

goodly pleasant things” (vv. 4,5). This is in the context of “all nations” (v. 2) being gathered at the time of **Armageddon**, and indicates that the Gentiles in **Lebanon** will take the side of the Gogian invader and will be punished.

The second application relates to the way language spoken concerning Tyre in the prophets is used extensively in Revelation 17 and 18 to speak of Roman Catholicism. There are over thirty quotations from Old Testament passages which relate to Tyre. For example 18:12,13 states: “the merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet, and all thyine wood, and all manner vessels of ivory, and all manner vessels of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble, and cinnamon, and odours, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots, and slaves, and souls of men”. Most of these items are mentioned at some point in Ezekiel 27.

The worldwide effect of the fall of Tyre and **Rome** are described in similar language. Of **Rome** it is said: “And every shipmaster, and all the company in ships, and sailors, and as many as trade by sea, stood afar off, and cried” (Rev. 18:17,18); and of Tyre it is said: “And all that handle the oar, the mariners, and all the pilots of the sea, shall come down from their ships, they shall stand upon the land . . . and shall cry bitterly” (Ezek. 27:29,30). Of **Rome** it is said: “What city is like unto this great city!” (Rev. 18:18); and of Tyre it is asked: “What city is like Tyrus . . . ?” (Ezek. 27:32). The answers to these questions are Tyre and **Rome** respectively.

U

United Kingdom

The United Kingdom (UK) is a constitutional monarchy which consists of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. It is a nominally Protestant country but is becoming increasingly multicultural. Historically, Britain was at the forefront of the Industrial Revolution; and, through its maritime power, the British Empire at its height covered a quarter of the earth’s surface.

In 1917 the British drove the Ottomans out of **Palestine**. In so doing it was fulfilling the role of the **king of the south** as spoken by Daniel: “And

The third application relates to one who is called, not Tyre, but “the daughter of Tyre”. In Psalm 45 we read: “And the daughter of Tyre shall be there with a gift; even the rich among the people shall intreat thy favour” (v. 12). This is a prophecy that concerns the time when the Kingdom of God will be established when Christ returns: “Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: the sceptre of Thy kingdom is a right sceptre” (v. 6). Unlike the Catholic powers, who will oppose Christ, the daughter of Tyre will bring a gift to Christ.

Who has inherited the mantle of Tyre, characterised in the Bible as a great seafaring and trading nation, which will submit itself to Christ? **Tarshish**, one of the key traders with Tyre in ancient times, would seem to fit this role. **Tarshish** is a true daughter of Tyre, carrying on the great trading and seafaring tradition of ancient Tyre. Isaiah 23:6 states: “Pass ye over to **Tarshish**; howl, ye inhabitants of the isle”. It could be that this passing “over to **Tarshish**” represents the commercial role of Tyre being eventually transferred to **Tarshish**.

Tarshish will bring great wealth to **Israel** when Christ is King (60:9), and this fits the role spoken of Tyre in Psalm 45. It may be that the words at the end of the “burden of Tyre” (v. 1) in Isaiah 23 also relate to this: “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” (v. 18). The city of London today, still a great centre for finance and trade, is a latter-day daughter of Tyre. (**Refs. 6, 15**)

at the time of the end shall the **king of the south** push at him [the Ottoman power in control of **Constantinople**]” (11:40). A British mandate over **Palestine** was approved by the League of Nations in 1922, and in the early part of this mandate **Jews** were free to migrate to the Land. Jeremiah 31:10 states: “Hear the word of the LORD, O ye nations, and declare it in the isles afar off, and say, He that scattered **Israel** will gather him, and keep him, as a shepherd doth his flock”.

As one of these nations, the UK played an important role in helping **Jews** to settle in the Land of **Israel**. However, although some did

return, many **Jews** chose to remain where they were. Isaiah 43:3 states: "For I am the LORD thy God, the Holy One of **Israel**, thy Saviour: I gave **Egypt** for thy ransom, **Ethiopia** and **Seba** for thee". These countries correspond to some of the territory which the British Empire acquired, and it seems that these were providentially given to Britain for the role which it would play in the return of the **Jews** to the Land.

Later on, Britain became less sympathetic towards the Zionist cause, and during the Second World War it restricted the number of **Jews** who could enter the Land. After the war thousands of **Jews** were stopped from entering **Palestine** by Britain. However, during the war Britain had played an important, if unwitting, role in defending **Palestine**, not least in the way it held onto Malta and defeated Rommel's force in North Africa.

Compared with the greatness of its empire in the nineteenth century, the UK declined after the Second World War. This decline was no doubt providentially linked to its treatment of the **Jews** during the latter part of its mandate. The UK, however, remains a major trading power, and London is a leading world financial centre. This reflects its role as a latter-day daughter of **Tyre**, a role that will see it bring wealth to **Israel** at Christ's return: "And the daughter of **Tyre** shall be there with a gift; even the rich among the people shall intreat thy favour" (Ps. 45:12). It also still has a significant merchant and navy fleet, and, as the Falklands War showed, it is still capable of carrying out a maritime campaign thousands of miles from home.

As the **Tarshish** power, its ships will bring **Jews** to **Israel** when Christ returns, together with gifts: "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" (Isa. 60:9). In Isaiah 18 a maritime country is spoken of whose influence extends beyond **Sudan** into Africa, a country which will play a role in bringing the **Jews** back to the Land. The UK, with its Commonwealth countries extending into the two 'wings' of the great African continent, is the country that will fulfil this prophecy: "Woe to the land shadowing with wings, which is beyond the rivers of **Ethiopia** [**Sudan**]: that sendeth ambassadors by the sea, even in vessels of bulrushes upon the waters, saying, Go, ye swift messengers, to a nation scattered and peeled, to

a people terrible from their beginning hitherto; a nation meted out and trodden down, whose land the rivers have spoiled!" (vv. 1,2).

The UK finally joined the EEC, but its relationship with **Europe** has never been easy. As Isaiah 60:9 shows, when Christ returns the UK will submit to him, unlike the European "**kings of the earth**" (Ps. 2:2). Meanwhile, within the UK itself, the individual countries have been showing leanings to more independence, with the Scottish Parliament, the National Assembly for Wales, and the Northern Ireland Assembly being established in 1999.

As the **Tarshish** power, the UK will question **Gog** as it invades **Israel**: "**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?" (Ezek. 38:13). The other nations mentioned in this verse refer to modern **Yemen** and **Saudi Arabia**. We can therefore expect the UK to continue to develop its influence and connections with the southern Arabian countries, especially in its role as the **king of the south**. ([Refs. 4, 6, 15](#))

- **1801** Legislative union of Great Britain and Ireland implemented
- **1815** Battle of Waterloo
- **1914-18** First World War
- **1917** Occupies **Palestine**
- **1917** Balfour Declaration
- **1921** Anglo-Irish Treaty
- **1922** Mandate over **Palestine**
- **1927** The name United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland adopted
- **1939-45** Second World War
- **1956** Suez Crisis
- **1973** Joins European Community
- **1982** Falklands War
- **1991** Gulf War
- **1999** Scottish Parliament, National Assembly for Wales, and Northern Ireland Assembly established
- **2003** Iraq War.

United Nations

The United Nations (UN) came into being in 1945 when a charter was ratified which had originally been drawn up by representatives from fifty nations who attended the United Nations Conference on International Organisation in



The flag of the United Nations

San Francisco. The name 'United Nations' was originally coined by **United States** President Franklin D. Roosevelt, and was used in the Declaration by United Nations in 1942, in which twenty-six nations pledged to continue war against the Axis powers.

The UN describes its purposes as follows: "To maintain international peace and security; to develop friendly relations among nations; to cooperate in solving international economic, social, cultural and humanitarian problems and in promoting respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms; and to be a centre for harmonising the actions of nations in attaining these ends".

The UN has six principal organs: the General Assembly, Security Council, Economic and Social Council, Trusteeship Council, International Court of Justice and a Secretariat. The General Assembly consists of all member states. It has no power to enforce or legislate; it can only make recommendations and is primarily symbolic. The Security Council consists of fifteen members, five of which are permanent. The primary function of the council is to maintain peace and security. Options open to it include such things as sanctions, peacekeeping and collective military force. In the past its effectiveness has been restricted by the use of vetoes.

The Economic and Social Council coordinates commissions involved in a range of economic and social activities, which cover such issues as trade, transport, human rights and the status of women. Voluntary programmes such as UNICEF also come under its control. The Trusteeship Council was established to oversee Trust Territories, where territories were previously administered by another country under the auspices of the UN. It provided an interim arrangement for

colonial territories before they gained independence. The International Court of Justice has no inherent jurisdiction. In theory its decisions can be enforced by the Security Council, but this has never happened and it remains an advisory body. The Secretariat provides the administrative staff for the UN.

The UN provides a focal point for the expression of some key themes in prophecy. For example, its heavy emphasis on peace and security helps to fulfil the prophecy in 1 Thessalonians 5: "For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape" (v. 3). Its furtherance of such things as human rights and the status of women reflects a humanistic philosophy depicted by the "spirits like frogs" (Rev. 16:13).

Concerning the time of **Armageddon**, God speaks about how He will gather "all nations": "I will also gather all nations, and will bring them down into the **valley of Jehoshaphat**, and will plead with them there for My people and for My heritage **Israel**, whom they have scattered among the nations, and parted My land" (Joel 3:2); "For I will gather all nations against **Jerusalem** to battle" (Zech. 14:2). It may be that the UN will provide a means of formalising the attack against **Israel**, in which case "all nations" would be represented by the UN.

- **1950** UN forces, primarily US, aid South Korea when North Korea invades
- **1956** UN Emergency Force (UNEF) provides buffer between **Egypt** and **Israel** after Suez crisis
- **1964** UN **Cyprus** Force deployed to reduce tension between Greek and Turkish forces
- **1973** UNEF II deployed between **Israel** and **Egypt** after Yom Kippur War
- **1974** UN Disengagement Observer Force patrols Golan Heights
- **1974** Following Turkish invasion of **Cyprus**, UN force supervises ceasefire
- **1978** UN force supervises Israeli withdrawal from **Lebanon**
- **1990** Security votes to use force to remove Iraqi forces from Kuwait.

United States

With the third largest population in the world and its abundance of natural resources, the United States (US) developed into a world

superpower. Its late entry into both World Wars typified a reluctance in the first half of the century to get involved in conflicts beyond its shores. The Korean War and the Vietnam War in some ways signalled a change in this attitude, in response, particularly, to the perceived threat of Communism.

Although Vietnam was marked by failure and left a deep psychological scar on the US, the collapse of Communism and the end of the Cold War in the early 1990s was seen as a vindication of US Cold War policy. The US has always been a strong supporter of **Israel**, and has given it significant help in the past, particularly when at war with Arab neighbours. The Iraqi attack on Kuwait in 1990 drew the US forces into war in the Middle East. The September 11 attacks in 2001 have further encouraged a reluctant US to send forces for combat to the Middle East.

Joel 3:9 would seem to have particular relevance with regard to the US in Bible prophecy: "Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles; Prepare war, wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near; let them come up". As the mightiest of the world powers the US has had to "wake up" to the need to get involved in the Middle East despite its desire to do otherwise. Jeremiah 31:10 states: "Hear the word of the LORD, O ye nations, and declare it in the isles afar off, and say, He that scattered **Israel** will

gather him, and keep him, as a shepherd doth his flock".

As one of these nations, the US, although "afar off", has played an important role in helping **Jews** to settle in the Land of **Israel**. The US has strong ties with the UK, and could be seen as one of the "**young lions**" (Ezek. 38:13). However, it is important to recognise that the US is not **Tarshish**, and that as such we would expect the **United Kingdom** rather than the US to be taking the diplomatic lead at the time of **Gog's** invasion.

- **1861-65** Civil War
- **1917** Enters First World War
- **1929** Depression begins
- **1941** Enters Second World War following attack on Pearl Harbour
- **1950-53** Korean War
- **1956** Involvement in Vietnam begins
- **1961** Bay of Pigs invasion
- **1962** Cuba Missile Crisis
- **1963** Assassination of President Kennedy
- **1969** First man on moon
- **1975** Vietnam War ends
- **1978** Camp David accords between **Egypt** and **Israel**
- **1979-81** Iranian hostage crisis
- **1991** Cold War Ends
- **2001** 'September 11' terrorist attacks
- **2003** Iraq War.