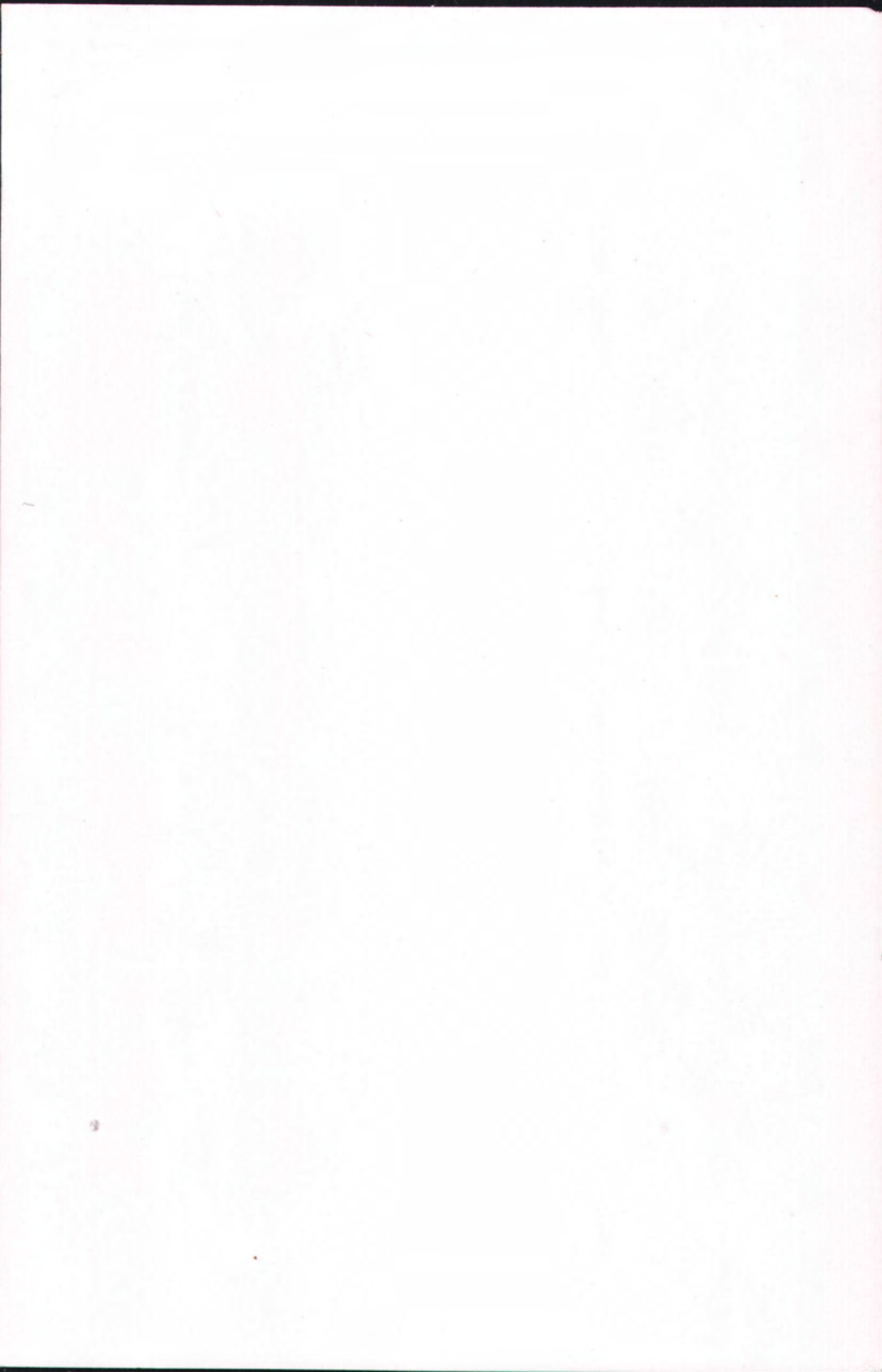


# MILESTONES 2005

Don  
Pearce





# **MILESTONES TO THE KINGDOM**

***A Review of the  
World Events of  
2005 in the Light  
of Bible Prophecy***

**Don Pearce**



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## Preface

Well, the year has turned again and 2006 is here, to the surprise, I am sure, of so many of our readers. 2005 was just an enormous year, a whirlwind year, with rumbles of change echoing through the whole twelve months and affecting almost every aspect of life, in almost every country of the globe.

*"Men's hearts failing them for fear and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth"* has been surely the most quoted text of Scripture through 2005. Terror has stalked the earth and not just from human fanaticism but from major natural disasters, unquestionably in the hand of God. In just two major events in the Indian Ocean and the mountains of Kashmir, more than 360,000 people have lost their lives. Great changes are occurring in the crust of the earth upon which all human activity is based. The North Pole is now in a lake, glaciers are melting at an alarming speed, the sea is rising and islands are being drowned. Surely the Almighty is sending the message, *"Prepare to meet thy God"*!

*"If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?"* It is a great comfort to have the voice of the prophets and the encouragement of a wonderful brotherhood, gallantly striving to hold on to the Faith once delivered. To strengthen the love between its parts and to educate our children with saving truth is a great privilege. *'We have no greater joy than to hear that our young people walk in the truth'*.

The whole world *"lieth in wickedness"* and *"reels to and fro like a drunken man"*. This is what was promised and our generation witnesses the evidence that the expectation of the prophets was true. The family is being redefined, fornication and adultery are in the open, materialism and dishonesty go hand in hand and ten thousand scientists rise up in every western land to disclaim Intelligence in creation! We can but imagine the feeling of the Father to all this spiralling wickedness.

To our own wonderment Israel continues to draw the attention of all the world! The Palestinians have occupancy of the Philistine plain, Likud and Labour have been put in disarray, Israel's population and economy is booming and trade with both her neighbours and those afar is flourishing. The offensive fence has markedly reduced terrorist attacks but anti-Semitism grows in Europe and Russia and the English-speaking peoples increase their trading and others ties with Israel. Across the desert Iran threatens to wipe her off the map. Iraq has moderately successful elections to the surprise of all the world, Bush and Blair hold on precariously, Ariel Sharon bows out of politics with a cerebral stroke. What a breath-taking year for Israel; our prayer goes up for their preservation and eventual salvation.

Again we are deeply thankful for brother Don Pearce's detailed summary of 2005, put against the background of the prophets. On this end we are sad to have lost the services of brother Allan Archer who has for many years

brought the manuscript through to the printer, tidying up many ends. Bro Allan's passing reminds us all of our urgent and pressing duties for none of us know when disease or other calamity may intrude upon our lives.

May Milestones 2005 be an inspiration to all its readers and sharpen our awareness of how close we all are to the Advent of our beloved Master.

B.N. Luke

12 January 2006



## CONTENTS

PREFACE .....	3
Abbreviations and Acknowledgements .....	8
1. A BRIEF SYNOPSIS .....	9
A different <i>Milestones</i> layout this year	
The five broad divisions	
2. OUR PROPHETIC HERITAGE .....	11
What is Bible Prophecy?	
God's Purpose with the earth: the two seeds	
The two seeds at the time of the flood	
The two seeds after the flood	
The power of Babylon moves to Rome	
The seed of the woman	
The framework of prophecy	
3. HOLD FAST OUR PROPHETIC HERITAGE! .....	20
In wisdom thou hast made them all	
The more sure word of prophecy	
Some latter-day prophecies	
1) Fulfilled	
2) Fulfilled <u>before</u> Armageddon, but <u>after</u> Return to household	
3) Fulfilled at Armageddon and after	
How long does the time of Judgement take?	
4. PROPHECIES FOR TODAY—ISRAEL .....	27
What prophecy expects us to find	
Despised by world.	
Despised by their neighbours.	
A Palestinian territory.	
Trusting in their own strength.	
A time of peace and prosperity.	
Jerusalem a cup of trembling and a burdensome stone.	
5. ISRAEL TODAY—SEEKING PEACE .....	31
Israel seeking peace	
Steps to "security and peace"	
The Palestinians, Gaza and the PLO	
Why did Sharon evacuate the Gaza Strip?	
Sharon planned further withdrawals	
Netanyahu comes to the fore	
"Israel—a new paradigm"	
Security fence	
Peace and safety/security	



6. ISRAEL TODAY—SEEKING PROSPERITY.....	37
“Optimistic times in the Middle East”	
Israel growing economy	
“Israel's technology industry. Punching above its weight”	
Development of the Negev	
Oil exploration	
“Jews are a minority in own borders”	
“Israel set to be largest World Jewish Community”	
A record aliyah from the West	
“Have no doubt—the earth will move”	
7. JERUSALEM A BURDENSOME STONE .....	43
Anti-Semitic incidents on the increase	
The New War Against the Jews	
The New Jerusalem	
Ratification of the 1993 Vatican Fundamental Agreement	
Pope Benedict's Bethlehem Passport	
Bethlehem and the Palestinians	
8. PROPHECIES FOR TODAY—EUROPE .....	51
What prophecy leads us to expect	
Nebuchadnezzar's Image	
The 10 toes	
Daniel's 4 <sup>th</sup> beast	
The beasts of Revelation	
The beast of Rev 16 – The beast of Rev 17	
Increasing ties between Russia and Europe	
A time of trouble	
9. EUROPE IN TRANSITION .....	58
Non and Nein—but this is the EU!	
The future of the EU	
Germany—a new leader	
We stand by the constitution	
Russia: New Pipelines to Bypass U.S. Allies	
Eastward expansion	
The accession of Croatia	
The accession of Turkey	
Austria takes up the EU reins	
10. PROPHECIES FOR TODAY—RUSSIA.....	64
Gog of the land of Magog	
Rosh - Meshech and Tubal - Magog - Persia	
Ethiopia and Libya - Gomer - Togarmah	
The turning of Gog	
Being a guard unto them	
The eastern leg of Nebuchadnezzar's Image	

11. THE RUSSIAN BEAR STIRRING AGAIN ..... 67  
 The time was not ripe  
 The Russian bear stirring again  
 "Putin's show of strength triggers fear of fresh nuclear arms race"  
 "The Latest Autocrat. The best description of Putin? 'Stalin lite.'"  
 Energy has become the way Russia projects its power  
 Russia and the EU  
 The Russian Orthodox Church  
 The remarkable accuracy of Ezekiel 38!
12. PROPHECIES FOR TODAY—THE PAPACY ..... 73  
 The false prophet  
 The harlot woman  
 Sitting on the European beast  
 The false prophet at the time of the end
13. THE PAPACY AT WORK TODAY ..... 76  
 Trading with silver and gold  
 I sit a queen and am no widow  
 Rome's successful weapon—the laity  
 Benedict XVI chosen to advance the Church  
 Benedict XVI - a German Pope  
 The Russian Patriarch is also German!  
 Re-laying the Catholic foundations of Europe  
 The name of Benedict XVI was carefully chosen  
 Pope encourages the use and study of Latin  
 A European Catholic-Orthodox Alliance?  
 "A church more willing to fight back"
14. PROPHECIES FOR TODAY—BRITAIN & HER YOUNG LIONS 84  
 What prophecy leads us to expect  
 Dedan  
 Sheba  
 The merchants of Tarshish  
 And all her young lions  
 The Kings of Tarshish and the isles  
 Why no Egypt?
15. BRITAIN, THE EU AND THE MIDDLE EAST ..... 88  
 Britain's difficult year with the EU  
 British Conservatives  
 "Britain should quit EU, French sage says"  
 "Isolation fever. How Blair may follow in Thatcher's footsteps"  
 "Europe's constitution: sceptics could push Britain out of the EU"  
 Britain on the rise  
 The Merchants of Tarshish  
 Versatile Maritime Force



Trafalgar celebrations  
 "Peace in the Middle East will remain one of my  
 Government's highest priorities"  
 Britain and Israel  
 Britain and the Palestinians  
 An "historic step towards peace"  
 Britain in the Middle East  
 Britain and India

16. HER YOUNG LIONS WORKING IN THE M.E. TODAY ..... 96  
 The young lions expanding their navies  
 America – India - Australia  
 Trading in the area  
 Friends of Israel  
 Iraq

17. FINAL EXHORTATION. BEING BORN AGAIN ..... 100  
**Abbreviations used**

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

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

\$1 = £0.58; €0.85; A\$1.36; CA\$1.16; NZ\$1.47 at year-end rates!

\$1 million = £580,000, \$1 billion = £580,000,000 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. It is all put together in the last 3 weeks of the year, so please bear with its imperfections! *Milestones* quotes extensively from overseas sources, and as I retain original spellings, etc., check whether it is a quote before blaming the proofreaders! [ ] indicates my comments.

Conventional religious terminology is used, sometimes 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. Dates are always day-month-year and are cover dates, so some items can have happened up to 10 days earlier.

I am very grateful for items sent in; ensure the date and source are indicated.

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## Chapter 1:

# A BRIEF SYNOPSIS

As always it is difficult to encapsulate all the changes that have taken place in the past year. “Steady progress on most fronts” is what springs to mind! Certain events will probably prove to be very significant—but of course only time will tell. Chief of these may well be the election of the new Pope. Under Benedict XVI the Roman Catholic Church is poised to make significant progress in her rise to power again following her heavy punishment under God’s “Vial” judgements.

Another important step may have been the withdrawal of Jewish settlers from the Gaza Strip, increasing the pressure on the Palestinians to find ways of boosting their disastrous economy in the wake of the intifada.

Britain became increasingly isolated in Europe during 2005. Tony Blair’s moment of power as he took over for six months the Presidency of the EU was marked by failure rather than progress. The Conservative Party elected yet another leader, David Cameron, with the immediate effect of boosting that party’s ratings above Labour for the first time in years. The prospect of Britain leaving the EU is now not considered such a far-fetched idea.

France and Holland rejected the Constitution, effectively putting paid to its adoption. But wait—this is the EU! ‘No’ doesn’t really mean ‘No’, does it? Angela Merkel, the new German leader has said that the Constitution is still a live issue. France and Germany, determined to regain the power they lost when the EU enlarged to 25 members, are pushing for Croatia’s rapid accession, knowing that this will tip the balance of power their way again!

Over in Russia, Putin grew more and more authoritarian. In a series of deft moves the oil and gas industry was consolidated into the hands of his friends. Even if he really has to step down at the end of this second term of office, the real levers of power will be firmly in the hands of his friends. The word now often used to describe Putin is “autocratic”. I used to smile at bro Thomas’ phrases in *Elpis Israel* and *Eureka* about the “Autocrat of all the Russias”. It seemed a hark back to a long-past era—but wait long enough and so much of what our pioneers foresaw is coming to pass!

2005 will also be long remembered as a time of trouble in both the natural and the political worlds. Earthquakes, hurricanes, fires, flooding and drought marked a world of disaster for so many thousands. In the political heavens the terrorists struck again and again and again. Fewer people were affected than in the disasters of the natural world, but it struck fear into the lives of ordinary people.

In Britain several incidents indicated that government legislation was being used against religious bodies and individuals, in spite of governmental protests that this would not be so. 2005 also marked new depths in the rejection of the plain teaching of God on marriage—legislation has been passed to recognise at law same-sex unions.

For the ecclesias of God it was another year of increasing pressure on all to conform to the world, to accept the standards of behaviour depicted daily, beamed into the privacy of the home. The increasing pressure from employers and the utter pace of life, leave so many drained and exhausted and unable to perform their ecclesial roles. Time for Bible study is being lost and volunteers for the many ecclesial duties get harder to find.

### **A different *Milestones* layout this year**

This year we have made a change to how we present the mass of information that seems relevant to our traditional understanding of the prophetic word. There are more, but shorter, chapters. We open with a brief outline of our traditional understanding of God's purpose, because this greatly influences our understanding of prophecy. This is followed by a semi-exhortational chapter exhorting us to hold fast to this traditional view, which has stood the test of time. We then divide up *Milestones* into 5 broad areas, and taking each in turn, look at the relevant prophecies and our expectations and then look at the current situation.

### **The five broad areas: -**

- Israel (and the Palestinians) ● Europe ● Russia ● Papacy
- Britain and her young lions

Hopefully this will more readily integrate the prophecies and the realities. Not surprisingly our biggest section, spanning 4 chapters, covers Israel.

What is so reassuring is to see how everything is "on course". We had a generation of new ideas, often spawned because it looked as if our heritage was floundering and that events had "moved on" and therefore required new interpretations. But this is looking at things the wrong way round. Time and time again we have seen that world events don't stand still. Like a clock pendulum they sway to and fro. Unseen angelic hands hasten or slow down events to fit to God's preordained timetable. If there is one lesson we learn from a study of God's spiritual creation **and** natural creation, it is that our God is an ordered God and an incredibly wise God Whose knowledge is totally beyond our comprehension. If the very hairs of our head are numbered, and not a sparrow falls unnoticed, then how can we lose faith that what He has promised **will** come to pass, however impossible it may seem at the time. How often in our lifetime have we witnessed the speed at which situations can change.

And so we present these things to encourage and to strengthen our community as we await the Master's return.



## Chapter 2:

# OUR PROPHETIC HERITAGE

It is the glory of God to conceal a thing: but the honour of kings is to search out a matter. *Prov 25:2*

*It is through the more sure word of prophecy that our faith is strengthened as we are brought to realise that our God's foreknowledge is utterly boundless. The future is as certain to Him as events of today; He is not bound by the constraints of time.*

But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. *2 Pet 3:8*

*His plan is to populate the earth by a race of immortal beings. As bro Roberts put it<sup>1</sup>*

His purpose is to populate the earth with "children," not with mere human creatures. The existence of the latter for generations is necessary to the development of the former, but will not be continued a moment longer than required. The destiny of flesh and blood is to disappear from the earth forever. The children of God immortal will take their place. Those children are drawn from the generations of flesh and blood. They are "taken out from among them" by a change of mind. Their ideas, their loves, their policy, and their aims become revolutionized by the Truth which is the developing power.

*Let's briefly trace that unfolding plan of salvation as revealed through God's word, which is the basis of our traditional understanding of prophecy, encapsulated in the phrase "the Hope of Israel".<sup>2</sup>*

## What is Bible Prophecy?

*We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:*

*Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.*

*For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. 2 Pet 1:19-21*

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<sup>1</sup> *Seasons of Comfort Vol 2, "Development Of Children Of Promise"*

<sup>2</sup> Readers are encouraged to watch bro Roger Lewis's talk; *The Framework of Bible Prophecy*, which can be viewed at [http://www.biblemagazine.com/library/videos\\_online.html](http://www.biblemagazine.com/library/videos_online.html)



So prophecy is a revealing of God's mind, a telling of those things that are outside our capabilities to know. They are Divine snippets of information given in order that we might know the Father's purpose; how this changed state will be achieved. Peter likens it to a light shining in the darkness.

The first prophecy, not surprisingly, is to be found in the opening verses of the Bible! This is where we read of the *light* that shone in the darkness. We also read of the sun, moon and stars created to be *lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light upon the earth*. Gen. 1:3-5, 14-18

In creation, God was setting out His timetable for His work of redemption. Six days followed by a seventh day of rest.

*Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them.*

*And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made.*

*And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.* Gen. 2:1-3

For 6,000 years the world has been given into the hands of man, to have dominion over the works of God's hands. But not for much longer! That 7<sup>th</sup> Millennial day is about to dawn! The earth will be at rest from man's strife and will come under the wise control of the *day-star* for a thousand years. At the end of this time period, sin and death will be abolished.

God's prophetic word gives illumination during the long years of darkness. For extensive periods of the earth's history there has been no open revelation, so that the words revealed to His servants the prophets have become the illumination for saints walking in the darkness of this world. We see this clearly set out with the introduction of the sun, moon and stars. The sun is the God-given source of light for the earth, which has no luminescence of its own. It is also the source of light for the moon, which too has no light of its own. However, God created the moon different from the earth. The moon is barren, but partially reflective; it reflects about 7% of the sunlight back into space. He *placed* the moon and the earth in relation to each other and in relation to the sun, so when half the earth is in the shadow of the sun and so in darkness, there is an illumination by the moon's reflection. So although the sun cannot be seen during that period, the moon's light is evidence that the sun is still shining.

And so the moon becomes a symbol of the ecclesias, reflecting the knowledge of God in a dark world. The word of prophecy is also like that reflective light God put on record events down the ages, and as they come to pass, this *light shining in the dark place* bears testimony to the Hand of God. All things are in His control; His purpose is being worked out.

In the ages to come that prophetic word will cease. All will have been fulfilled. In the symbolic words describing the New Jerusalem: -

*And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.*  
Rev. 21:23

### **God's Purpose with the earth: the two seeds**

Sin and death are ultimately to be abolished. Introduced into the world by the deception of the serpent as recorded in Genesis chapter 3, it has brought forth a world of pain and sorrow. In God's mercy, a way of salvation was set before Adam and Eve. In God's promise to them, which is another of the early Bible prophecies, there was the promise of a saviour.

*And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.*  
Gen 3:15

In the immediate context of begetting children (v16) the theme of the two seeds is brought to our attention. Ultimately the seed of the woman would triumph over the seed of the serpent. As expressed in some of the closing words of scripture: -

*... God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.* Rev 21:4

As Adam and Eve were to have their sin covered through an offering provided for by God, so this multitude owes their position in the immortal state to the Lamb of God that was slain.

*And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;*

*And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.* Rev. 5:9,10

Sandwiched between these early days in the Garden of Eden and the final abolition of death lies a 7,000-year struggle. Countless billions of men, women and children have been born, grown up and died. These in the main have made up the seed of the serpent, but a remnant—small by comparison—will have shown by their lives that they belong to the seed of the woman. The 6,000 years history of the world prior to the Millennium will then be seen as the conflict between these two seeds. The seed of the woman are those whose chief bears the name THE WORD OF GOD (Rev. 19:13). The seed of the serpent are those who speak after the manner of their father.

*Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.* John 8:44



Adam and his wife were driven out of the Garden in punishment for their sin *lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever*. To prevent their access to that tree there were placed *Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life*. Gen. 3:22,24

The way to *the tree of life* is what unfolds through the pages of Scripture. Such was God's love and compassion; His record is full of prophetic utterances to inform, to comfort and to guide those who would struggle to overcome the inclinations that they were now heir to. To those who were prepared to live their lives trusting in their God, there was this promise: -

*He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.* Rev. 21:7

### **The two seeds at the time of the flood**

A generation or two saw the power of the serpent way. The hallmark of the serpent in Eden was that it was subtle (shrewd, quick of perception). Similarly the reasoning of the flesh is very quick to corrupt the *simplicity that is in Christ*. (2 Cor 11:3)

Less than 2,000 years from creation, man who had been pronounced "very good" had corrupted God's Way. Violence, pride and selfishness were the order of the day. The seed of the woman were ultimately reduced to a very tiny remnant. Into the ark went Noah, his three sons and their wives. But in God's hands one family can become a multitude—indeed the whole earth's population have descended from this family. Yet that does not make them part of the seed of the woman—far from it!

### **The two seeds after the flood**

We read of exploits of Noah's great-grandson through Ham.

*And Cush begat Nimrod: he began to be a mighty one in the earth.*

*He was a mighty hunter before [against] the LORD: wherefore it is said, Even as Nimrod the mighty hunter before the LORD.*

*And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, and Erech, and Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.* Gen 10:8-10

Babel is the same word in the Hebrew as Babylon. It is clear from Genesis chapter 11 that this city was built in defiance of God's command for them to go abroad and repopulate the earth. It is also clear that Babel was a centre for commerce and religion—they were building a city and a tower. (Gen 11:4) Towers are associated with worship—remains of their ziggurats can still be seen. Nimrod was king and priest of this man-based religion. He claimed to be the representative of the gods upon earth. At some stage, possibly by a later king of Babel, the title adopted by the Babylonian leaders was *Pontifex Maximus*. The title *Pontifex* means literally "bridge builder" because—they claimed—they bridged the gap between the world



of man and the world of the gods. *Maximus* is chief. Nimrod was the first of those who claimed to be king-priest over his people.

In mythology, Nimrod had many names—one of which was the king of the Cyclops—who were known as the inventors of tower building. Under his name Kronos, it is recorded by Perycydes that he was “first before all others that ever wore a crown”<sup>1</sup> According to Egyptian mythology Nimrod, whom they worshipped as Osiris, came to a sticky end at the hands of Hercules, one of whose names was Sem or Shem!

Thus the seed of the serpent was connected with Babylon.

In opposition to him was Noah’s son Shem. Aged 98 at the time of the Flood and dying aged 600 he would have died shortly before Jacob was born, so his history overlaps Nimrod’s and also most of Abraham’s life too. It is probable that Shem was Melchizedek, king of Salem. Melchizedek was a rival king-priest, the representative of the one true God, *king of Salem, priest of the most high God*. Heb 7:1

In this way the seed of the woman was connected with (Jeru)salem or—later—Zion.

Shem and a successor of Nimrod are brought together in a significant contest described in Genesis chapter 14. Another significant prophecy was about to be revealed—this contest was a pattern of a battle to come. The people living in the area of Salem were challenged by a confederacy of nations from the Euphrates-Tigris area. The first king listed in verse 1 is Amraphel the king of Shinar, or Babylon, evidently a successor of Nimrod. Sodom and her associates rebelled, leading to an invasion of the land and the capture of many people. Abraham and his little army pursued and destroyed this confederacy of nations. On his return, Melchizedek—Shem—the king-priest of Salem, meets them with bread and water. He invokes the blessing of God on Abraham.

*And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth:*

*And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered **thine enemies into thy hand**. And he gave him tithes of all.* Gen 14:19,20

Thus was foreshadowed the great theme of prophecy. The seed of the woman was to overcome the might of the seed of the serpent; or Zion was to overcome Babylon; or as Daniel puts it, the kingdom of God was to overcome the kingdom of men.

To the prophet Daniel were revealed great prophecies concerning the coming contest, information that guided believing Jews and later Gentile

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<sup>1</sup> See Hyslop’s *Two Babylons*. Also fuller treatment in *Milestones 1997 and 1998*

believers as to the course of history from God's viewpoint. His prophecies are almost exclusively to do with the future troubles of his nation. It is through Daniel's words that we can see that though later nations succeeded Babylon, in reality they were—in God's eyes—all linked with Babylon and part of the continuing kingdom of men. (Dan 4:17) In the latter-days there would be not just an iron kingdom, but an iron, clay, brass, silver and gold kingdom of men. (Dan 2:35) There would not be just a 4<sup>th</sup> beast but there would be the lion, the bear and the leopard also. (Dan 7:11,12)

The Roman power was to be the heir to the things of Babylon.

### **The power of Babylon moves to Rome**

When Babylon fell, its system of false worship fell from power and in the time of Alexander the Great, the princes and priests moved to Pergamum and established a kingly rule there. Pergamum became an important centre of culture and boasted the world's second largest library after Alexandria in Egypt. It was here that *Satan's seat* was later established. (Rev 2:13) As Rome expanded eastward in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC, neighbouring areas came under Rome's control. But Rome did not need to take Pergamum. In BC 133, Attalus III, the last Babylonian King to rule in Pergamum, having no heir, left his country to the Romans. Thus we find the Babylonian title "Pontifex Maximus" being used by Julius Caesar in BC 63, as he became "king-priest". Later the title would pass to the Popes, when in AD 376 the Emperor Gratian became the first to refuse the title, allowing the title to be adopted by Damasus, the Bishop of Rome, (the title of Pope wasn't adopted until 607). There it has remained embodied in the Papacy down to our day.

In this way the papacy became heir to the things of Babylon.

### **The seed of the woman**

Abraham's seed grew to a nation, from wandering tribes to a settled kingdom with Melchizedek's city now David's capital. Under David the kingdom of Israel was recognised to be the kingdom of God.

The majority, however, walked not by faith; the attractiveness of the false gods appealed to the flesh.

*For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel:*

*Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called.*

*That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed. Rom 9:6-8*

The time came when Jerusalem was in ruins and Babylon triumphant, but not for ever. The prophets had spoken of a regathering, of Babylon's power broken, of Judah returning and rebuilding. Then centuries later, the light of a new dawn broke forth upon the land of Naphtali and Zebulun, (Isa 9:1,2)



the long promised Saviour was born. THE seed of the woman, born to be prophet, priest and king. Yet he was rejected by his own people who delivered him unto the power of Rome which bore rule over them. "*We have no king but Caesar*", they cried and called for his crucifixion. Israel's long night of darkness came swiftly as Rome's power crushed this rebellious people. For the woman's seed there was a new start—Gentiles called to share in the promises given to the fathers of old, children of promise after the pattern of Isaac. For unfolding centuries Gentile communities have held the flame of Bible truth aloft, despised by the religious leaders of their day as heretics because of their witness against the continual corruption of the truth. To sustain them they had a message from their Lord, an unfolding picture of future events, which spoke to them of their contest for the truth. That revealed that the power of Babylon, the enemy of Israel, would be their enemy too. The symbols of Daniel were picked up and amplified to show that the ages-long struggle would be between those who sought to uphold the truth and those who had corrupted that truth; that their enemies would be from those who originally had been in their midst. A new comparison was used—the Bride and the Harlot. Dark, dark days were foreseen, but there was much encouragement for them to *overcome*. There was the promise of a better day, *new heavens and a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness*. The 6<sup>th</sup> day would end with the dawning of the 7<sup>th</sup> day of rest.

However, before that rest there is to be a time of trouble such as never has been, when the conflict between the two seeds, the two cities, the two kingdoms, will reach a climax. It will be the last challenge for 1000 years by the seed of the serpent which will result in its binding for the Kingdom period. In symbolic language, he who is the king-priest head of the woman's seed sends his angel: -

*And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,*

*And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.*

Rev 20:2,3

This is the climax of many of the Old and New Testament prophecies. This is the battle of Armageddon and its aftermath, which results in the submission of the nations—or their destruction if they do not submit. It is God's punishment on the nations for their despising of His people, both natural and spiritual.

King Nebuchadnezzar saw this contest in terms of a great image, representing the seed of the serpent, the power of Babylon, the kingdom of men, which stands upon its feet in the last days to challenge the people of God. But it is smitten by the little stone power, representing **the** seed of the



woman; the Lord Jesus Christ by whom the Kingdom of God would be established.

Nebuchadnezzar was not informed as to where this image would stand and be crushed. This was revealed in later prophecies in Daniel and to other prophets such as Ezekiel, Joel and Zechariah—it was to be upon the mountains of Israel. And why had the image come here? The collective power of the seed of the serpent will come seeking to crush the nation of Israel, to drive her into the sea, to demonstrate their—false—claim to this land.

The appearance of the image the king saw was described as *terrible* or terrifying. Controlling it was a golden, Babylonish, head co-ordinating this confederacy of nations seeking the downfall of Israel. Isaiah the prophet described this clash as being the climax of the centuries-old controversy: Zion vs. Babylon.

*Come near, ye nations, to hear; and hearken, ye people: let the earth hear, and all that is therein; the world, and all things that come forth of it.*

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

*For it is the day of the LORD'S **vengeance**, and the year of recompences for the **controversy of Zion**.* Isa 34:1,2,8

Where will the seed of the woman be in this day? They will have been gathered together in the south in Sinai for judgement and, for the faithful, that wonderful bestowal of the Divine nature. A band who have been prepared in order to go forth for the salvation of God's nation in their hour of trouble. As the prophet had spoken so long ago (Eze 21:27) Jerusalem would be *overturned, overturned, overturned*. This is the hour of their third overturning. But are there any of the seed of the woman to be found in her midst? Why yes! Elijah has performed his work of reformation, (Mal 4) there is a now a remnant who are walking in the faith of Abraham, believing in the promises, looking for the coming of the Messiah, who in their time of trial cry out to their God to save them. Their cries will be heard, the saviours are to hand, the arrogance of their enemies is about to be crushed to powder. And so the King will come to his people who will look upon a Saviour who has in his hands and feet the marks of his crucifixion at the hands of their forefathers. Great will be the remorse as the veil is finally lifted from their eyes, (Zech 12:9-14) and in the newly flowing river that flows eastward from Jerusalem they will wash away their sins and enter the New Covenant in Christ (Zech 13:1) and walk in hope of the resurrection at the end of the kingdom.

## The framework of prophecy

Prophecy was given for the guidance of the seed of the woman. It was to instruct them and to warn them who the true enemy would be, and to encourage them not to give up when circumstances were difficult and to set before them the glorious end when all things promised would be fulfilled, when the opposition of man will be subjugated to the rule of the true seed and his companions.

Our traditional understanding of Bible prophecy enables us to appreciate that the great enemy is not the Arabs, or Islam or even, as some have proposed, Israel! The great enemy has not suddenly changed in the latter-days, but is the power that ever was the enemy of the truth with its corrupted teaching, whether the literal Babylon of the past or its eventual successor, the Roman harlot who rides the beast. (Rev. 17)

*And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.*

*And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus Rev 17:5,6*

This is the true enemy and it will be the saints' privilege to bring to an end this wicked system of deceit and bring in the righteous rule of he who is the true King-priest after the order of Melchizedek.

There were few periods not covered by at least one prophecy. Among the many prophecies that were given, some short-term, many long-term especially those covering the "last-days", there were those with specified durations that could be marked off, demonstrating the amazing foreknowledge of God that even times and seasons lie in His power.

*Before looking at our 5 areas, we consider in more detail the certainty of Bible prophecy.*

## Helpful books

*The Way to Jerusalem*, Graham Pearce, CSSS agents & Bible Magazine

*The Revelation—Which Interpretation?* Graham Pearce. CSSS agents

*Hear What the Spirit Saith unto the Ecclesias*, John Knowles, CSSS agents

*Elpis Israel*, John Thomas, Christadelphian Office

*Apocalypse and History* Barker & Boulton, Christadelphian Office

*Ezekiel*, John Allfree, CSSS agents & Christadelphian Office

*Christadelphian Expositor*, H. P. Mansfield, Logos agents

*Bible Magazine*—see inside back cover



## Chapter 3:

# HOLD FAST OUR PROPHETIC HERITAGE!

*When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained;*

*What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? Ps 8:3,4*

## In wisdom thou hast made them all

We live in a most amazing world; its complexity is so awesome. The BBC has been running a series of nature programmes entitled *Life in the Undergrowth*. As the *Daily Telegraph* reviewer commented: -

Two things are consistently astonishing about *Life in the Undergrowth*. The first is the technology, revealing previously unimaginable details; now we really are able to see the tiny worlds of insects in perfect clarity. But what's more amazing, really, is the complexity of the systems that David Attenborough examines—they are, as even he puts it, “mind-blowing”. With their short life cycles... nothing in the insect world is wasted. Trees have developed ways of housing the ants that protect them, their lithe branches bulging with the squatters inside. Parasitic gnats suck the life from spiders and recycle their webs to make cocoons. And the fairy wasp, a fraction of the size of a pin's head, lays its eggs underwater in the eggs of beetles, themselves in plants' stems. If only our own lives were so organised. 14-12-05

This is the handiwork of the same God that provided us with His precious word. It matters not how great our minds are, or how many times we have read it, its stores of knowledge are unbounded, its depths unplumbed. This Mighty God who causes the teeming life of nature to survive, year after year, century after century, in innumerable diverse ways, has also provided for His sons and daughters.

*Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:*

*Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. 1 Pet 5:6,7*

His foreknowledge is seen in His plan with this earth. In the fullness of the times He brought forth His Son: made strong to overcome the temptations and trials he would face. (Isa. 50:4-9) Day by day he exhibited the true pathway for those who would follow.

*For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:*

*Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:*

*Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:*

*Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed. 1 Pet 2:21-24*

*So also Christ glorified not himself to be made an high priest; but he that said unto him, Thou art my Son, to day have I begotten thee.*

*As he saith also in another place, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.*

*Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from [out of] death, and was heard in that he feared;*

*Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;*

*And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him. Heb 5:5-9*

*Eternal salvation!* So we arrive at the focus of so much of scripture—the rest promised to those who love the Lord. The Lord Jesus, now elevated to the Father's right hand, controls the angelic hosts through whom God's purpose is being moved forward on so many fronts. The events shortly to unfold will see: -

- The final shaping of his saints and their change of nature to be extensions of His Divine Being.
- It also brings Israel to the final stage in transformation from being a nation with stony hearts and eyes veiled, to a holy and a righteous nation, reflecting His glory and showing the rightness of God's calling of Abram and making promises to him concerning his seed.
- At the same time God's unfolding judgements will demonstrate to the Gentiles that *Yahweh, He is God!* The lies and the delusions, originating in the Garden of Eden and perpetuated down through the ages by the reasoning of the flesh will be seen for what they are. Gentile rulers will submit their thrones and governments to the King in Zion and dwell peaceably one with another.

*O LORD, my strength, and my fortress, and my refuge in the day of affliction, the Gentiles shall come unto thee from the ends of the earth, and shall say, Surely our fathers have inherited lies, vanity, and things wherein there is no profit.*

*Shall a man make gods unto himself, and they are no gods?*



*Therefore, behold, I will this once cause them to know, I will cause them to know mine hand and my might; and they shall know that my name is The LORD. Jer 16:19-21*

We are humbled that in the mercy of God we have been set in this exalted position of hope.

*Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:*

*Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:*

*In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: Col 1:12-14*

But just knowledge of these things is not enough. The Truth demands actions. We can't—or shouldn't—stagnate, neither should we let the cares of this world impinge upon our life in the Truth. We have to be clear in our minds where we are aiming. As Paul had exhorted in the earlier verses: -

*For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;*

*That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;*

*Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness. Col 1:9-11*

### **The more sure word of prophecy**

A study of prophecy, which has been a feature of our community in these last days, is strong motivation to focus on our responsibilities in the Truth. If God has spent such care revealing these matters to us, then we have a responsibility to respond. What our Heavenly Father and our Lord Jesus want is for us to understand where we are in the prophetic scheme and to be prepared for our Master's return. Now in truth we will never be fully ready, but an appreciation of where we stand warns us to the folly of being absorbed by the empty things of this life. Bible prophecy is our wake up call that the Master is at hand.

We can divide prophecies about these last days into 3 broad categories: -

1. Those which are fulfilled before the call of the saints to judgement
2. Those which are fulfilled in the time between that return to the household and the battle of Armageddon
3. Those that cover Armageddon and the subsequent events that lead ultimately to the Kingdom being fully established.

Our main concern is the interface of items 1 and 2. We can list those matters that fall into one or other of these two categories. It is fairly easy to

see those prophecies that we perceive to have already been fulfilled. There are others that clearly belong to item 2. The difficulty comes with those items that might be fulfilled **before** or after the return of the Master to His household. It would be dangerous to suppose they will all take place **before** the return, for we could be caught out! The conclusion that we likely shall come to is that there is nothing that **has** to be fulfilled **before** our Master comes. In other words time is very short for all of us and, besides, who knows the day of his death? For the majority of saints are sleeping and their next conscious thought will be on that day of resurrection!

### **Some latter-day prophecies**

#### **1. Fulfilled**

- Drying up of the River Euphrates (there is a final stage to come)
- Israel established as a nation in the land (but many will be scattered)
- Jerusalem taken by Israel (though it will be lost again)
- Jerusalem a burdensome stone (though it will get heavier)
- The ending of the 7 times for the banding of the Babylonian Tree (Dan 4).

#### **2. Fulfilled before Armageddon, but after Return to household**

- The Elijah work to Israel in the land
- The standing up of the Image—Gog gathering his companions
- The final stage of the drying up of River Euphrates—Turkey taken
- The gathering of the nations into Israel, and taking of Egypt
- The Image now complete, in occupation of all the “metal” territories
- Gogian power/King of the North reigns supreme in Israel
- Opposition by Merchants of Tarshish and her “young lions”
- Christ & saints come forth to save Israel

#### **3. Fulfilled at Armageddon and after**

- From Bozrah to Jerusalem
- Mount of Olives splits in great earthquake, river flows from Jerusalem
- Armageddon, enemy in land totally crushed
- Jews accept Jesus as the Messiah
- Nucleus of Kingdom established, Temple building starts
- Everlasting gospel proclaimed
- Call to scattered Jews to return
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of judgement—on Europe—a lake of fire
- Nations step-by-step submit to Christ’s rule or perish
- Kingdom fully established, Israel restored, saints in control



This is by no means an exhaustive list; there are many more strands that could be added. There are however some items which seem to lie at the interface of 1 and 2, they may—or may not—start before Christ's return to his household, but fairly certainly will reach their full development in stage 2.

- Time of Israel dwelling securely
- Time of great distress of nations
- The harlot woman riding the beast
- The uniting of Europe East and West

These are areas that we look at as we proceed through *Milestones*. Suffice it for now to re-emphasise that we may possibly see the start of these things, but the climax of them lies beyond the call to judgement. In other words we are on the brink of our Master's return. We must hold fast until he comes!

### **How long does the time of Judgement take?**

There are three phases to God's judgements.

1. Judgement of the household
2. Judgement of Israel
3. Judgement of the nations
  - a. who have invaded Israel
  - b. outside the land

From the return to the household, to the Kingdom fully established with all the remaining nations submissive to Christ and all the Jews in the land may take some 40 years or so. A parallel is drawn between the first exodus and the second. In a wonderful section in Micah, God reveals His compassion in bringing His people back.

*According to the days of thy coming out of the land of Egypt will I shew unto him marvellous things.*

*Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy.*

*He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea.*

*Thou wilt perform the truth to Jacob, and the mercy to Abraham, which thou hast sworn unto our fathers from the days of old. Mic 7:15, 18-20*

Isaiah also draws the same parallel.

*And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush,*

*and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea.*

*And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth. Isa 11:11,12*

It is a reasonable inference that the gathering will occupy a similar period of time. It could run from the deliverance of the Jews in the land at the battle of Armageddon through to the last Jews arriving there. During this time, after the utter humiliation of the assembled hosts on the mountains of Israel, and the delivered Jews accepting their Messiah, the gospel proclamation is made as given in Rev 14:7.

*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.*

In Europe the Jews will be hated, blamed for what has happened in Israel; many may be taken out of the land at the time of the invasion of Israel as prisoners of war. Joel speaks against Tyre and Zidon (Lebanon) and those of the coasts of the Philistines (Palestinians in Gaza Strip?) who have been foremost in this work.

*The children also of Judah and the children of Jerusalem have ye sold unto the Grecians, that ye might remove them far from their border.*

*Behold, I will raise them out of the place whither ye have sold them, and will return your recompence upon your own head: Joel 3:6,7*

Elijah's work now will be to gather the Jews from every corner of the world. With the assistance of fellow saints and perhaps some mortal Jews from the nucleus of the Kingdom in the land they will be brought back one by one. There are several majestic passages that speak of this gathering. Ezekiel 20 tells us that they will return via the "wilderness of the people" to be educated in the things of Messiah and the faithful Jews brought into the New Covenant, before being allowed into their inheritance.

*And I will bring you out from the people, and will gather you out of the countries wherein ye are scattered, with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out.*

*And I will bring you into the wilderness of the people, and there will I plead with you face to face.*

*Like as I pleaded with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so will I plead with you, saith the Lord GOD.*

*And I will cause you to pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant:*

*And I will purge out from among you the rebels, and them that transgress against me: I will bring them forth out of the country where*



*they sojourn, and they shall not enter into the land of Israel: and ye shall know that I am the LORD. Eze 20:34-38*

This will all take time, and so, although a 40-year period initially seems a long time, there is much to be done. There is another indication of a 40-year period in the description of the warfare in Europe which is going on in parallel. The battle of Armageddon in Israel is likened to the corn harvest and the subsequent battles in Europe to the grape harvest. This fits with our understanding of the word Armageddon—a “heap of sheaves in the valley for judgement”. In the natural world the corn harvest comes in Israel in April to June; the grapes are gathered later, in August and September. In the description of this grape harvest is a symbolic indication of its duration.

*And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God.*

*And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs. Rev 14:19,20*

1,600 furlongs is an immense distance—some 200 miles. This is a symbol, and Bro Thomas reasons for this number being the square of 40, that we are looking at a time period of 40 years. The blood to the depth of the horse bridles in symbol was indicating that it was a judgement that would come upon those who were in control of the horse—the leaders of Europe.

If this is a 40-year period, then it could be that the first stage of the judgement at Sinai occupies a period of 10 years, making a 50-year or jubilee period for the whole judgement and establishment period. It is interesting that Ezekiel after describing the events of the Gogian invasion and destruction in chapters 38 and 39, then reveals the God-given details of the Temple that will be constructed following the purging of the land after the overthrow of Gog. He is very specific as to when the vision was given.

*In the five and twentieth year of our captivity, in the beginning of the year, in the tenth day of the month, in the fourteenth year after that the city was smitten, in the selfsame day the hand of the LORD was upon me, and brought me thither. Eze 40:1*

The 10<sup>th</sup> day of the 1<sup>st</sup> month would be the day when the passover lambs were selected. Why does Ezekiel draw attention to this particular day—*this selfsame day*? Just fifty years earlier Josiah had held his great passover, and Jewish tradition has it that it was a jubilee year, so if that was the case then the vision was given in a jubilee year. Now Ezekiel's vision is not of a temple being constructed, but of a temple functioning, with worshippers and sacrifices. So there could be a shadow here of a jubilee period, 50 years, from the first step of the Master's return to the earth being at rest.

*We now commence the 1<sup>st</sup> of our 5 areas, by looking at Israel.*

## Chapter 4:

# PROPHECIES FOR TODAY—ISRAEL

*So clear is teaching of the prophets that there would come a day when Israel would be gathered into their land, that one can trace back for many centuries an expectation of Bible students that the Jews would return to their land. Bro Thomas 150 years ago was clearly able to see from these prophecies that they would be going back as traders and farmers rather than in anticipation of the coming of their Messiah; that Britain would be playing a key role in that return and that they would be broken as a nation under the hand of the northern invader. Although many of the prophecies concerning the return of the Jews to their land have in part been fulfilled, there yet remains a final fulfilment as they are to be scattered from their land yet once more, awaiting a final regathering at the hands of their Messiah. In this section we will look at various prophecies that build up our expectations about the situation we should be seeing in Israel; in the next three chapters we will look at the current situation.*

### What prophecy expects us to find

As always we have the benefit of hindsight, and one marvels at the clear thinking of bro Thomas who was able to discern so much at a time when a Jewish homeland seemed a very remote possibility.

**Despised by world.** Until the veil is removed from Israel's eyes this will be the situation. They are in the "cast off" situation at the moment. God is working in their national conscience preparing them for the day of great transformation. In the meantime these words of Isaiah, which are clearly a latter-day prophecy, indicate that they would be afflicted and despised.

*The sons also of them that afflicted thee shall come bending unto thee; and all they that despised thee shall bow themselves down at the soles of thy feet; and they shall call thee, The city of the LORD, The Zion of the Holy One of Israel. Isa 60:14*

**Despised by their neighbours.** Several prophecies indicate that her neighbours will be only too happy to assist the invading armies. This prophecy of Joel still lies in the future.

*Yea, and what have ye to do with me, O Tyre, and Zidon, and all the coasts of Palestine? will ye render me a recompence? and if ye recompense me, swiftly and speedily will I return your recompence upon your own head;*

*Because ye have taken my silver and my gold, and have carried into your temples my goodly pleasant things:*



*The children also of Judah and the children of Jerusalem have ye sold unto the Grecians, that ye might remove them far from their border. Joel 3:4-6*

**A Palestinian territory.** The quotation above is one of several that show that there exists a Palestinian people during this time. The Palestinians of the Old Testament were swept away by successive conquerors.

**Trusting in their own strength.** Again is it clear that Israel will be seeking her own solutions to the situations that she finds herself in. We have looked before at the clear words of Ezekiel in chapter 39, that when Israel dwells safely it is a time of *trespass* in the eyes of God. (Eze 39:23-26) The picture painted by Malachi indicates that spiritually things will be at a low ebb, and only because there is a measure of response to the Elijah work of reformation, will there be a saving of Israel from their troubles.

*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 [erets, or land as 3:12] with a curse. Mal 4:5,6*

The coming invasion will be the step that breaks her pride and in her desperation cries out to the only One who alone can save her.

**A time of peace and prosperity.** Many are the passages that speak of a thriving agricultural state. Take for example: -

*He shall cause them that come of Jacob to take root: Israel shall blossom and bud, and fill the face of the world with fruit. Isa 27:6*

What we have to distinguish is the timing of these prophecies. We have seen a partial fulfilment in the events of the past 50 years; Israel has set world standards in many areas of agriculture, yet today she is moving away from agriculture to technology as it is no longer economic to compete in world markets by growing water-hungry crops. She has been forced to rationalise what she grows, using the amount of water consumed as the criterion. So the final fulfilment of these passages must lie in the future, indeed, everything that exists now is to be swept away. Cities, buildings, roads etc will be destroyed when the Mount of Olives splits in two and the whole topography of the environs of Jerusalem is changed. The forces that cause the elevation of the Dead Sea so that the Jordan reverses, will be catastrophic to the whole area, indeed it will have worldwide repercussions, when God *ariseth to shake terribly the earth.* (Isa 2:21)

However it is clear from Ezekiel 38 that at the time of Israel's invasion she is prosperous enough to entice the invader to come to spoil her possessions.

*And thou shalt say, I will go up to the land of unwallled 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,*

*To take a spoil, and to take a prey; to turn thine hand upon the desolate places that are now inhabited, and upon the people that are gathered out of the nations, which have gotten cattle and goods, that dwell in the midst of the land.*

*Sheba, and Dedan, and the merchants of Tarshish, with all the young lions thereof, shall say unto thee, Art thou come to take a spoil? hast thou gathered thy company to take a prey? to carry away silver and gold, to take away cattle and goods, to take a great spoil? Eze 38:11-13*

So Israel has to be economically desirable prior to the invasion. This same passage also makes it clear that she is—just prior to the invasion—dwelling very securely. Verse 11 is very comprehensive, to which we can add items from verses 8 and 14.

- *They [Israel] shall dwell safely all of them.*
- *I [Gog] will go up to the land of unwallled 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,*
- *In that day when my people of Israel dwelleth safely, shalt thou [Gog] not know it?*

This seems a far cry from the current situation, but this is one of the areas we will be examining. There is another important passage which speaks of a time of peace and safety and is to be found in 1 Thess 5:1-4

*But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.*

*For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.*

*For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.*

*But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.*

We looked at this last year (p. 85, 86), so we briefly summarise. The Greek word for *safety* is better translated *security*. These words were addressed to the disciples, at a time shortly before the destruction of Jerusalem. The statement of there being *peace and safety* must have been spoken of concerning Israel as it clearly is not speaking of the brethren and sisters of Paul's day. The Lord Jesus had foretold the destruction of Jerusalem; the apostles were commissioned to proclaim this punishment on a faithless nation. (John 16:8-11) In spite of contrary appearances, that destruction duly came in AD 70. The disciples were affected by it as the wrath of Rome focused on Jews and their associates throughout the Roman world.



Paul's words clearly have a final fulfilment in the yet-to-come punishment of Israel and overthrow of their city, for they were given in the context of the return of the Master as detailed in the earlier verses. This then agrees with Ezekiel 38. It indicates that the saints will see at least the beginning of this time, otherwise the exhortation is lost that brethren and sisters should heed the warning that here is a sign of the close return of the Master. Our task is to be busy in making spiritual preparation, in clothing ourselves in the spiritual armour that is pleasing to God. We must not be expecting that we will see Israel dwelling in full security, **before** our Master's return.

**Jerusalem a cup of trembling and a burdensome stone.** Zechariah brings this powerful imagery before us.

*Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem.*

*And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it. Zec 12:2,3*

Seven times throughout this chapter the pronoun **I** occurs! This is God's work through His Son; this is the "he" of Rev 16:16 - *And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.*

It is God's work, leading to the climax of the millennia-old controversy.

*Come near, ye nations, to hear; and hearken, ye people: let the earth hear, and all that is therein; the world, and all things that come forth of it.*

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

*For it is the day of the LORD'S vengeance, and the year of recompences for the controversy of Zion. Isa 34:1,2,8*

Zephaniah makes it clear that it is God's work to bring the nations against Israel, although they will not realise it.

*Therefore wait ye upon me, saith the LORD, until the day that I rise up to the prey: for my determination is to gather the nations, that I may assemble the kingdoms, to pour upon them mine indignation, even all my fierce anger: for all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of my jealousy. Zeph 3:8*

It is God's intention to have once-for-all demonstration of His authority and His choice of Israel!

*Our next two chapters look at Israel's peace and prosperity today.*

## Chapter 5:

# ISRAEL TODAY—SEEKING PEACE

### Israel seeking peace

Israel is desperately seeking a time of peace. The intifada started in 2000, and has had a deep effect on the Israeli thinking. No-where was safe from terrorist attacks. The Israeli intelligence services succeeded in thwarting many of the suicide attacks, but those that got through caused great havoc. It has harmed their economy and reduced the number of visitors to the country.

Some 1074 Israelis have been killed and 7520 wounded since September 2000.<sup>1</sup> This is nearly 14 killed or wounded for every 10,000 population. My local town of Rugby has a population of 90,000, so that would equate with 125 local people having been killed or wounded in the past 5 years. Bearing in mind the smallness of the population—a tenth that of Britain, a third that of Australia, nearly a fiftieth of the US—these figures have a substantial impact on everyday perceptions. Imagine in the UK, for instance, 10,000 killed and 75,000 injured over 5 years from terrorist attacks!

In 2005 things have improved substantially. A *BICOM* report 14-12-05 reported that figures released by the IDF revealed a 55 percent reduction in the number of Israelis killed compared to 2004. There are a number of factors that have contributed to this: -

- The death of Yasser Arafat in November 2004
- The extension of the security fence
- Israel's withdrawal from Gaza
- International pressure
- The changing situation in the Middle East
- The Palestinian desire for a chance to build their own economy

### Steps to “security and peace”

The Israeli prime minister spoke of his desire for peace in a talk at Haifa.

I have resolved, as one who had the privilege of participating in all of Israel's wars, to make an effort—a true effort—to try to lead to security and peace. It is not easy, it is trying, but I have decided to attempt to resolve this problem once and for all, and that is what I intend to do.  
*www.pmo.gov.il* 13-12-05

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<sup>1</sup> As at Nov 1<sup>st</sup>. Source:

[http://www1.idf.il/SIP\\_STORAGE/DOVER/files/7/21827.doc](http://www1.idf.il/SIP_STORAGE/DOVER/files/7/21827.doc)



Earlier in the year he withdrew all the Israeli settlers in the Gaza Strip. This was a very painful project. These settlers were mainly religious Jews, who in a pioneering spirit had settled in districts with poor soil that the Palestinians didn't want and turned them into productive areas. In fact 15% of Israel's agricultural produce came from this small region, thanks to the diligence and the sophisticated growing techniques of these settlers. In years gone by the Israeli government had encouraged these settlements, but with the intifada troubles, these isolated settlements became increasingly difficult to defend, tying down many troops.

Sharon's decision to remove the settlers and with it the need to defend them, was deeply unpopular in Israel. A terrible time of conflict threatened and the troops spent long periods practising their evacuation techniques. In the event it passed off peaceably and swiftly. The settlers were in the main deeply religious, and had seen it as part of their duty to populate the land of their fathers and most went with dignity and the evacuation was over within a few days. It brought their strong beliefs to the attention of their fellow Jews. After years of being tucked out of sight in the Gaza Strip, the attention of all Israel, indeed of the whole world, was drawn to these people; the majority were deeply Torah-loving Jews. Now they have gone, scattered to various parts of Israel.

Some 2,800 years ago, when Elijah the prophet despaired of his nation and fled to Mt Sinai, God told him that there were 7,000 in Israel who had not bowed the knee to Baal. (1 Kgs 19:18) His task was to return and to establish the schools of the prophets with Elisha's assistance. With this evacuation 8,500 settlers moved into Israel—though many of them are children. Could these be the nucleus among whom Elijah can work on his 2<sup>nd</sup> mission to Israel as foretold by Malachi in his 4<sup>th</sup> chapter?

### **The Palestinians, Gaza and the PLO**

When we look at Old Testament history, rarely has Israel occupied what we call the Gaza Strip. The Philistines occupied this area all the time that Israel was a nation in the land, the size of their territory fluctuating depending on the strength of Judah. They were subdued several times and in the days of Jehoshaphat paid tribute, but seemed to have been destroyed as a nation after a series of onslaughts from the Babylonians, the Persians and the Greeks. The Palestinians of today are Arabs who were in the land at the time of the establishment of the State of Israel or who have come from surrounding countries, attracted by the fact that before the intifada there were many jobs for them in Israel. This is not their ancestral home—these Arabs have never had a nation state in this area. There is no Palestinian language or culture. In fact the term Palestinian was applied to Jews who had settled in the land before the State was established in 1948.

The PLO was set up in 1964 by the leaders of 13 Arab states at an Arab League summit meeting specifically to eliminate Israel!

Article 9... said that ‘armed struggle is the *only* way to liberate Palestine.’ [My emphasis]

Article 15 (it is) ‘a national duty to repulse the Zionist imperialist invasion from the great Arab homeland and to *purge* the Zionist presence from **Palestine**.’

Article 22 ‘the liberation of Palestine will *liquidate* the Zionist and imperialist presence and bring about the stabilization of peace in the Middle East.’<sup>1</sup>

Interestingly their charter specifically excluded any territorial claims!

Article 24: This Organization does not exercise any territorial sovereignty over the West Bank in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, on the Gaza Strip or in the Himmah Area.

This article was removed in 1968 after Israel had taken the Gaza Strip from the Egyptians and the West Bank from the Jordanians during the 6-day war in 1967! Since then the idea of a Palestinian State has developed. Their long-term aim is not a side-by-side state with Israel (“two state solution”) but the establishment of one state to the exclusion of Israel.

As we saw in the previous chapter, Bible prophecy makes it clear that there will be Palestinian territory at the time end, so the withdrawal from the Gaza Strip was not totally unexpected.

### **Why did Sharon evacuate the Gaza Strip?**

It was a highly unpopular move, so why did he take this step? Sharon is a military man and had carefully weighed up the pros and cons of withdrawal. The Israeli people have been striving for peace for years; they were weary of the conflict for which they had been blamed by the rest of the world. They were constantly being told, “If only Israel would give them their own state then all would be well!” David Frum, a Jewish writer, gives his thoughts on Sharon’s possible reasoning.

The world wants a Palestinian state? Very well—let them have it. And the result, as we are seeing, is something close to panic in the foreign ministries of the West. Not just the West: the Middle East too. The Egyptians do not want a Hamas state on their borders. They had expected Ariel Sharon to place a cordon between Egypt and Gaza. He has said he will not do so - that he is leaving the job up to the Egyptians. And indeed last month Israeli Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz announced that 750 Egyptian soldiers would soon arrive to replace the Israeli Defense Forces.

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<sup>1</sup> [israelnationalnews.com/article.php3?id=2322](http://israelnationalnews.com/article.php3?id=2322)



Is this Egyptian role on the border a precursor to a larger Egyptian role within Gaza? Egypt after all remains far more vulnerable to Islamic extremist ideology than Israel. The Egyptian authorities have crushed the extremist movement within their borders. Do they wish to see a jihadist state emerge on their borders? It seems unlikely.

Could it be that Sharon is calling the bluff of Western governments and the Arab states? By creating the very Palestinian state that those governments and those states pretend to want but actually dread—Sharon is forcing them to end their pretense and acknowledge the truth.

The Palestinian leadership is incapable of creating a state that can live at peace with anyone, not Israel, not the other Arab states, not Europe, not the world. Somebody else must govern the restless and violent Arab-majority territories west of the Jordan River. Israel has suffered four decades of condemnation for doing the job. Sharon is now resigning the task to anybody else who would like to step in and take over the job. Nobody wants to. But Egypt and Jordan may soon realize that they have no choice. If there is a secret behind Sharon's plan—that is it. *American Enterprise Institute* 17-8-05

### **Sharon planned further withdrawals**

The 77 year-old Israeli Prime Minister caused a stir—some headlines called it an earthquake—in Israeli politics when he declared late November that he was quitting the Likud party that he had founded in 1973 and was setting up a new party, Kadima—"Forward". Such is the nature of Israeli politics that no one party has a majority—the government is composed of a coalition of parties. Elections are now due March 28<sup>th</sup> 2006. It seemed fairly clear that following the Gaza disengagement he was planning to withdraw the majority of Jewish settlements from the West Bank if he had won the elections. His dramatic exit from the political scene following his second stroke at the start of 2006, seems to indicate that angelic hands have other plans! An exit from Gaza—Yes! This allows there to be a Palestinian presence to the west of Israel as we have seen.

At the time of their invasion, Israel is to be in possession of the mountains of Israel, (Eze 38:8) dwelling in the midst of the land. (Eze 38:12) If the successor to Sharon withdraws settlers, this must surely be short-lived.

### **Netanyahu comes to the fore**

The Likud party held elections to choose a new party leader to replace Sharon, resulting in Benjamin Netanyahu being chosen. He was Prime Minister from 1996 to 1999, and was Finance Minister before resigning in August over Sharon's withdrawal plans. His bid to become PM again received a boost with the removal of Sharon from the running. He is certainly opposed to any further withdrawal.

The Labour Party revealed their election platform. They propose a leaseback from the Palestinians of the land upon which the West Bank

settlements are built, similar to Britain's former 99-year lease of Hong Kong from China in 1898. So under these plans the settlements would remain under Jewish control. They maintain that Jerusalem must be Israel's undivided capital, but they are prepared to give consideration to Palestinian's having control over certain neighbourhoods around it.

### **"Israel—a new paradigm"**

This was the heading to an article by Barry Rubin, a respected Middle East writer in the *Jerusalem Post* 14-11-05

The world's understanding of the Arab-Israeli conflict seems to be entering a new period different from what it had been in the past 10 years.

Call it the Third Paradigm era. A paradigm is a way of envisioning something, a guiding concept, a framework for definition. People may not be aware they hold such an underlying paradigm, but it guides their thinking.

He explained the 1<sup>st</sup> paradigm era lasted to the late 80's when the world was largely sympathetic to Israel as she faced attacks from her Arab neighbours. Then the mood changed against Israel in the late 80's and the 90's, she was seen as an oppressor of the Palestinians—the 2<sup>nd</sup> paradigm.

This [3<sup>rd</sup> paradigm] stage was set most immediately by the Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, but its deeper causes include September 11, the War on Terrorism, Arafat's death and the ensuing collapse of the Palestinian national movement, as well as the growing power of Hamas and the growing struggle over democratic reform in the region. It is in this context that the Iranian president's call for destroying Israel was seen.

The new Paradigm is built on the theme of the impossibility of conciliating those who hold extremist ideology and engage in terrorism. Between chaos, radicalism and incompetence, events in Gaza and elsewhere—including Iraq—have shown that the Palestinian leadership and much (though by no means all) of the Arab world is not ready for moderation, including any real peace with Israel. Palestinians are disorganized, or dominated by extremist activists and thinking. Therefore sympathy is shifting back toward Israel.

### **Security fence**

The government is pressing ahead with the construction of the security fence. This has caused so-much ill feeling on the part of Israel's enemies, yet it has been a significant factor in the reduction of terrorist attacks. Other countries have similar devices—the US-Mexico border fence and the EU fence in northern Africa to prevent immigration are examples. Plans to construct an eastern fence have been shelved. What is being discussed is a fence running along Israel's Negev border with Egypt. This 200 km fence



would cost some \$900m! There are known Al-Qaeda terrorist cells in the Sinai so this would be an advantage, but probably the price tag is too high.

### **Peace and safety/security**

Israel outside the security fence is much safer than it was, and most Israelis feel more secure than for a long time. We are probably at the start of this “peace and safety era”. One potential threat comes from Iran’s quest for nuclear weapons. America has been pressurising the EU to assist in getting a moratorium on any further development of her nuclear potential. The EU has been rather restrained in its actions, although it did react strongly to the anti-Israel outbursts by the Iranian leader, President Ahmadinejad.

Iran’s missiles can accurately target any part of Israel; nuclear tipped missiles threaten Israel with unprecedented destruction. Hence Israel’s pressure on world leaders to prevent Iran going nuclear. Israel is prepared to take the matter into her own hands. A *Sunday Times* report 12-12-05 indicated that Sharon’s government was giving serious consideration to carrying out a pre-emptive raid on Iran’s nuclear sites. The problem now is that Iran has learnt from Israel’s raid in 1981 which set back Iraq’s plans. *Stratfor* carried a report (16-12-05) with the headline: -

#### **Israel: Scenarios of a Strike Against Iran**

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad’s latest inflammatory statements, in which he called the Holocaust a “myth” and suggested that Israel’s Jews be relocated to Europe or even Alaska, are part of a series of provocations that have severely escalated political tensions between Iran and Israel. Furthermore, Israeli military officials have said that Iran is within months of being able to produce nuclear weapons. Because of its extreme vulnerability to a nuclear attack, Israel’s threshold for using the military option to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear capability is lower than the United States. Should Israel decide to attack Iran’s nuclear facilities, the operation would be risky, difficult and politically delicate—but not impossible.

The precedent for Israel to use airstrikes as a conventional response is seen in the Israeli IAF bombing of the Iraqi reactor Osirak in 1981. The IAF also has repeatedly demonstrated the ability to conduct long-range strikes, such as the 1976 raid on Entebbe—2,600 miles from Israel—and the 1985 attack on PO headquarters in Tunis, 1,500 miles from Israel.

It would involve flying over either Turkey, Saudi Arabia or Jordan and Iraq. Should Israel successfully carry out such a raid it would boost Israel’s feeling of security and would act as a brake on other nations wanting to take on her might. It would also fit with the prophetic picture that Israel trusts in her own might and not in the protecting care of her God.

*Our next chapter considers the increasing prosperity of Israel.*

## Chapter 6:

# ISRAEL TODAY—SEEKING PROSPERITY

*Israel is to be a desirable prey to her invaders. In this section we examine the growing prosperity of Israel. It will grow even faster when she is dwelling securely. Our section closes with a sobering warning from an earthquake expert of the utter devastation that Israel is facing from the predicted “any time now” earthquake due to hit the region! Just as the Bible foretold!*

### “Optimistic times in the Middle East”

In an address by the Israel Foreign Minister, Silvan Shalom, to the UN (which was incidentally chaired by an Israeli envoy for the first time in 40 years), he said that these are “optimistic times in the Middle East.”

In the foreign minister’s address, he underlined the warming relations between Israel and the Arab countries, following meetings with more than 10 leaders from the Arab and Muslim states which were held in the past week. “These meetings have been open and friendly, as befits meetings between countries which have no conflict,” Shalom told the world leaders. He stressed the importance for both parties to create diplomatic contacts between Israel and the Arab states. He urged the Palestinians to take the necessary steps to combat terrorism and voiced his strong opposition to the idea of Hamas joining the PA government.  
*BICOM. 21-9-05*

### Israel growing economy

Two years ago, on the eve of the Jewish New Year, a poll reflected the pessimism in Israel; but since then there has been a great change, as the heading to the article expressed: -

**Our 2 good years. In past 24 months, Israel’s economy took huge leap forward.**

In October 2003, 73 percent of Israelis believed there is no future in the country for their children. Meanwhile, 43 percent expected further deterioration in the economic situation, while only a quarter of respondents dared believe the intifada would end and progress with the Palestinians would be achieved.

[Now] Israel’s economic state at the beginning of the new Jewish year is among the best in its history.

Let’s allow the numbers to do the talking. In the past two years, the population’s standard of living went up by 10.5 percent. GDP increased by 11 percent. Per-capita production rose by 7.5 percent, while business productions shot up by 15 percent—an (almost) Chinese rate.

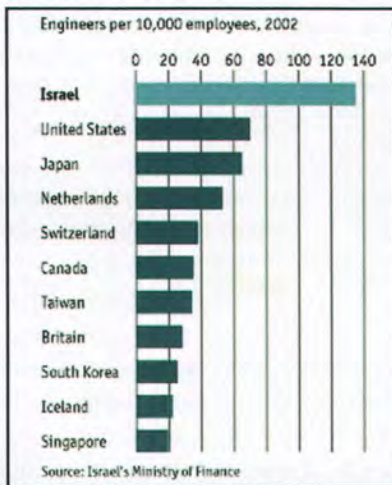


Israel's population increased by 250,000 in the past two years, while another 180,000 jobs were added, lowering the number of jobless by 18 percent. The business sector boosted employment by 10 percent. *YNET* 17-10-05

### **"Israel's technology industry. Punching above its weight".**

This was the heading to an *Economist* article 10-11-05 explaining why Israel is so successful in the technological fields.

Why is Israel—sometimes called the "second Silicon Valley"—so strong in technology? For several reasons, says Mr Mlavsky. First, the pump was primed by government grants in the 1970s, by the BIRD Foundation (a joint American-Israeli initiative that supported many start-ups before VC money was widely available), and by government schemes to encourage Russian immigrants who arrived after the collapse of the Soviet Union.



The second big factor is the army. "The army gets hold of everybody at age 18, and if they have a glimmer of potential, it catalyses their transformation into engineers or scientists," says Mr Mlavsky. The technically minded are given projects to develop and run, and are allowed to keep any intellectual property that they develop, which results in many spin-outs. It also means that once they get to university, trainee engineers already have practical experience and a problem-solving mentality. Israel

has 135 engineers per 10,000 employees, compared with 70 in America, 65 in Japan, and 28 in Britain (see chart).

This article has added interest in the light of a report from Russia that they face a shortage of scientists!

Some 25,000 Russian scientists left their country during the past 15 years, and another 30,000 scientists, or 5%-6% of Russia's scientific community, work abroad under temporary contracts every year! *RIA Novosti* 6-12-05

Surely here is an added incentive for Russia to come down into Israel! At the end of WWII Russia took German scientists to Russia which served her in good stead in the years after the war. Given a period of peace, the Israeli economy really could boom. It is interesting to note that *silver and gold*

mentioned in Ezekiel 38 are widely used in electronics—a field that Israel excels at.

### Development of the Negev

The withdrawal from Gaza has speeded up the government's investment in developing the Negev. Again this is of interest in that the first stage in the Armageddon war is a contest at Bozrah, with Christ and the saints coming up through Teman. These two places are in present day Jordan, to the east of the Negev. If there were Jews in the Negev and at this time under enemy control, then to skirt round them on the way to Jerusalem, after the pattern of the Exodus, would make sense and could explain a southern attack resulting in the first casualties for Gog in Bozrah.

As our map shows, the area of desert is enormous compared with Israel's main populated areas. With Israel's irrigation skills and development of drought tolerant plants, this is the last area left for Israel to develop. It is also away from troublesome neighbours! Some of the ex-Gaza settlers have established new homes in this area.



### NIS 17bn Negev 2015 development plan unveiled

[The government] today unveiled the Negev 2015 plan—a NIS 17 billion strategic ten-year plan for developing the Negev through 2015.

Targets to be achieved by 2015 include:

- 70% population growth from the current 535,000 to 900,000;
- 83% increase employment from the current 147,000 to 300,000;
- 30% increase in the number of Jewish students at Ben Gurion University of the Negev. *Globes* 16-11-05

### Oil exploration

Oil continues to be discovered off the coast of Gaza in what is Palestinian territory, but so far there have not been substantial amounts found in Israel. There are two companies currently exploring for oil in Israel—Zion Oil and Gas and Givot Olam—“everlasting hills”. (Gen 49:26) Both companies are led by their understanding of Moses' blessing upon Asher in Deuteronomy 33 and Jacob's blessing of Genesis 49 that there is oil in the territory of Ephraim and Manasseh. Limited amounts have been discovered, but so far not in sufficient volume to be economic. Theoretically there should be oil in this region; it is an extension of the Syrian oilfields.



Meanwhile Israel and Egypt have signed an agreement to supply Egyptian gas to Ashkelon through an underwater pipeline.

Egypt will supply Israel through a maritime pipeline to the southern town of Ashkelon with 1.7 billion cubic metres (60 billion cubic feet) of natural gas a year.



The first deliveries of the 2.5-billion-dollar project are expected in the first quarter of 2006, sources in Egypt and Israel said. The agreement is for a period of 15 years. *MENA* 30-06-05

Other reports speak of it being 2 years away as a 100km pipe has to be laid from northern Sinai to Ashkelon at a cost of \$160m.

Following the recent opening of the Blue Stream pipeline that brings Caspian oil to Turkey, India was reportedly interested in transporting this oil to Ashkelon and using the Tipline (Trans Israel Pipeline) to transfer it to Eilat, where large

tankers could load and travel to India. In *Milestones 2002* and *2004* we mentioned Russian plans to utilise this transit routes for its exports to Asia. This is still being considered as indicated in a *Debka* article 18-11-05 on the occasion of Mr Putin being in Turkey at the Blue Stream opening ceremony.

Putin spoke of extending this pipe network to the Turkish Mediterranean port of Ceyhan. A new underwater branch would then be built to connect Ceyhan with Israel's Ashkelon oil port, from which an existing pipe would carry the oil from the Mediterranean to Eilat. Facilities at this Red Sea port would need to be expanded to accommodate Russian oil and gas tankers bound for China through the Indian Ocean. As a main regional transit hub for Russian oil exports, Israel can look forward to stronger trade ties with Russia and Turkey, thousands of new jobs and royalty revenues running into hundreds of millions of dollars per year.

We await further news on both these potential boosts for Israel's economy.

**“Jews are a minority in own borders”**

The Jewish population of Israel and the Occupied Territories has fallen to half or less of the total a study claimed yesterday.

The study points to 5.26 million Jews, 1.35m Arabs, 185,000 foreign workers and 290,000 non Jews recorded by the Central Bureau of Statistics in Israel, alongside Palestinian Authority estimates of 3.8 million Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza. Population figures are controversial in the Middle East, with some experts accusing the Palestinians of inflating statistics. *The Times* 12-8-05

**“Israel set to be largest World Jewish Community”**

For the first time in 2000 years, Israel will next year become the largest Jewish community in the world, figures released by a Jewish Agency think tank revealed on July 10. However, the report issued by the Jewish People Policy Planning Institute predicted that even in 15 years time, the majority of world Jewry will not be living in Israel. (At present, about 40% of world Jewry live in Israel, while by 2020, 46% will choose Israel as their home.) Today, there are about 13 million Jews worldwide. *Jerusalem Post* 10-7-05

End-of year estimates put the population of Israel at 6,986,300: 76% are Jewish (5.31 million), 20% are Arab (1.38 million), and 4% are categorized as “other” (302,400)—non-Arab Christians or no religion listed. *Globes* 30-12-05

**A record aliyah from the West**

Around 23,000 new immigrants will have arrived in Israel by the end of 2005 based on Jewish Agency preliminary figures. There is a rise in aliyah from the west, especially from North America and France. From North America, 3,052 new immigrants... the last year when there was a higher number was 1983, when 3,806 olim arrived. 2,980 French Jews this year... this is a record for 34 years. From the CIS, 9,124 new immigrants; this is a 10% decrease from last year. From Russia itself there is a small rise in aliyah, and from Belarus there is a 26% increase.

The Chairman of the Jewish Agency, stated: “After several difficult years we’ve been through, we believe that the improvement in the security and economic situation will increase the feeling of security, and together with the Jewish Agency’s new “aliyah of choice” strategies, aliyah will be on the rise in 2006 as well. I am happy that so many people are choosing to come to Israel”. *Jewish Agency* 28-12-05

**“Have no doubt—the earth will move”**

This was a warning of the dangers that Israel faces from a major earthquake. Little money has been spent in making buildings earthquake-proof; there just hasn’t been the money or the inclination to face this threat.



The earthquake in Pakistan (7.6 on the Richter Scale with an epicentre 90 kilometers from Islamabad) represents a warning of what may happen in Israel. In comparison, an earthquake in November, 1995, not far from Israel and only a few dozen kilometers south of Eilat, measured 7.2. This indicates that a major earthquake (7 or higher) may well occur along the entire length of the Arava Fault and the Jordan Valley Rift.

In the region where Israel is located, a strong earthquake takes place on average every 80 years.

The last earthquake in Israel's seismic region that caused significant damage to life and property took place in 1927. It measured 6.2 and its epicenter was in the northern Dead Sea. Several hundred people were killed, mainly in Nablus, Ramle, and Lod. In 1837, there was a stronger earthquake here (estimated magnitude of 7) with an epicenter north of the Sea of Galilee. Thousands were killed, the Jewish Quarter of Safed was destroyed (1,800 deaths), and Tiberias, Nablus, and dozens of small villages in the Galilee region sustained severe damage.

In 1759, an earthquake in southern Lebanon (estimated at 7.5) caused the deaths of tens of thousands of people and did severe damage in southern Lebanon and the Upper Galilee region.

The 1837 and 1927 earthquakes also caused severe damage far from the epicenter because of reactions in geological infrastructure, resulting in increased ground movement under certain conditions. Most major cities in the Coastal Plain are now located on underlying rocky land masses, which are expected to increase ground movement in an earthquake, and many of their structures were not built to withstand an earthquake. Unless they are reinforced, an earthquake stronger than 6.5 is expected to cause these buildings to collapse. It is now 80 years after the last intermediate quake in 1927 and 170 years after the last major quake in 1837. There seems to very little sand remaining in the hourglass. Still, we refuse to face the danger that awaits us. *Haaretz* 11-10-05

How we marvel at the preparations that God makes for this soon-to-unfold great day of judgement.

*In our last chapter in this 1<sup>st</sup> area we look at the growth of anti-Semitism, now very prevalent again in Europe.*

## Chapter 7:

# JERUSALEM—A BURDENSOME STONE

*We look at why Israel is so hated and how this will lead to the nations coming against her.*

## Anti-Semitic incidents on the increase

An *Economist* article (27-1-05) was entitled, **Always with us?**

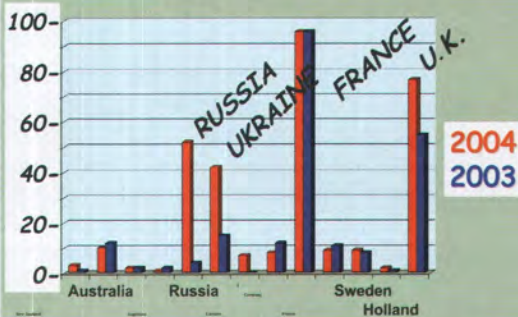
“NEVER again.” That was the message of political leaders gathering on Thursday January 27th in Auschwitz to mark the 60th anniversary of its liberation, including heads of state from France, Germany, Russia, Poland and Israel. And it was the message many sent in their own countries. “Remember”, said President Jacques Chirac, as he unveiled a Shoah Memorial in Paris that features a wall engraved with 76,000 names of those sent to their deaths from France. “Do not forget.”

Yet the ceremonies come at an awkward time. A report released this week by Natan Sharansky, an Israeli government minister, concluded that “anti-Semitic expression has grown over recent years” and that “the greatest number of events and the most severe attacks occur in Europe.” Another report, from America’s State Department, speaks of “the increasing frequency and severity of anti-Semitic incidents—particularly in Europe.”

Linking the Holocaust to today’s anti-Semitic attacks may seem far-fetched. But some have raised the spectre of a new persecution of European Jewry. One Auschwitz survivor, Elie Wiesel, told a conference in Brussels last year that European Jews were living in fear. “Don’t say they are paranoid, they are not. They are simply realistic,” he said. Charles Krauthammer, a columnist, wrote in the *Washington Post* in 2002 that “in Europe, it is not very safe to be a Jew”, adding that “what is odd is not the anti-Semitism of today but its relative absence during the past half-century. That was the historical anomaly.”

There are, however, signs that the post-war taboo against speaking ill of Israel, or of Jews in general, is eroding, in Germany and in

Violent incidents in selected countries





other countries. Some observers fear that social acceptance of anti-Jewish speech is rising. Across Europe, anti-Israel (or, more specifically, anti-Ariel Sharon) feeling is strong: it is often hard to separate this from anti-Semitism, and the first can be used as an excuse for the second.

Why is this? Why did so many consider Israel was the greatest threat to peace in an EU poll in November 2003? (See *Milestones* 2003 p 92,93) Perceptions are shaped very much by a person's upbringing. It is also influenced by the media—the newspapers they read, the news reports and even the films and TV programs that they watch. If the European and Russian media fairly consistently paints an anti-Israel and pro-Palestinian line, then not surprisingly this rubs off on the general population.

### **The New War Against the Jews**

Hillel Haljkin, a Jewish author, writing in the *New York Sun* 30-6-05 on the occasion of an outburst of Russian anti-Semitism expressed his fears.

Half a century after the Holocaust, a new war against the Jews has been declared. We are only now—innocents that we have been, lulled by the world and our own wishful thinking into believing that widespread Jew-hatred is a thing of the past—waking up to its true dimensions.

Why should the media be so against Israel? We consider in chapter 12 the Vatican's success in spreading her influence by using the laity—ordinary members who are encouraged to use their positions for the good of the Church. This has worked wonders. Through such means the perception of the Roman Catholic Church has been transformed in the past 50 years or so. The Vatican's pro-Palestinian line has been consistent since 1967 when Israel took Jerusalem. Yasser Arafat paid far more visits to Pope John Paul II than any other world leader!

Why should the Vatican dislike the Jews? It is rooted in history; the persecution of the Jews at the hands of the Churches of Europe and Russia goes back for centuries. This agrees with Daniel's prophecies—the little horn of the beast and the little horn of the goat have been downtreaders of saints and Jews. Christianity claims it is the heir to the things of Israel. Cardinal Ratzinger, now the Pope, writing in 2000 explained the situation in an article in *L'Osservatore Romano* 29-12-00 [My emphasis DP]

For this reason, the voices of Moses and the prophets have rung out in the Church's liturgy from its very beginnings until today; Israel's psalter is also the great book of the Church's prayer. As a result, the primitive Church did not pit itself against Israel, but in all simplicity believed itself to be the legitimate continuation of Israel. The splendid image of chapter 12 of the book of Revelation of a woman clothed with the sun, crowned with twelve stars, pregnant and suffering in the pangs of giving birth is Israel, which was "to rule over all nations with an iron scepter" (Psalm 2:9). Nonetheless, this woman is transformed into **the new Israel, the mother of new peoples, and she is personified in Mary,**

**the Mother of Jesus.** The bringing-together of these three meanings—**Israel, Mary, the Church**—shows how **Israel and the Church** were, and are, inseparable for the Christian faith.

### **A new vision of Israel-Church relations**

We know that every act of giving birth is difficult. Certainly, from the very beginning, relations between the infant Church and Israel were often marked by conflict. The Church was considered by her own mother to be a degenerate daughter, while Christians considered their mother to be blind and obstinate. Down through the history of Christianity, already-strained relations deteriorated further, even giving birth in many cases to anti-Jewish attitudes, which throughout history have led to deplorable acts of violence. Even if the most recent, loathsome experience of the *Shoah* was perpetrated in the name of an anti-Christian ideology, which tried to strike the Christian faith at its Abrahamic roots in the people of Israel, **it cannot be denied that a certain insufficient resistance to this atrocity on the part of Christians can be explained by an inherited anti-Judaism present in the hearts of not a few Christians.**

It is not our purpose here to examine the hand of the Vatican behind the *Shoah* [Holocaust]. Suffice it to say that the claim that the Church is now Israel and the Church is the Kingdom of God upon earth has been the situation for 1600 years. This was bad enough while Israel were a scattered people, but the establishment of Israel as a nation in their former homeland, and then later their taking of Jerusalem as their capital, brought the two sides into conflict. Israel was an anachronism. If Rome's claims were true then there was no role for a nation. Here are a few extracts from the 1910 edition of the *Catholic Encyclopedia*, which is still displayed on their web site.

The Kingdom of God as described and founded by Jesus has an historical name. It is the Christian Church, which was able silently to leaven the Roman Empire, which has outlived the ruin of the Jewish Temple and its worship, and which, in the course of centuries, has extended to the confines of the world the knowledge and the worship of the God of Abraham, while Judaism has remained the barren fig-tree which Jesus condemned during His mortal life.

[History] discloses the principal causes of that hatred, among which the following may be mentioned:

- The deep and wide racial difference between Jews and Christians which was, moreover, emphasized by the ritual and dietary laws of Talmudic Judaism;
- the mutual religious antipathy which prompted the Jewish masses to look upon the Christians as idolaters, and the Christians to regard the Jews as the murderers of the Divine Saviour of mankind, and to



believe readily the accusation of the use of Christian blood in the celebration of the Jewish Passover, etc.;

- the trade rivalry which caused Christians to accuse the Jews of sharp practice, and to resent their clipping of the coinage, their usury, etc.;
- the patriotic susceptibilities of the particular nations in the midst of which the Jews have usually formed a foreign element, and to the respective interests of which their devotion has not always been beyond suspicion.

In view of these and other more or less local, more or less justified, reasons, one can readily understand how the popular hatred of the Jews has too often defeated the beneficent efforts of the Church, and notably of its supreme pontiffs, in regard to them.

Well that's their conclusion—history, confirmed by the word of God shows that the leaders were foremost in this antipathy!

### **The New Jerusalem**

Rome is known as "the eternal city" as well as the "New Jerusalem". Jerusalem is the *mother of us all* declared Paul (Gal 4:26). Rome claims that position of the mother church and Mary the mother of all the faithful! This is an extract from address by John Paul II based on Palm 87 entitled: -

#### **John Paul II Refers to Jerusalem, Mother of All Nations**

In line with Ps 86, the Second Vatican Council also sees in the universal Church the place in which are gathered "all the righteous, beginning with Adam, and the righteous Abel to the last elect." It will have its "glorious fulfillment at the end of time" ("Lumen Gentium," No. 2).

This ecclesial reading of the Psalm opens, in the Christian tradition, to its re-reading in a Mariological key. For the Psalmist, Jerusalem was a real "metropolis," namely, a "mother-city". In this light, Christianity sings of Mary as the living Zion, in whose womb the Incarnate Word was generated and, as a consequence, the children of God are regenerated. The voices of the Church Fathers—from Ambrose of Milan to Athanasius of Alexandria, from Maximus the Confessor to John Damascene, from Cromazio of Aquileia to Germanus of Constantinople—are in accord in this Christian rereading of Psalm 86. *Zenit* 13-11-02

This was fine while for centuries Jews experienced the pogroms of Europe, despised and rejected as Christ-killers. With the break up of Papal power in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Jews were emboldened to talk about setting up a homeland in Israel. Herzl called the first Zionist Congress in 1897 and fifty years later the State of Israel was set up. The Old City of Jerusalem at this time came under Jordanian control and Israel had a part of the new city as its capital. Israel's parliament building, the Knesset, was built upon land still leased from the Greek Orthodox Church! In 1967, the Israelis took the whole of Jerusalem and once more the Jews had control of their capital!



This posed a dilemma for official church teaching. Jews back in their land was one thing, Jerusalem under Israeli control was quite another. Israel's claim that Jerusalem was the city of God's people didn't square with the doctrine that Rome was now the New Jerusalem. The roots of the coming conflict were laid bare. The Vatican had taken steps to prevent such a happening. When the UN decided that a Jewish State could be established in parts of Palestine, the Vatican lobbied hard to prevent Jerusalem coming under Jewish control.

**The Post-War Palestine Issue.** In order to protect the Catholic Church's interests in the Middle East, namely the Holy Places of Christianity, the Holy See declared that the best solution would be the internationalisation of Jerusalem. The Holy Places, an area of immense significance to all Christians, would thus be removed from Jewish or Arab control. While the major political powers discussed the issue there was no public comment by the Holy See throughout 1947. Finally Pius XII spoke of the need for "an international character to Jerusalem and its vicinity" in his encyclical *In Multiplicibus Curis*. (On 24-10-1948.)

In his encyclical *Redemptoris Nostri Cruciatu*, (15-4-1949) Pius XII implored the Catholic world to unite in order to protect the Holy Places, and work for the internationalisation of Jerusalem by lobbying their governments. Strong pressure was applied by the faithful in France, Italy, Spain and America. Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York, spoke directly with President Truman, and was vehemently critical of America's support for Israel's admission to the United Nations. The Holy See campaigned for an acceptance of the Australian proposal that would place Jerusalem directly under United Nations administration, a proposal fiercely challenged by Israel, and opposed by the United Kingdom and America. The reaffirmation of the General Assembly of the United Nations' desire on 9 December 1949 to internationalise the region of Jerusalem was attributed by Ferrari to the Holy See's unstinting diplomatic efforts. The *Palestine Post* reported, "Papal Nuncios in almost every UN state visited heads of government with the result that almost identical cables were received by Latin American and other delegations ordering them to support the Australian resolution." It is said that New York's Cardinal Spellman worked hard to keep Jerusalem out of Israeli control by contacting the Papal nuncios in South America, demanding that they urge their home governments to take an uncompromising stand at the UN for the internationalization of Jerusalem. (*Holy See Diplomacy*. Dissertation by N. Hercules. 30-9-98)

Although the resolution was passed it was never implemented. An interesting background article to this Australian resolution, entitled *The International Headache*, can be downloaded.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.ajiac.org.au/review/1999/245/mandel.html>



For many years the Vatican ignored the State of Israel—it was not officially recognised by the Vatican until 11 years ago—and Israel is still struggling to bring the Agreement signed then to a completion. Like most nations the Vatican does not accept Israel's claim to Jerusalem, hence her Embassy is in Tel Aviv. There was a method of undermining Israel and

that was through working with Arafat and the Palestinians, in the hope that they would succeed in driving the Jews into the sea.

We reproduce two cartoons from *Milestones 2000*, which neatly sum up



the relationship between Arafat and the Pope. The above is from the *Jerusalem Post*, the second from an Arab paper which captured the reality that the Pope held the key to the situation!

In the Oct.-Dec. 2003 edition of the Italian magazine *Diritto e Libertà*, Vittorio Parsi outlined the relationship between the two States under the headline **The Vatican and Israel: Policy Ordered More to**



**Balance than Impartiality.** As the headline says the Vatican does not claim to be impartial in its dealings with Israel, but was seeking to be more balanced in dealing with the Palestinian-Israeli conflict! Two items were of particular interest: -

### Jerusalem

The strategy of international involvement is the same position sought by the Holy See for the city of Jerusalem, whose annexation to the Jewish state continues to be contested. In this regard, particularly significant were the words of then Vatican foreign minister, Jean-Louis Tauran, when he recalled: "The Holy See has always accepted what was set by Resolution 181 on 29 November 1947—which declared that Jerusalem must be the object of special regime under the auspices of the international community". In this way, the Holy See has always taken care to distinguish the territorial aspect (the subject of a bilateral agreement between Israel and Palestine, on the basis of the international resolutions and conferences held in Madrid and Oslo) as well as the multilateral aspect deriving from "the city's religious and cultural dimensions". For the protection of the latter, Vatican opinion is still that

“a special internationally guaranteed statute acts as the only valid means for future avoidance that one of the parties take exclusive control over the holy city’s sanctuaries and the related heritage while under pressure of political happenings and changes”.

### **The refugees**

The fear that the internationalization of the [M.E.] crisis may conceal more than one trap for Israel’s very survival is reinforced by the fact that the Vatican says a return of Palestinian refugees to their homeland is a veritable “right” from all previous wars since 1948. It appears clear that, if accepted, such a statement would spell doom for the Jewish state, even more so when considering that no reciprocity for millions of Jewish refugees from the region could ever be seriously proposed.

On this specific point, it remains perplexing the Vatican does not take its own impracticability into consideration and appears much less careful than usual of history’s course of events. One must only bear in mind that if the very same principle were applied to all wars, it would mean the repatriation of hundreds of millions of human beings to their homelands, with unimaginable consequences for countries not only of historical significance but whose borders have tended to move over time as in Poland, Germany, Italy and the former Republics of Yugoslavia.

During the years from 1948 to 1967, when Jewish synagogues were being destroyed and Jews excluded from the heart of Jerusalem, there was no call for the Moslem power to extend freedom of religion to the Jews! In fact under Israel’s control of Jerusalem there has been far greater religious freedom for all.

With extensive property holdings by the Roman Catholic, Greek and Russian Orthodox Churches in Jerusalem, it is not too difficult to imagine the outcry that will be raised when Israel begins to turn back to her Mosaic roots under Elijah’s work of reformation. (Mal ch 4) The city of Jerusalem is filled with the idols of Christianity, ripe for rejection and destruction!

### **Ratification of the 1993 Vatican Fundamental Agreement**

Ever since the Vatican officially recognised Israel’s existence by the making of an Agreement, she has been pressing Israel to amend her laws to give protection to the Vatican property holdings. Traditionally churches are exempt from taxes, but this is not enshrined (understandably!) in Israel’s laws. The Vatican has pressed for changes to enshrine her “rights”. Israel has dragged her heels; it must be hard for her to give such tacit recognition to Rome’s claims to Jerusalem, knowing, as she must do, the oppression she has suffered at her hands. The visit of the Israeli president, Moshe Katzav, to the Pope was marked by this headline, **Pope receives Israeli President, reiterates agreements must be implemented**. In December, Jerusalem officials stated that they are owed nearly \$65,000,000 in taxes! With talks due to resume in January, this brought no cheer to the Vatican!



For over 10 years, the Holy See and the Israeli government have been engaged in sporadic talks to finalize an agreement establishing the legal and financial rights of Church institutions in the Holy Land. The completion of this pact was promised in the “fundamental agreement” of 1993, which led to Vatican recognition of the Israeli state. Officials in Rome have frequently expressed impatience at the pace of negotiations.

In those negotiations, Vatican representatives are seeking tax exemption for Church-owned properties in Jerusalem. Israeli negotiators argue that buildings should be exempt from taxes only if they are used for religious services—leaving hospitals, schools, and clerical residences liable for taxation. Both sides have agreed that taxes will not be collected until the questions about exemption have been resolved.

This week, however, city officials in Jerusalem announced that Catholic institutions are liable for nearly \$65 million in property taxes. The public announcement seemed to indicate a hardening of negotiating postures as the talks on a legal-financial pact are set to resume.

At the year-end there seems no sign of Israel completing their ratification, another area of contention remaining so far unsolved.  
*Catholic World News* 23-12-05

Jerusalem a burdensome stone, as Zechariah foretold, and this is just the beginning! It will get greater with the Elijah work when perhaps the saints are at Sinai. The Vatican and Zionism have always been of a collision course.

### **Pope Benedict's Bethlehem passport**

In protest at the finishing of the Bethlehem section of the security barrier, Bethlehem has produced its own passport, and presented the first one to the Pope! (*religionnews.com* 3-12-05)

### **Bethlehem and the Palestinians**

An interesting year-end article indicated that for the dwindling Christian community, much of the past trouble in Bethlehem was caused by the Moslems. The Roman Catholic Bethlehem mayor has made a coalition with “ Hamas as his main ally, together with another extremist group called Islamic Jihad”. They have driven out the Fatah element who were very corrupt, and are trying to bring in much needed reforms. The report added:

The general plan of Hamas also includes the imposition of a special tax, called al-jeziya, upon all of the non-Muslim residents in the Palestinian territories. This tax revives the one applied through all of Islamic history to the second-class Jewish and Christian citizens. *Chiesa* 29-12-05

*We now move to our 2nd area—prophecies concerning Europe.*



## Chapter 8:

# PROPHECIES FOR TODAY—EUROPE

*The history of Western Europe has been shaped by the Roman Empire and its successor, the Holy Roman Empire. In more recent times Germany was the shaping force until the ending of WWII. It is now re-emerging as an influence once more. Behind the scenes has been another hand shaping the Europe of today—that of the Vatican. We will not be surprised to find that Europe is the focus of Bible prophecies, for here were to be found many of the scattered Jews and the saints. Our 21<sup>st</sup> century freedom for the majority in the West was not the lot for many of our earlier brethren and sisters. This was—and is—the territory of the Beast and the False Prophet. Our interest lies in those prophecies that cover the present situation, of which there are a goodly number!*

## What prophecy leads us to expect

There will be quite an overlap with our considerations of Europe with those prophecies that concern Russia. In terms of Daniel chapter 2, there is to be one image, which stands on its two feet. Or, in the language of chapter 7, the 4<sup>th</sup> beast is present with the other 3 beasts. In terms of the later chapters of Daniel there is a “King of the North” who will be opposed by a “King of the South”. The language of Revelation chapter 16 is of a dragon, beast and false prophet. This last passage clearly indicates that the division of Europe, east and west, still remains, there is a beast power; there is a dragon power. However instead of being in conflict they will be working together, as two legs of one body.

Let’s briefly look at some Old Testament prophecies.

## Nebuchadnezzar’s Image

Here is revealed what shall be in the latter-days (Dan 2:28). A colossus of a man standing upon its two legs in opposition to the things of God. Although headed by a latter-day Nebuchadnezzar, it is a composite man representing many kingdoms that have come together for one purpose. The feet and toes are a strange mix of iron and clay (v 41, 42). They are two materials that form an unstable mix, doomed for





destruction. Iron is clearly the symbol of Rome, so there is a strong Roman element to the nations that make up these feet. Clay—miry clay—takes us back to Genesis 2 and the creation of Adam. Clay is a symbol of humanity. In today's terms we see democracy (clay) mixed with iron of Rome. As can be seen in the so-called democracies of eastern and western Europe, behind the scenes authoritarian power is wielded. It is to be found in the unaccountable corridors of power in Brussels and in the authoritarian ways of Putin and his colleagues. In the day when this colossus stands it will be an awesome expression of the Kingdom of Men in defiance to the things of God. These nations will speak and act as one. Where does it stand? We are not specifically told; however the little stone power smites it upon the feet. Where is this stone power to be found? In the vicinity of the land of Israel. In fact in order for the image to be complete it must have control of the territories of the metals that preceded it. The final territory will be the land of Israel. When, to change the imagery, Gog is in possession of Egypt and the Holy Land then the image truly can be said to be complete and standing up. Its duration of standing therefore would appear to be very short in relation to the 2,600 years of preparation!

### **The 10 toes**

It is possible that at the time when it stands up it will be found to consist of ten kingdoms, although it may just be conforming to human anatomy. However God's knowledge is wonderful and there may be precision, just as we have two arms that corresponded to the dual Medo-Persian Empire and the 2 legs with the eventual division of the Roman Empire. We cannot speculate which these toe nations are and whether 5 from the east and 5 from the west. We see their extension in the detail of the beast described in Daniel 7. Unlike the image, which represents east and west united, this beast represented Western Europe and at that time in history one can name the 10 horn kingdom territories upon which the beast developed.

Other prophecies of Daniel which have latter-day applications are the tree of ch 4 showing the latter-day revival of the Papacy; the little horn of the goat of ch 8 and the King of the North of ch 11 showing the role of Russia.

### **Daniel's 4<sup>th</sup> beast**

Although this vision very much is the one that gives the details of the development of the Papacy, nevertheless it seems appropriate to deal with it here rather than the section on the Papacy. It is clear that there is a closely integrated situation between Western Europe and the Papacy.

What does this vision lead us to expect today? Although this 4<sup>th</sup> beast is a picture of the Roman empire—the successor to the Greek leopard, its details lies in the development of the western section of the Roman Empire, with the following chapter looking at the eastern Empire. In the 10 horns of v8 we have the Roman world of around AD 500 with the development of the 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.*

Here we have a picture of the Holy Roman Empire in Western Europe with the Emperor as the little horn power exerting civil, temporal power and the Papacy ecclesiastical power. In the interpretation given to Daniel further details are added.

*And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.*

*But the judgment shall sit, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and to destroy it unto the end.*

*And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him. Dan 7:25-27*

The 1260 years (*a time and times and the dividing of time* v25) expired in the events of the French Revolution or the period around AD 1870 when the temporal power of the Papacy was broken, depending on the starting point. Apart from the tiny Vatican City the Pope now has no territory. Nevertheless the eyes and mouth element continue on, and in the language of Revelation 17 it is the rider on the European beast, but it no longer has the power to persecute. It has to use other powers to work her political aims. Note in verse 11 the basis of its future judgement: -

*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*

At its final stage it is uttering *great words* which v25 tells us were directed *against the most High*. As a result the beast is slain and therefore with it the eyes and mouth of the little horn. It is clear that at the time of the end we see a Papacy working through Western Europe, the two are entwined. This is the situation that we begin to see developing. The Papacy is working behind the scenes with the core countries of the EU to bring about a hoped for re-creation of the Holy Roman Empire.

Although the detail of the beast is of western Europe we see that it is working with the east by the detail given in v12: -

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

Catholic Europe is to be destroyed; the countries represented by the earlier 3 beasts—very much in the east—have a lesser punishment, as they are not so culpable. They have not been such persecuting powers.



So we would expect to see an increasing emphasis in Europe of the Roman Church. Although Britain was part of the pagan Roman world, the Romans had departed these shores before the development of the little horn described here. We expect therefore that Britain will not be found at the heart of this system; but more of that in our section on Britain.

### The beasts of Revelation

We dealt with these in *Milestones 2004* ch 4. The beast goes through various phases with time. Our concern here is the latter-day phase, which we find in Revelation 16 and 17. Chapter 16 describes the situation at the return of the Master; chapter 17 primarily paints the situation after his return and after the fall of the eastern leg of Nebuchadnezzar's image.

**The beast of Rev 16.** In common with the other two symbols described in this section (v12-16)—the dragon and the false prophet—we look for evidence of an unclean *spirit like frogs coming out of its mouth*. We associate this unclean spirit with the French Revolution and its cry of liberty, equality and fraternity—the spirit of this democratic age. It is unclean in God's eyes. His coming rule will not be democratic but theocratic. Frogs were an unclean animal under the Law. This democratic spirit has swept around the world. Mr Bush is attempting to change the Middle East to be a more democratic region. As it is said to issue out of the mouths of the beast and the dragon and the false prophet, we should expect to see a democratic spirit being the official policy—i.e. the mouth—of all three. As well as *unclean* it is described as: -

*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 16:14

To the Greeks and Romans, the *devils* or demons were the lesser gods, the intermediaries between man and the great gods. They also believed that they could dwell in the minds of men, making them mad. This word is also associated with idolatry. (1 Cor 10:20,21)

They worked *miracles*—or as translated elsewhere, *signs*. This all adds up to a picture of this spirit permeating all the officialdom of these three symbols, which deludes those who receive it. The spirit of today is a mixture of democracy and humanism that deludes its hearers as to its truth.

But how does this spirit persuade *the kings of the earth and of the whole world*, to assemble together for *the battle of that great day of God Almighty*? We know this battle is to take place in Israel, so it must be that they consider Israel to be of a different spirit, one that arouses their hostility, and their determination to eliminate Israel. We saw in the previous section that Israel is considered an oddity.

### Israel: The Alternative

The problem with Israel, in short, is not that it is a European “enclave” in the Arab world; but rather that it arrived too late. It has imported a characteristically late-nineteenth-century separatist project into a world that has moved on, a world of individual rights, open frontiers, and international law. The very idea of a “Jewish state”—a state in which Jews and the Jewish religion have exclusive privileges from which non-Jewish citizens are forever excluded—is rooted in another time and place. Israel, in short, is an anachronism.

Israel itself is a multicultural society in all but name; yet it remains distinctive among democratic states in its resort to ethnoreligious criteria with which to denominate and rank its citizens. It is an oddity among modern nations not—as its more paranoid supporters assert—because it is a Jewish state and no one wants the Jews to have a state; but because it is a Jewish state in which one community—Jews—is set above others, in an age when that sort of state has no place.

In a world where nations and peoples increasingly intermingle and intermarry at will; where cultural and national impediments to communication have all but collapsed; where more and more of us have multiple elective identities and would feel falsely constrained if we had to answer to just one of them; in such a world Israel is truly an anachronism. And not just an anachronism but a dysfunctional one. In today’s “clash of cultures” between open, pluralist democracies and belligerently intolerant, faith-driven ethno-states, Israel actually risks falling into the wrong camp. *Tony Judt 23-10-03*

Israel is indeed different! This age of so-called tolerance is at the same time very intolerant of that which it perceives as an oddity; so Israel is cast as the one at fault. It is a **Jewish State**, and as we saw in the previous chapter an increase in that Jewishness will rouse this mad, idolatrous spirit from the beast and his companions. After all it is only some 65 years since Germany was roused to do exactly this, aided, although now denied, with help given by the Roman Church. (See *The Vatican against Europe*<sup>1</sup>)

### The beast of Rev 17

Here we have the beast in its final form, its destiny to be destroyed by *the Lamb* v14. It presents an awesome picture.

*I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.*

*The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the*

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<sup>1</sup> Available from *Milestones*



*foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.*

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

*And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space.*

*And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition. Rev 17:3,8-11*

This is a phase of the beast beyond that of chapter 16. The dragon power has been defeated at Armageddon, the remnant of the confederacy regroup with the harlot Church controlling, riding, the European Beast. The events in Israel and the establishment of the nucleus of Christ's Kingdom there will arouse the beast and the harlot to fury. They will be able to claim that this person who claims to be Israel's King is in fact anti-Christ, whom they—the church—have spoken would arise. It will therefore be a battle to the death as the true Messiah establishes the truth of his claim and exposes the lies of the Pope who claims he is Christ's true vicar!

This beast is clearly the final phase of Daniel's 4<sup>th</sup> beast, and the successor to the earlier phases of the beast in Revelation 13; the final expression of the kingdom of men or Babylon. The five kings who had fallen (v10) were the 5 previous forms of government of the Roman Empire. The 6<sup>th</sup> in John's day was the Imperial phase, to fall and for a short time to be replaced by the 7<sup>th</sup> Gothic phase, which was followed by the 6<sup>th</sup>, Imperial, revived with Emperor and Pope, leading to the Holy Roman Empire. Now this came to an end in the situation described in v16 when the whole system was broken. So what we see here described as an 8<sup>th</sup> king must differ from its predecessor; this form of government will be predominantly Papal.

A pertinent part to consider is of the horns receiving power for 1 hour.

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

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

This final phase is to exist for a short period—1 symbolic hour. Using the basis of the time period often used in Revelation of 360 years, then 1 hour being a 12<sup>th</sup> of a Jewish day (cp to night) would be a 30-year period. This is confirmed when we look at the period of *about half an hour* (Rev 8:1) which would be equal to about 15 years, as was indeed the case.

The 10 horns represent the territory of the beast domain. Their reason for coming together is to fight against the Lamb.

We therefore expect to see a beast power presently existing as demanded by Revelation 16. We are given no details—just that it exists at this time and is saying the same things as the false prophet and the dragon. With chapter 17 we have its final phase at a time after the return of the Master and the battle of Armageddon. We have the same power described as the false prophet in chapter 16, now the rider of the beast in chapter 17. We therefore expect to see this growing change in relationship of church and state that will later develop to that of a rider on the beast.

### **Increasing ties between Russia and Europe**

Prophecy presents a picture of the dragon and the beast and the false prophet working together. We will look at Ezekiel 38 when we look at Russia, but here again it is clear that Gog and his companions are working together. We are pointed to a Europe, east and west, which although preserving independent statehood are found working together. The fact that we see the beginnings of this indicates our nearness to the Master's return, after which event matters will presumably move forward rapidly.

### **A time of trouble**

The activity of the Al-Qaeda terrorists was felt around Europe and the Middle East. England, Turkey, Egypt, Jordan, Israel, Russia, Iraq, Afghanistan—where will the list end? How thankful we are that saints will be called away before the full extent of this fear is experienced.

*Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast.* Isa 26:20

Prophecy indicates that at the time of the end there will be great troubles in the natural and the political worlds.

*Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken* Luke 21:26

For Israel it will be *a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time.* (Dan 12:1) Imagine what it will be like in that day for Europe and the rest of the world!

*We next see how wonderfully the final stage in Europe's history is unfolding in the events of today.*



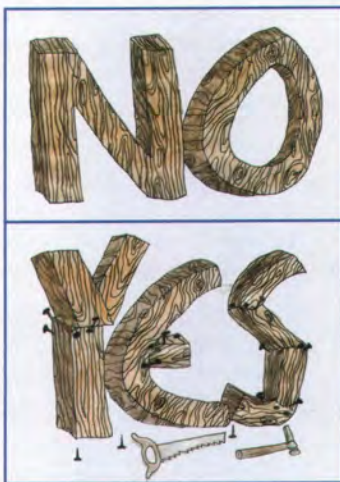
## Chapter 9:

# EUROPE IN TRANSITION

*We saw from the previous chapter that we would expect Europe to be in a state of transition from her present setup to that envisaged in Revelation as the final phase of the beast. We must stress that we are in the beginning stages and we may not see much further change this side of the call to the Judgement Seat. Its fullness lies in the period after Armageddon. What is reassuring is that things are on the move! We see evidence for the co-operation of Russia and Western Europe. We will look at the Papacy and Britain in later chapters; both have a big influence on the European scene.*

## Non and Nein – but this is the EU!

The rejection of the European Constitution by France and the Netherlands brought consternation. After all, the Constitution had been drawn up under the guidance of a Frenchman, Giscard d'Estaing. In true EU fashion it appears to be but a wobble! Although the Constitution was declared on hold by its champions, that did not stop the EU from pressing ahead with many of the provisions of the Constitution, even though they had no mandate to do so. "Business as normal" seems to be the EU motto.



Europe's centre right leaders have agreed that the text of the proposed EU constitution should remain unchanged despite its rejection by voters in France and the Netherlands.

Angela Merkel said that there was "no time" to rewrite the text. *Eupolitix* 20-12-05

The new German leader Ms Merkel has championed the need to resurrect the Constitution.

## We stand by the constitution

"We stand by the constitution," she said, adding that the reflection period agreed by EU leaders after the French and Dutch "no" votes should "by no means lead to the idea of the constitution being given up."

The chancellor said that Berlin will "not be pushing too hard" to get the charter ratified, and will "wait for things to happen" first, but that the topic will be on the agenda when Germany takes over the EU presidency in the first half of 2007.

Ms Merkel also stated her government seeks adoption of the constitution “as a whole,” adding “we do not want to split it up.” *EUObserver.com* 24-11-05

The rejection of the Constitution by France came as a relief to Mr Blair—he did not now need to hold a British referendum over accepting the Constitution, which almost certainly would have been lost.

### **The future of the EU**

*The Times* ran an interesting article (21-5-05) before the French referendum elections were held, speculating what would happen if the constitution was rejected by Britain.

The French and Germans would move towards closer federation, with Italy and Spain in hesitant alliance. This core would have France at the centre, with the “Roman empire” states gathered round it. The Mediterranean, not the Atlantic, would be their pond. They would have no truck with global free markets or fair trade with Africa, with America or the English language. They could retain the habits and horrors of the present EU directorates and parliament.

Members would take smug comfort in Churchill’s remark to de Gaulle: “When I have to choose between you and Roosevelt, you should know that I will always choose Roosevelt. And when I have to choose between Europe and the wide open seas... I will always choose the wide open seas.” That is just what Blair has done.

This multispeed Europe plan was again raised in December.

A number of EU leaders are talking afresh about a “core” or multispeed Europe, to push for deeper EU integration, writes FT Europe.

Belgian prime minister, Guy Verhofstadt recently revived the multispeed Europe debate with the publication this month of his book: *The United States of Europe*. *EUPolitix.com* 16-12-05

### **Germany—a new leader**

Calling new elections in Germany before they would normally be due is not easy. Chancellor Schröder needing a mandate to push through his planned economic reforms—unpopular measures—engineered the downfall of his party so that elections could be held in September. Unexpectedly he lost the elections by the narrowest whisker. His rival, Angela Merkel was able to stitch together a coalition government and eventually was sworn in as the new leader in November.

She is the youngest German Chancellor, the first woman, the first from Eastern Germany, and the first Protestant in a very Roman Catholic dominated country.

Ms Merkel, who was sworn in as chancellor on Tuesday, upheld her predecessors’ tradition that the first trip goes to Paris, but she gave her



own symbolically important touch to the schedule by tabling a Brussels rendezvous at NATO and the EU institutions on the same day.

Speaking at press conferences with European Parliament president Joseph Borrell and Mr Barroso, Ms Merkel explained the Brussels stop-over was meant “to make clear right from the start” that Europe was “at the centre of the agenda” of her cabinet.

She next visited Britain. Her campaign trail had been lack-lustre, but she proved her mettle when thrown into the bruising Summit in December over the EU Budget. Commentators said that the day belonged to her.

### **Russia: New Pipelines to Bypass U.S. Allies**

This was the Stratfor headline to an article (8-9-05) on the latest step that puts Germany closer to Russia and Russia further from America.

Russian President Vladimir Putin and German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder finalized an agreement Sept. 8 to build a new gas pipeline



underneath the Baltic Sea—bypassing the current energy network, which transits Poland. The plan, along with another pipeline project to supply oil to China, suggests that Russia is on the brink of displaying a shift in its attitude toward the United States and its allies.

Under the agreement with Germany, Russian natural

gas company Gazprom will build a pipeline from Russia directly to Germany via the Baltic Sea. Russia's decision to bypass Poland and the Baltic states represents a political choice. Currently, gas travels along the Yamal-Europe line through Poland, allowing Poland to collect transit fees of up to 14 billion cubic meters of natural gas. On average, Western European EU states depend on Russia for about 25 percent of their natural gas, whereas Poland depends on Russia for about 75 percent. This new pipeline would allow Russia to suspend its plans on building a second Yamal line that would cross Poland as well, denying Poland potential transit fees. This threat gives Russia a strong lever with which to push Poland around, should Warsaw go too far with its present anti-Russian stance. For Russia, these pipelines mark a fundamental shift in its position toward Washington and its allies, such as Japan and Poland. The United States and its allies will watch Russia's next move to determine just how far Putin will go to challenge the West... If China, Germany and Russia get these pipelines built, Moscow will gain stronger economic and geopolitical footing—which in turn might help

Moscow make a decision it has so far shied away from despite the U.S.-led geopolitical offensive into the former Soviet Union: the decision to challenge Washington directly. But since the pipelines' construction will take a few years, it appears that Moscow, at least under Putin, will take its time.

Another *Stratfor* article (5-9-05) headed **Germany, Russia: A New Pipeline Strengthens Ties** indicated America's fears.

The United States is concerned the pipeline will strengthen the Russo-German partnership that could be dangerous to U.S. interests. Poland, which harbors historic fears of both Germany and Russia, will be bypassed by the pipeline altogether. Yet the project will begin—primarily because of Germany's and Russia's core interests, which, whether identical or complimentary, call for the pipeline to be built. Likewise, these interests call for Russia and Germany to remain close to each other regardless of who is in power in their respective capitals.

Though the project's cost is indeed higher than the cost of modernizing existing lines, this is one instance where geopolitical considerations trump economic issues... Russia wants to keep Berlin as a strategic partner—in fact, Germany is the best partner Russia has in the West, and is potentially strong enough to help Moscow protect their joint interests against Washington, which has been working to weaken Russia.

### Eastward expansion

The expansion of the EU in 2004 brought its border up to that of Russia and Outer Russian countries. The next step is to take in Romania and Bulgaria—a decision will be taken in 2006 as to whether they will be ready for joining on Jan 1<sup>st</sup> 2007 or to postpone until the following year.

The EU is now pressing ahead to take in those countries to the south that were in the former Yugoslavia region. Croatia started accession talks in October 2005. For the other countries the first step is to sign a Stabilisation and Association Agreement. Talks started in 2003 with Albania—they are close to signing; the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia started talks in 2004; Serbia and Montenegro in October 2005 and Bosnia and Herzegovina in November 2005. This then covers the remaining countries in the region.

Further east, Ukraine has been offered the hope of becoming a member state by 2015.





## The accession of Croatia

This is a particularly interesting situation. There is talk that Croatia might be fast-tracked for membership in 2007 or 2008. Talks were held up because Croatia was harbouring a war criminal, wanted for atrocities during the Balkan conflict in the 1990's. Britain opposed talks while this man was on the run. However Austria was holding up talks on Turkey, and so a deal was struck and both parties gave way so talks with Croatia and Turkey could begin. Austria is very keen for Croatia's membership.

Both Croatia and Austria are strongly Catholic countries. Croatia was the scene of dreadful massacres during WWII when the Orthodox were forced to convert or die. In *Milestones 2003* p60, we looked at Croatia's history; we quote a section from Edmond 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. *The Vatican against Europe* Page 197,198

Interestingly it was Germany that rushed to recognise Croatia in the troubles of the early 1990's when Yugoslavia was divided up. It was Germany that had so ably assisted in the extermination of Orthodox as well as Jews in WWII. Germany and Austria had another motive as this *Stratfor* report (8-12-05) reveals, written when the war crime suspect was arrested a few weeks after talks started.

Croatian Gen. Ante Gotovina was arrested late Dec. 7 in Spain's Canary Islands. The International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) lists Gotovina as one of its three most wanted war crimes suspects. Gotovina, who was traveling on a fake Croatian passport, has been transferred to Madrid and is expected to be extradited momentarily to The Hague to stand trial.

He stands charged of masterminding "Operation Storm" in 1995, which resulted in the death of 150 Croatian Serbs [i.e. Orthodox DP] and the exiling of 150,000 from Croatia's Krajina region. Many Croatians—including those in government—consider him a war hero and have helped him avoid capture. His ability to remain at large for the past decade has led the European Union to freeze Croatia's membership

application... As a result [of the arrest] EU heads of state gathering for a summit Dec. 15-16 in Brussels, Belgium, almost certainly will encourage Croatia to proceed with its EU membership bid with all haste.

Considering Croatia's relative wealth—it is richer than eight of the 10 members that joined the European Union in May 2004—it even is within the realm of possibility that Croatia will prove able to squeeze into the next round of EU expansion in 2007-2008, when Bulgaria and Romania are scheduled to join.

Germany and France, despite their normal concerns about enlargement, are likely to push for such an outcome. Germany enjoys extraordinarily strong ties with Croatia, and the French and German leadership believe that Croatia would vote with Paris and Berlin on most issues. Once the European Union expands to Bulgaria and Romania, under the current EU voting structure even an alliance of France, Germany, Belgium and Luxembourg could be overruled by a combined bloc of the Union's other states. Adding Croatia, however, would tip the scales just enough to allow France and Germany the ability to keep their veto intact.

### **The accession of Turkey**

After over 40 years of trying to join the EU (or EEC as in 1963) there was reluctant agreement at the end of 2004 that talks could start. Negotiations are likely to be prolonged, as the EU really doesn't want this huge Islamic country in its folds. It is interesting that it was Austria, the centre of the Holy Roman Empire that was so opposed to Turkey, a Moslem country, being offered membership of this "christian" club. An EU poll indicated that support for Turkey joining was only 35%. There are many in Turkey who also question the wisdom of joining. They have had to make many changes just to get this far, and much more would be demanded of them.

In 2004 Ratzinger, now the Pope, expressed the Vatican's view.

#### **Ratzinger asserts Vatican stand against Turkey EU membership**

Reflecting the Vatican view that Europe must fight to retain its Christian identity, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger has said that bringing Turkey into the European Union would put European culture at risk.

"Europe is a cultural and not a geographical continent," he said. "Turkey always represented another continent throughout history, in permanent contrast with Europe," so to equate the two continents "would be a mistake." *Cathnews* 18-8-04

### **Austria takes up the EU reins**

Little progress is likely on the Turkish talks while Austria is in the EU president's chair. Instead efforts will focus on Bulgaria, Romania and Croatia. It will also fall to Austria to look at the Constitution and to see how it can be revived, something Britain will not wish to see!

*Our third area now takes us to a consideration of Russia.*



## Chapter 10:

# PROPHECIES FOR TODAY—RUSSIA

*We believe that Russia is the subject of many prophecies. In Bible times this was a wild barbarian land rather than a developed country. But Russia became the inheritor of the Eastern Roman Empire at the fall of Constantinople in 1453, and Moscow inherited the title of "the third Rome". These are some of the prophecies that we could consider: -*

- *Gog of Ezekiel 38,39*
- *The eastern leg of Nebuchadnezzar's image, Daniel 2*
- *The little horn of the goat, Daniel 8*
- *The King of the North, Daniel 11*
- *The dragon, Revelation 12,13,16*
- *The latter-day Assyrian, Isaiah 10; 31 Micah 5, Nahum etc*

*We will look at just the first two.*

## Gog of the land of Magog

To Ezekiel it was revealed that an assembly of nations would come to destroy Israel in the *latter years* (38:6). Readers are referred to the section in Bro John Allfree's book *Ezekiel* on chapter 38 for a more detailed identification of these nations.

*Son of man, set thy face against Gog, the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him,*

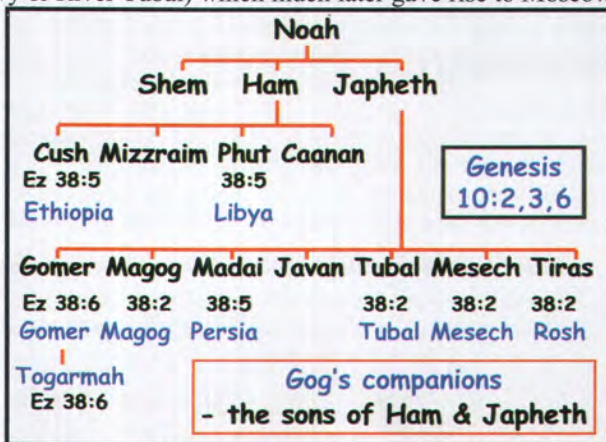
*And say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal: Ezek 38:2,3*

Gog means "*to be elevated, to rise up*" and the Septuagint has Agag, which was the kingly title of the Amalekites, Israel's great enemy (Ex 17; 1 Sam 15; Est 3:1). Gog is the *prince of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal*. (RV and many other translations, making a proper noun of the word translated *chief* in the AV). These names are parts of Russia.

**Rosh.** Rosh/Ros/Rus is the ancient name for Russia. My *Encyclopaedia Britannica* (14<sup>th</sup> ed) says, "the name 'Russia' is derived though *Rossiya* from Slavonic *Rus* or *Ros*." Gesenius, the 18<sup>th</sup> century German scholar, who was a Hebrew specialist, said of Rosh—"a proper noun of a northern nation, undoubtedly the Russians." The historian Gibbon in his "*Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*" (Vol. 7 p. 80) states, "*that among the Greeks, the national appellation (for the Russians) had a singular Ros.*" They can be traced back to Tiras, the youngest son of Japheth as listed in Genesis 10. He gave his name to the Tyras river, known now as the River Dniester which flows SE into the Black Sea and the city on it of Tiraspol.

According to Vernadsky, the Byzantine records speak of the Russes (= Ros) as Tauro-scythae, or Tauri. Tsetzes says that the Tauri are called Rôs.

**Meshech and Tubal.** They gave their names to tribes (Moschi & Tibareni) and areas (Moscovy & River Tubal) which much later gave rise to Moscow and Tobol'sk. Tobol'sk is the old capital of the Siberia region where much of Russia's oil deposits are found. They too are sons of Japheth.



**Magog.** Gog is described as being of the land of Magog (v2) according to the RV and many other translations. Magog was another son of Japheth, and Josephus links them with the race known to the Greeks as the Scythians. Herodotus the 5<sup>th</sup> century BC historian mentions that the Scythians were found in central Asia, from the Danube to the Don. Siculus a 1<sup>st</sup> century BC historian says that by 100BC they had spread to the shores of the Baltic. We associate modern day Germany as the Magog of today. We shall see the strong links between Russia and Germany in the next chapter. Magog was Japheth's 2<sup>nd</sup> son.

Ezekiel lists more countries that are part of this confederacy.

*Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya with them; all of them with shield and helmet:*

*Gomer, and all his bands; the house of Togarmah of the north quarters, and all his bands: and many people with thee. Ezek 38:5,6*

**Persia.** Modern-day Iran is the successor to ancient Persia, and their history is traced through the Medes to Medai, another of Japheth's sons!

**Ethiopia and Libya** Ethiopia (Hebrew: Cush) probably would include Sudan; Libya (Hebrew: Phut) of today is the successor of ancient Libya. These are descendants of Ham.

**Gomer.** This is the next on Ezekiel's list. He was Japheth's firstborn and known by the Assyrians as Gimarraï and by the Greeks as the Cimmerii. According to Josephus they can be traced migrating from Galatia to the area known as Gaul—corresponding to modern France—driven onwards by the Scythians. Some came back to Galatia, so Gomer's descendants were to be found in Gaul and Galatia. *Young's concordance* says that



Roman writers call the inhabitants of Galatia *Galli* and the Greek writers call the people of ancient France *Galatia*. So we take France as modern Gomer.

**Togarmah.** Gomer's son, identified with eastern Turkey and between the Black Sea and the Caspian; today's Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan.

### **The turning of Gog**

His coming down against an Israel dwelling very securely is the work of God. As in the days of old when God led Nebuchadnezzar to come against Israel, though the king was totally unaware of the fact, so with Gog. Ezekiel uses the same phrase as *turn back* to describe the restoration of Israel to their land in v 8—*brought back (from the sword.)*

*And I will turn thee back, and put hooks into thy jaws, and I will bring thee forth, and all thine army, horses and horsemen, all of them clothed with all sorts of armour, even a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords. Eze 38:4*

We would expect to see Russia's fortunes restored so that she can play this divinely appointed role.

### **Being a guard unto them**

We should note that that Gog is the protector of these other nations, rather than the conqueror of them. A guard **unto** rather than a guard **over**.

*Be thou prepared, and prepare for thyself, thou, and all thy company that are assembled unto thee, and be thou a guard unto them. Eze 38:7*

### **The eastern leg of Nebuchadnezzar's image**

The two legs of the image represent the Eastern and Western Roman Empire. We must therefore have a latter-day successor to the Eastern Roman Empire that was based in Constantinople. Constantine had the ancient city of Byzantium rebuilt, modelling it upon the architecture of Rome. It was known as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Rome. When in 1453 Constantinople fell, Moscow took up the role and became known as the 3<sup>rd</sup> Rome. Its architecture, laws and language were based upon Byzantium's.

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

That time of vengeance will come when Russia occupies Constantinople on her way to take Israel, and we will have an Emperor there and a Pope in Rome—a brief re-creation of the past.

*We now trace the amazing accuracy of these fulfilling prophecies!*

## Chapter 11:

# THE RUSSIAN BEAR STIRRING AGAIN

*The communist revolution of 1917 brought to a halt Russia's tsarist aspirations. The time was not ripe in God's purpose, and for just over 70 years, the Soviet ruled. Then with perestroika, the Soviet disintegrated and Gorbachev handed over to Yeltsin in Dec 1991 and Yeltsin to Putin in Dec 1999. Now Russia is returning to her tsarist roots in preparation for being "brought forth" upon the path destined for her as revealed by the prophets!*

## The time was not ripe

When St. Vladimir accepted Christianity in 989, Russia took the first step in what would become a mission to assume the heritage of Constantinople. After the Grand Dukes of Moscow had shaken off the hold of the remaining Mongol successor states, and the "New Rome" of Constantinople had itself fallen to the Turks in 1453, the way was clear for Moscow to become the "Third Rome" and the Duke the "Tsar of All the Russias." Universal Roman pretensions continued after the fall of the Tsars but, unlike Hitler in Germany, the Communists Lenin and Stalin, however tsar-like their power, wished to owe no debt or acknowledge any continuity to the ideology of the earlier empire. The Soviet Union was no successor to Rome or Constantinople but a new synthesis of the dialectic of history. *Successors of Rome: Russia* [friesian.com/russia](http://friesian.com/russia)

When the time was right, the Soviet system disintegrated; it had served its purpose in God's plans. Much of the impetus to remove it came from the Polish Pope, John Paul II, who with CIA help<sup>1</sup> began the trickle that turned into a torrent, sweeping away the "iron curtain", reuniting Germany and allowing the rise again of the Russian Orthodox Church in Russia.

## The Russian bear stirring again

Russia is busy rebuilding her forces, repairing years of neglect since the collapse of the Soviet Empire. One of the priorities is to strengthen the navy. Daniel 11:40 speaks of the King of the North coming forth with many ships, so this is what we have been expecting.

"Russia's leadership and the defense ministry officials realize that without a modern and powerful Navy we cannot hope for the bright future." [The Russian Defence Minister] also said that these tasks pursue the ultimate goal—to protect Russia's national interests at sea and to preserve Russia's status as a world power. *RIAN* 31-7-05

At the moment she only has one aircraft carrier, four more are planned. She is also building more submarines to modernise her fleet.

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<sup>1</sup> See *Milestones* 1992 p36, 37; *Milestones* 1996 p 35



Russia also exports arms around the world; these help with covering the costs of developing ever more sophisticated weapons.

Director of the Federal Service for Military and Technical Cooperation Mikhail Dmitriyev said the volume of the exports of military and technical products was currently at more than \$5 billion and had doubled in the past five years from \$2.68 billion to \$5.1 billion... and could exceed \$6 billion from 2007. *RIAN* 15-12-05

### **“Putin’s show of strength triggers fear of fresh nuclear arms race”**

2005 saw Russia flexing her nuclear muscles, much to the alarm of the West as the above headline conveyed in a year-end report.

Vladimir Putin has sparked fears of a new arms race between Russia and the United States by deploying a nuclear ballistic strike force system that officials made clear could penetrate US anti-missile defences.

On Christmas Eve, the Russian army activated a new fleet of Topol-M missiles that can fit a nuclear warhead and travel 6,000 miles, changing trajectory to foil any enemy interception device.

The accompanying hawkish rhetoric of the Russian military commanders and the frenetic response of the US navy have stoked concern that the former Cold War adversaries have quietly resumed the arms race.

General Nikolai Solovtsov, commander of the Russian missile forces, has mobilised a new battalion for the Topol-M missiles, which have a capacity for a one megatonne impact—75 times the power of the 1945 Hiroshima bomb.

While Russia had disbanded two missile divisions last year, it has now formed more than 20 new units - in the fastest increase of nuclear spending since the run-up to the Cuban missile crisis.

In September, Russia successfully tested a Bulava missile, a submarine-launched equivalent of the Topol-M. Launched from the White Sea, it hit its target 30 minutes later on Kamchatka, in the opposite, Far Eastern side of Russia. *The Scotsman* 26-12-05

### **“The Latest Autocrat. The best description of Putin? ‘Stalin lite.’”**

After some 10 years of a fledgling democracy, KGB trained Putin is turning back to an autocratic rule. In a series of deft steps he brought the oil and gas industry back under government control. The press is now greatly muzzled; journalists face court action if they step too far out of line. In December one of his long-standing economic advisors, Andrei Illarionov, resigned in protest at his autocratic actions. The above headline from the *Hoover Digest* (10-05) expressed the West’s growing perception of Putin.

World democratic opinion has yet to realize the alarming implications of President Vladimir Putin's State of the Union speech on April 25, 2005, in which he said that the collapse of the Soviet Union represented the "greatest geopolitical catastrophe of the century." What this former KGB officer is saying is that it would have been better for the world if a totalitarian dictatorship, one that in the seven decades of its existence was responsible for the deaths of tens of millions of Russians and other peoples or their imprisonment in a Gulag slave labor system, were still to exist. Just imagine if the chancellor of Germany were to announce that the fall of the Third Reich was the "greatest geopolitical catastrophe of the century."

The thousand-year history of Russia has an underlying consistency. Although it has never been able to produce a genuine democracy, it has successfully produced imperialist tyrannies, tsarist and Bolshevik.

### **Energy has become the way Russia projects its power**

With most of Russia's energy under the control of Gazprom, Putin's power is growing as Europe is being enmeshed in oil and gas pipelines.

#### **Kremlin sees oil, gas as pipeline to global influence**

Before he was president, before his government gutted Russia's largest oil firm and sent the company's billionaire owner to a Siberian prison, Vladimir Putin laid out his views on his country's energy sector in a 1999 edition of an obscure St. Petersburg mining journal.

Russia's vast oil and natural gas resources should remain under the wing of the state, he wrote. And they should be the means with which Russia regains its geopolitical might.

This year, it has become increasingly clear that the Kremlin will look to the country's natural gas monopoly, Gazprom, as the engine behind that policy.

Gazprom is the world's largest natural gas producer, at the helm of a quarter of the planet's gas reserves. In October, the energy giant got even bigger—it bought Russia's fifth-largest oil company, Sibneft, from Russian magnate Roman Abramovich for a reported \$11 billion.

Earlier this month, Gazprom broke ground on a 737-mile, \$5.7 billion pipeline between Russia and Germany that will deliver to Europe 20 billion cubic meters of Russian natural gas annually.

"In the past, Russia used its military to project influence internationally," said Roland Nash, an analyst with Renaissance Capital, a Moscow investment bank. "Now the agenda has changed. Energy has become the way Russia projects its power." *Chicago Tribune*. 20-12-05

At the year-end Russia played her energy weapon, threatening to turn off the gas supply to Ukraine, unless she paid the quadrupled price demanded!



## **Russia and the EU**

Relations are rather strained at the moment between Russia and the EU. The EU is beset with her own problems over the constitution, and also is busy with her continuing expansion. Putin's authoritarian steps don't go down well in the EU, although ironically the EU itself is just as authoritarian! However the six-monthly meetings continue with the aim of aligning Russia with the EU, and Putin is hoping Austria's six-month EU chairmanship in 2006 will boost relations between the alliance and Russia.

We anticipate from prophecy that Russia and Europe retain their independence, but choose to work together against a common enemy—a revived Israel.

## **The Russian Orthodox Church**

We will see in the section on the Papacy, that there is a desire on the part of the two churches to cooperate on areas that they agree on, namely the need to put religion back into the heart of society. In spite of the Soviet's repression of religion, church membership is now growing, although estimates of the number of regular churchgoers range from 2 to 20%.

Today, the Russian Orthodox Church is the largest of the Eastern Orthodox churches in the world. Depending on how the question is asked, as many as 90% of ethnic Russians identify themselves as Russian Orthodox. The number of people regularly attending church services is relatively low, but has grown significantly since the collapse of the Soviet Union. The Church has over 23,000 parishes, 154 bishops, 635 monasteries, and 102 clerical schools in the territory of the former Soviet Union. *Wikipedia*

## **The remarkable accuracy of Ezekiel 38!**

Although 2,500 years have passed since Ezekiel was caused to list Gog's companions, it is a remarkable confirmation of their accuracy when we find that today they are all friendly toward the latter-day Gog—exactly as we would expect if Gog is to be a guard **unto** them.

**Rosh, Meshech and Tubal.** Gog is described as prince of these three areas. If Rosh stands for Russia, why the addition of the other two names? One reveals the modern day capital, Moscow, and the other the source of her latter-day rise to power, Tobol'sk in Siberia is the area where much of her oil and gas deposits are found.

**Magog.** Gog is *of the land of Magog*. There are many historic and modern-day links with the area of Germany. It was from Germany that the Romanovs had their origins, and nearly all the Romanov princes married German princesses. One of the current contenders as Romanov heir is Georg Romanov, whose father was a German prince. He was the one favoured by Yeltsin when there was talk of reviving the monarchy a few years ago. He will be 25 in 2006, and is worth keeping in mind as a

potential Gog! As far as I know, Putin has no German origins, but has close cultural ties; he speaks the language fluently, having served much of his KGB time in East Germany. Germany and Russia have strong commercial links as we saw earlier with the pipelines in chapter 9. Ex-Chancellor Schröder stepped into the job of board chairman to the consortium building this Baltic pipeline, on losing to Angela Merkel in the German elections.

**Iran.** Significantly Persia is the first country mentioned as a companion of Gog. Russia has strong links to this country and is aiding them in their quest for nuclear weapons. The *Daily Telegraph*, 22-9-05 came almost to describing Russia as a guard unto Iran in this description!

### **Russia tells West to step back over Iran A-bomb**

Russia put up a defensive wall around Iran yesterday, saying no action should be taken over moves that western countries fear amount to a covert attempt by Teheran to make an atomic bomb.

The announcement could derail a move by Britain, France and Germany to report Iran to the United Nations Security Council over its refusal to come clean about key aspects of its nuclear programme.

Moscow also supplies many weapons to Iran.

Reports that Russia had signed a \$1 billion arms deal with Iran surfaced on Friday, just as a senior U.S. State Department official was in Moscow to discuss counterterrorism measures.

Media reported that Russia last week had agreed to supply Tehran with the Tor-M1 air defense system, upgrade Russian-made fighter jets and deliver patrol boats in a deal that would mark the revival of large-scale arms sales to the Islamic republic.

Russia will deliver up to 30 short-range Tor-M1 air defense systems to Iran between 2006 and 2008, Interfax reported, citing an unidentified defense industry source. *Moscow Times* 5-12-05

**Ethiopia.** Russia is operating in the Ethiopia/Sudan region. In 2005 she wrote off Ethiopia's \$1.1 billion debt, preparatory to resuming arms sales.

Foreign Minister Seyoum Mesfin arrived in Moscow on January 12. Resumption of the ranking Russian-Ethiopian contacts following a prolonged break could only mean that Addis Ababa has obtained funding to finance arms purchases.

As stated on the eve of the visit, "the visit by the Ethiopian minister is called to promote the further development of political interaction between Russia and Ethiopia, intensification of co-operation in trade, economic and other spheres." *Kommersant* 13-1-05

**Libya.** Col Gaddafi's links go way back to the Soviet days—in fact September 2005 was the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of



diplomatic relations between the two countries. True, in the past few years she has turned to the west; however the links with Russia still run deep.

**Russian companies step up activities in Libya in absence of economic sanctions.**

Since the United Nations lifted economic sanctions against Libya in 2003... "Russian economic operators have intensified activities on the Libyan market in recent years, above all on its fuel and energy segment," Mikhail Kamynin, Russian foreign ministry spokesman, said. "A number of Russian companies have been registered and opened their representations in Libya, taking part in tenders for prospecting." *RIA Novosti* 3-9-05

**Gomer.** France has for many years been friendly towards Russia. We recall France, Germany and Russia being so opposed to the Gulf War. They met again at Kaliningrad at Putin's invitation to mark the 750th anniversary of the exclave's founding.

President Vladimir Putin met with his French and German counterparts near the Baltic Sea port of Kaliningrad on Sunday for talks focusing on Moscow's often thorny relations with the European Union, Iran's nuclear program and other issues.

Putin largely enjoys the support of his French and German counterparts, though some domestic critics blame the two countries for not confronting Russian leaders on alleged human rights abuses, such as those committed by Russian forces in the brutal war in Chechnya. *Associated Press* 3-7-05

**Togarmah.** This troubled region is divided between those who favour Russia and those who favour the West. Armenia has strong links to Russia. The two countries have just held the tenth joint Russian-Armenian military exercises. (*RIA Novosti* 13-9-05) In February the Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov arrived in Armenia for his first working visit.

The Armenian Foreign Minister welcomed Minister Lavrov's visit to Yerevan, noting that in the last decade Armenia-Russia relations have deepened, with strategic cooperation between the two based on common interests. Minister Lavrov, too, expressed his satisfaction with the level of cooperation and the positive direction of interstate contacts. As evidence, he pointed to the fact that 2005 is the Year of Russia, in Armenia. [www.armeniaforeignministry.com](http://www.armeniaforeignministry.com) 17-2-05

Both Georgia, which has 3 Russian enclaves within the country and Azerbaijan are ex-soviet countries and are being pulled two ways. America is asserting her influence by establishing bases in the region. In the final picture however, this region will be at the side of Gog.

*We now turn to our 4<sup>th</sup> area, looking at the great changes in the Papacy.*

## Chapter 12:

# PROPHECIES FOR TODAY—THE PAPACY

*We have many prophecies concerning the Roman Catholic Church or the papacy ("the system of government in the Roman Catholic Church in which the pope is head." Collins English dictionary). Many scriptural symbols spring to mind.*

- *The false prophet*
- *The harlot woman*
- *The man of sin*
- *The eyes and mouth of the stout little horn of the 4<sup>th</sup> beast*
- *Babylon*
- *One of the horns of the beast of the earth*
- *The image of the beast*

*We will concentrate on the first two, which are very applicable to today.*

## The false prophet

We quote from *Milestones 2003* pages 29,30.

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, whilst 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. (See *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 [i.e. John Paul II – DP] 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.

### The harlot woman

In Revelation ch 17 the picture changes to a harlot woman riding the scarlet coloured beast of Europe. There are many points given by which we can identify her.

*And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication:*

*And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.*

*And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration. Rev 17:4-6*

Remember that this is at a time period after the return of the Master (i.e. at the “judgement of the great whore” v. 1), so what we are seeing today is the movement towards this situation of a Roman Catholic dominated Europe.

The name on her forehead links her back to the false worship of Babylon; she is the successor of her *mysteries*. Many are her harlot daughters. She is associated by purple and scarlet with the system of clothing worn by her priests and cardinals. Decked (Gk: *chrusoo*: to gild, i.e. bespangle with golden ornaments) with gold, precious stones and pearls. Again a study of the clothing of her leaders shows much gilding with gold and precious stones. Her crosiers and crucifixes, her images and icons bear testimony to the wealth of her possessions. Golden cups are still widely used in her transubstantiation ceremonies, which blasphemously claim to change wine into the blood of Christ.

There is no other power that fits these descriptions. The last statement clinches the identification—*drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus*. Many thousands of saints and Protestants

have perished at her hands, in the effort of the Papacy to stamp out the truth and establish her authority. How thankful we are that her power to persecute has been taken away. However it may not remain that way. In God's mercy the saints are called away but an enfeebled Protestantism may again feel her wrath.

### **Sitting on the European beast**

She is described in Revelation ch 17 as *the great whore that sitteth upon many waters (v1): sitting upon the beast (v3) and being carried by the beast (v7)*. There is another piece of information in v15—*The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.*

The word for sit/sitting is a straightforward word. It is used of sitting on a throne (e.g. 21:5); it also is used of riders on horseback (e.g. 19:19). This indicates that it is not a passive sitting and being carried by the beast; it is of a rider in control, directing its progress. This is why, in the details of the punishments of that period, chapter 18 is devoted to the destruction of this Babylon harlot system. Chapter 19 describes the going forth of its opponent, Christ, as sitting on a white horse and with the name on his forehead of *The Word of God*. (v11-13) All opposition is destroyed. (v20)

In this final phase therefore we see a return to the power that the Roman Church had in the days of the HRE. The Pope very much had the destiny of Europe under his control through his web of priests and confessors.

### **The false prophet at the time of the end**

We should note the detail that after the overthrow of Babylon in ch 18 we have the destruction of the false prophet described in ch 19.

*And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.*

*And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.* Rev 19:20,21

We must therefore see a subtle difference between the harlot woman and the false prophet. The Roman Catholic Church has a worldwide network of archbishops, with bishops and priests under them. When Babylon falls as described in ch 18, this will be the destruction of the harlot rider—the Vatican, the Pope and the physical buildings associated with “the Holy See”. Although the heart is taken out, the world-wide network of priests will continue to resist, and may have to be rooted out step by step. The “false prophet” will then have come to its end.

*We now consider the wonderful way in which these prophecies are being fulfilled.*



## Chapter 13:

# THE PAPACY AT WORK TODAY

*Looking at the Vatican today it is hard to picture the change in fortunes in the past 80-100 years. The situation then was of rats running around the Vatican, frequent electrical fires due to the faulty wiring, no money for heating, or repairs to the leaking roof! We briefly trace the changes that have brought her to the situation described in Revelation ch 18 of being very wealthy.*

## Trading with silver and gold

How did the Vatican get from rags to riches? How did she get to have such a large portfolio of property and company shares throughout many countries? Avro Manhattan's book *The Vatican Billions* has long been out of print, although it is downloadable from the net. A much more up to-date book by Paul Williams, *The Vatican Exposed*,<sup>1</sup> gives a fascinating insight into the turning point for the Vatican with the signing of a Concordat with Italy's dictator, Mussolini, in 1929. This Lateran Treaty put \$90 million into the depleted Vatican coffers, guaranteed salaries for all Italian parish priests courtesy of the Italian government, tax free property rights and the establishment of the Vatican City as a sovereign State.

Williams charts the shrewd investments made by the Vatican, channelled through a banking system that lay outside the control of any authorities and was tax free and unaccountable and unaccounted! By 1935 the Vatican became the largest landowner in Italy after the government, and controller of innumerable companies.

There was a second big boost with the Concordat signed with Hitler's Germany in 1933. This gave an automatically deducted *Kirchensteuer* or "church tax" of 9% of a Roman Catholic's gross salary, which was paid to the Church. (It still continues and is also deducted from Lutherans and, more recently German Jews; in 2002 it yielded €5bn.) *kirchensteuer.de*

The Vatican's investments continued to grow after WWII. Italy's "economic miracle" of the 1950's saw over half Italy's 180 credit, banking and insurance businesses under Vatican control. Her range of business interests had an incredible spread. By 1968 the Vatican was also a major stockholder in many mainstream US companies and her real estate portfolio there, was, and is still, extensive.

## I sit a queen and am no widow

The turnaround in her respectability has also been dramatic. No longer is it a thing frowned upon in this country, to be a Roman Catholic. The success

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<sup>1</sup> ISBN 1-59102-065 Available from [www.MilestonesUK.org](http://www.MilestonesUK.org)

in turning the world's perceptions was well illustrated in the millions who attended or watched the funeral of John Paul II. It would have been unthinkable, say 25 years ago, for the heir to the British throne to postpone his wedding in order to attend a papal funeral, but this is what happened. The list of dignitaries at the funeral was also impressive (See box.) Although the following was written a couple of years ago, it aptly sums up Rome's enhanced position.

Papal Rome is widely respected and admired by the world. She is seen as well organised, successful and influential, as well as dignified and authoritative. The aura of uncritical acclaim around the person of successive popes is unique to the Church of Rome. No other global institution has it. Her pronouncements on moral issues carry great weight. So well regarded is the Papacy today that the acceptance of her extends even to Evangelicals, most of whom have ceased to question her doctrine. *Papal*

*Rome and the European Union* by Richard Bennett and Michael de Semlyen.

### **Attendance at JP II's funeral**

10 ruling kings,  
59 heads of state,  
3 hereditary princes,  
17 heads of government,  
10 presidents  
16 vice-presidents/ premiers,  
3 leaders of internat'l orgs.  
4 parliamentary leaders,  
12 foreign ministers,  
24 ambassadors.

### **Rome's successful weapon—the laity**

Rome's transformation has largely been achieved through the influence of the ordinary members of that church—the lay apostolate. The first World Congress of the Laity was held in 1951, the second in 1957. This is what the then Pope, Pius XII, had to say about this movement.<sup>1</sup> Under the general heading of **Guiding Principles Of The Lay Apostolate** was this: -

#### **Consecration of the World Is Laymen's Job**

Furthermore, aside from the small number of priests the relations between the Church and the world require the intervention of lay apostles. The *consecratio mundi* (consecration of the world) is essentially the work of the laymen themselves, of men who are intimately a part of economic and social life and who participate in the government and in legislative assemblies. In the same way, only the workers themselves can establish the Catholic cells which must be created among workers in every factory and bring back to the Church those who have strayed from her.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.papalencyclicals.net/Pius12/P12LAYAP.HTM> Quoted also *Rome and Jerusalem* p73, Graham Pearce



The 4th World Congress of the Laity was held in 2000. In November the new Pope recalled the message of Vatican II: -

...that lay people are responsible for “engaging in temporal affairs and... ordering them according to the plan of God.” The Holy Father reminded the crowd that November 18 will be the 40th anniversary of the publication of *Apostolican Actuositatem*, the Vatican II decree on the lay apostolate. The success of that apostolate, he said—again quoting the Council document—“depends on a robust spirituality, nourished by active participation in the liturgy.” *Catholic World News* 14-11-05

By “plan of God” he was referring to the Church’s political ambitions!

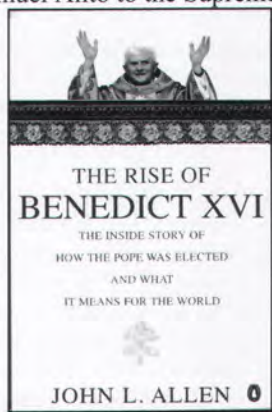
Under the headline **Lay faithful must participate in political life**, (L'Osservatore Romano 9-3-05) the author showed the Church’s desire for laity to be involved in all aspects of political life.

A careful perusal of the *Doctrinal Note on Some Questions Regarding the Participation of Catholics in Political Life* clearly shows...the obligation, as it were—to put the human person at the centre not only of political commitment and resulting action, but also of the juridical-legislative, institutional, cultural and, last but not least, internal and international religious debate that is going on in our society. This highlights one of the *Doctrinal Note*’s aims: to show that the political commitment of Catholics is a helpful factor in composing the dialectics between authority and the person, as well as between the international order and national interests.

Even Mr Bush has well placed Roman Catholics who are able to quietly use their influence. A recent article with the very telling headline—**Brains Trust**—revealed that “with the nomination of Samuel Alito to the Supreme Court, all five members of the Court’s conservative majority would be Catholics.” It was, it said, an “unprecedented Catholic majority”. (*The New Republic Online* 3-11-05)

### **Benedict XVI chosen to advance the Church**

The new Pope has been carefully chosen<sup>1</sup> for the latest phase of Rome’s determination to make up the ground she lost in the past 150 years. Her dream is to be at the heart of Europe, the spiritual head of a re-created Holy Roman Empire. When her bid to work with Hitler failed<sup>2</sup> support was given for the European



1 *The Rise of Benedict XVI. The inside story of how the Pope was elected and what it means for the world.* Jn L. Allen. ISBN 0-141-02470-4

2 *Hitler's Pope* John Cornwell [www.emperors-clothes.com/vatican/hitlers.htm](http://www.emperors-clothes.com/vatican/hitlers.htm)

dream that followed, which was closely modelled on Hitler's plans for a unified Europe. John Paul II worked tirelessly to unite Europe and put Christianity back into the heart of Europe. The man who was his chief aide has now become the new Pope. The two men worked hand-in-hand on many issues. Ratzinger even has his own fan club, which declares: -

From 1981 – 2005, Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger was appointed head of the Catholic Church's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, [formerly Sacred Congregation of the Universal Inquisition! DFP] whose mission is to "to promote and safeguard the doctrine on the faith and morals throughout the Catholic world".

As "Grand Inquisitor" for Mother Rome, Ratzinger kept himself busy in service to the Truth: correcting theological error, silencing dissenting theologians, and stomping down heresy wherever it may rear its ugly head—and, consequently, had received somewhat of a notorious reputation among the liberal media and 'enlightened' intelligentsia of pseudo-Catholic universities.

### **Benedict XVI—a German Pope**

The last German pope was Adrian VI, 1522–1523, who was born in what is now the Netherlands, but which was then seen as part of Germany. Indeed since his death all the Popes have been Italian until the choosing of John Paul II. Ratzinger was a remarkable choice, and one that quickly had the approval of the cardinals—this was a very short conclave. It showed where the battlefield lay, not in Africa or America, but in Europe. This was the man they perceived could put the Church back into the heart of Europe.

### **The Russian Patriarch is also German!**

As we have seen, this is the first German Pope for nearly 500 years, and behold we already have a German leader of the Russian Orthodox Church. I am not aware of there being any German predecessors in this office. Alexy II was born a Baltic German named Ridiger, on February 23, 1929 in Tallinn. He grew up there in Estonia and served as Metropolitan of Tallinn from 1960 to 1981 at a time when all the Soviet clergy were under the Kremlin's thumb.<sup>1</sup>

### **Re-laying the Catholic foundations of Europe**

Ratzinger himself has written a small book entitled *Europe; Its Foundations Today and Tomorrow*, published in 2004 (in Italian!). Commenting on it, John Allen remarks: -

What emerges, in the first place, is the Pope's clear conviction that "Europe" is a cultural and historical concept before a geographic one. In the era of Charlemagne, the Pope writes, the word "Europe" expressed

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.cnsr.ru/eng/news.php?p=&b=7&tab\\_id=1&id=34](http://www.cnsr.ru/eng/news.php?p=&b=7&tab_id=1&id=34)

<http://www.time.com/time/international/1996/960429/religion.html>



both a political reality, meaning a group of states that formed a new Roman Empire, but also a mission—preserving the best of antique culture, and carrying it forward into history. *The Rise of Benedict XVI*.

This is where the newly joined members of the EU strengthen the Pope's hand. As Jonathan Luxmoore wrote in the *Tablet* (25-6-05) under the headline ***Europe at the crossroads: -***

The European Union faces its worst crisis for a generation over its proposed constitution. The Church, particularly in Eastern Europe, could play a vital role in ensuring that the European project gets back on course and Europe's elite reconnects with the masses.

It is Ratzinger's contention that only Christianity can hold together the diverse cultures of Europe; the project is failing because of the lack of attention to this dimension of European life. An article by Raymond de Souza, **Ignoring Europe's foundations**<sup>1</sup> summed up the situation: -

Europe above all is a cultural idea. When the Roman Empire disintegrated it was not clear what, if anything, would replace it. Would there be a centre that could unite Sicilians with Hibernians? Indeed, as various kingdoms and principalities and duchies spun out of the empire, it was evident that neither economics nor politics could provide the centre of unity.

It was instead a common faith that created Europe. Christianity united the diverse European nations, so much so that the divisions in Christianity produced political divisions, even wars, and vice versa. The old joke was that the Holy Roman Empire was not holy, not Roman and not an empire, but it was the product of the Christian ties that defined Europe.

Christianity today has been pushed to the margins of European political life, so that now a great empty shrine sits in Brussels, contemporary heir to the Holy Roman Empire. It is not easy to fill an empty shrine, and a standardized pan-European working week just won't do it. If Europe wishes to be united by more than trade and customs agreements, it will have to find something ennobling to which it can give its collective assent. It is doubtful that this could be Christianity again. But if not the common faith that created Europe, it is difficult to imagine what else it might be.

### **The name of Benedict XVI was carefully chosen**

When Cardinal Angelo Sodano, the vice-dean of the College of Cardinals, asked Joseph Ratzinger the name by which he would be known, the new pope did not hesitate. Not only did he respond "Benedict," but he was ready with an explanation. As Cardinal George

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<sup>1</sup> <http://catholiceducation.org/articles/politics/pg0139.html>

later told the story to the press, the Pope said something like, “Benedict lived at a time when the Roman Empire was collapsing, and he saw the role of the Church as to preserve the best in human culture throughout the centuries. The whole world was crumbling, and Benedict helped ensure that human civilization survived.”

In his first General Audience, on Wednesday, April 27, the Pope said of St. Benedict: “He constitutes a fundamental point of reference for the unity of Europe, and a powerful call to the irrefutable Christian roots of European culture and civilization.” *The Rise of Benedict XVI*.

“Saint” Benedict (480-543) who founded the Benedictines lived at a time when Rome was under attack. It was the time of the 7<sup>th</sup>, pagan, Gothic, head of the Beast, which some 50 years after his death would depart, and the wounded 6<sup>th</sup> head would be “healed” and regain power to form the Beast of the Sea of Rev 13.

St Benedict is the papal saint of Europe. The shrine of Subiaco where Benedict founded an order of monks in AD 529 is near Rome. St Benedict’s monastic “rule” was like Ratzinger’s, conservative but not too austere. For a millennium, the Benedictines were responsible for keeping Europe in papal thralldom. Rome used the Benedictine network to influence medieval economic migration through Europe. In the same way, Rome seeks to maintain her influence, during today’s economic migration of Spanish, Portuguese, Poles and Eastern Europeans.

In passing, we note that Cardinal Hume was a Benedictine and embodied the Benedictine ideal. His was the iron hand in a velvet glove which Rome claimed, “personified the final healing of the wounds of King Henry VIII’s Reformation rule” in England.

*Why Has The New Pope Called Himself Benedict XVI?* European Institute of Protestant Studies 17-5-05

### **Pope encourages the use and study of Latin**

Pope Benedict XVI encouraged the use of Latin in the Church, and the study of Latin by young people, as he met on November 28 with the members of the Latinitas Foundation, a group dedicated to the promotion of Latin.

Latin should not merely be conserved, the Pope said; its use should be encouraged and spread, particularly among the young. He explained that “the great treasures” of the language must not be lost, nor should Catholics lose the habit of using Latin as the official language of the Church. *CWNews.com* 28-11-05

### **A European Catholic-Orthodox Alliance?**

Now that’s a challenging question! Bible students have long pondered as to how the deep divisions between the Russian Orthodox and Roman Catholic Churches would be healed. Bible prophecy points to a Europe that for a



brief time is willing to work together. Nebuchadnezzar's Image with its eastern and western legs speaks to us of more than just a military cooperation, to come against God's people. There is a strong religious element. Coming against Israel will have an element of a crusade. If Europe and Russia are to work together, so must their religious leaders. There is one golden head with its eyes and mouth directing the movements of the Image.

The late Pope was anxious to visit Moscow to begin the work of healing the millennia old rift between them. There was certainly a heightened expectancy upon the appointment of a German Pope.

Observers also note that the two major Churches of the world, the Roman Catholic and the Russian Orthodox, are now headed by two ethnic Germans—Joseph Ratzinger (Pope Benedict XVI) and Alexei Riediger (Patriarch Alexy II), which will hopefully help the two Churches understand each other better. *RIA Novosti* 20-4-05

This is how Hilarion Alfeyev, Bishop of Vienna and Austria, the representative of the Russian Orthodox Church to the European Institutions, viewed matters: -

The hope... for a new development in the relations between the Roman Catholic and the Russian Orthodox Churches is reinforced by the election of Cardinal Josef Ratzinger as the 265th Pope of Rome. Though it was an internal event in the life of the Roman Catholic Church, many people throughout the world, notably within the Orthodox milieu, have certain expectations and hopes related to the new pontificate... There is hope that the new pontificate will be marked by a breakthrough in relations between the Roman Catholic and the Russian Orthodox Churches, and that a meeting of the Pope of Rome with the Patriarch of Moscow will one day take place. This meeting must be preceded by concrete steps in the direction of a better mutual understanding, and by careful elaboration of a common position on major dividing issues.

The renewed Orthodox delegation to the Mixed Catholic-Orthodox Theological Commission met after a five-year break. The meeting took place in Istanbul, on the invitation of His Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople. The delegation agreed with the proposal of the Roman Catholic side to begin the discussion of the theme of primacy in the Universal Church. *orthodoxeurope.org* 22-9-05

The Orthodox bishop, foreseeing the difficulties of resolving the issues proposed that there should run in parallel to the Theological Commission, a European Catholic-Orthodox Alliance which could focus on their agreements and join forces to combat the common problems they faced.

The proposed alliance may enable European Catholics and Orthodox to fight together against secularism, liberalism and relativism prevailing in modern Europe, may help them to speak with one voice in addressing

secular society, may provide for them an ample space where they will discuss modern issues and come to common positions. The social and ethical teachings of the Catholic and Orthodox Churches are extremely close, in many cases practically identical. Why, then, should we not be able to reveal our unity on all these major issues *urbi et orbi*?

The rationale behind this proposal is the following: our churches are on their way to unity, but one has to be realistic and understand that it will probably take decades, if not centuries, before this unity is realized. In the meantime we desperately need to address the world with a united voice. Without being one Church, can we act as one Church? Can we present ourselves to the outside world as a unified structure, as an alliance? I am convinced that we can, and that by doing so we may become much stronger. *Ibid*

It will be a significant step if such an alliance is formed. The bishop's proposals, which seem first to have been aired on a Roman Catholic site during an interview following the election of Benedict, are now posted on the website of the **Representation of the Russian Orthodox Church**—an indication that the Orthodox Church wants to move forward on this matter.

#### **"A church more willing to fight back"**

This was the heading to an article where the author, a prominent Roman Catholic reporter, saw the Vatican ready to engage in political battles with Europe. He quoted examples of the Vatican's call to Italian voters to boycott a referendum on in-vitro fertilization, which they duly did and the Italian government was defeated in bringing in these liberalizing measures. Similarly in Spain, the Roman Church actively campaigned against the government's plan to liberalize marriage laws. Although the government carried the day, the Vatican had stirred Spanish consciences.

*Time* magazine (7-12-05) carried an article headed **The Cardinal's Virtues** with the subheading **Camillo Cardinal Ruini is not shy about pushing Church doctrine onto the Italian political agenda**. It detailed the ever-growing impact that this highly placed Cardinal has on Italian politics.

Way back in 1949, Guy Emery Sipler, the editor of the *Churchman* magazine from 1922 to 1968, said of the Vatican:

"No political event or circumstances can be evaluated without the knowledge of the Vatican's part in it. And no significant world political situation exists in which the Vatican does not play an important, explicit or implicit part." *The Vatican In World Politics* by Avro Manhattan.

*Our final area looks at prophecies concerning the work of Britain and her young lions. We look at Britain's battles with the EU and see how they are working in the Middle East, just as prophecy would lead us to expect.*



**Chapter 14:****PROPHECIES FOR TODAY—BRITAIN AND HER YOUNG LIONS**

*Our community has held that Britain and the countries that look to her as “the mother country” have played and still have an important role to play in the unfolding events of the Return of our Master. Britain was the home of the Reformation, where the Bible was considered to be the guide to the running of the country as well as an influence for good upon her peoples. Sadly much of this has been lost and Britain under the baneful influence of a Europe steeped in Romanism has largely turned its back on the influence of the Bible. Nevertheless the British way of life with its sea trading and commerce, still influences those many countries that were under her influence.*

*The Commonwealth became the successor to the collapsing British Empire. Many countries, some because of traditional British influence, or others who wished to be helped by this organisation to grow in this modern world, belong to this organisation and meet every two years to promote mutual benefits. Queen Elizabeth II opens each meeting with a speech.*

*In a wonderful way Britain's role was foreshadowed in Bible prophecy and current events bear witness to the correctness of this understanding.*

**What prophecy leads us to expect**

Ezekiel pictures an assemblage of nations coming against Israel as detailed in his 38<sup>th</sup> chapter as we saw in our section on Russia. What he also sees are nations in opposition to this invasion.

*Sheba, and Dedan, and the merchants of Tarshish, with all the young lions thereof, shall say unto thee, Art thou come to take a spoil? hast thou gathered thy company to take a prey? to carry away silver and gold, to take away cattle and goods, to take a great spoil? Eze 38:13*

It is but one short verse, but what a lot is packed into it! It tells us that we should be able to identify at the time of the Gogian invasion, a grouping of nations associated with *Sheba* and *Dedan*. We find that there are at least two pairs of Shebas and Dedans. One pair the grandsons of Cush (Gen 10:7), the other grandsons of Abraham through Keturah (Gen 25:1-3).

**Dedan**

Interestingly, Ezekiel in an earlier chapter talks of two different Dedans. In that fascinating chapter 27 describing the many nations that traded in the city of Tyre we find two Dedans.

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

*Dedan was thy merchant in precious clothes for chariots.* Eze 27:20

The first Dedan was a sea-going trader, specialising in ebony and ivory.

Ebony also known as Indian Ebony or Ceylon Ebony, is a tree in the genus *Diospyros*, native to southern India and Sri Lanka. It is noted for its heavy, black, fine-grained heartwood. *Wikipedia*

Ivory comes from the elephant which can be African or Indian. The link with ebony point to India and this Dedan, in the line of Cush is associated with the southern side of the Persian Gulf, giving them sea access to India.

Earlier still in Ezekiel, there is a Dedan linked with Teman.

*Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; I will also stretch out mine hand upon Edom, and will cut off man and beast from it; and I will make it desolate from Teman; and they of Dedan shall fall by the sword. [Or they shall fall by the sword unto Dedan]* Eze 25:13



However we translate this verse, it puts this Dedan in the region of Teman. This would be the Abrahamic line of Dedan and we locate this Dedan in the NW region of Saudi Arabia.

## Sheba

I have not been able to identify separate territories for the Cushite and Abrahamic Sheba—they seem to merge! Ezekiel lists Sheba in consecutive verses.

*The merchants of Sheba and Raamah, they were thy merchants: they occupied in thy fairs with chief of all spices, and with all precious stones, and gold.*

*Haran, and Canneh, and Eden, the merchants of Sheba, Asshur, and Chilmad, were thy merchants.* Eze 27:22,23

The first Sheba is the Cushite one—Raamah was Sheba's father—and is clearly associated with the southern "Queen of Sheba" spice kingdom, whose territory occupied the southern Arabian Peninsula and across into



Africa. Raamah is associated with the southern Persian Gulf region. (*Fausset's*) v23 seems to be peoples on the trade route from Babylon to Syria, some of whom were merchants who traded with Sheba.

### The merchants of Tarshish

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

*The ships of Tarshish did sing of thee in thy market: and thou wast replenished, and made very glorious in the midst of the seas. Eze 27:12,25*

These verses give us important clues as to the identity of these merchants. They seemed to be prepared to trade in *all kinds of riches* and specifically in these four named metals, and emphasis is given to them being a trading people in the Tyrian fairs. The AV is misleading in v25—the word for *sing* is *to turn, to travel about*; in the other place it occurs it is translated *wentest*. (Isa 57:9) Other translations read: *were carriers of thy merchandise* (NKJ); *travelled for you with your merchandise* (RSV)

The *ships of Tarshish* are also spoken of in a future role by Isaiah:

*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*

Here they are associated with *the isles* and speak of a latter-day power that is submissive to the newly established King in Jerusalem, helping in the work of restoring the Jews back to their land.

Our traditional identification with Britain as the latter-day Tarshish power is well founded. The *Penguin Atlas of World History* map illustrating the Phoenician colonisation which spanned Ezekiel's day, specifically indicates Britain as the source of tin and lead—two of the metals in Ezekiel 27:12. Britain was known as the Cassiterides—the Tin Islands. A UK government publication specifically mentions all the four metals of Ezekiel as being found in ancient Britain, and that tin at least was being mined as far back as Ezekiel's era.

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

"The date of the discovery of tin in the west of England is not known, but it **was being produced about 2,500 years ago.**" *Mining activities in England*. HMSO [My **emphasis**]

In the next chapter we will show how Britain is still a major merchant power. But let's now look at the final section of Ezekiel 38:13.

## And all her young lions

The AV speaks of the Merchants of Tarshish *with all the young lions thereof*. The Hebrew sense is that the lions belong to Tarshish, as other translations show: *and all their young lions* (NKJ); *with all her strong lions* (NIV mg); *with all her young lions* (Roth); *and all its young lions* (Young). Some translations have used the word villages instead of lions, but this is not supported by the Hebrew, but is an indication of the apparent nonsense of suddenly talking about lions! It must have been a puzzling phrase, yet how apt for the period in which it was to be fulfilled. The use of an old lion for Britain and young lions for commonwealth countries is stock in trade for cartoonists. Our cover reproduces a recent *Economist* cartoon using a lion to depict Britain.



## Why no Egypt?

We might expect to see a mention of Egypt in this listing of opposing nations. In Daniel's later visions he sees the final conflict in the terms of a *King of the North* and a *King of the South*. This is a re-run of the history in the time of the Greeks when Alexander the Great's kingdom was divided amongst his 4 generals, (Dan 8:8) with Israel sandwiched between two rival branches of the Greek Empire. The southern, Ptolemy Kingdom was based in Egypt and the northern, Seleucid, initially in Seleucia on the Tigris then in Antioch on the Orontes in Syria. At this time Egypt is probably back under the control of Britain, fulfilling her final role as the *King of the South*. Britain will be guarding her vital interests in the area and that important passageway, the Suez Canal. She is to be defeated; and the ships of Tarshish broken, (Ps 48:7) when the *King of the North* power comes down and takes Egypt and then moves up to take Jerusalem. (Dan 11:40-45)

## The Kings of Tarshish and the isles

As well as the future role for Britain and her associates already looked at (Is 60:9), the Psalmist adds this further picture of a submissive Britain and her island companions acknowledging Christ as King: –

*The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall bring presents: the kings of Sheba and Seba shall offer gifts.*

*Yea, all kings shall fall down before him: all nations shall serve him. Ps 72:10,11*

*In our next chapter we see how Tarshish's young lions are merchant powers, friendly to Israel and working in the region of Arabia!*



## Chapter 15:

# BRITAIN, THE EU AND THE MIDDLE EAST

*We looked in our previous chapter at the wonderful prophecies for the nations associated with Britain. We now see how these are working out today. We first look at Britain's problems with the EU; we anticipate the day will soon come when Britain will say goodbye to a politically alien continent; we then look at her working in the Middle East.*

### Britain's difficult year with the EU

Mr Blair and the Labour Party were re-elected for a 3<sup>rd</sup> term in May, but with a greatly reduced majority. He also indicated that he would not be standing again but would hand over the reins to the chancellor, Gordon Brown, some time before the current parliamentary session ends in 2009.

Shortly after this election, Mr Blair stepped into his term as EU president for 6 months. His aim was to show that Britain was still an influential power in Europe. Unfortunately his EU colleagues thought otherwise! It fell to his lot to oversee the approval of the EU's budget for 2007-2013, rather a poisoned chalice! Britain enjoys a substantial rebate, famously won by Mrs Thatcher in the days when Britain was the "sick man of Europe". Because Britain gets little back by way of the infamous CAP (Common Agricultural Policy), the rebate made it fairer for Britain. As Britain has grown more prosperous and the rest of the EU struggles, the "Anglo-Saxon" rebate has become an increasingly sore point.

What upsets the British are the huge benefits France receives due to the way the CAP was set up. Britain's attempts to reform the system have fallen on deaf ears. Another problem for the budget was the accession of 10 new countries last year, all poorer, some much poorer than the existing EU members. These hungry mouths needed feeding, but where was the money to come from? "From Britain's rebate," said the rest of Europe. "From France's CAP subsidies," said Britain. Tony Blair staked his reputation that the rebate was safe in his hands and reforms would have to be made to the whole system of EU funding. After a long and acrimonious meeting in the middle of December, a compromise was reached—Britain gave up a big chunk of the rebate and France it appears gave up virtually nothing! When will the British ever learn the EU's devious ways?

The chancellor, Gordon Brown, already having difficulties funding his plans with a downturn in the economy, is now faced with finding—well yesterday it was £1bn a year, today it emerges as the fine details become apparent, that nearly £2bn a year will have to be found to pay into the EU coffers. Mr Brown was not present during the negotiations, and is said to be very unhappy at this extra bill!

At home many of Mr Blair's backbenchers are unhappy at his performance since the May election. They have already inflicted a parliamentary defeat over his plans for strengthening the existing terrorism laws. His popularity ratings have fallen.

### **British Conservatives**

The Conservative party struggled in the elections, and as a result Michael Howard decided to step down as party leader, and set in motion the long process to choose a new leader. Towards the year-end David Cameron emerged as the new leader. At the age of 37 he is the youngest leader the Conservatives have had, and has only been an MP for five years. His calm but powerful speeches earned him much respect, and the party immediately rose in public opinion, overtaking the Labour Party in the polls. Shortly before being chosen as leader he was interviewed by the Conservative Friends of Israel about his attitude to Israel. He came across as very supportive. In answer to the question, **"Why should Conservatives be friends of Israel"** he replied: -

Conservatives should be friends of Israel because Conservatives believe in supporting democracy, defending freedom and standing up against terrorism. Israel is in the front line in the international struggle against terrorist violence and we should show solidarity with all involved in that fight. Conservatives also recognise Israel's unique position as a lone democracy in a region that currently boasts no others. I am a strong admirer of what Israelis have achieved in the fields of science, the arts, business and philanthropy, and of the immeasurable contribution of Jewish culture to our own society. *CFI* 24-11-05

An American site spoke of his stand for what President Bush was trying to achieve in the Middle East—to establish democracy in an effort to bring stability and a solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Cameron has long supported the British deployment in Iraq; at first this did not distinguish him from the reflexive "back our troops" rhetoric of the Conservative mainstream. But in fact, Cameron, a committed hawk and idealist, has clear and controversial views on the removal of Saddam Hussein and the war on terror.

Cameron laid out his ideas at the beginning of his leadership campaign in late August in a speech at The Foreign Policy Centre, a Blairite think tank... In his speech, Cameron spoke of the need for a foreign policy that involves the "consistent application" of the "shared values" of the nation, defining these as "democratic" and "progressive." He said that the challenge of Islamist terror was, "at root, ideological" and identified the origin of terrorism as lying in the "corruption of many states in the Middle East" and a "lack of democracy." The solution, he said, is "to promote change, reform, and liberalization" in the region. *TNR* 20-12-05



He also instructed the Conservative members of the European Parliament to move the party from the main centre-right group, the European People's Party (EPP) and to find a grouping of more euro-sceptical members.

Perhaps Labour's spell in power is coming to an end; there certainly does not appear to be the enthusiasm for Brown as a leader. Under a Conservative party there would be much less enthusiasm for Europe and probably more for Israel and a transatlantic alliance with America.

### **"Britain should quit EU, French sage says"**

This was an elderly Frenchman's kindly advice to his friend Britain: -

Mr Druon, 87, holder of an honorary knighthood for services to Anglo-French relations, said: "What Britain and Europe want of the EU is quite different. You want an open market, whereas the rest of us want Europe to evolve as a strong power, not just economically but diplomatically and strategically, too."

Mr Druon listed the aspects of Britishness he judged incompatible with EU membership: an "umbilical" link with America; demands for special budgetary treatment; support for Turkish accession in defiance of Europe's natural boundaries; and stubborn resistance to the Euro. Britain, he said, continued to focus its policies on "the open sea".

Mr Druon said: "Shouldn't we draw the consequences and ask whether it wouldn't be to everyone's advantage, Britain's included, for them to leave the EU's political institutions and take the status of privileged partner?"

"You cannot stay indefinitely both in and out. If a friend cannot raise this question, who else will dare to pose it?"

He told *The Daily Telegraph*: "I am not suggesting that Britain should be chased out of the EU. It must be Britain that takes the first step towards a modified status." *Daily Telegraph* 17-8-05

### **"Isolation fever. How Tony Blair may, yet again, follow in Margaret Thatcher's footsteps"**

This was the headline in the *Economist* 1-12-05.

One of the more pointless Brussels parlour games is to tot up the achievements of whichever country happens to hold the European Union's six-monthly revolving presidency. Normally,



Cartoon shows Blair as the British lion in isolation from Europe

the game of assessing presidencies is just that: a game. But this time it may reflect something that is happening on the ground: Britain is becoming more isolated in the EU. This could have profound consequences for Britain and Europe.

For most of the 1980s and early 1990s, Britain's splendid isolation was not so much a policy failure as a permanent condition of life in Europe. A handbag-toting Margaret Thatcher revelled in her summit clashes. John Major, under pressure from Eurosceptics, accepted isolation. But for Mr Blair, it would not be splendid: it would be a reversal. In his speech to the European Parliament in June, he declared that "I believe in Europe as a political project"—something his predecessors could not have said.

### **"Europe's constitution: The sceptics could push Britain out of the EU"**

Earlier in the year, the *International Herald Tribune* (9-2-05) carried this headline. This was before the French and Dutch had rejected the constitution, when the prospect was that Britain might be the only nation to reject it. It indicates it is an "acceptable" matter to think of Britain outside the heart of Europe. It surely is a matter now of how much longer Britain will put up with the shackles that Europe wishes to place upon her.

### **Britain on the rise**

Britain's withdrawal from the Middle East some 50 years ago was a matter of disappointment to Bible students. After a clear role in driving out the Turk and overseeing the return of the Jews to their ancient homeland, Britain's ignominious withdrawal in 1956 from Egypt over the Suez crisis under Sir Antony Eden marked a low point in British involvement in the Middle East. As her empire slipped away, Britain seemed to be a spent force. Were our pioneer writers mistaken in their expectations? Let's see the remarkable turn-around in recent times.

### **The Merchants of Tarshish**

After years of decline, the British merchant fleet is growing again. John Prescott the British Deputy Prime Minister was in the Merchant Navy for ten years and later was a full-time official for the National Union of Seamen. As part of the Labour governments plan to boost the merchant navy, he brought in a far-reaching tax reform for ship owners.

July 2000 saw the historic enactment of a new taxation regime for British shipping, as part of a new, long-term strategy for this core national industry. It is not an exaggeration to say that, without this new policy, the millennium would have seen the demise of Britain as a world-class maritime nation.

The introduction of the tonnage tax has been vital to the recovery of the shipping industry. Since its introduction there has been a 250% increase



in the UK registered fleet and a doubling of the UK based fleet. These changes have reversed a quarter of a century of decline and placed Britain at the forefront of international shipping. It is worth noting that the British flagged fleet is now second only to Greece within the EU. [www.british-shipping.org](http://www.british-shipping.org)

The UK has a great maritime history and today boasts the largest maritime sector in Europe. With a turnover of £37 billion—twice the size of aerospace or agriculture—and employing more than a quarter of a million people, the sector makes a massive contribution to the economy.



Over 95% of all Britain's imports and exports go by sea. Fifty million people travel to, from and around the UK by ferry each year. We are technological leaders in offshore oil and gas extraction, and strong in marine manufacturing. The Royal Navy is the second strongest navy in the world and London is the world centre for maritime financial and legal services. We are world-beaters in yacht design, building and racing. *SeaVisionUK*

### Versatile Maritime Force

Recently far-reaching plans have been set out to modernise the navy into a “Versatile Maritime Force” able to support its troops in any part of the world. This will be the greatest shipbuilding programme ever undertaken in Britain; the 65,000 tonne aircraft carriers will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> biggest in the world.

...They would give the navy the “ability to project power with four acres of British sovereign territory that you can move anywhere in the world”.

With countries increasingly hostile to over-flights by foreign warplanes, the carriers would give the Navy a significant sea presence thousands of miles from home. *Daily Telegraph* 15-12-05

### Trafalgar celebrations

During the year there were great celebrations of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Lord Nelson's triumphant routing of Napoleon's ships at the battle of Trafalgar. The French naturally saw it otherwise, but were gracious enough to send Europe's largest battle ship to dwarf the other ships assembled to celebrate this victory! This notable victory was part of the fulfilment of the second vial when British naval supremacy led to Britain ruling the waves.

*And the second angel poured out his vial upon the sea; and it became as the blood of a dead man: and every living soul died in the sea. Rev 16:3*

**“Peace in the Middle East will remain one of my Government's highest priorities.”**

It was but one line in the Queen's Speech at the State opening of Parliament, but that's all one gets in this "speech" that lists the priorities of the new government during the next session. *Hansard* 17-5-05

Britain is increasingly involved in Middle East matters. At this year's Labour Party Conference, the chancellor, Gordon Brown—widely regarded as Mr Blair's successor—spoke of Britain's new focus. Earlier at the G8 summit in Edinburgh in July the focus was on Africa, a continent that had many countries marked in red on the old British Empire maps. Now his focus was moving to the Middle East as this *Financial Times* report shows.

### **Brown shifts focus to foreign affairs with trip to Middle East**

Gordon Brown is to focus on the Middle East, examining ways in which an economic regeneration programme for the Palestinians can boost the prospect of peace with Israel.

The chancellor is hoping to travel to the region next month for meetings with the Israeli government and the Palestinian authority.

Mr Brown believes Britain has a strong role to play in boosting the Palestinian economy, given that the UK holds both the presidency of the European Union and the Group of Eight leading industrial nations.

The chancellor has commissioned Jon Cunliffe, the UK's G7 finance deputy, and Ed Balls, MP and a former chief economic adviser to the Treasury, to prepare a report on the Palestinian economy by the end of the year. The report will help to inform James Wolfensohn, the former head of the World Bank, who got backing at the G8 summit in Gleneagles to work on an economic regeneration plan. 26-9-05

### **Britain and Israel**

**Tony Blair:** "I will tell the House what else I think—that there has not been a bigger supporter of the state of Israel than this Government and this Prime Minister." *Prime Minister's Question Time* 23-2-05

**Geoff Hoon,** Secretary of State for Defence: "All my political life, I've been a friend of the Jewish community in Britain, and I've always been a strong supporter of the State of Israel. For me this is as instinctive as it is fundamental to my political outlook and my values." *BICOM* 23-2-05

We saw in *Milestones 2004* how Britain acts as a diplomatic conduit between Israel and America.

### **Britain and the Palestinians**

Britain is using her skills to persuade donor countries to give economic support to rebuild the Palestinian economy, thereby promoting stability and hopefully peace. In November, Gordon Brown outlined his plans at an Israeli business conference in Tel Aviv.



### **UK's Brown seeks to boost Palestinian economy**

Brown said he aimed to have the plan, which he has called an "economic road map", ready by December.

"I believe the whole international community should and will come together to support an economic plan for the Palestinian Authority," he said in a speech warmly applauded by a mostly Israeli audience. "One aim of the plan should be to create new jobs including the prospect of 100,000 jobs in Gaza itself."

Brown believes more economic growth, enterprise and job creation would give people in the region, which has been hit by five years of Israeli-Palestinian violence, a greater stake in peace and security.

Brown aims to present the plan to finance ministers and central bankers of the Group of Seven rich nations who will meet in London on Dec. 2-3 with Israeli and Palestinian finance ministers present.

During his Middle East visit, Brown helped bring together for the first time newly appointed Israeli Finance Minister Ehud Olmert and his Palestinian counterpart, Salam Fayyad.

"A lot has been achieved in the last few months. There is a determination in the Palestinian Authority to create a new dynamic of cooperation with Israel," Olmert told reporters in a joint news conference with Brown and Fayyad.

"Giving people jobs gives them a stake in the future and they begin to see the unacceptable costs of violence is not just losing security but also losing prosperity," Brown said.

Brown said earlier... that Britain, together with Norway, would hold a donor conference for the Palestinian territories in London on Dec. 7. But Brown said that donor countries would want assurances from the Palestinians on fiscal discipline and transparency. *Reuters* 10-11-05

### **An "historic step towards peace"**

Those conferences were duly held and encouraging progress was made under Britain's efforts.

Israeli and Palestinian business leaders backed a declaration yesterday encouraging private sector growth in the West Bank and Gaza. The declaration was the product of a conference entitled 'Promoting Economic Growth in the West Bank and Gaza through the Private Sector', which took place in London and was hosted by the British government and the World Bank. Gordon Brown spoke at the conference and hailed the declaration as an "historic step towards peace". The declaration specifically noted that the private sector will be the driving force for Palestinian economic growth and development, and that the Palestinian economy "needs to return to productive levels

commensurate with its economic capacity in order to generate employment, create prosperity and reduce poverty.” *BICOM* 14-12-05

### **Britain in the Middle East**

**Egypt.** Britain has close links with Egypt—she is the biggest non-Arab investor in Egypt, second only to Saudi Arabia, and UK exports to Egypt grew by 45% in 2004.

**Saudi Arabia.** Britain is one of the top ten exporters to Saudi Arabia. Trade between the two countries has dropped amid the scaling down of the Al Yamamah project, which brought more than \$40 billion in British aircraft and warships to the Arab kingdom in the 1990s. However a new deal is being finalised that would see one of Britain’s biggest weapons export deals.

#### **£20bn jets deal will secure 14,000 jobs**

The Government has agreed a deal worth up to £20 billion to supply the new Eurofighter Typhoon to Saudi Arabia, the first contract for the aircraft outside Europe.

It is the biggest export contract for BAE Systems for 20 years and secures up to 14,000 jobs at the Eurofighter factory near Preston and Rolls-Royce’s engine plant near Derby.

Analysts believe that the Saudis will buy between 48 and 72 Typhoons.

Estimates of the value of the deal to BAE range from £7 billion to £20 billion, to be paid in cash and oil. The contract, which builds on the Al Yamamah deal in the late 1980s, is likely to be signed within a few months. *Daily Telegraph* 22-12-05

### **Britain and India**

India is one of the young lions, indeed in Bible times there appear to have been two Tarshish powers, one in the east and one in the west. Solomon’s ships sailed to the eastern Tarshish, bringing back gold, silver, ivory, apes and peacocks. (2 Chron 9:21) India has long been associated with this eastern Tarshish power. With the passing of time since Britain withdrew in 1947, there has been a growing friendship between the two countries.

#### **UK and India: Global Partners**

Britain and India share a global vision and democratic values. UK and India both play a proactive role in international affairs. Both have a strong interest in success of multilateralism. Both play vital roles in the UN, WTO, Commonwealth and a range of other bodies. India and the UK are engaged in one of the most profitable and significant bilateral trade and investment partnerships in the world...The UK is India’s 4th largest trading partner. ...UK is the 3rd biggest inward investor in India. [Behind Mauritius and USA.] *britishhighcommission.gov.uk* 4-10-05

*Finally, we see how Britain’s young lions are equally involved in this area.*



## Chapter 16:

# HER YOUNG LIONS WORKING IN THE MIDDLE EAST TODAY

*We now look at the evidence for the young lions—America, Australia and India working in the Middle East; co-operating in defence and trade; friendly to Israel.*

Out of the English Civil War came a race of Englishmen who lasted 300 years, who built the British Empire and saw it—not crumble, like the Roman and Spanish empires had done, but grow into separate nations, as children do when they leave the family. *Book of Revolutions* B. Innes

*Like Britain, all these countries, are looking to increase their navies!*

## The young lions expanding their navies

### America.

The *New York Times* (3-12-05) ran the headline,

### Navy to Expand Fleet With New Enemies in Mind

The Navy wants to increase its fleet to 313 ships by 2020, reversing years of decline in naval shipbuilding and adding dozens of warships designed to defeat emerging adversaries, senior Defense Department officials say.

**India** has purchased a 2<sup>nd</sup> hand Russian aircraft carrier that Russia is currently refurbishing in a \$1.5bn deal. In 2003 she published a blueprint that would transform her in to a “blue waters” navy, (“blue waters” is a maritime term implying deep seas, far away from one’s own shores).

The Indian Navy, the world’s fifth largest navy, is a well-balanced three-dimensional force consisting of sophisticated missile-capable warships, aircraft carriers, minesweepers, advanced submarines and the latest aircraft in its inventory. Many of the warships are of indigenous design and have been constructed in Indian shipyards... The Naval forces are maintained and supported by modern dockyard facilities encompassing state-of-the-art technology... the current perception of the Indian Navy—that of a competent, confident, operationally viable and regionally visible maritime power. Ships of the Indian Navy are not merely visible in the Indian Ocean Region and its environs—but also further afield. [www.globalsecurity.org](http://www.globalsecurity.org) (current website)

**Australia** also has a “blue waters” navy. This is part of the *Wikipedia* entry for the Royal Australian Navy.

Established in 1909, the RAN was formed out of the Commonwealth Naval Forces, the small navy of Australia after federation, which consisted of the colonial navies of the new Australian states. The Royal Navy continued to provide blue water defence in the Pacific until World

War Two, when expansion of the RAN saw the acquisition of aircraft carriers, and other large surface vessels.

Today the RAN is one of the largest naval forces in the Pacific region, and has undertaken operations in support of military campaigns and peacekeeping missions worldwide.

### **Trading in the area**

**America.** Like Britain, America has many military bases in the area, she also is a strong trading partner in many ME countries. She has special free trade agreements with Israel and Jordan and now with Egypt. Through QIZ's (Qualified Industrial Zones) in Jordan and Egypt she seeks to increase trade and with it stability in the region.

#### **Middle East Free Trade Area**

The United States is proposing a plan of graduated steps for Middle Eastern nations to increase trade and investment with the United States and others in the world economy. The first step is to work closely with peaceful nations that want to become members of the World Trade Organization (WTO)... As these countries implement domestic reform agendas... the United States would expand and deepen economic ties through Trade and Investment Framework Agreements (TIFAs), Bilateral Investment Treaties (BITs), and comprehensive Free Trade Agreements (FTAs). *usinfo.state.gov* current site 12-05

**Australia.** She has a growing presence in the region.

#### **The Middle East—A Mecca for our Exports**

...there's a strong Australian presence in the region...despite the tough environment, Australian exporters are making headway in Middle East markets...Cars, wine, food and beverage are all there as well as professional services in health and medical research, education, engineering and defence and our traditional commodities in wheat, aluminium and fossil fuels... In fact, one in five motor vehicles sold in the Middle East are Australian made...Australian exporters consider the United Arab Emirates to be a prime destination for business in the Middle East region. This was followed by Saudi Arabia and Israel.

Defence projects are also big in the region. Austal ships are selling vessels to Oman and the UAE, and the Royal Australian Navy is providing patrol boat training in Yemen. *Australian Trade Commission* 6-9-04

**India.** Again the Middle East is an attractive and growing market.

#### **An emerging India-Middle East trading bloc**

"Annual imports to India from the Middle East have risen 91% while exports to the Middle East have risen by 34%...India and the Middle East have traditionally had strong links that go beyond just trade... I see



a strong trading bloc developing in the region to the east of the EU and to the west of ASEAN, that will make its own standing amongst trading nations of the world.” *Mohamed Ali Alabbar, Chairman, Emaar Properties, Dubai. World Economic Forum 24-11-05*

## Friends of Israel

Britain, America, Australia and India have excellent links with Israel and the Middle East countries of the area. This is what we would expect from the words of Ezekiel 38:13, and to be able to see that reality at this time in history is a great boost to our faith in the power of the Word of God, and the angelic control of the events of the nations. Humanly speaking why should say, Australia, half a world away from Israel, be such friends?

For Australia, like America there is a Protestant legacy, which, through the Bible, influenced perceptions and attitudes, in contrast to the anti-Semitism of Europe, developed by a “closed” Bible. Australian troops operated in the Middle East in the time of WWI, playing a crucial role in the taking of Palestine, opening the way for Jews to return to their land. (See *Bible Magazine* 16#1) They were there in WWII, halting the German advance that threatened the lives of the Jewish settlers. They were at work in 2003 in Iraq, taking out the Scud missiles that posed a threat to Israel.

In fact, Australia’s historical ties to Israel have played an important role in developing trading ties between the two countries. In fact, when the Jewish state was established in 1948—56 years ago—the announcement was made in a broad Australian accent to the General Assembly of the newly created United Nations (UN). That accent belonged to Dr. H.V. Evatt (also Australia’s Minister for External Affairs) who was President of the UN when Israel was proclaimed a nation in Tel Aviv on 14 May 1948 and formally admitted as a member of the UN on 11 May 1949.

On the economic front too, Australia was influential in helping the fledgling nation develop its trading ties in the 1950s and 60s. After all, after its birth, Israel—unlike most countries—couldn’t trade with its neighbours. It was also established at a time when world trade was adversely affected by protectionism... In the face of these restrictions, Israel relied on immigration to build its economic links to the rest of the world and began forging ties with the USA, the UK, Canada, South Africa and Australia. As a result, countries like Australia took a large proportion of imports from Israel in its early years to help the fledgling state. This continued over the decades. *Austrade.gov.au* 6-9-04

A delegation of 30 Australian businesspeople and officials will arrive in Israel...to locate investment opportunities and possible purchases of equipment, technologies, and know-how. Members of the delegation will seek to promote a bilateral free trade agreement. *Globes* 23-5-05

India is a mainly Hindu country, but has been heavily influenced by British rule in the past. Like Israel it is a democratic country, and she shares a

common enemy. Both countries sit on either side of the mass of Moslem countries that have spawned so much in the way of terrorism. Israel is a tiny country compared to India, yet she has the technical skills to provide the solutions to many of India's problems.

### **India, Israel Bolster Defense Relations**

India and Israel have been steadily improving defense and military relations in one of the most significant relationships in the Middle East. *Middle East Newslite* 22-1-05

Both the countries are cooperating in military technology in a big way. *Press Trust of India* 15-11-05

### **India, Israel bilateral trade to touch \$2.7 bn this year**

Trade between India & Israel first took off after the diplomatic relationship was established in 1992.

During January-June 2005, Indian-Israel bilateral trade grew by more than 23%. India is now Israel's ninth largest global trading partner and second largest in Asia... India-Israel bilateral trade is expected to reach about USD 2.7 billion this year...Predicting better cooperation in telecommunication, biotechnology, nano technology, space science and agriculture in the next five years...it was possible to take two-way trade above \$5 billion by 2007. *FIEO News* Dec 05

During the Gulf War her ships patrolled the Gulf area. Why should India be so willing not only to work with Britain and America in this area, but also be friendly to Israel? Angelic hands work behind the scenes; God has spoken—the merchants of Tarshish will have the young lions along side!

### **Iraq**

The situation in Iraq gets but a brief mention this year! Britain and America are tied down in the region for the foreseeable future, although in the final picture this area belongs to the *King of the North*, so their role here is a temporary one. The Iraq war brought Britain and her allies as an active force in the Middle East, in preparation for their role in God's plan when Gog comes down. There has been much bloodshed in Iraq, but it is mainly from rival Iraqis. There is a measure of normality returning to the region, as its infrastructure is rebuilt. The Iraqi papers and TV stations are proliferating. They successfully held their 3<sup>rd</sup> elections in November, notable for the participation of the Sunni Moslems this time. The Iraqi people are determined to rebuild their lives.

*As our Milestones 2005 review draws to a close we can be excited by the powerful evidence that our traditional prophetic heritage remains intact. We have seen abundant evidence that God's Purpose is being worked out, through angelic hands, under the control of our Lord and Master. He is at the door, the hour is at hand! We close with a short exhortation.*



**Chapter 17:****FINAL EXHORTATION. BEING BORN AGAIN**

We return to our opening quotation from Bro Roberts (see page 11).

His purpose is to populate the earth with “children,” not with mere human creatures... They are “taken out from among them” by a change of mind. Their ideas, their loves, their policy, and their aims become revolutionized by the Truth which is the developing power.

This is the reality for saints; the Truth must not be merely an academic exercise; it has to be a life-long process of

*being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.* 1 Pet 1:23

Initially, water causes nature’s corruptible seeds to germinate and shoot. Then, assisted by that incredible process of photosynthesis, which transforms the natural light of the sun into plant food, it grows—hopefully—to bring forth its fruits. It then withers and dies, but its seeds repeat the cycle. And so even the humblest blade of grass has its origins from God’s initial creation.

But Peter is talking of an incorruptible seed. It does not die, for it is from God. His words spoken to the prophets of old and recorded by them, give us a book that is of Divine origin, whose message will not fade or corrupt.

Our part is to have softened, receptive minds so that the seed can germinate. But that process is not enough. This *word of God* carries its own, Divine, light that we have to capture and transform by a process of absorption by the brain, so that it releases its energy to bring spiritual growth. This is what the Psalmist spoke of in Psalm 119:97.

*O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day.*

Meditation. It comes from a Hebrew root word, to ponder, to converse with oneself. That requires time and effort. It involves a personal study of the Word, and a practical effort to use the light of God’s Word to modify our lives. To seek first the things of Truth, to love that which is right and abhor that which is evil. To discern between what is truly of worth and that which will vanish away. This living word has the power, if we allow it, to transform us and make us true children of the Living God. He is the One who has created this wonderful world and daily sustains it and is working towards His goal of populating the earth with His children. God has set before us the example of His son, whom He hath begotten, now raised to His right hand to be our mediator and high priest.

God’s work is about to enter its penultimate phase, which will last for a 1000 years. We stand on the brink; it is no time to be asleep. As our Master said to his disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane, *Rise, let us be going!*

## Keep up-to-date!

World events are fast moving and to supplement the yearly *Milestones* review, one can keep up-to-date on a quarterly or a weekly basis.

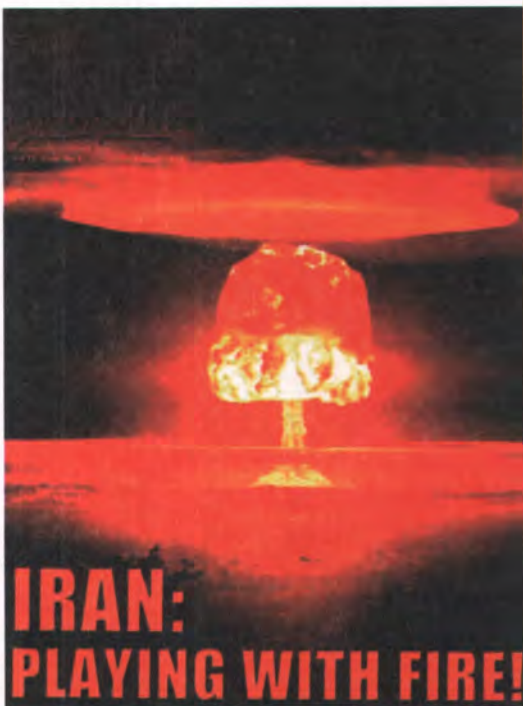
### The Bible Magazine

Each issue of the quarterly *Bible Magazine* carries a *Milestones Update*, which looks at different topical areas of fulfilling prophecy. This lively full-colour magazine is of interest to brethren and sisters and is ideal to give to our young people as well as to interested friends.

Contact your local CSSS representative for subscription details, or go to the *Bible Magazine* website: [www.biblemagazine.com](http://www.biblemagazine.com)

### Milestones Snippets

*Milestones Snippets* consists of interesting articles that I glean off the web and e-mail approximately twice a week. Each article is indexed and cumulative indexes are e-mailed periodically. It is free. To subscribe, just e-mail me at: [MilestonesUK@aol.com](mailto:MilestonesUK@aol.com)



### Milestones Website

The Milestones web site carries details of a wide range of books expounding prophecy and a section on books and DVD's against evolution, defending the Creation account. These can be ordered on-line at [www.MilestonesUK.org](http://www.MilestonesUK.org) or write for booklist.

### Prophecy Days

Both the *Bible Magazine* and the *Milestones* website carry details of known Prophecy Days around the world that uphold our traditional understanding of the fulfilment of prophecy.

**NEW for 2006.** For the benefit of our blind brethren and sisters, we are planning to produce an audio version of Milestones on tapes/CD's. Contact me on [MilestonesUK@aol.com](mailto:MilestonesUK@aol.com) for details.

Don Pearce

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# Milestones 2005

**Milestones 2005** starts by outlining God's plan of salvation and the conflict between:

- The seed of the woman vs. the seed of the serpent
- Zion vs. Babylon
- The Bride vs. the Harlot

This conflict is the subject of so much of Bible prophecy, and will reach its climax in the Battle of Armageddon!

**Milestones** then divides into 5 broad areas:

- Israel (and the Palestinians)
- Europe
- Russia
- Papacy
- Britain and her young lions

For each division, **Milestones** looks at the appropriate prophecies, then at how they are being fulfilled in the events of the past year.



Using news sources from around the world, **Milestones 2005** pulls together significant events of last year to encourage us to sharpen our focus on things that really matter—preparation for our Lord's return.

