

SINCE 1976



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A STREET EVANGELIST IS BORN

As told to Tamar Afriat

www.TiferetYeshua.org

David is a “born” street evangelist: he’s outgoing, friendly, has a winning smile and a passion to share the Messiah—even in the face of physical attacks. Every week you can find him somewhere on the streets of Tel Aviv, witnessing and praying with people. Here’s his story...in his own words.

Missing Something

I grew up in a traditional Jewish home. For a while my older brother studied in a yeshiva (a religious school) and my mom highly revered the Orthodox way of life. She would go to the rabbis for counsel

and did her best to make sure we all went to the synagogue, particularly on High Holidays. I would go, but inside I didn’t connect to anything there, and I felt there must be something deeper than all this—I didn’t know what it was, whether it was God or not, but I knew that something was missing.

The Encounter



In 2002, after serving in a combat unit in the IDF for three years, I flew to the US and began selling Dead Sea products at a mall. I was making great money and living the high life with all the pleasures the world had to offer. Despite doing virtually

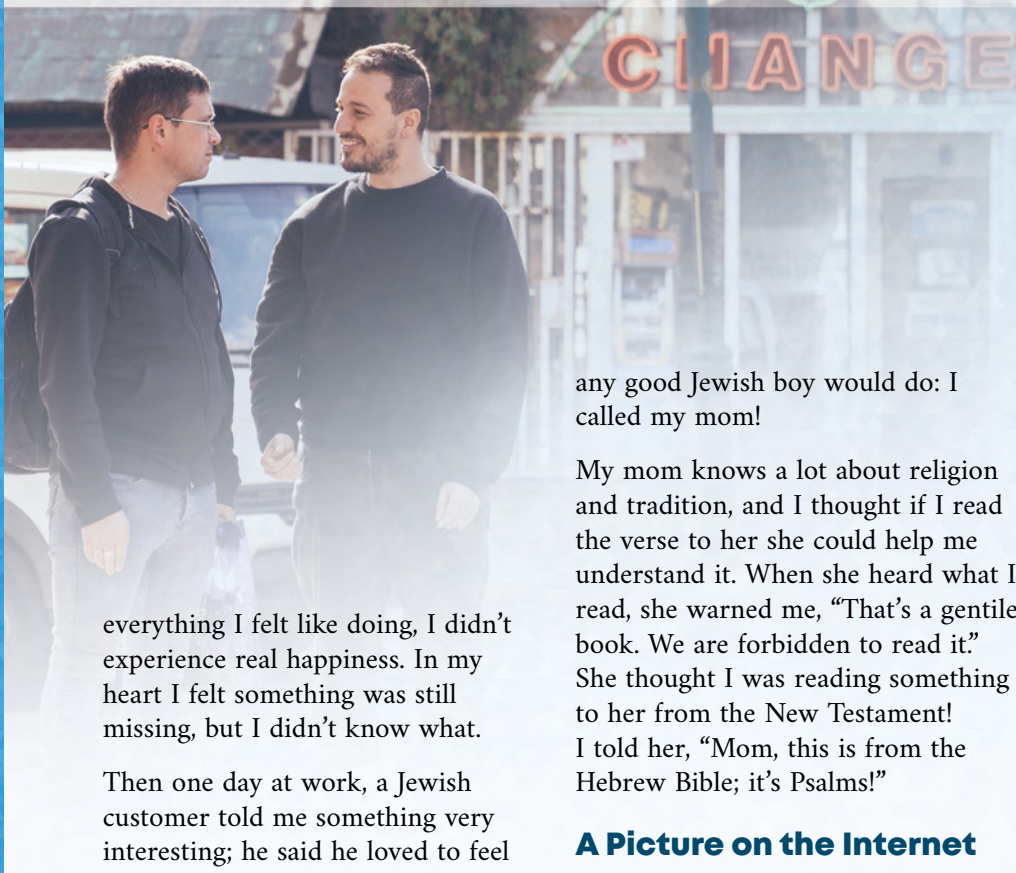
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everything I felt like doing, I didn't experience real happiness. In my heart I felt something was still missing, but I didn't know what.

Then one day at work, a Jewish customer told me something very interesting; he said he loved to feel God in his life every day. And then he asked me a very interesting question: "Have you ever felt God in your life?" My answer was "No," but I wondered to myself, "How can you actually feel God?"

any good Jewish boy would do: I called my mom!

My mom knows a lot about religion and tradition, and I thought if I read the verse to her she could help me understand it. When she heard what I read, she warned me, "That's a gentile book. We are forbidden to read it." She thought I was reading something to her from the New Testament! I told her, "Mom, this is from the Hebrew Bible; it's Psalms!"

A Picture on the Internet

My search continued. I had always wondered about all the sacrifices in the Old Testament, and, in particular, I had wondered why God would ask Abraham to sacrifice his son, Isaac. One day, while I was looking

God says, "I am the first and the last." Soon after, I saw the same line in Revelation where Yeshua says, "I am the first and the last." Suddenly I realized that Yeshua was not just Messiah, but also Divine. No one had told me!

The moment I believed Yeshua is a part of God, my connection with Him grew much deeper. He's not just the Savior, the suffering servant Isaiah talks about. He is God and King. Here in Israel, some people may come to the conclusion that Yeshua is the Messiah spoken of in the Jewish Scriptures. "Ok," they'll say, "Yeshua is the Messiah. He's Lord, but He's not God." It takes a revelation from God for Jews to get over the hurdle of accepting that the Messiah is also God.

The Change

When I came to faith in Yeshua, you could say I was a typical Israeli "punk." You name it, I smoked it. But as I grew in my faith, I would talk to Yeshua all the time. One day while I was talking to Him, I had an e-cigarette in my hand, and I suddenly felt disgusted by it and threw it away. From then on, I gave it all up.

My mom blamed my believing in Yeshua for the bad things that were happening in the family.

When I went home that evening, his question kept nagging me. Finally, I said to God, "I want to know from You what the truth is!" I decided to do something about it: I started reading the Bible.

I soon came across Psalm 22 where it's written, "My God my God why have You forsaken Me?" and "they pierce my hands and my feet" about someone who's being tortured and mocked. The moment I read this, I was afraid it was talking about Yeshu the Notzri (a derogatory name given Yeshua by the rabbis). So, I did what

up information about the sacrifice of Isaac on the internet, I found a painting of Abraham offering Isaac as a sacrifice to God. Right above it though, was a picture of Yeshua on the cross—God offering His Son as a sacrifice for us. I suddenly understood it. For me, that was the point of no return.

Another Revelation

As soon as I accepted that Yeshua was my Messiah, I began devouring the Word, wanting to learn as much as I could. I came across Isaiah 44 where it's written in verse 6 that

You've Betrayed Your People and Your Heritage!

When I first told my parents about my faith in Yeshua, they did not take it well at all. They told me I had betrayed my religion and my people. My mom, in particular, had a very difficult time. It didn't help that I broke the news to her during a time when there had been some tragedies in my family, and this news that I had, in her eyes, betrayed my people and my faith was very difficult for her. She even blamed my believing in Yeshua for the bad things that were happening in the family.



Tiferet Yeshua
Congregation in
downtown Tel Aviv.

However, when I moved back to Israel, my parents began to see the changes that had taken place in me. I come from a Moroccan Jewish background, and Moroccans are known in Israel for their warm but explosive temperaments—that was me. You couldn't have a normal conversation with me: I'd cut you

because of what God had done for me through his Son. Praise God, they now know that He's not Yeshu the Notzri but Yeshua the Jew! He came for all of us—first for the Jews and then for the rest of the world. It's just that we, the Jewish nation, rejected Him when He came—just as we rejected many other prophets

At first I was afraid, and I would let them approach people while I'd stand aside to see if it ended up with punches thrown. After a while, though, God gave me grace and it came more naturally for me.

It's not always easy talking to people about Yeshua, and many Israelis don't want to hear about Him because they've already been told so many terrible things about Him. But, I feel called to bring the message of the Jewish Messiah to the people of Israel—to ask people, “Why are you here? What does God want from you? What does the Bible say about it?”

My family saw that I was suddenly a serious, responsible person whereas before I was just interested in fooling around.

off. I'd swear. I was prideful and impatient. All of that began to change as I grew in my relationship with Yeshua.

My family saw that I was suddenly a serious, responsible person whereas before I was just interested in fooling around. They knew how addicted I had been to smoking and drugs and suddenly I wasn't doing any of that. It didn't take long for them to realize all these changes in me were

God sent throughout the Bible. But there was always a remnant among the Jews who believed.

The Calling of an Evangelist

When I first came to Tiferet Yeshua Congregation, a couple who would go out every week to witness on the streets invited me to join them. We prayed together before we went out and then headed to the streets.

It is my prayer that the questions I ask them will have the same effect as that one question someone asked me all those years ago in America—and they would, in turn, dare to ask God, “Show me who you are!”

Yeshua was what I was missing my whole life. His peace changed my heart and transformed me for good. The more I learned, the more Yeshua won my heart and I just fell in love with Him. ■



The Price of a Bible We Could Understand

By Shira Sorko-Ram

PART IV

The Dark Ages hung over Europe for close to a thousand years. Most humans existed as slaves under another name. Eighty to ninety percent of Europe's population were serfs who worked for their masters or "Lords," growing their food, raising their livestock, milling their grain and spinning their thread. They and their Lords lived in virtually self-contained economic manors.

After their forced-labor duties were done, the peasants and their serf-born children then paid a hefty fee in exchange for using a piece of their master's land to eke out a few crops for their own survival. They could never leave their manor. They were completely illiterate, though their Lord and his children probably had some education.

The Crusades had come and gone. The Popes had called

for their mighty hordes of Crusaders to defeat the Muslims. Instead, they viciously slaughtered Jews and other minor Christian sects while failing to oust the Muslims.

Of course, Crusaders did learn and advance from their contact with the Muslims—like the numeric system (1, 2, 3, 4), science, astronomy and even ship building, which added value to the wealthy and powerful of Europe.

But Europe's knowledge of God as written in the Bible had hit bottom. The religion they knew was to pray to Mary and the Saints and to pay money to the local priest to have their sins forgiven (indulgences). A personal relationship with their Savior, Jesus Christ, was forgotten, long ago, by the Catholic church.

The Black Death

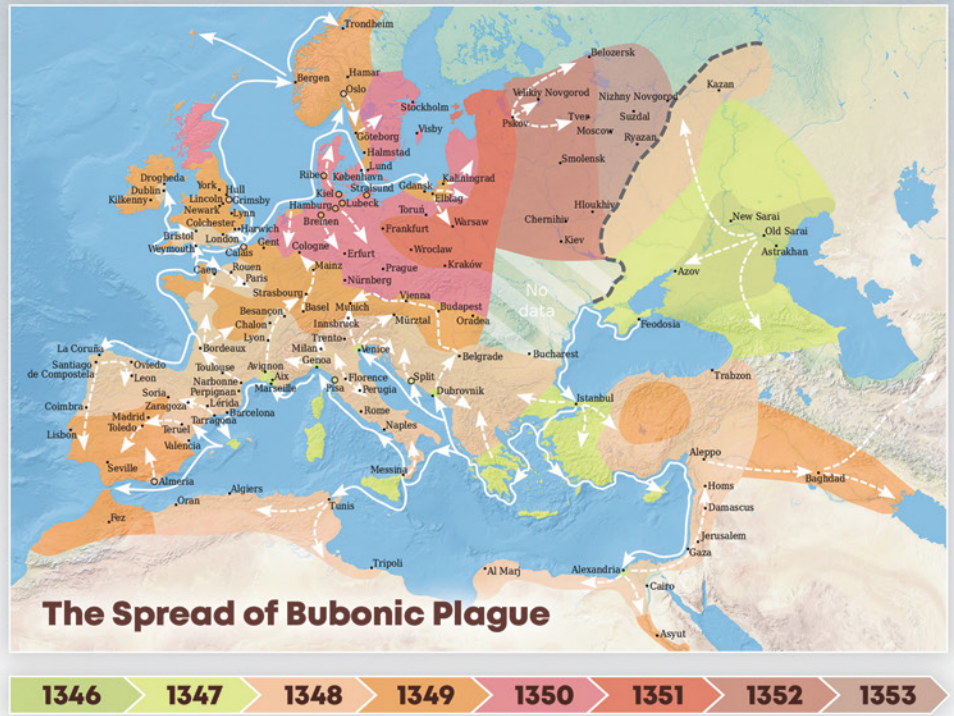
Then the Bubonic Plague brought change to Europe that transformed it forever. In 1346, diseased fleas, riding on rats aboard ships, began to kill sailors. Wherever these ships docked and transferred goods onto horses, the fleas and the infected rats rode with them. The plague hit the entire continent. Twenty-two days after exposure, masses of people would die.

The living dug deep pits which, within a day would be filled. The latest researchers say that within seven years, 50 million Europeans died—60% of Europe. This is a truly mind-boggling statistic. Of course, no one knew what was causing the plague. Jews were accused of poisoning the wells, and thousands of them were burned at the stake by their countrymen.

What good could have come from the Black Death? Inevitably it had an enormous impact on European society and greatly affected the development of western civilization. So many serfs (and their masters) died that the entire economic order of western civilization was disrupted. There were no longer enough workers to till the land. Property changed hands. Many peasants, for the first time in centuries, began moving around, finding work with better conditions. Wages rose. Some were able to buy land for themselves or begin small businesses. The European economy began to flourish and expand.

Yet Another Catastrophe

Still another disaster: the Byzantine Empire imploded from inside—as empires tend to do because of civil wars and struggles by their own greed-driven rulers. In 1453 a weakened Constantinople was overrun by the Ottoman Turks and



As ships docked in the waters surrounding Europe, and horses carried goods on land trade routes, they carried the Bubonic Plague by fleas and their host rats.

language Vulgate Bible—completely corrupted with mixed Catholic doctrine interlaced among the chapters. Western scholars had simply lost knowledge of both Hebrew and Greek—the original languages of the Bible.

Incredibly, even the fall of the Byzantine empire in 1453 helped fuel a budding Renaissance of education which would rediscover classical philosophy, literature and art. Yes, the Renaissance was primarily a cultural movement which promoted humanism, but it also helped lay the foundation for the Protestant Reformation.

No one could have written a script that foresaw what was about to happen. In the Byzantine empire, Greek was still widely spoken, and students received education in Greek history and literature. There was also some Hebrew language scholarship, mainly among Jews. When the Ottoman Turks captured Constantinople, Greek scholars fled

and brought their knowledge to Europe. Both Greek and Hebrew were resurrected by European scholars’ growing interest in these ancient languages. And the printing press had just been invented which would spread education throughout western Europe.

Martin Luther 1483 - 1546

Just at this auspicious moment in time, a man appeared on the horizon who radically reshaped Germany’s religion, language and culture. In fact, the entire western civilization would be fundamentally transformed. Ordained a priest in 1507, Martin Luther became a German professor of theology, composer, priest and a monk—and a reformer. Like the Czech martyr John Hus, he especially despised the practice of indulgences to pay one’s way out of hell.

As he studied the Bible, he came to the conclusion that salvation and eternal life are not earned by



The Ottoman Turks transport their fleet on their way to conquer Constantinople.

ended its 1000-year reign. Again, what good could have come out of this Muslim victory over the remnants of a Christian empire?

Through many hundreds of years in western Christian countries, the only Bible available was the Latin-



The Wartburg room where Luther translated the New Testament into German. An original first edition is kept in the case on the desk.

Credit: Wikipedia

good deeds but are a free gift of God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ as redeemer from sin. He challenged the Popes' authority by teaching that the Bible is the only source of divinely-revealed knowledge.

Luther's goal was to equip every German-speaking Christian with the ability to read or hear the Word of God, and his translation of the Old and New Testaments from Hebrew and Greek into the vernacular by 1534 actually launched the Reformation.

His translation of the Bible into German had a tremendous



Katharina von Bora, Luther's wife, by Lucas Cranach the Elder, 1526

Credit: Wikipedia

Luther's goal was to equip every German-speaking Christian with the ability to read or hear the Word of God.

impact on German culture. Besides challenging the Roman Catholic Church, it helped standardize the German language itself. His hymns influenced the development of singing in Protestant churches. His marriage to Katharina von Bora, a former nun, set a model for the practice of clerical marriage, allowing Protestant clergy to marry.

His *Ninety-five Theses*, which he posted on the door of All Saints' Church in 1517, sparked the Protestant Reformation. The Catholic Church was ever after divided, and the Protestantism that soon emerged was shaped by Luther's ideas. His writings changed the course of religious and cultural history in the West.¹

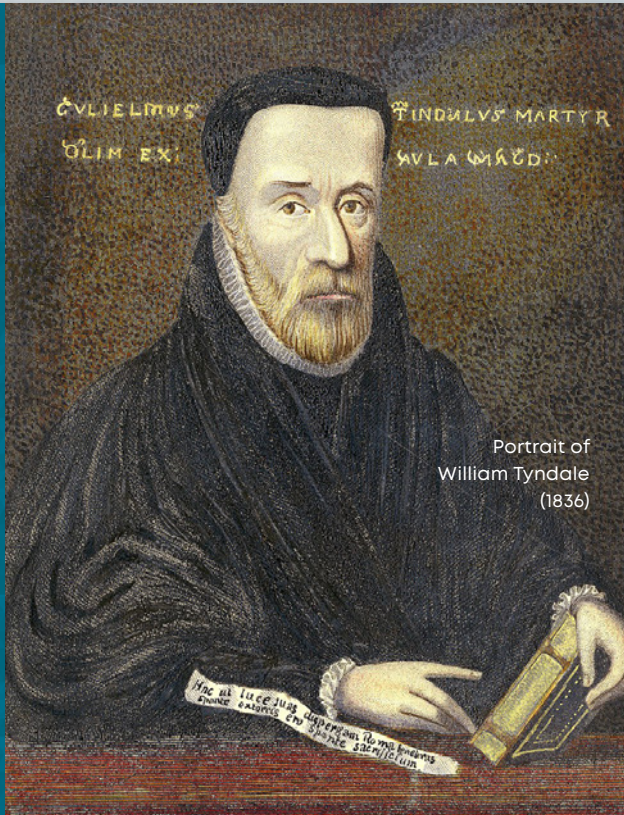
People Learn To Read

His New Testament was spread so quickly by printers that even tailors and shoemakers, yes, even women and ignorant persons who had accepted this new Lutheran gospel, and could read a little German, studied it with the greatest avidity as the fountain of all truth!

Though declared a heretic and his articles burned by the Church, he escaped execution because of his popularity with the common people. He was "kidnapped" by a local ruler and whisked away to be hidden in a castle. It was there he began work on translating the entire Bible. In all, it took him ten years to finish his translation from Hebrew and Greek.

The precedent he set was followed by other scholars, whose work made the Bible widely available in the vernacular and contributed significantly to the development of national languages.²

However, in his later years, he seemed to become a bitter old man. His rage against Jews is an ineradicable evil stain on his life and his accomplishments. His life is a warning to all of us that although a person can be mightily used by God to change a nation, hatred and rage, as was found in Luther, defiled an entire people and poisoned Christianity until Hitler found succor in Luther's writings. Nevertheless, it must be added: there had been a toxic malignancy of anti-Semitism throughout all the generations of the Roman Catholic Church. Though Luther was able to break away from much of the corruption of the Catholic Church, he was not able to shed this great sin.



Portrait of
William Tyndale
(1836)

William Tyndale 1494 – 1536

The English Reformation was more bloody than that of Germany. After John Wycliffe translated the Bible into English near the end of the 1300's, the Roman Catholic Church declared the death penalty for anyone found with an English Bible.

William Tyndale was studying at Oxford and Cambridge Universities where Wycliffe had also attended a hundred years earlier. For those working on a degree in theology, their textbook was the Latin Vulgate Bible, as no other language was allowed.

But the halls of Cambridge were already flooded with Luther's ideas. Tyndale loudly complained, *"They have decided that no man shall look at scripture, until he is nursed by heathen learning for eight or nine years and armed with false principles, which clean shut him out of the understanding of scripture."*

Now William Tyndale's burning desire was to make the Bible available to all the common people of England. Shocked at the lack of elementary knowledge of the Bible among even the clergy, he told one priest,

"I defy the pope and all his laws," replied William, "and if God spares my life, before many years pass I will help the boy who drives a plow to know more of the scriptures than you do!"

He went to London to ask the Bishop if he could be authorized to make an English translation of the Bible. The answer was no! So he left for

Germany. He knew, of course, that John Wycliffe had created such a translation many years before, but his version was hand-copied, inaccurate, and very hard to find. Furthermore, it was translated from the Latin Vulgate, not from the original Hebrew and Greek.

Risking His Life

In Hamburg he worked on an English translation of the New Testament, and in Cologne, he found a printer who would dare to print his work. However, news of Tyndale's New Testament got out and the press was raided. Tyndale escaped with the pages already printed and found a publisher in the city of Worms. Six thousand copies were printed and smuggled into England. The archbishop of Canterbury bought up copies from a friend of Tyndale, and destroyed them. The friend then gave the money to Tyndale which he used to print improved editions!

Tyndale had every reason to fear the Church's wrath. Only a few years before, six men and a woman were burned to death for teaching their children the Lord's Prayer and a few other verses in English, rather than Latin. But Tyndale began translation of the Old Testament as he hid among the merchants in Antwerp while Henry VIII, the Pope and the Holy Roman Emperor were searching all over England and Europe for him.

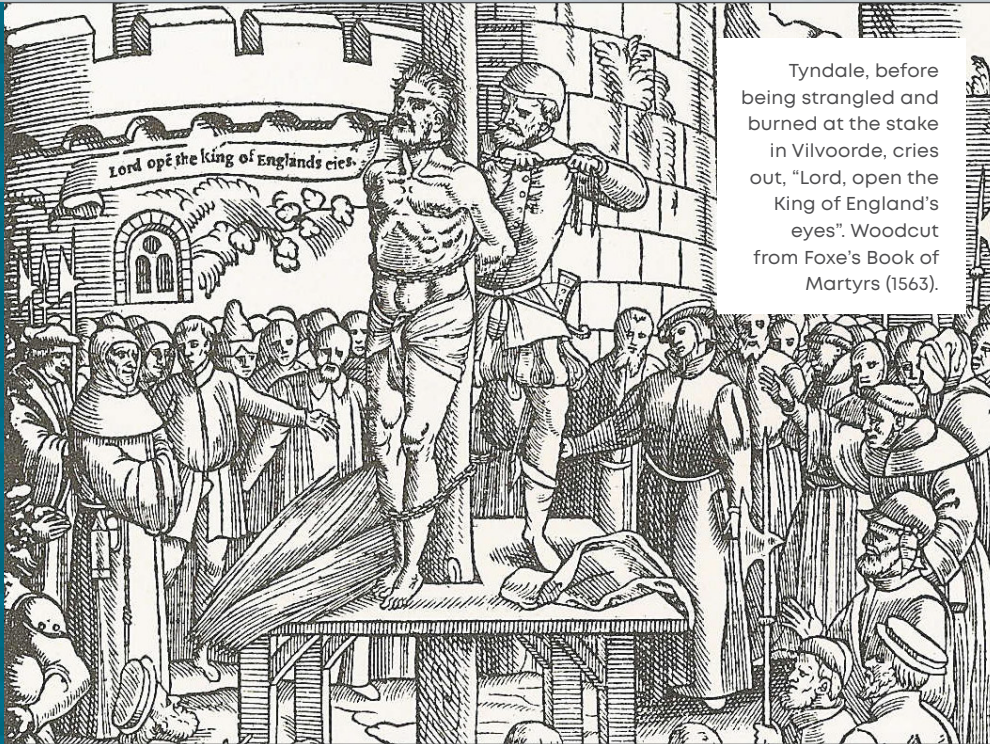
Tyndale's burning desire was to make the Bible available to all the common people of England.

A True Genius

He worked directly from the original Hebrew and Greek while comparing his work to the Latin Vulgate and Luther's recent German translation. He had learned Hebrew from rabbis he studied under in Germany. As for the Greek, he essentially taught himself! The style of his translation was simple and beautiful, words suitable for the common people. The British *Telegraph* newspaper recently wrote that his genius matched that of Shakespeare.

In the beginnyng was the worde, and the worde was with God: and the worde was God. John 1:1

He was finally betrayed by an Englishman who pretended to be his friend, but then turned him over to the authorities. He was brought to trial for heresy—for believing, among other things, in the forgiveness of sins and that the mercy offered in the gospel was



Credit: Wikipedia

enough for salvation. Some of the many charges were:

- *He maintains that faith alone justifies.*
- *He denies that there is any purgatory.*
- *He affirms that neither the Virgin nor the saints should be invoked by us.*

In 1536 he was condemned, and soon after was strangled and his body burned at the stake. The *Foxe Book of Martyrs* relates,



Henry in 1540, by Hans Holbein the Younger

“William said nothing for some time, then uttered a few final words: ‘Lord, open the King of England’s eyes.’”

God Hears The Cries Of Martyrs

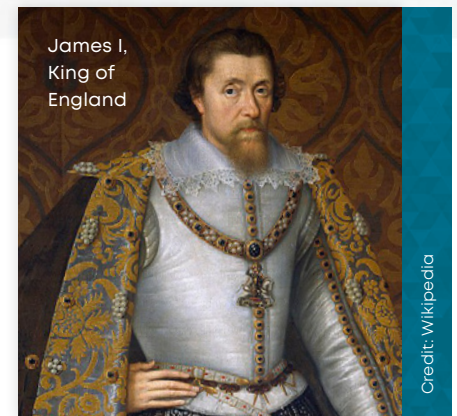
Amazingly, that same year King Henry VIII made a complete U-turn and declared it legal to translate the Bible into English. He announced the power of the Roman Catholic Church would now be his. Two years later, he required every church in England to make a copy of the English Bible available to its parishioners!

To meet this demand, an English ‘Great Bible’ (so-called because of its size) was put into production. It was based on William Tyndale’s illegally translated version—as much as he was able to do before his death—and finished by Miles

Coverdale in 1535. It was the first Bible to be printed in English from the original languages. Immediately, 9,000 Bibles were distributed around England at the command of the Crown.

Back To Catholicism

But when King Henry VIII’s daughter, Mary Tudor, became queen in 1553, she was determined to return England back to the Roman Catholic religion. She burned at the stake 280 Protestant opponents including John Rogers, the publisher of the Great Bible. Fortunately her damage was limited to a reign of five years, and her hopes for a Catholic England died with her.



Credit: Wikipedia

In 1611, her Protestant son, King James I, commissioned 47 scholars to produce the King James Bible. One estimate suggests that the New Testament in the King James Version is 83% Tyndale’s and the Old Testament 76%. In 2002, William Tyndale was placed at number 26 in the BBC’s poll of the 100 Greatest Britons. And the *King James Bible* today remains the most popular book of all time. ■

1 <http://b.link/martin-luther> 2 <http://b.link/martin-luther-2>

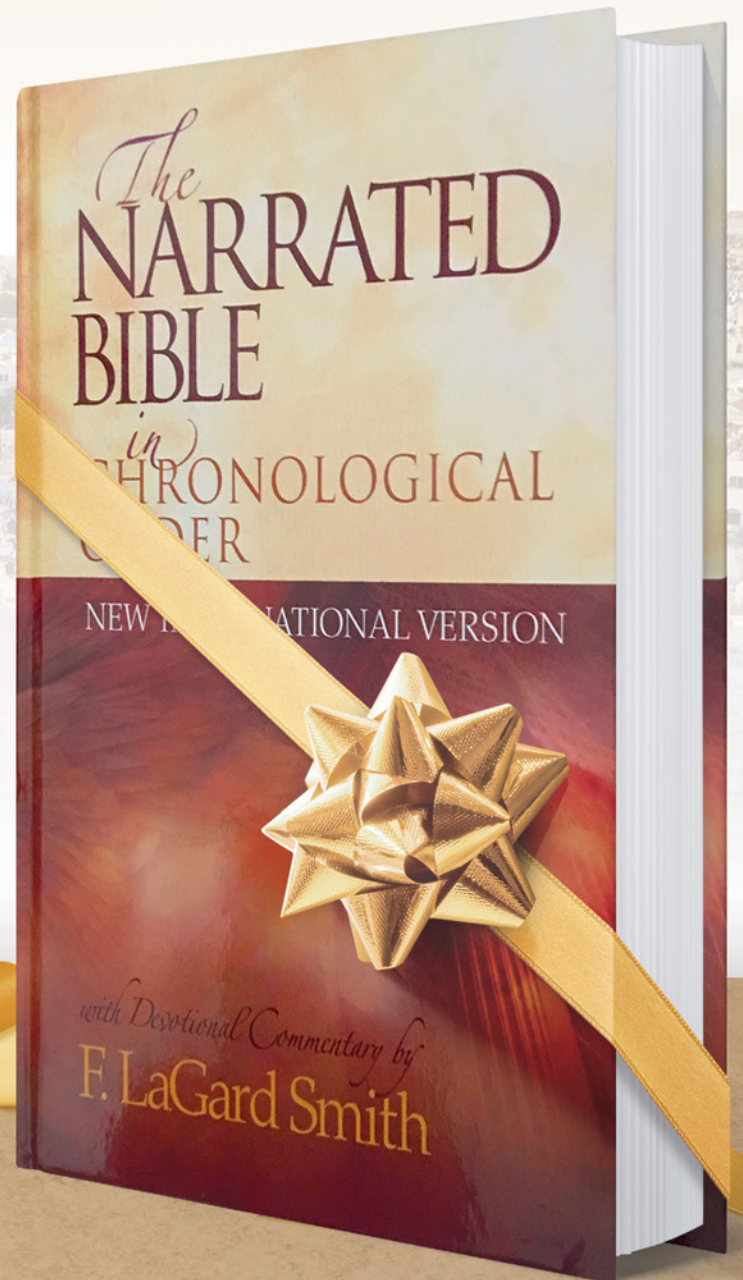
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A VISION CONCERNING THE
DESTINIES
OF THE
UNITED STATES, ISRAEL & JUDAH

Given by Veronica West

This evening I was prompted to go into my prayer closet as The Spirit of Revelation wanted to show me something significant.

As I began to pray in The Spirit, suddenly I heard the sound of a gavel being hit upon a wooden block and as I prayerfully leaned a little deeper into the sound, suddenly I was caught up in a powerful vision where I found myself standing in what looked like an elaborate type of library.

As far as my eyes could see, I saw that there were hundreds upon hundreds of large ancient books lining the back of the walls in this strange place. This room was so vast that I couldn't see where the room began or where it ended.

The ceilings in this strange and magnificent place were so high that again I could not see where the ceiling started or ended and the walls seemed to span out as far as my eyes could see, no beginning and no end.

But as I tried to adjust my vision to my surroundings to get a

closer look, things seemed only to get further away!

However, I knew by revelation that this was, in fact, a realm and dimension of The Spirit that I had never seen or encountered before now.

I could tangibly feel the weightiness of The Glory of The LORD in that place.

Radiant light of many colors illuminated the whole place. The atmosphere felt thick and heavy with a sense of The Fear of The LORD, and yet a feeling of great expectation and anticipation filled my heart and mind.

Then suddenly I became aware of the presence of an Angel of The LORD who was standing at my right hand side! Ha! But I dared not look to the right or to the left, as I was immediately overwhelmed by a feeling of great awe at both the size and the sheer magnitude of this created angelic being that was standing at my side.

Now while I dared not look at The Angel of The LORD, I could

feel an intense heat radiating from where the angel stood. Strange heatwaves seemed to penetrate my innermost being.

While trying to take in all of my surroundings within the vision, my heart began to inquire of The LORD and immediately The Angel spoke to me saying, "Fear not! Only watch and do not speak...!"

As I heard the voice of The Angel, suddenly the vision shifted, and I found myself standing looking at three large and ancient books which stood upright and side by side.

Now just looking at them, I could feel the weightiness of each book. Not even the strongest of men nor the most powerful of machines could lift even one of these ancient books that stood before me!

As I looked intently at them, suddenly a voice spoke to me saying, "These are the books of the written destinies of three nations..."

from a woman from Ireland who has a considerable
are powerful and beneficial to the praying Body of Messiah.

CONCERNING THE NATIONS & THE UNITED KINGDOM!

on November 12, 2019

As I listened, daring not speak or utter a single word, I looked at the first book and I knew by revelation I was looking at the book of The Written Destiny of the nation of the United States of America.

The middle book which stood between the three was the book of The Written Destiny of Israel and the last of the three was the book of The Written Destiny of The United Kingdom of Great Britain.

As I stayed watching, suddenly I saw as if in slow motion, the book of America, the book of Israel and the United Kingdom begin to fall.

Having tangibly felt and experienced something of the weightiness and the magnitude of these three books, I braced myself for a great and terrifying shaking that would happen as they fell to the ground.

But! Just as the three books began to fall, two hands suddenly appeared, each hand holding what looked like a solid-gold bookend

which were placed on either side of the books that had begun to fall.

Then suddenly I heard these words, “My Righteousness and My Justice shall be known as The Golden Bookends that will uplift and uphold these three nations, for a time of great change, transformation and reformation is now upon them!”

As I heard the voice speak, I saw again the two solid-gold Bookends being placed at either side of the three nations that were falling.

As I looked at these Golden Bookends, I saw the Words “**Righteousness**” deeply engraved on the one and “**Justice**” deeply engraved on the other.

As I looked and I looked again, I saw that the books of the written destinies of these three nations were now standing upright, side by side and fixed firmly in place for such a time as this...!

Then suddenly I found myself aware once again of my natural

surroundings and I began to pray as The Spirit led me to pray for the three nations I was shown.

The Spirit of Revelation quieted my spirit as I began to meditate on everything I was shown.

I believe and submit that the three nations I was shown have a unique and divine connection in this hour and that the destinies of these three nations are intrinsically interwoven with one another.

“Righteousness and Justice” shall surely prevail as the Golden Bookends that will prevent these nations from falling at this time.

For I see the governing hand of God now moving mightily and strategically on behalf of these three nations.

There is a divine alignment taking place in the realm of The Spirit. I believe prophetically we will see a mighty demonstration of the “righteousness and the justice” of God prevailing on behalf of these three nations in the days to come to the Glory of Yeshua. ■



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-Wayne and Alice H.

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