



ISRAEL-INDIA TIES DESCRIBED OVER 155 YEARS AGO! The Truth of the Bible confirmed yet again!

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This is The Bible in the News, and this is Paul Billington speaking. Well—The Bible *is* in the News all the time, and so many news stories reflect the prophecies of Scripture that are fulfilling in our day. There is much that we could talk about this week—but I want to focus upon India. Last weekend terror bombings in New Delhi killed 62 people—and once again it was an Islamic group that claimed responsibility for it. Another 39 victims remained in serious condition and authorities expect the death toll to rise.

Whatever the motives were for this terror attack, one thing is certain—and that is the sympathy that will be felt by Israel, who herself has suffered so much at the hands of terrorists. Only this week another Israeli soldier was killed. Israel and India already work on joint counter-terror programmes, and these events are only going to strengthen links between these two countries.

But there is much more that is bringing Israel and India together. Israel's relations with India today rest on a solid foundation of trade, tourism, scientific and academic exchanges as well as in counter-terrorism.

Diplomatic ties between the two countries were only established in 1992, but since then the links have become very strong. Trade figures are expected to reach \$5 billion by 2007. Ariel Sharon visited India in September of 2003—the first visit by a Prime Minister of Israel.

So here is a development that is going on but which only occasionally makes the news headlines. One of those situations which continues to mature over a period of several years, but which is a fulfillment of prophecy just as surely as the more dramatic news events that act as wake-up calls to us.

Now in the book by John Thomas written in 1849, and entitled *Elpis Israel*, this development was foreseen through the light of Bible prophecy. 155 years ago there was no nation of Israel—the Jews had not yet returned to Palestine, and they had no political existence. In fact, the First Zionist Congress was not held until 1899—the Zionist movement of Theodore Herzl had not even got off the ground. It is absolutely amazing then that the following words could be written which laid out the future course of Jewish history. John Thomas wrote:

“There is, then, a partial and primary restoration of Jews before the manifestation, which is to serve as the nucleus, or basis, of future operations in the restoration of the rest of the tribes after he has appeared in the kingdom. The pre-adventual colonisation of Palestine will be on purely political principles; and the Jewish colonists will return in unbelief of the Messiahship of Jesus, and of the truth as it is in him. They will emigrate thither as agriculturists and traders, in the hope of ultimately establishing their commonwealth, but more immediately of getting rich in



News of India's terror strike.



Blast in India kills 62



Israel's Sharon in India

silver and gold by commerce with India, and in cattle and goods by their industry at home under the efficient protection of the British power.”

Now all that detail could only be described by the light of Bible prophecy. Not only is the re-birth of Israel foretold—but the basis upon which that re-birth would be carried out is ALL described in advance. Not only that—but even Israel’s modern trading partner is identified over 155 years ago!

So how did John Thomas know that the still future nation of Israel would engage in commerce with India? Well, he tells us in the same book, *Elpis Israel*. He wrote as follows:

“As to Tarshish, there were two countries of that name in the geography of the ancients. Jehoshaphat built ships in Eziongeber, a port of the Red Sea, that they might sail thence to Tarshish. Now it will be seen by the map that they could only sail southward towards the straits of Babelmandeb, from which they might then steer east, or north for India. As they did not sail by compass in those days, but coastwise, they would creep round the coast of Arabia, and so make for Hindostan. They might have sailed southward again along the coast of Africa instead of to India; but it is not likely they did, as the commerce of the time was with the civilised world, and not the savage. The voyage occupied them three years. In the days of Solomon the trade was shared between Israel and the Tyrians; for “he had at sea a navy of Tarshish with the navy of Hiram; once in three years came the navy of Tarshish bringing gold and silver, ivory, and apes, and *peacocks*.” These products point to India as the eastern Tarshish—a country which has always conferred maritime ascendancy on the power which has possessed its trade and been its carrier to the nations.”

So the evidence goes back to the time of Solomon, and we can read of it in 1 Kings 9:26, and in 2 Chronicles 8:18. Another reference to this *eastern* Tarshish is found in 2 Chronicles 20:35-37.

There was also a *western* Tarshish that lay in the far west from Joppa on the Mediterranean (Jonah 1:3). This has been identified with Britain who was instrumental in initiating the Jewish homeland through the policy outlined in the Balfour Declaration. And so it is that prophecy has been fulfilled, and once again demonstrates the Truth of the Holy Scriptures.

We would expect to see the links between India and Israel to become stronger—and especially in the area of trade and commerce. We would

also expect to see the world’s trading nations—particularly the United States and Britain—becoming involved in this situation also.

All this tells us that the purpose of God is moving forward. It is God that guides the destiny of nations, and He has revealed these things to us that we might develop faith—and through faith, obedience to His commandments. May we continue to be strengthened to that end as we await the coming of Christ to establish the Kingdom in Israel. May we continue to take notice of *The Bible* in the News.

Talk with you again next week, God willing!

