

The

Covenant Nations

VOLUME 4, NUMBER 10, 2019



INSIDE...

CROWN AND COMMONWEALTH

Page 6

NOTRE DAME CATHEDRAL FIRE

Page 8

Inside...



6



8

5 The Covenant Nations
A natural union



12

6 Crown and Commonwealth
The new beginning after the EU nightmare



15

8 Notre Dame Cathedral Fire in Paris
A biblical comment on this significant event

15 The Integrity of British Culture & Faith must be Conserved
A series of free booklets with a message for these times

12 The Knights' Vigil before D-Day
The role of prayer in the preparation of that vital invasion



16

16 The Highway of Holiness
A study on some Messianic prophecies



18

18 Jacob-Israel
A close look at the scriptures of Jacob's life



21

21 Rending in the Scriptures
An interesting reflection on this subject

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.



▲ The Apollo 11 spaceflight landed the first two men on the moon and was watched by millions around the globe. Commander Neil Armstrong took the first steps, saying the famous words: “One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.” The 50th anniversary of this magnificent exploit will be celebrated on 20 July 2019.

◀ COVER PICTURE:

On 11 March 2019 The Commonwealth celebrated its 70th anniversary. Representatives of 53 countries gathered in Westminster Abbey in the presence of The Queen for a service to mark the event..

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

The Covenant Nations

Volume 4, Number 10 2019

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.britishisrael.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

Netherlands Israel Foundation
Oudelandsseweg 40-D, 3443 AC Woerden,
The Netherlands
Telephone: 06 281 73 724

South Africa

South African Office - Pastor Brenton Boshoff
P.O. Box 198, Seadoone, 4141 South Africa
Telephone: +27 (0) 82 500 5205



The Many Nations *Of* Israel

A Vision Extraordinary

EDITORIAL

THE COVENANT NATIONS – A NATURAL UNION

The United Kingdom is wrestling with the democratic process to free itself from the prison of the European Union. The people voted to Leave the EU in 2016 while Parliament at Westminster is 75% in favour to Remain in the EU and has frustrated that decision by doing everything in its power to initiate a second vote and now openly campaigns to reverse the Referendum result. This impasse re-enacts the dilemma that Moses faced with our forefathers at the Exodus as that great company were facing the Red Sea with the Egyptians coming up behind them to return Israel to servitude.

After 47 years of politico-economic integration it was always going to be very difficult to fully restore our independence and sovereignty taken away by stealth and deception. The young people in particular have no experience of life before the EU took control of our national life and fear leaving it for the wide world.

Since the pioneering halcyon days of Empire and Colonial rule, revolution and terror have swept the world slaughtering millions and leaving vast areas in ruins where disease and famine now rule. The world is at last changing where the oppressed inhabitants of these former prosperous lands are looking back on the days of Colonial rule as something that they would like to see restored.

The foundation of this new awakening from sleep during the intense period of what is defined in the biblical prophets' writings as 'Jacob's trouble' will undoubtedly be built upon the Special Relationship

that the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland has with the United States of America. Without exaggeration this is a phrase used to describe what has proved to be the greatest factor in bringing the full potential of the Kingdom of God upon earth.

The vision that Jacob-Israel received at Bethel, as recorded in *Genesis* 28:14, was one of an **expanding** kingdom, for God declared that his descendants would migrate to the four points of the compass bringing "blessing to all families of the earth" (*Genesis* 12:3). The very reverse of this has been taking place since the end of empire and the world is now filled with violence and death.

Since the folly of the *British Nationalities Act* 1948, making 800 million UK "citizens," the policy of successive British governments brought about mass immigrations and the subsequent importation of pagan alien religions that has been totally against the will of God. While Israel were commanded to receive genuine refugees as their own (*Leviticus* 19:33-34), it was on the specific qualification that they accept the laws, religion and way of life peculiar to God's servant people (*Isaiah* 14:1; 56:6-8).

The Apostle Paul emphasized and confirmed in *Acts* 17:26 that the original racial bounds are of Divine origin. It is significant that the word 'blood' does not appear in the original texts; the 'one' in this verse refers to the *dust* from which all created beings were formed.

After the Second World War in 1945,

a great 'United Nations' tower block began to be constructed in New York. There has been an attempt to organize people into an integrated society and bring unity into human activities and endeavours. Just like the pre-Deluge era recorded in *Genesis* 6 and the Tower of Babel which, in defiance of this history, the edifice of the EU Parliament in Strasbourg was designed to represent in its unfinished appearance. What Nimrod failed to do at Babel we will complete, the Europeans declared, in arrogant disbelief of God's judgment. The emphasis of the past 75 years has been on the activities of the flesh and it has failed to bring peace.

So indeed, the great national imperative and vision is set before us. Britain, together with the United States, constitutes the nucleus of the modern-day Israel of God centred upon the Royal *Davidic* British Throne – a *spiritual* union and foundation. We must recover our true calling and commission by leaving the political pagan EU to once again lead the nations into the paths of righteousness. Let us now repent of our gross national transgressions and seek the Lord God of our forefathers, for as we are informed concerning the ultimate day now approaching: "I will yet for this be inquired of by the house of Israel, to do it for them" (*Ezekiel* 36:37).

The Commonwealth founded on the group of Divinely ordered covenant nations and the English language is a *natural union* that will prove to be the launch-pad for the great reconstruction now required to save civilization from self-destruction.

CROWN AND COMMONWEALTH

THE NEW BEGINNING AFTER THE EU NIGHTMARE

The Commonwealth of Nations, normally known as the Commonwealth, is a unique political association of 53 member states, almost all of them being former territories of the British Empire. After the decolonization of the Empire in the first half of the 20th century, the *British Commonwealth*, as it was originally created, through the Balfour Declaration at the 1926 Imperial Conference was formalized by the United Kingdom through the *Statute of Westminster* 1931. The current Commonwealth of Nations was formally constituted by the London Declaration signed on 26 April, 1949, which developed the community into a modern organization where the member states were established as “free and equal.”

The historic British Crown was the natural human symbol of continuity for the Head of the Commonwealth,

currently being Queen Elizabeth II. The 2018 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting appointed Charles, Prince of Wales, to be her designated successor, although the position is not technically hereditary. The Queen is head of state of 16 member states, which are known as Commonwealth realms, while 32 other members are republics and five others have different monarchs.

In retrospect, the saga of the past 47 years, from Royal Assent to the *European Communities Act*, 17 October, 1972, of Britain’s involvement in the European Project will be regarded by history as an extremely unfortunate interruption to the global dimension of Britain’s *biblical* destiny of leading the nations in peace to establish the Kingdom of God on earth in all its fullness. Jonah-Britain is in process of being regurgitated from the ‘belly of hell’ that the *prophetic*

EU-Babylon represents. Standing on the side of the EU, rather than being engulfed by its suffocating systems we will be able to assist Europe in the disintegration that is approaching.

Of course, all this is anathema to those of the Remain view for the European Union with its political pagan construct of a federal-type European State. It has from the beginning, under the Treaty of Rome (signed 25 March, 1957) and **Roman Civil Law**, maintained a hidden agenda to subjugate the British Crown and its unique constitution under **English Common Law**. The 2 x 31 years to 25 March, 2019 (just 5 days prior to the first Brexit date of 29 March, 2019), signified a double period of Deity with the central year being 1988 when Margaret Thatcher in her famous Bruges speech (20-21 September) turned the tide on Britain’s involvement with the



The European Parliament in Strasbourg

‘ever closer union’ of the European Project.

It is because Britain, that is the Crown, was ‘deceived in its grants’ by stealth, deception and unconstitutional means in being taken so deeply into the EEC/EU that it has been so very difficult to extricate Britain from the *supranational* monster whose end is very much in sight.

Time magazine for 22 April, 2019, majors on **The Unraveling of Europe** and “whether the EU can survive in the long term at all?” Also, Liam Halligan in the *Sunday Telegraph Business & Money* for 14 April, 2019, reveals that the approaching economic crisis for the EU is about to implode upon the European Central Bank and that **Italy nears the cliff edge as we obsess on Brexit**. Britain may narrowly escape before the plagues of *Revelation* 18:4 come upon EU-Babylon.

In very precise terms, however, overruling Providence is to be seen in a confirmatory pattern to the final curtain in the drama. The 47 years from 1972 ending 17 October, 2019, will be a period of 60 x 286.1 days marking Britain’s displacement from the Treaty of Rome. This is confirmed by the fact that 11 days (disintegration) later, that is 28 October, 2019, will be 4 x 12 years (world and government), from 28 October, 1971, when the ‘**decision in principle**’ to join the *then* EEC was made by the House of Commons at Westminster. The very day when the Lesson in the 1662 *Book of Common Prayer* was *Isaiah* 28:9-16: the woe to Ephraim-Britain for making a “covenant with death, and with hell

. . . at agreement.” It was a cross-party stitch-up then, in 1971, which in repeat pattern has been witnessed in the traumatic and chaotic parliamentary events of 2019.

Time is running out for Theresa May as prime minister in getting her deal accepted by Parliament at Westminster in that 80 x 286.1 days (displacement) from her birth on 1 October 1956, expire 1-2 June, 2019. This is the date set by the EU for Brexit if Britain is not to take part in the European Elections, failing which will result in Britain departing the EU without a deal. It is also the 66th anniversary of the Coronation in 1953.

The new date set by the emergency EU summit of 10-11 April at the insistence of France (as Reuben) to shorten the new extension period for Brexit to 11.00 pm on 31 October, 2019 (Halloween), fits dramatically with the anniversary of the Great Lisbon earthquake of 1 November,

1755 and the final EU Treaty of Lisbon (effective 1 December, 2009). There is 264 (2 x 11 x 12) years from 1755 to 2019 significant of the disintegration of government, which in respect of the inevitable disintegration and final collapse of the EU is a very powerful warning for Europe.

A conclusion to the long drawn out Brexit crisis may well come 37 days later (The Word) on 4-5 December, 2019, which will be **1260** days – the number of tribulation *but linked directly to economics and the systems of Rome* – after 23-24 June, 2016, when the result came in that the people of the United Kingdom had voted to Leave the EU. The full significance of this terminal being that the Lesson in the 1662 *Book of Common Prayer* for 5 December is the entire chapter of *Isaiah* 28 where the “covenant with death” is “**disannulled**” (v.18). This is truly powerful evidence of Divine timing amid what appears, on the surface, as a chaotic sequence of events.

The coming restored Commonwealth links of the future *with the unifying English language* rest in the Divine Plan for true Israel as a ‘company of nations.’ **It is a vision extraordinary** from which a God-ordered civilization sprang. The flow of this many-branched river dried up with the onset of a false vision that we had ‘*lost an empire and had not yet found a role.*’ It is our assertion that the Kingdom of God upon earth is still Divinely-controlled and, under righteous rulers administering the affairs of state, the prophecy of *Daniel* 7:27 will ultimately come fully to pass.



The Elizabeth Tower in Westminster

MICHAEL A CLARK

NOTRE DAME CATHEDRAL FIRE in PARIS

The disastrous Monday, 15 April 2019, burning of Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris leads to many questions and serious implications. *Notre Dame de Paris* (French for Our Lady of Paris) was built between 1163 and 1260. The cathedral was officially consecrated in 1345.

Most Famous Gothic Building in the World

No other building represents France quite like Notre Dame. It has been the most visited monument in France. Notre Dame is without a doubt the most famous Gothic building worldwide. The church of Notre Dame received almost 13 million visitors every year and it has dominated the Paris skyline since the 1200s. The wood used for the framing of the cathedral consisted of 1,200 oak trees, representing 21 hectares of forest.

Desecrated and Hijacked During the French Revolution

The last time the cathedral suffered major damage was during the French Revolution. During the anti-Christian fanaticism of the French Revolution, Notre Dame was turned into a “*Temple of Reason*” and dedicated to the atheistic “*cult of reason.*” Later when the “*committee of public safety*” was waging the reign of terror, Robespierre decreed a worship of a supreme being. The Notre Dame cathedral was re-dedicated to the “*Cult of Supreme Being*” with a famous prostitute being enthroned as the “*goddess of reason*” at the high altar. Later the French Revolutionaries converted the cathedral into a storage warehouse. During the French Revolution 28 statues of biblical kings, located on the West Wall, were beheaded.

Restored by Napoleon

It was Napoleon Bonaparte who restored the cathedral to the Catholic Church in 1801. In 1804, Napoleon was crowned emperor at the cathedral. Pope Pius VII handed Napoleon the crown which the young conqueror of Europe placed on his own head.

Victor Hugo’s Classic Book Led to Notre Dame’s Restoration

Notre Dame is named in the title of one of France’s literary masterpieces: *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, which is known to the French simply as *Notre Dame de Paris*. In 1831, French novelist Victor Hugo wrote *Notre Dame de Paris*, published in English as *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. Hugo stated that he wrote this novel in part to bring attention to the value of Gothic architecture and as a protest to the demolishers who were



destroying so much of France's architectural heritage. Hugo's effort to draw attention to the value of the cathedral and medieval architecture in general, led King Louis Philippe to order that it be restored in 1844.

The cathedral's pipe organ dates back to the eighteenth century and is the largest in France. It has 5 keyboards, 109 stops and reportedly 7,374 pipes. In the 1990s the organ was restored at a cost of US \$2 million and took 40,000 hours to complete.

Shocking Destruction

As people saw eight centuries of priceless history, artefacts, oil on canvas paintings and architectural masterpieces threatened by fire many wept openly on the streets. Watching such an embodiment of the permanence of their nation burn and its spire collapse was profoundly shocking to every French person.

Terrorism and Arson?

Many immediately speculated whether this could be an act of terrorism, or deliberate arson. The Paris prosecutor's office said that it had opened an inquiry into the incident. However, President Macron's government made an official statement, while the fire fighters were still battling to control the blaze, that they had ruled out any possibility of it being deliberate arson or an act of terrorism! That seemed unprecedentedly premature to announce such an official verdict before any forensic investigation could have even begun. Normally it takes many days, or even weeks, for fire brigade investigators to conclusively determine the cause of any fire.

Spate of Vandalism and Arson Attacks on French Churches

Suspicious have been raised by a spate of arson attacks and vandalism directed against Christian churches throughout France. Official police

records in France identify 875 churches that were attacked, vandalised, or burned in the last year. In February, Notre Dame de Enfants in Nimes, was looted, vandalised and desecrated. Also in February, the altar at St. Alain Cathedral in Lavaure was set on fire while statues and crosses were smashed throughout the premises. Two people were arrested for that outrage. In another incident on 4 February, a statue of the Virgin Mary was found smashed on the ground at St. Nicholas Church in Houllise, Yvelines. Just days later the Church of Notre Dame de Dijon was vandalised and desecrated. *"Their feet are swift to shed blood; destruction and misery are in their ways. And the way of peace they have not known. There is no fear*

of God before their eyes" (Romans 3:15-18).

Arson Confirmed on the Second Largest Church in Paris

On 17 March 2019, Paris' second largest church, St. Sulpice, burst into flames with fire damaging the doors and stained glass windows on the building's exterior. The police reported that the fire was caused by arson and arrested two people.

Muslims Celebrate the Burning of Notre Dame

The Al Jazeera report, 16 April, mentioned that Notre Dame was a church where crusaders were blessed before they had left for the Holy Land. Reportedly thousands of Muslims have placed pictures of the burning cathedral with happy/



laughing face emoji's on social media. Coming within a week of the sentencing of an Islamic jihadist attempting to blow up the Notre Dame Cathedral in 2016, the question is: Was the fire in Notre Dame deliberate arson?

Bombing Attempt Thwarted

On 4 September 2016 a car containing six canisters of gas was found parked near Notre Dame in Paris. This led to the arrest of two women and two men, all Muslims, said to be connected with ISIS. One of the women, Sarah Hervouet, 23 years old, was engaged to Adel Kermishe, who was one of the terrorists in the Normandy Church attack who was responsible for killing 85-year old priest, Jacques Hamel, by slitting his throat by the high altar. He also critically wounded an 86-year old man. This attack took place 26 July 2016 at Saint-Etienne-Du-Rouvary, Normandy.

A Symbol of Christian Civilisation

Notre Dame's importance is more than a monumental architectural achievement. It has stood for centuries as an icon of French identity. More than that, Notre Dame is seen as a monolithic achievement

of Western Christian civilisation, testifying to the central role of Christianity in the development of Europe.

To the Glory of God

The construction of Notre Dame marked the emergence of Gothic architecture. Gothic architecture was designed to make any person entering into a cathedral feel overwhelmed by the greatness and majesty of Almighty God. The grandeur of any cathedral was to testify that it was all about God and not about man. Man should feel infinitesimal and have his eyes drawn ever upwards to the spire which points to Heaven and to the Cross which testifies to the Sovereign rule of our Lord Jesus Christ, King of kings and Lord of lords.

Christian Civilisation

The cathedrals dominated the skylines of Europe for centuries, pointing to the central role of Christianity in providing the worldview that made Western civilisation and the pre-eminence of Europe in culture, art, music and the sciences, possible.

It was the basic structure of Christian thought that made the superstructure of European civilisation possible. It was Christianity that provided the morality, basic truth claims, understanding of the universe and the very meaning of language, which led to the freest, most productive and prosperous civilisations and economies in the history of the world.

Revolutionary Hatred of Christianity

It is for this reason that the French Revolutionaries targeted Notre Dame as it sought to eradicate the Christian heritage of France and Europe. When the Revolutionaries dethroned God and enthroned a prostitute as the "*goddess of reason*," it ushered in over two decades of utter chaos, confusion and destructive warfare which engulfed all of Europe.

Recognising Roman Catholic Idolatry

However, the tragic destruction of much of the historic and cultural treasures of Notre Dame should also highlight another tragedy. While the world would see Notre Dame as a national treasure of



France and a powerful symbol of Western civilisation and of historic Christianity, Evangelical Christians must note that Notre Dame is a place of Roman Catholic worship. It is specifically named after and dedicated to the Virgin Mary. Above the high altar a massive statue of the corpse of Jesus in the arms of Mary reminds us of the pre-eminence of Mariolatry, seeing Mary as a co-redemptress.

Superstitious Relics

Much of news media focused attention on saving what the custodians of the cathedral call the “*crown of thorns*.” Their cathedral boasts numerous fake relics such as what is said to be the crown of thorns worn by Christ and a piece of wood that was meant to be part of His Cross and a nail that pierced Christ on the Cross of Calvary. Of course, there are numerous crowns of thorns venerated in Catholic churches – all claiming to be the true crown of thorns. There are many pieces of “*the true Cross*,” so-called, venerated in numerous Catholic cathedrals and chapels. There are many nails that various Catholic churches claim to be one of the three that pierced Christ on the Cross.

Papal Idolatry and Hypocritical Self-Contradictions

For 800 years, Roman Catholic priests have been lifting up a wafer and chalice and worshipping these as the physical Body and Blood of Christ. It was at Notre Dame that Pope Pius X beatified Joan of Arc, France’s most famous Catholic martyr, after a previous “*infallible*” pope had condemned her as a heretic!

The Gospel of Christ is the True Treasure of the Church

Protestants do not mourn the loss of idols, nor can we condone any acts of terrorism or arson. We mourn the absence of the Christ-centred

biblical Gospel within that great building.

“Those from among you shall build the old waste places”

Isaiah 58:12

Cathedrals Need Reformation

While we do mourn the loss of a powerful symbol of historic Christianity, we do not agree with the sacramental design of the cathedral and its elevation of the Catholic Mass. Protestants have never sought to destroy cathedrals, but rather to reform them. Hence, during the Reformation, altars were demolished and replaced with the Lord’s Table. The dividing barrier between clergy and laity was removed. The screen was taken down so that the laity could be participants during the worship service. Protestants brought pews into churches and made the public reading, teaching and preaching from the Word of God as the central part of every worship service. Instead of standing to listen to a liturgy in Latin, Protestants have involved the laity in congregational singing, responsive liturgical worship in their own language and most importantly, the preaching and teaching of God’s Word in the local language.

We mourn the damage and destruction of this great testament to the centrality of Christianity in Western civilisation. We believe that Protestant Reformers themselves would have mourned the loss of this great cathedral – a symbol of the Christianity they sought to reform.

A Secular State

However, we also recognise that Notre Dame has been owned by

the French state for many years. While the Catholic Church uses the cathedral for its services, it does not own the cathedral. The French government owns it and pays two-thirds of the funds needed for its upkeep and maintenance. The French see it as a symbol of French identity. Most Frenchmen see Notre Dame as a romanticised ideal of the glory of France, not the glory of God. Rather than a monument to the glory and transcendence of God, most French citizens now see it primarily as a material symbol of French nationalism. Paris is a radical symbol of that secularisation. Today, most in France see Notre Dame as a symbol of their patriotism, not of Theism.

Christian Civilisation Has Been Hijacked and Damaged

Notre Dame should remind us of our great Christian heritage which has been hijacked and undermined, even openly attacked by secularists and Islamists who hate Christianity and are seeking to hijack civilisation. “*...If there is calamity in a city, will not the Lord have done it?*” (*Amos 3:6*).

Return to the Bible to Rebuild Civilisation

We need to do more than rebuild the walls, we need to lay solid foundations to rebuild civilisation on the Bible, applying the Lordship of Christ to all areas of life. “*Those from among you shall build the old waste places; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations and you shall be called the Repairer of the Breach, the Restorer of Streets to Dwell In*” (*Isaiah 58:12*).

DR PETER HAMMOND

Frontline Fellowship
P.O. Box 74 Newlands 7725
Cape Town South Africa
Tel: 021-689-4480

Email: mission@frontline.org.za
Website: www.frontlinemissionsa.org

THE KNIGHTS' VIGIL BEFORE D-DAY

As another significant anniversary of the Second World War is reached in June this year it is important to remember the role of prayer in the preparation of that vital invasion. The 75th anniversary of D-Day events will be commencing as readers receive this issue of The Covenant Nations. The Ministry of Defence has worked with The Royal British Legion and Portsmouth City Council to organize this series of events to reflect the area's unique role in one of the largest and well-known military operations in history.

These extracts from *We Have a Guardian* give an inspiring account of the leaders of the Allied Forces and of how they prepared for the great task ahead of them both materially and spiritually.

The Consecration of our Armies

"In an uplifting broadcast, 'The Consecration of our Armies,' made shortly after the Normandy landings, the Rev. Canon F. Llewellyn Hughes, Deputy Chaplain-General, said:

'There have been crowded pre-battle Services everywhere; but the consecration of our armies has not been a last-minute effort. It has been a long, laborious process. We aimed at a permanent attitude of mind, at giving to soldiers such a vision of God's Will as would make the doing of it their main purpose. . . ."

And he continued:

"It is not enough for an army or a nation to have a vague faith in God. It is not enough for us to rest content that our commanders are godly, and that God's flag is publicly flown. Faith in God is useless until it governs action. What does God want done? We believe in God—as what? As a nonentity, content to be recognized, and then ignored? As a vague power, meaningless, purposeless, inarticulate, and therefore unfit to command a

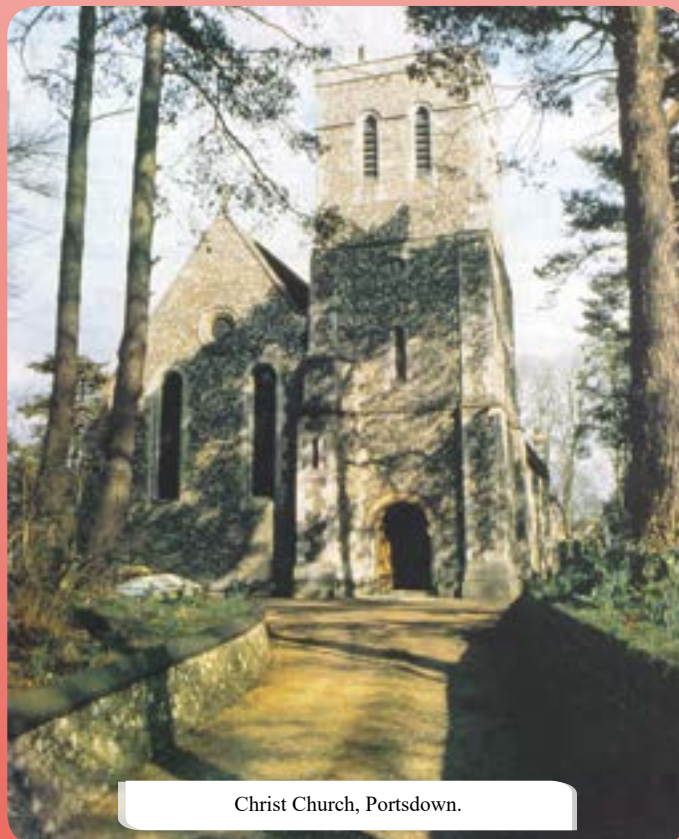
platoon, let alone a world? No. We believe in God Who wants, and means to have done, all that Christ embodied, taught, lived out. Let an army and a people learn what God stands for, and then they will know when they are for or against His purpose, and support or oppose with confidence as His commissioned servants. That is where the solid toil of consecration comes in. The character of Christ must be known; His goodness perceived and loved, Himself accepted as Master. No special effort thrown off in an emergency will accomplish that; and there is no short cut.

Gospel of Christ, the Author and Finisher of all the fine qualities of men. . . .

"There is no ideal of character better than the one God sent to us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Read the New Testament again, check up all that moves in you by His standards, and so make Him the Light and Guide of your day's work. It is not a little, narrow, personal matter; it is the one, big, corporate movement in which every man, woman and child can take a part. Christ's Spirit in every man is God's simple, but masterly and scientific, scheme for making the whole body of the world sound by making healthy every cell in it. . . .

"I ask you to join the long, laborious, but most happy process of reconsecration, and to pray that God's love may go forth in us conquering and to conquer, that we may bear in our midst a Light of Hope indeed to the waiting peoples, and that all nations may see in the conduct of our battle the might of our cause, and in the conduct of our men the good for whose enthronement we have fought. . . ."

The accompanying illustrations are photographs of the stained glass windows depicting St Michael and St George with tanks, guns and landing craft



Christ Church, Portsmouth.

"So the chaplains are going forward with the forces preaching the simple

which were installed in Portsdown Parish Church and unveiled on 6 June 1948. This church is where the service was held on the Sunday before D-Day. The importance of prayer in the lives and actions of the covenant nations cannot be over-emphasised; it is the command of the Lord God Almighty:

‘When you set out to make war upon your enemies, and see. . . an army larger than yourselves, you must not be afraid of them, for the Eternal your God Who brought you out of the land of Egypt is on your side. . . A priest must approach and address the army thus: Listen, Israel, you are opening a campaign . . . the Eternal your God goes with you . . .to give you the victory’ (Deuteronomy 20:1-4, Moffatt).

The Knights’ Vigil

“The idea of a Knights’ Vigil, as on battle eve in olden days, came from the Rev. J.W.J. Steele, then Assistant Chaplain-General of the Second Army. ‘It was one of the most moving experiences of my life,’ said General Dempsey. The vigil lasted an hour. The church was filled by 400 officers and men of Second Army H.Q. staff.

“With military police guarding the doors and the Allied armies poised in sealed camps in the surrounding woods, the chaplain recited the famous prayer Drake offered before Cadiz in 1587: ‘O Lord God, when Thou givest to Thy servants to endeavour any great matter, grant us also to know that it is not the beginning, but the continuing of the same, until it be thoroughly finished, which yieldeth the true glory; through Him that for the finishing of Thy work laid down His life, our Redeemer, Jesus Christ.’

“The sunshine of the morning

gave way to storm clouds as the planners of D-Day answered this solemn call to service: ‘To the Second Army there has been given a glorious part in a great task. To relieve the oppressed, to restore freedom in Europe, and to bring peace to the world. As we stand upon the threshold of the greatest adventure in our history, let us now offer to Almighty God all our powers of body, mind, and spirit, so that our great endeavour may be thoroughly finished. To this end, will you undertake the heavy responsibility that such a task places upon each of you, and with God’s help carry it through, giving of the

best, until Victory is won and Peace assured?’

“Four hundred voices responded, ‘I will, the Lord being helper.’ Then came the Blessing: ‘Go forth into action with a stout heart: be of good courage: hold fast that which is good: render to no man evil for evil: strengthen the faint-hearted: support the weak: help the afflicted: honour all men: love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of God with us.’”

The weather played a vital role in this operation too. In an article in CN 3.12 ‘Watch the Weather’

David Aimer gave several other examples in which the weather has been pivotal to the result of a particular situation. At D-Day General Eisenhower as Supreme Commander was faced by the gravest decision of his career; this extract illustrates the problem clearly:

D-Day Weather

“The official story of the invasion weather forecast, reported in *The Times* (2.9.44), is of great interest because it reveals that in spite of the very long odds against completely unfavourable conditions prevailing, the weather after all gave true cause for thanksgiving:

“For months the meteorological section at Supreme Headquarters had been studying the relative advantages of May, June and July for weather. Using statistics, they found that the chances were about 50 to 1 against weather, tide, and moon being favourable for all services, land, sea and air. . . .

“When the commanders’ final series of meetings began on Thursday, 1 June, the first indication was given that



The D-Day windows

conditions in the Channel on the Monday were unlikely to meet even the minimum requirements. . . . In the early hours of Sunday morning the Supreme Commander postponed the biggest military operation in history on a day-to-day basis. Late in the evening of Sunday there was fairly strong evidence that after a stormy Monday there would be a temporary improvement overnight, and for the greater part of Tuesday. By now the weather in the Atlantic was more like mid-winter than early June. Any improvement on Tuesday would be short-lived. The assault could not take place on the Wednesday, because some of the naval forces from the more distant embarkation ports had set out in advance of the final decision and would need to return to port if the assault was deferred beyond Tuesday. . .

“At a full meeting of the Supreme Commander and his staff late on Sunday evening his meteorological advisers presented this historic forecast:

“ ‘An interval of fair conditions will spread throughout the Channel area on Monday and last until at least dawn on Tuesday, 6 June. Winds will fall to Force 3 or 4 on the Normandy coasts and cloud will be well broken with a base height of about 3,000 feet. After that interval it will become cloudy or overcast again during Tuesday afternoon. Then, following a brief fair interval on Tuesday night or early Wednesday, conditions will continue variable with indeterminate periods of overcast skies and fresh winds until Friday.’

“Shortly afterwards the Supreme Commander said that he had provisionally decided that the invasion should go forward on Tuesday morning. The Supreme Commander, his Commander-in-Chief, and their chiefs of staff met again at 4 am on Monday for ‘the final and irrevocable decision.’

Shortly afterwards messages went to all the vast forces concerned. The invasion of France would start on the morning of the next day.

“On the morning of the assault the wind had moderated, and the cloud was not only well broken, but its base was at least 4,000 feet high, ideally suited for the large-scale airborne operations. In the hour preceding the landings, when perfect conditions for pinpoint bombing were so essential, there were large areas of temporarily clear sky, and throughout the critical time medium and light bombers were unhampered.

‘No weapon formed against thee shall prosper’
Isaiah 54:17

“Thus God had kept His promise, ‘O Israel, Fear not. . . . when thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee’ (Isaiah 43:1, 2).”

The Rainbow of Invasion Morning

“The following account of the phenomenon was given in *The Sphere* (24.6.44): ‘Lately there has been talk in some parts of the country about signs in the sky. The one depicted by our artist in this drawing was witnessed over the Invasion area at dawn on D-Day. The rainbow spread right across the combat zone in brilliant colours, only fading from sight after thousands of our men had seen it and been heartened by its appearance at the outset of the Great Adventure. One aeroplane crew reported that they had flown through the middle of it whilst carrying out a bombing mission over the beaches. “It stood out as plain as could be. I watched it for quite a while,” said the aircraft’s turret gunner. Below him at that moment was the whole panorama of the Invasion, with

vessels crowding in on the beaches, gun-flashes and bomb-bursts all along the coast and fleets of aircraft flying over to cover the ground forces. Coming at the precise moment when it did, the Rainbow of Invasion Morn might rank with the Angels of Mons of the last war. . . .

“This sign in the heavens at such a time was surely a confirmation that the Almighty’s blessing rested upon the cause of ‘setting the captives free,’ to which the Anglo-Saxon peoples, as partners in this Great Crusade, were committed. It also serves as a most pointed reminder that, because of their Redeemer, God has promised that He will establish His people in righteousness and peace and that He has given assurance that no weapon, secret or otherwise, shall prosper against them:

‘For a small moment have I forsaken thee; but with great mercies will I gather thee. In a little wrath I hid My face from thee for a moment; but with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith the Lord thy Redeemer. For this is as the waters of Noah unto Me: for as I have sworn that the waters of Noah should no more go over the earth; so have I sworn that I would not be wroth with thee, nor rebuke thee. For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but My kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of My peace be removed, saith the Lord that hath mercy on thee. . . . No weapon formed against thee shall prosper’ (Isaiah 54:7-10, 17)”

Our prayer should be for godly leaders to be raised up in church and state in all our nations that we might return to the God of our forefathers in humble repentance trusting in His great mercies to restore and revive us.

PHILIPPA CLARK

We Have a Guardian
Available from Covenant Publishing

THE INTEGRITY OF BRITISH CULTURE & FAITH MUST BE CONSERVED

The Covenant Nations – a Natural Union

A series of free booklets for the British people leaving the EU as The Commonwealth marks its 70th anniversary

Three years ago, just three weeks before the Referendum in which the British people seized their only chance to vote for freedom, we launched our own unique information campaign to bring out the real *constitutional* and *spiritual* factors that have been ignored in Church and the State for decades. Ten *free issue* booklets were available aimed at awakening the British people to the constitutional illegalities over Britain's EU membership that has robbed them of their ancient freedoms. We sought to alert them to their Kingdom **Birthright** that is inherited from their biblical ancestors. There is a very great prophetic dimension to our heritage.

These booklets are still available and their message is no less important and relevant than it was in 2016.



Powerful developments have been undermining the integrity of the unique British culture which formed the foundation of Christian civilization in the world, leading to increasing multicultural pressures within the physical constraints of the British Isles. The Christian British family seeing that its government has lost all control of the situation fears as to what the future may hold. The succeeding years from the Referendum have shown a political class which has lost all contact with its roots and is anchorless and rudderless.

To protect and preserve British traditional culture, faith and values, we cannot do without *true* Christianity. Not only has Christianity been part of them since time immemorial but also they cannot continue their existence without it.

The first four booklets have the main title of **The Foundations of the Nation Must be Restored** with 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 have the main title **The Integrity of British Culture & Faith Must be Conserved** and are written for the future of the covenant nations outside of the EU. The remaining comprehensive booklet, Number

Seven, is linked 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**

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 resale** 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 HIGHWAY OF HOLINESS

Much has been written about prophecy concerning the return of the Jews and establishment of the Jewish state. Until 1948 it was common teaching in Christian churches that this return would not take place until the end of the age and our Lord's return. The reason is that a number of Old Testament prophecies indicated that Israel would return in belief, not in ignorance of Christ. An example of this is in *Isaiah* chapter 35:

“And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein. No lion shall be there, nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk there: And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away” (Isaiah 35:8-10).

Israel, redeemed and ransomed, returning to Zion with everlasting joy and gladness, with all sorrow forever removed, is a totally different picture than what transpired in the year 1948 or ever since. Nor was

this fulfilled centuries earlier in the Old Testament return of the small number of 42,560 Judean exiles from Babylon in 537 BC. The way of holiness clearly points to a Millennial picture of Eden-like perfection.

The *Whedon Bible Commentary* supports a Millennial fulfillment: “In the foregoing portions of prophecy the people of God were seen to be in danger respectively from Syrians, Egyptians, Assyrians, Moabites, Edomites, and Babylonians; and from each and all their deliverance was achieved, and their enemies destroyed as predicted. Now the conclusion is, that all God's foes shall ultimately and forever be put to naught. The rule of Messiah shall be universal and eternal; and security and joy shall come upon God's ransomed ones; a conclusion most fitting to this prophetic series.”

Lange's Commentary adds, “As exile is the sum of all terrors for the Israelite, so exile's end, return to Zion to everlasting, blessed residence there is the acme and sum of all felicity.” Not even the most ardent Dispensational Futurist advocate would insist that today's Palestine is the sum of all felicity! Yet *John Trapp's Commentary* states concerning *Isaiah* 35, “there

is no sufficient reason for departing from the strict sense of the future.”

The establishment of the Jewish state in 1948 therefore created a dilemma if Bible prophecies of Israel's return were to be taken literally. The usual response of many modern commentators is to spiritualize these prophecies of Israel's return as referring to the Christian Church. *The Pulpit Commentary*, for example, titles the prophecy in *Isaiah* 35 as “The glory of the last times.” They state, “On the punishment of God's enemies will follow the peace, prosperity, and glory of his Church. Previously, the Church is in affliction, waste, and desolate. Its enemies once removed, destroyed, swept out of the way, it rises instantly in all its beauty to a condition which words are poor to paint. The highest resources of the poetic art are called in to give some idea of the glory and happiness of the final Church of the redeemed.”

Another issue is that *Isaiah* chapters 34 and 35 are linked together prophetically. The *Biblical Illustrator* says, “The thirty-fourth and the thirty-fifth chapters of *Isaiah* are by the best scholars supposed to constitute one entire and complete prophecy.” *Lange's Commentary*

points out, “Thus here [in chapter 35] the prospect of joyful return home is presented to Israel in contrast with the frightful judgments that in chapter 34 are to come upon the heathen.” In *Isaiah* 34, Israel’s enemies, chiefly Edom, are visited in judgment by God as a prelude to Israel’s joyful return in chapter 35. *John Trapp’s Commentary* says, “The Jewish doctors understand these two chapters as a prophecy of their return into the Holy Land, when once Idumea shall be destroyed.” Prophetic Edom’s destruction was thus the essential precursor to Israel’s return.

For this reason it was common teaching among Christians up until 1917 that the Turks were prophetic Edom (Greek: Idumea) because they were in control of the Holy Land. When World War I burst upon the scene, many Christians believed that this event was a sure sign of the imminent end of the age. The end-time prophecy in *Ezekiel* 36 was often quoted as referring to Turkey, and false claims were even made that the Turks were the physical descendants of Edom. *Ezekiel’s* prophecy states, “*Thus saith the Lord GOD; Because the enemy hath said against you, Aha, even the ancient high places are*

ours in possession...Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Surely in the fire of my jealousy have I spoken against the residue of the heathen, and against all Idumea, which have appointed my land into their possession with the joy of all their heart, with despiteful minds, to cast it out for a prey” (*Ezekiel* 36:2, 5).

‘They shall obtain joy and gladness’

Isaiah 35:10

Lange’s Commentary, in contrast, seems to think that the *Isaiah* 35 prophecy is hyperbole or mirage: verses 7 to 10 “denotes the illusive appearance often witnessed both at sea and land, called in English looming, in Italian *fata morgana*, and in French mirage. In the deserts of Arabia and Africa, the appearance presented is precisely that of an extended sheet of water, tending not only to mislead the traveller, but to aggravate his thirst by disappointment. ‘More deceitful than mirage’ (or serab) is an Arabian proverb.” Yet no amount of hyperbole could make *Isaiah* 35 fit either the Christian Church spiritually, or a literal return of unbelieving Jews. Only an age-end return of Christ

setting up His Holy Kingdom for a redeemed Israel will fit the facts of Israel’s prophetic return.

The *Bible Knowledge Commentary* on *Isaiah* 35 reveals, “Changes will occur in the people and the land. Because of God’s healing power (cf. *Isaiah* 33:24) those who are blind will see, those who are deaf will hear (cf. *Isaiah* 32:3; *Isaiah* 42:7) those who are lame will leap (cf. *Isaiah* 33:23), and those who cannot talk will shout. The Messiah will bring this about.”

The *Keil & Delitzsch Commentary* says, “The whole chapter [35] is, in every part, both in thought and language, a prelude of that book of consolation for the exiles in their captivity. Not only in its spiritual New Testament thoughts, but also in its ethereal language, soaring high as it does in majestic softness and light, the prophecy has now reached the highest point of its development.”

We fervently look forward to Christ’s return and the fulfillment of these wonderful Messianic prophecies!

JORY STEVEN BROOKS

CBIA

Our Centenary Year

100th Annual Congress

4th – 7th October 2019

In the ancient cathedral city of Peterborough

Marking 100 years of Kingdom Teaching to the Covenant Nations

JACOB – ISRAEL

*A study refuting the common view that Jacob was **just** a scheming, conniving, deceiver, who **stole** Esau's birthright blessing.*

Jacob was the second twin son of Isaac and Rebekah.

Genesis 25:21-23. Prophecy for Rebekah's twins:

*“The children **struggled** together within her and she said, ‘If all is well why am I like this?’ So she went to inquire of the Lord and the Lord said to her, ‘**Two nations** are in your womb; one people shall be **stronger** than the other and the **older shall serve the younger.**”*

God gave the birthright blessing to **Jacob**. (Isaac probably knew this if Rebekah had told him of God's prophecy. Why wouldn't she?)

Genesis 25:25-26. Esau was born first (**stronger**). He came out red and hairy so they named him Esau. His name means ‘rough.’

Jacob came out with his hand holding Esau's heel (**holding his rightful, prophetic birthright promise**).

Jacob's name means ‘**following-after, supplanter**’ (Strong's *Concordance*); ‘grasps the heel’ (Life Application Bible) and can, figuratively, mean ‘he deceives’ (**fulfilled prophecy**). Other connotations of Jacob's name include ‘stable,’ ‘solid,’ ‘mild,’ ‘one who takes the heel’ (Spirit Filled Life Bible).

‘Supplant’ means to **supersede**, to **take the place of**, by (**Rebekah's**) cunning. ‘Supersede’ means take the place of, (like a pronoun), **to take the position of**, (role, responsibility, or status, as set out in the prophecy), **or office of**, to replace, as in the case of the **older for a better** (Longman's Dictionary). (super- = above, higher in rank or position, greater in quality or degree, surpassing others of its kind, [**twin**]).

Isaac favoured Esau for his game stew (flesh); Rebekah favoured Jacob (spirit).

Genesis 25:29-34. Jacob obtains the birthright blessing. According to local custom, a **man could sell his birthright to his brother**. (Not a crime) (Spirit Filled Life Bible). Esau asked for Jacob's stew (flesh) and Jacob offered to **buy (redeem)** his birthright (**rightfully his from the prophecy**). Esau despised his birthright, ‘What is this birthright to me?’ So he swore to Jacob and sold, (fair deal exchange), his birthright to Jacob. *Hebrews 12:16* calls Esau ‘a profane person.’

Genesis 27:1-29. How Jacob obtains the blessing intended for him by God:

Isaac was old, blind, he was about to circumvent God's prophecy. Rebekah overheard Isaac's intention to give Esau the birthright blessing and said to Jacob, ‘Now therefore,



Polemonium caeruleum, known as Jacob's-ladder

my son, **obey my voice** according to what I **command** you. I will make savoury food such as your father loves, that he may bless you before his death.’ (**Rebekah’s idea, not Jacob’s**).

And Jacob said, ‘Look, Esau is a hairy man and I am a smooth-skinned man. Perhaps my father will feel me, and I shall **seem** to be a deceiver to him, and I shall bring a curse on myself and not a blessing.’ But his mother said to him, ‘Let your **curse be on me**, my son, only obey me.’

So Jacob went to his father (blind) and said, ‘My father.’ And Isaac said ‘Who are you, my son?’ Jacob said to his father, ‘I am Esau, your firstborn.’ (**his mother’s lie**). ‘I have done just as you told me, please eat of my game, that your soul may bless me.’ But Isaac said to his son, ‘How is it that you have found it so quickly?’ And Jacob said, ‘Because the Lord your God brought it to me.’

Isaac said to Jacob, ‘Please come near that I may feel you, whether you are really my son Esau or not.’ (**Rebekah’s strategy** to put skins on his hands and neck). So Jacob went near. ‘The voice is Jacob’s voice but the hands are the hands of Esau.’ And he did not recognise him. ‘Are you really my son Esau?’ Jacob said, ‘I am’ (**his mother’s lie**).

And Isaac kissed him and blessed him in **fulfilment of the prophecy**, ‘Be **master** over your brethren, let your mother’s sons, (Esau), bow down to you. Let peoples serve you and nations bow down to you; be master over your brothers, ... Let everyone be cursed who curses you’ (Esau is in Edom, Edomites, those who say they are Jews and are not).

As soon as Isaac had finished blessing Jacob, Esau came in with the stew for his blessing. Isaac told him, ‘Your brother came with deceit (**Rebekah’s instructions**) and has

taken away your blessing.’ (Isaac knew nothing of the sale agreement of the birthright).

Esau said, ‘Is he not **rightly named Jacob**? For he has **supplanted** me these two times. He **took away (lie, he sold it)** my birthright and now look, he has **taken away my blessing (lie, blame-shifting)**. And he said, ‘Have you not reserved a blessing for me?’ Then Isaac answered and said to Esau, ‘Indeed I have made him your master. What shall I do now for you, my son?’ And Esau said ‘Have you only one

blessing? Bless me – me also, O my father!’ And Esau lifted up his voice and wept (remorse and self pity, not repentance).

Genesis 27:41. Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing and planned to kill him.

Genesis 28:1-4. Then Isaac called Jacob and blessed him. Rebekah then sent Jacob away to protect him from Esau’s wrath, and to find him a wife. Jacob, in **obedience**, went to take a wife from his own people. Esau in **disobedience**, marries



Bath Abbey

Mahalath, a Canaanite, daughter of Ishmael.

Genesis 28:10-22. Jacob is given the vision of the ladder in a dream when he took a **stone** for a pillow, where he slept. (A stone cut without hands?).

Then he dreamed, and behold a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And behold, the Lord stood above it and said, 'I am the Lord God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants. ... Behold, **I am with you and will keep you** wherever you go ... for **I will not leave you** until I have done what I have spoken to you.' (fulfilled the prophecy to Jacob).

Genesis 32:22-32. Jacob wrestles with God.

A Man (Angel, Jesus) wrestled with him until the morning. Jacob said, 'I will not let You go unless You bless me!' The Man said, 'What is your name?' (the Man obviously knew Jacob's name). Then He said, 'Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but **Israel, (Prince with God)** for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed.' And He **blessed him** there.

Genesis 32:30. 'I have seen God face to face and my life is preserved.'

Genesis 35:10. At Bethel, Jacob is again renamed **Israel**.

And God said to him, 'I am God Almighty. Be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall proceed from you, and kings shall come from your body.' (**The prophecy**).

Life Application Bible: Jacob's life had four stages, each marked

by a personal encounter with God. In the first stage, Jacob lived up to his name, which means 'he grasps the heel,' figuratively, 'he deceives.' By the time he fled from home, he had also 'grabbed' his brother's birthright and blessing. During his first flight, God first appeared to him. Not only did God confirm to Jacob his blessing, but He awakened in Jacob a personal knowledge of Himself.

In the second stage, Jacob experienced life from the other side, being manipulated and deceived by Laban. But there is a curious change. The Jacob of stage one would simply have left Laban, whereas the Jacob of stage two, after deciding to leave, waited six years for God's permission.

In the third stage, Jacob was in a new role as grabber. This time, by the Jordan River, he grabbed on to God and would not let go. He realised his dependence on the God who had continued to bless him. His relationship to God became essential to his life, and his name was changed to Israel, 'he struggles with God.'

Jacob's last stage of life was to *be* grabbed – God achieved a firm hold on him.

Hosea 12:2-4. The Lord will punish Jacob according to his deeds. He took his brother by the heel in the womb, and in his strength he struggled with God. Yes, he struggled with the Angel and prevailed.

Romans 9:13. Jacob I have loved, but Esau have I hated.

Malachi 1:2-3. 'I have loved you,' says the Lord. 'Yet you say, 'In what way have You loved us?' 'Was not Esau Jacob's brother?' says the Lord. 'Yet Jacob I have loved but Esau I have hated.'

This refers to the nations of Israel and Edom, rather than to the individual brothers. God chose Jacob to continue the family line of the faithful because

He knew his heart was for God. But He did not exclude Esau from knowing and loving Him. God is sovereign, not arbitrary; in all things He works for our good . . . even if we do not understand all His reasons. (Life Application Bible).

Conclusion:

Like Abraham, and many other significant people in the Bible, Jacob was not a perfect hero. But his tenacity and determination have to be admired. God chose him to continue the covenant blessings.

Whose plan was it really? Jacob's? Rebekah's? Or God's? At worst, Jacob could be regarded as an accomplice in the 'deception' to claim the prophetic blessing. In his favour, a biblical summary of his character is as follows:

Not crafty but wise recognizing a legitimate way to get his rightful inheritance back, *Genesis 25:31-33*. Obedient to his mother's instruction, *Genesis 27:18-33*.

Reaped the consequences of his actions, *Genesis 27:42-43*.

Meeting with God experience, *Genesis 28:16-22*.

Loving and loyal, *Genesis 29:18*.

Serving, *Genesis 29:20, 28*.

Industrious, *Genesis 31:38-42*.

Prayerful, *Genesis 32:9-12, 26*.

Disciplined by affliction, *Genesis 32:9-12*.

Excellent, *Psalms 47:4*.

A man of faith, *Hebrews 11:21*.

Throughout the Bible, God is still happy to call him Jacob. *Genesis 46:2*.

He is not ashamed to be the 'God of Jacob.'

'I am the God of Jacob.'

'I am the God of Israel.'

('I am the God of 'Supplanter,' 'Deceiver').

Nahum 2:2. "For the Lord will restore the excellence of Jacob."

BRITHA PADKIN

RENDING IN THE SCRIPTURES

Rending in the Scriptures generally refers to the rending of clothes. However, are both men and women supposed to rend their clothes?

In the Scriptures, there are only two women recorded rending their clothes. For the moment we shall deal only with Athaliah. II *Kings* 11:1-4; II *Kings* 11:12-16; II *Chronicles* 22:10-12; II *Chronicles* 23:1-3; II *Chronicles* 23:12-15. Athaliah was an unrighteous woman who rent her clothes and was put to death by the righteous. She did not rend her clothes for the right reasons. This brings us on to our next point: unwarranted rending of clothes.

Our second example of unwarranted rending of clothes, Athaliah being the first example, is recorded in *Acts* 16:16-22. Paul and Silas had been preaching the gospel and

performing acts of righteousness. For the magistrates to rend their clothes was unjust and unrighteous.

A third example of wrong rending of clothes is at the trial of our Saviour. *Matthew* 26:64, 65; *Mark* 14:62, 63. When the Saviour declared that He was the Almighty, the high priest rent his clothes, believing this declaration to be blasphemy. The high priest was wrong to rend his clothes as the priesthood were not intended to rend the priestly garments. (*Exodus* 28:32; 39:23; *Leviticus* 10:6). If a mere man had declared to be the 'I AM' the high priest rending the priestly garments would have shown clear and strong recognition of the evil that was being spoken.

This brings us to the next point. Rending of clothes was to be a recognition of some evil or sin that had either been committed

or that had befallen someone or a people. In *Joshua* 7:1-6, thirty-six men of Israel were slain by the men of Ai. God's plan for His covenant people was that, as long as they followed Him and obeyed His commandments, when in battle they would not lose any men. (The same applies today). Joshua rent his clothes as recognition that something evil had befallen Israel.

In I *Samuel* 4:10-12, the man who came to Shiloh had rent his clothes, because evil had come upon Israel in battle. Another instance is in II *Samuel* 1:1-12, where David rends his clothes when he hears that Saul and Jonathan are slain and that the people of Israel are defeated. He recognized the evil that had befallen Israel. In II *Samuel* 3:27-32, after Joab murders Abner, David commands Joab and all the people with him to rend their clothes. He wanted the people to recognize

that evil had been committed. In II *Samuel* 13:10-19, after Amnon forces Tamar to lie with him, Tamar rends her garment of divers colours.

Thus, we come to our second, and only other, woman to be recorded rending her clothes in the Scriptures. The king's daughters who were virgins were apparelled with a garment of divers colours. For Tamar to rend it was a recognition of the evil which had befallen her as well as being symbolic of the fact that her virginity had been taken from her.

Other examples of those who recognized when evil had been committed or that evil had befallen someone or a people can be found in the following passages: *Genesis* 44:4-13; *Judges* 11:30-35; II *Samuel* 13:29-31; II *Kings* 6:24-30; II *Kings* 18:28-19:1; *Ezra* 9:1-5; *Esther* 3:13-4:1; *Job* 1:18-20; *Job* 2:11, 12; *Acts* 14:11-14.

How does rending of clothes, this recognition of sin or some evil, affect the future? The best examples can be found in I *Kings* 21 and II *Kings* 22.

In I *Kings* 21:20-29, judgment is pronounced on Ahab and his house. When Ahab hears this judgment, he rends his clothes and humbles himself. By so doing, the Almighty has mercy and does not bring the evil in Ahab's days. If Ahab had not recognized the evil and humbled himself, he may very well have seen the judgment in his days.

In II *Kings* 22:11-20, when Josiah hears the words of the book, he rends his clothes, recognizing that because of Israel's sins they will be judged. For this act of recognition, the Almighty sends word to

Josiah, telling him that because he rent his clothes, he would not see all the evil in his days.

“Rend your heart, and not
your garments”

Joel 2:13

We see that recognizing evil by rending of clothes, brings mercy, but what about when evil is not recognized?

There is an example of what happens when clothes are not rent in recognition and repentance of evil. In *Jeremiah* 36:20-31, on hearing that the Almighty had pronounced anger on His people, Jehoiakim burnt the roll. In verse 24 it says, “*Yet they were not afraid, nor rent their garments ...*” For not recognizing and not repenting of their sin the LORD pronounced judgment on Jehoiakim, his children, and his servants, and the judgment that was pronounced earlier in the chapter would come to pass.

The other way the word, rend, is used is when judgment is being pronounced.

In I *Samuel* 15, Saul was commanded to destroy the Amalekites completely. Saul disobeyed and judgment was pronounced. It is interesting that in verse 28 the phrase “*The LORD hath rent the kingdom of Israel from thee this day*” is used. Likewise, in other Scripture passages such as I *Kings* 11:11-13; *Ezekiel* 13:11-13; *Ezekiel* 30:16, where judgment is being pronounced, the idea of something being rent is quite clear. Perhaps the idea of something being rent when judgment is pronounced is because the people or person who are being judged, are being reminded that they should have rent their garments in recognition and repentance of their sin.

To conclude this study on rending in the Scriptures, I would like to point out something important. While the act of rending clothes to recognize and repent from sin is right, there is a verse in the Scriptures which makes it clear that outward practice is not enough. In *Joel* 2:12, 13, we read “*rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God.*” While the outward practice is right, the Most High wants us to recognize and repent of our sin in our hearts as well. To adapt a Scripture verse, “To rend your heart and turn to the Lord is better than rending your garments.” We must recognize/confess our sin in our hearts as well as confessing outwardly. We must also repent/turn away from our sin in the inward man as well as the outward man. Let us each one rend our hearts, turn to the Lord, repent of our sin, and escape the judgment.

Covenant Clips



Including
‘The Torn Cloak’

Available from Covenant Publishing

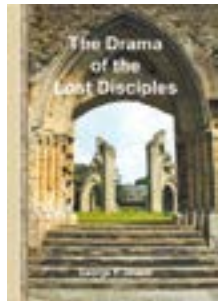
TAMAR MCKAY

Now available on


The Drama of the Lost Disciples
 Did Our Lord visit Britain?
 We have a Guardian
 Far above Rubies
 The Restoration of Israel



NEW! Latest addition:
 The Coming of the Saints



The Origin of the British
 by Major B. de W. Weldon

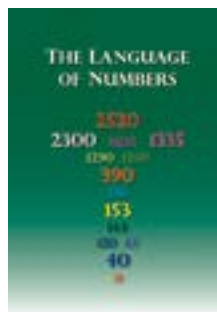
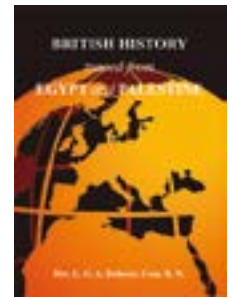
An analysis of the migrations of the Israelite tribes from the point of view of an Intelligence Officer looking at their military campaigns. The author brings together the scriptures and the historical evidence in a very interesting way.

Price £9.50 excluding p&p 211 pages

British History traced from Egypt and Palestine
 by Rev. L. G. A. Roberts, Com. R. N.

God called Abraham and promised that through his posterity all mankind should be blessed. Using Scripture and historical sources, the author describes how this people have spread out to form the Christian nations of the world.

Price £7.00 excluding p&p 163 pages



The Language of Numbers
 by CPC Ltd

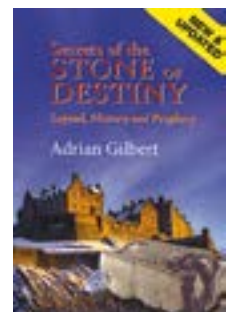
This new and revised edition is a compilation from the works of researchers, dealing exhaustively with the numerical factors relating to the subject of biblical chronology.

Price £2.00 excluding p&p 35 pages

Secrets of the Stone of Destiny
 by Adrian Gilbert

An intriguing presentation of the history and significance of this important historical artefact. The author brings in new information and a new understanding of what the Stone might have meant to our forefathers and how it might have been used.

Price £12.50 excluding p&p 214 pages



British-Israel How I came to believe it
 by Rev. Bishop Titcomb, D.D.

Bishop Titcomb writes this book as a process of discovery from 'My Early Prejudices' to his full acceptance of the belief in British-Israel. In a conversation with a friend he covers every aspect of the teaching methodically and this makes it a very useful book as a study guide.

Price £7.50 excluding p&p 181 pages

The Restoration of Israel
 by J. Llewellyn Thomas, F.R.C.S.

'Restoration was guaranteed on the word of the Living God.' This book covers thoroughly the time, place, religion and population of Israel's restoration with careful attention paid to the differences between Israel and Judah.

Price £4.00 excluding p&p 85 pages



Postage & packing not included

The Covenant Publishing Co Ltd

Publishers and Booksellers - Established 1922

121 Low Etherley, Bishop Auckland, DL14 0HA, United Kingdom

Tel: 01388 835 753

Email: admin@covpub.co.uk Web: www.covpub.co.uk

For USA Contact and Other Suppliers see Inside Front Cover



“And Israel stretched out his right hand, and laid it upon Ephraim’s head, who was the younger, and his left hand upon Manasseh’s head, guiding his hands wittingly; for Manasseh was the firstborn”

Genesis 48:14



Published by
BIWF, 121 Low Etherley, Bishop Auckland, DL14 0HA, United Kingdom
Tel: 01388 834395

e-mail: admin@britishisrael.co.uk web: www.britishisrael.co.uk

Printed in England by printing.com