



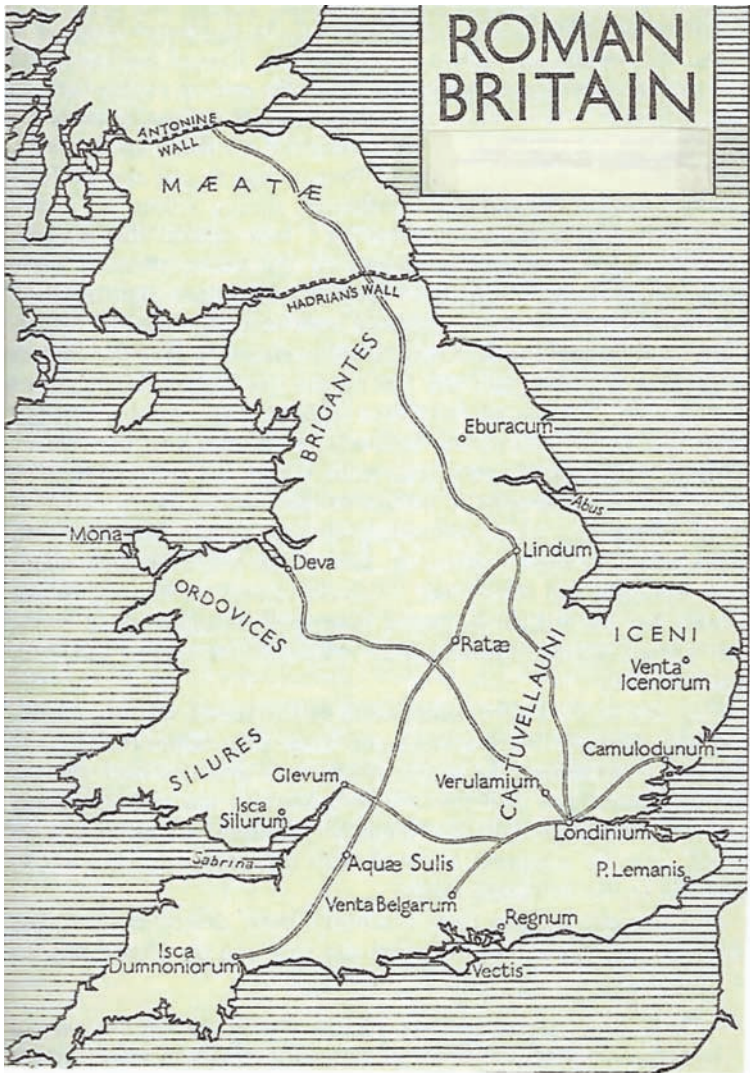
BIBLE LANDS IN BIBLE LIGHT



GOD'S PURPOSE FOR THE  
**BRITISH ISLES**

David McMillan





# God's Purpose for the British Isles

By David McMillan

*'There is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days' (Daniel 2:28)*

It is both an interesting and a humbling fact that the British Isles are not mentioned by name in the Scriptures. There are many great nations that are specifically named in the Bible but the British Isles are not among them.

There are nations such as Iran that were known in Bible times under a different name. The Persia of the Bible is now modern-day Iran. There are also nations that are referred to in the Bible by several names. The names of Babylon, Assyria and Mesopotamia all refer generally to the same area of the earth. There are nations like Ethiopia, which are still familiar to us today but in Bible times they covered a much larger area than they do today.

But by great contrast the British Isles, which are so famous and have been so influential in history are not

spoken of in the Scriptures by name — not even on one occasion! This is true regardless of what historical or regional name is used to refer to this part of the earth. In this context it is important to remember that through the Balfour declaration of 2nd November 1917 the British Isles were influential in bringing about the birth of the modern nation of Israel and the regathering of the Jewish people to the Promised Land, all in fulfilment of Bible Prophecy. But despite this great truth the British Isles are nowhere named in the Bible.

But I want you to be in no doubt that even though the name of the British Isles or its various regions is not recorded in the Word of God, that this does not mean that they are not included in the teaching of the prophetic Scriptures and that we cannot know something of the purpose that God has for them in the future.

As we look back into history it is clear that the influence of the British Isles in shaping European and world history has been very significant. We only have to think of the size and extent of the British Empire at the peak of its power to realise the major part the British Isles have played in world affairs. And as the British Isles have played a part in world history in the

past, so they will have a part to play in the history of the world in the last days and particularly in the future development and reshaping of the European Union.

What does the future hold for the British Isles and especially what does the future hold for these regions as far as their place within Europe is concerned? This is one of the burning questions of the day in which we live. It is a question in which everyone has an interest. Even those who have no love for God or His Word are obsessed with this subject! And as time goes by, this interest will not diminish but it will only increase.

In political circles too, this is a question that evokes great passion and feeling especially following the vote in favour of Brexit taken by the British people on 23rd June 2016. The vote to leave Europe has resulted in renewed calls for Scottish Independence as well as a resurgence for a United Ireland. So, what will the future hold for the British Isles? For many people the way ahead is very unclear and uncertain. They just do not know what will happen or what will be the end of all this unrest and political turmoil that has engulfed our nation and beyond, at this time. But that is not so for the student of Bible prophecy.

The New Testament teaches that, 'We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place' (2 Peter 1:19). In the prophetical Scriptures, God has given a light to guide us in this dark end-time age. Prophecy is history written before the time and in the Bible, God has told us in advance what the history of the end of the age will be like. Especially He has told us about the European Union which is a very prominent subject in Bible prophecy.

Be in no doubt that we are not left to idle speculation as to what will happen because more than two and a half thousand years ago, God revealed to Nebuchadnezzar, the first great King of Babylon, what the European Union would be like and the area it would cover at the end of the age, when the Lord Jesus returns again. Where do you find those details and where are they recorded? The answer is in the book of Daniel especially in chapter two which maps out God's whole plan of Bible prophecy from the days of Nebuchadnezzar until the return of Christ. In the Bible this period of world history is called, 'the Times of the Gentiles' (Luke 21:24).

In his dream, Nebuchadnezzar saw four great Gentile Empires that would dominate the area around the Mediterranean Sea. Those empires were the Babylonians, the Medes and Persians, the Greeks and then finally the Romans. In the dream God revealed to Nebuchadnezzar that the Roman Empire was to be divided into ten regions represented by the ten toes of the image and in other passages by ten horns (Daniel 7:24 and Revelation 17:12). That is something that has never taken place as yet in all the past history of the Roman Empire. Therefore, it is something that is yet to be fulfilled in the future.

In order for these ten regions to appear in the future, the Roman Empire must be revived on the earth. This we believe is currently what is taking place in the coming together of the European Union. Bible prophecy is clearly and powerfully being fulfilled before our very eyes.

Keep in mind that the area covered by the Roman Empire is often described by students of prophecy as the Roman earth or the Prophetic earth. This comes from the Greek word oikoumene which refers

specifically to the area covered by the Roman Empire (cf Luke 2:1). The reason that this region around the Mediterranean Sea is referred to in this way is because this is the area of the earth where the great prophecies relating to the end-time will unfold (Daniel 7:2-3). The Roman earth is a very important area of the world and should be watched carefully by every person who has an interest in knowing what will happen on the earth at the time of the end of this age.

This is where the British Isles fit into Bible prophecy because a major part of the British Isles was a part of the old Roman Empire. It will therefore be very helpful to know, what place did the British Isles have in the old Roman Empire? Also, how much of the British Isles was in the old Roman Empire? These are vital questions, because as there is to be a revival of the Roman Empire before the Lord returns, knowing what part the British Isles played in the Roman Empire in the past will help us to see and understand what part they will play in Europe in the future.

Although Julius Caesar had invaded Britain on two occasions before the birth of our Saviour, it was not



conquered by the Romans until the reign of the Emperor Claudius, who is named twice in the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 11:28 and 18:2).

The Roman name for this province was 'Britannia' - a name that is still well known and much used today. The patriotic song 'Rule Britannia' is still sung, especially in England, with great passion. There are images of Britannia on coins, bank notes, stamps, statues, watermarks, and awards. The names for both the days of the week and the months of the year that we still use are all Roman in origin. All these things remind us of a great fact that is often overlooked. They remind us that part of this country was once a Roman province and that the influence of the Romans in this land remains and continues to shape this land to this very day.

It is important before going any further to make it very clear that the Roman Empire that will be revived on the earth at the time of the end will cover the same area as it did two thousand years ago. It will not cover a different area of the earth. It will occupy the same region around the Mediterranean Sea. How can we be

certain about that fact? The answer is found in the prophetic Scriptures. It is helpful to be familiar with the history of the Roman Empire and there are many lessons to learn from that knowledge. But we do not make history our prophetic compass. In Daniel chapter two the feet and the toes are from the same image, not a different one. That means that the same Roman Empire that was on the earth two millenniums ago will be revived and divided into ten regions; including the relevant areas of the British Isles.

Therefore, as the Roman Empire was on the earth in the days when the Lord Jesus came the first time, so it will be on the earth bearing great sway when He comes again the second time. The fact is that we live in momentous days because the old Roman Empire is now being revived before our eyes in the formation of the European Union.

The specific point in the long history of the Roman Empire that is to be revived was when the Empire reached its greatest extent under Trajan, who was emperor between AD 98 and 117. Why this particular period? Because this is when the Empire extended

furthest to the east and it was only then that Babylon was included within its jurisdiction. Babylon is so important because it holds a vital place in the events of the time of the end (cf Revelation chapters 17 to 19). So it will be when the European Union occupies again the same region that was ruled over by Trajan that the ten kingdoms will appear.

In this context it is vital to understand that there will be a lot of changes that will take place in Europe as a whole and especially in the British Isles before the European Union reaches its final form and the ten regions of the Roman Empire are established on the prophetic earth. These changes will be far reaching, causing great political turmoil, especially for the British Isles, as they will ultimately involve the break-up of the union of the United Kingdom.

Because of the close links between the regions of the British Isles the changes that will take place will in many ways be connected. A detailed outline of the changes to be expected in the whole of Europe before the Roman Empire is to be fully revived are set out by Mr B W Newton in his classic book, 'Prospects of the





Ten Kingdoms, especially in the third chapter, 'Changes to be expected.' But let me briefly outline for you some of the future changes that we are expecting to see in the British Isles:

### **(1) Independence.**

During the Brexit election campaign there was a call for Election Day on 23rd June 2016 to be 'Independence Day' for the United Kingdom. Those who were campaigning for Britain to leave Europe were campaigning for the nation to be independent of Europe.

There is no doubt that the future will bring independence from Europe but not for all of the British Isles. The major division that exists among people all over the British Isles on the subject of Europe, will ultimately result in the break-up of the Union and different regions going in different directions politically.

In recent years there has been an increasing movement for an independent Scotland. There has been one failed referendum for Scottish independence in 2014 and already there is much talk about, and lobbying for, a second independence referendum.

But contrary to what Scottish Nationalists are presently campaigning for, the future will bring what we could describe as double independence for Scotland because they will be independent from both the United Kingdom and Europe. Most of Scotland was never conquered by the Romans and at no time was it part of the old Roman Empire. Therefore, it cannot be part of the revived Roman Empire.

But in addition to an independent Scotland there will also be an independent Ireland. The clear fact is that Ireland was known to the Romans as Hibernia or Scotia Major and the Irish also did business with the Romans but at no time was Ireland, either north or south, a part of the Roman Empire. This means that at some time in the future two significant things will take place. One is that Ireland will probably be united politically and the other is that the whole island will be united in their decision to leave the European Union.

There are many who would refuse even to consider such a possibility, even many Christians. To them this is the ultimate political anathema. The idea of a united Ireland outside of the United Kingdom for many is just unthinkable.

But it is vital to keep in mind that in our understanding of all God's purposes, including our understanding of future events, we must be guided not by political principles or aspirations, however precious they are to us; but we must ever be guided by, and subject to, the teaching of the Word of God.

This will mean that at the time of the end, Scotland and Ireland will not be part of the Ten Kingdoms and therefore will not be in the Kingdom of Antichrist and will not be under his rule or persecution when he arises on the earth.

## **(2) Inclusion.**

The regions of the British Isles that will be included in the revived Roman Empire will be England and Wales, as it was these regions that formed the old Roman Province of Britannia. The great question that has dominated British politics in recent years has been, will Britain be in or out of Europe? Whatever events unfold in future days one thing is certain that at the time of the end, England and Wales will be in the final formation of the European Union and we expect old Britannia to be one of the final Ten Kingdoms which are to be formed.



But even though these regions of Britain will be included in the European Union at the end of the age they will not be a major influence in Europe. Keep in mind that in the future the great financial and commercial centre of Europe will not be in the west but in the east. The financial centres of Europe will move from London and Germany to Shinar or modern-day Iraq. That will mean, among other things, that Britain's influence and power will be greatly weakened and Iraq's, by contrast, will be greatly strengthened (cf Zechariah Chapter 5).

Also, the seat of the antichrist will not be in the west but in the east. It will not be in Rome but in Babylon. One of the titles in the Scriptures of the antichrist is 'king of Babylon' and it is from there that he will exercise his rule and authority (Isaiah 14:4). Therefore, geographically Britain could not be further from what will then be the centre of European government. Britain in those end-time days may well be just a little region on the edge of Europe with very little influence. Keep in mind a very significant fact that will greatly weaken Britain's position in Europe in

the last days; and that is that Britain will be the only one of the final ten regions of the European Union that will not border on the Mediterranean Sea.

### **(3) Increase.**

A fact that we cannot be dogmatic about but which is worthy of our consideration and should be included in this study, is that the area of Britain that will be within Europe at the end will be slightly larger than the area presently described as, and occupied by, England and Wales. And this increase in size of the European region of Britain will come about at the expense of Scotland. The independent Scotland that will be outside the European Union in the final years of this age will be a Scotland that is smaller in size than it is presently.

The northernmost border of the Roman Empire was the Antonine Wall which was located almost one hundred miles north of Hadrian's Wall and ran between the Firth of Forth and the Firth of Clyde. The region between the Antonine Wall and Hadrian's Wall was conquered by the Romans and formed part of the old Roman Province of Britannia. It is very possible that this will be so again in the future. The southern part of

Scotland may vote to stay within Europe and therefore stay within Britain; when at the same time the northern part of the country, what the Romans called 'Caledonia,' will vote to both leave the United Kingdom and the European Union!

Let me remind you that Scotland will not be unique in this regard as far as European nations will be concerned because the most of Northern Germany was not in the old Roman Empire. So that strong and proud nation will also undergo great future changes that will divide the nation; not with a border which will divide east from west, as the Berlin Wall once did; but a border that will divide the nation between north and south. Therefore, the Germany of the end will be a nation changed, weakened and divided with only a small southern part of the current nation still within Europe. So it will be with Scotland. Taking into account the current friction that exists between England and Scotland and especially the English and Scottish governments, this will be a most remarkable development.

These are the main changes that we expect to see in the British Isles as Europe is reshaped by the Revival of the old Roman Empire.

We know that it will be strongly argued by some that these sort of changes are impossible and will never take place, especially when you take into account that the current desires of the people in some of these regions is the very opposite to what we are suggesting. For example, Scotland and Ireland at present want to stay within the European Union.

There are also those who will laugh at these ideas and even openly mock the thought of such changes taking place. Peter warned of those who would mock and say, 'Where is the promise of His coming?' (2 Peter 3:4). The whole doctrine of the second coming of Christ is mocked by the world and we should not be surprised if they will mock when particular areas of that doctrine are set out in detail.

Think of a river winding through the countryside and it turns one way and then the other. Sometimes it turns back on itself and flows in the opposite direction and even at times looks to be heading in the wrong direction. Yet all the while it is flowing onward and forward towards its destination.

That is what Bible prophecy is like as it unfolds. The history of nations and continents turn one way and then the other when, by the Sovereign hand of God, events

unfold. At times it seems that what is happening is the very opposite of what we expect but all the while God's prophetic purposes are steadily moving forward towards their final destination, which is the consummation of this age in the coming again of the Saviour.

There are two things that are needed especially in the study of Bible Prophecy. One is **faith** to believe what God has said in His Word. We may not fully understand what God has said and we may not fully see how it will take place or come to pass; but if God has said it then we need faith to believe that it will happen. We all need to pray with the apostles, 'Lord, Increase our faith' (Luke 17:5), especially asking the Lord to increase our faith in His prophetic Word.

The other thing that is needed in the study of prophecy is **patience**. We live in a very impatient society when everything must happen instantly and immediately. But remember God is not in a hurry. Peter teaches this important Truth when he said, 'But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day' (2 Peter 3:8). God is not in a hurry with regard to events unfolding and taking place.

Keep in mind that it has taken Europe over sixty years to get to its current state of development. Therefore, we need great patience to wait on God's time for the prophecies to be fulfilled. The Scripture exhorts us, 'though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry' (Habakkuk 2:3). Paul said to the Hebrew Christians, 'ye have need of patience' (Hebrews 10:36). That is especially true in the study of prophecy. Current political circumstances may not seem to favour the sort of changes we have suggested but if we wait patiently then in God's appointed time the events will fall into place.

So let us pray that God will give us the faith to believe and the patience to wait on His purposes for the British Isles being fulfilled.

### **Booklets in this series:**

‘God’s Purpose for the British Isles’

by David McMillan.

‘God’s Purpose for Egypt’ by Harold J Gamston.

‘God’s Purpose for Gaza’ by Ivan Foster.

‘God’s Purpose for Greece’ by Ivan Foster.

‘God’s Purpose for Iran’ by Paul Toms.

‘God’s Purpose for Iraq’ by John Douglas.

‘God’s Purpose for Israel’ –

(Past) by Richard Monteith

(Future) by David Park.

‘God’s Purpose for Jordan’ by Brian Green.

‘God’s Purpose for Lebanon’ by Ian Shaw.

‘God’s Purpose for Libya’ by Brian McClung.

‘God’s Purpose for Syria’ by Stephen A Toms.

---

The Quarterly Magazine of the Sovereign Grace  
Advent Testimony is entitled ‘Watching and Waiting.’

Booklets and copies of the magazine are obtainable  
from the secretary - Mr Stephen A Toms  
1 Donald Way, Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 9JB.

# GOD'S PURPOSE FOR THE BRITISH ISLES

God has a lot to say about nations which were in the old Roman Empire; and in 2012 a series of meetings was held considering many such countries, so that particular thought should be given to what the Bible tells us of the future. This booklet has been added to that series of messages. The reason why the Lord has told us so much is because He would have us to understand His purpose for the earth.



ISBN 978-0-900691-96-6



Sovereign Grace Advent Testimony 2018.