

#709 The Defeat of the Spanish Armada – August 8, 1588: The Battle of Gravelines

The decisive battle between the English and the Spanish Armada was the Battle of Gravelines, off the coast near Gravelines and Dunkirk.

While Medina Sidonia pondered the gloomy news that the army of the Duke of Parma would be stuck at Dunkirk, the English struck a shattering blow. The ships of the Armada were made of wood with canvas sails and were carrying gunpowder. They could catch on fire and explode. At midnight on Monday, August 8 (N.S., July 29 O.S.), the English packed eight ships, “Hell Burners,” with exploding cannon and flammables, set them afire and launched them straight downwind at the resting Armada. [Some sources say that this occurred very late in the evening of August 7, N.S.] This threw the Spanish into terrible confusion. They cut their cables in a desperate attempt to escape from the fire-ships, and then began to drift before the wind. The great galleons, each attempting to break out to save itself, began crashing into one another as the panic mounted. Only one Spanish ship was lost, but the crescent shape disappeared and the Armada was now vulnerable to attack.



The Battle of Gravelines

At daybreak, August 8 (N.S.), the English moved in for the kill. Strung out eastward toward the Dunkirk sandbanks were 130 Spanish ships. All over the sea between Gravelines and Dunkirk fights took place between English and Spanish ships. The decisive battle raged off the coast at Gravelines. In their lighter, faster ships, Drake and his men wheeled around the scattered Spanish ships, pounding them with deadly cannon fire. The Spanish ships’ heavy guns were not mounted, nor were Spanish gunners trained to reload in action. The Spanish could not reply effectively and they suffered terribly. Cannon balls smashed through the sides and superstructures of once proud galleons, tearing their sails and rigging to shreds. Sailors fell screaming to the deck, mangled by shot and sliced open by flying splinters. Dead and dying men lay everywhere.



Defeat of the Spanish Armada, 8 August 1588
by Philippe-Jacques de Loutherbourg,
painted 1796
depicts the battle of Gravelines

The English sailors sensed a victory. Three Spanish ships were sunk or driven ashore, and others were badly battered. By this time, the English had fired 100,000 rounds. They were obliged by shortage of ammunition to break off the action. The Spanish ships began to flee.



The Battle of Gravelines

Key Understanding (which is the same as is in Unsealings [#703](#), [#705–#706](#)): *The dragon gave Protestant England power. Sir Francis Drake was entirely involved in the story of the Spanish Armada, both in 1587 and 1588, as a part of the fulfillment of Revelation 13:2. Through the Dragon's (Drake's) sea power, the Dragon gave Protestant England power, seat, and authority, which would result in the birth of the Beast out of the sea, Protestant America.*

Revelation 13:2 (KJV) And THE BEAST [out of the Sea] WHICH I SAW WAS LIKE UNTO A LEOPARD, and HIS FEET WERE AS THE FEET OF A BEAR, and HIS MOUTH AS THE MOUTH OF A LION: and THE DRAGON [reflected through Sir Francis Drake's – The Dragon's – victory at Cadiz in 1587 and the victory over the Spanish Armada in 1588] GAVE HIM [the Protestant Beast out of the Sea] HIS POWER, AND HIS SEAT, AND GREAT AUTHORITY.

[Note: Why the Battle of Gravelines occurred on the specific date of August 8 (N.S.), 1588, is prophetically quite immense and will be covered soon.]

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