

The



Covenant Nations

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▲ The cedar of Lebanon in Kew Gardens, London, as used in the building of the temple by Solomon (I Kings 5:6-10).

◀ COVER PICTURE: The Houses of Parliament in front of Westminster Abbey representing the centre of government and worship in the covenant nations.

“The LORD God shall give unto Him the throne of His father David: and He shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of His kingdom there shall be no end” (Luke 1:32-33).

*Join us in the Great Cause
to Wake Up God’s
Covenant Nations!*

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Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in the articles are generally well-researched and considered. However, they do not necessarily reflect those of the publisher.

Israel blesses Jacob's two sons,
Ephraim and Manasseh (*Genesis 48*):

"... he also shall become a people, and he also shall be great: but truly his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his seed shall become a multitude of nations"
(*Genesis 48:19*).



Mount Rushmore National Memorial in South Dakota, USA.
George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt, Abraham Lincoln (*l to r*).

EDITORIAL

OUR BIRTHRIGHT HERITAGE

The key prophetic factor in Western Greatness

When the patriarch Jacob-Israel significantly crossed his arms over his grandsons, Ephraim and Manasseh, watched by Joseph their father (then prime minister of Egypt under Pharaoh), Joseph respectfully pointed out to Israel, whose eyes were dim, that his right hand bestowing the **birthright** blessing was laid upon Ephraim the younger son and not Manasseh (*Genesis* 48:8-14). This was the key prophetic moment in the heritage of the peoples in the West as they have developed over the past two centuries.

The patriarch of our peoples made it very clear to Joseph that he well knew what he was doing as he laid his hand on Ephraim, saying of Manasseh, “*he also shall be great: but truly his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his seed shall become a multitude of nations*” (*Genesis* 48:19). The Hebrew word here for ‘greater’ is *gadal*, meaning greater in prestige. This is the basic factor of the prophetic story witnessed in the emerging greatness of Britain and the USA.

The British Empire and Commonwealth, truly a “company of nations” with a Christian throne at its centre, was unmistakeable as a fulfilment of what Jacob-Israel prophesied of Joseph’s sons in Egypt. The patriarch, let us remember, had communed with God at Bethel (God’s house) where the Almighty revealed to him the ultimate long-term expansion resulting in a “*nation and company of nations*” symbolized by the stone which Jacob anointed (*Genesis* 35:11-15). There is only one prestigious throne in the world symbolized by a stone where the monarchs are also anointed – and that is the British Royal Throne.

It really is high time that the Protestant Church matured to understand the import of the nation-state Kingdom Gospel – if they believe the Word of God as they profess so to do. It is manifestly clear that God’s great plan for Israel began to emerge in the world from Elizabethan times and particularly from the nineteenth century and the expiry of the 2,520-year “Seven Times” chastisement period set down by God for Israel (*Leviticus* 26:18, 21 and 24).

The trouble is the shepherds of the national flock are wrapped up with false Replacement Theology, the dogma that God has replaced the kingdom of Israel with ‘the Church.’ If the Protestant Church is going to hold-out on this fact for the lost cause of ecumenical ‘Christianity’ with Rome, then it will have to accept the fate of the church at Laodicea – a spewing from the mouth by the Returning Christ (*Revelation* 3:14-16).

The founding of the United States of America, along with the emerging British Empire on biblical law and faith, sprang forth from the British Isles and the eight great covenants made between God and His servant people. This has happened only once in the history of the world. The opening up of the wilderness continents was a fulfilment of the prophetic vision granted to the patriarch Jacob-Israel and should be recognized as such.

The magnificent sculpture carved into the granite face at the Mount Rushmore National Memorial, of four presidents of the United States (shown opposite), is uniquely symbolic of the great Republic and its Constitution. “We the People,” the People of the Book that were to rise as two great nations. A prestigious

kingdom and a superpower, in the Age-end period – an essential part of the **birthright** heritage of Joseph’s double blessing, or double portion, in his sons Ephraim and Manasseh.

The chief problem under the Articles of Confederation setting up the great people of the United States was, in the words of George Washington, “no money.” In the world of 1787, the United States could not defend its sovereignty as an independent nation. The Continental Congress could print money but by 1786 the currency was worthless – ‘*not worth a Continental*’ being the popular phrase at the time. On 21 February, 1787, the American Congress called a Convention of state delegates at Philadelphia to propose a plan for government.

Although the Grand Convention resulted in the United States Constitution of 17 September, 1787, the problem of money creation has never been fully resolved. With the centenary of the US Federal Reserve being passed on 23 December, 2013, there are now increasing calls for a new Convention to debate the US\$17.3 trillion national debt.

The United Kingdom also has a record national debt of £1.3 trillion (£4.8 trillion when including all liabilities). The 800th anniversary in June 2015 of the signing of the *Magna Carta*, the Great Charter of freedom against arbitrary power wielded by a tyrant – on which the US Constitution was partly based – is significant. Eight is the number of renewal and resurrection and together with the key prophetic factor of our **birthright** heritage, the hope is that an ‘exodus’ from *prophetic* Egypt and the slavery of debt for our two great nations is approaching.

THE WIND OF CHANGE



The Union Buildings, Pretoria

In life the only true constant we will ever encounter, is God. God has never changed nor will He ever change. He is the great Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End. This is very fortunate for mankind, because when it comes to mankind there are very few constants you will ever find amongst people. In the world today, the only real certainty is change. This expression is often used by people who cannot give any sure guarantees to their promises or by those that realize that they are not always in complete control of the circumstances they encounter. Change in this world is inevitable, because this world is only temporary and by Divine ordination, the world we see around us will have to give way to the New Kingdom to come. As the day of the Second Coming draws nearer, the world will be experiencing change both more rapidly and more frequently. The Lord Jesus likened these changes to the birth pains of a woman and warned us to expect

these unsettling events as the day of His Return approaches. The Lord told His disciples to look at the signs in the world and the changes within the seasons as indicators of when the time of His return is at hand (*Matthew 24:6, I Thessalonians 5:3*).

On 3 February 1960, one such sign was broadcast to an unsuspecting world and from that day onward, the world would never be quite the same again. The sign I am referring to was the infamous “Wind of Change” speech by British Prime Minister, Harold Macmillan in Cape Town, South Africa. Although eloquently delivered, this speech spelled out dire consequences for millions of people throughout Africa and also effectively announced not only the end of Christian rule in Africa, but also the steady decline of Israelite control, by means of religious, social and moral governance throughout the rest of the world. *“The wind of change is blowing through this continent, whether we like it or not,*

this growth of national consciousness is a political fact.” With these words Harold Macmillan sought to justify Britain’s hasty relinquishing of her colonies in Africa.

For centuries Great Britain was always considered to be the moral compass by which the world was steered and rightly so. It was after all Great Britain that controlled most of the world and thus the Gospel was able to be preached to the majority of people from different nations all over the world. This brought about peace and stability the likes of which have never been known before and many primitive cultures benefited greatly by the modern advances brought to them by the British. In doing so, Israel was fulfilling her destiny. Unfortunately the two world wars in the first half of the twentieth century brought an abrupt end to that global institution.

After the Second World War, Britain, along with the rest of Europe,

was struggling to put the pieces back together of the most devastating conflict in human history. The war was especially crippling for Britain and her vast Empire. Britain was going to struggle in maintaining her massive empire and, as a direct consequence of the aftermath of the war, a fatal political decision was made to relinquish all the British-held colonies in Africa and the Far East. In order to camouflage the real reason for this radical change in policy, post-war politicians sought to promote the euphemistical idea of independence to these colonies. Whether this radical move was justified or not or even in the best interest of the people living in these colonies, it was of little concern to the government of the day. As to be expected, this hasty decision played right into the hands of the Soviet Union who, under the ruthless leadership of Stalin, sought nothing less than world domination. Africa was ripe for the picking. The only country that stood in the Soviet Union's way of complete domination in Africa was South Africa.

South Africa has always differed from the other countries in Africa in the sense that it has benefited from a relatively large white population, known as the Afrikaner. South Africa also had a strong, independent economy that allowed it to be the strongest in Africa and even one of the strongest in the Southern Hemisphere. The majority of the white population in South Africa could trace back their ancestry to the first Dutch settlers and French Huguenots of over three centuries ago. To most of the Afrikaners, however, South Africa has always been the country of their forefathers, with little or no ties with their European ancestors. By contrast with the rest of the white settlers in the British colonies, the Afrikaner had their own unique culture, language, traditions and their own Bible, written in their own language. The Afrikaner thus had very few direct ties to Europe

and as a consequence, Europe was as foreign to them as the pagan ways of the black tribes living in the rest of Africa. Since the Anglo-Boer war (1899–1902) and the subsequent formation of the Union of South Africa in 1910, there had been an ever increasing nationalist drive amongst Afrikaners to gain complete independence from Britain. The followers of the Republic ideal scored their first major success when the National Party won the general election of 1948. The National Party won the election mainly on the promise that they would institute a policy called "Apartheid." Today the word Apartheid is unfortunately synonymous with oppression and discrimination, yet in 1948 the meaning and intent behind the "Apartheid-policy" was completely the opposite. The word Apartheid quite literally means "separateness" or "to be set apart." In the official statutes of the government, the policy was referred to as "Separate Development" and that would probably be the most accurately descriptive term of what the policy really encompassed.

Since Africa's colonization in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, racial segregation had always been maintained in some form or the other and this was the conservative status quo until after the Second World War. The post-war years saw a wave of liberalism engulfing most of the Western world and suddenly traditional and conservative governance had to give way to new liberal and, in some cases, unbiblical thinking. As it happens, liberalist views often tend to come in conflict with the Word of God and His Law and nowhere in history was this more apparent than in the post-war years. South Africa's National Party entered a rapidly changing world with a policy that would soon bring the country in conflict with the liberal leaders of the world and with de-colonizing Africa. For the Afrikaner in South Africa, this was of little consequence at the time, since

they sought to be independent from the rest of the world and not to be pulled into the liberals' camp, which they viewed with great dismay. The Afrikaner has always been a very conservative people who have traditionally been held together by their unshakeable faith in the God of Israel. Any deviation from those ideals was considered to be a betrayal to their faith and way of life.

On 20 January 1960, the Prime Minister of South Africa, Dr Hendrik Verwoerd, announced to a stunned audience in parliament that he intended to move forward on the long cherished Republic-ideal by way of a referendum in October of that year. This announcement came whilst Harold Macmillan was making his way to South Africa on an official month long state-tour through Africa. His last stop on the tour would be South Africa and as he later admitted, this visit was to be the most difficult one of all. Harold Macmillan knew that he was going to be the bearer of bad news to a country who had had a long and at times difficult history with Britain, but who at the same time had also proved to be a great ally to Britain in the last two world wars. The "Wind of Change" speech was met with mixed reaction. For the Liberalists and those already in the Communist camp, the speech gave them the much needed ammunition to pursue their self-righteous agenda for a new world order. To some the speech had an ominous overtone that could not be ignored, but to an enlightened few, the "Wind of Change" speech was to be the start of a biblical-era known as "The Time of Jacob's Trouble" (*Jeremiah 30:7*). As the children of Jacob, in hindsight we certainly see this to be the case, but when Harold Macmillan delivered his speech few could really imagine the world we live in today. To the Whiteman in Africa, his speech came as a rude awakening, since it conveyed in no uncertain terms the fact that Britain was severing its ties with its kins-

men living in Africa, who were now seen as *'dispensable.'* The English-speaking population in South Africa was especially dismayed by this announcement, since the majority of them considered themselves loyal subjects of the Crown. In a passionate reply to Harold Macmillan's speech, Dr Verwoerd argued that justice to all in Africa should also include justice to the Whiteman of Africa, who brought civilization and Christianity to the Dark Continent and who made Africa their home. *"This is our home, we have nowhere else to go. We are here to stay..."* was Dr Verwoerd's uncompromising message to the world. As a positive result of Harold Macmillan's speech, the traditional division between Afrikaner and Englishmen started to grow narrower and as a result, the referendum of October 1960 delivered the much coveted "Yes" vote that was needed for the Union of South Africa to become the Republic of South Africa.

As the wind of change swept through the rest of Africa, it left only destruction and chaos in its wake. Africa was supposed to have freedom from colonial rule, but instead Africa was being strangled by tyranny in the form of Communism. Thousands of people died in the bloodshed and chaos that accompanied their so-called independence from Britain and the rest of Europe, with millions more eventually being plunged into misery, starvation and suppression as the infrastructure of these countries started to collapse. Once vibrant countries fell into massive decay, leaving their ignorant inhabitants in dire straits. Missionaries of the Gospel encountered terrible scenes of destruction and hardship wherever they went and in many cases they themselves fell victim to the evil and brutality of Communism, bent on eradicating any Christian or European influence in these newly enslaved countries. Many British and European settlers had to watch in horror as their farms

and property were confiscated by angry mobs of Africans, already corrupted under the influence and control of the Communist-yoke. Many of these settlers and their families were mercilessly slain on the very farms where generations of their people produced from the land the food needed to sustain these countries and their numerous inhabitants. Many fled to South Africa, where the new republic promised hope to the Whiteman of Africa who, according to Harold Macmillan, was found to be *'dispensable'* in the eyes of Britain and the rest of the world.



Few people in Britain could have realized how this callous attitude towards their fellow kinsmen would eventually have serious repercussions for them in their own country and ultimately lead to the present time of "Jacob's trouble." As more countries gained their independence from Britain and Europe, the more opposition was gained against Christianity and the Israelite world of the West. The United Nations Organization became the platform from where relentless attacks were launched against the Western powers in order for them to give in to a more secular and indeed atheist approach to world affairs. Suddenly the Western world found itself dancing to the tune of pagan nations who gladly took hands with the Communist to further their own greedy ambitions. More and more Ephraim-Britain and Manasseh-America were forced to abandon

their prophetic calling to be a light and blessing to this world, cohering in adopting a policy of appeasement and in embracing multiculturalism in all its destructive forms. This has left Britain and America both morally weak and exposed to their enemies, who are showing no sign of abandoning their insidious aim towards a "One World Order."

As for South Africa, she carried the torch for Christianity and Freedom in Africa for decades after the wind of change started sweeping through Africa and the rest of the world. Unfortunately, in the aftermath of Dr Verwoerd's assassination in September 1966, South Africa never fully recovered from the tragic loss of her uncompromising, yet greatly revered leader. A succession of weak, unprincipled leaders ensured that South Africa would slowly follow Britain and America down the path of appeasement and compromise and where the policy of Apartheid was meant to ensure freedom, security and development to all the inhabitants of South Africa, it resulted in South Africa being ostracized from the rest of the Western world who still thought it necessary to sacrifice the Whiteman of Africa to gain favour with the pagan nations of the world. The wind of change is still blowing, not only in Africa, but indeed the whole world and thus we can only speculate on what the next change will bring. In this unsettling time of constant change, and in the state of moral decline in which most of Israel are currently in, we can still take comfort in the words of the prophet Hosea who encouraged a wounded Israel to look to their unchanging God to restore peace and order to them in an ever-changing world:

"Come, and let us return unto the LORD: for He hath torn, and He will heal us; He hath smitten, and He will bind us up" (Hosea 6:1).

BRENTON BSHOFF

SHARING THE ISRAEL TRUTH

Explain the message in less than a minute

One of the most challenging conversations faced by believers in the Israel Truth is with sceptical friends who want a quick and easy way to grasp this subject. Many of us have struggled to find a way to explain our beliefs without going in to the complexities of biblical prophecy and history. How can the interest of these friends be held and stimulated so that they want to delve deeper and deeper into the Word of God? Is it possible to witness to God's great plan in just a few minutes?

Here is the answer to the problem and to these questions.

The simple way of sharing the Israel truth takes the three 'facts' that most people assume and then gives them the fourth fact which is the answer:

1. The Jews are all the twelve tribes – **but** the Chief Rabbi of London and the *Jewish Encyclopaedia* say that the Jews are Judah, Benjamin and the Levites.
2. The ten tribes went into captivity and God destroyed them all – **but** read *Romans* 11:1, "*I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid.*"
3. The ten tribes are somewhere in the world today – **this is the only way to understand the Bible.**
4. The Church replaces Israel, i.e. 'Replacement Theology' – there is no scriptural evidence for this teaching.

The most effective way is to go through the points in this order: '**1; 2; 4; and then 3.**' This leaves your friends with the thought that "Yes, indeed the ten tribes must be in the world today.' They will want to know: Where are they? Who are they? What clues are in the Bible? What clues are in history? How has God kept His promises?

For the answers to these questions, and many others, tell your friends to go to

www.britishisrael.co.uk

and follow the links to the books, magazine and all the publications.

DAVID AIMER



THE FOUR GOSPELS

Complementary — not contradictory

Another winter has come and gone and we look forward in anticipation to the longer days of daylight and an end to the dark winter nights. Winter crops have arisen from their state of tick-over and now proceed to their coming state of maturity while it is now time to sow the seeds of the summer produce in the re-awakening soil.

Some people find the winter months rather sad or even depressing but I think of it as a time of rest prior to renewal and the blossoming of the new life to come, a kind of resurrection from death to new life in the natural world. There is, in compensation, great beauty in the colours of the woodlands as the leaves of the numerous types of trees turn from their various shades of green to all the glorious shades of gold, bronze, red, orange and yellow of their autumn colours. It can be a wonderful sight with a great beauty of its own. Some may think of it as a sign of death but really it is not, it is more like an annual change of garment. The old garment has served its purpose so it is cast off in anticipation

of the coming refurbishment in the new year. This happens, too, in the animal kingdom where there is this renewal process through the shedding of coats or skins. They effectively reach their natural use-by date and are automatically replaced.

It is all part of the wonder and design of God's creation. His recycling process ensures also that nothing is wasted, no unsightly and harmful packaging is left to contaminate His earth, it is all reused and serves a purpose in the continuity of natural life. The whole process is self-perpetuating, designed to be the nutrients of life and providing the necessary nourishment for every living creature that inhabits the earth.

All creatures matter to the Lord; if just one sparrow falls dead to the ground He knows about it. And we are no less important to Him for, indeed, we are a special creation and in a covenant relationship with God. We are the beneficiaries of promises made to our forefathers, to Adam, to Noah and to Abraham; promises whose fulfilment is made possible

only through the birth, death and resurrection of that One Whose advent we celebrated back in December. It should be a time of joy, of hope, of peace of mind, in the knowledge that God did not spare the life of His only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, but gave Him to be a ransom for our sinful nature. Thus by God's grace we have the promise of eternal life, either in a resurrection body after our physical demise or in a transformed or refurbished and purified body if we are still alive at His second advent. This is an outcome of greater significance and for a higher purpose than we see in the annual regeneration process of the natural world, whose examples I have already referred to.

This earth is a habitat for all living creatures including mankind. But man is a higher order of creation and was, as we read in *Genesis*, given dominion over all other creatures. This was not a licence to exploit them for his own selfish ends but a responsibility for their welfare and coexistence in a harmonious habitation. Failure to comply with this



obligation was a contributory factor in man's fall from grace. Showing such disdain for his privileged position on the earth proved him to be unworthy of the trust God had conferred upon mankind and brought God's judgment upon him.

Abraham proved worthy of that trust in his great faithfulness and obedience to God and his grandson, Jacob, had his name changed to Israel which means 'ruling with God.' The very name of the people descended from Jacob's twelve sons proclaimed their Divine purpose, the reason for their very existence, which was to be God's instrument in reconciling fallen mankind to Himself. In spite of their chequered history and banishment from the Promised Land they would continue to be, even if blindly, that instrument in the purposes of God. From the small number of those who returned to Jerusalem from their captivity in Babylon Mary and Joseph were descended. Thus the boy child born to Mary proved to be the promised Messiah foretold by the prophets, and proclaimed as such by John the Baptist.

The four gospel writers give us the familiar accounts of the life of Jesus, from His miraculous birth to His unique powers, His ministry of healing and teaching and subsequent crucifixion at Calvary. Critics, and there have been many of them, declare that these four gospel writers do not all agree in their accounts, that there are numerous discrepancies which cast doubt on their reliability. But these doubters merely display their own lack of understanding and shallow thinking on the subject. Matthew, Mark, Luke and John were no less inspired in their writings than were the prophets of old. They were inspired to record the life and teaching of Jesus Christ from different angles and with different emphases, portraying Him in the different roles He played in the great master plan of the ages.

If the critics even used some common sense and compared these four gospel writers to, for example, four spectators at a football match, it would be reasonable to expect some variations in the accounts they would give. If two spectators were picked from behind the two goal areas and two more were chosen from each side at the centre of the football pitch they would inevitably give different opinions about the match, seeing it from these four different perspectives. They would agree on the names of the two teams; they would agree on the final score at the end of the game. But they would likely disagree on the decisions of the referee and they would disagree on the tactics of the players on the field. But these discrepancies in such accounts would not cause any disquiet among football supporters, they would be accepted as just minor quibbles which could be ignored and not considered detrimental to the game.

"I am the resurrection
and the life"

John 11:25

When we study the four Gospels we should realise that they are not giving us a complete biography of Jesus Christ but rather a complete personality study. They all record the ministry of John the Baptist; likewise the feeding of the five thousand. They all record the betrayal by Judas; the denials of Peter; the trial, crucifixion and resurrection of Christ. The record is so made that it testifies to the death of our Lord as being the supreme purpose for which He came into this world.

We read in John's Gospel these words: "*And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of His*

disciples which are not written in this book." This being so, then, only those events, miracles and discourses of the Lord are selected which are needed for the presentation of Jesus and His ministry and which are most relevant and give emphasis to the particular object of each gospel.

So Matthew first introduces us to Jesus in His royal personality. He is the fulfilment of the prophecy of *Zechariah* chapter 9: "*Behold, thy King cometh unto thee...*" In the earthly sense His kingdom was inaugurated in the call of Abraham whose descendants were to become the kingdom of God. For that reason our Lord's genealogy is traced back to Abraham. But Matthew refers to the 'kingdom of heaven' while the other three gospel writers refer instead to the 'kingdom of God.' Jesus is the long expected Messiah, coming to redeem His people Israel. His authority is from God the Father in heaven so Matthew, in recognition of this, gives the origin of the kingdom as being of or from heaven. So it is limited in its scope whereas the kingdom of God in the other gospels does not have this limitation but confers God's sovereignty over all His creation. However Jesus is presented to us in this highest earthly position as our sovereign Lord to be worshipped and adored.

In Mark's Gospel we are presented with a contrast, the Lord as Jehovah's servant, again in fulfilment of prophecy in the words of *Isaiah* chapter 42: "*Behold my servant whom I uphold.....*" Jesus Himself said: "*For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto but to minister.*" So Mark's Gospel is one in which the good works of the Lord are presented rather than His words and teaching. As a servant he was of little account and therefore no genealogy was necessary. But 37 times the word 'immediately' (or 'straightway') occurs which is a practice of the faithful servant and the Lord, as in His other tasks,

would fulfil the duties of a servant with all diligence.

Luke presents the Lord as 'the man.' "*Behold the man whose name is the Branch*" as we read again in the prophecy of *Zechariah* chapter 6. (That reference to the Branch was a pointer to Nathan, another son of King David and the brother of Solomon. In the genealogy Mary's ancestry is traced back to Nathan so that Jesus was of the line of David and thus of the house of Judah in which was entrusted the royal line of the kingdom.) So Jesus is the perfect 'man,' the man without the stain of sin and worthy to be the Saviour of mankind. He therefore has a genealogy which goes right back to Adam, proving that He is of Adamic stock and is the fulfilment of the promise given to Adam in the familiar statement in *Genesis* 3:15. As Paul states in *I Corinthians* chapter 15: "*For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.*"

An important phrase in Luke's Gospel is the Lord's declaration: "*For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.*" He is the only man ever to have been conceived by the Holy Spirit, which ensured His sinless nature even though a descendant of Adam. Confirmation of this is seen in the Revelation which records the voices of the angelic host, proclaiming "*Worthy is the Lamb that was slain...*" in reference to Christ.

Luke was called by Paul in his letter to the Colossians the 'beloved physician.' So he was a doctor or healer and would be appreciative of the Lord's healing ministry. Only in *Luke* is the parable given of the good Samaritan and the evangelist gives more emphasis to the Lord's sympathetic approach to what were deemed to be the outcasts of that society. So here, again, we are given another facet of our Lord's personality. In John's Gospel we are introduced to Jehovah Himself. In the proph-

ecy of *Isaiah* chapter 40 the prophetic call is issued – "*Behold your God.*" So the writer begins with the declaration: "*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. All things were made by Him; and without Him was not any thing made that was made.*"

God existed before any thing was made so no genealogy would be relevant and none is given. Here is the personality of the Lord Jesus Christ revealed in all its majesty and power and this is how we should think of Him at all times today. Some modern thinkers suggest that Jesus should be brought down to our level, to be like one of us, in an effort to boost His popularity and increase church attendances. Well I do not agree and I see no evidence that it has worked anywhere. Anyway, Jesus has already done that; He was there in person two thousand years ago, and what happened? "*He was despised and rejected of men,*" as the prophet foretold. We do not need a 'hail-fellow-well-met' Jesus whom we can slap on the back. As the old saying goes – 'familiarity breeds contempt.' We need, instead, a powerful, just and responsible monarch to whom we can look up, showing awesome reverence, respect and devotion, in the knowledge that He is our Saviour and Lord. And it is He Who will come, no gentle Jesus, meek and mild, but one with high status and authority.

The Christmas festival has come and gone once more and Easter must follow; two festivals which, sadly, the commercial world exploits to the full for monetary gain. While I would not wish to condemn the enjoyment people obtain from these celebrations I think that the importance and significance of them for our spiritual and national life goes largely unappreciated. In a world which has so many problems we should be thankful that we are well blessed with the necessities of life

for there are so many in the world who lack the things we take for granted, who are beset by extremes of nature which frequently cause death and destruction. We should think of them and give whatever help we can. Christmas and Easter are special occasions and are, hopefully, times of blessing for us all.

More especially we should think of that distant family in Bethlehem two thousand years ago and what a great blessing that has been to all mankind, even if, sadly, the world seems increasingly unaware of it. The plan of salvation and redemption had to start with that event. But what it led to was what mattered and the gospel writers present us with four distinct aspects of the character of the Messiah in the fulfilment of His great mission to conquer sin and death and bring us the assurance of eternal life through simple but earnest faith in Him.

Our bodies are like garments which clothe and contain our spirits, that part of us which projects our personalities, that part of us which does not go into the grave but will remain to be rehoused in new garments which will be our resurrection bodies. What we see in the natural world is a pale reflection of what lies in store for us in the future. I cannot describe more clearly what that future will really be like and no one can. This is surely confirmed by the words of Paul who tells us "*eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him*" (*I Corinthians* 2:9).

But the words of the Lord to Martha are surely the basis of our faith when He affirmed to her "*I am the resurrection and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live*" (*John* 11:25).

ALFRED BROWN

BIWF SUMMER CONVENTION 2014

“Where is the Watchman on the Wall?”

The theme of the Summer Convention of the British-Israel-World Federation this year poses the question which needs to be answered by all Bible-believing Christians: “Where is the Watchman on the Wall?” It is a challenge to all pastors and their congregations. The voice of the watchmen and witnesses is muted and too often overwhelmed by the noise and clamour of the secular materialistic world in which we live. Everyone needs to take time out of this world to renew themselves with prayer, worship, fellowship and teaching.

An invitation is extended to all who would like to join the members and friends of BIWF from Monday 14 July until Saturday 19 July at the Summer Convention in the new venue of the Palace Hotel in Buxton, Derbyshire. This Peak District town is easy for the traveller to reach whether by rail, road or air. The ho-

tel itself can provide every comfort for visitors and is very close to the centre of the town.

Many people come regularly every year and look forward to this reunion but a very warm welcome is given to anyone attending for the first time. The Covenant Publishing Company sets up a well-stocked bookstall so it is an excellent opportunity to buy all the books you need and avoid the post and packing charges. There is a wide range of free literature too.

There will be a full programme of lectures by speakers who will take the theme and develop it while expounding the Scriptures in all their fullness. There will also be plenty of time for private reflection both in the hotel and in the beautiful countryside surrounding this spa resort. For those with limited time available a day visit can be booked.



THE BRITISH-ISRAEL-WORLD FEDERATION

SUMMER CONVENTION

The Palace Hotel
Palace Road, Buxton, Derbyshire, SK17 6AG

Monday 14th July - Saturday 19th July, 2014

Bookings:
Please return the enclosed booking form.
Alternatively, call Nicola at BIWF on 01388 834395

Come and join us!

For booking information contact:
Nicola at BIWF Headquarters
on 01388 834 395



NEW BOOK

THE LOST TRIBES OF ISRAEL

The Covenant Publishing Company is pleased to launch another of its new editions of significant works by the authors whose studies in the early days of the Israel teaching did so much to spread the message to a very wide audience. The times have changed since then but human nature has not and neither has God's Word which is unchanging.

The author of this book, Richard Reader Harris, KC (1847-1909), was an eminent English barrister, King's Counsel and Master of the Bench of Gray's Inn. He was also a Methodist minister, founder of the Pentecostal League of Prayer and author of thirty-four Christian books. But in his early life he had been a follower of Charles Bradlaugh, the well known London atheist, who (as quoted in this book) stated that God was not a God of truth, because of the failure to keep His promise to Abraham; for not keeping His most solemn promise to establish His Kingdom upon earth through the Patriarch's literal descendants. He remained an honest doubter until he met a gifted and cultured lady, Mary Griffin Bristow, whom he married in 1880. They became close friends of the evangelist Oswald Chambers.

He described his path to an understanding of the subject of the Lost Tribes of Israel in his Preface to the first edition:

"When I too became a Christian, I sometimes thought about these prophecies, but for the time satisfied myself with the current explanation that these prophecies referred only to the Church.

"A short time ago, how-

ever, while studying the history of the Jews, that is to say, the history of portions of the tribes of Judah and Levi, I asked myself, 'What about the Ten Tribes, where are their descendants? They must be in existence, they must be an enormous multitude and prophecy must be being fulfilled concerning them.' "

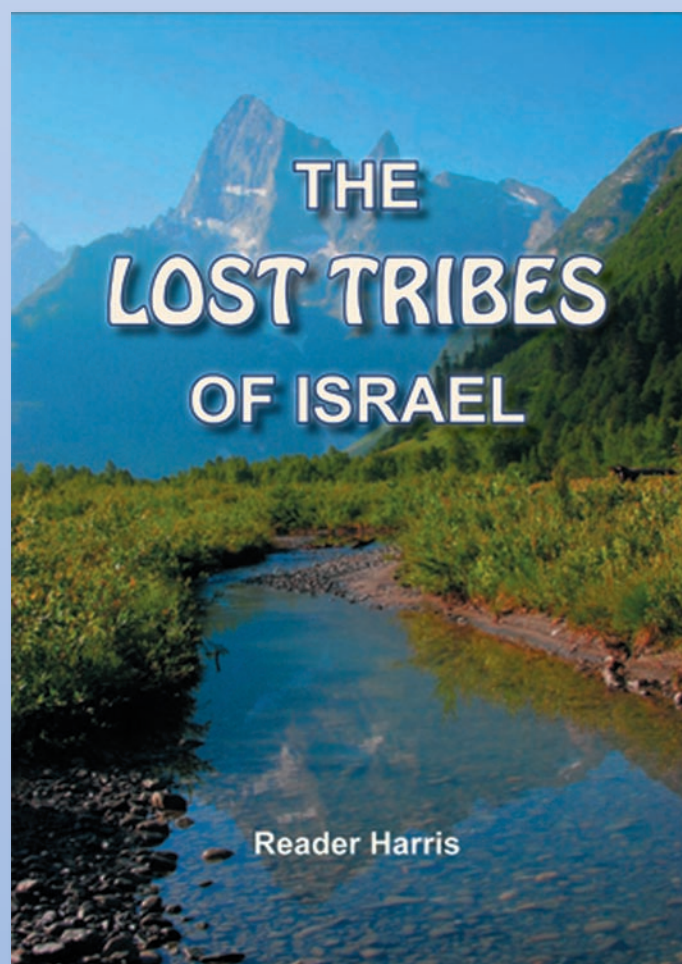
In 1907 he published the first edition of *The Lost Tribes of Israel* which, by its fourth edition in 1921, was recorded as being "25th thousand" in number of copies produced. He compiled the book from a series of

addresses which he had given and opened the first chapter with the following words:

"The subject of the Lost Tribes of Israel is a study of great interest. Two perplexing questions meet us on the threshold, viz., how is it that so little is known of the ten tribes of Israel, and why has so little enquiry taken place concerning them? This may well be because the devil has succeeded in frustrating any serious research into the matter.

"It is remarkable that until the middle of the nineteenth century there was little or no serious enquiry in Protestant countries regarding the fate of the ten tribes; and noteworthy also, that from that period was awakened in some of God's people a spirit of enquiry as to the fate of the ten tribes, with regard to their destiny."

The Lost Tribes of Israel provides an excellent introduction to this great subject. It is often difficult to know where to start and the task of doing an independent study is daunting for most people. Reader Harris has made it enjoyable to examine the historical as well as the scriptural evidences and to use his work as a base from which each reader can continue in their understanding of God's Word.



THE DIVINE COMMISSION

For all Christians in the present world confusion

The Christian should rejoice that he has the four greatest things in the world:

- The greatest person, our Lord Jesus Christ
- The greatest power, the Spirit of God
- The greatest book, the Word of God in the Bible
- The greatest programme, the Kingdom of God on earth

The greatest programme, as analysed by Eli Stanley Jones, Methodist missionary to India (1884-1973).

1. Good news to the poor – the economically disinherited
2. Release to the captives – the socially and politically disinherited
3. The opening of the eyes of the blind – the physically disinherited
4. The setting at liberty them that are bruised – the morally and spiritually disinherited
5. The Lord's Year of Jubilee – a new beginning on a world scale
6. The Spirit of the Lord – the dynamic behind it all

As He taught us to pray: "*Thy Kingdom come*" (Luke 11:2).

REV JOHN W SHENTON

The National Message Compendium Issue

BE CAREFUL TO WHOM YOU LISTEN

– a true story

Some decades ago in America a train was travelling West in the depths of winter time. It was freezing cold, snowing heavily and owing to strong winds, there were blizzard conditions. On board there was a certain young woman with her baby who wanted to leave the train at one of the remote stations along the route. Owing to the remoteness of the region one of the tasks of the guardsman was to call out the names of the stations as they approached, so people would know when to disembark. The woman was a stranger to the country so on several occasions she went up to the guardsman and said “Please don’t forget me; I need to get off at Redrock.” Repeatedly the guardsman promised he wouldn’t forget her and would certainly tell her when she was to get off.

As time went on, the train slowed to a stop as though coming into a station and a fellow traveller said to the woman, “that must be your stop now.” With gratitude the woman

gathered her things and hopped off the train into the storm. The train moved on again. Forty-five minutes later the guardsman came in and called out “passenger for Redrock! Your station is next”! Passengers explained to him that she had got off the last time the train had stopped. The guardsman’s face changed to one of despair. “I promised her that I would let her know when to get off. We only stopped because of heavy snow on the track. She has got off to her death.” Sadly his prediction was all too accurate. Rescuers found her frozen to death. Amazingly the baby was found alive, having been protected from the worst of the cold beneath his mother’s coat.

Be careful to whom you listen! This true story reminds us of the vital importance of listening to correct information and instructions. Sometimes listening to the right person with the right knowledge is quite literally a matter of life and death. But this story also teaches us an important spiritual lesson that has profound implications.

Every one of us is on the “journey of life.” As we travel along, we need to make certain that we are listening to the right “person” and the correct information; otherwise we will not know what we are doing, where we are going, what decisions we are to make, or indeed how to prepare for our journey’s end.

Many people today are in a state of confusion regarding a whole range of moral, religious and personal issues. For example, some are confused regarding what to believe about God and which religion to follow. Others are confused about what should be considered as morally right and what should be seen as immoral. Still more are confused about what is happening to the world and uncertain about how to deal with their own personal problems such as who to marry, where to live, what job to take, and so on.

Often in this confusion people look to their fellow travellers thinking that they might know the answer but they too are just as confused and uncertain. One traveller might say “It’s the next station” another might say with



equal affirmation that the station has already been passed or indeed that there is no station at all! Fellow travellers do not really know the answers to the questions of life. The only One Who knows the answers is “The Guardsman” Himself. If that poor woman had trusted the guardsman rather than a fellow passenger she would have lived. Instead she put her faith in a well meaning passenger who obviously did not know what he was talking about; and it cost her, her life.

So likewise, during the course of our lifetime, many fellow travellers will express their views on moral issues, belief systems and personal problems. For instance, some will say “there is nothing sinful about some particular kind of conduct or behaviour,” others will say “believe in this religion” yet others may say “take this job, marry that man” etc. Some might suggest trying clairvoyance, trying New Age rituals, trying crystals, trying this, trying that, for ever clutching at straws in their own personal confusion.

No matter what others may say, let us soberly remember that there is only One Individual we should listen to and that is “The Guardsman” Himself; Jesus Christ. Our life depends on it. He alone knows the truth. He alone has the answers to our questions and so it is His instructions and commands we should follow. We should listen to Him alone; no one else. As Jesus said “*I Am the Way, the Truth and the Life*” (John 14:6).

One of the main reasons why God has provided the human race with Holy Scripture is so that everyone can read exactly what He Himself is stating rather than be misled by what fellow travellers say. The Bible is the Word of God, so if we want to know what “The Guardsman” is saying or commanding on any particular issue, it is there for us to read. We ignore His written Word and listen to others, at our peril!

In II *Timothy* 4:16 it states “*All Scripture is given by the inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for re-*

proof, for correction and for instruction in righteousness.” We need to trust and obey what the Lord Himself says about an issue rather than others, lest we be spiritually deceived. (See I *Corinthians* 6:9-11; *Galatians* 5:19-21; 6:7-8; II *Timothy* 3:13; *Colossians* 2:8; I *John* 3:7-8).

“Trust in the LORD
with all thine heart”
Proverbs 3:5

In *Proverbs* 3:5-6 God gives a reassuring promise about guidance. It states “*Trust in the Lord with all your heart and rely not on your own understanding. In all your ways obey Him and then He will guide and direct your path.*” What this means is that if we faithfully listen to and obey His commands in Scripture then we can be sure that we will indeed be guided to “get off at the right station,” or make the right decision. We can be sure that we will indeed be shown what path we are to follow, what we really are to believe and what decisions we should make concerning “this or that or the other.”

Throughout the journey of life we have to make many serious decisions. Friends and relatives will offer all sorts of contradictory advice but provided we listen to and obey the Lord, He will guide us concerning what is right and proper. Provided we remain faithful to Him, then He most certainly will show us the way we should go and the decisions we should make. Scripture promises that we will receive His guidance, so long as we follow and obey Him totally and completely.

Late in the nineteenth century an acrobat arranged to walk a wire across Niagara Falls with another man on his shoulders. Many weeks of training went into preparing for this event. As the final moment for this event drew near, the rope walker cautioned

his young colleague with the following words. “We are about to risk our lives, but we will get across safely if you do exactly as I say. I am the one walking the wire; the whole responsibility for that part is mine. I can do it safely. For your part you have nothing to do but match my movements completely. If I sway to the left, let yourself sway with me. If I sway to the right, do the same. Under no circumstances try to do your own thing. You must match your movements to mine so as to ensure harmony because without perfect unison we are both lost. There is only one thing for you to do — sway with me.”

All went well until they drew near the opposite side when the unexpected happened. The long vibration of the wire suddenly formed into separate waves, and each of these formed two more and so on. Soon the shortened wave like movements became so violent that the man could scarcely keep his feet where he placed them. It was a perilous moment, but the feat was accomplished and it was front page news across the country the next day.

After this, the young man who had played the secondary role upon the acrobat’s shoulders settled down to private life and got married. In time he became an active leader in the church. He often commented, “I learned more about my relationship with God on that wire than in all of my life. I learned that the only safe way to get through trouble is to keep on fully obeying God. If I stop obeying, even for a moment or just a little then all is lost.”

Provided we carefully listen to and fully obey the Lord, He will in turn guide us concerning the decisions we have to make in life. If we do as He says and as He guides, then we will get safely to the other side and disembark at the right station; if however, we disobey, then we will fall into the waters of deception and drown in the depths of despair.

JONATHAN WILLANS BD

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ASHER – WALLOONS (BELGIANS)

A STUDY OF TEN PROPHETIC CLUES

There is no direct history connecting the tribe of Asher to the Belgian people. We are talking about one of the lost tribes. Even the Caucasian population of Wallonia comes from various backgrounds. One can compare this with Jewry. The Jewish people have known many proselytes. Yet there has been a core of the tribe of Judah (and some of Levi & Benjamin) over the past 2,500 years. The core passes on characteristics and genes to the periphery. Looking at the 'prophetic clues' one has to conclude that a core of the tribe of Asher once found its way to the people living in Belgium and Luxemburg (especially in the triangle Roermond-Lille-Nancy-Roermond). This core passed on its characteristics and genes to the influx of others. The more fulfilled prophetic clues we find, the stronger our case. What follows is not historic proof, but proof by revelation.

1st Clue: Asher – happy
*“And Zilpah Leah’s maid bare Jacob a second son. And Leah said, **happy** am I [b_ashri], for the daughters will call me **blessed** [ish-runi]: and she called his name Asher [asher: blessed, happy]” (Genesis 30:12-13).*

*“And Zilpah Leah’s handmaid bore Jacob a second son. And Leah said: ‘**happy** am I! for the daughters will call me **happy**.’ And she called his name Asher [**happy** or **blessed**]” (Genesis 30:12-13, JPS, Jewish Publication Society).*

After four sons Leah has two more sons by her maid-servant Zilpah. Asher is Jacob’s eighth son. *They will call me happy*, and she names him ‘blessed, happy,’ Asher! This predicts Asher’s nature: jovial, genial, friendly.

‘Burgundian’ lifestyle

The national character of most Belgians in general, and Walloons in particular, is that they are jovial, genial, friendly. They live what is called in Dutch a ‘Burgundian life.’ The Belgians are epicurean, loving food and finer things. They are gourmets and gourmandizing.

Dutch Wikipedia about the Burgundian life:

Burgundian is used as an adjective to express that life is enjoyed. This phrase comes from the dukes of Burgundy ... Well-known dukes of Burgundy were Philip the Good and Charles the Bold. Their court was known for great luxury and riches. The people of the southern Dutch provinces North-Brabant and Limburg and the Belgians are often called ‘Burgundian,’ because they like taking time to enjoy a bite or a drink.

Walloons, Flamands and Belgians
 DNA shows that Walloons and Flemish people are more related than some of them would like to know. In the nineteenth century many Flemish moved into Wallonia. Dutch Wikipedia says about ‘Belgians’:

The existence of Belgians as a people has been the subject of many discussions. The best-known quote for this is ... “There are Flemish people (Dutch speaking) and Walloons (French speaking). There are no Belgians ...” In spite of all their differences, it is generally accepted that they have quite a few things in common. Thus Belgians are known to be modest, raised as catholics and loving the ‘Burgundian life’.

Belgians are *bons vivants*.

2nd Clue: Asher – his bread shall be fat
*“As for Asher, his **bread** [lechem] shall be **fat** [shamen] ...” (Genesis 49:20a, KJV).*

*“Asher’s **food** will be **rich** ...” (Genesis 49:20a, NIV).*

Literally it says that Asher’s bread will be fat. It is noteworthy that bread in England and Holland has the form of a big brick, a loaf. In France they sell the typical French bread, long thin pieces of bread. In Belgium they sell bread in big, round, ‘fat,’ loaves. However, lechem also means food in general, and not just bread. Asher’s food would be rich in content, and it would be plenteous.

Belgian Cuisine

Wikipedia about the Belgian cuisine: *Belgian cuisine is widely varied with significant regional variations while also reflecting the cuisines of neighbouring France, Germany and the Netherlands. It is sometimes said that*

Belgian food is served in the quantity of German cuisine but with quality of French food. Outside the country, Belgium is best known for its chocolate and beer.

Fries

*Fries, deep-fried chipped potatoes, are very popular in Belgium where they are thought to have originated. The earliest evidence of the dish comes from a book entitled *Curiosités de la table dans les Pays-Bas-Belgiques* written in 1781, which described how inhabitants of Namur, Dinant and Andenne around the Meuse River had eaten fried potatoes since around 1680. Though they are usually known as “French fries” in the United States, it is argued that American soldiers during the First World War erroneously believed that they were being served the dish in France.*

Asher’s food would be fat, would be rich.

3rd Clue: Asher – royal dainties

*“Out of Asher his bread shall be fat, and he shall yield royal **dainties**” (Genesis 49:20b).*

*“[Asher] will provide **delicacies** fit for a king” (Genesis 49:20b, NIV).*

This is up to a point a repeat of the fact that Asher’s food would be fat or rich. We think of all the delicacies – fries, mussels, oysters, fish, venison, etc. – served in the Belgian cuisine, but ‘delicacies’ contains much more.

Belgian Beers

Wikipedia: *For a comparatively small country, Belgium produces a very large number of beers in a range of different styles – in fact it has more distinct types of beer per capita than anywhere else in the world. In 2011,*

there were 1,132 different varieties of beer being produced in the country. The brewing tradition in Belgium can be traced back to the early Middle Ages and 6 varieties are still produced in Trappist Monasteries where brewing was initially used to fund their upkeep.

Belgian Chocolate

Wikipedia: Belgium is famed for its high quality chocolate and over 2,000 chocolatiers, both small and large. Belgium's association with chocolate goes back as far as 1635 when the country was under Spanish occupation and during the early 20th century, the country was able to import cocoa from its colony, the Belgian Congo. Today, chocolate is very popular in Belgium, with 172,000 tonnes produced each year, and widely exported.



Waffles and sweets

There are also Belgian waffles (Brussels, Liège), speculoos, vlaaien (Limburg), sweets, etc. Asher's food would be rich and he would yield royal dainties.

Tapestries, lace, comic books

Delicacies or dainties is a translation from ma'adan:

Ma'adan – or (feminine) ma'adannah (mah-ad-an-naw'); from 'adan' (Strong, 5727); a delicacy or (abstractly) pleasure (adverbially, cheerfully): dainty, delicately, delight.

Some writers about the tribes link this with the typical Belgian delicate tapestries (made for royalty!) and with Belgian lace. Belgium is also renowned for its comic books: Tintin, Spike & Suzy, The Smurfs, Lucky Luke, etc. To many Europeans a 'delight.'

4th Clue: Asher – friendly & favoured

“And of Asher he said: Blessed be Asher above sons; let him be the **favoured** of his brethren ...” (Deuteronomy 33:24, JPS).

“And of Asher he said, Let Asher be

blessed with children; let him be **acceptable** to his brethren, ...” (Deuteronomy 33:24, KJV).

About Asher he said: “Most blessed of sons is Asher; let him be **favoured** by his brothers, ...” (Deuteronomy 33:24, NIV).

Belgians – kind, friendly

Although Belgians may fight between themselves about language problems – a bloodless struggle – they are perceived by others as kind, friendly people. To my knowledge there are not many people who hate Belgians. The French and the Dutch may joke about Belgians, but they do not dislike them. The fact that they are liked by their neighbours, by other tribes, has been favourable to them over time.

Belgium's Independence

Many countries had to fight for years for independence, often at the cost of many deaths. Belgian independence was more or less given to them. In 1830 the Belgians seceded from the Netherlands during the Belgian Revolution. They were soon supported by France and England. Queen Victoria came up with the name Belgium and her cousin Leopold became king. There was a ten day fight with the Netherlands, but the Dutch (Zebulun) were forced by the English (Ephraim) and the French (Reuben) to back off. Thus the Belgians (Asher) got their country with hardly any bloodshed. They were 'favoured' by their brethren.

Colonial power

Likewise Belgium became a colonial power without much sweat and toil. The Spanish, Portuguese, French, English and Dutch conquered their colonies fighting each other, not so the Belgians. In 1908 Belgium received the Congo from King Leopold II, who in turn had received it during the Berlin Congress of 1885.

The reign of terror in the Congo Free State under Leopold II led to the annexing of the Congo by Belgium in 1908. Until its independence the Belgian Congo (2,345,000 km²) was to Belgium what Indonesia (1,919,000 km²) was to Holland. The Congo is 75 times Belgium. England (Ephraim) and France (Reuben) fought each other over colonies, but they gave the Congo to Leopold (and later to Belgium). Another example of Asher be-

ing favoured by his brothers.

Ruanda-Urundi

When German East Africa was divided up after WW I, the Belgians received Ruanda-Urundi (54,000 km²), until their independence (Rwanda & Burundi) in 1962. Thus expanding their African colonial empire.

Poor Little Belgium

Because the Germans violated Belgium's (Asher) neutrality in 1914, the English (Ephraim) went to war. *To save poor little Belgium! Poor little Belgium* became the war cry in the propaganda campaign against the Germans. In 1917 the Americans (Manasseh) used the same theme to mobilise the home front. Belgium (Asher) had to be saved.

EEC – EC – EU & NATO

Another example which shows clearly that Belgium is looked favourably upon, is the development of the EEC-EC-EU. Originally the European institutions had to be spread out over Strasburg, Luxemburg and Brussels. Over time most of the European institutions have ended up in Brussels. Brussels was also elected as NATO headquarters.

5th Clue: Asher – ... iron ... under your shoe

“Thy shoes shall be **iron** and brass ...” (Deuteronomy 33:25).

“**Yzer** en koper zal onder uw schoen zijn ...” (Deuteronomy 33:25, SVV, Dutch Staten Vertaling: **iron** and copper will be *under* your shoe).

An important prophecy concerning Asher is about metal. And of Asher he said ... **iron** and brass (or copper) will be your shoe, or will be under your shoe. The triangle Roermond – Lille – Nancy – Roermond is closely connected with iron, coal and industrialisation. To speak of Wallonia is to speak of iron. A lot can be read about the Wallonian steel industry.

Wikipedia: *Wallonia is rich in iron and coal, and these resources and related industries have played an important role in its history. In ancient times, the Sambre and Meuse valley was an important industrial area in the Roman Empire. In the Middle Ages, Wallonia became a center for brass working and bronze working, with Huy, Dinant and Chimay being important regional*

centers. In the 12th and 13th centuries, the iron masters of Liège developed a method of refining iron ore by the use of a blast furnace, called the Walloon Method. ...

The Atomium

The Atomium is an expression of Belgium's link with iron. Wikipedia: *The Atomium is an iconic building in Brussels originally constructed for Expo '58, the 1958 Brussels World's Fair. Designed by the engineer André Waterkeyn and architects André and Jean Polak, it stands 102 m (335 ft) tall. Its nine 18 m (59 ft) diameter stainless steel clad spheres are connected so that the whole forms the shape of a unit cell of an iron crystal magnified 165 billion times. Asher ... iron under his shoe.*



The Atomium, Brussels

More iron ...

It is noteworthy to see that iron keeps popping up in Belgian life and history. The Duke of Alba ruled the Low Countries (1567-1573) for the Spanish King Philip II. Because of his reign of terror from Brussels he was called the 'Iron Duke.'

Iron is Yzer in Dutch, pronounce 'aizer.' In West Flanders there is the small river, the Yser. Here the Belgian forces made a stand against the German invaders in 1914. This gives the Battle of the Yser, the Yser Tower after the war and the Yser Tower Pilgrimage.

To ensure a better connection between the port of Antwerp and the industrial Ruhr Gebiet in Germany a special railroad was constructed, called the Iron Rhine. With regards to railroads it is also worth mentioning that Belgium is the country with the highest density of railway lines. A railroad is called

in French 'chemin de fer,' literally a 'road of iron.' This nicely fits Asher again: iron under his shoe ...

6th Clue: Asher – ... brass ... under your shoe

"Thy shoes shall be iron and brass ..." (Deuteronomy 33:25).

"Yzer en koper zal onder uw schoen zijn ..." (Deuteronomy 33:25, SVV, Dutch Staten Vertaling: iron and copper will be under your shoe).

As we saw: In the Middle Ages, Wallonia became a center for brass working and bronze working, with Huy, Dinant and Chimay being important regional centers (Wikipedia).

Belgium - Congo - Katanga - Copper

The Katanga Province of Belgian Congo was one of the world's most important copper producing areas in the twentieth century until the 1960s. Belgium became an important importer and exporter of copper. The copper was extracted by the *Union Minière du Haut Katanga*. Wikipedia: *The Union Minière du Haut Katanga (UMHK) was a Belgian mining company, once operating in Katanga, in what is now the Democratic Republic of the Congo In 1935, the Union was party to the World Copper Agreement. In the 1950s, Congo was the world's fourth largest copper-producing country. Asher ... copper under his foot ...*

Other minerals and metals

Wikipedia: *In addition to the copper for which it is known, Katanga was also rich in other minerals. Asher (Belgium) would be greatly blessed with metals (iron, copper, zinc, etc.). Iron and copper under his shoe. Of course the Bible could not name all the metals which still had to be discovered.*

7th Clue: Asher – ... dip his foot in oil

"And of Asher he said ... and let him dip his foot in oil" (Deuteronomy 33:24).

Many of the Lost Tribes prophecies are for the end time only (acharit haYamim), for the last days. Zebulun and Issachar were to be seafaring nations, however, in antiquity they

never bordered the sea. Joseph would split into a great nation and a fulness of nations, which would only happen in the last centuries before the return of Christ. But sometimes prophecies or blessings concerning a tribe are fulfilled twice. So it is with Asher's oil.

Asher & olive oil

"The tribe was thus settled on the western slopes and valleys of Upper and Lower Galilee. and on the Phoenician plain. Here was some of the most productive land in Palestine—pasture, wooded hills, and orchards—**noted especially for the abundance and richness of its olive-oil**" (Jewish Encyclopedia, tribe of Asher).

The oil would be so abundant, that Asher would dip his foot in it, so to speak. Because of this blessing concerning oil, the olive tree became an emblem of the tribe of Asher.

The emblem of the olive tree fits Asher for more than one reason. The olive tree is a symbol of prosperity or happiness; she gives rich food (the oil) and delicacies (the olives) (Genesis 49:20).

Palm oil

The modern fulfilment of this statement concerning Asher's oil can be found in palm oil which Belgium extracted from the Belgian Congo for years. Palm oil is an important ingredient in food and non-food products like margarine, chocolate, cleaning products and cosmetics. Palm oil has become one of the most important vegetable oils. In 1959 Belgian Congo was the sixth biggest palm oil producer of the world ... Asher ... let him dip his foot in oil.

8th Clue: 8. Asher, 9. Issachar, 10. Zebulun

"... and [Leah] called his name Asher [8th son] ... and [Leah] called his name Issachar [9th son] ... and [Leah] called his name Zebulun [10th son]" (Genesis 30:13-20).

"... of the tribe of the children of Zebulun, ... of the tribe of the children of Issachar ... of the tribe of the children of Asher ..." (Numbers 34:25-27).

"And the third lot came up for the children of Zebulun ... And the fourth lot came out to Issachar, for the children of Issachar ... And the fifth lot

came out for the tribe of the children of Asher ..." (Joshua 19:10, 17, 24).

Leah Tribes

Leah had eight sons, six of herself and two by her maidservant Zilpah. She named all eight of them. So there are eight *Leah* tribes (and five *Rachel* tribes). There is a bond between Asher, Issachar and Zebulun in both antiquity and in modern times.

Asher, Issachar and Zebulun are Jacob's eighth, ninth and tenth son. They were close in age and were probably 20, 19 and 18 when Joseph (17) was sold. Apart from the cover-up they played no part in Joseph's selling. Their minor role in that story is reflected by the minor role they would play in the history of the Ten Tribes in Israel, from the Exodus till the Assyrian Exile.

Their inheritance was only assigned to them after Moses' death, after the important tribes had found their place. Seven pieces of land were described for the last seven tribes to be divided by casting lots (Joshua 18-19). Zebulun, Issachar and Asher were the third, fourth and fifth lot (Joshua 19). They were closely connected in the drawing of lots.

Moreover all three of their tribal territories bordered the north of Manasseh, and their territories bordered each other, Zebulun in the middle. All three were in Galilee, far away from the centres of power (Hebron, Jerusalem, Samaria). In the Bible these three Leah-tribes are insignificant tribes who lived far away in Galilee.

In the end-time the tribes of Issachar, Zebulun and Asher came to live in the Low Countries. Over the past 60 years there has been a close cooperation between these peoples within the Benelux (Belgium, Netherlands and Luxemburg). They live closely together as they once did in Galilee, in Erets Yisrael.

9th Clue: Asher – mighty men of valour

"All these were the children of Asher, heads of their father's house, choice and **mighty men of valour**, chief of the princes. And the number throughout the genealogy of them that were apt to the war and to battle was 26,000

men" (1 Chronicles 7:40).

"And of Asher, such as went forth to battle, **expert in war**, 40,000" (1 Chronicles 12:36).

There were a few militaristic tribes, but Asher was not one of them. However, the Asherites were brave fighters. Although not an aggressive tribe, they could hold their ground when called upon.

Belgae – Julius Caesar

In his book *Commentarii de bello Gallico* Julius Caesar divides the Celts into three groups. The most northern group are the Belgae living in the area between the North Sea, Rhine, Seine and Marne. According to Caesar the Belgae were the bravest of the three groups. This quote from Caesar became very popular in the 1830s in an attempt to enflame Belgian nationalism.

"Out of Asher . . . he shall
yield royal dainties"
Genesis 49:20

Belgium in WW I

The Belgians fought bravely under Soldier King Albert I against the German invasion.

Wikipedia: *When World War I began, Germany invaded neutral Belgium and Luxembourg as part of the Schlieffen Plan, trying to take Paris quickly. It was this action that caused the British to enter the war, as they were still bound by the 1839 agreement to protect Belgium in the event of a war. The Belgian army is remembered for their stubborn resistance during the early days of the war, with the army—around a tenth the size of the German Army—holding up the German offensive for nearly a month, giving the French and British forces time to prepare for the Marne counteroffensive later in the year. The German invaders treated any resistance—such as sabotaging rail lines—as illegal and subversive, and shot the offenders and burned buildings in retaliation. Belgium had a prosperous economy in 1914 but after four years of occupation, it emerged ruined at the end of the war. On the other hand it suffered*

few deaths in combat.

10th Clue: Asher—peaceable, peaceful

"And the prince of the tribe of the children of Asher, Ahihud the son of **Shelomi** [Strong, 08015, shlomi, peaceable]" (Numbers 34:27).

The tribe of Asher is a peaceful tribe, not looking for war or trouble. This can first of all be concluded by the absence of things. There are no violent, negative, warlike stories or individuals known from the tribe of Asher in the Bible. Asher has a modest biblical history with an absence of ringleaders in evil. The prince of Asher in Numbers 34 is even called Ahihud ben Shlomi, son of Shlomi (peaceful).

Asher is very modest in *The Testament of Asher*. There is no bragging like in some of the other testaments of the twelve patriarchs.

The olive tree is the symbol of Asher. This can also be connected to peace, as the olive branch is a symbol of peace.

Belgians – neutral & peaceful

The Belgians were more or less *given* their independence and their colonies. They were neutral twice and were invaded twice by the Germans. They fought bravely in WW I and WW II to defend themselves and their colonies, but they never attacked other nations.

On the whole Belgians are peaceful people, more interested in food and drink than in war.

Anna of the tribe of Asher

Anna (Channah in Hebrew) of the tribe of Asher was in the temple (Luke 2:36) when Jesus was presented to the Lord by his parents. Channah means mercy or grace and Asher means happy.

Anna (mercy) daughter of Phanuel (face of God) from Asher (happy) was happy and thankful for God's mercy that she was chosen to welcome Jesus, the Prince of Peace (shalom) to God's Temple in Jerusalem.

There may be more prophetic clues concerning Asher – Walloons (Belgians), but the above are the strongest in my opinion.

BERT OTTEN

THE KINGS OF ISRAEL AND JUDAH ON THE FRONT OF NOTRE DAME CATHEDRAL IN PARIS

“Its three doors are decorated with fine early Gothic carving and surmounted by a row of figures representing 28 kings of Israel and Judah.”

This intriguing statement is taken from *The Encyclopaedia Britannica*, Volume 17, page 288 under ‘Paris,’ dated 1938.

are city property.
Churches.—The cathedral of Notre-Dame (1163-1240), 139 yd. in length and 52 yd. in breadth, consists of a choir and apse, a short transept, and a nave with double aisles continued round the choir and flanked by square chapels added after completion of the rest of the church. The central spire was added during restoration (1846-79). Two massive square towers crown the principal façade. Its three doors are decorated with fine early Gothic carving and surmounted by a row of figures representing 28 kings of Israel and Judah. Above the central door is a rose window, above which is a third storey consisting of a graceful gallery of pointed arches supported on slender columns. The transept has two façades, also richly decorated with chiselled work and containing rose windows with magnificent 13th century glass. Part of the choir-screen is 14th century work. The woodwork of the choir



The west façade of the cathedral

There is no explanation there of why the architects decided to place these figures as prominently as can be seen by the photos on this page. Were they representing their own heritage so that there would be a permanent reminder of who they were and where they came from?

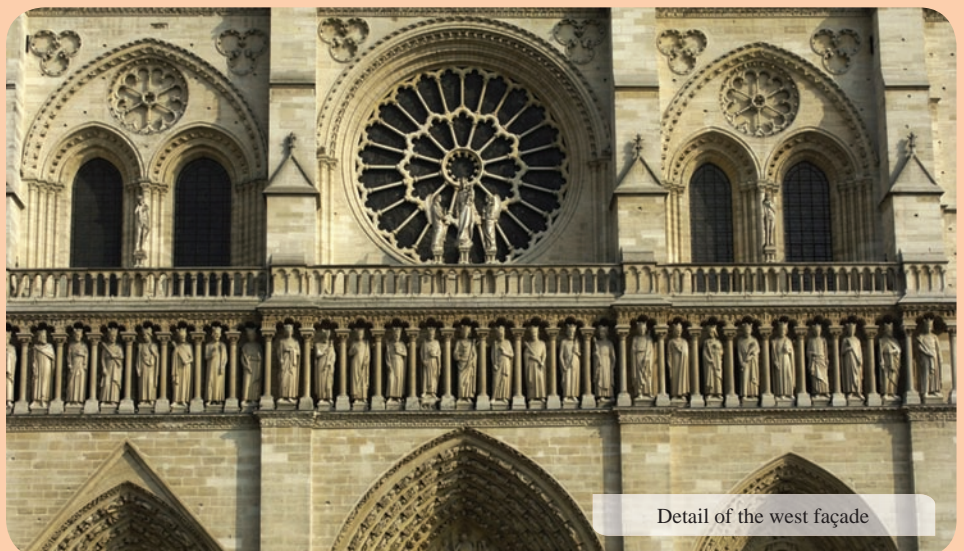
There is one explanation which is given on the page of the website describing the west façade of the cathedral as follows:

“Under the balustrade, there is a wide horizontal frieze, **the gallery of kings**, a row of twenty-eight statues representing twenty-eight generations of **kings of Judah**, descendants of Jesse and human ancestors of Mary and Jesus. This part of the façade shows that Mary, a mortal woman born of the human race, gave birth to Jesus, who was both man and God. These painted statues were added to the cathedral in the first third of the 13th century and

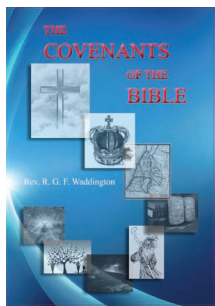
quickly became familiar **representations of the kings of France**. From 1284 onwards, they were presented in this way. And this tradition would be perpetuated throughout the centuries. This is why, during the troubled time of the Revolution, these statues would be attacked and mutilated as symbols of royal despotism.”

From <http://www.notredamedeparis.fr/spip.php?rubrique2>

However, we are putting this here for you, the reader, to examine and to consider and to tell us if you have any information. Please write or email to the address inside the front cover and let us know what you have discovered.



Detail of the west façade



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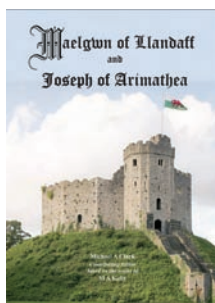
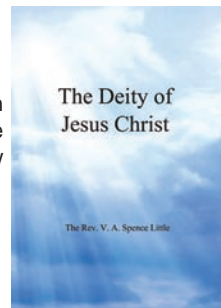
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Maelgwn of Llandaff and Joseph of Arimathea by Contributing Editor Michael A Clark based on the works of M A Kelly

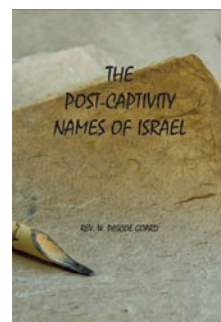
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*“For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne
shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living
fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all
tears from their eyes”*

Revelation 7:17



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