

Daniel 11:38 But in his estate shall he honour the God of forces: and a god whom his fathers knew not shall he honour with gold, and silver, and with precious stones, and pleasant things.

- **“THE GOD OF FORCES” (FORCES = FORTIFIED PLACE, STRENGTH, ROCK)**

1 Thessalonians 2:4 “Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and **exalteth himself above all that is called God**, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.”

Isaiah 23:11 “He stretched out his hand over the sea, he shook the kingdoms: the LORD hath given a commandment against the **merchant city, to destroy the strong holds thereof**.” (stronghold = forces)

“The more correct rendering, however, is that in the text, and the reference is to some god which he would honor, or for which he would show respect. The rendering proposed by Lengerke is the true rendering ‘but the god of forces he shall honor in their foundation.’...The phrase ‘in his estate means properly, ‘upon his base,’ or foundation. It occurs in vs. 20, 21, where it is applied to a monarch who would succeed another—occupying the same place, or the same seat or throne...**Here it seems to mean that he would honor the god referred to in the place which he occupied, or, as it were, on his own throne, or in his own temple**...the idea is not that he would honor this god *instead* of another, but that he would do it in his own place...” (Barnes, 1853, p. 464)

“...the prophet speaks of only a god, in the singular number, whereas, if he referred to the Virgin and the Saints, he should have given the plural, suited to very many. Moreover, we must interpret these words so as not to interfere with his other statements, namely, ‘that the king shall exalt himself, and magnify himself *above every god*, and shall speak marvelous things against the God of gods, neither shall he regard the God of his fathers,...*nor regard any god: for he shall magnify himself above all*.’ When, therefore, the prophet speaks of honoring ‘the God of forces, a god whom his father knew not, a strange god whom he shall increase with glory,’ **what other god should it be besides himself?**...the god so honored was indentified in his *own exalted place and person*, --the **god of forces, having an invincible army at his command,--the master of the world**,--regarding no other god, and speaking marvelous things against the Most High...” (Hopkins, 1868, p. 15)

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- **“...HONOR WITH GOLD, AND SILVER, AND WITH PRECIOUS STONES, AND PLEASANT THINGS”**

2 Chronicles 32:27 And Hezekiah had exceeding much riches and honour: and he made himself **treasuries for silver, and for gold, and for precious stones**, and for spices, and for shields, and for all manner of pleasant jewels;

Revelation 18:12 “The **merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones**, and of pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet, and all thyine wood, and all manner vessels of ivory, and all manner vessels of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble, And cinnamon, and odours, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots, and slaves, **and souls of men**.”

- **HE PRESENTS HIMSELF AS A MERCHANT, AND THOSE WHO BUY AND SELL FROM HER ARE THE NATIONS WHO STRENGTHEN AND BUILD HER UP-A UNION OF CHURCH AND STATE**

Ezekiel 27:3, 4 “And say unto Tyrus, O thou that art situate at the entry of the sea, **which art a merchant of the people for many isles**, Thus saith the Lord GOD; O Tyrus, thou hast said, I am of perfect beauty. **Thy borders are in the midst of the seas, thy builders** have perfected thy beauty.”

Ezekiel 27:25-27 “The ships of Tarshish did sing of thee in thy market: and **thou wast replenished, and made very glorious in the midst of the seas***. Thy rowers have brought thee into great waters: the east wind hath broken thee in the midst of the seas. **Thy riches, and thy fairs, thy merchandise, thy mariners, and thy pilots, thy calkers, and the occupiers of thy merchandise, and all thy men of war, that are in thee**, and in all thy company which is in the midst of thee, shall fall into the midst of the seas in the day of thy ruin.”

* *Revelation 17:15* “And he saith unto me, **The waters** which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues”.

- **HE HAS PRESENTED HIMSELF AS A COUNTERFEIT OF CHRIST:**

Hosea 12:7 **“He is a merchant,** the balances of deceit are in his hand: he loveth to oppress.”

1 Corinthians 3:9-13 “... ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building. ... as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. **For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.** Now if any man build upon **this foundation gold, silver, precious stones,** wood, hay, stubble; Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.”

Matthew 13:45 , 46 “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto **a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls:** Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.”

Revelation 3:18 “I counsel thee to **buy of me** gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.”

Isaiah 55:1-3 “Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; **come ye, buy, and eat;** yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness. Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, **and your soul shall live;** and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David.”

“Christ, the heavenly merchantman seeking goodly pearls, saw in lost humanity the pearl of price. In man, defiled and ruined by sin, He saw the possibilities of redemption.” (COL, p. 119)

“Jesus is going from door to door, standing in front of every soul temple, proclaiming, "I stand at the door, and knock." **As a heavenly merchantman, He opens His treasures.** . . ."Open your doors," says the great Merchantman, the possessor of spiritual riches, "and transact your business with Me. It is I, your Redeemer, who counsels you to **buy of Me.**" (FLB, p. 306)

“Salvation is a free gift, and yet it is to be bought and sold. In the market of which divine mercy has the management, the precious pearl is represented as being bought without money and without price. In this market all may obtain the goods of heaven. The treasury of the jewels of truth is open to all... The Saviour's voice earnestly and lovingly invites us: "I counsel thee to buy of Me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich." Revelation 3:8, 18... The gospel of Christ is a blessing that all may possess. The poorest are as well able as the richest to purchase salvation; for no amount of worldly wealth can secure it. **It is obtained by willing obedience,** by giving ourselves to Christ as His own purchased possession.” (COL, p. 116, 117)

- **Satan wants you to worship him at the cost of your soul:**

Matthew 16:26 “For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?”

Matthew 4:8, 9 “Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and showeth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.”

Daniel 11:39 **Thus shall he do in the most strong holds with a strange god, whom he shall acknowledge and increase with glory: and he shall cause them to rule over many, and shall divide the land for gain.**

- **“...strange god”**

Deuteronomy 32:16-18 “They provoked him to jealousy **with strange gods, with abominations** provoked they him to anger. **They sacrificed unto devils, not to God; to gods whom they knew not, to new gods that came newly up, whom your fathers feared not.** Of the Rock that begat thee thou art unmindful, **and hast forgotten God that formed thee.”**

Psalm 44:20 **“If we have forgotten** the name of our God, or stretched out our hands to a **strange god;**”

Psalm 78:10, 11 **“They kept not the covenant of God,** and **refused to walk in his law;** And **forgot his works,** and his wonders that he had showed them.”

Psalm 9:17 “The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all **the nations that forget God.”**

Exodus 20:8 **“Remember** the sabbath day, to keep it holy.”

“When the foundations of the earth were laid, then was also laid the foundation of the Sabbath. I was shown that if the true Sabbath had been kept, there would never have been an infidel or an atheist. **The observance of the Sabbath would have preserved the world from idolatry.**... The fourth commandment has been trampled upon, therefore we are called upon to repair the breach in the law and plead for the desecrated Sabbath. **The man of sin,** who exalted himself above God, and thought to change times and laws, **brought about the change of the Sabbath from the seventh to the first day of the week...**” (CET, p. 86)

- *Who are them (that the papacy causes to rule over many)?*

The kings of the earth whom she rides and conducts business with:

Revelation 17:1, 2 “And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will show unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters: **With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication.**”

Revelation 18:11, 15, 19 “And **the merchants of the earth** shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more:...**The merchants of these things, which were made rich by her,** shall stand afar off for the fear of her torment, weeping and wailing,...And they cast dust on their heads, and cried, weeping and wailing, saying, Alas, alas, that great city, wherein were made rich all that had ships in the sea by reason of her costliness! for in one hour is she made desolate.”

Daniel 7:20 “And of the ten horns **that were in his head, and of the other which came up, and before whom three fell;** even of that horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spake very great things, **whose look was more stout than his fellows**”

“...divide the land for gain”

Joel 3:1-3 “For, behold, in those days, and in that time, when I shall bring again the captivity of Judah and Jerusalem, I will also gather all nations, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat, and will plead with them there for my people and for my heritage Israel, **whom they have scattered among the nations, and parted my land. And they have cast lots for my people; and have given a boy for an harlot, and sold a girl for wine, that they might drink.**”

Nahum 3:4 “Because of the multitude of the whoredoms of the wellfavoured harlot, the mistress of witchcrafts, that **selleth nations through her whoredoms, and families through her witchcrafts.**”

Revelation 18:10-13 “Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas **that great city** Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come. And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more: **The merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls,** and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet, and all thyine wood, and all manner vessels of ivory, and all manner vessels of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble, And cinnamon, and odours, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots, and slaves, and **souls of men.**”

Note: this division of the land, causes the nations to be separate, and we should then expect to see separate nations

Revelation 11:13 “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.”

Daniel 11:40 “And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him: and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over.”

- *Time of the end is 1798*

Daniel 12:6, 7 “And one said to the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, How long shall it be to the end of these wonders? And I heard the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven, and swore by him that liveth for ever that it shall be for a time, times, and an half; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished.”

- NORTH-SOUTH

Genesis 15:18 “In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates.”

Egypt is South:

Joshua 15:4 “From thence it passed toward Azmon, and went out unto the river of Egypt; and the goings out of that coast were at the sea: this shall be your south coast.”

Euphrates/Babylon is North:

Jeremiah 46:6, 10 “Let not the swift flee away, nor the mighty man escape; they shall stumble, and fall toward the north by the river Euphrates...For this is the day of the Lord GOD of hosts, a day of vengeance, that he may avenge him of his adversaries: and the sword shall devour, and it shall be satiate and made drunk with their blood: for the Lord GOD of hosts hath a sacrifice in the north country by the river Euphrates”

Jeremiah 46:20, 24-26 “Egypt is like a very fair heifer, but destruction cometh; it cometh out of the north...The daughter of Egypt shall be confounded; she shall be delivered into the hand of the people of the north. The LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, saith; Behold, I will punish the multitude of No, and Pharaoh, and Egypt, with their gods, and their kings; even Pharaoh, and all them that trust in him: And I will deliver them into the hand of those that seek their lives, and into the hand of Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon, and into the hand of his servants: and afterward it shall be inhabited, as in the days of old, saith the LORD.”

King of the South (In 1798, Spiritual Egypt→France):

Revelation 11:7-8 “And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them. And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.”

“The ‘great city’ in whose streets the witnesses are slain, and where their dead bodies lie, ‘is spiritually Egypt.’ Of all nations presented in Bible history, Egypt most boldly denied the existence of the living God, and resisted his commands. No monarch ever ventured upon more open and high-handed rebellion against the authority of Heaven than did the king of Egypt. When the message was brought him by Moses, in the name of the Lord, Pharaoh proudly answered, ‘Who is Jehovah, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not Jehovah, neither will I let Israel go.’ Exodus 5:2. This is atheism; and the nation represented by Egypt would give voice to a similar denial of the claims of the living God, and would manifest a like spirit of unbelief and defiance. The ‘great city’ is also compared, ‘spiritually,’ to Sodom. The corruption of Sodom in breaking the law of God was especially manifested in licentiousness. And this sin was also to be a pre-eminent characteristic of the nation that should fulfill the specifications of this scripture.

According to the words of the prophet, then, a little before the year 1798 some power of Satanic origin and character would rise to make war upon the Bible. And in the land where the testimony of God's two witnesses should thus be silenced, there would be manifest the atheism of the Pharaoh, and the licentiousness of Sodom. This prophecy has received a most exact and striking fulfillment in the history of France... {GC88 269.3}

King of the North (In 1798, Spiritual Babylon→Papal Rome):

Revelation 17:3-5 “So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.”

- In 1798, we see France, spiritual Egypt, pushing against Papal Rome, spiritual Babylon!

Revelation 13:10 “He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.”

Revelation 11:11-13 “And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them. 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.”

- But did we see the papacy pushing back at France in 1798? No, so how and when, did the papacy push back?

How?

...like a whirlwind

Jeremiah 4:12, 13 “**Even a full wind** from those places shall come unto me: now also **will I give sentence against them**. Behold, he shall come up as clouds, and **his chariots shall be as a whirlwind**: his horses are swifter than eagles. Woe unto us! for we are spoiled.”

Proverbs 1:27 “When your fear cometh as desolation, and your **destruction cometh as a whirlwind**; when distress and anguish cometh upon you.”

Isaiah 41:16 “Thou shalt fan them, and the wind shall carry them away, and the **whirlwind shall scatter them**: and thou shalt rejoice in the LORD, and shalt glory in the Holy One of Israel.”

Habakkuk 3:14 “Thou didst strike through with his staves the head of his villages: **they came out as a whirlwind to scatter me**: their rejoicing was as to devour the poor secretly.”

Zechariah 7:14 “But **I scattered them with a whirlwind** among all the nations whom they knew not. Thus the land was desolate after them, that no man passed through nor returned: for they laid the pleasant land desolate.”

Amos 1:14, 15 “But I will kindle a fire in the wall of Rabbah, and it shall devour the palaces thereof, **with shouting in the day of battle, with a tempest in the day of the whirlwind**: And their king **shall go into captivity**, he and his princes together, saith the LORD.”

...with chariots ...and with horsemen

1 Samuel 8:11, 12 “And he said, This will be the manner of the king that shall reign over you: He will take your sons, and appoint them for himself, for his chariots, and to be his horsemen; and some shall run before his chariots. And he will appoint him captains over thousands, and captains over fifties; and will set them to ear his ground, and to reap his harvest, and to make **his instruments of war, and instruments of his chariots**.”

2 Chronicles 16:8 “Were not the Ethiopians and the Lubims **a huge host, with very many chariots and horsemen**? yet, because thou didst rely on the LORD, he delivered them into thine hand.”

...and with many ships;

2 Chronicles 9:21, 22 “For the king's ships went to Tarshish with the servants of Hiram: every three years once came the **ships of Tarshish bringing gold, and silver, ivory, and apes, and peacocks**. And king Solomon passed all the kings of the earth **in riches** and wisdom.”

Psalms 107:23 “They that go down to the **sea in ships, that do business** in great waters”

Ezekiel 27:9 “The ancients of Gebal and the wise men thereof were in thee thy calkers: all **the ships of the sea** with their mariners were in thee to **occupy thy merchandise**.”

Revelation 18:17 “For in one hour so great riches is come to nought. And every shipmaster, and all the company in **ships, and sailors, and as many as trade by sea**, stood afar off”

Proverbs 31:14 “She is like **the merchants' ships; she bringeth her food** from afar.”

Isaiah 23:14 “Howl, ye **ships of Tarshish: for your strength** is laid waste.”

...and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over.

Jeremiah 47:2, 3 “Thus saith the LORD; Behold, **waters rise up out of the north, and shall be an overflowing flood**, and shall overflow the land, and all that is therein; the city, and them that dwell therein: then the men shall cry, and all the inhabitants of the land shall howl. At the noise of the stamping of the hoofs of **his strong horses, at the rushing of his chariots**, and at the rumbling of his wheels, the fathers shall not look back to their children for feebleness of hands;”

Psalms 69:14, 15 “Deliver me out of the mire, and let me not sink: **let me be delivered from them that hate me**, and out of the deep waters. **Let not the waterflood overflow me**, neither let the deep swallow me up, and let not the pit shut her mouth upon me.”

- **What power, that represents atheism, was attacked by the king of the north, or the papacy, with the help of the state powers?**

Communism:

“Of all the events that have shaken the Soviet bloc in 1989...the czar of world atheism, Mikhail Gorbachev, will visit the Vicar of Christ, Pope John Paul II... The meeting of the two men symbolizes the end of the 20th century’s most dramatic spiritual war, a conflict in which the seemingly irresistible force of Communism battered against the immovable object of Christianity...While Gorbachev’s hands-off policy was the immediate cause of the chain reaction of liberty that has swept through Eastern Europe in the past few months, John Paul deserves much of the longer-range credit.” (*Time*, Dec 4, 1989)

“...Communist takeover is accompanied by the destruction of churches, the killing or imprisonment of preachers, and censorship of the Bible. Thus, Communism also symbolizes atheism. ‘Godless’ and ‘atheistic’ are epithets commonly liked with Communism.” (Klatch, 1988, p. 56,-57).

“The plea always is that the Jacobins saved France and the Revolution. ‘The Revolution’ was the domination of the Jacobins; and France was not saved...Jacobinism—that is, the political lust for arbitrary domination, violence, confiscation, and murder—is now as established a disease as smallpox...: (Littell & Littell, 1888,p. 607)

“Lenin was a child of his people and of his country. When called a Jacobin he would answer: ‘We the Bolsheviks, are the Jacobins of the Twentieth Century, that is, the Jacobins of the proletarian revolution.’ Lenin was, as we have seen, the very embodiment of the idea of internationalism, and at the same time was part and parcel of the mighty revolutionary movement that the oppressed masses of Russia have been carrying on for years and year.” (United States Congress-House, 1940, p. 99)

“Until recently, the battalions of Marxism seemed to have the upper hand over the soliders of the Cross. In the wake of the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917, Lenin has pledged toleration but delivered terror. ‘Russia turned crimson with the blood of martyrs,’ says Father Gleb Yakunin, Russian Orthodoxy’s bravest agitator for religious freedom. In the Bolsheviks’ first five years in power, 28 bishops and 1,200 priests were cut down by the red sickle. Stalin greatly accelerated the terror, and by the end of Khrushchev’s rule, liquidation of the clergy reached an estimated 50,000. After World War II, fierce but generally less bloody persecution spread into the Ukraine and the new Soviet bloc, affecting millions of Roman Catholics and Protestants as well as Orthodox.” (*Time*, December 4, 1989)

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- **Did the papacy with the help of the state, attack communism and overthrow it? Yes!**

HEADLINE: “Gorby’s Bow To The Roman Legions” – *U.S. News & World Report*, Nov. 30, 1989

HEADLINE: “Days of the Whirlwind” – *Newsweek*, December 25, 1989

“In 1935 Josef Stalin, absolute ruler of the Soviet Union, was given some unsolicited advice. Make a propitiatory gesture to the Vatican, he was told. Pushed too far, his country’s Catholics might become counter-revolutionary. Stalin’s great mustached amplified his sneer. ‘The Pope. And how many divisions has he?’ The answer then was that he has none. The answer now is that he needs non. The structures of Communism are crumbling to the touch.” (*Life*, December 1989)

“When the French Foreign Minister suggested the USSR might placate the Pope by tolerating Catholicism, Josef Stalin famously quipped, ‘The Pope? How many divisions has he got?’ It is an irony of history that the figure whose weakness Stalin scorned helped to catalyze the fall of his empire...When the Holy Roman Emperor Henry IV decided to seek the pardon of Pope Gregory VII in 1077, he stood barefoot for three days in the snow outside the papal quarters in Canossa, Italy. Though *Gorbachev’s* concordat with the church was less arduous, it was *no less significant* in its way.” (*Time*, December 11, 1989)

“The late Pope John Paul II is widely regarded as pivotal to the events that ultimately led to the fall of Communism in Eastern Europe. With his churches providing meeting places that promoted the rise of Poland’s Solidarity Movement and his preaching against fear and for ‘fidelity to roots,’ John Paul II confronted Communism’s philosophy of oppression and promoted a revolution of peace. By the late 1980s, Soviet domination in Eastern Europe was crumbling under a wave of peaceful popular revolt. As former Soviet Premier Mikhail Gorbachev acknowledged in 1992, ‘Everything that happened in Eastern Europe in these last few years would have been impossible without the presence of this Pope.’” (*Defining Power, Vol. 27 (2) - Summer 2005*, Issue Retrieved July 31, 2010 from <http://hir.harvard.edu/index.php?page=article&id=1337>)

- **And was helped by the strength or “state” of the U.S.**

“In 1981, the Communist bloc got another shock. A new American President, Ronald Reagan, began fulfilling his promise to challenge the Soviets, not placate them. Over the next few years, he accelerated the military build up and announced the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), a space-based system for protecting against missile attack. He backed anti-Communist rebels in Nicaragua, Angola, Cambodia, and Afghanistan. And with American troops, he liberated the island of Grenada from Communist thugs...The Soviets’ confidence was shaken...The Western Europeans also pressured the Soviets. NATO forged again with military modernization. German voters spurned Soviet ‘peace overtures’ and elected a government that voted to deploy new intermediate-range missiles...**Military pressure from America and its Western allies had caused the Soviets to flinch.**” (*Readers Digest*, March 1990)

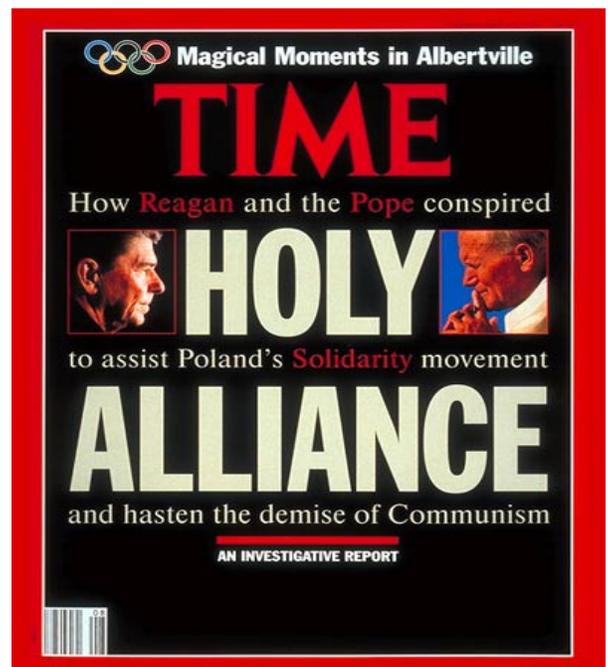
“The coming of the Cold War witnessed a campaign against international communism...**The fact that the Soviet Union was not just a military foe but a nation committed to communism and atheism posed a unique challenge to the United States.**...American anti-Communist insisted that communism was not only opposed to religion but was also a natural enemy of religion and those countries founded on belief in God and God’s word. **Thus, communism—popularly branded “atheistic communism”—became anti-American as well,** as the United States became a bulwark against it, at home and abroad.” (Le Beau, 2005, p. 11)

“The collapse of atheism did not occur only in astrophysics, biology, psychology, and medicine; it also happened in politics and social morality...The collapse of communism may be considered one of the most important examples of this. **Communism may be considered the most important political result of nineteenth-century atheism.** The founders of this ideology, Marx, Engels, Vladimir Lenin (1870-1924), Leon Trotsky (1879-1940), or Mao Zedong (1893-1976), all adopted atheism as a basic principle. A primary goal of all communist regimes was to produce atheistic societies and destroy religious belief. Stalin's Soviet Union, Mao's Communist China, Kampuchea (Cambodia), Albania, and some Eastern bloc countries applied immense pressure on Muslims and other religious people, sometimes to the point of committing mass murder. Yet, amazingly, at the end of the 1980s, this bloody atheist system collapsed. **When we examine the reasons for this dramatic fall, we see that what collapsed was actually atheism.** Patrick Glynn writes:

To be sure, secular historians would say that the greatest mistake of Communism was to attempt to defy the laws of economics. But other laws, too, came into play ... Moreover, as historians penetrate the circumstances of the Communist collapse, it is becoming clearer that the Soviet elite was itself in the throes of an atheistic "crisis of faith." Having lived under an atheistic ideology—one that consisted of lies and that was based on a ‘Big Lie’- the Soviet system suffered a radical demoralization, in every sense of that term. People, including the ruling elite, lost all sense of morality and all sense of hope.” (Glynn: *God Evidence*, p. 161-162, retrieved July 31, 2010 from http://www.riseofislam.com/rise_of_faith_08.html)

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