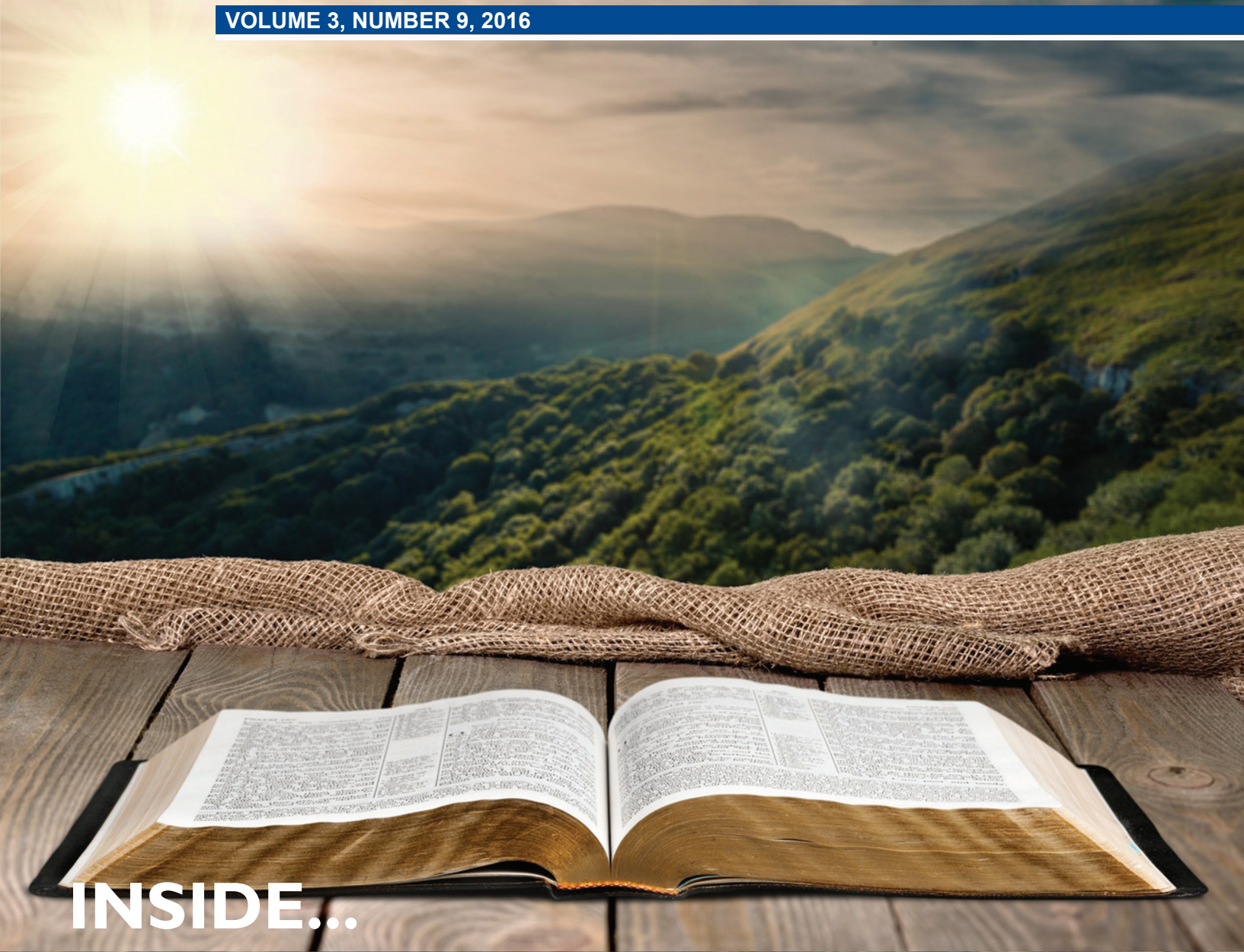


The



Covenant Nations

VOLUME 3, NUMBER 9, 2016



INSIDE...

GOD PLUS ONE

Page 6

FOUNDATIONS

Page 8

The Covenant Nations

Volume 3, Number 9 2016



▲ The passion flower has historically been a powerful religious symbol. The name derives from the Passion of Christ on the cross. There are many interpretations of the parts of the flower.

◀ COVER PICTURE:

The Bible, the Word of God, is the national prophetic record of the servant people.

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

EDITORIAL STAFF

Michael A Clark Philippa M Clark
Ernest S Gage Kathleen D Gage
David J Aimer

HEAD OFFICE

The British-Israel-World Federation
Telephone: 01388 834395
E-mail: admin@britishisrael.co.uk
Web: www.britishisrael.co.uk

The Covenant Publishing Co Ltd
Telephone: 01388 835753
E-mail: admin@covpub.co.uk
Web: www.covpub.co.uk

The National Bible College
Telephone: 01388 834395
Email: admin@tnbc.org.uk
Web: www.tnbc.org.uk

121 Low Etherley, Bishop Auckland DL14 0HA
United Kingdom

OVERSEAS OFFICES

Australia

BIWF (Queensland) Inc., 41 Kirikee Street, Ferny Grove,
Queensland, 4055
Telephone: +61 (0) 3851 2697
E-mail: micdor1@optusnet.com.au

New Zealand

BIWF (NZ) Auckland Inc., PO Box 56-142, Dominion Road,
Mount Eden, Auckland, 1024
Telephone: (09) 629 0974
E-mail: biwf@xtra.co.nz

Canada

BIWF (Canada) Inc., 313 Sherbourne Street, Toronto,
Ontario, M5A 2S3
Telephone: (416) 921 5996
E-mail: british-israel@bellnet.ca
Web: www.british-israel-world-fed.ca

Canadian British-Israel Association, 500 Tecumseh Rd. E.,
Box 28047, Windsor, Ontario, N8X 5E4
Telephone: 1-800-919-8819
E-mail: staff@israelite.ca
Web: www.israelite.ca

The Netherlands

Bond Netherlands Israel
Postbus 30009, 1303 AA Almere
Telephone: 036 5296956

South Africa

South African Office - Mrs A Fromburg
PO Box 2565, Port Alfred, 6170
Telephone: +27 (0) 46 6243342

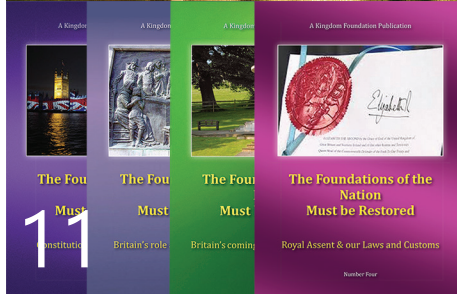
Inside...



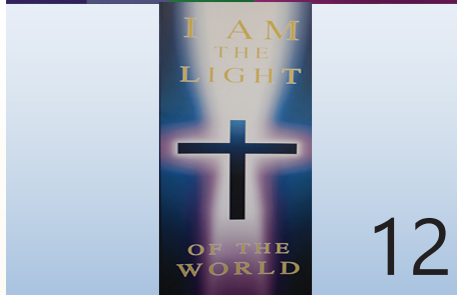
5 The Witness of the Covenant Nations –
Why it must be Recognised and Restored



6 God plus One
'God plus one is always a majority'



8 Foundations
Some thoughts on the message of *Psalm 11*



14 Early Celtic Christian Missions from Britain
The intense faith and missionary zeal of the early British Church

11 The Foundations of the Nation must be restored
A series of free booklets for the EU Referendum



16 Reuben – (Celtic) France
A study of ten prophetic clues

12 The Light of the World
The Word of the Lord is light



21 A Thought for Easter
Who was Simon of Cyrene?

22 Pelagius and Pelagianism
The controversy of the teaching of this early British Christian



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.

PSALM 23

The LORD is my shepherd
That's relationship!

I shall not want
That's supply!

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures
That's rest!

He leadeth me beside still waters
That's refreshment!

He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness
That's guidance!

For His Name's sake
That's purpose!

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death
That's a challenge!

I will fear no evil
That's assurance!

For thou art with me
That's confidence!

Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me
That's shelter!

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of my enemies
That's provision!

Thou anointest my head with oil
That's consecration!

My cup runneth over
That's abundance!

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life
That's blessing!

And I will dwell in the house of the LORD
That's security!

Forever
That's eternity!

Charles and Marylee Jennings
Truth in History Ministries

EDITORIAL

THE WITNESS OF THE COVENANT NATIONS –

Why it must be Recognised and Restored

Why does the West and Europe exist as such? Why did the British Empire establish such a global influence in history? Why was it not included in the succession of Gentile empires in the dream vision of King Nebuchadnezzar is a mystery – but only if *it was gentile*? The answer is simple, yet hidden in plain sight.

In the Science Museum at Kensington in London, there is a notice that says: “No one knows why the Industrial Revolution took off when it did, with Britain in the lead. Victorian writers thought it was mainly due to exceptional inventors such as Watt.”

There is another notice that says: **“A power house for the world** By the mid 1800s, building steam engines had become an industry in its own right. A highly skilled workforce was growing: by 1845, over 17,000 men worked in engineering around Manchester alone. Britain sold engines all over the world. In London, Henry Maudslay was winning orders for his engines from as far away as Rio de Janeiro and Istanbul (Constantinople, as it was then).”

There is in fact a very clear explanation for this in the timeline of history, linked directly to the “seven times,” or **2,520** years (7 x 360 years), of punishment period for Israel (*Leviticus* 26:18, 21, 24, 27-28).

The Industrial Revolution was the transition to new manufacturing processes in the period from about 1760 to sometime between 1820 and 1840 and was a time when many of the modern inventions we take for granted today were created.

It is difficult to understand a story if the characters are confused. It is likewise difficult to understand the national message of the Bible if the identity of the Israel nations is largely incorrect. For many years most of the Christian Church has attempted to assign all the biblical blessings and curses prophesied for Israel to the Jewish people and the State of Israel in the Middle East. This belief gives an incomplete compliance with the promises, tests credulity and does not build faith.

For example, approaching four thousand years ago Abram – later Abraham – was promised that his literal seed would become “*a great nation*,” even “*many nations*” and that these nations would be blessed and become a blessing to “*all families of the earth*.” The literal meaning of God’s promise was unmistakable for it was to be, “*in your flesh for an everlasting covenant*” (*Genesis* 12 & 17).

The global influence and power exercised by the British Empire and Commonwealth and the United States of America did not come about by accident. Let anyone doubting this turn with an open mind to the promises and covenants in the Bible concerning this people – covenants which, let it be remembered, were unconditional, everlasting and which God swore He would never break. Israel, as *a nation and a kingdom*, He declared will continue as long as the world lasts, for

“Thus saith the Lord, which giveth the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, which divi-

deth the sea when the waves thereof roar; the Lord of hosts is His name.

If those ordinances depart from before me, saith the Lord, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me for ever” (*Jeremiah* 31:35-36).

In all the Christian theological studies concerning the Kingdom of God, there is one very serious omission and blind-spot, the consequences of which have created a stunted and lopsided understanding of the continuing Kingdom of God upon Earth and of the many nations of Israel.

It is difficult to understand why millions of very intelligent students of the Bible have failed to realize what is wrong with their accepted view of God’s Great Plan that concentrates **only** upon the Messianic line of descent coming down from Judah. This is despite the clear Scriptural confirmation in *I Chronicles* 5:1-2 that while the “chief ruler,” or the Messiah, would come from Judah, **the literal birthright blessing would continue through Joseph.**

“Joseph is a fruitful bough, even a fruitful bough by a well; whose branches run over the wall” (*Genesis* 49:22).

It is time for this fruitful bough to be recognised by a world in desperate need of spiritual and physical restoration.

The above Editorial is selected from **The Kingdom Foundation** booklet, Number Seven, entitled *The Many Nations of Israel* referred to in page 11.

GOD PLUS ONE



Holy Cave on the isle of Patmos

I am reminded of Sir Isaac Newton's foresight: **"About the time of the end, a body of men will be raised up who will turn their attention to the prophecies and insist upon their literal interpretation in the midst of much clamour and opposition."**

Many times in secular and Christian history, Almighty God has called upon 'those marked from birth' to wrestle against an evil turned upon His creation. Jesus, alone in His wilderness temptation, gives us a glimpse of the evil that surrounds us and how to defeat the one cast down from heaven who now dwells amongst men.

This is an account of **"God plus one"** ... the **"forgotten majority"** screened from Holy Writ and events marked from human history.

John alone on Patmos

John the apostle, alone whilst banished to the island of Patmos, wrote the book of *Revelation* (*Revelation*

1:9). But for the **years of preparation** John's readiness to receive such an awful and frightening prophecy of worldly things to come might have been too great for such a gentle and sensitive man.

Martin Luther – God plus one – the majority of one

How could one man stand against Rome and the power of the Roman Catholic Church? At Luther's trial at the Diet of Worms on 17 April, 1521, he was asked two questions: **"Are these your books?"** and **"will you recant them?"**

The books were his writings insisting that the Word of God was the final authority and not the traditions of the Papacy. Facing his antagonists and refusing to recant, he uttered these famous words: **"Here I stand, I cannot do otherwise. God help me. Amen."**

Luther proved that **God plus one is always a majority.**

Gladys Aylward (1902 - 1970) **"Whom shall I send, and who will go for us, then said I, here am I send me"** (*Isaiah 6:8*).

Many Christians have responded to this call. I think of the "small woman" Gladys Aylward, rejected by the China Inland Mission, who established an orphanage for unwanted children during the Japanese invasion of China in World War II. She gained some fame among westerners in 1957 when the movie *The Inn of the Sixth Happiness* starring Ingrid Bergman was released. Gladys proved: **you plus God is a majority.**

Ananias of Damascus

Jesus spoke to Ananias in a vision to go to a **"street called straight"** and ask in the House of Judas for one called Saul of Tarsus (*Acts 9:11*). Saul, struck blind on the road to Damascus, had to kneel humiliated before the humble Ananias to receive his sight (*Acts 9:13-15*).

Remember Saul, later called Paul, was the man who consented to the death of Stephen and slaughtered the disciples of the Lord, taking men and women to be judged and put to death for their faith at Jerusalem. **He was a nasty piece of work** make no mistake. Yet, after his conversion, God tempered this man through the fires of affliction into one of the greatest apostles of them all.

Acts 26:10-11 describes Paul's ferocity against the Church, but the faces and blood of all those who faced martyrdom under his hand would be the stain that remained with Paul all his life. His personality before conversion was tragically similar to the radical Islamics of today.

Ananias, a disciple of Jesus, was faithful to the **heavenly vision**. One can only imagine how depleted

from Paul's writings the New Testament would have been if Ananias had given in to his fears concerning the man he saw persecuting the early church ... **the power of God plus one.**

The Man Who Never Was

In 1943 Royal Navy Lieutenant Commander Ewen Montagu came up with a scheme to deceive the Germans about the impending invasion of Southern Europe.

Operation *Mincemeat* involved the acquisition and dressing up of a 'human cadaver' as a 'Major William Martin, R.M.' and putting it into the sea near Huelva, Spain. Attached to the dead body was a briefcase containing fake letters falsely stating that the Allied attack would be against Sardinia and Greece rather than Sicily, the actual point of invasion. When the body was found, with all the false data, the Spanish Intelligence Service passed copies of the papers to the German Intelligence Service which passed them on to their High Command. The ruse was so successful that the Germans still believed that Sardinia and Greece were the intended objectives weeks after the landings in Sicily had begun.



Gladys Aylward with orphans in China

This amazing event, later dramatised in 1956 by a Second World War film called *The Man Who Never Was*, showed us how just one man could change the course of history.

Arthur Stace - Mr Eternity (1884-1967)

"Thus saith the high and lofty one who inhabiteth "eternity," whose name is Holy. I dwell in the high and holy place" (Isaiah 57:15).

The word "**Eternity**" preached to Arthur Stace in a Sydney church changed his life. This petty criminal, an alcoholic, was challenged by these searing words "**where will you spend Eternity?**" and fell to his knees and asked God for forgiveness. Arthur Stace ascended from the depths of human depravity converted. Gone were the chains of condemnation and darkness, now with the love and forgiveness of Christ he chalked in flawless copperplate the word "**Eternity**" on every street corner in Sydney.

It was the message that this recovered alcoholic and Christian missionary chalked in Sydney between his conversion in 1930 and his death in 1967. This "**one man plus God**" ministry was rewarded in the 2000 Millennium celebrations when his single word "**Eternity**" was blazoned across the Sydney Harbour Bridge to an audience of 2 billion people. "**Eternity**" and the power of one man plus God.

Sir Isaac Newton (1642 - 1727)

"About the time of the end, a body of men will be raised up who will turn their attention to the prophecies and insist upon their literal interpretation in the midst of much clamour and opposition"

How literally his prophecy has come true!! And how privileged we are to be thought of among '**the body of men**' (and women) who believe in the literal truth of the Bible prophecies. Of course, Sir Isaac Newton is best remembered for his wonderful

contributions to our understanding of the universe; his equations relating to movement; his developments in mathematics and his advances in scientific theory, but what is not generally known is that he spent much of his life studying the Bible and refuting those who preached atheism.

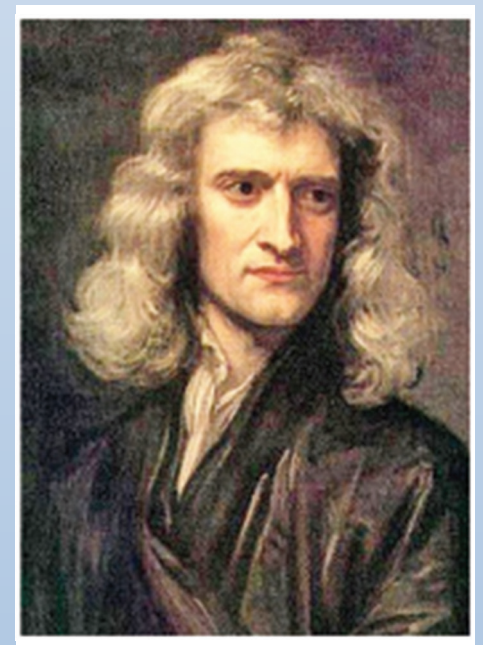
Like Peter Waldo, John Wycliffe, William Tyndale, John Huss, Jerome of Prague, Martin Luther, John Calvin and many more of the True Believers, Almighty God certainly raised up Sir Isaac Newton at the right time.

God plus one still remains a majority, an historic fact for which we should all be grateful.

PAUL L OWENS JP

Sources

1. Photo of Patmos cave courtesy of Bryan Trethewey
2. "The Man who never was," Wikipedia
3. Mr Eternity, *The Weekend Australian*, 1st & 2nd January 2000
4. Mr Bob Burton, Historian



Sir Isaac Newton

FOUNDATIONS

Some thoughts on the message of Psalm 11

As one reads this Psalm it will be seen that it begins with a description of the evil ones lying in wait to attack the upright in heart and ends with a description of God, in His heaven, looking down on the evil and the good, preparing to punish the one and reward the other. But in the midst of this we read the words of verse 3: *“If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?”*

The destructive power of floods have been experienced by many people over the recent winter months, for some a repetition of what has happened before. When such destructive forces of nature wash away the foundations of roads, bridges and property the edifices they support inevitably collapse and cease to exist. So that third verse of the Psalm postulates a situation which has very serious consequences. On closer consideration, however, it becomes clear that verse 3 is actually the connecting link in the chain of thought which the Psalm is following. It states the form that the attacks of the evil ones will take and asks a question which is answered in the second part of the Psalm.

Ever since the Gospel of Jesus Christ was first preached it has been subjected to violent attacks from its enemies and history provides us with a long list of those who have suffered and died for their faith. It is not to be expected that our British-Israel evangel should be immune from such attacks. Indeed a certain naval officer in the eighteenth century, Lieutenant Richard Brothers, was imprisoned and later committed to a lunatic asylum for daring to

claim that the British people were descended from the Israel of the biblical record. In more recent times many BIs have suffered a measure of persecution, both within and outside the Christian Church. So relentless are such attacks that we may be tempted to wonder, with the Psalmist, what we should do if the foundations of our faith were to be destroyed. Without doubt the enemy is aiming directly at those foundations in a number of different ways. However, the Psalm has a positive ending, for God is still in His heaven seeing to the defeat of evil and the rewarding of the faithful.

What are the foundations which are being attacked? The foundations of the Christian faith are, surely, found in the Bible, that unique repository of Divine knowledge and wisdom, for there is no other such source. Our forebears discovered this truth some five hundred years ago when they threw off the shackles of the Roman Church and found a new freedom and a new strength in the Word of God.

In these days of so-called ‘enlightenment’ anyone who proclaims such an idea is likely to be labelled a fundamentalist, a bigot, narrow-minded and not moving with the times. Some years ago an Anglican vicar, Rev. Antony Freeman, was dismissed by his bishop for declaring publicly that he no longer believed in God. That was shocking enough in an ordained clergyman but then he appeared on television claiming that the church needed people like himself to counter the activities of ‘born again’ Christians. There are many self-styled Christians to-

day who, like Rev. Freeman, have moved so far from the fundamentals of the faith that one wonders how they have the temerity to call themselves Christians. They may take pride in their open-mindedness and willingness to embrace changes in doctrine and belief but are in great danger of becoming what St James described as *“a double minded man, unstable in all his ways”* (James 1:8) or, in the words of St Paul like *“children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine”* (Ephesians 4:14).

There has been a steady dilution of the faith so that ‘sin’ and ‘repentance’ and any idea of guilt are considered as handicaps to faith. This was proclaimed by another reverend gentleman some years ago, Don Cupitt, a Fellow of Emmanuel College, Cambridge, who wrote a book called *The New Christian Ethics*. This man chipped away at the biblical foundation of our faith and tried to replace it with a man-made religion. Doubt and confusion seems to have increased ever since these fundamentals were questioned.

The spearhead of the attack on the foundations of our faith probably began after the publication of Charles Darwin’s famous book, *The Origin of Species*. This British naturalist clearly had a keen interest in animal and plant species and, with his powers of observation and his considerable intellect, came to certain conclusions about their history and development. These may not have been intended to undermine people’s faith in God but they were eagerly taken up by Christian detractors who used Darwin’s theo-

ries to sow the seeds of doubt in the minds of those whose faith was not firmly based.

Every Christian worthy of the name holds, or should hold, certain basic beliefs which are fixed and unassailable and in that sense every Christian is, or should be, a fundamentalist. That basic belief is put quite simply and clearly in I *Corinthians* 3:11 where St Paul wrote: “*Other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.*” Can the spiritual foundations of our faith be destroyed by some cataclysmic event, or washed away by a flood of new and dangerous ideas, or deliberately destroyed by the actions of the enemy, Satan? The answer must be ‘no’ for, as St Paul wrote to Timothy: “*the foundation of God standeth sure*” (II *Timothy* 2:19). Man may tamper with the Word of God as it is written, but the Word made flesh in Jesus Christ is for ever beyond the reach of man or Satan to cause harm and again, as St Paul reminds us: “*He is the only sure foundation.*”

If *Origin of Species* was the spearhead of the attack on the Christian faith, that attack has gathered considerable momentum since the book was published. From questioning belief in God it was a short step to questioning the source of that belief, the Bible itself. If the biblical account of creation was no longer acceptable as truth then it seemed logical to question the reliability of the rest of the Bible. Various clever men, starting in Germany, got to work on the sacred text and proved (at least to their own satisfaction) that the Bible, as it had always been understood, was full of errors, anomalies and contradictions. To quote just two examples: it has always been generally understood that the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Bible, are the work of

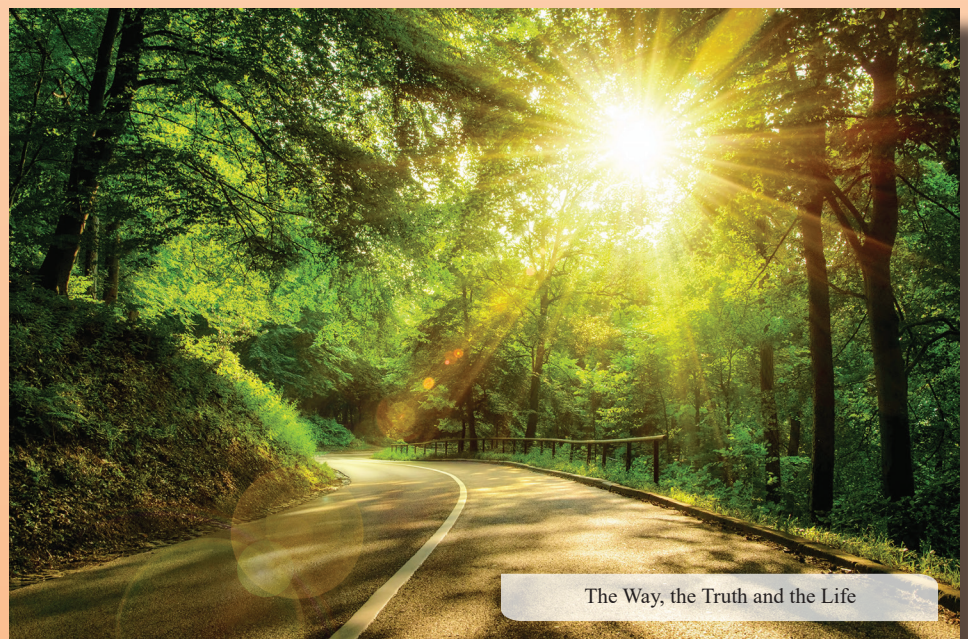
Moses, and that, of course, includes the record of the creation. But this is denied by the ‘higher critics,’ so called. Seeing that man was created last of all there was no one to witness the process of creation, they say. Yet it is a story no man could have possibly invented so it must have been revealed by the Creator Himself. What is more likely than that the Lord revealed it to Adam and then to Moses as they communed together on the mountain and that Moses was instructed to write it down so that mankind would have knowledge of their origins.

Next, it is said that the prophecy of Isaiah is the work of two different authors – a theory based on the difference in style between the early part of the book and the latter half beginning at chapter 40. Seeing that the early part of the prophetic book is concerned with Israel’s unfaithfulness and backsliding and the latter part is full of all those wonderful prophecies of the future greatness of Israel in the coming years it is hardly surprising that there is a difference in style. One result of such ‘criticism’ has been the flood of new translations of the Bible in the past century, some of them little more

than very free paraphrases and most of them of rather doubtful accuracy.

The third foundation stone under attack, in fact the very corner-stone of our faith, is Jesus Christ Himself, our Saviour and Redeemer. The whole of Christian doctrine hinges on the fact that our human nature is sinful and that we are in need of salvation – whatever Don Cupitt and his like may say on the matter. Repentance and belief in Jesus Christ are the means appointed for salvation – there is no other way. Without that fundamental belief the Christian faith becomes nothing more than a code of morals and a somewhat ill-defined programme of universal love.

Yet we know that all people stand in need of a Saviour who is powerful enough to convict us of our sinfulness and loving enough to save us from ourselves and the consequences of our sins. Only Jesus Christ can fulfil that role. Even in many of our churches the tendency is to shy away from words like sin and sinners and repentance, to portray Jesus as the universal friend, the social reformer and the champion of the poor and disadvantaged rather than as



The Way, the Truth and the Life

the Son of God and the Saviour of mankind. Worse still are the books, films, magazine and newspaper articles which endeavour to portray Jesus as anything but the peerless Son of God who died to save His people, rose again and ascended into heaven to return in glory and power to reign as King in His Kingdom. In some such publications Jesus has been described as the illegitimate son of a Roman soldier, a homosexual, or the secret husband of Mary Magdalene! It seems that nothing and nobody is sacred enough to escape this kind of disparagement.

Such attacks from avowed enemies can be expected but to have such views expressed by professing Christians is even more disturbing. The Virgin Birth, the Resurrection and the Ascension of our Lord and His return to earth as King have all been denied by these scoffers yet such truths revealed in God's word are the foundations of the Christian faith. The current fashion among church members to engage in dialogue with those of other faiths, and to credit them with equal value and authority in our spiritual life, is a complete denial of the unique position of the Lord Jesus Christ as the Way, the Truth and the Life.

These attacks, it should be noted, are directed not so much at the Lord Himself as to what we believe about Him. Man and the Devil did their worst when they hounded Jesus to the Cross but His resurrection and ascension placed Him forever beyond their reach. But we, His followers, are still vulnerable. If the enemy, by attacking the foundations of our belief, can convince us that all our hopes and beliefs are based on myths and fables, then we are lost indeed.

Our British-Israel belief and teach-

ing also has enemies and sceptics who cannot accept that the Anglo-Saxon and Celtic peoples, resident in these British Isles and in Commonwealth lands overseas, are descendants of the biblical nation of Israel. The foundation of our belief is in the promises made to the Patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (*Genesis* 28:14 and 35:11), that their descendants would, in time, develop into a "nation and company of nations" and that they have been fulfilled in that Anglo-Saxon and Celtic race.

"The foundation of God
standeth sure"

II *Timothy* 2:19

The mention of 'race' raises the hackles of our opponents who immediately classify it as being discriminatory. If they were to read the first quotation given from *Genesis* (above) in an intelligent and open-minded fashion the fact that Israel's descendants were to be a 'blessing' to other nations does not imply favouritism or superiority. God 'chose' Israel, not for special favour but to be His human instrument to bring about the reconciliation of a fallen mankind to Himself. It was never to hold a position of superiority but rather one of service and responsibility and this has yet to be completely fulfilled.

That the fulfilment of these promises was to take place in some future time, and in another location far distant from Palestine, is clearly foretold in II *Samuel* 7:10, a different place appointed by God for Israel's future safe development. History has shown that our island home has proved to be a place of compara-

tive safety, with the English Channel acting as its 'moat defensive,' as Shakespeare described it. Then in that same chapter of *Samuel*, at verse 16, there is the promise God made to King David that his kingdom and his throne would be established 'for ever.' The occupants of the British Throne are known to be directly descended from King David via their English, Scottish and Irish ancestry.

These, then, are the foundations of our BI beliefs and are applicable only to our nation and people. The promises referred to cannot apply to the church for it has never become 'a nation and a company of nations.' The church is a spiritual entity comprising the body of all believers in the Lord Jesus Christ; as such it has no national boundaries. Nor are the promises fulfilled in the recently established Israeli State in Palestine; it is just a small nation, located in the Holy Land, and it is a Republic with no Royal Throne or Monarchy of Davidic descent.

So, "What can the righteous do?" the Psalmist asked. That question followed his suggestion that the foundations might one day be destroyed. However, having closely examined these foundations our conclusion must surely be that they are indestructible. Jesus is Lord and our faith rests in Him. He was the Word made flesh and the Word is the sword of the spirit, as St Paul described it. We also have prayer, a potent force against which Satan has no protection. God grant us, therefore, the wisdom and the courage to use these weapons effectively in the spiritual warfare in which we are engaged.

ALFRED BROWN

(An edited and abbreviated version of a lecture given by the late Caroline Cream)

THE FOUNDATIONS OF THE NATION MUST BE RESTORED

A UNIQUE INFORMATION CAMPAIGN A series of free booklets for the EU Referendum

In 2016, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is being subject to campaigns for a referendum on the continuing membership of the European Union. While the date of the referendum has yet to be announced the government has promised that the date of this historic vote will be before the end of 2017 – *but it could also take place in 2016*. All will depend on the result of the negotiations that the Prime Minister is conducting in Europe.

The Electoral Commission has recommended that the government proposal on the question asking the people if they wish Britain to remain a member of the EU should provide two clear options asking: Should the United Kingdom – **Remain** a member of the European Union (or) **Leave** the European Union? The government has accepted this recommendation to avoid accusations of bias in favour of Britain staying in the EU.

While the nationwide campaigns will concentrate on the *political* and *economic* arguments, we are launching our own unique information campaign to bring out the real *constitutional* and *spiritual* factors that have been ignored in Church and State for decades. This is in the form of seven *free issue* booklets from the designated fund of ‘The Kingdom Foundation’ and under the title of **The Foundations of the Nation Must be Restored**. The first four being defined by the following sub-titles:

1. Constitutional Illegality and the EU
2. Britain’s role and Destiny after the EU
3. Britain’s coming Freedom outside the EU
4. Royal Assent & our Laws and Customs

Two further booklets to follow are under the title **The Integrity of British Culture & Faith Must be Conserved**, which are aimed at the

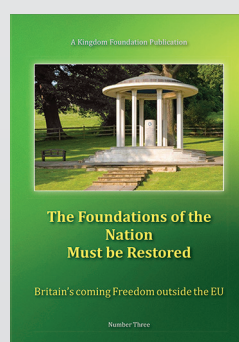
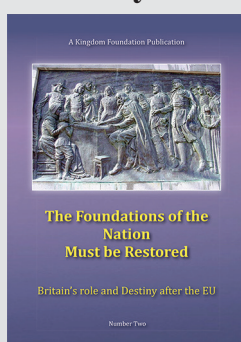
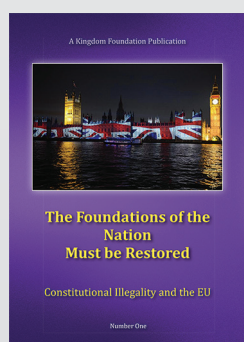
future for the covenant nations outside of the EU, while the remaining booklet is linked more directly to our teaching. The titles of these three booklets are as follows:

5. ‘The Bounds of their Habitation’
6. The Covenant Nations – A Natural Union
7. The Many Nations of Israel – A Vision Extraordinary

In launching this series of booklets we are seeking to awaken the British people not only to the constitutional illegalities over Britain’s EU membership that have robbed them of their ancient freedoms, but also to alert them to their Kingdom *Birth-right* that is inherited from their biblical ancestors. There is a great spiritual dimension to our heritage which is hidden in plain sight.

We invite you to join in this vital information campaign for Great Britain and the Kingdom of God in our midst.

Send now for your free set of these booklets:



Copies of the above booklets which have been produced for free issue and **not for re-sale** are available on request. Contributions towards postage and multiple copies are gratefully received for the campaign. Cheques should be made out to ‘**The Kingdom Foundation.**’

Contact: The Kingdom Foundation, 121 Low Etherley, Bishop Auckland, DL14 0HA, United Kingdom.
Tel: 01388 834395.

THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Darkness is deepening in the world today. Spiritually people are groping about in Stygian gloom without a glimpse of light because they refuse to look in the right direction. Physically we

are threatened with a myriad of diseases, starvation, earthquakes, volcanoes, floods and climate change. We have come through the time of year when we have daily more darkness than light. Should we be, or are we, afraid of the dark? I should think not. We may be apprehensive about those who use darkness to lurk around and waylay the innocent, but we are not afraid of darkness itself. We are never in total darkness because we have the Word of the Lord and the Word of the Lord is light.

At the beginning of the Holy Bible it states, *“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, “Let there be light”: and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness. And God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day”* (Genesis 1:1-5). Please note that there was light on the first day.

Coming to verses 14 to 19 we find, *“And God said, “Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and*

for days, and years: And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth”: and it was so. And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: He made the stars also. And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth, and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that it was good. And the evening and the morning were the fourth day.”

So light depends upon the Lord, not upon the sun, but the Lord who can give light or take it away. It will be taken away before the coming of our Lord. Take Joel 2:1-2, *“Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the Lord cometh, for it is nigh at hand; a day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the morning spread upon the mountains.”* And then again in Amos 5:18-20 – a warning from the Lord to a backsliding Israel, *“Woe unto you that desire the day of the LORD! To what end is it for you? The day of the LORD is darkness, and not light. As if a man did flee from a lion, and a bear met him; or went into the house, and leaned his hand on the wall, and a serpent bit him. [Or as we say today – out of the frying pan, into the fire.] Shall not the day of the LORD be darkness, and not light? Even very dark, and no brightness in it?”*

The Lord can create darkness but He is always ready to give light. When Israel was travelling through the wilderness, *“And the LORD went*



before them by day in a pillar of cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night" (Exodus 13:21). Some people may wonder why they would want to travel at night but remember that during the winter even in that latitude there is less daylight than darkness. Then there was the long day of Joshua when the sun and the moon stood still in the midst of heaven for a whole day while the Lord and Israel dealt with the Ammonites.

In winter we faced a long period of darkness when it seemed as though no light could ever appear again. During the war we had the blackout. At night we were not allowed to show the tiniest chink of light, but we travelled around in total darkness safely – using a hooded torch which just about showed where we were putting our feet. We youngsters did not even bother with this – but still travelled safely. We had the comfort of the law about us. We were a Christian society, although not everyone was a believer in the Word. Nevertheless, society was governed by Christian principles and the Law of the Lord was a strong influence in the law of the land. We came out of that period of darkness a thankful people but the glorious opportunities that beckoned seem to have dazzled everyone. People now cannot or will not see where they are going – they will not look at the consequences of their actions – only regarding the pleasures they derive from their activities. So we are steadily going back into darkness, but unlike the blackout this darkness is full of terrors and disasters. But we know that our Lord Jesus Christ will return to lighten the whole world and give us a new dawn. The Word of the Lord is light and our Lord Jesus Christ will return with that Word.

In the Gospel according to St John, (8:12), our Lord speaks to the Pharisees, "*Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.*" Then again just before He cured a man of his blindness our Lord states, "*As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world*" (John 9:5). So on our Lord's return there will be no darkness where malefactors can hide. We shall be able to work for the Lord at all times, for there shall be no night but only the constant light of the Word.

St. John in *Revelation* chapter 21 describes the new Jerusalem. Verses 23 to 25 tell us how it is lit, "*And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it. And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there.*"

Thus we know that after darkness the Lord will always give us light. As after the darkness of tonight He will give us light in the morning, so after the darkness that is descending on this nation He will give us eternal light with the establishment of His Kingdom here on earth. Some or maybe all of us will sleep before this glorious morning but it is no more to be feared than the sleep we shall have in our beds tonight. Some of us may not sleep before the coming of our Lord; let us pray that we stay alert in the darkest watches of the night to catch that first glorious ray of light that will herald a new age. In this darkness we must act as a light unto this nation because we have the Word of the Lord and that

Word is light. Without the Lord's Word we would be groping in the darkness like everyone else.

The Bible time and again states that Israel will be a light unto the nations. So we must keep our vigilance – stay alert – because if we allow the light given to us to fade or be extinguished we are betraying this nation and above all we are betraying the Lord. But we will not allow this light to fade – this nation has had many people who have held to this truth to death in the face of scorn and indifference. There is no reason why there should not be many more. Admittedly, it is easier, not easy but easier, for a tennis player or footballer or cricketer or such to be at their best in front of a friendly crowd giving encouragement – or sympathy when things are not quite going according to plan. The player to be admired is one who can give of his or her best in front of a hostile crowd under inclement conditions – doing what he or she knows is right and using their greatest endeavours until the game is over.

We are not alone – we have the encouragement given by those who have gone before – we have companions here and in many other countries, not in large number but in strong fellowship, and we have the Word of God – an ever constant light in this dark world. We have the promise of the return of our Lord Jesus Christ who is the Light of the world. We must make sure that in the Day of the Lord there will be some of us who can say we represent this nation Israel and all that the Lord has spoken we will do.

ERNEST GAGE

EARLY CELTIC CHRISTIAN MISSIONS FROM BRITAIN

The *Encyclopedia Britannica* under the heading *St Augustine* states that he was:

“the apostle of England who founded the Christian Church in southern England (sixth century AD)” but under the heading *Celtic Church*, *Britannica* also states:

“The early Christian Church in the British Isles founded in the second and third centuries AD ... it contributed to the conversion of the Anglo Saxons in the seventh century.”

The zeal of this early Celtic Church was highly successful in the conversion of the incoming Anglo Saxons. Within a few decades the Saxons built numerous churches throughout the land. It enjoyed a solid foundation and enduring Christian heritage in ancient Britain.

The Venerable Bede in his *Ecclesiastical History of the English People* observes that:

“In the year of our Lord’s incarnation 156 ... Lucius ... and the Britons preserved the faith, which they had received, uncorrupted and entire, in peace and tranquillity until the time of the Emperor Diocletian” (ch. 4).

A plaque in the vestry of St Peter’s Church, Cornhill, London records the Christian faith of King Lucius and his British subjects:

“Be it known to all men that the year of our Lord God 179, Lucius, the first Christian King of the land, then called Britain, founded the first church in London, that is to say, the

church of St Peter upon Cornhill. And he founded there an Archbishop-ops See and made the church the metropolitan and chief church of the kingdom.”

In his *Old English Chronicles*, 1906, p. 393, J A Giles states: *“After the birth of Christ, one hundred and sixty seven years, King Lucius, with all the chiefs of the British people, received baptism.”*

The missionary enterprise of this ancient British Church from even the earliest times extended beyond the borders of the British Isles and into the continent of Europe.

France

Decades before Augustine arrived in England, British missionaries evangelised Brittany in France. The

town of Saint Malo is so named in memory of one such preacher:

“Saint Malo was named for Maclou, or Malo, a Welsh monk who ... became the first bishop of Aleth” (*Brittany, Encyclopedia Britannica*).

The *Catholic Encyclopedia* gives a date for this event:

“St Malo ... in 543 ... was consecrated first Bishop of Aleth” (*Brittany - France*).

A stained glass window in the Cathedral at St Malo celebrates seven British missionaries arriving in the sixth and seventh centuries.

Samson, Bishop of Dol-de-Bretagne (Brittany) (c. AD 485-565) was educated at the Abbey of Llantwit Major in Glamorganshire, Wales. The *Catholic Encyclopedia* states:

“St Samson: born in South Wales; (died 565) ... set sail for Brittany. He landed near Dol, and there built a monastery which became the centre of his episcopal work in the district.”

In similar vein, further Celtic Christian missions from Britain to France prior to the arrival of Augustine in England are recorded in the *Encyclopedia Britannica*:

“Saint Columban (543 - 615) left Ireland about 590 with 12 monks and established himself at Annegray in Gaul (East France).”

The same encyclopedia also states that:

“Furseus (567 - 650) left Ireland ... and established himself in Neustria



The cathedral in Dol-de-Bretagne

(Normandy) ... About 644 he founded a monastery at Lagny, near Paris.”

According to the *Catholic Encyclopedia*:

“In the fifth and sixth centuries bands of Christian Britons emigrated from Great Britain to Armorica (Brittany) and formed on its northern coast the small Kingdom of Domnonée; the Gospel was preached for the first time in the future Dioceses of Dol and Aleth. Among these missionaries was St Armel, who, according to the legend, founded in the sixth century the town of Ploermel in the Diocese of Vannes.”

Germany

Early Christian missions from Britain to Germany are also recorded:

“Saint Kilian, (640 – 689), a missionary bishop who, with his companions Colman and Totnan, gave his life for the Christianization of Thuringia and eastern Franconia (Germany).”

“Fridolin of Säckinggen, born in Ireland (7th cent.) ... crossed over to France ... then travelled to the Rhine, building churches along the way” (*Encyclopedia Britannica*).

Netherlands

Under the heading of: “Willibrord (born 658, Northumbria)” the *Encyclopedia Britannica* records that: “In 690 Egbert sent Willibrord with 11 companions to undertake the Christianization of the Frisians” (*Netherlands*).

Switzerland

William Makepiece Thackeray, a popular author contemporary with Charles Dickens, points out that the British Christian King Lucius in later years became a missionary and preached the gospel and died in Switzerland:

“I had occasion to pass a week in the autumn in the little old town of Coire or Chur, in the Grisons (eastern Switzerland), where lies buried that very ancient British king, saint, and martyr, Lucius, who founded

the Church of St Peter, on Cornhill ... his statue appears surrounded by other sainted persons of his family” (*Roundabout Papers*, 1860, p.1).

The *Encyclopedia Britannica* records that from Britain:

“Saint Gall (550 – 645) became a disciple of St Columban and joined him on a mission to France and northern Switzerland.”

These are only a few examples of the intense faith and missionary zeal of the early British Church; a Church which was formed in the first century of the Christian era. The seventeenth century English historian Henry Spelman was commissioned with the task of exploring the origins of the ancient British Church. The *Encyclopedia Britannica* describes him as:

“Sir Henry Spelman, (1564?—died Oct. 1641, London), English antiquary, ecclesiastical and legal historian best known for his *Concilia, Decreta, Leges, Constitutiones*, in *Re Ecclesiarum Orbis Britannici* (“*Councils, Decrees, Laws, and Constitutions of the English Church*”) which was perhaps the first systematic compilation of church documents. The first volume of the two-part *Concilia* covered Christianity in Britain until the Norman Conquest (1066) and was published in 1639; the second volume was issued posthumously in 1664. Three times a member of Parliament, Spelman sat on several royal commissions, including the council for New England (from 1620).”

He begins his *Concilia* by stating:

“It is certain that Britain received the faith in the first age from the first sowers of the



Stained glass in the cathedral in St Malo

word. Of all the churches whose origin I have investigated, the church of Glastonbury is the most ancient. We have abundant evidence that Britain received the faith and that from the disciples of Christ himself soon after the crucifixion.”

Such a testimony to the astonishing spread of the Christian gospel within the first century can only be attributed to the great commission which our Lord Jesus Christ gave to his disciples after His resurrection:

“Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Spirit is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

MARTIN LIGHTFOOT



The fountain of St Samson

REUBEN – (CELTIC) FRANCE

A STUDY OF TEN PROPHETIC CLUES

There is no direct history connecting the tribe of Reuben to the French people. We are talking about one of the lost tribes. Even the French Caucasian population 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 2500 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 Reuben once found its way to the two northern thirds of (Celtic) France. This core passed on its characteristics and genes to the influx of others. Just to make it easy we will talk about the French, although the southern third of France (le Midi) most likely does not belong to the lost tribes. The more fulfilled prophetic clues we find, the stronger our case. What follows is not historic proof, but proof by revelation.

1st Clue: Reuben: See, a son!
*“And when the LORD saw that Leah was hated, he opened her womb: but Rachel was barren. And Leah conceived, and bare a son, and she called his name **Reuben** (r’eu-ven – see, (a) son): for she said, Surely the LORD hath looked upon my affliction; now therefore my husband will love me” (Genesis 29:31-32, KJV throughout, unless mentioned otherwise).*

Leah was unloved. Jacob loved Rachel and not Leah. However, Leah became pregnant and gave birth to a son. *Now my man will love me, for I gave him a man*, she thought. Having a son was very important in antiquity. It makes a father of Jacob and turns him into even more of a man than he already was. He now had a son, a man, an heir. The name ‘see (the) man,’ Reuven, emphasizes the maleness of the child, *therefore ‘my man’ will love me*, said Leah.

There are two traditional emblems for the tribe of Reuben. *Water*, because he would be unstable as water (Genesis 49:3-4) and ‘a handsome man’ because of his name: *See a son! Reuven!* It is certainly true for the French: *See the man! See the son! See the heir! See the grandson!* The French are a people with many handsome men. Reuben was the firstborn and in principle had the right to all the blessings promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. He was once destined to be the future leader of the tribe.

This manliness can be seen among the French as so many of them are very chauvinistic being full of being French, with great pride in self and in French language and culture, haughtiness at times and even arrogance. *Chauvinistic* is not a dirty word in France. *Vive la France!* – *“Let Reuben live ... and let not his men be few” (Deuteronomy 33:6).*

2nd Clue: Reuben: l’amour, sex & love triangle

“Now at the time of the grain-cutting, Reuben saw some love-fruits in the field, and took them to his mother Leah. And Rachel said to her, Let me have some of your son’s love-fruits. But Leah said to her, Is it a small thing that you have taken my husband from me? and now would you take my son’s love-fruits? Then Rachel said, You may have him tonight in exchange for your son’s love-fruits. In the evening, when Jacob came in from the field, Leah went out to him and said, Tonight you are to come to me, for I have given my son’s love-fruits as a price for you. And he went in to her that night” (Genesis 30:14-16, BBE, Bible in Basic English).

“And it came to pass, when Israel dwelt in that land, that Reuben went and lay with Bilhah his father’s concubine: and Israel heard it ...” (Genesis 35:22).

“Reuben, thou art my firstborn ... thou shalt not excel; because thou wentest up to thy father’s bed; then

defiledst thou it: he went up to my couch” (Genesis 49:3-4).

Reuben is a precocious nine year old when he finds *dudayim*, *love-fruit*, in the field. Apparently he knows about the use of the fruit and gives the love-fruit (mandrakes) to his mother Leah. The Hebrew name *duday* – from *dûd*, to love – reflects the use of the mandrake. From this encounter Issachar was born.

Thinking of Reuben, sex, love, fertility and love triangle come to mind. Through deceit by Laban Jacob ends up with two women. Leah and Rachel battle for Jacob’s favours. This is the first love triangle, from this love triangle Reuben is born. Rachel has Jacob’s love, but Leah has fertility, reproduction. The story about the *love-fruits* – I like the vocabulary of the Bible in Basic English here – is a continuation of the love triangle between Jacob, Leah and Rachel.

Reuben causes himself a new love triangle with his sexual adventure. After Rachel’s death he has sex with Bilhah, his father’s concubine. In this Reuben is the opposite of Joseph, who refuses to have sex with Potiphar’s wife. The right of the firstborn will go to Joseph and not to Reuben (I Chronicles 5:1). Reuben’s tribe does not distinguish itself positively. The Reubenites joined the sex and dance around the Golden Calf. The tribe of Levi abstained and thus got the priesthood.

Reuben also joined in the orgy for Baal-Peor in the fields of Moab. Phinehas, of Levi, showed positive behaviour ... Reuben just joined in. The Reubenites missed their chances to make a difference.

Over the past 500 years, there has been more acceptance of having a mistress, a lover, in France, than anywhere else. The French kings are the example: well-known mistresses are Madame de Montespan of Louis XIV and Madame de Pompadour of Louis XV. Another phenomenon is the *menage à trois* or 'household of three.' Love triangles, *menage à trois*, having a mistress, these are things that do not shock the French.

3rd Clue: Reuben & rebellion

"Now the sons of Reuben the first-born of Israel, (for he was the first-born; but, forasmuch as he defiled his father's bed, his birthright was given unto the sons of Joseph the son of Israel: and the genealogy is not to be reckoned after the birthright)" (I Chronicles 5:1).

"Now Korah ... the son of Levi, and Dathan and Abiram, ... sons of Reuben, took men: And they rose up before Moses ... And they gathered themselves against Moses and against Aaron ... And Moses sent to call Dathan and Abiram ... which said, we will not come up" (Numbers 16:1-3, 12).

"These are the families of the Reubenites ... And the sons of Eliab ... Dathan, and Abiram. This is that Dathan and Abiram, which were famous in the congregation, who strove against Moses and against Aaron in the company of Korah, when they strove against the LORD" (Numbers 26:7-9).

"And Moses said unto ... the children of Reuben, Shall your brethren go to war, and shall ye sit here? And wherefore discourage ye the heart of the children of Israel from going over into the land which the LORD hath given them? ... And, behold, ye are risen up in your fathers' stead, an increase of sinful men, to augment yet the fierce anger of the LORD to-

ward Israel" (Numbers 32:6-7; 14).

"And when they came unto the ... Jordan ... the children of Reuben and the children of Gad and the half tribe of Manasseh built there an altar by Jordan, a great altar to see to (Joshua 22:10) ... Thus saith the whole congregation of the LORD, What trespass is this that ye have committed against the God of Israel, to turn away this day from following the LORD, in that ye have builded you an altar, that ye might rebel this day against the LORD?" (Joshua 22:16).

The word rebellion sticks to Reuben and Reubenites. According to some it was not just lust why Reuben took Bilhah, his father's concubine. It was also a deliberate attempt to take over the tribe, to ascertain his authority. The tribe of Reuben murmured in the desert, just like the rest of Israel; the Reubenite spy also brought back a bad report; Reuben belonged to the ten rebelling tribes of Jeroboam which later went into the Assyrian exile.

On top of that there are the rebellion of Dathan and Abiram (Numbers 16), the request to stay in Transjordan (Numbers 32) and the building of the Great Altar (Joshua 22). Their request to live in Transjordan caused them to live far away from the other Israelites. Their western border was the Jordan and the Dead Sea, on the south they bordered Moab and the desert in the east. It was only in the north that they bordered another Israelite tribe, Gad. Consequently they kept to themselves in the time of Deborah and Barak: *"... For the divisions of Reuben there were great thoughts of heart. Why abodest thou among the sheepfolds, to hear the bleatings of the flocks? For the divisions of Reuben there were great searchings of heart"* (Judges 5:15-16).

French history has displayed a spirit of rebellion, independence and revolt over the past 250 years. The Gauls (Celts) also had a very independent spirit at the time of Julius Caesar. In 2003 I wrote in Dutch



about Reuben-France: *It seems to me that the opposition, independence and rebelliousness of the French is well-known.*

In *History of FRANCE*, by Pierre Gaxotte, this spirit is even phrased in a better way: *It would have been understandable if the people would have wanted to throw off the monarchy, to replace it with something else. However, 'this something else' was something the people were unable to stick to; ... in 170 years time France tried out thirteen different forms of government [!].*

4th Clue: Reuben, much cattle

"Now the children of Reuben and the children of Gad had a very great multitude of cattle: and when they saw the land of Jazer, and the land of Gilead, that, behold, the place was a place for cattle; The children of Gad and the children of Reuben came and spake unto Moses, and to Eleazar the priest, and unto the princes of the congregation, saying, Ataroth, ... Even the country which the LORD smote before the congregation of Israel, is a land for cattle, and thy servants have cattle: Wherefore, said they, if we have found grace in thy sight, let this land be given unto thy servants for a possession, and bring us not over Jordan" (Numbers 32:1-5).

"And they came near unto him, and said, We will build sheepfolds here

for our **cattle**, and cities for our little ones (Numbers 32:16) ... Our little ones, our wives, our **flocks**, and all our **cattle**, shall be there in the cities of Gilead” (Numbers 32:26).

“... For the divisions of Reuben there were great thoughts of heart. Why abodest thou among the **sheep-folds**, to hear the **bleatings** of the **flocks**? For the divisions of Reuben there were great searchings of heart” (Judges 5:15b-16).

The Jordanian Highlands were the tribal areas of Gad and Reuben in biblical times. In Jordan the desert ascends from the east to the west, to high plains with an average height of 900m above sea-level, east of the River Jordan. This steppe land has peaks of 1200m in the north (Gad) and 1700m in the south (Reuben). The climate is Mediterranean and this is where the Reubenites (descendants: the French) and the Gadites (descendants: the Swiss) settled, because they had much cattle.

France is an agricultural nation and the French have much cattle. According to Eurostat there were 20 million cattle in France in 2010. Linguistically French is also connected with the ‘flesh’ of ‘cattle.’ The bull in French is *le boeuf*; *boeuf* became *beef* in English; when you eat a ‘bit,’ a ‘stick’ or a ‘steak’ of it, it gives a *steak of beef*. This became *biefstuk* in Dutch and the word moved back to French as *le bifteck*.

All these cattle (and sheep) produce about 25 million tonnes of milk and dairy products. Much of this milk is turned into cheese. France is the most important cheese country in the world. It produces about 2 million tonnes of cheese each year. In France they say ‘le pays des 300 fromages,’ country of the 300 cheeses. The French see it as part of their national identity.

President de Gaulle once remarked about his *unruly* fellow countrymen: *How would you rule a country where they have 246 different kinds of cheese?*

5th Clue: Reuben: unstable like water
“Reuben, thou art my firstborn ... **unstable as water**, thou shalt not excel; because thou wentest up to thy father’s bed; then defiledst thou it: he went up to my couch” (Genesis 49:3-4).

“And Reuben heard it, and he delivered him out of their hands; and said, Let us not kill him. And Reuben said unto them, Shed no blood, but cast him into this pit ...” (Genesis 37:21-22).

“ ... And Reuben returned unto the pit; and, behold, Joseph was not in the pit; and he rent his clothes.....” (Genesis 37:29-30).



“And Jacob their father said unto them, Me have ye bereaved of my children: Joseph is not, and Simeon is not, and ye will take Benjamin away: all these things are against me. And Reuben spake unto his father, saying, Slay my two sons, if I bring him not to thee: deliver him into my hand, and I will bring him to thee again” (Genesis 42:36-37).

“And Moses said unto ... the children of Reuben, Shall your brethren go to war, and shall ye sit here? And wherefore discourage ye the heart of the children of Israel from going over into the land which the LORD hath given them?” (Numbers 32:6-7).

“And when they came unto the borders of Jordan ... the children of Reuben and the children of Gad ... built there an altar by Jordan, a great altar to see to” (Joshua 22:10).

“And Mesha king of Moab was a sheepmaster, and rendered unto the king of Israel an 100,000 lambs, and an 100,000 rams, with the wool. But it came to pass, when Ahab was dead, that the king of Moab rebelled against the king of Israel” (II Kings 3:4-5).

Some of these verses were already used in the *rebellion* chapter, but here they are again with a different emphasis. Reuben is full of passion, impetuous, uncontrollable ... unstable like water. Reuben often comes with doubtful or less successful plans.

Reuben’s plan to save Joseph by having him thrown into a dry well backfired. His offer to have his two sons killed (Jacob’s grandsons!) if he did not return with Benjamin was quite absurd. The plans of the Reubenites Dathan and Abiram to become leaders in Israel utterly failed. The plans to stay in Gilead and the building of the Great Altar barely came to a good conclusion. Deborah’s call to the arms was met with indeciveness.

Settling in Transjordan, in Gilead, had great disadvantages. Reuben was tucked away, across the River Jordan, behind the Dead Sea, far away from the other tribes. When King Mesha rebelled against the House of Israel he conquered the tribal area of Reuben (around 835 BC). This can be read on the Mesha Stele or Moabite Stone, found in 1868 (now in the Louvre Museum in Paris!). At the time of Isaiah all of the tribal area of Reuben had become part of the Kingdom of Moab (Isaiah 15-16).

There have been a few futile French plans as well. Above we saw that France had thirteen forms of government in 170 years. This answers the phrase, *unstable like water*. Stability can be a great blessing for a people. Instability most often is a curse.

Many French plans backfired. Louis XIV wanted France to be vast and great and wanted the Rhine to be the national border of France. He waged war all his life. He set the

stage for three centuries of fighting over Alsace-Lorraine.

Many of the plans of the Revolution (1789) came to nothing, the French even tried to abolish the week. This Republican French Calendar was in use from 1793 to 1805. They also invented decimal time, another impracticable plan.

Napoleon eventually got rid of most of the fruitless plans of the revolution and fought for the glory of himself and France by conquering Europe. Also unprofitable: in the end all conquests were lost to France. The French still see him as their great hero and have built him a great tomb.

France was humiliated in 1870-1871 when the Prussians (Germans) beat them in a short war and retook Alsace Lorraine. This led to another hollow French plan: French 'revanchism' which dominated French politics for 43 years making war with the German Empire to win and retake Alsace-Lorraine. They had their way. It led to World War I and consequently to 10 million dead. That was ended by the fateful Peace of Versailles which in turn led to World War II. The French would not listen to (moderate) President Wilson of the USA and they humiliated the Germans needlessly.

Gaxotte states in *History of FRANCE*, page 102, *We have to admit that France sometimes developed itself, in spite of the anarchistic tendencies of the French.*

6th Clue: Reuben, wine!

“And the children of Reuben built Heshbon, and Elealeh, and Kirjathaim, And Nebo, ... and Shibmah: and gave other names unto the cities which they builded” (Numbers 32:37-38).

“And Moses gave unto the tribe of the children of Reuben inheritance according to their families. And their coast was from Aroer, ... and all the plain by Medeba [Madaba in Jordan]; Heshbon, and all her cities that are in the plain; Dibon ... and

Sibmah, ...” (Joshua 13:15-19).

“For the fields of Heshbon languish, and the vine of Sibmah: the lords of the heathen have broken down the principal plants thereof, they are come even unto Jazer; they wandered through the wilderness: her branches are stretched out, they are gone over the sea. Therefore I will bewail with the weeping of Jazer the vine of Sibmah: I will water thee with my tears, O Heshbon, and Elealeh: for the shouting for thy summer fruits and for thy harvest is fallen” (Isaiah 16:8-9).

“O vine of Sibmah, I will weep for thee with the weeping of Jazer: thy plants are gone over the sea, they reach even to the sea of Jazer: the spoiler is fallen upon thy summer fruits and upon thy vintage” (Jeremiah 48:32).

Omar b. Zumot is an Arab viticulturist near by Jordanian Madaba (Medeba of the Bible). He was the first viticulturist in Jordan. They were making wine in the tribal area of Reuben! In writing about king Mesha (in the 5th clue) I discovered the viticulturist notoriety of Reubenite towns like Heshbon and Sibmah. These tribal areas are the only ones specifically mentioned with wine, with vineyards. They were famous for it in Israel! Another indication: Reuben's 4th son was named Carmi, which means *my vineyard*.

France is a wine country, it is *the* wine country of the world. The French have a long viticultural tradition. Often they are the biggest wine producer and they have many different kinds of wines with very high standards.

7th Clue: Reuben: dignité, honneur, grandeur

“Reuben, thou art my firstborn, my might, and the beginning of my strength, the excellency of dignity, and the excellency of power” (Genesis 49:3).

Reuben would not be *the* most important, but he would still be im-

portant. He was still the eldest and first-born son. Being the firstborn gives dignity, honour, importance, grandeur, honneur. The phrase *excellency of dignity* is translated in other translations as: *pre-eminence of dignity (ASV); pre-eminent in pride (RSV); first in pride (BBE).*

The above terminology sums it up and is more applicable to the French than anyone else. They have had the most dominant culture in Europe over the past 400 years. The nobility and royalty all spoke French for centuries. For hundreds of years French was the international language; until the mid-twentieth century it was *the* diplomatic language. It was not until after World War II that English replaced French in importance. French is still the postal language.

French is '*de la culture*,' is *allure*, is *grandeur*, *la plus belle langue* – the most beautiful language, as if the French *are culture*, *grandeur* and *honneur*. The above, 'the excellency of dignity,' identifies the French with Reuben.

A good example of French grandeur and honneur is Charles de Gaulle. De Gaulle embodied France, and hence was *grandeur* and *honneur*. The Dutch often want to save their skin and their trade, for the French honour comes first, *l'honneur!* It has often made them arrogant in the eyes of others. The French armament industry, *la Force de Frappe* (French nuclear bombs), their permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council; they are all stakes to save French honour (*l'honneur*) in this Anglo-Saxon dominated world.

8th Clue: Reuben, jealous of Ephraim

“And now thy two sons, who were born ... before I came unto thee into Egypt, are mine; Ephraim and Manasseh, even as Reuben and Simeon, shall be mine” (Genesis 48:5).

“And the sons of Reuben the first-born of Israel (for he was the first-born; but, forasmuch as he defiled his father's couch, his birthright

was given unto the sons of Joseph the son of Israel; and the genealogy is not to be reckoned after the birthright. For Judah prevailed above his brethren, and of him came the prince; but the birthright was Joseph's, the sons of Reuben the first-born of Israel: ..." (I Chronicles 5:1-3).

Reuben was the firstborn and from Judah came a prince, and later the Prince, but Ephraim (England) and Manasseh (USA), the sons of Joseph (Anglo-Saxon nations), got the birthright of the firstborn. They received the great blessing of national prosperity, the best parts of the earth and the (sea)gates of their enemies. They received the blessings of national greatness promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Without knowing the above we see that French history and French spirit have been dominated by jealousy towards England since the Hundred Years' War (1339–1453). Again and again France tries to be the head (Louis XIV, Napoleon, Napoleon III), and again and again England prevails. Since 1815, the battle of Waterloo, they have not waged war any more against each other. Many times they have been allies over the past two centuries. In contrast the French were at war with the Germans (Prussians) three times in 75 years, 1870-71; 1914-1918 and 1939-1945.

One would expect a bigger dislike for Germans than for English – who helped them out twice against the Germans! – but no! There is a lot of French envy and jealousy towards the English. The Reuben – Joseph relationship between the French and English peoples puts these things into perspective.

9th Clue: Reuben, excellent, supérieur
"Reuben, ... my might, and the beginning of my strength, the excellency of dignity, and the excellency of power" (Genesis 49:3, KJV).

"Reuben, ... my might, and the beginning of my strength; The pre-eminence of dignity, and the pre-eminence of power" (Genesis 49:3, ASV).
"Reuben! ... My power, and begin-

ning of my strength, The abundance of exaltation, And the abundance of strength" (Genesis 49 :3, YLT).



The Statue of Liberty in Paris

There is a lot of strength, might, intelligence and superior thinking among the French. In this clue I want to stress the positive sides of Reuben's excellence, dignity and pre-eminence. First of all there are French literature, art, sculptors and scientists.

As far as French writers, thinkers and philosophers are concerned, let me just name a few: Descartes, Montesquieu, Voltaire, Rousseau, Diderot, Zola, Sartre, Victor Hugo, Camus, Molière, Baudelaire, Flaubert, etc.

Geniality is often found in simple and plain things. The French metric system is an example of that. From 1790 to 1798 a committee of mathematicians and physicists designed the metric system for the French revolutionary government. They came with a system based on the 10, the *decimal* system, in which the next measure was tenfold the first: 10 mm was 1 cm, and so on. On top of that there was a perfect link to weights and cubic sizes. Super simple and genius at the same time! The Anglo-Saxon nations resisted the metric system for about 150 years, but most of them have given in ... except for yards and miles in traffic.

Other benefits of French history are the Napoleonic Code or Civil Code.

Another smart system is the way *départments* are numbered. Nearly all are named after rivers and mountains. For example, Ain becomes 01, Seine (Paris) 75.

The French have a lot of high technology, just think of the French armament industry. The five biggest arms exporters in 2010–14 were the United States, Russia, China, Germany and France. Reuben, France, has an abundance of strength, excellency of dignity and power.

10th Clue: Reuben, Gad & Manasseh

"And Moses gave unto them, ... and to the children of Reuben, ... the kingdom of Sihon king of the Amorites, and the kingdom of Og king of Bashan, the land, with the cities thereof in the coasts,..." (Numbers 32:33).

"With whom the Reubenites ... have received their inheritance, which Moses gave them, beyond Jordan eastward, ..." (Joshua 13:8).

"And when they came unto the borders of Jordan, that are in the land of Canaan, the children of Reuben ... built there an altar by Jordan, a great altar to see to" (Joshua 22:10).

The Trans-Jordan tribes have a special relationship with each other, due to their geography and their history (Joshua-Judges). They showed great independence by wanting to live outside the original borders of the Promised Land (Numbers 20:24; 32:7), and also in their construction of the Great Altar (Joshua 22). This being 'far away' from the other tribes, this independence, can be noticed among all three tribes today. The USA (Manasseh) suffer from regularly returning isolationism, and today (written in 2003, invasion of Iraq) they operate mainly by themselves on the world stage. We dealt with France's (Reuben) obstinate and independent attitude in world politics (think of its role in NATO). Switzerland (Gad) is so independent that they did not even want to be a member of the United Nations for 45 years. All three of them are republics.

A THOUGHT FOR EASTER

About 2,000 years ago a man called Simon came out of the country and into the city of Jerusalem. He was of Cyrene, a Greek colony, and the father of two sons, Alexander and Rufus. I hope to prove to you that he was an Israelite indeed and, in the light of what happened to him that day, descended from the tribe of Levi and of the house of Kohath (*Numbers 3:27-31*).

I once heard a vicar say that the reason that Simon was not in the calendar of saints was because he had had to be *compelled* to carry the cross and was therefore deemed unworthy of being admitted. Now some years later when reading the Ordinances of the Tabernacle and what happened when the children of Israel were on the march, I came upon the Kohathites whose lot it was to carry the altar, the ark and a number of other items after they had been well-covered with cloth and skins by Aaron and his sons.

Kohathites were threatened with death if they touched anything holy (*Numbers 4*). Although the princes of Israel had donated a number of covered wagons and oxen these were handed over to other Levite families but the Kohathites had to carry *their* load on the *shoulder* (*Numbers 7:9*).

That terrible day in Jerusalem many things in prophecy, symbol and fact bore each other out in truth and fulfilment of Holy Scripture. Whether Simon knew himself as one descended from 'the tribes scattered abroad' we do not know, but his instinct not to lay a hand on that Altar of the Lamb was a true inherited impulse – not repulsion, but a life-saving force. (Remember poor Uzza and the Ark, *I Chronicles 13:10*). But the glory had departed.

Levites who carried out the Ordinances had to be aged between 30 and 50 years and were therefore

in their prime time of health and strength. That would be the reason why the centurion picked a very able-looking man from the throng to shoulder the cross – a fulfilment of Scripture indeed.

(I like to think that Simon's son was called Rufus because red hair ran in the family and would have been another reason for Simon, possibly, to stand out in the crowd.)

PHYLLIS R PRICE



There is a special bond between Reuben and half-Manasseh and we see this in the special relationship USA-France. The American *Declaration of Independence* is based on French writers, like Montesquieu. French intellectuals were a source of inspiration for the American Revolution (1776-1783) and that revolution with its writings was an extra impetus for the French Revolution of 1789.

There remained a bond between the two countries. In 1803 Napoleon sold the last French possessions, the Louisiana Purchase, for 15 million dollars to the United States. The area included the whole mid-west, from New Orleans to the south of Canada and was bigger than the existing United States at the time. The United States remained anti-English and pro-French, for in the War of 1812-1815 they fought at the side of Napoleon ... against England. With

the Louisiana Purchase quite a few French had become American, as Frenchmen had settled in the crescent from Québec to New Orleans.

To emphasize the bond between the two nations, the French made and gave the Statue of Liberty to the USA soon after the Centennial of the USA. They kept a 11.5m high copy which is in front of a bridge in the River Seine in Paris.

In World War I and II the Americans came twice to the aid of France and on top of that France received a lot through the Marshall Plan. French may resist Coca-Cola, McDonald's and other americanising trends, but yet many French (Reuben) have a weakness for Americans (Manasseh). When they have to, many prefer speaking American English to British English.

BERT OTTEN

This study and the other studies in this series by the same author have been heavily edited to fit the space available. Readers who would like the full work are invited to contact the Editorial Team who will email the articles on request.

'Zebulun – Holland: a Study of Ten Prophetic Clues,' CN 2.10
'Issachar – Frisians: a Study of Ten Prophetic Clues,' CN 2.12
'Asher – Walloons (Belgians): a Study of Ten Prophetic Clues,' CN 3.1

PELAGIUS AND PELAGIANISM

One of the earliest British Christians about whom we know much is Pelagius – probably a latinisation of his birth name Morgan – ‘the man from the sea.’ He was born in Britain in the late fourth century, became a monk, and travelled to Rome about 400. He was highly learned – which says a lot for British education at the time – and wrote several treatises which were greatly admired. He disapproved of the moral laxity in Rome – in his view, Christians were relying too much on divine grace and too little on human endeavour. He became involved in controversy with St Augustine of Hippo over predestination. Whether he actually denied original sin and taught that human perfection is possible without divine grace has been questioned. These may rather be the views of his disciple Celestius – another Briton. Both were condemned by various councils after which they disappear from history, probably retiring to live quietly in some monastery. It is of note, however, that the Council of Orange (529) condemned the view that God predestined anyone to evil.

In practical terms, the question was whether human beings have free

will to turn to God (or not to turn), as Pelagius taught, or whether we are predestined by God’s choice alone to salvation or otherwise. Gaul (France) tended to follow St Augustine, Britain Pelagius. This so worried the French bishops that they twice sent St German of Auxerre to teach what they regarded as orthodox beliefs. Nevertheless, the Pelagian controversy dragged on for another century. One problem was that the search for human perfectibility led to extravagant austerities and penances. The matter was settled at the Synod of Llanddewi Brefi when St David, the most austere of the Celtic monks, came down on the side of divine grace.

But the question did not go away. John of Salisbury, twelfth century, wrote that predestination was a mystery beyond human understanding. Wise words! It became a burning issue in the Reformation, the Reformers in general being influenced by St Augustine. Free will and predestination were disputed between Marsilio Ficino and John Colet and between Erasmus and Luther. Behind this lay another question – which book of the Bible carries most authority of all? Colet

and Luther said the Epistle to the Romans; Ficino and Erasmus said St John’s Gospel. The question is still relevant for British Christians since our roots go back via Lyons to Ephesus and the Apostle John.

The Elizabethan Reformers were much influenced by Calvin (who, unlike his successors would have concurred with the Council of Orange). But in the seventeenth century the prevailing doctrine in the Church of England was Arminianism. The Methodist movement split between the Calvinism of George Whitfield and the Arminianism of John Wesley. As to what Arminianism is, in practice it is probably best summed up in a saying attributed to John Wesley – God helps those who help themselves. This probably expresses the standpoint of most English and Welsh Christians (the Scots take their theology much more seriously). Some of the early councils of the Church would probably have regarded this as semi-Pelagianism. If so, it seems that Pelagius all those centuries ago spoke to the heart of the native Britons.

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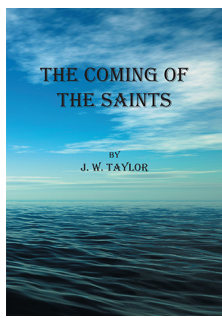
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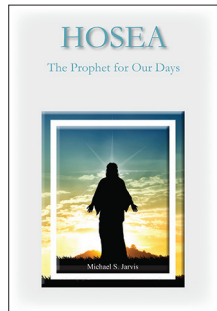
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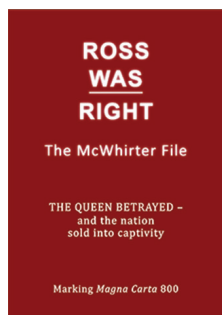
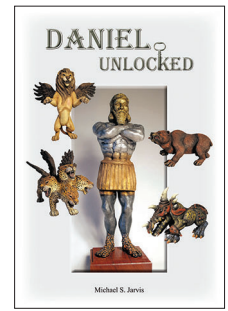
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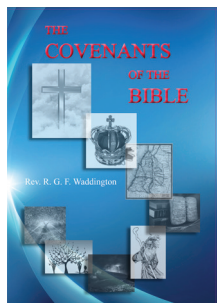
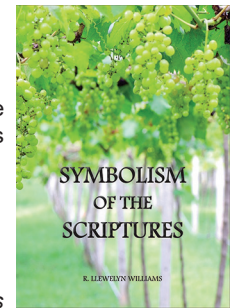
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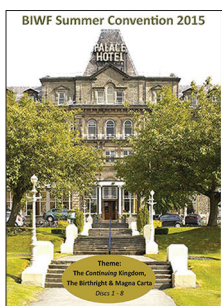
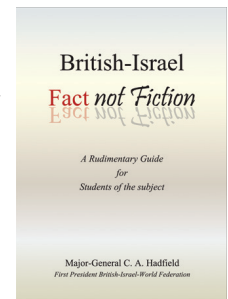
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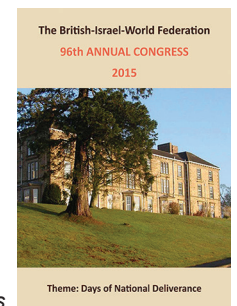
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Jeremiah 50:2



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