

of the valley had been captured. The main Turkish forces remained at Nazareth and Afula expecting a frontal assault from the allied forces.

But what of the rest of Allenby's forces? These were sent through a narrower pass that comes out into the Valley of Jezreel to the north of Megiddo, emerging into the valley at dawn on the 20th. This force split into two groups, one advancing on the headquarters of the Turkish army at Nazareth, the other on the Turkish forces at Afula, taking both by surprise. The German commander, General Liman von Sanders, sent to bolster up the Turkish forces, fled ignominiously from Nazareth, still in his pyjamas, along with his army. By 8.00 a.m. the allied forces were in control of Nazareth and Afula, and by the evening of that remarkable day they were in complete control of the valley down to the Jordan River.

Allenby wrote to his wife five days later: "I, myself, am almost aghast at the extent of the victory". The military historian Basil Liddell Hart wrote that it was "one of the most quickly decisive campaigns and the most quickly decisive battles in all history". Allenby himself recognised the importance of this battle in the Middle East

war, because when he was later exalted to the peerage he adopted the title 'Lord Allenby of Megiddo'.

The book of Judges records two decisive battles in this area in which Israel defeated their enemies in similar fashion: Barak's defeat of the Canaanites and Gideon's defeat of the Midianites. The Divinely inspired record makes it clear that God gave Israel victory in those cases. We have no Divinely given account of Allenby's complete rout of the Turks in one day in September 1918 to tell us what really lay behind the victory. What we do know is that it was necessary in the purpose of God that the Turks be driven out of Palestine in order to allow the Jews to return in great numbers to the Land and for the State of Israel to be established. Just as God worked on behalf of His people in the time of the Judges, so, surely, He was working on behalf of His people in 1918 to bring about this great victory that prepared the way for their latter-day return.

Source: The Battles of Armageddon: Megiddo and the Jezreel Valley from the Bronze Age to the Nuclear Age, Eric Cline, University of Michigan Press, 2002.

Will Turkey flood Europe?

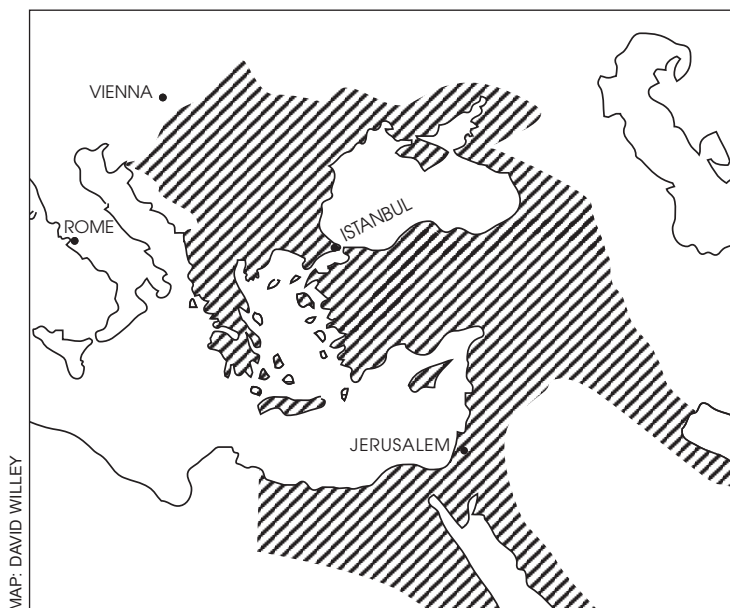
Nigel Bernard

Prophecy shows that Turkey will not be part of the European beast at the time of the end. This article considers the decision by the European Union (EU) to begin membership talks with Turkey over entry, and shows that Europe has deep misgivings about allowing Turkey into Europe.

IN REVELATION 9 it is written, "And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates" (vv. 13,14). This sixth trumpet vision symbolised the waves of attacks that were to come against the Eastern Roman Empire as a result of incursions by peoples such as the Seljuks and Mongols as they moved westwards towards the Euphrates. This covered a period of just over 390 years, on a day-for-a-year basis (v. 15), and culminated in the capture of Constantinople by the Ottoman Turks under Sultan Mehmet II in May 1453.

In verse 16 John says, "And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them". This symbolic language depicts the great numbers that Mehmet commanded. The historian Steven Runciman said that "the size of the army was awe-inspiring".¹ Runciman goes on to say that "Mehmet's decision to make his attack on Constantinople in the spring of 1453 was largely due to the recent triumphs of his cannon-founders".² The effective use of gunpowder was to be a feature of the siege of the city, and this is reflected in the language of Revelation: "And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breastplates of fire, and of jacinth, and brimstone: and the heads of the horses were as the heads of lions; and out of their mouths issued fire and smoke and brimstone" (v. 17). This marked the beginning of the great Ottoman Empire.

1. Runciman, S. (1990), *The Fall of Constantinople 1453*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, p. 76.
2. *Ibid.* p. 77.



The Ottoman Empire in 1683 when it threatened to capture Vienna.

The Ottoman Empire would one day reach as far as the gates of Vienna. Yet Scripture prophesied that this Euphrates power would, prior to Armageddon, dry up (16:12). In this article the decision in October 2005 by the European Union to begin talks with Turkey with a view to membership will be considered in the light of prophecy and history.

Austrian opposition

Outside the conference centre on the Kirchberg Plateau above Luxembourg, where the foreign ministers of the EU were meeting to discuss Turkey's admission, a number of protesters were gathered. Amongst these protesters was an Armenian woman, who held up a placard saying, "Bravo Austria—hold on as in 1683".³ During the conference, Austria was the one country which openly objected to the commencement of membership talks with Turkey. Austria wanted an explicit reference to an "alternative" to full membership for Turkey.

As the placard indicated, there is a history of antipathy between Austria and Turkey. In 1683 the Ottomans laid siege to Vienna but failed to take the city. This marked a turning point in the history of the Ottoman Empire. As *The Times Atlas of World History* states: "the failure of the last Köprülü vizier, Kara Mustapha, to overwhelm the defences of Vienna in 1683, started

a period of spectacular decline".⁴ It is this decline, yet to be fully completed, which is described in Revelation 16:12 as the drying up of the Euphrates.

Flood or drying up?

Although Austria was the only country which openly objected to Turkey, some other EU countries also have misgivings. One of the reasons behind these misgivings is that Turkey, although nominally secular, is essentially an Islamic country. As the reporter David Rennie stated: "The deal . . . paves the way for Turkey, a nation of 70 million Muslims, to join what has hitherto been a club of Christian states".⁵

However, beside religion, another factor is the sheer size of Turkey's population and the consequent prospect of many Turkish workers heading west to find jobs. Interestingly,

commentators have used the language of flooding to describe this prospect. For example, the BBC correspondent Paul Reynolds commented, "The prospect of millions of poor Anatolians flooding into the EU is one which easily raises European concerns".⁶ In arguing against this view *The Times* said, "There is, in short, no reason for those who fear the 'Islamification' of Europe, or a flood of low-wage Turkish labourers seeking work, to panic".⁷ Bible prophecy shows that there will not be another flood of Islamic Turks into Western Europe. On the contrary, the symbolic river is not flooding but drying up.

Croatia too

Austria eventually relented and withdrew its opposition to discussions opening about Turkish membership. It is thought that one of the things which persuaded Austria to change its mind was that the EU also agreed that membership talks would commence with Croatia. In March 2005 the EU postponed talks with Croatia because it was thought to be protecting a war crimes suspect. Yet,

3. *Independent*, 4 Oct. 2005, p. 2.
4. Barraclough, G. (ed.) (1986), *The Times Atlas of World History*, London, Times Books Limited, p. 196.
5. Rennie, D. (2005), "Turkey wins deal to start EU talks", *Daily Telegraph*, 4 Oct. 2005, p. 1.
6. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/3719418.stm>.
7. "Let talks begin", *The Times*, 4 Oct. 2005, p. 17.

as the stalemate in Luxembourg continued, Carla del Ponte, the UN chief war crimes prosecutor for former Yugoslavia, arrived to announce that Croatia was now in fact cooperating with her investigations. Although it was officially denied that there was any link between del Ponte's findings and the relenting of Austria, it clearly was a factor.

Whereas the path for Turkey is strewn with many obstacles, the entry of Croatia into the EU is likely to be much smoother. It is a Catholic country and a historic ally of Austria. The entry of Croatia into the EU would be a significant development of the European beast of Revelation 17.

Cyprus

During the Luxembourg summit the Turks themselves raised possible barriers to beginning talks with the EU. One concern which they had related to Cyprus. They were worried that if they joined the EU they might find themselves unable to veto any application from the Greek Cypriots to join NATO. These worries were only allayed when Condoleezza Rice, the American secretary of state, contacted the Turkish prime minister to reassure him that Cyprus does not wish to join NATO.

In Bible prophecy Cyprus is Chittim, and Balaam's prophecy shows that it will be a staging post for the invading army at the time of the end (Num. 24:24). Divided as it is between Greece and Turkey, Cyprus is a potential flash-point in the Middle East. The future of Turkey is closely linked to that of Cyprus. As the *Economist* stated, "the summit in Luxembourg also showed that Turkish entry into the EU will be inconceivable unless Cyprus is solved".⁸ Given its role in Bible prophecy and its strategic importance, we should be watching events relating to Cyprus with special interest.

Turkey's future

It is by no means certain that Turkey will one day join the EU. Over a period of several years the EU has to agree thirty-five different policy areas, in documents consisting of 80,000 pages, to clear the way for Turkish entry. Agreement over these policy areas can be vetoed by countries within the EU at any time. Furthermore, it is not only Austria which has misgivings about Turkey. The Greek Cypriot president has threatened to use many vetoes, and Paul Reynolds quotes the Dutch commissioner Frits Bolkenstein as saying that if Turkey joined the EU "The liberation of

Euphrates and Togarmah

Sometimes it is said that Togarmah refers to Turkey. However, this is incorrect. At Armageddon the Euphrates will have been dried up (Rev. 16:12), but Togarmah will be an ally of Gog (Ezek. 38:6). Therefore the Euphrates and Togarmah cannot refer to the same country. Given that the Euphrates symbolises Turkey, Togarmah must refer to some other country. What evidence there is suggests that Togarmah refers to Armenia (see, for example, Redgate, A. E. (2000), *The Armenians*, Oxford, Blackwell, pp. 18-20.)

1683 would have been in vain".⁹ The reporter Peter Popham wrote:

"The solitary Austrian holdout obscures the fact that right across the EU, doubts about Turkish entry are manifold. Opposition averages at 50 per cent; in Austria it is 80. Britain is seen to be in favour because the arrival of Turkey would permanently wrest the EU out of the control of the French and Germans; for that very reason deep apprehension remains in those states".¹⁰

The issue of Turkish entry into the EU has highlighted the differences between Britain, the Tarshish power, and the European kings of the earth. By the time of Armageddon we know from prophecy that Britain will have a separate role from Europe, and Turkey will have finally dried up. This will come to fruition when Russia moves south into the Middle East. Then "the king of the north [Russia] shall come against him [Turkey] 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" (Dan. 11:40).

So the fear that the Euphrates power might yet flood back into Europe is unfounded. However, what Europe *should* fear is the "wrath of God" (Rev. 14:10), which will be manifest by "the kings of the east" (16:12) whose way is being prepared by the drying up of the Euphrates.

8. "A chaotic start with pitfalls ahead", *Economist*, 8 Oct. 2005, p. 45.

9. *Op. cit.*

10. Popham, P. (2005), "Membership of the EU would mark the culmination of all Ataturk's work", *Independent*, 4 Oct., p. 2.