is falling in many countries. But the influence exerted by the Church behind the scenes is immense. The Frog-like spirit can now be seen in the mouth of the False Prophet. In the past the Church held absolute power over many people, life was hard for those not having the "Mark of the Beast". She held a considerable part of Italy—The Papal States. That power was broken in the French Revolution, and lands lost. So the strategy changed, as we shall now trace.

The new symbol—appropriate to the 6th vial

"The false Prophet occurs only in this 6th Vial, and in Rev. 19 where it is destroyed. It would appear, therefore, it is a symbol for something particular to the Vials and the time of the End.

"Paul defines a prophet as one who teaches the word of God (1 Cor. 14:3). A false prophet will be a teacher of false christianity. In the book of Revelation, a false prophet must be understood as a symbol, and it will signify something greater than an individual false prophet. The Roman Catholic hierarchy is the outstanding "false prophet" of our time. The Pope, cardinals, bishops and many other officials who make up the hierarchy, promulgate the false teaching of the Catholic church on all matters of faith and practice.

"The False Prophet symbol is particularly suitable for our time. By the dogma of Infallibility (1870) the Pope forced upon the world-wide Catholic Church the absolute acceptance of the idea that in his official pronouncements he is infallible, his utterances are God-inspired, he is God's prophet. In truth we know he is a **false** prophet."

The Revelation -which interpretation? G. Pearce

The changed route to the same end

It is a well researched fact, that where the Church does have power in a country, then it does not tolerate religious freedom. Where it is in a minority, then it champions religious freedom and demands concessions for her schools! It is interesting to see the methods used in Britain—a nominally Protestant country.

She organizes lay members to carry the banner of the Church. They work under such titles as “Knights of Columbus”, the “Sword of the Spirit”, the “Legion of Mary” and “Opus Dei”¹. Working from within their organizations they ensure that the Churches point of view is put forward. It has been a remarkably successful strategy. We see the results of this work. Many influential people are Catholic, who can quietly ensure that where-ever possible the Church’s wishes and teachings are promoted. Three out of the four BBC controllers are Catholic. Conrad Black owns many of the world’s newspapers. He is a Catholic. Many prominent newspaper columnists and broadcasters are Catholic as well as over 50 British MP’s. As lay people their influence can be far greater than could be achieved by a priest.

Some of my newspaper cuttings this year concern people in prominent positions or active groups which champion the Church’s message:

“...1st time an RC has been appointed as honorary Chaplain to the Queen. The principle chaplain to the Royal Navy since 1993. M. Mullin will take part in Forces’ religious services attended by members of the Royal Family.”
TR May 96

¹ The following quotation gives a flavour of the power of these sects. Commenting on the speed at which the Opus Dei leader, Escrivá de Balaguer, had been beatified, only 17 years after his death - a modern record:

“John Paul II felt particularly close to Opus Dei and its 75,000 members around the world. They are almost all intensely orthodox in theology, blindly loyal to the pope, and highly influential in their home countries. Because of its great secrecy—and suspected power—Opus Dei was often accused of being a vast Catholic conspiratorial operation for world domination. As its membership lists were kept under lock and key, critics tended to call it the “Holy Mafia.” Opus Dei had supported Karol Wojtyla since he was archbishop of Kraków. He had frequently been invited to address its members. In the days just before the conclave that elected him pope, Wojtyla went to pray at Escrivá’s tomb in Rome.”
His Holiness. Bernstein, Politi

“A new education body ‘The Catholic Association of Teachers, Schools and Colleges’, will ‘play a full part in the Church’s mission to the world.’ ” CH 3-5-96

The “Catholic Volunteering Network” an amalgamation of The Jesuit Volunteer Community, the Vincentian Volunteers, Time for God, and the Salesian Youth Group. To help in volunteer service. CH 3-5-96

“The Apostolic Nuncio¹ invested with the Insignia of a Knight Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order. ‘A further indication of the Queen’s efforts to improve relations with the Catholic church.’ ” DT 15-3-96

“The 1st European Seminar of ‘Catholic Civil Aviation Chaplains and Chaplaincy Members’ held in Warsaw. Focussing on the needs of travellers—the hope is all travellers will be able to attend Mass as part of their journey[!]” CH 17-5-96

“The Christian Socialist Movement has signed on 1,000 new members in its latest recruitment drive... Numbers a few thousand in Britain .. public support from Tony Blair.” CH 23-2-96

A recently (1995) published book *The Pope’s Armada* by Gordon Urquhart speaks of an explosion of groups being formed over the past 25 years. The three main ones are “The Focolare Movement”, “Communion and Liberation” and the “Neocatechumenate”. These movements are very active in many parts of the world. Firstly to influence existing Catholics to make them members of these “secret” societies, then to use their members to bring influences to bear on the outside world. The author of the book was once a member and writes of his experiences. The Pope is active in his support of these movements. They are his “Armada” his “shock troops” to conquer the world to the Church. They organize many youth days around the world and get staggering numbers of youngsters together. Music and song plays a strong part. Brainwashing techniques are used. Once a member of one of these groups, it is very difficult to leave. The worship of Mary is promoted too.

10,000 missionaries are being recruited in Rome to go round the city, from door to door, preaching and distributing a million copies of Mark’s gospel in a bid to bring the faithful back to the Church in preparation for the “Holy Year 2000” celebrations planned for Rome. (ST 6-10-96)

The present Pope’s first encyclical was *Redemptor hominis* [The Redeemer of man]. In it he proclaimed his programme for the Church—a missionary drive to bring about world unity by the year 2000. In these new movements he finds his missionaries.

¹ Represents the Pope to a civil government and who enjoys ambassadorial status in the country of residence to which he is sent. Catholic Encyclopaedia

The political Pope

In 1988 in his speech to the European Parliament in Strasbourg he expressed his hope for a united Europe encompassing the “other lung” [ie Europe is one body, breathing with two lungs] of eastern Europe with his role as the “supreme Pastor of the universal church.” Interestingly apart from using English at the start, it was spoken in French. Frog-like. Yet he would like more than spiritual leadership.

In an article in 1991, entitled “Hatching a New Popish Plot” the Sunday Telegraph wrote that

“Karol Wojtyla is calmly preparing to assume the mantle which he solemnly believes to be his Divine Right—that of the new Holy Roman Emperor, reigning from the Urals to the Atlantic.” ST 21-7-91

Political power has ever been the hallmark of the Roman Church, which claims that the Pope is the supreme ruler of the world.

“The pontifical supremacy is the fundamental article of the Christian Religion.” Cardinal Bellarmine (1542–1621)

One experienced commentator wrote “No political event or circumstance can be evaluated without the knowledge of the Vatican’s part in it. And no significant world political situation exists in which the Vatican does not play an important implicit or explicit part in it.” There are numerous books about the present Pope which illustrate the Church’s hand in politics. David Willey, the BBC’s Rome correspondent entitled his book “*God’s Politician—John Paul at the Vatican.*” He describes the Pope as one of the most ‘political’ popes in modern history.

The latest book is “*His Holiness: John Paul II And The Hidden History Of Our Time.*” by C. Bernstein and M. Politi, both investigative journalists. They had access for the first time to hitherto secret documents from former Iron Curtain countries. The major theme of the book is the Pope’s extraordinary role in the collapse of communism. His “informal secret alliance” with Reagan to overthrow communism in Poland is well documented. The CIA director, William Casey, who attended mass daily, had several secret meetings with the Pope to co-ordinate their strategy. He would show the Pope spy satellite photographs and reports from electronic eavesdropping. The Pope would brief him on information gathered by church sources. The Catholic Herald book reviewer entitled his review “**The hinge of history**—John Paul II and his pivotal role in changing the world.”

The present Pope has suffered growing ill health. This year he underwent an operation to remove his appendix. He is also suffering from Parkinson’s disease. In spite of this he visited many countries this year. France, Germany, Hungary, Latin America, Slovenia, Tunisia. He plans trips to Poland, Bosnia and even Israel in 1997. These many trips abroad have been the hall-mark of the present Pope. He seeks -

“...The opportunity to proclaim the Gospel and papal teachings on a ‘planetary scale.’ ”

“And he means planetary. He makes no secret of his desire to be a world leader, a global prophet, the bearer of tidings of universal salvation.” *His Holiness. Bernstein, Politi*

Readers of Newsweek voted Pope John Paul II “Media man of the year.” (CH 13-12-96)

Kuwait, a Moslem state, was the first Arab country to forge diplomatic ties with the Vatican, in 1969. She has agreed to the setting up of a nunciature¹ to be a base to oversee the Vatican’s interests there and in the neighbouring Gulf states. The Kuwaiti Crown Prince visited the Vatican to meet the Pope and to finalize details. (CH 13-12-96)

“On 13 December the Pope discussed Middle East problems with the Apostolic nuncios to Lebanon and Kuwait and with Kuwait’s Prime Minister. The Vatican described the Pope’s meeting with the Kuwaiti leader as a cordial exchange of views on the overall Middle East situation. A Vatican envoy recently travelled to Kuwait for talks with top government officials”. CH 2-1-97

In December, just before Christmas, the Pope and Yasser Arafat held a meeting to discuss “a new crisis in the Middle East peace process.” It was their 5th meeting at the Vatican.

“[The Palestinian delegation] said Arafat wanted to consult with the Pope on the ‘urgent need to revitalize the peace process’. The two were also expected to discuss co-ordination of plans celebrating the Great Jubilee of the year 2000, which marks the birth of Jesus in the West Bank [!] of Bethlehem.” CH 2-1-97

How much longer John Paul II will remain in office we do not know. There is talk of his successor being the Cardinal Martini, a Jesuit and Archbishop of Milan—an Italian.

INFLUENCING VOTING IN BRITAIN

There was an outcry in Britain over a 35 page pamphlet entitled *The Common Good*, commissioned by the “Catholic Bishop’s Conference of England and Wales” which was published in October 1996. 34,000 copies were sold in the first three weeks!

“The Roman Catholic Church stepped into political controversy yesterday when it issued a set of principles to guide its five million followers when they came to vote at the next general election. While the Church’s leaders said they were not telling their people how they

¹ The diplomatic Headquarters of a papal nuncio.

should vote, some Conservatives were angered by what they saw as an implied bias towards the Labour Party.

“The document . . . is the church’s most radical intervention in British politics this century.

“It supports a minimum wage, calls for a more positive approach to Europe and believes that civil liberties could be strengthened with a Bill of Rights.”
DT 22-10-96

This was followed up at the end of the year by the Roman Catholic Cardinal Hume urged all Catholics to question their Parliamentary candidates over their position on the issue of abortion, and only vote for those with an anti-abortion stand. This will affect many candidates of both parties. (DT 29-12-96)

The leader of the British Labour party, Tony Blair, is well disposed to the Catholics. His wife is a practising Catholic, and their children have been confirmed. He himself sometimes attends mass with his wife and family. It appears that for the past five years he has even occasionally taken communion. When news of this became public there was considerable concern amongst Catholics as this was against Canon Law. Mr Blair said that he would now refrain from taking “communion”. His office said that rumours that he planned to convert were “untrue”. (ST 23-3-96; DT 3-7-96)

Influencing voting abroad

In other countries, church interference in politics is more commonplace. Under the heading **Bishops back Aznar as Spain’s next PM** it showed the Church’s backing for a change of government.

“Jose Maria Aznar, Spain’s likely new Prime Minister, received a letter of congratulation from the Spanish bishops this week.

“In the letter, the bishops expressed their desire for stronger ties between the Church and a future government headed by Aznar which ‘will contribute to a better service for Catholics and for all Spanish citizens.’ ”

“It is hoped that Aznar, who is a practising Catholic, will forge closer links with the Church. ... the bishops are confident that he would change the legislation which currently strips religious education of any academic worth.”
CH 8-3-96

Aznar was subsequently elected, though with a small majority. He has since appointed four Opus Dei members to cabinet posts. (CH 13-12-96)

The Vatican billions

Most of the staggering wealth of the Church is tied up in real estate, objects of art, stocks and shares. It has been a profitable year for the Vatican for cash. After 23 years of losses, the last three years (to Dec

1995) have been profitable—its accounts for 1995 showed a surplus of £1.13m on an income of £129.4m. The marketing men have been busy -

“The commercialization of John Paul II has known no bounds in recent years.

“A video of His Holiness celebrating mass...shot into the charts at number 14.

“His book, *Crossing the Threshold of Hope*, sold 3 million copies last year. And a CD of The Pope’s Rosary earned him a gold disc.

“Now the 75-year-old has discovered an even bigger gold mine—home furnishing.

“This week the Vatican revealed it has signed a £1 billion worldwide deal to sell rugs, cushion covers and even curtains printed with copies of its greatest religious art.

“Businessman John Connelly, a devote Catholic has been given exclusive rights to reproduce artwork from the Vatican museums.”

Int. Express 7-8-96

These will be marketed through a chain of stores to be set up in Britain, America, Australia and even Japan. Store staff will be dressed as Swiss guards!

The Roman Church abandons Creation

A recent headline spoke of the abandoning of creation for evolution by the Roman Church.

Vatican Thinking Evolves

The Pope gives his blessing to natural selection—though man’s soul remains beyond science’s reach

“‘Today .. new knowledge leads us to recognize the theory of evolution is more than a hypothesis’...the statement by John Paul reflects the church’s acceptance of evolution. ...The statement is unlikely to influence the curriculum of Catholic schools, where evolution has been taught since the 1950’s. Indeed, reading the entire Bible literally has not been a dominant practice through much of the 20th century.”[!]

Time 4-11-96

Chapter 5:

CHURCH RECONCILIATION

Introduction

We have been looking for signs of a reconciliation between the divided churches, with the Pope as their leader. For some time now there have been links between the Greek Orthodox church and the Roman church, which split in AD 1054. This process is continuing.

There was also a rift between the Greek and Russian Orthodox churches in 1448 over what proved to be a temporary agreement (the Decree of Union) between Rome and Constantinople. The Russian church rejected this agreement and declared their independence by electing a metropolitan of Moscow without any reference to Constantinople. The gulf was nothing like that between the two sides in the 1054 division. The two churches consider themselves “in fellowship”. What is of greatest interest is seeking signs of a reconciliation between the Russian and Roman churches. They have never really been in “fellowship”, as Christianity came to Russia only shortly before the great division of 1054. There are fewer than 400,000 Roman Catholics in Russia in a total population of 150 million. The Orthodox church fears Rome’s proselytisms (Encyclopaedia of Catholicism).

Russian Orthodox and Rome

The Pope has tried hard to meet the Patriarch of Moscow, Alexei II. He had rearranged his trip to Hungary in September to coincide with the visit of Alexei to celebrate the 1,000 year founding of a monastery in Pannonhalma. This meeting was called off, shortly beforehand. There is deep hostility felt in Moscow to the political moves of the Pope, and his over-zealous proselytising on the former Soviet territory.

“The general climate of tension between Rome and Moscow is a setback for two of John Paul II’s personal ambitions—to visit the former Soviet union and to bring Orthodoxy back within the Roman fold after a schism of over 800 years.”

CH 28-6-96

The revelations that the Russian Patriarch Alexei II had been an active KGB agent (see chapter 2) came at a sensitive time. In the newly independent Armenia, where there has been conflict between the Armenian church and the Russian church, the Pope has been working to bring reconciliation. The Russian Patriarch considers Armenia to be his territory!

Both the Pope and the Patriarch are old men, it may well be their younger successors who see the advantage in coming together.

Greek (Eastern) Orthodox and Rome

There have been several meetings between the Patriarch of Constantinople, Bartholomew I and the Pope, the last being at Rome in 1995. The two men are very friendly towards each other, and there is much behind the scenes contact through officials. He is a young 55 and energetic by patriarchal standards. In June 1995

“Bartholomew spent three days in Rome for dialogue with the Pope and to celebrate liturgy with him on the feast day last June of Saints Peter and Paul.

“But it is now feared in Rome that the Moscow patriarchate’s attitude to the Vatican is bringing a halt to this front of ecumenical dialogue with Orthodoxy, which has made rapid progress in the past few years”

CH 28-6-96

The Assyrian Orthodox Church, which is based in Baghdad and looks after the community in Iraq, maintains close links with the German Catholic churches, using them for ceremonies in that country. The Patriarch, Mar Ade, met Pope Paul VI in 1966. (CH 9-8-96)

In December the Catholic Herald carried the headline

Rome heals 1,500-year rift with Armenia

“The Catholic and Armenian Churches have signed a joint declaration to heal a 1,500-year-long rift, and to work together towards ‘full communion’.

“The agreement puts an end to a theological dispute which erupted during an ecumenical council in Calcedon, Asia Minor, in the fifth century AD.

“The Pope and Karekin I, patriarch of the world’s six million Armenian Christians, signed the pledge after talks at the Vatican at the close of the latter’s five-day visit.

“The Armenian church, based in Etchmiadzin near the Armenian capital of Yerevan, was one of the ancient Eastern Churches which split from Byzantine Christianity before the great Schism of 1054.”

CH 26-12-96

The *Catholic Herald* showed a picture of Bosnian religious leaders attending an “inter-religious dialogue”. It showed Croatian Catholic, Bosnian Serb Eastern Orthodox, Austrian Roman Catholic, and Greek Orthodox leaders walking down a street in Sarajevo. (CH 17-5-96)

Greek (Eastern) Orthodox and Russian Orthodox

Here the differences are small, and each side recognizes the other—or did! The Patriarch of Constantinople was regarded as the overall head of the Orthodox Churches by virtue of its ancient roots. However they have

fallen out over the ecclesiastical status of the former Soviet republic of Estonia. Officially it comes under Constantinople, but the Moscow Patriarch, who is Estonian born, claims it for himself. (CH 28-6-96) The Estonians were forcibly transferred to the control of Moscow by the Soviets in 1945, an event which Alexy's father took part in. The Soviets used the church to suppress the people of Estonia. Hence their desire, having become independent of Moscow, to make their church independent also, by transfer to Constantinople. The Estonian government has ensured that under the new states laws, property will be returned to their pre-1940 owners. This gives Constantinople control over 3,500 hectares of former church property. Hence the strained relations! (TE 30-5-96) The Russians are challenging Constantinople's supremacy. They say that they have millions of followers, compared to only a few thousand under Bartholomew, whose seat is now in Muslim Turkey. (DT 29-2-96)

Anglicans and Rome

This year saw a further drift of Anglican priests and congregations to Rome. The matter of the ordination of women has been a big spur to this practice—since 1992, five bishops, more than 300 Anglican priests and thousands more of their congregations have switched (over 6,000 in 1995 alone). (DT 22-2-96; 15-4-96)

In December the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Carey, visited the Pope for his first official visit to the Vatican. There appeared to be quite a friendship between them.

"The aim of his four day visit was to resuscitate the unity talks which collapsed after the ordination of women in 1994.

"He spoke of his and the Anglican Church's 'absolute commitment' to 'full, visible unity of God's Church.' "

DT 4-12-96

"Dr Carey was due to meet the Pope for private discussions which were expected to focus on Christian unity and the preparations for the millennial inter-faith meetings to be held in Israel in 1999."

CH 6-12-96

"A few Protestant eyebrows may be raised when Dr Carey will 'pray briefly' at the tomb of St Peter under the High Altar of the Basilica of St Peter.

"In doing so he will be acknowledging the common history between the Churches, but he will also be on his knees before a saint's shrine."

DT 2-12-96

Although divided on several issues—ordination of women, papal infallibility, priestly celibacy, Marian dogmas—the Anglican community seems bent on a path of reconciliation. It will be on the Pope's terms. He has made it quite clear that he is the head, and would have to be recognized as such.

“[The Pope] said that the primacy of the Pope should not be in any way renounced and that he prayed that all Christians would accept it as a ‘service of love.’ ” DT 6-12-96

An Anglican group, *Forward in Faith* consisting of 7,500 members including 1,000 priests, was reported to be seeking talks with the Vatican and with the Greek Orthodox church to promote links. They oppose the Anglican position on women priests. (DT 4-1-96)

On the other hand the Queen banned the holding of Mass at the Tower of London. Since 1991 a small group of Catholics had held a Mass on June 22nd—“St John Fisher’s day” to commemorate his “martyrdom”. Protestants regard him as a traitor. They had been given permission by the then Catholic governor of the Tower. When this was made known to the Queen, it is believed that she personally gave orders for it to be banned. (CH 21-6-96)

The Catholic Herald reported that the dialogue between the Methodists and the Catholic church was “making good progress” according to a report issued by the Methodists. A Roman Catholic-Methodist Committee has issued a report *Can the Roman Catholic and Methodist Churches be Reconciled?* Although apart on several issues, many Methodists appear keen for reconciliation. (CH 5-7-96)

At the same time the Church of England and the Methodists are proposing an exchange of membership so that either could worship in each other’s church. This ambitious plan is to be put before the C. of E. synod in 1997 and the Methodist Conference in 1998.

“The aim is gradual integration towards a ‘visible unity’ rather than a complete merger.” DT 10-7-96

This phrase “visible unity” is the one used by Dr Carey regarding his hopes with the Roman Catholic talks. It appears to represent a stage of linking without being absorbed totally. The churches have already united in India and Pakistan. Methodists number around 63 million and Anglicans 70 million, worldwide. Rome claims around 900 million members.

Islam and Rome

Interestingly, while the Orthodox Church is battling against Islam, the Pope has made many references about forging closer links with Islam. The Roman Church finds itself in a minority position in many Moslem countries. As is the case where the church is in a minority, it seeks religious tolerance. During his visit to Tunisia in April, the Pope met 300 Muslim leaders saying: “God wants us to know each other better.” In Tunisia there has been a 4 year war between Islamic rebels and the government. It is a Muslim country with a Catholic minority.

“Dr Riad Jarjour, General Secretary of the Middle East Council of Churches, said that one of the main aims of the newly expanded office in Jerusalem is to ‘intensify dialogue with the Muslims. It is important that we do this.’”
CH 3-5-96

This council is presumably inter-denominational.

In 1995 a large Mosque opened in the shadow of the Vatican. Back in 1994 the Pope had enlisted the aid of Moslem leaders to counteract the pro-abortion stance of the United Nations Conference on Population and Development at Cairo. The Pope sent his foreign minister to Libya and Iran and succeeded in forming a Catholic-Islamic alliance concerning these matters.

Drinking Rome’s cup

In seeking to be the spiritual head of the world, the Pope plays an active role in pursuit of this goal. He does not yield on the issue of his supremacy.

We see the growing fulfilment of the picture given in Revelation 18:3-

“For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies”.

Many nations and denominations are reaching out to drink that cup. In a world that is beginning to react against the moral freedoms of the 1980’s and early 1990’s, it sees a voice of reason in his uncompromising stand over marriage, divorce, and abortion. Sadly we know that behind that lies a church which is prepared to be ruthless in its pursuit of power. The atrocities of the WW2 in Yugoslavia have been repeated in the conflict between the Catholic Croats and the Orthodox Serbs.

“Papal opposition to war in the Gulf as recalled in your editorial, sits oddly with the support for the recent Croatian invasion of Krajina. This latter was manifest not only through the local clergy, but also by the presence of an official Vatican envoy on the government sponsored victory train throughout the conquered territory. Perhaps the touchstone is not morality, but simply whether or not our tribal interests are involved.”
Letter in CH 27-9-96.

Chapter 6:

MONETARY UNION AND THE NEW EUROPE

Introduction

Europe is on the brink of the most fundamental change since the break-up of the Holy Roman Empire in 1806. Germany and France are pushing ahead with Monetary Union, an important step towards political integration. The adoption of a common currency will form an economic unit which will divide Europe between those countries which have adopted the Euro, and those outside. In a way it will be the modern-day equivalent of the “mark of the beast”. Those who do not have the Euro will be at a disadvantage when it comes “to buy or sell” (Rev 13:16).

Britain wants no part in this. We shall see Britain moving away, or being pushed away, from this inner core. This is such a significant issue that we devote two chapters to it. This chapter looks at Europe’s drive to union and the next with Britain’s opposition.

My fattest file of cuttings this year has been about EMU (European Monetary Union). At the start of the year there was much pessimism in Europe about the viability of EMU. Many in Germany and France were strongly opposed to it. Yet by the end of the year the cuttings show a remarkable turn around. Europe determined to push ahead, on schedule, with EMU. A more militant spirit of pushing Britain to one side has emerged. The Beast is rapidly developing.

The final phase of Europe

“And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast.

These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.

These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.”

Rev. 17:12-14

This passage gives us the picture of the future of Europe. Ten kings or governments take us back to the ten horns of ch. 12:3 where they are uncrowned, and ch. 13:1 where they are crowned. They represented the groups which made up the dragon territory, and later the beast territory. Being **crowned** indicates independent existence, such as we see today. As the situation described in Revelation 17 is of heads we must see a change from today, where the countries of Europe are independent. We are seeing the great drive to subjugate political independence, and to integrate much

of their political power to “Brussels”. In other words to become “uncrowned”.

Two words are being used to describe the outlook of the various countries of Europe: *federalist* and *nationalist*.

A **federalist** is pursuing the goal of a **federation**—“that form of government in which several states, each keeping an internal independence, are joined together into a union for foreign affairs and certain other common objects”

A **nationalist** is pursuing the goal of retaining **national** identity—“a political movement to foster and assert the right of national independence when this is conceived to be imperiled or suppressed by the predominance of another nation”

(Wyld’s Dictionary of the English Language)

Chancellor Kohl has frequently stated that, in his eyes, if Europe does not suppress nationalism it will lead to war. Kohl wants federalism.

Europe must integrate more or risk war, says Kohl

“‘The policy of European integration is in reality a question of war or peace in the 21st century,’ Mr Kohl said in an apocalyptic speech spelling out what he sees as the dangers of the British approach [to expansion of the EU’s powers.]

“European countries had too often failed to realize the consequences of not working together. ‘This was one of the reasons why wars were possible. German troops marched into Belgium [-where he was giving this speech] twice this century. .. Nationalism has brought great suffering to our continent; just think of the first 50 years of this century’”

DT 3-2-96

What was meant by this had been spelt out in a document by the Germany CDU party (Kohl’s):

“Never again must there be a destabilizing vacuum of power in Central Europe. If European integration were not to progress, Germany might be called upon, or tempted by its own security constraints, to try to effect the stabilization (a word full of unpleasant historical echoes) on its own and in the traditional way”

The Rotten Heart of Europe B. Connolly

Europe, pushed by Germany, is moving towards a federation. Britain is strongly against it—her outlook is nationalistic. At the heart of this federalist movement lies Monetary Union, the adoption of a common currency—the Euro. This drive to monetary union has always been seen as a great step towards political union. As the president of the Bundesbank remarked:

“A European currency will lead to member nations transferring their sovereignty over financial and wage policy as well as monetary affairs. It is an illusion to think that states can hold on to their autonomy over taxation policies’. Mr Tietman was not making a political statement—merely giving his professional opinion of the consequences of monetary union.” DT 20-12-96

Carl Lamers, a close colleague of Chancellor Kohl put it more bluntly:

“Of course monetary union would lead to political union: that is why Germany wants it” DT 20-12-96

Let’s examine some of the issues of Monetary Union.

EMU—European Monetary Union

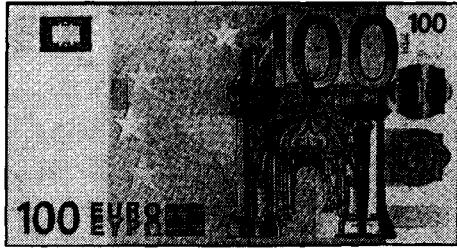
Instead of each member state having its own currency, the Lira, the Franc, the Deutschmark, etc., EMU is a scheme to pool all currencies into a new one—the Euro. Rather than it being a parallel currency, with each member retaining their own currency but using the Euro as a common currency of **trade**, it was decided that this should be the sole currency. Every nation signing up to it would phase out their own currency and adopt the Euro. This is why such a move was seen to be a big step in the direction of a deeper political union. A common currency takes away from each country the ability to dictate its own affairs; to fix exchange rates, to devalue if necessary, even to fix interest rates. With the adoption of the Euro, control would be passed to a central bank. By abolishing the need for exchange rates between member countries, there is no adjustment possible between the economies of the member countries once the conversion rate is fixed to say how many Euro’s each currency is worth on change over day. They are locked together, and the strength of the whole is dependent on the sum of the parts. What Germany is afraid of, is that the strength of the Deutschmark will be replaced by a Euro which is influenced by the weak economies of countries like Italy, Spain and Greece. She is proposing a system of stiff fines for countries who allow their budgets to run into deficit after they are within the EMU, as a regulator to ensure that the Euro isn’t weakened.

So joining EMU is dependent upon each member country bringing its economy up to a common level. Criteria have been laid down covering inflation rates, long-term interest rates, exchange rates within the ERM (Britain is no longer in this, Italy rejoined in Nov. 96), national debt, and budget deficits. In the timetable laid down under Maastricht, which Germany and France are insisting is kept to, monetary union becomes a reality on January 1st 1999. The final details of the EMU agreement are supposed to be ready for signing in June 1997 at the Amsterdam summit. Then, on the basis of the economic position of the EU members during

1997¹, the selection will be made in the first half of 1998 of those members who qualify, and what the conversion rate for each of those countries will be. Although EMU starts in 1999, it is not planned to have notes and coins circulating to the general public until 2002.

At the Dublin Summit meeting in December, the design of the Euro notes was revealed and also the symbol for the currency.

It suddenly made the idea of Monetary Union more real. There is nothing remarkable in the design of the many denominations. The pictures are bland and attempt to be uncontroversial, but it brought an air of reality to something that had been only a vision for many years. The design for the coinage is yet to be fixed.



100 Euro note and the Euro emblem

The struggle to qualify

In the desperate attempt of the EU members to get their economies on track, there have been many attempts to fudge the figures. Unlike Britain, the rest of Europe is still experiencing the recession, with unemployment figures rising, and economies experiencing low growth. Even France has been driven to desperate measures. In 1991 it appeared that only Germany, France, Austria and the Benelux countries would qualify. This is what Germany wanted and doubtless expected that the criteria she had pushed for would exclude the others. Suddenly it appears that many more countries will qualify in 1997. Germany is suspicious of this turn-around, and complains, rightly, that countries have been massaging their figures to suit.

“Most striking are France’s plan to count a one-time transfer of cash from France Télécom to the government, which will in turn take on the company’s pension liabilities; Spain’s tactic of using privatisation receipts to pay for losses in other state owned industries; and Italy’s planned ‘Euro tax’, which is to be partially refunded in future years.”

EC 30-11-96

Belgium is selling large quantities of gold, and France, Italy, Spain and Portugal are also poised to sell national gold reserves worth billions of pounds in order to qualify. Even Germany has been accused of setting

¹ Amended at Dublin in December to allow projected performance figures during 1998 to be taken into account as well.

unattainable budgets to make it appear that she is on course! (DT 1-11-96; 2-12-96, TE 30-11-96)

France and Germany are hoping that Spain, Portugal and Greece will be kept out. Germany doesn't want Italy—France does, but only to protect her industry which was badly undermined by Italy's increased competitiveness when she left the ERM. A book published in Germany predicted that

"[German] bond markets will collapse and interest rates will soar if investors believe that Germany is about to swop its D-mark for a single currency (the Euro) shared with Italy and Spain. That prophecy is probably too dark, but the problem for Mr Kohl is that many Germans believe it."

TE 5-10-96

ECB—European Central Bank

A new bank is being set up in 1998 to run the Euro—the European Central Bank. Germany ensured that it will be sited in Frankfurt! Its forerunner is the EMI—European Monetary Institute. It is expected that Dr Duisengerg, a Netherlander will take over as president of the EMI in June 1997 and become the first president of the ECB. He will be assisted by an executive board and the governors of every independent central bank in the member states. (Britain incidentally does not have such an independent central bank!) The Bank will control monetary policy—interest rates, the exchange rate between the Euro and other currencies, and the money supply of those countries who are members. (DT 20-12-96).

The crucial issue is, who is to have ultimate control of the EMU? Will it be the executive board or a committee of politicians appointed to oversee the Bank? This is where France and Germany have their fundamental differences. Germany wants the ECB to be completely independent (like the German Bundesbank). France is determined to have a degree of political control. France and Germany are battling this out between them.

"The eventual outcome of the wrangle between Paris and Bonn will be presented to the rest on a take-it-or-leave-it basis. Many other countries will be aggrieved that vital decisions impinging on their sovereignty are being taken without them. Even the Commission in Brussels is out of the loop."

TE 19-12-96



**Kohl and Chirac
praying others
will fall off!**

The determination of Germany and France

This determination to push ahead is illustrated by the number of meetings which they have held prior to the Dublin Summit in December 1996. They met for the 68th Franco-German summit in Nuremberg in early December.

“This [meeting on Dec 9th] is itself a preparation for the European summit in Dublin on the 13th, when the continent’s most powerful couple will jointly push their plan to create a Europe-within-Europe, free from British foot-dragging.

“In an article this week in the French magazine *Le Nouvel Observateur*, Mr Kohl sketched out his plans for further European integration, which included greater co-operation in the fight against organized crime and a European defence identity.

“‘Only if France and Germany pull together will we master the great European challenges,’ he wrote.” DT 30-11-96

In fact Kohl and Chirac held **four** bilateral mini-summits in the two weeks before the Dublin meeting, such was the importance of this summit which put Europe on track for monetary union by 1999.

The ambition of Germany is to create a federalist state. Not on the lines of the United States, but it would appear to match this picture of ten uncrowned horns who *agree to give their power to the Beast*, indicating loss of sovereignty, but still remaining horns. It is likely that the final stages of this will not be seen until after the call to judgement, and possibly after the Armageddon has taken place. What is so fascinating is to see that the drive towards this goal is well under way. Revelation 17 indicates that this is a period which lasts a symbolic *one hour*, probably 30 years.

Chapter 7:

BRITAIN'S RESISTANCE TO THE EURO

Introduction

Bible prophecy has indicated a future role for Britain as the latter-day Tyre and Tarshish. When Christ and the saints have saved Israel from their enemies, and are establishing the Kingdom world-wide, Britain will be helping Christ. Her transport will be utilized to assist the returning Jews.

“Surely the isles shall wait for me, and the ships of Tarshish first, to bring thy sons from far, their silver and their gold with them, unto the name of the LORD thy God, and to the Holy One of Israel, because he hath glorified thee.” Isa. 60:9

This is a very different picture from that sketched out in the previous chapter, of Europe resisting Christ's rule. At some time Britain will either be on the periphery of Europe or will have broken free.

We will now examine the growing resistance in Britain to becoming part of the Europe envisaged by Germany and France.

The loss of control over her own affairs

If Britain signed up for EMU there would be little that wouldn't be controlled centrally. Norman Lamont, the former British Chancellor pictured that within 10 years she would have no control over taxation, agricultural policy, immigration and employment policy.

“It is all too easy to imagine our government having power over only health, education and local government, and a modified freedom in foreign affairs” DT 20-12-96

Britain has long opposed the idea of any closer union. She is dismayed at the loss of power and the tide of regulations which have been forced on her already and which she has been powerless to stop. Not only the British public but Members of Parliament, are increasingly protesting. It is thought that only three out of twenty-two members of Mr Major's cabinet support Britain joining the EMU in 1999. (DT 2-12-96) It is not difficult to foresee that either she will leave the EU altogether or, because the nature of the EU is about to change, she will find herself on the periphery and not be at the heart of Europe.

Franco-German plans to sidetrack Britain

As we saw in the previous chapter, the driving force behind EMU is Germany and France. Together they have put monetary union back on course, in spite of British resistance and scepticism.

Chancellor Kohl sees Britain as an obstacle to his goal. Anglo-German relations are at their lowest ebb for many years.

“Not only is Britain irrelevant through its opposition to our most pressing appointment with monetary union, but it seems that Mr Major is unlikely to be around when it takes place,” a senior chancellery official said.



“The German Chancellor has long felt that Britain is the main obstacle to realizing his dream of a politically and economically integrated Europe. The time has now come simply to factor it out of the equation before it is too late” DT 29-4-96

Britain at the heart of Europe!

The scheme to “factor it out” is to create a two track Europe. (See *Milestones* 1994 chapter 6). For them the idea of an inner core, without Britain brings with it the opportunity to pursue deeper integration without Britain tugging at the handbrake. The new phrase coined is “flexibility” or “reinforced co-operation”.

“Latterly, the ruling idea behind the IGC [Inter-governmental Conference] has become ‘flexibility’, an ill-defined Franco-German plan to organize a hard core of federalist states without needing the rest of the Union’s permission.

“...On the face of it, flexibility, also dubbed ‘reinforced co-operation’, is a mechanism for permitting countries to pursue integration by setting up ad hoc groups. They might want to do so to create a common tax regime, for example. Nothing wrong with that, you might think. But if the same inner circle of countries opts to integrate faster and further on a range of issues simultaneously, flexibility will have delivered into existence a hard-core Europe excluding others. That is something which violates a deeply ingrained spirit of equality behind the original EU treaties.

“Behind all the talk of flexibility is the veiled threat that should Britain and Denmark refuse to co-operate, the IGC will simply be shelved and a new treaty agreed by the remaining 13. The existing EU structure would, in the words of one senior Commission official, be relegated to the status of ‘virtual reality’. This is not a prospect anyone can consider lightly, but it is a measure of the tensions which now exist.”

The irony is that the concept of flexibility was something introduced by John Major in 1994. It is now being seized upon to sideline Britain. Already finance ministers of countries likely to join the EMU, with others excluded, have started to hold regular meetings.. "Britain is already being slowly marginalised." (DT 14-12-96)

The President of the European Commission has stepped up his attack on "British intransigence".

"On Friday his spokesman...told the *Daily Telegraph* a big change in commission tactics towards its most persistent critic had been hammered out at a meeting with senior advisors...'The UK is appallingly negative. He has discussed it all with his collaborators... We have to defend what we believe in. If there is an attack, now there will be a defence. If you do not come out with a clear line of defence you will be trampled over.' "

DT 2-12-96

So a two-tier Europe is what is being planned, with an inner core who sign up to monetary, and therefore inevitably, closer political union and an outer ring who do not sign up. Even those who wish for greater union, unless their currencies meet the strict criteria laid down, will not be permitted to join the inner core until their economic performance has improved. This inevitably will lead to two groups within Europe. There is the likelihood of a third tier—countries of eastern Europe who want to join. They will not be in any position to meet the monetary criteria and probably will just have trading links, with little political control.

Even though Britain would probably meet the joining criteria, the mounting opposition makes it almost inevitable that she will be marginalised to the outer ring. Whether she chooses to remain in this position, or to cut herself entirely free, we will have to see. Opposition to any more government controls being moved to Brussels will surely increase as the inner core move ahead with their linkages. Britain cutting herself off and choosing an independent path seems to fit the Scriptural picture, and fits the current mood of the British public.

Britain's opposition to EMU

This year Britain's opposition has considerably hardened. Monetary union represents a momentous step. As John Major said, it is the most momentous decision that Britain has had to face this century. It is clearly a commitment which does not allow a turning back. The cost of signing up to the Euro is enormous. The cost of printing notes and minting coins to replace existing ones is staggering, as is the cost of converting every slot machine to take the new currency. One estimate is that Europe's retailers will have to spend £22 billion to convert. Britain has £59 billions-worth of sterling notes, which would all have to be shredded if Britain changed to the euro. Marks and Spencer have decided to install dual tills so they can take sterling and euros. They face a staggering bill of

£100M. to prepare all their branches in Europe for the euro. British banks face a bill of £300 million, and 3,000 to 5,000 man-years to convert back-office procedures, computer software etc. (DT 1-4; 14-5-96) Once one has given up one's own currency it would be exceedingly difficult to turn the clock back.

In addition Britain would have to hand over to Frankfurt her entire stock of gold and foreign reserves worth some £26,000 million! There is another problem. Europe is facing a pensions time bomb. Early in the 21st century it is estimated that there will be more pensioners than workers. Britain has the highest level of properly funded pensions. Within the EMU she would be liable to share the enormous costs of the pensions of her neighbours, who have not taken prudent steps to meet the approaching situation. The sums of money that will be needed are enormous. Not only that, Britain's own pension funds would have to be handed over, to be swallowed by this black hole. (*The Castle of Lies* - Booker and North)

In Britain John Major has had a long running battle with his cabinet over the single currency. The majority want a firm declaration that Britain will not join. The Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke is opposed to such a declaration. Major seems to sit on the fence with the declaration that they will only join **if the conditions are right**. If he feels they are right, then he will hold a referendum recommending that Britain joins. (Labour are also now committed to holding a referendum over this issue, but it would be one asking whether one wants to join.) Britain and Denmark have negotiated an opt out, so even if they match the economic criteria, they do not have to join. The other EU members are committed by the terms of Maastricht to join as soon as their economies are right.

A poll by Mori and *The European* illustrated the decline in British popularity for continued membership of the EU. In answer to the question "If there were a referendum now on whether Britain should be part of a single European currency, how would you vote?" only 22% were in favour, 64% were against! (TE 5-12-96)

The problem for Britain is whether those who sign up to monetary union will take sanctions against those who choose not to, to ensure they don't take advantage of the flexibility that they will have retained. Then there is the matter of fines which those who sign up will be subject to if they do not maintain a sound economic budget. Interestingly it has been revealed that in the small print of the opt-out negotiated by Mr Major in 1991, is a clause saying that Britain would only be free of needing to meet the convergence criteria, if she clearly stated that she was not going to proceed with joining the EMU. She hasn't given that undertaking so far. Britain has in effect another 12 months in which to declare her hand, or risk the potentially crippling fines if she does not operate her budget within the laid down limits, along with those who sign up. (ST 1-12-96)

Britain's other battles

We have concentrated in this issue on monetary union, but Britain has been continuing her long battle with the other members over such matters as the banning of her beef and loss of fishing quotas to the Spanish. She was also forced to accept EU regulations on the 48 hour week, which she should have been exempt from under her Social Chapter opt out. By making it a matter of "Health and Safety", which it clearly was not, she was forced to accept it, adding further costs to industry.

"The Castle of Lies—why Britain must get out of Europe"

An interesting book was published in November 1996 entitled *The Castle of Lies - why Britain must get out of Europe*, by Christopher Booker and Richard North. Mr Booker "has established a fearsome reputation as the scourge of over-mighty bureaucrats and puppet politicians, through his column in the *Sunday Telegraph*." It lists the mad, and expensive, regulations that Britain is now saddled with, and says the time has come to leave it all behind. His *Introduction* to the book makes exciting reading for it confirms the picture we have been sketching.

"As the year 1996 neared its end, it was becoming only too clear that the British people were approaching one of the most critical moments of decision in their history.

"As the countries making up the European Union seemed to be moving inexorably towards a far more complete state of economic and political unity than before, Britain had come to look more and more isolated.

"The question which now presented itself with ever-increasing urgency was starkly simple. Would Britain just continue, reluctantly and protestingly, to be carried along on that tide, in a way most of her political leaders still seemed to accept as inevitable?

"Or would she soon have to face up to the need to negotiate a wholly new relationship with this immense new unified state emerging in Europe?

"The reason why this moment of crisis was approaching was that, in the previous few years, the British people's perception of the entire 'European project' had been going through a historic shift.

"But after 1992, when Britain stumbled out of the disastrous experiment of the ERM, we entered on a sharp learning curve. The years when 'Europe' could be perceived simply in theoretical, abstract terms were over. In all sorts of ways, large and small, we began to see how it really operates in practice. And the reality of what was coming to light provided a profound shock....what really disturbed a growing number of people in Britain was the recognition that they were now

living under what amounted to an entirely new system of government, unlike anything Britain or the world had seen before.

“...The wishful thinking starts with a desire to build a new, perfect world—safe, hygienic, environmentally clean, devoted to the welfare of people and animals. This little world is Europe, sealed off behind its tariff walls, with a Single Market in which everyone can be prosperous and secure, moving inexorably towards ever closer union—a new nation with its own flag, its own anthem, its own parliament, its own central bank giving central direction to its economy, and eventually its own foreign policy, defence forces, police and all the rest of the apparatus of a single, central government.

“But beneath that grander vision, the nuts and bolts of building that new world lie in an ever-more elaborate system of regulation and bureaucracy. And this is where the new System impinges directly on people's lives”.

The Castle of Lies. Booker and North

Behind this experiment lies the hand of the Vatican. She rides the Beast. Here her social teachings are being put into practice. She has long opposed capitalism and free enterprise. This is being replaced by state controlled business. The whole ethos is of being told what to do. Europe accepts this way of life, as it has its roots in the long centuries of the Church controlling its people. Non responsibility for one's actions, so prevalent on the continent, stems from the Churches doctrine on confession— provided you confess to the priest, say a few “Hail Mary's”, you can go on your way rejoicing. Matt Frei's book *Italy - The Unfinished Revolution* gives a very lucid account of life in a country which has been under the influence of the Roman Church for a long, long time. He deals with the corruption which is a way of life there.

“Italy's corruption suspects enjoyed the safety in numbers and the tolerance nurtured on the concept of original sin and universal temptation. The rituals of confession, penitence and absolution provide the time-honoured solutions.”

Chapter 8:

BRITAIN'S GROWING POWER

Introduction

In Milestones 1994 and 1995, we looked extensively at the change in Britain's fortunes after many years of decline. We saw from the scriptural passages concerning the latter-day role of Tyre and Tarshish, that Britain and her commonwealth allies, seem to fit the requirements, a view our community has long held.

We will briefly update the situation.

The Tyrian/Tarshish power

Last year we saw the multinational nature of Tyre's affairs in the days of Ezekiel, as described in his 27th chapter. Peoples from all over the known world had set up in Tyre to promote their trade.

This is the growing situation in Britain today. Multinational companies choose to set up headquarters here, because Britain offers an attractive package of support. Her financial institutions, her trading exchanges, her insurance business, are all important matters to trading companies. She also offers the standard language of trade and computers—English. She has very good labour relationships, competitive labour rates, a high quality legal system and political stability. Many firms believe that this is just the place to be. One foot in Europe and the other astride the world!

Her economic strength

Britain has had another good year.

- Unemployment is still dropping sharply to the lowest level for almost 6 years, in contrast to the rest of Europe where rates are climbing
- Economy set to grow by 3.2% in 1997, outpacing France and Germany for the 4th year running.
- Britain showing superior performance on at least 10 key points, compared with Germany.
- Sterling has “stormed ahead” on the exchanges. Investors saw Britain as a safe place for their funds.
- Car exports up 21%, commercial vehicle exports up 18%.
- Biggest ever profits and interest earnings from the huge stock of overseas assets (worth £1,617bn)- £93 billion in 1995 and growing.

The Paris based OECD (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development—a think-tank representing 26 leading industrial countries) claimed that the prospects for growth and inflation in Britain are “the best for 30 years”.

DT 17-12-96.

“The ‘sick man of Europe’ has apparently become the healthy man in a sick continent.” DT 7-10-96

Visitors like Britain too! 1995 saw a 13% increase in overseas visitors, making Britain the fifth most popular tourist spot. They spent £12 billion. Figures expect to be even higher for 1996. A tourist boom for the Euro 96 football championships in June helped to push Britain's trade balance for the 2nd quarter of the year back into the largest surplus since 1987!

Inward investments

Open markets and low labour costs have made Britain a magnet for inward investment, attracting 40% of the direct investment into the EU—more than any other EU country. The sums are sizeable—£100 billion in the past 10 years, lifting the total stock of investment to £150 billion. Over the past three years 100,000 jobs have been created and almost 300,000 protected.(ST 18-2-96; The Econ. 1997 Yearbook; DT 10-7-96)

Some 500 or so overseas companies chose to invest in Britain in 1996. As a New Jersey manufacturer, Acrison, put it:

“‘For us, Britain was the obvious choice. Language, location, the European market, financial assistance. Everything.’ ”

“The flood of foreign investment, of which Acrison is but a drop shows no sign of receding...Britain remains the favoured European country among non-European investors.”

The Financial Post 14-6-96

For every £100 spent on wages in Britain, an employer has to add another £18 of non-wage costs. In France social charges add £44, in Spain £34 and in Germany £32. (The Economist 1997 Yearbook)

A few snippets. Daewoo looking to set up £1.2 billion micro-chip plant; three Korean electronics companies spending £2.5m in manufacturing plants; Vauxhall (General Motors) planning £650 million investment over next 5 years; BMW to spend £400m on Rover engine plant; Hyundai up to £2.4bn in micro-chip plants; JVC closing French factory and moving to Scotland.

Not only businesses, but financial institutions are drawn here.

“The flow of foreign banks (including Europe's finest) into the City continues unabated...[the City] has critical mass: traders have to be here because everyone else is. Indeed, there would be far more risk to London's position if we had to swallow the rules and regulation which the euro will inevitably bring.” DT 4-9-96

Another of its attractions is the calibre of the business analysts who advise the dealers in the markets, and those seeking to take over companies. Their importance is reflected in the huge bonuses that they received this year! These hundreds of foreign owned banks in London

also provide a valuable service in meeting the needs of British and foreign exporters.

"London lures investors" was *The European* headline (22-8-96). Foreign investment funds are buying up London property as a sound investment, following the Stock Exchange making changes to allow Authorized Property Unit Trusts to be listed. The total overseas investment for commercial property in the first nine months of 1996 amounted to £1.49 billion, of which nearly 50% represented German funds! (DT 14-10-96) In November, a German fund concluded Scotland's biggest property deal, worth some £160 million. It is estimated that German funds will have nearly £9 billion to spend on European property over the next few years. Much of it is expected to be poured into Britain. The German public can easily invest their savings in these German property funds, which see very good rates of return from their British property investments, compared to the usual low interest rates in Germany (ST 17-12-96).

Not joining the Euro will be a bonus for the City!

The prospect of Britain not joining the Euro has done nothing to dampen overseas investments. The pound has climbed steadily against the dollar, the D-mark and the franc, reflecting the market's confidence in sterling, and their nervousness of a weak Euro. In fact the case is made that by not joining it will not only give London a greater strength, but she would in fact have a tremendous market influence on the Euro by being outside. Nick St Aubyn, a founding member of Liffe—London's futures and options market and therefore an expert in these matters wrote:

"The only way to prevent London's de facto domination of their new currency would be to persuade Britain to surrender her pound into the euro's melting pot.

"France and Germany ignore at their peril London's huge capacity for attracting the potent cocktail of speculative money and new financial instruments. A respected German banker warned this month that 'if extra liquidity in Euro's was provided for non-EMU banks, European monetary policy would suffer'".

"His solution was to impose restrictions on the access of non-EMU member banks to its payment system. But in today's world of free capital flows, the greater the burdens imposed inside the Euro system, the greater the incentive for international banks and companies to develop a rival Euro monetary centre in London.

"London could create its own liquid pool of Euro money almost overnight. All it would require is the creation of a new currency contract on the Liffe futures market...As the London market grew in size, Frankfurt would lose control over the level of interest rates required to sustain a credible monetary policy." DT 19-8-96

Everything hinges around confidence. Britain's national debt is one-half the size of France's true debt, and one-third that of Germany's. This strength would be immediately lost if Britain joined the Euro.

30% of all international foreign transactions are put through London, compared to 5% for Frankfurt and Paris. They face the prospect of losing much of their foreign exchange business as the Euro removes the need for it at a stroke. Only 10% of London's foreign currency dealings is in sterling anyway. We let a US investment Bank have the last say:

"London remains the biggest financial centre with the largest pools of assets and skilled staff. In our judgement, it will continue to be the dominant financial centre."
DT 4-9-96

Export successes

Exports are rising twice as fast as they have done on average in the past 15 years. Figures released in November showed that in the first six months of 1996, British exports were up by nearly 8%. With a stagnant European market, they only showed a 4% increase to the EU. Exports to the Middle East and North Africa showed a 20% rise. Interestingly, trade with Germany, which was Britain's main exporting country, fell, while that for the US, the number 2 country, rose significantly, considerably narrowing the gap between these first two positions. She recorded a 20% increase in exports to Israel, and 23% with Saudi Arabia. Current forecasts expect a 10% increase in total exports during 1997. (Export Times 11-96)

This trend away from Europe is expected to continue. The expanding markets are the Commonwealth, America, the Middle and Far East—ie. everywhere except Europe! (ST 17-3-96)

Her car export business is booming, thanks to heavy overseas investment in Britain—more automotive companies choose to come to Britain than anywhere else in Europe. Seven international manufactures now assemble in Britain.

Earlier, in March, Mr Major had a very successful six day trip to the Far East, wooing industrial leaders and attending signing ceremonies for several multi-million pound export deals.

So Britain, like Tyre, has a global outlook which appeals to the traders of the world. Surely we see an independent path marked out for her in preparation for her destiny—to help the coming King.

Oil

Britain is expected to remain a net oil exporter until 2010. Gas production is not expected to peak until the turn of the century. (DT 12-3-96) In a bid to boost production the remaining areas will be open for exploration, a massive two thirds of the total area. (DT 18-12-96)

Chapter 9:

ISRAEL—THE GATHERING POINT

Introduction

“And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.” Rev. 16:16

So we return to our theme of the gathering of the nations, and look at the developments that will cause the nations to come down into the land of Israel. The prophets tell us of the success of this invasion. (Ezek. 38, 39; Joel 2, 3; Zech. 12–14). It will be a terrible time for the Jews in the land.

“And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the LORD, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein.

“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: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God.” Zech. 13:8

Such a massacre has not been seen since the Holocaust. We have to say, “Thy Will be done”. It is obvious from Zechariah’s words that those who perish will be those who lack faith. The experiences of those who remain will transform their characters. They will have been brought to realize that they can not trust to their own defences, or to their allies. As happened so many times in the book of Judges, in their extremity they will cry out to God for help. He will hear them. Their saviours are at hand to come. The way of the Kings from the sun’s risings will have been prepared. Christ and the saints will sweep up to destroy the enemy at Armageddon.

The Elijah work

The key to the bringing down of the nations against Israel is found in the closing section of the Old Testament. Here Malachi speaks of the rejoicing of those led forth by the “Sun of Righteousness”—Christ and the saints. Malachi then says

“Remember ye 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 with a curse.” Mal. 4:4-6

This clearly shows that Elijah has a future work in bringing about some degree of reformation in Israel, **before** the great invasion—the great and dreadful day of the LORD. We would assume that it takes place after the call to the judgement seat. Presumably while this is taking place, Elijah is

sent to Israel. It is a measure of the mercy of God, in order that there might be some who will turn in faith, and be that *third part* who survive the invasion.

Elijah's task is to turn the hearts of the Jewish fathers—Abraham, Isaac and Jacob—to their children—Israel. At the moment they would not recognize modern Jewry as their children because they do not walk by faith. This will happen when through Elijah's work the children turn to recognize their fathers. Elijah's task is to bring the Jews back to their roots. Back to the Law. Hence the otherwise strange insertion of verse 4 on the Law of Moses. Having been brought back to the faith of the fathers, then after Armageddon they will be educated in the things of the New Covenant. Elijah is suited to this task.

"And it came to pass ...that Elijah the prophet came near, and said, LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word.

Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the LORD God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again."

1 Kings 18:36-37

In the gospels Jesus does talk of John the Baptist as the coming Elijah. However Jesus indicated that there was still a future Elijah work.

"And Jesus answered and said unto them, Elias truly shall first come, and [shall] restore all things." Matt 17:11

It may be that John will assist Elijah in this great work.

Drawing the nations to battle

In so many of the prophets the stress is on the fact that **God** draws the nations down against His people. *He gathered them together into a place ...* (Rev. 16:16). *I will bring thee (Gog) forth ...* (Ezek. 38:4). *I will also gather all nations and bring them down ...* (Joel 3:2). How does God draw the nations? It is through the burdensome stone—Jerusalem.

"And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it." Zech. 12:3

So linking this with the Elijah work of reformation, it is not difficult to foresee increased Jewish opposition to the many false shrines of Christendom and Mahomet. As these are mainly centred in Jerusalem, it would heighten the conflict to the point of action by Europe. The nations of Europe, east and west, will unite to deal once and for all time with this Jewish problem. It will also be seen by Gog as an opportunity to come for the spoils that Israel will have in that day. This is the day that many of the prophets have foretold. As Ezekiel said:

“Thus saith the Lord GOD; Art thou he of whom I have spoken in old time by **my servants the prophets** of Israel, which prophesied in those days many years that I would bring thee against them?”

Ezek. 38:17

To which is added the details from the True Prophet, the Lord Jesus, in Revelation 16, of his work of preparing the Dragon, the Beast and the False Prophet so that the nations are drawn to the battle site of Armageddon in the land of Israel.

So we picture Elijah's withdrawal from Israel, as she faces her final conflict. To their chagrin they are unable to defend themselves. The enemy seems to be triumphant and Israel crushed.

“And he [the King of the North] shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him.” Dan. 11:45

Yes, God will arise to save His people. How long the enemy triumphs in Israel's land we are not told—it may well be for some time.

Why does God want the nations to come against His people? As is so often seen in the Word, God achieves so much by His actions. The land is cleared of the present day achievements of Israel. The remnant will be tested and purged by their experiences, crying to God for salvation. Then God's enemies will be destroyed. God's glory will be seen, and His Name vindicated. There is a God in Israel, He has arisen to save His people.

Armageddon

Arma-ged[gai]-don can mean *a heap of sheaves - in a valley - for judgement*. This is a wonderful summary of what it is all about. The destruction of those who oppose the God of Israel and His people. It is from the south that Christ and the saints go forth to battle against the enemy who has taken possession of Israel, destroyed them as a nation, scattered the remnant, and who seemingly has triumphed over the people of God. This will be the battle of Armageddon. The initial point of conflict is at Bozrah, to the south of the Dead Sea. (Isa. 34), then at Jerusalem at the Valley of Jehoshaphat.¹ (Joel 3).

These are not the only points of conflict, they mark the opening battles that will end with the enemy's occupation of Israel ended and Jesus recognized by the Jews who are left in the land of Israel, as their Messiah, and thus the true heir to David's throne. The nucleus of the Kingdom will be established in Israel, and the challenge will go out to all nations.

¹ See *How will Christ Come ?- the Way to Jerusalem* (G. Pearce) for an fuller exposition of the events briefly dealt with here.

“And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,

“Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.” Rev. 14:6, 7

With the overthrow of the military power of Gog, then the beast, ridden by the woman, will come into full centre stage. Europe will oppose this “upstart” king in Jerusalem. Especially when Jesus does the very things that the churches teach that Antichrist will do!

“These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.” Rev. 17:14

Step by step “Babylon” will be destroyed as the warfare spreads out into Europe, until eventually all nations submit to the reign of Zion’s King. Parallel to this work will be the continued role of Elijah in bringing the exiled Jews back to their homeland. They will be brought back firstly to the Sinai area, then when prepared they will enter the new Covenant and be allowed to enter the land to their Messiah and King (Ezek. 20). Then peace, joy, righteousness will fill this earth.

Growing tension between Jew and Arab today

We have seen that the conflict over Jerusalem will reach its climax after the call to judgement. The present-day conflict over that city is a prelude to greater problems to come. Jewish-Arab tension is rising. The peace process has ground to a snail’s pace. With the election of Benjamin Netanyahu in May, by a whisker thin majority, the government’s policy has changed. He is much less ready to exchange land for peace. The negotiations over Hebron have dragged on all year, and at the end of the year, a settlement still seems a little way off. The BIPAC news-sheet for the end of the year had a four page insert listing anti-Israeli statements by the Palestinian leaders over the past few years. Depressing reading they made.

It has been a year of rising tension. In February and March, Israel was hit by four suicide bombings killing a total of 59 people. In April Israel hit back at the Hizbollah by attacking targets in southern Lebanon for 17 days. The operation was code named “Grapes of Wrath”. The shelling of a camp in Lebanon, with high civilian casualties brought world-wide condemnation of Israel’s actions. During May, Hizbollah rockets again fell on northern Israel, and Israel returned fire. After the May elections, things went quiet with only occasional rocket attacks from Lebanon. Then came one of the worst scenes of violence in Israel, when in September, a new exit was opened to the Herodian Tunnel which runs close to the

foundations of Herod's western wall. The three days of violent clashes resulted in at least 67 Jews and Arabs dead and hundreds injured.

The almost universal bias against Israel was shown in how the matter was reported in the world's press. **Arab fury as Wailing Wall tunnel threatens holy sites**, proclaimed the *Daily Telegraph*. The rhetoric and the violence that followed was based not on concern for the safety of the Temple Mount, but as an opportunity to protest at Benjamin Netanyahu's policies. When work on these excavations started in 1974, the Arabs led UNESCO to pass a resolution condemning Israel for them. Israel's opening of this new exit had been postponed by the previous government for fear of trouble. The new Prime Minister felt bolder. The new exit avoids tourists having to retrace their steps, causing congestion in the narrow passageway. (BIPAC 9-10-96)

These events have led to a significant growth in the criticism of Israel this year by the world press and world leaders.

France's growing Middle East involvement

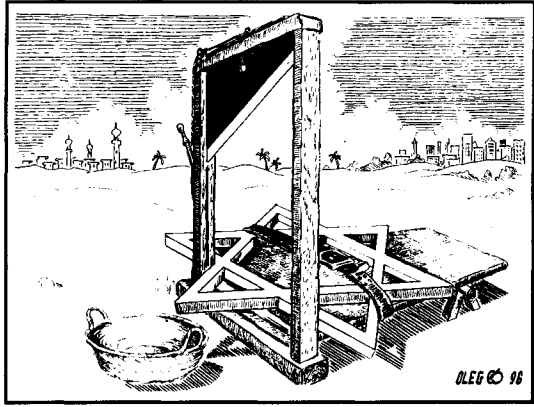
It has been interesting to see how France has increasingly turned against Israel and sided with the Arabs. France has traditionally had an influence in the Middle East, but this lay dormant under President Mitterrand. President Chirac, having seen Germany's growing influence over eastern Europe, has sought to place his influence in the Middle East. (DT 9-4; TE 18-4-96).

He visited Egypt and Lebanon in April and called upon the EU to strengthen its ties with the Arabs. He wanted to see the EU become more deeply involved in the peace talks but was also prepared to act independently. He has been a long-time friend of the Lebanese President, Rafic Hariri. French aid to Syria has increased 12-fold since Hariri took office in 1992. (DT 5-4-96)

Later in April began the "Grapes of Wrath" retaliation by Israel. As well as American efforts to broker peace, Europe tried her hand. A high powered EU team of senior officials toured the Middle East. However Chirac caused much irritation to the other EU leaders by sending his Foreign Minister upon a peace mission round the Middle East at the same time. They had to hastily rearrange their schedule to avoid clashing with the French. (TE 18-4-96)

In July the French Defence Minister, Charles Millon, aroused Israeli wrath for saying that France would lower its relationships between the two countries if the peace talks stopped, putting the onus on Israel for the success of the talks. He gave no indication of cooling relations with the Arab nations if they stopped talking! (JP 27-7-96) Later President Chirac was to hint that if Israel refused his offer of mediation, there might be a price to pay—Israel's 1995 trade agreement with the EU has yet to be ratified by national parliaments (BIPAC 30-10-96).

This warning was given in October when he paid another visit to the Middle East, visiting Syria, Israel, the Palestinian territories, Jordan and Lebanon. He received a hero's welcome in Damascus, where he signed an agreement to reschedule and partially forgive, Syria's \$350 million debt to France, and to extend more credit. There was a similar rescheduling of part of



An Israeli cartoonist's view of Chirac's October visit

Jordan's debt and more loans. In the Palestinian town of Ramallah he again had a hero's welcome. He became the first foreign leader to address the Palestinian assembly there, where he told them "There cannot be peace that excludes the city of peace". In Israel things were very cool. He refused to speak to the Knesset, told the Israelis to return the Golan to Syria and to accept the creation of a Palestinian state. As one Arab commentator wrote, "he deliberately set out to reinforce his sympathetic image to the Arabs to the point of being biased towards them. He put France on a collision course with Israel." BIPAC 30-10-96

These efforts did little to help the peace process. Both sides recognize that America alone is likely to prove effective. France was furious when in October, the EU Trade Commissioner, Sir Leon Brittain poured cold water on her plans to assume an independent role in Middle East diplomacy. Chirac's actions to build Arab confidence were thought to be economically motivated. France stands to gain much work from the reconstruction of Lebanon. She also is doing business with Iraq, \$4b in contracts are ready to be signed. (DT 22-10; JP 2-11-96)

The Vatican's increasing involvement in the Middle East

In ch. 4 we saw the involvement of the Papacy in Israel's affairs, with the visit of Yasser Arafat to the Vatican in December, and also the Kuwaiti Crown Prince's visit. These had been preceded by a strong attack on Israel in November.

Vatican attacks Israel

"The Holy See made unprecedented criticism of new developments in Israeli policy in Palestine.

“In one of the hardest-hitting declarations ever from the Vatican, Archbishop Renato Martino suggested that the expansion of Jewish settlements was tantamount to confiscation.

“Archbishop Martino’s attack has been seen as very significant in Rome as an indication of potential changes in Holy See attitudes to the Israeli line.”

CH 29-11-96

Jerusalem—the stone of stumbling

Several headlines have echoed Zechariah’s words concerning the burden of Jerusalem.

Foundering on the rock of Jerusalem ST 1-9-96

Battle for Jerusalem reopens ST 9-6-96

The battle for Jerusalem BIPAC 9-10-96

The latter was in response to the fury of the Palestinians over the opening of a new exit to the Herodian tunnel. It is worth reflecting that when Jerusalem was under Jordan’s control, from 1948 to 1967, there was not a single Jew or Jewish synagogue left in it. Since 1967, the Israeli government has allowed others to worship and has in fact forbidden its own people to go on the Temple Mount, leaving it to the Moslems.

Under the Oslo Accords Israel should have started the talks over the future of Jerusalem. It was to be the next step after the hand-over of cities. Since this has not been completed, Israel has not entered into formal talks. In any case Israel is still waiting for the Palestinians to keep their side of the agreement. Among these is the renouncing of the section in the Palestinian Charter that calls for the destruction of Israel. This still stands in spite of many assurances that it would be dropped.

It is difficult to see much further progress to peace between the two sides, at the present time. Is this as far as Israel is to go at the moment? Just prior to the great invasion there **will be** a period of peace.

Even Israel’s good friend, King Hussein, has been critical of the new government’s policies, especially the prospect of more settlements being built. Some of the grand joint ventures have still not moved off the drawing board, being bogged down in bureaucracy on both sides (JP 11-1-97).

Israel and Syria

The talks have dragged on all year with flurries of activity, hopeful signs, only to be dashed. As Syria is part of the “King of the North” territory, there may not be an end to the tensions between them. She has built up a formidable arsenal of modern weaponry. Although her air force has declined greatly, she has invested heavily in a large arsenal of Soviet Scud missiles that can hit any target in Israel. These missiles are capable of carrying chemical or biological warheads. American spy satellites have

photographed poison gas plants in Syria. They have modernised their tank forces and improved their artillery units. (BIPAC 17-6-96; JP 11-1-97)

Preparing for war

This was the headline in the *Time* magazine (9-12-96). That in the *Jerusalem Post* early in January 1997, ran

It's not a game any more—the Israeli army preparing for war with Syria this year. (JP 11-1-97)

Israel has taken these threats from Syria seriously. Her forces, which had fallen into a state of unreadiness, have now been put on back on a combat- ready state. Since August, Israel has spent tens of millions of dollars on ammunition, spare parts and other equipment needed to send an army to war. She has also taken steps to improve her army. They have also modernized with advanced weaponry from the US as well as their own equipment. In January 1997, Israel linked into the US missile warning system, so that she receives data in “real time”. (JP 11-1-97)

Israel and the US inaugurated in December a military telephone “hot line” between the defence ministries.

“The new direct link is aimed at providing a ‘private and dedicated means for the defence chiefs of the two countries to discuss matters of mutual interest,’ defence officials said.” JP 28-12-96

The relationships between the two ministers is said to be very close.

In conjunction with America she has developed the “Arrow” missile. On its first attempt it successfully intercepted and destroyed a Scud-type missile—a “dream” test result (JP 31-8-96). In addition to anti-missile missiles, Israel is involved with the US in a laser anti-rocket system. This ground based system again has proved highly successful in tests in America, downing Katyusha rockets. (JP 17-2-96) It has now been taken to Israel for further development. It is expected to be stationed in the North to deal with the Katyusha rockets fired from Lebanon. (JP 11-5; 6-7-96)

Some \$100 million worth of bomb detecting equipment has been shipped from America to Israel to be set up at border crossing points in an effort to detect terrorist bombs and explosives. (JP 16-3-96) The US and Israel have signed an anti terror defence co-operation pact. (JP 11-5-96)

Israel has had talks with Jordan about increasing co-operation along their border to fight crime. Relationships are said to be warm between the military on both sides. (JP 21-9-96)

In August, Turkey and Israel signed their second defence deal, enabling Israeli planes to use Turkish air bases and train in her air space. Syria is bitterly opposed to these deals. (DT 29-8-96) Israel is overhauling Turkey's fleet of 54 F-4 Phantom jets.

Chapter 10:

TO TAKE A SPOIL AND A PREY

Introduction

Ezekiel in his 38th chapter speaks of the coming invasion into the land of Israel, under the picture of a confederacy headed by Gog, who brings many nations with her to “take a spoil and a prey” (v. 12).

We have extensively looked in the past few Milestones at the great economic growth in Israel, making her a desirable spoil to her enemies. Pillaging the wealth of a conquered country still goes on today. We review some of the economic highlights of 1996.

The Economy

1996 was a difficult year for Israel. The Jerusalem Post's economic writer, summing up at the end of the Jewish year headed his article, “A memorable year, best forgotten” (JP 21-9-96). Following the assassination of Mr Rabin in November 1995, Mr Peres had to find his feet, only to be defeated in the elections in May. Now it's the turn of Mr Netanyahu to find his feet. The economic scene has been hampered by the terrorist troubles this year which naturally frightened investors and visitors. Israel's economy, which had been growing at a rate of just over 7%, slowed and is expected to be around 4.4% for the year.

There was good news, however. Unemployment fell from 7% to 6.5%. Inflation is falling and is expected to have been between 10-11%. Foreign investment figures for the first half of the year show a 25% increase to \$1.4b. nett. 1995 figures were \$2b for the whole year up from just \$90 million only four years ago. Total foreign investments in Israeli financial assets amount to some \$20b. (BIPAC 25-9; 27-11-96)

Mr Netanyahu, a business graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, promised dramatic moves to open up Israel's economy when he came to office. These have been somewhat derailed by the troubles this year. He has, however, prepared a four year privatisation plan, as well as a package of measures to boost investment in Israel (*The Financial Post* 17-10-96; JP 28-12-96). We shall see in the next chapter, the growing friendship between Britain and Israel. John Major maintains close public and private links with the Prime Minister. It would be reasonable to expect that Britain has been advising on the best way to privatise, having done so well at home.

Infrastructure projects

Israel is starting on a \$3bn programme to transform her clogged transport system and to modernise her energy sector. Developed by the previous Labour government, the new government has appointed a Minister of

National Infrastructure, as a measure of the importance they place on these plans.

“Most advanced among these projects is the cross-Israel highway (CIL), a huge motorway stretching from the Lebanese border to the Negev desert. It would be Israel’s first toll road ..

“Next in line is a plan for a pipeline between Egypt and Israel, at an estimated cost of \$300m. Israel’s energy sector is keen to switch from coal and oil to the cheaper and more environmentally friendly natural gas”

TE 25-7-96

British firms are in the running for some of the work. The British investment bank BZW is already joint advisors to the CIL scheme. Israel is also hoping to develop the antiquated railway system. A new line linking Ashdod Port to the Gaza Strip is planned. (JP 7-9-96)

Oil

The government has awarded the first five licences to drill for oil in the deep waters of the Mediterranean off the south of the country. Earlier test drillings indicated that the area is oil rich. (JP 13-7-96) In August it was announced that a new flow of oil had been discovered between Arad and the Dead Sea. The drillers had previously found oil beneath the new find. They are cautiously optimistic that it will lead to a viable operation. (JP 24-8-96) Several European companies are exploring the possibility of using Israel as a storage point for crude oil from the Gulf. Gulf Sates are looking to store some of their oil outside the Gulf “for both safety and financial reasons.” (JP 6-1-96)

The Energy minister is looking at a Russian/Israeli consortium’s plans to extend the pipeline which carries Russian natural gas from the Armenian/Georgian gas fields to the northwest corner of Turkey. A new \$2b. pipeline would cross Turkey and run underwater to enter Israel at three points—at the electric power stations at Haifa, Tel Aviv, and Ashdod. (JP 24-2-96)

Defence sales

These have doubled in the past 10 years, now worth \$1.5 billion a year.

Some recent deals

\$400m deal by McDonnell Douglas to purchase Israeli equipment
“There are very few countries that we see as important strategically to our future. One of them is Israel”.

\$130m of laser guidance systems to the US army for their helicopters.

A \$100m contract to refurbish Romanian Air Force Puma helicopters.

\$35m modernisation of Romania’s MIG-21’s.

JP 4-5;14-12-96. BIPAC 13-11-96

Israel's technology is much sought after. Her unmanned pilotless vehicles have generated \$100 million in sales, and are in use by at least 10 countries. The latest version—the Heron—is capable of flying for 50 hours at a stretch, at a height of 30,000 feet (9,000m), out of range of most interceptive devices. (JP 28-12-96)

Tourism

Tourism had been booming in the early part of the year, but with the terrorist attacks it slumped to be 7% lower than the previous year.(JP 11-1-97) They are, however, planning for a boom from the year 2000 Millennium celebrations. Figures indicating a three to four fold increase in visitors have been talked about. The Vatican analysts even speak of a seven-fold increase! (JP 22-6-96)

Jordan has experienced a boom in tourists, they are putting up visa costs in an effort to control the numbers. Ten new hotels have been built near Petra to cope with the sightseers, about—million Israelis have visited.

Some highlights

Israel successfully launched her own Amos satellite, putting Israel into a club of only eight nations operating communications satellites. Designed mainly for television broadcasting but will also be used for the Internet and cellular phones. European and Asian broadcasters are signing up to use it. Transmission quality is said to be excellent. (JP 25-5; 13-7-96)

An American entrepreneur, married to a Jewess, is planning to launch in 1997 the first of eight Israeli developed satellites which will be capable of imaging any point on earth at least once a day, beaming back to earth clear picture of objects from only about one metre in size! Designed to build up accurate maps, it will have uses for real estate transactions, crop surveys, mineral and petroleum exploration, as well as being valuable for an enemy to study another's country! (JP 17-8-96)

Jordan. Trade between the two countries amounted to \$2.63 million during the first six months of commercial relations. (BIPAC 11-9-96) In July the border opened for commercial trade. Industrialist and entrepreneur Stef Wertheimer announced plans to build a joint Israeli-Jordanian industrial park, straddling the Jordan River at Izmir. Work is expected to start soon. (JP 15-6-96) A Trilateral Industrial Development programme has been set up jointly between the US, Israel and Jordan, each putting millions into the fund. It will attempt to draw private investment from all three countries, giving grants to bring new products to the market. (JP 6-7-96) Four new bus services, linking different parts of Israel and Jordan started in July (JP 13-7-96)

Egypt. The largest Arab-Israeli joint venture was launched with the signing of the contracts for the \$1.2b oil refinery at Alexandria. The Israeli company Merhav will have a 40% stake. It is expected to handle

100,000 barrels a day. (JP 3-8-96) Trade between the two countries was predicted to increase by as much as 500% over the next 3 years. Bilateral trade in 1996 is expected to reach \$80m. (JP 17-8-96) Many young Egyptians are finding employment in Israel.

Others.

- Free Trade agreements with the Canada, Czech Republic and Slovenia, effective Jan 97
- Oman opens trade office (August). Negotiating trade agreement.
- Economic agreements signed with Vietnam (Feb.)
- Trade pact with India (Feb.) Free trade discussions (Nov.)
- State visit to India by President Weizman a great success. (Dec) Trade expected to reach \$3b. in the next 3 years. Trade in 1996 totalled \$600m.
- Science Pact signed with EU. (April) 8 Israeli firms selected to participate in the latest round of projects (Sept.)

Israel's population

As 1996 ended, figures released showed a modest increase of 2.6% in Israel's population, to stand at 5.7 million. Of these, Jews totalled 4,656,000 (80.8%); Moslems 842,000 (14.6%); Christians 170,000 (2.9%); Druse 96,000 (1.7%). The slowdown in growth is attributable to falling immigration. Figures show that immigration from the West and Europe fell by 10% on the previous year (which themselves were 6% lower than 1994). Only from France was there an increase. (JP 4-1; 11-1-97) 746,500 have arrived in Israel since 1989, 641,580 came from the CIS. The Jewish Agency has launched an aliya programme in Germany to attract those Jews who fled from the former Soviet Union, 80% of whom are unemployed. (JP 21-9-96)

Anti-Semitism

The Jewish Agency which coordinates Jewish immigration has had its Moscow office closed by the Russian authorities. In the past six years it had helped some 628,000 Jews to leave the former Soviet Union. About 1.4 million Jews are thought to be left. Offices in other parts of Russia have also been closed, amidst signs of growing anti-Semitism. A Jewish community centre was bombed, another robbed, anti-Semitic graffiti had been daubed on buildings, Jewish staff interrogated by local officials, a meeting to discuss emigration to Israel was broken up. (Review [Australian] 1-6-96) In August the newly rebuilt synagogue in Moscow was damaged by a bomb, the second synagogue to be damaged this year. (DT 24-8-96)

There have been many incidents of anti-Semitism in Europe, especially in Germany, these will increase as we get closer to the time of the end. The Jewish authorities are increasingly concerned by it.

Chapter 11:

ISRAEL AND THE KING OF THE SOUTH

Introduction

Daniel chapter 11 introduces us to the King of the North and the king of the South. This wonderful chapter was like a little Book of Revelation for the Jews of that time to see the unfolding hand of God in history. It sets out in great detail the events of the Persian, Greek and Roman period, amplifying Daniel's vision of chapter 8 of the ram (Persia) and the goat (Greece). We will just concentrate on the goat.

“Therefore the he goat waxed very great: and when he was strong, the great horn was broken; and for it came up four notable ones toward the four winds of heaven.

“And out of one of them came forth a little horn, which waxed exceeding great, toward the south, and toward the east, and toward the pleasant land.” Dan. 8:8-9

The great horn was Alexander the Great. On his death his kingdom was divided between his four generals—scripture is only concerned with two of them—the horn to the north and to the south of the land of Israel. These correspond to the two wings of the eagle of Daniel chapter 7. Israel found herself sandwiched in the middle and suffered from the conflict between the two powers—Egypt in the south and the Seleucid power to the north and east, occupying Syria, Babylonia and Persia. It was from this horn that the little horn of the goat arose, the power of Rome, who continued the persecution of Israel.

It is clear from the ending of chapter 11 and its continuation into chapter 12, that there is a King of the North and of the South power at the time of the end, at the time of the resurrection. We have traditionally understood that the King of the North represents the confederacy of nations who come against Israel that we have been looking at in the opening chapters of Milestones. The King of the South, who opposes this invasion, we have seen as Britain, America, and the Commonwealth. So let us look at the growing progress of this southern power.

Increasingly warm relations between Britain & Israel

John Major has had a great interest in Israel. When he visited there in March 1995 it marked a turning point in Britain's relationship with Israel. In the past she had sided with the Arabs—until North Sea oil came along she was dependent on Arab oil. The government is now very keen on building trade and fostering good relationships with Israel. Trade between the two countries is growing sharply.

Preliminary figures indicate that trade with Israel has risen by 20% this year! The British Minister for Construction lead a team of businessmen to Israel in September, which has been followed by a flurry of business visits. Each country has a lot to offer the other. The director of the CFI (Conservative Friends of Israel) said at a dinner in honour of John Major:

“The fact that the Prime Minister is attending tonight is testimony to his commitment he has to the aims of the Conservative Friends of Israel. Under the premiership of John Major, the relations between the United Kingdom and Israel have blossomed and grown to untold heights. It has been under his leadership that the Arms Embargo on Israel was lifted, that the UK and Israel Business Council was created, that the UK Israel Science fund was established, and that the UK Israel Arts funds began. We have also witnessed the first visit by a member of the Royal Family to Israel and we all look forward to the forthcoming State Visit of President Weizman to the UK in February 1997, which was announced in the recent Queen’s Speech.

“However it is on the political scene where there have also been positive developments. The number of high level ministerial visits has reached remarkable heights. Within the last six weeks alone the Foreign Secretary, the Rt Hon Malcolm Rifkind MP visited Israel. Yitzak Mordechai MK, the Defence Minister, Limor Livnat MK, Communications Minister and Moshe Katsav MK, Tourism Minister have been here in the UK.

“The bilateral relationship is a great success story...the presence of the Prime Minister tonight, the support of so many parliamentarians and the active involvement of many leading businesses, that will lead to greater vitality and give substance to the increasingly warm bilateral relations between the UK and Israel.”

CFI News 12-96

At the Conservative Party Conference at another dinner hosted by the CFI, William Waldegrave MP, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, said:

“We have got a sensible government now in Israel that understands and really is committed to privatisation, to liberalisation of the economy, to do all the things that we have done here and that builds a great bond between us and fits very closely with our philosophy here as British Conservatives.

“.. There is a huge surge going on in trade between our two countries. This has been growing over the last two or three years. I do not believe incidentally, that we have seen anything yet in terms of what the Israeli economy can really do. The hard work ethic is something that joins the people of Israel to the people of Britain and the growth of both economies is mutually helpful to both.”

CFI News 12-96

Earlier, before the Israeli election, Mr Peres visited Britain and in a speech to Parliament, likewise laid emphasis on this new spirit of goodwill between the two countries. He ended with these words.

“Finally I would like to say that relations between Great Britain and Israel are at their very best. We are very grateful for it and may I also say that the contribution of Great Britain to the peace process, to the establishment of the Palestinian autonomy, to the encouragement of all parties to go ahead is of great value and highly appreciated.”

CFI News 3-96

John Major, at a dinner given the following day assured the Israeli Prime Minister that

“There are many warm hearts that beat for Israel in Britain, and I hope that you will accept that one of them lives in Downing Street. [The PM’s residence] ...We agreed that the relations between our two countries had never been better. We also agreed that we should not rest upon that position. We need to develop the bonds that have developed between us in fresh areas. We need also to reinforce the links. I dedicate myself to that and I know that this is your wish as well.”

CFI News 3-96

How thrilling to see this friendship after so many years of estrangement. God promised 4,000 years ago **I will bless them that bless thee** [Abraham]. *Gen 12:2*.

In May, the Royal Institute of International Affairs organized a two day conference in London entitled **ISRAEL: From Siege Economy to Economic Powerhouse**. Influential speakers from both countries encouraged British business leaders to take advantage of the many opportunities for trade that are there.

The British Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind has proposed the setting up of a new body to look after Middle East regional co-operation. Based upon the Organisation of Security and Co-operation in Europe, this new body would be called OCME—the Organisation for Co-operation in the Middle East. It was an idea that had earlier been aired by King Hussein, so it may get off the ground, getting Britain even more involved in the whole region. (DT 5-11-96). Mr Netanyahu endorses the idea. (BIPAC 11-12-96)

America and Israel

Mr Netanyahu is regarded as Israel’s first “American” prime minister. Although born in Israel he went to America with his parents when 14 and took his degree there. There is no doubt that there is a close relationship between the two countries. America has been outstanding in its support, not only of Israel but Jordan and Egypt. Israel recognizes that the very high levels of aid can not last for ever now that Israel is no longer a poor country. Never-the-less American aid has been promised for several years

more. President Clinton paid his 3rd official visit to Israel in March—“no other country has received such personal attention from the American president”. He pledged £66m to help combat terrorism in addition to all the military aid supplied to Israel—see chapter 9.

“Democratic Party presidents have traditionally been strong advocates of the Israeli cause. But during his first trip to Israel in 1994, Mr Clinton explained how his Bible-belt upbringing had inspired his respect and admiration for the country. His admiration of the Israelis seems unquestionable, and is reciprocated” DT 15-3-96

His visit was to attend the remarkable “Summit of the Peacemakers” that he had called in the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Sharm-el-Sheikh. Here gathered 29 world leaders: kings, princes, sheikhs and prime ministers. All but five Arab leaders attended, for many of them it was the first time they had sat down with Israel. Russia attended too. Although little progress resulted, it showed a remarkable gathering of nations to seek peace in the Middle East. (DT 14-3; TE 16-3-96) America has put a great effort into brokering peace, and although the step to the Hebron agreement seems to have been due to the final pressure of King Hussein, America had done the back-breaking work.

Britain and America in the Gulf

- UK firms win £500m contract to supply arms to Qatar.
- Prince Charles attends Sultan of Brunei’s 50th birthday.
- America and Kuwait to build \$1.2b petrochemical works in Kuwait.

In September America, aided by Britain, launched a mini “Desert Storm” attack against Saddam Hussein, in retaliation for his attacks on the Kurds in the north. The effectiveness of America’s attack was questionable, but it illustrated how the “King of the South” powers are prepared to work together in this region. France was notable for her opposition to this action, the rest of the EU was lukewarm.

“British forces secretly played a central role...In a far greater level of co-operation than either nation has admitted, RAF and Army officers analyzed reconnaissance pictures to identify targets for the United States cruise missile attacks.

“The 12 RAF reconnaissance Tornados patrolling the Iraqi no-fly zone are the most important part of the allied airborne watching effort over Iraq. Each is equipped with video and film cameras.

“Britain was one of the few nations to offer unequivocal endorsement. London’s ‘unstinting’ support and ‘extra-ordinary partnership’ were hailed by a grateful US.” ST 29-9-96

We see the distancing of Europe, leaving America and Britain to fulfill their role as the guardians of the South, leaving Europe to be part of the King of the North.

Chapter 12:

ELECTIONS, ELECTIONS, ELECTIONS

Introduction

1996 was a year of many elections. Are we seeing in the people now in office the people who will be there at the final time of the end? We don't know how long the judgement seat will last, but it is reasonable to think that the key players are being put into position. They can of course be removed at a stroke.

President Bill Clinton

Successfully re-elected for a second four-year term. We have seen his friendship for Israel, and his boldness in taking action in the Middle East. He enjoys a good working relationship with John Major.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

In the May elections he became Israel's youngest Prime Minister and the first to be born in the State of Israel. As mentioned in the previous chapter, he is regarded as an "American" prime minister. He returned to Israel for military service and served with distinction, rising to be captain in an elite commando unit which served behind the enemy lines. His brother was killed leading the Entebbe airport raid in 1976. He was appointed as deputy to the Israeli ambassador at Washington in 1982, and then in 1984 became an ambassador to the UN. He was a very popular figure in America, much sought after for interviews and at ease before the cameras.

Like Mr Clinton, he is young (46) and ambitious. A right-winger and an exponent of the free market, he is keen to deregulate and trim the budget deficit. He has been likened to Mrs Thatcher. His aim is to transform Israel into a high-technology regional "tiger". His vision is of Israel becoming one of the 15 richest nations of the world within 15 years! He appointed Eliahu Ben-Elissar who was Israel's first ambassador to Egypt and described as "hawkish" by his Washington ambassador. King Hussein had made a point of keeping cordial relations with him, while in opposition.

He is well acquainted with the peace talks—he was part of the original team at the Madrid Peace Conference in 1991, and to the subsequent talks in Washington. He has slowed down the pace of the peace talks. He is anxious to see a return for the concessions that have been made. He wants to see the Palestinians keeping their side of the Oslo Accords in curbing terrorism, relocating their offices from Jerusalem to the territories; extraditing terrorists, amending the Covenant, disbanding illegal militias,

etc. His priority is “secure peace”. He sees a world that could easily turn against Israel, especially Europe. As one commentator put it:

“..European neutrality between Arab and Jew (if it ever existed) is now extinct. It also means that, having no strategic interest in maintaining the Israeli state, Europeans may in the long run be quite willing to acquiesce in its destruction, provided this is not too dramatic or sudden.” ST 6-10-96

Although he campaigned for a tough stand—no meeting with Arafat, no deal on Hebron, no full Palestinian state, no deals on Jerusalem, it remains to see how far he will go. He has met with Arafat and after protracted talks signed a deal on Hebron. (TE 1-6-96; DT 5-6; 8-7; 9-7; 28-9-96)

Chairman Yasser Arafat

During January, in the first Palestinian elections, he was elected Chairman of the Palestinian Authority Council. He has failed to ensure the amendment of the clause calling for the annihilation of Israel in Palestinian National Covenant, in spite of many promises to do so. He has frequently called for a Jihad—holy war—against Israel. He visited London in June, seeking support from investors and exporters to develop the Palestinian infrastructure. Already several British firms are involved. Israel is keen on Britain helping the Palestinians, as a stronger economy is less likely to breed violence. The PLO has a headquarters building in London, worth nearly £1m. In September Arafat met Mr Netanyahu for the first time for talks. Mr Netanyahu agreed to increase the number of work permits for the Palestinians and the number of trucks permitted per day, to help ease their economic problems. These problems are very real. With the expulsion of 300,000 Palestinians from Kuwait after Desert Storm, a large source of revenue was cut off. With the frequent closure of the borders in response to terrorist attacks and Israel feeling justified in reducing the number of work permits, their living standards have declined from “poor to dismal.” They are utterly dependent on overseas handouts. Arafat’s hopes of a Palestinian state require there to be a much healthier economy if it is to be a reality. Many Palestinians see their future being linked to Jordan.

(JP 14-9-96; DT 28-3, 13-8-96; BIPAC 10-96; ExT 6-96)

President Boris Yeltsin

After a bruising campaign, he was re-elected President in July, in spite of ill health. Later in November he underwent a quintuple heart operation. He returned to the Kremlin in the New Year 1997, only to be struck down with pneumonia. During February, when he announced his decision to stand for re-election, Helmut Kohl visited Moscow and gave his backing to his “close friend Boris”. Kohl pointedly avoided any contact with any other presidential hopefuls. Later the *Time* magazine revealed that an

American team of advisers had helped his campaign. For four months they worked with Yeltsin's daughter Tatjana, bringing American techniques to the campaign. Yeltsin whose ratings the previous December were in single figures, won with 54% of the vote— a 13% margin over his communist rival, Gennadi Zyuganov. (Time 15-7-96)

In January 1996, he appointed a hard-line foreign minister, Yevgeny Primakov. He is an Arab expert and long-time friend of Saddam Hussein. He is keen to develop a friendship with China, and to keep Russia out of NATO.

“The main surprise about Russian foreign policy is that Russia seems to be arriving at one. After years in which anything seemed possible, two main principles are beginning to emerge. First, expect no more concessions that further diminish Russia's assets and influence, such as they are. Second, expect Russia to beware of embarking on fresh adventures.”
Time 23-12-96

This is in line with our expectations. Russia is still in the “drawing back” stage. (Ezek. 38:4 -“turn thee back”). She is concentrating on rebuilding as a nation. Yeltsin is determined to push ahead with his reform and privatisation programme. After initial stalling, the IMF have agreed to resume payments of a £6.8b loan. Yeltsin has promised to ensure the wages of doctors, nurses, teachers and the armed forces are paid—they were months behind. Wages are still incredibly low, the average wage is \$153—£100 a month.

There has been a remarkable turn-around in the economy. Inflation is down from the previous year's 20% per month, to around 1.7% a month. The rouble is now a convertible currency, and Russia had a trade surplus of £40b. in 1996. One success area is in natural gas. She owns a quarter of the world's known reserves. Almost 1/3 of European gas comes from Russia. They have increased supplies this year by 10%, and with new pipelines being built will soon be able to supply even higher quantities.

Russia became the 39th member of the Council of Europe in February. Europe calculated it was better with Russia rather than isolate it.

(DT 3-7; 5-7; 11-12; 16-12-96; TE 29-2; 23-11-96; EC 21-7; 23-11-96)

Britain 1997

Britain has to have elections by May 1997 at the latest. Labour are well ahead in the polls, although Mr Major was, for the second year running , voted “Personality of the Year” in a BBC poll. The Conservative party are hoping that with the growing economy bringing increasing benefits to the ordinary voter, they will fear to change matters by voting Labour. Labour is far more committed to Europe. In a radio interview, John Major spoke of how they had met with their European counterparts before the opening of the Dublin summit, and how united they had been with them.

Chapter 13:

THE CALL TO THE JUDGEMENT SEAT

Introduction

This is not a subject that we deal with very often. Yet shortly, for all the followers of the Master, there will come the call to stand before him. How we are to get to the place of Judgement we are not told. The vast majority assembled there will be those raised from the dead. Presumably they will be recreated from the dust of the earth. The world will have changed so much at the place of their death. God does not need the original dust—in most cases it will have dispersed long ago. We know God preserves the memories of his saints; by likewise holding our unique DNA pattern, then the recreation of a dead man or woman from any dust will be an easy task for the angels of God.

It may be that Jesus will raise a few newly dead in the place of their burial to go to the living to tell them that the Master is here. What more powerful evidence could there be than that! By what ever means that the angels arrange, and God does not use miracles unnecessarily, we shall go to, I believe, Sinai¹. This is a fitting place. It is also clear that after Armageddon, the returning Jews are gathered to this area, “the wilderness of the people”, prior to entering the New Covenant and being allowed to enter the land as citizens of Zion. (Ezekiel 20:34-38) A parallel to the first exodus.

A solemn warning from Christ

“Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.” Rev. 16:15

It is clear from the positioning of this verse that the call to Judgement comes **before** the gathering of the nations to Israel to be eventually destroyed at Armageddon. The implications are vital. We won't see these things happening before the call. Although it is clear that there is still some way to go before the final strands are ready, there is **nothing** that needs to take place before the call! So much of the final preparation lies in the time while the Judgement takes place. This is not the work of an instant. There are many things to be sorted out. Final preparations of the saints for that moment when mortality will be swallowed up.

¹ Readers are referred to chapter 1 of *How will Christ Come - the Way to Jerusalem* for an exposition of the three main passages which deal with the place of judgement. (Deut. ch. 33; Psalm 68; Hab. ch 3).

“For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.”

1 Cor. 15:53

Then the saints will be ready for their new work—of helping the Lord Jesus establish the Kingdom. In that day there will be great rejoicing:

“...for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth”.

Rev. 5:9, 10

The Master warned us to watch and keep our garments lest they be taken away and we be naked. This is a symbol which Jesus was almost certainly basing on the arrangements at the Temple (which had a few years before been destroyed in AD 70). Every day, when the Temple was still standing, it was guarded by Priests and Levites. Their duties were to prevent, if possible, the unclean from entering. During the day the guards served for spells, but during the night, the 240 on duty had to remain at their posts until the dawn. At any time during the long hours of the night the ‘Captain of the Temple’ would make his rounds. Any guard found asleep would be beaten or have his clothes set on fire (*The Temple*. Alfred Edersheim).

The lessons are clear. We are on duty. There is no let up in that service. We are guarding the precious heritage that we have been given through the gospel. Our robes have been provided by the Master. If we fall down on our duty, if he finds us asleep at the time when he comes, then as it were those robes which can cover our sins will be taken away, and we shall perish. Sobering thoughts. He hasn’t come—yet. We still have opportunity to wake up and attend to our duties. But we haven’t long.

We must be close, very, very close to that call. We must show great diligence in how we walk. The pressures to lead us away are immense. We live in a godless world. We have so much leisure time and yet we seem to have such full lives that we can not devote sufficient to the service of the Master. As a community our traditional habit of reading daily the word of life is slipping dangerously. The TV rules many homes and many minds—everything is handed on a plate. The study of the Word of God demands effort. Careful attention, hours of reading and meditation. Are we prepared to do it?

We see throughout the book of Revelation that the Master **did** know how history would unfold over 2000 years. We can be certain then that he gave this warning about not watching and keeping our garments, because he saw the relevance of it **to that generation of believers who would be alive at his return**. Our generation. We have two choices. We can ignore the Master’s warning, or we can heed it. It lies in our hands. We make the decision. That decision will affect the rest of our life.

Milestones 1996

A superficial assessment of world events which relate to Bible prophecy may have left one with the impression that not much happened in 1996. However the careful analysis by Don Pearce in *Milestones 1996* indicates otherwise. While the peace process in Israel ground pretty much to a halt we may not be around to see much more of that process. After all the purpose of *Milestones* is to prepare us for the coming of the Judge and Messiah. Brother Pearce's last chapter on that subject makes for solemn reading. Are we ready?

The focus of this year's *Milestones* is on the "three unclean spirits like frogs" which are rapidly preparing the nations for Armageddon. There are five chapters on this and related subjects—the Dragon, the Beast, the False Prophet, and the alarming spectre of church reconciliation. This year many nations and denominations have reached for and drunk from Rome's cup.

Our cover illustration portrays an historic event: the inauguration in grand style of President Boris Yeltsin. While he personally may not be around for much longer, it shows in one dramatic picture—

- the "joining" of Russian politics with the Russian Orthodox church
- a huge double-headed eagle looking West and East
- the Biblical symbol of the Dragon, in a coat of arms which contained "St. George and the Dragon"!

These last two symbols are virtually a replica of those used during the Tsarist era. So when on the last day of the year it was announced that Mr Yeltsin intended to reinstate the Tsar, head of Russia's imperial family, it came as no real surprise.

In Europe we see the growing dominance of Germany and the Papacy, while Britain continues to move away from the EU.

There are three chapters about Israel on everything from the work of Elijah to oil, to antisemitism, to the King of the South.

Even after we edited it back to the present size there is still too much to mention here, so you are urged to prepare for Christ's soon return by reading the whole book.

