

Watchman, What of The Night?

TCHRISTADELPHIAN
RUTH GLEANER



BIBLICAL
HISTORICAL
CURRENT

“For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry” (Hab. 2:3).

Volume Number 5

Issue Number 2, 2006

~ The Anointed Cherub that Covereth ~

Israel, the Jews, and the Development of the Anglo-Tarshish Power as Protectorate
over the Holy Land through the in-working of the Word



Stone Engraving of an Ancient Merchant Vessel of Tarshish

~ *The Anointed Cherub that Covereth* ~

Israel, the Jews, and the Development of the Anglo-Tarshish Power as Protectorate over the Holy Land through the in-working of the Word

By Bre. Tom Northey and A. B. Bryan

INTRODUCTION

This Watchman article takes a careful look at both fulfilled and future events in Bible prophecy regarding the survival and witness of the Jewish people, with special emphasis on the emergence of the British power and their favorable response to a Jewish homeland in Palestine. By this study we will witness the Divine hand at work among the nations that will place Great Britain and her allies in opposition to Russia and Papal Europe who have long desired to lord over the Holy Land and particularly the “holy places”.

The Divine development of the Anglo-British power (Biblically identified as both Tyre and “*Tarshish, with all the young lions thereof*”) was designed to frustrate the purposes of Russia and Europe until the time of the end. Though at times unwillingly, Tarshish ultimately took part in the miraculous restoration of the Jews to Eretz Israel (and will also in the future). Thus, when history is analyzed through the prophetic lens, we will find that there can be no other Tarshish than that of Great Britain and the English-speaking peoples, or “young lions”, developed by the Divine hand as a protectorate of Israel in the latter days.

Two principle catalyst events had their part in casting the mold for the destiny of the British power. The first was the fall of Constantinople under the Turks in 1453 A.D. in answer to the sixth trumpet (Rev. 9:13-21), resulting in the dispersion of the original Greek and Latin manuscripts of the Bible into Western Europe and the exile of the eastern Roman Church into Russia. These manuscripts were picked up and translated into English by people like William Tyndale (1494-1536) who gave his life for the cause of making the Bible available to the common man. The second event hinges upon the first in that it was this very defiance of the Catholic Church (possessing and reading a Bible, punishable by death) that ignited the religious separation of the English-speaking peoples of Europe (called Protestants or Reformers) from the dominance of Roman Catholicism. Later their understanding of the Bible would influence key governments, statesmen and figureheads throughout the world in concert with specific historical events such as the First Zionist Congress, WWI, the defeat of the Ottoman Turk, the Balfour Declaration, the British Mandate, WWII, the Holocaust, etc., to favor and facilitate a Jewish homeland in Palestine. This historic context of continued opposition between the

English-speaking peoples of the “*isles afar off*” and Papal Europe validates the prophetic Word spoken thousands of years ago regarding Tarshish and the return of the Jews to their ancestral homeland. Once understood in its proper chronological development, the reader is given a clear picture of prophecy, a correct identification of the “players”, and a critical foundation to understanding future prophetic developments.

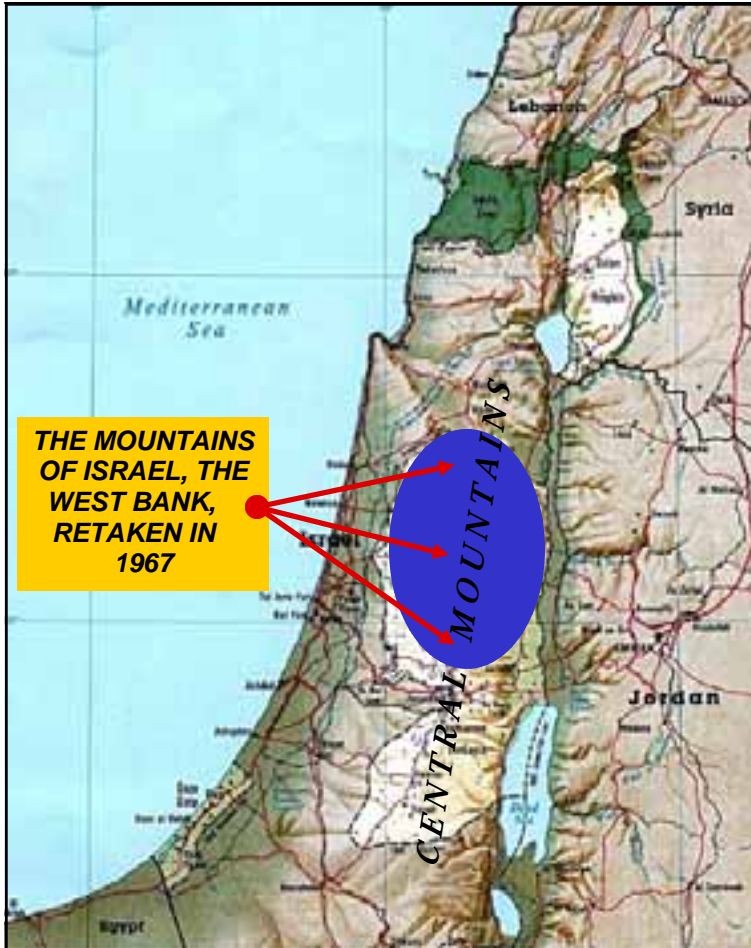
A THREE-FOLD TESTIMONY

There are three indisputable witnesses to the fact that Yahweh has spoken, revealing His Word through ancient prophets:

The First Witness is the Bible itself where the writings of the prophets have been preserved, standing as a testimony before the world over many centuries. As if to answer the textual critics and stop the mouths of those who have criticized the validity of Scripture, the Dead Sea Scrolls turned up to demonstrate that this Word has not changed in 2,000 years. The comments of Ygael Yadin in his book *Masada* are to the point in this regard: Several Biblical scrolls written well before the fall of Masada in 73 A.D. were “*almost identical to the text of the Biblical books which we use today.*” He describes one particular find saying: “*we could immediately identify them as several chapters from the Book of Leviticus, chapters eight through twelve, and to note that this scroll too was absolutely identical with the traditional text...*” Yet another find included chapters from the book of Ezekiel describing the restoration of Israel, and yet another book of Deuteronomy: “*It need hardly be added,*” he wrote, “*that these two scrolls, too, are virtually identical with the traditional biblical texts...*”

The Second Witness, though he may be an unwilling and unbelieving witness, is the Jew himself. The Jew stands before the world as a living monument, a witness, and as a testimony to the truth of the Word of God. He too has fulfilled his role for centuries, but in our day when the revived state of the Jewish nation is before the world so clearly, this testimony and evidence leaves us no excuse for the great act of folly in rejecting the Bible. “*All ye inhabitants of the world, and dwellers on the earth, see ye, when he lifteth up an ensign on the mountains, and when he bloweth a trumpet, hear ye*” (Isa 18:3). Brothers and Sisters, what is the sign and where are the mountains? Answer: Israel, settled in the West Bank.

Almost 150 years ago Bro. John Thomas considered this situation described in Ezekiel and wrote: “*It may be remarked*



here, that there will have been a considerable gathering of Israelites upon the mountains of Israel before the invasion of the country by Gog, and his capture of Jerusalem. This appears from the Spirit's address to Gog in the eighth verse of this chapter (Ezek. 38). In this place he says, "in the latter years thou 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'..." Brothers and Sisters, this is the land taken back in 1967, Judea and Samaria: "the Mountains of Israel". Brother Thomas continues, "It is evident from these last words, that the 'land brought back from the sword' is not the land according to the original Abrahamic grant; but only that 'tenth part' of it which Isaiah was informed in chapter 6:18, 'shall return and be grazed.' The tenth in the midst of the land is the locality of Armageddon; and not at all connected with Teman, which lies considerably to the south of it." He continues with this remarkable sentence: "**The return of security and prosperity to this tenth of the land, must either precede the development of the 'One Yahweh' man [the Christ community] or be concurrent with the operation in the recesses of Teman; or it may be in progress both then and before**" (Eureka, Vol. 3, page 656).

The re-gathering of Israel stands interdependently with Yahweh and His Word, that He cannot lie, and His Word will not return unto to Him void. Israel, after being scattered for nearly

2,000 years following 70 A.D., had to be re-gathered. Yahweh speaking to Israel in Isaiah 43:10 says, "*Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me.*"

The clear evidence of over 2,000 years of history testifies to the Truth of God. Isaiah himself is but one of the prophets who mapped out Israel's future. He speaks of Israel going into captivity "*because they have no knowledge...because they have cast away the law of the Lord of hosts and despised the word of the Holy One of Israel. Therefore the anger of the Lord kindled against His people*" (Isa. 5:13, 24-25). The paths trodden by Jews down many centuries and over many lands have in this past century led them back to their ancient homeland. What power is this, and whose Hand is it, that can guide the destiny of a whole nation insuring its ultimate survival, despite the slaughter of the Holocaust, to lead it to a pre-determined home-coming which was clearly stated, in writing, before the long dispersal even began? We should not and cannot allow this testimony to be dismissed without giving it the consideration it deserves. And once considered, we cannot forget the Divine hand that authored it.

The existence of the modern state of Israel is remarkable enough aside from the ancient prophecies that predicted it. The survival and revival of the nation with its resurrected Hebrew language has rightly been called a miracle. To bring together a people with such diverse backgrounds as Jews from all of Europe, the US, Ethiopia, Morocco, Yemen, Afghanistan, Britain, Russia, Turkey, etc., and forge them into one nation upon the mountains of Israel is an incredible achievement. The Jews had been offered territory in Uganda or Mozambique, but no, they were destined to resettle in their ancient homeland from which they were ejected almost 2,000 years ago. The following list outlines some of the milestone achievements leading to the re-gathering of the Jews in the land today:

1. **1798** - Napoleon marches into the Holy Land from Egypt and declares the right of return for the Jews to their ancestral homeland.
2. **1827** - First visit by Sir Moses Montefiore, Anglo-Jewish philanthropist.
3. **1831** - Jerusalem conquered by Mehemet Ali of Egypt.
4. **1838** - First British Consulate opened in Jerusalem.
5. **1840** - Jerusalem again under Turkish rule.
6. **1844** - First official Palestine census confirms Jewish majority: 7,120 Jews, 5,760 Muslims, 3,390 Christians.
7. **1859-60** - Mishkenot Sha-ananim, the first Jewish settlement, built outside Old City walls with the assistance of Sir Moses Montefiore. This was followed by Nahlat Shiva (1869).
8. **1870** - Other Jewish settlements begin near Jerusalem and the land in general is open to immigration of Jews.
9. **1896** - Theodore Hertzl writes "The Jewish State" and predicts that in 50 years it would come to fruition. Yahweh sends his "*many fishers*" to lure the Jews out of Europe to Palestine (Jer. 16:16).

10. **1897** – The 1st Zionist Congress convenes in Basel, Switzerland.
11. **1898** - Theodore Herzl meets Kaiser Wilhelm just outside Jerusalem.
12. **1903** – Uganda plan rejected; Hertzl dies.
13. **Nov. 2, 1917** – The Balfour Declaration.
14. **Dec. 11, 1917** - Turks driven out of Palestine by British forces; Allenby enters Jerusalem.
15. **1920** - Herbert Samuel (a British Jew and Member of Parliament representing the Liberal Party) is sworn in as High Commissioner over Palestine.
16. **1920's** - Palestine again is wide open to Jewish immigration under British authority. Dr. Chaim Weitzman appeals to the Diaspora, *“Jewish People, where are you?”*
17. **June 4, 1922** – League of Nations votes on the continuation of a British “Mandate”.
18. **1920 - 1936** – Continual Arab riots force British to limit Jewish emigration.
19. **March 24, 1933** - German Parliament gives Hitler dictatorial powers.
20. **1933-1939** - Laws are passed stripping German Jews of all rights of citizenship and continue to gain momentum in other areas including commerce, government, property ownership, personal property, and finally, the right to exist.
21. **Sept. 1, 1939** - Germany invades Poland; England and France declare war on Germany on September 3.
22. **October 6, 1939** - Hitler declares the total isolation of Jews. The “hunters” begin their work as foretold in Jeremiah 16:16 *“...and they shall hunt them from every mountain, and from every hill, and out of the holes of the rocks.”*
23. **1939** – The British “White Paper” ends Jewish immigration to Palestine. *The door of immigration is shut to the Jews in Europe.*
24. **Nov. 15, 1940** - The Warsaw Ghetto, containing over 400,000 Jews, is sealed off.
25. **Jan. 1941** - Quote from Nazi newspaper, Der Stürmer, published by Julius Streicher - *“Now judgment has begun and it will reach its conclusion only when knowledge of the Jews has been erased from the earth.”* Hitler authorizes the “Final Solution” to rid Europe of the Jews.
26. **1941- 1945** - During the Holocaust, six million Jews perish in the wilderness of Europe.
27. **April 1945** – Death Camps “liberated” by U.S. forces; Jews sent to prison camps for displaced persons (D.P.’s).
28. **1945-1947** – Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry on Palestine (AACIP).
29. **1947** – British Prime Minister Bevin rejects unanimous conclusion by AACIP to allow 100,000 displaced persons (DP’s) to immigrate from Europe to Palestine.
30. **July 1947** – The fated “Exodus 1947” passenger ship carrying 4,500 Holocaust survivors from all over Europe is seized by the British authorities at Haifa. Detainees are deported back to Hamburg, Germany on prison ships. News media publicity brings Jewish plight to the attention of the international community.

The Amazing Truth: How the Bible Foretold Jewish History Over 3,000 Years in Advance	
Approx Date	Events
B.C. 1450	Moses foretold the Jewish dispersion and the future sufferings of the nation-Deut 28:58-68
B.C. 760-587	The Prophets, including Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, all wrote of Israel’s future dispersion and captivity-and their ultimate regathering and restoration.
B.C. 721	Israel taken captive by Assyria
B.C. 610-589	Judah (Southern Jewish Kingdom) taken captive by Babylonians.
B.C. 553	Daniel foretells of Roman conquest of Judea (chptr 8) and of the ultimate establishment of the Kingdom of God (chptr 2:44; 7:27, etc.)
A.D. 30-33	Jesus foretold of the coming Roman destruction of Jerusalem and scattering of the Jews, Matt 24, Mark 13, Luke 21
70 A.D.	JEWSSCATTERED TO 20th Century
1916	Balfour Declaration promises Jewish National Home in Palestine.
1917-1948	Jews return to Palestine during British Mandate, leading to the establishment of Israel.

31. **Nov. 1947** - The United Nations narrowly votes for the creation of a Jewish State.
32. **May 14, 1948** - British Mandate ends.
33. **May 14, 1948, 4:00 PM** – The State of Israel is declared by the Jewish provisional government and the State of Israel is born. War with the surrounding Moslem nations was immediate and the Jewish state narrowly escaped annihilation.
34. **1956** - Israel at war again.
35. **1967** - The Moslem nations forge their “ring of steel” around Israel (Egypt, Jordan and Syria) but they are dramatically defeated in the June “miracle” war. The “ring of steel” melts like a band of tinfoil. Jerusalem is liberated.
36. **1973** – On Yom Kippur, war erupts again and yet the Jewish nation survives, eventually surrounding the Egyptian army in the desert.
37. **1980** - Jerusalem Basic Law enacted, declaring united Jerusalem to be the capital of Israel.

And so the miracle of Jewish survival stands before us to consider: Was this by chance or by providence? If providential, then what are we saying? If we are willing to admit Yahweh’s hand in this prophetic witness, then why would we stop short of believing the rest of His testimony? *“And now I have told you before it come to pass, that when it comes to pass, you may believe.”* Centuries of anti-Semitism with its pogroms, persecutions, massacres, expulsions, dispersion, holocausts, even mixed marriages and attempts of assimilation, have not terminated Jewish existence. Where is the ancient Amalekite or the ancient Philistine culture? These have been completely terminated. Even Hitler’s final solution has failed, and Israel still survives. It is a fact that the survival of the Jews throughout centuries of time was predicted by the ancient prophets. Israel, like the Bible itself, survives as a testimony and a witness before the world. Let the words of Jeremiah (written in about 600 B.C.) sink into our minds:

“Therefore fear thou not, O my servant Jacob, saith the Lord; neither be dismayed, O Israel: for, lo, I will save thee from afar, and thy seed from the land of their captivity; and Jacob shall return, and shall be in rest, and be quiet, and none shall make him afraid. For I am with thee, saith the Lord, to save thee: though I make a full end of all nations whither I have scattered thee, yet will I not make a full end of thee: but I will correct thee in measure, and will not leave thee altogether unpunished” (Jer. 30:10-11).

“Thus saith the Lord, which giveth the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, which divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar; The Lord of hosts is his name: If those ordinances depart from before me, saith the Lord, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me for ever. Thus saith the Lord; If heaven above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel for all that they have done, saith the Lord” (Jer. 31:35-37).

And what are we to conclude regarding all those believers who read and understood that the Jews must be re-gathered in their own land, especially at the time when the very thought of Jews living in Palestine was seen as impossible? Yet Yahweh’s Word was sure, and for those who believe Him, the events will surely occur. Here is a further sampling of those sure words of prophecy concerning Israel which have begun to be fulfilled:

- *“And they shall build the old wastes, they shall rise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the waste cities, the desolations of many generations...”* (Isa. 61:4).

- *“And the desolate land shall be tilled [think West Bank today], whereas it lay desolate in the sight of all that passed by. And they shall say, This land that was desolate is become like the Garden of Eden; and the waste and desolate and ruined cities are become fenced, and are inhabited. Then the heathen that are left round about you shall know that I the Lord build the ruined places, and plant that that was desolate: I the Lord have spoken it, and I will do it”* (Ezek. 36:34-36).

- *“And say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen, whither they be gone, and will gather them on every side, and bring them into their own land...”* (Ezek. 37:21).

- *“For behold, in those days, and in that time, when I shall bring again the captivity of Judah and Jerusalem...”* (Joel 3:1).

- *“And I will bring again the captivity of my people of Israel, and they shall build the waste cities, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine thereof; they shall also make gardens, and eat the fruit of them. And I will plant them upon their land...”* (Amos 9:14).

- *“For I would not brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness*

of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved [who is Israel? Believers, both Jew and Gentile]: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob” (Romans 11:25-26).

The Third Witness lies in the body of literature which men have left behind, declaring on the basis of Scripture that the restoration of Israel would come to pass. Consider the words of Sir Isaac Newton (1642-1727, Observations Upon the Prophecies):

“We have Moses, the Prophets, and Apostles, and the works of Christ himself; and if we will not hear them, we shall be more inexcusable than the Jews. For the Prophets and Apostles have foretold that, as Israel often revolted and brake the covenant, and upon repentance renewed it; so there should be a falling away among the Christians soon after the days of the Apostles; and that in the latter days God would destroy the impenitent revolters and make a new covenant with his people. And the giving ear to the Prophets is a fundamental character of the true Church.”

Yahweh has mercifully provided all the evidence: His prophecy, His testimonies and His Word preserved for us in our Bibles, if we will only hear it. History testifies that the fulfillment of these prophecies has begun, and that their total fulfillment waits in the very near future. The Word recorded by Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and others assured many watchers of the past of an eventual Jewish return, watchers like Thomas Brightman (1615); Joseph Mede (1643-1650); John Prideaux (1621); Peter Jurieu (1687); Robert Flemming (1701); Sir Isaac Newton (1733); and Thomas Newton (1754). And should these men be more faithful than us? Were they Divinely inspired, did all of them have the truth? No, but their belief in Israel was well grounded in the Bible.

In 1754 Thomas Newton wrote in his book Dissertations on the Prophecies: *“You see the Jews ‘led away captive into all nations, and Jerusalem trodden down of the Gentiles’ and likely to continue so ‘until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled,’ as the Jews by a constant miracle preserved a distinct people for the completion of other prophecies relating to them.”* Others of like belief followed, including William Lowth (1739); Robert Boyle (1769); and further, Adam Clarke; Alexander Keith; H. Grattan Guinness; George Stanley Faber; Bickersteth; and finally, sifting the Truth in its clarity out of the trash heap of “Christian” superstition, Bro. John Thomas (1849). No matter what imperfections may be found with their works, the fact is that for a period extending for well over 200 years these witnesses spoke clearly about the literal restoration of the Jews to their land, and they did so upon the basis of Scripture before the return itself entered the realm of practical politics. And we, Brothers and Sisters, have witnessed that dramatic prophetic fulfillment of 1948 and possibly even more significant, 1967. But what effect does it have upon us today? In 1878 H. Grattan Guinness wrote the following:

“ There is, then, a partial and primary restoration of Jews before the manifestation, which is to serve as the nucleus or basis of future operations in the restoration of the rest of the tribes after he has appeared in the kingdom.”

John Thomas, MD

“However improbable it may appear that Palestine should ever again be the home of a mighty Jewish nation, Scripture leaves no room to doubt that such will be the case, that the same Almighty arm which placed Israel there of old, plagued Egypt, destroyed the host of Pharaoh, and extirpated almost entirely seven nations of Canaan; and which subsequently overthrew the mighty Babylonian monarchy in order to restore Israel to it for a comparatively brief period by means of Cyrus and Artaxerxes, will in due time overthrow the Turkish power which has so long trodden down Jerusalem, defiled the sanctuary, and desolated the Land of Israel, and will a second time, restore his ancient people to their inalienable inheritance. Every barrier must fall, every obstacle be overthrown, that the purpose of God may be accomplished and the promises to Abraham and his seed be fulfilled” (The Approaching End of the Age).

Thirty years earlier, being a full century prior to the State of Israel, Bro. Thomas wrote: *“There is, then, a partial and primary restoration of Jews before the manifestation, which is to serve as the nucleus or basis of future operations in the restoration of the rest of the tribes after he has appeared in the kingdom. The pre-adventual colonization of Palestine will be on purely political principles; and the Jewish colonists will return in unbelief of the Messiahship of Jesus, and of the truth as it is in him. They will emigrate thither as agriculturalists and traders, in the hopes of ultimately establishing their commonwealth, but more importantly of getting rich in silver and gold by commerce with India, and in cattle and goods by their industry at home under the efficient protection of the British power” (Elpis Israel, pg. 441).*

A NEED FOR TRIED EXPOSITION OF PROPHECY

Brethren, this is exactly the spirit that resides in Israel today. Such a spirit of self-reliance confirms the conditions existing in Israel prior to the Gogian invasion when she is said to dwell safely or confidently or without a care (Godless/secular) in peace (man-made security), having neither bars nor gates (without Yahweh’s protection).

The previous paraphrasing comes from Ezekiel 38:11-12 and for some time has been a point of controversy in our community. Part of the confusion arises over the view held by some that the latter chapters of Ezekiel are entirely sequential.

Several perspectives combined incorrectly together can then lead one to believe that Christ is the cause for Israel’s peace and safety, their dwelling confidently, *“all of them dwelling without walls and having neither bars nor gates.”* But Ezekiel 39:25-26 demonstrates conclusively that this “peace and safety” is considered as a state of trespass against Yahweh, in that they secured it in the pride of their own hand: *“Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Now will I bring again the captivity of Jacob, and have mercy upon the whole house of Israel, and will be jealous for my holy name; After that they have borne their shame [the chastening of the Gogian invasion] and all their trespasses whereby they have trespassed against me, when they dwelt safely in their land, and none made them afraid.”*

Considering what Ezekiel has to say here, we must understand that Ezekiel, and specifically chapters 36-39, is not entirely sequential, and much confusion is wrought by suggesting otherwise. The books of Daniel and the Apocalypse, for example, are understood as being both telescopic and then microscopic in their explanation of events to occur and are therefore not specifically chronological but repeat certain times and events from a different vantage point to fill in details not possible with one vision alone. With this as our foundation we must treat Ezekiel’s prophecy in the same fashion; there is simply no basis to consider the latter chapters of Ezekiel as completely chronological in their order of presentation. Let us examine this divergence of thought a little more closely.

If, as some suggest, Ezekiel 37 has been entirely fulfilled in the 20th century revival of the State of Israel, and that chapters 38 and 39 then follow chronologically, a sequence must be developed as an unbroken chain of events which are not supported by the whole of Scripture. One of the views that has been generated by this basis of thought is summarized thusly:

1. That view holds that an “Arab confederacy” overruns/scatters Israel (Psalm 83; Zech. 12:2-6 and 14:1-3 cited as evidence).
2. Christ is believed to return in a dramatic appearance to the world with a multitude of angels to Jerusalem to redeem Israel and establish the Kingdom (a misapplication of Matt. 24:27-30 because the “clouds of heaven” are the multitudinous Christ, not angels such as Gabriel, etc.).
3. Judgment of the Saints then follows.
4. The unwallled villages and the peace and safety of Ezekiel’s prophecy is then believed to have been established as

a result of Christ and the Saints being present in the Land.

5. Gog is then enticed down to Zion because of the peace and safety, and is opposed and defeated by Christ and the Saints on the northern mountains of Israel in the battle of Armageddon. Additionally, Gog never enters into Jerusalem.

There may be several renditions of this line of thought, but none are in accordance with the prophetic record. Many problems are evident with this “phased approach” or Arab/Moslem confederacy. First, if you read carefully the prophecy of Psalm 83, the enemies (which geographically do not cover all the nations in conflict with Israel over the last century – where is Egypt, for example?) never succeed in their desire to “cut off” Israel. Thus, applying this Psalm to a future Israel/Moslem conflict resulting in a Moslem victory over Israel does not fit the pattern and completely evades the very symbolic language of the Psalm such as Yahweh’s “hidden ones” (vs. 3 is a reference to Yahweh’s immortalized Saints – the cherubim-storm of vs. 15). The usual surface application also completely and conveniently ignores the historic context in which the Psalm was written. Note that this song of victory is a Psalm of Asaph, most likely written by Jahaziel the Levite, one of the sons of Asaph, in II Chron. 20:14-27. In this account is recorded the miraculous destruction of Israel’s historic enemies (Edom, Moab, and Ammon and lesser allies) not by the might of natural Israel, but by Yahweh’s *hidden* army of Elohim. This is a significant precursor to those who will march forth from Sinai under the command of Yahshua, “*and there was the hiding of his power*” (Hab. 3:4) and ultimately overthrow the ten kings in alliance with the beast (Rev. 17:12-14) by the outpouring of seven judgments (part history and part future; Rev. 10:4; Rev. 15:1,6; Rev. 16). Some have suggested a shadow fulfillment of this prophecy in those conflicts that have already taken place between Israel and her surrounding enemies, and while this may indeed be the case, we believe that the complete fulfillment of the prophecy, or Yahweh’s wrath poured out upon the nations by Yahweh’s Hidden Ones, the Cherubim/Saints, has yet to occur.

Moreover, Christ cannot return to Jerusalem first with literal angels as this discounts the entire Rainbow Angel/multitudinous Christ march from the south (Deut. 33, Isa. 63 and Hab. 3) and the Judgment of those Saints which must have already taken place in Sinai. For what purpose would there be for the Saints to march forth from Sinai, conquering Teman, Paran, Midian, Cushan, Edom and Bozra, if these lands have already been conquered by Christ and the Elohim appearing directly from heaven? Or if it is assumed that this march from Sinai is for the total destruction of the so-called “Arab confederacy”, then how is it that the prophets speak not of complete destruction but of the conquering, purging, and conversion of these peoples? Please note the following scriptures:

²⁰*And it shall be for a sign and for a witness unto the LORD of hosts in the land of Egypt: for they shall cry unto the LORD because of the oppressors [Gogian confederacy], and he shall send them a saviour, and a great one*

[Multitudinous Christ], and he shall deliver them. ²¹And the LORD shall be known to Egypt, and the Egyptians shall know the LORD in that day, and shall do sacrifice and oblation; yea, they shall vow a vow unto the LORD, and perform it. ²²And the LORD shall smite Egypt: he shall smite and heal it: and they shall return even to the LORD, and he shall be entreated of them, and shall heal them. ²³In that day shall there be a highway out of Egypt to Assyria, and the Assyrian shall come into Egypt, and the Egyptian into Assyria, and the Egyptians shall serve with the Assyrians. ²⁴In that day shall Israel be the third with Egypt and with Assyria, even a blessing in the midst of the land: ²⁵Whom the LORD of hosts shall bless, saying, Blessed be Egypt my people, and Assyria the work of my hands, and Israel mine inheritance” (Isa. 19:20-25).

¹¹*Let the wilderness and the cities thereof lift up their voice, the villages that Kedar doth inhabit [descendants of Ishmael – Gen. 25:13]: let the inhabitants of the rock [this is Petra in Jordan] sing, let them shout from the top of the mountains. ¹²Let them give glory unto the LORD, and declare his praise in the islands” (Isa. 42:11-12).*

“The multitude of camels shall cover thee, the dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; all they from Sheba [Southern Arabians] shall come: they shall bring gold and incense; and they shall show forth the praises of the LORD. All the flocks of Kedar shall be gathered together unto thee, the rams of Nebaioth [again, descendants of Ishmael – Gen. 25:13] shall minister unto thee: they shall come up with acceptance on mine altar, and I will glorify the house of my glory” (Isa. 60:6-7).

“...The kings of Sheba and Seba shall offer gifts” (Psa. 72:10).

Can there possibly be a complete destruction of a “Pan-Arab confederacy” swept away as the chaff, if the prophets instead speak of the subjection, submission, and conversion of the Egyptians, Arabians, and Assyrians from the false Allah to the true Yahweh, upon whose altar their sacrifices will be accepted? This simply cannot be, given the contemporary view which places the “Arabs”, instead of the Roman Harlot and her Gogian companions, at the center of Bible prophecy. This is not to say that there will be no bloodshed or resistance by the local population as such would ignore Psalm 137:7, Isaiah 11:14, Isaiah 63:1, etc., but we must remember that Israel too will suffer greatly (bloodshed) in order that a remnant may be preserved to glorify Yahweh.

The Truth is that Christ returns as a thief to the world (Rev. 16:15); that he and his immortalized brethren subdue the local populace whose “*Fear and dread shall fall upon them; by the greatness of thine arm they shall be as still as a stone; till thy people pass over, O LORD, till the people pass over, which thou hast purchased*” (Exod. 14:16), and not until his campaign and victory over the Gogian confederacy does he enter into Jerusalem (correct application of Matt. 24) where he is

afterward witnessed to the entire world through the proclamation of the Mid-heaven Gospel (Rev. 14:6). Therefore it is Gog (not the Moslem world) who is responsible for the scattering and humbling of Israel. This is the whole purpose for Yahweh in allowing the invasion of Gog to occur: to prepare a remnant of natural Israel to serve Him in faith, "So the house of Israel shall know that I am Yahweh Elohim from *that day and forward*" (Ezek. 39:22). Thus, there are not two scatterings of Israel; the battles of Armageddon in which Christ and the Saints intervene are all contained within the context of the sixth vial in which Gog is defeated and Israel (Judah specifically; Zech. 12:7) is redeemed and restored once and for all (Dan. 11:45; Rev. 16:12-16).



THE PLAYERS AT ARMAGEDDON

The composition of Gog's army in relation to the broad prophetic picture is critical to understand in order to decipher events in their correct sequence, and the players in their appointed roles. The Gogian confederacy consists of Rosh (Chief Prince), Magog, Meshech and Tubal, "Persia, Ethiopia [Cush], and Libya with them; all of them with shield and helmet: Gomer, and all his bands; the house of Togarmah of the north quarters, and all his bands" (Ezek. 38:5-6).

First of all, what is the ethnicity of the Iranians, one of Gog's allies? They are primarily Persian. What is the ethnic origin of the Iraqis (Cush/Ethiopia)? They are a mix of Arabians and Kurd, but primarily and historically Assyrian and Babylonian (Chaldean). What is the ethnic origin of Togarmah? They are Armenian, Georgian, Saracen and Turk. Unfortunately however, thanks to today's vernacular and modern "media blitz" news reporting, when we think of the Middle East we are (media) trained to think only in terms of "Arabs". This is an easy mistake for any Bible student to make and so there is a great need for more care when treating with prophetic exposition in this regard. The Bible however, being our basis, has never identified the nations of the Gogian confederacy as being descendants of Shem (particularly descendants from Abraham) and certainly not by the term "Arab". Now lets dig down a bit further and trace the composition of Gog's confederacy to its ethnic origins.

Historically and Biblically speaking Magog, Rosh, Meshech, Tubal, Persia (Madai), Gomer, and Togarmah are all descendants of Japheth (Gen. 10:2). Ethiopia (Cush) and Libya

Composition of Gog's Army

Ham	Shem	Japheth
Ethiopia / Cush	-	Magog
Libya	-	Rosh
-	-	Meshech
-	-	Tubal
-	-	Persia
-	-	Gomer
-	-	Togarmah

(Ludim) are descendants of Ham (Gen. 10:6,13). There are no descendants of Shem (Elam, Asshur, Arphaxad, Lud, Aram) or Semitic nations listed in Gog's confederacy. Therefore the composition is not "Arab" centric by nature. There are no "Arab" nations "round-about" that displace or supercede Gog in his divinely-appointed task to attack and scatter Israel with his confederacy. It goes without saying that some surrounding Moslem enemies will "pile-on" just as they did behind Nebuchadnezzar when he invaded and took Jerusalem, and the Edomites said "raze it, raze it" and clapped their hands (Psalm 137:7), but they were not the main story. Again, just as Psalm 83 never allows for the success of Edom, Moab and Ammon, etc., over Israel historically (but only their desire and attempt), we have seen this pattern again played out in 1948, 1956, 1967 and 1973, and continuing today with the Palestinians as a "pricking briar." In stark contrast to the utter failure of the surrounding neighbors to oust Israel, the Northern invader,

the Spoiler, the Extortioner, the King of the North, the latter-day Assyrian, Gog of the land of Magog does have great (albeit temporary) success in scattering Israel (Zech. 14:2, Joel 2:1-10, Joel 3, Ezek. 38:15-16, Hab. 3:14-16, Isa. 10:5-6, Isa. 16:3-5, Isa. 19, Dan. 11:45). This is what precipitates Christ's return. This is when "my fury shall come up in my face," saith the LORD God. The scattered Jews are then re-gathered during the Rainbow Angel march from Egypt, Midian, Saudi Arabia, Teman, Bozrah, Moab-Jordan, Cushan, and are part of that company that is returned and restored to Israel (Exod. 19:4-6) when Christ plants his feet upon the Mount of Olives. Christ and the Saints in total victory now complete the gathering of the whole house of Israel from the land of Assyria, Egypt and the four winds (Zech. 10:6-10 & Jer. 31:8-9). The tents of Judah are to be saved first, the Jews living in the land today and specifically the 1/3rd that will be redeemed and restored by Christ after the scattering by Gog (Isa. 10:5-6, 20-22; Zech. 12:1-9 specifically vs. 7).

A UNIQUE UNDERSTANDING OF EZEKIEL 37

Much of the confusion over the place of Ezekiel's prophecy within the overall prophetic picture is magnified by a misunderstanding of the role of Israel's surrounding neighbors. Over the last 50 years the theory that all the surrounding Moslem nations will form a confederacy that attacks and overruns Israel, thus bringing the return and intervention of Messiah, appears to have found traction in the Brotherhood following a sequence of world events relative to the establishment of the Jewish State. The motive in examining current events in the light of Scripture was pure, no doubt. Just imagine the emotional exuberance leading up to the events of 1917, 1948, 1967, and 1973. The desire for Christ's imminent appearing burned bright within the Brotherhood as it still does today. However, interpreting these events as the anticipated "Armageddon" and necessitating the intervention of Messiah was not the original understanding put forth by our pioneer brethren and more importantly by Scripture itself.

As each of these events passed without Christ's return, the idea of a Moslem, rather than a Russo-European Gogian, confederacy has nevertheless remained. Consider W.H. Boulton's comments leading up to the creation of the State of Israel in 1948: "Israel was a nation! It had its own government; its own parliament and institutions. The dry bones became alive! It was not all that might have been hoped for, but Israel was once more a nation in its own right. It was no longer a collection of dry bones, nor a lifeless body" (The Book of the Prophet Ezekiel, pgs. 163-164).

Now we compare this perspective with that of Graham Pearce's personal notes on this issue: "...what Dr. Thomas

had written was in complete agreement with the conclusions that I had reached...he did not consider the pre-advantual colonization of Palestine by the Jews (i.e. the creation of the modern State of Israel) to be in any way the restoration spoken of by the prophets... he considered that there would be a desolation of the State of Israel by Gog's hosts, and this would be in fulfillment of Ezekiel 37 (causing Israel to say, 'Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost') and that Messiah and the saints will be involved in causing the bones of the nation of Israel to come together and stand up an exceeding great army" (Bible Student, vol. 9, pg. 75).



"There must be a resettlement of the Land by the Jews to a limited extent before the battle of Armageddon."

Why has the Christadelphian Community lost this unique observation of key events recorded in our own literature?

Why has the Christadelphian community lost this unique observation of key events recorded in our own literature? "There must be a resettlement of the Land by the Jews to a limited extent before the battle of Armageddon" (Herald of the Kingdom, J. Thomas, 1852, pg. 138).

"Thus all the nations of this northern confederacy are gathered by Yahweh against Jerusalem, after his descent to Sinai and before his entrance into the city (Jerusalem). He permits it to be taken, and rifled by the spoiler, and its inhabitants to be partly expelled and sent into exile (Zech 14:2). **Their hope would now seem to be lost, and themselves finally cut off from their parts** (Ezek. 37:11). They had doubtless thought that the long expected rest had been established beyond the possibility of disturbance [the quest for peace and safety by giving away the land, yet trespassing against Yahweh; Ezek. 39:26]. They were at rest in the middle of the land: **but the whole house of Israel was not there; and the nations were yet not acquainted with the omnipotence of the 'kings of the sun's risings'** " [Eureka, Vol. 2, pg. 559; see also Eureka, Vol. 3, pg. 656 (pg. 253 in Vol. 3b).]

Subsequent to Bro. Graham Pearce, Bro. Bernard Burt did an extended literature search for references to Ezekiel 37 in

early Christadelphian literature. He concluded: “*It appears clear from researches into these published expositions that the view that the return of the Jews to the land, which began with the Zionist movement in 1897 was the fulfillment of the prophecy of the valley of dry bones, was the interpretation given to the prophecy by some leading Zionists and non-Christadelphian students of the day and that the brethren adopted this interpretation and publicized it despite the existence of quite different exposition of the prophecy in the writings of Dr. Thomas.*”

“*By no stretch of the imagination can the spirit of independence and self-reliance which pervades modern Israel (identified as the trespass while dwelling in peace and safety) be correctly styled God’s spirit, as some maintain*” (J. All-free).

When Yahweh imputes His Spirit into the nation of Israel it is never to be withdrawn, and they subsequently are never to be scattered, oppressed or persecuted again and certainly not by Gog. But modern day expositions fail to explain this critical principle. Ezekiel 39:29 states: “*Neither will I hide my face any more from them: for I have poured out my spirit upon the house of Israel, saith the Lord God*”. Likewise, Ezekiel 36:26-27 states, “*A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.*” And further, Ezekiel 37:14 says, “*And shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know that I the LORD have spoken it, and performed it, saith the LORD.*”

The point is that when Yahweh places His Spirit into Israel it is a permanent change, something we have yet to see and most certainly an event that will occur after Christ has defeated Gog and his hosts in the battle of Armageddon. Each of these latter chapters of Ezekiel, therefore, fills in details concerning Armageddon and the effect upon Israel. In Ezekiel 37:2 the word for “dry” is defined by Gesenius as meaning “*hope has failed, or to be disappointed*”. Proverbs 17:22 reads, “*A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones.*” Certainly this is not Israel’s disposition currently. She relies upon the strength of her own hand, makes treacherous treaties with her neighbors (Isa. 30, Egypt) and resides confidently in the ability of her own military to defend herself. She is not of “*failed hope, disappointed and in despair*” as Ezekiel 37:2 requires. Therefore this must occur in the future when the Gogian confederacy cuts off Israel from her parts, when Israel’s arm of flesh is defeated, and the experiment of the Secular Jewish State has utterly failed. Once redeemed by our Lord, Messiah the Prince, Israel will no longer continue to trespass against Yahweh, and bear their “shame” (Ezek. 39:26). To think otherwise is not logical, nor scriptural, and must be reconciled.

CONDITIONS REQUIRED PRIOR TO GOG’S DESCENT

Ezekiel 38 requires three conditions prior to Gog’s invasion of the Holy Land. **First**, the Jews are to be gathered out of the nations and into the land to a limited extent. **Second**, the Jews are to be dwelling “in the midst of the land” (“*the navel of the land*” is the translation from Ezek. 38:12; this is the West bank upon the mountains of Judea & Samaria, Ezek. 38:8 and 12). This location is also described as being “the land of Israel” (vs. 18). *So the land identified corresponds to the West Bank, the mountainous area taken back by Israel in 1967!*

Third, the people are to be there “*dwelling safely*” or securely or confidently (vs. 8, 11 and 14). Their condition is to be one of a “*land of unwalled villages... at rest, that dwell safely (or carelessly)... without walls, and having neither bars nor gates*” (vs. 11). They are a “*wealthy nation*”, a “*hypocritical nation*” (Isa. 10:6), having gotten cattle and goods (economic prosperity, self-dependence/reliance). Yet this “*peace and safety*” is considered a trespass against the Almighty and is to their shame (Ezek. 39:26).

One of the strongest points of divergence in our community has been this specific issue: the peace and safety of Israel which entices Gog (via an evil thought) to come against her. The divergence or confusion relates to *when* this peace and safety occurs (pre-Second Advent or post-Second Advent) and *how* or rather *by whom* (by Christ or by Israel herself) it is secured. Let us consider this matter clearly and concisely.

The verses we are addressing are of course Ezekiel 38:8 and 11. The question is posed: “How can Israel be dwelling in peace and safety without the protection and presence of Christ?” In answering this, one must first attempt to reconcile Ezekiel 39:26 as already discussed. But just as significant, if not more, is the context of Jeremiah 49:28-33. Here Babylon and King Nebuchadnezzar are prophesied to “smite” the kingdoms of Hazor in the land of Kedar. They are to be spoiled at the hands of Nebuchadnezzar (vs. 29). The inhabitants are instructed to flee because the King of Babylon has “*taken counsel against you, and hath conceived a purpose against you*” (vs. 30). The nation of Hazor is said to be a “*wealthy nation*” that “*dwelleth without care*” (see also Isa. 32:9-11, “*ye careless daughters*”). This can also be read as dwelling carelessly, confidently or securely just as it is rendered in Ezekiel 38:8 and 11. They have neither “*bars nor gates*” and “*dwell alone*” (Jer. 49:31).

As a result of this confident, careless, wealthy existence they are vulnerable, and they are exposed without Yahweh’s protection (without bars and gates). Their prideful, careless, wealthy dwelling is to their shame as they are without walls (from Ezek. 38:11 meaning *wall of protection*) and exposed to the Babylonian invader. In the next verse they are spoiled and

scattered in language almost identical to that of Ezekiel 38:12. Their camels “*shall be a booty and the multitude of their cattle a spoil: and I will scatter into all winds them that are in the utmost corners; and will bring their calamity from all sides thereof, saith the Lord*” (Jer. 49:32). The context here demands that dwelling safely, resting confidently and carelessly upon their own “man-made security” is to their downfall or shame just as it is to Israel’s shame today. As a result of Israel’s prideful false sense of security, they are likewise said to dwell without bars and gates or a “wall of protection”. Israel is increasingly vulnerable and will be exposed and ripe for the taking in the mind of the Gogian invader in the day of Harvest. As a result they will be spoiled. Their “wealth”, their “cattle and goods”, “silver and gold” are taken by the spoiler as “a great spoil”. Additionally, they are scattered: “*our bones are dried, our hope is lost*” (Ezek. 37:11). Then and only then do they cry to Yahweh for deliverance. (We must note that this is not a characteristic resulting from the Holocaust, hence the establishment of the secular, not religious, State of Israel). Hence the 2/3rds are purged and the 1/3rd comes through “the fire” and a remnant is saved (Isa. 10:20-22; Zech. 13:7-9; Mic. 5:7-8).

We have additional evidence of this pattern found in Jeremiah from Judges 18:7-10. Here the people of Laish dwelt “*carelessly, after the manner of the Zidonians, quiet and secure...*” (vs. 7). As a result the five men sent to spy out this land (of the children of Dan) returned and reported “*..ye shall come unto a people secure, and to a large land: for God hath given it into your hands; a place where there is no want of anything that is in the earth*” (vs. 10). The end result concerning the inhabitants of Laish is that the children of Dan “*came unto Laish, unto a people that were at quiet and secure: and they smote them with the edge of the sword, and burnt the city with fire. And there was no deliverer...*” (Vs. 27-28).

The situation is once again identical to that of Hazor in Jeremiah 49 and Israel in Ezekiel 38, as we find a people that is wealthy and in need of nothing, dwelling carelessly, safely, confidently in their own man-made security/peace, without bars or gates or “without walls”. They were exposed and vulnerable without Yahweh’s protection and thus ripe for conquering. As a result the people are scattered. But in Israel’s case, this scattering will be temporary. Shortly thereafter she experiences her true final redemption, a restitution and regeneration by her Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ. Never again will they profane the name of the LORD. For ever after this event will they exude Yahweh’s Spirit, and never again will they be without a King or a sacrifice, for the Lord will sit upon David’s throne until he himself turns it over to Yahweh at the end of the millennium.

Brethren, the message is clear. We are witnessing this careless and vulnerable state of affairs in Israel at this very moment. As such, it is spiritually dangerous for us to put off our expectation of the Master’s call to judgment until a greater “peace and safety” comes to fruition, or a situation in Israel where they have neither “bars nor gates” or armed checkpoints and a security fence, because this is not the true context of the verses. Israel dwells like a “silly dove” and a “hypocritical nation” attempting to broker peace and secure her people through the strength of her own hand. The giving away of Gaza and soon the West Bank and even part of Jerusalem (if Olmert and Kadima have their way) seeking a “man-made” peace with Hamas will only escalate their vulnerable state as dwelling without walls, bars or gates (without Yahweh’s protection). They will continue to dwell carelessly, confidently (safely), in pride, all the while being exposed. They will rest in their wealth, their “silver and gold” and their “cattle and goods” when “none made them afraid”. This is a great trespass in the mind of Yahweh, as it has always been when Israel forgot her sovereign LORD. ***The Land is Yahweh’s, not Israel’s, to give***; it is not to be sold or given to the heathen (Lev. 25:23).

There is ample precedent for punishment when Israel wallowed in this state and unfortunately she is again in this state. As a result Gog will be drawn out (hooks in the jaws) for a special purpose as the “rod of mine anger” for the punishment of Israel. Israel is scattered, purged and the 1/3rd is then prepared for her redemption by Messiah. Gog’s destruction at the hand of Christ and the Saints is mighty, dramatic and final. The destruction will be a witness to the world that the power that wrought this victory is Divine in manifestation. It is for the sanctification of Yahweh to be witnessed by His people Israel and all the heathen nations of the earth (Ezek. 38:23).

The Ships of Tarshish and the Young Lions

This Punch cartoon from the 1897 Spithead Naval Review depicts the “Old Lion” of Great Britain taking its “Young Lion” cubs out for a review of Britain’s domain during the “glory years” of the colonial empire.



For many, this next stage of the evidence may be academic, but for others it may be necessary to demonstrate scripturally how that Tarshish and the Young Lions of Bible prophecy are the English-speaking nations, namely Britain, the US, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and to a lesser degree India. We hope that this is an edifying exercise to re-examine the evidence left for us that will surely kindle our faith.

The miracle of Israel's restoration has been set forth before the nations of the world during the past century and has directly and closely involved many of them in the drama. It has particularly concerned Britain and other English-speaking nations ever since the famous Balfour Declaration which stated that: *"His Majesty's government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people."* It is key to consider this fact. Britain was the key facilitator of the Jews' return to Israel, not some other Gentile nation, even though her own policies at times strove against the tide of her own Divine destiny. Britain was that nation and unless we wish to revise history, we must accept that fact. It is as though the woes in Jeremiah 31:10 had found their mark in these particular "isles afar off": *"Hear the word of the Lord, O ye nations, and declare it in the isles afar off, and say, He that scattereth Israel will gather him, and keep him, as a shepherd doth his flock."*

Gentile nations have been involved in Jewish matters before both in the scattering and re-gathering process as well as readying the land for future colonization. Cyrus and Artaxerxes encouraged and used their best efforts to facilitate a restoration of the Jewish nation in its own land. Furthermore, the Prophets had predicted that it would be so, and it came to pass in the days of Ezra and Nehemiah, between 540-536 and 450 B.C. It is noteworthy that this restoration period took about a hundred years to complete. There is a fascinating analogy here that relates to Daniel's 70 weeks prophecy. From Bro. Thomas, The Exposition of Daniel, we discover that there were at least 4 commencement or possible starting dates for students of prophecy to follow (i.e., the wise men of the east). In trying to discover the time period when Messiah would appear, the student of Bible prophecy could have reasoned that Cyrus's proclamation for the Jews to return would be a likely date to start the 490 year count down. The physical return of the Jews in 536 B.C. would also appear significant. Under Darius's reign in 522 B.C. in the 6th year of his reign, we have the completion of the Temple. Surely this would be the commencement date for the 490 years/70 weeks prophecy. But only looking back, we see that it was not. In 469 B.C. in the 7th year of Artaxerxes we have the restoration of the Commonwealth of Judah. (We know from Scripture that the *"tents of Judah will be restored first"* when Christ appears the 2nd time). Surely



Significant Dates and Decrees of the Ram Dynasty

1. CYRUS: Two years after Gabriel's visit to Daniel, Cyrus authorizes the return of the Jews to Palestine in B.C. 540 (Ezra 1).

2. DARIUS THE PERSIAN: In the 6th year of his reign the Temple is finished, completing 70 years from the point when Nebuchadnezzar deported 745 persons to Babylon.

3. 7th of ARTAXERXES: In the 7th year of his reign, Artaxerxes calls for the restoration of the Commonwealth of Judah (Ezra 7:7, 11-26). This was 53 years following the completion of the Temple and 71 years following the decree of Cyrus in 469 B.C.

4. 20th of ARTAXERXES: In the 20th year of Artaxerxes reign he calls for the building of the broad wall and setting up of the gates of Jerusalem (Neh. 2:1).

this was the logical start date for Daniel's 70 week period. But it was not. Lastly, we come to the 20th year of Artaxerxes in 456 B.C. when the building of the broad wall and the gates of Jerusalem were finished. Using this date we can go forward 490 years and we arrive at the "cutting off of Messiah". From Bro. Thomas:

"From these chronological data the reader will perceive that the last decree (20th of Artaxerxes) is the only one from which the Seventy Heptades of the 2,400 evening and morning, or day of Judah's troubles can reasonably be commenced; for the others all fall short of the proclamation of 'the King of the Heavens being approached' by many years. The 20th of Artaxerxes may, therefore, be regarded as the established terminus a quo, or point of departure in the calculation of time."

We see then that only after the fulfillment could believers accurately discover the *terminus a quo* or point of departure, or the commencement date for the coming of Messiah. The analogy for us is even more powerful as it relates to the second advent of Christ. We have had a similar proclamation or declaration by a Sovereign over the land for the Jews to return to their homeland in 1917-1918 via the British Mandate. In 1925 we have what's called the 3rd and 4th Aliya of Jews returning to Palestine.

[The first Jewish Aliya was in 1887-1903. It was a rash of organized massacres in southern Russia called pogroms that produced the first waves of Jewish immigrants to Palestine. Gangs of Russians broke into Jewish homes and violently murdered the occupants. Many Jews left for western countries like the US, some to Turkish-controlled Palestine, but it was persecution not faith that motivated Jews to go and live in Palestine



Israeli Defense Forces liberated the Old City of Jerusalem and nineteen years of Jordanian rule came to an end. One of the conquering Israeli generals, Moshe Dayan, declared on June 7, 1967, that Israel will never relinquish control of Jerusalem.

those who were less inclined to view Zionism with favour. Gradually the doors began to close” (*Cry of the Prophets*, Billington, pg. 48). Quite a sobering piece of history.

As we examine the evidence pointing to the nearness of Christ’s return in context with the “*this generation shall not pass away*” principle, we know in retrospect that the beginning date was not 1925, when the Jewish Aliya followed the landmark Balfour declaration. Shortly thereafter in 1939 we had the outbreak of WW2 and the Holocaust. Out of the ashes of the Holocaust we had

birth of the Jewish nation in Israel in 1948. But many of us expecting the return of Christ in 1988 (applying the formula of 40 years = a generation) or thereabouts were disappointed. Apparently 1948 was not the commencement date or *terminus a quo* point of departure for Christ’s second advent (if and only if our assigning of 40 years as a generation is correct). In 1967 we have a very significant course of events occurring scripturally. We have the recapturing of East Jerusalem from the



Gentiles (i.e., Jordan) and the establishment of Jews in the West Bank “gathered out of many people, against **the mountains of Israel**, which have been always waste: but it is brought forth out of the nations... that dwell in the midst of the land” (Ezek 38:8 & 12).

(a constant theme). In 1886 a Jewish journalist (Theodor Hertzl) became convinced that there was no safety in Europe for Jews and he published his book “*The Jewish State*”. It proved to be the birth of Jewish Zionism and the First National Jewish Congress.]

“In those early days of the British Mandate there was no restriction whatsoever on Jewish immigration to Palestine. ‘Had they so desired’ says one narrative, ‘the Jews could have returned to the Promised Land en masse and might even have established a Jewish State prior to the Holocaust’. In the very same month [of the Mandate] Herbert Samuel (a British Jew and Member of Parliament representing the Liberal Party) was sworn in as High Commissioner (essentially Governor from 1920-1925) for the British Mandate over Palestine. For the first time in over 2,000 years, a Jew was governor in the Land! An embarrassed President of the Zionist Federation, Dr. Chaim Weitzman, uttered an appeal to the Diaspora: ‘**Jewish People, where are you?**’ The Jews did not come. They didn’t believe... those who did leave Europe went west, especially to America. Others, particularly in Germany, were affluent, comfortable and enjoying the pleasures of life to the full. Why go to some hot Middle-Eastern desert where swamps and flies (bats and owls) and possibly malaria or some other disease threatened? As their forefathers many centuries before had done, they despised the Land (Numbers 14:31-32). The six million carcasses that fell in the wilderness of Europe in the Nazi death camps could have been in Palestine helping to build their national home! A few did return - even in ‘the ships of Tarshish’ - but it was nothing like what it could have been. This people, this blind, obstinate and faithless people ‘entered not in because of unbelief’ (Heb 3:19; 4:6). The return would only happen when the **Jews were made willing**. The opportunity passed by. Arab opposition to Jewish political ambitions began to surface, changes in the British government (the infamous White Paper) brought to power

This scene, in this locality of the West Bank, can only be applied to the situation existing after 1967. Many years ago the Oxford Companion Bible pointed out that Ezekiel’s prophecy was then still future: “*as Israel will have then already been ‘gathered’...the historical interpretation of this prophecy is confessedly impossible.*” Today, however, we can see Ezekiel’s scene as a reality right before us, for a people has been gathered out of the nations and are **now dwelling upon the mountains of Israel** and in the midst (literally, the navel) of the Land. Looking forward 40 years or so from this date brings us to 2007. We understand from Scripture that Israel had to be in place in the Land prior to Christ’s return. We understand that they have to be in a state of self-confidence, pride, and godlessness. We understand that Israel has to be in a state of trespassing against Yahweh by virtue of their “dwelling carelessly”. Are we not witnessing those events even in this very day? Just as those believers and watchmen of Bible prophecy determined when the Messiah would come into the world by analyzing key events and dates, we as watchman also watch key events and dates concerning the nation of Israel and the development of other key players among the Gentiles to keep ourselves ready at a moment’s notice for the day when Messiah will come!

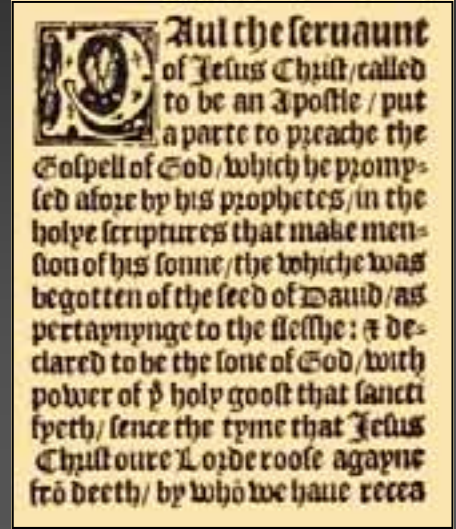
As we gaze over the panorama of history, we see that a precedent is before us: first a proclamation and then active involvement in the restoration process by a Gentile nation. “Surely the isles shall wait for me, and the ships of Tarshish first, to bring thy sons from far...” (Isa. 60:9). The word that is translated “isles” here (and also in Jer. 31:10) has a fairly broad meaning. Gesenius, the well-known Hebrew scholar, says that it denotes “maritime land, whether the sea coast of a continent, or an island”. The Companion Bible renders it “maritime countries”. The overall sense is thus perfectly clear: “isles afar off” (Jer. 31:10) refers to remote maritime lands, or lands that are at a great distance across the sea. We should have no problem then with the latter day facilitator (Britain) acting in the same capacity toward a Jewish restoration as Cyrus (referred to as “My Shepherd” and the “Lord’s anointed” as a type of Christ in Isaiah 44:28 & 45:1) did with a Persian nation, or as Tyre was appointed as a protectorate over the land while the Jews were in the exile in Babylon (Ezek. 28:14-15).

In order for a Gentile state to undertake the work of restoring the Jews to their homeland in the Middle East-Palestine, it would be necessary for the Hand of God to be providentially active as it was in raising up Cyrus in order to bring about the return from the Babylonian exile (see Isaiah 44:26 to 45:6, and Ezra 1). Historically, in order to restore Jerusalem and return the exiles, it was first necessary that the Medo-Persians conquer mighty Babylon. Similarly, in preparing the way for the latter-day restoration of Jews to Palestine, it was necessary that Britain not only become sympathetic to the Jewish cause, but that she contend with those who ruled the Holy Land (those who would oppose the Divine purpose). In the practical context of things, this meant that Britain would have to become willing to oppose Catholic Europe (the age-long persecutor of Jewry), and, when the time arrived for it, to expel the Ottoman Turk from the Holy Land. Yet once the restoration of the Jews has been accomplished to the required extent, in order that events may move towards the second stage of restoration, Britain (with her young lions) will be prevented from interfering with Gog’s mission by the multitudinous Christ (Psa. 48:4-7). They will essentially be taken out of the equation, forced to submit their wealth and power and to entreat the favor of the King of Israel (Psa. 45:12). Then the Jewish national home, after being instructed and refined by “a time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation” (Dan. 12:1), is to become subject to the rightful heir of David’s throne (Luke 1:32-33).

Over 2,500 years ago Jeremiah the prophet addressed these countries, saying that the Word of God concerning the re-

THE EFFECT OF THE ENGLISH BIBLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF TARSHISH AND HER YOUNG LIONS

William Tyndale was strangled and burned at the stake in 1536 for translating the Bible into English.



gathering of Israel **was to be declared unto them.** “Hear the word of the Lord, O ye nations, and declare it in the isles afar off, and say, He that scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him, as a shepherd doth his flock” (Jer. 31:10). These nations, isles and coast lands afar off were to be exposed to the influence of the Bible. This is the obvious sense of the passage in Jeremiah 31:10: “Hear the word of the Lord ...” Now how did this occur? One word: **Reformation.**

Was it legal under the Catholic/Papal reign to own or even read your own Bible? No, in fact in twelfth century Europe it was punishable by death. Second, the masses were ignorant and illiterate, and third it was only available in Latin. Wycliffe translated the Bible into an early English dialect from the Latin Vulgate (Roman Catholic Version) about 1380 A.D. It had a limited circulation, mostly among a group known to us as Lollards. Even this early version stirred considerable controversy amongst “church” authorities. This was but a foretaste of what would come when Greek manuscripts arrived after the fall of Constantinople in 1453 and the Greek (Byzantine) believers fled west from the Turks. After the fall of “Christian Constantinople” and its conversion by the sword (by the invading Turks), the throne of the empire was claimed by Moscow on the basis of the marriage between Ivan III to Zoe, niece to Constantine XI, the last reigning Byzantine emperor (Eastern-Christian leg). Thus the seat of Rome passed to Russia. This event, coming hot on the heels of the invention of the printing press, brought together circumstances that were destined to reshape Christendom. Let us now consider briefly the work of William Tyndale.

William Tyndale, a young priest in Gloucestershire, Eng-

land, was determined to translate the Bible into English from the original languages of Greek and Hebrew knowing that it would probably cost him his life. His translation of the New Testament (from the Greek text of Erasmus) appeared in print in 1525 and most of it was promptly burnt (one copy survives today). Another edition appeared in 1534.

Tyndale appreciated the fact that the Bible was a controversial book. Using Christ's allegory concerning salt (Matt. 5:13; Mark 9:49-50), he wrote: "*The nature of salt is to bite, fret and make smart... True preaching is a salting that stirreth up persecution... If salt have lost its saltness, it is good for nothing but to be trodden under foot of men, that is, if the preacher, which for his doctrine is called salt, have lost the nature of salt, that is to say his sharpness in rebuking all unrighteousness... he is condemned of God...*" He continues, "*all that is corrupt must be salted; and those persons are of all others most corrupt, and therefore may not be left untouched. The pope's pardons must be rebuked, the abuse of the masses, of the sacraments, and of all the ceremonies, must be rebuked and salted...*" Are we still salty, Brethren, when it comes to works of unrighteousness?

In turning people to Scripture, Tyndale was also turning them away from the Church of Rome. This is what the Bible began to do for the English-speaking peoples; it was their enlightenment to the true enemy, Babylon in its latter-day manifestation: the Papacy. Once they were exposed to the Word of God, their eyes were opened. Later on it would turn their hearts favorably to the Jews and guide them in facilitating their return to Palestine.

In 1536 William Tyndale was taken to the stake, strangled and burned. John Foxe ([Foxe's Book of Martyrs](#)) would later write: "*These books of William Tyndale being compiled, published, and sent over into England, it cannot be spoken what a door of light they opened to the eyes of the whole English nation, which before were many years shut up in darkness.*"

The words of Isaiah 49:1-2 are very appropriate here: "*Listen, O isles, unto me; and hearken, ye people from far; The Lord hath called me from the womb; from the bowels of my mother hath he made mention of my name. And he hath made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand hath he hid me, and made me a polished shaft; in his quiver hath he hid me...*" The sense of this prophecy is that when the word of Christ would go forth as "a light to the Gentiles" it would be as a sword (a confrontation with Papal Europe), and this is what happened when the New Testament, and finally the complete Scripture, was translated into the language of the English-speaking peoples. The result was a controversy that produced what is known in history as the Reformation. Many different lands were involved, but it was in the British Isles that the far-most reaching effects were seen.

For over 70 years after Tyndale's death, an epic struggle

continued in England between the authority of the Bible and that of the Roman Church. The nation was violently jolted one way, and then the other. There were plots and counterplots; plans for invasion from Catholic Europe (i.e., the Spanish Armada in 1588) and plots for assassination and kidnappings. As the struggle continued, Bibles came forth from the printing presses: Coverdale's, Matthew's Bible, etc. Many translators were put to death: John Rogers at Smithfield (1553 London), Thomas Canmer (Oxford 1555), Joseph Meade, and so the battle waged on. We do well to reflect on this period of history and ask ourselves "How much did our Bible cost?" How much do we value it in relation to those who died to have it brought to us?

An Israeli writer, Michael Pragai, gives the following account in his book [Faith and Fulfillment](#): "*...it is true to say that the Reformation would never have taken hold had the Bible not replaced the Pope as the ultimate spiritual authority. With the Bible as its tool, the Reformation returned to the geographic origins of Christianity in Palestine. It thereby gradually diminished the authority of Rome. The year 1611 saw the publication of the King James Version, and with that the 'adoption' of the Bible was complete. The family and tribal history of one nation became the national epic of another.*"

Historian Barbara Tuchman in her book [Bible and the Sword](#) says: "*It is a curious irony that the Jews retrieved their home partly through the operation of the religion they gave the Gentiles.*" She continues, "*From early times the British people have been drawn to the Holy Land through two major influences: the translation of the Bible into English and, later, imperial need to control the road to India and access the oil of the Middle East.*"

By 1800, the English-speaking world had developed a spiritual and cultural outlook which was favorable to the Jews but deeply suspicious of Catholicism and of Europe. Do we not see the Hand of God at work in the exposing of His Word to a nation that would identify and oppose the great Catholic apostasy, later becoming sympathetic to the Jews and driving out the Ottoman Turk from its occupation of Palestine to facilitate a Jewish homeland? Is there any other possible Tarshish than Britain and her allies? No. Scripture demands that it be so.

Brother Thomas wrote from his understanding of Scripture in 1848:

"But to what part of the world shall we look for a power whose interests will make it willing as it is able, to plant the ensign of civilization upon the Mountains of Israel? I know not whether the men, who at present contrive the foreign policy of Britain, entertain the idea of assuming the sovereignty of the Holy Land, and of promoting its colonization by the Jews; their present intentions however, are of no importance one way or the other, because they will be compelled, by events soon to happen, to do what, under existing

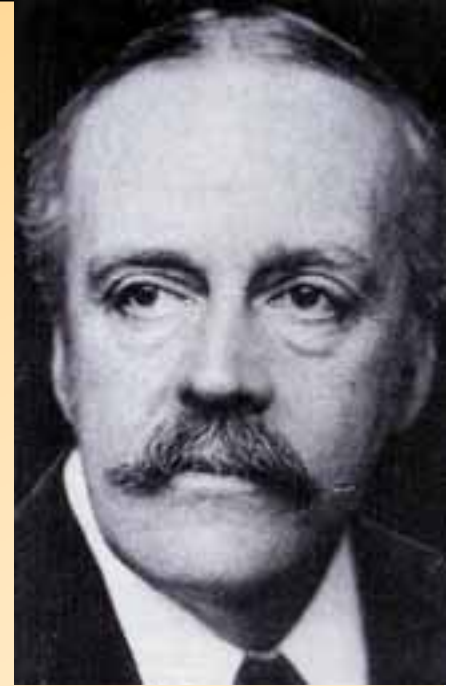
In 1849 George Gowler wrote to John Thomas:

“Britain urgently needs the shortest and safest lines of communication. Egypt and Syria stand in intimate connection. A foreign hostile power would soon endanger British trade [Turkey allied with Germany in WWI] and it is now for England to set her hand to the renovation of Syria through the only people whose energies will be extensively and permanently in the work - the real children of the soil, the sons of Israel.”



Woodrow Wilson

Sixty-eight years later, James Arthur Balfour would initiate the famous “Balfour Declaration” on November 2, 1917. In 1919 U.S. President Woodrow Wilson wrote: “As for... Palestine, I have expressed my approval of the Declaration of the British Government.”



James Arthur Balfour

circumstances, heaven and earth combined could not move them to attempt. The present decisions of statesman are destitute of stability. A shooting star in the political firmament is sufficient to disturb all the forces of their system; and to stultify all the theories of their political astronomy. The finger of God has indicated a course for Britain (the latter day Tarshish - just like the latter-day Assyrian) which cannot be evaded, and which her counselors will not only be willing, but eager, to adopt when the crisis comes upon them. The decree has long since gone forth which calls upon the Lion of Tarshish to protect the Jews...”

We have touched upon James Arthur Balfour of Britain, and now we would like to mention two other men from two “young lion” nations: George Gowler of Australia and Bro. John Thomas of America.

George Gowler, a former Governor of the colony of South Australia, was in correspondence with Bro. John Thomas in America and others as he promoted the concept of a Jewish national home in Palestine. In 1849 Gowler wrote: *“Britain urgently needs the shortest and safest lines of communication. Egypt and Syria stand in intimate connection. A foreign hostile power would soon endanger British trade [Turkey allied with Germany in WWI] and it is now for England to set her hand to the renovation of Syria through the only people whose energies will be extensively and permanently in the work - the real children of the soil, the sons of Israel.”*

It was James Arthur Balfour, a Bible-believing statesman in Great Britain, who initiated the Balfour Declaration viewing with **“favour the establishment in Palestine of a national**

home for the Jewish people.” [It is of interest to note that Balfour’s nanny as a child was a Christadelphian by the name of Sis. Armstrong.]

Returning to the British Mandate, the British did use their *“best endeavors to facilitate the achievement of this object”* by placing a Jew, Herbert Samuel, over the territory and by encouraging Jewish settlement there. They were “first” in this, as had been expected by many on the basis of Isaiah 60:9. But if the “ships of Tarshish” were first in their work, who would follow up the work when the British became weary of it? The future could have been seen perhaps by the early response of the United States to the idea. Michael Pragai noted in his book Faith and Fulfillment:

“One hundred years before the British Mandate on Palestine an American President, John Quincy Adams, had expressed his affirmative stand on a Jewish Restoration in Judea, and before the end of the nineteenth century, William Blackstone had petitioned another U.S. President, Benjamin Harrison, to lend his support to that idea. When Britain was about to issue the Balfour Declaration, the text was first submitted to President Wilson for American approval. Subsequently, a Joint Resolution of the U.S. Congress endorsed Britain’s policy with regard to the National Home.”

U.S. President Woodrow Wilson wrote in 1919, *“As for... Palestine, I have expressed my approval of the Declaration of the British Government regarding the aspirations and historic claims of the Jewish People in regard to Palestine. I am... persuaded that the Allied Nations, with the fullest concurrence of our own Government and people, are agreed*

that in Palestine shall be laid the foundations of a Jewish Commonwealth."

George Stanley Faber, an Anglican theologian and typologist who believed that all the world's myths were corrupted versions of the original stories in the Bible, wrote in 1806: *"Armageddon will in part at least be directed against Judah and Jerusalem; so certain is it, that the Jews will begin to be restored by the great maritime power of the age...The Isles of the Sea, and the ships of Tarshish, must begin the great work of the restoration of the Jews."*

Tarshish was the first to undertake the work, but they would be supported and followed by the "isles" or "young lions". On November 2, 1942, members of the Senate and House of Representatives submitted the following document to the President of the United States: *"The reasons which twenty-five years ago [anniversary of Balfour] led the American people and the Government of the United States to favor the cause of the Jewish National Home restoration in Palestine are still valid today. In fact, the case for a Jewish Homeland is overwhelmingly stronger and the need more urgent than ever before... Our Government may be assured that in continuing the traditional American Policy in favor of so just a cause, it can rely upon our individual support and the approbation of the American People."* When the State of Israel was proclaimed in May 1948, the United States was the first country to recognize it. All of these events, carefully orchestrated by the Elohim working behind the scenes, causing the minds of men to be influenced by the Word bereft of Papal smog, have brought Israel into being.

THE COUNTER REFORMATION

In response to this new "enlightenment", which began in the 1500's, the Papacy became engaged in what was called the *Counter-Reformation*. This movement was a counter-movement or strategy designed to "bring Britain and the break-away Protestant nations back into the Catholic Fold." Created specifically for this purpose was the Jesuit sect of the Catholic Church led by Ignatius Loyola. Via this arm of the Church, several disinformation strategies were launched to try and defeat Protestantism.

The strategy was to call into question the reliability of the original texts from which the Bible was translated. In the words of David Otis Fuller's book, *Which Bible* (pg. 237): *"...if confusion on the origin and authenticity of the Scriptures could be spread abroad in the world, the amazing certainty of the Reformers...which had astonished and confounded the Papacy, could be broken down. In time the Refor-*

mation would be splintered to pieces, and driven as the chaff before the wind."

Ignatius Loyola & Pope Paul the III : The same book continues, *"Ignatius Loyola came forward and must have said in substance to the Pope: 'Let the Augustinians continue to provide monasteries of retreat for contemplative minds; let the Benedictines give themselves up to the field of literary endeavor; let the Dominicans retain their responsibility for maintaining the Inquisition; but we, the Jesuits, will capture the colleges and the universities. We will gain control of instruction of law, medicine, science, education, and so weed out from all books of instruction, anything injurious to Roman Catholicism. We will mold the thoughts and ideas of the youth. We will enroll ourselves as Protestant preachers and college professors in the different Protestant faiths. Sooner or later, we will undermine the authority of the Greek New Testament of Erasmus, and also of those Old Testament productions which have dared to raise their heads against tradition. And thus we will undermine the Protestant Reformation'."*

These deceitful works by the Jesuits later found an ally in the theory of evolution by Darwin. For example, Piltdown Man was put forth as the missing link between ape and man in 1912



Ignatius Loyola (1491-1556) before Pope Paul the III pledges the Jesuit Order as the center for a Counter-Reformation movement that would vigorously combat Protestantism. This was the context in which the Council of Trent was held (Dec. 13, 1545).

near Piltdown, England. (The case was proved a fraud in 1953 with the Jesuit Priest Pierre Teilhard de Chardin charged as a co-conspirator.) This is evidence that the Roman Church had no interest in resisting a theory which called into question the literality of the Genesis record. Indeed, the evidence is that she quietly promoted it.

"Grievous wolves shall enter in among you, speaking perverse things, with all deceivableness of unrighteousness".



“Confusion”: a Trojan Horse

“All the conflicting ideas [on prophecy] cannot be true. This means that some are holding to ideas which because they are not true will not happen, and they may well be caught unawares by his coming. Others, confused by the variety of ideas, are becoming discouraged and will lapse into a disinterest in prophetic watching, and may become engrossed in the world (disillusioned), and fall away from faithfulness.”

Graham Pearce

Praeterist school of interpretation:

Founded by Alcazar, a Spanish Jesuit in 1614.

The fulfillment of Revelation is in the past with the Fall of Jerusalem (70 A.D.) or the Fall of Pagan Rome, before the Popes ever ruled Rome.

Futurist school of Interpretation:

Founded by Francisco Ribera and Robert Bellarmine

The fulfillment of Revelation is in the future with an individual man, identified as the Antichrist, the Man of Sin, who rebuilds the temple in Jerusalem.

It is critical to make mention here that it was the Jesuit sect which fabricated the false interpretation of Revelation making Israel the Harlot of the Apocalypse. This is an incredible error to fall victim to, and almost unfathomable that any in Christadelphia would endorse it. Unfortunately H. A. Whittaker in his book Revelation: A Biblical Approach does just that, and further goes to great lengths to label Pioneer Christadelphian exposition as “*less serious than Alice-in-Wonderland*”. Regrettably, these works have caused much confusion, and only by rehearsing the facts can we ensure that we keep ourselves on track.

And so the Jesuit-Catholic Counter-Reformation initiative was the context (backdrop) for the Council of Trent (1545) for the purpose of extinguishing Protestantism. Ever since the Bible came to the English-speaking peoples, the dividing line has been predominantly Catholic versus Protestant (Hitler’s Germany/Papacy vs. Britain/US; IRA verse Britain; Pro-Israel UK/US vs. Anti-Semitic Europe and Russia). This is a line that the Papacy has spent immense resources to erase and not without great success. It stands to reason, therefore, that prior to the complete disintegration of Protestant separation from Rome that the crisis in the east will come to a climax beneath the burden of international meddling in the affairs of Zion,

carefully mingled with other affairs on the current world stage. We are already witnessing pieces of the coming crisis: Persia’s (Iran) quest for nuclear arms coupled with the threat of international blackmail while Russia looks on as a silent partner in the mischief; Russia’s new military built upon the soaring value of crude oil; the growing energy dependency of Europe upon Russia’s vast oil and gas reserve; international positioning against the UK/US coalition in Iraq and so on: “...and he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue *Armageddon*”.

SUMMARY

The group of maritime nations that Isaiah in 60:9 calls “*the isles and the ships of Tarshish*” are those nations and isles afar off of whom Jeremiah (31:10) calls to hear the Word of Yahweh concerning the Divine purpose to gather Israel which had previously been scattered. It is because this message has been declared among them that they “*bring thy sons from afar*”. This same group of nations is identified in Ezekiel 38:13 as “*the merchants of Tarshish, with all the young lions thereof*”. Here they are seen protesting against the invasion of the Land by a great military machine from the north at the time of the



U.S. and U.K. military installations around the Middle East. The “king of the south”, Tarshish and the young lions, are in position for the time of the end.

end: Gog. Thus, our purpose has been to bring these facts to the attention of the reader: the translation of the Bible into English brought to light Britain’s purpose regarding the restoration of the Jews, and, most assuredly, we are now living in the end time of this fulfillment.

Can there be any doubt, Brethren, as to whom the latter-day ships of Tarshish, the isles, and the young lions are? The Young Lions are in the Middle East now, today, right before our eyes just as understood by Bro. Thomas, but more importantly, as foretold by the Prophets of Israel.

Where are we in Bible Prophecy today?

We are fast approaching the most important sequence of events of all time: the Gogian invasion, the scattering of Israel, the march of the Rainbow Angel (within the context of Armageddon), the redemption of Israel and the establishment of the Kingdom; all preceded by the judgment seat of Christ. The current “peace and safety, without walls, bars, or gates” of Israel may be the last event we will witness before Christ returns as a thief to the world (Rev. 16). If anyone is waiting for Elijah to return to Israel before the “*great and dreadful day of the Lord*” (Mal. 4:5), it must be remarked that this will not occur until after the judgment seat. If we are waiting to see Gog’s confederacy form and begin his march into the

Middle East/Israel, likewise, Messiah will come to us as a thief. If we are waiting for an Arabs-round-about confederacy to develop, it has been demonstrated that such a confederacy will never materialize. If we are waiting for Israel to reach a literal peace and safety without security measures, defenses and man-made military operations, we will be caught unawares. Christ returns in the sixth vial, therefore **there is no prophecy that still needs to be fulfilled in order that Christ may return.** We have reached that climatic point in the Divine Program of the Almighty: the second advent of His Son. This is a time when most nations (certainly Israel, Europe and America) are wealthy and in need of nothing. They are apathetic to the Truth and in gross moral decline. Amongst the Household we can unabashedly ask the question, “Will He find faith in the earth?” Modern medicine and science is touted to be able to preserve if not cure you, and the world with all its materialism and relativism provides almost no view of suffering and therefore life for the worldly is easy and frankly (rationalized in the human mind) quite good without God and religion, hence the falling away.

Christ returns to the Household in this Laodicean state: a few lights burning among the Ecclesias, a few robes in white, but not in the entire community. Sadly we see the evidence of the Laodicean spirit in the modern Ecclesia: apathy, ignorance, indifference, and a love of the world. But what shall we do, Brethren? Are we willing to fight, to persevere? Through tenacity and strong resolve, are we willing to declare for ourselves, “As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord”? The angel and his blessing will not escape us if we hang on, though wounded in the struggle, grappling through the entire night (our probation) in the spirit of Jacob crying, “Bless me.” And when the sun (Son) appears as the morning star upon the earth, the faithful shall in due time receive that great and precious promise (through the grace of Yahweh) hearing the words, “*Well done thou good and faithful servant.*”

We believe that the return of our Lord is upon us. Our hope therefore, is that by witnessing the Hand of Yahweh through the window of prophecy “*that he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man*” (Eph. 3:16).

Acknowledgments: Please See Back Page.

HISTORICAL

SINAI: Past & Future, by Bro. Don Northey

Geographically, no other place on earth has the history and the mystique of the Sinai Peninsula. This land mass is in the form of a triangle bordered on the East by the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aqaba, and on the West by the Gulf of Suez and the Suez Canal. On the North, it is bordered by the desert of the Negev. On the North West it is bordered by the Mediterranean Sea and on the South the Red Sea. The Peninsula is 130 miles wide from East to West, and 240 miles from North to South.

The Sinai Peninsula is divided into two regions, north and south, by natural topographical differences. The **Northern** region, which composes two-thirds of Sinai, slopes from heights of 3000 feet down to a great coastal plain at the Mediterranean where there are areas of vast sand dunes. This area may get up to 5 inches of rain, mostly in the spring and the fall, and many times it comes in torrents.

In the **Southern** mountainous area the mountains generate a regional cloud cover over the tops of the taller peaks and in the winter this may form ice. The region is sharply incised by deep canyons which are obvious water courses where water from torrential storms will drain toward the Gulf of Suez or the Gulf of Aqaba. This area is recognized as one of the most rugged regions on earth. On the south-western border there is a rather narrow coastal plain; on the south-east the mountains rise sharply from the Sea. Towering rugged mountains of red granite are intersected by narrow valleys and desolate plains. The tallest mountain is Mt. Katrinah at 8,668 feet; Mt. Sinai is 7,500 feet and Mt. Horeb is 6,500 feet above sea level. Before Mt. Horeb is a vast plain at the head of valleys that feed into it, in which the Israelites would have camped when they were led there by Moses.

In Deuteronomy 8 Moses describes the area as *“a great and terrible wilderness of fiery serpents, scorpions and drought.”* Jeremiah declares that it is *“a land of deserts and of pits, a land of drought and of the shadow of death, a land that no man passeth through, and where no man dwelleth.”* The **Mount** itself is approached through a valley some 200 feet wide, with huge masses of perpendicular granite rocks on either side, which appear as though shattered and split by earthquake. Granite is caused by intense heat; the entire scene amplifies the awesomeness of Yahweh in majesty, power and judgment. This is a harsh and chiseled entrance to the valley beyond. This is not a “soft” flowing landscape as the sandstone canyons of Utah are.

The **valley** has a gentle, but constant ascent; the scenery is stern as is appropriate for the occasion of judgment. It proclaims the land of miracles, and its quiet isolation and split and shattered rocks seem to suggest the “goodness and severity” of Yahweh. The scenes are suited to the sounds of the piercing trumpet that was once heard there, and the equally anxious feelings that will be induced by the setting up of the Judgment Seat of Christ.

Below: An encampment in the Sinai as depicted by David Roberts in the Nineteenth Century.



The giving of the Law is associated with two peaks: Horeb and Sinai. Together, they form two eminences on the extremes of a plateau some three miles long. Mt. Sinai is about 7,500 feet above sea level. Sinai has a cliff-like appearance, rising precipitously, like a huge altar set in a sanctuary, and is faced by a large plain capable of containing an immense gathering of people.

S
I
N
A
I
P
A
S
T
&
F
U
T
U
R
E

~ H I S T O R I C A L ~

Quoting from Dr. Stanley who has hiked the area: "The awful and lengthened approach, as to some natural sanctuary, would have been the fittest preparation for the coming scene. The low line of alluvial mounds at the foot of the cliff exactly answers to the 'bounds' which were to keep the people off from 'touching the Mount'. The Plain itself is not broken and uneven and narrowly shut in like almost all others in the range, but presents a long retiring sweep, against which the people could 'remove and stand afar off'. The cliff rising like a huge altar in front of the whole congregation and visible against the sky in lonely splendor from end to end of the whole plain, is the very image of the 'mount that might not be touched', and from which the 'voice of God' might be heard far and wide over the stillness of the plain below, widened at that point to its utmost extent by the confluence of all the continuous valleys."

Thus the physical topography of the region lends itself for yet another great gathering which Christadelphians anticipate in the resurrection and the judgment of our returned Lord. Christ's Bema is traditionally believed to be held in total seclusion at Sinai away from the prying eyes of a world in chaos.

Why do we feel the region of Sinai is the site of the Judgment Seat of Christ? Is there any scriptural evidence to substantiate this? There are three main Scriptures on which the traditional view of the Judgment Seat at Sinai rest: Deuteronomy 33, Psalm 68, and Habakkuk 3. Each of these Scriptures teach a future coming of Yahweh and His Holy Ones from the direction of Sinai, and this requires the Judgment Seat to be at Sinai from whence they come.

Deuteronomy 33: Consider the opening words of Moses in verse 2. "The Lord came [better rendered, came in] from Sinai and rose up from Seir unto them; he shined forth from Mount Paran and he came with ten thousands of saints. From his right hand went a fiery law for them." This statement is within the blessing Moses is giving the children of Israel in verse 1. "And this is the blessing, wherewith Moses, the man of God, blessed

the children of Israel before his death." We notice that there is no reference to Israel first coming out of Egypt; this is a future event showing that the multitudinous Christ coming out of Sinai to save Israel will be the first step in God's blessing of Israel.

To "come with ten thousands of Holy Ones" describes the deliverance of Israel by Christ and the redeemed Saints. "A fiery law from his right hand" means judgments in righteousness against Israel's enemies. The "right hand" is a symbol for power and action; a "law of fire" indicates war and destruction. It says in verse 3 that he loves the people; therefore the fiery law in his right hand is not judgment against them, **but on their behalf.** It is

to save the remnant of Israel. Continuing in verse 3... "all his saints are in thy hand [note the change from third person to the second person] and they sat down at thy feet; every one shall receive of thy words." This is a reference to Christ the "greater than Moses" from before whom the Saints emerge.

Finally, Israel did not "rise up from Seir" and "shine forth from Paran" in their past journey from Sinai to the Prom-

ised Land. The situation was the reverse of this, and in fact, they appeared to be weak and displayed no power. However, in the future manifested Saints, or the redeemed of Spiritual Israel, will march forth in power and it is at Mount Seir that their power will be revealed. In Isaiah chapters 34 and 63 is recorded "the day of the Lord and the controversy of Zion" and of the "one coming from Edom trodding the winepress alone...".

Psalm 68: Verse 17 (with the italics omitted) reads: "The Chariots of God twenty thousand thousands of angels, the Lord among them, Sinai into the holy." The starting point is Sinai, and the place of destination is His sanctuary at Zion. The Companion Bible reads: "from Sinai into his sanctuary." There is no word for angel in the Hebrew. The lexicon shows that angel may be translated as "changed ones", a much more appropriate translation to describe the immortal saints. Because Ezekiel's Temple will not be built yet, we draw upon Psalm 24 for further clarification: the Saints will come to Zion and



The ascent to the lower range of Sinai, by David Roberts.

~ H I S T O R I C A L ~

“ascend into the hill of the Lord”, and “stand in his holy place.” So this coming from Sinai to Jerusalem is a prophecy of a future event, not the past.

The context of Psalm 68 draws upon Numbers 10:35 and commemorates David bringing the ark to Zion. The ark included the one-piece mercy seat and cherubim typifying Christ and the Saints coming in unison to Zion. Consider Psalm 68:16: “Why leap ye, ye high hills? *this is the hill which God desireth to dwell in; yea, the LORD will dwell in it for ever.*” The Psalmist is speaking here of the promise God had made to him, to establish the millennial throne in Jerusalem. Keeping in mind the theme of the Psalm, the bringing of the ark to Zion, verse 18 now reads, “*Thou hast ascended on high, thou hast led captivity captive, thou hast received gifts for men, yea for the rebellious [all men have sinned] also, that the Lord God might dwell among them.*”

The apostle Paul most certainly had this visionary in mind throughout Ephesians. Reading Ephesians 4:8, “*Wherefore, he saith when he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.*” Verse 10 says, “*He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens that he might fill all things.*” Here is a reference to the redemptive work of Christ. Yahweh will dwell among men through His glorified Son and Saints enthroned in Jerusalem,

and “*his law shall go forth from Zion*” and it shall flow out as the gushing waters from the Temple to heal the “dead sea of nations”. The resting place of the antitypical ark will be in Zion.

The remainder of Psalm 68 confirms that the Psalm is a prophecy and not a record of past happenings. Verse 22 speaks of Israel being brought again from Bashan and from the depths of the sea. In verse 24 there is praise in the Temple before the great King, “*they have seen thy goings, O God; even the goings of my God, my King, in the sanctuary.*” In verse 31, kings and princes from Egypt and Ethiopia stretch out their hands to God. This Psalm is clearly a prophecy of future enthronement at Zion.

Habakkuk 3: In Habakkuk chapter 3:3-6, the Holy One comes from the South. This whole chapter is a prophecy described as “a prayer” requesting Yahweh to “*revive thy work in the midst of the years*”. It therefore requests Yahweh to revive His great work of prophetic fulfillment for the future.

Verse 3 tells us, “*Eloah shall come in from Teman [the south], and the Holy One from Mount Paran [the wilderness of Sinai].*” In verse 4 the Holy One has horns or beams coming out of his hands and burning coals at his feet. This is a symbolic figure like the one seen in Revelation 1:13, “*the one like the Son of man standing in the midst of the seven lampstands.*” This is the Christ community in a time of judgment and Habakkuk is seeing the same thing. This new power from Teman is invincible: “*He stood and measured the earth; and he beheld, and drove asunder the nations; and the everlasting mountains were scattered, the perpetual hills did bow; his ways are everlasting*” (Hab. 3:6).

In Jeremiah 51:25 the Babylonian “great mountain” has passed away but the Roman “mountains” have lasted for centuries in various forms. As in Revelation 16:18-20, the result of the last “great earthquake” will dissipate every mountain of Romish hostility. Verse 8 references Yahweh riding upon his horses and “*thy chariots of salvation*”, a graphic bit of imagery of the Saints as cherubim who become Yahweh’s vehicle for judgment. The rest of this chapter clearly speaks of the establishment of Yahweh in Jerusalem and the future conquest of Zion and the nations.

Thus, in conclusion, Sinai, which once was a staging area for Yahweh’s fledgling nation and the giving of His Law to Moses, will again become a staging area for the resurrected Saints and their flowing forth in the march of the Rainbow Angel (Rev. 10:1, Ezek. 1:28) to secure Israel and to subject all of the nations to the rule of Yahweh (Rev. 19:15).





READY TO PRINT BIBLE INSERT
8" x 6.5" (Set Page Scaling to "None")

Hard Color Copies of this insert printed on Bible insert paper may be obtained from Truth Gleaner Publications at a cost of \$1.00 each (plus postage) by sending an e-mail to:

tgpublishations@netscape.com.

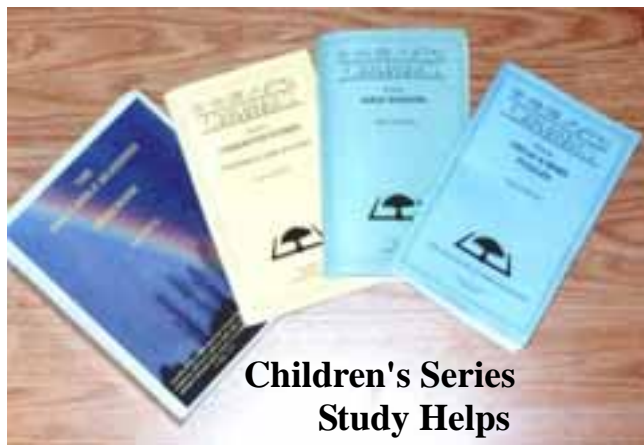
- ⇒ **All "Ready to Print" Bible Inserts are available for free by e-mail.**
- ⇒ **All Hard Copy Bible inserts are \$1.00 for each printed Color Copy and \$0.50 for each Black and White (BW) copy (plus postage).**

- The Name of Joshua (BW)
- The Twelve Judges (BW)
- The 70 Weeks Prophecy (BW)
- Apocalyptic Jubilee Period (BW)
- Chronology of the Crucifixion Week (BW)
- Hebrew Alphabet (BW)
- Nations of Ezekiel 38 (Color)
- Nebuchadnezzar's Image (Color)
- The Six Vials (Color)
- The Man of the One (BW)
- Twelve Apocalyptic Stones (BW)
- Twelve Apocalyptic Stones Color Flyer

~ **BOOKLETS** ~

WATCHMAN Acknowledgments: *Eureka, Elpis Israel*, and *1852 Herald of the Kingdom*, J. Thomas; *The Book of the Prophet Ezekiel*, W.H. Boulton; *Cry of the Prophets*, P. Billington; *Bible and the Sword*, Barbara Tuchman; *The Bible Magazine* (various editions); *The Approaching End of the Age*, H. Grattan Guinness; *Milestones*, 1988, G. Pearce; *Ezekiel 1-39*, J. Allfree; *Foxe's Book of Martyr's*, J. Foxe; *Oxford Companion Bible Notes*, 2005; *Faith and Fulfillment*, Michael Pragai.

PART II, The Middle East Today: In Part II of this series we will continue to examine the host of current events, policy statements, key developments and strategic interests of modern day biblical players and determine how such events fit the Divine Program. Throughout all the "news" we will continue to affirm the critical links to the prophetic Word in the Scriptural discourse that is called the Continuous Historical.



**Children's Series
Study Helps**

AVAILABLE STUDY BOOKLETS

The Seven Night Visions of Zechariah - In this booklet Bro. Don Northey presents a synopsis of Zechariah chapters 1 - 6 that contain the "Seven Night Visions" - \$2.00 plus postage (43 pages).

AD 70 Siege of Jerusalem - An outline of events that lead to the eventual and tragic downfall of Judah and the City of Jerusalem at the hands of the Roman legions, as told from the pen of Bro. Robert Roberts—\$2.00 plus postage (22 pages).

The Feasts of the Lord - A consideration of the yearly feasts and their typical meaning by Bro. Clarence (Bud) Roth - \$1.00 plus postage (34 pages).

The Chronology of the Crucifixion Week - A study of the last days of Messiah and the import of events leading up to the crucifixion by Bro. Alex M. Briley - \$2.00 plus postage (31 pages).

The Line of Construction - A comparative study of Christadelphian works concerning the Abrahamic Land Grant by Bro. A.B. Bryan - \$2.00 plus postage (31 pages with map inserts).

Observations on the Sure Word of Prophecy — A review of traditional Christadelphian teaching on latter day prophecy by Bro. A.B. Bryan - \$2.00 plus postage (68 pages).

Daily Bible Readings Workbook for ages 9 and up - \$5.00 plus postage (96 pages in a small 3 ring binder).

Bible Marking Guide for Ages 10 and Up - \$3.00 plus postage.

Circle-a-Word Puzzles for Ages 6 and Up - \$1.00 plus postage (28 pages).

Character Studies on Kings of Judah and Israel for Ages 10 and Up - \$3.00 plus postage (76 pages).

Truth Gleaner Publications Committee Members

Bro. Albert B. Bryan, Richmond, VA Forest Hill Christadelphian Ecclesia:

Publishing Editor

Bro. Alex Briley, Orlando, FL Christadelphian Ecclesia:

Section Editor—Biblical Allegories

Bro. Rodney Dodl, Richmond, VA Forest Hill Christadelphian Ecclesia:

Technical / E-mail Distribution

Bro. Scott Huie, Little Rock, AR Christadelphian Ecclesia:

E-mail Subscriptions—Secretary

Bro. Michael T. Jasionowski, Orlando, FL Christadelphian Ecclesia:

Treasurer / Hard Copy Subscriptions / Distribution / Publications

Bro. Don Northey, Denver, CO Christadelphian Ecclesia:

Section Editor—Historical Series

Bro. Tom Northey, Denver, CO Christadelphian Ecclesia:

Section Editor—Watchman Series

Booklets may be purchased directly from **Bro. Mike Jasionowski, Treasurer, Truth Gleaner Publications, 23240 Brouwertown Rd., Howey-in-the-Hills, FL 34737** or by sending an order by e-mail to tgpublications@netscape.com.

Send no money; an invoice will be sent with your order. Thank you.