

of “Demon possession and New Testament medical terminology”. “A good death” is a discussion about the modern obsession with prolonging life at any cost. Euthanasia, assisted euthanasia and premature births are the further subjects of this chapter. I found the chapter on near-death experiences fascinating, as it was not a subject I had looked into before. Brother Fowler concludes: “The fact that NDE can be induced pharmacologically is a convincing demonstration that they are the product of a disordered mind and provide no insights into life after death”.

The penultimate chapter, “Medical Aspects of the Crucifixion”, is very interesting. Brother Alan says, after considering the Scriptural evidence from a medical standpoint, that “Jesus’ sudden

and unexpected death was caused by a Roman spear being plunged into his side”. You need to read the whole chapter to appreciate the case which is made for this. The order to pierce Christ’s side was made by the centurion who acknowledged that Jesus was the Son of God. He gave the order to do it under the cover of the growing darkness at the end of the crucifixion day.

Whether or not you go along with Brother Alan’s ideas on the crucifixion, this whole book is well worth having. It is one of those books you want to go on reading because it is so interesting and touches on real issues of daily living. It has both general and Scripture indices, and is tremendous value at £5. It is warmly commended to all, both young and old.

Libya and Russia

Nigel Bernard

Ezekiel 38 indicates that Libya will be an ally of Russia when she invades Israel. A recent visit by the Libyan leader to Moscow has strengthened links between Libya and Russia.

IN EZEKIEL 38:5 some of the allies of Gog are listed: “Persia, Ethiopia and Libya with them; all of them with shield and helmet”. Based on this verse, we should be looking for evidence of links between these countries and Russia, the Gogian invader in this chapter. In this article we will consider the increasing links between Russia and Libya, in the light of a recent visit by the Libyan leader Colonel Muammar Gaddafi to Moscow.

Meetings

In April 2008, the then Russian President, Vladimir Putin, visited Libya. During this visit, it was announced that Russia had cancelled 4.5 billion dollars-worth of Libyan debt to Russia in return for large contracts for Russian companies. These covered such things as the building of a rail link between the cities of Sirte and Benghazi and the construction of liquefied natural gas installations and gas-fired power stations.¹ The cooperation initiated at this meeting was developed further in a recent meeting held in Moscow.

On 1 November 2008 Colonel Gaddafi held meetings with both the Russian President, Dmitry

Medvedev, and the prime minister, Vladimir Putin. In commenting on these talks Mr Medvedev said, “Today we will talk about economic issues, about coordinating certain aspects of our foreign policy and generally about all the issues that are both important and relevant for our relations. I am confident that these talks will give a new impetus to our friendly relations”.²

Colonel Gaddafi responded by saying, “We hope that this visit will allow us to raise our bilateral relations to a new level. All the more so since these relations have a long history. Unfortunately, in the past our relations were characterised mainly by military contacts and along political lines”. He went on to say, “But now the door is open for increased cooperation in the civilian economy and Russian companies have already begun to operate in various such sectors of the Libyan economy”.

Colonel Gaddafi spoke of how he had brought a large delegation with him to discuss these wider issues. Specifically he highlighted energy resources as a main area of future cooperation: “We believe the cooperation between our countries

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1. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/7353997.stm>.
 2. http://president.kremlin.ru/eng/text/speeches/2008/11/01/1758_type82914_208646.shtml.



Libyan President Muammar al-Gaddafi arrives at the EU-Africa summit in Lisbon in December 2007.

Picture: European Commission

in the oil and gas sphere is particularly relevant in current circumstances, especially since we share common practical approaches to oil and gas policy”.

Nuclear

In addition to oil and gas, the online *Tripoli Post* reported that the two countries “signed a civil nuclear cooperation deal”.³ It stated that “Libya and Russia are to cooperate . . . particularly in the design and construction of reactors and the supply of nuclear fuel”. However, according to the BBC, “Libyan Foreign Minister Abdel Rahman Shalgham and state media said Russia’s atomic energy agency and the Libyan Committee for Nuclear Energy had already signed the accord, but a spokesman for Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin said discussions were still under way”.⁴ Whatever the final outcome of these discussions, that such a deal is being contemplated is a sign that Russia and Libya have moved closer together.

Navy

The BBC also commented, “one report suggested Libya might offer Russia the opportunity to open a naval base in Benghazi”, and noted that “Last month, Russian warships docked in Libya before taking part in joint naval exercises with the Venezuelan navy”. If such a development took place it would be of major significance, given that we know from prophecy that Russia will use ships when she invades the Middle East. This is seen in Daniel 11:40: “the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over”. In Numbers 24, Chittim, primarily

modern Cyprus, is spoken of as being one of the places from which ships will come against the mainland: “And ships shall come from the coast of Chittim, and shall afflict Asshur, and shall afflict Eber, and he also shall perish for ever” (v. 24). If Russia was to have a naval base in Libya, this would obviously enhance the ability of its navy to establish a presence in the Mediterranean on the scale which seems to be implied by prophecy.

Shield and helmet

In Ezekiel 38:5, Libya, along with the other nations, is described as having “shield and helmet”. These are defensive items, and defensive capability is one military aspect that Colonel Gaddafi is seeking to improve. As the BBC reported, this may also have been a subject discussed in Moscow: “There has also been speculation that the Kremlin was hoping to press the Libyan leader over potential arms deals. Col. Gaddafi is reportedly in the market for air defence systems, fighter jets, tanks and combat helicopters, as well as service contracts for its ageing Soviet-built arsenal”.

Conclusion

As quoted above, Mr Medvedev spoke of “coordinating certain aspects of our foreign policy”. What this involves is not clear. However, we know from Ezekiel 38 that Russia and Libya will be involved in a coordinated attack against Israel at the time of Armageddon. The improving cooperation between Russia and Libya is just one more piece of evidence that the nations are being prepared for Armageddon.

3. <http://www.tripolipost.com/articledetail.asp?c=1&i=2503>.

4. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/7702488.stm>.