

Locating Britain and America in the Last Days

Frequently people ask where Britain and America feature in the last days. This question can be answered by identifying Tarshish in ancient times.

Britain was known as “the tin isles” or “Cassiterides” in ancient times because of the extensive tin mines at Cornwall on the south-west tip of Britain. Other minerals were mined in nearby Wales.

There are many myths associated with the city of Troy and one is that at one stage more than 30 boatloads of Trojans escaped their attackers and sailed around the Mediterranean coast line eventually ending in Britain.

Scripture says a great deal about the “ships of Tarshish” and “merchants of Tarshish” in ancient times and indicates that the ships of Tarshish will suffer in the Tribulation before Christ returns (Isa.2:16). The Bible links “the merchants of Tarshish and the young lions thereof” (Ezek.38:13) with “Sheba and Dedan” (Arabia) in the last days.

There is no doubt that Javan settled in Greece and that the Greeks spread around the Mediterranean. Herodotus who was known as the “father of ancient history” and wrote about 450BC, places Tarshish **beyond the Pillars of Hercules** on either side of the Straits of Gibraltar.

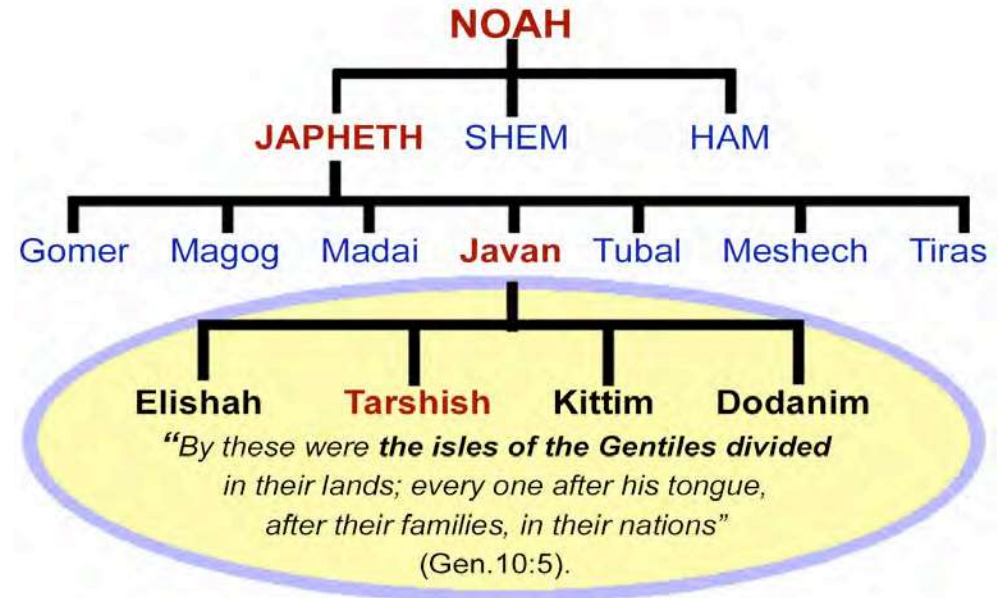
Ezekiel states that the ships of Tarshish brought all manner of metals to the markets of Tyre:

“Tarshish was thy merchant by reason of the multitude of all kind of riches; with silver, iron, tin, and lead, they traded in thy fairs” (Ezek.27:12).

Many Bible maps show Spain as the location of Tarshish but Spain is not an “isle of the Gentiles” and never had extensive tin deposits. Spain had copper and the “tin trail” from Britain enabled them to mix tin from Britain with copper to make bronze.

The mythical city of Tartessus has never been found and the mining town in Spain called, Tharsis, did not exist before the 19th century when a British mining company began to operate the mines there. Tharsis is not a Spanish word and it is more likely that the British mining company so named the town after Britain.

A full treatment of this subject may be found on the Herald of Hope Web Site: www.heraldofhope.org.au/resources/articles



God's Covenant People - Israel

God is a covenant-keeping God and binds Himself by immutable promises to keep His Word. The six covenants recorded in Scripture are as follows:

1) **The Noahaic covenant** is the first of these covenants in Scripture. It was made with the human race immediately after the Flood. God made an "everlasting covenant" with all mankind that He would never again destroy the world with a global flood. The rainbow was given as a token to remind us of His promise.

2) **The Abrahamic covenant** was made when God called Abram out of Ur of the Chaldees and it extended to his seed for ever. Under the Abrahamic Covenant, the land of Canaan from the Euphrates to the River of Egypt, was given as an everlasting possession to Abraham and his seed.

The Abrahamic Covenant was an unconditional Covenant, i.e. it was not dependent on conditions fulfilled by Abraham or his seed. On this basis the land belongs to God who has given the rights of possession to Israel. God told Abram: "All the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed FOR EVER" (Gen.13:15). A special relationship is established under this covenant: God will bless those who bless Abraham and his seed, and curse those who curse Abraham and his seed.

3) **The Sinaitic covenant** was made with the nation of Israel shortly after they passed through the Red Sea to escape from Egypt. This was a conditional covenant and God promised blessing IF they obeyed the voice of the Lord (Exod.24:1-8). The priesthood, the sacrifices, feasts, and many regulations were prescribed. The **Priestly Covenant** with Phinehas is an extension of this covenant (Num.25:12-13).

4) **The Palestinian covenant** was established just before Israel entered the promised land (Deut.28 to 30). It is a conditional covenant and sets forth the conditions under which Israel can enjoy the land given to them under the Abrahamic covenant. It states three things:

i) If Israel obeys the Lord they would be **blessed in the land**; their enemies would flee before them; the land would be fruitful and they would multiply (Deut.28:1-13).

ii) If Israel turned away from the Lord, God would bring all the curses of the Law upon them and they would be **scattered out of the land**. The two dispersions by the Babylonians and the Romans are prophetically enshrined in the covenant (Deut.28:36 and 52).

iii) If after Israel has been scattered among the nations, the people turned back to the Lord, then God would gather them "from all the nations whither the Lord thy God hath scattered thee" (Deut.30:3). Israel would be **returned to the land** and curses would then come upon her enemies.

5) **The Davidic covenant** was made with David when he was anointed King of Israel with the promise that there would never lack for a man to sit upon the throne. Though the throne ceased with Zedekiah (Ezek.21:25-27), David's genealogy was preserved until Christ came (Matthew ch.1 and Luke ch.3) and will be restored for Him to reign at the second advent (Acts 15:13-18).

6) **The New covenant** based on Christ's sacrifice, will be made with Israel when Israel turns to the Lord in the Last Days. The Church partakes "of the root and fatness of the olive tree" (Israel) (Rom.11:17). We enjoy the spiritual blessings of the covenant but Israel will also enjoy material blessings.



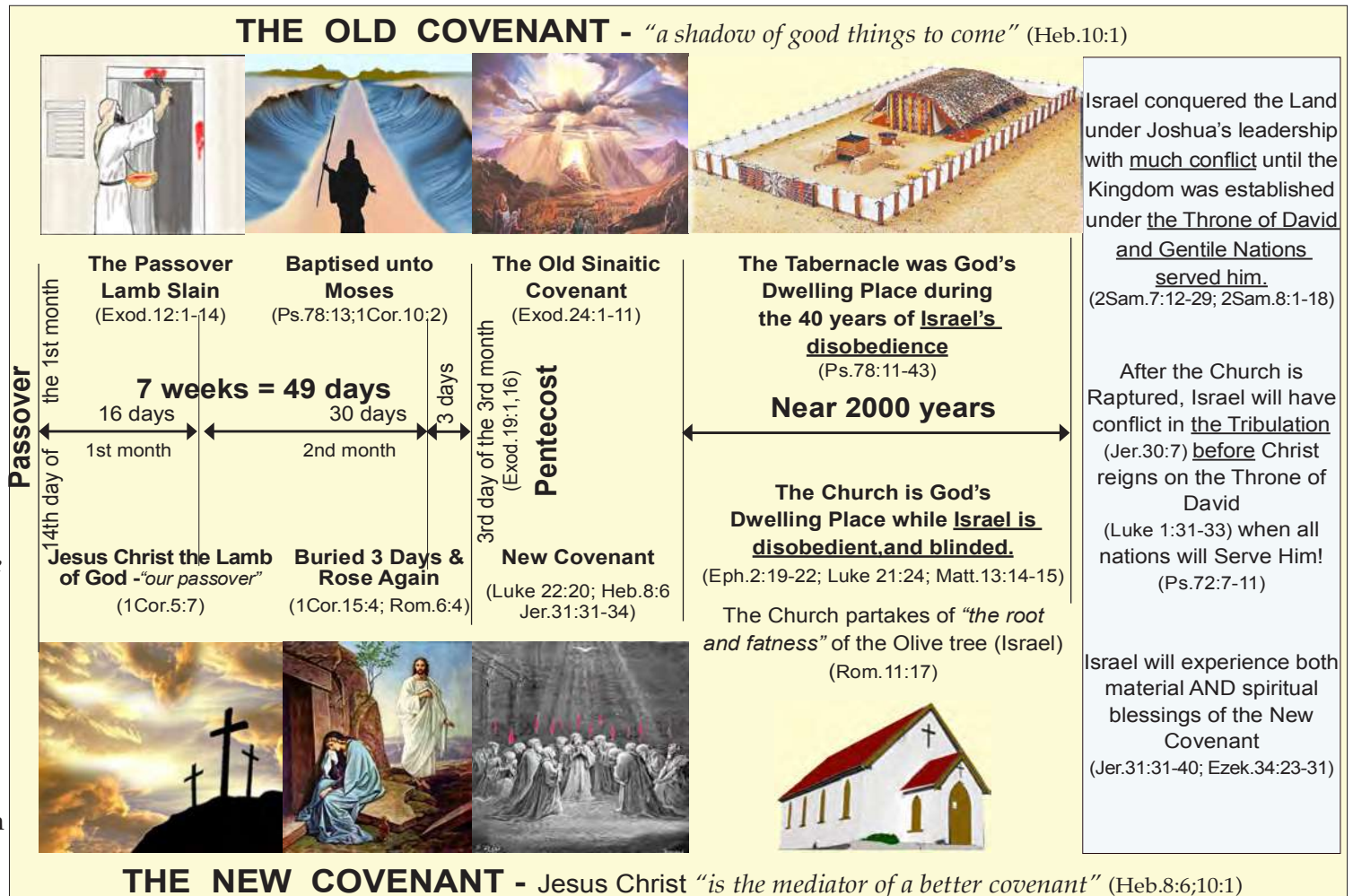
The Old Covenant a Shadow of the New Covenant

History repeats itself for God is working providentially in history. Events that occurred in the Old Testament are a shadow of future events. This is clearly seen in the typology of the Old Testament where for example, the life of Joseph was a 'type' or shadow of future events. Joseph was hated of his brethren; loved by his father; sent by his father to his own people Israel; betrayed and sold by his brethren to Gentiles; raised up from the dungeon to sit on the throne; gathered in a great harvest for seven years from the Gentiles during which time he took a Gentile Bride. In the second year of a world-wide dearth, He was restored to fellowship with his brethren and preserved his brethren through the dearth.

The entire life of Joseph foreshadowed the Lord Jesus and His relationship with His own people Israel: Jesus was sent by the Father, rejected by His brethren; sold for 30 pieces of silver; buried and raised to sit on the throne where He is now gathering a harvest which is His Gentile Bride, the Church, seen prophetically in the seven churches of Asia. In the seven years of global Tribulation, Christ will be restored to His brethren and reign over them in the millennial kingdom. In the book of Hebrews chapter 10 and verse 1 we read: *"For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect."*

Similarly, Israel's history has been and will be repeated. They slew the passover lamb; baptised (buried) unto Moses in the Red Sea (1Cor.10:2); came into a covenant relationship with God who came down with fire on Sinai after 49 days; spent the next 40 years wandering in disobedience until

a period of great conflict led by Joshua after which they served the Lord and King David while Gentiles bowed before the throne of David. This is a shadow of Israel that slew Christ the passover Lamb; He was buried and rose again and sent the Holy Spirit like tongues of fire at Pentecost. Disobedient Israel (Ps.78) has wandered for 2,000 years. After the Rapture of the Church, Israel will be restored to Messiah and preserved in Great Tribulation (Zech.12:6; Rev.12). Christ will return and the Gentiles will bow before the throne of David (Luke 1:32-33).



Chronology of the Patriarchs

