



*"Blow ye the trumpet in Zion,
and sound an alarm in my holy
mountain: let all the inhabitants
of the land tremble: for the day
of the LORD cometh, for it is
nigh at hand;" Joel 2:1*

June 2013

Light to Live By

The Bible was called forth by the moral emergency occasioned by the fall of man. It is the voice of God calling men home from the wilds of sin; it is a road map for returning prodigals; it is instruction in righteousness, light in darkness, information about God and man and life and death and heaven and hell. In it God warns, commands, rebukes, promises, encourages. In it He offers salvation and life through His Eternal Son. And the destiny of each one depends upon the response he or she makes to the voice of the Word.

Because the Bible is the kind of book it is there can be no place for the detached, appraising attitude in our approach to it. "O earth, earth, earth, hear the word of the Lord." God's Word is not to be enjoyed as one might enjoy a Beethoven symphony or a poem by Wordsworth. It demands immediate action, faith, surrender, committal. Until it has secured these it has done nothing positive for the reader, but it has increased his responsibility and deepened the judgment that must follow.

A.W. Tozer (1897-1963)

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Sound the Trumpet!

- Section 1 -

THE NEXT MAJOR EVENT FOR ISRAEL

The rapture is the next major event on God's calendar for the Christian. The rapture is a sign-less event, though it is imminent, we do not know when it will take place. We only know that it will take place prior to the start of the tribulation period and we know that the seven year tribulation period begins with the signing of the seven year peace treaty, by Antichrist (Daniel 9:26-27).

To the last days Philadelphian Church our Lord said in Revelation 3:10, "Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth." That is obviously the tribulation period; along with other scriptures this confirms the pre-tribulation rapture of the true church. Note in particular 1 Thessalonians chapter 5 where the context of the chapter is the Day of the Lord or the tribulation period, verse 9, "For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ." Also in verse 3-4 we read, "For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief." "They shall not escape" but the believer will escape through the rapture.

I believe that the next major biblical event that will take place, apart from the rapture, is the war recorded in Psalm 83, in Isaiah 17 and in Ezekiel 35-36. This is the reason we devote so much time to it.

Our world has changed dramatically over the last few decades. It almost seems as if Islam is about to take over the world. Islam is determined to establish a world-wide Islamic caliphate which seems to be a growing possibility. The so-called Arab spring is not about bringing democracy to Islamic nations, Islam despises democracy. Sharia law is the very antithesis of democracy. The Arab spring is simply facilitating the growth of Islamic fundamentalism with its determination to destroy Israel and rule the world.

In order to adapt the idea of a coming Islamic caliphate to scripture, some are predicting that Antichrist will be a Muslim and Turkey will be the center of his world-wide kingdom (Caliphate). No matter how hard they try, this cannot be harmonized with the clear teaching of scripture.

What does the prophetic Word say about Islam? Does Islam play a dominant role in the end time events?

I believe that the Word of God has something to say about Islam's involvement in the end times. I believe that this message about Islam is found in the prophecies of the war of Psalm 83 and of the war of Ezekiel 38-39.

THE WAR OF PSALM 83

(also recorded in Ezekiel 35-36 and Isaiah 17)

The timing of this war is given to us in our text. That timing is related to the very hour in which we are now living. The description and events in Psalm 83 relate to this very time and to no other in all of history. At no other time has Israel been dwelling in the land and found themselves in a situation where the nations named in Psalm 83 have been trying to force them out of the land and have even claimed the Temple Mount as their own. The scenario of events found in Psalm 83 is now unfolding.

Let us look briefly at the text.

Verse 2, "For, lo, thine enemies make a tumult: and they that hate thee have lifted up the head." This is exactly what is happening in Israel today. The Palestinians, who are the Edomites, hate Israel and are in a rage to remove her from the land. They have successfully convinced the whole world that Judea, Samaria and biblical Jerusalem (East Jerusalem) belong to them. Every single nation on earth is on record as being

"To whom much is given much is required." Are you ready for the trumpet to sound or will you be ashamed at His coming?

committed to that proposition. Psalm 83 speaks to this hour and no other hour, therefore we now have the scenario in place for the war the Psalmist speaks about. This situation has been developing for several decades, though the war is imminent, we cannot know its exact timing. However present circumstances seem to indicate the time is near at hand.

✓ **Verse 3**, *"They have taken crafty counsel against thy people, and consulted against thy hidden ones."* Last year the Palestinians, Hamas, Hezbollah and Syria signed a pact with Iran to destroy Israel. The Palestinians recently broadcast a message on TV to Israel; "Israel, return to Europe and Ethiopia, so that Palestinians can return to Jerusalem." "Israeli's go to your original home lands; Poland, Germany, Russia and Ethiopia."

The Palestinians have recently pledged that the Palestinian flag will fly over every city in Israel. In their school text books and on their official maps, Israel does not appear, it is all shown as Palestinian territory.

John Kerry, US Secretary of State has just offered four billion dollars to the Palestinians to return to talks with Israel. This offer would double the Palestinian economy and cut unemployment in half for them. The offer also included land at the northern edge of the Dead Sea and an international airport. The Palestinians turned it down flatly. They have only one objective and that is to eliminate Israel altogether.

A year ago the leader of Hamas sent a message to the UN. He said, "The land of Palestine belongs to the Arabs from sea to sea, there is no place for Jews in it." Hamas has also declared, "We are announcing a war against the sons of apes and pigs [the Jews] which will not end until the flag of Islam is raised over Jerusalem." This is unique to the present hour, and is the fulfilment of these prophecies, setting the stage for the coming war. There have been wars and skirmishes between these foes and there may be more of the same. However God's Word foretells this great coming war and the consequences of it.

✓ **Verse 4**, *"They have said, Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation; that the name of Israel may be no more in remembrance."* The Arabs have repeatedly said, "We will wipe Israel off the map." That is the reason that there

has not been an agreement between the Palestinians and Israel, the goal of the Palestinians is not peace and co-existence but the total destruction of Israel. Psalm 83 is a commentary on our own day. This exact situation has never existed before in all of history, when Islam built their mosque on the Temple Mount in the past, Israel was not in the land. Psalm 83 shouts, "Today! Today!"

The Imams of Islam have recently stated, "The Jews have no claim to the Temple Mount. There has never been a Temple on it, it belongs to Islam."

✓ **Verse 5**, *"For they have consulted together with one consent: they are confederate against thee."* Today Hamas, Hezbollah and Syria are being armed to the teeth, by Iran and Russia to destroy Israel. Today Hezbollah has a 10,000 man brigade armed with 40,000 missiles to be fired at Israel. Some of these weapons have a long range, some are capable of carrying heavy payloads and some are equipped to carry chemical and biological warheads.

Syria has a 500,000 man army with the very latest military equipment supplied by Russia. They also have a large number of missiles, some with chemical and biological warheads. Syria is reputed to have the world's largest arsenal of Chemical and biological weapons.

At this very hour Syria and Hezbollah are threatening war with Israel. Prime Minister Netanyahu has just ordered for every Israeli a gas mask and the kit that goes with it.

Hamas is replacing her supply of missiles and is ready to fire them at Israel's heartland from Gaza. Hamas are not a great threat to Israel, but they could keep a portion of the IDF pinned down in the south along with attacks from the Sinai by other Islamic Fundamentalists.

Ezekiel deals with the same scenario. *"Thus saith the Lord GOD; because the enemy hath said against you, Aha, even the ancient high places (Temple Mount) are ours in possession"* (Ezekiel 36:2).

The same pre-war scenario is found in Psalm 83:12, *"Who said, Let us take to ourselves the houses of God in possession."* This is again unique to our own day and ties these two passages together. I repeat; these passages are being fulfilled in our day; these

passages are speaking about this very hour, though we can only speculate when this war will actually begin. We can however see the foreshadowing of this war now on the horizon.

WHO WILL BE INVOLVED IN THIS WAR?

We do not have space to labour this point, but those involved are clearly named.

Psalm 83:6-8, *"The tabernacles of Edom, and the Ishmaelites; of Moab, and the Hagarenes; Gebal, and Ammon, and Amalek; the Philistines with the inhabitants of Tyre; Assur also is joined with them: they have holpen the children of Lot."*

This translates roughly into the following; Edom = the Palestinians: The Ishmaelite's, the Hagarenes and Gebal = the assorted Arab people within and around Israel: Ammon = the Jordanians: The Philistines = Hamas (on the Gaza Strip): Tyre = Hezbollah (in Lebanon): Assur (a suburb of Damascus) = the Syrians: These are the combatants in this war on Israel. This is very same group now preparing to go to war with Israel. Again I stress this is unique to this very hour!

Two interesting notes:

First. Egypt has the largest army in the Mideast. A year ago it seemed that Egypt would be the major factor in the coming war with Israel. However the scripture does not mention Egypt in connection with this war. The interesting thing is that in the last few months Egypt has collapsed as nation and is in the process of disintegration, prophecy is being fulfilled even in this situation.

Second. Jordan is mentioned as being a part of this coming war. However Jordan is not at the moment a part of this alliance against Israel. We need to expect a change in Jordan's situation, either a change in attitude toward Israel or a takeover by the militant Islamists.

The war of Ezekiel 38-39 names an entirely different set of combatants. The war of Armageddon involves the entire world. These are three separate and distinct wars. The places, the timing and the people involved are separate and distinct.

Actually these three wars are like concentric circles around Israel. The first group involves those within and

those immediately around Israel's borders. The second group involves a group of nations beyond Israel's borders; they are named in Ezekiel 38:3-6. The third group (Armageddon) involves the entire world.

We also have the time of each war given to us. The stage is now set for the war of Psalm 83; this war must take place prior to the peace treaty because Israel will be in this present distress.

The war of Ezekiel 38-39 is to take place after the peace treaty is signed by Antichrist. This will be a time when Israel is dwelling in peace, though it is a false peace. (See Ezekiel 38:8, 11, 14 - 1 Thess. 5:3 - Dan. 8:25). Because this peace will be a very brief period of time, the war of Ezekiel 38-39 must of necessity occur very early in the tribulation period.

There are other scriptural evidences that this war will take place very early in the tribulation period. The burning of the weapons of this war will take seven years, (Ezekiel 39:9). That would require seven years before the millennium begins, placing this war very early in the tribulation period. Note that in the chronology of the kings of Israel any portion of a year that a king served was considered a full year in his reign. I believe the Spirit of God is using this same reckoning in this chapter.

The battle of Armageddon will take place at the very end of the tribulation period when the world is in total chaos and rebellion. It will take place as Christ returns to defeat Israel's enemies and set up the Kingdom. (See Revelation 19).

The whole world knows that there is a major war coming in the Mideast. That is the reason the push for the peace treaty has taken on a new urgency for the western nations. They erroneously believe that if Israel appeases Islam, a war can be avoided, so throw Israel under the bus. Retired US general Paul Valley, a Mideast expert, has made some startling statements. He has said, "A major Mideast war is imminent, this war will drastically change our world forever."

THE OUTCOME OF THIS COMING WAR

I believe the outcome of this war will greatly affect the events that will follow it. It will set the stage for events such as the coming of Antichrist and his peace treaty.

According to Isaiah 17, Israel will suffer some heavy losses in this war, but her enemies will be destroyed.

Psalm 83:14-17, "As the fire burneth a wood, and as the flame setteth the mountains on fire; So persecute them with thy tempest, and make them afraid with thy storm. Fill their faces with shame; that they may seek thy name, O LORD. Let them be confounded and troubled for ever; yea, let them be put to shame, and perish," Our text tells us how this war will end, "let them be put to shame, and perish," the Palestinians and their allies will be totally routed in this war.

When this war is over the Palestinians will be so humiliated and defeated they will be in no position to claim the land of Israel.

Obadiah comments on the outcome of this war, "And the house of Jacob shall be a fire, and the house of Joseph a flame, and the house of Esau for stubble, and they shall kindle in them, and devour them; and there shall not be any remaining of the house of Esau; for the LORD hath spoken it," (Obadiah 18).

Isaiah 17:13 also tells us the same thing, "The nations shall rush like the rushing of many waters: but God shall rebuke them, and they shall flee far off, and shall be chased as the chaff of the mountains before the wind, and like a rolling thing before the whirlwind."

Isaiah 17:1, 14 seems to imply the nuclear destruction of Damascus. "The burden of Damascus. Behold, Damascus is taken away from being a city, and it shall be a ruinous heap."....."And behold at evening-tide trouble; and before the morning he is not. This is the portion of them that spoil us, and the lot of them that rob us." Israel has a policy called the "Sampson Option." This means that if Israel ever comes to the place where they are going down, they will use their nuclear weapons against their enemies.

Two years ago Prime Minister Netanyahu sent a warning to Damascus. He said, "If you use weapons of mass destruction against us we will wipe you out."

It is interesting that although Syria is now a part of the Russian/Iranian axis they are not mentioned in the account of the war of Ezekiel 38-39. This seems to be a further indication of Syria's total destruction in the war of Psalm 83.

Referring back to Psalm 83:14-17, Ezekiel tells the same story, "Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Surely in the fire of my jealousy have I spoken against the residue of the heathen, and against all Idumea, which have appointed my land into their possession with the joy of all their heart, with despiteful minds, to cast it out for a prey" (Ezekiel 36:5). God's anger will be kindled against the Palestinians, Hezbollah, Hamas and Syria. They will be totally decimated in this war and the world will be left in a state of shock.

THE PLAN OF GOD

In the whole end time scenario God is at work to glorify Himself in the eyes of Israel, in the eyes of the gentile nations and in the eyes of Islam.

In Ezekiel 36:23 we see God glorified in the eyes of the heathen nations, "And I will sanctify my great name, which was profaned among the heathen, which ye (Israel) have profaned in the midst of them; and the heathen (Gentiles and Muslims) shall know that I am the LORD, saith the Lord GOD, when I shall be sanctified in you before their eyes." The same Israel that has dishonoured the name of God will be used by God to glorify that name, not only in Israeli eyes but in the eyes of the whole world.

Let me give just a few quotes from Ezekiel to demonstrate this purpose of God in the wars that yet lie ahead. "And they shall know I am the Lord," stated twice. "And the heathen shall know that I the Lord do sanctify Israel." "That the heathen may know me." "And they shall know that I am the Lord."

I believe God's intervention in this war recorded in Psalm 83 (prior to the Tribulation period) and the war of Ezekiel 38-39, which would appear to follow it by a matter of months, (early in the tribulation period) will be a springboard for the salvation of multitudes in the tribulation period.

In this war the Muslim army that attacks Israel will be totally decimated. In the war of Ezekiel 38-39, five of every six Russians and Muslims that come against Israel will die. When God has finished dealing with Islam in these two wars it will dawn upon the hearts of multitudes of Muslims that Allah is not the sovereign Lord of the universe. They will instead realize that Jehovah, the God of Israel is the only true God.

I believe that this will be defining moment for the people of the whole world. Remember that as the tribulation period begins there will not be a living believer on the face of the earth. God will give to the world His own witness as He intervenes from heaven in this war and sends down Divine judgment from His own hand. Men will know that God has spoken and acted.

I believe at that time there will be a great cleavage among the men and women of the world. Some hearts will be hardened and multitudes will take the mark of the beast and follow the beast all the way to the fires of hell.

Others will be arrested by the witness God gives in the fiery judgment He sends down upon the armies of Russia and Islam. Their hearts will be prepared for the preaching of the gospel that will follow as the 144,000 apostle Paul like witnesses preach the message of the cross. Some from every tribe and nation will be saved.

We read about a great multitude being saved and martyred in the tribulation period. We see them in heaven during the tribulation period. Revelation 7:9, *"After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands."* John reveals to us who these people are and where they came from. We discover that they are those saved and martyred during the tribulation period. Verse 13-14, *"And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."*

Today it seems at times as if Islam is about to stand Bible prophecy on its head with its own agenda, not so. God has a program and it is recorded in His Word.

In the three wars that Israel has already fought since 1948 God has been seeking to draw Israel to himself. In each war Israel had no hope of survival; they should have been wiped out. God intervened in an obvious and miraculous way. The Lord was saying to Israel by His actions, "Israel I love you, if you will believe me and obey me and

trust me I will bless and protect you." Israel has not responded in faith and obedience.

I believe the scriptures reveal three more wars yet to come in which the God of Israel will continue to work to draw Israel back to himself. I believe that those coming wars will increase in intensity and ferocity with hand of God directly involved to arrest Israel and a rebellious world. Some will be arrested, like Paul on the road to Damascus. Again I say, multitudes will harden their hearts and be hardened by God in response.

THE AFTERMATH OF THE WAR OF PSALM 83

The picture is painted in the scriptures we have already quoted. The Palestinians, with Hamas, Hezbollah and Syria will be decimated by the hand of God through Israel. Israel will also suffer losses. The severity of the war will shock the world. The use of chemical and biological weapons and possibly even nuclear weapons by Israel, will trouble the nations. The fear of the spread of war will grip the world, and not just the fear of war but the fear of nuclear war. The world is already on the edge of an economic collapse; such a war, along with the interruption of oil supplies would likely bring economic chaos to the whole world. The world will be in great distress with men's hearts failing them for fear. Those who are even now struggling to set up world government will use this crisis to further their cause. The stage will be set for a miracle working deceiver to come on the scene.

THE STAGE WILL BE SET FOR TWO PROPHETIC EVENTS

First. The coming of Antichrist, the world will be filled with unprecedented fear and turmoil. The nations and the people will cry out for a solution, they will be ready for a man to rescue them. Antichrist will come suddenly on the scene as a man of peace. We read about that in Revelation 6:2, *"And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer."*

Paul also describes the same event in 2 Thessalonians 2: 8-11, *"And then shall that Wicked be revealed...Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and*

lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie."

The coming of Antichrist will be based on great deception, Jesus also taught us about it in Matthew 24:11, 24, *"And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many."* and *"For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect."*

This great deception will come on the world from Satan and also from God Himself, verse 11, *"And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie."*

Second. The peace treaty, in God's appointed time the Antichrist, who will be a Roman (see Daniel 9:26-27) will appear on the world stage as a man who can bring peace and solve the world's problems. In the city of Rome there will be the dynamic duo to bring this situation about; we will have the Antichrist and the False Prophet.

The Palestinians and their allies will be nullified as a factor in the land. They and their allies will be ready to sue for peace at any price. The peace treaty will give Israel the whole land and the Temple Mount on which to build the third Temple. Euphoria will sweep over the entire world; the world will experience unprecedented unity. Even the religions of the world will be caught up in this world wide unity and come together as one.

The pope has just announced that the blood of Christ was shed for all men and that all men have their sins forgiven, even atheists are under the blood of Christ. The one proviso he gave was that men do good, that is all that is required. That is a platform for all men to come into the new world church, presto! We have a world church, who could resist such a church? Who could refuse to identify with it?

Antichrist will deceive Islam into believing that he is their Islamic saviour, the Mahdi. He will deceive Israel into believing that he is the Messiah who will bring them peace. He will also deceive Christendom into believing that he is none other than Christ. How could such deception be possible? Remember 2 Thessalonians

2:11, "And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie." Those who have hardened their hearts to the truth will have their hearts hardened by the God of truth.

Evangelicals today who are toying with the Word of God and not taking it seriously are in mortal danger of deception that will carry them away with the coming apostate church. "For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the LORD: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word" (Isaiah 66:2). The warning is sounded to the present Evangelical/Laodicean Church in Revelation 3:16, "So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of my mouth." I plead with evangelicals who are mindlessly going along with the present apostasy.

THE WAR OF EZEKIEL 38-39

It would seem that within a few months of the coming of Antichrist and the signing of the peace treaty, the wider Muslim world will realize that they have been deceived. They will still have a demonic motivation to destroy Israel. They will mobilize under Russia's leadership to destroy Israel, (see Ezekiel 38:2-4).

The lessons of the war of Psalm 83 will be repeated on a larger more dramatic scale.

We see the purpose of God for the tribulation unfolding in the aftermath of Ezekiel's war. "And I will set my glory among the heathen, and all the heathen shall see my judgment that I have executed, and my hand that I have laid upon them. So the house of Israel shall know that I am the LORD their God from that day and forward. And the heathen shall know that the house of Israel went into captivity for their iniquity: because they trespassed against me, therefore hid I my face from them, and gave them into the hand of their enemies: so fell they all by the sword." (Ezekiel 39:21-23).

God is a God of mercy and grace. Mercy and grace always precede God's judgment. Habakkuk said, "In wrath remember mercy." Peter said that God is, "not willing that any should perish." Hence at the very beginning of the awful tribulation period judgments, God seeks to arrest a rebellious world through a demonstration of His power and glory in judgment on Russia and the Islamic nations. "Thus will I magnify myself, and sanctify myself; and I will be known in the eyes of many nations, and they shall know that I am the LORD." (Ezekiel 38:23).

Some say because of Israel's unbelief God is finished with Israel and He has

nothing in this world now or in the future for Israel. But scriptures show that God continues to work with His people. Why does God continue to seek to bless Israel? Why doesn't God cast them off? The answer is given by God Himself, "Therefore say unto the house of Israel, thus saith the Lord GOD; I do not this for your sakes, O house of Israel, but for mine holy name's sake, which ye have profaned among the heathen, whither ye went." (Ezekiel 36:22). God has made a promise to Israel and He will fulfill it.

Israel's primary problem is not with the Palestinians, Hamas, Hezbollah, Syria and Iran. It is not primarily with Obama or the Muslim world. Israel's primary problem is with the God of Israel. Israel is still walking in disobedience and unbelief toward God and is still rejecting her Messiah. God is at work today with Israel to remove the blindness and unbelief. Through God's dealing with Israel multitudes of gentiles will be saved.

To those to whom prophetic revelation has been given, there is a new responsibility that goes with it, "To whom much is given much is required." Are you ready for the trumpet to sound or will you be ashamed at His coming? My unsaved friend, are you ready for the trumpet to sound or will you be left behind to face the judgment of God?

Art Sadlier

PREPARATION IS UNDERWAY FOR TWO WARS

We are witnessing an amazing scenario unfolding. We see the growing potential for the war of Psalm 83. Suddenly we realize that preparations are underway for not just one war but two.

Russia and Iran have been pouring in resources to preserve Assad from defeat. In the process they are preparing Syria for a war with Israel. Syria and Hezbollah have been proxies of Iran against Israel in the past, now they are becoming proxies of Russia as well. Russia is very serious about preserving Syria as revealed by the current move of troops into Southern Russia. These troops are positioned to be moved quickly into Syria if necessary. Iran is pouring resources and men into Syria and they are pressuring Iraq to move troops to the Syrian border.

Mark it down, Russia and Iran will not allow Assad to fall, he is the key to their great Mideast ambitions. Obama will not intervene; he has America on cruise control to oblivion.

As this present Syrian war comes to an end, Syria will have acquired a tremendous arsenal of weaponry, to complement what they already have, the world's largest arsenal of chemical and biological weapons.

Syria's Assad has lost credibility in the Arab world. I believe that in his pride he will seek to regain that credibility and the one sure way to do that is to go to war with Israel.

Hezbollah are also rapidly growing in military power and have been long preparing for war with Israel. They are seeking and will no doubt get weapons of mass destruction from Syria, in spite of Israel's best efforts to prevent it. Iran

is growing in power and influence in the Mideast at an alarming rate. America is losing all credibility and by her refusal to act, and is seemingly withdrawing from any confrontation.

Russia has an eye on Israeli vast oil and gas reserves. Iran is obsessed with becoming dominant in the Islamic world and obtaining control over Saudi and Iraqi oil. There are two factors standing in way of both of these nations. One is Israel and the other is America. America's military power restrains these two ambitious nations.

It would seem that at least in the war of Psalm 83, America will restrain Russia and Iran from getting directly involved. If American military power collapses, the restraints will be removed for the war of Ezekiel 38-39.

Knowing what scripture foretells, we can see two wars on the horizon. We

suspect that Russia and Iran will believe that Syria, Hezbollah and their assorted allies will be able to destroy Israel. However they will be destroyed in the war of Psalm 83.

We see Iran and Russia standing in the wings with all of their military might to move in to wipe Israel off the map in a second war.

Having studied Ezekiel 38-39, we know what lies ahead for Russia and Iran. Their proxies having failed against

Israel, we know that Iran and Russia will follow-up against Israel in the war of Ezekiel 38-39 early in the tribulation period.

I understand that this seems speculative, but as we study the scriptures and observe what is developing at this very time, the above seems to be a rather obvious scenario.

America is not mentioned as a factor in either of these two wars. Because she is in the way of the scriptural unfolding

of these events, it seems obvious that America will be neutralized in some way. There are many looming scenarios which could bring this about.

The whole long standing crisis is now heading toward a cataclysmic climax. This scenario has been building for several decades now, like the tide it seems to ebb and flow. Each time the tide comes in it rises higher than the last time, one of these days the whole scenario will break loose. Art Sadlier

THE INSTANT WORLD CHURCH (PART 3)

Religion will be the foundation for the new world order. This new world religion will identify with Christ, but it will be denial of the real Jesus Christ and His truth. The members of this new religion will be deceived into believing that Antichrist is actually Jesus Christ. They will ultimately be deceived into worshipping the Antichrist.

The second aspect of this new world order will be a one-world economy. The third component of the new world order will be a world government.

This coming one world religion will be the instrument to bring about the world economic system and the world government. Once the harlot has been used by Antichrist to gain control of the world he will turn on the harlot and destroy her, at the mid-tribulation point.

For nearly a hundred years the infrastructure of this coming ecumenical church has been forming. I believe we now stand in the shadow of this one-world church, and that it is waiting in the wings to engulf the world. I believe that it will appear upon the scene suddenly and surprise everyone with its rapid formation.

We have been witnessing the drive by religious leaders to bring about the new world order through an ecumenical church. At a recent forum, both Rick Warren and Tony Blair stated, "The only way a global peace could happen on planet earth in the future, would be for all faiths to work together and do good together." Ponder that statement and compare it with a similar statement by the pope, which will follow later in this article.

The audience at this forum appeared to be mesmerized and awe struck as they listened to the discussion on faith, good

works, democracy and coming together. This is the program of Antichrist as revealed in the scriptures.

In 1959, the "Rockefeller Brother" report outlined the task of helping shape a new world order. They stated, "A new world order in all its' dimension: spiritual, economic, political and societal." Notice the first dimension they look to influence the new world order is the spiritual or religion. That will be the major force in establishing this coming new world order, though we are not inclined to think in these terms.

The globalists are intent on setting up their own kingdom of god on earth, though their god is not the God of the Bible. He is the god within man, or man who becomes a god.

They are getting help from men inside the church, from men like Rick Warren and those promoting Dominion Theology, from the New Apostolic Reformation, the Word of Faith movement, the New Religious Right and others. These are all seeking to reshape the world into a utopia by their own efforts. They believe Christ will come after they have created the perfect kingdom for Him, He will descend to rule over it. Christ will have no part in man's efforts to prepare His kingdom.

This kingdom building program comes at us from many fronts.

Another force in the quest for the new world order is the UN. The UN unveiled a program called "Agenda 21." Its' thrust is to use "Sustainable Development" as a framework for Global Governance. "Agenda 21" is the global plan to implement a one-world government, a one-world economy and a one-world religious system and

radical environmentalism. Radical environmentalism is a tool to gain control over people and nations through regulations.

Sustainable development promotes abortion on demand, population control, socialized medicine, social justice, welfare programs, public housing, elimination of national sovereignty and religious liberty. One of its tenets is the criminalization of fundamental Christianity. These very ideas are popping up all over the world, seemingly spontaneously.

It is claimed that this approach is now being implemented in some 2000 communities in America, without a government mandate.

Those promoting the new world order have sought to change the purpose of the church from preaching the gospel to using the church as an instrument for bringing about global governance. Rick Warren in is the vanguard of redirecting evangelicalism in this direction. He has attracted thousands of pastors who are acting with him as change agents. The evangelical church has almost totally bought into the social gospel, seeking to win the culture wars, trying to turn around a dying culture. The church was never called to make the world a better place. The world is a sinking ship; we are called to rescue the passengers, not the ship.

Last February we wrote an article entitled, "The Instant World Church." In that article I made the following statement.

"The doors of the (Roman Catholic) church will swing wide open. All of Christendom will be invited in without restrictions and limitations, accepted

as Brothers in Christ. The "Christ consciousness" and the "Christ within" of the new age will be welcomed into the club also. The world will rush to be a part of this seemingly magnificent new utopia."

I wrote that; knowing that there are many who say the Catholic Church will never change. It seems obvious to me that harlot church of Revelation 17 is the Catholic Church in a union with all of the world's religions. Verses 9 and 18 identify this harlot with the city of Rome and the history of the Catholic Church. It also seems obvious to me that the Catholic Church, in order to bring this about, will have to compromise. They will have to swing the doors of the church wide open to all.

When Pope Frances first came to power, it seemed that we had a conservative who would follow in the footsteps of those who had gone before him, and that he would not compromise to allow non-Catholics into the church.

This week we have seen the pope unofficially throw open the doors of the church to the whole world. Though this may at first may not be recognized for what it is, yet it exposes the desire and intention of the new pontiff. Remember his decree is the final word for the church. We see his desire to unite the world under a one church banner. There will come a moment when this invitation will be clearly given to the entire world and an instant world church will emerge. Apparently, though much Catholic dogma will be laid aside, the pope's power will not be diminished. We see his power revealed in the actions of the false prophet, the wonders he performs will give him power in the eyes of the people.

The following report reveals this openness of the pope to all men everywhere, and suggests the change that is coming.

[Pope Francis tells Christians the "Blood of Christ" promises redemption for everyone engaged in good works, including atheists. (*My comment, you evidently do not have to trust Christ*)

"The Lord has redeemed all of us with the Blood of Christ: all of us, not just

Catholics. Everyone! 'Father; the atheists? Even the atheists."

"We are created children in the likeness of God and the Blood of Christ has redeemed us all! (My comment, this is universalism) And we all have a duty to do good. And this commandment for everyone to do good, I think, is a beautiful path towards peace. If we, each doing our own part, if we do good to others, if we meet there, doing good, and we go slowly, gently, little by little, we will make that culture of encounter: we need that so much. We must meet one another doing good. 'But I don't believe, Father, I am an atheist!' But do good:

"The Lord has redeemed all of us with the Blood of Christ: all of us, not just Catholics. Everyone ... "
-- Pope Frances

we will meet one another there.]"

Pope Frances emphasized the importance of "doing good" as a principle that unites all humanity, saying "All people are called to do good and not evil."

Frances argued that atheists should be seen as good people if they do good works. It is reported that the atheists have responded very positively to this word from the pope.

The pope further stated, "That to do good is inscribed on the human heart and does not derive from creeds, it is an identity card that our Father has given **to all of us**, because he has made us in his image and likeness. And he does good, always."

This is the universalism of the coming world church. It is the pathway upon which all can enter into the harlot church. That whole scenario is now about to explode upon the world.

The qualification for membership in this new church, called the harlot, will be to do good, and everyone does some good, at least in his own eyes. Never mind what you have done in the past, it is all under the blood of Christ. Never mind what your religion or creed or philosophy is, if you do good, you are in. If every man does that which is right in his own eyes he is accepted. Would there be a man that breathes upon the

earth that would not qualify to be a part of such a system?

This is a radical departure from the dogma of the Catholic Church. This is an absolutely astounding change in the Catholic Church. This reveals the desire and intention of the pope to bring the whole world into the church. This is the key to the opening of the church to the whole world to enter in. We have racked our brain to figure out how this could happen, and here it is. The pope has yet to announce the details of how it will be carried forth.

Notice the reason this church is called a harlot. It invokes the blood of Christ, claiming to be Christian and yet it enters into a union with other religions, with atheists and with a world government. A better word than harlot could hardly be found.

What has seemed impossible, the Church of Rome opening its doors to the whole world to enter, is now about to become a reality. The stage is set for the harlot to embrace the whole world.

Mainline Churches, Evangelical Churches and the Catholic Church have been on parallel tracts for some time now. Experience, feelings and the new spirituality have replaced doctrine and the Word of God. The foundations have disintegrated, whether they were a right foundation or a wrong foundation, they have disintegrated and the building is about to collapse. This would include catholic dogma.

From within evangelicalism, Rick Warren has said, "What we believe is irrelevant, ignore your beliefs and join hands to make a better world." Warren called for a "Coalition of people of good will to accomplish some goals that would be beneficial to society." Warren also stated, "We need to mobilize a billion Catholics and Orthodox, Jews, Muslims or others. I'm not really that interested in interfaith dialogue. I am interested in interfaith projects. Let's do something together."

It is later than we may realize! The stage is now fully set for the one world harlot church to appear on the scene. Before that can happen the trumpet will sound and the true body of Christ will go to be in the glorious presence of Christ forever. It seems that everywhere

we look the last pieces are falling into place for the final drama of man's day to play out.

"Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh"
Art Sadlier

THE NATIONS ARE MAD

In Jeremiah 51:7 we read, "*Babylon hath been a golden cup in the LORD's hand, that made all the earth drunken: the nations have drunken of her wine; therefore **the nations are mad.***" This portion of scripture is one of many scriptures that have an original application and also a future application. During the days of the Babylonian Empire the destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonians caused the other nations around Israel to also seek to destroy Jerusalem. They became drunk with the wine of Babylon; they became obsessed, or drunk with spirit of Babylon, the desire to destroy Israel.

In our world today the nations are drunk with that old spirit of Babylon, they are obsessed or drunk with an insane desire to destroy Israel. In this context Jeremiah says, "*The nations are mad.*"

Today as we look out upon the world, we see a world that has gone insane with a desire to destroy Israel. Much of what the nations are doing today can only be described as insanity. The Arab nations are determined to destroy Israel and the Western nations are doing everything in their power to assist them. They do this while pretending to be Israel's friends.

The following article is just one example of the insanity of the nations:

Iran to chair U.N. arms control forum.

Iran will preside over the United Nations arms control forum this month, despite the fact that it is under U.N. sanctions for illicit nuclear activities and routinely supplies arms to the terrorist organization Hezbollah in violation of international law.

The U.N.'s annual "Conference on Disarmament," which Iran is slated to lead from May 27 to June 23, is the organization's primary multilateral forum for negotiating arms control agreements.

The forum has given way to major international treaties on nuclear non-proliferation, prohibitions on chemical weapons, and bans on nuclear tests.

"UN Watch," a Geneva-based watchdog group, blasted the decision to allow Iran to chair the conference.

"This is like putting Jack the Ripper in charge of a women's shelter," said "UN Watch" executive director Hillel Neuer in a statement. "Iran is an international outlaw state that illegally supplies rockets to Syria, Hezbollah, and Hamas, aiding and abetting mass murder and terrorism. To make this rogue regime head of world arms control is simply an outrage. Abusers of international norms should not be the public face of the U.N."

The nations are under the warning of God with regard to their treatment of Israel. That warning deals in particular with the insane drive of the nations to divide Israel's land, the Promised Land.

We read that warning in Joel 3:2, "*I will also gather all nations, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat, and will plead (judge) with them there for my people and for my heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations, and parted my land.*"

The nations today are mad, insane with the desire to remove Israel from her land. They are defying Almighty God and He will punish them at Armageddon.

We read further about that coming day in Zechariah 12:2-3, "*Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem. And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it.*"

Today the nations of the world are playing the part of a fool as they rage against God and seek to destroy His people. "*Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us*" (Psalm 2:1-3).

The final word of this war is given in Revelation 19:11-15, "*And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.*" Art Sadlier