

**#704 The Defeat of the Spanish Armada – The Armada departs, with the plan of picking up the Duke of Parma’s soldiers who are stationed at Dunkirk**

The Armada was completed in May 1588, at the Portuguese port of Lisbon, which at that time was under Spanish control. Of the 130 ships that were in the Armada, many were large but slow. Some of the ships lacked guns and experienced gunners. Other



ships lacked ammunition. Philip II named the Duke of Medina Sidonia, an inexperienced seaman, as commander of the Armada.

The Duke of Medina Sidonia, (left) reluctant commander of the Spanish Armada



Meanwhile, England armed many of its merchant vessels and added them to its fleet. England’s fighting ships were smaller, faster, and more maneuverable than the Spanish vessels. England also had more skillful sailors. Admiral Lord Howard commanded the English fleet, and his squadron leaders included Sir Francis Drake, John Hawkins, and Martin Frobisher.

The Armada departed from Lisbon on May 30 (New Style), 1588, with crosses on the sails and banners bearing the image of the Holy Virgin. There were 130 ships carrying 30,000 men and 2,400 pieces of artillery – the most prodigious assemblage of naval power the world had ever seen.

**Key Understanding:** *The plan was to pick up the Duke of Parma’s soldiers at Dunkirk. The plan of the Spanish was to invade England not only with the soldiers on board the Armada, but to also meet up with the Duke of Parma, now ruling over the Spanish Netherlands, and carry his soldiers as well across the English Channel to England. The Duke of Parma’s soldiers were at Dunkirk.*

On the morning of July 29 (New Style), 1588, a huge fleet of warships was sighted off the Lizard in Cornwall, the furthest point south in southwestern England. On July 30, formed in a majestic crescent (right), the Armada turned into the Channel and bore down on Plymouth. On hill tops across southern England, huge bonfires were set alight, one after another. These beacons signaled the long-awaited arrival of the mighty Spanish Armada. The battle for England – and whether it would remain Protestant or become Roman Catholic – was about to begin.



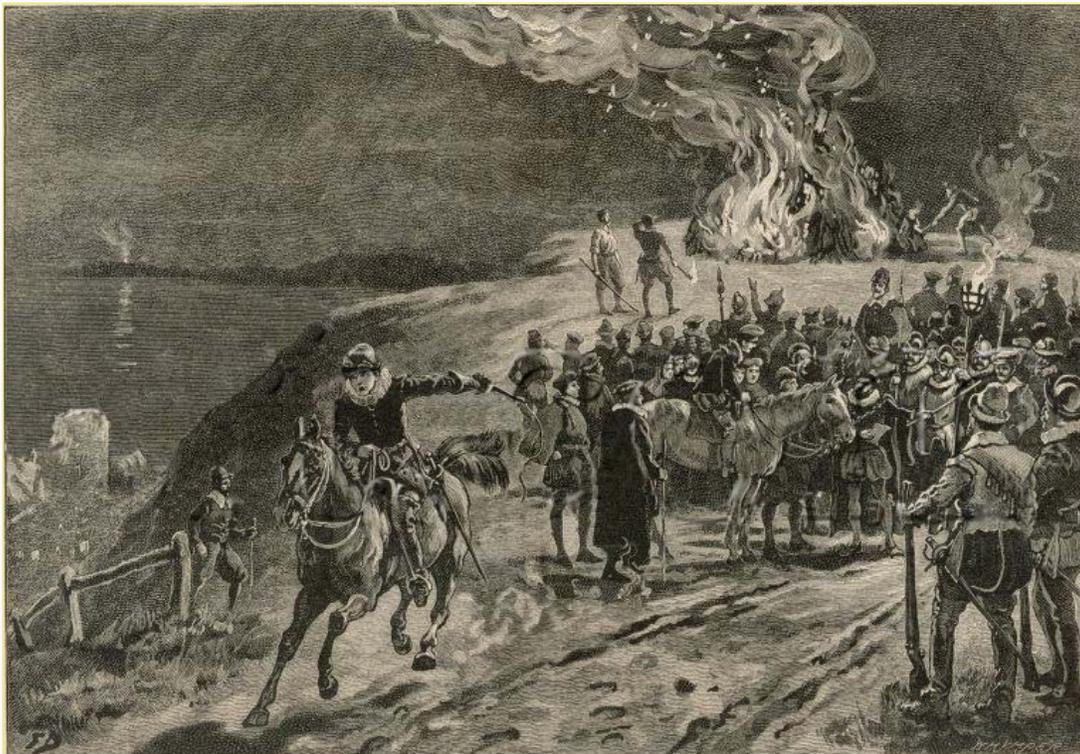
Here is #704–Doc 1, a map of the route of the Spanish Armada in 1588. Lizard Point is shown on the map.

[Click here](#) for #704–Doc 1

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### Matthew 7:26 – Church on the Sand

*Matthew 7:26 (KJV) And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto A FOOLISH MAN, WHICH BUILT HIS HOUSE UPON THE SAND:*



Beacon-fires warn of the approach of the Spanish Armada

[<< Previous](#)

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

[Next >>](#)