

#710 The Defeat of the Spanish Armada – The Catholic Wind

Many sources write that at about this stage of the defeat of the Armada after the end of the main Battle of Gravelines as the Spanish ships were trying to flee, that “to their horror, they saw they were drifting before the wind in an easterly direction – toward certain destruction on the sandbanks of Zeeland.” Zeeland is the far southern region of the Netherlands, adjacent to northern Belgium. [The country of New Zealand was named after Zeeland. The Dutch became the first Europeans to discover New Zealand in 1642.]

Another source says of the immediate hours following the end of the primary Battle of Gravelines that the ships of the Spanish Armada faced danger as they were driven by the wind and tide toward the Flemish sandbanks. The land of the Flemings was Flanders, and is historically the northern region of Belgium along the coast of the North Sea. Flanders would be adjacent to Zeeland, and in fact a small part – the very southern part – of what is Zeeland today in the Netherlands would have been considered to historically be the very northern part of Flanders.



The point is that a number of sources claim that many ships of the Spanish Armada were considered to have been carried dangerously eastward. Then, just after mid-day on August 9 (N.S.), at the very last moment, the wind suddenly shifted, allowing the battered Spanish fleet to slide by the deadly banks and sail northward toward the open waters of the North Sea. Some English ships pursued the Armada as it sailed northward, but turned back, out of ammunition.



Key Understanding: *The Catholic wind.* It seemed temporarily as if the Spanish Armada had been saved by a shift in the wind – and thus a “Catholic wind.” Whether it was about that particular shift in the wind, or the weather of a few hours earlier, the commander of the Spanish Armada, the Duke of Medina Sidonia, wrote that the Armada was “saved by the weather, by God’s mercy . . .” But the Spanish had been saved by a miracle, only to face disaster. The winds that carried the Spanish Armada northward turned out to be the beginning breezes of the “Protestant Wind” that would destroy the Spanish Armada in a manner that the English fleet had been unable to accomplish.

[Note: The theme of “*the wind blew*” is in the same passage (Matthew 7:26-27) as the theme of “*church on the sand*,” matching up with the fact that the *Protestant Wind* and Dunkirk – representing “*church on the sand*” – were a part of the same event of the defeat of the Spanish Armada. Rightly dividing the meaning of it all is forthcoming.]

Matthew 7:24-27 (KJV) Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto A WISE MAN, WHICH BUILT HIS HOUSE UPON A ROCK:

25 And the rain descended, and the floods came, AND THE WINDS BLEW, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

26 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:

27 And the rain descended, and the floods came, AND THE WINDS BLEW, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.



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