



*“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*

*September 2014*

**Leadership: Joy or Burden?**

I think we make two mistakes in our attitude toward our Christian leaders, one in not being sufficiently grateful to them and the other in following them too slavishly.

The first is a sin of omission, and because it is something that is not there it is not so likely to be noticed as a sin that is plainly present. For instance, it is a sin to be ungrateful to a man who has befriended us, but it is not as bad or as obvious a sin as stealing his pocketbook.

To be grateful to God's servants is to be grateful to God. The benefits we receive from them result from God's working through them, but as free agents they could have refused to cooperate. That they cheerfully yielded their members to the Spirit for our good puts us under continual obligation to them. Because they are so many, and because the vast majority of them have long fallen asleep we cannot make a like return to them in person; the only way we can discharge our obligation is to be thankful. Gratitude is an offering precious in the sight of God, and it is one that the poorest of us can make and be not poorer but richer for having made it.

**A. W. Tozer**

# Sound the Trumpet

- Section 1 -

## The Beginning of the End

According to the Bible this world had a beginning, *“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth”* (Genesis 1:1). Roughly six thousand years ago God created our world. God, who is eternal, created a world that is not eternal. We read in 1 Peter 4:7, *“But the end of all things is at hand.”*

We read in Genesis that in the beginning God created the earth, the sun and the moon and the stars. We read in Revelation 21:1, *“And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.”*

In the new world we read that Christ will replace the need for the sun and the moon and the stars, He will be the glorious light of the new world. He was the light that lighted the world at the time of creation even before the sun; moon and the stars were created on the fourth day. Christ was the light that was shining in the world on the first day of creation.

He came into the world at Bethlehem to be the light of the world that would shine the light of truth into the hearts of all men. John 1:4, *“In Him was life; and the life was the light of men.”*

According to Jesus this present world, the era and the scenario we are now living in will come to an end. *“And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come”* (Matthew 24:14). Jesus made this statement in response to the disciples question in verse 3, *“And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?”* We understand from the Word of God that this world not only has a beginning but that it also has an end.

In verses 6-7 Jesus gave a number of

signs of events that would precede the end of the age. Those signs are now unfolding all around at an ever increasing rate. There are famines and threats of famines, multiplying numbers of major earthquakes, more earthquakes in the last six months that in the previous two years combined. There are violent storms and an increase in disasters of all kinds; there are threats of new pandemics, along with an increase in wars and rumors of wars.

The transition taking place in Europe along with the turmoil and monumental changes in Mideast are a clear indication that the end of which Jesus spoke is near at hand.

This world had a beginning and it has an end, and even the end has a beginning. We read about that beginning of the end in verse 8, *“All these are the beginning of sorrows,”* or the beginning of the end. The signs which Jesus gave are the signs of the beginning of the end of the age and those signs are now unfolding all around us.

In the Mideast, in the world at large and in the hearts of every man and woman there is a battle raging it is a battle for life or death. The Muslim world believes that their god demands that they sacrifice their sons to prove that they love him. As Christians, we know that our God sacrificed His Son to prove to us that He loves us.

For every individual there is the issue of life or death, *“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord”* (Romans 6:23). The issue is described in John 3:36 *“He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.”* The invitation to life is found in John 3:16, *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting*

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life.”

The most tragic thing in this world is that God is offering men life but they are choosing death. The second death which the Bible tells us about is eternal separation from God in the lake of fire. Men reject the God who loves them because of the hatred in their hearts toward that same God.

Men all around us are on a quest to create a heaven on earth, they fail to realize the issue is not this life but the life hereafter. The issue is eternal blessing and glory or eternal separation from God in hell. The issue is where will you be five minutes after you die?

What is now happening in the Mideast is a microcosm of that which is about to take place prior to the soon coming Day of the Lord, and during that awful time. It is a war between the forces of evil and God. It is a war between those who hate the God of Israel, who are the people of God, though they are yet living in disobedience to their God.

We read about this hatred for God in Psalm 83, which is a prophetic Psalm concerning this very hour. We read about the coming response of God to His enemies in the day that is now upon us. *“Keep not thou silence, O God: hold not thy peace, and be not still, O God. For, lo, thine enemies make a tumult: and they that hate thee have lifted up the head”* (verses 1-2). This scripture speaks of this very hour.

The enemies of God are today lifting up their heads against God. The enemies of God cannot touch God or hurt God so they seek to destroy that which belongs to God, so they attack Israel. We read about that scenario in verses 3 and 4. This is a perfect description of that which now unfolding in the Mideast. *“They have taken crafty counsel against thy people, and consulted against thy hidden ones. 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.”* They are transferring their hatred for the God of Israel, to the people of God.

In verse 5 we see forecast that which is now happening, we see today an alliance forming to cut off the name of Israel from the face of the earth. *“For they have consulted together with one*

*consent: they are confederate against thee.”*

Satan’s goal has always been to weaken the nations, we read about that in Isaiah 14:12, *“How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How art thou cast down to the ground, which did weaken the nations.”*

Satan is using deception as his major tool to weaken the nations to use them to support the attack against Israel. His goal is to weaken the nations and he uses the media to deceive the nations. Israel is presented in the media as the evil one in the current conflict; the media deliberately reverse the truth.

Israel has been supplying water, electricity and humanitarian aid to the Gaza. They have also been supplying medical aid to the people of Gaza. Hamas has been using houses, schools and hospitals to launch missiles from. Israel has repeatedly warned civilians to flee these areas prior to bombing them. The media are aware of these facts but they continue to vilify Israel.

God has spoken concerning the future and He has spoken through His prophets. He said to Jeremiah, *“Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth.”* Jeremiah I am not interested in what you think, take your pen and write down the very words that I give you. Peter repeated that truth in 2 Peter 1:21, *“For prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”* The thoughts of men are not included in the prophecies of scripture though men are responsible to rightly interpret them as they unfold.

The Lord declares, *“Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure”* (Isaiah 46:9-10). God has spoken and His Word will be fulfilled. *“He that has ears let him hear.”*

Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Isaiah were hated by their people, they were persecuted and some were stoned to death because their message was rejected. Those today speak the truth of God’s Word can expect to be

rejected and persecuted.

We are now standing at a crucial point in history. We are standing where no other generation has stood in all of history. All of the prophecies of scripture concerning the beginning of the end are now beginning to unfold.

The Mideast has gone through a great transition in the last few months. This transition is setting the stage for the end of this age. Get ready the end of the age is at hand! At this moment there are two different conflicts taking place simultaneously. These conflicts are and shaping and reforming the Mideast scenario.

**The First** conflict is within the Muslim world. It is a conflict between the Sunni Muslims and the Shiite Muslims. Much of this amazing transition is the result of the Gaza war.

The major issue is who has the right to succeed Mohamed. The Sunni’s believe that when Mohamed died Islam it had to be continued through the leadership of Abu Zachar. He was crowned the first Caliph or leader of the Muslim world.

However there was a faction who believed that the leadership had to be given to Ali, the nephew of Mohamed. That battle has raged ever since and for the last 1400 years Muslims have fought and butchered each other by the thousands each year. Today the battles in Syria and Iraq are an extension of this conflict.

Saudi Arabia houses the home of the Sunni’s at Mecca and Medina while Iran is the center of the Shia’s. When Maliki, a Shia, became PM of Iraq, Iran gained great influence in Iraq. In Syria Assad is a member of a clan which is Shia. As a result we have a Shia crescent forming with Iran, Iraq, Syria and Lebanon, which now has a Shia government.

Understand it wasn’t Russia or the US calling the shots in recent conflicts it was Iran behind Russia and the Saudi’s behind the US.

We need to realize that as a result of the Gaza war there has been a dramatic shift in the Mideast alliances. When you consider Ezekiel’s prophecies concerning the war of Ezekiel 38-39, and the prophecies of

Psalms 83 and others concerning a war previous to the war of Ezekiel 38-39, we see the alliances now forming for both these wars.

Understand that in the midst of the ongoing Sunni-Shia conflict, the Sunnis have realized that the Shias are gaining more and more ground. They have moved to counter the Shias. The Sunnis have produced the most vicious, cruelest people called the "IS." Originally it was called "ISIS" or the "Islamic State of Iraq and Syria," now they have broadened their horizon to include the entire Islamic world, and they call themselves the Islamic State or "IS". They claim to be the restorers of the caliphate, the ones who have finally fulfilled the most cherished aspiration of jihadists and Islamic supremacists the world over. They declare their intention to govern their domains solely and wholly by Islamic law, acting swiftly and ruthlessly to end any practice that does not conform to that law. They repeatedly proclaim their piety, ascribing all their victories to Allah and submitting themselves in all things to his will.

They are led by the caliph Ibrahim, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi who has a PhD in Islamic Studies. Realize also that 85% of the Muslim world is Sunni, Sunni countries, like Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Egypt fear they are next to fall to "IS". Though they originally endorsed "IS" as a means to curb the Shia advances in the Muslim world, they now fear for their positions as leaders in their respective countries.

Like a tiger let out of the cage "IS" is now threatening the very leaders that encouraged it. "IS" is determined to replace the present Sunni leaders, erase all of the borders of the Muslim countries, and establish an Islamic Caliphate with one religious leader over all of Islam.

"IS" has the potential for what is known as a bandwagon effect, a situation where much of the Muslim world sees the potential for the realization of the long dreamt of Caliphate and are consequently supporting "IS". Though many are marshalling resources against them, "IS" appears to have a strange momentum and Muslim radicals are gravitating to it.

(See article in March 2011 Newsletter – "Understanding Islam" – on our website)

The "IS" started by taking control of the town of Aleppo and northern Syria. They also took control of Northern Iraq and down the Tigris to the outskirts of Baghdad. They are now in control of almost all of Iraq's major cities and one third of Syria.

The western nations are now forming an alliance Against "IS." The question is, will they defeat "IS" or will they only provoke more Muslim support.

Five hundred "IS" warriors have come from Britain alone; ten percent of the "IS" warriors are made up of Americans, Europeans and Britains. The fear is that these will return home and carry the "IS" agenda forward.

Today the Sunni – Shia battle is in its most intense mode ever, and I believe it is in the process of forming the two alliances that will come against Israel in the wars of Psalm 83 and the war of Ezekiel 38-39.

**The Second** conflict that is going on in the Mideast involves radical Islam seeking to destroy Israel. This isn't a new conflict, it was born ages ago. It has involved the Pharaohs, the Amalekites, the Philistines, Adolph Hitler and countless others down through history as they have continued the attempt to destroy Israel. What we are seeing today is stage setting for the final attempts to eliminate God's chosen people.

The stated goal of Islam today is to cut Israel off from being a nation. Article 7 of the Hamas charter states; "*The day of judgment will not come about until Moslems fight the Jews and kill them. Then the Jews will hide behind rocks and trees, and the trees and the rocks cry out; O Moslem, there is a Jew hiding behind me, come and kill him.*" That is a part of the Hamas charter and it is from the Koran.

Hamas is a very poor organization; they are totally dependent upon weapons from Iran and money from Qatar. Hamas is but an extension of the Muslim world and its attempts to destroy Israel.

Iran is not only smuggling weapons to Hamas to destroy Israel but they are also smuggling weapons to Somalia, Yemen, and Eritrea, all a part of the Shia war against the Sunnis. They also send planeloads of weapons to

Damascus and Beirut; this is also a part of the Shia war against the Sunnis. Hezbollah has in storage in excess of 100,000 rockets and missiles ready for the war of Psalm 83, which precedes the war of Ezekiel 38-39. (Some of these are powerful long range weapons probably include dirty bombs containing nuclear radiation).

We are watching today as horrific things are happening. The "IS" warriors are beheading and crucifying men and women because they hate God and are tools in the hand of Satan to oppose the plan of God.

Persecution of Christians in much of the world today has reached the level not seen since early centuries of the church age. The freedom of Christians in North America is under attack because men and women hate God and are attacking the people of God.

America has in the past been the great ally of Israel, God has used America to preserve and protect Israel. That traditional alliance has come to an end thanks to Obama and the present American administration.

In order to broker a deal to end the war in Gaza, the US Secretary of state went to the enemies of Israel, namely Qatar, Turkey; who are the mentors of Hamas, and he accepted all of the Hamas demands as a draft for a peace deal. Through this deal America has become the spokesman for Hamas. A Hamas spokesman has recently said to the press, "America is now on our side, they understand our needs."

Through the Gaza war new alliances are being formed in the Arab world. These new alliances are foreshadowing the alignments of nations that will come against Israel in two of the coming wars against her.

Though America will not be involved in these coming wars, we do see her now playing a part in the realignment of nations now taking place for those wars. In the last few weeks there has been a new alignment in the Mideast. One of these new alliances is broadly in line with the nations listed in scripture which will come against Israel in the war of Psalm 83.

*"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. Selah*" (Psalm 83: 6-8).

In this Psalm we see the actual names of these nations and groups of people. Edom has been identified in a study by J. De Young as the Palestinians. The Ishmaelite's, Moab and the Hagarenes represent Arab peoples living in and around Israel, also known as the Palestinians. Ammon is represented by Jordan which today consists of a majority of Palestinians. The Philistines dwelt in Gaza the territory now controlled and represented by Hamas. The inhabitants of Tyre would appear to be the present day Hezbollah who now control Lebanon, while Assur is Syria. These nations disappeared from the world stage for many centuries and have now returned onto the world's stage.

These remarkable verses describe the present day enemies of Israel who dwell within and around the borders of Israel. In verse 12, we have a detailed description of the present day activities and attitude of the Palestinians, "Who said, *Let us take to ourselves the houses of God in possession.*" In the parallel passages in Ezekiel 36, we have the same amazing description of the attitude and objectives of these very people today. This ties together Psalm 83 with Ezekiel 35-36.

Ezekiel 36:2, "Thus saith the Lord GOD; *Because the enemy hath said against you, Aha, even the ancient high places are ours in possession.*" This is exactly what the Palestinians are now claiming; this is a situation that has never happened before in all of history. These verses are speaking to a situation that is unique to the present hour, a situation in which the antecedents of the Palestinians never found themselves.

In Ezekiel 36:5 we have the same unique situation, "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 (Edomites), 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.*" We have again the very actions and attitudes of the Palestinians in Israel today, a situation

unique to the present hour. These scriptures are speaking to the present day, not the past or the distant future. Notice the attitude of the Lord as He views the situation in Israel today as the Palestinians defy Him. We see the term, "...the fire of my jealousy." The anger of the Lord is now being kindled against Israel's enemies who are about to go to war against him.

In Psalm 83:9-17 we have the judgment which will fall on these antagonists of Israel. I believe we see the results of the coming war. "Do unto them as unto the Midianites; as to Sisera, as to Jabin, at the brook of Kison: Which perished at Endor: they became as dung for the earth. Make their nobles like Oreb, and like Zeeb: yea, all their princes as Zebah, and as Zalmunna: Who said, Let us take to ourselves the houses of God in possession. O my God, make them like a wheel; as the stubble before the wind. 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." Verses 14-17 detail the complete destruction that will fall on Israel's enemies in the soon coming war.

In the parallel passages in Ezekiel 35-36 and in Isaiah 17 we have the same total destruction of Israel's present day enemies portrayed. In Isaiah 17 we see the total destruction of Damascus, even the nuclear destruction of Damascus may be implied? (See verses 1, 17).

In Psalm 83:18 we have glimpse into the purposes of God in this devastating judgment. "That men may know that thou, whose name alone is JEHOVAH, art the most high over all the earth." The only hope for this world at that time, is that some, as they witness the judgment of God, will be arrested and turn from sin and disobedience. Prosperity and good times seem to bring hardness of the hearts of men and often drives men further away from God.

I suggest that the judgment that falls on these gentile nations during the war of Psalm 83, which is prior to the tribulation period, and the judgment in

the war of Ezekiel 38-39 early in the tribulation period; will be preparation for multitudes of gentile people to come to faith in Christ during the tribulation period. Multitudes will harden their hearts and perish, but multitudes will be saved during that awesome time as they are moved by the fear of God. "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" (Revelation 7:13-14).

The wars in Gaza are but skirmishes which are bringing about the alliances that are about to trigger the events of the beginning of the end times. The nations listed in the war of Ezekiel 38-39 are a separate group from those listed in the war of Psalm 83.

We see them listed in Ezekiel 38:5, "Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya with them; all of them with shield and helmet: Gomer, and all his bands; the house of Togarmah of the north quarters, and all his bands: and many people with thee."

Verses 1-4 tell us that Russia will lead this alliance against Israel after the Peace Treaty has been signed by Antichrist (See Ezekiel 38:8, 11, 14).

We see then two separate wars approaching for Israel, each in taking place in separate places with two separate sets of adversaries at two distinct time periods. One is to take place prior to the peace treaty and one after the peace has been signed.

In all of the signs exploding around us God is speaking to men and women, He is saying, "Get ready the end of the age is upon you." Are you ready?

**Art Sadlier**

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# The Final Empire

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The climate of the last days, according to scripture, will be an environment of great deception. Jesus warned of this in Matthew 24:24-25, *"For there shall arise false Christ's, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Behold, I have told you before."*

Paul warned of the same last days deception in 2 Thessalonians 2:8-11, *"And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: 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 church has been deceived in these last days. Many no longer understand what the church is to be and what the church is to be doing. The world is being integrated into the church, in spite of the fact that Jesus said that the believer is not to love the world neither the things of the world. When the world comes into the church its candlestick is removed and it ceases to exist as a church of Christ. That procedure is indelibly marked on the history of the Church and we see it accelerating these last days.

Today the gospel has been lost in much of the church by the incorporation of easy-believe-ism into the message, changing the gospel into a gospel that is not the gospel. It has become a message that can no longer save the soul. It is a message that produces pseudo Christians. This is not a new phenomenon, Paul tells us it occurred in the first century.

Galatians 1:6-7, *"I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ."*

Great deception has swept the world in recent days. The meaning of life has been lost, the foundations of society have been destroyed and men and women have lost their way and are confused, not knowing where they have come from or

where they are going. Governments are disoriented and confused and have no compass to direct them. Governments are led by men who have a world view that has been perverted by a lack of the wisdom that is from above.

The Word of God warns us of a great time of deception that will occur in the last days, as we have noted above.

Deception is to believe that the truth is a lie. In our present environment, men and women believe everything they hear and read in the media without testing it to determine if it is truth. A lie becomes the truth if it is repeated often enough to an undiscerning heart.

Satan is the great deceiver and his master tool for deception in these last days is the media. We have all watched the media distorting the truth at almost every turn for some time now.

The media has deceived our generation by repeating lies. The media has forced its agenda upon society in many areas. The gay agenda has been forced upon our society by the constant repeating of lies by the media. The moral values of society have been reversed by the deception of the media. Socialism has been thrust upon us by the media. Right has been presented as wrong and wrong has been presented as right. The art of spinning or twisting the truth has been perfected by the media, spinning the truth is the essence of deception.

For instance, in 2010 the movie Avatar was released to become one of the biggest truth-spinning blockbuster movies of all time. The concept behind the movie was the ability of humans to transfer their consciousness into an alternative host body. The media classified the movie as the best Science Fiction movies ever released. The media projected that such technology would be many years away.

But the reality is that the avatar concept is not science fiction because a trans-humanist agenda is already working on the development of an avatar with almost unlimited funding and the use of some of the most sophisticated technologies such as bioengineering, nanotechnology, cognitive science and cybernetics. [Among other things this would seem to be preparation for the fulfillment of Revelation 13:14-15]

The point is that the media shapes and influences and deceives society.

Back in 2013 there was another agenda of the media with regard to Europe. The news media incessantly spread the word that the European Union was in crisis and falling to pieces. In Greece, Italy, Spain, Portugal and Ireland; the EU was being destroyed by their national debt crisis. Events in Cyprus were also presented as another nail in European coffin as all banks were closed and all savings accounts in every bank were frozen for nearly a week.

Instead of seeing the events as a sign of rising super-power, the media proclaimed that the European dream was coming to a disastrous end deceiving the world as to what is really happening. The masses of the people are conditioned into thinking that the media is always right and digest what the media says as truth.

However there are those who have been able to see that the idea of the failure of the EU is a covert plan to implement a one world government.

The truth is that the media deception on the European Union is strong but not strong enough to prevent a few from noticing that behind the chaos and emergency meetings of EU leaders and the continual bailout of national governments, that something else odd is happening.

There are men like Nigel Farage, a member of the European Parliament, who is wise enough to see a trend of the EU forcing indebted countries to their knees, removing their leaders, resisting democratic elections and putting in EU replacements, men who are already committed to a United States of Europe at the expense of national sovereignty.

He believes that the nerve center of Europe in Brussels and Berlin are actually seeing the collapse of the national economies of Europe as a blessing in disguise. The global collapse of 2008 and its domino effect; actually helped to provide the justification for Germany and the European Central Bank in bringing in new draconian powers to force Europe into a Union that can no longer be resisted.

It is also noteworthy that the first Jesuit Pope has been elected as the EU is preparing for a transformation of major global implications.

Many are just shaking their heads and thinking that Europe is in a fatal crisis and

that the biblical prophecies concerning the revival of the Roman Empire are incorrect. They are assuming the media to be correct in what it says about the European Union being a failed experiment.

The truth is that today the European Union has the world's biggest economy, it has the most Fortune 500 companies and it attracts the most American investment.

Romano Prodi, a former president of the European Commission stated: "Europe's time is almost here. In fact, there are many areas of world affairs where the objective conclusion would have to be that Europe is already the world's superpower, and that the US must follow our lead."

Leading economic analysts all over the world are saying that despite the global depression and Europe's financial chaos that the European Union will rise to replace the US as the next economic superpower.

Those who have jettisoned the biblical prophecies concerning the Revived Roman Empire and the rise of antichrist out of Europe and have replaced it with a Muslim antichrist have erred in their understanding of scripture and in their evaluation of current events.

It is consistent with the rise of Europe to super power status, to see that antichrist will arise out of the EU. The EU is being shaped in such a way as to make it an institution through which the antichrist can arise and be revealed. Respected Bible scholars have come to the conclusion that the Bible provides overwhelming proof that there will be a revival of the Roman Empire in the last days.

The EU is now receiving approval by the UN to have the same status and rights as independent nations, with the right to speak, the right to make proposals and the right to submit amendments on UN law and resolutions. This will give the EU antichrist an opportunity to reposition Europe as the world's dominant superpower backed by the Vatican.

### **The EU and Antichrist have a European and Religious Legacy**

A right understanding of the European Union as it exists today must come from the context of what has happened in previous centuries. The Roman Empire was at the height of its power at the time of Christ. It had ascended to world domination through the decline of the Grecian empire.

Rome had one currency, one religion, one army and one ruler, the emperor. The religion of Rome was paganism that was composed largely of the belief systems and ideas that originated in ancient Babylon. Rome fell into decline and was overrun by the barbarian hordes.

The Christian Church started by the apostles had undergone a major, damaging and largely unrecognized change during the rule of one of the last emperors, Constantine. During that time the rituals and beliefs from pagan Rome had filtered into the hierarchy of the Church.

Rome virtually disappeared off the scene and the Roman Catholic Church filled the power vacuum and declared itself to be the Holy Roman Empire. They claimed they had a mandate from God through its Popes; it was to bring Christianity to the world, regardless of the method and to guarantee the survival of the legacy of Rome. That mandate fits perfectly into the scenario of the harlot church of Revelation 17 and the Revived Roman Empire as the kingdom of antichrist.

So as we consider what has gone before we can easily see how the Revived Roman Empire, the Catholic Church and antichrist fit into the climax of history. Remember that the last days are the consummation of the ages that have gone before.

One author has stated, "*It seems that the bishops want the EU to become an extension of the Catholic Church, by confirming that European civilization, in the words of the Pope, "Emerged because the seed of Christianity was planted deep in Europe's soil."*

The European Parliament building in Strasbourg has been deliberately designed to represent the Tower of Babel, as per the famous painting by Peter Brueghel. The reasoning behind this symbol is that the European Union is seeking to "*build the house of Europe,*" a task that is yet to be completed.

The building is now finished, but it is designed to appear unfinished, and even has a ring of scaffolding built into it. In a widely known quote from the internet by an EU official when asked "*Why the Tower of Babel?*" His reply stated. "*What they failed to complete 3000 years ago, we in Europe will finish now.*"

This again emphasises the two-fold nature of the revival of the Roman Empire, Babylon had two components –

a universal government and a universal religion.

Another example of this scenario is found in the European flag. The European flag is dark blue and has 12 stars in a circle. In a Dutch, Catholic periodical, "Middelares en Koningin," April 1974, we find the headline: "Under the Protection of Mary," it states among other things: "We Catholics will always, when we see the blue color, perceive it as the color of the Queen of Heaven (it is also called Mary blue). On the imprint of the new Euro we also find 12 stars on both coins and paper money. No matter how many members the EU will consist of, there will always be 12 stars. Why just 12 stars? Why not the number of the membership countries? The indication is evident that the 12 stars in a circle on the European Union flag took its inspiration from the worship of Mary by the Catholic Church. In the Catholic Church, the Queen of Heaven, Mary, with the 12 stars around her head, is a well-known motif. (It is the result of a misinterpretation of Revelation 12:1)

The vehicle for consolidating the EU and limiting the power of individual states is the European Court of Justice (ECJ). It has risen from relative obscurity to become an important and influential part of the European Union. Despite its relative unobtrusiveness the ECJ has become a powerful force and yields more authority than most other international courts. The court has been using its power to propagate further European integration. It is the most serious threat to the independence and freedoms of the national governments. Some believe it will be the vehicle that antichrist uses to come to power.

In Revelation 13 we see an image of the beast is to be created in the likeness of antichrist. "*And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed*" (Revelation 13:14-15).

It is certainly not without significance that the EU has committed to fund the "Human Brain Project" involving more than 1.19 billion euro's and involving more than 80 European and international

research institutions.” This is developing the potential to produce an Avatar as a host for the dead antichrist. This avatar could host the brain of antichrist which could be totally indwelt and controlled by Satan himself.

It is not hard to envision this Avatar of antichrist performing astounding miracles for the world to witness. It would be but a short step to bring the world to worship it and thus worship Satan who indwells and controls it.

It is also not hard to envision this computer-like image to fulfilling verses 16

-17, *“And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.”*

I acknowledge that this does involve some speculation, but it is not without scriptural support, yet we should major on the things in scripture that are clear and plain. We ought not to allow ourselves to be consumed in speculations about prophecy. Prophecy

is intended to change our lives and prepare our hearts for the coming of our Lord and Saviour, not to tickle our imagination.

I conclude with the reminder that the prophecies of Daniel and John in the book of Revelation are now being fulfilled and that antichrist will arise out of the superpower that is now arising in Europe.

Keep your eye on Rome and on Israel and look up for coming of Christ is drawing very near. **Art Sadlier**

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## The Coming One World Religion

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In Revelation 17 we read about a world religion that will come upon the scene in conjunction with Antichrist. The Bible teaches that this counterfeit, last days church, will bring pseudo global peace plan to the world. Many Bible scholars predict that the pope of Rome will be the leading player in this world church which the Bible calls the harlot. A harlot is a wife who is unfaithful to her husband. A harlot church is a church that names the name of Christ and yet is unfaithful to Christ and has an intimate relationship to the world.

For years we have watched the forming of this ecumenical church. The mainline churches were the first to come together in union with others which eventually included the Roman Catholic. Evangelicals are now jumping on the bandwagon and they are doing so with enthusiasm and in ever increasing numbers. In recent months this move has been accelerating as popular evangelical leaders are travelling to Rome to kiss the popes ring and plan for eventual union.

Current news events reveal a further leap forward in the formation of this world wide harlot church. Former Israeli president Shimon Peres emerged from a meeting in the Vatican with pope Francis on Thursday after proposing a kind of United Nations for religions.

Peres talked about many issues including increased tensions in the Mid-east, human rights abuses by Hamas and the rise of anti-Semitism in Europe. However the main topic for discussion was Peres's idea to create a UN-like organization he referred to as “United Religions.”

Peres said that the pope was the only world figure respected enough to bring an end to the wars raging in the Mid-east

and elsewhere in the world.

We suggest that this is preview of the powerful religious leader referred to in 13:11-12 as the second beast who comes to exercise great power in the earth. *“And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.”*

Vatican spokesman Fr. Federico Lombardi confirmed to reporters that Peres had pitched his idea for the “United Religions” and that the pope listened with great interest. He added that the pope pointed to the Pontifical Councils for Interreligious Dialogue and Justice and Peace as the existing agency “suitable for supporting interfaith peace initiatives.

Lombardi said Francis praised Peres as a man of peace. Peres, in turn, praised Francis as the only world leader respected across national boundaries and different faiths. In an interview with the Catholic Magazine *Famiglia Cristiana*, Peres called on Francis to leverage his respect to create an interfaith organization to curb religious violence.

Peres continued with the following statement, which shouts out loud the role of the coming world religious leader who will move hand in hand with Antichrist to bring to the world a peace plan such as the world has never seen before.

Peres stated, “What we need is an organization of United Religions, which is the best way to combat terrorists who kill in the name of faith. What we need is an unquestionable moral authority who says out loud, ‘No,’ God does not want this

and does not allow it”

We could not describe in better way, the absolute authority that the coming leader of the harlot church exercises in Revelation 13.

After the meeting with Peres, the pope held a thirty minute meeting with Jordanian Prince El-Hassan bin Talal. This Prince sponsors the Royal Institute for Interfaith Studies to Promote Religious Dialogue.

Lombardi said that the above meeting dovetailed into the day's topic of interfaith cooperation and peace.

We are racing to the establishment of the harlot church as found in Revelation 13.

When we see global leaders and “peacemakers” trying to solve the problem of war and strife we realize they do not understand the reason there is terrorism, murder, and cruelty to others. It is because of sin in the heart of man.

As the world seeks out answers and solutions to global issues, it moves further and further away from the only solution – Jesus Christ. Why do we say further away from Him? Because the answer they come up with is to eliminate any and all “extremism.” This is another way of saying remove those who say their religion is the only true religion. So what happens is Islamic extremists (fundamentalists) are lumped together with Christian fundamentalists. And now, it becomes wrong to stand for the Christian faith and say that Christ is the only way to God. The problem with this is that the one, Islam promotes violence. The other, biblical Christianity promotes love, peace, gentleness (the fruits of the Spirit as described in Galatians) and finding salvation and eternal life

through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. That is quite a contrast!

Men like Rick Warren are involved in promoting the coming harlot church. Warren is promoting the elimination of all forms of fundamentalism.

Warren predicts that, "Fundamentalism, of all varieties, will be 'one of the big enemies of the 21st century. Muslim fundamentalism, Christian fundamentalism, Jewish fundamentalism, secular fundamentalism, they're all motivated by fear, fear of each other."

But Christian fundamentalism and Jewish fundamentalism do not promote violence. Christian fundamentalism promotes the Gospel of Jesus Christ. If something that calls itself Christianity (such as the Roman Catholic Church during the inquisitions) is promoting violence, then it is not true Christianity.

How sad to realize that one of the evangelical church's most popular and influential pastors would suggest that we lump Islamic terrorists with Christian believers.

In 2011, Lighthouse Trails wrote a report titled "Eye-Witness Account: Global Peace Forum at Saddleback with Rick Warren and Tony Blair Raises Serious Questions about Global Peace Plan."

In that report, it was stated by both Warren and Blair that 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. The audience at the forum appeared to be mesmerized and awe-struck as they were wooed with discussion on faith, good works, democracy, and coming together. Beneath the vernacular, however, was another story.

At the 4th Ministerial meeting of the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF) in New York on 27 September 2013, GCTF Co-Chairs announced that a core group of government and non-government partners from different regions are planning to establish the first-ever public-private global fund to support local, grass-roots efforts to counter violent extremism in all of its forms. It is anticipated that the fund will raise more than \$200 million over the next ten years to support local community initiatives that counter radicalization and extremism.

"The work that my organisation does, and the work of many others, is about not just the uprooting of terrorism, but the uprooting of the thinking and philosophy behind it. I believe there is no answer to

this problem that doesn't start and continue with the importance of educating our young people. So, that in a world in which people are pushed ever closer together, they learn to live with each other with mutual tolerance and respect."

Tony Blair stated in the UK Guardian, "Religious difference, not ideology, will fuel this century's epic battles"

So Blair and Warren believe the hope of society is to eliminate religious differences. That is the philosophy behind all of the persecution of Christians over the long centuries of the dark ages.

Blair continued, "Terrorism is a transnational and global problem frequently driven by local forces. While military, intelligence and law enforcement operations can help address the threat these groups pose, to succeed in the long-term, we must reduce their ability to recruit at the local level".

That is a call to eliminate all groups that do not conform to the societal norms, in particular, fundamental Christians.

Tony Blair stated, "We have to be prepared to take the security measures necessary for our immediate protection. . . The answer is to promote views that are open-minded and tolerant towards those who are different, and to fight the formal, informal and internet propagation of closed-minded intolerance."

Read - Persecution of fundamental Christians who do not conform to societal norms.

The following article written by Tony Blair illustrates further the world's efforts to bring about peace (without Christ) and its move toward a one-world religion, which will reject biblical Christians as extremists who are prone to terrorism. Of course, this is absurd as true born-again believers in Christ are not prone to violence. What Tony Blair and other leaders are really calling for is a world where those who say Jesus Christ is the only way of salvation are silenced. If you don't believe that, consider what Blair's co-comrade Rick Warren said about Christian fundamentalists (meaning those who adhere to biblical doctrine).

Warren predicts that fundamentalism, of all varieties, will be 'one of the big enemies of the 21st century.' 'Muslim fundamentalism, Christian fundamentalism, Jewish fundamentalism, secular fundamentalism – they're all

motivated by fear, fear of each other.' (from the Philadelphian Enquirer, 2006.)

A false "Christ" is coming; the Bible predicts it and he will hate Israel, the Jews, and Bible-believing Christians. While the world is going to do what it is going to do, how is that many of Christianity's main leaders are falling into step with this world system that will eventually bring about the Antichrist?

Remember what Rick Warren said about the new reformation he is hoping to help bring about, that it can come not just through Christians but through Muslims as well. He calls it a reformation from God.

Warren stated, "Who's the man of peace in any village, or it might be a woman of peace who has the most respect, they're open and they're influential? They don't have to be a Christian. In fact, they could be a Muslim, but they're open and they're influential and you work with them to attack the five giants. And that's going to bring the second Reformation. (Rick Warren, May 2005, Pew Forum on religion)

Warren has put forward his peace plan which is very similar to a peace plan put forward by the United Nations. Warren and Blair promote not only ecumenical tolerance, but global salvation through a social justice gospel for the coming world kingdom.

What is Warren's PEACE Plan? It was established in 2005 as a program of "local and international missionary aid" designed to eradicate what Warren perceives to be the "five global giants"- spiritual emptiness, corrupt leadership, extreme poverty, pandemic diseases, and illiteracy and education.

Instead of being ambassadors of Christ to the world, the Church is now being wooed to partner with political statesmen who are using the name of Christ and religion to organize a counterfeit kingdom that the coming Man of Lawlessness will assume ruler ship over prior to Christ's return.

In the above article we see the plans to establish the pope with absolute control over the entire earth to implement the peace plan which antichrist will own.

The hour is late are you ready for the trumpet to sound? Do you know Christ as your personal savior and Lord?

**Art Sadlier**