

THE SECRET OF HIS PURPOSE .... THE PLAN FOR THE FULLNESS OF THE TIMES  
**TO HEAD UP ALL THINGS IN THE KING,**  
EVERYTHING IN THE HEAVENS AND ON THE EARTH,  
**IN JESUS....**

By – Stuart H. Pouliot

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#63

***Abraham's Multitude of Nations***

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To start, commentators of scripture have written a great deal on the great promises that Yahweh (the Lord) made to Abraham. And yet, as good as some of the commentary is, I believe most of it falls short of the glory discovered in the promises. Simply, they do not go far enough—they haven't mined deep enough into the riches, so to speak, of how the Lord God fulfilled and continues to fulfill these promises. I am not alone in some of what is presented in this article. The fact of the matter is that I am indebted to those who have done a great deal of research along the lines of history, migration, archeology, etymology, and anthropology. Through them, my eyes have been opened to what I firmly believe is part of God's truth and the glory of the gospel of Jesus the Messiah. I am simply passing on the results of my study of other's research—of course, with my own commentary.

*Disclaimer*

At the outset, I have one vital disclaimer—although I am going to propose that genealogy has played a major part in the spread of the gospel, as well as the fulfillment of the promise to Abraham, this in no way is meant nor should it be taken to mean that I am proposing that one must be from the right gene pool to be delivered from this world system and into the kingdom of the Son of God's love. I'll say it again in another way. I don't want anyone to think that what I am offering is that one must be a physical descendant of Abraham-Isaac-Jacob to be justified by faith, for I am not proposing this. In Christ, there is no Jew or gentile, or any other racial/ethnic distinction. Paul (a Hebrew descendant) makes this very clear.

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. (Galatians 3:28 NASB)

There is no distinction between Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all. (Colossians 3:11 NASB)

For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh. But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter; and his praise is not from men, but from God. (Romans 2:28-29 NASB)

All very true. However, this does not mean that God has completely ignored racial/ethnic lines to spread His good news throughout the earth, and this involves more than Paul's to *the Jew first* (Romans 1:16). What I am proposing goes back much farther involving the Israelite descendants of Jacob-Israel that were scattered among the nations—down through the centuries their descendants lost their national identity and generational memory of their roots. I believe many of us believers with roots in western Christendom are in this group of descendants. I will leave

this disclaimer here; otherwise, I will ramble into the meat of this article. Hopefully, this will make sense as we proceed along as some evidences of history are traced.

One other comment—there is too much material on this subject to include in an article without making it into a book, which I have no leading to do. To add to what follows, I have included several links, to not only my writings, but also to other's. You are encouraged to check them out.

Now, let's begin.

### **History – Fulfilled Prophecy**

As one commentator has stated, history is fulfilled prophecy, and through a study of history, we learn more of God's plan to achieve His ultimate purpose of ALL. Unfortunately, it seems that postmodernism is not so much interested in ancient history, unless it can be used (distorted) to prop up some ideology.

History is God's doing, and in it we learn of His ways and His will. The history of mankind is God's history in mankind. In this history, we learn of our past, and we learn of our future or destiny—blessings if we walk before the Lord and curses if we turn from Him and follow our own carnal ways. As Jeremiah was in the midst of the fall of Judah and Jerusalem, he lamented: *She did not consider her future [destiny, latter end]. Therefore, she has fallen astonishingly; she has no comforter* (Lamentations 1:9). Let us consider!

### **Promises of Greatness**

Abram was called forth from his homeland into the land of Canaan in roughly 1892 BC. Then, some fifteen years later in 1877 BC, the Lord made a three-part, unconditional covenant (promise) with him that applies, not only to his blood (genetic) descendants, but more expansively to all the nations and families of the earth. This one covenant speaks mightily of God's plan for all the nations in the fulfillment of His purpose to become all in all new, and, I might add, *all in love*. This is achieved through His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who is all in all—a fact I purposely repeat throughout my writings.

Before getting into the detail of this three-part promise, it is best to provide a brief overview of them.

### **Great Nation**

The first part pertains to his blood descendants becoming a great and mighty nation.

Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go forth from your country, and from your relatives and from your father's house, to the land which I will show you; and I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great; and so you shall be a blessing; and I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse." (Genesis 12:1-3a NASB)

"I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth, so that if anyone can number the dust of the earth, then your descendants can also be numbered." (Genesis 13:16 NASB)

And He took him outside and said, "Now look toward the heavens, and count the stars, if you are able to count them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be." Then he believed in the LORD; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness. (Genesis 15:5-6 NASB)

This manifested in the days of David and Solomon around 1011-931 BC and resurfaced nearly 2,800 years later in 1776 AD with the birth of America. This birth occurred exactly 2,520 years (a prophetic time-cycle of 7 times 360) from the downfall and captivity of Israel in 745-721 BC.

See *America—Wake Up!* — <http://www.kingdomandglory.com/art/art67.pdf>

### **Multitude of Nations and Kings**

The second part pertains to him being the father of a multitude of nations that also includes kings coming forth from Abraham and Sarah.

"I will establish My covenant between Me and you, and I will multiply you exceedingly." Abram fell on his face, and God talked with him, saying, "As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, and you will be the father of a multitude of nations. "No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. "I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make nations of you, and kings will come forth from you." (Genesis 17:2-6 NASB)

I will bless her, and you will have a son by her. She will become the mother of nations, and some of her descendants will even be kings. (Genesis 17:16 CEV)

Given the different wives and concubines that are part of the story of Abraham and his descendants, it is easy to see how this covenant was fulfilled down through the centuries. Surely, kings did come forth from Abraham and Sarah.

But there is more to the story that manifests in 745-721 BC with the Assyrian captivity of the northern kingdom of Israel that, over many centuries, led to the migration of the Israelite tribes out of Mesopotamia into Europe, the British Isles, North America, and beyond. In this centuries-long migration, they gradually lost their identity as well as a strong connection to their cultural and religious roots—although not totally, as we will see. Since the USA is my abode, I have a particular interest in how we have become part of Abraham's prophetic history. See above link.

One commentator has noted that many Israelites fled Israel-Samaria to other regions prior to or during the Assyrian takeover and were not taken captive and carried off to Mesopotamia. This would date the migration further back in the 8<sup>th</sup> century BC that continued for the many centuries to follow. Ultimately, this migration led to the founding of many nations throughout these areas; each identified by a different name and with a multitude of kings (i.e., national leaders).

## All the Families & Nations Blessed

The third part, which is the much greater one in its reach, pertains to all the nations and all the families being blessed.

"And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed." (Genesis 12:3b NASB)

The LORD said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do, since Abraham will surely become a great and mighty nation, and in him all the nations of the earth will be blessed? "For I have chosen him, so that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing righteousness and justice, so that the LORD may bring upon Abraham what He has spoken about him." (Genesis 18:17-19 NASB)

And the Scripture foreseeing that God would justify the nations by faith, preached the gospel before to Abraham: "All the nations will be blessed in you." Gen. 12:3 (Galatians 3:8 LITV)

In a sense, this part has been manifested in some measure since the time of Abraham, for whenever God's people have remained obedient to His divine law, acknowledging His sovereignty and His rights as creator, those around them have been blessed; all the families are blessed. Truly, during the days of Solomon, all the nations were blessed as there was peace and prosperity in the region. Many are blessed when God's people do righteousness and justice; a lesson we modern-day so-called *Christian nations* need to heed. Truly, the western Christianized nations have been a blessing to the world. However, just as Israel and Judah failed to be a continual blessing to all the nations around them, so are the modern-day ones failing to do so. This is especially seen as we take up the physical sword to take down nations, all in the name of freedom and democracy but with the real motive being hegemonic control (involving money, oil, other natural resources, etc.). I greatly appreciate living in America, but this does not mean we should hide or ignore the facts, especially when it comes to the present condition of the soul of our nation—fooling ourselves into thinking that God is pleased with what He sees. Of course, He knows what He is doing and His plan is on track and on time.

According to the Abrahamic covenant, all the nations and all the families of the earth will be blessed in Abraham, not just a few in a certain area. This is a global blessing that speaks of the glory of the Lord filling the whole earth as the waters cover the sea. But how? There is only one way and that is through the gospel, the good news of King Jesus going forth through an immortal people filled with the spirit of God and fully conformed to the image of God's Son. The good news is that this will begin its greatest manifestation and ultimate fulfillment in the consummational arrival our beloved Lord.

Now, let us consider the Abrahamic covenant in a little more detail.

### First Part – A Great Nation

Abram was promised to become a great nation made up of a multitude of descendants. *"I will make you a great nation, and your descendants will be as numerous as the dust of the earth or*

*the sand that is on the seashore.*" The promise relating to the sand and the stars, which is hyperbole, was passed on to Abraham's son Isaac and his son Jacob (Genesis 22:17-18; 28:14; 32:12). These expressions were the Lord's way of telling these patriarchs that their descendants would be many or a great multitude that could not be counted because of an expansive progression throughout the many centuries to follow. They would be fruitful and multiply greatly. Tracing the history of Abraham's ancient descendants, we can see that God took them from a small band of men to a mighty nation, often estimated at around 6 million at their peak.

It is not my purpose to trace their entire history, but it is needful to mention that there are several phases of this history: 1. Abraham through Joseph (from Haran to Canaan to Egypt). 2. Moses and the Exodus (out of Egypt into the wilderness). 3. Joshua (entering Canaan to conquer and inherit it). 4. Judges (Israel without a king). 5. Kings (Saul, David, and Solomon, and the rise of the united kingdom of Israel and Judah). 6. Downfall of the united kingdom of Israel and Judah. After the downfall, Israel and Judah followed separate paths and thus have different histories and prophetic fulfillments. This point cannot be overemphasized.

For the purpose of this article, we will pick up their history with the reign of the two greatest kings, apart from Jesus Himself, that came forth from Abraham. As the Lord promised him: *Kings will come forth from you!*

Without doubt, it wasn't until the reigns of David and Solomon that the sons of Israel truly came into their glory, and God's promise to Abraham regarding his descendants was first manifested. It was often a long, arduous, and messy journey that could have been sidetracked many times if it weren't for the fact that the Lord was with them, even in the midst of their rebellious hearts.

History reveals that the *united kingdom of Israel and Judah* led by David and then Solomon was one of the most, if not the most, powerful and prosperous nations in the history of the world up to that point. Their kingdom lasted from 1011-931 BC. How and why did they become such a great global superpower? What or who was the source of their success? Of course, the answer rests with the Lord and His promise to Abraham. There can be no boast in the people, for they would have failed on their own. The boast is in the Lord and Him alone.

Please take note of the term *united kingdom of Israel and Judah*. It is a common mistake to make Israel and Judah one and the same. For the most part, scripture refers to them as separate nations, houses, or kingdoms. We know that after Solomon's death, the *kingdom of Israel* was split into *Israel* (northern 10 tribes) and *Judah* (southern 2 tribes with the Levites). However, this distinction existed long before this, for after young David defeated the giant Philistine, it is recorded: *And all Israel and Judah loved David, for he went out and came in before them* (1 Samuel 18:16). This division can be traced back to the day Jacob-Israel blessed his sons as his death was imminent. He blessed Judah with the scepter [Kingship—Judah] and Joseph with fruitfulness or sonship [Kingdom Sonship—Israel] (Genesis 49:10, 22).

See *Until Shiloh Comes* — <http://www.kingdomandglory.com/art/art66.pdf>

We might be tempted to think that the 12 tribes of Jacob were a homogenous, disciplined, loving, united people; however, this is far from true. All one has to do is trace their history back to their

first forefathers, the actual sons of Jacob, to learn that they were rebels at heart from the start. Of course, we can go to the very source, Jacob the supplanter, to see where it all started. History did not mellow subsequent generations, for when they came out of Egypt under Moses, they were a rebellious, factious group made up of a diversity of people and bloodlines that was anything but homogenous and not always so kind or brotherly to one another. This was further compounded by the mixed multitude that integrated with the tribes and became one with them. During the days of Moses, foreigners (non-Israelites) could join one of the tribes as long as they integrated into their customs and rites and followed the law. When they did, they became part of the nation as if citizens (Exodus 12:48-49; 22:21; Leviticus 19:34; Deuteronomy 16:10-11). Later, during the time of the judges, the tribes were a loose federation.

It is within this context that David came along and united these rebellious, heterogeneous tribes into one kingdom or a constitutional monarchy. Actually, he united 13 tribes, for when Jacob-Israel's life was about over, he called for Joseph and his two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, in order to bless the lads (Genesis 48). He adopted them from Joseph and blessed them with his spiritual, God-given name *Israel*. Thus, the birthright passed on to Joseph and his two sons. From that point on, the name of *Israel* was associated with the tribes when Ephraim and Manasseh were among the rest of the tribes. The name *Ephraim* also became synonymous with the name *Israel*. Why Ephraim? Because he received the greater blessing of becoming a multitude of nations; whereas, Manasseh was blessed to become a great people, as in one great nation (Genesis 48:19).

The point is that Jacob-Israel split Joseph into two tribes so that there were 13 tribes of Israel. Prophetically, this pointed to the birth of America with its 13 colonies.

The angel who has redeemed me from all evil, bless the lads; and may my name [Israel] live on in them, and the names of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; and may they grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth." (Genesis 48:16 NASB)

Now the sons of Reuben the firstborn of Israel (for he was the firstborn, but because he defiled his father's bed, his birthright was given to the sons of Joseph the son of Israel; so that he is not enrolled in the genealogy according to the birthright. Though Judah prevailed over his brothers, and from him came the leader, yet the birthright belonged to Joseph) ... (1 Chronicles 5:1-2 NASB)

The united kingdom of Israel and Judah under David and Solomon existed for only 73 years, which is a relatively short period for a nation. The reigns of David and Solomon lasted 40 years each, giving a total of 80 years. However, at first, David ruled over Judah exclusively. In Jerusalem, he reigned thirty-three years over all Israel and Judah (2 Samuel 5:4-5). Because of this relatively short period of 80 years, it seems that history has forgotten or chosen to ignore the greatness to which this God-centered, constitutional monarchy had achieved. God truly blessed them as a people.

## King David

King David was a warrior, and he greatly expanded the borders of his kingdom—where he did not directly control surrounding nations, he held *hegemonic control* over them. He greatly diminished the power of kingdoms that were outside his hegemony, such as the Assyrians who tried to diminish his kingdom but were diminished themselves by the might of Israel's warrior-king. He commanded an army of 1,570,000 (1 Chronicles 21:5) and ruled over about 6 million people. Keep in mind that David did this by uniting a rebellious collection of tribes that were often at odds with one another. Through his many military campaigns, David expanded the borders of his kingdom until it reached from Egypt to the Euphrates River. In addition, David became friends and joined forces with Hiram the King of Tyre (2 Samuel 5:11), and through this relationship his reach expanded by sea. Tyre and Sidon, located on the eastern Mediterranean Sea, later identified as *Phoenicia*, had extensive merchant fleets and navies that created a trading and commercial empire of maritime routes. David developed an alliance with these merchant city-states that could be described as a *global commercial trading monopoly*. No one could rival them or compete with them. Simply, they pretty much controlled it all.

Something that is lost in history, if not outright denied by some historians, is the evidence that this commercial empire of maritime routes extended not just from the fertile crescent of the Mediterranean but well beyond it to the British Isles and even to North America. Archeological evidence has been discovered in North America that indicates Hebrews either visited or lived here and presumably mined our land for ore, dating around 1000 BC and perhaps long before.

For a good summary of this evidence as well as the migration of the sons of Israel, you might be interested in a four-book series written by Stephen M. Collins. These books are filled with many references for one to do further research.

Check out this link — <http://stevenmcollins.com/homepage.php>

With secure borders and trading routes, David turned to amassing the materials to build God's house. With the help of Hiram and the merchant fleets and sailors of both nations, David accumulated vast resources; a fact testified to by him near the end of his life.

"Now behold, with great pains I have prepared for the house of the LORD 100,000 talents of gold and 1,000,000 talents of silver, and bronze and iron beyond weight, for they are in great quantity; also, timber and stone I have prepared, and you may add to them." (1 Chronicles 22:14 NASB)

So much iron and bronze had been accumulated that it could not be weighed. Where did all the tin and copper come from to smelt into bronze? It has been researched and documented that the copper came from Lake Superior; its mines having been mined to exhaustion around 1000 BC with no trace of the ore being used in North America. Along with tin from the mines of the British Isles, it was transported to Israel and processed at a blast furnace located in Ezion-Geber (southern Palestine) used to smelt iron and copper. The actual start-up of this furnace is not known. It could have been under David, but it was most definitely operating under Solomon's watch. It has been suggested that Ezion-Geber was the Pittsburgh of old Palestine because it

employed the modern-day Bessemer system for smelting ore. As Stephen Collins notes, this also made Israel *the most advanced industrial power of its time* (*The Origins and Empire of Ancient Israel*, page 185-186).

It was under David, the man after God's heart, that Israel began its ascent into greatness to become the head of the nations of the world. History should not underestimate the success of David in controlling most of the land routes for trade and establishing a strong relationship with King Hiram of Tyre whose ships plowed the water routes of the Mediterranean and beyond. This combination produced a powerhouse kingdom that had great global influence.

### King Solomon

David laid the foundation and his son Solomon built upon it with the wisdom that comes down from above. Solomon inherited a mighty kingdom and, through his wisdom, greatly increased what his father had begun. Truly, the glory of the Lord shined brightly as the first part of the Abrahamic covenant, on a national level, was manifested and fulfilled as the Lord had promised—at least in the formative days of Solomon's kingdom, until his heart began to turn from the Lord. Regardless, the promise to Abraham was literally fulfilled during the days of Solomon.

Judah and Israel were as *numerous as the sand that is on the seashore in abundance*; they were eating and drinking and rejoicing. Now Solomon ruled over all the kingdoms from the River to the land of the Philistines and to the border of Egypt; they brought tribute and served Solomon all the days of his life. ... For he had dominion over everything west of the River, from Tiphshah even to Gaza, over all the kings west of the River; and he had *peace on all sides* around about him. So, *Judah and Israel lived in safety*, every man under his vine and his fig tree, from Dan even to Beersheba, all the days of Solomon. (1 Kings 4:20-21, 24-25)

Not only had the descendants of Abraham become a great multitude, but they had become a great nation of great wealth and prosperity with peace all around them, which was also a fulfillment of the prayer of David for *the peace of Jerusalem* (Psalm 122:6). It was the *Golden Age of King Solomon* as Israel was head of the nations, a true ancient superpower unlike any seen up to that point in history. It was also a fulfillment of the blessings of God given to Moses. Truly, they were high above all the nations and were a head, not the tail.

"Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the LORD your God will set you high above all nations of the earth." (Deuteronomy 28:1 NKJV)

And the LORD will make you the head and not the tail; you shall be above only, and not be beneath, if you heed the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you today, and are careful to observe them. (Deuteronomy 28:13 NKJV)

There seemed to be no place on earth that was off limits to them as the ships of Tarshish made three-year journeys (1 Kings 16:22; 2 Chronicles 9:21) to the far corners of their world, that most likely included Spain, Africa, Asia, the British Isles, and North America—bringing back vast

resources for Solomon's many projects, the greatest of which was the building of the temple, God's house of prayer, the place that God filled with His glory.

So much gold was given to Solomon that in one year he received 666 talents of it (2 Chronicles 9:13). Silver was so plentiful that it wasn't even considered valuable during his reign (2 Chronicles 9:20). Solomon never had to borrow money from any nation (Deuteronomy 28:12). (If only our modern-day nations had followed in this path!) Truly, this was the golden age for Israel and Judah. The Lord had proven Himself faithful to Abraham and his descendants. If their history had ended here, no one could have ever accused God of reneging on His promise to Abraham. As we will see, it didn't end here but manifested again much later in history—2,520 years to exact.

Solomon was the king of kings, greater than all the kings of the earth—a type of King Jesus.

So, King Solomon became greater than all the kings of the earth in riches and wisdom. And all the kings of the earth were seeking the presence of Solomon, to hear his wisdom which God had put in his heart. They brought every man his gift, articles of silver and gold, garments, weapons, spices, horses and mules, so much year by year. (2 Chronicles 9:22-24 NASB)

With this, it is easy to see how God fulfilled His promise to Abraham that he would become the father of a great and mighty nation. It seems that historians, especially in our day, are either blind to this history or have chosen to ignore or rewrite it. This ancient nation, at its peak, serves as living proof that God will most certainly bless a nation that chooses to acknowledge His rights as creator and to live according to His divine law, not man's law; a fact of which all modern-day nations, especially America, need to be reminded.

Unfortunately, as already noted, the greatness of God's kingdom on earth through a mortal people of flesh and blood did not last very long. Solomon's great wisdom did not keep him from having many foreign women at his side to entice him away from serving the one true God. When the Lord appeared to Solomon the second time, He reiterated His promise to bless them if they continued to walk before the Lord, according to His ways. If they didn't continue but forsook the Lord by turning to other gods, then He would cast them out (1 Kings 9:1-9), and to their great loss this is what happened.

So, the LORD became angry with Solomon, because his heart had turned from the LORD God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice, and had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods; but he did not keep what the LORD had commanded. Therefore, the LORD said to Solomon, "Because you have done this, and have not kept My covenant and My statutes, which I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom away from you and give it to your servant. Nevertheless, I will not do it in your days, for the sake of your father David; I will tear it out of the hand of your son. However, I will not tear away the whole kingdom; I will give one tribe to your son for the sake of my servant David, and for the sake of Jerusalem which I have chosen." (1 Kings 11:9-13 NKJV)

Near the end of his reign, Solomon not only had forsaken the Lord, but he had placed heavy burdens on the people. He made the yoke of the people heavy through taxation, something his

successor, his son, King Rehoboam, not only continued but also increased (1 Kings 12:1-15). This led to Israel rebelling and breaking away from Judah. From here, the history of the once great united kingdom degraded until both kingdoms were brought under the iron and wooden yoke of foreigners with the name of *Israel* lost among the nations of the earth. This is where the second part of the Abrahamic covenant comes in.

### Second Part – A Multitude of Nations

"You will be the father of a multitude of nations. ... for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make nations of you, and kings will come forth from you."

Strictly on the level of the number of sons that were begotten of Abraham, it is apparent that he truly was the father of a multitude of nations, even in the ancient days. After all, Abraham had three wives, Sarah, Hagar, and Keturah. From them came the twelve sons of Jacob that became known as *the sons of Israel*; the five sons of Esau that became known as *the Edomites* (absorbed into modern-day Jewry) and Amalekites; the twelve princes of Ishmael that became known as *the Ishmaelites* (modern-day Arabs); and six other sons from Keturah, one of which became known as *the Midianites*. This does not include Abraham's sons born to concubines. From these sons alone, it could be argued that the promise to Abraham of becoming a multitude of nations has been fulfilled, just as he had become the father of a great nation.

However, this is only part, not even the greater part, of the history, for this promise continued to be worked out among the nations in even greater measure but in a new and hidden way, starting with the breakup of Solomon's kingdom and the subsequent scattering of the ten tribes of Israel (not Judah, at least initially). God wrote a writ of divorce and sent His ex-wife out of His house (Hosea 9:15).

When the Assyrians captured Israel and sent them into captivity from 745-721 BC, Israel, the holder of the birthright name (Genesis 48:16; 1 Chronicles 5:1-2), lost its national identity as *Israel* and became *the lost sheep of the house of Israel* (Matthew 10:6; 15:24).

Please keep in mind that the name *Israel* has a broad and a restrictive meaning. The broad meaning refers to the twelve (or, thirteen) tribes of the sons of Jacob-Israel as long as they remained united as one kingdom. However, the restrictive meaning refers to the birthright name given to Joseph's two sons. As long as all the sons of Israel remained together under Ephraim, they were *Israelites*. However, once they were split apart into two kingdoms following Solomon's death, the name *Israel* went with the northern kingdom of ten tribes of which Ephraim and Manasseh were part, and the name *Judah* went with the southern nation or house of the two tribes of Judah and Benjamin with Levites serving in the temple. From this point on, generally speaking, the prophets kept this distinction. It is unfortunate that in our day this distinction has all been but lost as a result of the modern-day state of Israel.

## Where did Israel go?

But herein lies a mystery: What happened to the lost sheep of the house of Israel? Where did they go? How are they identified today? There is too much history wrapped up in these questions to cover in one article, so you are encouraged to seek out the links that follow. We will start with Isaac and his wife Rebekah.

But God said to Abraham, "... for through Isaac your descendants shall be named." (Genesis 21:12 NASB)

To Isaac, the Lord promised:

"Indeed, I will greatly bless you, and I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your seed shall possess the gate of their enemies. In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice" (Genesis 22:17-18 NASB).

In leaving home to become Isaac's wife, Rebekah was sent away with a blessing. These promises were fulfilled in part with Solomon's kingdom; however, the greater manifestation began with the scattering of the house of Israel.

Thus, they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse with Abraham's servant and his men. They blessed Rebekah and said to her, "May you, our sister, become thousands of ten thousands, and may your descendants possess the gate of those who hate them." (Genesis 24:59-60 NASB)

Keep in mind that the term *lost* simply means that they lost their national identity as they were removed from their ancient land, which led to their migration to foreign lands. As time went on, their descendants lost the memory of their ancient roots as well. Based on the historical record and archeological evidence, the ten tribes were not even lost in the sense of no one knowing where they were or where they had gone. God knew! They did not simply vanish as a people, never to be seen or heard from again. Some commentators, especially among the Jews, refute this to the point that some claim the tribes were either annihilated by the Assyrians or rejoined Judah in their ancient land. Someone has called this the lost, tossed, and quashed Israel, with no further purpose in God's plan involving all the nations. Quite the contrary; they left a path of migratory, etymological, and anthropological evidence that is widely accepted, even among some orthodox Jews today. They became a great people but under different names, caused by their great migratory path. In this sense, physical Israel has never stopped being in existence nor tossed out of God's purpose. They have simply taken on a new identity called the *ecclesia*, which is the body of Christ—and which Paul calls the *new creation, the Israel of God*—made up of physical descendants of Israel and non-physical ones.

James wrote *to the twelve tribes who are dispersed abroad* (James 1:1), and Peter wrote *to those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia* (1 Peter 1:1). These areas constituted northern Asia Minor, which is modern-day Turkey. This was a

pathway for the Israelites who migrated westward to Europe where they became a large population.

Flavius Josephus, the Jewish military commander and later historian of the first century AD, wrote of the whereabouts of the ten tribes of Israel: *"There are but two tribes in Asia and Europe subject to the Romans, while the ten tribes are beyond the Euphrates till now, and are an immense multitude, and not to be estimated by numbers."*

During Josephus' day, there was a mighty empire in the area beyond the Euphrates that was called *Parthia*. It ran from the Indus to the Euphrates and from the Euphrates to the Caucasus. Somehow lost in history is the fact that this empire was made up of the Israelite exiles that were not in bondage but rather were the rulers and citizens of this empire. The Parthians consisted of the lost tribes of Israel leading up to and during the days of Jesus on earth. They were so powerful that they kept the Romans from extending their reach beyond the Euphrates. Stephen M. Collins calls this the forgotten ancient superpower. See earlier link.

To understand the migration of the sons of Israel, we need to go back a bit further to the history of the Hebrews.

### **Hebrew – One Who Migrates**

The word *Hebrew* (Hebrew: *ibriy*) is a patronymic name derived from the patriarch Eber, a fourth-generation son of Noah. Thus, a Hebrew is a descendant of Eber, an *Eberite*. The name *Eber* means "the region beyond." Eber had a son named *Peleg*, which means "division" or "separation," *for in his days the earth was divided* (Genesis 10:25). Of the families of the sons of Noah, it is said: *Out of these the nations were separated on the earth after the flood* (Genesis 10:32). Obviously, this separation or division occurred during the life of Peleg.

Some say this means that the continents or land masses were divided during his day, for they believe the water from the flood fully receded during his life to form the present continents. Some of this could have occurred during this time, but this does not seem to be the primary meaning. More commonly, it is believed that the earth being divided in Peleg's day refers to events surrounding the tower of Babel (Genesis 11:1-9). Some date the building of the tower and the Lord confusing the language of the builders close to the birth of Peleg, and others date it in the year of his death. I am more inclined to accept the latter, which places it around the year 1899 BC.

At any rate, the word *Hebrew* came to mean "opposite side of the river," "passing beyond," or "a region across."

Abram was the first person in scripture to be called a *Hebrew* (Genesis 14:13), for he was called by God to go forth from his country to a land which God would show him (Genesis 12:1). He passed beyond to another region or migrated to a new land. Given this, the word *Hebrew* has built into its meaning "one who migrates." Some commentators state that the word also means *colonist*, as in a person who plants colonies away from his homeland. The fact that America began as colonies and the British Empire was a colonist further speaks of history as fulfilled prophesy.

It seems apparent that the word *Hebrew* is prophetic on several levels, starting with the fruitfulness blessing that *Elohim* bestowed on mankind through Adam: *Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth* (Genesis 1:28). This is the very beginning of the concept of migration that is contained in the word *Hebrew*. Actually, it was more than a blessing; it was a command and a prophecy, and God fully intended this blessing to be manifested through migration of His people throughout the whole earth, not just a strip of land in what was called *Canaan* and later *Palestine* —which was simply a type of the greater intent of God's plan to fill the whole earth with His glory, even with His fruit (Number 14:20; Isaiah 6:3; 11:9; 27:6; Habakkuk 2:14).

As an aside, but an important aside, many today are looking for ethnic Israelites in the age to come to once again occupy the ancient land of Canaan or Palestine, the territory of what is presently called the modern nation of Israel. It is sort of comical to imagine millions upon millions, even billions, of begotten of God believers crammed into such an area. However, this is viewing the matter through the lens of the old covenant. God is after the whole earth and not simply a strip of land in the Middle East. The migration of the Hebrews to fill the earth is proof of God's plan for this earth. How else will He bless all the nations unless He fills the whole earth with His people who are filled with His spirit?

The prophetic blessing given to Adam is the basis of the covenant the Lord made with Abram. It all started 6,000 years ago, but it didn't take long for mankind to attempt to sidetrack this blessing when they decided to undertake an ungodly building project. The building of a tower and the city of Babel were impediments to this blessing, for the ancients were saying: *Let us make for ourselves a name, otherwise we will be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth* (Genesis 11:4). This was a flagrant rejection of *Elohim's* fruitfulness blessing bestowed upon His creation.

However, God's plan for mankind and the earth could not, cannot, and will not be thwarted. By confusing the language of the whole earth, meaning the emergence of many new languages, not only then but over time, God forced mankind to move out from the land of Shinar. But there was more to it, for, at the same time, God called forth the *Eberites* as a migratory and colonist people called *Hebrews*. This was prophetic of how God was going to fulfill the fruitfulness blessing, especially as Hebrews many years later migrated into Europe, the British Isles and elsewhere, and formed new nations under different names and then moved out as colonists throughout the world (e.g., British, Spanish, and French).

There is a long-term prophecy built into God's promise to Abraham the Hebrew that led to his descendants migrating out of the land of Israel in order to eventually be a blessing to all the nations of the earth. The sons of Israel were not a static people, as if they were all neatly compacted into the land of promise and they remained there from birth to death. It is true they had their inheritance in the land, but this did not restrict them to this land nor did it constrain some of them from migrating to and exploring other lands, either to colonize some or to plant some seeds of Hebrew or Israelite life, culture, language, and religion. It is no coincidence that European Christianized nations were colonists, and America has become a hegemonic power. It is an indication of their Hebrew roots.

It is generally accepted that this migration began with the forced exile of the tribes out of the land of Israel through the invasion of the Assyrians and Babylonians, which is called the *diaspora*,

but evidence indicates that some migration actually occurred as early as the 40-year wilderness journey.

### **Migration from the Wilderness**

Migration might have begun as far back as the days of Moses and the sons of Israel when they sojourned through the wilderness from 1447-1407 BC. Most probably think the twelve tribes remained intact during those 40 years. After all, God revealed Himself to them through many signs and wonders and even spoke directly to them from the midst of the mountain. By our way of thinking, they must have been so awe-struck by these things that they all stuck it out in the wilderness. Perhaps not; at least not all! Let us not forget that they worshipped the golden calf and grumbled and rebelled their way through the wilderness. It would seem more likely that some could have decided to take their chances elsewhere, other than in the land of Canaan. After all, the first generation knew they could not enter Canaan, so some could have reasoned: "Why hang around for 40 years; let's take our chances outside of God's control and seek land outside the wilderness, but not in Canaan."

In his article, *The Missing Simeonites*, Steven M. Collins suggests that some of the Simeonites, along with some from the other tribes, did just that. He bases this on the change in population of the tribes between their first and second census (Numbers 1:20-46; 26:1-51). Since their numbers showed normal growth, most of the tribes were rather static. However, Simeon, Ephraim, and Naphtali showed abnormal reductions in their populations. Plagues and other events do not necessarily explain these significant drops, at least based on the biblical record. The plague that occurred before the second census took 24,000 lives, and the combined reduction of these three tribes after the plague was over 48,000; but the overall total for all twelve tribes had been reduced by only a little over 1,800 because of significant increases in some of the other tribes. For example, Manasseh increased by over 20,000. So where did some of the members of these three tribes go?

One possibility is they left the camp and migrated to other lands outside that region. In particular, there is some evidence that the Simeonites became the Spartans of ancient Greece who were known to be non-native to Greece, descendants from ones who had migrated there. The Spartans lived by the sword, which fits Jacob-Israel's prophecy over his son Simeon: *Their swords are implements of violence. I will disperse them in Jacob, and scatter them in Israel* (Genesis 49:5, 7). The most compelling proof comes from the book of 1 Maccabees 14:16-23. In a correspondence to Simon, a Jewish high priest, the Spartans claimed the Jewish people (i.e., of the tribe of Judah) as their kinsmen. A Jew (Judahite) was a kinsman of an Israelite. This is only one migratory clue among many.

For more on this, see this link — <http://stevenmcollins.com/html/simeon.html>

The Simeonites may not have been the only tribe to migrate to a different land other than the wilderness and Canaan during this period. This involves the Danites. It is generally taught that all of the tribes left Egypt and crossed through the Red Sea together. However, an intriguing thought is that the tribe of Dan, or at least some of them, migrated out by way of ships and not on land

with the rest of the tribes. Their exodus brought them to the Greek isles. Given this, we see that there is a possibility that two tribes established homes in this area.

Here is a link that discusses this migration — <http://www.israelite.info/downloadtracts/Other-Exodus.pdf>

### **Sea People during the Time of the Judges**

After Israel entered Canaan, during the time of the judges in which the sons of Jacob faced attacks from the surrounding "ite" nations, it is believed some of the tribes were seafarers that traveled not only the Mediterranean but also up the coast of Europe to Britain. This took place roughly from 1230-1190 BC.

"Zebulun will dwell at the seashore; and he shall be a haven for ships, and his flank shall be toward Sidon." ... "Gilead remained across the Jordan; and why did Dan stay in ships? Asher sat at the seashore, and remained by its landings. ... (Genesis 49:13; Judges 5:17 NASB)

Of Naphtali he said, "O Naphtali, satisfied with favor, and full of the blessing of the LORD, take possession of the sea and the south." (Deuteronomy 33:23 NASB)

In Jacob-Israel's blessing of his sons, Zebulun was prophesied as one who would help his seafaring brethren. Later, during the time of the judges, both Dan and Asher are associated with the sea, with Dan staying in ships. They were most likely associated with ones called the *Sea People*. Thus, at least two and possibly three tribes of Israel set out to sea, giving them the opportunity to migrate and colonize. It should be added that Simeonites might have traveled with Danites as well. Also, take note of Moses' blessing on Naphtali, which indicates they also became seafarers. This was no static culture or people.

Some scholars have provided evidence, based on the seafaring people called *Tuatha de Danan*, that the tribe of Dan may have founded civilizations in Greece, Spain, Britain, and Ireland. Scholars claim that the word *Tuatha* means "tribe" and that *an* was added to the name *Dan* to make up the name *Danan*. Thus, these scholars believe the European colonists were of the tribe of Dan. Further, Cyprus was called *Ia-Danan* or the *Island of Dan(an)*. According to Greek tradition, their founder (eponymous ancestor) migrated from the Nile to Greece and was named *Danuna*. Of course, as we know, all the tribes of the sons of Israel were delivered (migrated) out of Egypt.

### **Colonizers during Solomon's Reign**

But, perhaps, the greatest migration and colonization occurred during Solomon's reign from 971-931 BC. Solomon had at sea the ships of Tarshish (1 Kings 10:22), which is similar to *Tartessus*, one of the ancient names for *Spain*, which has led to the theory that they traveled to this region and colonized it. However, it is also theorized that these ships traveled much further, for they went on three-year journeys, which indicates areas to the east.

For the king had at sea the ships of Tarshish with the ships of Hiram; once every three years the ships of Tarshish came bringing gold and silver, ivory and apes and peacocks. (1 Kings 10:22 NASB)

It is also believed that Solomon's ships sailed to the British Isles to obtain tin from the mines of Cornwall. Later, as the Assyrians began their siege of the northern kingdom of Israel, it is thought that some migrated as far away as Britain to escape these cruel invaders.

But there are other possibilities. There is some evidence that King Solomon's navy traveled to other continents, including the Americas, in search of ore for the king's smelting operation, which could explain why some of his ships returned every third year. It would have been quite a labor-intensive undertaking to do so every year.

In the history of the Israelites, only during Solomon's reign did they have the resources for such an undertaking. Further, the three-year lag time could have been necessary due to the journey across the Atlantic and the time required to complete their mission. Simply, it would have taken time to travel to and from, and time to collect or mine precious goods such as gold, silver, copper, and tin. Others claim these ships traveled to an area in Arabia or India.

Keep in mind that when the tribes traveled to foreign lands, especially if they spent any time there, they more than likely left their imprint in a variety of potential ways, including breeding with the natives.

### **Lost Civilizations of North America**

Some of these theories seem to be corroborated by other evidence that has been discovered in North America, namely, through what are called *the lost civilizations of North America*. When the early settlers and explorers arrived in America in the 1600s to 1700s, they discovered large mounds of earth in many areas, indicating others had occupied the land and built what some call *mound cities*. It is estimated that some of these cities were quite large and sophisticated. In particular, one mound called *Monk's Mound* had a footprint larger than the Great Pyramid of Giza. It is estimated that the entire city had a population greater than that of ancient Rome. To add to the intrigue, at a site called *the Newark Hopewell City*, archeologists discovered that the layout of the city had the same architectural mathematics as the Great Pyramid of Giza.

But the intrigue does not stop here, for archeological scientists turned to DNA in an attempt to identify the origin of these mound builders. Where did they come from? Were they related to Native Americans? By examining the mitochondrial DNA (maternal DNA) of the remains of these mound builders, they discovered that they were, in fact, related to Native Americans, both ancient and contemporary. But another fascinating find came out of the DNA analysis. They discovered a form of DNA called haplogroup X2. There is only one area in the world identified as the origin of the haplogroup X2, and that is "from the hills of Galilee." Let the implications of this find sink in. [Source: *The Lost Civilizations of North America*, DVD written and directed by Rick Stout.]

Check out link — <http://www.lostcivilizationdvd.com/>

The evidence continues, for linguistic studies of American Indian (Native American) languages indicate common roots with ancient Hebrew. Further, some artifacts have been discovered with ancient block Hebrew inscriptions on them. In particular, one actually contains the ten commandments and another contains the words *tribe of Asher*. Another study of North American Indian tribal names discovered that one language group was based on the morpheme "Dan," which makes sense since we know that Dan stayed in ships and his tribe could have found their way to the Americas. [*Morpheme* is "any word or part of a word, as an affix or combining form, that conveys meaning, cannot be further divided into smaller elements conveying meaning, and usually occurs in various contexts with relatively stable meaning."]

These fragments of data have led to the conclusion that extensive contacts occurred between the old world of Eurasia and the new world of the Americas. It is believed by some that much colonization of the Americas occurred by the Israelite/Phoenicians and then the Carthaginians (~9<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> century BC), well before the Vikings (~6-10<sup>th</sup> century AD) and Columbus (1492 AD).

[During the period of 1000-700 BC, the term *Phoenicia* is thought to refer to the alliance of Israel with the city-states of Tyre and Sidon. In other words, Israelites were also *Phoenicians* during this time.]

Of course, true to the nature of man, there is controversy over some, if not all, of these findings, and some, for political and other reasons, would rather keep these findings hidden. For those who believe these findings to be irrefutable, the only question that seems to be unanswered is when this migration and colonization occurred. Based on the research of others as presented so far, I would surmise that it could have started, in a limited way, up to 3,500 years ago.

Men might argue over such things and even obscure or hide the facts in order to advance their personal agendas and biases, but as Christians, we do not have to get caught up in controversy. We must trust God's word, for He has revealed His plan to all who desire and seek to know.

Of Abraham, it is said: *Your descendants will also be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and in you and in your descendants shall all the families of the earth be blessed* (Genesis 28:14). Of Jacob, it is said: *His seed shall be in many waters* (Numbers 24:7). In speaking of God in relation to the sons of Jacob and Joseph, it is said: *Your way is in the sea; and Your path is in the great waters; and Your footsteps are not known* (Psalm 77:19). Is this not a prophecy that God's people would migrate by way of the sea and their paths would not be known? When one travels by land, he often leaves a trail where he has trodden, but when one travels by sea, he leaves no trace in the wake of the waves. His footsteps are not known. Of His servant David, the Lord said: *And I will set his hand in the sea, and his right hand in the rivers* (Psalm 89:25). In reference to himself, King Solomon asked the Lord: *May he also rule from sea to sea* (Psalm 72:8).

What has been presented is a mere fragment of evidence compiled by others that the Hebrew-Israelites migrated throughout the world. What is of great interest is the thought that these ancient people may have colonized parts of the Americas even before the Israelite diaspora of 745-721 BC.

Here is another link that might be of interest — <http://www.israelite.info/>

### Israelite Diaspora

Some might refute the evidence cited so far, but when it comes to the diaspora of 745-721 BC, the evidence becomes compelling that the lost sheep of the house of Israel truly became mighty nations, especially in Europe and North America.

The word *diaspora* is from the Greek, meaning "scattered or dispersed." To some, the diaspora refers to the scattering of the Jews (Judahites) that occurred in 66-73 AD when the Jews revolted against Rome. This led to God's Roman army laying siege to the cities and towns of Judea, resulting in the total destruction of Jerusalem and the temple—thus driving the old covenant and Judaism into obsolescence (Matthew 22:7; Hebrews 8:13), at least as far as God is concerned.

As already noted, about 25 years earlier, James had written to the twelve tribes who are dispersed abroad (James 1:1), and about 6 years earlier, Peter had written to the aliens scattered throughout the region of Asia-Minor (1 Peter 1:1). Obviously, James and Peter could not have been writing to the ones scattered in the so-called Jewish diaspora of 66-73 AD.

So, to whom were they writing? Some have spiritualized the answer by concluding that it was to the church in general, but this cannot be, for it is clear they were writing to their brethren of the flesh. Consequently, the dispersion they had in mind had to refer to the Israelite dispersion that occurred about seven centuries earlier. Further proof of this is discovered in John's gospel when the Jews questioned one another over Jesus' word that He was leaving them and they could not go with Him: *Where does this man intend to go that we will not find Him? He is not intending to go to the dispersion among the Greeks, and teach the Greeks, is He?* (John 7:35). The word *dispersion* is the Greek word *diaspora*.

Again, after the twelve tribes had split into two separate kingdoms, the northern kingdom of Israel was invaded by the Assyrians and taken captive in 745-721 BC. The ten tribes were deported northeast from their land to the area of Media in northern Mesopotamia along the shores of the Caspian Sea. See 2 Kings 18:11. As a united group they never returned to Palestine, and the national identity of the name *Israel* was lost.

To round out this dispersion, we should also keep in mind that some of the kingdom of Judah dispersed as well when the Babylonians conquered Assyria and then Jerusalem in 607-604 BC. The name *Judah* was not lost, for it returned to Jerusalem in 534 BC; nevertheless, not all Judahites returned but instead became part of the dispersion to other lands, as evidenced by James' reference to the twelve tribes. But there is more, for, undoubtedly, there were some from the tribes who sought to avoid captivity by trekking westward out of Palestine.

The most relevant diaspora is the 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> century (BC) one, which clearly explains Jesus being sent to the lost sheep of the house of Israel (Matthew 15:24). The Judahites (and some Israelites) in Jerusalem and Judea heard Him as He stood in their midst, but the good news of His arrival and identity as Messiah and Son of God had to go to the lost tribes of Israel that were no longer united with the Judean-Judahites and were dispersed among the nations.

It is estimated that upwards of 6 million Israelites migrated and only about 50,000 Judahites returned to Jerusalem (Ezra 2:1, 64, 65). This has led some to conclude that over 99% of God's ancient people were lost to history, but only in name. It is pretty hard to hide such a large number of people, considering the world population at that time was probably between 50-150 million people.

But how are the lost tribes (i.e., their descendants) to be found in the world? Actually, there are many ways to identify them, for as they migrated away from the land of their captivity, they left artifacts along the way in the form of biblical symbols and stories and heroes, language, culture, customs and myths; you name it. It was like leaving crumbs along a path or breaking twigs of trees so that one can find his way home. Instead, they left telltale signs to let others know the path they had trod. Also, an indication of their path is discovered in the names by which they became known, which were many.

### Through the Name of Isaac

One such name is that of the *Saka* or *Scythians* (Greek form). *Saka* or *Sacae* referred to the House of Isaac. In Behistun, 500 miles northwest of Susa where Queen Esther lived, stands a giant rock carving depicting a battle with the Saka. The accompanying text describing the battle is repeated in three languages—Persian, Susian, and Babylonian. From these texts, it was discovered that the Persians called these people Saka and the Babylonians called them *Gimirri*. The Scythian became known as a wanderer or tent-dweller, which aptly described the Israelites in dispersion.

This is evidence that God's promise to Abraham was being fulfilled: *But God said to Abraham, "... for through Isaac your descendants shall be named"* [i.e., Sax, Sac, Saka, Saxon] (Genesis 21:12 NASB).

Another name by which they were known was *Khumri*, which is how the Assyrians referred to the Israelites. The Black Obelisk of Assyrian king Salmanasar III (859-824 BC) is covered with script and reliefs that picture Jehu, the son of Khumri, paying tribute to the king. The name *Khumri* translates as the House of Omri, which refers to an Israelite king (1 Kings 16:16; Micah 6:16). It is thought that the Assyrians first became acquainted with the northern kingdom during the time of Ahab the son of Omri, which led them henceforth to refer to the kingdom as *Beth-Omri* or House of Omri.

Scholars seem to be in agreement that the *Saka*, *Gimirri*, and *Khumri* all refer to the lost tribes of Israel. Even *The Jewish Encyclopedia* (Vol. 12, p. 250) is in agreement: "The Sacae, or Scythians ... were the Lost Ten Tribes." The Gimirri also became known as the Cimmerian.

There is more, for it is believed that the Saxons are descendants of the Saka, the House of Isaac people. For those of us who remember our history, the English are considered descendants of the Anglo-Saxons, who migrated to the British Isles in the 5<sup>th</sup> century AD and brought their system of government and of law with them. Many of us, whose forefathers migrated to America, have long thought of ourselves as Anglo-Saxons. America even patterned its system of law after the Anglo-Saxon People's Law, as well as the Israelite Law of Moses.

But there is even more, for the tribes migrated through the Caucasus Mountains on their trek to Eastern Europe and became known as the *Caucasians*. True to form, historians debate some of this, but it seems that the Caucasians originated in Mesopotamia and migrated north through the Caucasus Mountains to Europe.

On a personal note, I recall when I was growing up, we considered ourselves Caucasians and Anglo-Saxons. Interesting? I find all of this fascinating since my ancestry consists of Scottish-Irish (mostly), German, French, and Native American, to name a few.

It has been noted that tribes located in the Scandinavian area spoke a language similar to ancient Iranian (Persian), an early Mesopotamian dialect. Further, on historical maps, Iberia or Hebrew Land is shown to be located in the Caucasus region between the Caspian and Black Seas, north of the Euphrates. Add to this the fact that Spain is known as the *Iberian Peninsula*, and Ireland is known as *Iberrion*, and our vision of the Hebrew connection enlarges even more. The ancient name of the Israelites was *Ibri* or *Iberi*, which is derived from the name *Eber* or *Heber*.

Finally, the *Omri*, *Khumri*, *Cimmerian*, and *Kymry* became associated with the *Celts*, a people group associated with Britain. Add to these names others like the *Welsh (Cymry)*, the *Goths*, and the *Germans*, and the history of the hand of God in migrating the Hebrews grows even more interesting. Again, there is so much evidence of the migration of the Hebrew-Israelites that these mere fragments do not do the subject justice.

This leads to the conclusion made by many historians, including some orthodox Jews, that the millions of dispersed Hebrew-Israelites were called by many names as they migrated from Asia Minor through the Caucasus Mountain region into southeastern Europe, as well as by other routes, in the many centuries before the Christian era. They formed the beginning of *the company of nations* promised to Jacob-Israel (Genesis 35:11) that became many of the modern nations of the western world, in addition to South Africa, Australia, and New Zealand.

Mind you; this all began well before Christ came. The Hebrews were like seed pods scattered throughout the whole of what is called the *western world*. Each generation (pod) of seeds grew and migrated to fill this world. In their migration, they obviously carried traditions and cultures and myths and superstitions and stories of their ancestors, but they were not necessarily godly people. Without doubt, many were what we call *heathens* or *pagans*, but in time, a generation was ripened to receive the good news of Jesus and to birth Christendom in the western world. It was in their genes, so to speak, to become Christians.

### **Where is Israel Today?**

This leads to the question: *Where is Israel today?* Let us be clear that the Israel of scripture is not the modern Jewish nation called *Israel* in the ancient land of Canaan. This nation should be called *Judah* or, perhaps, even *Edom*. Prophetically speaking, there are several reasons why there is a nation in the Middle East with the name *Israel*. It is the fig tree (bad figs of Judah [Jeremiah 24:8]) that has put forth leaves but, according to Jesus' curse, will never bear fruit—the fruit of the kingdom (Matthew 21:19, 43; 24:32). It is also Esau proving that he is not any worthier of holding the birthright than was his younger brother Jacob the supplanter. According to Paul, allegorically,

the present Jerusalem is likened to Hagar the bondwoman and her son Ishmael (Galatians 4:22-31). This is not the topic at hand, so we will leave this.

See *Cast Out the Bondwoman* — <http://www.kingdomandglory.com/art/art25.pdf>

The point that is far more relevant to our discussion is the fact that Israel (as descendants through Abraham to Jacob-Israel) is now hidden within many nations of the world that go by many other names, including the United States of America and Great Britain (United Kingdom).

Orthodox Jew Yair Davidy, author of *The Tribes*, states on his website:

"Most of the Lost Ten Tribes migrated to Northwest and Western Europe and their descendants are now in those areas of North America, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa. We do not claim that all residents are descended from Israel. We do however affirm that most descendants of the Lost Ten Tribes are residents of those nations. Even so in the course of history the Israelite origins of people in those areas have influenced national development and national characteristics. The Tribe of Joseph was divided into two other Tribes: Ephraim and Manasseh. People from All of the Israelite Tribes congregated in North America but in general the U.S.A. is dominated by Manasseh. Britain has characteristics of Ephraim. Reuben was important in France, Issachar in Switzerland, Benjamin in Belgium, Zebulon in Holland, Dan in Denmark, Naphtali in Norway, Gad in Sweden, the country of Finland was influenced by the Tribes of Simeon, Issachar, and Gad; Simeon, Dan, and Ephraim were important in Ireland." *End quote*

Check out link — <http://britam.org/>

In his book *The Tribes*, Davidy states:

"This book shows how most of the ancient Israelites were exiled and lost their identity and that today their descendants are to be found mainly amongst the "Gentile" peoples of North America, Northwest Europe, Australasia and South Africa. The present-day Jews in the Diaspora and Israel are mainly descended from only two of the original tribes whereas the offspring of the remaining majority are in the above areas. These claims are not far-fetched. They are supported by Biblical, Historical, and other evidence much of which is, in effect, even recognized by the academic world. The Israelites were transported en-masse first mainly to areas in northern Mesopotamia and to Hara and from those regions they later moved northward into "Scythia" (roughly the area encompassed in the past by the U.S.S.R.) whence they migrated in waves to the extreme north and west of Europe from which their descendants settled North America, Australasia, and South Africa. The peoples in these said nations today are thus in the Biblical and historical sense brothers of the Jews who came from the remaining southern kingdom of Judah and comprised the second half of the Hebrew nation with the Lost Ten Tribes comprising the remainder." *End quote*

[*Comment:* When reading some orthodox Jews, keep in mind that they do not recognize Jesus the Messiah as fulfillment of scripture. To this end, many do not consider Christianity legitimate. As they see it, when the true Messiah comes, Christians will lose their identity and be absorbed

into Judaism. In other words, they hold to the old covenant that has been made obsolete and reject the new covenant that must be discerned and applied spiritually. Another thought involves the term *Jew*: Technically, in the ancient days, a Judahite or Jew was of the tribe of Judah and an Israelite when all the tribes were together. An Israelite is not a Jew but rather a collective term for either the 10 tribes or all the tribes together.]

An excerpt from a tract titled *Ancient Hebrew Sea Migrations* states:

"Europe was left virtually empty in ancient times, prepared for the number of Israelites to be sent there in God's Providence. "When the Most High divided to the nations their inheritance; when He separated the Sons of Adam, He set the bounds of the people according to the number of the children of Israel." (Deuteronomy 32:8) Israel was to expand in the seas: "Thy way is in the sea, and thy path in the great waters, and thy footsteps are not known." (Psalm 77:19) "I will set his hand also in the sea, and his right hand in the rivers." (Psalm 89:25) "Ask of me, and I will give thee of the heathen for thy inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. (Psalm 2:8) "He shall have dominion from sea to sea..." (Psalm 72:8) "His seed shall be in many waters." (Numbers 24:7) How wonderfully have these promises of sea migration and colonization been fulfilled! Abraham's descendants were to "spread abroad" to the ends of the earth. (Genesis 28:14) Israel had already settled colonies in the isles of the west when Jeremiah wrote this in circa 600 B.C.: "Hear the word of the Lord, O ye nations and declare it in the ISLES afar off, and say, He that scattered Israel will gather him and keep him, as a shepherd does his flock." (Jeremiah 31:10) True to prophecy, Israel was gathered to the great shepherd, Jesus Christ, through faith, and the Israel nations became known as Christendom, or 'Christ's Kingdom on earth.' "Sing ... His praise from the end of the earth..." (Isaiah 42:10) And they do!" *End quote*

Check out link — <http://www.israelite.info/>

Many commentators seem to be in agreement that it is no longer a question of whether Hebrews migrated to Europe and North America and elsewhere throughout the world; it is a question of how many people in these areas today are of Hebrew (not only Jewish) descent. Of course, only the Lord knows. We should not be surprised that this is God's doing, for it is the fulfillment of the long-term prophetic blessing given to Abraham, the father of nations.

### **God Sows**

Turning to the book of Hosea, we discover the name *Jezreel*, which means "God sows." Hosea prophesied that God sowed His lost tribes in the land in order to reap them as His people.

And the earth will respond to the grain, to the new wine and to the oil, and they will respond to Jezreel. "I will sow her for Myself in the land. I will also have compassion on her who had not obtained compassion, and I will say to those who were not My people, 'You are My people!' And they will say, 'You are my God!'" (Hosea 2:22-23 NASB)

Keep in mind that this does not refer to Judah per se; it refers to God's people who were once not "My people." They were the lost sheep of the house of Israel that were divorced from the Lord and scattered among the nations. Some were from Judah (2 tribes), but the bulk of them were from Israel (10 tribes). Who are "My people" today? They are ones who believe on Jesus—Christians. Many from the dispersed house of Israel received the gospel and became "My people," and these same ones formed or populated many of the European nations that also colonized the world, including North America. In this process, many others throughout the whole world became "My people," based on circumcised hearts, not on genes.

To be clear again—this is not to imply that one has to be a bloodline Hebrew (i.e., blood descendant of Abraham) to be a Christian. It is not about a gene pool—it is about a heart pool! *We are saved by grace through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works* (Ephesians 2:8). Those who are saved by grace are spiritual Hebrews in the faith of Abraham, spiritual Israelites living under the banner of God rules (meaning of the word *Israel*) (Galatians 6:15-16), and, to round it out, true Jews with circumcised hearts (Romans 2:29). As Paul wrote: *And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise* (Galatians 3:29). However, what is fascinating is that many Christians in the western world and many who have migrated throughout the world, most likely, also have genes (even if a very small trace) back to Abraham and Jacob-Israel, and they do not know it. This is God's doing!

### **A Treasure Hidden in a Field**

Jesus repeated the truth of God sowing in the field in one of His parables on the mysteries of the kingdom of the heavens: *The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid again; and from joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field* (Matthew 13:44). Jesus is that man and His treasure is the lost tribes of Israel. He came to the lost sheep of the house of Israel and found them but then hid them again in the field, which is the world that He purchased with His own blood, so that He would not only redeem His treasure but all mankind as well. What a glorious gospel!

By the way, Jesus could not lawfully bury his treasure in a field without also owning the field. In ancient days, this is how men kept their treasures; they buried it on their own land. Likewise, Jesus, who is the fulfillment of the law, had to hide His treasure lawfully, and this required that He purchase the entire world or field. So, when the Lord says *the land is Mine*, He means the whole earth. This is confirmed by Psalm 2:8: *'Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, and the very ends of the earth as Your possession.'*

Many teach that the treasure is the bride of Christ; others teach that it is the conquerors; and yet others teach that it is the lost sheep of the house of Israel. In a sense, all are correct. However, the point is that the Lord hid what some today call His *spiritual Israel* or *new Israel*. (I prefer the *Israel of God*.) He has hidden this fact so well that very few seem to know the history of this treasure and that it is about Christian nations and not solely the modern-state of Israel.

Do not miss the import of all this. The Lord began to scatter the Hebrews throughout the world probably 4,000 years ago in preparation for His arrival 2,000 years later in order to send forth His gospel, starting with the believing Jews (good figs) in Jerusalem and continuing beyond, spreading

to all the regions in which the house of Israel had been scattered, even to the remotest parts of the earth (Acts 1:8).

The gospel was preached first to the Jew, but it did not stop there. The believing Jews (Judahites of the good figs) sought out their brethren of the ten tribes of Israel, as well as other dispersed Jews, to tell them the good news. Again, there are glimpses of this in the epistles of James and Peter. Also, it is believed by some that Paul traveled to the regions of Spain, Switzerland, and Britain to share the gospel with the descendants of Israel. The gospel began to spread throughout the regions that the ten lost tribes had migrated to in previous centuries and became known by other names. Over time, the seed of God was planted in many of these Hebrew-Israelites and the gospel began to spread beyond their adopted nations to every tribe and tongue and people and nation (Revelation 5:9). The fact of the matter is that some of the Hebrew-Israelite descendants formed and named the many nations of Europe and America.

As a side note, it is important to understand that once Israel lost its national identity and took on other names, they were no different from other nations. The fact of the matter is that they were simply nations. Essentially, using a common term, they were *gentile nations*, a term used for non-Jewish nations. Generally, I do not use the word *gentile*, for it injects unnecessary bias into scripture. The Hebrew and Greek words for *nation* are *goy* and *ethnos*, respectively. All nations, whether non-Israelite or Israelite, or non-Jewish or Jewish are *goy* (Hebrew) or *ethnos* (Greek). Context dictates what nations are in view.

See *Fullness of the Nations* — <http://www.kingdomandglory.com/art/art64.pdf>

Again, keep in mind that, although we have been considering the natural Hebrew-Israelite, under the new covenant, being begotten from above with the seed of God is not based on genealogy but on faith and God's choice. *Those who are of faith are blessed with Abraham, the believer* (Galatians 3:9). No one gets a free pass based on genealogy. Again, it is not about a gene pool; it is about a heart pool.

Nevertheless, it is abundantly clear that God planned for the gospel to go to the Jew first, then to their brethren of the diaspora, the Hebrew-Israelites. It is no coincidence that the western world or western civilization became the heart of Christendom. Many of these Christianized nations sought to colonize many parts of the world. As they moved out into the rest of the world, they took the gospel with them. It was as if they were programmed in their DNA to be colonizers, even sowers, in the tradition of the Hebrews.

This is why some of us stress that the western Christian nations are clearly Israelite nations and the present-day state of Israel is not, which should have been named *Judea* or *Judah*, not *Israel*. Of course, there is a prophetic reason for this, but that is another topic unto itself. They are apparent Judahites (Jews) in the world today that have usurped Christ's throne and not the true Judahites that are united in heart with the true king of Judah. Ones who believe on Jesus the Christ are the true Judahites. The good news is that one day even the eyes and hearts of the apparent Jews will be opened to behold the true Messiah, Jesus-*Yeshua* of the world. God loves them as He does the whole world! God is love, and His love is immeasurable!

It is also no coincidence that, on a nationalistic level, our modern-day civilized world has mostly turned from God, just as the ancient Israelites did. This should remind us of a word from the Lord.

I know Ephraim, and Israel is not hidden from Me; for now, O Ephraim, you have played the harlot, Israel has defiled itself. Their deeds will not allow them to return to their God. For a spirit of harlotry is within them, and they do not know the LORD. (Hosea 5:3-4 NASB)

Ah, but God is not done with Israel any more than He is done with all the nations and all humanity, for that matter.

As stressed repeatedly, ancient Israel was cast out of the land and scattered among the nations from 745-721 BC. They became lost in the sense that they lost their identity. Undoubtedly, the multitudes that migrated from Mesopotamia into the European theater over time lost touch with their origin. They did not know their source. Surely, traditions and the stories attached to them were passed down from generation to generation, but, like most things, memories fade and the times have a way of rewriting what people recall and consider their history, even their roots.

But the question is this: Is Israel's lost identity permanent? Did they cease to exist altogether? Or, did God place a time limit on this lost identity? Have they been found? Of course, a read of scripture promises that their casting out was only temporary. The book of Hosea was written to Israel-Ephraim, and in it we hear the groaning heart of God that will not let them go and will yet love them freely (Hosea 11:8; 14:4-7). The cross and resurrection settled it all!

So that this does not get lost in the fog of Christian Zionism, we need to be clear that the answer to God's heart is fulfilled through the death and resurrection of His Son, Yeshua, and the birth of the one new man and New Jerusalem. *Behold, I am making all things new.* In the ancient days, God foretold of the "new." To prove the point, consider these verses: Isaiah 42:9; 43:19; 48:6; 62:2; 65:17; 66:22 (also, Revelation 21:1, 2, 5, 10).

Today, the Israel of God is not lost nor is she cast out. Although not the subject of this article, Hosea explains this. With Messiah Jesus, Israel moved from a works-law based people to a faith-based people, believing that Jesus-Yeshua is the Messiah of Israel and the Son of God who delivers the world from sin and death! Following the cross, physical descendants of Israel became, what the world called, *Christians*. Jesus-Yeshua came to earth as Israel's God and as Israel itself, fulfilling all that the ancient prophets saw regarding the glorious destiny of Israel. For the first eight years or so after the cross, the good news of the Messiah went out to the Jews and Greeks, and gradually found its way to the ten tribes in dispersion. Along the way, others not from physical Israel were grafted into faith-based Israel until they became a multitude from among the nations, as promised to Abraham. This is the Israel of God that God has always intended it to be and one of the greatest fulfillments of the Abrahamic covenant.

The good news is that a day is coming when the ecclesia wakes up to its true identity and, in that day, the world sees the greatness of the gospel of Jesus the Messiah, and all the glory goes to God.

### Third Part – Blessing for the Whole Family

"And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed." (Genesis 12:3b NASB)

The LORD said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do, since Abraham will surely become a great and mighty nation, and in him all the nations of the earth will be blessed? For I have chosen him, so that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing righteousness and justice, so that the LORD may bring upon Abraham what He has spoken about him." (Genesis 18:17-19 NASB)

The Lord intends this blessing for all nations to go forth, not through one great nation but through the multitude of nations that were to come forth through Abraham. In other words, the Hebrew-Israelite nations that history has known as western Christian nations were to be a blessing to all the nations and to bring the entire world the good news of Jesus the Messiah and His kingdom. To a large degree this has occurred and continues in some measure in our day, even if it is mixed with part God and part flesh. Unfortunately, many of these nations are no longer even Christian in the true sense; hence, they are *post-Christian*. The good news that this will all be reversed soon as all will turn to God and His Son, King Jesus, the ruler of the kings of the earth! Why? Because God made an unconditional promise or covenant with Abraham that will be fulfilled to the fullest! God calls it as He sees it, and He sees all the families and all the nations blessed, meaning none will be excluded. This is all in accord with God's ultimate purpose to be *All in all*.

The salvation of all is God's plan to achieve His ultimate purpose. His blessing on all the nations and all the families is one that leads to faith in His Son until...

They shall no more teach each one their neighbor, and each one his brother, saying, Know the Lord; because all shall know Me, from the least of them to their great ones. For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and I will not at all remember their sins and their lawless deeds." (Hebrews 8:11-12 LITV)

We have already seen how Paul connected the Abrahamic covenant to the good news of Christ.

And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise. (Galatians 3:29 NASB)

And the Scripture foreseeing that God would justify the nations by faith, preached the gospel before to Abraham: "All the nations will be blessed" "in you." Gen. 12:3 (Galatians 3:8 LITV)

But do you know that he did the same thing in his Ephesians epistle? Notice how Paul includes all mankind in the expression *the whole family*.

For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in the heavens and on earth is named, that He may give to you, according to the riches of His glory, with might to be strengthened through His Spirit, in regard to the inner man, that the Christ may dwell through the faith in your hearts, in love having been rooted

and founded, that ye may be in strength to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height, to know also the love of the Christ that is exceeding the knowledge, that ye may be filled—to all the fulness of God; and to Him who is able above all things to do exceeding abundantly what we ask or think, according to the power that is working in us, to Him is the glory in the assembly in Christ Jesus, to all the generations of the age of the ages. Amen. (Ephesians 3:14-21 YLT)

The entire race of Adam is the whole family of God on earth. Without a doubt, Paul had the Abrahamic covenant in mind when he wrote these words. He bowed the knee unto the Father because he knew that every nation and all the families of God's entire creation one day would do likewise. The love of God will do this, for love never fails and will not fail to bring every knee to bow as Paul, the greatest of sinners, bowed. All will know the love of Christ that will lead to the glory of God.

Because of this also God highly exalted Him and gave Him a name above every name, that at the name of Jesus "every knee should bow," of heavenly ones, and earthly ones, and ones under the earth, and "every tongue should confess" that Jesus Christ is "Lord," to the glory of God the Father. Isa. 45:23 (Philippians 2:9-11 LITV)

The point is this—if all the families and nations are to be blessed in Abraham, then it means that all the nations will come to have a faith like Abraham as well. All will bow the knee to Jesus!

They won't come to faith all at the same time or even in the same way, but they all will eventually bow the knee to Jesus and confess that He is Lord to the glory of God the Father, even if they must go through the lake of fire to burn off all their carnal flesh, spiritually speaking—a baptism of spirit fire, not literal fire. At the *Grand Jubilee of Creation* when creation itself is fully set free into the liberty of the glory of the sons of God, so all mankind will be set free. Praise God!

Scripture foretells that God will justify the nations by faith. He spoke it to Abraham. God is the source. He does it through the faith of the Son of God; this is the way for all the nations.

Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, "And to seeds," as referring to many, but rather to one, "And to your seed," that is, Christ. (Galatians 3:16 NASB)

For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive. (1 Corinthians 15:22 NASB)

For thus says the LORD, who created the heavens (He is the God who formed the earth and made it, He established it and did not create it a waste place, but formed it to be inhabited), "I am the LORD, and there is none else. "I have not spoken in secret, in some dark land; I did not say to the offspring of Jacob, 'Seek Me in a waste place'; I, the LORD, speak righteousness, declaring things that are upright. "Gather yourselves and come; draw near together, you fugitives of the nations; they have no knowledge, who carry about their wooden idol and pray to a god who cannot save. "Declare and set forth your case; indeed, let them consult together. Who has announced this from of old? Who has long since declared it? Is it not I, the LORD? And there is no other God besides Me, a righteous God

and a Savior; There is none except Me. "Turn to Me and be saved, all the ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is no other. "I have sworn by Myself, The word has gone forth from My mouth in righteousness and will not turn back, that to Me every knee will bow, every tongue will swear allegiance. "They will say of Me, 'Only in the LORD are righteousness and strength.' Men will come to Him, and all who were angry at Him will be put to shame. "In the LORD all the offspring of Israel will be justified and will glory." (Isaiah 45:18-25 NASB)

These verses are some of the most expansive and inclusive found in scripture, for they speak to all the ends of the earth, even to those who have shaken their fists in anger at God (Psalm 2:1-3). God swears all will willingly bow. His word has gone forth, and it will not return void, meaning it shall be done. All of this speaks to God's unconditional promise given to Abraham, the father of faith.

A day is coming when all will have the faith of Abraham—a faith that is of Jesus the Son of God. We don't see it clearly in this day, but the day is coming—a glorious day is rising on the horizon, a day in which the sons of God will be resurrected, transfigured, and manifested, and the reign of Christ will begin in earnest and openly (no longer a secret) among the nations and families of the earth. God is the maker of all nations and families on earth—past, present, and future. He has ruled and continues to rule in the affairs of men. AND, His Son, the King of kings, is coming soon to *manifestly* rule over the nations and to usher in the glory of God until it fills the whole earth. He will not fail to subject all things under His feet until He finally abolishes death itself. This is truly good news!

God is love; God so loves the world; and love does not fail. Be encouraged, it won't be long! Wait for it! Wait for Him! The King of the Ages is coming! In closing, I leave you with these encouraging verses.

There is no one like You among the gods, O Lord, nor are there any works like Yours. All nations whom You have made shall come and worship before You, O Lord, and they shall glorify Your name. For You are great and do wondrous deeds; You alone are God. (Psalm 86:8-10 NASB)

Indeed, while following the way of Your judgments, O LORD, we have waited for You eagerly; Your name, even Your memory, is the desire of our souls. At night my soul longs for You, Indeed, my spirit within me seeks You diligently; for when the earth experiences Your judgments the inhabitants of the world learn righteousness. (Isaiah 26:8-9 NASB)

And they sang the song of Moses, the bond-servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, "Great and marvelous are Your works, O Lord God, the Almighty; righteous and true are Your ways, King of the nations [King of the ages]! "Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy; for ALL THE NATIONS WILL COME AND WORSHIP BEFORE YOU, FOR YOUR RIGHTEOUS ACTS HAVE BEEN REVEALED." (Revelation 15:3-4 NASB [Numeric English New Testament])

ALL! Amen!