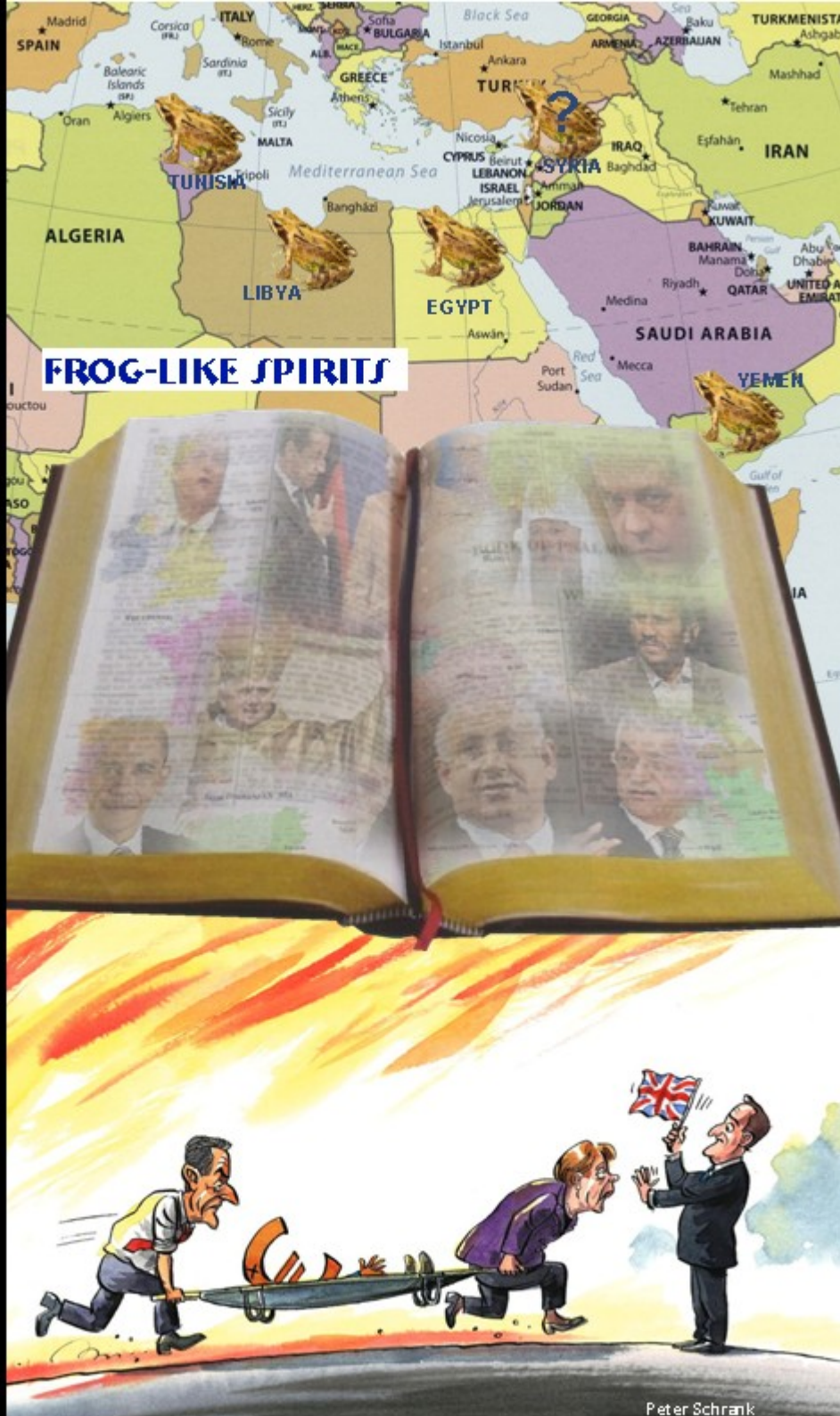


MILESTONES 2011

Don
Pearce

FROG-LIKE SPIRITS



Peter Schrank

MILESTONES TO THE KINGDOM

***A Review of the
World Events of
2011 in the Light
of Bible Prophecy***

Don Pearce

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Preface

When Daniel was newly arrived in Babylon he was provided by God with the interpretation of the king's dream, of the human image made up of the four metals and the feet part of iron and part of clay. Before he presented the truth of the dream and its interpretation he expressed his thankfulness to the God of heaven. "*He changeth the times and seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings....*" (2:21) The dream had provided the large picture of human dominions right through to the Kingdom of God. This was 2600 years ago! It gave the saints a broad charter by which they could read God's hand throughout that long period.

On reading the manuscript of Milestones 2011 one is deeply impressed with this Divine charter. It really feels as though everything is slipping into place with the great allegiances of the world moving to their rightful places on the world jig-saw board. Many countries, even two years or so ago, were apparently following different paths from those expected, but more and more they are settling into the Divine pattern, taking up their membership in the great continental plates that God had determined for them. The angels are very busy and the pace of change is giddy. Surely the footsteps to Armageddon can be heard!

For some years we have wondered at the melding together of Western Europe. It began 54 years ago with the Treaty of Rome and has grown to 27 member states. It has been exciting to watch the integration and even now there are two more members preparing for EU status and some others looking to 2015. But the financial crisis in Europe has come on top of all this and is forcing greater federalisation and less independence on all the States whether they like it or not. Finance and the hunger for energy are increasing the pace of integration. Each year sees the Roman Church spreading her web further over the countries of the EU. She knows that this is her historic base and she must be related to the interests of the rising generation. Germany and France have been coupled together to spearhead the union of Europe, but it is Germany (of the land of Magog) that is pulling ahead and by her financial and industrial strength compelling the other 26 to get into line with her budgetary designs. In future years their national budgets will be authorised by a special German committee before they will be known in the parliaments of their own countries. This is truly amazing.

It was all too much for Britain and she has jumped ship and landed back in her island home. Her status will not be determined by the EU. As soon as she said "No", her sterling currency began to rise, her people are relieved and money is flowing into London! Her new course is inevitable and she

seems to know this, for her Prime Minister and Foreign Minister have for months been travelling the world courting old friends and some new ones! She is showing herself to be friendly and available. The “young lions” have given general assent and her new relationship with India and her polished teamwork with the USA are prominent and growing; so also with many countries in Asia and Africa. This is just as Bible students surmised it would be. For 350 years Britain traded with and then ruled India from 1605 to 1948: it is remarkable to see the figures for India as she trades with Britain, the US and other “old friends”. So here is another large block of nations refreshing ancient ties as Armageddon looms in a troubled world.

Nor is Russia far behind! She is now in a position to lend money to the US and buy up scores of significant energy companies in Western Europe. Whatever happened to the broke Soviet Union! And Russia is building her “Eurasian” block to balance off the EU and the Russian Orthodox Church is charming the Pope who is obviously preparing the next step of their rapprochement. Another block of nations is putting their act together.

The “Arab Spring” had all of us wondering. Yet even now we can see a much stronger confederacy between the remaining Arabian kings going by the acronym GCC. Morocco is wishing to join and likely that Egypt will cooperate with them. These countries are all Sunni Muslims and if Syria falls, as seems likely, then it may join the party. Ezekiel sees a false peace and relaxation in Israel and this can’t mean facing 10,000 rocket launches by Hezbollah, Syria and Hamas. If Syria did revert that could well be the end of Hezbollah and this would dramatically change the scene in Lebanon and all around Israel.

The interesting feature of Iran is that its nuclear threat has frightened all the Muslim countries of the Middle East and brought on a rare unity among them, opposed to Iran!

And sitting on a slim slither of the Holy Land is rich and confident Israel, on talking terms with Saudi Arabia and the rest and backed by the merchants of Tarshish!

We can thank our God for the wonder of His Word. Bible prophecy is an expression of the loving kindness God for His people.

“Surely He cometh”

Brian Luke

Secretary.

January 2012

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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; €0.77; A\$0.98; CA\$1.02; NZ\$1.29 at 1-1-12 rates.

\$1 million = £644,000, \$1 billion = £644,000,000 approx. \$ always US\$.

Author's important notes

I would like to especially thank my family, Bro. Kevin Allison and the CSSS for their helpful comments on the draft. It is all put together in the last three 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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World Events & the Coming of Zion's King

This is a helpful book which looks at most of the scriptural passages concerning the time of the end events and puts them in a logical order. At the same time Bro Graham Pearce looks at some of the newer ideas and show where they fall down when examined by scripture. A reading of this 100 page booklet will give us a much clearer idea of what we should be looking for. For brethren and sisters looking for the return of their Master, it is essential reading.

Obtainable from:

Bible Magazine agents, CSSS agents or Milestones.

Chapter 1:

A BRIEF SYNOPSIS

2011 has proved to be yet another amazing year

Crunch time came in December for Britain's relationship with the EU. It has been a difficult relationship for the 39 years that Britain has been a member of what was the EEC and is now the EU. Many in Britain were increasingly unhappy at the amount of control that unelected bureaucrats wielded over Britain. Most British leaders found their plans outmanoeuvred – what they thought were victories often turned out to be failures. It was 26 years ago that Mrs Thatcher was brave enough to stand up to her fellow leaders at a European summit meeting, banging her handbag on the table and insisting on Britain carrying a fairer share of the burden, by having a rebate on her contributions. Mr Cameron went to Brussels on Dec 8th with reasonable demands – safeguard the City of London and we will go along with your plans, but they would not listen, and so he vetoed their proposals! At a stroke Britain now stands alone as the other 26 members forge ahead with their plans for greater subservience to Brussels. It is not difficult to see that this is the start of a messy 'divorce' which will leave Britain free to pursue an independent role on the world stage. It will free her to fulfil her task of helping the coming King of Israel to bring his people home, whilst the rest of Europe will be declaring war on this new King whom they will declare is Anti-Christ! December 2011 will surely be seen as a great turning point in modern European history.

This year has seen startling progress in Germany's growth; she seems unstoppable; her booming economy and economic surpluses have enabled her to achieve the goal that she has worked so hard to attain – undisputed leadership of Europe. With France's help, Britain has been un-ceremonially pushed aside – the only other power that possibly could be a threat to Germany's goal. The indebted nations of the eurozone come on bended knees asking Germany to save them! The Polish leader remarked that he never thought the day would come after all the sufferings of Poland at the hand of Germany in World War II, when he would have to say, "Please help us!"

I will probably be the first Polish foreign minister in history to say so, but here it is: I fear German power less than I am beginning to fear German inactivity.

You have become Europe's indispensable nation. *Globalist* 07-Dec-11

We witness the ruthlessness with which Germany has dealt with those nations who are rocking the euro dream. The elected governments of Greece and Italy have been replaced by non-elected leaders of Germany's choice. Democracy? Forget it!

Meantime the perilous state of the euro has sent many of its 17 eurozone members to the brink of insolvency. The potential debts of Greece and Italy are staggering and Portugal, Spain and even France are slipping towards bankruptcy. It used to be individuals and companies that went bankrupt, then it spread to reputable banks, and now it is countries that need bailing out! Troubling times indeed.

2011 saw the final preparations by Pope Benedict of his new army, honed and sharpened, to go and fight for Christianity – the Roman Catholic brand – to be reinstated at the heart of Europe. Step by careful step he has been preparing for this; with the *Year of Faith* due to commence in Oct 2012. Don't underestimate the players the Pope has assembled. The day will come when, in the words of *Revelation ch 17*, the Woman will ride the Beast – the Papacy will be in control of a German-led Europe.

A new word for 2011 was “Arab Spring”. It began in Tunisia at the end of 2010, but we didn't know it at the time. The then suicide of a Tunisian fruit seller quickly led to the downfall of the Tunisian president. It didn't stop there; like a forest fire it jumped to Egypt, then to Libya and Yemen and Syria. And now it has reached the doors of Moscow. The phrase “Arab Spring” was coined to embrace the surge of people-power, who, in this age of swift communications were able to rise up against their long established rulers and overthrow several of them. As we shall see, it turned out to be not Spring but Winter. If the West thought that these revolts would lead to democratic governments, they were to be sorely disillusioned. What we were witnessing is part of the frog-like spirits which have been echoing around the world since the French Revolution, and which had now hit the southern and eastern shores of the Mediterranean.

With Mr Putin promising to stand for presidential election in May 2012, we see the re-emerging power of Russia. Autocratic is the word that the press uses of this man – the very word that Bro Thomas used 160 years ago to describe the latter-day power of Russia. It was one of the Tsar's titles in those days, but based on scriptural guidance he saw the aptness of the title. Knowing that Russians have been advising President Assad of Syria how to deal with the uprising there, we are left with little doubt that a fearful time lies ahead when Gog invades Israel.

Meanwhile Iran continues to press ahead with her goal of becoming a nuclear power, in spite of many setbacks which she lays at Israel's door – and probably rightly so! Israel appears to be on the brink of taking action against Iran, and America has been providing her with covert support.

Around the globe the world of nature appears more and more unstable and losses from natural disasters mount up. The Japanese earthquake in February did immense damage; as did the second major earthquake in Christchurch, New Zealand. Floods, fires, hurricanes continue to take their toll as the earth prepares for the greatest earthquake of all, the coming of the Lord Jesus.

Once again our community has experienced many trials and heartaches. Beloved brothers and sisters falling asleep or falling away. Ecclesial life is under great pressure and we are not sheltered from the hard economic times, or from the many diseases that strike, often without warning. Yet we have so many signs to encourage us that the wait surely cannot be long. As a *Daily Telegraph* editorial commenting on the many elections due in 2012, pithily, yet unwittingly, put it, **“Will 2012 bring the leaders the world needs?”** Let us take courage, the true leader, the Lord Jesus Christ, is at hand!

Let's now look at the outline plan that we have followed for Milestones this year.

Chapter 2:

A SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

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 possible sequence of events surrounding the time of the end so that we can make sense of the unfolding events of today's fast-moving world.
2. To see Germany's and the Vatican's plans for Europe and how Britain stands to be pushed out.
3. To look at the Middle East with the shakings of the "Arab Spring" and Iran's growing belligerence.
4. To see the remarkable growth in the alliance of moderate Arab States.
5. To see the emergence of Russia as an autocratic power

In dealing with these, *Milestones* has been grouped in to two unequal parts.

- 1) Matters relating to Europe and Russia – Germany; the Vatican; the EU; Britain; Russia.
- 2) Matters relating to the Middle East, Northern Africa and the Far East – Israel and her neighbours; Saudi Arabia; Iran; the "Arab Spring" nations; India.

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

*Over the years we have examined many prophecies about the time of the end. What is an interesting exercise is to try to put these prophecies in some sequence so that we have a better understanding of what to look for. Most of the prophecies we will be looking at will be fulfilled **after** the return of the Master and so we will not see their fulfilment this side of the Judgement Seat. In that case is there much purpose in examining them? Well yes! They have been given to us so that we might have a better comprehension of what is to happen. True there are details which have not been revealed – John was commanded not to record certain battle-plans that involve matters at Christ's return.*

And when the seven thunders had uttered their voices, I was about to write: and I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Seal up those things which the seven thunders uttered, and write them not. Rev 10:4

Sufficient has been revealed to instruct us as to the general picture. Understanding the sequence enhances our understanding of just how close our Master's coming is, for we can see developing some matters that belong to a period well after the

Lord's coming. So if we see these things beginning to come to pass, how close must we be!

A brief outline of events

As it would appear that all the events that **have to** take place **before** the Master's return have all taken place, it would appear that the next major event is the Master's return to **his household**.

There are several events that may possibly happen before then or may take place afterwards, in the considerable interval between his return and the destruction of the nations who have come against Israel to destroy her as a nation. There are 3 aspects to Christ's return

1. To judge and save his household
2. To judge and save his nation
3. To judge the Gentiles and extend the blessings of Abraham to all nations.

Christ's initial work is to prepare his redeemed for the great work that lies ahead. This involves the resurrection of the responsible dead and the gathering of the responsible living to the place of judgement, which scripture indicates is at Sinai, the place where Israel became God's People.

While the work of judgement is taking place, or at least shortly afterwards, the focus is on the 2nd phase, that of judgement and salvation for Christ's nation of Israel. Jesus was born to be their future King in an era when they will be holy and righteous, with receptive hearts and obedient to their Messiah. This is a far cry from the present state of Israel. The veil has to be removed from their eyes which hides Messiah from their view. God has declared it will happen! To commence this great work needs a work parallel to that of John the Baptist who brought an era of reformation and heart searching ahead of the Messiah's first coming. *Malachi ch's 3 and 4* speaks of this future preparatory work at the hand of Elijah and doubtless assisted by John, who came in the spirit and power of Elijah. It is during this period that Israel will be dwelling securely as indicated in *Ezekiel 38:11, 14*. This period of peace and increasing religious fervour will draw the nations down to conquer Israel; not only to take a spoil and a prey (*Eze 38:13*) but as a religious crusade. (*Joel 3:9 Prepare, "sanctify", war. "Make holy war!*) The outcome is terrible for Israel, as for one last time Jerusalem is to be trodden down of the Gentiles and many will perish. The faithful remnant whose hearts have been touched by Elijah's words will cry out to God – and will be heard. (*Deut 30:1-3*) Christ and the saints come to save them in their hour of need. The Mount of Olives splits in a great display of the Redeemer's power. The enemy are completely destroyed on the mountains of Israel. (*Zech 14, Eze 39 etc.*) The Jews will recognise their Saviour by seeing the marks of crucifixion in his hands and feet and the veil is thus dramatically removed and like as on the day of Pentecost, their repentance will be followed by baptism into Christ. (*Zech 12:11-13:1*) They form the nucleus of the re-established Kingdom of God, the Temple is rebuilt as described at the end of Ezekiel and the call goes out for every Jew to come home! This will be no easy task. The cream of the Gentile armies will have perished in Israel. To Europe this is the work of Antichrist! Oh how corrupt Christianity will

bring judgement upon its own head! For when Jesus does all the things that they have said Antichrist is going to do, blinded by their own foolish philosophies, they will reject Jesus at his second coming just as firmly as the Jews did at his first coming!

Eventually all the scattered Jews will be regathered to their land upon their acceptance of the Lord Jesus as their Messiah and receive their inheritance within the tribal allocation into which the land will be divided, in the area between the Euphrates and the Nile. Gentiles too will be given the choice to recognise Zion's King or perish. Europe is described as a lake of fire (*Rev 19:20*) because they will reject Zion's King. As *Psalm 2* puts it:

Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?

The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying,

Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.

... Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion. v 1-3, 6

The rest of the nations accept and submit, bringing their gifts to their new King. And so the Kingdom is then established. All nations will be truly blessed in Abraham and his seed. Great David's greater son will bring peace to all people. For a thousand years the earth will be blessed, as under wise and immortal rulers they are guided into right ways.

At the end of this period there is the final rebellion. Human nature, in spite of all the blessings it receives, at this time will desire to have power and status like the immortal saints; with human life extended to hundreds of years they will feel they have everything – except control. With the putting down of this final rebellion there will be the 2nd resurrection for those who have lived and died during the Millennium, who with the living, will, if accepted, receive the gift of everlasting life. The earth will then be inhabited by immortals and the Lord Jesus will hand the Kingdom to his Father.

And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.

1Cor 15:28

What lies beyond this time has not yet been revealed.

Our chart summaries the sequence of events. Having established a skeleton frame work, before filling in some of the details, let us consider why it is important to have a grasp of the outline.

Why is this outline important?

Without such a framework we would be left wondering how much more we are expecting to see before the Master's return. Will we see the invasion of Israel



before the call to go to Christ? Our summary says No! It would be odd if Christ came back to save Israel from their enemies, **before** the ones who are to be his helpers are prepared! There is logic in our summary as summed up in the words of *1 Peter 4:17*.

For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God.

To be fair, in the first instance Peter is talking about the sufferings that the household were to experience, prior to God's judgements upon Israel in AD 70 for having rejected the Messiah. The principle however stands firm. Judgement begins with the house of God. Then upon Israel and thirdly upon the Gentiles. So we must not be thinking that Israel is to be invaded by the nations **before** we have been called away to judgement.

Our sequence also cautions us not to try to see the fulfilment of certain prophecies now, when they still belong to the future. Jerusalem is still to come under the enemy's boot. We also marvel at the speed at which Europe is seeking political union, but we must bear in mind that the picture in *Revelation 17* that describes these things, still lies in the future.

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

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

It will be fulfilled after the events of *Revelation 16* have taken place. It is a picture of Europe **after** Armageddon, for the following verse explains that Christ is there with the saints and they are opposed to his rule.

These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.v14

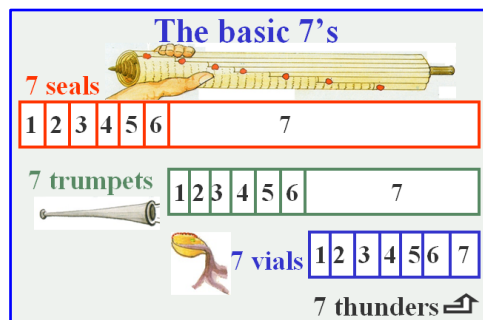
The *one hour* points to a 30-year time period that still lies in the future. (We shall examine interpreting symbolic time periods in the next chapter.)

So let's look where we are in the prophetic time periods.

Our era is that of the 6th Vial

We are living in the Vial period, to be more precise in the 6th Vial period. The 4 main structures of the Apocalypse are shown in the chart. The 7th Seal contained the 7 Trumpets. The 7th Trumpet contained the 7 Vials. The 7th Vial contains the 7 Thunders of Revelation ch 10.

The 7 Vials of *Revelation ch 16*



have spanned a long period of time. The Vials, or Bowls, were filled with *the wrath of God*. (v1) and were God's judgements upon Europe and the Papacy. The first 5 covered a comparatively short period of time; an intense pouring out of judgements which brought to an end the Holy Roman Empire, starting with French Revolution (1789) and ending with defeat of the German Emperor (1806) and the Papal rule (1809).

The 6th Vial concerned the *drying up of the River Euphrates*. The Turkish, Ottoman Empire which at the height of its power had been very extensive, began to shrink as the nations under her rule rebelled. Greece broke away in 1820, and step by step her power waned until by the end of the First World War in 1918, Turkey was driven back to her present boundaries.

The purpose of this exercise was described in *Rev 16:12*.

*And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, **that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared.***

These *kings of the east* refer to the work of Christ and the saints in their coming task of judgement upon a world that has turned its back on God. Before Christ can come back it is clear that Israel has to be back in the land and in possession of Jerusalem, which is the present situation. The removal of Turkish rule from the Middle East boosted the return of the Jews. With Palestine under British rule and with the support of the Balfour Declaration, Jews streamed back. Their return was accelerated after the grim events of the Holocaust, which led to the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948.

This was not the only work described under this 6th Vial.

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

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

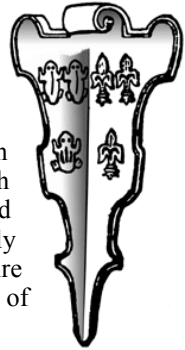
Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.

And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon. Rev 16:13-16

So we see that this Vial goes right through to the time of the battle, or war (RV), of Armageddon. At the end of this period the *River Euphrates* will have been completely dried up – when Turkey comes under Russian control.

So what do we comprehend by *unclean spirits like frogs*? John tells us (*1 John 4:1*) to *try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world*. So these are false teachings; but what is the connection with frogs? The earlier vials were poured out on the Holy Roman Empire, so it is not surprising to find a link with what has gone before. It was from the Westphalia region of Germany that the Franks overran what today we call France and

established their Frankish Empire. Their name was derived from the Latin *francus* meaning *free*. Under Clovis (466-511) they adopted Roman Catholic Christianity. Their emblem was 3 frogs as can be seen on the shield of Clovis. One of Clovis' successors was Charlemagne (741-814) who through conquest expanded his kingdom to cover much of Europe. In AD 800 Pope Leo III crowned him Emperor of Rome, a position he gladly took and one can trace the Holy Roman Empire from this date. So frogs are associated with the Franks, champions of the Roman Catholic Church, and associated with freedom.



The scriptural link with frogs goes back to the plagues of Egypt. The 2nd plague was that of frogs which got everywhere. Pharaoh promised that he would let Israel go if the plague was taken away. When the next day the frogs died, Pharaoh changed his mind. The promised freedom did not come! (*Exo 8:1-15*)

So when John is told of these *unclean spirits like frogs* we see a reference to the spirit of the times which promises freedom, but ensnares. We also see a link with France and the Franks – it was the events of the French Revolution which brought the initial judgements upon a Catholic Europe. With the cry of *Liberty, Equality, Fraternity*, the spirit of the French revolution is still sweeping around the world, and in 2011 working in Africa and the Middle East. This frog-like spirit of humanism and alleged democracy continues to deceive – the promised freedom seems only to lead to greater bondage, as those involved in the Arab Spring have discovered. Sharia law seems to be replacing dictatorial rule.

The Dragon, Beast and False Prophet

This *unclean spirit* is to be found in the mouths of *the Dragon, the Beast and the False Prophet*. (*Rev 16:13*) *Mouth* indicates it is their official teaching. The *Dragon* initially was a symbol of the Roman Empire, with its military might centred in Constantinople when Constantine moved the centre of his Empire there from Rome. Subsequent to the Fall of Constantinople in 1453, Moscow took over as the Dragon's seat. We expect Russia to retake control of Constantinople as part of her movement south, prior to the taking of Jerusalem; but at the moment we look to Russia as the latter-day Dragon. With Constantine's move away from Rome, the city of Rome fell in power, eventually to be overrun by barbarian invaders. However things began to look up for Rome and John saw its revival in the visions of *Rev ch 13* of a *Beast* of the Sea and a *Beast* of the Earth, and an *Image* of a *Beast*. To John was being revealed more detail of what had been shown to Daniel in his 7th chapter. These Beast powers were swept away, in the French Revolution and its aftermath. It is clear the Beast has not disappeared; we are witnessing the penultimate Beast phase. The Beasts were centred on Western Europe and we have seen the grouping of Europe under the EU, now increasingly dominated by Germany and France. The final Beast phase still lies in the future.

The *False Prophet* is a new phrase, but a very appropriate one to describe the Papacy today. She claims to teach God's truth and proclaim God's word. A scriptural examination of her teaching shows that this is not the case. *Daniel ch 7* describes the coming to power of the Papacy under the symbol of a little horn.

Then I would know the truth of the fourth beast ... even of that horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spake very great things, whose look was more stout than his fellows.

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.

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 v 19, 20, 25, 27

This is evidently a persecuting, religious power associated with Rome – only the Papacy fits the detailed description – and it is clear it continues its deception until destroyed at the hands of the one who comes to give the Kingdom to his people. We have seen the remarkable regrowth in the Vatican's power in the last 80 years; she too is preparing for her final stage, described in *Rev. ch 17* as the Harlot Woman who rides the European Beast, as we shall look at in the next chapter.

What time scale is involved?

There are various hints given. There could be a 10 year period from the Return of Christ to the war of Armageddon, and further 40 year period before the Kingdom is fully established with all nations in submission, making a 50 year, jubilee, period.

In the seventh month, in the first day of the month, shall ye have a sabbath, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, an holy convocation.

Also on the tenth day of this seventh month there shall be a day of atonement: it shall be an holy convocation unto you; Lev 23:24, 27

Applying a day-for-a-year, could this be a pointer to the call of the saints – associated with the *blowing of trumpets* – the resurrection and 10 years later the atoning of Israel's sin for rejecting Messiah?

There are several hints at the work of saving Israel paralleling the 40 year period of the wilderness journey. (*Mic 7:15; Jer 16:14-16; Isa 11:11, 12*) We saw earlier the *1 hour*, 30 years of the warfare in Europe, so this could point to another 10 year period from the Armageddon war in Israel to the commencement of war in Europe.

This would make a jubilee 50 year period. Again is this hinted at in the fact that the date when Ezekiel was revealed the wonders of a fully operational Temple in his closing chapters is emphasised – *in the selfsame day*. (Eze 40:1) This day was just 50 years after Josiah's great Passover (2 *Chron 35*), which Jewish traditions say was a Jubilee year.

We now turn to a consideration of the latter-day Beast and the False Prophet.

Chapter 3:

THE VATICAN AND THE BEAST WILL OPPOSE ISRAEL'S NEW KING

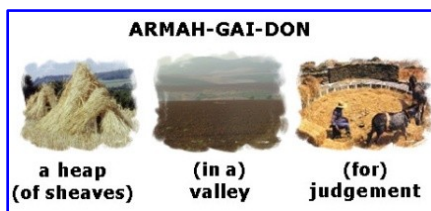
Although the full details of Christ's battle-plan to establish his rule over the world was shown to John in the form of the 7 Thunders, wisely the Lord Jesus told John that they should not be recorded. They will be revealed to the saints after the Judgement Seat. We will briefly look at this interesting 10th chapter of Revelation, before looking at the general picture which John was allowed to record in the 17th, 18th and 19th chapters. It helps us to appreciate the terribleness of this religious system which enchains men in a gross superstition, clouding their minds from a true understanding of the Truth. It puts us on our guard not to be taken in by the deception.

The 7th Vial and the 7 Thunders – an outline

We have earlier remarked on the 7th Seal containing the 7 Trumpets of which the 7th Trumpet contains the 7 Vials and the 7th Vial contains the 7 Thunders. We find the details of the 7th Vial in *ch 16:17-21*. They commence with the event of Armageddon. So to recap with our sequence of events:-

- Christ has returned to his household
- Resurrection and gathering to Sinai for Judgement
- Rejected die/sent away
- Elijah's work in Israel bringing an element of reformation
- Time of peace and security in the region
- Gog and companions invade and defeat Israel
- Jerusalem trodden down of the Gentiles one last time
- Armageddon

The taking of Jerusalem is the signal for Christ and the saints to come to save his people with a dramatic display of power. The word *Armageddon*, which only occurs in *Rev 16:16*, is a composite name, built up of 3 Hebrew words. When strung together, they confirm the Old Testament pictures of this same battle: a heap (of sheaves) (in a) valley (for) judgement.



Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe: come, get you down; for the press is full, the fats overflow; for their wickedness is great.

Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision. Joel 3:13, 14

The word for *decision* is derived from the threshing sleds which had sharp flints embedded into their underside, cutting the corn from the stalks and the husk from the grain when driven over them as illustrated in this stamp from North Cyprus. Quite a



painful operation if corn had feelings! It gives us a glimpse of what pain will be inflicted when God judges those nations who have despised his people and desired

to drive them from their land. Zechariah speaks of this day:

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

Habakkuk is dramatic in his pen pictures in his 3rd chapter. He sees Christ and the saints coming from the Teman/Mt Paran area of Sinai with tremendous power.

And his brightness was as the light; he had horns coming out of his hand: and there was the hiding of his power.

Before him went the pestilence, and burning coals went forth at his feet.

He stood, and measured the earth: he beheld, and drove asunder the nations; and the everlasting mountains were scattered, the perpetual hills did bow: his ways are everlasting.

The sun and moon stood still in their habitation: at the light of thine arrows they went, and at the shining of thy glittering spear.

*Thou didst march through the land in indignation, **thou didst thresh the heathen in anger**.*

*Thou wentest forth for the salvation of thy people, even for salvation with thine anointed; thou woundedst **the head** out of the house of the wicked, by discovering the foundation unto the neck. Selah. Hab 3:4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13*

The word for *head* is rosh, the same word as in *Ezekiel 38:2 chief*, which we normally translate as a proper noun, *Ros* or *Rosh*, which is the ancient name for Russia. *Gog is of the land of Magog* (Germany) and *prince of Ros, Meshech and Tubal*. The latter two being Moscow where Russia's political centre is and Tobolsk, the capital of Siberia, the region where much of her energy wealth is found.

The 7th Vial

This Vial is poured *into the air*; in symbol, into the political heavens. At the end of this Vial period, the Lord Jesus will be in control of all the thrones and political centers of the world. Then truly will have come to pass "*It is done*". (v17) But that

is not the end of the matter; 40 years of judgement are required to attain this end! The next verse describes these events as a *great earthquake* of such magnitude it will be the greatest ever. Although there will be literal earthquakes, this is a symbolic earthquake. Previous events classed as great earthquakes in this book were:-

- The overthrow of paganism by Constantine (6:12)
- The French Revolution (11:13)

This earthquake is to be much greater, for it ends the Kingdom of Men and replaces it with the Kingdom of God.

And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath. Rev. 16:19

The three parts probably equate with the Dragon, Beast and False Prophet. Each in turn will be dealt with and fall.

And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. Rev. 16:20

No longer will the world be made of isolated nations and powerful kingdoms, but all brought under the rule of Christ.

And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great. Rev. 19:21

A talent was the biggest weight that the Jews used and is roughly 30kg (66lbs). The largest recorded hailstone measured some 20.5cm in diameter and weighed in at over a kilo, having punched a hole through a shingle house roof! The saints are represented by these symbolic hailstones of huge weight; they will bring down God's heavy judgement upon a godless world.

The 7 Thunders

The full details of the warfare to come are contained in the 7 Thunders revealed in *ch 10*. The book of Revelation is not sequential. At the end of the major sections of 7's – Seals, Trumpets, Vials and Thunders – there are visions of the Kingdom period. The Thunder details are at the end of the Trumpets section. The details of the 7 Thunders were written in a *little book*. (10:2) *Little*, in the symbolic sense meant they would occupy a comparatively short period of time. We will look at the basis of the time periods later in this section. Suffice to say 40 years is a very small part of God's time span of 6,000 years, so far, of dealing with this earth.

The holder of the *little book*, who is the power behind these judgements, is described in forceful images:

And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire:

And he had in his hand a little book open: and he set his right foot upon the sea, and his left foot on the earth,

And cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roareth: and when he had cried, seven thunders uttered their voices. Rev. 10:1-3

Here we have a wonderful picture of the Christ Body, the Lord Jesus and his immortal followers setting out to execute God's righteous judgements.

His *feet* are on *the earth* and *the sea*. These judgements are mainly poured on a Catholic Europe, from the Mediterranean countries to northern hinterland. But wider than this, at the end of the Thunders, every part of the world will be *under his feet*, and with the Kingdom Age established, the promises to Abraham will have reached their destined fulfilment.

But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery [secret] of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets. Rev. 10:7

John is told to eat this little book – it was sweet to his mouth, but bitter to his belly. (v9, 10). In this we see the strong parallels with Ezekiel who had to eat a scroll as detailed in *Ezekiel ch 2:9 to 3:4*, with similar results. God's judgments are bitter-sweet. They are so necessary, it will only be by a display of Almighty power that the nations will be brought to their senses, yet the end result will be glorious. A world in submission to Zion's King.

John is told that he will be there to participate in the execution of the things he heard but could not record.

And he said unto me, Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings. Rev. 10:11

Surely we share the same hope, to be among the valiant of the Lord in that day.

So let us see what has been revealed of this time period in other parts of this book.

The Harlot rider and Beast of Revelation ch 17

Revelation chapter 17 clearly belongs to this time for the climax is in v14

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

We looked extensively at the Harlot Rider of this chapter in *Milestones 2009*, (ch 6) giving a 7 point identification of the Vatican with the description given in this chapter. In the same issue in the 3rd chapter we looked at the last phase of the Beast. We refer readers to this issue. We stress again that the fulfilment of this chapter belongs to the period **after** Armageddon has taken place, when the military might of the Dragon has been defeated on Israel's mountain, as described in *Ezekiel ch 38 and 39*. Europe regroups to defy this new power in the Middle East who has destroyed their armies when they assisted Gog in his invasion. The thrilling thing is we are already seeing the initial steps of the Vatican and Europe working together. What lies ahead is the control which the Papacy will have to direct the armies of the European Beast against the armies of this new power.

Those nations that make up the Beast in that day will be united in their opposition to Israel's King. In the words of *verses 12 and 13*

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

These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.

Symbolic time periods

Symbolic time periods generally are interpreted on the basis one day = one year, as established in *Num 14:34* and *Eze 4:6*. For a short time period however we have to apply the rule twice. For example we equate one hour with 30 years. Using Jesus' words *Are there not twelve hours in the day?* (*John 11:9*), on our normal day-for-a-year principle this would equate to a 12th of 360 days or 30 days. This is a very short period and it seems reasonable that with short time symbols we have to use a more intense reckoning and apply our day for a year a **second** time, taking our 30 days to 30 years. This does fit with the other occasion where a short time period is used, which is the half-hour silence of *ch 8:1*, prior to the sounding of the 7 Trumpets.

And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour.

The time period in question was one that lasted some 14 years – **about** half an hour. We can see the reasonableness of the Master's system of conveying times. Very long periods – the 1000 years of the Kingdom (20:4) we take literally. Shorter periods we apply the day represents a year principle *and* for shorter periods we apply this principle twice. It fits the scene – a *silence for about half a month* isn't a reasonable scenario, whereas waiting for *about half an hour* is reasonable. Brother Thomas calls it *the decorum of the symbol*. The time period has to be fitting for the scene it is describing. We have a further instance in *ch 11:9* where *they shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves*. This was a 105 year period. To have had dead bodies for three and a half **months** unburied would not be a reasonable scenario, but using the double compression to 3½ days is a reasonable picture. On the other hand to describe the duration of the Kingdom, it would not be fitting to describe it as lasting a mere 1000 **days**. So what seems slightly confusing at first – literal for long periods, a day-for-a-year for all but short periods where a double application of a day-for-a-year applies – turns out to be a wonderful system designed by a wise Master.

So this time period commences after Armageddon (maybe 10 years after so it finishes at the same time as Israel's 40 year regathering is completed) and is the time that Europe is resisting the rule of Christ. We now look in more detail at *chapters 18 and 19*.

Rev. 18 – the fall of Babylon

This commences a new vision – John sees **another** angel, so this is not one of the 7 that had poured out the Vials; this angel is involved in the destruction of Babylon. Here is a picture of Christ and the saints, for Babylon falls at their hands. This is

the same angel described in the Greek as “*the one*” angel. (19:17) As is so typical of the book, the end to be reached is put at the beginning, like a chapter summary. “By the time this section ends, this will be the situation.”

Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.

For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies. Rev. 18:2, 3

So this is running in parallel with chapter 17 and adding a different aspect. It amplifies verse 14 of that chapter.

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

It is telling us how the Lamb overcomes the Babylonish rider and the Beast that carries her. Babylon was a name applied by historians to Rome, but especially it is picking up Old Testament language about the original fall of Babylon which we find in *Isa 13:19-22* and *Jeremiah chapters 50 and 51*. The destroyer of ancient Babylon was Cyrus who was named by God through Isaiah (44:28) as the destroyer of Babylon, who would dry up Babylon's rivers (44:27) and whose name in Persian means *sun*. We can see remarkable parallels with his work and that of the Lord Jesus and the link with *drying up of the River Euphrates*.

And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east [or kings who are out of a sun's risings] might be prepared. Rev. 16:12

The nations are besotted with Babylon, drunk with her wine and become her immoral partners; her merchants have been enriched through her business. (v3)

John then hears another message.

And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. Rev 18:4

This voice is from the new political heaven based in Jerusalem. It is a call to the Jews – and anyone else who would heed – to separate themselves from a Catholic Europe influenced by Rome's evil system, prior to its demise. We read similar words spoken at the time of Babylon's original fall. (*Jer. 50:8; 51:6, 45*)

The punishment to be meted out to her is great because of the greatness of her sin. *Ch 17* speaks of her being *drunken with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus*. (v6) Countless hundreds of thousands – probably millions – have perished at her hands throughout the centuries. And so the sentence has already been declared.

Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double. Rev. 18:6

The present situation of the Vatican is then described.

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

She had been widowed under the earlier Vials, but she has recovered in a most remarkable way. Written off by many as irrelevant in today's world, yet we see, in spite of all her scandals, her sitting in power and authority. 1,500,000 young people flocked to Spain from around the world to listen to the Pope!

The rest of the chapter lists the great mourning by her merchants; they are not glad that this evil system has been removed but rather mourn the loss of their trade. They too will surely feel the Lamb's wrath if they do not repent.

Babylon's merchandise

The list of merchandise (v12, 13) that Babylon dealt with is remarkable for its aptness to the Vatican. *Gold, silver, precious stones and pearls.* A visit to Rome reveals wealth like no other city in the world. The churches are dripping with these precious materials. *Fine linen, purple, silk and scarlet.* The vestments are fabulous and white, purple and scarlet dominate. *Thyine wood for incense, vessels of ivory, costly wood, brass, iron and marble.*



Her churches and her museums have the most incredible displays of marble, carved wood and brass. *Cinnamon, spices, ointments and frankincense* for her incense. Then a list of foods – *wine, oil, fine flour, wheat, beasts and sheep.* They don't look starving in the Vatican! Then transport – *horses and chariots.* Papal cars, trains, helicopters and planes! The last two items are the most chilling. *Bodies and souls of men!* Rich pickings here. Money for prayers for the dead, money for early release from purgatory, money from indulgences, money for candles, money for the images and icons. The money to enter the Vatican Museum from its over 4 million visitors per year must bring in over €50 million; that's for non-guided tours; guided tours run by the Vatican would at least double that figure. With 17,000 visitors a day to the Vatican City with its extensive tourist shops, there must be a very good income, bearing in mind that the Roman Catholic Church does not have to pay taxes or rates on her buildings. Figures for 2010 were recently published.

Vatican City State had income of about \$340m. and expenses of about \$312m.

The Vatican said a major factor in the surplus was a boom in visitors to the Vatican Museums, despite a general crisis in the tourism industry.

The Holy See, which depends largely on investments for its annual income, had income of \$355m. and expenses of \$341m. *Catholic News Service 12-Jul-11*

What Avro Manhattan wrote in *The Vatican's Billions* 50 years ago still stands.

“The Catholic church is the biggest financial power, wealth accumulator and property owner in existence. She is a greater possessor of material riches than any other single institution, corporation, bank, giant trust, government or state of the whole globe. The Pope, as the visible ruler of this immense amassment of wealth, is consequently the richest individual of the twentieth century. No one can realistically assess how much he is worth in terms of billions of dollars.”

The rest of Revelation ch 17 contains the mourning of those who have lost their trade. There are several references to the period of judgement lasting *one hour* – or 30 years as we saw earlier. Much is to be done. In the language of *Daniel ch 7*:

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.

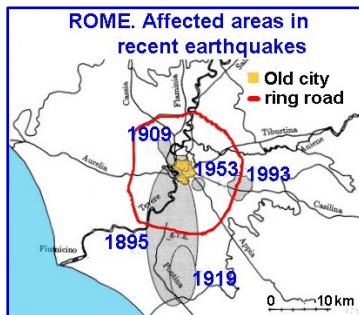
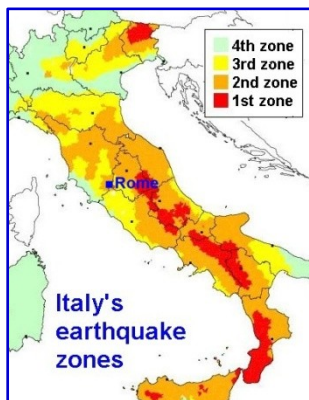
As concerning the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away: yet their lives were prolonged for a season and time. Dan. 7:11, 12

The Papal horn and the 4th Beast on whose head it sits are to be destroyed, whereas the countries on the territories of the other earlier Beasts, submit to the reign of Christ. The 4th Roman Beast has been in existence – in various phases – since conquering the Greek Empire over 2,000 years ago. Although the earlier Empires had been possessors of Jerusalem and some, especially the Assyrian/Babylonian first Beast had shed much Jewish blood, nothing can compare to the centuries of persecution of saints, Jews and Protestants.

Like Babylon, the fate of the city of Rome is to disappear into obscurity for ever.

And a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast it into the sea, saying, Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all. Rev. 18:21

There might be an element of literality in this symbolism. Whilst Rome is not on a major earthquake zone it is in an area of seismic activity, there have been several strong earthquakes in the past 120 years as our map shows. Rome is in the 2nd most active zone as shown



in our other map. There is more than Rome's destruction. The tentacles of Rome reach to every corner of the globe. Although the central administration is located in Rome, each country or group of small countries has at its head a diocesan cathedral, overseen by a Bishop or (for bigger cathedrals) an Archbishop. There are around 3,000 of this second level. The third level is the local

churches run by priests who report to their bishop.

Taking out the centre will still leave an extensive network to be dealt with.

The two harvests

There are two harvests of judgement in *Rev. ch 14*. The first is a *grain* harvest.

And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle.

And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe.

And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped. Rev. 14:14-16

The *Son of man* and the *white cloud* is symbolic of Christ with the saints, in judgement. Here is the Battle of Armageddon, with *sheaves being threshed*. This is the judgement on Gog and his companions who have come against Jerusalem.

The second harvest is that of *grapes*.

And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle.

And another angel ... cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe.

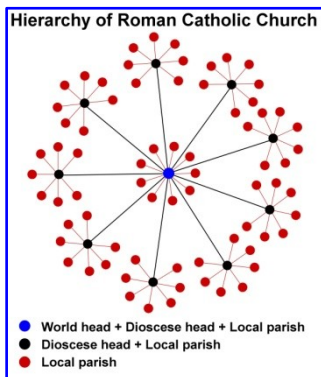
And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God.

And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs. Rev. 14:17-20

Russia is one of the great “bread-baskets” of Europe; whereas Italy and the Mediterranean areas are noted for their grapes and wine. Grain is harvested several months before the grapes – so there is an interval of time between these *harvests*.

Her grapes are *fully ripe*; she rejects Jesus at his 2nd coming and does not repent of her sins, so her punishment is just. It takes place *without the city*, extending to all who will oppose the new King’s call to submit. (14:7) The *blood* is as deep as *the horse’s bridles*. A bridle is used to direct a horse and signifies those in power and control. The distance the blood flows is vast. 1260 furlongs (*Gk. stadia*) is 290km or 185 miles! No width is given, so we take it that it is a symbolic measure of time. 1600 is the square of 40 – pointing perhaps to a 40 year period from Armageddon to the final submission of all nations and the Jews fully regathered.

We now turn to the euro crisis and start by looking at the euro.



Chapter 4:

THE ORIGINS OF THE EURO

The news in Europe this year has been dominated by the euro crisis. We have had in the past banks and companies failing and going into bankruptcy because they can't pay their bills; now we are faced with countries going bankrupt! The repercussions of such a happening would be calamitous to the banking system which relies on confidence. If one nation falls, the fear is that others will follow.

Our interest in these matters is to see how this is leading to the situation of the nations of Europe joining with Russia to invade Israel. What connection can there be with this and the euro crisis? I hope that we shall see several strands in the financial world's complex problems that link the two!

In this chapter we look at the back ground to the euro.

Hitler's plans for a United Europe

What we have to remember is that the German nation enjoys power. The Holy Roman Empire, or as it was later known, the Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation, dominated European affairs for around a thousand years. It came to an end at the time of the first few judgements at the time of the French Revolution. Described in its various phases, this domination by Germanic rulers was clearly destined to continue, for a Beast power is depicted as being in existence in the 6th Vial period – our period – and beyond, at the time after the battle of Armageddon as revealed in Revelation ch 17. The Holy Roman Empire was always considered as a continuance of the Roman Empire.

So it is not surprising that Germany has sought to regain that Empire or, to use the Germanic term, Reich¹. Bismarck tried in 1871, but the 2nd Reich came to an end in 1918 with the defeat of Germany in WWI. Hitler established the 3rd Reich in 1933 but this came to an end in 1945 with the defeat of Germany at the end of WWII. The term, the 4th Reich, is used today to describe Germany's current efforts to dominate Europe – but more of that later.

Hitler's plans laid the foundations for the EU of today. Hitler drew up a blueprint of a united Europe under a common currency. A conference entitled *The European Economic Community* was held in Berlin in September 1942, where a number of papers were given, among them:

- *The Economic Face of the New Europe*
- *The Development towards the European Economic Community*
- *European Agriculture*
- *Questions about European Transport*
- *Questions about Europe's Currency*
- *The Basis Question: Europe – Geographical Concept or Political Fact?*

¹ Empire, realm, or nation. The German for phrase in the Lord's Prayer, *Thy Kingdom come*, is *Dein Reich komme*.

In 1943, at the height of WWII, Hitler's Finance Minister, Cécil von Renthe-Fink published a series of drafts, having been tasked with looking at the rebuilding of Europe. In a draft entitled "*Basic Elements of a Plan for the New Europe*", in a section entitled '*The Economic Organisation of Europe*', he foresaw:

Trade based on the principle of European preference vis-à-vis non-European countries, with the eventual objective of a European customs union; a European clearing centre and stable currency rates in Europe, with the eventual objective of a European monetary union and 'the harmonisation of labour conditions and social welfare, in the direction of improving standards' It foresaw 'Conferences' in each area (Labour, Agriculture, and so on) deciding policy for the whole Confederation. *John Laughland. The Tainted Source p30*

In a "*Note on the establishment of a European confederation*" in Aug 1943, Hans Frohwein had this paragraph.

As regards the countries which are to be united with Germany, their admission to the European confederation could be a step in this direction. These countries would thereby be drawn into our political sphere of interest. If it seemed necessary we could conclude agreements with them beforehand safeguarding the rights that we must in any case claim. When we have beaten the enemy on all fronts there will be a new situation in which we shall be perfectly free to organize the continent as we please. **The Greater Germanic Reich** would then come into being as a matter of course.

A few years ago, the *Daily Mail* (09-May-09) gave details of recently released secret documents of a meeting by a core of Nazis and German industrialists to plan the future in view of the inevitable demise of the Hitler regime. Known as the *Red House Report*, it is a detailed account of a secret meeting at the Maison Rouge Hotel in Strasbourg on August 10, 1944. There, Nazi officials ordered an elite group of German industrialists to plan for Germany's post-war recovery, prepare for the Nazis' return to power and work for a 'strong German empire'. In other words: the Fourth Reich.

This is what did happen, the dream was kept alive and step-by-step the dreams became realities. Germany has ever sought to gain power.

The old medieval dream of a universal empire has never quite left the German's fantasy. This is why modern Euro-federalists evoke Charlemagne: the Holy Roman Empire was the very archetype of universal monarchy. Charlemagne and his successors laid down detailed regulations for every aspect of economic, political and religious life throughout the empire. Germany's fluid frontiers; the special role of the Holy Roman Emperor as the secular half of a bicephalous [2 headed] universal empire; ... all these encouraged the Germans to think of their country as an embodiment of universal sovereignty. *John Laughland. The Tainted Source p137*

The foundations of the EU are laid

First came the European Coal and Steel agreement in 1951. This was a group of 6 countries (France, West Germany, Italy, Belgium, Luxembourg and the

Netherlands) who came together to strengthen their main industries: steel and coal. It was known as the Paris Treaty for this is where it was signed. Jean Monnet, a French economist, was the founding father of this plan, although the project was known as the *Schuman Declaration*, after Robert Schuman who set out the ideas at a Press conference. These are some of the points he made.

Five years, almost to the day, after the unconditional surrender of Germany, France is accomplishing the first decisive act for European construction and is associating Germany with this. Conditions in Europe are going to be entirely changed because of it. This transformation will facilitate other action which has been impossible until this day.

Europe will be born from this, a Europe which is solidly united and constructed around a strong framework. It will be a Europe where the standard of living will rise by grouping together production and expanding markets, thus encouraging the lowering of prices.

This merging of our interests in coal and steel production and our joint action will make it plain that any war between France and Germany becomes not only unthinkable but materially impossible. The establishment of this powerful unity for production, open to all countries willing to take part, ... will cast the real foundation for their economic unification.

In this way, simply and speedily, the fusion of interests which is vital for the establishment of a common economic system will be realized. The heaven will be introduced which will permeate and build a wider and deeper community between countries that had continually opposed each other in bloody divisions.

By pooling basic industrial production and setting-up a new High Authority whose decisions will be binding on France, Germany and other member countries, these proposals will bring to reality the first solid groundwork for a European Federation vital to the preservation of world peace.
www.schuman.info/

The date of the Press conference was the 9th May, which later became Europe Day to celebrate the foundations of what is now termed the EU. The six countries signed up to this agreement on 18th April 1951 establishing the European Coal and Steel Community. Six years later the same six countries set up the European Economic Community (EEC) and the European Atomic Energy Community (EAEC). This was signed at Rome (the Treaty of Rome.) In 1967 they were merged to form the European Community. In 1973 the six became nine with Britain, Denmark and Ireland joining. Over the years this steadily grew and in 1993 under the Maastricht Treaty became the European Union – the EU – its present name with currently 27 members. Enlargement talks are on-going with the Balkan countries, Iceland and Turkey. Croatia may join as early as 2012.

The birth of the euro

Political union was always the dream of the founding fathers of the EU; they recognised however that that was a difficult idea to sell, especially with Britain's membership, where such an idea was anathema. As Monnet wrote to a friend:

Europe's nations should be guided towards the super-state without their people understanding what is happening. This can be accomplished by successive steps, each disguised as having an economic purpose, but which will eventually and irreversibly lead to federation. *Jean Monnet. 30th April 1952*

Although it was always known that political union would be necessary to have a successful monetary union, it had to be disguised. As the Italian Prime Minister Giuliano Amato said in an interview with Barbara Spinelli:

“The project of the European constitution is daring, but to overcome obstacles in politics it is necessary to conceal them. In Europe one needs to act ‘as if’ – as if what was wanted was little, in order to obtain much, as if states were to remain sovereign to convince them to concede sovereignty. The Commission in Brussels, for example, should act as if it were a technical instrument, in order to be able to be treated as a government. And so on, by disguise and subterfuge.

“The sovereignty that is lost at national level does not pass to any new entity. It is entrusted to entities without a face. ... The new entity is faceless and those who are in command can neither be pinned down nor elected. ... The federalists still think that stripping nation states of their sovereignty transfers it to a higher level. This is their mistake. The truth is that shifting sovereign power will make it evaporate, disappear. In it there will no longer be individual identifiable sovereigns. In their place there will be a multitude of authorities at different levels of aggregation, each of which will be at the head of different interests of human beings: levels that possess ambiguous fields of power which they share with other authorities.” *La Stampa* 13-Jul-00

Helmut Kohl the German Chancellor from 1982 to 1997 who is considered the main architect in the reunification of Germany, was equally open.

The future will belong to the Germans ... when we build the House of Europe. In the next two years, we will make the process of European integration irreversible. This is a really big battle but it is worth the fight.” *Hilton. The Principality and Power of Europe* p. 39

“We want the political unification of Europe. Without monetary union there can be no political union and vice versa.” *Kohl. 1995*

The big drive to a single currency came while Mrs Thatcher was Prime Minister (1979-1990). She was “ambushed” at a summit meeting in Rome, but she stoutly rejected signing up to monetary union, famously reporting back to Parliament No! No! No! Shortly after she was rejected by her own party and resigned.

Nicholas Ridley in 1990 when Secretary of State for Trade and Industry under Mrs Thatcher, was interviewed by the *Spectator* and (in)famously said that European Monetary Union, then being discussed seriously for the first time, was “a German racket designed to take over the whole of Europe. ... You might just as well give it to Adolf Hitler, frankly I’m not sure I wouldn’t rather have the [bomb] shelters and the chance to fight back, than simply being taken over by ... economics”. He was forced to resign for this outburst, but time has proved him right.

Monetary union plans moved ahead step by little step. In 1995 the term euro was coined, together with its symbol. (€) By 1998 the EU countries, with the exception of Britain, Denmark and Sweden who were not joining and Greece who wasn't ready, signed up to the new currency. On Jan 1st 1999 the euro exchange rates were fixed for each country's currency and the newly set-up European Central Bank took control of monetary policy for the euro-zone countries. Banks and institutions were able to trade in euros, though it wasn't until 1st Jan 2002 that euro banknotes and coins were in circulation. The euro then became the currency of the eurozone countries, which by then included Greece and currently number 17 members.

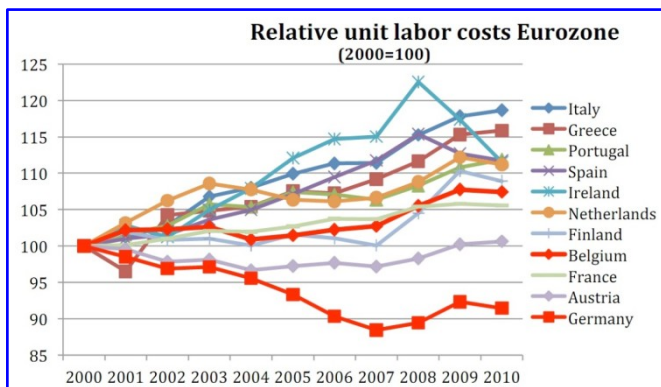
A new Golden Age – now crumbling

The southern European countries who traditionally had to pay high interest rates because of their poorly run economies, suddenly had access to funds at what to them were very low interest rates, due to the stability of this new

currency with Germany at its core. ECB bank rate has generally been well below 5% – it is 1% at the moment, Greece had been used to double digit bank rates!

Money flooded in, living standards rose, wage settlement grew steadily higher. On the other hand Germany had long enjoyed loans at reasonable rates. Germany worked hard to keep labour costs down, using automation as much as she could. Taking the year 2000 as a bench mark, in 11 years Germany's wage rates had gone **down** 8% while Italy's has gone up 18%, as this chart shows. Also her reputation for her export markets was based on quality rather than price. Germany's exports boomed, whilst those of the rest of the eurozone found themselves increasingly uncompetitive. Suddenly the housing boom burst, prices tumbled, and properties were left uncompleted. Rocked by the American sub-prime mortgage crisis, Europe was soon badly affected. In 2008 the world teetered on a knife-edge, as this Economist cover showed.

So where is this all leading? That's what we consider next.



Chapter 5:

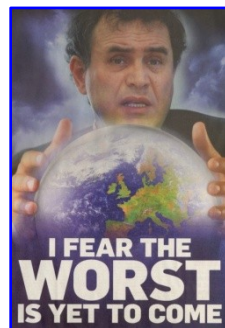
THE EURO CRISIS – WHERE IS IT HEADING?

In the previous chapter we saw the origins of the EU and the euro currency. We now try to make sense of the crisis engulfing Europe.

Economists like Nouriel Roubini warned that worse was to come

Back in 2008, the economist Nouriel Roubini warned that financial matters would get worse. He was right! The euro financial problems have now reached crisis point!

In the “good old days” a country could devalue to help lift itself out of financial straits, but locked in a currency union this option is not available. Throughout 2011 the financial markets have been looking anxiously at the euro zone, seeing the value of the euro increasingly under fire. Its weakest members have seen their borrowing rates soar as they desperately try to raise money to pay off their debts. Their problem is that they have many debts which need to be paid back in the next year or two. They are faced with having to take out new loans at crippling rates of interest as lenders are increasingly wary that they might not get their money back.



As the EU leaders seek more and more ways to raise the money to bail out their impoverished members, it has been France and Germany who have taken the lead. Many times their two leaders have met ahead of Summit Meetings and tried to work out a fix between them and presenting it as a *fait accompli* to the Meeting. A new word has been coined “Merkozy”, a fusion of Angela Merkel’s and Nicholas Sarkozy’s names. The problem for the rest of Europe is that Germany is the strongest member; they are dependent upon her help to get out of the mess they find themselves in. It was increasingly evident that increasing levels of political union would be necessary to prevent matters getting worse.

For years France the leader, Germany follows; but no more

What has been interesting is to see the change in leadership. With Germany having suffered such a grave defeat in WWII, the Germans concentrated on rebuilding, leaving France to chart Europe’s history. However with the passage of time, Germany began to desire their rightful place as Europe’s leader!

What the markets often lose sight of is that this situation is not only – or even primarily – a financial and economic crisis. France originally intended European integration as a means to bolster its international position. Germany was shattered after the conclusion of World War II. The French picked up the pieces and by initiating the process that eventually led to the creation of the European Union, Paris refashioned Germany into a platform from which France could project power. This system used German strength to entice other states to join the growing union. France promised three things: that European states would be

more important collectively; that members would become rich by relying on German wealth; and that Germany would never again be in a position to hurt other European states.

By the middle part of the last decade, though, Germans had outgrown sixty years of policymaking shaped by what can be best described as an extended national apology. Germany began acting like a real country again. Real countries have many characteristics in common. They obviously like to speak for themselves, and they don't like to be taken advantage of by their neighbors. *Stratfor 16-Aug-11*

Germany rewiring the EU

Many commentators – working from history rather than from an understanding of prophecy – have pointed to the concept that the euro crisis was something that Germany had planned from the beginning, and would give them the opportunity to regain the power that they had lost in giving up their currency, the Deutschmark, and loss of sovereignty that the euro project had entailed. In 2010 *Stratfor* posited:

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?**

What made us look at this in a new light was an interview with German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schäuble on March 13 in which he essentially said that if Greece, or any other eurozone member, could not right their finances, they should be ejected from the eurozone. This really got our attention. ... This is not the sort of statement made by a country that is constrained, harnessed, submerged or placated. It is not even the sort of statement made by just any EU member, but rather by the decisive member. **Germany now appears prepared not just to contemplate, but to publicly contemplate, the re-engineering of Europe for its own interests.** It may not do it, or it may not do it now, but it has now been said, and that will change Germany's relationship to Europe. 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).

The paradigm that created the European Union – that Germany would be harnessed and contained – is shifting. **Germany now has not only found its voice, it is beginning to express, and hold to, its own national interest.** A political consensus has emerged in Germany against bailing out Greece. Moreover, a political consensus has emerged in Germany that **the rules of the eurozone are Germany's to refashion.** *Stratfor 16-Mar-10*

Events in 2011 have confirmed *Stratfor's* suspicions. An article in the *Daily Telegraph 13-Jan-11* carried the following headline.

Euro crisis: The only way to save the euro is the destruction of its members

Since the coronation of Charlemagne as Holy Roman Emperor in 800 AD, there have been numerous attempts to unify Europe. Philip II of Spain, Louis XIV, Napoleon and Hitler all came tantalisingly close to success, but all ultimately failed. **Today a fifth attempt is under way through the European Union.**

Though not associated with a single great or powerful man, the ultimate objective of the EU is otherwise more or less familiar to students of European empires: no internal boundaries; a single currency; one parliament; one central government; one army; one foreign policy and a single political unit stretching from the Atlantic to the Urals.

The 27 nations that currently comprise the EU would merge into one huge state, accounting for a population of some 500 million, approximately one fifth of global wealth and an even higher percentage of the world's trade. **Such a nation would take its place alongside the United States and China as a superpower.**

Following the July summit where the EU leaders agreed to increase the level of funding for bailouts in the light of the spiralling crises in Greece and now Italy, the *Daily Telegraph* 22-Jul-11 ran this headline:

The euro crisis will give Germany the empire it's always dreamed of

It is almost impossible to overestimate the importance of the decision which European leaders seemed last night to be reaching. By authorising a huge expansion in the bail-out fund that is propping up the EU's peripheral members (largely in order to stop the contagion spreading to Italy and Spain), the eurozone has taken the decisive step to becoming **a fiscal union**. So long as the settlement is accepted by national parliaments, yesterday will come to be seen as the witching hour after which **Europe will cease to be, except vestigially, a collection of nation states**. It will have one economic government, one currency, one foreign policy. This integration will be so complete that taxpayers in the more prosperous countries will be expected to pay for the welfare systems and pension plans of failing EU states.

This is the final realisation of the dream that animated the founders of the Common Market more than half a century ago – which is one reason why so many prominent Europeans have privately welcomed the eurozone catastrophe, labelling it a “beneficial crisis”.

Germany is busy turning into one of the most dynamic and productive economies in the world. Despite the grumbling, for the Germans, the bail-outs are worth every penny, because they guarantee a cheap outlet for their manufactured goods. Yesterday's witching hour of the European Union means that **Germany has come very close to realising Bismarck's dream of an economic empire stretching from central Europe to the Eastern Mediterranean.**

Faced with difficult times in the Greek and Italian debt crises, it was time to move up a gear. The Germans began to resurrect a concept from the 1990's, a two-speed Europe.

An inner and an outer core – a 2 speed Europe?

The outspoken German newspaper *Spiegel* 05-Sep-11 aired the taboo subject.

Today, **it is primarily Great Britain that is preventing the EU from growing closer together**. Merkel, though, has had enough – and is now planning a **two-speed Europe**. It would mean tightly interlocking the countries of the euro zone, possibly by means of a separate treaty that would apply in parallel to the EU Treaty of Lisbon. This was the concept German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schäuble proposed last week to the leadership of his party, the center-right Christian Democratic Union (CDU). Merkel sees Van Rompuy, who already chairs the council of the 27 EU leaders, as the head of the new power center.

In addition to the club of 27 nations that primarily manages the common domestic market as it has done until now, Merkel envisions a tight alliance of the 17 euro-zone members – one which would unify their fiscal, budgetary and social policies. This would create a two-class club, raising questions like: What happens to the European Commission? Will it still be responsible for economic matters in the euro zone, or will there be a new organization? The same questions apply to the European Parliament and the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg. Would all of these institutions have to be duplicated, meaning even more bureaucracy, effort and expense?

There are no answers to these questions at the moment.

It was becoming increasingly clear that political union was the end goal for the inner core. As the *Guardian* 27-Oct-11 put it:

However else the outcome of the European Union and euro-area summits are judged in the coming weeks, **one conclusion seems clear**: the countries at the eurozone core of the EU are now determined to take a **major step** – not only to economic and fiscal integration **but also to de facto political union**.

Greek government bows to EU pressure

Sovereignty was to be sacrificed for fiscal oversight by the EU. Greece was the first to experience what this meant. In early November, the Greek Prime Minister, George Papandreou, was presented with a range of strict austerity measures which the country must agree to on condition of receiving the next tranche of the EU bailout fund. Faced with stiff opposition and the fact that there had been frequent riots against earlier austerity measures; he decided to put the matter to a referendum. There was a loud outcry from Germany, France and the EU elites. They hate referenda – because most voters are unhappy and try to thwart the EU's advancement by voting No!

He was forced to withdraw his planned referendum and suffered the indignity of having to resign. Under EU pressure, a technocratic government was put together, led by a civilian Prime Minister, Lucas Papademos, a banker who had overseen

Greece's entry into the euro and had been active as vice-president of the ECB from 2002-2010. The rest of the government was made up of a coalition from 3 of the 5 main parties.

Then it was Italy's turn to be pressurised by the EU and the ECB.

Italy – a non-elected government

The EU leaders became increasingly frustrated by Silvio Berlusconi's failure to fulfil the promised austerity measures that the ECB had insisted on as the price of further bail-out money.

The debts of Greece pale into insignificance beside those of Italy. Neither the ECB nor the IMF funds have anywhere near enough funds to bail out Italy if it did default on its huge debts. Faced by pressure from the bankers, and facing punitive rates of interest to borrow from the markets, Berlusconi had no option but to bow to Germany's demands that a new government be formed. This was eventually done and at the moment we have an entire government that has not been elected to office and without any politicians!

With the ECB being firmly under Germany's control, the poorer countries of Europe were finding their freedoms severely curtailed as far as their governments were concerned. Ireland found herself in the situation of having its budget proposals scrutinized by the German parliament ahead of it being laid before the Irish parliament! Naturally this caused more than raised eyebrows in Ireland, but this is the bitter price for past profligacy!

Europe's hit squad

In a most remarkable way Germany is exerting her power. This is what the *Spectator* 12-Nov-11 had to say!

If you thought the EU couldn't get any less democratic, meet the Frankfurt Group ... Last month, Angela Merkel and Nicolas Sarkozy met the EU's bureaucratic elite in what would, in another era, be described as a putsch. They had grown tired of eurozone summits, with leaders flying here and there but getting nowhere. A smaller group needed to be formed, who would wield power firmly but informally. That evening, **a new EU hit squad was born.**

As Silvio Berlusconi has now found out, this so-called Frankfurt Group means business. Only a few months ago, it would have been unthinkable that the head of one European government would try to destabilise or depose another. Now, two EU leaders have fallen in a week. As Sarkozy knows from recent experience, to enforce regime change one need only give a helping hand to the rebels.

So the Frankfurt Group is, in effect, a merger between the EU hierarchy and German financial power: a kind of Brussels on the Rhine. It would not have been possible in the pre-crisis era when there were qualms about German might. **Now the Germans are no longer apologetic. 'The question of who could accept a German model has been settled by the market,'** said a German government spokesman recently. **'We are really only talking about the details**

and the extent of the measures, not about their nature.’ This new, pugilistic tone is felt everywhere.

Merkel urges greater political and economic integration

Angela Merkel made quite plain the course that she was plotting for Europe.

Speaking at the CDU’s party congress in Leipzig yesterday, Merkel called for **further political and economic integration** in order to overcome the eurozone debt crisis. She argued that: “we are all part of European domestic politics...the task of our generation is to complete economic and monetary union, and **build political union in Europe, step by step**... That does not mean less Europe, **it means more Europe**...so that the euro has a future”. *Open Europe 15-Nov-11*

Chancellor Merkel also warned that the EU faces “perhaps the toughest hour since the second world war.” (*The Observer 20-Nov-11*)

President Sarkozy and Chancellor Merkel held several face to face meetings to hammer out a longer-term solution to the euro’s ills, ahead of the December summit meeting of the EU heads – the eighth of the year! The markets had had a terrible run, with the value of shares plummeting, following Germany’s forecast that her growth would shrink to just 0.5% in 2013 and Moody’s threatening that France would lose her cherished AAA credit rating.

Delivering a speech to the German Parliament this morning, German Chancellor Angela Merkel said that Europe was on the verge of **deeper fiscal integration**, the necessity of which was widely recognised, claiming that: “We’re not just **talking about a fiscal union but starting to create one**. I believe you can’t overestimate the importance of this step”. *Open Europe 02-Dec-11*

A government’s **fiscal policy** is the use of government expenditure and revenue collection (taxation) to influence its economy. (*Wikipedia*) **Fiscal union**, in terms of the EU, is the handing over to a central establishment of the powers of the individual members to control their taxes and how they are spent, thus removing their control over their budgets. This would be another big step on the road to political union.

At the 8th emergency summit meeting – Cameron says No!

On the eve of the EU heads of government meeting, the “Merkozy” plans were revealed which went far beyond anything in the Lisbon Treaty provisions. Basically it was all but political integration. It would take years to amend the Lisbon Treaty if these ideas were to be accepted, so the “Merkozy” plan was for all 27 members to agree to the measures and push through an amendment to the Treaty which could be agreed by the Heads of government at a meeting in March. There would be no need for referenda on the matter!

David Cameron had warned them that this was a bridge too far, and that it threatened Britain’s standing in the financial markets. The only way he would give his assent to these measures would be in exchange for guarantees that they would not harm the City’s financial position. The talks dragged on throughout the night. Cameron was isolated and he had to tell them that it was not a matter he could sign

up to. This was, I'm sure, the outcome that France and Germany envisaged; it diverted attention from the incredible giving up of sovereignty that the other 26 seemed to have agreed to, putting Britain as the spoil-sport and the one they could blame. The fall-back position was then put in motion of a two-speed Europe, those who would follow Germany and France down this pathway and an outer core – initially of one – who would be excluded from the monthly crisis meetings and would lose their influence. In the days that followed it became clear that Britain would not be alone as several other countries reflected on the enormity that the step to fiscal union entailed. It certainly drew the daggers out as this report by Daniel Hannan in the *Daily Telegraph* 13-Dec-11 explains under this headline.

Eurocrats no longer trouble to disguise their loathing for Britain

I wish I could adequately convey the intensity of the anti-British feeling in the European Parliament. In today's debate on last week's Brussels summit, speaker after speaker rose to denounce our entire nation as selfish, narrow-minded and arrogant. Some spoke of retribution, of making us feel the consequences of our isolation. Joseph Daul demanded that, as a first step, the UK rebate be removed. The Liberal leader, Guy Verhofstadt made a point of not speaking in English as he normally does, declaring that it would be inappropriate to the occasion.

I could quote dozens of similar comments, but, written down, they fail to conjure the ambience. You needed to be present, to hear the yowling and shrieking and desk-banging that accompanied every Anglophobic utterance.

What do I conclude from the new mood? First, and most obviously, that Britain cannot back down without a national humiliation unprecedented since Suez – possibly since the fall of Singapore.

Second, as I argued yesterday, the EU will now wilfully and deliberately set out to maim the City. This was, of course, going to happen anyway. Friday's veto has simply removed any pretence that the damage to our financial services would be incidental or unintended. Now we know that it will be malicious.

Third, the British Government will need to take unilateral action to defend its interests.

Fourth, since Eurocrats no longer bother to disguise their contempt for Britain, let's ask the question that has been hovering at the edge of our consciousness all along. Why do we submit to government from people who plainly detest us?

Growing anti-Semitism

Our chapter heading is where is the euro crisis heading? The view of many economists is that it is heading to oblivion. It may well be, if so, then there will be a fearful credit crunch as banks crumble under un-repayable debts. It certainly would be *a time of trouble such as never was (Dan 12:1)*, as far as the financial world is concerned. Germany has 2 options; to allow the failing members to leave, or leave the euro and set up a new deutschmark with the stronger EU countries. In other words we are expecting substantial changes during the coming year.

More importantly we see this crisis as part of the preparation of the nations to come against Jerusalem. We expect this for two reasons. Both the growing power of the Church and economic stress will lead to greater anti-Semitism. With stronger Churches in Europe and Russia they will feel bolder to challenge Israel's right to the Land of Israel. A returned Israel in expectation of a coming Messiah is anathema to the Roman Church; in their eyes, the Kingdom of God already exists in Rome – we refer readers to chapter 13 of *Milestones 2010* for more details. Reports indicate that both in Europe and Russia there is a growing feeling against the Jews. 2010 saw the third highest amount of anti-Semitic incidents in at least 21 years. 2009 was the worst year after Israel's *Cast Lead* invasion of Gaza.

In an EU opinion poll of people from 15 EU countries, when asked which country constituted the greatest threat to world peace, the majority said Israel!

“These shocking results, that Israel is the greatest threat to world peace, bigger than North Korea, Iran and Afghanistan, defies logic and is a racist flight of fancy that only shows that anti-Semitism is deeply embedded within European society, more now than in any other period since the end of World War II,” said Rabbi Marvin Hier, the Simon Wiesenthal Center's dean and founder.

“If the results of this survey are as reported, then Israel should draw the only conclusion possible: that the European Union and its members should play no role in any future Middle East peace process,” Hier concluded. *Jewish Federations of North America 01-Nov-11*

Germany's growing power is already leading to a rise in the right-wing Nazi party.

The religious leaders of Iran “have just “upgraded” their strategic objective of wiping Israel off the map and extended it for the first time to the more ambitious one of annihilating the Jews worldwide”. *Debka 03-Dec-11*

The other important factor is that times of economic stress traditionally have also led to an increase in anti-Semitism.

From the 13th century expulsion of England's Jews to the 19th century Russian pogroms to the Nazi Holocaust, **sour economic conditions have historically formed the backdrop of rising anti-Semitism.**

On the American Nazi Party website, leader Rocky Suhayda voiced support for “Occupy Wall St.” and asked, “Who hold the wealth and power in this country? The Judeo-Capitalists. Who is therefore the #1 enemy who makes this filth happen? The Judeo-Capitalists.”

An Israeli commenter said, “It's just like pre-World War II Nazi Germany.”

It has been pointed out by many media commentators that the openly anti-Semitic remain but a small portion of those participating in the Occupy Wall St. movement. However, others have noted that Nazi anti-Semitism started out as a fringe phenomenon in Germany before eventually defining that nation's domestic agenda in the 1940s. *Israel Today 16-Oct-11*

We continue by looking at Germany's leadership of Europe

Chapter 6:

GERMANY IN CONTROL OF EUROPE

We have seen in the previous chapters that Germany has emerged as the European leader. This is in spite of suffering 3 major defeats in the last two centuries. Angelic hands are allowing her to follow her innate desire to dominate; a role that scripture has led us to expect. In this chapter we see her strength.

Germany's recent rise to power

It is hard to realise that it is only in recent times that the rest of Europe has looked to Germany as being the one country to emulate if they wish to survive the current crisis. *Spiegel* is one of Germany's main newspapers; it reminded its readers of Germany's recent history.

Germany, admired and envied for its economic success, has become a model for Europe in the debt crisis.

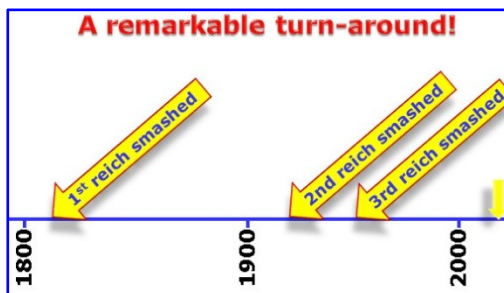
The Continent is becoming more German as countries get serious about fiscal discipline. But the nation's new dominance is also stirring resentment, and old anti-German sentiments are returning.

As recently as 2002 *Newsweek* dubbed Germany "the sick man of Europe," calling it a country hit by economic strife and unsure about its place in the world.

And yet suddenly, Germany is being held up as a shining example for everyone else. It is almost the only country in the Eurozone that the markets still trust. It is almost the only one that has a history of carrying out far-reaching structural reforms. **Almost overnight, Germany has become the de facto center of Europe.**

After the war, the French and the British sought to bind Germany into a united Europe to prevent it from ever becoming the dominant force in Europe again. But now its economic strength has made it the region's natural leader for the first time since 1945, although neither the Germans nor the continent's other citizens seem comfortable with this state of affairs yet.

As a result, Germany's dominance in Europe has brought forth a paradox. As admiration for its economic successes has grown, so too has increasing criticism of the way it is handling its role as the leading force. Not only does it appear to have done everything right on its own; it is also the country that – still – refuses to consider saving the 17-member eurozone by printing money or issuing eurobonds. It is also forcing others to adopt its cost-cutting recipes. *Spiegel* 06-Dec-11



A *Stratfor* article detailed the reason for Germany's success.

Germany is an incredibly capital-rich state. And all of that capital allows Germans to have one of the world's most advanced infrastructures, most advanced materials and industrial base, and most skilled workforce. Which means the products created by the Germans in Germany can compete globally no matter what the price of the currency happens to be. This is not the case for most of the rest of Europe. Most of the rest of Europe is not nearly as capital rich, so their labor pool is not nearly as skilled, their industrial base is not nearly as advanced. Which means that their products, in contrast to Germany's, are price dependent. The value of the currency does matter a great deal. The common currency already makes growth for these countries problematic. *Stratfor 11-Aug-11*

This power causes fear to those countries that have experienced what German domination was like. Greece was invaded by Germany in 1941 and suffered 400,000 casualties. Now it is not jack-boots, but men with briefcases who are invading!

Back in the midst of World War II, Nazi Germany occupied Greece with men dressed in field gray military uniform, toting rifles and machine guns. Last week, a different force of advanced guard arrived in Athens from Germany, dressed in business suits and carrying briefcases.

This elite force of 50 German businessmen, led by Germany's vice chancellor, Philipp Rösler, descended on Greece ostensibly to supply expertise to solve the Greeks' current crisis.

Broke and in hock to their eyeballs, just to survive as a people in their Mediterranean abode, the Greeks have no alternative but to yield to the takeover of their national economy by these German elites. ... For some time German industry has been quietly taking over not only the energy, water management and information technology industries, but much of the national industrial infrastructure of certain European nations, even of Britain across the English Channel divide. *The Trumpet 10-Oct-11*

A recent Greek newspaper featured a Nazi German eagle and swastika on its front cover!



Merkel – voted the world's most powerful woman – again

Four times in 5 years she has topped Forbes list of “The world's most powerful women”.

The world's most powerful woman heads Europe's most vibrant economy and is widely viewed as the de facto leader of the EU. A recent poll in France showed

that the French have more faith in Germany's leader (46%) than in their own president, Nicolas Sarkozy (33%).

The “undisputed” leader of the European Union and head of its only “real global economy”. *Forbes* 24-Aug-11

Merkel – Europe's Chancellor

According to one of Berlin's leading foreign policy magazines, *International Politik* 21-Jan-11, one can consider Mrs Merkel as the **Chancellor of Europe!** Quoting from it, *German-Foreign-Policy* 26-Jan-11 said:

The German chancellor can look back on 2010 as an extremely successful year at the EU level. She had been able to impose “whatever she wanted and even much of what, in early 2010, had been considered impossible”: a Euro crisis mechanism with the inclusion of private investors, a “more stringent Growth and Stability Pact” and even a “change of the EU Treaty”. Independently of how one sees these measures, one has to admit that Germany has, “as the largest national economy, slipped permanently into the pivotal role of the [European] union.” Thereby, the article continues, Merkel is “long since no longer only the German but also the ‘EU Chancellor’,” insists the author. Naturally, no one is talking yet about the “creation of a German EU chancellorship”. The “often insidious structural transformations” usually will only be fully recognized and propagandistically elaborated later. [A rather cumbersome translation from German!]

That was at the start of the year, how much further along this path Mrs Merkel travelled during 2011!

Germany's position in the world

Bearing in mind that Germany was bombed into submission in WWII, her recovery has been remarkable. Germany is:

- No 1 in EU for population
- No 2 in the world for exports, (behind China)
- No 2 in the world for gold reserves, (behind USA)
- No 3 in the world for arms exports, (behind USA and Russia)
- No 4 in the world for GDP¹, (behind USA, China and Japan)

Re-unification with East Germany in 1990 made Germany the biggest EU country by population and the 4th by land area, (behind France, Spain, Sweden).

Her volume of exports is helped in that sales to her fellow EU members are counted as exports; the US export figures are not far behind those of Germany.

Her gold reserves mean that if she ever did want to break away and set up her own currency it could be backed with gold. At today's high gold prices, her 3,401

¹ Gross Domestic Product. Refers to the market value of all final goods and services produced within a country in a given period. *Wikipedia*

tonnes are worth some £118bn. There have been calls for Germany to use her gold to help bail out fellow euro members who are in trouble! This has been firmly resisted, in fact there have been calls that Italy who has the world's 3rd largest gold reserves, should hand over to Germany some of that gold in exchange for German loans.

The predecessor of the European Central Bank was the European Monetary Institute. Prior to the change in 1998 it held about \$27bn in gold reserves. Yet when the first accounts of the ECB were published these had shrunk by \$20bn. with no explanation. Co-incidentally Germany's gold reserves increased by a similar amount! There could be no connection surely? Was this the price that Germany demanded and received for giving up her beloved deutschmark?

It seems staggering that after the Allies efforts to tie down Germany so she could never again be a military threat, she is now the world's 3rd largest arms exporter. Sales in 2010 were 50% higher than in the previous year and the Gulf States are one of her big markets.

Germany estimated to have made €9bn profit out of crisis

According to the *EUObserver 10-Nov-11*, Germany has profited by the euro-crisis, because investors have been turning to her as a safer place to invest in, in spite of lower returns than her Euro-zone neighbours.

Germany has profited to the tune of €9 billion from the eurozone crisis over the past two years, an ING economist has calculated for *EUObserver*, as investors flock to "safe" but near zero interest rate bonds while southern euro-countries struggle with unsustainable rates.

"For a long while, the German economy has been one of the few beneficiaries of the sovereign debt crisis. In fact, the German government can get market funding almost for free," Carsten Brzeski, a senior economist with the ING bank in Belgium told this website.

"Interestingly, this is already more than the recently announced [German] tax relief of around €8 billion for 2013 and 2014. It almost looks as if the Greeks financed the little German tax reform," he added.

The Germans Behind the Scenes of the EU

The *Wall Street Journal 01-Aug-11* ran an article under the above heading.

"In addition to the German government pushing its interests more aggressively in private than it does in public, observers note a growing ring of key Brussels players from the EU's largest member state."

One person singled out was Uwe Corsepius, Angela Merkel's former financial policy adviser who was appointed secretary general of the European Council.

The post itself is also a powerful and influential one. As secretary general of the European Council, which represents the interests of member states, Mr. Corsepius would likely have access to almost any meeting that President Herman Van Rompuy holds, as well as the key EU and eurozone summits. He is

in charge of drawing up the agenda for Council meetings and plays a key role in picking personnel. When Mr. Van Rompuy reports in October on how to improve EU crisis management, Mr. Corsepius, who holds a PhD in economics, will likely have his fingerprints somewhere on the recommendations.

Other Germans are:

- Johannes Laitenberger who is head of European Commission cabinet.
- Martin Schulz is expected to become president of the European Parliament shortly.
- Jürgen Stark is the chief economist at the European Central Bank (ECB)
- Klaus Regling is the Chief Executive Officer of the European Financial Stability Facility (EFSF)

The EFSF is emerging as one of the most important Europe institutions, The Bank is guaranteed by its 17 euro-zone members; however Germany has put up 25% of its €440bn guarantee commitments and therefore expects to control it.

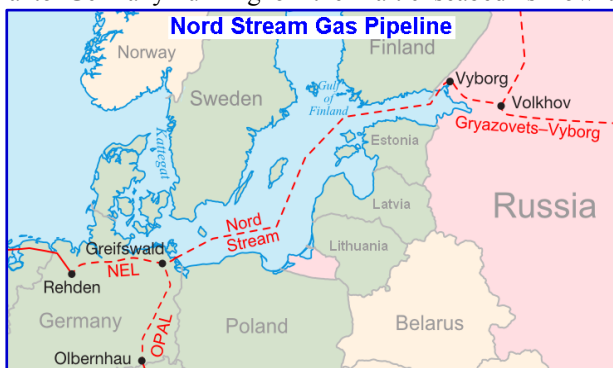
Unlike previous EU institutions (which the Germans strongly influence), the EFSF takes its orders from the Germans. The mechanism is not enshrined in EU treaties; it is instead a private bank, the director of which is German. *Stratfor* 26-Jul-11

Nord Stream gas pipeline now open

This marks a big boost to Russian–German trade. This ambitious project to build a twin pipeline from Russia to Germany running on the Baltic seabed is now a

reality. The 1st pipeline was completed this year and the 2nd is nearly 80% completed. There was a ceremonial “turning of a valve” to mark its opening on November 8th 2011. 450 guests were invited to the ceremony which Angel Merkel and Dmitry Medvedev attended,

together with Gerhard Schröder, the former German Chancellor, who had championed this project from its inception in 1997. When the second pipe is complete they will transfer up to 55bn M³ of gas into Germany. It has come at an opportune time; in the light of the Fukushima disaster in Japan in March 2011, Germany has decided to phase out nuclear power – more gas will be required to make up the energy shortfall. Medvedev has talked about the possibility of adding a 3rd pipeline.



We now turn to see the Vatican's role in the rise of Germany and the EU.

Chapter 7:

THE VATICAN PURSUING THE SAME AIMS

Germany has not achieved her position as the leader on her own. The role of the Vatican has to be appreciated; traditionally Germany was the Vatican's political partner. This is why the proponents of a politically integrated Europe hark back to the days of Charlemagne, crowned as Holy Roman Emperor in AD 800, and who, with the Pope as the spiritual leader, ruled over Europe. We have traced the role of Germany in the formation of the EU, let's trace the Vatican side.

From rags to riches – the Lateran Treaty ¹

The regrowth of the Vatican has taken a little longer than that of Germany. In the 1920's the Vatican City was in a sorry way with leaking roofs and rats running around the corridors. The words of *Rev 18:7* indicate that there would be a time of widowhood, but at the time of the end, that situation would be gone.

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.

The beginning of that pathway out of the widowhood inflicted upon her in the 1800's came in 1929, when the Vatican and Mussolini drew up a Concordat, known as the Lateran Treaty. This consisted of:

- A Treaty which established sovereignty of the Roman Catholic Church over the Vatican City and other important property in Italy
- A concordat which set out the privileges of the Vatican
- A financial settlement for the loss of lands and property in the previous century

It was signed by Cardinal Gasparri on behalf of Pope Pius XI and by Benito Mussolini, Prime Minister of Italy on behalf of King Victor Emmanuel III. The agreements were signed in the Lateran Palace – hence its name – close to where in AD 800 Charlemagne had been crowned! Many of the negotiations were carried out by Archbishop Eugenio Pascelli (later Pope Pius XII), whose brother Francesco Pacelli was the lawyer who drew up the wording.

The privileges included the recognition of Catholicism as the State religion, freedom from taxes on her property and businesses, and the salaries of all parish priests to be paid for by the State.

The financial settlement was \$90m (\$1.15bn in today's money); a not inconsiderable sum. The Pope set up a special agency *The Special Administration of the Holy See* whose sole responsibility it was to generate income from it. The

¹ Much of the following is from *Paul L. Williams. The Vatican Exposed*. This book published in 2003 gives a much more up-to-date picture than Avro Manhattan's books. Obtainable from Amazon or from Milestones.

Pope put a financial “wizard” in control of it, Bernardino Nogara, who had successfully reorganised the German Reichsbank. Cardinal Spellman said of him that “Next to Jesus Christ, the greatest thing that happened to the Church was Bernardino Nogara”. It was in fact while Nogara was in Germany reorganising the Reichsbank, that Archbishop Pacelli, who was the Papal Nuncio to Germany contacted him seeking his advice for solving the Vatican’s dire finances. Nogara persuaded him that rather than seeking to fulfil their dream of the restitution of the old Papal States, the Church should seek a financial settlement with Mussolini and by international investments become financially powerful. Pacelli introduced Nogara to the Pope, and the Lateran Treaty became the outcome, with Nogara in charge of the wealth!

This was wisely invested in Italian stocks, shares and companies; by the start of WWII the list of companies that the Vatican had a stake in filled over 70 pages of accounting ledgers! So much money poured into the Vatican that much of it had to be diverted into secret Swiss bank accounts. The Vatican today controls many Italian businesses and has an extensive property portfolio around the world. In the United States she is No. 2 to the Government for property and land holdings.

Putting Hitler into power

Pascelli had been elevated in 1930 to a Cardinal and was appointed the Vatican’s Secretary of State. With his close knowledge of Germany, he was heavily involved in German matters. As the Socialists came to power, the Roman Catholic Church initially opposed them, forbidding Catholics from joining the Nazi party. Pascelli however could see the advantage of having an agreement with the Nazi Party. The Vatican was concerned at the spread of Communism and here would be an ally against it. The Church also had extensive property in Germany and a concordat similar to that with Italy would be a financially beneficial thing. Hitler too, brought up as a Roman Catholic and at one stage contemplating going in to the church, realised that he needed their support to gain the power he longed for. In 1932 Franz Von Papen, a leading member of the Roman Catholic Centre Party was appointed Chancellor of Germany and Cardinal Pacelli persuaded Papen to encourage the German President, Paul von Hindenburg, to call upon Hitler to set up a new cabinet. Hindenburg did this and on 30th Jan 1933, Hitler was appointed the new chancellor and Von Papen the new vice chancellor. Hitler still needed the approval of 2/3rds of the Reichstag. He needed the support of the Catholic Centre Party to do this. Cardinal Pacelli reached an agreement; in return for their support Hitler would sign a Concordat with the Vatican, similar to the earlier one that Italy had agreed to. Monsignor Klass, the chairman of the Catholic Centre Party, lobbied for the support of his party saying that a concordat with Hitler represented “the greatest success that had been achieved in any country for the last ten years”.

Hitler duly received the support that he needed. Cardinal Pacelli and his lawyer brother, with many consultations with Hitler, drew up the Concordat which was signed 20th July 1933 by Von Papen for the government and Pacelli for the Vatican. Von Papen was to declare the following year:

The Third Reich is the first world power which not only acknowledges but also puts into practice the high principles of the papacy. *Guenter Lewy. The Catholic Church and Nazi Germany*

In exchange for the Catholic Centre Party being dissolved, Hitler had been generous in the financial settlement. Catholic social work would receive support from the government and a “church tax” (Kirchensteuer) levied on all practising Roman Catholics, of 9%, deducted at source in the same way as state taxes.

This enormous boon would produce wealth for the Holy See far in excess of the investments of Nogara, even with his financial brilliance. *The Vatican Exposed*

By 1939 it was bringing in nearly \$100 million a year!

The cooperation between the Vatican and the Nazi Party during the war has been well documented.

“The Vatican was so appreciative of being recognized as a full partner that it asked God to bless the Reich. On a more practical level, it ordered German bishops to swear allegiance to the National Socialist regime. The new oath concluded with these significant words: ‘In the performance of my spiritual office and in my solicitude for the welfare and the interest of the German Reich, I will endeavor to avoid all detrimental acts which might endanger it’” *Toland. Adolf Hitler, p. 644*

Far from being threatened by the Nazis, the government subsidy which the Catholic Church had enjoyed under his predecessors was tripled under Hitler.

“Between 1933, when he took office, and 1938 it rose from 150,000,000 marks a year to 500,000,000. He left the Roman Church the richest land-owner in south and west Germany. It drew 1,500,000,000 marks a year from its property alone. (German papers give its wealth as \$20 bn)” *Joseph McCabe. How The Cross Courted The Swastika For Eight Years*

After the war, the Vatican was very active in smuggling Nazis to safety; many found refuge in South America. A recent book by Gerald Steinacher entitled *Nazis on the run*, gives well documented evidence.

Hitler’s war-time plans for a united Europe matched those of the Vatican. When these plans came to nought with the death of Hitler, their successors continued to give their support. After all, those classed as the founding fathers of a United Europe, were staunch Roman Catholics and Konrad Adenauer, Alcide De Gasperi and Robert Schuman are on the pathway to sainthood! They are awaiting evidence of a miracle so they can be canonised. Other prominent Roman Catholic’s regarded as “founding fathers” are Jean Monnet and Joseph Bech.

Cardinal Pacelli became Pope Pius XII in 1939 and not only was at the head of the Vatican during the war years but during the reconstruction of Europe, dying in 1958 and succeeded by Pope John XXIII. He encouraged the steps towards the unification of Europe and when the Rome Treaty was signed in March 1957, following the ceremony, the six leaders visited the Pope to receive his blessing.

On June 13, 1957 he demanded a united Europe, aware of its foundations, with common institutions, a common foreign policy, and a strong European parliament to control the institutions and the council of ministers. *Herbert Schambeck, Pius XII*

This has come to pass, step by step. We saw in *Milestones 2007* in chapter 10 the hand that the Vatican had in the drafting of the Lisbon Treaty and how 5 of their 6 demands were met. Under this Treaty, “the Churches” are regularly consulted on matters which affect their members.

Prominent Roman Catholics in the running of Europe

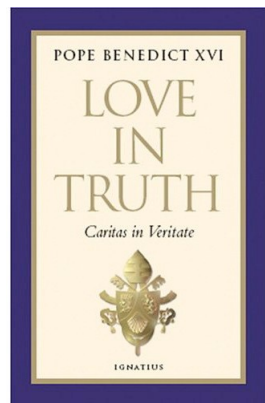
Many influential leaders in the EU and its organisations are Roman Catholic, many have been Jesuit educated and their politics are influenced by their religion. Ann Widdecombe once described herself as “a Catholic, British, Conservative, woman from Kent ... **in that order**.” (*Dennis Sewell. Catholics*)

Hamish Douglass one of Australia’s leading investment professionals claims that all you need to know to understand Europe is that “it has an Italian central banker and a German pope”! *ABC News 20-Nov-11* The banker is the Jesuit-trained Italian, Mario Draghi who has just taken up the position of President of the European Central Bank.

Fellow Jesuit-trained officials are the European Council President, Herman van Rompuy, Mario Monti the new Prime Minister of Italy and Mariano Rajoy the newly elected Prime Minister of Spain and José Manuel Barroso the President of the European Commission. These are but a few names. Rompuy made this significant remark on the occasion of a leaving party in honour of a Prof. Paul de Grauwe:

“Welcome [to] the club! Today, Mario Draghi, Mario Monti and myself are all three alumni from the Jesuits. Back to basics” *Office of the European Council President 17-Nov-11*

The club that he was referring to he explained as the “idea of a humane market economy, an area where I have always dwelled.” In other words the vision that Pope Benedict had set out in his encyclical in 2009, *Caritas in Veritate*. Prof Grauwe had in his earlier days a different viewpoint on economics, but was now being congratulated on shifting to share this Roman Catholic vision of economics.



Caritas in Veritate

This was Pope Benedict XVI’s 3rd encyclical and his 1st social one; it was published in 2009. In it he set out his vision of how the world should be governed.

There is a strongly felt need, even in the midst of a global recession, for a reform of ... economic institutions and international finance, so that the concept of the family of nations can acquire real teeth ... This seems necessary in order

to arrive at a political, juridical and economic order which can increase and give direction to international cooperation for the development of all peoples in solidarity. To manage the global economy ... there is urgent need of a true world political authority ... Such an authority would need to be regulated by law ... to seek to establish the common good” *Caritas in Veritate*,” 07-Jul-09

The *common good* is to a Roman Catholic mind that which upholds his church.

Vatican calls for global authority on economy

On the eve of the October 2011 G-20 summit, the Vatican Office for Justice and Peace released a document “snappily” entitled *Towards Reforming the International Financial and Monetary Systems in the Context of a Global Public Authority*. This would not have needed Benedict’s seal of approval, but must surely reflect Vatican policy.

The Vatican called on Monday for the establishment of a “global public authority” and a “central world bank” to rule over financial institutions that have become outdated and often ineffective in dealing fairly with crises.

The economic and financial crisis which the world is going through calls everyone, individuals and peoples, to examine in depth the principles and the cultural and moral values at the basis of social coexistence. *Reuters 24-Oct-11*

Clearly if this is the global goal, then what is being pushed for in Europe is the regional goal; an integrated Europe with a common currency under control of one central bank. This is why successive Popes have been so keen on the idea. Central control was how Europe was mainly governed since the time of the Roman Empire.

Roman Catholic symbolism in the EU emblems

The *Economist* some years ago made the point that there was a link between the EU and the Roman Church.

Among the roots of British wariness of the European Union, according to the late Hugo Young, was suspicion that it was all a “Catholic conspiracy, orchestrated from the Vatican”. That prejudice, the writer maintained, was held by many prominent Britons, including Margaret Thatcher.

It is true that many of the moving spirits of post-war European integration – Konrad Adenauer, Jacques Delors, Alcide de Gasperi and Robert Schuman – were devout Catholics. Their faith gave them a strong sense of the cultural and religious ties between Europeans that transcend national boundaries.

The European flag of 12 yellow stars on a blue background also owes something to



Catholicism. Arsene Heitz, who designed it in 1955, recently told *Lourdes* magazine that his inspiration had been the reference in the Book of Revelation, the New Testament's final section, to “a woman clothed with the sun ... and a crown of twelve stars on her head”. *The Economist* 28-Oct 2004

Very prominent around Rome are the statues to Mary with their circle of 12 stars.

The room where the Treaty of Rome was signed in 1957 is heavy with symbolism. It is on the Capitoline Hill where in ancient Rome the leaders met to do business. A dark figure is just visible on the back wall, which is a statue of Pope Innocent X.



Trained as a lawyer, he succeeded Pope Urban VIII (1623–44) on 15 September 1644, as one of the most politically shrewd pontiffs of the era, **who much increased the temporal power of the Holy See.** *Wikipedia*

The Statue of Urban VIII graces the other end of the room.

He was the last pope **to expand the papal territory** by force of arms. *Wikipedia*

So how appropriate was this setting in Rome where symbolism is all important, that between these two Popes, one who expanded papal temporal power with shrewdness and the other with force of arms, the beginnings of the re-establishment of a new Holy Roman Empire were being laid.

It was in this same room that the European Constitution¹ was signed in 2004. The room was turned round and the signing took place under Innocent X's upraised hand.

We now look at the Vatican in action in 2011.



¹ Because not all the parliaments of the 25 members would accept it, (the French and Dutch rejected it); it was renegotiated as the Lisbon Treaty which came into force Dec 2009

Chapter 8:

VATICAN'S DRIVE TO PUT CHRISTIANITY AT THE HEART OF EUROPE

One of Benedict's aims has been to draw Europe back to her Christian roots. This he made clear in the choice of his papal name, Benedict. The first Pope with this name was credited with putting the Papacy back on its feet after the barbarian invasions of Rome in the 5th century. His Benedictine monasteries brought Europe back to the Church. The previous Benedict was the Pope in WWI and the difficult years afterwards. He is credited with laying the foundation for the work of rapprochement with the European post-war leaders, eventually leading, after his death, to the concordats we have considered in the previous chapters. So this was no idle choice of name. We have traced in the previous Milestones his drive to reform the men at the heart of the Church, putting out the liberal thinkers and replacing them with like-minded traditionalists. Most of his appointments are of people from Europe or America, rather than Africa and the wider world. He has not abandoned the rest of the world, but his focus is on rebuilding Europe. Without a strong church here, the battle cannot be won overseas.

An interesting analogy was drawn comparing the steps which Von Guttenberg, the now (temporarily) disgraced former German Defence Minister, took to modernise the German army. He cut it down in size, making a smaller but more professional army, able to impose Germany's power around the world. This has been Benedict's work too and now his troops are ready to do battle with the hearts, minds and souls of Europeans!

Laying the foundations

As well as the normal organisations within the Roman Church there are three which we should be aware of. The *Jesuits* (Society of Jesus), *Opus Dei* and the *Neocatechumenal Way*. The origins of the Jesuits go back to the 16th century and the time of the Reformation and were the troops used by the Popes to break the power of the Reformation by any means that brought results. From infiltration of their ranks, to murder! Their power is phenomenal and at times they have had their powers curbed. The present Benedict and John Paul II have favoured working with them. Between the 2 Popes they have elected 10 Jesuit cardinals. Benedict has put a Jesuit, Rev. Federico Lombardi, as the Vatican Press Secretary; and another, Archbishop Ferrer, is in charge of the *Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith*, both influential posts. The latter used to be called the *Office of the Inquisition*, in the days when more brutal methods could be used against those who would not conform to Rome! There are 18 Jesuit universities in the USA alone; (Georgetown, Boston, St Joseph's etc.) so there is no shortage of Jesuit trained Roman Catholics. *Opus Dei* is a much more recent organisation, formed in 1928. This is a grouping of lay members who promote their faith in their everyday lives. Both are secretive groupings. The *Neocatechumenal Way* is even more recent, founded in 1964,

where small groups of laity travel to different destinations and work to encourage those who are already Roman Catholics to be stronger in their faith.

A *Jesuit European Office* (now renamed *The Jesuit European Social Centre*) was set up by Pope Pius XII (Eugenio Pascelli) in 1956. Its aims:

In the light of Christian faith, JESC seeks to promote the construction of Europe, and specifically of the European Union, grounded on social justice, peace and freedom. We shall support the Jesuits of Europe and their collaborators in this mission; and we shall continue to reflect on European values and responsibilities, promoting Europe's solidarity internally and with the wider world. *JESC web site*

In 2010 Benedict established the *Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelisation*

The term “new evangelisation” was popularised by Pope John Paul II with reference to efforts to reawaken the faith in traditionally Christian parts of the world, particularly Europe, first “evangelised”, or converted to Christianity, many centuries earlier, but then standing in need of a “new evangelisation”.
Wikipedia

World Youth Day, Spain

The *World Youth Days* (WYD) were started in 1985 by John Paul II and are held every 2 or 3 years. The previous one was in 2008 in Sydney, Australia and the next is planned for 2013 in Rio de Janeiro.

Collectively, those gatherings have generated crowds in excess of 15 million people, making World Youth Day the Olympic Games of world religion; the largest regularly held international religious event on the planet. *National Catholic Reporter 19-Aug-11*

The venue for the 2011 WYD was Madrid in Spain. In August, over 1,500,000 young people from around the world, not necessarily Roman Catholics, assembled to listen to the Pope.

Benedict would have experienced as a youth the power of Hitler's assemblies where huge crowds were borne up on a frenzy of emotion. The WYD are a kind of religious rock concert, using bands to convey the message that salvation can only be found through the Roman Catholic Church.

Using the latest of mass media tools, it is to the younger generation in particular that Benedict is turning to lead the way in his crusade for revival of the religion of Rome, which he views as the bastion of true civilization. To this end he has fully exploited the gala event of World Youth Day.

It is to the youth of the church, in particular, that Pope Benedict is directing this dogma that they can only find real meaning to life through the Catholic Church. And it is methods that clearly appeal to youth that he is cleverly using to peddle that message – social media and the atmosphere of the rock festival, translated into the festival atmosphere of World Youth Day. In using such methods to

promote his crusading message, Benedict is simply exploiting Catholic youth in an effort to develop an active vanguard for his crusading efforts.

Witnessing the denigrating effect of the media-driven attack on the morals of Western society, in particular its youth, Benedict has taken up the challenge by using the **very same mass media tools** to present global youth with an alternative.

If one looks closely at the organization of World Youth Day and the festivities that make up its annual program, it can be seen that Benedict has simply taken the same methods used by secular forces at rock festivals and translated them into a vehicle for projecting his own message to global youth. It's clearly a method that works.

By the second year of his papacy, Pope Benedict XVI already enjoyed total audiences greater than the annual audiences of any single previous pope, and far greater than any other single religious leader in history! *The Trumpet 29-Aug-11*

Clearly Benedict sees that rebuilding Europe has to start with the young people; these are the future to any organisation.

The pope told pilgrims from 193 countries on Sunday that they have been given the extraordinary task of being missionaries of Christ in other countries filled with young people looking for better values. *Reuters 21-Aug-11*

The Pope's first State Visit to Germany

A few weeks later the Pope was making his first State visit to his homeland. This was a hugely significant visit, a German Pope on a State visit to his own country. The German press was rather hostile and expressed their reservations about this visit. In the end it was judged a success.

With the pope's visit to Germany starting tomorrow, the Vatican is seeking to consolidate the position of the Catholic right in the Federal Republic. ... The German pope ... has planned his stay in the Federal Republic above all to have an effect on the public. *German-Foreign-Policy 21-Sep-11*

To really understand what Benedict is up to, one has to understand that it has not been the German rationalists who have been behind Germany's post-war return to power. The real movers and shakers have been the influential Catholic elites who have provided the vision for Germany's return to imperial power. Benedict does not need the German press on his side. He already has under his wing those who have the influence to break dissent, and he will use it when the moment is ripe.

In the meantime, as in past European history, all the clamor raised by those who dissent with the will of Rome is just revealing to Rome which voices must be silenced when its crusading onslaught begins.

Benedict is returning to publicly declare war on the rationalists that have the ear of the public, courtesy of Germany's organs of mass communication.

What Benedict is doing with his priestly troops is akin to the process that Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg began with Germany's military forces when he was minister for defense. He's simply preparing for war—in his terms, a “new evangelization” – a crusading war, by stripping out the dead wood and scaling down to a leaner, meaner hard core of loyalists willing and prepared for the sacrificial effort of crusading for Europe to return to its Catholic, its “holy Roman,” roots.

Like Guttenberg, Benedict is a master tactician and a brilliant politician. The same leftist, secular sources that sought to denigrate the highly popular and politically effective Guttenberg are in play seeking to wreck the pope's crusade.

They will fail.

Guttenberg had already started to influence the minds of the German public in support of having German military personnel face open combat in foreign territory. Pope Benedict has declared as part of his main mission in Germany he is seeking to influence the minds of the German public to return to embracing the religion of Rome. *The Trumpet 22-Sep-11*

The Pope addresses the German President and Chancellor

Benedict's first speech of his German visit was to the President, Christian Wulff and the Chancellor, Angela Merkel. He gave expression to his desire to make Europe Catholic again.

“We are witnessing a growing indifference to religion in society A binding basis for our coexistence is needed; otherwise people live in a purely individualistic way. Religion is one of these foundations for a successful social life.” *The Trumpet 24-Sep-11*

He also acknowledged the problems of the enlarged EU which was struggling to survive the financial melt-down. A two-speed Europe is seen by many as the only solution, for an inner core who unite politically and an outer core, less involved. It would appear that the Pope was acknowledging this in the carefully chosen phrases that he used.

“In human coexistence, freedom is impossible without solidarity. ... This holds true not only in private matters but also for society as a whole. In accordance with the principle of subsidiarity, society must give sufficient space for smaller structures to develop and, at the same time, must support them so that one day they will stand on their own.” *ibid*

Solidarity and subsidiarity are, of course, good Roman Catholic phrases. What power is able to “solidify” the disparate peoples of Europe, but the Church? And what power is going to cause the nations to give up their power other than the Woman rider? And surely “smaller structures” looks to the breakup of the present Europe into cores?

Benedict addresses the German Bundestag

As part of his State visit was the addressing of the Lower House of the nation's parliament, the Bundestag. Not all MP's were happy to listen to the Pope, about

100 refused to attend, but there were far more leaders and dignitaries who wished to attend than the building could accommodate. Note the authority of his speech.

I should like to thank the President of the Bundestag both for his invitation to deliver this address and for the kind words of greeting and appreciation with which he has welcomed me. At this moment I turn to you, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, not least as your fellow-countryman who for all his life has been conscious of close links to his origins, and has followed the affairs of his native Germany with keen interest. But the invitation to give this address was extended to me **as Pope, as the Bishop of Rome, who bears the highest responsibility for Catholic Christianity. In issuing this invitation you are acknowledging the role that the Holy See plays as a partner within the community of peoples and states.** Setting out from this international responsibility that I hold, I should like to propose to you some thoughts on the foundations of a free state of law. *Vatican Radio 22-Sep-11*

He went on to show that the belief in a Creator God was at the heart of most laws in the past.

The conviction that there is a Creator God is what gave rise to the idea of human rights, the idea of the equality of all people before the law, the recognition of the inviolability of human dignity in every single person and the awareness of people's responsibility for their actions. *ibid*

His plea was for politicians to recognise the power of Christianity to turn the tide of secularism that fills Europe.

Hoping for a monarchy

We watch for developments, especially as among the German Roman Catholic elites are those who are hoping for the reintroduction of the monarchy. *German Foreign Policy 22-Sep-11*, reported on their interview with David Berger:

At the moment “love of the monarchy” is being discovered in Catholic right-wing circles in Germany, reports the theologian David Berger in conversation with *german foreign policy.com*. Berger was himself active for a long time in the area of right-wing Catholicism. He describes the example of the founder of a State recognised Academy, which has had good relations with Benedict XVI, who assumes that after a kind of divine intervention “a Christian monarchy [will] arise, in which the nobility [will] once again play a significant role.”

Accordingly “priests from the right-wing Catholic milieu ... [attend to] contact with nobles “very willingly”. The House of Habsburg was especially “praised for its Catholicity”. Parts of the German nobility are, in fact, associated to right-wing Catholicism. Peter Hertel names several noble families that hold close ties to the Opus Dei – including the houses of Habsburg, Westphalia, Waldburg-Zeil and Guttenberg. [Translated from German!]

The death of the heir to the Austro-Hungary Empire

In July, Baron Otto von Hapsburg died at the age of 98. He was the eldest son of Karl (Charles), the last emperor of the Austro-Hungary Empire. He had championed

what is now the EU and was a member of the European Parliament right from its first direct elections in 1979, until retiring in 1999. He was also the *Master of the Order of the Golden Fleece* (he handed the title to his son some years ago), whose members vow to support the Roman Catholic Church and to defend the person of the Pope. He had occasion to do this in 1988 when John Paul II was addressing the EU Parliament, and Dr Ian Paisley (member of the European Parliament for Northern Ireland) held up a banner protesting that the Pope was antichrist; Otto seized the banner and helped evict Dr Paisley from the chamber!

The beatification of John Paul II

In April, some 1.5 million pilgrims flocked the streets of Rome to see and listen to the beatification ceremony of the previous Pope, who had been put on a fast-track to sainthood. Present were sixteen heads of state, eight prime ministers and five members of European royal houses. The press statistics were impressive!

The Vatican has accredited 2,300 journalists to cover this event: 1,300 from television stations, 700 from magazines and newspapers, 230 photographers, and 250 from radio stations. The total number of nations represented by these journalists: 101. *Robert Moynihan 29-Apr-11*

Truly a picture of one who can now say “*I am no widow*”! (*Rev 18:7*)

Vatican announces war on ‘secularisation’

Starting in February 2012 the Vatican is planning a big drive in Europe against secularism.

The Vatican has announced plans for a massive campaign beginning 2012 against “secularisation” in some of Europe's biggest cities.

Archbishop Rino Fisichella, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting the New Evangelisation, announced the “*Metropolis Mission*” re-evangelisation campaign. The campaign is due to begin in February during the six-week Christian fasting period of Lent, reported *Vatican Radio* and *L'Osservatore Romano* newspaper.

“The goal is simple: to give a sign of unity among the diverse dioceses present in the largest European cities that have been particularly affected by secularisation,” Fisichella said.

The campaign would kick off reportedly in Barcelona, Budapest, Brussels, Dublin, Cologne, Lisbon, Liverpool, Paris, Turin, Vienna and Warsaw.

The initiative will be based at each city's cathedral, which will host a range of “ordinary pastoral care activities”. *Indo-Asian News Service 14-Jul-11*

This will be followed up by another special effort in October 2012

Pope Benedict proclaims a ‘Year of Faith’

This is a world-wide effort as detailed in *Catholic Culture 17-Oct-11*.

Pope Benedict XVI has announced a special “*Year of Faith*,” dedicated to rousing a “new impetus to the mission of the whole Church to lead men out of

the desert in which they often find themselves, to the place of life, of friendship with Christ.”

The Year of Faith will begin on October 11, 2012; a date that marks the 50th anniversary of the opening of Vatican II. Pope Benedict notes that the date is also the 20th anniversary of the publication of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, which he describes as “a precious and indispensable tool” for the task of evangelization. The special observance will end on November 24, 2013.

The Pontiff explained that the “new evangelization” – which is aimed at restoring the strength of the faith in traditionally Christian countries now dominated by secularism – is a natural complement to the *mission ad gentes*, the drive to bring the faith to societies that have not yet heard the Gospel message. On the same day, October 16, the Pope released a *motu proprio* entitled *Porta Fidei* (“The Door of Faith”), formally proclaiming and explaining the *Year of Faith*. The initiative, he said, is required “because of a profound crisis of faith that has affected many people.”

So the newly energised troops have been given their mission. Expect in many subtle ways that the authority of the Roman Church will be proclaimed, and the battle against the emptiness of secularism will commence.

A new Russian Church looks forward to further dialogue with Vatican

An important aspect of the battle against the godless world of today is the help that the Vatican is receiving from Russia. The Orthodox Church which was suppressed under Communism is experiencing a big revival, with churches, monasteries and seminaries being built. The Russian leaders are keen to be seen supporting and working with the Russian Church. There are some 1.5 million Roman Catholics in Russia, and the Russian Church, with the eastward expansion of the EU has many members living in the EU. Both Churches have seen the advantage of pooling their resources in order to promote Christianity in Europe. The above headline was to an article in *Voice of Russia* 22-Feb-11

The Russian Orthodox Church (ROC) and the Holy See are beginning a new chapter in their dialogue, the Moscow Patriarchate believes. The other day, Pope Benedict XVI appointed a new ambassador of the Vatican to Russia, Archbishop Ivan Yurkovich. Observers hope that this appointment will resolve numerous problems between confessions and will also bring forth the date of a historic meeting of the heads of both Churches.

Russia is a strategically important country for the Holy See because over 1.5 million Catholics live on its vast territory. All of them need constant support, stressed Monsignor Visvaldas Kulbokas from the Embassy of the Vatican in Moscow, in his interview for “*The Voice of Russia*”.

“The Archbishop’s Ukrainian experience, where the situation with churches was very difficult, **will help us to move forward on many issues and, in particular, as regards relations between Catholics and Orthodox Christians in Ukraine. As is known, this problem is one of the main obstacles in the way of a meeting between the Pope and the Patriarch of the Russian**

Orthodox Church. We sincerely hope that Yurkovich's experience will help us to overcome the differences."

Both the ROC and the Vatican state that interconfessional dialogue has become very effective over the last decade. Catholics and Orthodox Christians are partners today, working together to preserve Christian values in the world.

Mr Medvedev paid his 2nd visit to the Pope in February; he had visited in December 2009 when they agreed to establish full diplomatic relations. This was the climax of many earlier visits. In 1985, the Foreign Minister, Andrei Gromyko, became the first Soviet Russian to visit the Pope. Mikhail Gorbachev came in 1989 and following the fall of the Soviet Union, Boris Yeltsin visited in 1998. Putin visited in 2000, 2003 and 2007 and now these two visits by Medvedev. This is amazing when one considers that the Vatican was in the forefront of the battle against the Communists, working first with Hitler and then with the Americans.

At the time of the end we expect the two Churches to be working together, under the headship of the Vatican. We watch for this development with interest.

Church of England today

Under provisions made by Benedict, it is now possible for whole Church of England communities to move allegiance to Rome. Married ex Church of England priests are allowed to continue to minister to their flocks under the Ordinariate canonical structure set up by Rome.

Following the Pope's visit to Britain in 2010, "The Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham under the patronage of Blessed John Henry Newman" was established at Walsingham in Norfolk, UK. Walsingham has both a Roman Catholic shrine and an Anglican shrine to Mary and is a centre for Marian parades and pilgrimages. So the place and the patronage were significant. Its website describes the work of an Ordinariate as follows:

On 15 January 2011, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith ... published a Decree which formally established a 'Personal Ordinariate' in England and Wales for groups of Anglican faithful and their clergy who wish to enter into full communion with the Catholic Church.

Other communities around the world associated with the C of E are also expected to turn back to Rome. In Germany there is extensive co-operation between the Lutherans and the Roman Catholics. An American Lutheran group, the Anglo-Lutheran Catholic Church, has expressed a desire to enter an ordinariate established in the US for former Anglicans entering the Catholic Church.

Leaders of the Lutheran group told Vatican officials of their wish "to undo the mistakes of Father Martin Luther and return to the one, holy, and true Catholic Church"! *Catholic Culture* 18-Mar-11

Truly, *the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication*"! (Rev 17:2)

It is now time to turn our attention to other matters of interest in Russia.

Chapter 9:

THE RUSSIAN BEAR IS ROARING AGAIN

What changes we have witnessed in Russia over the past 40 years! From communist Soviet Union, to liberated Russia seeking to be friends with the West, with the softer face of Mr Medvedev. Now Mr Putin is seeking to stand again for presidency in the March elections. Chill winds are blowing in, no longer is Russia willing to be compliant to the West. She was shocked at the overthrow, by the West of Libya's Col. Gaddafi; they are currently battling to save their ally President Assad of Syria. With America pressing to place her anti-missile radar systems in Europe, Russia has taken this as a slap in the face; as too the criticism of the polling results in the December Duma elections. In his now well established end-of-year phone-in question time, Mr Putin was distinctly cold to the West. In this chapter we examine other Russian matters.

What does scripture lead us to expect?

Many looked for Russia to use her might to conquer Europe; but that did not happen. Scripture paints a different picture. There are 3 distinct entities that arise before Armageddon; *the Dragon, the Beast and the False Prophet*. All three evidently preserve their own identities. So we are not looking for one to swallow up another. When we look at Ezekiel 38 it is evident that the relationship between the Gogian head – Russia – and her companions, is one of mutual trust and cooperation. Clearly Russia is the main power; she is described as being a guard **unto** these companion nations. The Hebrew is careful to express a relationship between them that is not confrontational. They are looking to Gog for military leadership and submit to his plans and his protection in their desire to wipe out Israel.

We know however from a little verse in Micah 5:5 that Gog is to act like an Assyrian power.

And this man [Messiah] shall be the peace, when the Assyrian shall come into our land: and when he shall tread in our palaces, then shall we raise against him seven shepherds, and eight principal [or princes of] men.

It clearly is future; Israel never raised a victorious army against the Assyrians. True they did defeat them in the time of Hezekiah, but that was by angelic hands. *The Assyrian* conjures up a cruel and despotic leader; we know from scripture that the Assyrians were powerful and ruthless. When Daniel was shown the transition from the Assyrian to the Babylonian Empire he was told:

The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it. Dan. 7:4

Lions and eagles (like the Assyrians) are cruel, “red in tooth and claw”. Babylon however was given *a man's heart*, indicating that although pretty cruel (man is!), they were not in the same brutal league as the Assyrian Empire! So it is quite

significant that we are seeing a more assertive Mr Putin; he is no longer Mr Nice Guy, but the tough ex KGB officer. When protesters flocked to protest at what they claimed were rigged election results in the November ballots for the Duma, and called for fresh elections, Mr Putin was not receptive to their claims. When it was announced that Putin would stand again for Presidential elections, the papers spoke of the return of “autocracy”. **Putin's presidential ambitions signal a return to autocracy** was a typical headline, (*The Observer* 25-Sep-11). Interestingly the *Autocrat of all the Russias* used to be one of the Czar's imperial titles, so it is behaviour that the Russians are historically well acquainted with.

Ezekiel 38 leads us to expect that Russia will be strong militarily.

... I will bring thee forth, and all thine army, horses and horsemen, all of them clothed with all sorts of armour, even a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords:

Thou shalt ascend and come like a storm, thou shalt be like a cloud to cover the land, thou, and all thy bands, and many people with thee. Eze 38:4, 9

Daniel speaks of her having a strong navy.

... 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

We shall see how modern Russia is moving to fulfil these points.

The Soviet era – marking time

It is clear in hindsight that the Soviet era was a marking of time; it was too soon for the Dragon power to develop into its final phase. With the suppression of religion under the Soviets, the Russian Orthodox Church struggled to survive, leaving Rome to rebuild her strength within the West and further afield. The Russian monarch was preserved also in the West, if one takes the hereditary line that has Georgy Romanov as the heir to the Romanov throne, which is the one favoured by the Russian Church. It also provided the opportunity for German blood to enter the line, with the marriage of Georgy's mother, Grand Duchess Maria Vladimirovna of Russia (great-great granddaughter of Queen Victoria) to Prince Franz Wilhelm (great-great-great grandson of Queen Victoria). Prince Wilhelm is of the House of Hohenzollern, a noble German family originating in the 11th century, whose descendants were kings and emperors of Prussia, Germany and Romania.

The suppression of religion under the Soviets also meant that this could not be the final aspect of the Dragon, as the Dragon, as heir to Rome has to have strong support of the Orthodox Church. To revive the situation of the Roman Empire, one needs both state and religion to be strong.

The Soviet Empire was replaced by the Russian Federation in 1991.

Patriarch Kirill moves into the Kremlin

In the days of the Tsars, the Russian Patriarch resided within the Kremlin. So it was interesting to learn that once again the Patriarch has taken up residency in the

ground floor chambers of the Granovitaya Palata inside the Kremlin following his 65th birthday – sparking renewed discussions on the separation of church and state in Russia.

“The chambers are given to the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia for use by President of the Russian Federation Dmitry Medvedev and after restoration works are resumed they will be used for conducting official events with the Primate of the Russian Church, talks, and receptions”.
Interfax 22-Nov-11



Prior to the 1917 Revolution, the Orthodox Patriarch resided within Kremlin's walls, and this return to tradition is being read in several ways.

Although Russia is by law a secular state, many have noted the increasing public links between the Orthodox Church and the current government.

Vladimir Putin often went beyond attending religious services, and regularly met with the late Patriarch Alexei during his presidency – and Putin has continued this tradition as prime minister, regularly meeting with Patriarch Kirill. *Moscow News 24-Nov-11*

The Russian Orthodox Church is planning 200 new churches to be built in Moscow alone and the city mayor has promised his assistance.

The return of the man who never left

This cryptic headline in *The Economist 24-Sep-11* concerned the carefully choreographed revelation that President Medvedev would be standing down as Russian leader and that Putin would be standing in his place. In fact it would once again be a job swop, this time reversing the events of 4 years ago, with Medvedev going back to being Prime Minister. One of Medvedev's first acts when he became President was to lengthen the term of office from four years to six years, as from the forthcoming elections. As a President can stand for two terms, this means that the Russian's are faced with twelve years of Putin's Presidency – he would be 71 by then!

The Russian Parliamentary elections for the Duma, the Lower House of the Legislative Assembly, were held in December and the Presidential elections are due in March 2012. The December elections were an eye-opener; Putin's and Medvedev's party, United Russia, which had a strong majority, with 315 of the total 450 seats, emerged from the elections with 238 seats, a much reduced majority. This still gives them a majority to pass day-to-day matters but larger issues require a 2/3rds majority, which will need cooperation with other parties, not so easy a situation, and one not faced by the party before. The Communist Party gained power, moving from 57 seats in the 2007 election to 92 seats. There was an immediate outcry that the United Russia party had rigged the voting and there

followed extensive street demonstrations in Moscow and other cities. Mr Putin was very dismissive of these claims. After all if one is going to rig an election, one makes sure one achieves the number of seats that you require!

Few doubt that Mr Putin will win the Presidential elections in March, but the December slump in popularity came as a nasty shock.

Russia's progress under Putin

An interesting article from an unusual source, *Zimbabwe Metro* 22-Nov-11, outlined the great changes in Russia since Putin came to power in 2000.

Vladimir Putin became Russia's president in 2000. Under his reign the Russian economy increased by 6 fold, becoming the 7th largest in the world. Under Putin, Russian industry grew by 76%, investments increased by 125%, real incomes more than doubled and the average monthly salary increased sevenfold from \$80 to \$640. From 2000 to 2006 the volume of consumer credit increased 45 times and the middle class grew from 8 million to 55 million people. The number of people living below the poverty line decreased from 30% in 2000 to 14% in 2008.

In his 8 years governance, Putin had largely restored Russian military might and influence. He formed alliances with North Korea, China, Mongolia and Kazakhstan, effectively securing Russian eastern and southern borders.

The Russia now and 20 years ago is of stark contrast. The country is no longer poor – it has built up \$516 billion in foreign reserves, the world's third largest; only after China and Japan. Russia has surpassed Saudi Arabia as the world's largest oil exporter, given that it is also the world's largest gas exporter, the Russia today is an energy superpower. Russia, a strong scientific, aerospace and engineering nation, is widely believed to possess the world's second most advanced military after the USA.

Standing up to NATO's eastward expansion

The same article spoke of Russia's frustration over the expansion of NATO right into Russia's "backyard" and the proposal to put in missile warning systems into these countries. Russia regards this as a threat from the West.

Russian General Nikolai Makarov said NATO's eastward expansion meant the risk of Russia being dragged into conflicts had 'risen sharply'. General Makarov is the Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Russia, the highest military post of the Russian armed forces.

Many Eastern European countries which used to be part of the Warsaw Pact, a former Soviet sphere of influence, have since joined NATO, an issue which irritated Russia. Russia believes NATO is ganging up with these countries to encircle its western border.

The General said: 'The possibility of local armed conflicts along nearly the whole border has increased dramatically. In certain conditions, I do not rule out local and regional armed conflicts developing into a large-scale war, including using nuclear weapons.'

Among those countries who have swapped the Warsaw Pact for NATO are Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania. Russia is also at odds with the U.S. over plans for an American missile defence shield in Europe.

‘The European missile shield problem is quite serious today,’ General Makarov, 62, said. *ibid*

Russia’s military might

Russia is the biggest country in the world, though much is uninhabited. It is almost as big as the next two countries, Canada and China, put together! Her historical problem has been the manpower needed to guard her extensive borders; the logistics of having a country that wraps virtually half way round the world is immense, spanning 10 time zones. Her other problem is that there are no easy river links – they run N-S rather than E-W; as do her mountain ranges, presenting physical barriers to easy transportation. She has to cope by spreading her military around this vast territory, concentrating in the most important areas.

Russia has the largest stockpile of nuclear weapons in the world. It has the second largest fleet of ballistic missile submarines and is the only country apart from the U.S. with a modern strategic bomber force. Russia's tank force is the largest in the world, its surface navy and air force are among the largest ones.

The country has a large and fully indigenous arms industry, producing most of its own military equipment with only few types of weapons imported. Russia is the world's top supplier of arms, a spot it has held since 2001, accounting for around 30% of worldwide weapons sales and exporting weapons to about 80 countries. *Wikipedia*

There is a huge modernisation programme under way; Russia is planning to spend \$20 million a **day** until 2020, a staggering \$730 billion in total.

Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin has announced his government plans to spend hundreds of billions of dollars on weapons modernization by 2020. In his address to parliament earlier this year, Putin said Russia must be strong enough to fend off any threats from abroad, so missile production will double starting in 2013. Analysts in Moscow say this ambitious plan is intended mainly to preserve the government's domestic and regional influence.

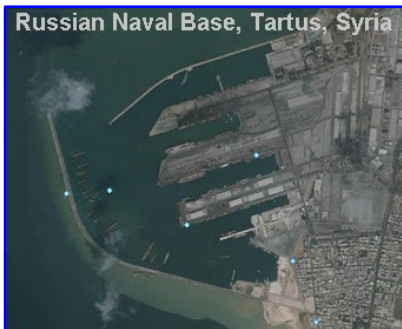
The new state arms procurement program includes purchases of eight missile-carrying strategic submarines equipped with Bulava ballistic missiles. Plus 600 aircraft and S-400 and S-500 air defense systems. The arms purchases, both at home and abroad, would allow Russia to raise the proportion of modern weaponry in its arsenal to 70% by 2020. *Voice of America 06-Jul-11*

Under the last days of the Soviet there was little spent on modernising the forces, leaving Russia now with a very outdated military, but, as we have seen, things are changing.

Her navy is also greatly stretched because of Russia's physical size. She maintains 4 main fleets; the Northern, Pacific, Baltic and Black Sea Fleets. There is a smaller 5th one in the Caspian Sea. The most important is her Black Sea Fleet. One problem that Russia faces is that her fleet have to traverse the Bosphorus and Dardanelles in Turkey to access the Mediterranean. At the time of the end she will solve this problem by taking over Turkey, but until then she is restricted, no aircraft carriers are permitted to traverse the Dardanelles, admittedly Russia has only the one and more carriers are not planned until 2050!

One can see the advantages of naval bases in the Mediterranean area and the Indian Ocean. We have reported in previous *Milestones* at the bases in Syria that Russia has been enlarging to accommodate modern ships. The work continues.

Russian Naval Base, Tartus, Syria



Dividends of military might

There was an amusing aside to this modernisation; about once a month there is a Russian newspaper inserted as a supplement to the *Daily Telegraph*. In March there was an article telling the West not to be afraid of Russia spending so much money on modernising her military, it carried no threat to the West. The article explained the need for modernisation; things had fallen behind so that much of the existing weaponry was of little use. After all the West spends a lot of money modernising, why shouldn't Russia?

Who would want to kill the goose that lays the golden egg? Europe remains Russia's key economic partner. We are already united by hundreds of multibillion-dollar projects, thousands of joint ventures and many millions in investments. What sense would it make to threaten those who regularly accept hordes of Russians for Christmas and New Year festivities, as everyday friends and colleagues? And what would be the point of spoiling relations with Moscow's strategic partners in the struggle against global terrorism? *Rossiyskaya Gazeta*. 28-Mar-11

There was a cartoon that accompanied the article, which indicated that we can't mend our tanks any more, we need to replace them. In searching for the original article so I could download the cartoon, I found a completely different one that went in the original Russian paper. It showed a



thought bubble and in the bubble a picture of what the West thinks of when they hear about Russians rearing! Obviously they thought they had better not reproduce that picture!

This is the original cartoon.

Russian Energy Windfall

Russia's cash reserves have been piling up following several favourable events – higher oil prices, the Japanese earthquake and the Libyan crisis. Russia is doubling her exports of oil to Japan and the stopping of the Libyan gas pipeline to Italy has boosted Russia's gas exports to Europe.



Two unrelated global crises are benefitting one regional power: Russia. The rise in energy prices due to the Middle East unrest is obviously benefiting Russia as an oil exporter. Furthermore, as a primary natural gas exporter to Europe, Russia stands to benefit from the souring of nuclear power in Germany and Italy due to the Fukushima nuclear power plant accident.

The unrest in the Middle East is a very straightforward story for Russia. It has increased energy prices about 20%, and because of the way that Moscow taxes oil profits, most of this increase in prices going straight into the government coffers. On March 18, the Russian government currency reserves have climbed over \$500 billion for first time in two and half years. *Stratfor 14-Apr-11*

Part of this windfall is being used to boost her military, but part to buy up assets in cash-strapped Europe. With the austerity measures being imposed on euro-zone countries, state assets are being sold off at fire-sale prices to try to increase liquidity. Not only has Germany been in the market for assets, so has Russia, especially in the world of energy matters, refineries, pipe-lines and distribution networks. She is also interested in acquiring stakes in the banks of Eastern Europe.

Russia is interested in buying stakes in some very strategic banks in Austria, Hungary, Poland, Turkey and the Netherlands. The banks in Central Europe are significant because bank lending in the region accounts for more than 90% of credit. Since most Central Europeans already depend on banks for the bulk of their lending, Russia and Russian capital will be able to influence the distribution of this lending. After the fall of the Soviet Union, there were not really any healthy banks in the region, so the Western Europeans bought them up. Now that those banks are failing, Russia wants to take control. *Stratfor 02-Nov-11*

Russia Raises GDP Estimate as Growth Reaches Fastest Since 2010

As we saw earlier, there have been several matters which have helped boost Russia's economy this year. When most countries are reporting very low growth figures for 2011, Russia is expecting to grow by 4.5% in the year.

Russia's economy grew at the fastest pace in more than a year in the third quarter as agricultural output, construction and retail sales surged.

Gross domestic product expanded 4.8% in the July- September period from a year earlier, the fastest pace since the second quarter of 2010, after increasing 3.4% in the previous three months, the Moscow-based Federal Statistics Service said today in an e-mailed statement.

The world's largest energy exporter is seeking to shield its economy from Europe's debt crisis as Prime Minister Vladimir Putin prepares to contest a presidential election in March. Agricultural output jumped 14.6% from last year when the worst drought in half a century ravaged Russia's harvest, the service said. Growth may reach 4.5% this year after retail sales rose and import growth slowed more than expected, Deputy Economy Minister Andrei Klepach said.
Bloomberg 12-Dec-11

Eurasian Union – the Russian “EU”

Russia has seen the advantages of a united Western Europe and has been steadily trying to rebuild her old ties with countries of the Soviet who became independent on the break-up of the Soviet Union.

Putin outlined his ideas ... Noting that Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan are already pressing ahead with plans to form a Customs Union and a Single Economic Space, he said the bloc will in future become a fully-fledged “Eurasian Union” with joint economic governance, common institutions and passport-free travel on the EU model.

“We propose a model of a powerful supranational union capable of becoming one of the poles of the modern world and of playing the role of effectively ‘binding’ Europe and the dynamic Asia-Pacific region,” he said.

In a signal to other post-Soviet nations in the region – Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan – he added: “The Eurasian Union is an open project. We welcome the accession of other partners, notably the [former Soviet] commonwealth countries. This does not mean pushing anyone or rushing them into something. It should be a sovereign decision of the state dictated by its own long-term national interests.”

“We are not talking about recreating the Soviet Union. It would be naive to try to restore or copy what is already past. ... The Eurasian alliance will be based on universal principles of integration, as an integral part of greater Europe, united by common values of freedom, democracy and market laws.” *EUObserver 04-Oct-11*

It makes great sense; they are linked with Russian being the 2nd language of many of these countries. It would give Russia more political clout. Putin is also interested in luring back into the fold those countries bordering the EU, whose future in an economically troubled EU seems less certain.

From Russia we now turn to Britain, where she may be on the brink of great changes in her relations with the EU.

Chapter 10:

BRITAIN'S TOUGH YEAR

We have spent many pages looking at Europe, Russia and the Vatican; we now turn in this chapter to Britain and then in the next two chapters to Israel. These 3 chapters are a contrast to earlier chapters. The Dragon, Beast and False Prophet will be opposed to the Lord Jesus at his return, Britain will not be in that camp, but will early on accept Jesus as the King of Israel and the rightful heir of the promises to the fathers of Israel. We start by considering briefly some of the passages which support these thoughts.

Britain's future role

We would refer readers to chapter 9 in *Milestones 2010*, where we dealt with the aspect of the Tarshish power in association with Sheba and Dedan. There are several scriptural references to the *isles afar off* responding to the call to submit to Israel's new King. With the Protestant background of reading the Bible and allowing open discussion of its message, it was not surprising that the Truth or at least Protestantism should flourish and be carried around the world as Britain enlarged her Empire. Part of the conflict that Britain had with her continental neighbours was the latter's adherence to the Pope, rather than the Word of God.

Queen Victoria looked for the day when she could hand her throne over to the King of kings "I will give the throne back to whom it rightly belongs," she said. So let's look at these scriptures.

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

We know the role that Britain played in restoring the Jews to their homeland, so would it be surprising if Britain again helped in bringing back the scattered Jews in the day of their salvation, following the terrible time of their invasion?

What other isles would scripture be referring to? The word for *isles* is an interesting one. It conveys the idea of maritime countries. *Gesenius* says the word means *maritime land, whether sea coast of a continent, or an island*. In *Genesis* we read that the *Isles of the Gentiles* were populated by descendants of Japheth, in particular through his son Javan and his four sons, Elishah, Tarshish, Kittim and Dodanim. (*Gen 10:2, 4, 5*) In *Milestones 2010* we traced Tarshish to Britain, the source of the special metals that Tarshish traded in the fairs of Tyre. (*Eze 27:12*)

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

For the LORD hath redeemed Jacob, and ransomed him from the hand of him that was stronger than he. Jer 31:10, 11

Here again is a mention of distant isles at a time when the Jews are being called back by the hand of their Messiah. It is reasonable to infer that they too are involved in this work.

The wonderful words of *Isaiah 49* which describe the great work of Israel's King in the restoration of his people, opens with these words.

Listen, O isles, unto me; and hearken, ye people, from far; The LORD hath called me from the womb; from the bowels of my mother hath he made mention of my name. Isa 49:1

Why does God address these words to *the isles* and to a *people afar off*? The answer is given in later verses.

Thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I will lift up mine hand to the Gentiles, and set up my standard to the people: and they shall bring thy sons in their arms, and thy daughters shall be carried upon their shoulders.

And kings shall be thy nursing fathers, and their queens thy nursing mothers: they shall bow down to thee with their face toward the earth, and lick up the dust of thy feet; and thou shalt know that I am the LORD: for they shall not be ashamed that wait for me. Isa 49:22, 23

The English speaking isles have been enlightened to Christ's work of redemption. True many have failed to understand *the Hope of Israel*, never-the-less, through the availability of God's word in their mother tongue (and in many ways Britain has been celebrating the 400th anniversary of the AV this year), they have been prepared for the final part of their work with God's people of bringing God's *sons* and *daughters* back to their King.

This understanding of Britain's role to come, strengthens our understanding that Britain has no lasting role within the EU. As we considered earlier, Britain's entry into the EEC as it then was, was not a mistake. Britain's role was to be the awkward one who would not allow her fellow members to group together into a political union, because the time had not yet come for that.

Biggest problem in EU is UK, says ex German leader

This was the headline to a *Daily Express 05-Sep-11* article.

In an interview with *Der Spiegel*, Mr Schroeder said: "Great Britain causes the biggest problems. It is not in the euro but the British always want to have a say in the shaping of the economic bloc."

Britain has always had a problem with Europe as John Redwood who is a euro-sceptic MP, correctly summarises.

I have written before that for centuries one of the main aims of UK foreign policy has been to avoid one single power dominating the continent of Europe. In the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries the UK fought against Spanish domination of the continent. In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries the UK successfully opposed French domination. In the twentieth century the UK with the help of the USA successfully resisted German domination. The UK used to

fear that if a single country came to dominate, they could close the continent off to fair trade with the UK. There would be the ever present danger they would want to take us over as well. *John Redwood Diary 13-Oct-11*

So when the time came for Mr Cameron to stand up to the European leaders at the December Summit meeting, it caused howls of rage; this was the headline in Germany's leading magazine, *Spiegel*.

UK Infuriating Partners by Obstructing EU Foreign Policy

The British government is trying to obstruct the establishment of a common EU foreign and security policy. The formation of an autonomous military headquarters failed last week after Britain alone resisted the move. The government of Conservative Prime Minister David Cameron has also been preventing the EU from issuing joint statements in international organizations.

London commissioned a legal report that cast doubt on the EU's role in many foreign policy issues. For example, when the EU ambassadors agreed to a common statement at the World Health Organization in Geneva, the British representative vetoed the move, saying the issue wasn't a matter of foreign policy but of health policy – and therefore fell under national sovereignty.

The British have been using similar nit-picking arguments in other UN organizations and at the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) in Vienna, on issues such as peace missions and disarmament conferences.

Pierre Vimont, the Secretary General of the European External Action Service, has complained privately that London has blocked a total of 96 EU statements. *Spiegel 05-Dec-11*

Those obstructive Brits. A more integrated Europe is heading for a showdown with Britain

This was the headline in the *Economist 10-Dec-11*

But this crisis really is different. Like the churning of milk to make butter, the financial turmoil is separating Britain from the euro zone. As it forces euro-zone countries to bind closer, the crisis convinces Britons of the wisdom of keeping the pound. Some say Britain would grow faster if it could shed more EU rules. Euro-federalists and Eurosceptics alike feel vindicated: monetary union cannot work without economic and political unity. Under pressure from the markets, leaders are having to address what the French call the *finalité politique*, the end point: United Nations, or United States of Europe? Nobody will say. Either way, the euro zone is heading for more federalism, and Britain may try to regain more sovereignty.

Cameron's Veto May Herald End of Britain's EU Membership

This was another message from a German perspective in *Spiegel 12-Dec-11*

Have we finally reached the end of this fractious alliance? Is Britain well on its way to once again becoming what it has always been both in geographical terms

and in spirit: an island, politically and culturally far removed from Europe, which many people in Britain simply call “the continent” with muted disdain?

Britain is entering a new era. Indeed, Cameron’s veto marks the beginning of the end of Britain’s days as a member of the EU. ... Like Switzerland, Britain will then be proud and free – but, unlike Switzerland, it will also have nuclear weapons and a permanent seat on the UN Security Council. Losing Britain means losing a voice that carries weight outside EU borders, as well.

Now, more than ever before, the mood in Britain has swung against the EU with all its petty minded regulations, its profligate waste and the avarice of those who work there – above inflation pay rises and eye-watering pensions – all paid for by the hard-pressed tax payers of Europe.

William Hague has the “Brussels brotherhood” on the run across Whitehall

There is a considerable change in attitude within the British Civil Service to the EU. Under Labour, there was a very cosy relationship with the European elites, what Europe wanted they ensured was carried out to the full and more. This is no longer the case. Under the Foreign Secretary William Hague there is a much more euro-sceptical tone.

Central to this change in fortunes has been the Foreign Secretary, who is presiding over a cultural transformation of British diplomacy that has profound implications for how we do business across the Channel. Those of us who a year ago feared Mr Hague had lost the ideological edge that made him such a convincing critic of the European project in Opposition should be heartened to learn that he still has it, and is bringing it to bear. He has turned the dial setting of British EU policy from “emollient” to “sceptical”. Mr Cameron’s “No!” is a precursor of things to come.

His standing has been buoyed by his success in Libya and by the discreet way he has built useful relations with counterparts such as Hillary Clinton in Washington. His landmark speech earlier this autumn, reasserting the Foreign Office’s role as one of our great institutions, undid much of the damage wreaked by Labour on the credibility of our foreign policy.

The Brussels “No!” was a startling manifestation of a change that has been quietly under way for some time now. It was a signal to the machine that the old way of doing things, of cosy consensus by Eurostar, is no longer acceptable. It has been done quietly but with great purpose. A principle has been established to which Whitehall’s Euro-elite must adapt. *Daily Telegraph 21-Dec-11*

Britain’s contributions to the EU coffers rose to £10bn!

According to the *Pink Book*¹, the current account shows that in 2010 the UK gross contribution to the EU hit a new record of £18.46bn – around £51m a day.

¹ The *Pink Book* is the annual publication by the government of the United Kingdom that details the country’s balance of payments. *Wikipedia*

This was a jump from £17.44bn the previous year and £16.4bn in 2008. Gross receipts from Brussels plunged from £9.7bn in 2008 to £8.1bn last year, making Britain's net contribution £10.3bn. *The Express* 24-Nov-11

This means our subsidy to our wealthy partners far exceeds the aid budget. It is also more than a quarter of the defence budget and 40 times that of the BBC World Service. *Daily Telegraph* 23-Oct-11

In the past year the UK has also stumped up £12.5bn to help rescue Greece, Ireland and Portugal with bail-outs. As more economic disasters loom in the eurozone, the financial noose on Britain from Europe could tighten even further. *The Express* 24-Nov-11

In addition to these direct contributions are the enormous costs that have to be borne to comply with EU regulations.

The British Chambers of Commerce calculate that the cost of additional EU regulation introduced between 1998 and 2010 is a staggering £60.75 billion. The working time directive alone costs £1.8 billion per year. This falls not just on business, but public services: that single measure costs the NHS £300 million per year. And the burden is growing. The new Agency Workers Directive, opposed by the Coalition, will cost another £1.8 billion a year, jeopardising 28,000 temporary employment contracts for those aged between 16 and 24. *Daily Telegraph* 23-Oct-11

There have been some silver linings. Britain outside the euro zone is seen as a safe haven for investments. So far Britain has kept her AAA credit rating, whilst France's and even Germany's identical ratings are under threat of being cut. Britain's stability has continued to attract inward investments.

UK Top European Destination for Foreign Direct Investment in 2010

A report published by Ernst & Young (E&Y) has revealed that in 2010, for the thirteenth year in a row, the UK was Europe's leading recipient of foreign direct investment (FDI). Rebounding from the recessionary year of 2009, when the whole of Europe witnessed a marked reduction in FDI, last year the UK obtained 728 FDI projects, an increase of 7% on 2009 and way ahead of its main competitor Germany.

A key factor in the UK's ability to maintain its leadership position is the remarkable strength of London, already the leading city in Europe for attracting investment. With the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games on the horizon, investment is unlikely to be diminished as foreign investors look to capitalise on opportunities the event will offer. *Financier Worldwide* 28-Jun-11

The BP oil-spill disaster in the Gulf of Mexico in April 2010, and the subsequent suspension of further drilling in the area, encouraged many oil firms to turn their attention to the North Sea oil and gas fields. As the old wells are running down, there has been a surge in new wells being found, some with substantial deposits. Also the industry is looking at new ways to extract hard to draw out reserves, which could potentially bring revenue to the UK government back to former levels.

Britain needs to shift its focus on trade from Europe to the Commonwealth

This was a headline from *Daily Telegraph* 26-May-11. The tide may just be turning as for the first time, Britain's exports outside the EU have increased, whilst those to the EU have decreased so that Britain is exporting more outside the EU than to it. David Cameron has set in motion an emphasis on trade with the Commonwealth. This makes good sense as the markets of India, Canada and Australia are still expanding, whilst the EU is faltering.

The bi-annual *Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting* (CHOGM) took place this time in Perth, Australia at the end of October 2011. A few days before attending, David Cameron suffered the humiliation of a sizable rebellion in the Conservative ranks in protest at not being allowed to have a referendum of Britain's continued EU membership. Opinion Polls indicate that there is strong support for such a referendum, and that the majority would be happy to leave the EU. Then his attendance at the CHOGM was delayed through having to attend yet another emergency euro meeting. It would have been wonderful to have been a "fly on the wall" at Perth; surely the Commonwealth heads would be asking David Cameron why he bothered to cling to Europe. Just a few weeks later came that decisive December 9th EU Summit. Had his resolve been stiffened knowing he had so many friendly countries that would love to do more trade, but are hindered by EU barriers to trade?

Interestingly the Queen's Christmas broadcast concentrated very much on the Commonwealth. Her opening words were "In this past year my family and I have been inspired by the courage and hope we have seen in so many ways in Britain, in the Commonwealth and around the world". She talked of the difficulties and the friendships that hardships brought. She spoke warmly of her and her family's visits to Australia and New Zealand. She then spoke of the importance of the Commonwealth.

The Commonwealth is a family of 53 nations, all with a common bond, shared beliefs, mutual values and goals.

It is this which makes the Commonwealth a family of people in the truest sense, at ease with each other, enjoying its shared history and ready and willing to support its members in the direst of circumstances.

They have always looked to the future, with a sense of camaraderie, warmth and mutual respect while still maintaining their individualism. *BBC News* 25-Dec-11

The focus of the Foreign and Commonwealth office has been redirected by William Hague. Britain's embassies in Europe outside the capital cities will be scaled back or closed and instead more offices will be opened in India, China and the Far East.

The most tangible change will be a boost to the number of diplomats despatched to the world's emerging powers. There will be 50 more envoys in China and 30 more in India, roughly a 7% increase in the size of both embassies. More

“frontline staff” will be sent to Brazil, Mexico, Turkey and Indonesia. *The Guardian* 11-May-11

So are angelic hands pushing and tugging the leaders of Britain to cut themselves adrift from the troubled EU ship, and chart new courses on the world's seas; a maritime nation once more?

Britain and Israel

Again we expect Britain to work much more with Israel. One obstacle that has at last been removed was the ability of anti-Israeli groups to get a court injunction threatening to arrest Israeli leaders because of their “war crimes” if they stepped on British soil. David Cameron promised the Israeli government that they would put in place provision to prevent the courts having this power. It took much longer than expected, but eventually, in September, the Queen signed the necessary legislation. The message went to the Israeli politicians, “you are welcome to come”.

Mr Netanyahu visited London in May; David Cameron expressed his pleasure at their meeting again.

It's great to welcome Prime Minister Netanyahu to Number 10 Downing Street. Britain is a good friend of Israel and our support for Israel and Israel's security is something I have described in the past and will do so again as unshakeable. We are strong friends of Israel. *Mfa.gov.il* 04-May-11

Matthew Gould was appointed the British Ambassador to Israel in 2010, the first time a Jewish ambassador had been appointed to this role. In November he spoke of his work in Israel.

When I first became Ambassador to Israel, I said that I wanted to ensure that the relationship between the UK and Israel was about more than just our disagreements. We know the disagreements well – over settlements, for example, or more recently over some of the legislation currently before the Knesset. We have always done an excellent job of arguing with each other. But we have not always done a great job at working together in the areas where we both excel, where we both share a common goal, and where by working together we can be more than we can be working apart. One of those areas is science.

Britain and Israel are natural partners in science. As William Hague, the British Foreign Secretary put it when he visited Israel a year ago, we are both scientific superpowers. We both have disproportionate numbers of Nobel Prize winners. And we both have disproportionate numbers of the world's leading laboratories and universities – Britain has four of the world's top 10. We are close geographically, our scientists both speak English, and there is enormous mutual respect between our scientists. Yet the level of collaboration has been lower than the potential would suggest. That is why we are launching the BIRAX (Britain Israel Research Academic Exchange) Regenerative Medicine Initiative. Regenerative Medicine is at the cutting edge of medical research, and it is an area where both Israel and the UK are recognized as world leaders. Put simply, instead of trying to help the body deal with damaged tissue in the traditional way of drugs, transplants and medical devices, it aims to help the body

regenerate the tissue and its functioning. This may seem like an unconventional area for a diplomat to invest his energies. But I see it as a fundamental part of my mission, and one way I can make a real difference during my time here. Over the next five years, we aim to raise £10m to promote collaborative research between the UK and Israel in regenerative medicine. *Ynet 22-Nov-11*

This is not the only initiative that Matthew Gould is involved in; another is called the High Tech Hub to encourage Israeli entrepreneurs to think of working with the UK instead of the USA.

Almost every young startup entrepreneur from Israel has the same dream and trajectory: Develop a fledgling high-tech company with some friends from the army, get seed funding, set up a base in America – usually Silicon Valley – secure bigger funding, grow, market and then sell the business for a killing.

But California is a day away by plane, and it's night-time there when the sun is shining in Israel. So Israelis are learning that one way to avoid red-eye flights and the angst of doing business a world away is practically on Israel's doorstep – in England.

Last month, the UK Ambassador to Israel, Matthew Gould, launched a major project to help align business and economic goals between the United Kingdom and Israel. Since he accepted his post in Israel about a year ago, this new High-Tech Hub at the British Embassy has been taking about 30% of his time, says Carmel Gerber, director of the new six-person Hub team at the UK Embassy. *Israel21C 28-Nov-11*

According to the Government's *Pink Book*, Israel moved up a place from 34 to 33 in importance for export markets in goods and from 45 to 40th position for exports of services. Britain's exports of goods and services showing a 20% increase in 2010 over 2009; her imports from Israel increased some 36%.

HSBC, a bank based in Britain and the world's second-largest banking and financial services group, has loaned \$250m to Israel's Delek Drilling and Avner Oil Exploration for the development of the Tamar and Leviathan natural gas sites and other expenses. (*Reuters 25-Dec-11*)

Another British company won a £27m contract to supply services to the Tamar drilling rig. (*Jerusalem Post 20-Apr-11*)

Britain and India

It is of great interest to Bible Students to see the eastern and the western Tarshish powers developing their old ties which had been neglected under a Labour government. India was the jewel in Britain's crown in the past. When David Cameron came to power in 2010 he made trade with India an important part of Britain's economic strategy.

At the World Economic Forum in Davos this week, one popular topic of conversation has been the British Prime Minister David Cameron's visit to India last year, when he announced plans to develop a 'special relationship' between the UK and India.

Cameron's intent was purely economic, as the PM himself openly stated. Bilateral trade currently stands at £11.5bn per year between the two countries. So it makes business sense for both nations to develop a relationship that will help both parties achieve their aggressive economic growth plans. India's GDP is worth \$1,217bn; its economy grew by 8.9% in the third quarter of 2010, three times the speed of the UK's.

Technology is underpinning this progress. It has enabled businesses to connect and consequently create a global economy; and it will continue to help economies grow. India has utilised the technology available to support foreign businesses in their local economies, so they can operate in a sustainable and stable environment. By maintaining this approach and having a two-way relationship, India and the UK can benefit from each other.

As the fourth largest investor in the UK, India also exploits its technology capabilities to work remotely with UK companies, helping them expand their businesses and become more competitive in Europe and across the globe. In turn, this helps the near-200 Indian IT companies to be part of the growth story in emerging markets. *Management Today 26-Jan-11*

Another report gave the potential for trade between the two countries.

When David Cameron announced last year that the UK would aim to double bilateral trade with India by 2015, it seemed an ambitious target.

Yet this aspiration can become a reality as long as UK businesses choose to become part of India's growth story – which has only just begun.

The attraction of India for UK businesses is also underscored by the two countries' shared history and deep investment links, as well as the large Indian community in the UK. Of course the ties run both ways. India is already one of the largest foreign investors into the UK, and Tata Group is Britain's largest manufacturing employer. *Financial Times 09-May-11*

Britain and the Middle East

Another area which is of great interest to us is Britain's involvement in the Middle East. David Cameron happened to have a trip to the Middle East at the time that President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt was deposed. He was able to arrange a short visit to Egypt and was the first western leader to visit since Mubarak's departure.

Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) are important export markets – and growing – for Britain. We saw in the *Milestones 2010*, the strong links Britain has with the growing re-arming of these countries. Saudi Arabia was Britain's 10th most important market for services (up from 19th in 2009). At the moment America dominates the Middle East arms market. And this “young lion” is heavily involved in the Middle East. Circumstances can quickly change, allowing Britain to perform a bigger role in the region, as Bible students have long expected.

We now look at Israel and the remarkable changes there.

Chapter 11:

ISRAEL'S FRIENDS AND ENEMIES IN THE M.E.

We now commence our second part of Milestones by turning our attention to Israel and the Middle East. We know God's purpose revolves around Israel, because He has chosen them and provided a Messiah who will save them. At the moment they walk in the blindness of their own making. A veil is over their eyes so that they cannot see that their Messiah did come to his nation but that they rejected him. The terrible things that have happened to Israel form part of their punishment for rejecting their King. Yet this is no random punishment; it has a purpose in shaping their character, so that in the extremity of their distress they will cry to God for help and be heard. Their saviours, Christ and his by then immortalised saints will be at hand to deliver their nation from the hand of their enemies.

So what is our relationship with Israel compared to say the Palestinians? The Palestinians are Arabs from the surrounding countries. They too are descendants of Abraham, not through Isaac, the chosen offspring, but through Ishmael and Keturah's children. As children of Abraham, they too will be blessed in the Kingdom age, but Israel will be the chief nation. The so called Christian nations will in the main be found as enemies of Israel's Messiah, and will have to be re-educated as to what the gospel really is. In truth, so will Jews and Arabs. Few among them understand God's plan and purpose aright. There will need to be a great time of education, to instruct all in the way of Truth.

Knowing from scripture that God has brought the Jews back to their land, colours our appreciation of their role in God's purpose. As we have pointed out many times their heart is not yet right with God – it will be, but not, in the main, on this side the Kingdom. Ezekiel is most specific that the period when Israel dwells safely and none make her afraid, is a time of trespass in God's eyes. (Eze 39:26)

So we cannot support all that Israel does, but we have to be aware that, as God has foretold, Israel has many enemies, who take every opportunity to condemn Israel and misrepresent in the media what she is doing. Sadly much of the Western press is influenced by Roman Catholics, who have a deep loathing of Israel and what she stands for, because Israel restored to her land in expectation of their Messiah is a matter of deep conflict with the aims of the Vatican. We refer readers to chapter 12 of Milestones 2010.

We will look at Israel's relationships with her neighbours, and then in the next chapter look at her as an economic power-house.

Israel and Greece

Traditionally there was no love lost between Israel and Greece. Greece voted against the establishment of a State for Israel in the UN 1947 vote. She supported the Palestinians ever since, looking for Arab support in her battles against her neighbour and enemy, Turkey. Then things began to change. The gradual warming of relations with Israel began in 1990 under then-prime minister Constantine Mitsotakis's "New Democracy" government, which ended a decade of tense

relations with the US and, as an extension with Israel. In that year Greece became the last European Community member to form full diplomatic ties with the Jewish state. Ties grew slowly, to the extent that when the UN voted on the Goldstone Report in November 2009, Greece showed her support of Israel and her dislike of Turkey, by abstaining. The ties were greatly accelerated however by a remarkable chain of events that *Israel Hayom* 03-Jul-11 explains.

A few months back, after a long day of work, on an evening when the temperature dipped to 18 degrees below zero, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his wife went to dinner at Moscow's Pushkin Restaurant.

At the next table, just by chance, sat another head of state. Greek Prime Minister George Papandreou turned to Netanyahu and said, "My country is in trouble. Our economic crisis is not improving, to put it lightly. Your reputation as finance minister precedes you. I would appreciate it if you could offer some suggestions."

Since that night, the friendship between the two leaders has blossomed, encompassing conversations, advice and regular meetings.

The same article spoke of how the Greek commandos had sabotaged the flotilla of ships that was preparing to set sail for Gaza under the full glare of the media in another act of defiance against Israel's Gaza policy. Greece's covert actions and international pressure broke the will of the protestors and the affair fizzled out.

With Israel's new found abundance of gas, Israel and Greece have been cooperating on plans for the distribution of the surpluses which Israel will want to export. There are two solutions, to build a pipeline to connect up with existing pipelines, or turning the gas into a liquid – Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) and using ships to transport it. Both methods involve a large capital investment. The other factor is that Cyprus too seems to have abundant supplies of gas off her southern shores. The problem here is that the island has been divided since 1974 when Turkey invaded northern Cyprus, leaving Greece in control of southern Cyprus. The south is a member of the EU, whilst the north isn't.

The logical solution would be to pipe gas to Turkey, but from being Israel's great ally Turkey has turned very much against Israel. So a much longer pipeline to Greece via Cyprus is being discussed. Cyprus is keen and is welcoming Israel's support in its gas exploration. It would bring valuable transit fees to Cyprus and Greece and be a welcome help to Greece's financial crisis. Israel too has been helping Greece by pressurising the EU to help bailout Greece's euro debts.

Greece has now taken the place of Turkey as being the favourite place for Israelis to holiday. Greece and Israel now practise joint air force exercises, again something that Israel used to do with Turkey until the 2010 *Mavi Marmara* flotilla incident.

There is a verse in Joel ch 3 that indicates that when Israel is invaded, *Tyre, Zidon and the coasts of Palestine*, work together to deport prisoners of war to Greece.

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

This makes sense that Greece, unable to prevent the invasion of Israel, at least pays to help the captured Jews. The next verse tells of the Jews' salvation.

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

Israel and India

Another possibility that Israel is looking at, is to export LNG to India, where gas is seen as a clean source for generating electricity for its burgeoning industry. India had signed a deal with Iran for LNG, but Iran cancelled the deal when India voted against Iran over nuclear weapons. A proposed pipeline from Iran to India via Pakistan has also floundered because of political instability. So Israel would be an ideal source. It is early days, but Israel's trade with India is growing. It is now her 8th most important export market (Britain is 7th), though this was a blip, normally the ranking is much higher for India, but much of it is in big-sum military deals which can distort figures either way.

The two countries have complementary specialities that they can offer each other, as this report showed.

Industry executives see potential to marry Israel's innovative prowess with India's huge and talented pool of human resources.

Israeli and Indian industry associations signed a memorandum of understanding on Wednesday aimed at spurring cross-border innovation and entrepreneurship, as the two countries add high technology to their growing network of trade and economic cooperation.

While bilateral trade has grown exponentially, the agreement between the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), the country's biggest trade association, and the Israel High Tech Industries Association, is unusual in that it focuses on technology. The Indian state of Andhra Pradesh, home to the up-and-coming software center of Hyderabad, is close to signing a pact with Israel's Matimop, a government agency that facilitates multinational research and development ventures.

High tech is important to both countries, but their industries are very different. India is focused on software services – writing code and operating systems for other companies. The National Association of Software & Services Companies (NASSCOM) forecasts exports of as much as \$70 billion in the year to March 2012. The Israeli industry is much smaller but more diverse, and focuses on developing cutting-edge software, telecommunications and medicine. Exports in 2010 were about \$29 billion.

Starting at \$200 million annually when diplomatic relations were established in 1992, trade between Israel and India ballooned to \$4.7 billion last year when India vaulted into second place among Israel's export markets. This does not include defense sales which are reportedly over \$1 billion annually. In the first

quarter of this year the level of trade plummeted to just \$336 million, the Israel Export Institute reported on Wednesday, but industry figures and government officials are hopeful that growth will resume.

The two countries are negotiating a free-trade-area agreement (FTA) that will remove barriers to trade. In addition to the agreement with Andhra Pradesh, Israel is negotiating bilateral accords with two other Indian states. In March, Israel's Finance and Industry Ministries allocated 100 million shekels (\$29 million) to promote trade with China and India. *MidEast Daily News 01-Jun-11*

We watch with interest as both Britain and Israel seek to deepen their ties with this fast growing country which many believe will soon overtake China in the economic stakes.

Israel and the US

Relations between Obama and Netanyahu have been strained, yet as far as military cooperation is concerned the bonds have been growing strongly. Much of Israel's cutting edge military technology is incorporated into American weaponry. Israel's military exports to the US have more than tripled in the past 10 years.

One incident which illustrated that behind the bluster the ties are strong, was on the occasion when, in September, the Israeli Embassy in Cairo was besieged and broken into by an angry mob. Netanyahu called President Obama who personally pressurised the Egyptian military to intervene and rescue the trapped Israeli guards; Egyptian commandos managed to reach them with moments to spare. The six embassy employees were flown out in Israeli military planes. If they had returned in body-bags, the situation would have been dire. As it was, Netanyahu was fulsome in his thanks to the President.

Israel has joined the missile defence shield that America is setting up in Europe to defend against rogue states attacking with missiles; the foremost threat is from Iran. Israel's extensive network of anti-missile defences will be integrated into the European network and will function as a shield not only to Israel, but to her Arab neighbours.

As part of this move, Israel and the US are due to hold their largest ever joint exercises early in 2012, originally code-named *Juniper Cobra 12*, but renamed *Austere Challenge 12*. These will involve 5,000 US and Israeli troops, who will test their readiness to defend against Iranian missiles in the event of a war.

Israel and Egypt

Although the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel had led to high expectations, the reality was it was rather a cold peace between them. At the highest level there was cooperation especially on the intelligence side. When in February the campaign to topple Mubarak was underway, Israel, according to *Debka*, positioned a spy plane over Cairo and relayed pictures of the crowds to their HQ in Tel Aviv, where Egyptian military used this information to relay instructions to troops on the ground. Israel felt the departure of Mubarak keenly, as he kept in check the unpopular view of Israel held by the ordinary Egyptians. Egyptian troops under

Mubarak did to a greater or lesser extent hold back the smuggling of arms into Gaza, as well as policing the Sinai.

As a result of the elections being held in Egypt, it seems that, without intervention by the military, Egypt will veer to a more fundamental Muslim government. At the year-end there were talks between America and the military with assurances from the leading Salafi Party that they would not be seeking to overturn the peace accords between Israel and Egypt.

Israel has been very dependent on the gas pipeline from Egypt for her supply of gas to generate electricity. So far the pipeline has been sabotaged ten times. Although it is constantly being repaired, little gas has actually reached Israel from it, forcing Israel to import more oil to burn in the power stations, which is much more expensive and more damaging to the environment.

The new fence. Israel is busy building a \$360 million fence to prevent terrorists as well as refugees crossing the long Egyptian/Israeli border which crosses the Negev down to Eilat. As a result of a terrorist attack in August when six Israelis on a bus were killed, Israel has speeded up the work. The total length of this 5m high, high-tech fence, is 240km. The first 100km should be completed by the end of January 2012, and the whole length virtually completed by the end of 2012. It is taking 15% of Israel's annual steel consumption! Its physical size is a great deterrence and sophisticated sensors and radar towers pick up any attempts to approach it. Already the number of infiltrators has dropped by 50% this year compared to last.

Israel and the Palestinians

2011 will be remembered as the year the Palestinian's sought recognition of their State of Palestine. The problem for the Palestinians is that they are bitterly divided; Hamas in Gaza are longing to take over Fatah on the West Bank. They did promise to come together for the sake of unity, but it did not last long. Israel refuses to deal with Hamas, who have been lobbing missiles at Israel throughout the year, earning retaliation from the IDF. The plight of the Christian's in Gaza has been dire with no celebrations of Christmas allowed; in contrast with Israel's relaxed dealings in Bethlehem where a record 100,000 pilgrims have been allowed in.

Hamas is open about seeking the destruction of Israel. Fatah are more careful in what they say to the western press, but is quite open when addressing the Arabic Press, which will not be widely read in the West, that they too seek for Israel's destruction. As they say, they have to recognise the existence of Israel, that is a fact, but as for Israel's **right to exist** in the land they refuse to acknowledge that!

Official Palestinian tourist road maps show the whole of Israel as Palestinian, Jewish cities are renamed with Arabic names. Any connection with Israel to the land is strenuously denied, any presence here is Palestinian.

Who are the Palestinians? It is a useful exercise to see just where the Palestinians came from before looking at their bid for statehood. It recently came to the fore when the US Republican presidential candidate Newt Gingrich said that the Palestinians are an "invented people". The *BESA Center Perspectives Paper No. 157, 20-Dec-11* was devoted to this matter.

The accuracy of Gingrich's statement cannot be denied. This conclusion stems from two factors. The first is that Arabs living in the area now known as Palestine were regarded, both historically and in contemporary times, not as a separate entity but as part of the general Arab people. This has been recognized by Arab spokesmen, by scholars, and by objective international official reports. The second is that no independent Palestinian state has ever existed, let alone one that manifested a "Palestinian identity."

The first Congress of Muslim-Christian Associations in the area met in February 1919 to consider the future of the territory formerly ruled by the Ottoman Empire, which dissolved after World War I. The Congress declared: "We consider Palestine as part of Arab Syria as it has never been separated from it at any time. We are connected with it by national, religious, linguistic, moral, economic, and geographical bonds." The celebrated scholar Philip Hitti, testifying before the Anglo-American Committee in 1946, stated there was no such thing as Palestine in history, "absolutely not."

The Palestinians themselves reached the same conclusion. Palestinian spokesperson Ahmad Shuqeiri told the UN Security Council in 1956 that Palestine was nothing more than southern Syria. The head of the Military Operations Department of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), Zuheir Muhsein, declared on March 31, 1977, "Only for political reasons do we carefully underline our Palestinian identity. ...the existence of a separate Palestinian identity is there for tactical reasons." The PLO, in its own Charter or amended Basic Law (article 1), states that Palestine is part of the Arab nation.

The area of Palestine was a district of the [Ottoman] Empire, officially a vilayet (province), not a political entity. No independent Palestinian state has ever been established, nor was there a single administrative or cultural unit of Palestinians. Arabs in the area were not different in any way from other Arabs in the Middle East. Nor was Israel established on the ashes of any state other than the Ottoman Empire.

On the other hand, a sovereign Jewish state existed prior to the rise of the Roman Empire. ... The Jews in the Diaspora maintained a strong consciousness of the historical connection of the Jewish people to Palestine – a connection that was acknowledged in the League of Nations mandate.

The first official naming of "Palestine" as a distinct, defined territorial area came with the decision of the League of Nations, dealing with areas of the former Ottoman Empire, to create a Mandate for Palestine. This was accorded to Great Britain, which ruled the area from the Mediterranean Sea to west of the Jordan River from 1922 until May 1948.

All people living in that area were regarded as "Palestinians" without any ethnic connotations. Ironically, the name was used not by Arabs but only by Jews in the area, as in *The Palestinian* (now the *Jerusalem*) *Post*, and the *Palestine Symphony* (now *Israel Philharmonic*) *Orchestra*. Only after the State of Israel was established in May 1948 did the term "Palestinian" become exclusively used in referring to Arabs in the area.

The essential problem is not simply a terminological one – a refusal by many to acknowledge that the category of Palestinian identity is a recent invention. Rather, the insistence on a presumed, time honored right of a Palestinian people to the disputed land is being used as a weapon against the right of Israel to exist. Such an insistence is a handicap to a peaceful, negotiated agreement between the Palestinians and Israel. The decision about the exercise of sovereign power in Palestine remains to be determined in an overall peace settlement.

As *FLAME*: 20-Dec-11 said:

This is not to say that that the Palestinians have no right to a nation. But the Palestinians use this phony history to justify calling the Jews colonialists and interlopers and inciting their people to an eternal struggle to destroy Israel.

Palestinian bid for statehood. In September, President Abbas in a speech to the UN, requested that they should recognise a Palestinian State. The matter had been widely touted for several months before, but there was not sufficient support from the UN member states for the matter to be discussed. America in any case had made it clear that they would veto the proposal. This was no short-circuit to peace talks which involve the recognition of Israel's right to exist, a matter they refuse to acknowledge. Abbas did make an application a few weeks later for "Palestine" to become a member of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). This bid was successful, following which the US together with Israel, stopped their funding; at a stroke reducing UNESCO's income by 25%.

At the year end the two sides are as far apart as ever. Fatah and Hamas are once more threatening to join forces; Israel has warned that if that happened all talks would be off as she would not negotiate with Hamas.

During the unrest in Egypt, Hamas is thought to have doubled the size of her arsenal of rockets to around 10,000; an extraordinary threat aimed at Israel.

Gilad Shalit. Israel has in fact negotiated with Hamas over the freeing of Gilad Shalit after being held captive for over 5 years. Gilad had been seized in 2006 and not allowed any visits from the Red Cross. His release came after intense negotiations which involved the release of over 1,000 Hamas and Palestinian prisoners. It was a day of sober rejoicing in Israel due to the inequality of the swap and the open boasting of Hamas that they would capture other Israelis in order to get further prisoners released.

Israel and Turkey

From a business point of view, Turkey has leaped from Israel's 9th most important export market to number 3, behind the US and the Netherlands! From a political point of view matters are very cold since Turkey expelled the Israeli ambassador and recalled her own ambassador from Israel in 2010.

Under Ataturk, Turkey had become a secular state and one that was happy to deal with Israel. Since the current Prime Minister, Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his

Islamist party came to power things have changed, with financial money from Arab countries supporting this religious party.

Israel and the Gulf States

Little is spoken of in the news about Israeli-Saudi cooperation. At a citizen level, there is much dislike of Israel amongst the Arab States, but amongst the rulers, striving to prevent Iranian expansion into their territory, Israel is an important ally in the struggle. With American assistance, Israel is the only power in the Middle East with the possibility of dealing with the destruction of Iran's nuclear facilities. According to *Debka 27-May-11* there is a considerable degree of intelligence sharing between Israel, Jordan and Saudi Arabia. We shall look in chapter 12 at the way the Gulf Cooperation Council has expanded to include Jordan. Part of this strategy was because of the good intelligence ties between Israel and Jordan.

Saudi Arabia and Israel have been cooperating quietly on issues of shared interest for three years starting in the days of Netanyahu's predecessor, Ehud Olmert. But the basis of understanding has broadened and strengthened in the four months since the fall of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and the falling-out between Abdullah and President Barack Obama over the latter's Middle East policy.

According to DEBKA-Net-Weekly's sources, the accords Israel has reached with the Saudis do not constitute a formal pact or treaty but rather a row of strategic understandings hammered out in fairly regular, unpublicized encounters between Israeli and Saudi intelligence chiefs at which Netanyahu too has put in an appearance.

Mossad Director Tamir Pardo takes his seat opposite the Director of Saudi General Intelligence Prince Muqrin bin Abdulaziz or Chairman of the Saudi National Security Council Prince Bandar bin Sultan – or sometimes both. Their discussions are described by Israel and Saudi sources as down-to-earth with no time wasted on rhetoric or political palaver.

The two parties raise issues of concern, swap intelligence and get down to the hard tacks of ways and means and solutions.

Last week, we reported that Jordan's King Abdullah II had accepted an invitation to join the Gulf emirates association, the Gulf Council of Cooperation. Since then things have moved fast and, notably, Lt. Gen. Mohammad Al Qqad, Director of the Jordanian General Intelligence Dept. – GID, was told to pitch in with the Israeli-Saudi intelligence partnership. He came armed with the strong ties he already maintains with his Israel counterparts.

This confirmed an earlier report.

High level meetings continue to take place, mostly outside the region, and it has been reported that Israel even maintains a low-profile, low-level representative in the Gulf. *Israel Journal of Foreign Affairs 17-Jan-11*

There is a lot of trade done between Israel and the Gulf States, through third parties. As long as the goods do not have Israeli markings (Israeli firms are adept at

producing plain products for this market), they are accepted in the Gulf. The only figure I have seen is of exports to the tune of \$25m for the first 9 months of 2008.

Israel, Syria and Lebanon

Events in Syria continue to be a cause of concern for Israel. America is reported as having moved some of the troops being pulled down from Iraq to Jordan's border with Syria, in case President Assad decides to launch an attack on Israel and Jordan to divert attention from his own troubles. Generally things have been quiet on the Israeli-Lebanese border. Israel's strengthening of the border fence has proved an effective deterrent to any would be infiltrators.

Israel and Iran

Iran poses the biggest threat to Israel at this time. Not only is Iran determined to rid the earth of the State of Israel, but is prepared to develop nuclear weapons to achieve that goal. We can be confident that it will not arrive at this situation; Israel is such a tiny country, that the damage would affect her neighbouring countries too. The nearest thing we have is the passage in Zechariah, but this is describing the power that the Lord Jesus will use against Israel's enemies.

And this shall be the plague wherewith the LORD will smite all the people that have fought against Jerusalem; Their flesh shall consume away while they stand upon their feet, and their eyes shall consume away in their holes, and their tongue shall consume away in their mouth. Zec 14:12

Israel is prepared to go it alone against Iran's nuclear sites, though would prefer to go jointly with the US. Saudi Arabia has indicated she would allow Israeli planes to overfly her territory on their way to and from such a raid. The US has been supplying Israel with new bunker-buster bombs which can penetrate to incredible depths. It would appear that the window of opportunity is shrinking rapidly to strike before Iran has the technology to produce weapons grade material. After much talk of going to war the year has ended with an ominous silence! Watch out!

The effect of the Stuxnet virus has been quite spectacular, putting a great strain on the Iranians as they try to eliminate it. Another "son of Stuxnet" virus was reported during the year; in fact talk now is of 5 interlocking variants. Various mysterious explosions in important elements of Iran's weapons programme have been blamed on these software viruses. A large underground store of the rockets that would be used to carry nuclear bombs, were destroyed in one of these explosions. The fear for the Iranians is, will the virus affect the flight path of the rockets destined for Israel and cause them to fall elsewhere? Without actually programming a rocket to land on Israel and firing it, they can't tell!

It is troublous times for Israel, but one could see that if Israel were to be successful against Iran and this probably would involve dealing at the same time with her proxies, Syria, Lebanon and Hamas, then a successful operation could transform relations in the Middle East. It would be a time of peace and security brought about through Israel's own prowess, and not through trusting in her God. (Eze 39:26)

We now turn to the wider Middle East situation.

Chapter 12:

ISRAEL – AN INCREASINGLY DESIRABLE PREY

For the past few years we have seen growing prosperity in Israel. From being a “basket-case” economy some 25 years ago, she is a major power in the Middle East, whose citizens win more prestigious awards than any other nation of her size. The list of her technological inventions is incredible.

Those people who seek to boycott Israeli goods would find themselves devoid of so many products that we take for granted, if they really stuck to their principles!

Israel's booming economy

Whilst the majority of the advanced nations have been feeling the effect of recession, Israel has so far been largely unaffected. Her economy is growing robustly; at the start of the Jewish New Year, Oct 2011 the following comparisons were made.

At the outset of the Jewish New Year, 5772, Israel's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is \$240bn – with 3% deficit, 5.7% unemployment, 3% interest rate and 3% inflation – compared with \$38bn GDP in 1990 and \$1bn in 1949. Israel's credit rating has been recently upgraded by Standard & Poor, ranking it among the top OECD economies.

In 2011, Israel takes pride in robust exports despite the global economic meltdown, due to its highly specialized lines of exports, which correspond to vital global needs in the areas of pharmaceuticals, medical devices, biomed, agriculture, water technologies, energy alternatives, software, laptop computers, telecommunications and defense industries. The latter features Israel as the fifth largest global defense exporter. The NY-based “Trading Economics” reported a \$1bn Israeli current account surplus in the first quarter of 2011.

The Jewish New Year, 5772, highlights the Jewish State as “a shining high tech city upon a hill,” attracting leading global companies, venture capitalists and investment banks, which seek unique manpower and cutting-edge innovative technologies. The European Community appoints Israel to head its high-technology commissions. Microsoft's CEO, Steve Ballmer, calls Microsoft as much an Israeli company as an American company, because of the importance of its Israeli technologies, such as Kinect gaming motion-sensor interface, the fastest rising consumer electronic product in history. The same applies, increasingly, to Google, Cisco and eBay and Apple's memory systems for its iPhones, iPods and iPads. Leading American venture capital funds, Sequoia, Greylock, Accel and Orbimed have become frequent investors in Israel, and some 400 global high tech companies have established research and manufacturing presence in Israel. Overseas investments in Israel's high-tech exceed any single European country and France and Germany combined.

The American defense industry has been a major beneficiary of Israel's unique technological and battle capabilities. Thus, the current generation of the F-16

features over 600 modifications, introduced by Israel, making it a global success and enhancing the American employment, research and development and export infrastructures.

In retrospect, Arab wars and terrorism, geo-political constraints and limited natural resources have been nothing but bumps on the path of an unprecedented Israeli economic, technological, educational and defense surge, which has benefitted humanity at-large. *IsraelHayom.com 02-Oct-11*

Israel is a unique little country, surrounded by enemies, driven to innovate in order to survive. One can increasingly see what a desirable prey Israel must be to a Russia that is struggling to modernise her manufacturing base. To take over Israel would provide her with cutting edge technology. Then there is the aspect of Israel's potential oil wealth, which again is attractive to Russia who would like to control as many sources of energy as possible.

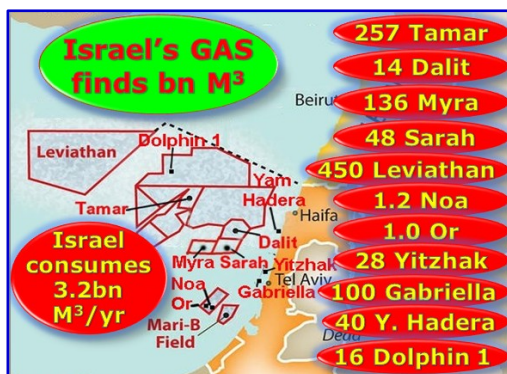
Israel's growing gas fields

It is hard to keep track of them; there was the original Mari B field, then Tamar, Dalit, Myra, Sarah and Leviathan. But this year we have to add Noa and Or, Gabriella and Yitzhak; and now in December one has to squeeze on the map Dolphin 1 and Yam Hadera!

At the moment Israel consumes about 3.2 billion M^3 a year of gas. She would consume a lot more if it were available, reducing her consumption of 85 million barrels of oil a year. The constant blowing up of the gas pipe-line from Egypt has been a great headache this year, as they have had to extract more from the nearly depleted Mari B field. Israel has put pressure on the owners of the new licences to bring their finds on stream as quickly as possible.

Provided there are no set-backs, the potential volume of gas to be extracted is staggering, especially as Israel is a relatively small country. Even if Israel increased her gas consumption 5-fold, Leviathan with its upwardly revised potential reserves of 450bn M^3 would last nearly 30 years! The other potential reserves add up to more than Leviathan and there are lots more areas to drill!

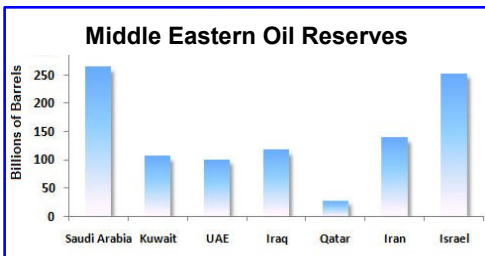
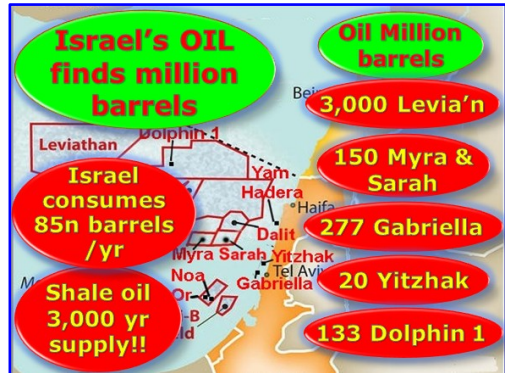
There has been increasing talk of oil being found amongst the gas fields. Again the potential figures are staggering – nearly 3,500m barrels. So even if Israel did not drop its oil consumption in favour of gas there would be a 40 years supply. This does not take into account the controversial shale oil to the west and south of Jerusalem, where we are talking of a 3,000 year supply! We can only marvel that not only did God foretell through the prophets that Israel would be very prosperous



in these last days, but put into the earth – presumably at the time of the Flood, the resources that would make this possible. God's foreknowledge is beyond our understanding, but how thankful we are that we have had our eyes opened to the great things that He is doing.

Israel's shale oil deposits

The size of these deposits is staggering; they are estimated to be virtually the same as the reserves in Saudi Arabia!



Shale oil is the product that one extracts from oil shale; Israel has pioneered a method of heating the rock which they claim removes the environmental problems. Normally big quantities of water are required but this method instead generates water. The concern in Israel is

whether this process will damage the vital underlying aquifer which is separated from the oil shale rock by a 200m impermeable rock barrier. Using these new methods of heating the rock, the Israel company set up to tap this resource is confident that there will be no damage. A small pilot plant is being set up to prove the new method works, should this produces positive results it will move to a bigger trial taking place. Commercial quantities are not expected until 2018-2020, if all goes well. The oil is of high quality and would sell at a premium price. At the moment they will be using electricity to heat the rocks, (75,000kW per day) but plan to use natural gas when available for the bigger trial. Estimated costs of producing are \$40 a barrel, so with prices at the moment around \$100 a barrel, this should be quite profitable.



Venture Investment Revives

Israeli high technology seems to be on the cusp of a recovery.

Israeli technology start-ups raised \$479 million in fresh capital in the first quarter of 2011, the biggest three-month total in two years and double the amount they raised the same time in 2010, according to the IVA, which tracks

the industry. Some 140 companies took in new investment, 49 more than the first-quarter 2010. *MidEast Daily News 15-Apr-11*

In addition there is a large portion of private equity investment in Israel. Many high tech companies have Israeli bases as this is where the new ideas are developed.

Google are moving to a new HQ building in Tel Aviv in 2012, they plan to devote one floor to housing new Israeli entrepreneurs.

“The Israeli developers community is innovative and sizzling. It has great potential. This project evolved from a desire to provide suitable support when it is most effective. The incubator is part of Google's operations to deepen its ties with the developers community,” said Google Israel R&D Center director Prof. Yossi Matias. *Globes 13-Nov-11*

Eilat rail link to provide ‘alternative to Suez Canal’

An interesting article in the *Jewish Chronicle 15-Dec-11* stated that the Israeli Ministry of Transport was drawing up an agreement for a Chinese firm to build a railway from Eilat to Tel Aviv. It would be a 2½ hour journey. Not only would it connect the two centres but would fulfil the government's plans to increase the population of the Negev.

Tourism is just one part of the rail plan. It is part of a broader government scheme to develop the stretch of the Negev that leads from central Israel to Eilat. The Ministry for the Development of the Negev and Galilee announced last Thursday that it aims to double the current population of the Negev to 1.2 million by 2025. The government hopes that the train, serving stations along the route to Eilat, will make Negev communities more attractive.

The third, and most ambitious, part of the rail plan involves promoting it as a rival trade route to the Suez Canal, which will avoid the canal's high fees. Israel wants shippers to dock in Eilat, load goods onto the train, and then ship them out one of the country's Mediterranean ports. “Anybody who looks at the map can see that in the medium to long term this will be an efficient way to transport freight,” said the department's deputy director-general.

The government is planning to decentralise much of its military command to the Negev over the next 7 years. The released land in the expensive areas of Israel, will help pay for the costs. It will also remove them from the range of many of the missiles that can be fired from Gaza and Lebanon.

Desalination plant could make Israel a water exporter

Israel is about to start construction of its fifth desalination plant. This new unit at Ashdod is expected to come on stream in 2013 and supply 100m M³ of desalinated water annually, using reverse osmosis to turn sea water into drinking water.

The new Ashdod plant will join four other desalination facilities that will provide, by the end of 2013, 85% of the country's household water consumption.

“In the coming years we will be able to return water to nature and even sell water to our neighbors,” said Infrastructure Minister Uzi Landau. *Reuters* 06-Dec-11

Israel's military equipment leadership

Following the loss of many tanks in the 2006 Lebanon war, Israel has developed several systems to protect her tanks in any future conflict. We saw last year a system that made the tank invisible. This year we report on their Trophy system. This senses incoming missiles launched at it and fires its own projectile to destroy it in mid-flight. This system faced its real test in a battle situation when a tank armed with this system was fired at from Gaza and successfully destroyed the attacking missiles. This will prove a big boost to Israel's endeavours to sell the system to other armies.

Israel too has had opportunity to test its anti-missile systems in real action – Hamas has continued to fire bigger and longer range missiles into Israel. On several occasions Israel has successfully shot them down with her Iron Dome system. At \$35,000–\$50,000 a go it is a costly form of defence, though the radar system works out if a missile is going to land in a harmless area and then does not shoot it down.

Missile attack from Lebanon and Gaza form a big threat to Israel with tens of thousands of weapons in her enemies' hands. In addition there is the threat from the intercontinental missiles which Iran is stockpiling. There are several layers to Israel's defences. For the short range rockets there is the Iron Dome, for longer range the Patriot, and for the longest range missile, the Arrow 2 system. Arrow 3 is under development to destroy a missile closer to its launching point.

Israel and America are investing big sums of money in these defences. The problem is affording sufficient of each to cope with all threats. An Iron Dome can protect 60 square miles of territory – Israel has put in her 3rd Iron Dome system, with the 4th expected early in 2012 and five more by mid-2013. However it would need about 20 units, at around \$80m each, to cover all her vulnerable borders. Israel is also developing the David's Sling system which fits between the Patriot and the Arrow 2, and will go into operation in mid-Israel in 2012.

Anti-missile systems supplement Israel's policy of fencing off her borders to prevent physical invasion of their territory. With the Gaza Strip fenced off, the Lebanon border likewise and now the Egyptian border which is under construction, it leaves the West Bank security fence to be completed and Israel will have largely eliminated the need for *wall bars and gates* (*Eze 38:11*) around her cities and towns. There seems to have been little or no work done to complete the West Bank fence in the past two years. As of July 2010 320 miles had been completed representing 64% of the total.

Israel's expanding navy

Israel has 3 Dolphin submarines supplied at a subsidised price by Germany and capable of firing nuclear tipped missiles; No's 4 and 5 are being built for delivery in 2012/2013. The diesel-electric submarines are exceptionally quiet and have a system of allowing combat swimmers to leave and enter the vessel. Germany has

now promised to deliver a 6th submarine; Angela Merkel had held up this project until Mr Netanyahu agreed to release tax revenues it had collected, but not released to the Palestinians, in protest at their membership of UNESCO. Israel has just extensively refitted and upgraded the first submarine which was supplied in 1999. At least one will be deployed off Iran; they are capable of being at sea for many weeks at a time.

Israel is also looking to build more warships to protect her off-shore gas rigs.

The Bible and Israel

In 2010 the Israeli Prime Minister's 15 year old son, Avner Netanyahu, won the prestigious National Bible Quiz for Youth. His mother had been a competitor in this event when younger, as had Avner's older brother. In Dec 2011 Mr Netanyahu announced that he was reinstating a regular Bible study group at his official residence in Jerusalem.

The group will be open to Bible researchers, government officials and invited guests. Netanyahu said he wanted to reinstate that practice in order to encourage love of the Bible among government officials, and by extension, the nation.

"Ben-Gurion understood that the Book of Books is our mandate for our country," Netanyahu said. "He viewed the Bible as the wondrous story of the Jewish people, the unique spiritual, cultural and historic heritage of our people, and one of the cornerstones of all of human culture." *Israel Today 11-Dec-11*

Israeli Education Minister Gideon Saar has been on a mission for the past couple of years to improve biblical studies in Israeli schools. Last week he stated that Israeli students must not only learn the words of the Bible, they must learn to love the Bible. *Israel Today 01-Jan-12*

Fearing that the Palestinian bid for statehood might spark a war, the Israel defence Forces have ensured that they have plenty of copies of the Bible for their troops.

Religious commanders in the Israeli army insist that the biblical history of their nation provides the most powerful motivation for young Israeli soldiers to fight bravely. While secular voices often protest, the fact remains that the most courageous heroics are typically carried out by Bible-believing Israeli soldiers. *Israel Today 23-Aug-11*

The number of Jewish Israelis who class themselves as religious has been steadily growing. Figures released in September showed only 42% classed themselves as secular or non-religious.

8% of Jews define themselves as haredi, 12% as religious, 13% as religious traditionalists, 25% as "traditionalists who are not so religious" *A7 26-Sep-11*

Israel's population

As at the end of the Jewish Year, the State of Israel's population was 7,798,600. 75.3% of them (5,865,300) are Jewish 20.5% (1,597,300) are Arabs while the remaining 4.3% (318,200) are defined as "others".

We now look at the wider Middle East and the Arab Spring.

Chapter 13:

THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE ARAB SPRING

Surely no-one foresaw the so called Arab Spring, let alone the speed at which it would reverberate around the Middle East, claiming some 35,000 lives in its first year. At the end of 2011 we have seen amazing changes, which we will try to encapsulate in this our last main chapter.

The Arab Spring

A Lebanese newspaper, the *Daily Star* 27-Dec-11 summed up the changes in grander words than I could pen!

It all began with a slap and a slur hurled at a poor vegetable seller by a policewoman in a provincial Tunisian city. Mohammad Bouazizi set himself alight in a protest that ignited a chain of fires across the Arab world.

Twelve months after his death, he would scarcely recognize the region he knew. From the Atlantic coast to the shores of the Gulf, popular uprisings against entrenched autocrats swept the region, unleashing long pent-up yearning for change in a world that democracy had passed by.

The balance sheet so far seemed inconceivable as 2011 got under way: four dictators gone, in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya and Yemen; another under siege in Syria; and nearly every other Arab leader feeling tremors under his throne.

A new Middle East order is messily beginning to emerge, captured dramatically in images scarcely imaginable a year ago.

Regimes normally take years to change, but now it happens in weeks, aided by modern communications that enable plotters to keep in touch in ways which, just 40 years ago, were the matter of science fiction. One wonders what changes 2012 will bring to the region. This picture was taken at the Arab-Africa Summit in Oct 2010, hosted by Col Gaddafi in Sirte in Libya. Within 375 days the whole front row would be dead or deposed!



Tunisia

This little country is off the normal radar, certainly there was no mention of a street trader setting himself on fire in the pages of *Milestones 2010*! It all started when on the 17th December 2010, Mohamed Bouazizi, a 26 year old street trader, was harassed by a city official and had his weighing scales confiscated and his goods spoiled. His visit to the governor's office to complain drew no response, so he set himself on fire in protest. He was badly burned and died on Jan 4th 2011. His death

brought the people out into the streets in support of reforms. The government's handling only inflamed matters and the violence and anger grew so strong, that on Jan 14th Ben Ali, the Tunisian President and his family fled, after 23 years in power, eventually finding sanctuary in Saudi Arabia. Elections were held in October and Moncef Marzouki was elected as president of Tunisia and in December was sworn in. Tunisia now has a coalition government with a moderate Islamist party having the most seats. The new President has reached out to both Jews and Christians, urging those who had fled during Ali's reign, to return to Tunisia, according to *MidEast Daily News 20-Dec-11*.

Egypt

Protest started here on 25th Jan 2011 and culminated in President Mubarak being deposed 18 days later after 30 years in power. Huge crowds gathered nightly until they had achieved their objective. President Mubarak, a sick man, clung to power as long as he could, but was not able to withstand when America withdrew its support and called on his resignation. He is now on trial for his life, being charged with the deaths of hundreds of protestors. The military which were the power behind Mubarak continue to hold most of the control. Elections were started in December and are planned to run through to March. The first elections have brought the Islamist Parties to the fore. In December, protestors took to the streets again in protest against the slow speed of reform.

Libya

Another longstanding dictator is no more. The eccentric Col Gaddafi was in power for 42 years, following his coup against King Idris. A small protest started on Jan 14th 2011 against living standards, but the main anti-government protests started on 15th Feb. and the opposition quickly gained control of Benghazi, Libya's 2nd largest city. For months the battles would rage across Libya, with many casualties. Following a UN sanctioned "no-fly zone" on March 17th, Britain and France, with US help, commenced a bombing campaign in support of the rebels.

Tripoli finally fell in late August, and Gaddafi's forces regrouped at Sirte, which finally fell, with Gaddafi being seized and killed on 20th Oct. The war officially ended on Oct 23rd. Elections for a constitutional assembly have been promised within 8 months and presidential elections within a year.

Yemen

The fourth leader to fall, is President Ali Abdullah Saleh, though at the time of writing he has left the country for medical treatment following injuries received in an assassination attempt earlier in the year, but he has promised to resign and he is not expected to renege on his promise this time.

General protests about living standards started mid Jan 2011 and led to a major demonstration against the President on 27th Jan, with calls for the President to resign. Protests continued and he agreed not to seek re-election in 2013. The protests continued to grow and 3 times the President promised to resign following pressure from the Gulf Cooperation Council, but each time failed to sign the necessary transfer of power. An assassination attempt on June 3rd left him injured

and he had to have medical treatment in Saudi Arabia. He returned to Yemen in September and eventually agreed to sign a transfer of power on Nov 23rd. However he still would not go, promising to step down when the planned elections are held in Feb. 2012. However he left for medical treatment in the US at the end of December, with everyone hoping that he will not return. He has ruled for 33 years.

Syria

The struggle in Syria is second only to Libya for deaths. President Assad still clings to power after a year-long struggle, though few think he will be able to last much longer as he has been isolated by the Arab League and his former friend Turkey is siding with the opposition. Protests started here with a self-immolation on 26th January, but protests didn't really get under way until the 15th March, following the torture of children arrested for writing slogans against the regime. As the protest grew in size, so did the government's brutal reaction, which has left an estimated 5,000 dead. Unlike Libya where the western powers intervened, there has been no open use of the West's military might. Russia has opposed any type of action being taken as Syria is an important forward base for the Russian navy, and Russia is doing all she can to ensure that President Assad remains in power, as any successor is an unknown force. Syria has long been a friend of Iran and the battle that is on-going is really one between the Sunni and the Shi'ite Muslims. Syria is 74% Sunni Muslim, 13% Shi'ite Muslim, 13% Christian and Druze. President Assad belongs to the Alawites, a branch of the Shi'ite Muslims.

The majority of the Arab countries outside Iran and Iraq are Sunni, so when the Arab League expelled Syria from the Arab League in protest at Assad's killing of his own people, it was more than just a protest; it was a Sunni challenge to the minority rule of the Shi'ites in Syria and their friends in Iran.

Other protests

There were protests in many other Arab countries as well as in African ones, most were quickly suppressed and have not so far led to a regime change.

What is the Arab Spring?

It is part of the events of the sixth seal of *Rev 16:12-16*; a continuation of the preparation for the coming of *the kings of the east* (v12) and part of the frog-like spirits of Liberty, Equality, Fraternity, which have been a feature of the times since the apocalyptic earthquake of the French Revolution. They are *unclean spirits* as the freedom they promise is delusory. True liberty, true equality and true fraternity are only found in Christ, within the bonds of the true gospel.

We see the Middle East dividing into two camps, a moderate Sunni one in the south and a militant Shi'ite grouping in the north. The power that has emerged as the strongest amidst the upheavals has been Saudi Arabia. Not only has her wealth increased sharply due to high oil prices, but her rival for power, Egypt, has all but disappeared from the scene. Egypt is seeing her foreign currency reserves being rapidly eaten away as income from tourism, taxation and exports has plummeted. Foreign reserves of \$36bn in Dec. 2010 have dropped to \$20bn at Dec. 2011 and are expected to shrink to just \$8bn by April 2012. Food and fuel prices are very

heavily subsidised because of the deep poverty of the Egyptians; the country is facing bankruptcy. Western foreign investment over the past 9 months is virtually non-existent. Will the West have to step in to bail her out or will Saudi Arabia?

Saudi Arabia has been buying up Egyptian companies since the upheavals began. The *Hudson New York 03-Oct-11* quoting an Arabic source explains.

According to *Al Arabiya*, 120 new Saudi companies have been established since the Egyptian Revolution on Jan. 25, 2011. Saudis are investing in every sector of the Egyptian economy where many poverty stricken Egyptians will be hired to make a living, an investment that is understandable and that can be appreciated. The major problem with this is that wherever Saudi money goes, Wahhabism [the main form of Islam in Saudi Arabia] “follows and swallows.”

The Gulf Cooperation Council

Saudi Arabia is the main power behind this regional cooperation, which was set up in 1981 in response to the overthrow of the Shah of Persia in 1979, and the rise of militant Shi'ism in Iran. The original 6 members are all countries which border the Persian Gulf. The idea was to pool their military resources so they could respond quickly and together against any threat by Iran, though it covered a wide range of economic issues as well including working towards a common currency. In 1984 they set up the Peninsula Shield Force with 10,000 troops from the 6 countries. This has now expanded to about 40,000 troops.



In 2011 they agreed to enlarge their membership and invited Jordan and Morocco to join them. Jordan of course adjoins Saudi Arabia but Morocco is at the western end of the top of Africa. What does link them is that they are all monarchies. Also Jordan and Morocco have vast reserves of oil shale deposits. Both countries accepted the invitation, and in September attended their first meeting, though full membership may be a few years ahead. What is also interesting is that they have also invited Egypt to join, this is being discussed although some reports deny it; also Yemen is scheduled to join in 2016. Egypt has the biggest army in the Middle East. If Egypt does join, and it makes good sense for her to do so, then the Gulf Cooperation Council members will form a block to the south of the Shi'ite states.



The GCC and ties with India

The Gulf Council has approached India for help and the supply of equipment.

The Gulf Cooperation Council, amid the threat from neighboring Iran, has been drafting a common security policy and examining defense cooperation with India.

Officials said New Delhi has been preparing for high-level defense talks with several GCC states. They said India was offering Gulf Arab militaries training, equipment and weapons.

Officials said India has sought to expand its stake in the GCC market. So far, the Indian Navy has been holding exercises with several GCC militaries, particularly Oman. Indian warships have also visited Saudi ports.

New Delhi has assessed that Saudi Arabia was prepared for cooperation in the areas of exercises and defense logistics. Officials said one prospect was that India refurbish Saudi Navy warships. *GeoStrategy Direct 18-May-11*

America and Britain operating in this region

Scripture has led us to expect to see Britain, America, Australia, India and other “young lions” to be active in this region; and this is what we find. The Middle East is busy spending their oil profits on buying up arms. Saudi Arabia purchased \$3.5bn worth in 2011 and at the year-end was an announcement that the US was poised to sell nearly \$30bn worth of F-15 fighter jets to Saudi Arabia. In December the US Congress approved the sale to the UAE of 4,900 Joint Direct Attack Munitions, a kit that transforms unguided air bombs into precision strike weapons worth \$304m.

Over the next 10 years the Gulf countries are expected to spend \$63bn on weaponry, both America and Britain are hoping for a large share of this spending.

With America’s pull out of her last troops in Iraq at the year-end, the US has strengthened her presence in the region to counter this loss. The US troops in Kuwait have been substantially boosted as has her naval presence.

The US administration is also seeking to expand military ties with the six nations in the Gulf Cooperation Council. While the United States has close bilateral military relationships with each, the administration and the military are trying to foster a new “security architecture” for the Persian Gulf that would integrate air and naval patrols and missile defense. *New York Times 29-Oct-11*

The phrase a “Middle East NATO” has been used to describe the cooperation that America is seeking.

Iraq after American troop withdrawn

There is a huge struggle for power taking place in Iraq as the year ends. Iran is keen to exert her influence; Turkey and Syria want to have their say in Iraq’s affairs. Iraq has asked the GCC to consider a joint air defence pact and it seems clear that Iraq is in no hurry to embrace Iran. Saudi Arabia is using her money to influence things so that the Sunni’s predominate; likewise Iran, so the Shi’ites and Turkey, so the Kurds predominate. It may well be that like the Balkans split up along ethnic lines, Iraq will split into 3 or so parts. Eventually Iraq will come under the power of Russia as part of her move into the Middle East on the way to take Israel. We watch and wait to see what happens in the short-term.

All that remains of our review of 2011 is to bring it to a close with a short exhortation of encouragement. May 2012 indeed be the year of the Lord’s return!

Chapter 14: Exhortation

Glorifying God in our lives

In an age of “rights” it is easy overlook the fact that God has made this earth in order to reflect praise to His Name. He calls on His creation to live lives that reflect glory to Him and uphold His standards of holiness and mercy. To them He graciously extends the hope of life everlasting. Hence Paul’s earnest exhortation:

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable [logical, rational] service.

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. Rom 12:1, 2

The Lord Jesus reflected so wonderfully what service should mean. In everything he sought to bring honour to his Father and to uphold his Father’s teachings.

Not my will, but thine, be done Luke 22:42

This was the key to his life, even in its darkest moments when these words were uttered in the Garden of Gethsemane. His life and his death were to bring glory to His Father, in that they upheld the righteousness of God’s principles. Even the Lord Jesus could not earn everlasting life; we all share the same inevitable end, death. He was confident that his Father would raise him, and how thankful we are that He did, for therein lies our hope.

The word *glorifying* occurs 3 times, all in Luke’s gospel, though the Greek word *doxazo* occurs in 54 verses, translated in various ways. It means *to render or esteem glorious*. (Strg) The 3 passages all show that praise must be to God.

*And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising **God** for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.* 2:20

*And immediately he rose up before them, and took up that whereon he lay, and departed to his own house, glorifying **God**.* 5:25

*And immediately he received his sight, and followed him, glorifying **God**: and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise unto **God**.* 18:43

As we stand at the start of a new year in anticipation that surely things can’t go on any longer without our Lord’s return, let us ask the question – are our lives bringing glory to God?

We have heard of so many sad things in the past year, of brothers and sisters falling asleep or falling away; of Bible Classes and evening Bible Talks poorly attended; of difficulties filling the many ecclesial jobs. Yet the signs tell us the Lord is at hand, and he has told us that those who *shall enter into the kingdom of heaven* are those who *do the will of my Father which is in heaven*. (Matt 7:21) Let us put God at the front of our lives, let His Word be our daily guide and our conscious aim be, to glorify His Name. Amen.

Keep up-to-date!

World events are fast moving and to supplement the yearly *Milestones* review, one can keep up-to-date on a quarterly or a weekly basis.

The Bible Magazine

Each issue of the quarterly *Bible Magazine* carries a *Milestones Update*, which looks at different topical areas of fulfilling prophecy. This lively full-colour magazine is of interest to brethren and sisters and is ideal to give to our young people as well as to interested friends.

Contact your local *Bible Magazine* representative for subscription details. They are listed at the *BM*. website:

www.biblemagazine.com/agents.php

Milestones Snippets

Milestones Snippets consists of interesting articles that I glean off the web and email approximately twice a week. Each article is indexed and cumulative indexes are e-mailed periodically. To subscribe (free), just email me your name and ecclesia and/or country to: snippets@MilestonesUK.org

Milestones Website

The *Milestones* web site www.MilestonesUK.org carries details of back issues of *Milestones* and a wide range of books expounding prophecy and a section on books and DVD's against evolution, defending the Creation account. These can be ordered from the website or write for booklist. This year there will be available to download reprints of appropriate sections of older issues of *Milestones* that have been referred to in this issue.

Prophecy Days

Both the *Bible Magazine* and the *Milestones* websites carry details of known Prophecy Days around the world that uphold our traditional understanding of the fulfilment of prophecy.

MP3, Kindle and iPad versions of Milestones 2011

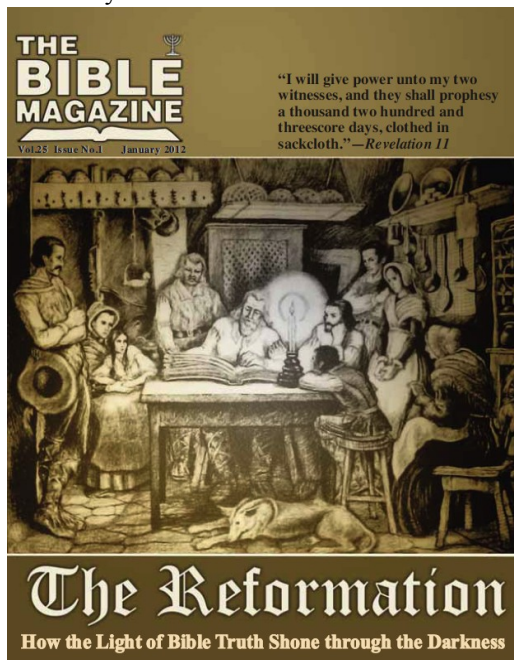
We intend to make an audio version available of *Milestones 2011* in MP3 format. Invaluable to visually handicapped, or those who want to listen on the move!

Also a version for reading on Kindle, iPads and similar.

Contact me at don@MilestonesUK.org for details.

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Milestones 2011

Our main themes for 2011:

- The euro crisis and its bringing of Germany to the fore
- Britain now stands alone!
- The drive of the Vatican to retake Europe spiritually
- Growing anti-Semitism driven by economic crisis
- Israel's growing desirableness as a prey
- The Arab Spring – the front row in this photo of 15 months ago are now dead or deposed!



The chapters have their usual mix of exposition of prophecies and their connection to the events of the year.

Milestones 2011 is an antidote to apathy in these difficult times for Christ's brothers and sisters.

