

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

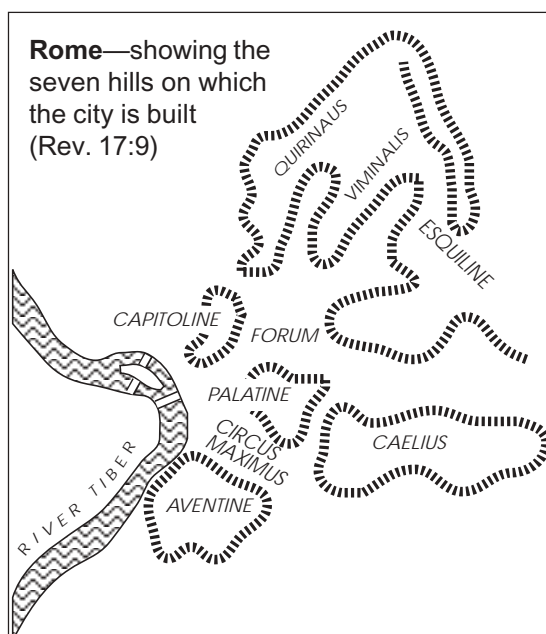
Phut was one of the sons of Ham: "And the sons of Ham; **Cush**, and Mizraim, and Phut, and Canaan" (Gen. 10:6). The Hebrew word for Phut is also rendered as Put and **Libya** in the AV. The people of Phut settled to the west of **Egypt**, in an area corresponding to modern-day **Libya**. They are mentioned 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,



and became into four *heads*” (v. 10). *Rosh Hashanah* (‘head of the year’) is the name given by **Jews** to the New Year.

The word is also often translated ‘chief’, and one such occurrence is found in Ezekiel 38: “Son of man, set thy face against **Gog**, the land of **Magog**, the *chief* prince of **Meshech** and **Tubal**, and prophesy against him” (v. 2; see also v. 3; 39:1). It is not unusual to find *rosh* and the Hebrew for ‘prince’ in the same context, for example: “These were the renowned of the congregation, *princes* of the tribes of their fathers, *heads* [*rosh*] of thousands in **Israel**” (Num. 1:16). However, the way the words occur in Ezekiel 38, literally “prince chief”, suggests to many that *rosh* should be transliterated as a proper name, as in the RV, “prince of Rosh”. That it can be a proper name is shown by Genesis 46:21, where *Rosh* refers to a son of Benjamin.

The similarity between *Rosh* and the name **Russia** in its earlier form *Rus*, together with all the other evidence in Ezekiel 38, leads to the conclusion that *Rosh* should be understood as referring to the modern country of **Russia**. There is doubt, however, as to whether or not this was a name in use at the time of Ezekiel. Some argue, for example, that *Rus* originally referred to Swedish Viking colonists who moved south in the ninth century A.D. into what is now northern **Russia**. This is based on the claim made in the Russian Chronicles compiled in the twelfth century. However, the Novgorod Chronicles

written in the ninth century say that the area was called *Rus* prior to the arrival of the Vikings.

Even if the name *Rosh* was not known at the time of Ezekiel, the prophecy remarkably anticipates the name, as did the Spirit through Isaiah with regard to Cyrus (Isa. 44:28; 45:1). Furthermore, even if it is argued that *rosh* in Ezekiel 38 is not a proper name, but should be translated ‘chief’, there would still be present a play on words between this word and the name *Rus*. However, the evidence suggests that *Rosh* is a proper name that refers to an ancient people to the north of **Israel** who later developed into the Russian nation. ([Refs. 3, 7, 28](#))

Russia

Russia is the largest country in the world. It has the greatest supply of natural resources, including petroleum, natural gas, coal and precious metals, but much of these are in remote areas and are difficult to exploit. Russia was formerly part of the Communist Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR). In the late 1980s President Gorbachev sought to modernise Communism with a combination of *glasnost* (openness) and *perestroika* (restructuring). These initiatives, however, led to the collapse of the USSR, with it being replaced by fifteen independent republics. Since then Russia has slowly been developing its economy and is increasingly establishing itself once more as a major power.

Russia is referred to by such ancient names as **Rosh** and **Magog** in Ezekiel 38, and is the **king of the north** in Daniel 11. As such, it will eventually invade south into the Middle East and go through the land of **Israel** to **Egypt**. As Ezekiel 38:5,6 shows, Russia will have many allies when it invades **Israel**. These include **Persia (Iran)**, **Ethiopia (Sudan)**, **Libya**, **Gomer (France and Germany)** and **Togarmah (Armenia)**. Russia will also have a protective role towards these nations: “be thou a guard unto them” (v. 7). We can therefore expect Russia to develop relations with countries such as these as the time of the end progresses. In particular, this will involve increasingly closer links with Western **Europe**. As Russia moves south through **Turkey** and possesses **Istanbul (Constantinople)** it will take on the mantle of the **dragon** (Rev. 16:13).

It is also said of **Gog**: “and I will turn thee back” (Ezek. 38:4). This implies that **Gog** had been going in the opposite direction required by

God. It could be that its removal from Afghanistan, the loss of its empire and the earlier humiliating expulsion of its advisors from **Egypt** in 1972 constitute the retreat from which **Gog** will be brought back with hooks in its jaws.

Prophecies about the invasion of **Israel** by **Assyria** also have a latter-day application to Russia. The ruthlessness of ancient **Assyria** will be replicated by Russia. Hints of this have already been seen in the brutal conflict in Chechnya. As well as **Assyria**, prophecies about the Chaldeans also have an application to Russia. In Habakkuk 2 there is a prophecy about the Chaldeans but it also concerns the time of “the end” (v. 3). It speaks of a power that “ladeth himself with thick clay” (v. 6), better rendered ‘something pledged’. This speaks of a nation which increases its influence by surrounding itself with other nations who owe it money. Moreover, there is an element of exploitation, for he “increaseth that which is not his” (v. 6).

We can thus expect Russia as the latter-day Chaldean invader to use not only military might

but also more subtle methods in order to achieve self-aggrandisement. This is also spoken of in Daniel 8, where Russia is the latter-day little **horn of the goat**: “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” (v. 25). ([Refs. 3, 7, 15, 28](#))

- **1914** Entered First World War in support of Serbia
- **1917** Revolution—Romanovs overthrown, Bolsheviks seize power
- **1918-22** Civil war between Red Army and White Russians
- **1922** Russia becomes part of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
- **1928** Stalin comes to power
- **1953** Stalin dies
- **1985** Gorbachev comes to power, introduces *glasnost* and *perestroika*
- **1991** Soviet Union collapses into fifteen independent republics.

S

Saints

In both the Old and New Testaments the word ‘saint’ translates a word which means one who is holy or set apart for a particular purpose. The word is usually used of believers: “Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus” (Eph. 1:1); “to the saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colosse: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ” (Col. 1:2). The term is often used to refer to believers in the Kingdom: “to execute upon them the judgment written: this honour have all His saints. Praise ye the LORD” (Ps. 149:9); “And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are Thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are Thy ways, Thou King of saints” (Rev. 15:3).

The term is also occasionally used in a more general sense, referring to those who are set apart by God to oppose the Roman **beast**. This includes believers but others also, including those who are, for example, prepared to use violence to achieve their ends. For example, in Daniel

7:21 it is written: “I beheld, and the same **horn** made war with the saints, and prevailed against them”. Here the term can be understood in this more general sense. Then, in the next verse, the term is used again, but here it is emphasised that these are saints who are truly separated unto God: “until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints *of the most High*; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom” (v. 22). In Revelation 13:7 the term is also used in this general sense: “And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations”. ([Ref. 11](#))

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia came into existence in 1932 when Ibn Saud, who had previously conquered and unified several of its regions, became king. It is an Islamic country and has the two holiest cities of Islam: Mecca and Medina. Most of its people are Sunni Muslims, predominantly of the strict Wahhabi sect, but around fifteen per cent are Shiite Muslims. Oil was discovered in the 1930s, but this was not exploited until after the Second