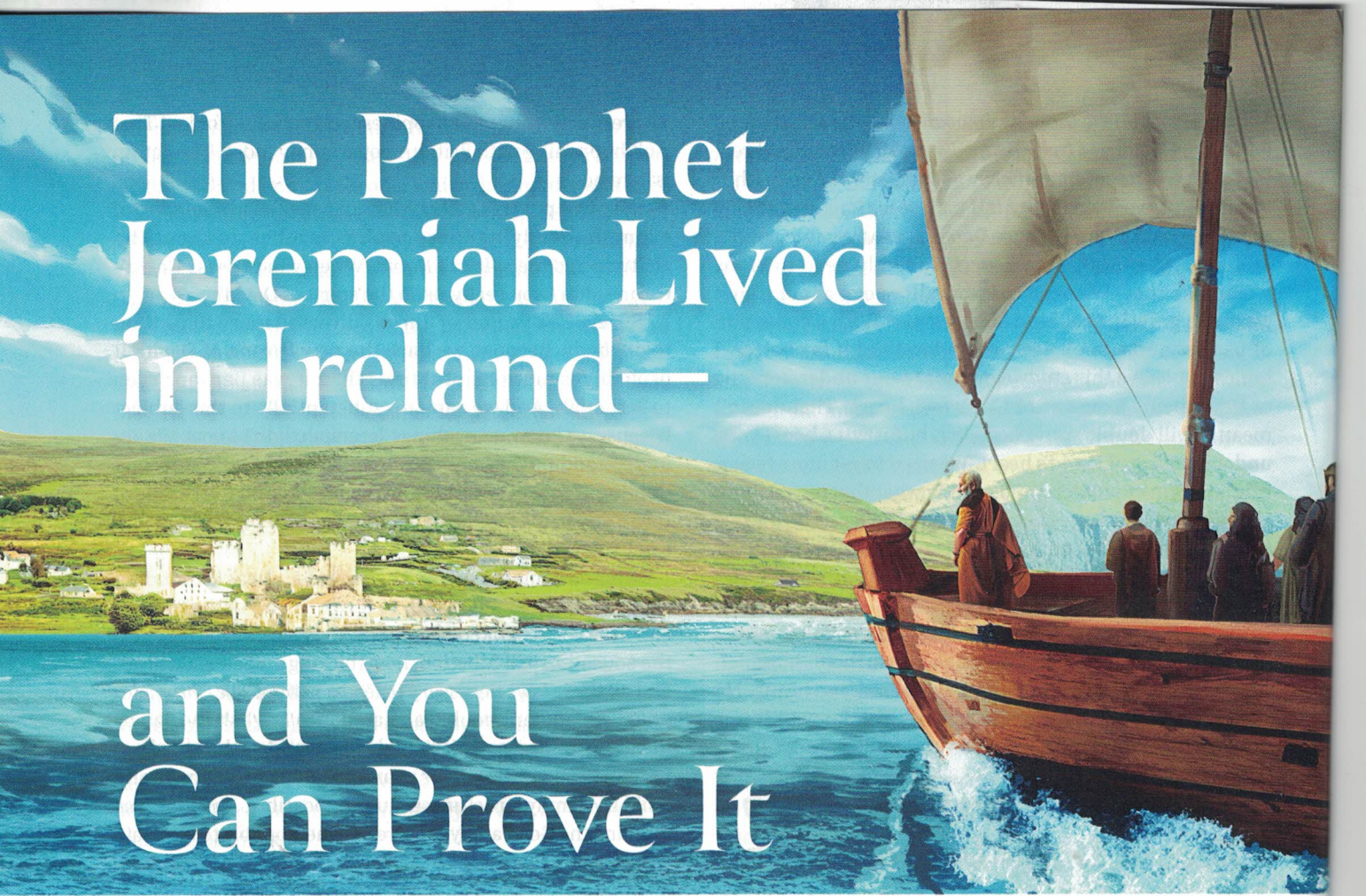


# The Prophet Jeremiah Lived in Ireland—

# and You Can Prove It



The Bible reveals exactly where Jeremiah traveled after the fall of Jerusalem in 585 B.C.

*By Brad Macdonald and Richard Palmer*

**D**ID THE PROPHET JEREMIAH REALLY SPEND HIS twilight years in Ireland?

In his book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, Herbert W. Armstrong explained that, sometime in the late sixth century B.C., Jeremiah traveled to the “Emerald Isle,” along with the daughters of King Zedekiah of Judah. Upon his arrival, Jeremiah established the throne of David and introduced a culture and a system of law and government that was rooted in the legacy of Jerusalem’s King David.

Some reject this teaching. They mock it as myth and conjecture, entirely untrue and unfounded. Ironically, some of these people go on to promulgate their own creative view of Irish history, the Prophet Jeremiah and his life work.

Those who criticize Mr. Armstrong’s teaching that Jeremiah performed a mighty work in Ireland nearly always overlook one question. They never ask *what the Bible says about it*.

Do you believe the Bible is the accurate Word of God? If so, then you must consider what it says regarding the question of whether Jeremiah traveled to Ireland.

## GOD’S PROMISE TO KING DAVID

David, ancient Israel’s most famous king, was more significant than most people realize. He was much more than a great warrior, or a great king and prophet. He was more than just “a man after God’s own heart” (Acts 13:22). King David was the recipient of a towering promise from God, a promise that encapsulates a wonderful vision for all humanity.

We first read of this promise in 2 Samuel 7. By this point, King David was well established on Israel’s throne, and God was explaining the future of David and his royal progeny. In verses 12-13, God promises David, “And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build an house for my name, AND I WILL STABLISH THE THRONE OF HIS KINGDOM FOR EVER.”

About David’s son, God tells David explicitly: “I will establish the throne of his kingdom for ever.” In other words, God promises that one of David’s descendants will ALWAYS rule on a throne over at least some of the people of Israel. God repeats this promise again in verse 16: “AND THINE HOUSE AND THY KINGDOM SHALL BE ESTABLISHED FOR EVER



BEFORE THEE: THY THRONE SHALL BE ESTABLISHED FOR EVER.”

This is no minor promise or obscure prophecy. *It is repeated throughout the Bible.* In Psalm 89:35-37, God says: “Once have I sworn by my holiness that I will not lie unto David. His seed shall endure for ever, and his throne as the sun before me. It shall be established for ever as the moon, and as a faithful witness in heaven. Selah.” God swears this “by my holiness.” God stakes His credibility on this promise to King David!

If this promise has not been fulfilled, then God must lack power and the Bible can be discarded. But if you believe the Bible is the Word of God and that God made this promise to David, then you must believe that David’s royal throne exists on Earth today!

If it exists today, then that means God has preserved it through the centuries.

In Jeremiah 33:20-21, God says: “If ye can break my covenant of the day, and my covenant of the night, and that there should not be day and night in their season; Then may also my covenant be broken with David my servant, that he should not have a son to reign upon his throne; and with the Levites the

priests, my ministers.” King David had been dead for roughly 350 years when this was written. Yet here God emphatically repeats His promise to David, stating that it is as sure as the sun setting and rising each day!

Here is a list of other scriptures where God recalls His promise to King David: 2 Samuel 23:1-5; 1 Kings 8:25; 9:4-5; 11:32, 36, 38-39; 15:4-5; 2 Kings 8:19; 19:34; 20:6; 1 Chronicles 17:11-14, 24; 28:7; 2 Chronicles 1:8-9; 6:16; 7:17-18; 13:4-5; 21:7; 23:3; Psalm 18:50; 89:3-4, 29; 132:11-12, 17; Isaiah 55:3; Jeremiah 33:17-21.

But what if David’s descendants sinned? Would that release God from His promise to ensure an heir of David always sat on the throne of Israel? No! God addresses this exact scenario in 2 Samuel 7:14-15: “I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men: BUT MY MERCY SHALL NOT DEPART AWAY FROM HIM ...” God removed the descendants of Saul from the throne of Israel. But He promised NEVER to do that to David’s family. Individual members of that throne may be punished, some would even die, but God would ensure that, somewhere in the world, David had a descendant sitting on that throne.

Within a few decades of David’s death, this exact situation unfolded. In 1 Kings 11:11, God rebuked King Solomon for rejecting God’s covenant and laws. He told Solomon that he would be punished for this rebellion and that Solomon’s son would lose part of the kingdom. But notice what God said: “Howbeit I will not rend away all the kingdom; BUT WILL GIVE ONE TRIBE TO THY SON FOR DAVID MY SERVANT’S SAKE ...” (verse 13). God remembered His promise to David. He did not break it—He made sure that David’s descendants ruled over at least one tribe of Israel!

The Bible clearly shows God kept His promise in the generations immediately after King David’s death. During these years God intervened powerfully to ensure a descendant of David remained on the throne of Judah, a nation comprised of two tribes of Israel. But the Bible records that in 585 B.C., the Babylonians destroyed Jerusalem, put out the eyes of David’s descendant King Zedekiah, and killed all his sons. The people of Judah were taken into captivity, and Zedekiah later died a captive in Babylon.

What happened to God’s promise then?

Many people believe it was broken. Truly, if God at this moment suddenly abandoned His promise to David and if a descendant of David is not still on a royal throne today, then you might as well throw away your Bible!

But if you believe God, then the question you must now ask is: *How* was David’s royal line perpetuated?

## HOW WAS DAVID’S LINE PRESERVED?

Tracing King David’s lineage is easy up until Judah’s captivity and the fall of Jerusalem in 585 B.C. But with what happened to Zedekiah and his family, it appears as if the throne of David ended. If it did, then God would be a liar.

Some try to twist the history to make the scriptures work. For example, some argue that Jesus Christ is a descendant of David and that He is ruling over the Church today. The problem is, Zedekiah was removed from his throne in 585 B.C., and Christ wasn’t born until 4 B.C. How could God’s covenant with David be an eternal covenant if it wasn’t in force for nearly six centuries? Psalm 89:4 states that this covenant is for “all generations”—that includes the generations between 585 B.C. and 4 B.C.

Another reason this is not the answer is that Christ is not yet sitting on David’s throne, even to this day. Luke 1:32 tells us that Christ *will* sit on the throne of David. But Revelation 3:21 shows that, right now, Christ is sitting on *His Father’s* throne, not David’s. In a parable in Luke 19:12, Christ pictures Himself as a nobleman who goes to a far country (heaven) *and returns*. Christ will not reign on the throne of David until He has returned to Earth.

Some argue that because 2 Samuel 7:13 says “I will stablish,” the promise is in the future tense. They say that God is promising David that He *will*, at Christ’s return, establish David’s throne. But this doesn’t fit the scriptures either. In this passage God says He will establish the throne *in Solomon*, not Christ. And 2 Chronicles 13:4-5 talk about this same

promise in the past tense. At this point, God had already established the throne that would last forever.

Mr. Armstrong's book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* goes into these points more thoroughly. It examines proof after proof after proof that David's throne must still exist today. Request your free copy and we will gladly send you one.

So it all comes down to your faith. Will you accept that God promised to perpetuate King David's royal line? Will you accept that the Bible is the Word of God? (For more on this, request our free booklet *The Proof of the Bible*.) If you answered yes to both of those questions, will you accept what the Bible has to say about Jeremiah and his role in perpetuating the throne of David?

This promise is so important to God that He recorded prophecies about what would happen to this throne in this modern time. Israel and its leaders—including its king—are specifically prophesied to go into captivity. The king will die (Jeremiah 22:1-5). Will God then leave the throne of David empty? No—He has already made a change to that throne to ensure that it will be preserved right up until the moment Jesus Christ returns to sit on it Himself. So even for the short span of the Great Tribulation, God ensures someone will sit on David's throne. Given that fact, you can be certain He has ensured that it has been occupied for the last 2,500 years! You can read more about these prophecies and this change in our free book *The New Throne of David*.

Once a person has accepted the fact that David's throne has endured, the question arises: Where has it been preserved?

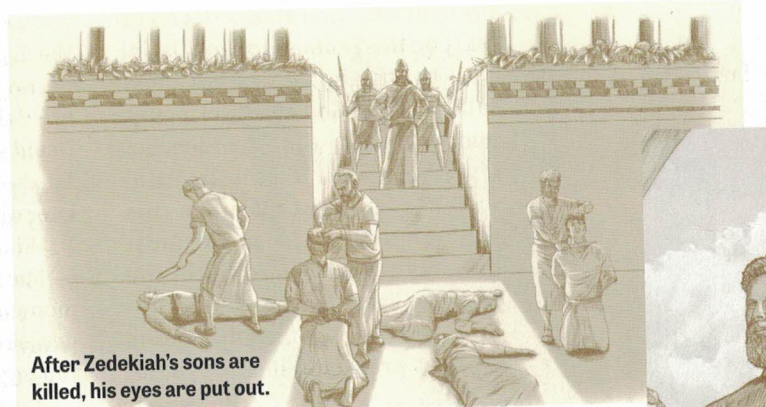
There are roughly 25 sovereign, hereditary monarchs in the world today. Most of these can be eliminated by considering one parameter. To have preserved this Davidic throne, a monarch must belong to a family line that has ruled since antiquity. Only two royal families fit this criterion: the house of Yamato in Japan and the house of Windsor in the United Kingdom. (King Juan Carlos of Spain comes close; his line goes back to the kings of the Visigoths. But around the sixth century, the Visigoth monarchy was elective—the monarch was chosen; rulership was not passed from father to son. Juan Carlos also traces his ancestry to the French monarchy, which goes back to Charlemagne. But this dynasty clearly began in the eighth century A.D.)

The emperor of Japan can also be ruled out as a descendant of David. He is a different race. And communication between the Levant and Japan around 600 B.C. was highly unlikely.

This leaves one possible family that could have preserved the throne of David: the house of Windsor in London. Is there any other logical way to read these prophecies?

There is another part to these prophecies we must also consider. God said David would always rule over *Israel*: Which ever nation this monarchy rules must be a tribe of Israel.

When Zedekiah had his eyes put out in 585, he ruled only Judah. The other tribes of Israel had already been taken captive by Assyria nearly 150 years earlier (2 Kings 17:23). But the Bible is full of specific prophecies about members of these tribes (for example, see Genesis 48 and 49). These prophecies weren't fulfilled before they were taken captive. Even the New Testament talks about these tribes (Matthew 10:5-6; 15:24; Acts 9:15; James 1:1). If their captivity is the end of the story, and if they simply merged with the nations around them, then again, your Bible is wrong and worthless: It contains prophecies that were clearly broken.



After Zedekiah's sons are killed, his eyes are put out.

## **Will you accept that God promised to perpetuate King David's royal line? Will you accept that the Bible is the Word of God?**

But you can know the fate of these "lost 10 tribes." Again, *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* goes into detail on this, giving proof after proof, from the Bible, of the identity of these tribes. That book proves that the *people of the British Isles* are descended from the tribes of Israel, mainly the tribe of Ephraim, the son of Joseph.

Even still, how can we explain the gap between Zedekiah the last king of Judah and the modern day?

### **ENTER JEREMIAH**

One of the first things King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon did after capturing Judah's royal family in 585 B.C. was to ensure that no one would be left to claim the throne of David. Zedekiah's sons were killed and the king's eyes were put out. Sadly, the last thing Zedekiah saw was what he probably perceived as the end of his royal line (2 Kings 25:7). Zedekiah himself was carried away in chains. But later, we find that Nebuchadnezzar did something very strange.

Jeremiah 41:10 informs us that Zedekiah's daughters were allowed to go free: "Then Ishmael carried away captives

all the residue of the people that were in Mizpah, EVEN THE KING'S DAUGHTERS ...." Why? Why would this politically astute Babylonian king let members of Judah's royal house go free, when they could claim the throne of David and become a figurehead for a rebellion? Surely it would be much safer to kill them, or if he was feeling merciful, at least lock them away.

The Bible records another remarkable fact. Not only was the Prophet Jeremiah set free, but he was given funds and express permission to travel anywhere he wanted (Jeremiah 40:1-5). King Nebuchadnezzar himself had intervened to have him released (Jeremiah 39:11). Make sure you don't just take our word for it; read these passages in Jeremiah yourself.

Why was Jeremiah the prophet given such incredible favor from the Babylonian authorities? Gentile empires are not known for handing out money or showing mercy to defeated monarchies.

The truth is, it was God who gave Jeremiah such dramatic favor. Why? God's conversation with Jeremiah when He first called him to be a prophet gives us a clue.

In Jeremiah 1:10, God gives young Jeremiah his life's commission: "See, I have this day set thee over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull

down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant." God is clearly talking about Jeremiah's commission to warn ancient Judah, specifically Judah's royal family. The book of Jeremiah is full of Jeremiah's warnings to Judah and its kings. The final chapters of the book recount the "rooting out" and "pulling down" of Judah and the monarchy.

But what about the *building* and *planting* that Jeremiah was commissioned to do? Jeremiah 1:10 clearly says that the prophet would also have a role in building and planting what was rooted up: that is, the monarchy of Judah—the throne of King David. It is no coincidence that Jeremiah wrote extensively about God's promise to David. Indeed, that promise was the core of Jeremiah's existence! Jeremiah lived to perpetuate the throne of David.

So what happened to these daughters of Zedekiah? Jeremiah 43:6-7 record that they JOINED WITH JEREMIAH and were taken to Egypt with the small number of Israelites who still remained in the land of Judah. And then the trail runs dry. No more of their history is recorded in the Bible. Where did they go?

## IRELAND

England's ruling family is descended from many different royalties, including ones from Germany. But if we believe England's king is a descendant of King David, then one of his royal branches must extend all the way back to King Zedekiah and Judah. As God promised, a royal from the line of David would have to be ruling over part of Israel continuously, from at least 585 B.C. until today.

The Saxon house of Wessex does not appear old enough. Modern scholars know nothing of the Saxons before the fourth century A.D. But there is one royal house that existed in 585 B.C. and that still exists: the kings of Tara in Ireland!

Recorded history clearly shows that the kings of Scotland are descended from the kings of Ireland. And we know that in 1603, James VI of Scotland became James I of England, uniting the kingdom. Even before then, the royal houses of England and Scotland intermarried often. So Britain's royal family traces its ancestry back to the ancient kings of Ireland. They are the missing link between the house of David and the house of Windsor.

Let's summarize the facts we have covered so far:

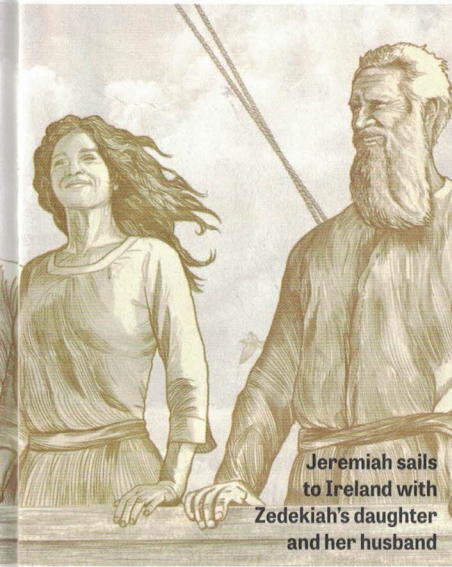
- 1) God promises throughout the Bible that King David will always have a descendant ruling over Israel.
- 2) Christ is not yet sitting on David's throne, ruling over the Earth. Therefore, David's physical descendants must still be on a throne somewhere today.
- 3) The only royal line that could possibly be descended from David and has ruled continuously over part of Israel is the house of Windsor, ruling in England.
- 4) The only royal dynasty from which England's king descended that was in existence in 585 B.C. was the royal family of Ireland.
- 6) The book and mission of Jeremiah is closely tied to the house of David. He was commissioned to build and plant this house.
- 7) The last time the only surviving children of King Zedekiah are mentioned in the Bible, they are in the company of Jeremiah.

Based on this history, we can only conclude that Jeremiah took the daughters of King Zedekiah to Ireland!

This is the proof that Jeremiah traveled to Ireland. It is not based on the ancient Irish annals but on the more sure word of Bible prophecy (2 Peter 1:19).

Mr. Armstrong's critics leveled two main accusations at him: 1) that he relied too heavily on the ancient Irish annals, and 2) that the ancient Irish annals don't say that Jeremiah came to Ireland. Neither of these contradictory criticisms are valid. Mr. Armstrong did not rely on the ancient Irish annals to conclude that Jeremiah lived in Ireland. He relied on the Bible, combined with accepted historical fact.

Mr. Armstrong wrote in *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*: "The real ancient history of Ireland is very extensive, though colored with some legend. But *with the facts of biblical history and prophecy in mind*, one can easily sift out the legend from the true history in studying ancient Irish annals."



Jeremiah sails to Ireland with Zedekiah's daughter and her husband


Mr. Armstrong used the Bible to sort the history from the legend. Reading through the ancient Irish records, he identified some figures in Irish history with Jeremiah and his companions. One figure mentioned in Irish records is Ollav Fola (which has a variety of alternative spellings). There is some dispute about when Ollav Fola lived, though many generally agree that it was 500 to 1,000 years before Christ.

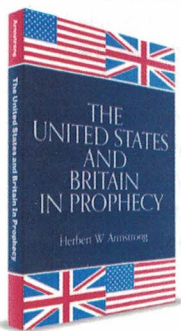
Ancient Irish history shows that Ollav Fola played a key role in establishing the law in Ireland. This great patriarch headquartered his work on the Hill of Tara, where he started a college and established Ireland's royal throne. The meaning of his name indicates that he was a scholar and a learned poet. He established an annual festival at Tara similar to the Bible's Feast of Tabernacles. When you consider all these characteristics, and combine them with the fact that Jeremiah was establishing David's royal dynasty in Ireland around the same time, the evidence strongly indicates that the Ollav Fola in Irish history was in fact the Prophet Jeremiah.

Irish chronicles do say that Ollav Fola was a king. But the chronicles are not reliable. They are about events that happened 2,500 years ago. The oldest annals we have were written down over a thousand years after the events they describe. Some details, such as whether Ollav Fola was a king or a prophet, are hazy. It is clear, however, that ancient Irish history includes figures, events and practices that can be directly connected to the Bible.

There is no archaeological proof of Jeremiah's journey yet. But archaeology is generally about time periods, rarely about individuals. Archaeological evidence uncovered in Ireland, and specifically on the Hill of Tara, does show that there was travel between the Middle East and Ireland around, and even prior to, the time of Jeremiah. In 1955, a necklace made with a type of bead that is found only in Egypt was discovered during an archaeological excavation on the Hill of Tara. The beads were dated to 1350 B.C. Other evidence suggests that Ireland was a major exporter of copper at this time. Archaeology does not prove that Jeremiah went to Ireland, but it absolutely proves that such a journey was possible.

The challenge to the skeptics is this: If Ollav Fola is not Jeremiah, if the prophet did not travel to Ireland and marry a descendant of King's David's into Irish royalty, then *how was God's promise to King David fulfilled?* God said, over and over again, that David's dynasty would last forever.

There are only two alternatives. Either the Bible is not the infallible Word of God or Jeremiah transferred the throne of David to Ireland, and from there it was transferred to Scotland and later to England. If you have faith in the Bible, your only option is to accept that Jeremiah transferred the throne of David to Ireland. 



The fulfillment of God's promises are the greatest proof of His existence, and staggering prophecies are about to be fulfilled! Learn this more deeply in your free copy of ***The United States and Britain in Prophecy.***