

## THE PANORAMIC NEXUS

MY DEAR FRIENDS, in immediate past messages we have spent many enlightening hours together in mutual exploration of the wonderful prophecies of Ezekiel in that book in Tenach — the Old Testament — bearing the great prophet's name.

Because we are now about to penetrate into new areas in search of further treasures from Tenach, it seems to me that this is the very place to spread out before us, in this one single message, the treasures we have accumulated in the preceding discoverative discourses.

What has been revealed to us so far?

1. Well, we found that there is such a phenomenon as Divine predictive prophecy, and we both illustrated and demonstrated this fact by placing side by side the Scriptures of Israel and the history of Israel.
2. Another arresting discovery we made was that a restoration of the people of Israel to the land of Israel is clearly within the content of that Divine predictive prophecy, and through the eyes of Ezekiel we viewed the restored people dwelling at rest in the restored land.
3. Then you will remember, I hope, there was disclosed to us a cheering and delightful treasure. The hope of the predicted restoration of Israel was not founded upon Moses and the Torah but upon a Divine promise given to our father Abraham when he was yet in uncircumcision. This was such an unexpected revelation that we were granted the very assurance of our great Moses himself to aid us in its acceptance and we therefore gazed at his words in Vayikra (Leviticus), chapter twenty-six, with no small measure of astonishment.
4. A fourth treasure we unearthed was one over which there had accumulated so many layers of the dross of sophistication, scepticism and spuriousness that it came near to being overlooked entirely; it was the treasure of the Divine promise to Israel of a Shepherd Prince bearing the imperishable and illustrious name David. This Being we identified as the promised, personal Messiah of Israel. This great Being is linked with Israel's restoration "**in the latter days,**" and His Person and relationship to Israel and, indeed, to all humanity is of such paramount importance that, in future messages, I shall seek to restore to our possession this treasure so exceedingly valuable.
5. Then the prophet Ezekiel caused us to lift our eyes from restored Israel and to give our attention instead to an evil anti-theocratic monster lurking threateningly in regions north of the Holy Land. This monstrous monument of menace to Israel, and indeed to the whole world, is known scripturally as Gog. Gathering around him nations which included Rosh, Meshech, Tubal, Gomer, Togarmah, Paras, Cush and Put, like some loathsome and repulsive spider, Gog begins to weave an encircling web of menace around the restored and unprotected little nation of Israel.

6. Other ethnic groups known as Sheba, Dedan, and Tarshish either protest against this unfolding and enfolding web or inquire regarding it.
7. Suddenly the northern spider springs towards its prey only to be crushed and destroyed under the iron heel of a Divine intervention so obviously supernatural in manifestation that even a sceptical world is convinced that there is a God Who rules and overrules in the affairs of men and nations.
8. Such, my friends, were the Treasures from Tenach we discovered in our past messages and which rang down the curtain on the Divine drama of predictive prophecy in the sphere in which we were investigating it.

Now very naturally our interest became excited as we viewed a prophetic spectacle which could and would have challenged the combined technical and creative resources of the modern motion picture industry to portray it.

But more. We were stabbed into intense inquiry when, silhouetted against the spectacular and colourful horizon of Divine predictive prophecy, we saw the State of Israel, Medinat Yisrael, as it exists today.

Was there a possible or potential relationship between the prophecies and the present? After all, Israel was back in the land and north of him was a great, godless, anti-theocratic power menacing not only Israel but, as I said, all the world.

Realising the importance of our inquiries, you will recall that it was right here — right at this point — we broke our subject into two distinct sections just as clearly as splitting an apple into two halves. The first section had been restricted to setting forth what the Divine Scriptures actually declared; the second section was marked off as an area in which we felt at liberty to express our fallible human opinions provided, of course, we acknowledged them to be such. In the first section we dogmatised perhaps just a little; in the second section we deduced a lot.

Within the luminous circumference of express Scripture revelation we may roam through spiritual parklands of positive perspectives, distinct and definite enough, not only to satisfy the most galvanic dogmatist, but also to justify his explosive positivism within its vast and assuring precincts.

When, however, we lift the latch of this area and pass beyond Divine revelation into the lesser realms of human opinion and deduction — realms quite desirable and legitimate, again, where recognised as such — certainty must cease; positivism must pause; fanaticism must fade, and dogmatism must curly up on its mat and doze.

Recognising the region of human speculation into which we had emerged, we ventured to suggest — just suggest — to you lines of deduction which pointed to the possible identity of Gog and his

partisans as modern Soviet Russia, satellite Germany and a Pan-Islamic Arabic Confederacy encircling restored Israel.

Further deductions prompted us to consider Sheba, Dedan and Tarshish as Arabian countries in sympathetic association with the British Commonwealth of Nations and U.S.A. who either parley or protest in the situation. In advancing this suggestion, we were very careful to point out, and divorce ourselves entirely from, the perils of the unscriptural, unhistorical, anti-Semitic, so-called "British-Israel" theories with which we are in the most hearty disagreement.

Thus we sought to identify the seat and circumstance of restored Israel's menace and we feel we have produced for your careful consideration a total presentation which will commend itself to you as being worthy of your calm and intelligent and perhaps unemotional regard.

When I began this adventure into the Ezekiel prophecies I solicited the privilege of your company by promising you I would endeavour to avoid unwarranted sensationalism and unworthy extravagance and seek to lead your thoughts along sober and trustworthy highways.

I am encouraged to feel I have kept this promise because of the warmth and approval you have so graciously expressed in your letters to me.

**"The Lord bless you, and keep you:**

**The Lord make His face shine upon you, and be gracious unto you:**

**The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace. Amen."**

**Dr Lawrence Duff-Forbes**

**(1900-1964)**

**Founding Director of David House Fellowship Inc.**

This article is an extract from the very popular radio series, "Treasures From Tenach", which are also transcribed. Both audio (click MP3 tab, then "022panoramicnexus.mp3", and transcriptions are available for free download at [www.thevineyard.org.au](http://www.thevineyard.org.au)