

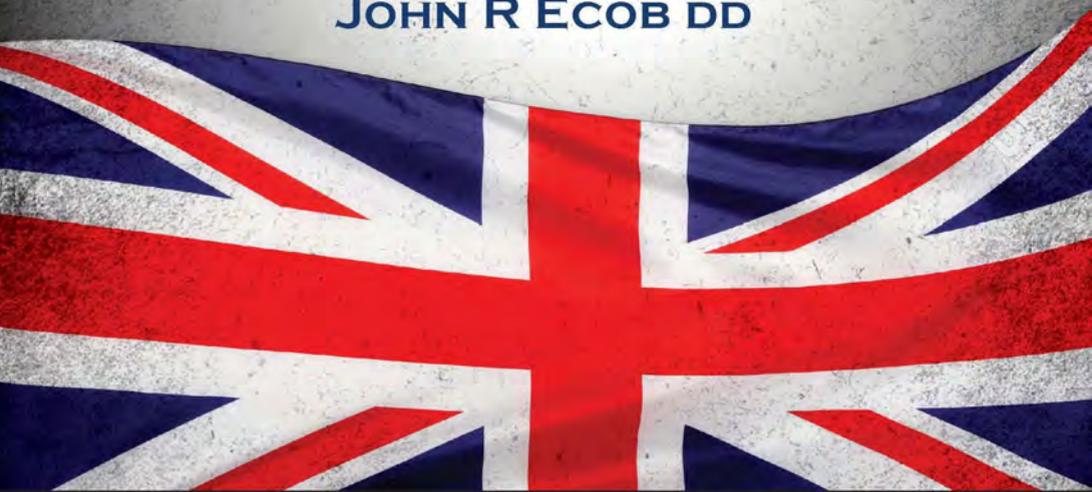


THE HERALD OF HOPE
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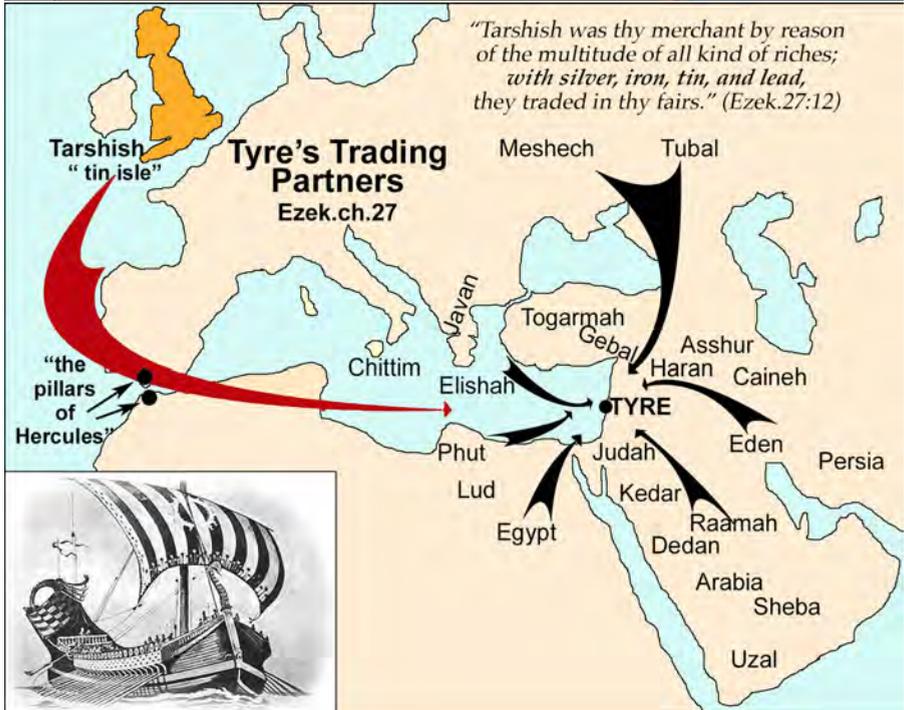


BRITAIN & USA

BY
JOHN R ECOB DD



www.heraldofhope.org.au



**Britain
and the
United States
of America
in
Bible Prophecy**

by

John R Ecob DD

for

Herald of Hope Inc.

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Preface

As we compare Scripture with events of the last century, nobody can doubt that we are living in the last days. Israel is returning to the land in unbelief and is again established as a nation among the nations of the world. After two World Wars which failed to unite Europe, those nations are coming together to revive the old Roman Empire. Asia has shaken off the shackles of Colonialism and now vies for power with the rest of the world. Technology has changed the world and travel has become common place. Moral values expressed in the laws of our land have changed; society is fast becoming Godless and entirely materialistic.

World population has exploded but has slowed to an increase of approx. 80 million a year. In 1951 world population was 2.83 billion and in 2018 it will approach 8 billion. It will almost have trebled in 70 years! This is not the world of a century ago.

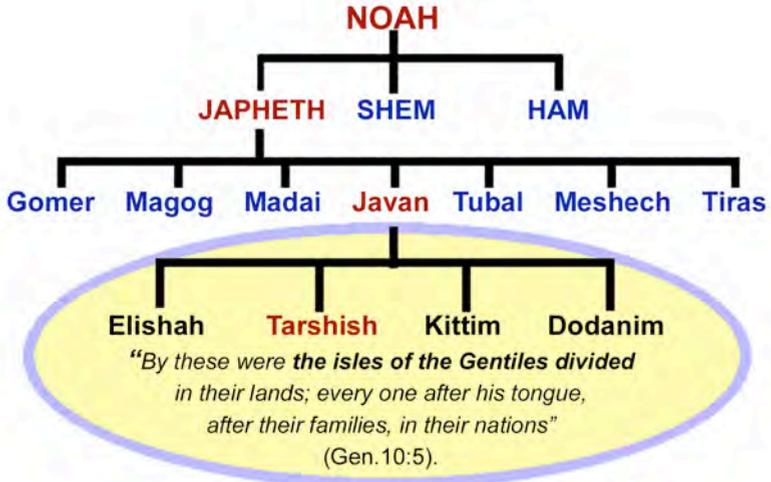
After the collapse of the old Imperial Roman Empire in AD476 the world saw various nations arise. Europe was dominated by the Holy Roman Empire for a thousand years after AD800. In the Middle East and North Africa, the Byzantine Empire, and then Islam took centre stage after the 4th century and until the Ottoman Empire began in 1299.

The Reformation began in 1517 introducing many conflicts between Britain, France and Spain. The age of colonialism emerged with Britain dominating the oceans and the British Empire became the largest empire in the history of mankind.

In 1917 the Ottoman Turk Empire was driven out of Palestine and after WWII Western nations controlled the Middle East.

After WWII the United States of America emerged as the most powerful industrial and military power the world has ever seen, and it is inconceivable that she would not have an important role to play as we approach the end of the age and the second advent of Jesus Christ. This book examines the last-days role of the United States, Great Britain and Commonwealth countries in the light of Holy Scripture.

Britain & USA in Bible Prophecy



Chapter 1 - The Merchants of Tarshish Identified

After the Flood, Noah's eldest son Japheth had seven sons and one of those was Javan. Javan had four sons and one of those was Tarshish. The descendants of Tarshish were a seafaring people who settled in Great Britain. When God confused the languages at the Tower of Babel, He allocated lands for each of the families "*after their tongues, in their lands, after their nations*" (Gen.10:31). Javan settled in Greece and our ancient history books show Greece as the land of Iavan. God divided "*the isles of the Gentiles*" (Gen.10:5) to the sons of Javan.

It is well known that Javan's descendants, the Greeks, were seafaring people and in ancient times established colonies along the Mediterranean and Black Sea coastlines. They were merchants. The Greeks were also shipbuilders and in the famous naval battle of Salamis (480BC) the Greek navy defeated the Phoenecian ships of Xerxes' Persian navy.

Usually the Bible refers to "*the ships of Tarshish*" or "*the merchants of Tarshish.*" In fact, 21 times Scripture speaks of Tarshish and usually identifies it with ships, isles and merchants. There is no doubt that the land of Tarshish was an island kingdom at a great distance from the Middle East and its inhabitants were traders.

The city of Tyre was the main trading port at the eastern end of the Mediterranean at about 600BC. Ezekiel described the commodities sold in the market place of Tyre and lists 32 countries that offered their goods for sale at Tyre. When Ezekiel spoke of Tarshish he wrote:

"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" (Ezek.27:12).

It is the commodities that came from Tarshish listed above that give us a clue as to where Tarshish was located. If we can identify the source of these metals in the ancient world when Ezekiel prophesied, (6th century BC) then we can be pretty sure who Tarshish is in the last days.

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An examination of the scriptures that speak of Tarshish will indicate

- that Tarshish was a great way from the land of Israel
“The king’s ships went to Tarshish with the servants of Hiram: every three years once came the ships of Tarshish bringing gold, and silver, ivory, and apes, and peacocks” (2Chron.9:21).
- that Tarshish was a nation that was rich in minerals
“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” (Ezek.27:12).
- that the merchants of Tarshish would be devastated when Nebuchadnezzar shut down the markets of Tyre for 70 years (586 to 536BC).
“Howl, ye ships of Tarshish: for your strength is laid waste. And it shall come to pass in that day, that Tyre shall be forgotten seventy years, according to the days of one king: after the end of seventy years shall Tyre sing as an harlot” (Isa.23:14-15).
- that Tarshish was a maritime power with her own ships to take her merchandise to Tyre.
“The ships of Tarshish did sing of thee in thy (Tyre’s) market: and thou wast replenished, and made very glorious in the midst of the seas” (Ezek.27:25).
- that the ships of Tarshish will exist in the last days for they will suffer during the judgments of the Day of the Lord (Isa.2:16; Ps.48:7).
“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 he shall be brought low...And upon all the ships of Tarshish” (Isa.2:12-16).
- that the people of Tarshish will be traders and merchants in the last days for the Bible speaks of the *“merchants of Tarshish”* in an end time prophecy (Ezek.38:13).
- that Tarshish established colonies for she is described as having offspring, being the mother of *“young lions”*. The picture of Tarshish as a **lioness with cubs** would also indicate that she is strong among the nations and to be feared; also that Tarshish will be associated with Arabia in the last days for *“Sheba and*

Dedan are located in the Arabian Peninsula. Ezekiel 38:13 states: *“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?”* (Ezek.38:13).



- that the ships of Tarshish will be the

first to bring wealthy Jews back to the land from a place *“far away”* from Israel after Christ returns

“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” (Isa.60:9).

- that the kings of Tarshish are associated with islands and will bring gifts to the Lord at Jerusalem in the millennial kingdom

“The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall bring presents: the kings of Sheba and Seba shall offer gifts. Yea, all kings shall fall down before him: all nations shall serve him” (Ps.72:10-11).

- that, in the millennial kingdom, the Jews will **preach in the land of Tarshish and in the isles** far from Israel.

“And I will set a sign among them, and I will send those that 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” (Isa.66:19).

It is impossible to read these verses of scripture without concluding that Tarshish in ancient times was a mining nation that sold

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her minerals in the markets at Tyre and that she was an island nation at a great distance from Israel. In the last days, during the Tribulation, Tarshish will exist as a naval power. Further, Tarshish will have a significant role to play in returning the Jews to the land when Christ returns. In the millennial kingdom, Tarshish will send gifts to Christ at Jerusalem and be a worshipper in His Temple. The preachers from Israel will be welcomed to declare Christ's glory in the land of Tarshish and in the Isles thus indicating that they accept their Godly message.

Evidence will be shown that Great Britain and the nations she has given birth to are the only ones that fit the description of Tarshish in the Bible.

In the Tribulation one third of the ships will be destroyed during the 2nd Trumpet judgment (Rev.8:9) and Tarshish must therefore be a great shipping nation in the last days. If we are in the last days then this would point to the United States since they control the oceans with the greatest navy in the world.

Britain or Spain?

Most Bible maps show Tarshish somewhere on the west coast of Spain. The location in Spain was thought to be the Biblical Tarshish because Bible commentators had assumed Tarshish was the mysterious Tartessus which appears in mythical writings. It is not known whether Tartessus was a city, a river or a nation. Archeological diggings have failed to produce any evidence of it.

One historical record states:

"The name Tartessus (sometimes Tartessos) has long been surrounded by myth. It is associated with the south west of Spain, and is likely to have been a kingdom. Nevertheless, different sources have referred to it as a city, a mountain, even a river –the Guadalquivir. It is said to be buried under the Coto Doñana (the combined marshlands and dunes at the mouth of the Guadalquivir that are now protected as a National Park), others claim it is under Seville... or Huelva, and so on. There is consensus that it existed somewhere in the area between Huelva, Cádiz and Seville, but who the inhabitants were we do not know."

With such uncertainty surrounding Tartessus it would be dangerous to assert that Spain was the Tarshish of Scripture which was a maritime power in the days of Solomon and which was the source of minerals for the great trading city of Tyre in the 6th century when Ezekiel wrote. It must also be a significant naval power in the last days! **Spain does not meet the Biblical criteria.**

Some have pointed out that there is a mining town in Spain called Tharsis but this is a recent development and obviously an imported name by a mining company which was British. The record states: **“Coincidentally, there is a town named Tharsis 50 kilometres north of Huelva; the “th” combination, however, is a linguistic curiosity and alien to the Spanish language.** A possible explanation is the influence of British mining concerns which owned the giant Rio Tinto Company with mines between Huelva and Tharsis in the 19th century.”

The fact that a British mining company in the 19th century called it Tharsis is more likely to point to Britain being Tarshish. **They gave it an English name!**

The reference to the minerals *“silver, iron, tin, and lead”* has been linked with Spain since the mountains of Spain have been where extensive mining has been conducted. However, it seems that one of those metals was not plentiful in Spain and that metal was **tin**. Thus we read:

“The south western part of the Iberian Peninsula was enormously rich in minerals, and Ezekiel’s reference reflects a common association of the metal with the western Mediterranean. (Tin came primarily from Cornwall in the British Isles, and was brought back by the Phoenicians; it was combined with copper, abundant in south west Spain, to produce bronze. The Rio Tinto mine just north of Huelva was first worked by the Phoenicians and still produces copper. It is reputed to be the oldest mine in the world.)”

It may well be that the ships of Tarshish brought minerals from Spain but they would not have brought tin which came from Cornwall on the south west of Britain. **Cornwall was the only major source of tin in Europe for the past 2,500 years.** In the 19th century there were 400 mines in Cornwall employing 18,000 people. The last

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mine closed in 2004. It is also true that **the mountains of Wales, just north of Cornwall** have been a source of all the minerals listed in Ezekiel 27:12. One historical record assumes that Tartessus was in Spain and that Tarshish was Tartessus however, it acknowledges that tin was sourced from Cornwall:

“The reference for example in Ezekiel xxvii, 12, to the Phoenician city of Tyre receiving silver, iron, lead and tin from Tarshish suggests that Tartessus and Tarshish **were one and the same.**”

Archeological research in Cornwall has identified ancient harbour facilities along with evidence of ancient structures. The harbour was on the north side of the Cornwall Peninsula and has long since silted up.

In recent years the Spanish people have shown increased interest in their roots and a comic series made reference to Tartessus:

“Probably more appealing to readers is the recent and highly successful comic series “Tartessos”. The first album appeared in 2005 with the title, *La ruta del estaño (The Tin Route)*. It deals with the rivalry between the **Tartessians and the evil Arkabala, the high priest of the Temple of Hercules in the Phoenician city of Gadir (Cádiz), for control of the tin route to “las islas Casitérides” (the British Isles.)** Control of this precious metal which the Tartessians combined with copper to produces bronze, allows the Tartessians to live in great comfort. The basis of the trade is a **long standing agreement between the Tartessians and the Celts from the British Isles**”

While this is just a comic series it is based on fact as *Encyclopedia Wikipedia* states:

“Britain was not unknown to the Classical world. As early as the 4th century BC, the Greeks, Phoenicians and Carthaginians traded for Cornish tin. The Greeks refer to the Cassiterides, or “tin islands”, and describe them as being situated somewhere near the west coast of Europe”.



Some of the 56 isles off the coast of Cornwall

Ancient evidence goes back to “The Histories” by Herodotus who wrote about 450BC and is known as the “Father of Ancient History”. He wrote:

“Now these are the **farthest regions of the world** in Asia and Libya. Of the extreme tracts of Europe towards the west I cannot speak with any certainty; **for I do not allow that there is any river, to which the barbarians give the name of Eridanus, emptying itself into the northern sea, whence (as the tale goes) amber is procured; nor do I know of any islands called the Cassiterides (Tin Islands), whence the tin comes which we use.** For in the first place the name Eridanus is manifestly not a barbarian word at all, but a Greek name, invented by some poet or other; and secondly, though I have taken vast pains, **I have never been able to get an assurance from an eye-witness that there is any sea on the further side of Europe. Nevertheless, tin and amber do certainly come to us from the ends of the earth.** (Book 3, para 115).

We should note that Cassiterite is Tin Dioxide from which tin is extracted. The word comes from the Greek *kassiteros* meaning “tin”. The term “tin islands” could hardly be applied to Spain which is located in **mainland** Europe but it would fit well with the British Isles.

Herodotus indicated that he had no evidence of the North Sea on the north of Europe. The end of the known world in his day was beyond the “Pillars of Hercules” which stand on either side of the entrance to the Mediterranean Sea from the Atlantic which was described as “the ocean”.

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In Herodotus' day all of Africa west of Egypt was called Libya and south of Egypt was called Ethiopia. Herodotus travelled extensively gathering historical information (and myth) from Greece, Asia, Egypt and Persia but he never travelled to the western end of the Mediterranean or beyond the pillars of Hercules hence he was dependent on reports from others who had.

Herodotus tells the story of a boat that was driven by a storm **past the Pillars of Hercules** and ended up in Tartessus:

“The crew, informed by Corobius of all the circumstances, left him sufficient food for a year. They themselves quitted the island; and, anxious to reach Egypt, made sail in that direction, but were carried out of their course by a gale of wind from the east. The storm not abating, they were driven past the Pillars of Hercules, and at last, by some special guiding providence, reached Tartessus.”



This indicates that Tartessus was in the Atlantic which would best apply to Britain.

The prophecies concerning Tarshish best fit Britain. Tarshish in Scripture has “*young lions*” or offshoot nations such as colonies. Spain colonized South America but Britain colonized the US, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and many more places. No other nation in history has created an empire of colonies like the British Empire. The early colonizing nations were the Phoenicians and the Greeks but the Greeks excelled with colonies in the Black Sea, Asia Minor and around the Mediterranean.

Greece was formerly known as Javan (Iavan) and was settled by the descendants of Javan the son of Japheth. Javan had four sons of whom Tarshish was the second. Throughout history the family of Javan have been seafaring merchants, traders and colonizers.

If Spain were Tarshish then one would expect that she and her colonies would be a major maritime and military power **in the**



last days along with her “young lions” in South America but the opposite is the case. Spain and South American countries are economically and militarily weak. In addition, Tarshish and the young lions must be connected to Sheba and Dedan (Arabia) **in the last days**. Spain is not connected to Arabia whereas Britain and America have been the great oil-producing and oil marketing merchants. Oil is transacted in US dollars.

Summary

The evidence would indicate that Tarshish in ancient times was Great Britain for the following reasons:

- 1) Tin was obtained from Cornwall from the earliest times and **no other location could supply large quantities over such a long period of time**. The Bible states that the merchants of Tarshish supplied tin to the markets of Tyre before Ezekiel wrote in 587BC and it is a fact that Cornwall was the **only major source of tin** in Europe for the past 2,500 years.
- 2) It is possible that copper was mined in Spain but tin from Britain was mixed with it to make bronze. All of the minerals marketed by the merchants of Tarshish were available from Britain but only some of the minerals could have come from Spain.
- 3) The mythical Tartessus may well have been no more than the Arabic form of the name Tarshish.

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4) There is no **real** evidence that Tartessus was in Spain. Greek **mythology** simply placed it **beyond the pillars of Hercules** in the Atlantic Ocean. That better applies to Britain. Herodotus, the “father of ancient history”, had been told that the tin which was used in the Persian era (about 450BC) was from the Cassiterides or “tin islands”. He had no knowledge of where these islands were located or even if there was a North sea on the northern side of Europe. Britain acquired the title of the “**tin islands**” because of the vast amounts of tin available in Cornwall. Britain was an island location, but Spain is a mainland country. There were 400 mines in Cornwall in the 19th century!

5) Tarshish, in the latter days, must have “*young lions*” i.e. nations that are her offspring. Both Britain and Spain have had many colonies and have been great maritime powers but the British navy defeated the Spanish Armadas and Spain is no longer a great maritime power whereas the US and UK still have powerful navies that rule the world’s sea lanes.

6) Britain and America have strong ties with Arabia (Sheba and Dedan) and this is prophesied for the last days. Spain has no such links.

7) The location Tharsis in Spain is probably so named by the **British mining companies** that owned the mines in the 19th century. The name is not Spanish.

8) The ships of Tarshish will be the **first** to bring redeemed Israel back to the land after Christ returns. Since the largest concentration of Jews outside Israel are located in the US and these are **very wealthy** Jews, it fits much better that America is one of the young lions of Tarshish for we read:

*“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**” (Isa.60:9).*

Spain is a Catholic country. In 1492 Spain expelled all Jews and conducted an *Inquisition* targeting Jews and “heretics” (Christians). Historically, Catholic countries of Europe have persecuted Jews and *Mystery Babylon* centred in Rome is currently assisting the rise of Antichrist, a Roman prince, who in the Tribulation, will persecute repentant Israel. Britain on the other hand, signed the Balfour Declaration and America is Israel’s strongest supporter.

Chapter 2 - The Pedigree of the Merchants of Tarshish

The scriptures quoted in chapter 1 clearly identify Tarshish in both ancient times and in the last days when she will have a vital role to play during the Day of the Lord, the Tribulation, and also in the millennial kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Having identified the location of Tarshish it is interesting to trace the history of the English people to see how the same characteristics continued with them throughout history. They have always been a seafaring, merchant, colonial people.

The Bible records the genealogies of the human race from Adam to Noah, and through his son, Shem, down to the time of Christ; a period covering over 4,000 years.

The Biblical genealogies after the Flood however, only trace the human race through **one of Noah's sons; Shem**. The line of Ham may not have kept complete records of their ancestors but the line of Japheth, the European races, have left many records. Just as the genealogies of Israel were preserved in the line of the kings of Israel and Judah, so **the genealogies of the the European races, descended from Japheth, have been preserved** a continuous line of kings and royal houses, that begin at Japheth and reach to Queen Elizabeth II. There are 58 Welsh manuscripts of early English history available for any to examine.

Some modern historians will disagree, and treat these historical documents as myths and legends simply because, to admit they are bona fide history, would undermine their fanciful stories of prehistoric man emerging after millions of years from the animal kingdom. It is inconceivable to these "scholars" that any line of kings should preserve records that clearly trace their pedigree back to Noah's sons for that would establish that there was a universal flood and that humans did not evolve after all.

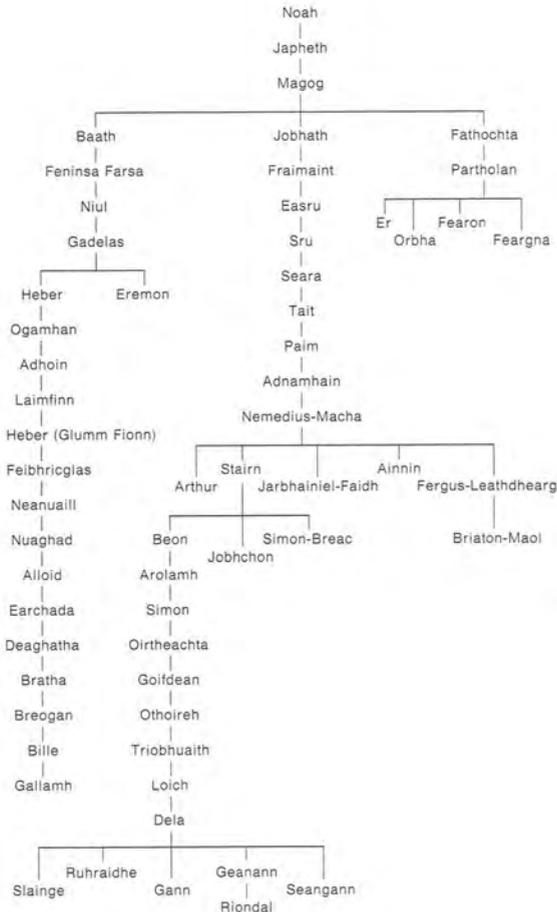
The fact is that ancient genealogies **were kept by European kings from the line of Japheth** and these records parallel the genealogies of the Bible, merging at Noah. Valuable records are available today

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[The following is one chart taken from Bill Cooper's book entitled, *After the Flood - The Early Post-flood History of Europe Traced Back to Noah* - p.108. This is just one of the records of kings of Ireland, Wales, England and Europe that show the line of kings back to Japheth the eldest son of Noah.]

After the Flood

EARLY IRISH GENEALOGY



in libraries and museums for any historian with an open mind to examine. One historian who has objectively examined these manuscripts is Bill Cooper B.A.Hons., whose book entitled, *After the Flood, (The early post-flood history of Europe traced back to Noah)* is a treasure trove of information that uncovers the mystery and removes any doubt that modern “scholars” would cast over them. (Copies may be purchased from Bible Book and Tract Depot, Sydney, NSW, Australia)

Britain's Earliest Settlers from Troy

The story of the 10-year Trojan War, believed to take place 1194–1184 BC, tells how the Greeks withdrew from the coastal city of Troy and left a wooden horse on the beach in which some of their men were concealed. After the fleet of ships sailed away, the men of Troy, believing the horse



to be an idol to Poseidon, the god of the sea, dragged the wooden horse into the city. That night the concealed soldiers came out of hiding and opened the City Gates to allow the Greeks, who had returned under cover of darkness, to enter and burn the city. Many of the people from Troy managed to escape and sailed westward where they linked up with other of their people. Bill Cooper tells how they continued westward past the Pillars of Hercules, and after a stay in the coast of Gaul (France) finally landed in England where London is now situated. This may well have been the earliest settlement of the descendants of Tarshish to arrive on England's soil.

After the Flood it took centuries for world population to grow and as it grew, it spread out across the world. Distant lands and islands of the oceans would not be populated for centuries so it is quite reasonable to think that far away countries like the island of Britain would not be settled until 1200BC.

Thus far we have indicated that the English people descended from Tarshish, one of the sons of Javan, and that Javan is





the ancient name of Greece. Josephus the ancient historian stated: "Now as to Javan and Madai, the sons of Japhet; from Madai came the Madeans, who are called Medes by the Greeks; but from Javan, Ionia and all the Grecians are derived. Of the three sons of Javan also, the son of Japhet, Elisa gave name to the Eliseans, who were his subjects; they are now the Aeolians. Tharsus to the Tharsians; for so was Cilicia of old called" (*Antiquities*, Book 1, ch.6).

So Josephus states that Tarshish was known as Tharsus and later was called Cilicia. It is well known that these descendants of Tarshish were pirates and threatened the wheat trade from Egypt to Rome even attacking the coast of Italy. The large, slow-moving wheat ships from Egypt were easy targets and captured crews were sold on the slave market. The pirates twice captured Julius Caesar who paid a ransom price for his liberty.

About 70BC the famous Roman General Pompey was given 500 ships and the task of clearing the eastern Mediterranean of these pirates from the seas and from their homes in Cilicia and the island of Crete. Such is the pedigree of the sons of Tarshish; **a seafaring, merchant people, from the earliest times.**

In Ezekiel chapter 27 we have a lament by the prophet at the destruction of the coastal city of Tyre by Nebuchadnezzar which shut down all trade for 70 years in fulfilment of Isaiah's prophecy (Isa.23:15).

Isaiah had prophesied about 130 years before, in 720BC, that "Tyre shall be forgotten seventy years, according to the days of one king" or kingdom; i.e. the Babylonian Kingdom of Nebuchadnezzar. He wrote:

"Howl ye ships of Tarshish: for your strength is laid waste...and it shall come to pass after the end of seventy years, that the Lord will visit Tyre and she shall turn to her hire" (Isa.23:14-17).

Thus we have evidence that the ships of Tarshish were bringing their commodities to Tyre in the 8th century BC and that although operations were shut down for 70 years in the Babylonian era, trade with Tyre resumed in the Persian era (after 536BC)

Wikipedia Encyclopedia makes reference to

"the voyage of Pytheas, a Greek geographer who made a voyage of exploration around the British Isles between 330 and 320 BC. Although none of his own writings remain, writers during the time of the Roman Empire made much reference to them. Pytheas called the islands collectively αἱ Βρετανίαι (hai Brettaniai), which has been translated as the Brittanic Isles."

The evidence is clear that access to the British Isles was by **Greek seamen sailing out of the Mediterranean on the same route taken by the men of Troy in 1200BC and the ships of Tarshish before 720BC.**

When the Gospel Came to England

We don't know exactly when the Gospel first came to England but it must have been very early in the Christian era. We know that Paul was a prisoner at Rome on two occasions; from AD60 to 62 and possibly AD67-68 before his martyrdom by decapitation. At this time there were hostages from England held at Rome and Paul could have had contact with some of these. There is also the possibility that when some early Christians were scattered by the persecution which arose when Stephen was martyred, some may have travelled by ship to Tarshish. Jews such as the gifted Bible

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teacher, Apollos, were traders and travelled extensively. Travel by ship to Tarshish was available to people much earlier than the early Church era for about 800BC Jonah was able to **pay his fare** (Jonah 1:3) to travel to Tarshish.

We know that Constantine was in England with the Roman army before he became Emperor in AD306 and that his mother Helena was a professing Christian. It was her influence that caused him to take the side of the Christians and issue the Edict of Milan, also known as the Edict of Toleration, in AD313.

Saint Patrick was not a Catholic. His father was a deacon in the early Celtic Church when, about AD426 as a 15 year old boy, he was kidnapped by wild Irishmen. He escaped when about 21 years old but returned to Ireland to evangelize the heathen Irish.

It wasn't until AD597 that Pope Gregory sent Augustine of Canterbury to bring the English under the power of the Papacy. At that time there was already a monastery at Bangor in northern Wales with more than 2,000 Celtic monks and scholars. In AD601, at Augustine's instigation, 1,200 of these were killed because they would not bow to the errors of the Papacy!

The Saxon Invasion

After Rome withdrew from Briton in AD410 the Saxons from northern Europe invaded England and the early English withdrew westward to Wales and Cornwall. **Genealogies are available of six Saxon royal houses and these also trace their ancestors back to Japheth the son of Noah.** Queen Elizabeth II traces her descent back to Cedric of the Royal House of Wessex who reigned AD519 to 534.

The pedigree of the original British people is consistent with a seafaring, trading people who trace their ancestry back to Japheth, the eldest son of Noah. They were evangelized very early in the Christian era and had a well established Christian Church long before Roman Catholicism was imposed upon them by Pope Gregory and Augustine of Canterbury. When the Saxons came to England, they also traced their ancestry to Japheth the son of Noah.

Chapter 3 - The 'Colonial' Merchants of Tarshish

"Behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name"(Rev.3:8).

After 1815 when Wellington defeated Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo, the British Empire became the largest empire in the history of the world; its navy ruled the oceans and it could be said that the sun never set on the British Empire; all of the major seaways, Suez, Panama, Singapore, Gibraltar came under British control. At its greatest, the British Empire stretched from Canada, Central America, parts of South America, much of the African Continent, the Middle East, Burma and India, part of China and the East Indies, Australia and New Zealand.

Everywhere Britain went she imposed her rule and justice system and the Bible was given access to the pagan world. Law and order were maintained by the British army and the door was flung open to missionaries to spread the Gospel of Christ.

The great missionary era of the 18th and 19th centuries, known as the Philadelphian Church era, however could never have happened if it had not been preceded by the Reformation era of the 16th and 17th centuries known as the "Sardis" era of Christendom. The Reformation era was essentially political but the 18th and 19th centuries were missionary and evangelistic.

Christianity spread across the entire world in the first century but the purity of the message became diluted and pagan idolatry entered through the Roman Catholic Church.

After AD590 when Gregory the Great became Pope, the Church used political power to enforce subservience to Rome. It was Gregory the Great who sent Augustine of Canterbury to England in AD596 to bring the English under Papal control. Christianity had arrived in Britain during the first century AD and the notion that Augustine brought Christianity to Britain is pure myth. He was sent to Britain with 40 monks as the representative of the Pope to persuade the Saxon kings to submit to Rome. At first,

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there were mass baptisms all over the country as the Saxon people followed the example of their leaders. Then in AD601 Augustine went to Wales, expecting the same success, but was disappointed. The Welsh already had the true faith, given to them by the early church, and they did not need any new innovations from Rome.

Augustine demanded that the Britons should accept all the doctrines of the Roman Catholic Church, although he offered them time to do it in piecemeal fashion, without converting to Roman Catholicism all at once. When they refused, he instigated a Saxon army to attack the monastery at Bangor, killing 1,200 monks and scholars. This was the beginning of Papal domination of the English Church.

The 1,000 years of “dark ages” followed until 1517 when Luther led the Reformation in Europe and churches broke away from Rome. The Reformation was a political movement as well as a religious movement. It is known as the “Sardis” era of Christendom and is prophetically described in Rev.3:1-6. The Lord’s message to the church at Sardis says they have a name to live but “*are dead*”. Luther made the Bible available to the common people but his book against the Jews brought the Reformation into conflict with the purposes of God and laid the groundwork for Hitler’s and the future Antichrist’s attempts to exterminate the Jews.

In 1497 the Treaty of Tordesillas was signed by the king of Spain, the king of Portugal, and the Pope. It divided the New World into Spanish and Portuguese zones. If there had been no Reformation, Roman Catholicism would have claimed the entire world as its missionfield.

This attempt by the Vatican to spread Roman Catholicism across the globe was thwarted politically when the Reformation began in England with Henry VIII’s quest for a male heir. When Pope Clement VII refused to annul Henry’s marriage to Catherine of Aragon so that he could remarry, **the English king declared in 1534 that he alone should be the final authority in matters relating to the English church.**



Colonial Tarshish

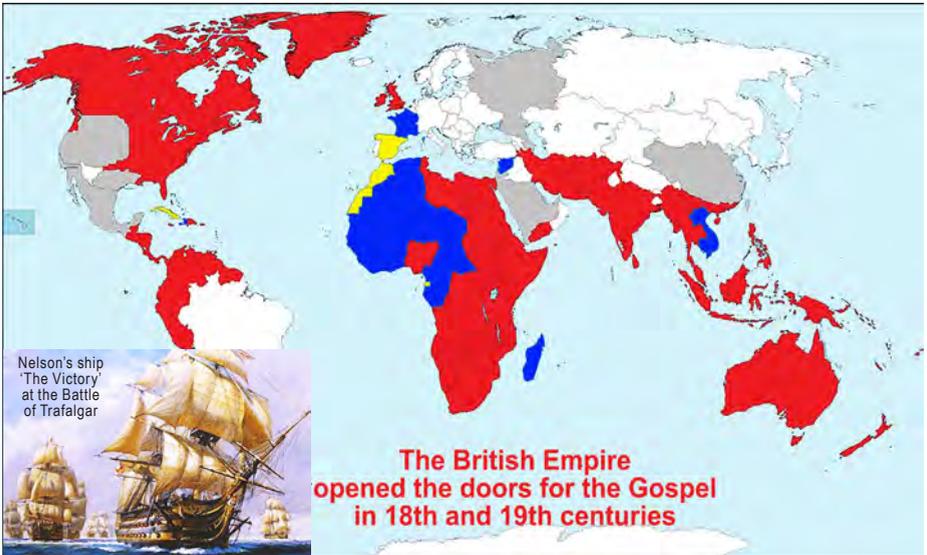
The Reformation set England apart **politically** from Europe and wars were fought with Catholic Spain and France. In the conflict that followed, the “*merchants of Tarshish*”, Britain, prevailed and doors opened for the Gospel to be preached throughout the world as the British Colonial system covered the Globe.

Sir Francis Drake (1540 – 1596) was a famous English sea captain, in the Elizabethan era. From 1577 to 1580 he became the second person to circumnavigate the globe in a single expedition and while in the Pacific Ocean, he claimed California for the English and began an era of conflict with the Spanish on the previously unexplored western coast of the Americas. Queen Elizabeth I awarded Drake a knighthood in 1581.



When the great Spanish Armada arrived in 1588 to overthrow Queen Elizabeth and reinstate Roman Catholicism, Drake was second-in-command of the English fleet. The Spanish Armada came with nearly 130 ships, 30,000 men including 180 Catholic priests and 14,000 barrels of wine all with the blessing of the Pope.

While the Spanish Armada anchored off the coast of France, waiting for the arrival of additional troops with which to invade England, Drake set on fire eight old burning ships and sailed them into the Armada at night. The Spanish Armada pulled anchor and fled north around Scotland and Ireland where they ran into raging storms that sank many vessels. By the time the Armada arrived back in Spain it had lost half its ships and over 20,000 men. Drake



had lost no ships and only 100 men in battle. The victory was seen as Divine Providence.

Several later attempts were made to invade England but each time storms drove the Armadas off course.

Other great sea victories were won by Lord Nelson 200 years later when, in the Battle of the Nile, also called the Battle of Aboukir Bay (1798), he sailed into Alexandria Harbour and caught Napoleon's navy at anchor, sinking, capturing and setting them on fire. Then at the Battle of Trafalgar (1805) he won a great victory over the combined French and Spanish fleets.

As England dominated the seas she became very rich from trade with the colonies. Wherever the "*merchants of Tarshish*" went, colonies were formed and missionaries were able to go in with the message of salvation through Jesus Christ. Thus politically, Protestant England was used of God to open the doors of the nations for the preaching of the Gospel.

It was **English trade** that was the incentive to colonize.



Colonial Tarshish



English colonialization was focussed on English trade; first, the “ships of Tarshish” as the “merchants of Tarshish” established trade with countries and then political control followed as illustrated in the case of India and Burma.

In India, the East India Company traded with India from 1612 to 1757. Then the Company ruled from 1757 to 1858. Finally, British Raj or British Crown Rule lasted from 1858 to 1947.

In 1833 the Charter of the East India Company was changed to include the propagation of the Gospel due to pressure from Evangelicals in England. William Carey had begun Baptist missions in India in 1793 and had gained respect at home and abroad.

In Burma, British rule began in 1824 and continued until 1948 when after WWII, independence was gained. The story of Judson of Burma needs to be told:

Adoniram Judson (1788-1850) was a pioneer missionary to Burma. He was the son of a Congregational minister, who taught himself to read at the age of three and by his tenth year, knew Latin and Greek. At the age of 16 he entered Brown University and graduated three years later at the top of his class. He could not escape from the words of scripture, “Go ye into all the world.” In 1810 he helped form the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, and, two years later, he and his new wife, Ann, sailed for India.



When the government refused to allow them to enter the country, they went to Burma, where they worked for six years before winning a convert. During those years they were plagued with ill health, loneliness, and the death of their baby son.

Judson was imprisoned for nearly two years, during which time he suffered greatly. Ann faithfully visited him, smuggling to him his books, papers, and notes, which he used in translating the Bible into the Burmese language. Soon after his release from prison, Ann and their baby daughter, Maria, died of spotted fever.

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Judson withdrew into seclusion into the interior, where he completed the translation of the whole Bible into Burmese. Such was the sacrificial service of missionaries in the colonial days of the "*merchants of Tarshish.*"

Hong Kong was a Crown colony and later, a British Dependent Territory under British administration from 1841 to 1997 (excluding Japanese rule from 1941 to 1945). The presence of British traders in Hong Kong opened the door for the Gospel into China. The China Inland Mission (CIM) was established by James Hudson Taylor on June 25, 1865. Eager to reach the inland provinces of China with the gospel, the mission sent out waves of workers to China throughout the late nineteenth century.



Then there were men like C T Studd who gave up a career as an English Test Cricketer to go to China and finally to Africa where he established the Worldwide Evangelization Crusade (WEC). His motto was "Just one life 'twill soon be past, only what's done for Christ will last."



This was the pattern throughout the world; wherever British colonies were established, missionaries followed with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It was the British Empire that God used to open wide the doors to the nations and the Church of the 18th and 19th centuries responded sacrificially. It was the golden age of evangelism when multitudes came under the powerful preaching of men like Count Zinzendorf, John Wesley, Whitfield, D L Moody and Charles Finney. Men like C H Spurgeon and J N Darby preached the Gospel throughout England and Europe and C I Scofield produced the best reference Bible ever printed.

The Colonial period saw Faith Missions spring up to take the Gospel to every corner of the Globe. Most Christians today would never have heard of these heralds of the Gospel of God's grace but we must not forget their tireless efforts and simple faith that sent them to every country on the face of the earth.

If we go back to 1700 we begin with the Moravian missionaries, led by Count Zinzendorf, who had their own ship to take their

people to the missionfield and to keep them supplied. Moravian Churches still survive in the 21st century.

We could list many Missionary Societies but it would be impossible to name them all. There was the China Inland Mission, The Oriental Missionary Society, Egypt General Mission, Red Sea Mission, Sudan Interior Mission, Sudan United Mission, Africa Inland Mission, Worldwide Evangelization Crusade, Unevangelized Fields Mission, Poona Village Mission in India, Japan Evangelistic Band, Bolivian Indian Mission, South Seas Evangelistic Mission, Aboriginal Evangelical Mission, Aborigines Inland Mission, Aborigines United Mission, New Tribes Mission and countless missionaries sent out by Brethren Assemblies, and Denominational Missions. **These are only some of the missions.**

My own grandfather was a pioneer missionary in Uganda and Congo with the Church Missionary Society; my father was born on the missionfield in Uganda.

Dr Oswald Smith was pastor of the *Church of the Open Door* in Toronto which supported 1,000 missionaries and Robert Le Tourneau, famous for the manufacture of heavy earthmoving equipment, was a member of his congregation.

After WWII when the British Empire granted independence to her colonies; heathen religions again took over the governments and progressively doors closed. At home denominational Churches have moved into the final stage of Church history; the Laodicean era. They have lost their passion to take the Gospel to every creature in fulfilment of the Great Commission. Missionary Bible Colleges have closed or become theological hot houses for Reformed Theologians or training centres for Charismatic and Contemporary musicians.

Theological Seminaries have succumbed to worldly wisdom with courses that produce psychologists to counsel distressed and distraught church members who wouldn't know how to find the Book of Exodus in their Bible if they bothered to take one to Church.

The Colonial period of the British Empire was the period of Open Doors but the post-Colonial period of history is the period of "closed doors". The heathen religions and communism have

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shut the doors to Bible-believing missions and Churches have lost the vision. Christ is standing outside the door at Laodicea, knocking. He can't be heard for the din of rock or contemporary music. Much of modern "mission" work is little more than a social program with little Gospel preaching for fear of offending.

The ecumenical spirit pervades most denominations and few churches have been prepared to take an independent position, free from the constraints of ecumenism. Only remnants of the Philadelphia Church era remain among independent Bible-believing churches.

In developing countries however, the seed that was sown by the Faith Missions has borne fruit. Many **house churches** have been established; the Bible has been translated and multitudes have trusted Christ as Lord and Saviour. The baton now has passed to national believers. The remnant of Bible-believing Christians in the Western nations can now only assist with literature and by digital means on the internet.

Does Tarshish and her young lions have a **political role** to play in last-days prophecy? They certainly do as we shall see in the next chapter. The world would be a different place today without them. Today it is the *merchants of Tarshish* that stand with Israel, assisting her return to the land, and supporting her in the face of Islamic hatred and global anti-Semitism. This would never have been the case if the *merchants of Tarshish* had not been the centre of Gospel testimony in the 18th and 19th centuries. The evangelical culture in the United States of America has brought President Donald Trump to power and strengthened relations with Israel. It may well be in God's plan to prepare Israel to fight for her survival in the great Tribulation **after she turns to Christ**.

Chapter 4 - The Military Merchants of Tarshish

Ezekiel's prophecy of the invasion of Israel by a northern army from Russia, (the land of Magog), Turkey (the house of Togarmah), and Iran (Persia) and their associates, indicates that Israel has allies who challenge the invasion. Ezekiel described this challenge as follows:

"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?" (Ezek.38:13).

To challenge such a vast array of military might that will *"ascend and come like a storm...like a cloud to cover the land"* (Ezek.38:9) with *"all sorts of armour"* (Ezek.38:4), would suggest that the challengers have a substantial military capability and if Britain, USA and the Commonwealth countries are the Merchants of Tarshish, we would expect some evidence that they wield significant military power in the last days. This is precisely what we find.

The 20th century saw the two greatest wars ever known in the history of mankind and in both wars the victors were Britain and America together with the colonial nations that came from Britain. A better description could not be given to these nations than *"the merchants of Tarshish and the young lions thereof"*.

In WWI Britain called on all her *"young lions"* to join in the defence of the mother country and on the killing fields of France, Palestine, and in the Dardanelles much blood was shed before the aggressors were subdued. The entry of the United States in both wars tipped the scales in favour of the allies and the Axis powers surrendered.

In WWII the theatre of war reached into the Pacific bringing the total estimated number of deaths for the two wars to approx. 60 million but finally the *"merchants of Tarshish and the young lions thereof"*; Britain, America and their allies, were victorious; the Italian Fascists, German Nazis and Japanese Imperialists were subdued.

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The invasion of France on D-Day, 6 June 1944 well illustrates what Tarshish and her young lions were capable of for on that day the allies assembled one of the greatest air, sea and land forces ever seen. One report reads:

“On the morning of June 5, 1944, U.S. General Dwight D. Eisenhower, the supreme commander of Allied forces in Europe gave the go-ahead for Operation Overlord, the largest amphibious military operation in history. On his orders, 6,000 landing craft, ships and other vessels carrying 176,000 troops began to leave England for the trip to France. That night, 822 aircraft filled with parachutists headed for drop zones in Normandy. An additional 13,000 aircraft were mobilized to provide air cover and support for the invasion.

By dawn on June 6, 18,000 parachutists were already on the ground; the land invasions began at 6:30 a.m. The British and Canadians overcame light opposition to capture Gold, Juno and Sword beaches; so did the Americans at Utah. The task was much tougher at Omaha beach, however, where 2,000 troops were lost and it was only through the tenacity and quick-wittedness of troops on the ground that the objective was achieved. By day’s end, 155,000 Allied troops—Americans, British and Canadians—had successfully stormed Normandy’s beaches... By the end of June, the Allies had 850,000 men and 150,000 vehicles in Normandy and were poised to continue their march across Europe.”



To achieve this amazing logistical feat two prefabricated harbours called Mulberry Harbours were prepared in England; one for British and Canadian troops and one for American troops. These were floated across the English Channel and sunk into the sea off two beaches in northern France. Many were sceptical that this was possible but it was achieved in complete secrecy. Precast concrete structures and old ship hulks were towed into place to provide breakwaters.

It is hard to conceive that these powerful nations would not have a major part to play in the final days of history as the world descends into the abyss of its darkest hour just before Christ returns.

After WWII, storm clouds threatened the free nations as International



Communism took over much of Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the East. Again it was the *Merchants of Tarshish* and her young lions that resisted by establishing NATO, CENTO and SEATO alliances. The spread of Communism was checked and the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991. Europe, the Middle East, South Korea, Malaysia and Indonesia escaped the clutches of Communism but without the military might of *the merchants of Tarshish and the young lions thereof*, the world would have been controlled by atheists.

Today the merchants of Tarshish have assembled a navy that makes WWII navies look like toys. The US and UK navies are the “*ships of Tarshish*” possessing nuclear powered Aircraft carriers that can stay at sea indefinitely with crews of up to 5,000. There are 19 US aircraft carriers ranging from 45,000 tons to 100,000 tons each with multiple missile systems and between 20 and 75



aircraft. Every plane carries deadly weapons systems. In addition, aircraft carriers are accompanied by a range of support ships and submarines to destroy any enemy.

The US navy patrols the oceans keeping the sea lanes open to trade. The military might of this greatest nation in world history, is preserving peace. However, in spite of such power, the *Merchants of Tarshish* are being challenged by Islamic forces that are joining with atheistic nations led by Moscow and Peking. This new threat poses a much greater problem than anything previously faced. Islam is as much political as it is religious and has infiltrated the western countries trading on the tolerance and generosity of nominally Christian nations; it has established terror cells inside western countries. For the *merchants of Tarshish* (USA & UK), the task of defending themselves from such an attack is extremely difficult.

In the Middle East, Tarshish and the young lions are staunchly supporting Israel. During the wars fought by Israel since 1947 it has been the US that has provided military equipment to repel the Muslim hordes and each year the US provides billions of dollars of military assistance to enable Israel to maintain her defences against persistent threats.

Military Tarshish

In 2018 Israel is facing a massive buildup of Iranian troops on her Syrian border. Russia has allowed tens of thousands of Iranians into Syria and is operating naval and air bases in support of the Syrian regime. The Hezbollah on Israel's northern border, in Lebanon, is believed to have 25,000 full-time soldiers and as many reservists. It is believed they have 150,000 missiles, supplied by Iran ready to target Israel.

With help from the US, Israel has developed defence systems such as the "Iron Dome" to combat short-range shells and rockets, "David's Sling" to combat intermediate range missiles and the "Arrow" missile to destroy long-range IBMs.

On the 70th anniversary of Israel's establishment as a nation, the US recognised Jerusalem as the capital of the State of Israel by moving her embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

There is no doubt that when the Russian/Islamic northern army (Ezek.38:13) invades Israel in the first half of the Tribulation, the United States, Britain, and their associates as the "*merchants of Tarshish and the young lions thereof*" will be well positioned to challenge.

Chapter 5 - The Oil and Gas Merchants of Tarshish

“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?” (Ezek.38:13).



The vast resources of oil in the Middle East have brought Tarshish (USA & UK), Sheba and Dedan (Arabia) together. Ever since Winston Churchill decided in WWI to use oil instead of coal in British warships, the demand for oil has grown.

WWII left the UK weakened and unable to retain its dominance in the region, and the Truman and Roosevelt administrations were able to achieve their top priority; monopolizing oil in the region.

American economic involvement in the Middle East came in 1933 when Ibn Saud, founder and king of the new Saudi Arabian kingdom, awarded concessions to the American company, Standard Oil of California. The British had been the main western power involved in the Middle East up until this point, but this momentous decision signified the main turning point in American relations with Saudi Arabia and later with more Middle Eastern nations.

Standard Oil of California ended up becoming the Arabian-American Oil Company (ARAMCO) after it merged with Texaco and Socony. **Thus, the interests of the United States were intertwined with the interests of the Saudi Arabian monarchy.** Saudi Arabia needed the technology and expertise of the Americans and the Americans needed oil in order to maintain their state of power in the world as well as compete with the USSR during the Cold War; now all oil transactions are in US dollars.

The Politics of Islam

The political situation among the Muslim nations has also driven the US and Saudi Arabia together. After 1979 when the Shah of Persia was overthrown by extreme Islamists, a sharp division occurred among Muslim nations. The Iranians are Shiite Muslims and 60% of the Iraqis are Shiites but most other Muslims are Sunni Muslims. The hatred between these two groups knows no limits.

In 1980 Saddam Hussein, a Sunni, unleashed a massive attack on Iran in order to secure the waterways from the Persian Gulf into the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers and this led to an 8 year war beginning in 1980 and ending in 1988 when a peace agreement was brokered by the UN. The war cost more than a million lives and chemical weapons were used.

Two years later Saddam invaded Kuwait and to honour her defence agreements, the US drove out the invaders and toppled Hussein to end his cruel reign.



After the war with Iraq, the 60% of the population who were Shiites took control of the Government when elections were held and reprisals began against Sunnis. This led to a violent reaction from Sunnis under the banner of ISIS which has only been defeated in 2018 since President Trump changed US policy. Unfortunately however, Iraqi Shiites have solicited the aid of Iranian militias to assist them in the fight with ISIS and the Iraqi army is now dominated by Shiites sympathetic to Iran and stiffened with Iranian military. Iraq is now ordering Russian tanks and in 2018 Egypt began gearing up to manufacture Russian tanks.

In March 2011, President Assad, who ruled with a minority Alawite Shia population in Syria, came under attack from a general uprising by Sunni Muslim rebel forces supported by various Sunni nations.

Assad appealed to Iran for soldiers to assist his troops and negotiated with Russia to provide air and naval support. In response, large numbers of Iranian troops have been sent to Syria and these have established military bases in the Middle East with

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a landbridge all the way from Iran to the Mediterranean and the border of Israel.

In Lebanon, Iran already had her defacto army installed under the banner of Hezbollah. All of these factors have caused the oil-producing Arabian countries known in scripture as Sheba and Dedan, to seek protection from the US and UK, the "*merchants of Tarshish and the young lions thereof*" in preparation for their role in God's plan for the nations in the last days.

Ethnic Differences

There are also ethnic differences among the peoples of the Middle East that cause deep divisions and impact on last-days events.

Iranians are an Indo-Iranian group of the **Indo-European** language family while Turks are known as Anatolian Turks and are a **Turkic ethnic group**. The Kurds are ethnically related to the Iranians. Most Turks and Kurds consider themselves to be Sunni.

Many of the people of the Middle East are **ethnic Arabs**: Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, 60% of Iraq, Arabia and the Gulf States, Egypt and North Africa are largely Arab Sunni Muslims.

The presence of Israel located right in the centre of the Middle East since 1948 has stirred Muslims, whether Sunni or Shiite, with bitter resentment. Since the War of Independence in 1947, Arab nations have sent vast armies into Israel to wipe out the fledgling nation but without success. Intafadas have brought suicide bomb attacks, knifings and every kind of violence against Jews.

In the 21st century, Iranian plans to acquire nuclear weapons with appropriate missile delivery systems. These weapons have caused great alarm and, in spite of religious and ethnic differences, these nations are bringing the US, and the Arabian nations together. "*Sheba and Dedan*" are moving closer to the "*merchants of Tarshish and the young lions thereof*"; motivated by fear.

The vast deposits of oil and gas in the Persian Gulf and off the coast of Israel contain "spoils" that are attractive to the greedy Iranians who would like to secure a large percentage of the world's oil resources and thus gain economic and political power with which to advance the global cause of Islam.

With this threat in view, the US already has defence agreements with Arab states in the Persian Gulf and these are vital to global security. When Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait in August 1990 the US responded and drove out the Iraqis.

Today Arabian nations live in fear of Iranian aggression and need the US for defence as well as for development of gas and oil resources.

The US has very large oil and gas reserves of her own and since President Trump came to power in the US, large resources have been released for development in the US and Alaska and the US is now an exporter of oil.

The protection of British and US oil interests in the Middle East is a major factor bringing Arabia (*Sheba & Dedan*) and the “*merchants of Tarshish and the young lions thereof*” together in the last days.

Chapter 6 - The Tribulation Merchants of Tarshish

*“Enter into the rock, and hide thee in the dust, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty... 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 he shall be brought low... And upon every high tower, and upon every fenced wall, **And upon all the ships of Tarshish,** and upon all pleasant pictures... and the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day.” (Isa.2:10-17).*

The great sign of “*the end of the age*” is a period of seven years in which God’s wrath will be poured out upon this world. When Jesus spoke of the “*end of the age*” He described fearful events that will shake the earth and He called that time “*great tribulation*”(Matt.24:21). We know this time will last for seven years because John, in the Book of the Revelation, stated that it would be divided into two parts and each would last for 42 months or $3\frac{1}{2}$ years.

The sign that the seven years has begun will be the sudden disappearance of all those on earth who have trusted in Jesus Christ in this present age and who will be alive when “*the end of the age*” arrives. Jesus said:

“I tell you, in that night there shall be two in one bed; the one shall be taken, and the other shall be left. Two shall be grinding together; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left” (Luke 17:34-36).

But who are they that will be taken? Paul said it would be all those who are “*in Christ*” (1Thess.4:16) i.e. those trusting in Christ and who belong to Him.

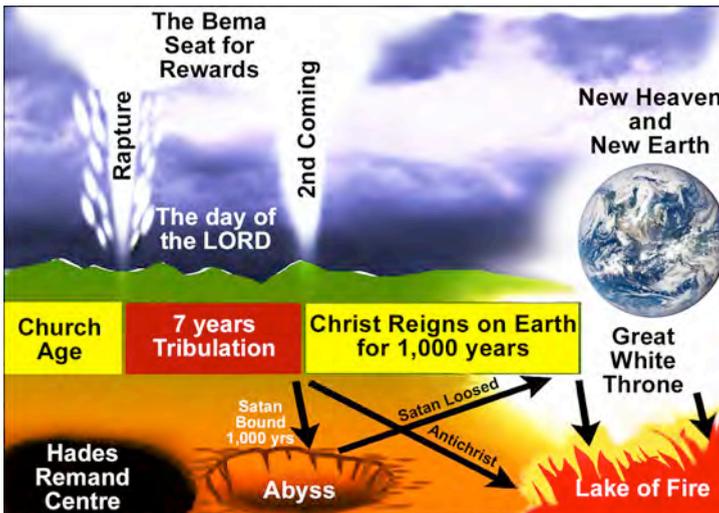
Who are those that are left behind? It will be all those who have not received Christ as Saviour and Lord.

Can you imagine a world that has just been suddenly relieved of every born-again Christian? Every person on earth will be an unbeliever. Many religious people will still be around but all the

genuine believers will be gone and those who are left will have to face the prospect of the worst time of trouble the world has ever seen, so much so, that the entire human race will be in danger of extinction. Earthquakes will shake the globe, tsunamis will sweep the shores, mountains will fall down and meteorites will shower the earth. Droughts will scorch the earth and in one judgment alone, fires will rage across one third of the earth. Famine and disease will take the lives of millions and wars will destroy nations. Drinking waters will be poisoned and terrorism will take peace from the earth. Demon activity and devil worship will be rampant. There never has been a time on earth when calamities have equalled what will come in the “*end of the age*” for it is the time when God’s patience and longsuffering has run out and His wrath will be seen on earth; it is called “*the day of the Lord*”.

Jeremiah states:

“Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob’s (Israel’s) trouble, but he shall be saved out of it” (Jer.30:7).



Nobody on earth will be able to escape the Day of the Lord. The past history of “*Tarshish and the young lions thereof*”, when the blessing of God was on those nations, will be no comfort to those who are left behind. Every saved person in the US and UK and in all the world, will have been caught up to be with Christ at the Rapture.

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If there is any benefit to the Tarshish nations after the Rapture, perhaps it will be that they **remember what they heard** from Christians and will better understand what has happened when the Rapture takes place. Many in these lands will have heard the Gospel of Christ; loved ones will have disappeared and those left behind will be filled with regret that they failed to seek the Lord in time. The same might be said for other countries but in lands like America where millions of Scofield Bibles are left behind and a multitude of books and tracts warning of the coming Tribulation are left lying on tables and desks; when faithful Bible Teachers fail to appear on the weekly radio or TV program, and pastors do not turn up to services; this could cause many to seek the Lord in true repentance.

Sinners will be able to seek the Lord after the Rapture provided they refuse the “mark of the Beast” but the price will be high for by the mid-point of the seven years, Anti-Christ will dominate a world that is reeling; devastated by earthquakes, terror, war disease and famine. The great navies of Tarshish will have suffered devastating blows as raging seas send ships to the bottom of the ocean; sea lanes will be impassable, volcanoes explode and a great island will have been cast burning into the ocean bringing death across one third of the world’s oceans (Rev.8:8). Global earthquakes will disturb the oceans sending tsunamis racing across the globe to carry away millions. Luke described this time:

*“And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; **the sea and the waves roaring**” (Luke 21:25).*

When John was given a detailed description of the Tribulation he wrote:

*“And the second angel sounded, and as it were **a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea: and the third part of the sea became blood; And the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died; and the third part of the ships were destroyed**” (Rev.8:8-9).*

Which island has been marked out for special judgment we do not know but if it was one of the Hawaiiin islands that burned and was cast into the sea then **one third of the oceans** would involve three-quarters of the Pacific Ocean!

It is no wonder that Isaiah wrote:

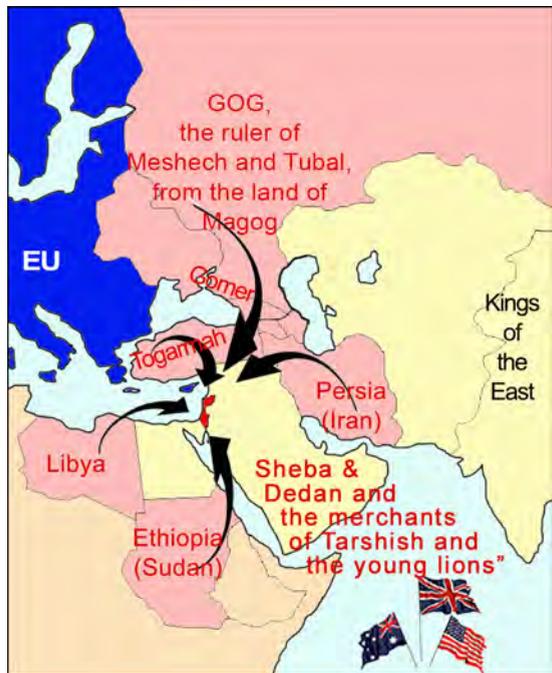
“The day of the LORD of hosts shall be upon... all the ships of Tarshish” (Isa.2:12-16).

“Them that Dwell Carelessly in the Isles” - Who are They?

“I will send a fire on Magog, and among them that dwell carelessly in the isles: and they shall know that I am the LORD” (Ezek.39:6).

We have already seen that the land of Magog was the old Scythian territory which is Russia today and that the sons of Javan were given the “*isles of the Gentiles*” (Gen.10:5). Tarshish is one of the sons of Javan.

In Ezekiel chapter 38 the prophet described an invasion of Israel by “Gog, (from) the land of Magog (Russia), the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal,” together with “Persia” (Iran) and the “house of Togarmah”. Togarmah is identified by Josephus as eastern Turkey. Libya and Ethiopia (Biblical Sudan) are also included. The “*merchants of Tarshish and the young lions thereof*” (Ezek.38:13) will challenge this invasion by Gog and his associates.



We are left in no doubt as to **when** this invasion takes place; it is “*in the latter years*”, after the nation of Israel has been “*brought back*” to the land and is “*dwelling safely*”. Furthermore it will be at a time when the desolate land of Israel will be cultivated again after “*many days*”:

“After many days thou shalt be visited: in the latter years thou

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*shalt come into the land that is brought back from the sword, and is gathered out of many people, against the mountains of Israel, which have been **always waste**: but it is brought forth out of the nations, and they shall **dwell safely** all of them” (Ezek.38:8).*

This remarkable prophecy fixes the time so accurately that we can definitely identify the time of this invasion; not to the exact day, but certainly to the period approaching it.

The land of Israel has already been “*brought back from the sword*”, in fact from centuries of bloodshed. Under Imperial Rome the land was desolated by Titus (AD66 to 73) and then by the Bar Kokhba Revolt (AD132-136). Persians, Byzantian Christians, Muslims, Christian Crusades, Turks, British and Arabs have fought in the land; the land was stripped of its trees in the Ottoman era and has rightly been described as “waste”.

However, since 1948 when Israel again became a nation, the waste lands have been cultivated; Israel has been “*brought forth out of the nations*” and has an exceedingly powerful army that can respond to any threat; it can now truly be said that they “*dwell safely* all of them.”

This remarkable restoration of the nation to the land is, according to Ezekiel and Joel, only the **prelude** to the conversion of the



chosen race. Not all Jews have returned to the land. Only a remnant is back in the land. It is God's purpose to bring them to repentance and he will use this latter-day invasion from the north to cause Israel to cry out to the Lord. At the present time Israel is trusting in her own strength and in support from "*the merchants of Tarshish and the young lions thereof*". US budgets provide billions of dollars of military aid for Israel's defence and Israel depends on the assurance that America will come to her aid.

What Israel does not appreciate is that, during the Tribulation, "*the isles*" will be incapacitated at the time of the Russian invasion. Tarshish is in the "*isles*" and both "*the land of Magog*" and "*them that dwell carelessly (confidently) in the isles*" will be burned for we read: "*And I will send a fire on Magog, and among them that dwell carelessly (confidently) in the isles: and they shall know that I am the LORD*" (Ezek.39:6).

Perhaps as Russia and her Muslim allies pour into the land of Israel, the challenge from the merchants of Tarshish and her young lions will be accompanied by a military response and that this could result in a shoot-out between Russia and America that incapacitates both nations. **Both will be burned.** We know that, when Israel turns to the Lord, God will destroy the armies invading Israel leaving only one sixth to escape to Siberia and the land of Magog will be burned.

*"And I will turn thee back, and leave but **the sixth part of thee**, and will cause thee to come up from the north parts, and will bring thee upon the mountains of Israel"* (Ezek.39:2).

Joel speaks of this retreat:

*"But I will remove far off from you **the northern army**, and will drive him into a **land barren and desolate**, with his face toward the **east sea (Pacific)**, and his hinder part toward the **utmost (North) sea**, and his stink shall come up, and his ill savor shall come up, because he hath done great things"* (Joel 2:20).

The merchants of Tarshish will be weakened both when the oceans are impassible destroying one third of all ships, and also when the Isles are burned. Perhaps this will occur during the Trumpet Judgments as one third of all oceans are turned to blood, one third

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of all ships perish, and one third of all trees and grass are burned. We read:

*“The first angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up. And the second angel sounded, and as it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea: and the third part of the sea became blood; And the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died; and **the third part of the ships were destroyed**” (Rev.8:7-9).*

On 1 March 2018 the Russian leader Mr Putin, boasted of new weapons for which the West has no answer. He spoke of inter-continental missiles that change direction and could not be tracked by defence systems. He also spoke of a “doomsday” torpedo with a 50 megaton nuclear warhead that travels at great depths, up to 100kph, for distances of up to 6,200 miles and could wipe out whole coastal cities sending a tsunami 100 metres high (330 feet) across the countryside.

Under the Obama administration, America stopped its development of its “star wars” program but China and Russia stole the lead developing a new generation of weapons including Electro-magnetic weapons that can fuse whole electrical power grids and shut down a nation. How advanced these weapons are we do not know.

There is no doubt that, at the moment, the US and UK can be accurately described as dwelling “*confidently in the isles*” and humanly speaking, they have every right to do so. Under President Trump, America in 2018 had a defence budget of \$700 billion. In 2017 Britain had a defence budget of \$47.2 billion while Russia’s budget in 2017 was only \$66.3 billion and China’s 2018 military budget rose by 8% to \$175 billion.

While Britain and America will have a part to play in the Tribulation it would seem that for some reason they will **not be the dominant players** perhaps because they suffer some devastation that will reduce their effectiveness politically and militarily. Their part, together with Arabia, may be confined to providing protection and sustenance for Israel in the second half of the Tribulation and for that reason will be likened to the “*two wings of a great eagle*”.

Chapter 7 - "Two Wings of a Great Eagle"

*"And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars... And to the woman were given **two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent**" (Rev.12:1,14).*

Symbols in Scripture are to be interpreted by the Bible itself. We are not left to our own devices or imagination when interpreting Biblical symbols.

The woman that John saw in Revelation chapter 12 is undoubtedly symbolic of the nation of Israel. The "*crown of 12 stars*" on her head represent the **12 tribes of Israel**. When Joseph saw in a dream the 11 stars "*make obeisance*" to his star (Gen.37:9-10) Jacob asked, "*Shall I and thy mother and thy brethren indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth?*" (Gen.37:10).

The Holy Spirit used the same symbolism in Genesis 37 as He did in Revelation 12.

In Rev.12 John traced the history of Israel in the vision of the woman; the 12 stars represent the 12 sons of Jacob; Israel brought forth "*a man child*", the Lord Jesus, whom Satan attempted to kill at His birth but who is destined to "*rule all nations with a rod of iron*". Christ, "*the man child*", was "*caught up unto God, and to His throne*" when He ascended from the Mount of Olives (Rev.12:5).

In the last days the woman, (Israel) will flee into a wilderness, "*where she hath a place prepared of God*" and will be protected from Antichrist for the last 1,260 days of the Tribulation.

We know that this period of 1,260 days is **the second half** of the 7 years of the future Great Tribulation which immediately precedes the return of the Lord Jesus in glory as King of kings (Matt.24:29; Dan.9:27).

At the mid-point of the Tribulation, Satan will be expelled from his place in heaven and for the last 1,260 days of the Tribulation

will persecute Israel but God will give her “*two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for 3¹/₂ years*” i.e. the last half of the Tribulation, after which Christ returns in glory to destroy Antichrist and establish His universal reign.

The great eagle is obviously symbolic of something. Whatever, or whoever it is, must be able to provide **protection and nourishment** for Israel in the face of a military onslaught by Antichrist. We would therefore expect the “eagle” to have substantial military power and resources.

The fact that the woman will “*fly into the wilderness, into her place*” and that the great eagle enables her to do so, suggests a massive evacuation and relocation into a safe place in the face of attack.

It is obvious that “*the abomination of desolation*” i.e. the setting up of Antichrist’s idol image in the Temple at Jerusalem **at the midpoint** of the Tribulation and the escape of the Jews from Jerusalem when they “*flee into the mountains*” (Matt.24:15-16), will occur at that time. We would also anticipate that assistance from the “*great eagle with two wings*” would be forthcoming at this time.

The Symbolism of Eagles Wings

The interpretation of symbols in the Bible should be handled with great care. There are many very descriptive symbolic passages in the Scriptures and they each convey a message which may have been perfectly clear in the minds of those to whom they were spoken but since we are living in a different era, and sometimes unacquainted with prevailing circumstances, the meaning of the symbol may not be immediately apparent.

The principle that should be followed when seeking to understand symbolic language in the Bible is that we should look elsewhere in Scripture to see if the **same symbol is used in different contexts**. All the books of the Bible have a common author for the Holy Spirit inspired each of the Bible writers and gave them the very words to write. Peter stated this fact when he wrote:

“Holy men of God spake as they were moved (borne along) by the Holy Ghost” (2Peter 1:21).

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Since each symbol is given by the same author we would expect some consistency in the symbols that He chose. It is not surprising therefore that we find this to be the case in the symbol of *eagles wings*.

The Assyrian Armies to Stretch out Their Wings

About 730BC Isaiah prophesied that the Assyrians would come into Judah and, like a flood, cover the land. The waters would rise even to the neck, i.e. to Jerusalem the head city but Jerusalem would survive when Assyria spread her wings out to cover the land.

*“Behold, the Lord bringeth up upon them the waters of the river, strong and many, even the king of Assyria, and all his glory: and he shall come up over all his channels, and go over all his banks: And he shall pass through Judah; he shall overflow and go over, he shall reach even to the neck; and the **stretching out of his wings shall fill the breadth of thy land**, O Immanuel” (Isa.8:7-8).*

The symbolism is quite clear. The Assyrian army was likened to a flood of water submerging all of Judah but the flood would only reach to the neck and the head city, Jerusalem would be spared. We know how this happened. When Sennacherib boasted against the Lord, Isaiah and Hezekiah prayed. Then in one night the angel of the Lord smote 185,000 Assyrians.

Perhaps this incident is a “type”, a foreshadowing, of a future northern army that will “*come like a storm...like a cloud to cover the land*” (Ezek.38:9), and when Israel turns to the Lord as did Hezekiah, only a remnant of that Russian/Islamic army described in Ezekiel chapters 38 and 39, will escape.

The Assyrian power is likened to an eagle spreading its wings over the land and in the Tribulation, there will be another great power that will use its military might in the land, but in that case, it will be for the protection of Israel.

Babylon and Egypt - Eagles with Wings

The symbolism of a “*great eagle*” is used in Ezekiel’s prophecy chapter 17 in relation to Israel. Ezekiel was told by God to “*put forth a riddle, and speak a parable unto the house of Israel*” (Ezek.17:2).

The parable goes as follows:

*“A **great eagle** with great wings, longwinged, full of feathers, which had divers colors, came unto Lebanon, and took the highest branch of the cedar” (Ezek.17:3).*

Then a second great eagle was seen:

*“There was also **another great eagle** with great wings and many feathers: and, behold, this vine (Israel) did bend her roots toward him” (Ezek.17:7).*

The interpretation of the parable is given. The first great eagle was the **Babylonian Empire** that had come into the land and taken the best of the people to Babylon but Israel, the vine, had *“bent her roots”* toward another great eagle, the **Egyptian Empire**, for protection.

The symbolism of a great eagle is clearly representing political and military powers involved in the invasion and protection of the nation of Israel. The use of the same symbol in Revelation 12 is therefore most significant.

In Ezekiel’s day the second eagle could not assist the Jews against the Babylonians but in the last days a great eagle will assist in Israel’s escape and provide for her, 1,260 days until Christ returns.

A Lion and Leopard with Eagles’ Wings

When Daniel was given the vision of *“the times of the Gentiles”* in chapter 7 of his prophecy he saw four Gentile nations as beasts and two of them had wings; the first had eagle’s wings and the third had four wings of a fowl. These beasts are symbolic of the four Gentile powers; Babylon, Persia, Greece and Rome.

When Jeremiah prophesied about Babylon’s invasion of Moab and Edom, again we see Babylon symbolized with eagle’s wings:

“Behold, he (Nebuchadnezzar) shall fly as an eagle, and shall spread his wings over Moab. Kerioth is taken, and the strong holds are surprised, and the mighty men’s hearts in Moab at that day shall be as the heart of a woman in her pangs.” (Jer.48:40-41).

“Behold, he shall come up and fly as the eagle, and spread his wings over Bozrah: and at that day shall the heart of the mighty men of Edom be as the heart of a woman in her pangs” (Jer.49:22).

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Israel Previously Delivered on Eagles Wings

When the children of Israel came out of Egypt they spent 40 years in the wilderness before they possessed the promised land and God reminded them:

"Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself" (Exod.19:4).

There is definitely a parallel here with Israel in the Tribulation for in Revelation 15:3 we find the martyrs in heaven singing the victory *"song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb"*.

The song of Moses was sung when Israel rejoiced in triumph over the Egyptians as they saw Pharaoh and his army drowned in the Red Sea. God said:

"Ye have seen what I did to the Egyptians!"

The judgments on Egypt and the Vial Judgments on Antichrist in the second half of the Tribulation are similar also. Pharaoh stands as a "type" of the Antichrist and the plagues of Egypt foreshadow the Vial Judgments which are directed against the Beast.

When God judged Pharaoh He turned the river Nile into blood; ulcers came upon the Egyptians and hail on their cattle and crops; the land of Egypt was in thick darkness for three days. Similar judgments will be poured out on the earth in the Vial Judgments.

Finally, Pharaoh and all who followed him were drowned in the Red Sea and when Christ returns, Antichrist and all who follow him will be cast into a lake of fire.

At that time Israel fled into a wilderness and the Lord said,

"I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself...ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests..." (Exod.19:4-6)."

Israel had become a kingdom with the Lord as their King and the Lord was alluding to the fact that when the eagle teaches its young to fly it pushes them out of the nest. Then before they can crash to the ground the mother bird swoops down and catches the young on her wings. In the Tribulation God has a place that He has prepared where Israel will be preserved from Antichrist during the last half of the Tribulation.

This is not the only time God likens Himself to an eagle taking care of His people. In the Psalms David asked the Lord: *“Hide me under the shadow of thy wings from the wicked that oppress me.”* He wanted protection from his enemies and exclaimed, *“How excellent is thy loving kindness, O God! therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of thy wings”* (Ps.36:7).

When David fled from Saul he took refuge in a cave and prayed, *“my soul trusteth in thee: yea, in the shadow of thy wings will I make my refuge, until these calamities be overpast”* (Ps.57:1). In like manner when Antichrist is pursuing Israel God will provide a place of refuge until the Tribulation will be overpast (Isa.26:20)!

Again David prayed:

“From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I. For thou hast been a shelter for me, and a strong tower from the enemy. I will abide in thy tabernacle for ever: I will trust in the covert of thy wings. Selah” (Ps.61:2-4).

When David was hiding in the wilderness of Judea he prayed:

“Because thou hast been my help, therefore in the shadow of thy wings will I rejoice...But those that seek my soul, to destroy it, shall go into the lower parts of the earth. They shall fall by the sword” (Ps.63:7-10).

And again:

“He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust... He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust” (Ps.91:1-4).

Who then is the Great Eagle with Two Wings in Rev.12:14?

If we believe that we are living in the last of the last days, and we do, then we may be able to get some idea as to the identity of the great eagle with two wings.

Israel is back in the land; Russia and Iran are already established on Israel's northern border and Turkey is moving in Russia's direction politically. Russia and her Muslim allies cannot be the “great eagle” for they do not assist Israel, but according to Ezekiel chapters 38 and 39, they invade Israel.

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Europe cannot be the “*great eagle*” that supports Israel because Antichrist is the Roman prince who will move into the Temple at the mid-point of the Tribulation; it is Antichrist who causes the Jews to “*flee into the mountains.*”

In 1917 it was Britain that produced the historic document known as the *Balfour Declaration* promising Palestine as a national home for the Jewish people and although Britain failed after WWII to assist the refugees to return from Hitler’s horror camps, nevertheless, the Declaration gave legitimacy to Israel’s claim to re-establish in the land in 1948.

Within hours of the proclamation of the existence of the State of Israel on 14 May 1948, President Harry Truman recognized the provisional government of David Ben Gurion as the defacto government of Israel.

In September 2016 the American Congress guaranteed Israel \$50 billion of military assistance over the next 10 years in spite of President Obama’s support for the Muslims.

Under President Obama, America’s support for Israel came into question as he consistently favoured the Muslims and removed sanctions on Iran who is the sworn enemy of Israel. Under Obama the Middle East fell into the hands of the Russians, Iranians

and Turks and for this reason, in view of Ezekiel chapters 38 and 39, Israel’s security has been undermined. Obama withdrew American forces from Afghanistan and Iraq and allowed ISIS and then Iran to gain footholds however, since Israel became a nation again, and even before, it has the been American Congress that has supported Israel in all her wars.

It was America that gave Israel the military hardware to turn back the Arab armies when she was almost overrun in the Yom Kippur War and it has been America that supplied Israel with billions of dollars each year to bolster her defences. In the UN Security Council it has been America that has vetoed motion after motion by the Antisemitic nations who have unjustly condemned Israel.



Furthermore, America is already established militarily in the Middle East and is a great global oil merchant with Saudi Arabia. America is the only nation that is capable of providing Israel with protection from Antichrist and assisting in any mass evacuation from Jerusalem at the mid-point of the Tribulation.

We know that “*the merchants of Tarshish*”, Britain, and her “*young lions*” together with Sheba and Dedan (Arabia) (Ezek.38:13) will voice their protest when Russia and her Islamic associates invade Israel in the first half of the Tribulation, so if America stands up for Israel against the Islamic invasion in the first half of the Tribulation surely we might be forgiven for thinking that America will be the “*great eagle*” that will assist Israel to escape the persecution of Antichrist in the second half of the Tribulation.

Since President Donald Trump took over the White House in Washington, America’s foreign policy has changed and his son-in-law, a Jew, advises him on relations with Israel. The new American Ambassador to Israel is David Melech Friedman, a Jew. For the first time Israel allowed a foreign power to establish a military base on her soil when the US airforce set up in an Israeli airbase in the Negev, and President Trump honoured his promise to move the US Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem on 14 May 2018. Relations with the United States have never been stronger and this has given great assurance to Israel that in the event of any attack from Iran, the US will support her.

On 8 May 2018 President Trump withdrew America from the *Iranian Agreement* which Obama had signed without approval from the US Senate. A treaty would have required Senate approval but Obama knew he would never get Senate approval so he signed the Iranian agreement which meant that President Trump did not need Senate approval to withdraw.

The Iranian Agreement gave the Iranians the opportunity to develop nuclear weapons after 10 years and put the security of Israel and the free world at great risk. By signing, Obama removed US sanctions and gave Iran a plane load of cash, thought to be in excess of a billion dollars, which enabled Iran to continue to fund her nuclear and missile programs. Trump consulted with European nations but though they would not join him, he went

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ahead and withdrew American support. Heavy sanctions will be reimposed on Iran and on nations that do business with Iran.

Furthermore, President Trump has established strong relations with Arab nations that are afraid of Iran's aggressive foreign policy and this has worked in Israel's favour. The new (2018) crown prince of Saudi Arabia **now sees Israel as a friend** and this accords with the prophecy that "*Sheba and Dedan*" will join with "*the merchants of Tarshish and the young lions thereof*" to challenge the invasion of Israel in the first half of the Tribulation. The Queen of Sheba was an Arabian Princess.

The view that the "*two wings of a great eagle*" refers to America is consistent with Isaiah's prophecy that after the "*Redeemer shall come to Zion and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob*" (Isa.59:20), it will be the "*ships of Tarshish first*" that will bring the sons of Israel back to the land, "*their silver and their gold with them*" (Isa.60:9). The wealth of American Jewry will be carried by American ships back to Israel after Christ returns.

It may be later than we think for the Departure of the Church must occur before the 7 years of Tribulation begins and the trumpet call may be heard by the Church any time.

Chapter 8 - The Millennial Merchants of Tarshish

During the Tribulation there will be some from all nations that will seek the Lord and will refuse to take the mark of the beast. In the first half of the Tribulation the Gospel of the Kingdom “*shall be preached in all the world for a witness to all nations*” (Matt.24:14) by the “*servants of our God*”; 144,000 Jewish preachers. They will preach to their own countrymen and to the Gentiles and since there are millions of Jews in America we would expect that many Jews and Gentiles will heed the warnings and testify during the Tribulation.

Perhaps it will be the presence of many who turn to Christ after the Rapture that will influence the governments of the *merchants of Tarshish* to stand with Israel when the Beast seeks to destroy her. We know that there will be 144,000 Jewish men who will be preaching in “*all the world for a witness to all nations*” and no doubt many will be saved through their preaching. John, in his vision of the Tribulation period, saw “*a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations and kindreds, and people, and tongues*” who stood before the throne in heaven. He was told,

“These are they which came out of (the) great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb”
(Rev.7:14).

When Christ comes immediately after the Tribulation He will destroy the armies of the Beast that come to the Battle of Armageddon in the land of Israel. He will gather all the living Gentile nations **that survive** the Tribulation and judge them according to whether they stood with God’s people Israel or with the Beast. Like a shepherd, Christ will separate the sheep from the goats; the saved from the unsaved. The sheep will go alive into the millennial kingdom and the goats will go away into “*everlasting fire*” (Matt.25:31-46).

However, before the Gentiles are gathered for judgment, the Jews who survive the Tribulation must be gathered back to the land.

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Every surviving Jew will be a redeemed Jew for *“all Israel shall be saved”* (Rom.11:26-27; Jer.31:34) and an angel will go forth with the sound of a trumpet to call them home. How will they get back to the land? Transport will be provided by saved Gentile nations to bring every last Jew on earth back to the land. (Ezek.39:28).

There must be a considerable number of people from the *“isles of the Gentiles”*; from the merchants of Tarshish, who turn to Christ in the Tribulation because Isaiah states:

“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” (Isa.60:9).

The British and American ships will not be entirely destroyed during the Tribulation; sea captains and sailors must be saved to be able to sail the ships that bring the remnant *“from the four winds, from the one end of heaven to the other”* (Matt.24:31).

Isaiah would have no problem understanding how the Jews could be returned by ship but the concept of planes flying Jews back to the promised land would challenge his imagination. Perhaps the British and American planes that survive the Tribulation will also bring Jews in an air lift for we read:

“Who are these that fly as a cloud, and as the doves to their windows?” (Isa.60:8).



The bitter antisemitism that has characterised past history and that will reach new heights in the Tribulation, will dissipate. Gentile nations will want to align with Israel when they see her favoured place with Christ.

“In those days it shall come to pass, that ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you: for we have heard that God is with you” (Zech.8:23).

It is true that, in the millennial kingdom, all nations will serve Christ but special note is made in the prophecies concerning Tarshish

*“The kings of **Tarshish and of the isles** shall bring presents: the kings of **Sheba and Seba** shall offer gifts. Yea, all kings shall fall down before him: all nations shall serve him” (Psalm 72:10-11).*

For any people to worship Christ in the millennial kingdom they must be converted in the Tribulation before Christ returns and a number of scriptures indicate that many from Muslim countries such as Egypt and Assyria (Iraq) (Isa.19:18-25) will turn to Jesus Christ in the midst of the Great Tribulation. Many will die as martyrs and these will be raised from the dead when Christ returns.

The relationship of Britain and America with the Arabian people would appear to continue into the kingdom of Christ. After all, there will still be a demand for oil to fuel power stations, ships and vehicles. Perhaps oil transactions will continue in American dollars and if that is the case, then the merchants of Tarshish (America) will occupy a strong economic position in Christ's kingdom.

Jewish Preachers will Visit Tarshish

*“And I will set a sign among them, and I will send those that 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” (Isa.66:19).*

When Christ reigns as King of kings on the throne of David at Jerusalem, Jewish preachers will be the Bible teachers who travel to the nations proclaiming the message of salvation to new generations that will be born, those who were not here when Christ returned in glory; these must be told of Christ and just as the 144,000 Jews testified in the Tribulation, Jews will preach the Gospel of the Kingdom in all the world after Christ returns.

Chapter 9 - British-Israel Error

In this book we have established the ethnic origins of the British people from the earliest times both from Scripture and from history. They are the descendents of Javan, through his sons of whom Tarshish was one. They possessed the *“isles of the Gentiles”*.

Javan, a son of Japheth, settled in Greece and his brother Tiras, the father of the Phoenecians, settled on the coast of Lebanon. Both families were the great **seafaring merchant traders** of the ancient world who established colonial empires around the coastline of the Mediterranean and the Black Sea. We have traced their arrival in Britain back to the destruction of Troy about 1200BC while the Saxons invaded England after the Romans left - about AD410.

Evidence published by the eminent English historian, Bill Cooper, indicates that more than 50 English and European manuscripts kept in museums and libraries, trace the ancestry of English and European Kings back to Japheth the eldest son of Noah.

The earliest arrivals in Britain did not come from the continent but by ships that sailed beyond the “pillars of Hercules”, along the coast of Gaul (France), and across the English channel. The ancient ships of Tarshish identified in the Bible, received their name, not only from the family connection as the sons of Javan, but also because they brought minerals from Cornwall in the south-west of Britain which became known as the “tin isles”. Cornwall was the only major source of tin in Europe for 2,500 years and in the 6th century BC, Ezekiel stated that the ships of Tarshish brought tin to the markets of Tyre. If the tin came from Tarshish then England must be the Biblical Tarshish.

Some Bible maps show Tarshish in Spain but this is because a place called **Tharsis is located 50 kilometres north of Huelva. The name Tharsis is alien to the Spanish language and is where a British mining giant Rio Tinto Company began operations in the 19th century. They named it after their own land, Tarshish!**

It is important to establish the ethnic origins of Britain and her colonies in view of claims by the United Church of God that the

British are modern-day Israelites, generally referred to as Ephraim and Manasseh, and that these inherit the blessings that God promised to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph. Their claims are usually referred to as the British-Israel Theory.

The United Church of God is just one of five churches that began when the Worldwide Church of God, established by Herbert W Armstrong, was divided amidst fierce infighting after his death in 1986.

The British-Israel Theory claims that after the 10 tribes of the northern kingdom of Israel were taken captive to the cities of the Medes by Sargon King of the Assyrians in 721BC, they somehow managed to gain their freedom **within a few decades**, reform as a nation, trek nearly 1,000 km to the lands north of the Black Sea, change their name to Scythian or Cimmerian, raise an army and move south to attack the mighty Assyrian Empire!

But a legal Assyrian document indicates that there was a Cimmerian regiment **as part of the Assyrian army** about 679BC!

How all of this could happen before the Assyrian Empire collapsed in 612BC cannot be explained but it is necessary in order to advance the British-Israel Theory that the Scythians were actually Jews from the northern kingdom and that later they migrated across Europe and became the Saxons who settled in England after the departure of the Romans in AD410.

Having established to their own satisfaction that the English were really the "lost ten tribes" of Israel going under the name of Ephraim and Manasseh, no longer calling themselves Scythians, they then proceed to identify all the colonies established by England as descendents of the lost 10 tribes; America, Australia and new Zealand; all these are called new Israelites from Ephraim and Manasseh. In spite of the fact that the Bible shows that **all 12 tribes were represented in Judah**, they refuse to call them Jews since they say only the tribe of Judah are Jews and the 10 northern tribes are called Ephraim.

The United Church of God literature claims that America, as Ephraim, will suffer greatly in the Tribulation just before Christ returns and that all Israel (Jews, Britain & America), **Judah and the 10 tribes, will be reunited in the land of Israel** with David as their king and the 12 apostles reigning over the 12 tribes in the kingdom.

Britain & USA in Bible Prophecy

The British-Israel theory has major problems for the following reasons:

1) Any Encyclopedia will show that the Scythians were a nomadic people who established the Silk Road stretching from Europe to China. They were known to occupy land north of the Black Sea in the 8th century BC at the same time that the northern kingdom of Israel was taken captive to Media.

2) The Scythians had an organized army and attacked the Assyrian Empire from the north contributing to its downfall **before** the Medes and Babylonians finally overthrew Nineveh in 612BC. About 650BC they ventured so far south as to even threaten Egypt.

3) If the Scythians were the lost 10 tribes of Israel and migrated to England, **then they descended from Shem** but examination of more than 50 historical manuscripts of kings in Europe, and England show that Europeans trace their ancestors back to **Japheth**.

4) Josephus, the first century Jewish historian states that “Magog founded those that from him were named Magogites, but who are **by the Greeks called Scythians**.” (Antiquities Book1, ch.6).

Magog was a son of Japheth and this is strong supportive historical evidence for the more than 50 manuscripts in the British museum and libraries which show that the kings of England **traced their lineage to Japheth** from earliest times; not Shem.

5) An analysis of the ethnic origins of the American people will show that only a small percentage came from England. The largest percentage came from Europe with a large Afro-American and Hispanic company. To claim that Americans are Israelites from Ephraim and Manasseh is impossible even if it were true that the English are the lost 10 tribes. Of the 317 million Americans in the year 2017, 50 million were Germans, 36 million Irish, 10 million are Polish, 18 million are Italians, and 10 million French while Hispanics make up 58 million; all of this apart from the 42 million Africans.

If the blessings were promised to the sons of Joseph then the population of America cannot qualify as the sons of Joseph; Ephraim and Manasseh.

6) The ethnic origins of the Americans can be traced predominantly back to **European descent which all comes from the line of Japheth**. This agrees with the manuscripts of the kings of Europe and of England and also with the historical information from Josephus.

7) The Bible teaches that after Christ returns, both Judah and the 10 tribes will be restored to the land. The United Church agrees but this means that America, England, Australia and New Zealand will have to **relocate to the land of Israel**. The Bible says that Jews will return from "*ALL countries*"(Ezek.36:24); not just the British Empire!

8) The 15 million Pashtun tribesmen in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Kashmir are Muslims but **they trace their origins to the northern kingdom of Israel** which was taken captive in 721BC by the Assyrians. Friday is observed as the Muslim holy day but candles are lit on Friday evening as Jews do to begin the sabbath. Their moral code is Jewish and infidelity is punished with death. **Tribal names reflect the names of the tribes of Israel. The Tribe of Yusufzai believe they are descended from Joseph, Lewani from Levi, Rebani from Reuben, Afridi from Ephraim, Gaghai from Gad and Benyamin from Benjamin.**

Pashtuni men wear a four-cornered fringed garment similar to a Jewish prayer shawl and **the Star of David can be seen on cloths; they actually call themselves Bani Israel** (Children of Israel)!

Marriage outside the tribe is strongly discouraged thus ensuring ethnic purity. Access to their region is only possible under strict supervision especially in the region along the north west border of Pakistan. They protect any stranger who disarms and shelters under their roof. The Pashtun tribes are located in central Asia where the Bible says the northern kingdom of Israel was taken and therefore have a genuine claim to be the lost 10 tribes that will be converted and reunited with Judah when Christ returns as foretold by Ezekiel (Ezek,37:15-28).

9) The material blessings of God promised to Joseph as the first-born instead of Reuben (Gen.49:22-26) cannot apply to Britain and America since early English, Europeans, and Saxons are all descendants of Japheth and do not qualify.

The British-Israel Theory is an error based on phoney history.

Chapter 10 - SDA Error - America the Bison?

In the Book of Revelation chapter 13 we read of two beasts that arise in the Tribulation and assume global political and religious power halfway through the seven-years. It is clear to any reader who takes the text in its literal sense that these are two men who arise with demonic powers; they form a trinity of evil; the Dragon (Satan), the Beast (Antichrist) and the False Prophet.

Satan (the Dragon) is cast down to the earth by Michael the archangel halfway through the Tribulation and comes *“having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time”* (Rev.12:12); the first Beast, Antichrist, is possessed by a demon from the bottomless pit for we read that he *“ascendeth out of the bottomless pit”* (Rev.11:7; 17:8) and is given power to rule for 42 months (Rev.13:5) i.e. the second half of the Tribulation. The second beast is called *“the false prophet”* (Rev.19:20) and he causes people to worship the first Beast and **his image** which he will place in the rebuilt Jewish Temple at Jerusalem halfway through the Tribulation.

This False Prophet will do miracles. He will have the power to make the image of the first Beast to “speak” and have power to kill all who refuse to worship the first Beast. In addition, he will have power to cause men to receive a *“mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: and that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark or the name of the Beast, or the number of his name...his number is 666”* (Rev.13:16-18).

Any 6th grade primary school child would understand that these **two beasts are men** and yet Seventh Day Adventists interpret the first Beast as the Papacy and for some inexplicable reason, the false prophet as the United States of America, who they claim will pass a law in the last days to compel all men to worship on Sundays. To worship on Sunday, it is claimed, constitutes the “mark of the Beast” which scripture says will bring the wrath of God:

“And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the

wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: ... they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name" (Rev.14:9-11).

But SDAs don't believe in eternal torment. SDAs believe in annihilation of the lost!

SDAs teach that Sunday worship is the mark of the Beast while the Bible states that **it is a visible mark, 666**, placed either in the **right hand** or in the **forehead!** Then, without any Biblical reason, America is chosen to be the country that will pass such a law in the "last days".

The Bible indicates that Antichrist will be the final ruler of the **revived Roman Empire** before Christ returns. Daniel chapter 7 describes 4 stages in the "*times of the Gentiles*"; Babylon, Persia, Greece and Rome, and the last stage will have 10 divisions signified by 10 horns. A "*little horn*" among the 10 is clearly the Antichrist who will be destroyed by Christ at His coming.



The Bible says the False Prophet has "*two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon*" (Rev.13:11) yet, a SDA publication depicts the False Prophet as an American Bison! A lamb is not a bison.

SDAs claim that the deadly wound to the head of the Antichrist, which they say is the Vatican, occurred when Pope Pius VI was captured and taken to France during the French Revolution. Then when Napoleon reinstated the church the deadly wound was supposedly healed. But the Bible says that "*all the world wondered after the Beast*" when he was healed. All the world certainly did not wonder after the Vatican when Napoleon restored the church.

Furthermore, if the two beasts are not personalities but really the Vatican and USA, then the Dragon cannot be Satan, who we know and SDAs admit, is a personality! If the Dragon is an individual then so are the two beasts! Everything about the SDA view is inconsistent and is the result of seeking to rectify the great blunder of Pastor Miller that Christ would return in 1844.

Britain & USA in Bible Prophecy

Also, if keeping Sunday worship is such a terrible sin as to damn the soul of man eternally, what will happen to all the Christians who died since the day of Pentecost - for the last 2,000 years **before** this fictitious “decree” will be issued by the US Government? Do SDAs really expect us to believe that the martyrs who died at the stake in faithfulness to Christ and the great missionaries who led thousands to Christ, will be *“tormented with fire and brimstone”* because they failed to worship on the Jewish sabbath?

If worshipping on Sunday is sin in the last days then it is sin **for all time** but the early church Fathers testify again and again that in the 2nd and 3rd centuries the Jews kept Saturday and **the Christians kept Sunday**. Barnabas (AD100), Ignatius (AD30-107), Justin Martyr (AD110-165); Tertullian (AD145-220) are just a few who emphatically state that Christians met on the 1st day of the week because it was the day Christ rose and they called it *“the Lord’s day”*.

The Apostle John was *“in the Spirit on the Lord’s day”* when he was given the Revelation (Rev.1:10). To say *“the Lord’s day”* was the seventh day is either total ignorance or wilful lying.

The seventh day sabbath was given as **a sign to the nation of Israel for ever** and the Church is NOT Israel:

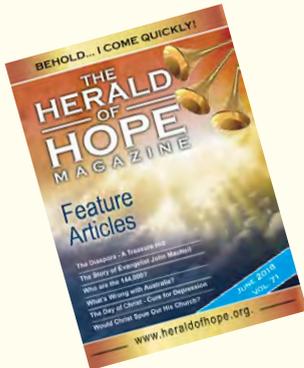
“Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the sabbath, to observe the sabbath throughout their generations, for a perpetual covenant. It is a sign between me and the children of Israel for ever” (Exod.31:16-17).

The SDA view of the mark of the beast shows clearly that they are wrong about keeping the sabbath instead of the Lord’s day and their whole system of eschatology is flawed being based on the year-day theory instead of a literal interpretation of the text. **The SDA view of America in the last days is sheer nonsense.**

For a more detailed answer to Seventh Day Adventist doctrines ask for a **free copy** of the book *Seventh Day Adventism Weighed and Found Wanting* available from

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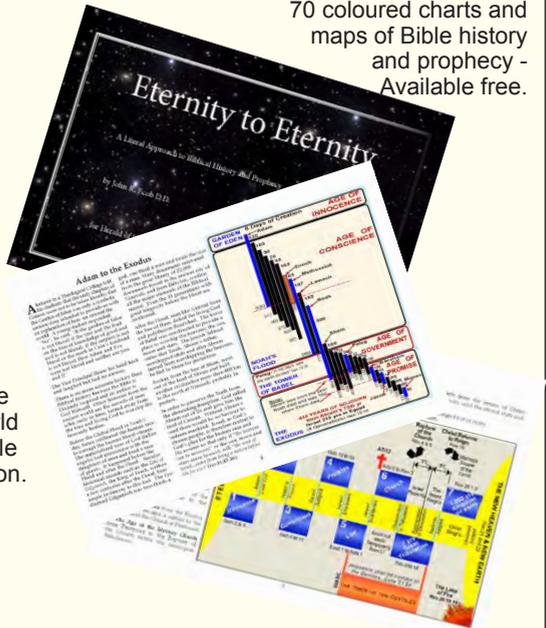
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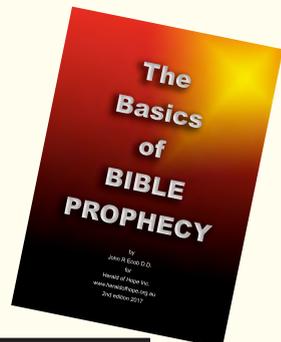
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