

Perspective

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Are We at the Cusp of a Great Divide with Europe?

How could anyone know it would happen this way, when the stakes for Europe are even higher than for the United States? The narrow little portal of the Strait of Hormuz where one fifth of the oil of the world or 20.3 million barrels a day pass, is being threatened to be halted by Iran. Currently there are 700 oil tankers waiting to pass through on both sides of the Strait. A *Newsweek* article published March 16 titled, “Countries Reject Trump’s Strait Demand, saying ‘We Did Not Start War’” said, “President Donald Trump has called on several countries to send ships to help unblock the Strait of Hormuz from Iran—a demand rejected thus far by Germany, China, Japan and Australia and met with reluctance by other traditional U.S. allies. ‘Hopefully China, France, Japan, South Korea, the U.K., and others, that are affected by this artificial constraint, will send ships to the area so that the Hormuz Strait will no longer be a threat by a Nation that has been totally decapitated,’ Trump wrote on social media on Saturday.” Some NATO allies, such as Norway, have balked at the request saying, “This isn’t our war.” Spain has also declined to get involved.

Will the U.S. bow out of NATO?

Relations with Europe will undoubtedly continue to erode. The U.S. President made calls for support of European allies in securing the passage of oil tankers through the Strait of Hormuz. *Newsweek* reported on March 16, “This is not our war, we have not started it,” Germany’s Defense Minister Boris Pistorius said. “What does...Trump expect from a few European frigates that the powerful U.S. Navy cannot do?”

In an article titled, “Europe needs to lose 'nostalgia' for US: Germany’s Merz,” published on February 2, prior to U.S. or Israeli strikes on Iran, German Chancellor Merz said, “Speaking at the headquarters of Deutsche Boerse Group, which operates the Frankfurt Stock Exchange, Merz called on Europe to become more independent of its traditional ally and argued that old certainties no longer held. ‘We must become more sovereign and independent, especially in terms of technology,’ Merz said. ‘And yes, this also applies to the United States of America.’”

Even Britain has not been willing to commit ships to secure the Strait. Spain has said it wants no involvement in the war in Iran. Italy has said it will not help. The United States stations 34,500 troops in Germany to provide support for Europe’s defense. Italy has over 12,000, the U.K. has over 10,000 troops, and Spain has 3,600 American soldiers who stand to defend them.

Throughout the Scriptures, God often warned Israel and Judah not to form alliances with surrounding nations: “*Woe to the rebellious children, says the Lord, who take counsel, but not of Me, and who devise plans, but not of My Spirit, that they may add sin to sin; who walk to go down to Egypt, and have not asked My advice, to strengthen themselves in the strength of Pharaoh, and to trust in the shadow of Egypt!*” (Isaiah 30:1-2)

In ancient times God chastened Israel and Judah for making deals with former enemies. In modern times, we as a nation entered into agreements forming NATO with former enemies. Now we see in the end, even when their own security is at stake, they will not lend support.

In 1948, at the end of WWII, the United States Marshall Plan transferred \$13.3 billion (the equivalent to \$137 billion in 2025) in economic recovery programs to Western European economies to help rebuild a war-torn Western Europe. Billions of dollars have been spent on NATO. Modern Israel has prostituted itself to buy the love of other nations, but what has it wrought?

Ezekiel 23:40-41, “*Furthermore you sent for men to come from afar, to whom a messenger was sent; and there they came. And you washed yourself for them, painted your eyes, and adorned yourself with ornaments. You sat on a stately couch, with a table prepared before it, on which you had set My incense and My oil.*”

You set forth “My incense and My oil” which you gave to your lovers. God says I gave it to you, and you ought to have offered it up to Me in worship. For modern Israel God has not been considered. God says, “*The ox knows its owner and the donkey its master’s crib; but Israel does not know, My people do not consider.*’ *Alas, sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity...They have forsaken the Lord; they have provoked to anger...* (Isaiah 1:3-4).”

In Jeremiah 4:30 God says, *“And when you are plundered, what will you do? Though you clothe yourself with crimson, though you adorn yourself with ornaments of gold, though you enlarge your eyes with paint, in vain you will make yourself fair; your lovers will despise you; they will seek your life.”*

Which nation will fill the leadership vacuum for NATO?

It appears Europe has made the decision to move forward without the United States. The United States has been the leader of the free world, but what if former allies want to go it alone? The United States will distance itself after the war with Iran, but who will fill the vacuum?

While France and Germany are striving to take the lead in Europe, it surely seems Germany, under the leadership of Chancellor Merz, is the most vocal, openly saying at the headquarters of the Deutsche Boerse Group, “Europe had to adjust to ‘a new part of the reality we are confronted with.’ ‘Transatlantic relations have changed,’ he said. ‘No one in this room says this with more regret than I do, but nostalgia and memories of good times gone by do not help.’”

Ancient Israel was punished by Almighty God and went into captivity by the hands of the Assyrian Empire in 721-718 B.C. God considers Assyria, *“the rod of My anger and the staff in whose hand is My indignation.”* (Isaiah 10:5) The modern descendants of Assyria are among the peoples in Germany, and it will likely secure the lead of a failing NATO which will probably be reconstituted.

The people of God’s wrath have usually been the ungrateful recipients of the great birthright promises which made the United Kingdom and the United States the richest and most powerful Commonwealth of nations and the greatest single nation on Earth. Another name the Bible used for Israel is Jeshurun, which means *upright*. The U.K. and U.S. are the modern descendants of Joseph who was given the Birthright promises (see our booklet, *United States and Britain in Bible Prophecy*). Deuteronomy 32:15 anciently said, *“But Jeshurun grew fat and kicked; you grew fat, you grew thick, you are obese! Then he forsook God who made him, and scornfully esteemed the Rock of his salvation.”*

Does the U.S. and Britain fit into this ancient prophecy in Isaiah 10:6-7? *“I will send him against an ungodly nation, and against the people of My wrath I will give him charge, to seize the spoil, to take the prey, and to tread them down like the mire of the streets. Yet he does not mean so, nor does his heart think so; but it is in his heart to destroy, and cut off not a few nations.”*

In a world where God is most often left out of the picture, modern Israelite nations can think they attained their power and might on their own. The history of ancient Israel’s Biblical accounts of its military excursions, shows when they went to war with God’s direction and blessings, they experienced tremendous extraordinary victories. One great example is the defeat of the fortress of Jericho; God miraculously caused the walls to fall outward. Israel should have realized why they were so successful in defeating Jericho. They were overmuch confident in themselves. Immediately afterward they faced a demoralizing defeat in the battle at Ai: *“So about three thousand men went up there from the people, but they fled before the men of Ai...therefore, the hearts of the people melted and became like water.”* (Judges 7:4-5)

Are we destined for victory or a great fall?

We certainly pray for a victory and peace. However, unless the leaders and people of modern Israel turn back to God and humble themselves before our Creator, we shall face our greatest fall. Remember the United States has not really won a war since World War II. We left Vietnam and Afghanistan in near total disgrace. God warns in Leviticus 26:17-20 if no repentance is forthcoming: *“I will set My face against you, and you shall be defeated by your enemies. Those who hate you shall reign over you, and you shall flee when no one pursues you. ‘And after all this, if you do not obey Me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins. I will break the pride of your power; I will make your heavens like iron and your earth like bronze. And your strength shall be spent in vain...’”*

The world would suddenly become more dangerous should the war in Iran result in American and Israel defeat. Whether it’s a better world or a more dangerous one greatly depends on the hearts and minds of our people and its leaders—will they praise and thank our great God for all His goodness towards them?

How thankful are we for all He has done in our lives? James 1:17 reminds us of what only He can do: *“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.”*