

A BRIEF OUTLINE OF THE HAND OF GOD IN WORLD EVENTS SINCE THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

The Apocalypse divides history from the time of John (AD 96) till the establishment of the Kingdom into four epochs or periods, separating each epoch by a "great earthquake".

The Pagan Roman Empire

At the time when the Apocalypse was given the Roman Empire was ruled by Pagan Emperors and the State Religion was Paganism. However with the spread of Christianity which went forth "turning the world upside down" (Acts 17:6) the time came when Constantine overthrew Paganism and established Christianity as the State Religion in 312-324 AD. This mighty upheaval is described prophetically as the "great earthquake" of the sixth seal (Rev 6:12).

The "Christian" Roman and Holy Roman Empire

From the days of Constantine until the period of the French Revolution the Roman Catholic Church, under the guidance of the Papacy, linked itself with the emperors and kings who ruled both the Eastern and Western Roman Empire. As a result of this the State Church of Roman Catholicism held great influence over civil matters of that period. Throughout this time the peoples particularly of Europe were held in the darkness and ignorance of Roman Catholicism. This alliance of kings and emperors with the Pope was overthrown during the period of the French Revolution in 1789-95. This upheaval is described again as a "great earthquake" (Rev 11:13).

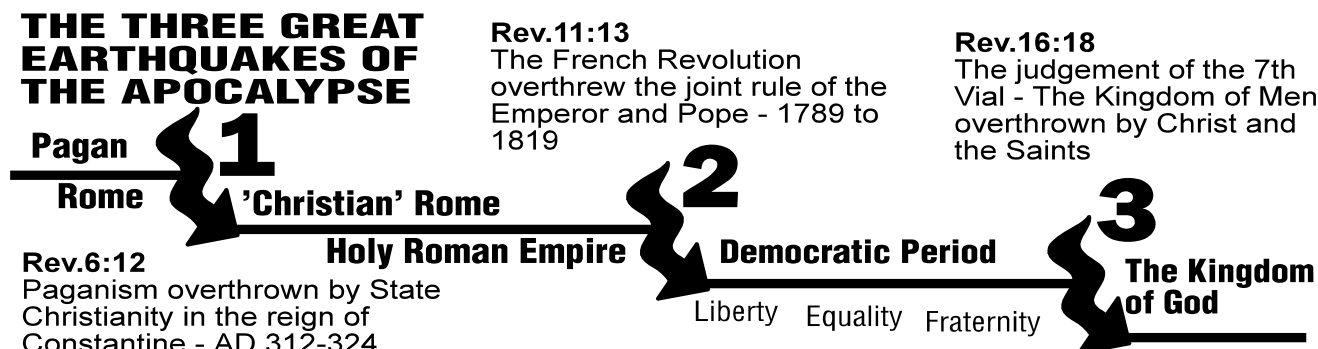
The Democratic Period of the World's History since the French Revolution

The effect of the French Revolution was to remove the absolute authority that was vested in the kings and emperors, giving the peoples of the earth the freedom to voice their opinions concerning who should rule over them and how they should rule.

The powerful influence of the Papacy in civil matters was greatly reduced and the spirit of the French Revolution, liberty, equality and fraternity, has produced the various forms of government that now prevail in the capitalist and socialist countries of the world.

These forms of man's rulership will be completely overthrown when the Lord Jesus Christ judges this world, and sweeping away man's political inventions establishes the Kingdom of God as a Theocracy.

Again this transformation from man's misrule to God's rule is described as a "great earthquake" (Rev 16:18).



Events Leading up to the French Revolution

Throughout Europe, the Pope held tremendous influence over both the Emperor and his Court and the kings of Europe and their Courts, through his priests and the mystical doctrines of Catholicism.

In France the King, with the aristocracy and nobles and the Church with her priesthood, were exempted from many of the taxes and charges that fell heavily upon the peoples ruled over by them, and this agitated civil and political unrest.

Added to this there were those who opposed Catholicism because they realised that the practices of the Church were widely astray from Bible teaching, and they likewise protested against the Church. This group of religious protesters can be divided into two classes - the true believers or saints and the general Protestant class who, though ignorant of the Truth itself and still clinging to some of the erroneous doctrines of the Church, (eg. the Trinity, immortal soul) protested at the excesses of Catholicism.

There were therefore two classes who opposed the Church-State system of rulership which had sprung up from the Holy Roman Empire. They were:-

1. The civil, and
2. The religious

protesters and they are spoken of in the Apocalypse as the two witnesses (see Rev 11). For several centuries prior to the French Revolution the Church and State had united in bloodthirsty persecution of both these witnesses and on one occasion in 1685 over 500,000 Huguenot protesters in France had been slain or exiled at the Church's instigation.

This persecution had seemingly rendered the witnesses powerless, and is spoken of prophetically as if the witnesses were slain (Rev 11:7). However their opposition, though not openly visible, continued to ferment among the peoples of France and in 1789 the people finally revolted. France had deteriorated financially to a state of bankruptcy, taxes had become a crushing burden on the peoples, while the excesses of licentiousness and opulence enjoyed by the aristocracy and priesthood had steadily increased. In the Apocalypse this Revolution is termed as the resurrection to life of these witnesses (Rev 11:11).

The King of France, Louis XVI, realising the critical state to which France had deteriorated, called an assembly of the Estates General which was a gathering together of representatives of the three Estates or groups of the population; the Nobility, the Church, and the People.

When the Peoples' representatives were called upon to attend this assembly and express their opinion the Apocalypse describes them as "ascending up to heaven" i.e. of being involved in the rulership of the country (Rev 11:12). The people, grasping this opportunity for power, implemented such dramatic changes resulting in the overthrow and beheading of the King and Queen and the abolition of all titles and ranks in both nobility and Church and the confiscation of all Church property.

Part of the trauma of the years of the Revolution is known historically as the "reign of terror" but apocalyptically it is spoken of as a time when "the remnant of men were affrighted (Grk. terrified) (Rev 11:13). As previously stated this great political upheaval in France, which had reverberations throughout Europe, is known as "a great earthquake" (Rev 11:13).

The Major Events Prophetically foretold between the French Revolution and the Return of the Lord Jesus Christ

The resurrection of the two witnesses which led to the French Revolution produced an ongoing twofold effect. Firstly from a civil-political point of view there was the development of the democratic process whereby mankind selected the form of government under which he desired to be ruled. This has produced the various political parties that now vie for dominance and power in the countries around the world today, one of the most powerful of which is the Communist party. Secondly from a religious point of view it produced widespread Protestant opposition to Roman Catholicism and a keen interest by the people in religious matters which resulted in a general understanding of the Bible.

It was from this religious revolution that Brother Thomas, through the providence of God, was caught up in the Reformation in America under Alexander Campbell which caused him to turn his attention to a serious study of the Word of God with a determined desire to find the pure apostolic faith. God blessed and guided him in this effort and not only did he rediscover the doctrines of the Truth, but he was guided in an understanding of the prophetic Word, thus enabling us today, through his writings, to understand the Apocalypse and other prophecies which hitherto had been generally hidden.

This period between the French Revolution and the return of Christ is depicted by the pouring out of the six vials of Rev 16. The first five vials speak specifically of God's bitter judgements upon the Holy Roman Empire by Napoleon in his various campaigns. It was during the wars of Napoleon against the powers of Europe that the Holy Roman Empire was finally overthrown and Papal power greatly reduced.

The sixth vial (Rev 16:12-16) specifically details the major influences since the French Revolution which lead to the gathering of all nations to the judgement of Armageddon and the gathering of the saints to Christ for judgement. It is for this reason that all saints should be vitally interested in the way that this vial is being fulfilled today so that they will not be caught unawares by the thief like advent of the Lord.

It is obvious that there are two main aspects relating to this sixth vial's outpouring. Firstly the drying up of the Euphratean power and secondly the spreading forth of the three unclean froglike spirits, both of which simultaneously in their outworking are gathering the nations to the great day of God Almighty. These two aspects have been soundly expounded by Brother Thomas and subsequent writers and we would encourage a detailed consideration of Brother Thomas' comments on this subject in Eureka Volume 5 pp. 175-240 (Logos Edition).

Briefly the import of these two signs speak firstly of the diminishing of the territory under Turkish control, causing a void in the Middle East. The effect of this opened the way for the establishment of Israel again as the homeland for the Jews, yet also allowed unstable Arab powers to control areas in this strategically important portion of the world, thus causing international instability.

Secondly we are told of the spread of the revolutionary spirits of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity or socialistic and democratic principles that will be taken up by the Beast or Central Europe, the Dragon or Eastern Europe and Russia, and the False Prophet or the Papacy. Both of these two signs have dominated the history of the world since the period of the French Revolution.

As we now analyse the major events in the light of these predictions our eyes should concentrate on events involving the Turkish Empire and the territory it controlled in the Middle East and at the same time those events in Europe, Russia and the Papacy which have been instigated by the froglike spirit of the French Revolution.

BRIEF HISTORICAL OUTLINE OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION 1789-1794

5th May, 1789	Convocation of the Estates General at Versailles (The three Estates - Nobility, Clergy, People)
14th July, 1789	The storming of the Bastille
4/5th Aug, 1789	Abolition of Feudal orders and freeing of the Peasantry
26th Aug, 1789	Declaration of the Rights of Man - Liberty, Equality and Fraternity (the three unclean froglike spirits - Rev 16:13)
Oct, 1789	The title "citizen" adopted instead of "monsieur" (sir) - Confiscation of Church property
July, 1790	The Civil constitution of the Clergy - The Church was made into a State Church - monasteries and orders were dissolved, priests were to be elected.
Apr, 1792	Declaration of war on Austria. "Marseillaise" written as battle hymn of the Revolution and national anthem of France
Sept, 1792	September Massacres - "to clear out prisoners" causing a wave of immigration of Nobles from France - "National Convention" France proclaimed a republic - "The People will it"
17th Jan, 1793	"Citizen Capet" i.e. Louis XVI sentenced to death and guillotined
1793-94	The Reign of Terror - Buildings known as Churches were closed and Notre Dame Cathedral was turned into "the Temple of Reason"
May, 1794	Abolition of Christianity in favour of the "Cult of Reason" - Adoption of new chronology (months to have 3 weeks of 10 days)
June, 1794	Celebration of festival of the "Supreme Being".

BRIEF HISTORY OF WORLD EVENTS IN LIGHT OF BIBLE PROPHECY SINCE THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

1787-92	Russia and Turkey at war
1796	Napoleon "The Corsican" or "The Little General" took control of the French Army and conquered Lombardy or northern Italy
	1798-99 Napoleonic campaign in Egypt. Battle of Nile - Napoleon defeated by Nelson. Napoleon had marched to Acco with the aim to weaken the British Empire and split it between East and West - he was defeated at Acco.
	Napoleon's plan was to conquer the world. He expected to be in Fremantle, W.A. by 1804/5
	(See map of wars of Napoleon in Eureka Volume 5 p. 162 Logos Edition)
	Note: The outpouring of the first five vials (Rev 16:1-11) were divine judgements against the Holy Roman Empire and particularly the Papacy. When Napoleon was engaged in the work he succeeded because God was with him. When he turned to other areas then his campaigns were a failure, e.g. Russia and Egypt.
1801	The Concordat with the Pope - Tied the clergy and Church to the State "for the sake of peace". Pope Pius VII renounced claims for return of Church property

- 1804 Napoleon crowns himself Emperor in the Notre Dame in the presence of the Pope. He would not allow the continuation of the Holy Roman Empire principle of a unity between Emperor and Pope, with the Pope crowning the Emperor thus indicating his rank was higher and divine.
- 1806 End of the "Holy Roman Empire" which had lasted about 1000 years from time when Charlemagne was crowned Emperor by the Pope on Christmas Day 799
- 1809 Napoleon annexes the Papal States and the arrest of the Pope
- 1806-12 Turkey and Russia at war - **TURKISH EMPIRE BEGINS TO BREAK UP**
- 1815 Battle of Waterloo - Napoleon defeated and exiled
- 1832 Mehemet Ali, ruler of Egypt defeats Turkey and pushes north. Doctor Thomas names him "the king of the South"
- 1832 Doctor Thomas on the "Marquis of Wellesley" vows to search for the Truth when his ship founders on Sable Island on his journey from Britain to USA. He was baptised into Campbellite teaching in the same year

NOTE: The spirit of the French Revolution continues to spread through the peoples of Europe until 1848 brought general Revolution

- 1848 Three Remarkable Events
- + Known as "the year of Revolution", with Revolutions in many major countries in Europe
 - + The Communist Manifesto was published by Karl Marx
 - + Brother Thomas in Britain writes Elpis Israel
- 1853 Turkey declares war on Russia after the dispute over holy places in Palestine
- 1854-56 Crimean War between Britain, France, Turkey and Russia
- 1859 Charles Darwin writes "The Origin of the Species" which became the basis of challenge to the existence of God, substituting Evolution for Creation
- 1860 Garibaldi and his "Thousand Redshirts" conquer Naples and Sicily
- 1861 Italy, except for Rome, united as one kingdom under Victor Emmanuel
- 1861-68 EUREKA published - a clear, detailed exposition of the Apocalypse by Brother Thomas
- 1869 Suez Canal opened
- 1870 Victor Emmanuel annexes the Papal States. Rome becomes capital of Italy. The Pope is given the Vatican City. The Pope proclaims "Dogma of Papal Infallibility"
- 1875 The British Prime Minister, Benjamin Disraeli, buys shares in the Suez Canal from Egypt
- 1881-82 Britain bombards Alexandria and occupies Cairo - leads to French withdrawal from Egypt - Britain takes up position of "king of South"
- 1882 "Friends of Zion" movement formed and Jewish return to Israel. Culmination of period of the EMANCIPATION OF THE JEWS in Europe which commenced with the French Revolution and resulted in laws being passed to emancipate Jews in Austria 1866, Hungary 1867, Italy 1870, Germany 1871, etc. However Jewish pogroms in Russia 1881-82
- 1894 French Jewish Officer, Alfred Dreyfus convicted of treason - Theodore Herzl present at trial as journalist
- 1896 Herzl wrote "the Jewish State"

- 1897 First Zionist World Congress held in Basle, Switzerland
- 1898 Social Democratic Party formed in Russia
- 1900 Arms race between Germany and Britain commences British naval forces build up
- 1903 Social Democrats of Russia meet in London to resolve differences. Split between Mensheviks and Bolsheviks (extremists)
- 1905 "Bloody Sunday" - Troops fire on workers in St Petersburg, Russia
- 1909 Henry Ford begins "assembly line" production of cheap motor cars
- 1913 "Young Turks" established dictatorship in Turkey, making the Sultan a figurehead
- 1914-18 WORLD WAR ONE - Allied Powers - Britain, Russia, France, Italy, USA versus the Central Powers - Germany, Austria, Hungary, Turkey
- 1917 Outcome of World War One
- + 7th November - October Revolution in Russia. Bolsheviks led by Lenin seized power in Russia
 - + 8th November - Balfour Declaration. Britain looks with favour on Palestine as homeland for Jews
 - + 9th December - British capture of Jerusalem from Turks. (Turkish power pushed out of Palestine opening the way for return of the Jews)
- 1918 Revolution in Germany - Republic declared
- 1919 Fascist Movement founded in Italy by Mussolini
- 1920 Mandate over Palestine given to Britain and Jewish State under British administration established.
- 1922 Mussolini becomes Prime Minister of Italy - Union of Soviet Socialist Republics established in Russia - Egypt becomes an independent state from British influence
- 1923 Mussolini creates Fascist State in Italy - Hitler forms National Socialist (NAZI) Party in Germany - Turkey proclaimed a Republic
- 1924 Stalin succeeds Lenin in Russia
- 1929 A Concordat between Pope and Mussolini - agreement to establish independent State of Vatican City - United States' Stock Market (Wall Street) collapse leading to world wide economic depression
- 1934 Hitler becomes "Führer" (leader) of Germany
- 1935 Persecution of Jews begins in Germany - Hitler announces re-armament of Germany
- 1939 Germany invades Poland on 1st September commencing World War Two - The period of the "Holocaust" - Jewish death camps, six million Jews perish.
- 1941 Italy and Germany invade Egypt
- 1942 Battle of El Alamein. Rommel defeated by Allies in Egypt. Germans retreat from North Africa
- 1944 Allies enter Rome - June 6 Allies invade Europe landing at Normandy
- 1945 Germany defeated - First atomic bomb dropped on Japan - Hiroshima and Nagasaki devastated - World War Two ends
- 1946 United Nations Organization formed

- 1947 Partition of Palestine between Arab and Jewish States agreed to by UN on 29 November - Arabs reject the proposal
- 1948 **STATE OF ISRAEL DECLARED** on 14th May - Soviet Union blockades West Berlin
- 1949 Arab-Israeli armistice - Jerusalem partitioned - NATO Treaty formed as defensive alliance by Western nations
- 1950 Anglo-Egyptian agreement on Suez Canal
- 1951 Egypt withdraws from Anglo-Egyptian agreement - British troops occupy Canal zone - European Coal and Steel Community holds first meeting at Luxembourg
- 1955 Warsaw Pact: Eastern European Defense Treaty signed by Communist nations - Iron Curtain and Cold War period - Israel raids Egyptian and Syrian borders
- 1956 Suez crisis - Colonel Nasser, President of Egypt, nationalises Suez Canal - Israel invades Egypt - Anglo-French forces occupy Suez Zone - UN Peace Force sent to area
- 1957 Treaty of Rome signed - European Economic Community i.e. the Common Market formed
- 1958 United Arab Republic formed - Election of Pope John XXIII - Catholic Church begins the swing towards socialistic principles (three unclean spirits)
- 1959 Pope John XXIII announces the Second Vatican Council to work towards "Spiritual Renewal" and provide occasion for Christians separated from Rome to join the search for reunion
- 1962 2nd Vatican Council convened over 3 years swings the Catholic Church towards humanism
- 1965 Pope Paul VI speaks at UN "for the cause of peace in the world"
- 1967 Six Day War between Israel and Arab powers. Israel occupies Sinai Desert, West Bank of River Jordan and **JERUSALEM IN THE HANDS OF THE JEWS AGAIN**
- 1969 In Libya Colonel Gaddafi overthrows the government and establishes military rule and develops strong ties with the USSR
- 1973 Yom Kippur war between Israel and Arab neighbours - World fuel crisis
- 1974 Ethiopia suffers military coup supported by Russian troops, thus making it a Socialist State
- 1978 Russia enters Afghanistan and introduces a Socialist Government - Election of Polish Pope
- 1979 Israel/Egypt peace agreement brokered by US President Carter and signed at Camp David
- 1989 Mikhail Gorbachev breaks down barriers to the West - The Berlin Wall falls in November
- 1990 Eastern Europe breaks from the Soviet Bloc - The two Germanys united into one nation
- 1991 Gulf War against Iraq brings Western powers into Middle east - USSR begins to dissolve - The Balkans crisis begins
- 1992 USSR disintegrates into 15 Republics - European nations agree to unite at Maastricht
- 1993 Political and economic chaos in Russia - Peace agreement between Israel and PLO
- 1995 Balkans crisis provokes NATO intervention - Assassination of Yitzhak Rabin

- 1999 Russia's re-emergence as an aggressive military power in Chechnya - Significant progress made in peace agreement between Israel and Palestinians – Euro currency introduced in EU countries (except for UK)
- 2001 Terrorist attack on World Trade Centre in New York changes the direction of the world
- 2002 US invades Afghanistan in search of Osama bin Laden supported by Europe
- 2003 US and allies invade Iraq and overthrow Saddam Hussein – Iraq becomes a quagmire costing US vast sums of money and many casualties
- 2004 Putin becomes a dictator in Russia seizing oil assets and appointing regional governors – Euro overtakes US dollar and American economy begins to decline under huge deficits and trade debt - Yasser Arafat dies and peace becomes more likely in the ME – 25 EU nations sign new constitution in Rome – EU agrees on terms for Turkish entry into the EU in the future