

# MILESTONES



# 2001

Don Pearce

# **MILESTONES TO THE KINGDOM**

***A Review of the  
World Events of  
2001 in the Light  
of Bible Prophecy***

**Don Pearce**

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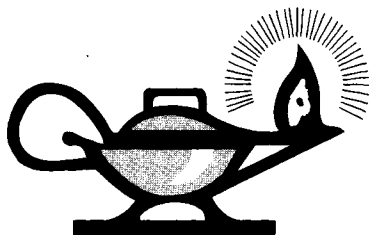
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## **Preface**

*"Men's hearts failing them for fear of those things which are coming on the earth."*

It is not often that one is disturbed by a telephone call after midnight. When hesitatingly lifting the receiver, one thinks this could only be an unpleasant emergency or perhaps a call from an overseas friend who alas has miscalculated the time difference! On this occasion though, it was my son who lives only ten minutes from our home. "Dad, have you heard the news lately?" "Well I'm just quietly working at my desk, hardly the time to be listening to the radio". "Well you must turn it on!" and then followed a brief and amazing description of what was happening in America's two principal cities, New York the centre of trade and Washington the centre of government and defence. One felt, as so many others around the world, that it was almost too hard to believe it was true, that it was actually happening. Long accustomed to troubles great and small throughout the world, the feature of 11th September 2001 was that this vast and unnerving tragedy was being played out in the very centre of the modern world. Whatever it may mean to the earth's population at large, to the saints of God it was a paramount lesson that "all things do not continue as they were from the beginning of the creation". The world has been shaken, frightened to their wits end. The Word of God says that Armageddon will be "upon every high tower" (Isa 2:15) and the smoking black hole in the centre of Manhattan is a profound signal that the judgements of God are impending. "Enter into the rock and hide thee in the dust for the fear of the Lord and for the glory of his majesty"! Isa 2:10, 19, 21. September the 11th, 2001, is a Milestone to Armageddon.

We have observed a number of times in these last four months that political commentators relate these events to the existence of Israel in the Land of Promise and to their retention of Jerusalem. Islamic-Arab frustration has been so encouraged by hatred for Israel that there are now substantial numbers of young zealots prepared to literally give their lives if in doing so they can strike a blow for Islam. The United States is a focus of this hatred because she has supported Israel's existence and Israel's relationship to Jerusalem. Even more generally she has divided the world of Islam, for many Muslim countries depend upon America for their livelihood and defence whilst others are openly antagonistic. The existence of U.S. defence forces in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait is abhorrent to the Islamic loyalist who sees America as "The Great Satan", exporting their democratic modern secular way of life through the Muslim world to the diminishing of the fundamental Islamic way of life. The Muslim believes that Arabia is the Holy Land and Palestine and Jerusalem are a part of that land and hence they resolutely oppose any negotiation that may lead to peace with Israel. The Jews have to go, Israel has to be demolished and Jerusalem be the capital of an Islamic Palestine. All this is Islamic teaching to which the loyal Muslim must adhere. There is no other way. No matter what agreement is made with Israel, Hamas and Hizballah militantly defy it and the Intifadeh goes on!

We may say then that the whole Islamic uprising is in direct defiance of the promises made by the living God to the fathers of Israel. A long-standing fanatical resentment found expression in a re-writing of the purpose of God. The Koran which Mohammed claimed was given direct from God in Arabic, completely reverses the promises of God and promotes the Arab people as the chosen race, all others being "infidels" until they convert to Islam. The vast expanse of the Muslim domination was testimony of God's blessing upon the new enlightenment and must prevail until all the world is converted by teaching or by sword.

What of the peace before the storm of Gog's invasion of Ezekiel 38:11?

In the year 1640 Joseph Mede wrote a treatise upon the Revelation. When he came to the 6th Vial of chapter 16 and its reference to the drying up of the great River Euphrates, he put this question forward, "Why should not now this Euphrates by the same reason be understood of the Turks?" "The great river Euphrates" has an earlier reference in Revelation, chapter 9 verse 14 where he and many other Protestant writers had perceived the aptness of the vision to the quite phenomenal expansion of Islam which from the walls of Vienna to the South of Spain held sway over three fourths of the Mediterranean countries. The difference in the references of 9:14 and 16:12 is that the first is a vast expansion and the second is a drying up, a declension. So Mede logically prognosticated that there would be a great decline in Muslim invasion. This was a remarkable statement for in Mede's day Islam stood in proud defiance of Catholic Europe. But he was right for in the early part of the 19th century the Muslim power and unity was markedly reduced. In approximately 100 years Turkey was reduced to her own borders and Britain swore to a Homeland for the Jewish people in the land promised to their fathers. So we may quietly acknowledge, as Sir Isaac Newton wrote 100 years after Joseph Mede, "Master Mede's interpretation of the vials is not much amiss."! Brother Thomas wrote in the midst of the "drying up" period and it is not surprising that his analysis was the same as Joseph Mede who wrote more than two hundred years before him.

So, dear brethren and sisters, let us not be moved from our stage. Just believe the Bible, the Rock of ages and it will come to pass. Islam is frustrated by the adverse turn in their circumstances and cannot reconcile themselves to it. Allah has guaranteed the advance of Islam but 1815 through to 1917 has been an embarrassing reversal. Again it is ignorance of the promises and prophecies of the living God of Israel that is at the core of their disappointment. This is not the time of their militant expansion; all the huffing and puffing will not change this fact. In reality it is quite amazing that throughout the free world and even in the Muslim world, a new and true estimation of Islam is taking place. Their terrorism and extremism has awakened the whole world to their real 'gospel'. Even the vast majority of Muslim countries want no association with fundamental Islam, some even looking to America for protection and support.

The Bible is a precious enlightener. Those who put their trust in its pages will "not fear though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea." Psalm 46:2.

Milestones 2001 is a condensate of international happenings in a very interesting and highly significant year. Again we thank our brother for his excellent manuscript so full of relevant comment.

We are in remarkable days. May our Father bless our desire to spread the fragrance of the Truth in many lands and to save our children as the hour of judgement and salvation draws upon us.

"Yahweh of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah" Psalm 46:11

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### Sources of Information & abbreviations used

**CH** Catholic Herald. Weekly.

**DT** Daily Telegraph

**EC** The Economist magazine, weekly.

**EJ** The European Journal, the journal of the European Foundation. Very valuable euro-sceptical journal. Minimum 10 issues a year. £25 UK. (£15 students & OAP's) Phone 020 7930 7319; Fax 9706

**EJID** The above's fortnightly **Intelligence Digest** is available free by e-mail from [euro.foundation@e-f.org.uk](mailto:euro.foundation@e-f.org.uk)

**EU** European Union. Was the EEC, then the EC, now the EU

**J.I.D.** Jane's Intelligence Digest, Intelligence International Ltd. Excellent background 01444 475660; fax 4455999 46 issues. £134

**Israel Line.** A free e-mail service, giving you 2 pages of news about Israel, 5 times a week. To subscribe to Israel Line, use the on-line subscription form at <http://www.mfa.gov.il/mfa/listservform.asp>

**JP** Jerusalem Post International edition, published weekly.

**LOR** L'Osservatore Romano. The official Vatican paper. English, w'kly

**ST** Sunday Telegraph. **Time** The Time magazine, weekly

**TR** The Reformer. Bimonthly. Valuable source on Protestant matters. Min. subscription £5. overseas £8. Tel/fax. 01525 712348

**TS** The Sunday Times. London. Weekly

**TT** The Times. London. Daily.

[ ] Author's notes.

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**m** = million; **bn** = billion; **GDP** = Gross Domestic Product – a countries "income" per person

\$1 million = £660,000, \$1 billion = £660,000,000 approx. \$ always US\$.

Many books referred to are available from **Milestones** - request booklist



### Author's notes

I would like to thank my family and Bro. Kevin Allison for their helpful advice and comments on the draft. It is all written in 21 days, so bear its imperfections.

I am very grateful for items which readers send, even if I don't get round to acknowledging! 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.

Conventional religious terminology is used, occasionally put within “ ”, but often not. Readers will appreciate my understanding on the falseness of many of these terms. Conventional names are used to describe parts of Israel, e.g. West Bank.

Spellings! Where quotations use US English, I have retained original spellings. Sources are given where appropriate. Dates on weekly publications are when published - could be 7-10 days after event. Where date range, latest date used.

### Acknowledgements and permissions arranged

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## **Chapter 1:**

# **A BRIEF REVIEW**

## **Brief overview of Milestones 2001**

One can take nothing for granted! Endless pages of our newspapers and magazines have been filled with the unfolding events from those first unbelievable hours on September 11<sup>th</sup>. This date will enter the history books. Two words which convey so much. As many writers have said, the world changed on this day. For those not directly affected by these events life goes back to its routines. But, for the Western world especially, things have changed. There is a fear lying beneath the surface. Gun sales have soared in America. Plane travel is still badly affected. The economic knock-on effects are being felt in many countries. Multi-national firms are shedding labour as their markets shrink. Church attendances are reported to have increased significantly, as people seek comfort from their fears.

Britain and America have demonstrated their special relationship, standing shoulder to shoulder. It now makes sense why Tony Blair was re-elected in June with another large majority. Beleaguered by the dreadful foot and mouth disease in many parts of Britain, the elections had to be postponed. Was this an indication that things would not go well with Mr Blair, and a Conservative leader might be elected who would stand up to Europe? But no, re-elected with such a large majority, Mr Blair was free to act as he wished. He showed his mettle in bringing a broad coalition of nations together and holding them there with much visiting of leaders around the world. It is hard to imagine any other leader capable of doing what he did.

Again one sees that Mr Bush, with his experienced father to guide him, was the man for the job rather than Mr Gore. Angelic hands work behind the scenes preparing the stage for matters of which we had no inkling. Although September 11<sup>th</sup> is not an incident that was foretold in Bible prophecy, it forms just one of those many turning points in history. In hindsight, one can feel the hand of God, pushing and pulling upon the world scene, using the deeds of men who have no inkling of their involvement in the Divine plan - just as was the situation with men like Nebuchadnezzar and Pharaoh.

Although the Taliban fell rapidly before the mighty onslaught led by America, time and time again attention was drawn back to the conflict in Israel. At the root of the Muslim opposition to America lie the events of some 80 years ago, when Britain and France rolled back the Moslem empire to its source, allowing the nations of the Middle East to emerge from centuries of darkness. Among these nations was the reborn nation of Israel. Hence the linkage of this anti-American terrorism to Israel.

Jerusalem will be a burdensome stone to all nations. What Bible student can doubt that the events of today are building up to this situation?

Nations have banded together against the religious fanaticism of bin-Laden. Under different leaders admittedly, but how reasonable it now seems that nations will unite against Israel at a time of a partial religious revival which is to come under the hand of Elijah, before that great and dreadful day of the Lord. (Mal 4:4-6) We marvel at what our earlier brethren were able to see, through their deep study of the word of God, at a time when a home for the Jews was a distant dream. Yet here we are today, with so much to see that justifies our traditional understanding of these prophecies, yet surrounded by many voices who would break down our established understanding and substitute a weakly-based speculation that runs so contrary to what we have believed and taught. Do we need to change our ideas? Surely not! What we see unfolding vindicates our cherished understanding. It has stood the test of time. True the pendulum of world affairs seems to swing from side to side, but at the appointed time all the pieces will drop into place. We see a scenario of Tarshish and the young lions that fits—what other explanation makes sense especially in the light of Mr Bush and Mr Blair working together over the past few months. What of Russia—the Soviet power that had dominated the stage for 70 years and then collapsed? Did we need to rewrite our basic understanding of prophecy? No! Given time we see a crippled Russia lift her head again. As other nation's economies splutter, it is Russia, which is growing.

September 11<sup>th</sup> has accelerated the integration of Russia into Europe. The EU had already set out a 10-year plan to bring Russia into the European homeland. How much easier it now will be—thanks to Mr Putin's astute handling of the situation. Remember the Russian's love of the game of chess. Enacted out upon the chessboard are the military movements of the pieces. In world affairs Russia acts, seemingly giving up pawns easily, yet seeing the gains to come! Russia battled for many years to control Afghanistan, in fact this hastened the collapse of the Soviet—(yes not all chess games are won!). Yet Russia, without having to fire a shot herself, looks to gain the most from the newly emerging coalition of leaders. Why her great interest in this country? Not only is it surrounded by mineral wealth, it is but a short step across Iran or Pakistan to the warm waters of the Indian Ocean. Now to a nation that wants to rule the waves, yet is largely landlocked for most of the year, this is a prize to be sought indeed. Her round-the-year access to the oceans at the moment is largely dependent upon Turkey, guardian of the Dardenelles—Turkey the historic enemy of Russia, the great infidel that destroyed Byzantine Constantinople. Turkey the friend of Israel! Mr Putin has declared that he wants a strong navy to make Russia great again. And the prophets have said that the King of the North will come forth with many ships. (Dan 11:40)

And so in our issue this year we wish to look at the many ripples that have flowed from the events of September 11<sup>th</sup> and to weave them into the many

other prophetic jigsaw pieces that are dropping step by step into their end positions. We will see how remarkably Britain and America have been building up their trade with Israel's neighbours. We shall see the advances that Russia has been able to make in Europe. We can ponder the rushed legislation by Britain to cope with terrorism, and see how our own freedom could be curtailed. This is but a symptom of moves by Europe to curtail the freedom of the individual, reminding us of the dark days when earlier generations of believers had their freedom taken away.

We can trace the impact on Israel and her struggle against terrorism. Against a constant barrage of attacks she has defended her right to exist. With few friends and many enemies, life for Israel has been grim. The economy has slumped, tourists have stayed away. They face what they see as an uncertain future. Because they do not walk in the faith of Abraham, they do not seek their God. Their heart is still lifted up in pride at what they have achieved. The day of humbling draws on apace. How fearful it is to know from the scriptures the dreadful calamities—humanly speaking—that lie ahead. But thanks be to God for our understanding that out of Jacob's troubles will come forth a remnant who will turn to their Messiah and King and live in faith throughout the Millennium. The days are near, the Lord is at hand.

The outpourings of God's judgements are imminent. And how deserved. A world that questions why God allows such atrocities to happen, yet has pushed God out of their homes, out of their schools, out of their society, out of their legislation, has turned from the worship of the Living God, to the worship of man. Man's ideas, man's pleasures, man's reasonings. As Isaiah said, *Darkness shall cover the earth and gross darkness the people.* (60:2) Society is breaking down at a frightening speed. The changes in my lifetime are distressing. The standards of right and wrong have been replaced with an anything-goes attitude. And this is supposed to lead to happiness! Yet the reality is that the lives of countless men, women, and especially the children are blighted through the folly of man. How desperately the world needs the only solution that will work—the firm control of Zion's king, who will rule the nations with a rod of iron.

God's judgements fall into three phases. They follow one another, but also overlap. The judgement upon the Household. The judgements upon Israel. The judgements upon the world. The first can begin at any time. Flowing out from that will be Israel's turn. Then the world's. We entrust to the reader the pages of this booklet in the hope that it will re-ignite our awareness of the greatness and the goodness of our God and what is our reasoned service to His son, into whose hand the affairs of this world have been committed. Our prayer is that he will bring speedily the ending of the times of the Gentiles, in order that all nations might experience the blessing that will flow when Zion is restored to favour.

## Chapter 2:

# THE PROPHETICAL SIGNS OF OUR TIMES

*In Milestones 2000 we looked at the fulfilment of aspects of the drying up of the River Euphrates which set the scene for the unfolding of the events of the 6<sup>th</sup> Vial. We also looked at the frog-sprits going forth to gather the nations to the day of the great battle—the battle of Armageddon. We then looked at two aspects of Ezekiel 38—that of Gog being associated with the land of Magog, and the revival of Gog prior to her coming down against Israel. All these matters are still very relevant for the events that have continued to unfold this year.*

*There are four aspects we briefly want to examine this year.*

- *The drying up of the River Euphrates—an aspect in relation to the power of Islam*
- *The two little horns of Daniel's prophecy*
- *Tarshish and the young lions of Ezekiel 38*
- *Who is the False Prophet?*

### The drying up of the River Euphrates

We shall see in the next chapter that bin Laden's attack against America was in response to the "humiliation and disgrace" of the ending of the Turkish Ottoman Empire in the events of WWI. The Turkish Empire had reached its zenith in 1683. North Africa, the Middle East and Europe east of Vienna were ruled from Constantinople. Islam was triumphant over much of Christian Europe. It was in 1683 that they launched an attack on Vienna, at the heart of the Holy Roman Empire, the seat of the Habsburg dynasty. They had tried in 1529 and failed, again this second time they failed to capture the city and were forced to retreat. No longer did the power of Allah triumph over Christianity! Step by step, countries broke free from the Ottoman rule. One of the great humiliations was the loss of Egypt, under the hand of Napoleon Bonaparte, as part of the outpouring of the Vials. With a comparatively small force he was able to take Egypt in 1798. Here was a western power striking at the heart of their territory—and winning! And it was not the Turks who expelled Napoleon, but another western power—Britain—by the exploits of Horatio Nelson.

Britain and France gradually dominated the region, and succeeded in driving the Turkish armies back to their homeland. In the eyes of the Islamic faithful this was "a humiliation and a disgrace". The area has generally been under western influence ever since. It was through this action that *the way of the kings of the east might be prepared*. (Rev 16:12) So many countries that we take for granted—Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Iraq—came into being as independent nations because of this action. Their boundaries were marked out arbitrarily by western powers, rather than

being based on Islamic traditional boundaries. Foremost—for us—among these new nations is Israel. The return of the Jews to their homeland has set the scene for the appearance of Christ and the saints to come to restore the throne of David that is fallen, and to set Zion's king upon his throne.

### **The two little horns of Daniel's prophecy**

Our interest in these two quite different little horns is that they describe the two latter-day powers that form the two iron legs of Daniel's image. As we saw last time, the dream that Nebuchadnezzar saw related to *what shall be in the latter days*. (2:28) So whatever historical fulfilment there has indeed been in the succession of empires, we must see that its completeness relates to a yet future time when the whole image will exist on its iron-clay feet. It stands for a brief time before being totally destroyed by the little stone power. In chapter 7 of Daniel, many years after Nebuchadnezzar's dream, God revealed to Daniel the history of man in relation to Israel using animals to represent the nations rather than metals. Our particular interest lies in the 4<sup>th</sup> beast.

*:7 After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns.*

*:8 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*

The 4<sup>th</sup> beast continues right through to the time of the end and is destroyed by the judgements at the hand of the Ancient of Days. Yet the other 3 beasts are also there—their punishment is not quite so severe. The details of Daniel's 4<sup>th</sup> beast are picked up and amplified in the book of Revelation. There the beast goes through various phases. The detail that Daniel gives of a Little Horn with eyes and a mouth speaking great blasphemies is again amplified in Revelation. This horn power, with its eyes and mouth, was represented for long centuries by the *beast of the earth* (Rev 13:11); the Holy Roman Empire, with its emperor horn, working with the Papal eyes and mouth who dreadfully spoke blasphemies against God. Daniel was told it was to be a persecuting power that would wear out the saints. History speaks of the long and bitter persecutions of the believers and the protestant community.

We also have in Revelation 13:14 the *image of the beast*—the Pope reigning as king over his own Papal States.

Daniel's little horn power continues to persecute until it is judged:

*:19 Then I would know the truth of the fourth beast, which was diverse from all the others, exceeding dreadful, whose teeth were of iron, and*

*his nails of brass; which devoured, brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with his feet;*

*:20 And of the ten horns that were in his head, and of the other which came up, and before whom three fell; even of that horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spake very great things, whose look was more stout than his fellows.*

*:21 I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them;*

So our interest is to see what corresponds to this persecuting power in the last days. **Iron** teeth and **brass** claws link us to the earlier beasts.

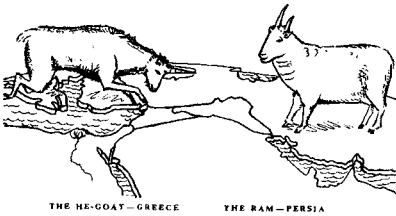
The sentence upon the beasts shows us that although the 4<sup>th</sup> beast incorporates much of what went before, we have to identify a latter-day scenario for the other 3 beasts.

*:11 I beheld then because of the voice of the great words which the horn spake: I beheld even till the beast was slain, and his body destroyed, and given to the burning flame.*

*:12 As concerning the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away: yet their lives were prolonged for a season and time.*

The 4<sup>th</sup> beast was centred in Rome, the others in the east, Babylon, Persia, Greece. From Daniel ch 2 we know that the image stands with two iron feet, which we correspond to the eastern and western division of the Roman Empire. So will there be a similar division in the future? Undoubtedly, though we must remember that these legs belong to the same body. During past history they may have been antagonistic to each other, but it is reasonable to suppose that they are one in mind and body when the prophecy reaches its fulfilment. From Ez. 38 we see a confederation of nations, corresponding in the main to the territories of all the 4 beasts, but extending northward into territory that was “uncivilised” in Ezekiel’s day. The military might of this confederacy is Gogian, he of the “north parts”. Blending all three prophecies we have a picture of Eastern and Western Europe—the two legs—united together, with a Babylonian head—the eyes and mouth. It is the might of the eastern leg that is destroyed at Armageddon; the destruction of the western leg follows afterwards and is described in Revelation in the details of chapters 17, 18 and 19.

In the light of this, Daniel’s 4<sup>th</sup> beast is mainly concerned with the western aspect of the Roman Empire; the rule of the Holy Roman Empire and the papacy. It is therefore of great interest to Bible students to see the grouping of Western Europe, with much of the drive to unite coming behind the scenes by the Roman Church. It is through such a coming together of the Beast, that the harlot woman can ride upon its back. The latter-day formation of the Beast has its roots in the earlier Beast of the Earth. So we look for a re-creation of German politic power, closely bound by the spiritual cohesion of the Roman Church.



It is Daniel chapter 8 that gives us the details of the eastern leg. In the symbols of the ram and the he-goat we have the conquest of the Medo-Persian ram empire, by the Greek goat empire. The distinguishing mark of the goat was its *notable horn*—Alexander the Great. On his death—the horn broken—there sprang up 4 horns in its place. The kingdom eventually was divided into 4. Daniel saw a little horn come out of one of these horns. It was out of the Selucid horn that the little horn of Rome grew. Rome conquered the Selucid territory, and then proceeded to expand and take over the territory of the Greek Empire. Daniel ch 8 details Rome's involvement with the Land of Israel, even to *magnifying himself even to (mg. against) the prince of the host*—the Crucifixion of the Lord Jesus—and the destruction of the Temple. (v11)

Again this power continues through the ages as a persecuting power (v24), who *stands up against the Prince of prices, but he shall be broken without hand.* (v25) This is a strong link to the little stone of chapter 2 *cut out of the mountain without hands.* So the little horn of the goat exists at the time of the end and receives its judgement at the hand of the Great Prince—Christ and the saints.

So how does it differ from the little horn of the 4<sup>th</sup> beast? If we think of it in the terms of the eastern leg it will help us. To begin with, Rome was a united kingdom. In the days of The Lord Jesus it was one power. The split into the two legs has its origins in Constantine moving the centre of his government eastward to the city he named Constantinople. It became known as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Rome, for it was modelled on ancient Rome. Gradually the Roman Empire divided into its two halves. With the fall of Constantinople in 1453, the military and spiritual centre moved to Moscow, and Moscow became known as the 3<sup>rd</sup> Rome. Russians never forgot the stain of Constantinople being taken by the Turkish Ottoman power. They have long dreamt of the day when once again they will occupy the city—the spiritual birthplace of their Orthodox religion. The reputed Will of Peter the Great, written AD1700, lists among its fascinating features the desire to expand southward.

We must keep steadily extending our frontiers northward along the Baltic and southward along the shores of the Black Sea. We must progress as much as possible in the direction of Constantinople and India: he who can get possession of these places is ruler of the world.





In recognition of their dream when Christianity triumphs over Islam, one can see crescents mounted under crosses on church buildings.

The Russians did attempt to push southward under Czar Nicholas I, who in 1853 demanded Turkey allow him to have suzerainty<sup>1</sup> over the Turkish Christians. The British Ambassador in Constantinople stiffened the Turkish rejection of these demands, fearing that if the Turkish bulwark against Russia's advancements fell, Russia would become a Mediterranean power and dominate the trade with India which passed through the Suez. In 1853 the Russian fleet based in Sebastopol in Crimea destroyed the Turkish navy. The British and French entered the war in 1854 and stopped the Russian advance after a long and bitter campaign—this was the time of the Charge of the Light Brigade. Crimea was retaken by the French and British at the cost of some 500,000 Russian soldier's lives, but under The Treaty of Paris, Crimea remained under Russian control, though their fortifications at Sebastopol were destroyed and the Black Sea declared neutral territory.

In WWII, Crimea was taken by Germany for a short period but returned to Soviet control after the war. After the break-up of the Soviet, Crimea and the Russian fleet in Sebastopol formed part of the independent state of the Ukraine. Under Putin there has been a rekindling of ties between the two countries.

We anticipate that shortly Russia will move down to take Constantinople—modern Istanbul—prior to moving down against Israel.

So in the latter-days the two horn powers signify the eastern and the western legs, or in the symbology of Revelation, the dragon and the beast. The military power of the little horn of the goat, i.e. the eastern leg, i.e. the dragon, is destroyed on the mountains of Israel. This corresponds to having their dominion taken away

*As concerning the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away: yet their lives were prolonged for a season and time. Dan. 7:12*

The little horn of the 4<sup>th</sup> beast, i.e. the western leg, i.e. the beast, is destroyed within Europe. With the defeat of Gog, the Kingdom is established in Israel, so any warfare takes place outside its boundaries. The dominion of the beast power, i.e. Western Europe is totally taken away. In the symbology of the book of Revelation, the coming judgements on the nations are indeed described in two stages. The harvest of the corn and the harvest of the grapes. (Rev. 14:14-20) In the natural year these are two separate harvests, with an interval between them. So it is to be. Judgement

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<sup>1</sup> A state exercising some degree of dominion over a dependant state, usually controlling it's foreign affairs. *Collins Dictionary*

one takes place in the destruction of Gog's armies on the mountains of Israel; judgement two takes place in Europe in the heartland of the beast. The beast and its rider, the false prophet, are cast into a lake of fire. (Rev. 19:11-21). This corresponds to:

*I beheld then because of the voice of the great words which the horn spake: I beheld even till the beast was slain, and his body destroyed, and given to the burning flame. Dan. 7:11*

### **Tarshish and the young lions**

The third aspect we examine is that of Tarshish and the young lions. Ezekiel 38 describes nations who are opposed to the Gogian confederacy coming against the land of Israel.

*:13 Sheba, and Dedan, and the merchants of Tarshish, with all the young lions thereof, shall say unto thee, Art thou come to take a spoil? hast thou gathered thy company to take a prey? to carry away silver and gold, to take away cattle and goods, to take a great spoil?*

What powers today do these peoples represent?

Sheba and Dedan we find mentioned in the book of Genesis. They were brothers, grandsons of Abraham by Keturah. (Gen. 25:3) Abraham sent the descendants of Keturah eastward into the east country (v6). We also find an earlier Sheba and Dedan, brothers again, grandsons of Cush (Gen. 10:7). Again the family is associated with the east. There is also recorded in Gen. 10:28 a Sheba, a descendant of Shem through Joktan. Again we are told this family lived *from Mesha as thou goest to Sephar a mount of the east.* (v30). We can't identify which Sheba and Dedan is being referred to, but as the Arabian Peninsula is the area occupied by them both this does not matter too much. We generally identify Sheba with the Queen of Sheba who came from the spice area of those days, which today is Yemen, formally Aden. Dedan is generally identified further north in the area of Medina in Saudi Arabia. There is also an area around the Persian Gulf which is identified with Dedan. It was the hub of the trade route from India. Ezekiel spoke of the many nations that traded in the markets of Tyre:

*27:15 The men of Dedan were thy merchants; many isles were the merchandise of thine hand: they brought thee for a present horns of ivory and ebony.*

Aden is mentioned again:

*:20 Dedan was thy merchant in precious clothes for chariots.*

Elephant ivory and the wood ebony are found both in India and Africa, so a location on either side of the Arabian Peninsula would fit.

It all points to what we would call Arab countries of Arabia. Interestingly, as we shall see in chapter 11, Yemen is being drawn back into the Arab fold after the many years of warfare after Britain withdrew from Aden.

What of Tarshish? We have long associated Britain as the latter-day representative of the Tarshish power. Tarshish also is listed in Ezekiel's chapter of traders with Tyre.

*27:12 Tarshish was thy merchant by reason of the multitude of all kind of riches; with silver, iron, tin, and lead, they traded in thy fairs.*

So she was a trading power in minerals and other precious commodities. My Penguin Atlas of World History Vol. 1 maps the trade into Tyre in Phoenician times, i.e. the time of Ezekiel onwards. Iron and lead are identified as coming from Britain to Tyre. Britain was known as The Tin Islands. She has many metallic deposits. The following is an extract from a book on *Mining activities in England*, a government publication.

The principal economic minerals of south-west England are, of course, **tin** and copper ores, and considerable amounts of ores of **lead**, zinc, **silver**, arsenic, antimony, sulphur, **iron** and manganese have also been raised.

The date of the discovery of tin in the west of England is not known, but it was being produced about 2,500 years ago.

Now Ezekiel just happened to be writing so 2,500 years ago! All four metals associated with Tarshish are found in Britain!

Tarshish was a trading power. What country corresponds to such a power? Britain still does seem to fit. She is the 4<sup>th</sup> greatest power in the world. The 3<sup>rd</sup>—Germany is a trading power, but with her markets on her doorstep, she is not a **world** trading power as Britain is. The 2<sup>nd</sup> largest economy is Japan. Yes, being an island people she is a trading power, but she has concentrated on the electronics fields. Britain with her money exchanges, stock exchanges, the Baltic metal exchange, insurance markets and banking centres is a world-wide trading power. The wealthiest nation is America. But, like Germany, with her vast markets at home and in South America, she does not dominate world trade like Britain. France is number 5 and certainly doesn't fit the bill. If the Tarshish of today is not Britain, then who is?

But Tarshish is not alone—and *all the young lions thereof*. A strange phrase, which translators struggle to make sense of; several substitute the very closely related word 'villages'. But that doesn't really make much sense! Yet the word used by God which Ezekiel penned at a time when Britain was an outpost, and far from civilised, has so much meaning today. It conveys a picture of a mother—or father—lion with its offspring. Not cubs, but strong young lions, able to live independently, yet when necessary working with the older, more experienced parents. According to *The Art of Heraldry* by Peter Gwynn-Jones, the lion in heraldry has been taken by many, but the first examples seem to be firmly linked with Britain. Richard Coeur de Lion—the lion-heart—of England (AD 1157–1199) seems to be the first to have a lion on his seal, and to have had lions

on his shield. Second to use it seems to be William the Lion of Scotland (AD 1143–1241) who had lions on his shield. It is a well-known cartoonist symbol for the power of Britain. It was used in WWI posters to call the Commonwealth countries to Britain's aid.



With Britain in the role of the parent lion, we see a wonderful picture of her working alongside her offspring, the USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand. They do not depend on her—they are independent, but in time of crisis they rally to support what she wants. She does not necessarily lead the attack, that is often left to the boldest of the youngsters. Her skills are in her experience, in the diplomacy which often has to work hand in hand with force of might. We have seen this working together in the past in the Gulf war, we see it again in the war on terrorism, and it will happen again when Gog invades.

It is also apparent that there was an eastern Tarshish power—that of India, source of the goods that Hiram's navy based in Ezion-geber brought to Solomon. (1 Kgs. 10:22; 22:48; 2 Chron 9:21) As we shall see in chapter 12, India after many years of alignment with Russia, is now swinging to alignment with Britain, America and Israel. She too is a growing naval power, and will surely be there as one of the young lions in these latter-days.

Of great interest to us is how increasingly Britain and America are being involved in the southern Arab nations, in spite of the religious differences. God's Hand of destiny marks out a path, which the nations find themselves obeying! We look at this in chapter 11.

### **Who is the False Prophet?**

The fourth aspect we examine in this chapter is 'who is the False Prophet?; With Mohammed being called a prophet, it is easy to think that when Revelation speaks of *the false prophet*, it is referring to the power of Islam. Indeed it is a strong power, or seemed to be until the events of the aftermath of September 11<sup>th</sup> when its power was no match for America's might. Fighting to the death for Allah suddenly was not so attractive! A careful study of the scriptures will point us in another direction for the true identity of the false prophet. A prophet teaches God's word (1 Cor. 14:3). So a false prophet is one who takes the truth and distorts it. We have many Old Testament examples. The scripture warns that the false prophets were to arise from within the ecclesias. The truth was to be corrupted in their hands. Peter warned of *the damnable heresies* that would be brought in. (2 Pet. 2:1) It was not a different religion, but the truth made false.

Paul warned in 2 Thess. ch. 2 that the falling away would come when a certain power would be taken away, allowing a corrupt version of the truth

to flourish and deceive the people. This was fulfilled in the time of Constantine, when the pagan Roman world that had largely persecuted the true believers up to that time, was swept away, to be replaced by Christianity as the state religion. They had long departed from the pureness of the truth, and it grew more and more corrupt. It succeeded in influencing people by *power and signs and lying wonders*, matters that persist to this day in the Roman Church and her many daughters.

But why is this False Prophet symbol introduced in chapter 16:13? Why not in an earlier period? The earlier history has been covered by the symbol of *an image of the beast* (13:14-18). This symbol was appropriate to the Papal States over which the Popes ruled as kings. The symbol ceased to be applicable when the power of the papacy was broken in the events of the French Revolution and its aftermath. The Pope was taken prisoner in 1809 and by 1870 all the papal lands were removed. The image of the beast was symbolically dead, so a new symbol was needed. Now it was precisely at this time period that the doctrine of papal infallibility was proclaimed. This doctrine declares that when the Pope proclaims matters of doctrine while sitting on “St. Peter’s throne”, they are true and can not be changed. Unfortunately, the Popes have never said which decrees are infallible pronouncements and which are not. And so, for those who are deceived by the church’s teachings, they are left with the general belief that all that is spoken must be true; after all he claims to be God on earth! It is no coincidence that the church has regained tremendous power since that low point of 1870. The rulers of the world visit the Pope and revere his words. For those whose eyes are enlightened by the words of the Lord Jesus, who has shown us the real truth about this system, this title of *false prophet* is aptly applicable to this system at this time in history.

### **Some helpful books and articles**

**Basic expositions:** *Eureka, Elpis Israel* by Bro. Thomas; *Apocalypse and History* by Bre. Barker & Boulton. [From Christadelphian Office]

**More recent works:** *Christadelphian Expositor—Revelation*, by Bro. Mansfield [Logos]; *Hear What the Spirit Saith unto the Ecclesias* by Bro. Knowles. *Ezekiel* by Bro. J. Allfree [From CSSS distributors]. *Rome and Jerusalem; How will Christ Come? Revelation—which interpretation?; The True Gospel—Defended and Explained!* By Bro. G. Pearce. [From CSSS distributors or Milestones]

*The Bible Magazine* contains Milestones updates, and many articles on prophecy. See Vol. 14#3 for article on *Who is the False Prophet?* by Bro. J. Ramsden. They also carry a range of booklets such as *United Europe—from the Atlantic to the Urals; Bible Prophecy and the Middle East. The Cry of the Prophets*, by Bro. P. Billington, has several chapters on the identity of Tarshish. They have also produced many videos on Bible prophecy; several can be viewed on line at [www.biblemagazine.com](http://www.biblemagazine.com) [From CSSS distributors or The Bible Magazine]

### **Chapter 3:**

## **SEPT. 11<sup>TH</sup> — THE RIPPLES FLOW OUT – America, Israel & Britain**

*In this chapter we try to find the roots of this terrorist activity directed against America, and then see how this one event has set off many ripples often in ways that could not easily have been foreseen.*

*It gives us a practical history lesson as to how God can use men and their plans to forward His purposes. We have many examples of this in both the Old and New Testaments, so this should not surprise us. God is supreme. His foreknowledge is unfathomable. With angelic messengers to forward His purposes, directed now by His son, we gain perhaps a glimpse of the perpetual activity of this heavenly host. Working among the affairs of men, working in the lives of believers to prepare them for their appointed future role and working amongst His nation. Israel has been cast off, but they are not forgotten, not ignored. Under the angels they are being taken along a path which will ultimately bring glory to their God, when they are a holy and a righteous nation such as they have never yet attained. Under wise immortal rulers, they will bring praise to their God and His king.*

*We have a practical illustration of this use of men who, though far astray from understanding of the ways of God, yet are used by God. Isaiah described the Assyrian King of his day.*

O Assyrian, the rod of mine anger, and the staff in their hand is mine indignation. I will send him against an hypocritical nation, and against the people of my wrath will I give him a charge, to take the spoil, and to take the prey, and to tread them down like the mire... *Is. 10:5-7*

*So God was using the plans of the Assyrians. Their foray against His people was allowed by God, yet totally unknown to the Assyrian king. And he in his turn would feel the hand of God.*

Wherefore it shall come to pass, that when the Lord hath performed his whole work upon mount Zion and on Jerusalem, I will punish the fruit of the stout heart of the king of Assyria, and the glory of his high looks. For he saith, By the strength of my hand I have done it, and by my wisdom; for I am prudent... *Is. 10:12,13*

*We have split this important chapter into two – in the next chapter we will examine the affects that September 11<sup>th</sup> has had on Russia.*

### **Avenging the stain of 80 years**

In an article published in *The New Yorker* on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2001, Prof. Bernard Lewis addressed the question: **Where did the conflict [with Islam] begin, and how could it end?**

In his pronouncements, bin Laden makes frequent references to history. One of the most dramatic was his mention, in the October 7th videotape, of the “humiliation and disgrace” that Islam has suffered for “more than eighty years.” Most American—and, no doubt, European—observers of the Middle Eastern scene began an anxious search for some thing that had happened “more than eighty years” ago, and came up with various answers. We can be fairly sure that bin Laden’s Muslim listeners — the people he was addressing—picked up the allusion immediately and appreciated its significance. In 1918, the Ottoman sultanate, the last of the great Muslim empires, was finally defeated—its capital, Constantinople, occupied, its sovereign held captive, and much of its territory partitioned between the victorious British and French Empires. The Turks eventually succeeded in liberating their homeland, but they did so not in the name of Islam but through a secular nationalist movement.

In Moslem eyes there are only two parties—the Moslem being the true one and the rest are the infidel. Against these was—and is—*the jihad*, literally *the striving*. This is directed to bring the infidels into submission or conversion. These included Jews and Christians. Quoting Prof. Lewis again:

From an early date, Muslims knew that there were certain differences among the peoples of the House of War. Most of them were simply polytheists and idolaters, who represented no serious threat to Islam and were likely prospects for conversion. The major exception was the Christians, whom Muslims recognized as having a religion of the same kind as their own, and therefore as their primary rival in the struggle for world domination—or, as they would have put it, world enlightenment. It is surely significant that the Koranic and other inscriptions on the Dome of the Rock, one of the earliest Muslim religious structures outside Arabia, built in Jerusalem between 691 and 692 AD, include a number of directly anti-Christian polemics: “Praise be to God, who begets no son, and has no partner,” and “He is God, one, eternal. He does not beget, nor is he begotten, and he has no peer.” For the early Muslims, the leader of Christendom, the Christian equivalent of the Muslim caliph, was the Byzantine emperor in Constantinople. Later, his place was taken by the Holy Roman Emperor in Vienna, and his in turn by the new rulers of the West. Each of these, in his time, was the principal adversary of the jihad.

...In modern parlance, Jews and Christians in the classical Islamic state were what we would call second class citizens, but second-class citizenship, established by law and the Koran and recognized by public opinion, was far better than the total lack of citizenship that was the fate of non-Christians and even of some deviant [non-conformist] Christians in the West.

From the 17<sup>th</sup> century the power of Islam waned. Christianity triumphed as we saw in the previous chapter, leading to the “humiliation and disgrace” during WWI. The western powers reigned supreme. Prof. Lewis continues:

By the early twentieth century although a precarious independence was retained by Turkey and Iran and by some remoter countries like Afghanistan, which at that time did not seem worth the trouble of invading, almost the entire Muslim world had been incorporated into the four European empires of Britain, France, Russia, and the Netherlands. Middle Eastern governments and factions were forced to learn how to play these mighty rivals off against one another. For a time, they played the game with some success. Since the Western allies—Britain and France and then the United States—effectively dominated the region, Middle Eastern resisters naturally looked to those allies' enemies for support. In the Second World War, they turned to Germany; in the Cold War, to the Soviet Union.

And then came the collapse of the Soviet Union, which left the United States as the sole world superpower. The era of Middle Eastern history that had been inaugurated by Napoleon and Nelson was ended by Gorbachev and the elder George Bush. At first, it seemed that the era of imperial rivalry had ended with the withdrawal of both competitors: the Soviet Union couldn't play the imperial role, and the United States wouldn't...But most Middle Easterners didn't see it that way. For them, this was simply a new phase in the old imperial game, with America as the latest in a succession of Western imperial overlords, except that this overlord had no rival—no Hitler or Stalin—whom they could use either to damage or to influence the West. In the absence of such a patron, Middle Easterners found themselves obliged to mobilize their own force of resistance. Al Qaeda—its leaders, its sponsors, its financiers—is one such force.

And so America became the target for these Moslem fundamentalists, she was the “Great Satan”, against whom they should wage their “holy war” until her dominance was ended. Their anger was also directed against those many pro-western nations, such as Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, where American influence was coupled with a military presence. Rulers of such countries were seen as traitors to the Muslim faith. Prof. Lewis also observes:

Osama bin Laden and his Al Qaeda followers may not represent Islam, and their statements and their actions directly contradict basic Islamic principles and teachings, but they do arise from within Muslim civilization, just as Hitler and the Nazis arose from within Christian civilization, so they must be seen in their own cultural, religious, and historical context.



## **Israel at its heart**

Professor Lewis continues:

As the Western European empires faded, Middle Eastern anti-Americanism was attributed more and more to another cause: American support for Israel, first in its conflict with the Palestinian Arabs, then in its conflict with the neighbouring Arab states and the larger Islamic world. There is certainly support for this hypothesis in Arab statements on the subject.

...The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is only one of many struggles between the Islamic and non-Islamic worlds—on a list that includes Nigeria, Sudan, Bosnia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Chechnya, Sinkiang, Kashmir, and Mindanao—but it has attracted far more attention than any of the others. There are several reasons for this. First, since Israel is a democracy and an open society, it is much easier to report—and misreport—what is going on. Second, Jews are involved, and this can usually secure the attention of those who, for one reason or another, are for or against them. Third, and most important, resentment of Israel is the only grievance that can be freely and safely expressed in those Muslim countries where the media are either wholly owned or strictly overseen by the government. Indeed, Israel serves as a useful stand-in for complaints about the economic privation and political repression under which most Muslim people live, and as a way of deflecting the resulting anger.

So the Israeli-Palestinian contest became a focus of their attention. America supported Israel economically and militarily. In Muslim eyes, Jews were at the heart of America's decadence, being closely linked with the financial world and the entertainment world in America. So the known choice of targets was significant—it is assumed that there were many targets that would have been struck, had not America grounded her planes so swiftly. The twin Towers was built on Jewish land and had just a few weeks before been purchased by a Jewish financier. Being a financial centre, many Jewish companies would have had offices there. It struck therefore not only at America but also Israel, and many western countries. It was the very heart of the hated western capitalism.

The other target was the Pentagon. This was a direct blow at the military might of America – this is the centre for all American planning for the three services. Although not directly linked to Israel, there is a high degree of co-operation between the Israeli and American military. Israeli technology is highly regarded, and there are many joint projects. Also Israeli intelligence services have a high level of sharing of information. Indeed, in the summer Israel had warned of imminent attacks on America.

The linkage with Israel was seen by Daniel Johnson in *the Daily Telegraph*:

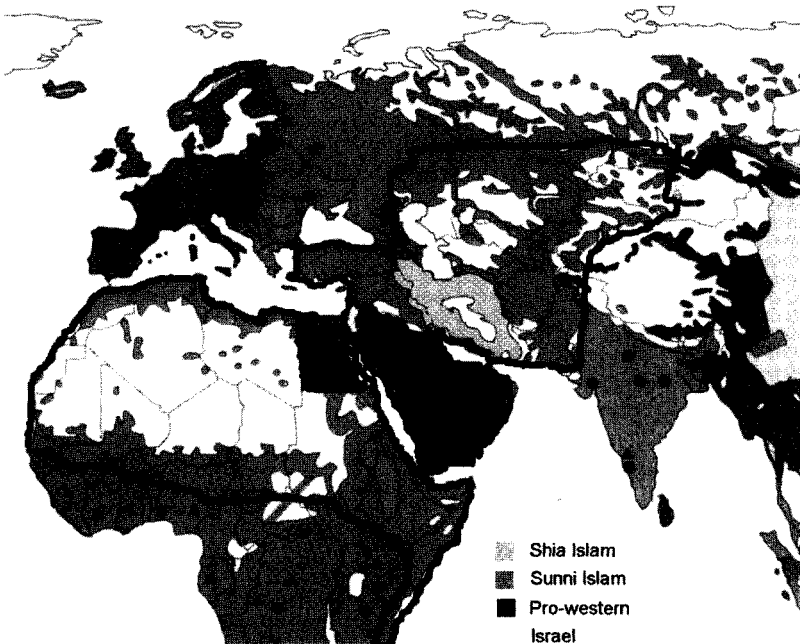
...global Islamic terrorism is rooted in global anti-Semitism. This was, in many ways, the most vicious blow aimed at the Jewish people since the Holocaust. Though the victims yesterday were Americans, the chief target was what the perpetrators would call International Jewry. New York is not only the richest city on earth, the capital of capitalism, it is also the largest Jewish city. 12-10-01

A similar point was made in a letter to the editor of the *Daily Telegraph* from a Prof. Bradley.

In his [bin Laden's] published fatwas before Sept 11th and in his TV videos since, he clearly points out that his hatred for the US is due to its unconditional support of Israel against the Palestinians. After that he objects to American troops in the Middle East, especially in Saudi, and he deplores the corruption of the Saudi government. 7-11-01

Indeed, on the bin Laden's videotape released at the year-end, he is quite specific.

"Our terrorism against the United States is worthy of praise to deter the oppressor so that America stop its support for Israel, which is killing our children."



When one looks at a map of the Moslem world, Israel is situated at its very heart, at the pivot point of its eastern and western arms. Moreover, Israel is

surrounded by Moslem countries that are pro-western. One can understand their intolerance of Israel.

And so, time and time again during the conflict against bin Laden, the eyes of the world have been drawn back to Israel and the PLO. At first it seemed that Israel would be the main beneficiary of the world's shock at the events of Sept 11<sup>th</sup>. What America experienced that day, Israel had been suffering for years. With the world rapidly uniting behind America to root out terrorism, Israel's hand was strengthened. How could Yasser Arafat employ terror tactics against Israel and not be condemned? Surely Israel had world opinion on her side for the first time?

### **Pressure on the Middle East**

Events did not work out like that, as we shall see in our more detailed look on Israel in chapter 10. The suicide attacks did re-commence, and Israel's firm and predictable response aroused the anger of many Muslim countries, as well as the EU. As the year ends with the effective dismantling of Yasser Arafat's power base, one is left wondering what will be the short-term outcome.

Although the world's press tends to be anti-Semitic, there have been signs recently that the mood is changing. No longer does the world see Israel as the recalcitrant party. America especially has woken up to the daily fears that the Israelis face. Arafat is seen as a person unwilling to negotiate. He turned his back on what was on offer last year at Camp David, when Ehud Barak offered to hand over 95% of the West Bank and to share Jerusalem. This was rejected and the intifada was renewed leaving 800 Palestinians and 250 Israelis dead. What the Israeli politicians and press have been exposing is that Arafat is not prepared to tolerate a State of Israel, that hatred of Jews is inculcated into school children from an early age.

For the past 25 years, I've watched sad-faced Israeli activists trudge around Western capitals with heavy hearts beating under ill-fitting suits. They carry folders of transcripts and videotapes to document the misrepresentations in the press and the moral hypocrisy of the world towards Israel. They want to win the war of ideas on its merits. Their attention to detail in translating the hate literature of the Middle East and the hate-filled speeches of its leaders is commendable.

It's enlightening to read, for example, their studies of Syrian and Palestinian Authority school textbooks that explain to young school-children that the Jews are a people made up of rapists, murderers and thieves. It is sad to learn that such PA textbooks are used by the UN in its schools for Palestinian refugees. But something new is "blowin' in the wind". Today, after years in the media desert, Israel's experts and front-line activists are slowly finding some media doors opening to them. Barbara Amiel, *Daily Telegraph*. 17-12-01

We will look further at this aspect when looking at Israel in chapter 10.

Not only has Mr Blair invested time and his reputation in finding a solution. EU leaders, Russia and the USA have also. Initially it was to hold the coalition together, their desire not to alienate the Arab countries, but that need changed with time. As the war in Afghanistan came swiftly to a conclusion in a matter of six weeks - apart from still seeking bin Laden - it seemed to parallel an opposite effect in Israel. The suicide bombings stepped up and Israel's retaliation grew bigger. There was a seeming endless spiral of tit-for-tat killings.

September 11<sup>th</sup> certainly accelerated the conflict, and yet gave Israel the green light in her endeavour to stamp down on terrorism, without facing a continuous barrage of criticism. Without September 11<sup>th</sup>, there would not be the impetus to find a solution. With 2001 now closed we are still left wondering what the solution will be.

### **US and Britain – the special relationship**

One of the undoubted ripples has been the strengthening of the standing between Britain and America. Again when Mr Bush was elected many doubted that there would be the chemistry that operated between Blair and Clinton. After all Bush wasn't so interested in overseas matters and his ideas for a missile defence programme were viewed with suspicion by Europe. He was also unhappy at Mr Blair's support for a European army. They met in February, with doubts hanging over success of the meeting. However, a few days earlier, British and American planes joined in the deepest penetration of Saddam Hussein's air defence for two years, striking targets close to Baghdad. The American news networks were full of praise for Britain's help—"the only member of the original Gulf War coalition 'standing alongside'."

Interestingly a Mori poll issued ahead of their meeting asked the question "which of these—Europe, the Commonwealth or the United States—do you think would be Britain's most reliable political ally?" Nearly 60% voted for the US and around 15% for each of the other two.

The friendship was secure and the two men found much in common. The following month America honoured their British links by naming their most powerful destroyer in the US Navy, USS Winston S Churchill. It was only the 4<sup>th</sup> American naval ship named after a Briton and the first to be named after a modern Englishman.

Britain's special relationship was forged during the two World Wars and covers four areas.

One, the most amorphous [lacking a definite shape] but perhaps the most tenacious, is historical and cultural. The other three are all defence-related, concerning intelligence, nuclear affairs and military matters. *The Economist* 10-02-01

America and Britain, with Australia, Canada and New Zealand share intelligence information. "Although no one is a complete friend in the

intelligence world, with Britain and America it is as close as it gets.” The EU greatly distrusts Britain for not sharing with them. Indeed there is a row rumbling at the moment over the American *Echelon* information gathering from a base in Britain. The EU claims that it is being used to steal commercial information.

Unlike France who has gone-it-alone on nuclear forces, Britain has purchased hers from America and they have worked to limit nuclear proliferation.

There is close military and diplomatic co-operation between the two countries, the hinge of which has been Nato. Britain has succeeded in quelling many of the justifiable fears that America has about Britain’s commitment to the European army. For the present, the coalition against terrorism has demonstrated that when there is a need, Britain and America stand “shoulder to shoulder”.

## **Chapter 4:**

# **SEPT. 11<sup>TH</sup>—THE RIPPLES FLOW OUT – Russia**

*Having looked at the effects on America, Israel and Britain, we now see the effects of September 11<sup>th</sup> in relation to Russia.*

### **Afghanistan—Russia's opportunity**

Russia has long had an interest in Afghanistan; indeed the collapse of the Soviet Empire can in part be attributed to her long struggle to take the country in the 1980's. It was the frontline in the Cold War. Russian troops invaded in 1979, putting 100,000 men into the country. The Americans channelled massive military aid to the Afghan rebels, via Pakistan. The Russians eventually retreated in 1989, leaving the country torn between rival religious factions.

Why was Russia so interested in this region? At its heart lies Russia's desire for a warm water port. Although Russia is a huge country, much of her coastline is in waters that freeze in the winter. Her main warm water port is in the Black Sea at Sebastopol in the Crimean peninsula. However the access to the Mediterranean is through the Dardenelles, a narrow strip of waterway surrounded by Turkey, a traditionally unfriendly country. She waits the day when she can remove the reproach of the fall of Constantinople.

Meanwhile, Afghanistan has better prospects for Russia. Although a land-locked country, it is but a comparatively short step, across an area that is sparsely inhabited, to the Indian Ocean. It would involve either taking land from Pakistan or Iran. There is much mineral and oil wealth in the region surrounding Afghanistan. Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan have some of the world's largest reserves of oil and gas in the world! In the past, Russia has insisted that it is shipped for export across Russian territory. America, on the other hand, with an eye to lucrative contracts to her oil firms, favoured pipelines avoiding Russia. Hence her past support for the Taliban regime, whom she has now attacked and destroyed. America hoped that by winning influence in Afghanistan, the US oil giants could build a gas pipeline from Turkmenistan, through Afghanistan, to Pakistan and the Gulf. The battle for which great power influences Afghanistan will dictate who builds such a pipeline! America seems to be signalling to Russia that she is prepared to cede such influence to Russia; America has no long-term plan to remain in the region.

It was interesting to observe Russia's prompt backing for America's attacks on her former foe in Afghanistan. For many years it was Russia who had given military support to the Northern Alliance, who had been waging a long campaign against the Taliban. Indeed to a large extent it was the

stepping up of Russian armaments to the Northern Alliance that led to the rapid downfall of the Taliban. The Americans did the bombing from the safety of the skies, but it was the troops mainly of the Northern Alliance, that fought the battles on the ground.

Russia followed up the success of the ground troops by sending in, seemingly without American agreement, troops to secure the airfield at Bagram and to set-up a field hospital. The fact that there already was a hospital in the area pointed to the fact that this was more than a humanitarian move. Russia was putting in her claim to control of this territory.

Under the long headline **Twenty Years Later Moscow and Washington are quarrelling over Afghanistan—Again**, the *Strana* news report (30-11-01) reported about the many actions that Russia had been taking to establish her presence in Afghanistan. *The Times* foreign editor put it succinctly:

You have to hand it to Vladimir Putin. He is not shy of playing a good trick, particularly one he has used before, nor is he shy of confrontation. Russia's sudden move yesterday in sending 12 military cargo planes into Bagram airport near Kabul, stuffed with aid, was apparently not expected by the West. Not for the first time since September 11, it raised echoes of the Russian grab for Pristina airport in the aftermath of the Kosovo war. The aid delivery may prove a Trojan horse, allowing the Russian President to grab the influence in Afghanistan that we have known for months he wants to get.

...But it is not just a stunt. It is one of a number of small moves to show that Russia means business and wants a presence in Afghanistan. 27-11-01

Another article in *The Times* on the same day confirmed Russia's longer-term interest.

Mr Putin also has in mind the longstanding Russian aim of gaining access to warm-water ports. This would enable Moscow to transport oil and gas reserves around the Caspian Sea, perhaps by building pipelines through Afghanistan...Should the new government be pro-Western, Russia could find its oil and gas industries shaken... It could be Western companies which win approval to build new pipelines, not Moscow.

It appears that if a government is successfully set up in Afghanistan, it will be pro-Russian, rather than pro-Western.

### **Russia comes out of the cold**

One of the remarkable facets of September 11<sup>th</sup> has been the speed at which America and Europe have accepted Russia as a partner. **Bush and Putin ready for new strategic partnership** was the headline in *The Times* 22-10-01.

“Vladimir Putin was the first person to call,” Mr Bush said. “That’s what a friend does, calls in a time of need.”

In spite of internal opposition by his military leaders, Mr. Putin offered all the assistance that he could to the coalition against Afghanistan. His help was crucial. It was Russia that had been backing the Northern Alliance opposition forces; it was Russia that had influence over the countries adjacent to Afghanistan. Their co-operation was essential to make available forward airbases from which attacks could be launched. America needed Russia’s consent to use her airspace. Russia gave every co-operation—the extent of which surprised the West. It fitted in well with Putin’s plans to be accepted by the West, to put the Cold War behind them. As we shall see in chapter 7, Russia had been making good progress towards integration with Europe. September 11<sup>th</sup> gave him the opportunity to widen that acceptance and to put Russia in a position where she was a partner with America and no longer a faded once-upon-a-time world power.

His November visit with his wife to America was a great success. The American people were appreciative of his invaluable help and the two men hit it off.

What a contrast to the headlines of my newspaper cuttings earlier in the year! **Bush will cut off aid to Russia until it reforms and Bush gets tough with Russia on aid grants:**

George W Bush showed yesterday that he would take a harsher line with Russia than his predecessor. *Daily Telegraph*. 15-01-01

Bush’s initial coldness towards Russia was because he planned to concentrate on the needs of the USA and not to be involved on the world scene like Clinton had been. However at their first meeting in June the mood changed. **Bush to Putin: US and Russia can be friends** was the headline to their historic meeting in Slovenia. Another was **Bush finds a friend in Putin after Euro rows:**

A new era in relations with Russia was heralded yesterday by George W Bush when he praised Vladimir Putin the Kremlin leader, as a man he could trust and invited the old cold war adversary to become America’s “partner and friend”. *Daily Telegraph*. 17-06-01

The cold war was now over, and the events three months later hastened that transformation. In an interview with a Russian news-source, Strobe Talbot, the US Deputy Secretary of State under Mr Clinton described the change:

The essential notion or premise of U.S.–Russian relations after the end of the Cold War was that—in some basic sense, or some very general sense—the U.S. and Russia were on the same side, in a way that they couldn’t be when they were ideological and geo-political enemies.

...The problem with it was that the premise of partnership kept getting put to the test of international conflict in which the United States was the



2000-pound gorilla, mobilizing an international coalition and going after some bad guy. And the principal bad guys were of course Saddam Hussein and Slobodan Milosevic, and Russia had its own ties with both of them, and it had its own reasons for being neuralgic about American force being used against them.

What happened after September 11th was that that changed in a very fundamental way. There was a new international conflict; the United States once again used military force; but this time the target, or the enemy, was somebody that the Russians hated as much as we did, if not more—because the territorial integrity of their own country was at stake, as they see it—and that just changed the underlying psychology of U.S.-Russian relations in a way that Putin recognized instantly and capitalized on.

In return for his help, Putin asked for and obtained the US and Europe's agreement not to criticise her for the war she was waging in Chechnya. The rebels there had been backed by bin Laden; he was fighting the same war. He also asked that Russia be treated as a partner, not as an enemy.

In September he made an historic address to the German Bundestag. The headline in *Strana* was **Russia-West dialogue: shedding last vestiges of Cold War**:

President Vladimir Putin's address to the German Bundestag is already described as the most important speech in his entire foreign policy career.

Speaking from the high parliamentary rostrum of a most influential European state, he unequivocally laid down Russia's course for partnership with Europe and the entire civilized world.

The September 11 events have forced the West to see Russia as well as its role and position on a wide range of problems—military, political, economic—in a new light. None of the Western leaders challenges the need for the Russian Federation's acceptance to the WTO as a matter of principle. It would seem there are no political obstacles either. But from time to time, someone in the WTO would speak about economic barriers, many of which proved no obstacle for the acceptance of other countries. In actual fact, the economic situation is such that Moscow may quite count on a fair attitude to itself on the part of the Western partners.

"The Cold War is over. The world is at a new stage of development. Without a sustainable, international security policy we will never have stability," Putin told the Bundestag in German in a speech that drew a standing ovation from deputies.

"It's as though we could not realize that the world is no longer split into two enemy camps," he said. "The world has become much, much more complicated."

“Meanwhile, we don’t recognize the real threats,” he said. “Terrorism, national hate, separatism and religious extremism have the same roots everywhere and bear the same poisonous fruit.” 28-09-01

### **Russia, Nato and the US**

Russia can see that it would be a long time before she could join the EU—there is a long line of candidate countries ahead of her. But there is another and a quicker route that September 11<sup>th</sup> has opened up. It is through an active participation in Nato. The very fact that Nato—the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation—was set up in 1949 as a means of collective security against the perceived threat of the Soviet, now points to the need for change. The West sees that that threat has now disappeared and there is considerable momentum now for Russia to join as a partner and to help Nato fight the regional wars as they flare up. The key to entry lies in America’s acceptance of the idea. She is the major partner, and it would be a major boost for Putin to be accepted. It really would signal the end of the cold war.

Russia can work with Nato as an ally in the war against terror. Nato needs Russia’s help and will learn to work with it properly, making real rather than formal use of the Nato-Russian treaty. To that door America has the key. Russia’s way in from the cold thus runs via Washington. *The Times* 13-11-01.

Mr Blair really led the way with his insistence that Nato must reform and turn from being 19+1 to 20! What he meant by this was that at the moment there are 19 members, and Russia is given an observer status, but not allowed to vote—hence the +1. What he was proposing was that Russia be brought into the decision making process so all 20 members have equal rights. His proposals in early November were followed up by a visit by Lord Robertson, the Nato Secretary General to Russia. This was followed on December 7<sup>th</sup> by a joint statement by the Russian-Nato Joint Permanent Council, following their meeting.

Today we commit ourselves to forge a new relationship between Nato Allies and Russia, enhancing our ability to work together in areas of common interest and to stand up to new threats and risks to our security. We reaffirm that a confident and co-operative partnership between the Allies and Russia, based on shared democratic values and the shared commitment to a stable, peaceful and undivided Europe, as enshrined in the Nato-Russia Founding Act, is essential for stability and security in the Euro-Atlantic area. We have decided to give new impetus and substance to our partnership, with the goal of creating a new council bringing together Nato member states and Russia to identify and pursue opportunities for joint action as 20. *Strana* 7-12-01

### Russia and WTO membership

The World Trade Organisation (WTO) exists to promote trade between its growing list of members. China became member 143 in November. It tries to settle trade disputes among its members and also looks at environmental matters. With so many members it covers all the major countries, so Russia has felt aggrieved that after seven years of trying, she still is not a member! Many countries who applied after her have been accepted. All sides now recognise that there is no reason to exclude her, and as a result of Sept 11<sup>th</sup> it would appear that she will be welcomed as a member as soon as possible. World leaders have given their backing to such a move.

Putin has named WTO entry as a top priority and has ordered bundles of legislation passed that would make Russia's laws conform with that of WTO member states... U.S. Trade Representative Robert Zoellick met with Russian officials at the beginning of the month in Moscow and emerged saying Russia could be in the final stage for WTO ascension by early 2002. Previously, WTO members had said Russia had little chance of joining before 2003 or 2004. *St. Petersburg Times* 16-10-01.

We look at Russian – European relations in chapters 6 and 7.



This cartoon neatly summarised the benefits to Russia of recent events

## Chapter 5

# RUSSIA'S GROWING STRENGTH

*Last year we looked at Ezekiel ch. 38 and saw that before the coming down of Gog, she had to be turned back, or restored. After the decline of the '90's, following the collapse of the Soviet, we saw under Mr Putin the beginnings of a revival, Russia making herself strong again. That process moved apace this year, with the reforms beginning to bite, and increased revenue due to higher oil prices, Russia expanded at a very healthy rate. This chapter will help to set the scene for our look in the next two chapters at the incredible progress made in her integration with Europe.*

*Daniel 11:40 describes Gog coming from the north with, among other things, **many ships**. After years of accounts of Russia's fleets rusting away, the situation has changed; Russia is emerging once more as a naval power.*

*The other matter that we have been tracing in Milestones over several years is the preparations that are being made to re-instate the Tsar! A few more pieces have dropped into place this year. As we said last year; thrilling times indeed!*

### A major power again

In a remarkably frank interview between a German paper and a Russian historian, the questioner asked *What does Putin understand by major power?* The historian, Boris Orlov, gave this significant answer:

**A strong state.** He believes that a **strong military**, backed by a **mighty naval fleet**, is **absolutely necessary** if the country's modernisation and an efficient economy are to be achieved. *Frankfurter Rundschau Online* 31-01-01 [my emphasis]

In March Mr Putin sacked his Defence Minister and, for the first time put a civilian in control. This radical shake up was hailed as "modernising the country's military make-up". The man appointed, Sergai Ivanov, is one of the president's closest allies, with a similar background to Putin—a KGB officer. Putin's long-term plan is to move from a conscript army to a professional army. Corruption is rife in the services; this move was a signal for reform.

### With many ships

Before the fall of Communism, the Soviet fleet was her pride; her ships patrolled the world. The collapse of Communism led to a very rapid decline in her navy. Pictures of once-proud ships now rotting in port could be seen. There were great concerns over the dangers from her idle nuclear-powered ships. Much of the Russian fleet lies in Sevastopol in the Crimean

penninsula. Unfortunately the area was handed over to Ukraine, who over time grew antagonistic to Russia. This has led to great problems, as the fleet is effectively in another country! However Putin has taken great strides in restoring the hand of friendship to the Ukraine. Recently shipbuilding and ship repairing recommenced.

Early in January, the *Stratfor Intelligence Service* reported on Russia's resumption of her Far-Eastern naval patrols.

Russia's Pacific Fleet returned to extended naval operations with the Jan.15 sailing of two Udaloy class destroyers to India and Vietnam. The choice of the Admiral Vinogradov and Admiral Panteleyev, large anti-submarine warfare ships, demonstrates Russian military capability and a willingness to provide assistance in the vital shipping lanes of Southeast Asia.

Russia's extended naval journey is significant in that it marks the Pacific Fleet's first long-term mission in the last five years, Reuters reported Jan. 15. Until now, the Pacific Fleet has been unable to conduct extended operations because of chronic cash shortages. 18-01-01

*The Times* 16-1-01 carried a similar report.

The two antisubmarine warships and the tanker put to sea after Moscow and Beijing revealed plans for a strengthened "strategic partnership" to counter American global dominance and, in particular, to underline their opposition to the incoming Bush administration's proposals for a US missile defence shield.

Last month the Admiralty in Moscow announced that it would be resuming patrols in the Pacific and Indian Ocean on a scale not seen since the end of the Cold War...Now Asia's two largest countries [India and China] are to sign an agreement later this year to cover arms sales and space co-operation that will emphasise their political *rapprochement*.

Russia has been supplying India with an extensive array of armaments, and she wishes to build on this. Selling her ships abroad helps to pay for development of newer types. In 1997 they signed a \$900 million contract for the supply of 3 powerful frigates. Vietnam has long had good relations with Russia—she supported North Vietnam during its war against the US backed South Vietnam.

The aim was to "counter American global dominance" and to "reassert Russia's role in Asian security after a decade of decline". Interestingly the US Pacific Fleet has been cut by 40% over the past decade.

Later in the month Russia supplied China with a very sophisticated destroyer—the 2<sup>nd</sup> delivered after a \$1 billion deal signed in 1997. These vessels are a match for the US warships based on the Japanese island of Okinawa.

The warships are fitted with guided missiles and air-defence radar that allows them to command a wide swath of the ocean, and they were designed to handle simultaneous air, surface and submarine attacks. *Associated Press* 19-01-01

In April it was reported that Russia had begun to manufacture a “unique high-speed missile boat”, which experts claimed would be unrivalled in the world weapons market for the next 25 years! It can track 15 targets simultaneously. Each boat could patrol up to 5,000 sq. sea miles in area. *Strana* 10-04-01

Later there were reports of the production of high-speed missile-carrying boats built of aluminium and magnesium, which skimmed the surface of the sea at speeds of up to 50 knots an hour. It is said to have good prospects for sales throughout Asia and the Middle East. *Strana* 22-05-01

In June there was another *Stratfor Report* (14-06-01) with the headline: **Signs of Strength in Russia's Navy, Possibly with Help of Stolen U.S. Secrets**

Even as the U.S. and Russian presidents meet, the Putin government is moving to counter U.S. military might. After years of neglect, Moscow is beginning to pour money into shipbuilding: Early this month a new, quiet attack submarine made its way into the White Sea, surprising Western intelligence. Russia's navy is set to build more vessels like this using technology stolen from abroad. It appears that Russia has penetrated the American submarine program, possibly through the work of former FBI agent Robert Hanssen.

In global terms, Russia is signalling a renewed will to emerge once again as an important naval power. Much of this stems directly from the decisions of the government of President Vladimir Putin. For years, successive Russian governments have left the navy to rot in port, with new ship construction running years behind schedule. Now the government is directing scant resources into construction and finds shipbuilding boosted by orders from abroad.

Approved late last year by Putin, the roadmap calls for building new flagships over the next five years—with serial production to be completed by 2010—as well as a total rearmament by 2020. Russian navy commander-in-chief Vladimir Kuroyedov recently told reporters in St. Petersburg that “Russia is making a step toward realization that it is a naval power,” according to ITAR-TASS. This would represent a fundamental upswing in Russian global influence.

### **Arms dealer to many nations**

Currently Russia is the 4<sup>th</sup> largest arms dealer, behind America, Britain and France. In 2000 she had \$3.8bn in sales, and is pressing hard to overtake Britain and France to take the No. 2 slot. In the previous year Putin had taken steps to streamline the industry, merging the two biggest firms. With established contacts around the world, they are well set to achieve their goals.

### **Her economy is growing**

With the economic reforms beginning to work, coupled with less tax evasion and higher fuel prices, Russia had a good economic year. Growth is thought to have been in the region of 8%, contrasting sharply with her European neighbours. True she was building on a lower base, but it has enabled several loans to be repaid early. Until the drop in oil prices in the latter part of the year, the gold and currency reserves grew and grew. Between January and July they had increased by 30.5%.

Russia, thanks to its insulation from other global economies, has a good chance of outperforming not only other emerging markets this year, but also showing healthier growth than economic heavyweights such as the United States, Britain, Germany, and Japan.

However, economists say the key to this growth could well hang on two factors: global oil prices and Russian diplomacy.

And even if oil prices hit bottom, diplomacy could pull Russia through. Russia, which has been largely supportive of the United States' call to fight terrorism, could purvey this into a deal with the West in which its war helps bring about a restructuring or write-off of its staggering foreign debt, accelerated entry into the World Trade Organization or even, perhaps, membership in Nato.

The optimistic economic expectations voiced by the government recently are hardly surprising. Russia's economy has been showing improved year-on-year growth every year since the devastating 1998 financial crisis. Last year, gross-domestic-product growth topped a stunning 8 percent, the highest growth ever in post-Soviet history.

At the same time, the Central Bank has maintained a tight monetary policy that has kept the ruble stable. *St. Petersburg Times* 16-10-01.

### **Russia's buried treasures**

The size of the wealth of resources under Russia is staggering.

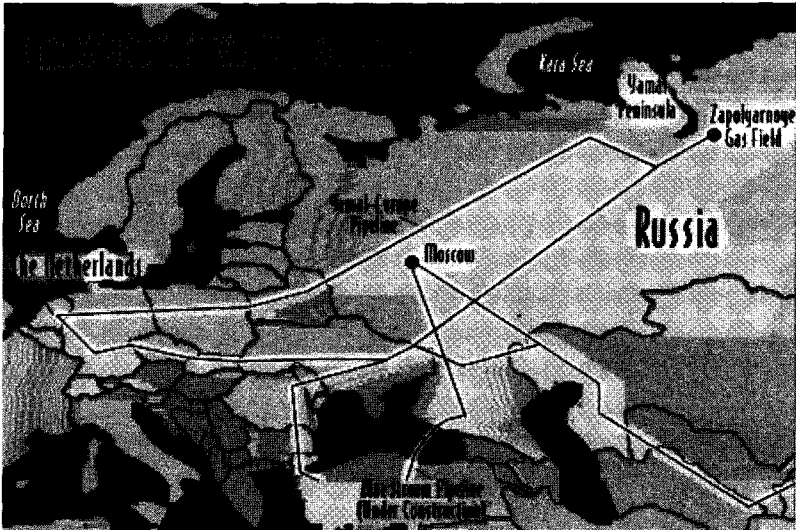
Russia holds the world's largest natural gas reserves, the second largest coal reserves, and the eighth largest oil reserves. Russia is also the world's second largest energy consumer, and is the world's largest exporter of natural gas and second largest exporter of energy and petroleum. *Drillbits* 19-8-00

The following quote from the *St Petersburg Times* 13-4-01, is all the more interesting because it was not written by a Russian, but by Robert McFarlane who was national security adviser to President Ronald Reagan!

In terms of natural resources, Russia is the wealthiest country in the world. It has always been clear that if ever Russia were able to develop and exploit its oil, gas and precious metals in a sensible fashion it could become an economic superpower of virtually unlimited potential. Today it is impressive to see how quickly following its ideological collapse in the Cold War and the more recent economic implosion of the summer of 1998, Russia has begun once more to exercise the power inherent in its natural wealth.

In November the huge Zapolyarnoye gasfield came on stream—one of the 10 largest in the world with estimated reserves of 3.2 trillion cubic metres.

Since Zapolyarnoye is close to Russia's Urengoy field, another massive field already in operation, the cost of bringing Zapolyarnoye on-line is a fraction of many other Russian petroleum projects. Gazprom plans to tap Zapolyarnoye for 20 billion to 30 billion cubic meters this year and ramp production up to a staggering 100 bcm as soon as possible. That's more gas than Germany, Europe's largest gas market, consumes in a year.



Based on the current European gas rates—about \$100 per 1,000 cubic meters—Zapolyarnoye alone could bring in revenues of \$10 billion annually if Moscow exported all its gas. Zapolyarnoye is now connected to the greater Russian natural gas infrastructure, allowing its gas to reach



all of Europe—via the new Yamal-Europe pipeline—and Turkey, via the soon-to-be-completed Blue Stream pipeline.

The new income will be more than enough to finance even larger projects. At the top of Gazprom's list is the development of the Yamal Peninsula, deep in the Russian Arctic. The Yamal is home to a number of "supergiant" fields holding more than 1 trillion cubic meters each. It is also the logical gateway for exploiting the massive fields beneath the Kara Sea. Gazprom envisions a series of six trunk lines stretching from Yamal to Europe. The first is already completed, and Russia is gunning to start heavy work on the second. The total price tag for Yamal development is well over \$50 billion, but its completion will leave Russia rolling in European money. *Stratfor Intelligence Service* 11-10-01

Just a month later, there was news of yet another field coming on stream, this time on the eastern coast of Russia. It is on the island of Sakhalin, just to the north of Japan. Deep-sea drilling is needed which is outside Russia's capability, so it is being developed by non-Russian companies. The attractiveness of this large reserve is that the Japanese market is close at hand. At the moment Japan relies on Middle Eastern sources. By 2006, it is expected that the area will yield 370,000 barrels of oil a day and 12.5bn cubic meters of liquid gas a year. It represents for Russia a huge investment on the part of overseas firms of some \$23bn.

### **Fit for a Tsar**

Russia has taken many steps to prepare for the re-instatement of the Tsar.

- Dec 1996 Yeltsin declared that the then 15-year-old Georgy Mikhailovich was to return to Russia to be "re-instated as head of Russia's imperial family." He returned from Spain with his mother and grandmother. Part of his schooling has been in Britain.
- Aug 2000 He and his family were present at the service of the canonisation of last Tzar, Nicholas II who was killed in the revolution. The following day they attended the service of dedication of the newly completed Cathedral of Jesus Christ the Saviour.
- Dec 2000 The 3 year restoration of the Tsar's throne was completed
- Dec 2000 The double-headed eagle officially reinstated as emblem of Russia
- May 2001 Tsar's icon brought to Moscow. I quote from the *Russian Orthodox* website!

Patriarch Alexy II conducted the prayer service before the miraculous Icon of the Mother of God called 'Feodorovskaya' in the Cathedral of Christ the Saviour.

The icon is considered the protectress of marriage, children and youth... For centuries this icon has bestowed great mercies on our Fatherland and our people. Tzars, hierarchs, warriors and all Russian people prayed before this icon hoping for the intercession of the Heavenly Queen.

The icon was found in the Russian land in 1239... In 1613 nun Martha commended her 16-year-old son Mikhail Romanov to the Most Holy Mother of God as he was ascending the Russian throne in the year of discords and revolts. Since that time the Icon of the Most Holy Mother of God called 'Feodorovskaya' has become the patrimonial holy item of the Romanov House with great importance for the whole of Russia.

- Sept 2001 Work commenced on the massive restoration project on the Konstantinovsky (Constantine) Palace on the outskirts of Moscow. Partly for Putin to use, partly museum, partly hotel. They aim to have the first phase finished for the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St Petersburg in 2003. The city is named after Tsar Peter the Great, who is regarded as the founder of modern Russia. But this, Russia's Versailles, would make a fitting place for the Romanov heir to live!

He will be 21 in March 2002—watch this space!

### **All of them riding upon horses**

Ezekiel chapters 38 and 39 mention the abundance of horses that Gog uses. We normally translate this concept into its modern equivalent –vehicles of many sorts that are so widely used in battle today. Yet in the war in Afghanistan, we saw frequent pictures of horses and asses being used as a mode of transport well suited to that country. There was an intriguing news item carried by the *BBC* 27-12-01 headed **Russia's four-legged conscripts**.

**Horses will have to be registered.** The next targets for a new military recruitment drive in Russia might well be four-legged or four-wheeled, according to local television reports. In the event of war, the new conscripts called up by the Russian Defence Ministry could include pets as well as Russian-made jeeps.

Under the new proposals, donkeys, horses, camels, reindeers, sledge-dogs and four-wheel-drive vehicles will have to be registered at local military commandants' offices across the country. The military say that, in the event of war, cars and animals would be commandeered but there would be some kind of financial compensation. But correspondents say it will not be very much.

## **Chapter 6:**

# **RUSSIA AND GERMANY—STRATEGIC PARTNERS**

*We would refer readers to last year's Milestones where we saw the scriptural and historical case for linkage between Russia and Europe and Germany in particular. Gog is "of the land of Magog", which we identified with the region of Germany and Poland. Also in chapter 2 this year we looked at the two horn powers of Daniel's prophecies. What we see are two iron legs, one centred in Germany and one in Russia. They are beginning to join together in a common body which will support a head of gold, when it stands up for the first and last time. The head represents the papacy who will control both limbs of Europe, bringing them together in order to deal with the opposition to her claims which will be arising in Israel, probably under the hand of Elijah. In this chapter we concentrate on Russia and Germany, and in the next Russia and the EU.*

### **Putin and Schröder**

The remarkable friendship between these two former enemies—Putin was a Russian spy in Germany—climaxed with them spending Christmas together in January 2001.

Because the Russian and Greek Orthodox Churches use the Julian calendar, their celebrations of Christmas fell on January 6<sup>th</sup> this year. Mr Putin and his wife Lyudmila, invited Doris and Gerhard Schröder and their daughter Clara, to spend this weekend with them. It was also Mrs Putin's birthday. After a tour of the Kremlin, there was a visit to the Bolshoi Theatre. They then attended the Christmas midnight service at the newly completed Moscow Cathedral. The Russian Patriarch Alexis II took the Mass. On the Sunday, they toured the Kolomenskoye Palace, the summer residence of the Tsars. This was followed by lunch with Patriarch Alexis II.

For the two families to spend this period together shows a remarkable level of friendship. It was essentially an informal visit, but they did discuss among other things the return of the treasures that Russia looted from Germany:

President Putin has raised hopes that much of the world's biggest collection of looted art, seized from Germany by the Red Army at the end of the Second World War, could be returned in a grand gesture of reconciliation. Mr Putin said that he wanted to remove all obstacles for stronger ties with Berlin. He said the goodwill that was essential for progress on the issue of the plundered art, which has been valued at £45 million "is present on either side"... He has made no secret of his "lively wish" to end Moscow's longest running quarrel with Germany—partly

for personal reasons, as he speaks fluent German and has fond memories of his stint as a spy in Dresden. *The Times* 9-01-01

They also talked about Kaliningrad—which we will look at in the next section.

### **The St Petersburg Forum**

In Oct. 2000, the two leaders set up a framework for closer co-operation which they called the St Petersburg Forum. It is modelled upon what the British set up some 50 years ago between themselves and Germany after WWII. The first meeting under this framework was held in April 2001, and was the fourth summit meeting between the two leaders. The *Strana* headline was:

#### **St. Petersburg dialogue—an effective instrument of Russia's integration into Europe**

The history of Russo-German relations after World War II saw numerous ups and downs. It was just as jerky following the break-up of the Soviet Union. Yet, despite all the handicaps and backtracking it has been dominated by positive changes, and the St. Petersburg's forum is new proof of the fact that Germany is increasingly moving into the forefront of Russia's European partners.

No doubt Schroeder and Putin are leaders of a new mould both in terms of age and views...Russians and Germans alike highly appreciate the desire of the German chancellor and the Russian president to achieve the main objective in bilateral relations—bring the two nations closer together rather than their political elites. Russians and Germans have taken the first steps in that direction within the framework of the St. Petersburg summit, with low-rank officials rather than federal ministers and vice chancellors discussing topical issues, and sometimes they find it easier to understand each other than would be the case between higher-level officials.

Putin and Schroeder conceived the St. Petersburg dialogue as a forum that could, as far as possible, avoid complex political issues, issues over which successive leaders of both countries have broken quite a few teeth... Things might not move to complex problems in St. Petersburg, the venue of the first Russo-German forum of its kind, but it does not follow from this that they will not be put on the agenda later. Moreover, it is quite possible to assume that as an alternative to official negotiations these “people's” debates will produce far more progressive decisions which will form the basis of talks at a higher level and will prompt political leaders to take bolder action.

Basically, what we are witnessing in St. Petersburg is the birth of a new mechanism of political consultations and co-operation, a mechanism that has not yet existed in relations between countries. The meeting will result

in Russia moving closer to integration into Europe against the background of an expanding EU where Germany is the main unifying factor. 9-4-01

### **Putin Addresses the German Bundestag**

In September, two weeks after September 11<sup>th</sup>, Putin was on a state visit to Germany and was given the privilege of addressing the German parliament. Only 15 leaders of other countries have done so in the over 50 years of its establishment. Putin was the first foreign leader to address it in German!

The speech was hailed as “historic” and a “breakthrough”. He urged the West to put the past behind them. As far as Russia was concerned the Cold War was over; they had to work together against global terrorism on a basis of friendship and trust. Russia was giving her full co-operation to this struggle. He spoke of Russia and Germany playing a special role in that battle.

*Strana* 25-9-01 set out an impressive list of the contacts between the two countries in the previous 15 months.

According to the Russian Foreign Ministry, Putin has met with Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder eight times since June last year, the Russian prime minister has visited Germany twice, two rounds of consultations, attended by the key ministers of both countries, have been held, foreign ministers met 16 times, culture ministers 6 times and defense ministers 4 times.

Considering that Germany is Russia’s partner number one in Europe, the world community understands well that Russian-German relations have the greatest influence on the architecture of European security, on the future character of relations between Russia and the European Union, between Nato and the U.S.

### **A Prussian revival**

2001 was the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Prussia by the German Kaiser, Fredrick I.

Prussia was the name used for the region on the south-east coast of the Baltic Sea that the Hohenzollern dynasty organized into a hereditary duchy under Polish suzerainty [control] in 1525. When it became a kingdom, with its capital at Berlin, in 1701, its territories stretched from the Rhine to the Nieman River. Prussia was the state around which modern Germany was unified in 1871. After World War I, Prussia continued to exist as the largest *Land* [state] within the Weimar Republic and Adolf Hitler’s Third Reich. After World War II it was dissolved by decree of the Allied Control Council in 1947. *Grolier Encyclopaedia*

The Allies dissolved Prussia for being a “militaristic and reactionary” power that led to the rise of Adolph Hitler.

The anniversary was marked by more than 350 events and many of the Prussian royal family gathered to celebrate.

Berlin's mayor, Eberhard Diepgen, said that the "Prussian Year" would not dwell overtly on the state's preoccupation with territorial conquest and undemocratic, authoritarian rule that allowed the Nazis to boast of their Prussian roots and lionise the Prussian monarch Frederick the Great.

"Prussia was more closely entwined in the Third Reich than many people are prepared to accept," said Heinz Kittsteiner, a professor of modern history at Brandenburg's Viadrina University. He fears that the celebrations may be used to rekindle the idea of a reborn Prussia that could emerge from a planned political merger of Berlin and Brandenburg. "The event allows politicians to give a nod and a wink to the idea of recreating Prussia. This is a dangerous concept which would inevitably raise questions about the future of former East Prussia that now belongs to Russia," he said, referring to the enclave of Kaliningrad.

The Berlin city government is discussing plans to rebuild the former Prussian Imperial palace which was razed by communist East Germany for ideological reasons in 1953. A vault in Berlin's main cathedral containing the remains of successive Prussian kings has just been lavishly restored. *Sunday Telegraph* 31-12-00

One of the claimants to the German throne, Georg Freidrich Hohenzollern, has indicated that he would be willing to wear the crown in a restored monarchy. In *Milestones 2000* we looked at how the favoured Romanov heir, George Mikhailovich, is also of the house of Hohenzollern!

### **Kaliningrad—the background**

One of the matters that Mr Putin and Mr Schröder discussed during their Christmas visit was what could be done about the Kaliningrad Oblast. This was formerly known as Königsberg, or East Prussia before it was seized by the Red Army in WWII. It is now an isolated enclave of Russia, surrounded by countries that were part of Russia, but are now looking Westward and planning to join the EU. This will leave Kaliningrad cut off from Russia. Its Russian citizens would have to go through EU border controls in order to pass into Russia. It is the headquarters of the Russian Baltic Fleet, being a relatively ice free port, with around 18,000 servicemen based there. However much of the fleet based there is in a poor condition. Putin has taken steps to rectify this.

Russia and Germany have been in discussions about Germany taking over the running of Kaliningrad in return for a part of the debt that Russia owes to Germany. Its importance lies in the fact that it used to be part of the Prussian Empire, this is where Friedrich, Prince of Brandenburg, crowned himself the King of Prussia. It is considered by many to have deep German roots in spite of its Russification for over 50 years. Many in Germany are stirring hopes of recreating their former Empire.

## Chapter 7:

# RUSSIA AND THE EU—THE 10 YEAR PLAN

*We continue with our look at Russia and the EU, starting with plans which may become a blueprint for integration.*

### Kaliningrad, the trial run

The EU is proposing that Kaliningrad should be a pilot for showing how Russia could integrate with the EU. The EU's web-site for its *EU Commission in Russia* issued a press release for 16<sup>th</sup> March announced that the EU was giving 1 million euros towards promoting the development of the port at Kaliningrad.

The project starts at a time when the Russian Gov., the Regional Admin. and the EC are paying increased attention to the Kaliningrad Oblast and its potential as a "turntable" for trade and services between the EU and Russia as well as the region itself.



This generosity on the part of the EU indicates the growing links between the EU and Russia.

The Russian Security council met in July to discuss what steps they could take to turn this region into Russia's window into Europe. In November, in a speech to the Third Baltic Development Forum, the Russian governor general of the region declared that it "will be a pilot region" for Russia's integration into the European Union.

It certainly will be an interesting region to watch because it encapsulates Germany's desire to expand eastward, and Russia westward!

### Russia and the EU—the 10 year plan

The links between Russia and Germany have been impressive, but those between Russia and the EU are equally impressive, indicating the great changes that are taking place. Friendship is replacing distrust. The iron curtain is truly being consigned to history. The *Strana* news-site said on the eve of the 7<sup>th</sup> EU-Russian summit:

Russia's relations with the European Union have never reached such a high level of development as in the past year. With the arrival of Putin in the Kremlin and the emergence of a new Russian foreign policy concept, development of co-operation with the EU has become a priority vector in Russia's foreign policy in relations with the West. 16-5-01

The EU-Russian web site has a section entitled *EU and Russia—Areas of co-operation, and Agreements and Documents*. A perusal of these reveals a fascinating document which has the heading "*Medium-term Strategy for Development of Relations between the Russian Federation and the European Union (2000-2010)*" This would appear to have been issued in 2000 as it sets out a ten-year plan of co-operation. It is obvious that the increased level of co-operation which we have been witnessing has all been carefully pre-planned and is now being put into effect. It is exciting to read in an official document the very things that we have been expecting from our Bible study! Revelation 16 shows that we should be able to identify three powers at the time of the end who work together to bring the nations to the great day of battle in the land of Israel. A Dragon power (Russia), a Beast power (Western Europe) and a False Prophet (The Papacy.)

Here are a few extracts to give a flavour of their plans—with my emphasis.

The Strategy determines objectives of development of Russia's relations with the European Union for the next decade and means of their achievement. **It is a consistent evolution of the general foreign policy concept of Russia in the European area** and it stems from **the objective need to establish a multipolar world**, [read "a world not dominated by America" DFP], common histories of nations and responsibility of European States for the future of the continent, and complementarity of their economies. It is also directly co-ordinated with the **concept of economic security of Russia**.

The Strategy is aimed at **development and strengthening of strategic partnership between Russia and the EU in the European and world affairs** and prevention and settlement, through common efforts, of local conflicts in Europe with an emphasis on supremacy of international law and non-use of force. **It provides for the construction of a united Europe without dividing lines and the interrelated and balanced strengthening of the positions of Russia and the EU** within an international community of the 21st century.

Mr Putin was invited to attend the March meeting of the European Council held in Stockholm, to take part in a discussion on economic co-operation. One of the agreements was for the EU to fund up to \$88m for tackling pollution in the Baltic Sea. It would include sewerage treatment plants for Kaliningrad and St Petersburg. This funding of projects was described as a breakthrough in EU-Russian economic relations.

The presence of President Putin in Stockholm was a demonstration of the importance of the Union's strategic partnership with Russia. This



partnership should be further developed...The extensive reform programme to modernise the Russian economy and improve conditions for trade and investment was discussed with president Putin.

The European Council welcomes the upcoming 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St Petersburg, “Russia’s window to Europe”. The Union is willing to contribute to the celebrations, which represent an excellent opportunity to highlight the close links, past and present, between Russia and the Member States of the EU. *EU-RU web site* 29-3-01

The EU has for several years been funding projects on a smaller scale in Russia, aiming to help bring Russia up to European standards. The *EU Tacis* (Technical Assistance to CIS) projects cover many fields, and has provided €1.4m of the EU’s total aid of €2.3m between 1991 and 2000. One example is the €1m scheme to upgrade the port at Kaliningrad, due for completion in 2002. It is hoped this will increase its market share in Russian sea-borne trade. The EU accounts for 37% of Russia’s imports and 33% of her exports. Russia was the EU’s sixth largest trading partner after the USA, Switzerland, Japan, China, and Norway. This was based on 1999 data and she is expected to rank higher with the big increase in trade recently. *EU-RU site* 16-3-01

In May there was a further EU-Russian summit meeting in Moscow to discuss security and defence and also reforms to Russia to modernise her economy. This was the opening of the joint statement released by the leaders [my emphasis DFP]:

We, the leaders of the Russian Federation and the European Union, having assembled in Moscow for the seventh Summit since the entry into force of the Partnership and Co-operation Agreement (PCA), **reaffirm the special importance that we attach to the strengthening of our long-term strategic partnership based on the principles of democracy, respect for human rights, rule of law and market economy. Our aim is to foster economic growth and prosperity, social development, a clean environment and strengthened security and stability in Europe, on the basis of shared values.**

**The meeting in Stockholm on 23 March 2001 between the Heads of State and Government of the European Union and the President of the Russian Federation provided a new dimension to our dialogue at the highest level.**

Yet another EU-Russian summit was held in Moscow in early October. Among the many items on the agenda were the enlargement of the EU, the euro, increasing economic trade, and Kaliningrad.

### **Russia in the United Europe**

The above heading was to an article the December *Europa* magazine—this is an EU–Russian publication, mainly in Russian, but it generally has a few of the articles translated into English. It neatly summaries this section.

The *Russia in a United Europe Committee* is a body for like-minded people, primarily representatives of our own country who are guided by the notion that Russia is a part of Europe. The Committee is yet another symbol of the growing need to add a new quality to relations between Russia and the EU. It brings together several leading European and Russian politicians, regional bosses, public figures and experts who are committed to promulgating the idea of pan-European integration.

In this sense the Committee is somewhat akin to Jean Monnet's Committee for a United States of Europe—another forum for politicians, business people and public figures who are all motivated by the need for a united European continent.

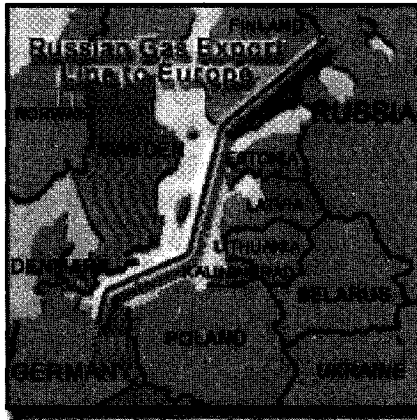
We underscore that Russia is an integral part of Europe historically and politically, not to mention culturally. . . . The end of "bipolarity" and the removal of ideological barriers in Europe have created a unique opportunity to surmount the old dividing lines. Here it is important to remember that Russia, more than any other post-communist expanse has contributed to closer European integration and the elimination of the threat of a global conflict. The removal of ideological barriers in Europe has given new impetus to the process of integration, and Russia and its former partners in the so-called socialist camp have started to move in the same direction, albeit at varying speed.

But why Russia and the EU? Mainly because it is in the European Union that most is being done to build a united Europe. It is the European Union that has embodied the age-old dream of the European thinkers and statesmen. World wars in the 20th century have twice brought Europe to the brink of destruction. The suffering of the first half of the century has inspired a new, more prosperous phase in European history based on the voluntary surrender by European nation-states of part of the sovereignty in favour of common European institutions and European economic, social and political integration.

...We are forming *Russia in a United Europe*—a public committee—with a view to exercising our opportunities and authority to make the dream about a unified, safe and prosperous Greater Europe one that stretches from Dublin to Sakhalin come true. We intend to promote the further enlargement and successful reformation of the European Union and Russia's further progress in creating opportunities for possible membership of a new-look EU.

In our endeavour to achieve the historical aim of uniting Europe we stand with our feet firmly on the ground and are aware of all obstacles and difficulties on this long road. But we still believe in Victor Hugo's prophecy that one day France, Russia, Italy, England, Germany—all nations of the continent will unite as an inseparable, almighty whole and form a European fraternity, but preserving their originality and splendour. *Europa* Dec 2001

### Tilting Europe's energy map in Russia's favour



Route shown is demonstrative.

In the previous chapter we saw the great energy wealth that Russia is sitting on. The EU is one of the main recipients. Anxious to reduce dependence upon vulnerable Middle East suppliers, they are locking themselves into Russian sources. The above was the headline to another *Stratfor Intelligence Report* on 15<sup>th</sup> May. It reported the signing of an agreement between Russia's Gazprom, German's Ruhgas and Finland's Fortum to study, finance and build a pipeline from Russian fields in the extreme north-west,

and to pipe it via Finland and down the Baltic to Germany. Finland will benefit from the supplies, and Germany will have low-cost gas, as transit fees to other countries will be avoided. Russia hopes that Germany will meet most of the \$3bn cost.

It will enable Russia to dominate Finland's fuel market and will give Gazprom "the cash, income, technology and market access it needs to tilt the European energy map in its favour".

The same day as Gazprom started production at its Zapolyarnoye field—see previous chapter—it commenced deliveries to the Dutch natural gas firm Gasunie. The significance of this is that the Dutch have supplies from the North Sea fields and are the EU largest gas exporter. Apart from the North Sea however, the EU has no reserves of gas. With traditional fuels being replaced by gas, it is estimated that gas could soon be supplying 50% of Europe's fuel. Gasunie wants to have a share of this increasing market, and has agreed to take 74 bcubic metres of Russian gas a year.

### A future common European economic space

This was the remarkable headline put out by the EU-Russia web site [www.EUR.RU](http://www.EUR.RU) on 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec 2001, to give details of the visit of the EU Commissioner for Trade, Pascal Lamy, and the EU Commissioner for External Relations, Chris Patten, to Russia on 5 December. The objective of the meeting was to, **"to address how to carry forward the initiative of the common European economic space and the anchoring of Russia in the global trading system through intensification of Russia's negotiations to join the WTO."**

The EU and Russia are genuine strategic partners. The relationship encompasses trade and economic relations, a broad-ranging political dialogue, co-operation on justice and home affairs and security and

defence co-operation. EU-enlargement will bring the EU and Russia even closer together. The EU is not only Russia's largest market but also its largest trading partner. As the EU enlarges to take new members from Central and Eastern Europe in the near future, the EU could well become the destination of over 50 % of Russia's exports. "It is undoubtedly in our mutual interest to nurture the continued growth of bilateral trade relations, to stimulate greater European investment in Russia and to support Russia's WTO accession", EU-Commissioner for Trade, Pascal Lamy said before leaving for Moscow.

The EU already absorbs 35% of Russian exports and is Russia's principal trading partner. However, Russia's economy—and resulting trade structure—is geared to the production of raw materials and basic manufactures. There has been chronic under-investment over the last decade. Both the EU and Russia are now looking at ways to develop deeper integration of their economies, drawing maximum benefit from the potential for mutual advantage—Russia's immense resources, the EU's huge market and investment sources and shared human and technical capital and know-how.

**Common European economic space.** The initiative of the common European economic space was launched at the EU-Russia Summit in May 2001, when it was agreed to establish a High Level Group to elaborate the concept. The Terms of Reference of the Group were then agreed at the Summit on 3 October. Behind this initiative is the idea to elaborate a concept for a closer relationship between Russia and the EU. The High-Level Group will therefore consider the opportunities offered by greater economic integration, legislative approximation and regulatory convergence, and assess options for further work. Our mutual interest lies in making Russia a more significant economic partner for the EU, bolstering and 'locking in' the economic reform process in Russia and helping Russia take advantage of the opportunities created by the EU single market and EU enlargement.

It then went on about helping Russia to be a member of the WTO.

The significant phrase is **economic space**—an odd phrase to our ears. However readers of John Laughland's book *The Tainted Source—the undemocratic origins of the European idea* will recognise the phrase. It is a German concept:

They believed that Europe was a *Raum*—a space—and that it should unite to defend itself against the other spaces with which it might compete or by which it might be threatened...

The concept of the 'middle' was central to geopolitical thinking. The middle of Europe was, obviously, Germany. The geopoliticians conceived Germany's central position in Europe not merely as a spatial phenomenon, but also as a spiritual one. Europe, and above all Germany, was hemmed in between the liberal powers to the West, and the Socialist

Empire to the East. The ‘core space’ of Europe was thus subject to great psychological pressure.

It was to escape from this predicament that Haushofer [1869-1946 a leading intellectual under the Nazis] formulated his theories. A central proposal was that Germany should ally herself with the Soviet Union in order to create a single Eurasiatic continental bloc. The geopolitical implication of this had been recognised by the man generally credited with being the founder of geopolitics, the Briton Halford Mackinder.

The oversetting of the balance of power in favour of the pivot state, resulting in its expansion over the marginal lands of Euro-Asia, would permit the use of the vast continental resources for fleet-building, and the empire of the world would then be in sight. This might happen if Germany were to ally herself with Russia.

Later in the book under the chapter heading *The Third Rome* he shows how these principles are working out. He wrote the book in 1997—how things are moving down this pathway!

It is seldom realised 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’.

By arguing, as they often do, that the need for such integration is ‘more important than ever’ now that the Cold War is over, supporters of pan-European integration are saying that the international system has become more unstable because the world is no longer divided into two blocs.

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 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 institutionalisation 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 the 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. [I.e. *Raum*, space] 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.

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:

*‘When the Russian and the German get together, they are invincible.’*  
German proverb.

### **France-Russia: growing military ties.**

The *Stratfor Global Intelligence* 13-2-01 reported on the visit to Moscow in mid-January of the French Defence Minister, Alan Richard, to “formalise an extensive and intensive program of strategic and military-technical collaboration.”

The French government is going to go significantly further than any Western country. Germany currently leads Europe in large-scale political, security, economic, financial and investment co-operation with Russia. The agreement between the Russian and French defence ministries will allow France to catch up with Germany in the military and the military-technical fields.

Strategic ties between France and Russia are to involve much deeper interaction between their militaries...In addition to financial gains from selling jointly modified Russian weapons to third countries, France aims at getting new military capabilities through mastering some Russian advanced weapons systems.”

Step by step Europe is being united. The barriers that separated east and west are rapidly disappearing. The two halves are seen as natural partners, keen to work for each other’s benefit. This is all preparation for the latter-day work of banding together in common cause to deal with “the Jewish problem” by invading Israel. Jerusalem is to be a “burdensome stone” to all nations.

## Chapter 8:

# SHAPING THE NEW EUROPE

*In our previous chapter we sketched the growing linkage between Russia and the EU. John Laughland spoke of the unifying power of a common currency, which by the time this is in print will be a reality, and so we now look at the changing shape of Europe.*

*In this chapter we concentrate on the changes within the EU itself. Jan 1st 2002 was an historic day for Europe. For 12 of the 15 members it was a day of apprehension. The dream of a united Europe using one currency turned from a dream to a reality. It may or may not be a nightmare. The sheer logistics of withdrawing currency and replacing it with a new one is an experiment that has never been done on such a scale. This is the final step in a long process. For two years businesses have been able to trade in euros. Now it's the turn of "the man in the street" to see, handle and grow to love or hate this new currency. There is no turning back. Escape clauses have not been written in. However divergent the economies of the euro-zone countries, they have to make it work!*

*For European travellers it will be a great boon. It makes price comparisons transparent throughout the whole region. But will it be a strong currency or a weak one? That is the immediate concern.*

*It is a very important step in unifying Europe. The scriptural indication of the days that see the return of Christ is of a harlot woman who rides upon a beast. In previous Milestones we have identified this beast as being the final stage in the development of Daniel's 4<sup>th</sup> beast. The final phase of the Roman Empire in the West. Rev 17:12-14 tells us:*

*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.*

*The 10 horns are to be found in all the various phases of the dragon and the beast described in Revelation. They are sometimes crowned and other times not—with the crowns being associated with the heads rather than the horns. However crowns are not mentioned in this chapter. Instead it is stated that they receive power (Strong's 1849; the power of rule or government {the power of him whose will and commands must be submitted to by others and obeyed}) as kings with the beast. Also they give their power (Sg. 1411 inherent power) and strength (Sg. 1849) to the beast. They*

*are of one mind in this. This seems to fit the present situation, where the individual countries of the EU are prepared to give up so much of their power to the central organisation in Brussels, and in return receive collective power.*

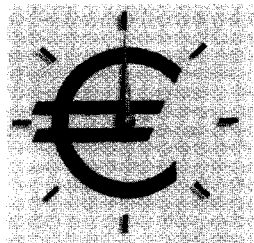
*Living in Britain it has been amazing to witness the speed at which control is being lost to unelected and faceless bureaucrats in Brussels. All sorts of legislation are being thrust upon us without any debate or resistance. One important area is defence—again individual countries are prepared to pool their power for a common European Army.*

*The time period given is one hour. At what stage that symbolic time commences is not given. It may not yet have commenced, but will encompass the final stage of the beast's development. Bro. Thomas equates it with a 30-year period. It probably will run in parallel with the time of judgement for the saints and cover the destruction of Gog and will end with the utter destruction of the 4<sup>th</sup> beast at the hands of Christ and the saints.*

*We repeat what we said last year: We review these recent events in a spirit of excitement and fear! Excitement at seeing the nations being inexorably being drawn along the pathway laid out so long before by the prophetic word. Yet fear, knowing that behind it all is the Harlot, who persecuted both saint and Jew in the past, and is eager to regain her spiritual control over the nations. Let us cherish the religious freedom that we enjoy, while we can. It is clear from several events that this may not last much longer.*

### **The euro—now a practical reality**

January 1st 2002, this was the historic date when euro notes and coins came into circulation to replace the individual currencies of all the EU countries apart from Britain, Denmark and Sweden. Greece was originally outside the euro-zone, but was accepted as a member in January 2001.



Other countries can, if approved, switch their currency to the euro. Both Monaco and the Vatican State, although not EU members, have also adopted the euro. The Vatican's currency has traditionally been linked to Italy's. Unlike the notes, which are all uniform, each country is free to have its own design on one side of the euro coins. Most are content with symbols associated with their country. The Greek euro (see back cover) shows a woman riding a beast—Europa being abducted by Zeus, who has taken the form of a bull. Those produced by Vatican Mint will have a picture of their head of state—the Pope. These will be legal tender and are expected to be collectors' items. The Vatican will only mint 670,000 coins a year.





By the end of February 2002, all the old currencies will be gone. This has led to frantic buying sprees by holders of illegal or undeclared currency. (The French were said to have some £15bn of francs tucked under their mattresses.) They have had to rapidly spend their cash on property, or goods to avoid having to face questions if they try to cash in large amounts of notes in exchange for the euro. It has led to a mini-boom in house enhancements and the purchase of property, cars and even yachts, all paid for in cash and which can later be sold for euros! With the main European economy being so sluggish, it will be interesting to see if there is a downturn when this one-off stimulus to spending abruptly finishes!

The euro has had many ups and downs. In the 2 years of its existence it has fallen 24% against the dollar and 13% against the pound. The European Bank is fervently hoping that circulation of notes and coins will lead to a revival in its value. It was always hoped that it would push the US dollar off its perch. However it is not popular with most people, the German tabloids call it the Camembert currency—it melts, it is fermented in France, it smells! With the eurozone having a wide exposure to Argentinean debt—Spain and Germany especially - it was knocked downwards at the close of the year. There has been a plus side; a weak euro has helped eurozone exports. Many German manufacturing firms have enjoyed a boom in their overseas sales, although generally the German economy is in recession.

There are grave fears for the stability of the eurozone. The one interest rate for all is clearly leading to problems for several countries. Adjusting interest rates and in extreme cases devaluing, enabled a country to trim its economy. Both these measures have been removed. Ireland has been showing strong growth, and the low interest rates forced upon her from the Central bank has led to a spending spree that will not be sustainable. The danger is of a sharp increase in inflation. At the other end of the scale is Germany and Italy where the rate of growth is slowing, Germany is expected to grow at half the rate of the eurozone average.

The euro was conceived as the main plank to political union. To have launched political union earlier was seen as too dangerous by the European leaders. There would have been too much opposition. Hence the drive for the euro, a step that they have been able to push forward without too much difficulty. For anyone living in continental Europe, having to exchange money so many times when travelling, makes a common currency attractive. Britain, being the island state she is, does not have quite the same perspective.

During the past year, the agenda for political union has been pushed ahead, with Britain's agreement at best lukewarm, and in the main hostile. Not that that matters too much. 'If Britain wants to be on the outside, well so be it, it won't hold the rest of us up', is the general feeling now.

## Shaping the New Europe

This is the title of an EU publication setting out its 5 year plan for Europe—*Strategic objectives 2000–2005*. Like the similar document referred to in the previous chapter which set out EU-Russian strategic objectives, this makes interesting reading. (The emphasis is actually in the original document)

Our European model shows the world that **an ever closer union between peoples** is possible where it is based on shared values and common objectives...Over the next decade we will achieve completely our economic integration and, even more importantly, to give shape to a new, political Europe. The next five years will be decisive.

**Political integration will become a reality**...Political integration must be pursued...Hence the importance of the ongoing discussion on a European Charter of Fundamental Rights.

It then sets out the need for there to be a central structure so that Europe can speak with one voice.

European governance must provide the European Union with the means to assert itself with a single voice in the world, notwithstanding our institutional arrangements and our three-pillar structure [i.e. political, economic, social]. We have much to offer in terms of our experience of integration and our unique social model. We are a global actor and a leader in areas of trade, aid and finance. Yet the Union is not fully represented in international financial institutions or United Nations agencies. This anomaly needs to be corrected. Europe's nascent security and defence policy is further reason for it to develop a strong and coherent voice within our continent and beyond.

We also need to establish genuine strategic partnerships with the countries adjoining the enlarged Europe. Our borders must not become a new fault-line separating stability and prosperity on one side from instability, conflict and development lags on the other. The process of stabilisation and association with the Balkans must be pursued so as to bring the countries there closer to the Union's structures; co-operation with Russia and Ukraine must be stepped up, following our common strategy...

## Ever closer union

In April, Germany's Chancellor, Gerhard Schröder, set out his vision for Europe. It involved a radical shake up of the existing systems, and centred on the formation of a European government. (There is currently a European Parliament—but not a government). This government would draw its authority from a more powerful, two chamber, European parliament. Under this scheme power would be moved from nation states to Europe.

The document calls for the European Commission in Brussels to be turned into a new government, while proposing that the Council of Ministers, which pulls together the leaders of the member states, should become a second chamber, similar to Germany's Bundesrat. The European Parliament would gain supervision of the European budget, including massive agricultural spending. *Strana* 29-4-01

A British Member of the European Parliament commenting on this proposal remarked:

The most striking thing about Gerhard Schröder's plan for a federal Europe is just how uncontroversial it is in the rest of the EU. Many continentals are genuinely bewildered by the fuss in the British press. "We signed up to all this when we joined," says a Spanish MEP. And so did you, although you always seem to forget it."

Mr Schröder has, quite understandably, based his scheme on the German model. Thus, he sees the Parliament as a kind of European *Bundestag* (Germany's lower house), the Council of Ministers as a *Bundesrat* (Germany's upper house) and the European Court as a *Bunde'verfassungsgericht* (Germany's constitutional court). But, allowing for these minor national peculiarities, his proposals could have come from almost any EU government. *Sunday Telegraph*.6-5-01

These plans for increased centralisation caused consternation in Britain, especially in the build up to the British elections! Neither was Mr Blair pleased to hear France's own plans. Just a week before the elections Lionel Jospin, the French prime minister outlined his plans.

"Europe is first and foremost a political undertaking...it has 1) a societal programme; 2) a world view; and 3) a political architecture." *EFID* 31-5-01

His plans were for a "superstate"—an EU-wide "economic government", harmonised business taxes and a European constitution. It laid strong emphasis on the social side calling for "a genuine body of European social law to be embodied in its treaties." The "economic government" would take over from the ECB the control of the euro and ensure a level economic playing field. These plans differed from Germany's, in that he sees a "federation of nation states in which increased co-operation did not dilute strong national identities or eradicate governments from EU decision making." As well as the constitution, he wants an integrated European police force and an European Public Prosecutor. He also wants the budget spending—of which the CAP is the greatest element, to remain under central control.

A *Daily Telegraph* writer summed up the balance between France and Germany's outlook.

But behind the disagreements lie many big ideas on which Paris and Berlin want to push integration forward. A government spokesman in

Berlin named three “notable points of agreement” between the two governments “for example in favour of a common European border police force, for a European prosecution authority and a European crime-fighting force”.

A decade ago, these ideas were integrationists’ pipe dreams. Today, Paris and Berlin are pushing them and so, in all probability, they will happen.

Similarly, Germany and France agree on the need to harmonise corporation tax, on the need for an elected European president and on plans for a European constitution.

Across the whole of Europe there are many differing visions of how to shape Europe’s institutions, how to share out power between the EU authorities, national governments and regions. Every week another European leader pronounces.

But overall, the trend is still towards doing far more, not less, together. Tensions within the Franco-German relationship should not obscure this fact. 29-5-01

Although Mr Jospin ruled out a two-speed Europe, the following week his Finance Minister was calling for the creation of an “avant garde” of European states to press ahead with deeper integration.

In a Europe of 25 or 30 members we ought probably to build an avant garde, a group of states who have decided to go further together. . . The advanced group could “build a bridgehead” in key spheres such as defence, economic growth and harmonising social policy *Daily Telegraph*. 1-6-01

The year 2002 is an important one for the shaping of Europe.

2002 will be a crucial year for the final forging of European unity: the introduction of the euro in early 2002, presidential and parliamentary elections in France in the spring, and the parliamentary elections in Germany in the autumn, will mean that the two “motor” countries of the EU will be poised to press ahead to the declaration of a European Constitution in 2004.” From *Le Figaro* 3-6-01 quoted in *EFID* 13-6-01

### **Euro this and euro that**

The many strands of integration are being woven at all levels. We have commented (*Milestones 1999*) on how the EU makes use of town-twinning to push for integration. This year I have a report covering professional groups, trade unions and trade groups.

Lacking a ‘European Society’, the Commission has commenced a battle for the ‘hearts and minds’ of the European citizen, in an attempt to get us to think and act on a European level. One of its most powerful weapons

is what it calls the 'civil society', which includes everything from church groups to scout packs, other unions and even golf clubs. I kid you not.

As sinister is the fact that it includes professional groups, trade unions and trade organisations—such as the Federation of Small Businesses. All the different organisations are to be encouraged to link up—or 'network'—with their continental equivalents, so giving a European dimension to their activities, by which means they are to be recruited to the cause of European integration.

By way of a 'stick', already national trade and professional associations are finding that they have no status when they seek to lobby or even communicate with the Commission on proposed legislation. Only when they organise themselves at a 'European level' are they then given access. As for the 'carrot', European organisations can be in receipt of substantial largess, which is denied to national groups, all to sugar the pill.

That much, incidentally, also applies to political parties: Proposals are well advanced for creating European political parties which will then receive EU funding. The integration of academia is even more advanced, with some £15bn of funding accessible only through 'framework programmes' which require participation in trans-national 'partnerships'—or 'networks'—before funds are released.

To know is to be warned. What appears to be 'progressive' and 'modern' has its own price. It may seem highly attractive to set up schemes for European associations and to go off for jollies to Brussels and elsewhere, but the price is recruitment to the cause of European integration. Brussels wants its 'civil society': it seems to me that we need an 'uncivil society', at least as far as the great project is concerned.

*First Voice*—the Federation of Small Businesses magazine. Jan. 2002

A common currency has made prices transparent throughout the area. Many price variations are due to differences in local taxes, and Germany is now pressing for a common taxation level across the EU, something that Britain with her lower taxation rates on many things is firmly resisting.

**Euro Army** Considerable progress has been made on the European Rapid-Response Force, which is widely referred to as the euro army. Much to Britain's and America's concern it has not been linked into Nato. It is to have its own planning staff and Nato staff would not necessarily be invited to attend. Its head of military staff admitted that it would eventually be a rival to Nato, and when it was fully established and had strategic transport, it would take over tasks which had been done by Nato. It is expected to be fully operational by 2003. *Daily Telegraph*. 31-1-01

It was expected that the chief of the euro army would be given to a Nato person, but no, a Finnish General was appointed—Finland is not even in Nato!

The main problem is the strategic transport. Europe does not possess the large transport planes that the US has. The country that does have such planes is of course Russia. She has offered to help with this matter and the EU may well take up that offer in the future. To Britain's horror, Germany has demanded that Britain place her RAF capabilities under the control of the euro army.

The events of Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> have given a boost to those seeking a stronger European role in the world. There were calls for the euro army to be upgraded so that it could be "a full military force able to project power around the world, rather than just for humanitarian operations."

In December 2001 the EU leaders meeting at Laeken for their summit meeting declared that the force had become partially operational, in spite of it being far from ready, having not even met 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the requirements set out for its creation.

**Europol** The European police force is already in existence. Its powers will soon be considerably widened. Its main concern at the moment is euro fraud; there are strong fears that counterfeiters will cash in on the confusion. It also has powers to deal with terrorism, immigrant trafficking, car theft, organised crime, and even "xenophobia" [irrational dislike of foreigners]. Its budget has risen from £4m in 1998 to £17m in 2000. A European Police Academy is currently being established for training this euro police force.

**Eurojust** A unified police force need a unified judicial system. The EU's answer is the European Judicial Co-operation Unit. This is already operating, especially in the field of cross border co-operation. Its role is to co-ordinate, and to harmonise the whole European judicial system.

The EU wants to create a body of European criminal law superior to the national law, based upon the Napoleonic model. The implications for English common law are immense. *Sunday Telegraph*. 30-9-01

**European Constitution** Following one of France and Germany's joint summit meetings, they issued a joint commitment to an European Union constitution. This was "an essential step in the historic process of European integration". *Sunday Telegraph*. 4-11-01. Mr Blair is being forced to accept some compromise deal, as the rest of the EU wants a constitution. As in any society a constitution is a defining document. With it the EU becomes a political entity. Much more will be debated on this matter. To underpin this they want to make legally enforceable the Charter of Fundamental Rights, which they signed up to in 2000, but not for it to be binding. (See *Milestones 2000* ch. 7)

**An overseeing body for a federal Europe** A 12-member committee was set up at the Laeken Summit in Dec 2001 to oversee the establishment of "a fully federal Europe by the end of the decade". It will oversee a 100-strong convention drawn from the EU governments, national parliaments, the

European Commission and the European parliament. The chairman appointed was the former French president, Giscard d'Estaing. For most of Europe the matter is one of how and when, not whether. This will force Britain to decide where she really stands.

**The EU presidency** This rotates every 6 months. At the start of the year Sweden took over from the disastrous French occupation of the chair. They chaired the Stockholm mini-summit in March. Sweden is very Euro-sceptical, and little of note happened, the violent protestors outside the meeting raised more newspaper coverage! They were followed by Belgium, with the December main summit meeting at Laeken.

**Laeken** The main proposal that formed part of the final declaration, in spite of Britain's objections, was to look at having a directly elected president of Europe. They also announced that 10 new members would be joining by 2004—Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia. This will add another 75m people to bring the total to 450m. This compares with the USA's population of around 250m.

#### **Nato—the new look**

Nato (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation) was established in 1949 by representatives from 12 nations: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Greece and Turkey joined in 1952, the Federal Republic of Germany in 1955, and Spain in 1982. In 1997 Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic joined and Russia became an observer. The North Atlantic Treaty, which was signed in Washington, D.C., on Apr. 4, 1949, provided for mutual defense and collective security, primarily against the threat of aggression by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. It was the first peacetime alliance joined by the United States. *Grolier's Encyc [updated]*

With the ending of the Soviet Union, and with Russia coming in from the cold, the need for Nato has diminished. Many Europeans resented the presence of America in Europe, and one of Bush's pre-election promises was to gradually withdraw troops from Europe. With the EU pushing ahead rapidly for the establishment of its own army, Nato is having to look for a changed role. Britain is keen that Russia should have a say in what it does, and is pressing for her status to be moved up from a mere observer, to an active participant. Russia has long been suspicious of Nato, saying that it had no purpose now she had reformed. She saw a threat in Nato's desire to expand eastward—which she has done at a greater rate than the EU expansion eastwards. Former Soviet states are now members. During Mr Putin's Christmas visit to Mr Blair, the level of Russia's participation in Nato was one of the matters under consideration. Mr Putin said that he did not expect Russia to be involved in all aspects of Nato, but that they should

discuss which areas of involvement were appropriate. It is expected that any changes will be made in May 2002.

Also in 2002 Nato is expected to make a decision about further eastward expansion. Several countries are hoping to be invited to join. Slovakia and Slovenia are favourites, but countries like Albania, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Romania and the three Baltic States—Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania are anxious to join. Russia has been opposed to this eastward expansion, considering these countries should be under her sphere of influence. If Nato changes in the aftermath of Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>, and Russia is more actively involved, then presumably her objections to eastward expansion will disappear.



## **Chapter 9:**

# **BRITAIN—STANDING TALL**

*One of the striking features of the aftermath of Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> has been the strong partnership between Britain and America. We have touched on several aspects of this in previous chapters and now we will briefly add some more and then look at how Britain has fared economically.*

### **Mr. Blair's election victory**

It was his second overwhelming victory. His big majority in parliament was in marked contrast to the cliff-hanging American elections at the end of 2000. Mr Blair's majority means that he does not have to worry too much, he can get most things passed. The House of Lords does cause him some trouble with contentious issues.

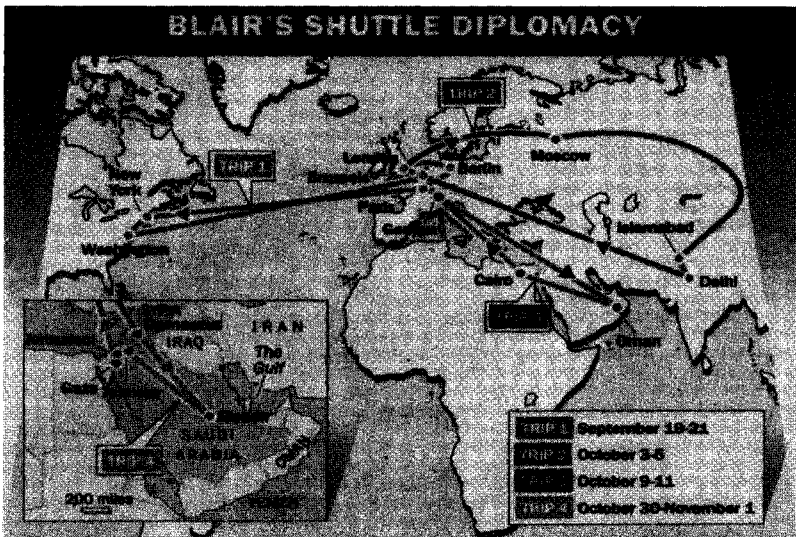
At the time leading up to the date normally chosen for elections, Britain was suffering its worst outbreak of foot and mouth disease. Large areas were out of bounds; farmers in affected areas kept the general public off their land for fear of the disease being brought in. Mr Blair's handling of the situation was severely criticised, and his popularity was falling. The election date was moved from May to June. There was an expectation that the Conservatives might be able to gain the upper hand. However their leaders were afraid to speak out strongly against Europe, and once more the voters turned to Labour. Mr Hague resigned as leader in the face of the disastrous showing of his Conservative Party in the polls.

In hindsight—how wonderful that is!—there was a divine role for Mr Blair. His work was not completed. His lead role in holding the coalition of nations together has been acknowledged by all involved. There appears to be no other British leader who could have done what he did.

### **The elder statesman**

In his telephone calls in the immediate aftermath of September 11<sup>th</sup>, Mr Blair used all his skills to prevent Mr Bush plunging into immediate retaliation without building up a coalition of partners. By the weekend of the 16<sup>th</sup>, Bush had agreed to this course, and invited Mr Blair to Washington for the following weekend. Mr Blair then in the five days between Monday and Friday met or phoned at least 27 world leaders, including all the EU leaders. On September 19<sup>th</sup> Mr Blair set out for America, but via Europe to drum up support. The first stop on this whirlwind tour was in Berlin, to talk to Gerhard Schröder, then on to Paris. There he had breakfast on the 20<sup>th</sup> with President Chirac, before flying to New York. On board the aircraft were four British intelligence and military experts who remained in New York to draw up the strategy details of the planned attacks. In New York he attended a memorial service to the British who died in the Twin Towers. Because of delays and heavy traffic, he was

unable to visit the fire station where so many fire-fighters died and had to leave his wife, Cherie, to represent him. It was then back on board and on to Washington for talks with President Bush. After a hasty dinner and talks it was on to Congress to be with Laura Bush in the First Lady's box while Mr Bush delivered a keynote speech, outlining the action that was to be taken. During the talk, George Bush highlighted Mr Blair's role and declared—to a standing ovation—that "America has no truer friend than Great Britain." That night he left for an overnight flight to Brussels, and there prepared for the emergency meeting of the EU that he had called for that evening. He received an overwhelming endorsement of America's planned actions. He arrived back at Heathrow shortly before midnight—a 9,032-mile round trip!



The Prime Minister's sometimes derided notion that he could make Britain a bridge between America and Europe was not only turned into reality, but, tantalisingly, extended to more distant areas of the world.

In doing so, Mr Blair has identified himself more closely than any other world leader with the strategy and decisions made by Mr Bush. *Sunday Telegraph*. 23-9-01

At the Labour Party conference in early October, Mr Blair rallied the country behind America's drive against terrorism. His speech was widely acclaimed in America and was carried live on US television. He became the man of the moment with his picture decorating the front pages of the press throughout the States.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> of October, in carefully co-ordinated speeches, Mr Bush and Mr Blair announced that they were going to war against the Taliban in

Afghanistan. It was said that the two men had spoken on the telephone virtually every day.

“Tony Blair’s actions have been carefully synchronised with those of the US government,” said one White House aide, “Britain has proved to be our staunchest ally.” A British official said that there were “things we can do that they can’t” in helping to build a coalition against terrorism. *Daily Telegraph*. 9-10-01

One such case was Mr Blair’s ability to bring Iran on board the coalition. Iran was seen as a pivotal country, yet Iran still regards America as the “Great Satan” and there is little diplomatic contact. Britain however was able to send Jack Straw, the Foreign Minister, and ensure Iran’s co-operation.

Mr Blair’s second trip on October 3-5<sup>th</sup> involved a 5,000-mile trip. The 1st stop was to Moscow for talks with Mr Putin, and then to Islamabad for critical talks with the Pakistani leader President Musharraf. Pakistan had close links to the Taliban, and its support was vital.

On October 7<sup>th</sup> America and Britain began their bombing of Afghanistan.

His third trip was on October 9-11<sup>th</sup> to visit the British troops who were in Oman as part of a longstanding deployment entitled *Swift Sword*. On his way back he stopped at Cairo for talks with the Egyptian President, who has considerable influence in the Arab world.

His fourth trip was also to the Middle East. This was the most difficult one, for he had to deal with many Arab misgivings. Here again were places where he could visit which would be closed to Mr Bush. This trip spanned October 30<sup>th</sup> to November 1st. The message that he carried was that moderate Arab leaders must not allow extremists to “hijack” Islam. Damascus was the first port of call; this was the first visit by a serving British Prime Minister. Syria has good intelligence information on the al-Qaeda network, and Britain was hoping for Syria to share some of this information. However, he had to stand and endure a lambasting by the young leader Bashar Assad at the joint press conference. Assad condemned the bombing in Afghanistan. He also condemned Israel for her actions against the PLO. Their private talks were said to have gone much better. It was then on to Riyadh to visit the Saudi royal house. Saudi Arabia had not been helpful and had refused the use of her airbases as launch pads for attacks on Afghanistan. The Saudi royal family is in a difficult position. Many in the kingdom support bin Laden, but one of his aims is to overthrow the monarchy because of their western connections. Saudi and the other Gulf States are important to America—they are their largest source of oil. Little progress seemed to have been made in the talks, but at least they had received him—they had refused to see him on his earlier trip.

From there it was on to Jordan to see the young King Abdullah. He had been co-operating with America from the start and was the keenest member

of the Arab members of the coalition. Jordan has been fighting the Taliban for many years and has successfully penetrated the network. Because of this Jordan has been the target of many attacks by the Taliban, but in most cases their intelligence information enabled them to take preventive action. Their intelligence information has been shared with America. From there it was on to Jerusalem. Again he was amongst friends. His main task here was to get the peace talks going again. This was the price that the other Arab leaders were demanding for their help against terrorism. His message was that Israel must accept a Palestinian state—a matter that most Israelis see as inevitable, and are now prepared to speak about what previously was unspeakable. Mr Blair declared that he was “prepared to get his hands dirty” in the search for Middle East peace. Ariel Sharon was however unwilling to promise to remove his troops from Palestinian cities, while the present situation persisted, nor would they give up their “targeted killings” until Mr Arafat acted to arrest them. As Mr Sharon stated:

“When it comes to lives or the security of Israeli citizens, or the very existence of the state of Israel, here there will be no compromise.”

Then it was on to Gaza to meet Yasser Arafat who had visited London in mid October. Here was another door open to the British, closed to the Americans—Mr Bush has refused to meet Arafat. Mr Arafat praised Mr Blair as “a very, very dear friend of the Palestinian people and a very important friend of the process of making peace.”

In Syria, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and the Gaza Strip, Blair’s understanding and interest in Islam also earned him respect. He has been studying the Koran in recent months.

There was one more place to visit—Italy. The Italian Prime Minister Signor Berlusconi had been offended when two weeks earlier, Britain had consulted with France and Germany about the battle against the Taliban, prior to an important EU meeting. Those excluded let it be known that they were hurt at what had happened. Berlusconi had been the most vocal. This extra stop was to make peace between the two leaders.

There was one last trip to be made—a 7-hour visit to America to update Mr Bush on his trip.

### **Weathering the economic storms**

The year 2001 was not one that most economists would like to see again. Germany went into recession and—according to some analysts—so did America. Japan continued to be in recession and Argentina’s economy collapsed. The economic cost of Sept 11<sup>th</sup> is incalculable. Yet there were two economic beacons amidst the gloom—that of Britain and Australia, according to *The Sunday Times* American economist in his end of year summary. When world trade growth slowed to just 1%, from 12% in 2000, Britain, in spite of foot and mouth is expected to show about a 2.4% growth for 2001. France comes in at 2.1%, Italy 1.8%, Canada at 1.4%, America

1% and Germany 0.6%. (Japan – 0.4%). Unfortunately it did not state what the Australian figure was—it is around 3.8%! Russia has a figure of 5%.

Another Sunday Telegraph (23-12-01) article had the headline *Britain is the rich man of Europe*. Looking at *per capita* GDP<sup>1</sup> figures Britain leads Europe at \$23,712, 5% higher than Germany and 7% higher than France and 16% above the euro-zone average. What a contrast to 10 years ago, when Britain was 19% below Germany, 16% below France and 9% below the average of the countries that now makes up euroland. The strong pound has helped, but underlying it is the strength of the British economy. Economists expect the gap will widen in 2002. It has come at a price however.

“This country has undergone a total character transformation. We have the most robust economy of any developed country, but this has led to longer hours and intrinsic job insecurity, and we are spending more in an effort to make ourselves happy. It’s psychological compensation for the burnout.” Gary Cooper, an occupational psychologist.

Britain has a long way to go to catch up America whose GDP is over 50% higher. There are also clouds on the horizon. Many jobs continue to be lost in the aftermath of Sept 11<sup>th</sup>. For the first time for 9 years unemployment figures rose for October and November.

### **Inward investment**

Figures released in the middle of the year showed that Britain outside the eurozone continued to be the prime source of inward investment, second only to America. Britain received 26% of foreign investment in Europe—France was next at 15%. Of these sums, investment from the EU only accounted for 25% of the total. As in the past the major investor in Britain is the US at 49%.

Britain’s attractiveness continues to bring investment here rather than in the rest of the EU. Sony was a major firm that decided to put its financial headquarters in London. The gloomy predictions of how Britain would decline if it did not join the euro have proved groundless.

It is London’s position as a link between three time zones, its flexible labour markets and its light regulatory touch that are among the qualities investors value. The single currency is a long way down the list of priorities, if it even figures at all. *The Times*. 5-6-01

If we look at the evidence so far, the case is open and shut. In the three and a half years since the eleven founder members of Stage III of EMU locked their currencies together, London has not only flourished as a financial centre, but has actually won the lion’s share of international

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<sup>1</sup> Gross Domestic Product: country’s value of goods and services produced in a country; when *per capita* = GDP divided by the country’s population

business denominated in euros. The City has underwritten the greatest number of bond issues in euros, it has masterminded many of the big mergers and acquisitions in Euroland, it dominates the foreign exchange market for euros and the international fund management business. Most surprisingly of all, perhaps, it is second only to Germany as an originator of cross-border payments in euros. *The European Journal*. 11-01

Even the mighty German Deutsche Bank has centred its international capital market operations in London. Indeed, over the past three years the number of European Authorised Institutions (special Banks regulated by the EU), has increased from 238 to 350, nearly a 50% rise. London is the centre for European finance.

## Chapter 10:

# ISRAEL—WHERE ARE HER FRIENDS?

*2001 was another long and troublesome year for Israel. Ehud Barak tendered his resignation at the end of 2000, and new elections were called. Mr Barak was defeated by an unusually large margin by Sharon, a military man who took a firm line.*

*The Peace Talks bumped along, in spite of the frantic efforts of Mr Clinton in the closing days of his term in office to pull off an agreement so that he could go out with a memorable achievement. Many nations involved themselves to no avail. The Israeli government switched tactics in the effort to win the propaganda war, and made available to the world press some of the anti-Semitic statements by Arafat and the Palestinian clerics.*

*Then came Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>. Here was a glimmer of hope in an apparently hopeless situation. Surely the world would now back Israel in her fight against terrorism. Israel felt emboldened to act in the face of mounting deaths from suicide bombers. But once again peace seemed to slip further and further away as the tit-for-tat killings spiralled. In 14 months since the intifada recommenced some 800 Palestinians and 250 Israelis have been killed. The economy of the Palestinians is in tatters and Israel's has been greatly hit as tourists stay away and overseas investment dries up.*

*She has few friends in the world. Anti-Semitism seems to be growing. In July the UN gathered in Durban to discuss racial hatred, and country after country stood up to condemn Israel's actions against the Palestinians.*

*One significant feature was the re-defining by the Palestinians of the struggle from one that was **a political** one over boundaries, to being **a religious** war, where there could be no compromise. It is clear from scripture that the battle is to be a religious one. And so here is another indication that we must be another step closer to the Lord's coming.*

Isa. 34:2 For the indignation of the LORD is upon all nations, and his fury upon all their armies: he hath utterly destroyed them, he hath delivered them to the slaughter.

:8 For it is the day of the LORD'S vengeance, and the year of recompences for the controversy of Zion.

*The signs of the times have to centre on Israel, and we constantly are drawn back there in our review. Yet for Bible students these are dark times for Israel, and as last year it is in other fields that there seems to be greater activity at the moment. We know there is to be a time of peace before the invasion of Israel by Gog and his compatriots. This is far from the situation at the moment, but the situation can change in a short time in ways that we*

*had not seen. It is a test of our faith. This is the one great sign that must happen before the invasion. We need to make clear that the time of peace does not have to happen **before** the return of the Master. The call to the household takes place before, probably well before, the invasion of Israel takes place. We can't be complacent. Much will happen during the time of the Judgement, which will ensure the stage is set for the final drama that will unfold upon an unsuspecting world.*

### **A new Prime Minister**

The Israelis had high hopes of Mr Barak when he took office in 1999, but his ambitious plans to give away so much to Arafat at Camp David in 2000, worried many. This was a step too far. However Arafat was seeking to extract the last drop from Israel, and rejected what was on offer, thinking, no doubt, that Mr Clinton would be able to pressurise Israel to yield even more in his desperation to be seen as the president who brought peace to the Middle East. It was not to be, and the struggle turned to open warfare again with the rekindling of the *intifada*. Faced with a growing situation that seemed to have no solution, Ehud Barak tendered his resignation, and elections were fixed for February 6<sup>th</sup>. He needed a new mandate from the people to support his previous path of giving Arafat what he wanted. The Israeli people turned against him and the 73-year-old Ariel Sharon emerged the clear favourite. Ariel Sharon won by an unusually high margin for an Israeli election, which is normally a very close-run thing, and became the 5<sup>th</sup> Prime Minister in six years!

He put together a coalition government, offering his defeated Labour rivals several important posts. Simon Peres, was appointed to be Sharon's Foreign Minister. This was the man who as Foreign Minister in Yitzhak Rabin's government, had helped broker peace with Yasser Arafat in 1993. Sharon and Peres are life-long friends, though they differ strongly on how peace should be made. So big was the coalition with 26 ministers and 14 deputy ministers, that the cabinet table in the Prime Ministers office had to be extended and an extra row of chairs added to the government benches in the Knesset! The daughter of Mr Rabin, the leader who was assassinated in 1995, became Deputy Defence Minister. She became the first woman to serve in such a high rank in the Defence Ministry. She is a lawyer.

Barak himself resigned as leader of the Labour Party, and a replacement was not chosen until September, however, an irregularity caused that to be discounted. It was not until December that Mr Ben-Eliezar, the Defence Minister, was elected—a lurch to the right that would have been unthinkable a few years ago. It is said that his views are very close to the right-wing Sharon's, bringing Labour and Likud closer together. It was a reflection of the hardening attitude in Israel, that they had to use military might rather than negotiated words.



Sharon was soon in trouble when he tightened the blockade of several Palestinian towns. Trenches were cut across roads, others blocked by boulders and tanks took up their positions. These measures effectively cut up the Gaza strip into about 5 isolated areas, and the West Bank into many more. There were loud protests from the EU, Britain and America. Palestinian officials renewed their calls for an international peace keeping force to be deployed—a matter Sharon is strongly opposed to. He was forced to loosen the stranglehold and pull back the tanks.

Simon Peres' solution to the growing waves of terrorist suicide bombings was to strike at the Palestinian command structure, without harming the ordinary Palestinian. And so as the year wore on, Israel's response to each suicide attack or attempted attack was to carry out what was dubbed "targeted assassinations". Using their superior intelligence network, they were able to pinpoint the whereabouts of their targets and using sophisticated weaponry, to kill them. Although there was widespread condemnation of this, many came to see that Israel had little alternative in view of the continued anti-Israel rhetoric that was being delivered by the Palestinians, often by Arafat himself.

During December, having faced two more terrorist atrocities, one that killed 10 Israeli teenagers and another that killed 15 bus passengers, Israel decided that Arafat was now irrelevant. By the end of the year Israel had greatly weakened Arafat's organisation. The runway of Gaza airport had been dug up. His three Russian helicopters—his great pride—were destroyed; Israeli tanks were positioned just by his offices.

Facing increasing isolation from the outside world, Yasser Arafat, on December 16th, went on Palestinian television and called for an end to the suicide bombings and suicide attacks against Israel. This speech was widely reported around the world. His other speech went virtually unreported. He said in Arabic:

"We will sacrifice ourselves for our holy places, and we will strengthen our hold of them and we are willing to give 70 of our martyrs for every one of their martyrs in this campaign, because this is our holy land." The crowd responded saying that millions of martyrs were on their way to Jerusalem. Arafat added that all Palestinians are martyrs and they will continue to defend the holy ground. *Israel Line* 18-12-01

In a speech on December 21st, Hamas too called for an end to the suicide bombings in Israel. Faced with intense world-wide pressure, they announced a suspension of hostilities. Israel remains wary—"We will judge on the facts whether the decision is effectively carried out."

The final ignominy came when Arafat wanted to attend Mass in Bethlehem on Christmas Eve. For the previous 6 years he had attended, in spite of being a Muslim. Without a helicopter he was dependent upon Israel's permission to travel. They set their terms—hand over two terrorists and we will allow you to go! He was unwilling to arrest the men. The senior

Roman Catholic clergyman, the Latin Patriarch Michel Sabbah, addressed a symbolic empty chair draped with a black and white keffiyeh—Arafat's traditional head-dress—and marked with a placard reading "His Excellency Yasser Arafat, President of the State of Palestine". Religious leaders around the world expressed their outrage at Israel's "intransigence".

### Beyond Arafat

Even many Palestinians feel that Arafat is a spent force. He has not brought peace, only war. The Palestinian economy is so fragile and dependent upon handouts that the ordinary person has little hope of work. Much of the money given to the Palestinians seems to have disappeared. Rumours of corruption are rife. Even his wife Soha has long fled Gaza for life on the Champs Elysée in Paris with Zahwa, their 6-year old daughter.

The PLO is no democracy; there is no provision for a legitimate successor. The Israelis have concentrated on destroying all Arafat's symbols of office. Now, according to a *Sunday Telegraph* 16-12-01 report, it would appear that Sharon is looking to his possible successors. There are two people, Mr Dahlan, 42, and Mr Rajub. Neither man's offices have been damaged by Israel. Mr Dahlan was born in a refugee camp and is said to be very popular in Gaza. He is softly spoken, speaks fluent Hebrew and has cultivated friendships with senior Israeli military officials and political figures during the peace talks. Mr Rajub is the West Bank security commander and is a very different man, and is much feared for his brutal treatment of dissidents. Both men speak regularly to the American CIA officers and Israeli intelligence officers on security matters. Israel having severed all contacts with Mr Arafat, the Defence Minister, Mr Ben-Eliezer, has continued his contacts with Mr Dahlan.

To Bible students there was one interesting and important change in the year. The nature of the contest between the two sides changed in a significant way.

### The conflict redefined

In an effort to win the propaganda war, Israel has been busy warning the world of the kind of things that are being taught in the Palestinian schools, are being preached by the Imams in the mosques, are being put out on TV, are being uttered by Arafat and other leaders. The Israeli Media Watch issued an eight-page document in July of selective quotes under the heading **Islam's Mandatory War against Jews and Israel in Palestinian Authority religious teaching**. The introductory paragraph was very significant. [My emphasis DFP]



Palestinian web site map

Throughout history religious wars have been fought in the name of different Gods. The premise and basis for discussion of the Oslo Accords was that the Israeli-Palestinian **conflict was not an irreconcilable religious war, but one over borders**. However, the Palestinian religious leaders, all appointees of the PA political leadership, **are publicly preaching that the Israel-Palestinian conflict is part of Islam's eternal religious war against the Jews**. Jews are portrayed as the eternal enemies of Allah, and the killing of Jews as Allah's will. On the national level, Allah prohibits acceptance of Israel's existence and will destroy it.

**The Palestinians have redefined the conflict from one over borders, in which compromise may be a solution, into a religious war for Allah's [will] in which compromise is heretical.** The implications for future peace are ominous.

This report...demonstrates the way Palestinian Authority religious leaders are selecting, interpreting and teaching Islam. Although Islam has positive references and traditions regarding Jews, the PA religious leaders have chosen to cite only negative references in their religious teaching, using the traditional sources to justify and even to demand uncompromising hatred of Jews and Israel.

The religious ideology of the Palestinian Authority religious leaders as expressed in the Friday sermons and religious lessons can be summarized by eight essential principles.

### **Jews**

- Jews are the enemy of Allah.
- Islam is fighting a continuous religious war against the Jews.
- The killing of Jews is a religious obligation.
- Palestinians are the vanguard in this war against the Jews, and all Islamic nations are obligated to assist in this war.

### **Israel**

- All of the land between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea [which includes all of Israel] is a religious Waqf - an Islamic religious trust. Any Muslim who relinquishes any part to Israel is damned to Hell.
- All agreements with Israel are inherently temporary in nature and are signed only because of Israel's temporary balance of power advantage.
- Allah will replace Muslims who shirk their obligation to battle Israel.
- The ultimate destruction of Israel is a certainty.

The Palestinians repeatedly use Islamic sources to defend **this religious hatred**, even demanding the killing of Jews as a current obligation and the will of Allah. At least four times in recent months Palestinian

religious leaders have taught publicly that the following Hadith (Islamic traditions attributed to Mohammed) is an authoritative directive of Islam today, expressing Allah's will **that obedient Muslims kill Jews**. The Hadith itself states:

“The Day of Resurrection will not arrive until the Muslims make war against the Jews and kill them, and until a Jew hiding behind a rock and tree, and the rock and tree will say: ‘Oh Muslim, Oh servant of Allah, there is a Jew behind me, come and kill him!’ ”

Recently a preacher attacked the Arab-Muslim world leaders because they are avoiding attacking Israel with missiles and tanks, and threatened them that Allah is liable to “replace them with other men that fight for Allah to liberate the lands from the defilement of the Jews”.

It is to be stressed that these broadcasts by officially appointed religious leaders, presenting the Palestinian-Israeli conflict as an eternal religious conflict, have been preached long before the current violence began. This preaching is not a reaction to the present violence, and possibly the opposite is true. The P.A.’s religious world-view, that sees agreements with Israel as inherently temporary and war against the Jews as an expression of Allah’s will, has in all likelihood fuelled the hatred that has lead to Palestinian terror and violence.

When news of the event of Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> was broadcast in Gaza and the West Bank there was great rejoicing. However there was outrage when these pictures were shown in the West, and Arafat did his best to prevent the pictures being shown, confiscating films and using threats of physical violence against the news media.

As the year closes, we wait and we wonder at the change that has to come. With the situation in Afghanistan seemingly to have come to a successful conclusion, it would be reasonable to expect the attention of Britain and America will be concentrated once more on the situation here. We are reminded of the prophetic words spoken so long ago by the angel to Hagar concerning Ishmael:

*And he will be a wild man; his hand will be against every man, and every man's hand against him; and he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren.* Gen. 16:12

### **“Israel ‘has launched battle for Jerusalem’”**

This was the bold headline across the *Daily Telegraph* 11-8-01. Israel had in exasperation evicted the Palestinians from their illegal use of their headquarters in Jerusalem, Orient House. The Palestinian flag was hauled down and the Israeli one flew from the mast. They had just suffered another suicide bomb attack that had left 15 Israelis dead in Jerusalem. Under the Oslo Accords, Arafat has no political standing in east Jerusalem. Israel saw Orient House as a creeping annexation of the area.

Mr Sharon, on taking up office, emphasised his commitment to Jerusalem as Israel's undivided capital.

“Jerusalem is the heart of the Jewish people, and no Israeli has the right to abandon Jerusalem or share Jerusalem. This city does not belong to just Israel, but to the Jews of the whole world. Mentioned in the Bible 676 times, Jerusalem is the soul of the Jewish people. The status of Jerusalem can not be negotiated.” *International Herald Tribune* 3-5-01

### **Deep EU involvement in Israeli politics**

This was the headline to an article in the *ICEJ* 29-06-01. It reported that the EU had been funding left-wing organisations (i.e. those wanting to give up land in exchange for peace) to the tune of thousands of euros a year. According to the *Peace Now* accounts for 1998/99, it had used EU money in that year to print and distribute 12,000 posters reading “Bring Back Peace,” “Netanyahu is killing Peace,” and “Netanyahu must go.” There was a strong outcry that the EU should be interfering in Israeli politics. There were many other organisations listed that had been funded to try to move things the EU's way. Yet another report in the *Jerusalem Post* listed still more cases, among them these three:

The EU also funds a super computer in Orient House [this was before Israel took it back] which contained records of all pre-1948 Arab property holdings in Israel. Those records are designed to allow former owners to reclaim their land and/or seek compensation from Israel.

In addition to attempting to influence internal Israeli opinion, EU money also went to undermining Israel's International standing. The Council on Foreign Relations received funding for a project run by Henry Siegman, who has made a career bashing successive Israeli governments in the prestige press. Another beneficiary was the Foundation for Middle East Peace, which lobbies Congress against the Israeli government. In attempting to undermine the international standing of the Israeli government, the EU lifted a page from the book of many of its Israeli recipients. 27-7-01

### **Tough economic times**

The *intifada*, plus September 11<sup>th</sup> have kept many visitors away from Israel. Hotel occupancy by overseas visitors is at a very low level. Foreign investment down, exports down, unemployment up. Preliminary estimates are that Israel will have had its worst economic year since 1953. GDP is expected to be only 0.5%, which with Israel's population having expanded in the year by immigration, is in reality a negative growth.

One is reminded of the words of the prophet Haggai (1:4-11) against the Jews of his day, busy about their own ways and forgetful that they were God's people.

The Israeli longs for the day when there will be peace and neighbouring countries who will not be afraid of trading with her. She has the know-how to bring great prosperity to the whole region, but that is dependent on a great shift in attitude. Many Arab countries are agitating to reintroduce the Arab boycott of Israel, which for many years prevented trade with her neighbours. They see it as an effective weapon with which to punish Israel for what they see as her intransigence in settling the Palestinian situation.

Israel continues to look for gas and oil in the Mediterranean—large reserves have been found to the south of Israel by the Egyptians. In April there was a report that more gas had been found in the Israeli sector at deeper levels than the previous finds, suggesting that the reserves are larger than first thought.

The traditional picture of the Jewish people living off the land, filling the face of the world with fruit, in fulfilment of Isaiah 27:6, has gone. From agriculture accounting for 20% of GDP in 1960, it has dropped to just 2%. In 1960, 20% of the workforce worked on the land, now it is 3%. Competition from other countries has cut their export markets, labour scarcity with the intifada has left crops unharvested, and the great scarcity of water have all taken their toll. Another problem is that the Israeli shekel is one of the world's strongest currencies, making exports to Europe—its main market—extra difficult with weakness of the euro. The Jaffa orange that came to be the unofficial symbol for Israel, now only accounts for a small part of their agricultural exports; flowers are the main exports. Many orange groves have been grubbed up and are now being built on, houses and offices for Israel's expanding population, bring more profit, short-term. Faced with competition overseas, Israel is turning to the export of seeds to their competitors. Compact and of high value, Israeli plant breeders are selling their wares throughout the world. There is a growing market for plant varieties that can grow with less water, or are more resistant to salt.

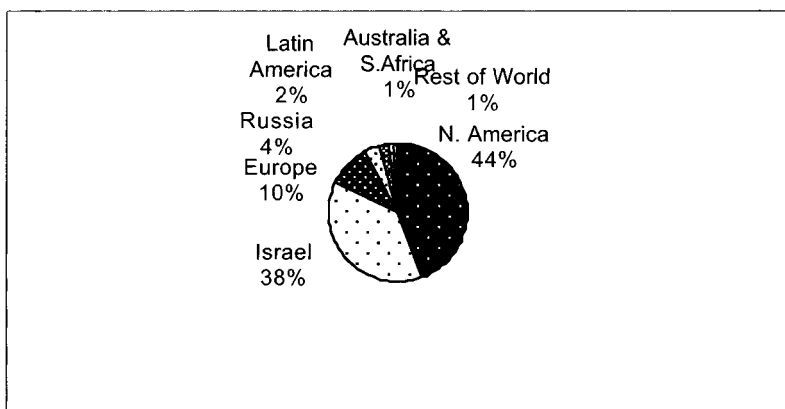
The day will indeed come when Israel will blossom and bud, when they will dwell at peace under vine and fig tree and none shall make them afraid, when they have faith in their Messiah, and he is King over all.

### **Bring my people home**

The *Jerusalem Report* 5-11-01 listed the sizes of the Jewish communities of the world. There were 63 countries with Jewish populations of 1,000 or more, a further 28 with between 100 and a 1,000, and 29 countries with fewer than 100 Jews. A total of 120 countries.

Eventually all the Jews will be regathered. What we have to remember is that many who have already returned, will again be dispersed by the invaders of Israel, needing to once again return. (Joel 3:1-8)

## Jewish population distribution throughout the world



## **Chapter 11:**

# **THE MIDDLE EAST—THE SWINGS OF THE PENDULUM**

*In this chapter we try to pull together the many strands that criss-cross the Middle East. Israel, Jordan and Turkey work together. America and Britain work with many states in the region. Russia and the EU are also players here. The Arab states themselves form alliances or stand-offs. From time to time countries switch their allegiances, and so the picture is never static.*

*We view the region from the perspective of there being a King of the North collection of nations and in opposition a King of the South grouping. We overlay these with the list of nations detailed in Ezekiel 38 who are confederate against Israel, in other words with the King of the North. From Ezekiel 38 we see other nations in opposition, in other words part of the King of the South.*

*We can only take a snapshot, as it were, of the situation now. Increasingly we can be re-assured that our long held beliefs are standing the test of time. There was a period when the situation seemed far from matching what we expected. But the time was not yet right. The pendulum of time had to swing first one way then the other. At the appointed day, the situation will be as God has spoken. In that day the Lord Jesus will already be back and will have gathered his household to him.*

*How very privileged we are to see these things begin to come to pass!*

## **Turkey**

The Turkish economy suffered a crippling collapse earlier in the year following a recession sparked by a currency crisis. The IMF stepped in with a \$19b loan to save the banking system from collapsing. Things are improving and a further loan was accepted. Turkey—a Nato member but not an EU member has dropped her opposition to the Euro Army, on receiving assurances that it would not be used in disputes in her part of the world involving EU countries [read Greece]. Also the leader of the Turkish Cypriots has dropped his demand that the North be accepted as a separate entity before peace talks start between the two halves of Cyprus. Turkey acknowledges that she can't be considered as an EU applicant, without the island dispute being settled.

Turkey became the first Muslim country to offer troops to America against Afghanistan. She also indicated that if America were to move next to attacking Iraq, she would not object. She has in fact expelled the Iraqi ambassador for alleged links with the Taliban.

America, Israel and Turkey held joint military manoeuvres off the Turkish coast in both January and December, the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> such exercises.



Turkey is the main Islamic country to work with Israel. Not only is there a good working relationship between them, and considerable trade, there are many military links. Joint exercises are held regularly. Under a barter deal, Israel is modernising 1,000 American Turkish tanks in exchange for water, which will be shipped to Israel. The deal is worth \$500 million. *Arabic News* 7-11-01

Israeli personnel are helping man Turkish missile sites on the northern borders of Syria and Iraq. They are there to retaliate if Syria attempts to move against Israel. *Arabic News* 14-7-01.

The Israeli Defence Forces Chief of Staff visited Turkey at the end of July, ahead of a visit by Mr Sharon in August to discuss the building of a joint anti-ballistic missile shield to protect them both from missiles launched by countries like Iraq and Iran.

In August there was an interesting *Stratfor Intelligence Report* 1-8-01, that indicated that Turkey had issued a warning to Egypt and Syria, not to retaliate if Israel moved harder against the Palestinians. She said that she would act to help Israel if necessary. The Euphrates runs through the northern part of Syria, watering the main Syrian agriculture area. Agriculture is very important to Syria, employing about 40% of its workers, and it provides some 26% of GDP. Turkey can reduce this flow—and has used it as an effective weapon in the past. Turkey also has a standing army of nearly 1/2 million; and shares a 500-mile border with Syria. Egypt, like Israel and Jordan, is allowed to use her airports for refuelling.

We see then Turkey, a Muslim country, yet aligned with America and friendly to Israel. No wonder she will be a prime target in Gog's advance southward. When Turkey falls to Russia, the drying up of the Euphrates will be complete.

## **Jordan**

As we saw earlier, Jordan has been co-operating with America over bin Laden. The new King has been active in promoting Jordan and strengthening her ties with the West. In the Gulf War 10 years ago King Hussein backed Saddam Hussein. It caused much damage to Jordan's economy, but in the intervening years the pendulum has swung back to the Western camp. A *Stratfor Intelligence Report* 31-10-01 was headed **Jordan: Expanding ties with the US**. King Abdullah has reshuffled his economic team putting in Western-educated technocrats. Those ousted were those who looked to Iraq. At a time when other Arab states were distancing themselves from America, Jordan was confirming her commitment.

Pushing economic reform and relaxing press freedoms will move Jordan closer culturally, politically and economically to the United states.

The US has been promoting trade between the two countries. In September President Bush signed a draft law that would allow the two countries to enjoy free trade status—the first the US has granted to an Arab country, and only the 4<sup>th</sup> country, after Canada, Mexico and Israel with which the US has made such a deal.

King Abdullah and Queen Rania paid a state visit to London in November and were very warmly received. There are close links between the two countries. They have a house in London and are frequent visitors here. The King was educated in Britain. His half brother Prince Hamzah has recently finished training at Sandhurst and has started studies at a US university.

Jordan is greatly concerned that Iraq is sending weapons and personal to help the Palestinians through Jordan. Israel's Defence minister paid a "secret" visit to Jordan in July, to offer Israel's help in tracking and curbing these infiltrators. America is also helping. In April the Jordanian Foreign Minister visited Jerusalem to discuss the strengthening of the security ties between them. A *Sunday Times* 30-12-01 article was headlined **Jordan assists Israeli army**. It gave an interesting insight into how closely the two secret services work together to combat terrorism, to prevent terrorist attacks being launched from Jordan. There is discussion about Israeli warplanes having access to Jordanian airspace, and establishing a joint communications system for their armies. Ever since the Palestinians murdered Abdullah's grandfather in 1951 and tried twice unsuccessfully to kill his father King Hussein in 1990, the Hashemite dynasty dislikes the Palestinians. Abdullah is afraid that if Israel really cracks down, that many Palestinians will seek to cross into Jordan and destabilise his Kingdom where the majority is already Palestinian.

Again we have another Arab country, firmly aligned to the West, still behind the scenes co-operating with Israel. When Israel is invaded and "Edom, Moab and Ammon" escape invasion by the northern hosts, there will be a role for Jordan as a refuge for fleeing Jews. This is where many fled in AD 70, and it will happen again. (e.g. Dan 11:41; Isa. 16:4)

## **Egypt**

Both Britain and America are heavily involved in Egypt. Since the 1978 Camp David Peace Accord, the US has spent £36bn in subsidising Egypt's military forces; at present she receives \$1.3bn in military aid annually.

As well as American aid, Egypt is also receiving Russian aid. President Mubarak paid a 3-day visit to Moscow in April, and signed a co-operation accord. She wants to buy nuclear technology, missiles and spy satellites from Russia. Egypt turned her back on the Soviet when in 1972, President Sadat expelled 15,000 Soviet advisors and turned to the West. However since 1990 President Mubarak normalised relations again. It would appear that he wants a second string in case of American withdrawal from the region. He also sees it as a means of pressurising America to solve the Palestinian problem. But to keep things in perspective, the deals with

Russia are minute compared with those with America. Egypt is regarded not only as a close friend of America, but a strategic partner, providing intelligence information against Al-Queda.

Israel is concerned at the continuing modernisation of Egypt's weaponry. In August the US agreed to supply 26 rocket artillery systems, similar to those supplied to Israel. In November there was a proposed \$400m arms deal. Her navy too has been equipped by America, so that Israel expressed her concern that the balance of naval power in the Middle East had changed due to American help to Egypt.

The US is the second largest investor in Egypt—contributing to 253 projects. Britain is in fact the largest investor, having invested \$2.5bn during the past 5 years. Egypt is one of Britain's target markets. In June was held what was described as the biggest international conference for discussing areas of economic co-operation between the two countries.

Here is another country that in the main is tied to the West. Egypt forms the heart of the original King of the South, and she has a role to play in the future, although the reality will probably be seen in the powers of Britain and America operating on her territory.

### **Saudi Arabia**

This is the largest of the Gulf States. Its "fame" this year was as the home of bin-Laden's family. His father moved from Yemen to Saudi seeking his fortune – which he found! He established many businesses, and had a large family from his four wives. Killed in an air crash in 1968, his family continued the business, which is estimated to be worth \$5bn. bin Laden, born here, inherited \$80m when he was 14, which he has built up to be worth some \$250,000m. bin Laden's activities against the Americans brought him into conflict with the Saudi rulers and he was expelled in the early '80's. He is opposed to the presence of American troops in Saudi, and to American support of the ruling clan. He enjoyed widespread support from the ordinary Saudi's which put the rulers in a difficult position. To openly back America against bin-Laden invited popular anger and – until the downfall of the Taliban – the threat of retaliation from his supporters. The ruling house is not popular with the people and is split with a power-struggle – there are 5,000 royal princes! The present ruler is King Fahd, elderly and semi-comatose following a stroke. He has seven full brothers, but his half-brother, Prince Abdullah, whom the seven do not want to become ruler, wanting to keep power themselves, is running the country.

When oil prices fell so did the income for the government that has done little to diversify from its dependence on oil. Oil prices need to be \$25 a barrel to service its massive debt burden. It does, however, sit on 25% of the world's oil reserves and supplies some 25% on the world's oil. The US gets between an eighth and a fifth of its oil from Saudi, importing some £15bn a year, and so is keenly interested in the continued stability of the country.

Saudi relations were very good with Mr Bush senior, not so good under Mr Clinton, but they view with favour G.W.Bush's presidency—they see the Republicans as being more in tune with oil matters! They also like to see a firm hand against Saddam!

Here we have another country that we see as having a role to play in the latter-days as Dedan working with Sheba and the merchants of Tarshish and the young lions. With the rapid defeat of the Taliban, these countries will perceive that they do not have to fear friendship with the West. The West's military might has been put to the test and not found wanting.

### **Kuwait**

This year was the 10th Anniversary of the liberation of Kuwait. The devastated Kingdom has been rebuilt and life is back to where it was before the invasion. It is a very rich state; all Kuwaitis are virtually guaranteed jobs, so all but 7% are civil servants. With easy money from the oil, little has to be done. The rulership has been held within one ever-growing family. Decisions take a long time to be made. She still lives in fear of her northern neighbour Iraq.

### **Oman**

This is considered the friendliest state towards Britain. Britain and Oman had long before September 11<sup>th</sup> planned to hold in October the biggest joint military deployment in the region since the Gulf war in 1991. So she had 24,000 troops and 24 Royal Navy warships deployed in the area, some of which were used in the attacks on Afghanistan. It also sent a strong signal that Britain was a force to be reckoned with in the region. Oman is keen to beef up her own defences and is considering the purchase of American F-16s and long range air-to-air missiles.

### **Yemen**

Very much located on the old Kingdom of Sheba. North Yemen became independent after WW1, while the South was under British control when known as Aden, but broke away in 1967. After civil wars between the two halves, they were united in 1990. The discovery of oil in both North and South Yemen drove them to settling their differences in order to exploit these finds. There are still many opposing tribes scattered throughout the country and linked to the Taliban.

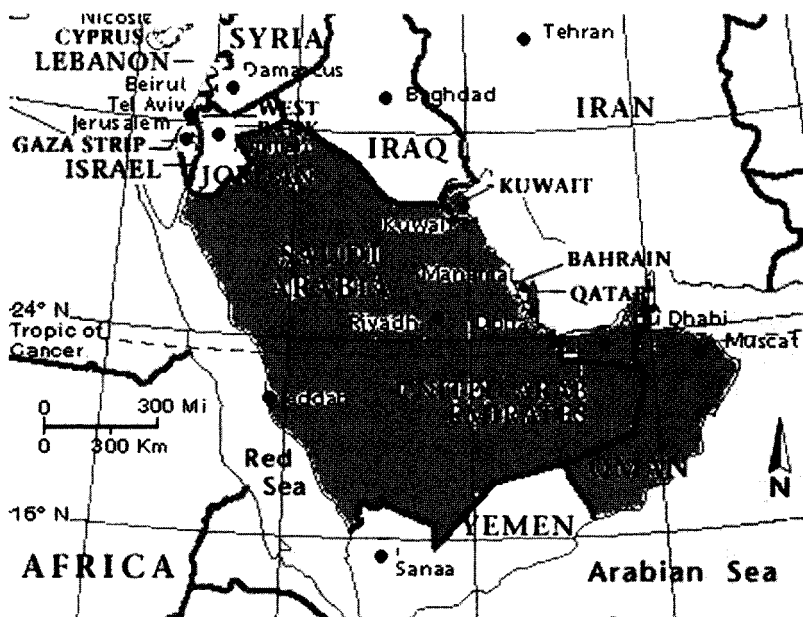
In the Gulf War she backed Iraq, and so lost many Arab friends. The pendulum of history has now swung back and this year Yemen has been making overtures to its neighbour, Saudi Arabia. There have been extensive visits and agreements to work together and to settle border disputes. Saudi Arabia is proposing to make a \$300 million loan to Yemen to help build its infrastructure.

Again this is a country with good ties to America. The Yemeni President, Ali Abdullah Saleh, visited Washington in the summer, with the aim of

increasing the links between the two countries and to increase “bilateral co-operation in the security field.” With the fall of the Taliban in Afghanistan, Yemen cracked down on al-Queda members who had established training camps in the border provinces. The US promised whatever help was needed.

### The Gulf Co-operation Council

It is interesting to see the development over the years of a southern grouping of nations—countries that Britain and America have long been associated with.



The Gulf Co-operation Council is made up of six nations, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates; (Yemen has applied to join). Originally Iraq was a member, but was expelled when 10 years ago she invaded Kuwait. The important country that is missing—from a prophetic point of view—is Egypt. Possible future developments may cause her to be linked with this group. At the GCC conference at the end of last year they signed a joint defence pact, paving the way for stronger military links. Not only have they pledged to defend themselves, they are setting up their own rapid deployment force. The existing Saudi-based “Peninsula Shield” which was set up in 1986, is likely to be expanded from 5,000 to 25,000 troops. They plan to co-ordinate multi-million dollar telecommunications and early warning radar systems.

The *Arabic News* reported that the members of the Gulf Co-operation Council had agreed to monetary union within 10 years. They are looking for a common currency—to replace their individual currencies and also to replace the US dollar which is extensively used for trade.

We now look at countries that are associated with the King of the North.

## **Syria**

Bashar Assad, the new leader of Syria is still finding his feet. British trained, he secretly married a British Muslim in January. Hopes that this might bring him into the Western camp haven't materialised. In any case we would expect Syria to be on the side of the King of the North. As we saw earlier, when Tony Blair visited in November he had to endure a public dressing down. When the Pope visited in May he had to listen to a vitriolic anti-Semitic speech. In Old Testament times Damascus was a traditional enemy of Israel. In chairing an Arab Summit meeting in March, shortly after the election of Mr Sharon, he described Israeli society as "more racist than the Nazis". Ten years ago there was a thriving Jewish community of 6,000 in Damascus, now the Jewish quarter is a ghost town with but 60 inhabitants.

Israel had hoped for more co-operation having withdrawn her troops from Lebanon, but the Syrian backing of Hizbullah continues unchecked and Syria still maintains 35,000 troops here, and is said to have allowed Iraq to have military bases there.

In January Assad signed a free-trade pact with Iraq. The two countries are seeking to increase military and defence co-operations. In February he visited Iran for "strategic dialogue".

## **Iraq**

Saddam Hussein still continues to rule. Having dealt with the Taliban, President Bush would like to complete his father's unfinished business, by removing him. Russia is firmly the backer of Saddam.

An intriguing news item was that as from January 2002, they would drop the dollar and use the euro for overseas trading.

The bombing of the North and South of Iraq continues by Britain and America: the RAF flew 2,683 sorties during the period April 1999 and March 2000. They were stepped up again in February ahead of a Middle East tour by Colin Powell—a clear signal to all that the new President was willing to confront Saddam. Germany and France gave a strong denunciation to this. Both countries, like Russia, are wishing to grab their portion of the spoils should sanctions be lifted.

Russia is the most active trader with Iraq. In the pre-Gulf War days the Soviet supplied military goods to the tune of \$8bn to be repaid with oil. She is pressing for sanctions to be lifted so that she might recoup some of Iraq's outstanding debt. In 1997, one of Russia's oil firms was awarded a

\$3.5bn contract to develop a new Iraqi oilfield. A new intelligence bureau has been added to the Iraqi embassy in Russia. Arms are being smuggled in via Iran.

Saddam has always maintained that the events of 10 years ago with the invasion of Kuwait were but a preliminary step to the momentous battle for Jerusalem. A cartoon in an Iraqi newspaper in January depicted soldiers proudly raising the Iraqi flag over the Dome of the Rock!

With the year ended Britain and America are deciding whether Saddam Hussein should be the next target in their war against terrorism.

### **Iran**

At the end of 2000, the Russian Defence Minister made an historic visit to Iran, where expanded military links were announced. Russia is hoping for sales of \$5bn over the next few years. Russia has been building a nuclear power plant, and in January it was reported that the first would be fully operational in 2003 and that work had started on a second.

The US has slowly been softening their opposition to Iran since the election of the more moderate President Khatami in 1997, although US firms are still forbidden to trade with Iran. Iran has supported America in her battle against the Taliban, because the Iranians are Shi'ite, whereas the Taliban are Sunni Muslims.

Iran continues to fund the Hizbullah terrorist groups against Israel. Although we see the pendulum swinging somewhat towards the West, we know that in the final conflict Iran is named as working with Gog.

So we leave this section with a general pattern of southern Arab countries working with Britain and America, and northern ones working with Russia, France and Germany and who will form part of the King of the North or Gogian confederacy.

## Chapter 12:

# INDIA—THE EASTERN TARSHISH

*We saw in chapter 2 that there was an eastern Tarshish power as well as a western one. We have looked at the role of Britain as the western Tarshish power, and now look at India as the eastern power. It is fascinating for Bible students to see how with the passage of time, India is back in the news with ever-growing links back to America and Britain, and also to Israel herself—the country in the middle around whom all things revolve in God’s purpose.*

### **US-India ties mark shift in regional strategy**

This was the eye-catching headline to an article in *The Australian Financial Review* 27-6-01. It reported on the interviews of the US Deputy Secretary of State, Richard Armitage and the US National Security Adviser, Condoleezza Rice by an Indian reporter.

It reported that in the past the Far Eastern power axis lay with an Indian-Russian axis countered by a Pakistan-China axis—the one backed by the US. Times have now changed. As Russia and China move closer, that axis is now being countered by an American-Indian one. Under the Clinton administration the support of Pakistan was halted and the tilt towards India began. Clinton’s India visit last year was the first presidential visit since 1978! The Bush administration is rapidly moving that friendship forward.

But the Bush Administration claims to have taken Clinton’s south Asia initiative much further. “It took the Clinton Administration seven years to get to the point that Bush has gotten to in two months.”

India has undergone significant economic reform; in particular, its booming IT sector has become the strategic core of India’s economic relationship with the US. The Indian community in the US is growing rapidly in numbers and influence.

Rice was at pains to emphasise that Washington was not seeking better relations as a counterweight to China, or at the expense of relations with Beijing. “This is not a zero-sum game,” she told *The Hindu*.

Nevertheless, India’s star as “the largest democracy, an emerging economy”—as Rice put it—continues to rise in Washington. “India counts,” Rice concluded.

Since this report the situation has grown with the aftermath of September 11<sup>th</sup>. Pakistan’s support of the Taliban in Afghanistan has put America more firmly behind India, who has given its support to America. As the year ended with India and Pakistan facing each other on the battlefield, America’s support for India may be vital. India blames Pakistan for the attack on India’s Parliament, and this could be the trigger that India has



been waiting for to settle her scores with Pakistan. The US would be supportive, as many Taliban have fled to Pakistan where they will be difficult for America to root out. This terrorist attack on Parliament may just be the excuse needed.

Earlier in the year there had been a BBC report, 23-3-01, headed **US defence strategy shifts to Asia**. The US Defence Secretary, Donald Rumsfeld was proposing that America's defence capabilities needed to shift their attention away from Europe to the Pacific. China was perceived as the country of greatest threat. This would need more long-range aircraft as land bases were more scattered in this region and more, smaller, missile carrying vessels, rather than large aircraft carriers that are vulnerable to missile attack.

This was followed by a *Jane's Intelligence Digest* article 4-5-01 headed **US-Indian strategic interests**. It covered similar ground pointing to India as the natural partner in the region.

The US is not only the largest trading partner of India, but American companies are also the largest investors in the country.

Further military co-operation between India and the US is likely to increase the confidence of other Asian states, which are fearful of the risks posed by China's aim of expanding its regional influence. In the light of an increasing convergence of strategic interests between India and the Asia-Pacific states (other than China), some intelligence analysts are concluding that it would be in the interests of the US and other western powers to promote India's greater involvement in Asia. An active US-Indo strategic partnership is seen as enhancing this process.

Closer co-operation between Washington and Delhi is also considered a crucial political factor, encouraging democratic forces in the region. The two countries are recognising that they share similar views on many issues, notably that promoting democracy and the economic recovery of the Asian states, especially Indonesia, are important factors in enhancing peace and security in the region.

Acknowledging India as a key factor in Asian security, the Bush administration has reaffirmed the importance of strategic dialogue with India. In his testimony before the US Congress, Secretary of State Colin Powell described India as "a country that should grow more and more focused in the lens of American foreign policy" and expressed the view that "India has the potential to help keep the peace in the vast Indian Ocean area and its periphery". *JID* sources suggest that the new American administration is in favour of removing the majority of those sanctions imposed after India conducted its nuclear test in May 1998.

India is emerging as a global power. Like her neighbour Pakistan she has a nuclear capability. She is one of a handful of nations with high-powered rockets—she launched a geosynchronous satellite into orbit earlier in the

year. She also fired this year an intermediate range nuclear-capable ballistic missile. She has a powerful navy so that she is able to “project her power throughout the region.”

Another *Jane's Intelligence Digest* article 4-6-01 gave more details about her navy.

Given this relative security, it is not surprising that India has gone far in developing a naval force. It is natural that a secure Eurasian power such as India should first attend to building a navy to control its coastal waters and then, if possible, project that naval power throughout the immediate region, which in this case spans the Indian Ocean perimeter. Today India is the greatest native power in the Indian Ocean basin, surpassing even Australia. And the continued growth of the Indian navy would allow India to become pre-eminent in the Indian Ocean, were it not for the presence of the U.S. Navy.

The United States has massive interests in the Persian Gulf, and the U.S. Navy cannot access the Gulf ports except through the Indian Ocean. And the United States cannot easily get to the Indian Ocean from the Pacific except through the Straits of Malacca in Indonesia. These two end points constitute the fundamental American interest in the Persian Gulf and require that the U.S. Navy maintain a substantial presence in the Indian Ocean, including a massive support installation at the United Kingdom-controlled island of Diego Garcia.

...Should Russia and China formalize an alliance, a strong alliance with India would be a tremendous asset to the United States in offsetting Russian-Chinese power and influence in Eurasia.

### **Britain and India**

Britain has strong traditional links with India—there are more than one million people of Indian descent in Britain. Britain is her second largest trading partner—a BBC report said that Britain was the largest foreign investor. In a series of diplomatic visits in 2000 and 2001, the two countries are increasing their ties. They are seeking to double trade between the two countries. High on the list are Indian IT skills. They also want to develop closer military co-operation.

### **Closer ties for India and Israel**

This was the headline to another *Jane's Intelligence Digest* article, 27-7-01. India has moved away from her support of Arab countries to the support of Israel. She now refrains from criticising what Israel does against the PLO. She also sides with Israel at the UN—“India and Israel are entering into a new era of co-operation.”

Since the upgrading of diplomatic ties in 1992, a fundamental reassessment of their long-term defence and security interests has taken place between India and Israel. In the last decade the two countries have

built up extensive military collaboration, involving arms sales, equipment upgrades the transfer of technology and joint weapons development programmes.

The latest multi-billion dollar defence agreements are seen as another watershed in the Indo-Israeli strategic partnership. *JID* sources also reveal that deals involving the upgrading of aircraft and Indian T-72 battle tanks (worth an estimated \$500 million) and the development of a vehicle-borne howitzer for the Indian army (costing around \$500 million) are also in advanced stages of negotiation.

Military intelligence reports suggest that Israel has also been given a contract to fence off areas in the volatile Kashmir region and is probably the only foreign state which has access to sensitive installations in the border region. These reports further disclose that Israeli experts are engaged in training their Indian counterparts in checking infiltration along the border, as well as tracking the movements of militants within the country. Other assistance provided by Israel includes the detection of explosives and the defusing of explosive devices. Significantly, India and Israel have also set up a Joint Working Group (along with the United Kingdom and France) with the aim of combating international terrorism and are closely co-operating in various international forums.

It also reported that India was interested in purchasing Israeli Dolphin-class submarines capable of carrying nuclear warheads. India may also open her airspace to the Israeli Air Force. Joint exercises are also being discussed.

In February, Israel participated for the first time in an Aero-India show, ten of Israel's top defence firms displayed their wares. "It marked a step-up in the defence ties between the two countries." India already uses Israeli surveillance drones.

Israel also is putting her agricultural skills to work in helping India feed its teeming population.

## Chapter 13:

# THE FALSE PROPHET—UNITING EUROPE

*If this section is shorter this year, it is because of space restraints! Although the head of the False Prophet system is getting increasingly frail, he is but the head. The whole organisation throughout the world works towards its goal of controlling the lives of rulers and ruled. From prophecy we know that in these last days she will grow to have great power. Although this would have been thought impossible a 100 years ago, improbable 50 years ago, yet how reasonable today. In all levels of society the lay members of the Catholic Church have taken up positions of authority. In Britain the Prime Minister, although an Anglican, frequently visits Catholic services with his Roman Catholic wife and family. The new Conservative leader, Ian Duncan Smith, is a R.C. as is the leader of the Liberal Democrats, Charles Kennedy! This is the first time that one of the two main parties has had a Roman Catholic leader in the 172 years since they were permitted back in the House of Commons. The Speaker of the House of Commons is also R.C., again a first! The Queen's chief advisor also is. Many leaders in the media and press are. There is no stigma attached today as there was just a few years ago.*

### Promoting their faith

'The Decree on the Means of Social Communication', promulgated by Vatican II in December 1963 contained instructions for all Catholics working in the secular media as journalists, radio or television producers. They were called upon "to regulate economic, political or artistic values in a way that will not conflict with the common good," i.e. the Church.

Its roots go back earlier, as this extract from *Rome and Jerusalem* shows.

Catholic Action, as the major part of what the Church calls the "Lay Apostolate", has, in recent years, received the special attention and support of the Pope. It represents probably the Church's most successful avenue of progress. A quotation from Pius XII's address to the Second World Congress of the Laity in 1957, is revealing: "The consecratio mundi (consecration of the world) is essentially the work of the laymen themselves, of men who are intimately a part of economic and social life, and who participate in the government and in legislative assemblies. In the same way, only the workers can establish the Catholic cells which must be created among workers in every factory, and bring back to the Church those that have strayed from her." G.Pearce

The effectiveness of this is aptly illustrated in a book entitled *Catholics—Britain's largest minority*. The author, Dennis Sewell, charts the progress they have made. Here are a few extracts, the first from the book's frontispiece.

In the course of the twentieth century Britain's Catholics have made a long journey from the margins of society through gradual acceptance and respectability to positions of great influence and power in public life. Dennis Sewell charts that journey through the lives of the Catholic men and women whose voices, whether in politics, journalism, literature or the arts, have made a distinctively Catholic contribution to our national conversation.

He quotes from words of the Pope spoken last year:

At the Journalists' Jubilee in Rome at the beginning of June 2000, Pope John Paul II made clear that however sceptical the professionals themselves may be, he still had faith in the power of newspapers to bring about real changes in society. Seven thousand of the world's press had congregated for the event and thousands more participated via live video links with Washington, Manila, Johannesburg and Mexico City...

"This is the crux of the ethical question, which is inseparable from your work. Journalism, with its immense and direct influence on public opinion, cannot be guided by economic forces, profit and partisan interests alone. Instead, it must be regarded in a certain sense as a 'sacred' task, to be carried out with the awareness that the powerful means of communication are entrusted to you for the common good and, in particular, for the good of society's weakest groups..."

In Britain there are many prominent Catholic journalists. Again quoting this book:

A snapshot taken to coincide with the Church's World Communications Day in April 1998 included no fewer than sixteen Catholics with by-lined columns in national newspapers.

Writer's like Lord Rees-Mogg, Peregrine Worsthorne, William Oddie, Libby Purves, Clifford Longley, Hugo Young, Charles Moore, Mark Lawson, Daniel Johnson, Christopher Howse, and the late Auberon Waugh. Their effect has been remarkable. Criticism of the Roman Church is virtually never heard, even within our own community. When was the last bold Sunday Talk exposing the errors of this system which is so totally opposed to the Truth?

### **The Pope's vision of a united Europe**

The greatest contribution to the furthering of the Church is the Pope himself. He tirelessly champions the Church, travelling to many countries, promoting his vision of a united world, of which he is spiritual leader.

When he made his historic visit to the European Parliament in Strasbourg in 1988 he appealed to the politicians to play their role in uniting Europe.

"My wish as the supreme Pastor of the universal Church, who comes from Eastern Europe and who knows the aspirations of the Slavic peoples, that other "lung" of our same European homeland, my wish is

that Europe, giving herself with sovereign power free institutions, may one day enlarge the dimensions given to her by geography and even more by history. How should I not wish this, since the culture inspired by Christian faith has deeply marked the history of all the peoples of our unique Europe, Greek and Latin, Germanic and Slavonic, in spite of all the vicissitudes and beyond the social systems and the ideologies?”

He spoke of the twin roles of “rendering to God” and “rendering to Caesar.” His implication was—the latter is your role, the former is mine, and together we can build a stable, united Europe. This partnership was neatly illustrated in his words this year to the newly appointed Austrian Ambassador to the Vatican. Austria was the heart of the Holy Roman Empire.

This task is all the more urgent, when one considers Austria’s geographical location in Europe. I would like to emphasise what you mentioned in your address: the fall of the Iron Curtain also marked a turning-point for the role your country plays. Austria has changed from a borderland to a “bridge-land”. The demarcation between two worlds has disappeared and has opened an Areopagus in which Europe’s East and West can meet.

I note with satisfaction that Austria is becoming more and more aware of her responsibility as a country in the heart of Europe and, as her opportunities allow, is actively supporting the expansion of the European Union in the sense of a Europeanizing of the whole continent. That is also the Holy See’s desire: It is tireless in its efforts at this historical moment to call for a “cultural transformation” to defend and promote the dignity of the human person.

European culture is a network woven of many strands: ...*The Corpus Christianorum* [Body of Christ] steadily grew as a spiritual family of States, composed of Roman, Germanic and Slavic members, and unthinkable without Christian values. It has essentially moulded the face of Europe and deeply influenced the Western heritage, which it is our task to keep alive.

Precisely at a time when Christianity can look back on her 2,000 years of existence, we have the important duty to be not only custodians of the past but also creators of a future that will reawaken people’s hope. Project “Europe” as a whole and the individual countries that are to find their place in it stand at a crossroads today: to become either a thriving garden or a stagnant pond. I wish to take this solemn occasion, then, to point out several areas where the Holy See and Austria can continue and deepen their proven collaboration in order to prepare the ground for a thriving garden. *L’Osservatore Romano* 7-3-01

The political face of the Roman Church is seen in the work of “the Holy See”. On her web-site she proclaims:

The term “Holy See”, stands for the central authority of the Church, which transcends, even if it includes, the tiny sovereign State of Vatican City. Thus, the Holy See represents a world wide community and not only the citizens of Vatican City.

The Holy See has a structural organisation modelled upon that of ancient Rome. Like any other state, the Holy See has her ambassadors in many countries—168 at the last count.

### **The Pope’s visits—healing breaches**

There were 3 main trips this year—all greatly significant in pushing back barriers to the advancement of the Vatican. The first was a trip continuing to visit places visited by the apostle Paul. During May this visit took in Athens in Greece, Damascus in Syria, and Malta. The second was a trip to the Ukraine in June and the third in September to Kazakhstan and Armenia.

The visit to Greece was one of the most difficult. This is the heart of the Greek Orthodox Church that broke away from Rome in the great split of 1054. There has been dialogue between the two churches for many years, however a papal visit was another matter—no Pope had set foot there for nearly 1,300 years! Moreover it was the 4<sup>th</sup> Crusaders, sent by Pope Innocent III, who in 1204 sacked Constantinople, the then seat of the Byzantine Empire and the seat of the Patriarch of the Eastern Church. They so weakened it that it would fall again in 1453, when attacked by the Ottoman Turks. After government pressure on the Orthodox leader, permission for the Pope’s visit was eventually given, but many boycotted the visit. His first stop was to the President of Greece where the Pope said in his concluding remarks:

“Geography and history have set your country, Mr President, between East and West, and this means that Greece’s natural vocation is to build bridges and a culture of dialogue. Today this is essential for Europe’s future. Many walls have been broken down in recent times, but others remain. The task of integrating the Eastern and Western parts of Europe remains complex; and there is still much to be done to bring harmony between the Christians of East and West, so that the Church can breathe with both her lungs. All believers should see themselves as having a duty to work for this objective...” *L’Osservatore Romano* 9-5-01

Later the Pope had to endure a lecture from Archbishop Christodoulos, the leader of the Greek Orthodox Church. He demanded an apology for the events of 1204, and also for the fact that the Pope had not spoken out against the Turkish invasion of Cyprus. He got his apology, and the two men embraced. Later he visited the Areopagus—a name much used by the Pope as a symbol of “the encounter of the gospel with human culture”—his work of uniting East and West with the gospel message. The final part of their joint statement carried the heading **Keep alive Europe’s Christian roots:**

We rejoice at the success and progress of the European Union. The union of the European world in one civil entity, without her people losing their national self-awareness, traditions and identity has been the vision of its pioneers. However, the emerging tendency to transform certain European countries into secular states without any reference to religion constitutes a retraction and a denial of their spiritual legacy. We are called to intensify our efforts so that the unification of Europe may be accomplished. We shall do everything in our power, so that the Christian roots of Europe and its Christian soul may be preserved inviolate. *L'Osservatore Romano* 9-5-01

The next stop was Syria. Here were two “firsts”—a Pope to Syria and a Pope to a Mosque. Here he had to endure the new Syrian leader taking the opportunity to attack Israel. His silence in the light of the vitriolic attack disturbed many Jews. The Mosque was originally a Byzantine Church and alleged to still hold the “head of John the Baptist”! The Pope has worked at bridging the divide with Muslims for many years. He also made an ecumenical visit to the Greek Orthodox Cathedral, calling for resumption in dialogue. Later he visited the Syrian Orthodox Cathedral. He also visited Kuneitra, a ghost town on the Golan, whose inhabitants are not allowed to return, as it is kept as a propaganda shrine to “Israeli aggression”! Again a visit which displeased the Israelis.

The last leg was to Malta and so to Rome. This was his 93<sup>rd</sup> overseas trip.

The next trip was to the Ukraine and was another symbolic and contentious one. In the 1054 split, Ukraine, although Orthodox, aligned with Rome rather than Constantinople. This caused bitter division at the time leading to a breakaway that would lead to the Russian Orthodox Church. The country came under Austrian control, but following the break-up of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, it came under Polish control. In WWII they were taken by the Russians, then the Nazis, and back into Russia. Great religious persecution followed until the fall of the Soviet. Home now to Russian Orthodox, Greek Orthodox and Ukrainian Greek Catholics it is the meeting point of these three branches of Christendom, linking East and West. The visit was strongly opposed by the Russian and the Greek Orthodox churches. They are deeply suspicious of the Catholic minority. His appeal was for unity and that the Ukraine should become a part of a united Europe. The Pope exhorted:

### **May Ukraine take her place in the concert of a united Europe**

My hope is that Ukraine will be able fully to become a part of the Europe which will take in the entire continent from the Atlantic to the Urals. As I said at the end of that year 1989 which was of such great importance in the recent history of the continent, there cannot be “a peaceful Europe capable of spreading civilization without the interaction and sharing of the different though complementary values” which are characteristic of the peoples of East and West.



In this important and significant transition, the Church, conscious of her mission, will not fail to exhort the faithful *to cooperate actively with the State* in the promotion of the common good [Their emphasis] *L'Osservatore Romano* 4-7-01

The third trip to Kazakhstan and Armenia in late September came at a critical time as the West was preparing to start their bombing campaign in Afghanistan; America held off until the trip had ended. Kazakhstan is a mainly Muslim country with an Orthodox Church, but only a small number of Catholics, many of whom were descended from Polish Catholics deported by the Communists to Kazak in the 1930's. The visit was mainly to strengthen ties with the Muslims and Orthodox.

He then visited Armenia. The Armenian Church split from Rome in the 6<sup>th</sup> century. In 1996 there was an agreement signed that ended their separation, but there was widespread opposition in Armenia to accepting it. This visit was to help revive that union.

### **The role of Mary**

One of the common links between the different branches of Catholic and Orthodox Churches is the veneration of Mary. The present Pope more than any other has promoted it. One of the highlights of the Ukraine trip was to visit the shrine of "Our Lady of Zarvaniza". Wherever he travels he asks for Mary's protection of that nation. Typical were his words in the Ukraine:

To Mary's heavenly intercession I entrust this my pastoral visit and all those whom I shall meet during these days. In a special way I ask her, Mother of the Church to hasten the steps of all Christians towards full communion... Mother of all believers, Mother of unity! *L'Osservatore Romano* 27-6-01

### **Mary, Pilgrim in faith, Star of the Third Millennium**

"The Blessed Virgin Mary continues to 'go before' the People of God. Her exceptional pilgrimage of faith represents a constant point of reference for the Church, for individuals and for communities, for peoples and nations and, in a certain sense, for all humanity" ('Redemptoris Mater,'). She is the star of the third millennium, as she was at the beginning of the Christian era the dawn that preceded Jesus on the horizon of history. In fact, Mary was born chronologically before Christ and generated and inserted him in our human affairs". *Pope John Paul II*, March 21, 2001

A 2<sup>nd</sup> weeklong International Symposium on *Marian Co-redemption* was held in the UK in April. There is a strong wish to declare that Mary is "Co-redemptrix, Mediatrix of all Graces and Universal Advocate". This would elevate her on an equal footing to Jesus! It would make the 5<sup>th</sup> Marian dogma—the others being—Immaculate Conception, The Divine Motherhood, The Perpetual Virginity, and the Assumption. What

blasphemy. The False Prophet indeed! We look for the day when our Lord Jesus will sweep away this house of lies.

## Chapter 14:

# RELIGIOUS FREEDOM—FOR HOW LONG?

*In many periods during the past, the freedom to worship was denied the true follower of Christ. We should be aware of the pressures being applied to restrict the freedoms on non-mainstream sects. Most know of the difficulties in Russia, we briefly review problems in some other countries.*

### In Europe

On 27<sup>th</sup> December the EU passed anti-terrorist legislation, outlawing various terrorist groups. Among the groups specified were “anti-Catholic groups in Northern Ireland”. This should hold no fears for us, yet it is only a few steps down the road from anti-Catholic terrorist groups to being unable to witness to the truth about the Roman Catholic Church. Indeed it was only by the House of Lords defeating part of the British anti-terrorism Bill in December, that we were not outlawed from being able to protest against Rome. The *Daily Telegraph* 16-11-01, carried an article entitled **It shouldn’t be a crime to call the Pope the Antichrist**. It drew attention to the grave problems this legislation would cause.

Do we really want a piece of legislation which could lead to the imprisonment of a Free Presbyterian preacher for describing the Pope as the anti-Christ?

Is the threat to public safety which arises from intemperate use of religious language so great as to justify the constraint on freedom of speech contained in Mr Blunkett’s Bill? Conservatives will be arguing in Parliament that Mr Blunkett has got the balance wrong. Tougher penalties for religiously inspired violence—by all means. New laws on religious discrimination—well worth discussing. But emergency legislation which could result in severe constraints on the expression of passionately held religious beliefs—no.

Although the “incitement to religious hatred” ban failed, will it next time?

In **France** parliament passed a controversial law in May, aimed at controlling the activities of dangerous religious sects. The problem is it is likely to affect ordinary churches according to an article in *Evangelicals Now* July 2001. The legislation mentions Jehovah’s Witnesses and evangelical and Pentecostal-type churches. In fact some French churches are dropping the word “evangelical” for fear of being caught up in the legislation. According to the legislation, one of the hallmarks of a sect is that equality between the sexes is denied. Where would we stand on our Biblical ground of Brethren being the only speakers? The French are hoping that other EU members will adopt similar legislation.

In an article in *Palm Beach Post* 28-1-01 headed **USA: Mainstream religious fear impact of proposed French Anti-cult law**, mentioned:

Before leaving office as secretary of state, Madeleine Albright condemned the proposal this month as “a danger to freedom of religion.” “The proposed legislation is part of a disturbing trend in western Europe where some states have adopted or are considering discriminatory legislation or policies that tend to stigmatize legitimate expressions of religious faith by wrongfully associating them with dangerous ‘sects or cults,’ ” Albright wrote in a letter to American religious leaders.

In **Italy**, during 2000, which was termed a “Holy Year”, nothing “offensive to the Catholic religion” could be broadcast. Also it was reported that the Italian government was putting into the State schools teachers of “the Roman Catholic religion”, chosen by the religious authorities, not the school authorities. They will not need to have a certificate of education, and will be virtually unsackable, according to the report in *The Reformer*.

### **In Canada and Australia**

A report in *The Globe and Mail* 5-7-01, reported the fining of a Mr Hugh Owens and the newspaper *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix*. His offence—putting in an advertisement with a drawing of two stick figures holding hands surrounded by a circle with a slash through it—the universal “no” symbol, followed by some biblical passages. Following three complaints to the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission, it appointed a one-woman board of inquiry. It took three years for Ms Watson to publish her findings. She held that, while the symbol alone “may not itself communicate hate, when combined with passages from the Bible, the board finds the advertisement would expose or tend to expose homosexuals to hatred or ridicule”. Both Mr Owen and the paper were fined \$4,500. The paper commented:

Mr Owens would have been safe had he not made references to the Bible. In human-rights circles, the Bible is increasingly regarded as an insidious form of hate literature.

It concluded:

For most mainstream Protestant denominations, of course, this will not matter. They long ago abandoned the scandal of the gospel in favour of a feel-good gospel of inclusivity. They are not threatened. Ms. Watson will have no difficulty finding a pew in the denominations that, like her, worship at the altar of the great god Equality. But smaller, evangelical denominations, and some Catholic priests, have reason to worry.

An Article in *The Reformer* commented about the situation in **Australia**, where the amendments to the Anti-Discrimination Act to cover religious matters is also causing concern. They are seeking to include:

Religious belief, political opinion and care responsibilities (in the area of employment only) should be included as new grounds of discrimination.

## **Chapter 15:**

# **CHRIST'S RETURN—IT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN BEFORE NOW!**

*For 2000 years believers have been looking for Christ's return. He didn't come in their lifetime – why should we think that it will be in ours? Let's look at the evidence as to why Christ couldn't have come earlier!*

### **Signs that Christ's coming is near!**

1. In God's general time plan, —based on creation's 6 days of work and 1 of rest - then we can expect 6,000 years of earth's history to be followed by 1,000 yrs of the kingdom. So that puts us in the general time span of his return.
2. It was necessary for there to be Jews in the land—so it couldn't be before 1948.
3. Jerusalem had to be in Jewish hands, so it couldn't be before 1967.
4. Jerusalem is to be the focus of conflict, so it couldn't be before 1997 when the Oslo talks moved to this “last phase” —Jerusalem.
5. The battle is to be a religious one for Jerusalem, so it couldn't be before 2001.

Consider another strand—the details of Rev 16.

6. One of the signs before his return was the drying up of the river Euphrates. So his return couldn't be before 1917.
7. There were to be frog-like spirits out of the mouth of the Dragon, the Beast and the False Prophet. The False Prophet has had a social doctrine since 1897, the Beast since say the 70's-80's. But the Dragon only really started in 2000, so it couldn't be before then.

So brethren and sisters, September 11<sup>th</sup> was a WAKE UP CALL for our community. Things do happen at great speed. The Master's return is imminent—how awake are we? Unlike earlier generations we can do something. They can't, their walk is over. Ours isn't—yet. Let us redeem the time, truly our Lord is at the door.

*And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.*

*I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.*

*Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. Rev 22:12-14*

# Milestones 2001

2001 has been a very dramatic year, when men's hearts have been moved with fear at the atrocities unleashed upon an unsuspecting New York.

*Milestones 2001* endeavours to set the events of September 11<sup>th</sup> into a Biblical framework, seeing how ***the drying up of the river Euphrates*** over 80 years ago has led to bin-Laden's actions of revenge. To Bible students the many ripples that have flowed out have been very exciting.

We also examine two other time-of-the-end prophecies:

- ◆ The ***two little horns*** of Daniel's prophecies, and
- ◆ ***the merchants of Tarshish and the young lions***

In the light of these prophecies and world events, *Milestones* looks at :

- ◆ The accelerated acceptance of Russia by the West, and the remarkable coming together of the two halves ("legs") of Europe.
- ◆ Israel's troubled year and the growing involvement of the US and Britain in the M.E.
- ◆ Mr Blair's role, working with America.
- ◆ Many other events: e.g. the Greek 2 euro coin that has Europa riding the beast surrounded by the 12 stars of Rev. 12, thus indicating its tainted religious source!



*Milestones 2001* is an invaluable source of material, reminding us of the events of the past year and encouraging us to watch for our Master's return. It gives us all a wake-up call!