**THE NETHERLANDS IDENTIFIED**

by

Art F. Verschoor\*

I

n the first book of the Bible, in Genesis 30:20, the birth of Zebulun is recorded. Zebulun is the youngest of six sons of the patriarch Jacob and his wife Leah, who commented after Zebulun’s birth: *"God has endued me with a good dowry, now will my husband dwell with me, because I have born him six sons, and she called him ZEBULUN."*Names were very important in Biblical times and we can learn much about the hidden information of Zebulon in connection with the name and the dwelling place of his progeny.



**The Dwelling That Hooks Up Water**

The Netherlands, frequently incorrectly referred to as ‘Holland’, comprises of 12 provinces, two of which carry the nomenclature ‘Holland”; they are the provinces of South Holland and North Holland. These two provinces cover most of the country’s Western coastline of the North Sea. The Netherlands major cities The Hague, Rotterdam and Amsterdam are located in these two provinces. As a result of their commercially strategic locations, the provinces of North Holland and South Holland have always played a major role in the country’s history. However, the correct name of the country is The Netherlands, meaning The Lowlands. Its people are Dutch and they speak Dutch. There is no country called Holland but there are two provinces South and North Holland. The Netherlands is a kingdom and is called the Kingdom of the Netherlands, headed by the Royal Family of the House of Orange.

The Dutch have been famous for their interiors throughout the ages, claiming to have invented interior decoration. Famous Dutch paintings of the 16th and 17th centuries show a *Binnenhuis* (interior of a house) and its unique atmosphere, of which the highly emancipated Dutch woman is the centre. Painters like Rembrandt van Rhyn, Pieter de Hoogh and Johannes Vermeer painted rich Dutch family scenes and interiors with light streaming through stained glass windows, colouring the white and black tiles, the decorated walls, carved oak, beautiful china, copper utensils and magnificent flower arrangements. They painted step gabled houses with winding staircases (a Dutch invention) along clean Dutch canals. Dutch family dwellings were later copied by other countries like Denmark, South Africa and the early settlers in America.

The Dutch are renowned for their home making. They like large windows. Going through the Netherlands by train at night gives the traveller an impression of homeliness and life in the Dutch dwellings that are different from dwellings in other European countries because they have to build *"elevated houses."*Their houses are all built on sand; clay or swampy ground, there is no rock sub-strata underneath the topsoil in the Netherlands. To overcome this problem, buildings and houses are built on piles. The entire city of Amsterdam has been built on piles; it is, in fact an elevated city with a Dutch ancient dwelling-culture, yet still below sea level.

Approximately 2500 dwellings are located in so-called house boats on the canals of Amsterdam. One of the Dutch royal princes lives in one of them.

**WINDMILLS SUCKING WATER BY WINDPOWER**

What is more Dutch than the sight of a working windmill in a flat green Dutch landscape? Although those who have studied the history of the windmill have traced it back to Medo Persia , Zebulun, as one of the ten tribes of Israel, was deported to the area now known as The Netherlands - the Dutch have refined the buildings and engineering of the windmill from at least as far back as 1200 A.D. The invention of the water-windmill for drainage purposes, with the screw action lifting or as the Bible refers to it as*"hooking"* the water from a lower to a higher level, is exclusively Dutch.

In addition to this, the variety of windmills in the Netherlands is greater than anywhere else in the world. The wind powers their age old wooden engines to produce flour, spice and oil, the wind powers the grinders and sawmills, but most importantly, the wind powers them to keep the below sea-level countryside dry. In the golden 17th century, the Netherlands had thousands of turning windmills driven by the prevailing west wind, sucking and sighing harder through its sails, making the wheels to turn faster and more efficiently.

It has often been said that *"God created the world, the Dutch created The Netherlands."* To this day many Dutch engineers are consulted to give advice on drainage projects throughout the world. Prof. Ch. Wilson devoted a whole chapter in his book *The Dutch Republic* to the land areas that have been reclaimed from the sea by the Dutch in Western Europe and England from the 13th to the 17th centuries. For instance, the Royal Park at Windsor, the Lincoln and Cambridge Fens, parts of Kent, Somerset, East Anglia, but also parts of France, Italy and Germany have been reclaimed from the sea by the Dutch. The Dutch are experts at growing crops on reclaimed land and how to remove excess salt from the soil.

*"At the same time"* according to Wilson, *"the famous breed of Friesian cattle was making its appearance in Britain. Mortimer, writing in 1707, remarked that “the long legged short horned cow of the Dutch breed found in Lincolnshire and Kent was the best breed for milking."*

Bible prophesies record that Zebulun would live at the seashore. Unlike other regions in the world, the Dutch don't possess a single local stone, rock or boulder! All their houses had to be built from clay, which they, like the Israelites of old in Egypt, baked (they had their own factories as testified by innumerable *'Roman'* tiles that have been found in the Scheldt area; or, as some ancient farms show, they built from wattle and daub, a skill which was exported under the names of *"Belgium"* into Somerset in Britain. The Lowlanders could never dwell in caves, because they do not exist in the Netherlands.

There is not a single rock formation in the Netherlands, and there is hardly any danger due to the almost stagnant waters and the small differences in tides. Moreover, the Dutch Flanders's coast is the longest range of natural dunes without rocks in the world, consisting of some 170 miles, of which the Netherlands form two thirds, while the remainder are man-made dykes.

**DUTCH PILERS**

A piler *("heier")* is a very ancient skilled job in The Netherlands.  All the foundations of most Dutch houses are piles that have been hammered deep into the ground. From prehistoric times the Lowlanders have been very advanced in building houses on piles along quays and roads. Dutch engineers were often asked for advice and actually built castles and estates in watery areas like Fuenen in Denmark (Egeskov) and in England near the Thames, Yarmouth and the Cambridge Fens, just to name a few.

The Dutch have always been renowned for building dwellings in watery areas and alongside harbours, ditches, quays and seashores. The blessings given to Zebulun refer to them as dwelling at the seashore – whereas the original area of the tribe Zebulun in the land of Israel was landlocked.

**ZEBULUN'S SYMBOL IS A SHIP**

*"Zebulun shall be a haven of ships"*. The Hebrew word for ship is *aniah*. It means ship, but also fleet, conveyance, galley, navy.

Unconsciously the Dutch tourist offices advertise precisely what Zebulun prophesied he would be doing. They show people living in windmills sucking water, being shown as blond cheese heads milking their Friesian cows or making cheese and butter in some fancy national costume, with Dutch tulips in their hands. Indeed, modern export propaganda and exploitation of past Dutch folklore still mirrors a strange parallel with Zebulun.

**THE DUTCH ARE "SUCKERS" AND "MILKERS". ROTTERDAM, LARGEST WORLD PORT**

Speaking about haven in modern parlance, The Netherlands has the largest port in the world within its borders, the *"Rotterdam Europoort"* It has surpassed London, New York and Hamburg. It is the premier port of the European Community. The name itself, *"Europoort"* is the Dutch abbreviated word for *"gate of Europe."* It is a reminder that Israel, living on the Isles of the West, will possess the (sea) gates of their enemies, as prophesied in Genesis 22:17; 24:60.

Near Rotterdam is the confluence of the international rivers the Rhine and the Meuse. According to ancient legend it was Ratherius in 90 A.D. who founded Rotterdam, being a descendant of the Royal Trojans, who again claimed to belong to the tribe of Judah. (see Rev.W.M. H. Milner's *The Royal House of Britain an enduring dynasty,*13th edition 1964, Covenant Books, London).

The identification of one of Israel's tribes with a specific country and a specific nation is not new. At Hoorn, a city north of Amsterdam, there are three 17th century step-gabled houses with a decorated frieze showing the battle of the Dutch at Hoorn against the Spanish Admiral Bossu. The houses are now called Bossu Huizen with inscriptions stating that the people of the Netherlands identify themselves with Israel and the Spanish with Amalek, who is portrayed as Israel's antagonist in the Bible.

One inscription reads in Old Dutch:

*"0, loffebike daed, O! schoone guide tijden. Wie dat er aen gedenckt, die moet hem nog verblijden, Het land dat schut, en beeft, den viland die komt aen, Hil wil met Amelak gantsch Israel verslaen,Hij koomt met groote magt, maer Godt heett ons gegeven Ook arons ende hurs wiens namen ziln geschreven."*

Translation: "Oh glorious deed, oh golden times, whoever thinks of them is rejoicing still, the land that shakes and trembles, the enemy is nearing fast, he will with Amalek defeat aIl Israel. He comes with greatest might. But God has given us Aarons, even Hurs, whose names are written."

In that*"golden"* 17th century, after the Dutch had won the 80 year battle for religious freedom, they were conscious of being literally Israel. They were enlightened Bible readers. The 17th century *"Chronicle of Zealand"* by Smallegange, shows how historians in those days were convinced that the early inhabitants of the Netherlands, the Batavians, the Frisians, the Menapians and others were descended from the Hebrews.

**DEBORAH'S BLESSING TO ZEBULUN: WIELDING THE PEN OF THE WRITER**

A woman, being a judge in Israel, is singing her prophecy regarding the children of Zebulun, now being free and at home in their Promised Land. The Zebulunites had received a portion of the land by lot and they had taken an active part in the fight to throw off the tyranny of Jabin the Canaanite, for which battle Deborah, the woman judge, had summoned 10,000 Zebulunites of whom she declared:

*"Zebulun's men risked their lives to death."* - (Judges 5:18) and

*"Come to me with Zebulun wielding the writer's pen"* - (Judges 5:14).

This means handling the pen of the writer, or skilled in writing. However these Hebrew words still have another meaning. The *"pen"* is here literally *"a branched stick or scion for punishing,"* (Strong Concordance) for writing, for fighting, for ruling. It was especially used in this sense to inscribe, to recount, to number. The word used here is *"sepher,"* which is known in the Bible as the word for a book or a scroll.

It is therefore obviously associated with the means for producing books and printing letters.

**THE NETHERLAND'S SHIP OF STATE**

The arms of the seven provinces are on the side of the ship which has the Bible on its prow. The words (by William the Silent) in the circle are: *"Quiet in the midst of the roaring waves"*

At The Bottom

"In all pressure and mourning

Offer each other the hand.

Be faithful in everything

God's Church and the Fatherland."

**THE DUTCH CLAIM THE INVENTION OF THE PRINTED WORD**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| http://www.ensignmessage.com/images/printedword.jpg | Prior to the Middle Ages, the Lowlands were already renowned for their beautifully calligraphic breviaries on parchment. What became the means of producing books since the 14th century? Small *"branched off*" sticks of lead and moulds of letters! Movable letters of tin and lead, still used by printers to this day. It was a far reaching and revolutionary invention to obtain the means for the printing of books.  It would lead up to the freedom of the printed word and availability of the Bible to the common citizen. The first English bible was printed in Amsterdam. Zebulun was to be blessed with the skill of numbering *"branched off"*  sticks or letters. Here is the strange parallel: For ages this has been a controversial historical question, and it is still generally accepted in the Anglo Saxon world that it was a German, Gutenberg, who invented the printing press; however, the Dutch have always disputed this on incontrovertible evidence and recent discoveries in Germany give even more credit to the Dutch claim! |

The following is the Dutch account which every Dutch pupil has been taught at school to be the truth! In the city of Haarlem there is a statue in the centre of the market place of a man with a letter block in his hand. On the stone is inscribed:

1440 A.D. *"Typographiae letteris mobilibus a metallo fusis inventor,"* translated: ‘the inventor of the art of printing with movable letters, made of cast metal.’

Laurens Janszoon Coster, of the city of Haarlem, after having invented this primitive way of printing with lead types was robbed of his invention in 1440 A.D. by his servant Jan, who fled with it to Mainz in Germany, where it eventually came into the hands of Gutenberg, who seems to have refined the method and produced the famous Gutenberg Bible in 1448.

**THE NETHERLANDS HAS ALWAYS BEEN A HAVEN FOR THE FREEDOM OF THE PRINTED WORD**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| There is a remarkable combination of Jacob's blessing to Zebulun, of being a haven and Moses' words of *"being blessed in thy going out with joy"* and Deborah's prophecy that Zebulun's talent for the *"sepher,"* the book, will be blessed. The Dutch have been and still are greatly blessed in finding new methods of printing. During the 15th and 18th centuries they were the leading nation. According to the *Encyclopaedia*  (vol. 18, 1960 Edition) *"Even England was completely dependent on the Dutch for type"*  Colour printing and the latest methods of photo-type have been developed in the Netherlands. Orders for the highest quality of art -printing from all over the world are being placed by the United States and Great Britain. This also draws a far sighted parallel with the *"light"*prophecy for Zebulun. | http://www.ensignmessage.com/images/printedword2.jpg |

**ISAIAH'S PROPHECY FOR THE LAND OF ZEBULUN AND THE LIGHT IN THE NETHERLANDS**

In the midst of judgement there is the promise and the certainty of the Lord's deliverance; there shall be no gloom for her who was in anguish. *In the former time the Lord brought into contempt the land of Zebulun ... but in latter time He will make it glorious, by the way of the sea ... The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in the land of intense darkness and the shadow of death, upon them light shines ...* (Isaiah 9:1)

This reminds us of the fact that the land of Zebulun in latter days became part of Galilee. The prophet is having two visions simultaneously. He sees the depopulated wasteland of Zebulun west of the river Jordan, where one day the Messiah will walk. He also sees the Zebulunites, afflicted by the sea in a land of dimness and darkness, seeing light.

**THE LOWLANDS AFFLICTED BY THE SEA**

Is there a country in the western world that has had so many disastrous floods since times immemorial as the Netherlands? There are no regularly rising rivers here as in India, but sudden afflictions by a roaring and thundering North Sea attacking the land and its people. There have been dramatic disasters, one of them the so-called *"Kimbrian flood"*. More recently, in 1953, the land was afflicted more grievously. These events were obviously not applicable to Zebulun's land in Israel, which never bordered on the sea in Biblical times. Orthodox Dutch fishermen and farmers at the latest disastrous breach of dykes cited this very verse of Isaiah when whole families in the province of Zeeland were drowned in the sea; fifteen hundred in the night of 1st of February 1953. They were a people that had fled in darkness to the top of their houses from where they witnessed the towering waves running towards them. *"In the land of shadow and death, upon them light has shined."* To those among the Dutch who remember these events, they are the people of whom Isaiah spoke.

**THE STRANGE PARALLEL BECOMES A TRUE PARALLEL**

The Netherlands, country of light, has to be cleansed first from its sickness in order to become Zebulun, the dwelling of the elevated. It is true that destruction will come by fire to many parts of the earth; the atmosphere will be so dim and dark that the sun will be blackened. When these events are occurring, the Bible states: *"go into your dwellings and wait."*There will be light inside. There will be light in each inner home that has been cleansed. As it was in Moses' time when Egypt sat in darkness, while the Israelites were surrounded by the Shekinah light, so it will be in times to come. Zebulun will see the light first. Those in the Netherlands, who are aware that this strange parallel is a true one, will behave as children of Zebulun. Being cleansed, they will dwell safely, and they will receive the grace of seeing the return of the Light.

**A RISEN LOWlAND, AN ELEVATED ZEBULUN, INDWELLED BY LIGHT**

What then of these people, these north western Europeans living in the flat lands of The Netherlands? Are they descended through the ages from the tribe of Zebulun? If they be of Zebulun, then they are of Israel. Down the long corridors of time, beyond the 21st century, the prophets foresaw a wondrous future for Zebulun, as Isaiah foretold, they would see the LIGHT FIRST."

Will that LIGHT first appear in the nation of Zebulun, at the border of the sea? Then it will enable them to CALL THE NATIONS (of Israel) to the mount. That word MOUNTAIN has also a deeper meaning of PROMOTION - Promotion of' *"a company of nations"*.



**Dutch National Emblem "I will maintain"**

We are heirs of the Father; we are joint heirs with the Son. We are children of the Kingdom. We are a family, we are ONE.

© A.F. Verschoor

\*Authors note: I have been greatly assisted with details for this article by Helena Koppejan, author of the book: “A Strange Parallel” and script author of the film by the same title.