

The



Covenant Nations

VOLUME 3, NUMBER 8, 2015



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▲ The statue of Jacques Cartier in Saint Malo, Brittany, where he was born in 1491. On the orders of King Francis I he sailed west to find new territories and riches and so discovered the Saint Lawrence River. Through exploring and mapping it he enabled France to lay claim to the lands which would become Canada.

◀ COVER PICTURE:

This view of the sun shining over the open sea is a vivid illustration of the scripture “For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea” (Habakkuk 2:14).

*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.

Where Is Israel?

Men don't believe in the Bible now, as they really ought to do,
They've locked the door on the chosen race and won't let 'my nation' through.
There isn't a print of Israel's foot or a dart from Joseph's bow
To be found in earth or in air today, for 'the Church' has voted it so!

But who owns 'the gates' of the world today? Who is it rules the waves?
Who dwells alone in the appointed place, while the enemy hates and raves?
Who stands today in the thick of the fight, oppression and sin to quell,
If it isn't the hosts of the living God, won't somebody rise and tell?

Who sends God's Word to the world, to prepare the path for our Saviour's feet?
Who frees the captive and plants the rose, who is reigning from David's seat?
Israel is voted not to be! Of course, this is untrue;
But who is doing the kind of work Israel alone can do?

We are told the Church takes Israel's place; but the Bible plainly says
A kingdom of stone that's cut out for His own, shall stand till the end of days!
Who owns and carries the flags that wave to the earth's remotest bounds?
If Israel by a unanimous vote, is nowhere to be found?

Won't somebody step to the front forthwith and make his bow and show
Where the chief of the nations is today? We very much want to know.
Israel is blindly voted out; and Israel, 'tis said, is gone
But the Anglo-Saxons would like to know who carries God's business on?

Author unknown

EDITORIAL

THE VICTORY & RETURN OF JESUS CHRIST –

to rule the nations from the Throne of David

The record in the first chapter of the Gospel according to Luke of the Archangel Gabriel's prophetic announcement to the Virgin Mary that the Lord God will give unto Jesus Christ the throne of David and that he shall reign over the house of Jacob forever, should be clear enough to the reader – especially at the Christmas Season when these words are spoken out in the hearing of the nation of His people.

That the Throne of the Lord upon earth must still be visible and in constitutional authority, when Christ returns to take up this throne to rule and reign in glory, is so logical that one is caused to wonder why Bible believing Christians hearing these words every year, seem blind to the fact in their plain sight: that the British Royal Throne is the very same centre of royal majesty which Christ will take up at His Appearing.

While the persistent blindness to the *continuing* Kingdom of God upon earth remains, there exists a dislocation in perspective and vision in the British nation that is misdirecting the affairs of state on a grand scale causing many nations to wonder if indeed there is any solution to the present great “distress of nations.” A million and more immigrants and refugees are seeking to enter the European Union as a place of safety and prosperity. In particular, many want to enter the United Kingdom as their ultimate ‘heaven’ upon earth.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, whose name means ‘oath of God,’ has just become the longest reigning monarch in British History, overtaking the reign of Queen Victoria. Thus, at this Age-end period of history, two Diamond Jubilee monarchs and two women representing the woman and national Bride of Jesus Christ have witnessed to the world – one in the full glory of empire and the other in the eclipse of sovereignty by the EU while remaining at the head of the Commonwealth.

It is an undeniable fact that no other revered royal throne exists that is totally integrated in Church and State and which has all the symbolism of God's House based on the Stone of Jacob. The only other great religious monarchy is that of the papal throne which in the figure of Pope Francis was received with great acclaim as a Head of State by President Obama at the White House on 23 September, supported by the papal flag and the Vatican's national anthem. *Time* magazine, of 29 September 2015, reported the visit on its cover in capital letters: ‘THE NEW ROMAN EMPIRE – THE GLOBAL REACH OF POPE FRANCIS.’ The acclaim he received at his unprecedented address to the Joint Session of the US Congress reminds us of the prophecy of Jesus in *John* 5:43.

Significantly, this religious monarchy does not have temporal and constitutional authority in Italy, but purports to be the leading world

faith from its universal religious seat of authority. In effect it acts in counterfeit display to the British Throne of the Lord. Again, a double witness has taken place in the figure of the previous world-traveller, John Paul II, made up to sainthood by Pope Francis with John XXIII on 27 April 2014.

We need to warn the Protestant Church that in resisting the Kingdom teaching through blindness and fear of persecution, it will find itself increasingly aligned with the global display of the papal throne. When Jesus questioned as to whether He would find faith on the earth at His return (*Luke* 18:7-8), it was not personal faith or just any kind of faith that was meant, but *the* Faith, or the whole body of revealed truth concerning the *continuing* Kingdom of God in our midst and in plain sight.

The Church and the nation under God around the Throne of the Lord actually constitute “*his own elect*” that He is coming to “*avenge.*” They are one sovereign body. At this time of climax we and the Kingdom of God are under increasing siege in which the powers of darkness seek to overthrow the Throne of the Lord upon earth. This is self-evidently in order to forestall the Return of the Lord in power and glory to take up the Throne to judge and, as is recorded in the *Apocalypse*, to “*smite the nations*” ruling them “*with a rod of iron*” (*Revelation* 19:15). The testimony of Jesus Christ is sure, as indeed is His Victory.

A BIBLICAL VISION OF VICTORY

Are we as Christians doomed to defeat on earth – or are we **destined for victory**?

Does your understanding of the future inspire you to **positive prayer and action**?

Or are you being paralysed into inactivity by an eschatology of escapism?

Is your faith being strengthened by **the victorious vision of the Bible**?

Or have you been neutralised by a defeatist view of the end times?

Do you long to see the Church **revived** and faithfully **“making disciples of all nations”**?

Or do you long to be removed from your responsibilities here on earth?

Is the **fulfilment of our Lord’s Great Commission your supreme ambition**?

Or is your main obsession to be raptured from your responsibilities here on earth?

Many Christians seem to have succumbed to a negative and defeatist view of the future. Paralysed by pessimism, many passive pew warmers are praying for the rapture to rescue them out of their responsibilities. Yet, if we were to rightly divide the Word of Truth, and correctly understand the signs of the times, we would return to the fight of Faith with renewed vigour and a revitalised vision.

Victory is certain

God is all-powerful, all knowing and everywhere present. He is sovereign over the affairs of men. History is ‘His-story.’ God has not predestined defeat for His people. The ultimate victory of the Kingdom of God is inevitable. Christians are not doomed to defeat, we are called to conquest.

Messianic Psalms

“Ask of Me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession. You will rule them with an iron sceptre; you will dash them to pieces like pottery. Therefore, you kings, be wise; be warned you rulers of the earth. Serve the Lord with fear...” (Psalm 2:8-11).

“All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations will bow down before Him, for dominion belongs to the Lord and He rules over the nations” (Psalm 22:27-28).

“In His days the righteous shall flourish.... He shall have dominion also from sea to sea and from the river to the ends of the earth. Those who dwell in the wilderness will bow before Him, and His enemies will lick the dust... Yes, all

kings shall fall down before Him, all nations shall serve Him... All nations shall call Him blessed... let the whole earth be filled with His glory. Amen and Amen” (Psalm 72:7-19).

Jesus shall Reign

In the immortal words of Isaac Watts’ hymn published in 1719 (based on *Psalm 72*):

*“Jesus shall reign where’er the sun
Doth his successive journeys run;
His Kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.”*

The Great Commission

In these and so many other Psalms, it is made clear that the Great Commission of our Lord Jesus Christ will be fulfilled. All the families of all the nations will bow down before Christ, and He will rule the nations. Because of these Scriptural prophecies we can have every confidence that the Great Commission will be fulfilled – that all kings will bow down to Christ and all nations will serve Him. We are neither working in uncertainty nor afraid of the result. **God’s cause will triumph.**

Standing for the Anthem of the King of kings

In that famous verse so often quoted at Christmas time it says: *“For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given, and the Government*



will be upon His shoulder... of the increase of His Government and peace there will be no end" (Isaiah 9:6-7). Recently my daughter, Daniela, and her choir performed Handel's *Messiah*, where that verse is so powerfully pounded out and emphasised. When *Messiah* was performed in London, in March 1743, King George II attended and when he stood at the opening notes of the *Hallelujah Chorus*, he began a tradition that has been carried on in the English-speaking world ever since. When Queen Victoria attended Handel's *Messiah*, she stood and bowed – to show that Jesus Christ is the King above all kings.

The Vision of Daniel

The prophet Daniel was given a tremendous vision and insight to world history. He saw a statue with a head of gold, the chest of silver, the stomach of bronze, the legs of iron and the feet of iron and clay. This symbolised the various empires and kingdoms of the world. He saw a rock come and smash the entire statue – the iron, bronze, clay, silver and gold, to pieces. This stone, which the builders rejected as worthless, grew to be a mountain that filled the whole earth: *"And in the days of these kings the God of Heaven will set up a Kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the Kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever"* (Daniel 2:44).

The Statue and the Stone

In Lubyanka Square, in Moscow, about 900m north-east of Red Square, a huge statue of Felix Dzerzhinsky, the founder of the *Cheka*, which later became the KGB, was erected in 1958. This statue was directly in front of the Lubyanka, the notorious Headquarters of the KGB, wherein many Christians were interrogated, tortured and murdered. In 1991 it was removed

and a simple stone from the Solovki Monastery from Solovetski Island, which had been the first prototype Concentration Camp of the Soviet Union, was placed in the square where the statue of Dzerzhinsky had once stood. The symbolism of the Victory of Christ over Communism is striking: *"And whoever falls on this Stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder"* (Matthew 21:44).



The Solovki Stone in Lubyanka Square, Moscow

Everlasting Dominion

Daniel saw clearly that Messiah *"Was given dominion and glory and a Kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His Kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed"* (Daniel 7:14). Even more than this, Daniel prophesied of the day when: *"Then the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. His Kingdom is an everlasting Kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him"* (Daniel 7:27).

This is confirmed through the prophets: *"For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea"* (Habakkuk 2:14).

"The Lord will be awesome to them, for He will reduce to nothing all the gods of the earth; people shall worship Him, each one from his place, indeed all the shores of the nations" (Zephaniah 2:11).

King of kings

"And the Lord shall be King over all the earth. In that day it shall be – 'The Lord is One,' and His Name One" (Zechariah 14:9).

Hope for the Future

Is there hope for the future? Absolutely. Almighty God is sovereign. Those who wage war against God will inevitably fail. He has granted us the keys of the Kingdom. What we bind on earth will be bound. What we loose will be loosed. The Gospel is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes (Romans 1:16). We are more than conquerors through Christ Jesus Who loves us (Romans 8:37). Greater is Him Who is in us than he who is in the world (1 John 4:4). We can do all things through Christ Who strengthens us (Philippians 4:13).

This is what the Great Commission calls us to: *"All authority has been given to Me in Heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations... teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you..."* (Matthew 28:18-19). Christ's last command must be our first concern, our priority and our purpose. The Great Commission must be our supreme ambition. This is what it means to pray the Lord's Prayer: *"Your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven"* (Matthew 6:10). The main thing is to keep the main thing: seek first the Kingdom of God (Matthew 6:33).

"...The kingdoms of this world have become the Kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!" (Revelation 11:15).

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THE TESTIMONY OF THE STARS

These heavenly lights in the night sky are the many stars and constellations that are referred to early in Scripture. For we read there these words: “*And God said let there be lights in the firmament of heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and for years*” (Genesis 1:14). Described thus they were clearly intended to be a unique source of knowledge and a sure guide for the pastoral life of mankind, so that he might enjoy the fruits of his labours.

When we read *Psalms* 19 we find that there are two distinct subjects in the writer’s tribute and praise. In the first six verses he marvels at all these heavenly bodies and their movements in that vast region of outer space. He is praising and proclaiming the glory of God’s mighty work of creation, which the Psalmist clearly holds in awe. Then in verse 7 he suddenly switches his thoughts to God’s written word contained in the Commandments. In those earlier years of Israel’s national life these were the first and most important written communications from God in their possession. The Psalmist extols their supreme importance and the essential instruction they provide for the wellbeing of God’s people, Israel. He glorifies God for this guidance which is beyond price and surely an expression of His love and concern for His kingdom people. So the writer gives both matters all due reverence and praise for their great importance for Israel.

One of the guiding principles in the administration of the law in Israel was the corroboration of witnesses in the establishment of truth. As we read in *Deuteronomy* 19:15: “*At the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses shall the matter be established.*” Perhaps the Psalmist had this in mind when he included these two definitive subjects in his words of praise. When

we study Scripture we find that God Himself keeps this law when providing corroboration for His revelations to those with whom He communicates. In the case of Moses, for example, there were three witnesses to God’s power and authority: the burning bush; the rod which became a serpent then returned to just a rod again; the turning of his hand white with leprosy and its restoration to healthy flesh once more.

Gideon had a double witness, as we read in the book of *Judges*, chapter 6. When leading the Israelites against the Midianites he devised a test to satisfy himself that the Lord had indeed selected him to defeat Israel’s enemies. The first night the fleece he chose to use as a test was wet with dew while the ground all around it was dry; the second night the fleece remained dry while the surrounding ground was wet. At the Transfiguration on the mountain two men appeared with the Lord, Moses and Elijah; two angels sat at the open tomb and testified that Jesus Christ had risen from the grave; and when the risen Lord had ascended into heaven two men appeared to the awe-struck disciples to assure them of the Lord’s return.

Therefore, in keeping with this principle, there are three major witnesses which provide evidence as to the meaning and significance of the days in which we are living. These three are: the written Word of God, the Bible; the monumental word, the Great Pyramid, sometimes referred to as the Bible in Stone; the pictorial word which are the star groupings in what are known as the Signs of the Zodiac. Each of these witnesses testifies to the fact that this age is coming to an end and each in its own particular way indicates the unquestionable accuracy of the “*more sure word of prophecy*” referred to by the apostle Peter.

In every age and generation God has raised up great men of faith and

conviction when they were most needed. In the case of the Bible the foundation stone of the Reformation came in the person of John Wycliffe who, in 1380, translated the Latin Vulgate Bible into English. Against great opposition the New Testament was translated into English by Tyndale in 1525. This work was later revised by Coverdale who, after some revision, translated the whole Bible into English. Subsequently the Authorised Version came into being in 1611. This version of the Bible has withstood the test of time and criticism, for those who have derided its text as now an obsolete dialect have not seen such numbers brought to faith in the risen Lord through modern versions as has been achieved through the Authorised Version.

In the case of the Great Pyramid the first Englishman of note to undertake an investigation of it was a Professor of Astronomy at Oxford called John Greaves. As a result of his study and the measurements he carried out, he wrote a book about it and this remained a standard work for two centuries. Sir Isaac Newton looked into the matter and noted the results of Greaves’ measurements. After that two hundred year period had passed another survey of the Pyramid was carried out by Colonel Howard Vyse. Following his own investigation and measurements he also wrote a book on the subject. This latter book came into the hands of a scientific instrument maker in London called John Taylor who, for thirty years, collected notes and made an exhaustive study of all the material pertaining to the Pyramid. Then he, too, wrote a book about his research efforts and this was published in 1859. Taylor’s book came to the notice of Professor Piazzi Smyth, the Astronomer Royal for Scotland, and this inspired him to visit the Great Pyramid between 1864 and 1865. His subsequent knowledge and evidence for the unique Divine message contained in

this remarkable monument has been kept alive and preserved for future generations. There were further studies by other researchers, such as David Davidson, who also had a book published in 1924, proclaiming the Divine message of the Pyramid.

So the Bible as we have it today, containing both Old and New Testaments, has been around for nearly two thousand years, although, of course, the original Old Testament Scriptures are much older than that. The Great Pyramid dates back more than four thousand years, the second witness in this study. But the stars, the third area of witness, date back, not just thousands of years but to the beginning of time. They form a pictorial map and plan in the heavens of the destiny of the human race, even before they were formed in the image of God and placed on this planet, Earth. As the Psalmist marvelled: *“The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament showeth His handiwork.”*

The signs of the Zodiac, and the various named constellations, have come down to us from over four thousand years ago. The tradition handed down by Josephus is that the stars were named by Adam, Seth and Enoch and were designed to convey to us the first great promise of *Genesis 3:15*, that all hope for man and creation was in the coming Redeemer; born of a woman; to suffer and, afterwards, gloriously triumph. The Psalmist tells us that the revealed hope will be in speech – in an understandable language – to all people. And the heavens **do** speak in such a manner that all languages can render the meaning behind all the great star pictures. (*Psalms 19:3-4*).

The names of stars, of constellations and the signs of the Zodiac, were the same in their meaning and order to all the ancient nations of the world, whether Hebrew, Arabic, Greek or Persian. In all the star and celestial albums the constellations are represented by the figures of men, animals, birds, reptiles and inanimate objects. All books on astronomy re-



fer to the great antiquity of the star pictures, and the inability of modern science to give the source of inspiration which resulted in the naming of the various groups.

The extent of this knowledge of the stars by ancient civilisations is quite remarkable. Back in 520 BC Pythagoras understood that the earth was a sphere revolving on its own axis, yet as recently as AD 1492 the earth was thought to be flat. Indeed, at that time it was thought by many people that Christopher Columbus, who set out on his famous voyage of discovery that year, would sail over the edge of the world and perish. We can laugh at the idea now but it was not until Copernicus came on the scene, more than a century later, that the world changed its opinion to what is still accepted today. Yet back in the time of Isaiah that prophet referred to the Lord as: *“He that sitteth on the circle of the earth.....”* The earth was supposed by many wise men of ancient time to be held up in some supportive way rather than being suspended in space. It was not until the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries that the truth was discovered by Galileo and Newton. Yet Job knew the truth – that the earth was held in space by an invisible power: *“He stretcheth out the north over the empty place and hangeth the earth upon nothing”* (*Job 26:7*). The study of astronomy has been carried out by some

notable men such as Halley, Laplace and Sir John Herschel. The latter was one of the greatest modern scientists and he made this interesting comment on such research, saying: “All discoveries seem to have been made only to confirm more and more the truths of the Bible.” Archaeological excavations in the Holy Land up to the present time have not produced any evidence which conflicts with the biblical record.

That quote from the book of *Job*, *“He stretcheth out the north over the empty place....,”* was scorned by the scientific world for centuries. However, when very powerful telescopes were produced in more recent times it was then discovered that in the northern area of outer space there is, indeed, an empty void in which there are no stars. So often we find instances like this in the Bible in which a profound truth is put briefly, in just a few words whose meaning can be easily overlooked or misunderstood. This occurs again in the book of *Job*, in chapter 38, where we read: *“Canst thou bind the sweet influence of Pleiades, or loose the bands of Orion?”* For years scholars knew that the word here for Pleiades (Chimah) meant a ‘hinge,’ ‘pivot’ or ‘axle,’ a body that moves and turns other bodies around with it. But it was only later discovered that Al Cyone, the brightest star in the Pleiades group, is the centre of gravity

of our solar system which is thus rotating around that one star. Another comparatively recent discovery, yet it was known and recorded in the Scriptures thousands of years ago.

A complete study of the stars is out-with the scope of an article such as this. However, there are two star formations which are relevant to the end of this age, one at the beginning and one at the end of the Zodiac. The Zodiac is, of course, a circle and, as such, would normally have no beginning or end. But in God's providence there are these two extremities and to find them we are given a clue, conveniently situated close to the Great Pyramid, and it is the Sphinx, the word meaning 'to bind close together.' It was designed to show where the two ends of the Zodiac were joined together. As we know it is a figure with the head of a woman and the body of a lion. So Virgo is the beginning and Leo is the end of the Zodiac circle. In the ceiling of the Portico of the Temple of Esneh in Egypt there is a carving showing the Sphinx between the signs of Virgo and Leo, thus, in this pictorial form, uniting the beginning and the end of the circle.

Virgo is one of the largest of the constellations. It represents, for us, a woman with a branch in her right hand and some ears of corn in her left hand. The Hebrew meaning of the name for this sign is a 'Virgin' whilst in Arabic it is a 'branch.' Thus we see fulfilled the words of *Isaiah 7:14*, "*Behold a Virgin shall be with child and bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted, is God with us.*"

In that heavenly star group there is a star in the ear of corn in her hand which has the Arabic name Al Zimach, which means 'the Branch.' Zachariah writes of this branch to come when he says: "*For behold, I will bring forth my servant the Branch.*"

A small, but significant, constellation accompanies Virgo and is called Coma. It was known by the ancients as 'The desired,' or 'The

longed for.' The early Egyptians called it 'The desired son.' We find this same statement in Scripture, of course, "*The desire of all nations shall come*" (*Haggai 2:7*). The star of Bethlehem, seen by the wise men, appeared in this constellation.

At the end of the circle we come to the sign of Leo. There is no doubt about this sign, it signifies the triumph of the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Lord Jesus Christ. Here in the pictorial language of the stars He is symbolised as a mighty lion coming forth to rend his prey. For beneath his feet there is a coiled serpent whose name is Hydra, meaning 'the abhorred.' Two constellations are linked with Hydra. One is a Cup resting upon it; the other is a Raven, pecking at the serpent. The symbolism is a depiction of the end of this age; the Cup is the cup of Divine wrath being poured out upon the serpent, the Devil, and his agents, destroying their evil schemes. The Raven, a bird of prey, is devouring the dead carcasses of God's enemies. All the stars in the constellation of Leo signify and glorify the coming Lord in the meaning of their names; about half a dozen of them, all exalting Him in His Divine presence in judgment and victory.

Looking again at the Pleiades and their pivotal role in the heavenly regions, it is seen to be in the constellation of Taurus, the Bull. The Bull, as we know, was the tribal emblem of Ephraim. It is a symbol of strength and power and that tribe was to be the leading tribe of Israel, God's earthly kingdom destined to become a nation and company of nations in accordance with the promises given to their forefathers. This was their birthright, for they were to be a continuing kingdom in the service of God. So the symbolism of the centrality of power and influence in the world, for which Israel was destined, is clearly signified in this great sign of the Zodiac. That influence has been seen in the establishment of the Christian faith as the national faith of the British peoples, and its propagation to peo-

ples and nations of the wider world. It has been seen in our military capabilities in defending our freedom against foreign aggression in our past history, a fulfilment of God's promise to Israel that "*no weapon raised against thee shall prosper.*" It has been seen in our Parliamentary form of government and constitution, based on the Commandments of God and upholding the rights and freedoms of the individual enshrined in Magna Carta. Our scientific and industrial enterprise and expertise has been a great blessing to us and to all other peoples with whom it has been shared. Israel thus had this central and pivotal role to play in the restoration of a fallen creation and, up to a point and in its blindness, has fulfilled that role.

Sadly the influence of the serpent, symbolised in Hydra, is very much in evidence in these last days of this age. Spiritual and moral values, which underpinned our culture and way of life following the Reformation, have been debased in the present secularisation of our nation. A deep apostasy and rebellion against the laws of God have resulted in the 'falling away' of the faith, foretold in Scripture and we are now surely in that position described by our Lord which would be a sign of His imminent return: "*But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be*" (*Matthew 24:37*).

Modern astronomers may have even more knowledge of the stars than before yet they still seem blind to their true meaning and significance. No one can doubt the antiquity of the signs of the Zodiac, or the constellations. No one can question the accuracy of the ancient star names which have come down to us, for they are preserved in every good celestial atlas. They are a unique source of inspiration and a lasting witness to the overruling power of Almighty God, Whose glory will be manifested in the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. "*Behold, He cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see Him.*"

ALFRED BROWN

THE CHRISTIAN PROPHETIC WITNESS ESSAY COMPETITION 2016

All interested young people are invited to submit an essay
on the following questions set for their age group



19-30 years old:

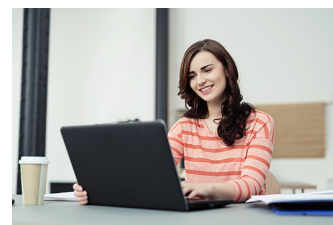
Write an essay of no more than 3,000 words on

“Does the United Kingdom have a Christian future?”

15-18 years old:

Write an essay of no more than 2,000 words on

“How and when did the Gospel come to the British Isles?”



Please submit your entries to Philippa Clark at:

philippa@britishisrael.co.uk

Prizes:

19-30 years old

1st prize: £350.00 and Covenant Publishing books, value £100.00
 Runner-up: £150.00 and Covenant Publishing books, value £100.00

15-18 years old

1st prize: £250.00 and Covenant Publishing books, value £50.00
 Runner-up: £50.00 and Covenant Publishing books, value £50.00

The winning essays will be published on the **BIWF website** and in
The Covenant Nations magazine

Rules of the competition:

- Entrants must be either 19-30 years old or 15-18 years old on 1 December 2015.
- Closing date for entries: 30 June 2016.
- Judges' decision is final.
- Results to be published on the BIWF website and in *The Covenant Nations* magazine.

THE HEART OF PLUTO

In July of 2015 the world paused in awed fascination during the three days of the “New Horizons” spacecraft’s closest approach to the dwarf planet Pluto. It was the top story – in fact, NASA’s biggest day ever – on social media, and dominated the nightly news. The spacecraft had been launched on 19 January, 2006, on its 4.67 billion mile journey to Pluto. Michael Clark, from his study of the numerics, points out that this distance is a fraction under (only .08 less than) 3 x 1.53 billion miles from earth, 153 being the number of the Elect (*John* 21:11), and so we know from that that Pluto is spiritually significant. As the fastest spacecraft ever launched, at 32,000 miles per hour, it still took New Horizons 9½ years to reach the dwarf planet, with its nearest flyby occurring on 14 July at 11:49 a.m. GMT, and coming within 7,800 miles of the planet, or 20 x 390 miles (expectancy of trouble for Ephraim Britain). Remarkably, this date was also the 50th anniversary

(Jubilee) of Mariner 4’s visit to Mars – the first flyby of any planet by a spacecraft.

The flyby of Pluto was, and is, very important, both scientifically and spiritually. No spacecraft has ever approached so close to Pluto before – as a NASA spokesman said, “You’re flying into the unknown.” The planet was indeed an unknown quantity – even viewed through the Hubble Space Telescope it is just a blurry blob of pixels. So the mission revealed details of the planet and its five moons, especially Charon, never before seen. Pluto was formerly designated the ninth and last planet in the Solar System (nine signifying finality), but was downgraded to a dwarf planet in 2006 due to its small size and several anomalies in its orbit. It had been discovered in 1930 by Clyde Tombaugh, who died on 17 January, 1997, 9 years and 2 days (judgment perfected) before the launch of New Horizons, which, in tribute, carried his ashes.

The name of the planet, being the Roman god of the Underworld, was suggested by an 11-year-old girl, Venetia Burney, in 1930. The name “Pluto” is the latinized form of the Greek *Plouton*, derived from *ploutos*, meaning “wealth.” In the Greek pantheon, the god was also known as Hades, who lent his name to the abode of the dead, the shadowy realm beneath the earth where no light penetrates and things are only dimly seen. Fittingly, Pluto is the farthest planet from the sun and, hence, receives the least amount of light. Spiritually, it represents the subconscious mind, again a shadowy realm from which thoughts may emerge, usually at night, in revelations or dreams.

Taking this idea a step further, with the spacecraft’s revelatory close encounter with Pluto in the natural order, spiritually, it implies that previously hidden mysteries and truths will now be brought to light for the first time. It is analogous to the *spiritual* veil concealing the Holy of

Holies in the Temple being rent or removed (the *physical* veil having been rent by the earthquake when Jesus died). The spacecraft, New Horizons, is aptly named, as we are on the verge of a new era of spiritual enlightenment, which will only continue to grow in the coming Millennial reign of Jesus Christ.

With this in mind, it is incredible that, as the spacecraft sped towards Pluto and more and more details became clear, the planet’s most prominent feature emerged as a gigantic white “Heart.” Even from 70 million miles away it was, in the words of a NASA scientist, “shining



like a beacon.” New Horizons principal investigator Alan Stern said of it, “Wow! My prediction was that we would find something wonderful, and we did.” To my mind, it meant that the first thing revealed to us in the “Holy of Holies” of the Solar System was the Heart of God, for God is Love (I *John* 4:7-8). Seven months earlier, a special version of a song by Diane Warren had been recorded to be played for the final wake up of New Horizons on 6 December, 2014. The name of the song was “Where My Heart Will Take Me,” but it had originally been titled “Faith of the Heart.” Only God could have arranged to have a song about the Heart relating to Pluto, months before it was actually seen! The Heart was informally named by NASA the “Tombaugh Regio,” and two of its mountain ranges were named “Hillary Montes” and “Nor-gay Montes,” after the first climbers to scale Mount Everest.

Then, as New Horizons drew ever closer, one image in particular zeroed in on the white area of the Heart, with the caption below the photo reading, “Frozen Plains in the Heart of Pluto’s ‘Heart’.” Now “Heart of the Heart” is like “Holy of Holies,” and we have the expression, “in my heart of hearts,” leaving no doubt about what the Heart represents. It is also interesting that, as Hades was the abode of the dead in Greek mythology, as well as in the Greek New Testament, people who have had “near death experiences” almost universally report feeling enveloped by unconditional Love, not suffering. As the prophet declared, “*He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the Lord hath spoken it*” (*Isaiah* 25:8). So as a second, heavenly witness to the Word of God, Pluto

teaches us that it is the love of God – His mighty Heart – that will prevail; for “*now abideth faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love*” (I *Corinthians* 13:13).

“Be ye therefore perfect,
even as your Father which is
in heaven is perfect”

Matthew 5:48

An early discovery made by New Horizons was that Pluto is larger than expected. It had been thought to have a diameter of 2300 km., 2300 being the number of cleansing in *Daniel* 8:14, but is actually some 70 km. wider – 70 represents perfect spiritual order. These numbers recall to mind the entreaty of the psalmist David, “*Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me*” (*Psalms* 51:10), with the result that David’s heart was perfect before the Lord (I *Kings* 11:4). We, too, are encouraged to “*Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect*” (*Matthew* 5:48).

One day after the flyby, when New Horizons was already 1.25 million miles away from Pluto, its cameras were directed backward for the “first ever look at Pluto’s night side.” The resulting photograph proved to be very dramatic, showing a luminous halo backlit by the sun shining through the planet’s thin atmosphere. It hung like a perfect circle in the blackness of space and pointed to yet another truth: for the circle, which has no beginning or end, is a universal symbol of eternity – the realm outside time in which God dwells, and which all in Christ will enter into at the appointed time. That will be the true Holy of Holies.

Meanwhile, we await new revelations from Pluto as it slowly discloses its secrets – it is said it will take at least sixteen months to receive and process all the data transmitted by New Horizons. Then, all being well, the spacecraft is expected to continue on until 2030, as it explores the Kuiper Belt of other dwarf planets, which scientists predict will be a “quantum leap forward” in our understanding of our Solar System and the universe.

Spiritually, too, our understanding of the mysteries of God will increase as the concealing veil is removed, for the prophet Isaiah declares: “*And he will destroy in this mountain the face of the covering cast over all the people, and the veil that is spread over all nations*” (*Isaiah* 25:7). And Paul, in the New Testament, echoes the thought: “*And not as Moses, which put a veil over his face, that the children of Israel could not steadfastly look to the end of that which is abolished. But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same veil untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which veil is done away in Christ. But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the veil is upon their heart. Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the veil shall be taken away*” (II *Corinthians* 3:13-16). And so, our knowledge of the divine will only continue to grow until, finally, we arrive at the blessed day when “*they shall not teach every man his neighbour; and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord; for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest*” (*Hebrews* 8:11 & *Jeremiah* 31:34). May the Lord hasten that glorious day!

PATRICIA BAGWELL BA

For more photos and information, go to www.nasa.gov or www.pluto.jhuapl.edu.

THE KING OF KINGS WILL RETURN TO THE THRONE OF DAVID

This article is extracted from 'The King comes to his Crowning' by Philip Benwell MBE, National Chairman of the Australian Monarchist League, which is a booklet containing the Paper on Our Christian Coronation which he delivered to the House of Lords in 2014. His concern then is even more relevant now: the threat to use European human rights legislation to remove Christianity from the next Coronation proposed by the National Secular Society.

The theme of this issue is the Victory of the Lord Jesus Christ which was won at such a cost to Him at Calvary when His precious blood was shed for the redemption of His people and the salvation of the whole world. During His ministry He taught us to pray, ".....*Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven.....*" and that prayer has not been prayed in vain. His Kingdom has been growing in this world down the ages and cannot fail though every generation experiences the ferocious attacks of the enemies of God who are desperate to destroy it. It is the duty of each of His faithful servants to "... *take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand*" (Ephesians 6:13).

The battle is fierce on many fronts simultaneously and sometimes it is difficult to know which one to defend most vigorously. The forthcoming Referendum on our continued membership of the European Union is of vital importance but, as Mr Benwell shows, all these issues are connected. Now that Her Majesty The Queen has become our longest serving monarch and as she approaches her 90th birthday in April 2016 the intensity of the attack is on the Christian nature of our society and the next Coronation is in the sights of the enemy.

He wrote:

"In a release by the National Secular Society in the 12th November 2013, they state that: 'A secular coronation would take into account not only the fact that some 7% of the population are of faiths other than Christian, but also that a third (more by some measures) of Britain now regards itself as non-religious. Indeed, as NSS researcher Barry Thorpe has found, Britain's current investiture of a monarch with such overt religious associations is an anomaly within the context of the rest of Europe.' They also quote from a statement made in 2008 by the then Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, that: 'it wouldn't be the end of the world' if the Church was disestablished."

And explained:

"...the Coronation, and particularly the anointment, is not about the monarch being Supreme Governor of the Church of England. It is, rather, about the monarch being consecrated to the service of God and to the people over whom he or she will reign. The various oaths a new monarch takes have changed, almost with each coronation, but the procedure, the appurtenances and the anointing have not."

The result of Britain's union with Europe:

"Not only has the unity amongst the Queen's Realms been hacked away as Britain submerged its loyalties into Europe, but the very foundation of our monarchy will fall if those who seek to destroy our Christian nation succeed using, not a vote of the British people, but hitherto alien legislation emanating from Europe. In any event, it is accepted that the jurisdiction of the European Court of Human Rights, which enforces the European Convention on Human Rights, is compulsory and binding for all 47 member states of the Council of Europe. It is in this manner that the NSS is attempting to use the insidious and obnoxious European Human Rights legislation to make the next coronation a secular one and thus destroy the fabric of our Christian society and remove any religious involvement or emphasis and to replace it with a secular State ceremony as we have recently seen in the induction of European monarchs. This is also part of their plan in removing the Church of England as the established church."

In the Coronation Service:

"The anointing is the central act of the religious ceremony and includes the Blessing and Consecration. In the twenty-six monarchies left in the world today, only the British monarchs are anointed and consecrated with sacred oil at their coronation. It is known (from the Book of Kings) that in 1015 BC '*And Zadok the priest took an horn of oil out of the tabernacle, and anointed Solomon. And they blew the trumpet: and all the people said, God save King Solomon.*' Zadok the priest has been recited, at least, since the coronation of King Edgar in AD 973. It is most remarkable that the coronations of our Christian kings are virtually the same as those of the kings



The ampulla and anointing spoon

'GOD'S GREAT PLAN' and 'THE COMING OF THE SAINTS'

These two new books from Covenant Publishing are complementary to each other. This quote from the Foreword of *God's Great Plan* explains the intention of the author, R. Llewelyn Williams:

"In these pages, therefore, an attempt has been made to trace that great central theme of the Bible which links all its books together, and which justifies their inclusion in one volume as the Book of Books.

"Careful study of the selected passages of Scripture will, it is hoped, lead the student to the conclusion that the Bible is not only a true book, but something of far greater value – the written Word of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, who is Himself the Living Word of God."

That great central theme is the *continuing* Kingdom of God on earth which writers in this magazine have identified and taught in many articles, issue after issue. There are so many different strands to discover: how indeed did Almighty God bring about His Plan after the Victory of our Lord Jesus Christ, Saviour and Redeemer?



The Coming of the Saints is a very well-researched book which takes up the story of the apostles and disciples in the early years immediately after the triumph of Calvary and the Resurrection. J.W. Taylor traces the journeys of 'the earliest missionaries of the Christian Faith' from Palestine, along the Mediterranean, into Gaul and finally the British Isles. Here the Celtic Church became so well-established that, in due course, the Gospel was being taken back into Brittany and other countries by monks from the British Church and bishops were attending the great councils of the Christian Church such as that of the Council of Arles in AD 314.

of the House of David. From the Recognition to the regalia, the Oath to serve and, most important of all, the anointing.

"The anointing, in a biblical sense, was originally used to consecrate those chosen by God to serve Him. The earliest anointing mentioned in the Bible is when God commanded Moses to anoint Aaron '.....that he may minister unto me in the priest's office' (Exodus 40:13-15). And in regard to King David: 'I have found David my servant; with my holy oil have I anointed him' (Psalm 89:20)."

Mr Benwell has never ceased to fight against all those forces which would overthrow and eradicate our Christian and biblical heritage. He concluded his paper with these words and the stirring quote from Winston Churchill:

"Never let any challenge against the monarchy go unanswered. As that greatest of Englishmen, Winston Churchill had said: 'Never give in, never give in, never, never, never – in nothing, great or small, large or petty – never give in except to convictions of honour and good sense. Never yield to force; never yield to

The evidence of these early saints in France and their lives and work have been closely studied by the author and he vividly evokes the places in which they lived and the struggles which they endured. He takes up their stories which are only briefly touched upon in *The Drama of the Lost Disciples*, another CPC book which has never been out of print. There are photographs of sites in France and the extensive References and Appendices bring all the history and

legends together in a compelling way. He acknowledges that "how much is true and how much is false in the old legends it is impossible to say. . . . I simply take you halfway back – to the ages of faith, to the belief of a thousand years ago – as I try to tell the happenings of two thousand years ago, and re-imagine the remoter past in the light of the traditions of our forefathers."

These books will provide many hours of stimulating reading and will be sources of great encouragement as we go through our own times of opposition to the Gospel.

the apparently overwhelming might of the enemy."

It is our turn, in our generation, to fight the good fight so that indeed the Throne of David will be there when the King of kings comes again to claim it.

EDITORIAL TEAM

See also *The Covenant Nations*
Vol 2 No 11: 'The King comes not alone to his Hallowing' by Philip Benwell
Vol 2 No 6: 'The Coronation Ceremony' by Patricia Bagwell
Vol 2 No 5: 'In support of a Constitutional Monarchy' by Ray Smyth

THE FORGOTTEN COVENANT

King David's 'Magna Carta' with the House of Israel

This year the English-speaking world celebrated the 800th anniversary of the signing of Magna Carta on June 15th, 1215. The honour is well-deserved, for as one historian commented, Magna Carta possesses “the first place in our statute books.” The British Library in London hosted a four month major exhibition that included surviving copies of the charter, as well as other related manuscripts and interesting displays concerning the background of this famous document. Yet not a thing was suggested of any Biblical precedent. Although most people in the English-speaking world have probably at least heard the name, Magna Carta, few have a clear understanding of what it contained or the reasons for its existence. Nor do they know that it was preceded by a Biblical “Magna Carta” under King David.

Under the heading, “What Was In Magna Carta?” author Claire Brey states, “Magna Carta—the Great Charter—was not a statement of fundamental principles of liberty, but a series of concessions addressing long-standing baronial grievances and condemning arbitrary government. Most of its clauses dealt with the limits of the king’s rights in specific areas of feudal taxation and administration...” (“Magna Carta: Manuscripts and Myths,” p.28).

In popular thinking today Magna Carta was a fundamental declaration of human rights and liberty, but instead it actually was written to address two main areas: grievances concerning unfair high taxation and arbitrary government powers.

Firstly, the abuse of power by King John angered the English nobles. He even dictated who the widows of English nobles could marry, exacted high fees for their right to remarry or the right to not remarry. His infamous immoral tendencies made the nobles fear for their wives and daughters when the King came to visit. As one historian explained, “his inclination became his law.”

Secondly, he exacted exorbitant taxes and duties to help pay for his wars across the English channel in France and Normandy, nearly all of which were unsuccessful. By the end of his reign, the English crown’s land claims in France were nearly all lost. When first issued, Magna Carta was essentially a peace treaty between the king and the restive English barons. As historians explain, it “required the consent of the realm in return for certain taxation...”

Remarkably enough, this scenario of high taxes, abuse of power, and ultimate rebellion had all played out before in Biblical times. These

very same issues came to a head when Kings David, Solomon, and Rehoboam of Judah sought to rule over Ephraim, the northern House of Israel. The Bible tells us that King David was forced to negotiate an agreement, charter, or covenant, with the leaders—the barons of their day—of the northern Israel tribes. Although the Bible does not explicitly state it, there is little doubt that Israelite tribal elders expected David’s successors—Solomon and Rehoboam—to abide by the covenant as well. Talk of rebellion grew when these kings did not honour the agreement.

Since rulers were not trusted to keep their verbal commitments, and the lives and memories of witnesses can be short, it would seem to be certain that the covenant with David was negotiated and produced in some type of written form, although such a document has not survived to our day. Ancient documents written on parchment or papyrus seldom had a long life, unless copies were made on cuneiform clay tablets that provided some resistance to destruction and decay. Although the Bible does not clearly state what was discussed, there were some well-known timely issues that no doubt were addressed with Judean King David before accepting his rule. Some of these same

issues finally drove the successful rebellion of the House of Israel in the time of David's grandson, King Rehoboam of Judah.

What does the Bible say about this important yet little-known and now forgotten covenant between the king and tribal leaders? We read about it in I *Chronicles* 11:1-4, following the death of King Saul. "*Then all Israel gathered themselves to David unto Hebron, saying, Behold, we are thy bone and thy flesh. And moreover in time past, even when Saul was king, thou wast he that leddest out and broughtest in Israel: and the LORD thy God said unto thee, Thou shalt feed my people Israel, and thou shalt be ruler over my people Israel. Therefore came all the elders of Israel to the king to Hebron; and David made a covenant with them in Hebron before the LORD; and they anointed David king over Israel....*"

Some Bible translations avoid the word "covenant" in this text and substitute other terms such as "alliance" or "league," but the Hebrew word used is "karot berith," meaning "to cut a covenant." The Greek Septuagint uses the word, "diathesomai," which is related to the word, "diatheke" used in the New Testament for the term New "Covenant."

Dr. B.H. Carroll, in "Interpretation of the English Bible," says, "It was quite in accord with the patriarchal and representative constitution of the nation that the princes and elders of the tribes should act for them in entering into covenant with David. It must have been an imposing sight, to see nearly half a million armed men in fifteen distinct corps waiting at Hebron, while their statesmen, prophets, priests, and generals deliberated on the terms of the covenant."

We read again of this forgotten covenant in the third chapter of II *Samuel*, verse 21: "*And Abner saith unto David, 'I arise, and go, and gather unto my lord the king the whole of Is-*

rael, and they make with thee a covenant, and thou hast reigned over all that thy soul desireth'..." Abner, who led the army of the northern Israel tribes, agreed to bring Israel's nobles to a joint meeting to work out a covenant under which they would accept David's rule. But first, David wanted Saul's daughter, Michal, as a wife for political purposes (see II *Samuel* 3:13). Their marriage would join the royal families of the two Houses, and she would serve to cement his weak and shaky relationship with the tribes of northern Israel, strengthening his right to rule them. In addition, the birthright promise belonged to Joseph and the northern kingdom (I *Chronicles* 5:1-2), not to Judah. It is surprising that not one commentary out of nearly two dozen consulted mentioned the important Abrahamic birthright issue. Apparently, our modern commentators dare not mention the separate and unique promises to the "ten tribes" of Ephraim-Israel as distinct from Judah.

We read in II *Samuel* 5:3 of the covenant that was subsequently developed between David and the nobles of the northern tribes. "*And all the elders of Israel come unto the king, to Hebron, and king David maketh with them a covenant in Hebron before Jehovah, and they anoint David for king over Israel.*" The Preacher's Commentary states, "David made a covenant with the tribal elders that stipulated the nature of the kingship. There were two aspects of David's covenant with the elders that are significant to understanding the story and which have application to us today. First, it was a covenant that laid out the obligations of both parties. While there may have been things that David wanted the people to agree to concerning their commitments to him, there were also his obligations to the people. The second element in David's covenant with the elders was that it was made "before the LORD" (II *Samuel* 5:3). They made a religious ceremony

out of the agreement. This underlined the seriousness with which they made their commitment. It acknowledged God's part in bringing them together." Recognition of God was also an element of King John's covenant.

What was contained in this forgotten Davidic covenant? Undoubtedly recognition of the sovereign rights of northern Ephraim-Israel, as well as limits on confiscatory taxation placed upon them. Dr. L.W. Batten, of General Theological Seminary, writing in the *Journal of Biblical Literature* (vol. 49:58) states, "So far as the north [i.e. ten tribes] is concerned therefore, David reigns in a constitutional monarchy... That agreement between David and the elders of Israel unfortunately is lost beyond hope of recovery, and there is not anywhere in the records a hint as to its contents. And yet I venture the opinion that it is possible to recover one article of the compact... the elders of Israel did not offer the crown absolutely to David and his sons as his successors forever... they reserved the right to accept or reject David's sons as they deemed best... it is clear from the history that David rules in a dual monarchy. There is no record of a union between Israel and Judah. The line of cleavage between the two countries discloses itself sharply during David's reign."

David's Magna Carta with Ephraim-Israel is ignored by most Biblical scholars and clergy because of a refusal to recognize the essential difference between the two houses of Israel, their differing history and prophecies, and separate existence down to our day. Yet the same Israelite ethnic mind-set that loathed unrighteous rule and tyranny is mirrored in both iterations of the "great covenant," Magna Carta, which the people made mandatory for Kings David and John.

JORY STEVEN BROOKS
CBIA-The Servant People
www.israelite.ca

‘HOSEA – THE PROPHET FOR OUR DAYS’

A dramatic prophecy for our Nation to inspire the final Kingdom Awakening

As Covenant Publishing presents this new book by Michael S. Jarvis perhaps only now can we fully appreciate the vital need of this exegesis to remove the blindness of our people to their heritage – a divorced people but ransomed from the grave to live again in God’s sight.

It is a fact that while the prophet Hosea is categorized as being among the minor prophets of the Bible, because of the shortness of his book, his message is perhaps *the* most dramatic prophecy to the Covenant Nations in the present era. It is certainly a message that should not fail to be missed, *yet it is missed in a very big way indeed*, because of the persistent spiritualization of the prophet’s message to the House of Israel.

This violation done to the literal context of the prophecy to the nation of Israel is at the root of the great blindness to the Gospel of the Kingdom. It is high time that the blinkers were removed and the profound depth of the story of Redemption in history was known. The prophecy is nothing less than a telescopic preview of what would happen down through the pages of history. In one bold sweep across the centuries beginning with the dispersion of the House of Israel and climaxing in their redemption, the fullness of the Gospel of the Kingdom is revealed. It is an incomparable prophetic vision for our time.

The northern ten-tribed Kingdom of Israel is depicted as an unfaithful wife, through a life experience parable of the prophet, whom God divorced and sent away into Assyrian bondage. In graphic terms Hosea sets out the story of the rejection, the punishment, the regathering and

the ultimate restoration of the House of Israel. His distinctive message is set by two words, Lo-ammi, ‘not my people,’ and Ammi, ‘my people’ (*Hosea* 1:9 & 2:1).

Hosea as a fearless and true prophet had warned the people of impending judgment for their sins, making it clear to them that they would not escape punishment if they persisted in transgressing the commandments, statutes and judgments of the Lord and partaking of the idolatrous practices of the nations in the region about them. Yet, in the midst of the condemnation that he issued for their evil ways, Hosea was able to look forward in ultimate vision to behold the coming glorious deliverance when the unfaithful wife of Jehovah would be forgiven and the bill of divorcement would be blotted out.

One might have thought that this advance knowledge concerning the glorious reunion of the people of the Kingdom with Almighty God would have been received without difficulty as the evidences of unfolding history confirmed that the great plan of redemption for Israel was being fulfilled at the Reformation and in Protestant civilization.

How can such a powerful prophetic vision fail to have been understood and interpreted by most theologians over the past fifty years and longer? The answer can be understood in the way that theological dogma from pre-Reformation times has persisted and indeed resurrected itself as we have fallen away from *the* Faith as a nation. The lack of understanding the Bible in its nation-state context, as God’s great Master Plan for establishing His Kingdom upon earth and what is to a very large ex-

tent a prophetic document for the Kingdom under construction, has resulted in the Bible, as our national book, remaining very much a closed book for multitudes of Christians.

This basic link between the Old and New Testaments, or the former and new covenants with God’s people of Israel has failed to be understood as a continuity of history in the great story of God’s love for the nation of the servant people in the earth. It is a blindness which for the past half century has become a cause of increasing falling away from *the* Faith. A universalism has developed within Christian movements that makes it more and more difficult for the believer to follow in the true path of righteousness which exalts the nation under God.

The Prophet’s Commission

The true spelling of the prophet’s name, taken from the Hebrew, is Hoshea, which means ‘*salvation*.’ His calling and purpose was to demonstrate, through his own difficult personal family experiences what the Lord was enduring at the hands of His national bride, the people of Israel. Many consider the Lord’s instruction to Hosea to be very strange indeed. To take ‘a wife of whoredoms’ appears like a scandal.

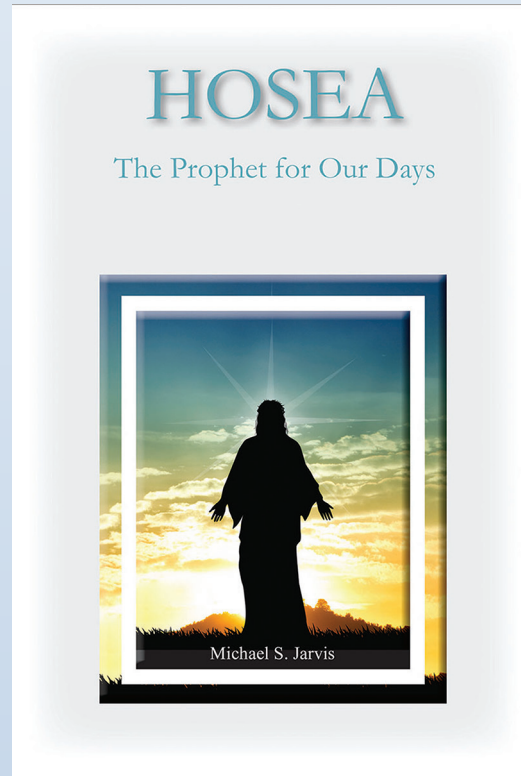
Actually Hosea was being told to take a wife from among the women of the Northern Kingdom of Israel who had turned to idolatry after departing from the commandments, statutes and judgments of the Lord. So in taking to wife ‘*Gomer*,’ whose name means ‘*consuming*’ and whose father Diblain means ‘*withered*,’ Hosea was graphically demonstrating to the House of Israel the results following the immorality and degeneration due to the great apostasy.

Many times in the history of God's people Israel men and women were named to commemorate significant happenings. The outstanding instance of this was when the Ark of the Covenant was taken by the Philistines in battle. Samuel's daughter-in-law gave birth to a son whom she named Ichabod, which means 'inglorious,' for she said, "The glory is departed from Israel: for the ark of God is taken" (I Samuel 4:22).

Gomer bore Hosea a son and the Lord instructed the prophet to call him Jezreel, a name that has two meanings: 'may God scatter' and 'may God sow.' Gomer then conceived and bore a daughter and God commanded the prophet to name her Lo-ruhamah, which means 'not compassionated' or in *Romans 9:25* 'not beloved' and in *I Peter 2:10*, 'not having obtained mercy.' God's judgment was coming upon the rebellious House of Israel to the extent that they would cease to be a kingdom as they then existed. He would in fact no longer have mercy and utterly cause them to be taken away (*Hosea 1:4-6*). The judgment took place for the House of Israel, but what is often overlooked, is that almost all of the House of Judah as well was removed to Assyria and Media from 721-701 BC. Only a final small remnant of Judah was taken to Babylon and Persia around 130 years later. From these captivities none of the House of Israel and less than 50,000 of the House of Judah ever returned, who were then merged with Edom to be called Jews.

The theological mind-trick that follows then assumes that this vast majority of the Hebrew race, as His national bride, was just written off by the ever-loving and ever-faithful Jehovah-God of Israel to be replaced seven centuries later by the Church as His bride. The reason for this is that the prophecy of Hosea is not followed through to its most

wonderful and glorious climax. History and the prophetic Scriptures are simply ignored for the sake of a legacy of dogma from pre-Reformation times. It is a difficult fact to face, yet nevertheless true, that once dogma is established only a revelation of the Holy Spirit can unlock the mind pattern to take it out of the rut into which it has fallen. Today, rather than the Gospel of the Kingdom which Jesus Christ preached, we have the 'Gospel of the Church.'



In fact the Church is *still* the called out and separated nation of the servant people and Nation under God; called out to serve Him in righteousness as His example nation to all the other nations in the earth. What is needed is a new second phase of the Reformation to open the eyes of the blind national servant of God. Our civilization is literally disintegrating around us and there is no understanding as to what we should aspire to as a nation because the Gospel of the Kingdom is not being preached.

Sons of God

Immediately following the pronouncement that the House of Israel would not be God's people and that He would not be their God, the Lord declared through Hosea:

"Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be as the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured nor numbered; and it shall come to pass, that in the place where it was said unto them, ye are not my people, there it shall be said unto them, Ye are the sons of the living God" (Hosea 1:10).

Hosea foresaw that "the children of Israel would abide many days without a king, and without a prince," but that "afterwards shall the children of Israel return, and seek the LORD their God, and David their king; and shall fear the LORD and his goodness **in the latter days**" (*Hosea 3:4-5*). In effect they would become a very prestigious Christian monarchy of Davidic descent. The great theme running throughout Scripture is the symbolic relationship of husband and wife existing between the Lord God Jehovah and His people Israel. Many have supposed that His Plan of using a race and nation has failed and has been discarded – except that for some reason the Jews seem to remain on the scene, not as a blessing to the Arabs, but as an un-Christian anomaly called Israelis.

It is a puzzle to Christendom as to what is really going on in the world.

Many, if not most, Christian leaders who have little knowledge of history and even less faith, are apparently content to accept the God-dishonouring supposition as truth – that God's Plan of using Israel, in its prophetic fulfilment as a Company of Nations and as the instrument of His Purpose has failed. Acting as false prophets, they imply that God *has failed*. The Prophet Hosea did not do so – he is the true prophet for our days. This is fully explained in the book which we are pleased to have published this summer.

MICHAEL A CLARK

Hosea by Michael S Jarvis, available from
Covenant Publishing

THE STORY BEHIND — THE CHARGE AT BEERSHEBA IN 1917

October 31, 2015, marked the 98th anniversary of the amazing charge at Beersheba by the Australian Light Horse. This opened the way for the surrender of Jerusalem to British Forces on the 9th December, 1917. Few would be aware today that in the 1880s two books were published that predicted this dramatic turn of events in Jerusalem at this very time. The first was, *Light for the Last Days* by H. Grattan Guinness, published in 1886; and the second, *The Fullness of The Nation* by Dr H. Aldersmith, MB London, FRCS published in 1889.

Henry Grattan Guinness, (1835-1910), was a powerful preacher and author. Dr Aldersmith, (1847-1918), was for 42 years the Resident Medical Officer at Christ's Hospital School in West Sussex, England.

Dr Aldersmith believed that the British People were the descendants of the

House of Israel, who, after being finally overwhelmed by the Assyrian Empire in 721 BC, were deported to the region around the southern shores of the Caspian Sea. In his book, Dr Aldersmith maintains that the House of Israel must not be confused with the ancient House of Judah or the Jews of the present era. After the collapse of the Assyrian Empire in 612 BC, the previously captive peoples began a centuries-long migration by various routes, and under the guise of many different names, to ultimately settle in North West Europe and the British Isles.

It is interesting to note how Mr Guinness and Dr Aldersmith chose the year 1917 for the end of four centuries of Turkish rule over Palestine. They believed that the period of 2520 years would pass from the overthrow of what remained of the House of Judah, and Jerusalem,

by Nebuchadnezzar and the army of Babylon. This period is called 'Seven Times' in the Old Testament book of *Leviticus*. A 'Time,' as shown in the book of *Revelation*, is 360 days. Seven of these 'Times' equals 2520 days. So how did the days become years? Because this was a period of punishment. In the book of *Numbers*, when most of the men who searched out the Promised Land for forty days gave a fearful report about the inhabitants, the people of Israel refused to enter therein, and because of this lack of faith they were made to wander through the desert for forty years. A year for each day.

Dr Aldersmith, and others at the time, believed they were eye witnesses to this 2520 year period of punishment in regard to the House of Israel; a people whose immoral lifestyle had completely eroded their national character. As mentioned, after many crushing blows, what remained of the House of Israel finally fell to the Assyrian Empire in 721 BC. Throughout the Bible there are many promises regarding the future of Israel. (Again, not to be confused with the House of Judah, or the Jews of today). Some of these promises were that the descendants of Israel were to become: 'A nation and a company of nations' (*Genesis 35:11*) 'Spread abroad to the west, the east, the north, and the south' (*Genesis 28:14*) Grow in power to be, 'As a lion among the beasts of the forest' (*Micah 5:8*). Simply put—they would become the wealthiest and most powerful nations on earth. These promises were known as 'The Birthright' (*I Chronicles 5:2*;



Memorial to the Australian Light Horse at Beersheba

Genesis 49:22-26). First promised to the patriarch Abraham; they were unconditional (*Genesis* 22:16-18).

For the House of Israel, the 'Seven Times,' or 2520 years punishment, (withholding of the birthright), ended in the year 1800. So it happened that at this very time in the course of history, 'A nation and a company of nations,' springing from the same fountain-head, became the British Empire, then later, the Commonwealth of Nations and the United States of America.

In regard to Jerusalem, H. Grattan Guinness stated that a prophecy in the book of *Daniel* lasting for a period of 1335 years coincided with the beginning of the Mohammedan lunar calendar, and that the 1335 lunar years would end in 1917. Indeed, both the years 1917 and 1335 are to be seen on the opposite sides of coins minted in the region at that time. Guinness wrote in Volume 2, page 343: 'The year 1917 is consequently doubly indicated as a final crisis date, in which the 'seven times' run out, as measured from two opening events, both of which are clearly most critical in connection with Israel, and whose dates

are both absolutely certain and unquestionable.' On page 345 he continued: '...we have a main starting-point, the first of Nebuchadnezzar, as our terminus a quo for one period, and the acknowledged commencing date for the great eastern apostasy, Mohammedanism, as that of the other; and we see the latter in its extended form meets the former, and expires with it in the future year AD 1917.' On page 346 he wrote: '... there can be no question that those who live to see this year 1917 will have reached one of the most important, perhaps the most momentous, of the terminal years of crisis.'

Dr Aldersmith wrote on page 168 of his book: 'The great seven times may not have commenced till after the battle of Carchemish, and the occasion of Nebuchadnezzar, 604 BC... this period (2520 years) may end about 1917! ... When these things come to pass, many, who now laugh at our views, will indeed have their eyes opened, and realise that Great Britain is indeed the House of Joseph,...' The national name 'Israel' was given to the two sons of Joseph, Ephraim and Manasseh, and their descendants (*Genesis* 48:16).

With all that was written by these two authors in the 1880s about the fall of Jerusalem in 1917, it appears that this daring charge made by the Australians at Beersheba was never going to fail. However, it is most probable that those men were not aware of what had been written long ago, as they charged into history. For beginning with the charge at Beersheba (31st October), to the surrender of Jerusalem (9th December), we have a period of exactly 40 days.

Makes you wonder about the old story of the Australians trying to read the badly damaged sign to Beersheba. They thought it said: 'Beerandsheilas 3 miles,' and this is what precipitated the charge. Not likely. For it is apparent that the God of Israel has kept his word, even after 2520 years!!

There is a reason for what has occurred in Palestine since 1917. It is to be found in the Bible. But that is another story, whose final chapter is yet to come to pass...

RICK IBBETT

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THE GLASTONBURY THORN

While not specifically mentioned in the Bible, a tree that is spiritually associated with Glastonbury is the Glastonbury or Holy Thorn. This tree is not native to Britain, but to the Holy Land, and tradition holds that it was carried to Britain by none other than Joseph of Arimathea, the great-uncle of Jesus, shortly after the crucifixion (possibly AD 35), when he came to bring the gospel to Israel in the northern isles. According to the legend, when Joseph and his eleven weary companions landed on the Isle of Avalon, he thrust his staff into the earth on the Wirral peninsula – later to become known as Wearyall Hill, taking its name, perhaps, from the exhausted travellers. The staff, like Aaron’s rod that budded, miraculously took root and sprang up overnight, eventually growing into a beautiful hawthorn tree. Today, nearly two thousand years later, several descendants grown from cuttings of the original tree still flourish in Glastonbury.

According to the illustrated lecture, *They Came to a Land – The Appointed Isles*, by R. Danvers Walker, “[t]he botanical name for the Levantine Thorn is *Crataegus monogyna praecox*, and the Arimathean legend surrounding it is recognized by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, in their literature pertaining to it.” The thorn reveals its unique origin by flowering twice a year – in May, like the native hawthorn, and again at Christmastime, seemingly in honour of Jesus’ birth. By a custom that goes back many centuries, every Christmas the mayor of Glastonbury cuts a sprig of the flowering thorn to send to the reigning monarch at Buckingham Palace, providing a fragrant and ongoing link between the founder of the Christian faith in Britain and the Davidic Monarchy.

In her book, *Myths of the Sacred Tree*, Moyra Caldecott suggests that the miraculous flowering of the tree out of season is evidence of the power of God over the laws of na-

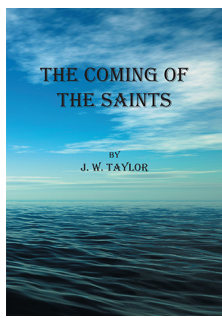
ture, and since “hawthorn was a tree very sacred to the ancient Celts... the fact that it was a hawthorn that burst into blossom must surely have influenced [their] acceptance of the miracle,” and hence, of Joseph’s message of the Christ. The gospel teaching meshed seamlessly with the Druidic belief in one God manifested in three aspects, including a coming Restorer named Hesus or Yesu. In the plan and foresight of God, the Celts, as part of His servant nation, had been prepared beforehand by the Holy Spirit to accept Christianity, and to speak the name of the Saviour, even before He was born.

PATRICIA BAGWELL BA

See also *The Gospel Boat* on Covenant Clips
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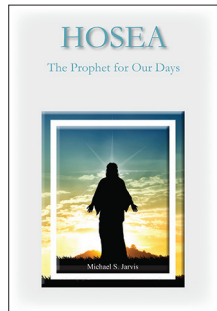
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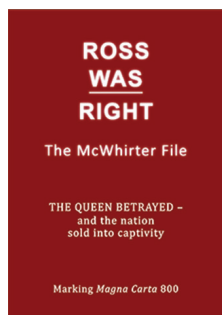
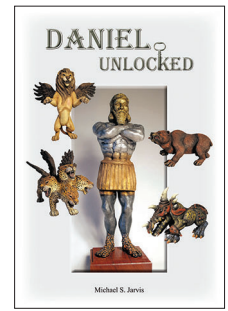
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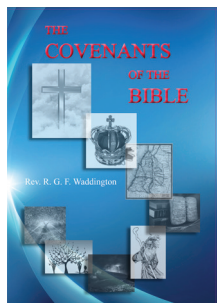
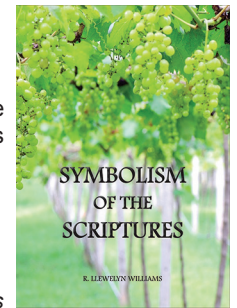
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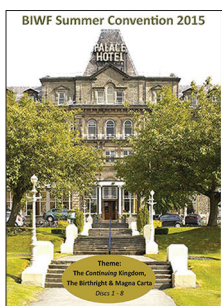
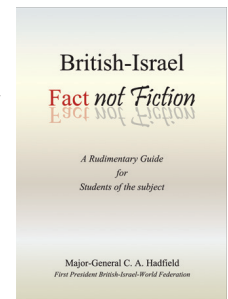
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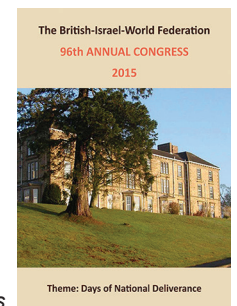
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“And the armies which were in heaven followed Him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of His mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it He should smite the nations: . . . And He hath on his vesture and on His thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS”

Revelation 19:14-16



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