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# BRITAIN'S LAST GASP OF JOY AND SPLENDOR

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by Herbert W. Armstrong

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WHY did Britain stage it? The royal wedding of the Prince of Wales was the most colorful and glorious show any nation could produce. The answer has significant connection with the Second Coming of Christ.

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**T**HE GRAND and glorious royal wedding cost the Queen and Britain several millions of pounds. Britain is now in economic depression. One would think the nation could ill afford so extravagant a show of pomp and ceremony at this time. Yet that is undoubtedly the very reason the government did afford it.

No other nation on earth could put on so glorious and colorful an extravaganza. It was a spectacle unparalleled.

The British have the equipment: the gorgeous horse-drawn state postilion landau, open carriages and state horse-drawn coaches in bright gold trim, with

red-coated gold-braided coachmen riding both fore and aft. All were drawn by two or four of the finest horses—with horsemen in brilliant uniforms and costumes parading at a trot down the Mall, lined with brilliantly uniformed armed-service men, and accompanied by gaily uniformed mounted police, on the flag-bedecked procession route.

The bright sunny July morning provided a spectacle seldom witnessed. There were several such coaches. They paraded British royalty. Earlier, by motorcar, had proceeded many of the crowned heads of Europe, Crown Prince Akihito of Japan, and the Crown Prince of Jordan, brother of King Hussein—both of whom I know personally. Also of my acquaintance were Prince Rainier and Princess Grace of Monaco. King Baudouin and the Queen of Bel-

gium were there. Although I do not know them, I am well acquainted with the King's father, King Leopold III, whom I hope to visit again.

The service was held at St. Paul's Cathedral, officiated by the dean of the cathedral and the Archbishop of Canterbury, Robert Runcie. Assisting were the Roman Catholic Cardinal and the head of the Methodist Church in Britain. The spectacle in St. Paul's, all shown on color television, was equally brilliant.

The precise timing of everything, the professional dignity with which it was all executed, neared perfection.

It was estimated that a million people lined the Mall and Fleet Street, leading from Buckingham Palace to St. Paul's, and shouts were loud, vociferous and enthusiastic. It was a tremendous psy-

chological and emotional uplift to the whole of Britain.

And it was my guess that was the very reason the British government, and the television companies went to the extravagant lengths in presenting this magnificent wedding show to the entire world.

The British people are sorely depressed. My plane landed at Luton airport. Near the airport are the large British works of General Motors. Just recently they laid off another 6,000 employees. Unemployment and inflation are at a near all time high. Times in England are bad. People are discouraged. What could pick up their spirits right now more than such a display of glorious pomp and ceremony at so happy an occasion as a popularly approved wedding?

Not in the memory of this generation has a popular Prince of Wales, heir to the throne, married a universally approved English girl. The former Lady Diana, daughter of an earl, had just celebrated her 20th birthday a few days before the wedding—just out of her teens. She had been a kindergarten teacher, endeared to little children. She is bright, cheerful and happy in appearance, and tremendously popular in England.

But there is still far greater significance to this elaborate wedding. I do not know whether the present generation of the royal family know and believe it, but I've been informed that the royal family of two or three generations ago did know that the British sovereign is in fact a continuation of the dynasty of King David of ancient Israel. That dynasty continued to the time of Zedekiah,

last king of Judah, overthrown by Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon. The throne was moved by the prophet Jeremiah, through a daughter of Zedekiah, to Northern Ireland. It was overturned a second time and taken to Scotland. A third time and moved to London. It will be once more overturned by Jesus Christ, at His approaching second coming to earth, and moved to Jerusalem where Jesus Christ will sit on that throne, ruling over all nations of the earth.

This is all explained and scrip-



Watts—Black Star

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turally accurately documented in my book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*.

This eye-opening book further shows that the birthright promises made by God to the patriarch Abraham were passed on to the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh, among the so-called “lost” Ten Tribes—and that the English peoples of Britain, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, etc. are today Ephraim, and the peoples of

British and Scots-Irish and other Northwest European descent in the United States are Manasseh.

Prophecy also foretold the present status of America and Britain in relation to other peoples, and the present immediate future of our peoples.

Few realize it, but the promises of salvation and eternal life rest entirely on the promises made to Abraham and re-promised to Isaac and Jacob. The Bible says Jesus Christ came “to confirm the promises made unto the fathers” (Romans 15:8) Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. But the promises made to Abraham were dual. The promises of GRACE referred to salvation and eternal life through Christ. But there also were promises of RACE, which were not spiritual but physical, racial and national.

The promises of GRACE were spiritual, pertaining to the ONE “seed”—Jesus Christ (Galatians 3:16). But the physical, national birthright promises related to numerous seeds (Genesis 22:17; 32:12).

These promises were inherited by physical birth by the children of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, known as the children of Israel—one of earth's nations starting in the days of Moses. Their promises are specific in Leviti-

cus 26:2-13.

When David was placed on the throne of Israel, God promised under oath that David's throne—his dynasty—would continue from generation to generation FOREVER!

Let me quote from my aforementioned book the astounding account:

“Now we come to a seemingly incredible fact—fantastic—almost unbelievable, but *true!* While David was king, God made with

him a perpetual covenant, unconditionally, which God cannot and will not break! This covenant is even more amazing, and less understood, than the unconditional covenant with Abraham!

"I want you now to plant firmly in mind the specific nature and character of the covenant the Almighty made with David. For it is a vital link in the purpose and mission of Christ—an important KEY to Bible understanding!

"In II Samuel 23:1, 5, we find: 'Now these be the last words of David. . . . God . . . hath made with me *an everlasting covenant*, ordered in all things, and *sure*.' In other words, a covenant that shall endure forever and *cannot fail*!

"Turn back to the seventh chapter of II Samuel for more specific details. God gave David this covenant promise at a time when David was much concerned over the Ark of the Covenant dwelling in a tent. David wanted to build a great temple at Jerusalem.

"And it came to pass that night, that the word of the Lord came unto Nathan, saying, Go and tell my servant David, Thus saith the Lord, Shalt thou build me an house for me to dwell in? . . . 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 [Solomon], 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. 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, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away before thee. *And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever* before thee: THY THRONE SHALL BE ESTABLISHED FOR EVER' (II Samuel 7:4-5, 12-16).

#### Points to Notice

"Notice carefully these points:

1) David's throne was set up and established with Solomon, David's son.

2) The throne—David's throne (verse 16)—was established FOREVER in Solomon (verse 13). Observe that this nowhere says that when Christ comes, God will establish it in *Him* forever. It says it was to be established forever in *Solomon*.

3) What if Solomon, or the children of Israel, disobey? Would that cancel this covenant? Verses 14-15 plainly say that if they commit iniquity, God will chasten them *with the rod of men*, but will NOT break this covenant. The throne shall go on forever just the same!

4) Notice particularly, in case of disobedience, God will *not* take the throne away as He took it from Saul. How did He take it from Saul? Saul's dynasty ended! No son of Saul ever sat on the throne. But Solomon's dynasty would not end. The punishment for disobedience would be chastening at the hands of *men*.

5) Since God did firmly establish this throne with David and with Solomon, if David's throne ceased from existence, even for the length of one generation, could we say it had been established *forever* as God here promised?

"Here is the fact as little realized as any in the Bible! Almighty God made an absolutely binding—just *how* binding we shall see!—covenant with David, *unconditionally* guaranteeing that there should never be a single generation from that time forward when there would not be a descendant of David, in UNBROKEN DYNASTY sitting on David's throne, ruling over children of Israel! It was the promise of a continuous, unbroken dynasty—all generations *forever*—that was guaranteed.

"This is hard to believe! Yet God promised and *unalterably guaranteed* just that! There were no conditions. Nothing that would happen could prevent it. The sins of the people were not to change it. The promise stood immutable!

#### The End of the Record

"But where is that throne today?

"The history of the Bible records a line of kings, all descen-

dants of David in continuous dynasty, down to King Zedekiah. But in the year 585 B.C. this last recorded king ever to sit on this throne was captured by the armies of King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, his eyes were put out, he was taken to Babylon, and there died in a dungeon!

"Moreover, all his sons were slain! All the nobles of Judah who were not already imprisoned or enslaved at Babylon at that time were killed, so that none could remain to sit on the throne of David! The Chaldeans destroyed Jerusalem, burned the Temple and the king's houses, took the Jews, a captive, slave people to Babylon. There is certainly no record of any king of the line of David ruling over Judah from that day to this. However, the line of Jehoiakin to Jesus survived in Babylonish captivity—so Jesus was a descendant of David.

"Some will say, however, that this throne is established today in Christ. But Christ has not yet taken over this throne! He pictured Himself as the nobleman (Luke 19:12) who went to a far country (heaven) to get for Himself a Kingdom, and, who, after receiving the right to the Kingdom, *would return*. Jesus Christ will not sit upon the throne of David until His second coming to earth, yet in the future!

"But what of the nearly 600 years between King Zedekiah and the birth of Christ? *Who* was reigning over the Israelites and sitting on David's throne during those generations? If no one, then we must conclude God broke His Word, or the Scripture has been broken!

"The answer is a mystery more astounding than any tale of fiction! The Bible reveals it, step by step.

"But, then again, some will point to the expression 'I will stablish' (II Samuel 7:13) and conclude that possibly God meant *at the second coming of Christ* He would establish that throne forever. And still that will not do. From whom would Christ take over David's throne if that throne has ceased these centu-

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ries to exist? But God plainly promised He would establish that throne *in Solomon*: 'And I will establish the throne of *his* [Solomon's] kingdom FOR EVER.' He was not speaking of establishing it many centuries later in Christ—at His second coming. The 'he' referred to is Solomon—not Christ, for God said: 'If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him' (II Samuel 7:14).

"But now I give you a scripture that ends all speculation as to *when* this throne was established: 'Hear me, thou Jeroboam, and all Israel; ought ye not to KNOW that the Eternal God of Israel GAVE the kingdom over Israel to David FOR EVER, even to him and to *his sons* by a covenant of salt?' (II Chronicles 13:4-5.) The margin says 'PERPETUAL covenant.' This shows the establishing of the throne was then *in the past!* God gave, did give, this kingdom to David and his *sons*—not his *Son*, Christ, but his sons, plural—continuously forever.

## Established for All Generations

"I have made a covenant with my chosen, I have sworn unto David my servant, Thy seed [dynasty—Moffatt] will I establish for ever, and build up *thy throne to all generations*' (Psalm 89:3-4). Note it! This throne, established forever, was built up to *all generations*. God *did* establish that throne, beginning with David and Solomon. We have a record of it for a number of generations—as far as King Zedekiah, 585 B.C.

"It was established to *all* generations, continuously, perpetually, FOREVER! That term 'all generations' certainly must include those generations from Zedekiah to the birth of Christ. Who occupied that throne during those generations?

"Christ is not sitting on that throne now, but on the throne of Almighty God in heaven (Revelation 3:21).

"So what about *this present generation*? Where is there a descen-

dant of David today sitting in an unbroken line of kings on the throne of David, ruling over *children of Israel*?

"Can one wonder that men like Thomas Paine and Robert Ingersoll lost faith in the Bible? They saw these unconditional promises, but they could not see how they had been kept. Yet, if we have patience, we shall see!

"But to continue, in the 89th Psalm, with the 28th verse: 'My mercy will I keep for him for evermore, and my covenant shall stand fast with him. His seed [dynasty—Moffatt] also will I make to endure for ever, and *his throne as the days of heaven.*'

"Consider a moment the meaning of the word 'seed' in this sense. Moffatt's translation in modern English properly translates it 'dynasty.' The Revised Standard Version translates it 'his [David's] *line*'—that is, continuous line or succession of sons, generation after generation. This 'seed' is not the general population of the children of Israel. This is speaking of David's seed, or David's sons. His sons were to be *kings*. David was of the tribe of Judah, possessor of the sceptre, not the birthright, promise. His 'seed,' therefore, was the *kingly line*. So, literally, it means his *dynasty*, his *line* of successive sons.

"Now while his throne is enduring through all generations, as the days of heaven, consider the next verse: 'If his children forsake my law, and walk not in my judgments; if they break my statutes, and keep not my commandments; then will I visit their transgression with the rod, and their iniquity with stripes. Nevertheless my lovingkindness will I not utterly take from him, nor suffer my faithfulness to fail. *My covenant will I not break*, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips. Once have I sworn by my holiness that I will not lie unto David. HIS SEED [dynasty] 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' (Psalm 89:30-37).

"This is speaking of those generations when his children may dis-

obey and forsake God's law. Some today are excusing their inability to locate this throne by saying the covenant was *conditional*—that because the children of Israel disobeyed God, the covenant was broken. But what does the Almighty say? If the children disobey and transgress, they shall be *punished* for their transgression—but *not* by the breaking of God's unconditional covenant with David!

"Some say Christ took over the throne. But He didn't. Instead He was crucified, resurrected, and ascended to heaven. He *shall* come, and soon now, to sit upon that throne as the King of kings and Lord of lords. But how could Jesus Christ, when He returns again to earth, take over and sit upon a throne that long ago ceased to exist?

## Will Christ Come to a Nonexistent Throne?

"If the throne of David ceased with Zedekiah, then it does not exist today. And if it does not exist, *how shall Christ sit upon a nonexistent throne?* (See Luke 1:31-32.) And, since it was to continue through *all* generations, how about those many generations between Zedekiah and the birth of Jesus?

"The very important *fact* that the glorified King of kings is coming to sit on an *existing throne* is further affirmed by the prophet Jeremiah. In the 33rd chapter is a prophecy of events to occur at the time of Christ's coming in supreme power and glory! At the time of writing this prophecy, the prophet was imprisoned in Jerusalem. The armies from Babylon were taking the Jews captive. God said to Jeremiah, 'I will . . . shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not. . . concerning the houses of this city, and concerning the houses of the kings of Judah, which are thrown down . . .' (verses 3-4).

"Jeremiah knew the king's houses in Jerusalem were being destroyed—the throne of David *removed* from Jerusalem. He was, as will be shown later, to be God's agent in rooting out that throne from Jerusalem. God was now revealing to him a reassuring fact. The throne of David would, in

this end time, be again planted in Jerusalem. God now reassures the prophet that the throne will rule continuously over Israelites *until* that time. It will be the *same continuous* dynasty. The Messiah will sit on an existing throne!

“Here is the prophecy of what is to happen at Christ’s glorious coming to rule: ‘Behold, the days come, saith the Eternal, that I will perform that good thing which I have promised unto the house of Israel and to the house of Judah’ (verse 14). Notice carefully! This *promise* of David’s continuous dynasty is a promise to the *house of Israel*, as well as to Judah. Since the division into two nations, that throne had not been connected with Israel—only with Judah. But the promise to be fulfilled at Christ’s coming connects it with Israel as well as Judah!

“Continue: ‘In those days, and at that time, will I cause the Branch of righteousness [the Messiah] to grow up unto David; and he shall execute judgment and righteousness in the land’ (verse 15). This speaks of Christ’s rule as King of kings. Jesus, a descendant of David by human birth (Rom. 1:3), was the righteous *Branch*, or offshoot of David.

“Continue: ‘In those days shall Judah be saved, and Jerusalem shall dwell safely. . . . For thus saith the Eternal; David shall never want a man to sit upon the throne of the house of Israel’ (verses 16-17). Note it! It does not say David shall not, *finally*, after 2,500 years without a man on the throne, want for one. It says David shall NEVER—at any time—through all generations—want for a descendant to remain sitting on his throne! . . .

#### What People Say

“Continue: ‘Considerest thou not what this people have spoken, saying, The two families which the Eternal hath chosen, he hath even cast them off? Thus they have despised my people, that they should be no more a nation before them’ (verse 24).

“That is what the *people* have been saying, as they were prophesied to say! They say the Jews were scattered among many, if not all, nations—scattered *individuals*—

but no longer a nation having its own government! And the Ten Tribes were supposed to have been ‘lost,’ or to have gone out of existence, or to be just part of the scattered individual Jews! Yes, so the Jews themselves have said—and so the world has said! But what does GOD say?

“Continue, next verse: ‘Thus saith the Eternal; If my covenant be not with day and night, and if I have not appointed the ordinances of heaven and earth; then will I cast away the seed of Jacob, and David my servant, so that I will not take any of his seed [dynasty] to be rulers over the seed of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob: for I will cause their captivity to return, and have mercy on them’ (verses 25-26).

#### The Test of Bible Truth

“Strong words, those! Unless you can stop this old earth from turning on its axis—unless you can remove the sun and the moon and stars from heaven, says the Almighty, you cannot prevent Him from keeping His covenant to maintain *continuously, through all generations, FOREVER*, from the time of David and Solomon, a descendant of David in one continuous dynasty on that throne!

“He would not necessarily rule over *all* the house of Israel, or the Jews—but at least some of them, and enough to form a nation.

“This *cannot* be applied to mean that there would not have been a continuous throne, or that it applies only to the ‘one seed’—Christ—finally coming to rule. Notice, it says specifically, ‘. . . so that I will not take any of his seed to be RULERS [more than one] over’ Israelites. It is speaking of continuous, multiple rulers—not one Ruler coming to sit on a throne that 2,500 years before had ceased to exist!

“The COVENANT PROMISE to David is plain and definite. Either his dynasty has continued and exists today, ruling over the house of ISRAEL (not the Jews), or God’s Word fails!

“Remember again the sceptre promise, which includes this line of kings until it culminates in CHRIST at His second coming: ‘The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver [margin, ruler’s staff]

from between his feet, UNTIL SHILOH [Christ] COME; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be’ (Genesis 49:10).

“Has the sceptre departed from Judah? Has the throne ceased? Or does it, as God so bindingly promised, exist today so that Christ can take over and sit upon a functioning, continuous throne when He comes?

“The infallibility of the Bible is at stake! God’s Word is at stake!”

The above is quoted from my book *United States and Britain in Prophecy*. A copy of this eye-opening book will be sent gratis upon request.

There you need to read how the throne of King David of ancient Israel came to be in London today.

David’s dynasty continued to King Zedekiah of Judah. He was taken captive to Babylon where he died. All his sons died. But the prophet Jeremiah transplanted that throne through a daughter (princess) of King Zedekiah in north Ireland shortly after 585 B.C. She married a king Herremon in direct descendant from Judah, son of Jacob and father of the tribe of Judah. That completed the overturn of the throne from Jerusalem to Ireland. It was overturned a second time, later, and taken to Scotland. It was overturned a third time and removed to London. It shall be overturned once more, at Christ’s coming as King of kings, and removed to Jerusalem.

This was prophesied in Ezekiel 21:26-27, “Thus saith the Lord God; Remove the diadem, and take off the crown [from Zedekiah]: this shall not be the same: exalt him that is low [Herremon], and abase him that is high [Zedekiah]. I will overturn, overturn, overturn, it: and it shall be no more [overturned], until he [Christ] come whose right it is; and I will give it him” (Ezekiel 21:26-27).

That throne of England is IMPORTANT in the eyes of GOD!

The recent royal wedding was that of an heir to that throne—provided Christ does not come and take it over before the Prince of Wales inherits it. Few understood the real significance of the recent royal wedding. □