

The British-Tyrian rock

Nigel Bernard

The prominent role of Britain in the recent financial turmoil has reflected its role as the latter-day “daughter of Tyre”.

IN PSALM 45 it is written, “Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: the sceptre of Thy kingdom is a right sceptre. Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest wickedness: therefore God, thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows” (vv. 6,7). These words are quoted in Hebrews 1:8,9, preceded by the words, “But unto the Son He saith”, showing that these words apply to the Son of God. Psalm 45 is thus a psalm about Christ reigning as King in the Kingdom of God.

In verses 9-11 the multitudinous bride of Christ is described: “upon thy right hand did stand the queen in gold of Ophir. Hearken, O daughter, and consider, and incline thine ear; forget also thine own people, and thy father’s house; so shall the king greatly desire thy beauty: for he is thy Lord; and worship thou him”. Then, mention is made of another daughter: “And the daughter of Tyre shall be there with a gift; even the rich among the people shall intreat thy favour” (v. 12). Who is this daughter who comes to pay homage to Christ and the saints?

The daughter of Tyre

In Isaiah 23 the demise of Tyre is prophesied: “The burden of Tyre. Howl, ye ships of Tarshish; for it is laid waste, so that there is no house, no entering in: from the land of Chittim it is revealed to them” (v. 1). As one of those with whom Tyre traded, Tarshish was a “daughter of Tyre”. But the ships which once sailed between Tyre and Tarshish would no longer be able to trade with Tyre. Verse 6 states, “Pass ye over to Tarshish; howl, ye inhabitants of the isle”. This passing over to Tarshish perhaps represents Tarshish eventually taking over the trading role of Tyre. Given the prominence of Tarshish in the prophecies of the last days, it is not unreasonable to conclude that the “daughter of Tyre” in Psalm 45 is Tarshish. Assuming that Tarshish is Britain, we should therefore be looking for Britain to take on the trading role of ancient Tyre at the time of the end.

That the “daughter of Tyre” refers to Britain was the view of Brother Thomas. As he wrote in *Eureka*: “there will be a Merchant-Power among ‘the powers that be’, to which the

prophetic title of ‘the Daughter of Tyre’ will be applicable. This can be no other than Britain, the mart of modern nations, which inherits the wealth and commerce of her ancient mother”.¹

It is easy to dismiss these remarks as outdated, in that they were written at the time when the British Empire was at its height. However, these words are based on a sound interpretation of Scripture. Whilst the British Empire may have long gone, we can nevertheless expect Britain, as the latter-day “daughter of Tyre”, to have a prominent role in trade and commerce at the time when Christ returns. Recent events have seen the development of Britain in this regard.

Taking the lead

As the financial crisis which has swept the world unfolded, the British Government came up with a plan to rescue its banking system. This plan was then urged upon, and adopted, by other countries. *The Times* had the headline, “Europe’s leaders follow Brown plan to head off financial meltdown”.² *The Daily Telegraph* had the headline: “Gordon Brown’s plan is model for EU response to financial crisis”.³ Britain had suddenly come to the fore, reflecting her role as the daughter of Tyre.

In the *New York Times*, the Nobel prize-winning economist, Paul Krugman, wrote that the work of the Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Alistair Darling, had “defined the character of the worldwide rescue effort, with other wealthy nations playing

1. Thomas, J. (1921, 8th edition), *Eureka: an exposition of the Apocalypse*, Vol. III, Birmingham, C. C. Walker, p. 409.
2. <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/europe/article4930918.ece>.
3. <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/financetopics/financialcrisis/3190687/Gordon-Browns-plan-is-model-for-EU-response-to-financial-crisis.html>.

catch-up".⁴ He went on to say: "This is an unexpected turn of events. The British government is, after all, very much a junior partner when it comes to world economic affairs. It's true that London is one of the world's great financial centers, but the British economy is far smaller than the US economy, and the

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Gordon Brown's plan is model for EU response to financial crisis

Gordon Brown's £500 billion British bank rescue plan is becoming the model for the European Union's 'universal response' to the global financial crisis as other governments follow his lead across Europe, the UK Foreign Secretary said.

The New York Times

OP-ED COLUMNIST

Gordon Does Good

By PAUL KRUGMAN
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Has Gordon Brown, the British prime minister, saved the world financial system?

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From The Times
October 13, 2008

Europe's leaders follow Brown plan to head off financial meltdown

France and Germany agreed a pledge with 13 other nations after a briefing from the Prime Minister

Bank of England doesn't have anything like the influence either of the Federal Reserve or of the European Central Bank. So you don't expect to see Britain playing a leadership role". These last words may be true from a worldly perspective. Yet Bible students have long expected Britain, as Tarshish and the daughter of Tyre, to have such a role in the last days.

Quite apart from this overall confirmation that Britain is the daughter of Tyre, there was also an interesting comment made by Gordon Brown, which unwittingly linked with Tyre.

The rock

According to *Strong's*, the word 'Tyre' means 'rock'. A closely related Hebrew word, which occurs twice in the Old Testament, is translated "sharp stone" (Ex. 4:25) and "flint" (Ezek. 3:9). In Ezekiel 26 God said, "Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD [Yahweh]; Behold, I am against thee, O Tyrus, and will cause many nations to come up against thee, as the sea causeth his waves to come up" (v. 3). Tyre was like a rock by the sea, continually pounded by the waves of

the nations, including the Babylonians, Greeks and Saracens.

In the light of the meaning of the word 'Tyre', it was fascinating to note the following words of Gordon Brown, used in a statement at 10 Downing Street on October 13, 2008: "For savers, for small businesses and for home owners we must in an uncertain and unstable world be the rock of stability upon which British people can depend".⁵ Like Tyre of old, the British Government sees itself as a rock holding out against the battering forces of the economic turmoil.

Conclusion

Whilst Europe may currently be following the British example, this will not be the case when Christ is King. Instead, Europe will rebel: "The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD [Yahweh], and against His anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us" (Ps. 2:2,3). In contrast, Tarshish, the latter-day daughter of Tyre, will humbly submit to Divine rule: "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 [Yahweh] thy God, and to the Holy One of Israel, because He hath glorified thee" (Isa. 60:9).



The British Prime Minister, Gordon Brown.

4. <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/13/opinion/13krugman.html?scp=1&sq=%22defined%20the%20character%22&t=cse>.
5. <http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page17163>.