

THE SABBATH SCOOP

VOLUME 29

AUGUST 2016

NUMBER 5

BRITAIN TO LEAVE E.U.

The Bible tells us about Britain and Europe's relationship.

Part 2

By Gregory Dullum

Last month we saw how the world was surprised by Britain's vote to leave the European Union but we were not. We expected this to happen because Britain is descended from Ephraim, a tribe of Israel. National captivity awaits Israel (Britain) if it continues to disobey God. We believe the captors will be a German-led European union. It would be difficult for a European union to take captive one of its own members! This month we'll examine what the Bible says about the coming European union.

Holy Roman Empire to Rule

The history of man's government from the Babylonian Empire to Christ's return was revealed in a vision to Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon. The king saw a statue of a man with head of gold, chest and arms of silver, belly and thighs of bronze, legs of iron, and feet of iron mixed with clay. The feet were smashed by a stone. The stone became a mountain that filled the earth (Dan. 2:31-35).

The head of gold represented the Babylonian Empire (v. 38). After him would rise an empire inferior to his and a third inferior to that (v. 39). These were the Medo-Persian and Greco-Macedonian empires.

The legs and feet were iron and represented a kingdom that would be strong as iron and crush the others. This was the Holy Roman Empire. The longest portion of the statue, it would last from the time of the Greeks until Christ returns. The stone that crushed the toes pictures Christ's return and the establishment of God's kingdom on earth (vv. 44-45).

Seven Revivals

The Holy Roman Empire will have seven revivals from the time it collapsed A.D. 476 until Christ's return. This was revealed by Christ to the apostle John, who saw the empire as it existed during World War II: "There are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, and the other has not yet come. And when he comes, he must continue a short time" (Rev. 17:10).

The six revivals so far came under Justinian (527-565), Charlemagne (800-843), Otto the Great and his Ottoman Empire (962-1254), The Hapsburgs, ending with Charles the Great (1273-1556), Napoleon Bonaparte (1804-1814), and the Axis alliance of Adolph Hitler and Benito Mussolini (1936-1945).

The Revival to Come

A seventh and final revival is coming! It will exist only a short time before Christ returns. It will consist of "10 kings" working together: "And the ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast. These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast. These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings" (Rev. 17:14).

These 10 kings ruling together at the end time are also represented by the 10 toes on the statue in Daniel 2:

"Whereas you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; yet the strength of the iron shall be in it, just as you saw the iron mixed with the ceramic clay. And as the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly frag-

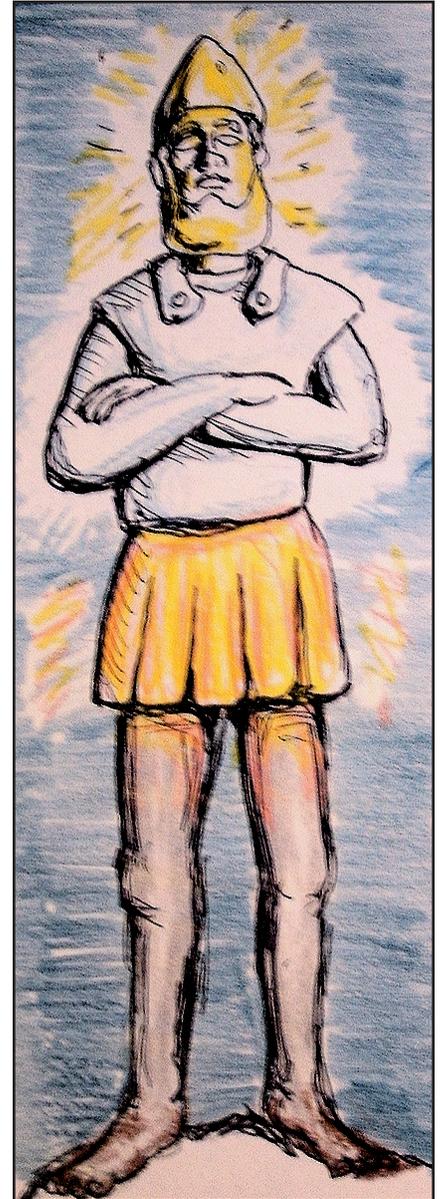


Illustration by Gregory Dullum

Europe's future is revealed by the 10 toes of iron and clay on a statue in Nebuchadnezzar's vision.

ile. As you saw the iron mixed with ceramic clay, they will mingle with the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, just as iron does not mix

BRITAIN

Continued on Page 2

Britain

Continued from Page 1

with clay” (Dan. 2:41-43).

This final revival of the Roman Empire will consist of 10 kings who will be as militarily strong as any Roman Empire before it (it has the strength of iron), but the political union will be fragile (the 10 kings will not get along very well).

Britain's Exit Affects E.U.

If this final 10-king union is formed from the European Union, changes must happen. The E.U. has 28 members. It must be pared down to 10, or *some nations may be combined* together so that the final union is seen as “10 kings.”

Britain's exit may be the start of paring down the E.U. from 28 to 10. The *New York Times* article quoted last month stated there is a risk of a “domino effect” as other nations may opt out. If this happens, look for 10 to remain.

Britain's exit marks a *turning point* as the E.U. *begins to change* from what it is NOW to what it MUST BECOME before Christ returns. “Today marks a turning point for Europe,” Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany said. “It is a turning point for the European unification process.”

“Europe will have to ‘reorganize itself in a system of different degrees of association,’ said Karl Kaiser, a Harvard professor and former director of the German Council on Foreign Relations” (“Britain Votes to Leave E.U.; Cameron Plans to Step Down” by Steven Erlanger, *The New York Times*, nytimes.com, June 23, 2016, p. 4).

Weakness of E.U. Revealed

Britain's exit shows how weak the E.U. is. The nations don't adhere to one another as iron doesn't mix with clay. The *New York Times* article stated, “For the European Union, the result is a disaster, raising questions about the direction, cohesion and future of a bloc ...” (Erlanger, p. 4).

Union May Include Israelites

One reason the 10 nations may not adhere together is because some may be of Gentile heritage and others of Israelite heritage.

Israel had 12 sons who became 12 tribes. They split into two nations. Rehoboam ruled over Judah and Benjamin, who became the House of Judah with its capital in Jerusalem. The descendants of Judah are Jews today. The other 10 tribes, ruled by Jeroboam, became the House of Israel with its capital in Samaria (1 Kings 12:20-21).

The House of Israel was taken captive by the Assyrians in 721 B.C.

When the Assyrians were conquered by the Babylonians, the 10 Israelite tribes migrated into northwest Europe and America. Joseph, split between Ephraim and Manasseh, settled in Britain and the U.S. The tribe of Reuben settled in France, Zebulun in Holland, Issachar in Finland, Dan in Ireland, Gad in Switzerland, Asher in Belgium, Naphtali in Sweden, and Benjamin in Norway. The Assyrians migrated to Germany.

History tends to repeat itself. Joseph (who became Britain and the U.S.) was hated and envied by his brothers (Gen. 37:5, 11). They sought to kill him (Gen. 37:18). Reuben (France) stepped in and saved Joseph's life. Instead of killing Joseph, the brothers sold him into slavery. He ended up in Egypt (v. 28). The descendants of Joseph's brothers may be part of the European union that will send Joseph back into captivity *at the end time!*

Slavery In Britain's Future

Israel's name was placed on Ephraim and Manasseh (Gen. 48:15-16). Many end-time prophecies for “Israel” are for Ephraim and Manasseh. Sometimes there is a *type* of fulfillment *in history* and a final *anti-type* fulfillment *at the end time*.

For example, Ephraim and Manasseh were part of the House of Israel when it was taken into slavery by the Assyrians. But ANOTHER slavery is prophesied: and this time, *they will be sent to Egypt* (and to other places) just as Joseph was sold into Egyptian slavery:

“And it shall be, that just as the LORD rejoiced over you to do good to you and multiply you, so the LORD will rejoice over you to destroy you and bring you to nothing; and you shall be plucked from off the land which you go to possess. Then the LORD will scatter you among all the peoples, from one end of the earth to the other ... And the LORD will take you back to Egypt in ships, by the way which I said to you, ‘You shall never see it again.’ And there you shall be offered for sale to your enemies as male and female slaves, but no one will buy you” (Deut. 28:63-66, 68).

Germany the Likely Leader

When it comes time for God to punish the U.S. and Britain for their sins, it is likely that God will use the Assyrians again: “Woe to Assyria, the rod of My anger, and the staff in whose hand is My indignation. I will send him against an ungodly nation, and against the people of My wrath I will give him charge, to seize the spoil, to take the prey, and to tread them down like mire in the streets. Yet he does not mean so, nor does his heart think so; but it is in his heart to destroy, and cut off not a few nations”

(Isa. 10:5-7).

The descendants of Assyria—Germany—may be the leader of the European Union when it takes the U.S. and Britain captive again. World War II may have been just a trial run as Germany rebuilds concentration and extermination camps at the end time (Deut. 28:62, 65-67).

Christ to Free the Captives

The British and American people who are in captivity will be freed by Christ after his return!

“It shall come to pass in that day that the LORD will set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people who are left, from Assyria and Egypt, from Pathros and Cush, from Elam and Shinar, from Hamath and the islands of the sea. ... There will be a highway for the remnant of His people who will be left from Assyria, as it was for Israel in the day that he came up from the land of Egypt” (Isa. 11:11, 16).

“‘Therefore, behold, the days are coming,’ says the LORD, ‘that it shall no more be said, ‘The LORD lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of Egypt.’ but, ‘The LORD lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of the north and from the lands where He had driven them.’ For I will bring them back into their land which I gave to their fathers” (Jer. 16:14-15).

Christ will free the British and American slaves from Assyria, Egypt, and other nations where they were scattered. To be FREED from slavery, they have to be EN-SLAVED *prior to his return*. The Bible indicates that slavery will come at the hands of Germany (descended from Assyria), who will lead a 10-king union as the final revival of the Roman Empire.

And that is why Britain must separate from the rest of Europe.

The SABBATH SCOOP

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PRINT CIRCULATION: 76 • COST PER ISSUE: FREE
<http://sabbathscop.myfreesites.net>

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GOD'S ELITE FORCES

In dangerous spots around the world, elite security forces protect American lives. Does God have similar forces?

By Gregory Dullum

In the North African desert, the sun is so hot that locals don't do much all day. The cities come alive after dark.

On Sept. 11, 2012—the 11th anniversary of 9/11—U.S. Ambassador Chris Stevens spent the day at the U.S. Special Mission Compound in Benghazi, Libya. The day was eerily quiet until 9:30 p.m.

Attack in Benghazi

Suddenly 35 heavily armed Islamic terrorists forced their way past security guards at the gate and ran into the compound, firing their AK-47s into the air.

Libyan security forces inside of the compound were practically useless. The lives of the ambassador and Information Management Officer Sean Smith lay in the hands of five agents from the U.S. Diplomatic Security Service (DS).

DS Agent Scott Wickland led Stevens and Smith into the safe room in the villa as terrorists ignited diesel fuel and set fire to the building. “The Villa C safe haven was supposed to provide the ambassador and other Americans short-term protection against physical attack until host-country rescuers or American fighters could drive away the invaders or protesters. It wasn't designed to keep them safe indefinitely, and it wasn't built to safeguard them from fire or chemical agents. . . .

“Visibility in the villa squeezed down to zero. Breathable air became scarce” (*13 Hours: The Inside Account of What Really Happened in Benghazi* by Mitchell Zuckoff, 2014, p. 106).

Wickland and the two diplomats dropped to the floor and crawled into the bathroom. Steel bars on the window prevented escape

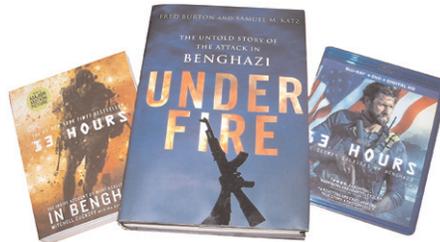


Photo by Gregory Dullum

The book *Under Fire* and the book and movie *13 Hours* describe how elite forces saved 31 American lives during a terrorist attack in Benghazi.

from there. Wickland then crawled into a bedroom where a window allowed egress. He thought the others were following him. After exiting into the fresh air, Wickland realized Stevens and Smith had not followed him. He went back into the burning building at least 12 times. Smith's body was recovered (a victim of smoke inhalation) but Stevens could not be found.

Meanwhile, another DS agent called for help. A mile away was the CIA Annex, guarded by some of the world's toughest security people—the CIA's Global Response Staff (GRS). They rescued the Americans and brought them to the Annex.

After the Americans and terrorists left the compound, Libyan looters found Stevens' body and took it to a hospital. It was too late. He, too, had died of smoke inhalation.

The growing horde of terrorists then attacked the CIA Annex. GRS and DS agents fought them off all night. Thanks to them, 31 Americans left Benghazi alive the next morning. Unfortunately, four Americans were killed in the two attacks: Stevens and Smith, and GRS operators Tyrone Woods and Glen Doherty.

Security in Benghazi

When U.S. ambassadors travel abroad, great efforts are made to keep them safe.

The first line of defense is the local police, but they are not always trustworthy. Police cars seen outside the Annex in Benghazi were probably on the side of the terrorists.

In the guardhouses at the compound gates were Libyans working for Blue Mountain, a security firm hired by the State Department. These guards offered some protection under normal circumstances but nothing against this terrorist attack. They were armed only with Tasers and handcuffs.

Inside the compound was the February 17

Brigade, a Libyan militia group. Terrorists tossed a grenade into their quarters, setting them afire. Some of this militia were wounded; some ran away. They offered little protection for the Americans in their care.

It was mostly DS and GRS personnel who fought the terrorists and saved 31 American lives. What do we know about these groups?

DS Agents

“The September 11, 2001 attacks against the United States forever changed DS. The service, whose ranks had been understaffed in its domestic and global mission for years, nearly doubled its manpower after the 2001 terrorist attacks; today the agency boasts two thousand special agents. DS personnel suddenly found themselves front-line warriors and counterterrorist operators; overseas, they found themselves outside their traditional comfort box of supervising the Marine Security Guard contingent and security programs and were now assisting and protecting covert aspirations of the intelligence community, fielding large contractor forces, and harnessing military support in nation-building endeavors” (*Under Fire: The Untold Story of the Attack in Benghazi* by Fred Burton and Samuel M. Katz, 2013, pp. 29-30).

DS agents *did all they could* to protect Stevens and Smith but it was not enough. “They did everything humanly possible, and repeatedly risked themselves, to save the lives of the men they protected. They encountered a tide of absolute and overwhelming violence in a location void of law and order. These men, unequivocally, are heroes” (Burton and Katz, p. xvi).

GRS

“Years into the Global War on Terror, there was an ever-growing market for contractors to assist in the implementation of government operations throughout war zones. Countless private military companies proliferated throughout the world to provide retired law enforcement and military personnel for service in Iraq and Afghanistan, but the CIA hired the best of the best to serve in the 125-man global force. Virtually all of the operators hired by the CIA were retired members of the most covert elements of the U.S. special operations community; the top-tier operators

Know Your Bible

By Charles Nenninger

1. What is the subject in Leviticus 11 and Deuteronomy 14?
2. For whom was the handwriting on the wall?
3. Whose name was changed to Israel?
4. What was Jesus' first miracle?
5. Who was Mordechai's adopted daughter?

(Answers on page 5)

ELITE FORCES

Continued on Page 4

Elite Forces

Continued from Page 3

were recruited and ultimately hired to be part of the GRS program. Many were from the SEALs or Special Forces. ...

“GRS operators were shooters—pure and simple. They were highly skilled A-plus tactical talent designed to secure spies no matter where they ventured” (Burton and Katz, pp. 107-108).

We Are God’s Ambassadors

The Bible says the citizenship of Christians is in heaven (Philipp. 3:30). We are representatives of the Kingdom of Heaven. Paul called himself an “ambassador of the Gospel” (Eph. 6:19-20).

Ambassadors may live and work in dangerous places, such as Benghazi. The world in which we Christians live is dangerous, and it will grow more violent as we get closer to the end (2 Tim. 3:1-3, Mat. 24:37, Gen. 6:5, 13). What levels of security does God have to protect his ambassadors?

God Leads an Army

The Bible tells us, “The LORD is a man of war; the LORD is His name” (Ex. 15:3). God is called “LORD of hosts” 235 times in the Old Testament. This has been interpreted to mean that God leads an ARMY. He is “a man of war” *with an army*, and *He’s not afraid to use it!*

Long ago, war broke out in heaven when the archangel Lucifer tried to take over God’s throne (Isa. 14:12-15, Rev. 12:7). The angels in God’s army defeated the angels in Lucifer’s rebel army (Rev. 12:7-9).

Today, the U.S. has the world’s strongest military, but it’s not used to conquer peaceful nations. It’s used to protect the interests of the U.S. and its allies. For example, in April 2009 the Navy was sent to rescue one man—Captain Richard Phillips—a U.S. merchant marine who was kidnapped by Somali pirates. The Navy kept Phillips safe until SEAL snipers arrived and eliminated the pirates.

God uses his military in much the same way. He’s not interested in conquering the world at this time. But He sends his military to protect his interests or further his causes!

Protecting Jesus

When Jesus was taken prisoner on the night of his last Passover, He asked Peter, “Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels?” (Mat. 26:53).

Protecting Elisha

There was a time when the king of Syria

thought God’s prophet, Elisha, was revealing his military secrets to the king of Israel, so he sent soldiers to surround the city where Elisha dwelt.

“Therefore he sent horses and chariots and a great army there, and they came by night and surrounded the city. And when the servant of the man of God arose early and went out, there was an army, surrounding the city with horses and chariots. And his servant said to him, ‘Alas my master! What shall we do?’

“So he answered, ‘Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.’ And Elisha prayed, and said, ‘LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see.’ Then the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha” (1 Kings 6:14-17).

This army of God was there as a “show of force” to comfort Elisha and his servant. They didn’t fight the Syrians. The Syrians were struck blind and taken captive. Later they were healed, given a feast and released.

Helping Britain in W.W. I

God’s angelic army protected the British during World War I:

“In the spring of 1918 the Germans broke through the Allied Line. Heavy casualties were sustained, reserves were practically exhausted, and the Americans were not quite ready. Describing how the German advance was checked, an article in the journal of the Brigade of Guards (*Household Brigade Magazine*—Winter, 1942), states:

“At the focal point of the enemy’s advance, Béthune, the Germans concentrated high explosive and machine-gun fire, preparatory to bayonet attack in mass formation. Suddenly the enemy shell fire lifted and concentrated on a slight rise beyond the town. The ground here was absolutely bare—yet enemy machine guns and shells raked it from end to end with a hail of lead.

“As suddenly as it started, the enemy’s fire ceased, and in the complete silence there rose a lark’s trilling of thankfulness. The dense line of German troops which had started to move forward to victory in mass formation halted dead. And as the British watched, they saw it break! The Germans threw down everything they had—and fled in frantic panic. And here is the statement of a senior German officer who was taken prisoner immediately afterwards:

“The order had been given to advance in mass formation, and our troops were marching behind us singing their way to victory when Fritz, my lieutenant here, said: ‘Herr Kapitan, just look at that open ground behind Béthune, there is a Brigade of Cavalry coming up through the smoke drifting across it. They must be mad, these English, to advance against such a force as ours in the open. I

suppose they must be cavalry of one of their Colonial Forces, for, see, they are all in white uniform and are mounted on white horses.’

“ ‘ ‘ ‘Strange,’ I said, ‘I have never heard of the English having any white-uniformed cavalry, whether Colonial or not. They have all been fighting on foot for several years past, and anyway they are in khaki, not white.’

“ ‘ ‘ ‘Well, they are plain enough,’ he replied. ‘See, our guns have got their range now; they will be blown to pieces in no time.’

“ ‘ ‘ ‘We saw the shells bursting among the horses and their riders, all of whom came forward at a quiet walk-trot, in parade-ground formation, each man and horse in his exact place.

“ ‘ ‘ ‘Shortly afterwards our machine-guns opened a heavy fire, raking the advancing cavalry with a hail of lead; but on they came and not a single man or horse fell. ...

“ ‘ ‘ ‘Then a great fear fell on me, and I turned to flee; yes, I, an officer of the Prussian Guard, fled, panic stricken, and around me were hundreds of terrified men, whimpering like children, throwing away their arms and accoutrements in order not to have their movements impeded ... all running.

“ ‘ ‘ ‘Their one desire was to get away from that advancing White Cavalry; above all from their awe-inspiring leader whose hair shone like a golden aureole.

“ ‘ ‘ ‘That is all I have to tell you. We are beaten. The German Army is broken. There may be fighting, but we have lost the war; we are beaten—by the White Cavalry ... I cannot understand ... I cannot understand.’

“ ‘ ‘ ‘(Taken from the account of the Staff Captain, *1st Corps Intelligence, 1st British Army Headquarters, 1916-18, who was present and himself took the above statement from the German officer.*)’ ” (*We Have a Guardian* published by *The National Message*, undated, pp. 6-7).

Jesus the Commander

In addition to his army of millions of angels, God has some SPECIAL AGENTS.

The top special agent is Jesus Christ Himself! Jesus was the LORD of the Old Testament (1 Cor. 10:4, John 1:1-3, 14).

When it came time to kill Egypt’s firstborn at Passover, it was not a “death angel” but the LORD Himself who performed the slaughter! He told Moses, “For I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD” (Ex. 12:12).

Jesus appeared several times on earth in Old Testament times to perform special missions. Prior to Israel’s attack on Jericho, the LORD approached Joshua bearing a drawn sword, declaring that He was the commander

of the entire angelic army (Josh. 5:13-14)! He gave Joshua instructions on how to attack Jericho. After Israel followed these instructions, the walls miraculously fell down!

When Shadrach, Meshack and Abed-Nego were thrown into the fiery furnace by Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar, it's likely that Jesus, who became the Son of God, went to their rescue: "Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astounded; and he rose in haste and spoke, saying to his counselors, 'Did we not cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?' They answered and said to the king, 'True, O king.' 'Look!' he answered, 'I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God' " (Dan. 3:25).

One responsibility of special agents (and of the whole military), is to be willing to give their lives for the ones they are protecting. Jesus laid down his life so that all mankind may have eternal life (Rom. 5:8-9)!

Michael

Another special operative of God is the archangel Michael:

"And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. So that great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, ... he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him" (Rev. 12:7-9). God gave Michael the task of defeating Satan while Jesus watched (Luke 10:18).

When other angels get in trouble, Michael helps them! One angel said he struggled against Satan, who was the spiritual power ("the prince") behind the Persian Empire:

"But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left there alone with the kings of Persia. ... No one upholds me against these, except Michael your prince" (Dan. 10:13, 21).

Michael is tasked with preserving God's people in the end time! "At that time Michael shall stand up, the great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; and there shall be a time of great trouble, such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, every one who is found written in the book" (Dan. 12:1).

Michael is "one tough dude" ready to protect and rescue us! If he ever needs help, he gets it from Christ (Jude 9).

One Angel Destroys an Army

There may be others in heaven who are in God's elite forces.

When Assyria threatened Jerusalem with its army, King Hezekiah prayed for deliverance

(Isa. 36:1, 37:15, 20). An angel was sent by God into the enemy camp to kill them.

"Then the angel of the LORD went out, and killed in the camp of the Assyrians one hundred and eighty-five thousand; and when the people arose early in the morning, there were the corpses—all dead. So Sennacherib king of Assyria departed and went away, returned home, and remained at Nineveh" (Isa. 37:36-37).

An Angel Destroys a City

After David sinned by numbering Israel, God assigned an angel to slaughter the people of Jerusalem: "And God sent an angel to Jerusalem to destroy it. As he was destroying, the LORD looked and relented of the disaster, and said to the angel who was destroying, 'It is enough; now restrain your hand.' And the angel of the LORD stood by the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite. Then David lifted his eyes and saw the angel of the LORD standing between earth and heaven, having in his hand a drawn sword stretched out over Jerusalem" (1 Chron. 21:15-16).

This unnamed angel appears to be fully willing and able to slaughter as many humans as necessary to further God's plans.

Rescue Missions

Sometimes U.S. elite forces are sent on rescue missions. When six Americans escaped from their embassy in Tehran as it was overrun by Iranian rebels in 1979, CIA Special Agent Tony Mendez sneaked into Iran and safely extracted them without killing anyone.

God sends his angels on rescue missions too.

Two angels were sent to Sodom to rescue Lot and his family before the city was to be destroyed (Gen. 19:1-17). These angels faced threats from the evil inhabitants but were able to take care of themselves and save Lot (vv. 2-3, 5, 11).

When Daniel was cast into the lions' den, an angel joined him and shut the lions' mouths (Dan. 6:22).

When the apostles were placed in prison, an angel released them: "But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out" (Acts 5:19).

Peter was rescued by an angel when he was chained in a Roman prison one night. "Now behold, an angel of the Lord stood by him, and a light shone in prison; and he

ELITE FORCES

Continued on Page 6

Know Your Bible Answers

1) Clean & unclean meats. 2) Belshazzar. 3) Jacob. 4) Turning water into wine. 5) Esther.

Fun Fact

of creation, history, holidays & the Bible



Drawing and Fun Fact are courtesy of NAPS

The highest official temperature in the world, 135 degrees Fahrenheit (58 degrees Celsius), was recorded at Al Aziziyah, Libya, in September 1922.

Witerature

Wit and wisdom to complement the truths of the Holy Bible can be found in secular writings.

80: From Ben Bradlee to Lena Horne to Carl Reiner, Our Most Famous Eighty Year Olds Reveal Why They Never Felt So Young by Gerald Gardner and Jim Bellows, SourceBooks, Inc, 2007, p. 3.

Laughter Is Healthy

"When I [Norman Lear] had prostate cancer some years ago, Norman Cousins was at my bedside talking to me about his book [discussing the theory of the the influence of laughter on your health]. And I got videotapes of *Candid Camera*, and I called Lorne Michaels and I had him send me everything he could from *Saturday Night Live* of Dan Aykroyd and John Belushi. And I lay in bed and laughed my head off. So my experience is that laughter is a great therapy."

Ps. 56:8-11, Rom. 8:31, Luke 1:27

Quotable Quotes

"It's such an act of optimism to get through a day and enjoy it and laugh and do all that without thinking about death. What a spirit human beings have!" —Gilda Radner

Memory Scripture

"... We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God."

—Acts 14:22

Elite Forces

Continued from Page 5

struck Peter on the side and raised him up, saying, 'Arise quickly!' And his chains fell off his hands. Then the angel said to him, 'Gird yourself and tie on your sandals' and so he did. And he said to him, 'Put on your garment and follow me.' So he went out and followed him, and did not know that what was done by the angel was real, but thought he was having a vision. When they were past the first and second guard posts, they came to the iron gate that leads to the city, which opened to them of its own accord; and they went out and went down the street, and immediately the angel departed from him" (Acts 12:7-10).

Peter went to where the church was gathered, knocked and called out to them. They thought it was "his angel" (vv. 11-15). This, along with Christ's use of the phrase, "their angels" in Mat. 18:10, has led many to believe guardian angels watch over each of us and protect us. We each have our own angelic bodyguards!

Layers of Protection

God has provided many layers of protection for his people. He has guardian angels on constant watch over us. He has special agents ready to rescue us when necessary. He has some angels willing to wipe out entire armies or cities for our sakes. He has a massive army of angels he can send to our aid when necessary. Michael will stand ready to protect us as the end draws near and Jesus Christ Himself will step in as commander of the angelic army when it's time for his return.

God is "Almighty" (Gen. 17:1). He is omnipotent (Rev. 19:6). He is fully capable of protecting us by Himself. And yet He shares with his angels the responsibility of protecting his ambassadors:

We are told, "A thousand may fall at your side, and ten thousand at your right hand; but it shall not come near you. ... For He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways. They shall bear you up in their hands, lest you dash your foot against a stone" (Ps. 91:7, 11-12).

God has elite forces who are willing and able to do what is necessary to keep us safe no matter what danger comes our way! That's why Paul could so confidently write, "If God is for us, who can be against us?" (Rom. 8:31). It's why David could write so boldly, "In God I have put my trust; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?" (Ps. 56:11).

We can face an uncertain and dangerous future with CONFIDENCE knowing that elite spirit forces are there to protect us because God has our back!



E. U. Plans to Change

"With Britain's prime minister omitted for the first time, European Union leaders at a summit meeting wrestled on Wednesday [June 29] with an existential question: how to salvage a venture that has provided peace and relative prosperity to 500 million people but has lost public support.

"We all need to wake up and smell the coffee,' President Dalia Grybauskaitė of Lithuania said at the start of private talks in Brussels on how to relaunch the European Union after the shock of Britain's vote last week to leave.

"In the absence of Prime Minister David Cameron of Britain ... the group's remaining 27 leaders all agreed that the European Union needs to change the way it works if it is to curb a rising tide of populism driven in large part by hostility toward Brussels. ...

"With no easy fixes to Europe's public image and no consensus on what a reformed union might look like, the main agreement reached on Wednesday was familiar: to hold another meeting in Bratislava, Slovakia, in September.

"In a final statement, the leaders acknowledged that the British referendum 'creates a new situation for the European Union,' and that 'many people express dissatisfaction with the current state of affairs.' Europeans, they added, 'expect us to do better when it comes to providing security, jobs and growth, as well as hope for a better future. ...

"Speaking to reporters Wednesday, Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany ... said Europe needed to recover its élan [enthusiastic vigor and liveliness] and inspire ordinary citizens with an enthusiastic vision, as the United States did with its space program" ("E.U. Leaders Chart Future as David Cameron Leaves Brussels" by Andrew Higgins and James Kanter, *The New York Times*, nytimes.com, June 29, 2016, pp. 1-2, 4).

Before Christ returns, there will be a seventh revival of the Holy Roman Empire in Europe that will consist of "10 kings" (see the article beginning on page 1 of this issue). The government of this union is called a "beast" several places in the Bible (Dan. 7:7-8, Rev.

17:3, 8, 11-13, 13:1-4). If this end-time union comes out of the E.U., there must be changes made. Its 28 members must be reduced to "10 kings." And it must become strong so it will be the envy of all: "... and they worshiped the beast, saying, 'Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?' " (Rev. 13:4).

The civil government will be united with a religious leader called "another beast" in Rev. 13:11, "another horn, a little one" in Dan. 7:8, "man of sin," "son of perdition" and "lawless one" in 2 Thes. 2:3, 8, and "the false prophet" in Rev. 19:20.

As a combined force, the beast and false prophet will "speak pompous words" and "blasphemies (Dan. 7:8, Rev. 13:5, 8), oppose and exalt themselves above all that is called God (2 Thes. 2:4) and the law of God (vv. 7-8), perform miracles by the power of Satan (v. 9, Rev. 19:20, 13:13), "make war with the saints" (Rev. 13:7) and have authority over every tribe, tongue and nation, forcing nearly all to worship the beast (vv. 7-8, 15). Those who refuse will be killed (v. 15). A mark of the beast will be placed on the right hands or foreheads of followers, allowing them and them only to buy and sell (vv. 16-17).

Europe is currently a broken union that has no sense of direction. At some point of time, a leader will arise that will offer them this vision of greatness, just as Hitler did prior to World War II. This powerful European Union beast power will last only 3-1/2 years until Christ comes to smash it (Dan. 2:44-45, Rev. 13:5, 17:12-14, 19:19-20).

Britain Gets New P.M.

"Britain's new prime minister, Theresa May, took charge of a new government on Wednesday [July 13]" ("Theresa May, New British Prime Minister, Gives Boris Johnson a Key Post" by Stephen Castle and Sewell Chan, *The New York Times*, nytimes.com, July 13, 2016, p. 1).

In an end-time prophecy, God spoke of violent children and women rulers: "As for My people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them" (Isa 3:12).