

1588 AD – SPANISH ARMADA SUNK BY THE STORM OF GOD

“The LORD called thy name, A green olive tree, fair, and of goodly fruit: with the noise of a great storm he hath kindled fire upon it, and the branches of it are broken.” (Jeremiah 11 v 16)

THE STORM BREWING

In **1570** the Pope declared **Queen Elizabeth** a heretic and illegitimate ruler of England. The Pope was in distress not because of Elizabeth’s personal spiritual views but because she had confirmed in **1559** the separation of the Church of England from the Catholic Church.

Philip II the King of Spain had been co-monarch with **Queen Mary** of England. With the support of the Pope **Philip II** planned an invasion of England. The Spanish fleet had fewer ships but 50% more guns than the English fleet.

FIRE ON THE SEAS

A number of inconclusive engagements were fought. The quicker English ships had the advantage of maneuverability and escaped from any Spanish attack. The Spanish fleet retreated to Calais and formed a tight defensive formation across the harbor.

The English took regular warships and filled them with pitch, brimstone, gunpowder, and tar. They set them ablaze and pointed them in the direction of the Calais harbor. To escape danger many Spanish ships cut anchor and scattered on the sea. The English attacked. After the Spanish had fired first at longer range the English came in close and did damage. Five Spanish ships were shipwrecked. Other Spanish ship suffered injuries.

THE STORM OF GOD

The Spanish Armada was chased north and they attempted to sail around the British Isles. They were thirsty and hungry and some ships were tied abreast because of damages. The navigators made an error which took the fleet too close to the coasts of Scotland and Ireland.

At the point of the Spanish Armada’s greatest weakness a mighty storm blew up from the north Atlantic and tossed many ships upon the rocky shores. Because not a few of the ships had no anchor they could not escape the storm in any sheltered harbors or in the lee of islands. So they ran aground and were looted by local men. It is estimated 5,000 sailors

perished. The remnants of the Spanish Armada straggled back to their home ports. Many sailors were near death from disease and starvation.

Philip II declared *"I sent the Armada against men, not God's wind and waves"*.

THE FAITH OF ELIZABETH

Elizabeth received much credit for the victory. An excerpt of her speech after the battle of the fire-ships reveals much about her view of the contest on the seas:

'Let tyrants fear, I have always so behaved myself, that under God I have placed my chiefest strength and safeguard in the loyal hearts and goodwill of my subjects; and, therefore, I am come amongst you as you see at this time, not for my recreation and disport, but being resolved, in the midst and heat of battle, to live or die amongst you all – to lay down for my God, and for my kingdoms, and for my people, my honour and my blood even in the dust.'

So Elizabeth was ready to die *'for my God, and for my kingdom, and for my people'* but according to her own words she put her trust in *'the loyal hearts and goodwill of my subjects'*.

If Elizabeth prayed for a miracle, she didn't let on. We will have to believe it was the prayers of others who put their trust in the power of God higher than the power of Queens or the power of *'loyal subjects'* to serve them.

WAS THE STORM MIRACULOUS?

From the accounts of the Irish the storm was of immense intensity: *'the like whereof hath not been seen or heard for a long time'*.

PROPHECY OF JEREMIAH 11 V 16

"The LORD called thy name, a green olive tree, fair, and of goodly fruit: with the noise of a great storm he hath kindled fire upon it, and the branches of it are broken." (Jeremiah 11 v 16)

The attention of the prophecy does not concern Elizabeth or England – it concerns the Kingdom of Spain.

"The LORD called thy name, a green olive tree, fair, and of goodly fruit"

God had blessed Spain greatly by opening the gates of South America, Central America, and the Caribbean to her conquest. See our paper '[1467 AD](#)'. God used the sword of Spain to judge the atrocious pagan empires of the natives who were sacrificing their offspring to idols. God's will for Spain was to attend to her duty and to her calling to spread the faith to the West. She was not called to conquer kingdoms that already had a Christian foundation – hence the planned invasion of England was ill conceived.

“with the noise of a great storm he hath kindled fire upon it, and the branches of it are broken”

The wooden branches of the tree we could liken to the Spanish galleons. They were smitten by fire in the attack of the fire-ships in Calais harbor. Finally, with a great storm the branches were broken – most of the losses of the fleet were as a result of God's wind, not the puny cannonballs of the English fleet.

SPIRITUAL NUMBER ANALYSIS

For a mind that has wisdom please read on. See truth from another perspective.

PART ONE

Chapter **11** of Jeremiah is the **80th** chapter of The Prophets.

The spiritual number **80** means 'Prayer'.

The spiritual number **11** means 'Darkness' or 'Mystery'

The events of the Spanish Armada proved two things: first, the strength of man in the form of the gallant sailors and wise commanders of the English fleet could not of itself destroy the stronger Spanish fleet. All they could achieve is harassment and cause some limited damage; and second, the power of God was able to destroy the Spanish Armada.

The power of 'Prayer' is a 'Mystery' to most of the rulers of this world. Yet, God is the deciding factor in not only armed conflicts but the entire history of the modern world – as we witness – the prophecy uttered by Isaiah predicted exactly how events would unfold – two thousand years later.

PART TWO

Jeremiah **11 v 16** is the **19,243th** verse in the whole Bible starting at Gen **1 v 1**.

The number **19,243 = 7 x 2749 [401st prime]**

The spiritual meaning of **7** is 'Sword' or 'Time' or 'End'

The spiritual meaning of **401** is 'Temple of David Rebuilt'

The spiritual meaning of **2749** is 'Ark Moved to City of David'

The Pope supposed God was with him. The King of Spain supposed God was with the Pope. The English concluded after the Great Storm that God was with them.

God is not the possession of a king (or anyone else). David supposed when he moved the Ark into the grounds of his castle that God was 'in his back pocket', so to speak.

The truth of the matter is Kings are in the possession of God. The LORD reigns and lifts one nation up and puts another nation down. It is for the meek to search out the matter to discern God's reasons and purposes, such as we are attempting in this paper.

All the Kings, Queens, and Popes in this story were misguided. They thought having a nation or a religion founded on some Christian principles and some Christian truths meant they were in God's special good books. Unless we understand that God is Lord over all, and He judges uprightly, without favor, we cannot come to him in the right spirit in our prayers, or make wise decisions in our affairs.

PART THREE

Jeremiah **11 v 16** is the **1,588th** verse of The Prophets starting at Isaiah **1 v 1**.

The number **1,588 = 4 x 397**

The spiritual meaning of **4** is 'Message'

The spiritual meaning of **397** is 'Pardoned People Worship'.

The cause of the expedition to conquer England was a sincere but misguided desire to save England from heresy. The Catholic King and the Pope believed the English were worshipping

the Devil. It was assumed the English were heretics because they separated themselves from the Pope. Shocking truth was the English people, and any people, are pardoned by the grace of God, not because of a membership in a religion of man, and not because certain priestly rituals are performed in Catholic cathedrals. The Protestants at least had that much truth.

The failure of the expedition in such dramatic and miraculous fashion ought to have sent a clear message to the Catholic King and the high priest of the Catholics their premise for the invasion was false. They did not get the message and sent two more Armadas – also frustrated by storms. Still didn't get the message.

England continued to be a nation honoring to God and to Jesus Christ for another half millennium. It didn't need saving by Catholic Popes or Catholic Kings.