

THE UPWARD CALL

*Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet;
but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead,
**I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God
IN CHRIST JESUS.***

(Philippians 3:13-14 NASB)

#04-10107

Hebrew Migration #2

August 29, 2010

I keep posing two questions: **What happened to ancient Israel? Where is Israel today?** Through the last few issues, I have been sort of building the answer in light of the meaning of the word *Hebrew*.

The simple answer to the questions is that the Hebrews migrated outside the land promised to Abraham's descendants to virtually all corners of the earth in fulfillment of God's promise to and blessing of Abraham (Genesis 22:15-18). There was not only a migration of the people but also a migration of their name. The name *Hebrew* migrated to the name *Israel*, but it did not stop there. As the Hebrew-Israelites migrated to new lands, they took on new names as well, so that, metaphorically speaking, they began to be known by as many names as the sand on the seashore or the stars in the sky.

Many people might look at this migration as beginning 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 more migration might have occurred as early as the 40-year wilderness journey.

As we have already seen, most likely, there was migration of some of the tribes of Israel as they came outside the camp during the 40-year sojourn in the wilderness under the leadership of Moses. Dan, Asher, and Naphtali were seafaring tribes that probably did not restrict themselves to sailing the Mediterranean Sea. Later, during the time of the United Kingdom of Israel, King Solomon's navy most likely sailed to Britain for tin.

I did not report this in the last issue, but one commentator believes that King Solomon sent his navy to other continents, including the Americas, 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 long journey across the Atlantic. Simply, it would have taken time to travel to and from, and time to collect or mine precious goods such as gold and silver. Of course, others claim these ships traveled to an area in Arabia or India.

However, these theories might 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 1600's to 1700's, 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.]

The evidence does not stop here, 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 its way to the Americas.

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, well before Columbus and the Vikings.

Of course, true to the nature of man, there is controversy over 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. The most probable answer is that it occurred over 2,000 years ago and possibly as far back as during the reign of Solomon.

Again, let me stress that 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.

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 NASB).

Of Jacob, it is said: **His seed shall be in many waters** (Numbers 24:7 LITV).

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 LITV). 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.

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 LITV).

In reference to himself, King Solomon asked the Lord: **May he also rule from sea to sea** (Psalm 72:8 NASB).

Did God not begin to fulfill these requests and promises thousands of years ago? Has God not planted His seed in the field, that is, the world? Has He not made a promise to His Son? **“Ask of Me, and I will give the nations as Your inheritance; and the uttermost parts of the earth as Your possession”** (Psalm 2:8 LITV).

Dear beloved in Christ, I do not know about you, but when I consider these few fragments that have been presented in this and previous issues, my vision of what God has been doing and is doing enlarges, and I begin to see myself as merely a speck of dust in the grand scheme of things and my understanding of God’s ways like a mere drop of water in the vast seas of the world. In spite of my smallness, it drives me to seek more of God, to know Him and to love Him, and to be caught up in what He is doing.