

9234U

ECHO LAKE STUDY WEEKEND - 2007

FROM EDEN LOST TO EDEN RESTORED

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Study #7: New Alignments in the Middle East
(What is the real significance of the Israel-Tyre-Sheba Alliance?)

Brother chairman, and we're on the last leg of our journey through prophecy this weekend, so as our chairman has said, our title for our last study is, New Alignments in the Middle East - what is the real significance of the Israel-Tyre-Sheba Alliance?

I'd like you to come back to 1 Kings 4 because in this chapter we have the reign of Solomon in ancient times. We're told in 1 Kings 4 verse 20, that the circumstances of life in the days of Solomon were like these, 'Judah and Israel were many, as the sand which is by the sea in multitude, eating and drinking, and making merry. And Solomon reigned over all kingdoms from the river unto the land of the Philistines, and unto the border of Egypt: they brought presents and served Solomon all the days of his life. Verse 24, For he had dominion over all the region on this side the river, from Tiphshah even to Azzah, over all the kings on this side the river: and he had peace on all sides round about him. And Judah and Israel dwelt safely, every man under his vine and under his fig tree, from Dan even to Beer-sheba, all the days of Solomon'. So this is what it was like in the days of this king! And you know, b&s, when we read these words, verse 21, 'they brought presents, they served Solomon, he reigned over all the kingdoms, verse 24, he had dominion, he had peace, he had peace on all sides, Judah and Israel dwelt safely under his vine and under his fig tree, we suddenly realize that the reign of Solomon is typical of the kingdom of Messiah to come, the greater than Solomon. Given that that's the case, therefore, we might expect to see that those events we find in the circumstances of Solomon's reign, may re-emerge in the kingdoms and in the nations leading up to and following the establishment of Christ's millennial reign since He is greater than Solomon.

So with that in mind, come and have a look at 1 Kings 10. Now in 1 Kings 10 we are told something about the alliance of Solomon in terms of his commercial enterprises. Verse 14, it says, 'The weight of gold that came to Solomon in one year was 666 talents of gold. Beside that which he had of the merchantmen, of the traffic of the spice merchants, and of all the kings of Arabia, and of the governors of the country'. We told about the traffic of the spice merchants, the merchantmen that dealt with Solomon in terms of commercial undertakings in his day. That particular phrase in verse 15 about the merchantmen and the traffic of the spice merchants, is actually the record of the

beginning of a collaborative venture between the shipping power of Tyre, and the spice trader of Sheba but in commercial alliance with the king of Israel. Now let me show you how that actually happened in the time of Solomon.

So if we just look at a map here and the Persian Gulf, this is what actually was the basis of that verse in chapter 10. The problem was that the principal spice routes travelling through the desert were unfortunately the subject of considerable piracy; as the pirates robbed the spice camels they added to the cost of the spices that were left as they journeyed northwards to ultimately end up in Tyre for trading. Now what happened was, when Solomon came into power, he established a port facility at the top of the Red Sea, at a place called Ezion Geber, and in conjunction with Hiram king of Tyre, he put out a fleet of ships that might trade on his behalf right through to India. But having established that port facility, Solomon realized that if he could bring his ships down the Red Sea to the bottom where Sheba was, well maybe he could pick up spices directly from the kingdom of Sheba, bring them up to his port facility, cross them overland through Israel and strait to Tyre which was the mart of the nations, the merchant of the nations, and by that means, well, he'd still probably charge the Tyrians the same price, but because he could safely ship them all himself, well, could we say he'd make a larger 'margin' on the way through - in the middle of the transaction - it was a commercial alliance.

Now he had ships coming down through this Red Sea area that came to the bottom where Sheba was. Here, by the way, are the spice routes, the spice routes took place through the middle of the desert and the spice kingdoms were those at the bottom, at the bottom of the Arabian peninsula; Ucel, Mareb and Timna, Canna and Eden, these were the principal spice kingdoms in the days of Solomon, this is where the queen of Sheba comes from. So he thought, instead of bringing the spices through the desert where it's going to cost more, if I could bring them up through the Red Sea in my boats and out through Tyre, well, this would be a useful collaborative venture that we could engage in. But in the course of doing that, b&s, as 1 King 10 suggests, what it did was this, it brought together Israel and Tyre and Sheba in commercial alliance. And you know, if that's all it had been and as far as it might have gone, then our interest in this would have been reasonably limited. But what's interesting is, do you remember what the bible says 'that all the kings of the earth came to hear the wisdom of Solomon', it says that doesn't it? All the kings of the earth came to hear the wisdom of Solomon (1Kings 3:34) there was none wiser than he', yet the remarkable thing is, that of all the kings that came to hear the wisdom of Solomon, we only hear of two of them in terms of what they said and how they felt. Just two! and of all that rendered obeisance to Solomon, the ones we've been given any detail of, concerning their spirit and their attitude was, why? the very two that he's entered into alliance with, the only two that we'll hear about concerning their attitude to the king of Israel, was the king of Tyre and the queen of Sheba.

Now let me show you what the two monarchs said because I think it gives an insight into their spirit. The king of Tyre says this in 2 Chronicles 2:12, 'Blessed be Yahweh Elohim of Israel that made heaven and earth; who have given to David the king a wise son endued with prudence and understanding'. So he blesses the God of Israel as well as endorsing the king of Israel's wise son whom he congratulates, he also shows support for, why, the God of Israel in the process of his

language. Now let's just see what the queen of Sheba says in 1Kings 10:9, 'Blessed be Yahweh thy God which delighted in thee, to set thee on the throne of Israel; therefore made He thee to do judgment and justice'. Now I don't know if you can see that, b&s, but they are remarkably similar. So both bless the God of Israel and both endorse the king of Israel and I think these statements indicate something more than just a business relationship. I think there was a connection with things divine here, and the king of Tyre and the queen of Sheba are joined together on the basis of their mutual admiration for the God of Israel and their mutual recognition for the king of Israel.

In fact, let me show you that! Come back over the page to 1 Kings 10, let me show you something remarkable about the gifts that both these monarchs would offer. They both brought a special and notable gift to the king of Israel, now this is what it says, 1 Kings 10 verse 10, 'And she (the queen of Sheba) gave the king a hundred and twenty talents of gold, spices very great store, and precious stones: (then the record says and notice this) 'there came no more such abundance of spices as these which the queen of Sheba gave to the king'. So the queen of Sheba brought gold and precious stones, but her most important gift was the bringing of spices; how unique were the spices that the queen brought? there came no such spices ever again as these ones. Now look at what Hiram king of Tyre brings, verse 11, and the navy also of Hiram brought gold from Ophir and precious stones. Ah, but the special gift that Hiram king of Tyre brought was great plenty of almug trees; by the way, it's considered that the almug tree of 1Kings 10 is probably the red Indian sandalwood tree known for the hardness and polish of its wood. And do you know what it says about the almug tree that Hiram king of Tyre brought? It says, 'The king made of the almug trees pillars for the house of Yahweh, and for the king's house, harps also and psalteries for singers: (and then do you see what it says at the end of the verse 12) 'there came no such almug trees, nor were seen unto this day'. Oh, that's interesting, isn't it? so the queen of Sheba brings spice and 'there came no such spices as these' and king of Tyre brings almug trees, and it says 'there came no such almug trees ever again'. So there was something unique and special about these two monarchs and the gifts they brought to the king of Israel.

Do you know what's really interesting about the gifts they brought? Both these gifts from these two respective monarchs were used in matters of **worship**, because the spices of the queen of Sheba were used to make incense that's associated with prayer and the wood brought by the king of Tyre was used to make musical instruments which were associated with praise. I think there's something special and unique about this tripartite connection, there's something more profound than a trading relationship. At the heart of the Israel-Tyre-Sheba alliance, I think there was an acknowledgement of the spiritual primacy of Israel and Israel's God. So given that the reign of Solomon was typical of Messiah's kingdom, well we might expect some outworking of those principles and ideas at the time of the end.

That really brings us to Isaiah 23. Of course, the problem is, who is Sheba and who is

Tyre in the latter days, if we are to find a fulfilment of the prophecy? I think, by the way, that Tyre you see in the context of this particular alliance with Solomon, it wasn't so important that it be the territory, but rather that it be some power that manifests the same attributes. This is what Isaiah 23 says in verse 1, 'The burden of Tyre' this particular prophecy is about the overthrow of Tyre and the fact that it would lose its primacy and importance amongst the nations. So much so says verse 5, 'As at the report concerning Egypt, so shall they be sorely pained at the report of Tyre. 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 here is a prophecy that says, that one day the power of Tyre, the influence of Tyre would be transferred elsewhere, in fact, verses 6 & 7 of Isaiah 23, that the influence of Tyre would pass over to Tarshish and that her own feet would carry her afar off in that way!

So the question is then, of course, who is Tarshish? Well firstly, notice this about what the bible said on Tarshish. It was famous as a marine power, 'the ships of Tarshish' says 2 Chronicles 9; the ships of Tarshish says, Isaiah 23; the ships of Tarshish says Isaiah 60; the ships of Tarshish says Ezekiel 27. Well, that's what Tyre was, Tyre was a trading nation

that shipped all over the world, guess what Tarshish is? it's a trading nation that ships all over the world, so it's not surprising that whoever Tarshish is (and by the way, we haven't established yet who it is) that they were going to take over the role of Tyre because they manifested the same attributes. So remember our two rules from yesterday for latter day interpretations of bible prophecy, either a power on the same territory, or a power manifesting the same attributes. What were the attributes of Tyre? well it's in this chapter verse 2, 'the merchants of Zidon', verse 3, 'the mart of nations', verse 8, 'whose merchants are princes', verse 11, 'the merchant city', verse 18, 'her merchandise'. Tyre was a merchant nation trading as a merchant to all the world by her ships. Well, the bible says that the influence of Tyre would transfer to Tarshish, and Tarshish, in fact, turns out to be another merchant nation who also trades in ships and that's why the influence of Tyre was to shift in this way.

Well, who's Tarshish? All we know is that it's maritime; but let me show you who I think Tarshish is; by the way, there's been some debate on it over the years. It could be this or that, it might just mean big ships going abroad, that Tarshish isn't a real place. In fact, even that Tarshish is Japan as well as Spain and Tunisia, all sorts of different places. Actually, I think by the time that you really put the bible jigsaw pieces together, it's not really difficult

to figure out who Tarshish is, I think there's only one serious contender, because here's what the bible says about Tarshish, it's a nation of Japhethic origin, known as the single source of the metals, silver, iron, tin and lead; famous as a maritime power and associated with trading activities in global markets. Have you narrowed it down yet, b&s? do you want some more? certainly! Tarshish is a coastal or island power, connected by commercial alliance to a family of strong lion nations, who are themselves independent island powers and who inhabit maritime lands. Have you decided who it is

yet? more information? certainly! Tarshish is a country to the remote west of Israel yet strongly associated with the Jewish people having a God-respecting disposition but also allied to Arab nations in the region. Now, you know, when you put all of that together in terms of the bible evidence, there is only one nation that really qualifies as Tarshish, and that's **Britain**, it can't be anybody else. No other nation matches **all** the parts of the puzzle. By the way, if it's any help, I don't think that America is Tarshish, but I do think that America is probably the strongest of all the young lions thereof, as we'll come to later on.

So what Isaiah 23 was prophesying then was what? Well, Isaiah 23 was prophesying that the merchant power, Tyre, would transfer to Tarshish. Therefore, what was going to happen was Tarshish would be the Tyre of latter days; and the influence of Tyre would move from Tyre, as Isaiah 23 says, 'Pass ye over to Tarshish and her own feet shall carry her afar off to sojourn' - would move to Carthage, from thence to Venice, and ultimately to London, the great trading mart of the nations, the preeminent trading mart of the nations! There would be a fulfilment of Isaiah 23 that in the latter days, we would expect to see the role of Tyre fulfilled by the Tarshish of the bible, who we believe, can be none other than Britain when you look at all parts of the puzzle.

Now what's interesting about that, b&s, is I'm going to walk you back in time about 100 years (now we've been there before in these studies, but I think what happens is prophecy is so gradual some times, and so rapid at other times, and it sneaks up on us at other times. In fact, I was talking to a young brother at the meeting, or after the first study, that the younger generation have grown up in our ecclesias and Israel has always been there! So what, it's always been there! but older brethren and sisters remember a time when it wasn't and how dramatic and amazing it was when the nation of Israel was suddenly there! and the young people haven't realized that there's been a change! Now what I can tell you is that 50 years ago, the idea of a European army, you would never have suggested that! NATO would have been incensed, but now they're talking about it quite openly. Times have changed, prophecy creeps up on us sometimes; and sometimes we forget just how powerfully what's happened in the past has drawn things together in fulfilment of bible prophecy.

So let me walk you back a 100 years to the end of the 19th century and let me just show you what that area of Sheba looks like. So let's pull a map up and we'll try and see the time of the late 19th century. So at the end of that century, Britain as the latter day Tyre was committed to the role of guardian and protector of the Gulf region, but she was securing her own interests in the process. She was there in the whole of the Sheba region, but by the way, biblically, Sheba really used to be historically the bottom or southern part of the Arabia peninsula, and Dedan used to be the northern part. The word, Sheba, has come to be understood for the peninsula as a whole. Now one piece of evidence for that, it's hardly scientific or scholarly, but I was on an aeroplane the other day flying Emirates' airlines, and as you realize the Emirates are in the Gulf region, and I opened up the in-flight magazine and on page 5, it was extolling the

virtues of property in Dubai which I really should buy, a little villa, or maybe it was Qatar, well which ever one it was, that's on the northern part of the Arabian peninsula and yet the company promoting that excellent property to me was called, www.kingdom of Sheba.com. So 'Sheba' answers to this whole gulf area.

Well, at the end of the 19th century, Britain as the latter day 'Tyre' was highly influential in that region. Let me show you what happened. They signed a protectorate with Bahrain in 1861, what that means is they signed an agreement whereby Britain would become the protector of Bahrain at that time, to protect Bahrain from other people who might want to attack it. Not only did Britain sign it with Bahrain, she also had a protectorate over the Hadhramaut in 1882, which answers to modern Yemen. She also signed a protectorate for the British Somali land region in 1886; another with Muscat and Oman in 1891, another one with Trucial States in 1892. Of course, by the way, the Trucial States there was a bunch of sheiks that tended to want to war against each other and kill each other off; and the British arrived and said, 'maybe it would be a good idea if you stop fighting and call a truce', and when they called a truce with each separate sheik, the result of that was they all got together and called themselves the 'Trucial States' because they had all signed a truce with Britain. By the way, it's not called the Trucial States today, but what is that area called today? the United Arab Emirates! but in the 19th century Britain signed truces with all the desert sheiks. They signed a protectorate with Kuwait in 1899 and I think one with Aden in 1903 and one with Qatar in 1916.

I'll tell you what, b&s, the bottom line is, why was Britain so involved in that region at that time? Do you think she was there because she thought she was fulfilling bible prophecy, to be involved with Sheba, and the Tyre-Sheba alliance like it was in the days of Solomon, do you think that's why she was there? NO, Britain was there to secure her own interests,

now what interests were they, b&s? and the answer is, she wanted to keep the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf open for her shipping lines, her shipping lines. That's Tyre, that's Tyrian activity, she wanted the lines to be open for her ships, so she was there in the region to secure her own commercial interests and nothing else. Now the interesting thing about that is, bible prophecy has often been fulfilled by nations unaware that they are fulfilling bible prophecy in the process; she was there with her own objective, but I'm suggesting that I think that the bible told us to expect Tyre and Sheba to be in alliance at the time of the end, and therefore, we would not be surprised to see British influence in that region. In fact, so much so, b&s, really you'd have to say at that time, the gulf region was part of Britain itself. In fact, the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf were considered to be British lakes at that time.

In case you think that was all smooth sailing for the British; it wasn't! There was a lot of debate going on and a lot of controversy with other nations at the time. For example, let me show you how that works! At this time the central position of Britain in the gulf was vigorously challenged by other major powers but providential circumstances thwarted

their ambitions. There were other nations wanting to be involved in this region, but somehow they never quite established themselves, Britain always won out in the end. For example, in 1898, France decided that she wanted to establish a coalpit over Muscat, the only trouble was that Britain had already signed a protectorate over that region. Of course, the French didn't really want coal, they wanted to get a foothold in the Gulf region. So there were terse words and a debate and finally France was granted access only to some coal supplies; but the bottom line is that France never did become influential in that region, and even today Oman has strong ties, of course, with Britain. So their endeavours were thwarted.

The following year there was Russia and the Bandar Everest Port Facility Affair of 1899 and Russia claimed to establish a port facility on the other side of the Persian Gulf. Britain wasn't happy and a warship came through from Britain and they dumped a load of coal on the beach to signify British possession, the warship sailed off again and there were various debates, eventually the warship came back and picked up the coal, but Russia never did get its port facility, it always wanted one and never got it. So Russia like France wanted to be in this region and somehow Britain triumphed and Russia didn't!

In 1900, the Germans decided they wanted to build a rail facility coming from Bagdad in Iraq and with a terminus in Kuwait, the only trouble was that Britain already had a protectorate over Kuwait and wasn't too keen on having a terminus in Kuwait at the time for the rail project. So somehow the rail project never got off the ground and never got done because British interest's triumphed, and Germany's endeavours to gain a foothold were thwarted.

Oh, there was also the matter in 1903, of what was known as the Turkey and Bahrain Consul Affair. Turkey, out of the blue, had decided to send a consul to represent her interests from Turkey to Bahrain, the only trouble was Britain had already signed a protectorate with Bahrain and they weren't advised that this consul was coming. So when the consul arrived from Turkey, they sent the consul home; the consul was never seen nor heard of again, and Turkey's endeavours to establish a place, a region or foothold in the Persian Gulf region was thwarted. Wherever nations turned in this region, b&s, their interests were thwarted, just Britain! And guess what happened just 14 years later? 1917, General Allenby marches into Palestine and liberates Israel, the Israel-Tyre-Sheba alliance, and the one power who was in the whole gulf region, at the same time, was the liberator of the land of Israel just 14 years later with General Allenby. You know what happened to General Allenby, when he came to Jerusalem, he was riding on his horse, of course, but he was so moved by the occasion, the spectacle of that moment when he rode into Jerusalem, the beloved city of Jerusalem. So he got off his horse, didn't he? and he walked through the gate of Jerusalem on

foot; and I have a personal connection with that, b&s, because my grandfather was a foot soldier behind General Allenby; he marched into Jerusalem on that day with the General, but

he wasn't in the truth, he had no understanding at that time of what he was doing or the significance of that moment. He was baptized later on and then he knew what had really happened that day and how significant it was! But who was in this region at this time? we believe, in fulfilment of providence, why Britain! God intended that power to be connected with Sheba and with Israel, we believe, at the time of the end.

Well, moving on from that history what happened was this! eventually all of those nations in the region, became strong enough to really look after their own interests to develop their own independence. One by one they became independent in later years. That wasn't a problem as far as Britain was concerned because her interests had been served. We have Kuwait becoming independent in 1961, Yemen in 1967, Oman in 1970. Bahrain and Qatar and the United Arab Emirates all seeking and finding their independence in 1971. So what happened was, that Britain's protective role was finally withdrawn from the Gulf region at that time **but she retained her trading ties**, and that's the crucial thing! Remember you see, Tyre was a merchant nation! it wasn't a military super power, it was a merchant nation, so what ties did Britain retain when she allowed all those Gulf States to receive independence? she still kept her commercial trading ties with those Gulf states, and so she has ever since, and we'll come to that a little later on.

Oh, by the way, what Britain did eight years later was well, she played a little trump card. So eight years later would take us to 1979; 1971 was the last of the independent states, Well, in 1979 they sent someone into the Gulf, well, guess who it was? Well it was the state visit of Queen Elizabeth to the Gulf region. By the way, there was a little bit of a problem with this visit, you see, the Queen had just recently been to Africa before this, and one of the African chiefs when the Queen came down the steps of the plane, one of the African chiefs turned to one of his chief friends and said, 'oh, my goodness, the Queen is a woman!' Evidently he hadn't been adequately briefed on who or what a Queen was, but he was astonished to see that it was a woman who came off the plane. So there was a problem in the Gulf states as well, because of course, these are Muslims, this is Muslim country and the role of a woman is different from the role of man, but the queen is a woman and a monarch and she's about to visit as royalty, so what were they to do? It was a bit of a problem, so guess what they did? they came up with a very good solution really. What the Gulf states did for the purposes of the Queen's visit in 1979 was, they declared her to be an honorary male and they referred to her as 'he' throughout the length of the tour. So 'he' had a pretty nice time in the Persian Gulf and 'he' secured the interests of Britain in the context of visiting at that time. Now what's interesting about that is, as you can see, she went, from Kuwait to Bahrain, to Saudi Arabia, to Qatar, to Abu Dhabi, to Dubai to Jabal Dhana and to Oman. The Queen visited the whole of that Gulf region to reinforce British friendship and British ties and British influence. You see, this is the Tyre-Sheba connection, a very, very powerful and strong connection that's been there for a long time.

Now this is an extract from a book about royalty - it's got nothing to do about bible

prophecy, it's about the Queen's visit actually, and it's a book about the Queen. But the interesting thing about it was that it had this extract that said, 'The royal tour of the Gulf in 1979 is seen as one of the most successful that the Queen has ever made', and so it was! because what it did was reinforced British interests in the Gulf despite the independence of states that had been created within that decade. It was quite a remarkable visit and it secured that Tyre-Sheba alliance and the time of the end.

You see, this is all in accordance with our expectations of a latter day situation perhaps developing along those lines. If you weren't familiar with the state visit of the Queen to the Gulf region, you should know about this! The Gulf war and operation Desert Shield, and when was that, by the way? the invasion of Kuwait that triggered the Gulf war? In 1990 that's right! At that particular crisis, the western powers, and this is the remarkable thing, poured into that Gulf region 500,000 troops, 4,400 tanks, 1,400 aircraft and innumerable support ships! and it was almost as if the angels were saying to us, b&s, 'look, when we need to have Tyre in the region of Sheba, we can bring her there, just like that, in fulfilment of bible prophecy'. In the space of a few weeks, the Tyre-Sheba alliance was there and visible to all the world, was it not? that It can be done by the angels when they wish it to be done. Into that region, behind the Kuwait and Saudi Arabian troops on the frontline, came the USA forces and the British forces who were right there, right in support at the crucial moment for the Tyre-Sheba alliance. Isn't that remarkable? You see, bible prophecy can happen dramatically when the angels will it to be so!

Now here's an interesting quotation from brother Thomas with regard to this very matter that we've been speaking about today. He said this in Eureka, 'If the British-Sheba cabinet have acquired accurate knowledge of its divine elohistic character (what he means by that is, the new king enthroned in Israel is sent from God) there is sufficient millenarianism in high places to counsel and to cause it to seek as a suppliant the favour of the greater than Solomon. So as the protector of the tent in the midst of the Land, including the ancient territory of Tyre, it might be accepted after the examples of Hiram of Tyre and the queen of Sheba, as the humble servant and ally of the great King'. That's interesting, isn't it? So brother Thomas recognized that could well develop at the time of the end. By the way, he had a reason, a scriptural reason, so let's look at some scriptural evidence for why this might be so!

Well, here is the quotation that brother Thomas provided; again he says in Psalm 72 verse 10, 'The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall bring presents: the kings of Sheba and Seba shall offer gifts' (that is, they shall offer the countries over which they rule). Come and have a look at Psalm 72, and let me show you how remarkable this particular psalm is as prophetic of the time of the end, because Psalm 72 (well, of course, we know this psalm so well, that perhaps at times we haven't seen all the things that are tucked away and hidden here). This is what it says in Psalm 72 verse 1, 'Give the king thy judgments O God, and thy righteousness unto the king's son'. Of

course, you know when David probably wrote this psalm, we believe he wrote it at the end of his life as he handed the reigns of government to Solomon as an old man, probably on the very day that Solomon was crowned; that this was David's last prayer, you see, for God to guide the new king. After all, verse 1, who can be both the king and the king's son simultaneously? and the answer is, why Solomon on the day of his coronation! the old king was still there, the young king was on the throne, he was both the king and the king's son was Solomon on that day, and David offers this prayer. Of course, by the time David finishes Psalm 72, he's not thinking of about Solomon is he? he's thinking about Messiah.

So the Jews thought that was the case as well! Because in verse 1, when it says 'give the king', the Jewish Targum adds the word, 'Messiah', 'give the king Messiah thy judgments O God', and what they're indicating is that this particular psalm, although composed at Solomon's coronation, does in fact, refer to the reign of our Lord Jesus Christ or to Messiah when He shall come! When He does come, what will the reign of Christ be like?

Verse 8, 'He shall have dominion from sea to sea, and from the river unto the ends of the earth.' Now where does that come from? why, It's 1 Kings 4 verses 21 and 24, the reign of Solomon our very first passage. Again, Psalm 72 verse 11, 'Yea, all kings shall fall down before him; all nations shall serve him', that from 1 Kings 4 verse 21. So clearly we have a Solomonic reign here by our Lord Jesus Christ.

So now come to verse 10 and see what it says, 'The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall bring presents (that's latter day Tyre) and the kings of Sheba and Seba shall offer

gifts'. Now isn't that interesting? did you notice the plural word 'kings'? It doesn't say the king of Tarshish and the king of Sheba, it says the '**kings** of Tarshish and the **kings** of

Sheba. So they're not two singular nations, but they are two groups of nations. The Tarshish or latter day Tyre group and the Sheba group, and what's interesting is that these two powers in particular are bound together in one verse in Psalm 72 yielding their allegiance to the latter day King of Israel. So what we're being told, I think, in Psalm 72 is that the Israel-Tyre-Sheba alliance will be seen again at the time of the end. By the way, do you see what it says in verse 10, 'The kings of the isles shall bring presents, and the kings of Sheba shall offer gifts', and that's exactly what the kings of Tyre and Sheba did in ancient times when they brought presents, remember to Solomon. Psalm 72 says they'll do it again, they'll bring their presents and gifts as a token of their admiration. Their admiration for the King of Israel sitting on the throne and for the God of Israel. In fact, look at verses 17 and 18 and see if they remind you of anything else! 'His name shall endure for ever; His name shall be continued as long as the sun; and men shall be blessed in Him; all nations shall call Him blessed. Blessed be Yahweh Elohim the God of Israel, who only doeth wondrous things. And blessed be His holy name for ever'. Do you know that the language of that verse is strongly reminiscent of the benedictions of blessing spoken by the king of Tyre and

the queen of Sheba, do you remember in old times? 'Blessed be the God of Israel', said the king of Tyre and the queen of Sheba; Psalm 72 says that when these nations come at the time of Christ's reign, they shall say, 'Blessed be the God of Israel'. It's all the same and Psalm 72 is teaching us to accept that history will repeat itself. I think that's the force of this passage!

Well, here's another one! Isaiah 60, so let's see what Isaiah 60 says along similar lines, in the terms of the reign of our Lord Jesus Christ. Now Isaiah 60 is clearly set at that same time. We're told in verse 1, 'Arise, shine: for thy light is come, and the glory of Yahweh is risen upon thee. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but Yahweh shall arise on thee, and His glory shall be seen upon thee'. So this is the time when Israel is elevated above the nations to be the head and not the tail, and at that time, there will be another king reigning from Zion over Israel, and Israel in turn over the nations. Now this is what it says in verse 6, 'The multitude of camels shall cover thee, the dromedaries of Midian and Ephah' (then it says this) 'All they from Sheba shall come, then in verse 9, 'Surely the isles shall wait for me, and the ships of Tarshish'. Ships of Tarshish (latter day time), the Sheba group, verse 6, will come, latter day Tyre, verse 9 will come, they're both there to support the new government in Israel, the king on the throne of Israel. The latter day Sheba and the latter day Tyre are amongst the first nations to yield allegiance to Christ at the time of His enthronement in Zion; and not only that, but look what they do in verse 6 at the end of the verse. 'They show forth the praises of the LORD'. And what does Tarshish do in verse 9? 'they come unto the name of the LORD thy God and to the Holy One of Israel'. So just as the king of Tyre and the queen of Sheba in Solomon's day blessed the God of Israel, so Sheba comes at the time of the end and shows forth the praises of the LORD and the latter day Tyre, the ships of Tarshish come unto the Holy One of Israel. It's all the same, b&s, and you remember how they brought their presents, the queen of Sheba and the king of Tyre, what did the queen of Sheba bring? she brought spices for the incense, see what verse 6 says, 'all they from Sheba and they shall bring gold and incense', Ah, there it is! just like in the days of Solomon; and apart from algum trees what did the Hiram king of Tyre bring? he brought the big trees, the cedar and fir trees for the building of the sanctuary; see what verse 13 says of Isaiah 60, 'The glory of Lebanon shall come unto thee (that's the cedar trees), the fir tree, and the pine tree, and the box together, to beautify the place of My sanctuary'. A latter day Sheba who brings incense and a latter day Tyre that brings wood, oh, isn't that interesting, b&s, the whole thing is like an re-enactment of Solomonic times, you see!

Now these are clearly set at the time of our Lord Jesus Christ's reign, so these particular passages are interesting because they tell us that there is going to be a latter day Israel-Tyre-Sheba alliance, and when Christ is there, we will see that alliance. The bible says so, but ah, there's one more passage which is even far more interesting from our own personal view! Now where's that? and the answer is, what about Ezekiel 38, because what does Ezekiel 38 say and so much more interesting in

a sense than Psalm 72 and Isaiah 60? Well, let's read the words first of all! So what's happening in Ezekiel 38? well, verse 8 says there are 'many people on the mountains of Israel'. So the nation of Israel is back in the Land and back in existence. Verse 12, 'To take a spoil and to take a prey; to turn thine hand upon the desolate places that are now inhabited, and upon the people (the people of Israel) that are gathered out of the nations, which have gotten cattle and goods, that dwell in the midst of the Land'. So Ezekiel 38 says that this is a time when

Israel is back in the Land. Now verse 13 says, guess who's there along side her? 'Sheba

and Dedan and the merchants of Tarshish', that's latter day Tyre, isn't it? in fact, what was the key word in Isaiah about Tyre? the merchants, the merchants, so who's the latter day Tyre, in fact, it's described as the merchants of Tyre, to tell us this is the latter day Tyre. So what's so interesting about Ezekiel 38, b&s, is that Psalm 72 and Isaiah 60 are both set in context of Christ's reign as another Solomon upon the throne of Israel. But Ezekiel 38 **is set before that!** Ezekiel 38 is set before Gog comes down; Christ hasn't manifested Himself yet but this is before the battle of Armageddon, yet Ezekiel 38 is suggesting that the Israel-Tyre-Sheba alliance is going to be there before Gog comes down, not just when Christ comes, but earlier on, you see! Clearly the implication is that there is a prosperous commercial and economical alliance in existence at the time of the end in this particular region before the Gogian invasion.

For we're told that Israel is at peace, verse 8, verse 11, verse 14, and not only is she at peace but she's economically prosperous. Verse 12 says she's got cattle and goods, now where did she get those cattle and goods from? Well, it's interesting that in verse 13 when Sheba and Dedan and the merchants of Tarshish challenge the advance of Gog, what they say to Gog at the end of the verse is, 'hath thou come to take away cattle and goods?' Ah, so Sheba and Dedan and the merchants of Tarshish have cattle and goods in this region and so has Israel in verse 12. I think they're in alliance together you see, and I think their trading activities are linked to one another, the Tyre-Sheba-Israel alliance is going to be there before Gog comes down into the Land. This group is dealing with one another in friendly alliance as they were in days of Solomon. Oh, did you notice this? verse 13, Sheba and Dedan and the merchants of Tarshish, with the young lions thereof shall say, not 'have you gone' but 'are you come', now why would they say 'are you come' unless they are already there in that region at that time when Gog invades the Land. 'Are you come' implies that Tyre and Sheba **are right there with Israel** at that moment of time.

Now, by the way, 'the young lions' of verse 13. That word 'young lions' you'll find in Psalm 104 verse 21, in Isaiah 5 verse 29, Jeremiah 2 verse 15, it's one of several words used for lions; and the crucial point about this word is that it's about young lions who are strong enough and vigorous enough to catch their own prey, they can eat for themselves, they can catch the prey. I think that that word is indicative of independent nations affiliated to the merchants of Tarshish but they are strong enough to, in fact, look after

themselves! Thanks very much! and Tarshish has that group of 'young lion' nations associated with her, of which America is perhaps the greatest and the strongest of the young ones. By the way, I think the implication in Ezekiel 38 means that they are ready to fight to defend their economic interests when challenged by Gog in the region. So what we're being told in Ezekiel 38, b&s, I think we're being told that when Gog invades the Land, the Israel-Tyre-Sheba alliance **will already be in existence before and after the coming of Christ!** So we ought not to be surprised if we see some signs of that alliance continuing to emerge.

So let me just move forward in terms of that then, in terms of the significance and interest of that. Let's just summarize what we've just discovered there! So there it is, you see,

Sheba and Dedan and all the merchants of latter day Tyre, Psalm 72, the kings of latter day Tyre and the kings of Sheba, Isaiah 60, 'all they from Sheba shall come, all the ships of latter day Tyre shall come', these are in alliance with Israel at the time of the end, after the manner of Solomon of old is the clear indication of those particular prophecies, we believe! So what's interesting about that is this, I think if we would just try and narrow the line here in terms of what that represents for the latter days; well, we know what Israel represents, I think Tyre represents the Tarshish trading powers, I think they're English speaking (that's not just wishful thinking), that's part of the connection of the group, and by the way, it's the mechanism by which the bible has circulated through that group. That's given them a Protestant Christian ethic as opposed to a Roman Catholic one which is quite different. Also they have Middle East links, so that's the Tyre group of the latter days; they're traders, they're English speaking, they've got Middle East links, and they've got a Protestant Christian ethic, a background that believes in Jesus Christ and in His kingship. And the Sheba group at the time of the end, are the Arabian peninsula powers, they are the moderate Sunni regime opposed to the Shiite regime, they have pro Tarshish stance (that is British) and they're Sunni Islamic because their doctrinal imperative doesn't lead them to require or desire necessarily the destruction of the state of Israel.

Quite interesting when you think about it, in terms of these three groups coming together. You see, at the time of the end when Christ comes, He's going to reconcile Israel and Sheba and Tyre. You know, b&s, Israel believes in a Messiah-king to come and that He'll reign, but they're convinced that it's not Jesus Christ. The Tyre group believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, but they're not sure He's coming at all, and if He is, He's probably not the king of Israel. The Sheba group believe that Jesus is coming and that He's a great prophet but He's not as important as Mohammad, and when Christ comes He's going to reconcile these three different groups and bind them all together, and the funny thing is that strangely, these two groups will be the **first** to join allegiance with Christ, just as they were the first perhaps to declare their allegiance with Solomon. But when Christ comes, He'll reconcile that conflict and they still will be closer to Christ once that's all done, than shall we say the Roman Catholic group are! because this is all part of what line? they're all part of the blue line, aren't

they? this is the group of people who will be supportive of Israel at the time of the end, in alliance with Israel's King. This is all to do with developments concerning the blue line, so let me just walk you through our biblical expectations of what we might reasonably expect in terms of latter day developments from a scriptural perspective.

So here we go! I think we probably continue to expect the increasing separation of the Arab nations into the Kedar group and the Sheba group. (We haven't had time to talk about Kedar, that's another whole study) but I think Kedar is a title that represents the radical spirit of Shiite Islam in the world, these are the ones hostile to Israel! But the Sheba group who are largely Sunni are the ones who will probably end up having some relationship with Israel; I think the Arabs are going to divide into two, that's the bottom line. So therefore, when you've got a prophetic viewpoint that says that the great controversy at the time of the end is the Jews vs Arabs, the first part of the answer would be, 'you can't say that because the Arabs themselves are going to be divided and some of them are going to be with Israel. The Sheba group are going to be with Israel, aren't they? I think so! and the other group, only part of the Arabs are against Israel; so part of them are going to be part of the blue line and part of the Arab community will be within the red line; I think we expect to see that division into the Sunni and Shiite communities growing stronger as time progresses. So the part we're interested in is the Sheba group, the moderate Sunni group.

I think we expect to see the continuing development of the Tarshish-Tyre group in strengthening their trade alliance together. Now there's probably a couple of implications there - long term - that probably means that Britain can't stay in the European Union. What Britain needs to do if these prophecies are to be fulfilled, is to end up trading with their old commonwealth friends again, the young lions' group of nations. The merchants of Tarshish and the young lions thereof, suggest that latter day Tyre won't be trading in the markets of Europe at the time of the end. That's the city of the beast, that's the land of the beast, Britain's not part of that, Britain is part of this group in alliance with the new Solomon to come. So I think there's going to be a change in terms of not only the involvement of Britain in the European Union but perhaps a strengthening of the old commonwealth ties. I think there's going to be a continuing development of the Tarshish-Tyre group in building on the alliance that they have with the Sheba group. I think there's going to be a continuing development of the Tyre-Tarshish group in building an alliance with Israel. Now all of that we know, it's pretty obvious really that the Tyre group is going to be involved with Sheba, Tyre group will be involved with one another, Tyre group will be involved with Israel, now what's the missing part of the puzzle, b&s? What's the missing part of the triangle? I think we're yet to see the Sheba group developing an alliance with Israel.

Now let me show you something interesting with regards to one of those ones previously. If I just take you back to that one there, something interesting that happened about a week or so ago; the NASDAQ stock exchange right here in America has had a slightly expansionary mood for a while and they're wanting to

expand their operating base to other countries. So the NASDAQ stock exchange was seeking to buy 20% of the London stock exchange - now this is the London stock exchange, the mart of the nations, the latter day Tyre, 20% of the London stock exchange! Well the British wouldn't sell it to them, not at least to that young lion; so instead of selling 20% to the NASDAQ stock exchange, they just sold 48% to somebody else. Now who might that be? Well, London sold 48% of its stock exchange to the Dubai and Qatar stock exchanges in the Persian Gulf, that's the Tyre-Sheba alliance. You wouldn't do that unless you have a reasonable closeness, would you? 48% of the London stock exchange gone to Qatar and Dubai and NASDAQ missed out! So I think we're seeing that Sheba group and that Tyre group in strong alliance, and as we said, an alliance, of course, with the Tyre group and Israel, but the one we're really interested in is further developments to complete the triangle in terms of likely developments between Sheba and Israel.

So one thing in that regard is, and I'm reading from the Sunday Times December 3rd, 2006, so not too far ago. What's on the table at the moment with the Arabs is this, driven by the Saudi Arabians. It hasn't been negotiated but it's still sitting on the table, and I think there's an even chance that one day it will, and that's this; what the Saudis said to Israel was this, 'look we're a bit worried about these Shiites to the north, we probably need to do something to come in alliance with you, but we just can't do that until you can do something about this Palestinian state; here's the deal said Saudi Arabia to Israel, if you can negotiate a Palestinian state (Palestina in Gaza, do you think?) if you can find a way to accept the creation of a Palestinian state, we'll bring a peace treaty to the table with Israel and this is who will sign, Jordan (who have already signed a peace treaty anyway with Israel), Egypt will sign (they've already signed with Israel anyway). But in addition to those we'll also sign with Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman, Morocco, Tunisia and the United Arab Emirates.' B&S, if that peace treaty is ever signed you'll have the Tyre-Sheba-Israel alliance in place. Absolutely marvellous! I'm telling you, b&s, when that happens, I think that we can reasonably expect our Lord Jesus Christ is on the way, and the battle of Ezekiel 38 looms large and near, and we should be ready for our Lord.

So let's continue, as we've said all the way through this whole weekend, to be thrilled and satisfied and convinced by the traditional view of prophecy that our brotherhood, our community has long held, and marvel at the way it's being worked out even today. What do we go away with as we marvel at one last thing? the red line and the blue line! There's only ever been two ways, two seeds, two modes of thinking; let's be part of the blue line of the seed of the woman, b&s, let's behave and act and think and practice as if we are part of the seed of the woman community, so that when our Lord comes, He might recognize us as His own.

Hymn 275
Prayer.