

Those who will be judged first will be those of the household of faith: "For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God" (1 Pet. 4:17).

Once the **saints** have been judged they will begin to march towards **Israel**, probably from **Sinai**, marching through the area of ancient **Edom** (Isa. 63:1; Hab. 3:3), and will eventually enter **Israel** from the east. As they near **Jerusalem** Christ will stand on the Mount of Olives and a great **earthquake** will take place: "And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before **Jerusalem** on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst

thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south" (Zech. 14:4). The Mount of Olives will thus be changed forever by the great **earthquake**, which will wreak enormous destruction upon the earth (Ezek. 38:20). It will be replaced by a valley running west to east with a river running through it into the Dead Sea: "And it shall be in that day, that living waters shall go out from **Jerusalem**; half of them toward the former sea, and half of them toward the hinder sea: in summer and in winter shall it be" (Zech. 14:8). (**Refs. 2, 8**)

N

Noah, days of

The Lord Jesus compared the days of Noah to the time of the end: "But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord

doth come" (Mt. 24:37-42). In the days leading up to the Flood the world carried on with the everyday things of life and was oblivious of what was about to happen. In contrast, Noah "By faith . . . being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith" (Heb. 11:7).

In Genesis it is said of the days of Noah: "The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence" (6:11). We can therefore expect the world to become more corrupt and violent in the days leading up to the return of Christ. (**Ref. 12**)

P

Palestina

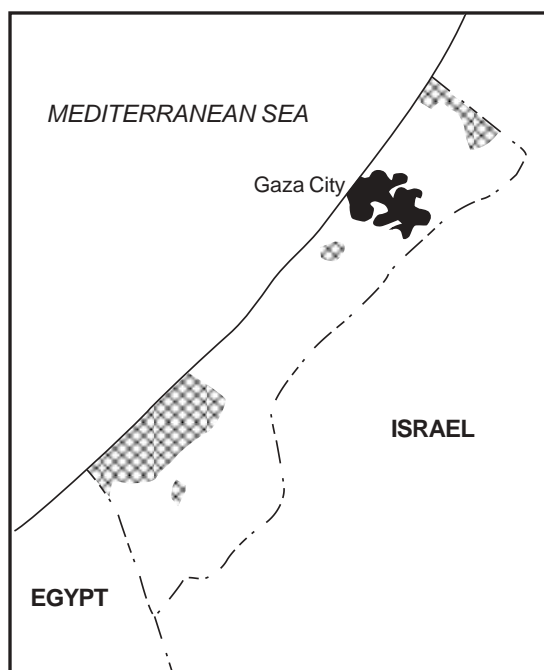
See **Palestine**.

Palestine

Up until the establishment of the State of **Israel** the word 'Palestine' referred to what was essentially the area covered by ancient **Israel**. Today **Arabs** living in the area are known as **Palestinians**, and there is a desire amongst them for a **Palestinian** state to be established. In the Bible the word 'Palestine' transliterates a Hebrew word which is also rendered in the AV as 'Palestina' and 'Philistia'. It refers to the area of land origi-

nally inhabited by the **Philistines**, which incorporates the area today known as the **Gaza Strip**. In Joel 3 it is prophesied that this area will be punished by God for the way its inhabitants behave towards the **Jews** during the invasion of **Gog**: "Yea, and what have ye to do with Me, O **Tyre**, and **Zidon**, and all the coasts of **Palestine**? will ye render Me a recompence? and if ye recompense Me, swiftly and speedily will I return your recompence upon your own head" (v. 4).

With Christ as King, the area will be possessed by God's people: "But they shall fly upon the shoulders of the **Philistines** toward the west" (Isa. 11:14); "And they of the south shall possess the mount of **Esau**; and they of the plain the **Philistines**" (Obad. v. 19).



The Gaza Strip. Hatched blocks indicate main Israeli settlement areas.

Papacy

The papacy is the title given to the office of pope and to the government of the Roman Catholic Church. According to Roman Catholics, the pope, as Bishop of **Rome**, is the successor to the Apostle Peter, whom they believe to have been given primacy, as the visible head of the Church, by Christ.

In the last two centuries the history of the papacy has been in some senses a paradox. It suffered greatly from the effects of the French Revolution and Napoleon's wars, including the loss of the Papal States. Although most were returned to it following the Congress of Vienna in 1815, they were annexed to the new Kingdom of **Italy** in 1870, and at this point the pope lost his temporal power. In 1929 the Lateran Treaty created the Vatican State, and with it some independence was restored, but it did not amount to a restoration of temporal power. In 1984 the papacy also had a setback when the Italian Government severed its constitutional link between the Holy See and the state. The paradox lies in the fact that the papacy, although suffering these setbacks, has in many ways increased its influence in the last two centuries.

Although the revolutions in the nineteenth century had destroyed much of the papal authority, when the monarchs in **Europe** were restored they saw the papacy as their ally. Also, the freedom of religious thought that developed in the nineteenth century gave the papacy opportunity to regain its authority in the hearts and minds of those who were sympathetic to its cause. The papacy also increased its control over missionary activity during the nineteenth century, and in 1870 the First Vatican Council defined papal infallibility and further centralised the ecclesiastical government in **Rome**.

In the latter part of the twentieth century Pope John Paul II strengthened papal authority by taking an uncompromising view on Catholic doctrine and by promoting those who showed loyalty to the Vatican. He increased ecumenical contacts and travelled widely throughout the world. His influence was particularly felt in Eastern **Europe**, and his teaching, with its brand of social justice, did much towards bringing down Communism.

The papacy is the little **horn** in Daniel 7: "I considered the **horns**, and, behold, there came up among them another little **horn**, before whom there were three of the first **horns** plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this **horn** were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things" (v. 8). The three **horns** which were "plucked up" represent the Papal States that the pope acquired. Although he no longer has these states, the prophecy shows that he would continue to make "war with the **saints**" (v. 21) until Christ returns, when judgement will then be given "to the **saints** of the most High" (v. 22).

The first five vials in Revelation 16 speak of the great punishment that came upon the papacy during the nineteenth century. However, in the **sixth vial** the papacy, depicted as a **false prophet**, is seen still to be active: "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). The humanistic teaching on social justice that the papacy has promulgated in the last twenty-five years is an example of a **frog-like spirit**.

As the "**man of sin**" (2 Thess. 2:3), the papacy will be in existence at the time of the end: ". . . whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming" (v. 8). At the time of the end it will be said of Roman Catholicism: "How

much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow" (Rev. 18:7). This shows that the papacy will glorify itself in the years leading up to the return of Christ. We should therefore be looking for the papacy to continue to increase its influence and prestige in the world.

The end for the **false prophet** is spoken of in Revelation 19: "And the **beast** was taken, and with him the **false prophet** that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the **beast**, and them that worshipped his **image**. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone" (v. 20). ([Refs. 1, 10, 16, 26](#))

Persia

Persia was the great empire which, together with the Medes, replaced the Babylonian Empire. At its height it stretched from **India** to **Ethiopia**: "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:) . . ." (Est. 1:1). In Daniel 8 the empire is symbolised as a ram with two horns: "The ram which thou sawest having two horns are the kings of Media and Persia" (v. 20). This ram would be overthrown by the Grecian goat: "And I saw him come close unto

R

Rome

Rome is the capital of **Italy** and also the seat of the **papacy**, with the Vatican City being contained within it as a separate state. In Revelation Rome is symbolised as a woman: "And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden **cup** in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication. And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, **BABYLON** THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH . . . And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the **kings of the earth**" (17:4,5,18). The wickedness of this city is like **Babylon** of old, and it will be completely destroyed when Christ returns: "And

the ram, and he was moved with choler against him, and smote the ram, and brake his two horns: and there was no power in the ram to stand before him, but he cast him down to the ground, and stamped upon him: and there was none that could deliver the ram out of his hand" (v. 7). In Bible prophecy relating to the time of the end Persia is listed as one of the allies of **Gog**, and corresponds to the modern-day country of **Iran**: "Persia, **Ethiopia**, and **Libya** with them; all of them with shield and helmet" (Ezek. 38:5).

Philistia

See **Palestine**.

Phut, Put

Phut was one of the sons of Ham: "And the sons of Ham; **Cush**, and Mizraim, and Phut, and Canaan" (Gen. 10:6). The Hebrew word for Phut is also rendered as Put and **Libya** in the AV. The people of Phut settled to the west of **Egypt**, in an area corresponding to modern-day **Libya**. They are mentioned as one of the allies of the Egyptian city of No or Thebes (Nah. 3:8,9) and as an ally of **Tyre** (Ezek. 27:10), but they are otherwise rarely mentioned in the Scriptures. They will be one of the allies of **Gog** when he invades **Israel**: "**Persia**, **Ethiopia**, and **Libya** with them; all of them with shield and helmet" (38:5).

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, 16, 23](#))

- **1870** Rome included as part of new state, papacy loses temporal power
- **1929** Lateran Treaty in which papacy accepts loss of Papal States and **Italy** recognises Vatican City as independent state.

Rosh

Rosh is a Hebrew word which is most commonly translated as 'head'. Its first occurrence is found in Genesis 2: "And a river went out of Eden to water the garden; and from thence it was parted,