

Identifying The Lost Ten Tribes of Israel

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**IS ISRAEL A MYTH, A SIDE
ISSUE, OR A REALITY?**

Is Israel a Myth, a Side Issue, or a Reality?

The Gospel Gleaner published in Lansing, Michigan, through its editors and correspondents, has taken unto itself the task of denying certain Bible truths, simply because they are not familiar with these subjects. In other words any Bible truth that they do not know, is not truth, regardless of what the Bible says about it.

Because of this attitude they are under the impression that they are doing the Heavenly Father a favour in trying to oppose portions of His word which has not been especially revealed to them, in spite of the fact that the Bible records lay special emphasis on them.

In an article entitled, "Beware of Side Issues," published in the issue of September, 1945, the editor warned his readers against the doctrine of the "Sacred Name" (which deals with the Third Commandment) and "The Identity Question," which he calls British Israel, which by the way has to do with the preaching of the Gospel of the Kingdom.

In a previous article, as published in "*The Faith*" of Feb., 1946, I answered his denial of the Sacred Name issue. In this article I shall endeavor to answer his classification of the identity question, (which he calls British Israel) "a side issue."

I am not British, and I am not identified with what is known as British Israel. I hold no brief for some of their fantastic claims, such as the British nation being the Fifth Kingdom of Daniel's prophecy, for which there is no Biblical foundation.

As the Apostle Paul once said, "I am set for the defense of the Gospel." I, too, want to say, "I am set for the defense of the Gospel of the Kingdom, which the Saviour said should be preached to all the world." —Matt. 24:14.

In order for us to understand the term "Gospel of the Kingdom," we must, in spirit, place ourselves in the same circumstances and mental attitude of the Apostles to whom these words were primarily addressed.

The Apostles were Israelites racially. They had had a kingdom and had lost it. They were, for the time being, a people without a kingdom, but not without a hope of the restoration of this Kingdom, and for this they were watching every sign that might portend this restoration.

Forty days after the resurrection, just preceding the Saviour's ascension, when the disciples were come together, they asked Him, saying, "Yahshua, will Thou at *this time* restore the kingdom to Israel? And He answered them, It is not for you to know the times or seasons which the Father hath put in His own power." See Acts 1:6,7.

Please, dear reader, note in Acts 1:3, we read that the Saviour showed Himself to His Apostles for 40 days after His sufferings and resurrection; and, in these 40 days, He spake to them of the things pertaining to *The Kingdom of Yahweh*. This *Kingdom of Yahweh* was understood by them as being real and tangible, therefore they expected reestablishment of the *Kingdom to Israel* with Yahweh's Anointed as *King* and the children of Israel as subjects or citizens of the *Kingdom*. This is evidenced by the fact that after forty days of teaching the good news of the *Kingdom* to come, they asked, "Will Thou at *this time* restore the kingdom to Israel?" The Saviour's answer is clear. It was not for them to know the *time* of the event. The authenticity of the *re-establishment* in confirmed and assured, (the time element only the Father had thus far kept unto Himself), and was still to be in the future. In the interim, they were to await for the endowment of power which would enable them to bear testimony of Him, of His sacrifice, the atoning blood, the resurrection, and His promised return for the *re-establishment of the kingdom to Israel*.

To establish this fact we have but to turn to Acts 3, and carefully read Cepha's sermon at the Beautiful Gate. Cepha, or Peter, as the Greeks named him, being filled with the Holy Spirit, said, "*Men of Israel*" (Acts 3:12). And

please note that, according to Acts 2:9 to 11, they were for the most part Israelites of the dispersion who had not forgotten to come to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover and stayed on to Pentecost. To these "*Men of Israel*," the empowered-Holy-Spirit-filled Cepha addressed himself. From Acts 3:13,14, he speaks of the death and resurrection of the Messiah. In verses 15 to 17 he speaks of the power of the risen Messiah. In verse 18, he establishes the fact that all of this was done according to the plan laid down in the prophets, as proof of the validity of the Messiahship of Yahshua, the Son of the Most High El. In verse 19, he explains that on the strength of this authority they were called on to repent and to turn to Yahweh, so their sins would be blotted out in preparation for the time when the times of refreshing would come from the presence of Yahweh. And in the 20th and 21st verses, we are told when this refreshing is, "That He, (Yahweh) shall send *Yahshua the Messiah*, Who had been previously appointed unto you, Whom the heavens must receive *until* the time of restitution, or *restoration*, of all things which Yahweh has spoken by the mouth of *all* His holy prophets since the world began."

Now beloved, if we take the Prophets, all of them, and read them carefully, we will not find the Gospel according to the Catholics, nor to

the so called Protestants, but we will find in all the Prophets the good news to come: *Namely*, the *Restoration of the Kingdom of Israel*. When Israel repents and is converted, then they will be ready for the coming of the *King Yahshua*, Whom the Father will send as soon as they will ready themselves for *Him*.

In this connection, I would like to quote some of the prophecies from the Old Testament, which have direct references to the Blessed Messiah. For instance, let us turn to Isaiah 49:5,6: "And now saith Yahweh that formed me from the womb to be His servant, *to bring Jacob again to him*, that *Israel may be gathered unto him*, and I be glorious in the eyes of Yahweh, and my El shall be my strength, and He said unto me, It is a light thing that Thou should be my Servant *to raise up the tribes of Israel*. I will also give *thee* for a light to the gentiles that Thou mayest be *my* salvation to the end of the earth."

I have quoted these verses from the Isaac Leeser Hebrew translation, and from the Marginal reading in the King James version of the Bible. This translation is also found in both the English and American revised.

Now in the light of these verses let us turn to the Good News according to Matt. 10:5,6, where it reads, "These twelve, Yahshua sent forth, and *commanded* them, saying, *Go not in*

the way of the gentiles, and in the cities of Samaritans enter ye not, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And as ye go, preach, saying, The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand."

Please note this in the commission: *They were to go exclusively to the house of Israel.* Not to the Jews, the two tribes (They were never lost), but to the *ten tribes* who had been taken into Assyrian Captivity, from which there is no record what happened to them as Israel; for in this captivity they lost their identity for the time being, but they increased and multiplied incognito, under many names, awaiting the hour prophesied in Ezekiel 37:1 to 14; Hosea 1:1 to 10. The identification of the *ten tribes* will be followed with their joining with the tribes of Judah, as recorded in Ezekiel 37: 16 to 20, and Hosea 1:11, and many other places too numerous to mention in this article.

Now to go back to the Saviour's commission to the disciples, I repeat that they were to tell the *lost sheep* of the house of Israel (not Judah) that the Kingdom of Yahweh was about to be established, as soon as they could ready themselves for it. And here we are after two thousand years, Israel is not ready because the doctrine of the *kingdom* has not been preached, and some sincere born again saints of Yahweh, like the Editor of the Gospel Gleaner, and many

others, are calling this gospel of the Kingdom a "*Side Issue*," with some actually saying that it is a false doctrine. This attitude is retarding the identification program, which, in turn, is hindering the establishment of the *kingdom*.

With the saints taking this attitude toward the identification question, how then is the commandment of the Saviour to be obeyed if it is regarded as non-essential and of no value to the redeemed? Saints of Yahweh, *awake*.

Let us again return to Matthew and read the story of the Syrophoenician woman who sought the *Son of David* to help her in the matter of healing her daughter. What great truth did the Saviour emphasize? Read it for yourself in Matt. 15:24, "But He answered and said, 'I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel'." All this in fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies also. Read also Ezekiel 34, where Yahweh complains that scattered Israel (the Lost Sheep) is being neglected and is not being searched for, so that He Himself will undertake the job. He said He would seek *them* out and deliver them from all the places where they had been scattered in the dark day (the captivity) and He would bring them out from the people (Gentiles), and gather them from the countries where *they* had been dispersed, and *they* would be brought into their own land (See II Samuel 7:10), not Palestine, for they

were already there, but a land from which they would never be pushed out, and there await the coming of the *King*. Read all of the 34th chapter of Ezekiel, and very carefully also the 36th chapter of Ezekiel. Some would say that this is speaking of the Jews, that is, the two tribes, but Yahweh answers, *NO*. Follow on to the 37th chapter, and read of the great national renaissance in the symbol of the dry bones, of a people *nationally dead*, yet a people as numberless as the stars above, or as the sands of the seashore. As national Israel they were, as Hosea puts it, a *no people*, for nationally, as Israel, they had no-existence. They were the *lost sheep*, nationally dead, with no hope of ever coming back as a *national entity*. See Eze. 37, the last half of the 11th verse, where they are unknown to themselves, and to the Ecclesiastics, but not unknown to Yahweh, Who *identifies them as the whole house of Israel*.

The very same literal house of Israel, the *lost sheep*, who had lost hope, and thought themselves cut off, in verse 11, is in verse 12, by Yahweh, promised the outpouring of His Holy Spirit on them because of His *eternal* promises. And in verse 16, He definitely identifies them as Joseph, the stick of Ephraim and *all* the children of Israel *the ten tribes, the lost sheep*, exclusive of the *two tribes* (Judah and Benjamin), mentioned later in verse 19. And these two

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groups, *Israel* (the lost sheep) and *Judah* (the Jews, who were to be a hiss and by-word for the period of their dispersioo) are joined together (in verse 19) by the grace of Yahweh, and who at the time of this event will have been converted to Him, and will be ready for the kingdom and their *King* Yahshua, the Son of Yahweh, and the Son of David.

Thus the Two Kingdoms separated at the time of King Rehoboam, the son of Solomon, will be re-united at the time of *King Yahshua, the Son of Yahweh*.

The sooner this Gospel of the *kingdom* is preached, the sooner will the Kingdom Hope be realized, for the restoration of the Kingdom of Israel is the whole theme of the Old Testament, and the New Testament confirms all of this. The preaching of a Gentile Gospel denies all of this, even as some of the Gentile believers in apostolic times tried to do; but Paul takes issue with them. In Romans 9, He emphatically denies that Yahweh had forsaken Israel and replaced them with Gentiles, as some were claiming. In this chapter, Paul states that to Israel, and to Israel alone, pertaineth the covenants, the law, the service of Yahweh, and the promises.

Now if this be true what then is left for the Gentiles? "Nothing," except that they may join with Israel, as converted proselytes,

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and share in the glory and promises *with*, and *not* apart from, Israel. If it can be said that the Gentiles replaced unbelieving Jews, and that only for a time, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled. Read carefully Romans 11:17 to 26 and note that here Paul represents Israel as a tree with many branches. *Some* of these branches were cut off for unbelief.

Israel is composed of 12 tribes, or branches. Two of these branches, tribally speaking; viz., Judah and Benjamin, were cut off for national unbelief, and Gentile believers were grafted into their place; but they, these believing Gentiles, were told not to boast lest they also should be cut off. Then in summing up, in Romans 11:25, he reveals a mystery that he understood, by the spirit and the scriptures of the Old Testament, that blindness has happened to part of Israel until the times allotted to the Gentiles be accomplished, *then all Israel*, meaning *all the twelve tribes* (The Ten Lost Tribes, or the Lost Sheep, represented today in the so-called Christian Nations, and the Two Tribes, Judah and Benjamin, as represented in what we know as the Jews today) is to be saved. Now please do not misunderstand me, I do not mean as they are now, in abject apostasy and strangers to Bible truths. I mean when they have readied themselves by a thorough conversion and a new birth of the Spirit, which Yahweh Himself will surely

bring about in the last days by the pouring-out of the Holy Spirit on all flesh, according to Joel, and also because of the rod of correction in the last day tribulation, He will drive many into the fold, or as the Scripture has it, "Into the Bond of the Covenant." See Ezekiel 20:33.

Yahshua is coming, and I believe that He is coming soon; but He will not come before all things have been ~~prepared~~, and that means a Kingdom people, the people of His *name* to whom Yahweh has assigned Dominion under the leadership of His Son Yahshua, the Messiah. Therefore, let us stop sucking at *Mother Babylon's breast* for the doctrine of Yahshua and the Kingdom, for she has deceived all nations with the wine (doctrine) of her fornication. We need to turn back to the pure word of Yahweh, and study Yahweh's plan for Israel's dominion, and in the words of Isaiah, "They that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places; thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, the repairer of the breach, the restorer of paths to dwell in" (Isaiah 58:12). Not only of the Sabbath, but of all the *Kingdom Truth*, for Yahweh has not changed His mind, nor defaulted in His promises.

So, brethren, let us retrace our steps, if we have tasted the good word of Yahweh, and have been made partakers of His salvation, and

have been fully reconciled to Him. Let us therefore seek the Kingdom of Yahweh in all its ramification. We too, as the disciples of old, will be looking for the restoration of the Kingdom to Israel, and working for, as well as praying for, the establishment of the Millennium Kingdom, wherein all of the righteous laws of Yahweh will be functioning for the benefit of all.

In writing this article my hope is that it may provoke a desire in the hearts of those who, as yet, are unacquainted with this subject, that they may search the scriptures and join the restoration movement, that we all may share in its restoration, as well as sharing the Kingdom when it shall have been established.

—By A. B. Traina, in "The Faith Magazine."

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