

**EVENTS IN TURKEY AND THE TIME OF THE END** 

## **DO YOU KNOW**

that World War 3 is inevitable, however it will coincide and be solved by the return of Jesus Christ back to the earth.

## **DO YOU REALISE**

that-many of the prophecies of the Bible have been completely fulfilled and that there are only a few that remain unfulfilled... as yet!

The Bible states that Jesus Christ is soon to return to this earth to take control, and the recent events occurring in our world and particularly with Israel indicate the nearness of this amazing event.

## **IF YOU ARE INTERESTED**

to learn what the future will reveal; if you care about your personal destiny and how to change the course of your own life, providing you with hope for the future, read this booklet carefully and thoughtfully. It has a message for you.

#### HERALD OF THE COMING AGE

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Herald H63

# Gallipoli, World War and Bible Prophecy

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1914 introduced a new era in world affairs. Never before had civilisation been embroiled in a universal war of such magnitude. Austria and Germany had been developing their power, when they were incited to invade Serbia as a result of the assassination of the arch-duke of Austria by a Serbian.

In the West, Britain recognised the dangerous challenge to liberty that Germany's action introduced, and on the 4th August 1914, declared war on Germany setting in motion a conflict that shattered peace and introduced a century of continuing turmoil.

Britain looked for support, and the British Empire, upon which the "sun never set" in the day of its former glory, responded. Australia, Canada, New Zealand and South Africa sent their fighting men to support the "mother country." It was a serious combat. In Australia, Prime Minister Fisher pledged that Australia would defend the empire to "her last man and last shilling."

Thus began Australia's involvement in World War 1.

#### **Formation of the ANZACS**

Australia was a young nation when these events occurred, and *World War 1* provided it with the opportunity to prove itself worthy of world respect. But the war also brought great cost and trauma. Tens of thousands of young men lost their lives; hundreds of thousands were injured in the carnage and millions were affected in one way or another.

But out of the bloodbath of world war came stories of great sacrifice, loyalty and courage. The *Australian and New Zealand Army Corps* (ANZAC) became respected soldiers and were involved in many key campaigns in the war. Some of these campaigns are especially significant in the light of Bible prophecy, and we aim to highlight several of the events and their relevance today.

#### **Turkey's Dramatic Decline**

Britain's other principal allies in the conflict were France, Russia, Japan and Italy (the United States did not enter the war until 1917). It was expected that Turkey would similarly support Britain, but in a strange reversal of policy in November 1914, they sided with Germany and the Austro-Hungarian Empire. They committed themselves to supporting the Axis powers, and became an enemy of the British Empire.

This dramatic circumstance was to change destiny!

Turkey had once been a mighty power. As the Ottoman Empire, she was one of the great powers of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. But after stretching her powerful tentacles over a huge land mass for decades, Turkey's power began to recede. In the 1820's Greece attained its independence. The French took Algeria in 1830, while the British occupied Egypt in 1882. As the years passed, further territory was lost to the Ottoman Empire, and Turkey became weaker, and was known as "the Sick Man of Europe." Various powers worked behind the scenes to prop up the empire, but they only managed to delay the inevitable.

This decline of Turkey was prophesied in the Bible, 2000 years ago.

Revelation chapter 16 describes in symbolic language a series of national events that occupy the period from the French Revolution to the return of Jesus Christ to the earth. It is important to understand the key to unlock the mysteries of the book of Revelation. Notice in the very last verse that it is a book of symbols or "signs," for Jesus "sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John" (ch. 1:1). The book was recorded to outline "things which must shortly come to pass" (v1); therefore the events it depicts would occur after the year AD96 when the book of Revelation was written.

In Revelation 16:12, the Ottoman Empire is referred to by the symbol of its river: "The sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared." The "vial" is a symbol of divine judgment which would be delivered against the "river Euphrates." The empire is thus identified by its major river - for a river symbolises the life-stream and power of a nation. When such a river flows strongly, the power of the nation is expanding; when the river stops, it depicts the nation's collapse.

Notice also, that the Euphrates is described as a "great" river, for it represented the Ottoman power in its greatest extent. But the prophecy of Revelation foretold that this mighty river would "dry up." The description depicts a slow evaporation of the waters of the river: a gradual receding of the power, and history testifies to the accuracy of this.

One of the forces released by the French Revolution of 1789 (which is depicted in the opening verses of Revelation 16) was nationalism manifested in civic self-determination. This led to many ethnic groups clamouring for power, desiring to throw off the shackles of imperial overlords. This influence was particularly potent in the Balkans (the south east corner of Europe, controlled by Turkey at the commencement of the nineteenth century).

In The Development of the European Nations the historian Rose comments: "The force of Nationality, however, after moulding anew the boundaries and politics of Central Europe, sped eastwards to arouse to activity races that had long lain helpless under the heel of the Turk." Czarist Russia encouraged this unrest because it was keen to see Turkey abased. Thereafter Turkey grew weaker and weaker as each nation in the Balkans gained independence. By 1914 she was reduced to a mere toe-hold in Europe. The "evaporation" of the Euphratean power had commenced!

In Asia, however, Turkey's possessions were still relatively significant. She occupied the area now known as Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Israel, Jordan and Saudi Arabia. The precise terms of the Biblical prophecy still awaited complete fulfilment in the complete dehydration of the national Euphrates. Events that occurred were to bring this about!

#### The Weakened State of Russia in Pre-war Years

The northern power of Russia was to play an important part in this drama. Although Russia had taken advantage of Turkey's weakness in the 19th century, by 1914 Russia too, was very weak. The Czar may have headed a massive empire with vast resources and huge army, but the nation was now bankrupt and badly governed. When she entered the war against Germany, she was no real match for the superior forces of the Kaiser.

By 1915 the war was going badly for Russia. Her problems were exacerbated by a lack of supplies. With enemies at her borders, access to her Black Sea ports effectively blocked by a belligerent Turkey, and the Baltic ports blocked by the German navy, Russia was forced to rely on the

treacherous Arctic routes for supplies. This avenue was not adequate and the allies knew that if Russia were to be buttressed, a new supply route must be found.

This was the rationale of the Allies for the attack on Gallipoli. It was to be the "fait accompli" that would ensure success for the West. But, instead, it brought disaster to the Allies, and forced a change of tactics that conformed to the requirements of the Bible prophecy already mentioned.

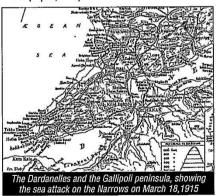
#### **Gallipoli Under Threat**

The most important stretch of water in the world in the spring of 1915 was the Dardanelles. It flows for less than 65 kilometres and is never more than seven kilometres wide. At its narrowest it spans a bare kilometre and a half and runs only 60 metres deep.

It was a strategically vital zone in the war strategy. Control of the waterway by the Allies would mean the opening of a supply line to Russia and the elimination of Turkey from the war. A narrow peninsula formed its western shore, and there stood the town of Gelibolu. Australian soldiers came to know it intimately. They called it Gallipoli.\*

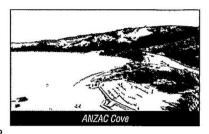
The Allies reasoned that if this town could be captured, it would open the way to dominate the capital of Constantinople, damage the power of Turkey, and clear the way for supplies to reach Russia via the Black Sea.

On paper, the plan was brilliant. It should have been a great success. Yet it



\* It is significant that the Ottoman Empire began at this same spot. The Ottoman branch of the Turkish peoples had first become organized as a military-religious unit in northwestern Anatolia about AD1290. With the enfeeblement of the Byzantines, the Ottoman Turks secured their first foothold on the European continent in AD1354 at Gallipoli, and were able to make their capital at Adrianople 12 years later. Perhaps the British thought that they could repeat history - but God determined otherwise! – Editor.

became one of the most famous failures of all time! Due to a series of errors early in the campaign, the Allies could not gain control of the Gallipoli peninsula quickly. The troops were beached at an area where already a heavy concentration of Turkish troops was established. The Turks were



able to send reinforcements to the area, and the battle became a protracted stalemate. Many lives were lost before it was decided to withdraw the troops of Australia, New Zealand (the ANZACS) and other parts of the British Empire.

Russia, for whose benefit the campaign was launched, refused to render any assistance. She spurned helping her allies gain control over Constantinople and the entrance to the Black Sea. Russia had long coveted this prize and would not share it with anyone else. B. L. Hart said of Russia's insane jealousy for Constantinople: "Russia would not help even in helping to clear her own windpipe. She preferred to choke rather than disgorge a morsel of her ambition. And, in the end, she was choked".

His significant words proved true. Failure to open a supply route through the Dardanelles and the Bosphorus meant that vital food supplies could not reach Russia, weakening the empire and adding to the discontent of the people. By 1916 it was clear that Russia was losing the war, and in 1917 a revolution swept the Czar from power. He became the victim of the same forces of nationalism and democracy in Russia that he had encouraged in the Turkish Empire.

The Bible speaks of "spirits like frogs" that would disgorge throughout the earth (Revelation 16:13-14) bringing a state of anarchy and turmoil to society. The symbol describes the disruptive policies of democracy and nationalism that were released by the French Revolution and have continued to disturb the nations. Those same forces of nationalism swept the Russian Czar into oblivion, and allowed the Communists to establish the Soviet Union.

#### **A Divine Reason For The Failure**

There is an underlying and important explanation for the defeat that many historians ignore.

The prophet Daniel declares that God controls events in the world to facilitate the fulfilment of His purpose: "He changeth the times and the seasons; He removeth kings and setteth up kings" (Daniel 2:21); "the Most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever He will, and setteth up over it the basest of men" (ch. 4:17). Thus he shows that, notwithstanding what might appear to be the reason for various circumstances and moves in the politics of nations, God is controlling such actions in accordance with His grand plan. He is in control of the designs of rulers, and events are manipulated as He sees necessary. So the prophet Jeremiah declares of God: "I have made the earth, the men and the beast that are upon the ground, by My great power and by My out stretched arm, and have given it unto whom it seemeth meet unto Me" (Jeremiah. 27:5).

Everything that occurs on the world stage is controlled and limited by the will of God. When Pilate faced Jesus and threatened him with a show of authority, by declaring that Jesus life was in his hands and subject to his decision, the Lord Jesus Christ answered: "Thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above" (John 19:11). So he clearly indicated that God controls the destiny of nations according to His Will.

We have already stated that Revelation 16:12 teaches that it was God's Will that the Turkish power (the "river Euphrates") should evaporate. The prophecy described it as a "great" river. When a large and mighty river dries up, it happens slowly. The waters gradually contract from the extreme edges of the river into the middle of the course until all that remains is a central trickle of little importance. History confirms that this is exactly how the Turkish Empire "dried up." From the years 1820 to 1914 the empire receded from the edges as its borders were eaten away by invading nations, but the centre remained.

The attack launched on ANZAC day, April 25th, 1915, was aimed at capturing the Turkish capital of Constantinople: the very heart-stream of "the great river Euphrates." If Constantinople had been captured by the Allies in 1915 it would have frustrated God's purpose with the nations. There was still some "drying up" to occur at the edges of the Ottoman Empire - especially in Palestine (today called Israel).

#### **Britain Occupies Egypt**

In 1820 Egypt formed the southern border of the Ottoman Empire. It was ruled on behalf of the Sultan in Constantinople by a Viceroy who

exercised considerable independence. The French (and to a lesser extent, the British) took a keen interest in northern Africa, and in the 1850's the British considered whether it was in their interest to occupy Egypt. They concluded that it was not then desirable to do so. In a letter from Prime Minister Palmerston in 1857, he observed: "Then, as to the balance of power to be maintained by giving us Egypt: In the first place, we don't want to have Egypt. What we wish about Egypt is that it should continue attached to the Turkish Empire, which is a security against its belonging to any European power. We want to trade with Egypt, and to travel through Egypt, but we do not want the burden of governing Egypt, and its possession would not, as a political, military, and naval question, be considered in this country as a set-off against the possession of Morocco by France."

\* In spite of this however, through inexplicable circumstances, Britain occupied Egypt in 1882. And that strange turn of events was to prove important 33 years later! For when Turkey went to war in 1914, the British declared Egypt a protectorate, and she became the main base for land operations against Turkey.

This is an example of God manipulating incidents to ensure that the nations act in accordance with His purpose, and achieve His Will. Why was it necessary to God's purpose for Britain to occupy Egypt?

The reason became clear in World War 1.

#### **The Palestine Campaign Commences**

Though the British Empire troops met with failure at Gallipoli, other campaigns against Turkey were more successful. But these attacks came from the south and east against the Turkish armies. In 1915 British troops invaded Mesopotamia (modern Iraq), the most eastern extremity of the Turkish Empire. Slowly the British troops made their way up the Tigris and Euphrates valleys, capturing Baghdad in 1917.

More significant, however, was the British attack on Turkish held Palestine in 1917. Supported by Australian troops, the British forces under the command of General Allenby began a methodically prepared advance in October 1917, through Gaza and Jaffa. The city of Jerusalem was captured in December. By 1918 all Palestine, and most of Syria, had been conquered.

Some people doubted the wisdom of an expensive campaign to capture Palestine and Mesopotamia. Major-General George Aston wrote these

words in an article entitled *The Aftermath of Ignorance*, printed in the *Nineteenth Century and After* magazine: "The campaign in Mesopotamia and Palestine secured the Persian Oilfields and the Suez Canal, contributing to that extent to the victory which was won on the Western front; but the extended and costly offensive operations against the Turkish armies were launched with some unknown object, neither military nor imperialistic, either without consulting the responsible naval and military advisers of the British Government, or directly in conflict with their advice."

Indeed, there was an "unknown object" to be achieved as a result of the Palestine campaign! It was the establishment of a national homeland for the Jews: a project that was impossible to achieve under the Turkish control of the Holy Land. Britain was destined by God to be the power which would remove the occupying power and facilitate the return of the Jews to their ancient homeland, in accordance with Bible prophecy. This was correctly interpreted by a Bible student, Dr. John Thomas, who wrote in *Elpis Israel* (1849), pages 441-442:

"There is, then, a partial and primary restoration of Jews before the manifestation (of Christ - Editor.), which is to serve as the nucleus, or basis, of future operations in the restoration of the rest of the tribes after he has appeared in the kingdom. The preadventual colonization of Palestine will be on purely political principles, and the Jewish colonists will return in unbelief of the messiahship of Jesus, and of the truth as it is in him. They will emigrate thither as agriculturists and traders, in the hope of ultimately establishing their commonwealth, but more immediately of getting rich in silver and gold by commerce with India, and in cattle and goods by their industry at home under the efficient protection of the British power."

Writing in 1849, when the Turks were still in occupation of the Holy Land, John Thomas continued: "Now any person acquainted with the present insecure condition of Palestine under the Ottoman dominion must be satisfied from the testimony, that some other power friendly to Israel must then have become paramount over the land, which is able to guarantee protection to them, and to put the surrounding tribes in fear. This is all that is needed, namely, security for life and property, and Palestine would be as eligible for Jewish emigration as the United States have proved for the Gentiles... But to what part of the world shall we look for a power whose interests will make it willing, as it is able, to plant the ensign of civilization

upon the mountains of Israel? The reader will, doubtless, anticipate my reply from what has gone before. I know not whether the men who at present contrive the foreign policy of Britain, entertain the idea of assuming the sovereignty of the Holy Land, and of promoting its colonization by the Jews; their present intentions, however, are of no importance one way or the other, because they will be compelled, by events soon to happen, to do what, under existing circumstance, heaven and earth combined could not move them to attempt."

It was not the intention of the British Prime Minister in 1857 to acquire territory in the Middle East, as we have already quoted. But circumstances forced them to unwillingly move into Egypt and Palestine.

How was it possible to so accurately anticipate such a radical shift in policy? John Thomas was not a politician! He was a Bible student and his expectations were based on his understanding of the Bible. The prophets of Israel had predicted that the Jews would return to their ancient homeland (see Ezekiel 36:10-11, 24; Jeremiah 30:10-11). To achieve this end, however, God appointed a protector to secure the establishment of His people of Israel. So Isaiah declared: "Since thou (Israel) wast precious in My sight, thou hast been honourable, and I have loved thee: therefore will I give men for thee, and people for thy life. Fear not: for I am with thee: I will bring thy seed from the east, and gather thee from the west; I will say to the north, Give up; and to the south, Keep not back: bring My sons (the Jews) from far, and my daughters from the ends of the earth" (ch. 43:4-6).

Verse 3 of this chapter gives details of the "ransom" paid to ensure that a power would assist Israel to return to the land: "I gave Egypt for thy ransom, Ethiopia and Seba for thee."

To determine which power would promote the interests of the Jews, we need only identify the power that received those lands mentioned by the prophet. We have already noted that Britain occupied Egypt in 1882. Ethiopia (an ancient name for the areas now known as Sudan) was occupied by Britain in 1885. Ancient Seba was in the area of modern Aden, which became a British possession in 1839. Thus, by the time of World War 1, the "ransom" had been paid, Britain had received her divine bonus, and all that remained was for her to deliver the ancient homeland of Israel to the Jews.

#### **England fulfils the Divine Injunction**

On 2nd November 1917, the British government issued a statement known as the *Balfour Declaration*:

"His Majesty's government views with favour the establishment in Palestine of a National Home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any country".

This was a remarkable declaration. There were several reasons for it, and the British Prime Minister gave some insight as to the motivation for England's statement. In the *Palestine Royal Commission Report*, H.M. Stationery Office, London, 1937, p.I7 is this comment: "In the evidence he gave before us, Mr. Lloyd George, who was Prime Minister at that time, stated that, while the Zionist cause had been widely supported in Britain and America before November 1917, the launching of the Balfour Declaration at that time was 'due to propagandist reasons': and he outlined the serious position in which the Allied and Associated Powers then were. The Rumanians had been crushed. The Russian Army was demoralized. The French Army was unable at the moment to take the offensive on a large



Movember 2nd, 1917.

near Lord Roshschild.

I have much pleasure in conveying to you, en behalf of him injesty's Government, the following esciention of sympathy with jewish Zioniot aspirations which has been nutritied to, and approved by, the Chihast

Mis Enjesty's Constraint view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jesuan people, and will use their best sedestours to facilitate the schievement of this object, it being clearly uncerstood that nothing shall be done which may projects the civil and religious rights of existing non-lewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jewe in any other country.

I should be grateful if you would bring this declaration to the knowledge of the Zionist Pederation.

Ano Wi

Balfour Declaration of 1917

scale. The Italians had sustained a great defeat at Caporetto. Millions of tons of British shipping had been sunk by German submarines. No American divisions were yet available in the trenches. In this critical situation it was believed that Jewish sympathy or the reverse would make a substantial difference one way or the other to the Allied cause. In particular Jewish sympathy would confirm the support of the American Jewry, and would make it more difficult for Germany to reduce her military commitments and improve her economic position on the Eastern front".

It may have made good political and military sense in 1917 to declare support for the Jews, as Lloyd George suggests. But the fact remains that this statement was A STEP TOWARDS THE FULFILMENT OF BIBLE PROPHECY. At the time that the British government made this promise it was involved in secret negotiations with the Arabs (through the efforts of Lawrence of Arabia) which were diametrically opposed to the terms of this promise. The British were, in fact, laying the foundation for massive problems they would ultimately have to face!

At the time, however, the Balfour Declaration fired the imagination of Zionists and Bible students alike. Arthur Koestler said of the Declaration: "The whole thing was unorthodox, unpolitic, freakish. For one glorious moment the British War Cabinet assumed the role of messianic providence" (*Promise and Fulfilment*, page 7). The Balfour Declaration was confirmed by all the Allied governments and became the basis for the *League of Nations* mandate under which Britain administered Palestine.

#### **Years of the British Mandate**

Jews who had returned to Palestine when Turkey controlled the land had suffered persecution during World War 1. Many fled to places like Egypt, but returned when Britain took control of Palestine. In the 1920's they were joined by many others, and these communities began transforming what had been a degraded backwater country in Ottoman times, into a prosperous nation. As Dr. Thomas anticipated, they returned "as agriculturists and traders, in the hope... of getting rich in silver and gold... and in cattle and goods by their industry at home under the efficient protection of the British power". How did Dr. Thomas know in 1849 that Jews (mostly following professional occupations) would return to Palestine as farmers and traders? Because the Bible had prophesied that it would be so. It describes the returning Jews as

"people gathered out of the nations, which have gotten cattle and goods, that dwell in the midst of the land" (Ezekiel 38:12).

Britain's involvement in opening the way for Jews to return to their homeland, is a remarkable story. As intimated in the testimony of Mr. Lloyd George, the Prime Minister at the time of the Balfour Declaration and the granting of the League of Nations mandate, Britain hoped to gain benefits from taking this stand. Dr. Thomas makes this comment in *Elpis Israel*: "The Lion-power (England - Ed.) will not interest itself in behalf of the subjects of God's kingdom (the Jews) from pure generosity, piety towards God, or love of Israel; but upon the principles which actuate all the governments of the world - upon those, namely, of the lust of dominion, self-preservation, and self-aggrandizement. God, who rules the world, and marks out the bounds of habitation for the nations, will make Britain a gainer by the transaction. He will bring her rulers to see the desirableness of Egypt, Ethiopia and Seba, which they will be induced, by the force of circumstances, probably, to take possession of. They will, however, before the battle of Armageddon, be compelled to retreat from Egypt and Ethiopia".

For a time Britain and the Commonwealth nations supported the cause of the Jews, and Britain benefited from the involvement. Her controlling interest in the Suez Canal was very profitable, and Palestine became quite valuable to her, adding to Britain's prestige and strategy.

However, in the 1930's to 1940's Britain became entrapped by the intrigue associated with different promises made to Jews and Arabs in World War 1. She turned against the Jews and began to frustrate their return to Palestine. By this time Jews were suffering intense persecution in Europe, particularly in Nazi Germany. Thousands of innocent Jews perished needlessly because of the hard-heartedness of Britain, which now opposed Jewish immigration to Palestine. In this, British policy ignored the divine status of the Jewish people!

#### **Divine Protection Overshadows Israel**

Israel is God's holy nation (Exodus 19:5-6), and He watches over them. God promised their father Abraham that He would "bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee" (Genesis 12:3). That pledge was demonstrated in British history. England prospered while she assisted the Jews. But when she turned against them she suffered. Britain no longer controls Egypt, Aden nor Ethiopia (compare Isa. 43:3). Israel is now

an independent nation without ties to England. The Suez Canal has been nationalised. All the great assets England once controlled in the Middle East, are gone.

Britain did, however, play her destined part in making a national homeland for the Jews into a reality. And it is Britain and her "daughters" such as Australia and the United States that have been the most stalwart supporters of Israel since its establishment in 1948.

#### **Another Gallipoli?**

The Bible indicates that the British Commonwealth nations are destined to be again involved in a Middle East military campaign.

But this time they will not face the Turkish power. They will be opposing a massive confederacy led by Russia! This invasion is described in Ezekiel 38:2-12, and is explained in detail in a booklet entitled: Israel, Russia, Christ's Coming and Armageddon (for a free copy, please write to the address on the back cover of this magazine).

Notice in Ezekiel 38:13 that the invading army from the north (Russia) is challenged by a group of nations: "Sheba and Dedan and the merchants of Tarshish, with all the young lions thereof, shall say unto thee, Art thou come to take a spoil? hast thou gathered thy company to take a prey? to carry away silver and gold, to take away cattle and goods, to take a great spoil?"

Tarshish is the name of an ancient trading power noted for its tin deposits. It was located in the extreme west of the then-known world. Archaeologists and historians have identified it with Britain, the "tin isles". The Bible's description includes nations known as "the young lions" - an apt terminology for the independent dominions of Australia, Canada, New Zealand, America, etc, which have all derived from the "old lion of Britain".

At the time of the latter-day invasion of the Middle East, Britain and her allies will again unite against an encroaching enemy. But on this occasion, unlike the last two World Wars, they will not overcome the enemy.

The Bible shows that Russia will establish a base in Turkey, reviving the ancient battleground of Gallipoli. Daniel 11:40 describes events "at the time of the end" - the present era: "the king of the south shall push at him: and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships". Three identities are mentioned: the "king of the south" (assumed by Britain out of World War 1 when she

controlled the area of Egypt, known in the Bible as "the south"); the "king of the north" (assumed by Russia, as the supreme northern power since World War 2); and "him" (identified as Turkey, the remaining remnant of the oncepowerful Ottoman Empire, whose armies had fought under the banner of "a strange god" (v. 38-39) when they challenged the Holy Roman Empire).

Turkey is a significant spot in world strategy. It holds the key to Russian success, for control of the Bosphorus which would provide Russia with an important water-way into the Mediterranean and the southern seas, whilst possession of Turkey provides a platform for subsequent control of the Middle East - and world domination! The Bible shows that Russia will establish her power in Istanbul (modern Constantinople): a bridgehead into the three continents of Asia, Europe and Africa.

With a huge array of modern military equipment, described by the prophet as "chariots, horsemen and many ships", Russia will establish a complete military force in Turkey. It will be an important manoeuvre, and Gallipoli will again witness the preparations for warfare, but on a grander scale than formerly! From its bases in Turkey, Russia will ultimately move south, as Daniel depicts: "He shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over. He shall enter also into the glorious land, and many shall be overthrown" (Daniel 11:40-41). His intentions will be for world domination, and securing the strategically important area of the Middle East is a vital step in that direction. With an attack on the Holy Land (v. 41) and Egypt (v. 42) Russia will stand supreme, with complete control over the Middle East, as Daniel describes: "He (Russia) shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain" (ch. 11:45). Standing as a great incomparable dictator, Russia will establish its military headquarters in Jerusalem, between "the seas" of the Mediterranean and the Dead Seas.

Yet, when it seems that total jurisdiction over the earth is at his feet, "he shall come to his end, and none shall help him" (Daniel 11:45).

God will intervene in world affairs through the personal return of His Son (Acts 1:11) to destroy the invading Russian confederacy (see Ezekiel 38:18-23). Speaking of this time, Daniel says: "in the days of these kings (the divided state of Europe that is evident today) shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever" (Daniel 2:44). This will be effected

through the almighty power vested in Jesus Christ and his saints those who have followed him in their lives and believed his message. Some will have been resurrected from the grave; others will have been gathered from every land; all of them will receive immortality and power, to form his invincible divine army that will fulfil the purpose of God with the nations of the world.

This collapse of the armies of the nations by the power of Jesus Christ and his saints, will provide an era of peace which has long evaded civilisation. He will require all nations to submit to his rule, and will establish the Kingdom of God upon this earth. His dominion will extend to all parts and every nation will benefit under his wise reign. Psalm 72 provides a lovely description of the coming Kingdom, and outlines the policy program of the coming King.

All true christians have longed for this time, and the Bible contains hundreds of references describing the Kingdom of God. A thousand years of unparalleled peace and harmony, known as the Millennium (Revelation 20:4) will be introduced. Warfare will be forbidden and violence suppressed. There will be no more Gallipoli's, as the wonderful wisdom and rule of Jesus Christ replaces the constant antagonism of mankind.

#### The Appeal of History and Scripture

The remarkable events leading up to and following World War 1 confirm that Bible prophecy can be absolutely trusted. Not one word of prophecy concerning those times has been distorted, or unfulfilled. The presentday development of Russian interest in Turkey, and the constant agitation in those areas also portend that the time of the end is at hand, and that Christ could return at any time. The Master said to his disciples: "When these things begin to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh" (Luke 21:28). Those words were uttered upon the background of a prophecy that spoke of a troubled world in language very familiar today: "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" (v. 26). The terrible anxieties now experienced by the leaders of the nations are evidence of the truth of Jesus' words. But for his disciples, he gives a message of encouragement. To those who witness the world that he described, he said: "Verily (truly) I say unto you, this generation shall not pass away, till all be fulfilled" (v. 32).

We live in the generation of which he spoke!

Men and women of wisdom will take the opportunity to consider these matters quietly, thoughtfully and thoroughly. It is beyond doubt that Christ is to return to the earth to consummate the divine purpose. It is a doctrine clearly taught in the Bible, and associated with personal salvation. The apostle Peter referred to it, when he said: "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord: and He shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began" (Acts 3:19-21).

Your personal salvation is possible at the coming of Jesus Christ. But it requires that you do something now. The Bible has been preserved and provided for you to read and understand its wonderful message. You need to open its pages, learn of its teaching, and follow its instructions. The fulfilment of Bible prophecy in our day teaches that Christ's coming is near at hand. Why not seek further information concerning these matters. It costs nothing to do so, but it is to your advantage to seek out God's message of salvation. Remember: the times are significant; the issues are vital and personal. You owe it to yourself and your family to seek God's way.

Do not let your life become another Gallipoli! Rescue it out of the path of sin and destruction through the power that is available in the Bible. Paul said: "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth" (Romans 1:16). Make that power change your life for eternity.

16

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