

Britain in mourning

After reigning for just over 70 years, Queen Elizabeth, Britain's longest reigning monarch, has died at the age of 96. Old age and a lack of mobility had forced a considerable curtailing of her activities, nevertheless it came as a shock. Just two days earlier she had welcomed Boris Johnson to officially mark his stepping down as her Prime Minister and shortly after, greeted Liz Truss as his replacement. There was a broad smile on her face as she welcomed her. I am sure the Queen had closely followed the political career of this quite remarkable woman. Little would anyone be aware that among her first duties as the new PM, would be the announcement of the Queen's serious illness to a hushed Parliament. Ignoring the official prepared speech for the demise of the Monarch she returned to No 10 to write her own speech which she gave to the nation on the steps of No. 10 following the Palace's announcement of the Queen's death.

The outpouring of love and affection not only here in Britain, but around the world, bore testimony to this remarkable ruler who was known universally and affectionately as "The Queen." Messages of condolence flooded in from all quarters. Operation London Bridge, the long planned and well-rehearsed plans for her funeral swung into action. The Queen's body has been brought back from Balmoral in Scotland where she was in residence and brought initially to Buckingham Palace for family and staff to pay their respects. It has been transferred to Westminster Hall where, at the time of writing this, she will lie in State for 4 days, until the morning of her funeral on 19 September. It is estimated that 40,000 will file through the Hall to pay their respects. The queues are expected to stretch for five miles, taking many hours to inch slowly forward, before finally walking round the coffin.

On Monday morning the coffin will be taken to the nearby Westminster Abbey for the State Funeral Service. It is expected that there will be in attendance 500 Heads of State and dignitaries from around the world, who will join the Royal family and senior UK politicians and former Prime Ministers. The Abbey can accommodate 2,000 people.

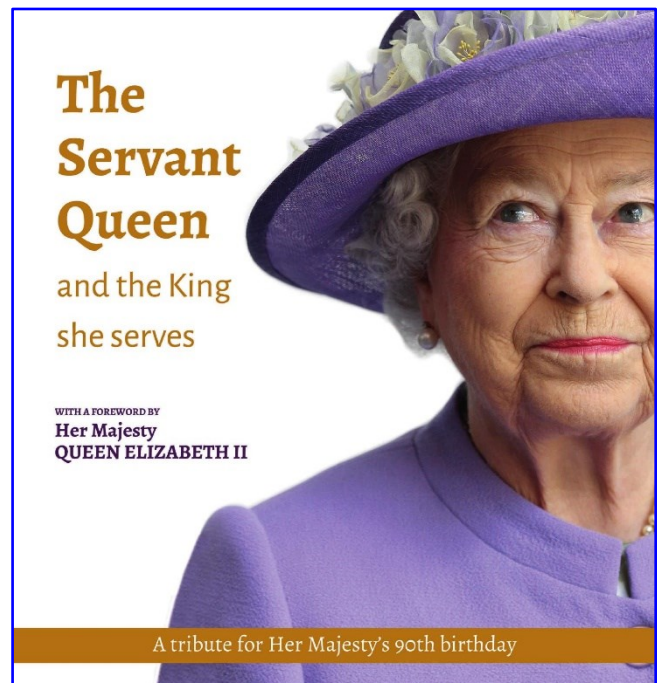
Following the service, the body will be taken to St George's Chapel at Windsor Castle where, following a family service, she will be interred in the Royal Vault, alongside her beloved late husband the Duke of Edinburgh, her pillar of strength throughout her life.

It has united not only the Royal Family but the nation in respect for the service that the Queen gave to her country. Many accounts have emerged of just how skilled she was at putting her audiences at ease as she discharged her duties. Her recollections of previous meetings showed that she took her duties very seriously.

The Servant Queen and the King she serves

This remarkable booklet, published six years ago to celebrate her 90th birthday, speaks of the faith that the Queen had in the Bible. She saw herself as appointed by God to this position of serving the country. This she did unstintingly. She was not born in expectation of becoming Queen, her father Prince Albert was the second-oldest son of King George V; his older brother Prince Edward was the heir apparent and succeeded his father in 1936, taking the title Edward VIII. He wanted to marry a twice-divorced American, Wallis Simpson, but this was unacceptable in his position of Head of the Church of England. He unexpectedly chose to resign to marry her, after being King for less than a year. So, in 1936, Elizabeth's father became King George VI, just 3 days before his 41st birthday, making Elizabeth heir presumptive at the age of 10! Her life then changed as her education altered in preparation to eventually succeed her father.

The call to become Queen came sooner than expected. At the age of 27, whilst in Africa on holiday with her



husband, she learnt that her father had died at the age of 56 on the 6 Feb 1952, following a lung operation. – she was now Queen.

I can remember we were all sent home from school, following the announcement of the King's death. "The King is dead! Long live the Queen!"

The Queen saved the Commonwealth

The Commonwealth today consists of Britain and 53 other nations – two of which were not even part of the former British Empire. The Queen was the Head of this thriving grouping of nations. This role has been passed to the new King, Charles III, following the agreement reached at the 2018 Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting.

The beginnings of the Commonwealth reach back to the time of Lord Balfour. We associate the Balfour Declaration with the granting of the Jews a homeland in Palestine. There was another Balfour Declaration in 1926, which led to the British Commonwealth of Nations. In 1949 this was amended to The Commonwealth of Nations, or simply the Commonwealth, with Britain being one of its many nations, but regarded as the "mother" country, with its ruler as the Head of the Commonwealth.

Princess Elizabeth on her 21st birthday, whilst on tour with her parents in South Africa, made a radio broadcast, pledging a life of service.

On my twenty-first birthday I welcome the opportunity to speak to all the peoples of the British Commonwealth and Empire, wherever they live, whatever race they come from, and whatever language they speak.

I declare before you all that my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great imperial family to which we all belong.

But I shall not have strength to carry out this resolution alone unless you join in it with me, as I now invite you to do: I know that your support will be unfailingly given. God help me to make good my vow, and God bless all of you who are willing to share in it.

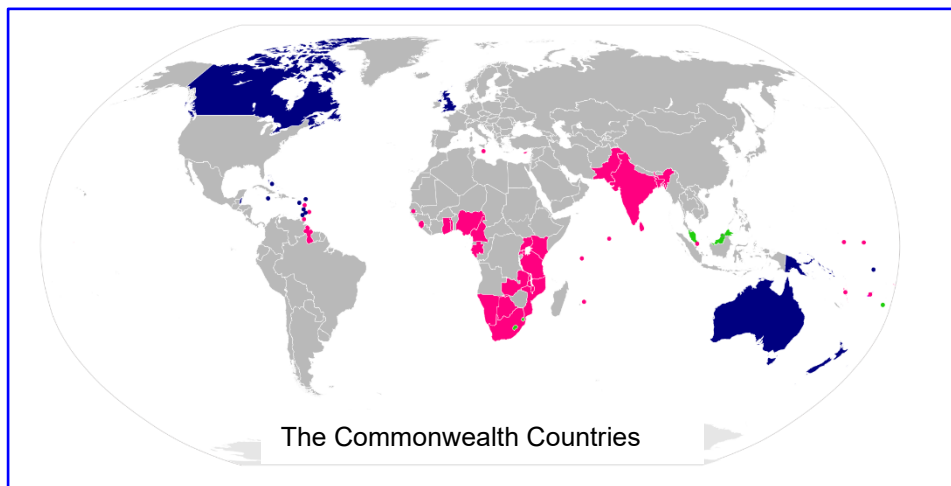
The Queen devoted her life to holding together the remains of the British Empire and their transition into The Commonwealth. The section heading *The Queen saved the Commonwealth* was taken from the headline to an interesting article.

What unites these nations? To a great extent, it was that quietly-spoken young woman, who, five years after giving that speech on her 21st birthday, became the Queen of Britain, and assumed the ceremonial position of managing the loss of an Empire. She didn't bestride these newly independent countries like an aggrieved dictator. Nor was she a passive caretaker. She listened, and learned, and exercised her inquisitive mind. She was devoted to internationalism, and many nations warmed to those qualities. Elizabeth was the greatest diplomat of the 20th century.

The Queen was a genuinely popular figure. A source of unity rather than oppression. An embodiment of the greatest virtues in a divided world: curiosity, compassion, grace and knowledge.

King Charles may not possess exactly the same qualities as his mother, but he is the custodian of a magnificent legacy. Despite the fact Barbados removed the Queen as its head of state last year, it is still a part of the Commonwealth. And I predict many more countries will want to join. And despite the bitterness of parochial

“ I declare before you all that my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great imperial family to which we all belong.
Princess Elizabeth. Aged 21 ”

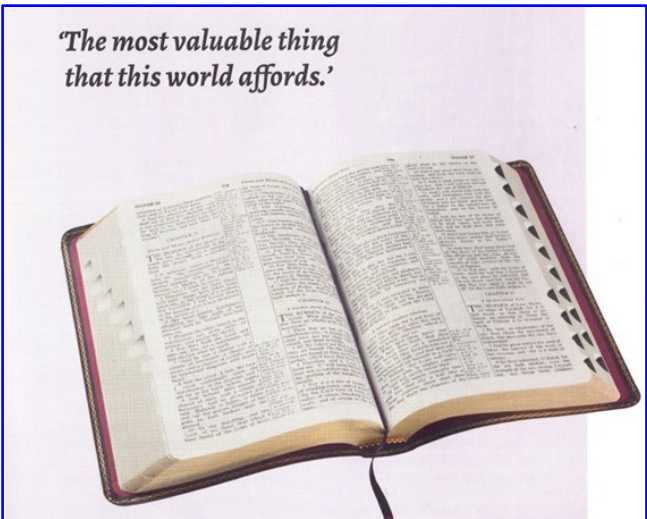


diaspora activists, we have this to console ourselves with: our head of state, for 70 years, was a unifying figurehead across the world. Tomiwa Owolade. *UnHerd* 15-Sep-22

As Bible students we see the reason in God’s Purpose for such a person to come to the throne at that time. She has handed over a legacy which will play a vital role in Britain’s future. Without her quiet persistence and wise guidance, this institution would have disappeared long ago.

The remarkable fulfilment of prophecy in the death of the Queen

In the book referred to earlier *The Servant Queen and the King she serves* is a picture of an open Bible. A closer examination of just where it is open sends a tingle down your spine! The right-hand column shows the commencement of Isaiah 23! The very chapter that we believe covers our days! I do not think that this is coincidence, whoever sorted the pictures, or one of the two authors must have also seen the relevance of this chapter to the role of the Queen, even though at the time she had not been on the throne for 70 years.



We have looked at this chapter in the past. Briefly it tells of the demise of Tyre, the great merchant city in Isaiah’s day situated to the north of Israel in today’s Lebanon. Its overthrow would particularly affect the *ships of Tarshish* (v1) We know that from *Tarshish* – Britain – came valuable minerals, *silver, iron, tin and lead*. (Eze.27:12) Tyre was told to pass over to *Tarshish* (Isa. 23:6), indeed *her own feet would carry her afar off to sojourn* (v7)

One can trace the movement of the Tyrian naval trading power over many centuries, moving further Westwards, until ending up on Britain’s shores in the times of Elizabeth I. Here it has remained, and Britain built herself up as a successful successor to the old Tyrian *marketplace for the nations* (v3 NKJ). But hard times came following the collapse of the British Empire and the cost of two World Wars and she felt she could no longer be an independent country. Seeking refuge in Europe, Britain joined the EEC, the EU’s forerunner in 1973 – a situation only reversed following the Referendum Vote of 2016, becoming a reality in December 2020 when Britain finally gave up her membership of the EU.

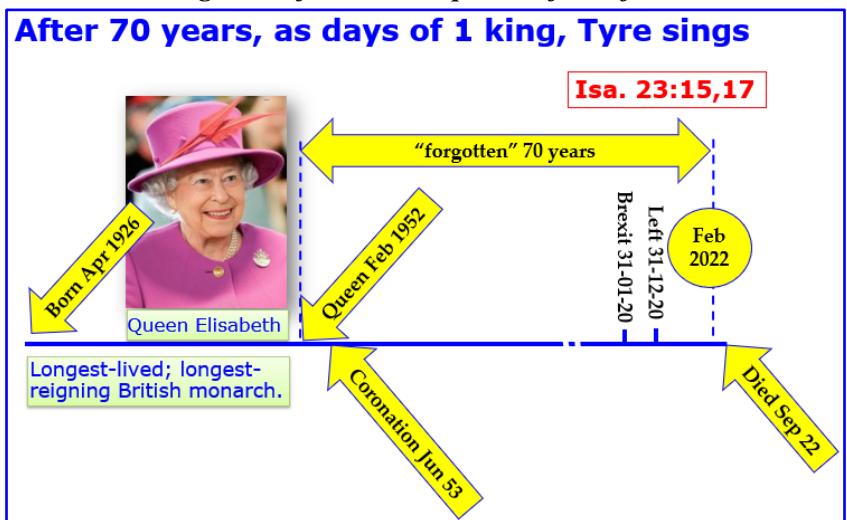
Like so many prophecies, Isaiah’s prophecy concludes with a latter-days situation.

And it shall come to pass in that day, that Tyre shall be forgotten seventy years, according to the days of one king: after the end of seventy years shall Tyre sing as an harlot.

And it shall come to pass after the end of seventy years, that the LORD will visit Tyre, and she shall turn to her hire, and shall commit fornication with all the kingdoms of the world upon the face of the earth.

And her merchandise and her hire shall be holiness to the LORD: it shall not be treasured nor laid up; for her merchandise shall be for them that dwell before the LORD, to eat sufficiently, and for durable clothing. Isa. 23:15,17,18

There have been very few monarchs that have reigned for 70 years! Queen Elizabeth, reigning 70 years and 214 days is the longest of any British monarch, the longest recorded of any female head of state in history, and the second-longest verified reign of any monarch in history, (according to Wikipedia)! We are now at the end of



that 70 years of Tyre being forgotten. The time has come for her to take up her old role again and trade with *all*

the kingdoms of the world upon the face of the earth. Just two days before her death she welcomed her 15th Prime Minister Liz Truss, a person eminently suitable for this role.

Mary Elizabeth Truss – UK’s New Prime Minister

She was the person who under her role of Secretary of State for International Trade and President of the Board of Trade, traversed the world following Brexit, signing trade deals with many countries. Some were just rolling over the UK’s position when a member of the EU, but many fresh agreements were or are being made, freed as Britain is from the regulations of the EU. She then became Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, responsible for meeting heads of States. One marvels at this training for her new position to lead the people of Britain to a fresh destiny. She has come to the position at a time of crisis. Energy prices are at unimaginable levels following Putin’s cutting off Europe from Russian oil and gas. Inflation is soaring leading to strikes as workers demand higher wages, and Britain, as is the world, is recovering from the cost of Covid. She campaigned against Rishi Sunak, the former Chancellor, following the decision of Boris Johnson to step down. His successor was chosen by the members of the Conservative Party, who voted, rather narrowly, for Ms Truss. The results were published on the 5 September, and the next day, she and Boris flew separately, for security reasons, to Scotland,



one to hand in his resignation and the other an hour later to be welcomed by the Queen as her next Prime Minister. Returning to London that afternoon she gave her first speech as Prime Minister. She had promised to “hit the ground running” with her plans to pull Britain out of her looming troubles. That evening and the following day she appointed her cabinet but found her rapid unfolding of plans thwarted by having to announce on Thursday to a sombre parliament that the Queen was gravely ill and that her family had been called to her bedside. Later that evening the news came through – the Queen had died, her work was finished; Charles III was now King. She had built up the Commonwealth, she had reigned for over 70 years, the baton now was ready to be passed on. It will follow God’s timetable; man has to submit to it.

An indication of her pathway was laid out in a book she and four other MPs wrote and published in Sept. 2012. It was entitled *Britannia Unchained. Global Lessons for Growth and Prosperity*. In an article written by her four co-authors to mark the book’s publication they wrote:

We are convinced that Britain’s best days are not behind us. We cannot afford to listen to the siren voices of the statist who are happy for Britain to become a second rate power in Europe, and a third rate power in the world. Decline is not inevitable. *Conservative Home* 13-Sep-12

One of the countries they (and the book) looked to was Israel.

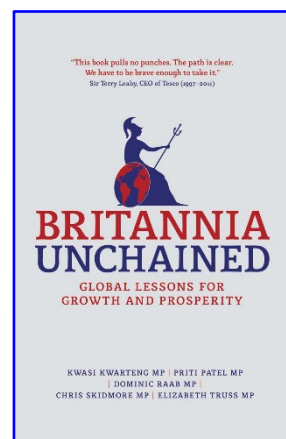
On innovation, Britain can emulate the success of Israel, in supporting high tech entrepreneurship. *ibid*

The late Queen had a close friendship with Israel but was never allowed to visit the country. State visits are organised by the Foreign Office. With the BBC’s unremitting bias against Israel, it was not surprising. It would have caused much embarrassment to the BBC to have to cover such a visit. Charles’ son, Prince William and his wife Kate were the first of the Royals to make an official visit to Israel in 2018, the first since the founding of the State of Israel in 1948. Prince Charles subsequently paid an Official State visit in 2020.

King Charles III

Aged 73, he has waited a long time to take up his role as King. He has closely observed his mother’s style, whilst pursuing his interests of farming and care of the earth. It would appear that he will favour a continuity of his mother’s aims, but with a slimmed down monarchy with its many estates and properties. It is hoped his love of Scotland, shown in his choice of title Charles III and the Stuart tartan, will help rebind Scotland to the UK.

He has made it clear that he has a deep interest in Israel and counts many Jews amongst his friends. Liz Truss also seems to share an admiration for what Israel has achieved, despite their difficulties in living in a hostile region. I



think it bodes well for Britain's future relationship with Israel and the Middle East in order to fulfil her role as set out in Ezekiel 38:13

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?

Britain as the original *merchants of Tarshish power*, and who in the last few centuries has taken on ancient Tyre's role as the marketplace of the world, is beginning her return to the area that she helped free from the Ottoman Turkish control a century ago. She is currently working on a trade agreement with the Gulf States - the *Sheba and Dedan* area as well as one with Israel. She has many *young lions* - members of the Commonwealth who share her interest in this region - lands that featured in the Bible which was at the roots of her national outlook. There is no doubt that the Abraham Accords have made a huge difference. No longer do nations have to choose between dealing with Israel or the Arab nations. Many Arab nations are embracing their own trade with Israel!

We will now turn to other ongoing matters.

Ukraine war continues

It is now nearly seven months since Russia invaded Ukraine. After spectacular advances in the South and in the North, Russia withdrew from the areas in the North, to concentrate on a long grinding war of attrition in the South. Ukraine - the biggest country solely in Europe - has a very mixed regional distribution of allegiances to Russia. The map shows the range of people indicating Russian as their first language. Putin has been concentrating on the Donbas and Luhansk regions which have over 50% whose native language is Russian. The largest proportion of the country speaks Ukrainian. There has been a big move to replace Russian influence. Towns and street names have been replaced by their Ukrainian equivalent. Books, papers, and broadcasts are in Ukrainian.

The southern area is also rich in minerals and port access to the Black Sea, and so is a manufacturing region. Much of Ukraine's wheat is stored in silos, close to the ports which Russia now occupies. Russia now has control of the maritime rights to the extensive oil and gas deposits that lie in the Black Sea. Putin's policy seems to be to destroy Ukraine's infrastructure to make it virtually uninhabitable. Whole blocks are razed to the ground. Power lines and



The King wearing the Prince Charles Edward Stuart tartan and white heather from Balmoral during his vigil at St Giles' Cathedral



power stations targeted., as well as hospitals and schools. With the approach of winter, much of Ukraine will be devoid of a regular supply of electricity - an essential commodity in today's world.

The physical and financial destruction of Ukraine's energy sector could also have long-term impacts. The damage caused to energy infrastructure and companies thus far will require billions of dollars and many years to repair. *Geopolitical Futures* 09-Sep-22

It is thought that Ukraine's GDP will slump 55% this year. Rebuilding costs to repair the damage are put at a staggering \$1 trillion. This week Ukraine has gone cap in hand to the IMF fund asking for a loan.

Ukrainian officials have said they are seeking an IMF program worth as much as \$15 billion to \$20 billion, although such a large amount is seen as unlikely to win IMF approval.

The IMF Executive Board, at an informal session on Monday, discussed a plan that could offer Ukraine \$1.4 billion in emergency aid through the IMF's Rapid Financing Instrument. *Reuters* 12-Sep-22

In the past week or two the Ukrainian army has made some spectacular gains by driving Russian troops out a portion of Luhansk. Russian troops have fled in panic leaving behind them their tanks, equipment, food, and clothes. Reports say many who have fled have been shot by their own troops as deserters. In an echo of past battles in the Bible we know that when Russia invades Israel, only to fall on the mountains of Israel, that *every man's sword shall be against his brother.* (Eze. 38:21)

Is this the beginning of the end for Russia?

This is what the West would love to see. There are signs of growing dissent within Russia at the path that Putin has taken. Yet we know from Scripture that Ukraine is but one of many countries that will be part of the Eastern, Russian, foot of Nebuchadnezzar's Image when it eventually stands on her two feet for the first and only time to invade Israel.

Will Russia give up and pull out? Putin feels let down by his Generals. Many have died in mysterious circumstances. But with his back to the wall, Putin has ordered his most fearsome weapon to the front line.

The TOS-1A is a thermobaric weapon which fires missiles that can literally "vaporise human bodies" and the Kremlin are claiming that this weapon of mass destruction will lead to a "guaranteed defeat of the enemy." *London Loves Business* 10-Sep-22

There is evidence that similar weapons were used in Putin's battle in Syria. So, he is capable of using them as a last resort. Russia also has a large stockpile of nuclear weapons, which have not been used so far since WWII.

Yes, Russia's army has shown itself not to be battle prepared. Partly because Putin did not proclaim this as a war, but as a special operation, keeping its profile down. Because the army has a top-down command structure, which harks back to WWI and WWII, rather than bottom up, which the British and Israeli armies operate, nothing happens until it is approved from above. A radical overhaul of the Russia army will be needed to encourage soldiers on the ground to take the actions needed.

Is there time for a reform to take place? As we have been saying for a long time., long before the Image stands on its two feet to invade Israel, the Lord will have returned! Not to the world but to the household. This is what is imminent. We have looked before at a possible timetable of a 10-year period between the Master's return to the household to the Battle of Armageddon. Before that battle, Israel will have been invaded by Gog (Russia) and his allies. We are not yet at the final stage. When that comes Britain will be a prosperous country, Russia will be capable, with his allies of defeating Israel's army, and for a brief moment will be victorious on the mountains of Israel. They will be completely defeated by a power far greater than their might - the Power of the Lord Jesus and his saints, who will bring peace and blessings to this troubled world.

We see the Ukrainian invasion as a step in that preparation. It shows Russia needs to invest in a more powerful army. It shows Europe the need to unify still further. It shows that Britain can be a power in her own right having left the EU. After a very tough winter, I expect to see a cessation of war in Ukraine with Russia having succeeded in making it a ruined country. As we saw last time, Daniel 8 points to Russia's *craft* - deceit during a time of *peace*, that gives Russia its success. God Willing, we can look next time how for 20-odd years Putin has been chaining Europe through his skilled use of funding to protest groups in Europe and America to stop countries developing their own gas and oil supplies, instead relying on Russia's low-cost supplies. This winter will show just how chained Europe is to Russia, at a time when Britain is throwing off her chains to Europe and reaching out to *all nations of the earth*.

We live in fearful, yet exciting days.