

World watchman

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“Europe threatens to recognise Palestinian state”

THIS RECENT headline from Telegraph.co.uk (13 Dec. 2010) confirms that the issue of Israel's borders and control of the Land of Israel is perceived by the political rulers of our time to be of global importance. Brazil and a number of other South American nations have, within the past month, officially recognised a State of Palestine within the pre-1967 borders of Gaza and the West Bank. Of course, most people today are ignorant of the fact that there never was a Palestinian State within these borders, even prior to the Six-Day War in 1967. These territories, including east Jerusalem, were governed by Egypt and Jordan respectively when the land was divided subsequent to the ending of the British mandate and the declaration of the State of Israel in 1948. During the Six-Day War Israel defeated the Egyptian, Iraqi, Jordanian and Syrian forces massed against her, taking control of east Jerusalem, Gaza, the West Bank and the Golan Heights. Israeli control of these territories has continued to the present day.

When we understand the history of these events it becomes clear that the ‘Palestinian’ people are in fact Arab refugees from as far back as 1947-8 and their descendants, who are being used as pawns by Israel's enemies to try to undermine her. Israel's Arab neighbours failed to destroy her by force in 1948,

1967 and 1973. Realising that the Jews were too strong to defeat militarily, they have subsequently been trying to defeat her by political means, and we see this work carrying on apace today, readily supported by the EU and the UN, amongst others.

It is noteworthy that the nations that have either openly declared their recognition of Palestine (Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and Bolivia) or threatened to declare official recognition (the EU) are nominally Roman Catholic nations, whose political élite will undoubtedly be influenced by the Vatican. This open hostility towards Israel and support for her enemies from Catholic Europe and South America is exactly what we might expect from a power that has been hostile towards God's people down through the ages, beginning with Nimrod and the birth of Babylon proper through to the Roman Catholic European powers today who share those same Babylonian characteristics.

Harper says Canada will stand by Israel

IN contrast, we have a small number of nations such as Canada speaking out in support of Israel. In a recent speech to the Canadian parliament the Canadian prime minister delivered a strongly worded warning about the resurgence of anti-Semitism in Canada and throughout the world. He said that the persecution of Jews is becoming a “global phenomenon in which anti-Semitic ideologies target the Jewish people in their homeland of Israel and use the cloak of human rights to do so When Israel, the only country in the world whose very existence is under attack, is consistently singled out for condemnation, I believe we are morally obligated to take a stand.” In addition, a gloom descended over the Palestinian leadership on news that President Obama no longer supported a Palestinian state



Supporters of Israel in June last year at a pro-Palestinian rally in Ottawa protesting Canada's support of Israel.

Picture: Bigstockphoto.com/Paul McKinnon

within the 1967 borders; and a hardening statement from Mr Abbas declared that “there would be no Israeli presence within the Palestinian state.”

It is interesting to note that the nations who offer support to Israel, or are at least guarded in their criticism, are the English-speaking, nominally Protestant nations, namely, the USA, Canada, the UK, Australia and New Zealand, along with a few others. It is also noteworthy that since Canada took this stand she has been rejected in her bid to take a seat on the UN Security Council, the first time this has happened to Canada in the history of the UN. “There are, after all, a lot more votes, *a lot more*, in being anti-Israel than in taking a stand. But as long as I am prime minister . . . Canada will take that stand,” said Harper in response to the rejection. Portugal, a Roman Catholic EU nation, was preferred to Canada.

And so we see clearly before us a corrupt religious system (the harlot) in alliance with a corrupt human political system (the beast), making war on God’s people Israel. And not just on the Jews; people such as ourselves are in their sights too! Consider also the source of much of the human rights legislation that is impacting on religious freedoms in the UK and across Europe: a ‘Christian’ British Airways employee is forbidden to wear a cross openly at work; a nurse who offers to pray with a terminally ill patient is sacked; a couple who own bed and breakfast accommodation are prosecuted through the courts for refusing to allow homosexual men to sleep together on their premises—the list could go on.

The root cause of all of these examples can be traced back to the humanist philosophy and

legislation emanating from the EU. Paradoxical as it may seem, this truth-hating political system is inextricably allied with, and influenced by, Roman Catholicism. With such a perfect storm of truth-hating systems we should not be at all surprised that these, and others, will “make war with the Lamb” (Rev. 17:14) when he appears.

Wikileaks reveals secret alliance

ONE cannot but fail to have noticed the unrelenting news stories over the past two months relating to the Wikileaks website. Thousands of confidential communiqués between high-ranking diplomats and representatives of various nations have been placed into the public domain, opening a window on an otherwise secret world. This is a world where the angels are hard at work ensuring that God’s purpose with the nations is accomplished.

“Sheba, Dedan, the merchants of Tarshish, and all their young lions will say to you, ‘Have you come to take plunder?’”
(Ezek. 38:13, NKJV).

One leak in particular that caught my eye concerned the Middle East and relations between the USA, Saudi Arabia and Israel. The revelations (reported by Guardian.co.uk) describe discussions in which King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia urged the USA to attack Iran

in order to destroy her nuclear facilities and prevent her from obtaining nuclear weapons. In addition it revealed a secret alliance between Israel, the USA, Saudi Arabia and the Gulf States to contain the Iranian threat to security in the region.

This comes as no surprise to those who love God’s Word and listen to His prophetic warnings. It is a wonderful tonic to our faith when we see the nations lining up just as God said they would; but let us not lose sight of the fact that this means that we are very close to the Almighty intervening openly in the affairs of men.

“Russia provides 10 MiG fighters to Lebanon for free”

TIMESONLINE.CO.UK carried this story in early December, reporting increased military cooperation between Moscow and Beirut: “The MiG29 Fulcrum fighters would be provided free to Lebanon under an agreement on military-technical assistance, the head of Russia’s defence cooperation service said. Mikhail Dmitryev said that the jets would come from Russia’s existing stock.”

The same article went on to report Russian negotiations to use the northern Syrian port of Tartus as a base to provide a permanent presence for the Russian navy in the Mediterranean. Russia is already a major arms supplier to Syria.

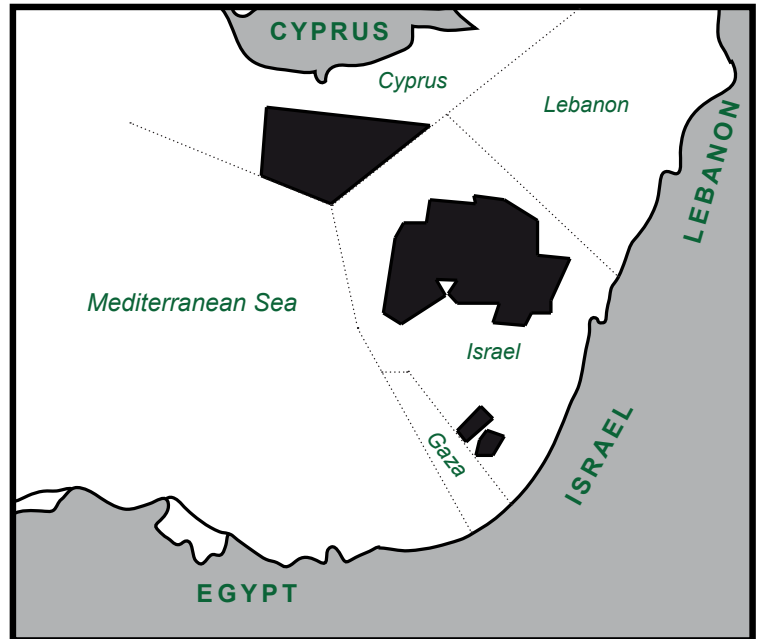
Russia is working hard to restore her influence in the Middle East, and seems to be working especially hard to woo the Lebanese in recent months. What could be the motivation for this heightened interest in the eastern Mediterranean? The answer lies in energy.

“Thus says the Lord GOD: ‘Behold, I am against you, O Gog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal; and I will turn you around and lead you on, bringing you up from the far north, and bring you against the mountains of Israel’” (Ezek. 39:1,2, NKJV).

Leviathan rears its head

THE story of the discovery of Israel’s offshore natural gas and oil has been reported since late 2009, but the true significance of the find is only now being revealed. Working in partnership with US exploration companies, Israel has discovered natural-gas and oil fields in her coastal waters with reserves of many hundreds of trillions of cubic feet of natural gas and potentially millions of barrels of oil. A discovery of this magnitude will make Israel a net exporter of energy and will be worth hundreds of billions of dollars to the Israeli economy.

Energy reserves on this scale have attracted the attention of Israel’s neighbours keen to get in on the economic action.



The Leviathan field is part of the large area of exploration depicted in black in the centre of Israel’s maritime jurisdiction.

The Lebanese government is contending that the largest find, the Leviathan field eighty miles off the coast of Haifa, extends into Lebanese coastal waters. And it is not only the neighbours who are interested. Russia’s recent ‘technical assistance’ to the Lebanese military, and her desire to find a permanent home for her navy in the eastern Mediterranean, is undoubtedly influenced by her interest in the Israeli discovery and the effect it may have on the Russian position as the world’s number-one natural-gas producer.

Energy dominance is a weapon of influence that Mr Putin has been able to use ruthlessly to get what he thinks is best for Russia. The recent extension to the prison term of Mikhail

Khodorkovsky (potentially Mr Putin’s strongest opponent for the forthcoming prime ministerial elections in 2012), in what was described by Western governments as a “charade trial” (Guardian.co.uk), reveals the lengths to which Vladimir Putin will go to secure his power and influence at home.

Mr Khodorkovsky will be languishing in a Siberian prison until well after 2012! A challenge to Russia’s international dominance and influence resulting from her near monopoly on the natural-gas export market will not be taken lightly.

The hand of our heavenly Father is undoubtedly at work in all these events, drawing us ever closer to the glorious Kingdom of His Son.