

## #708 The Defeat of the Spanish Armada – Stranded at Dunkirk

The plan of the Spanish was to invade England not only with the soldiers on board the Armada, but to meet up with the Duke of Parma and his army, now ruling over the Spanish Netherlands. The Armada would carry his soldiers across the English Channel to England.

The Duke of Medina Sidonia, commander of the Spanish Armada, was pleased enough as he anchored off of Calais. He was where he was supposed to be, and had gotten there with relatively few losses. Now it was just a matter of meeting up with the Duke of Parma's army. Then, everything began to go horribly wrong.

The Armada's cumbersome ships could get nowhere near the coast of Dunkirk so as to allow the Duke of Parma's army to board the ships to carry them across the Channel. The best Medina Sidonia could do was harbour at Gravelines, near Calais, then wait for the troops to arrive. Medina Sidonia was informed that Parma's army, 30 miles away at Dunkirk, could not possibly come out to join the Armada without escort ships – and the Armada had none. The Spaniards in charge of the Armada were under the misconception that the Duke of Parma had enough of his own sailing vessels to transport his troops out to the Armada's ships. He did not. Thus, the magnificent plans of using the Armada to transport thousands of troops across the Channel were rendered impossible. **The army of the Duke of Parma would be stranded at Dunkirk.**

In the midst of this, the Duke of Medina Sidonia had sent a message to the Duke of Parma in Dunkirk:

*“ . . . I am anchored here two leagues from Calais with the enemy's fleet on my flank. They can cannonade me whenever they like, and I shall be unable to do them much harm in return.”*



The Battle of Gravelines was about to begin.

English ships harassed the Spanish fleet as it sailed through the Channel. The Spanish decided it would be too dangerous to attempt to reach Dunkerque and instead anchored off of Calais, France.



**Key Understanding: *The Spanish Armada and Dunkirk.* The army of the Duke of Parma would be stranded at Dunkirk, as part of the prophetic story of the *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:*

Here is **#708–Doc 1**, which shows **the route of the Spanish Armada in 1588 through the English Channel** leading to the Battle of Gravelines, and which shows the locations of Calais and Gravelines, which are both just west of Dunkirk.

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