



The Mystery
Of The
Coronation Stone

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A Radio Address By
REV. CYRIL HUTCHINSON

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THE MYSTERY OF THE CORONATION STONE

On Christmas morning, 1950, the people of England awoke to hear startling news. The Stone of Scone, the famous, sacred Coronation Stone, had been stolen on Christmas Eve, or early Christmas morning, from beneath the Coronation Chair in Westminster Abbey. From that time to this time of publication not the slightest trace of it has been discovered anywhere despite the utmost efforts of Scotland Yard and every police force of England. Somebody knows where it is, but is keeping that secret well.

What a stir this has caused! What a fuss is raised about the matter! In England the loss of this old stone is looked upon by many as a national calamity. In Scotland the Nationalists hail the removal of the Stone with jubilation, hoping that it has really gone back to Scotland. But WHERE IS IT? Where will it turn up? How will this mystery finally be solved? Some time ago it was my privilege to make diligent search into the history of this Stone, and I shall set before you in brief form the three mysteries that

meet in this famous and wonderful Stone.

THE MYSTERY OF ITS FAME

This is only a piece of sandstone, yet everywhere the newspapers have been filled with the story of its strange disappearance. Here are some recent quotations from various publications. December 27th, 1950—"This is the theft of the most famous piece of rock on earth, from the most storied Abbey on earth, on Christmas Day." The Dean of Westminster, Dr. Alan C. Don, said: "It is the most precious relic that we had, and we shall never be happy until it is returned to us. I will go to the ends of the earth to recover the Stone." Another quotation says: "The King is greatly distressed by the theft." And here is another word from Dean Don: "This precious relic is treasured by millions throughout the British Commonwealth and Empire." In 1940 the Stone was buried some where beneath the Abbey, and a chart of its hiding place sent across to Canada for safe keeping, so that in case of enemy invasion, the Stone would not be found.

The magazines too have taken up the story of the theft. In "LIFE" magazine of January 8th, 1951, there appeared two full pages, with the

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headline, "Where is the Stone of Scone?" A number of pictures were arranged in sequence and entitled "Legend and History: from Jacob to George VI". The sequence of pictures begins with a portrayal of Jacob resting upon his pillow stone, and ends with a photograph of the coronation of our present King, as he was about to sit in the Coronation Chair, above the Stone. A picture of the Stone itself was also included, showing its dimensions, 26 inches long 16 inches wide, and weighing some 485 pounds. The picture shows the two iron rings which "were attached to it centuries ago". This is a FAMOUS STONE indeed!

What is the mystery of its fame? What makes this a "precious relic"? A relic of what? Why should kings sit over this rough old Stone to be crowned? Would not some other place do just as well? Why is the King distressed about the theft? Why would anyone want to steal it, when it is ONLY USED for the crowning of kings, and good for nothing else? Why this feverish search for the Stone? Why was it hidden away during the war days? Of what were the authorities afraid? Would it really matter if some enemy took the old Stone? I believe the answers are to be found in

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THE MYSTERY OF ITS STRANGE ORIGIN.

What is the history of the Stone? I suppose that everyone knows by now that it came to England from Scotland. In 1296 A.D., Edward 1st defeated John Baliol and took away this famous Coronation Stone of the Scottish kings. In Scotland it had rested in the Abbey of Scone, and was there called "The Stone of Destiny". Note that title, for it gives us an important key to its origin. Upon hearing of its theft from London, the Duke of Montrose, the aging leader of the Scottish nationalists, said: "If it be true our ancient STONE OF DESTINY is on its way back, I do not regret it." Miss Wendy Wood, another prominent nationalist leader, said: "The STONE OF DESTINY may have been removed, but it hasn't been stolen, but retrieved." Its name is clearly established in Scottish thought. Now whence came that name? How did the Stone reach Scotland, and what history lies behind that again?

Here is another recent newspaper clipping: "The Scots call the stone the STONE OF DESTINY. It was brought to Scone by Scotland's first king, Kenneth I, in the ninth century. He got it from the Celts, who

ALREADY had worn it smooth as a coronation seat." Dean Stanley in his book "Memorials of Westminster" makes these significant comments: "The Stone is embedded in the heart of the English Monarchy, an element of poetic, patriarchal heathen times, carrying our thoughts back to races and customs now almost extinct, a link that unites the THRONE OF ENGLAND with the traditions of TARA (in Ireland), and IONA, and connects the charm of our complex civilization with the stocks and stones of savage nature. The sentiment of the nation, through three hundred generations of living men, made it felt that JACOB'S PILLAR STONE was a thing worth dying for in battle".

It is thus clear that the history of the Stone goes beyond a Scottish origin, and that the trail points back to IRELAND! Since its theft from Westminster Abbey some of the Irish folk are already claiming its ownership. In the book "Scotland" written by R. I. Mackie, M.A., we see how he traces the Scots back to Ireland, and declares that the ancient kings of that land were descended from a princess who came from Egypt. In the book "The Ulster Scot", by James B. Woodburn, M.A., we read: "We ought to re-

member that the immigrants from Ulster brought Scotland its name, its Christianity, and its **FIRST KINGS**". P. W. Joyce in his book "An Illustrated History of Ireland" declares that in A.D. 503 three brothers named Fergus, Angus and Lorne, descended from the Royal Tuatha de Danann out of Egypt, began a colonization of Scotland. Fergus became the first ruler, although that rule was still subject to the royal line of Ireland. J. H. Allen says: "Fergus sent to IRELAND for the Lia Fail, the **STONE OF DESTINY**. He had it brought from Tara to Iona, and had himself crowned upon it" This is confirmed by Raphael Holinshed, who, in 1578 A.D., published his book: "Chronicles of England, Scotland and Ireland". This book was used by Shakespeare as a source for his historical information. In it Holinshed says: "Gathelus married SCOTA, who is said to have been an Egyptian princess . . . Gathelus and Scota took ship to Spain, taking the **STONE** with them . . . Gathelus' son emigrated to IRELAND. He took the **STONE** with him and in Ireland changed its name to Lia Fail—the Stone of Fate. It was placed on Tara's Hill and all the Celtic kings sat upon it for their coronations. King Fergus

sent the Stone to Iona, that lovely island off the west coast of Scotland, as a bond of union with the Scots of the mainland. In the "Holy Isle" St. Columba drew his last breath with his head resting upon the Stone. The record continues by telling how King Kenneth took the Stone to Scone in Perthshire, and how it was finally taken to England.

It thus seems to be fully evident that the Stone came to Scotland from Ireland. From whence then did the Irish obtain this wonderful Stone of Destiny? We have already presented some of the evidence. Yet let me say quite frankly that here the historical trail grows dim, as is natural with merely secular history. This is not Scripture and is therefore fallible. Yet much has been said about that early history, in addition to what we have already quoted. P. W. Joyce in his "Illustrated History of Ireland" says: "The Milesians, who made the last great Irish colonization, wandered through many countries, seeking for **INNISFAIL**, the Isle of Destiny as a final home, of which their prophets had foretold. They came from Spain to Ireland". Alice Stopford Green in her "History of the Irish State to 1014 A.D." declares that an early race

named the Milesians arrived in Ireland via Spain, from the east. The name "Scotti" was attached to them. Their mystical name was Tuatha de Danann, meaning "the god-folk of light and benevolence". They brought to Tara the **STONE OF DESTINY**. (See page 15 of her book.) H. V. Morton, well-known traveller and author, in his book "In Search of Ireland" says: "In Cashel they still remember the story of the baptism of King Aencus. They tell how he was baptized on the **ANCIENT CORONATION STONE** of the high kings". The Stone was certainly there, and it came from the "high kings".

Much more could be told, but this is sufficient to show that evidently a prophet or great one arrived in Ireland about 580 B.C. with a princess and with the **STONE**. Legend says that this person was Jeremiah, and points out the site of Jeremiah's grave to this day. That Stone was called the **STONE OF DESTINY**. From whence did it come?

Go back with me now to the other end of the story, and trace it forward. In all Old Testament history there is just **ONE SPECIAL STONE** mentioned. Here it is in Genesis 28:18, 19, 22. "And Jacob rose up early in

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the morning, and took the stone that he had put for his pillows, and set it up for a pillar, and poured oil upon the top of it. And he called the name of that place Bethel. . . . And Jacob vowed a vow, saying, . . . This stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house." Jacob did this on the spot where he dreamed of the ladder to heaven. Then in Genesis 35:11-15 we find Jacob back at Bethel, again anointing this pillar with holy oil, making it a **SACRED, CONSECRATED STONE!** It was called **BETHEL, THE HOUSE OF GOD!** Where else was there ever such a Stone as this? Here is **ONE** holy, consecrated, truly precious stone! Now it must also be noted most carefully that in this latter Scripture **THE RIGHT OF KINGS WAS GIVEN AT THIS STONE!** Let me quote verse 11. "And God said unto him (Jacob), I am God Almighty: be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall be of thee, and **KINGS SHALL COME OUT OF THY LOINS!**"

What happened to that holy, anointed Stone, where the promise of kings had been given? Time and space forbids me to tell the whole story, but here are two or three references to ponder. It is apparent that in Solo-

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mon's Temple there stood a Coronation Pillar, called "The King's Pillar". In II Chronicles 23:11-13 we read of the coronation ceremony when seven-year-old Joash was crowned King of Judah. There is a striking resemblance between this ceremony and that followed in the crowning of the British Kings in our day. The King was given the "Testimony", the Word of God, to hold, the crown was placed on his head, he was anointed by the priest, and then the people cried out, "God Save the King!" This is all in verse 11. Now in verse 13 we read: "Behold the King stood at HIS PILLAR". Certainly a PILLAR of coronation stood in that Temple. Again in II Kings 23:2-3 we read of the reign of King Josiah, and find these words: "The king went up into the house of the Lord . . . and the king stood by A PILLAR". Then in the other record of this event we read, in II Chronicles 34:31 that the king was then standing "IN HIS PLACE". Truly a kingly, coronation pillar stood in the Temple of Solomon up to the time of Nebuchadnezzar who destroyed that Temple in 588 B.C. Surely this was Jacob's Stone, for there is in all Scripture ONLY ONE SUCH SACRED, CONSECRATED PILLAR, where the right of kings was given.

Now when the Captivity of Judah took place, Jeremiah went to Egypt, together with the daughters of Zedekiah, the last king of Judah. See Jeremiah 43:5-7. Did he take the Stone with him? Was this the prophet that later appeared in Ireland with a princess, and with the Stone of Destiny? So declares every tradition connected with the Coronation Stone stolen from the Abbey on Christmas Day, 1950 A.D. Now those are only traditions, and you may not wish to believe that the two lines of evidence, one traced back through secular history, and the other traced forward from Jacob's stone through sacred history, join together in one, complete historical line. For myself, I know of no other reason for the persistent traditions always attached to this Stone, nor do I know of ANY POSSIBLE EXPLANATION for the very existence of such a stone, such a revered Coronation Stone as this is. Folk do not simply pick up, or quarry out, any old piece of stone for KINGS to sit on that they might be crowned! Let me put it this way: In the Bible there is ONE sacred, anointed Coronation Stone. In the world today, somewhere, there is ONE such Stone a revered, CORONATION STONE. Are they not identical? If

so, then we live in stirring days indeed! And that thought leads us at once to the third mystery,

THE MYSTERY OF ITS FUTURE.

Where is it? What does this great change mean? Little wonder that our King is distressed. He is a descendant, by one line of his ancestors, from the Tuatha de Danann through the Irish kings, on through the Scottish kings, and on through James VI of Scotland, son of Mary, Queen of Scots, who succeeded to the throne of England as James I in 1603 A.D. Now it seems as though the very foundation Stone has been snatched away from under our King's throne. LIFE magazine shows a picture of the Coronation Chair with the Stone in place, and then another picture of the chair after the theft, with a bare, empty place where the Stone used to rest. To look at those pictures makes one realize what an empty, futile shell this chair has become without the Sacred Stone in place. What will it mean? Is our present gracious King the last one to rule over Britain? Where and how would another be crowned? Would his coronation carry any "right of kings"?

Where has the Stone gone? I do not know. To Scotland? Perhaps so, but if the Scottish nationalists produce it

they may have considerable difficulty in maintaining their right of possession. Ireland will certainly put in her claim. And Israel may well do likewise! Listen to this carefully: **THE STONE MAY WELL BE ON ITS WAY, BY DEVIOUS ROUTES, BACK TO ISRAEL!** That may be true whoever now holds the Stone. It may well be held in waiting, to be set up again in the Temple that must some day be rebuilt in Jerusalem! **WHY?** Because some day, perhaps soon, **ISRAEL WILL CROWN A KING AGAIN**, after 2,600 years of waiting! The nation has been miraculously formed again, and placed in the ancient homeland. **NOW**, look carefully at Luke 1:30-33. Here we read how the angel brought the promise to Mary that she would bring forth the virgin-born Son of God, the Son of the Highest, and then this promise was added: "The Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David; and he shall reign over the house of JACOB for ever"! Some day, the Lord Jesus Christ will be crowned, not this time with the thorns of mockery, but with the royal diadem "**OVER THE HOUSE OF JACOB**". And if this is Jacob's Royal Stone, then certainly Christ will be crowned over Jacob's House **ON**

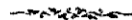
THIS STONE! He must reign as King of Israel! Then what a mighty, stirring thing is this strange removal of the Stone from the Abbey, in our day!

The story is told, but I trust too that the lessons can be learned. Surely the first, principal lesson is that the end-times are upon us! There is no time to dally. Friend, if you are today without Christ as your Saviour, let me warn you that time is running out, and let me urge you to come to Him **TODAY**. One of these days will be **THE** end day of God's love and mercy. The Lord who is coming to reign died for you on Calvary's Cross, to pay the full price of your sins. He is coming soon to judge the world that has rejected Him. But today He invites you to receive Him as your Saviour, to believe on Him. Here is the promise for you: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved" (Acts 16:31). Write and tell me that you will, that you **DO** receive Christ as **YOUR** Saviour. Write for help if you need it.

And then, dear Christian friend, this word of exhortation to you. Our time is getting very short. With the shifting of Israel, and now the shifting of the Stone, surely our Lord

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Jesus is very near. Get busy for God **NOW!** What you plan to do for Him, do it **TODAY!** Crown Him **NOW**, Lord of your life. Give Him yourself, your influence, your service, your substance, out and out, without reservation, in one glorious last effort of service before He comes! May God rouse us all, and stir us as never before to do our **UTMOST** for His highest! May God bless you all.



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