

BRITAIN

in

Bible Prophecy



**THE ROLE OF
BRITAIN
AND ITS
ALLIES
IN THE PAST
AND FUTURE**

THE Bible is a book about current events taking place among the nations, and their place in God's grand purpose with this earth and mankind upon it. The Bible is not merely concerned with history; its prophecies deal with modern nations, and predict the outcome of the crisis facing this present generation. Its future predictions are just as accurate, as those concerning the destiny of certain ancient peoples in the past. Although not mentioned in the Bible by its modern name, the nation of Britain plays an important part in the divine purpose prior to and following the imminent appearance of the Lord Jesus Christ from heaven. We are sure that the reader will find this booklet of great interest, and that it will demonstrate the credibility of Bible prophecy. Please read it carefully, checking the Bible verses quoted, and then hand the booklet to a friend. We would be happy to answer any question upon Bible teaching, or to forward further literature, completely free and without obligation — see details on the back cover.

HERALD OF THE COMING AGE

A Christadelphian Publication

**DECLARING THE TRUTH OF THE SCRIPTURES REVEALED FOR THE SALVATION OF
THOSE WHO ARE PREPARED TO EXAMINE THE CLAIMS OF GOD'S WORD;
AND PRESENTING THE GLORIOUS MESSAGE OF THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS
CHRIST AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF GOD'S ETERNAL KINGDOM ON EARTH.**

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BRITAIN *in* Bible Prophecy

Britain has a shadow which originated in Rome. This shadow is maintained in the British Isles by the Protestant tradition which is only a resounding echo of what originated in the Church of Rome. The day is rapidly approaching when this shadow will be removed by the Lord Jesus Christ in the divine kingdom of God that will be established throughout the earth.

THE picturesque and strategic islands located off the western coast of Europe were identified by the term "Tarshish" when, after the great Flood four thousand years ago, the sons of Noah laid the foundation for present civilisations. Today the islands are known as **Britain**.

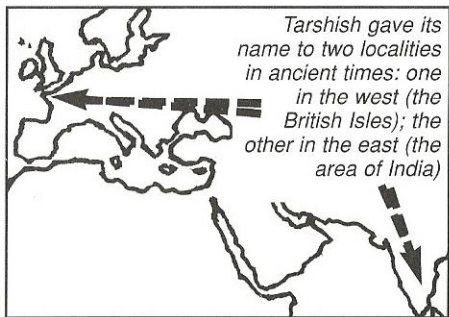
The great flood reduced the world population to only eight persons, and a new start was made by God, to repopulate the earth by those who survived that disaster (Genesis 8:18-22). The names of the survivors were Noah, Shem, Ham and Japheth, and their respective wives. Of Japheth's

family, the Bible records: *"The sons of Japheth... and Javan... and the sons of Javan... Tarshish... by these were the isles of the Gentiles divided in their lands; everyone after his tongue, after their families, in their nations"* (Genesis 10:2-5). It was from these distant origins that the British Isles eventually became populated.

But another thousand years passed before they became significant in Bible history.

This reference to "Tarshish," is important. Some authorities consider the name Tarshish as derived from the Accadian root *rasasu*, meaning "to melt" or "to be smelted," and this has led scholars to suggest that the place name was originally associated with metal refinery. Certainly, "Tarshish" is known in Bible prophecy as a great trading power that was situated a considerable distance from the Middle East.

It is further identified as the "isles of the Gentiles" and therefore distinct from the area that was later occupied by the Semitic races of Jews and Arabs. Though "Tarshish" is not found on current maps, and commentators differ on their observations concerning this locality, the prophet Jeremiah spoke of the "silver [which is] spread into plates brought from Tarshish" (ch. 10:9), and Ezekiel referred to Tarshish as a "merchant by reason of the multitude of all kind of riches: with silver, iron, tin and lead, they traded in thy fairs" (ch. 27:12). Isaiah referred to the "ships of Tarshish" (ch. 2:16). Obviously it was a place of mineral wealth, associated with valuable metals, and whose people traded with shipping — all pointing to the British Isles.



Since the Bible speaks of Tarshish in a context of current events it must be geographically identified with some area today, and we believe that this should be Great Britain, which clearly continues the tradition of historical

Tarshish as the great trading power of the world. As we will show later, Bible prophecies concerning Tarshish apply to the Anglo-American nations which constitute the powers of the West.

Roman Influence in the British Isles

It was in BC55 when Julius Caesar, having consolidated the Roman position in France, coveted the strategic and renowned white cliffs, known nowadays as the White Cliffs of Dover, situated just across the narrow channel. He invaded Britain, and brought its inhabitants under the rule of Rome. These were the days when Queen Boadicea claimed her place of fame in history.

The early Britons were a superstitious people, and eventually, whatever form of true religion had survived from the days of Noah, was replaced with the Religion of the Druids — a pagan worship which involved human sacrifice. Stonehenge, with its massive pillars of stone on the Salisbury Plain, is a fragment in stone testifying to its religious corruptions.

Then came the Romans with a new set of pagan idols to worship. Historical records show that where Westminster Abbey stands today, there was originally a temple dedicated to the god Apollo. St. Paul's Cathedral is built upon the ancient site of a temple to Diana, a famous goddess of Grecian times.

Roman rule lasted for five centuries. By AD450, the survival of Rome itself became more important, and rulership over the islands was relinquished.

When Paganism Took on the Guise of Christianity

But, in the strange events of history, the Roman Empire had changed its gods. In AD313, the emperor Constantine converted overnight to a so-called "christian," and his people followed suit.

Throughout the first 300 years of the proclamation of Christianity, there was a steady decline in the manner in which followers adhered to the faith. The apostle Paul predicted that there was to develop a "man of sin" who would elevate himself as a "god" among men (see 2Thessalonians 2:1-4). Even in the days of the apostle this "mystery of iniquity did already work" (v. 7) within the Christian community, and it was out of these circumstances that the universal Roman Catholic apostasy eventually appeared. Paul goes on to speak of the time when "that Wicked" would "be revealed."

He prophesied of the appearance of the Church of Rome which commenced at the time of Constantine, and would continue until the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Bible reveals that at Christ's second advent, he "shall consume [*that system of apostasy*] with the spirit of his mouth and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming" (v. 8). The return of the Lord Jesus Christ will remove forever the blight of a religious system that has destroyed the faith of millions and has turned the light of Truth into a path of death.

Britain was also overshadowed by this religious apostasy when Catholic teachings were implanted there in the early centuries. The new "christian" religion grew apace. Churches were built and decorated by an assortment of idols representing patron saints, under whose supposed guardianship the business of the church flourished. There are still the ruins of these churches in various parts of the British Isles.

A Mixed Community becomes a Kingdom

In due time the islands were invaded by Saxons, who were of Germanic origin, and conquered parts of the island in the fifth and sixth centuries. Their influence became very marked, until eventually the nation of England was established.

Now the matter of religion became important for the Britons. King Ethelbert was converted to Catholicism by Augustine, a monk from Rome. Like the Roman Constantine before, the British Ethelbert became a "christian" overnight; whereupon all his courtiers claimed to be christians also. After which, ten thousands of his subjects followed suit.

But were they really followers of Bible Truth?

- Did they believe in the second coming of Christ, to reign as king in Jerusalem over the whole earth, as the Bible declares (see Jeremiah 3:17)?
- Did they acknowledge One God, as taught by Scripture (see Mark 12:32; 1Timothy 2:5; James 2:19), rejecting the error of trinitarianism?
- Did they uphold Bible teaching that followers of Christ must not be involved in warfare, as is stated in Matthew 12:19 and 2Timothy 2:24?
- Did they believe in the resurrection as the way to a future life, rejecting the pagan idea of an immortal soul in human beings (see 1Corinthians 15:12-13)?
- Then, if enlightened in the things of the Truth, were they

baptized by full immersion in water, as Paul plainly instructs (see Romans 6:3-4)?

No!

The Saxons and Anglo-Saxons did not become true followers of Christ. They became Catholic apostates, following the "Man of Sin" established in Rome, and thus their beliefs were plainly a distortion of the Faith.

Britain Renounces Catholicism, but Retains its Teaching

England later separated from the Church of Rome, but it was not on the basis of Bible Truth — it was because of unlawful personal passion. Henry VIII of England wanted to divorce his wife and marry another. When the Pope refused his request, King Henry declared himself the Head of the Catholic Church in England, and reformed it as the Church of England.

The Pope was angered when informed of Henry's divorce and remarriage. He recommended an arrangement whereby Henry could keep his wife, and have a mistress. The Pope had already made such a suggestion to the King of France, and considered that it was working satisfactorily in his case — so much for the morality of the Pope in Rome!

But King Henry refused.

Thus, the separation of the Church of England from Rome was not for disagreement of doctrine, but merely for authority. It inherited the same catholic errors of immortality of the soul, heaven-going at death, supernatural devil, saintship of individuals, eternal torture in hell, transubstantiation in the Eucharist, and so on.

This is the shadow over Britain, and remains to this day.

Henry VIII died in AD1547, and was followed by Edward VI, who only reigned for six years, but in that time progressed the Protestant religion. Roman images, which the people had gradually come to accept and worship, were removed from the churches; the people were told they need not confess themselves to priests unless they so chose; a Common Prayer Book was issued in the English language.

Then came Mary to the throne. She cruelly endeavored to bring catholicism back as the State-religion of England, with full allegiance to the Pope.

In *A Child's History of England* (1840), the famous author and historian, Charles Dickens, wrote: "The prisons were soon filled with the chief Protestants who were there left, rotting in darkness, hunger, dirt and separation from their friends."

But Mary failed in her endeavors to bring the Catholic Faith back to England, for God had a different part for Britain to play in the latter-day restoration of Israel to their ancient homeland — and this involved the publication of the Bible in the English language, so that it would be made available to the common man and woman. This would never have come about if the Church of Rome continued its religious hold on Britain.

Britain Commences its Path to World Power

It was about this time that England began a remarkable surge for international influence that allowed its power to rule supreme throughout the earth for many centuries. Its explorers travelled abroad across the seas, and brought countries around the globe under its powerful rule. In 1583-4 the first English colonies were established in America. A few years later, concurrently with the Spanish war, England occupied Ireland. Then, as the 1600's opened, the Scottish king, James VI was crowned James I in England and the two realms were henceforth jointly known as **Great Britain**, though the union was not made formal for another century. English colonization of North America began a few years later when the Pilgrim Fathers sailed in the *Mayflower*, to land in Massachusetts.

About ten years later, the English occupied sections of the West Indies, such as, Bermuda and the Bahamas. They also took control of the Guinea coast in Africa, a valuable territory for slave trading purposes.

In the mid-seventeenth century, British infiltration into India began in earnest. In 1655, the English took control of Jamaica. As a result of the Seven Years' War in 1756, most of France's colonial possessions were taken over by Britain; Quebec fell in 1758, then Montreal and the route to the Great Lakes in 1760, and also Senagambia in West Africa in 1780. Then, under the leadership of the young Robert Clive, in the service of the *East India Company*, India was brought completely under British power. Further south, in 1770, Captain James Cook landed at

Botany Bay in Australia, and planted the British flag on its soil. In 1877 the Boer republic of Transvaal was occupied by the British, and became known as South Africa. Cyprus was added to its colonies, whilst in the east the island of Hong Kong also came under English control.

Soon the power of Great Britain was able to make the proud boast that the “sun never set upon the British Empire.”

Another Shadow Appears

But the power of Britain was again to wane. Unable to maintain control of its far-flung possessions, the empire began to disintegrate, with the American colonies revolting in the War of Independence, and other countries seceding from the empire, or being granted independent dominion status.

The further decline of Britain in the twentieth century by economic depression can be linked with its refusal to grant the Jews entry into their homeland during the Second World War — notwithstanding the fact that England had earlier issued the famous *Balfour Declaration* confirming Jewish right to such a homeland. God had declared to the father of the Jewish race: “I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee” (Genesis 12:3), and the effect of this statement is seen in the rise and fall of nations. Since the abandonment of its former antisemitic policy, Britain’s fortunes have again risen, though not to its former glory.

The future of Britain is closely linked in Scripture with the destiny and fortunes of the land of Israel and its people. God has destined Britain and its allies of the English-speaking world to be the overshadowing and protective power that will assist the Jews at the time of the restoration to their homeland, and later, at the return of their king: the Lord Jesus Christ (see Isaiah 60:9).

This change in fortunes has been an important fact in the history of Britain in accordance with the role mapped out in God’s purpose for the nations. Bible prophecy shows that there remains a further purpose for the British power to fulfil.

A Witness to Britain’s Role in the Latter Days

A remarkable man made his personal imprint upon the religious character of England in the nineteenth century. John Thomas was born at Hoxton Square, London, in 1805. He studied

medicine and obtained his doctorate in 1830. He emigrated to America in 1832, where he was resident until his death in 1871. Drawn by circumstances to consider the Bible, he made a lifelong study of its teachings, and committed himself to expounding its Truth whenever possible.

He visited Britain in 1848, 1862 and 1869. On his first visit to Glasgow he was asked to produce a book containing the substance of the startling Bible lectures he had been giving. Agreeing to do so, in 1849 he presented a treatise entitled *Elpis Israel* (meaning: "The Hope of Israel") to the British public, and the volume is still available today from the publishers of this booklet. In *Elpis Israel* the author presents the restoration of the nation of Israel as fundamental to the second coming of Jesus Christ, and identifies the British power as being instrumental to that end. On pages 441-442 he wrote:

"There is then, a partial and primary restoration of Jews before the manifestation [of Christ] 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 colonisation 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 agriculturists and traders, in the hope of ultimately establishing their commonwealth..."

"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 civilisation 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 colonisation 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 circumstances, heaven and earth combined, could not move them to attempt."

Remember, these words were written in 1849. Even though no evidence was then apparent to support his prognostications, subsequent events proved its worth. Britain played a significant

and vital part in freeing the Holy Land from the oppressing Turk, and World War I concluded with Britain in occupation of the Middle East, and Palestine freed of the invader. In 1917, the British Parliament approved the Balfour Declaration, providing Palestine as a homeland for Jewry, and plans were put in motion for the eventual return of many Jews in dispersion. This laid the foundation for the re-establishment of the modern State of Israel, in 1948.

The Continuing Witness

The preaching work of Dr. Thomas was continued by believers who were similarly excited about the fulfilment of Bible prophecy. Christadelphian communities throughout the world, maintain this witness, convinced that the return of the Lord Jesus Christ is imminent.

The Bible clearly states that Christ is coming back to the earth. The testimony of the angels to disciples, who watched him ascend to heaven two thousand years ago, is: *"Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven"* (Acts 1:11). The words are emphatic, and cannot be misunderstood. Those who teach otherwise are casting their own shadow over the true evidence of the Bible.

Christ will establish a worldwide kingdom upon the foundation of present nations. There will be a mile-square glorious temple constructed in Jerusalem as the "throne of the Lord," described by the prophet Ezekiel in his last eight chapters. At that time a divine infallible law will proceed from Christ's centre in Zion, and his instruction will emanate from Jerusalem (see Isaiah 2:2-4), and all mankind will learn of the righteous ways of Almighty God.

But before all this happens, great changes must take place. The shadow of ignorance that affects all nations will be removed. The prophet Isaiah teaches that Christ *"will destroy in this mountain the face of the covering cast over all people, and the vail that is spread over all nations"* (ch. 25:7). The mountain spoken of is Zion, and the teachings of Jesus Christ and his followers will bring clarity of mind and a desire for truth in the peoples of the world to accept the wisdom and law that will then be set up.

Then the shadow of Rome will no longer rest over Britain.

It will be delivered from the religious and political errors of the past, and acknowledge the rulership of the Lord Jesus Christ.

How will this come about?

To answer this we must consider some of the prophetic statements concerning Britain identified by certain Bible terms.

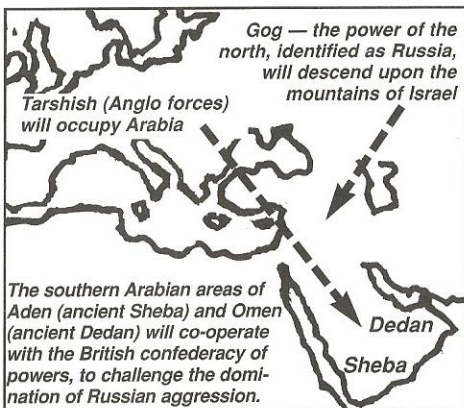
Prophecies Concerning Latter-day Britain

Ezekiel 38:13 speaks of the future purpose of God with Britain. The prophecy is set against the background of a world-wide confrontation that will occur in the "latter days" between three great powers that have been developing over many centuries.

One of these is called "*Gog*" (v. 2); the second is a group of powers known as "*Sheba, and Dedan, and the merchants of Tarshish, with all the young lions thereof*" (v. 13); whilst the third force is described as "*the fury of God*" (v. 18). These three powers are destined to play out the great contest of the last days that will determine where true authority should be seen, and introduce the new era of God's kingdom upon the earth.

It is therefore important to clearly understand who are these powers, and what is soon to occur.

The power of "*Gog*" refers to a confederation of nations headed by Russia, that will soon make its challenge for world domination by first seeking complete control of the Middle East



(see Daniel 11:41, and write to us for a free booklet explaining this particular subject). The identity of "*Sheba, Dedan, Tarshish, and the young lions*" must be applied to the Western Powers, known politically and economically as a merchant-lion power, which will

oppose the aggressive intentions of Russia.

The former universal conquests of Great Britain have put her into such a position of influence, that she can challenge Russia, and yet at the same time, because of recent weakening of her power, the challenge of the West is represented as a rather enfeebled attempt. The prophet describes their protest against the Russian Gog: "*Sheba, and Dedan, and the merchants of Tarshish, with all the young lions thereof, shall say unto thee, Art thou come to take a spoil? hast thou gathered thy company to take a prey? to carry away silver and gold, to take away cattle and goods, to take a great spoil?*" (Ezekiel 38:13).

But why are the combined Anglo powers of the West linked with Sheba and Dedan in that verse?

The Powers Identified

Sheba and *Dedan* are districts of southern Arabia, and scripturally described as being close to the countries of Africa and India which formerly were very prominent trading powers. In Ezekiel 27:22 they are said to be in commercial alliance with the power of Tyre. Verse 22 mentions that Sheba and Raamah (the original founders of the area, and ancestors of Sheba and Dedan: see Genesis 10:7) were: "*thy merchants: they occupied in thy fairs with chief of all spices, and with all precious stones, and gold.*" It is significant that the British planted their standard on the soil of Sheba at Aden, and their influence in that area has continued over the years.

And certainly, when Russia reveals its intentions to move south into the Middle East, the authorities in Saudi Arabia will seek, and obtain, the support of the West. Appropriately, the Anglo/American powers already have vested commercial and military installations in the areas of Sheba and Dedan, known today as Aden and Omen.

Notice again the second identification: "*the merchants of Tarshish.*" There was another ancient area mentioned in the Bible under this name. It was to the east of the Holy Land, in the area of India, where the ships of Solomon sailed from Ezion-geber (1Kings 10:22, a southern port in the gulf that leads to the Red Sea, and today known as Elat). This area is also closely linked with the history of Britain. The power of India was established

through the *British East India Company* of the past, in which the merchandise of the east was distributed.

The fact of Britain being a “merchant-power” should be noted. Britain is known as the “nation of shopkeepers,” and its commercial interests and influence throughout the world are still considerable. World commerce and shipping is still strongly channelled through British companies, and their trading ability is significant. Mr. Gottfried Bruder, one of London’s most senior foreign bankers and general manager of the London branch of *Commerzbank* declared in 1994: “London clearly retains its pre-eminent position as the European, and international banking centre.” The Noel Alexander survey shows that by the end of 1993, a total of 514 foreign banks were operating in London, stating: “This outguns big centres such as New York and Tokyo, as well as rival European capitals... One conclusion from our survey must be that any bank that really wants to operate internationally must have a foothold in London.” Further: “London also takes the lion’s share — 65% — in new securities floated on the international bond markets, according to the Bank of England (*The Economist*). A further report by *Indec and Datastream* in 1995 indicates that of the top 500 European companies, 24 are listed in Switzerland, 67 in Germany, 23 in Italy, 74 in France, and over 185 in England. Without doubt, the British Isles are still at the helm of the business and commercial hub of world trading. It therefore fits the Biblical description of “Tarshish,” an outstanding universal trading power.

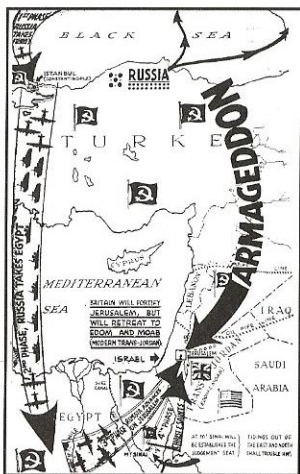
Now note the final definition of this power that will challenge Russia. Ezekiel says that it is associated with “*all the young lions thereof*” (ch. 38:13). The term “young lions” describes a family of virile, energetic animals — and implies the existence of a mother lion. The nations that today form the Western Confederacy of English-speaking nations are of this breed. Nations such as America, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa — all of whom originated from the mother lion-power of Britain, have been flexing their individual muscles by independence, whilst the mother country has looked on, its influence weakening as the younger “lions” develop. This is exactly what has happened over the last few centuries.

And do not forget that the recognized political symbol of England is the "*Lion*." Posters in the two world wars prominently featured the lion of England; whilst the symbols of Russia are the Eagle and the Bear. Both *lion* and *bear* are shortly to combat each other in the greatest military crisis of the ages.

The Bible speaks about this worldwide conflagration as "*Armageddon*" (Revelation 16:15). It will occur in the area of Jerusalem, and draw all nations into the arena (Zechariah 14:2). Russia will be there with all its associates; Britain will be there with its "young lions" to support her position. But the Bible shows that in the conflict Russia will be temporarily successful. Daniel 11:44-45 says that on overcoming its opposition, the great power from the north will "*go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many. And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain.*" The attack will be venomous and absolute, as has occurred in Russian aggressions in the past. And, for a time it will be thought that its control is absolute. The prophecy that Russia will "plant the tabernacles of his palace" indicates that it will establish complete control in Jerusalem.

But where will the Anglo/American forces be at that time? Evidently, they will be forced back into the areas of Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and other Arabian areas. In that same Scripture, the Bible speaks of certain powers escaping out of the hand of Russia: "*even Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon*" (v. 41). Nations of these names do not exist today, but the areas formerly occupied by those powers can be identified (notice in that verse the prophet does not speak of peoples, but of countries). They constitute the Arabian lands east of Israel and the Jordan.

Bible prophecy shows that the initial challenge to Russian



domination in the Middle East will be made by the Western powers at Jerusalem (Zechariah 14:2), but they will be forced to retreat before the onslaught of the northern confederacy of troops, and take up defensive positions to the east of the river Jordan. They make a feeble attempt to counter the charge of Russia, but it will be the divine army of Jesus Christ that will destroy the forces of Russia. Ezekiel 38 declares of that contest: *"It shall come to pass at the same time when Gog shall come against the land of Israel, saith the Lord GOD, that My fury shall come up in My face. For in My jealousy and in the fire of My wrath have I spoken, Surely in that day there shall be a great shaking in the land of Israel"* (ch. 38:18-19). This challenge will be issued by Jesus Christ, who will have then returned to the earth, resurrected his followers, and constituted his divine army of immortal saints, in order to defeat the powers of the enemy and establish the kingdom of God throughout the world, as has been promised (Numbers 14:21).

What will then happen to the British and Allied Forces?

The Bible shows that the Western forces will be suitably humbled. Psalm 48:7 declares *"Thou breakest the ships of Tarshish with an east wind."* These words are set in a context of the future, for the next verse continues: *"As we have heard, so have we seen in the city of the LORD of hosts, in the city of our God: God will establish it for ever. Selah."* Thus, before the city of Jerusalem is established as the centre of the future world kingdom, there will be a national judgment on "Tarshish" — a figurative name for the Western powers headed up by Britain. To be "broken by an east wind" means that the power and influence of those nations will be greatly diminished. The former pride of the nations in their prowess, ability and ingenuity will be seen to be of no consequence.

When the divine army of Jesus Christ so soundly defeats the Russian confederacy in Jerusalem, that *"he shall come to his end, and none shall help him"* (Daniel 11:45), the governments of the Western powers will offer their allegiance to the Lord Jesus Christ, and place their equipment to his use. Isaiah 60:9 says of that time, addressing the distressed people of dispersed Israel: *"Surely the isles shall wait for me, and the ships of Tarshish first,*

to bring thy sons from far, their silver and their gold with them, unto the name of the LORD thy God, and to the Holy One of Israel, because He hath glorified thee." The people of Israel will then be fully restored to their ancient homeland, under the direction of the great king, Jesus Christ, and the means by which this will be achieved will be provided by the transportation of the Western powers. Elevated to a position of favour and friendship with Christ and the nation of Israel, Britain will have an important role to play in the future, assisting in the restoration of the Jewish community, and the preparation of the world for the divine government to be introduced by the Lord Jesus.

Again, it is significant that Britain holds the key to the shipping arrangements of the world, and is renowned in mercantile fleets. Such equipment will be diverted from their normal trading for a special purpose: to convey the "sons of Israel" from the lands of the Gentiles, where the majority of Jews still reside, in order to take up their place in the land of Israel.

This grand purpose of God is definite and sure. The Bible has been proven accurate in all its prophecies of past events, and therefore gives assurance that its declarations concerning the future will likewise be fulfilled exactly as declared.

Shadows Lifted from Civilisation

In fact, the return of Christ and the introduction of his Truth are the only hope for mankind. A shadow not only exists over Britain because of the false teachings of religion that have been introduced into that country in the past, but also over the rest of the world. Civilisation has removed itself from the purity of worship that existed in the days of Noah. It has fallen into disrepute through wickedness, immorality and irreligion. The shadow of sin covers humanity, so that it is in vital need of redemption. Such a redemption is offered in the Scriptures, but only upon the terms of repentance and commitment.

Jesus Christ declared: *"He that believeth and is baptised shall be saved; he that believeth not shall be condemned"* (Mark 16:16). The former class are those who are prepared to read the Bible with unbiased minds, rejecting the false traditions of a religion that destroys, and casting aside a way of life that refuses the morality and graciousness set by the Creator Himself. Having

learnt of God's ways, the seeker of righteousness will then submit to baptism by undertaking the scriptural method of full immersion in water upon a confession of belief.

This is an important ritual, for it publicly demonstrates that the individual has put aside the "*vail of ignorance*" of former ways of life in order to be "covered" with the redemption offered in Jesus Christ. Of this Paul testifies: "*As many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ*" (Gal. 3:27).

Notice the specific term used. To "put on" Christ means to be covered by his righteousness. Such people can look forward to the coming of Christ with confidence and hope. They are offered positions of glory and honour to be granted to the faithful by the Lord Jesus when he takes up his dominion over all the earth.

The Bible speaks of the great joy that will be expressed in song by those who are redeemed from sin and death at that time. They will declare to their Lord and Master: "*Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth*" (Revelation 5:9-10). They will assist the Lord Jesus in bringing wisdom, truth and blessings to the world. Then, all mankind will rejoice in the wise administration of the Lord Jesus Christ.

It will be the time for which this weary world has waited for six thousand years, and will introduce a millennium of glory, peace and security, that will provide the answer to every problem, personal or social. It is to this end that this booklet is placed into your hands.

Having read this article, you may desire further information concerning this or any other Bible subject. Please write to the address on the outside cover, or to the editor. Questions upon the Bible are also welcome, and can be addressed to the *Editor, Herald of the Coming Age, Box 220, Findon, South Australia 5023*.

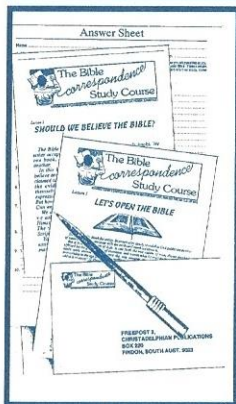
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CHRIST

The King

His Mission, Mercy and Majesty

THE Lord Jesus Christ was born to be king — but the generation that witnessed his work and heard his message refused to believe in him, and crucified their king. They thought that they had removed his influence, but they were wrong. God raised His Son from the dead, and drew him into heaven until the set time when the Lord Jesus Christ will return to take up his rightful authority, and reign as king over the whole earth. Read the facts in this free booklet — today!



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CHRIST, THE KING

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THE CHRISTADELPHIANS

...or, as the name implies, the Brethren of Christ (Hebrews 2:11), are a body of people associated together by a belief in the things concerning the Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ (Acts 8:12); and by immersion into Christ (Galatians 3:27) for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38) and identification with his resurrection (Romans 6:5).

They do not profess to have received any new revelation, but hold that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are able to make a person wise unto salvation (2Timothy 3:15-17). Believing in the divine authorship of the Bible, they think it only reasonable to reject any interpretation which fails to harmonise all the testimonies of the Holy Scriptures; and, finding that the creeds of the various existing religious groups are, in a great variety of ways, opposed to the direct teaching of the Bible, they feel compelled to stand apart, making appeal in all such matters to the statements of Scripture, and testing all teachings thereby.

They believe in the personal, visible return of Christ to the earth, to establish his power and reign as king throughout the world, and they seek to share this saving knowledge with others.

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