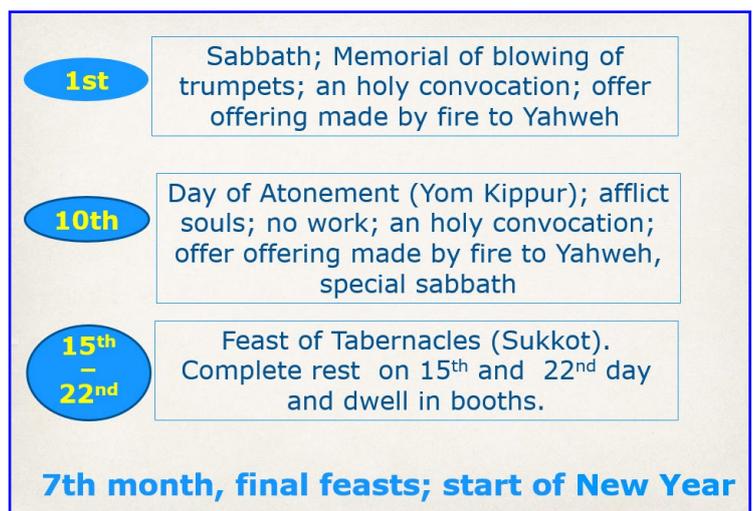
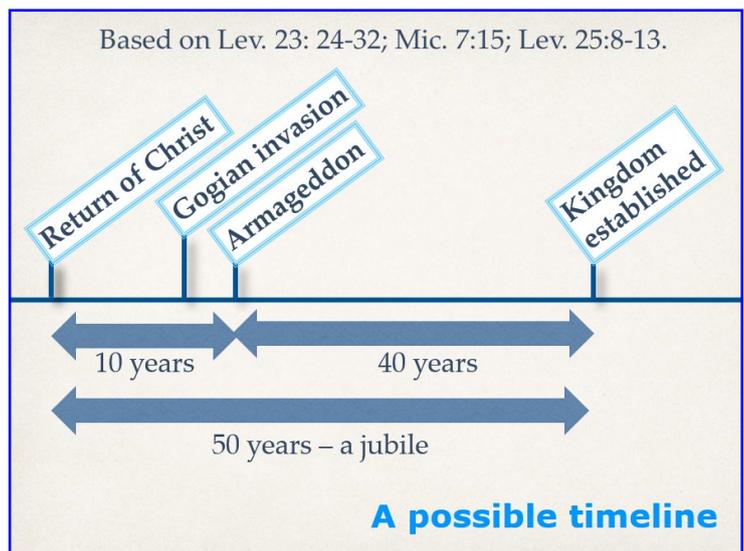


Bible Magazine Summer 2019

It is hard to be detached from the political events taking place, especially in one's own country! Yet, as watchers on Zion's walls we have to acknowledge that as "strangers and pilgrims" we have to stand apart from the politics of the country we happen to reside in. We can see the correctness of our historical attitude of not participating in local or national politics. We would have proved to be premature in our anticipation of the nearness of our Master's appearing. For 170 years our community has been awaiting the return of the Master, seeing in events that were then current, assurances that that Day was near. Indeed, it was, for our brethren and sisters of former times have fallen asleep; their next waking breath will be on the day of resurrection.

Waiting Watchmen

As the living watchmen, we need to continue to search eagerly for the signs of our Master's coming. We must never lose hope; we are so much closer to his return. Not surprisingly, the closer we get to that Promised Day, the more the signs abound. They reassure us that God really is in control, as we see so many events which fit our historical understanding of events that have to happen before that day dawns. We can confidently say that all the major signs have been fulfilled. Yes, there is still progress to be made in several areas, but none of these have to be fulfilled **before** the return of the Master to his household. If we are correct in understanding that could well be an interval of 10 years between our call to Judgment and the saving of Israel at the battle of Armageddon (based upon the blowing of trumpets on the 1st day of the 7th month and a special *convocation*, assembly, (Lev.23:24) and a 2nd assembly on the 10th day of the month, for the Day of Atonement, when Israel's past sins were put away, and the nation started with a "clean slate". (v27) This was followed by the Feast of Tabernacles (v34-36), when they dwelt in shelters and celebrated the mercy of God over the past year at a time when the harvests had been gathered in. The first day of this month is associated with special trumpet blowings – every month started with a single blast, but this month was different. It was a continual sounding of the trumpet. The 7th month was also a special month because it came at the end of all the harvests. A time to rejoice in God's goodness through the past year and resting, before the agricultural cycle started all over again. The blowing of trumpets is associated with the resurrection. (1 Cor. 15:52, Matt. 24:13) Before Israel can be saved from their enemies it is necessary that the "harvest" of their saviours takes place. When these have been judged and immortalised, then they are ready to join their Lord and Master, he who is the first fruits of that harvest, to go forth to save God's nation in their hour of desperate trial. The Day of Atonement on the 10th of the month is so very appropriate for the saving of the nation, being reconciled to their God and having their sins washed away. (Zec. 12:10-13:1) Taking a day for a year, which is a basic Bible principle, it would point to a 10-year period from the time of the Return and the Resurrection, to Israel's deliverance at Armageddon.



Sign's that have been fulfilled

So, what signs can we look back on, which, in hindsight needed to be fulfilled before the coming of the Master? Foremost has been the return of the Jews to their homeland after two millennia of scattering. For 140 years or so there has been an ever-increasing flow of returning Jews, so that today, nearly half the world's Jews live in the land! A remarkable sign.

Not only have they returned to their former homeland, they have established themselves as a nation, in spite of intense opposition on the part of her neighbours. They have retaken Jerusalem in order that it might be a place of controversy to her enemies (Zec. 12) and conquered the West Bank in order to dwell on *the mountains of Israel, in the midst of the land*. (Eze.38:8,12)

We have seen a growing sign that the more moderate Sunni Arab nations are looking to Israel as their helper in their struggle with Iran. At the same time Britain is returning to the Middle East, her former area of influence, as she seeks to broaden her trade as she contemplates a post-Brexit world. Shipping routes and the Suez Canal are important highways for a trading country doing business with the Near and Far East. The picture of Ezekiel 38:13 indicating that Arab nations will be standing by Israel and opposed to what Gog is doing, backed by the Merchants of Tarshish and her young lions, has become much clearer in recent years.

We have been privileged to see the re-militarization of Russia. In the 1990's with the fall of Communism, the Soviet military might was greatly diminished. No longer! The West is often amazed at the strides that Russia has made under Putin. The accuracy and sophistication of her equipment has been remarkable, much of it battle-ried in Syria. So again, the description in Ezekiel 38:7 of the Gogian invader, as a strong military power, being a guard **unto** (not over) a host of companion nations who share the same zeal for Israel's destruction, is seen to come to life. Yet we see a conundrum! At the moment Mr Putin is friendly and co-operative with Israel. But Ezekiel does speak of an *evil thought* in Gog's mind (v.10) which would point to an act of treachery. This is reinforced by Isaiah 10:20 where Israel at last *stay* (trust) in Yahweh, rather than trusting in the one that smites her. Indicating that she does indeed trust in Russia, but who turns out not to be trustworthy!

We have witnessed Russia's desire to occupy Constantinople, now Istanbul. Mr Putin's links with the Russian Orthodox Church are very strong, and they would love to have control of the city where their Orthodox religion sprang from. At the moment it is under the control of an openly Moslem leader. We see Turkey moving increasingly into the sphere of influence of Russia, New gas pipelines are being built to increase her dependency on Russia. Controversial Russian missile defence systems are currently being installed in Turkey, much to the concern of America, whose offer of American missile systems has been rejected. Although Turkey is a prominent member of NATO, her actions are driving her away from the West into the arms of Russia.

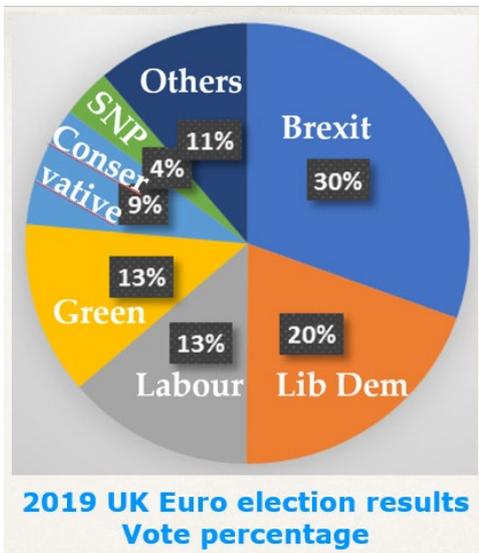
UK electing a new Prime Minister

At the time of writing, Britain is in the grip of a contest for the leadership of the Conservative party, following Mrs May's resignation. As the Conservatives, with the support of the DUP (Democratic Unionist Party), the Northern Ireland Protestant party, retain a slim majority in the UK parliament, the party leader becomes Prime Minister. The winner is being handed a poisoned chalice. Mrs May has negotiated a Withdrawal Agreement which is not acceptable to Parliament nor the electorate. The leaving date has been twice postponed and currently stands at 31 Oct 2019. The Conservative party has done abysmally in the European Elections, being drummed into fifth place, with Nigel Farage's newly formed Brexit Party securing first place in the allocation of Britain's 73 seats in the European Parliament. In the latest UK by-election¹, held in Peterborough, the Conservative Party again had a very poor showing, pushed into third place with less than half the votes they had received there in the last General election.

The failure of the Conservatives to fulfil the pledge to honour the 2016 Brexit Referendum result has caused the general population of the country to feel they have been let down by Parliament.

This is confirmed by the massive rise in popularity for the Brexit Party which stands unashamedly for Britain to leave the EU as soon as possible. Formed by Nigel Farage, who, when he was leader of UKIP (UK Independence Party) had great success in the European Parliamentary elections. The new party was officially launched in January 2019, before it was known that the UK would be participating in the European Elections. The first leaving date of 29 March 2019 was chosen, to avoid the necessity of Britain needing to participate in these elections. Even when that was postponed to 12 April 2019, it still avoided participation. But when Mrs May's deal was rejected for the 3rd time, she returned to Brussels to seek a further extension in order to get Parliamentary agreement to the Withdrawal Bill. She proposed an extension to the end of June for Britain's withdrawal. Although this would have been after the elections, it would have been. before the new parliament assembles for the first time on 2 July 2019. After much debate the EU gave a Brexit leaving date of 31 October 2019. Suddenly preparations had to be made for Britain's participation in the EU elections – such are the rules and there is no flexibility.

¹ A UK parliamentary by-election happens when a seat in the House of Commons becomes vacant between general elections. www.parliament.uk



For the Conservatives it was a difficult election to fight, for it was one they had hoped they would not be holding. The polls indicated a surge in popularity for the new Brexit Party whose aim was to get Britain out of Europe, without an Agreement and to trade on WTO (World Trade Organisation) rules. As the chart shows, when the results were revealed after all the EU member countries had held their votes, it was a disaster for the Conservatives. They were pushed into fifth place, with only 9% of the vote.

Mrs May's support from her MP's was rapidly waning as she was unable to get her Withdrawal Agreement approved by the UK parliament. She announced 27 March 2019 that she would be stepping down but gave no date.

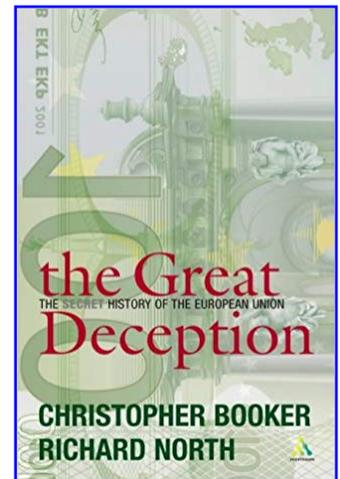


Mrs May announcing her resignation.
Source: UK Crown

Following the closing of the UK voting for the European Parliament on Thursday 24 May 2019, and before the results were declared, as most member states were not voting until the weekend, she declared on the Friday that she would step down on June 7th, remaining a caretaker PM until her successor is appointed.

Mrs May's failure to conclude Brexit

The British people having voted to Leave the EU in the 2016 Referendum, expected that this would be a relatively smooth process, ending with Britain leaving on 29 March 2019, with or without an agreement with the EU. What could go wrong? There were voices, such as Christopher Booker, who along with Richard North wrote the book, *The Great Deception: the Secret History of the European Union*² warning of the difficulties of attempting to negotiate with the EU. He was proved so very right! In hindsight, one can see Mrs May's role as the UK Prime Minister, was not to lead Britain successfully out of Europe, but to bring about the decline of her party, I believe, in order to bring about a big change in outlook. So many of Britain's MP's have little or no experience of life before the UK's membership of the EEC in 1973. There has been little need for political vision since then, as that was the role of the European Parliament. The member states role has been largely reduced to rubber-stamping the decrees issuing from Brussels in vast numbers. The UK civil service has become leader in gold-plating these decrees and imposing strict compliance, unlike many other members. For Britain to play the role that we believe God has for her, as a latter-day, world-seeking merchant power, inheriting again the mantle of Tyre, which she shed in the post-war years, there has to be root and branch changes in how she operates. Facing the prospect of annihilation as a political party, the Conservatives are having to make fundamental choices, if they are still to be the party that leads Britain out of Europe. Waiting in the wings is the Brexit Party, if they fail to reform.



A remarkable sign

It is now clear that Mrs May, who had campaigned in the Referendum to remain part of Europe, was one whom God had put in place not because she would take Britain out, but to humble this country. The time for Britain to escape the clutches of Europe was not quite there. There were other, more important matters that needed to be done first!

There is one important aspect of the prophecy in Isa. 23 that speaks of the role of a latter-day Tyre power, that would be established *afar off* (v7) from where the original Tyre was based. Who, after a 70-year period of decline (v15), would regain her power and *she shall turn to her hire, and shall commit fornication with all the kingdoms of the world upon the face of the earth.* v17) Yet God is going to turn the wealth from that trade for the benefit of His people of Israel. (v18)

² This was first published in 2003 and has gone through several editions and is now entitled *The Great Deception: Can the European Union survive?*

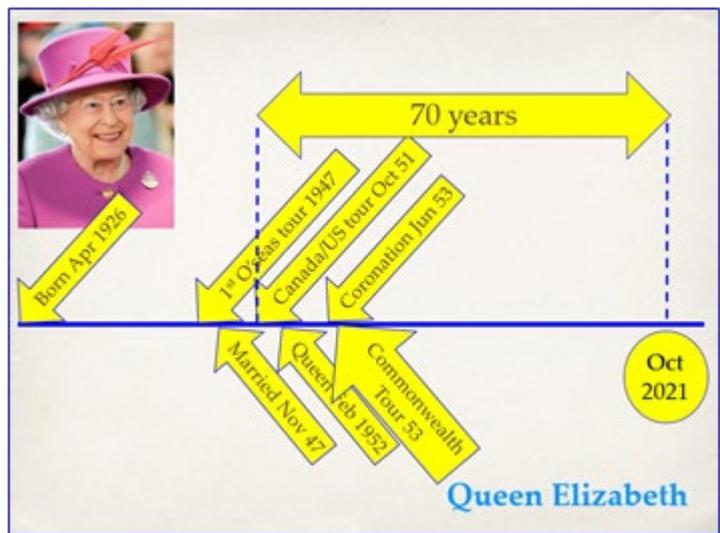
Britain has certainly experienced decline from her Empire days for a good 70 years. Yet there was recorded a little qualification, when Isaiah some 2,600 years ago added under inspiration:

And it shall come to pass in that day, that Tyre shall be forgotten seventy years, according to the days of one king: after the end of seventy years shall Tyre sing as an harlot. Isa 23:15 ¶

In fact, this would be quite a remarkable sign, as a ruler being on the throne for 70 years or more is most unusual. The nearest I can think of in Old Testament times would be Daniel; however, he wasn't a king, but a president for probably 70 years. *Wikipedia* only throws up three monarchs who reigned 70-plus years. Lois XIV of France, Rama IX of Thailand and Johann II of Liechtenstein. To this we can add another nine who we know roughly their dates of reigning. There are some more who are listed as dependant or constituent monarchs who were not fully sovereign for part of their reign or not kings but noblemen over territory, under a monarch. So, all in all a 70-year monarch is a pretty unusual sign. The present Queen Elisabeth II is Britain's longest ruling monarch. She hasn't been on the throne for 70 years yet, but rapidly approaching it! She has been Queen for roughly 67.5 years and at the moment is in good health as far as we can ascertain, and determined to keep the promise she made when on her first overseas trip with her parents, on her 21st birthday said:

"I declare before you all that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service."

She became Queen on the death of her father in February 1952. So, 70 years would take us to February 2022. However, because of the illness of her father, she undertook her first official overseas trip in October 1951. That could be the earliest that one could take a 70 years span which takes us to October 2021, just two years after the proposed Brexit date. If the EU sticks to its stance that it is not willing to reopen negotiations on the Withdrawal Agreement, it would appear likely that Britain would be leaving without an Agreement – the so-called "hard Brexit". It would be likely to be a time of turmoil, whilst new agreements were made with countries based on Britain's new position of being outside the EU. It could well take two years before she can feel she is free to resume her role as an international trader on the world's markets. We have to patiently await to see what God has indeed planned!



"We, as unbelievers and heretics, needed to be cast out."

In our last issue we looked at some of the difficulties the UK Brexit team faced. A lot more has come to light in the past few months. The BBC aired a "fly on the wall" documentary, with a camera crew embedded with the ex-Prime Minister of Belgium, Guy Verhofstadt, who led the EU Parliament's negotiating team. It would have been even more interesting if it had been recording what Mr Barnier's team were saying, but that was not allowed! Barnier is the European Commission's "Chief Negotiator for the United Kingdom's Exit from the European Union". The documentary was called *Storyville, Brexit behind closed doors*. It highlighted the contempt in which the British were held. They were trying to enmesh Britain as a vassal EU state.

In an interview by the BBC Radio 4 *Today* programme, the Chief of Staff to David Davis, the UK Brexit Minister at the time, made this interesting comment about negotiations:

"It had from the EU side the feel of a religious cult and we, as unbelievers and heretics, needed to be cast out."
BBC Today 14-May-19

As we quoted in our last update, shortly after Britain had voted to leave, Mr Barnier was reported as telling the EU leaders:

"I'll have done my job if, in the end, the deal is so tough on the British that they'd prefer to stay in the EU".
Daniel Hannan 23-Jan-19 ConservativeHome (Translating a press report in French)

A German Brexit? A scandal of subversive statecraft

A newsletter, 10-Mar-19, with the above heading, edited by the euro-sceptic John Petley, paints a compelling story that the Withdrawal Agreement which Mrs May agreed to, was in fact drawn up by the Germans. It has a lot of awkward phrases, which would indicate a translation. Also it has some nouns capitalised after the manner of German. It was apparently sent to Mrs May's team in May and was refined in a series of phone calls until acceptable to both sides. Mrs May then in early July visited Mrs Merkel the German Chancellor, following

which, Mrs May summoned her cabinet to Chequers, a 16th century manor house in Buckinghamshire at the disposal of whoever is the UK Prime Minister, for a weekend of discussions on her Brexit proposals.

Much of what she had agreed to came as a shock to those backing Leave. David Davis who was supposed to have been Britain's negotiator was apparently so appalled at what was being put to them, he resigned, as did Boris Johnson and others, in protest.

Brexit and the US-UK Defense Relationship

A further piece of evidence for the betrayal of Britain under Mrs May came from a speech delivered in the US on 01-May-19 under the above heading, by Professor Gwythian Prins. He has had a long, distinguished career in academia and has specialized on defence matters. According to the University of Buckingham, "He is currently a member of the Chief of the Defence Staff's Strategy Advisory Panel and of the Royal Marines Advisory Group. He is an honorary member both of the RN Special Boat Service and of the Army Intelligence Corps. His current work rotates around the many framings of security. He has published widely and simultaneously in all the fields of his interests." (Accessed 18-Jun-19)

He was so concerned about the implications of what Mrs May had signed up to, that he felt the need to warn his American colleges of the grave dangers which this agreement would impose on the UK-US friendship. The speech was given at the Heritage Foundation in Washington DC, an American conservative think-tank. Here are a few extracts.

I am honoured and grateful for the hospitality of your platform this afternoon so that I can share with you some insights into the least well discussed and yet in many ways the most dangerous aspect of the strategies by which Mrs May and her close advisers have failed to execute the instruction that I and 17.4 million fellow citizens gave to our government in June 2016 to leave the fast collapsing European Union.

These relate to national security and hence – inevitably and indissolubly – to the special relationship between this country and mine, which lies at the heart of the anglosphere alliances, notably the Five Eyes intelligence alliance. So the systematic compromising of UK national security hidden within the so-called withdrawal agreement (for it is in practical effect the Orwellian opposite – an instrument that would keep the UK under EU control as a powerless supplicant and rule taker), is a real and present danger to US national security also.

Ladies and gentlemen, our story is your story. Our enemies are, by and large, your enemies too. And as before in times of roiling European crisis, we urgently need your help.

I mentioned that Mrs May relies on a tiny cell of advisers – the May Cell – over all other constitutionally emplaced bodies, such as her Cabinet. It was brutally subverted when the so-called Chequers plan was imposed on it on 6 July 2018. That caused the resignation of Boris Johnson from the Foreign Office and Ministers from the Dept for Exiting the EU who had been blind-sided, and all to no avail because the EU rejected her plan that September anyway. We need to give names to this powerful cell.

There is the Prime Minister's Chief of Staff or in-house fixer, a failed MP called Gavin Barwell; her National Security Adviser and simultaneously Cabinet Secretary Sir Mark Sedwill; her Europe adviser Oliver Robbins and his defence adviser Alastair Brockbank; her political secretary Stephen Parkinson; and her husband Philip. Then there are two important civil servants, both with experience in senior EU-facing or serving posts: Angus Lapsley, a diplomat who has found a considerable role in Defence and Dr Bryan Wells, Director of Science and Technology at the Ministry of Defence.

Several of them have been with her for a long time, personally in her husband's case or professionally in her previous post at the Home Office where she was a long serving minister. Finally there are two key Remainiac ministers: Philip Hammond the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who has blocked key 'no deal' preparations and junior Foreign Office Minister Sir Alan Duncan who on 19th November 2018 helped the EU lock in eight major power-grabs for Military EU five days after Mrs May has announced agreement with the EU to her Carthaginian 'Withdrawal Agreement'.

Lapsley is on record in 2016 when he was UK Ambassador to the EU Political & Security Committee telling his fellow Ambassadors that he didn't understand why his country had voted to leave the EU. Bizarrely, he declared in the same remarks that EU foreign policy has always been "relatively popular" in the UK and that "we rather like the security strategy. We rather like the Global Strategy... we were part of the member states who helped shape it. We think it's a good strategy." The 'we' is clearly first person singular. Lapsley has 'tweeted' that the EU "Commission [is] needed if we are to respond to modern threats in Europe." Wells worked for the European Defence Agency and has repeatedly encouraged UK defence companies to engage in the drive towards EU Defence Union. So both men show the signs of strong EU institutional capture.

The EU has harboured an ambition to create a defence union independent of the US since its very inception. Logically so. A true federal union requires the key attributes of sovereign power: armed forces, a currency, a judiciary, a parliament. But the Plevin Plan of 1950 failed as did the Defence Community in 1954, which British Foreign Secretary Sir Anthony Eden guided into the face-saving Western European Union (for which

he got no thanks). However, as soon as the UK voted to leave the EU, the Commission initiated the rapid take-off of a flying Defence EU. Federica Mogherini, the [European] Union Foreign Minister, has correctly said that more has been done in this regard since November 2016 than in the previous sixty years.

He then details the many ways in which Britain had backed the EU's moves to establish a European military, as had been set out in Juncker's State of the Union Speech in September 2017, where he stated that a European Defence Union should be in place by 2025. Britain at the time was not too concerned as they were leaving. Mrs May in her Lancaster House speech in January 2017 had declared that Britain was leaving the EU, was not seeking partial membership, but was determined to be independent. What happened to cause Britain now to be enmeshed in this EU defence project?

But what we do know is that in June 2017, after a disastrous campaign which exposed her flaws mercilessly, Mrs May lost her majority in a General Election which should have given a charismatic and whole heartedly brexiteer conservative leader a comfortable working majority. The strategy towards the EU changed fundamentally and threats to national security suddenly began to appear.

The first crow flapped into sight in September 2017. The Dept for Exiting the EU issued an alarming paper. The "Future Partnership" Paper wished to offer and to obtain what it says on the cover – partnership. This may be good-hearted but it was utterly naïve, betraying ignorance of what the EU is and how it works. Partnership as we might understand it is not on offer from the EU. Participation of any kind is structurally prescribed to be integration, not cooperation. This cannot be stressed too often.

So, thus misguided, the September paper advocated many forms of future structural attachment, notably CSDP (Common Security & Defence Policy) missions and operations under the MPCC (Military Planning and Conduct Capability). The September 2017 DExEU [Dept for Exiting the EU] paper was also the place where the May Cell's ambition "**to seek to develop a deep and special partnership with the EU that goes beyond existing third-party arrangements**" was first stated to be later repeated crescendo fortissimo. **It proposed to pay into the EU defence pot and to subscribe to EU rules, structures and agreements. It proposed staying within "European Defence Agency projects and initiatives...European Defence Fund including both the European Defence Research Programme and the European Defence Industrial Development Programme..."** What was going on?

The KitKat tapes

Professor Prins then outlines details from a secret recording of British officials speaking to a group of EU officials at a secret meeting at the London School of Economics to discuss post-Brexit plans. Prins had been given a copy of the tapes which had been published in a popular British newspaper in March 2018. They were nicknamed the KitKat tapes after a popular chocolate-coated biscuit bar, which was alluded to in the recording.

First we hear a British official called Victoria Billing of DExEU chuckle as she describes how British officials go through the motions of making a chocolate coating superficially conforming to the Brexit mandate while actually baking layered biscuit from the sort of integrative agreements listed in the September 2017 paper.

Then, we hear Alastair Brockbank from the May Cell making extraordinary statements.

He says that "where we think things should be ... and similar to what the EU has put out in their guidelines, is that there should be no gap on CFSP or CSDP (the Common Security and Defence Policy) on exit day." He regrets our absence from PESCO (the main organ of Defence Union) and says that "we would see what we can contribute towards PESCO still," as the EU moves it forward. Of the list of acronymic EU defence institutions EDF, EDRP, EDIDP etc (European Defence Fund, European Defence Research Programme, European Defence Industrial Development), he states that on "the capabilities side, um, we are interested in it all." He wants to remain in CARD (Co-ordinated Annual Review of Defence), even talked about the UK retaining a seat on the EU negotiating bodies while aware that only a proximity role might be possible and suggests that the EEAS (European External Action Service i.e. Foreign Ministry) should have people inside UK Ministries after Brexit!

Like Ms Billing, Mr Brockbank cynically boasts that it is civil servants who "**are negotiating the detail of that at the same time as we are discussing the political high-level fluffy bits that will go into any declaration that gets made public:**" wool to be pulled over the peoples' eyes. **He states that the ambition is to lock the UK into and under EU control in the defence, security and intelligence areas by international treaty as soon as possible after leaving day.** To this day he has never, to my knowledge, been censured or sacked.

Prins then outlined a whole host of things that Britain had agreed to which **would lock Britain into the influence of the EU in what he describes as a "Hotel California" situation - "you can check out any time you like. But you can never leave!"** He concludes:

Having successfully prevented the EU from developing a defence role for over forty years, bizarrely, **the Government's Withdrawal Agreement and associated documents threaten to place Europe's premier**

defence and intelligence power under EU control. This is the reverse of what the people voted for in June 2016 and is a constitutional outrage. This fact is also concealed. We join up the dots. *Briefings for Brexit 03-Jun-19 Brexit and the US-UK Defense Relationship*

To access the paper, Google: Briefings for Brexit and the article will be found under the **Reports** tab.

In the light of the above it is clear that Mrs May's core of advisers were not leading Britain out of Europe but were wishing to keep Britain ensnared. No wonder that steps were needed to frustrate these plans. Hence Mrs May could not get her plans passed by the UK parliament in spite of several attempts. Eventually she was forced to resign in the light of the disastrous consequence for her party at the hands of the UK electorate. We now look forward to a fresh pair of hands who hopefully will proceed along the pathway which leads to escape from "Hotel California".

Britain's new Prime Minister and Israel

At the time of writing (18-Jun-19) who this will be is unknown. Boris Johnson leads the pack, but politics often has cruel twists! A week ago, 10 candidates put their names in the ring. On Thursday at the first round of Conservatives voting, this was reduced to seven. One has subsequently dropped out, and today six have gone into the 2nd ballot. This vote has reduced the numbers to 5 as the minimum threshold to go forward to the 3rd ballot tomorrow has been raised to needing a minimum of 33 votes. By Thursday the list should be whittled down to two candidates, who will then do a four weeks hustings around the country, together with head-to-head TV appearances, so that the 160,000 paid up Conservative members can choose which they want to be their Prime Minister in a postal ballot. By 22nd July the winner is expected to be declared.

This gives very little time for action before the Brexit date of 31-Oct-19. It could happen that if there is quite a gap in the numbers supporting the first two candidates that the 2nd steps down, thus avoiding the need for a vote. This is what happened in Mrs May's case. It does have the disadvantage of the leader not having been exposed to the cut and thrust of a hustings and head-to-heads.

Whoever emerges as leader is almost sure to be a friend of Israel. If Boris Johnson, not only is he friendly with Trump, he is liked by the Israelis. He has Jewish blood on his mother's side.

Jeremy Hunt also is a strong supporter of Israel and has stated that her right to self-defence is 'absolutely unconditional'.

Michael Gove is a long-standing friend of Israel and an outspoken Zionist, who wants Britain to follow Trump's path of moving the UK Embassy to Jerusalem.

Dominic Raab has Jewish blood on his father's side and has worked and studied in Israel. (He was eliminated today in the 2nd round.)

Savid Javid, who is a Muslim, is an unapologetic supporter of Israel.

Rory Stewart is the only one I can't find having a link to Israel.

Should Mr Johnson emerge the winner he is expected to continue in the style he set whilst Mayor of London, of bringing together a strong team and giving them the backing to get on with the job. Many in this leadership contest could end up in his government, although Rory Stewart has said he would not.

Mr Trump's State visit to Britain.

Mr Trump's visit in early June was a great success. The pageantry put on by Britain is unsurpassed. The Queen as a great diplomat, ensured that everything ran smoothly as befits the visit of a great friend and admirer of Britain. He is a strong supporter of Britain leaving the EU and being free to draw up her own trade agreements. He re-iterated that he was ready to work on a deal to the benefit of both countries, as soon as Britain is in a position to do so. The American market is big, there are no problems with language and customs, and the friendly relationship and eagerness to do business should provide the basis of an amical agreement.

There is a world of friends, especially in the Commonwealth, who would welcome the opportunities that Brexit affords.

Putin to visit the Pope – again

Mr Putin is scheduled to hold his 5th meeting with a Pope at the Vatican and his 3rd with Francis, on July 4th. Mr Putin is an astute man; he recognizes what influence the Pope wields. If the Schism could be healed, what a powerful spiritual force this would represent! Pope Francis is also astute, he too, like his predecessors, has been striving to heal the millennia-long breach. Pope Francis met with Patriarch Kirill on Cuba in 2016, which was a big step towards reconciliation. Since then Francis has carefully sided with Russia over the matter of Constantinople's recognition of the Acephalous Church in Ukraine. He very much wants to visit Russia and start the process of Europe breathing with both her lungs.

Scripture leads us to expect a time of reconciliation. When Daniel's Image stands

<p>Putin's Vatican visits 2000 Jn Paul II 2007 Benedict XVI 2013 Francis 2015 Francis 2019 Francis</p>

for its first and only time upon its newly formed feet, it will be the False Prophet of Rome who as the eyes and mouth of the Babylonian head will direct its steps against God's people of Israel.

The Pope and Putin are expected to be discussing the situation in Ukraine and the plight of the Christians in Syria and the Middle East. He is hoping that a visit to Moscow might also be up for discussion. Francis recognizes Putin's preparedness to stand up for persecuted Christians, as no other leader is prepared to do. The Pope must be quite envious at the influence the Russia Church has in Russia's affairs, working hand in glove with the political rulers.

Again, we await a similar situation in Europe, as we see the latter-day forming of the European Beast system of Revelation 16 and 17.

The Pope visits two Orthodox countries

During May the Pope visited two EU countries which were formerly part of the Soviet orientated Eastern Bloc; Bulgaria and Romania. These are Eastern Orthodox countries with the Roman Catholic Church a very small minority. Eastern Orthodoxy doesn't have a central authority as does the Vatican but is divided into groups of Churches who run themselves but look to the Patriarch of Constantinople as "first among equals". Before the 1054 schism they were in communion with Rome. The Bulgaria trip in early May was cordial, but there was a reluctance to join in any of the acts of worship. At the end of May the visit to Romania was more positive; the Pope seemed to be well received by the Patriarch Daniel and held some joint services. Pope John Paul II had visited 20 years earlier, becoming the 1st Pope since the Schism to visit a predominately Orthodox country.

Francis' draft of curial reform fundamentally reimagines Vatican's role

In the light of Putin's visit it seems clear that Francis is endeavouring to reach out to the Orthodox community. He has taken several important steps to reform the Curia and rebrand Church doctrine. The reforms that the Pope is proposing makes **evangelism** rather than **doctrine** the thrust of church teaching.

Praedicate Evangelium offers some subtle but significant changes in its account of the work of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith. Where the earlier constitution charged the doctrinal congregation to "**promote and safeguard the doctrine on faith and morals in the whole Catholic world,**" the new constitution situates this task within the **broader work of supporting the pope and bishops in preaching the Gospel.**

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In the rankings of the various departments of the Curia, which were formerly called Congregations and are now known as Dicasteries, it is significant that *Praedicate Evangelium* discusses the Dicastery for Evangelization before the Dicastery for Doctrine. Francis is hoping by embracing the spirit of evangelism, he can broaden the appeal and win back the lost sheep. Important changes seem to be afoot.

Ecclesial responsibilities

What exciting times to be alive! Yet let us prepare ourselves for a last period of testing. Scripture warns of the difficult situation for saints at the time of the end. The power and influence of the humanist movement is corrupting every aspect of our daily lives. Truth is being turned up-side-down. Our children are being confused by the standards that are being thrust at them to conform to this evil world. The ecclesias have a duty to their flock and children as never before to strengthen the things that remain and to establish God's Higher Standards as our standards. How desperately the world needs the righteous rule of our Master!

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