

#703 The Defeat of the Spanish Armada – Sir Francis Drake and the Cadiz Raid in 1587

The Dragon of the Sea. Philip II of Spain began to assemble the Armada in January 1586. Spain built many new warships and armed its existing ones more heavily. Queen Elizabeth I of England learned of Spain's intentions to invade England. In 1587, Sir Francis Drake, whom the Spanish already called *El Draque*, meaning *The Dragon*, was sent by the queen to raid Cadiz Harbor in Spain (on the southwestern coast of Spain; see the map on the right). Drake sank about thirty ships and seized a large amount of supplies. Here is how one source puts it:



No single campaign of Drake better illustrates his qualities as a commander than the famous “singeing of the beard” of King Philip II of Spain, in his enormously successful attack on the port of Cadiz. Queen Elizabeth and her government had become convinced that a war with Spain was inevitable, and so Drake was sent out from Plymouth, in April 1587. He appeared before Cadiz on April 19, and late in the afternoon of that day he sailed boldly into the harbor, completely surprising the defenders, and throwing the Spanish land and naval forces there into a panic. All the remainder of the day, and all the next day, Drake cannonaded, plundered, and burned. Thirty-seven naval and merchant vessels were destroyed with only small losses on his side. During the next month he sailed back and forth on the Iberian coasts between Lisbon and Cape St. Vincent, capturing ships and destroying supplies being sent to Lisbon for the Spanish Armada.



Sir Francis Drake

Among these supplies were barrel staves to the quantity of 1600-1700 tons, according to Drake's own estimate, sufficient to make barrels for 25-30,000 tons of provisions and water. The well-known difficulties of the Armada with its supplies of food and water the next year may be attributed in large part to this destruction of the barrel staves and hoops, and their probable replacement by unseasoned and therefore bad wood, if in fact this quantity could be all replaced.



Drake's ships returning from Cadiz

Key Understanding: *The dragon gave Protestant England power. Sir Francis Drake was entirely involved in the story of the Spanish Armada, both in 1587 and 1588, as a part of the fulfillment of Revelation 13:2. Through the Dragon's (Drake's) sea power, the Dragon gave Protestant England power, seat, and authority, which would result in the birth of the Beast out of the sea, Protestant America.*

Revelation 13:2 (KJV) And THE BEAST [out of the Sea] WHICH I SAW WAS LIKE UNTO A LEOPARD, and HIS FEET WERE AS THE FEET OF A BEAR, and HIS MOUTH AS THE MOUTH OF A LION: and THE DRAGON [reflected through Sir Francis Drake's – *The Dragon's* – victory at Cadiz in 1587 and the victory over the Spanish Armada in 1588] GAVE HIM [the Protestant Beast out of the Sea] HIS POWER, AND HIS SEAT, AND GREAT AUTHORITY.

[<< Previous](#)

[Main Page and List of Unsealing Summaries](#)

[Next >>](#)