Did Cruden believe in British-Israelism? Note the portions where he mentions Israel and in particular:

“May the great God be the guide of your life, and direct and prosper you, that it may be said by the present and future ages, that King

George the Third hath been an Hezekiah to **our British Israel.**”

Regards,

Craig

4 March 2017

According to Wikipedia

"Cruden presented the first edition of his work on 3 November 1737 to Queen Caroline (wife of George II); but she died some days later without rewarding Cruden, who had to go into debt to finance the printing. The second edition of the Concordance was dedicated to King George III and presented to him in person on 21 December 1761; the King awarded Cruden £100 for his efforts. The third edition was published in 1769. After the slow success of the first edition, the second and third made Cruden considerable profit."

Here is what he wrote in the foreword:

TO THE KING.

SIRE,

THIS CONCORDANCE was begun with a design to promote the study and knowledge of the holy Scriptures, and the method taken therein is deemed by competent judges to be the best towards a complete Concordance that hath hitherto appeared in our language. It is acknowledged to be an useful book to private Christians who search the Scriptures, and to be very necessary for all the Preachers of the Gospel: Therefore to whom can this new Edition be more properly offered than to your Majesty, now in the beginning of your reign,

having already manifested a great regard to religion, and an earnest concern for promoting it among your subjects.

All other books are of little or no importance in comparison of the holy Scriptures, which are a revelation

from God, and are given as the only rule of faith and practice. If the kings of Israel were required not only

« to read tlie law of Moses all the days of their life, but also to write out a copy of it with their own hand, that

they might learn to fear the Lord their God, and keep all the words of his law;" it may be reasonably expected

that Christian Princes should make the glorious Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ their daily

study, that it may become their constant guide and rule for the government of their people, as well as for their

own salvation.

It hath been often observed, that the most effectual way to a general external reformation is " to make Reli-

gion a step to preferment, and Irreligion a bar to it;" because example has a more powerful influence over the

minds of men than precept, or even than punishment. The early declarations and strong resolutions your Majesty

was pleased to make at your coming to the throne, " That you would encourage those who are religious, and dis-

courage those that are otherwise," rejoiced the hearts of all who earnestly desire the revival of vital and prac-

tical religion, and to see your Majesty's subjects a holy and happy people.

True piety has been in all ages accounted the truest honour ; for Religion diffuses the greatest glory around

a human character, and sweetens and embalms the memory of Princes. A pious Prince, who hath shewn a

hearty concern for the eternal happiness of his people, as well as for their present protection, will be re-

membered with great esteem and honour : for the Scripture says, that " the memory of the just is blessed." When

they are spoken of, it is with praise and commendation by all good men. All other accomplishments, without

true grace and real religion, cannot make the children of men happy, who must all die and rise again, " and ap-

pear before the judgment seat of Christ, to receive according to what they "have done in the body, whether

good or bad."

The memory of Hezekiah, the religious King of Judah, is precious: he hath been celebrated in all ages of the

Church for his pious zeal in the reformation of his people at the beginning of his reign; for "God honours those

that honour him, and they who despise him shall be lightly esteemed." It is said of that pious King, that " he

trusted in the Lord God of Israel, so that after him there was none like him among all the Kings of Judah, nor

any that were before him: for he clave to the Lord, and departed not from following him, but kept his com-

mandments, which the Lord commanded Moses." Hezekiah, like your Majesty, began his reign in his youth,

yet his zeal for the worship of God, and for promoting Religion among his subjects, carried him through the

great difficulties of reforming a people, who had so much degenerated into gross idolatry. May the great God

be the guide of your life, and direct and prosper you, that it may be said by the present and future ages, that King

George the Third hath been an Hezekiah to **our British Israel.**

I doubt not but your Majesty will pardon my forbearing to enter upon your valuable personal accomplish-

ments : I shall only add that, when it pleased God, the sovereign Lord of life and death, to deprive us of the

blessing of your Royal Grandfather King George the Second, the Protector of our Religion and Liberties for

many years, it was esteemed a national blessing that God had favoured Great Britain with a Prince born and

educated among us, who makes the happiness of his people the rule of his government ; and without Religion

there can be no real happiness for Prince or People.

When your Majesty came to the throne, the loyal and affectionate addresses from your subjects in all parts of

the British dominions, shewed their great hopes and strong expectations of being happy under your Majesty's

government. We of the British nation have reason thankfully to remember the appearances of Divine Provi-

dence in the preservation of our Religion and Liberties, particularly in settling and establishing the Protestant

Succession, and in disappointing from time to time all the contrivances and attempts of its enemies, whether

secret or open; and in your Majesty's coming to the throne with the hearts of all your subjects united to you as

the heart of one man.

May it please God to bestow his choicest gifts upon your Majesty, upon your Royal Mother the Princess

Dowager of Wales, and all the Royal Family, and upon your numerous and powerful People. May you be blessed,

and made a real blessing, and may your reign be long and prosperous; and after you have been enabled to serve

God faithfully here upon earth, may you reign forever with him in heaven through Jesus Christ. This is the

sincere and earnest prayer of him who is, with great humility and profound respect,

May it please your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most dutiful.

And most obedient subject and servant,

London, Time 11, 1751. Alexander Cruden.

==============================================

TO THE QUEEN.

MADAM,

THIS CONCORDANCE, the work of several years, was begun with a design to promote the study of the

holy Scriptures; and, in pursuance thereof, is now published with many improvements beyond any book of this

kind in the English language.

Long before this Work was ready for the press, I designed humbly to offer it to your Majesty, and to beg

leave to publish it under your royal protection. Your Majesty's illustrious qualities and example in the great

scenes of your valuable life, encourage me humbly to beg your countenance to a well-meant attempt for pro-

moting the knowledge of our holy Religion.

The beauty of your person, and the fine accomplishments of your mind, were so celebrated in your father's

court, that there was no Prince in the Empire, who had room for such an alliance, that was not ambitious of

gaining a Princess of such noble virtues into his family, either as a Daughter, or as a Consort.

And though the heir to all the dominions of the house of Austria was desirous of your alliance, yet you gener-

ously declined the prospect of a Crown that was inconsistent with the enjoyment of your Religion. The great

Disposer of all things, however, kept in store a reward for such exalted virtue, and by the secret methods of his

wisdom hath brought your Majesty to a Crown, as famous for defending and supporting the Protestant Religion,

as it is conspicuous for its glory and splendor; which is such a return of Divine Providence as is to be admired

with great thankfulness, though without the least surprise, since He whose kingdom ruled over all hath declared,

that such as honour Him, He will honour.

It was the fame of this heroic constancy that determined his Majesty to desire in marriage a Princess who was

now more celebrated for her Christian magnanimity, than for the beauty of her person, which had been so univer-

sally admired. We of the British nation have reason to rejoice that such a proposal was made and accepted,

and that your Majesty, with regard to these two successive treaties, shewed as much prudence in your compli-

ance with the one, as piety in your refusal of the other. You no sooner arrived at Hanover than you improved

the lustre of that court, which was before reckoned among the politest in Europe, and increased the happiness

of a people, who were before looked upon as the happiest in" the Empire. And you immediately became the dar-

ling of the Princess Sophia, a Princess, justly acknowledged to be one of the most accomplished Women of the age

in which she lived, who was much pleased with the conversation of one, in whom she saw so lively an image

of her own youth.

We daily discover those admirable qualities for which your Majesty was famed in other countries, and

rejoice to see them exerted in our Island, where we ourselves are made happy by their influence. We behold

the throne of these kingdoms surrounded by your Majesty's royal and numerous Progeny, and hear with pleasure

of the great care your Majesty takes to instil early into their minds the principles of Religion, Virtue and Honour.

Your Majesty is possessed of all those talents which make conversation either delightful or improving. Your

fine taste in the elegant arts, and skill in several modern languages, is such, that your discourse is not confined

to the ordinary subjects of conversation, but is adapted, with an uncommon grace, to every occasion, and enter-

tains the politest persons of different nations. That agreeable turn which appears in your sentiments upon the

most ordinary affairs of life, which is so suitable to the delicacy of your sex, the politeness of your education, and

the splendor of your quality, is observed by every one that has the honour to approach you.

But the great regard your Majesty has shewn to Religion, which diffuses the greatest glory around a human

character, encourages me to hope that this Work will meet with your favourable acceptance. May it,

therefore, please your Majesty to take into your royal protection this Concordance, the design of which is to

render the study of the Scriptures more easy. Whatever may be wanting either in the Work or Author, is

abundantly supplied by the dignity of the subject ; which consideration chiefly encouraged me to presume to offer

it to your Majesty, whom God hath exalted to the most eminent station, and blessed with extraordinary endow-

ments of mind, and with a benevolent and beneficent disposition: To whom then can I more properly offer this

Work than to your Majesty, who is celebrated both for your inclination and capacity to do good?

May the great God continue to multiply his blessings upon the King, your Majesty, and every branch of your

Royal Family : May your life be long continued to serve God faithfully on earth, and may you reign for ever with

Him in heaven, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

These are the sincere prayers of him who is, with the most profound respect,

May it please your Majesty,

Your Majesty's

Most dutiful, and

Most obedient servant,

London, October, 1737. Alexander Cruden.