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Europe Prepares for Terrorism

Recent warnings of terrorist activity in Europe don't reveal the whole story of what is happening behind the scenes. Both security officials and terrorists know more than headlines reveal. Bible prophecy tells the rest of the story.

by Darris McNeely

The news that the Eiffel Tower had been closed for a bomb threat gave me a bit of concern as we prepared to board our flight for Paris in early October. We were on the last leg of a two-week trip to Europe and looking forward to spending a few days in France's capital city seeing some of its world-famous sights.

A few days earlier, French police responded to a bomb threat by closing the symbol of the city. On the same day a public transportation hub was closed when an unattended package was sighted.

Warnings issued

On Oct. 3 the U.S. government issued a warning for Americans traveling to Europe to be "vigilant." Intelligence forces had determined that al-Qaeda was planning attacks on European cities similar to those done against Mumbai, India, in November 2008. Hotels frequented by Westerners were invaded, and it took three days to repel the attackers.

While this warning contained nothing specific—and it came short of advising Americans not to travel to Europe—it nonetheless gave me a bit of concern and raised my level of situational awareness a bit higher. While traveling in Paris and environs the next few days, I did observe security personnel in the



Reuters/Jacky Naegelien

A police car blocks a bridge across from the Eiffel Tower in Paris after the famous landmark and the surrounding park were evacuated due to a bomb alert.

tourist locations, and I did keep a sharper eye out for anything suspicious.

While it pays to be alert while traveling, there will most likely be little we can do to avert any well-planned terrorist attack. Security experts know there is little they can do to prevent a determined group from mounting an attack.

(See "TERRORISM," page 3)



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"Whom heaven must receive until the times of

Restoration

of all things ... ACTS 3:21

Pilgrimage to Normandy

On a recent trip to France, my family visited the beaches of Normandy where Allied troops landed on June 6, 1944. D-Day was the strike that began to unravel the Nazi regime that had overrun Europe. My trip was more personal, since my father had participated in the assault as a combat engineer, landing with the first wave of troops that morning.

This trip had been long anticipated and planned. In my youth I was aware of my father's war service and his presence in this major assault. But he wouldn't talk much about what he did. He brought back a box full of pictures, a few ribbons and a mind full of memories he kept locked away from all of us.

Imagining the horror

It was not until a few years ago that I accidentally heard a story about that morning of a fellow soldier from our hometown who died in my father's arms, a victim of a German machine gun. Dad always said Charley Dalton was the one "Cape boy" in his unit who didn't return home. In the first minutes of his first battle, Dad saw how helpless one can be at the moment of death on the battlefield. But he had to keep moving forward through the sand and the surf. Anyone who stayed on that beach was a dead man.



Darris McNeely with his son, Ryan, and his grandson, Liam.

Standing on Omaha Beach, I tried to imagine the horror he walked into that morning. They say Steven Spielberg captured the moment in his movie *Saving Private Ryan*—everything, that is, except the smell of burning bodies. That my dad survived the carnage I count as no small miracle.

"Bloody Omaha" was only one of the landing beaches for the Allied troops. What all those men did that day, and in the months that followed till the end of the war, was a great sacrifice. Thousands gave the ultimate sacrifice of their lives and future. The survivors who returned

home were forever changed by their war experiences.

That generation has been called "the greatest generation." They certainly made a great sacrifice against a monstrous tyranny that threatened the freedom of the world. World War II continues to be studied 65 years after its conclusion for the impact on the world we know. The men and women who served are owed a debt of gratitude by all of us.

The war's impact on families

When I think about the war's impact on my family, I marvel. In addition to my father, I had seven uncles who served in the military. They all survived and returned home. I grew up with those men playing a role in my formative years. Now, I often wonder how they were shaped by their wartime experience. The ships, tanks and units in which they served were finely tuned weapons of war. They were trained to kill. They watched

(See "PILGRIMAGE," page 13)

“TERRORISM” (Continued from page 1)

Having been in an international city when terrorists struck (Amman, Jordan, in November 2005), I know from personal experience that there is little you can do other than react.

Impossible task

These most recent warnings reflect the dilemma that governments face as they combat terrorism. First, while they are extremely vigilant to target groups and questionable individuals, it is impossible to monitor and control all behavior. Determined terrorists will find a way to evade detection. You cannot monitor everyone at all times. People will slip through the net.

Second, when officials find and detain a terrorist operative, they can often extract valuable information about impending attacks. But they have to be careful in how they use that information. To reveal all they know could end the flow of information. To be too specific in a public warning will let terrorist groups know they are being monitored. That is why we often hear only general warnings without the specifics. Governments do not always reveal all they know, but they have a duty to inform the public.

Since the 9/11 attacks on the United States, there have been other smaller attacks and attempted attacks, but nothing on the scale of that day. No doubt that is because of the increased vigilance of world governments to hunt down terrorist operations at the source and wherever they spread. The nine years of intense vigilance has worked to some degree.

But security experts know it is an impossible task to prevent any and all attacks. It would require watching millions of people and the ability to monitor every meeting of a group of people bent on planning a terrorist attack. This is impossible. No one, not even the United States, can police the world in this manner.

The key to winning the war on terror is to change the radical ideology that drives it. No one has the solution for this monumental task.



Reuters/Christian Charisius

An imam holds Friday prayers at the Central Mosque of Hamburg, Germany, Oct. 8, 2010. In a mid-October speech German Chancellor Angela Merkel decried the number of Muslim immigrants who have failed to assimilate into German culture.

So the threat of attack remains, and governments must be vigilant.

Threat to France and Europe

French officials know they are overdue for an attack. It has been five years since the riots in Marseille highlighted the growing divide between Muslim immigrants and the French.

The French government has recently placed a ban on some clothing worn by Muslim females. The ban pertains to the *burka*, a full-body covering that includes a mesh screen over the face, and the *niqab*, a full-face veil that leaves an opening only for the eyes.

French courts have upheld the law, supported by the French public by a margin of four to one. Women will be fined if they break the law when it goes into effect next spring. Many suspect this law will provoke unrest, even an attack by Muslims or a terrorist group. France has about 3.5 million Muslims or about 6 percent of its population.

Stratfor, a global intelligence company, has recently assessed the threat

to Europe and the United States and concluded that further attacks are inevitable with the loss of innocent life.

An article on its Web site titled “Terrorism, Vigilance and the Limits of War on Terror” (Oct. 5, 2010) states, “The United States and Europe are going to be attacked by jihadist terrorists from time to time, and innocent people are going to be killed, perhaps in the thousands again. The United States and its allies can minimize the threat through covert actions and strong defenses, but they cannot eliminate it...”

“[They] are therefore dealing with a threat that cannot be stopped by their actions. The only conceivably effective actions would be those taken by Muslim governments, and even those are unlikely to be effective. There is a deeply embedded element within a small segment of the Islamic world that is prepared to conduct terror attacks, and this element will occasionally be successful.”

The report goes on to say that Western nations will have to live with the terrorist threat for several years to come and, specifically, America's focus on the threat will leave it vulnerable in other critical areas.

The author concludes, "The United States and the West in general cannot focus all of its power on solving a problem that is beyond its power to solve. The long war against terrorism will not be the only war fought in the coming years. The threat of jihadism must be put in perspective and the effort aligned with what is effective. The world is a dangerous place, as they say, and jihadism is only one of the dangers."

This threat to Europe from radical Islam is not to be ignored. When—not if—it happens, it will trigger a reaction from key nations that could set in motion what is sometimes called "unintended consequences."

Unassimilated immigrants

France is not the only nation with a large Muslim population that has not integrated into European culture. The Netherlands is facing a similar crisis. We covered this subject in the September-October 2010 issue of *World News and Prophecy*.

In mid-October German Chancellor Angela Merkel gave

a speech addressing the problem of multiculturalism in Germany. Germany has had decades of immigration from Muslim countries. They came in the 1960s to provide workers for the postwar economic boom. Although many stayed, they did not blend into German culture. Many of these foreigners do not speak the native language adequately, lack many skills and have become a drain on the country's welfare system. Some politicians are calling for policies that would force immigrants to assimilate into German culture.

Chancellor Merkel's comments were outspoken and highlighted what many feel. "This is a country that brought guest workers to Germany in the 1960s," she said.

"For a while, we kidded ourselves into believing that they wouldn't stay and would leave. Naturally, the notion that we would become 'multiculti,' that we would live next to one another and be happy about one another, failed" ("Merkel Enters Immigration Fray," *Wall Street Journal*, Oct. 18, 2010).

The fear in Germany, as with other European countries, is based on the decline of the native birthrate and the rise of the immigrant birthrate. If the trend continues, in a few years immigrants, primarily

Muslim immigrants, will outnumber native populations and dominate culture and politics. With 80 million people, Germany is Europe's largest nation. But it has a very low birthrate. Immigration and the growing Islamization of Germany is a serious issue of discussion.

Catalyst for future events

The historic clash between the East and West has its front line in Europe. In the eighth century the armies of Islam swept up into Europe, conquering Spain and pushing into France before being defeated by Charles Martel at the Battle of Tours in 732. Martel's grandson, Charlemagne, rose to power as the great Christian king who forged a bulwark against further encroachment. The pope and the Catholic Church lent support to ensure the boundaries were maintained.

In the 16th century the armies of the Ottoman Empire under Süleyman the Magnificent conquered areas of Central Europe, sacking Budapest in 1526 and twice tried to force the walls of Vienna before being turned back. More than once in history armies have come from the south attempting to conquer Europe.

Radical Islam has a plan to drive Western military personnel and the influence of Western culture from the Middle East. Other areas where the foot of Islam once trod are still considered part of their world. Spain, called "al-Andalus," was once a Muslim domain; and in the minds of al-Qaeda commanders, Madrid lies in Muslim territory. Whole sections of modern Central Europe, Bulgaria, Hungary, Serbia and Croatia were once Muslim lands. Radical Islamic strategists would like to see them returned.

The mix of radical attacks and millions of unassimilated Muslim immigrants throughout Europe pose a potential catalyst for yet future events that could set the stage for one of Bible prophecy's key events.

The push from the south

Daniel 11 describes an attack from the king of the South against
(See "TERRORISM," page 13)



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Zimbabwe: 30 Years In

The African nation of Zimbabwe recently celebrated 30 years of independence. The transition from Rhodesia to Zimbabwe was not an easy one. How do those Rhodesians who stayed fare now? Returning to the country after 21 years, I had a very enlightening, thought-provoking and deeply touching visit.

by Melvin Rhodes

The land had not been used in over 10 years. The farmhouse lay in a dreadful state of disrepair. There had been no maintenance for at least a decade. It seemed to me like nobody had gained; everybody had lost.

I was visiting a friend's farm. Perhaps I should say former farm, because his farm had been taken over by "war vets." He and his wife had to leave the country. Advanced in years, they have found it difficult getting on their feet again.

It defies all logic

Their farm is in the African nation of Zimbabwe. Prior to independence in 1980, the former British colony of Rhodesia was the breadbasket of Africa. At first, the new African government seemed determined to keep the highly productive white commercial farmers in the country. But domestic politics led to the seizure of most white-owned farmland about 10 years ago. The result was mass starvation and the eventual total collapse of the economy. The country's money collapsed over two years ago. Since then, the nation has been using American dollars and South African rand, the latter more popular in the south.

On a return visit to Zimbabwe, my wife and I had offered to check on our friend's farm. We expected to find it occupied by the so-called "war vets"; but, in all the time we were there, we only saw one small boy looking after the family cattle some distance away from the farm buildings. The buildings had been gutted; people stripped them bare.

Having visited the farm a number of times during the prosperous Rhodesian years and twice following independence when times were still good, it brought tears to our eyes to see its condition now. Why had it been taken over? For what purpose?

The biblical story of Isaac and Abimelech came to mind. Abimelech, king of the Philistines, had given permission for Isaac to settle in the land. "Then Isaac sowed in that land, and reaped in the same year a hundredfold; and the LORD blessed him. The man began to prosper, and continued prospering until he became very prosperous; for he had possessions of flocks and possessions of herds and a great number of servants. So the Philistines envied him" (Genesis 26:12-14).

The account continues, telling how Isaac dug wells, developed the land and prospered. But then the Philistines began to fight over the wells, forcing Isaac to move on and ruining the result of his labors.

Return to Zimbabwe

My wife and I had the privilege of living in Rhodesia prior to independence. This was our third visit back to the successor nation of Zimbabwe, but our first in 21 years. We were deeply touched to hear the words "welcome home" soon after our arrival at Victoria Falls. We certainly felt at home. The people were the same as always, very friendly. We felt very safe.

We were pleased to note that tourism at one of the world's most majestic sites is picking up. We were also relieved that there was plenty of food in the shops and that meals in the hotels were of an international standard. Two years ago, people told us, there was nothing in the supermarkets and people were starving.

This was inevitable after the expulsion of the white commercial farmers. Like their American, Australian and British counterparts, they were big food producers. African culture is very different. Most African farmers are subsistence farmers—they grow just enough for their families, with a little extra to sell to pay for clothes and school

Many of the "war vets" were not old enough to have fought in the conflict. The war was just an excuse; famine and financial collapse were the consequence. The only beneficiaries were leading members of the ruling political party, who took possession of the land. The ordinary people did not benefit at all.

fees for their children. When the “war vets” thought they could simply take over the farms and run them like the whites, giving themselves the same level of prosperity, they were overly ambitious. It wasn’t that simple. Many, as the condition of my friends’ farm confirms, soon lost interest.

Besides, most of the “war vets” were too young to be real war veterans. The seven-year war ended in December 1979. The whites and their African supporters lost, and the country changed hands in April 1980 after a brief return to British rule for the agreed transition period.

Twenty years later, when the “war vets” seized the land, it was clear that many of them were not old enough to have fought in the conflict. The war was just an excuse; famine and financial collapse were the consequence. The only beneficiaries were leading members of the ruling political party, who took possession of the land. The ordinary people did not benefit at all. As with so many other African nations, independence did not benefit the majority—only a small minority.

Neighboring Zambia has been a major beneficiary of Zimbabwe’s problems. We crossed the border into Livingstone, named after the famous Scottish missionary and explorer David Livingstone, who discovered Victoria Falls and named them after the British monarch. Livingstone is one of the few cities in Africa to retain its European name. Zambia’s first president decided not to change the name because David Livingstone was a great man who brought “light into darkness,” a reference to his bringing the Bible into central Africa.

We soon saw that the stores were well-stocked, and Zambia looked more prosperous than on previous visits. One reason is that Zambia gave sanctuary to a hundred of the white farmers expelled from Zimbabwe, doubling food production and, therefore, bringing down the price of food. Even the currency increased in value as a result.

The farmers were given 99-year leases and everybody has gained—the farmers, their families, the local popu-

lation and the nation itself. This could be a way forward for Zimbabwe, if the farmers could be persuaded to return. But nothing is likely to change until there is a change at the top.

President Robert Mugabe has been the leader of Zimbabwe since independence over 30 years ago. He is listed as one of the world’s wealthiest men. He is now 86, and there is increasing speculation about the future. The last election resulted in a significant change with Morgan Tsvangirai, of the opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC), now the prime minister. This led to economic changes that have given the country more sensible economic policies.

“These people built this country”

The day after our farm visit, we accompanied our hosts to a couple of retirement homes occupied mostly by former Rhodesians of European descent.

These people once lived lifestyles similar to their American and British relatives. But with the collapse of the Zimbabwean economy, they lost everything. One man we talked to worked for 35 years on Rhodesia Railways and expected a pension of over \$2,500 a month upon retirement. With hyperinflation and the total collapse of the Zimbabwe currency, his pension was literally whittled down to nothing.

Now that the economy is starting to improve, the railways are able to send him something each month—\$25. He is happy to at least get some spending money. But he is totally dependent on the retirement home he is living in, which is funded by private donations. Government departments, NGOs (non-governmental organizations) and foreign agencies will not help.

The city of Bulawayo has 1,074 seniors—with similar stories—who are being taken care of either in retirement homes or in their own homes. It is estimated that the country has about 7,500 such seniors, all largely dependent on the generosity of others.

Their biggest problem is a lack of medicines and medical facilities. One black African doctor kindly donates his services, making the politically

incorrect but true statement that “these people built this country.” Not far from where we stayed we saw a state-of-the-art medical facility that remains unopened 10 years after being built. We were told that high-ranking officials put up the money for the building and are demanding a high rent from anybody wanting to use it.

But admittedly, we were surprised to see so many of the former Rhodesians still living in Zimbabwe. They live in safety. Most of their families left in search of jobs and better opportunities for their children, leaving their elderly parents and grandparents to end their lives in retirement homes, totally dependent upon others.

Listening to their stories of longing for their adult children and their grandchildren who live thousands of miles away, I was again reminded of a prophecy of the consequences of defeat for a disobedient Israel.

“Your sons and your daughters shall be given to another people, and your eyes shall look and fail with longing for them all day long; and there shall be no strength in your hand. A nation whom you have not known shall eat the fruit of your land and the produce of your labor, and you shall be only oppressed and crushed continually” (Deuteronomy 28:32-33).

Talking with these elderly people, I asked myself if this could happen to us in the United States and the United Kingdom. In our present economic climate we could also lose everything. Additionally, as peoples of other cultures become a majority, will they be any more willing to take care of us than the Africans in Zimbabwe were willing to foot the bill for the whites there? As with farming, it comes back to cultural differences. In African culture there is little need for pensions because the elderly are taken care of by their offspring.

Leaving Zimbabwe, I had the sense that I was witnessing history passing. The whites make up about 1 percent of the population, a figure that is going down as the elderly slowly die. Memories of the continent’s second-most prosperous nation, Rhodesia, will die with them. ❖

“Brussels’ Millstone Turned Slowly”

An old German proverb says that God’s millstone turns slowly. Over the years the pace of developments within the European Union has also been slow, but things are changing.

by Paul Kieffer

Over the last 50 years change has come slowly within the European Union. The EU Lisbon Treaty, for example, took effect on Dec. 1, 2009, after eight years of work drafting the text of the agreement and getting it approved by all 27 EU member states.

One of the major changes in the Lisbon Treaty is the phasing out of the single nation veto right on EU agreements, which has often been the reason progress has been slow in the past. More than once, a late-night negotiating session was needed to placate a country withholding consent from a new policy—or even a new EU treaty—that had already been accepted by all other EU members.

However, things are changing, slowly (in typical EU fashion) but surely. The swift impact of the worldwide financial crisis provided the impetus for the European Union to take action at a rate much faster than would have been the case in “normal” economic times.

In September 2010, two years after the crisis struck the world’s financial markets with full force, the European Parliament approved the establishment of three financial oversight agencies to supervise the European Union’s banking sector, financial markets and the insurance and pensions industry. Prior to the final parliamentary approval, EU finance ministers and the parliament had agreed on the framework for financial regulation within the EU, following a year of negotiations involving leaders of individual member states.

The three new regulatory agencies are a direct response to the worldwide financial crisis: the European Banking Authority, the European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority, and

the European Securities and Markets Authority. These new EU agencies will begin operating in January 2011 and are expected to provide a quick response in the event of a future financial crisis. They are also expected to tighten controls over international banking within the EU.

More important, though, is the fact that these regulatory agencies *will establish a precedent for giving the EU oversight jurisdiction over national agencies in member states.* Under the new arrangement, the day-to-day oversight in normal times will remain with the national regulatory agencies of EU member states. When EU finance ministers declare an emergency, however, the new EU regulatory agencies can intervene on the national level and overrule a country’s regulatory agencies.

The response to the worldwide financial crisis may have established a pattern for Europe’s response to threats to EU stability: transferring sovereignty from individual EU members to Brussels, which hosts the official seats of the European Commission, Council of the European Union and the European Council.

More centralization ahead in the euro zone?

Just six months ago, some observers were predicting the collapse of the European Union’s common currency, the euro. Currently 16 EU members, officially called the Economic and Monetary Union (EMU), have the euro as their common currency.

The severity of the Greek debt crisis sent shock waves through international currency markets, causing the euro to lose about 15 percent of its value against the dollar. With other euro zone mem-

The key to success, said German Chancellor Angela Merkel, is the survival of the euro as the European Union’s current and future common currency... Some compromises are likely, but the overall direction is clear: Greater central coordination of economic policy within the euro zone is coming.



European Central Bank President Jean-Claude Trichet (second from left) addresses the European Parliament Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee at the EU Parliament in Brussels, Sept. 27, 2010. Three new EU agencies begin operating in January 2011 and are expected to provide a quick response in the event of a future financial crisis.

bers potentially facing similar problems—Ireland, Italy, Portugal and Spain—it seemed only a matter of time before the euro zone would break apart.

In May German Chancellor Angela Merkel said that the Greek debt crisis has led Europe to a fork in the road that will require the European Union to decide whether or not it will succeed. The key to success is the survival of the euro as the European Union's current and future common currency. According to Mrs. Merkel, a collapse of the euro zone would mean the end of the European Union.

Despite the recent problems, the euro seems likely to weather the storm. The main reason might be that economically stronger euro zone members like Germany appear to be willing to do whatever it takes to ensure the euro's survival. After a meeting last summer with Chancellor Merkel, EU Commission

President Herman Van Rompuy remarked that “one can imagine an increase in the 750 billion euro bailout plan.” In other words, if the current bailout plan is not enough, another one will be forthcoming.

As the old saying goes, the Greek debt crisis appears to be providing the EU an opportunity to make lemonade out of lemons. In my article titled “Europe's New Money,” published in the December 2001 *WNP* one month prior to the introduction of euro bills and coins, I wrote the following concerning the future success of the euro:

“Critics of the euro have warned for several years that the euro may experience difficulty in becoming a stable hard currency *unless economic policy is coordinated among euro countries in the same way that monetary policy is determined by the ECB [European Central Bank].* If those critics are proven to be correct, then the remedy will hardly be

a return to individual national currencies... If the critics are right, then *the more likely scenario will be the establishment of centrally coordinated economic policy for the euro zone. This, in turn, would represent a further weakening of national sovereignty and require new political institutions to determine such policies*” (emphasis added).

Mobilized by the debt crisis

The Greek debt crisis has mobilized EU policymakers. At the end of September—less than five months after the height of the Greek debt crisis—the European Commission called for new measures to strengthen the euro zone and help prevent another crisis that would threaten the euro's survival. Included among the Commission's proposals is the mandatory submission of key national budget parameters to Brussels each spring for approval before national parliaments approve their country's fiscal budget. Such a proposal would have been unthinkable just a few years ago.

In addition, Brussels will give country-specific recommendations to euro zone member states whose budgets are out of alignment and where economic imbalances have arisen as a result of inadequate competitiveness from unsustainable sectors of a national economy.

Olli Rehn, the EU commissioner for economic affairs, emphasized that the current crisis in Spain and Ireland is largely the result of property value bubbles and overdependence on the construction industry. This type of input, too, would have been unthinkable a few years ago.

The EU Commission also proposed changes to the penalty system that is part of the euro's existing Stability and Growth Pact. Germany is pushing hard for this measure. In the future, member states with deficits in excess of 3 percent and public debt greater than 60 percent of GDP would automatically be required to pay an interest-bearing deposit amounting to 0.2 percent of GDP. These funds would be reimbursed once EU leaders are convinced that

the noncompliant governments have taken adequate steps to address the debt problem.

However, if action is not taken to comply with advice from Brussels, this deposit could become noninterest-bearing and the noncompliant governments would begin to lose money, with the final penalty being the fund's conversion into a nonrefundable fine.

The new proposals are a direct result of the Greek debt crisis, which showed that the existing rules simply did not work. Under those rules, EU governments never gathered the will to fine each other when their national budget deficits exceeded the set limits. The new rules would mean that the Commission itself would determine whether a noncompliant country should be punished. Member countries would then have to vote to prevent the sanction.

European Commission President José Manuel Barroso said the proposed new system was “the biggest step forward on economic governance since the Stability and Growth Pact was introduced.” The Commission's proposals will now be discussed on the national level and in the European Parliament. Some compromises are likely, but the overall direction is clear: Greater central coordination of economic policy within the euro zone is coming. If the European Union is to survive and move toward greater political union, it has no other choice.

Could a future crisis trigger a “core Europe”?

The Lisbon Treaty ensures that future progress toward greater political integration can no longer be impeded by a single nation. Instead, those nations desiring greater political union may proceed without being held back by dissenting EU members. If no unanimous agreement can be achieved on a proposal within four months, those countries desiring to proceed with the agreement may do so without the dissenters.

Thus, for the first time, the EU now officially recognizes the possibility of a “core Europe”—a smaller

group of nations that choose to have greater political and economic unity within a larger European Union. That possibility is in line with Bible prophecy for the end time.

In Revelation 17 the apostle John saw a vision of a “beast” that represents the revived Roman Empire dominated by religious influence. As was the case with its predecessors, the final revival of the Roman Empire will be centered in Europe.



Photos.com

Despite recent problems, the euro seems likely to weather the storm. The main reason might be that economically stronger euro zone members appear to be willing to do whatever it takes to ensure the euro's survival.

John describes a union of “ten kings [leaders] who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour [a short time] as kings with the beast. These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast” (verses 12-13).

The leaders of 10 nations or groups of nations voluntarily cede their power (sovereignty) to the “beast.” In Europe's history, empires have been formed by conquest and intimidation instead of voluntary submission. The wording of verse 13 corresponds to a variation on that pattern, one already well established within the European Union.

Verse 14 reveals the time setting: “These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them.” The Lamb is none other than Jesus Christ. At the time of the end of humanity's rule, there is to be a revived Roman Empire, whose armies will literally fight Christ at His return!

This is not to say that the European Union in its current form is the Beast or the exact configuration of nations that will make up those “ten kings” who yield their authority to the Beast. The EU currently has 27 members, with more nations knocking on its door.

On the other hand, the Bible's use of the word *kings* in Revelation 17:12 does not have to mean literal kings. While in John's day it described a government or its leader, today's language and geopolitics could take on a different configuration. The “kings” could represent national leaders or national entities that cede their sovereignty to a central source. In the case of the EU, that has been done most often by national governments proposing agreement with EU treaties and national parliaments approving the proposal, making it binding legislation.

John's description appears to indicate that the “ten kings” will completely transfer sovereignty to the “beast.” What would prompt them to take these steps? Most likely it will be some major crisis requiring quick action, like a major upheaval on Europe's southern doorstep, the Middle East or large-scale terrorist attacks within the EU. Whatever the cause might be, out of today's European Union will arise a group of 10 nations or a combination of 10 nation groups that will fulfill the vision revealed to the apostle John: “These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast.”

The worldwide financial crisis and the Greek debt crisis have prodded EU policymakers to action—not as fast perhaps as in a single country, but faster than the EU has tended to react in the past. When a crisis that threatens Europe's well-being arises, Europe's millstone is capable of turning a bit faster. ❖



In Brief

Trends that affect your life

The Increasing Problem of Overmedication

Increasingly, senior citizens are taking drugs to relieve pain. Yet research shows that the side effects of some drugs can create more health problems and even fatalities.

“Socrates once declared that medicine ‘acts as both remedy and poison’ and that ‘this charm, this spellbinding virtue, this power of fascination, can be—alternately or simultaneously—beneficent or maleficent,’” writes Deborah Kotz in a *U.S. News and World Report* article titled “Overmedication: Are Americans Taking Too Many Drugs?” (October 2010).

Overmedication is a big problem for half of all seniors today who take three or more medications a day. “The drug-drug interactions can be worse than the disease,” she quotes John Morley, director of geriatric medicine at the St. Louis VA Medical Center, as saying. Doctors sometimes suspend common sense when prescribing a treatment plan. “For example, they prescribe Aricept for Alzheimer’s patients and then treat a frequent side effect, urinary incontinence, with an anticholinergic [an inhibitor of nerves responsible for involuntary movements] like Enablex or Ditropan whose side effects include delirium, confusion, and memory loss.”

Kotz reports that some nursing home residents were given antipsychotics to treat anxiety, confusion and irritability, which were triggered by other medications. “Using antipsychotics for this inappropriate purpose

‘has led to fatalities,’ says Janet Woodcock, director of the FDA’s Center for Drug Evaluation and Research” (ibid.).

Aging is a natural and sometimes painful process that occurs to all physical living things. Overmedication can exacerbate the natural problems brought on by aging. Some doctors recommend at least two or three different medical opinions in order to avoid overmedication. (Source: *U.S. News and World Report*.)

Young People Who Have No Use for God

In Britain “religion is largely irrelevant to most young people, who rely instead on a ‘secular trinity’ of themselves, their family and their friends to give meaning to their lives... The study published by the Church of England concludes that people born after 1982—known as “Generation Y”—have only a ‘faded cultural memory’ of Christianity... Fewer than one in five young people believe in a God ‘who created the world and hears my prayers’” (Tim Ross and Martin Beckford, “Young People Have ‘Faded Memory of Christianity’ Says Church Book,” *The Daily Telegraph*, Oct. 5, 2010).

The new book discussed in the article, *The Faith of Generation Y*, observes that “the ‘chain of Christian memory’ had become ‘eroded’ in Britain, particularly as the authority of the church has declined” (ibid.).

Another *Telegraph* article states, “The young don’t need religion, as the environment gives them all the certainty they need... According to *The Faith of Generation Y*, a study of 300 people born after 1982 who have been involved in the Church’s youth and community projects, hostility toward Christianity has faded into brute indifference” (Robert Colville, “God Isn’t Dead—He Has Just Turned Green,” Oct. 6, 2010).

What has happened to Britain? Eleanor Mills offers her analysis in an article in *The Sunday Times* titled “Without God, Culture Is Lost” (Oct. 10, 2010). She begins: “Christianity is woven into British life. The Queen is head of the Church of England, bishops sit in the House of Lords, the smallest organisational unit in our democracy is the parish... Yet it increasingly feels like a remnant of another age; the religious fervour of our forefathers seems almost as irrelevant today as the Norman castles that litter our landscape.”

She continues: “These days our youngsters are so ignorant of Christianity that most can’t even recite the Lord’s prayer... Generally, though, our national religion is taught as just another belief system in schools.” In



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contrast, she lamented, “Our educated forebears were steeped in the Bible.”

Hanging on to British culture without the Christian dimension in an increasingly secular age is becoming all but impossible. She says that “a generation entirely ignorant of the Christian faith is going to find it incredibly difficult—probably impossible—to get to grips with large chunks of our most famous literature.”

Such secularism is growing, even in supposedly religious America. What can you do to counteract this damaging trend in your children’s life? If they are teens or young adults, encourage them to request a free subscription to our sister publication *Vertical Thought* or suggest that they read it online at www.VerticalThought.org. (Sources: *The Daily Telegraph*, *The Sunday Times*.)

Germany and Multiculturalism

When Germany talks about the problems with non-German immigrants within its borders, people should take notice.

Recent comments by German Chancellor Angela Merkel about the problems of unassimilated foreigners into German culture have served notice that this is a front-burner issue. Chancellor Merkel said her Christian Democratic Union was “committed to a dominant German culture and opposed to a multicultural one.” Fears that the German economy is being held back by unskilled labor were also expressed by Chancellor Merkel on Oct. 16 before a meeting of young members of her party.

Reports of this meeting highlight the emphasis on the need to preserve a dominant German culture. Such talk has not been so prominently voiced in Germany since the end of World War II. Germans have been, and in many respects still are, very sensitive to how they are viewed in relation to past treatment of ethnic minorities.

Germany’s and Europe’s response to immigrants is something many are carefully watching. A recent *Wall Street Journal* article, “Europe the Intolerant,” exposed the “darker impulses” lurking beneath the surface of an imagined tolerant European facade.

“Europeans are leery not just of Muslim immigrants but of Jews, nearly exterminated on the continent 60 years ago. A recent Pew Global Attitudes poll found that nearly 50% of Spaniards have either a ‘very’ or ‘somewhat unfavorable’ opinion of Jews. The figures are 25% for Germans, 20% for French and 10% for British. This anti-Semitism was underscored by the recent assertion of European Union Trade Commissioner Karel De Gucht that ‘it is not easy to have, even with moderate Jews, a rational discussion about what is actually happening in the Middle East’” (James Kirchick, *The Wall Street Journal*, Oct. 12, 2010).

Chancellor Merkel’s public comments could set in motion forces that would impact Germany and Europe and the global balance of power. Her words, and the sentiments they represent, should not be ignored or taken lightly. (Source: *The Wall Street Journal*.)

The Relentless Emergence of the Chinese Dragon

The Times of London reported: “China cruised past Japan to become the second-biggest economy in the world yesterday, casually stripping its neighbour of the title that it has held for more than 40 years and remorselessly tipping the balance of Asian power towards Beijing” (Leo Lewis, “Exhausted Old Giant Slips Into Shadow as China’s Sun Rises,” Aug. 17, 2010).

In another *Times* article, deputy business editor Ian King added: “China seems unstoppable. The Middle Kingdom [as China is sometimes referred to because of its historical view of itself as the center of civilization] is in its fifth decade of growth and, having overtaken Germany to become the world’s third-biggest economy in January last year, has now overhauled Japan to claim the No 2 spot—18 months before expected” (“America Is Next on China’s Economic Target List,” Aug. 17, 2010).

The United States’ hold on the no. 1 position is now in jeopardy. The projected date has been pushed ever closer to the present as America shows signs of stagnation and China shrugs off the aftereffects of the global economic crisis.



Flickr.com/dbgg1979

Meanwhile, Beijing talks of building a new power plant in Pakistan, whose relationship with the United States increasingly shows signs of fraying at the edges. China’s own neighbor nations are deeply worried about the buildup of the Chinese navy in the South China Sea and elsewhere in the Pacific. Of course, Taiwan, which despite its independence is claimed by mainland China, remains a major point of contention between China and the United States.

For a more complete analysis, read our *World News and Prophecy* article “The Enormous Expansion of Chinese Influence: What Does It Portend?” from the August 2009 issue in our archives at www.WNPonline.org. (Source: *The Times* [London].)

Contributors: John Ross Schroeder and Darris McNeely



A Page on the World

Reviews of books that count, endure and light the path ahead

The World Turned Upside Down: The Global Battle Over God, Truth, and Power

Melanie Phillips is a conservative columnist for the Daily Mail and The Jewish Chronicle. She also serves as a regular panelist on BBC Radio 4's weekly evening program The Moral Maze. Her latest book, The World Turned Upside Down: The Global Battle Over God, Truth, and Power, paints a convincing portrait of how the Western world has abandoned both faith and reason (2010, ISBN-13: 978-1-59403-3759).

Reviewed by John Ross Schroeder

Nothing sums up the contents of *The World Turned Upside Down: The Global Battle Over God, Truth, and Power* by Melanie Phillips, better than the basic description on the inside dustcover. “The basic cause of all this unreason is a steady loss of faith in God. We tell ourselves that religion and reason are incompatible, but in fact the opposite is the case. It was Christianity and the Hebrew Bible that gave us our concepts of reason, progress and an orderly world—the foundations of science and modernity...”

“The West is losing both its rationality and its freedoms. It is succumbing to a ‘soft totalitarianism,’ which not only is creating an ugly mood of intolerance but is undermining its ability to defend itself against Islamic aggression.”

Mrs. Phillips’ book contains an excellent analysis of how the fundamentals of biblical morality continue to be downgraded and degraded in our suffering world. She laments a “complete loss of moral and cultural bearings through multiculturalism and victim culture” with “truth and justice” being “turned on their heads” (p. 399).

Western apostasy analyzed in detail

In the preface, the author points out that members of the intelligentsia have converted popular fantasies into the realm of facts. “The sense that the world has slipped off the axis of reason has been greatly exacerbated by the fact that so many prominent people...have been saying all these strange and disturbing things” (p. x).

Examples of irrationality are offered in the first chapter. Mrs. Phillips comments: “While organized religion in many parts of the West is on the wane, with dwindling church attendance and a systematic erosion of Judeo-Christian principles by an intelligentsia *for whom belief in God is evidence of deep stupidity or even insanity*, Western society has filled the gap with a range of bizarre, irrational and premodern beliefs and behavior” (p. 2, emphasis added throughout).

We mention just one stark example. “In 1990 there were five thousand practicing British pagans; nearly a decade later, the number had risen to a hundred thousand” (p. 3). Today paganism is often viewed as just another religious faith. One British county allows police officers eight days off to observe pagan holidays such as the summer solstice and Halloween. Many occult practices are increasing in Britain.

In the chapters that follow, the author analyzes in detail the Iraq War, the widespread misrepresentation of Israel, the modern secular inquisition, the Jihad against Western freedom, the anti-Semitism among Islamic extremists and the general attack on Western civilization. Other relevant subjects are comprehensively addressed as well.

For those who may not wish to undertake reading the 408-page book, *Standpoint* magazine in Britain has published an excellent summary of the main points of the book. Also written by Melanie Phillips, the article carries the title “How the West Took Leave of Its Senses” (May 2010, www.standpointmag.co.uk).

Moral values seriously undermined

We quote just one sentence from her summary in this article: “Morality has been privatized, so that everyone has become his or her own moral authority, while the laws rooted in Judaeo-Christian tradition come under attack.” This modern practice parallels the state of ancient Israel. This astute observation was made by the writer of an early Old Testament book. “In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes” (Judges 17:6). The conclusion repeats this important passage (see Judges 21:25).

Readers can find more articles by Melanie Phillips on most Monday mornings in the *Daily Mail*. The Melanie Phillips’ column warns British readers, and on rare occasions Western European nations, about the many forces that are relentlessly afflicting and undermining their countries. ❖

“PILGRIMAGE” (Continued from page 2)

their buddies get killed and blown apart. They were not the same for the experience, and they returned home as different men. Their children, my cousins, were impacted by their war experience.

Bruce Catton once wrote about the Civil War veterans he knew as a youth growing up in southern Michigan. These old men with white beards had “once, ages ago, been everywhere and seen everything, and nothing that happened to them thereafter meant anything much.



Photo by Darris McNeely

At the American Cemetery in Normandy the fallen soldiers lay beneath the white crosses “row on row.” Seeing such a sight makes me pray “thy kingdom come” more fervently.

“All that was real had taken place when they were young; everything after that had simply been a process of waiting for death, which did not frighten them much—they had seen it inflicted in the worst possible way on boys who had not bargained for it. They had once been lifted beyond themselves by an experience which perhaps was all the more significant because it was imperfectly understood” (*The Army of the Potomac: Mr. Lincoln’s Army*, p. xi).

I believe this describes my father. I believe it describes many veterans of war. When I first read it years ago, it

helped me understand a lot about the home where I grew up. Understanding creates a settled mind. I understood my dad and what his generation did for me and our generation of baby boomers.

Standing that day on Omaha Beach, I said a silent prayer of gratitude that he survived and that I could return with my son and grandson to pay our respect. Three descendants of a veteran of Omaha Beach returned on their own pilgrimage.

Picturing the end of the futility of war

Our trip came after we had observed the biblical Feast of Tabernacles in Lisbon, Portugal. This festival looks forward to the 1,000-year reign of Christ on earth as Messiah and King of Kings. It is the prophesied period of peace and restoration of all the things foretold by every prophet, including Jesus Christ.

While a visit to a battlefield after such a festival may seem incongruous, it really isn’t. The futility of war is brought home all the more vividly on the fields of sacrifice.

Seeing the scenes of destruction and the graves of the fallen reminds us that no war has brought lasting peace. The death of a nation’s youth leaves deep emotional scars that never heal. At the American Cemetery in Normandy the fallen soldiers lay beneath the white crosses “row on row.” The graves are arranged with the markers facing the English Channel. The dead are “looking” toward America—toward home. These men never got to raise their children or reunite with their families. They gave the ultimate sacrifice.

Seeing such a sight makes me pray “thy kingdom come” more fervently. It makes me appreciate the truth of the Bible’s promise of a time when nations will “beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore” (Isaiah 2:4).

Omaha Beach has returned to a place of serene calm. The remnants of the battle are silent reminders to those who visit that freedom is precious, never to be taken for granted.

—Darris McNeely

“TERRORISM” (Continued from page 4)

the king of the North. This is clearly understood from history and the Bible to be forces coming from the present-day Middle East against modern Europe. History follows along prophetic pathways, and this future event will trigger key end-time movements leading to the return of Jesus Christ. Our booklet *The Middle East in Bible Prophecy* gives the details of this future event.

An attack by radical elements coupled with the fears generated by an unassimilated foreign population could lead to larger reactions from an as-yet-to-arise political force in Europe.

The stage is being set, and we have been faithful to discuss this scenario for years in this publication. Europe will not sit by and watch its future be threatened by an outside power. Historically, Europe eventually moves with force when threatened, even when it is divided by religion and politics and competing ideologies.

The 16th century saw Europe divided religiously by the Protestant Reformation and unable to act to prevent the loss of land to the Ottoman Empire. But it eventually came together to draw a line and to push back the threat of domination. Religion and political forces inevitably unite to preserve their culture.

Though present-day Europe has achieved a measure of political and economic unity in the EU, it is still not a union that can act decisively to project full political or military power beyond its boundaries. That can change when outside forces raise the threat to an unacceptable level. Forces can be unleashed to bring a yet unseen union together, thus creating a power to be reckoned with. It is, again, the matter of “unintended consequences.”

That is why we pay attention to even the small threats of possible terrorist attacks. It is good to be vigilant to safeguard your immediate welfare as well as to see the larger picture these events are drawing. ❖

“POISED” (Continued from page 16)

the future, is specifically communicated and understood by those who follow this Captain of salvation.

It is the culmination of a biblical thread of confrontation that begins in Genesis 3:15 with the prophesied struggle of the seed of the serpent against the Seed of the woman (Christ). The book of Revelation fills in the blanks left by the declaration of Enoch: “Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, to execute judgment on all” (Jude 14-15).

“He put all things under His feet”

Let’s ask ourselves, why has God appointed Christ to be the Captain of our salvation and placed such confidence in Him that “He put all things under His feet” (Ephesians 1:22)? Let’s consider Onasander’s elements of leadership and elevate those same principles to the divine leadership chosen of God.

Onasander describes how a general “was to ride by horseback and show himself to those in danger.” He was to be front and center in the midst of those asked to sacrifice for Caesar and the empire.

It is noteworthy that Revelation opens up with a loud voice, as of a trumpet, declaring, “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last” (Revelation 1:11). The apostle John recognizes the voice that speaks to him as “One like the Son of Man” speaking from “the midst of the seven lampstands” (Revelation 1:11-13). It is here that we find Christ, the Captain of our salvation, establishing His position “front and center” before His followers.

“I know your works, your labor, your patience”

Onasander goes on to describe how a general “praises the brave, threatens the cowardly and encourages the lazy.” Christ, the Captain of our salvation, has done so mightily.

Revelation 2 and 3 take on new meaning when we consider how Christ reviews, encourages and



There is only one horse left standing at the end of Revelation... We see Christ riding by the ranks of heaven on horseback and leading us toward triumph!

admonishes those in His spiritual ranks. What is more encouraging than Christ’s words to the church in Ephesus? “I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name’s sake and have not become weary” (Revelation 2:2-3).

Likewise, Christ’s evaluation of the church of Thyatira is telling: “Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants... I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds... I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works” (2:20-23).

Christ doesn’t miss a beat, miss a heart or miss one communica-

tion with His followers. He deals with the spiritually lazy as He reprimands the church at Laodicea: “I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot” (3:15).

In other words, Wake up! Get with it! You have been called to battle against Satan, yourself and the spirit of this age.

Just as Onasander wrote, our spiritual Champion-in-chief, Jesus the Christ, “fills up the gaps, transposes units when necessary and brings aid to the weary”—to those who have been called and chosen to be in His ranks.

Battles of antiquity did not start or end with a sudden clash of arms. Often the soldiers would have to stand in place all day long as their leaders probed for the strengths or weaknesses of the enemy line. Just imagine the physical, emotional and psychological trauma placed on the frontline soldier!

As frontline soldiers waging spiritual battle (Ephesians 6:12), our spiritual Commander knows

we can't stand alone. He promises to fully supply and put into play incredible spiritual resources that grant us ability to move beyond our fears by supplying a spirit "of power and of love and of a sound mind" (2 Timothy 1:7).

Yes, He gives us power to stand, love to help others stand in the gap with us and wisdom "from above" (James 3:15-17) to wage battle another day. He proclaims to all who will hear, "But those who wait on the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint" (Isaiah 40:31).

"The hour of His judgment has come"

Lastly Onasander placed the following charge upon the would-be effective commander: He must "anticipate the crisis, the hour and the outcome."

What a blessing that you and I have such a spiritual Champion shaping the battlefield! He not only created time, but also is the master of timing. Jesus clearly stated in the Olivet Prophecy that timing is critical: "And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened" (Matthew 24:22).

Yes, time is critical. Yes, He will know and act in the hour that has been determined by God the Father (Matthew 24:36).

It is fascinating to see the precision of God's ultimate plunge into the great confrontation between the forces of righteousness and the forces of evil mentioned in the book of Revelation. It all surrounds the mention of "the hour." Notice Revelation 14:7: "Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come." Yes, He will strike precisely when needed!

Notice the victorious results in Revelation 18:17-19: "For in one hour such great riches came to nothing... Alas, alas, that great city, in which all who had ships on the sea became rich by her wealth! For in one hour she is made desolate."

God knows the moment. We just need to be sure we know God.

Leaning forward!

I think you can see now why Onasander's commentary from 2,000 years ago stopped me in my tracks, opened my eyes and, more importantly, opened my heart. I realize that we join the frontlines of those in the book of Revelation who cry, "How long, O Lord...?" (Revelation 6:10).

I fully appreciate that some of the matters and conditions of this world that we have to discuss on the pages of this magazine can be challenging, overwhelming and seemingly unsolvable. Some of the prophecies and scriptures we ask you to wade through to prepare you for future times can simply seem like slogging through muddy waters.

Just remember at the end of the day and the end of the Book, there is only one horse left standing in John's writings. It is the steed of the fifth Horseman of Revelation—not those of the other four horsemen of the Apocalypse (Revelation 6). We see the fifth Horseman, personifying ageless qualities of leadership that allow us to be poised for victory and always, yes always, leaning forward. We see Christ riding by the ranks of heaven on horseback and leading us toward triumph!

Consider Revelation 19:11-14: "Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war... and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies in heaven...followed Him on white horses."

Perhaps there is no better match for the clarion call found in Isaiah 30:21 of "this is the way, walk in it" than the voice of the One sitting on the white horse, who embodies perfect leadership, exhorting us to "follow Me" (John 21:19). ❖



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by Robin Webber

Poised for Victory!

Have you ever read a line of witty wisdom that just hangs out there in wonderment before your widening eyes? You come to a screeching halt in your mental tracks, right where you are, and slowly devour every facet of that literary jewel. You might call it a showstopper—better still, a life changer! Often the wisdom of the ages carries shades of the profound.

Such was the case when I read a book titled *In the Name of Rome* by Adrian Goldsworthy. The book goes into detail about 16 specific generals who made a difference in expanding Rome from a village on the Tiber to a world power.

Many of us who study history and are familiar with the iron will of the Roman army are acquainted with the tenacity of its soldiers to never surrender. They were always ready to fight by maintaining their legendary order. If they didn't win today, they would be ready to battle another day that would bring the ultimate victory.

When you understand the extraordinary heart of the ordinary Roman, you begin to understand why this empire lasted for 500 years. Consider and compare the fact that American dominance in the post-World War II era is already under assault after a mere 60 years.

Pinpointing essential qualities of leadership

This book points out that it was not simply the heart of the legionnaire that contributed to success, but the expected and inherent qualities of Roman leadership. Together, the heart of the soldier and the

movements of the general created the whole equation that added up to victory.

This is best summed up by a quote from Onasander, a first-century Greek observer, who discerned and shared the essential elements that composed an effective Roman general.

He summed it up this way: "The duty of a general is to ride by the ranks on horseback, show himself to those in danger, praise the brave, threaten the cowardly, encourage the lazy, fill up gaps, transpose a unit if necessary, bring aid to the wearied, anticipate the crisis, the hour and the outcome."

For over 500 years such personal leadership enabled Rome to always be poised for victory and thus rule the known world.

The Captain of our salvation

I recognized how this phenomenal list of the qualities of a mere man at the helm of a Roman army pointed to an even more incredible example of leadership possessed by Jesus Christ, the Captain of our salvation (Hebrews 2:10). The story of the Scriptures and the fullness of all prophecy are about an incredibly breathtaking victory that establishes the Kingdom of God on this earth and is brought about by the armies of Jesus Christ—the "Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6).

Let's remember that the book of Revelation is a dynamic statement of the victory of the Kingdom of God over the vanquished forces of Satan. This prophetic book, describing battlefield accounts of

(See "POISED," page 14)