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

Jeremiah 31:10
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Britain, Catholic Europe & The Middle East

Less than 100 years ago Great Britain (as it was) promoted the concept of a national home for the Jewish people in the Land then known as Palestine. As the Prime Ministers of Britain and Israel meet in 2011 what are the prospects for their future relationship? Britain’s involvement with Catholic Europe has had its effect, and today Britain’s membership of the European Union will impact upon her foreign policy, but how secure is the position of the United Kingdom in Europe? These questions have answers that arise out of Bible prophecy and are considered on page 18 of this issue.

The Prospect of a Palestinian State in the Territory Known as the West Bank, Taken by Israel in 1967 as a Result of the Six-Days War Is Before the United Nations; What Can We Expect?

Revolution: The Arab Spring by Ron Kidd (see page 10) examines the forces that are at work in the current Middle East turmoil, and traces these events to those things revealed in the prophetic Scriptures.

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TIME NO LONGER, IN A FAST MOVING WORLD

It is a fast moving world. Every time we check the news sites we never know what new development may greet us, or where it may be happening. And for those of us who are watching events with an eye on the prophetic word, we are struck by the fact that so much is happening, and so many strands are coming together so quickly. We are reminded of two passages of Scripture—Isaiah 60:22, “I the LORD will hasten it in his time;” and Revelation 10:5-7, “And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand to his God and to Jerusalem. Once again they were able to bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat, and will plead with them there for my people and for my heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations, and parted my land” (Joel 3:1-2).

This prophecy refers to the time when God restores Judah and Jerusalem—that is what happened in 1967. The Jewish people returned to places like Hebron (in Judah) and Jerusalem. Once again they were able to “dwell in the midst of the Land” (Ezekiel 38:12). The reaction of the world to this remarkable vindication of Bible prophecy has been one of outrage and unparalleled hostility. Thus, the Almighty says through the prophet: “I will also gather ALL NATIONS, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat and will plead with them there...”

PLEAD: Hebrew shaphat “to judge, i.e. pronounce sentence...” (Strong). And on what basis is this judgement and sentence to be made? “... plead with them there for MY PEOPLE and for my heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations and PARTED MY LAND.”

PARTED: Hebrew: chalaq “to apportion or separate” (Strong). The wording here exactly fits the situation we see as the nations of the world urge the creation of two states on God’s Land. Notice that, He says “parted My Land.” The same expression is used in Ezekiel 38:16 where the Lord God says to Gog “... it shall be in the latter days, and I will bring thee against My Land...”

This is the Land that was promised to Abraham and to his seed (Genesis 15:18 etc.), and it is a promise that God intends to keep—whether the nations like it or not! With these facts before us, we must not be surprised if there is to be a battle for the Land. All the signs are that there is a final speeding up of things—any day the words may well be uttered “that there should be time no longer.”

What will that mean for us? No more time to prepare ourselves and to make ourselves ready (Rev. 21:2 and 19:7). Let us get busy then, working on ourselves—for it is a fast moving world.
he “day of vengeance” in which the Great Shepherd who is a priest upon his throne (Zech. 6:13) punishes the goats, is also “the year of his redeemed”—Isaiah 63:4. He is the redeemer of the two classes of mankind; these are first, “his brethren” whom he has taken out from the nations for his name (Acts 15:14): and secondly, the many nations who shall be joined to Him as his people—Zechariah 2:11. Of this second class are the twelve tribes of the house of Jacob. The nation of Israel is to be the first-born, or chief son of the national family, being the beloved nation for the fathers’ sake—Romans 11:28. The first class are redeemed from the earth, and stand with the Lamb on Mount Zion, and follow him in all his wars and enterprizes “whithersoever he goeth.” The redemption of the second class is the work of the Eternal Power through Christ and his brethren. “He saves the tents of Judah first,” and strengthens Judah’s house (Zechariah 12:7; 10:7); and then saves the house of Joseph, or the ten tribes of the kingdom of Ephraim. This salvation or redemption of Jacob is developed in the Jubilee, when “the Great Trumpet is blown” against the goats; and all Israelites are invited to “return every man to his possession.”

The day of the second and third angels is “a time of trouble” to all nations—to Israel as well as the rest; but there is this difference with respect to them, expressed in the declaration to Daniel that “at that time thy people shall be delivered every one that shall be found written in the book.” Daniel was an Israelite and a saint. Hence his people are Israelites and saints, both of which classes are delivered in “the time of the end;” “when Yahweh shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and shall have purged the blood of Jerusalem from the midst thereof by the spirit of judgment and by the spirit of burning”—Isaiah 4:4. It is the day in which the captivity of Israel and Judah is to be brought against their own land, consequent upon the breaking of the yoke of the House of Esau from off their neck, that foreigners may no more serve themselves of them; but that they may serve Yahweh their Elohim, and David their king, whom the Eternal Power hath already raised up for them in raising up the crucified “King of the Jews” from the dead.

But this great national redemption is only arrived at through a terribly severe refining process. It is styled in Joel, “the day of Yahweh, great and very terrible; and who can abide it?”—ch. 2:11. The goat-nations will be unable to abide it; and all the dross of Jacob will be consumed. All the rebels will be purged out of the great army of resurrected dry bones, now scattered and “very dry” in all the countries of their dispersion.

A short extract from John Thomas’ *Eureka* explains a section of Revelation chapter 14. It appears under the section “The Dissolution of the Laodicean state” headed *The Second Angel.*

*THE "ANGELS" OF REVELATION CHAPTER 14*

**FIRST ANGEL (in midheaven)**
Rev. 14:6. Preaching the everlasting gospel (the gospel for the age) announcing the hour of judgment

**SECOND ANGEL**
Rev. 14:8. Announces “Babylon is fallen!...”

**THIRD ANGEL**
Rev. 14:9. Proclamation of judgment against worshippers of the Beast

where they are politically entombed; but in the time of the second and third angels, passing under the rod of discipline in the Wilderness of the peoples—Ezekiel 20:33-38; 37:1-14. The prophet Malachi asks the same question as Joel. “Who may abide,” saith he, “the day of his coming? And who shall stand when he (the Messenger of the Covenant) appeareth? For He is like a refiner’s fire, and like fuller’s soap; and he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto Yahweh an offering in righteousness. Then shall the offering of Judah and Jerusalem be pleasant unto Yahweh, as in the days of old, and as in former years”—ch. 1:1-4.

This day so great and very terrible, is “the Hour of his Judgment” proclaimed by the first angel in midheaven. The judgments or plagues inflicted are styled “torment with fire and brimstone;” and those who are tormented, “them who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the sign of his name.” They are the plagues which cause Babylon the great city to fall. She falls, because of her wickedness in church and state; and of her sanguinary and merciless oppression of the saints and witnesses of Jesus, and of all the Jews and others she has slain upon the earth—chapter 17:6; 18:24. Jeremiah contemplating the terribleness of these latter days”
says, “Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it; it is even the time of Jacob’s trouble; but he shall be saved out of it. For it shall come to pass in that day, saith Yahweh Tz’vaoth, that I will break his yoke (the yoke of Esau’s house) from off thy neck, and will burst thy bonds, and strangers shall no more serve themselves of Jacob. But they shall serve Yahweh their Elohim, and David their king whom I will raise up unto them. Therefore, fear thou not, O my servant Jacob, saith Yahweh: neither be dismayed, O Israel; for, lo, I will save thee from afar, and thy seed from the land of their captivity; and Jacob shall return, and shall be in rest, and be quiet, and none shall make him afraid. For I am with thee, saith Yahweh, to save thee: though I make a full end of all nations whither I have scattered thee, yet will I not make a full end of thee: but I will correct thee, in measure, and will not leave thee altogether unpunished.”

Nations are political organizations of men: to make a full end of such is to dissolve and abolish all national bodies founded and built up by the violence and craftiness of the wicked. A full end is to be made of all the nations whither Yahweh has scattered the Jews. This declaration is fatal to the independence and political existence of the United States, as well as that of all nationalities. The Second and Third Angels, which are identical with the Rainbowed Angel of the tenth chapter, in the great and terrible day of atonement, execute this divine purpose of reducing mankind to a common and universal brotherhood; and of subjecting them to the imperial and regal sovereignty of Jesus and his Brethren. The Israelitic Nationality, however, is not destroyed. In this day of judgment, Israelites are “corrected in measure,” and the rebellious among them destroyed: but a remnant will survive the refining process of this terrible day, and its constituents will every man return to his possessions in the land of the Holy One of Israel. Because, therefore, for the sake of his name, “all they that devour Jacob shall be devoured; and all his adversaries, every one of them, shall go into captivity (ch. 13:10); and they that spoil him shall be a spoil, and all that prey upon him will I give for a prey. For I will restore health unto Jacob, and I will heal him of his wounds; because they call Zion an Outcast, saying, This is Zion, whom no man seeketh after. In the latter days Israel shall consider it”—Jeremiah 30.

Now the Lamb-Power, as the Man of war, Yahweh, will do all this after the example of Joshua in his war upon the Canaanites; which illustrates the manner in which Yahweh fought in the day of Battle (Zechariah 14:3). Christ Jesus, the King of the Jews, with the 144,000, as the commanders of the armies of Israel, are “the Holy Angels” and “the Lamb” in whose presence the worshipers of the beast and his image are tormented in the lake of fire burning with brimstone. As the prophet like unto Moses, he will serve these as the great law-giver served Sihon, king of the Amorites, and Og, king of Bashan, whose story is narrated in Deuteronomy 3, 4. When He opens his eyes upon the house of Judah, “he will make the governors of Judah (the Saints) like a hearth of fire among the wood, and like a torch of fire in a sheaf; and they shall devour all the peoples round about, on the right hand and on the left.” Judah will then be the sword, and the bow, in the hand of the Lamb; and the house of Joseph, the ten tribes of the old Ephraim kingdom, His arrow which shall go forth as the lightning. When this bow is drawn, its arrows will be sharp in the heart of the king’s enemies; as it is written, “today do I declare that I will render double for thee: when I have bent Judah for me, filled the bow with Ephraim, and raised up thy sons, O Zion, against thy sons, O Greece (the goats), and made thee (the Lamb Power in Zion) as the sword of a mighty man.

Thus, on returning home from their dispersion after they stand upon their feet as a great army, they will have to fight their way through all the countries of the house of Esau. In this jubilee return, under the Second and Third Angels “the house of Jacob,” says Obadiah, “shall be a fire, and the house of Joseph a flame, and the house of Esau for stubble, and they shall kindle in them, and devour them; and there shall not be any remaining of the house of Esau. For Saviours shall come up on Mount Zion (the Lamb with the 144,000) to judge the Mount of Esau; and the kingdom shall be Yahweh’s.”

In this way, Babylon and the goat-nations are “made to drink of the wine of the wrath of the Deity, prepared without mixture in the cup of his indignation.” Esau will have had the dominion over Jacob long enough; and the time will now have arrived to prove to mankind “that there is a God that judgeth in the earth.” Esau has lived by his sword, but not righteously. He crucified the king of Israel, persecuted and killed his brethren, corrupted the faith, trod under foot the Holy City forty and two months, and poured out the blood of Jacob like water upon the ground. But they who war against Zion and her sons “shall be as nothing, as a thing of nought.” Therefore, “fear not, thou worm Jacob, and ye men of Israel; I will help thee, saith Yahweh, and thy redeemer, the Holy One of Israel. Behold I will make thee a new sharp threshing instrument having teeth: thou shalt thresh the mountains (or empires) and beat them small, and shalt make the hills (or smaller states) as chaff. Thou shalt fan them, and the wind shall carry them away, and the whirlwind shall scatter them: and thou shalt rejoice in Yahweh, and shalt glory in the Holy One of Israel”—Isaiah 41:11-16. This has never come to pass since it was recorded by the prophet; for hitherto Jacob has been under the heel of Esau, whose metallic image stands unbroken upon its feet of iron and miry clay. The work of the Second and Third Angels is to grind to powder the various metals of which it is composed; and to do the work so effectually that no place be found for the things they represent—Daniel 2:35.

**THE NAMES OF DEITY USED IN THIS EXTRACT**

**YAHWEH:** He who shall be.

**YAHWEH ELOHIM:** He who shall be Mighty Ones

**YAHWEH Tz’vaoth:** He who shall be Hosts

He who will be their (Israel’s) Mighty Ones And Yahweh shall be seen over them, and his arrow (Ephraim) shall go forth as the lightning: and Adonai Yahweh shall blow with a trumpet, and shall go forth with the whirlwinds of the south. And Yahweh Tz’vaoth shall defend them. And Yahweh their Elohim shall save them in that day as the flock of his people; for they shall be as the stones of a crown, lifted up as an ensign upon His land.” “And they shall be as mighty men who tread down their enemies in the mire of the streets in the battle: and they shall fight because Yahweh is with them: and they shall be as though I had not cast them off. And they of Ephraim shall be as a mighty man: yea, their children shall see it, and be glad. And I will hiss for them and gather them. And I will sow them among the people: and they shall remember me in far countries: and they shall live with their children, and turn again. I will bring them again also out of the land of Egypt, and gather them out of Assyria; and I will bring them into the land of Gilead and Lebanon; and room shall not be found for them”—Zechariah 9, 10.

**THE FATE OF EUROPE**

“War has been declared against the Beast of the Earth, the Beast of the Sea, the Image of the Beast, and the False Prophet; that is, against all Europe, for the utter destruction of all is institutions, civil and ecclesiastical; and the subjugation of all its peoples, nations, tongues, and rulers, to the absolute sovereignty of David’s Son and Lord—Psalm 110:1.”

*John Thomas, Eureka*
Daniel’s visions in their totality cover the times of Israel’s downtreading by the Gentiles, concluding with her elevation to world supremacy. The first three beasts of Daniel chapter 7 occupy only a short period, and the main conflict, stretching forward to the coming of the Ancient of Days is between Israel and the 4th beast in its various forms.

Zion and Israel are composite ideas. Zion is the divine polity destined to govern the world in the hands of Israel, Israel’s princes and Israel’s king. Its architectural foundation is at Jerusalem in the land of promise from which centre all civil and religious administration will proceed, in the day of Zion’s glory. All this is described in Isaiah 60-62.

Now Israel and Zion in Daniel, as elsewhere, are always considered as a whole, though different elements may occupy the foreground at different times as circumstances change. The land, the daily, the holy ones, the host, etc. do not stand as isolated terms, but are related parts of a whole, Zion, which is never out of view.

From Daniel chapter 7 to the end of the book, we have presented a gradually developing picture of the suppression of Zion. First there is the break up of the concrete polity and divine institution by the little horn of the goat, by the late Graham Pearce U.K.

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From Daniel chapter 7 to the end of the book, we have presented a gradually developing picture of the suppression of Zion. First there is the break up of the concrete polity and divine institution, by the taking away of the evening-morning sacrifice and downtreading of the “holy,” and “the host.” This is followed by the scattering of the holy ones and the people of the holy ones, which is pursued with growing severity, culminating in the setting up of a despotic counterfeit system making desolate in relation to all things divine, wearing out and prevailing against the saints, until it has accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people (i.e. the holy ones and people of the holy ones). This growing suppression of Zion in its various parts may be tabulated as follows:

The Roman power, or 4th beast, first appearing as the little horn of the goat:—
1. Magnified himself against the prince of the host (Christ).
2. Took away the daily sacrifice and Mosaic system of worship (Daniel 8:11).
3. Trod underfoot the holy and the host, or the Government and military power of Israel (Daniel 8:13).
4. Cast the Truth to the ground (Daniel 8:12).
5. Caused falsehood to prosper and honoured the God whom his fathers knew not (Daniel 8:25; 11:39).
6. Became manifest as the horn with a mouth speaking great words against the most High, whose look was more stout than his fellows (Daniel 7:8, 20, 25).
7. Set up an abomination, making desolate all things divine, known as the papal system (Daniel 12:11).
8. Wore out the saints and prevailed against them (Daniel 7:21, 25).
9. Prospered until the indignation was accomplished and the power of the holy people had been scattered (Daniel 8:19; 11:36; 12:7).
10. Shall yet stand up against the Prince of Princes.
11. And shall be broken without hand (Daniel 8:25).

Such is the rise and fall of Daniel’s 4th beast, and the fall and rising again of Zion.

Brief reference to each of the chapters will confirm this synthesis of the suppression of Zion.

In Chapter 7 we have a broad presentation of the whole matter showing its scale. Emphasis is given to the saints being prevailed against, as expressing the limit of the downtreading, that is, it extends even to the faithful, the saints. The chapter is not however confined to the saints. Zion as a whole is there. A reference is made to the Founder of Zion, the Ancient of Days; to Zion’s king who should come in the name of the Ancient of Days; to the Kingdom; and to the people of the saints possessing the kingdom under the supervision of the saints.

Chapter 8 proceeds to details, and prophesies the break up of the elements of the old Zion polity by the little horn of the goat,
In the seventh of Daniel there are three parties associated together in executing judgment upon the Beasts—the holy ones, the High Ones, and “the people of the holy ones.” The holy ones are styled “the saints” in the common version; and the High Ones are termed “the Most High” in the singular. The word saint signifies a holy one; but it has been so misapplied by the Gentiles that I have preferred the latter, as keeping before the mind the saying, that “without holiness no man shall see the Lord.” The phrase “the Most High” in the singular number is in the plural in the Chaldee original. The word there is ELYONIN. This is not accidental, for it occurs four times in the same chapter, which supply the reason of the expression in the introduction of the Ancient of Days and the Son of Man into the vision. These are the High Ones to whom the holy ones belong; as it is written, “Ye are Christ’s, and Christ is God’s.”

The holy ones of the High Ones whose Head is Christ, take the kingdom which is then given to the people of the holy ones. These are the Twelve Tribes of Israel, who, under the government of the holy ones, possess “the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven.” They possess these in the sense in which a nation is said to possess such things, while at the same time it is only the princes and rulers of the nation who possess the glory, honour, majesty, and high offices of the kingdom. The holy ones and their head the Most Holy Prince will possess these with immortality, which pertains to them exclusively; while the Israelites who constitute “the people,” or subjects of the kingdom, will stand related to the holy ones as the subjects of all other nations do to the nobility and government of their kingdoms; but with this exception that, whereas the subjects and rulers of kingdoms hitherto existing in the world have all been mortal, and therefore under the necessity of leaving their houses, dignities, and power to other people, or successors, the princes of the kingdom of the Deity in the Holy Land will be deathless, but the subjects thereof mortal.

John Thomas
Exposition of Daniel

The enemy having cast the Truth to the ground, and trodden underfoot the land, the city, and the government, the desolation proceeds in the causing of falsehood to prosper and in the oppression of the scattered people of Zion, who are the remaining elements of Zion in the earth. The desolation arrives at its climax and fulness under the papal system, an abomination unequalled for false worship, despotic rule and persecution. These developments are briefly covered in the 11th chapter verses 35-40, where the king of fierce countenance of ch. 8:23 honours the new god whom his fathers knew not; they also appear in the time periods of the 12th chapter; but the details of this papal blasphemy are reserved until later visions, through John in Patmos.

It is noticeable that the 11th chapter centres on the land, and it might seem that the main theme we have emphasised is not being pursued. But the key to this chapter and the 12th is the introductory explanation of the angel to which we have already referred; “I am come to make thee understand what shall befall thy people in the latter days.” If we enquire who are Daniel’s people, we have the angel’s answer in ch. 12:1, “at that time shall thy people be delivered everyone that shall be found written in the book (of life).” Daniel’s people are the saints. The natural seed of Israel, called in ch. 7 the people of the holy ones are by this angel distinguished by the words “the children of thy people.”

So then whatever may be the superficial character of this chapter, on the angel’s own declaration, it concerns the saints. All the elements of Zion—land, city, Government, daily sacrifice, etc.—are subsidiary to, and on account of, the saints, the princes of Zion. Without them the other parts have no meaning. So that though the land may hold the foreground of the vision for a while, it is still a vision concerning “thy
people.” The land is their land, and their inheritance. All are accounted as having been born in the Holy City (Psalm 87:5). We too easily detach the saints from the land and the city, because we are only acquainted with the Gentile sojourners of the time of the end. But this was not Daniel’s view. He would readily feel that a vision of “what shall befall thy people” could quite properly deal with their land. The interests of Zion as a whole are never out of mind in this chapter.

There is then, no ground for that mode of interpretation that divides these visions up artificially, and proposes that these last chapters are confined to the land and the people of the holy ones; out of which idea arises the endeavour to make the times of the twelfth chapter apply to Moslem happenings. Such an interpretation has failed to see the broad sweep of the conflict of Israel and Daniel’s fourth beast, and the progressing desolation of Zion. Right to the end, the visions are primarily concerned with what shall befall “Daniel’s people,” the saints.

The climax of the vision of the last three chapters is reached early in the 12th chapter in the standing up of Michael the great Prince and the deliverance of Daniel’s people both from the oppressor and from the corruption of the grave. It is the climax of the whole book also, for these shall at this time “shine as stars” in the firmament of Zion’s glory and continue for “ever and ever.”

This would rejoice Daniel’s heart, yet he did not understand fully what he had seen. The angel adds that the book was sealed until the time of the end. Daniel makes a final effort to find out “how long to the end of these wonders” resulting in the giving of the 1260-1290-1335 time periods that are so interesting to us in the “time of the end.” These are certainly matters concerning “what shall befall thy people in the latter days” and Daniel was told that the wise in the time of the end should understand them.

These time periods concern the limits of the down treading of Zion. The first period refers to the scattering of the power of the holy people, a phrase comprehending the holy ones and the people of the holy ones. The second period has reference to the setting up of an abomination making desolate, as a sequel to the taking away of the daily sacrifice. The third has reference to the receiving of abiding inheritance in the land of Zion. These various terms are full of meaning in the light of what has gone before in the earlier part of the book. We should expect terms to be used here, in the latter end of the downtreading, that take their meaning from earlier parts and fit into the general theme of the developing suppression of Zion and its final restoration. Indeed in these closing ideas of this wonderful book of prophecy we have gathered up into short compass the essential ideas of the whole book.

We have seen that the taking away of the daily in chapter 8 was symbolic of the suppression of the Israelitish system of worship. This system was divinely instituted and is only temporarily suppressed until the “restitution of all things” (Acts 2:21). We also saw that this was...
The False Prophet (Revelation 16:13, 14)
Protestant and Papal scribes are in the habit of applying the epithet “false prophet” to Mohammed, and therefore do not perceive its applicability to the Roman bishop. But neither Mohammed, nor his successors, are termed “the false prophet” in the Apocalypse. The Arabian was false enough, doubtless; but he was a far more respectable character than any Pope that has ever reigned; and were I to choose between the two superstitions, I would rather be a Moslem than a Papist. It was the glory of Mohammed to destroy idolatry: it is the infamy of the Popes to be the high priests of the “queen of heaven.”

Acts 1:6-8 Though Jesus did not then know the times and the seasons of the kingdom, he knows them now; for, about thirty years after the destruction of Jerusalem, God gave him a revelation of the things which must shortly come to pass; and in this apocalypse, the times and seasons are set forth in order.

That they all may be one...
When the saints are all gathered into the kingdom, they will not find themselves in an unexpected situation. They will all be there by virtue of believing the same things; though some, contemporary with the later history of the world, will have had the advantage of more abounding testimony. Their sins will have been covered upon the same principle—by the raiment of righteousness derived from the sacrifice, by faith in whose blood they had been cleansed.

Born Again...
When a man is renewed by the truth, he is renewed by the spirit, and not before. There is no such thing in the scriptures as a renewed ignorant man. Ignorance of the testimony of God, and regeneration, are utterly incompatible. The truth is the purifier to those only who understand and obey it; and there is no moral purity, or sanctification of spirit before God, without it.

Two Stages of Restoration of the Jews
The truth is, there are two stages in the restoration of the Jews, the first is before the battle of Armageddon; and the second, after it; but both pre-millennial. God has said, “I will save the tents of Judah first.” This is the first stage of restoration.
With just one small spark a devastating forest fire can be unleashed. Many forest fires are called wildfires; fires which are large and uncontrollable, changing direction and spreading rapidly. Once started strong winds can carry the fires quickly over large areas of land. The same can be said of revolutions. In December 2010 Mohammed Bouazizi, a 26 year old Tunisian fruit vendor, set himself ablaze over a confiscated fruit cart. This single event sparked a violent response amongst the Tunisian population, unleashing a political wildfire of anger that had built up over decades of oppression. But this self immolation was only the beginning; the uprising that ensued, causing the Tunisian President to leave the country after twenty three years in power, commenced a series of protests which spilled over into at least twelve North African and Middle Eastern countries.

As a result of these revolutions countries such as Egypt, and Libya have witnessed the overthrow of their leaders. Syria appears to be the next country to experience a similar fate and the resistance by the governing party has been violent and bloody. This new wave of unrest in North Africa and the Middle East region has been described as an “Arab spring” but as noted by one analyst, it is more like a Middle East firestorm.

The common denominator in all this civil unrest is a desire for social, political and economic reform—democracy. Issues such as freedom of speech, civil liberties, more equality are at the heart of the problems and the main voices calling for reform originate in the youth of these countries. Many have been astonished at the speed with which all these protests have spread, but the internet has been a contributing factor; many protest groups have been using various media, such as Facebook and Twitter, for communication.

Revolution is not new, the United States of America was born amidst revolution in 1776; the French revolution occurred in 1789 and the Russian revolution followed later in 1917. The American Revolution was a breakaway from British rule, but the French and Russian revolutions were ignited by the revolt of the working class. And yet all three had one thing in common, that of Equality, Liberty and Fraternity—the battle cry of today’s humanistic society. The American Declaration of Independence highlighted man’s “unalienable Rights,” amongst which are “Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness.” The Communist Manifesto echoes similar thoughts in the concluding statement: “Let the ruling classes tremble at a Communist revolution. The proletariat has nothing to lose but their chains. They have a world to win. Working men of all countries, unite!”

Gathering the Nations

The scriptures provide strong evidence for the recent unrest in the Middle East and it is important to reflect on these matters as we consider the nearness of Jesus’ return. In the sixteenth chapter of Revelation we are introduced to the final stage of Almighty God’s plan with His creation. Chapter 16 introduces us to seven vials which are poured out on the territory of the Roman world, a world which at one point in history dominated both eastern and western Europe.

There can be no doubt that the sixth vial describes events pertinent to ourselves; it contains information relative to our present day and because of this it is imperative that we understand the circumstances described. We read in verse 15, “Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed
is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.” From this we learn that the return of the Lord Jesus Christ occurs during the events of the sixth vial; therefore we are living during the sixth vial period. The other point to notice is that this verse is sandwiched between a reference to gathering the nations; “to the battle of that great day of God Almighty” (verse 14), “Called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon” (verse 16). These two verses teach us that the Lord Jesus will return at a time when the world is witnessing the nations being gathered together. From other areas of the scriptures we learn where the gathering will take place; the prophet Zechariah informs us that Jerusalem will be the focal point of this gathering (Zechariah 12:3). This is a dramatic picture of our challenging times.

The obvious question is how does God achieve this gathering of the nations? The sixth vial provides two reasons. The opening words of the sixth vial contain the first reason, we read as follows:

“And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared” (Revelation 16:12).

The drying up of the River Euphrates sets off a chain of events which conclude with the return of Jesus Christ; but what does this language mean? Symbols are used in the book of Revelation to illustrate all kinds of situations; beasts describe world powers, as do mountains, waters and the sun, moon and stars. Rivers are also included as part of the symbolic language used (see Isaiah 8:7, 8; Jeremiah 46:7, 8; Isa.23:10; 18:7). The River Euphrates figures twice in the book of Revelation; the first occasion is in chapter 9:14. On this occasion the symbology describes political activity commencing in this area; four angels were loosed on “the great river Euphrates,” whereas in chapter 16 the Euphrates depicts political activity as drying up or coming to an end. Just as the river Nile represents Egypt (Jeremiah 46:7, 8) so also the Euphrates represents those powers geographically linked with it.

In the year AD 1453 the eastern Roman Empire finally collapsed and the territory was ruled over by the Ottoman Turks; this was the beginning of the political activity described by the loosing of the four angels on the river Euphrates. They continued to dominate for nearly five hundred years but by the end of the 19th century the Turkish power became known as “the sick man of Europe.” Its strength was finally broken when General Allenby of the British army successfully captured Jerusalem in December 1917. The power on the River Euphrates had finally dried up.

The significance of this event cannot be overstated. After World War I large tracts of land of the former Ottoman Empire had to be administered and this responsibility fell to the League of Nations. France was granted a mandate over the territories of Syria and Lebanon; Britain was given jurisdiction over Mesopotamia and Palestine and the Arabian Peninsula was given over to Saudi Arabia and Yemen. Palestine was further sub-divided into Palestine and Transjordan. Eventually the British and French mandates ended with the Arab nations gaining their independence.

The providential hand of God, in what appeared to the world as the natural course of history, brought about the circumstances which made our modern world possible; Arab nationalism was able to develop and a newly embraced independence in the Arab world has emerged as a powerful force in the Middle East.

**Frog-like Spirits**

The second event recorded in the sixth vial is the emergence of three unclean spirits like frogs:

“And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty” (Revelation 16:13-14).

Once again we are introduced to another event which is designed to influence the nations in preparation for the return of the Lord Jesus Christ and the final battle of the nations with God Almighty. The symbology is curious
and has its roots in the Old Testament. For example the only other reference to frogs is found at the time of the Exodus in the second plague on the land of Egypt. We read:

“And Aaron stretched out his hand over the waters of Egypt; and frogs came up, and covered the land of Egypt” (Exodus 8:6).

In an amazing way the context of the plagues of Egypt has an intriguing relevance to the present Arab spring. Israel was in bondage to an oppressive Pharaoh; they were subjected to hard labour and poor living conditions with little or no prospects of freedom. Only when the frogs overran the land did Pharaoh offer the Israelites freedom (Exodus 8:8); but the offer of freedom was hollow and without substance because Pharaoh’s offer was only extended for his own advantage, and when the time came to fulfill his promise Pharaoh reneged (Exodus 8:15). How true this is of the fleshly mind, “While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption” (2 Peter 2:19).

There is another reference to the plague of frogs in the book of Psalms, we read:

“Their land brought forth frogs in abundance, in the chambers of the kings” (Psalm 105:30). The parallel with Revelation is no coincidence; as the frogs went into the chambers of the kings of Egypt so the frog-like spirits are to “go forth unto the kings of the earth” (Revelation 16:14). Their purpose therefore is to influence the powers of authority.

The kind of influence exerted by these frog-like spirits is hinted at in the phrase, “they are the spirits of devils.” The Greek word for “devils” refers to demons or false gods (it is so translated in Acts 17:18). This is confirmed when we consider the word “spirits.” This was used of those false teachers in the New Testament who preached a false gospel. The apostle John wrote: “Try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world” (1 John 4:1).

These unclean frog-like spirits issued out of the mouth of three spheres of influence; again this confirms that the imagery is that of teaching with a desire to influence.

Another aspect of unclean spirits is that they are associated with madness in scripture. During the ministry of Jesus he encountered those who were possessed with unclean spirits; one such individual was Legion who was mentally challenged, or as the scripture says, he had an unclean spirit; after Jesus had healed him he was found sitting “and clothed, and in his right mind” (Mark 5:15). Those who worshipped in the temples of the heathen became influenced by the music and repetitive words of the priests and this resulted in casting themselves down, frothing at the mouth and writhing on the floor. A spirit of madness had taken over their minds causing them to act irrationally and violently.

The frog has another significant connection. The nation of France has its origins in the barbarian nation called the Franks, meaning free. Originally the Franks were a West Germanic tribal confederation but over time the various tribes became a strong and influential nation under the rulership of one named Clovis; the first king to unite all the tribes. The frog was the emblem of the Franks and a poster commemorating the baptism of Clovis to Catholicism depicts frogs on his vesture. Those who visit Rheims in France will be impressed by the tapestries which display the emblem of the frog.

So we see that the symbol of the frog has its roots in the French nation which significantly was the nation which dramatically introduced to the world Liberty, Equality and Fraternity—freedom—in the madness of the French Revolution. Here is a practical illustration of the powerful influence possessed by those whose mouth spews out the doctrines of the unclean spirits of devils.

We can summarize some of these details as follows:
• These frog-like spirits appear for the purpose of influencing the kings of the earth.
• Their influence is achieved through communication.
• The kind of influence exerted is that of a religious nature, creating a state of uncontrollable madness.
• The French revolution provides a fitting example of the influence of those that possess the frog-like spirits.
• The frog-like spirits succeed in stirring up the nations in preparation for Armageddon.

The Source of the Influence

The next point to consider is where do these unclean spirits come from? The scriptural answer is already provided—out of the “mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet” (Revelation 16:13). The readers of the Bible Magazine will be all too familiar with the identity of the beasts of Revelation and space does not permit a detailed consideration of these symbolic powers. The dragon and the beast are Roman in origin as they are linked to the fourth beast of Daniel which corresponds to the two Roman legs of iron in Daniel chapter two. The dragon originally represented pagan Rome and later became the custodian of the Eastern Roman Empire located in Istanbul, originally known as Constantinople. The ten horned beast represents the territory of the Western Roman Empire, modern Europe today. However the sixth vial introduces us to a third source of influence not mentioned before in Revelation; the false prophet. We want to spend some time considering who this false prophet could be.

The Lord Jesus Christ warned his disciples about false prophets saying that they “shall deceive many” (Matthew 24:12). The apostle Peter added to this description stating that such would “bring in damnable heresies” (2 Peter 2:1). God warned Israel about false prophets in the Old Testament and noted that they would be capable of signs and wonders which would deceive the people (Deuteronomy 13:1-5). A similar warning is given by the apostle Paul when he spoke of the revealing of “that man of sin” otherwise known as “that wicked one,” “whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness…” (2 Thessalonians 2:3, 8-10).

So the scriptures provide a great deal of information about a false prophet: he is a deceiver, he teaches heresy, he performs signs and wonders, and most significantly there was to be a false prophet that came on the scene in the first century that would continue until the appearing of the Lord Jesus Christ (2 Thess. 2:1-7).

Now whilst the false prophet of Revelation is only mentioned in the sixth vial there is strong indication of his presence throughout history. The ecclesia at Pergamos was guilty of tolerating “the doctrine of Balaam” (Revelation 2:14). Balaam was a false prophet in the Old Testament (Numbers 22-25) and though he was killed in battle his doctrine still prevailed in the first century community.

In Revelation chapter 13 we are introduced to a second beast; one that had two horns and had all the appearances of a lamb, but spoke like a dragon (verse 11). This beast reveals all the characteristics of a false prophet, doing "great wonders" and deceiving "them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do” (verses 13-14).

This two horned beast emerged as an addition to the Western Roman Empire for we read that “he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him” (verse 12). Now the biblical symbol of a beast relates to the territory that it occupies; so we must look for a power that appears to be religious, was influential in two areas of power (represented by the two horns) and occupied territory contemporary with the beast with ten horns (the territory of the Western Roman Empire); also it would be a wolf in sheep’s clothing because it spoke like a dragon. This description points in the direction of the Holy Roman Empire which incorporated the
The present turmoil in North Africa and the Middle East illustrates the accuracy of the Word of God: the sixth vial of Revelation describes the circumstances that will cause the nations to gather together prior to the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. The decline of the Turkish Empire at the beginning of the twentieth century fulfilled in precise terms the conditions necessary for the development of Arab nationalism which was a required prelude to today’s Arab spring. The present political circumstances strongly indicate that a powerful influence is at work agitating the masses into revolution. The question now arises as to whether the source of that agitation can be linked in any way to the Roman Catholic Church.

It would appear that, not only are the supposed values of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity promoted by the French Revolution at the heart of the present Arab spring, but also figuring prominently is the youth of this region. Egyptian youth took to the streets alongside the Tahrir Square movement; In Bahrain young members of the Shiite Muslim majority also protested, as did those in Syria and Yemen. In all cases there was a consistent message, a demand for change, the implementation of their demands for equality, dignity, justice etc.

The youth of society can be a powerful ally in any revolution and recently the Catholic Church demonstrated its ability to harness and influence its youth. During the month of August the Church held its “World Youth Day 2011,” with one hundred and seventy-two Catholic bishops from Islamic countries, one hundred and forty of which came from 22 Eastern Catholic churches in union with Rome. The majority of the countries represented are presently embroiled in revolution. One of the activities that supplemented the Synod was a workshop for youth entitled, “Bridges between young people in the Holy Land and the Middle East.” Monsignor Shlemon Warduni, the auxiliary bishop of the Patriarchate of Babylon, Iraq, of the Chaldean Catholic Church, told The Jerusalem Post.

“The urgent reasons for this meeting are that Christians are fleeing from the Middle East, and extremist Islamism is invading the area. We need to find a dialogue with Muslims, and unity among Christians.” Interestingly in September of 2010, just prior to the Special Assembly being convened, Pope Benedict XVI issued an apostolic letter entitled “Ubicumque et Semper,” or “Everywhere and Always.” In it he said, “It is the duty of the Church to proclaim always and everywhere the Gospel of Jesus Christ.” Later he added, “Without doubt a mending of the Christian fabric of society is urgently needed in all parts of the world. But for this to come about what is needed is to first remake the Christian fabric of the ecclesial community itself present in these countries and nations.”

At the heart of the Catholic Church’s interest in the Middle East is Jerusalem; many of the presentations during the Synod criticized Israel’s justification of occupied territories saying that “recourse to theological and biblical positions which use the word of God to wrongly justify injustices is not acceptable.” It was also strongly emphasized that special status should be given to Jerusalem as a city holy to Christians, Jews and Muslims.

The cries of liberty, equality and fraternity still continue to proceed from the mouth of the false prophet, but as with Pharaoh they are only words, hollow in meaning and without substance. There is only one kind of meaningful liberty and that is to be found in the Lord Jesus Christ (Galatians 5:1), who is able to deliver us “from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God” (Romans 8:21).

Behold I come as a Thief

In viewing the various crises that emerge in the world today most people are unaware that the hand of God is working to fulfill His purpose. This is precisely what Jesus meant when he said, “Behold I come as a thief;” Jesus will return to an unsuspecting world. Notwithstanding the purpose of God is sure; the power on the Euphrates did dry up, the Arab peoples have become a power to be reckoned with and Jerusalem is a stone of stumbling for all nations.

The unclean spirits like frogs, which introduced to the world during the French Revolution the humanistic values of our present western society, continue their influence; but only for so long. The Catholic system, known in scripture as Babylon the Great, is soon to come into remembrance before God who will “give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath” (Revelation 16:19). Know this, “that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and not have suffered his house to be broken up” (Matthew 24:43).

Let us take seriously the events around us and take all the necessary precautions to prevent us being taken by surprise; “Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.”
The Pope claims that the Kingdom of God is the Church, and that as the spirit of Christmas spreads, so does the kingdom of God. But the Bible teaches that the Kingdom of God is the nation of Israel (Exodus 19:6; 1 Chronicles 28:5), and that soon Christ will return to establish a real peace on earth.

Every year during the month of December many people are engaged in the celebration of Christ’s Mass—better known as “Christmas.” This holy day or “holiday,” is a time when the Gospel is in the news all over the world. For most, it is a garnish—a little sprinkling of religion so as to sanctify the revelry—as the pagans did of millennia ago, who celebrated the rebirth of the sun.

Many religious organizations capitalize on the attention paid by a largely secular world to the story of the nativity, depicting Jesus, Mary and Joseph at the manger. At center of this stage and enjoying the spotlight is the Roman Catholic Church.

This last year the Pope gave his traditional Christmas Eve Mass from St. Peter’s celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ, supposedly taking place on December 25th. What was interesting was the content of his speech.

The Pope began his Christmas homily by stating:

“‘You are my son, this day I have begotten you’ with this passage from Psalm 2 the Church begins the liturgy of this ‘holy night.’”

The Pope uses the phrase: “The coronation rite of the kings of Israel” to steal away the title of the kingdom of God from the kingdom of Israel—applying it to the Church itself.

He stated:

“God has not only bent down, as we read in the Psalms; he has truly ‘come down,’ he has come into the world, he has become one of us, in order to draw all of us to himself. This child is truly Emmanuel God-with-us. His kingdom truly stretches to the ends of the earth.

“He has truly built islands of peace in the world-encompassing breadth of the holy Eucharist. Wherever it is celebrated, an island of peace arises, of God’s own peace. This child has ignited the light of goodness in men and has given them strength to overcome the tyranny of might.

“This child builds his kingdom in every generation from within, from the heart.”

One cannot miss the importance of these statements. According to the pope, God has inaugurated his kingdom which stretches to the ends of the earth through the Eucharist. The Eucharist is the wafer which the Catholic church claims becomes the literal body and blood of Christ, through the magical incantation made by the priest: “hoc est enim corpus meum,” (meaning “This is my body”). This is the origin of the phrase “hocus pocus.” Supposedly wherever the “mass” of transubstantiation is celebrated “an island of peace arises.” Through the Christ-mass, “This child builds his kingdom in every generation from within, from the heart.”

The claim of Catholicism is that the kingdom of God is the Church. She is Christendom, or Christ’s Kingdom on earth, and that wherever this mass is celebrated an island of peace arises.

The Truth about the Kingdom of God

Nothing could be further from the truth. The kingdom of God was the nation of Israel which God had chosen out of all nations. When he made his covenant with Israel, he stated in Exodus 19:5-6:

“Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.”

This was the beginning of the kingdom of God which was fully inaugurated in the reign of King David. God promised David in 2 Samuel 7:12-16:

“And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy

By Jonathan Bowen 

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The pope turns the Eucharist into the literal body of Christ!
bowels, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build an house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom for ever. I will be his father, and he shall be my son... And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever.”

**The True Messiah**

This is the same kingdom that was spoken of by the Angel Gabriel to Mary in Luke 1:30-33—words quoted all over the world in nativity plays—but completely misunderstood:

“And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.”

Messiah is a Greek form of the Hebrew word Moshiach or “anointed one”—anointed as the king of Israel. The destiny of Messiah is to rule over the house of Jacob, sitting on the throne of David. While many people will enjoy Handel’s arrangement of the scriptures put to music in *The Messiah*—the greater beauty is the understanding of the words which are rich with purpose and tell of the destiny of the Son of God who is to be “King of Kings and Lord of Lords,” and of a time when “The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ (Messiah); and he shall reign for ever and ever” (Revel 11:15).

The Hebrew nation forms the center of this promise. The citizens are to form the subjects of the kingdom that is to be re-established on the earth—not the recipients of a “magical” Eucharist! It is to them that the Kingdom will first come. We read in Micah 4:6-8:

“In that day, saith the Lord, will I assemble her that halteth, and I will gather her that is driven out, and her that I have afflicted: And I will make her that halted a remnant, and her that was cast far off a strong nation: and the Lord shall reign over them in mount Zion from henceforth, even for ever. And thou, O tower of the flock, the strong hold of the daughter of Zion, unto thee shall it come, even the first dominion; the kingdom shall come to the daughter of Jerusalem.”

According to the prophets, the kingdom comes to the Jews, assembled out of all nations—with the Lord reigning over them in Zion. In verse 10 they are told that He will “redeem thee from the hand of thine enemies.” This is the common theme of the scriptures. This is what will bring about the “peace on earth” which Gabriel was actually talking about. We read in Ezekiel 37:23-26:

“...I will save them out of all their dwelldings places, wherein they have sinned, and will cleanse them: so shall they be my people, and I will be their God. And David my servant shall be king over them; and they all shall have one shepherd: they shall also walk in my judgments, and observe my statutes, and do them. And they shall dwell in the land that I have given unto Jacob my servant, wherein your fathers have dwelt: and they shall dwell therein, even they, and their children, and their children’s children for ever: and my servant David shall be their prince for ever. Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them; and I will place them, and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in the midst of them for evermore. My tabernacle also shall be with them: yea, I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And the heathen shall know that I the Lord do sanctify Israel, when my sanctuary shall be in the midst of them for evermore.”

These are the real “good tidings of great things, which shall be to all people” spoken of by the angel of the Lord who spoke to the shepherds when they told of the Moshiach or Messiah which was to be born in the city of the Hebrew king David.

**Sitting in the Temple of God**

The very fact that the Pope sits upon his throne in St. Peters, revered by many as the Temple of God on earth, and Benedict himself as God’s representative on earth calling for the establishment of his own Kingdom across all lands, is a fulfillment of the words of 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4:

“Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.”

His “power and signs and lying wonders ... with all deceivable of unrighteousness” will soon be done away when “the Lord shall consume (him) with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming” (v. 8).

**Breaking the Rod**

Ironically, the Pope continued his homily stating, “the rod of his oppressor is not yet broken, the boots of warriors continue to tramp and the garment rolled in blood.” He prayed:

“Fulfill the prophecy that ‘of peace there will be no end’ (Is. 9:7). We thank you for your goodness, but we also ask you to show forth your power. Establish the dominion of your truth and your love in the world the ‘kingdom of righteousness, love and peace.’”

Of all the hypocritical statements to be made! The Catholic Church is dyed red with the blood of saints throughout the ages, while during two millennia she has tried to establish herself as the “Kingdom of God” on earth. This struggle has included multiple crusades and includes the last two world wars when she looked for the re-establishment of the Holy Roman Empire. The scriptures indict her in Revelation 17:6:
“And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration.”

The Messiah will come and establish peace on earth, and to do so he will make war with this corrupt religious system who has “deceived all nations” and “made them drunk with the wine of her fornication.” The time is coming when the magical incantations of the Church will fall silent, and people will look to the true Messiah, the king of Israel to rule the world in righteousness. The fall of great Roman Catholic Babylon is described in Revelation 18:21-24:

“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. And the voice of harpers, and musicians, and of pipers, and trumpeters, shall be heard no more at all in thee; and no craftsman, of whatsoever craft he be, shall be found any more in thee; and the sound of a millstone shall be heard no more at all in thee; And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee: for thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy sorceries were all nations deceived. And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth.”

There can be no peace on earth while wickedness prevails. We read in the prophet Isaiah 57:19-21:

“I create the fruit of the lips; Peace, peace to him that is far off, and to him that is near, saith the LORD; and I will heal him. But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked.”

There will be no peace to the wicked for one simple reason. Peace is the fruit of righteousness (James 3:17), and can only be established in the earth when righteousness rules from Zion. This is the time we look forward to and pray for. It is recorded in Micah 4:1-3:

“But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it. And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.”

The kingdom of God once established will break apart the kingdoms of men, and will grow to fill the entire world, as described by the Prophet Daniel in chapter 2:34-35:

“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.”

When giving the interpretation of this he states in verse 44:

“And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.”

May the day come soon when there will truly be:

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.”
Writing of what he called the “European Commonwealth” in 1868, John Thomas stated that: “The British Isles afar off have no relation to it at all. As Origen says in Hom. 6, AD 230, The Britons are divided from our world. They are no part of the Sea Monster’s interior maritime territory.” He went on to say that Britain was “more Oriental than European.” “The United Kingdom... was never one of the ten horns” (Eureka).

Making the case for this over 140 years ago, John Thomas based his argument upon the following observations:

• Britain is not a Mediterranean power, and is therefore not one of the horns of the Beast of the sea (Revelation 13:1).
• As the Biblical Tarshish, Britain’s alliances are not with the European Beast but rather with her “young lions” and with the Arabian Sheba and Dedan (Ezekiel 38:3 and 6; also verse 13).
• The British constitution is opposed to the European papal system—she does not belong to that politico-ecclesiastical body (compare Bible Mag. Vol 24 No. 3).
• In John Thomas’ view, when Christ returns Britain will submit to “the law which goes forth from Zion” (Isaiah 2:3). This will result in a “harmony and concert of action between Israel and Britain in the latter days.”

Britain’s relationship with Europe has influenced her foreign policy with respect to the Middle East

By Paul Billington  BRANTFORD, ON.

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Britain in Europe

But in June 1975 a referendum was held the result of which tied Britain to what was then known as the European Common Market, based upon the 1957 Treaty of Rome. Over the years the Common Market was developed through subsequent treaties into the European Union. A further step to full integration came with the
common currency, known as the Euro—but Britain stood aside from that development maintaining her own British pound sterling.

As this progression toward full union took place, and as Britain found herself locked into the European Union, it is not surprising that many had abandoned the view that had been advanced by John Thomas in the 19th century. Britain was now part of the European commonwealth, so the inevitable conclusion for most was that the prophetic exposition by John Thomas had missed the mark. But another principle in prophetic interpretation was stated by that author. In his book *Élpis Israel* (1849) he had written this:

“Men should never prophesy of the future from present appearances... The Bible is the enlightener. If men would not be carried about by every wind that blows, let them study this. It will unfold to them the future, and make them wiser than the world.”

There were a few believers who were not influenced by present appearances. They walked by faith rather than by sight. For example one writer who considered the international scene from a Biblical perspective and saw in the British commonwealth that group of people described by Ezekiel as “the merchants of Tarshish, with all the young lions thereof” commented in 1970:

“At present there are critical attitudes in various parts of the British Commonwealth, but this will not prevent all the young lions combining together against the united power of Europe. When Britain is irrevocably outside Europe, no doubt circumstances will cause the Commonwealth countries to draw together. We have faith in the word of God, and His foreknowledge, that this will happen” (*Russia, the Vatican & the Invasion of Israel*).

*The Conquest of Britain*

Ever since the 16th Century Reformation history has shown that there has been a relentless hostility towards Britain by Catholic Europe. In earlier times it was clear that Rome sought to regain her power over what had become Protestant England. Long forgotten by the majority of people today were the plots and wars that had been inspired by the Vatican. The struggles for power between Catholics and Protestants resulted in plots, attempted assassinations and many executions. The Babington plot of 1586 was a plan to assassinate Elizabeth I. The Spanish Armada of 1588 was an attempt to overthrow Elizabeth’s Protestant kingdom. The Gunpowder Plot of 1605 was a plan to assassinate King James I, an act that would have derailed the production of the King James Protestant Bible. But try as they might, the Catholics could not unseat the Protestant power of Britain.

Then, at the hands of Napoleon Bonaparte the pope’s support in Europe became neutralized; the Austro-Hungarian Empire dissolved and the pope’s temporal power centred in the papal states came to an end (1869-70). It was the attempt to retrieve some of this power that led to the First World War, and after that to the Second World War. The evidence for this has been well documented in books by Avro Manhattan, Edmond Paris and others (see also the Bible Magazine Vol. 20, No. 4). So it is that Britain has withstood Catholic Europe for over 400 years. But this does not mean that Rome has had no influence upon Britain’s policies. When Britain’s activities ran counter to the Vatican’s interests there would always be those who would work to practice damage control, or promote the Catholic interest. With many Catholics in positions of influence—newspaper editors and staff, electronic and broadcasting media personnel, civil servants and government workers etc—there could always be an effective grip on the levers of power. Elected politicians would frequently find that they could not carry out the policies that they wished to do. This has been the case to quite a large degree with the Middle East policies of several British statesmen and Governments.

The goal of Catholic Europe—to subjugate Protestant Britain—could not be achieved through plots or warfare, but it has made headway through a subtle and skillful campaign which undermined the source of England’s moral and spiritual strength. That strength and spiritual defence rested in the Bible. By removing its influence from society, the way was opened for a philosophical assault upon the nation’s religious, ethical and cultural character. Thus Britain was deceived and seduced into adopting a more European view. This has had many consequences—and the one that concerns us here is her relationship to the Jewish national home that she was instrumental in facilitating with her “best endeavours”—that is, until those endeavours were torpedoed by the Vatican.

A remarkable passage in John Thomas’ *Elpis Israel*, written some 70 years before the First World War, leaves no room for doubt as to the identity of that “Tarshish” which would be the “first” to bring Israel’s sons from far and restore them to their ancient homeland (Isaiah 60:9). In 1849 he wrote:

“But to what part of the world shall we look for a power whose interests will make it willing as it is able, to plant the ensign of civilization upon the mountains of Israel? The reader will, doubtless, anticipate my reply from what has gone before. I know not whether the men, who at present contrive the foreign policy of Britain, entertain the idea of assuming the sovereignty of the Holy Land,
and of promoting its colonization by the Jews; their present intentions, however, are of no importance one way or the other; because they will be compelled, by events soon to happen, to do what, under existing circumstances, heaven and earth combined could not move them to attempt. The present decisions of "statesmen" are destitute of stability. A shooting star in the political firmament is sufficient to disturb all the forces of their system; and to stultify all the theories of their political astronomy. The finger of God has indicated a course to be pursued by Britain which cannot be evaded, and which her counsellors will not only be willing, but eager, to adopt when the crisis comes upon them.

"The decree has long since gone forth which calls upon the Lion of Tarshish to protect the Jews. Upwards of a thousand years before the British were a nation, the prophet addresses them as the power which at "evening-tide" should interest themselves in behalf of Israel."

No one can deny the role that Britain played in securing the land then known as Palestine, and issuing the declaration which bears the name of Balfour stating that "His Majesty’s Government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people." This led to the British Mandate and to the settlement of Jews in the Land; it also led to an Arab backlash and to a situation that has plagued the world ever since.

While it is true that these events provoked hostility between Jews and Arabs—and resulted in the eventual withdrawal of Britain, we cannot escape the fact that it was Britain who initially promoted the colonisation of the Holy Land by Jews. She fulfilled the role of the Tarshish power at that time, but there were those who viewed with disfavour the idea of a Jewish national home in the Holy Land and worked feverishly behind the scenes to interrupt that work.

**Enemies of Israel**

This was our cover title for Vol. 21, No. 1 of *The Bible Magazine* about three years ago. It featured “The Shocking Truth about the Vatican & the Jewish State.” In this article we highlighted the book “The Vatican and Zionism” by Sergio L. Minerbi (now out of print). We reproduce a small section of that article below:

“As soon becomes clear from reading this book, the Vatican was opposed to Britain’s Balfour Declaration because of an ‘abhorrence of both Protestantism and Zionism.’ The Vatican wanted the internationalisation of Jerusalem with a view to gaining temporal power for itself in the Holy City. They raised many objections against the Declaration and endeavoured to block its approval by the League of Nations, thus hoping to prevent the British mandate for Palestine.

“The British government and the Zionist Executive began to work with redoubled vigor to overcome the obstacles to approval. Opposite them stood the Catholic Church, which was applying pressure on the British directly and was working indirectly by mobilizing Catholic powers for the Vatican position and encouraging them to worsen their relations with the mandate government in Palestine. There were rumors to the effect that the Vatican was even supporting Arab ferment against the Jews and British rule.”

In the background to all this there was a (then) secret agreement known as the Sykes-Picot Agreement. Sir Mark Sykes was a British Roman Catholic, and Picot was his French counterpart. This agreement had designated central Palestine to be under international control—in line with Vatican ambitions.

“Felix Pinkus, a Zionist leader in Switzerland wrote to Chaim Weizmann in May 1917: ‘The Vatican, he said, was organizing all the Catholics in the world against a Jewish Palestine under British protection. A meeting on the subject was recently held in Chur, Switzerland, attended by the bishop of Chur, high-ranking Italians and Austrians, Reichstag member Matias Erzberger, and the Jesuit general. It was decided at that meeting to organize the Catholics in all countries, and especially in the United States, to bring about the internationalization of Palestine under the protection of the pope and to oppose British protection for Palestine by all means.’

The author of *The Vatican and Zionism* concludes: ‘the Vatican position against Zionism was continuous and consistent for the first two decades of the twentieth century.’

**Fomenting Arab Hostility**

Evidence that the Vatican opposed the creation of a Jewish State in the Middle East is plentiful. As Sergio Minerbi comments in his book (Chapter 13 The Vatican’s Opposition to the Mandate):

“While Zionist diplomatic activity concentrated on removing the obstacles to approval of the mandate by the Council of the League of Nations in Geneva, the Vatican was stepping up its efforts to thwart approval or, at the least, to obtain substantial revision of the Zionist articles. The Vatican’s opposition to the Zionist idea and to the draft mandate proposed by Britain was increasingly significant, especially when it became clear that the Vatican was using its influence with a number of Catholic countries in addition to France and Italy, including Spain, Poland, Brazil and Belgium. That at least was the impression received by officials in the British Foreign Office.”

Minerbi draws attention to a letter in which Chaim Weizmann says that he had no doubt that the (post World War I) Arab agitation was to a great extent encouraged by the Vatican. The Latin patriarchy had made inflammatory speeches and had become a great source of anti-Zionist propaganda. Weizmann said that he had to acknowledge that “the Vatican is moving Heaven and Earth against us.”

On the eve of the debate and vote by the Council of the League of Nations to decide whether Britain should be given the Mandate for Palestine, Weizmann wrote that if the Mandate did not gain approval at that time:

“... it never will. The Catholics have been
chiefly responsible for uniting the Muslims and the Christians against us, because what the Vatican really wishes to have is something which amounts to power in Palestine, and it has been using various Catholic members of the League, such as Spain, Brazil, Italy, Belgium and France, in order to achieve its object, and this is really the inner meaning of its attacks against us.”

The dream of temporal power in Jerusalem, the holy City, was the motive behind these manipulations on the world stage by the Vatican. Thus, the Israeli-Arab conflict has been a Vatican inspired one, the aim of which is to secure the Holy Land for Rome—see Ezekiel 36:2; Daniel 11:45.

The Vatican & the Arabs Today

There can be no real understanding of the Arab-Israeli conflict today if the role of the Vatican is left out of account. We have seen something of her opposition to the British Mandate, a focal provision of which was the creation of a Jewish national home in Palestine. That opposition translated into undisguised hostility once the State of Israel was born. The reasons for this were explained some 30 years ago by the author Avro Manhattan.

He argued that a powerful Israel, “as a visible expression of Zionism in territorial, political, and military matters, in the long run was bound to antagonise the Vatican. The interests of each would clash, religiously and politically.”

Manhattan pointed out that Israel’s ambitions in the theological field were feared by the Vatican—and that is why it was bound to oppose Zionism.

“... the Vatican could not and would not tolerate the establishment of an Israel which claimed messianic privileges, or rather, messianic uniqueness and which, therefore, would compete with the Roman Catholic Church as the centre of a future spiritual kingdom...

“... Although deliberately muted in public pronouncements, behind the Zionist banner there was to be found the ancient messianic hope for the coming of a global theocracy, as predicted by all the seers and prophets of Zion.

“... The spectre of the creation of such a theocracy has haunted the inner chambers of the Catholic Church from her earliest inception, and is still a dominant fear. Hence her equivocal role in world affairs surrounding the birth and existence of the State of Israel.

“... In Vatican eyes, therefore, the millenarian yearning for a global Hebrew theocracy represents a deadly threat to the eschatological teachings of the Catholic Church. When translated into concrete political terms, such a view spells not only rivalry, but implacable enmity.”

If we follow Manhattan’s reasoning, we will soon appreciate why the Vatican has given its support to the Palestinian Arabs. When we add to this the developing situation in the West Bank today among Israeli settlers who as religious Zionists are turning more and more to the

The Catholic Leader rejects “Jewish State” identity for State of Israel

Latin Patriarch Michel Sabbah calls for an end to the “Jewish” State while demanding that Palestinians should have “right of return.”

December 19, 2007

At first we might be tempted to think that all this is alarmist; that it is being over-dramatized and means nothing. That would be a great mistake. What we are seeing here is the beginning of something highly significant from a Biblical perspective. For several centuries expositors of Bible prophecy have concluded that when the Israelitish Messiah is revealed, the pope and his church will oppose him. In 1643 Joseph Mede wrote to that effect, saying that the worshippers of the Roman Beast would think that “their imaginary Antichrist” had come! Others followed, including John Thomas in his Eureka (Vol.3 part 2 page 602).

Enduring Relations!

The Catholic Church has taken a consistent position in the Israel-Arab dispute. The warm relations with the terrorist Yasser Arafat (left) continue with the current Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas. A Jewish State in Bible lands is unacceptable to the Vatican.
prophets, and praying for the coming of the Messiah, claiming the Land promised to Abraham and his seed—we may begin to understand the situation more fully.

All this is behind current events involving Israel, the Palestinians and the Vatican’s Middle Eastern policies. Britain finds herself in a political maze as she tries to please her Catholic citizens, her European “partners” and appease the Arab world while appearing even-handed towards Israel and the Palestinians. The exit to this maze eludes the political establishment—they are caught in a proverbial jam.

**A British Reaction**

While the process of subjecting Britain to Catholic Europe has been continuing over the past century, from time to time there has been significant resistance to it. This erupted in two world wars while the British fought off their would-be conquerors. In spite of attempts to change Britain’s constitutional arrangements and to scrap the 1689 Act of Settlement which prohibits a Roman Catholic from occupying the throne, that institution remains (at least officially) Protestant. Britain has also refused to share a common purse with the European Union; she retains the pound sterling and has refused to join the so-called Euro-zone. And today there is a residual streak of independence in the British character which values sovereignty and just does not identify with the European dream. There are—and have been—leading political figures who seek closer integration with Europe, but they do not have popular support among ordinary citizens. These leaders turn a blind eye to the will of the people and refuse to take the issue to a referendum which they know would result in an overwhelming rejection of Britain’s continued membership of the E.U. In fact some branches of the media today have mounted a campaign for Britain’s exit, or at the very least a re-negotiation of membership terms.

As *The Times* newspaper reported on September 10, 2011, Britain’s Foreign Secretary William Hague has said that Britain must rethink ties with Europe. “Britain could benefit from looser, EU ties” ran the headline in *The Daily Telegraph*, and as the *Mail* reported it: “Britain could ‘get ahead’ by loosening ties with Europe: William Hague backs shift in relationship with Brussels.”

In his interview with *The Times* the Foreign Secretary raised “the prospect of Britain standing increasingly apart from the EU core. ‘It’s true of the euro, it could be true of more areas in future,’ he says. ‘In fact we may get ahead as a result of being outside.’”

**Reformation—Again?**

We cannot predict the consequences that may arise from the corrupt and immoral behaviour of the Catholic clergy today, but we do well to note the lessons of history. The harmful doctrine of priestly celibacy was predicted in Scripture—for example, Daniel 11:37 and 1 Timothy 4:3 (compare Romans 1:27), and it certainly encourages immorality (1 Corinthians 7:2). In his book “The Obedience of a Christian Man” published in 1528, William Tyndale wrote:
"The Scripture says that a bishop must be faultless, the husband of one wife. Nay, saith the Pope, the husband of no wife, but the holder of as many whores as he liketh."

This issue featured quite prominently in the 16th century Reformation and in Article 23 of the Apology to the Augsburg Confession (1530) the Reformers stated:

"Among all people, both of high and low degree, there has been loud complaint throughout the world concerning the flagrant immorality and the dissolute life of priests who were not able to remain continent and who went so far as to engage in abominable vices. In order to avoid such unbecoming offense, adultery, and other lechery, some of our priests have entered the married state. They have given as their reason that they have been impelled and moved to take this step by the great distress of their consciences, especially since the Scriptures clearly assert that the Lord God instituted the estate of marriage."

It is not at all difficult to see that some circumstances which brought about the Reformation 450 years ago are now constantly before the public eye again, as priests are regularly charged with child sex abuse. While Tony Blair may have converted to Catholicism, he is unlikely to lead a popular revolution in favour of the Roman Church. British people today are not inclined towards organized religion at all, and when they are, they are just as likely to turn towards Islam as to Rome.

But as England has just been celebrating the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible, many will have been reminded of their Biblical and Protestant heritage. However small the impact may have been (and let us beware of underestimating it), it comes at a time when Britain is perhaps beginning to find that she has more in common with the Commonwealth than with the European Union, and certainly displays more devotion to the Royal Family than to the Pope of Rome.

There is, of course, another side to the picture: Having lost faith in the Bible as being the word of the Living God, Britain has become an immoral and even violent civilization. It is an ugly scene as recent riots and disorder in the country have demonstrated. "Our sick society; it is a virtual "hell" fulfilling the sense of Jeremiah 8:9, "The wise men are ashamed, they are dismayed and taken: lo, they have rejected the word of the LORD; and what wisdom is in them?"

We see the results in the current decadent society; it is a virtual "hell" fulfilling the sense of Psalm 9:17 which teaches us that "The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God." Only severe judgement can arrest the present course. So we ask, Could change come? Could judgement bring reformation? Our answer is that it could only do so if accompanied with instruction. The Bible, the word of God, is the only healing medicine available. It is necessary that this Book regain its position, that it be taught in schools, read in homes so as to become general knowledge among the people once again.

**Developing Alliances**

It was on the basis of Scripture that John Thomas predicted Britain's role in "assuming the sovereignty of the Holy Land, and of promoting its colonization by the Jews." That Britain fulfilled that role has to be recognized. That she was later turned aside from that course by the cunning intrigues of the Vatican should also be recognized if we do our homework thoroughly enough. Also, and increasingly, the signs are that Britain is an uncomfortable member of the European Union, based as it is on the social teachings of the Catholic Church. She does not really belong in that club, and would we be that surprised to see her quit and return to her traditional hire? Yes, Britain lost her faith in the Bible—but that too was an objective which was sought and brought about by the great deceiver of nations.

It is at this point that we must remind ourselves that the show is not over yet. When the Jewish Messiah appears and makes Truth and falsehood manifest—there will be a great re-thinking in Britain and among many other countries. For "he will destroy in this mountain (Zion) the face of the covering cast over all people, and the vail that is spread over all nations" (Isaiah 25:7). And again: "The Gentiles shall come unto thee from the ends of the earth, and shall say, Surely our fathers have inherited lies, vanity, and things wherein there is no profit” (Jeremiah 16:19).

So as Psalm 72:10 expresses it:

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

But if, indeed, we are seeing Britain moving toward the exit door of the European Union, and if, indeed, we see the discrediting of the Catholic Church, then we might expect some new development on the horizon. For one thing, a separation from Europe and its economic shambles will mean the search for new partners—and among the probable targets would be those countries that still sport the Queen on their currency notes. In addition to Commonwealth countries, we cannot dismiss the trade and economic links with certain Arab countries. The concept of "Sheba, and Dedan, and the merchants of Tarshish, with all the young lions thereof" (Ezekiel 38:13), as understood by John Thomas over 160 years ago is not an absurdity. In fact, it is a likely solution for the United Kingdom.

The disgust and disenchantment that the Catholic Church has attracted to itself disqualifies that institution from becoming a significant religious force in either Britain or the Commonwealth. Whist it is true that the Church of England is apostate and a spent force, its head—the Queen—has maintained a remarkable respect in a world where every other honoured reputation has been slandered and tainted—yet the British monarch remains a solid and popular figure.

John Thomas clearly had a correct understanding of the prophetic Scriptures and events in today’s world seem to be taking a direction which vindicate his expectations. He was not an inspired writer and some details in the unfolding of events were not foreseen, and could not expect to have been foreseen, but to claim that his exposition has missed the mark is to fly in the face of the realities of subsequent history.
"Wait upon the LORD" is one of the lovely expressions found in the Bible. It has little significance to the sleepy reader, but it is precious to those who know the LORD (Yahweh) and who make it a custom to weave their thoughts with his Name.

Waiting conjures thoughts of a ‘cue’ or ‘congestion in traffic’ and is not attractive to those who live in a world too often characterized as being ‘seconds’ wise and ‘hours’ foolish. Waiting, in the sense applied in this article, is much more than a mere standing in line. It comes from a Hebrew word that suggests ‘binding together’ signifying a mutual trust in the outcome. One, who waits upon the LORD in this sense, is expressing patience with a hopeful countenance based on an understanding of the character of the LORD.

“But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint” (Isaiah 40:31).

This verse is an example of the use of the word ‘wait’ in the sense that we want to examine. Why does it compare the renewing of strength to the mounting up with wings as eagles? Have you ever noticed the ability of an eagle to soar in the sky without doing much more than spreading its wings and letting the currents of air lift it up? Doesn’t it generate the desire to be able to do the same? God has created the eagle with an ability to detect the movement of air currents and the ability to control its flight so that it can spiral upwards with the rising air. Don’t we all have the desire to be able to escape our present tribulation and rise above it in strength? The use of the eagle in this analogy makes the argument straightforward to understand. The fact that the eagle uses the power of rising air and not its own strength, is easily seen by the fact that it does little flapping of its wings while rapidly ascending. So ‘waiting on the LORD’ is a reliance on the power of our God to lift us up when our own strength is quite incapable of doing so.

The word of God abounds with analogies like this and with exhortations on how to increase our strength by ‘waiting’ on the LORD. “I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD” (Psalm 27:13-14).

Although there are many different words in the Hebrew and Greek that are translated ‘wait’ in English, the word in Psalm 27:14 is the same word as that used in Isaiah chapter 40. Psalm 27 shows the complete confidence the writer has in Yahweh as his refuge in a time of trouble. The acquisition of that same confidence is the object of this article. Surely through living in a world
created by Yahweh, we will find that the evidence of the benefits of waiting on the LORD is all about us. What the Creator of our world expects us to do is to pay attention to what we can observe, so that we might learn to ‘wait for Him’ as part of intelligent worship.

“He watereth the hills from his chambers: the earth is satisfied with the fruit of thy works. He causeth the grass to grow for the cattle, and herb for the service of man: that he may bring forth food out of the earth” (Psa. 104:13-14).

From the quotation in Psalm 104, even children are able to easily see how well the world we live in is suited to the support and growth of life. No one has to be a scientist to recognize the simple truth of the importance of the grass that we walk on. The milk we drink is largely the result of cows processing grass into a wonderful and nutritious drink for us to enjoy. Our gardens require us to choose a seed, to plant it, to water it and given that we did our part acceptably, we only need to but watch for the results. Then in harvest there is usually a profusion of bounty associated with the fruit, sometimes many hundred times more than what was sown. We live in a world created by a very generous God who affords our tables with a great richness of choice all suited to our strength and support.

“O LORD, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches. So is this great and wide sea, wherein are things creeping innumerable, both small and great. There go the ships: there is that leviathan, whom thou hast made to play therein” (Psalm 104:24-26).

The psalmist leads us in thought—the works of Yahweh about us readily show the wisdom and majesty of His creative acts. You may for instance, have witnessed the immense variety of marine life in a tidal pool or the abundance of wildlife that lives in the rivers, lakes and marshes of our world. Each of these forms of life independently illustrates intelligence and splendour but, on occasion, there exists interdependence between them that strikes an even higher note of incredibility. Planet Earth is indeed full of complexity; a rich display of the wisdom of our Creator.

“These wait all upon thee; that thou mayest give them their meat in due season. That thou givest them they gather: thou openest thine hand, they are filled with good” (Psalm 104:27-28).

Even though the Psalmist describes God as providing the food for his created ones, we should not expect to see an angel of God feeding the lions like a zoo keeper. Nevertheless, He feeds the lions, in due season. They are creatures of instinct, abiding by their innate intelligence that God has given them and continuing to exist because they are able to catch their prey within their habitat. Similarly, thousands of groups of animals on planet earth demonstrate that they all

...thousands of groups of animals on planet earth demonstrate that they all ‘wait’ on the LORD by being law-abiding citizens of His creation.

‘Who provideth for the raven his food? when his young ones cry unto God, they wander for lack of meat” (Job 38:41).

God asked Job, “Who provideth for the raven his food? when his young ones cry unto God, they wander for lack of meat” (Job 38:41). The question is worth pondering, since for the raven to live, something else usually has to die. With a little thought about this idea, it is not only true of the ravens, but also of all ravenous birds and beasts. It also supports a marvellous truth concerning humans, for we can only hope to live beyond the grave because of the death of our Lord Jesus Christ (John 6:51). In God’s sight, we only live now if we feed on the body and blood of His son (John 6:53).

It is amazing to consider that the LORD used the ravens to feed Elijah (1 Kings 17:4). These

Though we are able to see the way life forms about us ‘wait’ on the LORD, it is unfortunately not the same with humans who were intended to be the most noble of all His Creative acts. Humans have been given the ability to choose their lifestyle and refuse to obey the laws of the LORD, if they so wish. Read this comment of our God about His people as he delivered it to his prophet Jeremiah.

“Heart now this, O foolish people, and without
understanding; which have eyes, and see not; which have ears, and hear not: Fear ye not me? saith the LORD: will ye not tremble at my presence, which have placed the sand for the bound of the sea by a perpetual decree, that it cannot pass it: and though the waves thereof toss themselves, yet can they not prevail; though they roar, yet can they not pass over it? But this people hath a revolting and a rebellious heart; they are revolted and gone. Neither say they in their heart, Let us now fear the LORD our God, that giveth rain, both the former and the latter, in his season: he reserveth unto us the appointed weeks of the harvest" (Chapter 5:21-24).

The prophet Jeremiah brings yet another aspect of God’s handiwork to our attention when he notes how the sand on the sea shore limits the effect of a tempestuous ocean. Further, he quotes Yahweh as expecting that as a result of His work in preparing this planet for the uniqueness of life that inhabits it, that people would show Him respect. When inspecting a work involving intelligence, it ought to be a simple thing for intelligent people to show respect. Certainly this is what we witness when human artists excel. However, unfortunately that is not the simple outcome when people witness the spectacular works of our Creator.

“I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well” (Psalm 139:14).

It is a staggering thought to ponder the fact that inhabits it, that people would show Him respect. When inspecting a work involving intelligence, it ought to be a simple thing for intelligent people to show respect. Certainly this is what we witness when human artists excel. However, unfortunately that is not the simple outcome when people witness the spectacular works of our Creator.

“I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well” (Psalm 139:14).

It is a staggering thought to ponder the fact each of us had nothing to do with our growth from a single cell to the time we were a fully functioning human baby. Once conception occurred, even our mothers had little to do mentally, to achieve the desired outcome of a healthy birth. We need to also consider the fact that the design work of the LORD to ensure the growth and development of a new human in the womb, only had to be put in place once! It is an awe-inspiring achievement and amply illustrates the value in putting our trust in the supreme intelligence of the LORD and ‘wait’ for Him.

“Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows” (Matthew 10:31).

The LORD cares for us like He does for sparrows. In fact, He cares for us much more than sparrows. Since sparrows do not take anxious thought about what to eat tomorrow, neither should we. Our LORD wishes us to live like the sparrows, that is, within the limits of our design and then ‘wait’ for Him to act in His role as the Sustainer of all life.

“But as they sailed he fell asleep: and there came down a storm of wind on the lake; and they were filled with water, and were in jeopardy. And they came to him, and awoke him, saying, Master, master, we perish. Then he arose, and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water: and they ceased, and there was a calm. And he said unto them, Where is your faith? And they being afraid wondered, saying one to another, What manner of man is this! for he commandeth even the winds and water, and they obey him” (Luke 8:23-25).

When we behold the work of the Lord Jesus Christ, we see what a man could do if he truly ‘waited’ for the LORD. Jesus stated that he himself had a God that he worshipped and his life showed the way his life was bound up or entwined with his God (John 20:17). Even the wind and the waves are controllable with a ‘word’ empowered by the Creator.

Likewise, many other seeming ‘natural’ forces were fully under the control of the LORD and He used them in the experiences of people not only to illustrate His wisdom and power but also as an illustration of the benefits to those who would ‘wait’ for Him. The Scriptures show how God used an earthquake to illustrate His power (Matthew 28:2). He demonstrated on a number of occasions how He used hail to accomplish His will (Joshua 10:11). Although many men and women are concerned about global warming, the LORD has stated the regular coming and going of the seasons will not fail (Genesis 8:22). Also despite the fear of many that the earth will ultimately be destroyed and possibly by man’s foolishness, the LORD has promised that the earth will abide forever (Ecclesiastes 1:4).

All life forms on planet earth owe their existence to a very intelligent Creator. Even the planet itself, the sand, water and wind, is under the supervision of the LORD and can be used, and has been used by Him at His command (Psalm 148).

If then, both living and non-living matter all about us ‘waits’ on the command of an intelligent Creator for their existence and support, why is there so much trouble with humans?

The Scriptures acknowledge the hesitancy in man to obey the laws of God, or even be interested in them, but like children, sometimes it is just a matter of ‘tasting’ to get started.

“Thus saith the Lord God, Behold, I will lift up mine hand to the Gentiles, and set up my standard to the people: and they shall bring thy sons in their arms, and thy daughters shall be carried upon their shoulders. And kings shall be thy nursing fathers, and their queens thy nursing mothers: they shall bow down to thee with their face toward the earth, and lick up the dust of thy feet; and thou shalt know that I am the LORD: for they shall not be ashamed that wait for me” (Isa. 49:22-23).

Truly those who ‘wait for the LORD’ will never be let down or ashamed.
The world’s long record of animosity towards the Jews continues with international hostility to Israel

By Don Pearce  RUGBY, U.K.

How the eyes of the world constantly are brought to focus on this little dot-of-a-country—Israel. Now a shadow of its former greatness under Solomon, and nothing compared to the glory that God has promised when Jerusalem is the capital of the world, the city of the great King, the Lord Jesus Christ!

One of the great signs of today is the growing dislike of Israel and the Jews. It is not difficult in today’s climate to see how readily the words spoken to Zechariah, some 2,500 years ago, will come to pass.

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

World opinion Swings Back against Israel

This headline (Israel Today 28-Sep-11) sums up the attitude of the majority of people to the nation of Israel. The request by the Palestinian leader, Mahmoud Abbas, that the UN Security Council grants recognition to a Palestinian State has caused all the nations represented at the UN to judge between Israel’s and the America’s pleas that this was not an appropriate step, that only a negotiated settlement could be the way forward, compared with Abbas’s plea for a state first, then negotiations. So let’s examine the roots to this constantly repeating situation throughout the ages that the Jews are so disliked.

Why is Israel so hated?

First let us take a broad sweep. Why is there such bias against Israel in the world’s press and TV—the BBC being one of those media sources that takes every opportunity to put Israel in a bad light? And what is the connection between this and the current euro crisis; the Pope’s recent visit to Germany; and the continuing discovery of energy around Israel?

The connections might be surprising!

God judges history as the struggle between His people and the nations. From the zenith of God’s first Kingdom upon Earth during the days of David and Solomon, the Bible sketches a steady decline, until, under the Assyrians, the 10 tribes were removed and under the Babylonians, the 2 tribes were exiled. The days came when these powers passed off the scene and a remnant of Israel returned to re-establish a Kingdom and a Temple in Jerusalem. Eventually the power of Rome established her might in the Mediterranean world and Judah become part of that Empire. When Israel’s Messiah was revealed, in accordance with God’s foreknowledge, he was rejected and handed to the Roman powers to be crucified. For their part in the rejection of God’s Son, the Jewish nation was broken by the Roman armies in AD 70 and scattered, in stages, to the ends of the earth. Punished, but not forsaken of their God, they have endured two millennia of chastening. Many were assimilated but the uniqueness of the Jewish way of life ensured that today, in many countries, Jewish communities continue to exist. In fulfilment of the words spoken to the nation of Israel by their first leader, Moses, before they had even entered the land, they endured continual persecution.

“And among these nations shalt thou find no ease, neither shall the sole of thy foot have rest: but the LORD shall give thee there a trembling heart, and failing of eyes, and sorrow of mind: And thy life shall hang in doubt before thee; and thou shalt fear day and night, and shalt have none assurance of thy life: In the morning thou shalt say, Would God it were even! and at even thou shalt say, Would God it were morning! for the fear of thine heart wherewith thou shalt fear, and for the sight of thine eyes which thou shalt see” (Deut. 28:65-67).

That this has been the case, Martin Gilbert, the well-known Jewish historian, bears adequate testimony in his Forward to his Atlas of Jewish History.

“As my research into Jewish history progressed, I was surprised, depressed, and to some extent overwhelmed by the perpetual and irrational violence which pursued the Jews in every century and to almost every corner of the globe. If therefore, persecution, expulsion, torture, humiliation and mass murder haunt these pages, it is because they also haunt the Jewish story.”

Who were the Main Persecutors of the Jews?

To many it comes as a bit of a shock to learn that it has been the “Christians”! The call of the Gentiles to the truth of the Hope of Israel in the first century soon began to be corrupted, until by the 4th century it was a shadow of its former self. The vast majority of believers turned their back on the fundamental belief summed up by the phrase, The Hope of Israel. With the “spiritualising” of basic passages they then compounded the corruption by adding the pagan teachings of Babylon. “Christianity” became a state religion and took up the mantle of the Roman Empire and persecuted the true believers and the Jews.

Branded as “Christ Killers,” the Roman Catholic Church saw Jews as people fit only for destruction. In the Crusades, sent to free Jerusalem of the Moslems, many thousands of Jews perished as the Crusaders raped and pillaged their way across Europe, on their way to the Holy Land. Their cry of “Christ-killers, embrace the Cross or die!” brought destruction to whole Jewish communities. When the first crusaders reached Jerusalem and had slain the Muslims, they turned their attention to the Jews who had taken refuge in their synagogue, where they were burnt to death when the synagogue was torched.

The Church Inquisitions, aimed at “converting” those they termed heretics, also affected the Jews. They were a class lower than the Protestants!

Vatican opposition to Jewish dream of Safety

It was Theodor Herzl who spoke to the First Zionist Congress in 1897 of his dreams to establish a Jewish homeland where they would...
be safe from their persecutions. In 1904 he visited the then Pope, Pius X, to ask his help, only to be rebuffed; the Church could not possibly help such a scheme. He was emphatically told “Non possamus”! (We cannot support Zionism)!

“The ground of Jerusalem, even if it were not always sacred, has been sanctified by the life of Jesus Christ. As head of the Church, I cannot tell you otherwise. The Jews have not recognised our Lord therefore we cannot recognize the Jewish people... And so, if you come to Palestine and settle your people there, we will be ready with churches and priests to baptise all of you” (The Vatican and Zionism Minerbi).

Later when Britain declared their support for a Jewish State, the Vatican was opposed to such an idea. The Latin Patriarch in Jerusalem roused the Arab population in Palestine to also oppose such plans.

German Opposition to the Jews

Around the same time a young German army officer was planning his future. In 1919 a certain Adolf Hitler was persuaded to commit his ideas to paper, which he did. This letter has recently been purchased by the Simon Wiesenthal Centre for £90,000. In it he revealed his plans for dealing with the Jews. Hitler wrote that a government could tackle the so-called “Jewish question” by denying their rights, but said the “final aim, however, must be the uncompromising removal of the Jews altogether.”

Hitler came to power, aided, it must be said, by the Roman Catholic Church, who drew up a concordat with the new government—the document incidentally is still in force, governing the relationship between the Church and the State. During the months of negotiation about the wording, Hitler was in contact with the Vatican officials drawing up the contents. With typical German thoroughness what he told Bishop Wilhelm Berning of Osnabrück, at an April 26, 1933 meeting was recorded, where he spoke of his anti-Semitic plans.

“I have been attacked because of my handling of the Jewish question. The Catholic Church considered the Jews pestilent for fifteen hundred years, put them in ghettos, etc., because it recognized the Jews for what they were... I am moving back toward the time in which a fifteen-hundred-year-long tradition was implemented. I do not set race over religion, but I recognize the representatives of this race as pestilent for the state and for the Church, and perhaps I am thereby doing Christianity a great service by pushing them out of schools and public functions” (Nazi Germany & the Jews: The Years of Persecution 1933-39 Saul Friedlander).

So Hitler’s plans were clear, and the Church was eager to cooperate with Hitler’s Germany. Fast forward a few years and the initial steps Hitler took against the Jews of Europe turned in a torrent of killing in the Holocaust. Hitler also had plans for exterminating the Jews in Palestine. Arab’s sought German help against the Jews

During WWII the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, Haj Amin al-Husseini, fled to Germany and sought Hitler’s help in eliminating the Jews in Palestine. He told Hitler in 1941 that “the Arabs were Germany’s natural friends because they had the same enemies as had Germany, namely...the Jews...” Hitler replied: “Germany stood for uncompromising war against the Jews. That naturally included active opposition to the Jewish national home in Palestine...Germany would furnish positive and practical aid to the Arabs involved in the same struggle...Germany’s objective [is]...solely the destruction of the Jewish element residing in the Arab sphere...In that hour the Mufti would be the most authoritative spokesman for the Arab world. The Mufti thanked Hitler profusely” (Documents on German Foreign Policy, 1918-1945, Series D, Vol. XIII, London, 1964, p. 881).

The following year Hitler assembled mobile gassing units, “Einsatzgruppe Egypt” (“Special Task Force Egypt”) for this purpose. Rommel’s defeat at the hands of Montgomery prevented the advance of Germany into Palestine and so the units were never used.

The Vatican opposed a Jewish State

The Vatican put enormous efforts in trying to frustrate the establishment of a Jewish State, using her influence in the UN and her worldwide network of diplomats. It was not to succeed, God had decreed that Israel should return to the land of their fore-fathers, and the State was established in 1948. This was not formally recognised by the Vatican until some 45 years later in 1993! The Vatican has clearly been working behind the scenes with the Palestinians to frustrate the development of the State of Israel. How else can we explain Yasser Arafat’s 7 times visits or being visited by the Pope? Mahmoud Abbas, the current leader of the PLO, has paid 4 visits to the Pope. Why should a Pope be interested in meeting a Muslim, unless bound by a common enemy?

As Sergio Minerbi writes in the Introduction to his helpful book. (The Vatican and Zionism. Conflict in the Holy Land 1895-1925):

“I also note in this book the similarity between the objections of the Arabs in Palestine and those of the Vatican. Despite the various reasons for this, it should be remembered that in the steadily escalating conflict between Jews and Arabs, the Vatican took a position that favoured only one side.”

Why is the State of Israel a problem to the Vatican? Jews wandering stateless was one thing.

Jews gathering back to their homeland awaiting the return of their Messiah to establish a Kingdom on earth is quite another thing. It challenges the Church’s doctrine that the Jews were finished and that the Promises to the Jewish fathers have been transferred to the Church. That the Kingdom of God is not a physical Kingdom based in the Promised Land, but the Church. That the Pope is God’s representative on earth, and that the Church’s policy has been against the Jews for Millennia.

Lest we should think that anti-Semitism was a thing of the past, one has only to see the steep rise in incidents against the Jews in Europe and Russia today. Even in Britain there are areas where Jewish school children have to have guards to protect them going to and from school.

“Education Secretary Michael Gove today confirmed up to £2 million to fund tighter security measures in Jewish faith schools.”

“Community Security Trust (CST), a charity working to ensure the safety and security of the Jewish community in the UK, will receive revenue funding for the extra measure of security guards at 39 Jewish voluntary-aided faith schools across England” (Education.gov.uk 08-Dec-10).

It is interesting to consider that it is still a very live matter with the Vatican. Just prior to the Pope’s visit to Germany, the German Foreign-Policy (21-Sep-11), interviewed David Berger, a German theologian and posed the question.

“Can the old Catholic anti-Semitism take root again under Benedict?”

David Berger: “Yes... An event that clearly shows this. When Ratzinger was still Archbishop of Munich, guests from the United States complained of the passion play in Oberammergau, Germany. They found that there were old anti-Semitic texts in use... Ratzinger defended the ancient anti-Semitic texts and dismissed the criticism as insignificant” (My translation DFP).

Part of the Pope’s visit to Germany was to help in the reconciliation between the Vatican and the “Society of St Pius X” who broke away in 1970 in protest at the liberal ideas introduced at Vatican Council II. Benedict has swept away the majority of liberal thinkers in the Vatican and replaced them with traditionalists. This has meant that he has sympathies with the standards that the breakaway group were upholding. In 2009 the four breakaway Bishops had their excommunications lifted. There has not yet been a complete reconciliation, but it is well on the way. What has this to do with anti-Semitism? It is that one of the re-instated Bishops is Richard Williamson, an avowed denier of the Holocaust and who has said of the Jews that they are “the enemies of Christ”!

Consider too, the “Synod on the Catholic Church in the Middle East” held in Rome last October, where, according to Israel Today (24-Oct-10).

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

We can summaries the Synod’s conclusions as follows.

• Jews have no claim to the Promised Land
• Israel cannot use the biblical concept of a promised land or a chosen people to justify territorial claims
• Jerusalem must become an international city

**Germany and the Vatican—Planning the Future!**

Just as the Vatican’s support for Hitler was fundamental to Hitler’s rise to power, so is the present day cooperation between Germany and the Vatican, led by a German Pope, necessary to the latter-day development of what is described in Revelation Chapter 17 as “the harlot Woman riding the Beast! Scripture guides us as to how Europe will develop. We are not there yet—this picture is clearly fulfilled at a time when Jesus has established the nucleus of his Kingdom, for the Beast makes war with the Lamb (v. 14). So this is after the Battle of Armageddon and so after the return of the Lord Jesus to his household, the Judgement Seat, the Elijah work, the invasion of Israel by Gog and his defeat on the mountains of Israel. The fact that we can see such progress in the Vatican’s comeback in Europe, bears testimony to the closeness of our Lord’s coming to His household!

Benedict has spent the first 5 years of his papal reign clearing out the dead wood and preparing a much more focused force who are willing to give close obedience to Benedict. Last October he published an encyclical “Ubicumque et Semper” (Everywhere and Always) which set up a new “Pontifical Council for Promotion of the New Evangelization.” Under the headline Pope takes Vatican’s biggest step to revive Christianity, USA Today (12-Oct-10) stated:

“Pope Benedict XVI outlined his most tangible initiative yet to try to revive Christianity, creating a Vatican office for re-evangelizing Europe and other traditionally Christian regions where the faith is falling by the wayside.”

**The Ratzinger Youth—Pope Benedict Captivates a Younger Generation**

This year its work began to bear fruit. In August, the Pope visited Spain for a World Youth Day. Over 1,500,000 young people from around the world came to listen to his words, and carry back the message that this is a living faith. Inclement weather cut short one of the gatherings, but not the ardour of these young people who see in the show and the pageantry something solid and permanent in their sound-bite world.

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

“It is to the youth of the church, in particular, that Pope Benedict is directing this dogma that they can only find real meaning to life through the Catholic Church. And it is methods that clearly appeal to youth that he is cleverly using to peddle that message—social media and the atmosphere of the rock festival, translated into the festival atmosphere of World Youth Day. In using such methods to promote his crusading message, Benedict is simply exploiting Catholic youth in an effort to develop an active vanguard for his crusading efforts.

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

“If one looks closely at the organization of World Youth Day and the festivities that make up its annual program, it can be seen that Benedict has simply taken the same methods used by secular forces at rock festivals and translated them into a vehicle for projecting his own message to global youth. Indeed even forces within the Vatican have voiced concern over this. Yet it’s clearly a method that works” (The Trumpet 29-Aug-11).

**Pope’s visit to Germany**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“They will fail.

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

The scriptures make it clear that this is to be the situation. After two centuries of decline, the Roman Catholic Church will regain the “driving seat” that they lost and rally Europe. For what purpose? To eliminate the Lord Jesus’ reign as Israel’s King!

“These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful” (Revelation 17:14).

Who are the “these”? They are described to John as:

“... the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast. These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast” (Revelation 17:12, 13).

Who binds them in opposition to the Lamb? The harlot Woman rider of the Beast, even the Vatican who is described thus by John:

“And I saw the woman drunken with the blood...
of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus" (Revelation 17:6).

No other politico-religious system fits this terrible description. Just as the Jews rejected their Messiah when he first came, so Christendom will reject Israel’s Messiah at his second coming! The Pope addresses the German President and Chancellor

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

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

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

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

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

As part of his State visit was the addressing of parliament, the Bundestag. Not all MP’s were happy to listen to the Pope, about 100 refused to attend, but there were far more leaders and dignitaries who wished to attend than the building could accommodate.

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

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

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

In July, Baron Otto von Hapsburg died at the age of 98. He was the eldest son of Karl (Charles), the last emperor of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. He had championed what is now the EU and was a member of the European Parliament right from its first direct elections in 1979, until retiring in 1999. He was also the Master of the Order of the Golden Fleece (he handed the title to his son some years ago) whose members vow to support the Roman Catholic Church and to defend the person of the Pope. He had occasion to do this in 1988 when John Paul II was addressing the EU Parliament, and Dr Ian Paisley (member of the European Parliament for Northern Ireland) held up a banner protesting that the Pope was antichrist; Otto seized the banner and helped evict Dr Paisley from the chamber!

The Palestinians’ Jew-Free History

Let’s pick up the threads with the Palestinian bid to statehood. We have seen in past the animosity towards the returning Jews, and the common cause with the Vatican against Israel. Many times the Palestinian leaders have made it clear that in any Palestinian State that they succeed in setting up will be “Jew-free!” Unlike Israel which is run as a democratic country, sheltering many Arabs within its territory, the Palestinians have declared that if NATO forces were employed to keep the peace in the Middle East, no Jewish UN personnel would be allowed to operate on Palestinian soil!

“Earlier this month in Ramallah, the de facto capital of the Palestinian Authority, I interviewed Ghassan Khatib, director of government media for the Palestinian Authority and the spokesman for Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas. I asked him: Do the Palestinians recognize Israel as the Jewish state?

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The Trumpet

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“His long answer amounted to; “No.”

“There is no Jewish people, he told me, so how could there be a Jewish country? The Palestinian position is that there is a religion called Judaism, but there is no such thing as a Jewish people. In other words, Palestinians—people in a national group that never existed by the name “Palestine” until well into the 20th century—deny the existence of the oldest continuous nation in the world, dating back over 3,000 years.

“Indeed, the Palestinians deny that the Jews ever lived in Israel. That is why HYPERLINK “http://frontpagemag.com/2011/09/27/the-palestinians-jew-free-history/2/” Yasser Arafat could not even admit that Jesus was a Jew; rather, according to Arafat, “Jesus was a Palestinian.” To acknowledge that Jesus was a Jew would mean that Jews lived in Israel thousands of years ago, in a Jewish state, moreover—long before Muslims existed, long before Arabs moved there, and millennia before anyone called himself a Palestinian” (FrontPage 27-Sep-11).

The Hamas leaders have made it quite clear that they too do not recognise Israel as the Jewish State. They are committed to the elimination of the Jews in the Land. As this recent broadcast shows by Abbas Zaki, a member of the Fatah Central Committee, which was aired on the Al-Jazeera network on September 23, 2011.

“If we say that we want to wipe Israel out... It’s too difficult. It’s not [acceptable] policy to say so. Don’t say these things to the world. Keep it to yourself” (Memri 23-Sep-11).

The return of the Man who never Left

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

Russian Parliamentary elections are due to be held in December and the Presidential elections in March. If Mr Putin is elected—as everybody assumes, then we can expect Russia to become increasingly autocratic, which was so typical of Russia in its Imperial heyday. Indeed this was one of the Emperor’s titles—Autocrat of all the Russians!

In Russia we have another country where anti-Semitism lies very close to the surface.

Israel a growingly Desirable Prey

We have constantly charted the growth of energy sources in Israel and in her territorial waters. Surely Israel is being made a desirable
“Destruction and misery are in their ways: And the way of peace have they not known: There is no fear of God before their eyes.”

Romans 3:16-18

“My soul hath long dwelt with him that hateth peace. I am for peace: but when I speak, they are for war.”

Psalm 120:6,7

“Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah.”

Jeremiah 31:31

“Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.”

1 Corinthians 10:11

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

Joel 3:4

Increasingly there are reports of high possibilities of oil being found in many of these gas fields. Map 2 indicates possible reserves. Again, to put this in context, Israel consumes some 85 mill barrels of oil a year, so again the probability is of quantities far in excess of her needs. On top of this are the vast oil shale reserves to the west of Jerusalem—estimated to hold a 300 year supply of high grade oil!

It is wonderful to think of the angelic hands causing the oil and gas to be formed and ensuring they are deposited just in the right places for these latter-days. It is only in recent times that gas and oil has been used and have become such important items in the world economy.

Space has run out to look at the way the financial crisis is pushing Germany to a dominant position as the undoubted leader of Europe, whilst increasing the pressure on Britain to quit the EU to avoid being embroiled in the spiralling problems of the euro. The collapsing euro is driving nations to hand over power to the EU, bringing about increasing political union within the euro-zone countries. God Willing we can explore these items next time.

So we rejoice at this privilege to being the generation living at the time of the greatest changes that the world will have witnessed. The time when John recorded:

“And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever” (Rev. 11:15).

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 spoil for her coming invaders. Ezekiel 38 describes the Gogian forces coming to take a spoil and a prey. Knowing Putin’s desire to use energy supply as a weapon to get her way with those countries dependant on Russia to keep the lights burning and homes heated, it would be reasonable to see that Russia is keeping a very close eye on these finds. And when opportunity arises to take possession of them, she will join forces with those who would be happy to see the end of Israel’s occupation of her land.

Two new exploration areas have to be added to our energy map, they are Gabriella and Yitzhak whose combined gas reserves are estimated at 128 bn M3. At the moment Israel is desperate for gas supplies, following the sixth blowing up of the pipeline from Egypt this year. Clearly this is going to be an unreliable source for the near future and every effort is being made to bring on new sources. Hence our map shows two tiny fields which happen to be close to existing facilities and so are being rushed through to take over from the Mari B field which will soon be exhausted, before a bigger field can come on-stream. To put things in context, Israel uses about 1.2 bn M3 of gas a year though she would use a lot more if available. The estimated reserves around Israel would give Israel far more than she needs, allowing her to become a gas exporter.

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So we rejoice at this privilege to being the generation living at the time of the greatest changes that the world will have witnessed. The time when John recorded:

“And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever” (Rev. 11:15).

“I think that 200,000 to 300,000 Jews perished in Nazi concentration camps, but none of them in gas chambers.”

Wikipedia Richard Williamson (bishop)
And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it. If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine” (Luke 4:5-7).

It was the intention of “the devil” to strike a deal by offering “the wages of unrighteousness” in exchange for recognition and honour. This is the way in which the world conducts business. Let us understand that in the upper regions of society there are always rewards offered for services rendered and those who won’t play ball are soon seen as dispensable and redundant. They will not get very far in this world.

International relations are often conducted on the same basis, and the language of diplomacy is the vehicle through which offers are made and bargains are struck. Thus, when the Russian Revolution of 1917 turfed out the Orthodox Church in Russia and installed atheistic communism, the Vatican of Rome was not long in placing its bid on the table for the spiritual leadership of Russia.

It was towards the end of the First World War that the Russian Revolution took place in two stages—in February and in October 1917. The Catholic Church—always being tuned in to world events—claimed that visions of the Virgin Pope Benedict at Fatima as he publicly “prays” to the statue of the Virgin Mary

Crowds gather at Fatima in Portugal where they pray for the conversion and consecration of Russia. The sign reads Mae, obrigada pela tua ajuda a Russia: “Mother, debtors for your help to Russia.” Thus the people are prepared to submit to “Gog.”
Left: Promoting the cult in North America “The Fatima Crusader” (2011 editions) circulate among Catholics who believe that the consecration of Russia is essential for the achievement of world peace.

Mary were seen in May, June and July of 1917. Her message was said to be one that required the conversion of Russia. This message is supposed to have been endorsed by a special miracle—known as “the Dance of the sun” on October 13th, 1917. As one bishop recently put it: “God has told us, through Our Lady of Fatima, that He has chosen Russia as an instrument for the peace and conversion of the world—to spread and protect the Faith in the world. The mission is so great that Russia must be consecrated before embarking on such an enormous apostolic task.”

Russia’s “conversion” means her acknowledgement of the pope and the “the immaculate heart of Mary” (i.e. the Church), and the willingness to “spread and protect” the Catholic faith. This is a daunting task—to protect the Church from secularism, from Islam, and not least from Zionism and a Biblical culture!

This conversion of Russia would mean, in reality, a course that would be set for placing the pope at the head of all Christendom. In exchange, the pope would see to it that Russia would obtain power and control over all Europe: “from the Atlantic to the Ural’s” and beyond. It would become a truly united Europe. The attempt to bring this situation into real geopolitical existence was the aim of Hitler and his Das Neue Europa, but with Nazi Germany as the champion. That did not work out. Russia clung to her atheistic-communist position and overran half of Europe, while the Vatican had to retreat, enlisting western powers to hold the line.

The Vatican’s offer remained on the table however—the message of Fatima was still there throughout the “cold war” period. From Western Europe’s affluent position the pope of Rome was saying to Russia’s leaders, in effect, “All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them... If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine.”

In a remarkable article that appeared in TIME magazine, December 30, 1991, the following paragraph appeared:

“According to Lucia, (one of the women who claims to have seen the Fatima vision) papal attempts to carry out that consecration failed in 1942, ’52 and ’82. John Paul finally carried out Mary’s directive correctly in 1984—and the very next year Mikhail Gorbachev’s rise to power inaugurated the Soviet collapse. Says Father Robert Fox of the Fatima Family Shrine in Alexandria, South Dakota: “The world will recognize in due time that the defeat of communism came at the intercession of the mother of Jesus.”

Meanwhile with Catholics everywhere praying for the conversion of Russia the grounds were prepared for the capitulation of Western Europe. The Fatima delusion was part of the strategy, preparing the people for the day when Russia would be triumphant in Europe. How could they not submit in obedience to Mary!

Today, as Europe falls apart economically and retreats from the advance of secularism and Islam, the Vatican (the brain of the Catholic Church) requires a champion: a strongman who will rise to the challenge of uniting Russia and Europe into one confederacy that would stand up against the enemies of the Church.

If Vladimir Putin returns to the office of Russian president—as now looks probable—and if a deal can be worked out with Germany for the salvation and security of Europe, the stage would be set for a nightmare. The whole of Europe would soon be submerged under the one of the most terrible and scorching despotisms that has wrung the heart of nations.

The promise of power has always been a bait offered by those who sought to be worshipped or who were desirous of extending their own influence and control. Balak offered Balaam promotion to honour in exchange for cursing Israel (Numbers 22:37), and others since have likewise “loved the wages of unrighteousness” (2 Peter 2:15). History demonstrates the principle time and again, and certainly Rome has encouraged her champions by promoting them to power for services rendered.

When the Catholic Church was threatened by the advance of Islam in the 8th century they sought the protection of the Frankish kings—and it was as a reward for his part in this that Charlemagne was crowned by Pope Leo III in AD 800. Sometimes it was a mutual benefit that lay behind arrangements—such as with Mussolini and the pope in 1929.

Pope Benedict meets with Vladimir Putin who is expected to resume the post of Russian President in 2012. As TIME (above) points out, Putin has grown ever more authoritarian. Writing in 1854 John Thomas said of Russia in the latter days that: “As the head of a confederacy of the adherents of the Greek and Latin churches, it will be his policy to cause their priesthhoods to be respected as useful co-operators in the subjection of Europe to his will.”
And leaving Nazareth, he came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is upon the sea coast, in the borders of Zabulon and Nephthalim” (Matthew 4:13).

At the age of 12, following his journey to Jerusalem for the Feast of Passover with Mary and Joseph, Jesus returned to Nazareth where he had spent most of his life. We sometimes forget that he lived in Nazareth for 30 years. Other than the visit to the Temple, we aren’t told of any other forays into the wider world. Luke tells us that, “… he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.”

We really have no other indications of his activities growing up. Nazareth was a small hilltop town overlooking the Jezreel Valley and Mount Tabor to the south, the sites of many biblical exploits. Jesus himself was to perform a miracle at Nain on the slopes of the Hill of Moreh, close to where Deborah and Barak had planned their encounter with the Canaanite army from Hazor. Along the south of the valley were the mountains of Gilboa, where Saul and his army were destroyed by the Philistines. Just to the north of Nazareth is Gath-hepher, the birthplace of Jonah, often referred to by Jesus in his preaching.

Jesus had many hundreds of disciples, from which he chose 12 whom he called apostles. Through Mary his mother, and Joseph his step-father, it appears he was related to perhaps six of them. James and John were the sons of Zebedee and Salome, the sister of Mary.

Scripture tells us Joseph was a carpenter, and that Jesus was the same. A “carpenter” in scripture was not only a worker in wood, but rather a craftsman. From the number of scriptural references to stone, it may be that they were builders in stone. The miracle at Cana, a few miles north of Nazareth, indicates that there may have been family there, while the Hellenistic city of Sepphoris, further to the west, was being transformed into a Roman centre while Jesus was a young man. Sepphoris was a major city on the road that ran inland from the coastal city of Ptolemais/Acre to join the main road near the sea of Galilee. The remains of the Roman road running from Acre to Magdala and Tiberias can still be seen.

The first of Jesus’ miracles was performed during a wedding he was attending with Mary and some of his disciples in Cana of Galilee. But Cana was not the only town in the area with family connections. Early on in his ministry, Jesus was rejected by his neighbours in Nazareth and moved with his family to Capernaum. The base of his ministry moved to the Lake, but he continued to travel about the Galilee and visited Cana and Nazareth at other times. John chapter 4 tells us of the nobleman from Capernaum who, hearing that Jesus had returned from Jerusalem to Cana, went up to see him, and to plead for his son, who was “at the point of death.” It seems to have been a well travelled route, as Jesus appears to have used it many times. When Jesus promised that his son would live, he returned to Capernaum, and arrived home the next day.

Sepphoris and Cana lie at the western end of the Valley of Netopha, which runs eastward to Arbel, Magdala and Capernaum. Although Arbel is not mentioned in scripture, its cliffs are a prominent feature of the area. Ancient Magdala was the site of the discovery of a Galilean fishing boat from the time of Jesus which is on display at Ginosar on the lake. When Herod (the Great), fought against those who opposed him and Rome in the time before taking Jerusalem and beginning his reign over Judea, many of those who rebelled against him and the Romans died in
the caves on Mount Arbel, or perished in their boats on the sea.

Just north of Capernaum lies Tel Kinrot, or Chinnereth, from which the Lake apparently took its name. Over the centuries, the Lake was known by many names. The spies sent out by Moses and Joshua with the army of Israel knew it as the sea of Chinnereth (Numbers 34:11) when the Tel was still a fenced city. In New Testament times, we read of the sea of Galilee, and the sea of Tiberias. Jesus was still resident in Nazareth when Tiberias was established as the capital of his kingdom by Herod Antipas. A number of Galilean Gentiles were moved to settle in the city. This also may have been a worksite for Joseph and Jesus.

The historian Josephus was active in the Lower Galilee for about a year as the leader of the Jewish forces against the Romans during the Jewish Revolt of AD 66 to 70. Jotapata was a town which guarded the main road from Acre to Sepphoris and through the valley to the sea of Galilee. As the commander in the Galilee, Josephus fortified the town and gathered his troops to withstand the inevitable siege. Vespasian and Titus surrounded the town in the middle of May, AD 67. For almost 7 weeks, the Jews frustrated the might of the Roman army, until finally the city was taken, the people for the most part killed or sold into slavery, and the commander in chief—Josephus—taken captive. Resistance in lower Galilee collapsed except for a few isolated strongholds like Tiberias, Mount Tabor and Gamla.

Centuries later, in 1187, the Horns of Hattin, rising in the middle of the valley, were the scene of the last great battle between the Crusaders and the Saracens under Saladin, when the Franks were cast out of the land. The Crusader army was drawn into the valley from Tiberias, and then cut off from their supply of water. The dry conditions were aggravated when the fields were set alight.

Although we are told that Jesus often visited Nazareth and Cana, the focus of his work was in the area of Capernaum, Chorazin and Bethsaida. Mark tells us 2:1, that “when he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home.” The focus of his work was among the larger population near the Lake. The sea provided support for a fairly large population, but Capernaum was also an important point on the main road running north and south. Matthew was a tax-gatherer who would have dealt with both the fishing trade as well as merchants and travellers on the highway.

The Gospel records tell us of the rural upbringing of Jesus. How many of the events we read of while Jesus travelled about with his disciples, took place in the area between Nazareth and Capernaum? The parables he used in his teaching are related to this country life, not life in the city. This after all, was the area where he “...increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.”
Like Creation, you either see it or you don’t! Transparency in animals is something that is still not entirely understood by science, says a commentary on the glasswing butterfly: “It is thought that the wings have large amounts of submicroscopic protrusions that have the same refractive index which means that they do not scatter light so giving the impression of transparency... an enchanting species that confounds science.” The result is an incredible camouflage making the creature almost invisible. It is hard to see in flight (Now you see it, now you don’t!). Another example of “the evidence of things not seen” — Hebrews 11:1.