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# God Save Jerusalem!

*Jerusalem has known precious little peace in its long history. People call it the holy city, but does God view it that way now? What does He say about the future of this disputed capital and religious center?*

by Jerold W. Aust

Few in number and surrounded by tens of millions of Arabs, the Israelis are truly the underdog. Americans love the underdog. They love Israel because of the great odds set against it and because it has fought valiantly against great odds and has won, decisively. Israelis are a gutsy people. But that's not the only reason Americans love Israel.

There's a hidden reason Americans love Israel, and both countries appear not to know this: They are brothers. Sounds strange, I know. But extensive, careful research of biblical promises, prophecies and history shows that Israel, Britain and America must be brothers, emerging from the ancient 12 tribes of Israel (Genesis 49). Our free booklet *The United States and Britain in Bible Prophecy* can illuminate this for you.

### Israel's 60th anniversary

The small but mighty nation of Israel will celebrate its 60th anniversary (1948-2008) this May, rising from the ashes of persecution, relentlessly threatened by terrorists and constantly plagued by wars and threats of war. Most Christians and



Reuters/Gil Cohen Magen

*A guide stands under a portrait depicting Theodore Herzl, the father of modern Zionism, as he holds a copy of Israel's declaration of independence. May 8 marks Israel's 60th anniversary.*

Jews believe that God restored the Jews to their homeland.

Jerusalem is not like other notable cities of the world. It sits on a hill surrounded by other hills. No river runs near Jerusalem nor a major highway, and there is no port to access the shipping lanes. Jerusalem pipes in water from the Sea of Galilee.

Yet Jerusalem (population 732,000) is considered by many to be the most important city on earth. Many view Jerusalem as the

(See "JERUSALEM," page 3)



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"Whom heaven must receive until the times of

# Restoration

of all things ... ACTS 3:21

## Pray for the Peace of Zimbabwe

Every year in Africa people are devoured by crocodiles. In the rural areas this is a sad fact of life. Often an attack comes when a person is alone, with little warning or notice by others. But in Zimbabwe, a once rich and prosperous southern African country, an entire nation is being devoured by its own government. Unlike the lonely attacks along the waterways of Africa, this onslaught is being acted out on the passive world stage. If changes do not come soon, there will be nothing left, and the world will be asking, "Who lost Zimbabwe?"

Since 1980 Robert Mugabe has presided over the nation known in colonial times as Rhodesia. The legacy of a self-sustaining nation has been squandered to the point that today inflation runs rampant and food must be imported. For more than a year a government-induced famine has created one of the world's lowest life expectancies. There is war in Zimbabwe; the government is waging it against its own people.

Since an election on March 29, the country has been in a stalemate. Opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai's party, Movement for Democratic Change, won the most seats in the parliamentary election. But the Mugabe government will not release results of the presidential election. In late April they began "recounting" votes in 23 districts, 21 of which had been won by the MDC, in what many fear to be a blatant attempt to skew election results.

There have been calls for Great Britain to invade the country and oust the government, something not likely to happen. The general populace is immobilized by fear. They don't have the weapons in hand to mount any sizable uprising. It was reported that a boatload of guns and rockets shipped from China had been turned back at South African ports. It is hoped that no other African port will allow this shipment to be offloaded. The weapons would likely be used to suppress the last elements of passion for freedom.

The lack of leadership from surrounding African nations has been disappointing. South Africa, the largest, has not taken a tough stance to effect any change. The sad truth is that in recent years no one, either within Zimbabwe or externally, has been able to curb the wildly erratic and mercurial government. What has happened in Zimbabwe is a shame to the modern world.

I have visited Zimbabwe, and I know the creative energies of its people. The land has vast potential for development for the benefit of its own and neighboring peoples. There is no excuse for the suffering the citizens must now endure.

What hope is there for Zimbabwe? In the short term, hopes hinge on the current government stepping down under pressure. Many believe the March 29 election represents a democratic change. New leadership could bring the opportunity to reverse years of oppression and tyranny that has reduced this once prosperous nation to pauper status. Armed intervention would only lead to more bloodletting and savagery. There has been enough killing. Let it stop now.

I believe there is hope in the gospel message that God desires to offer the people of Zimbabwe and this entire world. Paul, himself, prayed that the gospel be granted "free course" (2 Thessalonians 3:1, King James Version) to spread the good news of Christ's return and the peace He will bring to this world.

Pray for the peace and welfare of Zimbabwe. May God be merciful to its people as they endure the dark years of terror, perhaps until the King of Kings brings them into the light.

—Darris McNeely



Darris McNeely

“JERUSALEM” (Continued from page 1)

holy city. But does God view modern Jerusalem that way today?

The Old Testament is filled with prophecies directly related to ancient and modern Israel. When God speaks of His chosen nation Israel, He corrects them for not remaining faithful to Him (Jeremiah 11:1-8; Hebrews 8:7-9). None of the 12 tribes (now modern nations) has remained faithful to the one true God. And God even compares unfaithful Jerusalem to Sodom and Egypt (Revelation 11:8).

### Jerusalem, the apple of God's eye

In spite of its spiritual condition, God still views Jerusalem as the apple of His eye (Zechariah 2:8), calling those things that are not, as though they were (Romans 4:17). God will one day save Jerusalem, but before that happens, Jerusalem will experience terrible tragedies (Zechariah 14:2; Lamentations 1).

Today, Jerusalem has little peace—though it wants, needs and is promised it. Ironically, three major religions lay claim to the holy city: Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Not one can bring peace to this troubled city. Both the Israelis and the Palestinian National Authority call Jerusalem their capital. It has been Israel's capital since the 1967 Six-Day War. But it won't always remain under man's rule; it belongs to God.

A time is coming when God will punish all who set their hand against Judah and Jerusalem: “I will make Jerusalem and Judah like an intoxicating drink to all the nearby nations that send their armies to besiege Jerusalem. On that day I will make Jerusalem a heavy stone, a burden for the world. None of the nations who try to lift it will escape unscathed” (Zechariah 12:2-3, New Living Translation).

The book of Revelation, chapters 14 and 19, speak clearly and emphatically about this time, as does Zechariah 14. No man dare touch the holy city of Jerusalem, the apple



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*Visitors examine model of ancient Jerusalem. The city has experienced little peace in its long history.*

of God's eye (Zechariah 2:8), meaning that which is most dear to Him. Those who lay siege to Jerusalem and Judah will pay dearly, because God owns Jerusalem and Judah. Threaten Jerusalem and you take on Almighty God.

### Jerusalem's name has great meaning

Paradoxically, the name *Jerusalem* contains the word for peace. It is directly tied to the God of the Old and New Testaments, Christ Jesus, who is also the Messiah and the Prince of Peace (Hebrews 1:2; John 1:41; Hebrews 7; Isaiah 9:6; Revelation 21).

There is both a biblical and linguistic connection between the King of Salem and the city of Jerusalem. Abraham paid tithes to Melchizedek, the King of Salem or peace (Genesis 14). The book of Hebrews shows that this same Melchizedek is the Savior of mankind, Jesus Christ (Hebrews 7).

Former Israeli ambassador to the United Nations, Dore Gold, suggests that Jerusalem goes back as far as Noah's son Shem. “But Jerusalem, according to the Midrash, already had the name Shalem, which it was

given by Shem, the son of Noah. Thus Jerusalem is not only relevant to the tradition of Abraham, the Midrash concludes, but rather to all the sons of Noah—in other words, to the rest of mankind. Therefore, it suggests that God chose the name Jerusalem (*Yerushalayim*) as a combination of *Yir'eh* [meaning, ‘the place which the Lord will show’] and *Shalem* [peace]” (*The Fight for Jerusalem*, Dore Gold, 2007, p. 45).

Jerusalem was conquered by Joshua, King David, Nebuchadnezzar, Alexander the Great, Antiochus Epiphanes, Roman emperors, the Ottoman Turks, the Crusaders, the British and, finally, the modern Israelis. Jerusalem has known precious little peace, but it is promised permanent peace by God Almighty (Isaiah 11:1-9).

### God save Jerusalem!

Almighty God alone can and will save Jerusalem. The holy city belongs to Him. Even its name embodies His gift of peace to all humankind. The prophet Zechariah, under Almighty God's inspiration, wrote that God would make Jerusalem like a cup of drunkenness and a very heavy

stone for all that lay siege against it. This He will do through Judah (Zechariah 14:14).

“And the governors of Judah shall say in their heart, ‘The inhabitants of Jerusalem are my strength in the LORD of hosts, their God.’ In that day I will make the governors of Judah like a firepan in the woodpile, and like a fiery torch in the sheaves; they shall devour all the surrounding peoples on the right hand and on the left, but Jerusalem shall be inhabited again in her own place—Jerusalem...

“In that day the LORD will defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; the one who is feeble among them in that day shall be like David, and the house of David shall be like God, like the Angel of the LORD before them. It shall be in that day that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem” (Zechariah 12:5-6, 8-9).

Those who seek to exterminate the Jews will one day serve them,

when the Jews are converted along with the rest of the tribes of Israel. The prophet Isaiah wrote that all nations who afflict Jerusalem “shall come bowing to you, and all those who despised you shall fall prostrate at the soles of your feet; and they shall call you The City of the LORD, Zion of the Holy One of Israel” (Isaiah 60:14). God owns Jerusalem.

God will make Jerusalem “an eternal excellence, a joy of many generations” (Isaiah 60:15). For Jerusalem’s future glory, God will provide gold for bronze and silver for iron, bronze for wood and iron for stones. “I will also make your officers peace, and your magistrates righteousness” (verse 17; compare “peace” and “righteousness” in Hebrews 7:2).

Jerusalem belongs to God, not to man. It appears to have begun with man but it ends with God (Revelation 21). God’s goal for

Jerusalem is to fulfill its name, the place which the Lord will show His peace. This helps us to understand why God will save Jerusalem. His city will represent godly peace throughout the earth (Ezekiel 36:35-38).

No man will ever bring peace to Jerusalem; he cannot. Jesus said only His peace will prevail, beginning at Jerusalem. Before His crucifixion, Jesus said this about His peace: “Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid” (John 14:27).

Permanent, everlasting peace begins and ends with God, is given to humankind and returns to God.

“For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it” (Isaiah 55:10-11).

God will save Jerusalem as His city from where global peace shall flow throughout the earth.

For a better understanding of Jerusalem’s future, request our free booklet *The Middle East in Bible Prophecy*. ❖

## How Can You Make Sense of the News?



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**S**o much is happening in the world, and so quickly, that it's almost impossible to sort it all out.

Where are today's dramatic and dangerous trends taking us? What does Bible prophecy reveal about our future? Is prophecy coming to pass before our eyes? How can you know the answers?

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This eye-opening site offers you a perspective you won't find anywhere else—the perspective

of God's Word, the Bible. Here's some of what you'll find:

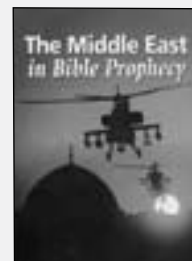
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- Links to significant news items from hundreds of news sources around the world.
- Free booklets to help you better understand Bible prophecy.

To understand the meaning behind the news and where the world is headed, visit us at [www.wnponline.org](http://www.wnponline.org) today!



### Recommended Reading

To better understand the roots of the conflict between Islam and the West, request a free copy of *The Middle East in Bible Prophecy*. This fully illustrated booklet takes you on an eye-opening journey through history and the Bible to grasp the roots of this conflict, and where it will lead.



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# A Study in Contrasts

*Over a month after the voting, the results of the Zimbabwe presidential election still have not been officially announced. The autocratic president of Zimbabwe, who has been in power for almost three decades since the fall of Rhodesia, is clearly reluctant to hand over power. The current government has turned the breadbasket of Africa into an economic disaster with the highest inflation rate in the world. It raises the question: Why did Rhodesia work when Zimbabwe doesn't?*

by Melvin Rhodes

**T**he last prime minister of Rhodesia was Ian Smith. His death on Nov. 20, 2007, should be a cause for reflection on Africa's past, present and future, for it raises a very important question the mass media won't address.

Ian Douglas Smith was born in 1919. He fought for Britain, serving in the Royal Air Force during the Battle of Britain. He became Rhodesia's first native-born prime minister. Fearful that the nation would suffer the fate of others in postcolonial Africa, Mr. Smith led his governing Rhodesian Front party to a unilateral declaration of independence from Great Britain, on Nov. 11, 1965.

If Ian Smith had ruled his country 50 years earlier, he would have been hailed around the world as a hero. But he ruled in our ongoing age of political correctness. Consequently, he was almost universally reviled. Hardly a positive word was written in published obituaries following the news of his death.

But the press overlooked the following: When Smith was prime minister, the peoples of Rhodesia—both black and white—were well fed, the economy was growing in spite of international sanctions, the educational and health-care systems were the best in Africa, and the press was free to criticize the government (and usually did).

Contrast Zimbabwe today: The people are starving, the country has the highest inflation rate in the world, the educational and health-care systems have collapsed and the press is not free to say anything critical of the president, who has been in power since 1980.

Now, the ruling ZANU-PF party and its leader, Robert Mugabe, are even refusing to leave power after a lost election, something that could never have happened in Rhodesia.

In short, *Rhodesia worked. Zimbabwe doesn't*. Why is this?

## Historical background

Smith himself wrote of the dramatic events that led to the seismic shift in Western thinking toward Africa.

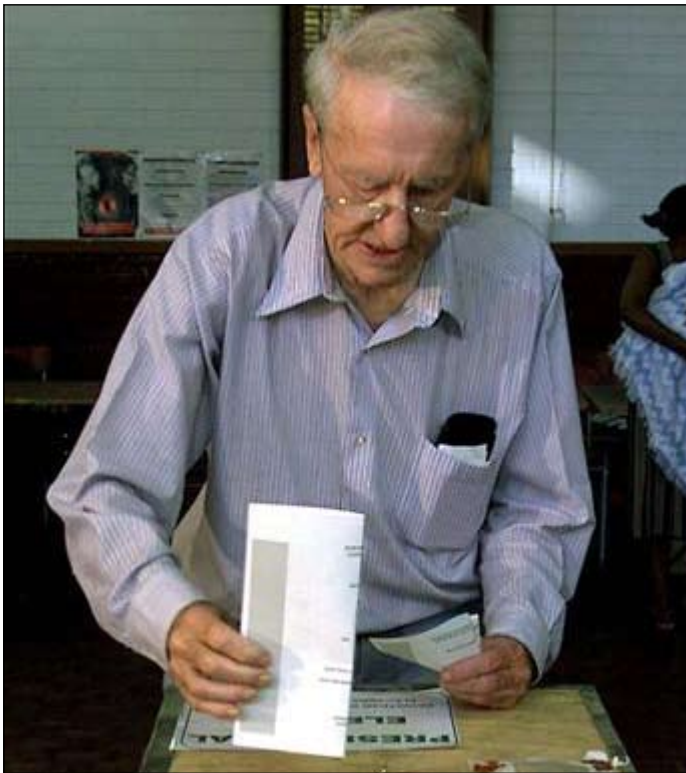
"It was the Suez crisis that first sounded the alarm and brought those of us associated with Britain and the Empire face to face with the hard reality that Britain could no longer call the tune on the international stage. The United States was now in the driving seat, constantly propagating the philosophy that colonialism was inherently bad and that the pace of its elimination had to be stepped up.

"The Americans joined forces with the Russians in this anti-colonialist campaign, albeit for opposing reasons. The Russian plan was for world conquest, the takeover by Marxism-Leninism. As the Western European powers pulled out of their empires, the Russian plan was to move in. The Americans, on the other hand, believed that the presence of the colonial powers was denying them the opportunity to develop in these areas the expertise, skills and economic success of their free enterprise system. Sadly, they seriously misjudged the situation...

"The second point, which should have been obvious to the USA, was that wherever Western colonialism was the vogue and the free enterprise system thriving, with American skills, capital and equipment everywhere—big mining and industrial development, motor cars, heavy transport, earth-moving equipment—all doors were open to everybody, including the Americans. But once the Russians moved in, everyone else was frozen out.

"So the result turned out to be contrary to the United States' expectations. However, there is no way of correcting these mistakes; we have to live with them. This is easy for the Americans: they live 10,000 kilometers away

*In Rhodesia, both black and white were well fed, the economy was growing, the educational and health-care systems were the best in Africa, and the press was free to criticize the government. What changed?*



File photo of the late Ian Smith, former prime minister of Rhodesia, before the country was renamed Zimbabwe, casting his vote in presidential elections in 2002.

and can go on living their own lives. The problem lies with the people on the spot, who have to go on living with the disaster forced on them” (Ian Smith, *The Great Betrayal*, 1997, p. 34).

Only three years before the Suez crisis, at the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953, the prime ministers of the dominions (independent countries) of the British Empire marched in procession behind the newly crowned queen.

Included among them was the leader of Southern Rhodesia, a self-governing colony that was not fully independent, but had played a major role in Britain’s wars. Rhodesia was at that time very much a part of the prophesied “multitude of nations” (Genesis 48:19). Britain’s wartime leader Sir Winston Churchill had described Rhodesia as “the most loyal colony.”

Rhodesia didn’t change—Britain did.

Following the loss of the Suez

Canal, the British very quickly dismantled their empire, the greatest in history. In 1960, British Prime Minister Harold Macmillan addressed the South African parliament and talked of a “wind of change sweeping across Africa.”

The rapid changes that followed led to dictatorship, anarchy and economic and political upheaval. The popular idea among Western liberals is that Africans threw off the chains of imperialist exploitation. The great irony is that since independence tens of millions have left the continent

and sought refuge in the former colonial powers!

### West African perspective

Ghanaian writer George Ayittey summed it up well in his 1992 book, *Africa Betrayed*.

“In Africa there are two classes of people: the real people (the peasants) and the parasitic elites.

“...Tyranny and intellectual repression reign over much of Africa today... Brutally terrorized by their governments and crocodile liberators, most Africans now live in a cocoon of fear—afraid even to whisper innocuous political comments.”

Looking back on earlier conquests, he observed: “...A far more insidious invasion began under black neocolonialism. Educated abroad and having assumed the trappings of foreign cultures and ideologies, a new wave of invaders struck Africa. They were actually returnees, sons of Africa who briefly left to pursue studies overseas or to go into exile. But they came

back with a vengeance, to denigrate, to enslave, to destroy, and to colonize by imposing alien ideological systems upon the African people.

“The economic exploitation and political repression of the African people continued unabated. More treacherous perhaps was the continued denigration and, in some cases, the destruction of indigenous African institutions and culture—by the very African nationalists and heads of state who claimed to have liberated Africa. From what?

“Economically, politically and culturally, Africans today are worse off than they were at the time of independence in the 1960s. Three decades of independence from colonial rule have produced nothing but economic misery and disintegration, political chaos, and institutional and social decay.”

Leaving Ghana in 1979 for America, he found that Westerners almost worshipped Africa’s leaders. “Political correctness” (his own words on page xvi of his prologue) was stopping the world from seeing the realities of contemporary Africa. It still is.

### Recent events

*The Economist* editorialized on Africa in its first edition of this year, in the midst of tribal slaughter in Kenya that followed accusations of a rigged election.

“The mayhem that killed hundreds of people following Kenya’s election on December 27th completes a depressing cycle of democratic abuses in Africa’s biggest countries. Nigeria held its own mockery of an election last April. Scores were killed and observers pronounced it the most fraudulent poll they had ever witnessed.

“Congo held a more or less peaceful election in October 2006, since when the main opposition leader has been hounded into exile. And the year before that, flawed elections in Ethiopia resulted in the deaths of 199 protesters. Needless to say, the incumbents all won” (“A Very African Coup,” Jan. 5, 2008).

After weeks of unrest in Kenya, the leading newspaper in China com-

mented that Western-style democracy is not suitable for Africa. This statement led to much debate on the BBC World Service, which I listened to while driving in Ghana on Jan. 16. The Ghanaian experience proves the Chinese wrong—things are much improved here now compared to what they were under the dictatorships of earlier years, though they are still not back to pre-independence levels.

A revealing anecdote appeared on the Internet following Ian Smith's death. It highlights a sharp contrast in style.

"The first time I saw Prime Minister Ian Smith was as a young boy of fourteen standing outside the Bulawayo Club in Rhodesia. I had heard from my father that the Prime Minister was coming. Expecting some impressive entourage, I was standing by the entrance in 8th Avenue with my cat, Tim.

"I can still remember my surprise as I saw a rather humble Peugeot 404 park in front of the Bulawayo Club and out stepped Mr. Ian Smith. The Prime Minister was completely alone. There was no driver, or adjutant, no bodyguards, or policemen, visible anywhere. The Prime Minister had driven himself alone to the club. He stroked my cat who was sitting on the wall, smiled at me and walked into the club!

"Almost ten years later I was in Harare on Samora Machel Avenue, when Zimbabwean dictator Robert Mugabe drove past. The contrast with Mr. Smith's arrival couldn't have been more acute.

"First came eight motorbike outriders, then some police cars, two armored luxury Mercedes Benzes with tinted windows (so you wouldn't know which one Mugabe was in) followed by another police car and a truckload of soldiers with heavy weaponry. Sirens blaring. All vehicles on both sides of the roads had to come to a complete stop at the side. And this, I was informed, by residents, was how Mugabe traveled every day!" (Dr. Peter Hammond, Frontline Fellowship, South Africa).

Ian Smith, like all leaders, had his faults, but this study in contrasts is sadly typical of many African coun-

tries where leaders lord it over their people. Jesus Christ observed that "the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them" (Matthew 20:25).

He added that Christian leaders should not be like this. "Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant" (verse 26).

It's not just Rhodesia that has gone backwards since becoming Zimbabwe. The same can be said of many African countries. Africa is the only continent to reverse economically in the last 50 years, and a major contributory factor is bad leadership. As the recent disputed election in Kenya has shown, billions of dollars, pounds and euros have been given in aid, but the money has made no difference to the welfare of the people and remains largely unaccounted for.

### Fruitful farmers evicted

An engrossing account of Zimbabwe's terminal decline is given by Zimbabwean-born writer Peter Godwin in his book *When a Crocodile Eats the Sun* (2007). Frequently returning to his native country to take care of his aging parents, Godwin observed the collapse of the nation following the seizure of white-owned farms built up during the nine previous Rhodesian decades, from settlement in 1890 to 1980.

A small number of farmers had developed the breadbasket of southern Africa. These Rhodesian farmers were primarily descendants of the biblical tribe of Ephraim, which means "fruitful." Before their eviction, they farmed 9 million hectares of land. Today, only about 300,000 hectares are being farmed by indigent subsistence farmers, who grow just enough for their own needs.

Some African nations, including neighboring Botswana, Zambia and Mozambique and distant Nigeria, have already realized the necessity of external expertise and have invited the ex-Rhodesian farmers to farm in their countries, thereby boosting food production. Sadly, it is unlikely that there will be any change in

Zimbabwe's situation until there is a change of government—perhaps even until Christ Himself is ruling this earth.

When Ian Smith severed the link with Britain in 1965, his motivation was the welfare of his country. He and his colleagues had seen the chaos and confusion that followed independence in countries to the north of them, and they wanted to avoid the same fate for all citizens of their country. They understood that dictatorship, corruption and tribal conflict would follow.

It wasn't just a black and white issue—under Smith, 78 percent of the Rhodesian military was black and remained loyal. Rather than being the antiquated relic of governance described by his critics, Smith raised concerns that have still not been resolved to this day.

Scripture offers us a vision into the future when peoples come together under Jesus Christ. There will no longer be animosity between the races. It will not simply be what Britain or America or any other people bring to the table. It will be a table to which all can come—where there is room for all to work together in harmony toward a common goal.

The problems of Africa will not be solved till the day when all nations will look to God and go to Him for the understanding to build lasting bridges of peace and goodwill between people. ❖

## Recommended Reading

Jesus Christ brought good news—the gospel—but few understand why His promise of a coming Kingdom is the best news this world could ever hear. Request or download our free booklet *The Gospel of the Kingdom* for the biblical answers.



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# Worldwide Food Crisis

*You have likely heard of the global food crisis. You might even have already encountered rationing of goods you wanted to buy! What you haven't heard is the unique perspective that this article will give you.*

by Cecil E. Maranville

One of the most shocking developments in recent years was splashed across the headlines in late April: “Food Rationing Confronts Breadbasket of the World” (Josh Gerstein, *New York Sun*, April 21, 2008). Residents of New York City, as well as some in New England and on the U.S. West Coast found that they couldn't buy what they wanted of flour, rice and cooking oil. Major national food outlets Wal-Mart and Costco announced shortly thereafter that they would limit sales of some or all of these commodities.

That's not to imply Americans are about to go hungry, but there's nothing like a crisis at home to make the United States suddenly aware of the unfolding worldwide food emergency. The shortages that Americans face don't compare with the life of a North Korean citizen who now has to pay the equivalent of a day's wage for eggs—that is, for a single egg!

Nor is it as serious a crisis for the United States as it is for Japan, where 80 percent are frightened about the possibility of not being able to get the food they need.

That's right—Japan, one of the world's wealthiest nations. Virtually dependent upon food imports, it's been hammered by commodity shortages in the world food supply. Japan is now contemplating “...the shocking possibility of a long-term—*perhaps permanent*—reduction in the quality and quantity of its food” (Justin Norrie, “Japan's Hunger Becomes a Dire Warning for Other Nations,” *The Age*, April 21, 2008, theage.com.au, emphasis added throughout).

Yet the crisis is having an effect on the United States, the world's food superpower. Writing about the increasing phenomenon of Americans stocking up in anticipation of food shortages, James Rawles, editor of SurvivalBlog.com, warns, “Even if people increased their purchasing by [only] 20%, *all the store shelves would be wiped out*” (Gerstein). That's how tight the situation

is between production and inventory in the United States.

## **This will change the world**

The present crisis could literally change the world. The EU may drop its long-standing opposition to genetically modified foods. Up until now, Europeans called them “Frankenfoods,” but attitudes are changing rapidly.

The chairman of the European Parliament's committee summarizes the shifting attitudes: “Their hearts may be on the left, but their pockets are on the right” (Andrew Pollack, “In Lean Times, Biotech Grains Are Less Taboo,” *International Herald Tribune*, April 21, 2008). It's a matter of economics, for these crops produce considerably larger yields at lower costs.

Those who fear nightmarish consequences of introducing such foods on a massive scale may find out if their fears are justified.

Another possible major change is in the field of biofuel production. Nations are tripping over each other in a race to reduce dependency upon foreign oil by diverting food grains into the production of ethanol. The U.S. government has set a target that would require using 45 percent of its massive corn crop for ethanol production by 2015.

Now, however, those nations are beginning to realize that this politically correct stand against the global warming is coming at a dire cost.

“The UN says it takes 232kg of corn to fill a 50-litre car tank with ethanol. *That is enough to feed a child for a year.* Last week, the UN predicted ‘massacres’ unless the biofuel policy is halted” (Ambrose Evans-Pritchard, “Global Warming Rage Lets Global Hunger Grow,” *London Telegraph*, April 15, 2008). The same article noted that some people are starving to death now, and that 100 million others are at the “survival line.”

Simply put, the world is consuming more food than it is producing. It cannot

*The present global food shortage could change the world in at least five ways.*

now afford the luxury of experimental fuel technologies, which don't yet produce an efficient energy yield and which take feed grains out of the food chain.

A third substantial change is a reordering of international politics, as nations devise their foreign policy around securing food for their citizens.

"Food export controls have been imposed by Russia, China, India, Vietnam, Argentina, and Serbia. We're disturbingly close to a chain reaction that could shatter our assumptions about food security" (ibid.).

The millions of increasingly wealthy people in China and India who have been demanding more meat in their diets will be faced with the decision of whether to continue this trend. This dietary shift requires millions of tons of feed grain to produce the meat, while 2.5 billion Asians dependent upon rice are scraping to find enough to eat—or they are going hungry.

A fourth potential change lies in investment regulations. People have been shocked to learn that some hedge fund managers personally made billions of dollars betting that the prices of commodities would rise last year. This type of speculative investment, while profitable for a few, is suspected of contributing to the skyrocketing cost of food commodities. The more investment that there is in such a fund, the more pressure it actually brings on prices to rise. As investors have fled the housing market due to the subprime fiasco, they've redirected their money into commodities, driving up world prices.

A fifth change is the amount of money needed from wealthier nations for food relief. Food prices are up 40 percent over last June, making the task of relief agencies tougher than ever. The UN World Food Program (WFP) says its costs are up \$500 million, just to meet the commitment for projects already approved, before the current crisis struck.

The WFP is attempting to bring relief to 2.5 million hungry people in Afghanistan. Millions are facing hunger or starvation in North



Reuters/Krishmendu Halder

*Villagers try to reach for rice sold by government officials in southern India April 9. High food prices and shortages make poorer countries vulnerable to food riots.*

Korea, where it now takes a third of a month's salary to buy enough rice for only a few days. Thirty million of Bangladesh's 150 million could be going hungry.

### **The only One who can truly change what's happening**

What unique perspective does the Bible offer on this gloomy subject? Many of our readers will have heard of "the four horsemen of the apocalypse," but you might not know what these enigmatic creatures symbolize. The third horseman is described in Revelation 6:5-6 with words startlingly close to today's headlines:

"When he opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature call out, 'Come!' I looked, and there was a black horse! Its rider held a pair of scales in his hand, and I heard what seemed to be a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, 'A quart of wheat for a day's pay, and three quarts of barley for a day's pay, but do not damage the olive oil and the wine!'" (New Revised Standard Version).

The warning of famine on a massive scale is unmistakable. Whether we are on the cusp of the final fulfillment of the prophecy is unclear as yet,

but at the very least, we are tumbling into similar circumstances. (Study this powerful section of Scripture in detail with the aid of our reprint series, "The Horsemen of Revelation," available through our literature library at [www.ucg.org/reprints](http://www.ucg.org/reprints).)

Notice as well the following excerpt from two prophecies from Leviticus and Deuteronomy about this precise issue.

"When I break your staff of bread, ten women will bake your bread in one oven, and they will bring back your bread in rationed amounts, so that you will eat and not be satisfied" (Leviticus 26:26, New American Standard Bible). This warns of cereal grain shortages.

Deuteronomy continues: "Cursed shall be your basket [in which a crop is gathered] and your kneading bowl [for making bread from the grain]. Cursed shall be...the produce of your land, the increase of your cattle and the offspring of your flocks... And your heavens which are over your head shall be bronze, and the earth which is under you shall be iron. The LORD will change the rain of your land to powder and dust; from the heaven it shall come down on you until you are destroyed..."



*Rice is a dietary staple for nearly half the world's citizens. Nearly doubling just since the first of the year, the price of rice is causing great anxiety to hundreds of millions.*

“You shall carry much seed out to the field but gather little in, for the locust shall consume it. You shall plant vineyards and tend them, but you shall neither drink of the wine nor gather the grapes; for the worms shall eat them. You shall have olive trees throughout all your territory, but you shall not anoint yourself with the oil; for your olives shall drop off...

“The LORD will bring a nation against you from afar...[and] they shall eat the increase of your livestock and the produce of your land, until you are destroyed; they shall not leave you grain or new wine or oil, or the increase of your cattle or the offspring of your flocks, until they have destroyed you” (Deuteronomy 28:17-18, 23-24, 38-40, 49-51).

The latter speaks of the inevitable food wars, as nations will fight for self-preservation.

### **Bible speaks first to three “tribes”**

If you look up these verses in context, you might well assume that this message is for the Jews, because it is addressed to Israel. But it may surprise you to learn that Jews (a derivative of “Judah”) are the descendants of only one tribe of many. In fact, there were initially 12 tribes of Israel; one

of them, Joseph, became two tribes, Ephraim and Manasseh, bringing the total to 13 tribes.

End-time Bible prophecy focuses mainly on three tribes: Judah, Ephraim (Great Britain, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa) and Manasseh (the United States). These are the principal nations in the spotlight of the Leviticus and Deuteronomy prophecies. Curiously, these nations might seem to escape the current crisis for the most part, but they will actually be more and more at the center of calamity. (For more insight on this, see our booklet, *The United States and Britain in Bible Prophecy* at [wnponline.org](http://wnponline.org).)

Moreover, regardless of a nation’s ethnic makeup, the principle that our Creator ultimately determines the security of its food supply is true for all peoples. Turning to Him—learning His expectations for human behavior and obeying Him—is the only way to avert the greatest food disaster that the world has ever known.

There is, frankly, little good news to offer for the immediate future on this matter. Food riots broke out in Haiti on April 5 as people revolted against crushing increases in the prices of rice, beans and fruit—up 50 percent in this terribly poor nation since last year.

Rice is a dietary staple for nearly half of the world’s citizens. Nearly doubling just since the first of the year, the price of rice on international markets is causing great anxiety to hundreds of millions. There have already been violent protests over the scarcity and/or cost of food in Camerons, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Senegal, Uzbekistan, Yemen and Pakistan.

Governments used to maintain large stockpiles of rice for such times of shortage. But the practice has largely been abandoned over the past several years because of the expense. Consequently, price fluctuations now have near-immediate effects on the world market. Already they are creating hardship throughout the developing world.

Even though today’s news is sobering, the most encouraging insight that the Bible offers is the fact that there is a new world coming in which God will change the curses to blessings.

People often criticize God for allowing the current horrors, not knowing His plan for the future. We often speak of that good news here. I will close by recommending that you reread a sample of this in an article we ran in our September-October issue last year, “The Wonderful World Beyond Today... A Return to Eden: When Hunger and Disease Disappear” ([wnponline.org/wnp/wnp0709](http://wnponline.org/wnp/wnp0709)). ❖

## **Recommended Reading**

Britain, the United States, Australia, Canada and other English-speaking peoples have played a major role in modern world history. What does the Bible say about the role they will play in the future?



Request a free copy of *The United States and Britain in Bible Prophecy*.

Contact any of our offices listed on page 15, or request or download it from our Web site at

**[www.wnponline.org](http://www.wnponline.org)**

# Is Revelation Related to a Christian's Reward?

*Many are misled by one of the most damaging deceptions ever propounded by mainstream Christianity—the idea that heaven is the reward of the saved. But the book of Revelation shows the error of this false doctrine.*

by John Ross Schroeder

**G**eography is very important to grasping our human condition. As a species, we are place-oriented. We were all born at a specific place and at a specific time somewhere on this planet. Maybe we grew up at our birthplace and then moved elsewhere. Some of us have resided on more than one continent. Every person's place experience is unique.

We often become emotionally, if not nostalgically, attached to our birthplace, to the sites of our greatest success and happiness and sometimes even to the land of our ancestors.

Ancient Israel's Promised Land was and is an actual place on this earth. To this day it holds a special place in the thinking of almost every Jew and many Christians. God's promises to the patriarch Abraham originally consisted of specific portions of this earth, but kept expanding until they now include the whole world (Romans 4:13). Jesus Christ noted that the meek "shall inherit the earth" (Matthew 5:5).

If we look to the Bible as our guide, we may conceive of our future reward during the afterlife as being in a particular place too.

## **Common misconceptions**

Many preachers speak of "when we get to heaven." They may picture it as somewhere up there beyond what we can see in the sky above. Songsters have even sung about "the great somewhere." Many apparently still seem to think that the saved will spend eternity playing harps in heaven.

Some seem to believe that heaven is where we are all going after we die—while cavalierly consigning unbelievers to the fires of an ever-burning hell somewhere below.

But are these ethereal concepts really true in the light of God's Word? Only the Bible can

reveal the real truth to us (2 Timothy 3:15-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21).

## **The Bible: an earth-oriented book**

Scripture speaks of heaven as where God resides. But we human beings live here on an earth protected by our planet's atmosphere, continually breathing in precious air. Even if traveling to the moon in a spaceship, astronauts have to take life-preserving oxygen with them just to survive in space.

The psalmist exclaimed: "The heaven, even the heavens, are the LORD's; but the earth He has given to the children of men" (Psalm 115:16). King Solomon further explains: "God is in heaven, and you on earth" (Ecclesiastes 5:2). The vast majority of events described in the Bible play out here on this planet. The earth is where God is working with men and women to bring them into His divine family and Kingdom (Hebrews 2:10).

During this age of man, we are only privileged to have the briefest of biblical glimpses into the divine activities of God, Jesus Christ and the angels in heaven.

In the beginning book of the Bible, after it first announces that God is the Creator of both the heavens and the earth—His attention and creative action then focuses on planet earth (Genesis 1:1-2). This sets a basic pattern for what follows in the rest of Scripture. As a whole, the Bible is primarily written from the viewpoint of an earth-dweller.

Some 4,000 years later the living Jesus Christ revealed an overall outline of God's future plan and purpose to the apostle John. He was instructed to write in a book what he saw and heard. It is called the Revelation of Jesus Christ because He is the Revelator (Revelation 1:1). The Bible's

*The Bible's final book concentrates on divinely caused activities that primarily occur here on this earth.*



*The earth is the focal point of the biblical story, both now and in the future. Revelation shows that God is coming to earth.*

final book concentrates on divinely caused activities that primarily occur here on this earth.

### A new world order

Western statesmen and politicians sometimes speak of a new world order and how their plans, if implemented, would bring it about. But God does them one better and tells us in outline form, with sufficient detail, how He will institute a new age *on earth* in which the returning Jesus Christ becomes the new world Ruler.

“Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, ‘The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ’” (Revelation 11:15).

Only God the Father and Jesus Christ can bring us a new world order worthy of the name. This task is simply beyond sinning mankind’s ability and

capacity. Just look at the mess we are in now.

Jesus Christ tells us that Christians will be repaid for their good works, not necessarily always in this life, but “at the resurrection of the just” (Luke 14:14). This will occur when Christ returns to earth. (Please see our free booklet *What Happens After Death?*)

Now notice Revelation 20:1: “Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven [to earth]...” The scenario that follows, describing the restraining of Satan, takes place on planet earth.

We pick up the narrative in verse 4. “And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God [those who were martyred]... And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.” Recall now Revelation 5:10,

## World News and Prophecy Seminars

If you find this publication interesting and helpful, you may be interested in attending a weekend *World News and Prophecy* seminar. A seminar is planned for:

- **Oklahoma City, Oklahoma**, May 31 (Melvin Rhodes, Robin Webber).

For more information, please go to [www.wnponline.org](http://www.wnponline.org).

which explicitly says that the saints “shall reign on the earth.”

While still a human being, Jesus Christ had told His followers just before His suffering and crucifixion, “I will come again and receive you to Myself that where I am, there you may be also” (John 14:3). The only logical conclusion is that the resurrected saints will be with Christ reigning *on this earth*. After all, this planet is where the problems are.

### Heaven comes down to earth

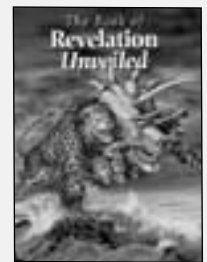
But Revelation 20 and 21 show us how every problem will be solved and every loose end tied up. Sin will finally become a thing of the past (Revelation 21:8). In fact, Christ’s righteous millennial rule anticipates the transfer of the very throne of God the Father from heaven to earth.

Then the Father Himself will join Christ and the rest of the divine family, dwelling with them forever. “Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God... And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, ‘Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people’” (Revelation 21:2-3).

For further understanding of these important doctrinal points that we can only touch on briefly in an article, request or download our free booklets: *The Book of Revelation Unveiled*, *Heaven and Hell: What Does the Bible Really Teach?* and *What Is Your Destiny?* ❖

## Recommended Reading

The book of Revelation remains mysterious to most people today, but offers great insight into the events leading up to one of the world’s most momentous events—the return of Jesus Christ! For more information, request a free copy of *The Book of Revelation Unveiled*.



Contact any of our offices listed on page 15, or request or download it from our Web site at

[www.wnponline.org](http://www.wnponline.org)

# Who Will Be the Next Superpower?

*Bible prophecy shows the United States will not be the world's preeminent power indefinitely. A new superpower is rising to challenge the United States and the other English-speaking nations.*

by Melvin Rhodes

**F**or over 60 years, since the end of World War II, the United States has been the world's preeminent power. For four decades it had a rival, the Soviet Union. But since the fall of communism there has been only one global superpower. Nations have risen and fallen throughout history. The United States is no exception. Eventually, inevitably, America will lose its supremacy, just as the British lost theirs to the United States.

Who will replace the United States as the world's global leader?

## The candidates

There are plenty of candidates.

Could it be China, which has the biggest population and one of the fastest economic growth rates in the world? Could it be India, with over 1 billion people and a booming economy? Or, perhaps, it's an alliance of Middle Eastern nations, increasingly the recipients of great wealth?

The fact is that the United States has already lost its economic preeminence to a rival superpower in the making.

"At the dawn of the twenty-first century, a geopolitical revolution of historic dimensions is under way across the Atlantic: the unification of Europe. Twenty-five nations have joined together—with another dozen or so on the waiting list—to build a common economy, government, and culture. Europe is a more integrated place today than at any time since the Roman Empire."

So wrote T.R. Reid, former London bureau chief for the *Washington Post*, in the prologue to his 2004 book *The United States of Europe: The New Superpower and the End of American Supremacy*.

Continuing, Mr. Reid wrote: "The new United States of Europe—to use Winston Churchill's phrase—has more people, more wealth, and more trade than the United States of America. The New Europe can-

not match American military strength (and doesn't want to, for that matter). But it has more votes in every international organization than the United States, and it gives away far more money in development aid. The result is global economic and political clout that makes the European Union exactly what its leaders want it to be: a second superpower that can stand on equal footing with the United States."

In the year that Mr. Reid wrote his book, the EU added 10 new members to make the 25 he mentioned. At that moment in time, the EU surpassed the United States as the world's biggest single market. Less than four years later, with the falling value of the U.S. dollar and the rise in the value of the euro, in the midst of the credit crunch, the 15-nation euro zone overtook the United States.

With the addition of Romania and Bulgaria, the EU now has 27 members, with others trying to qualify for membership. Even stricter rules apply to joining the 15-member euro zone—out of the 12 countries of the EU that do not presently use the euro, nine are in line to join, but their finances are not considered sound enough.

In January 2009 the 27 will have one president over them, prior to the new American president taking office. He may not have as much military clout as his American counterpart, but through Europe's growing economic power, his international influence is likely to be just as great.

Europe is on track to achieve its primary goal, explained in the closing paragraph of Mr. Reid's prologue: "...the leaders and the people of the EU are determined to change a world that had been dominated by Americans. Indeed, that goal has become a powerful motivator for the New Europe—to create a United States of Europe that is not the United States of America. One clear result of the unification of Europe is that the

gap between the two sides of the Atlantic Ocean is growing wider every day."

This growing division was highlighted during President George W. Bush's April 2008 visit to Bucharest, Romania, for the NATO summit. The United States, which was accustomed to getting its own way in NATO, found the Europeans this time refusing to go along with American plans for expanding the military alliance.

Washington supported Ukraine and Georgia's request for membership in the world's oldest military alliance, but Germany and France opposed their entry, fearing increased conflict with Russia. Mr. Bush suffered further embarrassment when, after announcing that Croatia, Albania and Macedonia were to be admitted as new members, Greece vetoed Macedonia's membership.

The Europeans are increasingly flexing their muscles—often at American expense.

While their goal is an "ever closer union," as agreed to in the 1957 Treaty of Rome that laid the basis for the present EU, they aren't likely to call themselves the United States of Europe. Their desire is for a distinctly separate identity from the United States—democratic, but with their own style, taking into account historical and geographical realities.

For the fact is that the European Union is composed of nations that have spent much of the last 1,000 years concentrating on living and preserving their separate identities, often having to defend themselves to exist. Now they are voluntarily coming together, giving up aspects of their own sovereignty in order to accomplish the goal of that "ever closer union."

Mr. Reid put it very well when he wrote that "Europe is a more integrated place today than at any time since the Roman Empire."

(See "SUPERPOWER," page 15)

**“RESTLESS”** (Continued from page 16)

Zion’s sake I will not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem’s sake I will not rest, until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a lamp that burns. The Gentiles shall see your righteousness, and all kings your glory” (Isaiah 62:1-2). God trumpets His “restlessness” for His promises to be visited on every person.

### The perfection of God’s grooming

The Israelites might have thought God was asleep, as hundreds of years went by under the lash of the Egyptian whip. All seemed quiet. There was no tangible arrival of the divine will. But little did they realize that even when it appeared quiet, God was working “loudly” beyond the bounds of human comprehension. He was allowing the Egyptians to become even more puffed up about their human, but limited, potential.

He was “restlessly” grooming the man Moses whom He would use as a deliverer. Moses would grow up in the palaces of the slave masters themselves, so as to learn all the knowledge of Egypt (Acts 7:22). God continued to take His time as He allowed this one-day deliverer to lead the armies of that same nation in exploits against Ethiopia (Josephus, *Antiquities of the Jews*, Chapter 10).

Finally, in preparation for his future calling, God had Moses learn to shepherd for 40 years. God, Creator of time and master of timing, was grooming Moses to be a wise and able leader who could lead an army of people into the wilderness as well as guide them with the tenderness of a shepherd.

### In the fullness of time

Again, 1,000 years later, it may have seemed as if God had again become a cosmic absentee landlord, as there was no official “voice of God” from the post-exilic times of Malachi to the era of national frustration under the boot of the Roman occupation—a period of 400 years.

But little could anyone realize or fully appreciate the restlessness of God in preparation for the future preaching of the gospel. He restlessly and “loudly” worked in this “time of quiet” by allowing the Greeks to spread their language, the Romans to build their roads and the Jews to spread their synagogues around the Mediterranean basin.

Paul fully appreciated God’s restlessness for His promises to come true, declaring, “But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman...” (Galatians 4:4).

No, God was not asleep in His heavenly bed or asleep at the switch. He was holding the switch and guiding all human traffic as He chose the time and place to once and forever interrupt all human history. Humanity would never be the same after the first coming of Christ. God not only had pinpoint accuracy as to when His Son was to be born, but how the mes-



sage would be effectively spread. Restless? God? You can stake your life on it.

### The restless Father below

How restless is our Heavenly Father to rescue humanity from its errant ways? Perhaps it is best understood in the following story.

A Quaker family lived in Pennsylvania during the American Civil War. Against the father’s wishes, the son Jonathan enlisted in the cause of the North. Well, time passed and there was no word from Jonathan. One night the father had a dream that his son had been wounded in action and needed the care of a father.

So the father left the farm and discovered where the troops might be. He made his way by horse-drawn buggy until he came to the scene of action. He inquired until he found the commander and asked about his son.

The commander replied that there had been heavy action earlier in the day and many had died or been wounded. Some still were left out in the fields. But he gave permission to the father to go and try to find his son.

It was about dark, so the father lit a lantern, and the light fell across bod-

ies strewn across the vast battlefield.

The task seemed impossible. How could he find his son among all those dead and wounded? He devised a plan. Methodically he would comb the scene of action with his lantern. But that was unfruitful. As he came upon body after body, he almost despaired.

Then he began calling loudly, “Jonathan Smythe, thy father seeketh after thee.” Then he would walk a little ways and call again, ‘Jonathan Smythe, thy father seeketh after thee.’”

He kept diligently at his search. Then he heard a very faint, barely audible reply, “Father, over here.” And then, “I knew you would come.” The father knelt down and took him in his arms, comforting him with his presence. He dressed the wound and then carried him to the buggy. They were going home. You see: The son knew that his father would not be at rest until he had found his son.

### “I knew you would come”

Commentaries come to different conclusions in Isaiah 62:1-2 as to who is proclaiming, “I will not hold My peace” and “I will not rest.” Some ascribe it to the restless longing of the prophet to proceed with his mission no matter what. Others say it is the divine declaration of God. Why not both? As we have seen from the flow of biblical history, God is working restlessly, even when it seems “quiet” on the world stage or in our lives. He is always coming toward us and for us just like the Quaker father searching for his son.

Can we be as confident as an Isaiah or a Jonathan Smythe about our Father’s deep desire to rescue us? Can we believe that He is on His way?

Can we appreciate that the alarm of His own righteousness, like our internal body alarm, has stirred Him to action and that He will “neither slumber nor sleep” (Psalm 121:4)?

Perhaps, the encouragement of “This is the way, walk in it,” penned by this same “restless prophet” (Isaiah 30:21), is granted additional meaning by the faint voice of Jonathan Smythe registering his assurance: “I knew you would come.” ❖



Robin Webber

“SUPERPOWER” (Continued from page 13)

Indeed, the latest attempt at unifying Europe is one of a number of revivals throughout history that tried to resurrect the Roman Empire. Previous attempts were by conquest. This time it's all voluntary, which means it's coming together more slowly but with far greater support and enthusiasm.

In the past, the military of one power forcibly united the others; now economics is the driving force as Europe and its currency the euro achieve universal supremacy.

### Roman Empire prophesied

In the Old Testament book of Daniel we read that God “removes kings and raises up kings” (Daniel 2:21). God is behind the rise and fall of nations.

Daniel saw this for himself. Born in the kingdom of Judah, Daniel was taken captive as a teenager when the mighty Babylonian Empire conquered his nation. Here he spent the better part of 70 years.

Just as Daniel saw the invasion and fall of his home country, he was to live to see the invasion and fall of Babylon. Persia conquered the conquerors in October 539 B.C.

Daniel knew this was going to happen. God had used him to reveal the meaning of a dream King Nebuchadnezzar had. The dream and its interpretation are recorded in chapter 2 of the book of Daniel. In verse 39, Daniel explained that three other great gentile empires would succeed the Babylonian Empire. We see five verses later that these empires would culminate in the establishment of the Kingdom of God upon the earth.

Some years later, Daniel himself had a similar vision that gave him a deeper understanding of these prophesied events. In his vision, Daniel saw four great beasts (Daniel 7:3), four great gentile empires, “each different from the other.”

“The first was like a lion” (verse 4, Babylon); the “second, like a bear” (verse 5 Persia); the third, “like a leopard,” depicted Alexander the Great and his Grecian Empire, which would have “four heads,” the four generals who were to divide up his empire after his untimely death (verse 6).

“After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong. It had huge iron teeth. . . It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns” (verse 7).

The successor to Greece was Rome, centuries after Daniel's vision.

But notice the reference to “ten horns” in verse 7. In the following verse, verse 8, we read that “there was another horn, a little one, coming up among them, before whom three of the first horns were plucked out by the roots.”

A horn is a symbol of aggressive strength, and it is associated with political authority and power. The 10 horns mentioned here, with three to be plucked out by the roots, lead in time to the establishment of the Kingdom of God, as verse 9 shows, “I watched till thrones were put in place, and the Ancient of Days was seated.”

As the Kingdom of God has not yet been established on the earth, this is still future.

If the Roman Empire is the last of the four beasts mentioned in Daniel chapters 2 and 7, and the Roman Empire immediately precedes the Kingdom of God, then clearly the 10 horns mentioned here are revivals of the Roman Empire down through history. The final resurrection of the Roman Empire is prophesied in the New Testament book of Revelation, a book dealing specifically with end-time events and the Day of the Lord.

The European Union was founded by the Treaty of Rome. Its expressed intent is to form “an ever closer union.” What began as an economic union developed into a monetary union. Now it is becoming a full political union. Out of it will come the nations that form the prophesied Beast power, the final revival of the Roman Empire that leads directly into the Kingdom of God.

Revelation 13:3 shows that the entire world will be astounded when it sees the revived Roman Empire. “And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast.” Its power and authority will affect the whole earth.

Other revivals of the Roman Empire have been attempted throughout history. This article begins a series that will examine each of those resurrections helping readers to understand the background to what has become the world's biggest single economic power with a currency to rival the U.S. dollar—the chief economic rival to American supremacy. The EU is not the Beast, but the Beast will likely come out of it as the final revival of the Roman Empire. ❖

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by Robin Webber

## The Restless God

**H**ave you ever made travel plans that demand an early wake-up time? You carefully set your alarm clock and double-check to make sure it is correctly set. You know, not p.m., but a.m.! You keep on staring at that “on” button as if it is going to turn itself off. And then, just in case, you set another alarm for the ultimate fail-safe scenario.

Why this familiar ritual? You realize that you have an early morning rendezvous with a jet that isn’t going to sit on the tarmac waiting for your grand entry. If you miss that flight, you will have a lot of disappointed family members or business colleagues on the other end.

But most of the time you don’t need to go through such precautions. It seems our body clock has an internal alarm system that goes off even earlier, and then we spend those restless moments tossing to and fro before the alarm does its thing. But why is this? We are “restless” because timing is essential, and we have a responsibility to fulfill our obligations to others.

### Is God asleep?

Have you ever considered we are not alone in being restless before such encounters that demand specific timing? Perhaps you have never considered that God is also restless toward a needed future event. It doesn’t involve a takeoff. It involves a landing. The arrival runway is right here on planet earth. It’s called “the second coming.”

Unfortunately, people have come to the conclusion that Christ missed His flight; that He is running late or is not returning at all. This thought has been around a long time.

Nearly 2,000 years ago, the apostle Peter commented on this idea: “Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in

both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder), that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior, knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, ‘Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation’” (2 Peter 3:1-4).

What were these scoffers thinking? God’s alarm has not gone off. He’s missed His flight! Why? He either doesn’t exist or He doesn’t care.

### Exploring God’s innumerable attributes

Well, nothing could be further from the truth. As Peter says, let’s get stirred up! Did you realize that God’s desire for us is to develop a personal intimacy with Him by focusing and reflecting on His innumerable attributes? No, not just His nature; but again, how He feels toward us.

Many of us are familiar with the all-encompassing verse of 1 John 4:16 that declares, “God is love.” But that reality begs the question: “Can one live on love?”

Perhaps a narrower segment of our reading audience is familiar with Jesus’ own self-disclosure regarding the Godhead: “My Father has been working until now, and I have been working” (John 5:17). Yes, we have a God whose love is in motion and is in the process of expanding the citizenry of His Kingdom. That’s you, potentially!

But beyond being loving and working, there is another fascinating attribute that describes our Maker. God self-discloses this part of His divine personality by sharing: “For

(See “RESTLESS,” page 14)