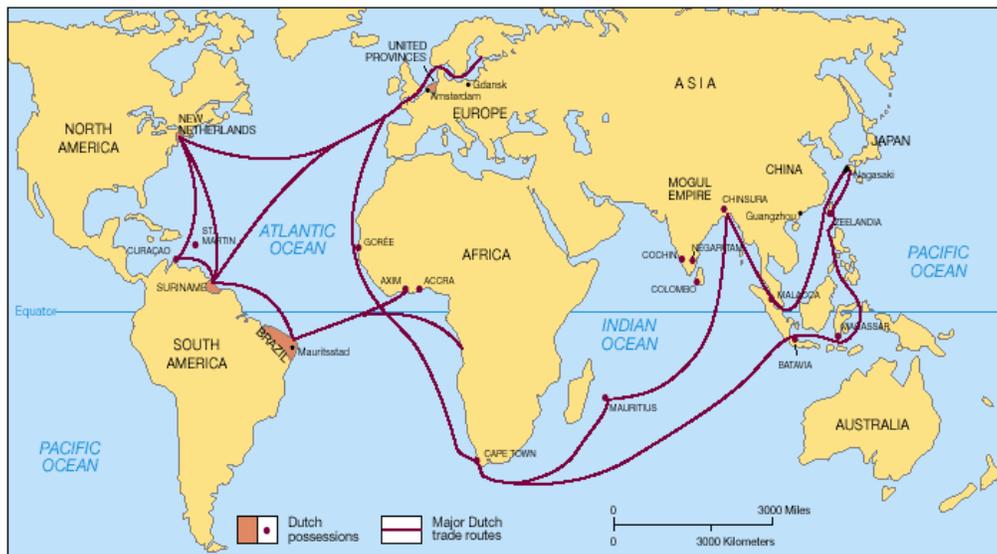


## The Netherlands Book (70% draft)

The Dutch Golden age was a direct result of the renaissance / reformation in the 1500's that led to the industrial revolution. In the Netherlands, it was nearly 200 years from 1600 to the late 1700's. Trades routes and trade carried Netherlanders around the world as the premier world power.

The Dutch are called to a second golden age; this time to bring reformation to Europe and to re-dig the former trade routes and influence to bring glory to the Kingdom. It is a place of prosperity of spirit and wealth with a call to import and export ideas, technology, innovation and the gospel of the Kingdom. The Dutch are God's ambassadors to Europe and the world. The entrepreneurial Dutch heritage is closely linked to the 7 mountains God will touch to bless nations with a reformation. The wall of division between secular and spiritual will be breached by the Dutch. They are called to the nations.



 Dutch Trade Routes, ca. 1650. The Dutch were the greatest commercial nation of the seventeenth century.

We are releasing three things in the Netherlands to empower the call in the land:

1. **Releasing hearts / kings** - The Key to the Kingdom is getting in touch with what God wrote in our hearts. Kingdom is a celebration, a party and privilege where dreams come true; where our hearts and our Father's heart share the same passions and goals. We are seeking to open books of destiny for individuals and to have a "heart plan" to practically live out our Kingdom calling in our culture (family and vocation).
2. **Releasing the heart of the nation** - The second level is to do the same for the nation. We catch a vision for our personal calling "and" see the context in the role God has for our nation. That positions the Dutch to be strategic about their national destiny and intentional about cooperating with the next reformation – even on an international level... knowing, volunteering and contending for their Book!
3. **Practical Intercession** – As individuals start to discover their calling in the Kingdom and take their places, the corporate body of Christ has to rise up and take its position as the Ekklesia of Jesus. This Ekklesia plays a crucial and practical intercessory role in bringing cases before the Lord to reclaim, heal and restore cities, regions and the 7 mountains in a country.

## Intercession - How We Open Books of Destiny

**The testimony of Jesus** – The chief intercessor is ever before the Father interceding on our behalf. We are prophetically listening to what is being voiced in heaven regarding the gifts and callings on ourselves, other believers, companies, cities, nations, etc.

*Then the angel said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!'" And he added, "These are the true words of God." 10 At this I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "Do not do it! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." Rev 19:9-10 NIV*

**The accusation** - The second thing we listen for is what accusations from the enemy may be present. We silence this voice by first listening for any validity in the charge against us. We are not only listening for accusations about our own lives but addressing and repenting for any personal, generational or national sin from the past that has not been dealt with.

*Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. 11 They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death. Rev 12:10-11 NIV*

**Repentance** – Instead of trying to ignore the accusation or silence it somehow, we discern the root for any legitimate basis and agree with it, confess it, repent and cover it with the blood of the lamb, and “trade” it with the testimony of Jesus (what God says about our calling and purpose).

*Agree with your adversary quickly, while you are on the way with him, lest your adversary deliver you to the judge, the judge hand you over to the officer, and you be thrown into prison. 26 Assuredly, I say to you, you will by no means get out of there till you have paid the last penny. Matt 5:25-26 NKJV*

**Strategy (especially for the Dutch)** – Lastly, we are owning the initiative, not just to know something about our destiny, but to have a strategy and plan to implement it. The opportunity to cooperate with this reformation in Europe and around the world is touching every mountain of our cultures; not just the church (in the sense of revival), but businesses (in the sense of the industrial revolution), the arts and entertainment (in the sense of the renaissance), education (in the sense of the enlightenment), the media (in the sense of the impact of the printing press, now internet), government (in the sense of facilitating free markets with liberty and justice for all), and families (in the sense of honoring the role of marriage and the family unit).

The Netherlands as a nation and the Dutch as a people have a unique calling and skill set that God is releasing to bless the nations. Our goal is to cooperate with that Kingdom initiative and see it manifest on earth.



Making the Case for The Netherlands' Kingdom Purpose in the Courts of Heaven

The Netherlands Gift	God's Kingdom Purpose Testimony of Jesus = Book	Unredeemed Expression "Accusation"	Areas for Repentance
<b>"Europoort" gate of Europe</b> World-wide influence Freedom and Tolerance  Page 5	"gezelligheid" - cozy Hospitable, merciful, home-loving Messengers, God's ambassadors Leaders of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reformation in Europe	Colonialism vs liberation Guilt = I have no right to judge	Lost national identity, calling, book, candle, mantle Letting go of shame  Recovering "Dutch" Identity
<b>World leaders / Examples</b> Entrepreneurial birthplace, commerce, capitalism, banking, colonialism  Page 6	Importers and exporters of Reformation = missionaries Religious, cultural, & ethnic diversity Map makers, strategists, multipliers 7 Mtn missionaries	Secularization, Independent from God underserving of God's favor, grace	Hearts for God, fervor, zeal  Recovering "Dutch" courageousness
<b>Integrity and Character</b> Hard-working, sober, reserved, conscientious, rule-driven and thrifty: "tenacity of opinion" all typical Calvinist characteristics  Page 7	"gezellig" - tidy Disciplined, principled, organized Love liberty, simplicity, wisdom, Perceptive, discerning, humble "Promotion & Prosperity" Organize ideas into products God can trust the Dutch Pro 11:3	Legalistic, proud, stuck, stubborn Loss of mantle, influence, authority Shrewd, selfish, opinionated Private, aloof, dual self-image callous, cruel, greedy, merciless, inhuman (colonialism)	False Humility, Hidden, shame "Transparency" Ja 5:16 One public image + a 2 <sup>nd</sup> below the surface "disconnected" "Search me" Ps 139:23-24 Recovering Connectedness
<b>"Polder Model" = Inclusive</b> Value for consensus, Culture of consultation, accommodation, compromise & respect (covenant)  Page 8	Inclusive = a Kingdom value allow space for people to become themselves Rom 14:17 "Unifying" via acceptance, trust  "For God so loved, He gave"	Resist leadership gifts "Including one's own" "Not invented here" syndrome Resist national identity, calling "Pillars"	Love grown cold Fear of legalism, judgment Fear of my own leadership Arise, Shine (Isa 60:1-3)  Recovering Dutch Authority
<b>Gedooogbeleid = Tolerance</b> It's OK if it's not perfect "There are bigger fish to fry"  Page 9	Acceptance, Tolerance = Kingdom value Excellence without legalism Demonstrated His love While we were yet sinners	Most secular nation in world Tolerance became indifference "We are insignificant" "Neutrality" = compromise	Tolerate Jezebel (Rev 2:20) Fear of confronting evil  Recovering Dutch Vision
<b>Apostolic Heart</b> Can release Inheritance  Page 10	The Dutch are God's spiritual entrepreneurs Release destinies	Hearts are locked and need an invitation to share what they carry	Fear of man, of standing out Lack humility to enter own destiny Recovering Dutch distinctions

## Narrative with Gifts / Book

Gift / Book – What is the unique gift. What is the application, Kingdom purpose (book)

Why - it is there, where it came from, why it's important

Examples – examples from the cultural context

### **“Europoort” gate of Europe**

**Gift / Book** – The Dutch have a long heritage of world-wide influence, freedom and tolerance. They have traditionally been ambassadors to the world in commerce, the arts and science. They formed the beachhead for the first reformation and they will carry this second reformation in and out of all of Europe. The Netherlands is a chosen nation and the Dutch are a chosen people.

**Why** – The Dutch DNA is naturally expressed in sharing their liberty. Their lives are natural expressions of acceptance, hospitality, industry and prosperity. They are naturally innovative, hard-working, thoughtful and multiply. It has been true in history and this same DNA can be recognized now will be the same in the future.

*The Dutch ascendancy to its Calvinistic ethic, which promoted thrift and education contributed to "the lowest interest rates and the highest literacy rates in Europe. The abundance of capital made it possible to maintain an impressive stock of wealth, embodied not only in the large fleet but in the plentiful stocks of an array of commodities that were used to stabilize prices and take advantage of profit opportunities. In the 17th century the Dutch — traditionally able seafarers and keen mapmakers — began to trade with the [Far East](#) and as the century wore on, they gained an increasingly dominant position in world trade, a position previously occupied by the [Portuguese](#) and [Spanish](#).*

*In 1602 the [Dutch East India Company](#) (Dutch: Verenigde Oostindische Compagnie or VOC) was founded. It was the first-ever [multinational corporation](#), financed by shares that established the [first modern stock exchange](#). This company received a Dutch monopoly on Asian trade and would keep this for two centuries. It became the world's largest commercial enterprise of the 17th century. [Reference](#)*

**Examples** – Many of our Dutch friends in business / ministries are already functioning as the gateway to Europe... they are crossing borders with commerce, networks, messages and ministry right now.

This is a season to cooperate with reformation and to be intentional about facilitating a reformation in every corner of our cultures. How to make the happen in Europe and around the world? As Dutch people catch the vision of their chosenness, “how” and “why” and “where” and “when” will flow from them like a river.

## World leaders / Examples

**Gift / Book** – The Dutch are naturally entrepreneurial and the Netherlands is the birthplace of commerce, capitalism, banking and trade with other nations. The Netherlands is a spiritual hub for everything... ideas, capital, education, missions, politics, and reformation. The Dutch are 7 mountain missionaries who carry liberation and reformation to the Europe and the rest of the world. For a population of 17 million, their influence is a remarkable expression of their destiny and their discipline. The influence of Calvinism is positive and negative: 1) positive in its influence on Dutch character and integrity, and 2) negative in the sense of shaming their God-given personal and national initiative.

*The main assumptions of Calvin's theology that affected both Europeans and the South African Boers alike were the view of the sovereignty of God, the preeminence and authority of the Bible, and the doctrine of predestination. Calvinism thus set forward a belief system in which the omnipotence of God was the preeminent view. This is most important in understanding the Calvinist mind, in which a sense of fatalism permeated, because to them God had foreordained all matters and was personally involved in all aspects of life. [Reference](#)*

**Why** – The Dutch have an eye for integrity in relationships and orderliness in business and architecture. They are predisposed for humility almost to a fault and their knowledge and authority are typically expressed as service to others, which translates to Godly leadership.

*William of Orange - A wealthy [nobleman](#), William originally served the [Habsburgs](#) as a member of the court of [Margaret of Parma](#), governor of the [Spanish Netherlands](#). Unhappy with the centralization of political power away from the local estates and with the Spanish persecution of Dutch [Protestants](#), William joined the Dutch uprising and turned against his former masters. The most influential and politically capable of the rebels, he led the Dutch to several successes in the fight against the Spanish. Declared an [outlaw](#) by the Spanish king in 1580, he was assassinated by [Balthasar Gérard](#) in [Delft](#) in 1584. [Reference](#)*

**Examples** – Leaders make room for good ideas and good people... part of the Dutch DNA.

*Overall, the country was tolerant enough to attract religious refugees from other countries, notably Jewish merchants from Portugal who brought much wealth with them. The revocation of the Edict of Nantes in France in 1685 resulted in the immigration of many French Huguenots, many of whom were shopkeepers or scientists.*

*Due to its climate of intellectual tolerance, the Dutch Republic attracted scientists and other thinkers from all over Europe... It is impossible to exaggerate the importance of Holland in the seventeenth century, as the one country where there was freedom of speculation... Due to the Dutch climate of tolerance, book publishers flourished. Many books on religion, philosophy and science that might have been deemed controversial abroad were printed in the Netherlands and secretly exported to other countries. Thus, during the 17th century the Dutch Republic became more and more Europe's publishing house. [Reference](#)*

*There have been six US presidents who have Dutch heritage and the US constitution was originally signed by Dutch contributors. [Reference](#)*

## Integrity and Character

**Gift / Book** – The Dutch are hard-working, sober, reserved, conscientious, rule-driven and thrifty and possess "tenacity of opinion" ...all typical Calvinist characteristics the stem from the character of God. They fit "intentional reformation" well because they are not afraid of initiative. "*God created the world, the Dutch created Holland*" is an old Dutch saying. The postwar notion that the future can be "constructed" persists with undiminished force which predates Calvinism.

*At the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century the characteristics of the Dutch psychology are usually attributed to the pervasive influence of Calvinism, but that is insufficient to explain the planned environment of the Netherlands. The collective struggle against the water and the collective effort to make new land to create the Netherlands like a work of art, began long before Calvinism found its way to the Netherlands. Pg 178*

*The Netherlands is a relatively small country, densely populated with 16 million people, and yet the biggest town, Amsterdam, has only 820,000 people. The Netherlands has a village-like atmosphere compared to other countries. There is no wilderness, no wild country. Everything is neat, clean, systematic, well "groomed," "gezellig," tidy, even our forests seem to be tidy...*

[Reference](#)

**Why** – Early Dutch communities had to work together to maintain the dykes which hold back the sea. That sense of community and hospitality is threatened by the modern world, but is seldom far below the surface in the Dutch.

*"Hard work, frugal living and tenacity of opinion: that is the typical make-up of the Dutch," The rise of Calvinism in the Netherlands coincided with the Dutch uprising against Spanish rule in the 16th century. The inhabitants of the Netherlands, also known as one of the world's most liberal nations, are generally described in country guides as sober, reserved, conscientious, rule-driven and thrifty: all typical Calvinist characteristics. [Reference](#)*

**Examples** – Although the Netherlands is built on sand, the Dutch are built on a rock and their character reflects the image of their Father.

*Wilhelmus is the [national anthem](#) which originated in the Dutch fight for independence. It dates back to at least 1572, making it the oldest known national anthem in the world. In the first person, as if quoting himself, William speaks to the Dutch people about both the revolt, as well as his own, personal struggle: to be faithful to the king, without being unfaithful to his conscience: to serve God and the Dutch people. In the lyrics William compares himself with the biblical David who serves under the tyrannic king Saul. As the merciful David defeats the unjust Saul and is rewarded by God with the kingdom of Israel, so too William hopes to be rewarded a kingdom. Both the Wilhelmus and the Dutch Revolt should be seen in the light of the 16th century Reformation in Europe, and the resulting prosecution of Protestants by the Spanish Inquisition in the Low Countries.*

*There is not a single rock formation in the Netherlands, and there is hardly any danger due to the almost stagnant waters and the small differences in tides. Moreover, the Dutch Flanders's coast is the longest range of natural dunes without rocks in the world, consisting of some 170 miles, of which the Netherlands form two thirds, while the remainder are manmade dykes. [Reference](#)*

### **“Polder Model” = Inclusive**

**Gift / Book** – The Dutch pride themselves on having an economy that performs smoothly, known as the polder model, which hinges on periodic negotiations among labor unions, employers' associations, and the government to control wage scales and taxes. They have a strong value for consensus and a culture of patient consultation, accommodation, compromise and respect. They are naturally inclusive... a Kingdom value that expresses the Father’s love. The Dutch have historically welcomed immigrants from persecuted lands... puritans from England, Huguenots from France and Jews from throughout Europe.

*Hospitality - Home, homeliness, coziness, intimate dwelling, it is all very important to the Dutch. The Dutch word "gezelligheid" is hard to translate into other languages, "coziness" comes close.*

[Reference](#)

**Why** – For a thousand years the Dutch have corporately held back the sea and made a nation. Working together for the common good is deeply in their DNA.

*The organizations that to this day administer the water management system, the “water boards,” were created even before 1250 when the peat-diggers entered into local joint ventures; thereby, it is said, laying the foundations for Dutch democracy... Around 1400 two innovations were introduced to their extensive watery region: the use of the windmill, and owners of the land joined together to purchase a windmill to improve their land and thereby made their combined land a unit with the water management system, a “polder.” Pg 179*

**Examples** – At the deepest level the Netherlands is an international hub of tolerance, love and acceptance. Wars and religious excess have left scars on the national identity that misrepresent the true nature of the Dutch.

*World War 2 left a generation burdened with a sense of guilt at the murder of 1000,000 Dutch Jews, whose deportation was made possible partly by “Dutch obedience, exaggerated respect for rules and hierarchy,” This “respect” – a distant offshoot of what Troeltsch called “sacralization of bureaucracy” was, he argues, totally undermined by the events of the war. Henceforward every authority is carefully weighted up before it is obeyed. P 108*

*With the independence of the Netherlands and establishment of the Republic, the Reformed faith was proclaimed the official faith of the state. The Netherlands continued to embrace religious refugees - the Puritans who were fleeing England, the Huguenots fleeing France, and also many Jews from throughout Europe. Some of these converted to Christianity and were later to become influential leaders of the secession-minded churches. [Reference](#)*

## Gedooogbeleid = Tolerance

It's OK if it's not perfect, "There are bigger fish to fry"

**Gift / Book** – The Dutch are free from the religious spirit that demands perfection from its children. There is room for different approaches. This Dutch mindset sees the big picture and is not diverted by imperfection. The Dutch value excellence but not legalism. They have plans and ideas and love to share them, but they will never impose them on others. They wait for invitations. Their tolerance for diversity is a Kingdom value that reflects the heart of God.

**Why** – Tolerance has long been justified in the face of religion and politics by a long list of Dutch philosophers who reflected the social fabric of the Netherlands and the heart of God... Erasmus, John Locke, Spinoza, John Stuart Mill, etc.

*Religious, cultural, and ethnic diversity are considered the essence of Dutch culture. The persistence of sizable religious and regional minorities and the decentralization of administrative power have allowed cultural diversity to survive. In the absence of a countrywide shared identity, the dominant Randstad culture has provided most of the markers of national identity, [Reference](#)*

**Examples** – Amsterdam has always been a cultural hub in Europe and Rotterdam is a commercial gateway to Europe. The Netherlands is a crossroads for travel, ideas and innovation. From the 1600's, its universities consisted of nearly half non-Dutch students. Persecuted philosophers, artists and religious leaders have historically found a home among the Dutch.

## Apostolic Heart

Can release Inheritance in their sons

**Gift / Book** – The Dutch carry an entrepreneurial sense of how to get things done practically and they love to share their wisdom when asked. You can almost feel them waiting for the question, “What’s your suggestion?” Beneath the modesty, lies a wealth of knowledge that is both practical and spiritual. They are Father’s at heart who have the ability to release their sons and daughters into their inheritance.

**Why** – The Dutch carry an apostolic sense of how to get things done... in the spirit and in the natural. Their national exposure to many nations and cultures enabled them to combine the best of many different cultures and ideas for centuries. They naturally love to share (export) those ideas and products.

**Examples** – From reformation to the information and freedom it spawned, God has used the Dutch to spread truth and technology around the world.

Amsterdam's dominant position as a trade centre was strengthened in 1640 with a monopoly for the [Dutch East India Company](#) (VOC) for trade with [Japan](#) through its trading post on [Dejima](#), an island in the bay of [Nagasaki](#). From here the Dutch traded between China and Japan and paid [tribute](#) to the Shogun. Until 1854, the Dutch were Japan's sole window to the western world. The collection of scientific learning introduced from Europe became known in Japan as [Rangaku](#) or Dutch Learning. The Dutch were instrumental in transmitting to Japan some knowledge of the industrial and scientific revolution then occurring in Europe. The Japanese purchased and translated numerous scientific books from the Dutch, obtained from them Western curiosities and manufactures (such as clocks) and received demonstrations of various Western innovations (such as electric phenomena, and the flight of a hot air balloon in the early 19th century). In the 17th and 18th centuries, the Dutch were arguably the most economically wealthy and scientifically advanced of all European nations, which put them in a privileged position to transfer Western knowledge to Japan.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dutch\\_Golden\\_Age#Migration\\_of\\_skilled\\_workers\\_to\\_Netherlands](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dutch_Golden_Age#Migration_of_skilled_workers_to_Netherlands)

**Note:** There is a Dutch proverb that typifies Calvinist roots in false humility; a spiritual resistance that holds the Dutch back from allowing the Lord to promote them or hold them up as an example. They don’t want to stand out. Two Dutch words capture this crab pot mentality.

“*Doe normaal*” - just act normal, that’s already crazy enough!!

<https://stuffdutchpeoplelike.com/2010/11/26/no-56-normalcy-doe-normaal/>

“*Je hoofd boven het maaiveld uitsteken*” - Don’t stick your head above the mowing zone, else your head is cut off

<http://www.eennieuwekijk.nu/blog/35-je-hoofd-boven-het-maaiveld-uitsteken.html>