

How SOLID is the ROCK of GIBRALTAR?

What's happening to Great Britain? In a few short decades, the proud might of the British Empire has dwindled enormously! Like toppling tenpins, Britain has lost India, her East African colonies, Ceylon, Suez, the Sudan. Is Gibraltar next?

by Garner Ted Armstrong

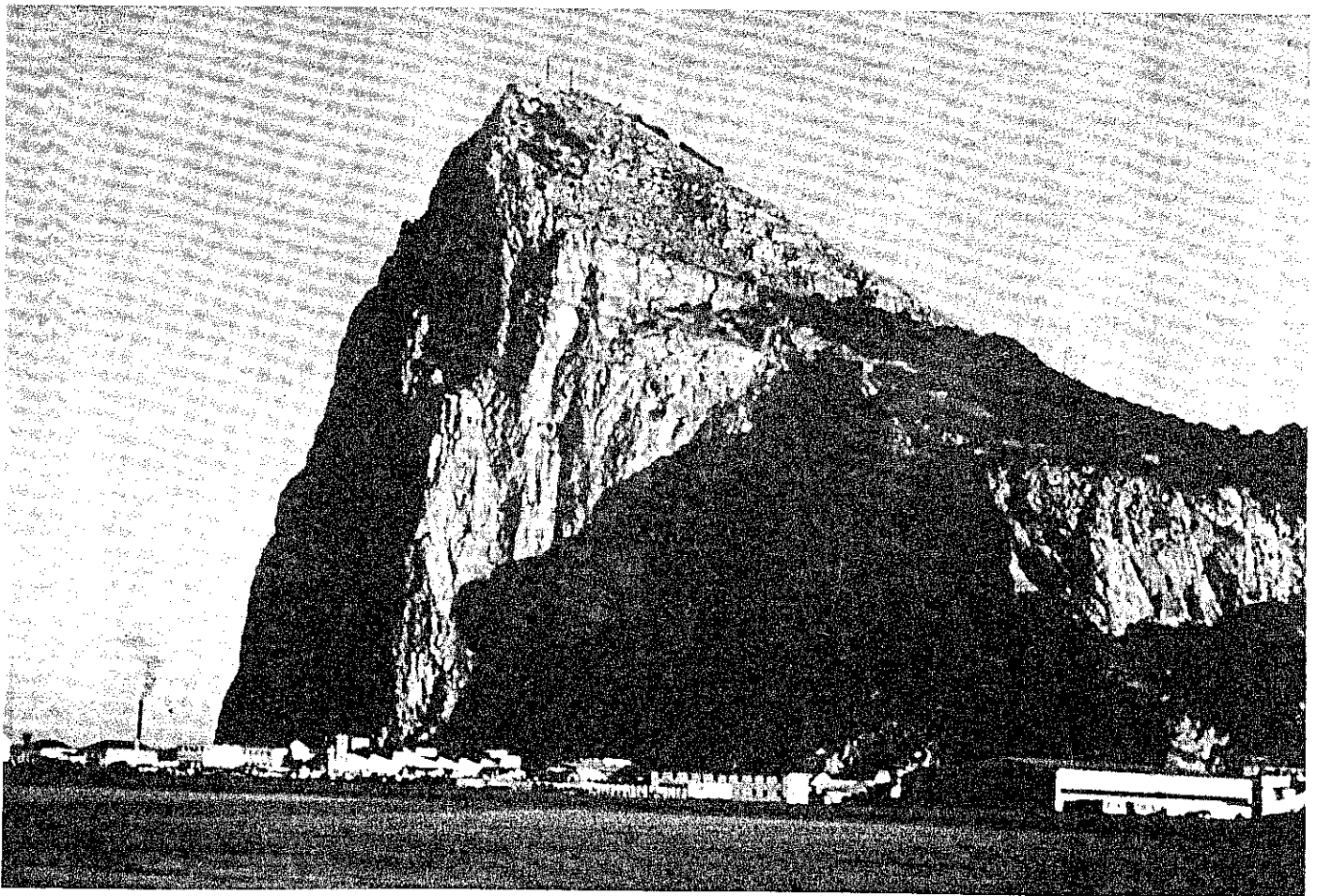
Gibraltar

AFTER more than 260 years of British rule, Gibraltar seems doomed to sink into the ignominious sea of continuing British dismantlement and retreat.

Here at the very symbol of British solidarity, there is a feeling of unrest in the air. Signs on walls say, "No Concessions to Spain" while rioting students in Madrid shout, "Gibraltar is Spain's."

The Spanish claim over Gibraltar is every bit as valid as would be a British claim over the entirety of North America. And geographical nearness is not quite enough. Spain does not demand that Portugal, for instance, become a part of Spain. But Gibraltar has been in British hands since long before the United States became a nation—1704, to be exact. In 1713, in

Utrecht, Holland, the King of Spain said, "The Catholic King [of Spain] does hereby for himself, his heirs and successors, yield to the crown of Great Britain the full and entire propriety of the town and castle of Gibraltar, together with the port, fortifications and forts thereunto belonging; and he gives up the said property, to be held and enjoyed absolutely with all manner of



Gibraltar, Britain's famous fortress guarding the western entrance to the Mediterranean Sea.

Ambassador College Photo

Amphacv

right forever, without any exception or impediment whatsoever."

Pretty final words.

From that time to this, the Rock of Gibraltar has been the symbol of British pride and power.

But now the ancient rock seems doomed to topple after all. Tourism has been hurt by Spanish harassment at the border; incoming arrivals aboard the airplane are handed printed forms informing of the difficulty in crossing the border by automobile.

Local citizens are adamant. The daily influx of thousands of Spanish workers hope to keep their jobs. But with Britain having to close down Aden because of severe financial burdens; with the United States putting the pressure on Britain to GIVE Gibraltar to Spain—thus paving the way for happier relationships in Spain for U. S. air bases—it looks as if the Rock is not so impregnable after all.

Actually, the modern hydrogen bombs have rendered the honeycombed fortress obsolete as a strategic military installation. But the economic value of its port and harbor facilities and its jet-age airstrip is enormous.

Its real value, however, is SYMBOLIC.

Read, in this article, what is happening here—HOW Britain got Gibraltar—and WHY it's being taken away. The historic "Rock" may not be such an impregnable fortress after all.

Standing athwart the approaches to the Mediterranean Sea like a sleeping lion, the Rock of Gibraltar has symbolized the power and strength of the British Empire for as long as anyone can remember.

The maze of labyrinths, tunnels, storage vaults, ammunition dumps, sleeping quarters, and hidden guns that make up the honeycombed fortress has been a symbol of British prestige and power since it was captured from Spain in 1704.

But the big rock has an Achilles' heel—and Franco's Spain seems to have found it.

Gibraltar, a peninsula only two and three quarters miles in length and three quarters of a mile wide, is jam-packed with activity.

A hustling, bustling, British fortress



UPI Photo

Mild-looking Generalissimo Francisco Franco, the world's shrewdest and longest-lived dictator. He is stubbornly, but patiently determined to get Britain's fortress of Gibraltar. His strategy can do to Britain what the Spanish Armada could not do!

with 19,000 inhabitants and 8,500 commuting Spaniards who labor in well-paying jobs daily, the Rock of Gibraltar is a tightly knit community all its own.

A major British naval base and air facility, and one of the most, if not THE most important sea gate in the world, Gibraltar has been the synonym of impregnability; the symbol of solidity in our modern world. To use the term, "as solid as the Rock of Gibraltar," is to epitomize the immovable, the indestructible. But no more.

Harassments from Behind

Now the British crown colony is being threatened from *behind*—and increasing pressure from Generalissimo Francisco Franco indicates he still hopes to get Gibraltar for his own, someday.

Since October, 1964, Spain has imposed severe restrictions at the Gibraltar frontier which have made the transit

of people and goods between the Rock and Spain extremely difficult.

Formerly, a work force of 10,000 Spaniards crossed the border daily from neighboring La Línea to work in Gibraltar's dockyard and harbor area. Since the harassment began, however, no new frontier passes have been issued. Only 8,500 come across now. Gibraltar authorities have made up part of the deficit by importing Moroccan workmen. But space for additional housing is almost non-existent.

The gradual reduction of the labor force is only one worry to Gibraltarians, however. Great damage has also been done to the once-flourishing tourist trade.

Automobile traffic into and out of the colony has ground nearly to a halt. Before the "little blockade" began, an average of 500 cars a day crossed the border. Many British tourists

liked to fly into Gibraltar, rent a car, drive out along Spain's "Costa del Sol" resort area. Other visitors came by the overland route down the coast, stopping off in Gibraltar to take advantage of the colony's free port facilities. Cameras, watches, English woolens, other bargains could be bought tax-free. Now Spanish customs authorities

Britain's sun is setting! The once-proud lion of the seas, the dominant power of the world, is rapidly becoming a weaker THIRD-class power—sharing with the United States the kicks, curses, bruises and impudence of nations which formerly trembled at the name and flag of Britain! Little do British leaders realize WHO

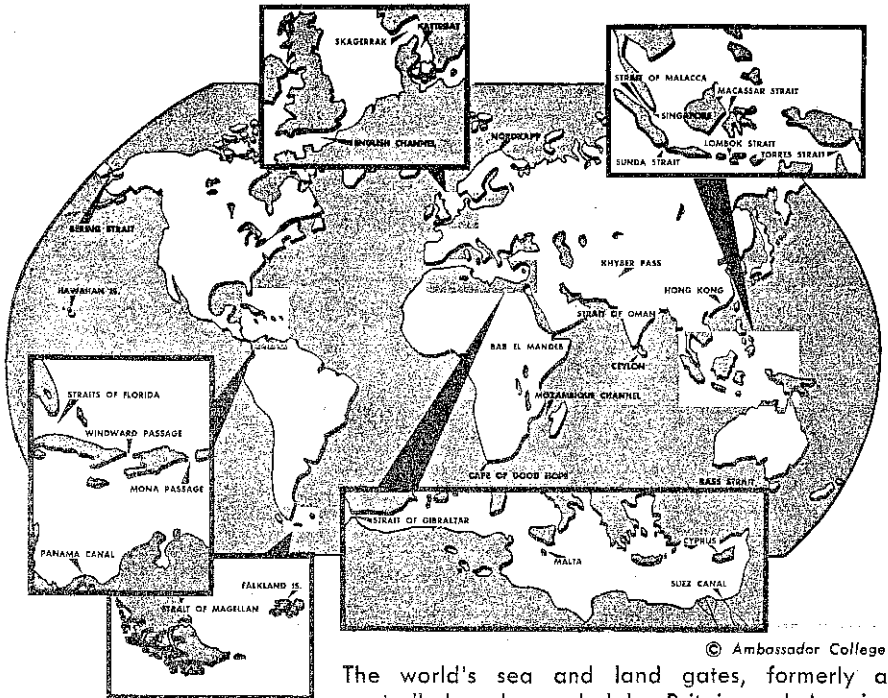
and guided missiles, Gibraltar as a naval gun emplacement is obsolete. But Gibraltar as a SYMBOL is dramatically VITAL to the British people. It is a symbol of PRIDE, and a symbol of POWER! And, *just like the many other symbols of British and American pride and power, IT WILL BE BROKEN!*

How and WHY Britain Acquired The Rock

Believe it or not, the British and American people ARE the peoples of ISRAEL in your Bible! Shocking as this sounds when hearing it for the first time, it can be carefully and easily PROVED. If you have not yet *seen* this amazing proof with your own eyes, then write for our free booklet, *The United States and The British Commonwealth in Prophecy* immediately. Anciently, God made specific promises to *Abraham* and to his seed which have long since *been fulfilled* to the British and American people.

He prophesied, "... in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and THY SEED SHALL POSSESS THE GATE OF HIS ENEMIES" (Gen. 22:17).

Skeptics and doubters of God's Word argue this remarkable prophecy refers only to Christ! They say *Christ* somehow "possessed the gates of His enemies" when He shamed the Pharisees,



The world's sea and land gates, formerly all controlled and guarded by Britain and America. One by one they are falling to other nations.

clear an average of *two cars an hour*. Some frustrated tourists have been delayed as much as 10 hours! The border guards claim the reason for obstructing traffic is to "check smuggling." But they usually don't bother to search any cars.

Even in "holiday" season, hotels are now only half occupied. Shopkeepers are really feeling the pinch. The dozen or so car-rental firms have gone out of business.

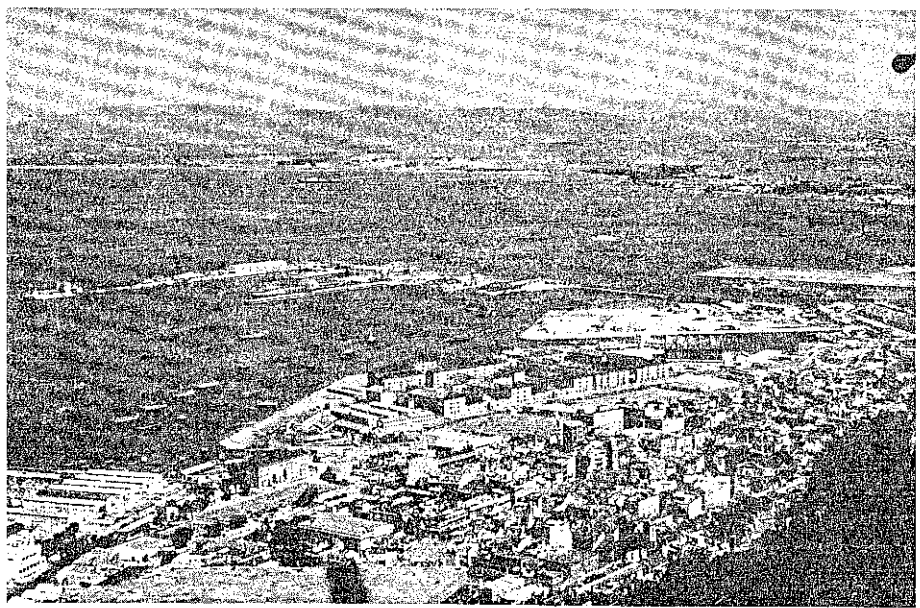
According to the Madrid newspaper *Ya* (meaning "today" or "now," in English) Generalissimo Franco's aim is to make the Rock "a ruinous burden for the British taxpayer and a grievous prison for Gibraltar's inhabitants."

The Real Impact

But FAR more important than the purely economic or military considerations is the really GREAT meaning of *what Gibraltar represents* to the British Empire!

GAVE them Gibraltar, WHY it was given, and WHY IT WILL BE TAKEN AWAY from them!

In today's world of hydrogen bombs



Port of Gibraltar, part of stronghold complex built by British.



Keystone Photo

British troops in Aden. This crown colony is one of Britain's most vital bases. It guards the south entrance to the Red Sea. Britain plans to remove its troops in the near future, leaving Aden unprotected against Yemen and Nasser of Egypt.

or when He was resurrected from the dead, or when He ascended into heaven.

But read further! The parents of Rebekah, when she had been selected to become the wife of Isaac, were inspired to say, "Thou art our sister, *be thou the mother of thousands of millions*, and LET THY SEED POSSESS THE GATE OF THOSE WHICH HATE *THEM*" (Gen. 24:60). Yes, "THEM," not "Him."

The apostle Paul explained the *duality* of the prophecies concerning the seed of Abraham when he mentioned that ONE seed which was CHRIST, and in whom all nations would be blessed (Gal. 3:16), but that ONE Seed, which was *Christ* did not fulfill the racial, NATIONAL blessings of thousands of MILLIONS of seed, of KINGS [MANY kings, *whole dynasties* of kings!]

which were also to come from Abraham (Gen. 12:1-3; Gen. 17:1-8).

And God KEPT His promise.

Today, the peoples of Israel represent only a small percentage of the total population of the world. Yet they enjoy over FIFTY percent of its wealth! Between Britain and the United States, control of almost every truly strategic and vital land and sea gate had been acquired until recent times! Look on ANY map of recent years, prior to the dramatic changes of THESE tumultuous times!

America controlled the Pacific. Our island outposts successfully stood as advance guard stations which ultimately led to the defeat of the Japanese Empire. The Aleutians, Hawaiians, Midway, Guam, Wake Island, the Philip-

pinas. Britain and America have controlled every vital shipping point of earth by important sea gates. British naval forces controlled Ceylon, the Straits of Malacca and Singapore, Hong Kong, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Zanzibar, and especially Cape Town, South Africa.

British rule extended throughout India, controlling the famous and vital Khyber Pass—the ONLY land gate from Northern India to Afghanistan, and major artery of India's landward trade. The Falkland Islands, standing offshore Argentina, gave Britain effective control of the Straits of Magellan. Britain herself, standing like a lion offshore Europe, with the famous English Channel an insurmountable obstacle to attacking armies in two world

wars, and effectively blocking the warm-water ports of the Baltic, comprises another of the MOST important sea gates.

And all this is only the beginning. The most obvious sea gates of all are Suez (now lost to British control), Panama, and Gibraltar.

Gibraltar was first captured by the British in 1704, during the war of Spanish Succession. It successfully withstood a Spanish siege from October 1704 until April 1705, and was secured to Britain by the Peace of Utrecht in 1713.

From that time to this, the great Rock has undergone siege after siege—and always remained solidly in British hands. After the Peace of Utrecht, the British spared no cost or effort to render the fortress impregnable. Again, the Spanish attempted to conquer the "rock" by siege—commencing on the 7th of March, 1727. But after Admiral Wager approached with 11 British ships of the line, the Spanish lifted the siege, and attempted to BUY Gibraltar, with the fantastic offer of TWO MILLION POUNDS STERLING (this was 1727). The British disdained the offer.

Still, the Spanish kept trying. In the war between Britain and Spain in 1779, the last attempt was made for recovery of Gibraltar by the Spanish. It was besieged for nearly four years! But again, British tenacity combined with the impregnable fortifications of the great Rock withstood attack. From that time to this, the Rock of Gibraltar has been continually strengthened until it knows no parallel anywhere on earth.

Inside, in corridors cut from 40-, 50- and 60-foot-thick limestone layers, are galleries two, three and more miles in length—wide enough to permit passage of large vehicles.

Hollowed-out gun emplacements reveal ugly snouts of huge naval rifles protruding from the face of the sheer rock walls, rising 1,400 feet above the sea. Barracks, signal stations, supply depots, hospital facilities, everything necessary for a complete CITY, and all inside a huge rock—THIS is Gibraltar, symbol of British imperturbability, the seal of stubbornness, the pride of Britain's power!

But Gibraltar is destined to fall—

NOT in glorious and heroic defense after a famous siege—but in utter ignominy. In useless and helpless sacrifice—in disgrace and shame.

A Responsibility for Every Blessing

Whether we like to believe it or not—GOD ALMIGHTY gave Gibraltar to Britain. And He fully intended she KEEP it.

But the British and American people have *forgotten* their God. They really don't know WHERE He is, don't know WHO He is, don't know IF He is! And we are not obeying His immutable LAWS!

God Almighty said, "And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the Eternal thy God, to observe and to do all His commandments which I command thee this day, that the Eternal thy God *will set thee on high* above all nations of the earth: and all these BLESSINGS shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the Eternal thy God" (Deut. 28:1-2).

Yes,—IF! The "biggest little word" in the English, or any other, language!

Then followed a chronicle of the greatest advantages, gifts, blessings, encouragements, refreshments, aids, comforts and wealth that could ever befall any people! God described a people COMPLETELY SELF-SUFFICIENT in EVERY way—the very garden spots of earth! Read verses 3 through 14 with your own eyes!

But then came the stern warning!

"But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt NOT hearken unto the voice of the Eternal thy God, to observe to do all His commandments and His statutes which I command thee this day; that *all these curses* shall come upon thee, and overtake thee: . . . The Eternal shall send upon thee *cursing, vexation, and rebuke*, in ALL that thou settest thine hand unto for to do, until thou be destroyed . . ." (verses 15-20).

Read, if you're not afraid of the truth, the rest of Deuteronomy 28! Read for yourself the alarming, frightening, awesome CURSES God prophesied would strike our peoples. And then THINK and WONDER!

Ask yourself about our deepening *social* problems, our skyrocketing *crime*, our mounting *divorce*, our horrifying WEATHER conditions, our diseases and sicknesses, our *racial* tensions and hatreds (read what God says about the "stranger" that is within thee!) and our *infamy* among the nations of the world. Read it—and wonder!

God said, "And I will BREAK THE PRIDE OF YOUR POWER . . ." (Lev. 26:19).

Gibraltar is one of the foremost SYMBOLS of the pride of British power!

God has said He will BREAK it!

Can God keep His word? Has He the POWER to interfere in the plotting of nations? Will God *make good* on His *absolute guarantee* concerning our peoples?

We HAVE broken His laws. We HAVE ignored His statutes. We have, nationally and individually, BROKEN His covenant! God says He will now carry out the national punishments He promised!

Ignominy of Defeat

One by one, the powerful overseas bases of America and Britain are being closed down, or taken over by other nations.

Look at recent history. Britain has lost her powerful sea base at Colombo, Ceylon. Cyprus, another major strategic island in the eastern Mediterranean, is the scene of deep trouble. The British East African colonies are no longer under British rule.

Suez, one of the singly most vital sea gates on the face of the earth, was grabbed by the leader of a would-be Fascist North Africa—and Britain was helpless to prevent it.

The United States has been forced to close HUGE air bases in North Africa, and finds herself *backing down* in many areas of the world. Today, the Western Allies find only deepening disagreement among themselves, while Communist and sundry nationalistic advances are made in all parts of the world.

Belgium backs out of the Congo. France loses Indochina. Holland gives over the Dutch East Indies. President Johnson promises Panamanians they are

likely to be given what they have long regarded as their own canal—maybe the United States can build a new one.

And all these nations are a part of the ISRAEL of your Bible!

Look at the record. In not one single case has the loss of one of the VITALLY important overseas areas come through "noble" defeat on the field of arms.

Rather, each has been quietly handed over; given away; or TAKEN away by violent means—daring the combined might of Britain and America to prevent it.

And now Gibraltar is the target for violent demonstrations, political speeches, economic strangulation, and constant pressure.

In February, 1965, a violent anti-British demonstration erupted in Madrid, with mobs of students chanting, "GIBRALTAR FOR SPAIN," "THE ROCK BELONGS TO SPAIN," and "HAND BACK GIBRALTAR, BRITAIN!"

A government car was turned over, and police were forced to call for reinforcements to chase fist-swinging, shouting students through the streets for hours.

What ignominious shame if, in the end, the British THEMSELVES, backing down under the mounting pressure, literally FORCE their OWN government to GIVE Gibraltar back to Spain!

Or perhaps worse yet, the British succumb to pressure from THEIR ALLY, the United States, to do so! Relations between Washington and Madrid are touchy over the status of America's huge air bases on Spanish soil. Wouldn't relations be smoothed over neatly if Spain "requests" U. S. assistance on the Gibraltar issue?

Whichever way it happens makes little difference. Gibraltar WILL go! The Creator of heaven and earth MEANS what He says—and His prophecies WILL come to pass.

Modern Spain, Today

And *why* the sudden pressure from a nation that has been only a minor power since the 1700's?

Spain is now in the midst of a big industrial boom, herself.

The *U. S. News & World Report* not long ago reported on the "new revolution" in Spain—an economic one!

Alfred Zanker, economic correspondent in Europe for the magazine said, "Booming Spain is the world's newest 'miracle' country." He told how Spain is now joining ranks with other resurgent industrial powers of this modern age.

Unemployment, long the curse of the flagging national economy, has now dropped to the vanishing point in the cities. According to American businessmen, "Today, Spain seems to be the best place in Europe to make a dollar."

But the economic boom is only a part of the story.

The real strength of Spain lies in EUROPE! For *years*, we have said on *The WORLD TOMORROW* program, and predicted in the pages of *The PLAIN TRUTH* magazine, that a UNITED STATES OF EUROPE was coming. And for years, we have predicted SPAIN would be one of the ultimate TEN nations to help form the new super-giant of world power!

According to a series of articles written from Barcelona, Spain's second largest city, by world affairs expert Dr. Thomas M. Franck, who is professor of international law at New York University, UNITY WITH EUROPE is the real aim of modern Spain.

He said, "The only hope for Spain is EUROPE!" And then added, as if to echo the very prophecies of your Bible, "Spaniards of all classes . . . the church, the rich, and the army—are all VERY

MUCH AFRAID of being LEFT OUT of the movement for European unity."

He told how Generalissimo Franco is even now preparing Spain for the inevitable period of instability following his death—and is doing it by providing two possible transitional steps to forestall any revolution.

Those steps would be return to a monarchy (Don Juan is the Pretender and rightful successor, according to Spanish dynastic law, to the throne) OR INTEGRATION WITH EUROPE!

Professor Franck said, "Catholic leaders cannot but regard the drawing together of Catholic France, Italy and Western Germany as a *historic fulfillment of the mission of Pax Romana, the unity of the Holy Roman Empire!*" (Emphasis mine throughout article.) *Prophecy marches on!*

And as Spain begins flexing its own national muscles, looking longingly toward prosperous Europe for full economic and later political integration, it will only be natural she will make sterner and more insistent demands upon Britain for Gibraltar.

Today, it is Spain talking about Gibraltar to Britain.

But what will happen when EUROPE begins to speak? To whom will Britain listen? Will Britain now hand over the Rock because of WORDS, because of THREATS, because of PRESSURE when she successfully defended against the combined might of nations in years past?

The Rock of Gibraltar may prove to be a truly rocky problem for Great Britain, and not so solid, after all.

Like it or not—believe it or not, GIBRALTAR will inevitably follow the rest of the sea gates God is now TAKING AWAY from our peoples!

It may not happen tomorrow. It may not happen this year. But it *will* happen!