

Mt. Pleasant Bible Institute

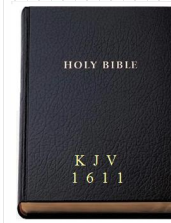
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Study to shew thyself approved unto God" (2 Tim 2:15)

Dr. Joseph Speciale, Instructor

A ministry of the
Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church

Lee Swor, Pastor

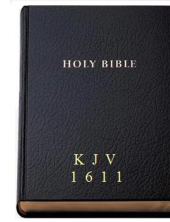


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Bible Prophecy

The Invasion Of Ezekiel 38-39

Ezekiel 38:13

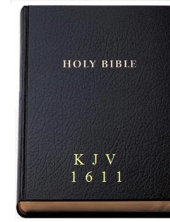


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The merchants of Tarshish.

- It is important to note that it is the **MERCHANTS** of Tarshish that protest the invasion not the **KINGS** of Tarshish (Psa 72:10)
- Why do the **POLITICAL** leaders of Sheba and Dedan protest the invasion, but only the **COMMERCIAL** (business) leaders of Tarshish?
- The purpose of the invasion is **ECONOMIC** so one possible explanation is that Sheba, Dedan, and Tarshish have enormous **ECONOMIC** deals with Israel at the time that they will lose if Israel's resources come under enemy control
- The political leaders in the Arabian Peninsula, particularly the Saudi royal family, are often also the shrewdest and richest business men
- The word *T(h)arshish* means “yellow jasper” and appears 28x
- The same root word is translated **BERYL** (i.e.- the precious stone) 7x
- Tarshish was one of the sons of Javan, a son of Japheth (Gen 10:2,4; 1 Chr 1:5,7)

Ezekiel 38:13



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- Tarshish was a major commercial SEAPORT city that had a NAVY and SHIPS carrying commercial goods to many nations including Israel (1 Kin 10:22; 22:48; 2 Chr 9:21; 20:36-37; Jer 10:9)
- The phrase, “**ships of Tarshish**” appears 7x (2 Chr 9:21; Psa 48:7; Isa 2:16; 23:1,14; 60:9; Eze 27:25) and can be used to represent the proud and lofty engaged in commerce, who will be brought low in the day of the Lord (Isa 2:12,16)
- Tarshish is an ISLE city and associated with the ISLES (Psa 72:10)

Psa 72:10

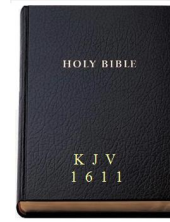
The kings of **Tarshish** and of **the isles** shall bring presents: the kings of Sheba and Seba shall offer gifts.

Isa 23:6; 60:9

Pass ye over to **Tarshish**; howl, ye **inhabitants of the isle**.

Surely **the isles** shall wait for me, and the ships of **Tarshish** first, to bring thy sons from far, their silver and their gold with them, unto the name of the LORD thy God, and to the Holy One of Israel, because he hath glorified thee.

Ezekiel 38:13



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- ISLES is a designation for JAPHETHIC nations AFAR OFF (WEST) from Israel, including those BEYOND THE SEA (i.e.- the Mediterranean)

Gen 10:5

By these were the isles of the Gentiles divided in their lands; every one after his tongue, after their families, in their nations.

Isa 66:19

And I will set a sign among them, and I will send those that escape of them unto the nations, to Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, that draw the bow, to Tubal, and Javan, to the isles afar off, that have not heard my fame, neither have seen my glory; and they shall declare my glory among the Gentiles.

Jer 31:10

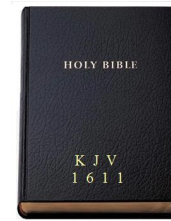
Hear the word of the LORD, O ye nations, and declare *it* in the isles afar off, and say, He that scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him, as a shepherd *doth* his flock.

Jer 25:22

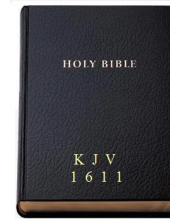
And all the kings of Tyrus, and all the kings of Zidon, and the kings of the isles which are beyond the sea,

Ezekiel 38:13

- Tarshish was a merchant of Tyre (Eze 27:12,25) and the two had a special relationship as evidenced by the fact Tyre is called a “**daughter of Tarshish**” (Isa 23:10) and the ships of Tarshish are called to howl over the judgment of Tyre two times (Isa 23:1,14)
- Tarshish was the WESTERNMOST place in the civilized world at that time and represents the place furthest from the will of God; the place sought by those who are running from God (Jon 1:3; 4:2)
- Josephus states that Tharsus was the ancient name for CILICIA (*Antiquities* Book 1, Chapter 6, 127), appearing to equate it to the city of TARSUS, the birthplace of the apostle Paul (Acts 22:3)



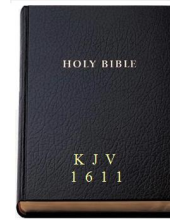
Ezekiel 38:13



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- There is significant evidence that equates Tarshish with the port city of *Tartessos* (or *Tartessus*), located on the southern coast of SPAIN beyond the Strait of Gibraltar (anciently referred to as the “Pillars of Hercules”), southwest of the present day city of Seville
- *Tartessos* is the Aramaic form of *Tarshish*
- The ancient city of Tartessos had a special trading relationship with the Phoenicians much like the special relationship between Tarshish and Tyre described in the Bible
- Tartessos was known for it’s vast mineral wealth, which included the same goods produced by Tarshish (i.e.- silver, iron, **tin**, and lead) (Eze 27:12)
- A poem from the 6th century BC says the following about Tartessos: “Tartessos is situated on an island in a gulf of the same name into which flows the river Tartessos, which flows round its walls...The river forms in its mouth area several arms, of which three flow to the East and four to the South. The latter are flowing around the town. They are carrying in their water pieces of heavy **tin** and bring rich metal to the town of Tartessos”.

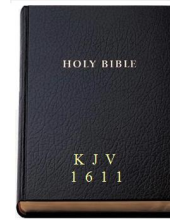
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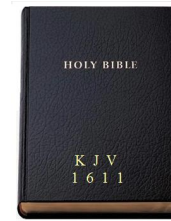


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Tarshish and Tyre

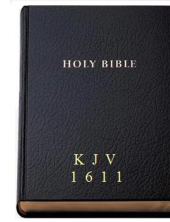
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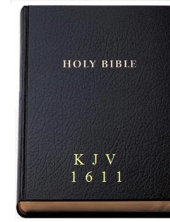


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- The ancient city of Tartessos, Spain fits the Biblical description of the city of Tarshish
 - It is in a JAPHETHIC nation (Gen 10:5)
 - It is an ISLE and SEAPORT city (Psa 72:10; Isa 23:6; 60:9)
 - It is AFAR OFF (West) from Israel (Isa 66:19; Jer 31:10) (it is even BEYOND THE SEA- Jer 25:22)
- Identifying TARSHISH with TARTESSOS and subsequently, with SPAIN is reasonable (but not certain) since it lines up with the Biblical description
- If Tarshish is Spain, then there is an ECONOMIC relationship with Israel that dates back to the days of Solomon (1 Kin 10:22)

Ezekiel 38:13



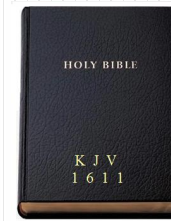
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- Spain became home to more Jews during the dispersion than any other nation, up until 1492 AD
- On March 31, 1492, King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella issued an Edict of Expulsion against the Jews of Spain forcing them out of the country (many fled to England)
- Ferdinand and Isabella were faithful and fiery Roman Catholics simply doing the bidding of the Vatican (Pope Alexander VI bestowed upon them the title, “Catholic King and Queen” in 1494 for defending Catholic dogmas in their realms)
- While most commentators agree there is a connection between Tarshish and Tartessos, some still advance differing views on the interpretation of the Tarshish in Ezekiel 38:13

Other Interpretations Of The Tarshish Of Ezekiel 38:13

1) Tarshish is GREAT BRITAIN

- While Great Britain has a history of rich commerce and a formidable navy, it does not meet the entire Biblical description of Tarshish:



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