

and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of **Israel**" (vv. 11, 12).

In Ezekiel 19 we also read of their hope being lost: "Now when she saw that she had waited, and her hope was lost, then she took another of her whelps, and made him a young lion" (v. 5). The "young lion" here refers to Jehoiachin. He was made king following the reign of Jehoiakim. Jehoiakim had been appointed by the Egyptians after Pharaoh Necho had taken Jehoahaz into captivity. While this Egyptian-appointed king was in place, the children of **Israel** "waited" until all "hope was lost" for Jehoahaz to return.

In Ezekiel 37 it is not just the ruler of the people but the people as a whole who are out of the Land. When **Gog** invades they will truly say, "our hope is lost". **Gog** will establish his own rule, for "he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy **mountain**" (Dan. 11:45). At the same time he will go down into **Egypt** and will take **Jews** there, for, when Christ intervenes there, then shall "five cities in the land of **Egypt** speak the language of Canaan" (Isa. 19:18). These things parallel the events of Ezekiel 19, where a new ruler is appointed by the invader and where the original ruler is taken to **Egypt**.

The **Jews** have returned to the land during the past century, but it is only when Christ and the **saints** begin to set up the Kingdom that the prophecy of the valley of dry bones will truly be fulfilled. (Ref. 3)

C

China

There is little in Scripture that can be related directly to China. However, some suggest that China is the "land of **Sinim**" mentioned in Isaiah 49: "Behold, these shall come from far: and, lo, these from the north and from the west; and these from the land of **Sinim**" (v. 12). This speaks of the gathering of the **Jews** back to the Land at the return of Christ. In Ezekiel 16 God speaks of **Israel** having silk, which most likely would have originated in China (vv. 10,13). Irrespective of whether or not China is the location of the land of **Sinim**, it is the case that China does have a small number of **Jews** living there.

Bozrah

Bozrah was a city in **Edom**. The modern Buseira (or Busayra) in **Jordan**, thirty miles southeast of the Dead Sea, is thought to be its location. In Isaiah 63:1 it is written: "Who is this that cometh from **Edom**, with dyed garments from Bozrah? this that is glorious in his apparel, travelling in the greatness of his strength? I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save". This speaks of Christ and the **saints** marching towards the land of **Israel** after the resurrection and judgement has taken place. In Isaiah 34 God shows how one of the battles related to **Armageddon** will take place at Bozrah: "For the indignation of the LORD is upon all nations, and His fury upon all their armies: He hath utterly destroyed them, He hath delivered them to the slaughter . . . The sword of the LORD is filled with blood, it is made fat with fatness, and with the blood of lambs and goats, with the fat of the kidneys of rams: for the LORD hath a sacrifice in Bozrah, and a great slaughter in the land of Idumea" (vv. 2,6). In conjunction with this, Ezekiel shows that the armies of **Gog** will be buried in the area east of the Dead Sea: "And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will give unto **Gog** a place there of graves in **Israel**, the valley of the passengers on the east of the sea" (39:11). (Refs. 8, 17)

Britain

See **United Kingdom**.

A substantial community of **Jews** developed in the city of Kaifeng, about 300 miles from Beijing, between the ninth and seventeenth centuries. It is thought that those who originally settled there were primarily involved in the manufacture of cotton fabrics. They even built a synagogue. Its destruction in an **earthquake** in the 1840s effectively marked the end of a clearly identifiable Jewish community in the city. However, today there are around 100 families in the town who claim to be descendants from this community. In the meantime the nineteenth century saw new waves of **Jews** arriving in China in significant numbers in the wake of British colonial trade in the area. In the first half of the

twentieth century more **Jews** came to China as they fled persecution from countries such as **Russia** and **Germany**. The number of **Jews** peaked at around 30,000 between the world wars. Following the Communist takeover in 1949, most **Jews** fled the country, many going to **Israel**. Today the majority of **Jews** in China are those who are working there temporarily, such as diplomats and businessmen.

- **1912** Republic established
- **1926** Civil war between ruling nationalists and the Communists, led by Mao Zedong (Mao Tse-tung) began
- **1949** Communists take over mainland
- **1978** China begins moving towards market economy
- **1989** Tiananmen Square massacre.

Chittim

The name Chittim, or Kittim, originally referred to one of the sons of **Javan** by whom “were the isles of the Gentiles divided in their lands” (Gen. 10:5). As Josephus shows, the **Jews** regarded Chittim as primarily referring to **Cyprus**: “Cethimus possessed the island Cethima; it is now called **Cyprus**: and from that it is that all islands, and the greatest part of the sea-coasts, are named Cethim [Chittim] by the Hebrews: and one city there is in **Cyprus** that has been able to preserve its denomination; it is called Citius by those who use the language of the Greeks, and has not, by the use of that dialect, escaped the name of Cethim” (Josephus, *Antiquities of the Jews*, I, VI, 1). As this quote shows, the **Jews** also tended to apply the term less specifically to coastal areas in the eastern **Mediterranean**. Brother Thomas applied the term to areas as far west as the coasts of **Italy**. However, **Cyprus** is undoubtedly the primary location to which Chittim refers. In the burden of **Tyre** in Isaiah 23:12 **Zidon** is commanded: “arise, pass over to Chittim; there also shalt thou have no rest”. As the nearest point of supposed refuge, **Cyprus** would be a logical place to flee from the invading enemy. ([Ref. 20](#))

Constantinople

See **Istanbul**.

Cup

The significance of the cup in prophecy lies in its contents and the effect which its contents can

bring. There is a cup which gives salvation: “I will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the LORD” (Ps. 116:13). In contrast, **Babylon** was described as a cup: “**Babylon** hath been a golden cup in the LORD’S hand, that made all the earth drunken: the nations have drunken of her wine; therefore the nations are mad” (Jer. 51:7). By using their free will to drink of the Babylonian wine, the nations sinned, and in so doing enabled God to manifest His judgements upon them.

In Revelation 18 it is said of the nations in relation to the latter-day **Babylon** that they “have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication” (v. 3). The contents of this cup bring wrath as a punishment for fornication. Essentially there are two drinks. Firstly, there is the drink supplied by **Babylon**: “a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication” (17:4). This drink includes the blood of the **saints** (v. 6). These contents speak of the blasphemies and persecutions of the Roman Catholic Church. For the second drink the same cup will be used but now it is a double portion and consists of the wrath of God: “Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double” (18:6). As it is also written: “and great **Babylon** came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath” (16:19).

Prior to this judgment upon **Rome, Israel** will have been made to drink of the wrath of God. However, when Christ returns the situation will be reversed and its enemies instead will drink from this cup: “Thus saith thy Lord the LORD, and thy God That pleadeth the cause of His people, Behold, I have taken out of thine hand the cup of trembling, even the dregs of the cup of My fury; thou shalt no more drink it again: but I will put it into the hand of them that afflict thee; which have said to thy soul, Bow down, that we may go over: and thou hast laid thy body as the ground, and as the street, to them that went over” (Isa. 51:22,23).

Cush

Cush was the name of a son of Ham (Gen. 10:6). It is thought that some of his descendants may have gone east and settled in Cushistan. However, the primary area of settlement was to the south of **Egypt**, where his descendants formed the kingdom of Cush, also known as Nubia. The

Greeks and Romans later called this kingdom **Ethiopia**; however, it is a different area from the modern-day country of **Ethiopia**, which is further to the south. The AV often renders the Hebrew *Cush* as '**Ethiopia**'. The modern-day country that covers the area of ancient Cush is **Sudan**.

That Cush bordered **Egypt** is shown by Ezekiel: "Behold, therefore I am against thee, and against thy rivers, and I will make the land of **Egypt** utterly waste and desolate, from the tower of Syene even unto the border of **Ethiopia** [Cush]" (29:10). By about 900 B.C. the Cushites had established a capital at Napata, near the fourth cataract of the Nile. Cush expanded its borders northwards and took control of **Egypt** in the eighth century B.C. Nubian kings became rulers of **Egypt**. One of the Nubian kings who also ruled **Egypt** is mentioned in 2 Kings 19 in connection with Rab-shakeh: "And when he heard say of Tirhakah king of **Ethiopia**, Behold, he is come out to fight against thee: he sent messengers again unto Hezekiah" (v. 9). The Assyrians invaded **Egypt** and drove the Cushites out of **Egypt**.

Early in the sixth century B.C. the Egyptians themselves invaded Cush and captured Napata. The Cushites transferred their capital to Meroe, a city further south near the sixth cataract of the Nile. With Meroe as its capital the Cushite kingdom flourished. The Romans, having gained control of **Egypt**, initially warred against the northern part of Cush, razing Napata to the ground. However, the Cushites sued for peace, and were even exempted from paying tribute to **Rome**. Kings and queens ruled from Meroe, one of whom is mentioned in Acts 8: "And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of **Ethiopia**, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to **Jerusalem** for to worship . . ." (v. 27). The Cushite kingdom declined from the first century onwards. It was eventually overrun by the Aksumite empire in the south. It was this empire that formed the basis of modern **Ethiopia**. ([Ref. 22](#))

Cyprus

Cyprus is an island in the **Mediterranean**, ninety-seven kilometres west of **Syria** and sixty-four kilometres south of **Turkey**. As such it has an important strategic location. The country is essentially divided into two, both geographically

and ethnically. There are two mountain ranges, one to the north and one to the south. They are divided by central lowlands. The northern part of the island is dominated by Turkish Muslims, a domination enhanced by the Turkish invasion in 1974. The 'Turkish Federated State of Cyprus' was declared by those in the north in 1975, but it is recognised internationally only by **Turkey**. The south of the island is dominated by Greek Cypriots, mostly Orthodox Christians. Across the centre of the island is a **United Nations** buffer zone. There are also two **United Kingdom** sovereign bases on the island.

In the Old Testament, Cyprus is referred to as **Chittim** or Kittim. In Numbers 24:23,24 Balaam prophesied: "And he took up his parable, and said, Alas, who shall live when God doeth this! And ships shall come from the coast of **Chittim**, and shall afflict **Asshur**, and shall afflict Eber, and he also shall perish for ever". Whilst **Asshur** relates to the ancient country of **Assyria**, Eber was located roughly in the region between the River Jordan and the **Euphrates**. Thus this verse speaks of a great invasion coming from **Chittim** and attacking the area of northern **Iraq** and **Syria**. Balaam questions who will live through this event, such will be its magnitude. It is speaking of the great invasion of **Gog** when he will sweep south into **Israel**.

As **Russia** moves south finally to dry up the **Euphrates** power (Rev. 16:12), this will involve dealing with the Turkish element on the island. The Greek and Turkish sections on the island have led to tensions between **Greece** and **Turkey** in the past. As such the island is seen as a potential flash-point in the region. However, its ultimate role will be as a staging post for the Gogian invasion of **Israel**. ([Ref. 20](#))

- **1878** Occupied by the British in support of **Turkey** against **Russia**
- **1914** Annexed by Great **Britain**
- **1960** Independence from the UK approved
- **1963** Communal strife between Turkish and Greek ethnic communities
- **1974** Military intervention from **Turkey** to prevent Greeks seizing government
- **1975** Turkish Cypriots create their own constitution within the 'Turkish Federated State of Cyprus'
- **1983** Turkish-held area declares itself the 'Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus'
- **1999** Talks at the UN resume on the status of Cyprus.