

# **THE US AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY IS NOT A TRUE DOCTRINE**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

Herbert W. Armstrong's 1967 booklet, the United States and British Commonwealth in Prophecy teaches that the modern nations of the United States and Great Britain are the birthright nations of Ephraim and Manasseh, the sons of Joseph. Many of the churches that split off from Worldwide teach this same doctrine today. We are told to prove all things and hold fast that which is good. (1Thes 5:21) Mr. Armstrong did truthfully restore many correct Biblical doctrines that we should hold fast to. For example: God is a family, not a trinity; and we do not go to Heaven or Hell when we die. But this doctrine of the US and Britain is not the truth. This can be proven from the scriptures as we shall see. And we should not hold fast to it. These studies follow Mr. Armstrong's booklet as he builds his doctrine from the foundation of interpreting the scriptures of promises to Abraham.

## **PART 1 THE PROMISES GIVEN TO ABRAHAM SEE FIG 1**

### **ONE NATION AND MANY NATIONS**

In promise # 1 (Gen 12:1-2) Abram was told he would become 'one nation'. Promise # 4 (Gen 17:4) was the first place where God said he would become 'many nations'. Then his name was changed to Abraham meaning 'father of many nations'. Mr. Armstrong wanted us to see the 'many nations' as the modern British Commonwealth. So he began to point us in that direction on page 19 of his booklet by saying that these are 'great and large' nations.

### **PROMISE OF LAND**

As he built his doctrine, Mr. Armstrong wanted us to see the promise of land greatly expanded in magnitude to include the lands of modern nations, not confined to Canaan. So he said on page 19 of his booklet, "And how much land?" He first quoted Gen 15:18 (Promise # 3) that says, 'from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates.' "The Euphrates," he said, "is a considerable distance northeast of the Holy Land." It is true that Israel never inherited the land all the way from the Nile in Egypt to the Euphrates in Mesopotamia. But I believe they will inherit it when they are returned to their land in the millennial reign of Christ on earth.

On page 19 of his booklet, Mr. Armstrong said that Gen 28:14 (Promise # 9) is the critical verse showing the magnitude of land promised. 'Thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north and to the south.' He said that the scriptures place no limit as to how far north, east, south and west that Israel was to expand. He wanted us to see this as spreading out around the world (See page 21 in the booklet) and eventually to include the lands of the modern nations United States and Britain. But notice the context of Gen 28:14. God was here talking to Jacob,

son of Isaac. Jacob was sleeping on a certain spot and dreamed of a ladder reaching up to Heaven. He later named this spot Bethel. Bethel is located about the middle of the land that the tribes of Israel later inherited, about 20 miles north of Jerusalem. It became a border town between the nations of Israel and Judah, located on Benjamin's northern border and Ephraim's Southern Border. So it was appropriate for God to tell Jacob that his descendants would spread abroad to the west, to the east, to the north and to the south - of this particular spot - Bethel. As you can see on the map, (Fig 11) all the land that Israel later inherited was indeed north, east, south and west of Bethel to include the entire Land of Canaan.

#### PROMISE OF GATES OF ENEMIES

Mr. Armstrong said on page 20 of his booklet that the descendants of Abraham were to possess the gates of their enemies Gen 22:17 (Promise # 5). He wanted these gates to be thought of as modern gates such as the Panama Canal, the Suez Canal or the Strait of Gibraltar. But do a word search on the word 'gate' and you will find that in most verses in Genesis where the word gate is used, it has to do with the gate of a city. In those days cities were walled and entered by a gate. When the Children of Israel inherited the Promised Land, they literally possessed the 'gates' of all the cities of their enemies.

#### PROMISE OF ALL THESE COUNTRIES

In Promise # 6 God confirmed the promises to Isaac. Mr. Armstrong stressed on page 21 of his booklet that God would give 'all these countries'. (Gen 26:4) He wanted us to think of them as meaning modern countries. But as you can read for yourself in Fig 1, none of the promises gave Abraham any modern countries. What countries did God promise to Abraham? See Promise # 3. They were the countries occupied by these pagan people until Israel conquered them and dwelled in their stead.

Gen 15:18 In the same day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates:

Gen 15:19 The Kenites, and the Kenizzites, and the Kadmonites,

Gen 15:20 And the Hittites, and the Perizzites, and the Rephaims,

Gen 15:21 And the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Girgashites, and the Jebusites.

The 'land of promise' was the land that Abraham sojourned on, not any modern countries.

Hbr 11:8 By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.

Hbr 11:9 By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as [in] a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise:

#### PROMISES CONFIRMED TO JACOB

In Promise # 10 God confirmed the promises to Jacob. In Gen 35:11 he received the single nation of Promise # 1 and the company of nations of Promise # 4. Anglo-Israelists say that America and Britain fit the description as no other claimants to these promises. But seeming to fit an outward description is not the same as scriptural proof. We will later see what the scriptural proof is of a nation and a company of nations.

## CONCLUSION

If we are going to be honest with the promises given to Abraham, as we read through them in Fig 1, we must admit that there is no indication here of modern lands, countries and gates as God's intended interpretation of these scriptures.