


TIME SERIES NO. 15

NATIONS

**A WESTGATE
MONOGRAPH**

NATIONS

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INTRODUCTION

This monograph is No.15 in the present series. It is a digest of biblical data on the role of ancient nations in the end times explored through the pages of the bible. As with all the monographs you will find a menu of contents which gives you an idea of the treatment of the subject.

I have tried to render a complex subject combining future history, biblical prophecy and political dynamics as readable as it is relevant.

While I am not certain when the eschatological crises of which I write will hit us and my purpose is not to frighten but to present the gospel of grace against the biblical scenario of the rapture for the imminence of which we have major indices.

Current developments at the international level would appear to be running to the biblical agenda with virtual precision in multi nation internal conflicts, in sovereign debt austerities, in the drive for a consolidation of the mid-east peace process and with the sinister and deadly danger of nuclear proliferation and dirty bombs.

I trust you will come away from reading this monograph with the awareness that Satan the accuser as never before is deceiving the nations whilst the Lord is drawing men and women to Himself in unprecedented numbers that it is time to look up for now is our out-redemption drawing near.

Bob Coffey Westgate August 2013

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INTRODUCTION

This monograph on the climactic and prophetic issues bound up with ancient and modern nations is not designed as a min-history of great peoples but simply details what one may understand of the denouement of nations in the end times from scripture. Clearly as the time of our Lord's return to rule on earth approaches the events taking place among the nations assume even greater importance. Prior to Christ's first advent there was the *preparatio evangelium* in the Pax Romana and many attendant features as recorded by Luke the writer of 3rd gospel account. Equally before the Lord's Second Advent extensive signs in the bible give high profile to that momentous event and of these the chief are Israel's return to her land, tell-tale international unrest and an extensive gospel harvest among all nation.

Taking this adventure in extrapolating national history a step further goes hand in hand with certain axioms. The **first axiom** is this - *the very day of the return of Christ is not given in scripture*. For many this is the end of their interest in prophesy and that is very sad. If they were to look further they would see in scripture a very detailed documentation

of the sequel to Christ's Parousia in events that follow the final peace treaty with Israel and the Arab world- during that heptad or seven year period are fully annotated in the Apocalypse (Daniel 9.25-27, Apocalypse 5-19). The **second axiom** is that the people of the Jews who settle the land throw out the shoots of a new generation and this generation will see as Jesus said "the end of all these things". Scripture indicates that of those Jews who enter Israel there will be a substantial remainder close to Christ's return.(Matthew 24.34, Mark 13.30). I am reliably informed that there are 70,000 holocaust survivors at the time of writing (2012-13). The **third axiom** is the "covenant agreement" to be breached in the middle of a week of years (Daniel 9.27). Just such a treaty is currently the object in mind and prize sought but never sealed by successive American administrations. Diplomats are now engaged in talks about talks led by American Secretary of State Kerry. The "quartet" of America, Russia, Europe and the United Nations have so far not been successful to implement anything resembling the biblical agreement but remarkably they are unrelenting and persist strenuously in this bold endeavour which because of the unresolved enmity in Palestinian-Israeli relationships or should we say perfidy is surely bound to fail - indeed its contract is acknowledged in scripture but there also its failure is writ. The **fourth axiom** is that all the world will be reached with the gospel message whether written preached or signalled by the ether in the same context (Mark 13.10, Matthew 24.14). Christian leaders of Wycliffe Translators, YWAM and OM conferring on TBN in 2012 indicated the momentum of worldwide gospel penetration surmising that during this decade we are on target to complete the promulgation of the gospel. The **fifth axiom** shows Israel (the fig tree) (Mt. 24.32, Mk 13.28, Lk 21.29) growing prosperous in line with prophecy (Deut. 33.24) – an exponential GNP hike represented in the massive current finds of gas and oil in the Leviathan Tamar and Elijah oil fields. Under this axiom Israel with its issues also constitutes a "heavy stone" for the nations (Zech. 12.3) and on all hands the "middle-east problem centring on Israel is recognised as the No.1 war or peace issue of today. The **sixth axiom** is that Jews would again erect the "tabernacle of David" – a preliminary construction to the temple spoken of in Ezekiel.(Acts 15 16-17). The **seventh axiom** in the gospel of Luke is that "On earth nations will be in anguish with perplexity (APHORIA-inability to pay debt) and the "sea and the waves will be

roaring”(literally undersea quaking and ocean surface rolling)(Luke 21.25). The **seventh axiom** is found in Peter’s second epistle which details those days as days of nuclear fission “When the elements melt or fuse with fervent heat” the “day of the Lord” is at hand. This is such an era and mercifully the event of 2 Peter 3.12 has been withheld by non-proliferation treaties etc. but a nuclear race has now begun again. Without expanding the theme further to other indicators it would appear from these facts that we are near to the Heptad of the Apocalypse-in other words the realisation of Apocalyptic events. It would be wholly cavalier to deny the evidence now before our eyes. For the reasons given and the associated news that we read daily in the press and because of what is written in the prophetic scriptures we ought to be incentivised as the Lord said to “Look at the fig tree and all the trees”(Luke 21.29). This is precisely the purpose of the current monograph.

THREE MAJOR ISSUES AHEAD

There are three events that compel concentration on the political fate of nations at the end of the common era or history of human government. These events are the Rapture, the international sovereign debt crisis (which has yet a way to run) and the huge trouble that will be brought about in connection with the third world war (the Armageddon or Ezekiel’s war in the vision of Ezekiel 38-39)

THE BRIDEGROOM COMETH

Very well then let us re-double our determination to be watchful for the coming of the Lord our heavenly bridegroom as He commended that we should do in His parable of the “wise and foolish virgins”(Matthew 25.1ff) and His further exhortation in that of “good man and the thief”(Mt.24.42-44) what God has in mind for His church amid the grave developments in world history just ahead.

When the “Church Age” is over what then? Then the Kingdom age is about to begin but a bleak interlude of the Great Tribulation spaces these two glorious eras. We are reliably informed by the apostle to the Gentiles when he wrote to the Thessalonian church in Europe advising them that the man of sin or Antichrist would come but the church would not suffer the wrath of that time. Yes, persecutions would attend the church’s long history but it would be spared the wrath of man when

pillars of smoke and fire came upon earth. Paul said “God did not appoint us to suffer wrath” in the “sudden destruction that comes as pain on a pregnant woman without possible escape” (1Thessalonians 5.1-9). This “fire” which we understand as elemental or nuclear(2 Peter3.10 & Ezekiel 39.6 with Joel2.30) spells a tragic but prophesied reduction of the earth’s population(Rev.8.10ff) but Israel on earth by divine shielding and human agency (a great eagle) and the church by “out-redemption” (the Rapture) will be taken, respectively to the covert of the Lord’s presence (Isaiah 26.20 with 1 Thess.5.19)

When the bridegroom cometh will your robes be white
Pure and white in the blood of the lamb?
Will your soul be ready for the mansion bright
Are you washed in the blood of the lamb?

THE TURMOIL OF NATIONS

With such thing sin mind we *look at the Fig tree and all the trees (Luke 21.29)* and so view the end game of international politics as we factor in the future of leading nations prophetically and in the light of what we now know in a brief survey.

1. IRAQ –CRADLE OF CIVILISATION

Iraq in the fertile crescent is the cradle of civilisation.

A highly significant statement of John the divine has to be factored in to the last mention of the land in scripture. John says “The sixth angel poured his vial on the great river Euphrates and *its water was dried up* to prepare the way of the kings from the East.”(Apocalypse 16.12) This occurs in tandem with intense diplomacy in favour of a world struggle to establish false prophecy and earth-wide dominion concerted by Satan. As to the “drying up of the river” the root meaning of the Greek term (Ξερα-αίνω)is “dryness combined with the “Ah!” cry of warfare”. The text of Apocalypse 16.12 says the river “will have been drained” by war so that it will be easy prey for eastern kings.

2. EGYPT (MIZRAIM) –LAND OF THE PHARAOHS

One of the oldest civilisations on earth is that of Egypt.

The prophetic prospects of Egypt for 40 years after the conflict implicit in Daniel is dire. By the same token the prospect is totally altered with the inception of Messiah’s reign and so upbeat as to include humble

new beginnings for this proud nation as foretold in scripture. ***Five re-established cities on her northern borders will worship the Lord and in the midst of her land an altar to Yahweh will outshine the glory of her world famous pyramids*** (Isaiah 19:18-19). As the prophet says for over a generation Egypt will be a desolate waste ***from Migdol by the coast to Aswan*** and her inhabitants will be dispersed among the nations. (Ezekiel 29:10-12) No foot or animal will pass through the land. ***An end time disaster of 40 years duration looms in the future history of this nation which is more plausibly linked with war than flood.***

3. IRAN (PERSIA) – LAND OF DRACONIAN LAW

“Iran” (land of the Aryans) has been the name of this land since 1935. The country is the 18th largest in the world though its population is only 75 million. In the days of the biblical Daniel it moved suddenly into the sphere of Persian control in the halcyon days of Belshazzar. Ezekiel 38 where we read that Iran is the primary ally of Russia. Ezekiel 38:5-6 reads, **“PERSIA and Ethiopia with Southern Egypt and Libya complete with body armour and helmet. Gomer (By extrapolation but not conclusively our “Germany” rather the Eastern European powerbase of Crimea) and all its armed wings; the house of Togarmah (Turkey or in Jewish Targum “Garmania or Kerman in Persia) the remote regions of the obscure north and all its armed wings (Hebrew *qga*), great peoples are with you.”**

As at Pentecost Iranians are still coming to Christ. Elam Ministries reported in its Summer 2013 magazine that 246 Iranian Christians were baptized on April 17–“probably the largest baptism service on record in the Iranian church since the fourth century.” In addition, Iran's underground house churches—where freedom to attend Persian-language worship services is more likely to be found—do appear to be growing.

4. (4) SYRIA – LAND OF STRIFE

It is in the oracle of Isaiah against Damascus that we read **“Damascus will no longer be a city but will become a heap of ruins”** (Isaiah 17:1). In early 2013 the Defence ministry nerve centre was attacked by a large explosion and widespread civil war has taken hold of Aleppo and the Damascus environs. Already some environs of Damascus are in ruin. **“The remnant of Syria will be the glory of Israel”, whispers the Lord. Whilst the present capital is headed for rubble the Lord will**

be glorified in “a remnant” within the land. The Kurdish north east houses a number of churches but the old Syrian Orthodox Church Press reports as recent as August 2013 speak of tens of thousands Syriac Christians – members of the oldest Christian community in the world – have fled their ancestral provinces of Deir al-Zour and Hasakah in northeastern Syria, residents have said.

"It breaks my heart to think how our long history is being uprooted," said Ishow Goriye, the head of a Syriac Christian political Hasakah. Mr Goriye, told The Daily Telegraph how, over the past two years he has watched as Christian families from Hasakah pack their possessions on the rooftops of their vehicles and flee their homes "with little plan to come back".

Conflict in the area, desperate economic conditions, lawlessness, and persecution by rebel groups born from the perception that Christians support the regime, remain the main reasons for why Christian families are fleeing the area.

The growing presence of radical jihadist groups, including al-Qaeda, has also seen Christians targeted.

The last word is with scripture-there is as of these days “a remnant” in the land-the land has virtually arrived at destiny point declared by Isaiah the prophet of God.

5. RUSSIA (ROSH) – CHIEF OF NATIONS

Thus says the Lord ...”When my people Israel are living in safety you will come from your place in the far north” *Russia will take the lead in promoting a third world struggle. And all your expeditionary soldiers* (Hebrew *lyj* meaning attack and defensive capability – especially army divisions). **Horses that draw chariots and pairs of riders** (Hebrew *SWS* and *Crp* speak of military expeditionary forces as organised in earlier ages but apply well today for the wheeled vehicles still depend on power which we call horsepower or cubic capacity and the drivers still spread their legs and use their feet to propel the vehicles forward. I understand the same principle may apply to interpreting the "locusts and scorpions" of the Apocalypse) **All protected and supplied with weapons** (Hebrew *yl k* "arms" *lkl k* "uniform, protection") **A great assembly of nations** (Hebrew *lhq* which began by being "called" together) **with full cover shield and small protective shield.** *This description fits a modern army better than an earlier one. Ancient*

forces usually bore one shield. In any future war the soldiery would be supplied with total body protection for fall-out and also have their body armour or "smaller shield" for defence against conventional armed conflict. **All of them handling swords** each modern soldier has a bayonet and probably a knife besides... **I will bring you from the far north and send you against the mountains of Israel. Then I will strike your bow from your left hand and make your arrows drop from your right hand, On the mountains of Israel you will fall and all your troops and the nations with you".**(Ezekiel 38 14-16 & 39 2-5)

6. CHINA – MOST POPULOUS NATION ON EARTH

The prophet Malachi proclaimed "*My name will be great from where the sun rises to where it sets.*" From Shanghai to Los Angeles this is true today. Chinese Christianity is experiencing exponential growth. On the darker side we read in the Apocalypse of an army of multiple millions advancing over the Euphrates river-bed and driving for Har Megiddo and the final conflict of the third world war (Apocalypse 16.12). This army strength is 200,000,000 (Apocalypse 9.16) The lethal power of this army was unleashed on a particular hour of a day of a given month and year and it destroyed a third of humanity. This largest ever loss of human life runs to several thousand millions and by a deduction from eastern population figures and the strength of armies in the orient confirmed by the plain statistics and army base to which scripture testifies China has to be implicated.

I heard people talking again and again of a "spiritual crisis" in China - a phrase that has even been used by the Premier Wen Jiao Bao. The old have seen the old certainties of Marxism-Leninism transmute into the most visceral capitalist society on earth.

For the young, in the stampede to get rich, trust in institutions, between individuals, between the generations, is breaking down. As one of China's most eminent philosophers of religion - Professor He Guanghu, at Renmin University in Beijing put it to me: "The worship of Mammon... has become many people's life purpose.

"I think it is very natural that many other people will not be satisfied... will seek some meaning for their lives so that when Christianity falls

into their lives, they will seize it very tightly." There is no bridge for an overt move of China's multi million troop militias into a mid east strife at this time. The interposition of the rapture and rapid introduction of different political and global conditions must be the catalyst of this sea-change. Within a very few years the vacuum of power in Iraq may increase the luminosity of prophecy with regard to China. The current growth of God's work there is to be greeted with joy as it is one more confirmation- indeed perhaps the greatest signal of end time spread of Christ's teaching.

7. GREECE

The nation anciently known as Javan is spoken of as "the isles" in several prophetic contexts. It appears to be subject among other European nations to punishment in the context of the latter day northern invasion of Israel. (Ezekiel 39.6 and Zechariah 9.13). By some turn of events God's lightning arrow smites Greece within the context of "storms or war-clouds of the south".

8. ITALY

In the context of the final heptad or tribulation there is a mysterious clash between the beast and the woman on the scarlet beast (Apocalypse 17-18). It appears to lend credence to the ascendancy of the secular but it is quickly followed by the doom of the economic glory of Europe. This all takes place after the greatest earthquake or shaking ever known and the collapse of the cities of the nations (Apocalypse 16.19) and results in *the end of commercialism and the expiry of the European dream*. "The merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her because no one buys their cargoes any more"...they will say "All your riches and splendour have vanished never to be recovered." It appears that Rome after 2770 and more years will go up in flames. (Apocalypse 17.18).

9. SAUDI AND THE ARAB STATES (INCLUDING LIBYA)

Though it might seem implausible the Saudis defy the trend of the last days, abhor links with Russia and Iran and alongside Western European nations (and prominently Britain) challenge the ultimate Russian invasion of Israel, Egypt and the south in the last days (Ezekiel 38.13). The reference to Dedan in Ezekiel 38.13 is to a people of Cushite

origin(with a possible mix from the Keturah line of Abraham) that settled in Southern Arabia in ancient Dadena and were the ancient travelling merchants of the Arabian peninsula. *Sheba* for her part was the associated ancient Yemenite people.

10. TURKEY (TOGARMAH)

This nation today is a key player alongside NATO and yet has recently broken relationships with Israel with whom for years it was friendly. Turkey since Attaturk has sought to improve its democratic credentials and enter Europe as a full-blown member state but it would appear that Europe which has long demurred is somewhat cool towards Turkish participation and the incorporation of the concept of the worldwide Caliphate as supported by prime-minister Erdogan within the agenda of European nations used to Christian traditions is a matter leading to great unease. There remains a liberal tradition in Turkey which I have sampled and especially around ancient Smyrna people are turning to Christ with growing confidence. According to Ezekiel 38 this nation is found in the last days within the northern alliance.

The Arab Spring and the rise of Islam in the region may prove to be the key to Turkey's emergence as a true regional and world power. The stated goal of both Al Qaeda and the Muslim Brotherhood is a restoration of the Muslim caliphate with Turkey as its head, as it had been for over 600 years.

The rise of Turkey, the Arab Spring, the reemergence of the Muslim Caliphate, along with Iran's dream of preparing the way for the Mahdi, Islam's prophesied redeemer, all point to a convergence that could very well take events foretold in Biblical prophecy and put them on today's front page.

11. BRITAIN (ALLIED TO TARSHISH) ONCE MISTRESS OF THE SEAS

During the third war of the world in Ezekiel 38.13(Hebrew) scripture reads "The merchant travellers of Tarshish" (a nation or nations of "large trading ships" or even "metal smelting" which latter interpretation refers as easily to Spain) and all her "young ravening lions" [rpk as opposed to !whelps" rııı](Wigram, Brown Driver & Briggs, Armstrong Busby & Carr) say to the Russian led confederacy that attacks Israel and Egypt "Have you come to draw off spoil?" This is

on several counts a direct reference to Great Britain and her continuing role into the final Heptad of the present era. Scripture appears to refer to the commonwealth of the United Kingdom in Ezekiel and to the world famed diplomatic service of Britain and other western nations in their diplomatic rebuke to Russia. These would appear to be the final actions of Britain in scripture prior to the coming of Christ. The old mistress of the seas and her commonwealth partners-cum-fierce or warring united states – rapture aside- remain inveterate in their opposition to an end time Russian theatre of influence and military adventure in the middle east.

12. GERMANY(GOMER?) ECONOMIC ENGINE OF EUROPE

Germany is a leading exporter of machinery, vehicles, chemicals, and household equipment and benefits from a highly skilled labor force. Like its Western European neighbors, Germany faces significant demographic challenges to sustained long-term growth. Low fertility rates and declining net immigration are increasing pressure on the country's social welfare system and necessitate structural reforms. Reforms launched by the government of Chancellor Gerhard SCHROEDER (1998-2005), deemed necessary to address chronically high unemployment and low average growth, contributed to strong growth in 2006 and 2007 and falling unemployment. These advances, as well as a government subsidized, reduced working hour scheme, help explain the relatively modest increase in unemployment during the 2008-09 recession - the deepest since World War II - and its decrease to 6.5% in 2012. GDP contracted 5.1% in 2009 but grew by 3.7% in 2010, and 3.0% in 2011, before dipping to 0.9% in 2012 - a reflection of the worsening euro-zone financial crisis and the financial burden it places on Germany as well as falling demand for German exports. Stimulus and stabilization efforts initiated in 2008 and 2009 and tax cuts introduced in Chancellor Angela MERKEL's second term increased Germany's budget deficit to 3.3% in 2010, but slower spending and higher tax revenues reduced the deficit to 1.7% in 2011, and the government estimates it had a balanced budget in 2012. A constitutional amendment approved in 2009 limits the federal government to structural deficits of no more than 0.35% of GDP per annum as of 2016.

Following the March 2011 Fukushima nuclear disaster, Chancellor Angela Merkel announced in May 2011 that eight of the country's

17 nuclear reactors would be shut down immediately and the remaining plants would close by 2022. Germany hopes to replace nuclear power with renewable energy. Before the shutdown of the eight reactors, Germany relied on nuclear power for 23% of its electricity generating capacity and 46% of its base-load electricity production. 9GDP \$3.194Trillion. This Rhineland power at the heart of the European project would appear to “tread the manufacturing mill” and nurture the final world empire as mistress of the tribulation era.

13. AMERICA – THE GREATEST NATION ON EARTH

Many American prophetic teachers believe a mega tragedy will conclude the role of their country on the earth. The “twin towers” attack may well have served to confirm this thinking. Despite this negativity I believe America continues to play a key role in the end times.

There are four instances in the unveiling of the judgments of the last heptad in the Apocalypse that crave the name of America and in view although she clearly yields her authority for practical and economic purposes ultimately to the beast she retains control of her great military power and protective role over Israel even after the fall of cities and into what scripture calls the final 1260 days before the Lord’s advent.(Apocalypse 12.6)

(1) Surveillance. Though it is passing difficult to cast into clear relief the international order that will prevail after the parousia it would appear from the three characteristics of the “beast” that rises in the Mediterranean basin –namely it was like a female hunting panther or leopard, it had the feet of a bear and the mouth of a lion. America was seeded from Europe and has developed as a surveillance power in co-operation with Europe as it stalks world developments panther-like. The writ of the European “beast” described in terms of holding power over all peoples expressly in matters of business must be conceived to run as widely as the United States.

(2) Enlightenment. It is unwise to make the assumption that when the Church is raptured truth is gone. Scripture attests that thousands of Jews in the last days receive and broadcast the gospel.(Apocalypse 14.1-5) Taking the a priori position that America continues to be a shield to world Jewry when the serpent seeks to extinguish the vestige of truth

they enshrine (Apocalypse 12.15) it would be entirely impossible that a considerable percentage of these witnesses were not found in the continuing United States of America. The close association within the story of the Heptad of the witnesses (Apocalypse 7.1-8 with Apocalypse 14.1-5) and the “(angel) **messenger** flying in mid-air” with the everlasting gospel and the two associated angel messengers proclaiming the “Fall of Great Babylon” and warning against the “mark of the beast and eternal judgment and the coming of the Lamb and His angels”. This proclamation and witness appears to straddle the time of the seals and trumpets and bowls. It’s mid air character and world coverage virtually equates to a satellite presentation of the good news and warnings of God and the nation best equipped to afford this ministry in association with the messengers of God would be America.

(3) Shielding. We come now to the most obvious reference to America in scripture. In two distinct places we read of a divine providence that shields the Jewish people. First in Apocalypse 12.6 we read of Israel as “the woman that fled into the wilderness to a place prepared for her by God, where she might be taken care of for 1260 days”. This is not a traditional account of Jewish residency in congenial society. This is an escape at the last by which means the remnant of the nation is preserved (cf. Daniel 12.1). A more precise description of this exodus from the active sovereignty of the beast is given in Apocalypse 12.13-17 where we read “When the dragon saw that he had been hurled to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child (Christ). The woman was given *the two wings of a great eagle, so that she might fly to the place prepared* for her in the wilderness, where she is preserved for a time times and half a time (1260 days) out of the serpent’s reach.

(4) Warring. There is no reason to believe that America is militarily paralysed or totally knocked out by the events of the latter day wars. Under the fifth angel’s war trumpet of Apocalypse 9.1-11 the first Woe occurs. The “star” that had fallen (Satan whom the Lord so described) held the key to the “shaft of the depths” or the oil wells of the world. The oil wealth of the world is heavily used to produce armaments for land sea and air deployment. In this instance John the divine is describing aeroplanes in biblical language-down to the camouflage netting that covers them.

The locust like ruin that results from war brings nations to their knees. The first woe features a strategic use of air power. During five months of action the thundering planes of the first woe delivered a sting to nations that had not the seal of God. They took offensive action and delivered devastation but avoided bloodshed and civilian targets. This action appears to be simultaneous with a significant change in the Euphrates peace-keeping operation (Apocalypse 9.14) and it would appear wholly possible that American engagement in the aerial action. The second woe takes us beyond containment to the “bitter” stage of latter day warfare. The mysterious “seven thunder peals” ring out; the mystery prophets forecast is imminent. There are four references to Ezekiel who records the detail of the third world war and three to Daniel who records the victory of the returning Christ. The airlift of Israelis to which I have referred is a second military operation of notable proportions but the third and most vital circumstance is the playing out of the Armageddon when *a third of mankind* were killed (Apocalypse 9.18 by the sophisticated tanks and rockets described in Apocalypse 9 17-19. Now even with the commitment of 200,000,000 oriental troops and multi-millions of opposing forces there is no way one third of mankind might die unless a mighty military power was effectively countering the Chinese assault. It seems clear that only all out Russian, Chinese, Iranian and *American* military engagement could account for the death of so many souls. Together with this the fall of the cities of the world (including those in Europe, Russia, China and America) would further immensely increase the death toll of war. Besides this the collapse of mountains and the submergence of islands would add to the immense loss of life. In the light of the above implications of apocalyptic material it is inescapable that a nation unknown to the prophets is fully implicated in the events of their narrative and her insignia and forces are well described by John the Divine under the guidance of the angel who had presumably lived as long as man was upon earth.

14. ISRAEL (JUDEA)-THE TICKING CLOCK OF PRPHECY

Israel registers larger mention in scripture than any other nation for obvious reasons. Israel is *the apple of God's eye* and is dear to God for the Patriarch's sake. Israel's capital as enlarged under Messiah is to be the centre of world glory.

In these days Israel features so prominently in the news columns of our daily newspapers that it becomes patently evident she is at the heart of modern political developments and on account of eschatological considerations she is the focus of prophecy and will continue to be at the eye of the storm as world events move towards the great divine event of the return of Christ.

As Alex Jacob states in his book “Enlarged Theology” “God’s covenant with the Jewish people is eternal and not static. The Gentiles are fully within the covenant which was reshaped but not replaced by Christ. The covenant is to be embraced by Jews and Gentiles by faith in the Atonement of Jesus Christ. The ongoing progress of God is outworked through the story of Jews Meshiachim and Christians and the Tri- unitarian model of our understanding of God is the creative link between the three.”

To state the axiomatic biblical facts concerning Israel in the period of prophetic history introduced by *her coming of age in 1948* we should observe:-

- (1) That God has set Israel under the charge of Michael the arch-angel (*Daniel 12.1*)
- (2) That the Lord has promised to send Elijah before the dreadful day of the Lord (*Malachi 4.5*)
- (3) That as Jeremiah prophesied (*30.7*) Israel will enter Part 2 of the Heptad in a time of Jacob’s trouble
- (4) The fig tree (Israel) would put forth branches and leaves before Messiah came (*Mt.24.32ff*)
- (5) The abomination of desolation (It nauseates God and brings no hope) will stand in the temple area (*Mark13.14*)
- (6) After the Armageddon (3rd world conflict) those in the towns of Israel will go out and use weapons for fuel (*Ezek.39.9*) ; **Gog** will be buried on the east of the Dead Sea (*39.11*); this the sovereign Lord says “I will restore the fortunes of Jacob and have compassion on all my people Israel”(39.25ff)(Paul says “All Israel shall be saved” (*Romans 25.26*). Gentile bible scholars demur, deny, debate and bring into disrepute the sovereignty of God with the prophetic and apostolic testimony in this matter.
- (7) The great city of Jerusalem will be split in 3 parts (*Apocalypse 16.19*)

- (8) *The sceptre shall not depart from Judah till Shiloh comes* nor a ruler from between his feet(Genesis49.10) Israel retains her own government until this hour. *Israel remains a sovereign state.*
- (9) The mountain of the Lord's house shall rise above the hills
- (10)They shall beat their swords into ploughshares etc.
- (11)Nations will come to your Light; foreigners rebuild your walls; oppressors will bow before you; I will make you an everlasting pride; you will know that I, the Lord, am your Saviour, your Redeemer, the Mighty one of Jacob (*Isaiah 603ff.*)
- (12)I will rejoice in Jerusalem; never again will there be an infant that lives but a few days Isa. 65.20
- (13)They will look on me the one they pierced Zechariah 12.10.
- (14)Living water will flow east to the Dead Sea and west to the Mediterranean Zech.14.8 and the Lord will be king over all the earth.
- (15)Survivors of nations will go up year by year to worship the King, the Lord Almighty, and to celebrate the Festival of Tabernacles.

SO WHERE DOES THAT LEAVE US?

Let me take you back to the verse with which we started. No man knows the “day” or “hour” when the Son of Man is coming. Jesus is coming and He says “Behold I come quickly or suddenly.” This is the final warning of the Apocalypse.

Jesus left us a series of statements to balance the “no man knows” idyll. He said “Now learn the lesson of the fig tree: as soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it is near, right at the door.” (*Matt. 24.32*)

The Lord further said “Suppose the Master's servant is wicked and says to himself, “My Master is staying away a long time,” and he begins to beat his fellow servants and to eat and drink with the drunkards. The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect Him and at an hour he is not aware of.”(*Matt.24.48-50*)

Jesus also warned “When the foolish virgins were on their way to buy oil(or get saved) the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were

ready went in with Him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut. Later the others also came. "Lord, Lord" they said, "Open the door for us!" But He replied, "Truly I tell you, I don't know you". "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour." (**Matt.25.13**)

As recorded in the gospel of Luke our Lord said "It will be good for those whose master finds them ready, even if He comes in the middle of the night or towards daybreak. But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect Him". *From this it would appear Jesus was well aware of the circumstances surrounding his return. Elsewhere He said "When He comes will he find faith on the earth?" which alludes to the faith vacuum created by the dearlier rapture of the saints.* We might say "What can we do to create peace?" The answer is preach!

We might say "What will we do if there is a 3rd world war?" The answer is "Get soundly saved and stand still and see the salvation of your God" for in scripture God makes a profound undertaking to the Church

We might say "What about the Antichrist, the mark and that terrible trouble you talked about? The answer is "God has not appointed us for wrath. Mark that reassuring verse in your bible -it is

1Thessalonians 5.19.

We should say "I will occupy till he comes; I will watch and pray, I will see to it that my light of witness is burning brightly".

Yes "wars are determined until the end" and there is a big one ahead. Yes there is international debt but there is also the gradual emergence of Europe as a powerful empire one day to be translated into the seat of the beast.

Israel is forecast to be hated as Christians are worldwide and to replace Christians and the No.1 target of the accuser, Satan.

It would seem (and I speak as a man) clear that with Christ's coming in the rapture instantly the world will suffer a sea-change and enter a series of hostilities related in some sense to the growing prosperity and power of Israel and this will turn into a perilous world war. A

global leadership will arise involving a widely effective clamping down on freedom, an authoritarian world administration and offering a false peace apparently recognising the ancient covenant of Israel's residency and right in Palestine. At its breach wholesale war will break out followed along by some of the greatest disasters ever to fall on mankind. To put an end to this titanic struggle Christ will return in glory and claim his people Israel in true fulfillment of the ancient covenant and the eternal covenant of Salvation and under His rule all nations shall be judged and settled and blessed.

*The sceptre shall not depart from Judah
Nor a lawgiver from between his feet
Until SHILOH come.*

*Thine be the Kingdom and the Glory for ever.
Amen.*

