

1600 AD – ‘SAMUEL DE CHAMPLAIN TURNS HIS ATTENTION BACK TO THE SEA’

“If you have run with men on foot, and they have wearied you, then how can you contend with horses? If in the land of peace, wherein thou trusted, they wearied thee, then how will you do in the swelling of Jordan?” (Jeremiah 12 v 5)

EVENTS IN 1600 AD¹

Champlain travelled to Cadiz, Spain to take over the mercantile ship business of his uncle François Gravé Du Pont who had become ill.

HISTORY PRIOR TO 1600 AD

Regarding the birth of **Champlain** please see our paper [1574 AD](#).

Champlain was born into a family of mariners (his father and his uncle). He learned to navigate, draw, make charts, and write sea logs. His education did not include study of Greek or Latin so he did not read ancient literature.

In 1596 **Champlain** served in the army of King Henry of Navarre in the Brittany campaigns in the Wars of Religion in France.

In 1597 **Champlain** was made a captain in charge of a company of men.

In 1598 King Henry renounced Calvinist Protestantism and became Catholic. Henry was crowned King of France in Chartres Cathedral. The same year **King Henry IV** declared the Edict of Naples permitting Protestants religious freedom. The French Wars of Religion ceased.

The same year **Champlain** took a journey on a ship belonging to his uncle-in-law that was chartered travel with the Spanish fleet to the West Indies and Mexico. He made a report of the journey including illustrations which he presented to **King Henry IV**. In return for the valuable information the King provided him with a pension.

HISTORY FOLLOWING 1600 AD

In 1601 **Champlain's** uncle died and the young man inherited his whole estate, including homes near La Rochelle, properties in Spain, and a sea-going merchant ship.

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Samuel_de_Champlain

The same year **Champlain** served in the court of **King Henry IV** as geographer.

In 1602 **Champlain** negotiated to make a voyage on a trip to New France with the man who possessed the French monopoly on the fur trade.

In 1603 **Champlain** made his first voyage and created a map of the St. Lawrence which he presented to **King Henry IV** upon his return the same year.

In 1604 **Champlain** joined another expedition to New France led by Pierre Dugua de Mons, a Protestant nobleman and merchant. They searched for a winter site and selected St. Croix Island (located precisely on the future border between the US and Canada).

In 1605 they moved to the other side of the Bay of Fundy where they established Port Royal. Dugua returned to France. **Champlain** stayed and explored the coast as far as Cape Cod.

PROPHECY OF JEREMIAH

“If you have run with men on foot, and they have wearied you, then how can you contend with horses? If in the land of peace, wherein thou trusted, they wearied thee, then how will you do in the swelling of Jordan?” (Jeremiah 12 v 5)

This prophecy is part of a long complaint of Jeremiah starting with verse 1 (corresponding to 1596 AD) in which he asks **‘Why does the way of the wicked prosper?’** and **‘Why do all the faithless live at ease?’**

Champlain did not know an easy life. He served as a soldier for King Henry in a war. He served in his court. He went on sea journeys and knew the harsh life of a settler and explorer.

Most of all **Champlain** knew the stress of being a faithful Protestant in a Catholic country. He must have recoiled at the thought of his patron and liege lord converting to Catholicism.

It was not long before **Champlain** began to dream of a life in New France, far away from the unwelcoming place he called home. The complaint continues in verse 7 (corresponding to 1602 AD): **‘I will forsake my house, abandon my inheritance; I will give the one I love into the hand of her enemies.’** It was in this very year **Champlain** began planning his first voyage to New France.

This will come as a shock to English speaking students of history who are accustomed to thinking of France as the perpetual antagonist of England who waged war on Protestantism.

Just as there were Pilgrims, Puritans, Quakers and Congregationalists who were dissatisfied with the Church of England and prepared to make a dangerous journey to start a hard life in America for the sake of freedom of religion, so also there were French Protestants like **Champlain** who dreamed of a Promised Land on the other side of the Sea.

THE AMAZING PROPHECY

Did the LORD watch over the struggles of **Champlain** on his journey and foresee the challenges he would face? We have to look at the prophecy in Jeremiah verse 5 and wonder at the accuracy of it in the smallest details:

'If you have run with the men on foot, and they have wearied you,'

Quite unexpectedly, **Champlain** the son of sea-farers had gained his first adult life experiences as a soldier fighting battles as a foot soldier on land. He discovered it was tiring physically, mentally, and spiritually.

'...then how can you contend with horses?'

Champlain then entered the court of **King Henry IV** and discovered there was no end to his discomfort there either. Enemies were everywhere: Catholic nobles and clergy were dominant in every corner of secular and religious affairs in France.

'If in the land of peace, wherein thou trusted, they wearied thee...'

The Edict of Naples might declare religious toleration, but that was not the reality on the ground for Protestants. They continued to suffer prejudice, social exclusion, and a marginal existence. There was the constant fear, which proved to be true, that it was only a matter of time before another Catholic King would arise to take away those freedoms and order more massacres and wars against them.

The heart of **Champlain** burned with indignation and it wearied his soul. To him, the peace was a capitulation, even an act of cowardice. God had not declared a truce. The peace only ensured the Catholic religion would continue to dominate France. He knew in his heart this would not fail to bring the judgment of God on his beloved home.

'then how will you do in the swelling of Jordan?'

How laser precise are the prophecies of the LORD! It was destined that **Champlain** would put down his first roots in New France on the Bay of Fundy. The Bay of Fundy has the highest tides in the world! This is the '**swelling**' of water that the LORD is speaking of in his word.

As the rhetorical question might suggest, **Champlain** did not thrive there. The first site on Ile de St. Croix was rejected after one winter. The second site at Port Royale lasted only two years. On **Champlain's** third journey he searched for a new site on the St. Lawrence.²

Champlain resolved in his heart to go to New France to escape the weary life of a Protestant in France. He did not find peace. He found more trials and tribulations.

Champlain had jumped from the frying pan into the fire. He had fled persecution in France only to find more dangerous conditions abroad. He spent the rest of his days in New France surrounded by warlike tribes of natives and he became caught up in their bloody battles.

New France would not see peace until long after **Champlain**. It would become a battleground between England and France on many occasions, then later between England and America.

Worst of all in 1627 **Louis XIV** forbade any settlers to New France except Roman Catholics. The hopes of **Champlain** for a new land for Protestant Frenchmen were dashed.

Was the vision of **Champlain** in the will of God? Yes. The persons who thwarted that vision were held accountable for their evil deeds. We see this in Jeremiah in chapter 19.

² We can say the St. Lawrence River is the spiritual Jordan River of North America. Even before Europeans came it was the dividing line between the warring Iroquois and Algonquin tribes. The '**Jordan**' in the Bible was also a place dividing acrimonious Israelite tribes. The mutual hatred almost exploded into a genocidal war but was averted by diplomacy at the last minute. The issue was one side had the Temple and the other did not. The truth was both tribes were servants of the same God (see Joshua 22).

SPIRITUAL NUMBER ANALYSIS

For a mind that has wisdom please read on. See truth from another perspective.

PART ONE

Chapter **12** of Jeremiah is the **81st** chapter of The Prophets.

The spiritual number **81** means 'Holy Angels'

Champlain was a messenger from the LORD given a sacred mission from birth (see [1574 AD](#)). He stayed true to his faith throughout his holy quest in spite of opposition and difficulties.

PART TWO

Jeremiah **12 v 5** is the **19,255th** verse in the whole Bible starting at Gen **1 v 1**.

The number **19,255** = **5 x 3851** [**534th** prime]

The spiritual meaning of **5** is 'Life'

The spiritual meaning of **534** is 'Righteous Man Slandered'

The spiritual meaning of **3851** is 'Go to Jesus Outside The Camp'

Once again the parallels in the life of **Samuel de Champlain** to the **Samuel** of the Bible are discovered. **Samuel** retired to exile when the sin of **King Saul** reached a horrible proportion. He chose to suffer the humiliation and rejection of Christ outside the camp than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season within it: 'Go to Jesus Outside the Camp'.

Likewise **Samuel de Champlain** chose a life in a barren and hostile wilderness to be preferable to besmirching the reputation of God by sitting in the court of **King Henry IV** (who converted to Catholicism to keep power and enjoy the privileges of it).

Champlain never found peace in this world. He found in his service for Jesus Christ only continual struggle with the powers of darkness: 'Life' (**5**) of 'Righteous Man Slandered' (**534**).

The **534th** chapter of the Bible is Psalm 56: '**All day long they twist my words; they are always plotting to harm me. They conspire, they lurk, they watch my steps, eager to take my life... Record my lament [Jer. 12:1-13!] list my tears on your Scroll. Are they not in your Record?**'

PART THREE

Jeremiah **12 v 5** is the **1600th** verse of The Prophets starting at Isaiah **1 v 1**.

The number **1600 = 5 x 320**

The spiritual meaning of **5** is 'Weakness' or 'Life'

The spiritual meaning of **320** is 'Shout of Victory'

The life of persecution for holding to the faith is a 'Life' (5) of 'Weakness' (5). It is a life of weariness in the soul and weariness in the bones. There is no rest. There is no safety. There is only spiritual battle and praying to God for strength.

But this life is the victorious Christian life. When a saint of God choses to suffer in this life rather than to disobey God, this brings glory to the Savior in Heaven: 'Shout of Victory'.