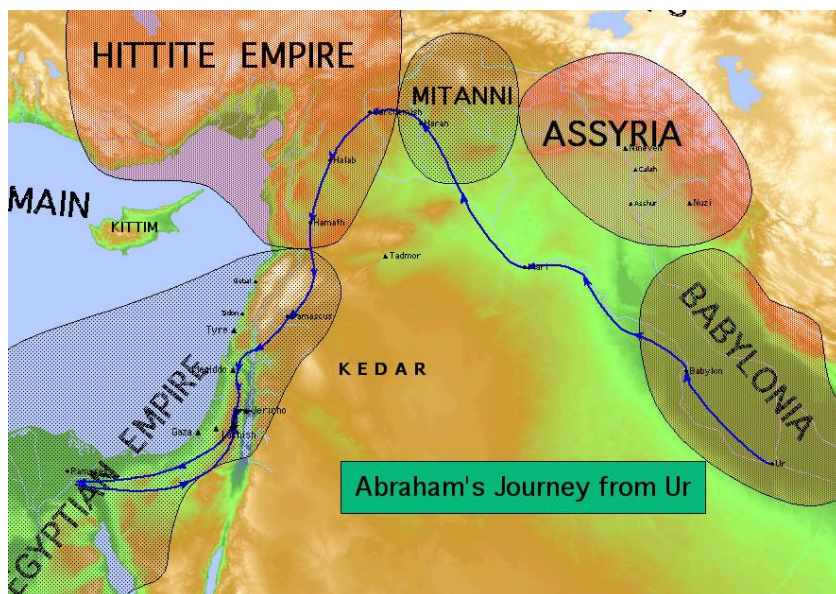


FRANCE IN THE BIBLE LECTURE

First of all, what is the Bible and why should it be regarded as of any importance today? The Bible is a book about a people first known as Hebrews and secondly as Jews. The Bible itself is contained in two sections being the Old Testament and the New Testament. Both books may be considered as History books, the first going back to 4,000 years before Christ and the second going back to Jesus Christ 2000 years ago. The Bible is a book about the existence of the Creator God and the creation of Mankind. It informs us of mankind's fall from God's grace and how by one man, sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: (Rom 5:12). The Bible relates how over a period of 1600 years the human race that had developed to fill the earth, had become so corrupt that God decided to destroy mankind from the earth with a flood, sparing only one family of eight people. From these eight persons 51 families were born from whom all nations on earth were generated, all speaking the same language, co-operating together with an agreed plan until their common language was confounded, causing mankind to be scattered, and populating the whole earth, according to the languages that divided them one from another. So that international discord resulted in almost continuous conflict to this day, when technology is reducing the language barrier.



The Bible informs us of one man who lived around 2000 BC in 'Ur' of the Chaldees, now known as southern Iraq.

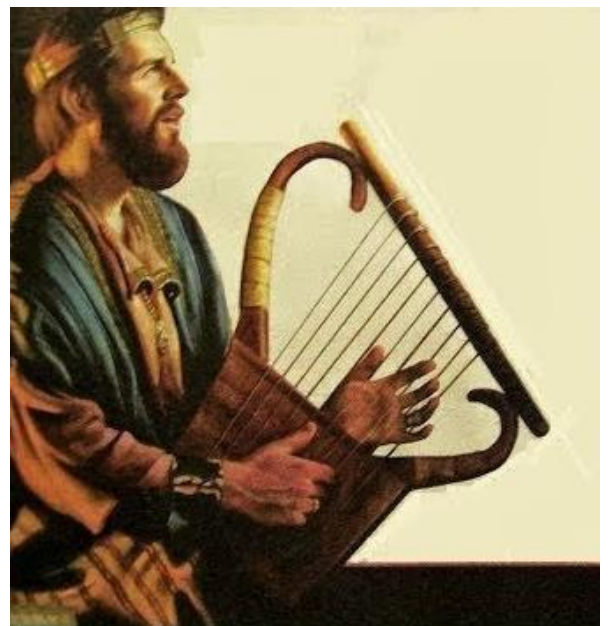
The city Ur, was by discovered by archaeologists and Sir Leonard Woolly's excavations in 1922, confirmed the Biblical account of Genesis, when God made himself known to Abraham, promising that if he

left Ur, and went to another land, that God would show him, He would make of him a great nation, make his name great, and would bless him, and he would be a blessing. Furthermore God promised "I will bless them that bless you, and curse him that curses you: and in you shall all families of the earth be blessed. (Gen 12:2-3) Later God added, "That in blessing I will bless you, and in

multiplying I will multiply your seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and your seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; And in your seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed (Gen 22:17-18) Now the apostle Paul in the New Testament, refers to this passage and states in his letter to the Galatians, (Gal 3:16) “Now to Abraham’s seed were the promises made”. He does not say, “to seeds, as of many”; but as of one, ‘to your seed (singular), which is Christ, the anointed one, in Hebrew, the Messiah.



Now, from this introduction, the Bible records that from Abraham and his seed God did develop several nations, eight in all. The most significant being the nation of Israel. Israel, means “a Prince with God” the name God gave to Abraham’s grandson Jacob. The Bible traces the history of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt to their conquest of the land of Canaan where they destroyed the idolatrous nations who lived there, eventually becoming the richest Kingdom on earth, in the time of David and Solomon. David was a warrior king fighting the Philistines and the Edomite, Moabite and Ammonite peoples, but at the same time he was a devout believer in the God of Israel, conscious of the law given by God to Moses, he wrote many of the Psalms and spent his wealth obtaining the materials necessary to build a



magnificent Temple, a House of God. However the Israeli people did not remain faithful to Yahweh their God. After David's son Solomon's reign, the northern tribes of Israel revolted against Solomon's son, Rehoboam, and the Israelites made Jeroboam, Solomon's servant, King over the ten tribes, a man who deliberately lead his people into idolatry. The tribes of Judah and Benjamin remained faithful to Yahweh their God.

The Old Testament traces the history of these two kingdoms until Israel was overthrown and taken away by the Assyrians 722 B.C. Similarly the kingdom of Judah was overthrown and Jerusalem was destroyed, its people exiled by the Babylonians in 586 B.C. They were held in captivity for 70 years after which they returned to their homeland and with the encouragement of the prophets they



Assyrian destruction of Samaria



Caesar Augustus

rebuilt the temple and the city Jerusalem. But the kingdom was not revived. The last of the Prophets, Malachi testified concerning the Messiah in about 397 B.C. but nearly 400 years passed before the Spirit of prophecy would speak again, and then through a woman named Elizabeth and her husband Zacharias, a priest who prophesied that the birth of the child Jesus was the fulfilment of the promises to Abraham and to David. That child was borne when Caesar Augustus ruled the Roman Empire and he was named Jesus.

Jesus of Nazareth claimed to be the Messiah beginning his ministry when he was 30. For three and a half years he witnessed to his people the Jews, stating, "I am not sent, but to the lost sheep of the house of Israel". (Mat 15:24)

In this ministry he brought the sacred scriptures of the Jews to life, and as a result he condemned such people as the Pharisees and Sadducees and their Priests as hypocrites. These rulers therefor decided to bring him down, whereas

the ordinary people heard him gladly and believed that he really was the Messiah because of his teaching and his wonderful healing ability. The Pharisees and the Sadducees finding the opportunity, made false accusations to the Roman governor Pilate and Jesus was brought to trial for claiming to be the King



of Israel, he was in fact as already mentioned a direct descendant of King David as the meticulous records held in the temple proved at that time. The Jews brought him before Pontius Pilate the Roman Governor of Judaea, who three times declared that he found not fault in him. But the Jews blackmailed Pilate stating that a man who made himself a King was an enemy of Caesar, Pilate conceded and condemned Jesus to death by crucifixion.

The New Testament gives four accounts of this execution and his death was certified by a Roman centurionand yet, three days later the message was proclaimed, “He is risen.” This message circulated throughout Jerusalem, for about 120 of his disciples were sitting together in a house and God’s Holy Spirit rested upon each one like tongue of fire. And they were imparted with the gift of speaking in different languages according to the need of the persons they were speaking to.

At least 18 types of language are mentioned in the text. So the New Testament relates how the Gospel of the Kingdom of God and the things concerning Jesus Christ, though rejected by the Jews was nevertheless accepted by those who the Jews referred to as Gentiles.

By the aid of Jesus disciples and people like Paul and Barnabas, Aquila and Priscilla, Sopater of Berea, Aristarchus and Secundus of Thessalonica and Timothy, the Gospel of Jesus Christ was spread abroad and the message was associated with other aspects as you can read in Acts 28:30 how “Paul dwelt two whole years in his own hired house,(in Rome) receiving all that came in unto him, Preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him. (Acts 28:30-31)

When the Lord Jesus Christ addressed his disciples before he ascended to heaven he had assured them, saying, “All power, **all power** is given unto me in

heaven and in earth. Go therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit". (Mat 28:18-19) The apostle Peter enlarges upon this stating (1Pe 3:220) "He is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; **angels and authorities and powers** being made subject unto him. Just how much power he had at his command was demonstrated 40 Years later, when he directed that power to bring the Roman legions into Judaea to utterly destroy Jerusalem and the Temple and expel the Jews from their ancient home land. Aspects of his power were given to the Apostles and their converts, as Jesus promised **Acts 1:8** But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Spirit is come upon you: and you shall be my witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Clearly it was the Divine intention that the Gospel of the Kingdom of God and the Name of Jesus Christ should be proclaimed everywhere, and this is exactly how history informs us that Christianity spread abroad, experiencing much persecution at the same time. Christianity required followers to be faithful to the teachings of Jesus and his apostles. But not long after his ascension his apostles warned, "Take heed to yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to feed the ecclesia of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood, For I know this, that after my departing grievous wolves shall enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them." (Act 20:28-30)



THE TRIUMPH OF FAITH

Nevertheless Christianity took hold among the gentiles living in the Roman Empire. Persecution followed devised by the Roman emperors, Nero (54-68), Domitian followed in (81-96) Marcus Aurelius in (161-180) Decius (249-151) Valerian (253-259) Diocletian (284-305).

However when Constantine eventually became the first Christian Emperor in 312 A.D. and in 313 he issued the Edict of Milan: which stated "all who choose the religion of Christianity are permitted to continue therein, without any let or hindrance, and are not to be in any way troubled or molested." In this way Christianity spread rapidly throughout the Roman Empire.

So with this background, (as it was asked concerning Britain and its relation to the Bible), the question may be asked, "Is France mentioned in the Bible?" As with Britain, so with France, it is found in the Bible, but not directly named as such. When the New Testament was written in the first century A.D. no country was known by that name. But there was a name, linked with France, even today, and that is Gaul. It became quite popular a few years ago due to the cartoon creations of Asterix the Gaul and his friend Obelix. Gaul (Latin: *Gallia*) was a region of Western Europe first described by the Romans, that included present day France, Belgium, and the Netherlands. From 58 to 50 B.C. Julius Caesar conquered Gaul as far as the river Rhine.

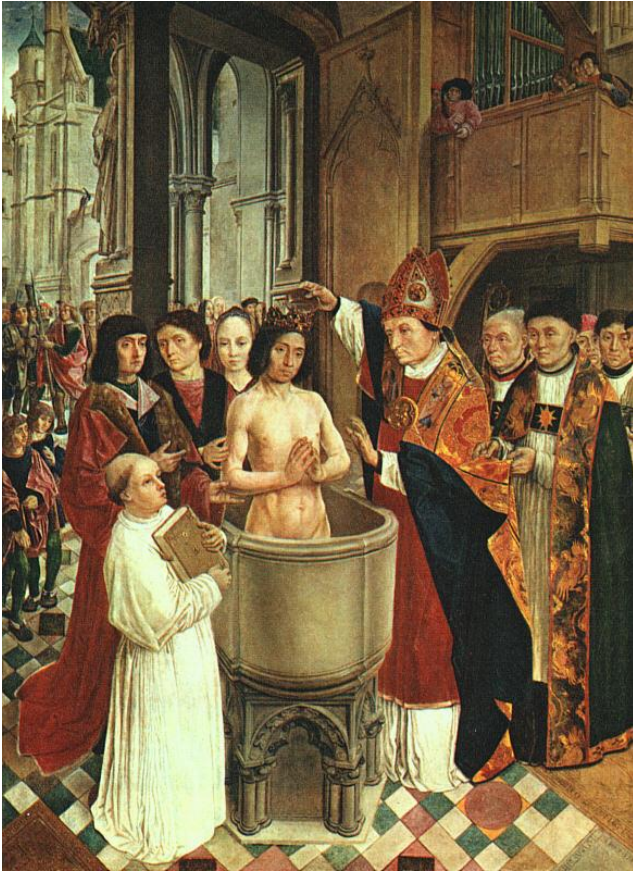
The New Testament contains a letter to the Galatians, Galatia was a province in north central Turkey and Ankara was a major Galatian city. The



name Galatia is derived from 20,000 Gauls who settled in the region in 278 B.C. In 25 B.C.E., the area became a Roman province. In A.D. 287/288 The Emperor Maximian (250-310) conducted a military campaign against the Franks, who submitted and

were transferred to *Germania Inferior* (roughly present-day Belgium), the first Germanic tribe to settle permanently within the Roman Empire. They became

powerful allies of Rome for five centuries, providing many imperial generals. In 405 the Franks crossed the frozen Rhine and seized northern Gaul establishing a kingdom there, and the last Roman state of Soissons, fell to the Franks in 486.



Clovis, the first king of the Franks united all Frankish tribes under his rule, ensuring that the monarchy passed to his heirs, (the Merovingian dynasty) which ruled for the next two centuries over what became France". His wife was a Catholic and he converted to Catholicism along with 3,000 warriors in 496 – 506 A.D. The Catholic Church would not have survived the political and military upheavals of the sixth and seventh centuries without the Franks. **Pope Leo III**, when opposed by Roman nobility who wanted to replace him, went to Charlemagne for protection, and he accompanied Leo safely back to Rome. On December 23, at a trial where

Charlemagne presided, Leo was purged of all charges. On Christmas day, 800, as Charlemagne (whose bronze statue shows the King of the Franks on horseback, outside the cathedral Notre Dame), rose from prayer by St. Peter's tomb, Pope Leo suddenly placed the crown on the king's head, and the Roman clergy and people shouted, "**Charles Augustus**, crowned great and peace-giving emperor of the Romans, life and victory!" Charlemagne kings of the Franks established the Carolingian Dynasty, forming the Kingdom of Francia, the heartland of the Carolingian Empire. The Treaty of Verdun in 843 partitioned this empire, with West Francia becoming the Kingdom of France in 987. Five dynasties followed:- the Robertian; Capetian; Valois; Valois-Angouleme; and the Bourbon from 1589-1792. None of these *kings* were



Statue of Charlemagne

regarded as 'Holy Roman Emperors' because in 962 that title was bestowed on Otto, the first King of Germany. France however, remained loyal to Roman Catholicism, the official state religion since the conversion of Clovis, and was regarded as "the Eldest Daughter of the Church" and the King as "His Most Christian Majesty".

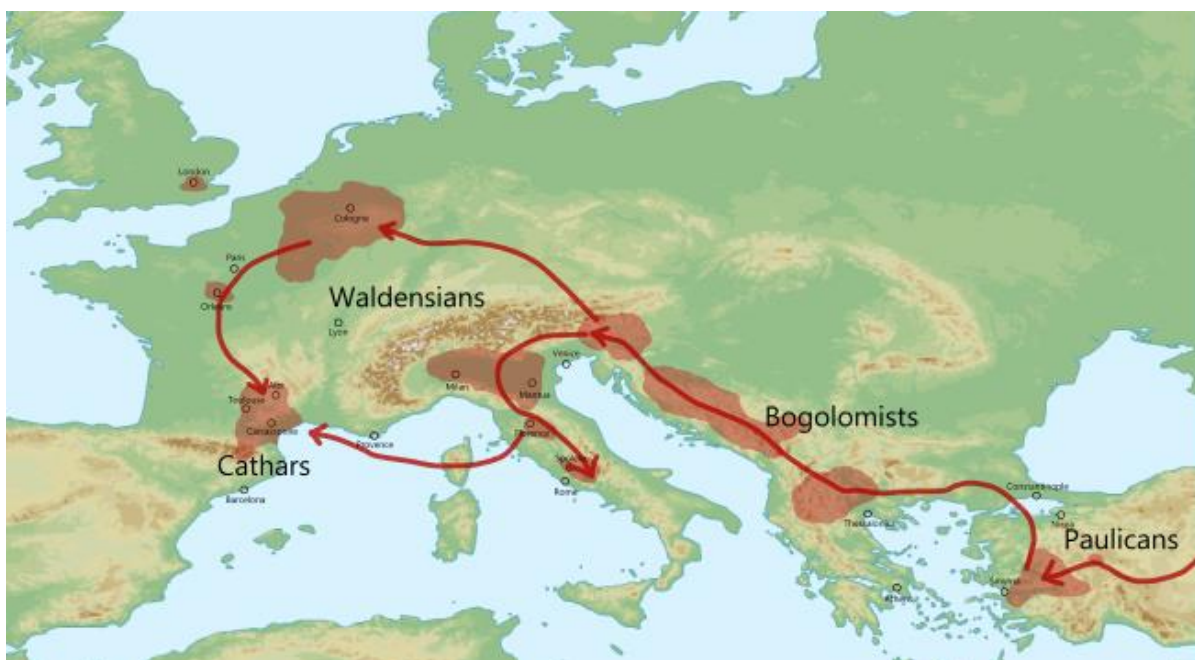


However the Roman Catholic Church was not the only organisation presenting their version of the Gospel of Christ. The New Testament gives evidence that though some ecclesia's or churches held true to Christ's teaching, a majority did not. So when Constantine converted to Christianity, what had been the Church of Jesus Christ became the Roman Catholic Church by Law established, (Constantine's approval). However many Christians held to the actual doctrine of Christ and his apostles and refused to obey Constantine's decrees and suffered persecution

Among believers of the Faith once delivered to the saints, was Donatus an African, who objected to the appointing of clerics, who had denied Christ when persecuted, and the decisions made about believers, by an unbaptised Emperor.

The Donatists were persecuted, but the political Circumcellions rose against the Roman armies, sent to destroy the Donatists, and defeated them. The Book of Revelation refers to “Christ’s two witnesses” The first are those who rejecting the sword, keep Christ’s commandments faithfully, the one body of Christ, holding the one faith, the one hope, one Lord, one spirit and one baptism and one God and Father. The second are the political opposition who stand for freedom of chosen leaders and freedom of speech and religion, protecting true Christians and others with the sword if necessary.

The historian Edward Gibbon observed that the early Christians of Antioch (Acts 11:26) from whom arose the Paulicians who were dispersed with their New Testament Manuscripts as a result of persecution, and migrated across the River Euphrates to Armenia. In process of time, “They were transplanted from the banks of the Euphrates (Armenia) to Constantinople and Thrace” (modern Bulgaria) Thus John saw (Revelation 7:2 an angel ascending from heaven from the east, having the seal of the living God”. The seal represents the word of God as it is impressed upon the minds of those who believe the Truth. Gibbon wrote: “From the blood and ashes of the first victims, a succession of teachers and congregations repeatedly arose.” In 1453 when Byzantium fell to the Turks, Christian scholars, including Paulicians with their New Testament manuscripts made their way to the Alps (some via the river Danube) into Western Europe, bringing with them the Received Text of the New Testament. It was from here that Erasmus gained access to that text, a text that found its expression in the English Bible. The visible assemblies of the Paulicians, or Albigensis were eradicated by fire and sword; the bleeding remnant escaped by flight, concealment, or Catholic conformity. But the invincible spirit which they had kindled still lived and breathed in the western world.



Effectively the Catholic Church supported war against all those who did not follow its approved doctrine. There had been several Christian organisations who were not in agreement with the Catholic doctrines, who made a stand against Catholicism and endeavoured to maintain the truth concerning Jesus Christ and his doctrine and that of his apostles. The book of Revelation which is a book of sign, or representative language, actually testifies of these historic events.

Martin Luther was born in 1483, in 1505 he joined a monastic and became an Augustinian friar. Ordained



in 1507, he taught at the University of Wittenberg and in 1512 became a doctor of Theology. His visit to Rome in



1510 left him appalled by the corruption he found there. He was angered by the clergy selling 'indulgences' that promised remission from punishments for sin. On 31 October 1517, he published his '95 Theses', attacking papal abuses and the sale of indulgences.

He wrote many pamphlets criticising Catholic teaching and his writings spread throughout Europe, thanks to the printing press. In 1534, Luther published a complete translation of the Bible into German, underlining his belief that people should be able to read it in their own language. The translation contributed to the spread and development of the German language and more significantly helped to reveal the truth of the Christian religion. After the Protestant Reformation began in Germany (1517), the reform movement spread quickly in France, especially in places that had suffered economic depression and among those who had grievances against the established order of government, however, the movement progressed; but measures against it were redoubled and the first French martyr, Jean Vallière, was burned at the stake in Paris in August 1523. Many sought refuge in Strasburg. Among these exiles



was John Calvin, who fled to Basel in 1534 and wrote "*Institutes of the Christian Religion*". He taught the authority and sufficiency of Scripture for one to know God; the equal authority of both Old and New Testaments; the true interpretation of which is assured by the internal testimony of the Holy Spirit. The first Huguenots were the followers of Calvin in France in following the model of the Strasburg community; In 1555 despite persecution a Huguenot church was founded in Paris.

So, historically these two witnesses included Donatists, Waldenses, Novations and Huguenots and other Bible believing groups endured the hatred of the Catholic Church that dominated most of Europe. In Daniel's prophecy (7:8-11) this is represented by the "little horn of the fourth beast that had eyes and a mouth". The eyes of Catholicism are the multitudes of priests, dispersed all over the world, and able to inform the Vatican what is occurring in their vicinity. It also has a mouth; its doctrines being made known all over the world. According to scripture the period of persecution was to be limited to a symbolic 1,260 days, where a day signifies a year. The time, started with the Donatist rejection of the Catholic Church in AD 312 and finished with the Massacre of St Bartholomew's day in Paris in 1572. A war of extermination began in which 100,000 persons were slain. From 1572 to 1593 civil war after civil war ensued until Henry of Navarre, a protestant king converted to Catholicism.



After the St. Bartholomew's Day Massacres of Huguenots in France in 1572, Pope Gregory signalled his approval and celebrated a Te-deum Mass



Catherine de Medici together with her Catholic entourage inspects the corpses of the massacred Huguenots

In 1598 religious feuds ended with the Edict of Nantes which granted Huguenots the practice of their religion. Eighty-seven years later Louis XIV revoked that Edict and ordered the destruction of all Protestant Witnesses. Thousands were slain, some 300,000 survivors fled from France to Switzerland, America, and Africa. In the renewed persecution, an edict decreed that all inhabitants of the Valleys of Piedmont and France should publicly announce their error in religion within fifteen days under penalty of death and banishment and the destruction of all the Vaudois and Huguenot churches. Armies of French and Piedmontese soldiers invaded the Valleys, laying them waste and perpetrating cruelties upon the inhabitants. 50,000 found refuge in England and 10,000 went to Ireland. The Scripture speaks of dead bodies, not literal bodies. But protestant assemblies, forbidden to gather together or preach or worship and thereby as good as dead, for **three and a half days**.



LOUIS XIV

Peter Jurieu in 1687 a French Protestant, in his book, 'Accomplishment of the Scripture Prophecies', correctly identified the 'days' as signifying 105 years. The 'dead bodies' revived as the 11th chapter of Revelation testifies (11:12-13) "And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them. And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and the remnant were affrighted and gave glory to the God of heaven".

In 1793 James Bicheno a Baptist pastor of Newbury (Berks) correctly identified the three and a half days as representing 105 years, when in 1789 the French States General allowed representatives of the people to speak in the council, much to the dismay of royalty, the clergy and aristocratic adversaries. As a result France experienced a **political earthquake**, the French Revolution.

"The tenth part of the city fell." That is of Catholic Europe which was France. Compare "the street" or broadway of the great city (verse 8). Royalty was abolished, the King and Queen and multitudes of nobles were beheaded, and the Catholic religion abolished.



THE FRENCH REVOLUTION AND THE EXECUTION OF THE ARISTOCRACY BY THE GUILLOTEEN

*"In the earthquake were slain of **names of men** seven thousand."* The complete abolition of all titles, even that of king (1790–1791). Jurieu perceived this in 1687, over a hundred years before the event.

"The remnant were affrighted." "THE REIGN OF TERROR" (1793–4) that followed the beheading of the king, in which 40,000 died. *"And gave glory to the God of heaven."* The Catholic religion being abolished, the Worship of the goddess of



LOUIS XVI

Reason followed, Nov. 10, 1793. And in May, 1794, Robespierre presided at a festival in which the French people proclaimed its acknowledgment of the Supreme Being. Robespierre and many others were guillotined in July 1794. The **French Revolution** was a watershed event in world history that began in **1789** and ended in the late 1790s with the ascent of Napoleon who in 1799 became first Consul of France.

To

discover the consequences of this we need to study Revelation 16 where they are predicted.

Revelation 16: Verse 2.—*The first angel poured out his vial upon the earth.*

The “sore” upon the worshippers of the Beast, represents the sore judgments upon the Roman Catholic system that date from the time of the French Revolution and the rise of Napoleon who overran the whole European “earth” in his campaigns. The judgments of the vials begin with France at the expiration of 1260 years from the decree of Justinian in 533. $533 + 1260 = 1793$, the year when Louis XVI was beheaded—“the Reign of Terror began.”



The *second vial* was poured out upon the sea in 1793, when the British

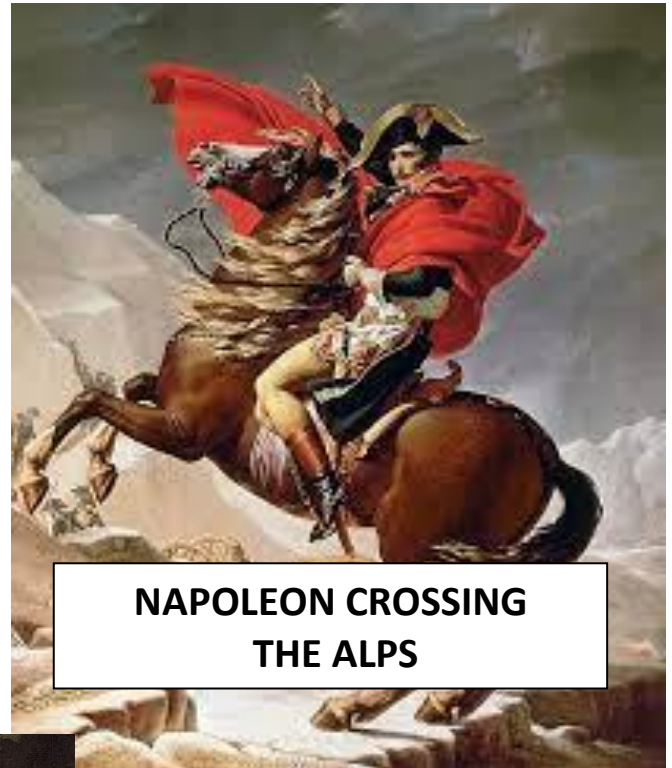


blockaded the French and allied ports. and its effects are to be seen in the long maritime wars of Britain against France, under the ministry of Pitt, in the times of George III. and George IV. In the war ending in 1802 the British navy destroyed 542 ships; and 569 in the war ending 1814. That vial ended in 1815, with the pacification of Europe, in the downfall of Napoleon.

Battle of the
Nile 1798

The *third vial* was the pouring out of God's vengeance upon the rivers and fountains of waters, the Rhine, the Danube and The Italian lakes country was concurrent with the operation of the second. It is to be identified in Napoleon's campaigns in Italy in 1796. Pope Pius the 6th was deposed in 1798 and the attacks on the Piedmontese and Waldensians ceased.

The *fourth vial* (also concurrent with the second), was the pouring out of God's indignation upon the Sun of the



**NAPOLEON CROSSING
THE ALPS**



Napoleon meets the defeated
Emperor Francis of Austria

Holy Roman Empire, in the wars of Napoleon against Germany in 1805. The Sun is the Ruler of the Day, and stands for Kings and Emperors. Napoleon the Great, in his campaigns, made and unmade kings, and “scorched men with fire” of battle continually. In 1805 Vienna was taken; and in 1806 the Austrian Emperor was shorn of his title of **Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire**, which was as the eclipse of the sun of the Papal system.



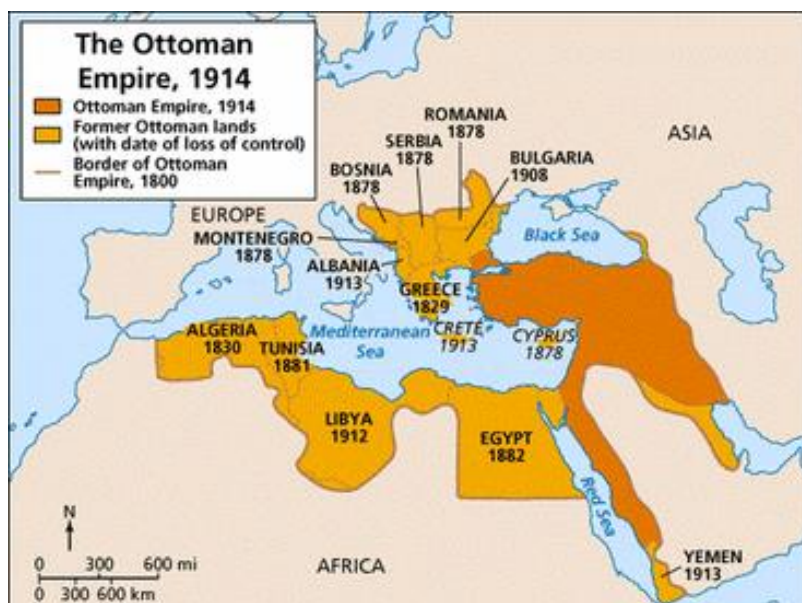
Moreover in the same year Napoleon granted civil rights to the Jews, liberating them from their isolation in the ghettos and convened a council which he called the Sanhedrin, at the same time abolishing the Papal decrees.

The *fifth vial* was the pouring out of the vial upon the seat or Throne of the Beast is Rome where the Popes claim to occupy, “the throne of St. Peter. The French arrested Pius VI taking him to France where he died in 1799. Pius VII succeeded him in 1800, and crowned Napoleon King of Italy, who abolished the Popes temporal power and reduced Rome to second city in the empire.



Napoleon drew up his own catechism which contained the question, “Why are we bound in all these duties to our Emperor? Because God has made him the agent of his power on earth. That is to honour and serve our Emperor is to honour God Himself. When Napoleon fell, the Holy Alliance, as it was called, restored light to the kingdom of the beast. Britain took part in this. Britain co-operated with the Catholic powers of Europe in restoring the Pope. Pretty Protestants! However for the next 59 years, the Popes refused to leave the Vatican in order to avoid any appearance of accepting the authority wielded by the Italian government over Rome as a whole. In 1929, the Lateran Treaty created the modern state of Vatican City. Where Catholicism was restored Verse 11.—“*They blasphemed the God of heaven.*” Both as misinterpreting these judgments, and as worshipping the Virgin Mary, “saints” and relics, &c., in the vain notion that that would stay the hand of the avenger. Napoleon is a type of Jesus Christ who when he comes it will be in power and great glory that will sweep all false religion away

The *sixth vial*, like the sixth trumpet, is divided into two sections, Eastern and Western. In the eastern part of Europe, it was poured on the Euphratean or Ottoman power that it might dry up. The Ottoman Empire (now Turkey) started to dry up in 1820. The Turks were driven out of Palestine by the British in 1917 and five years later the





Empire was dissolved and the Republic of Turkey was created after the overthrow of Sultan Mehmet VI in 1922 by the new Republican Parliament in 1923. When that power is dried up

The Jews returned to the ancient homeland to build the State of Israel. Its restoration is a signal of Christ's return and a great event is about to take place for the nations are

being prepared for the battle of the great day of God Almighty and the Lord Jesus Christ declares:-

“Behold! I come as a thief; blessed is he that watches and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.”

The return of Jesus Christ

The world today is in a sorry state it is being led by people who seem to be unaware of the danger that lies ahead. The book of Revelation reveals when the return of Jesus Christ is to take place. Significantly the text not only reveals where the conflict of nations will take place, in **Armageddon** a place in Israel, but when? The text reads: “And **he** gathered them together” who is this but Jesus Christ to whom all power has been given? Notice how the name of the place where the nations are to be gathered is described in Hebrew. For nearly 2000 years it was almost a dead language, the Jewish Diaspora conversed in Yiddish, but since the return of the Jews to their ancient homeland, Hebrew has become the national language the Israeli State. The return of the Jews to their ancient homeland is a fact and in 75 Years it has become 1 of 10 most powerful countries in the world, is a sure indication that these are the Last days. The prophet Ezekiel prophesied both of the re-establishment of the State of Israel and also the coalition of European and Asiatic countries one of which is called ‘Gomer’ an ancient name for France. The result of this invasion is described as voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was **a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great.** (Rev 16:15-18 KJV) Armageddon sets forth in brief, that a heap of sheaves (*arema*) will be gathered together into a valley (*gai*) for judgment (*don*.) What then is the outcome of this conflict? It is the total destruction of the invading powers, followed by the subjection of all nations to the world

governance of Jesus Christ and his saints, those who in their lifetimes have been sanctified by the knowledge and obedience to the Gospel of the things concerning the Kingdom of God and the Lord Jesus Christ. Whether you believe these things or not we all stand on the threshold of a New World Order, it will be the fulfilment of the ancient prophecy of Daniel, "I saw in the night visions, and, behold, *one* like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion *is* an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom *that* which shall not be destroyed. (Dan 7:13-14)

So what did the people who were taught by the Apostles actually believe? History can take us back to Justin Martyr lived from 100 to 165 A.D, and he had this to say regarding the second coming of Christ. "If you have fallen in with some, who are called Christians, but who do not admit this truth, and venture to blaspheme the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob; who say **there is no resurrection of the dead**, and that **their souls, when they die, are taken to heaven**; do not imagine that they are Christians. But I and other right-minded Christians on all points, are assured that **there will be a resurrection of the dead, and a thousand years in Jerusalem, which will then be built, adorned, and enlarged, as the prophets Ezekiel and Isaiah and others declare.**

What do you believe?