

identifying this power is the geographical location. It will radiate from what is now northern **Turkey** south and east towards **Israel**. This power will be the Russian power led by **Gog**. It is the same power as the **dragon** of Revelation 16, that **dragon** formerly used in Revelation 13 to represent the Eastern part of the Roman Empire with its capital **Constantinople**. From Daniel 8 we can therefore expect **Russia** to occupy **Istanbul** (formerly **Constantinople**), to prosper by crafty foreign policy and to beguile nations to destruction by the false promise of peace. (Refs. 9, 11, 27)

Horns, ten

In Daniel 7 the fourth **beast** had ten horns: "And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings" (v. 24). These horns represent different parts of **Europe** over which the Roman Empire ruled. Some of these became papal states, as symbolised by three of them being subdued by the little **horn**. In Revelation there are ten horns on the **beast** representing the pagan Roman Empire: "And there appeared another wonder in **heaven**; and behold a great red **dragon**, having seven **heads** and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads" (Rev. 12:3). The European nations gained more influence as the Roman Empire began to wane, and thus in Revelation 13 the horns on the 'Christian' **beast** of

the **sea** have crowns: "And I stood upon the sand of the **sea**, and saw a **beast** rise up out of the **sea**, having seven **heads** and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his **heads** the name of blasphemy" (v. 1).

In Revelation 17 the European **beast** at the time of the end is also seen to have ten horns: "So he carried me away in the spirit into the **wilderness**: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured **beast**, full of names of blasphemy, having seven **heads** and ten horns" (v. 3). There was a time when the peoples of **Europe** turned against the Catholic Church, particularly in the aftermath of the French Revolution, and this is spoken of in verse 16: "And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the **beast**, these shall hate the **whore**, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire". However, when Christ returns the horns will be at one with **Rome**. Moreover, they will willingly devote their energy to the furtherance of **Europe** as a whole, even at the expense of some autonomy: "And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the **beast**. These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the **beast**" (vv. 12,13). However, this unity upon which **Europe** will be founded will be fundamentally flawed. This is shown by the toes on the **image of Nebuchadnezzar**, which correspond to the horns on the **beast**, being of iron and clay (Dan. 2:42). (Refs. 9, 10, 11, 26)

Image, Nebuchadnezzar's

The image seen by Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel 2 is a prophecy which begins with Nebuchadnezzar—"Thou art this head of gold" (v. 38)—and ends with the Kingdom of God filling "the whole earth" (v. 35). It is a prophecy which provides a continuous account of succeeding empires that would have an impact on God's people: **Babylon**, Medo-Persia, **Greece** and **Rome**. As most of the prophecy has already been fulfilled, from our perspective it is mostly historic. It is thus a continuous-historic prophecy. As such it provides a model for understanding the continuous-historic prophecy of Revelation, with the legs, feet and toes corresponding to the period covered by this prophecy.

After the Roman Empire had come to an end, its influence lived on in the form of the Holy Roman Empire. However, the iron strength of the original Roman Empire, which was present also in the Holy Roman Empire, was being compromised by the increasing emergence of independent countries. This process was accelerated by the French Revolution, which saw the emergence of socialist teachings and democracy (Rev. 16:13) whereby the common man with his fleshly thinking, the "seed of men" (Dan. 2:43), although weak of himself, nevertheless had more influence upon the rulers of the nations.

At the present time in **Europe** the individual nations, represented by the toes of the image, are increasingly giving what strength they have

to the ideal of a united **Europe**. In Revelation 17 this is described as follows: “These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the **beast**” (v. 13). The **beast** here represents the latter-day European manifestation of the iron strength of the Roman Empire. The nations who give away their “power and strength” thus become weak like the clay in the toes of the image. This is a fragile arrangement: “they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay” (Dan. 2:43). Indeed, during the French Revolution this fragility had been exposed, for it was prophesied: “And the ten **horns** which thou sawest upon the **beast**, these shall hate the **whore**, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire” (Rev. 17:16). This came to pass in the way in which the people turned against the Catholic Church in the nineteenth century. However, the iron and clay will sustain a union long enough to oppose Christ when he returns.

The toes of the image thus represent the days immediately prior to the return of Christ. However, the image also represents in its completeness the nations at the time of the end. This is shown in Daniel 2:35: “Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great **mountain**, and filled the whole earth”. That all the components of the image are “broken to pieces together” indicates that they must all be in existence in some form at the time of the end. At the head of this confederacy will be the Babylonian influence of **Rome**, led by the papal **false prophet**, giving it a religious motivation. The two legs, originally symbolising the Western and Eastern halves of the Roman Empire, will be manifest by a united European **beast** in the West and the Russian **dragon** in the East. Once **Gog** has invaded **Israel** and moved into **Egypt** the image will truly be standing astride the continents. At this point **Armageddon** will take place and the destruction of the image will begin. ([Refs. 9, 11, 15](#))

India

India features in the Bible only in Esther, where it is mentioned to indicate the eastern extent of the Persian Empire: “Now it came to pass in the days of Ahasuerus, (this is Ahasuerus which

reigned, from India even unto **Ethiopia**, over an hundred and seven and twenty provinces:) . . .” (1:1, cf. 8:9). It is thought by some that India might have been the country named **Tharshish** (or **Tarshish**) in 1 Kings 10:22: “For the king had at sea a navy of **Tharshish** with the navy of Hiram: once in three years came the navy of **Tharshish**, bringing gold, and silver, ivory, and apes, and peacocks”. However, it is by no means certain that India was the country to which these ships went.

Irrespective of whether or not India was an ‘eastern **Tarshish**’, there is no doubt about the historic link between India and **Britain**. As a member of the Commonwealth and a key country in the former British Empire, India is one of the “**young lions**” of **Tarshish** (Ezek. 38:13). We therefore expect India to remain close to **Britain** and to be an important ally to her at the time of the end.

- **1600** British East India Company chartered by Queen Elizabeth I
- **1668** Company given Bombay by Charles II
- **1690** Calcutta founded as the company’s major centre in Bengal
- **1784** India Act set up government Board of Control to oversee the company
- **1858** India comes under direct rule of the British crown; East India Company abolished after failed Indian mutiny
- **1920-22** Mahatma Gandhi initiates anti-British civil disobedience campaign
- **1947** India and the newly-formed Pakistan achieve independence.

Iran

Iran was a monarchy for over 2,000 years but became an Islamic republic in 1979. Although mostly Muslim, there are many ethnic groups within Iran, which gives potential for unrest. It is rich in petroleum and gas, in particular in the southwest province of Khuzestan. Since the revolution in 1979, in which the Shah was overthrown, the country has been anti-Western. It had a debilitating war with **Iraq** during the 1980s, but relations were restored between the two countries in the 1990s, although it still has several outstanding issues with **Iraq** over boundaries.

In Bible prophecy Iran relates to **Persia**, and it is listed as one of the allies of **Gog**: “**Persia**, **Ethiopia**, and **Libya** with them; all of them with shield and helmet” (Ezek. 38:5). As such, it is to

be expected that Iran will develop increasingly close ties with **Russia**. In addition, the Biblical **Elam** also relates to Iran, particularly the south-western province of Khuzestan. Of **Elam** it is written: "But it shall come to pass in the latter days, that I will bring again the captivity of **Elam**, saith the LORD" (Jer. 49:39). This could be interpreted as relating to Iran as a whole, in which case its prominent role in the Middle East, not least because of its petroleum reserves, could be seen as a fulfilment of this. However, it may also be understood as relating especially to the area of Khuzestan, in which case we should be looking for this area to play an increasingly prominent part in Iranian and Middle Eastern affairs.

- **1907** Anglo-Russian Entente divides the country into three
- **1908** Petroleum discovered
- **1935** Changes name from **Persia** to Iran
- **1941** Muhammad Reza Shah Pahlavi becomes Shah
- **1953** The Shah flees the country temporarily when challenged by nationalist leader Muhammad Mosaddeq, but returns with strong Western backing
- **1963** The Shah inaugurates ambitious modernisation, the White Revolution
- **1979** The Shah flees the country and is replaced by Islamic fundamentalist Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini
- **1980-88** War with **Iraq**.

Iraq

Iraq sits astride the Tigris and **Euphrates** Rivers; Mesopotamia, an earlier name for the area, means 'the land between the rivers'. It was formerly part of the Ottoman Empire, but during the First World War it came under the control of **Britain**. This led to a British mandate, which came to an end with independence in 1932. From 1979 to 2003 the country was ruthlessly ruled by Saddam Hussein. Most of the population is Muslim. Significant groups within the population include the Kurds to the northeast and the Shiites in the south.

The northern part of Iraq is the site of ancient **Assyria**. The remains of Nineveh, the capital of this empire, are located near the northern town of Mosul. In Psalm 83 Assur (**Assyria**) is one of the nations which gather against **Israel** at the time of the end: "Assur also is joined with them" (v. 8). If this is construed as referring to the actual area which was once the seat of the Assyrians

then we would expect Iraq to be against **Israel** at the time of the end. The south of Iraq was the location of **Babylon**, which is used to symbolise the Roman Catholic system in the last days; there do not appear to be prophecies spoken of **Babylon** which can be applied to modern Iraq.

In Isaiah 11 the recovery of **Jews** from **Assyria** at the time of the return of Christ is prophesied: "And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set His hand again the second time to recover the remnant of His people, which shall be left, from **Assyria** . . ." (v. 11). There are very few **Jews** in Iraq at the present time. It may be that some **Jews** will be taken captive to Iraq when the Gogian invasion takes place.

Once Christ has returned, then Iraq will be moulded to the ways of God: ". . . whom the LORD of hosts shall bless, saying, Blessed be **Egypt** My people, and **Assyria** the work of My hands, and **Israel** Mine inheritance" (19:25). A major road will be built which will link northern Iraq with **Egypt**: "In that day shall there be a highway out of **Egypt** to **Assyria**, and the Assyrian shall come into **Egypt**, and the Egyptian into **Assyria**, and the Egyptians shall serve with the Assyrians" (v. 23).

- **1920** Becomes British mandate of League of Nations
- **1932** Gains independence as a monarchy
- **1958** Revolution leads to socialist republic being established
- **1979** Saddam Hussein comes to power
- **1980-88** War with **Iran**
- **1981** Nuclear reactor bombed by **Israel**
- **1990** Invasion of Kuwait
- **1991** Gulf War
- **2003** Invasion by **United States** and allies.

Israel

Modern Israel is a parliamentary democracy, with around eighty per cent of its population Jewish. Its natural resources are apparently limited and it relies heavily on imports for crude oil and raw materials, but it is technologically advanced and its industrial and agricultural sectors are highly developed. During the 1990s its economy was given a significant boost by the influx of immigrants from the former USSR and by the emergence of new markets as a result of the end of the Cold War. This progress was to an extent offset by the Palestinian Intifada that began in 2000.



David Ben-Gurion proclaims the Jewish State, 14 May 1948

Jeremiah stated: “For, lo, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will bring again the captivity of My people Israel and **Judah**, saith the LORD: and I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it” (30:3). Whilst this will have its ultimate fulfilment when Christ is King, the return of the **Jews** to the Land in the twentieth century has provided an initial fulfilment of this prophecy. Isaiah said: “And they shall build the old wastes, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the waste cities, the desolations of many generations” (61:4); and Ezekiel wrote: “And the desolate land shall be tilled, whereas it lay desolate in the sight of all that passed by” (36:34). These verses likewise have begun to be fulfilled with the return of the **Jews** to the Land, albeit in unbelief.

The Lord Jesus Christ said: “Behold the fig tree, and all the **trees**; when they now shoot forth, ye see and know of your own selves that summer is now nigh at hand. So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye

that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand” (Lk. 21:29-31). We have seen the fig tree of Israel beginning to shoot forth in the twentieth century, although it is as yet bringing forth no spiritual fruit.

Ezekiel 38 shows that there will be **Jews** in the Land prior to the invasion of **Gog**: “After many days thou shalt be visited: in the latter years thou shalt come into the land that is brought back from the sword, and is gathered out of many people, against the mountains of Israel, which have been always waste: but it is brought forth out of the nations, and they shall dwell safely all of them” (v. 8).

Whilst dwelling safely, the people in the Land are also living in transgression, as Ezekiel goes on to show: “. . . after that they have borne their shame, and all their trespasses whereby they have trespassed against Me, when they dwelt safely in their land, and none made them afraid” (39:26).

Israel will be dwelling “safely”, or confidently, at this time, to the extent that they will be dwell-

ing “without walls, and having neither bars nor gates” (38:11). This implies that a period of peace will have come in Israel that leads to a relaxation of security measures. However, destruction from **Gog** will be imminent, as Paul wrote: “For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them” (1 Thess. 5:3).

When **Gog** invades Israel there will be much spoil: “. . . to take a spoil, and to take a prey; to turn thine [**Gog’s**] hand upon the desolate places that are now inhabited, and upon the people that are gathered out of the nations, which have gotten cattle and goods, that dwell in the midst of the land. **Sheba**, and **Dedan**, and the merchants of **Tarshish**, with all the **young lions** thereof, shall say unto thee, Art thou come to take a spoil? hast thou gathered thy company to take a prey? to carry away silver and gold, to take away cattle and goods, to take a great spoil?” (Ezek. 38:12,13). This implies that Israel will be a prosperous country as the time of the end nears fruition.

God said through Ezekiel: “And I will make with them a covenant of peace, and will cause the evil beasts to cease out of the land: and they shall dwell safely in the **wilderness**, and sleep in the woods” (34:25). The “evil beasts” ultimately represent the nations who will gather themselves against **Jerusalem** at **Armageddon**. However, the Land already has Gentiles causing terror within it, although this threat will subside as peace and safety occur.

We therefore expect Israel to continue to live in ignorance of the true gospel, in transgression of their God. At the same time their prosperity will increase and a period of peace and safety will develop leading to a false sense of security and confidence. When these conditions prevail then the invasion of **Gog** will take place.

- **1917** Balfour Declaration
- **1948** State of Israel declared
- **1950** **Jerusalem** proclaimed capital
- **1956** Suez-Sinai War
- **1967** Six-Day War
- **1973** Yom Kippur War
- **1979** Peace Treaty with **Egypt**
- **1981** Golan Heights annexed
- **1982** Withdraws from Sinai, invades **Lebanon**
- **1994** Peace Accord with **Jordan**
- **1995** Murder of Yitzhak Rabin
- **2000** Withdraws from **Lebanon**.

Istanbul

The original city built on the site of modern Istanbul was founded by the Greeks and was called Byzantium. In the fourth century A.D. the Roman Emperor Constantine chose the city as his capital. He enlarged and fortified it and renamed it Constantinople. The Roman Empire became divided into two, with **Rome** in the West being the religious capital whilst Constantinople in the East was more military in nature. The Eastern half of the Roman Empire came to be known as the Byzantine Empire. In Revelation 13 the Eastern half of the empire is symbolised by a **dragon** giving military support to the Western half of the empire: “And the **beast** which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the **dragon** gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority” (v. 2). As the second capital of the Roman Empire, Constantinople became known as the **Second Rome**.

Apart from a period in the thirteenth century when it was occupied by the Crusaders, the city remained in the control of the Byzantines until 1453, when it was taken by the Ottomans. It was the capital of the Ottoman Empire until the empire finally came to an end as a result of the First World War. The city was taken over by Turkish nationalists and was renamed Istanbul in 1930.

In Daniel 8 the development of Roman influence in the eastern **Mediterranean** is prophesied, developing in the wake of the divisions of the Greek Empire: “And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors are come to the full, a king of fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up” (v. 23). This king, symbolised by a little **horn** of the goat (v. 9), is the political and military counterpart to the religious **horn** in Daniel 7. As such, the Byzantine Empire, with Constantinople as its capital, was a development of the little **horn** power of the goat.

In Daniel 8 the little **horn** power is in existence at the time of the end and will oppose Christ: “And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many: he shall also stand up against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without hand” (v. 25). This power corresponds to the **dragon** in Revelation 16: “And I saw three unclean spirits like **frogs** come out of the mouth of the **dragon**, and out of the mouth of the **beast**, and out of the

mouth of the **false prophet**" (v. 13). As **Russia** moves south into the Middle East it will occupy Istanbul, and then it will truly be seen to have taken on fully the mantle of the **dragon** power. Like the original Eastern half of the Roman Empire, it will provide military support to the **papacy** in the West in **Rome**. (Refs. 10, 11, 27)

- **1918** Allies control the city
- **1922** Turkish nationalists gain control of the city
- **1930** Constantinople renamed Istanbul.

Italy

In the early nineteenth century the Italian peninsula was a collection of separate states. As prophesied by the vials of Revelation 16, Italy, as one of the countries integrally linked to the **beast**, was punished by the Napoleonic Wars. For example, it is written concerning the third **vial**: "And the third angel poured out his **vial** upon the rivers and fountains of waters; and they became blood" (v. 4). This relates to the effect of the Napoleonic wars in the areas to the north of Italy and in Switzerland, which have many lakes and rivers. Italy was united in 1861 when the Kingdom of Italy was proclaimed. After the end of the Second World War, in 1946, it became a democratic republic. Italy has a predominantly Roman Catholic population, and its recent history has been beset by corruption and crime. Italy has played a dominant role in the EU and its forerunner the EEC. At the time of end Italy

J

Javan

Javan was a son of Japheth: "The sons of Japheth; **Gomer**, and **Magog**, and **Madai**, and **Javan**, and **Tubal**, and **Meshech**, and **Tiras**" (Gen. 10:2). The name is thought by some to be closely associated with Ionia, an area in the west of ancient Anatolia. However, in prophecy the name refers to the Greeks in general and is sometimes rendered 'Greece' or 'Grecia' in the AV. Javan traded with **Tyre**, and this trade included slaves: "Javan, **Tubal**, and **Meshech**, they were thy merchants: they traded the persons of men and vessels of brass in thy market" (Ezek. 27:13). As Joel 3 shows, this trade in slaves sometimes in-

will be one of the countries which "receive power as kings one hour with the **beast**" (17:12) and will give its "power and strength unto the **beast**" (v. 13).

Italy's future is bound up with the prophecies which relate to its capital **Rome** and the **papacy**, prophecies which speak of eventual destruction: "And a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast it into the **sea**, saying, Thus with violence shall that great city **Babylon** be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all" (18:21). (Refs. 10, 23, 26)

- **1808** Napoleon occupies **Rome**
- **1809** Napoleon annexes Papal States
- **1815** Congress of Vienna returns Papal States except Avignon to **papacy**
- **1861** Kingdom of Italy proclaimed
- **1870** **Rome** included as part of the new state; the papacy loses temporal power
- **1882** Joins Triple Alliance with **Germany** and **Austria**
- **1915** Enters World War I with Allies
- **1919** Mussolini founds fascism
- **1922** Mussolini named prime minister
- **1929** Lateran Treaty in which the papacy accepts loss of the Papal States and Italy recognises Vatican City as an independent state
- **1940** Enters World War II
- **1946** Popular election abolishes the monarchy in favour of a republic
- **1949** Joins NATO
- **1951** Joins European Coal and Steel Community.

cluded **Jews**: "the children also of **Judah** and the children of **Jerusalem** have ye sold unto the Grecians, that ye might remove them far from their border" (v. 6).

This had a fulfilment when the **Jews** were scattered during the Babylonian invasion, and will occur again when **Gog** invades. Once Christ is King the **Jews** will be brought back from Javan: "And I will set a sign among them, and I will send those that escape of them unto the nations, to **Tarshish**, **Pul**, and **Lud**, that draw the bow, to **Tubal**, and **Javan**, to the isles afar off, that have not heard My fame, neither have seen My glory; and they shall declare My glory among the Gentiles" (Isa. 66:19).