
**WHEN THE IRON CURTAIN LIFTS
.. WHAT WILL RUSSIA DO ? ..**

By FORDE CARLISLE

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When the Iron Curtain Lifts What will Russia do?

*An Address delivered in the Concert Chamber, Town Hall,
Auckland, and also at Christchurch, New Zealand,*

By FORDE CARLISLE.

WHEN the world's strife reaches the Scriptures' final dimensions, Armageddon is looming on the horizon, and history and prophecy have kissed each other.

As to the nations of the earth, prophecy divides into two main divisions, the Western and Northern confederacies. The focus of all prophecy is Palestine—there is the cockpit and there are the controls.

“When the Most High divided to the nations their inheritance, when he separated the sons of Adam, he set the bounds of the people according to the number of the children of Israel.” Deut. 32: 8.

The Word of God reveals it to be so, God has determined by His over-ruling sovereignty that the godless nations do His will.

“And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast.

For God hath put in their hearts to fulfil his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast,

until the words of God shall be fulfilled." Rev. 17: 12-17.

We must not forget, however, that when the nations forget God and leave Him out He allows the devil to take over, and his business is to deceive the nations and to establish lawlessness. Because of this factor in international life:

"There is no peace, saith the Lord, unto the wicked." Isa. 48: 22.

"Babylon hath been a golden cup in the Lord's hand, that made all the earth drunken; the nations have drunken of her wine; therefore the nations are mad." Jer. 51: 7.

From the logic of Scripture, when a nation not only does not recognise God, but defies Him to the extent of telling Him to pack up and get out, we have something never known before in human government.

A great world power officially ordering God to pack His trunk and leave is as unique in world affairs, and as vital to the prophetic programme as the apostasy in the church, and the return of the Jew to Palestine.

But what nation has dared to do this? The answer is: Russia has.

Here is some evidence. In January, 1918, Russia officially took the first step to declare "war on God" with a fight to a finish.

At the same time the Soviet of Commissars issued a decree, Article 12, which said: "No church or religious association shall enjoy the right of judicial person."

Russia officially determined to drive faith in God from the hearts of her people. Stalin's slogan was first the slogan of Karl Marx: "Religion is the opiate of the people." After Marx, this slogan was Lenin's, and now it is Josef Stalin's. Seventy-five years ago Bakunin announced:

"Brethren, I come to announce unto you a new gospel which must penetrate to the very ends of the world. . . . The old world must be destroyed and replaced by a new one. . . . The lie must be stamped out and give way to truth. . . . The first lie is God; the second lie is Right . . . and when you have freed your minds from a fear of God and that childish respect for the fiction of Right, then all the remaining chains that bind you will snap asunder like a thread. Our first work must be destruction and annihilation of everything as it now exists."

On May 1st, 1932, the Soviet Government decreed, as never before a responsible government had decreed. It set forth part of Russia's famous "Five-Year Plan." It stated:

"On May 1st, 1937, there must not remain on the territory of the U.S.S.R. a single house of prayer to God, and the very conception 'God' will be banished from the boundaries of the Soviet Union as a survival of the middle ages, which has served as an instrument for the oppression of the working masses."

What does that mean? Obviously, one thing, and one thing only. Everything Christian without discrimination was to be jettisoned.

Never before has a human government officially been so blatantly blasphemous as to demand God to hand in His resignation and to quit its domains. It is terrible blasphemy and reminds us of the Scripture that speaks of a mouth speaking great swelling words of vanity:

“For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error.” 2 Pet. 2: 18.

“And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months.

And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.” Rev. 13: 5-7.

Now all this is of great prophetic significance and challenges us to once again turn to that prophetic classic in 2 Pet. 1: 19-21—

“We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:

Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”

This Scripture holds good in regard to any portion of the prophetic word.

Prophecy tells us what Russia is going to do. Which prophecy? We answer, Ezek. 38 and 39. Here we have Russia brought under “the lamp in a dark place,” and brought out as clearly as X Y Z.

Why should it be thought a thing incredible that God should identify modern nations when He expected the ancients to identify Ammon, Moab, Tyre and Babylon, to be the subjects of the lash of God’s judgments.

Are not we God’s watchmen? Are we not supposed to answer the inquiry: “Watchman, what of the night?” Should we not be able to explain the truth of the present darkness?

“Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet,” is our bounden duty, yea, our responsibility. The collapse of human governments, the false hopes of the peace tables, conference rooms, pacts and treaties should be a familiar thing to the Watchman who is doing his duty. The prophet Daniel tells us:

“They shall speak lies at one table.” Dan. 11: 27. And now, the bigger the lie the more likely it is to succeed.

Intrigue, dishonesty, lying and treachery are the “stock in trade” of many of the national leaders of to-day.

The Watchman’s reesponsibility is to know these things and to declare them, but how can he unless he has the “more sure word of prophecy, as a lamp in a dark place,” to guide him?

Before turning to Ezek. 38, and its presentation of modern Russia in the prophetic programme, let us look at some statistics, confirmatory of what we have been saying.

Scripture and history agree, prophecy being history pre-written, while history is prophecy fulfilled.

A Russian author named Novikow gives us the following:—

“In 3358 years, 1496 B.C. to 1862 A.D., the world had 227 years of peace and 3130 years of war.

In the last 300 years there were 286 major and minor wars in Europe.

From 1500 B.C. to 1860 A.D. there were 8000 treaties negotiated. The average time they remained in force was two years.”

“The statistics of the Society of International Law of London, corroborating those of Novikow’s, declares that during the last 4000 years there have been but 268 years of peace and 3732 years of war.”

In 1928 France and the U.S.A. ratified the Pact of Paris. Sixty-three governments ratified the same pact in 1934. But in 1939 this was all thrown to the winds and the bloodiest holocaust the world has ever known broke upon it.

“Peace ’twas said, we sing it,

And pay a million priests to bring it;

After 2000 years have gone,

We’ve got as far as the atomic bomb.”

So much for world peace.

There is an intriguing Scripture in the prophecy of Ezek. ch. 8: 7-9—

“And he brought me to the door of the court; and when I looked, behold a hole in the wall.

Then said he unto me, Son of man, dig now in the wall: and when I had digged in the wall, behold a door.

And he said unto me, Go in, and behold the wicked abominations that they do here.”

Prophecy opens the door, prophecy digs down and sees through the hole in the wall the abominations that they do, even behind the iron curtain. That explains why some preachers do not preach the prophetic word; it is not popular; they prefer religious dish water, perfumed with ethical lavender, sprayed over the ugly, crawling, slimy reptiles of an unregenerate world.

Go in, says the prophet, and behold the wicked abominations that they do—behind the iron curtain. Truly prophecy is “a lamp in a dark place.”

Ezek. 38 and 39 make it abundantly clear that the last two world wars were not a fulfilment of the prophecy. The objective of the conflict of Ezek. 38 is the land of Palestine. The two world wars were essentially Gentilish, but this one will directly involve the Jew and his land.

Now why should this fact characterise the conflict of Ezek. 38?

The answer is: The issue of world rulership is at stake, the time has come for decision. Salvation is of the

Jews, that is governmentally. The terms of the Abrahamic Covenant have not yet been carried out.

If Stalin, Attlee, Truman, Pacilli, Fraser or any other world figure were permitted a peep into Heaven where the centre of all government is, they would see a Jew, the Lord Jesus Christ, Who is to occupy the throne of earthly government and enact the royal policy of Heaven in relation to the government of earth, the throne of His Father David, and the terms of the Abrahamic Covenant through Israel.

This eternal decree (see Psa. 2) has always enraged the devil, and with satanic vehemence he has always sought to thwart by forestalling it. To this end he has succeeded in finding a government which, having officially repudiated God and thereby become satanically energised, is ready to challenge Heaven as to world rulership.

God having homed world government in Israel and world rulership in Israel's Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ, accepts the challenge, and Ezekiel's prophecy, chps. 38 and 39, tells us the story of the debacle in detail.

While the global war was still raging the well-known Associated Press war analyst, Dewitt Mackenzie, in his column wrote:

"As I see it . . . the Soviet Union will emerge from the war the dominant power in Europe, and perhaps in the Orient as well. That's the way the cards are falling at present. . . .

"Next to the winning of the war, there's no question of greater importance to-day. Vice-President Wallace pinned the thing down with startling bluntness

last March when he declared: 'Unless the Western democracies and Russia come to a satisfactory understanding before the war ends, I very much fear that World War No. 3 will be inevitable.'

"Mr. Wallace isn't the only one who foresees the possibility of conflicting interests. I found it all the way from England, through the Middle East, to Chungking, during my recent 33,000-mile tour.

"What's the exact point of all this anxiety as the war rushes toward its end? We get many expressions of fear, but few people seem to be terrified of taking a peep into the closet to see what's there.

"The point is that many astute observers throughout the world believe Russia will, as already stated, dominate Europe and maybe the Far East. Because this would represent a volcanic political upheaval, a lot of countries are afraid of the consequences. They are particularly fearful lest Communism should be thrust upon them.

"Russia is the world's largest country in area, occupying one-sixth of the earth's surface and having a population of nearly 200,000,000. It is virtually self-contained, possessing almost every natural resource known to man. It stretches from Europe clear through to the Pacific—a two-continent empire.'

Russia, behind the iron curtain, with her fifth columnists in every country, ready for sabotage, reachery and blood.

Wherein lies her mysterious strength and her meteoric rise to world power? Just this—when God is pushed out,

Satan takes over. Her strength lies in the domination of the sinister forces of the powers of darkness.

Russia in the news—yet so little news. Why should she not be in the prophetic calendar? It would be strange if it were not so. Not in "the news," but in the Scripture.

The drama of the end is visibly forming in the facts of to-day.

The Communist salute is the clenched fist raised to Heaven in defiance of God. Is it any wonder then that Ezek. 38 opens thus:

"And the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, Son of man, set thy face against Gog, the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him,

And say, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal."

Prophetic students are agreed that Rosh is Russia, Meshech, Moscow and Tubal, Tobolsk. These names can be traced from Gen. 10 and there is no question that Russia is here indicated. Gog, the chief Prince, and the land Magog.

One writer puts it thus:—"This identification, packed into a few words, flows from (1) the whole context; (2) the etymology (the Rhos, Ros, Roxolani, etc., Meshech, Miski, Moschi, etc.); (3) the geographical location of the cognate peoples (Gog, Magog, etc.); (4)

the history and migration of these tribes; (5) the implied semi-absorption of nations, such as Persia (Ezek 38: 5) contiguous to Russia; (6) the prophecies concerning 'the uttermost parts of the North' (Ezek. 38: 6, R.V.); and (7) the extraordinary modern preparation for the rolling down of vast Northern 'hordes' on the Holy Land, so vast as to be impossible except to a huge world power."

In the words of Mr. J. Cross (*Christendom's Impending Doom*, p. 99):—"If lexicographers are consulted as to what modern nation now represents the ancient Rosh, they nearly all say Russia."

A two-fold compulsion will cause Russia to come down like an avalanche on Palestine.

God says: "And I will turn thee back, and put hooks into thy jaws, and I will bring thee forth, and all thine army, horses and horsemen, all of them clothed with all sorts of *armour*, even a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords."

Then it is revealed what it is that actuates Gog (Russia), and then again what God will do:

"After many days thou shalt be visited: in the latter years thou shalt come into the land *that is* brought back from the sword, *and is* gathered out of many people, against the mountains of Israel, which have been always waste: but it is brought forth out of the nations, and they shall dwell safely all of them.

Thou shalt ascend and come like a storm, thou shalt be like a cloud to cover the land, thou, and all thy bands, and many people with thee.

Thus saith the Lord God; It shall also come to pass *that* at the same time shall things come into thy mind, and thou shalt think an evil thought.

And thou shalt say, I will go up to the land of unwalled villages; I will go to them that are at rest, that dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates,

To take a spoil, and to take a prey; to turn thine hand upon the desolate places *that are now* inhabited, and upon the people *that are* gathered out of the nations, which have gotten cattle and goods, that dwell in the midst of the land.

Therefore, son of man, prophesy and say unto Gog, Thus saith the Lord God; In that day when my people of Israel dwelleth safely, shalt thou not know *it?*

And thou shalt come up against my people of Israel, as a cloud to cover the land; it shall be in the latter days, and I will bring thee against my land, that the heathen may know me, when I shall be sanctified in thee, O Gog, before their eyes.

Thus saith the Lord God; *Art* thou he of whom I have spoken in old time by my servants the prophets of Israel, which prophesied in those days *many* years that I would bring thee against them?

And it shall come to pass at the same time when Gog shall come against the land of Israel, saith the Lord God, *that* my fury shall come up in my face.

For in my jealousy *and* in the fire of my wrath have I spoken, Surely in that day there shall be a great shaking in the land of Israel;

So that the fishes of the sea, and the fowls of the heaven, and the beasts of the field, and all creeping things that creep upon the earth, and all the men that *are* upon the face of the earth, shall shake at my presence, and the mountains shall be thrown down, and the steep places shall fall, and every wall shall fall to the ground.

And I will call for a sword against him throughout all my mountains, saith the Lord God; every man's sword shall be against his brother.

And I will plead against him with pestilence and with blood; and I will rain upon him, and upon his bands, and upon the many people that *are* with him, an overflowing rain, and great hailstones, fire, and brimstone.

Thus will I magnify myself, and sanctify myself; and I will be known in the eyes of many nations."

This prophecy indicates that the Arab and Jewish terrors will have ceased, and that there will be apparent quietness.

The accumulation of spoil is a controlling motive of the invasion.

"A covetous desire for the possessions of Israel, and envy at his exalted position at the centre of the world, are the motives by which Gog is impelled to enter upon his predatory expedition against the people living in the depth of peace" (Keil). "Thus saith the Lord God: This is Jerusalem; I have set her in the midst of the nations" (Ezek. 5: 5). "Whoever gets Palestine," said Napoleon, "will finally rule the world."

The oilfields of Mesopotamia, the Suez Canal, the Dead Sea with its incredible wealth of minerals make Palestine the crucial centre of the earth.

It has been suggested that the wording of the challenge—"Art thou *come*?"—implies that Britain still holds the mandate at the invasion. But it is the *merchants* of Tarshish, not the *government* of Tarshish, that speak from Palestine; British business men will still crowd the Near East.

In 1930 a British corporation was formed called Potash, Ltd., to explore, develop and reap the rich harvest of chemicals that awaited men in the Dead Sea. Chemical engineers discovered that the waters of this strange lake contain vast quantities of many of the substances most valuable to industry, agriculture and warfare, as these pursuits are conducted in our generation. They found that from the depth of 200 feet down the waters were practically a saturated solution of various salts. Consequently a pipeline 30 inches in diameter and 2800 feet long was laid, terminating at a depth of 200 feet below the surface of

the sea. By the use of enormous pumps this water is lifted for the harvest.

To show something of the value of this deposit we give the following figures:—

Name of chemical.	Amount present in million ton units.
Magnesium chloride -----	22,000
Sodium chloride -----	11,000
Calcium chloride -----	5,000
Potassium chloride -----	2,000
Magnesium bromide -----	1,000

This gives us a total of forty-one thousand million tons of chemicals in sight and immediately available. In addition to that, the streams of that region are pouring into the Dead Sea every year forty thousand additional tons of potassium chloride. So as fast as it is taken out, the content is replenished, and this will go on as long as the cycle of precipitation and evaporation continues.

Note that the figures are *thousands of millions of tons* in each case, so that the first item should read "magnesium chloride twenty-two thousand million tons," and so on.

This vast wealth cannot be expressed with accuracy— it is estimated that the Dead Sea alone can be valued at £317,000,000,000, or the combined wealth of Britain, America, France, Germany and Italy.

What with Britain out of Palestine as far as the mandate is concerned, and the United Nations Organisation impotent to control, who will want Palestine and seek to possess? The prophecy of Ezek. 38 and 39 lifts the iron curtain and shows what Russia will do.

We are not attempting to say anything about the nations that are to accompany Gog (Russia) in the conflict of Ezek. 38; our chief aim is to deal with Russia.

Furthermore, this conflict is quite distinct from Armageddon, but because there are those who identify the two as one, we will set out in a brief tabulated form the issues of the two conflicts to show that they are distinct the one from the other. In comparing the two we will group them in pairs, A and G—meaning Armageddon and Gog.

A—Now, to the battle of Armageddon, “all nations” gather, even as it is written by the prophets: “I will gather all nations and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat; and I will execute judgment upon them there” (Joel 3: 2, R.V.); “Therefore wait ye for me . . . for my determination is to gather the nations, that I may assemble the kingdoms, to pour upon them mine indignation, even all my fierce anger; for all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of my jealousy” (Zeph. 3: 8, R.V.); “I will make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all the peoples . . . and all the nations of the earth shall be gathered together against it” (Zech. 12: 3). “I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle. . . . Then shall Jehovah go forth, and fight against those nations. . . . And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount

of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east” (Zech. 14: 2-4, R.V.).

G—In the *conflict of Gog* we find that Gog and his allies ALL come forth from “the uttermost parts of the north” (Ezek. 38: 6). It is repeated (v. 15): “And thou shalt come from thy place out of the uttermost parts of the north, thou, and many peoples with thee.” And, a third time (Ezek. 39: 2): “I . . . will cause thee to come up from the uttermost parts of the north.”

A—Now, in the *Battle of Armageddon*, the forces that come up against Jerusalem come forth from the *whole earth*—from the uttermost parts of the south, and of the east, and of the west, as well as out of the north. St. John, in his vision, referred to one of these groups as “the kings that come from the sun-rising” (Rev. 16: 12). Moreover, the Seer of Patmos saw that when Satan shall have gathered his forces “together into the place which is called in Hebrew Har-Magedon” (Rev. 16: 16), in that array “*the kings of the whole world*” would be assembled “together unto the war of the great day of God, the Almighty” (Rev. 16: 14). Then the heaven will open and the Son of God will descend to battle with “the beast, and *the kings of the earth*, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat upon the horse, and against his army” (Rev. 19: 19).

G—In the *conflict of Gog* the direct purpose of God and his allies in coming against the land of Israel

is "to take the spoil and to take the prey" from "the people that . . . have gotten cattle and goods, that dwell in the middle of the earth" (Ezek. 38: 12).

A—In the *Battle of Armageddon* the nations of the earth gather "against Jerusalem," not so much with pillage as their purpose, as with the "evil thought" of the annihilation of the earthly people of God.

G—At the *conflict of Gog*, when Gog and his allies descend "like a cloud to cover the land" of Israel, there will be a great protest by certain nations against Gog's brigandage.

A—In the *Battle of Armageddon* there will be no protesting nations. "All nations" will be agreed as they join in the rape of Jerusalem. Jerusalem will be without "a friend in court," except in the court of Heaven.

G—At the *conflict of Gog* we are distinctly told that Gog (Russia) will be the "guard unto them" (Ezek. 38: 7); or, as the margin reads, "a commander unto them." Gog will be the commander-in-chief.

A—In the *Battle of Armageddon* it is the "beast" and the *antichrist*, who shall be commander-in-chief of "the kings of the earth, and their armies" (Rev. 19: 19). They will be exercising their position as the head of ten kings who will have "come to one mind, and to give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God should be accomplished" (Rev. 17: 17).

G—In the *conflict of Gog*, Ezekiel saw Gog overthrown "with pestilence and with blood" and a "rain upon him," even "an overflowing shower, and great hailstones, fire, and brimstone" (Ezek. 38: 22).

A—In the *Battle of Armageddon* John saw "the kings of the earth" overthrown by "a sharp sword" which "out of his mouth proceedeth" (Rev. 19: 15). The implements for the destruction of Gog are the well-known instruments of destruction even now being used by the vast armies that are interlocked in the present world conflict. The enemies of God who are overthrown on Armageddon's battlefield are executed by the "word of God . . . active, and sharper than any two-edged sword" (Heb. 4: 12).

G—In the *conflict of Gog* the prophet saw Gog, Gomer, Persia, Cush, Put and Togarmah as the leading forces arrayed for battle out upon "the open field." "Thou shalt fall upon the open field; for I have spoken it, saith the Lord Jehovah" (Ezek. 39: 5).

A—In the *Battle of Armageddon* the prophets visualised "all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city. Then shall Jehovah go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east" (Zech. 14: 2-4, R.V.).

Again it is written: Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of reeling unto all the peoples round about, and upon Judah also shall it be in the siege against Jerusalem. And it shall come to pass in that day, and I will make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all the peoples; all that burden themselves with it shall be sore wounded; and all the nations of the earth shall be gathered together against it (Zech. 12: 2-3, R.V.).

The battles are *two*—not *one*!

Summing up the whole matter: The Battle of Armageddon of John's prophecy as recorded in Revelation 16: 13-16 and 19: 11-21, are not identical with the great battle seen by Ekeziel in chapters 38 and 39, in which battle "Gog" is overthrown. The prophecy of Ezekiel has to do with the judgment and complete overthrow of a great anti-God, anti-semitic, atheist, communistic federation of northern nations that shall march down into the land of promise—Abraham's land—to destroy its people and to take possession. This godless federation will have in mind the final subjugation of the whole world.

To oppose this federation, ten kings, out of the region once known as the Roman Empire, will form a great federation also, even as it is written.

"And the ten horns that thou sawest are ten kings, who have received no kingdom as yet; but they receive authority as kings, with the beast, for one hour. These have one mind, and they give their power and author-

ity unto the beast. These shall war against the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them, for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings; and they also shall overcome that are with him, called and chosen and faithful. And he saith unto me, The waters which you sawest, where the harlot sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues."

Now, when ten kings surrender all their mighty power into the hands of a single individual, there must be a most compelling reason. The reason will be that within the confines of what was once the Roman Empire, a belief in God and a form of religion will still prevail. Moreover, a religious personage, typified by "the great harlot" of Revelation 17, will dominate this federation and its head, when they come upon the scene. Western Europe, as well as the Mediterranean state, old Roman Empire territory, are so dominated to-day.

These two opposing forces—the great northern federation and the great western or Roman federation—will clash. One or the other will be destroyed. To save religion, the ten kings, dominated by the "great harlot," which we believe will prove to be none other than papal Rome, will give their power to "the beast."

The outcome of Ezekiel's battle will leave "the beast"—the Antichrist—in supreme power, even as it is written: "And power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations" (Rev. 13: 7).

Ezekiel's prophecy reveals the final overthrow of Russia.

Dr. Barnhouse, writing in *Revelation* (8-47) on Mr. Churchill's vigorous promotion of the U.S. of Europe idea, says:

"The people in the ruins of Europe may indeed wish a voice of hope, but the union of Western Europe is going to lead them to despair and not to hope. The union of Western Europe is coming. Nothing in the world can stop it. The Bible prophesies it. The anti-Christ will take hold of it, whether after it is organised or in the process of its organisation we do not know, but most certainly he will control it at the time of the end, and at the time of the great shock of the war between Russia and God.

"That Mr. Churchill and leaders of church and state in Western Europe should gather together in England's greatest auditorium calmly to discuss the matter of this union, and that the foremost organs of political thought in the world should give columns of space to its consideration, is a tendency which may not be overlooked by students of current events who look at the world, not under the shadow of political shortsightedness, but in the clear light of the eternal Word of God."

Now, if Ezek. 38 and 39 is not Armageddon, then it must be before Armageddon. Therefore the setting would be the conflict with Gog, the great tribulation, then Armageddon. This raises a question of paramount importance.

As the rapture of the Church must take place before the tribulation and Armageddon does not take place till after the tribulation, what relation has the conflict with Russia to the rapture of the Church? In answering this, let us recapitulate—the global war brought Gomer (Germany) to her knees, and as a result a great part of her and of Europe has fallen into the arms of the Russian Bear; this has accentuated the formation of a northern confederacy of nations, with Russia at its head.

The formation of the northern confederacy has forced the western nations in the formation of a union, and this to protect themselves. The northern confederacy, atheistic and communistic, and the western religious, i.e., dominated by Romanism, the latter giving rise to the political head, the Beast (Rev. 13: 1), and the ecclesiastical head, the second Beast, the Anti-Christ (Rev. 13), of the revived Roman Empire.

We see these opposing confederacies forming before our eyes to-day. This is not speculation, it is fact. There may be adjustments which may delay the time of ripening into final action, but who can stay the hand of God in over-ruling the nations of the earth to do His will. Now, when the western confederacy develops to finality and produces the Anti-Christ, and the Anti-Christ becomes a world ruler, as we find in the following Scriptures (Rev. 13: 7-17):—

"And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.

And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.

And he exercised all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.

And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,

And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by *the means* of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.

And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.

And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand or in their foreheads:

And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name."

Rev. 17: 17—

"For God hath put in their hearts to fulfil his will,

and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled."

The conflict with Russia will have passed into history; Gog will have been defeated and wiped out as a world power, and not only the army reduced to one-sixth, but the land, Magog, visited with judgment. Ezek. 39: 1-8—

"Therefore, thou son of man, prophesy against Gog, and say, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I *am* against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal:

And I will turn thee back, and leave but the sixth part of thee, and will cause thee to come up from the north parts, and will bring thee upon the mountains of Israel:

And I will smite thy bow out of thy left hand, and will cause thine arrows to fall out of thy right hand.

Thou shalt fall upon the mountains of Israel, thou, and all thy bands, and the people that *is* with thee: I will give thee unto the ravenous birds of every sort, and *to* the beasts of the field to be devoured.

Thou shalt fall upon the open field; for I have spoken *it*, saith the Lord God.

And I will send a fire on Magog, and among them that dwell carelessly in the isles: and they shall know that I *am* the Lord.

So will I make my holy name known in the midst of my people Israel; and I will not *let them* pollute my holy name any more: and the heathen shall know that I *am* the Lord, the Holy One in Israel.

Behold, it is come, and it is done, saith the Lord God; this *is* the day whereof I have spoken."

As the rapture of the Church could be simultaneous with the conflict between God and Gog, and as we may expect the conflict between Gog and God, the Russian Bear and Judah's Lion to take place at any time, then the translation of the Church may be right at hand and at any moment we may hear His advent feet:

"For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." I. Thess. 4: 16-17.

Will it be before, during or immediately after the conflict with Gog? We cannot say; it may be in either case. Most certainly can we say, especially if the conflict should burst forth before we go, "lift up your heads, for your redemption draweth nigh."

The situation in Russian affairs and her attitude to international movements indicates that Ezek. 38 and 39

may pass into history swiftly, for when the iron curtain lifts Gog will come down to her doom on the mountains of Israel.

My dear reader, the day of grace is hastening to its close, the day of salvation will soon be gone and the day of judgment begun (1 Pet. 17: 17-18):—

"For the time *is come* that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if *it first begin* at us, what shall the end *be* of them that obey not the gospel of God?

And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?"

NOW is the accepted time, NOW is the day of salvation. To reject the Saviour longer may mean the door of grace closed against you for ever, and you given over to the strong delusion spoken of in 2 Thess. 2: 8-12—

"And (that is, after the translation of the Church and the day of grace is over) then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:

That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness."

Flee from the wrath that is to come, and find refuge in the Saviour who died on Calvary's Cross and shed His precious blood for your salvation. There is not a minute to spare.

And Christian, your day of opportunity to serve your Lord will soon be over. When you stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ, will it be to hear His "well done, good and faithful servant, thou hast been faithful over a few things; I will make thee ruler over many things; enter thou into the joy of thy Lord," or will it be that you will be ashamed before Him at His coming? Service rendered in the efforts of the flesh will be as wood, hay and stubble before the Judgment Seat of Christ. Nothing but leaves, plenty of show, but no suffering for His sake, and therefore no reward—ashamed—ashamed.

No, no, but rather in the light of the "lamp of prophecy" on the affairs of this present evil world and its fast hastening to its doom;

"Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning;

And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that

when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately.

Blessed are those servants, whom the Lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them."

*Christian, look up! The dawn will soon be breaking—
The glorious dawn of which God's Word doth tell,
Though wars increase, and all the earth is shaking,
Fear not! Look up! Await Immanuel!
Soon thou wilt see the Lord of Glory—
Oh, what a sunrise will His advent be!
Till then, proclaim the precious Gospel story—
Redemption through the Lamb of Calvary.*

*Christian, look up! Soon will be past forever
Thy pilgrim journey through this vale of tears.
A Home awaits thee—built by Christ, the Saviour;
No night is there, no pain, no death, no fears.
With loved ones thou again wilt be united;
No more to say Good-bye, no more to part.
The flowers of Eden by no frosts are blighted.
Oh, blessed hope! Christian, look up! Take heart!*

*Christian, look up! When dawns that glorious morrow,
Thy every burden thou wilt soon forget.
Now, with Christ's Gospel, comfort those in sorrow;
So many eyes to-day with tears are wet!
The way is dark, but Christ, the Light Supernal
Will bide with thee till thy last pilgrim mile;
Soon thou wilt sup with Him, the King Eternal!
Oh, blessed hope! Christian, look up and smile.*



By the Same Author:

"THE GREAT APOSTASY."

With Special Reference to the Ecumenical Movement.

SPIRITISM — WHICH IS DEMONISM.

BUDGETING FOR BLESSING

With Special Reference to Tithing.
