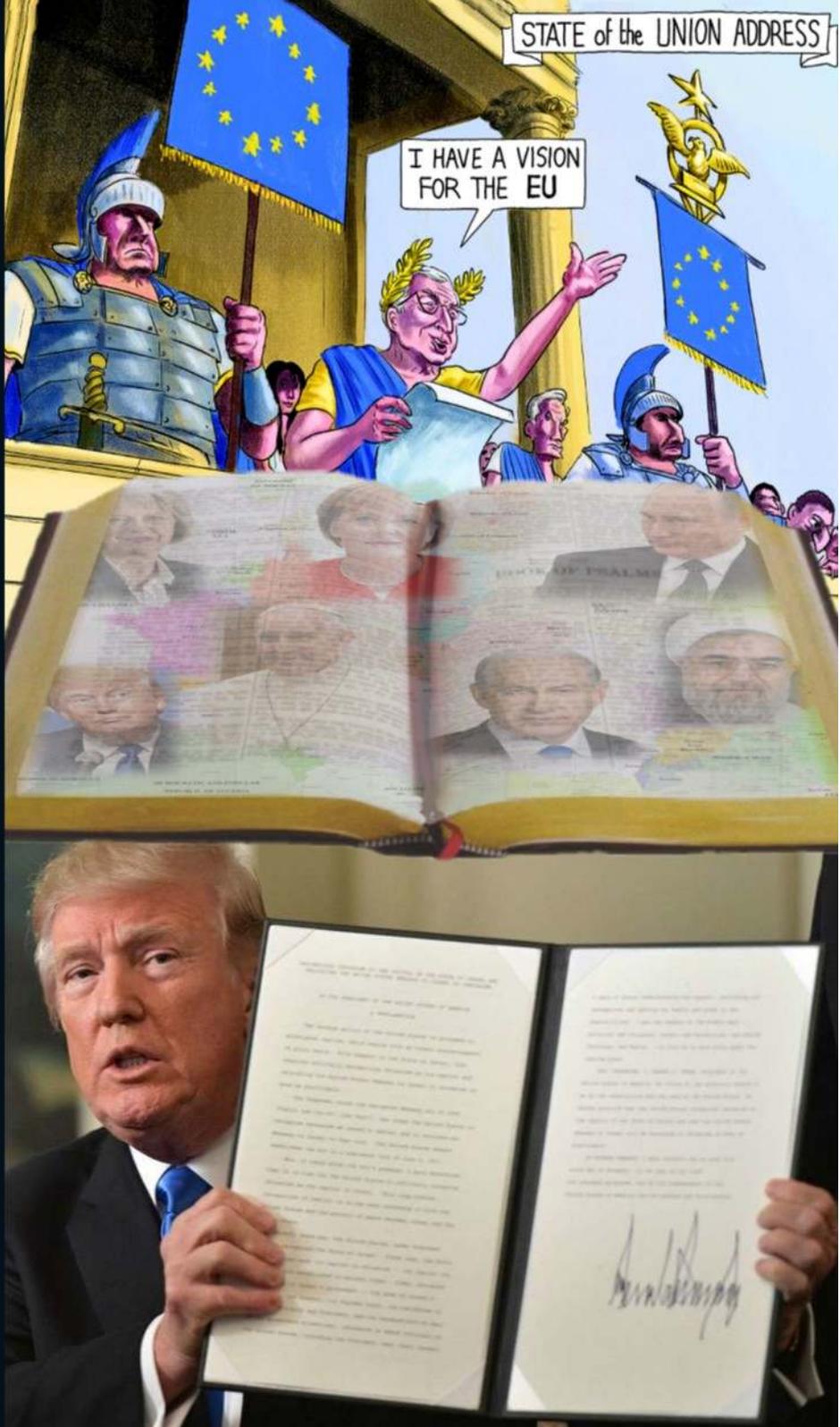


# MILESTONES 2017

Don  
Pearce

41st ed.  
since  
1977



STATE of the UNION ADDRESS

I HAVE A VISION FOR THE EU



**This document has clickable links to each Chapter from the Contents page and back to the Contents page at the start of each Chapter. Just click on the underlined hyperlink.**

**If you do find any broken links or pictures that don't display properly on your reader, or any problems, please let me know.**

**The electronic version is produced as a Word version and a PDF. If you feel the other version would be better just let me know and I will send in without charge.**

**Please don't make copies for your friends – get them to email me for their own copy and to go on the mailing list!**

**Don Pearce**

**[don@MilestonesUK.org](mailto:don@MilestonesUK.org)**

**[To contents page](#)**

# **MILESTONES TO THE KINGDOM**

***A Review of the  
World Events of  
2017 in the Light  
of Bible Prophecy***

**Don Pearce**

- ***Milestones***

DON F. PEARCE

76 High Street

Hillmorton

Rugby CV21 4EE

England

Phone (01788) 54 2408

Fax (01788) 82 4256

Email: [don@MilestonesUK.org](mailto:don@MilestonesUK.org)

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

- ***Christadelphian Scripture Study Service***

85 Suffolk Road

Hawthorndene

South Australia, 5051

Australia

Phone (08) 8278-6848

Email: [csssadelaide@webshield.net.au](mailto:csssadelaide@webshield.net.au)

Website: [www.csss.org.au](http://www.csss.org.au)

Agents: [www.csss.org.au/contact-us.html](http://www.csss.org.au/contact-us.html)

- ***UK printed edition***

Printed by Lonsdale Direct

Website: [www.lonsdaledirect.co.uk](http://www.lonsdaledirect.co.uk)

- ***Australia printed edition***

Printed by Stallard & Potter

Website: [www.stallardpotter.com.au](http://www.stallardpotter.com.au)

*Published by*

CHRISTADELPHIAN SCRIPTURE STUDY SERVICE



**JANUARY 2018**

*Preface**To contents*

President Obama in the last days of his office arranged, in the company of the United Nations Security Council, a motion that reeked of bitter opposition to Israel. It was in a sense a standard motion that passes through the Security Council each twelve months and has done so for many years. Usually it falls lifeless to the floor of this august assembly because the US, a permanent member of the committee, and therefore with the power of veto, uses its vote to cancel it! However, in December 2017, a strongly worded motion was proposed by New Zealand at the instigation and encouragement of the President of the United States. This time the US delegate abstained and the motion went through 14-0, to the stunned grief of the Israeli Government. Their most trusted friend had turned its back on Israel and joined ranks with her enemies.

Senior US correspondent, Charles Krauthammer, expressed the seriousness of the UN vote in these words: “So the Jewish State has no claim on the Western Wall, the Temple Mount, indeed the entire Jewish Quarter of Jerusalem. They belong to Palestine. The Temple Mount is the most sacred site in all of Judaism. That it should be declared foreign to the Jewish people is as if the Security Council declared Mecca and Medina to be territory to which Islam has no claim.”

In just twelve months the new President of the United States, Mr Donald Trump, announced in a formal declaration that **the United States accepts Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and that the United States intends to build its new US Embassy in the city of Jerusalem.**

So in twelve months, the position of Israel’s principal supporter has changed 180°. We do recall that in the build up to America’s last election Mr Trump repeated a promise that he, as President, would recognise Jerusalem as Israel’s capital. Now we see that he has given weight to his pledge, infuriating Palestinian and most Arab neighbours and attracting criticism from Europe to Indonesia. However the reaction to such a dramatic piece of news was not as intense or prolonged as might have been expected. There has not been one nation that has moved forces against Israel because of the Jerusalem decision. Forty years ago the King of Saudi Arabia declared that his greatest wish in life was to worship in Jerusalem in an Islamic mosque (read, ...when Israel no longer existed).

We awake in 2018 to find that Saudi Arabia and Egypt and other moderate Arab States are in sworn allegiance with Israel. The whispers and secret meetings are all a thing of the past: in fact those princes and other members of the royal family who would criticise the plans of the new Saudi heir apparent (Crown Prince Muhammed bin Salman) have been “jailed” in one of Riyadh’s exclusive hotels and told that only when they confess their sins

(cheating the taxation department) will they be released! Prince bin Salman no longer demands Israel accept a Palestinian State with Jerusalem as its capital! That's the old plan and it's a dead letter. The Gaza Strip (where Philistines once belonged) with large strips of the Negev or northern Sinai territory (and Egypt is in accord with this) are proposed as the new border of the State of Palestine! The past 30–40 years have witnessed nil progress in the Middle East. Mr Trump's son-in-law has been working intensely with the Saudi Prince bin Salman to recreate the Middle East situation, not at the beck and call of terrorists and Palestinians financed by Iran and other anti-Israel States, but to build a new set of relationships, with Arabs and Israelis working for prosperity and peace.

The guidelines were always there, since the Spirit through Ezekiel revealed the lay of the land at the coming of the Lord. How remarkable!

Persia also is denoted as being with Gog in Ezekiel and it has been truly amazing, perhaps exciting! to see this ancient power in the thick of events. Her Shiite brand of Islam has broken the alliance of Arabs and Muslims so that now all the remaining trouble-makers—the PLO, Hamas, Hezbollah, Syria and Iraq, are seeking to build an alliance of bitter hatred above and around Israel. Russia is friends with every one of these! The rest of the Middle East States are in fear of Iran's encirclement and these are the factors that account for the phenomenal advancement in the fulfilment of the Word of prophecy. Both in the North and South there is a groundswell of activity.

And with the shift in the status of the Holy City of Jerusalem there is already a growing thirst in Israel for sovereignty over all Judah and Samaria!

We are in significant days indeed. Every shoulder to the wheel! Our Lord Christ Jesus must soon be here!

We are grateful to brother Don and his band of faithful workers for putting 2017, a truly significant year, into the framework of the prophets.

Brian Luke

Secretary

January 2018

*But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear.  
For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous men  
have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them;  
and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them.*

*Matthew 13:16-17*

# CONTENTS

<b><u>PREFACE</u></b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b><u>Ch. 1: THIS YEAR’S MILESTONES</u></b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b><u>Ch. 2: FROM EARLY MILESTONES—1982</u></b> .....	<b>10</b>
Israel and the Lebanon War	11
<b><u>Ch. 3: Part 1: THE FALSE PROPHET—ROME THE KEY TO BIBLE PROPHECY</u></b> .....	<b>13</b>
Babel, the Start of the Kingdom of Men	13
From Babylon to Rome	15
Why the New Symbol of False Prophet?	19
<b><u>Ch. 4: THE FALSE PROPHET AT WORK TODAY</u></b>	<b>20</b>
The RC Church’s Involvement in the EU	21
Europe Breathing With Both Her Lungs.	23
And the winner of the Charlemagne Prize 2015—the Pope!	25
The EU Celebrated its 60th Birthday—in Rome!	26
The Catholic Church as an Invisible Part of the Acquis Communautaire (Re)thinking Europe	27
On Europe: Pope Francis Lays Out His Own ‘Benedict Option’	28
<b><u>Ch. 5: Part 2: PROPHECIES CONCERNING THE RUSSIAN DRAGON</u></b>	<b>29</b>
The History of Rome’s Military Might	30
The Dragon and the Image	31
The Little Horn of the Goat	32
<b><u>Ch. 6: THE RUSSIAN DRAGON MOVING TOWARDS ISRAEL</u></b> .....	<b>33</b>
Putin and the Churches	33
Putin the Defender of the Christians	33
A Tsar is Born	34
Russia’s Naval Power: From Peter the Great to Putin the Great?	35
Russian Navy Works on Special Surprise for the West	36
The Russian Dragon Advancing on Israel	36
Putin Signs Syria Base Deal, Cementing Russia’s Presence There for Half a Century	36
Russia’s Plan for a Nuclear Submarine Port at Tartus Jolts US, Israeli Navies	37
Russia Setting Up Direct Shipping Line to Syria	37
Sudan. From Sochi to the Sahel: Russia’s Expanding Footprint	38
Russia Is Roaring Back to the Middle East While America Is Asleep	39
Russia and Egypt agree to reciprocal use of air bases	40
Egypt Expects to Agree Russian Industrial Zone Before Year-end	40
Inside Putin’s Libyan Power Play	41
Crimea	42
Putin Puts Russia on War Footing by Telling Businesses to Be Ready to Switch to War Production	44
Weapons Exports Set To Rise	45
Russia’s Bumper Crop Creates Options	45
What Sanctions? Russian Oil Knocks Exxon Off Its Pedestal	45
Putin Crowns Himself OPEC King as Saudis Bow to Economic Reality	45
Pulling Nations into the Eastern Foot	46
The Balkans: Offering Carrots and Sticks	47

Russia and Turkey	47
Russia and Saudi Arabia	47
<b><u>Ch. 7: Part 3: PROPHECIES CONCERNING THE EUROPEAN BEAST</u></b>	<b>48</b>
The Beast of the Sea	48
The Beast of the Earth	50
Pope Leo Crowns Charlemagne	50
The Image of the Beast	51
The Beast and its Harlot Rider	52
The Beasts and Nebuchadnezzar’s Image	53
Legs Ending, Feet Beginning	54
<b><u>Ch. 8: THE EUROPEAN BEAST IN A POST-BREXIT WORLD .....</u></b>	<b>55</b>
The German Reichs	55
The Remarkable Rise of Germany	55
Angela Merkel’s Leadership Test	56
Austrian Elections	57
Emmanuel Macron Wins a Majority, Though not a Record One	57
Germany Quietly Working to Unite European Militaries	58
EU Leaders Hail ‘Historic Step’ in Defence Cooperation	59
EU Takes Step Towards Joint Army	60
More European, More Connected and More Capable	61
Towards the United States of Europe	62
Pope Francis: ‘Europe Must Be Federal’	64
“The Construction of European Unity is a Bold Far Sighted Endeavour”	64
Macron Seeks Far-reaching EU Overhaul	66
The Grand Plans to Renew the European Union	66
<b><u>Ch. 9: Part 4: PROPHECIES CONCERNING ISRAEL, SHEBA AND DEDAN.....</u></b>	<b>67</b>
Israel’s State of Mind in the Latter-days	67
A desirable spoil and a prey.	70
Peace and Safety	71
Sheba and Dedan	72
<b><u>Ch. 10: ISRAEL AND SHEBA AND DEDAN—A GROWING FRIENDSHIP</u></b>	<b>74</b>
Gas, a Power to Transform	74
New Exploration Areas	75
Exporting Energy	76
Trump Recognises Jerusalem as Israel’s Capital	76
Islamic Summit on Jerusalem Showcases New Mideast Alliances	78
Saudi Prince to White House: Jerusalem Issue Is No Bar to Our Engagement With Israel	78
Neom, Saudi Arabia’s Proposed Mega City	79
Israel’s Possibilities for (Energy) Cooperation With Saudi Arabia	79
CIA Chief Strongly Advises a Saudi-Israeli Military Intelligence Headquarters	80
New Allies: Israel and Saudi Arabia?	80
Israel Welcomes Saudi Mufti’s Pro-Israel Remarks,	81
In a Sign of Gently Warming Ties, Bahraini Delegation Visits Israel	82
Israel: The Eighth Great Power of 2017	82

India and Israel: A Strategic Alliance?	82
China-Israel economic, tech cooperation to enter new stage	83
<b><u>Ch. 11: Part 5: THE MERCHANTS OF TARSHISH AND HER YOUNG LIONS</u></b>	<b>84</b>
The Merchants of Tarshish	84
Forgotten Seventy Years.	85
Seventy years, according to the days of one king.	86
Royal Sources Dismiss Growing Regency Rumours.	86
And her young lions	87
<b><u>Ch. 12: BREXIT BRITAIN CHARTS NEW DESTINATIONS, WORKING WITH HER YOUNG LIONS</u></b>	<b>88</b>
The Steps to Freedom	88
Article 50 Triggered 29 <sup>th</sup> March	88
May’s Gamble Backfires	89
Monthly Talks Begin in June.	89
Yes, Talks Can Move On	90
The UK Ranks Top of All Major Developed Economies for Establishing New Businesses	92
Norway’s Giant Oil Fund Drops Yen and Buys British	92
Greek Shipowners Would Consider Relocating to London, Says Study	93
Government Pledges to Double UK Fleet Flying Under the Red Duster	93
British Trade With Global Giant China Booms As Rest of EU Lags Behind	93
British-Israel Trade Can Thrive in the Brexit Era—Here’s How	94
UK FM Vows to ‘Build Strongest-ever Relationship’ With Israel	95
May Sets Out Post-Brexit Middle East Strategy	95
The Young Lions in the Middle East	95
<b><u>Ch. 13: Part 6: DRAWING THE NATIONS TO ARMAGEDDON</u></b> .....	<b>96</b>
Unclean spirits like frogs out of the mouths	96
<b><u>Ch. 14: AN EXHORTATION TO WATCHFULNESS</u></b> .....	<b>100</b>
<b><u>Keep up-to-date!</u></b> .....	<b>inside back cover</b>
The Bible Magazine • Milestones Snippets • Milestones Website • Prophecy Days • MP3, Kindle and iPad versions of Milestones 2017	

**Abbreviations used**

EU European Union. Was the Common Market, EEC, then EC, now EU  
**m** = million; **bn** = billion; **GDP** = Gross Domestic Product;  
 \$1= £0.74; €0.83; AS\$1.28; CA\$1.26; NZ\$1.41 at 01-Jan-18 rates.  
 \$1 million = £741,000, \$1 billion = £741,000,000 approx. \$ always US\$.

**Author’s important notes**

I would like to especially thank my family and Bre. Alan Clarke, and Kevin Allison and the CSSS for their helpful comments on the draft. It is all put together in three weeks at the end 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 my excellent 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, unless stated. Very grateful for items sent in; please ensure date and source are indicated.

## Acknowledgements and copyrights; non-listed items by or adapted by author.

©=Creative Commons. © = Copyright. Book, magazine, newspaper covers and contents in low resolution constitutes Fair Usage.

**Front cover:** Roman General © Blower; Jerusalem declaration [mehrnews.com](http://mehrnews.com); Map WordPress.  
**Back Cover:** Mrs May Saudi Arabia Saudi Press Office ©. **Ch 3:** Ram & Goat Jean Walton; **Ch 4:** Lateran Pinterest; Charlemagne o clarim; Treaty signing 1957 European Commission; Pope Francis Getty ©. **Ch 5:** Roman Empire map Slideplayer. **Ch 6:** Syrian bases map Debka; Russia's march map WordPress; Kerch Strait Bridge Russia Briefing; EU map Nationonline; Greece Cartoon Kammenusly; Crowning Charlemagne Pinterest. **Ch 8:** EU leaders Trumpet; Wind in Sails Gatis Sluka; Emperor as Front cover. **Ch 9:** Mossad Mossad website; Middle East maps Mapsland. **Ch 10:** Gas fields OffshoreEnergyToday; Trump as Front Cover; Islamic Summit map © MapHub; Neom © Bloomberg/Twitter. **Ch 11:** Tyre map unknown; Phoenician map New World Encyclopedia. **Ch 12:** Article 50 Twitter. **Ch 13:** Euphrates Pictaram. **Ch 14:** Brain © Wikimedia.

Where possible we use open domain material. As *Milestones* is non-commercial and educational, permission to reproduce is generally freely granted but sometimes we have to pay. If source can't be traced, we acknowledge where it appeared.

### Type size and electronic copies

With the electronic copies of *Milestones* one can normally adjust the size of the typeface thus making it easier for the visually impaired. See inside back cover.

**Helpful aids.** Booklets obtainable from: Bible Magazine agents, CSSS agents or *Milestones*.

**The True Gospel. Defended & Explained.** by Bro Graham Pearce  
This 72-page booklet looks at the Hope of Israel and the meaning of the New Covenant.



**World Events & the Coming of Zion's King.** Bro Graham Pearce  
This 100-page booklet examines most of the scriptural passages concerning the time of the end events and puts them in a logical order. It examines some of the newer ideas and show where they fall down when examined by scripture. Essential reading for brethren and sisters looking for the return of their Master.



### Milestones Snippets: a free email news service

Sent out 3 or 4 times a week, these are the items that catch my eye and form the basis of writing the *Bible Magazine* quarterly updates and the annual *Milestones*. Consisting of about 8-12 pages, it keeps you up-to-date with events from around the world of interest to Bible students.

Each article is indexed and cumulative indexes are published quarterly. See inside back cover for details. Email to [don@MilestonesUK.org](mailto:don@MilestonesUK.org)

### Milestones in Electronic form

*Milestones* is available in Kindle: Word or PDF versions, or non-Kindle: Word or PDF. With hyperlinks back to contents list and to chapter headings. Also available as an MP3, read by the author, for listening on the move. Email to [don@MilestonesUK.org](mailto:don@MilestonesUK.org)

**Chapter 1:**[Back to contents](#)**THIS YEAR'S MILESTONES**

*The opportunity to give a 6-part Milestones update at the Ontario Bible School in December 2017, enabled a more in-depth presentation compared with my normal one or two-part talks. A helpful suggestion that these talks could be used as the basis for this year's Milestones was readily taken up. This 41<sup>st</sup> edition is therefore somewhat different in that it incorporates much of the material and some of the slides used at the Bible School.*

*Every year seems to speed up the number of happenings which are confirming the broad pattern that we have historically seen concerning events at the time of our Master's return. Wherever we look, we are witnessing great changes, whether in the militaristic outlook of Russia; the development of a European Beast system; Britain's latter-day role as a world-wide trading power; Israel's friendship with southern Arab nations; or Church and State relationships in Europe and Russia. We are amazed at the number of events that show that real changes are afoot and follow the pattern portrayed by God in His Word. If we need faith-strengthening evidence of the Hand of God in the Kingdom of Men, there surely is no lack of signs!*

*We can but marvel at the angelic work which must be taking place behind the scenes to bring about the situation we are witnessing. Yet sadly many of our own brothers and sisters are so engrossed in everyday living that they fail to see their significance. May Milestones be a faith-boosting help.*

**The structure of this year's Milestones**

- 1) **Chapter 2** is a look at the events of 35 years ago as recorded in *Milestones 1982*. Why 35 years? This looking-back started in *Milestones 2012* and went back to the first issue, 35 years previously.
- 2) *Milestones* then divides into **six, two-part chapters**. The 1<sup>st</sup> chapter of each part shows us the scriptural basis for our expectations and the 2<sup>nd</sup> shows how the events of 2017 illustrated these expectations.
- 3) The six parts are:
  - Part 1** The False Prophet—Rome the Key to Bible Prophecy
  - Part 2** The Russian Dragon moving towards Israel
  - Part 3** The European Beast in a post-Brexit world
  - Part 4** Israel and Sheba and Dedan—a growing friendship
  - Part 5** Brexit Britain charts new destinations, working with her Young Lions

## Chapter 2

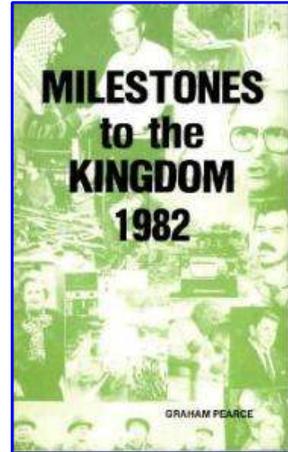
[back to contents](#)

# FROM EARLY MILESTONES—1982

*What were the issues of 35 years ago? Looking back gives us an insight into the world situation as seen through the eyes of a Bible Watchman a generation ago. Milestones that year ran to 69 pages with 9 chapters. The montage of pictures that graced the front cover illustrated some of the events and people that made the headlines that year.*

*Chief events were the Israeli invasion into Lebanon, which brought world-wide condemnation, but helped bring a measure of stability in the north. In the south, Israel had handed back to Egypt the territory of Sinai that she had conquered in the '67 Six-Day War.*

*The Soviet Union was continuing to make progress in the Middle East, especially in Iran. The Soviet leader, President Brezhnev, had just died and there was uncertainty as to which direction the new leader, Yuri Andropov, a former KGB leader who was supported by the military, would take them.*



These were some of the points my father made in his introduction:

Israel takes first place in Milestones 1982. There have been many happenings, some that probably have great consequences. We, as the people adopted into the nation of Israel, should take a close interest in the changing scene.

The happening uppermost in people's minds is the Lebanon War, and the behaviour of the military, calling in question the morality of the nation. This war overshadowed the painful withdrawal from Sinai. The Lebanon War also accelerated the peace proposals that had been put forward by the USA at the end of last year. Greater than any of these happenings is the changing outlook of the nation [of Israel]—something quite the opposite to that presented by the media, and of great interest to us.

Britain, like Israel, has been through an eventful year; some events probably having long-term consequences. The Falklands war and the surprising patriotic response stands out. Britain was seen as an effective sea power, and a people with their old streak of independence.

Other items were the Pope's visit, by no means the success it seemed, and the continuing clash of interests between Britain and the Common Market. The Pope continues as a man of importance on the world scene. His true character is emerging. Behind his friendly warm approach that wins the

admiration of the people, he is increasingly seen as a conservative defender of the Catholic faith, not willing to give anything away, working behind the scenes in the way we expect from Vatican leaders. With his conservative theological stand, he is blending a kind of Catholic socialism that appeals to the poor and the dissidents of this world in much the same way as Communism. He represents both stability and revolution.

How busy the angels must be with world affairs so complex and so rapidly moving! *Milestones 1982*

### **Israel and the Lebanon War**

This was the heading to the opening chapter. With Israel's withdrawal from Sinai, my father saw the way was being prepared for Sinai as the place for the Judgment Seat. The Sinai desert was to be left as a no-man's land and the Israeli manned observation post at Sinai was to be removed.

The main story was the Lebanon War. The PLO at that time was based in Beirut in Lebanon. The PLO had been heavily armed by the Soviet and for 14 years had been harassing northern Israel with long-range Soviet artillery and missiles. Israel military estimated that they had sufficient Soviet weapons to arm one million soldiers! The time for action had come! *Operation Peace for Galilee* was the code name of this operation. In a remarkable push, Israel had in two days captured the ports of Tyre and Sidon and within 10 days the PLO had been wiped out in Beirut and Israeli troops were advancing still northwards towards Tripoli.

By this time also the Israeli air force had astonished the world by destroying the twenty SAM missile batteries that were the Syrian main defence, without a single Israeli plane lost. They had destroyed over 500 tanks, including some of the latest T-72 Soviet tanks; and had shot down some 90 Syrian MIG fighter planes without any loss to themselves. Israel took some 6,000-7,000 PLO prisoners, and similar numbers of PLO were evacuated from Beirut under the control of multi-national observer corps.

In one week the Israeli Defence Force destroyed \$3 billion of Soviet equipment, and captured \$1.2 billion. This is a serious loss to the Soviet.

Israel found the size of the arsenal staggering, they had under-estimated its size by a factor of ten! The complexity of the command headquarters in Sidon was almost beyond belief. An elaborate labyrinth of bored tunnels—the Israelis captured the amazing Russian boring machine—riddled the area. All courtesy of the Soviet Union—all the maps and documents were in Russian. Russian submarines were able to unload Soviet officials directly into secret chambers in the cliffs without the PLO guards above being aware.

Israel had carefully targeted the places that the PLO occupied, but the world press turned on Israel, accusing her of widespread devastation and mass murder of civilians. The UN accused her of aggression. Israel's Prime

Minister Begin justified it as pre-emptive strikes. Col. Dupuy, a military historian who was in West Beirut on the day it was bombed observed “no more than 150 bombs, probably 200 to 500 kilograms each, were dropped on Beirut. As far as artillery bombardment was concerned, I saw fewer shell bursts than bomb explosions during the time I was there.” He was astonished to read the American *International Herald Tribune* giving figures of 44,000 bombs being dropped! The *Washington Post* spoke of 1,000 bombs and 42,000 shells being fired! Col. Dupuy concludes: “But I stick to my on-the-spot observation that the actual intensity was . . . less than one-hundredth of the reported intensity”.

The attacks on Tyre and Sidon had also been highly exaggerated. The *New Republic* spoke of 10,000 dead, quoting Red Cross and UN as its source. But their figures were 47 dead and 247 wounded. Israel’s estimates were slightly higher at between 57 and 63 dead. So, 10,000 was a gross exaggeration, designed to paint Israel as a mass destroyer. Israel had taken steps to reduce civilian casualties by dropping leaflets in advance and loudspeaker warnings.

There was growing linkage between the Pope and the PLO leader Yasser Arafat. The PLO membership was 35% Christian, and many were Roman Catholics and in leadership positions. Arafat was invited to the Vatican in September and had meetings with the Pope and Vatican officials. The Pope expressed his support for the Palestinian struggles.

The third chapter looked at the changes in Israel’s religious outlook. The Ashkenazi Jews who had come from Europe had been much influenced by the new ideas that flowed out of the French Revolution, with emphasis on socialist policies. They were also influenced by the rabbinical writings—the Talmud. The Sephardi Jews from the east were much closer to the Torah—the Law of Moses. With their larger families, they were growing in numbers and were not interested in the socialism of their western compatriots. Increasing numbers were choosing to live on the so-called West Bank in the settlements that were springing up there.

Chapter 4 looked at the growth of the Soviet influence in the Middle East. There was increased activity in Iran with military training camps and Soviet advisers in greater evidence. To the east of Iran, Russia had invaded her neighbour, Afghanistan and had set up an indoctrination programme to teach them Soviet ways.

The final chapter was headed *Epilogue. Five minutes to Twelve*. Bro Graham exhorted his readers to consider what significant matters had been set before them. Russia had been making great preparations for her invasion of Israel (the defences in Lebanon were not out of love for the PLO)! “It appears the Russians are more prepared for Armageddon than the saints!” He encouraged his readers to “draw ourselves around the Word of God and make its lessons live.” An exhortation equally applicable today.

## Chapter 3

[back to contents](#)

# Part 1: THE FALSE PROPHET—ROME THE KEY TO BIBLE PROPHECY

*The Dragon, Beast and False Prophet are all symbols which occur in Revelation chapter 16. We can clearly see that they are symbols appropriate for our time, because the section where they occur also involves the return of our Lord Jesus Christ in v15. The power wielded by these three symbols gathers the nations to the Battle of Armageddon.*

*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.*

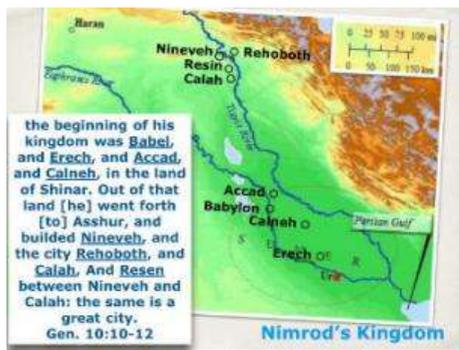
*And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the **dragon**, and out of the mouth of the **beast**, and out of the mouth of the **false prophet**.*

*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. 16:12-16*

*We have chosen to look at the False Prophet first as it is the key to Bible Prophecy. The origins of the false system of worship go way back to early post-Flood times. We learn of the system of worship set up in opposition to the Truth, in Genesis chapter 10. Into the post-Flood world strode Nimrod, described as a “mighty hunter before the LORD.” He was a city builder and the cities are shown on this chart.*

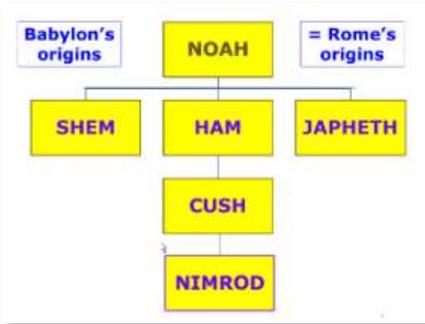


## Babel, the Start of the Kingdom of Men

Nimrod established a system of worship that was in opposition to the way of Truth preached by Seth. This grandson of Ham built the first Kingdom, bringing peoples under his influence. His prowess in hunting would make him an attractive figure. Today, Mr Putin boosts his appeal by photo

opportunities, doing “manly” sports! According to Josephus, Nimrod found the only way to keep people under his authority was to make them dependent upon him. Interestingly, this too is the power that the churches have over their congregations, able to affect the destiny of their afterlife if they leave the embrace of the church. In a similar way the EU spins a web of regulations around its members making it very difficult to leave that embrace, as Britain is currently experiencing. Nimrod built Babel to avenge the sending of the Flood to destroy mankind. His Kingdom was in opposition to God’s Kingdom and led in time to Babylon—the same Hebrew word as Babel. Out of the Greek successor to the Babylonian Empire came the Roman Empire, which, like Babylon, took control of God’s people of Israel and scattered them from their land. Pagan Rome became Christian Rome, then became Papal Rome. We believe that Jerusalem is about to be overthrown for the third and last time, by the hand of Gog as spoken of in Ezekiel ch. 38. We are looking for the latter-day Gog to shortly arise in the mould of Babylon and Rome to invade the land of Israel. Unlike Babylon and Rome which had to wait many years before themselves being overthrown, God’s judgments will come quickly on Gog. Jerusalem is saved and her captors destroyed.

God’s Purpose revolves around Israel. He put His Kingdom here in anticipation of the age to come, when His Son will rule from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth. Then all opposition will be stilled, and men

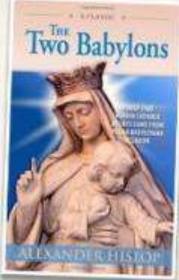



Josephus

2. Now it was Nimrod who excited them to such an affront and contempt of God. ...a bold man, and of great strength of hand. He persuaded them not to ascribe [happiness] to God, as if it was through [God's] means that they were happy; but to believe that it was their own courage which procured that happiness. He also gradually changed the government into tyranny; seeing no other way of turning men from the fear of God, but to bring them into a constant dependence on his own power. He also said, that he would build a Tower too high for the waters to be able to reach; and that he would avenge himself on God for destroying their fore-fathers. *Antiquities of the Jews 1-4-2*

**Some of Nimrod's exploits:**

- Powerful hunter – animals & humans
- Head of religion
- A king
- A king priest
- 1<sup>st</sup> King
- Trained army
- Subdued other nations
- Built Babel



**Ezekiel 21:25-27**  
 And thou, profane wicked prince of Israel, whose day is come, when iniquity shall have an end,  
 Thus saith the Lord GOD; Remove the diadem, and take off the crown: this shall not be the same: exalt him that is low, and abase him that is high.  
 I will overturn, overturn, overturn, it: and it shall be no more, until he come whose right it is; and I will give it him.

**Babel = Babylon**  
 Nebuchadnezzar conquered Judah (Israel) – ending God's Kingdom on earth

Babylon  
 Rome  
 Gog

and women will worship the one True God; in Abraham and His seed will all nations be blessed.

### From Babylon to Rome

Let's see how the power of Rome originated. It will also provide much of the background for the *Dragon* power, (today's Russia) which we will consider in Part 2. Daniel 8 indicates that Rome sprang out of the Greek Empire. Using the symbols of a Ram (Persia) and a He Goat (Greece) to describe these two nations, Daniel saw the "Goat with a notable horn"



v5, destroy the Persian Ram. Alexander the Great is clearly depicted under this simple symbol as he swiftly conquered the Persian Empire. In the vision that Daniel was shown, that "notable horn" was *broken off* and four more horns grew in its place. Alexander died at the young age of 32 and not having an heir, his Kingdom was eventually divided between four of his generals. Two of these "horns" are of interest as they were to the north and the south of Israel. During this time Israel was subject to the changes in fortunes between the Seleucids to the north and the Ptolemies to the south. Daniel ch 11 gives greater details of this time period.

Daniel then saw a powerful little horn growing out of one of the four horns.

*And out of one of them came forth a little horn, which waxed exceeding great, toward the south, and toward the east, and toward the pleasant land.*

*And it waxed great, even to the host of heaven; and it cast down some of the host and of the stars to the ground, and stamped upon them.*

*Yea, he magnified himself even to the prince of the host, and by him the daily sacrifice was taken away, and the place of his sanctuary was cast down.*

*And an host was given him against the daily sacrifice by reason of transgression, and it cast down the truth to the ground; and it practised, and prospered. Dan. 8:9-12*

History points to Rome, as the power that matched this description. It came to the aid of the Seleucid Empire and eventually



took it over! The Roman General Pompey took the territory of the Seleucids, including Israel, in 63 BC and absorbed it into the Roman Empire. In fulfilment of what Daniel recorded in chapter 8, it was instrumental in putting Israel's Messiah (*the prince of the host*) to death and later its army (*host*) destroyed the Temple (*where the daily sacrifices were made*) and the city of Jerusalem (*cast it down to the ground*). Daniel saw that this power would continue—*it practised, and prospered*. This Roman Empire became the 4<sup>th</sup> of the Kingdoms represented by Nebuchadnezzar's Image.

Daniel 8 indicates that this *little horn* (Roman) power, would still be in existence at the time of the setting up of the Kingdom.

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

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

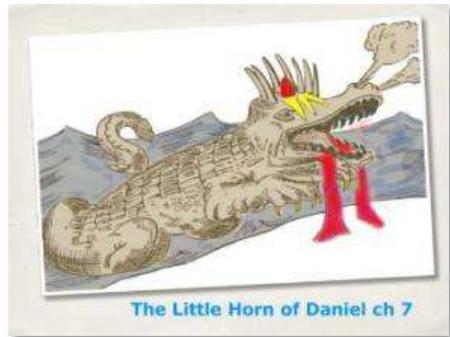
*And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and **by peace shall destroy many: he shall also stand up against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without hand.***

*And the vision of the evening and the morning which was told is true: wherefore shut thou up the vision; **for it shall be for many days.** Dan. 8:23-26*

It is apparent that in some form the Roman power continues to the time of the coming of Israel's Prince, the Lord Jesus in order to be destroyed by him and the saints.

We now need to look at another *little Horn*-power recorded in Daniel ch 7.

This was on the head of the 4<sup>th</sup> Beast which was described as *dreadful and terrible and strong exceedingly*. Its *iron teeth devoured and brake in pieces*. Its *feet with brass nails* (claws) then *stamped* (on) *the residue* (rest). We know this brutal power corresponds to the fourth Kingdom of Nebuchadnezzar's Image dream—the iron of Rome.

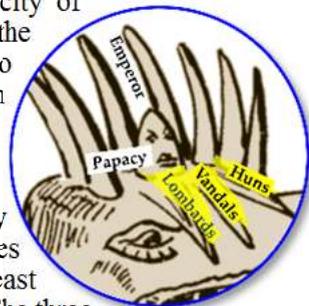


The Little Horn of Daniel ch 7

*I considered the [ten] horns, and, behold, there came up among them **another little horn**, before whom there were **three** of the **first horns plucked up** by the roots: and, behold, in **this horn** were*

*eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things.* Dan. 7:8

This takes us to the time when the barbarian hordes swept into the Roman Empire and for nearly a century they ruled Rome. One can count 10 independent Kingdoms that were set up across the Roman world. The numbers change with time and different writers will list slightly different territories. The Empire had become “Christian” under Constantine, who moved the centre of the Empire to the rebuilt city of Constantinople. This left the Rome to come under the influence of the Bishop of Rome, who grew to greater power—the title Pope was applied to him around AD 500 according to the historian Gibbon. Gradually a new Horn-power was established, representing the French King Pepin and his successors who became the Emperors of the Holy Roman Empire, working with the Papacy—the eyes and mouth of the horn power. This became the Beast of the Earth of Rev. 13, as we shall see in Part 3. The three horns that had fallen were the Huns, the Vandals and the Lombards.



Daniel sought more information about this little horn and its eyes and mouth:

*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.* Dan. 7:25

This is an apt description for the growing Papal power which corrupted the truth in the manner of Nimrod, imposing her own laws on her converts and *teaching for doctrine the commandments of men.* (Mark 7:7) A willing Emperor gave authority to these Papal decrees. There would be a time of persecution for the true believers, which would not last for ever. Its duration is specified as *until a time and times and the dividing of time.* According to Strong's concordance, a *time* is a technical term for a year. So, it would have power for 1 year + 2 years + ½ a year. Our Western calendar has 365 days in the year with 366-day leap years roughly every four years. Bible symbolic time periods seem to use a 360-day year (possibly the length of the pre-Flood year)—as shown by this quote:

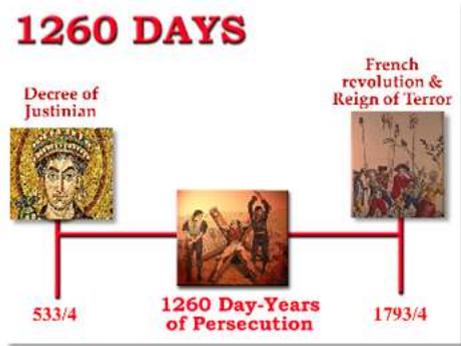
Time: A set time, technically a year. Strong's
A time
+ 2 times
+ ½ time
= 3
360 days
+ 720 days
+ 180 days
= 1260 days
symbolic for
1260 years

In Rev. 11:2,3, 42 months are equated with 1260 days; and in ch. 12:6,14, 3½ times are equated with 1260 days. Therefore, the same expression in Dan. 7:25 and 12:7 must have the same value. *Prophecy of Daniel* E. Green

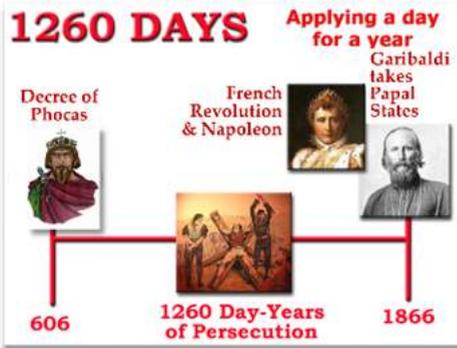
Based on 360 days in a year, we arrive at 1260 days for *a time and times and the dividing of time.* Applying a day-for-a-year, we get to 1260 years. There

are two significant dates that we could start this time period from, and both end at significant dates.

Justinian was a Roman Emperor in Constantinople and he resolved the dispute as to which of the many Patriarchs was to be considered the chief. He ruled in favour of Rome and the Patriarchy of Constantinople was to be No 2. This was a great boost to the Pope’s position. The decree was issued AD 533/4. Going forward 1260 years takes us to the time of the French Revolution and the start of the Vial judgments of Revelation



ch 16, when the Pope lost many of his powers. Phocas, a later Emperor, reinforced this supremacy when he decreed in 606 that Pope Boniface III was “Universal Bishop” and “Head of all churches”. The Italian ruler, Garibaldi, 1260 years later took away the land possessions from the Papacy apart from the Vatican City, thus removing his ability to persecute the saints.



Rome became the centre of the fourth Beast’s little Horn-power increasing in strength with the growing independence of the Western Roman world. The West had their own Emperors who chose to work with the Roman Catholic Church. This commenced in AD 800 when Pope Leo III crowned the Frankish King, Charlemagne, Emperor of the Romans on Christmas Day, in St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome, making him the most powerful ruler of his time. We shall look at this in more detail in Part 3.

Although the power of the Papacy was severely curtailed in the 1800’s, it did not come to an end. There is one more prophecy which is very relevant and that is Daniel 4. This vision explains that the Babylonian tree is to flourish one more time. The vision was seen by King Nebuchadnezzar and involved the cutting down of a tree and its stump preserved by being banded with an iron-brass band. A period of seven-times was to pass over it. In the interpretation that Daniel was able to provide the King, this indicated that for a period of seven-times, Nebuchadnezzar would not be ruling, but would be mad. At the end of the time period he would return to be King and continue

Although the power of the Papacy was severely curtailed in the 1800’s, it did not come to an end. There is one more prophecy which is very relevant and that is Daniel 4. This vision explains that the Babylonian tree is to flourish one more time. The vision was seen by King Nebuchadnezzar and involved the cutting down of a tree and its stump preserved by being banded with an iron-brass band. A period of seven-times was to pass over it. In the interpretation that Daniel was able to provide the King, this indicated that for a period of seven-times, Nebuchadnezzar would not be ruling, but would be mad. At the end of the time period he would return to be King and continue

to see Babylon flourish. Being part of the book of Daniel we should expect that there is a longer-term prophecy concerning Babylon. The fact that a metal band was used to preserve the tree hints at a longer-term consideration. For Nebuchadnezzar, the seven-times fits with a 7-year spell of madness. There is such a break in the records of the King. By applying the same formula of turning the period into days and then applying a day-for-a-year we can see that this is twice the length of the 1260 days we have just considered. This is 2520



days-of-years. The fall of Babylon seems a reasonable starting point. This is generally taken as 539 BC, though Bro. John Thomas puts it at 542 BC. If we go forward 2520 years and add on one year—as there was no year zero when we pass from BC to AD—this brings us to 1982 or 1979 depending on our starting date. It brings us to the time of Pope John Paul II, who was widely seen as the Pope who began to

Preserved for 7 times	7*360=2520
	Fall of Babylon BC 539 (542 John Thomas)
1978 Pope John Paul II	- 539
1979 Pope visits Warsaw	+2520
1980 Solidarity	=1981
1982 Poland again	=1982
1988 JPII addresses EU	- 542
1991 Fall of Communism	+2520
	=1978
	=1979

make a huge impact of the reflowering of the Roman Catholic Church. He, with the US, is credited with overthrowing Communism, starting in his home country of Poland, and then across the Soviet world. We will see the impact this made on the Russian Orthodox Church in Part 2. In our next chapter, we will see the remarkable progress taking place by the influence of the Vatican in the affairs of Europe and the steps to link up with the Russian Church.

### Why the New Symbol of False Prophet?

Why a new symbol in Revelation chapter 16 for the last phase of the Little-Horn-of-the-fourth-Beast?

It is very appropriate! The Pope lost his temporal power in 1866 and in 1870 the city of Rome was under State control. The Pope was a virtual prisoner inside the Apostolic Palace within the Vatican City. It was at the start of this period of confinement that the Doctrine of Papal Infallibility was proclaimed. Pope Pius IX certainly claimed that he spoke for God. From a study of their doctrines it is clear that this is the power that scripture warns true followers to beware of. A False Prophet is an appropriate symbol for this era when he has lost his temporal power, so emphasising his spiritual authority.



## Chapter 4

[back to contents](#)

# THE FALSE PROPHET AT WORK TODAY

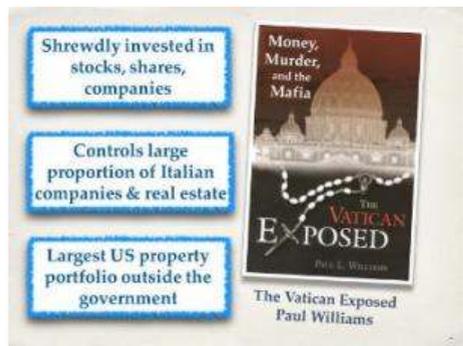
*Having set out the background to the scriptural picture that Rome today is the continuation of the Babylonian-Greek Kingdom of Men that has sought dominion over Israel and has suppressed the Truth, substituting its own philosophy for the precepts of God, we now look at the False Prophet in action today. In later parts we will add a second layer of evidence for Rome being the centre of opposition when we look at Daniel ch. 2 under Part 2.*

*Following the strong judgments upon the Papal system in the time of the French Revolution and Napoleon, the Papacy was at a very low ebb. At the start of the twentieth century, the Vatican buildings were in a bad state of repair and were rat infested. We have moved on a long-long way since then!*

*The break-through came in the 1920's with the signing of the Lateran Treaty with the Italian Government. This gave the Vatican recompense for the loss of land in the previous century. The Vatican negotiator, Cardinal Pacelli, employed his brother, a skilful lawyer and the terms of the final agreement made in 1929 were advantageous. The sum agreed was \$90 million; which in today's terms would be worth around \$1.3bn. Much of this was wisely invested, bringing great wealth to the Roman Church.*

*When Hitler failed to bring the Church to prominence and power during WWII, the Roman Church shifted its focus of investment to the US, where, outside the US government it now holds the largest US property portfolio.*

*Another section of the Lateran Treaty specified that the Italian government would pick up the wage bill for the Vatican. This was modified in 1984 where there is now a system for Italians to indicate on their tax return where a 0.8% tax levied on their tax liabilities should go. Less than 40% bother to tick the box indicating where it should go to—the Roman Church, Lutheran, or one*



of six other Churches, Jewish synagogue, Hindu, Buddhist, or the Italian State for welfare spending. Of those that tick the box, 37% choose the Roman Church. Those that don't bother to tick the box get their 0.8% allocated in the same proportions. So, 37% of all Italy's otto per millo (eight per thousand = 0.8%) goes to the Vatican. In 2012 that was worth €1.15bn or \$1.37bn, a good boost to Church funds.



### The RC Church's Involvement in the EU

Bearing in mind the founding fathers of what is now the EU were predominantly devout Roman Catholics, it is not surprising that the Vatican, as the biggest Church in Europe, plays an important role in its affairs. In the Lisbon Treaty (1990) which is the latest Treaty, the EU is charged with consulting with the Churches over social matters. Article 17 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) binds the Union to “maintain an open, transparent and regular dialogue” with churches, religious associations or communities in the member states.



Article 17 of the [Lisbon Treaty] binds the union to “maintain an open, transparent and regular dialogue” with churches, religious associations or communities in the member states.

The ‘dialogue’, which falls under the responsibility of the Commission’s first vice-president Frans Timmermans, allows for an open exchange of views on EU policies between the EU institutions and the churches as well as other important sectors of European society. *Times of Malta* 16-Oct-17

As the Vatican is the most organised—it has its own Jesuit Office specifically for this purpose—the smaller Churches complain that they do not get consulted so frequently.



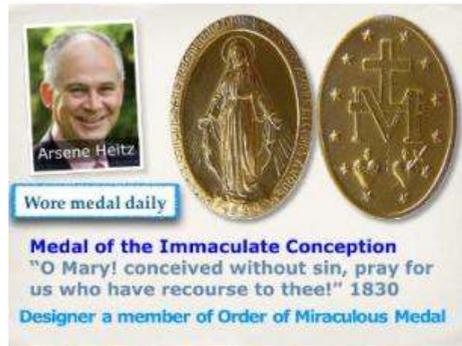
The Catholic Church is a moral force in society with its rich corpus of social teaching that touches on many different aspects of our lives as individuals living in society. The key themes of the Church’s tradition of

social teaching range from the primacy of human dignity to solidarity in the work place, the pursuit of the common good, social justice and the protection of the vulnerable, respect for the natural environment, the dignity of work and the rights of the worker. *Prof. E. Agius*. The Church in Malta 24-Nov-17

The EU flag was expressly designed by its originator to reflect the 12 stars depicted around the Woman in Revelation 12 which it erroneously applied to Mary and the Roman Church. The number of stars doesn't change with increased membership—at the time of its design there were 15 member states.

Unlike the stars on the US flag they are a religious symbol, well understood by those living in a Roman Catholic country. It was in 1979 that Pope John Paul II confirmed the long held Catholic view that Mary was “Our Lady of Europe” and changed her feast day to May 5<sup>th</sup> which is Europe Day in celebration of the founding of the Council of Europe on 05-May-1949, from which the present EU originated. [May 9<sup>th</sup> is also celebrated in Europe in commemoration of the Schuman Declaration on 09-May-1950, which led to the European Coal and Steel Community.]

Pope John Paul II was the first Pope to address the European Parliament, when, in 1988, he famously uttered the words of Jesus about rendering to Caesar the things of Caesar and to God the things of God. His implication was that they, the politicians should look after matters political, and leave spiritual matters to him. His speech was well received apart from the forcible ejection of Ian Paisley, a British MEP who protested that the Pope was Antichrist. His ejection was led by Otto von Habsburg, the eldest son of the last Austria-Hungary Emperor.



John Paul used his address to the European Parliament, the legislative body of the 12-member European Community, to voice strong support for steps toward European economic and administrative union, and to call for greater attention to common Christian values.

The Pope stressed that the process of European integration should not stop with the European Community, but extend from the Atlantic to the Urals, on the basis a common Christian identity.

As one “who knows the aspirations of the Slavic peoples,” he said, “my wish is that Europe, giving herself with sovereign power, free institutions, may one day enlarge the dimensions given to her by geography and even more by history.”

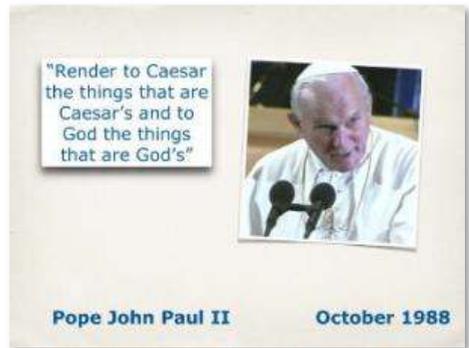
But he insisted this be accompanied by a renewal of Christian spirituality and warned against “agnostic and sometimes even atheistic humanism.”  
*New York Times* 12-Oct-88

The next Papal visit to the EU Parliament would be many years later.

### Europe Breathing With Both Her Lungs.

Pope John Paul II is given much of the credit for ending Communism in Russia and Eastern Europe. He set his eyes on being head of a Church which breathed with both her lungs, referring to the time before the Great Schism of 1054 which divided Christendom between the Catholic West and the Orthodox East. In May 1995 he published an encyclical entitled **Ut unum sint** (Latin: ‘That they may be one’) These are a few extracts:

On the path which we have travelled since the Second Vatican Council, at least two particularly telling events of great ecumenical significance for relations between East and West should be mentioned. The first of these was the 1984 Jubilee in commemoration of the eleventh centenary of the evangelizing activity of Saints Cyril and Methodius, an occasion which enabled me to proclaim the two Holy Apostles of the Slavs, those heralds of faith, co-patrons of Europe. In 1964, during the Council, Pope Paul VI had already proclaimed Saint Benedict patron of Europe. Associating the two Brothers from Thessalonica with the great founder of Western monasticism serves indirectly to highlight that twofold ecclesial and cultural tradition which has proved so significant for the two thousand years of Christianity which mark the history of Europe. Consequently, it is worth recalling that Saints Cyril and Methodius came from the



background of the **Byzantine Church of their day, at a time when the latter was in communion with Rome**. In proclaiming them patrons of Europe, together with Saint Benedict, it was my intention not only to reaffirm the historical truth about Christianity in Europe, but also to provide an important topic for the dialogue between East and West which has raised such high hopes in the period since the Council. As in Saint Benedict, so in Saints Cyril and Methodius, Europe can rediscover its spiritual roots. Now, as the second millennium since the Birth of Christ draws to a close, they must be venerated together, as the patrons of our past and as the Saints to whom the Churches and nations of Europe entrust their future.

The other event which I am pleased to recall is the celebration of the Millennium of the Baptism of Rus' (988-1988). The Catholic Church, and this Apostolic See in particular, desired to take part in the Jubilee celebrations and also sought to emphasise that the Baptism conferred on Saint Vladimir in Kiev was a key event in the evangelization of the world. The great Slav nations of Eastern Europe owe their faith to this event, as do the peoples living beyond the Ural Mountains and as far as Alaska.

In this perspective an expression which I have frequently employed finds its deepest meaning: **the Church must breathe with her two lungs!** In the first millennium of the history of Christianity, this expression refers primarily to the relationship between Byzantium and Rome. From the time of the Baptism of Rus' it comes to have an even wider application: evangelization spread to a much vaster area, so that it now includes the entire Church. If we then consider that the salvific event which took place on the banks of the Dnieper goes **back to a time when the Church in the East and the Church in the West were not divided**, we understand clearly that **the vision of the full communion to be sought is that of unity in legitimate diversity**. This is what I strongly asserted in my Encyclical Epistle *Slavorum Apostoli* 85 on Saints Cyril and Methodius and in my Apostolic Letter *Euntes in Mundum* 86 addressed to the faithful of the Catholic Church in commemoration of the Millennium of the Baptism of Kievan Rus'.

It was not until 2014 that the next Papal visit to the European Parliament would take place. Pope Francis visited in November 2014. He was very warmly received and fourteen times his speech was interrupted by applause. It was clear that the majority were pleased by this visit. He complained that Europe had grown “elderly”, “haggard”, “a grandmother” “no longer vibrant and fertile”. It had lost its spiritual roots. They had to put Christianity back into Europe.

**“A two-thousand-year-old history links Europe and Christianity.”**

“Dear Members of the European Parliament, the time has come to **work**

**together** in building a Europe which revolves not around the economy, but around the sacredness of the human person, around inalienable values. In building a Europe which courageously embraces its past and confidently looks to its future in order fully to experience the hope of its present.” *Pope Francis 25-Nov-14*



The following year the Pope was awarded the Charlemagne Prize.

### **And the winner of the Charlemagne Prize 2015—the Pope!**

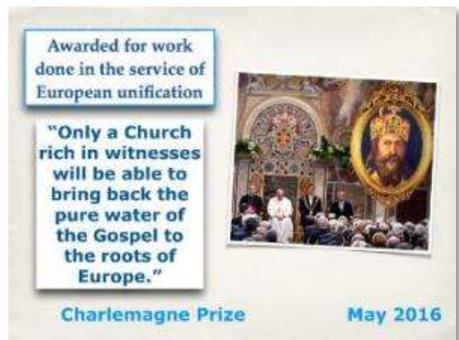
This very prestigious prize has been awarded annually since 1950 by the city fathers of Aachen to the person they consider has advanced European Unity. (In 2002 it was awarded to a ‘non-person’—the euro). It reflects the importance the city fathers perceive of the Pope’s role in the affairs of the EU. The prize recalls Charlemagne, the ruler of the Franks and founder of the Holy Roman Empire. Awarded on Ascension Day, with the deep symbolism attached to these things, perhaps they were celebrating Europe’s ascension to the new Holy Roman Empire political heavens. *Milestones 2015*

The ceremony was held in the Vatican in May 2016. Many EU dignitaries attended including Ms Merkel. His speech was well received.

On August 28, 1963, Martin Luther King Jr. delivered a speech that became a defining moment in the American Civil Rights movement, laying out his dream for a racially reconciled nation.

On Friday, Pope Francis delivered his own “I have a dream” address, in this case dedicated to Europe, calling the continent to undergo a “memory transfusion” to avoid the mistakes of the past and to pursue a future based on economic justice, openness to newcomers, respect for life in all its stages, and dialogue with everyone.

“I dream of a Europe that is young, still capable of being a mother: a mother who has life because she respects life and offers hope for life,” Francis said on Friday, as he was accepting the prestigious Charlemagne Prize. *Crux 06-May-16*



## The EU Celebrated its 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday—in Rome!

Britain was absent from the celebrations as she had set the date for the delivery of the letter that would trigger Brexit for four days later. The other 27 members met in Rome in the palace on the Capitoline Hill, the site where ancient Romans conducted their business. They met in the same room where 60 years earlier the original Treaty was signed. The room, the Hall of the Horatii and Curiatii, is resplendent in frescos depicting the success of Rome over her rivals of olden times. At either end of the room they were overshadowed by the statues of two significant Popes; Pope Innocent X and Pope Urbane VII. Both had helped the Roman Church gain power at a time of difficulty.

The group photograph was held in front of the Statue of Juno, original patron saint of Rome, Salus Populi Romani [Protectoress of the Roman People] also known as the “Queen” and “Queen of Heaven”. The very titles and position now bestowed on Mary! The present Pope always prays before the Shrine of Mary before and on return from significant trips, as happened at the end of his latest trip in December to the Far East.

### Pope pays homage to Mary after papal journey

Pope Francis on Sunday morning went to the Roman Basilica of Saint Mary Major to pay homage at the icon of the Virgin Mary, Salus populi Romani, after his trip to Myanmar and Bangladesh.

The Pope, who laid white flowers at the image, returned to the Vatican Saturday night, after having landed at Rome’s Fiumicino airport at 9:40 pm. *Vatican Radio* 03-Dec-17

Just as 60 years ago there was a trip to the Vatican to receive the Pope’s blessing and listen to his homily.

A Turkish newspaper had this headline and comment:

### The Catholic Church as an Invisible Part of the Acquis Communautaire

The *acquis communautaire* is the accumulated body of EU law and obligations.



The Vatican remains as the invisible power in the European Union, guiding the decision makers within the organization both politically and spiritually.

The Vatican has always been one of the **most powerful institutions** in the **world**.

...almost none of the individual leaders are particularly known for piety and some were raised as Protestants. Nonetheless, all of them bowed their heads and listened to the Pope as he told them not to yield to populist policies and advised them to restore peace inside the Union. This meeting between political leaders and a spiritual authority was not the first in history; since the infamous Crusades it has been common.

The Vatican consecrated Europe to Mary several times. The first of these consecrations took place in 1309 and it is believed that since then **Europe has been under the patronage of Mary**. *Daily Sabah* 13-Apr-17

### (Re)thinking Europe

This was the theme of special conference organised by the Vatican and COMECE (Commission of the Bishop's Conferences of the European Community) as part of the Vatican's celebration of the 60<sup>th</sup> birthday of the EU. It was held in the Vatican over three days, 27-29<sup>th</sup> October.

COMECE has invited **politicians** including Frans Timmermans, **first vice-president** of the **European Commission**, Pat Cox, **former president** of the **European Parliament**, as well as the **current president** Antonio Tajani.

**350** participants representing the **Church**, **religious movements** and the world of **politics** will reflect (anew) on the challenges currently facing the EU. *Vatican Radio* 10-Oct-17

The Pope also addressed the assembly with a long speech.

### On Europe: Pope Francis Lays Out His Own 'Benedict Option'

It is not new for papal speeches on Europe to refer to its patron, the sixth-century St. Benedict of Nursia. But what made Francis's reference to the founder of western monasticism unusual was **the parallel he drew between the twilight of the Roman Empire then and Europe now**.



For St. Benedict, said Francis, “the important thing was not functions but persons.” He pointed to a view of man radically different from classical Greek and Roman culture, one that transcended role and status, which was rooted in man as the image of God. The outworking of this novel concept became—through monasteries—the source of Europe’s cultural and economic rebirth.

Francis sees in this story both a lesson about Europe’s current moment and a signpost to the Church’s future role. The greatest contribution Christians can make, he argued, is to rescue the importance of the person in the face of a soulless technification of politics and economics.

“There are no citizens, only votes,” he complained. “There are no migrants, only quotas. There are no workers, only economic markers. There are no poor, only thresholds of poverty.”

Elsewhere, not least in his Charlemagne speech, Francis has described the Church’s role in Europe as one of service not power, watering the roots of the continent’s culture through humble service rather than hankering after lost gains. On Saturday he repeated this message, reminding those present that “Christians are called to restore dignity to politics and to view politics as a lofty service to the common good, not as a platform for power.”

Francis sums up this vision at the end, when he says Christians are called “to revitalize Europe and to revive its conscience, not by occupying spaces but by generating processes capable of awakening new energies in society”—just as, Francis said, St. Benedict did in giving birth to a “an exciting and irresistible movement that changed the face of Europe.”

Pope Francis is keenly aware that the Roman Church has a vital role in rebuilding Europe, and sees putting Christianity back at its heart as the only way to prevent Europe being overtaken by a Moslem way of life. He sees in Mr Putin a partner he can work with, having given up on America and Obama, and is cautious about Trump.

The Kremlin leader has repeatedly condemned the Western “nihilistic drift”, as well as the obsessive and philosophically unreasonable confidence in Reason. On the media both Patriarch Kirill and President Putin often repeat the old statement made by former Pope Benedict XVI whereby “the worst enemy of the West is the West itself”. *Modern Diplomacy* 28-Aug-17.

## Chapter 5

[back to contents](#)

## Part 2: PROPHECIES CONCERNING THE RUSSIAN DRAGON

We now turn to Bible prophecies concerning the latter-day work of Russia. We shall see that Russia is the representative of the Roman Empire's military power. We saw in Chapter 3 that the picture prior to Armageddon is of a Dragon, Beast and False Prophet. We learn from Revelation 20:1-3:

And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

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

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

This Dragon system is the one which deceives the nations. Strong's concordance says of deceives (to cause to) roam (from truth). This sadly is the characteristic of the Roman-Greek-Babylonian Kingdom of Men. In Part 1 we considered its spiritual side, in this its military side. The Dragon represents, in Bro. Thomas' Victorian but apt phrase, 'Sin manifest politically'. In the days of the apostle John, Pagan Rome was the sin-power in control of Israel. In Revelation ch. 12 he describes the Dragon:

And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a **great red dragon**, having **seven heads** and **ten horns**, and **seven crowns** upon his heads. Rev. 12:3

It is red in colour, which speaks of the flesh, so fitting for Pagan Rome. It has seven heads. The Roman world went through different phases, as shown in the chart and John was told that he was



HEAD	REPRESENTED	DURATION	TIME SPAN
1 <sup>st</sup>	Regal	240 yrs	BC 749
2nd	Consular	11 yrs	to
3rd	Dictatorial	15 yrs	
4th	Decemviral	451 yrs	BC 32
5th	Tribunitial		
6th	Imperial	506 yrs	BC 31-AD 476
7th	Gothic	78 yrs	AD 476-553
6 <sup>th</sup>	Imperial	1260 yrs	529/33-1789+ <sup>1</sup>
revived	revived leading to HRE		555-1815 <sup>2</sup> 607-1867 <sup>3</sup>
8 <sup>th</sup> = 6 <sup>th</sup> revived	Latter day manifestation	?	? - ?

<sup>1</sup> Justinian's decrees to French Rev.

<sup>2</sup> Rome's government under Pope's control to end of 5<sup>th</sup> vial - Battle of Waterloo

<sup>3</sup> Phocas' decree to Pope taken prisoner

living under the 6<sup>th</sup> head. The 10 crowns were on the heads, not the horns, indicating that the power was in the heads rather than the horns.

We can see the link between the Dragon and the Beasts of Daniel ch. 7. This is a chapter which is parallel to Daniel ch. 2. Instead of four metals, we have four Beasts. Like the different metals, although indicating four different phases of the Kingdom of Men, yet they represent one Image, not four. When we come to the Book of Revelation, the details of the time period covered by Daniel's fourth Beast is conveyed by an amalgam of all the Beasts, as the chart shows. We see that the number of heads and the number of horns corresponds.



### The History of Rome's Military Might

Before proceeding we need a short history lesson, to trace the military might of Rome. The first five heads were very much centred in Rome. This was the seat of military and religious power. It was also the case for most of the 6<sup>th</sup>, Imperial Head. Revelation 12 tells of a fundamental change.

*And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born. And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.*

*And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. Rev. 12:4,5,7-9*

Pagan Rome was to become "Christian". This did not happen overnight and was a fairly complex movement of its rulers—more than we can tease out here. Suffice it to say the pagan *third of the stars* or Empire under Maximin, fell before Constantine and Licinius. Constantine then conquered Licinius and the whole Roman Empire was under his control and Christianity became the State religion. People thought the Kingdom of God had come, but that was far from the case, with true believers now being persecuted by "Christians"!

What is interesting is that the Dragon symbol did not die out, as we find the symbol being used in chapters 13 as well as 16 and 20. Constantine, having become Emperor decided that the Eastern side of the Roman Empire was the most troublesome and so moved his headquarters from Rome to Byzantium in Greece. He rebuilt it modelled upon Rome and named it Constantinople. (Now Istanbul in Turkey.) This became the centre of the

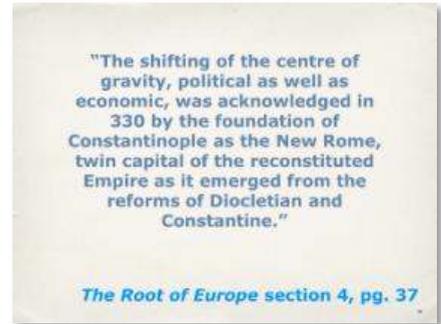
*Dragon*, the military and political seat of the Empire for around 1,000 years until it was captured by the Ottoman Turks. It was known as the Second Rome because of the links and similarities with Rome.

This left Rome to its own devices, allowing the Papacy to develop over time. For a while Rome came under the control of pagan invaders, who wounded the Imperial Head and establishing a Gothic Head. The Emperor in Constantinople came to the Pope's aid and drove out the Goths and restored the Imperial Headship over Rome. (Ch. 13:3)

When Constantinople's turn came to fall before the Turkish Ottoman power, the various symbols of the Orthodox Church were transferred to Moscow, which became known as the third Rome. The title Caesar became Csar or Tsar; the double-headed eagle became the emblem for Russia—used to this day. It became the centre of military power, an aspect which Putin is busy reviving today. The Russians have long considered that Constantinople was the source of their religion and rulership and await the day when it can come under their control again.

### The Dragon and the Image

Let us link this Dragon symbol with the Image of Daniel 2, bearing in mind that it represents the same Kingdom of Men as seen in the



Beasts of Daniel 7. The Image had two legs representing the divided Roman Empire, Eastern and Western. The Dragon is represented by the Eastern Leg. It is also the symbol for the Eastern Foot, which is being formed before our eyes.

### The Little Horn of the Goat

In Part 1, when looking at the latter-day Little Horn of the Greek Goat of Daniel 8, we promised to revisit this passage.

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

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

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

It is clear that the Little Horn of the Goat which represents the Roman Empire, continues right up to the time of the end when it is found to be in opposition to Israel's Prince of Princes, the Lord Jesus Christ. This is a fatal move as *he is broken without hand*. This takes us back to what King Nebuchadnezzar dreamed.

*Thou sawest till that **a stone was cut out without hands**, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces. Dan. 2:34*

The original Image stood with one Leg in Rome and one in Constantinople. In the map we have shown the Image as foot-less as the feet really belong to our time. When the last part of the Image is finally in place with the forming of the two feet, then for the first and only time the Image will stand complete.

It is the latter-day Eastern Foot, who working with the Western Foot of Europe and directed by the Papal Eyes and Mouth come against God's nation. They will be defeated by the newly returned Messiah of Israel who has assembled a mighty force of immortalised saints, filled with power from God (i.e. not with human hands). They will defeat the Kingdom of Men and replace it by the Kingdom of God.



## Chapter 6

[back to contents](#)

# THE RUSSIAN DRAGON MOVING TOWARDS ISRAEL

*We have seen that the Roman theme runs through prophecy. We have seen how Russia took over the things of the Byzantine (Constantinople) Empire when Constantinople fell in 1453. Since then she developed into a Church/State system with the Tsar as head of State working closely with the Russian Orthodox Patriarch, so that church and state looked after people's needs from the cradle to the grave.*

## Putin and the Churches

Putin is a great supporter of the Russian Orthodox Church. He works closely with Patriarch Kirill, the head of the Russian Church. They are frequently seen together at religious and political venues.

Since the fall of Communism in 1991 and greatly encouraged by Putin, the Russian Church has seen a remarkable revival with 29,000 churches being rebuilt or reopened.

“The epoch which we call ‘the second Baptism of Russia’ begun in our Church in 1988. The mass baptism of our population started in Russia in the late ‘80s and early ‘90s,” Metropolitan Hilarion said while relating the history of Orthodoxy in Russia to the Italian guests.

“Today we have 35,000 churches. That means that we have opened 29,000 churches over twenty-eight years, opening more than 1,000 churches per year or three per day... Earlier we had three theological seminaries or academies, and today there are over fifty,” the metropolitan stressed.

In Metropolitan Hilarion's view, Russian history has “never witnessed such growth in religious faith as we have seen in the past twenty-eight years.” *Russia Insider* 03-Nov-16

## Putin the Defender of the Christians

Like the Tsars before him, Putin sees part of his role as championing the cause of Christianity. This is what attracts the Pope to Putin, as unlike the West, he is prepared to take action to defend persecuted Christians. This is especially the case in Syria which had a minority Christian population of around 10% of Syria's 22 million population before the civil war began. They were protected from the 70% Muslim Sunni majority because of their closeness to President Assad who belongs to the Alawites, a minority branch of the Shia Muslims, who formed about 12% of the population. The Christian population has shrunk by 50% to 1 million. In Iraq numbers have fallen by a third. Putin's actions in Syria should now arrest this dramatic decline in numbers.

To ask whether Putin is interested in helping Christians or enhancing Russia's power in the Middle East is to offer a false choice. It is entirely possible that he is interested in both. It is also possible that he sees the enhancement of Russian power in the Middle East as synonymous with the protection of Christianity.

An openly pious man, Putin's own religiosity appears genuine, despite his past as a servant of the anticlerical Soviet state. After a career as a KGB officer based in East Germany, he claims to have converted to Christianity. Several well-informed writers have noted the progressively strong influence of Russian Orthodoxy on his worldview—a malodorous blend of Eastern Christianity, Russian nationalism and conspiracism that he has already put into practice in Ukraine.

For most of Russia's history, Orthodox Christianity and the Russian nationality were inseparable. To be Russian was to be Orthodox.

When Putin speaks as if he were the spiritual leader of Russia, is he being entirely insincere? And are those Orthodox who believe him simply seduced by the Kremlin's world-class propagandist machine?

The answer to these questions cannot be a simple “yes”. In the Russian tradition, religion and politics are intertwined in ways that non-Russians find difficult to understand. And, amazingly, that tradition—which incorporates the concept of “spiritual security” against Western contamination—seems to have survived 70 years of overtly atheist Communism. *Catholic Herald* 10-Dec-15

## A Tsar is Born

An *Economist* cover featured President Putin as a Tsar. Here are extracts from the main article.

As the world marks the centenary of the October Revolution, Russia is once again under the rule of the tsar.

Seventeen years after Vladimir Putin first became president, his grip on Russia is stronger than ever. The West, which still sees Russia in post-Soviet terms, sometimes ranks him as his country's most powerful leader since Stalin. Russians are increasingly looking to an earlier period of history. Both liberal reformers and conservative traditionalists in Moscow are talking about Mr Putin as a 21st-century tsar.

Mr Putin has earned that title by lifting his country out of what many Russians see as the chaos in the 1990s and by making it count again in the world. Like a tsar, Mr Putin surmounts a pyramid of patronage. Since he moved against the oligarchs in 2001, taking control first of the media and



then of the oil and gas giants, all access to power and money has been through him. These days the boyars serve at his pleasure, just as those beneath them serve at their pleasure and so on all the way down. He wraps his power in legal procedure, but everyone knows that the prosecutors and courts answer to him. He enjoys an approval rating of over 80% partly because he has persuaded Russians that, as an aide says, “If there is no Putin, there is no Russia.”

And like a tsar, Mr Putin has buttressed his power through repression and military conflict. At home, in the name of stability, tradition and the Orthodox religion, he has suppressed political opposition and social liberals, including feminists, NGOs and gays. Abroad, his annexation of Crimea and the campaigns in Syria and Ukraine have been burnished for the evening news by a captive, triumphalist media. However justified, the West’s outrage at his actions underlined to Russians how Mr Putin was once again asserting their country’s strength after the humiliations of the 1990s. *The Economist* 26-Oct-17

### **Russia’s Naval Power: From Peter the Great to Putin the Great?**

Putin models himself on the Russian Tsars, his favourite is Peter the Great. He sees his role as a military leader and the champion of the Church. Tsar Peter advocated a strong navy—a goal Putin himself pursues.

Russia’s emphasis on enhancing its naval power has been drawing the attention of political analysts for the last couple of years. Historians and politico-military observers argue that the **17th century Russian expansionist policy under Peter the Great is now being revisited by Vladimir Putin**. Russia’s increasing presence in the Arctic, its annexation of Crimea and its involvement in the Syrian quagmire which reiterated the importance of Russia’s naval base in Tartus happen to strengthen those arguments.

Russia is among the countries that has the longest coastline on Earth. Ironically, until the end of the 17th century, it was not a country which had maritime access to the Mediterranean. In 1696, Peter the Great’s seizure of the port city of Azov in the northern part of Black Sea is considered to be a major military victory to open the sea passage for Russia to the Mediterranean.

Peter the Great was also willing to expand his Empire’s naval presence to the Arctic. He built a modern shipyard in the Arctic city of Arkhangelsk.

Vladimir **Putin**, not much different from what his great-great ancestor once contemplated, **has embarked upon a serious plan to expand Russia’s naval power to make Russia great again**. Thanks to global warming, Russia is now an Arctic power with a sizeable naval presence. Putin has recently commissioned three Arctic nuclear ice-breakers to his Arctic fleet in order to pursue the dream of Peter the Great.

**Russia is steadily transforming into a major naval power.** In addition to its Arctic ambitions, enhanced Russian military presence in the eastern Mediterranean in Syria, namely Tartus, is a testament to Peter the Great's apparent reincarnation in Vladimir Putin.

The challenge, however, is much greater in the Black Sea. After the annexation of Crimea, Russia did not only resolve the problem of the status of its naval base in Sevastapol but also prolonged its Black Sea coast and the exclusive economic zone in the basin. *hurriyet.com* 01-Aug-17

### **Russian Navy Works on Special Surprise for the West**

The Russian Navy plans to receive 18 small missile ships of type Karakurt. The new ships are said to surpass their predecessors in their combat power and seaworthiness. They are believed to become the new formidable weapon to strengthen Russia's maritime borders and enhance the presence of the Russian Federation in the Mediterranean Sea.

The ships are named "Karakurt" after a species of spiders from the genus of black widows, whose bite can be lethal to animals and humans. The new ships, 60 meters long and ten meters wide, can travel at 30 knots and remain in autonomous navigation up to 15 days.

The work to build the new vessels is conducted as part of the nation's efforts to upgrade its navy within the scope of the state armament program, which is to be implemented from 2018 to 2025.

It is capable of striking targets at long distances both at sea and on the ground. New Russian corvettes and frigates will be equipped with state-of-the-art high precision weapons. They will model the capabilities of US aircraft carriers, but will be a lot more advantageous. *Pravda* 10-Jul-17

### **The Russian Dragon Advancing on Israel**

The weakness of America has left the Middle East as Russia's sphere of influence. She has been here before in Soviet times, but her time had not yet fully come, and so the Soviets largely withdrew from the area. Now Russia is back in Syria and with tentative steps in Libya and in Egypt. We have seen the steady expansion of Russia into the Middle East and North Africa and into Europe. In the past we have seen it as paw prints on the map, but this symbol, beloved of the West overlooks the fact that it is not the normal symbol used in Russia. The emblem on a Russian passport is not of a bear but a double-headed eagle. This of course links with the fact that Russia is part of the latter-day Roman system. This year, eagles adorn our maps instead of bear paw prints! We first look at the situation in Syria.

### **Putin Signs Syria Base Deal, Cementing Russia's Presence There for Half a Century**

Although Russia seems to have quite a few air bases in Syria, the main one is at Hmeymim near Latakia. Her main port is at Tartus in the south. These

bases have been steadily expanded. What President Putin achieved this year was permanence of use for both of them.

President Vladimir Putin has signed a law ratifying a deal with the Syrian government allowing Russia to keep its air base in Syria for almost half a century, official documents show.

The original deal, signed in Damascus in January, sets out the terms under which Russia can use its Hmeymim air base in Latakia Province. The document says Russian forces will be deployed at the base for 49 years with the option of extending that arrangement for 25-year periods.



The base has been at the heart of Moscow's military foray since it intervened in the conflict in

September 2015, helping turn the tide in favor of Assad, one of Russia's closest Middle East allies. *Reuters* 27-Jul-17

### **Russia's Plan for a Nuclear Submarine Port at Tartus Jolts US, Israeli Navies**

This was the headline to a *Debka* report which enlarged on the plans outlined in *Milestones 2016*, for Tartus to be expanded to hold all of Russia's Mediterranean Fleet. She now has permission to use it for nuclear submarines.

Over the next five years, Russia will build a nuclear submarine base in Syria's Mediterranean port of Tartus to be completed by 2022.

This will be the last link in Putin's comprehensive program for a chain of Russian air and sea bases running from the Baltic port of Kaliningrad through Sevastopol on the Black Sea up to Tartus. These bases will house Russian warships and submarines, air force bombers and fighter jets, advanced S-400 and S-300 air defense systems and Iskander-M ballistic missiles with nuclear warheads.

The agreement is valid for 49 years and will be automatically prolonged every 25 years unless one of the two states decides to withdraw.

Russia is allowed to bring in and out any kind of weaponry, ammunition, devices and materials to provide security for the facility staff, crew and their families throughout the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic without paying duties or levies. *Debka* 31-Mar-17

This confirms Russia as the dominant naval force in the Mediterranean.

## Russia Setting Up Direct Shipping Line to Syria

Russia is setting up a direct shipping line to Syria and wants its companies to help build an economic recovery in the war-torn country, *TASS* news agency quoted Russian Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Rogozin as saying.

Trade between Russia and Syria rose by 42 percent year-on-year to \$193 million (146.28 million pounds) in the first seven months of 2017, according to Rogozin. However, Syria's exports to Russia only amounted to \$2 million in the period.

“This is mainly related to a lack of necessary infrastructure for exports and commissioning of local agricultural produce, which makes it economically unviable to supply Syrian vegetables and fruits,” he said.

“The plan is to create a closed loop to grow, pack, store and export Syrian vegetables and fruit to Russia in the near future”, he said. *Reuters* 10-Oct-17

## Sudan. From Sochi to the Sahel: Russia's Expanding Footprint

Today, as in Soviet times, the way to ensure that Moscow has viable bases for deploying and sustaining that presence beyond Russian borders is through the provision of foreign energy and arms sales. Throughout the Middle East and Africa, this process is being carried out with unceasing vigor. At Sochi<sup>1</sup>, this drive further manifested itself in Putin's meeting with Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir, on November 23. In front of his Russian host, al-Bashir declared that he sought Moscow's protection because the United States was threatening his government, which is quite contrary to the truth. Russian officials responded in kind: notably, Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev spoke of increased trade and cooperation, declaring Sudan a major partner in Africa. Even more tellingly, President al-Bashir discussed with Putin **the possibility of setting up a Russian naval base on the Red Sea**. And in response, the first deputy chairman of the defense and security committee in Russia's Federation Council (upper chamber of Parliament), Frants Klintsevich, welcomed the proposal. The Russian lawmaker said such a base could play an “exceptionally stabilizing role” and predicted that many other states might ask Russia, on the basis of its Syrian success, to establish a permanent military presence on their soil.

This issue of naval and other bases cuts to the heart of Russia's concrete Middle Eastern and African objectives. Although Moscow says it plans to reduce its forces in Syria, it will retain its naval and air bases there. It also is seeking air or naval bases in Egypt, Cyprus, Libya, and potentially even Yemen. Clearly, **Moscow aims to dominate not only the Eastern**

---

<sup>1</sup> Sochi located on the Black Sea coast near the border between Georgia/Abkhazia and Russia, and is a popular location used by Putin to meet with leaders.

**Mediterranean but also the approaches to this area, including the Suez Canal and the Red Sea.** Moreover, as Russia deploys its long-range missiles to the Caucasus and the Caspian basin, it also gains new capabilities not only to interdict Western strike forces in the Eastern Mediterranean but also in the Middle East. The energy deals and arms sales it is making to Sudan along with other states in the Sahel and the Middle East all have as their goal the securing of such basing rights and access along with leverage over energy flows from these countries to Europe.

Moscow's unceasing diplomacy and strategic focus contrast with the disarray of US policy and the absence in Europe of any real strategic grasp of what is now at stake in the Levant. While Moscow, like New York City, seemingly never sleeps, the West remains somnolent. *Eurasia Daily Monitor* Volume: 14. Issue: 154. 29-Nov-17

### **Russia Is Roaring Back to the Middle East While America Is Asleep**

Russia is back in the Middle East. The Kremlin is methodically creating a systematic geopolitical challenge to the interests of the United States and its allies. Moscow's behavior is driven by a quest for prestige and influence, and a search for markets of its arms and other goods—a classic great power pattern.

The Kremlin's renewed activity in the Middle East is geopolitical, and goes beyond business. **As in Soviet times, Moscow seeks to control governments, re-establish military bases, open maritime routes and expand exports.** These great power ambitions suggest a broader shift in the regional balance, revealing a return to the nineteenth century strategic competition and raising serious questions about the future of American power.

Russian Middle East aspirations include several aspects important to its national security and global strategy:

**A bridgehead against jihadism**

**A theater of strategic competition with the United States.**

**Oil price influence.**

**A market for weapons**

**Russia's resolve to support its allies.** The Syrian war demonstrated Moscow's resolve to stick with allies despite deteriorating circumstances. They do business with the likes of Saddam or Assad, whereas Washington remains picky and conditional.

**Finally, in Iran,** Russia now enjoys the right to temporary air base landing and refueling in Hamadan, and the ability to fire missiles through Iranian airspace from the Caspian Sea into Syria. **The decades-old cooperation**

**between Tehran and Moscow against the United States, its Sunni-Arab allies and Israel is going strong.** *The National Interest* 23-Nov-17

### **Russia and Egypt agree to reciprocal use of air bases**

At the end of November came two interesting articles concerning Russia using Egyptian bases. For some time, she has had the re-use of a former Soviet base close to the Libyan border. Now she has a deeper use of all Egypt's air bases.

Moscow released a draft accord between Russian and Egyptian air forces for their reciprocal use of airspace and air bases, with the caveat that such use requires prior notice five days in advance. Defense Minister Gen. Sergey Shoigu arrived in Cairo on Wednesday to tie up the last ends of the accord, from which Russia stands to gain a second Middle East air base after Hmeimim in Syria.

Since Egypt has no need of air facilities in Russia, the accord is just the framework for Russian air operations against ISIS, Al Qaeda and other Islamist terrorist groups, which have free rein in eastern Libya. DEBKAFfile's military sources have reported **since last May that the Russian air force and special forces have been regularly using Egypt's Sidi Barrani air base in the Western Desert 100km from the Libyan border.** *Debka file* 30-Nov-17

The strategic implications for Russia are notable. Gaining basing rights in Egypt would allow **Russia to project military power into Libya, the Red Sea, the Horn of Africa and the Mediterranean** should it choose to. Even if it doesn't use that capability, the mere fact that it has it will give it greater diplomatic clout in Africa. It will also legitimize Russia's presence in the region and make it a more valuable partner for other countries there. **Russia is also in discussions with Sudan on the possibility of constructing a Russian naval base there.** *Stratfor* 30-Nov-17

### **Egypt Expects to Agree Russian Industrial Zone Before Year-end**

As well as Russian cooperation with bases, she is busy wooing Egypt on trade. Because of US sanctions against Russia she is seeking other markets. Egypt was a valuable market to the Soviet after the Suez Crisis in the late 1950's. Russia is keen to boost trade here. According to *Reuters* 03-Oct-17:

Egypt expects to sign an agreement with Russia by year-end to build a sprawling industrial zone that it hopes will attract more than \$7 billion in investments, a statement from the Egyptian Trade Ministry said on Tuesday.

The 5 million-square meter industrial zone will be located east of Port Said in the new Suez Canal Economic Zone, a mega project initiated by President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi. The plan aims to create an international hub for manufacturers with easy access for exporting goods to African and European markets.

The project will cost \$190 million to build, said a Trade Ministry statement released on Tuesday following a meeting with Russian officials in Cairo earlier in the day.

Russia's Deputy Industry and Trade Minister Georgy Kalamonov said his government has finished drafting the "executive work plan" for the project, the statement said.

Trade between Egypt and Russia rose to about \$2.5 billion in the first seven months of the current year from about \$2.2 billion in the same period a year earlier, the statement said.

Egypt's exports to Russia reached \$387.9 million in the first seven months of the year compared with \$304.6 million in the same period last year, a 27.3 percent increase, it added.

Total Russian investments in the Egyptian market are valued at about \$62.8 million across 417 projects in various fields, the statement said.

### Inside Putin's Libyan Power Play

Mr Putin has been cultivating the friendship of the de-facto controller of eastern Libya, following Russia's big loss of investments with the fall of Col. Gaddafi. He has been angling for the use of the two main ports in eastern Libya, both of which are under the control of the pro-Russian leader, Field Marshal Khalifa Haftar. However, the situation is fluid in Libya and Putin is content to bide his time in the hope that Haftar gains greater power over the country's infrastructure.

The above was the headline to an article in *Foreign Policy* 14-Sep-17.

Coming on the heels of the Russian military intervention in Syria, Moscow's role in Libya's civil war may seem, at first glance, like déjà vu. Once again, it appears that the Kremlin is working to consolidate the power of a pro-Russian regional strong-man and establish a "crescent of Russian influence" across the Middle East. And given the similarities between Haftar and Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, some degree of anxiety is understandable.



To be sure, Russia has invested in Haftar. It has received him in Moscow like a foreign leader already in office, arranging meetings with high-ranking ministers as well as security officials, including Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu, and Security Council

Secretary Nikolai Patrushev. Haftar's image as a "leading political and military figure," as the general was recently described by Deputy Foreign Minister Gennadiy Gatilov, is further burnished by shots of Haftar aboard the Russian aircraft carrier Admiral Kuznetsov, which visited Libya during its tour of the Mediterranean.

Moscow has printed around \$3 billion in Libyan dinars on behalf of the Haftar-allied Central Bank of Libya and dispatched Russian technicians to help refit, renew, and upgrade the military capabilities of the LNA, which almost entirely relies on Soviet weaponry.

In accordance with a UN arms embargo, Russia cannot be seen to be directly arming Haftar's forces. But it could send weapons through Egypt, a pro-Haftar neighbor that borders the Haftar-held parts of eastern Libya and is said to have hosted Russian special forces. Moreover, some in Libya—like Abdelbasset al-Badri, the GNA's ambassador to Saudi Arabia and a Haftar ally who visited Moscow in March—openly encourage the deployment of Russian forces to Libya as part of a Syria-style intervention. Haftar, when asked about military cooperation with Moscow, has said he would "welcome any role" for Russia in Libya.

Russia expects to gain from its support of Haftar. First, Moscow hopes Haftar will eventually wield enough political power to give Russia pride of place in making economic deals. With oil production in Libya at 700,000 barrels per day in January and the country's so-called oil crescent controlled by Haftar's forces, energy is an especially lucrative area of cooperation. In July, Russian state oil giant Rosneft began purchasing oil from Libya's National Oil Corp. as part of a yearlong contract meant to be, in the words of one Russian official, an initial step towards the "renewal of contracts concluded under Qaddafi."

Second, Russia looks to Haftar to help consolidate its military position on the Mediterranean Sea, allowing Moscow to project power near Europe's coasts and reinforce its outreach to the Middle East and North Africa. Ultimately, the main return Russia seeks on its investment in Libya is neither a base nor a contract. It is the ability to substantiate one of the central narratives that it has told the world and its own citizens in recent years: **that what the United States breaks, Russia can fix.**

## Crimea

Russia has been consolidating her position here since seizing Crimea in 2014. One of the striking features on the eastern end of the peninsular is the steady construction of the Kerch Bridge, the largest in Europe and spanning difficult sea terrain.

Once finished, the 19 kilometer (12 miles) Crimean Bridge will become one of Russia's and Europe's largest. The ambitious multibillion-dollar project will connect Crimea with Krasnodar Region in mainland Russia,

allowing fast, reliable and cost-efficient transportation for passengers, goods and services.

The bridge will have a four-lane highway and a two-lane railroad, and will be capable of providing access for up to 40,000 cars and dozens of trains a day to the peninsula over the Kerch Strait. It is scheduled to be opened by late 2018 and to become fully operational by 2019. *Russia Today* 28-Aug-17



The peninsula has only one land exit and that leads into Ukraine, so is not open to Russia. A series of road bridges link islands to the NE, but again the road leads into Ukraine and is closed to Russian traffic. The ferries from mainland Russia or planes are the only routes at the moment. When completed, the road and rail link should make a big economic difference.

Russian money is being poured into the many military sites based on the peninsula. The shipyards there are busy constructing state-of-the-art vessels in Russia's drive to strengthen her navy.

### **NATO says Russia misled West over scale of Zapad war games**

Russia is such a huge country that it is divided in four military zones. Every year Russian troops carry out exercises in one of these regions. This year it was the turn of the Western Military Region to host the exercises, entitled *Zapad 2017*—Zapad being Russian for the West. There was considerable tension and disinformation in the build-up to this week-long exercise in mid-September. There were fears in the West that Russia would use these exercises to seize territory, or that the troops would remain instead of returning. Under NATO rules, the number of troops must not exceed 13,000 to avoid being monitored by foreign observers. As it was, all passed off peacefully and the troops returned to their bases. Russia claimed that other exercises were also taking place but not, she claimed, as part of Zapad! NATO estimates of troop numbers range from 40,000 to 100,000!

The exercise was to simulate repulsing an attack by the West on Belarus. NATO saw it as an exercise in Russia and Belarus invading the Baltic region! It turned out to be a test of Russia's highly successful ability to carry out disinformation attacks. It gave Russia the ability to battle-test some of its more recent equipment, and demonstrated to the West that Russia can project a very powerful military force.

It also marked the launch of a re-formed tank brigade. This report is from the *New York Times* 31-Jul-17:

The military exercise is part of a larger effort by Mr. Putin to shore up Russia's military prowess, and comes against the backdrop of an increasingly assertive Russia. Its military has in recent years deployed forces to Syria, seized Crimea and intervened in eastern Ukraine, rattled the Baltic States with snap exercises and buzzed NATO planes and ships.

For this instalment of the Zapad manoeuvres, a Cold War relic revived in 1999 and held again in 2009 and 2013, Russia has requisitioned enough rail cars to carry 4,000 loads of tanks and other heavy equipment to Belarus.

There is nothing subtle about the tank-heavy unit at the heart of Zapad. The First Guards Tank Army, has an extensive pedigree. The unit battled the Germans during World War II on the Eastern Front and eventually in Berlin before becoming part of the Soviet force that occupied Germany. In 1968, it participated in the invasion of Czechoslovakia.

After the end of the Cold War, the unit was withdrawn to Smolensk, near the border with Belarus, before being disbanded in 1998. But it was reconstituted by Mr. Putin to give the Russian military more offensive punch and present a visible demonstration of Russian power. "That name was chosen for a reason, it sends a very clear message to the Baltics and Poland" said Philip M. Breedlove, a retired NATO commander.

In combination with the highly mobile tank army, that force has about 800 tanks, more than 300 artillery pieces and a dozen Iskander tactical missile launchers. That is more tanks than NATO has in active units deployed in the Baltic States, Poland and Germany put together, The Russians have also announced that the First Guards Tank Army will be the first formation to receive the T-14 Armata tank, a new infantry fighting vehicle, as well as advanced air defense and electronic warfare equipment.

It has certainly caused NATO to be apprehensive of Russia's ultimate motives, and the problems of mounting an effective counter by NATO.

### **Putin Puts Russia on War Footing by Telling Businesses to Be Ready to Switch to War Production**

President Putin upped the tension with remarks made to a conference of Russian military leaders according to *Int. Business Times* 22-Nov-17.

"The ability of our economy to increase military production and services at a given time is one of the most important aspects of military security," Putin said according to *The Independent*.

"To this end, all strategic, and simply large-scale enterprise should be ready, regardless of ownership."

"Our army and navy need to have the very best equipment—better than foreign equivalents," he said, according to *AFP*. "If we want to win, we have to be better."

Weapons exports are running at record levels, boosted by their impressive performance in Syria. Russia has clearly demonstrated that the age of shoddy manufacture is a thing of the past. **In many fields the sophistication of the Russian weaponry has astounded Western observers.**

### Weapons Exports Set To Rise

Following the extensive benefit of field performance, Russia is looking for record sales. Order-books are bulging and, according to *TASS* 30-Aug-17, are running at a level of \$47-50bn and could overtake the US. Russia is the number two arms exporter in the world followed by France and China.



### Russia's Bumper Crop Creates Options

According to a *Stratfor* 04-Sep-17 report, in contrast to the US, Canada and Australia who have had poor wheat harvests due to drought, Russia had rain at just the right time, resulting in a record harvest, possibly the best since 1991. It is thought that wheat exports will run a close second to the value of arms exports this year. Wheat sales can be used as a political weapon, already much is being sold to Egypt at very favourable prices.

### What Sanctions? Russian Oil Knocks Exxon Off Its Pedestal

For the first time Russia's Gazprom has toppled the Exxon Mobil Corporation, an American multi-national oil and gas corporation headquartered in Texas, as the world's leading energy supplier, according to *Forbes* 26-Sep-17. This is based on figures from *S&P Global Platts* rankings showing Gazprom rising from No. 3 slot to No.1. This is in spite of US sanctions aimed at Russian energy firms in retaliation for the Crimean takeover. Gas output rose nearly 12% last year.

### Putin Crowns Himself OPEC King as Saudis Bow to Economic Reality

This was the headline to a *Bloomberg* 25-Nov-17 report. Saudi Arabia has always been the "king" of OPEC (Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries), a grouping of major oil producers, who have raised or lowered prices using the regulation of supply and demand. By agreeing to cut production, oil prices rise as supplies lessen. Saudi Arabia led the world in the crippling oil price rises in 1973 in retaliation to Israel's successes in the Yom Kippur War. Although Russia is not a member of OPEC, following a meeting with the Saudi Oil Minister, they agreed on production cuts, and oil prices have risen significantly as a result. In early December, OPEC and Russia agreed to continue with production cuts to the end of 2018. Prices

have firmed at over \$60/barrel, almost 30% higher than a year ago. This provides a huge boost to Russia's income.

For more than half a century, Saudi Arabia's oil minister could move markets with a few choice words about what OPEC may decide at its next meeting, generating millions if not billions of dollars of profit for insiders.

Not anymore. While OPEC's gatherings still influence prices, it's not Saudi Arabia's voice that matters most, but the voice of a non-member: Russia, specifically Vladimir Putin.

Since engineering Russia's pact with the Organization for Petroleum Exporting Countries to curb supplies a year ago, Putin has emerged as the group's most influential player. As one senior OPEC official put it on condition of anonymity, the Russian leader is now "calling all the shots."

"Putin is now the world's energy czar," said Helima Croft, a former Central Intelligence Agency analyst who directs global commodity strategy at RBC Capital Markets LLC in New York. *Bloomberg* 25-Nov-17

### Pulling Nations into the Eastern Foot

If the past division of the Roman Empire is our guide to which nations make up the Eastern Foot, then it is clear that there are nations at present "attached" to the Western Foot that need to be moved. Countries like Greece, Cyprus, Bulgaria and Romania are members of the EU. It has been interesting to see Russia putting pressure on them to come back into her sphere of influence. We saw in last year's *Milestones* Mr Putin's friendship with Greece, ready for when the economic collapse of Greece takes place. Cyprus too is being wooed by Russia.

Romania and Bulgaria are unhappy that the sacrifices they made to join the EU have not been worth the cost of conforming to all the EU regulations. The hoped-for prosperity has evaporated.

Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia were most concerned at Russia's recent Zapad military exercises; who would save them if Russia decided to invade?



## The Balkans: Offering Carrots and Sticks

The Balkans present Russia with a good opportunity to widen rifts in the West, too. In certain countries, Moscow has taken a more amicable approach, granting concessions, economic aid and energy discounts to friendlier states such as Serbia. Moscow has even established closer military cooperation with Belgrade by supplying weapons and setting up a joint “humanitarian center,” which many believe to be an outpost for Russian spies. The Kremlin plans to build a similar center in Bosnia’s Republika Srpska. *Stratfor 09-Aug-17*

## Russia and Turkey

This has been a roller-coaster ride. Following the shooting down of the Russian fighter plane in 2015, relations were very cold, Russian holiday makers switched to Greece and Turkish imports were banned. Following Turkey’s apology for the incident, relations have grown strongly; so much so that at the year-end, Turkey was part of a coalition of countries endeavouring to bring peace to the long-running Syrian civil war.

Construction of the TurkStream gas pipeline is well underway across the Black Sea. Russia decided to lay the twin pipe in the section that is under her territorial control ahead of the Turkish government giving their formal approval to the Environmental Impact Assessment on the region in Turkish waters. This was granted in early October, so all is set for the completion of the first pipe by the end of 2018 and the second pipe the following year. This puts Turkey in a prime position for onward gas transmission to Europe, but leaves her vulnerable to Russia’s whims.

## Russia and Saudi Arabia

As part of Mr Putin’s Middle East strategy, he is making overtures to Saudi Arabia. The Saudi King paid a visit to Russia in October.

The leaders of Saudi Arabia and Russia, the world’s biggest oil exporters, are expected to discuss cooperation on oil production and differences over Syria and Iran during the **first** visit to Moscow by a reigning Saudi Monarch.

A slew of investment deals, including a liquefied natural gas project and petrochemical plants, could also be signed during King Salman’s trip and plans for a \$1bn fund to invest in energy projects are likely to be finalised.

The visit, including talks in the Kremlin with President Vladimir Putin, reflects a rapid deepening of ties between Russia and Saudi Arabia, driven by a mutual need to stem a drop in global oil prices. *Reuters 03-Oct-17*

Saudi Arabia has also confirmed a big arms deal with Russia, involving the purchase of Russia’s S-400 anti-aircraft system. Saudi is the second NATO member to purchase such a system—Turkey agreed earlier in the year.

## Chapter 7

[back to contents](#)

# Part 3: PROPHECIES CONCERNING THE EUROPEAN BEAST

*In Part 1 we looked at how the false system of worship as founded by Nimrod, continued in Babylon and then Rome, with the figure of a False Prophet being very appropriate for today's period.*

*In Part 2 we looked at the Dragon power of Revelation chapters 12, 13 and 16. We saw how Russia is cast today in the mould of the Eastern Roman Empire, which was the centre of the Empire's military might.*

*In this Part 3 we look at the third element of the three symbols applied to our days—that of the Beast. Revelation ch. 13 describes the various stages of the Beast's development. What is clear is that there has to be a latter-day Beast to represent the Western Leg and Foot of Nebuchadnezzar's Image.*

*Let's build up our picture of the development stages of the Beast. Three Beast systems are described in Revelation ch. 13.*

The Beast of the Sea

The Beast of the Earth

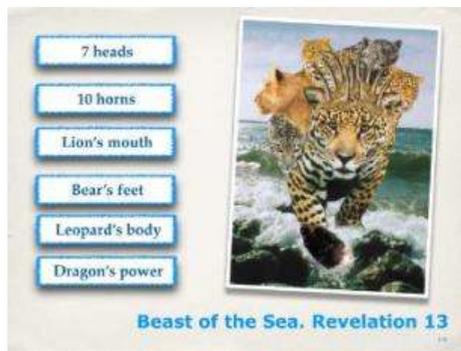
The Image of the Beast



## The Beast of the Sea

*And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.*

*And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority. Rev. 13:1-2*



It arose out of the sea, which in terms of this region refers to the Mediterranean Sea. Its characteristics can be seen to be closely linked with the Beasts of Daniel ch. 7. The chart shows its characteristics. It had seven

heads, (the total number of heads on the four Beasts combined) and 10 horns, (the same number as was on the 4<sup>th</sup> Beast, the only one that was horned). It had a lion's mouth, (the 1<sup>st</sup> of Daniel 7's Beasts was a lion) and Bear's feet, (the Bear was the 2<sup>nd</sup> Beast). It had a leopard's body, (that was the 3<sup>rd</sup> Beast). Another characteristic was that it had the Dragon's power. This indicates that it was not completely unlinked to the Dragon power. It had the blessing of the Dragon, receiving from him its authority.

*And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.*

*And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?*

*And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months.*

*And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.*

*And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.*

*And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. Rev. 13:3-8*

What power is represented by this Beast of the Sea? It is a symbol for the Western Roman world which had become "Christian" following the leadership of Constantine. After the era of Constantine and his successors was a relatively short period when Rome came under the control of the barbarian invaders. *One of its heads was wounded, but was healed. Rev. 13:3.* We briefly looked at this in ch. 5. Odoacer, became the Gothic King of Italy in AD 476. He was followed by Theodoric from 493 to 526. There followed a period of war and tumult in Italy until the Eastern Emperor, Justinian, restored power in AD 535 to the 6<sup>th</sup> Imperial head. This allowed the West to reflower. This Beast of the Sea was to continue for 42 months, (v5). If we turn this time period into days (1260) and apply the "day-for-a-year" formulae and we get 1260 years. We considered this time period in Ch. 3 (p19) when looking at the False Prophet. The first starting date is the Decree of Justinian in AD 535; the second

Symbol for the Western Roman "Christian" world. Continued "42 months" v5

42 months =  
42 x's  
30 days  
= 1260 days  
1260 years  
AD 533 -> 1793  
AD 606 -> 1866

Who is the Beast of the Sea? Rev. 13

the Decree of Phocas AD 607. They give us expiry dates ending in the French Revolution and the ending of Papal Temporal power.

### The Beast of the Earth

*And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.*

*And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.*

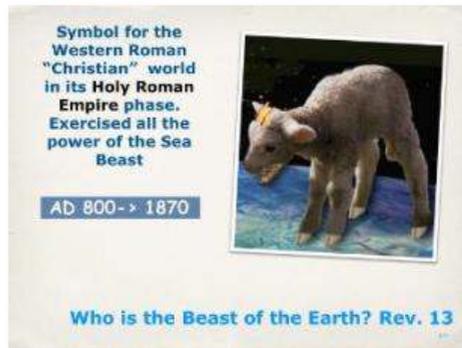
*And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,*

*And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; Rev. 13:11-14*

This Beast of the Earth had lamb's horns—appeared very gentle, but, it spake like the Dragon, with great power. It represented an ecclesiastical power—the Papal system, but linked with a Beast which arose from the Earth. Unlike the Sea Beast which was linked to the Mediterranean, this arose from Central Europe. It deceived people with its words. Through the strategy of working with the Frankish Emperors, who then became the German Emperors, the Papacy was able to amass great power and control. The two horns—the two sources of power—represented the Pope and the Germanic Emperor. This was the Holy Roman Empire of the Germanic Peoples to give it its full title when the system was at its greatest power.

### Pope Leo Crowns Charlemagne

Ravenna was an influential city to the north of Rome and the seat of the Byzantine governor (exarch) of Italy, known as the Exarchate of Ravenna. It had fallen under the control of the Lombards in AD 758. The Pope Stephen was greatly concerned and sought help from Pepin, the King of the Franks (France). He duly obliged and by 774 had conquered the Lombards. This was the third of the three horns on the Beast of the Sea which had fallen, opening the way for the little horn of Daniel's 4<sup>th</sup> Beast to develop. Charlemagne, Pepin's son followed in



his father's footsteps and supported the Papacy. He was rewarded when Pope Leo III crowned him as Emperor on 25<sup>th</sup> December 800. Following this the Emperor in Constantinople brought presents to Charlemagne, thus recognising his position as Emperor in the West.

### The Image of the Beast

We cut our quotation above part way through ch 13:14. It continued:

*...that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.*

*And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.*

*And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:*

*And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.*

*Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six.*

*Rev. 13:14-18*

This was a parallel development. When Pepin defeated the Lombards he gave their territory to the Pope who then had his own little empire of Papal States. This was the Image of the Beast and the Pope ruled over these as a king. Anyone living in these territories lived under Church rule and woe

betide any who disputed Papal authority. All this unravelled in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Holy Roman Empire was dissolved in 1806 during the Napoleonic Wars and when the Pope lost his territory to the Italian Republic in 1870, he had no temporal power left.

When we come to Revelation ch. 16 we find that there is still a Beast system, in spite of the fact that the previous Beasts had all come to an end. What we are seeing in Europe is a short-lived reviving of the Beast of the Earth, whereby the Pope and a German-led EU wield their influence over Western Europe. The developments in Europe with the greater cooperation between the Papacy and the EU is a prelude to the final Beast system of Revelation ch. 17, which reaches its climax after Armageddon. The political scene will then be greatly changed. The military might of the Dragon power will have been destroyed on the mountains of Israel as a result of Armageddon. The Lord Jesus will have been accepted by the Jews remaining in the land of



Israel as their Messiah. The Lord Jesus will then be sitting on his throne and the everlasting gospel will be proclaimed calling on the nations to submit to His rule. In the language of Psalm 2, the nations will rage at what they will term Antichrist. We have just had an inkling of this when the nations protested at President Trump's Declaration that Jerusalem is the capital of Israel.

### The Beast and its Harlot Rider

The second phase of the Battle (War) of that Great Day (Rev. 16:14) takes place in Europe, as who-ever will be the Pope at that time, will rally Europe to stand against what they consider to be a false ruler who claims to be Israel's Messiah. The picture given in Revelation ch. 17 is of the Papal Woman controlling the European Beast as the *eighth head* manifestation, or type of government of the Roman Beast, described thus:

*And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition.*

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

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

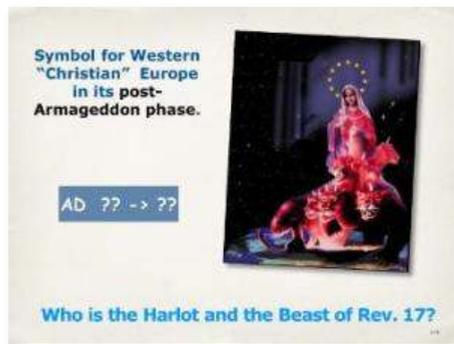
*These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful. Rev. 17:11-14*

The Harlot rider's link to Babylon could not be clearer! Emblazoned on her forehead was a name written:

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

She sits in the seven-hilled city—Rome, committing fornication with the *Kings of the earth*.

This is the final phase of the Beast. It will be destroyed by the Lord Jesus with the saints and faithful Jews. This terrible system will come to an end, so that at long last, God's Kingdom can fill the earth.



This phase lasts one Apocalyptic<sup>1</sup> Hour. Taking the Bible usage of one day to represent 12 hours (Joh. 11:9) then, on a day-for-a-year basis, an hour would be one twelfth of a year—a month. However, in Apocalyptic symbols when the symbol is a period shorter than a year, one has to apply the day-for-a-year principal a second time. Instead of taking an hour as one twelfth of a year, (360 days), one takes it as one twelfth of 360 days of years, (i.e. 360 years) thus making 30 years. Certainly, this is required in Rev. 8:1 where there was *silence in heaven about the space of half an hour*. A period of 14 years fits its fulfilment, being *about* 15 years, which would be exactly half an hour on this double calculation. It seems reasonable to look to a thirty-year period as *the one hour* of the last phase of the Beast's existence. The destruction of this system is described in Revelation ch. 14 under the second of two "harvests". The first is described in Rev. 14:14-16 as the harvest of the earth, where the nations are to be cut with a sickle, i.e. the corn harvest. This was followed by a second harvest, Rev. 14:17-20; the treading of the grapes. In the natural world the corn and wine harvests are separated by two or three months. The first harvest corresponds to Armageddon in the land of Israel; the second to the destruction of the Beast and its Papal rider in Europe.

Let us link the Beasts with Nebuchadnezzar's Image.

### The Beasts and Nebuchadnezzar's Image

The Image represents the Babylonian-Medo-Persian-Greek-Roman Kingdom of Men in its final phase. It is controlled by the False Prophet and propelled to its destination, the land of Israel, by its two feet, representing the Beast and the Dragon as the final development of the two legs. The initial destruction on the mountains of Israel is predominately that of the Dragon's military might, though Europe will also be there. With the Dragon power destroyed, it will leave the False Prophet and the Beast. It is not too difficult to picture a rallying cry to unite together under the Papal banner to oppose this growing power in Israel who is demanding the world's obedience. The Harlot will ride the Beast. (17:3)



### Legs Ending, Feet Beginning

It is tempting to think that there is a big gap from the ending of the Legs of the Image and the forming of the Feet. Interestingly, as preparations were being made under angelic hands for the establishment of a Jewish State, the

<sup>1</sup> An alternative word for the Book of Revelation is *The Apocalypse*, which is the Greek word for Revelation. Apocalyptic is that which belongs to this book.

same angelic hands were bringing about the transition between the Legs and the Feet and Toes. After some revival under the Hapsburg Emperors, the Western Leg finally ended with the resignation of the last Emperor, Charles I in 1918. There was a strong attempt by Hitler to re-establish the German Reich (Empire), but having laid the foundational plans for it, his armies were defeated, and his plans came to naught. Well not quite; what we know as the EU of today had its origins in Hitler's plans. But Israel had to be a nation and in possession of Jerusalem before the final stages could develop. Britain joined the Common Market in 1973. What is now apparent is that the angels put Britain there to act as a brake on the EU's progress towards a United States of Europe—a revived Beast system. Now the time has arrived, and we shall see in the next chapter the rapid progress that is unfolding, now that Britain has said she wants to leave.



When we look at the other Leg, we see that it came to an end at the same time. WWI which led to Britain's control of Palestine, also resulted in the overthrow of the Russia Tsars, Nicholas II and his family were executed in 1918 and Communist rule took over. Again, we can see that this was a temporary stopgap, until the time had come for the Babylonian tree (Dan 4) to re-grow. For 70 years the Soviet Union continued, until, with the help of the Roman Pope, Communism was overthrown, and Russia returned to similar ways as under the Tsars. As we saw in Part 2, Church and State work side-by-side.

## Chapter 8

[back to contents](#)

# THE EUROPEAN BEAST IN A POST-BREXIT WORLD

*Britain has not yet left the EU, and negotiations are proving troublesome, but the EU is pressing ahead with her plans for a future United States of Europe, knowing that Britain cannot overturn them. We are expecting Germany to be the dominant power as it was under the Beast of the Earth phase. We start by looking at the rise of Germany.*

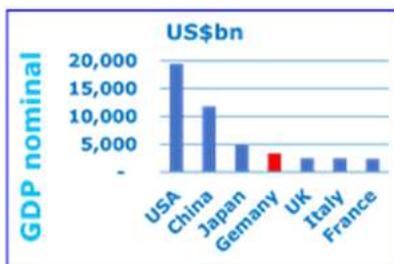
## The German Reichs

The Nazis regarded their Empire as the 3<sup>rd</sup> Reich. The German word “Reich” is often translated “Empire”, but that is a different word, and is associated with there being an Emperor. “Realm”, “domain” are more faithful to the German according to *Wikipedia*—I am no linguist! To Hitler, the 1<sup>st</sup> Reich ran from AD 800 (Emperor Charlemagne) or 962 (Emperor Otto) to 1806 (Emperor Francis II). The 2<sup>nd</sup> Reich 1871 (Kaiser Wilhelm I) to 1918 (Kaiser Wilhelm II) and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Reich 1933 (Chancellor Hitler) to 1945. The history of Germany, from a Biblical perspective, is undoubtedly linked to the Holy Roman Empire. This has been part of the iron of the Image’s Western Leg.

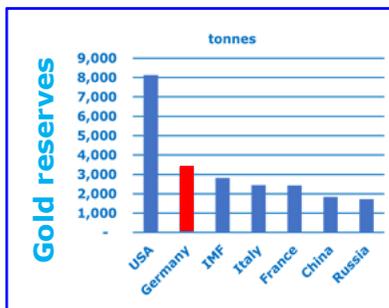
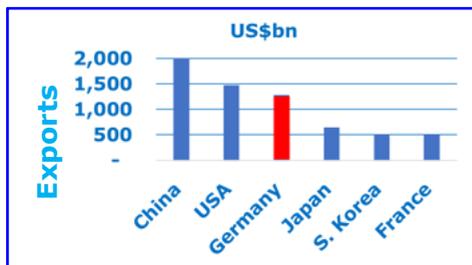
## The Remarkable Rise of Germany

Having suffered three major defeats in the past 200 years, the rise of Germany has been quite remarkable as this series of charts illustrates.

Since reunion with East Germany in 1990, Germany is the biggest member of the EU (followed by France and UK).



Her GDP ranks her as No. 4 in the world and in the exports market she is No.3. One of the interesting things is how she has accumulated gold reserves, ranking No. 2. Germany has been keen to strengthen links with Russia. Following the construction of



*Nord Stream* which supplies Russian gas directly into Germany via twin pipelines running on the Baltic seabed, Germany and Russia are now in advanced talks to lay two more pipes. The rest of the EU is unhappy at this dependence on Russian energy, but Germany is probably too powerful to prevent this being built.

### Angela Merkel's Leadership Test

Angela Merkel, Germany's Chancellor was again voted by Forbes as the world's most powerful woman—admittedly this was before the German elections in September where she suffered falling support and came out with fewer parliamentary seats. Like Mrs May in the UK, the voters were not kind to her; “Bitter Victory” and “Day of Judgment” were some of the German papers' headlines. As German political parties are such that none commands a majority, a coalition is needed. The number of seats in the German Bundestag depends on the election results and how many parties reach 5% of the total votes. The 2013 Bundestag had 613 seats, the 2017 Bundestag will have 709. In addition, Ms Merkel's Christian Democratic Union of Germany Party (CDU) works hand-in-hand with her Bavarian sister party the Christian Social Union (CSU). They do not compete with each other, forming one group in the Bundestag.

The CDU/CSU share of the seats is 246, a fall of 65 seats. Her main coalition partners, the Social Democratic Party (SDP) won 153 seats, a fall of 40 seats. They have refused to form a coalition again, blaming their poor performance on their linkage with Ms Merkel's party. For several months she tried to form a coalition with two smaller parties, but this eventually unravelled. Faced with the prospect of fresh elections, or working again with the SDP, she decided to try again. At the year-end, the matter is being reconsidered by the party leader Martin Schulz. He wants much closer integration of the EU members—a United States of Europe by 2025, a step that Angela Merkel fears would jeopardise Germany's prosperity.



It must be significant that at this critical time with the Brexit negotiations, Germany has been paralysed. Depending on which parties she can find to join her will dictate the direction that she will seek for Germany.

Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg, a member of the CSU party, was Germany's charismatic Defence Minister before his political downfall in 2011, over plagiarism in his university doctoral dissertation. He moved with his family to the US, but was asked to come back in September and deliver a couple of speeches in support of Ms. Merkel. This he duly did and was rapturously received in front of record audiences. There is still much speculation as to whether he will be called back to support Angela Merkel's government. He would be a very popular choice. The House of Guttenberg stretches back to 1158 and was given the rank of Baron in 1700 by the Holy Roman Emperor, Leopold I. These titles were abolished in the Weimar Constitution of 1919. His wife Stephanie is a great-great-granddaughter of Otto von Bismarck, the first Chancellor of Germany. (*Wikipedia*)

### Austrian Elections

Following the German elections in September, Austria held theirs in October. This brought the Austrian People's Party (ÖVP) as the main party winning 62 of the 183 seats. Traditionally the Austrian government is a coalition, but only needs to bring one party on board. The new Chancellor of Austria is Sebastian Kurz, who, at the age of 31, is the youngest head of government in Europe, forming a government with the right-wing FPÖ (Freedom Party of Austria). A devout Roman Catholic, his party's victory was widely acclaimed.



On his trip to Brussels on October 19, Kurz was treated like a king. *Bild* reported: He is the shooting star of the European political scene. *The Trumpet* 23-Oct-17

Kurz: “What has shaped Europe, what has shaped Austria? We have a culture shaped by our Judaeo-Christian heritage and the Enlightenment—and this culture needs protecting, especially at a time of high and rising immigration.” *Catholic Herald* 10-Nov-17

He is credited with stopping the tide of migrants, which also helped greatly reduce the numbers transiting to Germany. As Foreign Minister, in the spring of 2016, he closed the “Balkan route” by which hundreds of thousands of migrants had illegally crossed into Austria. (*Catholic Herald* 10-Nov-17)

## Emmanuel Macron Wins a Majority, Though not a Record One

Following Mrs May’s snap election in June, the next major European elections were the French legislative elections. There are two parts to the French election process, first France votes for its leader—Emmanuel Macron beat Marine Le Pen to be president. Then follow legislative elections. Macron’s newly formed (April 2016) party *La République En Marche!* (The Republic onwards!) swept into power.

La République En Marche! rejects conservative values and is a pro-European progressive movement that accepts globalization and wants to “modernize” and moralize French politics. The movement generally accepts members from other parties at a higher rate than other political parties in France and does not impose any fees on members who want to join.

The party is seen as the most pro-European party in France. *Wikipedia* Accessed 08-Dec-17

The final piece of France’s electoral puzzle fell into place on Sunday evening, when voters handed Emmanuel Macron’s party a solid majority of seats in the National Assembly. After polling stations closed on June 18<sup>th</sup>, it soon became clear that La République En Marche! (LRM), the president’s political movement, had won about 359 of the 577 seats. This gives Mr Macron a handsome working majority with which to start work on his programme of reforms.

Yet the underlying picture is nonetheless extraordinary. A centrist political movement that did not exist 15 months ago is about to take over the legislature. Starting Monday, scores of

freshly elected deputies who have never run for election before, among them entrepreneurs, teachers and farmers, will step inside the National Assembly. The centre-right Republicans and their allies, who once believed they would sweep to victory this year after five years of Socialist rule, are expected to hold on to an estimated 131 seats. They will become the main opposition party, but with reduced numbers. The Socialists lost 90% of their seats, having kept just 29. “The collapse of the Socialist Party is beyond doubt,” said Jean-Christophe Cambadélis, who resigned as party leader. *The Economist* 19-Jun-17

## Germany Quietly Working to Unite European Militaries

Following Hitler’s defeat and Europe’s desire to prevent Germany re-emerging as a strong power again, Germany was happy to keep a low-profile



for many years. As a new generation of Germans grows up who have not experienced WWII, the pressure has mounted for Germany to lift her head up and play her role in a modern world. The German army is now second only to France.

The EU does have its own army—Eurocorps. It has 1,000 staff at HQ and France and Germany share 5,000 troops. Against the might of Russia this is puny. France and Germany have been frustrated at building a real EU army. One of the great problems is that most countries have their own arms industry and with no common standards, each country has been wanting its own version of a piece of hardware such as tanks. Britain has frustrated plans for an EU army, instead encouraging reliance on NATO. However,

following Mr Trump's visit to Europe and his insistence that Europe must contribute their fair share to NATO's costs, Angela Merkel made it clear that as far as the EU was concerned they could not rely on NATO to defend them. With Britain leaving they must seize the moment to build up their own defence forces.

German Defense Minister Ursula von der Leyen is working "behind the scenes" to bring European armies together, *Spiegel Online* reported December 27. She is doing this by creating a network of training facilities across the Continent in which officers and soldiers learn to operate within the military organization of their European Union neighbors.

This is laying the groundwork for a European army in a very practical way.

The Bundeswehr currently has 24 training facilities that are open to soldiers from other EU member states. German soldiers are visiting 55 training facilities of other armies across Europe, from Albania to Spain, *Spiegel Online* reported. *The Trumpet* 08-Jan-18

Smaller EU members have already turned to Germany and put their troops under German control. The majority of the Dutch army is now under German command. Germany and Poland are beginning to integrate their troops, as also Romania and the Czech Republic are bringing their brigades into the German army. (*The Trumpet* 20-Jul-17)



## EU Leaders Hail ‘Historic Step’ in Defence Cooperation

The 27 EU member countries laid the foundations for a European army, by agreeing to a common defence fund.

EU leaders hailed as “historic” the decision taken at the Council summit on Thursday (22<sup>nd</sup> June) to establish permanent European defence cooperation. French President Emmanuel Macron, for whom this is the first EU summit, praised Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker for his role as architect of the project.

As expected, EU leaders endorsed summit conclusions on security and defence, with a first part dedicated to new measures in the fight against terrorism and a second to external security and defence.

Probably the biggest advancement is the decision to launch Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO). Dubbed “the sleeping beauty” of the Lisbon Treaty, PESCO is expected to become a game changer in European security.

EU leaders also welcomed the Commission’s communication on a European Defence Fund, composed of a research arm and a military capability arm.

Council President Donald Tusk called the decisions “a historic step”, because he believes such cooperation will allow **the EU to move towards deeper integration in defence**. He said that every EU country was invited to join. *Euractiv* 22-Jun-17

## EU Takes Step Towards Joint Army

In November the EU took another significant step forward.

Twenty three of the twenty-eight EU member states (soon to be 27 without the UK) agreed to proceed along the pathway of an EU army. They put their signatures to a draft agreement in Brussel on 14-Nov-17. This will turn into a legally binding commitment when it is discussed at the December Summit meeting. Britain, Denmark, Ireland, Malta, and Portugal stayed out, though Ireland said that by December they might be willing to add their signature.

The Permanent Structured Cooperation on Defense agreement (commonly known as PESCO), which is part of a broader effort to wean the European Union off its reliance on the US military and to showcase the bloc’s solidarity in the wake of the Brexit. The pact also seeks to remove the inefficiencies of multiple EU countries spending money to develop the same thing. At a time when financial or institutional reforms are controversial, defense is one of the few areas where most EU member states can reach an understanding. *Stratfor* 13-Nov-17

EU foreign relations chief Federica Mogherini called it an “emotional moment”. “An inspiration for other areas of [EU] integration.”

Sigmar Gabriel, the German Foreign Minister, called it “a milestone in European development”.

Monday’s defence accord is to see participating states jointly develop rapid reaction forces and new materiel such as tanks and drones. It will also see them create single European logistics and medical support hubs.

It involves binding national plans to increase defence spending and military R&D.

It will also be backed up by previous EU decisions to create a single hub for overseas military training missions and a €5.5 billion fund to help member states buy high-end weapons.

The military push, first envisaged by pro-EU politicians in the 1950s, was designed to show European unity in the face of Brexit.

The final shape of the project was less ambitious than some EU states, such as France and Italy, had called for. *EUObserver* 13-Nov-17

### More European, More Connected and More Capable

The Munich Security Conference is an annual independent forum which brings together about 350 senior figures from more than 70 countries. In addition, it holds roundtable discussions.

How should European states spend their defense budgets to make European defense policy more effective and efficient? How can they harness the synergies that come from more common defense planning and procurement? These were among the key questions at the center of two MSC events in Berlin on November 30—one discussion open to the general public, and one four-hour off-the-record roundtable for experts and decision-makers. The events also featured the presentation of a new MSC report on European defense capabilities. *Munich Security Conference* 05-Dec-17

For the past five years they have been working with McKinsey & Co to advise the EU on defence matters. A 46-page report was issued just before this conference and is summarised in this chart.



In the preface the chairman made this point.

We are almost 500 million Europeans and still largely depend on 330 million Americans for protection and for diplomatic initiatives that are essential for European security. This is unsustainable. We need and want the United States as a close ally. But we need to do better ourselves.

I was thrilled to see that past analyses that originated from our cooperation made their way into the core of the European debate on defense. Our findings—for instance, about the fragmentation of European capabilities and about the annual savings potential if European countries organized defense procurement jointly—have been widely used in public appearances and official documents by defense ministers and other European leaders.

Things are moving forward rapidly. Both Rev. ch's 16 and 17 indicate that the Beast makes war against the Lamb at Armageddon and beyond. Clearly the Beast system needs an army to do this, and we are seeing this being built.

### Towards the United States of Europe

Over the past 60 years, the Common Market/EU has made steady steps towards the ultimate goal—the United States of Europe. Such ideas were dismissed as British scare stories, yet from a Biblical perspective it is required.

The Roman Catholic founding fathers of the EU had this bold vision of a United States of Europe, but they realised that nations would be reluctant to give up their sovereignty, so deceit was the way to sell the dream. The chief architect of Europe was Jean Monnet of France. This is an extract from an article by Christopher Booker who co-authored the book *The Great Deception* first published in 2003. The article was written for the *Daily Mail* 31-Dec-12, on the occasion of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Britain joining the EU.



The real story, surprisingly, goes back to the 1920s, when a senior League of Nations official, Frenchman Jean Monnet, first began to dream of building a 'United States of Europe', very much on the lines that decades later would shape the European Union as it is today.

After World War II, Monnet, by then the second most powerful man in France, finally set the project on its way. He knew there was no chance of bringing such an astonishingly ambitious vision into being all at once. So his plan was that it should gradually be constructed, piece by stealthy

piece, without ever declaring too openly what was intended to be its ultimate goal.

At first it should be presented as just a trading arrangement, the ‘Common Market’ set up in 1957 by the Treaty of Rome. But the essence of that Treaty was to create the core institutions of what Monnet always intended should one day be the ‘Government of Europe’.

Thus, stealthily assembled over decades, would this new ‘country called Europe’ finally take its place on the world stage. What we found most shocking in researching this story was that, when Britain’s leaders first considered joining the project, they were made fully aware of this hidden agenda.

In Macmillan’s words, to admit ‘the political objectives’ of the Rome Treaty would raise ‘problems of public relations’ so ‘considerable’ that they should be kept under wraps. It was vital to emphasise only the economic advantages of British entry.

The “Monnet method” (or *engrenage*—gearing) is spelled out in the book *The Great Deception*, by Christopher Booker and Richard North.

There would never be any single, clear definition of these terms. But every ‘project’ insider would know what was meant by *engrenage*, or ‘gearing’. It provided a blanket word to describe all those various techniques whereby the ‘project’ could advance what was really its only underlying national powers. Each new advance it made would merely be regarded as a means of gearing up for the next. Each new addition to its competences might begin with a small, innocuous-seeming proposal to which nobody could object; until the principle was conceded and those powers could then be steadily enlarged. Each new problem or setback could be used as a ‘beneficial crisis’ to justify further extending the Commission’s powers to provide the remedy.

Thus, brick by brick, would the great supranational structure be assembled. Above all it would be vital never to define too clearly what was the ‘project’s’ ultimate goal, for fear this would arouse the countervailing forces which might seek to sabotage it before it was complete.

In this sense, an intention to obscure and to deceive was implicit in the nature of the ‘project’ from the moment it was launched. This habit of concealment was to remain such a defining characteristic of the ‘project’ that it would come increasingly to affect all those caught in its spell. *Page 583 The Great Deception*

This project has had the support of successive Popes who have called for greater integration of Europe.

## Pope Francis: ‘Europe Must Be Federal’

*Federal* is to “act in concert or unite in a common purpose or belief.”

Eugenio Scalfari, the 93-year-old La Repubblica journalist writes that he told Pope Francis that Europe must become a federal state if it is to deal with the ongoing migrant crisis, to which the Pope responded, “True, I have repeatedly raised this.”

Pope Francis then continued, “The countries [of Europe] will act if they recognise one truth: either Europe becomes a federal community or it will no longer count for anything in the world.” *Catholic Herald* 11-Jul-17

The call for a United States of Europe has increasingly been heard in 2017.

It began with the Rome conference held in March to celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> birthday of the EU. We have referred to this already in chapter 5 when we were looking at the Roman Catholic links with the EU. We now look at it from the EU’s viewpoint. There was a joint declaration made at the end of their birthday party. John Redwood, an UK MP who writes an interesting daily diary on EU matters had this to say under this headline:

### “The Construction of European Unity is a Bold Far Sighted Endeavour”

Now we know what the EU wants without the UK. The Rome Declaration signed last week-end sets out the full scheme for the Union. It is as Eurosceptics described. It is certainly not the minimalist EU based around a single market of Mr Blair and Mr Brown’s imagining.

As the Declaration says, “We have built a unique Union with common institutions and strong values”. “Unity is both a necessity and our free choice.” “Our Union is undivided and indivisible.” “We will make the European Union stronger and more resilient through ever greater unity and solidarity amongst us and the respect of common rules.”

The document sets out four large areas where the Union will now be strengthened. The first is freedom of movement of people, combined with promises of new border arrangements and an EU wide policy towards external migrants. The second is the single currency which will be “stable and further strengthened”. There is no mention of countries opting out. The third is a social Europe, with EU wide benefit and social policies. The fourth is “a stronger Europe in the global scene” “committed to



strengthening its common security and defence” with a common defence supply industry.

So there we have it. It was the creation of a large new state after all. Surely now, no-one can doubt that the EU is so much more than a set of laws regulating trade and commerce? Why did so many UK politicians try and pretend this was just a business or commercial arrangement? As this declaration reminds us in a timely way, at the heart of the EU is the strong desire to **create a single country**. It will have common borders, one currency, one foreign policy and one social policy. It will have its own energy policy, its own transport policy. Indeed, it has much of that already. It is only those who refuse to read EU documents who can think otherwise.  
*John Redwood Diary 26-Mar-17*

The next big step towards the United States of Europe was when the President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, delivered the annual “State of the Union” speech. Last year it was very downbeat as Britain had just voted to leave and the economy was shaky. Since then there has been better economic news.

Mr Juncker was very upbeat this year. The “wind was in the EU sails”, now was the time for pressing on with further integration. This Latvian cartoonist captured the spirit of Juncker’s speech as Europe sails away from her links to the UK.

In his vision for Europe, the Council President called for a “stronger economic and monetary union”. All members must join the euro. A European Defence Union should be in place by 2025. He saw stronger cross-border policing with a European Public Prosecutor “able to pursue cross-border crimes”.

The *Daily Telegraph*’s cartoonist depicted Mr Juncker as a Roman General addressing his people. A very apt depiction in the light of the Roman origins of the emerging United States of Europe.

### Macron Seeks Far-reaching EU Overhaul

Two weeks later it was the turn of the new French President to set out his plans for Europe.



French president Emmanuel Macron laid out an overhaul of the EU to make it more integrated, more democratic, and more competitive.

“The only way to ensure our future is to rebuild a sovereign, united and democratic Europe”, he said.

Multi-speed Europe: He said that he wanted the EU to launch a “group for the rebuilding of Europe” that would include countries that are willing to move forward and would work with EU institutions.

Macron insisted on European cultural heritage and the need to develop a European education system. “The Europe of multilingualism is a chance,” he said.

He said that by 2024, all European students should speak at least two languages and that half of Europeans under 25—students and apprentices alike—should have spent at least six months in another country.

He proposed to create European universities and develop the harmonisation and recognition of diplomas in the secondary education.

The EU would include a more integrated eurozone with its own budget and a Finance Minister held responsible by a eurozone Parliament. The budget would be funded by a tax on internet companies, “green tax”, and a future harmonised corporation tax. *EUObserver* 26-Sep-17

His dream fitted that of the founding fathers: remove national barriers, make it citizens think as Europeans. It would be a long road, but by working through students at “European” universities, this would be speeded up.

### **The Grand Plans to Renew the European Union**

The European Commission’s own press release 24-Oct-17 was entitled: [Commission Work Programme 2018: An agenda for a more united, stronger and more democratic Europe](#). The Commission is anxious to implement the 10 key ideas in Juncker’s State of the Union speech as quickly as possible. It lists 66 “Priority pending proposals requiring swift adoption by the Parliament and Council.” This includes defence matters, and what it terms “European political parties and European political foundations.”



**Chapter 9**[back to contents](#)**Part 4: PROPHECIES CONCERNING ISRAEL,  
SHEBA AND DEDAN**

*Many are the prophecies that speak of Israel in these last days. We know from Ezekiel 38 that the nation is to be prosperous and a desirable prey and a spoil. This is very evident when we look at Israel today. We also see that Israel has many enemies. This was well illustrated when in December Mr Trump said that America would declare that Jerusalem was Israel's capital and that eventually the US Embassy would be moved there. There was a united chorus of condemnation from around the world at what Israel's detractors termed as an inflammatory statement.*

*We will start by looking at two prophecies given through Isaiah which are clearly latter-day.*

**Israel's State of Mind in the Latter-days**

Isaiah ch. 2 is a wonderful chapter, clearly latter-day because it opens with that beautiful picture of the nations coming to worship Israel's King in the Kingdom Age.

*And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it.*

*And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.*

*And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.*

*O house of Jacob, come ye, and let us walk in the light of the LORD.*  
*Isa. 2:2-5*

The last verse is a call to Israel to walk in God's ways. Why was this statement necessary? It is clear from the verses that follow, that Israel were and are deeply astray from trusting in God. It is sometimes hard to comprehend that, despite the remarkable progress Israel has made in economic terms, concerning righteousness, the majority are far away from their Maker. Let us see what Isaiah, through inspiration has to say about his people of the latter-days, prior to their change of heart when they are brought to recognise their Messiah.

*Therefore thou hast forsaken thy people the house of Jacob, because they be replenished from the east, and are soothsayers like the Philistines, and they please themselves in the children of strangers. Their land also is full of silver and gold, neither is there any end of their treasures; their land is also full of horses, neither is there any end of their chariots:*

*Their land also is full of idols; they worship the work of their own hands, that which their own fingers have made:*

*And the mean man boweth down, and the great man humbleth himself: therefore forgive them not. Isa. 2:6-9*

These are strong words. We know that God has forsaken His people. (v6) That is, in the sense that God still cares desperately for them and has brought them through fiery trials and ensured they have prospered back in their land, yet their hearts are not in tune with the ways of God. This is a generalisation. There are many, mainly settlers on the West Bank, whose study of the Torah has brought them much closer to God, and some have accepted that Jesus is their Messiah, but so often wrapped up with evangelical unsound doctrine. God knows that a period of trial will be necessary to renew Israel's hearts. The scale of that final testing is too much to contemplate, but God knows best, He never makes mistakes, and if the invasion and subsequent destruction of Israel is the only way to bring this transformation about, then we must accept it.

Notice how clearly this passage is indicating that they are trusting in their own strength:

- They are replenished from the east
- They are soothsayers like the Philistines
- They please themselves in children of strangers
- Their land is full of silver and gold
- Their land is full of horses and chariots
- And full of idols which they have made with own hands
- They worship these idols across the whole strata of Israel

Let us tease these points out. The *World English Bible* puts verse 6 like this.

*For you have forsaken your people, the house of Jacob, because they are filled from the east, with those who practice divination like the Philistines, and they clasp hands with the children of foreigners. Isa. 2:6 (WEB)*

**Goods from the east.** We shall see in the next chapter how Israel is not only reaching out to her eastern Arab nations, but further east to India, China and Japan; the land indeed is full of goods from the east. This little country is in the big country league. In earlier days the settlers cultivated the land and were dependent upon the Blessings of God. Now agriculture forms a very small part of their income and employment.

**Soothsayers like the Philistines.** Perhaps the hardest part to unravel. The Hebrew word for divination (AV. soothsayers) occurs 11 times. Translated in AV as *observer of times* 5 times; *soothsayers* twice; *enchanter, sorceress, cloud and Meonemin* once each. Strong's "a primitive root; to cover; to cloud over; figuratively, to act covertly, i.e. practise magic. There is a reference to the Philistines using diviners to determine how to return the Ark to Israel after their disastrous capture of it. (1 Sam. 6:2) Israel does pride itself on the quality of its Intelligence Service. The covert operations of Mossad have saved not only Israel but many other nations from terrorist attacks.



As Mr Netanyahu said to the French President, Emmanuel Macron, on his visit to Europe:

We cooperate on many areas, including security. As you well know, that cooperation has saved many lives. Israel has provided valuable intelligence to many countries in Europe and many countries outside Europe, that has prevented dozens of horrible terrorist attacks. *Prime Minister's Media Adviser* 10-Dec-17

**Please themselves in children of strangers.** Again, the WEB puts it, *they clasp hands with the children of foreigners*. They are doing deals with non-Jewish peoples. Traditionally Jews would mainly deal with Jews of another country. No longer, the world is their oyster and deals are being struck with Greece, Cyprus, the EU, the UK, as well as Arab nations, India, China, Japan.

**Land full of silver and gold.** She is relatively wealthy, in spite of being a small country, surrounded by enemies, necessitating high defence spending. In the 2017 estimated world rankings of GDP, Israel comes in at no. 32, just pipped by Norway, Austria and Iran, but higher than Hong Kong (33) South Africa (35) Denmark (38) and Ireland (39). (*Statistics Time* 23-Apr-17)

**Land full of horses and chariots.** In Isaiah's day these were what they trusted in for their defence. Israel no longer relies on these traditional forms of defence, but is a world-leader in developing super-sophisticated weaponry which is sought after by nations around the world. From cameras that can "see" through walls, to stealth coatings on tanks to make them "invisible", to Israeli-equipped F35 fighters that streak through the skies evading enemy radars, to spy satellites so that Israel can constantly peer into any part of the globe, but especially the Middle East. Her technology is world-beating.

**Full of idols which they have made with own hands.** Sadly Israel "worships" these idols which her own hands have made for their defence and security,

instead of looking to their Creator as the One who can save them, whose hand has been demonstrated on so many occasions in their “miraculous” victories.

**They all worship these idols across the whole strata of Israel.** High and low, rich and poor, find confidence in their ability to defend themselves. Israel ranked No 12 (out of 156) countries in a Happiness Index conducted in March 2017!

This is quite a stern warning to Israel that their trust is misplaced. We know that eventually it will lead to a period of peace and safety, or security as spoken of in Ezekiel 38:11. Although the Lord Jesus may well be back at this time, he is unknown to his nation at this stage. In ch 39:26 God describes this time of peace as being a *trespass in His Eyes!* In other-words it is brought about through Israel’s negotiations with the powers that be, rather than under the Lord Jesus. In fact, God allows the destruction of Israel as a nation, specifically to bring them to their knees. If they can’t defend themselves, who will? When they call out to God as being the only power to save them, then indeed God will be gracious to them. Their returned Messiah and an immortalised host of saints will have been prepared, ready to come to save God’s people from their foes.

It is neither scriptural nor logical for Israel to be invaded and destroyed as a nation **after** they have accepted the Lord Jesus as their Messiah and King. No! Christ returns first to prepare his household and then to save his nation.

An interesting insight into Israel of today is another passage from Isaiah.

*And it shall come to pass in that day, that the remnant of Israel, and such as are escaped of the house of Jacob, shall no more again **stay** [trust, rely] upon **him** that **smote them**; but shall **stay** upon the **LORD**, the Holy One of Israel, in truth. Isa. 10:20*

This is indicating that Israel is trusting in Russia, for we know from Ezekiel 38 that Gog is the one who leads many nations to smite Israel. They will find out that their trust was misplaced, they prove to be treacherous friends in the day when Gog *thinks an evil thought.* v10

We know how unusual the friendship is between Putin and Netanyahu. It stems from the help that Jewish neighbours gave to young Putin while his parents were at work. He has never forgotten their kindness and has many Jewish friends. We marvel at angelic hands engineering the circumstances, because one day this young lad would be the leader of Russia!

**A desirable spoil and a prey.**

*To take a spoil, and to take a prey; to turn thine hand upon the desolate places that are now inhabited, and upon the people that are gathered out of the nations, which have gotten cattle and goods, that dwell in the midst of the land. Eze. 38:12*

Israel's economy has grown rapidly as we shall see in the next chapter. *Spoil* is associated with *goods*, *prey* with *people*. We can see that there is a lot of *spoil* in this tiny piece of land, not least the huge reserves of gas which have been found in her territorial waters. Their technology is second to none and many countries would like to lay their hands on it. Knowing that Russia is the main party in Israel's invasion, we see what a desirable *prey* Israel would be. Putin has put control of energy as one of his priorities; the power that controls the gas and oil "taps" is in a strong and controlling position!

But why would they want to take a *prey*? At the end of WWII there was a big competition between the Americans and the Soviet to take to work for them German scientists who had pioneered, among other things, rocket science. These laid the foundations of both the US and Russian space race.

Today the Israelis have developed cutting edge solutions to many military needs. For example, they have developed the technology to be able to overcome the radar detection on the Russian S-400 anti-aircraft systems. To be able to lay hold on this technology would be a big boost to Russia's military strength.

### Peace and Safety

Ezekiel makes it clear that at the time of Gog's invasion of Israel, there is a time that is described as Israel dwelling *safely*.

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

Strong's concordance gives for *safely*, "properly, a place of refuge; abstract, safety, both the fact (security) and the feeling (trust)". Israel, at the time of their invasion are dwelling at a time when walls, bars and gates are not apparently necessary, and they feel confident in their security. This would appear to echo words of Paul to the Thessalonians.

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

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

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

*But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. 1 Thes. 5:1-4*

Paul was giving this warning to those who were facing the events of AD 70, when they thought that following the summons to Rome of the Roman army's general, Vespasian and the withdrawal of their siege of Jerusalem, that they were now safe.

In the light of Ezekiel 38 it would appear that a similar situation arises with Israel's enemies subdued, leading to a false sense of security on Israel's part. We see in the next chapter how the events of this year have made such a scenario much more likely than would ever be thought possible a year or two ago.

## Sheba and Dedan

Ezekiel 38:13 makes clear that not everyone is happy with the Gogian invasion of Israel. She does have some friends who protest—see slide.

Who are represented by these nations? The Bible speaks of two sets of Sheba and Dedan brothers and a further Sheba. The passages are tabulated in the chart alongside. One pair of brothers were descended from Shem and the other from Ham. The other Sheba was also from Shem. It is important to note how many generations from their common ancestor Noah they were. The sons of Noah replenished the earth, building towns and moving onwards and outwards from Ararat. By the time Abraham's grandsons Sheba and Dedan were born, there had been 12 generations filling the earth. (See slide) The significance of this will become apparent shortly.

Let's try and trace them as best we can—extra information is on the three slides on next page. Starting with the closest in generations to Noah who would be the earliest settlers. Ham's great grandsons moved southwards, Dedan to the Bahrain and Sheba to what is Yemen of today. It appears from history that the later Shebas also moved into this region. Shem's great, great grandson Joktan had 13 children. (Gen 10:26-29) Joktan left his name to the city of Jectan not far from Jeddah in Saudi Arabia of today. Joktan's 13 sons seem to have been powerful and the true Arabs trace their ancestry to him and regard those living in the region who are not of Joktan's descent as

Sheba, Dedan, the merchants of Tarshish, and all their young lions, will say to you [Gog], "Have you come to take plunder?" Eze 38:13 RV

Clearly these 4 groups are opposed to Gog's invasion of Israel!



Sheba, Dedan, Tarshish, young lions

<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Gen 25:1-3</p> <p>Then again Abraham took a wife, and her name was Keturah. And she bare him Zimran, and Jokshan, and Medan, and Midian, and Ishbak, and Shuah.</p> <p>3 And Jokshan begat Sheba, and Dedan. And the sons of Dedan were Asshurim, and Letushim, and Leummim.</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Semitic (from Shem) also:</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Gen 10:21-28</p> <p>And the sons of Shem; ...Arphaxad ...; his son Salah; his son Eber; his son Joktan; his son Sheba + Ophir + Havilah etc</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Gen 10:6-8</p> <p>And the sons of Ham; Cush, and Mizraim, ...</p> <p>7 And the sons of Cush; Seba, and Havilah, and Sabtah, and Raamah, ... and the sons of Raamah; Sheba, and Dedan.</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Hamitic (from Ham)</p>
--	--

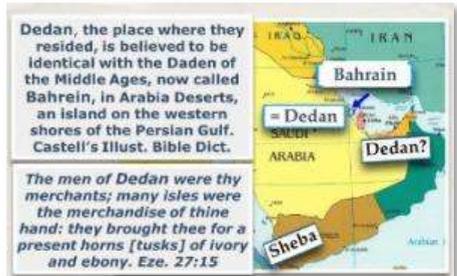


Musta'rans ("pretend Arabs"). So the Sheba, Havilah and Ophir brothers took over the south of the Arabian Peninsula (today's Yemen) and across into North Africa. This Sheba seems to be the "Queen of Sheba's" ancestor. They absorbed the people of the area and continued their trade in gold and spices as detailed in the trade in Ezekiel's day with Tyre. (Eze. 27:22) Raamah was the father of the original Sheba.

Abraham's grandson Dedan lived in northern Saudi Arabia at Al Ula, not far from Teman. This is confirmed with pottery bearing graffiti found here—see slide. They were noted traders in Tyre's fairs *for precious clothes for chariots*. Eze. 27:20 Egypt was noted for horses and chariots, so being on the main trade route running up from Sheba in the south to Egypt and linking with the highway from Egypt up to Damascus and onwards, this would enable Dedan to supply furnishings to Egypt's chariot industries as well as Tyre's markets. As for his brother Sheba, commentators place him down in the south mingling with the other Shebas!

Bringing them together paints a picture of the Gulf Region. They were maritime and trading nations, and this is what we find today in the Gulf region. Their interplay with the *Merchants of Tarshish and her young lions* we will look at under Part 6.

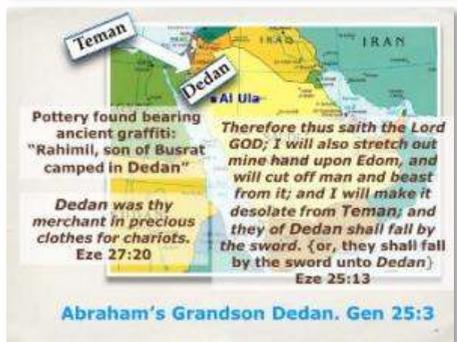
*We now look at how these prophecies concerning Israel and her Arab neighbours are working out today. A thrilling picture is emerging.*



Ham's Gt. Gr'sons Sheba & Dedan Gen 10:8



Joktan's Sheba & brothers. Gen 10:28



Abraham's Grandson Dedan. Gen 25:3

## Chapter 10

[back to contents](#)

# ISRAEL AND SHEBA AND DEDAN—A GROWING FRIENDSHIP

*What a changed landscape we see in the Middle East of today. Israel is growing stronger economically, able to reach out as a minnow to the big trading fish in the world's seas. Her military prowess has humbled her enemies. A growing number of nations now count Israel as their friend on the basis of a shared common enemy in Iran. The Palestinian Peace Talks have come to naught as Abbas shows that he is not interested in peace but in seeing Israel driven out of the land. Iran has set up a huge digital countdown clock to show when this will happen. They cannot be too confident as zero-hour lies many years into the future!*

*Israel's economy is benefitting from the Tamar gas supplies. Coal fired power stations are being switched to run on gas and air pollution levels are already improving. Work is now starting on Israel's giant Leviathan gas field. First gas is due onshore in 2019. This will put Israel in the position of an energy exporter, able to reward those nations prepared to stand by her by supplying their energy needs.*

*Relations between Israel and the Palestinians has not been good. The attempt by Israel to increase security on the Temple Mount region brought bloodshed and demonstrations, as did President Trump's Declaration of Jerusalem being Israel's capital. Internal conflicts between Hamas and Fatah caused some of their energies to be turned against themselves. Israel seems to have at last cracked the detection and destruction of terrorist tunnels crossing under the border of Gaza and Israel. Following the Iron Dome becoming so effective against Hamas' rockets, tunnel building was their weapon of last resort. Now that seems to have had its day and there is little appetite to provoke Israel to battle.*

*We will begin by looking at the energy situation in Israel.*

### Gas, a Power to Transform

Gas began to flow from Tamar gas field in 2013, Israel's largest gas field at the time, which has now been dwarfed by Leviathan. Tamar is supplying about 10 bn M<sup>3</sup> of gas a year and the demand for gas is growing as Israel switches from imported oil and coal for power generation. After a pause of several years while the Israeli government



sorted out just what proportion of gas they would allow gas-well developers to export and what price the government wanted to see paid for gas supplied to Israel, progress has restarted with the Leviathan field.

“Israel’s ability to export natural gas has provided a common interest for Israel and its neighbors, including Jordan, Egypt and Turkey,” said Binyamin Zomer, Nobel Energy’s Vice President. “Natural gas puts Israel in a new position as energy suppliers and not just energy consumers.”

In 2013, Israel adopted a gas export policy, allowing the country to export about 40% of newly discovered natural-gas reservoirs. Zomer said Israel has more natural gas than it can use.

Currently, the Tamar gas field supplies Israel with around 65% of its power needs. Critics have contended that the current reliance on one source is a national security risk. Zomer said Leviathan will provide Israel with additional energy security.

“We will be advancing this project as quickly as possible,” he said. Zomer added that in January 2018, approximately 80% of the equipment for the Leviathan Production Platform will be on location at the shipyard in Corpus Christi, Texas where the platform is being constructed.

Already, annual natural-gas consumption jumped from 8.4 bn M<sup>3</sup> in 2015, representing an 11% growth from 2014, according to a report by the Ministry. *Jerusalem Post* 11-Dec-17

The Leviathan owners are hoping to bring the first gas onshore at the end of 2019 as detailed in this *Globes* 23-Feb-17 report.

Leviathan’s initial development will include four subsea wells, each capable of flowing more than 8.5mill M<sup>3</sup> per day of natural gas. Production will be gathered at the field and delivered via two 73-mile flowlines to a fixed platform, with full processing capabilities, located approximately 6 miles off-shore. Processed gas will connect to the Israel Natural Gas Lines Ltd. onshore transportation grid in the northern part of the country and to regional markets via onshore export pipelines. *Globes* 23-Feb-17

Work is also proceeding on the Tanin and Karish fields. The Greek firm Energean Oil & Gas are in a 50/50 joint venture with UK-US private equity fund Kerogen Capital. They have secured agreements from sufficient future buyers for them to commit to further drilling and development with an eye to having gas available in 2020.

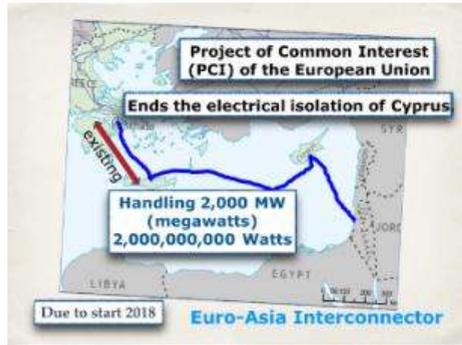
### **New Exploration Areas**

The Israeli government has held an auction for bids for licences to explore many of the remaining potential gas blocks. Response was disappointing, and the deadline was extended twice. Low energy prices, tensions in the

region and fears of Arab boycotts have made Israel less attractive. At the year-end the government awarded Energean a further five blocks and one to an India consortium. India was hoping to work in Iran, but talks have dragged on and Iranian demands have meant that it is no longer an attractive proposition. With Israel's blossoming friendship with India they have decided to invest in Israel instead.

### Exporting Energy

Over the past few years there have been discussions on how to export the surplus gas. One scheme is to convert it into electricity and export electricity via an undersea cable linking Israel to Cyprus to Crete and into an existing cable to take it to Greece. This Interconnector is at an advanced stage and is approved by the EU as it endeavours to diversify its energy sources.



Another idea is to build a pipeline that would link the energy supplies of Israel, Egypt and Cyprus and pipe them across to Greece, via Crete. This too has attracted a lot of interest. A much easier route is a pipeline to Turkey, which again could link up Egypt and Cyprus. The problem is Turkey's ongoing conflict with Cyprus—the island remains divided between Greece and Turkey. There are also the tensions between Turkey and Israel. It is difficult to foresee these problems being solved. President Erdoğan is foremost in his opposition to Mr Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

### Trump Recognises Jerusalem as Israel's Capital

During his election campaign, Mr Trump made it clear that he recognised Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and intended to arrange to move the American Embassy there. America has long acknowledged the reality of Israel's capital, but had feared an Arab backlash for such a move. It was back in 1995 that the American Congress adopted the Jerusalem Embassy Act, urging the US government to move the Embassy to Jerusalem. This had resulted ever since in a 6-monthly ritual of signing a waiver postponing this step.

Although Mr Trump has been in office for nearly a year, this matter has continued to be postponed. However, much to Israel's joy he at last signed the necessary recognition in December.

The president also announced that he has instructed the relevant teams to begin planning the relocation of the US Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, yet did not state when such a move will take place.

Finally, Trump stressed that the American recognition of Jerusalem is not tantamount to a position on the issue of Israeli borders and sovereignty in Jerusalem. Those, he said, will be decided upon in negotiations.

“It is time to officially recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel,” Trump said, adding that the move was “a long overdue step to advance the peace process” between Israel and the Palestinians.



Pres. Trump recognises Jerusalem 06-Dec

He said recognizing Jerusalem as Israel’s capital is not only a “necessary condition for achieving peace,” but also “in the best interests of the United States of America.” *Haaretz* 06-Dec-17

There was a storm of protest from the Palestinians. The lights of the Christmas tree in Bethlehem were extinguished, for a while, and Christmas celebrations were cancelled in Nazareth in protest! However, the threatened intifada has not materialised. Many Arab nations have been muted in their opposition, acknowledging the reality that they go to Jerusalem when they want to meet the Israeli government. Jerusalem has never been the capital city of the Palestinians. Even the call that this is the third holiest site for Moslems does not fit with history. Only after Israel’s capture of Jerusalem in 1967 did it suddenly assume importance in Moslem eyes.

Mr Netanyahu visited France to see President Macron and also held a meeting in Brussels with EU leaders, asking them to accept the reality of Jerusalem being Israel’s capital. It can be no true obstacle to peace talks as there can be no meaningful talks until Israel’s control of this city is recognised. It was telling that no EU leaders were prepared to agree with him! If we need evidence of the undercurrent of dislike for Israel, this brought matters to the fore. It reinforces the Biblical picture of Europe being part of the confederacy of nations that comes against Jerusalem.

When Russia announced in April that West Jerusalem was Israel’s capital, there was not a murmur against her!

In an unexpected, unprecedented and curious move, Moscow on Thursday said it considers West Jerusalem to be Israel’s capital, making Russia the first country in the world to extend such a recognition to any part of the city.

“We reaffirm our commitment to the UN-approved principles for a Palestinian-Israeli settlement, which include the status of East Jerusalem as the capital of the future Palestinian state. At the same time, we must

state that in this context we view West Jerusalem as the capital of Israel,” the Foreign Ministry in Moscow said in a statement. *Times of Israel* 06-Apr-17

### Islamic Summit on Jerusalem Showcases New Mideast Alliances

What was thrilling was a map produced by the *Jerusalem Post* showing those Muslim nations that did or did not attend the Islamic countries summit called by President Erdoğan in protest. Here is clear evidence for the new alliances which are arising in the Middle East because of Iran’s aggressive reach into Iraq and Syria, right up to Israel’s borders. This convinces the moderate Sunni nations of the seriousness of Iran’s intentions. The US is reluctant to intervene militarily, although reports in *Debka* at the year-end indicated that the US was working behind the scenes. Only Israel is active in laying down “red lines” in Syria and acting quietly yet strongly to push back when those lines are crossed.



### Saudi Prince to White House: Jerusalem Issue Is No Bar to Our Engagement With Israel

The Saudi Crown Prince had been in touch with Mr Trump.

Official White House sources disclosed Tuesday that Saudi Crown Prince Muhammed bin Salman had informed President Trump that, while Riyadh publicly objects to Jerusalem’s recognition as Israeli capital and the US Embassy’s move to Jerusalem, neither is a bar to Saudi engagement with Israel; nor should it be detrimental to Trump administration steps in the Middle East. *DEBKAFfile* 05-Dec-17

There have been many reports recently on the improving relations between Israel and the moderate Middle East Arab countries. These moves are being led by the Saudi Crown Prince Muhammed bin Salman (known as MBS). He was appointed as the Minister of Defence in 2015 and retained his existing role of Minister of the State. In June 2017, the 32-year-old was chosen by his father, King Salman to be his successor. He has acted swiftly to eliminate the widespread corruption in the country and put under house arrest, in the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Riyadh, a very expensive hotel, many of his rivals, insisting that they pay-back what they are alleged to have embezzled as the price of their freedom! He has pledged close cooperation with President Trump and has made it clear that he wants to work with Israel, declaring that his countrymen are free to visit Israel.

In 2016 he set out his vision for the future of Saudi Arabia under *Vision 2030*. He is seeking to greatly reduce the power of the religious authorities and make Saudi more open, more Westernised. Women have now been given permission to drive, and cinemas are now permitted.

### Neom, Saudi Arabia's Proposed Mega City

In one of his efforts to diversify away from shrinking oil-based revenues, the young Crown Prince unveiled plans for a new Mega City called Neom. The question is whether it will reach the light of day. The scale is breath-taking; it is situated close to Jordan, Egypt and Israel, in a huge tract of land. It will operate under liberal rules, with men and women working side-by-side, thus making it possible for Israeli participation, which he seeks.



He unveiled this \$500bn project before 3,500 of the “who’s who of business, corporate executives and government officials from 88 countries”. (*Hindustan Times* 26-Oct-17) The money is to come from Saudi’s Wealth Fund, plus the sale of part of the oil giant Saudi Aramco.

The Neom project is planned as a large centre for innovation and trade, linking industry and technology. It includes bridges across from Saudi to Egypt, utilising the islands in the mouth of the Gulf of Aquaba, which Egypt has recently given control of to Saudi. This project, based upon the “free zone” which has brought great wealth to Dubai, is potentially of great interest to Britain, who has the skills to manage big projects. It is in the region of the Dedan who was Abraham’s grandson. It would give a big boost to the proposed high-speed railway link from Eilat to Beersheba to link up with the existing high-speed line to the port at Ashdod, which the Chinese and the Indians are interested in financing. It would enable goods to be transported to the Mediterranean coast, avoiding the costs of the Suez Canal.

### Israel's Possibilities for (Energy) Cooperation With Saudi Arabia

Neom opens big possibilities for Saudi-Israeli energy cooperation.

It seems very likely that Saudi Arabia would establish several gas turbine power stations to supply electricity to its new Red Sea coast city. Israeli natural gas could be an attractive alternative energy source for the new Saudi mega city as Israeli supply would be significantly closer to the new city than the existing Saudi main gas pipelines in Yanbu. Instead of building a pipeline of over 400 km through Saudi Arabia, Israel could supply the Kingdom natural gas through an underwater pipeline, in which

case it would need to build a significantly shorter pipeline, perhaps some 100-200 km. Israel could also explore the feasibility of reversing one of the existing Eilat-Ashqelon oil pipelines in order to supply natural gas from its Mediterranean Sea gas fields to Saudi Arabia.

### From Mutual Advantage to Mutual Interest

It seems that the sky is the limit when it comes to mutual benefits between the two nations. There is no doubt that the common interests—both economic and political—are absolutely great between the two countries: even the Saudis know that what they can get from Israel as a regional partner is something they cannot get from anyone else in the region.

In addition to energy, Israel could supply Saudi Arabia with technology for renewable energy, water treatment and agriculture worth of billions of dollars. Further, Israel's advanced desalination technology could provide water for Neom, while the new Israeli experience with pumped-storage technology could be utilized in storing energy in the mountains in massive water reservoirs that could be built up to 1000 meters above the sea level. The Israeli experience could be phenomenal in helping Saudi Arabia to transform according to its ambitious Vision 2030. *Times of Israel* 14-Dec-17

### CIA Chief Strongly Advises a Saudi-Israeli Military Intelligence Headquarters

According to Mike Pompeo, director of the Central Intelligence Agency, Saudi Arabia is working directly with the Israelis to “push back against terrorism throughout the Middle East.”

Both face a challenge from the ISIS, Iran and “failed states,” he noted, and urged them to develop their relationship even further.

“We’ve seen them [Saudis] working with the Israelis to push back against terrorism through the Middle East. To the extent we can continue to develop those relationships and work alongside them, the Gulf states and broader Middle East will likely be more secure,” in Pompeo’s view.

He called for building “a strong coalition” and went on to say, “Frankly I think that with a joint military headquarters that can... target the terrorists in that region, that can basically work together to provide stability.” *Debka* 08-Dec-17

### New Allies: Israel and Saudi Arabia?

This was the headline to a *Jerusalem Post* 06-Nov-17 article.

The times are changing in the Middle East as alien nations find common ground in a bid to avert Iran supremacy within the region. Thrown into the mix is the strong international desire for the ousting of Syrian leader Assad. The opening of the dialogue between Israel and Saudi Arabia is perhaps the most significant shift in the region. There have been no

diplomatic ties between the two nations, Saudi Arabia has been a supporter of Palestinian sovereign rights.

A more open relationship has not come overnight, however, with the two nations having shared intelligence on enemies within the region, including Iran. Both nations hold a common view on Iran and its rise to power within the region. Both Israel and Saudi Arabia have a common ally in the US and the president also shares a similar view on Iran. In recent years, there has been plenty of reports about Israeli-Saudi relations.

One particular article claimed that the Saudis had run tests on bringing down air defense systems to provide the Israeli Air Force a path of least resistance to Iran.

News of a **secret visit by Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman to Israel in September** suggests that the need for stronger ties is ever increasing. Adding to the media frenzy over the possible opening of diplomatic relations between the two nations was news of Kushner visiting both countries last month. Kushner is Trump's chief Middle East adviser. The US administration is keen to see Israeli-Palestinian talks resume and for relations between Israel and Arab nations to improve.

A great divide in the Middle East may be on the horizon as Israel and the US may well become a significant force behind the split. The anti-Iran sentiment is building and while the divide will become ever greater, **the moves by the Saudis and Israel are likely to bring greater strength to the Arab world supported and armed by the US in an effort to fight off Iranian supremacy.**

A united Sunni Arab front with Israel as an ally may begin to stabilize a region that looks to be on the verge of collapse. How Iraq evolves and to which side of the Shi'a-Sunni divide it veers may also be pivotal on what lies ahead.

We could well be at the start of quite a regional break-through where the region's countries see Israel's help as of greater use to them than continuing to pursue the solving of Israeli-Palestinian conflicts. These countries may well take steps to prevent the Iranian support of Hamas, and to support any moves Israel takes to end this terrorist movement.

### **Israel Welcomes Saudi Mufti's Pro-Israel Remarks**

The Grand Mufti of Saudi Arabia, in November, condemned Hamas as a terrorist organisation and issued a fatwa stating that fighting against Jews is forbidden for Muslims, according to the Arab newspaper *Daily Sabbah* 14-Nov-17.

Never in Israel's history since 1948 has there been so much support for Israel. For a brief time there could be a situation where Israel feels very secure as a

result of the alliances that she has made, so that the words of Ezekiel 38:11 will indeed ring true.

### **In a Sign of Gently Warming Ties, Bahraini Delegation Visits Israel**

Israel also enjoys good relations with Bahrain (one of the ancient Dedans). Her ruler has told his people that they should visit Israel! In early December a delegation came quite openly to visit Jerusalem and returned home with the message of what a warm welcome they had received. As a result, some Israeli business leaders are planning to visit Bahrain. Secret documents released by *Wikileaks* indicates that there is a long history of security cooperation between the two countries.

### **Israel: The Eighth Great Power of 2017**

This interesting article in the *American Interest* 25-Jan-17, spoke of Israel's perceived influence.

The US remains the most powerful country on earth, followed by China, Japan, Russia, Germany, India, Iran, and **Israel** - a new name on our list of the Eight Greats. A small country, Israel is a rising power with **a growing impact on world affairs**. Overall, the Jewish state continues to develop diplomatic, economic and military power and **to insert itself into the heart of regional politics**.

Large, off-shore discoveries of natural gas and oil are turning Israel into an **energy exporter**. Energy self-sufficiency is a boost to Israel's economy; energy exports boost Israel's foreign policy clout. Access to Israeli technology (like the technology behind the Iron Dome missile defense system) matters to more and more countries. Israel's diplomatic outreach to **Africa** and its deepening relationship with **India** benefit from **Israel's ability to deliver what people in other countries want**.

Another factor is the change in the Middle Eastern balance of power that has transformed Israel from a pariah state to a **kingmaker**. Syria, one of Israel's most vociferous enemies and biggest security threats, has now been broken. **Egypt** hates Hamas, ISIS and Islamic Jihad as much as Israel does; never has **Egyptian-Israeli** security cooperation been as close as it is today. Even more consequentially, the rise of Iran and its aspirations to regional hegemony made **Israel critical** to the survival of the Sunni Arabs, including the Gulf states. Israel begins 2017 as the keystone of a regional anti-Iran alliance, a most-favored-nation in the White House, and a country that enjoys good relations with all of the world's major powers bar Iran.

### **India and Israel: A Strategic Alliance?**

In early July, India's Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, paid the first visit to Israel by an Indian Prime Minister. Normally such visitors also pay a visit to Ramallah to keep "balance", but there was no visit to see Palestinian leaders.

(In December, Modi did not support the call by Muslims leaders to promote Eastern Jerusalem as the capital for the Palestinians. He is a Hindu in a country with a 14% Moslem population.)

In a public embrace of a country that he has long admired for its military and technical expertise but which his predecessors kept at arm's length, **Modi is lifting the curtain on a thriving military relationship.**

Netanyahu, hailing what he described as Modi's "historic visit", said he and the Indian leader have worked together over the past few years to build a "**steadfast friendship**" between Israel and India.

"This visit will deepen cooperation in a wide range of fields—security, agriculture, water, energy—basically in almost every field Israel is involved in," Netanyahu told his cabinet. *Reuters* 03-Jul-17

India is Israel's biggest arms customer and is in the middle of a military modernisation programme worth more than \$100 billion. The other big field of cooperation is in agriculture.

The plan is to expand 26 agriculture expertise centres that Israel has set up in 15 Indian states to help increase output of everything from vegetables to mangoes and pomegranates. Modi wants Indian companies involved in turning these small centres into commercial entities that would help tens of thousands of farmers to boost productivity. *Reuters* 03-Jul-17

Seven bilateral agreements relating to cooperation in technology, water and agriculture were signed by Modi and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. *BICOM* 06-Jul-17

Mr Netanyahu is planning to visit India in January 2018. This would be the first visit by an Israeli Prime Minister since Ariel Sharon visited in 2003. Since 1992, when diplomatic relations were formalised between the two countries, trade has grown 2,000% from \$200m to \$4.2bn.

### **China-Israel economic, tech cooperation to enter new stage**

Mr Netanyahu visited China in March 2017. Israel is attracting increasing amount of Chinese investments.

China has become the largest trade partner in Asia for Israel and Israel's third largest global trade partner. Statistics show that the bilateral trade volume between China and Israel reached 11.35 billion US dollars a year.

In recent years, Chinese companies have become gradually active in making investment in Israel from the traditional sectors to medical services, clean technology and internet.

Some leading Chinese firms such as Huawei, Legend and Xiaomi have set up R&D centers in Israel. Bright Food Group has purchased Tnuva, the largest food manufacturing company of Israel. *Xinhua* 09-Sep-17

## Chapter 11

[back to contents](#)

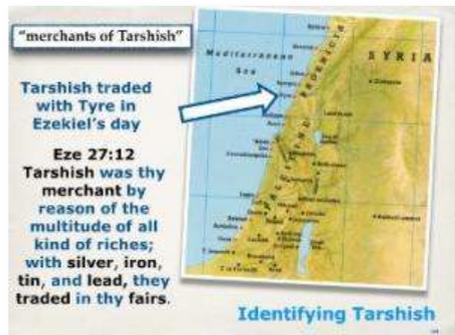
# Part 5: THE MERCHANTS OF TARSHISH AND HER YOUNG LIONS

*In Part 4 we saw the amazing growth over the past year in the relationships between Israel and the “Sheba-Dedan” countries, an alliance of necessity faced with the growing threat of Iran. It is happening just at the right time as we understand from God’s Word. We continue by looking at the other nations mentioned in Ezekiel 38:13 under the terms of “the Merchants of Tarshish and her Young Lions”. Tarshish and ships of Tarshish are associated with traders who traded with Tyre in Ezekiel’s day. With our themed approach this year we would normally wait until the next chapter to see the fulfilment of some of these matters, but for convenience we will also look at fulfilments for certain prophecies in this chapter.*

## The Merchants of Tarshish

In the territory of “Sheba” and “Dedan”, Ezekiel speaks of another trading power, that is here not because this is its country, but attracted here because of trade. Historically our community, as have many other Bible students of earlier times, associated this power with Britain. We dealt with this extensively in *Milestones 2016* and refer readers there for the details. To summarise: Ezekiel helps us by showing what trade Tarshish did with Tyre in his day—see picture. These are metals linked to Britain, and we know that the Phoenician traders of Ezekiel’s era were bringing tin from Cornwall and Wales to Tyre. Tin was an essential ingredient to mix with copper to make the much stronger bronze.

Ezekiel 27 is an interesting chapter all about the trading centre of Tyre, where the ships of Tarshish came with their goods. Isaiah saw the end of the Tyre that he knew. It was to be destroyed and as other prophecies foretold (Ezekiel 26) would become a desolate area. Nebuchadnezzar laid siege to Tyre for 13 years, but failed to take it, as the sailors fled to an island half a mile



off-shore and there they relocated their trade. Many centuries later, Alexander the Great lay siege to Tyre, using the stones of the old mainland city to construct a causeway to the island and thus taking it.

But this was not the end. Isaiah showed that there was to be a short future for a Tyre-like power that would exist at the time of the end. He explains that Tyre would move:

*As at the report concerning Egypt, so shall they be sorely pained at the report of **Tyre**.*

*Pass ye over to **Tarshish**; howl, ye inhabitants of **the isle**.*

*Is this your joyous city, whose antiquity is of ancient days? **her own feet shall carry her afar off to sojourn**.*

*Who hath taken this counsel against **Tyre**, the **crowning city**, whose **merchants** are **princes**, whose **traffickers** are **the honourable of the earth**?*

*The LORD of hosts hath purposed it, to stain the pride of all glory, and to bring into **contempt all the honourable of the earth**. Isa. 23:5-9*

Tyre was proud of her wealth and skills, but God was going to bring it to an end *and her own feet shall carry her afar off to sojourn*.

It is fascinating to see how naval and trading power moved westwards over the next two millennia until in Elizabethan times arriving in Britain, the source of some of the wealth that made Tyre great in Ezekiel's time. The effect of fighting two World Wars within 30 years had a debilitating affect. Britain's sea power waned and reached its nadir in the 1956 Suez Crisis.

Could Britain ever recover her power? Few thought it possible. Yet it was not in the hands of men, but in the Hands of God! If God has a need for a strong maritime power to help bring His people back to their land after their final, future scattering, then it will happen.

Indeed, Isaiah's prophecy goes on to speak of a time of seventy years when this latter-day Tyre power will suffer debilitating circumstances until God is ready to return her strength.

### **Forgotten Seventy Years.**

*And it shall come to pass in that day, that **Tyre** shall be **forgotten seventy years**, according to the days of one king: **after the end of seventy years shall Tyre sing as an harlot**.*

*Take an harp, go about the city, thou harlot that hast been forgotten; make sweet melody, sing many songs, that thou mayest be **remembered**.*

*And it shall come to pass after the **end of seventy years**, that the **LORD** will **visit Tyre**, and she shall turn to her hire, and shall commit fornication with **all the kingdoms of the world upon the face of the earth**.*

***And her merchandise and her hire shall be holiness to the LORD: it shall not be treasured nor laid up; for her merchandise shall be for them that dwell before the LORD, to eat sufficiently, and for durable clothing. Isa. 23:15-18***

It is clear from the last verse that this was not fulfilled in a previous era, as Tyre had been condemned for being an enemy to Israel. It speaks of a latter-day Tyrian power working with God to help restore His people. This is a role that we have understood Britain will be willing to do, after the time of Armageddon. Britain will be one of the first of the Gentile nations to accept Israel's new King as of greater power than her own.

It speaks of a 70-year period while Tyre is forgotten, but at the end of that period Tyre returns to her trade. Using the symbol of a Harlot who sings to draw attention to her wares, Tyre is to change from an insular situation to one where she seeks world-wide trade. Isaiah's description is very forceful.

*... she shall turn to her hire, and shall commit fornication with **all the kingdoms of the world upon the face of the earth.** v. 17*

This is indeed the situation. There were just 70 years and nine months from the end of WWII when Britain was at her lowest, to the Brexit vote! Once again she aims to be a global trader!

***Seventy years, according to the days of one king.***

Note too, the link with ***seventy years and one king.*** v. 15. It is most unusual for a monarch to reign that long.

Young Princess Elisabeth started to undertake royal duties at a very young age due to the ill health of her father, King George VI. In April 1947 on her 21<sup>st</sup> birthday she was visiting South Africa with the King and Queen and made a broadcast to the Commonwealth. She pledged:

“I declare before you all that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great imperial family to which we all belong.”

That was seventy years ago. She married in November of that year and four years later in 1951 toured Canada. In 1952 they were in Kenya (south of Israel Matt 12:42), on their way to tour Australia and New Zealand when she received the news of the death of her father and she was now Queen. It is not inconceivable that the Queen should still be on the throne 70 years after her coronation. She has made it clear that she has no intention of stepping down.

**Royal Sources Dismiss Growing Regency Rumours.**

The Queen has passed some duties to younger royals, but pledged on her 21<sup>st</sup> birthday to serve the nation for her ‘whole life’.

The Queen has no intention of stepping aside for Prince Charles and insists it is “duty first, nation first, I’m going to be there”, according to sources close to the monarch.

Royal insiders said the Queen, the world’s longest-reigning living monarch, remained as committed as ever to her duty. *Sunday Times* 20-Aug-17

The Queen has championed the keeping together of the Commonwealth; without her leadership it surely would have disappeared. God saw to it that the right person was at the helm and we have a unique organisation spread around the world, the ideal basis for Britain’s post-Brexit trading. English is the working language and British law lies at the heart of any legal aspects for trade deals that need to be struck.

### **And her young lions**

Ezekiel is conveying that there are other merchant powers operating in this “Sheba” “Dedan” region who are somehow linked. They are described as *young lions*. They belong to (“*thereof*”) the *Merchants of Tarshish*. *Her young lions* some versions read. They are no longer dependants but roam at their own will. Yet there is a family tie that finds them in similar places to the Old Lion Merchants of Tarshish. Their Protestant Bible-centred upbringing gives them a different perspective on Israel, from that of Europe whose anti-Semitism lies close to the surface. The English world has been celebrating 100 years of the Balfour Declaration and the liberation of Jerusalem from Turkish hands. This was not a work of Britain alone. The Commonwealth countries played an essential role, especially the ANZAC forces of Australia and New Zealand. They came to help in both World Wars, regarding Britain as the mother country. The British Empire was unique.

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

They remain trading nations with strong links to Israel and many to the Middle East countries. The foremost Young Lion is the US. She became independent before the peak of the British Empire and so was never a member of the Commonwealth. In anticipation of the Commonwealth forming a key role in Brexit trade, the Royal Commonwealth Society has opened an office in the USA in Mississippi, hoping the US may join the Commonwealth. Under Donald Trump, this may happen soon.

“The fraternal links between the UK and the USA are strong and well-established, beyond our language, common legal systems and common interests,” the spokesman said.

“The establishment of a Branch of the RCS in the US will serve to strengthen these links to mutual advantage.” *Daily Telegraph* 17-Sep-17

**Chapter 12**[back to contents](#)**BREXIT BRITAIN CHARTS NEW DESTINATIONS,  
WORKING WITH HER YOUNG LIONS**

*After over 40 years membership of the EU “club”, the British people decided by a narrow vote on 23 June 2016 that they no longer wanted to retain membership. With rising membership costs and irritating rules and the desire to turn the club into something very different from when membership was first made, the UK wanted to get its freedom back. The free-trading spirit had re-entered the British way of life and servitude to Brussels was increasingly irksome.*

**The Steps to Freedom**

For the first time, an escape clause (Article 50) had been built into the Lisbon Treaty. It stated that following the giving of formal notice to leave the EU, there would be a two-year period of negotiations to unravel the bands that bind the EU members together. Britain has found the barriers to leaving are immense and the EU has no desire to encourage other countries to take the same route. Hence, they are keen to make the process as difficult as possible. Many seem to think that if the EU puts up enough barriers, that even Britain, the most euro-sceptical member, might change her mind.

Yet it is apparent that if Britain were to remain she would be dragged into the euro, must support a European military in competition with NATO and give up any hope of freedom in the light of the EU’s increasing goal of a United States of Europe.

**Article 50 Triggered 29<sup>th</sup> March**

Britain delivered her request for the triggering of Article 50 which set the clock counting down to 29<sup>th</sup> March 2019 when Britain should be free to leave. Whether she will have a trade agreement negotiated by then, looks rather doubtful. Negotiating with the EU is never straightforward. The EU representative has to get approval from the other 27 members. They have no real freedom to depart from their laid down guidelines. Flexibility is not in the EU lexicon!



The EU, having received this triggering letter, then spent a few months to work out their own position. It was that they would not discuss possible trade agreements until the “divorce” obligations and costs had been met. The UK

is the second largest contributor to the EU purse, and the loss of her contributions threatens to upset their budget plans.

### May's Gamble Backfires

While the EU leaders were working out their strategy, Mrs May decided to call a snap election. The polls showed the Opposition Labour Party in disarray, and she thought that she could readily increase her rather slim majority in Parliament. The election campaign was a disaster and on election day on 9<sup>th</sup> June, her slim majority disappeared. The hoped-for gains had evaporated, and she was in a much weakened position. Few thought she would survive. She now had to seek other parties to come on board to support the government. Her choice was significant—the Northern Ireland DUP (Democratic Unionist Party). This party had been founded by the late Ian Paisley, a strong-line Protestant leader, who had denounced the Pope as Antichrist when in 1988 he spoke in the EU Parliament! They bundled him unceremoniously out of the building.



It took several weeks of negotiations to get the DUP's agreement. It came with a high price tag for support for Northern Ireland projects. The significance of this Party is their stance on family life and marriage, anti-abortion and gay rights; together with strong bonds to Israel.

A chastened Mrs May, propped up with DUP support, has now gone into Brexit negotiations with a weak hand. Mrs May had voted to Remain in the EU, yet upon becoming leader following David Cameron's resignation, she has had to support Brexit. One feels if she had been stronger she would have wanted to retain as many links as she could with the EU. As it is she has to accept what is being offered, or walk away with nothing. Many Brexiters think that this would be the best option.

### Monthly Talks Begin in June.

Every month negotiators from both sides have met for a few days in Brussels. The talks have not gone well. Mrs May had hoped that they could look at a trade agreement in parallel with divorce costs. This was immediately ruled out. The problem is how can one negotiate what one is willing to pay unless one knows what kind of a deal one is going to get? The EU's attitude is that they didn't ask Britain to leave, it was Britain that asked to leave.

The last of this series of monthly talks took place in November. The important question was—had sufficient progress been made for the EU negotiation team to be able to report to the December Heads of Government

Summit meeting that they could now move on to discuss the shape of a trade agreement?

Things looked very grim in early December as the UK government is very split over what they want. The Irish border became the final touchstone for the talks. At the moment, Northern Ireland, as a member of the UK, is a member of the EU, as are the Irish Republic. Trade freely flows across the border. With Britain leaving the EU what will happen? There is a very strong feeling on both sides of the border that they want things as seamless as it is now. But with Northern Ireland out of the EU this theoretically can't happen. There have to be border crossings and customs posts etc.

There was talk of N.I. remaining in the EU, but if special treatment was to be meted out, then Scotland, Wales and London wanted that same treatment. The DUP who are being relied on to support the government are fearful of a move for Protestant Northern Ireland to be absorbed into the Roman Catholic Irish Republic. Mrs May has promised this will not happen.

At the beginning of December, an agreement had apparently solved this seemingly intractable problem and Mrs May had a morning meeting scheduled on the 4 December with European Commission President, Jean-Claude Juncker, to see if sufficient progress had been made. At the last moment there was talk of an agreement and she flew off for her meeting. The news was good, there were smiles all round. Then as they sat down to lunch there was an urgent phone call from the leader of the DUP, saying that they had seen the leaked details and it didn't accord with what they had agreed to. It remained for May and Juncker to announce that there were still a few loose pieces which needed to be dealt with, and although 4 December had been set as the absolute deadline, a few more days were granted. There followed several days of frenetic negotiations until a "fudge" wording was agreed.

The wording on Northern Ireland and the border with the Republic is general and about principles. It will fall to later talks to work out how the "detailed arrangements" will work. This, as the UK has often pointed out, needs decisions on the general arrangements for UK trade with the EU before anyone can finalise the border arrangements. There will be considerable debate about the meaning of this statement "In the absence of agreed solutions the UK will maintain full alignment with the rules of the internal market and customs union which now or in the future support North-south co-operation, the all island economy and the protection of the 1998 Agreement". *John Redwood Diary* 08-Dec-17

### **Yes, Talks Can Move On**

At the Summit meeting on the 14 December, the EU leaders agreed that talks could now proceed to part two as sufficient progress had been made. Talks on the transition period will start in January before the trade talks commence in March. This leaves little time to thrash out an agreed trade agreement

before March 2019. By then each EU member State has to get their own government's agreement, before the EU votes on the package, if just one member raises objections the matter will have to be re-examined. The reality looks to be that Britain will still be bound to the EU and contributing for possible another two years until finally free in 2021.

The alternative is for Britain to walk away without an agreement in March 2019 and operate under World Trade rules, which govern the extensive trade that the EU does with non-EU countries. We leave matters in the hands of the angels. Whatever happens, it will be according to God's plans not man's.

### **Brexit Britain 'wields most influence in Europe and is second only to US world-wide'**

Despite the gloomy predictions of those opposed to Britain leaving the EU, Britain is doing well. According to a report in the *Daily Telegraph* 12-Sep-17, the UK was second only to the US for global influence.

In its "Audit of Geopolitical Capability," the Henry Jackson Society calculated the influence of the eight most powerful countries in the world, ranking the United Kingdom in second place after the United States.

It classified the UK as a "global power...with substantial resources and capabilities, with the means to extend them in many regions of the world".

This was largely due to Britain's high level of competence in diplomacy, security and "cultural prestige," such as global brands and appeal to tourists, the report said.

The think tank's report compared Britain's influence to the seven other major powers—China, France, Germany, India, Japan, Russia and the United States—by looking at 35 indicators, including diplomatic leverage and military strength.

For example, diplomatic leverage was measured by adding up the number of embassies operated by a given country and by analysing the strength of its security partnerships with international organisations, such as the UN Security Council.

France came third and China fourth.

Britain is reporting strong interest in its 30<sup>th</sup> round of licencing for North Sea oil and gas, which attracted 96 applicants.

The UK manufacturing sector continues to enjoy record performances indicating a 2% per quarter growth.

Investment money is pouring in to Britain. Many overseas firms are continuing to move their research centres here as they are assured an excellent centre for knowledge-based industries, with a well-educated workforce and with the assurance of good business practices.

The following are a series of news items to illustrate that the gloom predicted by the “Remainers” has so far proved unfounded.

### **The UK Ranks Top of All Major Developed Economies for Establishing New Businesses**

It became home to 218,000 more businesses in 2016, a rise of six per cent year-on-year. Meanwhile, other major developed economies including France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the US saw an average two per cent rise in number of businesses over the year.

“Enterprise and entrepreneurship in the UK have been gathering pace at impressive speed,” said UHY’s Daniel Hutson.

“As a range of new sources of funding gain traction in the market and the corporation tax burden lightens, the start-up climate is improving, financial pressures are easing and investment for growth is on the cards.”

The UK is the perfect base from which to access markets world-wide with an unrivalled business environment, internationally competitive tax regime—including the lowest corporation tax level in the G20—and an attractive Tonnage Tax regime for shipowners.

With few barriers to starting or growing a business, our versatile time zone, global language and access to top talent, make the UK a valued and attractive location for inward investment.

Connected infrastructure and government commitment to further significant investment adds to the UK’s appeal. *MaritimeUK* 11-Dec-17

### **Norway’s Giant Oil Fund Drops Yen and Buys British**

A further boost to business confidence came in September when Norway’s vast Government Pension Fund decided to invest in UK property.

The world’s biggest sovereign wealth fund has issued a resounding vote of confidence in the UK economy and the long-term prospects for the pound, raising its target for sterling bonds to 8pc of its global benchmark fund.

Norway’s \$1 trillion (£774m) oil fund has advised its government to concentrate core holdings of debt into dollars, euros, and sterling, dropping Japanese and emerging market bonds altogether.

“This is a very significant move. It is extraordinary that they have opted for the UK as world number three for investment ahead of China and Japan,” said Stephen Jen, a currency expert at EurizonSLJ Capital and an adviser to Asian sovereign wealth funds. *Daily Telegraph* 04-Sep-17

### **Greek Shipowners Would Consider Relocating to London, Says Study**

More than half of Greek shipowners would consider relocating their ship management offices out of Greece, according to a new Ernst & Young study, which cited London as a favoured destination.

The study also praised the UK's maritime clusters and promotional bodies, and recommended that a similar model be adopted in Greece.

Some 56% of the 776 Greek shipping executives surveyed said they would contemplate relocation. *MaritimeUK* 31-Aug-17

### Government Pledges to Double UK Fleet Flying Under the Red Duster

Britain's famous Red Duster will fly proudly in new ports across the globe as part of our new trade drive after our exit from the EU.

The flag of the UK's Merchant Navy, more properly known as the Red Ensign, is one of the most admired and well-known emblems on the high seas with every vessel sporting it under the protection of the Royal Navy.

And now Shipping Minister John Hayes wants to increase the amount of trade carried under the Duster to showcase Britain's trading and maritime might around the world.



The government is working to double the size of the UK Ship Register from 16 to 30 million gross tonnage after we leave and build a new partnership with the EU—propelling the UK from 15th place into the top 10 global maritime nations. This will be good for the UK, helping boost trade and exports, create jobs and ultimately boost the economy across the UK.

“Unfurling the Red Duster shows Britain's maritime leadership to the world. Once again Britannia rules the waves and the UK will be a dominant maritime force,” Maritime Minister John Hayes said. *UK Gov. press release* 11-Sep-17

### British Trade With Global Giant China Booms As Rest of EU Lags Behind

A new report shows the UK did a massive £55 billion of trade with the eastern giant last year, rocketing up to become Beijing's eighth biggest economic partner in the world.

And they predicted a “golden era” of economic ties between the UK and China going forward with British products, both in goods and services, increasingly popular in the Far East.

“From cars to chemicals, and services to schools, British organisations—especially many smaller companies—are tapping into a growing market in China, one that plays to the UK's best competitive strengths.

“With the consumer market worth over £3.3 trillion, instantly recognisable British products are a particularly strong match for a growing generation of affluent Chinese. Moreover, this relationship creates thousands of jobs in the UK and China, raising living standards and boosting productivity. *The Express* 04-Nov-17

We turn now to Britain’s growing links to Israel and the “Sheba”, “Dedan” countries.

### **British-Israel Trade Can Thrive in the Brexit Era—Here’s How**

This was the upbeat headline to a *Jewish Chronicle* 10-Nov-17 article. In 1950 the Anglo-Israel Chamber of Commerce was established, now the UK Israel Business.

Given that since June 2016, 32 Israeli firms have opened operations here, investing £152m and creating almost 900 jobs, it is vital for Britain to maintain this investment momentum.

September saw us bring 17 scale-up firms to London for Innovate Israel, where they met representatives from over 150 British businesses, including household names in banking; technology and manufacturing.

Next week, we’re taking our largest delegation yet of British investors to Israel, where over 35 investors will meet 40 Israeli firms and funds, creating 1,400 potential new relationships in just two and a half days. We will meet with the likes of the co-founder of Mobileye; Dov Moran, the inventor of the USB stick, and start-up companies supported in Israel by the likes of Barclays, Intel and Microsoft.

*Britain Israel Communications* issued a report: *Britain, Israel trade after Brexit*.

The paper found that 12 months after the referendum, the number of Israeli companies setting up in the UK has increased by 28 per cent, compared to the previous 12 months. It also reports that the UK is the top destination for Israeli foreign direct investment in Europe, with 28 Israeli companies listed on the London Stock Exchange with a market capitalisation of £11.5bn.

In addition, there is a consensus among officials from either country that a bilateral free trade agreement should be prioritised and agreed as soon as possible.

The paper also detailed that Israeli business leaders working in the UK in high-tech sectors are largely unconcerned about the consequences of Brexit. *BICOM* 13-Dec-17



### **UK FM Vows to ‘Build Strongest-ever Relationship’ With Israel**

The Foreign Secretary is just the latest British politician to reinforce the strength of the UK-Israel relationship. Last week, British Prime Minister

Theresa May called Israel a “remarkable country” and expressed her desire to proudly celebrate the role the UK played in creating the Balfour Declaration.

The UK has maintained close diplomatic, trade and security ties with Israel since its inception, and is counted upon by Israel to vote in its favour at the UN and other international institutions. The relationship has been observed by some to have strengthened under the leadership of Theresa May, as the UK looks to bolster relations with countries outside the EU following Brexit. *Middle East Monitor* 22-Sep-17

We now look at Britain in the Middle East.

### **May Sets Out Post-Brexit Middle East Strategy**

Mrs May paid a 3-day visit to Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Iraq at the end of November.

Setting out her vision for the UK’s role in the region after Brexit in a major speech at the Jordan Museum in Amman, Prime Minister May dismissed suggestions that Britain would be “stepping back from the world,” she said: ‘We understand that we best defend our values, our interests and our way of life by working together with our international partners to uphold the international rules-based system.’

May said “under my leadership we remain profoundly and unequivocally committed to supporting the security of this entire region—for example, with our Royal Navy continuing to patrol the Gulf as it has done for decades”.

At the end of a three-day visit that also included talks in Saudi Arabia with King Salman and Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman and a surprise visit to Iraq, Prime Minister May said she wanted to offer countries in the region a security partnership “helping you defend and protect your borders and your people from external aggression”. *BICOM* 01-Dec-17

### **The Young Lions in the Middle East**

Traditionally the Middle East has been an excellent market for Australian lamb as here, lamb plays an important and unique role in religious events, family celebrations and gift-giving. Half of Australia’s top 10 export markets for mutton and lamb are to be found here. The ties to Israel are strong and Australia and New Zealand celebrated the 100 years of the ANZAC forces helping to liberate Palestine.

India too, as we saw earlier is a strong player in Israel, as also is Canada.

## Chapter 13

[back to contents](#)

# Part 6: DRAWING THE NATIONS TO ARMAGEDDON

Please read Revelation ch. 16:12-16.

*Of all the words revealed to John by his Lord and Master, this Part 6 is the most relevant to us today. We are living in the historical period covered by the 6<sup>th</sup> Vial and we must be getting very close to its conclusion. The events of this Vial, or Bowl, containing God's wrath to be poured on the nations, commenced with events of 100 years ago. The drying up of the great river Euphrates equates to the evaporation of the Ottoman Turkish power. For centuries it had dominated the Middle East. The time had now come to begin those great changes which would result in Israel being a nation again in their own land.*



*The history of the period is fascinating. Britain and her young lions were drawn here after failing to conquer Turkey from Gallipoli and from the Euphrates. They only succeeded when they attacked through Palestine. Britain's control over this part of the Ottoman Empire enabled her to offer a homeland to the Jewish nation.*

### ***Unclean spirits like frogs out of the mouths***

The feature of this time period is that the nations and in particular the *Dragon*, the *Beast* and the *False Prophet*, are said to have *unclean spirits* which are *like frogs* issuing out of *their mouths*. The mouth is an apt symbol for the teachings, the directives of the creature.

We link the frogs with France, this was the ancient symbol for France under Clovis. The events of the earlier Vial judgments are associated with the French Revolution and its aftermath which turned history upside down. Historians divide history into Pre and Post French Revolution epochs. The effects of that revolution are still being felt around the globe today as peoples seek to overthrow tyrannical dictatorships with more democratic systems.

It has brought to the fore human thinking, rather than Bible-based thinking. Its cry of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity are the hollow foundations for today's society. Liberalised thinking has abandoned God and creation, and espoused evolution and humanism. We are, they claim, the product of our

own achievements. We are where we are by our own efforts. We are responsible only to ourselves.

This spirit of man puts the nations at odds with God and His nation of Israel. If there is no God, then Israel are not His chosen people. They have no more “rights” than the next man.

We have witnessed an anti-Semitic spirit emanate out of Europe, Russia and the Vatican. Israel is branded as the aggressor and the Palestinians are championed as the under-dog, in spite of the hostility shown by the Palestinians in their zeal to uphold the mantra of “death to the Jews”. Fatah and Hamas, like Hezbollah and Iran are dedicated to Israel’s elimination.

Not that Israel is blameless, they are driven by the hostility of their neighbours to sometimes overstep the mark. However, it must be said that the world press is very biased against Israel and will often manipulate incidents to paint Israel in an unfavourable light.

As Bible students we must remind ourselves that God regards modern Israel as His People. In Ezekiel 38 and 39 God says *My land, My people, My mountains*. Not that He approves of what they are doing, in fact the opposite, He condemns them for their faithlessness.

*And the heathen shall know that the house of Israel went into captivity for their iniquity: because they trespassed against me, therefore hid I my face from them, and gave them into the hand of their enemies: so fell they all by the sword.*

*According to their uncleanness and according to their transgressions have I done unto them, and hid my face from them.*

*Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Now will I bring again the captivity of Jacob, and have mercy upon the whole house of Israel, and will be jealous for my holy name; Eze. 39:23-25*

What God knows is that as a result of His coming judgments upon the nation of Israel, a portion will turn and humbly seek His deliverance. They will be saved and accept their Messiah. Because God knows the absolute certainty of these things, He is prepared to work among them to bring about a permanent change of heart. Never again will Israel go astray. Guided by the twelve apostles, their immortal leaders, they will reflect Glory to their God.

What is it about the teachings from the *Dragon, Beast and False Prophet* that is going to cause the nations to come against Jerusalem? What caused the Pope to speak out recently? What gave rise to the EU refusing to take Mr Netanyahu’s side when he spoke to the EU leaders in December? What caused the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation under the current chairmanship of Turkey to hold an extraordinary summit (only its 6<sup>th</sup> since its foundation in 1969)? What has split the Arab world into two groups?

## JERUSALEM!

Who can doubt the accuracy of the extraordinary words of Zechariah ch 12?

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

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

*Zec. 12:1-3*

These are the words of the Mighty God, the Creator of the heavens and the earth, who gives life to man and all creatures. He says that the world is going to focus on JERUSALEM!

We saw the **Dragon**, the **Beast** and the **False Prophet** united in condemnation of President Trump’s “audacity” in recognising Jerusalem as Israel’s capital and proposing to move the US Embassy there!

The prospect of the Jews holding on to Christianity’s Holy Sites is something that grieves them. The Pope has long championed that Jerusalem become an International City. The return of the Jews to their land has been a sore point for the Popes. They believe the Jews have been cast off, Christianity has inherited everything that God has promised to the Jews. And yet two millennia later the Jews are streaming back to their land—just as their prophets foretold! It is setting the scene for the greatest clash the World has seen. Jerusalem will be the target.

We see the extraordinary surge of anti-Semitism, orchestrated by Russia and Europe. But what will prove to be the last straw?

Bear in mind that the Pope supports Putin because he is prepared to defend the Christians when they are persecuted. This perhaps gives us an insight as to what possibly triggers the nations to invading Israel.

Israel is a free and open society, Jews, Christians and Arabs mingle in her streets, unlike when Jerusalem was annexed by Jordan in 1948 during the war to exterminate the fledgling Jewish State. There was no freedom of worship for the Jews. Their land was confiscated, and they were driven out of their homes. Access to the Temple Mount area was strictly barred.

What if the freedom that Christians and Moslems currently enjoy changed? We remember the furore caused when, following an attack from the Temple Mount on Israeli policemen killing two of them, Israel installed metal detectors and cameras to avoid a repetition. The Arab world erupted! President Abbas severed all security links and rioting broke out in many quarters. In the end, to save further bloodshed, Israel backed down and they were removed.

Imagine what would happen if fired up Jews started to think of the Churches that fill their land as centres of idolatry, with their attendees bowing to the many richly decorated images. Places where they practice the worship of a Trinity of Gods, which is alien to the teaching of the Torah. They need rooting out in the spirit of Hezekiah and Elijah.

This is just the picture that we have. The Old Testament (at least in our English Bible) finishes with those extraordinary words of Malachi:

*Remember ye **the law of Moses my servant**, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments. Behold, I will send you **Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD**: And **he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers**, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse. Mal. 4:4-6*

It tells of a work for Elijah to do, prior to the terrible day of God's judgments on Israel. God is planning to send Elijah, just like He sent John the Baptist, as a messenger to make preparation ahead of the King's visit. When will this be? If it happens before the terrible troubles that fall upon Israel when Gog and his companions invade, then it clearly must happen very soon. We know that the Lord Jesus returns first to call his household and judge them. After this, Christ and the saints are ready to come to Israel's defence when the great "calamity" of losing control of their land happens.

The Elijah work fits into this narrow time period from the resurrection at Christ's return and the invasion and subsequent deliverance of the Remnant of Israel. Could this work of Elijah—probably assisted by John the Baptist, who came in the spirit and power of Elijah, but was not Elijah—be the trigger to bring the nations down?

What is this Elijah work about? It is about taking them back to their Jewish roots: *Remember ye the Law of Moses.* (v4) There is a fertile preaching field amongst the Jewish settlers on the West Bank, whose daily study is the Torah. Yet it is so mixed up with all the other traditions which nullify so much of it. A zealous Elijah will stir up the people. This is why God is sending him—a vital step in Israel's transformation. Yet how easy for certain elements to over-react and in their zeal seek to destroy the idolatry in the land. Some such cause will bring the prophesied invasion against God's people and will seem to be victorious. Gog will take control of Jerusalem, exiling many of her people and triumphing over God's People of Israel.

Oh short-lived triumph! Israel's God, working through His Son, will roar from the heavens (Jer. 25:30-35) and bring peace to His people. He will show the nations that He is Israel's God and they must submit to His Son, the Lord Jesus.

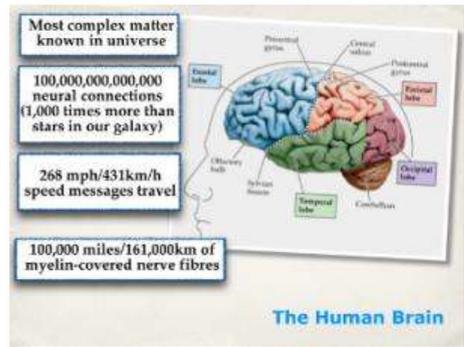
## Chapter 14: AN EXHORTATION TO WATCHFULNESS

We know how close we must be to the Master's return and the Judgment Seat. Knowing that the Gogian invasion lies beyond his Return, there are no events that must take place before our Master comes, as far as we can see. As our stepping stones chart shows, they have all taken place apart from the Gogian invasion and the destruction of Israel's enemies.



We should look very carefully at our lives. We have been called to the Truth for the purpose of reflecting God's Glory in our lives. It is His Glory that will fill the earth through a race of once-mortal beings, filled now with God's immortality and reflections of the Glory that the Master has now, as revealed to Saul on the Damascus road.

God created man higher than the animal kingdom and gave him the ability to make choices and have moral feelings. He entrusted to his care the most complex matter known in this universe—the human brain. We are responsible for whether we feed that brain with godly things, or ungodly. We control what we see, what we hear, what we say. Over time these things shape our minds. What is it that God is looking for? Fruit to Him; the seed of the Word rooted and filling our minds. That is what we will be taking to the Judgment Seat. Not our possessions, our houses, our bank balances. What God desires is something very precious. A mind softened by the Word, that gives Glory to Him, the Creator of all things.



Peter reminded the readers of his epistles that ...*I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance.* 2 Pet. 3:1

Our minds are very precious, and our God will be delighted to perpetuate them throughout eternity, provided they have been purified by God's Word. He has given us the tools. Let us keep them sharp and clean!

The great example was set some 2,000 years ago with our Lord and Master. May we receive an answer of peace in that day

## Keep up-to-date!

[back to contents](#)

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 and interested friends.

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

[www.biblemagazine.com/agents.php](http://www.biblemagazine.com/agents.php)

## Milestones Snippets (free)

This is a 10-12 page A4 newsletter of interesting articles that I glean off the web and email 3 or 4 times a week. They are sent in both Word and PDF versions. Click on which you want to view. Each article is indexed and cumulative indexes are e-mailed quarterly. Email me your name, ecclesia and country to: [snippets@MilestonesUK.org](mailto:snippets@MilestonesUK.org)



## Milestones Website

The *Milestones* web site [www.MilestonesUK.org](http://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/email for booklist. [don@MilestonesUK.org](mailto:don@MilestonesUK.org)

## MP3, Kindle and iPad versions of Milestones 2017

Electronic versions of *Milestones* are now available for reading on Kindle, iPads and similar. There will also be an audio version of *Milestones 2017* in MP3 format, either DropBoxed or on CD. Invaluable to the visually impaired, or those who want to listen on the move! For details contact me at: [don@MilestonesUK.org](mailto:don@MilestonesUK.org)

## 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. For latest details of the Rugby Prophecy Day 24<sup>th</sup> Feb 2018 go to:

<https://cdvideo.org/RPD2018> or [Rugby Prophecy Day](#). You can also watch 'Live Stream' (subscribe beforehand)—details given on these links.

At the Bible Truth and Prophecy Channel <https://cdvideo.org/bibleprophecydays> you can watch many Prophecy Day talks from the UK and around the world.

Don Pearce, *Milestones*, 76 High St, Hillmorton, Rugby, CV21 4EE, UK

## ***Milestones 2017***

This year *Milestones* is divided into six parts:

1. The False Prophet – Rome the Key to Bible Prophecy
2. The Russian Dragon moving towards Israel
3. The European Beast in a post-Brexit world
4. Israel and Sheba and Dedan—a growing friendship
5. Brexit Britain charts new destinations, working with her Young Lions
6. Drawing the Nations to Armageddon – an exhortation to watchfulness



Each part has a chapter of exposition and a chapter connecting the prophecies to the events of the year.

***Milestones 2017*** shows us the closeness of the Lord's return!

**Let us wake up and watch lest we fall asleep!**

***Milestones 2017*** is an antidote to apathy in these difficult times for Christ's brothers and sisters.

