

# MILESTONES 2003

Don  
Pearce



# **MILESTONES TO THE KINGDOM**

***A Review of the  
World Events of  
2003 in the Light  
of Bible Prophecy***

**Don Pearce**

**Further copies of this book are available from:–**

- ***Milestones***

c/o DON F. PEARCE

76 High Street

Hillmorton CV21 4EE

England

Phone (01788) 54 2408

Fax (01788) 82 4256

Email: [MilestonesUK@aol.com](mailto:MilestonesUK@aol.com)

Website: [MilestonesUK.org](http://MilestonesUK.org)

- ***Christadelphian Scripture Study Service***

85 Suffolk Road

Hawthorndene

South Australia, 5051

Australia

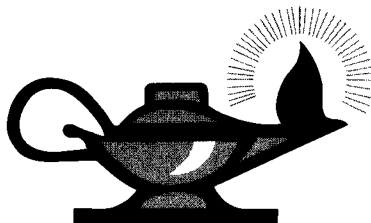
Phone (08) 8278-6848

Fax + 61 8 8271-9290

Email: [csss.adelaide@bigpond.com](mailto:csss.adelaide@bigpond.com)

***Published by***

**CHRISTADELPHIAN SCRIPTURE STUDY SERVICE**



**JANUARY 2004**

## **Preface**

2003 will go down as the Year of the Divide! It has reminded us again that Europe has been divided from Britain for some 500 years and that the English-speaking peoples do not find it natural or easy to work together with the countries of Europe. While there may be several reasons for this, the essential factor has been its Protestant history based upon the original rebellion of King Henry VIII, even though at that stage it only concerned his illegitimate marriage to Anne Boleyn for which the Pope would not give his sanction. As flippant as this matter might have been in terms of an international crisis, the fact was that it coincided with the Reformation in which the Bible was supplanting the authority of the Papacy and the two issues created a wave of independence and liberty in Britain that led not only to a protestant State church but also to representative, parliamentary government. No European power has placed its forces on British soil since 1066 and the period of independence has been too long to imagine the British people returning to the shackles of a Rome-inspired European federation. Besides, Britain has a Commonwealth of nations around the world that have grown out of her maritime and colonial interests over the last 300 years.

The war in Iraq came quite dramatically upon the world. The United States championed the issue and almost immediately Britain, Australia and others came to her side. The matter was referred to the United Nations but after much disputation the "Coalition of the Willing" went ahead and in a few brief weeks Iraq was taken and the United States and her partners were masters over this oil-rich country.

The critical fact in these events was that the two greatest powers of Western Europe, France and Germany, did not respond to America's call. In fact the matter was far deeper than that. During several months of hectic international intrigue, France and to a lesser degree, Germany did everything they could to embarrass and oppose the United States. These two nations had traded with Iraq through the years of the UN sanctions, and in the middle of February, with only days to go before the war started, they stood before the media cameras in a public demonstration of opposition and independence to the United States, United Kingdom and their partners. Not only so, but also in the very same week, Russia joined them. In one stroke the NATO bond was in ruins! The treaty that was brought into being to unite the Allies of WWII against the Russian threat from the east had been dealt a death blow! Old friends were now enemies, old enemies were now friends.

Surely to Christadelphians everywhere these were exciting events. Europe's push for unity had received a great impetus. Germany and France began to speak openly of uniting their government! A European Constitution for 25 nations of east and west was placed upon the table and

the Euro currency grew in strength—even as the US dollar began to slide with the impact of war expenditure and international opposition.

Why then had the United States set her heart upon the removal of Saddam Hussein and his regime in Iraq? There is much disputation about this among diplomats and commentators. Probably there were a number of genuine reasons in which terrorism, nuclear fears and mid-east strategy have a place. But from our perspective the principal factor must surely be the survival of Israel. Saddam had made Iraq the base for anti-Israel intrigue and a whole battery of rockets near her south-west boundaries faced the cities of Israel. Some commentators mentioned this briefly but the United States avoided reference to it, even though the removal of all these batteries of rockets was the first work of the war. The 1991 Gulf War showed how vulnerable Israel was to Iraq's evil designs. Therefore it is highly significant that a very pro-Israel United States regime made Israel's security the first issue of the war.

Will the Coalition powers be able to establish a secure, democratic future for Iraq? It is surely difficult to imagine this but one thing they have done is to legitimise the invasion of a Middle East country by a powerful confederacy from far away! True they had a "good conscience" in the matter! What an excellent argument for another confederacy wishing to do the same thing!

Poor Israel! Around the world anti-Semitism is growing. EU members believe Israel is the main threat to world peace. The atmosphere in Germany now is palpably anti-Israel. "If they hadn't come back and set up their own State all this trouble would never have arisen." That sentiment is abroad everywhere and growing by the hour.

How thankful we are to see these amazing confirmations of the Word of Prophecy. Everything is moving towards the crisis we have long expected.

The most High God is in control. His angels are working. He is confirming the word of His servants the prophets and strengthening our hearts to push ahead with our labours in the Truth. Be not side-tracked by devious philosophies blowing about in all directions. We have a more sure word of prophecy that grows with every passing year.

Let us not neglect our children in these matters. Read to them the early comprehension of our pioneers and let them set their faith in the Hand of God that works now before our eyes.

We are grateful again to bro Donald Pearce for an enlightening manuscript and to all those who have helped in various ways.

May the Truth of the God of Israel grow in the year we have entered; may He bless the growth of our Brotherhood in a hundred lands in 2004.

May a people be prepared for the coming of the Lord.

Brian Luke, Secretary

## CONTENTS

PREFACE .....	3
Abbreviations and Acknowledgements .....	8
1. A BRIEF SYNOPSIS .....	9
The plan behind <i>Milestones</i> this year	
2. PROPHECIES FOR TODAY—THE KING OF THE NORTH AND THE KING OF THE SOUTH .....	11
The King of the North and the King of the South	
The Ram and the He Goat	
The little horn of the Goat	
The two little horns	
The King of the North	
The King of the South	
Pushing at him	
Summary	
Footnote—the Northern Horn and the Little Horns	
3. OTHER RELEVANT PROPHECIES FOR TODAY .....	20
Weaving in other prophecies	
The Image, the Beasts and the False Prophet	
Gog and his hosts	
The Isles afar off	
Balaam's prophetic visions	
4. OVERVIEW—KING OF THE NORTH v KING OF THE SOUTH	27
The two legs of the King of the North	
The False Prophet growing in power	
The coming together of the Northern alliance	
The iron-clay Feet	
The coming together of the Southern alliance	
Iraq the present point of conflict	
Israel the ultimate clashing point	
Armageddon	
As we turn the calendar—a postscript	
5. WESTERN EUROPE—POOLING SOVEREIGNTY .....	39
"The Secret History of the European Union"	
Beware the French!	
The Constitution—political union for Europe	
Enlarging the European home	
France and Germany—merging?	
Two-speed Europe	
The Euro-army—a Trojan horse?	

	Distributing the spoils	
6.	EASTERN EUROPE—COMING TOGETHER .....	49
	Russia's growing strength	
	Putin the Great?	
	Russia the country that links East and West	
	Putin's grip tightens	
	The December elections—good for Putin	
	Tapping her energy wealth	
	Greater Russia—the movement back	
	The Bear and the Lion - Putin's visit to Britain	
7.	THE PAPACY EXERTING HER INFLUENCE .....	55
	The hidden hand	
	Papal ambitions—"Europe breathing with two lungs"	
	Urging the faithful to join up	
	25 years as Pope	
	Papal trip No. 100—what a choice!	
	Mary—Queen of Europe	
	<i>Ecclesia in Europa</i>	
	<i>Dominus Iesus</i>	
	Europe's founding fathers on fast track to "sainthood"	
	A word to politicians	
	"Vatican wanted control of Jerusalem"	
8.	"EVER CLOSER PARTNERS IN A WIDER EUROPE" .....	65
	Russia and the Creation of 'Greater Europe'	
	The EU and Russia: Ever Closer Partners in a Wider Europe	
	Energy—ties that bind	
	Europe regrouping	
	Anti-American hegemony	
	Anti-Semitism	
	Christians who hate the Jews	
	French perfidy	
	Where is this all leading?	
9.	THE "ANGLO-AUSTRALIAN-AMERICAN-ALLIANCE" .....	74
	A remarkable alliance now reinforced and refined	
	Mr Bush's religious outlook	
	Mr Blair's friendship	
	Britain—America's "closest friend"	
	Bush's visit to Britain	
	Australia's Growing Importance To U.S. Strategic Plans	
	Friends of Israel	
	Friends of India	
	The merchants of Tarshish and all her young lions	
	Battles with the EU	

Continuing calls to leave the EU

10. IRAQ—"THE 21-DAY WAR" STILL CONTINUES!..... 84
  - The build-up revealed conflicts of interests
  - The war
  - The prolonged aftermath
  - Rebuilding Iraq
  - Pressure on other Arab nations
  - Egypt's wavering ways
  - Turkey and the Bosphorus
11. ISRAEL—"No. 1 THREAT TO WORLD PEACE" ..... 89
  - The Intifada drags on - the grim statistics
  - Pressure for peace
  - The Quartet's Peace Talks
  - And failure!
  - The Geneva Accord
  - Sharon's "disengagement plan"
  - The middle wall of partition
  - Israel—"No. 1 Threat To World Peace," say EU poll
  - They walk in unbelief
12. GATHERING THE NATIONS TO ARMAGEDDON ..... 94
  - He gathered them together
  - Orthodox and Vatican—working with the Palestinians
  - How will peace come?
  - All nations being drawn in
  - "Frog-like spirits" prepare the nations
  - Elijah prepares Israel
  - Gathering the nations
  - The land invaded
  - Salvation and peace
13. OUR WALK—SHARPENING OUR FOCUS ..... 100
  - An exhortation for 21<sup>st</sup> century followers of Christ

**Sources of Information (\* = via Internet, + = via Internet subscription)**

*Catholic Herald* weekly; *Catholic World News*+; *Daily Telegraph*; *Debka* daily\*, weekly+ (Israeli Intelligence web site); *Economist*, weekly/ daily+; *The European Journal*. *European Journal's Intelligence Digest* (fortnightly\*); *Israel Line* 5x's a week\*; *L'Osservatore Romano* the official Vatican paper, weekly; *Newsweek*; *Russian Journal*\*; *Sunday Telegraph*; *Sunday Times*; *The Reformer* bimonthly; *The Times*; *Time*.

**Internet News.**

Much of my news is gleaned off the Internet—for an up-to-date list of the web sources go to [www.MilestonesUK.org](http://www.MilestonesUK.org)

Keep up-to-date! The quarterly *Bible Magazine* carries *Milestones Updates*. [www.biblemagazine.com](http://www.biblemagazine.com) For those on the internet *Milestones Snippets* consist of interesting articles gleaned off the web and e-mailed approx. twice a week. It's free! Just e-mail me. Samples on [www.MilestonesUK.org](http://www.MilestonesUK.org). Site also lists the web refs in this issue so you can easily access them. It lists books, including books on creation v evolution.

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

### Abbreviations used

[ ] Author's notes. EU European Union. Was the EEC, then EC, now EU

m = million; bn = billion; GDP = Gross Domestic Product

\$1= £0.56; €0.79; AS\$1.38; CA\$1.28; NZ\$1.52 at year-end rates!

\$1 million = £560,000, \$1 billion = £560,000,000 approx. \$ always US\$.

### Author's notes

I would like to especially thank my family and Bre. Kevin Allison and Alan Clarke for their helpful advice and comments on the draft. Because of the fast-changing situation it is all written in the last 3 weeks of the year, and I am still working, so please bear with its imperfections!

I am very grateful for items sent in; the sources above indicate the publications that I see, so if an item appears in another 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: e.g. West Bank. Original spellings in quotations retained—frequently American. Weekly magazine items can have happened up to 10 days earlier than date shown.

### Acknowledgements and permissions arranged

Front cover. Presidents Chirac & Putin, Chancellor Schröder; fall of a Saddam statue; President Bush & Prime Minister Blair; © *Reuters* 2003.  
Middle East from space. Acknowledgement to NASA.  
P. 12,13. Illustrations based on drawings from *Daniel* by H. C. Gates  
P.13. Map. P. 20: 56; 57 illustrations; © *Bible Magazine*  
P. 21. Picture based on one in *Revelation Chart* by R. Smith, M. Enever  
P. 41. Cartoon based on original in *The Economist*  
P. 51. Cartoon; © *St Petersburg Times*  
P. 77. Cartoon; © Garland & *The Telegraph Group*  
P. 92. Map; © *The Telegraph Group*

GRAPHICS. Our policy is to trace copyright ownership where we can and obtain permission to reproduce. As *Milestones* is non-commercial, this is generally freely granted but in some cases we have to pay the going rate. Where the ownership cannot be traced we acknowledge where a particular item appeared.

## Chapter 1:

# A BRIEF SYNOPSIS

### The plan behind *Milestones* this year

The speed at which events are moving on is amazing! It is only 12 years since the fall of the Soviet Union, yet how rapidly Russia is being transformed. Putin's grip on power is being strengthened. The headline in my paper today is *Putin to assume the power of a Tsar!* Western Europe stands ready to welcome a further 10 members—it is not so long since there were 12 members, and by May 2004 they plan to have 25 members. This time last year we looked at the prospects for a second Gulf War. Its come and gone and we are living with the after-effects. More and more the eyes of the world look distastefully at Israel—a recent EU poll branded her as *Public Enemy No. 1!* Anti-Semitic acts are committed across Europe. In many places the fear of the terrorist lurks. Carnage in Turkey, Riyadh and Baghdad—where next? Is anywhere safe?

For those who figuratively sit on Zion's walls—watching these events from the pivotal point of Israel—these last days are exciting and yet carry a solemn warning. How prepared are we to stand before our Lord and Master and the angelic hosts who have over-seen our lives? How much have the world's powerful influences sapped our energies, compromised our position, deadened our resolve to be faithful servants—not to self—but to the Lord?

So we write *Milestones* to inform, to remind, to encourage Christ's brethren and sisters and those seeking after the way of Truth.

*Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees; And make straight paths for your feet...* Heb. 12:12,13

In the past one has been able to divide the events into broad categories, Israel, Russia, Europe, the Vatican. However as we get closer to the finale of so many of the prophecies, the boundaries blur. As the two legs of Nebuchadnezzar's image shape up and straighten up, one sees that they are joined together, and above the body is a golden head. Europe and Russia, under the influence of the Vatican, are slowly but steadily joining together.

We are also finding that at the focus of so many matters lies Israel and her conflict with the nations. Jerusalem is truly to be a *burdensome stone for all people*. It's not hard to see that reality. Whether it's the EU or the Palestinian Authority or the churches or the Arabs—they do not see Israel through friendly eyes. It is interesting that those nations that are opposed to American power are generally those who oppose Israel. And vice-versa—friends of America are generally friendly to Israel. These friends

have a strong presence in the Arabian Gulf region—not far from Israel. Friendly countries that have worked together in the past. Australian and New Zealand troops played an important role in helping Britain drive out the Turk in WWI. This helped to change the Middle East and eventually led to the setting up of the State of Israel. Again in WWII, Australian troops helped stem the German advance towards Palestine that was threatening the Jewish communities there. Now, once again, we find Britain, America and Australia working to re-establish freedom and democracy in the region—perceiving this will be helpful to Israel’s existence.

Because of the blurring of the boundaries, we propose to take the theme revealed to Daniel of there being a *King of the North* power and a *King of the South* power at the time of the end. We graft onto this prophecy the added details given in Nebuchadnezzar’s dream and the 4 beasts of Daniel ch. 7, and blend in the details of Ezekiel 38 & 39, weave in the *Dragon and the Beast and the False Prophet* of Revelation and produce a fairly comprehensive picture of the unfolding affairs in the world today.

So, as is our custom, we start by weaving this prophetic tapestry, except this year we devote two chapters to it. This gives us our foundation. We can then build upon it and through the unfolding chapters see the practical steps to the fulfilment of these prophecies. Chapter 4 gives an overview of how today’s events are matching the prophecies we have considered, before looking at the detail in the rest of *Milestones*.

Chapters 5 to 8 come under the broad theme of the *King of the North*, and chapters 9 to 11 the *King of the South* and Israel. How are the nations drawn to the Battle of Armageddon? This we consider in chapter 12.

The final chapter is, as always, an exhortation. Exciting though these things are, their purpose is not to tickle the spiritual palette, but to strengthen our faith to stand firm, to be resolute for the things that are truly important, and to awaken the faith of our fellow pilgrims as to the shortness of the time that remains.

This 27<sup>th</sup> *Milestones* is special for me as it is my 10<sup>th</sup> issue since my father’s death in 1994. How amazed he would be to see the things we see! In his last issue, we looked at the Peace Talks with the dramatic handshakes on the White House Lawn in Sept. 1993; “the birth-pains of European Federalism”; “Tarshish and the Young lions in the Middle East”; among many other subjects. We have come a long, long way since then!

## Chapter 2:

# PROPHECIES FOR TODAY—THE KING OF THE NORTH AND THE KING OF THE SOUTH

*Over the past few years we have examined a few of the many prophecies that span our times. Daniel is one of the richest sources in the Old Testament and the book of Revelation in the New. By the mercy of our God, other prophets such as Ezekiel, Joel, Isaiah and Zechariah also contribute many pictures, not just of the Kingdom Age, but also of the time of trouble that precedes it. Some prophecies are short—we will look at a few verses in Numbers, where Balaam speaks forth under inspiration of the things that will be when Israel shall do valiantly—others are much more extensive.*

*Our framework for this issue of Milestones is the prophecy of the two political powers that will be in existence at time when*

*there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book. Dan. 12:1*

*There are so many events that perhaps we mentally compartmentalise them, yet in reality they work out in parallel. The call of the saints to judgment does not happen in isolation. In parallel with the final preparation of the saints runs the final work of preparing the Jewish people—and Arab—to meet their illustrious progenitors; Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. For Israel it is the time of their final trials for the rejection of their God and of their Messiah. For the nations, their invasion of the land of Israel and the terrible destruction that they will wreak will be a crowning act of defiance against the God of Israel. It will show that God's judgements on the nations are right and overdue.*

*With the dramatic destruction from Yahweh of Hosts upon Israel's enemies, the fury of the religious leaders will increase. As step-by-step the Lord Jesus and the saints call back the scattered Jews, build the temple in Zion, and proclaim that Jesus is King, the cry will arise—this is Antichrist!*

*How sad, how fearful, yet man is bringing it upon his own head! Today there are vast sales of popular "Christian" books portraying, in fictional stories, what their authors perceive as the events that will unfold when "Antichrist arises". When the Lord Jesus does the very things that they have portrayed that Antichrist will do, then we will have a situation, stranger than fiction, that Christianity will reject Israel's Messiah, just as firmly as Israel did at his first coming! A time of trouble such as never was—yes indeed the prophets have foretold the many casualties. The world has to be changed. The Kingdom of God is not of this world—neither must we be if we wish to be partakers with him in his Kingdom.*

*So we find that the situation is multi-levelled—many events taking place at the same time. That is why we don't have just one prophecy giving us all the details. We have to weave the strands together.*

## The King of the North and the King of the South

Daniel had just experienced the dramatic events recorded in his 10<sup>th</sup> chapter. In a vision of *the man clothed in linen*, he experienced the practicalities of resurrection, a step-by-step strengthening of his body, until able to stand and to speak. The angel explained the purpose of this vision: -

*Now I am come to make thee understand what shall befall thy people in the latter days: for yet the vision is for many days.* Dan. 10:14

This detail is given in Daniel 11 and 12. Chapter 11 is remarkable for the detail it gives of unfolding events starting with the Persian kings of Daniel's day and on to the history of the Greeks and Alexander the Great and the subsequent division of his empire among his generals. The history given then revolves around the two main divisions of his empire, and how the struggles between them impacted upon the returned exiles living in the land. Bro Thomas in the *Exposition of Daniel* explains the details. A more modern book is Bro Edmund Green's *The Prophecy of Daniel*. To these the reader is directed for an exciting review of the history of the times, based upon what the angel revealed so long ago to Daniel.

The two divisions are labelled *the King of the North* and *the King of the South*. Significantly, for subsequent history, the power of Rome sprang as it were out of one these powers.

## The Ram and the Male Goat

For our starting point we need to go back to Daniel ch. 8 and the vision of the Ram and the He-goat. The He-goat with its notable horn we



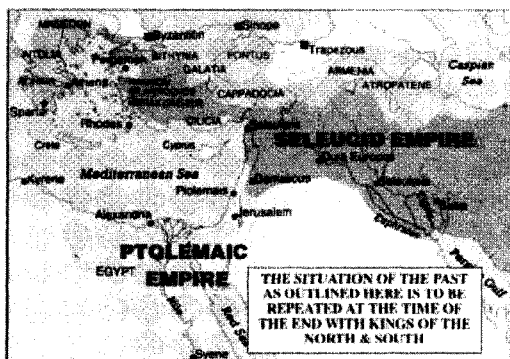
Alexander wearing a ram's horn crown

readily identify with Alexander the Great and his rapid conquest of the Persian—Ram—kingdom. This coin depicts him wearing a crown of two ram's horns—denoting his conquest of Persia. Alexander's life was cut off in its prime at the age of 32. In the words of the vision—the horn was broken.

He had no heir. He is said on his deathbed to have whispered that the kingdom should go to the strongest.



Eventually his kingdom was carved up between his four generals—foreseen by the 4 horns that came up in the place of the broken horn. Two of these horns were significant, because their territorial squabbles encompassed the Holy Land. To the north lay the territory of General Seleucus, to the south that of General Ptolemy. Israel lay in the middle—frequently experiencing the tread of invading armies.



“Seleucus had been in authority over Babylonia, from there he extended his power over Syria and established a new capital at Antioch-on-the-Orontes, [the Antioch of *Acts 11:19* etc.] where successive sovereigns named Seleucus, Antiochus or Demetrius ruled. These

Seleucid kings, like Alexander earlier, founded many Greek cities within their realm.” (Collins Atlas of World History p76)

Like the Babylonians earlier, they were particularly hostile to the Jews.

### The little horn of the Goat

Daniel 8 also reveals that a new power was to arise—a little horn arising from one of the 4 horns—the northern, Seleucid horn. This was the power of Rome, which initially came to the help the Greeks, but eventually took them over! Thus in symbol we are shown that the Roman power was the successor to the Greek-Babylonian power. It would continue to show hostility to Israel. This is the Roman power that was to put Jesus “*the Prince of the Host*” (v11) to death and later destroy the Temple and the nation (v11-12). Daniel was then shown that this power was to be in existence at the time of the end. In dramatic words Daniel reveals:



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

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

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

### **The two little horns**

The details of this Roman “little horn” power are picked up and amplified in Daniel 11. We have to distinguish between this little horn of the goat and the little horn of the 4<sup>th</sup> beast in ch. 7:8. Both are descriptive of Roman powers. Ch 7 is expressive of Rome spiritual—the papal power that became centred in the western “leg” of the Roman Empire when it became divided. The centre of its arena was mainly in Western Europe and its target the saints and protestants. Chapters 8 and 11 concern Rome military—the eastern “leg” whose actions concern natural Israel and the Holy Land. This is why such detail is given in the first 35 verses of chapter 11—Israel was in the land during this period. The time of her dispersion from the land is summed up in a few verses—36-39.

During Israel’s dispersion, the Roman Empire itself underwent a change. Constantine moved his seat from Rome to Constantinople, and Rome flourished in the East—the Byzantine Empire, absorbing Greek culture—a fitting aspect as the Roman Empire had gained its power out of the Greek empire. With the fall of Constantinople in 1453, this Roman power with its symbol of the double-headed eagle—Rome looking East and West—moved its seat to Moscow, and eventually established itself under the Tsars.

Meanwhile in the West, the little horn of the 4<sup>th</sup> beast was flourishing under the Holy Roman Empire. Rome, east and west, formed the two legs of the image that Nebuchadnezzar saw.

### **The King of the North**

Bro Thomas translates Daniel 11:36-39 as follows: -

*And the king shall work according to his pleasure, and he shall exalt himself and magnify himself against every mighty one, and he shall utter marvellous things concerning the Mightiest of the mighty, and he shall cause to prosper till the indignation be accomplished; for that that is determined shall be done.*

*But to the gods of his predecessors he shall give no heed, nor to the delight of women, nor to any god shall he attend; for he shall become great above all.*

*But he shall do honour to a god of guardians in his realm; even to a god whom his predecessors knew not, shall he do honour with gold and silver, and with costly gems and precious things.*

*Thus shall he do to the bazaars of the Guardians pertaining to a strange god, whom he shall acknowledge (and) exalt (with) riches; and shall cause them to rule over many; and he shall divide the land for a price.*

Evidently this King of the North supports “strange” gods, which were not worshipped by his predecessors. It refers to the adoption of apostate Christianity, with all its wealth and mysteries as the state religion of the Roman Empire. *Bazaars of the Guardians* does seem a very apt description for all the churches dedicated to those long dead and, more often than not, fictitious characters whom they claim to be alive and guarding them! The emperors of Rome and their successors the Tsars supported the church and both parties drew strength from their mutual support.

Long centuries pass while Israel is in dispersion, her land occupied by the alien. Then, at the time when that situation is to change, the prophecy comes to life again, as it were. We are introduced to *the time of the end* at which time various events will happen as depicted in the closing verses of chapter 11. This phrase occurs earlier in v35 and seems associated with the time of resurrection and judgement. This certainly seems to be the case with the references in chapter 12 (v6,8,9,13).

Our traditional understanding of v 40 is that it describes the actions of the British, who occupied Egypt at the time, assisted by the ANZAC (Australian and New Zealand Army Corp) forces, pushing the Turk back out of the Levant—the drying up of the River Euphrates (Rev 16:12). This certainly was a most important step for the restoration of Israel to her land prior to the Messiah’s return. Turkey occupied the former territory of the Seleucid *King of the North*. The fact that these events took place some 90 years ago does not negate their importance.

We note, however that the Turkish power has not yet been fully *dried up*. It was severely curtailed, but Turkey is still a powerful nation—she has the largest army in Europe. We wait for the time when the power occupying the Seleucid Empire will be no longer Turkish, but Russian!

Ever since the fall of Constantinople and the Islamic name Istanbul being given to it, the Russians have longed for the day of vengeance when the city would be “liberated” from the infidel Turk! As part of the movement southward by the *King of the North* depicted in these closing verses will surely be involved the fall of Turkey—then the “great river Euphrates” will be completely “dried up” (Rev 16:12).

### **The King of the South**

Just as the fulfilment of the King of the North takes place when the territory is occupied by the latter-day power to fulfil the prophecy, so with the King of the South! Our traditional understanding of the role of Britain, America, Australia and India as nations involved in this region and forming the King of the South power has been re-enforced by the events of the past year. In a remarkable way, just as Britain and Australia and New Zealand

were drawn into the region some 90 years ago, so again we have countries linked to Britain, occupying parts of the region, and with bases spread throughout the whole region. In *Milestones 2002* (p17-19) we looked at the verse from Ezekiel that sets the scene for the King of the South.

*Sheba, and Dedan, and the merchants of Tarshish, with all the [her] 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? Ezek. 38:13*

Events have justified this understanding. What other power is there that corresponds to this picture of the *Merchants of Tarshish* having *young lions* associated with her? It is relevant that the southern Ptolemys occupied Cyprus—an important British base today.

At the time of the pushing in WWI, Britain occupied Egypt. She no longer does. However both Britain and America have huge investments in Egypt. As we shall see later, Egypt, though first to make peace with Israel has proved to be a treacherous friend, aiding the Palestinians against Israel. It would not be unreasonable that, as part of America and Britain's involvement in the Middle East and their declared intention to deal with other nations who cause problems in the Middle East, matters may change. The Suez Canal has been and still is an important link for these two countries to their bases in the Middle East. Britain failed in her efforts to wrest control of the Suez in 1956, largely due to America refusing to back her. The situation may well arise when they take control of the area once again. With Gogian forces working their way down into the King of the North's former territory, prophecy demands that there should be a corresponding opposing power in the south. What is not in doubt is the important influence that both Britain and America have in the whole region of the Arabian Peninsula today.

## Pushing at him

*And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him: Dan. 11:40*

The pushing back of Turkey by Britain in WWI will not necessarily be the only "pushing". As we have moved much, much closer to the time when *Michael the great prince* comes to save his people and to raise the dead, do we perhaps see in the events of the past year in Iraq a potential pushing which will arouse the fury of the King of the North? As our earlier map shows, in the past the King of North territory encompassed what today is Iraq and Iran. As we shall see in later chapters, Iran is anxious to become more heavily involved in the running of Iraq. She wishes to influence her neighbour and have a government there who is a friend not an enemy. Iran is the main power in the region today. Significantly, Ezekiel (38:5) lists Persia first in the list of countries coming with Gog. Iran as part of the latter-day Persia is deeply involved with Russia today—there are many Russians helping with her nuclear programme. Britain and America's

presence in the region, pushing at Iran's neighbour is not an action welcomed by Iran or Russia. It may be part of the actions that will bring Gog down upon the mountains of Israel. One would expect some action on the part of the King of the South—which probably still lies in the future—that will be “the last straw” and arouses the rage of Russia and Europe to march down into the Middle East.

*...and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over. Dan. 11:40*

Chariots, horsemen and ships would seem to cover the full range of military equipment in Ezekiel's day. The reference to ships is interesting. In the Soviet days their navy was second to none. Now many of those ships lie rotting in the ports. However, under Putin, Russia is rebuilding a powerful, streamlined, navy. One of her problems is that most of her ports are frozen in the winter. Hence the importance of her naval base in Crimea, with its access into the Mediterranean via the Bosphorus. As we shall consider in ch 10, Turkey has recently imposed stiff limitations on the movement of ships through this congested passageway. This may provide Russia with further excuse to take control of Turkish territory.

*41 He shall enter also into the glorious land, and many countries shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon.*

Edom, Moab and Ammon correspond to Jordan of today. They don't come under the control of the King of the North, so presumably they are under the control of the King of the South. Britain and America have strong ties with Jordan, and Jordan helps Israel in the struggle against terrorism.

*42 He shall stretch forth his hand also upon the countries: and the land of Egypt shall not escape.*

*43 But he shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt: and the Libyans and the Ethiopians shall be at his steps.*

It would seem that the King of the South power is defeated, and Egypt falls - as it did several times in the past—to the king of the North. Egypt does not seem to be a particularly rich country today. Yet gold deposits have been recently found there, and there is much wealth in the form of gas and oil in Egyptian territory. Libya has traditional links with Russia stretching back to the Soviet days. Ethiopia is not such an obvious partner with Gog at the present—at the time of these happenings the situation will be different.

*44 But tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him: therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many.*

From the viewpoint of Egypt, east would point to the Arabian Peninsula and also Sinai; north would encompass the land of Israel. At this time Christ and the saints will be at Sinai, and there may well be a parallel work among some of the Arab nations with that in Israel—an Elijah work to prepare them for the final judgements that will happen when the next verse is fulfilled. Abraham the father of Jew and Arab will be alive again! It is not made clear what these tidings are which infuriate the King of the North, but time will tell.

*45 And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him.*

For some time—it could be several years—Gog is established in the Holy Land, and with Israel destroyed as a nation it would seem to the world that the ‘God of Christianity’ is supreme. This is the time when Nebuchadnezzar’s image is standing upon its two precarious feet—a mighty and defiant power that claims superiority over the things of Israel. Just as Nebuchadnezzar the king saw a little stone power smite the image and destroy it, so Daniel was shown in chapter 12 of the coming Saviour who **will** deliver his people by the hands of those he raises from the dust of the earth. Precious stones formed not by human hands!

The question that remains is where is the King of the South in all this? After the initial *pushing* in v40, no more is said. We assume a defeat from v 43. Is she involved in the tidings of v44? Probably. What is her fate? It is not revealed here. If Britain is in Egypt at this time as the King of the South, then she suffers a humiliating defeat—is this the time when the *ships of Tarshish are broken?* (Psa. 48:7).

However, there is a future role for Britain and her allies in helping the newly-established King of Israel by bringing his sons and daughters back from the lands of their captivity (Isa. 60:9).

At the moment the role is reversed. Britain and America find themselves as occupying powers in the King of the North’s territory! Events change, and at times change rapidly. It would be wrong for us to think that that we might as well wait until ALL the pieces of the prophetic jigsaw are in position. We don’t have that luxury. Our Lord’s coming would then not be a surprise, catching many off guard. The final coming together of every strand lies beyond the judgement seat. Before the great and dreadful day of the Lord breaks upon Israel, the household has to face its time of judgement at the hands of the righteous judge with his angelic host. Time is not on our side!

## Summary

**The latter-day King of the North.** We find powers from the north and east and west described in Ezekiel 38, who working together move down and occupy the former territory of the King of the North. If we wish to

append one name, it would have to be Russia—but it is not a Russia working on her own, but confederate with many nations, and having the Papacy as her co-ordinator. We shall amplify this in later chapters.

**The latter-day King of the South.** Although based on Egypt, the latter-day King of the South is not Egyptian. Egypt is a base nation (Ezek. 29:14). Indeed in the past the King of the South was Greek—the Ptolemys—who occupied Egypt, just as in the north the King of the North was an occupying power—the Seleucids—Greeks. What will be pertinent is who is occupying Egypt at this time? I believe that it will be Britain again—assisted by America. With the events of this year this is not such a surprising statement! As we shall see, Britain and America have huge investments in Egypt. The Suez Canal is vital to their Middle East operations. As Gog moves southwards how natural for these occupying powers in the region to take up a defensive position in Egypt again. We shall amplify this picture as we proceed through *Milestones*.

### **Footnote—the Northern Horn and the two Little Horns**

It can be a little confusing having three related symbols existing at the time of the end! The *King of the North* in the past was one of the four Greek horns that ruled the area we know as Iran, Iraq, Syria and Lebanon, and is to reappear in the latter-days. Yet the goat *little horn* power is also described as being a power in *the latter time of their kingdom* (Dan. 8:23). Why then the two symbols? The visions of Daniel chapters 8, 11 and 12 were given to convey details that were not apparent in the details of Nebuchadnezzar's image and the four beasts. It showed the relationship of the Roman Empire to the Greek northern horn, and the happenings that affected the Jews in the Holy Land. Historically the *King of the North* never held the area of Constantinople, whereas it was the centre of the *little horn* power. Russia is the *King of the North* in the latter-days and when it takes Constantinople it also becomes the *little horn* of the goat. At the time of the end we have to think of these symbols as “representations of powers on certain territories, *not races*” (*Elpis Israel* p.392). It will be the power that occupies their territory that will be the fulfilment of these two symbols.

In addition, the little horn of Daniel chapter 7 also exists *to the end*. The details of this *little horn* of the fourth beast relate to Western Rome and the oppression of the saints and Jews in Europe under the dreadful hand of the papal system. It will oppose Christ and be broken by him.

*We now look at some more prophecies and see how they add to the detail of the King of the North and the King of the South prophecy.*

## Chapter 3:

# OTHER RELEVANT PROPHECIES FOR TODAY

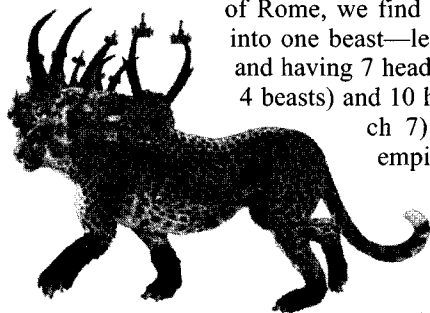
## *Weaving in other prophecies*

*What we have seen under the symbolism of the two king-powers north and south of Israel, is seen under different symbols in other prophecies. Daniel records the image seen by King Nebuchadnezzar, which reaches its fulfilment at the time of the end. So does the vision of the four beasts in chapter 7. Ezekiel's picture of Gog and the invading armies adds considerable detail. In the book of Revelation there are several chapters giving details of the shortly-to-unfold events. Revelation 16 tells us of the three powers that are involved at the time of Armageddon—the Dragon, the Beast and the False Prophet. These aspects have been dealt with in recent editions of Milestones so our sketch will be brief. Finally we want to look at some of the prophecies that Balaam uttered, before Israel was established as a nation in their land; and some prophecies about the isles afar off relevant to the growing power of America today.*

## **The Image, the Beasts and the False Prophet**

Nebuchadnezzar's image stands upon its two feet to oppose the things of Israel. Although the place of its defeat by the stone power is not stated, surely it will be at the place where the stone power grows to fill the earth—the land of Israel. So the invasion by the king of the North is a parallel with the standing up of the image. No details of an opposing power are given—other than of course the stone power. The details given in Daniel 7—the four beasts—is a parallel picture to Daniel 2. It makes it clear that just as in ch 2 ALL the metals are present at the time of the end—to be broken together—so with the beasts. Although the 4<sup>th</sup> beast as it were incorporates the previous 3, yet all 4 beasts are dealt with at the judgements at the time of the end, with differing judgements (7:11,12).

When we come to the beasts of Revelation, which speak of the same power of Rome, we find all the elements are amalgamated into one beast—leopard body, bear feet, lion mouth and having 7 heads (the sum total of all heads of the 4 beasts) and 10 horns (the total number of horns in ch 7). It shows that each succeeding empire absorbed the characteristics of what had gone before.



Just as the Babylon power was absorbed into the Medo-Persian Empire, so in its turn it was subsequently absorbed

into the Greek empire. We remember that the Roman power sprang out of this Babylonian-Persian-Grecian power, and so in contemplating this power that will be there in the latter-days to be defeated by the Lord Jesus, we have a Roman-Greek—Persian-Babylonian power! With the subsequent division of the Roman world into East and West, we find that two symbols are used in Revelation. The Dragon was originally a symbol of the pagan Roman world in ch 12. With the arrival of Constantine and his move to Constantinople, we find the Dragon used as a symbol of Eastern Rome. With the fall of Constantinople, its seat moved to Moscow. We await the return of the Dragon's seat of power back to Constantinople—Istanbul. This will probably mark the first step of Gog's move southward.



For W. Europe the symbol of a Beast is used. There were several stages in the development of this symbol, sometimes running in parallel. The final stage is of a woman riding the Beast as depicted in Revelation 17. This is the symbol that is coming to life in the current situation in W. Europe.

The other symbol found in Revelation 16 is the *False Prophet*. We dealt with this symbol in *Milestones 2001* p19. It is a wonderfully apt symbol for the Papacy of today.

The two legs of Nebuchadnezzar's image are under the control of a Babylonian head of gold. It is to stand up briefly for its first and only time—Daniel informed the king that what he saw concerned *the latter days* (2:28). So, as we shall see, the two areas of the old Roman Empire—East and West are beginning to be joined together. The golden head that directs at this final standing up stage will be Gog—a Russian leader. But the eyes and mouth—using the symbology of Daniel's 4<sup>th</sup> Beast—will be Papal.



### Gog and his hosts

The other main parallel prophetic picture of the events covered by the standing up of Nebuchadnezzar's image is that of Gog, detailed by Ezekiel in ch 38 and its downfall in ch 39. This reinforces the picture that many nations are involved. It is a confederacy of nations that will also encompass the territories of the 4 beasts. Gog will be the head of this Roman-Greek—Persian-Babylonian power! When he annexes Istanbul—the old Constantinople, originally part of the Greek Empire, plus the territory of the Babylon Empire and is assisted by Iran of the territory of Persia, then we shall see the coming together of all these elements!

It is Ezekiel 38:13 that introduces us to an opposing power, in the language of Daniel 11, the King of the South power.

### **The Isles afar off**

In the time of World War I Britain was the major player in the Middle East. Now shorn of her empire, does she still maintain her role in prophecy? Has America taken over that role?

As we remarked earlier, Ezekiel 38:13 speaks of *the merchants of Tarshish and the young lions thereof—or and her young lions*. America is the foremost of the young lions. They are not cubs but independent. They carve out their own territory and seek their own food. But they have affection for the mother, and where occasion demands will work together to achieve their aims. America regards Britain as the old country, and values her counsel to complement America's military might. We shall see this special relationship between the two countries in chapter 9.

There are two verses that have a bearing on this relationship.

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

It was Britain who played a major role in allowing the Jews to return to their land—having liberated the area in WWI. This passage points to a future work for Britain and her allies in the final restoration of the Jews, when there is a Holy One ruling in Zion. Jeremiah declares: -

*Hear the word of the LORD, O ye nations, and declare it in the isles afar off, and say, He that scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him, as a shepherd doth his flock.* Jer. 31:10

Both these passages make reference to the *isles*. Is it just a 'throw-away-line'? Surely not! It is an interesting word in the Hebrew –'iy –meaning not just island, but also coastline. (*A place whither one betakes oneself for resting, originally from a mariner's standpoint.* Gesenius). Britain we accept as an island, but not America! Yet how apt of America if we think of **coastline**! She has a vast coastline, many ports, and many naval vessels. With Britain as the latter-day Tarshish power, we can build a strong case for America being part of the *isles (coastlands) afar off* who are willing to work with Israel's King. The word of God still exercises a strong power on America today, especially under President Bush, as we shall see. Many believe that the Jews are God's people and that the prophets foretold their restoration. See the article on the 'isles' in *The Bible Magazine Vol 16#1*.

### **Balaam's prophetic visions**

We turn now to some short but fascinating prophecies given at a time when Israel was about to enter the land. They give us some pen-pictures that clearly apply to the time of Israel's latter-days!

Twice Balak's hoped-for curse on Israel turned out to be words of blessing from the lips of Balaam! Balak built more altars and offered further sacrifices, and Balaam spake out for the third time, seeing the time when

*He shall pour the water out of his buckets, and his seed shall be in many waters, and his king shall be higher than Agag, and his kingdom shall be exalted.*

*God brought him forth out of Egypt; he hath as it were the strength of an unicorn: he shall eat up the nations his enemies, and shall break their bones, and pierce them through with his arrows.*

*He couched, he lay down as a lion, and as a great lion: who shall stir him up? Blessed is he that blesseth thee, and cursed is he that curseth thee.* Num. 24:5-9

Israel's king shall be higher than Agag (v7) and, like a lion, Israel's king will destroy his enemies. Agag (*fiery one*) was the name of the Amalekite king whom Samuel killed in the days of Saul (1 Sam 15:32,33). Indeed, Agag appears to be a title—like Pharaoh. The Amalekites had tried to destroy Israel soon after they came out of Egypt, while they were on the way to Sinai. We have the incident of Aaron and Hur holding up Moses' arms during the battle. The Amalekites were cursed for their attack. They were the first Gentile nation to attack the people of God. Their contempt for the things of Israel provoked God's abhorrence of them.

Agag occurs in the LXX version of Ezekiel 38—Gog is there translated Agag. Like Amalek of old, Gog desires the destruction of God's people. Balaam's message was that ultimately Israel's king would be higher than Agag. His arms will not flag as Moses' did. He will deliver Israel from the hand of all their enemies. As the *lion of the tribe of Judah* he will bring peace, and because of his mighty power none will dare *stir him up!*

Haman, *the enemy of all the Jews* (Est. 9:24), is described as an Agagite. The wonderful book of Esther reveals the downfall of this one who plotted to destroy the Jews, who was himself destroyed with his household.

Balaam then takes up his 4<sup>th</sup> parable.

*I shall see him, but not now: [Roth. I see one who is not now] I shall behold him, but not nigh: there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel, and shall smite the corners of Moab, and destroy all the children of Sheth. [RV tumult] Num. 24:17*

Balaam foretold the destruction of Moab by the one who would be king of Israel. This would have been partially fulfilled in the times of the kings when, at times, Israel ruled over Moab, but he sees a time in the future when Moab will be subdued by the one whose right it is to be given the sceptre. This was disturbing news to Balak the Moabite!

As we saw in Daniel 11:41, Moab is to escape out of the invader's hand in the day when Israel falls. The reason why is hinted at in Isaiah 16:4. It is to be place of refuge for fleeing Jews escaping from Gog's hosts.

Moab comes under the rule of Christ; part of her territory becomes the dwelling of the tribes of Israel. Moab is described as the wash pot in Ps. 60:8; Ps. 108:9—a humble but needed vessel!

Modern Moab—the state of Jordan—is friendly to Britain, America and Israel. Both Britain and America have bases on her soil, and she forms part of the King of the South's territory.

*Destroy (subdue) all the children of Sheth (RV break down all the sons of tumult)* may not refer to a locality, but as the meaning of the word is tumult it may stand for those nations around Israel who have been a *pricking brier* and *grieving thorn* (Ezek. 28:24) in Israel's side. All such opposition is to be put down—nations will either submit to Israel's king or be destroyed.

*And Edom shall be a possession, Seir also shall be a possession for his enemies; and Israel shall do valiantly.* Num. 24:18

Edom to the south of Moab was the home of the Edomites and Amalekites. Obadiah's short prophecy is devoted to the Edomites and their hatred of Israel. They sought Israel's downfall and not, as a brother should, her well being. Although dwelling in the security of their rocky kingdom, God foretold their demise. The ruins of Petra today bear silent witness to their destruction. Yet Obadiah speaks of a final conflict.

*And the house of Jacob shall be a fire, and the house of Joseph a flame, and the house of Esau for stubble, and they shall kindle in them, and devour them; and there shall not be any remaining of the house of Esau; for the LORD hath spoken it.* v18

This is obviously a “latter-day” application, for Obadiah speaks of this time as being one when

*(But) upon mount Zion shall be deliverance, and there shall be holiness; and the house of Jacob shall possess their possessions.*

*And saviours shall come up on mount Zion to judge the mount of Esau; and the kingdom shall be the LORD'S.* Obad. v17,21

Like the Moabites, we cannot trace the Edomites today. We obviously look to the nation that today occupies their territory - Jordan. However in the case of Edom, we may also see a class of people who have despised Israel and sought to speed her downfall. Unlike the Moabites, there are no occasions of them helping Israel. They are described in Malachi 1:4 as

*The people against whom the LORD hath indignation for ever.*

Again in Amos 1:11:

*For three transgressions of Edom, and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because he did pursue his brother with the sword, and did cast off all pity, and his anger did tear perpetually, and he kept his wrath for ever:*

Balaam saw the latter end of Edom

*Out of Jacob shall come he that shall have dominion, and shall destroy him that remaineth of the city. Num. 24:19*

The first city builder was Cain, calling it after his son Enoch, “dedicated”. Those who run in the way of Cain are to be destroyed by the one who shall have dominion from sea to sea, whose life’s work was to build a house made without hands.

Balaam then turns to another neighbouring people—the Amalekites.

*And when he looked on Amalek, he took up his parable, and said, Amalek was the first of the nations; but his latter end shall be that he perish for ever. Num. 24:20*

Amalek was Esau’s grandson (Gen 36:16). Some translate his name as *warrior*, others as *labouring* (*Gesenius*). As such he would have been contemporary with Jacob’s grandchildren such as Gershon, and some have wondered whether they could have reached the size to be a threat to Israel by the time of the Exodus. However Esau married considerably before Jacob. At the age of 40 he married Judith and Baashemath (Gen. 26:34)—who is called Adah in Gen. 36:2 and her son, Eliphaz, is listed first in the list of Esau’s sons. He was the father of Amalek by Timna (v11). Jacob, Esau’s twin, was probably about 75 when he had a child, so could be a whole generation behind Esau. In which case they could have been as numerous as the sons of Jacob—Judah numbered nearly 75,000 fighting men at the Exodus. In any case Amalek would doubtless increase his size by conquest.

There is another, earlier mention of Amalek in Genesis 14:7. This may possibly be a reference to the territory that *afterwards* would belong to Esau’s grandson. Arab writers do however speak of Amalek as a descendant of Ham, who seems to have moved down into the area of the Semitic Amalek and been absorbed into it.

Balaam then took up his parable against the *Kenites*.

*And he looked on the Kenites, and took up his parable, and said, Strong is thy dwellingplace, and thou puttest thy nest in a rock. Num. 24:21*

The Kenites were Midianites, descended from Abraham through Keturah. (Gen. 25:2). Jethro, Moses’ father-in-law, is described as a priest—*cohen* - of Midian (Ex. 2:16; 18:12). Jethro joined himself with Israel and travelled through the wilderness and obtained possession in the land in the days of Joshua. (Jud. 1:16). When, years later, Saul set out to slay the Amalekites he sent a message to the Kenites to move away, to avoid being harmed in

the coming battle, because of their help to Israel when they were in the wilderness (1 Sam 15:6). Still later the Rechabites feature in the time of Jeremiah (ch 35)—a shining example of faith, in contrast to the faithlessness of Israel. (Kenites - 1 Chron 2:55).

Unlike the Edomites who put their trust in the “rock” of Petra = rock (Obad v3), some of the Kenites had put their trust in the Rock of Israel. However they would also experience captivity at the hand of the Assyrians.

*Nevertheless the Kenite shall be wasted, until Asshur shall carry thee away captive. (How long until Asshur carries you away captive? NKJV)*  
Num. 24:22

Tucked away in the fascinating genealogies in the opening chapters of 1 Chronicles, is the account of the captivity of the tribes on the east of the Jordan by Tilgath-pilneser king of Assyria, probably some 10 or 20 years before the 10 tribes were taken (1 Chron. 5:26). The bulk of the Kenites may have been taken captive then, although the Rechabites were still in existence in the time of Jeremiah, well over a 100 years later.

*And he took up his parable, and said, Alas, who shall live when God doeth this!*

*And ships shall come from the coast of Chittim, and shall afflict Asshur, and shall afflict Eber, and he also shall perish for ever.* Num. 24:23,24

Chittim we associate with Cyprus. This was the nearest island off Israel's coastline. The word can also be applied to other Mediterranean islands stretching back to Italy. Britain maintains her Mediterranean fleet in Cyprus and America in Crete. However, these ships are directed against Assur and Eber. Assur is Assyria, northern Iraq of today, territory occupied by American troops at the moment! The ruins of ancient Nineveh are near Mosul.

Balaam finishes his vision with the stirring words: *he also shall perish for ever*. Who is the **he**? Surely it is not referring to the Kenite, but to Amalek of v 20. The NKJV inserts the word Amalek in italics to show it is not in the original, but the translators feel this is the subject person. We see a wonderful parallel with Daniel 11:45—*yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him*. Amalek, whose king was Agag—or Gog, perishes! What a wonderful prophecy concerning the destruction of Gog. He sweeps down into Turkey, Iraq (Assur), and into Egypt before taking Israel, but is utterly destroyed on the mountains of Israel. Ezek. 39:4.

*We will now try to pull together the various prophecies we have looked at in these two chapters with an overview of the situation today, before looking at different aspects in greater detail.*

## Chapter 4:

# OVERVIEW—KING OF THE NORTH v KING OF THE SOUTH

*In our previous two chapters we have attempted to lay a scriptural background to the events we see unfolding before our eyes. In this chapter we look at the reality on the ground—in general terms. The more important details we will amplify in the subsequent chapters. So here we are looking at broad brush-strokes, leaving the detail to later.*

*As regular readers know things can change dramatically, especially at the end of the year! It was on Dec 31<sup>st</sup> 1999 that Yeltsin announced his resignation and handed over to Putin. It was on Dec 22<sup>nd</sup> 1991 that the Soviet Union finally collapsed. The end of the year lies over 2 weeks away as this is being written, but this past weekend could prove to be significant. Separated by probably scarcely an hour were two events that may prove critical. One was the capture of Saddam Hussein; the other was the collapse of the EU constitution talks. Both events point to key areas in 2003—Iraq and the Middle East, and the EU's political ambitions. They are not unconnected areas. Europe's hands are being strengthened to oppose the growing power of America; America is being driven to act without "old" Europe because they refuse to see the same threat behind terrorism.*

## The two legs of the King of the North

After centuries of unity, the Roman Empire began to fall into an Eastern and Western Empire. It didn't happen overnight. The process began with Constantine moving the centre of Roman government to Constantinople, modern Istanbul. Rome didn't remain static; it eventually allowed the Papacy to develop as a spiritual and a temporal ruler. It also saw the rise of what is termed "the Holy Roman Empire". Western Europe was greatly influenced by Roman Catholicism, whilst the Greek Orthodox and later the Russian Orthodox Churches, influenced the east.

With the outpouring of the vial judgements, mainly felt by Western Europe, the old order disappeared. Large power blocks splintered and fragmented. In the past 150 years the map of Europe has changed many times, especially as a result of two World Wars. In the past few years there has been a growing movement to heal the traditional rifts between nations and to aim for a peaceful coming together. In Western Europe step-by-careful-step, the original group of 6 nations expanded, currently numbering 15, poised by May of 2004 to enlarge to 25, with more nations waiting in the wings to join soon after that. The description of Western Europe is given to us under the symbol of a Woman riding the beast—a picture we examined last year (p. 15, 16). We quote a short section here.

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

*These have one mind, and shall give their power (dunamis) and strength (exousia) unto the beast. Rev. 17:12,13*

*Exousia* signifies “privilege, freedom, delegated authority”—*Strong*. “The power of rule or government (the power of him whose will and commands must be submitted to by others and obeyed, [generally translated *authority*]) - *Thayer*



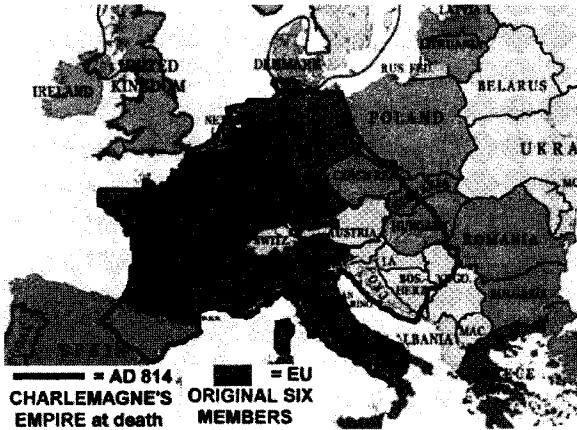
The *kings* represent the nations that collectively form the power of the beast. The horns are not crowned as in a past phase of the beast (13:1); they are not monarchies. They are willing to submit their own powers to a collective investment of power in the beast, while retaining their

national identity, and receiving in return considerable power—*exousia*—to which the people must submit.

This is no easy process as the events in Brussels this December have shown when the heads of the countries of the EU met with candidate new members to thrash out an agreement on the Constitution. The fact that there were “red line issues”—matters which individual governments were not prepared to compromise on—indicates that there are and have been many matters that they **have** agreed on. Remarkable progress has been made in the process of integration. Many countries, Britain included, have given up virtually all their effective power to Brussels. The Constitution was to be virtually the final step to transform the EU into a political super-state—to rival America. For many when it came to the crunch it was a step too far! The meeting to iron out the last-minute differences revealed just how far apart some of the countries are. Obviously the time is not right in the Divine plan. If it had gone ahead, it would have made it even more difficult for Britain to extract herself. Was this why the talks failed? It could well be! France and Germany have blamed Britain for not standing firmly with them and allowing Poland and Spain to wreck the meeting; a trifle hard on Britain in this case, but it reflects Britain’s position as the “kicking boy.”

Sceptics—and there are many—have wondered whether it was not all a put-up job by France and Germany. It was obviously not going to go their way. By France and Germany refusing to compromise, the talks ended without agreement. Before the meeting Schröder had hinted that better no agreement than a poor agreement. Again, there were heavy hints before the meeting and immediately after it, that perhaps the solution would be a

2-speed Europe, with Britain relegated to the slow lane along with the other waverers and all the new entrants.



If the original six members did press ahead with political union, this inner core would correspond quite closely to the original united Europe in the time of Pepin and later of Charlemagne as this map shows. (The boundary of the original 6 has been updated to

include East Germany, which was then a separate country). It would only need Austria to come on board to almost complete the jigsaw! This would than give us a strong Western leg.

Over in Russia a similar process has been taken place, but not so widely reported. In 1991, the Soviet fragmented into the 12 CIS—Commonwealth of Independent States. The largest of these took the name Russia. Over the years the smaller states found that independence was not easy, many were still dependent upon Russia for their energy needs, though others were energy-rich. Step-by-step, Russia has been pushing some of her neighbours to realign themselves with her to create a miniature EU. Miniature in the number of members—four, but not in size! The four—Russia, Belarus, the Ukraine and Kazakhstan together cover a vast territory.

What is being proposed is a customs union, enabling free trade and movement of people between the four countries, together with harmonisation of taxes etc. There is talk of a linkage of their defence forces. To those in Britain these sound familiar enough—this is how the EU works. So we find the Eastern leg of the image is taking shape.

### **The False Prophet—growing in power**

Much of the Old Testament and indeed the New Testament is involved in countering the corruption of the Way of Truth. False prophets within Israel, and idol-worshipping priests in Israel's neighbouring countries, sought to draw Israel away from the pure worship that Yahweh demanded of His people. Prophet after prophet was sent to cajole, to warn, to rebuke Israel for their waywardness. The false prophets' teachings were much more palatable and attractive to the thinking of the flesh. The ritual and the ceremony, together with the music and the chanting, sought to win hearts and minds to accept what the true prophets pointed out was a lie. In New

Testament times, the Lord had to contend with the leaders of his day, who with great outward show of piety, put heavy burdens on the shoulders of the people, while ensuring their own prosperity. Paul made clear that the truth would be corrupted and he had many battles against the Judaizers. He warned of the coming *man of sin* who would deceive the people.

*Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;*

*Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.*

*Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,*

*And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.*

*And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: 2 Thess. 2:3,4,9-10*

Such a system did develop with the establishment of the Papacy and her daughters—Orthodox and Protestant. We see it active in the area of Europe today. It was appropriate that this symbol of *False Prophet* should be introduced to cover our time-period. In earlier ages the symbol of an *Image of the Beast* was used. It was appropriate then because the Popes had territory and as well as claiming spiritual headship, they ruled as kings over their territory in Italy. That was swept away by the events of the vials of Revelation ch 16. Nothing daunted, just at the time when shorn of all temporal powers, the Pope declared papal infallibility—when speaking ex-cathedra, he was speaking for God. His claim to be *Vicar* (from Latin = substitute, in the place) of Christ meant that he was on earth in place of Christ. He was God on earth. Now if ever there was a system of deceit we have it in the churches and in Rome in particular. With many signs and *lying wonders* millions are deceived, having drunk of her cup. At the centre is the worship of Mary, promoted as being in heaven, the patron of Europe, and the motherly ear who will intercede for those who seek her. An utter travesty! Mary is dead and awaits the call of her son to raise her to life again. The present Pope has set hundreds of people on the road to sainthood because it is a profitable money machine! It is all a lot of lies as God foretold.

In Revelation ch 17, and as depicted in the picture at the start of this chapter, we find a harlot woman riding the scarlet coloured beast of Europe. We are told that she is drunken with the blood of saints and has on her forehead a name written thus: -

*MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. 17:5*

Here is a strong link back to Babylon—the golden head on Nebuchadnezzar’s image. Is the head then represented by the Pope? No, but the Pope—whoever he may be at this final time—is **part** of it. Nebuchadnezzar foremost was King of Babylon. He was also the chief prophet of Babylon’s religion. He was their chief spokesman. He pre-eminently represented the gods on earth. His conquest of the nations was to show—so he thought—the superiority of the gods of Babylon. Hence his giving to Daniel and his friends names which reflected Babylonian gods. He sought to eradicate any other gods. He was of course brought to realise that there is a God in Israel who is greater than the gods of Babylon!

Although, in the past, one man united these two roles of king and chief prophet, we are again guided by scripture to see that there is a *False Prophet* as well as a *Dragon* power and a *Beast* power. In the terms of Daniel’s 4<sup>th</sup> beast, we have described a similar situation to what existed in the past, namely what is termed the Holy Roman Empire (HRE). Then King (Charlemagne and his successors) and Pope (Leo and his successors) between them ruled Western Europe, militarily and spiritually, to their mutual benefit. This is conveyed in prophecy as: -

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

At the time of the end there is a similar situation—a horn (military might) with eyes and mouth to represent the spiritual rule directing the horn power.

*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*

So we look for a horn power, which we parallel with Gog of Ezekiel 38, or the golden head of Daniel 2, or the Dragon of Revelation 16, working with the eyes and mouth of the little horn of Daniel 7, the terrible countenance of the golden head of Daniel 2, the False Prophet of Revelation 16. A recreation of the system of the Holy Roman Empire of the past, but on a broader territory—the Roman Empire East and West.

But is not the picture in Revelation that of the *Woman* riding the *Beast*? Yes. Revelation 17 strictly is portraying a time period after the fall of the Gogian might on the mountains of Israel. It speaks of the re-grouping of Europe, very much under the Papacy who: -

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

It is a question of sequence. The establishment of the Kingdom of Christ in the earth proceeds in steps. First, Gog with mainly Russian military might,

but amply assisted by most of Western Europe and encouraged on this exploit by the Papacy, invades Israel, seems to be triumphant, but is broken in Israel by Christ and the saints. This is likened to the wheat harvest. This is the Battle of Armageddon.

The Kingdom in nucleus is established among the Jews delivered from the hand of the enemy. The call goes out to all the Jews to return—the second exodus out of the darkness of “Egypt”. Europe, under the Papacy, regroups to defy the one they will label *Antichrist*, but who really is Messiah. This is when the woman rides the Beast. Rev 18 and 19 depict this warfare in Europe, describing it as *a lake of fire*. This is the second stage of the harvest of God’s judgements—likened to a grape harvest. In the world of nature the grape harvest follows the wheat harvest after an interval. Eventually Papal power will be destroyed. The blood of the saints will be avenged. God’s judgements are to be more severe on Western Europe for their crimes against the Jews and the saints.

*...I beheld even till the beast was slain, and his body destroyed, and given to the burning flame. As concerning the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away: yet their lives were prolonged for a season and time. Dan. 7:11,12*

We are witnessing the growing influence of the Papacy on the affairs of Europe. The situation has certainly changed in the past 40 years. The situation is not confined to the West. With the fall of Communism, the Russian Orthodox Church has remerged as a powerful influence in Russia. Putin regularly attends Mass. The aging Patriarch Alexy suffered a stroke and further ill health this past year, but when he can, he attends State occasions and is often photographed alongside Putin. The Russian government’s official web site, until its recent revamp, showed several pictures of the two leaders—temporal and spiritual side by side. A situation undreamed of 20 years ago!

### **The coming together of the Northern Alliance**

In parallel to Western Europe seeking stronger political ties and Eastern Europe likewise following a similar path, there is another movement. It is to bring the two groups into a working relationship.

The two legs of the Image were originally joined to a brass and silver body and topped with a golden head. The original head was Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon. What is being recreated before our eyes is the uniting of Europe. As well as the two legs uniting within their sphere of influence, so the two legs are joining together. The EU and Russia meet twice a year to move forward progress in this uniting of Europe. The lead player in the West is Germany. Schröder the German chancellor and Putin the Russian president are firm friends, even to spending a Christmas together. One can down-load from the joint EU-RU website the 10 year plan—2000 to 2010—to bring about unity between these two power blocks. We are not expecting them to merge into one massive country—scriptures speak of

there being a *Beast* power (Western Europe) and a *Dragon* power (Eastern Europe), but united in their actions to come against the people of God. The countries described as being with Gog in Ezekiel 38 aptly encompass east and west. The coming closer together of east and west will lead to a re-creation of the old Roman Empire with its two halves, one centred on Constantinople and the other on Rome and Vienna. From our look at Daniel 8, we saw Greek and Persian origins for the Roman Empire as well as links to Babylon. So it would be apt to see these metals of Babylon, Medo-Persia and Greece forming the latter-day image. In Gog—who-ever he may prove to be—we have the driving force that unites Europe together. What is Gog's motive? Why is Europe banded together? Why does it stand on its iron/clay feet? We shall attempt to answer these questions by looking at the feet!

### The iron-clay feet

The incredible thing about the Image is that it is top heavy. The metals get lighter as one moves down the body. Then to cap it all its feet are an unstable mixture of iron and clay! The stone that smites the image hits the feet so that they are broken, and the whole edifice is ground to powder by the stone power.

We are specifically told that the toes are made of this brittle iron-clay mixture. In the past one could point to a 10-fold division of the Roman Empire corresponding to the 10 horns on the 4<sup>th</sup> beast. The situation in Daniel 7 covers the period from around 65 BC to AD 395, when, as seen in the vision, three horns fell to be replaced by an 11<sup>th</sup> horn—a little horn—the development of the Papacy (7:7,8). But the iron-clay mixture of Daniel 2 was not applicable to that era. Verse 44 is important: -

*And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.* Dan. 2:44

*These kings*—which kings? *Consume all these kingdoms*—which kingdoms? Surely it is referring to the kingdoms represented by the toes! This is where the stone smites. So we look to see a recreation of the situation that existed in the past—a model of the Roman Empire of old, with its 10-fold division, but with the characteristic of a mixture of iron and clay. Iron links us with Rome, so what of the clay? Clay is associated with people. Adam was of the clay. This is the peculiarity of our age. An age of democracy or people power. So often that power is illusory, behind the façade of democracy lies an iron fist—or in this case—foot-people being guided from behind. This is very much the situation today. The iron works on two levels. There is the recreation of a political power on the territory of the old Roman Empire and spreading beyond and the recreation of a spiritual power over the same area. Both are iron or Roman in influence. We should not underestimate the great influence of the Church, both in the

West and in the East, working with and through the people—iron mixed with clay! Clay also seems very appropriate to describe the expansion of the Image’s territory to include the vast mass of Russia.

Why does the Image want to stand up? It represents the Kingdom of Men. As such it is opposed to the Kingdom and people of God. The two cannot exist side by side in peace—the claims of both are incompatible. In the past the King of the North was the implacable enemy of the Jews in the land. So it will be again. The return of the Jews to their land and becoming a nation again is an anachronism for the both Roman and Orthodox Churches. If the Church is the Kingdom of God on earth and their leaders God’s representatives on earth, then the return of the persecuted Jew sits uneasily with this picture. After centuries of bitter persecution and attempts to annihilate them, to be faced with their revival and laying claim to Israel as their homeland, is a problem!

Chrysostom, a pivotal 4<sup>th</sup> century “Church Father” preached the incompatibility of the two systems.

If the Jewish rites are holy and venerable, our way of life must be false.  
But if our way is true, as indeed it is, theirs is fraudulent.

The Observant Jews have gone back to their homeland to await the coming of Messiah. We hear little of this aspect today, but we are aware that some zealous Jews have prepared for the time when they can re-build the Temple and offer sacrifices. When there is a religious revival under Elijah, then the conflict will be sharper, because the Messiah they are looking for to establish the Jewish people in their land, will not be the Messiah of the Churches. Their Messiah is in heaven and the reward there. A revival of Jewishness in the land will be seen as part of the great Jewish plot to dominate the world.

The Gogian invasion has both political/economic and religious aspects. For Gog, supplying the bulk of the military might, it will be the chance to take a spoil and a prey. Part of that prey may, as happened in the past, consist of people. The largest Diaspora of Russian Jews is in Israel. Many are highly skilled people, scientists, inventors and doctors. Russia took the prized scientists out of Germany at the end of WWII; why not again?

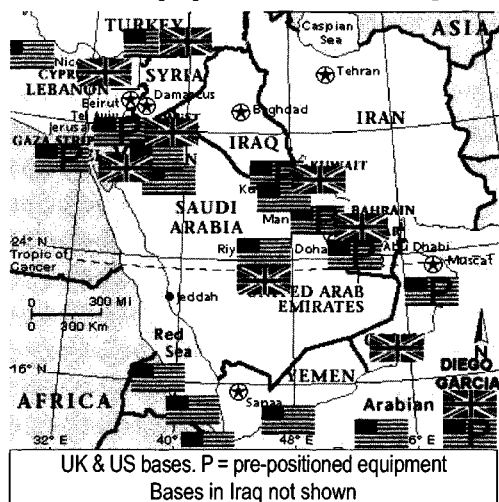
The prophecies indicate a latter-day crusade, called for by the Pope, uniting Europe with the Gogian coalition, to deal with this rival threat.

The whole venture is doomed from the start, in spite of the initial appearance of success. The Kingdom of men is no match for the power of Israel’s God. Flesh dissolves in the presence of spirit power, unleashed from the hands of Christ and the saints (Zech. 14:12). The Lord Jesus is described in symbol as having eyes as *a flame of fire* (Rev 1:14). Behind the symbol there may well be a reality. If man can use laser light to cut through steel, what awesome power *The Light of the World* can wield. The

forces of nature will also be poured out upon the enemy. Earthquake, fire, brimstone, hail and rain are all in God's arsenal.

### The coming together of the Southern alliance

We have referred to the co-operation of the *merchants of Tarshish and her young lions* working with *Sheba and Dedan*. In a wonderful way countries from the four corners of the earth are drawn to work together in a distant land. How mightily the angels work! The leaders of America, Britain and Australia are prepared to take action against terrorism in the Middle East,



given their regard for Israel's right to exist in their land in peace. The spread of bases run by America and Britain in the Middle East is remarkable. *Debka* 31-12-03 revealed the expansion of US bases in Israel—the largest training base in the region is now in central Israel!

With the capture of Saddam Hussein, there is speculation that far from speeding up the withdrawal of troops from Iraq it may

prolong their presence there. Prophetically this is King of the North country—at least the northern part, and so we would not anticipate a permanent presence. It is interesting that Britain has been given control of the south of Iraq, and may remain here longer. One side issue is the importance of the Suez Canal as the main artery to the region. As we shall see, many of the countries of the Gulf area are looking to Britain and America to continue to supply them with sophisticated weapons to improve their defences.

The role of India is also interesting. In the days of Solomon, Tarshish appears to lie in the east, in India, the source of exotic goods, which were brought back by Solomon's navy. After throwing off the British yoke in 1947, India turned to the Soviet Union for her defence requirements. Today the picture has changed dramatically. Both Britain and America continue to invest heavily in India—many call-centre jobs have been lost from these two countries to India, attracted by the low wages, but high education, and English as their second language.

Like America, Britain and Australia, India is friendly with Israel. The Israeli Prime Minister made the first state visit to India this year. The two countries share common problems—maximising food production in often

difficult growing conditions, and facing Moslem threats to their security. It has drawn the two countries together. India has played a behind-the-scenes role in the Gulf War.

### **Iraq the present point of conflict**

After dealing with the threat from Al Qaeda in Afghanistan, America turned her attention to Saddam Hussein in Iraq. Saddam was the great paymaster for terrorism in the Middle East, especially in the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians. Families whose children had been killed on suicide missions against Israel received a \$25,000 reward—an incredible sum to a poor Arab family. Money and weapons were smuggled through Syria and Lebanon to Yasser Arafat and his men. Mr Bush could see clearly that there could be no hope of stability in the region as long as this paymaster retained power. The ever-present threat of weapons of mass destruction was also a spur to act decisively against Saddam.

In the end, resistance against the American and British troops was low compared to expectations, but both America and Britain had undercover troops preparing the ground long before the armies moved in. Our interest is not in the rights and wrongs of military action against this evil man. God uses the aspirations of man to perform His will. It ensured the deeper involvement of America, Britain and Australia in the region.

It also speeded up the split between Europe and America. Britain clearly showed her position was behind America. France, Germany and Russia banded together to oppose the imposition of a military solution to the Iraqi situation. They each had their reasons. They were all heavily involved in supporting Saddam's regime—Iraq was a profitable source of business for them. It clearly showed that the dividing lines were no longer East-West but now North-South—just as Bible prophecy had led us to expect!

It also strengthened India and Israel's hands. Both countries would benefit from the curbing of terrorism; both gave their behind-the-scenes support to the action.

The matter is far from over. We do not know what the future holds for Iraq before she comes under Gog's hand. A strong signal has been sent out to the other countries of the Middle East—America's President is prepared to go to war to in pursuit of his vision of anti-terrorism and democracy. At the year-end it appears that Libya has agreed to bow to Western pressure and give up her weapons of mass destruction, Iran is softening, and Syria has started talks!

### **Israel the ultimate clashing point**

The eyes of the world are constantly being drawn to the little country of Israel, a country no bigger than Wales; a tenth the area of the state of South Australia; a little smaller than New Hampshire!

This is where Armageddon will be. This is where the nations of the world will be drawn. That drawing process is well under way. Israel has few friends. Europe supports the Palestinians. There have been numerous reports about the anti-Israel bias of Europe's media. As Pilar Rahola, a Spanish journalist, pointed out: -

The worst thing is that there is also a problem of terrorism in Spain, but when the crimes of ETA [Basque terrorist group] are mentioned, one speaks of terrorism, while when the crimes of Hamas are mentioned, one speaks of militants, activists, resistance, struggle... When one mentions the Palestinian victims, one speaks of children, civilians, innocents, but when one mentions the Israeli victims, one speaks of people without a name, as if to suggest that they are only soldiers, members of the army. There is a distortion in the presentation of the conflict, a dangerous manipulation that feeds the hatred and the anti-Semitism. 2-10-02

There has been strong criticism too of the EU's lack of control over the money that goes to the Palestinians. The bulk is unaccounted for. The Israelis have uncovered ample evidence that it goes to fund terrorism, not to help the Palestinian people.

Because of the centuries of anti-Semitism in Europe, an anti-Israeli bias is the norm for most of Europe. French police recorded 924 anti-Jewish incidents for 2002 and the German police 1,594. German rabbis exhort their congregations not to openly display signs of Jewishness for fear of attack. Increasingly Christians are saying, "we are the inheritors of God's promises, the land belongs to us." It is engrained in Europe as a result of Church teachings on the position of the Jews as we shall see in chapter 8.

The seeds for the future conflict are being laid now. Surely few would be express great surprise if told that one day the nations will invade Israel to deal with the Jewish problem. Most would think that such a move was well deserved!

## Armageddon

Revelation 16 indicates that there are two forces that draw the nations to the Battle of Armageddon. One is human, the other is Divine.

*And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.*

*For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. Rev. 16:13,14*

So as a result of the policies of these powers, nations are drawn to this battle in the land of Israel. But there is a Divine Hand drawing them.

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

“He” is the one that exhorted his brethren in the previous verse. Through angelic control, the Lord drew Israel back to their land in our days. Israel will be the catalyst that will draw the nations down.

Isaiah spoke of this time as *the day of the LORD's vengeance, and the year of recompences for the controversy of Zion* (Isa. 34:8). It is one of the final acts in the drama that has been played out for the past 6,000 years—the enmity between the seed of the serpent and the seed of the woman. Daniel wept and mourned when he understood long, dark days lay ahead for his people. How we can rejoice—tinged with fear—that the long night of Gentile darkness is about to be driven away by the rising dawn of Israel's day.

*We now turn to the detailed unfolding of events during 2003.*

#### **As we turn the calendar—a postscript**

Many interesting matters came into the news on the 31<sup>st</sup> Dec and 1<sup>st</sup> Jan, which I have endeavoured to slot in the appropriate places, but here is a summary. A number in () indicates the chapter where you will find more details.

**Israel.** First was the news that America had its biggest training base in the Gulf area in the middle of Israel! An important training ground and jumping off point to the rest of the Gulf! (12). Then news that Israel was planning to greatly expand her presence on the Golan (11).

A Franciscan spokesman warned “The state of Israel has to recognize, in a new agreement, the rights acquired by the Church in Israel and in the Holy Land over the course of centuries” (12). The Irish have just released embargoed papers from the late ‘40’s, detailing talks that Ireland had with Spain and Italy, concerning the Vatican’s wish for Jerusalem to come under R. C. control! (7).

**Iraq.** Colin Powell’s New Year speech expressed his determination for turning “a free and democratic Middle East into a reality. We will expand the Middle East Partnership Initiative to encourage political, economic, and educational reform throughout the region” (10). Also were reports that British troops expected still to be in Iraq in 2005, and the US is planning its biggest embassy in the world with a staff of 3,000 in Iraq to look after Middle East affairs. It expects to maintain a garrison of more than 100,000 troops in the country (10).

## Chapter 5:

# WESTERN EUROPE—POOLING SOVEREIGNTY

*In recent years the European home has considerably changed its political makeup. It no longer consists of individual states seeking to break down trading barriers to increase their prosperity. The EU has gone far beyond that! With a common currency adopted by most of its members, common laws on most aspects of every-day life, the establishment of a European judicial court and justice system, the embryo of a European army, and a European Parliament—these are all steps to an edifice of grand proportions. Yet who dreamed it all up? Did it “just happen spontaneously”? By no means! This was carefully planned and carried out largely out of the public’s eye, until it had gained an almost unstoppable momentum, leaving its members glazed and bewildered at what has been done in their name, by un-elected and unaccountable bureaucrats. We sketch the history in a few words.*

## “The Secret History of the European Union”



This is the subtitle to a new book<sup>1</sup> that outlines the history and the aims of the founders of the EU. Christopher Booker, the joint author, writes a regular column in the *Sunday Telegraph* on EU follies. Their research is detailed as they trace not only the growth of the European dream, but the steps taken by Europe to ensnare Britain to break her power. They give a closely documented picture of the strategy used by the founding fathers of the European dream, to avoid their plans being blown off course. Their daring vision of a united Europe under the control of a central power was always so radical that it had to be

introduced step-by-step by stealth, concealing the true intentions, until it had progressed so far there was no turning back. This certainly has been the case! Much legislation has been introduced in the UK without it being made clear that it has emanated from Brussels. Slowly but steadily supra-national organisations have taken over from national ones. Control is being invested in the new commissions rather than remaining under control of the individual nations. The effects of the unceasing legislation accompanying these changes have destroyed many of Britain’s established industries.

---

<sup>1</sup> *The Great Deception -The Secret History of the European Union* by Booker & North. Continuum 11/03 474 pages ISBN:0-8264-7105-6

### Beware the French!

Many of the founding fathers have been French and the authors of this book point out that France knows how to play the system. While Britain zealously carries out the new directives imposed upon her—and often adds more to them—the French shrug and carry on regardless.

Any informed study of the project's workings, however, would have to conclude that by far the most effective single interest group in ensuring that the 'project' was run to suit its own collective purposes was the government of just one member state: France.

Again and again, throughout the decades, it was France that showed that it best knew how to manipulate the 'project' and the Commission to its own national ends. It was France that fought to set up an agricultural policy, absorbing initially 90% of the Community's entire budget, designed solely for the purpose of protecting French farmers and the French state. It was France which, behind the scenes, initiated the *coup de main* which tricked Britain into handing over control of the world's richest fishing waters, primarily in the first place for the interests of French fishermen.

The continuing list of examples given is too long to reproduce here!

For France the rules of the Community were there to be imposed on other countries when this served French interests, and ignored by France herself whenever it suited her. It was no accident that it was France which in the run-in to the launch of the euro was first to object to the Maastricht criteria to which she had insisted that everyone else must be bound; which negotiated herself the most favourable exchange rate when the values of the currency were fixed; and which was then among the first to breach the rules of the growth and stability pact on which she had insisted the success of the euro would depend. It was no accident that it was France which, having most flagrantly breached UN sanctions against Saddam Hussein's Iraq in the 1990s, was then in 2003 leading the opposition to the Anglo-American coalition to topple him. And it was no coincidence that, in the great debate over the future shape of 'Europe', it was France's president who led the way in pushing for that '*directoire*' form of intergovernmentalism which would legitimise France's right to play top dog in settling Europe's affairs, and to ensure they would continue to be run in France's interests as they had been for 50 years.

From Monnet to de Gaulle, from Delors to Mitterand, from Chirac to d'Estaing, the 'European project' had all along been as much a project for promoting the power, wealth, influence and glory of France as anything else. By comparison, the role played by Germany, tucked in alongside France as her closest ally but inhibited by her wish to show she had forsworn her old nationalistic arrogance and the shame of her earlier record, was insignificant.

As President Charles de Gaulle recognised in his speech in 1963 vetoing Britain's application to join the original 6 members of the Common Market, Britain's ways are not the Continent's ways!

"England, in effect is insular. She is maritime. She is linked through her trade, her markets, her supply lines to the most distant countries... She has, in all her doings, very marked and very original habits and traditions. In short England's nature, England's structure, England's very situation differs profoundly from those of the Continentals."

### The Constitution—political union for Europe



Giscard d'Estaing unrolling constitution

At the Laeken Summit in Dec. 2001, the European leaders agreed to set up a committee consisting of 102 members to draw up a constitution for Europe. Britain is one of the few countries that do not have a constitution, but most countries have one and are proud of it. It defines the country. The uniqueness of this Constitution is that

there is no one nation of Europe. Clearly the aim of this Constitution was to establish the EU as a political entity. Tony Blair was dismissive of the whole thing; political union is not what he wants. This is reflected in the subtle change to the title of the document. Its proper title is a "draft Treaty establishing a Constitution **for Europe**". The British Government's White Paper presented to Parliament talked about "a draft Constitutional Treaty **for the European Union**"—a subtle but important difference.

Each country had two parliamentary representatives and one government representative on the committee. From these was drawn an inner presidium of 19 members, who were responsible for most of the work; one of whom was Labour MP and in fact the only woman member, Gisela Stuart, born a German, but living in Britain since the 70's. Her comments on the workings of the committee are instructive! Her 60-page booklet makes fascinating reading!<sup>1</sup>

It was only in the final months of the convention that simultaneous translation was provided for presidium meetings and we could be accompanied by an assistant to give legal advice. Even then, texts would arrive late and only in French. Whenever the president expressed his

---

<sup>1</sup> *The Making of Europe's Constitution* by Gisela Stuart. £6.50 Fabian Society

irritation at my inability to conduct legal negotiations in French, I offered to switch to German. He never took me up on it.

Some members of the secretariat showed particular irritation with my insistence that documents be produced in English. On one occasion a redraft of articles dealing with defence mysteriously arrived just before midnight. They were written in French and the authorship was unclear. Verbal reassurances were given that this was little more than a “linguistically better draft of the earlier English version”. The draft was discarded when some of us spotted that references to Nato had mysteriously disappeared. Sometimes wordings would be agreed in the presidium without being translated into the official texts circulated to the rest of the 200-strong convention.

In last-minute deals in the presidium, the six founding member states struck agreements on the draft constitution. It became a mixture of individual idiosyncrasies, principled positions and political horsetrading.

From my experience at the Convention it is clear that the real reason for the Constitution—and its main impact—is the political deepening of the Union. This objective was brought home to me when I was told on numerous occasions: ‘You and the British may not accept this yet, but you will in a few years’ time.’

In the past most politicians have focused on the economic rather than the political implications of the European Union. The debate about Europe’s future is a battle of ideas and ideologies. The European Union has always been a deeply political project.

...This Treaty establishing a Constitution brings together all that has been agreed in the past and introduces significant new changes in the EU. It will be difficult to amend and will be subject to interpretation by the European Court of Justice. And if it remains in its current form, the new Constitution will be able to create powers for itself. It cannot be viewed piecemeal; its sum is more than its parts. To assess its implications, we have to look at the underlying spirit.

The Constitution is not just about institutional arrangements, but also the balance of power, values and objectives. This Constitution is unusual in that it also initiates processes for future development with the aim of deeper and ever closer integration. Where integration can be deepened no further, this text has rigid rules as for example in the list of exclusive competences of the Commission. Power at the centre cannot be returned to Member States. Where the political climate means that certain ideas for further integration are not yet acceptable, the Draft Constitution creates the structure for a process to develop later. An example of this is defence and foreign policy.

As it was, the heads of the EU, together with the leaders of the new members due in May, meeting in Brussels in December, could not agree on

the Constitution. France and Germany had made it clear before the Summit that it would be better not to go ahead with the document rather than fear it to pieces. It either had to be accepted as it was or rejected. Wholesale amendments were not on the cards. The leaders went with their “red lines”—matters they were not prepared to compromise over. In the end it turned out to be Spain and Poland who succeeded in scuppering the Constitution. One almost sensed a relief by France and Germany. They had new scapegoats to berate—although Britain was still blamed for not throwing her weight behind France and Germany. It must have come as a relief to Tony Blair—he was having to face unpleasant choices, but with the collapse of the talks he was spared having to make these decisions!

According to *The Times* and the *Economist*, France and Germany were secretly relieved. It gives them the opportunities they wanted to press ahead with a two-speed Europe.

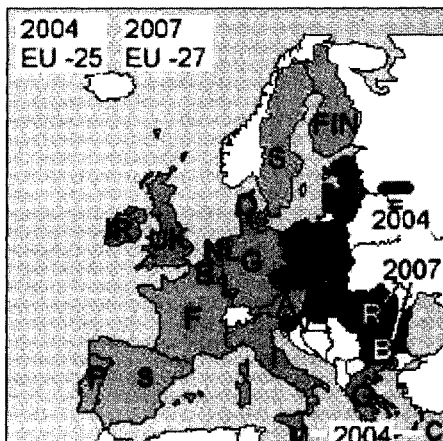
On Friday night, as the failure of the constitutional talks became obvious, M Chirac, Herr Schröder and Guy Verhofstadt, the Belgian Prime Minister, had dinner and drafted a declaration for an inner-core group. They canvassed other countries and won support from Luxembourg, Greece, the Czech Republic and Hungary, but decided not to publish it yet, not wanting to add to the crisis. *The Times* 15-12-03

We will look at what is implied with a “two speed Europe” a little later. First we need to look at the proposed Europe of 25.

### Enlarging the European home

In May 2004, the EU is due to expand from 15 to 25 members. This “big-bang” expansion is full of unknowns. The EU creaks at the moment to cope with 15 members and all the combinations of language needs. Nothing like this has ever happened before.

The 10 new countries were not overly keen to join! They were apprehensive (rightly so!) of the power wielded by France and Germany. Apart from Malta and Cyprus, the new countries—Eastern European—were for many years under the influence of the Soviet.



Seven of the new countries would be classed as Roman Catholic—Poland, Czech Rep., Hungary, Slovakia, Lithuania, Slovenia and Malta; Cyprus as Greek Orthodox and Latvia and Estonia as Lutheran. Of the two countries

due to join in 2007, Romania is Romanian Orthodox and Bulgaria is classed non-religious. *CIA World Factbook*. There was much pressure from the Roman Church in those countries where it has influence, for them to sign up. As we shall see in a later chapter, the Pope's visits in the past two years have been an important boost to the "join Europe" campaign. A massive amount of money has been spent by the EU to secure a "yes" vote to accession.

It was worked out that the £4 million spent by the EU on a massive propaganda blitz in the tiny island of Malta, with its population of only 370,000, **equated to more money per voter than the combined total spent by political parties in every election campaign in British history**. Such lavish investment was rewarded: 53.5 percent of the Maltese voted 'Yes' to entry, and this was subsequently confirmed in a general election. *The Great Deception* p. 418. [My emphasis.]

The amount of paperwork each applicant country had to digest was phenomenal. There are some 60,000 EU directives that have to be translated into the local language. The British version of the actual regulations, directives, etc, amounts to some 97,000 pages! The accession document itself amounted to 2,500 pages, described as "unreadable"!

Significantly...the Commission urged Poland and five other accession countries to speed up their translation of EU legislation. Only a few hundred of 60,000 EU regulations which had to be translated into Polish had been approved by the Council. Not for the first time, leaders of Europe's ancient nations were signing something they had not read. *Ibid*

If Poland voted with the majority of regulations untranslated, one shudders to think of the situation in most of the others. In all fairness it must be said that the majority of British MP's are oblivious to much that is contained in the treaties that bind Britain to Europe! It seems to have been an act of faith. If the "Holy Father" urges them to join it must be right! How accurate are the words of scripture: -

*...the great whore that sitteth upon many waters:*

*With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication.*

*For God hath put in their hearts to fulfil his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled.*  
Rev. 17:1,2,17

The economic cost of supporting all these nations, whose economies are much poorer than the majority of existing members, is an unknown factor. Poland has more farmers than all the existing 15 members added together! It is estimated that the Polish farmers will swallow up 50% of the EU budget. France is fearful that the largess her farmers have been receiving for years will have to be greatly diminished to help this subsidy. Already

France and Germany are hinting that they will penalise Poland for their “wrecking” of the accession treaty in December! According to *Stratfor* 16-12-03, “this is not an idle threat: Germany wields serious economic power over structural development funds and agricultural subsidies.”

### France and Germany—merging?

The population of the present EU is around 375 million, by 2007 is due to grow to 481 million. At the moment the population of Germany, France and Belgium who normally act together in any EU voting, only need to have on board Italy to have a combined total of around 209 million—over half the population. Not that that is a true guide to their influence. Under the 2000 Nice Treaty the voting allocation to each country was altered and they now only have 99 out of the present 237 voting ministers. By 2007 that will be 99 out of 345 voting ministers. France and Germany fear their influence could wane. Poland for example gets almost as many voting ministers as France or Germany.

A politically united Europe has been the French dream since WW1. Faced with the prospect of that dream being blown off course, France and Germany have been looking to set the example by merging their two countries. After two World Wars this seems an incredible idea! Yet this is what is being talked about.

January 2003 was the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Elysée Treaty, signed by Charles de Gaulle and Konrad Adenauer on 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan. 1963. This Treaty marked a turning point in Franco-German relations. There were many celebrations to mark the occasion. The whole Germany Parliament met with their French counterparts in Versailles on the 22<sup>nd</sup> for a joint parliamentary session. At the same time the ministers of the two countries met for their 80<sup>th</sup> session! The two leaders pledged to work towards uniting their two countries.



National rivalry and party quarrels were put aside as the first joint sittings of both parliaments and Cabinets heard the leaders call for a revived Franco-German partnership as the “centre of gravity” of the widening European Union. Sealing a new friendship after five years of friction, “my friend Gerhard” and “my friend Jacques” spent the day exuding bonhomie, with a high-spirited M Chirac repeatedly giving the Chancellor’s arm a friendly squeeze. Europe needs the “Franco-German motor”, M Chirac said to applause. “Today, the Chancellor and I invite our two peoples to proclaim their desire to pursue the European venture hand-in-hand.”

To encourage ever closer union, the pair promised to align foreign and defence policies, to assign high officials to each other’s Cabinets and, eventually, to offer dual citizenship to their people. *The Times* 23-1-03

Dual citizenship would enable French and German citizens to hold passports of both countries and allow them to vote in each other's national elections. The leaders pledged to hold regular meetings.

The week before was the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of de Gaulle saying NON! to Macmillan's application to join the "EEC"—it passed virtually unnoticed!

These celebrations were held against the background of increasing Franco-German hostility to America's actions in Iraq. They intended to, and succeeded in, sending a strong message that they would do all they could to frustrate America's plans.

In the middle of the year there was great fury on the part of the other EU members when France and Germany met privately to hammer out a deal which effectively scuppered two pieces of pending EU reform. One was to allow a level playing field for investments across the EU. It would allow companies to be taken over through hostile bids—feared by Germany and virtually impossible to carry out there. The other was the Common Agricultural Policy—a reform feared by France. Their backroom deal mutually helped each other, and brought to nothing years of reforming talks.

Considerable progress was made during the year: -

...the two have meshed their state machinery more closely, holding six-monthly joint Cabinet meetings, summits every six weeks and increasing links between ministries. They have agreed to run joint embassies abroad and eventually to create common Franco-German citizenship.  
*The Times* 16-10-03

Then in October the *Daily Telegraph* ran an article with the headline: -

**France and Germany aim for union to challenge US**  
France is threatening to unite with Germany to maintain their influence in an enlarged European Union and strengthen their common front against the United States, according to reports yesterday. Foreign minister Dominique de Villepin was quoted by *Le Monde* speaking explicitly about "Franco-German union" and to have called the further deepening of ties between the countries "the one historic challenge we cannot lose".

*Le Monde* gave most of its first three pages to reports on the proposed union, noting that it was an idea whose time might have come. Pascal Lamy, one of France's EU commissioners, spoke enthusiastically of the idea in *Le Monde*. He said it could start with the unification of France and Germany's diplomatic services and the sharing of France's permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council.

M Lamy said: "A Franco-German parliament could focus on whatever the EU and the German regional parliaments do not cover." This would include foreign and defence policy, economic and social policy and research.

The Franco-German alliance has been gathering pace all year, deepened by the two countries' opposition to the war in Iraq. The idea of Franco-German union has been popular among political thinkers in the two countries for some time. Up to now, however, its leading politicians have been cautious about evoking it for fear of a popular backlash. Recent polls in both countries, however, have shown growing trust in each other and suspicion of the United States.

In November, Schröder had to leave an important EU summit meeting early to attend parliamentary matters at home. Instead of leaving his foreign minister in charge, he authorised President Chirac to “represent German interests”! Also in November, *The Times* had a headline **Franco-German union spreads alarm. (23-11-03)** It spoke of plans being discussed for the two countries to share France's permanent seat on the UN Security Council and of joint defence and foreign policy-making. British officials were said to be incredulous. “It is not a vision we believe could become a reality,” said one. We shall see!

## Two-speed Europe

There has been increasing talk of a two-speed Europe—an inner core that rapidly proceeds to political union, and an outer core that proceeds in a more leisurely way to political union. A variation is a 3-ring Europe—the outer one being of those who don't want political union, but just to be loosely associated by trade with the other countries.

As we saw earlier, France and Germany, together with Belgium and Italy sat down together to discuss such an option when it was apparent that constitutional talks had failed.

A spokesman for the Belgian Government said: “If in the coming months it appears that it is not possible to move ahead to make the EU a better working institution, then it is highly probable that those countries who agree on the contents of the treaty will move together. There is a political willingness to move ahead and see what can be done.”

The EU is already two-speed in two main areas, the euro and border controls, where the Schengen group represents an inner core that operates outside official EU treaties. The draft constitution also included a two-speed policy on defence, where an inner core would push forward with “enhanced co-operation.”

However, France and Germany are actively planning an inner core that could use such co-operation across all policy areas, in particular harmonising legal and judicial systems, tax, social security and foreign policy. *The Times* 15-12-03

## The Euro-army—a Trojan horse?

For several years there has been an increasing drive for Europe to have her own army. This would be a mark of just how far Europe had integrated.

This year saw the tiny Euro-army in action for the first time—taking over from Nato troops in Macedonia. This force is confined to humanitarian tasks and is subject to and works through Nato. France and Germany are keen to see its powers enhanced. They have their eyes on a full-blown force, able to act independently of Nato. Although Germany is supportive of Nato, France does not disguise her wish to cut free from this American dominated force. Spurred on by America's actions in Iraq, the leaders of France, Germany, Belgium and Luxembourg meet in secret in April, to draw up bolder plans to establish a European Security and Defence Union. This would enable countries to pool resources to carry out military tasks, with or without Britain. Britain, in fact, and other nations helping against Iraq, were not invited. By the end of the year—to the consternation of America, they had Britain on board. Mr Blair does not want to see Nato sidelined, but feels that this is one area where Britain could show her skills. In November, as a result of secret talks, it was agreed to set up a military headquarters in Brussels, independent of Nato—whose HQ is on the outskirts of Brussels.

Mr Blair is confident that what is being proposed will not affect Nato, and that he will see to it that it doesn't. President Chirac and Chancellor Schröder are happy too; they have great experience in the softly-softly approach, where, by building on small steps, they can obtain their objectives stealthily.

### **Distributing the spoils**

At the Brussels talks in December that saw the collapse of the Constitution, the heads of governments nodded through the legislation allocating the headquarters for the 10 new EU agencies. This legislation passed virtually unnoticed in the turmoil. The European Foods Safety Authority is now based in Parma, Italy and has responsibility for all food safety laws. The European Fisheries Control Agency is to be based in Vigo, Spain—whose fishermen are a byword for flouting regulations! The Royal Navy protection vessels will now be directed from Spain. The European Railways Agency that has great powers over the EU's railways is to be based in Lille, France. The European Maritime Safety Agency is to be based in Lisbon, Portugal. The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control in Helsinki, Sweden. The European Public Prosecutor in Luxembourg. The list goes on.

These changes will make it much harder to get approval for exemptions, safety improvements or amendments to legislation. Instead of matters being dealt with locally, it may well have to be dealt with on the other side of the EU.

*We now take a similar look at events in Russia and Eastern Europe over the past year.*

## Chapter 6:

# EASTERN EUROPE—COMING TOGETHER

*The years of decline since the fall of the Soviet empire seem now to have been arrested. Under the purposeful direction of Mr Putin, Russia's economy is strengthening. Her raging inflation has been calmed. The rouble no longer tumbles on the currency markets. Her outdated industries are being modernised. Increasing prosperity—especially for the few at the top has drawn many Western firms to sell their wares here. Putin is determined to see Russia a strong player on the world stage. He has set about streamlining Russian armed forces, moving away from conscripts to professional forces. Nuclear weapons are being re-deployed. The navy is being brought up-to-date with advanced craft and weaponry. Her arms industry has been brought together to make arms sales more efficient.*

## Russia's growing strength

The newly found wealth in Russia is beginning to trickle down. One American venture capitalist quoted by *Newsweek* 13-10-03 declared: -

...an explosive growth in credit cards, an emerging mortgage market, the fact that tens of thousands of Muscovites can suddenly afford cars and apartments, that the Swedish home-furnishings giant Ikea does bigger business in Moscow than at any other of its stores in the world. And she's not alone. According to a poll of chief executives just released by the international management-consulting company A.T. Kearney, Russia now places among the top 10 of the world's most attractive countries for foreign investment—jumping from 17<sup>th</sup> place last year to eighth in 2003, one notch below the United Kingdom. Moody's will soon upgrade Russian securities to investment quality, possibly by the end of this month.

High oil prices, because of the situation in Iraq, have certainly benefited the economy this year. Tax revenues are up as fewer companies escape paying their taxes. The *Newsweek* article went on: -

Powered by strong oil sales, Russia enjoys a huge surplus in trade, amounting roughly to 8 percent of GDP. The federal budget is firmly in the black. Foreign reserves are the ninth largest in the world, at \$62 billion. A cheap ruble continues to buoy exports and local manufacturers; inflation is trending down toward 12%, from 120% in 2000. With productivity rising sharply and a growing share of economic growth coming from new domestic demand, rather than traditional oil sales, Russia could be poised for real prosperity, says Evgeny Gavrilenkov, chief economist of Troika Dialog in Moscow.

It warned that there were lots of dangers lurking ahead, especially if the price of oil plummeted to below \$15 a barrel—though that's not likely with

the current situation in Iraq. Their other fear was on Mr Putin himself. How transparent are his actions? How democratic are his reforms? The financial world was greatly disturbed by the arrest of Mikhail Khodorkovsky, Russia's richest man, a Jew and head of the giant Yukos oil firm, on corruption charges. He is still in prison awaiting trial, which has been fixed for 11 days after the Presidential election in March! One of his rumoured crimes—many abound—was to finance rival political parties in the run up to the December Duma elections, thus threatening the support that Putin enjoys from the largest parties.

A *Stratfor* article headed **Russia Reloaded: Back to the Future of Deterrence**, detailed Putin's reactivation of her nuclear programme.

Russia recently activated a regiment of Strategic Missile Troops and deployed nuclear-capable missiles, signaling a U-turn in nuclear doctrine from disarmament back to Cold War-era deterrence. This is just the first step in plans to re-affirm Russia's position as a strategic nuclear power in the post-Cold War century, and the first indicator of an old-fashioned U.S.-Russian arms race that likely will rule defense spending for the next 15-20 years.

Moscow perceives a need to maintain strategic nuclear missiles. In this way, Russia could continue to act as a counterweight to an increasingly powerful United States. *Stratfor*. 30-12-03.

### **Putin the Great?**

This was the heading to a long *Stratfor* article 31-10-03. It outlined his strategy against the powerful oligarchs who had seized control of Russia's wealth under Yeltsin. He is determined to gradually strip their power, returning control to the government.

Putin has a successful example to follow: the 18<sup>th</sup> century reforms of Peter the Great, whose portrait hangs in his office. Peter gave Westerners command positions in the new Russian regular armed forces and economy. Those with a hand in the economy enjoyed major concessions in several important economic fields, yet Peter managed to tread a careful path and did not subject Russia to foreign power. Also, he crushed the boyars, the oligarchs of his day. As a result, Peter revived and expanded Russia enormously, introducing it into the geopolitical dynamic of the time. Putin hopes to repeat the performance.

In order to do that, however, he must transform Russia not only internally but also in the area of foreign relations. Although he has chosen to follow a Western path, Putin still wants Russia to be a truly independent power. He sees a chance for the country to balance carefully between the United States and its geopolitical rivals, Europe and China. By welcoming U.S. investment and some degree of influence into the state's economy, Putin is trying to form closer relations with Washington, but on more equal footing than the Bush administration

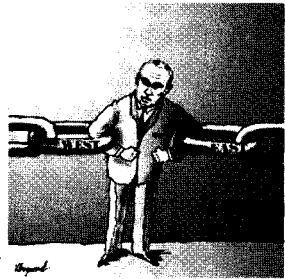
seems to favor. Putin wants to make sure Russia is able to act separately from Washington if it does not treat Russia as a respected ally.

Putin's vision for Russia, especially in foreign relations, has evolved somewhat since 2000. The plan outlined above is where he stands now. His agenda is not cut in stone, and some changes are possible, but a strategic course is clear: reaching toward a strong, Westernized Russia with an independent policy.

### **Russia, the Country That Links East And West**

This was the headline to an interesting article written by Mr Putin, in the *Wall Street Journal* as well as the *St Petersburg Times* 21-10-03.

Time has revised Kipling's well-known postulate: "East is East and West is West." That dictum once seemed unshakable. But West and East meet now—in Russia. That not a single major global or regional problem can be solved without Russia's active and equal participation is a geopolitical reality. This is also confirmed by the new multipolarity in Russia's foreign policy, which focuses on developing relations in the priority vectors of Europe and the Asia-Pacific region.



In the autumn of 1998, Russia took the historic step of joining the Asian Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, which now has 20 members, including the United States, and meets in Bangkok next week.

...Russia is a reliable political and economic partner to the major countries and regions of the world. Russia has intensified trade, economic and investment ties with the United States, China, India, Japan and Southeast Asian and Latin American states. Investors from Western and Eastern countries are enjoying market opportunities in our vast territory with equal vigor, especially in Siberia and the far east of our country, which have abundant natural resources, as well as technological and scientific potential.

### **Putin's grip tightens**

Putin's reforms have been very effective, however many see that his grip on Russia is intensifying. **The Dark side of Russia. Vladimir Putin shows a new authoritarianism** ran the headline in *Newsweek* 2-12-03. All the independent TV stations have been closed down. The press is now subject to stringent laws restricting what they can report about terrorist incidents. Foreign correspondents in Russia have had their reports covering Chechnya, seized and destroyed. A request for an official inquiry into the deaths of so many civilian hostages in the storming of the Moscow Theatre in November, when gas was used by the authorities, has been quashed.

After many years on the sidelines, Russia's security services are now firmly back on top. They serve in the half dozen or so successor agencies, to the old Soviet secret police, that are now responsible for domestic security and foreign intelligence—none of which is subject to Western-style parliamentary oversight. *Newsweek* 2-12-03

In September, Putin named Army General Anatoly Kvashnin, chief of staff of Russia's armed forces, as overlord of all Russian intelligence services.

For the first time since the tsars sat on the throne, one man headed Russia's armed forces and its sprawling intelligence-security empire, making Kvashnin Russia's strongest man after Putin. *Debka* 4-11-03

### **The December elections—good for Putin**

In the December elections the main party—United Russia—won a landslide victory, after the state controlled media boosted its standing and tried to denigrate its rivals.

By law, Russia's president is not supposed to campaign for any political party; Mr Putin got around that by trumpeting the virtues of a "united Russia." *Economist* 8-12-03

It now controls 300 seats of the 450-member parliament. The Communist Party (KPRF) is the only main opposition party and has only 52 seats. *Russian Journal* 30-12-03

Putin himself faces re-election in March 2004. Although not directly tied to any one party, he looks assured of victory. Under Russian law he can only stand for two terms—he is currently in his first term. There is speculation that he will push through legislation to remove that restriction.

### **Tapping her energy wealth**

Russia moved up into the No. 1 oil producer slot at the start of the year as figures showed that her output for the last quarter of 2002 exceeded that of Saudi Arabia—7.97m barrels of oil a day compared with 7.86m (*Daily Telegraph* 10-1-03). With oil prices climbing this has greatly increased her revenue. A *Stratfor* report (3-7-03) indicated that in the longer term Saudi is not expected to raise her production levels whereas Russia is.

There is every reason to expect Russian exports to pass the Saudi mark. Russian companies are investing heavily in upgrading their oil infrastructure; old refineries that had fallen into disuse have been reactivated; new pumping stations have been built to raise the fluid pressures in major export pipes by up to 300,000 bpd. Pumping and shipping facilities at the terminal of Primorsk on the Baltic Sea also are being upgraded.

The Russian oil complex, described during the 1990s as ailing and dilapidated, has largely been turned around. Moscow and the country's oil firms, however, see their recent progress as inadequate. A national

project is under way to boost exports considerably over the long term. Transneft plans to expand the capacity of its Primorsk export pipe to as much as 1.24 million bpd by 2005. By that time, major pipelines to Asian markets will be under construction.

In our next chapter we will see the importance of Russia's energy supplies to the coming together of East and Western Europe.

### **Greater Russia—the movement back**

With the fall of the Soviet in the early 90's, the mighty Soviet empire broke up into many pieces with each country assuming independence, but with a degree of working together. Russia and eleven other countries formed the CIS—the Commonwealth of Independent States. Over the years, many of the smaller states have struggled to retain their independence. In recent months there have been talks between Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine to come together, in a similar way to the EU. The *Russian Journal* 28-8-03 outlined the plan under the heading: -

#### ***Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan & Ukraine to create single customs zone***

The Russian government has approved a draft agreement on the creation of the single economic space linking Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine. Preliminary discussions on the agreement were held with Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine.

According to the draft agreement, the customs territories of the countries-members [sic] of the single economic space will be united. The regulation of the four countries' economies is based on single principles, ensuring free movement of goods, services, capital and workforce. In addition, the single foreign trade, tax, monetary and credit and currency and financial policy will be pursued.



The single economic space will be created in several stages. In particular, the four countries will ensure free trade regime without exceptions and restrictions; protective and antidumping measures will be cancelled, and a single policy will be pursued in the sphere of tariff and non-tariff regulation, single competition rules, and the allocation of subsidies and other forms of state support. Legislation on cross-border transfer of goods will be unified to the extent necessary for the functioning of the single economic space.

The treaty was signed at a summit of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) leaders in Yalta on 19<sup>th</sup> Sept 2003. The phrase *economic space* is one that occurs frequently in the discussion between the EU and Russia,

which we will consider in chapter 8. It conveys, as far as I can ascertain, the concept of a sphere of influence working in peace and harmony.

There have been talks between Russia and Belarus to harmonise defence laws. Belarus is keen to integrate its army and air force into Russia's—sharing a common defence force. *Russian Journal* 22-10-03.

These are important steps in the rebuilding of Gog's empire. The Dragon power was broken up, it is now being turned back, or restored. *Ezek. 38:4*. This westward expansion of Russia is meeting up with the eastward expansion of the EU, as we shall see in chapter 8!

### **The Bear and the Lion—Putin's visit to Britain**

The state visit of Putin to Britain in June came at an awkward time. Visits are planned at least two years ahead, and the situation of Britain finding herself on the wrong side of Russia in the Iraq war had not been foreseen. Moreover, documents recovered in Baghdad in April showed that Russian intelligence forces had supplied many helpful intelligence details to Saddam, including private conversations between Tony Blair and other Western leaders!

However, this historic visit, the first since 1874 when Queen Victoria entertained Tsar Alexander II, was seen as a success. Anglo-Russian relations stretch back 450 years. *The Times* editorial for 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2003 carried this significant heading—**THE BEAR AND THE LION**. It spoke of the links between the two countries:

Both men will be happier discussing business. Britain is now the largest foreign investor in Russia—an extraordinary fact, given Germany's far closer and longer history of investment, but one explained largely by the huge involvement of Shell and BP in Russia's energy industry. This is crucially important. For all its attempts to rebuild heavy industry, Russia is still almost unhealthily dependent on commodity exports, especially energy, as the guarantor of prosperity, and will be for years. Britain suddenly finds that it has the biggest stake of all in Russia's future, giving this country an interest in related issues such as Moscow's membership of the World Trade Organisation.

One of the things they agreed to work on was the building of a \$5.7 billion pipeline to bring Russian gas to Britain. It is planned to run from close to St Petersburg, under the Baltic to Germany, across land to the North Sea and emerging at Bacton in Norfolk. The chances of it being built remain doubtful according to the chairman of Shell.

*Before looking at how Eastern Europe (the Dragon) and Western Europe (the Beast) are joining together (chapter 8), we need to see the influencing role of the Vatican (the False Prophet) in these things. We will then be able to see how the King of the North power is developing in these last days.*

## Chapter 7:

# THE PAPACY EXERTING HER INFLUENCE

*In chapter 5 we looked at the long and secret planning involved in the setting up of the EU that we see today. The book mentioned in chapter 5—The Great Deception—The **Secret** History of the EU makes fascinating reading. Yet its authors fail to see in this secret plotting, directed mainly by the French, a deeper, much more hidden hand—that of the Papacy! This is what we explore in this chapter. We have considered the development of the Beast in ch 5, the Dragon in ch 6 and now in ch 7 the False Prophet.*

## The hidden hand

Writers like Adrian Hilton in *The Principality and Power of Europe*<sup>1</sup> expose the hidden hand of Rome. In the weekly *Spectator* magazine (30-08-03) he contributed an article entitled **Render unto the Pope ... the EU is a means of undoing the Reformation and extending Vatican sovereignty over Britain**<sup>2</sup>. This is a much-abridged version of the article.

The Roman Church is founded on a political dogma claiming that the Pope is ‘supreme ruler of the world’; superior to all kings, prime ministers and presidents. These spiritual and temporal claims remain very much fundamental dogmas of Catholic teaching, permitting the Pope, through Cardinal Ratzinger, the Prefect for the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, to issue clear directives to Catholic politicians on how they should vote. Since their obedience is considered a ‘moral duty’, devolve everything to the overwhelmingly Catholic European Council of Ministers, Commission and Parliament, and the ultimate Caesar is the Pope.

The Catholic Church is achieving this through its political wings—the Christian Democrat and Christian Socialist parties—with the EU’s ‘Founding Fathers’ now reaping the ultimate reward: sainthood. The Pope has beatified Alcide De Gasperi, Robert Schuman and Konrad Adenauer for founding the Union ‘on Roman Catholic principles’. A supporter of their canonisation said it shows that Europe ‘was built upon a rock’, adding, ‘I think that the European Union is a design not only of human beings but of God.’ The very act of bestowing sainthoods on politicians is purposely designed to inculcate that European unification is God’s will, and that those who lead it govern by divine right.

During the 1975 referendum campaign, Shirley Williams [a Roman Catholic MP] unambiguously associated the vision of Europe with

---

<sup>1</sup> Dorchester House Publications. Revised 2<sup>nd</sup> edn. 2000

<sup>2</sup> At the time of writing the full article was still downloadable at [http://www.themedianews.com/DAGGER/Head\\_Lines/pope\\_uk\\_.htm](http://www.themedianews.com/DAGGER/Head_Lines/pope_uk_.htm)

Rome's goal of assuming political and religious authority over the lives of all Europeans. She observed, 'We will be joined to Europe, in which the Catholic religion will be the dominant faith and in which the application of the Catholic Social Doctrine will be a major factor in everyday political and economic life.'

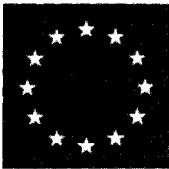
The Roman principle of divide and rule is resurrected in the 'Europe of Regions' strategy, which encourages each 'region' of Europe to look directly to Brussels for policy and funding, bypassing national parliaments in the process. This is a recreation of a mediaeval Europe of small, ineffectual states which can be easily dominated. The ecumenically minded Church of England has been complicit in the fracturing of England, with its bishops chairing regional conventions.

There is much debate about whether the EU is a democracy, a theocracy, an oligarchy or a collective dictatorship, but at root it is none of these. It is an amphictyony—a confederation of states established around a religious centre.

In a letter from a reader living in Rome came this warning: -

In nations where it has the majority, the Roman Catholic Church is not as meek and unassuming as it is in Britain: it plays a prominent and assertive role in everyday politics. *Daily Telegraph*. 29-12-03

One sees hidden signs of the papacy in EU symbols such as the flag—hidden at least here, probably not in Catholic countries where such symbols are understood. The 12 stars are the symbol of Mary to whom the European project is dedicated, as we shall see shortly. This is why the number of stars does not alter—it is not like the American flag where each star represents a state. There are religious undertones in such symbols as the design of the newly opened Parliamentary Building in Strasbourg in France. It is modelled on Pieter Bruegel's famous painting of the Tower of Babel.



Bruegel was born in Strasbourg.<sup>1</sup> Outside the building is a sculpture of Europa riding a bull. Inside the building, the dome displays a colossal painting of the same theme. The symbol of the woman riding the beast, as described in Revelation 17, is seen in many guises on stamps, coins, and sculptures. It has its roots in Greek mythology—Europa, the daughter of



the King of Tyre, carried away by Zeus (the bull) to Crete. Europa was the mother of three sons, one of whom was Minos the founder of the Minoan civilisation. She gives her name to her new homeland—Europe. The Lord Jesus in

conveying history to John on Patmos uses a symbol that would have been understood at the time. There are strong links back to Babylon, both with Europa and the bull.<sup>2</sup>

### **Papal ambitions—“Europe breathing with two lungs”**

The Pope has been invited to speak to the European Parliament. He has not taken up the offer yet; doubtless he is waiting for Europe to “acknowledge its Christian roots”. Fifteen years ago he did address them, urging the politicians to play their role in uniting Europe. Addressing them in French—this is a rather stilted translation: -

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 clearly is a picture of the *False Prophet* working to mould the European *Beast* to his desires. The *False Prophet* has been equally active to change the *Dragon*. The current Pope played an important role in the overthrow of communism. He worked through Poland and the Solidarity movement to break communist rule there. He also worked with Mikhail

<sup>1</sup> See *The European Babylon*, Paul Billington, *Bible Magazine* Vol. 15#4.

<sup>2</sup> See *Symbol of Europe*, John Ramsden; and *Europa rides the Babylonian Bull*, Paul Billington. *The Bible Magazine* Vol. 16#4.

Gorbachev to bring down communism in Russia. We give two extracts from *Time* quoted in *Milestones 1992 and 1994* that relate to Poland.

Only President Ronald Reagan and Pope Paul II were present in the Vatican Library on Monday, June 7, 1982. It was the first time the two had met, and they talked for 50 minutes... They remained focused on a subject much closer to their heart: Poland and the Soviet dominance of Eastern Europe. In that meeting, Reagan and the Pope agreed to undertake a clandestine campaign to hasten the dissolution of the communist empire. Declares Richard Allen, Reagan's first National Security Adviser: "This was one of the great secret alliances of all time".

Both the Pope and the President were convinced that Poland could be broken out of the Soviet orbit if the Vatican and the U.S. committed their resources to destabilizing the Polish government and keeping the outlawed Solidarity movement alive after the declaration of martial law in 1981. Until Solidarity's legal status was restored in 1989 it flourished underground, supplied, nurtured and advised largely by the network established under the auspices of Reagan and John Paul II. Tons of equipment—fax machines (the first in Poland), printing presses, transmitters, telephones, shortwave radios, video cameras, photocopiers, telex machines, computers, word processors—were smuggled into Poland via channels established by priests and American agents...

Lech Walesa and other leaders of Solidarity received strategic advice—often conveyed by priests or American and European labour experts working undercover in Poland—that reflected the thinking of the Vatican and the Reagan Administration. As the effectiveness of the resistance grew, the stream of information to the West about the internal decisions of the Polish government and the contents of Warsaw's communications with Moscow became a flood. The details came not only from priests but also from spies within the Polish government...

Reagan and John Paul II refused to accept a fundamental political fad of their lifetimes: the division of Europe as mandated at Yalta and the communist dominance of Eastern Europe. A free, non-communist Poland, they were convinced, would be a dagger to the heart of the Soviet empire: and if Poland became democratic, other East European states would follow.

And so the two leaders cooperated in their long struggle to overthrow communism. The American administration team looking after these matters were all devout Catholics—CIA chief William Casey, National Security Advisor Richard Allen, National Security Advisor William Clark, Secretary of State Alexander Haig, and the Vatican Ambassador, William Wilson. What a team!

They regarded the U.S.-Vatican relationship as a holy alliance: the moral force of the Pope and the teachings of the church combined with fierce anticommunism and their notion of American democracy.

The Vatican network of priests provided an efficient channel to distribute goods supplied by America and to glean intelligence information.

“The Vatican’s information was absolutely better and quicker than ours in every respect,” says Haig. “Though we had some excellent sources of our own, our information was taking too long to filter through the intelligence bureaucracy.”

On military questions the American intelligence was better than the Vatican’s, but the church excelled in its evaluations of the political situation. And in understanding the mood of the people and communicating with the Solidarity leadership, the church was in an incomparable position. “Our information about Poland was very well founded because the bishops were in continual contact with the Holy See and Solidarity,” explains Cardinal Silvestrini, the Vatican’s deputy Secretary of State at the time. *Time* 24-2-92.

In the past, John Paul has not hesitated to involve himself in Polish politics. His friend Tadeusz Mazowiecki, a Solidarity intellectual who was Poland’s first post communist Prime Minister, this month told *Time* something that church officials in the past frequently denied. After the communist regime imposed martial law in 1981, the Pope wrote letters of counsel to solidarity activists interned by the communists; priests and bishops served as couriers because they were not subject to body searches. Said Mazowiecki: “Their robes carried more mail than many workers in our postal service.” *Time* 26-12-94.

### Urging the faithful to join up

The Pope visited Poland in 2002. In May 2003 he “canonised” four Polish “saints”. The Polish President, President Kwasniewski came to Rome with many thousand Polish pilgrims and delivered a lengthy message of homage to the Pope, who replied at length—all in Polish—to the delight of a substantial portion of the crowd. *Catholic World News* reported: -

Pope John Paul said that he has never ceased to pray for his native country. He also insisted that Poland must take an active part in the development of the new European Union. “I know that there are many people who oppose” Polish entry into the European community, he said. “I appreciate their concern about maintaining the cultural and religious identity of our nation.” But he argued that Poland could be a strong force in preserving the Christian heritage of Europe as a whole. “Europe needs Poland,” he said, just as “Poland needs Europe.” 19-5-03.

The big influx of much more active Roman Catholics from these eastern countries is bound to increase the influence of the Church on European affairs. Was this why Poland refused to accept a Constitution that hadn’t been amended to “acknowledge its Christian roots”?

## 25 years as Pope

The 16<sup>th</sup> October marked the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of John Paul II's reign. He had made 102 trips outside Italy, visiting about 130 countries; beatified 1,319 people (more than his predecessors combined over the past 400 years) and made 201 cardinals. He is regarded highly around the world, and is credited with turning around the Church's standing, in spite of the avalanche of scandals that have rocked the Church.

There is much speculation over the successor of this increasingly frail man, battling with debilitating effects of Parkinson's disease.

## Papal trip No. 100—what a choice!

In early June he visited Croatia—his 100<sup>th</sup> overseas trip. If this was supposed to be a significant choice of country to mark this milestone in papal trips, then it bodes ill for Europe when the papal grip grows stronger. Last year we looked at the terrible past persecution of non-Catholics in Slovakia during WWII. The events in Croatia were even more murderous. Chapter 1 of the 4<sup>th</sup> section of Edmond Paris' book *The Vatican against Europe* makes chilling, sickening, reading. Ironically the theme of this trip was "The Family: the Way of the Church and of the People"! We quote from Paris' book.

"The Vatican was then to unmask itself as it had never dared to before. It is true that all this happened in 1941, when it was feeling certain of victory. Not only was the extermination of the Orthodox Christians and the Jews organized as an institution of the Croatian State, under the approving eye of the many members of Catholic clergy who sat in the Ustashi Parliament, but from their pulpits priests encouraged and gave their blessing to the murderers. There were monks, Franciscans and Jesuits, who led these assassins and exhorted them to murder, brandishing the cross in one hand and the "mauser" or cut-throat's knife in the other.

The Inquisition, as we shall soon see, was a feeble instrument compared with the horrors that were now to be perpetrated by the adherents of the Roman Catholic Church. *Page 197, 198*

Let us recall the words of a British journalist, J. Voigt, who wrote in 1943: "Croatia's policy consisted in massacre, deportation or conversion. Hundreds of thousands were massacred. The massacres were accompanied by the most bestial tortures. The Ustashtis gouged out their victims' eyes, which they wore as garlands or carried in bags, to be given away as mementos." *Page 211*

The Roman Catholic Archbishop, Mgr. Stepinac, a member of the Ustashi Parliament, who worked hand-in-hand with Ante Pavelitch the Croatian leader, was condemned to 16 years' hard labour for his crimes at his trial in 1946. During his imprisonment he was elevated to a Cardinal by Pius XII, and in the Pope's visit to Croatia in 1998 he was beatified—the first step to

“sainthood”! Pavelitch escaped justice. Disguised as a priest he was smuggled to Rome, before being sent on a false passport to Argentina.

There was a one-day trip to Bosnia and Herzegovina later in June. Neither Bosnia nor Croatia is yet the EU, but in June this year the EU made the necessary agreements to set them on that pathway. His 102<sup>nd</sup> overseas trip was to Slovakia (he also visited them in 2002)—one of the new applicants to the EU, who had already heeded last year’s exhortations and had voted to join before the September visit.

### **Mary—Queen of Europe**

Mary is respected not only by Roman Catholics, Greek and Russian Orthodox believers, but also by Muslims—who now make up a significant proportion of Europe’s inhabitants.

In some respects, Muslim beliefs about Mary—the most honoured woman in Islam, and the only one to have an entire chapter named after her in the Koran—seem to be quite close to those of the Roman Catholics. The Islamic tradition holds that Jesus and his mother are the only two human souls who were not touched by Satan at birth.

In other respects, the Muslim understanding of Mary seems close to that of the eastern Christians. Both cherish the story of Mary’s childhood in a place of supreme holiness that had hitherto been a bastion of male priests. Both name Mary’s guardian as the priest Zechariah or Zakariya. In Islam the story is told of Zakariya bringing food to the child Mary and finding that she had already been given nourishment by God; this is cited as a sign of her extreme receptivity to God. In Orthodox Christianity it is stressed that Mary was born an ordinary human, burdened like others with the capacity to sin. *Economist* 18-12-03

To Mary the present Pope has entrusted the salvation of Europe. A large stained glass window in Strasbourg Cathedral is dedicated to her. It depicts “The Virgin Mary with her 12 stars and standing on the globe as Queen of the universe—as described in the Apocalypse”. At its unveiling the Council of Europe met here and prayers were offered to “Our Lady—Queen of Europe”. One can obtain a Gibraltar 20p coin with the inscription “Our Lady of Europa”. We have considered in the past the titles bestowed upon this “fictitious” Mary—a world away from the Biblical Mary.

### ***Ecclesia in Europa***

In July, the Pope published *Ecclesia in Europa* directed at involving the church in Europe. We quote a few sections from the final chapter.

[Emphasis is in the original document<sup>1</sup>.]

---

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/john\\_paul\\_ii/apost\\_exhortations/documents/hf\\_jp-ii\\_exh\\_20030628\\_ecclesia-in-europa\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/apost_exhortations/documents/hf_jp-ii_exh_20030628_ecclesia-in-europa_en.html) Warning! 68 pages long!

One and universal, yet present in the multiplicity of the Particular Churches, the Catholic Church can offer a unique contribution to the building up of a Europe open to the world. The Catholic Church in fact provides a model of essential unity in a diversity of cultural expressions, a consciousness of membership in a universal community which is rooted in but not confined to local communities, and a sense of what unites beyond all that divides.

For her part, *in keeping with a healthy cooperation between the ecclesial community and political society, the Catholic Church is convinced that she can make a unique contribution* to the prospect of unification by offering the European institutions, in continuity with her tradition and in fidelity to the principles of her social teaching, the engagement of believing communities committed to bringing about the humanization of society on the basis of the Gospel, lived under the sign of hope. From this standpoint, the *presence of Christians*, properly trained and competent, is needed in the various European agencies and institutions, in order to contribute—with respect for the correct dynamics of democracy and through an exchange of proposals—to the shaping of a European social order which is increasingly respectful of every man and woman, and thus in accordance with the common good.

We quote a few sections from the final section **Entrustment to Mary**: -

“Mary, present in the Church as the Mother of the Redeemer, takes part, as a mother, in that ‘monumental struggle against the powers of darkness,’ which continues throughout human history. And by her ecclesial identification as the ‘woman clothed with the sun’ (Rev. 12:1), it can be said that ‘in the Most Holy Virgin the Church has already reached the perfection whereby she exists without spot or wrinkle’ ”.

The whole Church, then, *looks to Mary*. Thanks to the countless Marian shrines dotting the nations of the continent, devotion to Mary is very strong and widespread among the peoples of Europe.

*Church in Europe! Continue to contemplate Mary*, in the knowledge that she is “maternally present and sharing in the many complicated problems which today beset the lives of individuals, families, and nations” and is “helping the Christian people in the constant struggle between good and evil, to ensure that it ‘does not fall’, or, if it has fallen, that it ‘rises again’ ”

### ***Prayer to Mary, Mother of Hope***

In this contemplation, inspired by genuine love, Mary appears to us as a figure of the Church which, nourished by hope, acknowledges the saving and merciful action of God, in whose light she reads her own journey and all of history. Today too Mary helps us to interpret all that happens to us in the light of Jesus her Son. As a new creation moulded by the Holy Spirit, *Mary causes the virtue of hope to grow within us*.

*To her, Mother of hope and consolation, we confidently lift up our prayer: to her we entrust the future of the Church in Europe and the future of all the women and men of this continent:*

Mary, Mother of hope, *accompany us on our journey!* ...Dawn of a new world, show yourself the Mother of hope and *watch over us!* Watch over the Church in Europe...Queen of Peace, *Protect the men and women of the third millennium!* Watch over all Christians: may they advance confidently on the path of unity, as a leaven of harmony for the continent. ...Watch over the leaders of nations: may they be committed to building a common house which respects the dignity and rights of every person. Mary, *give us Jesus!* Grant that we may follow him and love him! He is the hope of the Church, of Europe and of all humanity!

### ***Dominus Iesus***

We should be aware that when the Pope calls for Europe to be “christian” we should read “Roman Catholic”. An earlier decree—*Dominus Iesus*<sup>1</sup>—published in 2000 made this clear. It declares:

the inseparability — while recognizing the distinction — of the kingdom of God, the kingdom of Christ, and the Church, and the subsistence of the one Church of Christ in the Catholic Church.

It condemns:

the tendency to read and to interpret Sacred Scripture outside the Tradition and Magisterium [authority] of the Church.

Therefore, there exists a single Church of Christ, which subsists in the Catholic Church, governed by the Successor of Peter and by the Bishops in communion with him.

For those not in full communion with Rome—i.e. Orthodox Churches: -

The Churches which, while not existing in perfect communion with the Catholic Church, remain united to her by means of the closest bonds, that is, by apostolic succession and a valid Eucharist, are true particular Churches. Therefore, the Church of Christ is present and operative also in these Churches, even though they lack full communion with the Catholic Church, since they do not accept the Catholic doctrine of the Primacy, which, according to the will of God, the Bishop of Rome objectively has and exercises over the entire Church.

As for the rest! : -

---

1

[http://www.vatican.va/roman\\_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc\\_con\\_cfaith\\_doc\\_20000806\\_dominus-iesus\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_20000806_dominus-iesus_en.html) 22 pages!

On the other hand, the ecclesial communities which have not preserved the valid Episcopate and the genuine and integral substance of the Eucharistic mystery, are not Churches in the proper sense...“The Christian faithful are therefore not permitted to imagine that the Church of Christ is nothing more than a collection—divided, yet in some way one—of Churches and ecclesial communities”.

In the same document, footnote 51 refers to a decree that states,

“We declare, say, define, and proclaim to every human creature that they by necessity for salvation are entirely subject to the Roman Pontiff.”

### **Europe’s founding fathers on fast track to “sainthood”**

As part of the Pope’s aim to increase the awareness of the Roman Church’s drive towards a united Europe, the Pope has put the founding fathers of the EU, Alcide De Gasperi, Robert Schuman and Konrad Adenauer on the fast track to “sainthood”. Adrian Hilton’s quotation at the start of the chapter gives greater details.

In addition, in December the Pope announced that Karl I (or Charles I), the last Hapsburg Emperor of Austria-Hungary, is scheduled for beatification, the first step on the road to being made a saint.

### **A word to politicians**

In November 2002 the “Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith” published a “Doctrinal Note on some questions regarding the participation of Catholics in political life”. This was detailed in the *L'Osservatore Romano* 25-06-03. They had to work for the “common good” of the people. This must be directed by the “Magisterium” [teaching] of the Church.

On the essential values of faith, no Catholic legislator can think of acting with a rigid pattern of party membership as though this was superior to his membership in the Church.

### **“Vatican wanted control of Jerusalem”**

*The Times* 1-1-04 detailed just-released Irish archive material: -

Italy and Spain sought Ireland’s support in the late 1940s to put the city of Jerusalem under Roman Catholic control within the young Jewish state of Israel, according to classified Irish government documents published today.

*We have contemplated the behind-the-scenes-power of the Vatican in bringing Europe together. In our next chapter we will see the steps being taken that will unite Europe, so that once again we can have a King of the North power. Militarily it will be rooted in Russia, but spiritually in Rome.*

## Chapter 8:

# "EVER CLOSER PARTNERS IN A WIDER EUROPE"

*In earlier chapters we saw how Western Europe—the EU—is expanding absorbing her eastern neighbours. We then saw that Russia too had embarked on a path of expansion, seeking a partnership with her western neighbours. Then we saw how, behind the scenes, the hand of Papacy encouraged and made such movements possible. First in the downfall of communism, opening the path to democratic change, and then in her desire to see Europe built up again.*

*In this chapter we will look at the parallel movement to bring the two blocks together, to unite both Eastern and Western Europe together, that it might breathe with "its two lungs", in the Pope's words—or in the scriptural symbology, attaching the two legs to its body!*

*The process has been given added urgency by America's actions in the Gulf. France, Germany and Russia are keen to act as a counter-force to an America superpower.*

## Russia and the Creation of 'Greater Europe'

This heading appeared in *Stratfor* 8-5-03.

Russia and Europe appear to be joining forces to counter the United States' increasing global presence by trying to create "Greater Europe" that would consist of the European Union and Commonwealth of Independent States. Russia has changed the vector of the post-Soviet region's integration process from pro-Moscow to pro-Europe. And having Russia as its most important ally, Europe likely will encourage post-Soviet states to unite and join the group—in an attempt to create the world's new power center.

## The EU and Russia: Ever Closer Partners in a Wider Europe

This strategy was reinforced by a 36-page article with this heading, on the EU-RU website, put out in May 2003, to mark the 11<sup>th</sup> EU-Russia Summit. Normally these summits alternate between Moscow and an EU city, but this one was moved to St Petersburg as part of its 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. The phrase "wider Europe" is the new buzzword. It expresses the same hopes as those set out by the Pope when he addressed the European Parliament in Strasbourg back in 1988. His vision was a Europe breathing with her two lungs. The opening section outlines their plans.

### The first EU Common Strategy devoted to Russia . . .

Under the terms of the Common Strategy, the European Union intends to work together with Russia to meet the following principal objectives:

Consolidate democracy;

Integrate Russia into a common European economic and social space;

Cooperate to strengthen stability and security in Europe and beyond;

Address common challenges on the European continent (such as energy policies; nuclear safety; environmental protection; fighting against organised crime, trafficking in drugs and human beings, and money laundering).

**...complemented by Russia's Strategy towards the European Union up to 2010**

In October 1999, Russia demonstrated the key importance of its relationship with the European Union by adopting its own *Strategy towards the European Union*, covering the period until 2010.

The Strategy spells out "*the objectives of development of Russia's relations with the European Union for the next decade and the means to their achievement*" and aims at "***the construction of a united Europe without dividing lines*** [my emphasis] *and the interrelated and balanced strengthening of the positions of Russia and the EU within an international community of the 21st century.*" It attaches particular priority to developing the strategic character of EU-Russia relations, strengthening political dialogue and increasing bilateral trade and investment.

The 12<sup>th</sup> EU-Russia Summit meeting was held in Rome in November. The joint statement put out by the EU president for the period, Mr Berlusconi, together with Mr Prodi and Mr Putin, was a remarkable document. The things that we had talked about over such a long period were becoming realities! This is a greatly condensed version.

We, the leaders of the European Union and the Russian Federation, held intensive and productive discussions in Rome on 6 November 2003. We agreed to reinforce the strategic partnership between the EU and Russia, on the basis of common values, with the aim of consolidating stability, security and prosperity on the European continent. We reaffirmed our shared vision of a united European continent.

**Integrating Europe—creating common spaces**

We reconfirmed our commitment to promote further rapprochement and gradual integration of social and economic structures of the enlarged European Union and Russia. In this regard, we agreed to intensify and focus our efforts to fulfil the decision to create common spaces between the EU and Russia, building on the PCA [Partnership and Cooperation Agreement] and the Joint Statement of the St. Petersburg Summit. In so doing, we expressed strong determination to produce concrete results.

We agreed to step up our efforts aimed at streamlining our political dialogue and launching the work of the EU-Russia Permanent Partnership Council, which will make our co-operation more efficient and transparent.

### **The common European economic space—building blocks for sustained economic growth**

We undertook to ensure that EU enlargement brings the EU and Russia closer together in a Europe without dividing lines. We reaffirmed our commitment to implement as soon as possible and in full the package on Kaliningrad agreed in November 2002, including the launch of a high-speed train feasibility study before the end of 2003 and its timely completion. We welcomed the entry into force of the Russian-Lithuanian Border Agreements. We noted with satisfaction the success of our co-operation to facilitate the transit of Russian citizens. We welcomed positive developments in the field of customs co-operation. We confirmed our readiness to intensify our result-oriented work within the PCA framework on the appropriate modalities for the transit of goods.

We took note of the annexed fourth Progress Report on the Energy Dialogue (Annex III). We welcomed progress in the field of energy and agreed to enhance our co-operation in this area.

### **Towards the common space of freedom, security and justice**

We agreed to take forward work to create a common space of freedom, security and justice.

The opening section concluded with a quotation from Mr Prodi:

Instead of trying to establish new dividing lines, deeper integration between the EU and the ring of friends will accelerate our mutual political, economic and cultural dynamism.

The press pack details indicated that the use of the euro had considerably increased in Russia, and the Russian Central bank had increased the volume of its foreign currency held in euros to 20% by the end of 2002. There have been several recent articles about Russia adopting the euro for oil payments instead of the US dollar. This would not only bring pricing stability for Europe, it would bring a welcome boost to the standing of the euro. However, the free-fall in the value of the \$ to the € has decreased the cost of dollar-based energy considerably!

### **Energy—ties that bind**

Russia has an abundant supply of oil and gas, but lacks the capital to maximise its extraction. Many of the new sites are in the wastes of Siberia, and the fuel must be transported over vast distances. Europe has a desperate need for energy supplies. In Germany, due to pressure from the Green Party, many existing coal and nuclear stations are being phased out.

The demand is for natural gas, which is clean and easily transported by underground pipelines. The EU is a particularly poor area for natural energy resources; Britain is an exception with the North Sea oil and gas reserves, though these have now passed their peak production. The energy partnership between Russia and the EU is the "perfect" solution! It avoids dependence upon the volatile Middle East region, does not need to be transported in ships, and provides a solution to the needs of both parties. The EU is cash rich but energy poor and is keen to invest in the necessary infrastructure to bring energy to their doorsteps.

It also has the effect of binding the two areas. One is not likely to fall out with the country that has the hand on your energy supply taps! Neither are you going to fall out with your biggest customer! Most of the new EU members are good customers of Russia. After May her trade with them will be counted as EU trade. From a figure of 35% of Russia's exports being to the EU, that will suddenly jump to 50%! The Russia Information agency, *Novosti*, 17-10-03, explained under the headline: **Russian-EU Energy Dialogue To Aim At Creating United Europe:**

The energy dialogue between Russia and the European Union aims at creating a united Europe, director general of the European Commission for energy and transport Francois Lamoureux said, when speaking at the conference on Russian and EU energy strategies.

The Russian-EU energy dialogue had already achieved certain results, he pointed out. Among them he named European companies' investments in Russia. Now Russia and the EU intend to work out mechanisms to provide "certain guarantees to European investors," Lamoureux added. Russian companies in their turn will be able to enter the European market in a few years "with equal rights of access," he said.

Yet another important direction of energy cooperation is long-term contracts for gas deliveries, Lamoureux believes. By now "the parties have clearly defined the scale and the contents of these contracts," he said.

Yet another important direction of the energy dialogue is "defining common projects in the infrastructure," according to the EU representative. He was referring to the network project Transbaltika, which "in the future will become a priority for Russia and the EU." Apart from this, Lamoureux pointed to the need to ensure security of sea transportation. Europe "is deeply anxious about the problem," as 90 per cent of European energy carriers are imported by sea, he explained.

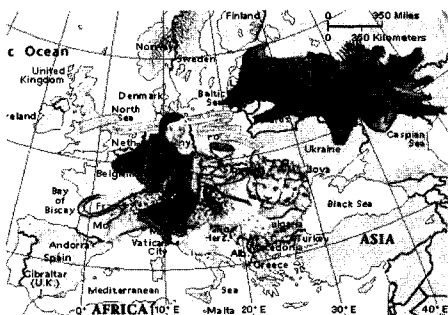
"In the future Russia and the EU should create an integrated energy community that will be able to meet the demand of all consumers at affordable prices," he said.

## Europe regrouping



When one plots Russia's westward expansion and the EU's eastward, one finds that they are meeting! The map shows the planned dates when the EU will enlarge, together with the countries in bold that are coming together with Russia. The two other lines show roughly where the

border between Russia and Europe ran in the past. Do we not see in these events the shaping of the two-legs of Nebuchadnezzar's image? Or in Apocalyptic terms—are we not witnessing steady progress in the development of the latter-day Beast and the Dragon?



## Anti-American hegemony

Energy is one pillar that binds Europe, anti-Americanism is another. The Soviet was a super-power rival to America. Russia was the first to put a man into space, her navy sailed the seas, and her missiles were able to reach across to America. That power has gone, but the Russian people still long for "the good old days" when they had power and influence. The fact that America can act without even consulting her hurts the Russian pride.

France and Germany have different reasons for resenting America. Germany tried to become a world power but was stopped by Britain with eventual American assistance. France has long despised American culture—or lack of it! France once had an empire, but that has long gone.

The Vatican too has long held aspirations for power. She backed Germany in two World Wars, but found she was backing the wrong side. As it was apparent that Hitler was not going to win, the Vatican moved a vast amount of its wealth to America, to be invested in stocks and shares and real estate. The most powerful "company" in the States is not General Motors or Ford, but the Roman Catholic Church! Vast wealth pours back to Rome from America. (See *The Vatican Billions* by Avro Manhattan). Yet America is a troublesome thorn, with multiple lawsuits against her priests for abuse of children, costing potentially billions. The Vatican's heart is in Europe,

where she has vast investments, built up over centuries. Her avowed aim was to overthrow communism—this was the great evil in her eyes. That has been successfully done, and although she still has not regained the power lost in the great schism of 1000 years ago, she is willing to work on it. From Scripture we know she will succeed. We will see evidence of her working with Russia and Europe against America in chapter 10.

### Anti-Semitism

Another pillar that links the *Beast* and the *Dragon* and the *False Prophet* is anti-Semitism. It is rooted in the history of Roman Catholic and Orthodox Churches to regard Jews as not fit to live because they put Jesus to death. Yes we know they did and are being punished for it. His blood has indeed been on them and their children. But 1<sup>st</sup> century believers tried to bring them to repentance, not to torture and slay them. David Kertzer in his book, *Unholy War—the Vatican's Role in the Rise of Modern Anti-Semitism*, traces over the past 200 years the "determination of successive popes to spread and justify the enduring hatred and persecution of the Jews". Daniel Goldhagen in his *Hitler's Willing Executioners* traces it back to the 4<sup>th</sup> century "church father" Chrysostom.

These views of Jews, fundamental to Christian theology and teaching until the modern era, were already highly articulated in the fourth century, when the Church established its suzerainty over the Roman world. John Chrysostom, a pivotal Church Father whose theology and teachings had lasting import, preached about Jews in terms that would become the stock-in-trade of Christian anti-Jewish teachings and rhetoric, which would condemn the Jews to live in a Christian Europe that despised and feared them: "Where Christ-killers gather, the cross is ridiculed, God blasphemed, the father unacknowledged, the son insulted, the grace of the Spirit rejected...If the Jewish rites are holy and venerable, our way of life must be false. But if our way is true, as indeed it is, theirs is fraudulent. I am not speaking of the Scriptures. Far from it! For they lead one to Christ. I am speaking of their present impiety and madness." John's diatribe expresses the just-discussed antagonisms towards Jews that were embedded in the theological and psychological fabric of Christianity. In this passage, he asserts unequivocally the essential, inexorable opposition between Christian and Jewish doctrine, and between Christians and Jews: "If the Jewish rites are holy and venerable, our way of life must be false." The unease and distemper that a Christian would have caused himself upon considering the possibility that the Jews might be right, radiate from this assertion of John's, from its either/or logic. The psychological need to deprecate the Jews is immanent in this passage, in his and the Church's view of the relationship of Christianity to Judaism. *Page 50,51*

Anti-Semitism is certainly on the increase in Europe and Russia. Graves are desecrated, two Turkish synagogues were wrecked with bombs, Jews attacked on the streets and verbal jibes in the playground. An endless

stream of anti-Jewish plays is shown on Arab TV's, Jews denounced daily in the Mosques—little has changed from the situation in the 30's. But there is a change—the Jews now have a homeland—Israel. Anti-Jew now is reflected in anti-Israel. Fuelled by what is perceived as the inequality in the struggle between Israeli and Palestinian, all three groups (*Dragon, Beast and False Prophet*) side with the Palestinians. The EU especially continues to pour money in to help the Palestinians, in spite of clear evidence that Israel has seized in her raids on the refugee camps evidence that vast sums disappear into Arafat's pockets—to fund terrorism and to be salted away in secret accounts in Europe! For a while in 2003, the Israeli government refused to co-operate with the BBC because of what Israel saw as blatant one-sidedness in their reporting.

Anti-Jewish feelings are not limited to Israel's Arab neighbours. Increasingly Christians are saying, "we are the inheritors of God's promises, the land belongs to us". It is engrained in Europe as a result of Church teachings on the position of the Jews. This was the headline of an article written by Melanie Phillips in February 2002, published in the *Spectator*.

### **Christians Who Hate The Jews**

It was one of those sickening moments when an illusion is shattered and an ominous reality laid bare. I was among a group of Jews and Christians who met recently to discuss the Churches' increasing public hostility to Israel. The Jews were braced for a difficult encounter. After all, many British Jews (of whom I am one) are themselves appalled by the destruction of Palestinian villages, targeted assassinations and other apparent Israeli overreactions to the Middle East conflict.

But this debate never took place. For the Christians said that the Churches' hostility had nothing to do with Israel's behaviour towards the Palestinians. This was merely an excuse. The real reason for the growing antipathy, according to the Christians at that meeting, was the ancient hatred of Jews rooted deep in Christian theology and now on widespread display once again.

A doctrine going back to the early Church fathers, suppressed after the Holocaust, had been revived under the influence of the Middle East conflict. This doctrine is called replacement theology. In essence, it says that the Jews have been replaced by the Christians in God's favour, and so all God's promises to the Jews, including the land of Israel, have been inherited by Christianity.

...The Jews at the meeting were incredulous and aghast. Surely the Christians were exaggerating. Surely the Churches' dislike of Israel was rooted instead in the settlements, the occupied territories and Prime Minister Ariel Sharon. But the Christians were adamant. The hostility to Israel within the Church is rooted in a dislike of the Jews.

Church newspaper editors say that they are intimidated by the overwhelming hostility to Israel and to the Jews from influential Christian figures, which makes balanced coverage of the Middle East impossible. Clerics and lay people alike are saying openly that Israel should never have been founded at all. One Church source said that what he was hearing was a 'throwback to the visceral anti-Judaism of the Middle Ages'.

Anti-America goes hand in hand with anti-Israel. America's actions in the Middle East do revolve around America's interest in Israel. If government leaders can speak out against American hegemony, it perhaps is not surprising that the people are emboldened to speak out against Israel and the Jews.

We see in this an element of that Frog-like spirit which proceeds out of the present day Europe.

*And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.*

*For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. Rev. 16:13,14*

The link between the frogs and France has been expounded in many places before. (E.g. *Bible Magazine* Vol.11, issue 4). France has been eminent in the persecution not only of Jew but Protestants and true believers.

### **French perfidy**

France has long been considered the greatest son (or daughter) of Rome, putting into effect the wishes of the Papacy.

Rome never scrupled to employ treachery when the sword was unsuccessful; and it may be affirmed that noble people were crushed rather by perfidy than by arms. It was the same in all the countries of Europe.

But the guiltiest land and throne in Europe, in respect to violated oaths, is France... Two years of profound dissimulation and hypocrisy paved the way for that awful tragedy—the greatest of the crimes of Rome—perhaps the most fearful monument of human wickedness which the history of the world contains—The Saint Bartholomew's Day MASSACRE. The chiefs of the Protestant party were invited to Court, caressed, and loaded with honours. The Protestants generally seemed to be taken into special favour, and now shared the same privileges with the Catholics. So bright was the deceitful gleam that heralded the dismal storm. ...In a moment the bolt fell. For three days and nights the work of human slaughter went on, and France became a very shambles. At length the dreadful business had an end. Seventy thousand corpses covered the

soil of France. Paris shouted for joy, and the cannon of St. Angelo, from beyond the Alps, returned that shout.

The last great national act of treachery on the part of France was the revocation of the Edict of Nantes. Never was an edict, law, or treaty, more deliberately made, more solemnly ratified, more irrevocably established, more repeatedly confirmed; nor one where of policy, duty, or gratitude, could have more ensured the execution; yet never was one more scandalously violated. ...When the old chancellor Tellier, the Jesuit, signed the edict of revocation, full of joy at this consummation of the intrigues and labours of his party, he cried out, - "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, for mine eyes have seen thy salvation". The proscriptions, the banishments, the massacres, which followed, and which were second only to the St. Bartholomew horror, are well known to every reader of history. (*Rome and Jerusalem*. G. Pearce. Page 29 —quoted from Wylie. *The Papacy*. Book 2 Ch. 20)

### **Where is this all leading?**

We are witnessing the beginnings of the standing up of Nebuchadnezzar's image upon its two feet, as Russia and Europe bind themselves together. Behind it all is the hand of the Papacy. One thing that unites them is their distrust of Israel and America. It will lead them to take mutual action against Israel. They will join forces to come upon the mountains of Israel. For Russia, it mainly will be to take a spoil and a prey (Ezek. 38). For Western Europe and the Papacy and the Greek and Russian Orthodox Churches, it will be a crusade to save their "holy places" which will be threatened in that day by an emerging Jewish revival under the hand of Elijah. As we shall see in chapter 12, they have large tracts of land and property in Israel. This is the day when Jerusalem becomes a burdensome stone (Zec. 12), and all that burden themselves will fall. In the words of Chrysostom "If the Jewish rites are holy and venerable, our way of life must be false". This is the culmination of the Millennia-old conflict between Babylon/Rome and Zion. Jerusalem will be elevated above the hills, beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, (Zech. 14, Psa. 48); Rome will be consigned to the depths of the earth never again to be seen, nor to deceive the nations (Rev. 18).

*Having extensively traced the growing development of the King of the North, we now, over the next three chapters, look at the parallel development of the King of the South and Israel.*

## Chapter 9:

# THE “ANGLO-AUSTRALIAN-AMERICAN-ALLIANCE”

“...what has to be understood by everyone, British and American, is that along with Australia, Britain has been and will continue to be America’s indispensable ally not because its Prime Minister is weak, but because the British nation remains so strong. Together, the Anglo-Australian-American alliance can guarantee not only the peace of the world, but also liberty and human rights. No three other nations—no 163 other nations—can say the same.”

*These were the words of an American Jew who until very recently was on Mr Bush’s speech-writing team, and had an intimate knowledge of the White House under President Bush. The above is from an article in the Daily Telegraph covering Mr Bush’s visit to London in November. We don’t agree with his statement—only the Prince of Peace can bring peace—and goodwill toward men. But what a remarkable statement! This is the present day situation, spoken of so long ago by Ezekiel under the inspiration of Israel’s God, that there would be nations who opposed the future actions of the Gogian nations. Nations aptly summarised by the phrase Sheba, and Dedan, and the merchants of Tarshish, with all the young lions thereof, or in the words of Daniel, the King of the South.*

## A remarkable alliance now reinforced and refined

In 1991, a vast confederation of nations pooled their resources to work with America to push back Saddam Hussein’s invasion of Kuwait. Led by George W Bush’s father, they succeeded in driving back the invader, but stopped short of eliminating him.

This year the situation was very different. France, Germany, and Russia had been doing their best for Iraq to counter the sanctions that the UN had imposed. Iraq was seen as a legitimate target for lucrative trade. President Chirac classed himself as a friend of Saddam. From intelligence material gathered during and after the fall of Iraq, ample evidence came out as to the secret help the French had given to Saddam and his family. Europe, Russia, and the Vatican were united in their opposition to British and American plans to invade Iraq. Every means was used to frustrate their purpose. Both Mr Bush and Mr Blair were resolute in their determination to act against Iraq. They saw it as the source of much of the money and ammunition that oiled the terrorist networks, especially the Palestinians. Peace in the Middle East was their hope, driven along on Mr Bush’s part by his understanding of Bible prophecies concerning Israel’s restoration and the return of the Lord Jesus. By a remarkable turn of affairs in the hung US ballot of 2000, he found himself the President, although possibly not having received the greatest number of votes!

Mr Blair too, from an early age had been favourably disposed to Israel, even though for a Labour member this was not the party's view. Various teachers and friends influenced his outlook. He was known at university as someone who had a Bible by his bed! With the sudden death of John Smith, he found himself leader of the Labour party, while in opposition. A continuing series of disasters for the Conservative Party, led to him sweeping his Labour Party to an overwhelming victory.

Surely it was not just a co-incidence that we find in Australia a leader well disposed to Israel. John Howard nearly didn't make it to the Prime Ministership. It was on his 3<sup>rd</sup> and avowed last attempt that the party he led was elected to Government. Do we not see angelic hands that caused him to be in New York (to receive an award from the Jews of New York in recognition of his work with Israel), just at the time of September 11<sup>th</sup>? He stood with President Bush and beheld the scene of terrible carnage at the site of the Twin Towers.

These three leaders provided their unwavering support, in spite of opposition in their respective countries, in fulfilling their self-appointed mission.

### **Mr Bush's religious outlook**

Certainly Mr Bush has an appreciation of God's word, and browsing through David Frum's book entitled *The Right Man—The surprise Presidency of George W Bush* has given a fascinating insight into the influence that the Bible now has in his life. Meetings start with a prayer and most of his inner circle attends Bible study classes. High standards of morality are expected from his staff. He believes that he is doing God's will in helping Israel. We saw in last year's *Milestones* that a *Time* poll showed 36% of those Americans polled supported Israel because they believed in Biblical prophecies that Jews must control Israel before Christ will come again! This indicates that a substantial portion of Americans back Israel; the Jewish lobby is powerful in Congress.

### **Mr Blair's friendship**

Tony Blair was mocked as Bush's poodle, but this has been far from the truth as President Bush acknowledged shortly before his UK visit. Martin Newland, the editor of the *Daily Telegraph* commented in his interview (14-11-03) with the President as follows, under the heading: -

#### **Words of warmth for his good friend Tony**

Mr Bush admired Mr Blair as a "strong leader".

"He tells you what he thinks, and he does what he says he's going to do. And that's about as high a compliment as I can pay a fellow leader."

Mr Bush hailed Mr Blair's "good wisdom" on Iraq. He said: "I talk to Tony a lot. Our intelligence services are very close. Our militaries are talking to each other."

“The relationship is a very good relationship because I admire him, and I admire somebody who stands tough.

“And I admire somebody who has got a vision which is a vision that is peaceful, and somebody who shares that same deep feeling that freedom is an incredibly important part of changing the world.”

The *Time* magazine (31-3-03) ran the headline: **The American Prime Minister. Why Blair has gained rare influence: he has strengths that Bush lacks.**

What brings these two men together is a shared Christian faith. Blair is lampooned in London for having the self-righteous fastidiousness of an Anglican vicar. But his sincere faith forged a bond with a believing President and made Blair more receptive than most nonbelieving Europeans to the clear moral tone in the White House. What soldered the bond was the horror of September 11<sup>th</sup>.

Blair’s supreme political gift is a swift, intuitive, unerring sense of the public mood. He cemented his hold on the British public by his poignant response to the death of Princess Diana. And he felt, in visiting America in the days after the massacre, that the country had changed deeply. He shared America’s grief and rage, recognized that there was no point in resisting its power and set about figuring out how to harness it for the world’s good.

The U.N.’s route to Iraq was therefore at least in part Blair’s policy. The final, desperate attempt to win unanimity on the Security Council—stymied in the end by France—was Blair’s project. The announcement before the initiation of the Iraq war that Washington would soon endorse the “road map” to Israeli-Palestinian peace had Blair’s fingerprints all over it. But in some ways, this understates Blair’s broader impact. For a whole section of centrist and liberal opinion in America, Blair’s endorsement of regime change in Baghdad helped solidify support for war, especially among influential elites, as well as making Blair a hero in the American heartland. And his almost masochistic willingness to expose himself to debate, animosity and relentless criticism at home made his pro-war stance seem, to skeptics, far less dubious in motive than, say, Dick Cheney’s. Blair not only helped prove that this war was necessary; he also helped show that it was moral. That is no small achievement...By being the indispensable nation’s indispensable ally, Blair is more powerful than any other British Prime Minister since Churchill.

### **Britain—America’s “closest friend”**

Mr Blair’s stance is all the more remarkable as it goes against his party’s traditional ideology. Yet, in spite of great criticism at home, his resolution has not wavered in his support for Bush. The role that Britain is playing as an “old lion”, using her long-honed skills to quietly guide the younger lions

through the diplomatic minefield of Iraq, is gradually emerging. *The Times* (14-11-03) headline put it bluntly: -

**Only British troops can sort out America's mess**

What on earth is to be done? I hesitate to say the British do these things better, but that is the topic of all security talk in Iraq. British patrol techniques, intelligence gathering and local training are all regarded as better than America's.

A *Sunday Times* headline on 28-12-03: -

**Quiet Britons outpace US in taming Iraq**

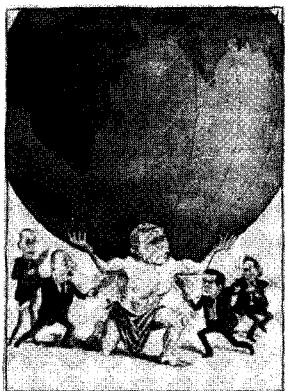
Despite some "nasty incidents", as British officers refer to the occasional attacks on their forces, the south is moving faster than Baghdad, 350 miles to the north, in laying the foundations for a peaceful transition to a sovereign Iraqi government next summer. It is not just a question of more favourable conditions in Basra.

The British are bringing decades of experience as a once mighty colonial power to bear on the task of pacifying the south; and the military has shown far greater sensitivity than its American counterpart to the needs of a proud and volatile people.

In another comment by David Frum: -

British power is not merely a function of the men and money that the British governments have chosen to invest in their Armed Forces. Much more, British power is a tribute to Britain's democratic cohesion at a time of increasing ethnic strife, to Britain's proud national identity in a world governed by post-colonial guilt, and to Britain's sense of moral responsibility in a Europe too-often willing to sacrifice every principle to avoid risk and trouble. *Daily Telegraph* 18-11-03

During his visit, Mr Bush concluded a powerful speech given at the Whitehall Palace with the words: -



"The British people are the sort of partners you want when serious work needs doing. The men and women of this Kingdom are kind and steadfast and generous and brave. And America is fortunate to call this country our closest friend in the world."

Lord Black, in a speech to the Centre for Policy Studies, concluded: -

It is more than 40 years since the American secretary of state Dean Acheson said that Britain had lost an empire but not yet found a role. Being the junior but influential partner of America in modernising world institutions and

alleviating the conditions that breed political extremism is an important role. Never has a country that was once the most influential in the world managed so slight and so dignified a diminution of status.

To give maximum service to the causes of freedom and economic growth, Britain must maintain and build on our unique alliance with America. It is preferable to continue to be envied because of our success and attachment to principle, than to fall any further into the company of those governments for which cowardice is wisdom, ingratitude is Olympian serenity, and spitefulness of the weak is moral indignation.

### **Bush’s visit to Britain**

It seems remarkable that there hasn’t been a state visit to Britain by an American president since Woodrow Wilson’s triumphal visit in 1918 at the end of World War I! Bush’s visit came at a time of mounting opposition in Britain to the war. Huge anti-war demonstrations were threatened to disrupt the visit, but they were smaller than planned, and all passed off peacefully. Time and time again he stressed that Britain was America’s greatest friend. Pictures of the Queen and Mr Bush standing side by side were beamed around the world.

### **Australia’s Growing Importance To U.S. Strategic Plans**

This was the heading to a *Stratfor* article 4-6-03. America is in talks with Australia in establishing a military logistics centre with weapons pre-positioning and troops in Australia. A further article 19-11-03:-

Australia, the southern leg of a U.S.-Japanese-Australian defense triangle, is becoming increasingly important in Washington’s strategic calculus. Bordered by the Indian and Pacific oceans, Australia is ideally situated to act as a logistics hub for U.S. military operations from the Middle to the Far East. Furthermore, Australia lies only a short distance from Indonesia—a nation critical to U.S. strategic thinking not only because of its import choke points in the straits of Malacca and Lombok, but also because it is the center of Islamist activity in Southeast Asia.

Australia played an important role in the Gulf. Largely unsung, because that is how the Australian Prime Minister wanted to play it, Australian ships very effectively patrolled the Persian Gulf, greatly reducing the smuggling of oil which had provided finance to Saddam.

### **Friends of Israel**

The British links with Israel stretch right back. Not so well known are the Australian links. During the Gulf War there was another Australian role—that of the SAS troops providing vital protection—for Israel!

A couple of weeks ago US President George W. Bush revealed something surprising about the beginning of the Iraq war.

It did not begin with the much talked about “decapitation strike” on a Baghdad meeting including Saddam and his sons on March 19, as

widely believed. The first shots were actually fired a day earlier on March 18. And those doing the firing were not Americans or even their British allies. They were Special Air Services (SAS) forces from the third military partner in the coalition—Australia.

Moreover, while many Israelis are probably unaware that Australia even participated in this war, recent revelations about the until now secret activity of the Australian forces make it clear that more than anything else it was the Australians who made it impossible for Saddam to fire Scud missiles at Israel as he had in 1991.

According to the chief of staff of Australia's Special Operations Forces, Colonel John Mansell, hundreds of SAS soldiers in Land Rovers and dropped in by helicopter penetrated into Western Iraq a full 36 hours before the bombing of Baghdad began. While they breached the guard posts and trench system undetected, they later ran into an Iraqi convoy, which they defeated, killing or capturing all members, in a sharp firefight. They then moved on to attack suspected missile sites inside Iraq.

However, it was the attack of the following night, which, according to Mansell, both "stirred up a hornet's nest" for the Australians and struck a major blow against Iraq's ability to launch Scuds against Israel.

Most of the SAS troops attacked a well-defended radio relay station, calling in an airstrike to destroy the tower. After this SAS forces were involved in constant heavy fighting with enemy forces clearly seeking them out, while the SAS met them head-on with "unpredictable shock engagements," leading to the destruction of several heavily armed Iraqi convoys.

The SAS continued to strike targets, including another command and control center and several surface to air missile launchers, as well as a Scud-launching site, according to some reports.

By the end the first week of war the SAS had effectively neutralized all Iraqi opposition across a wide swathe of Western Iraq, preventing any Scud attacks from there. And they did it without suffering a single casualty...

Thus despite the fact that Australia's force in this war only numbered around 2,000, including 500 or so SAS, their unique abilities (and the Australian SAS is generally regarded as one of the best Special Operations units in the world) were important not only to overall war effort but especially to protecting Israel.

And indeed, despite the distance, Australia has long played an extremely honorable role in the Middle East. Many older Israelis will either fondly remember or have heard stories about the Australian troops present in Israel during World War II and the British Mandate, but Australia's regional role is actually significantly older than that.

During World War I, Australian forces—notably the Light Horsemen—joined with the British in an effort to roll back the German-supported Ottoman forces that had advanced almost to the edge of the Suez Canal.

The most famous battle of that campaign took place at Beersheba, where the mounted Australian Light Horse charged the Turkish lines in a desperate attempt to seize the vital water wells in the city. This, the last great cavalry charge in history, significantly undermined Turkish morale, paving the way for further victories, principally the taking of Jerusalem under General Allenby.

Then, in 1940-41, when the overrunning of the Jewish community in Palestine was looking very probable with German forces passing through Vichy French Syria to the east and Italian and German forces advancing across North Africa, another counterattack campaign was launched in order to block this advance. The Australians forces, again at the forefront, were the majority of those involved, were certainly the most vigorous, and, as was the case 23 years earlier, led the allies into Damascus and Beirut.

Despite the distances involved and the apparent lack of overlapping interests, there seems to be a sort of affinity between Australia and Israel, almost an overlapping destiny. From *Friends Down Under*. *Jerusalem Post*. 25-5-03

Or as the Bible put it so long ago, a young lion, working with others in the defence of Israel!

### Friends of India

India was a Tarshish power in the days of Solomon. It is interesting to see the links that bind her to Britain and America. Britain has strong links to India—she was part of the British Empire from 1858 to 1947. After independence, India turned to the Soviet, but gradually India moved back into the western camp. Similarly America’s traditional support of Pakistan shifted in the later Clinton years to pro-India.

The links between Israel and India have been commented on in previous *Milestones*. They continue apace. Just this month there have been reports of Israel helping India develop her nuclear submarines. The report ended “Israel rapidly progresses towards becoming India’s main source for defence procurements.” *The Hindu* 10-12-03. The *India Press Information Bureau* put out a statement, 23-12-03, entitled **India-Israel for Comprehensive Agreement on Scientific Ties**. It listed a wide range of scientific projects that the two countries were going to work on. In September, the Israeli Prime Minister, Ariel Sharon, paid the first ever visit to India at that level. He was warmly received and it resulted in many agreements between the two nations.

The Hindu BJP party has been in power since 1998 and does not have the same inhibitions as the previous Congress party, which was strictly secular.

It has turned from supporting the Palestinians to supporting Israel. There are about 60,000 former Indian Jews living in Israel, and unlike some other immigrants, they maintain a warm relationship with their former homeland. In an article published on an India website, *FrontPageMagazine.com*, Vivek H. Dehejia writing under the heading *India-Israel-United States: An Axis of Good* (2-6-03) had this exciting proposition!

...there is a great deal of cooperation on matters of security and intelligence between India and Israel, and to a lesser extent, India and the United States. This cooperation takes the form, largely, of intelligence sharing amongst the three countries. But there is, of course, no overt American military presence in India, and Israeli security experts visiting the foreign and defense policy establishments in New Delhi maintain a studiously low profile. It is as if India is a silent partner in the war on terrorism.

...it should not be forgotten that India and Israel are the only non-Islamic, pro-Western, democratic states in a huge swathe stretching from North Africa to the borders of China. As such, it is well recognized in Washington that its long term strategic allies in the region are Israel, India, and (possibly) Turkey. The alliance with Israel is a pillar of US foreign policy. The alliance with Turkey has been put under great strain as a result of the Iraq war, and the long run viability of Turkey as a secular nation-state is itself in serious doubt. No such doubt exists in the case of India. A strong bilateral US-India alliance could thus become a second pillar. A strengthened India-Israel bilateral relationship would be a third pillar. And the trilateral alliance of the United States, India, and Israel, would form the edifice of a new international security arrangement in the region, and become an integral part of the global security regime, complementing the role of NATO and of various *ad hoc* "coalitions of the willing".

### **The merchants of Tarshish and all her young lions**

We can see the young lions, who have worked together in the past, working together again, on behalf of Israel! Australia, India, America working with Britain. It already appears that the change of Prime Minister in Canada marks a change in outlook towards working against terrorism. These are all fully independent countries, yet they freely choose to collaborate together and are all involved in the region of *Sheba* and *Dedan*. A wonderful fulfilment of this symbol!

### **Battles with the EU**

Britain continues to battle with her EU partners. Mr Blair has at times left meetings early, and not stopped for the traditional bonhomie and photos. This year has highlighted the differences in outlook between Britain and her EU partners. He still longs to be the leader, but France and Germany continually do things to sideline Britain. *The Times* 19-11-03 highlighted the problems: -

France has always—and give Chirac and his predecessors credit for consistency and persistence—sought to reduce the American presence in Europe, and siphon resources from Nato to a European group that it and, if necessary, Germany, will dominate. Nothing explains French opposition to American and British efforts to end the suffering of the Iraqi people so much as its desire to be a counterforce to American power. The proposed EU constitution, and its common defence policy, are the chosen instruments for the implementation of that policy.

The language of the European constitution has been the topic of discussion in Washington...They are particularly worried about provisions mandating “the progressive framing of a common Union defence policy”, requiring the UK to consult with other EU governments “before undertaking any action on the international scene”, and limiting British participation to those actions that are “in accordance with the principles of the United Nations Charter”.

Blair might think that he can somehow shrug off these restrictions, and hold up his end of the special relationship. But high-level officials here wonder what kind of bridge he can be between the US and the EU when the toll-takers—the new European President and the European Foreign Minister—will demand as payment allegiance to his new security pact with France and Germany.

...Blair will have to choose between the path that leads to a security pact with France and Germany, and the one that leads to Washington through Nato headquarters. The good news is that, forced to choose, Blair will certainly opt for the preservation of the special relationship. But we in America will be biting our nails until he does.

### **Continuing calls to leave the EU**

Dick Morris, who was a campaign strategist for President Clinton, summed up the logic of Britain turning towards America. Writing in the *Daily Telegraph* 19-5-03, under the headline:

#### **Britain’s future lies over the Atlantic—not the Channel**

Have you looked at a map lately? Did you notice how the English Channel is getting wider and the Atlantic Ocean is shrinking? In fact, any objective surveyor would be sure to conclude that the distance from London to Paris is far greater than that between 10 Downing Street and 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

This revisionist geography is not just an Iraq war thing. It is a sober conclusion based on the changing realities of foreign affairs. During the Cold War, America, Britain and the rest of Western Europe had to present a solid phalanx to the Soviet Union. Sometimes American hawks got a bit to the Right of European doves, but the Atlantic alliance rested on its two pillars—North America and Western Europe.

In the new era, willingness to act counts for more than any other factor in attaining global power. The war against terror does not require a massive economy to sustain years of expensive combat, but a relatively small and proficient military, combined with political will—among leaders and voters alike—to use it.

Here, Britain's heritage and tradition of global involvement and leadership have conditioned it to play a major and decisive role on the world stage. Always globalist in its thinking, Britain has learnt the lesson of its pre-Second World War days and has embraced the need for a strong hand in foreign affairs. Understanding the reason to use force against injustice in a way German post-war conditioning (for which we must be grateful) will not allow, Britain can and should step up to the permanent role in global leadership that its limited population and economy forced it to abandon in the 1950s. The era of "no commitments east of Suez" is long gone.

In an econo-centric world, the British Commonwealth counts for little. But in the global fight against terror, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and other English-speaking countries are valuable and important allies. The political lesson of the war in Iraq is that the people of America and Britain have far more in common with one another than do the British people with the French or the Germans.

Our common linguistic heritage, shared values, renunciation of appeasement as a policy option, commitment to do battle against injustice, and our essential optimism about the possibility of success make us partners in a way that continental Europeans, with their history of foreign occupation, can never hope to match.

The British are a can-do people, imbued with energy and positivism. Like Americans, they look to their future. Unlike the French, they are neither cranky nor neurotic. Unlike the Germans, they have been neither beaten nor humiliated. Britain can trade and share its currency with anyone its wants.

Make your economic destiny with the Continent if you wish. But save your political vows for a marriage with America. We want you ever so much more than they do, and our joint future is a lot brighter than theirs.

*We now briefly look at the events of the Gulf War and try to see the significance of the events there over the past year, to see a pushing by the King of the South into the King of the North's territory.*

## Chapter 10:

# IRAQ—“THE 21-DAY WAR” STILL CONTINUES!

*We look briefly at the events over the past year in Iraq, attempting to see how this fits in with prophecy.*

## The build-up revealed conflicts of interests

It rapidly became apparent that Europe was, in the words of US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, divided into *Old Europe*—mainly France and Germany who were against invading Iraq, and *New Europe*—Britain, Poland, Spain and others who were for an invasion. We haven’t quite reached *the time of the end* so the alliances weren’t strictly along the lines that they will be. However, compared to 1992’s Gulf War, this was much closer to the final expected grouping of nations.

What was so fascinating was to see just how closely the Vatican was working with “Old Europe” and Russia. One could discern the shadowy hand of the Vatican at work to oppose America and Britain. Note the dates on these extracts of statements and see if you come to the same conclusion – that they were working together! The 10<sup>th</sup> of February was a Monday.

*Daily Telegraph* 10<sup>th</sup> Feb; headline: **Germany in bid to block war with Iraq**

*Daily Telegraph* 10<sup>th</sup> Feb; Putin, visiting Schröder in Germany, said:

“All those who are closely following the situation in Iraq can see that the positions of Russia, Germany and France are almost the same in this”.

*Catholic World News* 10<sup>th</sup> Feb:

Last Friday the Pope met with German foreign minister Joschka Fischer, and reportedly gave his backing to a German-French effort to redouble inspection efforts in Iraq. Fischer told the press that the Holy Father was “the first world figure to be told” of the proposal.

Pope John Paul II has dispatched a personal envoy to Baghdad, as the Vatican has redoubled its efforts to avoid a war in Iraq. Cardinal Roger Etchegaray, the former president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, set off for Iraq on Monday. [I.e. 10th.]

Shortly after his meeting with Cardinal Etchegaray, Tarek Aziz departed for his own diplomatic mission to Rome, where he will meet with Pope John Paul on February 14. Aziz, who is a Chaldean-rite Catholic, will also make a private pilgrimage to Assisi to pray for peace.

*Catholic World News* 14<sup>th</sup> Feb; Aziz at Vatican:

“...the Holy Father and the Vatican—and all believers in God, Muslim and Christian—are doing their best to stop aggression.”

*Catholic World News* 12<sup>th</sup> Feb:

UN secretary general Kofi Annan is also expected in Rome, to meet with the Pope on February 18, as the Vatican expends all of its diplomatic energy on the effort to avoid a war.

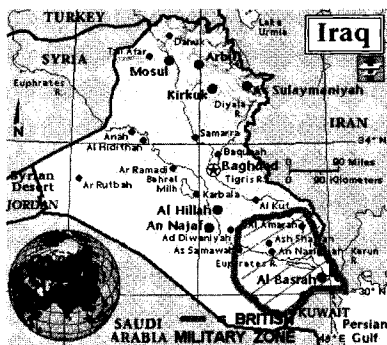
*Catholic World News* 17<sup>th</sup> Feb:

After meeting with the Iraqi leader, Cardinal Etchegaray returned to Rome, stopping in Paris on his Sunday return trip. He is expected to meet with Pope John Paul, and brief him on his trip to Iraq, on Tuesday morning—shortly before the Pontiff’s meeting with Kofi Annan.

It takes some time for overseas trips to be arranged. It is hard not to conclude that the timing of this peace plan and of the visits of Etchegaray, Aziz and Annan were carefully planned. Tarek Aziz was the Iraqi Foreign Minister, and a Jesuit trained Chaldean Catholic who had visited the Pope on three earlier occasions. He was a “childhood friend of Saddam and had carried out some of his first massacres in their first years working together”. *AsiaNews* 17-12-03. Etchegaray’s flight took him to France, where presumably he was able to brief the French leaders on the situation.

## The war

The details of the war are well known and of little interest to us. Our interest lies in the fact that here were the *merchants of Tarshish and the young lions thereof* pushing into *King of the North* territory. Britain was given control of the capture of southern Iraq where many of the oilfields lie. America took charge of the Baghdad region and the north. Due to Turkish objections, a northern advance from Turkey had to be abandoned, and all the troops had to move up from the south. Resistance was much smaller than anticipated, but British and American secret services had been working undercover in the months leading up to the war, effectively neutralising many of the defences. After 21 days, with the capture of Baghdad, Bush declared that the war was over.



## The prolonged aftermath

The main battle was indeed over, but the battle to win the hearts and minds of the Iraqi people is taking much longer. Expectations had been high on both sides. The Americans especially thought that the Iraqis would be

grateful for freeing them. The Iraqis expected things would get back to normal much quicker than was possible. In spite of the high numbers of troops that have been killed in the aftermath of the war, things are vastly improving. There were many areas that had no water supply that now have supplies. Electricity blackouts were frequent under Saddam, old electricity generation equipment has been replaced and everyday supplies restored.

Conditions in the British Military Sector are much better than around Baghdad. The southern Iraqis were brutally treated by Saddam, but now are able to get back to farming their lands. Britain’s experience in dealing with conflict in Northern Ireland showed in her skills at working with the Iraqis.

Longer term we can only speculate. This is *King of the North* territory.

America is to establish a 3,000-man embassy in Iraq, its largest mission anywhere. The giant embassy will wield considerable sway over the new Iraq, not least because Washington expects to maintain a garrison of more than 100,000 troops in the country, even after the occupation formally ends. *Daily Telegraph* 3-1-04

Britain had earlier stated that she expected her troops to be there through 2005. *Periscope* 1-1-04. Britain and America are putting great pressure on the region to be at peace. Will this year’s invasion of Iraq and the establishment of the *King of the South* troops in the region turn out to be the “push” that arouses the *King of the North* to move down?

## Rebuilding Iraq

As part of the modernisation of Iraq after decades of capital starvation, America has announced an \$18.6 billion investment programme. It is only open to those nations who have helped or have supported the war. France, Germany and Russia are pointedly not on that list.

...the list is predicated on deciding which countries can best be trusted to oversee huge rebuilding contracts in ways that square with the American goal of promoting a stable, free Iraq. As Mr. Bush put it, “friendly coalition folks risked their lives, and therefore the contracting is going to reflect that”. Another prime concern: “protection of the essential security interests of the United States”.

There’s been little in the last year to suggest that Russia, France and Germany share any of these goals. There is plenty of evidence, however, that they constitute an Axis of Avarice. Remember, plenty of money flowed through Saddam Hussein’s Iraq, starting with the big debts the dictator ran up in the 1980’s before the Persian Gulf war and the subsequent United Nations sanctions. Many countries took part in that frenzy of lending, including Japan as the No. 1 sovereign lender. Then came Russia, France, Germany and, yes, the United States as No. 5.

However, in the 1990’s, as the Iraqi dictator’s depravities became increasingly evident to the rest of the world, that list narrowed. Under

the United Nations oil-for-food program, the despot got to tap his preferred business partners. And over the course of the seven-year program—involving the sale of \$65 billion worth of oil and purchase of more than \$39 billion worth of supplies and services—he turned to contractors in the countries that ultimately proved most energetic in protesting his ouster: Russia, France and, to a lesser extent, Germany and China.

What began as a relief program for Iraqis suffering under sanctions turned into a multibillion-dollar contracting business flowing through the shrouded books of the United Nations. By the end, the Russians were selling the Baathist elite luxury cars, the French were providing broadcasting equipment for the Information Ministry and the Germans and Chinese worked on the phone system.

In any case, Old Europe's indignation over the list is a marvel of hypocrisy. When Saddam Hussein specified under the oil-for-food program that the billions generated by the program all flow through one French bank, BNP Paribas, French President Jacques Chirac did not indignantly demand, in the interest of fair play, that the business be divided among banks of various nations. *New York Times*. 18-12-03

### **Pressure on other Arab nations**

The swift fall of Saddam Hussein, and the subsequent pictures of his arrest, without a shot being fired, stunned the Arab world. Although they despised him, they thought of him as a latter-day “Nebuchadnezzar.” He was shown to be powerless before the fearsome display of western military might.

There is now great pressure on Syria and Iran to toe the American line. Neither country is democratic. Both support terrorism. There are signs that their defiance of America may be softening in the face of what has happened in Iraq. At the year-end it was revealed that the US had been having secret talks with Syria over Israel, and that Syria had invited an Israeli Knesset member to visit for talks. The devastating earthquake in the Iranian city of Bam opened the door for limited US assistance, with American personnel attending the disaster and US planes flying in aid.

In December, Libya's Col. Qaddafi announced that he was giving up weapons of mass destruction. This seemed to be as a result of his concerns that he too would be a target. Britain had been having extensive talks with Qaddafi to persuade him to voluntarily give up these weapons. It appears a victory for British diplomacy. Not that we expect Libya to be pro-western. Leopards don't change their spots! What is convenient now, will not change the revealed knowledge of God that Iran, Syria and Libya will be on the side of Gog, on the side of the *King of the North*.

### **Egypt's wavering ways**

Egypt was the first Arab nation to make peace with Israel, back in 1978, however it has not materialised into a friendship, unlike the much later

agreement between Israel and Jordan. Egypt is a poor country, yet continues to pour massive amounts of money into defences. The “enemy” that she has to justify such expenditure can only be Israel. Much of the military equipment is American and Israel often pleads with America not to allow the equipment supplied to Egypt to be superior to what is supplied to Israel. Israel feels she needs to be one-step ahead.

It makes it understandable that the *King of the North* takes Egypt as a necessary step in securing the region. Dan. 11:42,43. The southern flank is well armed and would need to be neutralised. What will be interesting is whether by this time Britain is back in control of Egypt. As we have mentioned earlier, the Suez Canal is a vital supply route to the bases in the Arabian Peninsula. The controlling share in the Suez Canal was purchased by the British government in a shrewd move, way back in 1875, by the purchase of the shares owned by the Egyptian khedive (the title of the Egyptian viceroy of the Sultan of Turkey), who was in financial difficulties. Benjamin Disraeli, acting with great speed, obtained a loan from the Rothschilds, completing the purchase on the Sunday, before the French had a chance to do so on Monday! In 1956, Nasser nationalised the Canal and it has remained under the control of the Egyptian government. The British tried to retake the canal in the abortive Suez Campaign in 1956, but due to opposition from America, she had to ignominiously pull out her troops. The situation could well arise as the northern confederacy begins to advance, that Britain finds herself again in Egypt, defending her interests there and fulfilling *the King of the South* role. With Egypt defeated and broken by Gog, Britain will be receptive to the call of Israel’s king to submit to him. Queen Victoria looked to the time when she would lay her crown at Christ’s feet. A century later, will it be the present Queen who does that?

### **Turkey and the Bosphorus**

The Bosphorus is a narrow waterway linking the Black Sea to the Mediterranean. It carries an increasing volume of traffic—more than doubling since 2000, much of it being oil tankers. Turkey is alarmed that a serious accident will take place and has now imposed restrictions on the transit of large ships—they must do so in daylight and only in clear weather. During the foggy autumn a huge backlog has built up, delaying some transits by weeks. Not only is it vital to Russia’s oil exports; it is an important waterway for the Russian Black Sea fleet based in Crimea. This is one of Russia’s most important naval bases as it is usable all the year round, unlike many of the frozen ports in the north. *Stratfor* 1-12-03

Can we not see yet another excuse for Russia to come down to take Constantinople—the modern Istanbul? Just as the Suez is vital for Britain, so is the Bosphorus to Russia. It will be an important first step to secure this area in the first moves southward.

*We now turn to look at events in Israel.*

## Chapter 11:

# ISRAEL—“No. 1 THREAT TO WORLD PEACE”

*In last year's Milestones we spent four chapters looking at events in Israel. Our survey is much briefer this year, not because Israel is any less important to us, but a reflection that this year the focus has been on Europe and Iraq. It continues to be a time of grief for Israel; although terrorist deaths are down this year, they are still high for such a tiny country. More peace talks came—and sank again. The events in Iraq tended only to heighten the conflict between Jew and Arab. With few friends, Israel appears even more isolated.*

## The Intifada drags on—the grim statistics

It is now over 3 years since the present Intifada began. Israeli information sites post the casualties in that period—they make grim reading. In the 15 years before the Oslo talks began, 1978–1993, the total figure was 254 Israelis killed. For the period 27-08-2000 to 16-12-2003, a total of 874 have been killed. Then an average of 1.4 were killed per month; now 22!

Whatever Israel does, she has to face the reality of the intense hatred of the terrorist groups she is battling against. Hamas' aims are quite explicit: -

In August 1988 it published the Islamic Covenant, which makes clear its opposition to Israel's existence in any form. It states “there is no solution for the Palestinian question except through jihad (holy war)”. Any Muslim who leaves “the circle of struggle with Zionism” is guilty of “high treason”. It calls for the creation of an Islamic republic in Palestine to replace Israel. Muslims should “raise the banner of Allah over every inch of Palestine”.

In a statement released on May 19, after a wave of suicide murders in previous days, Hamas said: “These attacks will continue in all the territories of 1948 and 1967, and we will not stop attacking Zionist Jewish people as long as any of them remain in our land.”

A Hamas member explained to an interviewer last month that: “We do not just want to liberate Palestine. We want all countries to live under the Caliphate. The Islamic army once reached the walls of Vienna. It will happen again.”

Talk of “negotiation” with Hamas is meaningless—as meaningless as the idea that you can negotiate with Osama bin Laden. You cannot negotiate with the man who intends your murder and the destruction of your country and who is prepared to die—and kill you in the process—rather than settle for less. *Sunday Telegraph* 14-9-03.

## **Pressure for peace**

There is great pressure on Israel to come to some accommodation with the Palestinians. Few understand the position that Israel is in. She has given up land for peace, and she is only deeper into trouble. Sharon was elected to call a halt to concessions, to stand up to the terrorist attacks. Certainly his stronger tactics seem to have had an effect, with casualties down this year.

Europe, Russia, Britain, America and Israel herself have all been striving to find a solution to this intractable problem. The matter has been heightened with the apparently successful overthrow of Saddam Hussein. If Britain and America can solve that problem, then why not the Israeli-Palestinian problem? After all President Bush went to war in Iraq, knowing that it was a necessary step to a peace in Israel.

## **The Quartet's Peace Talks**

So it was that Mr Bush, having seen the fall of Baghdad, turned to reviving the Quartet's “Road Map for Peace”. The four powers involved are America, Russia, the EU and the UN. Their Plan involved a series of steps that the Palestinians would have to undertake, before Israel took the painful steps of dismantling many of the settlements on the West Bank. It was to have led to a Palestinian State being established by 2005 on the West Bank and Gaza. It also involved the Palestinians holding elections to their Assembly, to give them a prime minister and a new cabinet. This was to reduce the grip that Arafat had on all aspects of Palestinian matters. After a struggle, a new prime minister, Mahmoud Abbas, was elected. This opened the way for a summit meeting in June.

Mr Bush met with Mr Mubarak of Egypt and King Abdullah of Jordan, and Mr Abbas. Also present were the leaders of Saudi Arabia and Bahrain. It was speeches and handshakes all round. There was a quiet feeling of optimism that perhaps a fresh start could be made. They met in the glorious sunshine at Sharm el-Sheikh, once in Israel, but handed back to Egypt. It was the site of a similar summit in 1996, and later in 2000. The next day Mr Bush and Mr Abbas met with Mr Sharon, Israel's Prime Minister, in Aquaba in Jordan. Again there was optimism as the three leaders met. Mr Arafat was not invited to the talks, he had been sidelined.

## **And failure!**

Arafat was not sidelined for long! In a series of deft steps he effectively removed all power from Mr Abbas, who resigned after 102 days in office.

Arafat saw to it that it was business as usual, all matters had to go through his hands. Mr Abbas was succeeded by Ahmed Quereï, or better known as Abu Ala, but he too has run up against the iron grip of Arafat. The promises to crack down on terrorism, as part of the Road Map, came to nothing. Once more, another peace plan lay in the dust, due—as always—to Yasser Arafat.

## The Geneva Accord

Towards the end of the year it was made public that Mr Yossi Beilin, a maverick Israeli politician, together with Mr Yassir Rabbo, a former Palestinian Cabinet minister had been meeting secretly for nearly two years. They had drawn up a 47-page accord that again would see a Palestinian state established in the West Bank and Gaza, together with the dismantling of Israeli settlements. It was launched to a blaze of publicity in Geneva on the 1<sup>st</sup> of December. Not having official backing it seems to have quietly faded away. A series of bombings indicated Arafat's answer.

## Sharon's “disengagement plan”

In the middle of December Prime Minister Ariel Sharon announced his own plans. He was willing to give the US-backed Road Map a few more months, but if nothing resulted, he was setting out his proposals to establish security for Israel. It involved a unilateral disengagement from the Palestinians. Borders would be closed to prevent Palestinians working in Israel. Sharon stressed that he would rather have the Peace Plan, but if that wasn't possible this was the “2<sup>nd</sup> best option”. It was clearly intended to send a strong message to the Palestinians—this is what you will be faced with, if steps are not taken to comply with the terms of the Peace Plan.

It envisaged freer borders for the Palestinians with Jordan and Egypt, diverting their dependence on Israel to these neighbouring countries.

Barry Rubin, commenting on these plans in the *Jerusalem Post* explained: -

Sharon's new approach is to assert formally that we are in a new era. Let's call it, simply, the Interim Era. There will be peace some day, and a Palestinian state, when there is a leadership ready to negotiate seriously and sincerely.

But that day has not yet come. Consequently, Israel must set a strategy for this situation. The door is still open to compromise, but the measures taken respond to the immediate situation. There is no sense making dramatic concessions when these would just lead to more terrorism and extreme demands.

...His approach is to ask which specific pieces of territory it is in Israel's interest to hold, with a view both to short-term security during the Interim Era and in some cases to obtain as a result of a peace agreement if and when that happens.

In some cases, this could mean pulling out of areas which Israel controlled at the end of the Oslo process in September 2000. Illegal outposts would be removed, which the government already agreed to do in the road map. Some small settlements which were judged to be of little value and big security problems would be dismantled.

By the same token, however, there might be other small, uninhabited areas under Palestinian control as of September 2000 where Israel might

remain. And on top of this, Israel continues to insist on its right to enter any place in the West Bank or Gaza Strip if security needs require.

In short, combined with the completion of the security fence, this is a rational re-evaluation of policy. It is not intended to prefigure a comprehensive peace treaty, but rather to govern Israeli behaviour in the Interim Era.

Under this policy, Israel keeps the right of ultimate control over the West Bank and Gaza. Scripture indicates that at the time of the Gogian invasion, she is *dwelling on the mountains of Israel and in the midst of the land* (Ezek. 38:8,12). Surely an indication that she is in control of and dwelling on the West Bank, which is the mountainous region of Israel. An indication of more than just scattered Israeli settlements in this area. We wait to see what becomes of Sharon's plan and the ultimate fulfilment of Ezekiel 38.

*Reuters*, 31-12-03, noted Israel's plans to boost the settlement of the Golan: -

Israel's main daily *Yedioth Ahronoth* said the \$62 million plan would double the Golan's 18,000 settler population within 3 years.

### The middle wall of partition

The Israelis are pressing ahead with the controversial barrier that they are erecting to foil terrorist attacks. It snakes its way around the boundaries of the West Bank, though controversially often inside the “Green Line” which marks the borders. Already some 100 miles/160 km out of a proposed 370 miles/600 km have been erected. In places it is a 26ft/8m high concrete wall —this is in residential areas where there have been frequent sniper firings. By far the greatest part is a 10ft/3m high wire fence with barbed wire entanglements, anti tank ditches and a patrol road. In spite of all the bad press about the wall, it has succeeded in its purpose. Terrorist attacks have drastically fallen where communities are protected. It has created hardships, dividing farmers' lands, but Israel has moved a total of 60,000 olive trees in an effort to minimise hardship. As Israel says—we only need a barrier because we are being attacked.



### Israel—“No. 1 Threat To World Peace,” says EU poll

This was the headline in a *Daily Telegraph* article 4-11-03, concerning a survey carried out by the EU. Based on interviews with 500 people in each

of the EU countries, it posed a list of countries that could be regarded as threatening world peace. Israel headed the countries chosen by 59% of the interviewees, ahead of Iran and North Korea! There was an outcry from the Israeli government at such a result. It re-enforced the isolation that Israel has felt, largely due to a biased and hostile world press.

Under the headline **Rousing Muslim bigotry**, *AIJAC* reported 23-10-03 the remarks by Malaysia’s Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad at an Islamic summit meeting on October 16.

His theme was the anti-Semite’s timeless plaint: The Jews are few but crafty, and the world is in their grip.

“The Europeans killed 6 million Jews out of 12 million, but today the Jews rule the world by proxy,” Mahathir told the leaders of 57 Muslim nations. “They get others to fight and die for them.” He lamented that Jews are an enemy “who think. They survived 2,000 years of pogroms not by hitting back, but by thinking. They invented...socialism, communism, human rights, and democracy so that persecuting them would appear to be wrong—so they may enjoy equal rights with others ...they have now gained control of the most powerful countries.”

And how should the world’s Muslims deal with the Jews? Mahathir urged them to learn from Mohammed’s example—to buy time by making “strategic retreats” and signing peace accords, then building up their strength until they are ready to launch a “counterattack” that will lead to “final victory”.

The audience to whom Mahathir spoke—the presidents, kings, and emirs of the nations that make up the Organization of the Islamic Conference—rewarded him with a standing ovation. The applauders included not only the Muslim world’s dictatorial fanatics but also its reputed moderates, including President Sukarnoputri of Indonesia, General Musharraf of Pakistan, and Jordan’s King Abdullah.

An endless stream of such anti-Israeli statements pours out of the Moslem mosques and media. As we saw in chapter 8, anti-Semitism is now turned to anti-Israel. Moslem and Christian condemn Israel’s existence. With increased Muslim immigration to Europe, many EU countries have at least a 12% Moslem population, according to a *Jerusalem Post* article 26-12-03.

### **They walk in unbelief**

What we must bear in mind is that Israel is still seeking her own solutions to the millennia-old conflict between the sons of Abraham. When they find all that they have trusted in swept away before a victorious Gog, then they cry out to God, who will hear them and save them by the hand of their Messiah. The Kingdom of God rises upon a land that will have been cleansed from all its defilements. Ezek. 39:23-29.

*We now draw Milestones together by looking at the battle of Armageddon.*

## Chapter 12:

# GATHERING THE NATIONS TO ARMAGEDDON

*We close Milestones by looking at the ways in which the nations are being drawn together to eventually come against Israel to destroy her. Although we have not yet arrived at this crisis for Israel, through the word of prophecy we are able to anticipate those times. Surely they are very close.*

## He gathered them together

This coming war is to be over Israel. At its root is the question, similar to that raised by Elijah on Mt Carmel so long ago—who is the true God? Elijah asked it of the Israelites. This time it will be addressed to the nations who come down on Israel's mountains. Is it the God of Israel? Or the God of Christianity? Or Allah worshipped by the Moslems?

*For it is the day of the LORD'S vengeance, and the year of recompences for the controversy of Zion. Isa. 34:8*

Why here? The prophets have spoken that this will be the case. They make it clear that although the nations are drawn here through their own desires, there is a sense in which God is drawing them here. Our section heading is from Revelation 16:16. Who is the **He** who gathers the nations? Surely the one who says in the previous verse, *Behold I come as a thief*. This is the work of the Lord Jesus, entrusted to him by his Father. The coming of the Romans against Jerusalem in AD 70 had similarly been foretold as: *Yahweh shall bring a nation against thee from afar...* Deut. 28:49. Titus was unaware that he was fulfilling God's Will. The bringing of the Jews back and planting them in the land, is one of the ways that Christ is *gathering the nations*. Like Rome of old, the countries of Europe will band together to deal with these whom they regard as "rebellious Jews".

## Orthodox and Vatican—working with the Palestinians

In the early days of the Jews going back to Palestine, there was little hostility from the Arabs in the land. This changed as growing numbers of both Jews and Arabs returned and in 1948 the Arab nations tried to eliminate the newborn State of Israel. Hostilities intensified with the taking of Jerusalem in 1967. Before then, few Moslems took an interest, but that changed when Israel claimed it as their capital, and Jerusalem has been an issue of growing contention. Over the centuries, the Russian Orthodox Churches had built up large landholdings in Palestine—farms, monasteries, churches, cathedrals and many important buildings in Jerusalem. In 1924 the Soviet Union laid claim to them all, but Britain steadfastly resisted all claims. As a result of the 1949 Israeli-Jordan armistice, many of these properties came under Jordanian control. Others, deserted by their former occupants, were taken over by Israel, and some were eventually rented or

purchased from the Soviet in the 1950's. In 1961 the Orthodox compound in Jerusalem was purchased by Israel from the Soviet—apart from the Cathedral. Today most of the remaining Orthodox possessions come under Israeli control, but some are under Palestinian. The Knesset is built on former Orthodox-owned land! This warning came in a year-end talk: -

Father Jaeger, spokesman for the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land, observed that the Israeli government has not yet settled claims regarding the economic rights of Catholic institutions in the Holy Land. In some cases, these institutions claim time-honored privileges, conceded by previous regimes, and confirmed by a UN resolution in 1947. "The state of Israel has to recognize, in a new agreement, the rights acquired by the Church in Israel and in the Holy Land over the course of centuries," the Franciscan spokesman argued. *Catholic World News* 31-12-03

Both the Roman Catholic Church and the Orthodox Churches, favour the Palestinians rather than the Israelis. Back in 1974, the Greek Catholic Archbishop, Hilarion Capucci was arrested, tried, convicted and sentenced to prison for using his official car to run guns and other weapons to the PLO, to be used in terrorist attacks on Jewish civilians. Michel Sabbah, the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, visits Arafat and often speaks out against Israel.

### **How will peace come?**

*And thou shalt say, I will go up to the land of unwall'd villages; I will go to them that are at rest, that dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates. Ezek. 38:11*

This is one of the striking prophetic pictures, yet it is hard to picture such a situation! Yet, in faith we do believe it! As mentioned in earlier chapters, they are also dwelling on *the mountains of Israel* and *in the midst of the land*. This indicates a change from the present situation. It could be brought about by the good hand of God toward them at the time of the Elijah work, but this does not seem to be the case from the language of Ezekiel 39:24-29 (v26 in particular). As it does not appear to have God's blessing, it would then be more likely to occur under the protection again of Britain and her allies - the overspreading wings of the *King of the South*. This is not so incredible in the light of the actions taken against Iraq. Iran and Libya already appear to be knuckling under. Syria, and Egypt are coming under pressure. If Arafat was removed and the Palestinians came under Jordanian control, one could see great changes. This dramatic year-end news might be a pointer: -

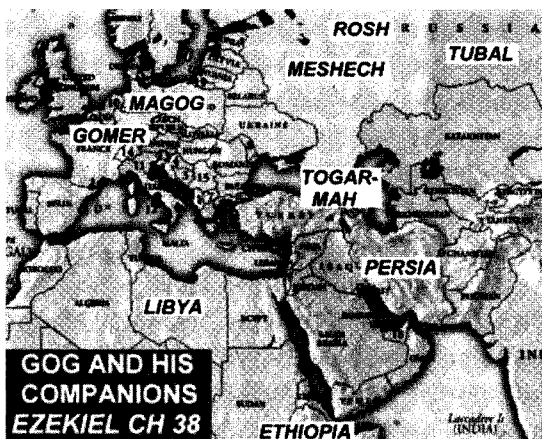
...the expansion of US installations under construction in the Jewish state and their strategic value. The most important facility is the \$125 million base at Nashshonim in central Israel, slated to be the US military's biggest training facility in the Middle East and main forward base for US Marines and infantry units deployed in Israel or on their way to other regional locations. *Debka* 31-12-03

However the situation is to be attained, Gog is to *think an evil thought* and come down to *cover the land like a cloud*. v10,16

### All nations being drawn in

Let us now try to build up a possible sequence of events. In the situation this year in Iraq, we had the *King of the South* invading the territory of the *King of the North*. The roles are reversed when the *kings of the earth and of the whole world*, harken to the frog-like spirits to *gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty*. Rev 16:14 This time it will be the *King of the North* moving into the territory of the *King of the South*!

The message from Rev. 16:14 is that there are many nations involved in the coming battle. Two categories are mentioned here—the *kings of the earth* and *of the whole world*. Bro. Thomas divides them as the *earth* nations representing what today we would call Eastern Europe and Russia and the other CIS states; and the *whole world* representing the area of the Roman world. The word for *world* is *okoumene* and was used in John's day to represent the *Imperium Romanum*, the lands under Roman rule. This perhaps links back to the iron and the clay of the Image's feet. The broadness of the coalition of nations agrees with earlier prophecies. Ezekiel 38 lists a whole host of nations as depicted on our map. Zechariah speaks of the magnitude of the invader: -



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

This is no mere gathering of Israel's Arab neighbours! This is a confederacy of all the nations in the

territories of the *Image* or the *Four Beasts*, apart from those few nations opposing the invasion.

### “Frog-like spirits” prepare the nations

John beheld *three frog-like spirits proceeding from the mouths of the Dragon, the Beast and the False Prophet*. We have earlier linked the frogs to France—three frogs was the heraldic symbol of France under Clovis (466-511) who became a “Christian” and conquered in the name of “the Church”. The driving force behind the EU is France; she also gave us the

French revolution, with its spirit of Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity. This is the spirit of today, people-power overthrowing the old ways. Yet, time and time again, we see behind that freedom, an iron-like grip. Whether we consider life in the EU where individual freedoms are rapidly being lost; or say Russia, where Putin has this year tightened his grip.

This spirit emanating from Eastern and Western Europe as well as the Vatican is one that brooks no dissent. It is authoritarian, it knows best! We saw in chapter 5 the experiences of Gisela Stuart on the committee drawing up the Constitution, and the almost ruthless determination by Giscard d'Estaing to have his own way, steamrolling opposition.

A facet of that spirit is its religious intolerance. We have seen in chapter 7, the Pope's restatement of the authority of the Roman Catholic Church. As for the Orthodox Churches—well they are partially there, but as for the others—they are not Churches “in the proper sense.” There is also a latent undertone of anti-Semitism ingrained in Europe's psyche over the centuries. Don't be deceived by the gentle words from the Papacy. We know in WWII there was a terrible butchering in the name of religion of Jews as well as Moslems and Orthodox, encouraged by Church leaders. There was much ‘ethnic cleansing’ of Muslims and Orthodox and Christians in the Balkans only a few years ago.

These spirits are described as *unclean*—impure, they are not acceptable to God, and are described as *the spirits of daemons*. The daemons were supposed beings between the gods and man—an apt symbol for governments and leaders. It comes out of *the mouth of the Dragon, Beast and False Prophet*. It is the “official” teaching of all three.

### **Elijah prepares Israel**

Now consider the probable future situation in Israel. She is dwelling at peace on the mountains of Israel, indicating that at this time she is strong and the Palestinians evidently subdued. The Lord Jesus is back in the earth, with the saints at the Judgement Seat. Now is the time for Elijah's latter-day work to commence. There is to be a religious revival at his hands, probably assisted by John and maybe others, raised from the dead, and sent on this specific mission; it is to prevent a catastrophe! The faithful Jews in Israel will be so few that Israel is in danger of facing destruction from God. But that is not His purpose to do this; God has compassion on His people. Just as at Elijah's first ministry, there were those who did respond to the “still small voice” of his ministry, so there again will be.

*Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD:*

*And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.*  
Mal. 4:5,6

His mission will be successful. A proportion (the 1/3<sup>rd</sup> that are not cut off? Zech.13:8) turn to their God. Elijah will have taken them back to their Mosaic roots—to make them

*remember the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel, the statutes and judgments. 4:4 Interlinear Bible.*

What had Moses said in exhortation to Israel?

*...hearken, O Israel, unto the **statutes** and unto the **judgments**, which I teach you, for to do them, **that ye may live**, and go in **and possess the land** which the LORD God of your fathers giveth you. Deut. 4:1*

Those who respond will be saved in the day of Israel's judgement. The fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob will recognise those who repent and walk in faith, as their children. These their children, will recognise their descent from these fathers who walked by faith so long ago.

### **Gathering the nations**

What a stir will be roused by this revival in the things of the Mosaic Law! The Law is so contrary to the spirit of this age and especially to the frog-like spirit. *Liberty?* No! The Law is prescriptive—only God's Way is acceptable. *Equality?* No! Under the Law there was a clear distinction made—Jew or Gentile. *Fraternity*—brotherly feeling? No! In the words of Nehemiah *Ye have no portion, nor right, nor memorial in Jerusalem.* Neh. 2:20. Elijah's hand was heavy in the past upon the false prophets that deceived the people. What will he make of Trinitarian Christians or of Moslems who acknowledge Abraham, but assert the promises were made to Ishmael? We recall again those words of Chrysostom, which were the justification to slay millions down the ages: "If the Jewish rites are holy and venerable, our way of life must be false." It is easy to see the rallying call of Europe to come on a modern-day crusade to defend the extensive Catholic and Orthodox possessions in "the Holy Land" which will then be under threat; as well as defend what they see as the rightness of their claim to be the possessors of the promises made to the Abraham, not the Jews.

### **The land invaded**

With the advance into Egypt and the *King of the South* power broken, the Image is now standing on its two feet, erect and proud. As it marches into Israel, the object of its wrath is epitomised in Daniel 3:15

*Who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands?*

Just as Daniel's friends fell into the fiery furnace, so Israel will feel the heat of this invasion. With Jerusalem captured, many Jews will be sent northwards as prisoner-of-war (Joel 3:6); others slain, and it would appear that the king's proud boast was true! With his Headquarters in Jerusalem, the *King of the North* will be triumphant. His *god of forces* (or *guardians*—see page 15) whom he worships appears triumphant! (Dan. 11:38)

Now is the time when those who have responded to Elijah's reformation cry out to their God from the lands they have been taken to.

*...then the LORD thy God will turn thy captivity, and have compassion upon thee, and will return and gather thee from all the nations, whither the LORD thy God hath scattered thee.*

*If thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to keep his commandments and his statutes which are written in this book of the law, and if thou turn unto the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul. Deut. 30:3,10*

### **Salvation and peace**

Just as Nebuchadnezzar was not initially aware of an angelic presence amidst the friends in the furnace who had power over the natural laws of fire, so it will again be. Christ and the saints come up from the south, and with awe-inspiring power reveal themselves as the saviour of the Jews. With the same display of power over the forces of nature, they will totally eliminate the enemy. This is the battle of Armageddon! Like the chaff of the summer threshing floor, the enemy will be no more!

The Jews who are still left in the land will behold the marks of crucifixion in the hands and feet of the one who has led this mighty host to victory (Zech. 12:10). Bitter tears will flow as they realise their folly in rejecting their Messiah when he first came. But lo! A new river runs from Jerusalem, through the now-split Mount of Olives, flowing down to the Dead Sea bringing it to life (Ezek. 47). What more fitting place to be baptised into the saving name of Jesus Christ, accepting the New Covenant in his blood!

*In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness. Zech. 13:1*

With this stage of the battle over, and the new king enthroned in Zion, the everlasting gospel will be preached. Its message will be uncompromising: -

*Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters. Rev. 14:7*

Every single nation on earth will have to make the choice—obedience to the victor, or resistance to the death. Those in the 4<sup>th</sup> Beast territory will cry—this is Antichrist, and will fight on. Others will submit, declaring: -

*There is no other God that can deliver after this sort. Dan. 3:29*

Eventually the earth will be at rest, rejoicing in its saviour. All nations will be blessed in Abraham and his seed. This is the day that the purpose of God is working towards. How wonderful for us to know this end, and to live in hope of working with Messiah throughout eternity.

***May the year 2004 see the Master's return to his household, to start that better day!***

## Chapter 13:

# OUR WALK—SHARPENING OUR FOCUS

### An exhortation for 21<sup>st</sup> century followers of Christ

We might at times feel a tinge of envy for those who seem to have everything in this life, but when we consider the blessing of having our eyes opened to be able to see the Hand of God working around us and in our own lives, then we realise we are a very privileged people. God has set before us the hope of eternity, transformed spirit beings working for our Lord and Master to bring peace and joy to this world of sin and despair.

With knowledge comes responsibility. We are responsible for how we live our lives. The Lord has achieved the work of salvation. But the work of **personal transformation** lies with us. What better exhortation for us to close this survey of another stirring year, than by considering the exhortation the Lord Jesus spoke to you and to me? He must have seen the particular relevance to **our** generation, in the words he chose; just 21 words (in the Greek) but pregnant with meaning. These are vital words!

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

At the end of the Mount Olivet prophecy Jesus had warned his disciples that that destruction in AD 70 would take them unawares. It seemed so impossible, looking at the strength of the mighty stones of the Temple, that it could ever be destroyed. But it was and so will our world. *Watch therefore* he commanded—read his words in full in Matthew 24:42-44. We can't watch '24/7'. No, we have to sleep, and we will be taken off guard, it will happen when we least expect it. So if we can't be awake all the time, what must we do? Luke adds some extra words in ch. 21:34.

*And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.*

As well as outward watching for the signs-of-the-times, we have to be inwardly watching ourselves. We might happily pass over the first two items, but *cares of this life*? “Distractions”, “to be drawn in different directions”, “anxiety about things pertaining to this earthly life”. This is where it hits home. Making time for the Lord. He has made possible eternity—is it unreasonable that he asks our wholehearted devotion now?

He has provided the covering garment, but it can be taken away. Temple guards were stripped of their robes if they failed in their duties. May the Lord not find us distracted, but having kept our eyes firmly focused on our goal.

# Milestones 2003

*2003 will go down as the Year of the Divide!* The deep-rooted divisions between Europe and Britain and America were on prominent display throughout the year. The leaders of France, Germany and Russia stood shoulder-to-shoulder in opposition to the actions of America and Britain against Iraq.

At the heart of these Middle East events lies the conflict between Jew and Arab in Israel. Already the downfall of Saddam's evil regime, together with his capture, are beginning to affect the actions of other Middle East leaders normally hostile to Israel. Is the stage being set for a time of peace before the great invasion?

The Return of the Master is surely very close!

## ***Milestones 2003 examines:***

- **The latter-day development of Daniel's King of the North and King of the South, weaving in many time-of-the-end prophecies**
- **Europe uniting**
- **Britain, America and Australia in Iraq and the Middle East**
- **Israel's increasing isolation**
- **The Vatican's drive for influence in Europe**

Milestones 2003 is an invaluable source of material, bringing together many of the events of the past year and encouraging our preparation for the Master's return.

