

MILESTONES TO THE KINGDOM

***A Review of the
World Events of
2010 in the Light
of Bible Prophecy***

Don Pearce

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76 High Street

Hillmorton

Rugby CV21 4EE

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Phone (01788) 54 2408

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Preface

Dear Readers

What a breath-taking year!

We thought that year 2009 was a year of great activity but now, at the end of 2010, we see it as just a preparation for the far greater events of 2010. These twelve months have left the world with a pit in its stomach. Whatever stability still remained in December 2009 has diminished in the dramas of virtually every continent throughout this last year. The large wars of Iraq and Afghanistan, costing vast amounts of money and materials and tens of thousands of lives, are not likely to bring the fruits of stable democracy that was hoped for. The whole Middle East is more unstable. The treachery and terrorism of Al-Qaida-like groups strike with persistence in many countries. The Middle-East is a boiling cauldron of intrigue. Turkey, probably the strongest Muslim country militarily, has switched from being a friend with Israel to a bitter and resentful enemy, now in open league with Iran, Syria and Hezbollah. The Euro-dominated countries are in financial crisis, with two of their members in virtual bankruptcy, Greece and Ireland and another four or five, including Italy, Portugal and Spain tottering on the brink. The great pan-European dream that had so persuasively drawn them all into its security and prosperity is now in crisis under the increasing weight of debt. And there is no way out other than to accept the rules and disciplines imposed by a strong and ever richer Germany. Even France has to accept the German line. Whilst most of the EU countries groan under the restraints, the German economy becomes ever stronger as also its army, navy and air force.

It is 65 years since the end of World War II; many in Europe must be wondering where all this may lead as the echoes are quite profound!

Nor is NATO the bastion of security that it once was. Germany flirts with Russia its old enemy and seems more interested in her company than being touched with the infirmities of its small fellows of the European Union. Almost all of the necessary commodities for the great German industrial powerhouse come from Russia; so why is Germany going to be too concerned about Belgium with its chocolates, or the tulips of Holland? Germany is gaining by industry and finance the dominance she sought by warfare and invasion in World War II. In close cooperation with Mr Sarkozy of France, Mrs Merkel is increasingly moving to independence of Europe from the security offered by the United States. If Russia is your friend, what's the use of NATO?

The United States looks tired and uncertain. Whatever can she really achieve in Afghanistan? The moment she leaves those dry and war-torn mountains the Taliban and other terrorist movements will come out of their caves in droves – and what will Pakistan really care? Ten years on the soil of Iraq the American soldiers will look behind them on their departure next year, to find the country under siege; already their new President is seeking renewed friendship with Iran, Turkey and Syria. Even the once dependent countries of South America are now quite vocal to

condemn the United States and show their new allegiance with extreme Arab States and opposition to Israel.

The United States is still by far the greatest and richest nation on earth. Her economy is more than triple that of China and India together. Yet her status and respect in the world are faltering. Why is this so? So many countries would ultimately acknowledge that they depend on America for their security; it is the policeman of the world in so many ways. We wonder if her failure to stand unequivocally for Israel is not at the root of her troubles. Why does the American president dare to tell Israel that it is illegal for Israelis to build in the suburbs of Jerusalem? Doesn't Mrs. Clinton know that the Word of God speaks clearly of the return of the Jews to their land and that is in accord with what Abraham their father was promised by God? Doesn't the President know that Jerusalem is to be "the city of the great King", as Jesus spoke of it? Matt 5:35. Wasn't he slain beneath the banner, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews"? John 19:19. How dare they inhibit Jews building in Jerusalem! That was the folly of Sanballat of old! Neh 2:10, 19; 4:1-4. If it is OK for the French to build in Paris or Americans on the banks of the Potomac, why can it be wrong for Israelis to build in Bethlehem or Jerusalem?

Of course the Vatican is all on the side of the Palestinians. Despite the terrorist record of Yasser Arafat, Pope John Paul II met about ten times with him and not once with official representatives of Israel. The Vatican has opposed the State of Israel from the time of the Balfour Declaration in 1917.

But the hour is darkening rapidly and the fear of God and the knowledge of His Word are in rapid decline, both in world leaders and the general society. Israel, too, has largely lost the vision of the prophets.

In this befogged tunnel of the last days let us keep the vision of the Hope of Israel. We are surely almost there! United Europe with Russia, blessed by the Apostasy, a materialistic collection of Western trading powers and Israel isolated by hate or indifference – it is all there.

Let us cleave to our Lord and the hope of his presence soon in the earth. Care for our families around an open Bible, fill the seats of our Bible Classes, attend fervently at our Memorial Services, incorporate our young people in the work and joy of the Truth, and preach the good tidings. All around the world there are fervent hearts that inspire with their steadfast faith in the Coming of the Lord and the certainty of the resurrection. "Bring it on"!

Brian Luke

January 2011

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Abbreviations used

EU European Union. Was the Common Market, EEC, then EC, now EU
m = million; **bn** = billion; **GDP** = Gross Domestic Product
\$1= £0.64; €0.76; AS\$1.00; CA\$1.01; NZ\$1.34 at 1-1-11 rates.
\$1 million = £647,000, \$1 billion = £647,000,000 approx. \$ always US\$.

Author’s important notes

I would like to especially thank my family and Bre. Kevin Allison, Alan Clarke, Stephen Whitehouse and the CSSS for their helpful comments on the draft. It is all put together in the last few 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 proof-readers!**

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, Palestinians, Pope. Dates are always day-month-year. Any items in **bold** are my emphasis, i.e. not emboldened in the original. I am very grateful for items sent in; please ensure date and source indicated.

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Chapter 1:

A BRIEF SYNOPSIS

2010 has proved to be another amazing year

The way the countries to the north of Israel – Syria, Turkey, Iraq and Iran have moved closer together this year has been remarkable, as equally have the southern Arab states. If before this year we knew little about *WikiLeaks*, we certainly heard much this year about their publication of confidential files. Interestingly they showed that the very basis of Obama's drive to solve the "Israeli-Palestinian problem" was based on a lie. The southern Arab countries – Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, UAE and others, were more concerned with the Iranian threat than any dispute that the Palestinian Authority had with Israel!

The growing power of the Vatican has been quite spectacular. In spite of being embroiled in corrupt practices around the world, Benedict focused his ministry on rebuilding Christianity in Europe. The preparations have been made; expect to see it bearing fruit within the next year or two. The call to the disaffected Anglicans was strengthened by the Pope's visit to Britain. Benedict's personal involvement in the canonisation of Newman, who deserted the Church of England for Rome, was deliberate. His message was clear, follow Newman back to Rome!

Germany has forged ahead in her leadership of Europe. France now lags far behind. At every turn Angela Merkel has shown an almost ruthless determination to put Germany first; to exploit the euro troubles to Germany's advantage. Indeed, quite a few commentators have seen this as the climax of many years preparation for just this opportunity for Germany to emerge the undisputed leader of Europe.

The whole euro dream is under serious threat. Massive bail-outs for Greece and then Ireland have served notice that the euro is in deep trouble. Portugal, Spain and Italy are equally threatened by overwhelming massive debts. The rescue funds are no-where near adequate to support the debt of say Italy. Trillions of euros could be needed! Germany herself is blamed for Ireland's troubles, by insisting that Ireland needed a rescue plan and thus frightening the financial markets and so becoming a self-fulfilling prophecy.

Russia has been making strong overtures to Europe. America is not needed here any more, is the message; we can look after our own affairs by cooperating together. This is a message that many in Europe approve. The Russian Church is actively cooperating with the Vatican. With the Russian Patriarch's blessing, Georgy, the heir to the Romanov throne, visited the Pope, who praised the work of the Royal House! Step-by-step the ancient prophecies are becoming realities before our eyes. The vision conveyed to King Nebuchadnezzar two and a half millennia ago is creaking into shape! Eastern and Western Europe are preparing to stand up as a mighty image. To what end? To make war on Israel, for it is here that it is smashed to pieces. It is here that the stone power will grow into a figurative mountain filling the earth, when Jesus is King in Zion, ruling over the whole earth!

Increasingly the world's eyes are focused on Israel. A frenzied media delights in painting Israel in a bad light. True this is a time of trespass in God's eyes; those who govern His people trust in their own strength to bring salvation to Israel. Nevertheless, from the ashes of this Jewish nation dwelling in the land, will rise a holy remnant that will delight to walk in God's ways and never again depart from His precepts. But today, as in the days of old, Israel is again making alliances with the nations around, as Iran increasingly threatens Israel's existence—so much is to be changed.

Regarding those nations that support Israel, America and Britain, are drawn into the Arabian Peninsula as strong powers which can give these weaker nations the weapons they desire to make them feel stronger and more able to stand up to their millennia old enemy Persia, or modern-day Iran. Arms sales to the Middle East are occurring at an unprecedented level.

I believe 2010 was a turning point for Britain. With Obama's powers curtailed in mid-term election losses and a new coalition government in Britain, has the time come for Britain's role to become the more dominant leader in the Middle East? The unflattering remarks by American diplomats revealed by *WikiLeaks* have not enhanced America's reputation in the region!

The new British government wants to build up overseas trade, especially with India and other Commonwealth countries – just the role our pioneers saw for Britain. Under angelic hands we see the tide turning as Britain turns to Israel for trade. Britain and Israel's two-way trade is not immense, but Israel is only a small country and if one looks at it in terms of Israel's population, the bilateral trade is greater than between Britain and America, on a per capita basis!

The world of nature points to the nearness of the time of the end. Terrible floods, disruptive volcanic ash, earthquakes, tsunamis, droughts, fires and extremes of weather all point to a time of trouble. "This was the year the Earth struck back. More people (296,000) were killed worldwide by natural disasters this year than have been killed in terrorism attacks in the past 40 years combined."

The financial crisis affects much of Europe and Russia. Unemployment is steadily rising in America and across Europe – apart from Germany. Government cut backs are making many afraid, as the "good times" they are used to are threatened. Rioting in the streets gets ever uglier and the cost of wanton damage spirals.

Ecclesial life is not exempt from all these troubles. Greater and greater pressure is put on those in employment by their employers, who seek to extract the last drop of corporate blood. Exhausting working days spill over into a lessening of ecclesial attendance and ability to serve the ecclesia or to do private study and the Bible readings. Pressures are put upon marriages and family life.

We can but pray for the coming of the Master to take control and with mighty power and the infinite wisdom that is now his, restore the world to sanity, to the paradise that God intended when He created man in Eden.

Let's now see some of the main areas for this year's Milestones and look at our first series of scriptures that tell us about the latter-days – our days!

Chapter 2:

PROPHECIES ABOUT THE MIDDLE EAST – A NORTH-SOUTH SPLIT

The main themes of this year's *Milestones*

There are five main areas that we want to examine in this year's *Milestones*.

1. The startling speed at which the Middle East countries have split into 2 alliances; a Northern one and a Southern one
2. The remarkable boldness of Germany as she seized the opportunities presented to her, (or perhaps even created by her), during the euro crisis to increase her influence.
3. The clarity with which Benedict has steered the Roman Church into a crusade to rebuild her European roots
4. The growing wealth potential for Israel and her technological advances, even though she becomes more and more vilified
5. The new and potentially more assertive role for Britain, outside the EU

To deal with these, *Milestones* has been grouped in to two unequal parts.

- 1) Matters relating to the King of the North – Iran-Turkey-Syria; Germany, Russia and the Vatican.
- 2) Matters relating to the King of the South – Israel, Egypt-Saudi Arabia-Gulf states; Britain.

As always, we look at these themes with a mixture of scriptural exposition and happenings during the year.

Daniel is one of the richest sources of end-time prophecies in the Old Testament as is the book of Revelation in the New. But several other prophets such as Ezekiel, Joel, Isaiah and Zechariah also contribute many pictures, not just in relation to the time of trouble ahead, but also in relation to the Kingdom Age. Some prophecies are short – just a few verses – others are much more extensive.

Our first theme in this issue of Milestones is the prophecy of the two political powers that will be in existence at time when

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

The call of the saints to judgment does not happen in isolation. In parallel with the final preparation of the saints runs the final work of preparing the Jewish people to meet their illustrious progenitors; Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. For Israel it is the time of their final trials as a consequence of rejecting their God and their Messiah. For the nations, their invasion of the land of Israel and the terrible destruction that

they will inflict will be a crowning act of defiance against the God of Israel. It will show that God's judgements on the nations are right and overdue.

With the dramatic destruction from Yahweh of Hosts upon Israel's enemies, the fury of the religious leaders will increase. Step-by-step the Lord Jesus and the saints will rebuild Jerusalem, call back the scattered Jews, build a temple and proclaim that Jesus is King, and the cry will arise, "This is Antichrist"!

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

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

The King of the North and the King of the South

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

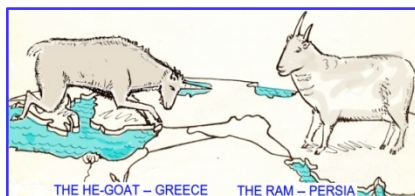
Now I am come to make thee understand what shall befall thy people in the latter days: for yet the vision is for many days. Dan 10:14

The vision occupies chapters 11 and 12. Chapter 11 is remarkable for the detail it gives of unfolding events, starting with the Persian kings of Daniel's day and on to the Greeks and Alexander the Great and the subsequent division of his empire amongst his generals. The vision then revolves around the two main divisions of his empire, and how the struggles between them impacted upon the returned exiles living in the land. Bro Thomas in the *Exposition of Daniel* teases out the details. A more modern book is Bro Edmund Green's *The Prophecy of Daniel* where the reader will find an exciting review of the history of the times.

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

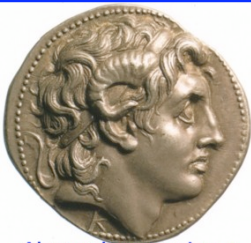
The Ram and the He Goat

For our starting point we need to go back to Daniel ch. 8 and the vision of the Ram and the He-goat. The He-goat with its notable horn we readily identify with Alexander the Great and his rapid conquest of the Persian or Ram kingdom.



THE HE-GOAT – GREECE

THE RAM – PERSIA



Alexander wearing a ram's horn crown

This coin depicts him wearing a crown of two ram's horns – denoting his conquest of Persia.

Alexander's life was cut off in its prime at the age of 32. In the words of the vision – the horn was broken.



He had no heir. He is said to have whispered on his deathbed that the kingdom should go to the strongest. Eventually his kingdom was carved up between his four generals – depicted by the 4 horns that came up in the place of the broken horn. Two of these horns were significant, because their territorial squabbles encompassed the Holy Land. To the north lay the territory of General Seleucus, to the south that of General Ptolemy. Israel lay in the middle – frequently experiencing the tread of invading armies.



“Always lying in wait for the neighboring nations, strong in arms and persuasive in council, he [Seleucus] acquired Mesopotamia, Armenia, ‘Seleucid’ Cappadocia, Persis, Parthia, Bactria, Arabia, Tapouria, Sogdia, Arachosia, Hyrcania, and other adjacent peoples that had been subdued by Alexander, as far as the river Indus, so that the boundaries of his empire were the most extensive in Asia after that of Alexander. The whole region from Phrygia to the Indus was subject to Seleucus.” *Appian. The Syrian Wars*



Like the Babylonians earlier, they were particularly hostile to the Jews. So this original King of the North power was one of the four Greek horns.

The Little Horn of the Goat

Daniel 8 also reveals that a new power was to arise – a little horn arising from one of the 4 horns. History tells us it was from the northern Seleucid horn. This new horn was the power of Rome, which initially came to the help the Greeks, but eventually conquered them!



Thus in symbol we are shown that the Roman power was the successor to the Greek-Babylonian power and it would continue to show hostility towards Israel. This is the Roman power that was to put Jesus, *“the prince of the host”* (v11), to death and later destroy the Temple and the nation (v11-12). Daniel was then shown that this power was to be in existence at the time of the end. In dramatic words Daniel reveals:

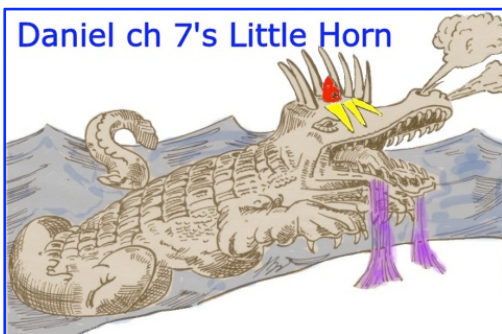
And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors are come to the full, a king of fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up.

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

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

The two Little Horns

The details of this Roman “little horn” power are picked up and amplified in chapter 11. We have to distinguish between this little horn of the goat and the little horn of the 4th beast in ch. 7:8. Both are descriptive of Roman powers. Ch 7 is



expressive of Rome spiritual – the papal power that became centred in the western “leg” of the Roman Empire when it became divided. The centre of its arena was mainly in Western Europe and its target the Jews and protestors. Chapters 8 and 11 concern Rome military – the eastern “leg” whose actions concern natural Israel and the Holy Land. This is why such detail is given in the first 35

verses of chapter 11 – Israel was in the land during this period. The time of her dispersion from the land is summed up in verses 36-39.

During Israel’s dispersion after AD70, the Roman Empire itself underwent a change. Constantine moved his seat from Rome to Constantinople, and Rome flourished in the East – the Byzantine Empire, absorbing Greek culture – a fitting aspect as the Roman Empire had gained its power out of the Greek empire. With the fall of Constantinople in 1453, this Roman power with its symbol of the double-headed eagle – Rome looking East and West – moved its seat to Moscow (known as the “Third Rome”), and eventually established itself under the Tsars.

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

The King of the North Horn and the two Little Horns

It can be a little confusing having three related symbols existing at the time of the end! The *King of the North* in the past was one of the four Greek horns that ruled the area we know as Iran, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon and part of Turkey and is to reappear in the latter-days (Dan 11:40). Yet the goat *little horn* power is also described as being a power in *the latter time of their kingdom* (Dan. 8:23). Why then the two symbols? The visions of Daniel chapters 8, 11 and 12 were given to convey details that were not apparent in the details of Nebuchadnezzar's image and the four beasts. It showed the relationship of the Roman Empire to the Greek northern horn, and the happenings that affected the Jews in the Holy Land. Historically the *King of the North* never held the area of Constantinople, whereas it was the centre of the *little horn* of the goat power. Russia is the *King of the North* in the latter-days and when it takes Constantinople it also becomes the *little horn* of the goat. At the time of the end we have to think of these symbols as "representations of powers on certain territories, *not races*." (*Elpis Israel* p.392). It will be the power that occupies their territory that will be the fulfilment of these two symbols.

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

The Goat Little Horn King

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

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

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

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

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

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

Long centuries pass while Israel is in dispersion, her land occupied by the alien. Then, at the time when that situation is to change, the prophecy comes to life again, as it were. Following those linking verses (36-39), we are introduced to *the time of the end* at which time various events will happen as depicted in the closing verses of chapter 11. This phrase occurs earlier in v35 and seems associated with the time of resurrection and judgement. This certainly seems to be the case with the references in ch 12:6, 8, 9, 13.

The King of the North

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

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

Ever since the fall of Constantinople, and the Islamic name Istanbul given to it, the Russians have longed for the day of vengeance when the city would be “liberated” from the infidel Turk! This is evidenced by the fact that many churches in Russia sport a cross above a crescent, anticipating the day when Christianity will triumph over the Moslem power!



The taking of Turkey will surely be part of the movement southward by the *King of the North* depicted in these closing verses; with the occupation of Constantinople, the “great river Euphrates” will be completely “dried up” (Rev 16:12.) And the latter-day “little horn of the goat” will once again control the Middle East from this city.

The King of the South

Just as the fulfilment of the King of the North takes place when the territory of the former power is occupied by the latter-day power, so with the King of the South! Our traditional understanding of the role of Britain, America, Australia and India as nations involved in this region and forming the King of the South power has been re-enforced by the events of the past year. In a remarkable way, just as Britain and Australia and New Zealand were drawn into the region some 90 years ago, so again we have countries linked to Britain, involved in the region and having military bases spread throughout the whole region. The verse from Ezekiel that sets the scene for the King of the South is found in Eze 38:13.

Sheba, and Dedan, and the merchants of Tarshish, with all the young lions thereof [Roth. all her young lions], 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?

We will wait until a later chapter to look at this in detail. Suffice it to say that events have justified this understanding. What other power is there that corresponds to this picture of the *Merchants of Tarshish* having *young lions* associated with her? It is relevant that the southern Ptolemies occupied Cyprus – an important British base today.

At the time of the pushing in WWI, Britain occupied Egypt. She no longer does. However both Britain and America have huge investments in Egypt. Egypt, though first to make peace with Israel was to prove to be a treacherous friend, aiding the Palestinians against Israel. However, with the passage of time and reinforced with the threat from Iran, Egypt's attitude to Israel has greatly changed. The Suez Canal is a vital transportation link for Britain and America to deploy their troops in the region. It is a great revenue earner for Egypt. There have been several terrorist attacks against the Canal that have been thwarted, with Israel's help, in recent years. The situation may well arise when Britain is asked to help defend the zone from attacks. If the Canal were to be blocked by sunken vessels this would be very serious not only to Egypt but also Britain and America's ties with the region and India. The details given in the closing verses of Dan 11 indicate that the King of the North comes down into Egypt and takes it; so clearly Egypt is, up to then, in the opposing camp. What is not in doubt is the important influence that both Britain and America have in the whole region of the Arabian Peninsula today.

Pushing at him

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

The pushing back of Turkey by Britain in WWI was not necessarily to be the only "pushing". As we have moved closer to the time when *Michael the great prince* comes to save his people and to raise the dead, we have seen America and Britain pushing at Iraq following the invasion of Kuwait in 1990 and again in 2003 to topple Saddam Hussein. There is much talk of the need for an invasion against Iran's nuclear ambitions. As our earlier map (p13) shows, in the past the King of North's territory encompassed what is today Iraq and Iran. As we shall see in later chapters, Iran is succeeding in being more involved in the running of Iraq. She wishes to influence her neighbour and have a government there that is a friend not a foe. Iran is the main power in the region today. Significantly, Ezekiel (38:5) lists Persia first in the list of countries coming with Gog. Iran, as the latter-day Persia, is deeply involved with Russia today – there are many Russians helping with her nuclear programme. Britain's and America's presence in the region is not welcomed by Iran or Russia. One would expect some action on the part of the King of the South – which probably still lies in the future – which will be "the last straw" and arouses the rage of Russia and Europe triggering their march down into the Middle East.

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

Chariots, horsemen and ships would seem to cover the full range of military equipment in Ezekiel's day. The reference to ships is interesting. In the Soviet days Russia's navy was second to none; but with the fall of the Soviet many of those ships were left rusting in the ports. However, under Medvedev and Putin, Russia is rebuilding a powerful, streamlined, navy. One of her problems is that most of her ports are frozen in the winter, hence the importance of her naval base in Sevastopol in the Crimea. Russia this year renewed her lease on the base in exchange for supplying Ukraine with low-cost gas. Access to the Mediterranean is via the Bosphorus where Turkey controls the movement of ships through this busy waterway; but notably prior permission has to be obtained. A further excuse perhaps for Russia to take control of Turkey so that her access is unhindered.



He shall enter also into the glorious land, and many countries shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon. Dan 11:41

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

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

But he shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt: and the Libyans and the Ethiopians shall be at his steps. v42, 43

The King of the South power is defeated, and Egypt falls to the King of the North (cf. Isa. 19) as it did several times in the past. Egypt does not seem to be a particularly rich country today. Yet gold deposits have been recently found there, and there is much wealth in the form of gas and oil in Egyptian territory. Also the Suez Canal is a strategic asset; its seizure would vitally affect the Middle East as well as Britain. Libya has traditional links with Russia stretching back to the Soviet days. Ethiopia is the term given to the country to the south of Sudan, but in past times it would have covered Sudan and northern Ethiopia. This is an area of great unrest where there is an on-going struggle between the US and Iran for influence. Scripture indicates that this region will happily come to help the Gogian invader.

But tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him: therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many. v44

From the viewpoint of Egypt, east would point to the Arabian Peninsula and also Sinai; north would encompass the land of Israel. At this time Christ and the saints will be at Sinai, and there may well be a parallel work amongst some of the Arab nations with that in Israel – an Elijah work to prepare them for the final judgements

that will happen when the next verse is fulfilled. Abraham the father of Jew and Arab will be alive again! It is not made clear what these tidings are which infuriate the King of the North - time will tell.

And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him. v45

For some time – it could be several years – Gog is established in the Holy Land, and the State of Israel destroyed; it would seem to the world that Israel's God was powerless before these triumphant Christian armies. This is the time when Nebuchadnezzar's image is standing upon its two precarious feet – a mighty and defiant power that claims superiority over the things of Israel. Just as Nebuchadnezzar the king saw a little stone power smite the image and destroy it, so Daniel was shown in chapter 12 of the coming saviour who **will** deliver his people by the hands of those he raises from the dust of the earth; precious stones formed not by human hands!

The question that remains is where is the King of the South in all this? After the initial *pushing* in v40 no more is said; we assume from v43 he is defeated. Is he involved in the tidings of v44? Possibly. What is his fate? It is not revealed here. If Britain is in Egypt at this time as the King of the South, then she suffers humiliation – is this the time when the *ships of Tarshish are broken*? (Psa. 48:7)

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

It would be wrong for us to think that that we might as well wait until ALL the pieces of the prophetic jigsaw are in position. We don't have that luxury. Our Lord's coming would then not be a surprise. The final coming together of every strand lies **beyond** the judgement seat. Before the great and dreadful day of the Lord breaks upon Israel, the household must face their time of judgement at the hands of the righteous Judge with his angelic host. Time is not on our side!

Summary

The latter-day King of the North. We find powers from the north and east and west described in Ez 38, who working together move down and occupy the territory of the original King of the North. If we wish to append one name, it would have to be Russia – but it is not Russia working on her own, but confederate with many nations and having the Papacy as her co-ordinator.

The latter-day King of the South. Although based on Egypt, the latter-day King of the South is not Egyptian. Egypt is a base nation (Eze. 29:14). Indeed the original King of the South was Greek – the Ptolemies – who occupied Egypt, just as in the north the King of the North was an occupying power – the Greek Seleucids. What will be pertinent is who is occupying Egypt at this time? I believe that it will be Britain again – assisted by America. As Gog moves southwards how natural for these occupying powers in the region to take up a defensive position in Egypt again. We shall amplify these matters as we proceed through *Milestones*.

Let's now see the changing alliances in the King of the North territory.

Chapter 3:

THE MIDDLE EAST – NORTHERN ALLIANCES

One of this year's remarkable signs of the times has been the speed at which old alliances have been broken and new ones forged. Turkey was once a good friend of Israel – there was much trade between the two countries. The Turkish resorts until earlier this year were a favourite destination for Israeli holidaymakers. Now she has turned her back on Israel and is seeking to be a regional power in the Middle East, aligning with Iran and Syria.

Iran has ignored the efforts of the West to hold back her drive to be the first Middle East country – apart from Israel – to have nuclear weapons. The closer we get to this becoming a reality, the more isolated Iran becomes from her southern neighbours. Instead, she seeks to build a northern alliance with Turkey and Syria. Towards the end of the year Russia's links with Iran became strained as Russia began to cooperate with the West over sanctions, while wooing Turkey rather than Iran. However Iran sees herself as able to be the regional power with or without Russia's help.

Iraq is seeking to rebuild her country without Western interference; her new government is far from Western orientated, it is aligning with her former enemy Iran and her ally Syria.

Syria too is seeking to be key player! She is keen to rebuild her influence in Lebanon, her neighbour to the south who at one time was firmly under Syrian control, but is largely controlled by the Iranian backed Hezbollah. At the same time Syria seeks to build good links to both Iran and Iraq.

Ahmadinejad has proposed building an alliance between Iran, Turkey, Syria, Lebanon and Iraq. This is very much part of the territory of the original King of the North! Interestingly too the original Seleucid Empire spread right up to the borders of India. With British and American planned withdrawal from Afghanistan, we can already see signs that – just as she has done in Iraq – Iran is moving her influence into Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Let's see how this growing alliance unfolded.

Turkey

Turkey has changed from being a secular state to being one which champions itself as a Sunni Islamic power. Israel had used Turkey as a bridge to the Arab world, but things sharply deteriorated during Operation Cast Lead in 2008/9. Recep Erdogan, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey since 2003, was sharply critical of Israel's actions in Gaza. The situation slowly deteriorated, culminating at the end of May 2010, in a flotilla of six ships being sent to break what was seen as Israel's blockade of Gaza.

As on previous occasions, the Israelis demanded that they sail into Ashdod so that their cargoes could be unloaded, inspected and transported by land into Gaza.

Upon their refusal to do this, Israeli commandos boarded the ships. Five gave in without resistance, but the largest, the *Mavi Marmara*, ambushed the commandos as they abseiled from their helicopters and beat them with iron bars, throwing one into the sea and another onto a lower deck. Facing this assault the commandos drew their guns and fired at their attackers. There were 9 fatalities and about 45 injured. The ships were taken to port, their contents unloaded. There were no humanitarian goods carried on the *Mavi Marmara*. Later investigation showed that about 100 of the ship's 600 passengers were known activists who had come prepared with weapons and communications equipment to resist any boardings.

Israel was blamed for the deaths, although subsequent video evidence showed that they were fighting for their lives. In the fall-out Turkey made clear that she held Israel solely to blame for the deaths. Any friendship between the countries abruptly terminated, and Turkey has adopted a strongly Arab outlook.

Turkey today is not the same Turkey we once knew. The country has experienced a major internal change, reflected in its foreign policy: From being a state loyal to NATO and a close friend of Israel's, Turkey has transformed into a country that follows an independent policy line – to the point of defying Western interests, flirting with radical forces and displaying hostility toward Israel.

The character of the leadership of the Justice and Development Party, which has ruled Turkey since 2002, provide the primary explanations for this transformation. These are leaders that possess a “soft” Islamic cultural worldview that departs from the secular Kemalist heritage, and that cultivate a sense of Islamic solidarity on the international stage. *Haaretz* 15-Dec-10

Turkey has given strong support to Iran this year as the Western led sanctions began to bite, changing the established Syria-Iran linkage to a new **Turkey–Iran–Syria** triangle of alliance.

Strategy shift in the Middle East

The failure to reshape the Greater Middle East has left the field open to a new alliance, the Tehran-Damascus-Ankara triangle. Since nature is allergic to vacuums, Moscow is filling the space left vacant by Washington. The wind has changed and it's blowing strong. In a matter of a few months, the entire regional balance of power has tipped.

The Iran-Syria axis has been replaced by the Iran-Syria-Turkey triangle. This new alliance enjoys a historical legitimacy without parallel. Since the Islamic Revolution, Iran has been the leader of the Shiites. After Paul Bremmer's¹ destruction of the Iraqi Baath party, Syria stepped in as the undisputed leader of the secular camp. Finally, Turkey, heir to the Ottoman Caliphate, is the cradle of Sunni Islam. Taken together, these states cover nearly the entire field of Middle Eastern politics. *www.voltairenet.org* 16-May-10

¹ American diplomat appointed to oversee the rebuilding of Iraq after the 2003 invasion.

Turkey to increase trade with Iran despite sanctions

Turkey is seeking closer commercial ties with Iran and aims to triple trade volumes in the next five years while still respecting the limits set by UN sanctions, Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Thursday.

The announcement followed a report from the *Daily Telegraph* on Tuesday, stating that Iran plans to give the ruling Turkish party AKP \$25 million to go towards Erdogan's bid to be re-elected to a third term as prime minister in next year's general elections.

Turkey plans to buy more natural gas from Iran to supply industry and homes and also hopes to export Iranian gas onto Europe. It will try to eliminate some quotas and tariffs and increase business with Iranian banks, Erdogan stated in an address at a Turkish-Iranian business forum in Istanbul.

"I can't see any reason why we can't establish an unimpeded trade mechanism with Iran similar to the one with Europe," he added. *Associated Press* 16-Sep-10

Iran

This large country – the 18th biggest in the world in terms of area – has a population of some 74 million, with huge natural resources in gas, oil and water. It traces itself back to the Persian Empire of Queen Esther's day. It changed its name from Persia to Iran in 1935. With the fall of the Shah of Persia in 1979 this country turned its back on Israel and the West and set out on a pathway to promote its Shi'a branch of Islam; this became more intensified under Mahmoud Ahmadinejad who became president in 2005. He passionately believes that the time is imminent for the reappearance of the 12th Imam, Muhammad ibn al-Hasan al-Mahdi who, it is alleged, will bring peace to the earth with Jesus Christ. He is to reappear because he lived in the 7th century and allegedly was removed from the earth at the age of 5 (being held in heaven preparing for his return)! So much so it is said that the drive to make Iran self-sufficient in arms, including nuclear bombs, is because the 12th Imam can only come when Iran is strong and self-supporting. This is not a view shared by most Sunni Muslims, who do not believe in the 12th Imam.

Ahmadinejad's Key to a Global Islamic Revolution

The rulers of the Islamic Revolutionary Republic of Iran make no secret of their objectives. World representatives taking part in the resumed nuclear negotiations with Iran in Geneva this week are invited to read a new book in Arabic out in Beirut, sponsored by President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and funded by the Iranian government, which confirms for the first time in print Tehran's prime goal of a nuclear weapon in the belief that it will hasten the coming of the Shiite messiah.

Entitled "Ahmadinejad and the Coming World Revolution," one of the book's first sentences is: "When Iran officially announces it has a nuclear bomb, the whole world will rejoice." *Debka* 10-Dec-10

It is interesting that both Shi'a Moslems and the Roman Catholic Church see Israel, as a Jewish State in the Land, as an impediment to the fulfilment of their dreams. For both, God/Allah, no longer has a purpose with the Jews.

Shi'a Moslems dominate Iran and also make up about 50% of Iraq's population. The other nations in the region are predominately Sunni. Hence their fear of Iran's aggressive expansion plans and encirclement of the Arabia Gulf region through her proxy armies, such as Hezbollah and Hamas. In one of the recently leaked US cables President Mubarak of Egypt described Iran as a cancer.

Mubarak: 'Iranian influence spreading like a cancer' across Arab world

"President Mubarak has made it clear that he sees Iran as Egypt's – and the region's. – primary strategic threat," says the secret cable, sent April 28, 2009, from the U.S. Embassy in Cairo. "His already dangerous neighborhood, he has stressed, has only become more so since the fall of Saddam, who, as nasty as he was, nevertheless stood as a wall against Iran, according to Mubarak. He now sees Tehran's hand moving with ease throughout the region, 'from the Gulf to Morocco,' as he told a recent congressional delegation." *Washington Post* 15-Dec-10

Syria

Bashar Assad, the Syrian ruler, has tried to play a skilful game in his relations with Iran, Lebanon, Turkey and Russia. His father, Hafed, from whom he took over in 2000 was a very astute politician, who kept a tight leash on Hezbollah.

But matters changed dramatically on June 10, 2000, when Hafez al-Assad died and his younger son Bashar took the reins of power. Though Bashar sought to observe the rules, governing Syria's relationship with Lebanon and Hezbollah, his political inexperience and lack of strategic foresight, caused Bashar's irresponsible shift towards the charismatic Shiite leader Hassan Nasrallah, the latter just having ousted the Israeli army from its south Lebanese stronghold, a move, viewed throughout the Muslim world as a magnificent achievement. Also disregarding the dangers to Syrian's hegemony in Lebanon, Bashar entered into a fully strategic alliance with Shiite Tehran, which President Ahmadinejad shrewdly exploited furthering the Shiite strategic dream. Both Tehran and Damascus found Hezbollah to be a useful proxy to further regional objectives. *Defense Update* 26-Nov-10

Like Turkey and Iran, Assad wants to feel his country plays a pivotal role in Middle East affairs. Iran uses Syria as a conduit to channel arms and missiles to her Hezbollah army in Lebanon. Here are some events occurring between the three countries:

Iran. Syria and Iran signed a free-trade Agreement in August.

"This agreement can increase the 400-million-dollar volume of commercial exchange between the two countries to USD 2 billion," said the Iranian Commerce Minister. *PressTV* 20-08-10

Iraq. Syria signed an agreement with Iraq in October for the construction of oil pipelines to link the two countries.

The visit paid by Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki to Syria aimed to turn the bilateral relation into **a strategic one**. *DP News* – 17-Oct-10

In November full diplomatic links were restored after a break of 26 years following Saddam's severing of ties because of Syria's support for Iran in the Iran-Iraq war.

Turkey. Assad visited Turkey in 2004 in order to bury past hostilities and rebuild their traditional ties of friendship. It was heralded as "a historic turning point in the bilateral relations". A Free Trade Zone Agreement between both sides was signed in 2007. Then in 2009 was established a Syrian-Turkish High-Level Strategic Cooperation Council. It held a second meeting in December 2010.

Ankara considers Damascus its gate to the Arab world. *Syria Arab News Agency* 19-Dec-10

Lebanon

Hezbollah is a typical example of the way in which Iran works through her proxies. Iran supplies the money, the weapons, the training and the military experts. Lebanon is supposed to be an independent country, but Hezbollah is such a powerful force in Lebanon that it gets its own way and controls much of the country. To avoid having its messages intercepted, Hezbollah, with Iranian money and help, have set up a fibre-optics telecommunication system linking her command posts throughout the country with Iran.

"Iran Telecom is taking over the country," Lebanese Telecommunications Minister Marwan Hamadeh was quoted as saying.

Hamadeh said the Hizbullah communication network marked what he termed a strategic victory for Iran. He said the fiber-optics system represented "an important Iranian outpost in Lebanon, bypassing Syria."

"The value for Hizbullah is the final step in creating a nation state," the cable quoted Hamadeh as saying. "Hizbullah now has an army and weapons; a television station; an education system; hospitals; social services; a financial system; and a telecommunications system." *GeoStrategy Direct* 22-Dec-10

When Ahmadinejad paid a 2-day visit to Lebanon in October he was given a rapturous welcome. As two Israelis commented:

Iran's domination of Lebanon through its proxy Hizbullah has destroyed any chance for peace, has turned Lebanon into an Iranian satellite and made Lebanon a hub for regional terror and instability," said Israeli government spokesman Mark Regev.

Ahmadinejad in Lebanon is "like a landlord coming to inspect his domain," Foreign Minister spokesman Yigal Palmor agreed. "He is bringing a message of violence and extremism, and his presence makes it even clearer that Hizbullah, at the order of the Iranians, has built a state within a state. This is far removed from Lebanese interests." *Int Christian Emb Jerusalem* 14-Oct-10

Iraq

During the time Saddam Hussein was in power he acted as containment for Iran's expansionary plans. With his downfall, Iran was soon seeking to exert her influence here; a situation far removed from the wishes of Britain and America who had fought to bring democracy—not dictatorship—to the region!

With the withdrawal of British troops during the year and the anticipated withdrawal of all American troops by the end of 2011, the Iraqi people were given their opportunity to form their own government. Elections were held in March 2010, but the results were so close that no clear winner emerged. It took to the end of the year to form a coalition government. It brings together pro-Syrian and pro-Iranian influences – not exactly what America, Britain and their allies fought for!

In December, Iran held military exercises close to the Iraqi border according to Debka 17-Dec-10 to indicate to America that if pushed too hard in talks about their nuclear weapons, they were quite capable of invading Iraq.

Many of the terrorist attacks in Iraq have been laid at Iran's door. There also has been an upswing in attacks on Christians, leading to a mass exodus. Under a *Jerusalem Post* 19-Dec-10 headline 'Tis not the season to be jolly in Iraq, the article detailed the exodus of Christians – numbers are down to a third of those living there before the 2003 Iraqi invasion.

Iraq belongs to the King of the North territory, and it is interesting that in spite of the great sacrifices that were made by the allied troops in Iraq, the battle to form a democratic, Western orientated, state has now been lost.

Iran, Syria, Turkey Cementing Ties

Iran made a point of declaring its solidarity with both Syria and Turkey in recent days, on the heels of joint Turkish-Syrian military exercises.

Turkish and Syrian troops conducted three days of joint military drills and exercises last week, in the latest manifestation of the close ties between the two former adversaries. The exercises were aimed at increasing “cooperation and confidence between the land forces of the two countries, and raising border units' level of training and ability to work together.”

It was also announced that Iran and Syria are seriously considering the formation of a regional economic bloc, with Turkey and Iraq as key partners.

On Friday, Iranian Vice President Mohammad Reza Rahimi visited Syria's capital, Damascus, and said that Iran will always remain alongside Syria as the latter prepares to “confront any threat.” Appearing in a joint press conference with Syrian Prime Minister Mohammad Naji Otri, Rahimi added that Iran will never stop for a moment supporting Syria against the “occupiers of the Palestine land.” *A7 News* 03-May-10

Ahmadinejad Announces New Islamic Bloc

During his visit to Lebanon during October, Ahmadinejad announced a new anti-Israel Eastern front.

He announced the formation of a new Islamic bloc, a revival of the old Eastern Front, composed of **Iran, Syria, Turkey, the Palestinians, Lebanon and Iraq**. It would be dedicated to fighting not only Israel but also America. *Debka* 14-Oct-10

The emerging North–South split; “Two clearly identifiable blocs”

We have yet to look at the grouping of the southern Arab states, but here are two contemporary views of the current situation which (quite wonderfully!) echo that foreseen by our community for a century and a half!

The dialectic¹ of managed terror, attrition and threats of major conflict is growing in the Middle East. The client states in the region now are **grouped into two clearly identifiable blocs**, one of which is escalating rhetoric and armaments at an alarming rate. One may feel, at least at the edges of consciousness a heightening of terror. When violence occurs, the major media, mouth pieces of the powers will urge salvation through regional solutions arranged by the Quartet and United Nations.

If **Iran, Iraq, Turkey, Syria, Lebanon and the ‘Palestinians’ constitute one grouping, their antithesis consists of Israel, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states and Egypt**. The countries of **Russia**, China and their dependencies, like North Korea whose missiles are shipped to and adapted by Iran, **back the north**, more or less openly, while **NATO backs the south** and the EU frets around the middle. *Prof. Eugene Narrett A7 News* 3-Nov-10

American diplomatic accounts of conversations with various Arab leaders, released this past month by WikiLeaks, draw a stark outline of **the new geopolitical situation in the Middle East**. Many regional and international leaders, the documents show, are not focused primarily on Israel’s traditional struggle with the Arab states and the Palestinians. Rather, their more immediate and acute concerns are with the prospect of a nuclear Iran, creating tensions between **the moderate Arab camp (the Arab Gulf states, Egypt and Jordan)** and **other Middle Eastern actors (Iran, Syria, Hezbollah, Hamas, and to some extent, Turkey)**.

The WikiLeaks documents call attention to a **yawning rift** that has opened up between the Arab states adjacent to the Persian Gulf and Iran. Arab leaders are concerned about Iran’s nuclear program, and their opinions of the Shi’ite state and its president, as cited by American diplomats and officials, reveal suspicion and animosity reinforced by **deeply-rooted religious** (Sunni vs. Shi’ite) **and ethnic** (Arab vs. Persian) **divisions**. *Uzi Rabi Australia Israel Review* Jan 2011

We now turn to look at some of the prophecies that tell us of events in Europe.

¹ Dialectic is based on a dialogue between two or more people who may hold differing views, yet wish to seek the truth of the matter through the exchange of their viewpoints while applying reason. *Plato*

Chapter 4:

EUROPE, VATICAN AND RUSSIA PROPHECIES

Our community must have written tens of thousands of pages in expounding the scriptural prophecies concerning Europe and the Vatican influence as well as Russia. Many, many prophecies concern this (infamous) trio because their actions through the centuries cruelly and deliberately affected the lives of Jews and our fellow brothers and sisters. Often times of persecution were their lot from the powers that be. We are very privileged to live in an age where most, but by no means all, have freedom to worship as we wish, without going about in fear of our lives. How much longer this will be the case we cannot say. It would not be surprising if this long period of religious freedom in the West is curtailed.

Milestones has covered many prophecies, and we would refer the reader to last year's exposition on the European Beasts in the various phases and also a 7-point identification of the Harlot Rider of Rev ch 17. Again in 2007 we looked at the Ezekiel ch 38 prophecy of Gog and his companions.

We will revisit some earlier expositions based on Daniel ch 2 and ch 4.

What prophecy leads us to expect

Daniel chapter 2 tells us that the Kingdom of Men will be represented in the latter-days by an Image, which stands on its two feet. Or, in the language of Daniel chapter 7, the 4th 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 remain as Beast and Dragon powers. However instead of being in conflict they will be working together, as two legs of one body.

Let's briefly look at some of Daniel's 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 (v41, 42). These two materials form an unstable mix and are



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 chapter 2 and the creation of Adam. Clay is a symbol of humanity. The fact that it is miry indicates it is soft and mouldable which, in turn, appears to indicate that is under a strong influence, which is moulding its outlook and its desires. In today's terms we see democracy (clay) mixed with the 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; but more especially in the power that the Churches have over their peoples. The ordinary people are strongly influenced and go along with whatever their unelected leaders (in the case of the EU institutions) and their priests dictate to them.

In the day when this colossus image stands it will be an awesome expression of the Kingdom of Men in defiance of the things of God. The nations will speak and act as one. But where does this image 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 the dream may just be conforming to human anatomy. However God's knowledge is wonderful and there may be some kind of precision - just as we have two arms that corresponded to the dual Medo-Persian Empire, the two thighs to the King of North, King of South division and the two legs with the eventual division of the Roman Empire. We cannot speculate which toe nations are represented and whether 5 are from the east and 5 are from the west. We see their extension in the detail of the beast described in Daniel chapter 7. If we put all 4 Beasts together we have a total of 7 heads and 10 horns - language reoccurring in the Beast of the Sea imagery of Revelation 13 with its 7 heads and 10 horns. Unlike Nebuchadnezzar's image,



which represents east and west united, this Beast represented Western Europe and at that time in history the 10-horn kingdom territories upon which the Beast developed could be identified.

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, as we have already seen, the King of the North of ch 11 showing the role of Russia.

The reflourishing of the Babylonian tree

Between the vision that King Nebuchadnezzar saw as recorded in Daniel chapter 2 and the vision given to Daniel of the 4 Beasts as recorded in chapter 7 are details of another vision seen by the king in chapter 4. Note its positioning. Chapter 3 records the building of the image that the king insisted that all bow down to and worship and chapter 5 records the overthrow of Babylon by the Medes and Persians.

Chapter 4 seems rather an odd matter to record in scripture; the striking of the king with madness when he boasts of his achievements, and his subsequent restoration. Yet it is a sufficiently important matter that involves a God-given dream that Daniel is called upon to interpret.

This being so the book of Daniel indicates to us that there is far more to it than the actual incident as recorded! For instance, why would it be necessary to band the tree with iron and brass? We cut back a tree hard and it will normally sprout again without needing any support, after all it is the same trunk carrying now a much smaller weight. Notably, this section is sandwiched between chapter 3 and 5. In the earlier chapter we see the king acting as the all-powerful king-priest. What he decreed was law, he was not only ruler but in charge of worship. There is a considerable time gap between chapters 3 and 5. Chapter 5 records how overnight the power of Babylon crumbled before Darius the Mede. But was the spirit of Babylon to end? No! That great city which had its origins in Babel was to live on; its false teachings, its mysteries, were to continue and Babylon the Great is to be there at the time of the end still deceiving, still authoritarian.

How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow. Rev 18:7

So *Babylon the Great* (v2) says, *I sit a queen and am no widow!* (v7) This is what she claims prior to her overthrow. She had been widowed, but now is back in power. She had been widowed in the period of the Vials, poured out at the time of the French Revolution and the deeds of the French Napoleonic leaders. Grattan Guinness (1835-1910) remarked:

“The extent and character of papal dominion during the dark ages is, in our days, little realised. It is not easy gazing on the rotten stump of an old oak, to picture to one’s self what the tree was in the days of its glorious youth”.

What a remarkable change from his day to ours! The start of her restitution of power we can trace to the 1929 Lateran Treaty where an agreement made with the Italian ruler Mussolini which restored to her the Vatican City and a cash payment

in lieu of the property confiscated in 1830. The sum paid was IL750, 000,000, (£7,500,000 at the exchange rate at the time, worth around £1.5bn today using average earnings as a basis.) The next change in fortunes came with the appointment of John-Paul II as Pope in 1978. He was a political Pope whose influence was felt very strongly in the communist Soviet; he was largely responsible (from a human viewpoint) for the dismantling of communist Europe. He too restored the Roman Catholic Church to a position of power and world acknowledged authority. The world leaders who attended his funeral bear testimony to this new found respectability. How does this tie with this vision of Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel ch 4?

The setting of the chapter is Nebuchadnezzar's recalling of the events of the previous few years. He is writing from the aspect of having his sanity and power restored and describes the experiences: first the dream, then its interpretation by Daniel, and then its fulfilment. He is brought to acknowledge the greatness of the God of Daniel.

... I blessed the most High, and I praised and honoured him that liveth for ever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation:

And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou? Dan 4:34, 35

However, the next chapter indicates that Babylon resumed her old ways; it records Belshazzar using the Lord's temple vessels to praise his gods. Babylon's brief spell of revival was brought to an end by the one foretold in Isaiah ch. 45, Cyrus, *my shepherd, mine anointed*, (Isa 44:28; 45:1) whose name means "the sun", or in Hebrew "like the heir". He is a wonderful type of the Lord Jesus, "the sun of righteousness", "the heir of all things", who will destroy Babylon the Great.

So how does this link to Daniel ch 4? The tree was cut down and banded for 7 times. For king Nebuchadnezzar, this was, as far as we know, a 7-year period. Herodotus, ii. 586 records an inscription that states "for four years in Babylon buildings for the honour of my kingdom I did not lay out. In the worship of Merodach my lord, I did not sing his praises." It is understandable he wanted to minimise the duration of this period. Seven times, or 7 years = 2520 days. This was the literal fulfilment. In the greater fulfilment, we have to apply a longer time scale – a day representing a year. If we commence this cutting down of Babylon with the date of its fall, then 2520 years brings us to modern times. Bro Thomas dates the fall as BC 542 which would bring us to 1978, that significant year when John Paul II became Pope.

Now the stump was banded with iron and brass, metals we recognise from chapter 2; Rome and Greece. So in what way was the spirit of Babylon preserved down through the centuries by these two countries? We remember that Rome sprang as it were out of the Greek, northern horn. In the



Roman Catholic Church was enshrined much of the spirit of Babylon with its “mysteries”. Following the split between the churches in the 11th century we had Roman Catholic and Greek Orthodox Churches. Out of the Greek Church came the Russian Orthodox Church. So in the two metals chosen, the iron representing Rome and the brass representing Greece, we have a wonderfully apt symbol to show how the spirit of Babylon, the destroyer of Israel in the past and in the future, was to be preserved. False Christianity incorporated into their worship many of the rites of Babylon and thus preserved them.

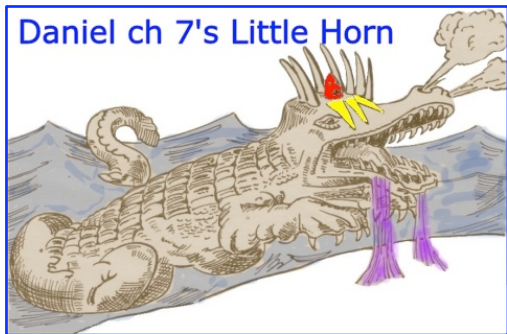
So what we are being told is that at the time of the end, Babylon the Great is to flourish again – for a short time – until destroyed, as Daniel’s next chapter explains, by the one represented by Cyrus, “my shepherd” – the Lord Jesus. When does that reflowering take place? At the end of the 7 times, i.e. our days.

Daniel’s 4th beast

This vision is the one that gives the details of the development of the Papacy, and it is clear that there is close integration between Western Europe and the Papacy.

In light of this vision what can we expect to see in our time? Although this 4th beast is a picture of the Roman empire (the successor to the Greek leopard) its details lie 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

Daniel ch 7's Little Horn



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 component exerting civil, temporal power and the Papacy as the eyes and the mouth component exerting the 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. $360 + 2 \times 360 + \frac{1}{2} \times 360 = 1260$) expired in the events of the French Revolution or the period around AD1870 when the temporal power of the Papacy was broken, depending on the starting point one takes. Apart from the tiny Vatican City, the Pope now has no territory. Nevertheless, the eye and mouth element continue on, and in the language of Revelation 17 it became the rider on the European beast, no longer having 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 are directed *against the most High*. As a result the Beast is slain and with it the eyes and mouth of the little horn. It is clear that at the time of the end we should expect to see the Papacy working through Western Europe as two entwining forces. This is the situation that we see rapidly developing. The Papacy is working behind the scenes with the core countries of the EU to bring about a re-creation of the Holy Roman Empire.

Although the detail of the Beast is related to Western Europe, we see that it is working with the east by the detail given in v12:

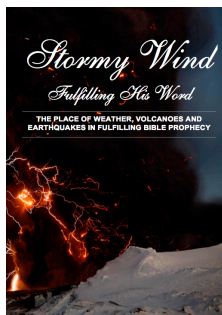
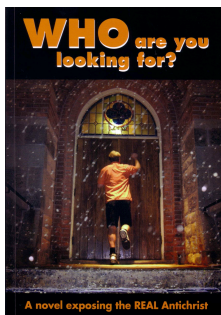
As concerning the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away: yet their lives were prolonged for a season and time. Dan 7:12

Catholic Europe is to be destroyed but the countries represented by the earlier three 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 Europe being increasingly influenced by the Roman Church. Although Britain was part of the pagan Roman world, the Romans had departed these shores before the development of the ten horns described here. We expect therefore that Britain will not be found entangled with the Beast system, but more on that when we come to look at Britain.

So we turn to see this Vatican influence at work in the events of the past 12 months.

Some helpful books for further reading are pictured below:



Chapter 5:

THE VATICAN'S DRIVE TO MAKE EUROPE CHRISTIAN AGAIN

We have seen in the previous chapter and in earlier Milestones that the Roman Catholic Church is set to make a comeback, putting her in the position of “riding” the European Beast - a situation which a generation ago seemed an impossibility! Europe was growing increasingly secular and there seemed little prospect of regaining the power that she had wielded during the past ages. Yet how the situation has changed! We see her making great strides in religious matters with the EU increasingly seeking her advice; much to the secularists’ dismay! In this section we trace how Benedict’s strategy is coming together.

Why has Pope Benedict chosen a European strategy?

Pope John Paul II had a world-wide reach; his overseas trips took him to many places. Benedict XVI has a more focused approach – Europe. Here the Church has lost many of its members; the clerical scandals have caused thousands to leave in Germany alone. This has financial implications because Germany still has a system where individual tax-payers can increase their personal tax contributions (from 8 to 9%) to a religious group of their choice. Significantly, this gives the German Roman Catholic Church about 70% of its annual income. People who leave can cancel these payments.

Benedict’s plan is to bolster the Church “at home” rather than overseas. This interesting article was written by a guest writer for *Reuters*.

We always knew that Benedict XVI is a European pope, but lately he’s been proving this more and more clearly. In this phase of his five-year papacy, the old continent is clearly his priority. For the past two years, the European destinations have taken precedence over all his travel (France, Czech Republic, Malta, Cyprus, Portugal, and United Kingdom). Twelve of his 18 international trips have also been devoted to Europe. As for the visits due next year, they will all be in Europe: Croatia, Spain and Germany (his third visit there as pope).¹

How can we best explain these short-distance, time-saving trips? It can be done explicitly, through the speeches the pope delivered in those countries. But also implicitly, through the diagnosis bishops bring to Rome on the state of the European churches.

The diagnosis has led to a strategy that can be seen more and more clearly. After his visit to Spain, this seems confirmed by the clear priority given to the Iberian Peninsula. In fact, Spain, Italy and Poland are emerging as the three pillars which underpin this implicit strategy by the Holy See.

¹ In December, the Pope announced an additional 3-day visit to Benin in Africa towards the end of 2011.

This strategy does not aim to reconquer old ground, because the past will not return. It's not exclusive either, because the world is wide and complex. The aim is to survive and face up to the decline of European Christianity now seen in Britain, France, Germany, Belgium, Austria and the Netherlands. The former bastions of Catholicism there may still be very much alive but they are in the minority.

So there is a tactical withdrawal underway to focus on these countries where the Catholic Church still is a major force in society. There, the Holy See wants to reassure, consolidate, preserve and revitalize the role it can play. Benedict has understood that while the global epicenter of Catholicism shifts every day to the southern hemisphere, that vast region can never replace the weight of history and culture. Given that fact, he believes, Christianity has not spoken its last word in Europe. *Reuters* 17-Nov-10

Benedict has pursued a steady purge of the Roman Curia, moving liberals to one side and putting in traditional minded officials. His choice of new Cardinals indicates his purpose is to restore the old values. In October he chose the next batch of Archbishops to be elevated to Cardinals.

Benedict shapes the future. Curia and cardinals

Although the universal Church is clearly no longer European, Pope Benedict XVI has taken deliberate steps to ensure that hierarchs from the old continent will continue governing it for years to come. Since being elected Pope in April 2005, he has given a disproportionate number of Europeans top positions at the Vatican and red hats in the College of Cardinals.

In the past five years, Benedict has named some 60 people to the posts of prefect or president, secretary and under-secretary at the major departments of the Roman Curia. Forty-five of them (including 28 Italians) have been Europeans, while only three (including one who is already retired) have been Latin Americans. Six were chosen from North America, four from Africa and two from Asia.

Next month, Benedict will hold the third consistory of his pontificate and create 11 new European cardinals who are under the age of 80 and eligible to vote in the eventual conclave to elect his successor. Eight of them are Italians.

Of the 20 new cardinal-electors an extraordinary proportion – 13 in number – currently work or have worked in the Roman Curia.

“One cannot recall in the last decades of the 1900s such an impetuous affirmation of the ‘Roman Party’,” wrote the legendary Vatican watcher, Giancarlo Zizola. *The Tablet* 30-Oct-10

It is not just the cardinals; the Roman Curia (or court, as in Royal Court), the top level of Vatican control, has been extensively purged and filled with Benedict's appointments.

Benedict will have named 21 of the 25 most senior officials of the Roman curia (a list that includes the secretary of state, prefects of nine congregations,

presidents of 12 pontifical councils, and heads of three canonical courts). Benedict's "new curia" has therefore come into focus – and since personnel is policy, these appointments say much about where he's taking the church. *National Catholic Reporter* 20-Dec-10

So here was a clear demonstration that this Pope firmly has his eyes on rebuilding the Church in Europe and has rebuilt his army of "generals". Europe is the perceived battleground for now. If we have any doubts that the ultimate goal is to re-establish the Church's position in Europe as it was under the Holy Roman Empire, when Pope and Emperor ruled Europe, consider this next Item.

The Change of the Coat-of-Arms



Without any prior announcement Benedict unfurled the latest twist in Vatican symbology. For centuries, papal coats-of-arms featured the three-tiered jewelled papal crown or '*Triregnum*'. This was dropped by Pope Paul VI in a symbolic gesture at the 2nd Vatican Council. Benedict's coat of arms has instead a 3 tiered mitre.



However, *Inside the Vatican* 12-Oct-10 reported a change.

On Sunday, the cloth unfurled under his window (in the Apostolic Palace as he prayed the



Angelus) contained the tiara.

The actual crown itself, the Papal Tiara, also known as the *Triregnum* or the *Triregno*, is the three-tiered papal crown worn by Popes from Pope Clement V up to and including Pope Paul VI, who was crowned in 1963.

The crown has not been worn by any of Pope Paul's successors, but it has not been abolished and it remains the symbol of the papacy and the Holy See, featured in the coat-of-arms of the Vatican and on many papal coats-of-arms.

What does it mean that the Pope seems to have decided to restore the tiara?

What does it mean? Well, the restoration of the *Triregnum* has been the subject of a web petition. To quote from it:

We the undersigned faithful humbly beg you Holy Father to restore the venerable tradition of the *triregnum* to the papal ceremonial. The patriarchs of

the Orthodox east do not refrain from their own traditions & insignia of their patriarchal office and authority therefore all the more fitting is it that you holy father the vicar of Christ, the patriarch of all the west, the bishop of Rome should wear that ancient symbol of your office the *triregnum*. For as Mgr Nabuco states in his "*Ius Pontificalium*" : "Being exempt from all human authority, The Apostolic Lord: (The Pope) is crowned with a Tiara and uses it vested with the Sacred Vestments as a **sign of his supreme dignity in temporal as well as in spiritual matters.**" <http://triregnum.blogspot.com> 13-Feb-08

So it is a sign of temporal as well as spiritual supremacy. We remember that the Vatican lost its Papal Territories in 1870 under the Vial judgements of Revelation 16.

At a papal coronation the following words are used as the *Tiara* is placed on the Pope's head.

Receive the tiara adorned with three crowns and know that thou art Father of Princes and Kings, Ruler of the World, Vicar of Our Savior Jesus Christ in earth, to whom is honor and glory in the ages of ages. *Wikipedia*

Lord Twining wrote a book in 1960 entitled *A History of the Crown Jewels of Europe*. In it he suggests that:

Just as the Holy Roman Emperors were crowned three times as king of Germany, king of Italy and Roman emperor, so the popes, to stress the equality of their spiritual authority to the temporal authority of the emperor, chose to be crowned with a tiara bearing three crowns.

We can now see the drive for the Harlot Woman to regain her power. What interesting signs we see! Scripture is clear, if the Woman is to ride the European Beast, then Europe must come under the sway of the Papacy once more. We saw the Pope's drive to concentrate on Europe. To assist the Pope's aim of re-evangelising Europe he has set up a new Council.

Pope takes Vatican's biggest step to revive Christianity

Known as the "Pontifical Council for Promotion of the New Evangelization", its aim is to help in the revival of the Church in Europe and other areas of the world where she is losing ground.

In an official decree, Benedict said the new office would work with bishops to promote church doctrine, use modern communication methods to get the church's message out and mobilize missionary-type activities using members of religious orders and new religious movements. *USA Today* 12-Oct-10

It was set up by a *motu proprio* (Latin "on his own impulse") encyclical – where the document is issued on the Pope's own initiative and personally signed by him. Its Latin title is *Ubicumque et Semper* "Always and Everywhere" reflects that "The Church has the duty to proclaim always and everywhere the Gospel of Jesus Christ." It is worth remembering that the Vatican set up a specific Jesuit Europe Office (OCIE) in 1956 at the request of the Archbishop of Strasbourg. According to its website:

OCIPE seeks to accompany the construction of Europe: in serving its personnel in their professional and spiritual discernment, in sustaining critical reflection from the perspective of Christian faith on European values and responsibilities, and in promoting Europe's solidarity internally and with the wider world.

It played an important role in getting the Irish to vote for accepting the Lisbon Treaty, according to its website. How this new office varies from the OCIPE is not clear. This next interesting article indicated that the key to this evangelization lay with the Neocats.

Neocats loom as key to Pope's plan to re-evangelise Europe

The Neocatechumenal Way is a lay evangelising movement for existing or lapsed Roman Catholics. Consisting of small groups, it aims to be a mobile force to revive Church teachings.

The Neocatechumenal Way is looming as a key chess piece in Benedict XVI's plan to re-evangelise Europe, after receiving the movement's initiators Kiko Argüello, Carmen Hernández, and Fr Mario Pezzi on 13 November.

Álvaro de Juana, the spokesman of that Catholic lay group in Spain, told *Zenit* that one of the subjects addressed in Saturday's audience with the Pope was the new evangelisation of Europe, a topic to which this ecclesial organisation has always attached great importance.

The initiators of the Way explained to the Holy Father the work that the group's followers have been carrying out for some years in cities of Holland, Germany and France – where at times the presence of the Church is scarce – through the *missio ad gentes*. *Zenit.org* 24-Nov-10

Missio ad gentes or Mission to the Gentiles also looks to re-establish the Church in areas where Protestantism has grown. They work actively among the young and were responsible for ensuring good attendances at the World Youth Days; the last one was held in Sydney, Australia in 2008 and the next is planned for Madrid, Spain next summer.

Another topic addressed in the Papal audience was the forthcoming World Youth Day in Madrid next year. Argüello explained to the Pope that more than 200,000 young people of Neocatechumenal Way from all over the world will undertake itineraries along the length and breadth of Europe, in which they will evangelise and hold missions for ten days. After taking part in the youth day ceremonies in Madrid, they will attend a vocational meeting with the Way's initiators, in which it is hoped that thousands of young people will show their willingness to be consecrated to Christ. *Ibid*.

The Pope is rallying his armies! A sure sign that the Vatican is making progress is when the secularists and humanists start protesting at her influence, as this next piece written by a secularist shows!

“The need for a secular voice in the European Union”

After decades of ongoing secularisation, and despite declining church attendance, churches and religious groups are **increasing their influence on EU**

policy making. The first half century of European integration was dedicated largely to policies of a more technical nature: coal and steel or the internal market. As Europe evolves from diplomatic cooperation between governments, into a political union, a community of citizens, the need arises to define the shared values and discuss ethical questions.

The secularist voice is barely heard in the debate. Religious organisations do not only have the regular advocacy tools of a lobby, but they can also apply the official rules and sanctions of their religious community – for example excommunication – to policy makers, forcing them to vote according to religious doctrine.

The Roman Catholic church has a special position, as the Vatican is at the same time a state. The EU has diplomatic relations with the Vatican, including an EU embassy. In past centuries, worldly and ecclesiastical powers were closely linked, and worldly rulers sought divine legitimization of their reign.

Within the office of EU Commission President Barroso, a special unit has been set up for the “Relations with religion, churches and communities of conviction”. Barroso stages annual “Summits” with religious leaders. *New Europe* 15-Oct-10

Political union needs church help

The history of this special unit is interesting. Delors, regarded as one of the founding fathers of the EU envisaged that the EU would need to develop into a political union. The *European Union* website gives this background information.

It was towards the end of the 1980s that President Delors (1985–1994) established the Dialogue with religions, churches and communities of conviction. The fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 marked a turning point in Europe and made the President aware of the need to think about the major challenges for the future of the European venture: the prospect of enlargement of the European Community and the construction of a political union that would match the ambitions of the economic and monetary union.

This political union had to be founded on a **European identity and a sense of belonging**. And so President Delors felt it necessary to talk to representatives of organisations active in the fields of science, culture and **religion** in order to exchange ideas about the meaning and implications of the European venture. He therefore decided that the Commission should hold a regular dialogue with **religions, churches and communities of conviction**. His successors, Jacques Santer and Romano Prodi, and the current President, José Manuel Barroso, have continued this.

It is the Roman Church especially which lies at the roots of Europe's Christian heritage. Delors, a devoted Roman Catholic, realised that political union needed the Vatican on board. Hence the Pope's frequent appeal to Europe to return to its roots. The banded stump of Daniel chapter 4 is now reflowering.

EU Leader: We Need Benedict's Message

Here was an interesting admission as to the value certain EU leaders place on the Pope's pronouncements. The source is *The Vatican Lobby* 6-Feb-10, written by an American graduate student, concerned at the Vatican's world influence; its implication is far reaching.

In a statement that is highly interesting, a former president of the European Parliament has encouraged European leaders to apply Pope Benedict XVI's message for Lent to their everyday tasks of policy-making. As the president of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation – a powerful European think tank – Pottering still exerts significant influence within the European political sphere. The importance of his words? One argument that I am constantly making on this blog is that **the European Union is looking more and more to Rome for guidance in solving its social and cultural problems.** In the end, I believe that the E.U., or at least one “tier” of the E.U., will begin implementing Catholic socialism as official government policy. **Benedict's desire is that the Brussels government take responsibility for the mundane aspects of governing, while leaving the socio-cultural development of Europe to the Roman Catholic church and its ecumenical/inter-religious partners.** As time passes, it seems more and more that high-level officials in Brussels are agreeing with Benedict. If nothing else, Pottering's statement reveals the ideological motivations behind the actions of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation.

This is an echo of Pope John Paul II's words to the European Parliament in 1988 “*Render to Caesar the things of Caesar's and to God the things of God*”. His implication being, “you look after political things and we will look after the spiritual things of Europe”.

Benedict to address German Parliament

This will be the first state visit Benedict has made to his homeland; the previous two visits were classed as pastoral visits. As part of this visit to Germany in 2011, Benedict has accepted an invitation to address the Bundestag, the German parliament, which is housed in Berlin's historic Reichstag building. He must be feeling confident that having put all the parts in place, that the time is right for a push in his own country.

WikiLeaks show the Vatican as a political power

As any student of Papal history knows, the Vatican is a political system as well as a religious one. The latter is the mask for the former. The recent *WikiLeaks* release of classified cables has revealed this hidden side of the Vatican's workings.

The *Guardian* 10-Dec-10 ran a lengthy piece – these are some of the hidden things that the cables revealed.

The pope is responsible for the Vatican's growing hostility towards Turkey joining the EU.

In 2004 Cardinal Ratzinger, the future pope, spoke out against letting a Muslim state join, although at the time the Vatican was formally neutral on the question.

Ratzinger was the leading voice behind the Holy See's unsuccessful drive to secure a reference to Europe's "Christian roots" in the EU constitution. Ratzinger "clearly understands that **allowing a Muslim country into the EU would further weaken his case for Europe's Christian foundations**".

Even more important than the Vatican's lobbying assistance, however, is the **influence the pope's guidance can have on public opinion in countries with large Catholic majorities and beyond**.

The Vatican planned to use Poland as a trojan horse to spread Catholic family values through the structures of the European Union in Brussels.

The Holy See hopes that Poland will hold the line at the EU on "life and family" issues that arise and would serve as a counterweight to western European secularism once the country had integrated into the EU.

Pope Benedict is preoccupied with Europe's increasing psychological distance from its Christian roots.

"He has continued to focus on Poland's potential in combating this trend. This was one of the themes of the visit of several groups of Polish bishops to the Vatican at the end of last year [2005]. 'It's a topic that always comes up,' explained Michael Banach, the Holy See minister of foreign affairs country director for Poland. He told us that the two sides recognised that the Polish bishops needed to exert leadership in the face of western European secularism."

In 2001 another American diplomat to the Vatican stated: "**The Holy See will continue to seek to play a role in the Middle East peace process while denying this intention.**"

Here's an extract from an article in the *EUObserver* 13-Dec-10.

"The Vatican is second only to the United States in the number of countries with which it enjoys diplomatic relations (188 and 177 respectively), and there are Catholic priests, nuns and lay people in every country on the planet. As the spiritual leader of 1.3 billion Catholics worldwide and enjoying respect as well from non-Catholics, **the Pope wields an unparalleled moral megaphone,**" a 2009 US note ahead of President Barack Obama's meeting with the pontiff says. "Private comments from Vatican officials to European diplomats also carry some weight – particularly in the traditionally Catholic countries," a 2006 cable says.

Here are extracts from an American cable giving background information about the Vatican in preparation for President George W. Bush's meeting with the Pope; it is dated 3-Jul-2001. The original is all in capitals and has abbreviations – this is an edited, "cleaned up" copy.

"National" self-interest: the Holy See seeks to protect Catholics around the world, its own position of influence, and its vast wealth.

The Vatican's support of Saddam Hussein results from its desire to protect 600,000 Iraqi Catholics from Islamic fundamentalism; its refusal to publicly

criticize Croat nationalist clergy in Bosnia stems in part from the Croat church's staunch defense of the faith during the cold war;

History/tradition: relations between the Holy See and Spain, Portugal, and other Latin countries go back over 500 years. The Vatican's historical relationship with these countries frequently demands an active foreign policy role;

Middle East Peace Process (MEPP): the Holy See denies wanting to become involved in the political aspects of the MEPP, although it remains keenly interested in what it terms the "cultural and religious" aspects of the holy sites in the region (**specifically Jerusalem**). The Vatican maintains that its concerns have been largely ignored by the U.S. and the Israelis, and in 1999 worked with the French and several other EU countries in the "Jerusalem Working Group" (JWG – since inactive).

The Government of Israel for its part was concerned that the Pope left unanswered Bashir Assad's anti-Semitic invective during the Pope's May 2001 Syria visit. We can expect continued tension in these areas. The Holy See will continue to seek to play a role in the MEPP, **while denying this intention**. Embassy Vatican continues to recommend a high level visit to encourage the Vatican to play a more constructive, **or at least less unhelpful**, role in the process.

The Vatican – the supranational power

Europe: the Vatican would like to see a unified, Christian (i.e. Catholic) Europe. And therefore should be expected to intensify its dialog with the leading Protestant groups in Germany and Scandinavia. The Vatican will also continue attempts to engage the Russian Church and the ecumenical Patriarch in Istanbul in an attempt to heal the Latin/Orthodox rift. Vatican involvement in the Balkans can be useful to U.S. policy if it is directed at promoting Catholic/Orthodox coexistence. Continued Vatican criticism of "U.S. materialism and commercialism" could be used by many in Europe to support arguments in favor **of limiting U.S. influence and activity on the European continent**.

The Middle East: The Vatican will continue to oppose U.S. efforts to isolate Saddam Hussein. We should recognize that the Vatican will not support our efforts in Iraq, and investigate ways to limit Vatican interference with our objectives. **In Israel, the Vatican will continue efforts to insert itself on the question of the status of Jerusalem.**

It is interesting to see Jerusalem is a matter of great concern to the Vatican; a matter we shall return to.

As *The Trumpet* 23-Dec-10 summed it up:

Fifteen hundred years of European history testify to this reality: When seismic events occur in Europe, the Vatican *always* plays a central role!

We continue now by looking at the Vatican's support from the Russia Church and the Pope's visit to Britain to enlist dissident Church of England members.

Chapter 6:

THE VATICAN WELCOMES RUSSIA'S SUPPORT

To help in this work of “putting Christianity back into the heart of Europe”, the Pope has been joined by the Russian Orthodox Church under Patriarch Kirill. Benedict’s visit to Britain was mainly aimed at bringing on board the many traditional Church of England members who feel disenchanted by their Church’s liberalising changes, who would also assist in the great re-evangelizing work.

Moscow, Vatican wage common fight against secular liberalism

We reported extensively in last year’s *Milestones* about the increasing ties between the Russian Orthodox Church and the Vatican, moves greatly accelerated with the appointment of Patriarch Kirill as head of the Russian Church in 2009. Both leaders are focused on combating the growing tide of secularism as this article from *Interfax* 19-Feb-10 shows.

Despite a difficult relationship between the Russian Orthodox and the Roman Catholic Churches, they have been effectively cooperating along many avenues, Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia told students and diplomats at the Russian Foreign Ministry Diplomatic Academy in Moscow.

“Together with the Roman Catholic Church we have been defending the traditional Christian concept of family and human values from aggressive secular liberalism. Our Churches are waging a common fight against medico-biological experiments incompatible with respect for human dignity,” His Holiness said.

Cooperation with the Roman Catholic Church has become possible thanks to Pope Benedict XVI and is proceeding simultaneously along several avenues.

At the end of December 2009, the Moscow patriarchate produced a book, *Europe, Spiritual Homeland*, a collection of talks by Pope Benedict over the past decade. It was now the turn of the Vatican to reciprocate.

Vatican Publishes Book by Patriarch Kirill.

The Vatican Publishing House is publishing a book by Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and of All Russia.

The work brings together the most important addresses on human rights given by Patriarch Kirill. In it, he wrote, “We have a common vision with the Pope on the protection of the dignity of man in Europe.” *Zenit* 14-May-10

The speed at which the two Churches are moving together is remarkable as these quotations show.

Russian Orthodoxy’s new interest in unity with Roman Catholic Church

A senior Russian hierarch close to Patriarch Kirill said in Rome last week that **“the time has come to take decisive steps in the direction of full unity”**

between Russian Orthodoxy and the Roman Catholic Church, the latest indication that Kirill wants at a minimum **far closer ties** with the Vatican than did any of his predecessors.

Since becoming patriarch, Kirill has repeatedly suggested that he is interested in closer ties with the Vatican so that the two churches can work together in opposition to secularism and modernism in Europe and elsewhere. And he and his aides have indicated that he views the conservative German pope as someone he can work with. *politicom.moldova.org* 18-May-10

A Holy Alliance between Rome and Moscow is born

Benedict XVI will soon create a new “pontifical council” expressly dedicated to the “new evangelization.” Not for mission countries where the congregation “de propaganda fide” is already at work. But for the countries of ancient Christian tradition that are today in danger of losing the faith.

Meanwhile, one great ally has already united with the pope from outside of the Catholic Church, in this enterprise of a new evangelization.

This great ally is the Russian Orthodox Church.

The president of the department of external relations for the patriarchate, Metropolitan Hilarion, said exactly this to the pope: that the Catholic Church will not be alone in the new evangelization of dechristianized Europe, because it will have at its side the Russian Orthodox Church, “**no longer a competitor, but an ally.**”

The positive relationship that has been established between the Russian Orthodox Church and the Church of Rome is **one of the most stunning achievements** of Benedict XVI's pontificate. **It is also stunning for its rapidity.** *Chiesa* 24-May-10

The “pontifical council” mentioned above came into being in October as we saw in the previous chapter.

With Europe facing the challenge of increasing Moslem immigration, who can doubt the effectiveness of this call to its Christian roots with the weight of **both** Churches behind it.

But there is a third ally, keen to push back the growing tide of secularism. This third ally was the subject of a special Papal trip this year – to rally the disaffected in the Anglican Church back to Rome!

The First Papal State visit to Britain

When Pope John-Paul II visited in 1982 it was a “pastoral” occasion; this was a state visit. The former Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, had extended a formal invitation to visit here back in Feb 2009 at a private audience with the Pope in the Vatican. It was well timed in this drive to bring back “the separated brethren”. Its climax was to do something that the Pope does not do! It was to conduct the ceremony to beatify Cardinal Newman. This totally papist process of “saint making” is the penultimate step to declaring that a “saint” is in heaven and can be

universally worshiped. Canonisation is the final step. Here lies the exception. “The pope doesn’t do beatifications, only canonisations.”

That Benedict XVI is to oversee the beatification demonstrates the esteem in which he holds the man who founded the Oxford Movement to bring the Anglican Church back to its Catholic roots. *BBC* 13-Sep-10

Ah! There we have it. A useful tool at this time to encourage traditionalist members of the Church of England, unhappy with the liberalising trends engulfing that organisation, to move to Rome. The Reformation is dead! It is time to come home to Rome! And so the Pope’s visit to Britain was full of meaning. Looking back it was a Public Relations’ triumph.

At the heart of the visit lay the beatification of “Cardinal” John Newman, whose initial claim to fame was as a leader of the Oxford Movement in the 1830’s, protesting at the secularisation of the Church of England and establishing what would be regarded as High Anglican Church. After 20 years as a Church of England priest, he “crossed the Tiber” and the following year, in 1846, was appointed as a Roman Catholic priest and died in 1890.

Following claims of a miraculous healing in 2001 to a man suffering after back surgery, who, following his prayer to Newman, suddenly was able to walk pain free, Newman was put on this path to sainthood. It needs another miracle to be declared before the final step can be taken. Allegedly this has already taken place and is being investigated. (Oh! how different from Bible saints!) This intermediate step means that he can be called “The Blessed” Cardinal Newman (again what a travesty) and:

... is recognition accorded by the Catholic Church of a dead person’s accession to Heaven and capacity to intercede on behalf of individuals who pray in his or her name. *Wikipedia*

The scriptures tell us of the lies and false miracles and signs with which the people will be deceived.

Follow Newman (to Rome!)

Benedict’s clear message was for people to be inspired by Newman’s life.

May the profound ideas of this great Englishman continue to inspire all Christ’s followers in this land to conform their every thought, word and action to Christ, and to work strenuously to defend those unchanging moral truths which, taken up, illuminated and confirmed by the Gospel, stand at the foundation of a truly humane, just and free society. *Benedict*

Now this call to follow Newman’s ideas can only have one logical outcome. It is a call to members of the state church, of whom the Queen is the head, to follow the footsteps of Newman and come back to the “mother” church!

As this *Catholic Culture* 17-Sep-10 article openly put it:

But when he spoke to a group of Anglican (and Catholic) bishops, and offered Cardinal Newman as a model for ecumenical actions, the Pope was making his

point clearly enough. Any Anglican prelate who takes that suggestion seriously, and models his actions after those of Cardinal Newman, will very soon run up against an immovable fact. Cardinal Newman became a Catholic. If you want to follow him, you'll have to follow him to Rome.

The Pope stressed that Cardinal Newman made his move gently, politely, without breaking friendships, without recriminations, without renouncing his heritage – the same way other Anglicans might take the step today, under the provisions of *Anglicanorum Coetibus*.

But there was more, as this extract from the *Associated Press* 13-Sep-10 hinted.

For Benedict, Newman represents a model in that he fought against the same moral relativism – the idea that all religions are the same and that there's no objective truth – that Benedict has denounced during his papacy.

“Perhaps Benedict is thinking that Newman is the vehicle that he can use to push the evangelization of the old Europe,” said Jack Valero, the spokesman for Newman's beatification cause.

Catholic Axioms

Robert, the author of *The Vatican Lobby blog*, put together this concise list of axioms (“generally accepted principles”).

“Below I have composed a short list of important axioms that are helpful in analyzing Vatican words and actions. Each axiom is based on the theological, political, and historical legacy of the Church of Rome.

1. The Vatican believes that it, and it alone, is the world's legitimate religious and political authority.
2. The Vatican cares nothing for national borders, national laws, or national sovereignty, unless those things coincide with the Vatican's own agenda.
3. The Vatican seeks to establish a system of global governance modeled on the principles of Catholic socialism.
4. The Vatican expands its power using its incredible stores of wealth.
5. The Vatican has a long-term strategy that makes other nations' "long-term" strategies look silly.
6. **The Vatican wants Jerusalem, or at least an international guarantee that Jerusalem will remain open to Catholic influence.**
7. The Vatican seeks to make alliances with nations that will accept its yoke, but will challenge or even overthrow governments that refuse.”

TheVaticanlobby.blogspot.com

In parallel with the Vatican rebuilding, we now turn to Germany, where at every opportunity Germany rebuilds her own power base.

Chapter 7:

GERMANY AND THE EURO CRISIS – TIME TO TAKE CONTROL

*One of the on-going stories of 2010 has been the euro crisis. First it was Greece that needed a huge bailout, and then it was Ireland. These countries are not alone; others like Spain, Portugal and Italy are close to the brink. Even Middle European countries such as Belgium are close to needing a bailout. But where will the money come from? The first phase of the recent financial crisis led to millions of pounds, dollars, euros being poured into the banks, several of which went under, others came under State control, others amalgamated. That's mopped up the spare cash. Bailing out **countries** is a whole new ball game.*

Throughout Europe's financial woes, there's one country that has stood above the rest – Germany! Many analysts are saying that the euro troubles are largely of Germany's making and that she is extracting the last drop of monetary blood in acting as the saviour of the euro.

We have long looked for Germany to emerge as Europe's leader. She tried in the World War I and again in WWII, this time it has been achieved without a shot being fired, by clever manipulation.

Germany the leader of the latter-day Beast

In the words of Revelation 17 there has to be a Beast system that is ridden by the Harlot Woman. The interpretation which is consistent with the previous phases of the Beast in Rev 13 is to see it as a symbol of the final revival of Europe under Germany, and working with the Vatican. A fearful system that after Gog's defeat at Armageddon, will rally its forces against the Lamb and his immortalised brothers and sisters, only to be defeated at their hands.

Even the non-religious press is alarmed at the deliberate power grab on the part of today's Germany. In spite of the devastation of Germany in WWII, she rapidly emerged as a strong power. Looking at the first copy of *Milestones* reviewing the events of 1977, Bro Graham Pearce wrote of the growing strength of West Germany – reunion with East Germany lay thirteen years ahead.

West Germany's industrial and economic strength has become increasingly clear in the past few years. She acts from a position of strength and **follows the path of national self-interest** rather than the good of the Common Market.

He spoke of how Germany was looking to Russia and had just done a deal for the supply of Russian gas in exchange for German help in modernising Soviet industry. To emphasise her national self-interest he quotes a headline "Bonn to Aid Russia Before E.E.C.".

There was this description of Germany's army.

Their Leopard tanks and Marder armoured combat vehicles are probably the best of their kind in any arsenal in the world. The West Germans have thousands

of both in an army that, in the last decade, has grown to become what many Allied leaders think is the best, most disciplined and well equipped fighting force in Western Europe. *Washington Post* Mar-77

The following year, Bro Graham quoted an Australian newspaper, the *Perth Newsletter*, to show the dependency Germany had on countries like Russia for the many materials essential to Germany as an industrial nation.

Germany depends 100% on imports of uranium, chromium, antimony, chrome, gold, cobalt, copper, manganese, nickel, platinum, titanium, vanadium, tungsten, tin, asbestos, diamonds and phosphate; the dependence on imported petrol is 95%, iron 94%, lead 85%, and fluorspar 70%

In *Milestones 1980* there are details of a new economic pact which Germany and the Soviet had signed, to further modernise Russian industry and further help with exploiting Russia's natural resources.

Another theme running through these early *Milestones* is the increasing rift between Germany and America, with Germany's pursuit of a pro-Soviet policy.

Here we are, 30 years on, and Germany still pursuing the same path; friendship and close economic links with Russia, a powerful army and national self-interest! She now has an even more powerful weapon in her hand – the euro!

Let's set the scene for this chapter by reminding ourselves of a meeting between Merkel and Sarkozy in France on October 19th to discuss far reaching plans for the euro. Its significance was such that at the end of the year, when *Stratfor* looked back at the "Top10 geopolitical events of the **past decade**", this was No. 6!

Merkel and Sarkozy propose new EU structure

German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Nicolas Sarkozy met in Deauville, France, to discuss the future of the European Union. Merkel had proposed changes to the European Union in which nations that do not follow EU rules and that require help be denied votes in EU councils and be placed under Brussels' supervision. Sarkozy agreed with Merkel's proposal. The original concept of a union of equals would be replaced by classes of membership based on behavior. Given that the statement was made by the two major EU advocates and powers, the proposal is uniquely credible. It would not only transform the European Union, it would reopen fundamental questions on sovereignty and national rights that had been considered closed. *Stratfor 31-Dec-10*

Germany is using the euro crisis to get her own way, and the euro crisis was part of Germany's long-term plan as the following series of quotes illustrates. *Stratfor 16-Mar-10* proposed:

What if, instead of the euro being designed to further contain the Germans, the Germans crafted the euro to rewire the European Union for their own purposes?

Berlin's first phase of redesigning the European Union.

Ahead of the EU leaders' summit, slated for Dec. 16-17, news has emerged that the European Union intends to change the Lisbon Treaty and create a permanent

rescue fund for the eurozone. The fund will replace the current European Financial Stability Facility (EFSF), which expires in 2013. Germany is spearheading the move ... to establish a permanent rescue mechanism will complete **Berlin's first phase of redesigning the European Union.**

The new rules on the permanent rescue fund will be enshrined in the EU Constitution and will be dominated by Berlin, since the EFSF (and its likely permanent successor) **is an institution independent of the EU bureaucracy and thus ultimately under German control.** *Stratfor* 15-Dec-10

Germany duly got her way at the summit, so phase one was virtually completed – subject to approval by the other 27 members – but as *Stratfor* commented, there seemed little dissent from accepting Germany's plans and they are avoiding the need for referenda. We will look at Germany's "second phase" later in this chapter.

Germany restructuring euro after their own end

What most people haven't realized in dealing with the **European crisis is that in many ways this is a little intentional.** The eurozone, the EU, the whole package of what we consider now to be European governance was ultimately designed by France for political needs during the Cold War era. That's no longer the case. Now, in modern Europe, the **Germans are back on the scene.** They have a foreign policy, they have opinions, and they're acting upon them. And so their goal is to actually restructure the rules, the laws, the institutions that create the eurozone and **make the common currency possible to their own end.** And that end does not necessarily mean preventing bailouts, it does not even necessarily mean economic austerity. **It's about making sure Berlin is large and in charge on the continent.** *Stratfor* 10-Dec-10

Europe: The New Plan

Europe is on the cusp of change. An EU heads-of-state summit Dec. 16 launched a process aimed to save the common European currency. If successful, this process would be **the most significant step toward creating a singular European power** since the creation of the European Union itself in 1992 – that is, if it doesn't destroy the euro first.

Envisioned by the EU Treaty on Monetary Union, the common currency, the euro, has suffered from two core problems during its decade-long existence: **the lack of a parallel political union and the issue of debt.** Many in the financial world believe that what is required for a viable currency is a fiscal union that has taxation power – and that is indeed needed. But that misses the larger point of who would be in charge of the fiscal union. Taxation and appropriation – who pays how much to whom – are essentially political acts. One cannot have a centralized fiscal authority without first having **a centralized political/military authority capable of imposing and enforcing its will.** Greeks are not going to implement a German-designed tax and appropriations system simply because Berlin thinks it's a good idea. As much as financiers might like to believe, the checkbook is not the ultimate power in the galaxy. **The ultimate power comes from the law backed by a gun.** *Stratfor* 21-Dec-10

Stratfor then explained that the leaders were attempting to fix the debt problem as it is the easier to fix; but the fundamental problem will not go away. They hope they have won time before they need to fix political union. The article concluded:

All of the states flirting with bailouts as 2010 draws to a close expect to have even higher debt loads two years from now. Hence, investors will have imposed punishing financing costs on all of them. **Alone among the major eurozone countries not facing such costs will be Germany, the country that wrote the bailout rules and is indirectly responsible for managing the bailouts enacted to this point. Berlin will command the purse strings and the financial rules, yet be unfettered by those rules or the higher financing costs that go with them. Such control isn't quite a political union, but so long as the rest of the eurozone is willing to trade financial sovereignty for the benefits of the euro, it is certainly the next best thing.** *Stratfor* 21-Dec-10

Europe dances to Germany's tune

Most member-states – including France – are now willing to swallow large doses of **German leadership**. Chancellor Angela Merkel's influence was evident on the three key issues discussed by the summit: tightening rules on economic governance, setting up a new institution to deal with countries unable to borrow in the markets, and revising the EU treaties. However, Germany's leadership has also brought problems. One is that **Germany's determination to get its way** has bruised several smaller states, as well as the Commission and the European Central Bank.

At the Brussels summit several smaller member-states complained about having to fall in behind deals stitched together by Paris and Berlin. **But so long as the French continue to back the Germans on eurozone governance, their partners – and the EU institutions – have little choice but to follow.** *The Centre for European Reform* 3-Nov-10

Europe's German problem

The old nightmare, the one that was supposed to have a stake driven through its heart in 1945, is back. Europe has a German problem again.

It is the euro crisis that explains Germany's new pre-eminence. The most obvious main effect of the financial crisis has been to reveal the fragility of the euro. But lurking behind that is a deeper reality: **that Germany's growing economic dominance of the eurozone implies a parallel political power that Germany's leaders are increasingly ready to wield in the national rather than the European interest.**

When Germany agreed to co-finance a pipeline under the Baltic Sea to import Russian natural gas, while avoiding the land-based pipelines through Poland and Ukraine, Polish Foreign Minister Radosław Sikorski likened it to the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact of 1939, when Hitler and Stalin secretly agreed to carve up Poland between them.

No other European leader has forgotten that the first euro-crisis in Greece last spring exploded out of control **because Merkel refused to act while awaiting the result of regional German election**. The result was furiously anti-German newspaper headlines in Athens and magazine covers that depicted Merkel wearing a Hitler moustache. *United Press Int.* 13-Dec-10

Ireland's crisis puts Germany in the eurozone driving seat

In November, **it was Germany that triggered the latest euro-crisis over Ireland**, when Germany began insisting publicly that Ireland apply for EU bailout funds, rather than risk embarrassment to German banks exposed to Irish debts. *United Press Int.* 13-Dec-10

The republic's economic disaster gives Berlin a chance to **complete the construction of the single currency on its own terms**. *Guardian* 15-Nov-10

The European 'dream' has finally collided with reality

The drive towards a European superstate has had its flaws exposed at last, says Christopher Booker.

It was only when I began work on a comprehensive history of the European "project" that I fully came to see how, for 50 years, it had only ever had **one real agenda**. As was laid down by its founding genius, Jean Monnet, the sole underlying purpose behind everything it has ever done has been to work stealthily – accreting its powers step by step – **towards the creation of an integrated "United States of Europe", ruled by one supra-national government**.

Monnet realised in the mid-Fifties that the only way to realise his goal was to work towards it gradually, through a series of lesser goals, each of which would serve to focus the energies of his "Europe-builders" until it was time to move on to the next.

The first was to set up the embryonic institutions of his European government by disguising them as necessary for the creation of the Common Market. Once that was achieved, the focus moved on to creating a "Single Market", as an excuse to take further powers to the centre. The next focus became "Economic and Monetary Union", complete with that supreme symbol of integration, a single currency. Finally, the Europhiles could move on to the mighty goal – which took them eight years – of giving Europe a "constitution", thus completing the dream conceived decades before. *Sunday Telegraph* 21-Nov-10

Our last quote in this particular section is another incredible, spine-tingling, set of statements in a *Stratfor* article 16-Mar-10.

The implications of this are difficult to overstate. If the euro is essentially gutting the European — and again to a greater extent the Club Med — economic base, **then Germany is achieving by stealth what it failed to achieve in the past thousand years of intra-European struggles**. In essence, European states are borrowing money (mostly from Germany) in order to purchase imported goods (mostly from Germany) because their own workers

cannot compete on price (mostly because of Germany). This is not limited to states actually within the eurozone, but also includes any state affiliated with the zone; the relative labor costs for most of the Central European states that have not even joined the euro yet have risen by even more during this same period.

Germany's unemployment is at an 18 year low of 7.5%. Her economy is slated to have risen by 3.5% in 2010, her best year since reunification in 1990!

No Tandem

For years France was the lead power in Europe; that situation has drastically changed. The financial crisis has left but one winner – Germany!

France is clearly lagging behind Germany in important targeted regions of its foreign policy. ... France's loss of political influence is in correlation with the growing economic distance with which it is trailing behind Germany. With its important cuts in salaries and social spending, Germany has been enhancing its advantages over the neighboring countries. In 2009, the German trade surplus in relation to France reached a new record of €27bn. A reversal of this tendency is not in sight, but the increasingly evident inner-European imbalance – also in German-French relations – is becoming more prevalent. In light of the growing foreign political and economic distance with which France is lagging behind Germany, the unofficial characterization of a “German-French tandem” leading the EU, cannot disguise the true leadership relations – the hardly veiled German hegemony. *Germany-Foreign-Policy* 6-Dec-10



Germany and the Vatican

Admittedly it isn't easy to find direct quotes here. *The Trumpet* – which grew out of Herbert Armstrong's *Plain Truth* magazine, frequently puts this line, but what of the secular press? One has to put together many hints, and knowing Germany's past history is being repeated in so many of its aspects, it is not surprising to find that this former partnership is being strengthened again. There are many hints that Germany needs the Vatican to push her onwards and upwards.

We saw in chapter 5, how the Vatican set up a Jesuit run Office and now another office specifically to put the Church back into Europe. Where does one look for cooperation? For a German Pope it makes sense to look to Germany; that's why his planned visit in 2011 to his homeland and addressing the German parliament is so significant. The *Economist* 21-Oct-10 in running an article entitled “Will Germany now take centre stage?” also mentioned problems.

Yet this buoyancy is checked by equally potent anxieties. Germany's bestselling book is “Deutschland schafft sich ab” (“Germany does away with itself”), a warning by a director of the Bundesbank, since forced out of his job, that too much child-bearing by the poor and by immigrants (especially Muslims), and

too little by the educated classes, dooms the country to decline. The book's popularity has shaken Germany. A third of Germans think the country is overrun by foreigners, according to a newly published poll; **a majority favour “sharply restricting” Muslim religious practice. Over a tenth would even welcome a *Führer* who would govern with “a strong hand”** – a sign that the embers of extremism still glow.

What power is going to stand up to the Moslems? What power is going to encourage an uptick in birth rates? Why the Vatican! Interestingly Angela Merkel in addressing her party conference also spoke of Germany's problem.

Germans speak too little of their Judeo-Christian heritage.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel on Monday gave an expansive 75-minute speech at a conference of the German ruling party, the Christian Democratic Union (CDU). The chancellor reaffirmed Germany's Christian identity, stressing that “whoever wants to live here must learn German ... (and) obey our laws,” adding, “whoever won't must expect sanctions.” She concluded by saying, “It's not that we have too much Islam, but rather that **we have too little Christianity ... We speak too little of our Judeo-Christian heritage.**” The gist of the speech was that Germany was a European leader, it should not be ashamed of its German identity and **it needed a modern army to defend its interests.** *Stratfor* 16-Nov-10

Angela Merkel is a Lutheran who strongly supported the Pope's wish to have a mention of God in the Lisbon Treaty. Incidentally the Lutherans and the Roman Catholic Church have been in talks aimed at ending their 500 year rift. Merkel's leadership is under pressure and many Germans are looking to the charismatic Defence Minister, Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg, as a possible new leader.

The fabulous Guttenbergs, strolling to the chancellery

This was the headline across the front cover of the popular German magazine *Der Spiegel* 18-Oct-10.

According to the polls he is the most popular politician in Germany! Of aristocratic background, his correct title is Reichsfreiherr – Baron of the Holy Roman Empire! His wife, Stephanie, Countess of Bismarck-Schönhausen, is the great-great-granddaughter of the “Iron Chancellor”, Otto von Bismarck, who was the architect of the 2nd German Reich in 1871. He is a devout Roman Catholic, who is happy to publicly show his faith. His father, Enoch, is a music conductor and recently conducted before the Pope, causing Robert Moynihan, editor of *Inside the Vatican* to speculate:



There is a real chance, and soon, for Guttenberg to become the next Chancellor of Germany after Angela Merkel. ... The fact is that this concert for the German

Pope was conducted by the father of a man who may soon head the German government.

This at least suggests **a strengthened connection between Berlin and Rome**, or between the two men, should they come into contact in the future as world leaders. *Inside the Vatican* 16-Oct-10

Now what a prospect; a dynamic, aristocratic, strongly Roman Catholic, young leader whose father is a friend of the German Pope! We wait to see if this happens.

Merkel Defends Germany's Leadership

Stratfor 16-Nov-10 had chilling words for those who know Germany's past!

Stratfor has recently pointed to numerous examples of Germany's increasing assertiveness. Germany is overcoming decades of being told what to do and living in shame for the horrors of World War II. It has reasserted itself as the political – no longer just economic – leader of Europe during both the 2008 Central European and the 2010 Greek economic crises and has built an independent foreign policy toward Moscow irrespective of the fears and wishes of its NATO allies. It has also opposed the United States on everything from minor economic issues such as General Motor's restructuring plans for Opel to broader issues such as Washington's recent proposal at the G-20 for limits on current account surpluses and deficits. And finally, its politicians are beginning to speak of a German security and defense strategy in mature tones, without a prerequisite "we're sorry" attached to every policy statement. In short, **Germany is ascending to what it feels is its rightful place as a global power, if not one of the world's true superpowers.**

Germany's plan: Part 2

Let's remind ourselves of what *Stratfor* considered to be Part 1 of Germany's plan. This was to have control over the euro and its institutions, enshrining into EU law bailout mechanisms that would prevent German money being used to bail out countries. Those who had lent would have to shoulder the debts.

The 2nd stage is for fiscal ¹ harmonisation with her fellow euro-zone members. Germany having sewn up stage one, immediately moved towards stage two. France and Germany announced they were looking at harmonising their tax.

Sarkozy, Merkel promise joint plans for fiscal union

Germany and France said they would propose plans next year to harmonise tax and labour policies in the euro zone, saying the crisis has exposed the necessity **to complete monetary union with an economic union.** *EurActiv* 17-Dec-10

"In ten years we will have a structure that corresponds much stronger to what one describes as **political union**," said Schaeuble. *EurActiv* 13-Dec-10

¹ Fiscal policy is the use of government expenditure and revenue [tax] collection to influence the economy. *Wikipedia*

Germany is pressing for a European army, because it will give her greater powers, and, as an earlier *Stratfor* article reasoned, enforcement of euro regulations **comes from the law backed by a gun**. France is Germany's partner for this army.

German defence minister seeks more European military cooperation

Guttenberg is also pressing for greater military cooperation in Europe. This has been talked about for many years, with little result. It will be interesting to see if amid the pressing need for all European countries to save money, this dynamic young man will get things moving!

German Defense Minister Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg said he is willing for Germany's military to share some of its duties with other armies in Europe.

In an opinion piece written for the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* daily, Guttenberg said there could be a "sharing of roles and duties" among European countries.

Guttenberg said some military duties are essential for each nation and would "remain within the national competence." However the "scarcity of resources in all nations" means that the pooling of skills and equipment to support European partners is important.

"The commitment to European defense must be more than just lip service," Guttenberg said in the article. "By intensifying our military cooperation, we will all benefit in the end." *Deutsche Welle* 9-Dec-10

And the one that will gain the most will surely be Germany, for she has the biggest army and can expect to have the greatest say! Virtually unsung, has been the historic move for France and Germany to station troops on each other's territory. In early December, the French welcomed a battalion of German troops who will now be stationed on French soil for the first time in 65 years! Some French troops have been stationed in Germany since the summer.

Another area where Europe has moved forward this year as a world power has been the establishment, at huge cost, of an EU diplomatic service.

The European External Action Service (EEAS)

This is the newly launched (Dec 1st) EU foreign ministry and diplomatic service. Staff are still being appointed and a suitable building to house it is being sought. It presently is in *The Triangle* building in the heart of the European Quarter of Brussels, Belgium. Its budget is enormous, yet vague; when fully operational it is expected to rise to £8bn. Set up through provisions in the Lisbon Treaty, it is one of the greatest demonstrations that the EU is destined for political unity. It will speak on behalf of all the EU member states and is intended to be the first port of call for America and other countries who want to sound out what the EU thinks on a matter. It is headed by the UK's Baroness Catherine Ashton.

We turn to another remarkable sign of the times – Russia's involvement in Europe.

Chapter 8:

GERMANY & RUSSIA WORKING TOGETHER

As we saw when looking at some of the prophecies, we look to see a united Europe, east and west, working together in their eventual common aim of eliminating the State of Israel. The time has not quite arrived for Nebuchadnezzar's image to stand upon its feet. This will occur after the return of the Master to his household.

What we do see is that the initial steps that Bro. Graham wrote about in the first few Milestones in the late '70's (as we saw in chapter 7), has now reached a totally higher plane. Germany's early decision to tie her future with Russia rather than America has proceeded apace and there are many strands that link the two countries together. We now examine some of these.

Energy links

Europe's dependence for so much of its gas and oil on Russia means that one is not going to upset the country that could, at a turn of the tap, deprive you of heat, light and fuel. A country could be brought to its knees very rapidly if the energy "weapon" was played. On the other hand, Russia is very glad of the revenue it gets by selling its energy to Europe. Interestingly, with the boom in the Far East, Russia does now have another market for her energy, so today Europe needs Russia a little more than Russia needs Europe.

Germany is dependent on the oil and gas pipe lines that link her to Russia. Her problem has been that those pipelines have to traverse other countries before reaching Germany. Transit countries can cause disruption to supplies to customers further downstream, as happened when Russia cut off supplies to Ukraine.

Nord Stream

Thus Germany was eager to cooperate with Russia in bringing a direct supply to Germany avoiding any transit countries. This is being achieved by laying twin pipelines from the Russian port of Vyborg and along the Baltic seabed direct to Greifswald in Germany.

By the end of the year, the first pipeline was well underway and due to be completed by September and carrying gas by the end of 2011. A parallel pipe will then be laid to double capacity to 55bn M³ by the end of 2012. It is one of the world's longest undersea pipelines. German firms have invested heavily in the construction of these pipelines.



Germany is busy building trade with Russia as this next article indicates.

The Berlin-Moscow Economic Axis

The intensifying German-Russian business cooperation is publicly being promoted as a “modernization partnership” and expanded further via the EU. The objective is to reduce Germany’s dependence on North American and Eurozone markets. Among the consequences is the weakening of Germany’s bonds to the EU’s single currency.

Having lost its international standing with the collapse of the Soviet Union, Russian technology is to be brought up to date – with the help of German businesses. In October 2008, Berlin and Moscow officially initiated a “modernizing partnership” and extended it step by step to the entire EU.

German energy companies have, by far, the strongest position of foreign enterprises in the Russian natural gas sector – with exclusive access to the world’s largest gas reserves. And German producers are particularly profiting from the Russian market. In spite of the economic crisis, Germany was Russia’s most important western business partner. With a supply volume of \$21.2bn, Germany was unrivaled by France (\$4bn), Italy (\$7.9bn) and the US (\$9.2bn).

These facts appear purely economic, but they are, in reality, **of great political significance. The weight of German business relations is slowly but surely shifting away from North America and the Eurozone toward Russia and Asia.** This weakens not only cohesion of the transatlantic alliance – beyond its military component. It also reduces the significance of exports within the Eurozone and therefore, in the long run, the significance of the Euro, which had particularly facilitated German exports to countries within the Eurozone.
German-Foreign-Policy.com 30-Jun-10

In July, *Associated Press* 15-Jul-10 carried a report of the signing of nearly a dozen deals between companies from Russia and Germany worth billions of dollars. Bilateral trade between the two countries is expected to reach £50bn in the year.

France and Germany seek to ‘anchor Russia to the West’

The leaders of France, Germany and Russia had their own summit meeting ahead of the NATO policy meeting in November. Britain and the other EU members were not invited to this October meeting in France.

France and Germany launched a joint drive to ‘anchor Russia to the West’ at a three-way summit on Monday in northern France billed as sealing a new era of co-operation between Moscow and Europe.

President Nicolas Sarkozy of France, Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany and Russia’s President Dmitry Medvedev are meeting for two days at the Normandy seaside resort of Deauville to discuss building a pan-European security partnership.

NATO will unveil its new security concept next month at its summit in Lisbon, and the French and German leaders hope to persuade Mr Medvedev to lend his support. In particular, they hope to reach common ground over NATO’s

European missile defence plan, which Moscow sees as a potential threat. *Daily Telegraph* 19-Oct-10

President Medvedev agreed to attend the NATO meeting. This was a significant meeting as NATO had lost its way with the ending of the Cold War and this meeting was to set out its vision for its future. Considering NATO was set up as the West's defence against the Soviet, it was a remarkable occasion with the Russians participating! Medvedev regarded it as a historic meeting. Little of actual substance came out of the meeting, except that many NATO members were left wondering what relevance NATO had in today's world. This would of course be the favoured understanding of France, Germany and Russia; America's influence in Europe wasn't necessary, nor wanted. The NATO meeting was followed by a busy tour by Medvedev of European capitals. Russia is anxious to anchor herself in Europe, replacing the role that America had formally played.

Russia's Intensifying Diplomatic Courtship of Europe

This was the headline to a comprehensive look by *Stratfor* 7-Dec-10 at why Russia is seeking friendship with the EU countries.

Russian President Dmitri Medvedev and Prime Minister Vladimir Putin are engaged in a flurry of diplomatic activity aimed at Poland, Italy and the European Union. The moves are designed to strengthen Moscow's relations with key players in Europe, other than France and Germany, to smooth the way for **Russia's resurgence in its near abroad.**

Russia's relations with France and Germany, Europe's heavyweights, are at their best in decades. This gives Moscow the capacity to concentrate on other major European players. Poland, Italy and the EU are not as relevant as France and Germany, but each is important to Moscow in its own way. The timing of Moscow's diplomatic offensive is important; it follows a rather tepid NATO summit in Lisbon, where the alliance drew up a Strategic Concept that leaves many – especially in Central Europe – feeling that NATO is becoming irrelevant. **Europe appears to be receptive to Russia's advances,** and Moscow is making sure its relations with all the major European players are solid.

The EU Front After his meeting with the Polish leadership, Medvedev will make his way to Brussels on Dec. 7 for a Russia-EU summit with EU President Herman Van Rompuy and EU Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso. On the agenda are the potential for an EU visa waiver for Russia – an important domestic political issue for Moscow – and EU support for Russia's World Trade Organization bid, which Moscow is not necessarily too concerned about.

The most important issue for Russia regarding the European Union is to make sure that the various EU institutions – particularly the Commission – are not actively looking to curb Russian influence in Europe, particularly on the energy front. The European Commission attempted to rein in Russia by acting against the Polish-Russian natural gas deal, and Russia wants to be able to stop such activism. The visit is therefore as much about clearing the air between the EU

bureaucracy, which has often taken a slightly anti-Russian stance compared to Paris and Berlin, and Moscow as it is about specific proposals.

Russia's moves in Poland, Italy and the European Union are symbolic of a **confident and resurgent Russia**.

Germany and the Russian Scenario

Stratfor 25-May-10 ran an interesting article based upon a scenario of the EU's collapse, what would Germany do? There may well be a collapse of the euro; however the principles still stand if it didn't.

A great deal of potential synergy exists between the German and Russian economies. Germany imports large amounts of energy and other resources from Russia. Russia needs sources of technology and capital to move it beyond its current position of mere resource exporter. Germany has a shrinking population and needs a source of labor – preferably a source that doesn't actually want to move to Germany. Russia's Soviet-era economy continues to de-industrialize, and while that has a plethora of negative impacts, there is one often-overlooked positive: Russia now has more labor than it can effectively metabolize in its economy given its capital structure. Germany doesn't want more immigrants but needs access to labor. Russia wants factories in Russia to employ its surplus work force, and it wants technology. The logic of the German-Russian economic relationship is more obvious than the German-Greek or German-Spanish relationship.

Therefore, if we simply focus on economics, and we assume that the EU cannot survive as an integrated system (a logical but not yet proven outcome), and we further assume that Germany is both the leading power of Europe and incapable of operating outside of a coalition, then we would argue that a German coalition with Russia is the most logical outcome of an EU decline.

The current economic problems may lead to a fundamental weakening of the EU. **Germany is economically powerful but needs economic coalition partners that contribute to German well-being rather than merely draw on it. A Russian-German relationship could logically emerge from this.** ... The Russian-German bloc would attempt to bring others into its coalition.

Gog, Magog and the Prince of Rosh

What a fascinating scenario, especially if we add the driving force behind many of these moves – the Vatican. If euro problems weaken the spending of the euro-zone – a quite foreseeable situation – then this would push Germany to increase links with Russia which could satisfy her market needs. The Vatican and the Russian Churches would see the value of this as both would be significantly strengthened, and both seek greater roles in the everyday life of their communities. And, if we are correct in our traditional understanding that Magog points to Germany, the dominant power would be Magog,. And of the two spiritual leaders, the dominant one would be the Vatican whose followers outnumber the other's many times over! A potential leader of such a coalition would surely be Georgy [Georgiy/Georgii] Romanov. His father is a German Prince and his mother a Russian Princess, he is

the one the Russian people regard as the legitimate heir to the Romanov throne. He would be Prince of Rosh, Meschech and Tubal – Russia – and of the Land of Magog – Germany!

In June, following the death of Georgy's grandmother in Spain, the Russia Patriarch Kirill wrote to his mother expressing his condolences; it opened:

To Her Imperial Highness
Grand Duchess Maria Wladimirovna
Head of the Russian Imperial House
Your Imperial Highness!

It was clear from the tone of the letter that the Russian Orthodox Church considers their claim to the throne to be genuine. Georgy will be 30 in 2011; here is an abridged biography from his mother's website – excuse the maternal bias!

The early childhood of the Tsarevich [= the tsars' son] was spent in St. Briac, France, and then in Paris. Until 1999, he principally lived in Madrid where He completed college. He later studied at Oxford. From the time of His early childhood, the Grand Duke was educated in the spirit of the Orthodox Faith and in the awareness of His regal duty to His homeland.

The Tsarevich first visited Russia in April 1992, to attend the funeral of the Grand Duke Wladimir III Kirillovich. Since then He has been many times in the Fatherland, always showing a lively interest in all aspects of the life of the people. Russia's ancient Orthodox churches, and what He considers their uniquely special prayerful atmosphere, have made an indelible impression on him. Visits to military establishments and discussions with soldiers, sailors and officers of the Russian Army and Navy also interest and please Him deeply.

The Tsarevich knows well and participates in the services of the Orthodox Church. In 1997, during the pilgrimage of the Imperial Family to the Holy Land, the Tsarevich took **His dynastic oath to the Fatherland** and to His August Mother. **The ceremony took place in Jerusalem**, in the Throne Room of the Patriarch's residence, where the oath of His Imperial Highness was received by the Eminent Hierarch of the Holy Church and strict guardian of the purity of Orthodoxy, Patriarch Diodor of Jerusalem. The Patriarch gave His blessings to the Grand Duke and **His prayer that the Grand Duke could defend the Orthodox Faith, serve Russia and her people, and inviolably preserve laws of the Russian Imperial Dynasty.** *www.imperialhouse.ru*

Georgy initially worked for the European Parliament in Brussels, but in Dec 2008 he was appointed advisor to the General Director of MMC Norilsk Nickel. Its website describes the company as the:

Largest diversified mining and metals company in Russia, the world's largest producer of nickel and palladium and one of the world's largest producers of platinum, rhodium, copper and cobalt. It produces a large number of other by-products, including gold, silver, tellurium, selenium, iridium and ruthenium.

Just the kind of things that Germany needs as an advanced manufacturing country! Georgy also sits on the Board of the Nickel Advisory Council.

Georgy Romanov visits the Pope

This must surely have been a most significant visit, which took place in mid-December and was with the blessing of the Russian Patriarch Kirill. Georgy and his mother were welcomed by the Pope, who “**praised the work of the Russian Imperial House and attaches great importance to its efforts for the spiritual revival of Russia.**” He asked them to convey to Kirill his willingness to work with the Russian Church in overcoming the problems of today. *Royal Russia* 29-Dec-10

An article covering the unveiling of a bronze bust of the last Emperor, Nicholas II, on the spot where for decades a statue of Lenin had stood, commented:

After the Revolution, the Bolsheviks destroyed statues and monuments of the Romanovs all across Russia. The new monument in Shushenskoye is the latest in a series of monuments that have been erected in cities and towns across Russia in recent years, not just to Nicholas II, but other emperors and empresses as well. It is interesting to note that while most statues and monuments to Lenin have disappeared from the Russian landscape since the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991, many new monuments of the former Romanov rulers are returning. Perhaps Russians are at last coming to terms with their past and re-evaluating the life and times of Nicholas II and the role of the monarchy in the context of their fascinating but turbulent history. *Royal Russia* 1-Jan-11

Russia – virtually authoritarian

This year we do not have a specific chapter on Russia, so here are a few items.

In December *The Economist Intelligence Unit* released its 2010 Democracy Index. Out of 167 countries, Russia was ranked 107th in terms of the quality of its democracy and only six spots away from being considered an authoritarian one.

Although the formal trappings of democracy remain in place, today’s Russia has been called a “stage managed” democracy. All the main decisions are made by a small group of insiders. The Duma is now little more than a rubber-stamp parliament; regional governors are appointed directly; the main media are state-controlled; civil society organisations have come under pressure; and the state has increased its hold over the economy. *Economist Intelligence Unit* Dec-10

Bro Thomas often uses the phrase “The Autocrat” when describing Russia; in his day this was an official title for the Emperor. *Isaiah 14:25* describes the latter-day invader of Israel as *the Assyrian*; whose leaders were brutal and autocratic. After a brief dalliance with democracy Russia is sliding back to her autocratic ways.

Russia had the worst drought for a century and fires badly affecting their harvest, leading to a grain export ban. However, arms exports have had a bumper year.

Russia’s Rosobornexport arms exports at record high

Russia’s state arms exporting agency, Rosoboronexport, stated that 2010 is ending on a high note. Rosoboronexport oversees the production of Russian

Defense Industrial Complex, consisting of more than 1,500 research institutes, design bureaus and manufacturing plants and accounts for more than 90 percent of Russia's annual arms sales.

According to Russian Deputy Prime Minister Sergei Ivanov, Rosoboronexport's exports in 2010 will exceed \$10 billion, second only to U.S. arms exports. It exports its products to 60 countries mainly in Southeast Asia, the Far East, and the Middle East, raising concerns in both the United States and Israel, as some of the weaponry goes to countries such as Syria and Venezuela. *UPI* 23-Dec-10

Medvedev is busy restructuring the Russian armed forces. A shadow of their former self following the demise of the Soviet, their rebuilding is now a priority. Money is being found to boost spending budgets massively.

Russia Boosts Arms Spree to \$613 Billion, Seeks U.S. Technology

Russia plans to spend 19 trillion rubles (\$613 billion) over the next decade to equip its armed forces with the latest weaponry, including what may be the first purchases of U.S. military technology since World War II.

The Defense, Finance and Economy Ministries are in the final stages of approving a plan to increase the 2011-2020 arms budget by 46% from the previous estimate of 13 trillion rubles, Serdyukov said after returning from talks with the U.S. Defense Secretary in Washington. *Bloomberg* 21-Sep-10

At the end of the year Russia agreed to purchase at least two French advanced Mistral-class amphibious warships "in an unprecedented military deal".

The multimillion-dollar sale, announced jointly by the Elysee Palace and the Kremlin, marks the first time in modern history that Russia has made such a major defense acquisition abroad, illuminating a fast-evolving relationship with former Cold War enemies. *Washington Post* 25-Dec-10.

This is part of Russia's drive to rebuild her Black Sea fleet.

Russia Revives Its Imperial Fleets

Russia has committed over \$3 billion to start rebuilding its Black Sea fleet. The new force will consist of six Tornado class missile boats, three Krivak IV frigates and three Kilo class submarines. There will also be a dozen mine sweepers, amphibious craft and smaller patrol boats, plus about twenty support ships and a few dozen aircraft and helicopters. Russia needs a Black Sea fleet that is modern and capable, because this force does more than just look after Russian interests in the Black Sea. These ships are also needed for any emergencies in the Mediterranean or the Indian Ocean. *Strategypage* 23-Aug-10

Scripture speaks of the King of the North coming "with many ships" *Dan 11:40*; so it is evident that Russia must have a strong naval force at the time of the end. New naval bases are being constructed in Abkhazia, a breakaway part of Georgia bordering the Black Sea. The Russian's are continuing to expand port facilities in Tartus in Syria and negotiations are taking place too for bases in Libya and Yemen. *Our 2nd part looks at the Southern grouping of nations. First some prophecies.*

Chapter 9:

PROPHECIES ABOUT ISRAEL'S ALLIES

Before turning to our second part of Milestones which looks at the nations in the opposite camp to those we have been considering, we want to take a brief survey of the relevant prophecies that cover the southern Arab nations in the King of the South region and their relationship to the wider powers of Britain and America who operate in the region. Some basic matters have already been dealt with so we concentrate on what we call the Tarshish and her young lions aspect.

The Tarshish powers of old

In Old Testament times there appear to have been two Tarshish powers – one in the west accessible from Joppa (*Jonah 1:3*) and one in the East accessible from Ezion-geber (*1 Kgs 9:26*). We read of the ships of Solomon going on a 3 year round trip to the eastern Tarshish.

For the king's ships went to Tarshish with the servants of Hiram: every three years once came the ships of Tarshish bringing gold, and silver, ivory, and apes, and peacocks. 2 Chron 9:21

Peacocks point to India as the destination of these ships.

The western Tarshish accessible from Joppa has long been identified with Britain from the description in Ezekiel ch 27.

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. All the four metals of Ezekiel were mined in ancient Britain, as far back as Ezekiel's era.

The Merchants of Tarshish and her young lions

It is a cryptic verse in Ezekiel 38 that relates the merchants of Tarshish to the southern Arab area.

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 [Sri Lanka] 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 points 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

Either translation puts this Dedan in the region of Teman. This would be the Abrahamic line of Dedan, located in the NW region of Saudi Arabia.

Sheba

I have not been able to identify separate territories for the Cushite and Abrahamic Shebas – 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*). Verse 23 seems to be peoples on the trade route from Babylon to Syria, some of whom were merchants who traded with Sheba.

Her Young lions

The lions associated with the Merchants of Tarshish are young, not cubs, but independent, able to catch their own prey, but prepared to work with the mother when needs arise. The Queen is the Head of a Commonwealth of Nations, originally these were Britain's former colonies, but many more nations have joined. It seems fitting to see in these former colonies the answer as to whom the young lions represent. There is no other voluntary grouping of nations that associates with a "mother" country that remotely comes near to that of America, Canada, India, Australia and others with Britain. The fact that they are all heavily involved in the Middle East and are friendly to Israel confirms our traditional view. As do the strong links between Britain and India, the two Tarshish locations. There are over 1.6 million people of Indian origin living in Britain and India is second only to the US as the largest overseas investor in Britain. Also interestingly Israel has strong links to India as well as to Britain.

An important observation

Ezekiel 38:13 tells us that both Sheba and Dedan as well as the Merchants and her young lions, speak out against Israel's invasion. In the past we perhaps emphasised the Merchants part in the opposition. But we must not neglect the opposition role of Sheba & Dedan. As we look at the events of last year we shall see this fundamental shift in attitude, Israel's former enemies are looking to Israel for help – in this case against Iran.

We now look at Israel and the remarkable changes there.

Chapter 10:

ISRAEL – FAST BECOMING A DESIRABLE PREY

The change in Israel's economic strength over the past 25 years has been remarkable. In last year's Milestones we referred to the book Israel Test published in 2009 which detailed the changes from a "basket-case" in the mid '80's to a "luminous first" in so many fields. 25 years ago the trade unions ruled, now the key is entrepreneurial start-ups. Inflation was peaking at nearly 1000%, now it is around 2%. Unemployment was in the 20% range, now it is below 7% in spite of a constant stream of new immigrants. Corporation tax rate was 60%, now it is a modest 26%. Much of the credit for Israel's economic growth (from a human viewpoint!) belongs to the current Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, whose financial and market reforms transformed Israel's economy.

Another book, published in November 2009 entitled Start-up Nation. The Story of Israel's Economic Miracle continues to document Israel's remarkable achievements in setting up new companies.

Israel's adversity-driven culture fosters a unique combination of innovation and entrepreneurial intensity. "When an Israeli entrepreneur has a business idea, he will start it that week," one analyst put it. (From cover)

At the same time as this economic "revolution" has come an amazing sequence of energy finds. After years of drilling in vain for the oil and gas reserves which her Arab neighbours seem to be abundantly blessed with, the tide has turned. Off Israel's shores abundant supplies of gas and now possibly oil have been located. What an incredibly exciting time it is for Zion's watchmen as we see the transformation of this country, just at the right time for her to be a desirable spoil and prey.



Mark Twain in the Holy Land, 1867

Mark Twain visited the Holy Land in 1867, and published his impressions in *Innocents Abroad*.

"A desolate country whose soil is rich enough, but is given over wholly to weeds... a silent mournful expanse.... a desolation.... we never saw a human being on the whole route.... hardly a tree or shrub anywhere. Even the olive tree and the cactus, those fast friends of a worthless soil, had almost deserted the country."

He was amazed by the smallness of the city of Jerusalem:

"A fast walker could go outside the walls of Jerusalem and walk entirely around the city in an hour. I do not know how else to make one understand how small it is."

He would be amazed at the transformation today! Let's see the growing potential for Israel to be very wealthy.

Israel's Economy Seems Immune to Political Turmoil

Against the backdrop of daily news about anti-Israel boycotts, international condemnations, and a cabinet session devoted to efforts to de-legitimize the Jewish state, Israel's financial profile continues to soar. On Tuesday, all equity sectors in the Israeli stock market were "green" as the benchmark index edged toward a record high. Energy stocks, real estate companies and Israel Chemicals were cited by *Market Watch* as leading the charge upward. Even mass coverage of a heated debate on whether government royalties on recently-discovered gas fields should be increased failed to dampen the ability of those companies involved in the venture to improve their positions. Israel has drawn the attention of the world financial market for its ability to remain virtually unscathed by the recent world economic turndown. *MidEast Daily News* 6-Oct-10

In September, Stanley Fischer Governor of the Bank of Israel was named as one of the top 10 central bankers by the renowned *Global Finance* magazine. *Euromoney*, an international magazine specialized in banking and finance gave him the title of the "central bank governor of the year" "for successfully managing the economy through the aftermath of the global financial crisis". Fischer's outstanding performances contributed to Israel's admittance to the prestigious OECD earlier this year. *ICEJ* 11-Oct-10

Warren Buffet: Israel has a surplus of brains

Buffet is considered one of the world's leading investors. On the occasion of a visit to Israel to address the first annual Industry, Trade and Labour Ministry socioeconomic conference, he was asked why he was bothering with the small Jewish state.

Buffet explained that Israel has a surplus of human ingenuity that he just can't ignore.

"If you're going to the Middle East to look for oil, you can skip Israel, however, if you're looking for brains, look no further. Israel has shown that it has a disproportionate amount of brains and energy." *Israel Today* 14-Oct-10

How Israel's Biotech Industries Benefit Israel – and World

Scientists throughout Israel's universities and hospitals are developing innovative new biotechnologies: Israel earns \$3 billion a year from the field.

A review of the field on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs website notes that internationally-sold blockbuster prescription drugs that treat multiple sclerosis, cancer, Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases derive from Israeli biotechnology.

In addition, Israeli research is at the forefront of the emerging fields of stem-cell therapy and genomics.

Israel's biotech industry is the most aggressive in the world, with more startups per capita than any other country. Its 180 biotech companies are creating

therapeutic products, diagnostic tools and revolutionary drug-delivery techniques benefiting people all over the world.

While Israeli biotechnology embraces the whole biotech sphere, from animal vaccines and diagnostics to plant tissue culture, bioreactors, seeds, diagnostics and bio-pesticides, its emphasis is firmly on medical agents, diagnostics, and cell- and tissue-therapies. Some 60% of Israeli biotech focuses on human therapeutics, including drug discovery, cell therapy and genetics. A further 20% of Israeli biotech companies produce diagnostic kits. *A7 News* 4 Nov-10

Some of Israel's military achievements are staggering. They now have a device that enables a soldier to see through a solid wall!

Israeli Company Develops Through-Wall Vision System

Through-Wall Vision: The Israeli company Camero has developed a piece of equipment that will greatly help soldiers and law enforcement officials throughout the world. The device enables you to know where people are located in a room in real time before having to enter it. The Xavier 400 is about the size of a laptop computer weighing under 3kg including the battery. It also has an optimized design for tactical operations which makes it easy to carry around by combat soldiers in the field.

The Xavier 400 system is able to locate images through walls using electromagnetic pulses and is able to provide quick location and number of people hidden by walls and barriers. *IDF Spokesperson* 30-Apr-10

It has already been successfully used in another country to free a girl held hostage.

Israeli technology has also developed the reverse of this – the ability to make tanks and other objects invisible!

New Israeli technology, making a tank disappear

In the modern battlefield, as thermal imaging and radar detection systems grow more sophisticated by the day, war machines are increasingly vulnerable to enemy fire. Would an armored battalion commander want to be able to make his tanks simply vanish from enemy eyes? You can bet on it.

Elitics Ltd., an Israeli start-up that develops electronic warfare systems, says it has come up with technology that will eventually turn fantasy into reality – a system that can make tanks, armored personnel carriers, helicopter gunships and even naval vessels invisible to night vision systems and heat-seeking missiles.

The Black Fox system equips any tank, helicopter or ship with a FLIR camera that photographs the surroundings in which they are operating. The system then analyzes the area's thermal signature and screens the exact same signature onto plates fitted on the machine, thus enabling it to completely disintegrate from sight.

“A tank, armored personnel carrier or ship, equipped with this system, become invisible to thermal night vision systems, guided missiles and a missile's sight,”

explained Eltics CEO Ronen Meir “The Eltics system promises something that has never been done before.” *Xinhua* 5-May-10

Israel's natural-gas bonanza

We commented last year on the string of natural gas finds off the coast, but within Israel's territory. The story only gets better from the viewpoint of even greater wealth. The big Tamar field has had its potential upgraded several times in the past 12 months. It is now estimated to hold 256bn M³ of gas. Three more finds have been reported; the Sarah and Mira fields have a combined estimated volume of 161bn M³ but the Leviathan field is bigger still!

Noble confirmed its earlier estimates that the field contains 450 billion M³ of gas – making it the world's biggest deepwater gas find in a decade, with enough reserves to supply Israel's gas needs for 100 years.

It's still early days, and getting all that gas out of the seabed may be more difficult than it seems today. But Noble and its partners think the field could hold enough gas to transform Israel, a country precariously dependent on others for energy, into a net-energy exporter.

Such a transformation could potentially alter the geopolitical balance of the Mideast, giving Israel a new economic advantage over its enemies. *Wall St Journal* 30-Dec-10

There are reports that there is possibly 4 billion barrels of oil amongst the gas.

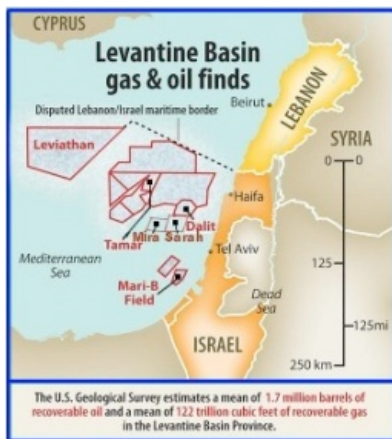
The energy in Leviathan's “belly” has been estimated to be worth up to \$95bn!

Before this find, Israel was ranked No. 4 in Europe (excluding Russia) for gas reserves, after Norway, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. Israel's population is only 1/8th that of the UK so the potential wealth is very great.

New Survey Indicates Large Oil Field Buried Under Negev Sand

A new preliminary geological survey indicates 26 million barrels of recoverable oil – worth \$2 billion – may be sitting underneath the sandy soil in the area of two kibbutzim in the Western Negev, near Gaza.

Energtek announced it has received a geological survey on the Nir-am-Sa'ad block, “identifying the potential for exploitable oil and natural gas reserves.” Its subsidiary Energtek Products has the exclusive license to explore and exploit the resources in the area. Besides the [26m barrels] estimates of oil at a depth of 2,000 meters, or approximately a mile and a quarter, the preliminary survey also reports an additional estimate of 12 million barrels of recoverable oil at depths of up to 4,000 meters, worth \$900m at current prices.



The area is adjacent to the small Heletz oil field, which so far has produced more than 16 million barrels of oil. If the new field is drilled, it will be the first deep-well drilling in the area in decades. *A7 News* 18-Oct-10

Israel also sits on large deposits of phosphate, an important fertiliser. Just one deposit near Arad is said to be worth £17bn; no wonder it is called “white gold”!

We close this section of this chapter with a comment on Israel’s extra-ordinary position.

Extraordinarily Ordinary Israel

Although Israel is the only “Jewish State” in the world, in truth it functions much like any western European country. Like England, it flies its religious emblem on its flag; like Italy, its capital contains a global center of worship; and like France, its citizens are very likely to protest in the streets and express dissent. Israel also functions under this “ethnic democracy” model, in which the state is proud to proclaim Judaism as its ethnic, religious, and cultural heritage – without limiting the religious freedom of minority populations. Israel’s heritage is unique among the nations, as any country’s heritage should be, yet the way it preserves its heritage is completely like a traditional European ethnic democracy does. And, as in European nations, this does not detract from Israel’s function as a liberal democracy. Yet, somehow Israelis were able to get their economy in shape. Although it was considered a developing country until the late ‘70s, Israel, a country the size of New Jersey with a smaller population than Chicago’s metropolitan area, has become an economic powerhouse in the world market, and has recently joined the prestigious Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. It ranks third worldwide (behind America and Canada) in the number of companies traded on Wall Street; second in the amount of venture capital funding received and amount of books published per capita; and first in the number of patents per capita, scientific journals per capita, and scientists per capita. Innovation and improvisation is prevalent in Israeli society (third-highest rate of entrepreneurship worldwide), allowing Israel to create some of the most advanced technology in the world. Aside from developing the first cell phone technology with Motorola, Israelis have also invented voicemail technology, AOL Instant Messenger, ingestible video cameras, and drip irrigation (which saved Israel from droughts). Israel managed to accomplish all this in 62 years, even though it was and still is boycotted by most Arab countries.

Israel remains the only ethnic, liberal, capitalist, “melting-pot” democracy in the Middle East; the ongoing conflict shouldn’t cause the world to forget how extraordinarily ordinary Israel truly is. *The Harvard Crimson* 16-Oct-10

We now want to look at the Middle East Peace talks and then finally at her relations with her Palestinian neighbours.

Peace talks peter out – again

Israel’s Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and the Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas met in Washington on September 2nd with President Obama, Secretary of

State Hillary Clinton, President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, King Abdullah of Jordan and Tony Blair for the “Quartet” all present to urge them on.

Talks then moved to Sharm el-Sheik, now in Egypt, on the Red Sea in the south of the Sinai Peninsula on Sept 15th and to Jerusalem the following day.

The talks came to an end with Israel’s reluctance to extend the settlement freeze. To encourage peace talks, last November Prime Minister Netanyahu froze all new settlement building for a period of 10 months. This ran out on September 26th, and so far he has resisted calls to extend it. There is little support in Israel for its extension. It was not Israel’s fault, they argue, that the Palestinians waited until it had nearly run out before starting talks. As the Palestinians have yet to recognise the right of Israel to exist as a state; and as incitement against Israel continues with articles looking forward to the destruction of Israel, still pouring out of the Arab press, it confirms to most Israelis that the Palestinians are not interested in making peace with Israel. After a period of America pressurising Israel to extend the freeze, Obama realised the futility of the exercise and indicated that any talks would continue on an indirect basis rather than a face to face basis.

The Palestinians (we use that term conventionally) are forthright that they are prepared to establish a State without the agreement of Israel. They are seeking UN backing for their claim. Israel is naturally concerned at this possibility, because it does not resolve the many issues between them. One issue is the recognition of Israel’s right to exist in peace, a matter which they do not agree with. Israel exists – they admit they can’t argue with that fact, but Israel existing in peace and security they refuse to acknowledge. Neither will they agree to any Israeli settlements within their territory.

No room for Israelis in Palestinian state

Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas announced on Saturday that when a Palestinian state is established, it will have no Israelis in it.

“We have frankly said, and always will say: If there is an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital, we won’t agree to the presence of one Israeli in it,” Abbas told reporters in Ramallah. *Jerusalem Post* 25-Dec-10

Israel has always envisioned that any future Palestinian State would not be allowed its own army – Israel would be responsible for security.

Although the press hypes up the expansion of Israeli settlements on the West Bank, they occupy less than 5% of the West Bank area and the majority of any new building is within the boundaries of the settlement. These are mainly occupied by the fervent religious settlers who have large families so pressure on space is enormous. The majority are peace-loving people who recognise that this is the land promised by God to their forefathers and who educate their children in an understanding of the Torah. Children learn the scriptures off by heart.

Palestinians set their sights on all of Jerusalem

The Palestinian Authority on Sunday again reiterated to its own people in Arabic that the ultimate goal in regards to Jerusalem is to wrest control of the

entire city from Israel. And once again, the international media ignored the nefarious agenda that the Palestinians themselves admit they have. *Israel Today* 7-Sep-10

PA on-course for August 2011 Statehood

Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Salam Fayyad told Israeli television on Saturday that plans for statehood by August 2011 are on course and that there are no plans for a unilateral declaration before then. It was Fayyad who launched the plan for perfecting institutions and infrastructure necessary to support a state and then declare statehood – within a two-year time frame from the time the plan was launched. The two-years lapse in August. As U.S.-brokered talks between Israel and the Palestinians stagnate, Palestinian leaders have been threatening to move to a “Plan B” – turning to the United Nations for international support for a Palestinian state. Earlier this month, three South American nations extended recognition of the Palestinian state, causing both Washington and Jerusalem to charge that such actions harm rather than support peace-making efforts. *MidEast Daily News* 19-Dec-10

The three South American countries – Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay – have recognised such a state, whilst as yet there is no state to recognise! It surely is not a coincidence that these are strongly Roman Catholic countries? The EU seems to be indicating its support too! Many countries – the EU and Britain among them – are preparing to upgrade the Palestinian status as this next report indicates.

World inches closer to recognizing ‘Palestine’

Israel was shocked to learn on Monday that Britain is seriously considering upgrading the status of the Palestinian Authority delegation in London to that of an official diplomatic mission, putting it basically on par with the delegations of sovereign states.

The news, which was first reported by Israel’s *Ynet* news portal, was especially surprising considering that Britain’s current conservative government is viewed as generally pro-Israel. France, Spain and Portugal have all already done so.

Israel fears that the next step for the Europeans is to officially recognize “Palestine” as an independent state outside the framework of an Israeli-Palestinian final status peace agreement. Most of South America has already gone so far as to officially recognize “Palestine.” *Israel Today* 27-Dec-10

This would be disastrous for Israel. It may be that the deteriorating situation in Gaza will cause Israel to launch “Cast Lead II”. Benjamin Netanyahu was critical of the then Prime Minister Olmert’s handling of the war; we could expect a much more aggressive dealing with terrorism in Gaza under Netanyahu. Let’s briefly review the situation in Gaza.

Breaking the Gaza “Blockade”

The press delight in painting a picture of Gaza under siege because of the Israeli occupation. This ignores the fact that Israel pulled out in 2005 and the area is ruled

by Hamas. Visitors are amazed to see the shops well stocked, Olympic sized swimming pools, sea-side resorts.

“There are a slew of products here, and beautiful restaurants. Is this the Gaza we have been hearing about?” asked a Sudanese official arriving there, as quoted by the Palestinian news agency *Maan*. “Where is the siege? I don’t see it in Gaza. I wish Sudan’s residents could live under the conditions of the Gazan siege.” *gloria-center.org* 13-Dec-10

There were several attempts to break the blockade that Israel holds over Gaza’s port. No vessels are allowed to dock there; all cargoes have to be landed at Ashdod, checked for weapons and other items that Israel refuses to allow to be used by Hamas – a terrorist organisation. A vast array of goods is transported daily into the Gaza Strip. The easing of restrictions this year hit the tunnelling operators hard. There was a glut of produce in the shops. Entrepreneurial as ever, they are now using the underground smuggling tunnels to take goods out of Gaza and selling them at a profit in the Egyptian markets! It would appear that the efforts on the part of Egypt to cut down the use of these smuggling tunnels by driving deep steel piles along the border, hoping to block them, didn’t really work. Many were re-opened by using acetylene torches to cut holes through the steel!

The Turkish attempt to break the siege resulting in several deaths has been outlined in chapter 3. Interestingly the “humanitarian aid” turned out not to be what conventionally passes as humanitarian aid (basic foodstuffs, new and functional equipment, fresh medicines). Most of the medicines were near or past their use by date; hospital equipment was badly packed and non-sterile and many of the clothes and shoes were used and well worn. Construction material included rubble. According to the Israelis there was nothing on board which was in short supply in Gaza.

The aftermath was predictable – the whole world was quick to condemn Israel for the deaths. Later of course the actual details were revealed. One hundred of the *Mavi Marmara*’s passengers were known activists, who had smuggled weapons on board as well as equipment to cut up the railings to make iron bars with which to resist any boarding. Several had expressed a desire to die as martyrs in their bid to break the siege.

Israel has had to face other attempts to break the blockage, but so far without further bloodshed. Supplies have flowed in by land and Israel has started to allow exports of flowers and produce. The situation however is very tense, rocket attacks have escalated, with Hamas using more sophisticated weapons. Israel responds by attacking smuggling tunnels and known terrorist hideouts.

Israel and the West Bank

When Mr Netanyahu became Prime Minister in 2009, he set out a policy to build peace with the West Bank Palestinians from “the ground up”. He could see that peace talks were a futile exercise whilst the Arab leaders continued to spread anti-Israel propaganda; the only real prospect was either through force of arms or economic growth. The principles that had brought great changes in Israel could be

used on the West Bank. The Palestinian Authority had cooperated with Israeli military forces to root out terrorist cells in the West Bank. The need for Israeli incursions to snatch terrorists had greatly fallen; US trained Palestinian police and National Security forces have increasingly taken over the role. Now was the time to try to boost living standards so that the people would not want to lose the benefits gained, by having another intifada. During 2010 the number of road blocks has been greatly reduced; crossing points into Jordan and Israel have had their opening times extended and the flow of traffic speeded up.

The results can be seen in the rapid development of the town centres – new shopping malls filled with a wide range of goods; in the appearance of expensive cars on the roads; in the numbers of restaurants; in Palestinians encouraging Jews to come and shop and visit Arab towns.

Britain's role in keeping the peace on the West Bank

Interestingly too, Britain has played an important but unsung role. Here are some extracts from a lengthy *BICOM* 1-Dec-10 report which was headed. *All quiet in the West Bank?*

The West Bank is more secure now than at any point since the outbreak of the first Intifada, over twenty years ago, and the current situation is undoubtedly creating a more supportive environment for negotiations.

* The improved security situation cannot be isolated from the wider state-building programme championed by Prime Minister Salam Fayyad.

* The encouraging performance of the Palestinian National Security Forces is the most important calculation in the IDF's decision to withdraw from the Palestinian towns and to reduce overall troop numbers.

*** Britain plays a crucial role in supporting the security reforms on the ground that benefit both Palestinians and Israelis.**

* However, concerns about human rights abuses by Palestinian security forces and Israeli fears that Palestinian guns will once again be turned on them remain.

Recent reports suggest that the security situation in the West Bank is better now than at any point in the last twenty years. The Palestinian police and the National Security Force gendarmerie are out on the streets, keeping the peace. The IDF, on the other hand, currently deploys fewer troops in the West Bank than at any time since the late 1980s. Barriers to movement and access have been reduced, and the economy of the West Bank grew at 9% in the first half of 2010.

The collapse of Palestinian Authority (PA) in Gaza in June 2007 marked a significant turning point in the approach of Israel, the US government, and other western allies, to Palestinian affairs. International relations with Ramallah were severed after the January 2006 election brought Hamas to power, but the split between the Fatah-controlled West Bank and the Hamas-dominated Gaza Strip opened up a new chapter. The Bush administration ended its embargo of the PA, Israel released tax revenues totalling \$500m, and the PA mounted a major

offensive against Hamas controlled or influenced institutions and businesses in the West Bank. Where interests were opposed, now they were in line; Israelis, Americans and Palestinians now wanted to oppose any Hamas influence in the West Bank, and the most effective way to do this was to ensure that the PA was fully in control.

Whilst the USSC mission is led, financed and largely staffed by the US; **British and other nationals are able to move around the West Bank more easily than their American counterparts.** Consequently, the USSC detachment of military and civilian advisors in Ramallah is **led and largely staffed by British nationals.** The detachment, which reports to the United States Security Coordinator, Lt-Gen Michael Moeller, is properly referred to as USSC-Ramallah. However, since its leader and **largest single contingent are from the UK, it is also sometimes referred to as the British Support Team.** Building on Britain's long experience in mentoring foreign forces, this team is at the **forefront** of building local leadership capacity across the various security agencies, through the Senior Leadership Course (SLC). The SLC is the only formal command and staff training in the PA that brings together police, NSF, Presidential Guard, Intelligence, Preventative Security and others, creating cadres of future leadership.

Ramallah, rather than Jerusalem, the de facto capital

Facts on the ground have shifted the Palestinians hopes of their capital from Jerusalem to Ramallah, some 6 miles north of Jerusalem, as this next report details.

A building frenzy that is transforming Ramallah's skyline is also consolidating its position as the de facto Palestinian capital. Once a village outside Jerusalem, the West Bank city increasingly appears to be assuming the role marked out for East Jerusalem in the Palestinians' statehood plans.

Smart hotels and apartment blocks are rising from the hilly terrain, a new presidential palace is under construction and the Palestinians are building new ministries for their government rather than continuing to rent out office space.

The Palestinian Authority, based in Ramallah since it was set up in 1994, says such projects are cost-driven. Renting is expensive, it says.

Establishing sovereignty over East Jerusalem remains at the heart of the Palestinians' national agenda. But the two-decade old peace process which they hoped would deliver them the city as part of a state is foundering.

Israel, meanwhile, has deepened its control over Jerusalem, which it describes as its "eternal and indivisible" capital, while Ramallah is deepening its roots as the Palestinians' administrative and economic hub. *Reuters* 30-Nov-10

We now turn to the wider Middle East situation.

Chapter 11:

THE MIDDLE EAST – SOUTHERN ALLIANCES

In chapter 3 we looked at the amazing changes in the northern grouping of nations in the Middle East. We now return and see the equally remarkable situation in the Arabian Gulf. These States, driven by their fear of Iran's war-like intentions, who have in the past voiced their hatred of Israel, are now seeing the wisdom of having Israel as an important bulwark. The WikiLeaks revelations of what is said in confidence is very revealing. These States fear Iran far more than they do Israel. Furthermore they are looking to America and Israel to thwart Iran's nuclear ambitions.

Egypt

Egypt has the biggest Middle East population, (followed closely by Iran and Turkey and then with about 1/3rd the population, Saudi Arabia). Egypt was the first Arab country to make peace with Israel; although it has been described as a very cold peace. It has brought some benefits but these could have been much greater if the Egyptians had been more willing to work with Israel. However, the situation is changing. As Iran becomes increasingly belligerent, President Mubarak has been cooperating with Israel, quietly at first, but now more openly. Israeli intelligence has enabled the Egyptians to avoid terrorist attacks on the Suez Canal at least 3 times. Egypt shares Israel's aversion to Hamas – they are as much a threat to Egypt as they are to Israel.

Egypt, with US help, has tried to block the Hamas smuggling tunnels by driving a barrier of steel deep into the desert sand. They have allowed Israel's submarines to traverse the Suez Canal on their way to operations off Iran, an action unthinkable a few years ago! Egypt is supplying natural gas to Israel through a pipeline from Arish which runs to the power station at Ashkelon.

Uncertainty surrounds the ill health of Pres. Mubarak. Who will succeed? His son Gamal (often called Jimmy) appeared until recently to be the favoured replacement, but according to *Debka* 10-Dec-10, his mother is opposed to him running for office. A change in president could either improve, or hinder, a warmer relationship with Israel.

Egypt receives large subsidies from America to help anchor her to the West, recently worth some \$1.5bn. a year. Much of Egypt's military equipment has been supplied by America.

Centamin starts gold exporting

Centamin, the Australian mining company who have been investing heavily in reviving Egypt's ancient gold mines, began exporting gold this year. They hope to sell 160,000 to 170,000 ounces by the year-end – it is being sold to the UK firm Johnson Matthey, which is refining the metal. Centamin are hoping to expand production. When the King of the North invades, he first comes down the coastline into Egypt before taking Jerusalem. Daniel describes in ch 11:42, 43:

... the land of Egypt shall not escape. But he shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt:

Silver is not found in Egypt, but gas and oil – and now gold – are part of the desirable things that Gog/The King of the North will aspire to lay his hands on. Egypt is ranked No. 17 in the world for gas reserves and No. 29 for oil reserves.

Egypt and Britain

The UK is the largest foreign investor in Egypt, with cumulative investments across a wide range of sectors, including oil and gas, financial services, tourism, pharmaceuticals, telecommunications, textiles and consumer goods estimated at £10 Billion. There are around 900 UK companies invested in Egypt, who are increasingly looking at Egypt as a hub from which to develop business in the region as a whole. *Foreign & Commonwealth Office website*

Egypt has hired one of the world's largest public relations firms, London based Bell Pottinger to rebrand its image of a place of poverty and corruption, to a country that has “moved on”, according to *The Media Line* 28-Dec-10.

We wait the time for Britain to be more actively involved in this country – a role she has played in the past and scripture would expect us to see again.

Saudi Arabia

2010 was the first time in the history of their armed forces that Saudi and Egyptian Special Forces had met for a joint exercise, Tabuk-2. Its goal was to turn back an Iranian offensive by attacking the attacker. The mock exercise was held in Egypt's Northern Desert. *Debka* 29-Oct-10 carried the details.

1. Tabuk-2 was only the first of a series of joint Saudi-Egyptian war games to strengthen their military cooperation and inculcate patterns of mutual defense.
2. An Egyptian expeditionary force made up of armored, naval, marine, air and commando detachments has scattered among Saudi military bases as a permanent outpost. It will stand ready for swift action at short notice in line with a strategic Saudi-Egyptian decision to have field units on the ready for instantaneous response to an Iranian attack on Saudi Arabia.
3. Egyptian and Saudi intelligence services have unified their Iran desks.
4. The day their war game ended, October 21, a huge new naval base was inaugurated at the United Arab Emirates port of Fujairah. The site is located at a focal point on the eastern coast of the emirate just opposite the Straits of Hormuz with links to the Arabian Sea and Indian Ocean.

In addition to the UAE navy, French and Egyptian naval and marine units will be stationed at this base – Egypt's first deployment for a role in defending the strategic oil transport waterway.

Saudi Arabia and the New Strategic Landscape

Two decades after the end of the Cold War, a new strategic landscape has appeared in the Middle East. No longer dominated by a U.S.-Soviet rivalry, this

new landscape is dominated by U.S.-Iranian confrontation. In this struggle, the United States' most important Arab ally, Saudi Arabia, plays a key role. As the Obama administration policies allow Iran to run out the clock on getting a nuclear weapon, it would appear from its recent policy moves that it believes Riyadh is primarily concerned with the Arab-Israeli conflict. While this is a concern in Saudi Arabia, it is far and away not the primary one. Indeed, there is no doubt that in its foreign policy Riyadh is much more worried about Iran's rise as a key regional actor.

But the depth of Saudi Arabian concern about Iran goes beyond the basic regional balance of power or balance of threat considerations, reaching deep into the regime's calculus about its own security. This magnifies many fold the importance to Saudi Arabia of confronting the Iranian-Shi'i threat. Much of the regime's legitimacy comes from its role as the guardian of Sunni orthodoxy, the majority branch of Islam and the branch followed by most Saudi Arabians.

If Iran gets the upper hand, the royal family may face serious threats by Saudi Arabian Sunni radicals determined to stop the spread of Shi'ism, and by Saudi Arabian Shi'a encouraged by the rise of Iran and its Shi'i regional allies. Both sides would seek to exploit the situation, leading to instability in Saudi Arabia and reverberations of further regional instability. *Meria* Sept 2010

US announces massive arms sale to Saudi Arabia

In its biggest arms deal ever, the United States announced it will sell up to 60 billion dollars worth of warplanes, helicopters and other weapons to Saudi Arabia, partly to help it counter Iran.

The plan allows for the sale of 84 F-15 fighter jets, 70 Apache attack helicopters, 72 tactical Black Hawk helicopters and 36 light helicopters, assistant secretary for political-military affairs Andrew Shapiro said.

The sale, which also includes the upgrade of 70 used F-15s, is "not to exceed 60 billion" dollars, Shapiro told reporters as President Barack Obama's administration notified Congress of its plans to make the deal. *AFP* 20-Oct-10

Gulf States

There are many small but important States along the Persian Gulf. Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman, United Arab Emirates, Dubai. These all fear Iran and look to America to come to their defence. Many are purchasing advanced weaponry – a reminder of the words of *Joel 3:10 Beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruninghooks into spears: let the weak say, I am strong.*

Gulf States in \$123bn US arms spree

The total value of all US arms deals with Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Oman and Kuwait is estimated at \$123bn over the next four years.

The Arab states of the Gulf have embarked on one of the largest re-armament exercises in peacetime history, ordering US weapons worth some \$123bn as they seek to counter Iran's military power. *Financial Times* 20-Sep-10

Israel

We come back to Israel in this review of Middle East Alliances, to see America and Britain's hand in Israeli affairs. We start by the military ties between Israel and America. The political coolness between Obama and Israel is not mirrored in the military ties. These have continued very much as normal under Obama. One after-effect of the US's decision to pull out of Iraq has been to provide Israel with more weaponry. Initially the military equipment was pulled down into Kuwait where America has her biggest Middle East base. Much of it was then redirected to Afghanistan; but a considerable number of tanks and armoured vehicles were driven across Jordan and into Israel. *Debka* 03-Sep-10 reported:

Tons of US War Equipment Shipped out of Iraq to Israel

Night after night, in the weeks leading up to the end of US combat mission in Iraq on Aug. 31, long American army convoys made their way from Iraq to Israel via Jordan. Their big lights were turned off as they travelled the Hashemite kingdom's roads with Jordanian Engineering Corps escorts. They switched on again after crossing the border posts and the bridges which separate the kingdom from Israel.

Most of the military equipment shipped out of Iraq goes to the largest American emergency depot in southern Kuwait and is redirected to Afghanistan to meet US military needs there.

The overflow was diverted through Aqaba, Jordan's Red Sea port into the Israeli Negev desert, some of it ending up in US emergency military depots here, **the second largest strategic reserve stores in the Middle East after the Kuwait depot.**

Some of the trucks also rumbled across the Damia Bridge, also known as the Adam Bridge which spans the Jordan River border, 30 miles north of Jericho, travelled for another hour and a half or so up to the big Israeli military maintenance bases near Haifa, in central Israel east of Tel Aviv or at Israel's Ben-Gurion International Airport.

According to DEBKA-Net-Weekly's military sources, the Pentagon calculated that it would not be cost-effective to ship the hundreds of tons of US military equipment evacuated from Iraq to Persian Gulf bases or America. Piling up now at US Negev facilities, they are being sorted and distributed for their next functions by hundreds of US maintenance personnel assisted by Israeli counterparts from the IDF's Supply and Ordnance Corps.

A high-ranking Israeli officer commenting: "The injection of American military equipment from Iraq has definitely boosted the quality of our operational fleet at several levels. We've been able to junk outdated items, some from the early 1990s and take several jumps ahead qualitatively."

Equipment was not the only thing pulled out of Iraq and given to Israel. *Debka* continued:

Two billion dollars' worth of fuel for military purposes took the same route as the munitions to the Israeli military after US military depots in Afghanistan were filled by the overflow from Iraq.

The US Defense Security Cooperation Agency informed Congress on Aug. 6 of the transfer to Israel of 1 billion liters of JP-8 jet fuel; 478,000 liters of diesel fuel for tanks; 227,000 liters of unleaded fuel for military vehicles.

With the end of the US combat in Iraq, the 50,000 American troops remaining there have no need of these massive quantities of fuel or munitions and the Pentagon decided that shipping them to Israel was the quickest and cheapest way to be rid of them.

US-Israeli forces conclude joint training exercise

American and Israel air forces have held many joint exercises to hone their skills in this difficult terrain.

The IDF and the US European Command (EUCOM) successfully completed a week of joint training exercises known as Juniper Falcon 11, which aimed to build partnership and promote peace and stability between the two countries. ... It emphasizes the deep, intimate relations between us and the United States when facing mutual enemies, such as when fighting terror.” *Int Christian Emb Jer.* 25-Oct-10

The US planes then flew to Jordan for joint exercises with Jordan, United Arab Emirates and Pakistan air forces – it was billed as one of the largest international air exercises outside the US.

“Mossad, US, UK cooperating to sabotage Iran nukes”

Much has been written about the delays to the Iranian drive to nuclear weapons due to a computer virus. An *Economist* 30-Sep10 article opens in this dramatic way.

It sounds like the plot of an airport thriller or a James Bond film. A crack team of experts, assembled by a shadowy government agency, develops a cyber-weapon designed to shut down a rogue country's nuclear programme. The software uses previously unknown tricks to worm its way into industrial control systems undetected, searching for a particular configuration that matches its target—at which point it wreaks havoc by reprogramming the system, closing valves and shutting down pipelines.

This is not fiction, but fact. A new software “worm” called Stuxnet (its name is derived from keywords buried in the code) seems to have been developed to attack a specific nuclear facility in Iran. Its sophistication suggests that it is the work of a well-financed team working for a government, rather than a group of rogue hackers trying to steal secrets or cause trouble. America and Israel are the obvious suspects. But Stuxnet's origins and effects are unknown.

It has succeeded in disrupting and destroying many of Iran's centrifuges used in creating nuclear material. Without giving any indication to the operator, the centrifuges speed up, and then suddenly slow right down, causing them to shatter, yet all the while signalling that all is well!

The finger of suspicion points to Israel's involvement, especially with one of the hidden code words, myrtus or myrtle, which is the meaning of Queen Esther's Hebrew name Hadassah! Under God's Hand she was responsible for the overthrow of Haman the Persian – Iranian – who sought to destroy the Jewish people.

Our heading was from the *Jerusalem Post* 30-Dec-10, where it showed a joint operation.

Sabotage acts on Iran included Stuxnet virus, explosion in missile factory, killing of scientists, reports newspaper *Le Canard Enchaîné*.

US and UK intelligence services are cooperating with the Mossad to sabotage Teheran's nuclear program in exchange for Israel agreeing not to launch a military strike on Iran, the French weekly *Le Canard Enchaîné* reported on Thursday, quoting French intelligence sources.

Acts of sabotage carried out in the past year in Iran were conducted by Israel with the help of the CIA and MI6, the sources said. The sabotage included, according to the report, the introduction of the Stuxnet computer virus into 30,000 computers in Iran's nuclear reactors and explosions in October in which 18 Iranian technicians were killed at a factory in the Zagros mountains that manufactured Shihab missiles.

According to the sources, the assassination of five Iranian nuclear scientists was also carried out by the **Mossad in cooperation with the American and British intelligence agencies**.

The sources said the cooperation continues, and more joint actions aimed at stopping Iran from completing its nuclear program are expected.

Once again we see the old and young lions working together in the region.

Tarshish and the young lions in the region

We now turn to a more general look at the operation of America in the region – we will look at Britain in the region in the next chapter. We saw how the northern nations were aligning themselves; we now consider the southern Arab countries. Traditionally ruled by independent kings, they have not normally worked together. The Gulf Cooperation Council is the nearest thing to an economic grouping. Its six members are Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. However they are united in their fear of Iran and this is driving them to work together. We have seen that the main supplier of arms is America, but not exclusively so – Britain too finds a profitable market here as well as France and Russia. But these countries are relying on America – and Israel – to deal with Iran.

A King of the South scenario would involve Egypt playing a prominent role. This was an interesting article at the end of July.

Gulf analyst sees Israel-Egypt-Jordan alliance as key to security

Gulf Arab states have quietly deemed Israel a vital element to their security as the U.S. military withdraws from the region, a leading analyst said.

Sami Al Faraj, president of the Kuwait Center for Strategic Studies, said Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states have been engaged in consultations and intelligence exchange with Israel, particularly regarding the Iranian threat. Al Faraj, a strategic consultant to Kuwait and other GCC states, asserted that Egypt and Israel were seen as vital to Gulf security as the United States leaves Iraq and prepares to accommodate a nuclear Iran.

“We are talking about **expanding the Israeli, Jordanian and Egyptian presence in the Gulf**,” Al Faraj said in an interview during his visit to Brussels on July 26. “All of this is meant to substitute U.S. influence. All of this is so that we do not have to live with a nuclear Iran.”

The Kuwaiti strategist said GCC states have determined that Iran, with a presence in Iraq, Lebanon, Syria, Yemen and the Gaza Strip, was working to dominate the Middle East. He said Gulf Arabs support an attack that would destroy Iran’s nuclear infrastructure.

“Today [an attack on Iran] has become a declared policy,” Al Faraj said. “We will do everything in our power to make this succeed. Today, we would work toward this scenario. If somebody in the international community works to weaken sanctions, it would only leave us [the option of] war. The worst-case scenario is a nuclear Iran.” *GeoStrategy Direct* 04-Aug-10

We saw earlier in this chapter that Egypt and Saudi Arabia were holding their first joint exercises. Egyptian ships have cooperated with American and British exercises in the Persian Gulf as part of their preparedness for action against Iran.

Israel is seen as a key player. The *WikiLeaks* revelations on this score have been revealing as this *Washington Times* 01-Dec-10 article shows.

Israel, Gulf States conducted secret diplomacy.

Israel and its adversaries in the Persian Gulf in recent years carried out extensive secret diplomacy to coordinate policy and exchange information on the threat posed by Iran, despite both sides’ public posture of mutual hostility.

A classified 2009 diplomatic cable disclosed this week provides a rare glimpse into the secret and often high-level diplomacy between Israel and Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates, all countries that officially do not recognize the Jewish state.

Contrary to the condemnatory rhetoric opposing Israel in public, Arab diplomats behind the scenes have asked Israel to carry messages to the U.S. government and urged tougher action on Iran.

Throughout Israel’s history, the state has maintained back channels to Arab governments, even on the eve of war and during a cold peace.

As the Iran threat increases we may well see a greater move to integrate American, British and local forces in dealing with this threat.

We turn now to look at Britain’s change of direction

Chapter 12:

PUTTING THE GREAT BACK INTO BRITAIN

Has Britain turned a corner? The elections in May brought to an end 13 years of Labour government, with its profligate spending and corruption by many of its MPs. The country is now led by David Cameron, the youngest Prime Minister for almost two centuries, in a coalition government which Britain hasn't had for 65 years.

After 7 months, the coalition is still holding, in spite of many predictions it would soon collapse. The new government found itself faced with a severe financial crisis and was forced to make drastic cuts. There have been student protests, but by and large the swingeing reforms have been accepted by the majority as being a difficult, but necessary period of hardship. Other countries have admired the ability of a coalition government to pursue such a path of austerity without falling apart.

When one sees the parlous state of so many European countries, some of which have already had to be bailed out and many more are on the cliff-edge, one appreciates that one can't ignore financial reality. Drastic measures are needed.

The stock markets and the companies that work out credit-ratings for countries have so far approved Britain's measures.

We are looking for Britain to play a leading role in world affairs, but especially in the Middle East, as the Tarshish power of Ezek 38:13. Again we anticipate Britain's role to be played out outside the EU, and so are encouraged by the growing tide of dissatisfaction with her membership of the developing European Beast system. So we will examine the ways in which it would seem Britain is charting a different course under their new captains; one that fits better with our traditional understanding of her latter-day role. We start by looking at her economy.

North Sea oil revival – “Black Gold”

Britain has long been able to have an economic boost from the oil and gas found in the North Sea, but in recent years the majority of the wells were running down as their supplies dwindled. North Sea exploration can be difficult due to the treacherous conditions, so when oil prices fell a few years ago there was little incentive for new exploration. Now with higher prices, more firms are looking to this area. Even before the Gulf of Mexico disaster which brought exploration in that area to an end, for the time being at least, drilling rigs had been returning to Britain's coastline. Already several substantial finds have been made, which encourages further exploration, and there is a rush to purchase the hundred or so new drilling licences that the government has made available.

The North Sea oil industry is enjoying a revival through small independent drilling operations.

Drilling on the UK's continental shelf rose by 86 per cent in the second quarter of this year compared with the same period in 2009.

In July, industry body Oil & Gas UK said their members are set to spend up to £6 billion on new developments this year.

They predicted capital expenditure could be as much as £60 billion in the next decade as companies look to tap somewhere in the region of 70 new oilfields.

New technology in offshore development technology has made it easier to get to previously unreachable resources under the seabed. *Daily Record Glasgow* 8-Oct-10

The Catcher Field find announced in July is thought to hold up to 300m barrels of oil, but could be “very significantly” bigger. It is the UK's biggest find since 2001.

Britain retains Europe's top spot for inward investment

Britain remained Europe's top destination for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in 2009; more than a fifth of all new projects in the EU came to Britain, according to a study by accountants Ernst & Young.

Despite the recession, Britain attracted 678 investment projects last year, just 1 percent less than in 2008, the study showed.

The largest investor in Britain was the United States, followed by France, Germany and India.

“When seen in the context of 12 months during which the European economy suffered a deep recession, the resilience of the UK in securing FDI is a remarkable economic success story,” said James Close, a partner at Ernst & Young.

Looking at inward investment projects in European cities, London came top by a long way, for an eighth year running, underlining the importance of business in the capital for the UK economy.

London secured 263 projects – two more than in 2008 – far outperforming its closest rivals in Europe. Paris came second with 99 projects and Madrid third with 55. *Reuters* 2-Jun-10

Let's turn to Britain's troubled relationship with the EU.

Britain and Europe – trouble ahead

David Cameron is basically Eurosceptic, and has promised that no more power will be handed over to Brussels without a referendum. Recent polls show the majority of British would vote to leave if asked in a referendum. One of the popular UK papers, *The Daily Express*, is running a campaign to “Get Britain out of Europe”. Many think Britain should not be saddled with the costs of bailing out members of the euro-zone as she has not joined the euro, but has kept the pound. There is also great pressure to take away Britain's rebate, a step which would push up the cost of being a member of the EU even more. She already pays in far more than she gets back, subsidising the many poorer EU countries. The EU budget continues to soar

and there is so much misappropriation of EU funds that the EU accounts have not been approved by their auditors for years. The setting up of an EU diplomatic corps is regarded as an irritating waste of money. Germany’s blatant exploitation of the euro crisis doesn’t go down very well either.

Cameron will face difficulties getting a more generally Eurosceptic parliament than under Labour, to approve the alterations to the Lisbon Treaty that were agreed at the December EU Summit meeting.

As the euro-crisis deepens, Germany may be forced to take steps to try to control the situation, which Britain would find hard to support. One can only see the pressures growing over the next few months for Britain to take advantage of the escape route that the Lisbon Treaty provides for those who have not signed up to the euro and want to leave the EU.

Cameron’s plans for rebuilding Britain depend on trade. Europe is not a very appealing prospect at the moment, and he has declared his intention to rebuild the Commonwealth ties and Middle East trade, areas which are ripe for growth. As the European door seems to be closing upon Britain, we can see new doors opening; unseen angelic hands are pushing her into the role that scripture has pre-ordained.

“My belief in Israel is ‘very deep inside me’ and ‘indestructible’ ”

Where does Cameron stand on Israel? At the Conservative Friends of Israel Annual Lunch in June 2009, he addressed his audience about “what they needed to know about him”. This is a brief summary.

First, I passionately believe in the right of Israel to exist, to defend itself and to live in peace and security. Not just because of the tragedies of history. Not only because of the realities of today. Not simply because of my Party’s unstinting support for Israel through the decades. But also because it’s something I feel very deep inside of me.

The belief I have in Israel is indestructible – and you need to know that if I become Prime Minister, Israel has a friend who will never turn his back on Israel. *Conservative Friends of Israel* 6-Jul-09

It has been interesting to look at his Jewish ancestry. David Cameron’s father’s mother was Enid Levita, whose paternal grandfather Emilé Levita was a prominent Polish Jewish banker. Emilé’s wife was from an “illustrious Danish Jewish family”. So perhaps this explains what he meant by his interest in Israel coming from “very deep inside me”.

| | | |
|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| David William Donald Cameron 9-Oct-66 | Ian Donald Cameron | Ewen D. Cameron |
| | | Enid A.M. Levita |
| | Mary Fleur Mount | Sir William Mount |
| | | Elizabeth N. Llewellyn |

He is actually a direct descendant of King William IV (died 1837) and is Queen Elizabeth II’s 5th cousin, twice removed!

In April, Cameron told members of the Reform Judaism movement that a Conservative government would do “much more to protect and empower the

Jewish community.” “I am a great admirer of the Jewish people,” he said. “I’ve long seen your community as a shining light in our society.”

The Foreign and Commonwealth office

This government department looks after Britain’s interests abroad. Its appointees indicate the direction that the new government was seeking to go.

The head of the FCO is the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, commonly abbreviated to “Foreign Secretary” (currently William Hague). This position is regarded as one of the three most prestigious appointments in the Cabinet, alongside those of Chancellor of the Exchequer and Home Secretary. Together with the Prime Minister, these comprise the Great Offices of State. *Wikipedia*

William Hague’s appointment was the first that David Cameron made. When interviewed in the run up to the elections, Hague describes himself as “a long-standing friend of Israel and someone who joined Conservative Friends of Israel at the age of 15.”

I understand the country’s strategic fragility. Thanks to Conservative Friends of Israel I’ve travelled across the country. I’ve stood on the Golan Heights and swam in the Sea of Galilee. I’ve stood on the part of the West Bank where you can see the Mediterranean, where you really understand Israel’s strategic fragility. But we are candid friends, which means we don’t always agree. *TotallyJewish.com* 25-Mar-10

The appointed Parliamentary Undersecretary of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office responsible for the Middle East and North Africa is Conservative MP Alistair Burt. According to *Wikipedia* he is “a leading officer of the Conservative Friends of Israel lobby group and opponent of the boycott, disinvestment and sanctions campaign against Israel. In December 2008, he led an all-Party group meeting with Red Cross to campaign for visiting rights for Israeli hostage Gilad Shalit.” These appointments bode better for a fairer voice for Israel than was the traditional pro-Arab stance of the previous government.

William Hague: we can put the Great back into Britain

William Hague calls it the “quiet revolution”, his master plan for restoring Britain to its rightful position as one of the world’s major powers.

“The British retreat is over and now the advance will begin,” he declares with characteristic Yorkshire bluntness.

He found that years of exclusion from the heart of government under New Labour had seriously undermined morale at the Foreign Office, while the absence of anything approaching a coherent foreign policy had led to “the reduction of this country’s influence in the world.”

Mr Hague wants to rebuild the Foreign Office as one of the nation’s great departments of state. At the heart of his plan lies his determination to rebuild Britain’s status as **a key trading power**.

He has ordered the reopening of several embassies that had been closed under Labour, placing particular emphasis on emerging markets such as Latin America and **India**.

Such is his proselytising zeal for strengthening Britain's ties with potential trading partners that **he has chalked up visits to 25 countries since taking office**. Next year he will be visiting **Australia and New Zealand, the first time a British Foreign Secretary has visited the region for more than 20 years**.

"The message I take all round the world is Britain is open for business," he explained.

He is also determined to put the Foreign Office back at the heart of government, where he firmly believes it belongs, as well as rebuilding what he describes as Britain's "**diplomatic excellence**". *Daily Telegraph* 18-Dec-10

Yes, a key trading power, using her long honed diplomatic skills – this is what we have been waiting for. What exciting times we live in.

Let's see Britain's impact on Israel, the Commonwealth and the Gulf region

William Hague is an enemy of Iran, and that's good enough for Israel

William Hague's visit to Israel in early November was a real test; when Labour's Foreign Minister, Robin Cook, visited in 1998, it had been a disaster.

Impressive advance work from the new British ambassador, Matthew Gould, and the Foreign Secretary's own abilities have led the Israelis to decide that Mr Hague is a player. So he got the full treatment, meeting Prime Minister Netanyahu, President Shimon Peres, defence minister Ehud Barak and opposition leader Tzipi Livni.

The Israelis have one preoccupation: Iran. The rest of the world is focused on the negotiations with the Palestinians, but for the Israelis the existential threat posed by an Iranian bomb dwarfs all else. Britain is seen as being onside and a rare voice for clarity within the EU.

Mr Hague might not be a natural friend of Israel. But if he is an enemy of Iran, that will do. *Daily Telegraph* 5 Nov 10

Israel is an important trading partner for Britain in the Middle East and interestingly, Israel is a notable investor in Britain, overtaking Hong Kong.

Israel among top 20 investing in UK

"I am delighted that for the second year running, Israel has improved its standing among the top 20 investing countries in the UK, having overtaken Belgium and Hong Kong," said Richard Salt, director of UK Trade & Investment at the British Embassy in Tel Aviv. "I encourage more Israeli companies to act now to benefit from the huge investment opportunities on offer in the UK. I and my team will do our utmost to help those companies to succeed." Israel moved from number 20 to 19 in the 2009-2010 ranking with the most projects invested. The USA is still number one on investment in terms of the number of business ventures. *Int Christian Emb Jer.* 16-Jul-10

Bearing in mind the smallness of Israel's population, if one compares the two way (bilateral) trade between the UK and Israel on a per capita basis, then it is greater than the bilateral trade between the UK and Japan, or America or South Africa.

In chapter 10 we saw the role Britain plays in keeping the peace in the West Bank and defending Israel against Iran. Let's now turn to the Commonwealth.

Britain and the Commonwealth

Under the Labour government the role of the Commonwealth in British affairs was largely ignored. That has now changed. The fact that William Hague's appointment to the post of Foreign Secretary was the first to be announced by David Cameron as he put together his government indicates the importance of this highly prized position. The fact too, that use is being made of the full title – Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary also is of great interest to the watchmen on Zion's walls. Is the tide turning at last? It would appear so. The Conservatives want to direct their attention to rebuilding the neglected links with the Commonwealth.

The case for the UK embracing the opportunities of the networked world is very strong. We are richly endowed with the attributes for success. We are a member of one of the world's longstanding global networks – the Commonwealth – which spans continents and world religions, contains six of the fastest growing economies and is underpinned by an agreed framework of common values. The previous Government in my view appeared oblivious to this aspect of the value of the Commonwealth, not even mentioning it in a strategic plan published for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in 2009. We are also the world's sixth largest trading nation even though we comprise just 1% of the world's population; second only to the USA in the amount of money we invest abroad and always outward looking and intrepid in nature. One in ten British citizens now lives permanently overseas. We have unrivalled human links with some of the fastest growing countries of the world. ... The English language gives us the ability to share ideas with millions – perhaps billions – of people in the biggest emerging economies and – if we so choose – to build networks across the world. It is staggering that in India 250 million school and university-aged students – four times the entire population of the United Kingdom – are now learning English. This underlines the essential importance of the work of the British Council and the BBC World Service, which give Britain an unrivalled platform for the projection of the appeal of our culture and the sharing of our values.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Reaching out to the Commonwealth

David Cameron's first overseas trip was to visit the foremost "young lion", America. His second was to the Eastern Tarshish power of India, a well-established Commonwealth partner. It was a spectacular affair. His decision to take with him three of his four most senior cabinet ministers, together with his higher education minister, marked this out as an unprecedented trip. They were accompanied by the most high-powered team of UK business leaders ever assembled.

Cameron's aim is not just to win contracts for British firms, but to establish a strategic relationship in which our scientists, engineers, designers and

entrepreneurs will work with their Indian counterparts and combine British innovation and Indian costs to sell to the rest of the world.

Britain's largest manufacturer (Tata, owner of Jaguar Land Rover and Corus steel) is Indian, India's 700 companies in the UK are our largest job creators, generate £10 billion in turnover. *Daily Telegraph* 23-Jul-10

Britain looks to the Middle East

William Hague, in a major speech to parliament setting out the Coalition party plans had this to say.

The Middle East is a region of great opportunity and promise where we have many friends and potential allies. **We have long called for the elevation of British links with many of the countries of the Middle East, North Africa and the Gulf, not only diplomatically but in matters of culture, education, commerce and security.** We will now take forward the work of developing that long-term initiative. *Hansard* 26-May-2010

The coalition government has been very preoccupied with setting the economy in order; we anticipate that a more visible drive will be made in the future to expand her ties in the Middle East. Britain is a major arms exporter to the region and her exports to the Gulf region are greater than to India and China combined.

In November the Queen visited the United Arab Emirates, Britain's seventh biggest export market, and the UK's largest Middle East market.

The royal visit also has a political element and Foreign Secretary William Hague joined the Queen's party as part of the coalition Government's efforts to reinvigorate its ties with Gulf States. *ITV News* 25-Nov-10

The aim is to boost exports to the UAE from £7.5bn in 2009 to £12bn by 2015.

The Queen's speech

Although the press billed it as a talk about sport, this missed the point. The Queen was celebrating the 400th anniversary of the AV! The speech was recorded at Hampton Court Palace because it was here the idea of a new version was raised.

Acknowledged as a masterpiece of English prose and the most vivid translation of the scriptures, the glorious language of this bible has survived the turbulence of history and given many of us the most widely recognised and beautiful descriptions of the birth of Jesus Christ which we celebrate today.

The whole enterprise was guided by an interest in reaching agreement for the wider benefit of the Christian church, and to bring harmony to the kingdoms of England and Scotland. But from the scriptures in the bible which bears his name, we know that nothing is more satisfying than the feeling of belonging to a group who are dedicated to helping each other: Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them.

We close our Milestones review by seeing the many preparations the nations are making to come against Israel.

Chapter 13:

THE COMING CRUSADE AGAINST ISRAEL

We want to sketch briefly how the angels are preparing for the coming invasion of Israel. This is an event which we know lies beyond the call to the Judgement Seat, so we are not to expect to see the final steps of this preparation this side of the Master's return.

What is both thrilling and frightening, is to see so many indications that the nations are being drawn together to seek Israel's demise as a state.

What saith the Word of God?

Ezekiel 38 speaks in terms of a spoil and a prey

*To take **a spoil**, and to take **a prey**; ...to carry away silver and gold, to take away cattle and goods, to take a great spoil?* Eze 38:12,13

Other prophets speak in terms of a religious crusade.

*Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles; **Prepare war**, wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near; let them come up:* Joel 3:9

The Hebrew word for *prepare* means to sanctify or make holy. "Make Holy War"; this is to be a religious crusade against Israel. In the words of Isaiah

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 34:2,8

This indicates that it is a battle over false religion vs. the truth; Rome vs. Zion.

Revelation 16 indicates that it is the frog-like words which gather the nations.

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

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

But ultimately it is God that gathers them into His land for judgement.

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

So we see many strands involved; greed; religious crusade; man's humanistic spirit; God's determination to judge wrong.

Russia eyes Israel as a spoil and a prey

We saw in chapter 10 the rapid growth of the prosperity of Israel. Her high tech industries are something that Russia would love to lay her hands on. She is spending big sums to purchase Israeli skills in remote controlled drones, which

form an essential part of a modern army's arsenal. Russia has tried to build these, but has decided to buy-in the skills from Israel.

This week, Israel has been paid a visit by Russia's First Deputy Prime Minister Viktor Zubkov, whose main mission is to strengthen Russian-Israel business cooperation and trade. "Russia is interested in everything from agriculture to outer space, and would like to work on joint projects with Israel." *Int Christian Emb Jer.* 19-Nov-10

Interestingly many of the top Israeli scientists are immigrants from Russia and still speak Russian at work and in their homes. It's not hard to see the advantage to Russia of grasping these skilled Jews by taking over their country!

Russia too likes to control energy sources such as gas and oil. They have offered to help Israel with the exploration work. Medvedev was due to visit Israel in January 2011 and this is one of the items believed to be on the agenda.

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev's first visit to Israel in mid-January is part of a Middle East tour.

The Russians have got two bids in play for a slice of the as-yet untapped Mediterranean gas. While offering to partner Lebanon in exploring the oil and gas potential opposite its shores earlier this month, *debkafile's* sources report that the Russian energy giant Gazprom sent secret envoys to Tel Aviv at the same time. They came to discuss investment opportunities with the Israeli firms holding the concessions for the Tamar, Dalit and Leviathan Mediterranean gas fields off the Israeli shore and a possible partnership in Israel's Ashkelon-Eilat oil and gas pipelines.

According to our sources, Russian energy experts calculate that Israel's offshore gas reserves, currently estimated at about 700bn M³, are in fact much bigger and maintain they could be better explored with Russian professional assistance. Leviathan is seen as the most promising of the three strikes.

Moscow is seeking to exploit the deepening strategic ties between Israel and Greece to jump aboard their plans to build an underwater gas pipeline linking Greece to the Israeli Mediterranean port of Ashkelon. This would link up with the existing Ashkelon oil and gas pipeline to Eilat, Israel's Red Sea port.

Russian energy strategists are eyeing the planned and existing segments of this route with great interest, having calculated that the quickest and cheapest outlet for marketing Russian gas to the Far East is through Eilat. *Debka* 15-Dec-10

The Church's crusade against Israel

Why has the Vatican been so opposed to the establishment of the State of Israel? The church claims it is the successor to the promises that God made to Israel, so Israel has no future in her eyes. Having rejected and slain their Messiah they are destined to wander as vagabonds. The prospect of the Jews reoccupying their land was a step too far, and as for possessing Jerusalem, the Vatican has striven, unsuccessfully, to prevent this, but hasn't stopped trying to take Jerusalem from Israel's control. The quotes from this section are taken from the book *Cross on the*

Star of David published in 2005, by Uri Bialer who gives a very detailed account of the friction between the two powers.

Ever since 1904 when Herzl visited the Pope to ask his help in setting up a Jewish homeland and was rejected out of hand, the Vatican has used its skills to thwart the setting up of the State of Israel.

In 1917 there was great concern that Britain would allow a homeland for the Jews. Felix Pinkus the Zionist leader wrote to Chaim Weizmann that:

“The Vatican was organizing all the Catholics in the world against a Jewish Palestine under British protection. A meeting on the subject was recently held in Chur, Switzerland, attended by the bishop of Chur, high-ranking Italians and Austrians, Reichstag member Matias Erzberger, and the Jesuit general.

It was decided at that meeting to organize the Catholics in all countries, and especially in the United States, to bring about the internationalization of Palestine under the protection of the pope and to oppose British protection for Palestine by all means.” May 1917

We move to 1947 when the UN was debating the establishment of a homeland.

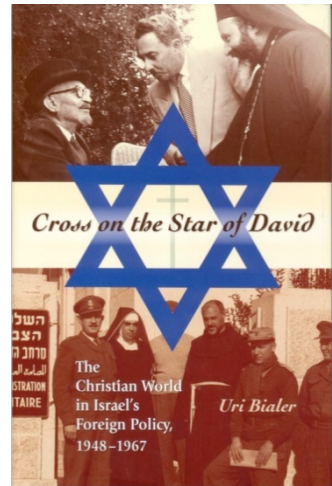
New York’s Cardinal Spellman committed all energy to keep Jerusalem out of Israeli control. He telegraphed the Papal nuncios (ambassadors) in South American countries with the demand that they urge their home governments to take an uncompromising stand at the UN for the internationalization of Jerusalem.

As Cardinal Tardini, Vatican Secretary of State, was to comment in 1957:

I have always been convinced that there was no real need to establish that state [Israel] ... its creation was a grave mistake on the part of the Western states and its existence is a constant source of danger of war in the Middle East. Now that Israel exists, there is of course no possibility of destroying it, but every day we pay the price of that mistake.”

Since 1948 it has concentrated on helping the Arabs against Jews as well as using her influence at the UN to internationalise Jerusalem

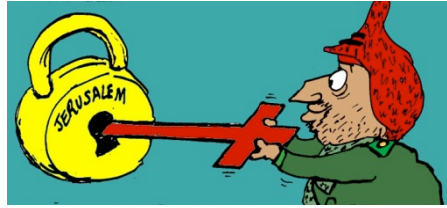
Yasser Arafat met the Pope 10 times, more than any other leader, surely a pointer to his usefulness to the Vatican. Arafat always had a seat of honour at



the Church's Christmas celebrations in Bethlehem. Both used each other as these two cartoons from 2000 illustrate.

Vatican's influence at the UN

One of the 2009 cables released by *WikiLeaks* reports the comment of an American Ambassador:



The Vatican observer [at the UN] was as always active and influential behind the scenes. *The Guardian* 10-Dec-10

In the context of the 40th anniversary of the Holy See's Permanent Observer Mission to the UN, on 1 July 2004, the General Assembly adopted a Resolution, by acclamation, **confirming and strengthening the rights of the Holy See as a Permanent Observer in the UN. The Holy See now enjoys, among other things, the right to participate in the general debate of the General Assembly; the right of reply; the right to have its communications issued and circulated directly as official documents of the Assembly; and the right to co-sponsor draft resolutions and decisions that make reference to the Holy See.** *The Vatican's UN website*

While permanent observers can't vote in the General Assembly, they can vote in the many other UN conferences. "During debate, the Holy See, alone among the world's religions, can make as many interventions as a member state." (*Human Rights Tribune* Sept 1999)

The Vatican and Israel 2010

We bring these matters up to date. The Vatican is still calling for the Internationalisation of Jerusalem. She wants to have Jerusalem, but if that can't be achieved at the moment, then UN control is the next best thing. We remember one of the axioms of the Vatican (see page 46)

The Vatican wants Jerusalem, or at least an international guarantee that Jerusalem will remain open to Catholic influence.

The call came again at a 2-week synod in Rome on "*The Catholic Church in the Middle East: Communion and Witness*". Its conclusions were startling!

Catholic Church: Christ nullified God's promises to the Jews

A Catholic synod called at the Vatican to address the rising persecution of Christians in the Middle East wrapped up on Saturday with a joint statement that focused a lot of attention on demanding Israel end its "occupation" of Arab lands.

The gathering was meant to address the various acts of persecution, intimidation and discrimination that are resulting in a severe dwindling of Christian communities across the region.

But the bulk of the two-week meeting was spent discussing how Israel is the root cause of all the Middle East's woes, including those faced by its Christians.

The final statement reflected that position. It listed the “occupation” of Arab lands, the building of Israel’s security barrier, military checkpoints, the jailing of terrorists (defined in the statement as “political prisoners”) and the general disruption of Palestinian life as some of the main reasons behind the exodus of Palestinian Christians and Muslim attacks on the Jewish state.

Cyril Salim Bustros, the Lebanon-born Greek archbishop of Our Lady of the Annunciation in Boston, Massachusetts was responsible for delivering the final statement.

In clarifying remarks, he stated that “the Holy Scriptures cannot be used to justify the return of Jews to Israel and the displacement of the Palestinians, to justify the occupation by Israel of Palestinian lands.”

He then escalated the situation by declaring that the original promises made by God to the children of Israel “were nullified by Christ. There is no longer a chosen people.”

Bustros rejected the idea of Israel as “the Jewish state,” and insisted that eventually all the so-called “Palestinian refugees” must return to the land, a sure recipe for the demographic destruction of the world’s only Jewish nation-state.

The Catholic Church has for years been trying to repair its image as an institution steeped in anti-Semitism. But Bustros’ remarks make fairly clear that the Vatican remains as dedicated as ever to replacement theology – that teaching that says God has tossed aside the Jews, despite its irrevocable promises to them, and that “the Church” has inherited those promises. *Israel Today* 2-Oct-10

With the Pope in attendance, the final message of the synod was to the UN.

Vatican body urges UN to end Israeli occupation

Catholic bishops in the Middle East urged the United Nations Saturday to end the Israeli occupation of Arab lands at the end of a meeting chaired by Pope Benedict XVI.

In a final statement of their two-week synod, the bishops and patriarchs of the region’s Catholic churches said the citizens of the Middle East “call upon the international community, particularly the United Nations, conscientiously to work to find a peaceful, just and definitive solution in the region, through the application of the Security Council’s resolutions and taking the necessary legal steps to put an end to the occupation of the different Arab territories.

The Holy City of Jerusalem will be able to acquire its proper status, which respects its particular character, its holiness and the religious patrimony of the three religions: Jewish, Christian and Muslim. We hope that the two-State-solution might become a reality and not a dream only.” *Agence France-Presse* 23-Oct-10

It should be pointed out that the persecution of Christians comes from the Moslems not the Jews. There is freedom of worship for all religions in Jerusalem under Israeli control, which was certainly not the case when under Jordanian control. We

should also remember that the UN where the Vatican has such influence is a most anti-Israel organisation, with endless resolutions pouring out against Israel, whilst scarcely referring to the atrocities carried out by many Middle Eastern and African member countries. It doesn't seem difficult to see a correlation between the Vatican influence and the anti-Israel outpourings.

Not surprisingly the Palestinian Authority welcomed the Synod's findings.

Resumption of Talks between The Holy See and The PLO

The Palestinian Authority, meanwhile, praised the synod and echoed Bustros' remarks.

"Israel cannot use the biblical concept of a promised land or chosen people to justify new settlements in Jerusalem or Israeli territorial claims," Saeb Erakat, a spokesman for Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas and a chief Palestinian negotiator, said in a statement Sunday.

Erakat said the synod sent "a clear a message to the government of Israel that it may not claim that Jerusalem is an exclusively Israeli city."

"(In) coming weeks we will engage in discussions with the Vatican on ways to further consolidate **our fantastic relations**," Erakat said.

The Pope first publicly endorsed a two-state solution to the Middle East crisis during a visit to the region in May 2009. At the time, he assured Palestinians of the **Vatican's support** of a sovereign Palestinian homeland. *CNN* 24-Oct-10

"Fantastic relations", that's an interesting phrase. The Vatican is currently seeking to strengthen its ties with the PLO – they share a common enemy – Israel.

Talks between the Holy See and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) resumed this morning at the Headquarters of the Palestinian president, Mahmoud Abbas, in Ramallah, following the Basic Agreement signed in 2000. The talks aimed at a comprehensive international agreement regulating and promoting the presence and activities of the Catholic Church in the Palestinian Territories, so strengthening **the special relations** between the Holy See and the PLO. Both sides agreed on establishing a working group to elaborate the aforementioned comprehensive agreement. *Vatican Inf. Service* 9-Dec-10

We noted earlier the *WikiLeaks* cable that spoke of the Vatican's "unhelpful role in the Middle East talks".

A crusade against Israel? Well, yes and the Vatican is not alone; many of the Churches are calling for a boycott of Israeli goods, and share this "replacement theology" that the Jews have no further part in God's plan.

A growing religious movement in Israel

Israel was largely a secular country, but over the years the swing to religious observance has grown. The Messianic view of the settlers is increasingly heard, they often have large families, and the children are educated in the Torah. A recent report did, however, lament the poor knowledge of the Bible in Israeli schools. The government has issued new guidelines to correct this.

“Many students today complete their matriculation exams without knowing the book of Genesis, Abraham and the Hebrew Prophets,” lamented Drora Levy, national Bible supervisor in the ministry, in remarks to Israel’s *Ynet* news portal. “The book of Genesis is the Bible’s genetic code, our foundation as a people. Without it we have no roots, no promise.”

According to new ministry guidelines, all schools in Israel will be required to teach the Bible in chronological order, and without study aids, meaning the students will actually have to read from the Bible in order to learn the material.

“The students will learn the Bible in the appropriate manner,” insisted Levy. *Israel Today* 3-Oct-10

Frog spirits gathering the nations

What of the frog spirits? How are they causing the nations to come against Jerusalem? The spirit of today springs out of the spirit of the French Revolution, with the cry of “Liberty; Equality; Fraternity.” As we have pointed out before it is a false teaching because it runs counter to God’s teaching on these matters. True liberty, equality and fraternity can only be found in Christ.

Its teaching brings the countries of Europe into opposition to the spirit behind the State of Israel, a homeland for the Jews, where principles from the Jewish Law operate within the Israeli society. It is the Jewishness of the country which is attacked by Christians and Arabs. Significantly the Prime Minister sees it as a fundamental goal of Israel.

Netanyahu sees an urgent need to find a balance between economic and technological globalization and **the deepening of the Judeo-Israeli identity**. For him, the issue of values remains central, serving as the basis for national strength and security. Netanyahu understands that **without renewing the Zionist narrative there will be no Zionist future**. *Haaretz* 25-Feb-10

It is the fact that here is a state for Jews that causes so much antagonism. An Israeli State, yes, a Jewish State, no! Furthermore the Jews are so successful in so many fields that they arouse envy. Their individual enterprise also goes counter to the European fixation on “equal rights” which reduces most matters to the lowest common denominator, curtailing individual freedoms, which is so different from what is happening in Israel.

Israel is increasingly isolated, and Jerusalem a burdensome stone. The Palestinians want it, the Vatican wants it, Russia too would like it – there are extensive Orthodox properties here, the UN would like to control it. The Jews are determined not to let go of their capital.

But there is another claimant! The one whose right it is to sit on David’s throne. All the conflicting claims will come to nought before the power of the God of Heaven, who has expressly foreordained that it belongs to His Son! All history is moving to that appointed day.

All that remains of our review of 2010 is to bring it to a close with a short exhortation of encouragement. May 2011 indeed be the year of the Lord’s return!

Chapter 14: Exhortation

What manner of persons ought ye to be

2010 was a year of weather extremes, when the insurance loss adjusters spoke in terms of “the year the earth struck back”, as they contemplated the appalling loss of life and property. In 2009 some 15,000 died of natural disasters, in 2010 it rose to an estimated 296,000, a figure that was last exceeded in 1976. In comparison, the estimated deaths from terrorist attacks from 1968 to 2009 were “only” 115,000.

When we contemplate such a year of gloom one could be depressed, especially knowing that things are going to get worse! If we add in the effects of the financial crisis, with unemployment rising, tax rates increasing, savings shrinking so that living standards for so many are falling, it gets even bleaker.

It is in such circumstances, that we are so thankful that we can be certain that these are signs of our times showing that the Master is near. The exposition of Nebuchadnezzar’s image has been a favourite of our community for so long. Yet it is only today that we can see the evidence for Russia and Europe joining together politically and spiritually. It is in preparation for the day when the image will stand erect upon its iron-clay feet to come against the nation of Israel. All nations, in the words of Zechariah ch 12, will burden themselves with the Jerusalem “stone”.

We are privileged to see what the world cannot see – strong angelic hands moving the nations for this coming day of conflict.

What effect should this have on our lives? We think of Peter’s words to the brothers and sisters of his day, who were about to witness the ending of the Mosaic heavens and earth with the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70:

*Seeing that these things are thus all to be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all **holy living and godliness, looking for and earnestly desiring** the coming of the day of God, by reason of which the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? 2 Pet 3:12 ASV*

The political heavens and earth of our world are also about to be dissolved, or destroyed – burnt to the ground is the sense of *burned up* in verse 10. The rulers of the new Kingdom of the heavens and earth will be Holy, Righteous, Immortal. No wonder Peter was saying to his generation and to ours, why set your affections on a world that’s going to be removed by God’s judgements. What matters is how we live our lives today. Why? Because our hope is to be part of these coming heavens. To be with Christ and the apostles and saints of all ages under whose immortal rulership the earth will blossom. When people will willingly associate with the Jews and acknowledge they are God’s people. When they willing go to Jerusalem to see the King in his glory, to worship his Father, the Great Creator, for His wonderful Purpose with the earth.

Holy living; godliness; looking for; earnestly desiring; these words of Peter are all words which demand actions on our part. Let’s heed and practise them as obedient servants, awaiting our Lord’s return. Come quickly Lord Jesus.