

Dear brethren,

Greetings from a cool day in Texas. I hope that everyone is doing well.

There is an ongoing world event that is worth noting. The Russian Ukraine crisis has been dominating the news for the last several weeks. As most might know by now, the Russians have bombarded Ukraine with numerous missiles and have launched a full scale invasion. Their goal is to destroy the Ukrainian military, remove the existing government from power and replace it with a puppet government that is subservient to Russia.

After the fall of the Soviet Union in the late 1980's, Russia was left without a natural geographical defense barrier on its western border. And thus, the Russian heartland that stretches from Moscow to St. Petersburg is uniquely vulnerable to attack from its western flank. Two foreign armies, both Hitler and Napoleon, have invaded Russia from the west through this corridor.

The Russian Empress Catherine the Great once stated "I have no way to extend my borders but to extend them." This Russian mentality still exists today. We live in a world that has rejected the tree of life and knows not the way of peace and this is how some nations seek to defend themselves.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has vowed to defend his country until the end. The Ukrainians are not willing to live under the occupation of the Russians. I would like to share with you a portion of a speech that was recently given by President Zelenskyy. Here is what he said. "I am here. We are not putting down arms. We will be defending our country, because our weapon is truth, and our truth is that this is our land, our country, our children, and we will defend all of this."

A vast amount of end-time Bible prophecy was revealed to the Church by Jesus Christ through Mr. Armstrong. And one major prophetic event that has been foretold is the final revival of the Holy Roman Empire, the unification of 10 European nations, 5 from Eastern Europe and 5 from Western Europe:

"We are now looking for the tenth and last resurrection of the Roman Empire-the seventh head of this Beast of the 17th chapter of Revelation (Rev. 17:12), which is also pictured by the ten toes of Nebuchadnezzar's image of Daniel 2:40-44. Since these toes were on the two feet that represented Eastern and Western Europe, there is strong likelihood that this final resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire will include Iron Curtain nations of Eastern Europe as well as nations in Western Europe. (Write for our two booklets *The Book of Revelation Unveiled at Last* or *Who or What Is the Prophetic Beast?*) They will form a third gigantic world power probably as great or even greater than the U.S.S.R. or United States of America."

Booklet, *Are We in the Last Days?*, Herbert W Armstrong, 1985

The recent aggression of the Russians against Ukraine is an event that we should be watching. You should also know that a new German Chancellor, Mr. Olaf Scholz, took office in December of last year and is now the leader of the nation of Germany. How he will guide and direct his country remains to be seen.

On Tuesday of this week, Germany cancelled the Nord Stream 2 Baltic Sea gas pipeline project designed to double the flow of Russian gas to Germany. The sale of Russian gas to other nations is crucial to the Russian economy. This step was taken by Germany against the Russians as an expression of their dissatisfaction with the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

In addition, numerous sanctions, that will affect the Russian economy adversely, have been imposed by European nations and the United States. It is worth mentioning that the Russians will not attack the United States. There is no Biblical prophecy that was revealed to the Church by Jesus Christ through Mr. Armstrong indicating that this will take place and thus, God will not allow this to happen.

Brethren, I feel sadness when I watch these events play out in the news. I can't imagine what the people of Ukraine are going through. But there is hope for a world with so many problems. There is good news in a world full of tragedy and this is what I try to focus on. There is a government that will soon be established on this earth which will bring true and lasting peace between nations. Nations will no longer invade other nations, nor lift up their swords, tanks and missiles against other nations. Countries will seek peace with their neighboring countries and they will find it.

We will be a part of the soon coming kingdom of God that will be established upon this earth. And I am looking forward to a time when there will be no more sadness, and a time when there will no longer be wars between nations. I am looking forward to a time when we will assist Jesus Christ in bringing peace to this earth. And I am looking forward to a time when all nations will rejoice together, and when we will rejoice with them.

Take care and keep praying for the peace that will soon be established.

In Christ's service,

Luis Garcia