

TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

WATCH

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**AND NOW FOR SOMETHING
COMPLETELY DIFFERENT**

COMMENTARY

“It is a mistake to try to look too far ahead. The chain of destiny can only be grasped one link at a time.” – Winston Churchill



by Michael Armstrong

The British exit from the EU has been the biggest shock to the European structure in decades. Nearly four years have passed since the vote in June of 2016. Endless debate, negotiations, and multiple elections finally culminated in the formal exit of the United Kingdom from the European Union on January 31, 2020. The UK continues under EU rules until the end of this year while many of the most important details of their future relationship still have to be settled.

Trade, industry regulation, immigration, refugee policy, and continuing involvement in many pan-European projects have not yet been worked out. Consequently, the ultimate impact of Brexit is still unclear. The whole process has been perplexing at times, particularly as we try to grasp the interplay of overlapping political structures from across the pond.

The importance of the changes at hand should not be underestimated. The geopolitical alignment of some of the world's most powerful and influential nations is currently fluid. How will Brexit effect the future of European integration? Will the ability to negotiate with Britain independently cause other major nations, such as the USA and China, to rethink their agreements with the EU? Even with the UK as a member, European financial outlook has been dismal. Will Brexit deliver enough tangible benefits to hold the United King-

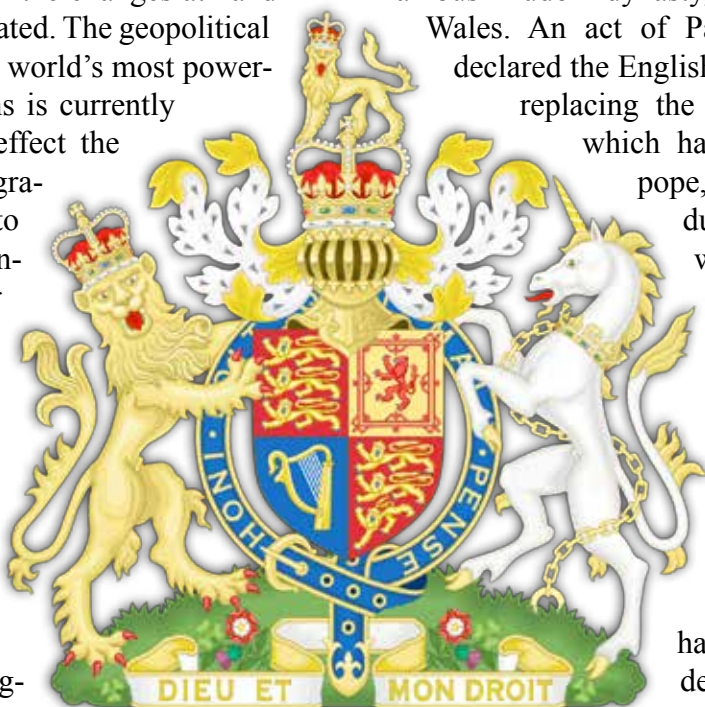
dom together, or will bitterness from those who voted “remain” seek to tear it apart?

We have a tendency to use the terms United Kingdom or Great Britain or England interchangeably though each has a specific implication, the misapplication of which might offend our dear cousins. The islands themselves, regardless of political division, are named Great Britain and Ireland. They and their smaller associates are collectively the British Isles. Currently on the island of Great Britain we have England, Wales, and Scotland, all of which are part of the United Kingdom. On the island of Ireland we have Northern Ireland, which is part of the United Kingdom, and the Republic of Ireland, which is a separate country and a member of the European Union.

Now for some abbreviated history. Wales was formally meshed with England under the famous Tudor dynasty, which originated in Wales. An act of Parliament in 1542 also declared the English ruler “King of Ireland,” replacing the title “Lord of Ireland,”

which had been granted by the pope, fearing its withdrawal during Henry VIII's break with Catholic authority. English control over Ireland rarely proved more than nominal; the governments remained separate though they shared a monarch. This situation was fated to recur.

James VI of Scotland had a similar experience. A descendant of Henry VIII's



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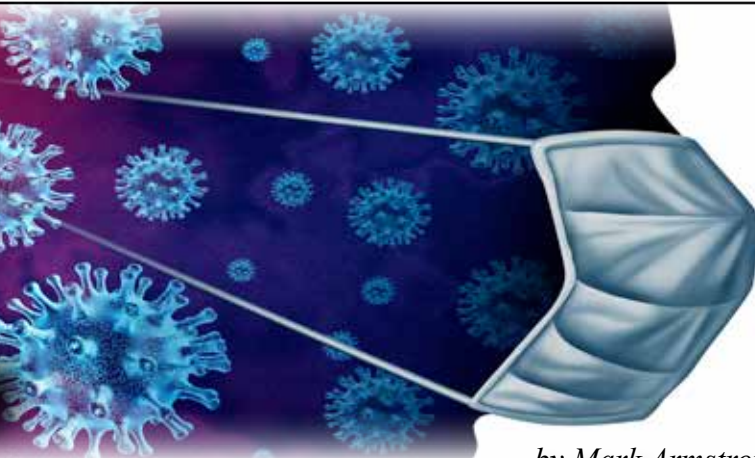
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HEALTH SCARE

With Worldwide Economic Implications



by Mark Armstrong

Everyone on Earth is undoubtedly aware of the spiraling health-scare. It emerged from Wuhan, China where markets caters to some very strange dietary proclivities. Apparently they eat bat soup, and the food market in Wuhan sells everything you can think of in the way of wild animals for food. The news is full of evacuations, quarantines and the medical evaluation of all passengers traveling from, not only that region, but all of China. Many flights to and from China have been canceled, though the virus has spread to other countries. There have been a handful of cases of the coronavirus in the United States.

According to reports leaking out, the doctors who first warned about the contagion and the potential for an epidemic have been arrested by the communist Chinese regime. Apparently these warnings were aired without its approval. Similarly, citizens who have criticized the regime's handling of the outbreak and alleged that far more people have been effected than is officially acknowledged, have disappeared or been silenced. Even those thought to have been in contact with the "infected" are being dragged from their homes and forcefully quarantined.

One of the most concerning facts about this mutant virus, thought to have been transferred from the animal kingdom to humans, is that it has a fourteen day incubation period. The danger is that the virus may be able to be transmitted even before a carrier has any symptoms. China has reportedly closed businesses, shops and more importantly factories that produce products that are exported all over the globe. As we're all aware, many of the products in our stores are manufactured there, including big

ticket items such as appliances, cars, and auto-parts. China accounts for 16% of the world's economy.

The coronavirus is more than just a health-scare. It may go on to have a profound economic impact. The closing of factories and stores will certainly affect the Chinese economy. The question is what impact it will have on every other nation on earth.

There have been those warning that communist management of the Chinese economy would lead to its eventual downfall, and that was before the current panic. Stock markets around the world have been reacting to coronavirus news. Even the U.S. markets registered an immediate dip followed by an apparent recovery. At this writing, financial experts are wary about making predictions. But airlines have already been hit, along with other forms of mass transportation.

As the whole world must know, U.S. trade with China has been a subject of focus for the Trump Presidency. Phase One of a newly negotiated trade deal has been announced, and a comprehensive arrangement is waiting in the wings if all parties continue to cooperate. The advent of the coronavirus may well factor in expectations, as no one yet knows whether we're facing a pandemic that will continue to spread.

Health experts are looking to past incidents of incurable epidemics for guidance, and there have been several. Whether the bird-flu, SARS, the swine flu or Ebola, we've seen these kinds of viral panics in the past. None of them rose to the pandemic plagues that were feared. But then there are the plagues prophesied in the last book of the Bible. Let's hope and pray this isn't the one that gets away. □

HISTORY AND ORIGINS OF EASTER



Millions of adults in the western world of professing Christianity have memories of those sleepy mornings when, all excited to be dragged from bed at perhaps 3:00 or 4:00 a.m., they were dressed in frilly little frocks or a new little boy's suit, complete with clip-on bow tie; white patent-leather shoes, greens and yellows—the colors of spring—and trundled off in the family car to join with hundreds or thousands of others in an “Easter Sunrise Service.”

You didn't know what “Easter” was. Only that it sounded a little like a point on the compass, maybe the opposite of “Wester”? Most likely, if you are like millions of others, you never became curious enough to look up the term. We tend to take our environment for granted. Naturally, like Christmas, it comes to all of Protestantism from the Roman Catholic Church. However, the universal church got it from much more ancient sources.

Here is what the *Catholic Encyclopedia* has to say about Easter: “The English term, according to the Ven. Bede (*De temporum*

ratione, I, v) relates to Eostre, a Teutonic goddess of the rising light of day and spring...that the Apostolic fathers [the apostles of Christ] do not mention it and that we first hear of it principally through the controversy of the Quartodecimans are purely accidental” (*The Catholic Encyclopedia*, Vol. V, p. 224).

A “Teutonic goddess of the rising light of day and spring”? Well, yes, but much, much more than merely a pagan goddess of the rising light of day and spring. She was, in the demented minds of superstitious pagans, a goddess of sex and fertility; of fecundity and procreativity. Her symbols were, most importantly, the egg, and, secondarily, the rabbit. Of course, rabbits don't lay eggs, but many a child does not learn this until a later age.

Now, notice the origin of the name “Easter.” Hislop says, “It is not a Christian name. It bears its Chaldean origin on its very forehead. Easter is nothing else than Astarte, one of the titles of Beltis, the queen of heaven, whose name, as pronounced by the people of

Nineveh, was evidently identical with that now in common use in this country. That name, as found by Layard on the Assyrian monuments, is Ishtar” (*The Two Babylons*, Hislop, p. 103).

Of course, as millions know and also observe, “Easter” is preceded by forty days of “Lent.” But where did “Lent” come from? Is it the past tense of “to lend”? It certainly is not found in the Bible!

Let Hislop answer: “The forty days' abstinence of Lent was directly borrowed from the worshippers of the Babylonian goddess. Such a Lent of forty days, ‘in the spring of the year,’ is still observed by the Yezidis or pagan devil-worshippers of Koordistan, who have inherited it from their early masters, the Babylonians.”

There is no part of “Easter” which is not rooted in rank paganism. “But we don't do it with those pagan meanings in mind,” one might protest. Naturally! That is the whole point! It is the disguise, the deception, the counterfeit which Satan uses to delude and deceive, not a direct admission of the truth. □

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Should Christians Observe Easter or the Passover?

by Garner Ted Armstrong

www.GarnerTedArmstrong.org

(903) 561-7070



AUSTRALIA: FORESTS OF FIRE

34 Lives Lost
2,800 Homes Destroyed
1.25 Billion Animals Killed

*by Murray Allatt,
Garner Ted Armstrong
Evangelistic Association,
Australian Office*

Australia has made world headlines over the past few months for reasons and circumstances Australians would rather had not occurred. Australia has been burning. Not for the first time, and certainly not the last.

Most of Australia for several years has been in the grip of, by any reckoning, one of the worst droughts recorded. Again, drought is not new to Australia and not unknown. Over the 230 odd years of the colonization of Australia, long droughts have been common enough. The most well known include the Federation Drought (1895-1903), the World War II Drought (1939-45) and

the Millennium Drought (1997-2009). But droughts of various range and intensity have plagued Australia in every decade since records were kept.

After 2009 there were a few years of respite, but the current drought impacting mainly Eastern Australia has been around for a number of years. Rainfall, even recent rainfall, has in some areas ameliorated the drought for a while. Other areas have gone years without rainfall. Country towns have literally run out of water and require drinking water to be trucked in. Crops have failed massively over wide areas. Livestock have died for lack of

feed and water.

The effect of drought, apart from crop failures and starving stock, is the impact on grasslands, forests and wildlife—native flora and fauna—and the greatest impact is displayed by fire and its ravaging of the landscape.

Like drought however, large scale bushfires are nothing new to Australia. Whether you measure the impact of bushfires by death toll (human and animal), houses and other structures destroyed or land area burned out, Australia's history of fire is significant and there is nothing "unprecedented" about the current summer of 2019/20 fires. Except perhaps

the reporting of them in a world obsessed and deluded by “climate change” ideology.

In a display of “never let a crisis go to waste,” it seems every rent-seeking, climate change carpet bagger and their acolytes took the opportunity to push the fires as resulting from man made CO2 emissions. Thousands protested to end coal mining, electricity generation and export all while texting and talking on their mobile phones, traveling in coal fired electric powered air conditioned trains, jet fueled planes and gasoline gulping automobiles. Oh, and a few rode a bike (made from coal powered steel plants and aluminium smelters running on coal fired power). But long before CO2 “climate change” was a thing, Australia’s recorded history shows up the sham.

Take for example these fires:

1851—The Black Thursday bushfires swept the State of Victoria on 6 February, 1851. Twelve dead, one million sheep, thousands of cattle and countless wildlife, dead. 5,000,000 hectares (a hectare being 2.471 acres) destroyed—mostly in one day. That is about one quarter of present-day Victoria.

1926—The Black Sunday bushfires. Victoria, 60 dead, 700 injured, 1000 buildings destroyed, 390,000 hectares burnt.

1939—The Black Friday bushfires in Victoria were part of a devastating 1938/39 fire season across Australia with ash falling in New Zealand (sound familiar?). This fire killed 71, burnt 2,000,000 hectares, destroyed 1,300 homes, 69 sawmills and almost 4,000 other

buildings. A Royal Commission noted that “it appeared the whole State was alight on Friday, 13 January, 1939.” The same fire season saw NSW, the ACT and South Australia with huge fires.

1974/75—Australia-wide bushfires burnt about 15% of the land area.

1983—Ash Wednesday bushfires, South Australia, within 12 hours 180 fires fanned by winds of up to 110kms killed 73 in Victoria and South Australia. 3,700 buildings destroyed or damaged, 340,000 dead sheep, 18,000 cattle, countless native animals. That emergency saw 130,000 volunteers called out.

2006/07—Victoria, NSW Tasmania, West Australia, South Australia bushfires too numerous to elaborate.

2009—Black Saturday bushfire. Victoria, 7 February 2009, 173 dead, up to 400 individual fires across Victoria that day. 450,000

hectares burnt, 3,500 buildings destroyed including 2,029 houses.

2019/20—(So-called) Black Summer bushfires. The most recent fire season that has caught the world’s attention actually began in the winter of 2019, June. That fact probably highlights the depth of the current drought. Estimates for area burnt over this season put the figure at (at early February 2020 and it’s not over yet) around 20,000,000 hectares, buildings destroyed, about 6,000, including about 2,800 homes. At least 34 people have been killed. Of those killed have been a number of volunteer fire fighters. One was crushed when his 12 ton fire appliance was completely flipped on its roof by a firestorm wind. Another two were killed when the cab of their fire appliance was crushed by a falling tree. Three American aircrew were killed when their C130 fire bombing aircraft crashed in the Snowy Mountains region after



Sidney, Australia. Fire and Rescue personnel run to move their truck as a bushfire burns next to a major road and homes on the outskirts of the town of Bilpin.

discharging a load of fire retardant on an emergency level fire. Many others were civilians who were defending their properties and were overwhelmed.

Estimates of wildlife animals killed run to a billion and more. Plus, large numbers of stock. All of that added to the losses from years of drought.

Interestingly Bjorn Lomborg, the Swedish climate change believing skeptic, has written that this fire season has seen so far only about 2.5% of Australia burn whereas the annual average over the past decade has been about 4%. That may depend upon when he took his figures—perhaps not as far back as June 2019.

The preconditions for devastating bushfires are several. Extended drought and a dried-out landscape is a common thread. Added to that, conditions of extremely high temperatures, low relative humidity and strong winds create the ideal conditions for conflagration. This current summer, as with past events, has featured all those factors in abundance.

In every one of those quoted examples above, the preconditions for devastating bushfire were the same. So what, if anything, sets apart these current fire conditions from earlier fire seasons?

Apart from the right macro (drought) and micro (local) weather conditions for catastrophic fires

there is one other overriding element—fuel. And it is fuel load that sets this fire season apart, in combination with the weather.

Australia's bushland overwhelmingly consists of native eucalyptus trees, of which there are scores of species. These trees as a general rule produce an enormous amount of leaf litter, dead twigs and branches, large and small that fall to the forest floor. Added to the forest floor ground cover are introduced weedy species such as lantana and black berry, along with other scrub. All excellent kindling.

Australia's East and South East Coast's eucalypt forests are where most of the big fires occur.



Brisbane, Australia. February, 2020. "Extinction Rebellion" protesters are seen marching in front of the Queensland Parliament. Many mistakenly attribute the Australian fires to "climate change."

Those forests comprise tens of millions of hectares, often in hilly, mountainous terrain that is difficult to access. Historically, large areas of northern and southern NSW coastal forests were logged. The same for most of Australia's east coast, including Victoria and every other State. To facilitate logging, tracks and roads were cut giving access to remote areas. In other places fire trail roads were put in to give easier access to fire fighters.

Then, around the 1970s came the Green movement, the anti-logging movement. The movement to protect "old growth" (don't worry that most of these areas of "old growth" had in fact been logged several times) forests from the loggers and the campaign to lock up vast tracks of forest from human intervention was up and running. In NSW and other States legislation was passed by left leaning governments to curtail logging and proclaim designated "State Forests" and "National Parks." Limited logging would continue in State Forests, but areas designated National Parks were locked up. Access denied, fire trails were allowed to disappear under scrub and be reclaimed by the bush. Access to roads through National Parks were even blocked by bollards and locked gates—and who knew who had the key in times of emergency? In NSW alone, there are now over 800 National Parks.

This history is critical. No one expects that mitigation against fire could involve the entirety of Australia's forests. But over decades the practice of hazard

reduction burning during winter months by volunteer Rural Fire Services has played an effective role in reducing to manageable levels the impact of many summer fires, at least around populated areas. Now since the 70s local and State Government regulation concerning land clearing, tree removal and hazard reduction work in general has been loaded with bureaucratic layers. Landholders who fear fires are virtually forbidden from reducing hazards on their own land.

National Parks have effectively been "hazard reduction free" zones. But dozens of small coast towns and villages are surrounded by these National Parks. Even forest areas not controlled by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (in NSW for example) have not seen any hazard reducing winter burns for 35 plus years. As a result, even areas containing heavy residential concentrations can be sitting next to forest with 20 tons plus per hectare of fuel on the ground. That is kindling folks, lots of kindling—the stuff that will easily ignite by lightning or arsonist and lead to a big fire.

Burnt off in cool weather, this fuel can be eliminated usually with safety and maybe with annoying smoke over a few days. Left to pile up year after year it is the starter fuel of conflagration by fire. And the key to opening up an even bigger fuel load in the trees themselves—supercharged in the right conditions by the eucalypt oil in the leaves of the canopy that, once having reached an ignition temperature, convert each eucalypt

tree into a gas/oil incinerator with fires generating heat over 2000 degrees celsius. That is the perfect firestorm—total, unstoppable destruction.

And it all comes down to fuel load on the forest floor. Oh, and lightning strikes or arsonsists to start the fire. Maybe the odd cigarette negligently discarded out a car window. Maybe a hot exhaust on a tractor running over dried up stubble in a field. One fire was caused by the hot landing lights of an army helicopter igniting stubble in a field.

And the fuel load on the forest floor has to be big enough to project flames up the trunks of oftentimes hundred foot drought affected trees to reach a canopy that is enveloped in eucalypt oil vapor given off by the leaves. A virtual gas bomb is ignited, which then envelops the next tree and the next, till all are consumed and everything around them—people, buildings, animals. Pushed along by strong, dry winds.

No, "climate change" did not cause the 1851 fire or the 2019/20 firestorm season. Fuel on the floor did. Drought did. A combination of high temperatures, high winds and low relative humidity did. And that is the thread that runs through every catastrophic Australian fire season. And indeed, the less memorable ones, because every summer Australia burns to one degree or another. Areas that have now been recently consumed won't need hazard reduction burns for a while. But because the bush regenerates—and the animals will come back—these areas will need

attention in the next five years. Along with all the areas that did not or have not yet burned. And hopefully will not burn this time around.

The question is, will the authorities now, finally, implement the decades old recommendations of past Inquiries, Royal Commissions and general advice? Which was: increase drastically the annual winter hazard reduction burns—especially around occupied lands, towns, villages, the fringes of National Parks and State Forests. Or will the Federal and State Governments get bogged down in yet another Royal Commission that may report back after two more fire seasons have passed and nothing done?

The last major Royal Commission held from Victoria recommended an annual 5% hazard reduction burn. Never happened. In the past decade no State or Territory has done any more than 1% hazard reduction burn. And, since the 1930's there have been no less than 30 such official inquiries, Royal Commissions and hundreds of recommendations—almost none followed.

The climate needs to change. That is the climate for hazard reduction burns. Fuel loads need

to be safely reduced in winter. The financial cost, apart from the human cost and cost to the natural environment, has been huge. It will probably amount to well over \$5 to \$10 Billion by the time things are started to be put right. Perhaps far more. Governments need to look at the cost of hazard reduction as an insurance premium. And be prepared to spend far more on fire mitigation work in order to save not just money but lives—human and animal. And the environment they have so feverishly locked up in National Parks for a very, very few to ever enjoy.

In a bid to preserve “nature,” the “Greens,”—the environmentalists, the self-appointed arbiters of what the natural state should look like—have created, and certainly not ameliorated, the circumstances that can see everything they claim to protect, actually be totally destroyed. The koalas, the bush wallabies, the possums and the myriad other marsupials and reptiles and birds numbered among that estimated billion dead native animals would surely have hoped for better forest management than this.

Perhaps what has caught the world's attention the most about

this season's fires is the destruction of the iconic koala bear population. In NSW it is thought several thousand koalas have been killed as a result of fires. On Kangaroo Island, of South Australia, where there was once a population of over 50,000 koalas, more than half are thought to have been killed in the fire that destroyed over a third of the Island. Again, not managing fuel loads in these “protected” environments actually led to the almost total destruction of what was supposed to be “protected”—the koalas. Leave aside, but not forgetting, all the other endangered species.

God placed Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden to “dress it and keep it.” That is, *manage* it. Is it too much to ask that the government agencies tasked with curating the myriad National Parks created in NSW, Victoria and elsewhere in recent decades actually also “dress” them, in order that we might “keep” them?

So called man-made climate change from CO2 emissions did not cause this destructive fire season. Man's inaction, and in some cases malicious action, was largely responsible. The only change concerning “climate” is a change in attitude. □

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Moving Toward a EUROPEAN ARMY

by Michael Burkert



Because our news media is Trumpophobic, there are many other events taking shape in the world that somehow our media ignores. One of the issues of paramount concern is the continuing formation of a strong, powerful and formidable European Armed Forces!

The creation of a European army, a long-held goal of European federalists, would entail an unprecedented transfer of sovereignty from European nation states to unelected bureaucrats in Brussels, the de-facto capital of the EU. This is one of the many reasons that the United Kingdom has voted to exit the Union and return to that of an independent nation, led by ELECTED government. The recent overwhelming WIN by Boris Johnson and his Conservatives, proves the issue that Britons WANT OUT of the European Union! BREXIT will eventually be completed, perhaps this year.

Europe, under the careful eye of the Germans, is in the process of building a multinational army, air force and navy, as the United States withdraws more and more from the world scene. In the past, Britain successfully blocked most of Berlin's intentions but with BREXIT, the pan-European armed forces is back and moving rapidly to reality.

In accordance with the Lisbon Treaty, Article 44, European Union nations can voluntarily proceed with defense integration. Something that has already happened in the past in Europe when Germany, during World War II, created interna-

tional brigades by building combat units in the Waffen-SS.

The Waffen-SS, though mostly composed of German troops, also consisted of brigade and division size organizations that included men from French, Dutch, Belgian, Indian, Romanian, Albanian, Croatian, Hungarian, Russian and Arab nations. Interestingly, the Waffen-SS even recruited African-Germans and those men from the former German colonies such as German Southwest Africa, Tanganyika and Cameroon. It was the first truly international army in modern history.

For some years now the Germans and French operated a Franco-German mechanized infantry brigade that consisted of 5,700 French and German troops. From there the joint brigades have grown in number and strength. This is currently jointly commanded by both a German and French command group. There is a General Staff organization that has German speaking staff officers and it's the Germans who really command and control the international brigades.

The brigades have their own organic combat support elements regarding equipment maintenance, troop support and medical services. There are now eight such brigades in operation.

Many European leaders have called for an integrated European armed forces and it has come to reality. French President Emmanuel Macron is a proponent, but insists the Euro-Army be commanded by French Generals. Naturally, the

Continued next page

Germans disagree.

These inter-European brigades consist of:

Two Franco-German brigades

Two Dutch-German brigades

One Romanian-German brigade

One Czech-German brigade

One Spanish-German brigade

One Luxembourg-German brigade

In the offing is a new to be raised Slovakian-German brigade and a combined Nordic Battle Group. Some progress is in the works and the Germans have sent troops to Norway, to evaluate Norwegian troop training status, for the first time since 1945.

Under the Framework of Nations Concept, Germany is working for a much larger and more powerful creation than that of a Bundeswehr-led network of European mini-armies! Currently, the Bundeswehr is small, only 180,000 strong and a large gap exists within the German military structure due to Berlin's reluctance to spend the needed funds to build-up German military capability. However, in integrating other EU nations' forces under control of the Bundeswehr, Germany can remain strong at the expense of others.

Yet, Germany has the industrial base to rapidly build-up her armed forces to possibly World War II strength.

The United States has had a large role in European thinking regarding an international army. Starting in the Obama Administration the realities that the United States cannot be relied on to defend Europe set in. This was the result of Washington withdrawing combat forces from Germany and the creation of a defense gap, all while Russia was bringing to bear a perceived, if not real, threat to Europe.

President Trump, in keeping with his campaign promises and his known negative attitude toward NATO has the Europeans even more concerned. That they might have to actually PAY for their own defense, instead of relying on Washington to fill any funding gaps in their defense budgets has been a wake-up call.

Additionally, BREXIT will see European

Union's defense coffers shrink even more as the United Kingdom withdraws financial support and looks inward to its own national interests. When BREXIT is complete, it will leave Europe with only one nuclear armed country, that being France.

Although not a proponent of a European army, Hungarian President Viktor Orbán has stated that a joint European army is needed to keep out migrants. Due to the endless migration of hostile peoples to the EU, Orbán opined that as an issue of security, "We should begin to field a joint European army immediately."

Czech President Bohuslav Sobotka agreed that migration poses threats to Europe and the need for international borders to control mass migration is of paramount concern. Previously opposed to an EU army, Sobotka is now in favor.

THE RUSSIAN THREAT

For nearly twenty years after Communism collapsed in the Soviet Union, Russia was a weak and chaotic nation. Losing all of its Soviet satellites reduced the country's population and available manpower for military needs. Russia was and is for the most part today a Third World country with a NUCLEAR ARMORY of several thousands of weapons. However, that has changed in the past few years, under the leadership of Vladimir Putin.

Today, Russia is again a formidable power with ambitions in the West. Some European countries are beginning to question the reliability of the United States to come to their aid if faced with an invasion from the East. Germany is once again considering re-instituting a Draft in order to beef-up the Bundeswehr and fill-out dwindling ranks.

With overseas commitments in 15 nations, the current Bundeswehr is undermanned, under equipped and overextended! Germany is finding it difficult to maintain the multiple joint- brigades and to keep their ships seaworthy. President Trump, in requiring more German participation for NATO commitments is creating a dilemma for the Germans. So far, the German government has

simply refused to PAY their fair share of NATO costs, but that might change soon.

The current generation of Germans is not as unwilling to take part in world events as the post-war generation was. The “Baby Boomers” for the most part OPPOSED any and all oversea activities for their armed forces. They are aging and becoming more and more irrelevant.

The Post “Baby Boom” generation has new ideas about Germany taking its true place in shaping world events. They also are keenly aware of the potential threat from the East, yet they do not fear a massive invasion as was once the case with the Warsaw Pact, headed by the now defunct former Soviet Union.

Even though events in our own country are most compelling to the average American, we must NOT stop watching things in Europe. The integration of international forces in Europe will lead to a MASSIVE economic boom to Germany, as these international brigades will require a build-up of their inventories of tanks, field guns, ammunition of all calibers and a VAST assortment of military equipment and resources, which the Germans will then SELL to their “partners.”

The Netherlands, for example, sold off ALL of their tanks (U.S. built) by 2011. They are now buying the latest version of the Leopard Tank, built in Germany and SOLD by Germany. In order

for the European Brigades to achieve inter-operability, they must settle on standard equipment and they are NOT buying American!

Continue to WATCH Europe and in particular watch GERMANY. Many changes are coming to Europe and these changes will unfold before us in the ensuing months and years. The British will ultimately BREXIT the European Union and it may continue to lose members. Already both France and Italy are exploring their own EXITS from the EU. However, given the economic might and industrial capabilities of Germany, European nations will continue to look toward the Germans for common defense from any possible threat.

As Garner Ted Armstrong said on many occasions, “The Last Chapter of European History has not yet been written!” As with so many issues, he was spot on, with that comment. His brilliance in espousing just what your Bible says continues to amaze and confound, even to this day.

The European Union as we know it is going to disintegrate eventually. What will take its place is a NEW UNION of TEN European nations, as predicted in your Bible! The current Union is too diverse and too chaotic to continue for long. However, the coming “United States of Europe” will be compact, with industry and economies that will create the most formidable economic and military alliance ever seen in this world! □

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WORLD NEWS BRIEF

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

SWINE FEVER

China has been working to combat an outbreak of swine fever for more than a year now. While not a danger to humans, the disease has reduced the world's largest herd of pigs by more than 40% with over 100 million deaths. Its spread is not limited to China. It has become a problem throughout Asia, Indonesia, and cases have even been reported in Eastern Europe.

Swine fever has been found in food products brought by travelers in Australia, the Philippines, South Korea, and even as far away as Northern Ireland. The danger is that the disease will pass into foreign swine herds through what is called "garbage feeding," which means exactly what you think it does and is used even in the United States. As supply struggles to keep up with demand, pork prices have doubled in China. All meat prices have risen worldwide as Chinese consumers seek less expensive alternatives.

PLAGUE OF LOCUSTS

The Desert Locust is considered the most dangerous type of locust due to its ability to travel great distances. East Africa has been devastated by the swarming Desert Locust before, but the U.N.'s Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) fears the massive swarms currently sweeping through the continent may only be the beginning of a plague of Biblical proportions. Countries affected at this writing include Sardinia, Egypt, Eritrea, Uganda, Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Yemen, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, India, and Nepal.

In late summer of 2019, droughts followed by

catastrophic flooding throughout the region created an ideal environment for rapid breeding and growth of these winged destroyers. As a result, many countries are facing the most devastating swarms they've seen in a lifetime. One is now estimated to be about the size of London and is able to consume enough food to feed 35,000 people daily.

Those affected have been able to catch and eat the locusts but the damage done to their crops will result in an irreplaceable loss of money and food. The locusts can destroy 80% to 100% of crops in areas they invade. When food becomes scarce they become cannibalistic, turning on each other. Once the swarms die out, all that's left is desolation.

"We must act immediately and at a scale to combat and contain this invasion," said FAO's sub-regional coordinator for Eastern Africa, David Phiri. "As the rains start in March there will be a new wave of locusts breeding. Now is therefore the best time to control the swarms and safeguard people's livelihoods and food security." Estimates suggest the swarms could increase up to 500 times by June 2020. Naturally, climate change is cited as the cause.

GREEK TRAGEDY

It has been 5 years since the beginning of the migrant crisis in Europe. From the beginning, Greece has been one of the primary pathways into the European Union, and three islands have borne the brunt of the influx. Lesbos, Chios, and Samos are located in the eastern Aegean, far from the Greek mainland but right up against the coast of Turkey. Of the 60,000 migrants to enter Greece last year

nearly 80% passed through one of these islands. Many of the refugee camps on the islands are operating at over ten times capacity with populations larger than the towns they neighbor. Conditions are said to be so squalid and depressing that suicide is common among the inmates.

Having declared the crisis over almost a year ago, the EU has turned over responsibility for migrant transfers to national governments. Greek Islanders feel abandoned as they struggle to deal with an unexpected surge in new arrivals. Many businesses and services have closed, with thousands of Greeks taking to the streets in protest. They are fed up with the situation, the terrible conditions of the camps, the increase in crime and violence, and the damaging effect on tourism. Even the sympathetic want the migrants to “go somewhere else.” Whatever the EU may declare, this crisis is far from over.

AU REVOIR TO FOREIGN INFLUENCE

Since 1977, France has allowed teachers from certain foreign countries to provide foreign language and culture classes completely without supervision from any French authorities. Algeria, Morocco, Turkey and Tunisia—all Muslim-majority countries—have long been involved in the program which reaches nearly 80,000 students a year. France has received nearly 300 imams each year from participating countries.

Nearly all of France’s terror attacks in recent history have been perpetrated by Islamists. Now, in an effort to curb dangerous ideology, French President Macron has announced an end to this program. “The problem is when in the name of a religion, some want to separate themselves from the Republic and therefore not respect its laws,” he said.

New agreements with the previously participating nations aim to ensure that the French government has oversight over the courses and curriculum. The only country which has not agreed on these new measures is Turkey. “We cannot have Turkish law on French soil. No way,” Macron stated.

LEBANON: MONEY DOESN’T GROW ON CEDARS

After nearly four months of flux and turmoil, a government was formed in Lebanon near the end of

January. The majority party that finally managed to put together a coalition was none other than Hezbollah, which is designated a terrorist organization by the United States and much of the world. The Iranian backed Shi’ite terrorists-turned-politicians have taken the reigns of one of the world’s most indebted countries. The previous government fell before a citizenry enraged by waste, corruption, and a dire economic outlook. The protests have not stopped and the path forward for Lebanon is anything but clear.

Their economy is shrinking and major payments, particularly to the EU, are due in coming months. The 2020 budget projects a 7% deficit but public debt already exceeds 150% of GDP. The value of the Lebanese pound has also been decimated. A \$1.2 billion Eurobond payment is due in March. According to Reuters it is currently “trading at 84.6 cents to the dollar” while “Lebanon’s longer dated bonds are trading at 50 cents to the dollar or lower.” Some form of default seems inevitable. The international community is not exactly eager to intervene since Hezbollah has taken the reigns. However, some expedient may be deemed necessary considering the exposure of Europe’s own shaky financial institutions.

POPE CALLS FOR GLOBALISM YET AGAIN

Last September Pope Francis announced his new initiative, entitled Reinventing the Global Educational Alliance, in order to “educate us in universal solidarity and a new humanism.”

In the Vatican’s own words: “Pope Francis has invited to the Vatican the proponents of the main religions, the spokespeople of international organizations and various humanitarian institutions, of the academic, economic, political and cultural world. Together, representing the inhabitants of the Earth, they will sign the Global Compact on Education which each one will undertake to implement in their area and disseminate as much as possible.”

A series of seminars detailing the objectives will culminate in signing on to the compact on May 14th, 2020. So far the events have focused on multiculturalism, climate change, fostering brotherhood between different religions, and directing “globalization towards relationality.” □

BIBLE STUDY

by Dr. James & Natalie Ricks

Spiritual Preparation

UNDERSTANDING THE EVENTS BEFORE CHRIST'S SACRIFICE

It is obvious that Jesus is the Lamb of God and the true Lamb of the Passover. Israel's rescue from Egypt was simply a model of God's ultimate rescue of all mankind.

John 1:1, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." (NKJV)

John 1:14, "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."

John 1:29, "The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, 'Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!'"

Jesus' sacrifice, as applied to believers, will allow the death penalty for sin to "pass over" them. However, the day commemorating this event, the New Testament Passover or Lord's Supper, began with emphasis on brotherly love and fellowship. The evening before Christ died He celebrated a special service with His disciples.

John 13:1-4, "Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He

loved them to the end.

"And supper being ended, the devil having already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray Him, Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God, rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself."

These were the final moments Jesus would have with His disciples before His painful death on the stake at the exact time the physical Passover lamb was being sacrificed. It was a special moment in history for His disciples and Christianity. This meal was all about love and loyalty among those attending, especially after Judas was commanded to leave.

John 13:26-27, "Jesus answered, 'It is he to whom I shall give a piece of bread when I have dipped it.' And having dipped the bread, He gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon."

"Now after the piece of bread, Satan entered him. Then Jesus said to him, 'What you do, do quickly.'"

After Judas' departure, Jesus focused their attention on love for him and each other. Before Jesus' horrible execution he wanted them to all bond together. These events, including the foot washing, were the beginning of a movement that would turn the world upside down. The most profound and sig-

BIBLE STUDY

nificant historical movement in the history of the world was forged in brotherly love on this night.

John 13:31-35, “So, when he had gone out, Jesus said, ‘Now the Son of Man is glorified, and God is glorified in Him.

“If God is glorified in Him, God will also glorify Him in Himself, and glorify Him immediately.

“Little children, I shall be with you a little while longer. You will seek Me; and as I said to the Jews, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come,’ so now I say to you.

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

“By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Christ was preparing to save all mankind through His death as the Passover Lamb of God. This is a special moment for all of us. The celebration of brotherhood and comradeship was not just for Jesus and the disciples, but for us as well; He was praying for all those who are converted, who would someday read the words of the New Testament Apostles.

John 17:20-21, “I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word;

“That they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.”

We may all be unified and at one with God the Father and Jesus the Messiah because of the work of His disciples. This of course includes their final meal, the Lord’s Supper, which we often call the New Testament Passover.

John 15:12-15, “This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

“Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends.

“You are My friends if you do whatever I command you.

“No longer do I call you servants, for a servant

does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.”

THE IMPORTANCE OF OUR LIVES AFTER CHRIST’S SACRIFICE

Believers now have a new relationship with Jesus Christ, God, and the “WORD” or the executive member of the God family. We are now friends of Jesus and are like His younger siblings. As such we have a responsibility to grow to become more like Christ.

A few hours after Christ’s death and execution the sun set and the Days of Unleavened Bread began. The Jewish nation began to eat the sacrificed lamb symbolic of Jesus the true lamb. The Days of Unleavened Bread were kept by the true believers, both Jew and gentile. These days represent our efforts to become pure and unleavened from sin because of our love for Jesus our Savior. We do it because of our love and appreciation for His sacrifice. Here is proof that even the gentiles who were many miles away from Jerusalem kept the days of Unleavened Bread.

1 Corinthians 5:6-8, “Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?

“Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.

“Therefore let us keep the Feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.”

This verse proves that all believers should keep these Holy Days, realizing that putting out the literal leaven is symbolic of purifying ourselves of malice and wickedness. Paul says that because Christ our Passover died for us we should keep

BIBLE STUDY

these seven days and put away wickedness and sin (heaven). Further, what did Jesus say He wanted us believers to do at His Last Supper? He said obey the deep, spiritual Laws of God!

John 14:15-16, "If you love Me, keep My commandments.

"And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—"

Jesus said keep the Ten Commandments and He would also send the Comforter to help us to want to obey. Human nature alone would not wish to obey God. God arranged for Jesus' ordeal to be over by the Days of Unleavened Bread which are the Holy Days that follow the Passover Lamb sacrifice. Israel ate the sacrifice with Unleavened Bread only a few hours after the lamb's death.

John 19:30-32, "So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, 'It is finished!' And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.

"Therefore, because it was the Preparation Day, that the bodies should not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high [holy] day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away." That High Sabbath was the first day of Unleavened Bread.

TAKING THE LORD'S SUPPER WITH SERIOUS SELF-EXAMINATION

The sacrifice of Jesus was very difficult for both the Father and the Son. God demands that we show proper respect for so great a price paid to cover our sins by His Son. If a person does not pay the proper respect for all that the Father gave for us—His only Son—he is in danger. Note Paul's warning to the out of control Corinthian congregation:

1 Corinthians 11:27-29, "Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.

"But let a man examine himself, and so let him

eat of the bread and drink of the cup.

"For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body."

No one is truly worthy of Christ's sacrifice but we are expected to take it in a worthy, respectful manner. Those who do not are in danger.

1 Corinthians 11:30-31, "For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep.

"For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged."

If we do not want God to judge us we must learn to judge ourselves. All of us should do some self-examinations and evaluations before we take the Lord's Supper. For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. Paul is delivering a strong warning to all of us.


It would seem wise to take the days before the New Testament Passover to investigate our evil human nature and show appreciation for His awesome love and sacrifice for us unworthy human beings. We must repent, ask for mercy, forgiveness and insight into our hidden motives for the things we do. We need to be humble and lovingly appreciative. We all need to give ourselves a regular check up.

2 Corinthians 13:5-6, "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates.

"But I trust that ye shall know that we are not reprobates." (KJV)

If we find no evidence of spiritual growth we need to repent and pray for God's assistance. God will never forsake us, but we need to keep trying.

Jesus emphasized brotherly love and our closeness to God at the Last Supper before His death. Paul emphasizes being pure and unleavened from sin after Christ's death. We must do our best during the coming year to please God by our attitudes and behavior.

Examining our behavior and thoughts will help us to repent and to appreciate all the sins Jesus' blood has covered for us. 

“Surely **My Sabbaths** you shall keep,
for it is a sign between Me and you
throughout your generations,
that you may know that **I AM THE LORD**
who sanctifies you.”

Exodus 31:13

God's springtime holy days picture repentance, acceptance of Christ's shed blood, allowing Christ to dwell within us through His Spirit, and show us that we are part of an early harvest, a “firstfruits” unto God (James 1:18).

It also shows us that God is not trying to save the whole world now, that there is to come a later, fall harvest unto God.

UPCOMING SPRING HOLY DAYS

April 8 — Passover (Lord's Supper & Footwashing), observed sunset April 7, 2020

The sacrifice of a lamb without blemish symbolized forgiveness of sins and salvation from death. The New Testament Passover is rich in spiritual significance and acknowledges redemption of the faithful through the atoning blood and body of Christ, a tradition He began at the Last Supper.


“And He took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, ‘This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of Me.’ Likewise, also the cup after supper, saying, ‘This cup is the New Testament in My blood, which is shed for you’” (Luke 22: 19-20).

April 9-15 — Days of Unleavened Bread

The Israelites were commanded to eat the Passover with “unleavened bread,” called the “bread of haste,” bread which was flat, plain—not light and fluffy, puffed up. Immediately following the Passover were the Days of Unleavened Bread (Leviticus 23:5, 6). Unleavened bread pictured sinlessness; humility, an absence of vanity, pride, and sin. Christ said, “I am that bread of life.” (John 6:48-51). Can anything be more New Testament oriented than the meaning of the Days of Unleavened Bread? That is why Paul wrote to the Church in Corinth, “Therefore, let us keep the Feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth” (1 Cor. 5:8).

May 31 — Pentecost

The “Feast of Sabbaths,” or the “Feast of Firstfruits,” came to be called “Pentecost,” meaning “fiftieth.” God said, “And ye shall count unto you from the morrow after the sabbath, from the day that ye brought the sheaf of the wave offering, seven sabbaths shall be complete: Even unto the morrow after the seventh sabbath shall ye number fifty days...” (Leviticus 23:15, 16). This is the day on which the Apostles received the Holy Spirit. The firstfruits pictures God's righteous harvest from among mankind from the time of Christ until the Millennium and the Great White Throne Judgment (Revelation 20:1-5; 11-15).



President Trump Calls It “The Deal of the Century”

by Mark Armstrong

If anything could bring peace to the Middle East, it would be a deal for the ages. The proposed “Deal of the Century” as reported would give Palestinians the state they’ve been clamoring for over a period of decades. It offers them \$50 billion, although we can’t tell you at present where these funds would come from. It puts Jerusalem, and the historical sites under Israeli control and promises to keep them open and available to people of every faith.

The proposed deal is said to double the territory under Palestinian control, while giving them operational control of port facilities located at Haifa and Ashdod. It calls for demilitarization of Gaza and the expectation is that, once peace is established that the “new state” would be recognized for purposes of trade, worldwide.

Some of the foremost proponents of the “Palestinian cause” have been the adjacent Arab states. Under current circumstances however, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Bahrain and the UAE had representatives present during President Trump’s proposal. Those very same nations have, in the days following the proposal, attended meetings with the Arab League where they’ve fallen in line with Palestinians’ outrage over terms of the “Deal.”

But who actually governs Gaza and the Palestinian territories? Is it Hamas? Is it “president” Abbas and the Palestinian Authority? Palestinian Arabs immediately responded to the announced proposal by calling for “days of rage.” They’ve rioted in Ramallah, burning American flags and pictures of President Trump. For his part, “president” Abbas has denounced the plan, saying “a thousand times NO!”

It’s not the first time Palestinians have been offered ALMOST everything they demand. They were offered statehood in 1948, and again after the Camp David Accords. Those agreements saw Israel make peace with Egypt and Jordan, and Yassir Arafat was not amused. He demanded control over all of East Jerusalem (which Jordan, under King Hussein already had until 1967) and the Jews driven into the sea. Several Arab countries supported their demands, and the recent history has been nothing but riots and rockets from Gaza with the active support of Iran. The new proposal allows the Palestinians to claim their capitol is Jerusalem, but only allows them to set up a capitol in an Arab community outside the city.

The Washington Post crowed that President Trump had turned the proposal into a real estate

deal. They claim that it mimics a speech Prime Minister Netanyahu delivered at an Israeli University in 2009. The infamous *Daily Beast* (purveyor of the scurrilous anti-Trump dossier) called it the “Deal to End All Peace.” Maybe they haven’t noticed, there’s never been peace.

The “Deal” provides an opportunity for Arab communities on the West Bank to secede from Israel, but it also allows Israel to annex areas that Jews have settled. The *Washington Post* concludes its article by saying that either Abbas or his successor will ultimately end up having to sign the agreement, arguing that the land will be confiscated by imminent domain anyway, and it would be better if they received compensation under the terms of the proposal.

The Pan-Islamic Organization has already called on all member states to reject the plan. They are sticking to the long-standing demand that Israel return to pre-1967 borders, giving up the Old City and returning the “holy sites” to Islamic control. The UN is about to get involved as well. Any familiarity with past UN votes will show that Israel is basically isolated there, with only the U. S. to veto resolutions that would put the Old City of Jerusalem under Islamic control. □

Chain of Destiny

Continued from page 2

England after the death of the childless Elizabeth. War between Scotland and England had raged for many years and the unity brought by a single monarch did not equal peace along the border. James sought to combine the governments of his realms.

As the first ruler of England, Scotland, and Ireland he styled himself the King of Great Britain and Ireland. The English Parliament repudiated this usage but history shows that James persisted in his unifying endeavors and the title appears on letters, coinage and treaties. James' rule is significant in many ways. He published the Authorized King James Version of the Bible. He survived the Gunpowder Plot, an act of Catholic terror which sought to blow up the King, his family, and all Parliament. The visage of the infamous Guy Fawkes is commonly worn by protesters today. Hopefully they are

sister Margret Tudor's marriage to James IV, he became James I of

ignorant of its origins.

During James' regency, British colonization in America began. He granted the charters for the first colonies. Jamestown bears his name and was the first successful permanent settlement. He was also a scholar and author. Notably William Shakespeare and Sir Francis Bacon worked during his reign. He also established the Ulster Plantation, settling many Scottish and English in north eastern Ireland, which is arguably the basis for Northern Ireland remaining a part of the United Kingdom rather than the Republic of Ireland today. James' legacy reveals the origin of what would be the future of Britain.

The division of the British Isles remained largely unchanged until the 20th Century. The largest empire in history grew from these islands. It contained a quarter of the world's population at its height. Though emerging victorious from World War II, the price was financial ruin. Only a loan from the United States, which wasn't completely repaid until 2006, prevented national insolvency. The dissolution of the Empire became inevitable and was largely peaceful. Countries were granted independence after forming stable governments. The Commonwealth of Nations still exists and has 54 members, all of whom participate voluntarily on the basis of shared history and common values. Of these 54 nations, 16 still recognize the British Monarch as their Head of State.

The split with what would become the Republic of Ireland happened in the period between the two World Wars. The Irish had claimed independence in 1916 during the Easter Rising but were quickly put down. Resentment increased until the Irish War of Independence, which largely consisted of guerrilla attacks and subsequent reprisals. Sinn Féin, the political counterpart to the notorious Irish Republican Army, eventually won control of enough of the country to negate British authority.

The Anglo-Irish Treaty formally concluded hostilities with Britain but instigated the Irish civil war. Many considered the treaty a betrayal on account of a clause allowing Northern Irish counties to opt out of the proposed Irish state. From this time we have the formal name currently used, The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.



Portrait of King James I by Paul van Somer, 1620.

Continued next page



IRA Bombing of Bishopsgate in 1993.

Thus began decades of violence, murder, and terror. The situation was not even nominally diffused until the Good Friday Agreements of 1998. Both Ireland and the United Kingdom agreed to respect the decision of Northern Ireland. The language is open-ended and both parties agreed to facilitate any future change in allegiance.

This division of the island has been a major obstacle to Brexit negotiations between the UK and the EU. Ireland is a member of the EU and as long as the United Kingdom was as well, this “international” border could remain open and unregulated. Violence was a certainty (and some murders occurred even during the discussion) if any sort of hard border were put in place. The contentious “Irish Backstop” was former Prime Minister Theresa May’s solution to prevent any border friction.

The key to understanding Mrs. May’s politically fatal attachment to the Irish Backstop is her reliance on Northern Irish MPs to sustain her government. Her majority only existed with the support of the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) which is dominant in Northern Ireland. The DUP could not survive a hard border (possibly literally) nor would they support any weakening of ties with the United

Kingdom. The Backstop guaranteed an open border and would require the UK (all of it, not just Northern Ireland) to remain in a customs union with the EU until some other solution could be reached.

The problem was that there were no other acceptable solutions. It is impossible to negotiate different terms for commerce between the UK and EU and leave an unregulated land border as a gaping back door around them. It undermines the entire notion of Brexit if the UK is bound to an indefinite, insoluble customs union. Consequently Mrs. May’s deal failed to pass Parliament time and again, leading to multiple delays and ultimately her resignation.

She was replaced by Boris Johnson, a former mayor of London, who had previously been her foreign secretary and a leader of the Brexit campaign. Taking over the coalition conservative government Boris boldly proclaimed he would take the UK out, the hard way if necessary. He proceeded to renegotiate the exit deal with the EU, which was considered an impossibility until he succeeded.

Defying the attempts of parliament to modify his deal, the passage of which was likely barring disaster, the country headed to the polls. It was a make or break moment for Boris as no minority

party was willing to form a coalition. The election gave the conservatives 365 seats, almost 40 more than necessary for a majority government, and made a clear path for the passage of Boris' exit deal.

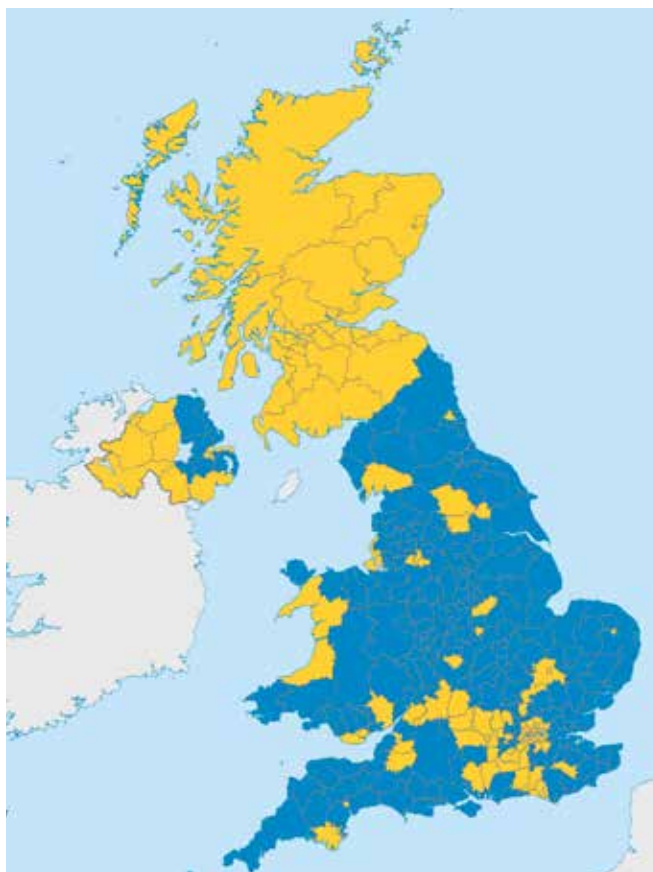
The main difference between the deals was of course Northern Ireland. As it stands they will be receiving the best of both worlds when it comes to trade. They will not pay tariffs on goods coming in from the EU or the UK, only goods passing through Northern Ireland will be taxed. This will take place at ports and airports. Furthermore, four years after this takes effect the people of Northern Ireland will vote on whether to continue in the deal. Another difference was the more ambiguous "Political Declaration" based on "provisions ensuring a level playing field for open and fair competition" dealing mainly with the regulation of labor, environmental policy, taxation, and subsidized industries. What exactly all that will entail is yet to be seen.

When the 2016 Brexit referendum took place, 48.1% of participants voted remain and 51.9% voted leave, achieving victory by more than a million votes. Over 72% of the 46 ½ million strong electorate cast a ballot. What makes the future uncertain is the potential reaction from entire regions that voted to remain. Northern Ireland chose remain by a margin of over 10%, though the result was split by district. As was discussed earlier, they have a clear legal path out of the United Kingdom if they should so choose in the future. The DUP does not support PM Johnson or his deal. Since its approval, Irish elections have revealed a surge in support for Sinn Féin, which is dedicated to a unified Ireland.

In Scotland the majority in every district chose to remain, securing 62% of the votes overall. There is a long history of contention between Scotland and England. In 2014 a referendum was held in Scotland as to whether or not they would leave the UK, becoming an independent country. They chose not to (by 10%) but Brexit has served to reignite the issue. In a recent interview one of the principal architects of Brexit, Nigel Farage, stated that the key to Scottish contentment lay in a beneficial fishing arrangement with the EU. Economic benefit is the likely route to a satisfied post-EU Britain generally speaking as well.

Boris Johnson is seeking to make an agreement he believes will do just that. He has been open to a free trade relationship, like the one that the EU has with Canada, or a less comprehensive framework primarily limited to what has already been negotiated. He is determined to avoid regulatory alignment, though some measure of parity is already indicated in the exit deal. He rejects "any jurisdiction for the CJEU (Court of Justice of the European Union) over the UK's laws, or any supranational control in any area, including the UK's borders and immigration policy." Nor is he open to extending the transition period beyond the end of this year.

The EU on the other hand wants to make the final decision on whether or not British financial institutions can do business in their territory, a matter of significant importance to the UK. They also want visa-free travel, no tariffs, and a level of integration on taxes, aid, labor, and environmental



2016 United Kingdom EU referendum results.

■ Leave	■ Remain
17,410,742 (51.9%)	16,141,241 (48.1%)

Continued next page



regulation that may prove unpalatable. Clearly the EU is seeking a closer relationship than the UK.

Much still has to be decided in this often bewildering saga. Losing Britain is undeniably a blow to the European Union. Other members may decide to leave should their exit prove overtly beneficial, yet the UK needs it to be a smashing success to hold their own country together. Who needs who more? Doom was predicted for Britain should they leave, but as negotiations near their conclusion they seem to have gained the initiative.

For decades the Church of God has preached that the UK would not be part of the beast power to eventually rise out of Europe. Nor does the EU in its present configuration possess the power, either economically or militarily, or the religious

inclination to fulfill these dire prophesies. Brexit marks a drastic change in the status quo however. Already Germany is the dominant force in the EU. Should the EU crumble, many nations would find themselves even more firmly in Germany's grasp.

Consider the potential shift in the future of Europe. Most of the benefits they have awarded themselves are unsustainable, yet riots break out at the mere mention of austerity. The European Central Bank is actually utilizing negative interest rates (that's where they charge you to keep your money in the bank) and has been for years to fight low inflation and cause credit growth. Has not economic calamity always been the most likely cause of a major realignment in Europe?

Vast numbers of refugees have been allowed and encouraged to migrate not only for the humanitarian reasons typically espoused, but in an attempt to offset aging and decreasing populations. Liberal European values however are anathema to most of their new citizens, and rather than integration we see cloistering and violence. The Vatican has completely revamped its image and the thrust of its outreach into a menagerie of progressive idealism with a strong dose of central control.

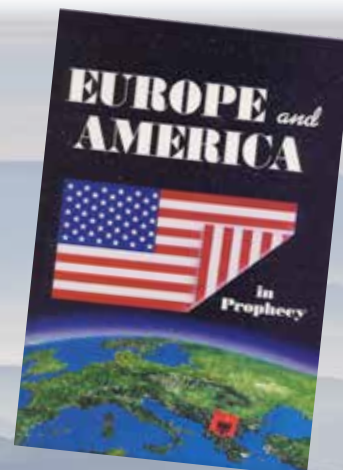
Hopefully Brexit will mean a bright and prosperous future for the United Kingdom. It has been welcomed as a step back from globalism and the European monolith whose decisions threaten international peace and financial stability. The world as it is today owes a great deal to the resolution and sacrifice of the United Kingdom, particularly in World War II. We certainly pray for their future and the continuation, sovereignty, and blessing of their union. □

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Will the Creation of a “Palestinian State” Stop The Violence?

by Garner Ted Armstrong

Millions of Americans and Europeans have swallowed many MYTHS about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. For the past several decades, a miasma of confusion; a web of lies, distortions and disinformation has led millions of Americans and Europeans to believe that the Palestinian people are legitimate “freedom fighters”; that they have the same cause as did American colonists who rebelled against Britain; that their cause is as just as that of the Palmach, Irgun and Hagana, Israeli “freedom fighters” who waged guerilla war against the occupying British following World War II.

Few realize that the UN offered the Palestinian Arabs a STATE OF THEIR OWN as far back as 1948! A partition plan was put forth wherein the Jewish population of Palestine, together with hundreds of thousands of refugees from Europe and elsewhere, would be given a narrow-waisted parcel of land along the Mediterranean seacoast as the State of Israel, while the Palestinian Arabs would receive a like parcel of land for the State of Palestine. The Arabs turned down the proposal.

The “Palestinian Arabs” are NOT A RACE OF PEOPLE. They are not a “people without a country!” As I explained in detail in my booklet, “Middle East Strife, Will It Lead To Armageddon?” (Published on our web site), the Palestinian Arabs lived in lands which were part of Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Egypt. As a people, they are identical to the Arabs in Jordan, Egypt, Syria and Saudi Arabia. They are not a separate race, nor even an identifiable sub tribe of any particular race. They are Arabs whose ancient ancestor is Ishmael, just like all other Arabs.

They do not have ANY historical, ethnic, sociological, religious or Biblical claims to the lands upon which they have lived.

Recognizing how violently the Islamic peoples in the nations of the Middle East would react to the creation of the State of Israel, the UN offered statehood to the Palestinian Arabs side by side with Israel.

Instead of accepting a peaceful solution, they joined in, and applauded when the armies of Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, Iraq, Syria and Saudi Arabia attacked the little fledgling State of Israel in 1948, in an attempt to annihilate the Jews. The Jews defeated those combined armies, forcing through a narrow corridor up the mountains to save thousands of Jews in the western part of Jerusalem from being massacred, or starved to death.

Like the United States in 1776, the nation of Israel was preserved by force of arms. From 1948 onward, the State of Israel occupied lands it had been granted by the nations of the world, whose consciences, at least in some cases, had been roundly pricked by learning of the incredible pogroms of Hitler; the systematic murder of more than six million Jews in places like Belsen, Auschwitz, Maidanek, Buchenwald, and Dachau. One of the best books one can read which relates the epic story of the Jews establishing their own homeland is “Exodus” by Leon Uris. The book was later made into a movie by the same name.

From 1948 on, the Islamic peoples have sought nothing short of the destruction of every Jew in the Middle East, and have dreamed about the slaughter

Continued next page



Egyptian President Sadat, U.S. President Carter, and Israeli Prime Minister Begin at the signing of the Camp David Accords, Sept. 17, 1978.

of every remaining Jew on the earth. By 1967, the nations surrounding Israel believed their supplies of Soviet armor were sufficient; their training adequate, to allow them to destroy Israel completely.

They launched a surprise attack from the Golan, the West Bank, and the Gaza strip. But the Israelis quickly gained the initiative when Israeli air force fighter-bombers destroyed much of the Egyptian air force on the ground; destroyed hundreds of Egyptian tanks and APC's at the Mitla Pass in the Sinai, and destroyed hundreds of Syrian tanks in the Golan.

Had Israel desired to do so, it could have occupied Damascus! Had Israel desired to do so, it could have marched on Cairo! But the Israelis had no desire to occupy any lands except those it had won in a defensive war; lands which would give them more advance warning if and when Syrian and Egyptian tank columns tried it again. Prior to 1967, Israeli farmers just below the Golan, along the shores of the Sea of Galilee, had been periodically fired upon by Syrian soldiers in the heights above. Not even tourists were safe in the area of the ancient city of Capernaum, where the ruins of a synagogue in which Jesus taught still remain.

Far from occupying the capitals of their attackers, the Israelis, having defeated the combined Arab armies in a defensive war, decided to withdraw to defensible lines in the Golan; to withdraw to the Jordan river between the West Bank and Jordan,

and to make the Suez Canal their westernmost defensive line. For many months, Israel labored with bulldozers and tractors to create the "Bar-lev" line; a system of fortifications more than 100 miles long, with fortified bunkers and sand berms, festooned with barbed wire, land mines, and observation posts.

Israel began to exploit the natural resources of the Sinai. She also built a military base at Sharm El Sheik, at the tip of the Sinai Peninsula, overlooking the entrance to the Red Sea. Oil was discovered, and production began.

But as a part of the peace treaty forged by Anwar Sadat and Menachim Begin; the famous "Camp David Accords," Israel handed over the entire Sinai, which made Egypt immediately self-sufficient in oil, and even gave them the capability to export oil.

When I interviewed Anwar Sadat at his palace outside Cairo, I chatted with him extensively following the televised interview. He told me of how he had kicked the Russians out; of a secret visit he had made to Moscow of which the world press knew nothing; of how the Russians were not forthcoming with new military equipment and spare parts.

I told him, "You are the only head of state in modern history who, once the Russians had put their foot down, was successful in telling them to leave!" He had told me of how proud he was when the Egyptian army had broached the Bar Lev line; how sad he was when his younger brother (who Anwar had raised, and who he looked upon as his son, as much as his brother) was killed in the fighting. Speaking of the need for peace and cooperation in the Mideast, I then began saying, "You are the leader of the largest Arab nation in terms of population, and yet the poorest nation on a per capita basis. To your north is a virtual "brain trust" in the nation of Israel. Israel has the highest per capita number of doctors, educators, scientists, skilled technicians of any country in the Mideast. Why could not your massive labor force be benefited by such a number of skilled people?" I asked him why he did not simply go to Israel and talk peace with Begin? I even suggested that a kind of "United States of the Middle East" could ultimately be created; a union of cooperative states, each benefiting from the special gifts, natural resources, and labor force of the other.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

الرئيس

Cairo, March 19, 1977.

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

It pleases me to extend to you profound appreciation for your one hour Special "Egypt under Sadat", which I watched lately and enjoyed it very much. I, also, wish to state here that I enjoyed the two half-hour interviews with me and Mrs. Sadat, by your colleague Mr. Adli Muhtadi in Cairo. The way you have handled Egypt's problems, human hopes and legitimate aspirations is objective and truthful. Also, your commentaries showed how you grasped your subject in a short period of time during your visit last year with us .

I am confident that such an approach is the surest and most proper way to bring our two peoples together, and promote close co-operation between our two friendly countries for both their interest as well as for the interest of world peace and order .

Again, I thank you very much for the successful and fruitful effort you have made, as well as for your noble sentiments towards me and the Egyptian people, wishing you evergrowing success and advancement.



Mohamed Anwar El Sadat .

Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong
300 West Green Street
Pasadena, California,
U.S.A.

He began telling me the reasons why this seemed impossible, not the least of which was his concern about political groups in his own country, and their possible reaction. He was also worried that, if he should do such a bold thing as go directly to Jerusalem, the Israelis would react angrily.

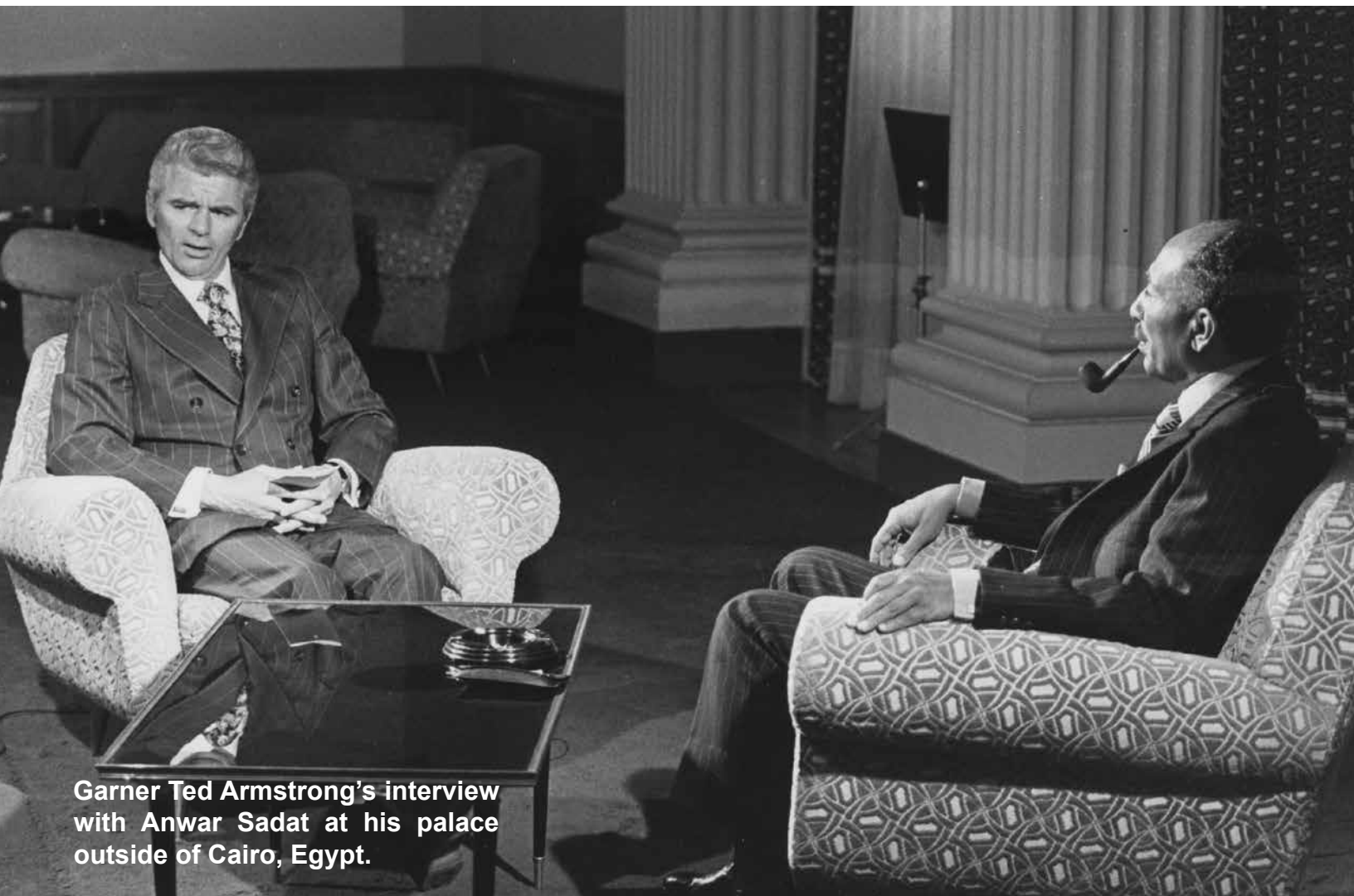
I asked, "Do you honestly believe the Israelis would dare shoot down the personal airplane carrying the President of Egypt? They would not dare!"

I have never forgotten that conversation, nor have I forgotten that, EXACTLY ONE MONTH LATER, in one of the most surprising developments in Mideast history, Anwar Sadat WENT TO JERUSALEM! His surprise visit led directly to the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel; the famed Camp David Accords.

Not long after this, when Anwar Sadat came to Washington, my wife and I were invited to be his guests at a reception hosted by the Egyptian Embassy. We were warmly received. When Shirley and I approached the Sadats, in a reception line, his lively

wife, Jihan, recognizing me, turned to her husband, and said, "Anwar, it is the Armstrongs!" He shook my hand warmly, and thanked me again for our interview, and my 3-part series of television programs "Egypt under Sadat." I have a much prized personal letter from Anwar Sadat, who was brutally murdered as he sat in the stands, reviewing a military parade. His letter of thanks has hung on my office wall for many years. It was at that reception dinner that I met Nelson Rockefeller, Hubert Humphrey, Barbara Walters, and a number of senators and congressmen. Both Rockefeller and Humphrey told me that they watched my TV programs regularly. At that time, my TV program was aired over a top TV channel in Washington, DC. Earlier, former President Lyndon Johnson told me, as I visited him on his ranch in Texas, that he watched my program often. He said, "I agree with you...MOST of the time..." We laughed.

How well I remember that, when I had interviewed Mrs. Jihan Sadat at her lavish home in Cairo,



Garner Ted Armstrong's interview with Anwar Sadat at his palace outside of Cairo, Egypt.

she had told me of her first visit to New York. Cairo is a huge, sprawling, filthy city; a city of vastly more population than it can support; dirty, bedraggled, unkempt. One of its “tourist attractions” is the “city of the living dead,” a huge cemetery, where the remains of those buried were removed, and people live in the tombs.

Jihan Sadat is half British, being the daughter of a British Army Officer and an Egyptian mother. She told me how overawed she was, to see “Gotham” for the first time; to be overwhelmed by the vast numbers of huge skyscrapers. She returned home, she told me, and said to her husband, “Anwar, why are we fighting these people?” She recognized that Egypt needed the United States.

I have never for a moment doubted that I was used to convey a message to the President of Egypt; that the thought was planted in his mind which led to the Camp David Accords.

From the very beginning, it has been the heartfelt desire of the Jews to LIVE AT PEACE with their Arab neighbors. Consider: During the period from 1948 until the 1967 six-day war, the Jews were DENIED access to their holy places in the Old City of Jerusalem. They could “WAIL AT” the famed “wailing wall,” from a distant vantage point, but could not actually go there to pray.

But when Israel conquered the Jordanians, and took control of all Jerusalem, they GAVE ACCESS to any person of any religion to visit the holy places! Arabs could come across the Allenby Bridge over the Jordan River north of the Dead Sea, and come to the Dome of the Rock, or the Al-Aqsa Mosques.

When I interviewed Mr. Gideon Hausner (who was the chief prosecuting attorney in the Adolf Eichman trial), Proprietor of the “Yad Vashem,” the Jewish Holocaust Memorial, he asked me, “Why should we not be the protectors of the Holy Places? We allow all people to come freely. The Arabs did not!”

To obtain a keen insight into the mind set of many Palestinians, I would recommend very highly reading “The Haj” by Leon Uris. It details the lives of Arab and Jewish neighbors; gives one a feel for the many religious and political pressures which are present in the region.

As I write this [*before his death in 2003*], word

comes of yet another hideous massacre; the blowing up of a civilian bus with many children aboard; at least 20 people blasted to shreds — then, another attack with 19 injured, and word that HAMAS, that infamous organization of cowards who sit behind their desks and send young people to their deaths, has claimed “credit” for the bombings. Then, when Israel sent tanks once more into Jenin, Hamas swears that “Israel will pay dearly” for doing so. Incredible. The terrorists precipitate mass murder, and are then OUTRAGED that Israel would retaliate.

They would do well to consider the following. What if the situation were reversed?

What if JEWISH suicide bombers were blowing up Arab buses, pizza parlors, dance halls, super markets, and weddings?

What if such had taken place in occupied Europe during World War II?

While it is BRUTAL beyond belief, the Nazis systematically carried out REPRISALS against underground fighters. When a leading Nazi officer was killed, the Germans picked civilians at random, and shot them down. On one occasion, they rounded up the entire population of Lidice, in Poland, herded the people into a barn, and burned it! BRUTAL is hardly an adequate word! What do you think the Arabs would do if the Arabs in Palestine had the tanks and armor, and if JEWISH suicide bombers were blowing their women and children to bits?

They would probably say, “For every Arab you kill, we will take TEN Jews from your towns, line them up, and shoot them!”

I for one, wonder, I am amazed, at the incredible RESTRAINT shown by the Israeli government and Israeli people. What did the U.S. do when suicidal maniacs murdered THOUSANDS of us in the trade towers and Pentagon? Why, we sent our armed forces half a world away to DESTROY THE GOVERNMENT and INFRASTRUCTURE of the brutal regime in Afghanistan which was harboring and training the terrorists!

One should only be amazed at Israel’s restraint. They have been accused, incredibly, lugubriously, idiotically, by many Arabs of being the “Nazis of the Middle East.” Arabs should give thanks every day that they are not! □



Goodbye, EU...

by Dr. Ted Malloch

On January 31, 2020, after years of manic anguish, threats, intrigue and maneuver, the United Kingdom will finally leave the European Union.

Big Ben should be tolling. Ding dong, the wicked witch is dead and Dorothy can go back to Kansas—or the Midlands.

The lifelong ambition of one Nigel Farage deserves a Lordship and a Knighthood for his undying and patriotic efforts over decades. He will finally see the return of trade, money, borders, laws and independence itself, to the British people.

Brexit, the massively consequential, world-historic demonstration of economic populism and anti-globalism will come to fruition, thanks to the shattering electoral victory of the eurosceptic Conservative Party—led by their clever Etonian, former Mayor of London, and now Prime Minister, Boris Johnson.

And it was Donald J. Trump who backed both of them and fully endorsed Brexit as a sage policy—even before he was elected U.S. President. Once in office, the pro-sovereignty President has been relentless in his support and in offering a wide-ranging, US-UK Free Trade Agreement, at precisely the necessary time and to great mutual benefit. Who knows, in a year the British may perhaps even be enjoying some of our famous chlorinated chicken.

In retrospect today, in the midst of all the celebration, it is time to relate some less than fully known truths about this many decades long, Brussels fiasco.

The first disclosure goes back to the very founding of the Union.

Already in 1952, Jean Monnet, one of the leftist French minds behind the European abduction candidly said, “Europe’s nations should be led towards

a superstate, without their people understanding what is happening. This can be accomplished by successive steps, each disguised as having an economic purpose, but which will eventually and irreversibly lead to federation.”

The European Union and its antecedents were a product of ideologues and continentalists opposed to all English Lockean traditions and common law and instead, followed Rousseau’s, General Will.

European Rechtstat ideas of collectivism, statism, protectionism, and corporatism are not so apparent as the Blitz and the Wehrmacht, which is the reason they were successfully established in Europe under the garb and false pretense of the all-powerful European Union. The Fabian strategy of avoiding conflict while grabbing as much power as possible worked for over four decades.

Since the end of World War II, the Brits were bamboozled and its leaders acquiesced, even appeased, into the promotion of European integration against their better judgment and national interest. Some surrendered their citizenship wanting instead to be members of a global elite and “European”.

Recall at first, France’s Charles De Gaulle treated them as supplicants and vetoed their application to join the clubby European Project. Battered Britain licked its wounds until she was finally allowed in in 1973.

The anti-democratic European Project was created in the name of preventing the spread of Soviet style communism but instead became a halfway house—Brussels never had as much power over its’ member states as Moscow did, but the leftist, socialist influence drew them ever closer. It was soon the nexus of more and more centralization and illiberal-

ism, aptly named, the EUSSR by many of its critics.

Britain, and largely because of American pressure, allowed Europe to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory.

Yes, this is the second disclosure, the US actively promulgated the plan on its allies and forced the Brits to join. This has had adverse consequences and born an anti-American prejudice, which is utterly counterproductive. It has unintentionally set up a major adversary—diplomatically, economically, politically, and militarily to America, in spite of supposed NATO defense obligations (which the Europeans still don't comply with). The unipolar moment America enjoyed after defeating the USSR was the breathing space needed to try another alternative.

Finally, after decades of strained and mostly one-way trans-Atlanticism, Trump has turned the course and altogether disrupted the ancient regime.

In fact, the deep roots of the European Union lay bare its darker and true orientation.

As Jacques Delors, the former President of the European Commission himself once quipped, “Gov-

ernmental elites should be involved on the central decision-making process and increasingly identify with it... the process is not, in itself, democratic.”

Next ugly disclosure: This led to the real iron cage which should not be overlooked, namely: German Hegemony.

The EU was always to be a way to both contain and expand the bogeyman of Europe, an uncontrollable Germany. The German Bundesbank itself admitted such throughout the latter 1990's. After reunification, they proudly pronounced: “The Federal Republic will ultimately be the country which profits most from European unity, even if this is not immediately visible.”

The essential truth is that American statesmen nurtured this European Movement and emmeshed democratic, common law, individualist and Anglo-tradition bound, Britain into an undemocratic and socialist, statist, foreign hyper-organization. By suborning democracy, the CIA in particular, ironically submerged Britain's national interests to those of Europe as a whole. The Deep State even then, always thought it knew best.



London, England. January 31st, 2020. A Brexit Day “Independence” parade was held at Whitehall and on Parliament Square to celebrate the UK leaving the European Union.

Continued next page

The offer of unfulfilled promises of prosperity, security, and commercial advantage have proved illusory.

Fortunately, Britain avoided the debacle of the fake currency, the Euro, which lies at the heart of the European disaster. (Sir, Lord) Nigel Farage got his start in populist agitation in the campaign against joining the very Euro. The instability of the European system is reflected in its stagnant economies, grossly rigid structures, high unemployment and low growth. To the extent that leaving the EU is even possible, the victory of Sterling over the Euro in spite of Tony Blair's premiership was the vital turning point in this history.

Pity the poor(er) southern European states, faced with an economic crisis having surrendered both fiscal and monetary policy to the EU—fighting against Germany's economic might with both hands tied behind their backs.

Of course, if the Euro fails, Europe fails.

So, it is noteworthy that Chancellor Angela Merkel repeatedly reminded us that, "We have a Treaty under which there is no possibility of paying to bail out states in difficulty."

And many there are. Their loss is Germany's gain.

The EU is either a European Germany or a German Europe. Take your pick. Europe always seemingly revolves around the so-called, German Question, i.e., assertiveness and dominance by the former Prussians.

The Nineteenth century German idealist philosopher, Fichte perhaps said it best, in Germany, freedom was transcendental, and that nation had a "special destiny" (*besonderes Schicksal*) in history to march toward it. Even if this romanticism meant imposing its will or eliminating others in the process, so be it, at any and all costs. Germany needed Lebensraum.

Remember, it was the intellectual and upper classes that allowed the emergence of the Third Reich due in large part to what later came to be known as the "authoritarian personality," aka, transfigured Nazis.

German tutelage still saturates all of Europe and is consolidated though the Single currency, Single Market, dominance in interest rates (ECB), strict industry standards and protocols, overly bureaucratic



Nigel Farage, architect of Britain's Brexit deal.

laws, and panoply of regulations. In the German language this haughtiness is translated as, "*hochmutig*," the bitter, envy and disgust for the "other" and lesser beings.

Of all this—Britain is now free. The Stockholm Syndrome of hostage taking is over and Britons no longer need to love their captors. Like Gollum breaking the spell of the One Ring to Rule Them All over his mind, nothing more than the will to turn your back and say NO was necessary.

Brussels it turns out, is after all a nonplace, generic, dysfunctional, technocratic, cosmopolitan—and completely dystopian.

Free of the EU, the UK now has an historic opportunity. A new Renaissance beckons. The "Great" can be put back into Britain, as Trump would say.

Trade and innovation can flourish, again. As a free-trading nation state, the UK can make its own way (on taxes and tariffs), secure in its own borders and laws, defend itself and experience much greater prosperity.

In two short years, let alone five or ten, Britain will be a real beacon, a light of freedom and all of Europe would be well advised to follow in her footsteps. The irreformable, anti-democratic Leviathan must be tamed or slain.

Auf Wiedersehen EU, and good riddance. □

Dr. Theodore Roosevelt Malloch is a scholar, diplomat, strategist, and author, most recently of the book, Trump's World.



BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE

LESSON THREE: JESUS CHRIST

Jesus of Nazareth is the Christ, the Son of God and the Son of man. He was the prophesied Messiah of the Old Testament and is described throughout the New Testament as being both fully human and fully divine. As second member of the God family, He has existed from eternity as the “Word.” He divested Himself of His power and majesty and became a human being to die for the sins of all mankind as our loving and merciful Savior. He was then resurrected and ascended to heaven to become our High Priest and the head of all things to the Church. Jesus Christ shall return to establish the Kingdom of God on earth and rule as King of kings with His saints forever.

DOCTRINAL OVERVIEW:

Jesus Christ is the chief cornerstone and foundation of Christianity, the focal point of both Old and New Testaments and of biblical prophecy. He is the one around whom God’s plan of redemption and salvation revolves.

Christ as the “Word of God” (John. 1:1-14) has existed with the Father from eternity. He and the Father together devised a plan to reproduce themselves and to expand their family by means of the human creation. This creation as accomplished by the one who became Christ through the agency and power of the Holy Spirit. “For by Him [Christ] were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible” (Col. 1: 16). John adds that “all things were made by Him: and without Him was not any thing made that was made” (John. 1:3). Thus the “Word of God”—Christ—was also the Creator God, who fashioned the universe and breathed the breath of life into Adam.

The being who later became Jesus Christ was likewise the God of the Old Testament and hence the one who walked with Noah and talked with Abraham and with Moses (John. 8:58; cf. Ex. 3:14). He

was the God of Israel, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The God who gave His law to Moses at Sinai. He was the one who led Israel with a cloud by day and protected them by a pillar of fire at night. He was Israel’s Protector, their Guide and their “Rock” (“and that Rock was Christ,” 1 Cor. 10:4). He likewise was the God of David and was the one who dwelled in Solomon’s temple. He spoke through Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and all the prophets and inspired the entirety of the Old Testament.

In order to fulfill the divine master plan of salvation, this great being divested Himself of all His power, might and majesty and took upon Himself “the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men” (Phil. 2:7). As envisioned, however darkly, by Abraham and Moses, and as prophesied by Isaiah and others, God’s “Word” was now incarnate, the Son of God and the Son of man. As a human being, Jesus led a sinless, perfect life although He “was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin” (Heb. 4:15). He overcame Satan’s temptations and qualified to replace him as ruler of this world. He was our example who learned obedience through suffering; He became our Savior whose atoning death paid the

Continued next page

death penalty for all the sins of mankind.

This great personal sacrifice of Christ's crucifixion is a perfect illustration of Jesus' love and mercy toward us. In Christ's own words the greatest love a man can have is to "lay down his life for his friends" (John. 15:13). And Jesus' sacrifice for us is even more powerfully poignant in that, "While we were yet sinners Christ died for us" (Rom. 5:8), "when we were [still] enemies" (verse 10) and not yet friends, Jesus laid down His life for us. Certainly the giving of His life on the cross (stake) for all humanity was the greatest example of the greatest love which can be shown.

Christ's resurrection from the dead was the focal point of universal history—an event of ultimate importance without equal in the unfolding of God's master plan. His burial for three days and three nights and His subsequent resurrection was the very sign and proof of His messiahship (Matt. 12:40). His resurrection proved that man could also be resurrected; it showed the viability of God's plan and was the means by which human beings could eventually be resurrected to eternal life.

The death of Christ, the Creator of everything, was designed "from the foundation of the world" (Rev. 13:8) and was able to pay the penalty for the sins of humanity because His life was worth far more than the sum total of all the lives of all human beings who have ever lived or ever will live. Upon repentance and baptism, we have the opportunity to take advantage of Christ's sacrifice to pay the penalty for our own personal sins, and through God's grace to receive the gift of eternal life—which Jesus Christ's life, death and resurrection made possible.

Christ has now ascended and is exalted at the right hand of God the Father at the throne of heaven.

He is once again actually God, all-powerful and shining in the spirit realm like the sun (Rev. 1:13-16), yet with the same mercy and compassion He exemplified during His physical life. Jesus is the firstfruits of salvation, the first mortal to be made immortal, and the first human being to become a member of the God family. He is the Christian's elder brother and the forerunner of our salvation, the consummate High Priest and Advocate, Intercessor and Mediator before God's throne of mercy.

Although Christ is under the Father in authority, it is through Christ that we learn of the Father. Christ is the "express image" of the Father (Heb. 1:3), and "he that hath seen [Christ] hath seen the Father" (John. 14:9). Thus we learn of the Father, of His plan, His ways, His character, His laws and His love, through His first begotten and His "firstborn" Son, Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ, today, is the living head of His Church, actively, intelligently and personally guiding and directing it through the Holy Spirit of God. He is simultaneously fully involved in the relentless sweep of mankind's historical events as He prepares to intervene in the end time of world history, returning to earth in full power and authority to take over the governments of this earth and to set up His divine Kingdom of God as King of kings and Lord of lords.

Christ, who began the creation, will also finish it. After the completion of His 1,000-year rule, Jesus Christ will turn everything over to His Father, and God Himself will join His billions of spirit-composed sons as the new heaven and new earth are created (Rev. 21). God and His family will then rule the universe forever, and of "the increase of His government ... there shall be no end" (Isa. 9:7). □

SUMMARY: Read these scriptures in your own Bible:

- **John 1:1-14**—Christ is the Word of God.
- **Colossians 1:16**—Christ created all things.
- **1 Corinthians 10:4**—Read about the Rock that was Christ.
- **Hebrews 4:14-16**—Jesus was without sin.
- **Philippians 2:5-8** and **John 8:52-58**—Christ was also the God of the Old Testament.
- **Romans 5:8-10**—Jesus died for us while we were yet sinners.
- **Matthew 12:40**—Proof of His messiahship.
- **Hebrews 1:3**—Christ is the express image of the Father.
- **John 14:9**—If we have seen Christ, we have seen the Father.

QUESTIONS (ANSWERS BELOW):

1. Jesus Christ is the Son of ____ and the Son of ____ [what or whom?]
2. Jesus Christ is the 2nd member of the God Family. True or False?
3. Is Jesus Christ the focal point of both the Old and New Testaments? Yes or No?
4. The focal point of biblical prophecy is _____ [whom?]
5. What verses of the Bible describe Christ as the “Word” or spokesman of the God Family?
6. John 1:1-14 makes it clear that Jesus is the God of the Old Testament. True or False?
7. Was Jesus Christ the one who created all things in heaven and earth? Yes or No?
8. He walked with Noah. He talked with Abraham. He gave the Law to Moses. He dwelled in Solomon’s Temple. Who was he?
9. What verse tells that Christ was that Rock that led Israel out of Egypt?
10. Jesus Christ retained all His Godly power while He lived on earth as a human. True or False?
11. By living a sinless life Jesus qualified to replace _____ [whom?] as the ruler of this earth?
12. By living a sinless life, Jesus Christ became our _____ [what?]
13. The greatest love a man can have is to _____ [what?]
14. Christ died for us while we were yet sinners. True or False?
15. The greatest focal point of the universal history of mankind is what event?
16. The only sign and proof of Christ being the messiah is _____ [what?]
17. His resurrection proved what about the future of man?
18. The death of Christ, according to Rev. 13:8 was designed from what time?
19. The sacrifice of Jesus made possible the Salvation Process. We can take advantage of this opportunity with _____ and _____ [what two actions?]
20. With His resurrection, Jesus is now the first of the _____ [what?]
21. We learn of God the Father through Jesus Christ. True or False?
22. According to Heb 1:3 Christ is the _____ of the Father [what?]
23. Jesus Christ now is the living head of the church. True or False?
24. At the end of the 1,000-year rule by Christ, He will turn over everything to _____ [whom?]

LESSON THREE — ANSWERS:

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1. (God, Man) | 10. (False) | 18. (the foundation of the world) |
| 2. (True) | 11. (Satan) | 19. (repentance and baptism) |
| 3. (Yes) | 12. (example) | 20. (firstfruits) |
| 4. (Jesus Christ) | 13. (lay down his life for his friends) | 21. (True) |
| 5. (John 1:1-14) | 14. (True) | 22. (express image) |
| 6. (True) | 15. (resurrection of Christ) | 23. (True) |
| 7. (Yes) | 16. (the sign of Jonah, being in the | 24. (God the Father) |
| 8. (Jesus Christ) | grave 3 days and 3 nights.) | |
| 9. (1 Corinthians 10:4) | 17. (that man could be resurrected) | |



THE GARNER TED ARMSTRONG EVANGELISTIC ASSOCIATION
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Christ's resurrection represents the very cornerstone of the faith of the apostles; the reason for their deep conviction and conversion; the wellspring of their courage in the face of martyrdom!

It was the proof of Christ's resurrection which caused them to assemble in Jerusalem for that first great moment on Pentecost when God sent audible and visual evidence of His Holy Spirit!



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Three Nights”**
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Garner Ted Armstrong Evangelistic Association
P.O. Box 232, Sandy Bay, TAS 7006
Phone: 1300 885 066
www.gtaaaustralia.org.au
www.21stCenturyWatch.com

