

Don Pearce MILESTONES 2018

42nd
edition



**“All I’ve done
with Israel is tell
the truth.”**

Nikki Haley

US Ambassador to the UN



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MILESTONES TO THE KINGDOM

***A Review of the
World Events of
2018 in the Light
of Bible Prophecy***

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JANUARY 2019

Preface

To contents

It is always exciting in the early part of January, to hear that the manuscript for “*Milestones*” has again faithfully arrived.

And what a wonderful summary it is of the main events of year 2018, as they bear upon our expectations from the words of the prophets who spoke and wrote so long ago. We are such a blessed people to “*know the joyful sound*”. Our generation is full of “*hearts failing them for fear*” but we are able to “*lift up our heads for our redemption draws nigh*”. The signs are all there and growing year by year, day by day so that we know our Lord will soon be on earth again. The nations crave for solutions to huge problems that are spreading and deepening. Areas of the world that were rarely heard of, are now breaking into the news and showering their troubles or demands throughout their region and beyond. Russia and China are bursting with expansionist desires. There is hardly a week when there is not new evidence of China’s growing influence in the islets of the South China Sea or north on the small islands near Japan, building harbours and bases in the Philippines and other Pacific islands, even purchasing ports in Australia.

Russia’s interests are more focused! Review the map on p38, where all of Russia’s more recent navy and air bases are indicated. From the Baltic Sea to the Black Sea and the Mediterranean, in Syria, Cyprus, Libya, Sudan, Eritrea, the tentacles of Russia’s interest are showing up in exactly those regions which the prophets of Israel designated she would descend upon in the latter days (Ezek 38:15-18). She’s got a friend, Iran, who is the arch enemy of Israel, and she’s developing a blue-water navy to patrol the Persian Gulf and the coasts of Arabia and into the Red Sea. Even in the inland Black Sea and Caspian Sea, Russia is organising navy exercises with Iran and selling sophisticated missiles to this wildly anti-Israel nation.

These are big patterns of change that spur other secondary nations to do the same. So Poland and other EU members are speaking of great new navy vessels. For 50 years the United States had acted as a world policeman, sailing great navies that have been the unspoken guardian of many nations, as Britain did before her. Many countries have been thankful for this security, but the anxiety now is that we have powerful fleets that would not hesitate to steal the lands they “guard”. Pages 40-43 of this ‘*Milestones*’ analyses the continuing expansion of Russia into the land of Ukraine and the waters of the Black Sea. “*Many ships*” the prophet Daniel mentioned and their facilities are being built before our eyes.

Borders don’t prevent Russia: she’s proved that several times in the last ten years. Putin is driven with the vision of a greater Russia, greater even than Peter the Great imagined, the most revered of all their Czars. Mr Putin already has more than twice the land area of any other country; but he’s not wanting the dark unknown expanse of the pine trees of Siberia, he seeks the warm and famous country of the Promised Land, “*the glory of all lands*”

(Ezek 20:15) and where the king of the north, will “*establish his palatial residence*” in “*the glorious holy mountain*” (Dan 11:45), just as it has been written of him. There is no other city that is so revered, even today! Russians have been craving for this place for centuries. In the early years of the 19th century the Russians built a huge monastery on the Mount of Olives with a five-storey tower that is still the highest point in Jerusalem. The Russian Church built grand churches at the base of the mount and also in the immediate north of the city the Russian Orthodox church has built some prestigious ecclesiastical buildings. Armenia is a small neighbour on the south of Russia and they hold the title deeds of the Christian quarter of Jerusalem, an entitlement that goes back hundreds of years. When the Crusaders evicted the Muslims from Jerusalem, they founded the “Kingdom of Jerusalem” and King Baldwin as its head. This strange chapter in Jerusalem’s history only lasted for 89 years, when it was retaken by the Muslims, but the cost and loss of lives shows the fanaticism that the Roman Catholic and Orthodox followers put into the possession of Jerusalem.

Surely Putin, so often in league with his Russian Orthodox Patriarchs, is well aware of all this. We wonder if he has been told of the prophet’s last comment, “*he shall come to his end, and none shall help him*” (Dan. 11:45). The planned exit of Britain from the European Union must bring great pleasure to the Russian leader. Only Britain could really foil Russia’s designs upon Europe. And if, as being hastily planned, the EU focuses upon the development of its own independent army, where then is NATO? That makes Europe an easy prey for Russia. The EU would be on their knees asking for Russian oil and gas to fuel their economies.

These last chapters in *Milestones* are exceedingly interesting. Europe has played her cards very strategically and forced the United Kingdom into a divorce from Northern Ireland. That reality makes Brexit very “hard” indeed for the UK. Catholic Europe is dealing out a tough lesson to wavering Britain and a warning to all the other twenty-seven members of the EU.

Perhaps that is exactly what the Creator has in mind. Britain signed up in 1972 to the EU at the risk of her Protestant background and despite her Commonwealth family. This present pain has caused sore embarrassment; yet it may give her stronger resolve in departing from the EU.

It is quite priceless to read the poignant comments of Queen Elizabeth; there seems to be no doubt where she stands!!

Another phase is coming and appears to be exactly in accord with the Father’s early word of prophecy.

We are a blessed people.

Brian Luke

Secretary

January 2019

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Abbreviations used

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

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

\$1= £0.79; €0.88; AS\$1.43; CA\$1.36; NZ\$1.50 at 02-Jan-19 rates.

\$1 million = £791,000, \$1 billion = £791,000,000 approx. \$ always US\$.

Author’s important notes

I would like to especially thank my family and Bre. Alan Clarke, Stephen Whitehouse and Kevin Allison and the CSSS for their helpful comments on the draft and Bro Matt Davies for writing the closing exhortation. It is all put together in last few 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.

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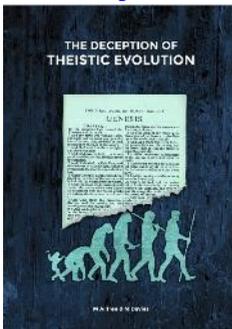
The True Gospel. Defended & Explained by Bro Graham Pearce.

This 72-page booklet looks at the Hope of Israel and the meaning of the New Covenant.

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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.

The Deception of Theistic Evolution. Bre Mark Allfree, Matt Davies Pub. 2017. 174 pages



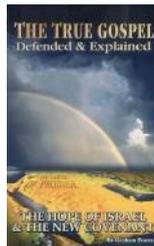
A serious study on the errors of the faith debilitating attempt to make the Bible fit with humanistic ideas of the alleged origins of the earth and man according to evolutionary thinking. See inside back cover for details to purchase or download, also source of resources on this vital topic. Also link to Bro Matt's talk on *The Voice of God*, from which Bro Matt has kindly supplied this year's *Milestones* closing exhortation.

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

This 42nd edition of Milestones is written at a crucial time for Britain, as “negotiations” have resulted in an alarming deal, which looks set to tie Britain to the EU with no way out, unless agreed by the EU! We know from God’s Word that Britain has a latter-day role to play outside the EU. For Bible watchers, the progress since the referendum in 2016 as to whether Britain should leave the EU or remain has been tortuous. It has been a great test of faith. At the year-end preparations are at last being made for a “hard” Brexit which would break Britain away from the EU at the end of March 2019.

Milestones 2017 was based upon a series of six talks on Latter-day Bible prophecies and enabled the laying of a fairly wide-ranging basis for our historical understanding of the events leading to the setting up of God’s Kingdom. There will therefore, be many references back to that issue for deeper scriptural analysis.

The angels are busy behind the scenes working under Christ’s direction to lead the nations to their pre-appointed positions on the world’s stage. We can but marvel at the greatness of our God, who has all things under His ultimate control. Things will work out exactly as the prophets have indicated. May Milestones be a faith-boosting help.

The structure of this year’s Milestones

Chapter 2 is a look at the events of 35 years ago as recorded in *Milestones 1983*. Why 35 years? This looking-back started in *Milestones 2012* and went back to the first issue, 35 years previously.

Chapter 3 looks at prophecies concerning the Kingdom of Men vs. the Kingdom of God.

Chapters 4 and 5 look at Israel and the situation in the Middle East.

Chapter 6 looks at Russia’s expanding footprint.

Chapter 7 Looks at prophecies concerning what we should be looking for as the Feet of Nebuchadnezzar’s Image form.

Chapter 8 looks at the growing divide between the US and Europe.

Chapters 9 and 10 look at the growth of the two feet.

Chapter 11 looks at matters religious.

Chapters 12 and 13 look at Britain’s Brexit and her future role in the ME.

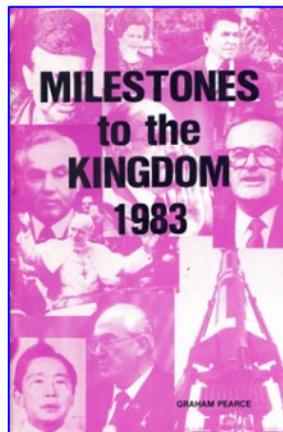
Chapter 14 is an exhortation for the ecclesias in these last days, facing the undermining of our historical understanding of Biblical Inspiration.

Chapter 2

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FROM EARLY MILESTONES—1983

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 64 pages with 7 chapters and an Appendix. The front cover montage of pictures recalled many of the personages that were then in power. Among them: Mrs Thatcher, President Reagan, Andropov the Soviet leader, Arafat the PLO leader and Pope John Paul II.



Milestones 1983 Chapters 1 and 2

Milestones 1983 opened with an examination of what Daniel had to say about the coming invader of Israel. The Latter-day invasion of Israel is clearly prophesied to be part of the final phase of Daniel's 4th Beast and thus of Roman origin and character. Together with Daniel ch 11, this power is referred to as "the King".

The KING is not a single person but represents a dynasty or rulership. The KING-power was destined to "destroy the mighty and holy people" (v24) ...The end of the matter is given in v25: after prospering through deceit, "He shall also stand up against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without hand".

In an Appendix to this 1st chapter, Bro. Graham expounded the two little horns of Daniel 7 and 8. We will revisit these important facets in this year's *Milestones*, as it is beneficial in understanding the current situation.

The 2nd chapter looked at the detail of how Russia is the successor of the "King" referred to in ch's 8 and 11 of Daniel. Although it would be another eight years before the fall of Communism, there were indications that Russian patriotism was still alive, which would enable Russia to "follow a course marked out for her long ago, to revive the Roman power, and with control over all Europe, stand against the Prince of Princes, when attempting to establish world control."

Milestones 1983 Ch 3: Russia and the Vatican: Poland the crucible.

Bro Graham correctly understood that Poland would be the centre of the clash between the Soviet and the Roman Catholic Church.

We have suggested in an earlier issue that it is very probable that the battle between the Vatican with its Roman Catholic Church and the Soviet with its Communism will be fought out in Poland. The two parties will spar with one another like boxers in the ring, until it is apparent that neither can

win and that in cooperation both can benefit and so some form of alliance is desirable.

Pope John Paul II was born Karol Józef Wojtyła on May 18, 1920, in Wadowice, Poland. He was the Pope from 1978 to 2005. He made his first visit as Pope to his homeland of Poland in 1979.

His speeches stirred up the workers to demand their trade-union rights and Solidarity as a political movement swept the country. It brought about a change of government and promise of reforms. This success brought boldness, and it was found to be plotting to overthrow the government. There followed an inevitable clamp-down, the imposition of martial law and the suppression of Solidarity. The Church now moved cautiously, emphasising a desire for dialogue and accommodation with the government.

The Pope's visit in June 1983 was much softer; building bridges to the Communist government.

The Pope played his part with skill; he must not let down the people, yet he must not be too critical of the government. So, in contrast to his first visit, he largely limited himself to his religious field of social justice according to the gospel of Jesus Christ. His theme was moral victory. Reconciliation was the theme of his last appearance.

His speeches were well received, and his inference was that the days of Solidarity's opposition to the government were numbered. Solidarity, with Lech Walesa their leader, were forced to tone down their actions, and the government lifted martial law in July. [The Solidarity movement still exists in Poland, and Walesa remained as chairman until 1990 when he won the Presidential elections and became the first non-communist leader for 45 years. He oversaw the transition from Communism to a free-market economy. He was Poland's President from 1990-1995.]

Milestones 1983 Ch 4: America and the Soviet. This detailed the growing tensions as NATO and Warsaw Pact countries of the Soviet faced each other with growing threats during this period of the "Cold" War. NATO was heavily outnumbered. Much of the weaponry was to be found behind the iron curtain in East Germany. NATO was preparing to place nuclear missiles in West Germany. Not surprisingly with this threat of "mutual slaughter of Germans by Germans", West Germany was more disposed to seeking accommodation with the Soviet than be at the centre of a nuclear war! The newly elected German Chancellor, Herr Kohl, had paid a visit to Moscow and had had "meaningful talks". Kohl was opposed to the positioning of nuclear weapons on German territory. He also was pressing for the reunification of Germany. As a strong Roman Catholic, he also sought to build on the outreach of the Vatican towards Russia.

Milestones 1983 Ch 5: The Near East and the Middle East. The previous year, Israel had invaded Lebanon in pursuit of Yasser Arafat and the PLO who were in Beirut. In 1983, the US brokered a Peace Treaty, as a basis for Israeli troop withdrawals and the expelling of the PLO to Tunisia. The Soviet Union took advantage of the US concentration on Lebanon, to increase her presence in Syria. All the weapons that Syria had lost in her battles with Israel the previous year were replaced and upgraded. America had lost any hope she had of leverage in Syria, the Soviets had trumped them. A later section in this chapter detailed the gains Russia was making in Iran with a quotation from *Business Week* entitled **Moscow manoeuvres towards a takeover in Iran.** The Shah had been deposed a few years earlier, in 1979. Iran was now awash with Soviet advisors. The chapter ended with a brief description of the US's work in the Southern Arab States.

We can see the seeds of the current situation being sown 35 years ago.

Milestones 1983 Ch 6: An unhappy year for Israel. The Lebanon war had disastrous consequences for Israel. There was much soul-searching about what the military had done, leading to the resignation of Prime Minister Begin.

“The economy has reached a crisis of such proportions that in October it seemed beyond government control. The public lost confidence in banks and the national currency, and there is at present a fear about the future.”

Israel was spending 33% of her Gross National Product on defence, a further 33% on loan interest repayments, leaving little to spend on her own use.

Things were no better for the Jews in the Soviet Union. Anti-Semitism gave little opportunity to hold to their Jewish ways and customs. From 1,000 synagogues a generation ago, there were only 55 for 2 million Jews.

Milestones 1983 Ch 7: Is Britain moving back to traditional values? The Conservative Party had swept back into power under Mrs Thatcher during this year. Her concepts of hard work and morality had caught the mood of many in Britain. The North Sea oilfields had made Britain the No. 2 oil producer, second only to Saudi Arabia.

The Appendix was entitled: **Christianity today—and ourselves.** Bro Graham counselled caution as our community became more and more organised with inter-ecclesial committees looking after so many things. A far cry from the very simple structure of the ecclesias in the first century.

His final paragraph will surely strike a chord today!

In Britain today, there are so many weekend gatherings, fraternals, conferences, etc., arranged; and transport from north to south, east to west is so easy; one's life can be taken up with these activities, to the extent that vital personal study of the Word and the books written by brethren is crowded out. Few have read that essential book on the Truth, *Elpis Israel*.

Chapter 3

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THE KINGDOM OF MEN vs. THE KINGDOM OF GOD

God views the world He has created as divided into two camps. Those in opposition to His People (Jew and saint) and those in favour of His People. These two groups have their origins in the early chapters of Genesis. The principle was laid down by the division of the world into light and darkness on Day One of creation. God also chose to start the day in the evening, so at the end of each creation day it speaks of the “evening and the morning” being the xth day. Darkness first, then light. The darkness of the Kingdom of Men will be followed by the light of the Kingdom of God.

The Kingdom of Men was the result of sin and death being introduced into the world as recorded in Genesis 3. The future was to unfold into two classes—the Seed of the Woman and the Seed of the Serpent, with enmity or hostility, between them. God passed sentence upon the serpent, upon the woman and upon the man.

The specifications in these sentences upon the serpent, the woman, and the man, form THE CONSTITUTION of the Serpent-World, or the KINGDOM OF SIN; and termed in Scripture “the Kingdom of Men”—dominion hostile to the Divine law administered by the Serpent’s Seed. It matters not what form the dominion assumes, whether imperial, regal, republican, or papal, its basis is one and the same; and most appropriately symbolized by the serpent which was in the beginning. *John Thomas Eureka Vol. 3*

Nimrod’s Kingdom of Babel

After the Flood, the Kingdom of Men was organised by Nimrod who founded Babel, or Babylon, in defiance of God and in opposition to Shem.

*And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us **a name**, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth. Gen.11:4*

Shem means *name*. He was faithful and had received Noah’s blessing.

Blessed be the LORD God of Shem, and Canaan shall be his servant.

God shall enlarge the tents of Shem: and Canaan shall be his servant. Gen.9:26,27

Although Japheth was the eldest, (10:21) Ham the next, (9:24) and Shem the youngest; (10:1,6,21) Shem is listed first in lists of the three brothers. He would be the priest of the family. His territory was on the hills of Judah—he was “*the father of all the children of Eber*” (Gen. 10:21) after whom the

“fathers” are called Hebrews. (Gen 14:13) Shem’s descendants are traced to Nahor, Terah and Abram in Gen. 11:10,23-26. Shem died at the age of 600 outliving Abram by 35 years according to Bro Thomas’ chronology or when Abraham would have been about 150 according to Companion Bible Chronology! Shem may well have been Melchizedek, but the account is silent on Melchizedek’s antecedents.

The builders of Babel were seeking to have permanence with their man-made bricks as opposed to natural stones. *Bricks of mud* speak of clay, earthy origins. They were held together with the mortar of *slime* (AV) or bitumen. Its top with the heavens—there is no Hebrew word for the AV *may reach*. Middle Eastern ziggurats were topped by a shrine to their deity. Nebuchadnezzar restored and finished Babel, because, according to the inscriptions that he embedded in this project:

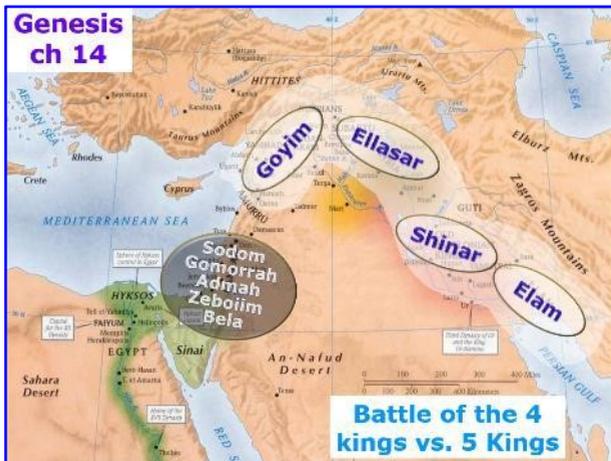
The building...had been built by a former king. He had completed forty-two ammas (of the height), **but he did not finish its head**. From the lapse of time it had become ruined. *Sir James George Frazer Folk-lore in the Old Testament Vol 5. The Tower of Babel*

It was called *Eur-immin-an-ki*—House of the Seven Stages of Heaven and Earth. In Assyrian, Babel is known as *Bab-ilu* meaning *gate of god*. In Hebrew, *Babel* means *confusion*. The city represented man’s defiance of the commands of God. They did not want to be scattered and populate the earth. They sought to express their own ideas and make their own religion. Such was the Kingdom of Men at the time of Nimrod.

Four kings vs. five kings

Due to the confusion of tongues they left the building and were dispersed. Some centuries later, when Abram was in the Land of Promise, new alliances were made, bringing together:

Amraphel king of Shinar, Arioch king of Ellasar, Chedorlaomer king of Elam, and Tidal king of nations [Goyim]. Gen. 14:1



It was an aggressive alliance which descended from the north into the area where Abram dwelt and took Lot and the people of the Jordan valley captive.

Abram organised a rescue party who defeated this alliance and brought back the spoil to Jerusalem to Melchizedek, King of Salem. Melchizedek provided bread and wine, and Abram provided him with a tenth of the spoils. This gives us a beautiful foreshadowing of the future work of Jerusalem's King-Priest after the order of Melchizedek (Heb.6:20) who destroys the alliance of nations who come down from the north against Israel as described in Ezekiel 38 and Joel 3. His victory over sin is commemorated by bread and wine.

The Dragon of Egypt

Years later, the children of Israel were to be brought under subjection to the Kingdom of Men in Egypt, where there arose a Pharaoh *that knew not Joseph* and was determined that the gods of Egypt were of greater power than the God whom the Israelites worshipped. For many long years, the Israelites toiled under hard bondage, in subjection to Pharaoh. Unknown to Israel, their God had indeed heard their cries, and a saviour was born, but they had to wait 80 years for Moses' training to be completed, before salvation came. But freedom didn't happen after the first plague on Egypt, nor the second or the third. Many months would pass while they suffered greater hardships under a sceptical Pharaoh before the last, tenth, plague fell which broke the power of resistance with the death of the firstborn in Egypt.

Again, God uses the occasion as a wonderful foreshadowing of the *Greater than Moses* who would come to save his people. Jesus, like Moses, would initially be rejected, would go away and then return as their saviour. The details of the Passover preparations are very powerful.

This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you.

Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for an house: Exo. 12:2,3

It was marked by a change to their New Year. The month Abib or Nissan marked the beginning of their religious calendar and their redemption from the darkness of Egypt as God's nation.

Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats:

And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening.

And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it.

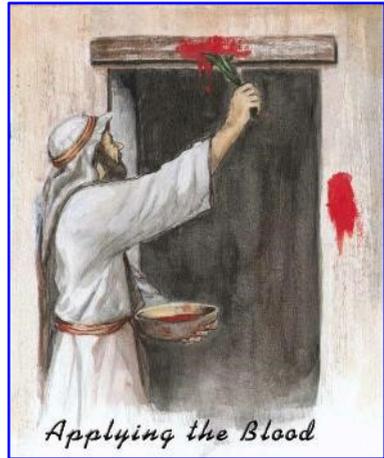
And they shall eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire, and unleavened bread; and with bitter herbs they shall eat it.

And thus shall ye eat it; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the LORD'S passover. Exo. 12:5-8,11

The details point powerfully to the one who will be their redeemer. He will come the second time as a Lion, but his first coming to his people was as the Lamb of God. The lamb without blemish was chosen on the 10th day of the month and was kept penned up to ensure it had no blemishes. It was on this day, the 10th of Abib, that Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the colt, the foal of an ass. He was under strict scrutiny by the leaders desperate to find some fault in him to justify putting him to death.

At the very time that the Passover lambs were slain on the afternoon of the 14th day, our Lord Jesus yielded up his life. The Israelites had to take the blood of the slaughtered lamb and sprinkle it on the doorposts and the lintel of the house where they would eat. They had to enter in through that blood-sprinkled doorway and shut the door and remain in the house until morning.

The lamb was roasted and eaten with unleavened bread and bitter herbs; not a bone was to be broken. They had to eat it in a state of readiness for departure.



What a beautiful picture of the Passover Lamb that was slain for us. 1 Cor. 5:7 Without blemish, not a bone is broken. A soldier's spear pierced his side, his blood was shed. He is the blood-sprinkled doorway whereby we can escape from the dominion of the Kingdom of Men and embrace the hope of the Kingdom of God.

Following the Exodus journey and the conquest of the Land, Israel dwelt as God's nation in God's land—the land promised to Abraham. After a period under the Judges, Israel asked for a King. God gave them Saul, who was taken away and replaced with David, the Beloved, the man after God's own heart and to whom were wonderful promises made of the Coming One who would be Son of God and would sit on David's throne forever. David recognised that God was speaking of matters that lay a long way off. 2 Sam. 7:19 In type, Solomon, the man of peace fulfilled them in that he built a house to God, the magnificent Temple, built according to the God-given specifications revealed to David. Like David, *Solomon sat on the throne of Yahweh*, Israel's God. 1 Chron. 29:23 His Kingdom extended from the river

Euphrates to the river of Egypt. It was a centre to which the Gentiles were happy to come and glorify the God of Israel.

A steady falling away in Israel's faithfulness brought the powers of the Kingdom of Men against Israel's Kingdom. Egypt, Syria, Assyria and finally Babylon took control of Israel and Judah. The warnings of the prophets came to pass that God would forsake His People because of their faithlessness.

Our heading is the **Dragon of Egypt**. It is Ezekiel that terms the Pharaoh of his day as the Dragon power.

*Speak, and say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, Pharaoh king of Egypt, **the great dragon** that lieth in the midst of his rivers, which hath said, My river is mine own, and I have made it for myself. Eze. 29:3*

It was Egypt that took control of Judah following the death of Josiah as Pharaoh Necho travelled up *to aid* (NKJV) (*AV against*) *the king of Assyria*.

Necho was expanding his Dragon kingdom northwards. Advancing up the coastal plain he found his advance across the Megiddo plain blocked by Josiah's army, who ignored Necho's warning that he was on a mission from God. Josiah was killed, and the army withdrew. Necho swept northwards taking cities in Lebanon and Syria before swinging across to Haran, in north Mesopotamia (now in Turkey). Here he encountered the might of the Babylonian army which had newly taken the Assyrian Empire leaving the remnant of the Assyrians shut up in Haran. He failed to break through and returned back to Riblah, and the Babylonians took Haran.

Nebuchadnezzar and Babylon then became representative of the Kingdom of Men. Nebuchadnezzar subsequently took Egypt, thus adding the Dragon kingdom to his own. It was his God-given reward for his earlier siege of Tyre. Eze. 29:18,19

Babylon the Great

Once again, the Kingdom of Men centres on Babel or Babylon—the same Hebrew word. Step-by-step God made preparations for the preservation of the *good figs* (Jer. 24) of Judah, which were removed to Babylon for safety, together with the Temple treasures and the scrolls of Scripture, being carefully stored in the vaults of Babylon. Among the early captives were Daniel and his three friends who were children of the king or of the princes. Dan. 1:3 They were put through the highest education that Babylon could offer, taught in the ways and gods of Babylon. Their Hebrew names which reflected the God of Israel were changed to names which honoured the gods of Babylon.

Through their faith and with God's blessing, Nebuchadnezzar was brought to acknowledge the greatness of Israel's God! He also was brought to face the reality that his glorious Kingdom of Babylon was not to continue forever,

other kingdoms would arise, inferior to the gold of Babylon. To this Gentile “world ruler” was revealed the amazing detail of what was to come after him and in particular *what shall be in the latter days*. Dan. 2:28 Why this vision at this time? We know that to Ezekiel was revealed the prophecies of Israel’s restoration and the coming Temple, after the news had come that Jerusalem had fallen. Eze. 33:21 With the Kingdom of Judah ending, then this was the time for the prophet to receive God’s Words concerning the time when Israel would be restored to their land. Much of the book of Daniel was given after the destruction of Jerusalem, and so it is appropriate that his book is concerned with the destiny of Israel and their eventual gathering to their land.

We will look at the detail of the prophecy of Nebuchadnezzar’s Image and its latter-day feet, when we come to chapter 7.

To Daniel was also revealed God’s assessment of this same Kingdom of Men. Instead of a towering Image with Nebuchadnezzar represented by the head of gold, God revealed to Daniel a succession of wild animals. The details are given in chapter 7. We would refer readers to *Milestones 2017* for greater details. What is so interesting is that when we count up the heads and the horns on these four Beasts, we have a total of **7 heads and 10 horns**, which is what we find on the *Beasts* of Revelation 13.



The Little Horn of Daniel 7

Daniel 7 also tells of how a **little horn** power would arise from the overthrow of three of the horns on the head of the fourth of these Beasts, the Roman Beast, corresponding to the *iron* of ch. 2.

I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things. v8



It would *make war with the saints and prevail against them*. v21 This power continues until it faces the time of judgment and is destroyed.

I beheld then because of the voice of the great words which the horn spake: I beheld even till the beast was slain, and his body destroyed, and given to the burning flame. v11

This indicates that the power endures for an extended period, persecuting the true believers, but its time would come to an end at the hand of the *Ancient of Days*. v9 The details of our linkage of this *little horn on the 4th Beast* to the Holy Roman Empire were given in last year's *Milestones*. This fourth Roman Beast was for many centuries a single Roman Empire, governed from Rome. The East, however, was very influenced by Greek thinking and the West by Roman, Latin thinking. Eventually, with Constantine moving his throne from Rome to the newly rebuilt city of Constantinople, the Roman Empire became divided into two, corresponding to the *two legs* of the Image. Daniel 7 becomes the focus of the history of the western Roman world with Emperor and Pope holding sway over the West for long centuries.

In Daniel 8, God reveals a different aspect of unfolding history, that of the military might of Rome and its development in the East, centred in Constantinople.

The book of Daniel is written in Aramaic and Hebrew. Chapters 2:4-7:28 are in Aramaic or Chaldee, the rest in Hebrew. Chaldee was the language of the Assyrians and Babylonians. So, when we come to chapter 8 and onwards, Daniel writes in Hebrew. The earlier chapters very much concerned the might of Babylon and Israel under its control. The Prophecies from ch. 8 onwards show how the power of the Kingdom of Men will be brought under the control of Israel's King and the *times of the Gentiles* will end with the establishment of the Kingdom of God on earth.

The Little Horn of the Goat, Daniel 8

The *head of gold* kingdom was in its final years when God revealed to Daniel the details of the Medo-Persian, Greek and Roman phases of the Kingdom of Men. This prophecy of ch. 8 tells of the Greek conquest of the Medo-Persian Empire. The *He-Goat* of Greece with its *notable horn*, Alexander the Great, led the Greeks against the Persian Empire—represented by the Ram. Again, we refer readers to last year's



Milestones for the details of Alexander’s rapid conquest of the Persian Empire and how his early death resulted in that *horn* being broken and being eventually replaced by *four horns*, describing the four parts into which the Greek Empire split.

Two of these horns are of particular interest as they, in turn, held sway over the territory of Israel, the Seleucids to the north and the Ptolemies to the south. Apart from a period of independence under the Maccabees, Israel was subject to the dominant “horn” at the time. Worse news was to come, a new power was going to appear on the scene—that of Rome!

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

The Roman world came initially to assist the northern Seleucid horn, but then took it over and proceeded to take over the whole Greek Empire! So, Israel, *the pleasant land*, was now under Roman control from 63 BC. It tells of how, under Rome, the *prince of the host*, the Lord Jesus, would be put to death and the *place of his sanctuary*, the Temple and its worship would be *cast down*, which happened in AD 70. This Roman power was to continue to *cast down* the Truth, by subverting its obvious teachings.

Trodden under foot for 2,300 days

Daniel had been expecting the imminent return of his people to Jerusalem as the 70 years of captivity would come to an end. Jer. 29:10 This would indeed happen, but it did not herald Israel’s exaltation. Daniel had been told that the *truth would be cast to the ground*. He listens to a conversation between two angels enquiring as to how long this would last.

Then I heard one saint speaking, and another saint said unto that certain saint which spake, How long shall be the vision concerning the daily sacrifice, and the transgression of desolation, to give both the sanctuary and the host to be trodden under foot?

And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed. Dan. 8:13,14

Daniel would understand that these were not literal days—just over six years, as there were about 16 years to run until the ending of the 70 years captivity. Understanding God’s principle that a day stands for a year, this was therefore a bleak prospect of over two millennia of down-treading. But when does one begin the period? Chronology is difficult as there is no agreement over the dates for Old Testament events. Taking conventional dating:

From the start of Alexander’s conquest of Persia 334 BC, would take us to AD 1967. (One has to add 1 year as there is no year 0.) A significant year when Jerusalem came under Israeli control.

From the death of Alexander 323 BC, takes us to AD 1976.

It was about twenty years after his death that the Greek Empire was divided into four, so that takes us to about AD 1996.

It wasn’t until about 280 BC that the Seleucid and Ptolemaic powers established their supremacy, which would take us to about AD 2021.

Assuming the overthrow of Israel’s enemies marks the ending of the 2,300 years, then if there is a 10-year period from the Return of Christ to his household to Armageddon, then even the last date is premature, as Christ is not yet back. Never-the-less it tells us the *times of the Gentiles* will shortly end, to be replaced by the Son of God ruling from Zion over the nations.

The sanctuary shall be justified

At the end of this long down treading, the sanctuary will be *cleansed*. The margin has *Heb. justified*. Brown, Driver, Briggs has *the Holy Place shall be put right, in a right condition*. The whole chapter is of God’s Hand upon His People, with the ultimate end that Israel’s enemies will be destroyed, and Israel exalted. This will be the case. God’s dwelling place, the Most Holy place in Jerusalem will be purified, God’s People will dwell in their land in peace and holiness under their Messiah. This time coincides with the *way into the Holiest of all being made manifest* [made apparent; WEB: *opened*]. Heb.9:8 Eternal life through the offering of the Lord Jesus will be a reality for the saints, among whom will be Daniel himself. (Dan. 12:13)

This chapter ends with a fuller description of the Roman Power which would be the representation of the Kingdom of Men for over two, long, millennia.

And in the latter time of their kingdom [the 4-horn Greek Empire], when the transgressors are come to the full, a king of fierce countenance [Rome], 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

By *king* v23 we should understand a dynasty rather than an individual king, as this power was to last for over 2,000 years! This “king” was to spring out of the Northern, Seleucid horn and hence is termed in chapter 11 as “The King of the North”. This warlike Roman power would come down from the North, leading the forces of Russia and Europe against God’s People of Israel as described in Ezekiel 38 and Joel 3.

Daniel 11: The King of the North and the King of the South.

This is an essential chapter in the understanding of the latter-day stage of the Kingdom of Men. The earlier verses give a detailed history of the battles between the original King of the South and King of the North. This chapter shows that the King of the North power, out of which the little horn of Rome developed, would continue until the time of the end. Its characteristics in vs.36-39 we looked at last year, together with its continuance at the time of the end. The King was the possessor of Constantinople in the past and will again be when Russia sweeps down to take Turkey on its way down to Israel and Egypt as described in vs. 40-45. He comes to his end as described in Ezekiel 38 and 39 at the hands of Israel’s great Prince, described in Dan. 12:1 as *Michael [Who is like God]*, even the Lord Jesus. His work of resurrection at a time of Israel’s trouble is described in the opening verses. God will be vindicated. The Holy Place will be *in a right condition* (8:14) as the millennial age dawns.

We will look at what the New Testament has to say about the contest between the Kingdom of Men and the Kingdom of God when we come to chapter 7.

The Kingdom of Men grew out of a reaction to God’s judgments in the Flood. They built a city and a tower so that they would not be scattered. Their intents were thwarted by the confusion of tongues. They used their powers to cast down and disperse God’s people. But God has decreed that their days are numbered.

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

That day lay a long way off from Daniel’s time, we too are still awaiting it!

In the next chapter we will look at Israel and her growing group of friends but equally the increasing hostility against her by nations around the world. In chapter 5 we will see her position today, with her incredible growth and desirability as a spoil and a prey. (Eze. 38:12)

Chapter 4

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ISRAEL'S FRIENDS AND FOES

It is clear from Scripture that at the time of the end, Israel has a circle of friends, but also many enemies. This is what becomes more evident every day. There are some nations—Britain, America, Australia, Canada and India, who, together with a growing number of moderate Arab countries in the Gulf area are generally prepared to stand by Israel. On the other hand, Europe, Russia, Iran and Turkey with a multitude of countries around the world seek Israel's demise. The anti-Israel spirit is clearly seen in the United Nations organisations. Although their motto is taken from the Bible, they have no love for the people of the Bible. Year in and year out, Israel is their focus in UN Resolution after Resolution. The troubles of the rest of the world are mainly ignored. Their focus is on Israel and her efforts to avoid being wiped off the map by Hamas, Fatah, Hezbollah, Iran and Syria!

United Nations Human Rights Council

This United Nations body is based in Geneva, Switzerland whose mission is to “promote and protect human rights around the world”. As of 2018, Israel has been condemned in 78 resolutions by the Council since its creation in 2006. The Council has resolved more resolutions condemning Israel than the rest of the world combined! (UNHRC *Wikipedia* page accessed 03-Dec-18) The US has already quit the organisation because of its anti-Israel bias and in June, the UK gave it six months in which to cease its anti-Israel basis. This was a welcome boost for Israel, triggered by the amazing job that Nikki Haley, the US's UN representative (until the year-end) has done in fearlessly countering this bias.

So, what are the human rights that this body so vigorously defends, although many of its members give their own citizens little or no freedom of choice? They are based on the spirit of the French Revolution with its cries of **Liberté, égalité, fraternité** (“[liberty](#), [equality](#), [fraternity](#)”). As we shall see in chapter 7, this is the basis of the *frog-like spirits* from the mouths of the *Dragon*, the *Beast* and the *False Prophet*, whose effect is to gather the nations to *the battle [war] of the great day of God Almighty*. Rev.16:13,14 The same great battle



foretold by Daniel and the other Old Testament prophets when the nations, having gathered on the mountains of Israel to destroy Israel from being a nation, are themselves destroyed by the returned Lord Jesus and His saints in the Battle of Armageddon. Rev 16:15,16

Their work can be seen in the latest batch of anti-Israel Resolutions, voted for at the end of November at the UN Headquarters in New York. Every year it holds an *International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People*. This year marked the 71st anniversary of the UN General Assembly resolution 181 (II) passed on 29th November 1947 partitioning the mandate of Palestine into two States. The Jews accepted the resolution, the Arabs rejected it. That is why the following year, when the British left the region and the State of Israel was set up, the surrounding Arab nations sought to destroy the newly formed State of Israel. They failed. What they term Nakba (Catastrophe) Day, is generally commemorated on May 15. The day was inaugurated by Yasser Arafat in 1998.



In the UN Headquarters this year, as happens in many years, the UN mounted an exhibition in its lobby which ran from 29th Nov to 4th Jan 2019.

The exhibition on display in the visitor's lobby in the headquarters of the United Nations in New York City presents images of seventy years of the struggle for Palestinian human rights, lost in the *nakba*, catastrophe, the creation of Israel. In addition, the UN General Assembly on November 29, 2018, will commemorate, as it has done since 1978, the Annual Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people, pursuant to the Resolution of December 2, 1977, A/RES/32/40, marking the adoption of the UNGA Resolution 181 (11) of November 29, 1947, which called for partition of the disputed territory, with Jerusalem having special status.

The **fundamental pivotal irony** in all this was that **the Arabs** refused that 1947 Resolution, while Israel accepted, and they **refused to create a Palestinian state** at that time. *Michael Curtis* The United Nations and Cognitive Dissonance 21-Nov-18

The list of speakers at this special meeting 29th Nov. 2018 was impressive, as were many of the titles of the Committees they represented!

The Chair of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People

President of the General Assembly

President of the United Nations Security Council

Secretary-General of the United Nations

Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine, reading out a message from Mahmoud Abbas, President of the State of Palestine

Vice-Chair of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories

Deputy Permanent Representative of Venezuela to the United Nations, on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries

Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States to the United Nations

Deputy Permanent Observer of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation

Permanent Observer of the African Union.

Messages of Solidarity to be read from the governments of:

Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei, Burkina Faso, China, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, Guyana, Guinea, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Lao, Lebanon, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nicaragua, the Philippines, Qatar, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syria, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Viet Nam, Zimbabwe.

What strange bedfellows, all spending time and effort to condemn little Israel, a country containing 0.11% of the world's population.

The following day on Nov 30th there were six anti-Israel resolutions voted on. Covering such matters as “the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people; Jerusalem; Golan Heights; settlement of the question of Palestine.” The one on Jerusalem was typical.

Extract: “Expressing its grave concern, in particular, about tensions, provocations and incitement regarding the holy places of Jerusalem, including the Haram al-Sharif, and urging restraint for the sanctity of the holy sites by all sides...”

The vote was passed 148 for, 11 against and 14 abstained.

Interestingly the EU 28-member states which each have a vote, protested at the use of only Arabic terms to describe places of importance to Jews and Christians. They put on record that this could be the last time they will vote for these annual series of resolutions unless the UN changes the wording.

“The EU stresses the need for language on the holy sites of Jerusalem to reflect the importance and historical significance of the holy sites for the three monotheistic religions, and to respect religious and cultural sensitivities,” it said in a statement that was read out on the floor of the UN.

“The future choice of language may affect the EU's collective support for the resolutions,” it added.

Traditionally the EU has been harshly critical of Israeli activity over the pre-1967 lines and its policies on that score have created tensions with Israel.

It has historically supported the annual passage of pro-Palestinian

resolutions involving Jerusalem at the UNGA, where the Palestinians have an automatic majority.

Its opposition, or even a decision to abstain, would mark a dramatic shift in its policy toward those texts. *Jerusalem Post* 03-Nov-18

We shall see!

We will look at Britain and America's relations with Israel when we come to chapter 13.

Israel-Arab ties warm up after long deep freeze

Over the past few years, we have seen increasing signs that the governments of many Sunni Muslim countries in the Middle East are prepared to turn to Israel for help in their battle against Iran's deep reach into the region. Israel has quietly been supplying intelligence help and even equipment to these countries which have no official contact with Israel.

Our heading was concerning a visit that Mr Netanyahu had made, quite openly to Oman, in spite of there being no diplomatic relations.

Recently there have been some extraordinary signs of friendliness with parts of the Arab world.

Late last month, the Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu and his wife met the Sultan of **Oman** on a surprise, eight-hour visit—the first of its kind in over two decades.

There was a lavish dinner, traditional Omani music and what Mr. Netanyahu told his Cabinet were “very important talks”, promising more trips would follow.

Sure enough, by the time he was speaking, Israel's Sports and Culture Minister, Miri Regev, was at an international judo contest in Abu Dhabi, capital of the **United Arab Emirates** [UAE].

She wept with joy when an Israeli athlete took a gold medal and the Israeli



national anthem was played—something unprecedented on the Arabian Peninsula.

Later, another Israeli official talked about “**peace and security**”, at an event in the Arab emirate of **Dubai**. Now, the transportation minister is in the **Omani** capital, Muscat, proposing a railway between Israel and Arab countries.

All this despite the fact that Israel has no official diplomatic relations with Oman or the UAE.

“These visits are extremely important because **they’re really melting the ice,**” says former Israeli diplomat, Dore Gold, who sees that “symbolism is the key element”.

“Gulf Arabs and Israeli officials have had meetings for years—they know each other—but there was a reluctance to take this another step,” he goes on. “**Now that is changing.**”

The main reason is a shared concern over Iran. Israel, like many Gulf Arab countries, worries about Iran’s ambitions and sees it as a destabilising force in the Middle East.

Tehran has been directly involved in conflicts in Syria and Iraq and supports rebels fighting in Yemen and militant groups such as Hezbollah in Lebanon and Palestinian Islamic Jihad.

The Trump administration—which also seeks to contain Iran—**strongly supports closer ties between US allies in the Gulf and Israel.** *BBC News* 06-Nov-18

There is an expectation that Bahrain will be one of the first Gulf States to offer some level of diplomatic relations with Israel. As the Omani Foreign Minister stated at a conference in Rome entitled MED2018 (**Mediterranean Dialogues**; slogan “Beyond Turmoil, a positive Agenda”).

Representatives of Arab League member states at the MED 2018 conference in Rome last Thursday either ignored or downplayed the Palestinian issue. Instead, on the stage and behind the scenes, there seemed **much more appetite for normalization with Israel.**

Oman’s Foreign Minister said it quite clearly when he called on the Arab world to “**come to terms with the reality that Israel is a fact of life in the region,**” and therefore should have its share of “**rights as well as obligations.**”

Even Iran’s Foreign Minister, Mohammad Javad Zarif, seemed to realize that this wasn’t a venue for Israel-bashing and refrained from mentioning Israel in his talk.

One senior Middle Eastern diplomat commented that “the basic fact is

that, for better or worse, the world isn't bothering Israel anymore about the Palestinians. **It's a total change of paradigm.**" *Haaretz* 25-Nov-18

The Guardian of the Gulf

When the geo-strategic players are the "big" guys, a small problem like that of the Palestinian Arabs gets pushed to the outskirts of the political arena, and the Palestinian Arabs, once again, are going to pay for their stubborn refusal to go forward on the road to a peaceful settlement with Israel.

Add to that the fact that the Gulf States have not forgotten Palestinian Arab support for Saddam Hussein when Iraqi forces invaded Kuwait and conquered it in 1990. In the Middle East, people neither forget nor forgive and the old Bedouin adage says that a Bedouin who avenged his father's blood after a span of forty years, said "I rushed."

Any progress in relations between Israel and the Gulf States is based on the Iranian threat growing stronger while the Palestinian problem gets pushed aside. When this is the way the situation looks, **Israel stops being the problem and turns, instead, into part of the solution**, becoming the "**Guardian of the Gulf.**" *BreakingIsraelNews* 14-Nov-18

They be replenished from the East

The Prophet Isaiah provides a picture of Israel in the latter days in Ch. 2. The opening verses describe the Kingdom Age, then what follows shows us how we arrive at that situation. It explains why Israel is *forsaken* by God. Not that God forgets His People, no, history revolves around their salvation. They are to face a time of judgment for their lack of trust in God. Instead, they rely on their own skills to defend themselves from their enemies. Ezekiel 39:26 describes the coming time of *dwelling safely in their land* as a time of *trespass against* God, for which they must *bear their shame*. They are trusting in their own abilities, as well as other nations, to bring about *peace and safety (security)*. One of the matters in Isa. 2 is that *they are replenished from the east*. *Replenished* simply means filled. In English it has the idea of *fill again*, but that idea is absent from the Hebrew. It is interesting to see how much Israel is reaching out to countries to the East, not only the Gulf States but further east to India, China and Japan.

China. The Chinese Vice President paid a 4-day visit to Israel in October. In addition to the signing of eight joint agreements in science and technology, life sciences, innovation, digital health and agriculture, they are working on a free-trade agreement which they hope to have prepared in 2019.

"This the most important visit by a Chinese leader in the last 18 years. It's a sign of our growing friendship," said Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. "The fact that the Vice President of China came to Israel at my invitation for the Prime Minister's Innovation Conference is a

tremendous compliment to Israel and a reflection of the growing ties between China and Israel.”

Israel is one of China's major trading partners in the Middle East. Bright Food bought Israeli food giant Tnuva in 2014 and Shanghai International Port Group will operate a new port in Haifa Bay, due to open in 2021, which has caused concern among former Israeli Intelligence officials as Haifa's port houses Israel's submarine fleet.

China is Israel's largest trading partner in Asia and its third largest trading partner in the world. Israeli exports to China increased by 62 per cent in the first eight months of 2018 compared to last year—from \$2.14bn in 2017 to \$3.bn—according to Israel's Central Bureau of Statistics. Imports from China increased by 10 per cent from \$4.45bn last year to \$4.9bn in 2018. BICOM [*Britain Israel Communication & Research Centre*] 23-Oct-18

An earlier report entitled **Pivoting East: Israel's Developing Strategic Relationships in Asia**, *Jewish Journal* 11-Apr-18 spoke of the great progress since Israel first exchanged ambassadors in 1992.

Israel was not unique in buying toys, sweatshirts or dishwashers made in China. Similarly, what China bought in Israel, scores of other countries bought from the Jewish State, as well.

All this changed, however, when the two countries set out to help each other advance to the next phases in their very different economic histories, with Israel selling China educational goods and China selling Israel infrastructure projects.

Chinese public works giants have teamed up with Israeli companies in building the Carmel Tunnels under Haifa and the Acre-Karmiel railroad, and they are now involved in upgrading the Ashdod seaport and constructing Tel Aviv's subway.

Most crucially for Israel, China wants, and is indeed poised, to build the planned **Tel Aviv-Eilat railway**, expected to be the **greatest infrastructure** project in the Jewish State's history.

Israel, at the same time, set out to help China realize its next national aim: to shift part of its workforce from manufacturing to **invention**, and thus transition its economy of mass production to a **post-industrial future**.

In 2016 Israel imported more products and services from China, than from any other country!

India and Israel: When interests align

Although India voted against the establishment of Israel in the UN resolution Nov. 1947, they did recognise the infant State in Sept. 1950, but only allowed Israel a consulate, refusing to appoint an ambassador. However, in 1992, the

same year, that Israel exchanged ambassadors with China, she established full diplomatic relations with India. The ties have steadily increased. In 1992 total bilateral trade was \$200m, in 2017, \$3.8bn. Under Narendra Modi, India's PM since 2014, relationships have blossomed. He is Hindu, like 80% of his countrymen, but having to accommodate 14% Muslims. Israel is 75% Jewish and 18% Muslim, so in a similar position. Between the two countries are many Muslim countries which would like to spread their Muslim influence to non-Muslim countries. So, the two countries have similar problems. India has a rapidly increasing population as does Israel, but on a much smaller scale—India is 150 times bigger in area. Israel, however, has the technology to help India grow food in sufficient quantities to meet her needs.

President Modi made a state visit to Israel in 2017, and PM Netanyahu visited India in January 2018.

The warm welcome given by Narendra Modi to Netanyahu, his wife Sara and the Israeli delegation shows that Modi-Yahu relations are quite strong. Ignoring the protocol Modi himself arrived at the airport to welcome his friend. He hugged him several times during the visit. They repeatedly called each other 'my friend'. There is no doubt that economic and defence relations have strengthened between India and Israel during the past few years. Today **India is the largest purchaser of weapons from Israel**. Modi invited Israeli Prime Minister to invest in Indian industries. 9 deals were inked this time including oil and natural gas and cybersecurity. *Siasat* 22-Jan-18

The new understanding of Israel as a strategic asset has produced an elaborate arms trade that dwarfs the two countries' civilian trade, so much so that, a mere quarter-century after the first Indian ambassador arrived in Tel Aviv, Israel is now India's second-largest arms supplier after Russia. *Aust/Israel Jewish Affairs Council* 06-Feb-18

Israel's relationship with **Japan** is just beginning to grow as a 7-page article in the *Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs* 26-Dec-18 detailed.

Israel, Hamas Approaching Point of No Return on Path to War

This was the headline from the *MidEast Daily News* 13-Nov-18. It has been a very challenging year for those living near the Gaza border. Since 30th March, there have been mass gatherings at the border fence in protest at Israel's occupation of what they claim to be their homeland and the failure of those who fled their homes in 1948 to be able to return to their homes. These weekly "March of Return" protests continue to be held on Fridays, though spilling out to other days too. They are controlled by Hamas, and many of those killed when trying to break through the crossing have been admitted as being Hamas operatives. Israel cannot allow mass invasion of

her territory by people intent on murdering her citizens and so is forced to use live fire if other methods have failed.

A ceasefire was brokered by Egypt in mid-November, and the level of violence has decreased, though there are still tyre burnings which fill the air with acrid smoke. Firebomb kites are still being launched which the prevailing winds carry into Israel causing extensive fires. It is estimated that at least 4400 acres/18 km² of agricultural land had been destroyed with losses of \$1.4bn in damaged crops and forests. In 2018, 1,000 rockets and mortars were fired from Gaza, compared with a total of 71 in the previous three years. 15 Gaza terror tunnels were destroyed. *Jerusalem Post* 31-Dec-18

UN rejects US resolution condemning Hamas

In December, the UN General Assembly voted on a US proposition entitled “Activities of Hamas and Other Militant Groups in Gaza”.

The resolution condemned Hamas for “repeatedly firing rockets into Israel and for inciting violence, thereby putting civilians at risk.” It demanded that: “Hamas and other militant actors including Palestinian Islamic Jihad cease all provocative actions and violent activity, including by using airborne incendiary devices.” It also condemned Hamas’s use of resources in Gaza to “construct military infrastructure, including tunnels to infiltrate Israel and equipment to launch rockets into civilian areas, when such resources could be used to address the critical needs of the civilian population.” *BICOM*. 07-Dec-18

The US had asked for the vote to be valid on a simple majority, but Kuwait requested that it would need a two-thirds majority to pass. This was agreed by a slim majority resulting in the main vote being lost. There were 87 votes in favour of condemning Hamas and 57 against, with 33 abstentions. It was historic, never-the-less as this was the first time a majority of countries had voted against Hamas.

Israel strikes into Syria again and again

This year has been one where Israel has been active against Iranian bases which are springing up in Syria. The bases are being used not only to embed Iran in Syria but to enable Iran to more easily supply weapons to Hezbollah, the terrorist organisation based in Lebanon and who have been active in their support of Syria’s President Assad.

In April Israel carried out a strike attack on the T-4 base in Homs on what was believed to be an Iranian complex designed to supply arms to Hezbollah.

As outlined in a recent *BICOM* report, the base is located in a strategic position between the cities of Homs and Palmyra in Syria’s west. It has been a key staging ground for Syrian and Russian aircraft, as well as housing the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps’ (IRGC) middle command centre. Up to 1,000 IRGC forces used this base to launch attacks

on Palmyra in 2015 and 2016. *BICOM* 09-Apr-18

“We have one clear and simple rule and we seek to express it constantly: If someone tries to attack you—rise up and attack him,” said Netanyahu, referencing the Talmudic dictum of “when someone plans to kill you, get up early and kill him first.” *PM Netanyahu* 09-Apr-18

Israel had earlier in February struck the base following the incursion of a Syrian drone into Israel territory, which was controlled from this base, knocking out the drone command centre. Following this attack, the Iranians had decided to install their home-built copy of the Russian S-300 missile system, to defend the base. Israel became aware of it and this is what she destroyed in the April attack—before the equipment could even be unpacked! Other similar installations were also knocked out on subsequent offences.

Two more bases were hit at the end of April, one of which was known to be a recruitment centre for Iranian backed Shiite militia who fight with Assad's forces, according to *BICOM* 30-Apr-18.

Israel attacked the T-4 base again 9 May, this was followed up nine days later, using ground forces, when a base in Hama was demolished. The Iranian ammunition and military equipment and also Syrian aircraft hangers were gutted.

In June, a base near Damascus was attacked, it was thought to be one belonging to Hezbollah.

A September raid on Iranian military equipment at the Latakia air base turned sour when the Syrians fired missiles at a Russian plane that was approaching the air base, killing the 15 Russian servicemen on board. Israel claimed that all their aircraft had returned to base before the incident. Putin was very displeased and for a while broke off communications with Israel. Russia's most advanced S-400 system has been supplied and is being installed. In effect it puts a protective umbrella over virtually all of Syria, making it much more difficult for Israel to resume airstrikes.

Following this incident, the Israeli military outlined the extent of their actions against the Iranians in Syria.

The Israeli military has struck more than 200 targets in Syria and fired 800 missiles and mortar shells over the past year and a half, focussing on Iranian weapons convoys and other Iranian targets in Syria, a senior military official said Tuesday. The army is aware of missile transfers from Iran to Iraq and from there to Syria, he added. *Haaretz* 04-Sep-18

Raids against Syria were not resumed until the end of November, this time using long-range rockets. They destroyed a Hezbollah base in western Syria, believed to be an arms base shared with Iran. Two further bases were also hit—one being an Iranian central command post south of Damascus and the

another was near Damascus airport. Iran is busy supplying updated control systems to improve the accuracy of Hezbollah's arsenal of rockets. This is what Israel was targeting in her raids in Syria and Lebanon.

Israel's attention then switched to her northern border with Lebanon.

'Operation Northern Shield'

According to *Debka* 07-Dec-18 Israel had been aware of Hezbollah building tunnels across Israel's northern border for some years. The Israeli military had observed what purported to be a cement factory close to Israel's borders. Yet no deliveries were being made, only laden lorries were leaving. However, Israel didn't want to provoke Hezbollah and kept quiet.

Israel is busy constructing a border wall running along the 80 mile/130km border. Funding has been given for the first 8 miles/13km and as of the end of September has been 65% completed. The concrete wall is 30ft/9m tall. In very steep sections it is replaced by steel fencing. The completion is subject to funding, \$470m would be needed. If forthcoming, it is thought it could be completed in two years. During the construction, Israeli troops located the first of these tunnels as it crossed into Israel and bored down into it. The tunnel had been bored through solid rock, avoiding the need for concrete shuttering as in Gaza, but much more difficult to make. They were much wider than the Hamas tunnels which are mainly one person wide. These were capable of having several abreast or allowing motorbikes or small vehicles through. The UNFIL [UN Forces in Lebanon] commander was summoned by Israel and handed the evidence for the tunnels which violate UNSC [UN Security Council] Res 1701 which UNFIL forces should be upholding. Netanyahu asked them to take action and destroy the tunnel, otherwise Israel would sort it out for them. Following no action, Israel disabled the tunnel.

The UK joined other nations in condemning Hezbollah and supporting Israel's right to self-defence.

Foreign Office Minister Alastair Burt said: "This is a blatant disregard of UN resolutions, threatening Israel and Lebanon's stability. UNSCR 1701 must be implemented. The UK supports Israel's right to defend itself."

On Wednesday, Russia expressed tacit support for the efforts to expose Hezbollah's tunnels, while calling on both sides to show restraint.

US National Security Adviser John Bolton released a statement expressing "strong support" for Israel's "efforts to defend its sovereignty." *BICOM* 06-Dec-18

It is thought that under the new Defence Ministry of Mr Netanyahu, Lebanon will be the main target of Israel's attention. Over the next few weeks the locations of five tunnels were revealed, which Israel has destroyed by pumping in liquid cement which was observed in some cases emerging out of civilian houses on the Lebanese side.

Chapter 5

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AMAZING ISRAEL

Although Israel is a tiny country, her achievements amaze the world! Her technological developments are staggering. She too has been blessed with energy resources which make her a prospective spoil and prey. Eze. 38:12

Israel's energy resources

Work is proceeding apace to bring the Leviathan gas field into production by the end of 2019. This field lies some eighty miles offshore and 6,000 ft below the sea level. The connecting pipelines are already in place awaiting the delivery of the platform which is being built in Texas and is expected to arrive in early spring. This platform will be positioned about 6 miles offshore for safety reasons. The gas processing will take place on the platform rather than inland, minimising any environmental impact.

Leviathan will boost Israel's gas reserves spectacularly and enable Israel to be a major energy player in the Middle East. It is estimated to contain sufficient gas to meet Israel's needs for 40 years. At the moment her needs are being met by the smaller Tamar field which started to deliver gas in 2013. Power generation plants are being converted from oil and coal to run on gas, reducing air pollution considerably in Israel. Contracts have been signed with Jordan to supply sufficient gas to meet her electrical needs over the next 15 years. The pipes are being laid in Israel to the Jordanian border, and the Jordanians are building the pipeline to the industrial area in North Jordan. The deal is worth \$10bn and should save Jordan \$300m annually.

A contract has been signed to supply gas to an Egyptian company, Dolphinus Holdings, which converts to liquid gas for world exports. In recent years there has not been sufficient spare gas for Egypt to export. The contract is worth \$15bn over 10 years. Dalek and Nobel Energy that operate Tamar have joined with the Egyptian Gas Co. to buy into the Egyptian firm that owns the existing pipeline that runs from Egypt to Israel. Egypt used to supply much of Israel's gas needs through this pipeline, but following frequent sabotage incidents it was shut down in 2012. The flow will be reversed by sending gas to Egypt. It is hoped to be ready by March 2019. Later, supplies will be boosted by gas from Leviathan.

Israel, Cyprus, Greece & Italy Agree on \$7b. Gas Pipeline to Europe

Israel has just launched a further round of tenders for exploration of some of the many potential gas and oil development blocks. To attract bidders, there needs to be a means of export as Israel's needs are more than sufficiently met from existing wells. After many years of discussion, Israel has agreed to the building of the world's most ambitious undersea gas pipeline! It is also supported by the EU.

Greece, Italy and Cyprus have agreed with Jerusalem to build a pipeline that will allow Israel to export its offshore natural gas reserves to Europe, in a project that will cost an estimated \$7 billion. Work on the effort is expected to begin in the next few months and conclude within five years. The longest and deepest underwater gas pipeline in the world will span a total of 2,200 kilometres (1,350 miles) and have the capacity to transport up to 20 billion cubic metres (706 billion cubic feet) of product yearly. “The export of gas to Europe will...to a certain extent be a counterweight to Arab power,” Israeli Energy Minister Yuval Steinitz said in reference to the deal. It comes as Europe is attempting to diversify its energy supply, and as Germany comes under increasing pressure for its proposed Nord Stream 2 pipeline with Russia, which many believe will make the continent dependent on Moscow. *Mideast Daily News* 25-Nov-18

The United Arab Emirates are investing as much as \$100m in the project according to a Lebanese article *Almanar.com* 25-Nov-18.

There are still hurdles to go through, and the final signing which will allow the project to commence is expected in early 2019, but at a meeting of the participating countries 22 Dec. they agreed to set up a permanent secretariat.

Israel, Greece, and Cyprus are steadily strengthening their partnership in the eastern Mediterranean, with institutional dialogue organized in the form of tripartite summits. Five such meetings have already taken place—the most recent in Beersheba—and the sixth will be held in February 2019 on the island of Crete. In Beersheba, PMs Benjamin Netanyahu and Alexis Tsipras and President Nicos Anastasiades agreed to establish **a permanent secretariat** to be based in Nicosia. The three countries will also collaborate, inter alia, on cybersecurity, smart cities, innovation with emphasis on supporting young entrepreneurs, education, environmental protection, research on agriculture, meteorology, health, and tourism. *Besa Center* 28-Dec-18

Israel 8th Strongest Nation

Considering that Israel contains only 0.11% of the world’s population she is far stronger than her size would indicate. She is ranked 100 in country rankings by population, (Switzerland is No. 99 and Papua New Guinea at 101 according to UN population figures.)

US News & World Report listed the State of Israel the 8th strongest nation in the world. For those who argue that the Jewish State has become a legitimate super-power, the magazine’s selection process provides support for the theory. Not surprisingly, the United States, Russia and China are the world’s strongest followed by Germany, the United Kingdom, France and Japan. The listing came as part of the magazine’s annual “Best Countries” piece, in the category of “Power.” Overall, Israel was listed as the 30th on the list of powerful nations. *MidEast Daily News* 11-Jul-18

In spite of the threats against them, Israel has been ranked 11th in the 2018 Happiness Report—the US came in at No 18. Their life expectancy is among the longest in the world, and their birth-rate is the highest among the world's advanced OECD¹ countries. Her people are the third most educated in the world, behind Canada and Japan, based on qualifications.

Her economy is ranked 22nd in the world in the UN's Human Development Index. She has the second highest number of start-up companies in the world (US No.1). The third-largest number of NASDAQ-listed companies after the US and China and is a centre for high-tech industry. Many US high-tech, multinationals have overseas Research and Development facilities in Israel. Her GDP (nominal) is \$373.75 bn, and her GDP growth for 2018 is estimated at 3.2% with unemployment around 3%. Exports were up 8% to \$110 bn.

There has been a surge in overseas visitors, at the year-end numbers were up 11% on last year, with 4 million visitors. Jerusalem experienced almost a 40% increase in visitor numbers!

Israel's population now stands at 8,972,000 as at 31-Dec-18

Arrow, David's Sling, Iron Dome, Iron Beam

Over the years Israel and the US have developed a sophisticated range of weapons to counter the threat of missile attacks. Gradually the costs are coming down and the equipment becoming more portable.

Arrow. Arrow 2 has been operational since 2000. The cost of each missile is put at \$3m, with a range of 150km. Arrow 3 began development in 2008 and the first production run was in 2018. It is capable of knocking out a missile at a distance of 12,400km. Each missile costs around \$2m!

David's Sling has been in service in Israel since 2017. It has a range of 160km and a cost of \$200,000. It had its first use in a combat situation in July 2018, against two missiles fired by Syria.

Iron Dome has been widely used to defend Israel from rockets fired from Gaza. Designed as a short-range interceptor for missiles up to 70km away, it is being developed to increase the range to 250km. Each interceptor costs around \$50,000. Sophisticated tracking radar is designed only to launch an interceptor if it is tracked to hit buildings. Those falling on open ground are left. Over 2,000 rockets have been intercepted since 2011. The system was severely tested when in November, Hamas fired some 500 rockets and missiles into Israel over a 24-hour period.

Iron Beam. Israel has been working on a powerful laser-beam system which would dramatically reduce the cost of destroying incoming missiles. Bearing in mind that Hezbollah is reported to have 130-150,000 short and medium

¹ Org. for Economic Co-operation and Development, a group of 34 industrialised countries. Israel joined in 2010.

range rockets pointing at Israel, Iron Dome would prove a very costly solution. An American system which used a chemical laser system that also produced toxic gases was rejected. A report in *Globes* 05-Dec-18 stated that Israeli firms were on the verge of having a system ready. No longer requiring enormous energy sources, solid-state lasers enable systems to be portable. Costs per interception would be a fraction of Iron Dome, without the danger of running out of interceptors when facing a heavy barrage of incoming missiles. It would be effective against drones too. They are being designed to have a range of about 7km.

These weapons make Israelis feel secure, putting their trust in these man-made weapons rather than in their God. Well did Isaiah speak of this time:

*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. 2:7-9*

These man-made idols are their substitutes for their God. They are *the work of their own hands*—amazing from a human point of view—but when they are there to avoid trusting in the power of their Creator to save them, then they are *idols*. The whole strata of Israel, low and high, trust in the ability of these man-made things to protect them. So far, they have done, but we know from Scripture that there is a day coming when these things will prove of no use, when Israel's God draws the nations against His People, to test their faith. How reassuring it is that there will be Jews who will cry out to their God in their hour of deepest trouble and will be heard. Their Messiah and his companions will be at hand to destroy their enemies.

Netanyahu calls a General Election

As a result of the November Hamas ceasefire, Israel's Defence Minister, Avigdor Lieberman resigned 14 November, in protest that Israel wasn't doing more to curb Hamas. The Prime Minister, Mr Netanyahu took over as Defence Minister. His position in the Israeli Knesset has been dramatically weakened as Liberman withdrew his party's support for the government. The Jewish Home Party threatened to withdraw their support when Liberman's position wasn't handed to their party leader, Naftali Bennett, but he eventually accepted the post of Minister of Education, saving Netanyahu's wafer-thin majority of just one seat. The police investigations into alleged financial misdemeanours are threatening his position. Then, on 24 December it was announced that the Knesset had been dissolved and new elections are to be held on 9 April 2019.

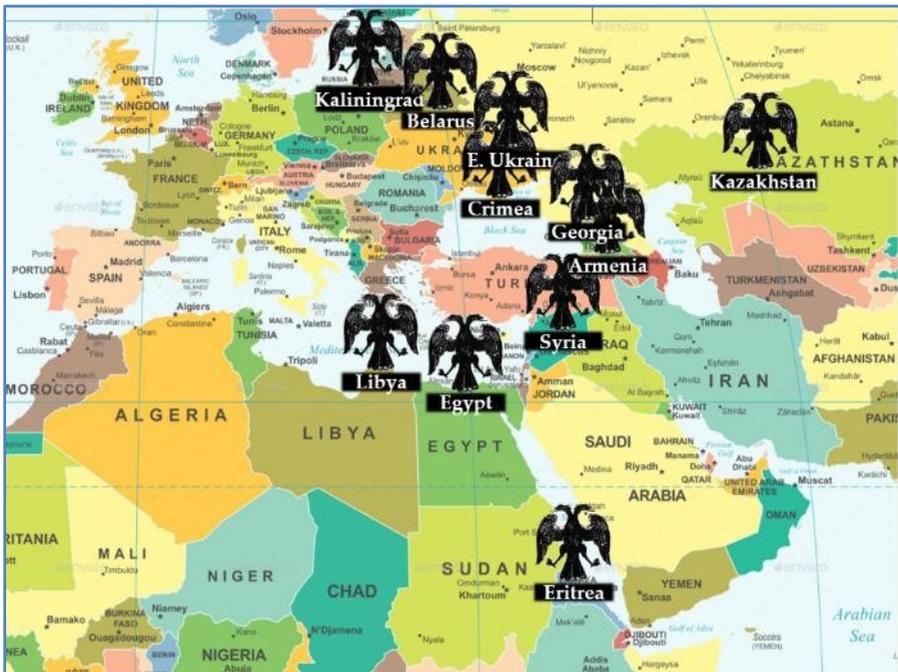
Chapter 6

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RUSSIA'S EXPANSIONARY FOOTSTEPS

*We know from Scripture that God is bringing the world's focus upon His nation Israel. **God** is gathering the nations to experience His great display of Power when the authorities of the Kingdom of Men will be shown that the Most High rules in the Kingdom of Men. Step-by-step it will be brought to a crushing defeat and be replaced by the Kingdom of God. Bible believers have long marvelled at the steps the angels take behind the scenes in preparation for this great clash. We will see in the next chapter the coming together of the fulfilment of the Image seen by Nebuchadnezzar two-and-a-half millennia ago. We will see that at its head will be the military might of Russia—the Gog of Ezekiel 38.*

We have watched Russia's steady encroachment upon Europe and the Middle East in preparation for this coming day. 2018 was a period of consolidation for Russia. We start our review in the north.



Kaliningrad and Belarus

Kaliningrad is a small country which is a detached part of Russia. It lies on the Baltic coast and therefore enables Russia to use the port facilities as the base for her Baltic Fleet. Permanently stationed here are military ships,

which are capable of firing Iskander-M nuclear-tipped missiles. This year an airbase was upgraded to house the 152nd Missile Brigade with land-based versions, in what a US defence official called “the biggest move we’ve seen” regarding Russia’s militarisation of the Baltic.

The Russian military announced in January this year that the necessary infrastructure had been built to accommodate a permanent presence of mobile Iskander-M missiles, capable of carrying conventional and nuclear warheads a range of 500km. The missiles were due to be combat ready early this year. *The Guardian* 18-Jun-18

This article also reported that satellite pictures showed existing nuclear bunkers had been upgraded with stronger roofs over the past few years.

“It has all the fingerprints of typical Russian nuclear weapons storage sites,” said Hans Kristensen, the director of the nuclear information project at the Federation of American Scientists. “There is a heavy-duty external perimeter of multi-layered fencing. The bunkers themselves have triple fencing around them as well. These are typical features from all the other nuclear weapons storage sites that we know about in Russia.”

The work on the bunker began in 2016, and the new roof was put on earlier in the summer. *ibid*

It is not known if they have yet been restocked with nuclear weapons.

Belarus

Belarus is one of the former Soviet States, gaining independence in 1991. Although it doesn’t have a border with Kaliningrad, it supplies electricity and gas via Lithuania which borders Kaliningrad on the north and east. Russia houses here two important communications centres; one is a missile launch tracking station and the other a communications centre for Russia’s nuclear-powered submarines.

It is also a centre for high-tech production of military equipment, and with the loss of access to similar production in Ukraine, has become increasingly important. Russia has tried several times to bring Belarus back under her wing but has been forced to step back.

Belarus has threatened to follow Ukraine’s example of breaking the Orthodox Church away from under the control of Moscow by becoming an independent “Autocephalous” Church. This would anger Russia, and comes at a difficult time, as the leases on the Communication Centres are up for renewal in 2021.

Ukraine

The conflict in eastern Ukraine is still tense with constant skirmishes between those siding with Russia, pitted against those resisting Russian expansion. Following the late November seizure of three Ukrainian ships,

Ukraine has begun calling up reservists and deploying troops to the border to counter what it says is the growing threat of a Russian invasion.

President Poroshenko, who last week declared martial law in 10 regions, yesterday announced his response to a “sharp increase in Russian forces along our borders and in occupied Crimea”. *Daily Telegraph* 04-Dec-18.

Since the troubles began in 2014, an estimated 10,000 people have been killed. At the end of August, the leader of the “rebel” movement in eastern Ukraine was assassinated as he sat in a café. There are frequent reports of nightly crossings of the Ukraine border by Russian army lorries carrying ammunition to the pro-Russian forces. The traffic back to Russia includes bodies of Russian mercenaries killed in the conflict. Reports indicate that Russia is steadily, little bit by little bit, encroaching further westwards.

Ukraine’s Representative to the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe and UN in Vienna, addressing the OSCE Permanent Council said Russia was attempting to seize more territory in Ukraine amid their ongoing violations of Minsk agreements that had been designed to provide a peaceful settlement to the Donbas conflict.

“Russia, instead of pulling out from Ukraine territory, again attempts to seize larger areas in violation of Minsk agreements: OSCE SMM registers new sets of trenches seen for the first time, up to 1km further west than previously observed positions of Russian proxies near Stavky and Horlivka,” Prokopchuk said, according to the Ukrainian mission’s tweet. *Unian.infos* 08-Nov-18

There is another, equally serious division threatening the stability of Ukraine—the breaking away from the Russian Church of the main Orthodox Church in Ukraine and becoming independent. We shall deal with this in chapter 11.

One can see that this division would strengthen Putin’s hand to take control of Ukraine to bring this breakaway “autocephaly” to heel.

Crimea

Russia has continued to strengthen her control of this vital peninsula in the Black Sea. It is Putin’s forward base for navy, army and air force, enabling ships, planes and troops to travel to the Mediterranean area for action. It is from here that the war in Syria has largely been supplied.



The very challenging road and rail connection between Crimea and mainland Russia spanning the Kerch Straits was opened in May. Construction of what

is said to be the longest bridge in Europe commenced in May 2015. The rail part of the bridge is still being built and is scheduled to be completed early 2019.

“We are seeing an accelerated pace of modernization in Crimea, which has already changed the balance of security in the region,” Zerkal said at a special meeting of the UN Security Council on the situation in Crimea on March 15.

“**Russia has more than doubled its armed forces on the peninsula** and is taking further steps to upgrade Crimean-based military infrastructure to deploy nuclear weapons,” the diplomat said.

“We all know that Russia has recently deployed the second battalion of the S-400 Triumph anti-aircraft missile system in Crimea, while the first battalion was deployed last spring. These systems are capable of destroying airplanes, drones, cruise and ballistic missiles within a range of up to 400km,” Zerkal said.

“In other words, Moscow is turning Crimea into a **huge military base** with land, air and sea components, using it as a launching pad for its military interventions in other regions,” the diplomat said. *Unian.infos*
16-Mar-18

The bridge concentrates the passage of ships through the central arch. (See picture.) Because of height restrictions, larger vessels are now unable to travel under the central span. Russia has been accused of slowing down the transit of vessels, significantly adding to transportation costs. The Kerch Straits are the only sea access to the Sea of Azov and the eastern Ukrainian ports such as Mariupol, which are still in



government hands although the Russian enclave is not far away. It is the home to important steel mills, chemical plants and shipyards. Russia has been disrupting the flow of traffic under the bridge since the summer, insisting on examination of passing traffic. In April 2018, Russia declared that the Sea of Azov was now under her control. Vessels are sometime held up for three days and there is a reluctance to ply that route, putting higher pressure on Ukraine's fragile economy. In late November, Russia caused a diplomatic storm by arresting three Ukrainian naval vessels from the western port of Odessa who were on their way to Mariupol. Shots were fired, and the sailors arrested and are being held for trial in Moscow. Russia's story is that these boats were deliberately sent by Ukraine to foment trouble. Following the detention of the vessels, the Russians blocked access under the bridge by mooring a long tanker across the passageway. This was subsequently removed, and traffic is now flowing, but Russia has shown she could quite quickly cut off eastern Ukraine from any resupply in time of war. Europe protested, but no one came to the support of Ukraine. Putin had scored another victory.

Earlier, in mid-November, the Russian press revealed that Russia was moving warships from her Northern Fleet and Pacific Fleet to the Black Sea in case there was a confrontation with NATO over her actions in the Kerch Strait. *Strategypage.com* 18-Nov-18 She is also installing her fourth S-400 missile defence system in November; the 1st was deployed in Jan. 2017, the 2nd in Jan. 2018 and the 3rd Sept. 2018. These systems effectively prevent NATO planes from flying in the region for fear of being shot down.



Priest "blessing" S-400. Crimea.

Scripture has spoken of the King of the North coming forth with *many ships* Dan. 11:40. We can see the preparations for this action.

Turkey

Although Turkey applied to be a member of the EU back in 1987, little progress has been made. She is increasingly an Islamic country and therefore not one that the EU welcomes. The Austrian Chancellor Kurz was specific, "the EU should stop negotiations with Turkey". *Financial Times* 28-May-18. Under Erdoğan's Presidency, Turkey has moved closer to Russia. There have been several spats along the way, but matters are much smoother now.

Turkey is at the moment NATO's biggest army in Europe, but with her decision to turn to Russia for S-400 missile defence systems, NATO is wary of continuing to share military secrets with her.

Relations have soured with America following the imprisonment of a US Pastor, whom Turkey accused of being part of the conspiracy that unsuccessfully tried to overthrow him in 2016. Although later this year he was released and allowed to return to America, the sanctions that America has placed on Turkey still stand—a 20% tariff on aluminium imports and 50% tariff on steel. Congress has stopped the supply of 100 F35 fighters that Turkey had ordered.

In early December, Turkey announced that she was definitely purchasing the S-400 system and that the ground preparations were in hand and the system should be deployed by October 2019. America fears that the Russian operatives would be able to test the system on the F-35 aircraft already supplied and seek to undermine the fighter's sophisticated counter-radar detection systems. *Sputniknews* 03-Dec-18

Then in a surprise about-turn, the US approved the \$3.5bn advance missile defence system and this is going ahead rather than the Russian system. *Media Line Mideast Daily News* 20-Dec-18 We wait and see which one is supplied!

The TurkStream gas pipelines have now made landfall in Turkey. Mr Putin visited Istanbul to mark the ceremony of the completion of the undersea section on 19th November. Work is now proceeding to finish the land route to the industrial region of Turkey which is its destination. On-land work at the Russian end is complete. The twin pipes have a capacity of nearly 16 bn M³. One pipeline will be for Turkey's use, the other is intended to supply Europe. It will either run through Bulgaria and Serbia to Europe or through Greece and Italy. In either case, Ukraine is firmly isolated from any benefits from this gas transportation link.

Russia's new pipeline projects represent a concerted effort to punish Ukraine by bypassing the rival. Russia's old pipelines pass through Ukraine, which gains \$2 billion in transit revenues every year through a long-term contract that ends in late 2019.

The Russians "very much want to have this pipeline finished and operational before then, because they will have a logically better bargaining position vis-a-vis the Ukrainians," said an energy and utilities consultant with Sia Partners, based in Amsterdam. *Ajot.com* 24-Sep-18

Greece is keen for the pipeline to come to Europe through her territory. There is a pipeline running from Greece to Italy which could be used.

Syria

2018 has seen the Syrian War coming to a gradual conclusion. President Assad of Syria has emerged triumphant after a long struggle which started in 2011, thanks to help from Russia.

Regaining control of various regions through military intervention has given the regime good cause to present itself as the only authority that is

capable of unifying the country's territories—including the Golan, which is a sensitive and vital aim that plays on the heartstrings of Syrians.

But the gaining of territories was not without a large economic loss (estimated to be at about seven times Syria's GDP in 2010), deterioration in social cohesion, a massive destruction in health and education facilities and a call for external intervention in the country.

However, the half million people dead and more than two million disabled, along with millions of refugees and internally displaced persons and thousands of detainees and missing persons, refute the regime's claim to be a protector of the Syrian population and their rights. *Chatham House*¹ 13-Dec-18

By entering the conflict, Russia has been able to embed her troops and equipment in the country. She was invited to come and help and so has the legitimacy to her foothold there. We know from Bible prophecy that Russia and her allies are to be in possession of the territory of the old King of the North, involving Greece, Turkey and Syria. They will then take control of the King of the South's former territory of Israel and Egypt. Putin too desires to control this strategic area, home to much of the world's gas and oil wealth. One can see how Syria provides a crucial forward base for Russia.

Work continues to expand the naval base at Tartus. Syria granted Russia free use of the port in 2017 on a 49-year lease. The Treaty allows Russia to keep up to 11 warships there, including nuclear vessels. At the moment there is only accommodation for four vessels. Putin is determined to make it a fully-fledged military base. Russia's main airbase is at Khmeimim.

Georgia and Armenia

Ten years on from Russia's takeover of two parts of Georgia, she is steadily enlarging the area she controls—now estimated to be 20% of Georgia. Armenia is heavily reliant on Russia, both economically and militarily.

Egypt

Russia negotiated a deal last year that will allow Russian Air Force jets to use Egyptian airbases and airspace. The agreement could be the first step in allowing Russian airstrikes on terrorist targets in the Sinai or Libya. It would also preclude the necessity of further deployments of the Admiral Kuznetsov aircraft carrier in the Mediterranean; its performance in Syria was unimpressive and two Russian fighters were lost attempting to land on the ship's deck. *Eurasia Daily Monitor* 14-Feb-18

In April, Egypt and Russia resumed direct flights to each other's capital, these had been suspended following a 2015 bombing which downed a

¹ Chatham House, the Royal Institute of International Affairs, is an independent British think tank.

Russian passenger plane over the Sinai Peninsula. This move badly affected Egypt's tourist trade. Russia is investing in a megaproject in an industrial zone east of Port Said and discussions are underway to build a nuclear power plant. *Reuters* 18-Oct-18 reported that Russia was contemplating tapping into its National Wealth Fund to help finance this project with a \$25bn loan starting from 2020 or 2021. The power plant is slated for completion 2028!

Libya

Currently, Libya is divided into two main sections.

Libya has been torn apart by conflict since long-time leader Gaddafi was overthrown in 2011. The eastern part of the country is governed by the parliament, backed by the Libyan National Army (LNA) and located in Tobruk. The UN backed the Government of National Accord (GNA), headed by Prime Minister Fayez Sarraj, operates in the country's west and is headquartered in Tripoli. *Sputnik* 02-Oct-18

The pro-Russian LNA leader, Khalifa Haftar, suffered a massive stroke in April and was taken to Paris for treatment. He only recently was back in action. Unconfirmed reports in November, in a British paper, claimed that Russia had established bases in eastern Libya at Benghazi and Tobruk. Russia has long desired facilities at these two important Libyan ports as they give naval facilities on the opposite side of the Mediterranean to the EU. They would help secure the eastern Mediterranean for Russian ships to take control in the coming conflict. Russia has been quietly busy here.

The former dictator's son, Saif al-Islam [Gaddafi], this month became the latest in a long line of Libyans to seek Moscow's support as President Putin steps up Russia's role in the energy-rich North African state.

Moscow has until now been seen as throwing in its lot with Khalifa Haftar, a military strongman who controls most of the oil-producing east of Libya. Yet Russia has been quietly building ties with all the competing factions, according to two European diplomats who study the Kremlin's strategy. That puts it in a position to benefit more than other outside powers that support one side or another. *Bloomberg* 20-Dec-18

Libya is due to hold a referendum on a new constitution in February, paving the way for eventual national elections. *Stratfor* 19-Dec-18 In March, Gaddafi's son said he would run for the post of President in these elections. He is popular with those who supported his father and could be a figure to bind divided Libya.

Red Sea

Russia is busy negotiating a foothold in the southern Red Sea country of Eritrea, opposite Yemen. In September it was announced that she would be building a logistics centre at Port of Assab, one of Eritrea's main ports, but no details have been revealed yet.

Chapter 7

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NEB'S IMAGE STIRRING INTO ITS FINAL PHASE

*Daniel chapter 2 is a key prophecy because one can trace the constituent parts, the head, the breast and arms, the belly and thighs and the legs to the succession of Empires that had possession of the Land of Israel. There just remains one part to complete the Image—its feet! We are in the era of the forming of the feet. So how could the Image exist without feet in the past? It is because the Image has never existed in its totality before. We have gone through its phases, Babylonian, Medo-Persian, Greek and Roman. What we are awaiting is the final manifestation of the Kingdom of Men—when, for a brief time, it stands upon its totally unstable iron-clay feet, to bring the Kingdom of Men upon the mountains of Israel, in defiance of Israel's right to that God-given land. So, this vision was intended to reveal what shall be in the **latter days**. Dan. 2:28*

The Feet stage of the Image

The whole Image is to be brought crashing down by the stone power which smites the feet and grinds all the elements to powder.

*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.*

*Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces **together**, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and **filled the whole earth**.*

*And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of **potters' clay**, and **part of iron**, the kingdom shall be **divided**; but there shall be in it of the **strength** of the **iron**, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay.*

And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken.

*And whereas thou sawest **iron mixed with miry clay**, they shall mingle themselves with **the seed of men**: but they shall not **cleave** one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay. Dan. 2:34,35,41-43*

What do we learn from these verses?

1. The clay is described as *miry* and *potters*. It is a clay that holds itself together when kept moist.

2. The *iron* and *the clay* were *mixed*. Aramaic = *arab*, Strong's to *commingle*
3. Although mixed with iron, it can't really mix, causing it to be *partly strong* and *partly broken*. Clearly, it is the iron element that is *strong*, it must be the *clay* that is *partly broken*, Aramaic = *to be fragile, brittle*.
4. The Kingdom of Men is described as *divided* and not *cleaving one to another*.
5. The *miry clay* is equated with *the seed of men*.

Obviously, there is a connection with what went before—the feet are attached to the two legs! So that the iron must represent the latter-day manifestation of the Roman Empire. The difference is that in these latter-days that iron is mixed with the brittle clay, which is explained as *the seed of men*. The only other place where this phrase occurs in Hebrew (Daniel 2 is in Aramaic) is 1Sam. 1:11 where it is translated in AV as *man child*. It speaks of humanity.

Job: I also am formed out of the clay. 33:6

Isaiah: We are the clay, and thou our potter. 64:8

So, unlike the leg phase, the feet phase of the Kingdom of Men is to have the strength of the iron and the weakness of humanity. One of the hallmarks of our age is the advent of democracy—"a system of government where the citizens exercise power by voting". It is only in the twentieth century that the ordinary people could vote in their rulers. Yet, as we observe in the Brexit talks, in the running of the EU and in the running of Russia, the real power is held by the few, and often the wishes of the democratically elected rulers take second place to the dark forces that lie at the heart of these things. It aptly summarises Russia and Europe of today. The clay element is weak.

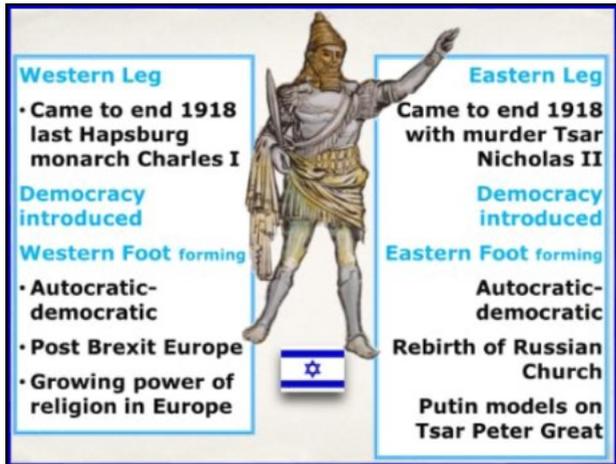
The iron

The iron of the legs in the past was held together by two elements—religious and military. For a long period, Rome was under the control of the Caesars. The Lord Jesus was born in the reign of Caesar Augustus and brought up in the reign of Caesar Tiberius. The Caesars were regarded as divine beings as well as kings. Under later Emperors, they too were regarded as gods, until the coming of Constantine and his successors when the Empire turned to Christianity, and the Church held sway over the religious matters and the Emperor the military, secular concerns.

Following the division of the Roman world into east and west, when Constantine moved the centre of government from Rome to Constantinople, there emerged both Eastern and Western Emperors. And with them, their corresponding churches. Gradually the Papal system and the Roman Catholic

Church developed with a Pope in Rome, and in Constantinople the Greek Orthodox Church developed with its Patriarch. This iron kingdom in its Eastern and Western forms continued with some changes, down through the centuries.

The West, which had experienced the ravages of barbarian invaders was united under Charlemagne, who brought the West to Catholicism. The Pope and Emperor ruled the West under the Holy Roman Empire. In the East, following the conquest of Constantinople by the Ottoman Turks, the things of the Eastern



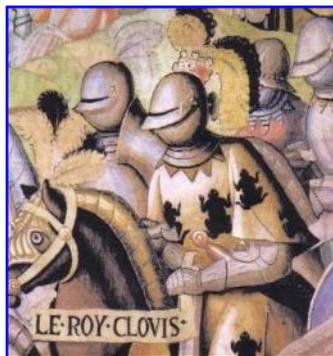
Iron leg were transferred to Russia. There, the Tsar (from Latin: Caesar) and Patriarch ruled a vast region for many centuries.

Both came finally to an end in the events of World War I. In 1918 the last of the Emperors in the West, Charles I stepped down; in the East, Tsar Nicholas II was murdered. There was little development in the forming of the two feet for some time. Interestingly it was around the same time the leg phase came to an end that the Balfour Declaration was issued (Nov 1917), opening up a way for the Jews to go back to their land. As the last phase of the Kingdom of Men involves dominion over Israel, it was necessary for Israel to be back in their land and in possession of Jerusalem for the feet to form. Their development was held back through Communism in the East and in the West, by Britain's entry to the EEC, as the EU was then called. Following Hitler's unsuccessful attempt to resurrect the third German Reich—Charlemagne's being the first—the EEC is an attempt to bring about the dominion of Germany, not by war but by peace and cooperation. Britain's joining in 1973 curbed many of their plans, which are now being actively pursued following Britain's 2016 referendum decision to leave.

The clay and the frog-like spirits

We remarked in chapter 4 that the *clay* element in Nebuchadnezzar's Image can be equated with the *frog-like spirits* of Revelation 16. Both speak of man and man's thinking. *Clay*, because Adam was formed from the dust of the earth. *Frog-like spirit's* linking us back to the French Revolution. Why do we associate frogs with France? The Franks, from whom the Holy Roman

Empire eventually sprang, had as their original emblem, three frogs. Their first King, Clovis in the 400's AD had three frogs as his emblem as depicted here. These can be clearly seen in depictions of their flag and emblazoned on their shields and cloaks. He united France and established Roman Catholicism as the country's religion.



We first read of frogs concerning the original *Dragon* power—Egypt. The second plague poured on Egypt was that of frogs. They came up out of the river. Exo. 8:6 They went everywhere! They touched the king, his people and his servants. 8:4 They affected every aspect of life, whether land, house, kitchen, bedroom and whatever was in the house, bed, kneading trough, oven. 8:2,3. When the frogs were taken away, only those in the river survived (v11). The rest were gathered up and piled up in a significant number of heaps (Heb. heaps, heaps) and they stank!

Note the wording!

And **they gathered them together** upon **heaps**: and the land **stank**.
Exo. 8:14

What does Revelation say?

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

What does Armageddon mean? “A **heap of sheaves in a valley for judgment** (threshing)”, (Joel 3:12,13 confirms this interpretation). The frogs are associated with the river, so was the 6th Vial, it commences with the drying up of the River Euphrates. Ezekiel 38 and 39 give the other details concerning this battle or war of that great day of God Almighty. (Rev. 16:14)

*And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will give unto Gog a place there of graves in Israel, the valley of the passengers on the east of the sea: and **it shall stop the noses of the passengers**: and there shall they bury Gog and all his multitude: and they shall call it the valley of Hamongog. Eze. 39:11*

In fairness, the word *noses* is not in the original; The *passengers* (Gesenius: *passers-through*) are stopped. It may be because of the size of the **heaps** of the slain Gogian forces, but it also may well be the **smell**!

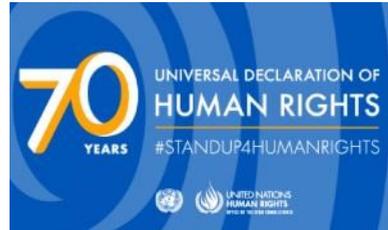
So, what are these *frog-like spirits*? The Vial judgments of Revelation 16 commenced with the French Revolution and the matters that flowed out from it. It was termed an earthquake in chapter 11. History is divided by modern historians into pre and post-French Revolution history because it so changed

the order of Europe. The rallying cry of *liberté, égalité, fraternité* (liberty, equality, fraternity) was the rallying cry of the people as they deposed the aristocracy. This spirit swept the world, and its repercussions are still being felt as countries seek to throw off their dictators and adopt democracy. Bible students joined in celebrating Israel's 70th birthday in May 2018, but for many in the world this event was treated with disdain, as they regard Israel as a cancer in the Middle East. They celebrated another 70th anniversary, which fell on 10th Dec. that of the Declaration of Human Rights.

70th Anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights

In the same year that the State of Israel was set up, the world put in place the Declaration of Human Rights. This was the outcome of 250 years of human reasoning based on the French Revolution. All men are equal and have rights! The Declaration was based upon the declaration put forward by the revolutionaries behind the French Revolution. The Declaration was mainly the work of a French Jewish lawyer, Rene Kasan. He commenced by lifting the whole of the 17 articles in the French 1789 Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen. This was then put into more modern language and expanded to 54 Articles. It was adopted by the UN on 10th Dec. 1948. This document forms the basis for so many of today's human rights issues.

The only rights that men have is death! God doesn't recognise the declaration of His creation, that they demand to live as they want to and ignore God's directions. This spirit of the rights of men has had the effect that God foresaw—hostility to His returned people! There is a strong spirit which we witness in the UN organisations to find fault with Israel's existence as a nation, back in their homeland. The Arab members have traditionally supported the Palestinian cause, though as we saw in chapter 4, this is changing. Again, as we saw in chapter 4, every year in November, the Palestinians hold a two-day session at the UN Headquarters in New York to mourn the passing of the UN resolution 181 in 1947 which gave Jews and Palestinians a homeland in the



British Mandated Territories of Palestine. The Jews accepted the UN resolution, the Arabs rejected it and tried to stifle the new-born nation at birth. Since 1988 they have “celebrated” Nakba Day, Catastrophe Day on May 15th, the day after the anniversary of the setting up of the State of Israel.

The Russian *Dragon* champions Human Rights

It would be expected that we should see the evidence for *the Dragon, the Beast and the False Prophet* espousing the Human Rights spirit in these last days, in fulfilment of Rev. 16:13. The 70th anniversary gives us an excellent opportunity to witness this. It was Russia that last year proposed that the UN drew up a list of ways that the 70th anniversary could be celebrated. So, in June 2017 the UN passed the Human Rights Council Resolution 35/1 that this should be done. The primary sponsor as shown on the UN Human Rights Resolutions Portal was the Russian Federation!

On the 10-Dec-18, the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations Office in Geneva put out a statement in Russian, but Google Translate provides a readable translation. The press asked G. M. Gatilova, the Permanent Representative of Russia to the United Nations in Geneva to comment on this, the 70th anniversary of the Human Rights Declaration. His reply showed that out of the Russian *Dragon's mouth was a spirit like frogs!*

The event is really significant, especially if you remember what a considerable way the very idea of human rights has passed over the years.

As you know, Russia initiated the celebration of this date in the UN. The corresponding resolution was adopted last year, more than 130 states became its co-authors.

Our main message was to use this date not only to raise awareness of human rights but also to, **so to speak**, look beyond the horizon and think about the long-term implications of those actions on the human rights track that are being taken now. It is evident that **human rights should, first of all, serve respect for human dignity, increase the level and quality of life, and protect the individual.** This is quite clearly stated in the Universal Declaration itself.

Unfortunately, this is now increasingly forgotten. Human rights explain unilateral sanctions, promotion of drug use, aggressive and unfair competition in the economy, discrimination in political and public life, the disintegration and destruction of traditional public institutions. Besides, double standards are increasingly taking root in human rights discourse, and they are mainly used by some Western colleagues about those countries whose governments or political regimes they do not like.

We have always insisted and continue to insist that the real advancement of human rights, the implementation of international standards in this area is possible if several fundamental conditions are met. First, effective and

voluntary participation of all stakeholders, based on cooperation and dialogue. Secondly, respect for the national, cultural and civilizational features of society, taking into account its level of economic development and the specifics of the political situation. Thirdly, the rejection of the use of human rights as a tool to interfere in internal affairs and achieve political goals. This is the line we will adhere to in our work in international human rights formats, primarily in the UN.

The EU Beast champions Human Rights

The Council of the EU 09-Dec-18 put out its statement in celebration of the 70th anniversary.

Declaration by the High Representative Federica Mogherini on behalf of the EU on Human Rights Day, 10 December 2018

The **EU remains a staunch supporter of civil society**, and we will continue our efforts to act and **speak out** against harassment and intimidation of civil society, including women and youth organisations. **Support for human rights defenders, including women human rights defenders, is at the core of the EU's external human rights policy and one of its major priorities.** The EU is the leading worldwide donor to local civil society organisations, providing €2 billion each year, two-thirds of the global support.

On this day, the EU also reaffirms its firm commitment to the multilateral human rights system as the platform for the international community to best address human rights violations and to seek accountability, both at international and regional level. By implementing the international human rights framework within our Union, we hold ourselves to the same standards that we expect from our partner countries across the world. This includes our continuous quest to improve the human rights situation at home and abroad.

By doing so, we continue to honour the commitment made 70 years ago, at the heart of which lie the fundamental fact that all human beings are born free and equal, and the notion that we all need to act in a spirit of respect and solidarity.

The same voice was also coming from the Pope.

The False Prophet champions Human Rights

As the principles of Human Rights goes contrary to Scripture, and this organisation is described as *drunken with the blood of saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus* Rev.17:6 it would not be natural for this system to espouse such a Declaration. But this is the spirit of our age and is eagerly accepted by the world.

On Human Rights Day, Pope Francis made an appeal to “**place human rights at the heart of all policies**, including development cooperation

policies, even when this means going against the tide.”

“The family of Nations wanted to recognise the equal dignity of every human person”. He explains that these rights are “universal, indivisible, interdependent and interconnected” and that they are rooted in the nature of the human person, as an “inseparable unity of body and soul”. *Independent Catholic News* 11-Dec-18

Anti-Semitism on the rise

As we saw in chapter 4, the UN resolutions on Jerusalem on Nov. 30th denying Israel had any claim to Jerusalem or connections to the Temple Mount were passed by the majority of UN members.

The primary resolution on Jerusalem, that passed 148-11 with 14 abstentions, also disavowed Israeli sovereignty in Jerusalem.

Both that text and a second more global one on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which passed 156-8, with 12 abstentions, spoke of Judaism's most holy site—The Temple Mount—solely by its Muslim name of al-Haram al-Sharif. *Jerusalem Post* 02-Dec-18

Jews in Europe are becoming increasingly disenfranchised with the countries they are living in.

In Germany, the land that perpetrated the Holocaust, the numbers were actually slightly worse than the European average: **44 percent of German Jews now say they've considered emigrating**; five years ago, only 25 percent said that. And **41 percent of German Jews reported that they've experienced harassment in the past year because they were Jewish**. Some of that, no doubt, has to do with the “new” form of anti-Semitism emanating from German Muslims. But the homegrown variety clearly never went away. To all decent Germans, that should be a call to conscience. *Handelsblatt Global* 11-Dec-18

The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights [EUAFR], was established to uphold human rights and fight all forms of racism. According to its report, **89% of Jews surveyed said that anti-Semitism in the EU had risen significantly** in the past five years, with **85%** saying that **anti-Semitism was the most serious problem they faced**.

The report is **based on the largest survey on anti-Semitism conducted anywhere in the world**, which included 16,400 respondents from 28 EU member nations.

Nearly one-third (30%) of respondents said they had personally experienced anti-Semitic attacks. Most of those were people whose appearance identified them as Jews.

Of the tens of thousands of Jews surveyed, 80% told the EUAFR that they had refrained from reporting anti-Semitic incidents to the police or other

authorities, thereby skewing official reports on the scope of anti-Semitism in a number of countries. **A third of respondents said they chose to stay away from Jewish events or Jewish institutions out of fear for their personal safety.**

Respondents reported that the most common anti-Semitic comments they encountered included “Jews have too much power and influence;” “Jews exploit the Holocaust for their own interests;” and “Israel treats the Palestinians like the Nazis treated the Jews.” *Jewish News Syndicate* 10-Dec-18

There are big problems on many US university campuses.

Very few professors are willing to stand up against what has become **a nearly monolithic campus culture of reviling Israel and its supporters.** Those who are willing to speak out need our support, if simply to reestablish a balance that says Israel is not a freakish or evil entity but a state like any other. Most faculty members who choose to speak out are Jews and Israelis, and many are not specialists in Middle East studies. They do so out of a sense of support not only for Israel but for academic ideals of fairness and balance. But they have not been able to change the environment, and many more **faculty members are routinely cowed into submission by BDS** [Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions] **activists** who are among their colleagues. It is not known how many are denied promotions, tenure, grants, or fellowships on the basis of their support for Israel. *MiddleEastForum* 16-Dec-18

The support of the Palestinian human rights trumps that of Israel's. The Palestinians have pushed the story of their historical connection to this part of the world. There has never been a Palestinian State, whereas there has been a Jewish State.

There is clearly a growing movement around the world to attempt to deny the Jews their “rights” to this part of the world. History is being re-written to erase support that this was Israel's ancient homeland. The *frog-like voices* are becoming more vocal, preparing the way for Scripture to be fulfilled, when many nations will turn against Israel and seek to destroy her. They will succeed for a brief time. God has also made preparation for the day when:

*...saviours shall come up on mount Zion to judge the mount of Esau;
and the kingdom shall be the LORD'S Oba. 1:21*

May this day soon dawn!

Chapter 8

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THE GROWING DIVIDE: US vs. EU AND RUSSIA

Since the ending of World War II NATO has been seen as the defence force to protect Europe from the menace of the belligerent Soviet Union. The acronym stands for the **North Atlantic Treaty Organisation**. In French, it becomes **Organisation du Traité de l'Atlantique Nord**: OTAN. Hence both appear on the logo.



Winston Churchill, visiting the US in 1946 and sharing a platform with President Harry S. Truman declared:

“From Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic, an iron curtain has descended across the continent.”

This speech is considered one of the opening volleys announcing the beginning of the Cold War. *History.com This day in history—05-Mar-1946*. Accessed 19-Dec-18

In 1947, the UK and France signed the **Treaty of Dunkirk** to render mutual help if Germany or the Soviet Union attacked them. It was enlarged in 1948 to be the **Western Union** with Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg joining. With the desire to have the support of the US, in 1949 these Treaties were grouped into what was called **the North Atlantic Treaty** when the US, Canada, Portugal, Italy, Norway, Denmark and Iceland joined to form a membership of 12 countries. Since then membership has expanded to 29 countries, and others are seeking to join. In 1952, Turkey and Greece joined; with West Germany in 1955. Its focus was now concentrated on the Soviet threat. The “Cold War” intensified as the Berlin Wall went up in 1961, and the Soviet borders bristled with nuclear missiles threatening to wipe out much of Europe!

It was this danger, as we saw in chapter 2 when looking at Milestones 1983, that caused doubts to arise as to the efficacy of NATO’s defence of Europe. France had left in 1966 when Charles de Gaulle decided to establish an independent French nuclear deterrent.

The US is the most significant contributor to the NATO forces, and it was not until 2014 that the members formally committed to the thitherto informal guideline, that members should contribute a minimum of 2% of their GDP.

Angela Merkel: EU cannot completely rely on US and Britain any more

With Donald Trump becoming President in January 2017, his policy was unashamedly “America first”. One of the points he made very forcefully was that if Europe wanted to rely on NATO’s protection, then they had to stump up the money, as America was no longer willing to subsidise most of the

costs. In 2018, before his 3-day visit to Britain, he visited the NATO headquarters in Europe as well as the EU Parliament.

In his letters to state and government leaders of several NATO members, including Germany, Trump has repeatedly called on them to increase their military budgets. In his letter to German Chancellor Angela Merkel for example, he wrote: “As we discussed during your visit in April, there is growing frustration in the United States that some allies have not stepped up as promised. This is no longer sustainable for us.” *New York Times* 02-Jul-18.

Germany has promised to increase contributions “step-by-step,” until it “approximates” the 2% of the GDP by 2024. This would represent an unprecedented hike of 129% from 2017 to 2024, and highly optimistic. (*German Foreign Policy* 09-Jul-18)

Mrs Merkel had already the previous year stated at an election rally:

Speaking after bruising meetings of NATO and the G7 group of wealthy nations last week, the German Chancellor suggested the postwar western alliance had been badly undermined by the UK’s Brexit vote and Donald Trump’s election as US President.

“The times in which we could completely depend on others are, to a certain extent, over,” she told an election rally in Munich on Sunday. “I’ve experienced that in the last few days. **We Europeans truly have to take our fate into our own hands.**”

Germany and Europe would naturally strive to remain on good terms with the US, Britain and other countries, “even with Russia”, but added: “We have to know that **we must fight for our future on our own**, for our destiny as **Europeans.**” *The Guardian* 28-May-17

Our section heading is taken from the headline to this article.

The growing rift

Increasingly, Donald Trump is seen in Europe through hostile eyes. He is frequently parodied on European news magazine covers. The UK *Economist* magazine cover for 07-Jul-18 aptly illustrated the growing rift between Europe and the US. More and more, Europeans feel that they can no longer rely on America to come to their aid. The feeling is that it is better to become friends with Russia rather than to alienate this increasingly militant power on their borders.



Relations between the US and EU have gone from bad to worse

This was the headline to a *Spectator* 14-Dec-18 article concerning the American Ambassador to the EU. Usually the Ambassador's role is to pour oil on troubled water. Ambassador Sondland was far from diplomatic in this interview!

In an extraordinarily frank interview with *Politico Europe* this week, ambassador Sondland blasted the EU as an archaic, obstructionist, elitist European superstructure whose primary objective is to keep itself in business. The European Commission, the EU's executive arm, was "out of touch with reality," he said. "They are off in a cloud, regulating to the heart's content, and regulating some things that don't even need to be regulated because they haven't even occurred yet, while stifling growth and innovation." These are not exactly the words of a man whose orders include alleviating the considerable tensions between Washington and Brussels. In fact, they sound like a deliberate escalation of the conflict.

Sondland used his interview to outline a litany of grievances against the EU. On trade, he said, the US was getting the short end of the stick while the Europeans are "enjoying the benefits of a completely disproportionate relationship." On the Iran nuclear deal, Brussels was "clinging" to the agreement in an attempt to cancel out Washington's maximum pressure campaign against Tehran. On defence spending, European governments are more than happy to pour money into an EU military consortium, even as they skimp out on NATO. And on trying to make a more equitable, mutually beneficial partnership? Well, Washington's man in Brussels says the EU simply isn't interested in working with the Trump administration.

Sondland, after all, is Trump's emissary for Europe at large, a president who hasn't hidden his utter contempt for the EU and everything it stands for. Trump looks at the EU and sees an elitist European cabal that was formed to exploit America's generosity. There is an equal amount of righteous indignation on the other side of the Atlantic. While trade is definitely a sticking point for this president, Trump and his national security advisers are just as angry and upset about Europe's stance on other issues. The White House has made maximum sanctions pressure on Iran a principal component of its foreign policy. However, rather than working with Washington to push Tehran towards making a more iron-clad nuclear deal, Brussels is working on setting up alternative financial schemes to insulate European businesses from US sanctions. For the EU, which views the 2015 Iran deal as the best the world is going to get, trying to offset the US sanctions regime is a perfectly reasonable thing to do. Washington, though, sees it as a purposeful affront—one more instance of ungrateful European leaders doing what they want, regardless of the sacrifices and goodwill America has made on behalf of the continent since World War II. *Spectator* 14-Dec-18

Here's How Europe Plans to Challenge the Dollar's Dominance

Europe is not alone in being irked by the fact that the world carries out energy purchases in US dollars. The EU is the world's biggest importer of energy, at \$341 billion per year, yet has to fund it by purchasing dollars to pay for it. They aim to make the 20-year-old euro an international currency and insist on paying for energy with the euro. What lies at the back of this?

The commission's effort to develop the euro's international role reflects growing calls in countries such as France and Germany for the EU to also adopt tools that will allow it to pursue its foreign-policy goals with less recourse to an unpredictable US ally. *Bloomberg* 04-Dec-18

EU Looking to Sidestep US Sanctions with Payments System Plan

Another field where France and Germany are trying to break from the US concerns the currency exchange system SWIFT, used by banks to transfer money from country to country.

Germany and France said they're working on financing solutions to sidestep US sanctions against countries such as Iran, including a possible role for central banks.

The discussions, which also involve the UK, are a signal that European powers are trying to get serious about demonstrating a greater level of independence from the US as President Donald Trump pursues his "America First" agenda.

"With Germany, we are determined to work on an independent European or Franco-German financing tool which would allow us to avoid being the collateral victims of US extra-territorial sanctions," French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire said Monday during a meeting with press association AJEF. "I want Europe to be a sovereign continent not a vassal, and that means **having totally independent financing instruments that do not today exist.**"

German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas also weighed in Monday, saying the EU is working to protect economic ties with Iran and keep payment channels open. Maas reiterated a proposal to make international payments systems like SWIFT more independent of the US.

"**We have to react and strengthen Europe's autonomy and sovereignty in trade, economic and finance policy,**" Maas said in a speech in Berlin. *Bloomberg* 27-Aug-18

Let's look at the growing rift between the US and Russia

US-Russia rift

There seemed a time when President's Trump's unusual style hit a chord with President Putin. Their friendship seemed to blossom, and they had a meeting in Helsinki in July. It was an off-the-record meeting with only the

two interpreters present. As a result, Trump announced that he had invited Mr Putin to visit the US in the Fall. This was greeted with dismay at home, and the visit didn't take place. Increasing pressure from Trump's own Intelligence organisation over the levels of Russian interference in the 2016 US elections and Putin's meddling in other countries, together with pressure from opposition Republican Senators, put a brake on Trump's courtship of Putin. An increasing number of factors put America and Russia in opposing corners.

Trump was adamant that he expected support from the rest of the world for his re-introduction of sanctions on Iran, following America's withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal negotiated by his predecessor, Obama. Europe and Russia were unwilling to do this. They saw Iran as a lucrative market, and have plotted ways around the sanctions, though whether these will prove to be workable remains to be seen. Trump is prepared to place sanctions on firms and countries that break his sanctions.

In September, Trump has also imposed sanctions preventing certain Chinese military personnel travelling to the US, because of China's purchase of Russian weaponry, including S-400 missile defence systems and the Sukhoi-35 fighter jets.

By singling out China, which is the first country to have received deliveries from Russia of the S-400 anti-missile system, the US sends a strong message to many other countries, some being US allies who have signed contracts with Moscow to buy these legal Russian weapons.

In this sense, the measures against China are actually counter-proliferation ones. *Geostrategy-Direct* 25-Sep-18

Russia is increasing her links to China, and this will be seen as another step in Russia's separation from America.

Trump announced in October that the US was pulling out of a major nuclear weapons agreement with Russia, claiming the Kremlin has violated the deal.

The US President has been known to be considering quitting the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty with Russia, which has been in place for three decades, for some time, but he confirmed the move yesterday. *Sunday Telegraph* 21-Oct-18

Russian ties to Turkey have also upset America, especially the possible supply of S-400 missile defence systems, which, as we saw earlier, are seen as incompatible with Turkey being a NATO member. Once again, long-standing friendships between the US and Turkey are now floundering.

We see a rapidly growing rift between the EU and America. This will also rub off on a post-Brexit Britain. God has a different role for Britain, America and the Commonwealth. One that supports Israel and opposes the coming invasion of Israel by the *Dragon, Beast and False Prophet*.

Chapter 9

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RUSSIA—THE FORMING OF THE EASTERN FOOT

The fall of Communism in Poland, East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria and Albania between the years of 1989 and 1991, led to the fall of Communism in Soviet Russia on December 25th, 1991. The hammer and sickle flag was lowered for the last time over the Kremlin, to be replaced by the Russian tricolour. On that historic day, Mikhail Gorbachev resigned, and Boris Yeltsin took over the newly independent state. Since then there has been a striking change. The Russian Church which had been suppressed under Communism, flourished again, especially under President Putin, who considers himself a devout Russian Orthodox believer and actively promotes ties between Church and State, as it had been under the Tsars.

The Russian Foot

2018 was the 100th anniversary of the murder of Tsar Nicholas II and his family.

Russian Orthodox expansion still ‘far below pre-1917 levels.’

Russia’s Orthodox Church has opened 30,000 places of worship over the last three decades but will still take till 2050 to attain the numbers it possessed before the 1917 revolution, according to a top leader.

It shouldn’t be forgotten that the construction or renovation of most churches is financed by the faithful—both small people and big entrepreneurs”.

He said Orthodox leaders had dedicated **three churches per day** since Russia’s 1988 Christian millennium and now had **40,000** but would still need another 30 years to attain the pre-revolution total of around 80,000.

He added that Russian Orthodoxy now also boasted **940 monasteries**, compared to 1500 before the unleashing of Soviet persecution, as well as a further 900 churches and parishes in 60 foreign countries.

Patriarch Kirill said his Patriarchate had opened 24 new churches in Moscow alone during 2017, bringing the **total in the capital to 1154**, served by 1711 full-time priests and 2000 monks and nuns. *The Tablet* 02-Jan-18

Putin often points to “Christianisation” as the roots of the country

Last Sunday, in the churches of Russia, Ukraine and other countries once included in the Russian Empire, many Christians celebrated the 1130th anniversary of the baptism of Prince Vladimir the Great in the waters of the Dnieper River, renewing their own baptismal promises too. Also the Russian President Vladimir Putin attended the anniversary of that historical event—celebrated as the beginning of the conversion to

Christianity of the Eastern Slavs—and he strongly remarked that the “Christianisation” of the Grand Prince of the ancient Kievan Rus’ and his subjects also **represents the founding act of “Russian statehood”**, and **the perennial root** that nourishes the identity of the Russian people and its historical mission in the world.

The conversion to **Christianity**—Putin insisted in his speech—was “the **starting point for the formation and development of the Russian statehood**”, the true “spiritual birth” that determined the **identity** and **self-awareness** “of our ancestors”, and he also praised “the flowering of national culture and education”, favouring “multiform bonds with other countries”. Also, the historical importance of the Russian people, according to Putin, does not find its roots in military victories or hegemonic drives, but in that event of “civil significance” and “**transforming spiritual power**” that “predetermined the centuries-old path of Russia and **had an effect on its entire global development**”. Praising the wisdom and foresight of the ancestors who “**chose**” **Christianity of Byzantine tradition**, Putin also focused on the figure of Prince Vladimir, the “warrior” who “faced fierce fights and trials”, and under whose guidance “churches, monasteries, cities, schools and libraries were built”, motivated by the intuition that **Christianity** would provide the moral support and the foundations for “**consolidating the unity and identity of the peoples who inhabited the ancient Rus**”. *Vatican Insider* 01-Aug-18

Putin has championed **the rights of the Christians**, where-ever they are persecuted. Interestingly this does not extend to freedom of worship within Russia unless one is a member of the Russian Orthodox Church. Protestant sects especially, are cracked down upon if they make their presence felt.

The defence of persecuted Christians is something that **unites Pope and Patriarch**. It will doubtless play a role in bringing the nations down in a religious crusade (*Prepare war* Joel 3:9 *Prepare = sanctify; make Holy War. Brown, Driver, Briggs: to consecrate war or warriors from custom of opening campaign by sacrifice*). Should religious zeal in Israel cause Christians to be persecuted or their places of worship touched, it is not hard to imagine the swift uniting of the nations to deal with the Jewish situation.

Russia’s New Military Cathedral will Train War Priests

Blueprints for a Russian Orthodox cathedral to be built for the country’s armed forces were unveiled at the end of November. It will also train military priests, and nurses to support troops and is planned for completion by 2020. *Moscow Times* 01-Dec-18

Possibly the foot is virtually complete in Russia.

Let us now see how the European Foot is developing.

Chapter 10[Back to contents](#)**EUROPE—FORMING THE WESTERN FOOT**

If Europe is to join forces with Russia, it needs to have some basis as a military power. NATO has been that defensive shield until the coming of President Trump. Now with the growing rift between the EU and the US, we can see the preparations that the EU has been making to transform it into a United States of Europe with its own military forces.

Preparations for the European Foot

With the prospect of Britain leaving the EU and no longer being a drag, the EU's plans are proceeding apace for the final two steps in their building of a United States of Europe, that of political integration and having its own defence force. Time spent on Brexit has been a bit of a diversion in their planning. What to the British seems such an important and critical event, is seen as a much less important matter. As this German news site put it:

First: Brexit, which increasingly looks like a sort of belated English Revolution. Germans do not understand it. They could never fathom why some English people (it's really mainly the English we're talking about) are so angry at the EU in the first place. But while they don't understand, they also don't really care that much. In Britain, Brexit may be the biggest, indeed the only, topic of conversation. But in Germany Brexit ranks quite low on most lists. Migration, pensions, the euro, Russia, the climate, Trump-Trump-Trump, Diesel-gate: All these and more seem more urgent to Germans. *Handelsblatt Global* 11-Dec-18

Further steps towards its own army

We saw in *Milestones 2017* the very rapid progress that the EU was making to build their own army. In his State of the Union speech in September 2017, the EU's President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, called for a European Defence Union by 2025. In November 2017, 23 of the 28 EU leaders took "an historic step towards a united military", by agreeing to merge their military purchasing by setting up PESCO, **P**ermanent **S**tructured **C**ooperation. At the moment each EU country has its own defence budget and purchases. This results in higher costs because numbers generally are small. There is little inter-operability. There are German, French, British tanks, all to different designs. PESCO is to make the EU think not on country needs, but EU needs. It is part of the drive to think as Europeans rather than Dutch, German and Polish, etc. The savings by EU-wide purchasing are enormous, instead of having 17 different battle tanks as at present, one just has one—as does the US. Ship, plane and helicopter purchasing, can all benefit from such rationalisation; provided they can agree on just which design will be chosen!

In March 2018, at its first meeting, the PESCO planners agreed on 17 collaborative projects as a start.

Brexit has indeed been an accelerator. The European Defence Fund, prepared in only five months, [since Juncker’s State of the Union speech] is of **an unprecedented scale**, both in terms of the financial means committed and the perimeter of activities envisaged. *Euractiv* 07-Mar-18

Why they need a European Defence Fund

For the first time, the EU will have a Defence Fund in its new budget plan for 2021-2028. €13bn has been allocated, funded by individual members contributing part of their home budget allocation to this central fund.

In a world where geopolitical instability is increasing and new threats like cyber-attacks transcend borders **the European Union needs to take greater responsibility for defending and protecting its citizens, their values and way of life**. *European Commission* 13-Jun-18

The UK has been an extensive supplier of military equipment to the EU. However, the rules for receiving funding make it clear that post-Brexit, the UK and the US will not be eligible.

To qualify for EDF funding, “companies will have to be based in the European Union, have their infrastructure in the European Union, and above all, decision-making cannot be controlled by an entity based outside the European Union.” *Defense Post* [US]

UK and US companies shut out of €13 billion European Defence Fund

Europe has committed €13 billion to defence research and capability development beginning in 2021

12-Jun-18

In early July a sum of €500m was allocated for the initial needs of PESCO.

Juncker’s last State of the Union speech

On 12th September the President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker delivered his 4th State of the Union speech. He is retiring in 2019. The 176-page tome makes for fascinating reading. It is a beautifully produced booklet as befits the world’s biggest single market and the 3rd biggest block by population.

It sets out Juncker’s speech (twice, the 2nd time is “as given”) but also has detailed plans and statistics.

The EU is focussing on preparation for its May 2019 Summit meeting to be held in



Sibiu, Romania. This is due to be held six weeks after Brexit and two weeks before the European Parliamentary elections. This will set the tone of the new EU of 27 members. The EU is hoping to project itself as a united power able to take its place on the world stage as a powerful entity.

So, this State of the Union speech was setting the scene for a powerful Europe. Its economy has been increasing for the past 21 consecutive quarters. Unemployment at its lowest level since 2000—though very high by UK standards. The euro is being seen as an alternative currency to the US dollar. Trade agreements have been hammered out with 70 countries.

Juncker’s drive has been to make the EU a **political** entity, breaking down individual country’s nationalism. This is reflected in his proposals and reinforces our understanding that God has other plans for Britain rather than being part of this growing political entity. What we have been waiting for, a *Beast* system, or a western *Foot*, is rapidly forming before our eyes!

Here are some extracts to give a small flavour of this up-beat report.

This year’s catch-phrase: “**The hour of European Sovereignty**”!

Europe has also reaffirmed its position as a **trade power**. Our global trading position is the living proof of the need to **share sovereignty**. The European Union now has trade agreements with 70 countries around the world, covering 40% of the world’s GDP. These agreements—so often contested but so unjustly—help us export Europe’s high standards for food safety, workers’ rights, the environment and consumer rights far beyond our borders. When, amidst dangerous global tensions, I went to Beijing, Tokyo and Washington in the space of one week last July, I was able to speak, as President of the European Commission, on behalf of **the world’s biggest single market**. On behalf of a Union accounting for **a fifth of the world’s economy**. On behalf of a Union willing to stand up for its values and interests.

The world has not stopped turning. It is more volatile than ever. The external challenges facing our continent are multiplying by the day.

There can therefore be not a moment’s respite in **our efforts to build a more united Europe**.

But there is more to be done. We must find **unity** when it comes to the **Western Balkans**—once and for all. Should we not, our immediate neighbourhood will be shaped by others.

The world today needs a strong and united Europe.

If Europe were to **unite** all the **political, economic** and **military** might of **its nations**, its role in the world could be **strengthened**. We will always be a global payer, but it is time we started being a **global player** too.

This is why—despite great resistance at the time—I reignited the idea of

a **Europe of Defence** as early as 2014. And this is why I will continue to work day and night over the next months to see the European Defence Fund and Permanent Structured Cooperation in Defence **become fully operational**.

On Brexit

First of all, we respect the British decision to leave our Union, even though we continue to regret it deeply. But we also ask the British government to understand that **someone who leaves the Union cannot be in the same privileged position as a Member State**. If you leave the Union, you are of course no longer part of our single market, and certainly not only in the parts of it you choose.

Secondly, the European Commission, this Parliament and all other 26 Member States will always show **loyalty and solidarity with Ireland when it comes to the Irish border**. This is why we want to find a creative solution that prevents a hard border in Northern Ireland. But we will equally be **very outspoken should the British government walk away from its responsibilities under the Good Friday Agreement**. It is not the European Union, it is Brexit that risks making the border more visible in Northern Ireland.

Thirdly, after 29 March 2019, the United Kingdom will never be an ordinary third country for us. The United Kingdom will always be a very close neighbour and partner, in political, economic and security terms.

On preparation for the next Summit meeting

There is much work to be done before the European elections and before Europe's Leaders meet in Sibiu, Romania on 9 May 2019.

By then, we should also have brokered an agreement in principle on the EU budget after 2020.

If we want to—without militarising the European Union—to increase **defence spending by a factor of 20**, we will need to decide quickly.

By next year, we should also address the **international** role of the **euro**. The euro is 20 years young and has already come a long way—despite its critics.

It is now the second most used currency in the world with 60 countries linking their currencies to the euro in one way or another. But **we must do more to allow our single currency to play its full role on the international scene**.

But we can and must go further. It is absurd that Europe pays for 80% of its energy import bill—worth 300 billion euros a year—in US dollars when only roughly 2% of our energy imports come from the United States. It is absurd that European companies buy European planes in dollars

instead of euros.

This is why, before the end of the year, the Commission will present initiatives to strengthen the international role of the euro. **The euro must become the face and the instrument of a new, more sovereign Europe.** For this, we must first put our own house in order by strengthening our Economic and Monetary Union, as we have already started to do. Without this, we will lack the means to strengthen the international role of the euro. We must complete our Economic and Monetary Union to make Europe and the euro stronger.

Last but not least, by Sibiu I want to make visible progress in strengthening our foreign policy. We must improve our ability **to speak with one voice** when it comes to our foreign policy.

This is why today the Commission is proposing to move to **qualified majority voting in specific areas of our external relations.** I repeat what I said last year on this matter. We should move to **qualified majority voting** not in all but in specific areas: human rights issues and civilian missions included. This is possible on the basis of the current Treaties and I believe the time has come to make use of this **“lost treasure” of the Lisbon Treaty.** I also think we should be able to decide on certain **tax matters by qualified majority.”**

In conclusion

I want Europe to **get off the side-lines of world affairs.** Europe can no longer be a spectator or a mere commentator of international events. **Europe must be an active player, an architect of tomorrow’s world.**

There is strong demand for Europe throughout the world. To meet such high demand, Europe will have to **speak with one voice on the world stage.** In the concert of nations, Europe’s voice must ring clear in order to be heard. Federica Mogherini has made Europe’s diplomacy more coherent. But let us not slide back into the incoherence of competing and parallel **national** diplomacies. **Europe diplomacy must be conducted in the singular. Our solidarity must be all-embracing.**

There you have it. The **United States of Europe** is well on its way to reality. Think as Europeans, not as French, Germans etc. The preparations had already been laid down in past Treaties. “The hidden treasure” of the Lisbon Treaty, was laid down in 2007! This particular provision on qualified majority voting is now ready to be implemented. Under this provision, matters can’t be held up if the majority want to move ahead.

Macron wants ‘Euro army’ to combat China, Russia and US

On the eve of the commemoration of the centenary of the ending of World War I, President Macron of France called for a **“real European army”** to defend the continent against Russia, China and even the US! This did not go

down too well as he was imminently going to welcome Mr Trump and Mr Putin!

“We will not protect the Europeans unless we decide to have **a true European army.**”

“We have to protect ourselves with respect to **China, Russia** and even the **United States of America.**”

“When I see President Trump announcing that he’s quitting a major disarmament treaty which was formed after the 1980s euro-missile crisis that hit Europe, **who is the main victim? Europe and its security,**” he said.

Faced with “a Russia which is at our borders and has shown that it can be a threat”, Mr Macron added: “**We need a Europe which defends itself better alone, without just depending on the United States.**” *Daily Telegraph* 07-Nov-18

Defying Trump, Merkel backs Macron’s call for EU Army

At a speech given to the European Parliament, Angela Merkel gave her backing to Macron’s plans for a European army.

The normally understated Chancellor took an uncharacteristically bold stance as she addressed EU lawmakers in Strasbourg.

“We should also work on the vision of one day creating **a genuine European army,**” Merkel said. “**The times in which we could unconditionally rely on others are over.**” *India Times* 15-Nov-18

Merkel and Macron make eurozone budget breakthrough

Macron has been very enthusiastic that the eurozone should have its own budget. Instead of each country setting its own budget for what it will spend its money on and what levels of taxation, Macron wants all the euro-zone countries to pool their budgets and have a common purse as it were. All EU members are now due to

Merkel and Macron make eurozone budget breakthrough



Germany and France have made a breakthrough on a new budget for the eurozone ahead of a trip by Emmanuel Macron to Berlin on Sunday. *Financial Times* 16-Nov-18

Macron’s call for eurozone budget 16-Nov

join the euro as soon as their economies are strong enough to do so. Britain and Denmark had a special opt-out. At the moment 19 of the current 28 members use the euro. Germany, as the power-house of the eurozone was reluctant to take this step of a eurozone budget, for fear of spoiling her own economy. Mrs Merkel has at last been persuaded to put her weight behind this move. Hence this section's heading from the *Financial Times* 16-Nov-18, on the eve of Macron's visit to Germany. Germany had modified the original plan by insisting that it should be made a part of the EU budget, which does mean that it will be harder to put the legislation through, as non-euro members will have to agree to it.

Angela Merkel: 'In This Day, States Must Be Ready to Give Up Sovereignty'

Angela Merkel made a speech at an event organised by the Konrad Adenauer Foundation in Berlin on 21 November, devoted to the topic of 'Parliamentarism Between Globalism and National Sovereignty'.

Angela Merkel has urged European Union members to **give up more of their sovereignty to EU institutions**, *Die Welt* has reported.

"Today, nation states should, I would say **must—be prepared to give up their sovereignty**," Merkel said. "But of course in an orderly manner," the Chancellor added. National parliaments must play the key role in making such concessions for the greater good, she said.

Merkel's sovereignty comments follow remarks by French President Emmanuel Macron on Sunday. In a speech following a meeting with the Chancellor, Macron spoke of a "**Franco-German responsibility in preparing for the future and the re-founding of Europe.**" This responsibility "means building something, **building a truly sovereign Europe** and building a strong European Union on this sovereignty," Macron said. *Sputnik*, quoting *Die Welt* 22-Nov-18

She was clearly indicating that the individual EU countries would have to cede power to the central organisation. Something that most in Britain would think was an excellent reason to be leaving!

A crown awaiting a Head

As part of the drive to a United States of Europe there has been an emphasis on the role of the monarchy in the past as well as the heir-apparents to several monarchies being promoted by popular movements.

Chancellor Kurz, the dynamic young leader of Austria, who very much uses his Roman Catholic faith to shape his policies, took over the six-monthly stint as President of the Council of the EU¹ in July 2018. Kurz took as the

¹ This is not to be confused with the President of the European Council—currently Donald Tusk.

theme for his stint, ‘A Europe that protects’ He has been keen on protecting Europe from an influx of Muslim migrants. He had set up in the foyer of the HQ of the Council of Europe building in Brussels, an exhibition which was entitled MusEUm in a Nutshell. The crown featured on the poster (see graphic), is that which was used to crown the Holy Roman Emperors from the 11th century onwards. It is kept in the Imperial Treasury at the Hofburg in Vienna, Austria. This was the crown that Hitler took to Nuremberg in anticipation of setting up the third revival of the HRE.



It was the son of the last Emperor who resigned in 1917 that spoke of the meaning of this crown.

With regard to the thorny problem of establishing a European head of state, Habsburg advocated that “the head of the various national states, presidents as well as monarchs,” in the tradition of “the great Electors of the Holy Roman Empire,” **would elect a head of state for life, to an office that “must be essentially ‘monarchical,’** though it need not be so either in form or in name.” This, he said, would result in “a modern version of the ancient and yet always contemporary idea of a great occidental¹ empire.” Furthermore, recognizing the importance of symbolism in political life, he offered that the head of state should be the guardian of an existing “**European symbol which belongs to all nations equally. This is the Crown of the Holy Roman Empire, which embodies the tradition of Charlemagne, the ruler of a united occident**”. *vision 29-Jul-11* in an obituary to Otto von Habsburg, son of last Emperor.

If a new Catholic European super state does indeed materialize, it wouldn't be surprising if one or more Habsburgs have a role in it. Otto and his wife had seven children, two of them sons. Daughters Walburga Habsburg-Douglas and Gabriella, and sons Karl and Georg have been active in European politics. Altogether the Habsburg lineage, scattered widely around the world, numbers over 600. In his book *The Habsburgs*,

¹ Western part (Europe) as contrasted with the orient.

Andrew Wheatcroft painstakingly develops his thesis of the Habsburgs' centuries-long, skillful employment of imagery and symbols in creating and perpetuating a sense of divine destiny, even tying their claim to sovereignty all the way back to Julius Caesar and Nero (recall Habsburg's reference to the crown of Charlemagne, above). Otto, for practical reasons, renounced all claims to the throne in 1961. Eldest son Karl, however, has hedged when asked about his views on monarchy—at least regarding Austria—saying “It’s an open question.” From which Wheatcroft concludes: “That comes to the heart of the Habsburg philosophy: it is an open question. If not now, later; what has been, may be again. History has been ‘abolished.’...For the Habsburgs, there is only a continual present. The archdukes and archduchesses have no doubts: they embody the essence of empire. The members of the family will work, serve the ideal, lead sober, respectable, boring lives, from generation to generation, sure in the knowledge that destiny will turn again in their direction.” *ibid*

It was against this background that Chancellor Kurz put on this exhibition, to remind the EU of Austria's connection to a past which began with the EU's founding fathers' hero—Charlemagne. He is commemorated annually in the Charlemagne Prize.

The Prize is awarded to the person whom the judges consider has done the most in the service of European unification. Their *website* gives the history of the proposal by Kurt Pfeiffer at the initial meeting of his literary society.

In the Proclamation of Christmas 1949—the Prize's foundational document—Aachen's border location is interpreted as an obligation to mediate between peoples and to overcome “national narrow-mindedness.” By using the name of Charlemagne, the proclamation also included the idea of the Christian Occident—symbolically looking backward to the Carolingian Empire¹ as inspiration for unity in administration, culture, religion, legislation and writing, while pointing the way toward the future with a model for the task ahead: **the economic and political unification of Europe**. The proclamation is thus also an artifact of its era, shaped by an anti-communist European image **with strong Catholic tendencies**.

Traditionally it is awarded on Ascension Day, an interesting connection with Christ's Return to restore the Kingdom again to Israel. The Holy Roman Empire was seen as God's new Jerusalem on earth. (*G. W. Hamilton* Charlemagne and the vision of a Christian Empire.)

In 2016, it was awarded to Pope Francis. In 2018, it was assigned to the French President, Emmanuel Macron. “in recognition of his vision for a new

¹ The modern conventional name for the Empire that Charlemagne started in 800. In Latin *Romanum imperium* (“Roman empire”) or *imperium christianum* (“Christian empire”) *Wikipedia* Carolingian Empire.

Europe” and his “decisive stance” against nationalism and isolationism.

The French President called for more unity among member states and warned that the divisions that appeared during the eurozone and migrant crises risked undermining the EU project.

He insisted that a common eurozone budget was crucial to guaranteeing EU unity. He urged Germany to get over its “fetish” for budget surpluses and work with him on **forging deeper economic co-operation**.

“We need an ambitious European budget and a eurozone with its own budget allowing for investments and convergence between member states,” he said. “We have to fight for a **new** and **stronger Europe** ... **Now is the time**.” *Deutsche Welle* 10-May-18

During the “Yellow Vest” riots in Paris which began on 17 November, and are still on-going in late December, there were placards in support of the French monarchist movement. There are three rival claimants for kingship and two for Emperor.

In Serbia, there were several thousand that turned out in Belgrade, Serbia calling for King Alexander to be instated. 60% of the populace want to see the monarchy restored, but only 40% of the parliamentarians according to a report in *Royalcentral.co.uk* 11-Dec-18. Asked about his views on the restoration, the Crown Prince Alexander said:

“We notice a tremendous feeling for the history of our country. We were always a monarchy. This year we will be celebrating 800 years of monarchy. My father never abdicated in 1945. The Kingdom [of Serbia] was stolen from him on the 29th of November 1945”.

Crown Prince Alexander continued: “The objective is a constitutional monarchy, not an absolute monarchy. We respect everyone, regardless of religion, ethnic origins and political persuasion provided they believe in the democratic process”. *Royalcentral.co.uk* 11-Dec-18

There are 12 sovereign monarchies in Europe. Of which seven are Kingdoms: (Britain, Netherlands, Belgium, Spain, Denmark, Norway and Sweden). The others are sovereign states: (Andorra, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Luxembourg and the Vatican.)

Merkel’s difficult year

It has been a terrible year for Angela Merkel. It took over five months to form a government, following her poor election results in September 2017. Her coalition partners ruled out sharing with her again but faced with the possibility of another election being held, finally agreed to be part of her coalition government again, in March 2018.

Following very poor showings in the two main regional elections, in the power-house states of Bavaria and Hesse, Angela Merkel announced that she

would step down as leader of the Christian Democratic Party at their annual Party Conference in December. She would not be standing for Chancellor in the 2021 elections, but would remain as Chancellor until then, if her successor as party leader agreed. The Chancellor is normally the leader of the party with the most seats in the German federal parliament.

At the December meeting, her protégé, 56-year-old, Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer (fortunately simply known as KK!) won by a narrow margin, putting pressure on the new leader to unite the Party. She is expected to have similar policies to her predecessor.

No-deal Brexit risks a rude economic shock for Germany and fragile eurozone

Economically, Germany the power-house of the EU has been stuttering.

Her Q3 results showed a contraction in growth, and the year's annual figures are estimated to be down to 1.6% growth, compared to last year's growth of 2.2%, and next year's lower still. There were mitigating circumstances for this fall, but the future is even gloomier. Her biggest export, vehicles, was hit by Diesel-gate, together with more stringent vehicle emission regulations, which has hit the industry very hard. The threat of 25% tariffs for car exports to the US and the systemic threat from electric cars, adds to their burden. And now, to add to their woes, looms the very real probability of a hard Brexit. A German report predicting a 57% cut in exports to the UK if there is a hard Brexit and with about 750,000 jobs dependent on German car exports to the UK, "the motor industry is trading at levels hinting at bankruptcy risk." (*Daily Telegraph* 19-Dec-18)

The rest of Europe weak

Migrants and asylum seekers are fleeing to Europe from the situation in Syria and the economic and political problems of Africa. The euro is still in deep trouble. Greece is facing economic collapse, Italy is facing bankruptcy and rebellion against the euro austerity rules. Spain's separatists are wanting their independence. Poland and Hungary are making political waves with anti-EU feelings. France has been wracked with protests causing considerable damage and disruption to Paris and other French cities, with President Macron having to promise enormous sums of money to restore some normality. So, Brexit comes at a troubled time for the EU.

Things don't change

Tony Benn, wrote in his diary in 1977, when he was a minister in the Callaghan government:

"I loathe the Common Market. It's bureaucratic and it's centralised, there's no political discussion, officials control ministers, and it just has a horrible flavour about it. But of course, it is really dominated by Germany."

Chapter 11

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TURMOIL IN BABYLON THE GREAT

Having looked at the Dragon and the Beast, we now look at the False Prophet. Things are not going well here. The sexual scandals around the world are rocking the stability of the Church. The Pope is implicated in that he apparently took no action to protect the flock. What in the past could be covered up, is now very much harder to hide in this social media world. Letters from a US Archbishop stating that Francis had full knowledge of what was going on in the States for many years, with accused priests being redeployed enabling them to continue to abuse their parishioners. Archbishop Viganò called for Francis to resign. This has been met by a seeming wall of silence from the Pope. Pope Francis calls to be more open and embrace homosexuals, divorced and remarried people are causing a backlash from conservative Catholics. In spite of these problems, Pope Francis' overseas visits continue to be excellent hits.

The Catholic Church's Biggest Crisis Since the Reformation

Why a New Wave of Sexual Abuse Revelations Has Deepened Preexisting Divisions

The Catholic Church is facing its most serious crisis in 500 years. In these last few months, a new wave of clerical sexual abuse revelations left the world in shock. From Australia to Chile to Germany to the United States, horrifying reports revealed thousands of cases of child molestation by members of the clergy. One US grand jury report documented 1,000 children abused by 300 priests in the state of Pennsylvania alone over seven decades.

The new wave of revelations in 2018 was disturbing not only because it exposed the persistence of abuse but also because it implicated high level church officials in the abuse and its cover-up. Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, the former archbishop of Washington, resigned from the College of Cardinals in July when credible accusations came to light that he had sexually abused a minor and harassed seminarians he supervised. The McCarrick revelations were particularly troubling because the former archbishop had played a leadership role in the Catholic Church's response to the last US clerical sexual abuse scandal in 2002. In late August, Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò, a former papal diplomat, published a letter accusing Pope Francis of knowing about McCarrick's sexual abuses for years and helping to cover them up. Viganò concluded by calling on the pope to resign.

The Viganò letter, and the scandal itself, have sent shockwaves through a foundation that was already cracked. The church is bitterly divided between progressive and conservative wings. This split is particularly

pronounced in the United States, where highly mobilized, neo-traditionalist Catholics took up Viganò's call for Francis' resignation. This branch of the church already feared that Francis presented a progressive threat to church teachings on marriage and sexuality. The letter seemed to vindicate such distrust by accusing the current papacy and its supporters in the church of complacency towards what Viganò called a "pro-gay ideology" and "homosexual networks" among the clergy. In Viganò's opinion, this was the cause of the abuse crisis. Church progressives, meanwhile, have defended Francis against the allegations, but without the resolve of those who are demanding his resignation—in part because they too view his general record on the sexual abuse crisis as weak.

In desperate need of institutional reform and facing growing political, theological, and geopolitical rifts, the church has not experienced so great a crisis **since the Protestant Reformation**. Unlike that of the sixteenth century, the current situation probably won't result in a schism or the establishment of new churches. But to understand the magnitude and complexity of what is now taking place, we have to look that far back, and to so significant a rupture. *Foreign Affairs* 11-Oct-18

Francis travels the world

2018 took him to Chile and Peru; Switzerland; Ireland; and Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. In addition, he paid visits to several parts of Italy during the year. Already for 2019 are scheduled visits to Panama, United Arab Emirates, Morocco, Bulgaria and Macedonia, Romania, Mozambique, Japan, and Uganda!

Breaking away of Ukraine Church creates huge split

Since the annexation of Crimea and eastern Ukraine, by Russia, relations have soured between Ukraine and Russia, as we saw in chapter 6. The Russian Orthodox Church was strongly represented in Ukraine as it was the birth-place of the Russian Church. In fact, about one-third of all Russian Orthodox bishops and dioceses are inside Ukraine! (*Robert Moynihan* 30-Aug-18.) Considering the size of Russia, this is remarkable. With many unhappy at Russia's actions in Crimea, there was a call for the Ukrainian Church to become "autocephalous"¹, no longer subject to Patriarch Kirill in Moscow. This move was backed by the Ukrainian government as they try to distance themselves from Russia because of the annexation of Crimea. The Church turned for help to the Patriarch of Constantinople, asking for his blessing on this step of independence. In spite of anguished threats of the seriousness of such a measure to relationships between Moscow and Constantinople, which have up to now been warm, Patriarch Bartholomew

¹ "Self headed." Appointing its own head, not subject to the authority of an external patriarch.

gave his blessing in November. Not only has it resulted in a schism between Ukraine and Moscow, but also between Moscow and Constantinople.

Moscow claims that, as the Mother Church, the third Rome, she alone has the powers to grant autocephaly. Bartholomew's recent claim that his Patriarchy is "primus sine paribus" "first without equal" rather than "primus inter pares" "first among equals" has caused the schism of 2018, dividing the Orthodox world asunder.

We had in Ukraine an autocephalous Church, calling itself the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church. An earlier one had been set up originally in 1921 but re-established in 1990, at the time of the breakup of the Soviet Union. There was also the Ukrainian Orthodox Church (Moscow Patriarchate)—in fellowship with Moscow, and the Ukrainian Orthodox Church (Kiev Patriarchate)—not in fellowship with Moscow. With the setting up of the new autocephalous, it merged together the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church and the Ukrainian Orthodox Church (Kiev Patriarchate) to form the Orthodox Church of Ukraine. It has the open support of the Ukrainian government.

The situation at the year-end is still slightly confused. No other autocephalous churches are prepared to recognise this new Ukrainian one.

There is also the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church. This uses the Byzantine Rites as opposed to the Latin Rites but is in full communion with Rome. Moscow fears that this church has plans to merge the breakaway new church with its own and bring them under Rome. The Pope has denied this and in fact, has shown his support for Moscow and instructed the faithful not to interfere in the arrangements for the new church.

At the end of October, the Metropolitan Hilarion, head of the Russian churches external relations and a fairly frequent visitor to the Vatican, saw the Pope and indicated that they were happy with Francis' balanced handling of the matter. For Francis, support from Moscow is a greater goal than that of support from Constantinople, in spite of the good relations between Bartholomew and Francis. Eventually, the churches of Moscow and Rome must come together, to become the golden head of the Image directing its two feet to carry it against Israel. At that time, Greece and Turkey will be under Gog's control and so any religious divisions will be solved.

In celebration of the third anniversary of the Pope meeting the Russian Patriarch in Havana, both churches are planning exchange delegatory visits in Feb. 2019. The Pope is still hoping to receive an invitation to visit Moscow, the matter is still being discussed.

The fact that the Russian Church is so opposed to this breakaway and loss of congregation and property will no doubt fuel Putin's desire to retake at least the eastern part of Ukraine which is most heavily orientated towards Moscow.

Pope Francis decrees new celebration dedicated to the Virgin Mary

The Roman Church has adopted the Babylonian worship of the Mother and Child. This elevates Mary and reduces her son to a child. In one cathedral we visited in Rome some years ago, were two particular statues. One which claimed to be of Mary was placed so that it was bathed in sunlight from a nearby window. Many candles flickered at her feet. A few metres away, in a dark corner was the statue allegedly of the Lord Jesus. One hardly noticed it in the shadows and there were only a few candles alight at his feet. Everywhere in Rome were statues and busts of Mary. Virtually every street corner was adorned with one! The Lord Jesus was conspicuous by his absence. The worship of Mary is designed to appeal to the mothers of the Roman Catholic world, who are so crucial in bearing children and bringing them up as good members of the Church. How appalled Mary will be to find what has been done in her name by corrupt Christianity.

Mary also has a political role. Europe is dedicated to her care. She is Our Lady of Europe. Her shrine on Gibraltar has been assigned to her care of Europe since the 14th century. She appears on coinage (see graphic). Her Feast Day was moved in 1979 from May 30th to May 5th which just happens to be “Europe Day”! (The Council of Europe was founded 5-May-1949.) This year the Pope added another day dedicated to Mary as “The Mother of the Church”. He has decreed that the faithful should celebrate this special day which will fall on the Monday after Pentecost.



The decree stated that the feast day is intended to celebrate Mary not only as the mother of Jesus, but also **as a fundamental figure in the church.**

Francis hoped the feast day would “encourage the growth of the maternal sense of the church in the pastors, religious and faithful, as well as growth of genuine Marian piety.” *Deutsche Welle* 05-Mar-18

Before and on his return from every trip, Francis prays before the shrine of Mary in the Basilica di Santa Maria Maggiore (Saint Mary Major) which contains the shrine to Mary as the “Protectress of the Roman people”. This title originally belonged to Juno who was the pagan deity who occupied that role, and like so many other deities was renamed and absorbed into Christianity.

Germany’s Catholic Church counts its many financial blessings

The German Church is wealthy and powerful and often operates independently of Rome, causing problems over authority. Germany would like to have joint communion with the Protestant Lutheran Church, as well as a relaxation on who can join in communion, setting it at odds with Rome.

Its wealth comes from Church taxes. Around 8% is added to income tax due and is allocated to various churches or charities.

If you live in Germany and you've ever been baptized, you're considered a church taxpayer. The levy of 8 to 9 percent, depending on the state, is automatically deducted by the government off the income of all registered church members—regardless of how often people go to church. The arrangement was first legally mandated in a clause of the 1919 Weimar Constitution, which was transferred verbatim into the current constitution.

German citizens are required to sign state documents to formally leave a religious community and stop being taxed. Those who don't pay cannot receive communion or other religious services.

That process clearly has benefits. A *Handelsblatt* investigation has revealed that the Catholic Church collected €6 billion (\$7.1 billion) last year in taxes—a new record. Although more than 2.2 million Germans have formally deregistered from the church since 2000, the robust domestic economy has been a godsend. According to *Handelsblatt*, Germany's 27 dioceses are sitting on a fortune of at least €26bn, likely making it Europe's wealthiest Catholic institution aside from the Vatican.

Where is the money? More than €15 billion is tied up in financial investments and €20 billion is marked as fixed assets and invested in equities or real estate, particularly in western Germany, donated by former nobility. There is also a generous fund for pensions, reserved for higher-ranking ecclesiastical dignitaries, to the tune of €5 billion.

The story doesn't end with taxes. The Catholic Church also benefits from state subsidies, such as compensation for expropriations dating back to 1803, when Napoleon ordered war reparations from German princes. Both the Catholic and Protestant churches also receive exclusive tax breaks not bestowed upon other religious groups in Germany.

Controversy continues over how that cash is spent. The church is Germany's second-largest employer after the government, running numerous nurseries and schools along with one in three hospitals. Critics say more of the church's wealth should be directed towards its workforce rather than preserving historic buildings. *Handelsblatt* 01-Jan-18

President Macron's warm meeting with the Pope

According to *Agence France-Presse* 6-Jun-18, Macron as a youngster wanted to be "baptised" as a Roman Catholic, but by his mid-teens, he had distanced himself from the church. He now regards himself as an agnostic. However, he was happy to receive the role of "honorary canon of St John Lateran, the cathedral of Rome, a tradition dating back to the 15th century when the French state and church were indistinguishable." This role is bestowed by the Popes on those French leaders who want to accept it.

Macron's enthusiasm for the church appears to stem in part from his belief that religious leaders have a role to play in helping French society overcome a fractious period riven by economic, ethnic and social tensions.

It might also be an electoral calculation: Catholicism is still France's biggest religion and many believers worry that France is moving too far from its traditional Christian roots.

"At a time of great social fragility... I consider it my responsibility to stop the erosion of confidence among Catholics with regard to politics and politicians," Macron told church leaders in April.

Aides to Macron believe the current president and pope share a common vision of a united Europe at a time when anti-EU far-right parties are on the march across the continent.

The Argentine pontiff sent a congratulatory telegram to Macron, a former investment banker, after his election in May 2017 urging him to build a "fairer and more fraternal society". *Agence France-Presse* 6-Jun-18

In June he went to Rome to visit the Pope and receive his title.

President Emmanuel Macron of France met on June 26 with Pope Francis, for a cordial exchange that touched on Church-state relations, migration, and disarmament. The meeting saw the lengthiest private conversation to date between Pope Francis and a visiting head of state. After his session, Macron went to the basilica of St. John Lateran, where he received the title of honorary canon of the basilica. *Catholic World News* 26-Jun-18

Russian Church ready to begin dialogue on return of monarchy

Like parts of Europe as we saw in the previous chapter, there has been a long call for the restoration of the monarchy in Russia. The one favoured by the Russian Church is for Georgy Mikhailovich. He is the heir apparent to Maria Vladimirovna, Grand Duchess of Russia. His father is Prince Franz Wilhelm of Prussia of the House of Hohenzollern, the former ruling German imperial house and the royal house of Prussia. The 37-year old, after a spell serving in the EU, then for a big Russian metals company, now runs his own company, Romanoff & Partners, in Brussels.

They represent companies, interfacing with the EU governmental authorities.

For internationally oriented companies the EU legal and political framework is crucial for the development of their international operations and long-term strategy. Having an ally such as **Romanoff & Partners** in Brussels allows you to stay in direct contact with politicians and officials at the EU level. *Romanoff & Partners' web site*

Their slogan is a pretty unique one! "Bridging the gap between Russia and Europe in the way that Peter the Great did in his own time."

We now turn to Britain and her struggle to throw off the bondage of the EU.

Chapter 12

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BREXIT—BRITAIN'S PAINFUL DIVORCE

The news in Britain all this year has been dominated by Brexit negotiations. Mrs May's struggles against the EU negotiators who are determined that no other country should be encouraged to follow in Britain's path have been exposed. The EU stands united in their dream of political union, a United States of Europe, which Britain has vociferously stood out against and sees Britain's wish to leave as a stab in the back. Following the referendum result in June 2016 to Leave, it was pictured that it would be a simple matter to unstitch from the EU and sail away to pastures new. However, those who had studied the workings of the EU, protested that it would be no easy task to separate from the all-reaching grasp of the EU. Negotiating a Treaty with the 27 remaining members was never going to be simple. Furthermore, Britain had to a large extent lost the ability to draw up trade deals; within the EU individual countries were no longer able to do this—it was the EU that handled these matters.

It seemed clear from the start that the UK negotiators hadn't made adequate planning as to what kind of a relationship they wanted with the EU before they triggered the 2-year countdown in March 2017. At every stage Britain was wrong-footed. Mrs May was always going to seek a solution which would enable Britain to continue to have a deep relationship with the EU. After all, she did vote to Remain, in the referendum. Yet, we believe, that God has a different purpose for Britain. She has to break away and plough an independent furrow on the world stage, as a friend of Israel and a trading power in the Middle East, together with her young lion Commonwealth countries. Eze.38:13 It has been fascinating to watch how Britain has been pushed and pulled in order not to go down Mrs May's path. At the year-end, the strongest possibility is that Britain departs without an agreement.

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

Britain's future role

Our starting point has to be, what do the Scriptures indicate Britain's role to be? Britain of course is not named in Scripture. As Lord Balfour was told:

“Jerusalem was ours when London was still a swamp.” *Dr Weizmann* 1906

It is evident that in the time of Ezekiel, ships from Tyre sailed to the south coast of Cornwall to trade with the Britons in exchange for the precious commodity of tin, which enabled soft brass to be turned into hard bronze.

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

Eze. 27:12

All these minerals are to be found in Britain. So, this gives a link between Tarshish and Britain. Tyre was the principal marketplace of the world. Ezekiel 27 lists many nations who exchanged their wares in the markets of Tyre, with Phoenician ships transporting their goods around the known world. It was Ezekiel that talked of the ending of Tyre’s trading empire. (Ch. 26) Nebuchadnezzar tried to seize Tyre. In his day the city was concentrated on the mainland, but when, after a long siege, the city fell, its inhabitants fled to an island about a kilometre offshore. There they resumed their trade until the days of the Greek leader, Alexander the Great. He used the stones of the old mainland city to build a causeway to the island and eventually succeeded in conquering it.

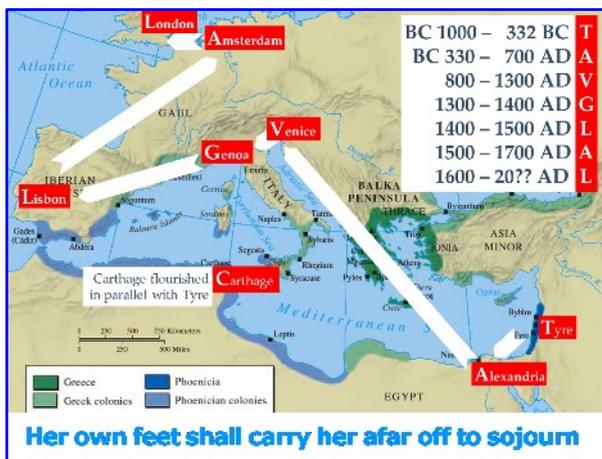
The Prophet Isaiah speaks of Tyre’s destruction in chapter 23.

*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?* Isa. 23:6

The interesting thing about this section is that it indicates the Merchant-like power of Tyre is linked to Tarshish and that this trading power would not entirely disappear but would be carried *afar off to sojourn*. Historically one can trace a succession of naval forces, each of them moving further away westwards until eventually arriving at Britain’s shores. The graphic helps to track this



Her own feet shall carry her afar off to sojourn

movement, but the dates are only for guidance, as powers waxed and waned over time. We see it ending up in Britain and believe that she is the only country that fits all the clues as to the identity of the later-day Tarshish. We know that there has to be such a power, because of the information given about a power in opposition to the yet-to-come Gogian invasion. We would refer readers to the many *Bible Magazine* articles about this topic as well as Ch. 11 of last year's *Milestones*. Carthage is marked on the map, but existed in parallel with Tyre, declining soon after Tyre's demise.

The rest of Isaiah 23 is of interest to us because it speaks of Tyre being forgotten for 70 years according to the days of one king.

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. Isa. 23:15

At the time of the referendum, we pointed out that from the time of Britain's humbling at the close of WWII to the referendum vote to leave, was a period of 70 years, during which she was *forgotten* as a world power. But what of the phrase *according to the days of one king*, or ruler? Interestingly, the one person that has held the Commonwealth together, ready for this time, has been the Queen. She ascended the throne upon the death of her father in February 1952. She had begun undertaking royal duties in earnest in 1951 because of her father's ill health. Were Britain still to go through a two-year transition period after March 2019, before finally breaking free, this would take us to 2021, and a 70-years of one ruler, subject to the Queen still being alive—she is a remarkably fit lady at present. If, as seems more likely, Britain does crash out in March, it would take some time for agreements to be put in place, so again, subject to the Queen still being alive, it would be 70 years according to the days of one ruler, before she really could *sing as a harlot*. Seventy years or more as a sovereign monarch is a rare occurrence. *Wikipedia* only lists 3: Lois XIV of France, Rama IX of Thailand and Johann II of Liechtenstein. These are all historical; the Queen is the world's longest-serving living monarch. Could she be a living sign?

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. 23:17,18

Whatever previous fulfilment there may have been, it is clear that there is a latter-day application, for her prosperity is to be used in God's service to help

Israel. Here we have a certain picture of Britain, that she is free to trade with the world and that she will prosper.

Britain in the Roman Empire

But wasn't Britain part of the Roman Empire in the past? Yes and no! For a period, she was. Britain was the afterthought of Roman conquests. The Roman world had been well established, and the English Channel formed a natural boundary for the Empire. It wasn't until 43 AD that the Romans conquered Britain.

The invasion of Britain was a war of prestige. The 'mad' emperor Caligula had been assassinated in 41 AD, and an obscure member of the imperial family, Claudius, had been elevated to the throne. The new emperor faced opposition from the Senate, Rome's House of Lords. Claudius needed a quick political fix to secure his throne. What better than a glorious military victory in Britain? *Dr Neil Faulkner Roman Britain*

The might of Rome succeeded, and Britain came under Rome's control, enjoying the benefits that it brought, but proved to be a troublesome people with an independent streak. Rome's power here was relatively short-lived. Barbarian invasions necessitated that Rome's military might be diverted to other, more important borders.

The bloated imperial elite, the quarter-million-strong army, the thousands of miles of frontier to be guarded—it was a huge burden on the people of the provinces, a burden that was slowly eating away at the empire's economic vitality.

In the meantime, Rome's enemies were getting stronger, especially the Germans and Goths of central Europe, who threatened the Rhine and Danube frontiers. *ibid*

As the Roman troops were transferred to other borders, the flow of the Roman army pay that oiled society's prosperity, ceased.

By about 425 AD at the latest, Britain had ceased to be in any sense 'Roman'. *ibid*

Britain Re-joins the Roman World

So that phase lasted under 400 years. Fast forward some 1,500 years. Britain, under PM. Harold Macmillan pleads to be allowed to join this European Common Market that was prospering, born out of the ashes of World War II. Charles de Gaulle of France said *non* to Britain's "Brit-in" (the opposite of Br-exit), in 1963, and again under PM. Harold Wilson in 1967. De Gaulle could see that Britain's links to America were not compatible with their aims. Britain's influence would be to the detriment of France's! It was not until after the resignation of de Gaulle, that Britain, under the Europhile PM. Ted Heath, "Brit-ined" in 1973.

De Gaulle was right, as angelic hands ensured that Britain held back the development of the EU, as the time was not then ripe for the *Beast* system to develop. So it took much longer for the European Founding Fathers' vision to be realised. They saw a united Europe, modelled on the Holy Roman Empire of Charlemagne where the Roman Church could play its role in establishing a United States of Europe, centred in Germany. These "Steps to nationhood"—see graphic—are now in place. Britain has resisted these steps but has been outmanoeuvred. It appears her work as a brake on the EU's development is now over.



Making sense of a confusing year

At the close of 2017, the Brexit talks seemed to be in dire trouble, but a last-minute fudge, enabled the discussions to have deemed to have made sufficient progress so that they could resume in January and begin to look at the shape of a future trading arrangement between Britain and the EU. The fudge had been necessary because of the situation over the Irish border with Northern Ireland. While both the Irish Republic and Northern Ireland were both EU members, the border was a seamless one, goods travelled freely to-and-fro across the border. With Northern Ireland coming out of the EU, then there would be a need for border controls. Neither side wanted this.

How important is the two-way trade?

Using 2016 figures, the Irish Republic exports about £1.3 bn of goods to N.I. N.I.'s trade with Eire was £4 bn. Eire trade with the UK as a whole is around 13% of her exports and 20% of her imports. For both sides, smooth trade is important.

What turns it into a matter of religion and explains why the Pope is anxious that there is no hard border between them, lies in the division of Ireland back in 1919, when the Irish Republic was set up, initially claiming control over the whole island. Formerly it had been part of the United Kingdom. In 1922 the six counties that make up Northern Ireland exercised their rights under the Government of Ireland Act 1920, to remain part of the United Kingdom. The majority of those in N.I. are Protestant, while the Irish Republic is

predominantly Roman Catholic. This led to a long period of “the Troubles” when civil war waged between those who wanted to remain in the UK—the Unionists, and those struggling to reunite Ireland—the Republicans.

The troubles were brought to an uneasy close with the “Good Friday Agreement” which was signed in 1998. As part of the agreement if there is a will on the part of the N.I. people to return to be one with the Republic, they can hold a referendum vote on the matter. At the moment there is a small majority of Protestants in N.I. That is expected to disappear in the early 2020’s, though some Roman Catholics are still happy to remain in the UK.

Europe would, however, be delighted to break up the United Kingdom, and in the Agreement that has been drawn up, it separates Northern Ireland from the rest of the United Kingdom, until the “backstop” arrangement can be solved, which could be never! It pressurises the North to rejoin the South. That way, N.I. would be allowed to rejoin the EU, as East Germany was when reunification took place in 1990.

The backstop is needed

The EU has made it clear there can be no hard border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. Merkel reiterated the principle that this is non-negotiable. If that means the former stays in the customs and trade union despite being part of the UK, so be it. Merkel is all too aware of this paradox as she showed in a recent speech to business leaders. *Deutsche Welle* 11-Dec-18

‘Ireland the price to pay for Brexit’ claims former minister

What we had suspected, that the EU was using Brexit as a means of reunifying Ireland, has been confirmed. The ploy was to make the border a vital issue, by wording the Agreement in such a way that the UK became locked into the EU, without an escape clause. The *Belfast Telegraph Digital* 09-Dec-18 carried this revealing item.

Mr Raab served as Brexit secretary for four and a half months, taking over from David Davis, before resigning last month in protest at the deal reached between Theresa May’s Government and Brussels.

“You would hear swirling around in Brussels—particularly the people around Selmayr, Martin Selmayr in the Commission, and some others—that losing Northern Ireland was the price the UK would pay for Brexit,”



said Mr Raab.

“This was reported to me through the diplomatic channel.”

“It is one thing to defend your interests robustly, but there is another thing in the spirit of so-called European unity to be trying to carve up a major European nation.”

Mrs May's Agreement with the EU

After many months of negotiations Mrs May came back with an Agreement. It was soon apparent that what she had agreed was not one that was at all popular. In fact, it had the effect of uniting those who wanted to remain part of Europe with those that wanted to leave in saying this was a terrible Agreement. The section that provoked so much ire was that of the Irish Border. The EU was insisting that because there must be no hard border, N.I. would be treated differently from the rest of the UK. Northern Ireland would remain effectively as a member of the EU, and the border would then be transferred to being between N.I. and the rest of the UK. This “backstop” would continue until the EU deemed that a solution to the border problem had been found.

The DUP [Democratic Unionist Party] upon which Mrs May relied on to give her minority government the extra seats needed to give it a majority, refused to provide their support. They strongly want N.I. anchored in the UK. They could see this as Europe's smart way of breaking N.I. away and reuniting it with the Irish Republic.

There were two parts to the Agreement that was drawn up—one binding, the other non-binding. (See graphic).

The UK Government's legal advisor, Geoffrey Cox, the Attorney General, was forced to reveal what was his advice to Mrs May and her cabinet about the technicalities of what was contained in the Agreement.

Mrs May was reluctant, but she lost three votes on Brexit matters in one day in Parliament, the last time this happened was in the 1970's. Withholding his advice was voted to be in contempt of Parliament and so had to be published.

His advice showed just how Britain had been stitched up by the EU.

By agreeing to a backstop concerning the Irish border, the UK was committed to remaining in the EU and paying her yearly dues (probably without any rebate) until the problem of the border was solved. Whatever

2 parts

The Political Declaration—non-binding
Withdrawal Agreement—binding

The Political Declaration says that the future relationship will be based on “an overarching institutional relationship covering chapters and linked agreements”.

The EU Withdrawal Agreement: a 599-page legally binding document setting out the terms of the UK's exit from the EU. It covers the UK's £39bn “divorce bill”, citizens' rights and the Northern Ireland “backstop”—a way to keep the Irish border open, if trade talks stall.

solution that Britain put forward could be turned down by the EU (as they have done so far with the UK's possible solutions). His advice was that "All they would have to do to show good faith would be to consider the UK's proposals, even if they ultimately rejected them." There was the prospect of Britain never being free because she could only do so when all 27 EU members said they were happy with the arrangements. France would want the UK to give up her fishing rights, Spain would want her way over Gibraltar, and Greece would want the Elgin marbles back! Under this Agreement, Northern Ireland (N.I.) would have to remain in a full customs union with the EU, to ensure a soft border as is the present situation. The border between the EU and the rest of the UK would have to be in the Irish Sea, and the rest of the UK would be in a separate customs union, thus breaking up the existing relationship. "The implications of N.I. remaining in the EU Single Market for Goods, while Great Britain (GB) is not, is that for regulatory purposes GB is essentially treated as a third country by N.I. for goods passing from GB into N.I. This means regulatory checks taking place between N.I. and GB, normally at airports or ports, although the EU now accepts that many of these could be conducted away from the border."

The Agreement also prevents Britain from bringing into force any trade agreements she might make with non-EU countries. She is free to draw them up, but they can't be implemented while she still remains a member of the EU, i.e. until the resolution of the backstop.

Britain would remain tied to all the new EU regulations that will continue to pour out of Brussels, but with no input whatsoever. She would have no control over her fishing rights, the EU would continue to allocate quotas.

She would be a vassal state.

The rebellion grew in her own party with over 110 Conservative MP's stating that they would not vote for this deal in Parliament. Many of her cabinet quit in the run-up to the postponed vote.

The day before Parliament was due to vote on the Agreement, Mrs May postponed the vote, and the following day flew to Europe to plead for help in getting the Agreement modified to help get it through Parliament. There was no help forthcoming. This was the deal the EU had agreed to, it couldn't be changed. So, Mrs May returned empty-handed only to be faced the next morning with a call to see Sir Graham Brady, chairman of the 1922 Committee of Conservative MP's. She was told that he had received the necessary 48 letters of dissatisfaction with her leadership, which automatically triggers a vote of confidence in her leadership by her Conservative MP's. This vote was held that evening after she had told them that the EU was willing to make concessions. She won the voting by 200 to 117, i.e. 63% to 37%. This means that her MP's can't rechallenge her for another twelve months. The EU was quick to say that they were not prepared

to make any concessions. Although the majority of her party supported her, the size of the rebellion showed what divisions were splitting her party. In past situations, the leader has subsequently faced reality and after a few days stood down, but Mrs May is not a quitter.

This muddy soupy kind of drama

Here in Britain, we are currently in a time of great political turmoil. As an EU diplomat put it:

“It’s getting so messy and absurd that even the funny elements of this are actually tragic ... **in this muddy soupy kind of drama we can also see these days it is difficult to get any sense of meaning or orientation**, but I still can’t be so undiplomatic to tell you that there is no hope.” *The Guardian* 12-Dec-18

Which way forward?

With the EU adamant that there are no alternatives to the drawn-up Agreement, and with the UK Parliament so set against it, there seems no way that the UK Agreement will be agreed. Without this, the Brexit deal is dead. Even if it is passed, this is only the start. As a *Times* columnist put it:

Then the fun would begin!

To complete the withdrawal agreement process, it is not enough for the government to get parliament to approve the so-called “meaningful vote” on the principle of the deal. It must also pass, through every stage and through both houses, a withdrawal agreement bill. Such legislation is not only necessary to ensure parliament has the powers to implement the agreement but is also formally required for the withdrawal agreement to be ratified. No bill, no deal.

At a minimum, the withdrawal agreement bill will have to include proposals that cover citizens’ rights, the transition period, and the payment of the so-called divorce bill. It might also cover the administration of the border with Ireland. In other words, night after night, the government would face huge defections on its own side and be relying on Labour votes that probably won’t be forthcoming. *The Times* 12-Dec-18

But it doesn’t end there. Should Britain finally agree to all the elements, it will be back to the EU Parliament.

Oh, and I nearly forgot another thing. These are only the requirements for Britain to pass the deal. The EU has its own procedures. Most important is that its parliament has to give assent. And it has always said that it could take three months to do that. At the very least this is an extra complication.
ibid

It does look as if the only way forward is for Britain to leave on March 29th without a formal agreement—a hard Brexit. Both the EU and the UK

governments are now drawing up contingency plans for such an arrangement. Such a no-deal plan would result in Britain trading with the EU, as she does with the rest of the world where she doesn't have a special trade agreement, on World Trade Organisation tariffs. These tariffs generally are no more than 4%, and with the high barriers that the EU places on imported food to subsidise its farmers, this should result in lower prices for many imports. It will affect imports from the EU, especially cars, unless the EU agrees to lower tariffs. Potentially it should have a positive effect. With the fall in the value of the pound, British exports are more competitive; the downside is that imports will be more expensive, but this should be an incentive to produce more food and products at home. Large parts of British horticulture and agriculture were severely damaged by subsidised crops when she joined the Common Market in 1973.

The Transport Secretary has recently reported that the UK has now concluded all of the third country aviation agreements needed with non-EU countries, save four small countries still to be completed. Those agreed include the USA, Canada, Switzerland and Israel.

Within the EU the Commission has made clear that in all circumstances including a so-called No-deal exit there will be an agreement between the UK and EU after Brexit allowing routine aviation to continue as before between the UK and EU.

Individual member states have also expressed a willingness to put in place any arrangements needed to ensure the continuation of air services.
John Redwood Diary 13-Dec-18

Brexit worse danger for the EU

Those wishing to remain in the EU speak of the great difficulties that Britain would find herself in if she would be so foolish as to leave the EU. What isn't mentioned by Remainers is the fact that the EU (and especially the Irish Republic) stand to lose much more. The fragility of Europe could easily be pushed over its tipping point by a hard Brexit.

The balance of economic terror over Brexit has shifted over the last year. The eurozone is more vulnerable to the shock of no-deal rupture on punitive Macronesque terms than it was at the point of peak hubris in December 2017, when EU negotiators set the trap of the Irish backstop.

Europe's quantitative easing boomlet has deflated. The underlying pathologies of monetary union are again in evidence. The bloc is stuck with a North-South chasm in competitiveness that has left a string of countries in malaise. That has led to the gilets jaunes in France and Lega-Five Star revolt in Italy.

You would not know it from the Gothic alarmism of Fleet Street that Britain's economy has grown faster than the eurozone over the last eight

months. France is close to stall-speed. Barclays has issued a recession call for Italy. The Sentix index of expectations for the eurozone has fallen to minus 18.8, the lowest since the EMU banking crisis in 2012.

As a matter of raw realpolitik, it is preferable to opt for a sovereign Brexit at this stage than it would have been a year ago. Euroland is in a precarious situation. It has no monetary defences against another downturn. Interest rates are already minus 0.4pc.

The European Central Bank pre-committed long ago to halting its QE [Quantitative easing] programme this month. This will have mechanical consequences for the money supply. The growth rate of broad M3 will fall below 2pc by early 2019. **It almost guarantees a slump.**

The end of QE will leave Italy exposed to the Siberian winds of market discipline. The ECB [European Central Bank] has soaked up the entire net issuance of Italian sovereign bonds since early 2015. It is not obvious who will pick up the baton. Italian banks have been shut out of the European capital markets. Unicredit just had to pay a 7.83pc coupon on a €3bn senior preferred bond.

Emmanuel Macron's grand plan for budget union to buttress the euro has come to nothing. There is to be no joint debt issuance. The banking union still lacks the pan-EMU deposit insurance needed to end the "doom loop" between banks and states. There will be no fiscal mechanism worth the candle to fight recessions. *Daily Telegraph* 14-Dec-18

As 2018 closed, Britain stands on the brink of a wonderful opportunity to break free and plan her own future, instead of constantly being restrained by EU directives. A hard Brexit will bring short-term pain but will also bring many long-term gains. This the EU recognises and because of its dislike of competition, has tried to lock Britain into its embrace. Its confidence that Britain would be brought "to heel" may indeed backfire, as they now face the probable consequences of a no-deal Brexit.



EU: "Come to heel" UK: Slip the lead?

And the omens do not look good for the eurozone either. If the global slowdown is significant, taking the eurozone down with it, Italy will probably fall into recession. Meanwhile, unless the UK manages to secure a smooth Brexit and/or no Brexit at all, Germany is likely to be one of the biggest losers from the UK's exit from the EU. *Roger Bootle* *Daily Telegraph* 31-Dec-18

Chapter 13

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PREPARING FOR A POST-BREXIT BRITAIN

The prospects are for Britain to leave without a deal. Mrs May has asked her cabinet to reconvene early in the New Year, cutting their holidays short. The prospects of winning them over to support her deal look increasingly remote. A poll held by ConservativeHome published 30-Dec-18, asking Mrs May's Conservative Party supporters, which of five possible outcomes would they support, showed support for a no-deal outcome had increased from 34% last month to 44% this month. The next most popular would be a Canadian style agreement on 27%. Support for Mrs May's deal was third on 16%.

There isn't enough time either to hold a second referendum (and few support the idea, what was wrong with the first referendum?), before 29th March, which is Brexit Day. A General Election could be fitted in, but it would lose valuable time. Postponing Brexit would need the agreement of the 27 members, and there seems little prospect of that happening. So, unless Mrs May can achieve consensus on her proposals, Britain looks set to leave on that day, without having an Agreement. Already the EU is making their preparations and have promised that planes will still be able to fly to the EU, and lorries deliver goods, but it is clear they are not going to make it easy, no other nation must be left with the impression that they too can leave!

The EU's no-deal preparations make it clear: they want to make Britain suffer

When Boris Johnson was foreign secretary, he was admonished for accusing the EU of wanting to administer 'punishment beatings' to Britain for its temerity in wanting to leave the EU. In the months since it has become clear just how apt his description was. At every turn, the EU has acted with one aim in mind: to try to ensure that Britain suffers from exiting the EU, in order to deter other member states from contemplating leaving the bloc.

It is hard, reading today's memo from the EU, laying out the plans for what would happen in the event of a 'no-deal' Brexit, to reconcile it with the EU's claim to be an organisation which promotes free trade and free movement of people and goods. After a no-deal Brexit, it says, it would only guarantee 'basic connectivity' of transport links—i.e. those demanded by international agreements such as the 1968 Vienna Convention on Road Transport. Road hauliers from the UK, it says, will temporarily be allowed to carry goods to the EU, but only until 31 December 2019. UK-registered airlines will be allowed to operate point-to-point flights from the UK to EU airports, but only until 30 March 2020—and they won't be allowed to take passengers between EU airports. Bus operators would be allowed to run services but only on an occasional

basis—not scheduled services. UK train-drivers will not be allowed to drive trains in the EU—so Eurostar trains will presumably have to employ EU drivers or else halt at Folkestone so that British drivers can be replaced. Banks will no longer be able to provide payment services in EU countries—although it does concede that internationally-recognised credit and debit cards will continue to be used, albeit without EU caps in fees charged.

The biggest nasty of all, though, concerns Gibraltar. The document simply states that the contingency measures “will not apply to Gibraltar”—pretty well suggesting that the EU will turn a blind eye if Spain attempts to close the border—something it has, after all, attempted to do even during the UK’s membership of the EU. Never mind the EU, it is questionable whether this would be legal under international law—and certainly won’t help the many Spaniards who work in Gibraltar.

Far from promoting world trade and free movement, the EU has allowed itself to develop a fortress mentality. It seeks to become a single, federal state, but one which is pretty well fenced off from the rest of the world. It is that mentality which Brexit should give us the chance to escape. *The Spectator* 20-Dec-18

Another matter that the EU has agreed concerns the derivatives market. This is an area that London specialises in and the EU will continue to be dependent upon London. These items are longer term and so an agreement was needed at least three months before Brexit Day to give stability and assurance that access to these markets would still be available. Late December the EU ruled that trading would continue at least in the short term.

The Bank of England has repeatedly warned that disrupting the derivatives market was one of the most significant threats to financial stability generated by Brexit. While the UK Government moved to ensure contracts between UK and EU counterparties would still have legal clout in the event of a no-deal Brexit, Brussels had not done likewise until now. The deadline, as clearing houses must give three months’ notice if a contract will be closed or transferred, was noted as mid-December by UK regulators.

The confirmation came as part of the wider note on no-deal planning published by the Commission yesterday. This included a temporary equivalence regime—a form of market access granted by the EU to third countries—for 12 months for derivatives contracts specifically. The Commission also made vital separate legal provisions for so-called over-the-counter derivatives which are agreed without a clearing house acting as middle man.

The City of London is an international hub for derivatives. EU firms account for 15pc of derivatives activity in the UK. Industry estimates

suggested that even a single basis point rise in cost for these contracts could cost EU firms as much €22bn (£19.8bn) per year.

The Bank of England said the announcement was a “crucial and positive step”. *Daily Telegraph* 20-Dec-18

In another development, the Irish Taoiseach (Prime Minister), Leo Varadkar, said a technological solution would be acceptable to avoid a hard border—the very thing that Britain was proposing and the EU rejecting. And it was because of this backstop solution, that Mrs May’s Agreement is floundering!

The Commonwealth and Queen Elizabeth’s Speech

In her Christmas speech, the Queen gave a significant “plug” for the Commonwealth. She has made this organisation her contribution to uniting Britain’s links to her past. As she reminded her listeners:

“In April, the Commonwealth Heads of Government met in London. My father welcomed just **eight** countries to the first such meeting in 1948. Now the Commonwealth includes **53 countries with 2.4 billion people, a third of the world’s population.**

“Its strength lies in the bonds of affection it promotes, and a common desire to live in a better, more peaceful world. Even with the most deeply held differences, treating the other person with respect and as a fellow human being is always a good first step towards greater understanding.”

Was that a little dig at the way the EU has been treating Britain? The economy of the Commonwealth, unlike the EU at present, is growing. These are countries which want to do business with Britain, many companies have links already to this country. Because they mainly have English as their first or second language, as well using UK legal contracts, there are far fewer barriers to trading with the Commonwealth, than with the non-commonwealth countries including the EU, and costs considerably lower. We have seen that the latter-day Tyre power *commits fornication with **all the kingdoms of the world upon the face of the earth.*** Isa.23:17

Should the UK leave on 29th March without an Agreement, i.e. a “hard” Brexit, she will be able to make trade agreements with any country she likes. While she is part of the EU, this freedom is not available. The US is very keen to do this. It is not the work of a moment and eighteen months is the expected time frame to see this done, with the goodwill existing on both sides. Mr Trump is keen to have it completed before the American elections in November 2020. It would be a blueprint for agreements with other countries

12 big wins from leaving in March on WTO terms

Britain has been an independent member of the WTO [World Trade Organisation] since its inception in 1995. It has 164 members. Given her planned departure from the EU, she secured agreement in July that she could

continue trading on the same terms as the EU. The WTO is the largest trading organisation in the world and has drastically reduced tariffs rates. She also recently secured the agreement in principle of the 47 member countries that have opened up their government procurement markets, that the UK could operate on the same terms as she does now as an EU member when she leaves. This means that she will continue to have access to this lucrative market on equal terms.

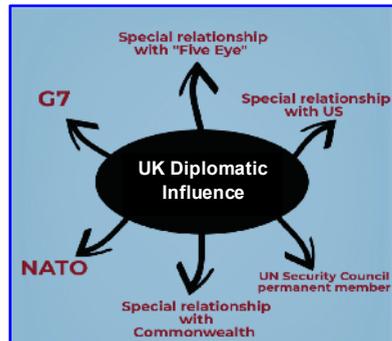
Sir John Redwood is a Conservative MP with a business background. His daily diary has for the past two years been mainly concerned with Brexit. In the light of the poor Agreement that Mrs May brought back from Brussels, he champions Britain leaving in a “hard Brexit”, trading on WTO terms.

1. Far from crashing out, we will be cashing in. We will get our money back to spend on our priorities. We will be better off.
2. We get control of our taxes allowing us to cut VAT and other taxes. This will boost our growth rate and give all taxpayers a Brexit bonus.
3. We can hire more nurses, doctors, teachers, and police, and improve our social care with money saved from the EU.
4. We can sign new trade agreements with the rest of the world to boost the majority of our trade currently with non-EU countries.
5. We can remove tariffs on imported components to provide a boost to UK manufacturing.
6. We can restore and expand our fishing and fish processing industry.
7. We can have a farming and tariff policy that means we grow much more food locally, cutting the food miles.
8. We can control migration and have a policy good for the UK.
9. We can make our own laws and refuse EU ones which are damaging.
10. We will end all the uncertainty for business.
11. We can end the rows and the wild and usually pessimistic speculation about Brexit. We can turn to talking about other matters, and bring the nation together in discussing how to use the money and freedoms we have gained from an exit.
12. We will become a self-governing democracy again.

Leaving the EU is not a threat or a disease, but a huge opportunity. *John Redwood Diary 27-Dec-18*

Britain's diplomatic influence

As the graphic shows, Britain has tremendous clout, because of her position on so many international organisations. She packs a punch far greater than her



position as the fifth largest economy in the world would indicate. Her many centuries of diplomacy will now have the opportunity to serve her well again.

New relations with Israel

Britain's membership of the EU has prevented Britain from being able to make special trade deals with Israel, who is one of Britain's key markets. She is one of ten countries that Britain is prioritising for a trade agreement.

When it comes to trade, for years Britain has been a leading partner to Israel, but Brexit has kicked that into higher gear. In a move that Foreign Ministry officials say “cannot be taken for granted,” the United Kingdom included Israel as one of 10 countries with which it seeks to sign new bilateral free trade agreements. A joint working group has already been established toward that end. Britain must take a strategic view of the region ahead of Brexit, and Israel has been tagged as one of the preferred countries in the first phase, Israeli foreign policy officials told *Haaretz* last week. “Despite Israel's small economic size, in global terms, they also looked at the contribution to the European Research and Development program and the field of innovation,” one official said. *Haaretz* 03-Jun-18

Trade between the two countries has multiplied. Britain is the No. 2 destination for Israeli exports. Israeli investment in the UK is increasing rapidly. Prince William's visit in June—the first British Royal visit—was very well received.

British exports to Israel soar by 75 percent

THE JERUSALEM POST



British exports to Israel have soared by some 75% in the first half of 2018 to \$3.45bn (First half 2017 were \$1.97bn)
 Full year 2017 were \$4.3bn

Bilateral trade :
 2016 \$7.2bn
 2017 \$9.1bn

The UK is the second largest trading partner worldwide for Israeli goods, after the United States.

Jerusalem Post 27-Sep-18

Britain and the Middle East

In 2018 Britain took control of the new base in Bahrain, HMS Juffair, (bases are treated as ships). One of its significances is that ancient Bahrain was the location of one of the Dedans of Genesis 10.

Gulf base assures Britain a key naval presence following Brexit

Britain's ability to maintain a global military presence post-Brexit has been greatly enhanced by the opening of the Royal Navy's permanent base in the Gulf, according to one of the UK's most senior officers.

At a time when Iran continues to pose a serious threat to the security of the oil-rich Gulf region, the HMS Juffair base at the Bahraini port of Mina Salman **will enable Britain to play its part in keeping the region's vital sea lanes open.**

The £40 million base—paid for mainly by the Bahraini government—will **allow the Navy to maintain a permanent presence in the region**, without having to return warships to Britain every six months for routine maintenance.

The base can also be used by other British forces, such as the Army and Special Forces, to conduct operations throughout the region, including in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria.



Gen Sir Christopher Deverell, the commander of Britain's Joint Forces Command, said the official opening of the base yesterday, **was an important step towards the development of "a global Britain"**.

He said the establishment of Britain's first permanent military base in the Gulf since the early Seventies would allow the UK **to play an increased role in regional security**. *Daily Telegraph* 07-Apr-18

In November, *BICOM* [*Britain Israel Communication & Research Centre*] published a fascinating 22-page report entitled, **British Middle East strategy after Brexit**.

The Middle East is important as an export and investment destination for goods and service, and a source of vital inward investment in the UK. It is also a source of growing opportunity with soaring populations and oil-rich economies keen to diversify. **The UK exports more goods and services to the Arab world than to China, or to Brazil and India combined.**

The UK also sources significant sums of inward investment from the Gulf Arab states and is keen to remain **the leading European power in the region**. The UK is Qatar's largest investment destination, with £35bn of investments in the UK including property and high end retail, and another £5bn planned in the next five years. When Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman visited the UK in 2018 the governments declared a \$100bn target for procurement and investment over a 10-year period. **Inward investment is key to counterbalance the UK's trade deficit.**

The economic significance of the ties with oil-rich Gulf States are increasing due to Brexit, as the UK seeks to expand trade and inward investment beyond the EU and maintain the **City of London as the world's premier global financial centre**. Economic opportunities are expanding into new sectors as Saudi Arabia and other Arab states seek to diversify their economies, creating new opportunities for UK businesses.

Britain and Saudi Arabia

In spite of the turmoil created in October by Saudi Arabians murdering Jamal Khashoggi, a Saudi exile who wrote critically of the country, while attending

the Saudi Embassy in Turkey, Britain's relations run too deep to be blown off-course. Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman's [MBS] first major trip was to Britain.

The ties between the two countries go back a long way and both are monarchies. Britain has many skills that he needs for his ambitious NEOM [New Future] project. Trade between the two countries is growing and both sides are looking to expand it much further.

With its ambitious "Vision 2030" development plans, the UK Government sees Saudi Arabia as an increasingly significant potential consumer of British goods and services. It also sees it as a potential investor, as Britain prepares to leave the EU. In 2016, bilateral trade in goods and services with Saudi Arabia were worth nearly £9bn, and some 30,000 Brits live and work in Saudi Arabia. After the visit of MBS to London in March 2018 a joint communique agreed "public procurement with UK companies in Vision 2030 priority areas, including: education, training and skills; financial and investment services; culture and entertainment; healthcare services and life sciences; technology and renewable energy; and the defence industry." *BICOM* 15-Jun-18

Britain's ties to the Middle East put her in a unique position to take up again her role in the region. The Americans have never held the influence that Britain has. We could be on the cusp of a significant change in Britain's standing in the area, as Donald Trump runs down America's influence here.

Today's Arab tribes see Britain differently to any other nation. We have characteristics that make us **deeply distinctive**. Too often, we forget that **Britain's monarchy** is a source of pride for the Gulf and other Arab monarchs. Prince Charles' warm relationship with Gulf monarchs gives Great Britain **privileged status** that no American, German, or French President can rival. It is because of Britain's special place and attraction that Sandhurst and our private schools have had more future Arab leaders in training for a century than any other institution. Our education system is still the envy of the Arab world; tens of thousands of Saudi students study in the English-speaking world. Our laws and liberties reflect the natural law tradition of moderate Islam, the spirit of the sharia in its higher objectives of preserving life, property, family, providing security and religious freedom.

MBS has been brave in recognising Jewish claim to land in Israel. We in the West should help him make peace between the children of Abraham a reality. *The Spectator* 22-Dec-18

Britain and Oman

The Oman base is being enlarged so that it can accommodate Britain's largest vessel, the aircraft carrier *HMS Queen Elisabeth* which is currently undergoing sea trials before coming into active service in 2020. Her sister

ship *HMS Prince of Wales* is being fitted out in preparation for handover in 2019 and entering service in 2023.

In August, the then Minister of Defence, Michael Fallon, visited Oman to sign an agreement on defence cooperation.

The agreement secures UK use of facilities at Duqm, ahead of the completion of the UK Joint Logistics Support Base at the port, giving Britain a **strategically important and permanent maritime base east of Suez**, but outside of the Gulf.

The booming Duqm Port complex provides **significant opportunity** to the defence, security and prosperity agendas for both the UK and Oman. It has dry dock capability able to accommodate submarines and the UK's flagship, HMS Queen Elizabeth, which is the largest and most powerful warship ever built for the Royal Navy.

From Duqm, HMS Queen Elizabeth will be able to **project influence across an important region**. She will fulfil multiple roles from providing air power anywhere at any time, to supporting allies or delivering humanitarian aid and the port itself provides Britain with a hub from which to tackle issues such as the fight against Daesh [ISIS].

Once completed, the UK Joint Logistics Support Base, a multi-million pound joint venture between British defence company Babcock International and the Oman Drydock Company, will provide the UK a **permanent training facility** in addition to **a key military logistics centre in the Gulf**. It will also be connected to other Gulf countries by the Gulf Rail Project.

The UK and Oman are **established allies** in the Gulf, with a wide range of shared interests. With a particularly strong defence relationship, the infrastructure built at Duqm Port will support Exercise Swift Sword 3 in 2018, the largest UK-Oman joint exercise for 15 years. *Gov.uk* 28-Aug-18

Britain also has an RAF base in Qatar. Near to the Middle East are bases in Cyprus; in the Indian Ocean, Diego Garcia and in Africa, Kenya.

In a post-Brexit world, Britain will be able to concentrate on her global role, a maritime power, trading around the world, but with her especial interest in the Middle East.

Her young lions in the Middle East

Her foremost young lion is the US. Under Donald Trump, we have an American leader prepared to reverse the coolness of Obama to Israel and her neighbours.

2018 was the year when America moved her Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. It was a time of much rejoicing in Israel. Donald Trump's

daughter Ivanka (pictured) performed the opening ceremony. She converted to Judaism in 2009 and married a Jew, Jared Kushner the same year.

Although there were protests from the EU, the Vatican, the Palestinians and some Muslim countries, the world didn't come to an end because of this move. Most recognised that Jerusalem is Israel's capital and that it makes sense to be there.



Incidentally, Israel is preparing an area for other embassies to move to.

Israel is advancing plans for a 25-acre (10-hectare) diplomatic compound to house embassies it expects will move to Jerusalem from Tel Aviv following the relocation of the US mission in May.

The area, located near the US Embassy, will be able to accommodate several missions as well as nearby housing for staffers.

Guatemala transferred its embassy to Jerusalem shortly after the US move, and Brazil and Australia have signalled their intention to do so, too. *Bloomberg* 12-Dec-18

President Trump has decided to withdraw US troops from Syria and Afghanistan over the next few months. This has sent shockwaves around America's allies in the Gulf. Can they trust America to be on-hand to defend them? It surely will have the effect of driving them to a closer alignment with Israel. One they can depend on because she is in the same vulnerable position as they are. However, Mr Trump is planning to retain troops in Iraq.

Both Syria and Afghanistan (and Iraq) lie in the territory of the Greek Seleucid Empire—the original “King of the North”. So, the US will not be found finally in this region, this will be under Iran and Russia's dominion. It is in the southern Middle East we expect Britain and her allies to be found at the time of the end. America, having taken over Britain's role of guardian of the southern Arab states, now has diminishing interest in the region, under Trump's policy of “America First”. Right on cue, Britain is stepping back into her former role in the region. We expect this role to grow, post-Brexit.

Truly we live in exciting times, when over a comparatively short period, the Middle East situation has turned in ways we have long anticipated.

And so to our closing exhortation, very needful when humanism and theistic evolutionary ideas seek to undermine our spiritual foundations by casting doubts on our understanding of the strength of the veracity of God's Word.

Chapter 14: Exhortation:[Back to contents](#)**ARE WE LISTENING TO THE VOICE OF GOD?**

“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path... The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.”

The antidote to humanist thinking is the word of God. Without this, mankind is in a sorry state of darkness and ignorance of the Divine purpose. To the believer, the word enlightens their path, gives them hope, and helps them make decisions.

The voice of God. In 2Pet. 1:16-18, Peter is inspired to record the events of the Transfiguration *“when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”*

This voice appears throughout Scripture. In Gen. 3:8 it was heard in the garden of Eden when Adam and Eve had sinned. They did not desire to listen to it and hid. Again, it was heard from Mount Sinai in Exo. 19:16-19. Later, the people ask Moses to *“let not God speak with us, lest we die.”* (Exo. 20:18-19) They too were not prepared to listen to the voice.

Unlike the natural seed of Abraham, we have not been brought before Sinai but figuratively to *“mount Sion... And to Jesus”*. However, our exhortation is the same: *“See that ye **refuse not** him that speaketh”* (Heb. 12:25).

At the Transfiguration, the voice carried the same appeal, not recorded in Peter: *“This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; **hear ye him.**”* Mat. 17:5.

In 2 Peter 1:19 this voice is compared to *“a more sure word of prophecy... whereunto ye do well that ye **take heed**”*. The *“scriptures of the prophets”* (Rom. 16:26) therefore need to be **held in high regard**. *“Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the **Holy Spirit.**”*

The primary thing we need to understand is that a prophecy never came by the *will* (or desire) of *man*. Holy men of God spake as they were *“moved”*. This *“moving”* describes an uncontrollable force—the same word is used in Acts 27:17 describing a ship, driven by the power of the wind. The words given under inspiration were therefore **of God** (2Sam. 23:1) and were sometimes not understood by the prophet until afterwards. (1Pet. 1:10-12; 1Chr. 28:19).

We read in 2Tim. 3:16: *“All scripture is given by inspiration **of God**”*. God speaks through prophets whom He has chosen to record His word (Heb. 1:1). These chosen men, the circumstances they were in, the audience they were

writing to, the ideas and words they wrote, all convey meaning designed **by God**.

Examples. In Zec. 7:7, Zechariah is told to tell the people to; “*hear the words which the LORD hath cried by the former prophets*”. Neh. 9:30 records how that God “*testifiedst against*” rebellious Israel “*by thy spirit in thy prophets*”. In Psa. 22:22 and Isa. 8:17-18 we read statements which appear to be the personal thoughts of the penmen. However, these expressions are to do with God speaking to Christ for we read in Heb. 2:11-13 that this was **God** “*saying*” this. Heb. 3:7 quotes Psa. 95:7-11, a Psalm of praise to God, stating that the text is what “*the Holy Spirit says*”. Acts 1:16 states that “*the Holy Spirit by the mouth of David spake*” when referring to the destruction of Judas (an indirect reference to either Psa. 41:9, 69:25 or 109:8). Psalm 110 is described as being “*of God*” in Heb. 5:10. In Acts 28:25 we read that “*the Holy Spirit*” spake “*by Esaias the prophet unto our fathers*” referring to Isa. 6:9-10. In Heb. 10:15-18 we read that “*the Holy Spirit*” was a witness referring to Jer. 31:33-35. In Acts 3:18 we read that “**God** before had shewed by the mouth of all his prophets” the sufferings of Christ.

In Luke 1:70 Zacharias “*was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied*” (v67). In Mat. 1:22 we read that the circumstances around the miraculous conception of Jesus were done “*that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet*” referring to Isa. 7:14. In Mat. 2:15 speaking of Joseph’s decision to take the family to Egypt because of the threat of Herod, we read this was done “*that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet*” referring to Hos. 11:1. The apostle Paul spoke “*not in the words which man’s wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Spirit teacheth*” 1Cor. 2:12-13. Caiaphas proclaimed Christ would die for the people “*And this spake he not of himself: but being high priest that year, he prophesied*” (John 11:51). In Mark 7:10-13 we read of a citation from Exo. 20:12 which “*Moses said*”, but we are told these words were in fact “*the word of God*”. In Revelation, penned by John, we are continually exhorted to “*hear what the Spirit saith unto the ecclesias.*” (Rev. 2:7,11,17,29; 3:6, 13,22).

These examples show us that when we pick up our Bibles, the words are **God’s**, not man’s. They have not been limited by human knowledge, emotion or linguistic ability. They are not open to human error. As the **word of God**, the end product is true (Tit. 1:2; John 17:17; Col. 1:5; Dan. 10:21). This is why we can have full confidence and “*do well*” to “*take heed*” to them.

Take heed. The biggest controversy of our day is the battle for the mind. Will we humble ourselves and allow God’s word to affect our every decision? Will we live out a faith based on that word for “*faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God*” (Rom.10:17)?

The words of Isaiah 66:2 are worth pondering: “*To this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word.*”

Keep up-to-date!

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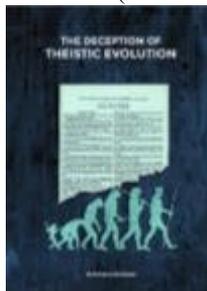
Prophecy Days

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 23rd Feb 2019 go to:

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