

## PROPHETIC UPDATE – MAY 2022

This review of developments in fulfilling Bible prophecy will cover the following matters:

- A brief review of the many unmistakable signs that the return of Christ is imminent;
- The war in Ukraine and the commentary on Putin's 'failure' to achieve his initial goals;
- The prospects for the future of the Ukrainian conflict prophetically;
- The French elections and their relationship to present events in Ukraine and the future outlined for France in prophecy;
- The contrasts between the state of the world in mid 2022 with what is required by Bible prophecy at the time of Armageddon and why this should not be a concern to those anticipating the imminent return of Christ to raise the dead;
- What the evident pushback against the excesses and 'insanity' of the "three unclean spirits" – Liberty, Equality and Fraternity mean for the war in Ukraine and human society generally;
- Reasons why Christ can come any time very soon and the need for preparedness and watchfulness.

### BRIEF REVIEW OF THE PACKAGE OF UNMISTAKABLE SIGNS SINCE 2015

Since 2015 to the present our God has given His servants a package of unmistakable signs that Christ will soon return to the earth. There has not been the like since the events of the Six Day War in 1967. Many of these developments find their source in Ezekiel 38. Readers who need a reminder of the detail can refer to pages 1 to 9 of the 2021 mid year review (attached).

Here is a brief summary.

**October 2015** – Russia entered the Syrian civil war on Assad's side – Israel's Prime Minister Netanyahu acknowledged at the time that "Israel has a Russian border now."

**23 June 2016** – Britain voted to leave the EU – 'Brexit' – Ezek. 38:13 requires that Britain be out of Europe at the time of Armageddon consistent with the fact that Britain was no longer part of the Roman Empire when the two legs of Nebuchadnezzar's image were formed in AD 420. Rome had left British shores between AD 395 and 410.

**2017** – US President Donald Trump's first year in office successfully promoted peace between Israel and its former long-time enemies Saudi Arabia and the Gulf States – Ezek. 38:13.

**31 December 2017** – Israel's ruling party Likud decided to push for the annexation of the West Bank, required by Ezek. 38:8 – Gog invades "the mountains of Israel" (not Palestine).

**2018** – CANZUK (Canada, Australia, New Zealand and United Kingdom trade organization) received a huge boost due to Brexit – Ezek. 38:13 – Britain is rebuilding close ties with its former colonies – the "young lions" with a British form of government.

**2019** – Australia's relationship with China (its largest trading partner) began to unravel – Australia forced to seek trade with other countries, especially Britain. This culminated in a free trade agreement between Australia and Britain in 2021.

**2020** – The Covid pandemic guaranteed a global financial crisis due to increasing national debt reaching staggering levels – a debt level larger than aggregate GDP of the world.

**Early 2021** – Counter-intuitively house/property prices sky-rocketed due to low interest rates and increased savings from lockdowns, thus creating a huge housing bubble that must eventually burst.

**Mid 2021** – Relaxation of many Covid restrictions around the world saw an outburst of “eating and drinking” and a return to most of the activities listed in Luke 17:26-28.

**Late 2021** – Rising inflation in America and elsewhere threatened the rapid rise of historically low interest rates, one major cause of the 29 October 1929 stock market crash.

**24 February 2022** — Russia invaded Ukraine. When finally successful Ezek. 38:2 – “Gog of the land of Magog” and “prince of Rosh” will be in place.

**March 2022** – The Ukrainian crisis and related sanctions on Russia send fuel and commodity prices sky high almost guaranteeing the collapse of the world’s financial and economic system this year according to reliable commentators. Russian blockades of Ukrainian ports prevent the export of 30% of the world’s grain threatening famine in some countries, particularly in Africa. The effect on supply and demand and hence inflation will be devastating.

**2 April 2022** – Australia and India signed a free trade agreement, the first for India with any nation in many years. This is a result of Australia’s trade with China being stalled.

**3 April 2022** – Several hundred bodies found in a village north of Kiev as victims of Russian atrocities. Many bound and shot in the back of the head, and some victims of torture and rape. This is characteristic of ancient Assyrian practice in war. Russia as the latter day ‘Assyrian’ power is following the same pattern of behavior in the invasion of Ukraine as it did in Syria.

## **THE WAR IN UKRAINE – HAS PUTIN MADE A FATAL MISTAKE?**

If one were to believe commentary coming from a plethora of media in recent weeks, the conclusion would be that Ukrainian armed forces have successfully defended their country from ultimate takeover by Russia and that Vladimir Putin has made a massive miscalculation.

In previous updates a point was made that bears repeating. To quote: **“We do not interpret Bible prophecy on the basis of what we see, but on what we read. It doesn't matter what is happening in the present. What God has said will happen, will eventually happen.”**

It is unnecessary to repeat the content of pages 1 to 3 of the February 2022 update here. However, it may help to summarize the points made there:

- Ezek. 38:2 requires “Gog” to be “of the land of Magog” and the eastern portion of what historians describe as “Magog” includes Ukraine and Belarus. These two countries, along with a portion of neighboring southern Russia constitute the original territory of the kingdom of the Rus. Putin has declared his ambition to restore that kingdom given its greatest ruler is his hero Vladimir I.
- Vladimir Putin’s lengthy article of 12 July 2021 titled “On the Historical Unity of Russians and Ukrainians” provides one important reason why he invaded Ukraine on 24 February. There were others which were canvassed in the February 2022 update, including the part played by religion.

So, has Putin made a fatal mistake? Will sanctions force a withdrawal? If Bro. Thomas were alive today he would likely respond along similar lines to the following extract from Elpis Israel page 367 written in 1848:

“Politicians speculate as though money were omnipotent; and we hear ‘financial reformers’ predicting the inactivity of Russia and Austria for want of funds! Where did the barbarians procure funds for the overthrow of the western empire in the fifth and sixth centuries? Did they not support themselves by the spoil? Let the Russian treasury be as empty as it is said to be, and its expenditure exceed its revenue by double the alleged deficit, it will only operate as a pressure from within, causing her Autocrat to ‘enter into the countries, and to overflow and pass over,’ and to enrich himself with the spoil of those he is destined to subdue.”

Prophecy is clear about the ultimate outcome of the Ukrainian conflict. Gog is “of the land of Magog”. There may be many twists and turns in coming months or even years, but the ultimate outcome will be political control of Ukraine and Belarus by Russia. Whether that is achieved by Putin or a successor only time will tell. Vladimir Putin possesses all the characteristics required by Scriptures such as Ezek. 38:2 and Habakkuk 2 of the supreme dictator called “Gog” (a title that means “the one at the top” according to The English and Hebrew Bible Student’s Concordance) that Bro. Thomas called “the Autocrat of all the Russias” in his writings. Putin can rule ‘legally’ to 2036 and is not in a position to stand down or retire as he would immediately be subject to criminal prosecutions both within Russia and internationally.

The setbacks in Ukraine have seen a refocusing of military activity in the south and east of the country. It is evident Putin has two immediate goals – the closing of sea access to Ukraine via the Black Sea and the annexation of the Donbas region in the east after the pattern set in 2014 with the Crimea. His forces will also keep the rest of Ukraine under siege by regular use of long range missiles. Recent reports suggest Putin has become increasingly concerned by the supply of weapons to Ukraine by western countries and may take action to suppress the inflow of armaments. The US intelligence agencies have warned that he may even resort to limited nuclear arms in the future and this would bring a new element to the conflict.

What western powers don’t seem to grasp is that Putin is not one for backing down when cornered. He himself gave the warning of what he is likely to do in a crisis situation when his back is against the wall. In an extensive and enlightening 1999 interview with a Russian TV journalist he told a story about an incident in his early teenage years. Putin was a relative unknown when made Prime Minister by Boris Yeltsin in August 1999. He wanted the Russian people to know who he was prior to the presidential election of March 2000 and unloaded in a manner not repeated since.

The story goes that he cornered a rat in the apartment where he was brought up. The rat was nearly in his grasp but at the last second jumped at his face and bounded over his shoulder and escaped. He said in the interview it was the most important lesson of his life. NATO and its partners might be wise to heed the warning. The ‘rat’ is being pushed into a corner. He is unlikely to meekly submit to the humiliation of defeat without radical action.

We need to remain confident that prophecy will be fulfilled whatever the commentary from news sources may be. Remember, in the months prior to 24 February 2022 most Ukrainians and many commentators were saying that Russia would not invade Ukraine. “These things don’t happen in the 21<sup>st</sup> century” they were saying. There are more shocks to come.

## **THE FRENCH ELECTIONS**

Emmanuelle Macron was re-elected as President of France on 24 April 2022 for another 5 years with 58.5% of the vote. He defeated right wing candidate Marine Le Pen as in the previous election. Parliamentary elections coming up in June 2022 may be a different story. Macron did not have a political party before the elections in 2017 but won an amazing number of seats giving him a parliamentary majority. That majority is likely to evaporate this year and that will make his already difficult task of ruling France all that much more difficult. There is a lot of unrest in France as in many other European nations as a multitude of insoluble difficulties confront them. Not the least of these is the war in Ukraine.

During the French presidential elections in 2017, the leader of France’s right wing political party, Marine Le Pen, declared a major policy platform of her campaign to be the forging of what she called “a privileged partnership with Russia”. President Emmanuel Macron adopted a similar approach after Trump threatened NATO’s future. He argued that Europe needed to build its own military force. In 2019, Macron put forward the idea of engaging in a strategic

dialogue with Russia as a necessary step to create an “architecture of trust and security” on the European continent. That was all overturned by Russia’s invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. Now the European nations (with NATO) have a real problem. Many are dependent on Russian oil and gas and cannot easily or quickly replace it from elsewhere. This has led to division within the EU and frustration for western leaders wishing to strangle the Russian economy by heavy sanctions.

France is an ally of Gog and an active participant at the time of Armageddon (Ezek. 38:6). In Elpis Israel pages 426-428 Bro. Thomas provides extensive historical evidence that ‘Gomer’ is a reference to France. His summary reads - “In this general description may easily be discerned that extended portion of the West of Europe, comprehending ancient Gaul, Belgium, and the countries bordering upon them, which constituted in our day the Napoleon empire. Gomer, then, points immediately to France.”

This raises the obvious question of how France will end up an important ally of Russia at the time of the Gogian invasion of the Land of Israel given the present situation in regard to Ukraine. Perhaps a summary of the contrasts between the current situation in the world and what it must be like just prior to Armageddon may be useful at this stage.

### **CONTRASTS BETWEEN THE WAY THE WORLD MUST BE AT THE TIME OF ARMAGEDDON AND THE WAY IT IS IN MID 2022**

<b>THE STATE OF THE WORLD IN MAY 2022</b>	<b>THE WORLD AT THE TIME OF ARMAGEDDON</b>
Many nations are vicariously embroiled in a war in Europe by offering support to Ukraine. The rationale is that non-involvement will endanger the future sovereignty of other nations.	The world must be in a state of peace when the universal mantra of nations will be the assertion of “peace and safety” – 1 Thess. 5:3.
An outbreak of violence in the West Bank spilling over into Israel has the nation on edge.	Israel must be at peace internally and with its neighbours – Ezek. 38:8,11,14.
Israel does not yet have political control of the West Bank territory.	Ezek. 38:8 requires Israel to have annexed the West Bank to become part of Israel proper.
Israel is conscious that it effectively has a Russian border in Syria and that Iran is building up military facilities there and in Lebanon.	Israel is found completely unsuspecting of an invasion by Russia and its allies and is caught off guard – Ezek. 38:8-11.
European nations united behind NATO have set themselves against Russia over Ukraine.	The nations of western Europe must be drawn into the Russian orbit – Ezek. 38:6
President of France, Emmanuelle Macron is a major player in the sanctions on Russia over its invasion of Ukraine.	France in particular will be an ally of Russia and involved in the invasion of Israel – Ezek. 38:6
The EU has 27+ members, many to the north of the Rhine. In this mix is NATO. Both NATO and the EU as it is presently formed must be dissolved and replaced. At present they appear to be united in purpose.	The old Roman Empire must be revived with 10 nations in southern Europe (Dan. 7:7), which means the territory south of the Rhine and the Danube must be united under Gogian and Papal influence.
Britain is still in transition from its ties with Europe to becoming a major trading partner with its former colonies.	Britain must be a close trading partner with its former colonies Australia, Canada, New Zealand and India – Ezek. 38:13
While Putin has threatened Turkey over its conversion of the Hagia Sophia to a mosque and the shipping restrictions of the Bosphorus he is otherwise occupied at present.	Russia must have control of Constantinople as the base of operations of the eastern leg of Nebuchadnezzar’s image and its invasion of Israel – Dan. 11:40-42.
Both Sudan and Libya are in a state of flux with Russian influence limited by internal conflict.	Libya and Sudan will be firm and active allies of Russia – Ezek. 38:5; Dan. 11:43.

<p>America, though heavily burdened with debt and internal division is still regarded as the most powerful nation on earth.</p>	<p>America will be sidelined and play no significant part in the events of Armageddon not being a “young lion” (see Eureka Vol. 3 pg. 203; etc.).</p>
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So, it can be seen from the above table that the state of the world just before the Gogian invasion of Israel will be quite different from what it is now. Many will be saying then, “Peace and safety” before sudden destruction comes upon them in the events of Armageddon and beyond (1 Thess. 5:3). Europe must be drawn into the Russian orbit and nations like France become part of the Gogian confederacy (Ezek. 38:6). Israel must be at peace with its neighbours and internally (having annexed the West Bank – Ezek. 38:8), and be found unprepared for war (Ezek. 38:11), so that they are taken completely by surprise (as in the Yom Kippur war of 1973) along with Britain and its allies (Ezek. 38:13). Russia has to have taken control of Istanbul (or Constantinople as Putin calls it) as the base for its drive south. These and other things will take time but can be accomplished in “the time of trouble such as never was” era that begins concomitant with the resurrection and removal of the responsible living to judgement. That period can be up to 10 years if we accept Bro. Sulley’s understanding of the times of Ezekiel (The Temple of Ezekiel’s Prophecy – Chap. 2). The immortalized saints must be ready for involvement in the judgements of Armageddon and beyond (Mal. 4:1-3; John 18:36; Ps. 149). This is what Isa. 26:19-21 is about. The resurrection is the subject of verse 19; the rejoicing of the Bridegroom and his Bride is the subject of verse 20; and Armageddon is the subject of verse 21. The “indignation” of verse 20 is not a reference to Armageddon as it occurs while Christ and the saints are in the bridal chamber. It refers to the time of trouble that descends on the world at the time of the resurrection – Yahweh’s preliminary judgements on humanity (like the events of AD 66-68 preceding AD 70 – Luke 10:13-14).

Right now the condition of human society meets all the requirements of prophecy for the return of Christ. One recent phenomena worthy of comment is the pushback against the ‘insanity’ of Humanism.

### **THE PUSHBACK AGAINST HUMANISM**

One of the reasons for the Russian invasion of Ukraine was the desire of Vladimir Putin and his principal supporter Patriarch Kirill head of the Russian Orthodox Church to push back against the LGBT (variously called LGBTQI or LGBTI) community.

A CNN article on 14 March 2022 titled “In Putin’s vision for the world, a medieval narrative resurfaces” stated in its opening paragraphs:

Russian President Vladimir Putin has given several explanations for his country’s war on Ukraine, and some are more plausible than others. They include stopping NATO’s advance towards Russia’s borders, protecting fellow Russians from “genocide” or the baseless claim of “de-Nazifying” Ukraine.

The top-ranking priest in the Russian Orthodox Church, meanwhile, has offered a very different reason for the invasion: gay pride parades. Patriarch Kirill said last week that the conflict is an extension of a fundamental culture clash between the wider Russian world and Western liberal values, exemplified by expressions of gay pride. Yet experts say that Kirill’s comments offer important insights into Putin’s larger spiritual vision of a return to a Russian Empire, in which the Orthodox religion plays a pivotal role.

As of 5 May 2022, a leaked draft judgement from the Supreme Court of America clearly indicates that the 50 year old “Roe versus Wade” ruling granting a constitutional right to abortion may soon be overturned. About half the states of the USA are preparing legislation to ban abortions, or have already done so. An already deeply divided America will be even more divided as this development unfolds.

There has also been movement in the sporting world to control the entry into female sports by transgender males. Being male they are generally stronger than other competing females and are taking away honors and prizemoney that would otherwise have gone to natural born females. A political candidate in upcoming Australian elections was almost dis-endorsed by her party after making an oblique comment about the unfairness of natural born males choosing to switch genders and entering female sporting competitions.

These and other things indicate that there is growing push back among once silent people covered by the overwhelming trend to Humanistic philosophies as they reach levels of influence and insanity prophesied by Christ in Rev. 16:13-14 – “And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.” These three ‘unclean spirits’ (or ideologies) came out of the French Revolution and have infected every level of society from top to bottom as Christ said they would prior to Armageddon. Liberty (freedom to do as one pleases as long as it does not injure anyone else); Equality (the demand that anyone, regardless of gender, age, standing in society or moral values be accepted as having equal rights); and Fraternity (the push to unite all people and religions to enjoy equal place in the world). The problem with these attitudes is that they are godless; i.e. God’s principles to not enter into their considerations.

If these ‘spirits’ (or attitudes) were to bring all nations “to the battle of the great day of God Almighty”, how do we interpret the push back against them that is now quite evident? Might it not be another powerful indication at just how close the return of Christ is to raise the dead and gather his people unto himself prior to Armageddon? The work of the “unclean spirits” has reached its maturity and is so obviously completely insane to some folk, and nations (like Russia), that it is time they believe to turn back the clock. However, it is not they who will succeed, but Christ and the saints who must shortly be taken away to judgement and preparation for the work of cleansing the earth.

### **SO, HOW CLOSE IS CHRIST’S RETURN TO RAISE THE RESPONSIBLE DEAD?**

For a couple of years the human activities that would characterise the time of Christ’s return to gather the responsible to judgement were heavily impacted by the Covid pandemic. It always had to be as Luke 17:27-28 states – “They were eating, they were drinking, they were marrying, they were being given in marriage,—until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all. In like manner, as it came to pass in the days of Lot, they were eating, they were drinking, they were buying, they were selling, they were planting, they were building...” (Rotherham provides the correct translation according to the grammar – in the Greek it is in the plural, Imperfect tense, Active voice, Indicative mood). The Imperfect tense means that an action has begun, is in progress but is not completed. Such was the experience of people in both Noah’s and Lot’s days. The rampant prosperity that both eras enjoyed was brought to an abrupt halt in midstream by Divine intervention.

Restaurant type eating and pub type drinking were seriously hindered by the pandemic but are now back in full swing in most countries. Similarly, weddings were difficult to conduct and many were delayed due to the pandemic. That is now being rectified with greater freedoms. Buying and selling, building and planting were all impacted by the pandemic to a degree, but are now back on the increase. As cost-of-living pressures also increase the propensity to focus on these things is sharpened.

The type of the days of Noah and Lot is well known because it foretells the moral condition of society at the time of Christ's return, but what is not as often mentioned is that it also sets the pattern for what immediately follows the removal of the responsible living. The common denominator for those times was prosperity that led to violence and immorality (Ezek. 16:49-50). Within a very short time of the saints of those times being removed both eras of prosperity came crashing down and a time of trouble such as never was descended upon them (Dan. 12:1-2). This completely distracted men from what might have happened to Noah and Lot and their families. So it will be again.

### **WHAT WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED BY “THE TIME OF TROUBLE SUCH AS NEVER WAS”**

Dan. 12:1-2 is very clear about the order of events. The resurrection and the introduction of a time of trouble such as has never been experienced on earth happen at the same time.

“And **at that time** shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and **at that time** thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book. And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.”

For there to be “a time of trouble such as never was” indicates how serious those times will be. Worse than World War 1 or 2? Worse than the events of AD 66-70? How so?

The advanced technical wizardry of this world has never been seen before. The damage that technology and communication by social media has already done in stirring up wars (e.g. the Arab Spring); creating forms of gross moral evil readily accessible to all, including children; infiltrating every aspect of human life, often to the detriment of mental health and human experience will only be exacerbated in “the time of trouble”. The outbreak of violence in already deeply divided communities is not hard to predict and the shortage of life's essentials (already evident in some places) will lead an ‘entitled’ generation not used to queues or given to patience to take by force or deception what is not theirs. The dislocation among ungovernable nations will last for years as they struggle to restore a semblance of normality which will be achieved momentarily just before the Gogian invasion of the Land (as noted above). But what might trigger such a state of collapse?

The answer is hinted at in the final paragraph of page 6 above.

As has been stated in previous updates, many reliable commentators are saying that a huge economic and financial crash is coming soon (see pages 11 and 12 of the 2021 mid year review and pages 12 and 13 of the February 2022 update). When the great Depression comes it will make the 1929/30 depression appear minor by comparison. It will sideline countries like America and China (hence they play no significant role in Armageddon according to Scripture), and force massive changes in the political landscape of Europe.

The European Union is already in deep trouble. Nations that are now enemies of Russia will be forced into a political accommodation with their behemoth northern neighbor. The Papacy will regain influence in southern Europe. The Catholic Church underwrote the original European Economic Community (EEC) in 1957 and will jump at the opportunity to rescue its adherents in southern Europe from abject poverty and political stagnation. People always return to religion in hard times. Look at what happened in Russia in the years of Yeltsin's rule from 1992. A once totally suppressed church now rules alongside a dictator.

Consider what happened in the 10 years between 1929 and 1939 to the alignment of nations.

- America the dominant nation post-WW1 withdrew from the international community with an "America first" policy and had to be dragged into WW2, and then only after Japan attacked Pearl Harbor.
- Germany on its knees economically and militarily after WW1 and an absolute basket case in 1929 (which led to the rise of Hitler) became the aggressor and by 1939 invaded Poland with a view to ultimate world domination.
- France which was Germany's enemy in WW1 put up a brief fight in 1940 when Germany invaded but folded to become part of Hitler's empire within six weeks.
- Britain's PM Neville Chamberlain returned from the Munich Conference in 1938 waving a piece of paper signed by Hitler and proclaimed "Peace in our time". Britain declared war on Germany on 3 September 1939.
- Russia the arch enemy of the Nazis made a pact with Germany in 1939 and supplied raw materials to Hitler right up until invaded by Germany in June 1941.
- The alignment of the Axis powers Germany, Italy and Japan seemed unlikely in 1929 but came about due to political convenience.

Things change very quickly when economic necessity that includes war, starvation and crime are present. The "time of trouble" will produce similar dramatic changes in the alignment of nations in much worse circumstances than existed in the Depression years of the 1930's.

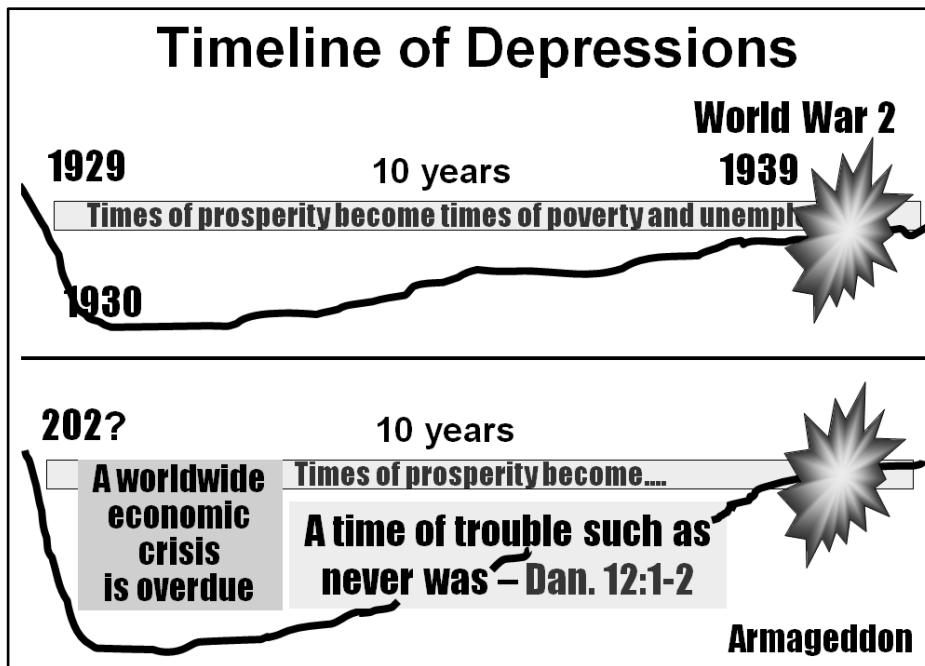
## **SO, HOW DO WE KNOW THERE IS A 10 YEAR PERIOD FROM THE RESURRECTION TO ARMAGEDDON?**

In chapter 2 of The Temple of Ezekiel's Prophecy, Bro. Sulley postulates that there will be a Jubilee period of 50 years between the resurrection and the opening of the Temple for service. Those who carefully consider this subject for themselves recognize that he got this right. We know from Rev. 14:20 (supported by Mic. 7:15) that there will be a period of 40 years judgement from Armageddon until the subjugation of all nations. That period clearly comes at the end of the 50 years which leaves a period of 10 years up front.

It can be established from Ex. 40 that the period of judgement of the responsible will be about 12 months. The next 12 months for the faithful rewarded with immortality will be spent rejoicing as the Bride with the Bridegroom – Deut. 24:5. In that one year that 'prophecy' will finally be fulfilled for no-one has ever done it. No work, no preparation for war, just rejoicing with Christ. Then the time for preparation will come when the angels will hand over their role to the glorified saints. This will take some time as immortals are not automatons. Then for three and a half years prior to Armageddon Elijah with a company of saints will visit Jewish communities around the globe warning them of the imminent fulfillment of Mal. 4 – "the coming of the great and dreadful day of Yahweh."



The pattern has been set. History often repeats itself because the angels are at work to accomplish the purpose of God. The events of the period from the onset of the Great Depression of 1929/30 through to the outbreak of WW2 in 1939 are likely to be repeated again. The Depression completely realigned the position and status of nations across the globe. New confederacies emerged. The Axis – an alliance of Germany, Italy and Japan was considered at the time unusual but was a political necessity. The same will happen again when “the time of trouble such as never was” strikes an unsuspecting world. The following chart illustrates the pattern – Depression, then 10 years of trouble culminating in global war.



**ARE WE READY?**

Bible prophecy always comes to pass. When the Apostle Peter said in 2 Pet. 3:3-4 – “Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, and saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation”, he could not have been more accurate. Many have sadly given up

on waiting for Christ’s return and have pursued their own personal agenda, and others say that all the past mistaken predictions suggest that the return of Christ might be decades away. How can we be sure that they are not correct?

There are at least three considerations that are worth looking at. These are:

1. 1 Thess. 5:1-2 – “But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.”
2. The promise of Christ in Luke 21 concerning the fulfillment of Dan. 8:13-14 in the events of the Six Day War and his parable of the fig tree.
3. The prophecy of the demise of the Papacy and its supporting empire in Dan. 7.

Let us deal with each in turn.

In 1 Thess. 5:1 the Greek word for “times” is *chronos* and signifies a space of time. In other words it refers to the time periods of Bible prophecy. We will consider two of these shortly. The Greek word for “seasons” is *kairos* and signifies a fixed and definite time, the time when things are brought to crisis, the decisive epoch waited for; hence, opportune or seasonable time; the right time. In other words, it refers to the character of the times that match the predictions of prophecy.

Christ said in Luke 21:26 – “Men’s hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken.” The fear

engendered in the younger generation about the effects of 'climate change' and frequent disasters attributed to it is evident now in a way never seen before. Recent international conferences and scientific studies have postulated that if rising temperatures are not halted by 2035 the planet is doomed. The level of fear is now rising rapidly and will only increase as it is generally recognized that many nations will not reduce emissions of polluting gases and carbon in time for the looming catastrophe to be avoided. Only the return of Christ will fix the problem. This is another example of a 'seasonable time'.

As noted above, we can clearly see that the character of our times now fits all the requirements of Bible prophecy. We are undoubtedly in the days of Noah and Lot in terms of prosperity and moral declension involving violence and immorality. There should be no need for anyone to "write" unto us (as the Apostle says).

### **The cleansing of the Sanctuary**

The prophecy of Dan. 8:13-14 was fulfilled in June 1967.

**Dan. 8:13-14** – "Then I heard one saint speaking, and another saint said unto that certain saint which spake, How long shall be the vision concerning the daily sacrifice, and the transgression of desolation, to give both the sanctuary and the host to be trodden under foot? And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed."

The cleansing of the Sanctuary is a reference to the freeing of the Temple Mount from Gentile treading down and political control. The subject matter of Dan. 8 is the conquests of Alexander the Great and the subsequent development of the Roman Empire in the east and its desecration of the 'Sanctuary' (Dan. 8:11-12). Alexander began the process of treading under foot "the pleasant land" when he overran the Land and entered Jerusalem as a conqueror in BC 332. However, the beginning of Gentile 'defilement' can be dated from BC 334 when he crossed the Hellespont and fought the Battle of Granicus. This and two subsequent victories over the Persian Empire (the ram of the prophecy) are described in a fascinating way in Dan. 8:5 – "And as I was considering, behold, an he goat came from the west on the face of the whole earth, and **touched not the ground**: and the goat had a notable horn between his eyes." The notable horn was Alexander and his progress was so stunning and rapid that it is as though "he touched not the ground". This means we can effectively count the treading down of the 'Sanctuary' from BC 334.

When 2,300 years is added to BC 334 using the day for a year principle you arrive at 1966 (using the Gregorian Calendar a product of Pope Gregory XIII). However, that calendar misses a year, unlike the Muslim calendar. Wikipedia comments "In this system, the year 1 BC is followed by AD 1. However, there is a year zero in astronomical year numbering (where it coincides with the Julian year 1 BC) and in ISO 8601:2004 (where it coincides with the Gregorian year 1 BC) as well as in all Buddhist and Hindu calendars." In other words, one year needs to be added to the calculation. That means BC 334 plus 2,300 plus 1 = 1967.

The Six Day War in 1967 saw the end of Gentile "treading down" (the meaning of Jebus by the way) in fulfillment of Dan. 8:13-14. The Old City of Jerusalem which contains the Temple Mount will not be trodden down again, not even by the Gogian forces as Zech. 14:2 makes clear – "For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, **and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city.**" Christ and the saints will arrive

before the Old City is trodden down again. The newer and much larger portion of the modern city of Jerusalem will be conquered by Gog, but not the Old City which the Jews vowed never to relinquish again to the 'last drop of blood' when they captured it in June 1967.

In Luke 21:24, Christ refers to the end of the treading down as occurring when "the times of the Gentiles" are being fulfilled. That was 55 years ago. In Luke 21:29-32, Christ gave the parable of the fig tree which is clearly a reference to the revival of the nation of Israel in 1948. He added that the generation that witnessed that event would not pass away until all was fulfilled. 1948 was 74 years ago. A generation refers to a lifetime (see Matt. 1 and Luke 2:25-29). The "not pass away" refers to those who witnessed 1948 although some have thought it may refer to 1967. Whichever, it is clear the return of Christ cannot be decades away.

### **The end of the Papacy and its supporting empire**

Sir Isaac Newton in his writings on prophecy and in notations in the margin of his Bible in Dan. 7 understood that the Papal system and the empire that supports it against Christ would be destroyed in 2060. The little horn with eyes and mouth (Dan. 7:7) – a reference to the Holy Roman Empire formed in AD 800 was given 1,260 years to prosper against God and His agents (Dan. 7:25). A "time, and times and the dividing of time" is widely and correctly understood to refer to a period of 1,260 years (a 'time' to a Hebrew was 360 days, hence 360 + 'times' i.e. 2 x 360 = 720, plus a 'dividing of time', i.e. half 360 = 180 adds up to 1,260 days and using the day for a year principle represents 1,260 years). Added to AD 800 that comes to 2060 when Rev. 19:20 must be fulfilled – "And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone." The 'beast' is the revived Holy Roman Empire (see Eureka Vol. 5 page 279 – Logos Edition) and the 'false prophet' the Papacy. They will both be destroyed in 2060 as we can have a high degree of confidence that historians are correct in saying that the Holy Roman Empire was formed in AD 800. Not all Catholics are removed at that time however as Rev. 19:21 makes clear. That will take up to another 10 years to accomplish.

Given that there will be a 40 year period of judgement against the nations from Armageddon, including the first 30 years of "the hour of judgement" against the Catholic nations (see Ps. 2; Rev. 17:12), it is obvious that the return of Christ cannot be far away.

### **The need to be watchful and alert**

There are many distractions in the world that can divert our attention from diligent watching and careful preparation. Christ's own exhortations and warnings are more relevant than ever today.

**Luke 21:34-36** – "And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man."