

# MILESTONES



1997

# **MILESTONES TO THE KINGDOM**

***A Review of the  
World Events of  
1997 in the Light  
of Bible Prophecy***

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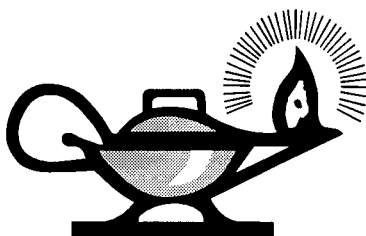
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January 1998

## **PREFACE**

### **A WORLD ASLEEP!**

One cannot review the contents of this new *Milestones* without a sense of joy and wonder. In every area of our special interest there have been so many happenings of real significance. The angels are working—responding to the directives of our God, to bring the nations to the positions designated by the holy prophets so long ago. It is a thrilling and privileged experience to be alive to witness all this activity and a powerful confirmation to our Christadelphian faith. Surely the world is hurtling on to Armageddon with a profound and growing ignorance of all Bible knowledge and of the prophets in particular. Not even the aura of a new millennium makes many people stop and consider.

We surely experience a sense of awe as we think of coming to the end of 1000 years and entering another. From the earliest of times the disciples of Christ have foreseen that, as there were 6 days of Creation, so there would be 6000 years of human history before the true 7<sup>th</sup> day, the millennial rest of the Kingdom of God. We cannot be dogmatic about the exactitude of dates and years, as there has been some human manipulation of the calendar, by the Pope who thinks to “change times and laws” as Daniel said (7:25). We should not, though, be in any doubt that the time is upon us and in the very near future the righteous King, our Lord Jesus Christ, will be in the earth again to sweep away the present wickedness and usher in the reform of his righteous Father.

Yet the world is asleep to all this! The message of the Return of Christ or the establishment of God’s Kingdom is treated with mild amusement or less. The greatest event in the history of the world is about to occur, and men are totally disinterested. Bible interest in the wealthy influential Western countries is falling away so rapidly that you can feel the tide. And a generation is arising who have no connection with the Word of God. Though society is decaying before their eyes, there is never any repentance of the hedonistic philosophy that guides this modern world. The day of the Lord is surely coming as a thief in the night! Their eyes are shut and their ears dull of hearing and rarely do we find a person of higher mind.

*Milestones* has Europe as its main focus for 1997. The fervour of the great and ancient nations of Europe to combine together is a great phenomenon of our times. “These have one mind and shall give their power and strength unto the beast” (Rev 17:13) is just so remarkably true. Germany and France have fought against each other in three grand contests in the last 130 years and yet now we see them sprinting towards European union! Only because the Word of God said they would, only because the angels are bringing about the will of the living God despite the ignorance of world leaders. Fancy strong nations like these putting

aside their mark and franc and accepting a monetary system that has no national flavour where decisions on key financial questions will be made in Brussels or Frankfurt, rather than Berlin and Paris!

How exciting, too, that Russia's President Yeltsin has enjoyed special talks with France and then with Germany to ensure that Russia is not left out of Europe. Mr Yeltsin has said to them that to exclude Russia is to endanger the future of Europe. Who could doubt this? Ezekiel and Daniel saw this picture 2500 years ago. How exciting for us to behold the active hand of the Almighty.

There is much of exceeding interest concerning the Papacy in this issue. Despite his declining frame, Pope John Paul is the most persuasive influence on the world scene. He travels to many countries, in fact he is in Cuba for a first time as we write these lines, but his special focus is Europe as it always has been. The Papacy has a burning desire to unite the European peoples and restore the order of the Holy Roman Empire with the Pope influencing its destiny as in the days of old. He sees this as "expanding the Kingdom of Christ".

It is the same ancient lust for temporal power. He thinks the Kingdom is already established and that he is the unofficial head of it. He has no comprehension of the intervention of Christ. It is Daniel's little stone that is to fill the whole earth. Here is the most celebrated Christian figurehead in the world and yet he has no belief in or waiting for the coming of Christ. John Paul thinks that by the cunning industry of himself and his counsellors he can manipulate the world to conform to the Kingdom of Christ. This is a totally foreign mind to the saints of the Lord Jesus.

What a privilege is ours in knowing the gospel of the Kingdom. This is our focus. Let us not be caught up in conforming to a world that is about to be devoured in fiery judgements. If we have children, cause them to see our stand. We are happy to be different, to be separate; not smugly unconcerned about our generation but nevertheless determined that we shall keep the Scriptural traditions that have brought such satisfaction and purpose to our lives. Take time to ensure that our children and grandchildren hold this position. We know that the hour is late: this may be our last *Milestones*! It's not a time for increased informality and casualness, the hallmarks of our age, but rather to train our youth for the great and serious work that is before us.

Let all our families, yeah all our brothers and sisters in every land, give time to their Bibles, to meditation and strengthening of the mind. Let us refuse the world's entertainment as our forebears did in their pilgrimage.

Then may we not be asleep but ready to meet our Master with joy.

B. N. Luke  
Secretary, CSSS  
January 1998

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## Abbreviations used

### Books and Publications

ARLR All Roads Lead to Rome. Book. See book list obtainable from *Milestones*, address on page 2.

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. Bulk rates available from *Milestones*..

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 14<sup>th</sup> edition (1929)

GW Guardian Weekly

JP Jerusalem Post International edition, published weekly

LOR L'Osservatore Romano The official Vatican paper. English weekly edition.

ST Sunday Telegraph, sister paper to Daily Telegraph.

TE The European, published weekly

Time The Time magazine, published weekly

TME The Middle East Review. London. Monthly

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

The European Journal, the journal of the European Foundation. Very valuable euro-sceptical journal. Minimum 10 issues a year. Pd25 UK. c/- The European Foundation, 61 Pall Mall, London, SW1Y 5HZ Phone 0171 930 7319; Fax 9706

Intelligence Digest, Intelligence International Ltd. 01452 864764; fax 864848

Israeline. A free e-mail service, giving you 2 pages of news about Israel, 5 times a week, automatically posted into your mail box. To register send an e-mail message to: listserv@pankow.inter.net.il with one and only one line saying: subscribe israeline first\_name last\_name [don't put anything



in the "subject" box, except you may need to click on to it, press space bar, then click onto main message section]. I had to wait about 2 weeks before they started to be "delivered".

### **Other abbreviations**

[ ] Author's notes. **Bold words** is for author's emphasis.

EU European Union. Was the EEC, then the EC, now the EU. The Common Market.

\$1bn = \$1billion = £660,000,000.

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

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

## Chapter 1:

# INTRODUCTION

*Last year we viewed events within the framework of the picture given in Revelation 16—**The Dragon, the Beast and the False Prophet**. We sketched the rapid changes in Russia, Europe and the Vatican, which indicated the preparation of these three parts for the gathering to the great battle of Armageddon.*

*1997 has seen these matters continue apace. Some events are slower than others. Europe was faltering about the Euro at the start of the year and then we saw a hardening of resolve on all parties, except for Britain, Denmark and Norway, to press ahead, in spite of the obstacles. It was almost a religious fervour—but then that's exactly what it is as we shall examine later. The Pope has continued his frequent trips around the world. His firm stance on matters of contraception, woman priests, priestly celibacy has, in the past, caused many to desert the Catholic ship. The pendulum is now turning in her favour. Despairing of the emptiness of this godless world, people see in the Roman Church a strong power, a system of worship that appeals to the senses: pageantry, mystery, colourful robes, sweet smelling incense. And behind the facade is the powerful political machinery of the Vatican and the organisations such as Opus Dei. Through this network, Rome's will is imposed step by step. With centuries of practice at turning disadvantage to advantage by whatever means is deemed applicable, and with a vast army of followers trained to promote the Church, Rome is a growing player on the world stage.*

*This year we will be looking at the unfolding of events in 1997 from the angle of the prophecy given in **Revelation chapters 17 and 18**. The picture we have in these chapters is of the final overthrow of the Papal system—the **Woman**—and the countries of western Europe upon which she “rides”—the **Beast**. The chapters reach their climax with their defeat at the hands of the Lamb. Clearly these are matters which still lie in the future, at a time when the Gogian armies of Ezekiel 38 and 39 will have been defeated, and the nucleus of the Kingdom established in Israel. The proclamation of the everlasting<sup>1</sup> gospel (Rev. 14:7) will have been made and, by rejecting it, the countries of Europe will have made their position evident. As is clear from the detail given of the 4<sup>th</sup> Beast of Daniel 7, they will oppose Christ to the end until destroyed.*

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<sup>1</sup> *aionios*—from *aion*—age; ie appropriate for that age.

*It is however profitable for us to see how **the Woman and the Beast** are developing in our day. It will take some chapters to completely develop the current picture, but we can see much to interest us.*

*The striking feature about the woman is the name that is written on her forehead. In contrast to the saints who will have the Father's Name engraven on their foreheads (Rev. 14:1), this harlot woman is emblazoned with the name of **Babylon**. The book of Revelation paints the seed of the serpent and the seed of the woman as two women; one arrayed in white, the other in scarlet. Let's see the origins of this symbol of the harlot woman who is linked with **Babylon**.*

### Semiramis

According to mythology, Semiramis was Nimrod's wife. She was said to be a woman of great beauty—the original Venus—but she was not noted for high moral standards! To the Egyptians she was known as Isis, the goddess of fertility, with her child Horus.

As the wife of Nimrod, she was Baalti (ie My Lady), which in the Latin becomes Mea Domina, from which we get Madonna. Among her many titles were:

The Lady, Lady of the Sea, (Virgin) Queen of heaven, Mother of God, Virgin mother.

### The Mother and Child



Statues to Mother & Child

Shortly after Nimrod's "untimely" death, Semiramis had a child, whom she claimed was Nimrod reincarnated. A virgin birth!

Around the world are statues of the mother and child known under many names—but she is the original. Often she is depicted as

dark (a descendant of Ham), yet the child fair—the black madonna. The Mother was the dominant figure. Although she claimed the child was Nimrod re-incarnated, a strong warrior, yet he is depicted as a child. Around this claim she built a false system of worship. She claimed to be the woman, whose seed—Nimrod reincarnated, born to a virgin—would conquer sin.

## Chapter 2:

# DANIEL AND BABYLON

### Introduction

*We pick up our theme of the development of Babel or Babylon by looking at it at its height of glory under Nebuchadnezzar. To Daniel the prophet was revealed that, though Babylon was to be destroyed, yet it would have a long future period as a persecuting power. We briefly look at his prophecies and see the links they have with the picture in the book of Revelation.*

### Daniel's visions



We start in Daniel chapter 2. We understand the step by step unfolding of the successive empires, yet recognise that, in its fullness, it has never yet existed.

*But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days. . .* v. 28

There is to be a latter-day standing up of Daniel's image for the first time in completeness—the last, final representation of man's opposition to God.

It has a head of gold, so there must be a latter-day Babylonian power directing the image's opposition to the things of Israel. The other elements are also present together when it stands on its iron/clay feet.

*Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces.*

*Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.* v. 34, 35

Babylon disappeared long ago as a civilisation, but a Babylon-type power has continued down through the ages as we shall see.

### Daniel 7

Daniel 7 describes the matters of chapter 2, but from a Divine viewpoint, rather than the king's. The metals are replaced by beasts. It is evident that

they can be traced down to the time of the end. The 4<sup>th</sup> beast's history is conveyed in detail, until it is destroyed by the Ancient of Days. The other three beasts have their dominion taken away (v12). So the 4<sup>th</sup> beast power has continued for many centuries and at the time of the end **all** the beasts are destroyed or subdued—just as with the image **all** the metals are broken in the latter days.

Let's briefly look at this 4<sup>th</sup> beast. It had ten horns, and Daniel explains:

*I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things.* Dan. 7:8

The 10 horns represent the 10 kingdoms into which the Roman empire was divided. Out of the overthrow of three of these kingdoms—the Vandals, the Lombards and the Huns—was established the Holy Roman Empire, around AD 800. This is the little horn and the eyes & mouth represents the papacy that worked with the Emperor. It continues a long time, persecuting the saints for *a time, times and the dividing of times* (v. 25)—1260 days of years. Various starting dates bring us to significant finishing dates: AD 533 to 1789—the French Revolution; AD 606/10 to 1866/70 when the temporal power of the Pope was broken. At the time of the end this little horn makes war with the Lamb and is overcome. We must note two further aspects:

*... exceeding dreadful, whose teeth were of iron, and his nails of brass; which devoured, brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with his feet;* Dan. 7:19

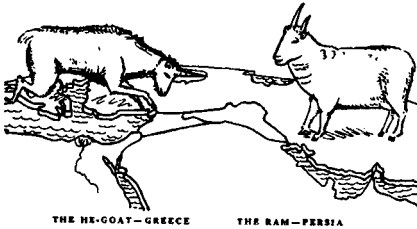
So as well as iron being present, there is brass. With these two metals it devours and destroys. Iron we link with Rome, brass with Greece.

#### **Daniel 4**

Daniel had already been told in chapter 4 that the Babylonian stump would be preserved with an **iron/brass** band. This is a significant factor, because this vision had a longer-term application than just Nebuchadnezzar's temporary downfall. What was being conveyed by this vision is that, yes, Babylon will be overthrown, but it is to be preserved, so that at the end of the time period it can flourish again—just as Nebuchadnezzar had. So if we date the "7 times" from the fall of Babylon, we should come to a time when Babylon flourishes again. Taking 7 years of days—7 x 360 = 2520 days. Applying the day for a year principle, then from the fall of Babylon in say BC 538/539 then we would come to around AD 1981/2. The present Pope began his reign in 1978. Bro Thomas puts the fall of Babylon at BC 542 which does bring us to 1978!

## Daniel 8

We must also briefly look at Daniel chapter 8—the vision of the **Ram and the He goat**.



It tells the conquest of the Persian two-horned ram by the one-horned goat—Alexander the Great. Upon his death (the breaking of the horn), four horns arise—the four-fold division of his empire among his generals: Cassander, Lysimachus, Seleucus and Ptolemy. Out of one of these horns

(Seleucus's horn) springs up another little horn. This is not the same little horn of chapter 7.



This is the power of the Roman empire which first appeared by coming to the aid of the Greeks, but then conquered them! During the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC, Roman rule gradually took over the whole Greek empire and reigned supreme. The point was that the Rome—iron—little-horn, arose out of one of the Greek—brass—horns. The Roman empire owed so much to Greek learning and

way of life.

Daniel outlines the exploits of this little horn power in conquering the Holy Land and being instrumental in the death of the *prince of the host*—the Lord Jesus (v. 11). Daniel is then given a broad sweep of history down to the ending of this Roman little-horn system.

*And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors are come to the full, a king of fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up.*

*And his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power: and he shall destroy wonderfully, and shall prosper, and practise, and shall destroy the mighty and the holy people.*

*And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many: he shall also stand up against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without hand.*  
Dan. 8:23-25

As he was told, it was a vision that stretched for *many days*. Evidently the power of Rome, which arose out of the Greek horn, is there at these last days.

### **The little-horn-of-the-goat**

In the little-horn-of-the-goat (Daniel 8) we have the military might of Rome, which arose out of one of the Greek horns—the power that put Jesus to death. It turned from paganism to “christianity”. Daniel 11:37 says *he shall not regard the Gods [elohim] of his fathers*, but, v. 38, *honoured the God [eloah] of forces* (a fortified place—a link to Babel). The pagan gods were turned into “christian” gods. With the move of the Emperor Constantine to Constantinople, the seat of his horn flourished there at the centre of the old Greek empire. Religion was the great power of this empire. It eventually split from the church in Rome and became known as the Greek Orthodox church. With the fall of Constantinople, then this “second Rome” moved to Moscow—“the third Rome”.

### **The little-horn-of-the-fourth-beast**

Here we have the development of the western leg. This little horn of Daniel 7 pictures of the papacy in Rome, developing its own power and rule, together with its spiritual—and political—control of western Europe. It was a bitter, persecuting power. Although this grip was broken in the last century, we see the rapid revival of this church-state linkage, in order to provide a strong western leg.

### **The link between Babylon and Rome**

Zechariah, in the vision of the ephah in chapter 5, gives us a vital link between Babylon and Rome.

In **Zechariah 5** three women are depicted, one termed wickedness or lawlessness who sits in an ephah, representing the corrupted teaching of Israel. The other two women (Aholah and Aholibah) carry this ephah to the Land of Shinar and establish there a new base for it. The two women represent the two Jewish nations, Judah and Samaria. Scattered into what was to become the Roman Empire, they carried their corrupted truth with them. The truth was corrupted by the influences of the Judaizers, who wanted to carry over the ritual of the law. The apostle Paul warned that the truth would be corrupted, and the wicked or lawless-one would be destroyed by Christ at his return (**2 Thess. 2**).

The new base was to be in Shinar. In the literal sense Shinar was where Babel was built (**Gen 10:10**). But this is a vision; these are symbols. Shinar means *enemy's tooth*. What were the *teeth* of the 4<sup>th</sup> beast made of **iron**? Rome is the obvious answer to the symbol. Here was the centre of corrupt Christianity. Here the woman—described in Revelation as an harlot—flourished. The old pagan gods were adopted as resemblances of the apostles and other “saints”.

Hence the link between Babylon and Rome. The old centre of false worship became now established in Rome—with her offshoots in Constantinople, Moscow, Canterbury, etc.

## Chapter 3:

# THE LATTER-DAY DEVELOPMENT OF BABYLON AND THE BEAST

### Introduction

*Babylon is introduced to us in Revelation 14:*

And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication. v. 8

*The chapter opens with the Lamb and the saints in power. The gospel is preached, which demands that all must submit to the new King. Those who refuse, like Babylon, are destroyed. This chapter describes two harvests of destruction—the corn harvest and the grape harvest. The cutting down of the sheaves is describing the initial destruction at the battle of Armageddon. The very name can be translated a **heap of sheaves in a valley for judgement**. Joel similarly describes such a harvest at that time. The vine harvest is descriptive of the continuing conflict which takes place mainly in western Europe, against the papacy and the nations under Rome's control. Her association with drink makes it an appropriate symbol. The vines are harvested after the corn has been reaped, and so it makes an appropriate symbol for the **second** stage of the coming conflict.*

*Babylon appears again in Revelation 16:*

And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath. v. 19

*This is the work of the 7<sup>th</sup> Vial. The 6<sup>th</sup> Vial period reaches until the Master returns. Then commences the 7<sup>th</sup> Vial.*

*Finally Babylon appears again in chapters 17 and 18. Here we have fuller details of the 7<sup>th</sup> vial. These chapters give us our details of the latter-day Babylon and the final aspect of the beast she rides.*

### The woman who rides the beast

Revelation 12 tells us of the origins of this woman. Here we are given a picture of corrupt christianity likened to a woman who is with child.

*And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars:*

*And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.* v.1, 2



The bride of Christ had become unfaithful. The corrupting influences warned of by Paul in 2 Thessalonians 2 had succeeded. Christianity was about to become the state religion. Hence this sign appeared in the (political) heaven. Until now these heavens were occupied by :

*...a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.* v. 3

This is a picture of pagan Rome which was to have seven types of government, and links back to Daniel's 4<sup>th</sup> beast. In the symbol of the woman giving birth to a man-child who was to be *caught up to God and his throne*, we recognise the details of Constantine becoming emperor, and bringing with him state recognition for "the church". The woman having given birth, and the red dragon having been conquered, these symbols then had to take on a new shade of meaning. The woman is now the subject of persecution by the man child. The protestants, amongst whom would be the true believers, now faced the persecutions that Daniel had spoken about. The iron teeth and the brass claws of the 4<sup>th</sup> beast were often felt. The dragon is no longer red. It continues as a "christian" beast—but still essentially Daniel's 4<sup>th</sup> beast. In Revelation 13 it has various phases which we looked at last year. We meet it in its final phase in chapter 17.

The Roman Church sees Revelation 12 in a different light! To them it is a picture of Mary:

"The crown of twelve stars are evidently all the virtues, with which the Queen of heaven and earth was to be adorned. But the mystery of it being composed of twelve stars has reference to the twelve tribes of Israel...and since the gifts, graces and the virtues of all the elect were to crown their Queen in a most eminent and exalted degree, a crown of twelve stars was placed around her head." Quoted in *Quite Contrary*. Kauffman

"In the fight against the great Dragon ... 'the deceiver of the whole world' there appears the great sign of the victorious Virgin, Queen of glory, seated at the Lord's right hand". Pope, Aug 15<sup>th</sup>, 1997

At many shrines she is featured with the moon under her feet. The Roman Church believes that it was through the help of Mary that Constantine conquered the pagan Roman world. Similar powers are attributed to her still, such as the overthrow of communism. The Pope is using her to unite Europe, as we shall see in chapter 5.

Interestingly in Rome, on the spot where "St Peter's" now stands, Sulla founded in BC 80 a college and erected an image of Isis and Horus on Vatican Hill. Isis and her child Horus were the Egyptian representation of Semeramis and her child Tammuz. When Rome became "christian", the titles were changed to suit the new gods of Rome. It became Mary and baby Jesus!

"The ancient portrait of Isis and the child Horus was ultimately accepted not only in popular opinion, but by formal episcopal sanction, as the portrait of the Virgin and her child" *Man & His Gods*. W. Smith

We can summarize the details of the woman given in chapter 18:1-6.

**The Woman:**

- harlot, sits on many waters
- wears purple and scarlet gold and precious jewels
- golden cup in hand containing abominations & filthiness of her fornication
- name on forehead

**BABYLON  
MYSTERY**

**MOTHER OF HARLOTS  
& THE ABOMINATIONS  
OF THE EARTH**

- drunk with blood of saints
- sits on a scarlet coloured beast

We note she is an harlot. No longer the pure virgin, she has committed adultery with the kings of the earth, like Israel of old. No longer looking to her husband, she looks to her lovers, the political rulers of the world. She moves in their circles and intoxicates them with her "wine". Her false teachings deceive those who hear (18:23).

She is said to *sit on many waters* indicating her wide sphere of influence, in fact v. 15 explains the meaning:

*And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest,*

*where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.*

She is also linked to Rome—the seven-hilled city .

*And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth.*

17:9



Statue found at Corinth. The names of each of the 7 hills of Rome are engraved on it

She is associated with fine clothes. No humble servant of Christ is she—she lives as a Queen, with all the pomp and ceremony that this entails.



7 pinnacles under the horse

On her forehead is not the Father's Name, but **Mystery, Babylon the Great**. Like Babylon of olden time with the hidden mysteries to which the initiated are privy, so with this system. Where possible her followers are held in ignorance of the

Truth. Knowledge is in the hands of the leaders. At one time the word **Mystery** was emblazoned on the Pope's tiara, until Protestants pointed out the connection! She is also **the Mother of Harlots**. In God's plan

there are only two ways, the way of Truth and the way of error. All who fail to walk in the narrow way are her daughters.

She is seen to be full of the saints' blood. She is a persecuting power which has used violence to silence those who oppose her, while at the same time leading her followers astray.

John is taken in vision to *the wilderness* to see this Woman and the Beast she rides.

### **The Beast of Revelation 17**

We saw from Daniel that the 4<sup>th</sup> beast continues down to the time of the end. The book of Revelation gives us more details of the different phases of this beast. It is likened to a red dragon or crocodile in Rev. 12, with 7 crowned heads and 10 uncrowned horns. At the time of Constantine, AD 324, the power lay in the heads. The 10 horns denote territories which were not independent, but subject to the Roman head. The Dragon represents the whole pagan Roman world. Bro Thomas lists 10 areas: Greece, Moesia, Illyricum, Pannonia, Noricum, Rhoetia, Italy, Gaul, Spain, Africa.

The empire became Christian, the seat of government transferred to Constantinople, allowing the horns to become independent or crowned. The 6<sup>th</sup> head—the Imperial form of government—was overthrown by the Goths (the 7<sup>th</sup> head), which itself was overthrown with the revival of imperial rule, giving us the Beast of the Sea of Revelation 13.

Bro Thomas allocated peoples to the horns: Huns, Vandals, Visigoths, Burgundians, Gepidae, Lombards, Franks, Suevi, Alans, Bavarians.

#### **The Beast:**

- scarlet colour
- full of names of blasphemy
- 7 heads & 10 horns
- was, is not, but will ascend out of bottomless pit
- non believers "admire" or wonder
- carries the harlot woman

Chapter 13 has two further developments—the Beast of the Earth and the Image of the Beast. Readers are referred to *Milestones 1996*, chapter 3 and 1994, chapter 9 for fuller details. We have in the Beast of the Earth the Germanic Holy Roman Empire working with the Papacy, and in the Image of the Beast we have the Papacy and the Papal States.

By the time we come to the 17<sup>th</sup> chapter the language is of an 8<sup>th</sup> head revived. Its colour is described as

scarlet, or crimson red, the colour of blood—a persecuting beast as we have seen from Daniel's visions.

The beast of Revelation 17 is the final phase of Daniel's 4<sup>th</sup> beast with its 7 heads and 10 horns.

We look therefore for a revival of the beast system. Probably it will be an amalgam of the beasts of chapter 13. In fact the beast has been in existence for some long time. An interesting phase in this beast's existence is described in v. 16:

*And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire.*

Here is a situation where the beast is opposed to the harlot rider and punishes her. This applied to the events of the out-pouring of the Vials in the last century when the power of Europe was turned on the Papacy. They deprived her of her lands and even took the Pope prisoner! But the beast lives on and is entering its last phase.

We are looking for—and seeing in the events of today—the coming together of the horns (which are not described as crowned), giving their individual power to the beast for “one hour”.

**What are we told?**

- 7 heads = the 7 mountains on which woman sits
- 7 kings—5 have fallen, one is, another to exist a short time, and the beast is to be the 8<sup>th</sup> head, (but still “of the seven”) and this is to go into perdition - “ruin”
- 10 horns = 10 kings, who have no kingdom as yet but receive authority as kings 1 hour
- They give their kingdom to the beast
- They war against the Lamb and are destroyed
- [They hate the harlot & make her desolate & naked, eat her flesh, burn her with fire].

*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. 17:12-14*

This must be a situation subsequent to v. 16. The beast is strong, with the

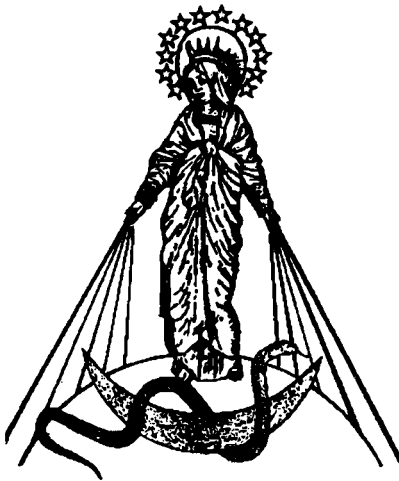
horns co-operating together and receiving power from the beast. The Harlot is firmly in control of this 8<sup>th</sup> head. In receiving details of this beast, John is given a broad sweep from verses 7 to 16. He then goes back to consider the horns and how we can identify them through their actions of hating the harlot. John opens chapter 18 with “*after these things*”—the

things of the hating of the harlot. Then the rest of chapter 18 unfolds the work of the destruction of Babylon the Great, which amplifies Rev. 17:14.

The area of this beast's operation is described as **the wilderness**. In John's day, Europe was only civilised in the south. The area of Germany and Russia was inhabited by barbarians and so appropriately is termed the **wilderness**.

In the final picture we look for the existence of both Daniel's little-horn-of-the-goat and the little-horn-of-the-4th-beast. Revelation 16 has introduced a **dragon** and a **beast**, which correspond to these. The image of chapter 13 has now become the **false prophet**—the Papacy. We look for a coming together of Europe, East and West under Papal influence. This then corresponds to the picture of Daniel's image standing up. Initially the eastern leg is broken, corresponding to the Dragon, the goat horn. Then it is the turn of the West to experience the wrath of the Lamb—the Beast and the Papacy are destroyed. How long is *the hour* of this destruction period? Bro. Thomas makes a good case for it lasting 30 years. As it lies **beyond** the call to the judgement seat, it does not affect our expectations of the nearness of the Master's return.

In the next chapters we trace the papacy of today and see how it is working to bring Europe into the "Great City" of Babylon, of which she is the head.



It is like Nimrod of old, who sought to bring mankind into his cities. Nimrod set himself up in the place of God. One of the Pope's titles *Vicar of Christ* means "deputy, **substitute**, proxy, of Christ". The service book used by the Vatican for the crowning of the Popes refers to the pontiff as 'our Lord God, the Pope'. True religion was corrupted in both cases. In both cases there is a reliance on present wealth, power and architecture—strong walls and high towers.

## Chapter 4:

# MOVES TO UNITE EUROPE—THE PAPACY

### Introduction

*We now consider the moves to unite Europe organised by the Papacy. The Pope longs for the day when he will be the spiritual head of a united Europe. With advancing ill health, it may be left to his successor to achieve his dream. In this chapter we look at the papal influence on Europe, and in chapter 5 look at the many "troops" he has at his disposal to win over Europe: from the unifying appeal of the worship of Mary, Queen of Europe, and the "saints" of Europe, to the secret forces of organisations such as Opus Dei.*

### Rome's involvement in the politics and social policy of the EU

Readers will perhaps recognise this as a heading taken from last year's *Milestones*. It was a heading to a chapter in a booklet published at the end of 1995, entitled *European Union and Roman Catholic influence in Britain*. Three more recent books continue this theme and clearly show the growing, behind-the-scenes, influence the Pope has on the affairs of Europe. We shall look at them in more detail in chapter 6. They are *Europe's Full Circle*; *The Tainted Source*; *The Principalities and Powers of Europe*.

They all illustrate that what Germany tried in the past to achieve through war, she is achieving now through peace. Germany is not working in isolation. As was the case in both the WW I and WW II, the papacy co-operated because they both shared the same vision—the re-establishment of the old Holy Roman Empire, dominated politically by Germany and spiritually by the papacy. It is this latter aspect we consider now.

Certainly in Britain, in the recent elections (May 1997), the Roman Catholic bishops felt confident enough to issue a pre-election paper entitled *The Common Good*. 55,000 copies were sold in the first 4 months. It was part of the drive of the papacy to influence governmental policies. Truly the frog spirit of Revelation 16 can be heard out of the mouth of the False Prophet. The Roman Catholic writer Clifford Longley in his "Sacred and Profane" column in the *Daily Telegraph* had this item:

#### **Papal teaching has a foot in the door of Britain's politics**

"A series of papal documents...have richly developed [Pope] Leo XIII's themes of social justice [published in 1891] and what Catholic Social Teaching calls "the common good", a concept that goes back at least as far as St Thomas Aquinas. Post war Christian Democrat movements in Europe have claimed Catholic Social Teaching as their

main inspiration, but it was also said to be the guiding influence over the French Socialist and EC president Jacques Delors.

“The present Pope has made significant additions to this body of texts.

“The Christian Socialist Movement, whose members are said to include a third of the shadow cabinet [ie Labour—it was written before the election], is due to hear a lecture on Catholic Social teaching at its autumn meeting in Norfolk.”

DT 11-10-96

In a later column entitled **Will religion become an election issue?** he wrote:

“The intervention of the Catholic Church is a new and significant fact in British politics; and so is the unusual preponderance of professed Christians (though not Catholics, as it happens) among the leadership of the Labour Party. Both developments ought to be cautiously welcomed, but neither tells us much about the outcome of the next election.”

DT 14-2-97

The Labour Party did come to power with an overwhelming victory. In the issue of the Catholic Herald following polling day was a picture of Tony Blair emerging from his local Catholic Church, with the headline **Blair gives thanks for election triumph** (CH 9-5-97).

He is not a Catholic, but his wife and family are, and he accompanies them each week. On his holiday in the summer in France, he chose to attend the local Catholic Church. While attending the Summit of Eight meeting at Denver, he took time out to attend Mass with his wife (CH 9-6; 27-6-97).

Voting for the devolution of Scotland and Wales had the Roman Church's backing. There was set up a *Catholics say Yes to Wales* group, “to steer Catholics in Wales to a Yes vote” (CH 22-8-97). Devolution brings in another tier of administrators and provides further opportunities for the Church to bring influence on local affairs.

Roman Catholic teachings are to be found throughout Europe. The Irish bishops published a pastoral *Work is the Key* in 1992, and in February 1997 the German bishops published a major statement on economic and social questions. So one finds the EU's social teaching mirrors the Church's.

“Commissioners’ speeches and the official EU propaganda machine trot out the buzz words “subsidiarity” and “solidarity” with such regularity that we become impervious to their meaning. And now, and this comes as a shock even to Catholics, it appears the EU spokesmen have borrowed our robes, they have hijacked terms coined by no less than Pope Pius XI and Vatican II!”

CH 6-6-97

There was an interesting review of the Church's relations with Germany on the occasion of the Appointment of a new German Ambassador to the Vatican. The Pope said:

“Your greetings...were accompanied by the promise to work to maintain and develop the excellent relations between the Holy See and the Federal Republic.

“What holds true for relations between the Holy See and the Federal Republic is also true of the relationship between Church and State in your country. The two are allied whenever it is a question of giving “soul” to a pluralistic and secularized society. Freedom and unity require each other. Unity without freedom becomes compulsion, but freedom without unity brings chaos.

“No material or economic progress—regardless of how desirable it is—should be allowed to take the place of God. . . Thus the church has an even more important duty of introducing this truth **into the house being planned for Europe**. Otherwise it will be built on sand. To this end **every political power will find a loyal, trustworthy partner in the Church**, if only it is prepared to build Europe on **stable rock**, so that in the house which the European family of nations must build, we and the following generations can feel safe and secure.” LOR 12-11-97

### Rome reaches out to Eastern Europe

Among the many countries the Pope visited in 1997 were several Eastern European ones: Bosnia—April; Czech—May; Poland—June. At each he pressed the theme of unity and reconciliation. His desire is to see the Orthodox Churches at one with the Roman Churches. His short 25 hour visit to Sarajevo in Bosnia was the occasion of an attempt to blow him up. Twenty three landmines were discovered attached to a bridge shortly before he was due to pass over it! Sarajevo is mainly Muslim. They suffered terribly from the Catholic and Serb “ethnic cleansing”.<sup>1</sup> His message was of peace and tolerance and a unified Bosnia!

The 3 day visit to Czech was to commemorate the 1000<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the “martyrdom” of “St” Adalbert, the first bishop of Prague. He was joined by bishops from every European country. We shall see the significance of this commemoration in the next chapter. While he was there he urged the bishops to continue their campaign for the return of Church property which had been confiscated by the communists. His message was summed up in the headline *A burning desire for full unity*. Seven years ago, on his first visit to Czechoslovakia—as it then was known—he said that the collapse of Communism *has paved the way for a united, Christian Europe* (DT 23-4-90). How much progress he has overseen in the intervening years!

His ten day visit to Poland was the longest he has made to his homeland. Again central to this visit was the 1000<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Adalbert’s

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<sup>1</sup> A chilling account of their sufferings is told in the book *The Bridge Betrayed—religion and genocide in Bosnia*, M. A. Sells 1996. The ferocity of the destruction of all that could be culturally associated with the Muslims as well as the extermination of the people, contrasts with his message of peace!



death—he had in later life lived in Poland and there met his death. Presidents from central and eastern Europe assembled with the Pope. It was an impressive role call! Presidents Havel of Czech; Brazauskas of Lithuania; Herzog of Germany; Kwasniewski of Poland; Kovac of Slovakia; Kuczma of Ukraine and Göncz of Hungary. They gathered with the Pope around the relics of this “saint”!

### **Making Europe Christian—again?**

The Pope told the assembled throng of presidents that the collapse of the dividing wall between Europe has revealed another, invisible wall:

“The wall of political and economic selfishness, of the weakening of sensitivity to the value of human life and the dignity of every human being. . .

*“There will be no European unity until it is based on a unity of spirit. . .* For the history of Europe is a great river into which many tributaries flow, and the variety of traditions and cultures which shape it is its great treasure. **The foundations of the identity of Europe are built on Christianity.** And its present lack of spiritual unity arises principally from the crisis of this Christian self-awareness.”

LOR 11-6-97

The heading to this section is taken from an article in the Catholic Herald on the occasion of Jacques Santer’s presentation of Agenda 2000. This “historic announcement” concerned the enlargement plans for the EU.

“The prospect presented by Agenda 2000 is that early in the coming century the European Union will be enlarged from fifteen to twenty-one states, extending from Ireland in the west to Poland in the east. Famously these are both deeply Catholic countries, and in four of the six proto-members—the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, and Slovenia—Catholicism is the main religion. This is also true of nine of the states in the existing Union. In the remaining EU countries, as in the two other applicants (Estonia and Cyprus), the main affiliation is either Protestant or Orthodox.

“It is often said that the European culture is essentially Christian. . . Some go further, however and claim that Europe is a cultural artefact of Roman Catholicism. They do not mean by this that Europe is a living example of Catholic values, but rather have in mind the following two claims. First, that the morality, politics and culture of Europe have been shaped by the influence of the Catholic Christianity operating through the Holy Roman Empire, the medieval Latin Church and the subsequent Catholic empires and nation-states lying west of the Urals and north of the Caucasus. Second, that while this influence has waned it still makes the best sense of common European values.

“The decline of secular humanism as a utopian ideology and the rethinking of the traditional assumptions of left and right in European politics have certainly produced a situation in which there is **a want of**

**moral, spiritual and social guidance.** The considerable interest in the English Bishops' *Common Good* document suggests that the teachings of Catholicism, and of Christianity more generally, **have the potential to satisfy this longing.**"

He ignores the role of the Protestants in the shaping of Europe, but his observation on the vacuum left by the decline in humanist thinking which christianity can meet is interesting. The Catholic Church has worked hard to establish its dominant position. The Protestant churches have little influence. In Britain it is usually a Roman Catholic opinion that is sought or expressed in the media, rather than a Church of England one. At a time when people are seeking something better than the emptiness of humanism, Rome has ensured she is there to fulfill that need. For the first time for a long time, the fall in new applicants for the priesthood has been halted. A concerted effort is being made to win back lapsed members.

The Pope makes frequent references to Europe returning to its roots. This is what he is seeking. A christian—Catholic—Europe. The roots of the Babylonian tree are there to flourish again. He is admirably placed to influence this growth. With her intoxicating wine the nations of Europe submit to his spiritual leadership. Chris Richards, the assistant editor of *The Reformer*, under the heading of **Europe beware!** proposed:

"The European Union, the brain-child of the Roman Church, is currently calling for a single currency. If or when this is established the cry will then be for a single defence force. Eventually this state, a Holy Roman Empire Mk II, will demand a single head of state. The natural candidate, being one who appears above politics and already having the spiritual leadership of the overwhelming majority of its 360 million citizens (of which 61 million are "Protestants"), is the Pope." TR 5-97

How much longer the present Pope will last we do not know; any successor will surely continue his work of uniting Europe.

In March there was a gathering of politicians in Rome to mark the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the European Union, which was formed by the *Treaty of Rome* in 1957.

"Christian principles helped form the cultures and the consciences of Europe and they are fundamental to its future said Pope John Paul II at a Vatican meeting with European legislators last week. If Europe 'refuses to recognise the inspiring faith in Christ and the messages of the Gospel, it loses a large part of its foundation,' he said." CH 14-3-97

## **Chapter 5:**

# **MOVES TO UNITE EUROPE—THE PAPACY'S USE OF MARY**

### **Introduction**

*The principal weapon in the Pope's armoury to win over Europe is Mary. By her worship and "intercession" he is not only winning converts back to the church, but appealing to the Greek and Russian Orthodox Churches. Is it a coincidence that the Woman should be using **a woman** to achieve his aim? Or is it evidence of the wonderful foreknowledge of God who was able to choose appropriate symbols? Of course it is all a travesty of Mary's true position as the handmaid of the Lord, asleep in the dust of the earth awaiting her son's return. If we need evidence for the corruptness of the church today, we will find it in the worship and use of Mary.*

### **The role of Mary**

Mary is being used to unify east and West. The present Pope's devotion to her is well known. His motto is *Totus tuus* which means "all for you". That "you" is Mary! He makes a point of visiting her shrines wherever he travels. The Pope has entrusted to her care the uniting of the churches and uniting all Europe.

This was one of the headlines in the *L'Osservatore Romano* concerning the Pope's visit to Poland:

#### **"To Mary we owe the victory**

"Triumph of faith in Poland came through intercession of Mary Immaculate".  
LOR 25-6-97

Whether in Czech or Lebanon, Mary's help is sought to further the church.

**"Mother of the Church:** do not forget this [Czech] people, but protect them always".  
LOR 30-4-97

"Our Lady of Lebanon, watch over all

"The Pope prays to the Blessed Virgin for the sorely tried people of this land".  
LOR 14-5-97

#### **Mary—"Queen of Europe"**

"Europe was consecrated to Mary by the Vatican in 1309, and placed under her patronage. The shrine of 'Our Lady of Europa', in Gibraltar is being renovated with a £200,000 grant from the EU, about which the Vatican announced: 'It is the prayer of His Holiness that the shrine be

an evermore effective centre of unification, a place where, under the patronage of Mary, the human family will be drawn evermore closely into a fraternal unity and peaceful co-existence’.”

*The Principality and Power of Europe* Hilton.

Our front cover is based upon the design of the stained-glass window in the Strasbourg Cathedral. The Council of Europe met in the cathedral in 1955 to celebrate the unveiling of this window. It depicts “The Virgin Mary with her crown of 12 stars and standing on the globe as Queen of the universe—as described in the Apocalypse”. Prayers were offered to “Our Lady—Queen of Europe.”



One can buy currency from Gibraltar with the head of the British Queen on one side—it is a British colony—and Mary on the reverse! The inscription reads ‘*Our Lady of Europa*’. It shows a typical “mother and child” pose, which is linked back to Semeramis, Nimrod’s wife, and her son.

In 1934 Mary was proclaimed ‘Queen of Palestine’, with a special feast day in August.

### Mary and the Millennium

“It was deeply moving for me to return as a pilgrim to the feet of *our Lady of Jasna Gora* [a place in Poland]. To her I entrusted the Church’s journey towards the Holy Door of the Jubilee of the Year 2000, and particularly to the horizons which are unfolding for her mission in the third millennium. **To her I entrusted the Polish nation [which he was visiting] and all the nations of Europe, called to build their integration on solid spiritual, cultural and ethical foundations, beginning with their Christian roots...** To Mary I entrusted the commitment of Christians to advancing towards full unity, in accordance with Christ’s will and the demands of the new evangelization; I also called on her for reconciliation and peace for all peoples.”  
LOR 18-6-97

Mary is of course long dead and unable to hear these prayers! It does illustrate the use he makes of her. His earthly forces—as we shall see in the last section—ensure his wishes move forward—under Divine control.

We know this worship is a terrible travesty of Mary’s true position, but to the Roman Catholic she is held in the highest esteem. More prayers are offered to her than to Jesus or even to God. The picture constantly presented is of Jesus, either as a helpless babe in his mother’s arms, or of his suffering the agony of crucifixion. Mary’s smiling face is very alluring. Her motherly compassion touches many hearts, especially Catholic women, who have a big influence in the family’s worship. It was of course this worship of the MOTHER which so characterized the false worship of Babylon—the elevation of the mother over the son. Another

feature of the worship of the mother—Semiramis—was she was proclaimed to have had a conception “without sin”. This same doctrine was transferred to Mary by Papal proclamation in 1854. This doctrine of the “Immaculate Conception” of Mary does not refer to “the Virgin Birth”, but to this Babylonish concept that **her own** conception was special. She has a feast day to commemorate it—December 8<sup>th</sup>. On this day the Pope lays flowers and pays his tributes before her statue which towers over one of the squares in Rome. This year, as he bowed before her statue he prayed: *Abide with us, Immaculate Mother!* His long prayer concluded:

“We greet you, Virgin most prudent! We greet you, Mother most clement! Pray for us, Intercede for us, Immaculate Virgin, our merciful and powerful Mother, Mary!

LOR 10-12-97

The headline to this article was significant:

**The Holy Father asks Mary to watch over the final years of preparation for the Great Jubilee.**

His hope is of celebrating the new millennium in Israel with the Orthodox and Russian Patriarchs. He has been building up his preparations for the millennium celebrations. The closing years of this century have been dedicated to “the Trinity”. 1997 was dedicated to Jesus, 1998 to the Holy Spirit, 1999 to God. It would make Mary their obvious choice for the year 2000, the (supposed) anniversary of the birth of her son. After all, it will begin on January 1<sup>st</sup>, the feast day of the “Solemnity of Mary Mother of God.”

“Since 1969 in the new Roman calendar, New Year’s Day has been explicitly devoted to Mary’s role in the Incarnation and redemption in accordance with ancient Roman custom.” *Oxford Dictionary of Saints*

Or shall we say Babylonian custom!

**Mary’s continuing elevation**

Mary’s “Assumption”—her alleged bodily ascension to heaven shortly after death—was proclaimed in 1950. She was elevated to the position of *Mother of the Church* by Pope Paul VI at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vatican Council in 1964. They are now working on elevating her to still higher positions!

“According to *L’Osservatore Romano*...the Madonna could be proclaimed Co-redeemer, Mediator and Advocate. This would mean Mary would flank Christ as Redeemer of the world.” CH 13-06-97

Such distortions of the life of Mary and the work of the Lord Jesus is hard for Bible students to imagine, but to those who do not know the Truth these things are very appealing. She is there in heaven, *the Mother of God, Queen of Heaven, Our Lady, Blessed Virgin, Mother of the Church, Queen of the Apostles, Star of evangelization, etc.* It surely indicates the aptness of the title of *Babylon* that emblazons the harlot’s forehead.

There is hardly a week goes by without an extensive article on Mary in the *L'Osservatore Romano*, the official Vatican paper. She is being skilfully used. Her worship is very strong in the Eastern and Russian Orthodox churches. So here is common ground for "separated brethren." Most countries do not have a monarchy. Mary as *Queen of heaven* provides an attractive substitute. Her statues provide a focus. Dressed in wonderful robes and paraded around the streets, she draws the crowds. I have in front of me a picture entitled **Our Lady tours world for peace**. "Pilgrims carry a statue of Our Lady of Fatima through the streets of Bethlehem" (CH 24-10-97). Bourne aloft, dressed as a bride, her hands are demurely together praying. A few metres behind is another statue—that of Christ hanging from a cross, head bowed in pain. No wonder she steals the limelight and the headline!

### Patron "saints" of Europe

The Pope also has others in his arsenal to make Europe united and catholic. They are *Cyril*, *Methodius* and *Adalbert*. The first two he chose in 1980 as "patron saints of Europe", in addition to the existing patron of Europe—St. Benedict. Benedict was chosen by Pope Paul VI in 1964. From his abbey in Montecassio -

"He promulgated his rule, which is justly considered one of the most potent factors in building up the civilization of Christian Europe, becoming known as Holy Rule." *Book of Saints*.

**Cyril<sup>1</sup>** and **Methodius** are highly regarded by the Orthodox Church. These brothers were instrumental in the spread of Christianity to the Slav people. The Pope himself is a Slav. Around AD 863, Prince Rostislav of Great Moravia<sup>2</sup> sent to the Patriarch of Constantinople desiring to hear "the gospel". There was opposition from Catholics bordering the Prince's country—they thought it was their duty to preach to them rather than distant people from Constantinople! So Cyril and Methodius approached the Pope and obtained his blessing in this work. The point is that this was at a time before the great division between Rome and Constantinople (which took place AD 1054). Here were the two churches working together. By selecting these eastern "saints", as the saints of Europe, the Pope is harking back to the time when east and west worked together.

"Thus in an age when the Church was not divided, a joint intervention of Rome and Constantinople proved of great benefit for the work of spreading the gospel. I continually pray that the moment will soon arrive when the traditions of both East and West, of which Saints 'Cyril and Methodius are as it were the connecting links' will come together 'in the one great Tradition of the Universal Church'"

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<sup>1</sup> Also known as Constantine, name Cyril adopted shortly before his death.

<sup>2</sup> today, Czech, plus part Austria and part of former E. Germany.

“...the lessons of their lives are especially timely today as Europe seeks a new sense of its own identity and destiny.”

The Pope. LOR 28-5; 4-6-97

The other great link is with the Russian Church. As a result of the work of these two, their successors spread the gospel into Russia. Interestingly too, among the very long list of Tzar Nicholas II's titles (he was the last Tzar) is Knight of the Order of “St. Cyril and St. Method[ius] of Bulgaria”.

One of their successors was **Adalbert**, whom we have already mentioned, whose “martyrdom” 1000 years ago was celebrated by the Pope in 1997. His importance—to the papacy—was that his preaching efforts, and the work carried on after his death, were instrumental in turning central Europe away from the Orthodox east, to the Catholic west. It “marked Poland's entry into a united Europe”, said the Pope (LOR 25-6-97).

“Adalbert Wojcech, a Czech missionary bishop suffered martyrdom in 997 at the hands of the heathen Prussians, a Baltic tribe in what was to become East Prussia.

“This triggered the plan, long harboured by the Holy Roman-German Emperor Otto III, of an expansion into east central Europe. In AD 1000 it established “national” archbishoprics in Gniezno and Gran, the capitals of the young Polish and Hungarian principalities.

“Otto tied the rulers of these countries to himself and the Pope, while relieving them of direct subordination to Germany proper. This meant the entry of these countries into the Latin West as opposed to the Byzantine-dominated Orthodox East.” Letter, TE 27-3-97

It was to celebrate the 1000<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death that involved the gathering of bishops from every European country in Czech, and that gathering of so many presidents in Poland. It surely is no coincidence that it is to just this area that the EU is extending her membership. We are having a rerun of history! Poland, Hungary, Czech and Slovenia—the area of Adalbert's work, are now to be embraced by the West. The EU is looking at accepting Slovakia at a later date. The Pope has declaring Adalbert *a saint for Christians today* and looks for a similar bringing of converts to Rome from the “pagans” of today.

### **Opus Dei, guilds and unions**

The Pope's troops are vast and well disciplined. One of the oldest are the Jesuits, who for centuries worked secretly to further the Church. The present Pope regards them as having over-reached their power and has courted a comparatively new organization, **Opus Dei** (God's Work). Founded in Spain in 1928, it has a claimed élite membership of 80,000, and has tentacles that reach around the world. They are sworn to secrecy,

and use outward “good works” as the shell<sup>3</sup> to hide its inner workings—to be the Pope’s front line troops using whatever method they deem to bring results. It is an incredibly rich organization. One of its main targets is to halt the advancing tide of Islam. A recent book<sup>4</sup> chronicles its history. Much on the surface appears far fetched, but any who have read books by the late Avro Manhattan, know that this is the reality of the inner workings of the Vatican and her co-workers.

Its operation in Poland seems to have been the first of its deep penetration operations. Several years before the Pope made his first visit to his Polish homeland in 1979 and before the Catholic Trade Union, Solidarity, was set up in 1980, they had started operations. When Solidarity needed money for printing presses, paper, equipment, Opus Dei arranged it. With their links with the CIA they were able to coordinate the events that led to the downfall of the Communist Party in Poland, an event which eventually triggered the demise of Soviet style Communism. It brought freedom to the Catholic Church in Poland, and in time to the Orthodox Church in Russia. They have worked hard to establish their members in Eastern Europe.

They recently played a big role in the support of the Croats against the Muslims in the former Yugoslavia. Back in 1519 Pope Leo X had bestowed on the Croats the title of *Antemurale Christianitatis*—the Bulwark of Christianity. Opus Dei continued this work by coordinated American and Vatican behind-the-scenes operations to stem this new tide of Islam.

There are a host of Catholic organizations, mainly of lay people covering every field of life. They can quietly ensure that the Roman Church’s position is strengthened, and her views expressed. We have many prominent Catholics in Britain. From BBC controllers to the Chief of the Defence Staff. Also editors of some of the quality national papers—*The Times*, the *Daily Telegraph*, the *Sunday Telegraph*.

In the next chapter we look at the work of the Beast, uniting Europe into a common homeland, fit for the Harlot to ride upon its back.

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<sup>3</sup> Remember Janus - the two faced god? How characteristic this is of the Papacy and its co-workers.

<sup>4</sup> *Their Kingdom Come, inside the secret world of Opus Dei*. Robert Hutchinson. 1997 “The book the Catholic Church won’t want you to read” declares its cover!



## Chapter 6:

# MOVES TO UNITE EUROPE—THE BEAST

### Introduction

*The work of unifying Europe is equally being pursued by Germany and France. Germany for centuries has longed for a united Europe. Today's frontline weapon is the euro. Monetary union is the big step to political union. And that the precursor to the bigger step of a united Europe—East and West!*

*We take a broad sweep in this chapter, and see where events are leading to—a Holy European Empire, reserving to the next chapter the details of the events of 1997.*

### The Greek and Latin elements

We considered in chapter 2 the need for all the metals of Daniel chapter 2 to be in existence at the time of the end, in order to be broken by Christ and the saints. Likewise with the four beasts, they have an existence together at the time of their destruction. For Daniel's image to stand up, it must involve a cooperation of all the different elements. We need to see a Europe united together—for the first time in its long history, encompassing not only the territories of the old empires, but the culture and the spirit of these kingdoms. We saw the frequent reference by Daniel to **brass** and **iron**—symbols of Greece and Rome, and noted especially their use in preserving the Babylonish tree down through the centuries.

There is another element—that of clay. The feet and toes are a curious, unstable mixture of iron and moist clay. Obviously both feet have this mixture. The iron we identify with Rome. Clay, moist clay, we associate with people. Going back to the 6<sup>th</sup> Vial, we saw in *Milestones 1996*, the frog-like spirit coming out of the Beast—Western Europe, the Dragon—Eastern Europe, and the False Prophet—the Papacy. People power, democracy, had its great stirrings in the French Revolution and its effects are reverberating around the world still. In both eastern and western Europe we see the workings of this clay ideology. However, just as in the days that followed the French Revolution, it was soon realized that “clay” on its own was insufficient. People need a religious base<sup>1</sup>. Hence the strength imparting power of iron—Rome—in its various forms, Roman Catholic, Greek and Russian Orthodox. In previous years we have traced

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<sup>1</sup> *We have had an example of this in the events in Cuba. This, the last bastion of Communism, is not only expecting a Papal visit early in 1998, but has brought in religious freedom. Cuba celebrated Christmas this year as a public holiday for the first time since it was banned in 1968. "A startling change." "For the first time since the 1957 revolution, Cuba's revered patron saint, the Virgin of Charity of Cobra, is on a tour of all the island's churches." Castro is reputed to be converting to Catholicism! EC 6-12-97; CH 19-12-97*

the progress of this iron from Rome, to Constantinople, where it flourished in the Greek or Byzantium Empire, with its Orthodox Church and Roman Emperor. Then, with the fall of Constantinople, the centre moved to Russia, with its Orthodox Church and Imperial Tsar. We have seen the key role that the Papacy is playing in Western Europe. In chapter 13 we look at the parallel situation in Russia.

### **The real drive behind the euro**

Many have puzzled at the almost fanatical, irrational drive towards monetary union which grips most of Europe. Germany has been saying for a long time that monetary union is the first step to political union. Hence their enthusiasm, for it would bind Western Europe together. This “hidden agenda” is being increasingly exposed. Bernard Connolly’s book “The Rotten Heart of Europe—the Dirty War for Europe’s Money” published in 1995 showed the real aim behind the ERM (Exchange Rate Mechanism). His book is all the more powerful for his former position was head of the European Commission unit responsible for monitoring the system.

“The story of the ERM tells us a great deal about the motivation of the proponents of the European monetary and political union—the **European superstate.**”

There are two strands to this thinking. The first is to weaken Britain, to erode her different, Anglo-Saxon outlook, and to reduce her to just another member of this Union. The other strand concerns the unification of Europe with Russia.

Let us consider the first strand. Germany is succeeding in doing what she failed to do in two World Wars—contain the might of Britain. In so many ways we have seen the British Parliament, bowing to the demands of Europe, being forced to adopt the continental approach to so many things. With the latest Amsterdam Treaty even the British system of trial by jury is under threat. The continental system of *Corpus Juris* is so different—there one is assumed guilty, unless proved innocent; in countries with an Anglo-Saxon heritage, one is innocent unless proved guilty, and trial is by jury. Step by stealthy step the differences are being swept away.

Rodney Atkinson<sup>2</sup> in his book **Europe’s Full Circle** traces the parallels between the aims of Nazi Germany before and during the War and what is happening today. To quote from the back cover

“*Europe’s Full Circle* by Rodney Atkinson shows how the European Union is built on the Nazis’ 1942 blueprint for a “European Economic Community”, inspired by the anti-democratic and anti-Anglo Saxon politics of the fascist 1930’s and supported then as now by

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<sup>2</sup> First published in 1996, second edition 1997.

establishment figures and corporate<sup>3</sup> elites in Britain, the USA and Europe.

“As the Left has moved right and the Right has moved left they have met in social and economic corporatism. The individual, the family, the community, the rule of law, personal property and the nation itself have fallen prey to the politicised institutions of the State and the collective powers of labour and capital. The supranational powers of the EU, founded by anti-democratic corporatism, built on the 1941 Nazi model and imposed by directives and regulations which bypass parliaments, have effectively destroyed the British Constitution..”

He concludes his book.

“Europe has come a full circle. The United Kingdom faces the same political crisis as in the 1930's. We have a choice between on the one hand appeasement of supranational corporatism and an imperialist continental power built on the *suppression* rather than the *expression* of public opinion and on the other hand the British family of nations with its open world wide trading system and rule of law by which our country has maintained the loyalty of those we once ruled and which continues to attract the world's free nations. I hope this book may help to reverse the present tragic course of events and by retrieving the self government of our nation, we may save Europe by our example.”

The second strand—that of a super-Europe, is excellently outlined in a book, published last year—*The Tainted Source* by John Laughland. He shows in detail the hidden agenda behind the euro. Under the significant chapter heading, *The Third Rome*, he comments:

“It is seldom realized that the plan to integrate the states of Western Europe around a single currency, grandiose though it is, **is only part of an even larger plan**. ‘European integration’ is not an exclusively Western European affair. Indeed the very purpose of suggesting the institutional restructuring of Western Europe around a hard core, according to the plan's German authors, is to permit the creation of a common (Western) European foreign and security policy, **which will in turn be based on a ‘lasting partnership with Russia’**. The German government has repeatedly stressed that it is **‘the advocate of pan-European**, not just West European, thinking’.

“...The principal manner in which it is proposed to create this pan-European structure is by strengthening the provisions for majority voting on foreign policy within the EU, and by creating a ‘European Defence Identity’ within NATO. This will involve making the hitherto moribund Western European Union (WEU) into the defence arm of the

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<sup>3</sup> *Mainly big international corporations. “Of a number of persons, legally united in a body, for transaction of business, and forming a single entity in law”—dictionary.*

European Union. **The idea is then to construct a pan-European security architecture with Russia.** In other words, the institutional reforms which are being undertaken in Western Europe, especially the institutionalization of the hard core through monetary union, **are the necessary prerequisite for the larger vision of one single politico-military system for the whole European continent.** As the former German president, Richard von Weizsäcker, said: 'A common foreign policy can be created only via a single currency. Getting used to a single currency is the only possible means of achieving a single foreign policy.' The hard core in the west is to be the Western 'pillar' of a pan-European security structure, of which the Eastern 'pillar' will presumably be Russia and her associated states. It is no coincidence if this larger goal is being advocated with the same language of European integration as the smaller Western European one.

"Similarly, **the view that the entire Eurasian continent can be governed by one single politico-military structure** is inspired by the same unitarian and administrative vision we have encountered elsewhere. It is inspired by a deep reluctance to draw lines in the sand, or to have meaningful borders of any kind. It is inspired, above all, by the Utopian wish that politics can be spared the need ever to make the choice between friend and enemy"

Laughland quotes a German proverb:

"When the Russian and the German get together, they are invincible".

He then shows the drive by Germany eastward:

"Germany, which has placed herself at the centre of the process of Western European integration (principally by her leading position within the process of monetary union), **is set to place herself at the centre of the process of pan-European integration as well.** She has always boasted of her pan-European agenda; she is the primary advocate of the eastward enlargement of the European Union and NATO, and she is also **the primary advocate of the lasting partnership with Russia.** Meanwhile, the French attachment to the idea of a 'European' defence identity (as opposed to an Atlantic one) is very long-standing.

"It is also in Germany that thinking on matters European—whether monetary or geopolitical—is the most coherent and therefore the most forceful.

"... Chancellor Kohl has said on many occasions that he wants to develop a 'pan-European security system' by enlarging NATO to the East and developing a privileged partnership with Russia. The German Foreign Minister, Klaus Kinkel has confirmed this on many occasions."

Meanwhile Russia has also been preparing for this integration move. Laughland comments:

“Russian politicians from all parts of the political spectrum want to re-establish Moscow’s traditional imperial hegemony<sup>4</sup>. The desire of the Russian government to reconstitute the Soviet Union, albeit not in an explicitly Communist form, was made official on 14 September 1995, when Boris Yeltsin signed a decree entitled ‘The Strategic Plan of Russia Concerning Its Relations With the Member States of the CIS’.”

“[In March 1996] the heads of state of four former Soviet republics—Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan—met in Moscow to sign a separate treaty on economic integration.

“Yeltsin made it clear ‘Within a single day four countries have arrived at a level of integration which the countries of the EU have taken years to achieve’.

“These four republics alone represent 92% of the territory of the former Soviet Union and 88% of its population.” *The Tainted Source* p. 267

We will look in the next chapter at the various events in the drive toward monetary union during 1997. In spite of its ups and downs we must not under estimate Chancellor Kohl’s strategies. His planned integration of East Germany into West Germany was strongly opposed. The bankers protested at the great cost of his terms. They proved to be right, but he pushed his plans through. Integration with East Germany was, as it were, the test-run for his wider plans to integrate Russia into Europe.

### **NATO’s Eastward enlargement**

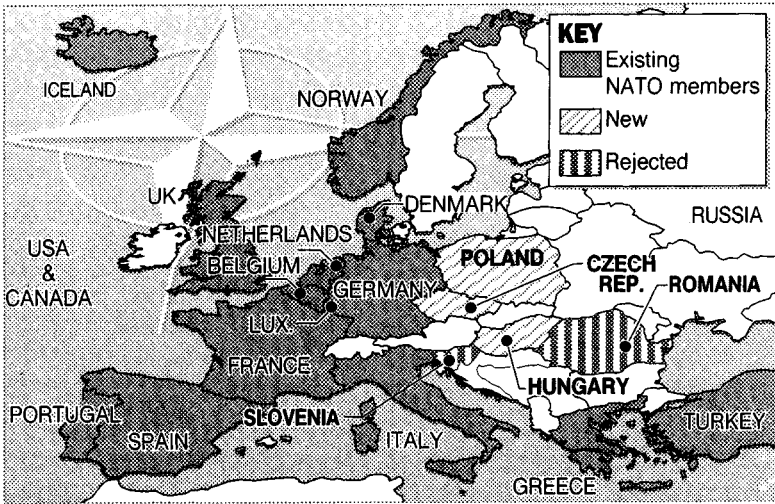
Russia has recently given in to the NATO<sup>5</sup> plans for eastern enlargement. No doubt there have been longer term plans made so that while it appears that Russia has been forced to give way on many matters with little in return, there will be gains for her. NATO had a two strand approach. The first was to make an agreement with Russia to counter her fears ahead of the second strand—eastward expansion.

**NATO-Russia Act.** This was a very significant pact; its long title is *the Founding Act on Mutual Relations, Cooperation and Security*. Negotiations were long and tough, eventually NATO succeeded in its aims, needing to give little away. Chancellor Kohl played a major role in getting Russia to agree. The historic deal was signed in May in Paris. It was declared to mark the symbolic end of the Cold War, the final curtain raised on a divided Europe!

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<sup>4</sup> *The most powerful state in a federation.*

<sup>5</sup> *North Atlantic Treaty Organisation—a military alliance.*



The Act declared:

“Russia and NATO do not consider themselves as adversaries. They share the same goal of overcoming the vestiges of earlier confrontation and competition and of strengthening mutual trust and co-operation. The present Act re-affirms the determination of Russia and NATO to give concrete substance to their shared commitment **to build a stable, peaceful and undivided Europe**, whole and free, to the benefit of all its peoples. Making this commitment at the highest level marks the beginning of a fundamentally new relationship between Russia and NATO.”  
TE 29-5-97



Yeltsin and Clinton shake on the NATO-Russia accord. Chirac looks on.

Yeltsin's reward was for Russia to be granted a permanent presence at the alliance headquarters and a right to be consulted on security matters in the European-Atlantic area. In addition NATO agreed to Russia's demand that nuclear forces should not be stationed in any of the proposed new members' territories. With the modern use of aircraft, rather than ground forces, this was an easy concession to make. Russia's demands for a right to veto any

decisions was not granted. It does however make her a virtual member of NATO. It is a significant step in the assembling of the Image. Who would have thought we would see Russia sitting in on NATO meetings! NATO was set up just 50 years ago specifically to counter the Soviet threat.

**New NATO members named.** At the NATO summit at Madrid in July, it was announced that the enlargement would cover Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic. It is hoped that they can formally start membership in 1999. France fought very hard to add Slovenia and Romania,—but they were rejected for the time being and no prospective starting date promised. This expansion should not be confused with EU expansion.

### **The Western Europe Union**

The WEU was set up in 1948 to provide guarantees of mutual military support to its members. It has 10 full members and 17 associate members. It has links to NATO, but is run by its members, not the EU. It has only limited operational experience—a small scale operation in the Balkans, and mine-sweeping operations in the Gulf (DT 8-6-97).

Russia's long standing fear of NATO lies in the American involvement. It is interesting that John Laughland believes the WEU will be revived because this involves control in the hands of Germany and France, not America. Others in Europe would also like to see their dependence on America reducing. It reminds them of the past, and they seek to show they can look after themselves. Britain is opposed to such a move, she wants American influence to remain in Europe.

“To the chagrin of some EU members, France and Germany have produced a proposal which would establish the WEU as the defence wing of the Union, sidelining the NATO alliance.

“A Franco-German paper, backed by Italy, Spain and Belgium, proposes a phased integration of the Union with the WEU, its fledgling defence wing.

“The initiative, unveiled in Rome at a meeting of foreign ministers on 25<sup>th</sup> March bears all the hallmarks of the personal conviction of Chancellor Helmut Kohl that the EU process is incomplete unless the Union as a whole can defend itself.” TE 27-3-97

It would allow Germany to play a regional role and flex her military muscles without being accused of returning to her old aggressiveness. Countries who oppose this idea foresee America being encouraged to “let go” of Europe and leave them to look after themselves. This is a likely scenario.

### **EU enlargement**

Formal accession negotiations are due to start in April 1998 on the applications for membership of Hungary, Poland, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Slovenia and Cyprus. Others—Romania, Bulgaria, Latvia and

Slovakia—will also be included in the talks, but in a “slower lane”. It is a long process—2004 is the earliest entrance date being mentioned for the first group (DT 15-12-97).



There is another potential member who has been waiting for a long time to join—Turkey. She considers her claim to be admitted is very strong—she is a NATO member. Germany and France are strongly opposed—she is not a “christian” country. So strongly was Turkey snubbed, that at the EU December Summit in Luxembourg, the Turkish Prime Minister refused to attend a dinner for potential applicants. He threatened to withdraw Turkey’s membership application if they were not included in the first group by next June. We shall consider the serious implications this application poses for Europe in chapter 12.



## Chapter 7:

# MONETARY UNION AND THE NEW "HOLY EUROPEAN EMPIRE"

### Introduction

*We considered in the previous chapter the broad sweep of Germany's plans to integrate Europe. We now look at some of the detailed events in 1997 concerning the Euro. In the previous year there had been much scepticism in Europe about the reality of EMU. It was interesting to detect quite a change in outlook in 1997. There was determination to make it succeed—apart from in Britain and Denmark, where scepticism increased.*

*Most people imagine the E in EMU stands for European—myself included as Milestones 1996 chapter 7 testifies! It has been an interesting part of the campaign, to disguise the fact that—E stands for Economic and Monetary Union. It conceals a pathway that has no stopping places built in. Once a country has joined, scrapped its own currency, handed over its gold reserves to the Central Bank, there is no (easy) way out. It has been likened to a lobster pot! Hence Britain's caution about joining. For the majority of Europe this is a path they are willing to take. It leads them where they want to go—closer political union, with Germany a locked-in member who can no longer pose a threat to them. It fulfils Europe's cherished dreams of the Holy European Empire. The rules and regulations it necessitates are matters they are used to. Their way of life is—generally—much more organized by the State than we are used to. It has its roots in the German dream!*

### The German Dream

"The old medieval dream of a universal empire has never quite left the Germans' fantasy. This is why modern Euro-federalists evoke Charlemagne: the Holy Roman Empire was the very archetype of universal monarchy. (Charlemagne's empire was also very highly regulated; 'in capitulary'<sup>1</sup> after capitulary, Charlemagne and his successors laid down detailed regulations for every aspect of economic, political and religious life throughout the empire'.) Germany's fluid frontiers; the special role of the Holy Roman Emperor as the secular half of a bicephalous [two headed] universal empire; the country's

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<sup>1</sup> "Formal decrees or chapters of legislation, that dealt with every aspect of Charlemagne's kingdom—not only education but also agriculture, coinage, taxation, road and bridge maintenance, industry and even morals of his subjects." *The Order of Rome* John Monroe

tardiness or even failure to achieve political existence as a nation; the unpolitical mentality which accompanied this—all these encouraged the Germans to think of their country as an embodiment of universal sovereignty. Therefore, it is significant that 'thinking in terms of Raum ('space' or 'area') has become common again in modern German reflection on Europe, albeit in a primarily economic context."

John Laughland *The Tainted Source* p. 137-8

A revived Holy Roman Empire! a new Holy European Empire! At its heart lies the Euro, for political and economic power go hand in hand.

### **The Euro**

A very readable book, *The Principality and Power of Europe—Britain and the emerging Holy European Empire*, was published in 1997. Written by Adrian Hilton it traces the German dream of leading the new empire, and the Vatican involvement in it. It is refreshingly written from a Protestant viewpoint.

#### **"'Thou art Euro, and on this Euro I will build Europe'**

"On 15<sup>th</sup> December 1995, the EU's leaders agreed that the intended single currency would be called the 'Euro'. The Spanish finance minister of the day, Pedro Solbes, made a play on Jesus' words to the Apostle Peter about building the Church by affirming that the Euro would be the very foundation of a united Europe. This remark needs evaluating in the context of the EU's past use of a poster of the Tower of Babel, over which the EU flag's circle of stars are displayed in the inverted form of a pentagram. It was used by the Council of Europe to promote 'European Construction'. These Biblical images and allusions are becoming more commonplace, though the symbolism and significance are often perverted." Adrian Hilton *TPPE* p. 113

We saw in *Milestones 1996* the new design for the Euro notes—drawings of bridges, windows, and doors. Adrian Hilton makes this observation:

"The subliminal message is obvious. Bridges span canyons, valleys and gulfs, enabling safe passage over turbulent waters or other obstacles and dangers. Doors open to new destinations, and close on the place of origin. Their opening permits a forward move while closing becomes a barrier to a backward step. Windows permit clear views; their transparency allows the observation of another location while being able to remain detached from the elements affecting that location. It is a wonderful example of art being used to convey a propaganda message: the bridges and doors communicate that the EU has a clear directional objective. It is about progress and forward momentum. The windows convey the impression of clarity and openness. Had the designers been willing to represent something nearer the truth, they would have designed bank notes displaying darkened tunnels,

distorting mirrors, brick walls, door bolts and padlocks."

Hilton *TPPE* p. 129

As well as a new monetary system, the emerging new Empire will need a new Emperor. The nearest claimant is the successor to the old Emperors—Otto von Habsburg. He is an active European member of Parliament. It was he who ejected Ian Paisley from the Parliamentary Buildings on the occasion of the Pope's speech to the European Parliament in 1988. Paisley held up a banner denouncing the Pope as Antichrist. Like the former Emperors, von Habsburg sprang to the defence of the Pope. He has ideas on a new Emperor.

"Otto von Habsburg favours an elected head of state for Europe—not an hereditary succession, but elected for life. The emergence of a new Holy Roman Emperor is immensely symbolic. Habsburg says:

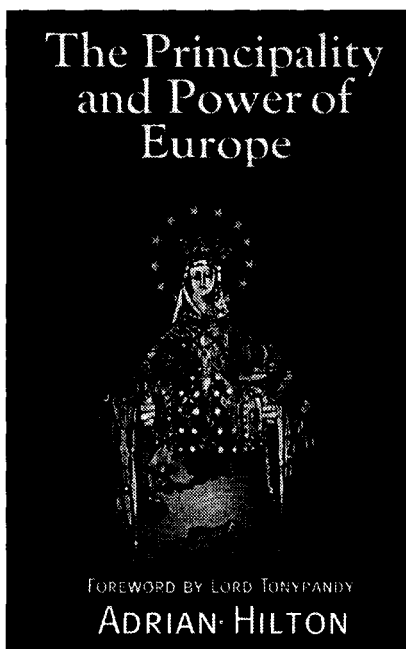
"Now we do possess a European symbol which belongs to all nations equally. This is the Crown of the Holy Roman Empire, which embodies the tradition of Charlemagne, ruler of a united Occident<sup>2</sup> ... the Crown represents not merely the sovereignty of the monarch, but also the ties between authority and the people. True, it is the monarch who is crowned, but in this sacred act he appears as the representative of the whole people. It should therefore be considered whether the European head of state, as the protector of the European law and justice, should not also become the guardian of a symbol which, more than any other, represents the sovereignty of the European community."

Hilton adds his comment:

"Who might this new head of state be? Delors? Santer? Kohl? It is more likely to be the Pope. The crown of the Holy Roman Empire would appear incongruous on the head of any other."

Hilton *The Principality & Power of Europe* p.144

The front cover of the book is a clever montage of Mary "Queen of Europe" from the "Window of Europe" in Strasbourg Cathedral, a map of Europe, and the 1000-



<sup>2</sup> *The West, as opposed to the Orient—the East*

year-old coronation crown of Otto "the Great". This crown has long been held as the symbol of the concept of European unity. Otto, the Saxon King of Germany, was crowned by Pope John XII in Rome in 962. It put Germany firmly in the seat of what would later be termed the Holy Roman Empire. My old Encyclopaedia Britannica has this interesting observation:

"The empire was less universal under Otto, its restorer, than under Charlemagne, but what it lacked in splendour it gained in stability. His object was not to make the state religious but the church political, and the clergy must first be officials of the king, and secondly members of an ecclesiastical order."  
*Otto I* Enc. Brit.

It was Otto who sent Adalbert to convert Russia. The crown is very beautiful and its purported symbolism interesting.

"The octagonal shape symbolizes the Heavenly Jerusalem; the bow or arch atop it signifies world dominion. The cross stands for Christ, the emperor in heaven, whose authority on earth is invested in the man who wears the crown".

John Monro *The order of Rome- Charlemagne and the Holy Roman Empire*

The last HRE emperor to wear it was the Austrian Emperor Francis II. His Empire fell in the outpouring of the 4<sup>th</sup> Vial (Rev. 16:8) under Napoleon. The crown is on display in Vienna. When will it be worn again?

### **EMU—the struggle to qualify**

These talks are now reaching a critical phase. The date for commitment is drawing close. According to the laid-down timetable the countries which are going to be in the first wave of members will be chosen by the European Council by the 30<sup>th</sup> May 1998. Membership will be voted upon, the bigger nations holding more votes. Each country will have to receive at least 26 votes out of the possible 87 to qualify. It is likely to be a bruising battle. At Germany's insistence the Maastricht Treaty laid down strict economic guidelines that have to be met before becoming eligible to join. At the moment no EU member meets all the criteria. It remains to see how much of a fudge is allowed.

Then on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1999 those participating countries lock themselves into the Euro at an agreed rate for each currency—an area fraught with problems!

Germany and France are still keen that Italy and Spain do not join—at least in the first wave. Greece is totally out of the running. Britain, Denmark and Sweden don't want to join. The fear is that the Euro will only be as strong as its weakest link. Throughout 1997 intending members were doing their best to painfully qualify. There is speculation

that Italy and Spain will be invited to join in the second wave. France is afraid that Italy will devalue if she has not been locked in at the start, giving Italy an economic advantage, and hitting French industry.

It has now "emerged" that there was more to EMU than had first been mentioned. It also involves harmonizing tax and social security policy!

"The staunchest advocates of European integration have always acknowledged that economics is merely the hand maiden of a new political order. In such a system national parliaments would become little more than rate-capped county councils, as in the words of Lord Tebbit.

"Indeed, the EU cannot hope to achieve monetary and interest rate stability unless and until fiscal policies are standardized." DT 17-1-97

### **The ECB—European Central Bank**

One of the tasks for the European Council in May will be to select the new head of the ECB. It will be one of the most important posts in Europe, because the ECB will be running the Euro and deciding on interest rates.

For most of the year everyone thought the job was a forgone conclusion for the Dutch banker Wim Duisenberg. Indeed he had taken out a long lease on a property near Frankfurt in readiness for this move. France stunned their colleagues, when in October, she insisted that the job should go to a Frenchman, Jean-Claude Trichet, the present head of the French central bank. The French have been unhappy that the Bank is to be in Germany. It is thought that this was their revenge! The matter is still to be resolved.

### **Britain sidelined**

In November, the Labour government announced that Britain would not join for at least the next five years. Because Britain's economic recovery is so far ahead of the rest of Europe, her economy is out of synchronization. The pound is strong, and to lock into the Euro at anything like the current rates would impose a very heavy burden. In the euro, Britain would have no ability to adjust interest rates. The much lower interest rates forced upon her would play havoc with her economic plans. So the time was declared not to be right to join. Now Britain being outside could lead to problems for those inside. With higher interest rates, she could prosper in her trading of the Euro!

Europe soon gave its answer to Britain's refusal to join in the near future. Britain was told that she couldn't have a seat on the "Euro-X", the informal "club" that will co-ordinate economic policy among those countries joining EMU. Membership was strictly for those who were likely to join. This led to an acrimonious dispute with France especially, and Blair was forced to concede defeat after accepting a compromise that

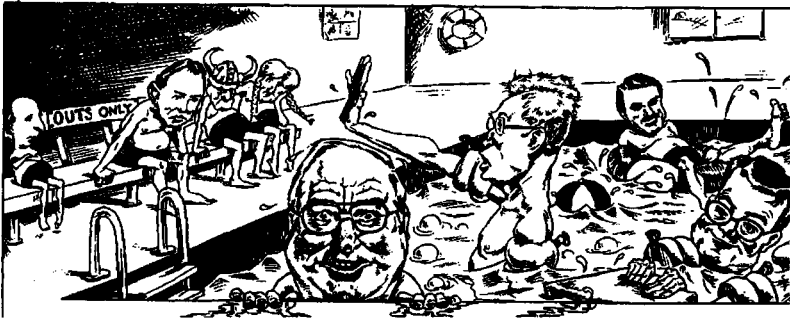
the non members would be asked to participate when matters of "common interest" were discussed. This term was not defined! The incident at the Luxembourg Summit led to Chancellor Kohl rebuking Tony Blair, telling him to be more respectful to the French! (DT 13-12; ST 14-12-97). The door has been firmly shut affecting Britain, Norway, Denmark and Greece.

What are the possible implications? This is what the *Economist* thought:

"...the Euro will immediately become so central to the EU that its members might easily slip into the habit of talking exclusively to each other, while forgetting the outs. This could be troubling because of the possible links between the single currency and the single market. It is not hard to conjure up a scenario where agreements on, say, tax harmonization or exchange-rate policy within the euro group start raising questions about full access of non-euro members to the single market.

"A second reason is that creating common policies, even informally, without consulting the interests of the out-countries may make it harder for them to join later.

"If the in-countries, consciously or not, make it harder for the outs to change their mind, the divisions may grow. Then it is not inconceivable that even EU membership itself might become an issue." EC 22-11-97



Excluded from the Euro-X Club *Economist* 22-11-97

## Chapter 8:

# BRITAIN'S NEW PRIME MINISTER

### *Introduction*

*The elections in May brought the Labour Party into power for the first time for 17 years! It was a stunning victory. John Major's Conservative Party performed dismally, amid a welter of sleazy cases and acrimonious splits over Europe.*

*What are we to make of this U turn? It has been a fascinating time, trying to see the way forward. In spite of Tony Blair's determination to put Britain at the heart of Europe, his continental partners see things with a more jaundiced eye. "The trouble with Labour is that they say they are with us and then they fight us like Britain always fights us." This was an EU diplomat's observation after the row on the Euro-X "club".*

*The beef situation has not improved—more battles lie ahead as the EU attempt to steam-roller all traces of Britishness out of Britain. The Euro Flag supplants or is flown in parallel with the Union Jack. British Passports are now replaced with EU ones. Driving licences are being harmonized—with the EU.*

*Then came the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. The country was, as it were, suspended for a week as it poured out its grief. Was this a chance event or was there a deeper reason?*

*The greatest test for the new government lies in the next six months as Britain takes up the presidency of the European Union.*

*Surprising details have emerged about Labour's policy towards the Commonwealth and Israel which might point to a new direction for Britain.*

### **A new confidence in Britain**

Over the past years the Labour party has been modernizing and shedding its image of "cloth caps and strikes". 'New Labour' has been their slogan. Having swept to power, the young Cabinet pushed ahead with many reforms which the Conservatives had not dared to do. With a big parliamentary majority they were able to do what they wanted. It brought a renewed spirit of optimism to the streets. Europe looked with interest at dealing with this assertive, energetic man. They were keen to be photographed standing with him! The honeymoon didn't last long.

"First, within a few days of the new government's formation, Robin Cook the Foreign Secretary, annoyed the Italians and Spanish by saying Britain was the third leading power in the EU, alongside Germany and France.

“Mr Blair then annoyed the French by declining to add his lustre to the election campaign of his nominal fellow Socialist, Lionel Jospin.

“At the Amsterdam summit in mid-June Mr Blair made the tactically dubious move of winning a bicycle race. In doing so his youthful energy reflected badly on the hefty Chancellor Kohl of Germany. In the summer, the French and the Germans tweaked Mr Blair back by teaming up with President Yeltsin to announce an annual three-way summit, from which Britain is excluded” DT 13-12-97

Then came the Europe-X disagreements. So the pattern of Anglo Saxon isolation from Europe continues. This does not affect “the man in the street”. He has generally seen his living standards raised. Unemployment, in contrast with the rest of Europe, continues to fall.

In January, Britain will take over the presidency of the EU for six months. It will be a testing time as the battles rage over who is going to be eligible for membership of the EMU. Mr Blair’s attempts to encourage Europe to modernize and take on a new image, fell like a damp squib, when in December he gathered the leaders at Waterloo Station. (An insensitive choice of place name!). His fresh ideas were scorned by the old hands of Europe.

Mr Blair also has a friend in Bill Clinton. Relationships with the USA are very good. When Saddam Hussein expelled the weapons inspectors in November, Britain, in contrast with Europe, was ready to back America’s desire to take military action.

### **New Labour—friends of Israel**

For some time there was little to indicate Labour’s policy towards Israel.

In *BIPAC* Briefing at the end of September was the first sign of friendship, with an account of a ministerial trade visit to Israel.

#### **“UK delegation studies infrastructure projects**

“British Transport Minister Gavin Strang last week led a 14-strong delegation of British businessmen to Israel to study joint venture possibilities and prospects for increased participation in Israeli projects.

“Strang was the first Labour government minister to visit Israel.

“Delegates expressed particular interest in participating in electricity projects and exploring opportunities for Britain’s private sector to provide infrastructure equipment to Israel.

“National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon outlined proposals for a \$200-million railway project to connect Haifa with the northern Jordanian city of Irbid.

“He also described a proposal to construct a \$500-million railway that will link the Israeli and Jordanian Dead Sea chemical plants with Eilat.



"In addition, Sharon discussed a water project and emphasized Israel's need to import liquefied natural gas.

"Bilateral trade between Israel and Britain expanded by 20%, to \$3.5 billion, over the past year, and is expected to total \$4 billion by the end of the year. Israel is the second largest regional exporter to Britain, after Saudi Arabia."

BIPAC 30-09-97

Then came a very interesting article in the *Australia/Israel Review* in October which shed a considerable light on the attitude of the Labour party to Israel.

### **"Labouring for Zion**

"There is no obvious reason why the tight knit, modernizing vanguard of the new Labour party should be resolutely Zionist, but it is. In the years before the Blair revolution, a pro-Israeli stance was an infallible admission test for the then exclusive sect of labour modernisers. And it remains so, at all levels of New Labour. The most senior figures, Tony Blair, Peter Mandelson and Gordon Brown, are all noted Zionists, the most Jewish of the three (Mr Mandelson) being the least strongly so. These three seminally modern figures also provide a good illustration of the fact that New Labour Zionism being not particularly Jewish, but very often quite Christian. At the apparatchik [party activist] level too, the leading operators in Downing Street and Whitehall have very different philosophical outlooks on many issues pertinent to the modernizing project, but they share a common position on Israel. Senior New Labour insiders I talked to last week could not name a single one of their number who takes the Palestinian view of the ancient argument. Many had never realized that they are all Zionists, and very few would admit in public that they favour one side over the other, but on reflection they all agreed that it is true.

"...those apparently more sympathetic to the Palestinian side are always Old Labour. Tony Blair, on the other hand, joined the LFI [Labour Friends of Israel] as soon as he was elected to Parliament in 1983, when it was a deeply unpopular, politically incorrect club to belong to. LFI is now a very powerful lobby indeed within New Labour."

Sion Simon (writes for *The Spectator*) *Australia/Israel Review* 23-10-97

What a reversal after many long years of siding with the Arab nations to find Britain again favouring the Jewish nation.

After the May elections there were 13 Jewish members of the Labour party, 6 Conservatives and one Liberal Democrat.

In March, President Weizman paid an historic three-day state visit to Britain. "A good indication of the excellent state of Israeli-British relations today" (JP 8-3-97). *The Times* carried an editorial headed "Natural allies". This was followed by a short visit by Benjamin

Netanyahu in November. He was on his way to the United States and he had talks with Tony Blair.

### **The Commonwealth—they are knocking on the door!**

It is equally interesting to see Labour's commitment to the Commonwealth. Before the election, the *Export Times* interviewed both Conservative and Labour trade ministers. No mention was made of the Commonwealth by the Conservative. However it formed the centrepiece of Labour's plans.

"The keynote is internationalism. 'We want to make better use of the UK's overseas assets. The Commonwealth, the British Council and the BBC World Service could all strengthen our efforts abroad, but they are currently under-utilised'.

"A Labour government would look for closer contacts with Commonwealth partners on economic matters, using the Commonwealth conference in trade and investment to be held in London this autumn as a starting point."

*Export Times March 97*

Before the elections, on March 10<sup>th</sup>— Commonwealth Day, the *Daily Telegraph* ran a strong appeal for Britain to give a new impetus to the Commonwealth. It was headed **Our common weal** [prosperity or well-being]

"But the Commonwealth exists—with Britain at its heart. No other European power has access to it or to anything comparable with it in terms of economic potential. To be part of Europe *and* of the Commonwealth provides this country with a unique standing. Through the Commonwealth we export our language and our legal system. Through the Commonwealth we can work for the liberal trade access which developing countries need to energize their economies.

"And through the Commonwealth, we can exercise an influence compatible with our historic and contemporary strengths which no other European country can do...What matters is that Britain should give new impetus to the Commonwealth. By so doing, Britain could revive a relationship with the potential to equal, without rivaling, our relationship with Europe."

Algy Cluff DT 10-3-97

This is what has happened. 1997 was the turn of Britain to host the bi-annual Commonwealth Conference, where all the Heads of States of its members meet. Mr Blair used the occasion to modernize its image, sweeping away old traditions. He presented an upbeat, vibrant picture of Britain today. The agenda for the conference was "trade, investment and development: the road to Commonwealth prosperity." The Queen normally plays a backstage role, only addressing everyone at the concluding State Banquet. This year, to reflect the new image, she addressed the meeting proper. Included was a specially made video of her life.

“As the Queen finished her speech to enthusiastic clapping, any thought that her leadership of the Commonwealth might be in question seemed risible.”

DT 25-10-97

The Commonwealth has been described as -

“‘a global subsystem’. This is an apt description of an association that contains almost one-third of the countries of the world and nearly one-third its population. Moreover, between them, the Commonwealth member states belong to 22 regional organizations and are drawn from every continent. In an increasingly globalised economy, this unique combination of regional and trans-regional connections provides an ideal base for launching successful strategies for investment, trade and development.”

*Commonwealth Currents* Issue 3 97

And as our heading indicates, there are many new members knocking on the door for admittance. No longer is it a necessary criteria that Britain once ruled over the country seeking membership. The list of current applicants is interesting. Israel, the PLO, Jordan, Yemen, Rwanda and there is even talk of Ireland. The Palestinians have been told that they must first become a sovereign country. No progress has yet been reported on the Israeli or other applications. It is a exciting prospect, that Britain could once again be playing a major role in the affairs of the Middle East.

### **The death of Diana**

At the end of August, the world was stunned by the death in a car accident of Diana, Princess of Wales. It brought Britain to a virtual standstill in an unprecedented outpouring of grief. Great carpets of flowers were laid in front of the palaces.

We are left to speculate on whether this was merely the tragic end of a lifestyle in the fast lane, or whether it will, with the passage of time, be seen as a turning point in Britain's history. Her involvement with the rich Dodi Fayed was potentially full of problems. He was a Muslim, and his father was unpopular with the leadership for his alleged misdeeds—he has for many years been refused a British Passport. The changed situation makes it less likely that Prince Charles will marry again; the public would see it as a betrayal of Diana's work in bringing up the children. It also means that Charles has a greater responsibility to spend time with his boys. This makes it less likely that the Queen will want to give up her position as monarch to Charles. We have looked for there to be a Queen on the throne at Christ's return so that, after the type of the Queen of Sheba, she can pay her respects to the greater than Solomon. Or as the Psalmist said:

*And the daughter of Tyre shall be there with a gift; even the rich among the people shall intreat thy favour.*

Psalm 45:12

This year's events perhaps will ensure her remaining to that day.

It has also hastened the process of modernizing the Monarchy. Reforms have already been announced to make it more modern and more accountable. The Queen some years ago agreed to pay income tax on her earnings and investments.

Will it too have an effect on the attitude of the British people? Diana's care for the disadvantaged was obvious to all; in some way this may affect a nation who at the moment seems to be set on self satisfaction.

Certainly as we end the year the monarchy has been strengthened by the events of the past few months. The nation has largely united behind the Queen. The standing of the monarchy has not been so high for many years.

The *European* had this comment—made shortly after Diana's death.

#### **"Farewell Diana, hello new Britain**

"Britain has entered a new era: 1997 will prove a turning point, perhaps the country's most important year since the Second World War. Two events—the landslide Labour victory of Tony Blair, and the extraordinary popular response to the death of Diana, Princess of Wales—are destined to change the course of its history.

"Until this moment, Britain's self image and psychology has been defined by its past rather than its present. It has spent the past half-century trying to find a new identity and for the most part has been unsuccessful. Finally with the death of a princess, it has found the confidence to break with the past."

TE 11-09-97

He continued the article, writing of the empathy that Diana evoked in her struggles against the establishment, her sympathy and compassion and giving a different set of values from the seeming uncaring establishment—"a floral revolution" he termed it. This, together with the changes brought by the new government and those the author foresaw in the updating of the monarchy, would change the image of Britain.

We recognize that above all are the hands of the angels, guiding events to the pre-determined end. We have long waited for a better spirit in Britain, in preparation for her role in assisting the Lord Jesus at his return. Perhaps we shall look to the events of this year for start of a new era for Britain.

The outpouring of grief was a pointer to the great day of sorrow for Israel, when they will see their Messiah and realize that he is none other than the rejected Lord Jesus. Zechariah 12 indicates a heart rending grief at the realization of their blindness for 2,000 years.

#### **The Queen**

This year the Queen paid a State visit to Canada in celebration of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the landing of the *Mayflower*. Then, in October she

paid a state visit to Pakistan and India. Normally these trips go without a hitch, but this one was dogged with difficulties. The broad details had been made under the previous government, the finer details by the new one, which lacked experience in these things. Nevertheless, like the Canada trip, it cemented a renewal of ties with her former colonies. Later, at the Commonwealth Conference, the Indian Prime Minister went out of his way to show that he had been very satisfied with her visit. As we shall see in chapter 10, these three way links with Britain and India, Britain and Israel, and Israel and India, make the Bible student's heart beat faster.

This November marked the Queen and Prince Phillip's golden wedding anniversary. Mr Blair—her 10<sup>th</sup> Prime Minister—bore tribute to her devotion to duty. She was “unstuffy, unfussy and unfazed by anything”, a model of dignity and wisdom who represented the “best of British”. He assured her that the Royal Family was integral to his vision of a “new Britain”. She acknowledged the need to modernize and to correctly read the people's wishes (DT 21-11-97).

In January 1998, a new Lord Chamberlain takes over—Lord Camoys. He is the head of the Queen's household—as it were chairman of the board. He is one of Britain's leading Catholic laymen.

“The Duchess of Kent made public her conversion to Catholicism by taking Mass at Camoys's private chapel. Camoys's own appointment in 1992 as a Lord in Waiting to the Queen was confirmation that adherence to the old faith was no obstacle to Royal acceptance.”

ST 28-12-97

He is an able businessman and well qualified to modernize the monarchy; let's hope that the Queen's Protestant position is not compromised. Men like him are so valuable to the Roman church as they can work quietly behind the scenes.

## **Chapter 9:**

# **BRITAIN'S GROWING PROSPERITY**

### ***Introduction***

*This is a brief up-date of matters which have been considered in greater depth in previous years. Britain continues to meet the requirements for a latter-day Tyrian/Tarshish power who is a main player on the world's economic stage.*

### **The Tyrian/Tarshish power**

Ezekiel 27 describes a city who was host to a multitude of traders from around the then known world. Britain today fits this mould. She has many attractions for overseas investors and businessmen.

“Out of a unique convergence of history, culture, outlook and language—the defining four pillars of our national circumstances—we are now one of the most open and interconnected economies of the world.”  
ST 7-9-97

She has an excellent infrastructure, high productivity, low taxation and social costs, excellent communications systems, a widely spoken language and a stable political background. Add to these its banking and insurance and transporting provisions, and one can see why Britain is the envy of her continental partners. For the ever growing electronics industry, Britain's research facilities has attracted even high level American firms. Success breeds success. In this age of holding minimum stocks, manufacturers look for their suppliers to set up factories close by and supply items ‘just in time’. The inward investment in car manufacturing has brought with it a whole range of allied suppliers.

Britain is top of the Group of Seven in attracting inward direct investment. Even the EU invests heavily:

### **“Europe's wallet backs Britain**

“Brussels thunders at our flexibility and low employment costs while Europe votes massively with its corporate wallet for Britain.”  
DT 21-12-97

### **Her growing strength and confidence**

Her total gross stock of overseas assets is now a record £1,666bn, the second largest asset pile in the world. It earned an income of £96bn, a figure that has more than doubled in the past 10 years (ST 7-9-97).

Under the headline **The Golden City**, the Sunday Telegraph ran this story on London.

"Something fantastic is happening to London. Across the skyline spreads a golden glow. On every economic measure that matters, records are being smashed.

"Whether it is income, gross domestic product, business growth, house prices, investment, international attractiveness or commercial property, the capital is in the grip of a boom unrivaled since the turn of the century. . ."

ST 12-10-97

The *Time* magazine ran a report entitled **New Island in the Sun**. It summarised the article with these words:

"In the doldrums and on the defence just a few years ago, go-getting Britain stands today as a model of recovery and, strange to say, self-assurance."

*Time* 27-10-97

Another *Time* article, dealing with the new electronic trading system that the London Stock Exchange has installed to keep its world position, had this to say about the City of London:

"Today London has a global financial clout out of all proportion to Britain's modest commercial and industrial strength. London is also the closest approximation there is to a global banking centre"

*Time* 27-10-97

### **Britain's navy**

After years of a shrinking merchant navy, it was interesting to read a glowing report of her Royal Navy.

"Royal Navy proves it is still a world force

"More than 20 Royal Navy ships including an aircraft carrier and two nuclear submarines, are taking part in the largest demonstration of British naval power east of Suez for 30 years.

"Lasting seven months, the deployment confirms Britain with the United States as the only nation capable of global operations. Russia is too broke and France too poorly equipped."

DT 20-3-97

### **Britain and the Middle East**

Prince Charles visited Saudi Arabia in March to a rapturous welcome.

"The warmth of his welcome was extraordinary. The extent to which the Prince is admired—even to the point of hero-worship—has not yet sunk into the consciousness of the British public. The Charles of Arabia phenomenon is here to stay. No other Western figure commands this sort of admiration. The consequences for British standing in the Arab and Muslim world are incalculable. The Arabic term used in the speech of welcome about Britain translates as 'a brother country'—words used only for other states of the Arab world."

DT 8-3-97

## **Chapter 10:**

# **ISRAEL'S GROWTH—A BETTER YEAR**

### **Introduction**

*After a difficult year economically in 1996, 1997 proved much better. Attracting investment from around the world, Israeli skills were in high demand. We briefly look at some of the highlights in the year.*

### **Israel's economy**

Israel has been ranked with the tiger economies of the Far East. We have witnessed their rapid demise as their stock markets plunged and plunged. Israel's trade will, like most countries of the world, be affected by the problems in the Far East, but her economy is much more soundly based. Unlike the countries in trouble, Israel has a truly democratic government, an independent central Bank, sophisticated and reliable local capital markets. These things, said an independent economist at the IMF (International Monetary Fund), ensures Israel's stability. Israel used to be on the IMF list of sick economies—not any more! The head economist at the IMF declared that "Israel is doing pretty well right now." Their forecasts for next year are optimistic (BIPAC 15-10-97).

Mr Netanyahu has been implementing tough economic reforms, which are bringing results. He is keen to privatise state industries—a path which Britain took with great success. Transportation and communications are the next field to be opened up. So far the privatisations already carried through have yielded greater than expected revenue.

### **Britain, India and Israel**

We mentioned in chapter 8 the trade visit to Israel by British businessmen, looking at investment potential in Israel's growing infrastructure. There are many links between the two countries. In November, Natan Sharansky, who languished in Soviet jails for his dissident and Zionist views, but is now a key Israeli cabinet minister, led a trade mission to Britain. He brought with him dozens of leading Israeli businessmen.

To coincide with the 1998 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel, an "All British Consumer Goods Show" is scheduled in Tel Aviv in May—for the first time.

Many Israeli firms are seeking listings on the London stock markets.

### **"Israel turns to London for its financial future**

"Israel is beating its swords into shares, not ploughshares. As the peace in the region continues to hold, a growing number of small but rapidly expanding Israeli technology companies are being floated on London stock markets to raise funds.



"It is the peace process that is the driving force behind the trend of companies doing well over there wanting to come over here. Brian Cohen, director-general of the Israel-Britain Business council, says: 'The peace process led to a dramatic reduction in defence spending releasing people with ability. They have taken their knowledge and applied it to peaceful times'... In April the IMF is set to reclassify Israel from a developing nation to an industrialised one. Last year its gross domestic product was \$95bn, which compares with \$85bn in 1995. Mature markets in the East and West are ploughing billions into the country."

ST 23-2-97

In October, Israel's largest bank was set to raise \$600m on the London Stock Exchange. Many high-tech young Israeli companies are turning to Britain for partners to help move their ideas forward.

"British host companies and subsidiaries of multinationals declared themselves impressed with the quality of the Israeli technology and supporting consultants."

BIPAC 30-07-97

ICI has said it wants to "invest millions of dollars" in Israel. Richard Branson, the British entrepreneur is examining investing in joint Israeli/Jordanian tourist projects. (BIPAC 17-12-97)

Britain's trade with Israel is growing at an impressive rate. Israel's trade with India is growing at an equally fast rate. She has the know-how to provide farming systems to feed the rapidly growing population. Earlier this year, President Weizman paid his first State visit to India. He took with him a team of 25 leading industrialists. Trade between the two countries in 1996 was \$600 million and it is expected to increase 5-fold to reach \$3bn within the next three years. "The state visit has created the climate for a blossoming of ties." India is also interested in purchasing defence equipment from Israel, and Israel is looking to upgrade India's MIG 21 fighters—an area in which Israel has become adept with the immigration of former Soviet aircraft designers and technicians (JP 11-1-97). Shortly after the visit, a \$100 million order for electronic warfare systems was announced (BIPAC 2-2-97). Later it was announced that India had purchased military attack boats and was going to build more in India under licence. It was also negotiating with Israel to buy missile technology to improve its own developments in missile construction. It was also revealed that during the State visit, Israel and India had signed an agreement to increase bilateral defence cooperation. *Jayne's Defence Weekly* was quoted as saying military ties with Israel are expected to grow (BIPAC 28-5-97). Defence cooperation marks an interesting step between the two countries. As one of the "young lions", India will be on Israel's side.

There is a third link that makes a triangle. That is Britain's trade with India. After years of decline, British companies are making headway with India again. Investments have risen by 50% over the past few years. Two-

way trade is worth more than £3bn, and Britain is India's 3<sup>rd</sup> largest supplier. The Queen's state visit strengthened many old ties.

It makes the words of Bro. Thomas, written 150 years ago, remarkably prophetic. From Scripture he was able to see, at a time when a "State of Israel" was far away, the links between Britain, Israel and India. Few would have anticipated their fulfillment 50 years ago, or even 25 years ago, or even 10 years ago!

"[The Jews] will emigrate thither [Israel] as agriculturalists and traders, in the hope of ultimately establishing their commonwealth, but more immediately of getting rich in silver and gold by commerce with India, and in cattle and goods by their industry at home under the effective protection of the British power." *John Thomas Elpis Israel*

Israel's exports in 1997 are set to increase by 10% to \$16bn. One third of these will be from the high-tech sector (JP 22-11-97). She is become a magnet for high tech investments, in fact she is second only to the US for attracting venture capital. Foreign investment is thought to be in the region of \$3bn this year. Israel has the highest per capita concentration of scientists and engineers in the world and, with 2,000 high-tech companies, is regarded as a centre for innovation. Mr Netanyahu remarked:

"Israel has brilliant minds in technology and science, the kind of intellectual treasures which enable the People of the Book to be also the People of the Disc—and of software, telecommunications and lasers." *BIPAC 26-11-97*

There is such a shortage of software engineers, and salaries in Israel are now so high, that they are attracting back to Israel engineers who had emigrated to America. It is also recruiting programmers from India, Egypt and Jordan. JP 4-10; 13-12-97

### **Israel and Jordan**

Although the peace process has not brought the expected trade with her neighbours, yet 1997 has seen several trade linkages, especially with Jordan.

In January, the Israelis held their first trade fair in Amman. Some 62 firms exhibited high-tech products, clothing, food supplies and medical supplies. There were protests from Moslem fundamentalists who organised protest rallies (JP 18-1-97).

In July both countries held joint military excises, relations between the military are very warm. Israel's botched attempt in September to assassinate a Hamas leader on the streets of Amman did lead to a rift. Both sides worked hard to minimise the harm.

The so called "Peace Airport" was opened in October. It straddles the common Israeli-Jordanian border close to Eilat and Akaba. It is jointly run by the two countries. It will handle domestic and European flights and

hopefully later flights from further afield (BIPAC 15-10; JP 22-11-97). The next joint project is a “Las Vegas-like” tourism and industrial centre, again straddling the border near to the airport (JP 1-11-97).

Many of the younger generation of Arabs are quietly doing business with Israel. Her trade with the Moslem countries of Jordan, Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, Mauritania, Oman and the Emirate States grew to \$54 million during the 1<sup>st</sup> half of 1997, compared with \$47 million in the same period in 1996. That was with official exports! A wide range of Israeli goods are badged with another country of origin and also sold into many Arab states! (JP 29-11; BIPAC 26-9-97; Bank Hapoalim).

### **Her defence industry**

With the fall of the Berlin wall and the comparative lack of aggressive threats in Europe, arms manufacturers around the world are finding new markets. Nearly half the weaponry purchased is going to the Middle East and North Africa. Defence sales are booming for Israel—she is the fifth largest arms supplier in the world, behind the US, Britain, France and Russia. Her sophisticated weaponry is what modern defence forces need. Defence sales are expected to be \$1.7bn in 1997 and \$2bn in 1998. She has won contracts this year to modernise armies around the world—among them, Poland, Switzerland, Holland, Italy, Spain, Brazil, the US, India.

America is finding herself competing head-on with Israel, and losing some of the battles! Israel won an estimated \$650 million upgrade to Poland's Huzar helicopters. America had threatened that Poland's NATO application was under review if she didn't buy from the States! (JP 1-11-97).

She is working with America developing the Arrow anti-ballistic missile. With the growing threat to Israel of missiles, this project has taken on a degree of urgency. It is hoped to have the first missiles in place by 1999.

### **Israel and Turkey**

We look at the remarkable cooperation between these two countries, and its serious implications for Middle East peace in more detail in chapter 12.

### **Oil**

The largest joint Israeli-Egyptian project is well under way. It is the construction of a \$1.3bn refinery at Alexandria. When finished it should produce 5 million tonnes of crude oil a year—two and a half times the amount that Israel currently imports from Egypt.

Gazprom, Russia's gas producer, is in talks about the possibility of supplying natural gas.

Then in the last issue of the *Jerusalem Post* for 1997 came a tantalising report of a new find of oil in Israel. Only 1% of Israel's gas and oil needs come from wells in Israel, in spite of being surrounded by oil-rich-countries. Givot Olam, a Russian immigrant, has assembled a team of Russian immigrant oil experts and, based upon Moses' blessing of Joseph (**Deut. 33:13, 15**) is looking for *the precious things of the [ever]lasting hills* in Joseph's territory. He named his company Givot Olam—the Hebrew for *everlasting hills*. He claims to have found a reservoir containing 1bn barrels of recoverable oil at Rosh Ha'ayin in northern Israel. First tests show it to match the oil from Syria and other parts of the large Middle Eastern oilfield. He has only found a small amount—he is hoping his next hole will hit the main reservoir. We await further news!

### **Israel's population**

The population continues to rise, and is now at 5,863,000. Of these 4,702,200 (80.2%) are Jews; 872,000 (14.9%) Muslims; 190,000 (3.2%) Christians and 100,000 (1.7%) Druze and others (JP 11-10-97).

In spite of all the tensions, Israel is a good place to live, boasting the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest life expectancy in the world for men (behind Japan and Sweden). For women they rank 17<sup>th</sup> in the world. Taking a basket of health indicators Israel was deemed the 2<sup>nd</sup> healthiest country in the world, beaten by Sweden (JP 17-5; 16-8-97).

Israel ranks among the world's most densely populated nations. With 268 people/km it is more densely populated than India, and fast approaching Japan. It is estimated that in a few years Israel will be more crowded than Europe's most densely populated nations, Belgium and the Netherlands. If one subtracts the sparsely inhabited Negev, then Israel already exceeds them! (JP 11-1-97). This has serious implications for water demands; Israel is looking at many alternatives to increase the available water, and to recycle every last drop.

## Chapter 11:

# ISRAEL FEARS FOR THE FUTURE

### Introduction

*Recently a mood of pessimism has been overtaking Israel. It has given up territory to the Palestinians, and feels that it has had little back in return. Terrorist attacks are still being experienced. Is the pain of giving up valuable land to the PLO ever going to be balanced by the achievement of the peace that is so longed for? Even her friend, America, has been critical of Israel's peace efforts. On top of this are reports of the speed at which the Middle East is re-arming. The sophistication of these weapons is such that no-where in Israel is safe from missile attack.*

*Then came the news that Saddam Hussein was much further down the road to having nuclear weapons than had earlier been thought. Israel does feel she has her back against the wall.*

*What are the implications for us as we look for peace and prosperity, the dwelling safely that Ezekiel pictures? Are our expectations wrong? No! That situation will surely come—we look in chapter 15 at a possible scenario that will bring this about. We have the prosperity—we await the peace. Let's review the year as far as Israel is concerned.*

### A year of terrorism

- **January 1997:** Double bombing in Tel Aviv 13 injured.
- **March:** Suicide bomber kills 3 in Tel Aviv cafe, injures 46.
- **March:** 7 schoolchildren shot on trip to Jordan.
- **July:** 2 suicide bombers in Jerusalem market, 15 killed, 170 wounded.
- **August:** 3 suicide bombers in Jerusalem kill 4, injure 192.

Israeli troops have also suffered many casualties in southern Lebanon. In addition there was a disastrous collision between two helicopters killing 73 troops. One can well understand the pressure for peace to bring an end to this suffering. The failure of President Arafat to stem the flow of Hamas violence causes deep concern to Israel. The Palestinians have not complied with the terms of the Oslo Agreement to amend the Palestinian Covenant to remove the section which calls for the destruction of Israel. Arafat continues to speak in inflammatory terms against the State of Israel. The peace process is understandably only crawling along under these difficult circumstances.

### **The Peace Talks' faltering steps**

Israeli troops handed over Hebron to the PLO in late January. This was the last of the 8 main towns that had been agreed to be handed back under Oslo II. It had taken a year to sort out matters here. There is a large Jewish quarter and there was much argument as to how much territory Israel would retain. The second stage of the Oslo II agreement involves a further hand back of territories in two more stages—the amount was not specified in the Agreement. Talks this year have concentrated on this aspect. There has been little progress. In March Israel proposed a pull-back from 9% of the territories. This was immediately rejected by the Palestinians as being far too small. To the background of the violence we have already noted, the discussions dragged on. It has proved very difficult for Israel to decide on how much territory to concede. It has to be sufficient to satisfy the Palestinians without upsetting the Israelis. The problem is that there are many Jewish settlements scattered across the West Bank. These would become isolated pockets within the Palestinian area. To what extent Israel abandons these is the heart-searching dilemma. (JP 27-12-97).

America has been pressurising Israel for their proposals. With the Israeli government unable to agree among themselves, Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu has postponed several times a visit to America to discuss these maps with President Clinton. The latest talk is of a visit mid January 1998." (JP 27-12-97).

A poll conducted in December showed that the majority of Israelis accepted the need for territorial compromise in exchange for peace. It also indicated that the majority favoured US involvement in the peace talks (JP 27-12-97).

Britain, meanwhile warned that it would be exerting intense pressure on Israel "to be more forthcoming in the peace process" when Britain takes over the EU presidency in January 1998 (JP 27-12-97).

Beyond these talks lies the 3<sup>rd</sup> phase—that of the status of Jerusalem. Mr Netanyahu had earlier in the year hoped to accelerate these talks and roll them into the territories talks, but this seems to have been quietly forgotten.

### **The re-arming of the Middle East—Russia's involvement**

One very worrying aspect for the Israelis is the rapid growth in the supply of weapons to Middle East countries. Saudi Arabia purchased \$9bn worth of arms in 1996 and Egypt \$2.3bn. Israel herself and Turkey bought around \$1bn. Total known Middle East sales were over \$15bn. Saudi's total defence budget was thought to be around \$17bn in 1996 and is expected to be the same in 1997.

**Iraq.** The purchases by Saddam Hussein are shrouded in secrecy. He has been very effective in concealing his arms manufacturing capabilities,

keeping one step ahead of the UN weapons inspectors. At one stage in November he expelled them, and it was touch and go whether America and Britain would retaliate. The Russian Foreign Minister, Mr Primakov, brokered a deal and they were eventually readmitted after a few tense weeks. This probably gave Saddam enough time to move equipment on!

Several British firms have allegedly been covertly targeted to supply the necessary equipment to manufacture Scud missiles and tanks. Under the terms of the UN resolutions at the end of the Gulf War, Iraq was forbidden to make these missiles, but is thought to be close to being able to make them (BIPAC 29-1-97).

Saddam appears to be busy making fearsome chemical and biological weapons, as well as pressing ahead with making nuclear weapons. In an incident in November, when guards were reputed to be moving secret chemical weapons from possible detection by the inspectors, there was an accident and at least 8 Iraqi Guards were killed and 120 injured (DT 16-11-97).

**Syria.** In September it was reported that Damascus was on the brink of signing a \$3bn arms deal with Russia that would be financed by Iran and Saudi Arabia. The scope of the deal would cover the purchase of around 48 MiG-29 planes, up to 24 interceptor fighter planes, new surface-to-air missiles, upgrading equipment on existing tanks, and the supply of up to 300 new ones.

President Assad saw the effectiveness of Saddam's policy of using missiles in the Gulf War, and has been concentrating his efforts on upgrading his missile facilities. Many bunkers have been built to accommodate missile launching trucks, which can move away to a new bunker after firing.

**Iran.** Russia is continuing to pour massive aid into Iran's missile programme. Hundreds of Russian scientists are helping to develop a missile with a range of 1,500 km, which could therefore reach any part of Israel. It will be capable of carrying chemical as well as nuclear warheads. It is estimated to be only 3 years away from test launch (JP 3-5-97). This was revised to two years in July in the light of the Russian help, and then to 18 months in October.

"The fact that Iran will have long-range missiles within two years represents a significant shift in Israel's strategic predicament."

BIPAC 9-7-97

Iran is thought to be also working on missiles with a range of 4,500 to 10,000 km—able to reach the east coast of America! (JP 11-10-97).

Iran has supplied Hizbollah with improved Katyusha rockets for use in Lebanon. These now have a range of 40 km compared with the standard rocket's range of 22 km. This will bring many more areas of northern Israel within range (JP 30-8-97).

Still more worrying not only to Israel but other Gulf States, is that Iran is working on chemical, biological and nuclear warheads for these missiles, according to Israeli intelligence sources. Russia is supplying the know-how. Israel is pressurising America to act before it is too late.

America has agreed to increase its military help to Israel. Congress approved additional funding for the Arrow project, a matter which has taken on a greater importance in view of the missile threat Israel now faces. It also agreed to contribute some \$25 million more to Israeli counter terrorism research. The American Defence Secretary has also agreed to the stockpiling of weapons and ammunition in Israel which Israel could use in an emergency. America confirmed its commitment to maintain Israel's qualitative edge and to "provide for adequate readiness" (JP 12-4-97).

### **The Vatican, Israel and the Palestinians**

It was at the end of 1993 that the Vatican and Israel signed an accord. (*Milestones* 1994 page 48). The Vatican committed itself to fighting anti-Semitism, and Israel recognised the Vatican's right to run monasteries, schools and other religious institutions. Behind the move was Israel's recognition of the part that the Vatican could play over the control of the many religious sites in Jerusalem. Israel has continued with the situation that she found in 1967 on taking over Jerusalem, allowing a freedom of worship for all faiths which her Arab neighbours do not show.

The 1993 accord legitimised the position regarding the Roman Church and gave recognition to the Vatican's claims to various sites. The Vatican does have a conflict of interest. One must remember that the majority of Roman Catholics in Israel and the Middle East are Arabs, converts from Islam. Very few are Jewish. They therefore share with their Moslem neighbours a distrust of Israel and a desire to see Israel removed. In 1995 Yasser Arafat and his wife (who was a Catholic before becoming a Muslim) were invited to attend a Roman Catholic Mass in the newly handed-over town of Bethlehem. This is why it has taken the Vatican so long to recognise Israel. But the step of recognition has put the Vatican in a strong position to play a role in the future destiny of Jerusalem.

Mr Netanyahu visited the Pope in February. Discussions centred around the issue of the official status of Jerusalem. The Vatican does not recognise Israel's political claim to Jerusalem as its "united and eternal capital". The Pope was invited to visit Israel "as soon as possible" without waiting for the Millennium (CH 7-2-97).

They must also have discussed the upgrading of the relationships between the two countries, for in November the Vatican-Israel links were strengthened with the signing of a Concordat. It was a development of the *Fundamental Agreement* signed in 1994. This new agreement is entitled *Legal Personality Agreement*. In the seemingly dry piece of writing, I



believe is the seedbed for the Vatican's "excuse" for joining forces to come against Israel!

"It provides for the full recognition, with all civil effects within the scope of Israeli legislation, of moral and juridical<sup>1</sup> persons where ever they are established by the authorities of the Catholic Church in accordance with canon law and operating within that scope. Among these moral and juridical persons are Patriarchs, Dioceses, monasteries, religious institutes...The text of the Agreement consists of 13 articles with an *annex* listing ecclesiastical moral and juridical persons and an appendix, called the *Schedule*, which makes several provisions and establishes particular procedures **for the recognition of any new moral and juridical persons to be created by the Catholic Church in the future, and for the suppression or merger of others.**"

LOR 19-11-97

This appears to put the Vatican in a strong position.

"..behind these seemingly technical agreements lie sensitive political issues. The Vatican is being granted formal recognition of its stake in the Holy Land, in exchange for its acceptance of Israel's sovereignty.

"The new document is being seen in Rome as a major agreement in its own right, to guarantee the presence and the freedom of activity of the Catholic Church in Israel. Until now, this was guaranteed only by way of traditional rights acquired during the time of the Ottoman Empire.

"The deal stipulates that Israel will recognise the Holy See as the supreme authority of the Catholic Church. It will allow Vatican and Orthodox representatives to create new diocese in Israel and confers legal status on religious orders and other Church institutions working in the country."

DT 10-11; 11-11-97

The next stage is to negotiate issues of taxation and subsidies of Church groups.

When the Elijah work takes place, it will fairly certainly lead to anti-christian feelings. The Vatican now has the legal status to intervene to defend its legal property, and to appoint or **to suppress** 'moral and juridical persons'.

### **Jerusalem—the stone of stumbling**

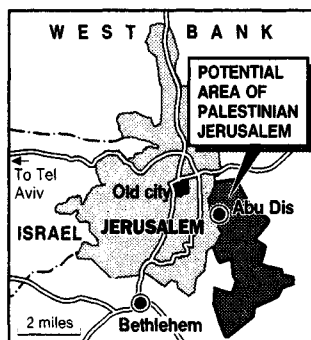
Tensions mounted between the Jews and the Arabs over the plans to extend the ring of Israeli settlements around Jerusalem by going ahead with the Har Homa building project. The UN condemned the scheme, which had been planned by the previous government. Benyamin Netanyahu is determined to move ahead with the establishment of 6,500 new houses here, for both Jews and Arabs. It is presented in the media as being in "Arab east Jerusalem", and on Arab land. It is in fact located in the southern part of the city, near Kibbutz Ramat Rahel, and entirely

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<sup>1</sup> = juridical. "Of or relating to law or the administration of justice" Dict

within the Israeli controlled Jerusalem municipal boundary. The land has been expropriated by the State as normally happens around the city, three-quarters of it has been expropriated from Jewish owners, and only one-quarter from the Arabs" (BIPAC 5-3-97).

It is part of a project to build 20,000 new housing units for Jews and 8,500 for Arabs, reflecting the ratio of Jew and Arab today in the city. Jerusalem is experiencing a rapid expansion. Its current population of 500,000 is forecast to increase to 800,000 within the next few years—a staggering 60% increase! Israel is also busy improving the road systems to reduce traffic congestion. It is advancing plans to provide an eastern ring road to enable Arabs in the north to travel to Arabs in the south, avoiding the city. Steps are being taken to improve the conditions of drainage, water etc. in the existing Arab areas (BIPAC 5/3/97).



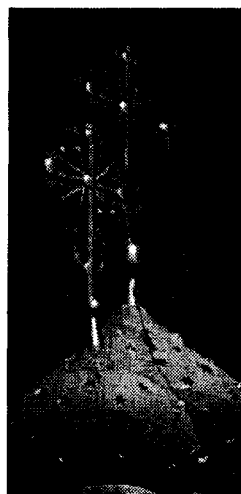
The final status talks on the future of Jerusalem were scheduled to start in the summer and run on until 1999. As we have mentioned, these talks are on hold for the time being. One of the possibilities that has been floated is for the Palestinians to establish their capital to the east of the city, outside the municipal boundary of Jerusalem, but in sight of the Dome of the Rock. It would provide an interesting solution as it is hard to see that the Israelis would agree to any division of Jerusalem itself (DT 23-5-97).

## Chapter 12:

# ISRAEL, TURKEY, RUSSIA & THE MIDDLE EAST

### Introduction

*We saw in chapter 11 the problems that Israel faces with the military threats ranged against her. We now examine this unusual mix of nations, Israel, Turkey, Russia and the Middle East. The new-found friendship between Israel and her Moslem ally Turkey has had a profound influence on the current Middle East situation. There is no love lost between Russia and Turkey. The events of 1453 with the fall of Constantinople to the Moslem infidel was a never-to-be-forgotten loss to the Russian mind. The establishment of the Tsars in Russia had as one of their functions the avenging against Islam for the loss of this capital city of the Orthodox religion. That is why, to this day, one often sees under the gilded crosses over the Russian cathedrals, a crescent. Its significance—"the triumph of the cross over the crescent".*



*We trace the growing friendship between Israel and Turkey, and see Russia's moves to counter this perceived threat. At the same time the EU countries are pushing Turkey away—they don't want her as a new member.*

*Are we seeing in these things the excuse that Russia is looking for to take Constantinople—in preparation for her push into Israel and the Middle East?*

### Israel and Turkey working together

As we commented in chapter 10, Israel's friendship with Turkey has blossomed and this is causing great concern to her Moslem neighbours.

"In the steely world of arms deals, a predominantly Christian country selling weapons to a Muslim one no longer shocks. But when the buyer turns to the Jewish State to have those weapons upgraded, the odd couple begins to look like a military *ménage à trois*. This is just what is developing in one of the strangest de facto "marriages" in the Middle East: between Turkey and Israel. Israeli aircraft engineers received the first of 54 American-made F-4 Phantom aircraft they will modernise for Turkey. The deal worth about \$600 million to Israel, is just the most obvious sign of a blossoming relationship between the two, one

that is infuriating their Arab neighbours and which is likely to have a lasting impact on the Middle East balance of power.” *Time* 2-6-97

“Analysts agree that the rapidly expanding ties between the two countries have decisively tipped the strategic balance in favour of Israel, and thrust Turkey, after decades on the sidelines, into a pivotal role in the area.” DT 16-9-97

In 1996 they signed their second defence deal which enabled Israeli planes to use Turkish air bases and to train in her air space—Israel has so little airspace over her tiny country. Turkey has lots and she happens to have long borders with three of Israel’s main enemies: Syria, Iraq and Iran. The intelligence-gathering opportunities for Israel are obvious—she is reported to have set up listening posts along these borders.

They also signed a free-trade deal. Trade between the two countries has grown from virtually nothing at the start of the 90’s, and has now reached \$1bn a year. Turkey is the Israeli’s top tourist destination. They share a problem over terrorists and Islamic fundamentalism. They have been cooperating on anti-terrorism.

Turkey’s army is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest in NATO (the US naturally is No.1) and is ranked tenth in the world. She was admitted to NATO and injected with military hardware as a defence against Communism. She has seen that aid fall away with the demise of the Communist threat. She is also being rejected by the EU as we see in the next section. Her human rights record is being used by America and Europe to refuse to supply her with arms. So she has turned to Israel for arms and friendship. (*Time* 2-6-97).

This relationship seemed to be doomed when in 1995 Turkey elected a Muslim Prime Minister, Necmettin Erbakan, who promised to tear up any agreements that had been made with Israel. In fact, he turned to her former enemy Iran and in 1996 signed a \$23bn deal for the supply of gas and agreed a joint arms production deal involving attack aircraft and up to 1000 tanks. The Turkish military were very strongly against this move towards Iran. Their military intelligence was able to show Iran’s involvement in fundamentalist unrest in Turkey. Then Israeli intelligence showed that Iran was being brought very much closer to having a nuclear capability than originally thought, thanks to massive Russia help. Turkey has always feared Russia’s intentions. The deals with Iran were scrapped, and she turned to Israel again (JP 10-5-97).

In May Israel and Turkey concluded a £100 million agreement to co-produce the Israeli-developed Popeye-II air to ground missile. These proved very effective in the Gulf War, when deployed by the US Air Force. They also agreed to hold joint land and sea manoeuvres with the US (BIPAC 28-5; DT 2-5-97). They are also discussing the setting up of a satellite communication system to provide a secure link between the military of both countries (JP 25-10-97).

At the Islamic Conference Organisation meeting in Teheran, in Iran, the Turkish President walked out in protest at the anti-Israel rhetoric of the speeches. There was even talk of expelling Turkey from the ICO over her links with Israel (BIPAC 17-12-97).

### **The EU rejects Turkey**

As we saw in chapter 6, Turkey's application to join the EU, first made in 1963, has continually been postponed. France and Germany are intent on keeping out this Moslem country. Germany is host to 2.3 million Turks and fears an influx of millions more if the immigration barriers were removed. Her neighbour Greece is also violently opposed to having her as a member. Turkey and Greece are at unofficial war over Cyprus. There is now no hint of Turkey ever being allowed into the EU in the foreseeable future. Others who applied much later are on the road to membership. This rebuff reinforces her links with Israel, and may be the Divine hand, setting the scene for the future conflict.

For the first time the unmentionable fact was spelled out at the March summit of Christian Democrat MEP's:

#### **"Excluded from the *Christian* family**

"President of the European Peoples' Party Wilfried Martens said it was 'not acceptable' for Turkey to become a member of the EU. And the president of the European Union of Christian Democrats, Wim van Welzen said that the Union had cultural, humanitarian and **Christian values different to Turkey's**. Against a backdrop of other comments from Germany's Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel, an unequivocal, some might say unsavoury message was emerging. **Turkey was—and would always be—unacceptable to the Union because it was an Islamic and not a Christian State.**"

TE 3-4-97

Turkey is very strategically situated astride the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles. This is the gateway between two worlds, oil-dependent Europe and oil-abundant regions around the Black Sea and further across to the Caspian Sea. It provides Russia with her gateway to the Mediterranean and on to the Atlantic. With so much Russian trade going through these waters, Turkey is in a very influential position. She also can control the flow of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers into Iraq and Syria.

### **Russia and Cyprus**

Cyprus was divided into two in 1974. The north is Turkish, and the larger, richer southern area is Greek. The EU is negotiating for membership solely with the Greek south, as representative of the whole island. This increases the divide between north and south and the risk of inflaming the simmering dispute between Greece and Turkey.

## **Russia and the changing balance in the Middle East**

As Turkey and Israel build a strong relationship, it is driving other nations to counter this perceived threat. Behind most of the moves is the hand of Russia who seems determined to rebuild the old Soviet alliances in the Middle East.

**Syria:** The arms deal with Syria would signal Russia's return as the Syrian arms supplier after the absence caused by the downfall of the former Soviet Union. It also marks the rapprochement of **Syria and Iran**. There have been meetings to discuss the military co-operation between Russia, Syria and Iran. Syria's huge debt to Russia for former Soviet-supplied weapons has been under-written by Saudi Arabia and Iran. Iran and Saudi Arabia have blamed Israel's friendship with Turkey as a factor that has changed the Middle East balance and are seeking to "rectify" it. There have also been trade talks between them.

"In February Syria and Iran concluded an agreement which effectively upgraded their traditionally strong relationship into a fully fledged strategic alliance as a direct response to the establishment of the Israeli-Turkish military alliance.

"The agreement included an Iranian undertaking to bolster Syria's military capabilities and meet its urgent defence needs."

BIPAC 10-9-97

There has also been a rapprochement between **Syria and Iraq**. The border crossings, closed since the 1991 Gulf War, have been reopened. Trade delegations routinely travel between the two countries. Both countries have shut down radio stations which condemned the other country. Syria's President Assad is also engineering a rapprochement between **Iraq and Iran**—long-time regional arch-enemies. For the first time since 1980, this year pilgrims from Iran have been able to visit two holy sites in Iraq. They also exchanged the remains of soldiers killed in the 1980-88 war. *BIPAC* summed it up with these words:

"[Syria] is also effecting a reconciliation between old enemies Iran and Iraq, bringing such diverse states as Saudi Arabia and Iran into the same orbit, and **paving the way for Moscow to re-assert its role as a major regional player on the Arab side.**"

BIPAC 10-9-97

**Iran:** We saw that Russia was pouring arms into Iran.

"According to the [Israeli military] sources, Russia's interest in Iran is not only economic: its future strategic vision, they say, is based primarily on the restoration of Russian influence in the region."

BIPAC 9-8-97

**Iraq:** Russia is also heavily involved with Iraq. America is alarmed at this Moscow-Bagdad axis.

**“The new bond with Saddam was cemented in Moscow last week by Russia’s Foreign Minister, Yevgeny Primakov, a former KGB agent who has spent much of his career trying to whittle American influence in the Middle East.”**  
DT 25-11-97

### **A possible outcome**

Russia is intending to proceed with the supply of missiles to Cyprus by the end of 1998. This would heighten tension and could possibly precipitate outright war between Turkey and Greece.

Syria is rearming herself, but with a strong Turkey at her back would be unable to attack Israel.

Russia seems intent on causing trouble for America in the Middle East. The EU is increasingly siding against America. What a mixture.

We have this north-south axis. Russia reasserting herself in Greece, Cyprus, Syria, Iraq and Iran. Britain and America strongly involved in Israel and Saudi Arabia. The EU is tending to side with the north.

Saudi Arabia will be part of the King of the South when the final picture dawns, and Turkey will be in the hands of the King of the North. What will cause this change?

At the moment there are uncertainties over Turkey’s coalition government. Will it hold, or will the Islamic party regain their power? In either case, Russia would love to take her. It would break the control over her shipping out of the Black Sea, and avenge for the fall of Constantinople. This move, foreseen by Bro. Thomas, is a very likely scenario, given the current tensions.

Turkey’s future is sealed, she is to come under the control of the Eastern leg of Daniel’s image.

The pendulum swings back and forth. Britain in Egypt, out of Egypt and replaced by the Soviet. The Soviet out and America in. It may have to swing again in order for other parts of the picture to drop into place. We can be assured that at the time of the end, **after** the call to judgement, there will be a King of the South opposing the King of the North.

How is Israel going to achieve the situation of living peacefully as Ezekiel 38 demands? What we have considered in this chapter indicates the current situation to be very different! There are two matters we must not overlook. Firstly, Gog comes down **after** the call to Judgement. So we must not think that the Lord will not be back until Israel dwell in peace.

Secondly, Psalm 83 still, I believe, remains to be fulfilled. There is to be a victory of Israel over her local enemies. This may be part of the Elijah work, which takes place while the rest of the Judgement takes place, bringing that victory and peace. Such an event would cause the nations to

rise up in anger, uniting their powers to deal with this troublesome nation once and for all. For a time it will appear that they have succeeded, when Israel and Jerusalem are trampled upon by the iron/clay feet of the Image. Then

*Thou didst march through the land in indignation, thou didst thresh the heathen in anger. Thou wentest forth for the salvation of thy people, even for salvation with thine anointed; thou woundedst the head out of the house of the wicked*  
Hab. 3:12, 13

The head—of gold? It is the same word as chief or Rosh in Ezekiel 38:2.

Revelation 16:14 says that it is the frog spirits that gather the kings of the earth to battle. We see this phase in the current preparations to come together as one empire. Yet verse 16 says that he—God—gathered them to Armageddon. Is this a later phase and the means He uses, the Elijah work?



## Chapter 13:

# RUSSIA—THE PROWLING DRAGON

### Introduction

*We saw in the previous chapter Russia's growing involvement in the Middle East, part of the eastern leg territory of the Dragon. We now turn to events at home for Russia and see the interesting developments in 1997.*

### Russia's economy

At the year-end the Russian people were facing a severe test of nerve. The government has decreed a rouble redenomination on Jan 1st. 1998. On that day three noughts will be knocked off its face value to bring prices into more reasonable figures. At the moment they have to deal in millions, billions, even trillions of roubles. It will not alter anything, only make adding up easier! To the ordinary person it seemed as if their money was going to be slashed in value, and many changed their savings into dollars!

Russia's economy is still shaky. For various reasons many of the privatisations have been delayed, so the government is still chronically short of money. However, the promise that back wages would be paid by the end of the year seems to have happened in a last minute rush (DT 1-1-98). In just 3 years, 120,000 enterprises have passed into private hands. Russia has already reduced State ownership to below that of France. Inflation is now a manageable 15% compared to 2,505% in 1992! There is talk of it falling to 5% in 1998. One family in two owns its own house and 62% own land.

A fascinating report in *The Times*, written by the editor, William Rees-Mogg, forecast that Russia's economy is ready to take off. It carried the headlines "**The Russian tiger is ready to roar:** Economic reform and growing stability offer the opportunity of a wider European homeland." It explained how it takes time for a nation's economy to revive after a collapse. The Germans took 10 years before the "economic miracle" began in 1955, lasting until 1970. The report proposed that Russia will be a growing power again within a few more years.

"The map of Europe will be turned to the east, with a new economy, numbering more than 200 million people, growing three or four times as fast as the EU itself, and maintaining that rate of growth for perhaps a generation.

"In the early stages, Germany, as the central European power, will benefit from these investment opportunities. But almost from the beginning the re-emergence of Russia will change the European balance of power. Since reunification, Germany has been the nearest thing to a European superpower. Russia will return in the next decade

to her natural position as one of the major powers of Europe, perhaps the greatest. *The Times* 9/6/97

### Russia's new Law on Religious "Freedom"

The *Law on Freedom of Conscience and Religious Associations* sounds innocuous enough. However it effectively **prohibits** freedom of worship for many groups. It establishes the primacy of the Russian Orthodox Church as an "**inalienable part of the Russian historical, spiritual and cultural heritage**". Yeltsin initially refused to sign the bill, but after minor changes his signature made it Law on September 26th.

Other traditional beliefs such as Judaism, Buddhism and Islam are accorded respect. For any other sect to have full rights, it has to register and get a document from the authorities to say it has existed for at least 15 years—impossible for those not recognised in Communist times. Without this approval sects can only 'preach to the converted'. They will not be able to organise public worship, publish literature, run schools or hospitals, or even own property, until they have been operating "officially" for 15 years. They will have to register annually. It bodes ill for religious minorities, especially those who would witness against the state church. Foreign missionaries will not be allowed to preach unless invited by an accredited religion (DT 20-6; 12-9; CH 10-10-97).

This will also greatly effect the some 300,000 Catholics in Russia. The Roman Church was not recognised by the Communists and so will only be allowed to operate as long as they do not proselytise. The headline in the Catholic Herald was *Russia tolerates Catholicism—but only just* (CH 3-10-97). Always, where she is in the minority, she campaigns for religious freedom, but when in a majority, she shows little toleration herself.

Our own community's preaching efforts have met with resistance—intimidation, beatings, and refusal to allow halls to be used.

### The Orthodox Church

A poll taken from all parts of Russia indicated 72% called themselves believers. For the majority that means Russian Orthodox.

"...But each [church and state] thinks it worth propping the other up. It is now *de rigueur* for Russia's secular leaders, most of them former atheists from the heart of the old Communist Party, to attend Easter and Christmas services. In turn, most of them quietly—sometimes not so quietly—support the church in its struggle against Western evangelisers."  
EC 5-4-97

"Aleksy II, patriarch of the Russian Orthodox Church is the country's most influential religious figure. .. The church Aleksy II leads is now a virtual religious monopoly in Russia.

"In 1991 he enhanced his post-communist credibility when he opposed—clearly if cautiously—the hard-line coup against Mikhail Gorbachev.



Orthodox “Yes-men”

him: Moscow’s Luzhkov.”

But two years later, after the Soviet Union’s collapse, the inevitable allegations surfaced: Aleksy—code-named “Drozdv” [thrush] had all along cooperated with the KGB... Since then, he has shrewdly played his most powerful hand: the return of religion as a politically correct institution in the new Russia. As citizens returned to the church, politicians from all parties have sought to establish ties with Aleksy. None has done so more assiduously than Yeltsin, and one of the men who would like to succeed

*Newsweek* 6-10-97

An interesting example of the power of the Orthodox Church was illustrated recently in an incident which took place in Israel, in Hebron. Alexis II visited the West Bank in June. He was, however, barred from visiting Hebron’s only Christian church. This was originally a Russian Orthodox church, but had been run since the 1920’s by a breakaway group which did not recognise his authority. Three weeks later Yasser Arafat sent in his police to forcibly evict the current occupants and then handed it back to the Orthodox Church! (*Sourozh*—The Journal of the Russian Orthodox Church)

There was a report of Russian Orthodox priests burning Bibles in a village some 80 kilometres from Moscow. These were being distributed by an American group, but it was prevented from doing so, most of the Bibles ended up in the school incinerator (DT 3-3-97).

The new Cathedral was finished just in time for the 850<sup>th</sup> celebration of Moscow’s founding. It symbolises the power of the church in Russia. The former cathedral on this site was built to commemorate Russia’s victory over Napoleon in 1812. It took 40 years to build and was blown up by Stalin in 1931. This replacement was built in just 3 years! It was opened on September 3<sup>rd</sup> by President Yeltsin, accompanied by Mr Luzhkov the Moscow Mayor—the moving force behind its building—and Patriarch Aleksy II (DT 4-9-97).

### **The Tsar—an update**

In *Milestones 1996* we saw how that Yeltsin was determined to reinstate the Tsar. The expected date for Grand Duke Georgy Mikhailovich

Romanov, 15, to return to Russia was on his birthday. March the 13th came and went without any developments! The *Daily Telegraph* in May reported on a formal ball held in the former home of the Russian Tsars.

"The ball took place at a time of growing interest in the Tsars and the ways of the nobility. With widespread dissatisfaction with the workings of Russian democracy, the question of Russia returning to monarchy is often raised.

"President Yeltsin is understood to be ready to offer a ceremonial role to one claimant to the Russian throne, 16-year-old Grand Duke Georgy, who lives in Spain with his mother, Grand Duchess Maria Vladimirovna.

"There is no suggestion that Mr Yeltsin is going to turn Russia into a monarchy: the idea is to build a bridge to the lost world that existed before 1917".  
DT 20/5/97

So the matter was not dead! And once the bridge is built, who knows what might cross it!

Then on the 10<sup>th</sup> June the *Daily Telegraph* reported that the ceremony had been planned for June 21<sup>st</sup> at the place where the Romanov dynasty was proclaimed in 1613, but that it had to be postponed because of opposition from the Communists and intellectuals. We will have to wait and see—just the fact that it is being hotly debated shows the great changes that are happening in Russia today.

### **A problem over bones**

One of the obstacles to the reinstatement of the Tsar, is the lack of burial for the last Tsar's bones. Nicholas II and his family were shot in 1918. Their remains were discovered buried in a wood near the Ural city of Yekaterinburg in 1980. Since then the bones have travelled to various countries to be DNA tested to see if indeed they are genuine. Prince Phillip, the Duke of Edinburgh who is a relative has given samples for matching. Most experts agreed that they were "98.5% certain" they were genuine. Since then there has been much argument amongst the large Romanov family as to where and when they should be buried. It would involve a large gathering of nobility—the Queen has indicated she would attend, she is a relative. The Mayor of Yekaterinburg wants the burial to be at his city—it will be a great pilgrimage attraction. The Mayor of Moscow wants to bury them in his newly built Cathedral. The family want them buried in St Petersburg in the family mausoleum, the traditional burying place of the Tsars. Add to this, the Orthodox Church is insisting on carrying out its own tests to authenticate the bones, and one has the recipe for procrastination!

There is yet another layer to the problem! What to do with Lenin's embalmed body. Yeltsin would love to remove it from the mausoleum in Moscow. Many Russians feel that it is shameful that two 20<sup>th</sup> century leaders lie unburied.

The latest information on the Romanov bones is that, following a strongly worded letter from Georgy's mother to the Patriarch, the Church will finish its tests in January, and March 1<sup>st</sup> 1998 is being pencilled in for the burial at St Petersburg (EC 6-12-97). Time will tell.

***And I will bring thee forth***

Like a swinging pendulum, the economies of east and west rise and fall. Russia was falling while western Europe was prospering somewhat. Now EU countries are in economic difficulties brought on to some extent by their endeavours to conform to the Maastricht criteria. Russia meanwhile is, perhaps, beginning the first steps to an economic revival. She is certainly expanding in the political field. Each swing moves the scene on to another stage, more pieces of the prophetic jigsaw drop into place. So are we seeing the beginnings of the preparations for the gathering storm spoken of by Ezekiel in chapter 38? Gog of the land of Magog? Gog is primarily prince of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal, but is described as being *of the land of Magog*.

The link with Germany—Magog—is perhaps beginning to emerge as Germany pushes Europe eastwards. Interestingly, the Romanovs have German connections. Georgy's father is a German, Prince Franz Wilhelm of Prussia. Georgy is referred to as a 'Prussian Prince' by some Romanovs. The Romanov family have been traced back to being descended from a German nobleman, who moved to Russia in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. We have therefore an interesting link with Magog on two counts. A Europe with east and western legs, united with a Babylonish head of gold, is something which does not now stretch the imagination—both sides are working towards "the whole European homeland." That, of course, has long been the Pope's dream—Europe, one body, breathing with its "two lungs".

***I will turn thee back***, God said of Gog in Ezek. 38:4. Are we now moving **beyond** that stage? She was pulled back economically and politically with the demise of the Soviet system and its aftershocks. ***I will bring thee forth***, says God. Has this phase—the last phase—already started?

## Chapter 14:

# RELIGIOUS FREEDOM—FOR HOW MUCH LONGER?

### Introduction

*We take religious freedom very much for granted. There have been indications that there may be curbs on what we can do. We have seen the new situation in Russia, and now see that this is not unique. Provisions in the Amsterdam treaty could bring some of these curbs to Britain.*

### Other curbs around the world

There have been several recent reports of religious intolerance. A report from **Canada** was of the efforts of a French Canadian Baptist to establish a church in Outaouais in Quebec. He arranged to use the chapel of a Funeral Cooperative. Just before the first Sunday, the Funeral Parlour was visited by several priests trying to prevent the use of the chapel. Others phoned, threatening to withdraw their business from the undertakers, while others threatened to picket the place. Not surprisingly, in the face of these pressures, the offer was withdrawn, and another venue had to be found. The minister even received death threats over the phone! This was not an incident in the last century, but last year! (*The Reformer*, July 1997).

In **France**, Protestant denominations as well as evangelical churches have been labelled as *sects* in a government publication. It is increasingly difficult to carry out door-to-door or open-air preaching. In **Germany** regional legislation is under consideration to curb “non traditional” sects. The **Belgium** government recently released a report on ‘sects’—this included Quakers and Seventh Day Adventists.

In **Northern Ireland** the boycott threat is being used very “effectively” against Protestant businesses. Many can no longer “buy and sell”. Roman Catholics are told not to do business with Protestant shopkeepers and businesses. Clifford Smith in *Boycott—an examination of the abuse of Ulster Protestants*, published at the end of 1996, gives 300 examples of boycotts, intimidations and arson attacks over the previous 18 months.

In **Britain** I have been told of problems in placing advertisements of our lectures which have been deemed “unsuitable”. Either they have not been printed or so smudged that they can’t easily be read.

### Problems ahead for Britain?

In the recently passed Amsterdam Treaty, which updates the Maastricht Treaty, there are various clauses which on the surface seem innocuous:

“The Union will respect and does not prejudice the **status under national law** of churches and religious associations or communities in member states.

“...the Council [of Ministers] may take appropriate action to combat discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability age or sexual orientation.”

“Clearly the term ‘discrimination’ is intended to refer to discrimination adverse to the specified groups,...yet discrimination favourable to one group is necessarily unfavourable to all other groups.”

*The European Journal* Sept/Oct 1997

An exemption from military service, for instance, is discriminatory against those who are not given that benefit, and therefore could be ruled as not possible. It could be used against us, to prevent us witnessing against Rome, because we would be discriminating against what is considered to be an acceptable religion. The Court of Justice of the European Communities in the Hague will have the jurisdiction to decide any matters. So what freedoms one has traditionally enjoyed in one's own country will be irrelevant. Are these fears far-fetched? A further article in the *European Journal*, which has no religious affiliations, comments on the above two clauses. Having made the point that our concept of fundamental freedoms is quite different from the continent's, it says:

“The text appears to mean that those churches which are privileged by various national laws, such as the Church of Rome by concordats in some countries, shall continue to be so privileged. What presumably is also true, though not so apparent at first sight, is that *religious associations* whose *status* under the national law of some member state is not one of privilege but restriction, or even prohibition, as is the case of Scientology in Germany for instance, will continue to be so prohibited or restricted. Their rights of association are evidently not included in the *human rights* vaguely referred to .. its members could not find any protection against such banning in the provisions of the Union for fundamental human rights, since this clause specifically removes such protection from the Union's sphere of competence.

“Actually there appears to be a **consensus of opinion amongst prominent Europeans against ‘religious sects’**, for they were **specifically mentioned** as one of the **areas of criminal activity**, together with drug-running, Mafia and organised crime, by the President of the European Parliament in his message to the seminar in Spain on Corpus Juris, **that will need to be tackled by the future European system of criminal justice.**

“Methodists, Quakers, and other non-conformists, You Have Been Warned! A chilly Brave New World is awaiting you in the European Union.” Torquil Dick-Erikson *The European Journal* Sept 1997

What happens in Russia today, can happen in Britain tomorrow!

## Chapter 15:

# THE FALL OF BABYLON—HOW LONG OH LORD?

It is evident that the fall of Babylon lies beyond the Judgement Seat, and beyond Armageddon. So we must not be waiting for this to happen **before** the Master's return. We do see an ever clearer picture of the situation as it will be at the Lord's return, though always with areas that puzzle the minds of saints. Indeed there may be nothing more to happen this side of the call to Judgement. True, we see that there are things that haven't yet been fulfilled, but we can not tell where in these last few steps the call will come. For just as a thief doesn't let you know in advance when he is coming, so with the Master. His warning is sufficient

*Behold I come as a thief, blessed is he that watcheth and keepeth his garments.*

We have to show our preparedness by the lives we lead. Will he find us awake and active in his service, or asleep, overcome by the things of this world? He has revealed sufficient of the signs of the times that we have no excuse. We won't be able to plead, *I didn't know your coming was that near.* We **know** we are living right at the end.

Many things have happened in 1997. We have dealt with a few—there are many files of cuttings I have not even opened, as there is not space to explore them! As we come to the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the return of Israel, our hearts quicken. What a sign the nation of Israel is. Yet how sad that they, in the main, do not appreciate why they have been gathered back to the Land of their fathers.

And the millennium dawns, at least what the world thinks of when it talks of the millennium. Yet we do not know accurately the year of our Lord's birth. We may well have already passed 2000 years from his birth! Yet there is to be a Millennium. The 1000 year reign of Christ. What hope, what blessings lie in that era, when sin will be under control, when truth and holiness will flow from Jerusalem. When the glory of God shall fill this earth through His immortal saints.

Let us **watch** and **pray** that in His mercy we may be accounted worthy to enter the Kingdom of God. Come quickly Lord Jesus.



## Acknowledgements

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## Author's notes

I would like to thank Bro. Alan Clarke for his helpful comments, and with others, for his proofing of the draft.

I am grateful for items which readers have sent me. The sources above 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 for “Saints” and the many titles of Mary. Occasionally I put them in “ ”, but generally not. Readers will appreciate my understanding on the falseness of these titles. It is also used to describe parts of Israel etc.

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. 23-11-97.

## Milestones 1997

1997 proved to be another fascinating year for Bible students! In so many ways our traditional understanding of prophecy has been reinforced. *Milestones* pulls together the many strands of the events of 1997. From the death of Diana to the bombs in Jerusalem, we try to fit the year's events into a Biblical framework.

This year our review centres around the theme of **The Harlot Woman and the Beast** (Rev. 17 & 18).

By tracing the origins of Babylon, we can see the modern counterpart in the Papacy and its increasing role in the running of Western Europe.

- We look at the role of **"Mary - Queen of Europe"** whose window is featured on the cover.
- The fanatical drive to the Euro which went into overdrive in 1997, is seen as the hidden agenda for German plans to unite Europe—east and west.
- Britain's reluctance to join EMU and Blair's failure to dominate Europe is put into a Biblical perspective.
- Israel's dynamic economic growth is again commented upon. This amazing prosperity will help to provide the "spoil" which Gog seeks, as prophesied in Ezekiel 38.
- However, this is countered by Israel's fears for the future as she sees the Middle East re-arming thanks to the prowling Dragon.
- The final chapter looks at the growing pressure on non-conformist sects which provides a sobering challenge—religious freedom can no longer be taken for granted.

This is an invaluable review of current events that herald the nearness of the Master's return.

