



THE DESTINY OF BRITAIN

FORETOLD IN THE BIBLE

MATT DAVIES

THE DESTINY OF BRITAIN

FORETOLD IN THE BIBLE

1st Edition

Published April 4th 2016

Dear Reader,

The British public are set for a historic vote in June 2016 on whether to stay in the EU under a new negotiated deal, or whether to leave. In this booklet we look at the prophecies in the Bible relating to the destiny of Britain. We will see how current events align with the Biblical outline of how the nations will be positioned before Jesus Christ returns.

It may come as a surprise to the reader to hear of the suggestion that the nation of Britain is mentioned in the Bible - but before discounting this idea as being out of hand, we would urge you to patiently consider the evidence we put forward. The Bible is a far more relevant document than most people give credit for.

All we ask, is for you to read the following with an open Bible (with which you can check the validity of the footnoted passages) and an open mind.

Matt Davies

Nottingham, April 2016

The coming Kingdom of God

We read in the Bible that God has created the world and He is in control of human affairs. He has brought this world to its current political state¹. The reason for this, is so that in contrast to the mess that man has made of things, God can found His own Kingdom which shall be universal². Under God's government, all nations will then be blessed³.

The Bible tells us that the Jewish nation of Israel, established after a period of being scattered amongst the nations, will be this Kingdom⁴ (and all other nations the "empire" attached to the Kingdom). The Kingdom will be ruled over by the Lord Jesus Christ who is to return to the earth to set it up⁵.

The current way of life of the majority of today's society will, in the days of the Kingdom, be considered as being ignorant - for in the age to come "the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea." (Isaiah 11:9).

The amazing blessings of being part of this coming Kingdom are detailed in what the Bible calls "the gospel". "Gospel" simply means "good news". Many times in the New Testament we read of Jesus and his early followers preaching the "gospel of

the kingdom".⁶ The Bible is full of things relating to this coming "golden age", soon to be realised upon the earth.

In the gospel there is an invitation to all who believe what God has promised, to be part of and share in this Kingdom through the work of the Lord Jesus Christ. The invitation has certain conditions attached to it⁷, namely faith in the things promised by God and in the work of the Lord Jesus Christ and also obedience to God.

The rulership of the nations during the Kingdom period will be in accordance with God's, rather than man's standards⁸. There will be just laws and institutions with perfect and righteous people to administer them. The government of mankind at this time will be committed to the Lord Jesus Christ and to those who he accounts worthy to rule with him. We read in the Bible that the rulers of the world at this time will be immortal kings and priests⁹. These kings and priests will be made up of "the called, and chosen, and faithful"¹⁰ followers of Christ. Some of which will have been raised from the dead¹¹ and others who are still living at the time of Christ's return¹². The selection of who will have the privilege of being part of this

1 Dan 4:17, 25, 32, Rom 13:1

2 Dan 2:44, 7:14, Zech 14:9

3 Gen 12:3, Psa 72:17-19, Gal 3:8

4 Exo 19:5-6, Mic 4:6-8, Ezek 37:21-28

5 Acts 1:11, Luke 1:31-33

6 Matt 4:23, 9:35, Mark 1:14, Acts 1:6, 8:12, 28:23+31

7 1 Thess 2:12, 1 Cor 6:9-11, Mark 16:15-16, Col 1:21-23

8 Isa 2:3, Psa 72:1-8, Zec 14:16-21

9 Rev 1:5-6, 2:26-27, 5:9-10

10 Rev 14:4, 17:14

11 Dan 12:2, Isa 26:19, 1 Cor 15:16+52, 1 Thess 4:16

12 1 Thess 4:17

13 Rev 20: 6-7, 1 Cor 15:24-26

14 Rom 5:12-17, Gen 3:17-19

15 To find your local Christadelphians please visit www.ukchristadelphians.org.uk

16 For more information about Christadelphian beliefs please see www.the-gospel-truth.info

17 Rev 16:16, Joel 3:1-3, 9-17

18 600 BC

19 2 Pet 1:21, 2 Tim 3:16

Armageddon

group, takes place at the return of Christ to the earth, when he will conduct a judgment (to determine which of his followers are worthy to receive the gift of eternal life and rule with him in his Kingdom). The rulership of Christ will continue for a thousand years after which there will be a change¹³. Sin and death will be fully abolished and the earth, at that point, will be inhabited only by immortal people for it is written: “the wicked shall not inhabit the earth” Proverbs 10:30.

The final state of the population upon our planet at the end of the thousand years will be a group of people who are all holy and immortal, having been redeemed from among the descendants of Adam and Eve (the first human pair, who sinned against God and brought death and mortality into the human race)¹⁴. They will have obtained this privilege through the principle of believing what God has promised and by doing what He commands. At the end of the thousand years, God’s purpose with His creation will be accomplished.

The Christadelphians are a group of people who hold to these essential teachings of the gospel of the Bible. We believe that sadly, mainstream Christianity has moved far away from the saving truth revealed in the scriptures. We hope you might contact¹⁵ your local Christadelphians, so that we might share more of our unique understanding of the wonderful message of salvation and God’s plan for the earth which is outlined in the Bible¹⁶.

The nations of this world then, are all destined to be eventually brought under the control of the Lord Jesus Christ when he returns to this earth. This includes the nation of Britain which is the subject of this booklet. Before this time the Bible speaks of the nations being gathered together to a battle called “Armageddon”¹⁷.

Long ago¹⁸, the great prophet Ezekiel was compelled by God’s power¹⁹ to record the “latter day” prophecy of Ezekiel 38 which gives us further details of this great event. Within this prophecy we find the names of ancient nations who will unite under a mysterious character called “Gog” to form an alliance. This attacking force will swoop down upon the nation of Israel in the time just before Christ manifests himself to the nations. Harmonising this chapter with other prophecies (such as Daniel 11, Joel 3, Revelation 16, Zechariah 12-14) we realise that Ezekiel 38 has been revealed by God to help us understand what to expect from the nations, just before the Lord Jesus Christ returns and sets up the Kingdom. It is a depiction of the events which lead up to the great battle of Armageddon described in Revelation 16:16.

The difficulty we have with the nations mentioned in Ezekiel 38 is that many of the names of the nations have long since ceased from being used. We therefore have to delve back into history to identify the ancient nation and the territory it held, this will enable us to piece together the scene which has been revealed to us through God’s prophets.



Nations of the EU in Ezekiel 38

The prophecy tells us in v2 that Gog is “of the land of Magog” (NKJV, YLT). The Jewish historian Josephus, writing around 93AD, records that “Magog founded those that from him were named Magogites, but who are by the Greeks called Scythians.”²⁰ The Greek historian Herodotus gives a detailed outline of the land of Scythia in around 440BC²¹. He lists eight rivers which went through it, all of which are in Eastern Europe stretching from the river “Ister” (the modern day river ‘Danube’ which originates in Germany) to the river “Tanais” (the modern day river ‘Don’ in Russia). From these historical accounts, we learn that the “Magog” of Ezekiel 38 is the territory of most of Eastern Europe inclusive of modern day Germany, Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Romania, Bulgaria, Moldova, Ukraine and even parts of Western Russia.

Another name we come across in relation to the northern alliance in the prophecy of Ezekiel 38, is “Gomer” in verse 6. It is Josephus who again states: “Gomer founded those whom the Greeks now call Galatians, but were then called Gomerites.”²² The Greek historian Diodorus Siculus tells us that another name for “Galatia” was “Gaul”²³. The area of Gaul was eventually conquered by the Romans and then, in turn fell to the “Franks” in AD486. The area of Gaul then became known as “France”. From this we can understand the “Gomer” in Ezekiel 38 to be describing Western Europe and in particular France.

According to the Bible then, we would expect these territories to unite at the time just before the return of Christ. Currently most of the territories of Magog and Gomer are indeed united within the treaties of the



“European Union”, which is heading ever more closer towards the “United States of Europe”²⁴. However the Bible tells us that not only will the nations of Europe be united politically, but they will also unite with the other powers depicted in Ezekiel 38:1-9. They will become part of one monstrous “kingdom” made up of a collective Russian, European, North African, Turkish and Iranian alliance. It is the amalgamation of all the territories of the ancient “Kingdom of men” from all its various phases as depicted in Daniel 2 and Daniel 7. It is this “Kingdom of men” that the Lord Jesus

Christ will come against when he returns to restore the Kingdom of Israel - he will take this Kingdom for himself (Daniel 7:13-14). It is at this time that: “the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever.” (Daniel 7:18).

20 Josephus, *Antiquities of the Jews*, Book 1:6:1, c. 94 AD

21 Herodotus, *Histories*, Book 4:46-47, c. 400 BC

22 Josephus, *Antiquities of the Jews*, Book 1:6:1, c. 94 AD
- Interestingly “Gallia” remains a name of France in modern Greek

23 “Becoming renowned for his bravery, he (Galates) called his subjects Galatae or Gauls after himself, and these in turn gave their name to all of Galatia or Gaul.” Diodorus Siculus, *Bibliotheca Historica*, Book 5:24, c. 50 BC

24 Consider for example the Vice-President of the European Commission, Viviane Reding’s address at Passau University on 8 November 2012 entitled “Why we need a United States of Europe now”

Tarshish in the Latter Days

In his prophecy, the inspired prophet Ezekiel goes on to explain that, standing aside from the northern alliance are a group of other nations. In verse 13 we read:

“Sheba, and Dedan, and the merchants of Tarshish, with all the young lions thereof, shall say unto thee, Art thou come to take a spoil? hast thou gathered thy company to take a prey? to carry away silver and gold, to take away cattle and goods, to take a great spoil?”

Here then we have three powers that we can categorise into two. On one hand Sheba and Dedan appear to be native to the region; on the other hand, the “merchants of Tarshish” appear to be in the vicinity for trade. “Tarshish” itself is not in the area but their “traders” or “merchants” are. As they are connected with Sheba and Dedan we can assume that Tarshish is trading, operating and protecting its assets in that territory.

“Sheba” is thought to be a reference to the ancient people, also known as the “Sebeans”. These are mentioned in Assyrian records as being located in the Gulf²⁵. “Dedan” is located in the area we now know as Saudi Arabia²⁶. Therefore whoever the people of Tarshish are, we would expect them to be trading in the Gulf at the time of the northern invasion.

In regards to Tarshish, there are many interesting prophecies relating to this

nation. There is no doubt they are a people existing today who will play a role amongst the nations in the Kingdom. Consider these future prophecies of Tarshish:

Isaiah 2 - In this “latter day” prophecy (v2) we read in verse 12 that “the day of the LORD of hosts shall be upon every one that is proud and lofty”. What follows in v13+ is a list of the proud which Yahweh is going to bring low. In verse 16 we read that the proud includes “all the ships of Tarshish”.

Isaiah 60 - This is a prophecy about the time when the glory of God is in Israel (v1), a reference to the Kingdom age. From verses 4-9 Isaiah sees many Gentile nations bringing offerings to the God of Israel. Included in this list we read: “Surely the isles shall wait for me, and the ships of Tarshish first, to bring thy sons from far, their silver and their gold with them, unto the name of the LORD thy God, and to the Holy One of Israel, because he hath glorified thee.”

Isaiah 66 - In verse 10 of this prophecy, the prophet calls on all those who love Jerusalem to rejoice. In verse 12 we are told the reason for this is that God will extend peace to Jerusalem and the Gentiles will sustain her - this is clearly a prophecy about the future exaltation of Jerusalem in the Kingdom age. In verse 18 we read that the

25 “...in Arabia the army penetrated as far as the territory of the Sabaeans and the town of Ma’rib.” The Deeds of the Divine Augustus Inscription, c. 14 AD (Note: “Ma’rib” is in modern day Yemen)

26 This is confirmed by ancient graffiti inscriptions from Al-Ula in Saudi Arabia made c. 600 BC: “Niran, son of Hadiru, inscribed his name in the days of Gashm, son of Shahar, and Abd, governor of Dedan” “Rahimil, son of Busrat, camped in Dedan”

27 See also Isaiah 21:13 & Jer 25:23-24 where “Dedan” is related to the area of “Arabia”

28 Matthew 1:1. Luke 1:32

nations will be gathered and see God's glory, presumably at Armageddon. It appears from this prophecy that leading up to and during Armageddon some of the Jews will have been scattered (see also Joel 3). In verse 19 we learn that those who survive Armageddon will be sent to Gentile nations to declare God's glory. In response to this in verse 20 some of the nations will bring Jews in various modes of transport "for an offering unto Yahweh" to Jerusalem. One of the nations that receive the message of the glory of Yahweh is "Tarshish" (v19).

Psalm 72 - A prophecy about the time when the descendent of the King of Israel (Jesus Christ²⁸) will judge God's people with righteousness. During this time we read that "all kings shall fall down before him: all nations shall serve him." v11. We read in verse 10, that one of the kings that will do this is; "The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall bring presents: the kings of Sheba and Seba shall offer gifts."

So the people of "Tarshish" not only existed at the time of Ezekiel, but they will also be alive and well in our time and beyond - into the very age of the Kingdom itself. God has preserved and prophesied of this in His Holy Word, therefore we should consider who these people are if we are to appreciate His revelations in regard to Tarshish. By discovering the identity of Tarshish we can be encouraged by world events as we see this nation taking up its position as prophesied by God's Word.

By considering the clues given in scripture as to who this nation is, an identification can be made with the modern nation of Britain. We shall now consider these clues and how Britain is the only nation that truly fits the requirements of scripture in relation to who Tarshish is.

Historical		Prophetical	
Ancient name	Gen 10:4, Est 1:14, 1Ch 1:7, 1Ch 7:10	Tyre	Isa 23:1, Isa 23:6, Isa 23:10, Isa 23:14
Time of the Kings	1Ki 10:22, 1Ki 22:48, 2Ch 9:21, 2Ch 20:36, 2Ch 20:37, Jon 1:3, Jon 4:2	Latter Days	Eze 38:13
Time of Ezekiel	Eze 27:12, Eze 27:25, Jer 10:9	In the Kingdom Age	Psa 48:7, Isa 2:16, Isa 60:9, Isa 66:19, Psa 72:10

Table 1: References to Tarshish in the Bible

The Tarshish Clues

1. Descendent of Japheth

Genesis 10:1-4 informs us that Tarshish was a descendent of Japheth. Josephus informs us²⁹ that the descendants of Japheth emigrated to Western Europe and populated it. This clue means we should be looking for Tarshish among the western European nations. Tarshish will not be in Africa or Asia but will be European.

2. A Maritime Power

In the times of the Kings of Israel (c. 900 BC - 800 BC) Tarshish is mentioned. The “ships of Tarshish” is a phrase which occurs again and again and indicates that Tarshish is an ancient maritime power³⁰.

3. Traded in Global Markets

In the time of Solomon (c. 900 BC) we read that Solomon’s ships go to Tarshish with the Phoenician King, Hiram of Tyre³¹. This shows that Tarshish traded in global markets. This trade alliance with Hiram of Tyre and Tarshish helps Solomon to become one of the wealthiest kings of the ancient world. We know the key commodities of this trade were: peacocks, ivory and apes - products of Africa

and India. This has led some to conclude that Tarshish (or “a” Tarshish) is in the east, however Herodotus tells us³² that the Phoenicians circumnavigated Africa over a three year period. We should not then restrict our concentration on the east as Tarshish could be anywhere off the route around Africa.

4. Located to the West of Israel

When Jonah wanted to flee as far away from Israel as possible, we are told in Jonah 1:3 that he was deliberately determined to go to Tarshish. Tarshish then was the furthest place Jonah could think of to flee to. We read he went to Joppa and “he found a ship going to Tarshish”. Joppa is on Israel’s western coast (now known as Jaffa). Therefore we can assume the boat Jonah had boarded was going to travel west for a very long time until it reached Tarshish. Since Jonah was “fleeing”, it is also reasonable to conclude that this would have been the fastest way to get there. Tarshish then, is in the west.

This clue is also confirmed by a historical find. An inscription by Assyrian king Esarhaddon³³ (681-669BC) has been translated as: “All the kings from the lands surrounded by sea - from

29 Josephus, Antiquities of the Jews, Book 1:6:1, c. 94 AD

30 2 Chron 9:21, Psa 48:7, Isa 2:16, 23:1, 60:9 and Ezek 27:25

31 2 Chron 9:21

32 “Libya is washed on all sides by the sea except where it joins Asia, as was first demonstrated, so far as our knowledge goes, by the Egyptian king Necho, who, after calling off the construction of the canal between the Nile and the Arabian gulf, sent out a fleet manned by a Phoenician crew with orders to sail west about and return to Egypt and the Mediterranean by way of the Straits of Gibraltar. The Phoenicians sailed from the Arabian gulf into the southern ocean, and every autumn put in at some convenient spot on the Libyan

coast, sowed a patch of ground, and waited for next year’s harvest. Then, having got in their grain, they put to sea again, and after two full years rounded the Pillars of Heracles in the course of the third, and returned to Egypt. These men made a statement which I do not myself believe, though others may, to the effect that as they sailed on a westerly course round the southern end of Libya, they had the sun on their right - to northward of them. This is how Libya was first discovered by sea”. Herodotus, Histories, Book 4:42, c. 400 BC

33 British Museum K18096

34 Bordreuil, Israel and Pardee 1997

the country Iadana (Cyprus) and Iamani (Ionian islands), as far as Tarshish, bowed to my feet.” This tells us two things: according to Esarhaddon, Tarshish was an island. It was also in the west, as he appears to be listing islands from east to west that had submitted to him. Tarshish was the most western island he knew.

5. Source of Silver, Iron, Tin and Lead

In Ezekiel 27 we have recorded a prophecy against Tyre - the great and ancient city situated on the east of the Mediterranean in modern day Lebanon. In verses 12-25 we have listed the various traders who would come to Tyre with their wares. In verse 12 we read that the goods which came from Tarshish were silver, iron, tin and lead. Tarshish then, has these commodities as part of its natural resources, for it is these it brought to be traded at Tyre. Of particular interest here is the commodity of tin which is only found in rare places. Wherever Tarshish is, it will be a place where tin as well as the other metals of silver, iron and lead, were mined in ancient times.

Interestingly, another non-Biblical archaeological find, confirms the Bible’s account of Tarshish being famous for its metals. In a pottery fragment (ostraca), dated to 6th century BC we find inscribed a receipt: “Pursuant to the order to you of Ashyahu the King to give by the hand of Zecharyahu silver of Tarshish to the House of Yahweh. Three shekels.”³⁴ This find is one of the most ancient, non-Biblical references to the Jewish temple ever found. It confirms the idea that Tarshish was known for its metals and in this case, silver.



Stele depicting Esarhaddon from the citadel of Sam'al/Zincirli, modern Turkey. 671 BC, The Pergamon Museum, Berlin.



The “Temple Ostraca”. A potshard mentioning Tarshish silver, c. 900 BC, The Israel Museum, Jerusalem.

6. Takes over from Tyre

In Isaiah 23 we read of another prophecy of the fall of Tyre. In verses 6 and 7 we read: "Pass ye over to Tarshish; howl, ye inhabitants of the isle. Is this your joyous city, whose antiquity is of ancient days? her own feet shall carry her afar off to sojourn." So after Tyre fell³⁵, its influence was to take root, once again, in Tarshish. The ships of Tarshish, as we have seen in points 2 and 3, were connected with Phoenicia and received their livelihood through Phoenician enterprise. The fall of Phoenician Tyre would have spelt economic disaster for the ships of Tarshish. Note that Tarshish was a long distance away, as this prophecy says that Tarshish was "afar off". Whoever Tarshish is then, we would expect them to have links with the east and perhaps use the same trade routes as the ancient Phoenicians.

7. Is a Colonial Power

In the latter day prophecy of Ezekiel 38 which we have already mentioned, we read of "young lions" of Tarshish in verse 13.

Lionesses give birth to cubs (or whelps). Males grow up then leave the pride to start prides of their own, roaming in independence away from their siblings and mothers. These are "young lions". A young lion carries with it the idea of being the offspring of a mother lion that has been weaned and is now independent in its own right³⁶. That's why the word is sometimes translated as

"villages" - the independent offspring of a city which have grown out from it.

The context of Ezekiel 38 though, is not of literal lions but of political powers. This tells us that whatever Tarshish is - it has offspring. In other words, it has colonies that it has great influence over and which can be said to have directly come from it. Because they are "young lions" this "political offspring" will be independent of the original "mother lion" of Tarshish.

8. Trading power in the Gulf

The final clue is that in Ezekiel 38, Tarshish is connected with trade and being "merchants" (v13). In the "latter days" (the time when the Jews have been gathered back to their land i.e. 1948 onwards) it seems that Tarshish will be a trading power. We are told specifically that they will be trading in the area of Sheba and Dedan, or the Gulf.

We have then these eight "Tarshish clues" given to us through God's Word. Does Britain fit into each one?

35 Tyre was attacked and overthrown various times. Notably by Nebuchadnezzar around 570 BC and by Alexander the Great in 332BC.

36 In Ezekiel 19:1-3 we read of the leaders of Israel who had grown to be independent in this way.

Clue	Verses	Time Period
1. Descendent of Japheth	Gen 10:1-4	4000 BC
2 An ancient maritime power	2 Chr 9:21 Psa 48:7 Isa 2:16, 23:1, 60:9 Eze 27:25	900 BC +
3 Traded in ancient global markets	2 Chr 9:21	900 BC
4. Located to the west of Israel	Jonah 1:3	800 BC
5. Ancient source of silver, iron, tin and lead	Eze 27:12	600 BC
6. Takes over from Tyre	Isa 23:6-7	570 BC +
7. Is a colonial power (i.e. has colonies that have become independent)	Ezek 38:13 - Compare with Ezek 19:1-3 "young lions" = Independent offspring of mother lion	Latter days 1948+
8. Trading power in the Gulf	Ezek 38:13	Latter days 1948+

Table 2: Summary of the 'Tarshish clues'. All dates approximate.

Britain the only fit

Whichever nation we seek to identify as Tarshish, all eight of the 'Tarshish Clues' need to convincingly be demonstrated to fit.

It is the author's firm conviction that Britain is the only fit for these eight clues. Consider some of the evidence for this:

1. Descendent of Japheth

As a descendent of Japheth, Britain does indeed inhabit part of Western Europe as Josephus said they would.

2. Maritime Power

Being an island, it is not surprising that Britain has a huge maritime history which stretches back into the mists of time. It is unquestionable³⁷ that the inhabitants of Britain were building and using boats at the time of Solomon and Ezekiel, and therefore could answer to the "ships of Tarshish".

3. Traded in Global Markets

Can it be demonstrated that ancient Britain traded in global markets? Yes it can! One such example of this is in the find of a wreck off the coast near Salcombe in Devon. The vessel was dated to around 900BC which is the time of Ezekiel, called "The Bronze age". The Daily Telegraph³⁸ reported on the find. Its headline and leading text states: "3,000-year-old shipwreck shows European trade was thriving in Bronze Age. The discovery of one of the world's oldest shipwrecks shows that European trade was thriving even in the Bronze Age, according to experts."

4. Located in the West of Israel

Britain is obviously located far west of Israel, so would fit as a destination for the boat that Jonah boarded in Jonah chapter 1.

37 A recent exhibition at the National Maritime Museum, Cornwall entitled "2012BC: Cornwall & the Sea in the Bronze Age" illustrates this. See more at: http://www.nmmc.co.uk/index.php?/whatson/news/2012bc_cornwall_and_the_sea_in_the_bronze_age_at_national_maritime_museum_c/#sthash.0MHM3rvM.dpuf

38 See Daily Telegraph 15 Feb 2010 - <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/earth/environment/archaeology/7238663/3000-year-old-shipwreck-shows-European-trade-was-thriving-in-Bronze-Age.html>

39 For example: "Iron Stone" is an iron based mineral found in Gloucestershire, "Galena" is a lead based mineral found in Derbyshire from which lead and silver can be refined, "Cassiterite" is a tin based mineral found in Cornwall and silver is found in Scotland. Source: Peak District Mining Museum.

40 See "Mining and Metallurgy in the Greek and Roman World" 1978 - Professor John F. Healy - Manchester University

41 "The St Mawes Ingot", Neil Beagrie, Cornish Archaeology, No. 22. 1983

42 "In 1991 a group of divers from the South West Maritime Archaeological Group (SWMAG) discovered a hoard of forty-four tin ingots at the mouth of the River Erme, in south west Devon... To date this has been the largest underwater find of archaeological tin in Europe... there is a strong possibility that the ingots from the Erme Ingot Site are British Bronze Age in date" EMILY LOUGHMAN, 30th APRIL 2007, Bournemouth University, Erme Estuary Ingots dissertation, Maritime Archeology & Shipwreck Research www.marinearchaeology.org

43 "Experts have said 300 Bronze Age artefacts found in a shipwreck off the Devon coast could prove European trade thrived as far back as 3,000 years. The artefacts, including copper and tin ingots, gold bracelets and a bronze sword, were found near Salcombe by amateur archaeologists last year." Bronze Age shipwreck artefacts found near Salcombe, BBC, Feb 15th 2010 <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/devon/8515627.stm>

44 See "Stonehenge boy was from the Med" by Paul Rincon, 28th September 2010 BBC (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-11421593>)

Native British minerals which are the source of iron, lead, tin & silver:

5. Source of Silver, Iron, Tin and Lead

All four of these metals are found as minerals in Britain³⁹. These were mined at least as far back as the Roman period⁴⁰. Evidence of older mining is also available, although difficult to obtain, as this time period is prehistoric. For example, a tin ingot, found in St Mawes in Cornwall in 1812, has been suggested to be “prehistoric”⁴¹. There are “Bronze age” shipwrecks, which give us proof that tin and other metals were being transferred from Britain by boat at the time of Ezekiel^{42 43}.

People from the Mediterranean had indeed travelled to Britain at the time of Ezekiel. In 2010 the BBC reported the find of the ancient body of a teenager near Stonehenge⁴⁴. The report states: “Chemical tests on teeth from an ancient burial near Stonehenge indicate that the person in the grave grew up around the Mediterranean Sea. The bones belong to a teenager who died 3,550 years ago and was buried with a distinctive amber necklace.”

As well as these relatively modern finds, we have the records of history, which also support the idea that the ancient world got its metals, and in particular its tin, from Britain.

The “Periplus of the Erythraean Sea” is of particular interest. It was written around AD30 and records the various ports of the Erythraean Sea (the modern “Eritrean sea” which lies between Africa and the Arabian Peninsula) and what they were importing and exporting. Notably tin is mentioned four times but always as an import, never as an export. This tells us that tin was not mined or exported from any port in the east in the ancient world. The ancients must have obtained their tin from elsewhere.



“Cassiterite” is a tin oxide mineral found in Cornwall



“Ironstone” contains iron minerals and is found in Gloucestershire



“Galena” mineral form of lead found in Derbyshire from which lead and silver can be refined

Source: Peak District Mining Museum

According to the Periplus, it was imported from Egypt⁴⁵ but there are no known tin mines in Egypt. This means the Egyptians themselves would have obtained the commodity from a source to the west.

Herodotus, writing around 400BC, informs us about where the ancient Greeks obtained their tin; "Of that part of Europe nearest to the west I am not able to speak with decision. I by no means believe that the barbarians give the name of Eridanus to a river which empties itself into the Northern Sea; whence, as it is said, our amber comes. Neither am I better acquainted with the islands called the Cassiterides, from which we are said to

have our tin... It is nevertheless certain that both our tin and our amber are brought from those extreme regions."⁴⁶ So according to Herodotus, the tin used so prolifically by the Greeks to make bronze was a commodity obtained from "islands" from "extreme regions". Britain fits this description. Other ancient sources also agree. For example Julius Caesar⁴⁷ mentions British metal production in his commentaries as well as the Greek historian Diodorus of Sicily⁴⁸. Perhaps the most interesting of historical references though, is one we find by the Greek historian Strabo, who describes the Cassiterides where the Greeks obtained their tin: "The Cassiterides

45 The Periplus of the Erythraean Sea, Chapter 28

46 Herodotus, Histories, Book 3:115, c.400 BC

47 "The island is well peopled, full of houses built after the manner of the Gauls, and abounds in cattle. They use brass money, and iron rings of a certain weight. The provinces remote from the sea, produce tin, and those upon the coast, iron..." Julius Caesar "The Commentaries of Caesar" c. 40 BC

48 "Now we shall speak something concerning the tin that is dug and gotten there. They that inhabit the British promontory of Belerium, by reason of their converse with the merchants, are more civilised and courteous to strangers than the rest. These are the people that make the tin, which with a great deal of care and labour, they dig out of the ground, and that being rocky, the metal is mixed with some veins of earth, out of which they melt the metal and then refine it." Diodorus "The Historical Library of Diodorus the Sicilian" c. 8 BC

49 Strabo "The Geography of Strabo" c. 18 AD

Historians
who give us
an interesting
insight into
sources of
ancient metal



Herodotus, c. 400 BC



Julius Caesar, 100 BC - 44 BC

are ten in number, and lie near each other in the ocean toward the north from the haven of the Artabri... Of the metals, they have tin and lead, which, with skins, they barter with the merchants for earthenware, salt, and brazen vessels. Formerly the Phoenicians alone, from Gades, engrossed this market, hiding the navigation from all others. When the Romans followed a certain shipmaster, that they might discover the market, the jealous shipmaster wilfully stranded his vessel on a shoal, misleading those who were tracking him, to the same destruction. Escaping from the shipwreck by means of a fragment of the ship, he was indemnified for his losses out of the public treasury"⁴⁹. This quote connects the native metal resources with the trading of the Phoenicians. It also explains why the source of tin was unclear to Herodotus and why the source of this highly prized and important commodity is not prolific in the accounts of history. The Phoenicians were the only ones to go to the Cassiterides and they protected the knowledge of them as the source of valuable metal commodities (including tin).

From these findings, we can establish that the required minerals exist for tin, iron, silver and lead within Britain. There is also evidence that they were mined, refined and traded by boat in ancient times.

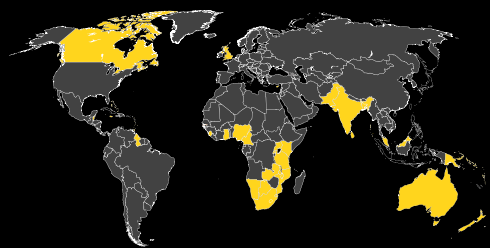
6. Takes over from Tyre

Britain has controlled the ancient trade routes of the Phoenicians. A famous example of this is the "East India Company" which was formed in 1601. This company was granted a Royal Charter by Queen Elizabeth 1st and was founded to explore the mysteries of the east. The company not only did this, but also set up, established and dominated trade routes to the east.

It can indeed be said that the power and influence of Tyre did "pass over" to Britain in these times, as the prophecies of Isaiah require.



A map of the British Empire in 1886 showing its main trade routes which are similar to the Phoenician trade routes of ancient Tyre.



The nations of the Commonwealth



The flag of the Commonwealth



A British recruitment poster from World War I depicts Britain as a parent lion.

7. Colonial Power

Britain has independent political offspring in the form of the Commonwealth of Nations. Previously known as the “British Commonwealth”, the organisation is made up of 53 member states⁵⁰ that were territories of the former British Empire⁵¹.

These territories, although part of the Commonwealth, are independent of British rule and therefore can be presented as being the “young lions” of the old “mother lion” of Britain. It is also interesting to consider the fact that the lion is often used as a symbol for Britain, almost as though the angels of God have left this marker in popular culture to help us make this connection, should we look for it ^{52 53}.

8. Trading power in the Gulf

Britain is a huge trading partner with the Gulf states and is set to increase its capacity in this regard, especially if it does leave the European Union^{54 55}. It has a very special trade relationship with many of the Gulf states which stretches back over a hundred years. This is illustrated by the 2015 UK Trade and Investment’s “Gulf Tour”. The UK government held events around Britain in 2015 to encourage further trade with the Gulf. The following information is taken from their website⁵⁶:

- **Kuwait** is one of the UK’s largest export partners at £1.5 billion in goods and services alone (2014).
- **Qatar** is UK’s third largest export market in the Middle East. In 2014, UK export of goods to Qatar increased 14% to £1.67bn.
- **Saudi Arabia** - the UK exports of goods and services in 2014 totalled more than £7 billion to Saudi Arabia and it is designated as one of the UK Trade & Investment’s high growth markets.

- The **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** is the UK's largest market in the Middle East and the 12th biggest globally. Bilateral trade in goods and services reached £12.34bn in 2013. The UAE is a key trading hub for British companies – around 50% of UK goods are re-exported to a regional Middle East and North African market worth over £150bn.

The British Royal Navy patrol the Gulf permanently and frequently carry out operations. They have been doing this since October 1980 under an operation known as "Operation Kipion"⁵⁷. On the Royal Navy's website it states that they are there to enable "the safe flow of trade and oil in the area". This does position Britain in an area we would expect from the Tarshish of Bible prophecy, who will challenge the northern invader; "art thou come to take a spoil?" (Ezekiel 38:13).

So we can see then that Britain indeed fits all of the Tarshish clues. The author knows of no other nation which answers to all of them. We therefore conclude that the "Tarshish" spoken of in the scriptures answers to the nation of Britain.

50 As of March 2016

51 "The Commonwealth is one of the world's oldest political association of states. Its roots go back to the British Empire when some countries were ruled directly or indirectly by Britain. Some of these countries became self-governing while retaining Britain's monarch as Head of State. They formed the British Commonwealth of Nations." Our History, <http://thecommonwealth.org/our-history>

52 For example: the England football team famously display "three lions" on their shirt, a red Lion is stamped onto British eggs as a food safety mark.

53 In the war years, especially World War One, Britain is often depicted as a lion. One famous recruitment poster has an image of a mother lion with its cubs stood around it. The caption reads "The Empire needs men, Australia, Canada, India, New Zealand, All answer the call. Helped by the Young Lions, The Old Lion defies his foes. Enlist now."

54 Consider some of these headlines from recent years: "David Cameron arrives in Gulf on arms trade trip" Nov 5th 2012 The Guardian, "UK royals set to boost ties with Qatar, Oman" Feb 13th 2013 Arabian Business, "UK pushed for Kuwait trade and investment ties" May 1st 2013 Financial Times, "UK looks to boost security ties and contracts in the Gulf" Dec 12th 2013 Monitor Fronteir Markets, "Britain keen to deepen defences ties with Qatar" Jan 9th 2014 Gulf Times, "Bahrain UK trade ties set to grow" Jan 15th 2014 Gulf Daily News, "UK digs deeper in the Gulf" 14th April 2015 The Guardian, "UK arms sales to Saudi Arabia worth £5.6bn under David Cameron" 6th January 2016 The Independent, "Scouting for business? British Royal Navy to head Gulf task force amid UK trade push" 30th March 2016 RT, "UAE, UK eye \$35.4bn trade ties by 2020, says British PM" 1st April 2016 Arabian Business.

55 "We want the UK to be the Gulf's commercial 'partner of choice.' British business and expertise has much to offer the region. An estimated \$2.2 trillion in infrastructure projects is currently planned or underway in the region" Website of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, 2010, www.fco.gov.uk

56 See <https://www.events.ukti.gov.uk/gulf-tour-to-the-uk-1/page/countries/>

57 See: <http://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/news-and-latest-activity/operations/red-sea-and-persian-gulf/kipion>



Tarshish in Ezekiel 38

Ezekiel 38 provides an amazing insight into the status of the nations just before Christ appears on the world stage with his resurrected and immortalised followers (saints)⁵⁸. We see many nations united into a military and presumably political union, coming against God's people of Israel. As we have shown, this includes territories of the European Union. On the other hand we see the Tarshish, (British), power and its political offspring (the young lions of v13),

trading with Sheba and Dedan in the Gulf. These are separate power blocks of nations. What this indicates to us is that the Tarshish power is not aligned politically, economically or militarily with its European neighbours.

We can therefore confidently assert that the destiny of Britain lies apart from the European Union with its ambitions for "ever closer union"⁵⁹. Plans are afoot in Europe to head towards a "United States of Europe"⁶⁰

⁵⁸ See Zech 14:1-7

⁵⁹ In a letter dated 10th November 2015 to the President of the European Council, Donald Tusk, David Cameron outlined the key things he wished to negotiate for the UK. He states "First, I want to end Britain's obligation to work towards an "ever closer union" as set out in the Treaty. It is very important to make clear that this commitment will no longer apply to the United Kingdom. I want to do this in a formal, legally-binding and irreversible way." He apparently successfully negotiated this. The Guardian reported Cameron had received: "Much more emphatic language, stressing

that the UK is not on the road to deeper integration. "It is recognised that the United Kingdom ... is not committed to further political integration in the European Union ... References to ever-closer union do not apply to the United Kingdom." (David Cameron's EU deal: what he wanted and what he got, The Guardian, 19 February 2016).



with the unification of European countries into a single sovereign federation of states. In 2009 a “President of the European Council” was elected. The union has its own flag and anthem. There are also calls being made to form a European army⁶¹. Britain, as the Tarshish power, surely cannot continue along the same lines. We can therefore add current events in British politics to the list of “signs of the times” as the nations are

being put into place, unbeknown to them, by the Divine hand, so that they are ready to fulfil the prophecies of God’s Word.

60 This phrase was famously used by Winston Churchill in his Zurich speech given on 19 September 1946, where he explains that for peace and in order to rebuild Europe after WW2, Europe needed to unite. He said this would be a process “we must re-create the European family in a regional structure called, it may be, the United States of Europe, and the first practical step will be to form a Council of Europe.” It seems Churchill saw Britain very much apart from Europe though when he stated in his 1951 House of Commons speech: “Where do we stand? We are not members of the European Defence Community, nor

do we intend to be merged in a Federal European system. We feel we have a special relation to both. This can be expressed by prepositions, by the preposition “with” but not “of”—we are with them, but not of them. We have our own Commonwealth and Empire.”

61 See the Maastricht Treaty Article 42.2 “The common security and defence policy shall include the progressive framing of a common Union defence policy. This will lead to a common defence, when the European Council, acting unanimously, so decides.”

Recent Events & The Referendum

Membership of the European Union has been a hot political topic of debate since Britain joined the European Economic Community, as it was known then, in 1973. However, there has been a remarkable surge in Euro-scepticism in Britain over the last ten years.

As an example of this, the previously tiny and mostly unheard of “UK Independence Party” (UKIP) has gained remarkable ground in the last few years. UKIP has, as its name implies, one key policy - to leave the European Union. The party was founded in 1993 and was fairly unsuccessful for many years until the rise of their current leader, the charismatic, Nigel Farage. Known for his down-to earth, witty and direct way with words, Mr Farage has risen to be a household name in the UK. He was first elected as party leader in September 2006. In 2009 UKIP came second in the European Election. In 2010 general election the party obtained 919,471 votes (3.1%). The party went from strength to strength, gaining ground in local council elections as well as defectors from the Conservative Party.

In January 2013, the pressure Nigel Farage and UKIP were bringing on the government in regards to Britain’s position in Europe, led to the UK Prime Minister, David Cameron, promising a referendum should the Conservatives win the 2015 General Election⁶². The referendum would be on whether Britain should remain in the European Union.- He stated that the

UK Government would negotiate more favourable arrangements for continuing British membership of the EU, putting this to the British public in the referendum.

The 2015 General Election saw UKIP get 3,881,099 votes making it the third biggest party in the UK - despite only having one elected Member of Parliament. The surge in votes for the party (an improvement of nearly 10% of the votes from the previous election) illustrates British public opinion towards the EU.

Mr Cameron went to Europe to negotiate a better deal for the UK. The results were not reported favourably in some parts of the British media. The Express ran the headline on Feb 16th 2016 “Cameron’s EU deal con”. Nigel Farage called it, “the bird which will not fly”. One thing which is of interest, is that Mr Cameron apparently secured confirmation that Britain will not be bound to the “ever closer union” of the other EU nations. Therefore, whatever the result of the referendum, it appears Britain will not go any further in regards to the union of the nations of Europe. This in itself is significant from the perspective of Bible prophecy.

62 The Conservative Party Manifesto 2015 page 72

63 NatCen Poll results based on the average share of the vote for ‘Leave’ and ‘Remain’ in the six most recent polls of voting intentions in the EU Referendum from 24/03/16 to 04/04/16 show to Remain at 50% and to Leave at 50%.

The referendum is planned to be held on Thursday 23rd June 2016. Currently most opinion polls are on a knife edge with “Remain” and “Leave” holding around half each⁶³. The various “in” and “out” referendum campaigning has begun. Those calling to remain “in” the EU have been nicknamed “Remainists” and those wishing to see Britain exit (or Brexit) “Brexiters”. The British Prime Minister has publicly stated he wishes to remain in the EU, but his party is divided - with political heavyweights such as the Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, recently stating he wishes to leave.

The main issues both sides are debating include hugely important topics, such as democracy, political stability, sovereignty, freedom of movement, border control, stress on public services, the UK economy and of course, trade.



The Conservative Manifesto which promised an “in out” referendum.



Some parts of the press did not report Mr. Cameron's negotiated deal positively.

The destiny of Britain

We do not know if this is the moment when the Tarshish power will detach itself from Europe. What we do know, is that we are privileged to be living in the time period of the "latter days", as the Jews have returned to their land as prophesied (see Hosea 3:4-5 and Ezekiel 38:8,12). We do not know the length of time which remains before the return of Jesus and the establishment of God's kingdom, but we anticipate that it will be very soon.

This being the case we would expect to see Britain distancing itself from Europe. If Britain does vote to leave in the coming referendum in June, it would be a huge sign that we are entering the very final phases of "the times of the Gentiles"⁶⁴ and so we watch and wait in excitement. If "Brexit" does not happen now, then we can expect perhaps an even bigger schism to occur at some point in the future - as the mother lion is forced to take up its position as demanded by the prophets. It is also interesting to note that even if Britain does vote to stay in, it will not be part of the concept of "ever closer union".

One thing is for sure, the destiny of Britain is not one where it simply becomes a "Member State" of the United States of Europe project. It has a very separate role to play as marked out by God, who as "the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will" (Daniel 4:32), "For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God" (Romans 13:1).

We understand that there are many who find it difficult to accept that the scriptures contain prophecy so directly related to modern affairs. But surely, it must be important for us to identify the nations mentioned in Ezekiel 38 and to apply them to the world around us too. Why else would these details have been revealed to us in scripture? Surely these revelations have been given to encourage us as to the nearness of the return of Jesus Christ to the earth and to help us to realise that although we have no 'open vision'⁶⁵, God is very much in control of the Kingdom of men.

As we have seen, the ultimate destiny of Britain is to fall under the world-wide rule of the Lord Jesus Christ when he returns to establish God's Kingdom. It is this time which the Lord Jesus encouraged his followers to pray for when he prayed: "Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth."⁶⁶

64 Luke 21:24

65 Like in the days of Samuel: 1 Sam 3:1

66 Luke 11:2

If you enjoyed this leaflet you might also like the following:

WATCH ONLINE



Watch a Bible talk given on 6th April 2016 on the same subject as this leaflet by the author.

Go to: <https://youtu.be/CQsRns03yX4>

Special thanks to the 'Bible Truth & End Times Prophecies' YouTube channel

KEEP UP TO DATE



THE BIBLE MAGAZINE

If you are searching for a better understanding of Bible prophecy, especially in regard to recent events, subscribe to The Bible Magazine. This magazine is published quarterly and is always packed full of the latest news and how it impacts on Bible prophecy: www.biblemagazine.com

BIBLE IN THE NEWS

For a weekly audio commentary on current events in relation to the Bible, visit: www.bibleinthenews.com

Thanks

Thanks to the following people in helping to produce this leaflet:

R. Davies
C. Leadill
G. & J. Davies
S. & A. Pavett

Image credits

All images have been used for non-commercial, educational use.

Page 12 **Image:** Sam'al Stele of King Esarhaddon
Credit: Osama Shukir Muhammed Amin
Source: www.ancient.eu

Image: Temple Ostraca
Credit: K. C. Hanson
Source: www.ancient-hebrew.org

Page 17 **Image:** Herodotus
Credit: George F. Baker, 1891
Source: www.metmuseum.org

Image: Julius Caesar
Credit: Gautier Poupeau
Source: www.wikipedia.org

Page 18 **Image:** British Empire Map
Credit: National Achieves
Source: www.nationalarchives.gov.uk