

**CYPRUS: ENGLAND'S  
NEW POSSESSION, ITS  
PLACE IN BIBLE HISTORY**

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Cyprus: England's new possession, its place in Bible history by J. Thain Davidson

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*ITS PLACE IN BIBLE HISTORY.*

BY THE  
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# CYPRUS:

## ENGLAND'S NEW POSSESSION.

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THE exceptional interest that is at present awakened in Cyprus in connection with the progress of events in the East, makes it fitting that Christians should endeavour to recall its sacred associations, and study its place in Bible History.

The object of this little book, in which reference will be made to every passage in Holy Scripture which makes mention of the island or its people, is to aid those

who are disposed to do so: and when we remember that its early occupants can be traced as far back as to Noah; that it was one of the first places out of Palestine where the gospel was preached; and that it is probably destined to be a spot of great importance in connection with the fulfilment of ancient prophecy, and the return of the Jews to their own land, we shall probably feel an increased desire to know all that is said about it in the Word of God.

The general history of the island may be easily obtained by consulting the ordinary treatises on geography: and within the last few weeks the newspaper press has devoted much space to the subject;



so that we need not occupy our time with this. Neither will our book touch upon matters political.

No doubt there is some difference of opinion amongst us in regard to the Treaty which has just been concluded between Great Britain and Turkey: I am not to enter on this question: but looking to the accomplished fact, that Cyprus has virtually become an English possession, and that the British flag now waves over the consulate at Larnaka, it cannot but be interesting to review the past history of the island, in so far as it is linked with Bible narrative.

The most easterly of the islands of the Mediterranean, Cyprus is also one of the

largest, and in importance only second to Sicily.

It is situated in what may be called the north-east corner of the Great Sea, having to the north of it the coast of Asia Minor, and to the east the coast of Syria.

The Syrian coast, anciently known as Phœnicia, is not more distant from it than is Dublin from Anglesea; and Pliny mentions the impression which existed in his day, that at an earlier time, when the level of the Mediterranean Sea was lower, Cyprus was connected with the mainland. About 140 miles in length, the island on its western side is nearly sixty miles broad: and if you look at it on the map, you will not be surprised to be told that

in olden times it was sometimes likened to a deer's skin spread out. It is characterized by numerous bold promontories and headlands, rocky reefs, and a range of lofty mountains.

An idea of its superficial extent may be formed by thinking of the area of Suffolk and Essex combined, while the grandeur of its scenery may be imagined when it is remembered that its mountains, of which the most famous is Mount Olympus, attain in some places to nearly twice the height of the loftiest in our own island. Its central position, and comparative proximity to Asia Minor, Phœnicia, and Egypt, made it a great rendezvous for merchants; and when to this we add its