

THE BIBLE MAGAZINE

A large, multi-masted sailing ship with white sails is depicted sailing on a turbulent sea. The ship is angled towards the right, with its sails partially set. The sea is dark and choppy, with white foam from the waves. The sky is filled with heavy, grey clouds, creating a dramatic and somewhat somber atmosphere. The ship's hull is dark, and a red flag is visible on the stern.

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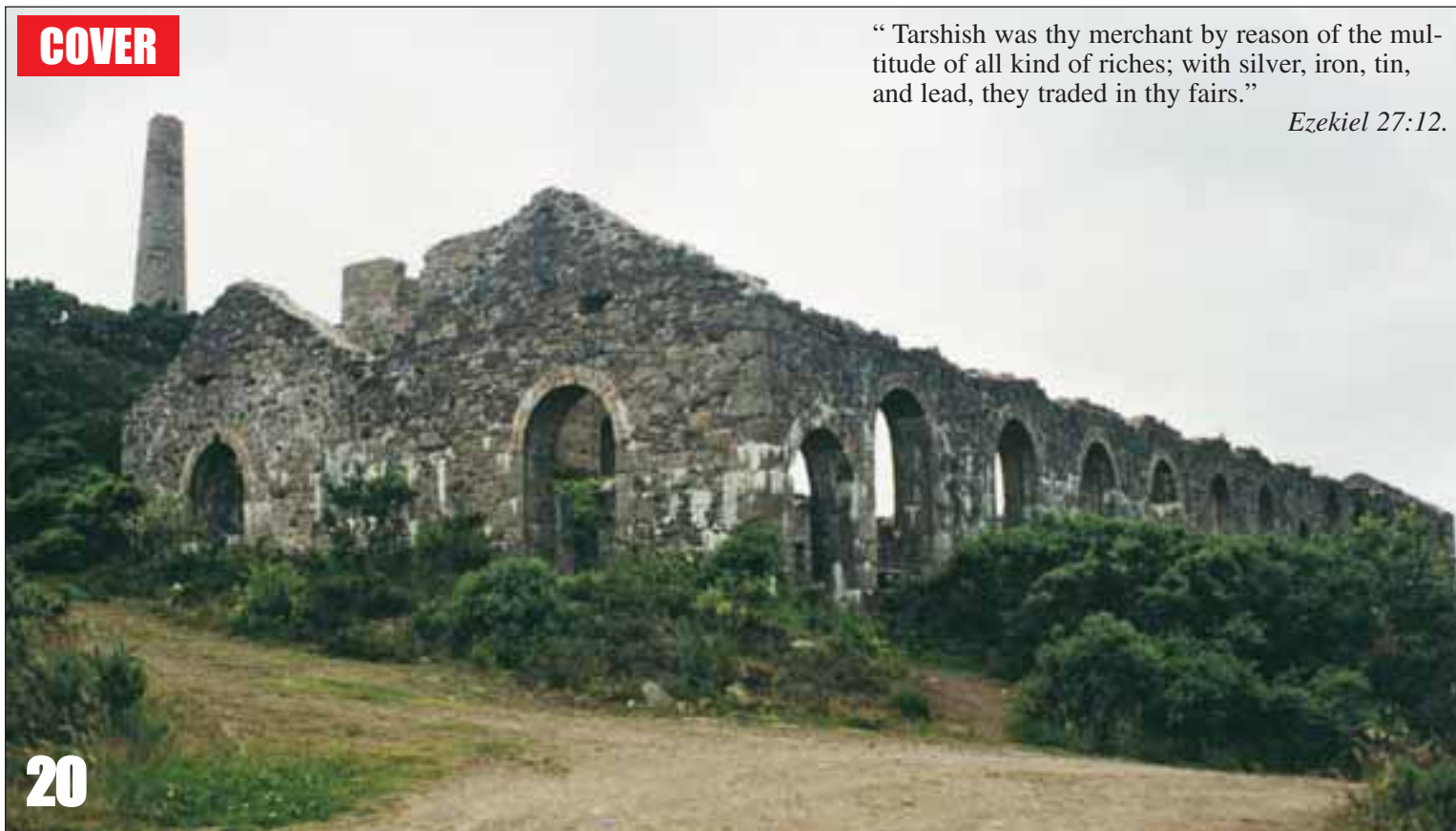
July 2007

THE MERCHANTS OF TARSHISH

THE DAUGHTER OF TYRE IN THE LATTER DAYS



COVER



“Tarshish was thy merchant by reason of the multitude of all kind of riches; with silver, iron, tin, and lead, they traded in thy fairs.”

Ezekiel 27:12.

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An old disused tin mine in Cornwall England. Tin was mined in Cornwall and Devon from ancient times, and certainly was “the only major source of tin within maritime reach of the Mediterranean region.” Copper was mined in Llandudno North Wales. The two metals combined to make bronze.

A SPECIAL ENLARGED ISSUE FOCUSING ON TARSHISH

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“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.”
John 17:17

John Ramsden helps us to put the pieces together about the identity of Tarshish.



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Paul Billington writes about *Britain, Europe & the Coming Crisis*. Britain has withstood Europe for centuries; The Spanish Armada, Napoleon and Hitler. Her strength was sea-power, and the Bible foretold of this. But where are events leading her today? A future crisis is inevitable



WRITTEN OVER 100 YEARS AGO:

BRITAIN: The Daughter of Tyre

From an article by John Thomas in *The Herald of The Kingdom & Age to Come*

Isaiah 23:12 styles Tyre *the Daughter of Sidon*; and in another verse of the same chapter, *the Daughter of Tarshish*. Tyre was Sidon's daughter in the sense of being a colony of Sidonians; and she was the daughter of Tarshish, at the same time, because Tarshish was the parent of Tyre's wealth and glory, and power, "in the heart of the seas;" being "her trafficker through the multitude of all substances; with silver, iron, tin, and lead, they furnished her fairs;" and "the ships of Tarshish were her chief traders in her market; and she was filled, and made very glorious, in the midst of the seas"—Ezek 27: 12, 25. Tyre was likewise the emporium, or commercial centre, or capital, of the fleets of Tarshish. In view, therefore, of Tyre's destruction by the Chaldeans, the prophet says, "Howl, O ye ships of Tarshish; for your stronghold is destroyed." Tyre was the stronghold of the Mediterranean and other commercial navies, as London or Britain, is at this day. The destruction of this city, would cause a howling among the ship owners and capitalists of all nations, no less piercing than at the fall of Tyre.

An attentive perusal of the prophecies concerning Tyre elicits a strong conviction that they have reference to something more than to Palae Tyre, insular Tyre, and peninsular Tyre; that is, that the history of these three Tyres or of Tyre in these three relations, does not fulfil all that the Spirit intended by the words of the prophets. In other words, that in their testimony there was an enigma, a certain hidden wisdom, which was only represented in the manufacturing, commercial, and maritime relations, of the historical Tyre—that this was typical of a remoter TYRIO-TARSHISH SYSTEM originating from the Mediterranean traffic with the same countries.

Isaiah indicates that Tyre, in the full import of his prophecy, was not confined to the little isle off the Phoenician shore. This appears from chapter 23:6, where he says to Tyre, *iv'ru Tarshishah*, Pass ye over Tarshish; howl ye, O inhabitants of the isle! Is this your triumphant city; whose antiquity is of the earliest date? *Her own feet shall carry her far away to sojourn*; Chittim arise, pass over; even there thou shalt have no rest."

From this it would appear, that Tyre was to emigrate from the Phoenician isle to Italy; but was not to abide there permanently. Tyre in Italy was the *Tyrio-Tarshish Traffic* there. But it was to find no rest there. This implies that Tyre was to remove from Italy; and become Tyre in some other place: that is, that *wherever the traffic originally peculiar to Tyre should settle itself as in a stronghold, there would Tyre, and the stronghold of Tarshish be*. Tyre was to carry herself away upon her own feet. Commerce and trade cannot be taken captive, and be compelled by a conqueror to locate itself where he pleases. They must flow in their own natural channels. A numerous, ingenious and industrious population will export and import largely; and if it get the start of surrounding nations, it will become a great centre of attraction; and

when, in its growth and prosperity, it develops into the old Phoenician similitude, there has Tyre carried herself upon her own feet; and not upon those of another. Nebuchadnezzar and Alexander might plunder her merchandise; but could not transfer her trafficking to Babylon or Macedonia. Tyre has been in Alexandria, in Venice, in Genoa, in Lisbon, in Holland, and lastly, in Britain, "far away" from her ancient home; and there "to sojourn," until she shall return over the Sea of Tarshish, to her fatherland, there to pursue a course more calculated to bless the world than she has hitherto done in her harlotry with all the kingdoms of the earth.

We proceed, then, to remark in the next place, that *the prophets teach the existence of Tyre, in this sense of the name, at the time of Christ's union with the Saints*, styled in the Apocalypse, "THE MARRIAGE OF THE LAMB." Psalm 45 from verse 9 to 15, treats of this subject. The Messiah's Queen is represented as standing on his right hand, as if arrayed in the gold of Ophir; to whom a gift shall be

presented by *the Daughter of Tyre*; which, as shown by the parallelism of verse 12, is a phrase that stands for "*the rich of a nation*" *ashirai ahm*. Paul in Hebrews 1:8 indicates the Lord Jesus as the King the sceptre of whose kingdom is a just sceptre; and in Ephesians 5 associates the Saints with him as his wife.

In Psalm 72:10, David testifies, that, when the enemies of Messiah shall be made to lick the dust, "*kings of Tarshish* and of the isles shall bring an offering; kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring near a gift." Referring to the same time, Isaiah says, "Surely the isles shall wait for me, and *the ships of Tarshish* first, to bring Zion's sons from far, etc."

This was a prediction, in general terms, of the harlot career of the Tyrio-Tarshish Traffic subsequently to its revival at the end of the seventy years, and until the apocalypse of Jehovah, and of those who then dwelt before him. This apocalypse or "manifestation of the Sons of God," is till in the future. Tyre is therefore still playing the harlot with the kingdoms of the world; and will continue so

to do until the Lord Jesus comes as a thief in the night. She will continue, on avaricious principles, to treasure up her riches, and to keep her stores, for the enjoyment of her proud, luxurious, and princely merchants; riches acquired by pandering to the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, which make up the existence of the kings, nobles, ecclesiastics, and peoples of the earth. Thus the commercial and maritime QUEEN OF THE SEA plays the harlot with all the kingdoms of the world. Tarshish, or British India, and the coasts and islands of the Sea of Tarshish (the Mediterranean) are still the Chief Traffickers in the ships of the Daughter of Tarshish, which is now synonymous with the Daughter of Tyre. But a great revolution awaits all this, and will not be long before it begins to be revealed. Isaiah says, "But Tyre's traffic, and her gain, shall be holy to Jehovah; It shall not



The badge of the British "Merchant Navy." The navy of Tyre was a Merchant Navy, carrying goods across the seas for trade.

be treasured up, nor shall it be kept in store.”

Now this has never been the case in regard to the wealth of the nations from the days of Nimrod to the present time. It has always been treasured up, and kept in store by “the world rulers of the darkness and the spirituals of the wickedness in the Heavenlies;” and those who have possessed it, have made it the sinew of their warfare against Jehovah and his land. The wealth of the commercial world has never been “*holy to Jehovah;*” but always the contrary. British India, for example, has been acquired by the Commercial Power for the purpose of enriching the proprietors of East India Stock; and it has been governed upon the principle of *patronizing idolatry for the reconciling of pagans to their politico-commercial monopoly*. The Daughter of Tyre will tolerate any thing that promises commercial advantage; and, with a great show of virtue, repudiate and denounce whatever she apprehends is becoming unprofitable, and may work to the promotion of the interests of a rival. This is harlot-like; purely earthly, animal, and demoniacal. The Tyrio-Tarshish Traffic, however, is not always to play the harlot with the nations. The decree hath gone forth that

“The riches of the sea shall be poured in upon Zion;
And the wealth of the nations shall come to her:
And the ships of Tarshish among the first:
Zion shall suck the milk of nations:
For behold, I spread over her prosperity like the great river;
And the wealth of the nations like the overflowing stream;
And that nation and that kingdom
That will not serve Zion shall perish.”—
Isaiah 60:5, 9, 12, 14; 66:12.

Thus spake Jehovah when he declared his purpose of transferring the wealth, commerce, and power of the Tyrian Harlot of the Gentile world to Zion, when she shall be called “the city of Jehovah;” and her land, “Beulah.” As yet, this transfer has never come to pass. The Tyrian Harlot still flourishes in all the gaudiness of her flashy attire; and Zion is a divorced widow, a city forsaken of Jehovah in the depths of poverty; and her land, a desolation, not desired. So long as this relative position of Tyre and Zion continues, the prophecy which concludes Isaiah 23:18, must remain unfulfilled. After declaring that Tyre’s traffic and gain should no longer be treasured up and kept in store for her merchant-princes, the prophet there says—

“For her traffic shall be for them that dwell before Jehovah,
For food sufficient, and for durable clothing.”
Or as the Spirit says in David—
“Jehovah has chosen (to be) in Zion;
He has desired it for a habitation;
This is my rest during the Cycle;
Here will I dwell for I have desired it;
Her provision, blessing I will bless;
Her poor I will satisfy with bread.”
(Psalm 132:13).

Zion, which is now trampled under the heel of Turkish despotism, is the heir of all the glory, wealth and power of the nations. Jeremiah informs us that she is to be the place of Jehovah’s terrestrial throne, when all nations will converge towards it as the seat of government, and the fountain of wisdom, knowledge, and of every good. It will then be the habitation of Jehovah’s name; that is of *Christ and the Saints*, who, when enthroned there, will be “Mount Zion, the city of the Living God, the heavenly Jerusalem,” in glorious manifestation; and to which even now all true believers are come by faith; for “they walk by faith, and not by sight” Heb. (12:22). When the city now lorded over by the Sultan, and her municipality, mostly dead and in their graves, shall be installed therein, then

“As a young man weddeth a virgin,
So will her sons have married Her;
And as the Bridegroom rejoiceth in his



Bride,
So will her Elohim rejoice in her.”—Isa. 62:5

Zion, then, according to this exposition, is to take possession of the traffic of the daughter of Tyre, who will have vast treasures stored up in her granaries, vaults and warehouses, at the epoch of the manifestation of the Sons of God. The wealth of Tyre’s daughter is the wealth of the sinner; and Solomon says that “to the sinner God giveth labour to gather and to heap up, that he may give (it) to the good in the presence of the Elohim;” and again, “the wealth of the sinner is laid up for the just.”—Ecc. 2:26; Prov. 13:22. The sinners scrape it together, and Zion’s sons inherit it, when “the time comes for them to take the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven; and to possess it all during the Olahm, and during the Olahm of the Olahms”—Dan. 7:18, 27. Paul says that “all things are theirs, and exist for their sake” (1 Cor. 3:21-23; 2 Cor. 4:15). Whatever power may therefore be identified with “the daughter of Tyre,” which sings as a harlot in these latter days, the inheritors of its power, wealth, and glory, are the believers of the gospel of the kingdom; who have rendered to its law the obedience it

demands, with a willing and affectionate heart, and termed in the Scriptures THE SAINTS.

The saints in Tyre were the HEIRS of “her traffic and gain;” not of the city itself. This has long since disappeared; while the trade continues. Tyre passed over Tarshish to Chittim, and thence far away; and never afterwards returned to Phoenicia. As we have seen this, “the daughter of Tyre,” exists in more than her ancient glory and grandeur, and is at this day “playing the harlot with all the kingdoms of the world upon the face of the earth.” This is the *Mystical Tyre* that was shut up and sealed to Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel, in the prophecies they delivered concerning Tyre. They saw Tyre falling *before* Babylon; and the ruin of Babylon afterwards by Jehovah’s Anointed Cyrus; and they saw that her traffic and gain were to be holy to Jehovah, and to be appropriated by those in his presence; but they did not see *the mystical things these events prefigured*. In this, we are more favoured than they; for being contemporary with “the time of the end,” the vision speaks, and we are enabled to understand.

Who then is this daughter of Tyre, with whom we are contemporary? The answer to this question is, that the only power extant of which the characteristics of the ancient Tyre are descriptive, is that of Britain. This will be seen by comparing the prophecies concerning Tyre with what exists in connection with Britain as a commercial and maritime community. We will here reproduce the leading characteristics which create a remarkable parallel.

1. Tyre was the mart of the nations; so is Britain;
2. Tyre was the mighty fortress of the sea; so is Britain;
3. Tyre’s merchants were princes, and her traders, nobles of the land; so are Britain’s, being, as the French say, “a nation of shop-keepers;”
4. Tyre was a Dispenser of Crowns; true also of Britain, as shown in her continental and Indian history;
5. Tyre was the Daughter of Tarshish as well as of Sidon; so is Britain the Daughter of Tarshish as well as of Tyre, and granddaughter of Sidon;
6. Tyre emigrated to, and, afterwards, beyond Chittim, and beyond the Sea of Tarshish, or Mediterranean, in and beyond which is now located the British power—the Ionian Islands, Malta, Gibraltar, and the British Isles;
7. Tyre was the stronghold of the ships of Tarshish, or ships trading to India and the coasts of the Mediterranean; so is Britain preeminently;
8. Tyre played the harlot with all the kingdoms of the world upon the face of the earth; this is true of Britain in a greater degree than of Tyre in the most brilliant period of her career;
9. Tyre’s wise men were the pilots of her state; so of Britain’s, what is called “the collective Wisdom,” are the pilots and calkers, who

navigate the vessel and stop the leaks;

10. The Tyrian and British trade are identical;

11. Tyre was the great workshop of her time; so was Britain;

12. Tyre traded in slaves; so Britain, formerly to a great extent.

13. Tyre's chief trafficker was Tarshish; so is Britain's;

14. Tyre boasted in the greatness of her wisdom, and her heart was lifted up because of her wealth; and she set her heart as a goddess, in the midst of the seas; this also is signally true of Britannia;

15. Tyre was a monarchy, whose king was bedizened with all the flashiness in which vain mortals delight; so is Britain—a commercial power tricked out in all the trappings of royalty;

16. Tyre ruled in Eden, the garden of God, and existed there at the time of her overthrow by Nebuchadnezzar; Britain's influence is also in the ascendancy there; and will yet rule there as potentially as Tyre; when the Russo-Assyrian, the Nebuchadnezzar of the latter Days, shall confederate his forces to expel her from the land;

17. Tyre was a wide-spreading, covering protector—a protecting power; the position of Britain, whose covering protectorate spread throughout the earth;

18. Great wealth and prosperity filled Tyre with violence; and through the multitude of her iniquities by the unrighteousness of her traffic, she prostituted her asylums; the same cause produces the same results in Britain; her factory system, unions, institutions, ecclesiastical merchandizings, supporting Mohammedanism, Hindooism, Popery, and so forth, for the sake of advantage—make the resemblance striking.

19. Tyre was a harlot; so is Britain; the Anglo Daughter of Babylon, the Mother of Harlots, and of all the Abominations of the earth.

The Royal Merchant-Power of Great Britain, then, for the nineteen reasons adduced, is the Daughter of Tyre; the Mystical Tyre in her development beyond Chittim, far away to the westward of its ancient predecessor and parent in the world-wide commerce of the earth. The Spirit of Jehovah, in the prophets cited, spoke *primarily* of Old Tyre and her traffic; but enigmatically, mystically, spiritually, figuratively, or typically, of the Merchant-Power of Britain.

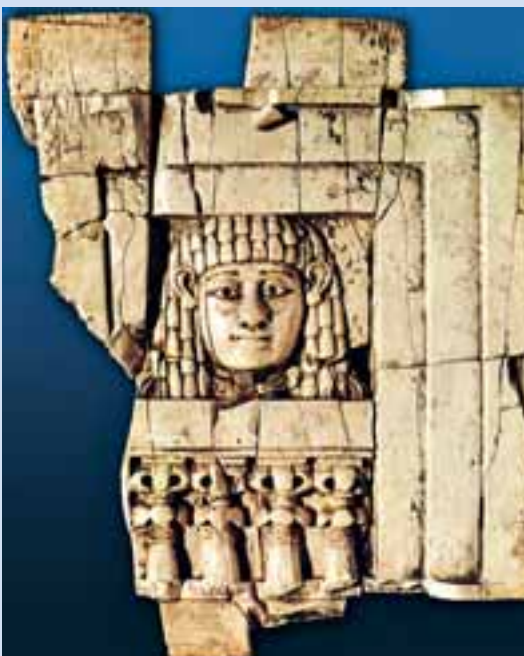
“The prophecy concerning Tyre” may be compared to a nut; this entire, consists of the hard outside shell, and the kernel within. To the eye of sense, the shell is alone apparent; and when handled by the flesh is too hard to crack: but to the mental eye, an unctuous kernel appears within. The old, historic Tyre is the broken nut-shell; while the British power is the kernel of the prophecy; which is destined “for food sufficient for those who” shall hereafter “dwell before Jehovah.” The clerical commentators on prophecy, such as Rollin, Lowth, Newcome, Newton, etc. historians and

A sketch taken from an Assyrian relief shows the King of Tyre escaping with his family to Crete.



bishops of the Apostacy, suck the shells only, and therefore fail to acquire the remotest flavour of the prophetic kernel. They can see nothing in the oracle beyond the events of a past antiquity; but God be thanked, what “the wise and prudent,” in their own conceit, could not discern with all their lore, he has “revealed to babes”—a revelation that comes by a diligent study of the Scriptures, provided that the student utterly discard the traditions and authority of all papistical and protestant “divines;” if he defers to the opinions of these, they will mislead or perplex him in every case. He must begin the study of the word by declaring his independence of them all; for they are only blind leaders of the blind, who cannot see of themselves, and ruin those that trust them.

Having ascertained the relations of things in these prophecies, we are prepared to discern the



The Harlot of Tyre looks from her window

destiny appointed for the British power and dominion. It is shadowed forth in the destiny of Ancient Tyre. As it was with this power, so it is to be with Britain. To Britain, Jehovah saith,

“Thou hast sinned, therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God; I will destroy thee, O Covering Protector, from Stones of Fire;

I will cast thee to the ground;

I will lay thee before Kings that they may look upon thee.

I will cause to go forth a fire out of thee which shall devour thee;

I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth,

Before the eyes of all that look upon thee:

All that know thee among the peoples shall be astonished at thee;

Thou wast calamities; and shalt be nothing during the Olahm.”

Britain has sinned as did Tyre of old; and has not reformed.

“Her heart is lifted up because of her beauty; And she has corrupted her wisdom by reason of her glory.”

The British power will have to contend with the whole strength of Babylon; which will prevail against her so far as to expel her from Egypt, Jerusalem, and Palestine; and she will fall, not by Babylon the Great, but by “STONES OF FIRE;” and *before* the Great City is overthrown to rise no more. These Stones of Fire, are Christ, the “Precious Stone;” and the Saints, the “Living Stones;” from whom a fiery destruction, the Jews being the channel, will stream forth against the Daughter of Tyre, or Britain; and all the Continental Kingdoms of the Earth and Habitable. These Stones of Fire are “THE KINGS” that shall look upon the Tyrian Harlot prostrate at their feet. They are Jehovah's Kings, who shall utterly abolish the empire of Britain. They will reduce the nations of the British Isles to perfect subjection to the King of Israel then dwelling in Jerusalem. The royal Family, the hereditary nobles, the orders of their Harlot Churches, her merchant-princes, legislators, and gentry, as the stars of the Tyrian heavens, will be cast to the ground; and deprived of all honour, wealth, position, and power, which will be appropriated by the victors. The merchant-kingdom will be reduced to ashes by the judicial fires destined to devour her both within and without. The fall of such a rich and powerful state will be “calamities,” or terrors, to all, commercially, financially, or in any other way, connected with her. Their hearts will fail them for fear, and anticipation of what shall break forth upon themselves. The Daughter of Tyre will become a dissolving view; the ships of Tarshish will howl for her departure; and the once powerful Harlot-Mistress of the Sea shall have no political existence “*during the Olahm*,” nor beyond.

“Her traffic and her gain shall be holy to Jehovah;

It shall not be treasured nor shall it be kept in store;

For Her traffic shall be for them that dwell before Jehovah,

For food sufficient and durable clothing.”

Commenting upon the article by John Thomas (see page 3), the late Graham Pearce wrote the following remarks in a small periodical entitled *Simplicity Toward Christ* in December 1950

By Graham Pearce

The prophets in the ministry of God's Word gave knowledge of events belonging to their immediate future and also of events a long way off. Frequently when writing of their own times they include statements that go forward to that great crisis in Israel's history at the end of the days.

By putting together various scriptures we are able to understand that a somewhat similar disposition of nations will exist in what we now call the Middle East at the time of the end, as existed in the time of the prophets. In the prophets' time there were major powers to the north and south of Israel,—Assyria, Babylon and Egypt,—and there were smaller surrounding nations, as Moab, Ammon, Midian, Tyre, etc. After long ages of desolation in this region, God has willed that such nations shall again arise. As the prophet says of Moab:

Britain, the Tyre of the Late

“Yet will I bring again the captivity of Moab in the latter days, *saith the LORD*;—Jer. 48:47. It has been our great privilege to witness already with our own eyes the early stages of this re-creation of nations in the Middle East.

It is because God has willed this latter-day development similar to the original, that the prophets were able, when writing of their own time, to foreshadow also events so far away. In most cases they wrote primarily of their own times, but in the light of a few peculiar passages which they interspersed in their prophecy, we, 3,000 years later, are able to have a general picture of events in the epoch of Israel's restoration. We can take only a general picture, for the situation is only similar, not identical. In the prophets' time Israel was entering upon her down-treading of the Gentiles, whereas at the time of the end she is near to her restoration to faith and favour, with the surrounding nations in subjection to her king. Nevertheless, the situation is sufficiently similar for God to be able to use the prophets' message concerning the apostacy of the kingdom of Israel, the confederacies, and the invasions of Israel, also as an outline of the situation at the time of the

end.

An Illustration

The case of Assyria well illustrates how the prophets spoke of their own times and also of the time of the end. Many are acquainted with the phrase “the latter-day Assyrian.” Isaiah chapter 10 is one prophecy concerning Assyria that illustrates the dual presentation of the prophet.

The prophet at the beginning of this chapter describes the Assyrian, and his work for God: (v.5)

“O Assyrian, the rod of mine anger, and the staff in their hand is mine indignation. I will send him against a hypocritical nation, and against the people of my wrath will I give him a charge, to take the spoil, and to take the prey, and to tread them down like mire in the streets.”

Then the chapter deals with the pride of the Assyrian: (v. 15) “Shall the axe boast itself against him that heweth therewith?” So destruction is certain for the Assyrian. The prophet writes: (vs. 16, 17). “Therefore shall the Lord, Yahweh of Hosts, send among his fat



As with Ancient Tyre, B
an Empire Based upo



Above: Sennacherib upon his throne. A situation contemporary with Isaiah the prophet who was able to project the circumstances of his time into a similar one that would exist in the latter days. Just as the Assyrians came down upon the kingdom of Judah, so in the latter days a northern power would invade the Land. In just the same way the prophecies concerning Tyre will have their counterpart in the last days.



Britain built on Trade Latter Days

ones leanness; and under his glory he shall kindle a burning like the burning of a fire. And the light of Israel shall be for a fire, and his Holy One for a flame: and it shall burn his thorns and his briers in one day."

There was a fulfilment of this when Sennacherib's army besieging Jerusalem was miraculously destroyed in one night, and a fifth of a million were dead corpses by the hand of the angel of the Lord; graphically illustrating the Psalmist's words: "Who maketh his angels spirits, his ministers a flaming figure" (Psa. 104:4). But Isaiah continues in this chapter: "And it shall come in that day, that the remnant of Israel, and such as are escaped of the house of Jacob, shall no more stay upon him that smote them; but shall stay upon the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, in truth." This was not fulfilled in Hezekiah's time. So we deduce that there must yet be a glorious overthrow of the Assyrian by the "light of Israel and his Holy One," even Christ and his brethren, in an epoch when the remnant of Israel "stay upon the LORD," and there shall be a restoration "overflowing in righteousness" (v. 22).

So again a little further on in the chapter the

prophet encourages the faithful, like Hezekiah, (vs. 24-7). "Be not afraid of the Assyrian... for yet a very little while, and the indignation shall cease..." But v. 27 adds: "And it shall come to pass in that day, that his burden shall be taken from off thy shoulder, and his yoke from off thy neck, and the yoke shall be destroyed *because of the anointing*."

Now Jesus is the Anointed, the Christ, the Messiah; and "the anointing" doubtless refers to the presence of Christ and his brethren in spirit power. The phrase "because of the anointing" makes us look for further fulfilment, still future, of the destruction of the Assyrian.

So we are certain from what the prophet writes in this chapter that there is to be a latter-day representative of the Assyrian, who will come against "the hypocritical people" and then be destroyed by Christ. There is to be a similar power to carry out a similar work against Israel, after which Israel's day of righteousness will have arrived. It is after this style of the prophet's dual prophesying that we are able to learn so much of the time of the end.

Prophecies concerning Tyre

But the Assyrian is only an example. The intention here is to speak more particularly of Tyre and a latter-day Tyre. Tyre was contemporary with Israel, and both Isaiah and Ezekiel prophesy concerning her and her relation to Israel. They write after the same style of dual prophecy as Isaiah ch. 10, and we are able to see that what happened to the original kingdom of Tyre will have a further fulfilment with a latter-day Tyre. Now this is surely of great interest to those who live in the land of the latter-day representative of the Tyrian system. These prophecies concerning Tyre can give us some guidance as to God's view of Britain and what He intends to do with her.

It is the prophet Ezekiel who writes most fully about Tyre, occupying three chapters to describe her glory, her pride and iniquity, and her downfall. And at the end of ch. 26 we read:

"When I shall bring thee down with them that descend into the pit, with the people of old time, and shall set thee in the low places of the earth, in places desolate of old, with them that go down to the pit, that thou be not inhabited; and *I shall set glory in the land of the living*; I will make thee terrors, and thou shalt be no more: though thou be sought for, yet shalt thou never be found again, saith the Lord GOD" (vs. 20, 21).

This is very plain. Although Ezekiel's prophecy of desolation was certainly fulfilled in the original city of Tyre and her merchant polity, yet from this there must be a similar happening at the time when God sets glory in the land of the living. "Glory in the land of the living" belongs to the kingdom of Christ. Therefore at the time he sets up his Glory there is to be a Tyrian power who is to be made desolate, to be terrors and to be "no more for the olahm."

Following the 26th chapter, the 27th is occupied with a description of the trade and

commercial wisdom of Tyre; and the 28th chapter speaks of the beauty, the prosperity, the iniquity and violence of the "Prince" (the rulers) of Tyre. And at the end of both these prophecies the same phrase that is at the end of the 26th chapter is repeated: "therefore thou shalt be terrors," and "not for the olahm." Three times therefore there is the clear pointer that there is to be a Tyrian merchant system at the time of the end in which the descriptions of these three chapters are to receive a further general fulfilment; a Tyrian power which is to be destroyed and to have no part in the olahm or kingdom of Messiah. It is to be an astonishment, or terrors, when God sets His glory in the land of the living.

The Migrations of Tyre

Now it is important to ascertain in what way Britain is the latter-day representative of Tyre, in order that we may not misunderstand what this destruction means.

Britain is the latter-day Tyre, not because she exists where Tyre existed, but because she inherits and manifests Tyre's characteristics. She is a Tyrian merchant system; and bears the same relation to the world of today, as Tyre did to the world of Ezekiel's day. Often in Scripture usage the latter-day power takes its title partly because it occupies the same geographical area; as, for instance, Jordan today is the fulfilment of the decree: "Yet will I bring again the captivity of Moab in the latter-days." But Scripture forewarned us that this would not be so for Tyre. The prophet Isaiah precisely declared that Tyre, or rather the Tyrian system, would migrate to other lands. He describes the migrations of Tyre in these words:

"As at the report concerning Egypt, so shall they be sorely pained at the report of the Tyre. Pass ye over to Tarshish; howl ye inhabitants of the isle. Is this your joyous city, whose antiquity is of ancient days? Her own feet shall carry her afar off to sojourn."

"The Lord hath given a commandment against the merchant city, to destroy the strongholds thereof. And he said, Thou shalt no more rejoice, O thou oppressed virgin, daughter of Zidon: arise, pass over to Chittim; there also thou shalt have no rest" (Isa. 23:5-7, 11, 12).

John Thomas ably explains this in his article on Tyre (Page 3).

The Identification of Britain with Tyre

Isaiah's prophecy indicates not only that Tyre was to migrate to Chittim (Venice), but as John Thomas has shown, the prophet Isaiah by the spirit foretold the continuity of the Tyrian



Coin from Ancient Phoenicia

system down to the Britain of today. Later in the article he consolidates his demonstration of Britain as the latter-day Tyre by drawing a “remarkable parallel.”

Some queries come to mind in this application of Ezekiel ch. 28 to Britain, and we will look at these in a moment; but it is clear beyond doubt that Tyre’s character is the character of Britain, and Tyre’s fall typifies the end of the British system.

Instructive to us

This burden against Tyre is a very valuable prophecy that God has allowed to come down to us in the Scripture of Truth. This prophecy is particularly useful in correcting that attitude, common today, where some regard Britain as having a special status in the eyes of God. Britain is thought of as working for God, and being on the “right” side in time of war. Although temporarily astray, she is thought of as the defender of God’s people, and having an honourable part to play when Christ is here.

These sentiments have been expressed many times since 1917. Now such mistaken sentiment should be corrected by these prophecies of Isaiah and Ezekiel concerning Tyre and Britain. In God’s eyes, Britain is a harlot, full of iniquity and violence, prostituting her honour for commercial gain. And the judgements of the present century upon her are to be increased; her trading system, which is her very life-blood, is to be broken; and she is to be dependent upon the mercy of the new king in Zion for the continuance of her life as a subject people.

It will help our assessment of Britain if we realise that her destiny is not substantially different from that of the latter-day Assyrian. The latter-day Assyrian has a work to perform for God,—against Israel, and against Britain,—and he is then to be himself broken by Christ. Subsequently Assyria becomes part of the kingdom of God as a subject nation. “In that day shall Israel be a third with Egypt and Assyria, even a blessing in the midst of the land” (Isa 19:24). So it is with Britain, her power is broken, and then she is permitted to enter the kingdom as a subject nation.

The Latter-Day Tyre in her Relation to the Kingdom of God

The position occupied by Britain at the setting up of the kingdom in Zion is clearly defined in Psalm 45. This Psalm speaks of the things concerning the king in the day of his glory. Messiah’s Queen is described in verses 8-11, and the daughter of Tyre in verse 12:

“Hearken, O daughter, and consider, and incline thine ear; forget also thine own people, and thy father’s house; So shall the king greatly desire thy beauty: for he is thy Lord; and worship thou him. And the



Above: The Royal Charter granted to the Hudson Bay Company in 1670 by King Charles II.

Right: A typical marking on a cedar chest of the East India Company founded in 1600.

Commercial interest is what brought into being the British Empire, and after it the Commonwealth. This was the character of Tyre.



daughter of Tyre shall be there with a gift; even the rich of a nation shall intreat thy face.”

The “gift” or “present” (Psa. 72:10) is tribute. Several passages of Scripture illustrate this, as for instance in 2 Kings 17:3-4, where Hoshea’s subjection to the king of Assyria is described: “Against him came up Shalmaneser king of Assyria; and Hoshea became his servant, and gave him presents. And the king of Assyria found conspiracy in Hoshea: for he had sent messengers to So king of Egypt, and brought no present to the king of Assyria, as he had done year by year: therefore the king of Assyria shut him up, and bound him in prison.” Similarly in 2 Kings 18:31. So we understand that when the throne is set up in Zion, the Tyre-nations shall bring tribute, and intreat the favour of the new king.

This placing of her possessions at the feet of the new king is further described in the end of Isaiah’s chapter on Tyre: “But Tyre’s traffic, and her gain, shall be holy to the Lord; it shall not be treasured up, nor

“ In God’s eyes, Britain is a harlot, full of iniquity and violence, prostituting her honour for commercial gain. ”



A 1941 Canadian journal depicts the Commonwealth Family of nations

shall it be kept in store” (ch. 23:18).

So, by piecing together Ezekiel chapters 26-8, Psalm 45 and Isaiah chapter 23, we have the picture, first of the complete destruction of the power and commercial system of the latter-day Tyre, and then her acceptance into the Kingdom as a part of the empire of the new king, all her possessions passing to the conqueror.

Although Britain has been greatly impoverished by war, she still has much wealth, industrial skill and potential wealth, especially when one includes the vast Commonwealth.

The Ships of Tarshish Broken with an East Wind

The name Tarshish as well as Tyre is linked with Britain. It is often demonstrated that the British merchant power is intended in the words of Ezekiel 38:13 “the merchants of Tarshish with all the young lions thereof.” We are able to explain that the eastern and western Tarshish of the prophet’s day point to India and Britain; and that the phrase “the young lions” very appropriately describes the British family of nations. Tarshish and Tyre are also linked

together in Isaiah chapter 23. Tyre is called the daughter of Tarshish.

There is no doubt that the British power is represented both by Tyre and Tarshish in the latter days.

We have already seen how the destruction of the British merchant system is foreshadowed in Ezekiel's prophecies concerning Tyre (chs. 26-8). Isaiah describes the same destruction, but relates it to Tarshish. "For the day of Yahweh of Hosts shall be upon every one that is proud and lofty...and upon all the ships of Tarshish" (Ch. 2:16). Psalm 48 speaks similarly: "Thou breakest the ships of Tarshish with an east wind." This is usually interpreted as a naval disaster. If interpreted literally it must mean that God causes a mighty gale to destroy the fleet. But the words are meant to express more than a naval disaster. The "ships of Tarshish" are a figure for the British mercantile power, and the "east wind" is a figure for an eastern Mediterranean power hostile to Britain. The context of the verse in Isaiah shows that it is not to be understood literally. The "day of Yahweh of Hosts" is upon all "the cedars of Lebanon," the "oaks of Bashan," and "the high mountains," as well as upon the "ships of Tarshish." God's anger will not be upon literal trees and mountains, but upon the nations and empires represented by these figures; and if the trees and mountains are symbols, so are the ships.

Following the rule of allowing the Scriptures to interpret themselves, we find a closely parallel phrase to "the ships of Tarshish broken with an east wind," in Ezekiel 27:26. "Thy rowers have brought thee into great waters: the east wind hath broken thee in the midst of the sea." The whole of Ezekiel ch. 27

is a sustained figure in which Tyre is described as a beautiful ship, with boards of fir tree, rowing seats of ivory, sails of fine linen with brodered work, etc. The "rowers" that brought her into great waters were her rulers and business men; the "east wind" by which she was broken was the power of Babylon. So, returning to Isaiah ch. 2, where the prophet is speaking of "the last days" when God's judgements are made manifest against all the ways of men and the mount Zion rulership is

“ Both the latter-day Tyre and the latter-day Assyrian are destroyed by Christ. ”

established above all human dominion,—in the top of the mountains; at that time the "ships of Tarshish" and the "cedars of Lebanon" are broken. Both the latter-day Tyre and the latter-day Assyrian are destroyed by Christ.

The context of the phrase in Psalm 48 is worth a little attention. "Thou breakest the ships of Tarshish with an east wind" is dropped in quite unexpectedly. The previous verses are describing the "city of God" that is being built, and kings coming to observe it with astonishment and humility. "For, lo, the kings were assembled, they passed by together. They saw it, and so they marvelled; they were troubled and hasted away." Clearly, these are the captive rulers, brought to Jerusalem, just as Nebuchadnezzar took Zedekiah and the kings of the other nations to Babylon (see also Isaiah

24:21-3). The British power having been broken, their rulers will be amongst these captive kings. Hence the appropriateness of the phrase that follows: "Thou breakest the ships of Tarshish with an east wind."

The "east wind" that breaks the "ships of Tarshish" is in the first place the latter-day Assyrian; but it also includes the new Zion power under Jesus and his brethren. As John Thomas said, Britain at the last has to contend with both Babylon and with the "Stones of Fire." His words were a deduction from Ezekiel's prophecy concerning Tyre in Chapter 28; and as we have shown, they are confirmed by the prophecy in Psalm 48 on the destruction of the ships of Tarshish with an east wind.

Cast out from the "Stones of Fire"

The interpretation of the "Stones of Fire" in Ezekiel chapter 28 as Jesus and his brethren seems appropriate. But there must also be a past fulfilment of the prophecy and a sense in which the Prince of Tyre has already walked up and down amongst the Stones of Fire. As a cooperator with Solomon the "Prince of Tyre" may well be described as being "upon the holy mountain of God." And presumably the "Stones of Fire" amongst whom he walked were the High Priest, Judges, Princes and King, of God's kingdom. Seeing that the Prince of Tyre is described as a "cherub," "perfect in beauty," covered with "every precious stone," it is not too high a figure to describe the Stars of Israel's Heavens as "Stones of Fire."

It should be understood that the total destruction of the Tyrian harlot means the destruction of the system, and not the destruction of all British people.

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CHURCHILL

& THE JEWISH NATIONAL HOME



Sir Martin Gilbert in London, Ontario. April 2007.

REPORT ON A LECTURE DELIVERED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO BY SIR MARTIN GILBERT THE WELL-KNOWN HISTORIAN

In April 2007 Sir Martin Gilbert the noted historian delivered a lecture at the University of Western Ontario located in London, Canada. This report on that lecture will include many extensive and direct quotes from a recording of what Sir Martin Gilbert had to say. Much of this material appears in his recently published book: *Churchill and the Jews*.

Sir Martin began: "You have asked me to speak this afternoon on Churchill and the Jewish National Home in Palestine. Churchill's knowledge of Jewish national aspirations began in 1904 when he was just 30 years old and was selected to be the candidate for the constituency of Manchester North West in England, which was a constituency some one third of whose electors were Jewish, another third essentially were Roman Catholics mostly of Irish descent, and eventually it was his Irish policies which led to him being defeated in that particular constituency. When he reached Manchester he discovered that his Jewish constituents were at the forefront of Zionist activity. But they were also involved, and were at the centre of the debate raging in Britain at that time as to whether the Jewish people, who were confronted by intense anti-Jewish persecution in Russia—the Kishinev pogrom had taken place about a month before he was selected to be a candidate there—whether they should try to press for a national home in Palestine which was under Turkish rule at a time when the

Turks were quite hostile to the idea (the Ottoman Turks), or whether they should press for some alternative under British protection. And two areas had been offered to the Zionist movement: One in 1902 was the northern Sinai peninsula centred on El Arish, and the other in 1904 when Churchill came on the scene was what is now the Ugandan-Kenyan highlands. And it was Manchester's Zionists who were the greatest supporters among British Jews for the Ugandan option. They were known as the Territorialists, and they were led by Israel Zangwil, the great Jewish writer and novelist. And Churchill spent many hours discussing with them (and with Zangwil) whether the Jews should settle for Uganda, or should continue to put their focus on Palestine. And he took the view that it really should be Palestine; that that was their historic homeland; that was the true goal of the Zionist movement. And they appreciated his efforts on their behalf, both to protest against the pogroms, and also to be a favourable voice in the cabinet for Jewish aspirations, which he joined in 1905. He was also a quite ferocious opponent of anti-Semitism..."

In illustration of this the lecture turned to the 1911 pogrom against Jews that took place in South Wales and how Churchill sent police, and then troops to put a stop to it. Although criticized for this action Churchill defended his actions.

At his first public meeting in Manchester,



Churchill, and behind him Lawrence of Arabia

Sir Martin said that Churchill found himself on the same platform as Chaim Weizmann and from that time the two men became firm friends.

Churchill spent two years in the political wilderness and was not involved with the drafting of the Balfour Declaration of 1917. However, in a widely published article in 1920 Churchill contrasted the destructive efforts of Jewish leaders of the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia with the constructive efforts of those involved in the Zionist movement. Sir Martin quoted the following from that article:

"If, as may well happen, there should be created in our own lifetime by the banks of the Jordan a Jewish State (under the protection of the British Crown) which might comprise three or four millions of Jews, an event would have occurred in the history of the world which would, from every point of view, be beneficial."

"At that time" said Sir Martin Gilbert, "there were some 60 to 70,000 Jews in Palestine, and anybody who imagined that there might one day be a State of three to four million, certainly understood even better than many Zionist leaders what the potential of Zionism was."

"As a result of this article the British Prime Minister, David Lloyd George, asked Churchill to become Colonial Secretary and to take special responsibility for the British Mandate in



abia with Emir Abdullah pictured in 1921.

what form the Jewish National Home should take, and what commitments Britain should make to its evolution, and its relationship with the Arabs of the region.”

In order to gather first-hand information Churchill went to the Middle East in March of 1921, going first to Cairo and then via Gaza to Jerusalem. Sir Martin described the apparent enthusiasm with which he was met by the Arabs of Gaza who chanted: “Long live the British Minister, and Death to the Jews!” Churchill had experienced Islamic extremism before this and had written in his book *The River War* (published in 1899):

“Individual Muslims may show splendid qualities, but the influence of the religion paralyzes the social development of those who follow it. No stronger retrograde force exists in the world today, and far from being moribund, Islam is a militant and proselytizing faith. It has already spread throughout central Africa, raising fearless warriors at every step, and were it not for the fact that Christianity is sheltered by the strong arm of science, the civilisations of modern Europe might fall as others civilisations have fallen before it.”

Travelling with Churchill on this journey, Sir Martin said, was Colonel Lawrence (the famed Lawrence of Arabia). He knew a great deal about the Arabs, and also about the Jews. Our lecturer continued:

“1909 was the foundation of the very first kibbutz just south of the sea of Galilee. And Lawrence wrote a letter home which I found in his private archive describing his visit to Galilee, and bemoaning the fact that the local Arab population were neglecting the region terribly. And he has a very extraordinary sentence in his letter. he writes: ‘The sooner the Jews farm it all, the better. Their colonies are the one bright spot in this desert.’ Churchill knew of Lawrence’s views. On the first anniversary of the Balfour Declaration Lawrence had issued a public statement: ‘Speaking entirely as a non-Jew, I look on the Jews as the natural importers of western leaven, so necessary to the countries of the near East.’

“When Lawrence and Churchill reached Jerusalem they met (as seen in the photograph above) the Emir Abdullah, the brother of Feisal who led the Arab revolt. The situation was that at the Cairo Conference, Churchill proposed establishing Feisal as the leader of this Arab family, as king in Damascus—as king of Syria—which is what Feisal wanted. But the French had taken Syria and refused to contemplate having any form of Arab sovereignty or Arab rule. And so Churchill offered Feisal—and Feisal had accepted—the throne of Iraq (and became king of Iraq). And he and Lawrence were trying to work out a way of protecting the Jews (65 to 70,000 Jews) in Palestine, whose numbers were going to grow, if the Mandate came into force—of protecting them from what Churchill had seen in Gaza, the terrifying Arab hostility. And so they summoned Feisal’s brother Abdullah (the younger brother) to Jerusalem, and they offered

“The Bible had fascinated him—and what had fascinated him most was the Promise made by God to the Jews”

him the throne of what was then Trans-Jordan with its capital in Amman, in return for him allowing the National Home to be established between the Mediterranean Sea and the river Jordan—that is to say today’s Israel and the West Bank combined. And, provided he gave a pledge that he would suppress all anti-Zionist activity among his followers and in his kingdom. Abdullah accepted the throne of Trans-Jordan, and he accepted the conditions which Churchill had made—in fact Lawrence had gone down to Jericho the day before that meeting in Jerusalem to explain to Abdullah exactly what it was he was being asked to accept.”

Sir Martin then told of Churchill’s meeting with Arab petitioners who wanted him to renounce the Balfour Declaration—based on the evidence that they presented from the *Protocols of the Elders of Zion*. He refused to do so. He also met with Jewish petitioners who informed him of their desire to live in peace with their Arab neighbours, and to contribute to their future prosperity. The lecture then moved to a different angle.

“There was something else in Churchill’s relationship to the Zionists, and to the concept of a Jewish National Home. He had, since his childhood—as indeed many British school children had—known the Bible better than any other book. The Bible had fascinated him—and what had fascinated him most was the Promise made by God to the Jews, by the story of the Jewish struggle—the Passover story in particular—the story of Moses and the nature of the Jewish ethic. And this is something in Manchester which he had been very struck by—the work and ethic of the Jewish community. And when he spoke the next day in Jerusalem at a general gathering, he said rather astonishingly (it astonished me when I came across it): ‘We owe to the Jews in the Christian revelation a system of ethics which, if it were entirely separated from the supernatural, would be incomparably the most precious possession of mankind, worth in fact the fruits of all other wisdom and learning put together. On that system and by that faith there has been built out of the wreck of the Roman Empire the whole of our existing civilisation.’

It was Churchill’s task to prepare the submission to the League of Nations for the Mandate whereby Jews could live in Palestine “by right and not on sufferance,” said Sir Martin. He described how Churchill designed the terms so that representative institutions



Churchill’s article in the *Illustrated Sunday Herald*, February 8, 1920.

Palestine. Churchill arrived at the Colonial Office in January 1921 and established a Middle East Department which he staffed with remarkable British Civil Servants who were knowledgeable about the region and set about (he had two years to do it) trying to work out

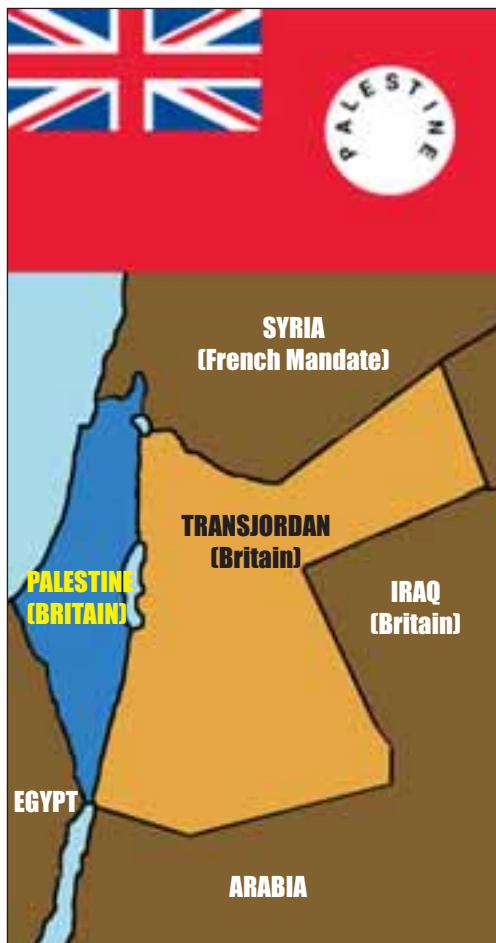
would be withheld until such time as the Jewish inhabitants became a majority, and how he had to manoeuvre around strong and hostile criticism as well as to counter powerful Arab lobbying against the terms that he was proposing. Sir Martin Gilbert said that he believed that this opposition and lobbying only served to stiffen Churchill in his position. The proposals were ready by June of 1922 and were published as *The 1922 Palestine White Paper* (or the *Churchill White Paper* as it is now known). A centre piece of this proposal was that the Jews should be given the right to defend themselves against attack and to establish national institutions “which could evolve into statehood.” This led to a stormy debate in the House of Commons. Churchill was attacked in the debate over his plan to award a monopoly for the development of electricity to a consortium headed by a former Russian Jew, Pinchas Rutenberg. This would provide the basis from which a modern industrial state could develop.

This was a most difficult debate and one which Churchill had no guarantee of winning. He said: “I am convinced that what I am proposing offers the assurance of greater prosperity and means, of a higher economic and social life for both Jews and Arabs. Was this not a good gift which the Zionists bring with them, the consequences of which will spread as the years go by in the general easement and amelioration of conditions in this harsh land. The Zionists are the friends and helpers of the Arabs, not their expellers or their expropriators and under these proposals Palestine has a bright future.”

The lecturer said that Churchill had been made aware of two things prior to this debate: No Arab had been dispossessed of land or coerced to transfer land to Jews; and also that Arab immigration was exceeding that of Jews. This was due to the improved economic conditions that had been brought about by the Jews. Arabs came from Morocco, Afghanistan, Iraq, Yemen and other countries. About one quarter of a million Jews came in during the period and slightly more Arabs. During the debate Churchill was attacked by Sir John Butcher for giving the electricity development to a Jew. In answer he said “The Honourable Member is of course correct, that Mr. Rutenberg is a Jew, I cannot deny that. I do not see however why it should be a cause for reproach.”

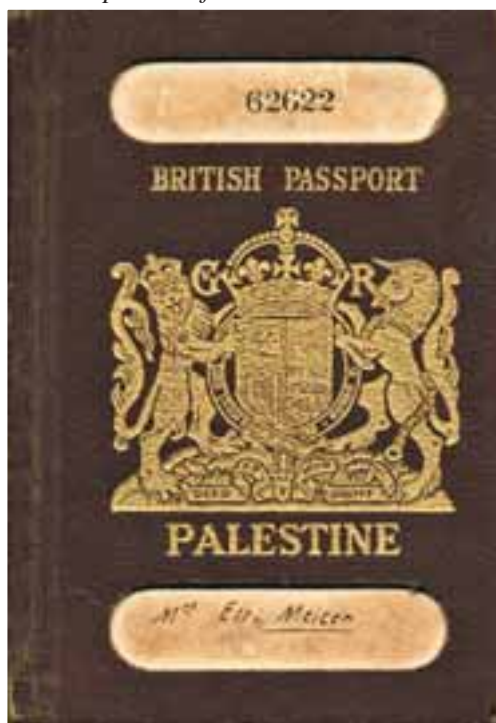
The White Paper was passed by Parliament, submitted to the League of Nations and approved. Immigration went ahead until the British Government under pressure from independent Arab states began to restrict Jewish immigration. Sir Martin continued:

“Churchill was out of office from 1929 to 1939. Following the massive Arab riots of 1936, which were as much against the British as against the Jews (though the Jews were the ones who suffered most physically from them, in destruction of property and killing of people). Following this great upsurge of violence, the British Government felt that it could not



Above: Ensign of the British Mandate in Palestine and the partition of the 1922 Churchill White Paper. It included what is now called the West Bank

Below: A British Palestine passport from the period of the British Mandate



maintain *Churchill's White Paper*—it couldn't maintain the pledge to the Jews of Palestine as an eventual National Home. And a Royal Commission was set up under Lord Peel—known as the Peel Commission—to propose some alternative. The alternative they proposed was the Partition of Palestine into two states, one Jewish, confined to the coastal area and parts of the Galilee where there was Jewish land—the other Arab, which consisted of about two thirds of the country, with a third part which consisted nearly of a quarter, including Jerusalem, Bethlehem—and that was to be retained by the British together with a corridor to the sea.”

Sir Martin said that Churchill was questioned by the Peel Commission of enquiry, and the questioners were very hostile and felt that Churchill had promised far too much, but he stood his ground. Dr. Weizmann asked Churchill to be the principle speaker supporting partition when the matter came before the House of Commons and he agreed to do so. But Churchill was approached by the Zionist Revisionist leader, Vladimir Jabotinsky, who persuaded Churchill that partition would be a mistake and not militarily viable. “Churchill was impressed, and to Weizmann’s amazement, when he spoke in the House of Commons he opposed Partition on the grounds that Britain must retain its pledge that the whole of Palestine from the Mediterranean to the Jordan was what Britain had promised as the Jewish National Home and it must keep its promise. The British Government decided not to proceed with Partition, but to prevent any further Jewish immigration...” thus frustrating the objective that Jews should become a majority. And so a new White Paper was published, the *1939 White Paper* (known to the Jews as the *Black Paper*).

“As Chamberlain explained in the secrecy of the Inner Cabinet which dealt with Palestine—I quote from the record—‘If we must offend the Jews or the Arabs, let us offend the Jews.’ The result was an almost total restriction on Jewish immigration and also on any further Jewish land purchase. The *MacDonald White Paper* was almost immediately condemned by the League of Nations as being a violation of the Mandate conditions. And in one of his most powerful speeches in the House of Commons, one of the most anguished speeches, Churchill denounced it, going through in almost pedantic detail the nature of the original pledge, and the nature of Britain’s commitment, and the nature of the Zionist achievement—And focussing upon the central point of the *1939 White Paper*, which was then five years after it was passed by Parliament, that is to say on the 19th of May 1944, whoever was a majority in the country would become the Government; and that would have to be the Arabs because the restrictions on Jewish immigration under the White Paper were such that there would still be only one third Jews and two thirds Arabs in the country. And in the parliamentary debate Churchill stressed this factor, that Britain was pledged to

there being a Jewish majority in the country and now this could not take place, and that in May 1944 there would be an Arab government whose first act would be to expel the Jews from the country. As he said to the House of Commons,

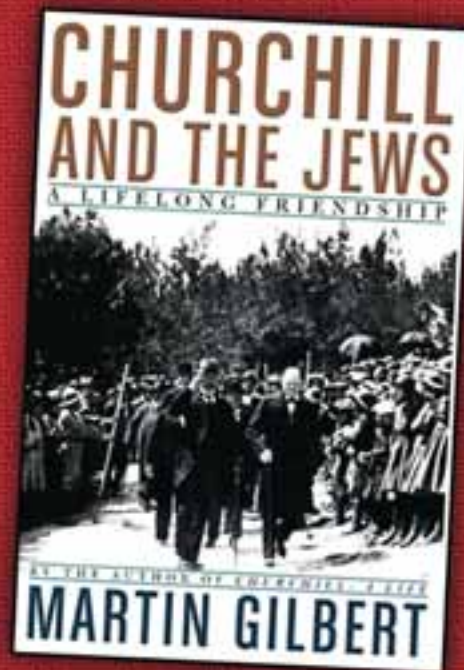
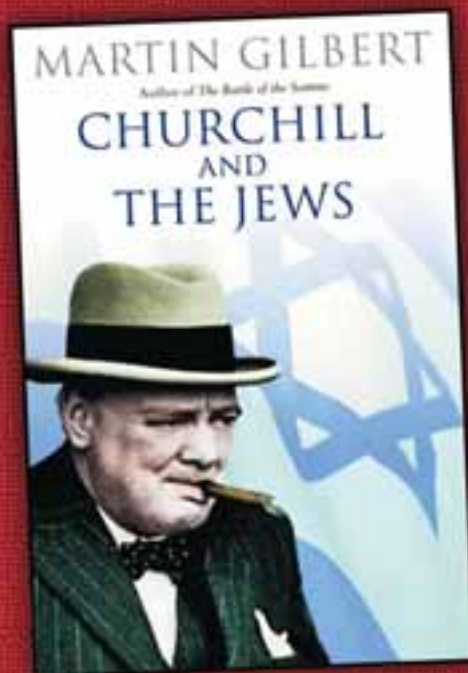
‘Now there is the breach, there is the violation of the pledge, there is the abandonment of the Balfour Declaration; there is the end of the Vision, of the Hope, of the Dream.’

“Well, it proved not to be the end of the Vision or the Hope or the Dream, almost entirely because of Churchill. He entered the War Cabinet on the day Britain declared war on Germany—on the 3rd of September, 1939. And the Cabinet records show that from the very outset, he tried to have the land-purchase restrictions, which were an integral part of the White Paper which had not yet been finalised—he tried to have them thrown out, but there were only two other members of the Cabinet who supported him out of the fifteen. And when on the 10th of May 1940—on the morning of the 10th of May 1940, Conservatives were discussing who should succeed Neville Chamberlain as Prime Minister, one of the leading Conservatives, Samuel Haw, noted down the list of the reasons why Churchill would be unsuitable as Prime Minister—and one of those was—I quote—‘Winston’s pro-Zionist views on land-purchase in Palestine.’ It is astonishing to think that should become a reason for him not leading the country at war. And luckily it didn’t.”

Sir Martin then described how that throughout his premiership Churchill looked for means to subvert the 1939 White Paper, and how other officials saw to it that certain information on Palestine did not reach his desk. He was told that he could not overturn the pre-war decision and that even if the matter was brought before the House, the vote would go the same way. He put forward various alternative ideas and argued, but to no avail. In one important meeting of the War Cabinet in 1942 he said: “I cannot in any circumstances, despite the White Paper, contemplate cessation of immigration into Palestine at the discretion of the Arab majority.”

Churchill specifically had Palestine excluded from the Atlantic Charter which was formed with President Roosevelt in 1941. Also at Yalta and other conferences he prepared for and made provision for a Jewish State to be established after the war. Ibn Saud of Saudi Arabia torpedoed this plan, persuading the American President against it. King Saud told Churchill: “We Arabs will fight the Jews, and even if we are not victorious, we will not mind, because we will go to Paradise.”

The wartime coalition Government was dissolved in June 1945, and general elections were held in Britain. Before the results were known Churchill wrote to Chaim Weizmann: ‘It might be a solution of your difficulties if the Mandate were transferred from Britain to the United States, which with her great wealth and strength might be able to do more for the



The book shown above, by Sir Martin Gilbert, has recently been published in the United Kingdom (right cover) and in North America (left cover). The book expands upon the material covered in the lecture reported on here.

Zionist cause than Great Britain. I need scarcely say that I will continue to do my best for it, but as you know, it has very few supporters in my Conservative Party, and even the Labour Party seems to have lost its zeal.’

“How right Churchill was.” The Labour



Above: An effective propaganda campaign after the war resulted in Churchill’s Conservatives being toppled. The incoming Labour Government turned against the Jews.

Government put into effect the terms of the 1939 White Paper and prevented Holocaust survivors from reaching Palestine, setting its heart against the possibility of any future Jewish majority.

“I would like to end,” said Sir Martin, “with the struggle of 1948; the extraordinary moment when five Arab armies—including the Iraqi army—attacked and entered the borders allocated by the United Nations for the Jewish State under the November 1947 United Nations Partition Resolution. Churchill was appalled during this period at the tremendous anti-Semitism in the British House of Commons, and at the refusal of Atlee’s Labour Government to recognize the State of Israel. He spoke in three debates saying ‘You must do it; this is a reality and this is a fact in world history of tremendous importance.’ And when in one point in one of these debates (this is the quotation on which I will end); in one of these debates he was being howled down by members of his own Conservative Party and also by the Labour Party for his continuing support of Zionism (and only one other member of Parliament was standing up as he did, some of you may have known him, or know of him, it was the great Richard Crossman a Labour M.P.). Under this barrage of criticism Churchill said:

‘I am against preventing Jews from doing anything which other people are allowed to do. I have the strongest abhorrence of the anti-Semitic lines of prejudice. Why do we continue this senseless, squalid war with the Jews?’

Thank you.”



Identifying the Biblical power known as Tarshish has presented considerable problems to historians, linguists, political economists and church leaders alike. Most of them have come up with a variety of geographical locations varying from Sardinia and Israel through to the European Union and even NATO. Other linguists have asserted that in certain ancient Middle Eastern languages, the word is no more than a descriptive term for “big ships,” or curiously enough, it is a term for a “smelting furnace” and not a geographical location at all.

In all this confusion what is the honest Bible student to do? The answer must be to turn away from all these “experts” and discover what the Bible itself has to say. Not that you will find just one chapter or verse that will tell it to you as simply as that, but rather in the spirit of Proverbs 25:2 where we are told that: “It is the glory of God to conceal a thing: but the honour of kings is to search out a matter.”

The first step is to get a computerised “On-Line Bible” to print out all the Bible’s references to Tarshish (or better still, look them up in a concordance). There are at least 24 such explicit, direct references, not counting those which probably refer to Tarshish in other terms, such as in Jeremiah 31:10,

“Hear the word of the LORD, O ye nations, and declare it in *the isles afar off*, and say, He that scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him, as a shepherd doth his flock.”

There is no honest alternative to sitting down and laboriously analysing, and then summarising what each of those quotations tell us about Tarshish. When we have done so, we must try to fit the pieces of the puzzle together, using, say, the principal 18 or so verses so as to form what could be termed a sort of verbal “identikit”—an outline verbal picture of the power referred to (See *Panel A, right*)

By now a remarkable Bible-based picture will begin to emerge highlighting the key characteristics of the Power we are trying to identify.

Amongst the most notable features of this Power (which we have still not identified at this

PANEL A: THE PIECES OF THE PUZZLE: THE IDENTIKIT



The following key points are suggested, and many appear more than once in the list of Scripture passages listed (right).

1. West of Israel. Japhetic, Javan (Greece) Genesis 10:4&5.
2. ...of the Isles of the Gentiles. Gen 10:5.
3. A long way from Israel. Jonah 1:3. 2 Chronicles 9:21&22.
4. A Maritime power. Isaiah 2.
5. In the metal business. Ezekiel 27:12. Jeremiah 10:9.
6. Assists in regathering Jews. Isaiah 60:9.
7. Sea traders. Isaiah 23.
8. Associated with other Island powers. Psalm 72:10.
9. Will take on the role of latter-day Tyre. Isaiah 23.
10. Multi-national market. Isaiah 23:3.
11. Single source of silver, iron, tin and lead. Ezekiel 27:12.
12. To oppose the Northern Host, Ezekiel 38:13.
13. To be humbled. Isaiah 2:16.
14. To surrender to Christ. Psalm 72:10.

References To Tarshish

Genesis 10:4.
 1 Kings 10:22.
 1 Kings 22:48.
 1 Chronicles 1:7.
 1 Chronicles 7:10.
 2 Chronicles 9:21.
 2 Chronicles 20:36.
 2 Chronicles 20:37.
 Esther 1:14.
 Psalm 48:7.
 Psalm 72:10.
 Isaiah 2:16.
 Isaiah 23:1.
 Isaiah 23:6.
 Isaiah 23:10.
 Isaiah 23 14.
 Isaiah 60:9.
 Isaiah 66:19.
 Jeremiah 10:9.
 Ezekiel 27:12.
 Ezekiel 27:25.
 Ezekiel 38:13.
 Jonah 1:3.
 Jonah 4:2.



A massive tin ingot in the Truro Museum pre-dates Roman times

stage) will be its relationship and dealings with the Jews. Its nature as a maritime island trading power far away from the Middle East, and its involvement in the future battle of Armageddon.

So who can this power be? Consider whatever possibilities come into your mind and then check them out against the identikit picture.

For example; what about NATO or the *European Union*? Do they fit? Whenever did they favour the return of the Jews to their homeland? Those entities weren't even formed until after the State of Israel was created! You have to eliminate *Germany* for the obvious reasons of the Holocaust. *Russia*? When has that been a maritime island power?—never mind its persecution of the Jews. *France*? Maybe at times it has favoured the Jews, but in what sense has it ever been as island? What about *Tunisia*? Now that is a good guess because it is true to say that, following the collapse of the ancient market place of Tyre where the traders of Tarshish did their business, Carthage in Tunisia took over some of its economic power. But what has *Tunisia* done to assist the return of the Jews to their land? Nothing! And how can it offer opposition to Russia when it invades the Middle East? It can't.

And so we could go on, eliminating all possibilities until we are left with the English speaking people of Britain, its former empire and its descendants e.g. America, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and others. In a book by former *Times* writer, Simon Winchester, called *Outposts*, he describes how even today 80 years after the political term "British Empire" was abandoned, the Commonwealth still includes some 16 dependent territories

from the Caribbean Anguilla through to the Pacific Ocean's Pitcairn Islands, comprising some 200 separate island communities with over 130,000 inhabitants owing allegiance to the British Crown (Compare *Panel B*, below). True, there is one other possibility, Spain which we consider in *Panel C*.

At this stage we must return to the Biblical references to Tarshish and note the various contexts in which we find them. As we do so it becomes obvious that whilst there has been a specific location for Tarshish, it is also important that we should see that it has a "role" to be fulfilled in God's purpose with the Jewish people (Isaiah 60:9).

Since the 17th century some Bible students have seen Britain as being the main Protestant power fostering the return of the Jews. For example, in 1797, Thomas Witherby, in commenting upon the book *The Restoration of the Jews: A Crisis of all Nations* believed that "England, under a new Cyrus, would be chosen to perform God's purposes of mercy towards Israel." We may point out



SO HOW MANY COUNTRIES CAN YOU THINK OF THAT ARE RECOGNIZED BY THE SYMBOL OF A LION? AND THAT ARE DEPICTED AS A "MOTHER LION"? BY THOSE RELATED TO HER? THE ABOVE COMES FROM CANADA IN A 1936 JOURNAL.

PANEL B

"Young Lions" and Modern Versions of the Bible

"Sheba, and Dedan, and the merchants of Tarshish, with all the young lions thereof, shall say unto thee, Art thou come to take a spoil? hast thou gathered thy company to take a prey? to carry away silver and gold, to take away cattle and goods, to take a great spoil?" (Ezekiel 38:13).

Readers who use modern versions of the Bible such as the NIV, RSV or NEB will observe the way those translations use the word "villages" instead of lions. This leads some to claim that the description "Lions of Tarshish" has no justification and that it simply means the villages where the merchants of Tarshish lived.

Why is this? Frankly, it really is hard to understand the reason. *Strong's* concordance shows that the original word *kephyr* occurs some 30 times and is translated 29 times as *lion*, once as *young* and, in the Authorised Version only once as *villages* in Nehemiah 6:2. But equally interesting is the fact that although there appear to be some 9 different original Hebrew words translated as *villages* only once, here in Nehemiah is word *kephyr* used. An extraordinary situation.

On the other hand, we note that there are six different words used to describe different types of lion in the Bible, the word for a young lion

being *kephyr*. So why, when there appears to be so little justification for the use of *villages* by the modern versions do they use it? There seems to be no justifiable reason for making that translation.

However: one reason which has been given is because it follows the Septuagint (LXX) version which does indeed use *villages*—as if to infer that because it is in the LXX version in Greek that must be correct. This is not the place to make any evaluation of the Septuagint version but perhaps two other thoughts are relevant.

1. The LXX version of Ezekiel 38:13 also translates Tarshish as Carthage! As noted in the accompanying article, clearly there is no way Carthage (Tunisia) conforms to the Biblical description of Tarshish. We cannot pick and choose the words that may suit our pre-conceived notions on the matter: we need to be consistent.
2. We understand that some years ago when the Israeli Government launched a new combat fighter aircraft they called it *Kephyr*. A flying *village* rather than a *Young Lion* would be decidedly off as a name for a weapon of war!

J.Ramsden



also that in Isaiah 49:22,23 certain Gentile powers have a role to fulfill: “Kings shall be thy nursing fathers and queens thy nursing mothers.”

In addition, when we reconsider Jeremiah 31:10 (already referred to) it is obvious that this island power has to be able to take the word of the Lord worldwide. Isaiah adds the description “On mine arm shall they trust” (Isaiah 51:5). No one is suggesting that Britain has ever been a truly Bible based nation but it has done more than any other nation on earth to promote Bible reading and taking its message to the ends of the earth.

Consider for a moment the Bible translation work of Wycliffe in the 13th century and Tyndale—burnt at the stake at the behest of European powers in the 16th century. It was Britain which, in 1611, brought into existence the King James Authorised version of the Bible. Only a few years after, 1697 saw the creation of the Society for the Promotion of Christian Knowledge (SPCK), followed in 1804 by the formation of the British and Foreign Bible Society, and in 1816 by a similar organisation in America. Then the YMCA in 1844. Recall the pioneering work of such Missionaries as Livingstone, Moffat, Chalmers, and Carey. It is truly remarkable and unique, that among other nations of



Hear the word of the LORD, O ye nations, and declare it in the isles afar off, and say, He that scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him, as a shepherd doth his flock.

**THE ENGLISH BIBLE
Translated by Wycliffe,
Tyndale & Coverdale.
King James Version 1611**

The translation of the Bible into English gave rise to the Protestant Reformation and greatly influenced the empire.

Reformation times it was only the imperialist British merchant venturers that were followed so soon afterwards by the English Bible being taken worldwide.

Indeed, as Christadelphian writer Graham Pearce put it in the 1970's, the English language became a conduit for the word of God to the ends of the earth.

So let us now return to the key identikit (Panel A) which summarises the descriptions of Tarshish. Ask yourself, in all honesty, what other nation has ever conformed to these requirements of the Bible. The answer is, quite simply none. There can be no alternative explanation other than Britain, if Scripture alone is to be our guide.

There are two ways to interpret history. The fashionable lens to look through today is the evolutionary one; that all things developed gradually and that this development took place without the word of God or His providence working amongst men. The alternative view is to see God as the cause of all things. His Hand is in history and His word enlightens us as to its true meaning and direction.

PANEL C

WHAT ABOUT SPAIN?



Curiously enough, one of the most popular ideas for identity of Tarshish has been Spain. But if we have done our Bible research thoroughly and have run this idea through our identikit matrix, it soon becomes quite obvious that it cannot possibly be Spain! True, it once had a navy which explored the world and even under Christopher Columbus visited America, but in what sense is it an island power?

One of the key identifying features of Tarshish is its huge reserve of silver, iron, tin and lead. Together with an assortment of other metals not to be found in the same 'one area' elsewhere in the world.

Now as any one who has driven down the south east coast of Spain will be aware, the mighty international conglomerate, Rio Tinto Zinc Corporation, does have enormous interests there. Cadmium, copper and some iron have been identified, but there is little evidence of the other metals associated with Tarshish. And where is the evidence that it ever traded in these commodities in the ancient market place of Tyre?

And what of Spain's relationship to the Jews? It is perhaps significant, as any packaged-in tour holiday maker can see, the Andalusian towns of Granada and Cordoba fair bristle with evidence of the way that the 16th Century Catholic Monarchs, Ferdinand and Isabella, driven on by the passionate anti-Semitism of the Inquisition, ordered the country's 400,000 Jews to convert to Catholicism or leave

the country. For the most part they left!

Others say that Tarshish was simply another name for the southern Spanish area of Tartessus. Interestingly, however, the Encyclopaedia Britannica emphasises that “the exact location of Tartessus has not yet been established and even the ancient writers were in doubt about it.”

It adds that whoever the Tartessians were, they “sailed the Atlantic southwards along the African coast as well as northwards in search of tin in the Cassiterides Islands.”

Herodotus only makes the point that the way to reach Tartessus was to go beyond the pillars of Hercules, that is by going on westwards through the Straits of Gibraltar. Another ancient writer, Strabo, mentions “a river Tartessus but there has never been any such river found in Spain.”

Smith's Bible Dictionary having reviewed 15 of the 24 references in our Identikit concludes that “on a review of these passages it will be seen that no one of them furnished any proof that Tarshish and Tartessus were the same cities.”

So, at the end of the day, let us stick with what the Bible tells us about Tarshish. If we run through that matrix once again there is clearly no way that Tarshish could possibly be identified with Spain.

J. Ramsden

BRITAIN, EUROPE & THE COMING CRISIS

By Paul Billington BRANTFORD, ON



The involvement of Britain and her allies in the events of the latter days is of particular interest to many of us who live in countries who have—or have had—a considerable degree of attachment to one another through links with Great Britain.

Whenever Britain has been at the centre of a history-making crisis, her allies have become embroiled in the situation also. Scripture indicates that this pattern will continue until the return of Christ—in Ezekiel 38 it is “the merchants of Tarshish, with all the young lions thereof” that are involved in the scene. These “young lions” include nations such as the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, India and others.

In order to obtain a broader understanding of the role to be played by Britain and her allies during the latter days, it is important to take into consideration several references to it. Ezekiel 38:13 is only one passage—others must also be brought into focus if we are to have a more complete picture. This includes an important item from the book of

Revelation. We must also consider the role of Britain and her allies over the past century and more, if we are to get the broad picture that will help us to understand their present and future course.

To understand Britain’s role fully we must turn to the New Testament and to the book of Revelation. This is not the place for lengthy and

complicated exposition, but we do need to appreciate that the section dealing with the vials concerns the latter days. As we read in Revelation 15:7, these are “vials full of the wrath of God” (see also chapter 16:1)—they are associated with “the seven last plagues” (verse 1). They deal with events over the past two centuries and are the lead-in to Armageddon and include it (16:16).

We must understand that the vials are on-going in their effects. The effects of the first vial (Revelation 16:2) are symbolized as “a noisome and grievous sore” upon Roman Catholic peoples of Europe. Rotherham’s Emphasised translation calls this sore an “ulcer.” This “ulcer” is described by two Greek words in the text: *kakos* and *poneros* are put together, *kakos* is always put first and signifies bad in character, base, *poneros*, bad in effect, malignant...” So here is a social ulcer that is affecting “the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshiped his image” (this is the Roman Catholic European order). This social “ulcer” was to be base in character and “malignant” or spreading.

If we look at the immediate history of Europe following the French Revolution we will see the principles of the Revolution



The French Revolution spread like a social ulcer through Europe. It was a vial judgement.

spreading throughout Europe, eating away at the old order like a malignant ulcer.

The Second Vial

The second vial is the one that specifically interests us here. In Revelation 16:3 we read,

“And the second angel poured out his vial upon the sea; and it became as the blood of a dead man: and every living soul died in the sea.”

The language used is quite similar to that used to describe the effects of the second trumpet period of Revelation 8:8-9. Here, a “great mountain burning” symbolises a destroying power (see the same language in Jer. 51:25). It strikes the sea so that a part of it is said to become blood, and as verse 9 shows us, this relates to a great maritime disaster in which “the third part of ships were destroyed.”

Now the similarity of language between chapter 8 and 16 would lead us to expect a like meaning for the second vial, though more total in its effects. If this is the meaning then we should find that once the social ulcer of Revolutionary principles began to spread, there would be a period of great naval battles. Those who are familiar with this period of history will have already seen that it fits precisely, for it was at this time that Great Britain virtually blockaded Europe. The battle of Trafalgar fought on October 21st 1805 secured Britain’s supremacy at sea so that as far as the French Empire of Napoleon was concerned, the sea “became as the blood of a dead man (or corpse).” There could be no “circulation” in terms of commercial shipping or naval power, and Napoleon dared not send his ships out of port. The language of the second vial fits perfectly the condition of the times.

Now just as the effects of the first vial—the spreading social ulcer—were on-going, so likewise the role of Britain over the past two centuries has been to “rule the waves” around continental Europe. With the assistance of her “young lions” she maintained her naval supremacy during World War One and withstood the so-called Central Powers (of Europe). She also fulfilled the mission of the sixth vial (Rev. 16:12) in drying up the Euphratean power of the Ottoman empire which prepared the ground for the modern State of Israel. The pattern seen is consistent and on-going.

During World War Two the same general picture can be seen. Britain and her Allies won the Battle of the Atlantic, successfully held the Mediterranean, gained control of North Africa and encircled Europe—ultimately bringing about the total collapse of the Nazi “beast.” In doing this, Britain and her allies contained Catholic Europe, protected the young Jewish “colony” in Palestine (think of what would have happened to it if Hitler had gained the Middle East through the efforts of Rommel! There would be no State of Israel today!) and ensured their own survival in order to meet the challenge of Gog and his Eurasian confederacy in the future as required by Ezekiel 38.

In relating these facts, we do not wish to



Above: Britain “ruled the waves” in the days of Queen Victoria. It was naval might that maintained her world-wide empire. The ships pictured above took part in the Spithead review; the combined length of the warships taking part totalled thirty miles.

Below: In two World Wars Britain was dependent on open seas. She had to keep shipping lanes open in face of a hostile Europe, and it was her task to confine the European navies and so restrict their “circulation.” The sea was to become as the blood of a dead man!



seem as though we are interested in singing to the praise and glory of Britain or her allies—these terrible wars in which, symbolically, the sea was turned into blood, were also judgement upon Britain & Co., who were turning further and further away from the influence and standards of the Bible. Since the end of World War Two this spiritual decline has greatly accelerated, bringing about:

Britain’s Membership of Europe

Britain’s current involvement in the European Union runs counter to what many Bible students may have expected, but following two horrifying world wars Britain

and others have been concerned that it should not happen a third time. Thus Germany remained virtually occupied for some 40 years. In shaping a new Europe, British political leaders have believed that it was far safer and wiser to become actively involved. The United States and others have encouraged this move, seeing it as best in everyone’s interests—no one wants another conflict in Europe, they all want a new and changed Europe.

The fatal flaw in this thinking is the belief that Europe (and in particular, Germany) has changed. Scripture tells us clearly however, that this will not be so. After the vial judgements are poured out upon those who

have the mark of the beast and worship his (papal) image, we read these words: “they gnawed their tongues for pain, and blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores (ulcers), AND REPENTED NOT OF THEIR DEEDS” (Rev. 16:10-11; see also verse 21). Such is the testimony of Jesus Christ concerning the worshippers of the beast (i.e. Catholic Europe). That is why we are seeing anti-Semitism break out again in European countries. It is why we are seeing a powerful Germany rising again to lead Europe. These things all serve to illustrate the truth in the words of God—“Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts” (9:21). The character of the beast-system and its peoples has not changed and will not change. For Britain especially, this is going to be a very costly and terrible lesson.

In the meantime God can use Britain, even in her waywardness. Britain seeks to be at the heart of Europe and wants to influence the shaping of a *new* Europe. She no doubt sees this as a way of “controlling” the European beast, for that has been her concern over the past two centuries and more.

In recent stiff negotiations over a new E.U. constitution Britain has tried to maintain sovereignty in foreign policy, justice, migration and human rights. As we write, these negotiations are going on and the outcome is not yet known, but whatever it is the long-term idea of restraining Europe cannot succeed. Britain wants commercial advantage but doesn’t want the restrictions of a socialist Europe. The whole idea will fail to establish the peace and prosperity that Britain seeks, and it will lead her into the greatest crisis of her long history.

Britain’s Future Crisis

We do not know what circumstances will cause Britain to change her current direction and eventually come out of Europe—but it is clear that she must do so. She must yet again face the challenge that will come from Europe—and not only Europe, but one that will be led by “the prince of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal.” This “king of the north” says Daniel the prophet (chapter 11:40), shall come “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.”

The “young lions” will doubtless once again answer the call of their mother—not just some of them, but “all the young lions thereof.” They will do so because they will be concerned, not so much for their British mother, but for their own existence. Self-preservation is a great motive-power in stirring up nations to war—and it seems that this is probably going to be the case here. We know not for certain how or why they will all be there, but Scripture has said that they will be.

These things being so, it is impossible for Britain or any of her “young lions” to avoid or escape the destiny marked out for them in Bible prophecy. They must face the coming onslaught whether they want to or not. It may well be that



BRITAIN ENCIRCLED!

Over many years the leading politicians of Britain have been willing to sign up to the Common Market, which became an Economic Community and then the European Union. Thus, gradually Britain has been encircled. What two World Wars failed to do, treaties seem to have accomplished in bringing Britain into what Hitler called *Das Neue Europa*. This Europe is turning out to be a Catholic-Socialist system and will not suit the character of Britain. Hence Blair established close links between Britain and the United States.

this will begin the great humbling of the latter-day Tarshish power as Scripture requires.

Britain’s Final Humiliation

The spiritual conditions in today’s Britain are appalling. The population is faithless—the majority of people have no religious convictions whatsoever—and many do not want to have it any different. The nation is however in a spiritual vacuum. It is the intention of the Vatican to fill that vacuum—but it may not turn out that way.

Similar conditions exist in many of the “young lion” countries today—though there are some differences—and Rome is working hard to bring these nations into line also.

Now Scripture tells us that the latter-day Tarshish power is to be humbled—and for our present purpose we can probably include most of the “young lions” in this. Isaiah tells us that “The lofty looks of man shall be humbled... For the day of the LORD of hosts shall be upon every one that is proud and lofty, and upon every one that is lifted up... And upon all the ships of Tarshish, and upon all pleasant pictures. And the loftiness of man shall be bowed down, and the haughtiness of men shall be made low: And the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day” (Isa. 2:11-17).

This specific mention of Tarshish and her “pleasant pictures” (an amazing way to describe a people so devoted to the television set!) is significant—she is singled out as one who is to be humbled and brought low. It is possible that the Russo-German led confederacy of Ezekiel 38 may accomplish this

to some extent. There seems to be however, a more direct judgement from God upon her—and this is indicated in the words of Psalm 48:7. The context is one in which the judgements of the Great King are being extolled—and it says “*Thou* breakest the ships of Tarshish with an east wind.”

At the time of the end, when Christ returns, Britain will be in alliance with “Sheba and Dedan”—the countries of Saudi Arabia and the Gulf area—as well as with her “young lions.” It may well be—and seems probable to this writer—that the latter-day Tarshish power will have a military presence in Sheba and Dedan when the powerful King of Israel appears as “the LORD of hosts, strong and mighty in battle.” Britain may well be among those mentioned in Psalm 48—“Fear took hold upon them there, and pain, as of a woman in travail” (v. 6). No human power will be able to withstand that of the Lord Jesus Christ when he returns. Britain and her allies will no doubt have the opportunity extended to them to submit—and it seems that Britain will choose to do so. Arrogant Britain will have been humbled and her ears will then be open to the word which will go forth from Jerusalem (Isa. 2:3). There will be instruction for the people of Britain—for it is written in Isaiah 66:19 “...I will send such as escape of them unto the nations, to Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, that draw the bow, to Tubal, and Javan to the *isles afar off*, that have not heard my fame, neither have seen my glory. And they shall declare my glory among the Gentiles,” which doubtless includes the “Young Lion” countries.

The response to this teaching (which will fill the spiritual vacuum in Britain) will be a very interesting one, for “they shall bring all your brethren (i.e. the Jews) for an offering unto the LORD out of all the nations...” (v.20). The work that Britain began under the terms of the 1917 Balfour Declaration, will then be completed. She will fulfill her mission that has been appointed to her of God.



THE LIONS IN IRAQ

The above emblem is one that is used by forces operating in Iraq. The United States, Britain, Australia and other traditional allies.

“The Ships of Tarshish First”

Evidence of ancient Britain’s metal trade with the Middle East & Mediterranean has emerged in recent years confirming the identity of Tarshish

By Paul Billington BRANTFORD, ON.

The prophecy of Isaiah chapter 60 tells us of the restoration of God’s people, the Jews, *after* the Redeemer has come to Zion (chapter 59:20) and when the gross darkness that has shrouded them has been dissipated by the glory of the LORD, who will then have risen upon them (Isaiah 60:1,2). This will be a time when Gentile nations “shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising” (verse 3).

Among those who come are the people of certain islands: “Surely the isles shall wait for me, and the ships of Tarshish first, to bring thy sons from far, their silver and their gold with them unto the name of the LORD thy God, and to the Holy One of Israel, *because* he hath glorified thee...” (verse 9).

So contemporary with Israel’s restoration, and when their kingdom is being restored as the kingdom of the Lord (Acts 1:6), a Gentile maritime power will be assisting practically in the process. That is the plain sense of the prophecy before us in Isaiah’s 60th chapter.

A Historical Tarshish

Some make the identity of this island race a mystery; this “Tarshish” is seen to be rather like the mythical Atlantis—a phantom of antiquity which cannot now be known. The subject is thus relegated to a guessing game with vague suggestions as to its location, or else it is abandoned altogether. We are told that the ships of Tarshish could just mean large ships... and so a respectable agnosticism clouds the identity of the historical Tarshish. But to those who believe the Bible, the conclusion that Tarshish was known and recognized in Old Testament times cannot be avoided. In fact, it is quite clear from Scripture that two locations were known by that name—one lay west of Israel (that is

west of Joppa, so across the Mediterranean), and the other was navigable through the Red Sea. This may appear to be contradictory and confusing at first, but no more so than “West Indies” and “East Indies” today. An explanation for this situation is not all that difficult to determine.

It is often assumed that the ancients were primitive and ignorant of the principles of navigation—that their world horizon was severely restricted. But the Biblical evidence is against that. As early as Genesis 11:8, 9 we are told that the LORD scattered the people of Babel “upon the face of *all* the earth.” Also in Genesis 10:5 we are told that the grandsons of Japheth populated “the isles of the Gentiles.” This involved extensive travel in the ancient world.

One son of Japheth was Javan (Genesis 10:2), and that name provides a direct link to Greece (it is the meaning of the name). It also illustrates the words of Psalm 49:11 where we read: “...they call their lands after their own names.” It will be seen that many Bible atlases place the name Javan in connection with Greece and the Greek islands. The name is translated “Grecia” in Daniel 8:21 etc.

Speaking of “the sons of Javan” we read in Genesis 10:5, “By these were the isles of the Gentiles divided in their lands; every one after his tongue after their families, in their nations.” The word translated “isles” here has a wide range of meaning. *Gesenius* says that it denotes “maritime land, whether the sea coast of a continent, or an island.” *The Companion Bible* defines it as “maritime countries” and many others translate the word as “coastlands.” So we would expect to find the sons of Javan arising from Greek and Mycenaean civilisations and occupying the Mediterranean coasts and islands. “Kittim” for example, a son of Javan, has his name associated with Cyprus.

Another son of Javan was Tarshish (Genesis 10:4). Other Scriptures tell us that



The Great Orme
excavation



**me Head, Llandudno North Wales (above) has been the scene of extensive archaeological
on in recent years revealing “one of the largest industrial sites of the ancient world.”**

Tarshish was “afar off” (Isaiah 23:6, 7); that it was to be reached by ship, and was about as far as one could get from the LORD’S land (Jonah 1:3). The people of Tarshish were a trading people who specialized in metals, and “all kinds of riches” (Ezek. 27:12; Jeremiah 10:9). As John Ramsden has shown elsewhere in this

issue the historical Tarshish must fit this criteria that is given in the Bible. It is a land (or islands) where extensive mining operations were being conducted in ancient times.

Greek Civilisation of Brass

As we have said, the Biblical Javan provides a direct connection with the area of Greece, and we can be certain that the earliest civilisations in the area—known in history as Minoan and Mycenaean—developed from the family of Javan. In a book entitled *Ancient Greece* by Anton Powell (A Cultural Atlas for Young People) these civilisations are outlined, dating from about 2200 B.C. We are told:

“The wealth of Mycenaean Greece was created not only by farmers and craftsmen but also by traders who brought goods from remote lands... Amber came from the coast of the Baltic Sea, far away in northern Europe...”

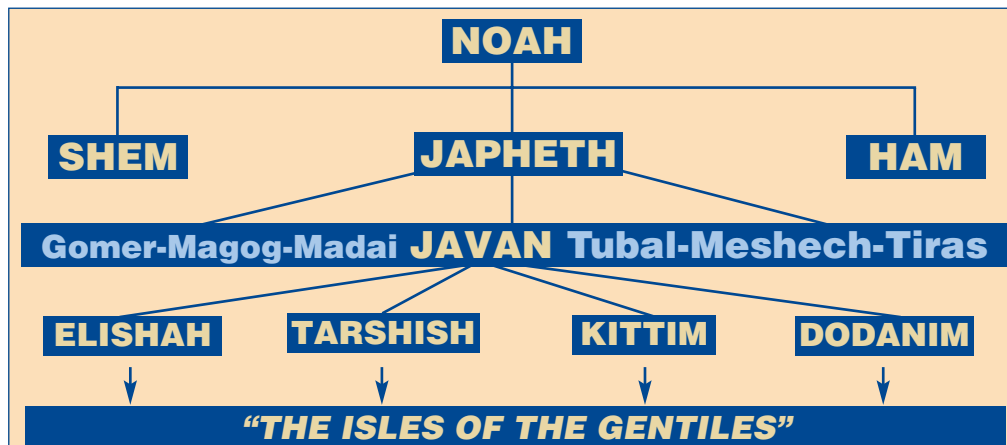
“...in Mycenaean times, sailors were going to the ends of the known world to bring back metals. Ships went to Cyprus, Syria and probably northern Europe to get copper and tin. These together made bronze...”

It is well known that Daniel’s prophecy (chapter 2) represents the Greek empire by brass. The word used here more correctly denotes copper or bronze, and so this Scriptural association doubtless has its basis in the use of the metal by the Greeks.

According to studies published on the Internet there were several sources for copper around the Mediterranean basin, “...but sophisticated metal use requires smelting: removal of metal from its ores... Copper was the first metal to be smelted in abundance, but the real metallurgical innovation was the discovery of copper alloys. Brass is an alloy of copper and zinc... the discovery of brass (would have been) reasonably simple. Not so for bronze, an alloy of copper and tin. Copper and tin minerals rarely occur together and there is no abundant source of tin in the Middle East.”

Another site (*Timeline of History—The Technique of Bronze Statutory in Ancient Greece*) says:

“While there were many sources for copper around the Mediterranean basin... Cyprus was among the most important. Tin on the other hand, was imported from places as far



as southwest Turkey, Afghanistan, and Cornwall, England.”

Neither southwest Turkey nor Afghanistan fit the criteria required for a “Tarshish” identification. In *The Encircled Sea* by Sarah Arenson (lecturer at the University of Haifa, Israel) the following passage appears:

“Tarshish means smelter in Phoenician, and the many places called by this name later, Tarsos, Tortosa and the like, point to the extent of this activity. The main copper mines were in Cyprus (from which derives the Greek name and the term used today) and Spain. The source of the tin is still controversial. Phoenician colonies like Cadiz, beyond the Straits of Gibraltar, point to Cornwall, England, which is indeed the only major source of tin within maritime reach of the Mediterranean region. The Phoenicians kept this tin route a grave secret...”

Again, neither Tarsos, Tortosa or Spain provide all the required elements of the Biblical

Tarshish. When we consider the alternative options that are suggested, we find that the shores of Britain offer us the only complete package for the identity of Tarshish.

Extensive Copper Mining

Copper is a soft metal and whilst it has ornamental uses, it is of little value in making either tools or weapons. The hard alloy known as

bronze (90% copper and 10% tin) however was used in large quantities by the Greeks. They had several sources for copper as we have seen, but it is only during the last ten or twenty years that it has become evident that Britain was a major supplier of copper to the ancient world. *The Current Archaeology Magazine* has stated:

“There are few areas in prehistory where Britain can claim to be the biggest and the best. Stonehenge is certainly a world class monument but now it is joined by another site which can perhaps claim to be the most pre-eminent of its type in the world; for the Bronze Age copper mines on the Great Orme Head appear to be the most extensive hitherto discovered anywhere in the world.”

The amount of copper metal produced from the Great Orme mines suggest that it was one of the largest industrial sites in the ancient world. It has been estimated that over 1,700 tonnes of copper were extracted from this location—and there are still several areas of the mine that have not yet been surveyed. As the



Ancient mine workings on the Great Orme are said to date back some 3,500 years.



Above: The 3,000 year old “Dover Boat” was discovered in 1992. It is suggested by guide books that “perhaps a similar boat was used by the people of North Wales to travel to Cornwall.” The Dover Museum says that this boat would have been used to cross the English Channel carrying cargoes that included metal ores and ingots for trade.

International Mining Magazine has expressed it; **“The discovery of the prehistoric mines on the Great Orme at Llandudno will radically re-shape our knowledge of the commercial history of the Bronze Age.”**

But, or course, tin is required in order to produce bronze, and the nearest supply was in Devon and Cornwall in the far south of England. Scholars therefore suggest, reasonably enough, that some form of trade network must have existed in order to bring the two metals (copper and tin) together. Travel over land would have been difficult and expensive, so goods were most probably shipped by sea.

And where was all this copper and tin sold? Who were the customers? The answer given to us by those on the Great Orme site was quite direct: the Mediterranean countries and the Middle East. Readers may visit the website: www.greatormemines.info

Shipping Goods

In 1992 the timbers of an oak-built boat were discovered in Dover, England, and this has been dated to 1550 B.C. It is the world’s oldest known sea-going boat. 3,500 years ago it was navigating the English Channel, according to the guidebook provided by the Dover Boat Museum. In this publication we are informed of what the boat was used for:

“We know from archaeological evidence that there was considerable trade between Britain and Europe in the Bronze Age. It has long been a puzzle as to what kind of boat was used to cross the Channel. The discovery of the Dover Boat is a major contribution to our understanding of how people traded between the British Isles and mainland Europe. Goods were also being traded across Britain and we can say with some certainty that the Dover Boat plied the South Coast. A piece of shale from Dorset

was found in the boat, so she may have traded down as far west as Cornwall, as well as crossing the Channel.”

The so-called “Dover Boat” is now on display in an environmentally controlled and sealed case in Dover. A descriptive panel forming part of the exhibit suggests that the cargo of this boat could have included stone, shale, metal ore, metal ingots (gold, copper, tin) metal tools etc. The display includes an array of metal ores and ingots of the kind being traded with Britain during the Bronze Age. You could not have a better visual representation of Ezekiel 27:12 even if you had arranged it on purpose (see picture on page 24). This is a shop-window for Tarshish!

“Tarshish was thy merchant by reason of the multitude of all kind of riches; with silver, iron, tin, and lead, they traded in thy fairs” (Ezekiel 27:12).

What Historians Say

A Government publication on mining activities in Britain published by Her Majesty’s Stationery Office says:

“The principal economic minerals of south-west England are, of course, *tin* and copper ores, and considerable amounts of ores of *lead*, zinc, *silver*, arsenic, antimony, sulphur, *iron* and manganese have also been raised.

“The date of the discovery of tin in the west of England is not known, but *it was being produced about 2,500 years ago*” (Italics are mine—P.B.).

The very metals mentioned by Ezekiel are thus mentioned in this publication. In a booklet entitled *The Cornish Mining Industry* by J.A. Buckley (1988 Tor Mark Press) we are informed:—

“Artifacts found on tin sites, and identified by archaeologists, indicate that the tin industry was established by the Early Bronze Age (1500-800)...

“Historical references support this. They show a well-established and fairly sophisticated tin trade between Cornwall and the Mediterranean by the 4th century BC...

“Timaeus of Sicily and Pytheas of Massalia (Marseilles), of the 4th and 3rd centuries BC, gave accounts of Cornwall’s tin trade. Neither author’s work has survived but from fragments quoted by other authors it is clear that Pytheas had visited and probably circumnavigated Britain some time between 325-250 BC. In the 1st century BC, Diodorus Siculus quoted Pytheas’ report and told much about the nature and importance of Cornwall’s tin trade. He said that the Cornish were friendly and civilised, due to contact with foreign merchants. They extracted the tin from its host rock ‘in an ingenious manner.’ He refers to their skill in dressing and smelting the concentrate, and then describes how they conveyed the metallic tin to an off-shore island, called Ictis. The island, generally presumed to be St. Michael’s Mount, could only be approached at ebb tide. The tin was then carried across to Gaul and then by horseback to the mouth of the Rhone, where modern-

day Marseilles is located. We are left in no doubt as to the importance of the trade.”

Ancient Accounts

As indicated in the above quotation, there are several ancient accounts which mention the existence of the British Isles—and which describe voyages there during early times. The earliest of these is the reference to the Tin Islands, or Cassiterides, made by Herodotus (BC 484-432). He wrote:

“About the far west of Europe I have no definite information, for I cannot accept the story of a river called by non-Greek peoples the Eridanus, which flows into the northern sea, where amber is supposed to come from; nor do I know anything of the existence of islands called the Tin Islands, whence we get our tin. In the first place, the name Eridanus is obviously not foreign but Greek, and was invented by some poet or other; and, secondly, in spite of my efforts to do so, I have never found anyone who could give me first-hand information of the existence of a sea beyond Europe to the north and west. Yet it cannot be disputed that tin and amber do come to us from what one might call the ends of the earth.”

According to the Roman writer Pliny, writing about AD 70 and working from much earlier material, a recorded visit to Britain was made by someone called Midacritus sometime before BC 500. Another writer, Hyginus in about AD 27, mentions a visit by Midas at about the same time. Some commentators conclude that Midacritus and Midas are one and the same—in any event, these voyages which were made in connection with tin took place at about the time that Ezekiel wrote his prophecy.

Aristotle (384-322) mentions Britain in his *De Mundo* sec. 3. Both Pliny (AD 70) and Festus Avienus (AD 370) refer to the voyage undertaken from Carthage to Britain by the Phoenician Himilco in about BC 500. Himilco had written a report of the voyage but it is now lost—all that remains are the quotations made from it by other writers.

Timaeus of Sicily (350-326 BC) wrote of the tin trade with Britain but again his account has been lost except for the quotations made from it by Pliny.

Pytheas of Marseilles sailed round Britain in about BC 325. Fragments of his report survive in the writings of Polybius (BC 130), Diodorus Siculus (BC 20), Strabo (AD 18) and others.

Posidonius, a Syrian, wrote about tin from Britain around 90 BC. He is referred to by both Diodorus and Strabo.

Although most of the ancient material is no longer available to us for first-hand inspection, there are sufficient references and quotations to it by others to establish its authenticity. These later writers, who conducted their researches at about the time of Christ, were able to piece together the information, and it is they who show us that ancient Britain traded their metal

with foreign merchants.

Strabo says: “Of the metals they have tin and lead, which with skins they barter with the merchants for earthenware, salt, and bronze trinkets. Formerly the Phoenicians alone carried on this traffic from Gades (Spain), concealing the passage from everyone...”

Re-thinking the Ancient World

There is a widespread view in today's world that assumes that early man was less intelligent, less developed and ignorant of many of the basic laws of nature. We use the term “primitive.” This is the result of an evolutionary perspective and one that leaves God and the Bible out of any consideration (compare the back page of this magazine). It is thought that man *invented*, or else somehow discovered for himself the skills of navigation, of metal smelting or agriculture. Well, no doubt many witty inventions have been made, but much knowledge is passed on from one generation to the next. Fathers taught their sons and mothers their daughters. But where did it all start?

The Bible tells us that men were building cities before the great flood of Noah (Genesis



Goods for trade 2000 BC: Dover Museum A Shop window for Tarshish!

4:17). They were instructing (KJV) or else forging cutting instruments of brass (bronze) and iron (verse 22). There was a building industry and a metal industry in progress from earliest times. Cain was an agriculturist to start with, and his brother Abel a shepherd. Where did the skills come from for all this? Who gave man this wisdom, understanding and know-how? Today our minds are programmed through a process of education to see man as a self-made, self-sufficient being who evolved his expertise unaided and independently of a Creator.

And did all that acquired knowledge and skill die out with the flood? How is it that men were so soon afterwards building cities (Genesis 10:10-12), building great pyramids, mining and processing metals and sailing the seas? It is virtually certain that Shem taught Eber, that Japheth taught Javan and his other sons...and Javan without doubt instructed Elishah, *Tarshish*, Kittim... And it is doubtful that the isles of the Gentiles were discovered by

accident either. The Hand of Providence plays a much bigger part in human affairs than most are ready to recognize.

In the ancient world that the Bible reveals to us, we see a thriving, industrious and commercial network of nations and peoples who travelled far and wide in their quest for riches and security. The evidence is that Britain was part of that world, and that it was the Biblical Tarshish.

A Latter-Day Mission

Isaiah chapter 60 tells us that when Gentiles come to the brightness and glory of Israel's restoration under Messiah, then the Isles of the Gentiles will wait on him, and the ships of Tarshish will be first and foremost in the work of transporting Israel's sons as a gift of tribute (see Psalm 72:10) to the King of the Jews. This is to be their mission in the latter days—and *they will fulfill it!*

It should be recognized that Isaiah 60:9 has already had what is sometimes called an incipient fulfillment. The ships of Tarshish were represented by the British when they issued the Balfour Declaration in November 1917; they were *first* in leading events towards the creation of a national home for the Jewish people. The British Mandate period in Palestine (as it was called) in spite of all its failures and the evasion of its provisions, paved the way for the birth of the State of Israel. It was however, a first stage merely—the more complete implementation of the prophecy is yet to be realised after the return of Christ.

Historically there were two locations that were known by the name Tarshish. The first and primary location—as described in this article—was in what we now call Britain. This western Tarshish had a counterpart and may have been named by ancient sailors in a similar way to the duplication of names known today. From England came New England in the United States—from South Wales came New South Wales in Australia, or from London—East London in South Africa etc. The evidence is that the secondary Tarshish points to India and its “ivory, and apes, and peacocks” (1 Kings 10:22). Indian forces as part of the British Empire were involved in Palestine during the mandate period, and will doubtless be involved in greater measure in the future when the king of Righteousness is enthroned in Zion.

As we consider these things we must remember that all Gentile nations are to be humbled before the LORD for “The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, and the haughtiness of man shall be bowed down, and the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day. For the day of the LORD of hosts shall be upon everyone that is proud and lofty...and upon all the ships of *Tarshish*...” (Isaiah 2:11-17).

It is this humbling that will make the latter-day Tarshish willing and eager to assist in bringing Israel's sons from far, their silver and their gold with them.

TORQUAY

Tor-Quay: The Tyre Quay?

By W.H.Boulton FROM THE BOOK: THE ROMANCE OF ARCHAEOLOGY



Sometimes archaeology finds support in less material things than stones and bricks or metal blocks. Words have been compared to fossils, indicating by their use something of the origin of the language in which they were originally used. For example, the Danish invasion of England is indicated by the presence of a large number of place names ending in the letters "by"—Derby, Willoughby, Saxby, Sibley, etc. There seems to be a similar indication of Phoenician influence in England. Down in the south-western peninsula there are quite a number of places bearing names which include the syllable "Tor"; Torquay and Torre, and various hills known as Tors may be taken as cases in point. The word *tor* is in some dictionaries said to be of Anglo-Saxon origin. Others have questioned this, and it is certainly significant that we should find the word most widely included in place names in a part of Britain never really subject to Saxon domination—Devon and Cornwall. There is one other portion of the country where the name is frequently found, namely, Derbyshire, where it occurs in such connections as the High Tor, Chee Tor, and others. Derbyshire is a lead producing area, and the neighbourhood of the Tors is especially associated with the mining of that mineral. According to the prophet Ezekiel, tin and lead were both brought to Tyre by the Tyrians from the same place, which he calls Tarshish. That the word "tor" should be used in place names in the tin and lead areas of Britain is very

suggestive, and points to an alternative derivation of the term, namely, that it comes from an Asiatic source. The existence of the term *Tor* in the place names of the two districts thus takes its place among the evidences which archaeology produces as to the activities of the Phoenicians in early Britain. The principal city of Phoenicia, the port to and from which practically all her merchandise was imported and exported was Tyre. In the Semitic languages the simplest form in which this name is expressed is *Tsor*, which is closely related to the word *tsur* and which properly means a cliff or a sharp rock or boulder. A comparison of the places in Britain of which *Tor* is a part of the place name will show how aptly the term in its Semitic origin fits the various spots where it is now found. Altogether the presence of Phoenician traders in Southern Britain in the days when Tyre was the merchant city of the world may be taken as a historical fact most conclusively proved.

HAVE YOU SEEN THE VIDEO "THE LIONS OF TARSHISH"?

It is still available in VHS format and covers much of the material presented in this magazine. It is available from your Bible Magazine supplier.



The finger of God has indicated a course to be pursued by Britain which cannot be evaded, and which her counsellors will not only be willing, but eager to adopt when the crisis comes upon them.

JOHN THOMAS,
Elpis Israel, written in 1849

Policy and interest will identify Britain with the Jews, while many of its people will sympathize with them on religious principles.

JOHN THOMAS,
Herald of The Kingdom, May 1853

England once in possession of the country (Palestine), the restoration of the Jews will be the development of a day.

Robert Roberts,
Christendom Astray 1884

These ships of Tarshish, where development is so notable a feature of the nineteenth century, are the 'swift messengers' at God's command to bring Zion's sons again to their land.

C.C.Walker
The Ministry of the Prophets 1907

Great Britain was mentioned in prophecy as the island, naval, merchant Lion power of the latter days, showing favour to the Jews.

Islip Collyer
Vox Dei 1942

The British world is true to the pattern of the kingdoms of this world. It is a world founded on the thinking of the flesh, which is evil in God's sight.

Graham Pearce
Are we Ready for a time of Testing? 1971

MILESTONES UPDATE

As Tony Blair leaves his position as Britain's Prime Minister we consider the man who will replace him.

By Don Pearce RUGBY, UK

In keeping with the theme of this issue of the *Bible Magazine*, we will look at significant events over the past few months in relation to Britain. It is a critical time for Britain, as Mr Blair steps down after 10 years in office to hand over to his Chancellor, Gordon Brown. It is too early to see what effect this will have in Britain's attitude towards America, Israel and Europe, but we can see what the indicators are.

Why are we so interested in Britain? Naturally living here gives a certain bias! However our community has long held the view—as shown in this issue—that Britain holds a very important role in latter-day prophecy. She has a future role to play in serving the returned Lord Jesus by bringing back scattered Jews to their homeland, at a time when the rest of Europe is opposed to the call of Christ to accept him as the Jew's Messiah.

Prior to this Britain is to be found working with her fellow English-speaking compatriots in the Middle East, working with the southern Arab states and Israel. What is abundantly clear is that at the time of the end Britain is not to be found in the European camp but working with America and her allies. Western Europe will be working with Russia and Iran against Israel, whereas Britain will then be for Israel. We look therefore for indicators that Britain is drawing away from Europe and becoming more involved in the Middle East.

It may not be fashionable to see Britain playing such an important role in the purpose of God, but the choice has not been left to man. The Word of God has indicated a role for Britain, not because of her righteousness—far from it—but the all seeing eye of God can use countries and leaders to work out His Plan. There are many examples in the Old Testament of Gentile nations being so used by God to further His Purpose.

Our interest in the political situation is to see indications that the Hand of God is moving men out of the way when their particular role has been completed, and bringing others into play. In early 2006 we saw the dramatic removal of Israel's leader Ariel Sharon, literally taken away with a stroke; others serve out their term of office.

Mr Blair Steps Down—Finally!

Mr Blair and Mr Brown have been friends



**Gordon Brown:
New British Prime Minister
“Israel will always have our
support. We will be a friend
in good times and bad and we
will never compromise our
friendship for political
expediency.”**

for a long time, and rumour has it that they made an agreement between themselves in 1994, when John Smith the Labour leader in opposition died of a heart attack, that if Brown didn't stand in opposition to Blair for party leadership, then he could be Chancellor if Labour came to power. In 1997, Labour under Tony Blair swept to power and Gordon Brown became Chancellor. Mr Brown has had to wait 10 long years for the opportunity to be leader himself, but finally the step is almost taken as this article is written. Mr Blair is due to step down on June 27th and Mr Brown is his unopposed successor.

What kind of a person is he? Blair exudes charm—he was at one time an actor—whereas Mr Brown as Chancellor was seen as a much more dour man with quite a temper. His marriage late in life in 2000 has mellowed him—he has two young children.

He has declared that he wants to get more people involved in government, though he is not known to work well with people, very much keeping things to himself.

He has a religious background—his father was a Church of Scotland minister for 40 years, and he is a member of that church, and is not afraid to speak openly of his faith. As a Conservative MP recently wrote concerning Mr Brown:—

“He has no truck with secularism, and believes that spirituality is profoundly relevant to social change—‘religion should be a presence perpetually motivating people to pursue “justice” for the poor’. He will articulate ‘moral truth’, because he is ‘listening to the message of the biblical prophets when he brilliantly slashes Africa’s debts, doubles aid, and increases tax credits for poor kids here at home.’ His support for the Jubilee Campaign to cancel Third World debt was noteworthy, as is the observation that he has not voted on a single one of the 18 pro-gay measures brought by the current government. He also supports faith schools, and (unlike Mr Blair) has not been ashamed to talk of God or his Christian faith” (Cranmer 28-5-07).

“Cranmer” was however worried at Mr Brown's known lack of empathy for other people.

Mr Brown and Israel

As Britain's Chancellor, he has been working with the Palestinians to try to improve their economy. The continuing intifada against Israel has brought this work to a standstill and the civil war between Fatah and Hamas has brought ruin to the Palestinian economy. The *Jewish Chronicle*—a British weekly—ran an article last year about Brown's attitude to Israel. Here are some extracts:—

“Should Gordon Brown replace Tony Blair as Prime Minister, British Jewry will have another sympathetic ear, according to wide-ranging inquiries by the *JC*.

“In a publication, based on the book by Chief Rabbi Sir Jonathan Sacks, “To Heal a Fractured World,” Mr Brown wrote: “I have been impressed by the sheer scale, breadth and strength of initiatives in our Jewish communities.”

“The Chief Rabbi and Mr Brown are friends and Sir Jonathan is expected to contribute to a forthcoming collection of the Chancellor's speeches. Mr Brown has long cultivated ties to the community, often referring to the influence of his late father, a Church of Scotland minister, who visited Israel regularly.

“He is also close to major Labour donor Sir

Ronald Cohen, whose Portland Trust promotes peace in the Middle East through economic development, a belief Mr Brown clearly shares.

"The Chancellor's high-profile 2005 visit to Israel and the Palestinian territories—during which he convened the first meeting for five years between the Israeli and Palestinian finance ministers—focused on how prosperity could help peace efforts.

"Sir Ronald's former chief-of-staff Jonathan Kestenbaum highlighted Mr Brown's 'collaborative approach' between government, businesses and NGOs, which he considered particularly effective in the fractured Middle East.

"What characterises the Brown approach in general is that it is very solution-orientated and functional. What you can anticipate in the Middle East in general, and in Israel in particular, is that he will look for a practical solution in the realm of economics."

"At Labour Friends of Israel, Jon Mendelsohn said the Chancellor 'has a very developed sense of the politics of the region and is exceptionally fair and supportive. If he is our next Labour leader, Israel will have a very strong, supportive and practical friend in the UK.'

"Lord Janner said that he had known Mr Brown's father, who was "very pro-Israel and pro-Jewish. I believe Gordon to be the same. That does not make the pro-Israel approach of the present Prime Minister any less, but I don't think our community or Israel needs to worry."

"Mr Brown visited Israel in 1995 to deliver the Balfour dinner lecture, and again last year, when he met all of Israel's leading politicians.

Gordon Brown in Quotes

"It has fallen to our generation to address terrorism, and we will do so together. So I know what you mean by the phrase 'peace with security,' a basic right of the Israeli people"

"I was brought up impressed by the sufferings and courage of the Jewish people, aware of the great achievements in creating the State of Israel, most of all impressed by the determination that, from whatever source, discrimination in all its forms must be fought" (*Jewish Chronicle* 14-9-06).

"Israel will always have our support. We will be a friend in good times and bad and we will never compromise our friendship for political expediency" (*Jewish Chronicle* 27-4-07).

His close personal advisor is Sir Ronald Cohen, a Jewish self-made multi-millionaire.

How will Brown get on with Bush?

As the chief of the young lions, America is an important friend of Britain. Under Blair the relationship was close—Bush and Blair went to war together in Iraq. Will things change under Brown? The above heading was the headline to an interesting *Daily Telegraph* article (7-4-07).

"Britain's post-war political landscape has

not only been dominated by the transatlantic relationship between London and Washington, but by the powerful and personal bonds that have been established between a succession of presidents and prime ministers.

"That forged by Roosevelt and Churchill was based on their determination to eradicate the fascism from mainland Europe, while the dynamics of the Kennedy/Macmillan and Reagan/Thatcher unions were determined by the challenges posed by the Cold War and the battle to defeat communism. The Bush-Blair axis, meanwhile, has been defined by an altogether different kind of "ism", one the American President somewhat clumsily refers to as "Islamofascism"—i.e. Islamic terrorism.

"So what can we expect from Bush and Brown? One of Gordon Brown's first tasks



will be to arrange an official visit with the White House's current incumbent. The ritual of newly appointed British prime ministers rushing across the Atlantic to effect a personal introduction to their opposite number is almost as well established as the short journey they make to Buckingham Palace to present their credentials to the monarch.

"Quite apart from the fact that he likes to take his annual vacation at Cape Cod, Brown has established ties with the American political establishment, albeit of the Democrat variety. Brown was a great admirer of the slick political operation that provided Bill Clinton with two impressive presidential election victories, and key Clinton aides, such as James Carville, were deeply involved in the mid-1990s in the creation of the New Labour spin machine that brought Blair and Brown to power 10 years ago.

"Brown is unlikely to seek the same level of

political intimacy that Blair has with Bush—the two leaders have a weekly video-conference at which they discuss the international agenda. But he will nevertheless find it necessary to develop a constructive working relationship with the White House, not least because Britain's national security needs depend so heavily on American support and goodwill.

"The British and American military and intelligence establishments work so closely that, at times, they are almost indistinguishable, particularly since Bush and Blair forged their alliance to wage war on global terror. And Britain's nuclear deterrent, which Brown is committed to renewing, would not be able to function without the American-made missiles and delivery systems.

"Nor is Brown in any position to turn to Europe at the expense of America, even if the Continental political climate has improved..."

"As the architect of the five economic tests for Britain's entry to the euro, Brown was instrumental in frustrating Blair's vision of joining the single currency, and Brussels will not easily forget his contemptuous treatment of its beloved currency.

"Brown will quickly learn that maintaining a strong alliance with Washington is crucial to protecting Britain's interests, as opposed to surrendering them to Europe. As the Queen told President Bush at the White House banquet held in her honour on Monday night: 'Administrations in your country and governments in mine may come and go, but talk we will, listen we have to, disagree from time to time we may, but united we must always remain.'

Another article written from an American perspective concluded:—

"Brown has the ability and the incentive to play a decisive role in improving the special relationship and U.S.-European relations. Because he lacks Blair's reputation as 'Bush's poodle,' Brown is better able to challenge and reverse growing anti-American sentiment in Britain and Europe. Because new French President Nicolas Sarkozy has declared himself to be a friend of the United States, Brown will not want to be pushed to the sidelines by a new-old special relationship between Paris and Washington.

"Brown may never be loved by Americans as Blair was. He is too dour and introverted. But he can hope to be respected as a reliable ally and a good friend. And in the end that could be more important" (*Chicago Sun Times* 16-5-07).

"Gordon in Jaws of Euro Dilemma"

Are we to see a reversal of Britain's slow drift into Europe? As mentioned above, Gordon Brown worked hard to prevent Britain joining the euro, in spite of Tony Blair's desire to be part of it. Brown has amply shown the wisdom of keeping the UK economy free from

European bank control. The ability to set interest rates to suit Britain has allowed sterling to become once more a sought after currency, without the pitfall that has overtaken the euro. With the weakness of the American dollar the euro has also proved to be a popular alternative currency—but this has caused great anguish to many of its members as interest rates have risen and falling dollar prices have caused headaches for many of Europe's exporters.

Mr Blair has not involved Mr Brown with attendance at many European meetings, and he is perceived on the continent as not showing much interest in the grand European scheme—he is more focused on what is best for Britain.

The revival of the European Constitution under Angela Merkel is looking increasingly like a poisoned chalice being handed over by Blair. Mr Blair is determined to try to end his time in office with a triumphant flourish. He has conveniently made his departure time a few days after the next EU summit meeting. This will be Angela Merkel's last as EU president; she is determined to push ahead with a revised European Constitution. Nicolas Sarkozy's triumph in the French Presidential elections and the strong position in the French parliamentary elections, will have strengthened her hand, as he too is keen on reviving the Constitution. It was the rejection in their referenda by France and the Netherlands that put a brake on the existing document. There have been Dutch elections too since that rejection and the current party is in favour of a revived, but modified version.

If, as reported, Tony Blair agrees to the new draft Treaty—the word Constitution has been judiciously dropped—this will make it hard for Brown as he seeks to set his stamp on office. He is against seeing more powers being handed to Brussels, as the new “Treaty” would entail. Britain would lose out on its veto abilities. Tony Blair promised that the British would be able to decide whether to accept the powers of the new Constitution through a referendum. Opinion polls show that it would be roundly defeated. The European leaders are expected to argue that as they are planning to call the cut down version of the Constitution a Treaty, that it only needs acceptance at government level, without the need for referenda. However the reality of this “treaty” was revealed when the contents of a secret letter sent by Angela Merkel to her fellow leaders was leaked to the press.

EU Constitution to be ‘Presented’ Differently

“Cranmer”, the byeline of a Conservative MP, wrote in his blogspot that he had received a letter from Daniel Hannan a Conservative MEP (Member of the European Parliament) exposing this attempted deceit on the part of Ms Merkel. Hannan wrote:—

“I am clutching in my hot, trembling hands the most extraordinary document I have come across in eight years of Euro-politics. It is a letter from the German Chancellor, Angela Merkel, to her fellow EU heads of government. In it, she proposes a scheme to

bring back the constitution under a new name—or, as she artlessly puts it, ‘to use different terminology without changing the legal substance.’

“Now this, in itself, is not surprising. Many of us have suspected all along that the Eurocrats would try to bring back the constitution surreptitiously: I have written as much in these pages. What is shocking is the brazenness. Mrs Merkel flagrantly admits



As Tony Blair (above) is wooed by Germany's Angela Merkel over plans for a new treaty (read: “Constitution”) the House of Lords discussed a bill put forward by Lord Pearson entitled *European Union (Implications of Withdrawal) Bill*. He is campaigning for a committee to look at the costs and implications of Britain withdrawing from the EU.

that she wants to preserve intact the content of the European constitution, making only ‘the necessary presentational changes.’

“These changes mainly involve dropping paragraphs which the voters don’t like, and which are in any case unnecessary because they restate what is in the existing treaties. Thus, Mrs Merkel suggests excising the reference to the primacy of EU law. Since this concept has been part of EU jurisprudence since 1964, she reasons, there is no point in rubbing people’s noses in the fact by spelling it out.

“She also proposes scrapping the reference to the EU’s symbols. Again, not a single twelve-star flag will be hauled down as a consequence. The bands will still strike up Beethoven’s Ninth, bringing a lump to Euro-enthusiast throats. The change will be, as Mrs Merkel puts it with such admirable frankness, presentational.

“Similarly, she has a clever wheeze to ‘replace the full text of the Charter of Fundamental Rights with a short cross-reference having the same legal value’. And so on.

“Let us be clear: the European Constitution amounts to a constitutional revolution, perhaps the most far-reaching since the civil

and religious upheavals of the 17th century. This revolution is taking place, not as the result of popular insurrection or foreign occupation, but because the governing party is abusing its majority.”

We have been warned! How Mr Brown deals with this remains to be seen. The *Daily Telegraph* (18-6-07) indicates that he will put it to a referendum if the Treaty “crosses the red lines”—forcing Britain to yield in areas that she has declared are not negotiable. Only last week (15th June) the House of Lords discussed a bill put forward by Lord Pearson entitled *European Union (Implications of Withdrawal) Bill*. He is campaigning for a committee to look at the costs and implications of Britain withdrawing from the EU. When will Britain wake up to the enslavement to Europe that is stealthily overtaking them? As is so characteristic of the British, they seem to ignore these things until almost the last minute, before reacting and ploughing their own furrow. May not that time be upon us? Will Mr Brown’s euro-scepticism rise to the challenge, or do we have to wait for another leader to arise?

David Cameron and the Conservative Party

The Conservative leader, David Cameron, is well ahead in the opinion polls, and the Conservative party did well in the local elections in May. He too is friendly to Israel: he was guest of honour at the annual Business Lunch of the Conservative Friends of Israel, where he was asked if he was a “Zionist.” He replied:—

“‘If what you mean by Zionist, is someone who believes that the Jews have a right to a homeland in Israel and a right to their country then, yes, I am a Zionist and I’m proud of the fact that Conservative politicians down the ages have played a huge role in helping to bring this about’” (CFI 12-6-07).

Although no friend of a European super-state, Cameron still seems reluctant to move his party on a strongly anti-European path. We await developments!

London Reigns Supreme!

As befits Britain’s donning of the Tarshish mantle in these last days, she has thrived on being a merchant power, with all that entails in the world of finance, insurance and trading. In the world of finance the city of London continues to outpace America, in spite of Britain’s much smaller population. Spanning neatly between the time zones of America and Asia, London has forged ahead. She may have been “written-off” in the past, but the present reality shows the soundness of our traditional understanding of her future role.

“Modesty has not traditionally been a quality much prized in the City and right now the communal chorus of ‘We are the greatest’ bellowing from the Square Mile is louder than ever. The triumphant tones result not merely from the unprecedented buoyancy of the financial sector at the moment but from the fact that London believes it can now lay claim to being the financial capital of the

world, depriving New York of the title.

“This spring, a new index aimed at measuring the comparative competitiveness of the world’s financial centres put London top on all five criteria: people, business environment, market access, infrastructure and general competitiveness. Cynical New Yorkers might comfort themselves that the index was launched by the City Corporation, which would have found it useful material to take on its international marketing campaigns.

“But another piece of research could be less easily dismissed. In New York, Mayor Bloomberg commissioned consultants McKinsey & Co to look at the world’s financial centres. The firm’s conclusion was that, within a decade, London and Hong Kong could have eaten most of the Big Apple’s financial lunch” (*Sunday Telegraph* 10-6-07).

Britain and the Middle East and Beyond

Where does Britain see her future? Her eyes are set not on the confines of Europe but on the whole of the world! The Arab Middle East is a key market to her. It was Britain that carved up the area at the end of WW1 and she has many investments there. The popularity of foreign companies in this area rises and falls. At the moment many of the Arab rulers fear the might and dominance of Iran, and see the wisdom of having Britain and America as allies in this volatile region. Saudi Arabia concluded a multi-billion pound deal to purchase 72 fighter planes from Britain earlier this year. Saudi is also doing deals with America to purchase advanced weaponry to build up her defences.

A MENA report (13-5-07) showed just what an important market the Middle East is to Britain.

“UK Exports to the Middle East Exceed US\$ 19.9 Billion

“UKTI, the UK Government’s international business development organisation, estimates that UK exports to the Middle East region were worth more than £10 billion (approx US\$ 19.9 billion) in 2006 with exports to Bahrain and Qatar up by 45 and nearly 35 per cent respectively. In addition the UK now exports more products and services to Saudi Arabia than the whole of Latin America.

“The UAE (Arab Emirates) is the UK’s largest export market in the region and the ninth largest worldwide, according to UK Government figures for 2005. UK exports to the UAE totalled £5.57 billion (approx US\$ 11.1 billion) in 2005, an increase of more than 100 per cent on the previous year. Exports to Dubai alone accounted for 85 per cent of the overall figure recording a rise of 135 per cent compared with 2004.

“This increasingly strong commercial relationship between the UK and the UAE led to the announcement by the British Government last year that the UAE has been identified as one of its ten key ‘emerging markets’ where the UK is keen to deepen

trade and investment relations.

““The Middle East and North African region is becoming increasingly important for British businesses and ‘Britain in the Region’ is a great initiative, which we are very happy to support,” said Dutt. ‘There are many British companies with regional headquarters in Dubai and the UAE is looking for ways to engage with other markets in the region, and this event offers opportunities to build knowledge and links. The Middle East region is widely spread so



“India is now the third largest investor in the UK, with more than 500 Indian companies opening offices there.

“More importantly, nearly 1.5 million people of Indian origin live in Britain and that more than anything else is fuelling the relationship”

(BBC News 16-1-07).

it is great to have representatives for all the key markets under one roof.”

In January, Gordon Brown visited India—one of the young lions of Ezekiel 38:13—his first state visit there.

Sea change in UK-India Relations

““While we hold on to India, we are a first-rate power. If we lose India, we will decline to a third-rate power. This is the value of India.”

“The words of Lord Curzon at the turn of the 20th Century may well find a strange echo in the 21st Century and as India enters its 60th year of independence.

“India is now the third largest investor in the UK, with more than 500 Indian companies opening offices there.

“More importantly, nearly 1.5 million people of Indian origin live in Britain and that more than anything else is fuelling the relationship” (*BBC News* 16-1-07).

Treating Allies as Allies in the Middle East

It is of great significance that Britain and America depend on many of the southern Arab states for co-operation in their efforts to combat terrorism and in their pursuit of the goal of bringing peace to the Middle East. *The Strategic Studies Institute of the US Army War College* published a short paper (11-6-07) with the above title. Its conclusion:—

“King Abdullah of Jordan currently trains large numbers of soldiers from friendly Arab countries in the vital skills of special

operations and counterterrorism. A similar center may eventually be set up in the UAE. Moreover, virtually all of the Arab monarchies have strong military relations with the United States and often purchase significant quantities of U.S. weapons and military equipment. Qatar has made the largest military air field in the region available to the United States, and Bahrain hosts the headquarters of NAVCENT, the naval component of the U.S. Central Command. Also important to the future of the region, Jordan and Egypt have diplomatic relations with Israel, and Qatar hosts an Israeli trading mission. Egyptian support may also be necessary to help the region deal with the near civil war conditions in the Palestinian territories. All of these efforts and policies are valuable to the United States.”

Watching and Waiting!

As the time of our Master’s return gets closer and closer, we can discern the patterns in the political heavens. There are still changes to come; God has such power that we need not be troubled because humanly we can’t see how these steps will be achieved. Faith convinces us that all things will happen just as God has planned. It is so encouraging to see that the political situation is increasingly aligning with the state of affairs that earlier generations of Bible searchers had discerned. An Israel returned to their land but not in harmony with their neighbours. Yet out of the conflict would come a time of peace and safety, or security for Israel. Britain to be a strong power in the Middle East region, assisted by her allies, her young lions, with certain Arab states friendly to Israel and opposing the growing confederation against Israel. Europe increasingly hostile to Israel and eventually co-operating with Russia to sweep Israel off the map. Obviously we are not at these situations yet, but what we have to constantly remember is that the Master’s return is imminent. The final steps can and will take place after his return to his household and before his revealing to Israel as their saviours.

We see a role for Britain outside the beast system of Europe, working with her allies. Under the right leader Britain may well lead, instead of following, America. We may well find her back in Egypt defending her Middle East interests by working with Egypt to defend the Suez against terrorist attacks. The pendulum of history swings to and fro. We must not think, when the situation seems far from what was expected, that we have to revise our ideas! No, we need to be patient and await God’s timetable. His angelic ministers will ensure that at the appointed time the visions of scripture will be fulfilled. Watch and wait—that is our role!

“For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry. Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith” (Hab 2:3,4).



"I would never put Israel's security at risk"

BRITISH ATTITUDES TOWARDS ISRAEL

HOW BIBLE PROPHECY EXPLAINS THE LOVE-HATE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN BRITAIN & ISRAEL

By Paul Billington BRANTFORD, ON.

For many years there has been a sharp division of opinion in Britain which has resulted in a mixed approach towards the Jewish people and the State of Israel. From the time of the Balfour Declaration to the Palestine immigration policies of the 1940's, and from the rescue of Jewish children from Nazi Europe via the *Kindertransport* in the 1930's to the recent call for an academic boycott of Israel, it really has been a love-hate situation.

In a speech in Los Angeles on August 1st 2006 Prime Minister Tony Blair declared: "Let me make it clear I would never put Israel's security at risk." We may see Britain's participation in the unpopular "War Against Terror" (including Afghanistan and Iraq) as some proof that he meant it. But many others in the country opposed the war in Iraq and at the same time called for the "freedom of Palestine." Sentiments which, incidentally, were also expressed by the Vatican. The BBC and *The Guardian* have been notably hostile to Israel—the latter having even questioned Israel's legitimacy as a sovereign state. There have been times when Britain has been supportive of Israel (the 1956 Suez operation for example), and there have been times (as in the 1973 Yom Kippur War) when she appeared to be willing to leave Israel to her fate.

Some may see Israel as Britain's abandoned child, fostered by the United States. Others believe that the spirit of the nation will yet change and become more favourable towards Israel. We need to understand the forces at work here; the influences that have moved Britain in two contradictory directions.

What Prophecy Requires

Many of our readers will understand the prophecy of Ezekiel 38:13 as referring directly to Britain as "the merchants of Tarshish." The verse describes an opposition to the invading nations who, under Gog of the land of Magog, come against Israel in the latter days. In full, the verse reads:

"Sheba, and Dedan, and the merchants of

Tarshish, with all the young lions thereof, shall say unto thee, Art thou come to take a spoil? hast thou gathered thy company to take a prey? to carry away silver and gold, to take away cattle and goods, to take a great spoil?" (Ezekiel 38:13).

We should not miss the fact that this is an alliance of some kind, and that the Tarshish power with its "young lions" or Commonwealth, are grouped together with the Arabian powers of Sheba and Dedan. This is first and foremost an alliance between English-speaking trading nations and Arabs. It is a picture that harmonises with other prophecies which show us the same grouping, for example Psalm 72:10 and Isaiah 60:6-9. It should not surprise us therefore, if we find that Britain is a friend of the Arabs in the latter days. Indeed, the fact that we find her in their company is confirmation that this Tarshish really is Britain. Britain has straddled the Israeli-Arab divide for a long time, and all the indications are that she will continue to do so—sometimes appearing to favour Israel, and sometimes bending over backwards so as to appease her



JERUSALEM'S HEBREW UNIVERSITY OPENED BY LORD BALFOUR IN APRIL 1925 AND BOYCOTTED BY BRITAIN'S ACADEMICS IN 2007



**WAR ON TERROR
OPPOSED BY BRITISH
GROUPS WHO ALSO
DEMAND 'FREEDOM
FOR PALESTINE'**



Arab friends. She is known for her “political wisdom” and is a master at the art of compromise and in bridging an ideological gap.

Britain and the Bible

The division of opinion in Britain today between those who we may call pro-Zionists, and those who are pro-Arabists, is reflected in the different approaches towards the ‘War on Terror.’ But it often reflects itself also in that division which separates the political Left from the Right—and especially from the Christian Right. There is not too much belief in the Bible in Britain today, but that was not always the case. In fact it was the Bible that influenced Lord Balfour and the Government of Lloyd George to “view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people...”

It was many centuries ago that the prophet wrote the words of Jeremiah 31:10,

“Hear the word of the LORD, O ye nations, and declare it in the isles afar off, and say, He that scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him, as a shepherd doth his flock.”

That word of the LORD was declared among the nations. First by the apostles who preached the Gospel “concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ” in all the world (Acts 8:12; Col. 1:5-6; and verse 23)—and then even further afield in those later times through the translation and distribution of the Scriptures. It was Tyndale and Coverdale who translated the Bible into English and it was first popularized through the Geneva Bible and later still through the King James Version of 1611. As Britain established its empire across the world, so the English Bible—with its message about the regathering of Israel—was declared in far off continents and islands. The influence of the English Bible during the 18th and 19th centuries can only be described as phenomenal.

This opening up of the Bible enlightened people on two main issues. First God’s intention of restoring Israel to her ancient land; and secondly it removed the scales from peoples’ eyes concerning the great enemy of the Truth—namely “the great whore” of the Apocalypse; that “Man of Sin” and

“Antichrist” (as it was seen) in the Roman Catholic Church. This led to England’s break with Rome and to the rise of Protestant Christianity in the English-speaking world. As the author Michael Pragai explained it in his book *Faith and Fulfillment* (1985):

“...But without the cultural and spiritual omnipresence of the English Bible, it is highly unlikely that Lord Balfour would have given his famous Declaration, or that Britain would have striven to undertake the administration of post-World War I Palestine under the League of Nations.

“The growing importance of the English Bible was a concomitant of the spreading Reformation, and it is true to say that the Reformation would never have taken hold had the Bible not replaced the Pope as the ultimate spiritual authority. With the Bible as its tool, the Reformation returned to the geographic origins of Christianity in Palestine. It thereby gradually diminished the authority of Rome. The year 1611 saw the publication of the King James Version, and with that the “adoption” of the Bible was complete. The family and tribal history of one nation became the “national epic” of another.”

Here was the influence moving Britain to support the Jews and their desire for a state.

Spiritual Immorality

Protestant England is now an historical curiosity. It just does not exist today. The society that was rooted in a Biblical culture has given way to one that is largely secular, and now respects the Roman pope even if it does not wholly bow the knee to his “infallible” authority.

In religious terms, Britain today is subject to two main influences: Catholicism and Islam. Though neither of these form anything like a majority in the country, they are both vocal and politically active. The so-called “silent majority” are just that; silent and apparently disinterested in religious matters. This has allowed Roman Catholicism to make a comeback in the main centres of influence—a development that has been going on now for a century.

When we look at Bible prophecy this development should not surprise us. The book of Revelation informs us that the “great whore” will become highly active on the international scene at the time of the end. She will attain a commanding position and entice nations into spiritual immorality. This is the clear meaning in the following passages:

“...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.” (Rev. 17:2).

“For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies” (Rev. 18:3).

“How much she hath glorified herself, and

The Times, August 4, 1998

Britain gives up on the Reformation

Michael Gove on the strange death of a Protestant nation

Just opposite El Vinos, in the heart of Fleet Street, there lies an old curiosity shop. It sells books and magazines, but its antique frontage seldom detains the passing shopper. The premises of the Protestant Truth Society seem, like ironmongers' stores and greengrocers' shops, a relic of another age.

Religion, or perhaps one should say spirituality, still intrigues. But when talk of Christianity breaks on to the airwaves or the front pages, it is the Flesh not the Word which commands attention. Women priests, homosexuality and birth control are matters of anguished debate, but the Holy Spirit is, in an altogether mel-

FEW IN BRITAIN TODAY WILL REALIZE THE EXTENT TO WHICH THEIR VIEWS ARE BEING SHAPED BY THE VERY SYSTEM THAT THEIR GREAT GRANDFATHERS VIGOROUSLY PROTESTED AGAINST

lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow” (Rev. 18:7).

This “great whore” is seen sitting upon the European beast (Rev. 17:3) and so is in a position of control. The kings of the earth are the powers of Europe especially, but also included are “all nations” (18:3), and that includes Britain. The power of Rome has insinuated itself into Britain causing the nation to drink “of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.” This is symbolic language and refers to her apostate doctrines. One of those doctrines is known as *Replacement Theology* or *Supersessionism*. It is the idea that the Jewish nation has been replaced by the Church, and that all the Promises that were made to the nation of Israel now belong to the Church—the “spiritual Israel” (a term, by the way, not found in the Bible). Many churches have now adopted this concept (i.e. they have drunk the “wine”) and so have become blind to the work of God in restoring Israel.

This doctrine of *Replacement Theology* was expressed in the Vatican newspaper, *L'Osservatore Romano* on May 14, 1948 when it declared:

“Modern Zionism is not the true heir of biblical Israel but Israel is a secular state... therefore the Holy Land and its sacred sites belong to Christianity, the True Israel.”

This teaching (and its several variants) is a clear contradiction of what we read in the Bible, which says:

"Considerest thou not what this people have spoken, saying, The two families which the LORD hath chosen, he hath even cast them off? thus they have despised my people, that they should be no more a nation before them. Thus saith the LORD; If my covenant be not with day and night, and if I have not appointed the ordinances of heaven and earth; Then will I cast away the seed of Jacob, and David my servant, so that I will not take any of his seed to be rulers over the seed of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob: for I will cause their captivity to return, and have mercy on them" (Jer. 33:24-26).

The reader may also like to consult Romans 11:25-29. God has not changed His purpose with the nation of Israel, for "He that scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him, as a shepherd doth his flock."

It is Britain's departure from the Bible—her apostasy—that has allowed the doctrine of Rome to influence her death-stricken churches, and through them that section of the public that might otherwise have been sympathetic towards Israel. Add to this the growing Moslem influence, not to mention that of Left-wing atheists and academics, and we may begin to understand why one large section of the nation today is so pro-Arab and sympathetic to the so-called Palestinians.

Vatican Opposition to the Jewish Home

The Roman Catholic doctrine of Replacement Theology has been the main driving force behind the Vatican's obsessive antagonism towards a national Jewish home—especially in Palestine. The restoration of the Jews is not what Rome wants. There is another reason behind their aversion to this as well. It was mentioned by the late Avro Manhattan in his book *The Vatican Moscow Washington Alliance*. He wrote:

"Apart from the geographical presence of a Jewish state in the Middle East, the most controversial characteristic of an Israeli establishment, with Jerusalem as a territorial and mystical omphalos, (i.e. hub, center) was its messianic nature, the central focus of the Hebrew teleological dream.

"Because of this, the Vatican could not and would not tolerate the establishment of an Israel which claimed messianic privileges, or rather, messianic uniqueness and which, therefore, would compete with the Roman Catholic Church as the centre of a future spiritual kingdom...

"Although deliberately muted in public pronouncements, behind the Zionist banner there was to be found the ancient messianic hope for the coming of a global theocracy, as

predicted by all the seers and prophets of Zion...

"The spectre of the creation of such a theocracy has haunted the inner chambers of the Catholic Church from her earliest inception, and is still a dominant fear. Hence her equivocal role in world affairs surrounding the birth and existence of the State of Israel...

"...In Vatican eyes, therefore, the millenarian yearning for a global Hebrew theocracy represents a deadly threat to the eschatological teachings of the Catholic Church. When translated into concrete political terms, such a view spells not only rivalry, but implacable enmity."

The Vatican's role at the time of the establishment of a Jewish National Home in Palestine is revealed by Chaim Weizmann in

every side for help...

"...At the eleventh hour the Papal Nuncios tried to get the Secretariat of the League to postpone this item on the agenda... I said that there had been delay enough, and if we waited till Monday or later, who knew what differences would arise around the Council table."

The British mandate was ratified by the League of Nations as we know, but the above lines show us how the Vatican would have prevented it if at all possible.

When, in 1943, the question of a Jewish National Home in Palestine was being considered, the Roman Catholic Church again opposed the concept. A letter from the 'apostolic delegate to Washington,' Archbishop A.G. Cicognani written to President Roosevelt's special envoy to the Vatican, Ambassador Myron Taylor (dated June 22, 1943) pointed out the Catholic concern over the Holy Places in the event of a "Hebrew Home" being established. It then goes on:

"The second point concerns Palestine itself. Catholics the world over are piously devoted to this country, hallowed as it was by the presence of the Redeemer and esteemed as it is as the cradle of Christianity. If the greater part of Palestine is given to the Jewish people, this would be a severe blow to the religious attachment of Catholics to this land. To have the Jewish people in the majority would be to interfere with the peaceful exercise of these rights in the Holy Land already vested in Catholics.

"It is true that at one time Palestine was inhabited by the Hebrew Race, but there is no axiom in history to substantiate the necessity of a people returning to a country they left nineteen centuries before.

"If a 'Hebrew Home' is desired, it would not be too difficult to find a more fitting territory than Palestine. With an increase in the Jewish population there, grave new, international problems would arise. Catholics the world over would be aroused. The Holy See would be saddened, and justly so, by such a move, for it would not be in keeping with the charitable assistance non-arians [sic] have received and will continue to receive at the hands of the Vatican."

The Papal Conquest

This was the title of a book by Alexander Robertson published in 1909. It demonstrated the advances being made even then by the Roman Church in Britain. It included warnings given by a former Prime Minister of Britain, W.E. Gladstone, taken from his writings, as well as clear statements of intent by the Roman Catholic Cardinal Manning, who said that



THE LATE POPE JOHN-PAUL II WORSHIPS WITH THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY: ECUMENISM IS A MEANS WHEREBY ROME SPREADS HER DOCTRINE OF REPLACEMENT THEOLOGY. THE RESULT IS SEEN IN CHURCH ATTITUDES TOWARDS ISRAEL

his autobiography entitled *Trial and Error*. The following quotations will illustrate:

"Although the Vatican had never formulated any claims in Palestine, it had recognized interest in the Holy Places. But then practically all of Palestine could be regarded as a Holy Place..." (Page 190).

"...the most serious political opposition to the Balfour Declaration policy seemed likely to emanate from the Vatican..." (Page 284).

"But the question I had come to ask: What exactly was the reason for Italian and Vatican opposition to Zionism? remained unanswered" (Page. 286).

"The Palestine Mandate came up for ratification only on the last day of the League Council meeting (Saturday, July 24, 1922), in London, and up to the last day we were uncertain of what would happen. We weighed every possibility and looked on

England:

“is the head of Protestantism, the centre of its movements, and the stronghold of its powers. Weakened in England, it is paralyzed everywhere; conquered in England, it is conquered throughout the world. Once overthrown here, all is but a war of detail. All the roads of the whole world meet here in one point; and this point reached, the whole world lies open to the Church’s will. It is the key to the whole position of modern error. England, once restored to the Faith, becomes the Evangelist of the World” (Taken from Manning’s *Sermons on Ecclesiastical Subjects*, Vol. 1).

The book by Robertson includes an entire chapter under the heading “Capturing the English Press.” It also shows how that the Civil Service and the Diplomatic Service was being overtaken by Roman Catholics:

“It is worthy of notice that a very great number of those second in command in departments of the Civil Service at home, and in the Colonies, are Roman Catholics. The filling of such posts by her emissaries is part of the cunning policy of the Roman Catholic Church, and it has been adopted, no doubt, for the following reason. In the hands of such men generally rests the power of recommending candidates for vacant posts, and the power of advancing to higher posts those already in the service. Of course, in making such recommendations, the chief interest studied is that of the Roman Catholic Church. It is the same thing in the Diplomatic Service. There are undoubtedly far too many Roman Catholic Ambassadors at Foreign Courts, men who are disqualified from supporting the interests of British Protestant subjects abroad...”

That was over 100 years ago! It would have a profound effect a few years later in the efforts made by Ministers to implement the Balfour Declaration. Such a “service” in the hands of Romanists would frustrate the purpose at every turn. If we wonder how it is that the British Foreign Office is so overwhelmingly pro-Arabist (it has the nick-name of ‘The Camel Corps’); here is a large part of the answer.

The Papal Conquest

When Winston Churchill and Lawrence of Arabia first laid plans for a Middle East which would include a Jewish State, they promised the Arabs independence in return for help in defeating the Ottoman Turks and for co-operating with the Zionist scheme. A Roman Catholic diplomat, Mark Sykes, worked out an agreement with the French (the Sykes-Picot Agreement of 1916) which torpedoed the assurances given to the Arabs by Lawrence. This was a serious blow to the Arab-British-Zionist relationship. The blame for this apparent betrayal is often laid at the feet of the French—but as we can see, the root has a strong Roman smell.

Jewish Communists

The Jewish people were down-trodden and deprived of what is called ‘Human Rights’ for



AN OLD NEWSPAPER CUTTING SHOWS HOW ZIONISTS WERE EQUATED WITH COMMUNISTS AND WERE SEEN AS IMPORTING COMMUNISM INTO THE MIDDLE EAST

long centuries. They were persecuted, murdered, and banned from taking part in the normal social life of the countries in which they existed. They could have no part in government or positions of power.

The humanist and socialist philosophies that originated in France are what changed their status. With the political earthquake of the French Revolution which rocked France in 1789, and its spread throughout Europe by Napoleon, Jewish emancipation began to release the Jew from his shackles. As a result of this Jews were enthusiastic about the political movements that sprang out of the revolutionary

Church would be dismal indeed! Communism had to be confronted and its advance checked wherever possible. Leading Communists were often Jews—and in 1917 the idea of a Jewish state in Palestine was anathema to the pope and his Vatican. It was even more so after Russia chained half of Europe following the Second World War.

A great deal of covert intrigue was employed during the 1920’s and 30’s in order to prevent the spread of Communism in Europe. Not only so, but a means of reviving German power was sought for, so that Russian Communism could be rolled back. The man to do the job was Adolf Hitler and his Nazi party. The details can be read in *The Vatican Against Europe* by Edmond Paris, as well as in several books by Avro Manhattan. We cannot condense the contents of these books here, but two quotations made by Manhattan will help emphasize the point. First, Cardinal Faulhaber in April 1937,

“All the civilized world, but especially the Catholic nations, must unite into a holy crusade against Atheist Russia, and crush Bolshevism wherever it may be found.” Also in 1936, the Bishop of Munster, Count von Galen, said:—

“It is the duty of every Catholic, and of every civilized nation, to defeat and crush Godless Communism, embodied in Atheist Soviet Russia.”

When the United Nations voted on the Partition of Palestine in November 1947, in effect creating a Jewish State, Russia voted in favour of it. The Vatican, as we have seen, was opposed and did her best to lean on Catholic countries so that they would vote against it. The Vatican, for all its manipulations and pressures, failed to prevent the birth of Israel as a Jewish State in Palestine with a Socialist Government. In those days, many saw the Jewish State as

**“THE VATICAN WOULD NEED TO WORK THROUGH BRITAIN
(AND THE UNITED STATES) IN ORDER TO CONTINUE THE
FIGHT AGAINST COMMUNIST RUSSIA AND TO HOLD IN
CHECK ZIONIST AMBITIONS.”**

conditions of the first half of the 19th century. They were socialists, humanists, atheists, communists and Bolsheviks. When the Russian revolution toppled the Czar of Russia in 1917, and gave birth to the Soviet Union, nine out of the twelve members of the Central Committee of the Bolshevik Party were Jews. Seventeen out of the twenty-two members of the Council of the People’s Commissars in Russia were Jews. Lenin was a Russian but Trotsky was a Jew.

Just as the French Revolution had shaken the Roman Church to its roots, the Russian Revolution reverberated not only through the Russian Orthodox Church, but caused near panic in Rome also. If atheistic Communism were to spread throughout the whole of Europe and into the Middle East, the prospects for the

importing Communism into the Middle East.

Post-War Britain

While the main enemy of the Vatican after the war—and after losing half of Catholic Europe—remained Communist Russia, the threat of a Jewish State was, for the several reasons we have stated, a development to be avoided and resisted by the Church. The Vatican would need to work through Britain (and the United States) in order to continue the fight against Communist Russia and to hold in check Zionist ambitions.

At the end of the Second World War we now know that the Governments of the United States and Great Britain—together with the Vatican—co-operated in an operation called *The Ratlines*. This involved secretly smuggling high-ranking Nazis out of Germany to places

like Argentina. The book by Mark Aarons and John Loftus, now marketed under the title *Unholy Trinity* tells the story. The following extract from the back cover makes the point:

“Unholy Trinity reveals the astonishing depth of the Vatican’s twentieth-century involvement with Nazi war criminals, and how this connection compromised American and British intelligence agencies during and long after World War II.

“Even before the surrender that brought an uneasy peace to Europe in 1945, there existed a growing terror that if the Soviet Union were not infiltrated and defeated, much of western Europe would fall to the “Russian horde,” leaving an unbroken chain of Communist tyranny extending from Moscow to Madrid. Thus, in the name of democracy, the Papacy entered into an espionage alliance with British and American intelligence to ferret leading Nazi war criminals out of Germany, so that these men could be used in the greater fight against Communism.”

One of the most well-known of these Nazis was Adolf Eichmann who sent Jews to German and Polish death-camps. He was smuggled out of Europe on a Vatican passport issued through the Red Cross (see right). As Nazis escaped, Jewish survivors of the Holocaust were being prevented from reaching the refuge of Palestine by the British, who put them into prison-camps on Cyprus and at Atlit. It would disturb many British people to know that the Atlee-Bevin Government of Britain was working hand-in-glove with the American CIA (equally devastating to Americans) and the Vatican, against the Jewish refugees, while at the same time shielding Nazi war criminals.

If the reader doubts these facts, all that we can say is *read the book*, and then demonstrate its information as false if you can.

What it proves is that “all nations have drunk of the wrath of her fornication,” committing international immorality with the

most disgusting and abhorrent system upon earth—“for by her sorceries were *all* nations deceived” (Rev. 18:23).

The Future of Britain

When we see today’s British clergy, and the leaders of the University and College Union calling for actions against Israel—and when we see the BBC and influential media engaged in their propaganda against the Jewish State, we must understand the reasons for it. It is a nation that is intoxicated. Britain has been led astray from her previously held grasp of Bible principles and teaching. Not that she ever



The Vatican’s Red Cross passport of Holocaust engineer Adolf Eichmann

understood the Book completely (the Reformation never went anywhere near far enough), but she was greatly influenced by what it had to say. It was the Hand of God, working through the influence of His word, that caused Britain to take those initial steps in facilitating the object of a National Home for the Jews in Palestine. Men were providentially raised up and influenced by the Bible so as to begin the process of physical restoration to the Land. No other Gentile nation, since the days of Cyrus the Persian, has been such an instrument in the purpose of God.

It is a matter of great sadness that Britain (the British people and leaders) have been deceived into rejecting the word of the LORD. The theory of evolution, the philosophy of humanism—together with those desires of the fleshly mind, have led the country down the path of secularism and into an *anti-Bible* mentality. There is a pride in human ability and achievement; in human wisdom and learning—and no higher intelligence is recognized above that of man. This spirit must be humbled, and we believe that the Scriptures teach us that it will be—see Isaiah 2:11-17; Psalm 48:7, also Psalm 9:17.

It is this apostasy of Britain which is not only leading many of her intellectuals *against* Israel, but which is also taking her into an association with Catholic Europe. Both are a road-map to disaster. Unless Britain can find repentance she faces very dark days ahead.

What we do know is that this latter-day Tarshish will have to submit herself to Israel and to Israel’s King (Isaiah 60:12; Psalm 72:9-11). The kings of Tarshish and of the far-off continents will bring tribute; they will come with an offering (Isaiah 60:9), a present:

“Woe to the land shadowing with wings, which is beyond the rivers of Ethiopia: That sendeth ambassadors by the sea, even in vessels of bulrushes upon the waters, saying, Go, ye swift messengers, to a nation scattered and peeled, to a people terrible from their beginning hitherto; a nation meted out and trodden down, whose land the rivers have spoiled!... In that time shall the present be brought unto the LORD of hosts of a people scattered and peeled, and from a people terrible from their beginning hitherto; a nation meted out and trodden under foot, whose land the rivers have spoiled, to the place of the name of the LORD of hosts, the mount Zion” (Isa. 18:1,2,7).

Even thus shall the God of Israel be glorified.

TONY BLAIR, THE E.U. & THE POPE

As this issue of the Bible Magazine goes to press news reports are telling us of Mr. Tony Blair’s “swan song” at the European Union conference table. What we do know is that there was a “compromise” over the new EU treaty, which Blair said allowed them to “move on.” Move on to precisely what? remains as the big question. The compromise, at least in part involved simply postponing the EU voting system until 2014. In other words, give it enough time and dress it up with different words, and gradually the much desired Fourth Reich will become a reality!

The news report said however:

“Blair largely succeeded in sticking to the four ‘red line’ conditions he set for agreement on the new treaty—that Britain would not cede control over foreign policy,

its judicial and police system, tax and social security rules, and an EU charter of fundamental rights.”

This may have been partly due to the insistence of the in-coming prime minister Gordon Brown who, upon hearing of a deal with France went “ballistic” in a resulting row with Blair, according to an Associated Press report.

Then Blair went to see the pope at the Vatican.

“A Vatican statement said afterwards that they had discussed “particularly delicate subjects,” including the Middle East, the future of the European Union and recent unspecified legislation passed in Britain.”

It must be remembered that it was the



Blair calls on the Pope: June 2007

Roman Catholic Church in Britain—working chiefly through the media—that helped Blair to power in the first place as it emphasized “the Common Good”—a Catholic phrase that carries a coded message with both religious and political under currents. Again the words of Revelation 18:3 tell what is happening!

EDITORIAL:

Why should the rest of us care about Britain?

We may not realise it, but this subject warrants more than passing interest.

It is not just a quaint curiosity. Our reasons for saying this are not personal, but Biblical. Those of us who sojourn in English-speaking ex-colonies, like the United States, or have forgotten that there is something called “the Commonwealth” that countries like Canada, Australia, New Zealand—and even India and South Africa—are still connected to, should be aware that many Bible prophecies that relate to Britain also concern those countries that grew out of her merchant-based empire.

It must be obvious that Ezekiel 38:13 that speaks of “the merchants of Tarshish, *with all the young lions thereof*” having a role to play in “the latter years” (verse 8) and in “the latter days” (verse 16) must refer to more than the British Isles alone. Who are these young lions, if not the countries that came from British origins? Many still recognize the Queen as the head of state, even if only symbolically. What is her image and superscription doing on Canadian and Australian bank notes?

As Ezekiel makes clear these nations must face a formidable foe in the latter days. They *all* have a role to play—and they will not be able to escape from it.

This does not simply hang upon the strength of Ezekiel 38:13 alone. It may be noted that in many passages that speak about Tarshish, there is also reference to “the isles” who are associated with them in some way. Examples are Isaiah 60:9; Psalm 72:10; Isaiah 66:19. The word translated “isles” actually means *coastlands*. So these “isles” can refer to far off continents—and we can think of those with long coasts such as in North America and Australia. These maritime lands are seen to be sometimes in association with Tarshish—and when they are we should make that connection. The context will tell us how to understand the word. Take for example Jeremiah 31:10 referred to elsewhere in this issue—in what “isles afar off” has the word of the LORD been declared? And which of them have been interested and involved in the restoration of Israel?

The fact is that these “isles” and young lions have been *very much* involved with the work of restoring the Jews to their ancient homeland. It was Britain that issued the Balfour Declaration and undertook the Mandate, that is true, but during the First World War the Australians, the New Zealanders and the Gurkhas were very prominent in the work of removing the Ottoman Turks. In fact “all the young lions” became involved in that war in one way or another. In the Second World War also they were heavily involved—and part of the war protected Palestine (as it then was)



The Queen with President Bush

from Nazi invasion. Today it is the same allies who have been in the Middle East trying to confront terrorism. The war in Iraq may not have been the greatest success, yet the point is—look who is involved! Can we not see that the word of God is telling us that these same nations will be allied in their efforts to oppose the forces of the northern Gog when that time arrives? The destiny of the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and others are tied to that of Britain—and as she fares, so will they. Britain today is in terrible apostasy having abandoned what belief her people once had in the Bible. Those countries related to her are treading the same path—and it is a road to judgement as Psalm 9:17 tells us:

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

But there is more to it than that as far as believers are concerned. Knowing the truth of these things brings responsibility—and it is a responsibility that few of them seem to appreciate. The principle can be seen from Ezekiel chapter 33:1-6. It is also seen in the New Testament. In Ephesians 3:10, 11 specifically we are told that it is the task of “the church” (the assembly of believers—the *ecclesia*) to make known the purposes of God to the principalities and powers. The Revised Standard Version reads a little more clearly here telling us:

“...that through the church the

manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the principalities and powers in the heavenly (or high) places. This was according to the eternal purpose which he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

This is the work of Ezekiel’s watchman (chapter 33). Those who know what is coming (because instructed by the word) have the responsibility to make it known. This is so whether we happen to live in Britain or in any of the related countries. Whether they hear us or forbear is not the issue—the issue is our own responsibility before God. The “principalities and powers” are the rulers and authorities—and the believers *collectively* should make known what God will do. Where there is not enough understanding and faith to do this, the inevitable consequences will follow. As Ezekiel puts it, their “blood will I require at the watchman’s hand.”

Why care about Britain—or the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa... or wherever we are? Why care? For the very same reasons which God gave to Jonah (4:10,11) after he tried to flee to Tarshish (4:2).



A rare public witness by Bible believers in London, England, brought a good response!

The Phoenicians in the Land

DOR

By Ken Loveridge PRINCE GEORGE, B.C..



The Origins of the Phoenicians

The book of Genesis tells us that the Canaanites who settled the coastal plain along the eastern Mediterranean from Ugarit south to Joppa were descendants of Ham through Sidon. The historian Herodotus begins his history with mention of the Phoenicians arriving in Egypt from the Red Sea (Persian Gulf) about 3500 BC. From there, they moved north and east to the Mediterranean coast. We first read of Phoenician ships in a fleet of forty taking cedar from one of the port cities of Phoenicia to Egypt about 3000 BC. Much later, in about 1200 BC the Sea Peoples tried to invade Egypt. The records on display at Medinet Habu, in Egypt, tell us that the Philistines and Sea Peoples were repulsed, but not destroyed, in a major battle. The Egyptians were forced to accommodate them with land along the coast of Canaan which has always served as a buffer with the powers of Mesopotamia. These people, some of whom were Philistines, took some of the coast at the southern end of the Phoenician territory, in what we call Israel today.

Less than 20 years ago, some papyrus records were found that tell the adventures of an Egyptian official who travelled north to Lebanon to purchase wood for a ceremonial boat for Pharaoh. His name was Wen-Amon, and he wrote his story about 1070 BC. The first stop on his journey was the city of Dor, at that time occupied by one of the tribes of Sea Peoples—the Tjekker or Sherkel. These people were seafarers who ranged up and down the coast at will. From Dor, Wen Amon went north to several of the Phoenician port cities, and then on to Cyprus. It would appear that the Sea People were eventually assimilated by the Phoenicians. Pressed into a narrow coastal plain with little fertile land, facing the sea, the population came to be known as Phoenicians, although the name they called themselves has not been preserved. The Greeks called them *phoinikes*—purple. The Phoenicians were not a race, but rather a group of people in a small area united in purpose. The city states were never united as a country, but remained



View of the area at Dor where purple dye was processed.

independent merchant cities.

The Phoenicians were able to take advantage of the vacuum left by the Mycenaeans and other traders of Crete and the Aegean. Competition did not come from other inhabitants of what is now Lebanon and Israel, but rather from the Greeks. Expanding their trade, they reached a high point of power and influence about 1000 BC in the time of King Hiram of Tyre. The archaeological record indicates that they wasted no time in establishing themselves on Cyprus at Kition. Other ancient historians indicate that they were also on the move west through the Mediterranean. Before the Greeks began their westward colonizing into Sicily and southern Italy, the seafaring Phoenicians were probably already sending probes into the Atlantic. Perhaps they were retracing the routes of some of their former Sea People neighbours. This was well before the time that the Romans took to the sea, and the Phoenicians were always looking for raw materials for their workshops.

The city of Dor which Wen-Amon had visited was a seaport on the Carmel coast of what is now Israel. Over several thousand years it was controlled primarily by the Phoenicians, before it fell into decay following the construction of the port of Caesarea by Herod the Great. The string of Phoenician cities extended as far south as Joppa at one time, but Dor is distinct in its state of preservation. Unlike the better known ports of Tyre, Sidon and Byblos, or the Spanish ports, it has not been overbuilt by a modern city, and none of its city levels were ever completely and totally destroyed. In 1990, the Israeli archaeologist Ephraim Stern began the work of excavation, and it has carried on every year since. It was the intention of Yigael Yadin to lead the project, but his commitments with the government and other digs prevented his starting, and he died before being able to join the project. Tell Dor offers a unique opportunity to look back into the past of a Phoenician city.

Why is it that we remember the Phoenicians, when no significant trace of their records, or culture, remain? Although the origin of our alphabet is attributed to them, we have none of their written records. Some works of art remain, but they are accused of copying from other cultures. Just as archaeologists today have trouble identifying sites of trading stations as opposed to colonial cities, so the Phoenician traders are looked upon as minor contributors to culture throughout the Mediterranean. The Phoenician ships not only carried goods in trade, they also produced luxury goods in their factories and workshops. Their two largest markets were Egypt and Mesopotamia. Phoenician factories turned out works in ivory and precious stones in the Egyptian style, which were traded throughout the world. Major cities all seem to have had a Phoenician Quarter where the traders sold the luxury goods, while in the hinterlands, they wanted raw materials, metal ores, precious and semi-precious stones, rare woods and materials which they could transform into products which they could resell to their richer customers.

Cedar From Lebanon

They controlled the supply of cedar from Lebanon which was valued by everyone. The Egyptians wanted wood for ship-building, while the Assyrians wanted cedar beams for their building projects. When excavating one of the Assyrian palaces in the mid-1800's, Henry Layard one night came upon his workers warming themselves with a fire of cedar beams taken from the dig. Solomon negotiated with Hiram of Tyre for cedar to be used in the construction of the Temple in Jerusalem, as well as craftsmen. In return, he supplied them with food and land for agricultural production. When the son-in-law of Solomon was given control of Dor and the surrounding area, the Phoenician city was not taken and destroyed, but rather controlled by the Israelites, in the same way perhaps that they later were controlled by the Assyrians. As part of their line of luxury goods, the Phoenicians, like every commercial organization, were interested in monopolies. What could they produce and control that no one else could make? The answer was purple dye.

A Monopoly in Purple

Purple was the mark of royalty. Dyes came from many sources. Vegetables, flowers and minerals were used in different ways, just as they are today. Some dyes were commonly known, but others which produced intense, bright colours—such as saffron—were jealously guarded secrets. The production of rich purple dye was the secret of the Phoenicians. Their rich clientele in Egypt, Mesopotamia and elsewhere near the Mediterranean were apparently prepared to exchange quantities of purple dye for its weight in gold. The dye was produced in a complex operation that began with the shell of the murex. These molluscs grew in the waters of the Mediterranean coast, but the Phoenicians were able to find other sites in the

Mediterranean, as well as Britain. Piles of shells on the shore and seabed still identify the old settlements. At first, the shells were gathered from the sea, but at Dor, the remains of pools can be seen where they were cultivated. Today, Mediterranean sources seem to have declined or disappeared, and murex shells are brought in from Portugal. Phoenician coins usually carried a depiction of a murex shell, so the source of the dye must have been common knowledge. The monopoly remained with the Phoenicians as only they knew how to process the shells to produce the valuable dye. Dor contained areas within the city both to cultivate and process the shells into the valuable commodity.

As well as being craftsmen, the Phoenicians



An encrusted tin ingot recovered from a Phoenician shipwreck. Compare the one from Britain pictured on page 14.

were the master mariners of the Mediterranean. The Romans were still a small tribe in north-central Italy who had not yet begun to expand when the sailors of Tyre and Sidon were exploring the north African coast, the Mediterranean islands, and the coasts of what were to be Spain and France. The Greeks were also moving west as colonists and settling in what they called Magna Grecia—now southern Italy. But while the Greeks wanted to settle, the Phoenicians were most interested in raw materials for their production of luxury goods. They settled in locations that reminded them of their homes. A river outlet next to a headland, with an island nearby was the favoured location. Just as franchise businesses today try to duplicate an original successful operation, the Phoenicians looked for locations which duplicated their home ports. Storage facilities were set up with small trading settlements. A number of these were later to develop into today's large cities. The rivers gave them access to the interior of the country, and also brought the inhabitants to the sea to trade. Due to the nature of their settlements, the archaeological record is hard pressed to provide firm dates for many of the settlements in the

western Mediterranean. In many locations, the trade consisted primarily of metal ore, but often the local agricultural products were in demand.

Master Mariners

We traditionally think of ancient seamen being fearful of being out of sight of land, but in fact the coasts were more dangerous than the deep seas. The Tantura lagoon, running to the south of Dor, continues to disclose a rich supply of ancient shipwrecks from every era. Navigating by landmarks, tides and the stars, the Phoenician pilots used their experience to extend their reach far beyond the known trade routes. The Phoenician pilots apparently put the astronomy they learned from the Babylonians to practical use. The constellation containing the North Star was referred to in the ancient world as

'*phoinike*.' Not only the sources of their raw materials were secret, but also the routes that their ships travelled. Just as Paul, on his way to Rome, had to deal with a very short sailing season, a thousand years earlier, Phoenician ships could not complete a return trip to their western suppliers within one sailing season. A one-way trip from Tyre to Gades (Cadiz) in Spain by way of Malta would usually take 3 months. Staging areas or trading emporiums were places to stop to rest and refit, probably staying the winter before making the return trip. If bad weather was encountered, yet another year might be added to a round trip to the west.

They appear to have been the first to exit the Mediterranean to the west, through the Pillars of Hercules, where Gibraltar is located. Until the age of steam in modern times, the passage of the straits has been a major challenge for sailing ships. For centuries, the Greeks were banned from passing through the straits. The story of Pytheas, a Greek from Massaliot (Marseilles), placed about 500 BC, is the record of a man who went looking for the source of the rich materials which the Phoenicians brought into the Mediterranean. Pytheas knew that what we

know as Spain was not the only source of their wealth. He is credited with being the first of the Mediterranean Greeks to make his way to Britain and beyond, probably by travelling overland to the Atlantic coast.

Trade with the World

Ancient historians tell us of Phoenician ships passing through the Gibraltar straits and then travelling both north and south. Herodotus records a three year journey by Phoenician ships during the reign of Pharaoh Necho which sailed south through the Red Sea, down the east coast of Africa—or Libya as it was known—around the southern cape, then north along the western coast, through the straits, and east through the Mediterranean to Egypt. Just as they had to stop for bad weather in the western Mediterranean, they stopped along the African coast to plant crops and wait for the next sailing season. This was about 600 BC, when the Phoenicians had been the masters of the Mediterranean for at least 400 years. Ezekiel paints a vivid picture of the Phoenician trade throughout the known world and beyond at just this time. Ezekiel 27 first describes the city-state of Tyre as a ship built with goods from many of her neighbours. We are then told of the goods that were traded in each market, and of the traders throughout the world who were affiliated with Tyre. Any of the goods brought by sea were apparently transported by Phoenician ships called ships of Tarshish.

Recent archaeological digs in Spain have confirmed the existence of literally dozens of Phoenician sites along the Spanish coast—both east and west of Gibraltar. Archaeologists are able to distinguish between the settlements of the eastern Phoenician cities, and the Punic sites which grew out of Carthage which was established on the north African coast before 800 BC. Most of these sites seem to have early Phoenician roots.

The Phoenicians don't appear to have prospected for their raw materials. Rather, they moved close to the source and provided the market to the locals so that they had the incentive to develop and expand their production. Most of the ore seems to have been partially refined before being shipped east to reduce the bulk. Further refining seems to have taken place closer to home base. Silver was the primary product from Spain, most of it from an area near Seville called the Rio Tinto, that is still being mined today.

The Need for Tin

All we can be sure of concerning the raw materials they were searching the world for, is that all of them did not originate in Spain. The north-west coast of Africa produced ivory and

gold, but there were other products the Phoenicians needed. Ezekiel 27:12 tells us that the Phoenicians traded with Tarshish for “silver, iron, tin and lead.” Tin was a necessity for the production of bronze alloys which could be used for weapons, tools or ornaments. Bronze is more easily cast in molds, and is harder than copper. Most tin today comes from Malaysia and Bolivia where it is mined extensively, but the ancient world during the “Bronze Age” was not very technologically advanced. Mining methods were very primitive. Tin or any other mineral had to be



Map showing Phoenician trading routes over land and sea, used by ancients like Necho of Egypt, Hanno and Himilco.

easily found and produced. Only the most easily accessible deposits could be used. The two earliest sources of tin near the Mediterranean and Mesopotamia appear to have been north of Tarsus, and in central Iran. These deposits were exhausted at an early date, which has made them difficult to identify today.

Ships of Tarshish

It appears that ships of Tarshish were large capacity sailing ships capable of transporting great quantities of goods and materials. Ezekiel 27:25 (RV) tells us “The ships of Tarshish were thy caravans for thy merchandise.” When he sought to flee from the Lord, Jonah went down to Joppa and took passage on one of the ships of Tarshish, rather than go to Nineveh, the Assyrian capital. We know that Solomon sent “a navy of Tarshish” with Hiram’s navy (Hiram was the King of Tyre), on regular three year journeys south from Ezion-Geber which brought back “gold, silver, ivory, apes and peacocks.” These Tarshish ships obviously travelled east and west, north and south. The ships that Necho sent around Africa would have been ships of Tarshish. These large ships were

the lifeline of trade with the ends of the earth. Tarshish, for good reason, is linked with the trading power of Britain. To the Phoenicians, it represented the furthest reaches of their trading empire. The tradition of being a trading nation has continued ever since those days.

Once past the straits and into the Atlantic, the Phoenician ships travelled far and wide to develop their sources and lines of supply. The islands of the Azores in the Atlantic appear to have been one of their ports of call. Perhaps they reached the shores of South America, following wind and tide and ocean current. As the main purpose of these journeys appears to have been trade, we have not been left with an archaeological record for their travels. As we have no surviving written Phoenician records, there will always be a great deal of supposition about where they went. Archaeo-metallurgy today is helping to identify the source of the metallic ores which were converted into weapons, tools and ornaments—often by Phoenician craftsmen. There was bronze from Iran coming to the Mediterranean coast in 3000 BC. There has been long distance trade in metals for thousands of years. Egypt had tin-bronze alloys as early as 1650 BC, and there are indications that tin from what is now Uganda was being used as early as 1000 BC in Israel. Was tin one of the cargo items brought back for Solomon, or did the Phoenicians keep this source to themselves, with Hiram’s navy?

This period is referred to broadly as the Bronze Age, and in order to be major players, as they wished to be in every sphere, the merchant-princes of Tyre and Sidon needed to find and control a source of tin of their own, to blend with the copper of Cyprus. The ancient historians believed that the Phoenicians had reached the western end of the Mediterranean before 1000 BC. In what is now Spain they developed sources of silver, lead and gold. One of the interesting discoveries at Dor was a large bag of silver concealed in a jar buried under what had been a storehouse. Apparently hidden by a merchant, who sealed the bag with his seal in the time of King David (not long after the visit of Wen Amon), the 8.5 kilogram bag held silver with a gold content of 11%. Suggestions have been made that it either came from melted jewellery, or the silver mines of southern Spain. Ezekiel 22 describes the range of goods traded by the Phoenician cities, and it is apparent that trade did not cease when Tyre was destroyed by first Nebuchadnezzar, and later by Alexander.

West to the Cassiterides

Where was the Phoenician tin supply?

Pytheas, living about 500 BC, knew that tin was being transported through Spain and France, but the source of large amounts was further west. For the same reasons that the sea traders went south along the African coast for gold and ivory, they moved north along the coasts of Spain and Gaul for tin and amber. Tin from south-western Britain did not need to be mined in the sense we would think of. It was found loose and could be separated by a process like gold-panning. A charcoal fire could be used to heat it to reduce the ore to a transportable form. The Phoenician word for tin was cassiterid, while the Greeks called it kassiteros. The islands of Britain and Ireland were dubbed the cassiterids or tin islands. It is interesting to note that one of the western Iranian tribes is the Kassites, in the area where one of the early sources of tin was found. We might say that tin was needed to produce 'weapons grade' bronze, fit to use for swords and armour for the world's military powers such as Assyria.

In order to maintain control over both their markets and their suppliers, it was critical that the Phoenician pilots and captains maintain secrecy as to their routes of travel and the source of their materials. They managed to do this for many hundreds of years. Their profits



Purple dye was extracted from the glands of the Murex and "the best dyers did all their processing in lead or tin pans" (The Sea Traders, Time life).

were huge and finally their wealth drew the Assyrians, the Babylonians, Alexander the Great and finally the Romans to take their cities and try to take control of their trade. The port cities were often destroyed, but just as often they were quickly rebuilt to put the traders and their ships back to work for the conquerors.

The Destruction of Tyre

The Assyrians were not able to take and destroy the coastal city-states of Phoenicia, but nonetheless they were able to force them to submit. Assyrian panels from the palaces depict the Phoenician king fleeing by ship to Cyprus. Cyprus was also put under tribute to the kings of Nineveh and Assur. Trade continued with the Assyrians taxing and controlling at least some of the Phoenician activities. When the Babylonians succeeded the Assyrians,

Nebuchadnezzar set out to conquer the cities of the coast, and undertook a siege of Tyre which lasted 13 years. We are not sure whether or not he was successful. Scripture says he received no wages for his army, but went on to Egypt. Shortly after, control of Phoenician trade passed to Carthage, the colony in North Africa. Almost 300 years later, Alexander the Great, on his quest to conquer the eastern empires, besieged Tyre, and was successful in taking the city after building a causeway to the island. All of these nations suffered from the lack of a navy. For many centuries, the Phoenicians were the most skilled and knowledgeable mariners in the Mediterranean. The Assyrians, the Babylonians, the Persians, the Greeks and finally the Ottomans used the skills of the Phoenicians to build up powerful navies to use against their enemies. The Ottomans wanted only their skills however, and under them, the coastal cities, as well as many others within the empire, decayed and disappeared.

The World Trade Centre Moves West

The story of the Phoenicians would be woefully lacking without the Bible record. Ezekiel's description of their trade goods and trading partners give us a record which is absent from the incomplete snapshots of the surviving ancient historians. The Phoenicians have been condemned to be remembered through the words of their enemies and competitors. Current DNA projects have brought them to mind as we discover their descendants in Malta and the western islands. Herodotus spoke of many myths concerning the range of their earliest settlements which may indeed have a factual basis. For most, if not all, of the period while the children of Israel were in the land, the Phoenicians were *the* trading power in the Mediterranean. While they worked with the Israelites, and perhaps (in the case of Hiram) worshipped the Lord, they prospered and were at peace. We see later, in the time of Ahab and Jezebel, that they were a source of evil and immorality. The picture in Ezekiel 26 of the collapse of Tyre after the second destruction by Alexander, is the picture of a worldwide trading network coming to an end. The Phoenician trading power moved its operations offshore—first to Cyprus and then to Carthage—but the damage had been done to Phoenicia. Over the centuries, there has been a continued western migration of the world centres of trade. There are echoes of this destruction in Revelation when Babylon/Rome is brought down. Our world today relies on trade as never before, and the collapse of any part of it can have major consequences if it is this on which we rely. Phoenicia is only one of the major powers that surrounded Israel which have disappeared over the centuries. We too can let our focus shift from the things of God to the things of the world, where there is no profit.

NOW GO, SHOW THIS ISSUE OF THE BIBLE MAGAZINE TO SOMEONE ELSE. DON'T KEEP IT ALL TO YOURSELF - SHARE THE MESSAGE SO THAT OTHERS MAY ALSO UNDERSTAND OUR TIMES!

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LOCAL INFORMATION

Bronze Age Mines

Llandudno, North Wales

Copper ore (Malachite, as seen in the rock below) was mined here about 4,000 years ago. But who used it and where did it go to? and how did they transport it? Copper was mixed with tin (mined in Cornwall at the same time) to produce bronze. Clever stuff!



The tunnels you are about to enter were mined out with stone and bone tools 4,000 years ago.

UNDERMINING THE TRUTH ABOUT ANCIENT TIMES!

Notice the primitive caveman illustrated above—but were the folks who ran this mining industry quite as backward as they are now made out to be? These guys built Stonehenge as well as having one of the world's largest metalwork shops! What kind of civilisation was this that left its marks all over Britain? Stone monuments like Stonehenge are found in several places, and often near mine workings. Note the Newton Stone far right, that's in Scotland. Oh, and by the way, other primitives were building pyramids in Egypt—they weren't so dumb either! It is evolutionists and their concept of gradual development that sees them as ignorant cavemen, but the Bible gives a different view.

A Phoenician ship with two banks of oars (right) was navigated by skilled sailors. They used the stars. Below is a sophisticated device from the first century B.C. to show positions of stars.



The Newton Stone