

# British Israelism

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The teaching of British Israelism (Anglo-Israelism) began in 19<sup>th</sup> century England and asserts that the inhabitants of Great Britain are the actual descendents from the tribe of Ephraim and Americans are descendents from the tribe of Manasseh. This theory suggests that the ten tribes lost their national identity as God's people after the Assyrians captured them in the eighth century B.C. It also maintains that these tribes eventually became the Scythian people who went westward through Northern Europe and then became the ancestors of the Saxons, who later invaded England. Of course, these people were of English descent and these English-speaking people then came to America. ***Thus, the theory holds that the Anglo-Saxons or English speaking people are actually the lost ten tribes and God's people today.*** This means that white English-speaking people are really the chosen people of God or the "Israel" of the Bible and the inheritors of the covenants and promises of the Old Testament.

A sharp distinction is made between the terms "Israel" and "Jew" in this teaching. It's maintained that the house of Judah always means the nation of the Jews but the term "Israel" speaks of the ten lost tribes that migrated to Europe and became identified as Great Britain and America. The theory also maintains that the present day "Jews" are from the tribe of Judah which is under the divine curse of God and should not be identified with the true "Israel" or people of God which are white English-speaking people.

White supremacy groups love this teaching because they can use it to downgrade those who call themselves Jews today. White people can claim to be God's superior race since they are from the ten lost tribes. Thus, these Nazi like Jewish conspiracy groups have fully adopted British Israelism. This false theory actually helps fuel the fire for white supremacy groups and anti-Semitic groups that are spreading their poisonous hatred against the Jewish race of people. Satan has always used many methods to destroy the Jewish race from which Christ has come. He continues to do this with the theory of British Israelism. *The devil is promoting the lie that Jews are not Jews after all.* They rob the true people of God of their covenants and

promises by transferring them to the Anglo-Saxon or English-speaking race of people. But the Bible clearly says that national Israel or the Jewish people have been given the covenants (Romans 9:4-5) and that God has a future program for His national people the Jews (Romans 11:25-26). God has not cast away His people!

Romans 11:1

“I say then, Hath God cast away his people? **God forbid.** For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, *of the tribe of Benjamin.*”

When Paul says “God forbid” he is in essence saying “Perish the thought or it’s an impossibility for God to cast away His people.” In other words, God will not forget the Jews. *Dispensationally they have been temporarily set aside because they rejected the king and the kingdom when Jesus offered it to them during His earthly ministry.*

Jesus said in Matthew 21:43:

“Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation (not the church) bringing forth the fruits thereof.”

Jesus was saying that the kingdom program for Israel and the covenant promises given to Israel would be taken away from them. Of course, this does not mean that the kingdom promises would be taken away from the nation forever. They would be *temporarily set aside* and given to another people within the nation at another time in the future. This will be when Jesus returns to earth. At this time His covenant and kingdom program with Israel will be reinstated and Christ will establish His kingdom with the believing remnant of Jews who will be saved in that day when He returns to earth (Romans 11:26; Jowl 2:30-32).

Saved Israel will constitute the nation that will inherit the promises of the kingdom. It will be a nation of believing Jews that will go into the kingdom and inherit the kingdom promises (Matthew 13:43). There will be a future generation of Jews that will survive the judgments of the tribulation period and receive Jesus as their Messiah and Savior when He returns to earth (Matthew 24:34). This “generation” of Jews will receive the glorious prospect of an earthly rule with Christ. The point is this. God has not forgotten about Israel as a national people.

In fact, He has written them on the palms of His hands (Isaiah 49:16). These prophecies do not pertain to the church today but to the national Jews. God has a future program for His original chosen people. This means that no other community of people will replace the race of Israel and erase God's covenant promises with them.

In regard to the church, we must understand that God in this dispensation is unfolding the sacred secret of the past ages (the mystery) that the Jews and Gentiles would be united together into one body called the church (Ephesians 3:1-6; Colossians 1:18). *The Bible teaches that the Jews and Gentiles are tied together into a new body of people called the church. But you will note that the Bible does not say that the Gentiles become the Jews or Israel. Nor does it say that the Jews become the Gentiles.* The Bible simply teaches that these different groups of people are fused together into a new body of people called the church by the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 12:13

"For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit."

The Bible teaches that these two races of people are spiritually united to the body of Christ and that we are now said to be baptized or immersed in Christ.

Galatians 3:26-28 says:

"For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus."

You will notice that the Bible simply says that we are all one in Christ. ***It does not say that we are Jew and Gentile becoming one into the Jewish race. It says that we are Jew and Gentile becoming one in Christ.*** Both people retain their same racial distinctions but are now seen to be tied to Christ in a new saving and living relationship. There is absolutely no mention of Gentiles becoming spiritual Israel in this verse or any other verses teaching this church truth. The church is a distinct program that God is working with today

in this dispensation. The church is not a replacement of Israel or inheriting of Israel's covenant promises. It is not some kind of spiritual Israel as so many people are claiming today. The covenants of Israel have to do with the kingdom and their future reign upon earth. The church has to do with the formation of a body and the subsequent salvation of both Jews and Gentiles in one body for the present day.

Galatians 3:29

“And if ye *be* Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.”

There are those who will use this verse and others like it to teach that the church has replaced Israel as a nation. Their theory is that we are of Abraham's seed and therefore have replaced the old Israel. This is reading into the text (eisegesis) something that is simply not there. The Scriptures never teach that we have replaced Israel. What Paul is saying is that we are linked to Abraham in the sense that we have expressed faith as Abraham did long ago. We are not replacing Abraham's people (national Jews) in any physical or spiritual sense but are tied to Abraham in the sense that we are now following his footsteps of faith.

Any discussion of the seed of Abraham must first take into account his natural seed, the descendants of Jacob in the 12 tribes. Within this natural seed there is a believing remnant of Jews who will one day inherit the Abrahamic promises directed specifically to them (see Rom. 9:6, 8). But there is also another seed of Abraham, which is linked to Abraham spiritually. These are the Jews and Gentiles who believe on Christ in this dispensation of grace (Ephesians 3:1-6). They become the body of Christ and Abraham's spiritual seed. They inherit the promise of justification by faith as Paul explained earlier (see Gal. 3:6-9).

To suggest by these verses that the church actually inherits the national earthly promises given to the Jews or that the church replaces Israel (“new Israel”) is to read into these verses what is not there. The people in the New Testament church are tied to Abraham and become in one sense Abraham's spiritual children because they have followed His example of faith by believing on Christ for salvation.

Galatians 3:7 says:

“Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.”

Of course, Paul was not referring to replacing the chosen people of God or the nation of Israel in any way since this contradicts the rest of the Bible. Paul was simply speaking about following the example of Abraham in this matter of faith. When we do this, it can be said that we receive of the blessings of salvation as Abraham did. We become a race of people (Jew and Gentile) that have followed Abraham’s example of faith and thus have been tied or linked to his example of faith. This is simply the fulfillment of what God had said in Genesis 12:3 – “In thee shall all families of the earth be blessed”). The world of nations would be blessed with salvation through Abraham since Christ would come through his loins. *Thus, every person who exhibits faith in Christ becomes Abraham’s offspring and child only in the sense that they have followed his example of faith.*

The church is not spiritual Israel or national Israel but the church (all believers in Christ) become Abraham’s children in a spiritual sense only in that they have evidenced the same kind of saving faith that Abraham offered up to God. ***The church as the spiritual seed of Abraham is not teaching replacement of Israel.*** Its teaching that the church is linked to Abraham only in the sense that we have expressed faith as Abraham once did.

The book of Romans makes a clear distinction between the physical and spiritual seeds of Abraham.

Romans 4:16

“Therefore *it is* of faith, that *it might be* by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law (Jews), but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all (all who believe – Jew or Gentile).”

In other words, there is a distinction between Jews racially tied to Abraham and those believers in this present dispensation (Jews and Gentiles alike) that place faith in Christ. ***Israel as a national people is tied to Abraham physically but the church is tied to Abraham***

***spiritually through exhibiting the same kind of faith as Abraham.***

This spiritual tie does not mean that the church replaces the original Israel who is tied racially to Abraham. Furthermore, it does not indicate that the church is some kind of new community of the old Israel. All Paul is saying is that the regenerated people in the true church today are Abraham's children by their example of faith. There is a vast difference between the physical descendents of Abraham and the spiritual seed of Abraham. *The believing church is linked to Abraham only by the example of faith whereas the national Jews are linked to Abraham by actual race.* Paul makes it very clear that the church is not replacing Israel in any physical or spiritual way just because we are Abraham's children by the example of faith.

1 Corinthians 10:32 says:

"Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God."

Here Paul separates the Jewish race from the Gentile race. *This means that the Gentiles do not in any physical or mystical way become the chosen race of Israel. Furthermore, Paul then talks about the church as being a different entity or distinct body of people than the Jews and Gentiles.* This further indicates that the church is not replacing Israel in any physical or spiritual sense. ***It is said that the church is Abraham's spiritual children only in the sense or understanding that they follow His example of faith.*** The church does not replace Abraham's chosen people but actually becomes one with the Jews who believe on Christ as Abraham did.

This marks a spiritual tie with Abraham in that both Abraham and the believing church (Jew and Gentile) have expressed faith in Christ. ***However, a spiritual tie with Abraham does not mean a spiritual replacement of Abraham's chosen people.*** The Bible never teaches this or promotes this conclusion. *The church can be linked to Abraham in a spiritual sense through faith without becoming the actual replacement of God's national people (Israel) in some spiritual sense.* It is pure conjecture and confusion of simple truths when these theories are propagated. Paul names these three different groups of people so that we can understand that he never taught that the church replaced God's original chosen people in any sense, spiritual or physical.

Both Covenant theology and British Israelism have erred in their attempt to redefine Israel. Reformed Theology teaches that Israel is the church. All of this talk today about how the church is “spiritual Israel” is misleading and not founded upon sound exegesis. Reformed teaching seeks to do away with God’s program for Israel as a nation and claims that the church has replaced Israel. Their jargon is that the church has become the new community or new Israel, which God will bless. The old community was Israel but the new community is spiritual Israel. ***But the church is not a new community - it is a new body. It is the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:13).*** This teaching seems to spiritualize the truth of Scripture as much as the Anglo-Saxon teaching. They take away from the Jews that which God has not taken away. British Israelism says that Israel or the Jews are the English-speaking people of America and Great Britain. One error is as erroneous as the other. Cannot God mean what He says?

We are about to investigate how the British Israelism theory cannot stand the test of Scripture. It is human speculation, fanciful interpretation and has become part of the teaching of cultic groups, such as the Worldwide Church of God, founded by the late Herbert W. Armstrong. Armstrong rejected the deity of Christ and the Holy Spirit. He also rejected the bodily resurrection of Christ and denied the reality of everlasting punishment. This teaching still has its followers today within various churches. Those who spiritualize the Scriptures are likely to buy into this type of teaching.

## **Some Background Concerning Names**

### **Hebrew (Abraham)**

In Genesis 1-11 we see God working with the people on a worldwide basis. In Genesis 12 God changed His program and decided to choose one man (Abraham) and began to work through him in order to bring spiritual blessings to both his descendents and to the entire world. The name “Hebrew” was originally used of this man when he was still called Abram. The name means a descendent of Eber who was the great grandson of Shem. For the first time in the Biblical record, this ethnic appellation, “descended from Eber” is used and applied to the man Abraham.

Genesis 14:13

“And there came one that had escaped, and told Abram the Hebrew; for he dwelt in the plain of Mamre the Amorite, brother of Eshcol, and brother of Aner: and these *were* confederate with Abram.”

Since this name was applied to Abraham, it could also be applied to all his descendents. Thus, the people of God always called themselves Hebrews to recognize that they were descendents of Abraham and the original forefather of the nation or chosen people of God (Phil. 3:5).

### **Israel (Jacob)**

This name was given to Abraham’s grandson Jacob. Genesis 32 records the change of Jacob’s name to “Israel.”

Genesis 32:28

“And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed.”

The name Israel literally means, "God prevails" and was given to Jacob after he wrestled with the angel of God at Peniel and lost the battle. *It was a name that portrayed God’s intent with national Israel. The very name itself conveys the truth that God will prevail with His national people.* God would not allow His people to be lost or obliterated from the face of the earth as British Israelism maintains. These physical descendents from Jacob would be known as “Israelites” due to their connection with Jacob or Israel, Abraham’s grandson.

Since the people were descendents of both Abraham and Jacob (Israel), it would be proper and legitimate to call them both Hebrews and Israelites.



## Jew (Judah)

This third term was used in connection with one of Jacob's sons who was named Judah ("praise and celebration").

Genesis 29:35

"And she conceived again, and bare a son: and she said, Now will I praise the LORD: therefore she called his name Judah; and left bearing."

Genesis 49 records the blessing of Jacob being given to his 12 sons who would eventually become the progenitors of the twelve tribes of Israel with each son being the head of their tribe.

Genesis 49:28

"All these *are* the twelve tribes of Israel: and this *is it* that their father spake unto them, and blessed them; every one according to his blessing he blessed them."

The name "Jew" was derived from the name of Judah. Initially, a member from the tribe of Judah was called a "Jew." This is because they were direct descendents of Judah, which was one of Jacob's sons. A member of the tribe of Judah was called a "Jew" because of their connection with Jacob's son Judah. However, they were also a descendent of Jacob who was an "Israelite" and Abraham who was a "Hebrew." Later on after the northern and southern kingdoms were formed, the name Jew became associated with the larger tribe in the south which was Judah. Thus, the people of God in the southern kingdom were specifically called Jews. This was first used as such in

2 Kings 16:6.

"At that time Rezin king of Syria recovered Elath to Syria, and drave the Jews from Elath: and the Syrians came to Elath, and dwelt there unto this day."

The main distinction between the names "Israel" and "Judah" resulted from the division of the united kingdom. The kingdom remained united under the reign of Saul, David and Solomon. After Solomon's death his son Rehoboam indicated to the distressed nation that he would be even harder on the people than his father had been. He

would increase their taxes and make life hard for them. For this reason ten tribes under the leadership of Jeroboam separated from the two tribes of Judah and Benjamin under the leadership Rehoboam (see 1 Kings 12). Following this designation it was common to use the name "Israel" in referring to the ten northern tribes and to use the name "Judah" in referring to the two southern tribes, for Judah was much larger than the tribe of Benjamin.

In 722 B.C. God allowed the kingdom of Assyria to take the ten northern tribes into captivity because of their disobedience to God and idol worship (see 2 Kings 17). The usual custom of invaders was to deport or expel those captured and forbid them to return to their former land. Furthermore, the victorious invaders would actually allow other people from foreign regions to come and intermingle or mix with the people left in the land. This is what happened according to the Biblical record.

2 Kings 17:24

“And the king of Assyria brought *men* from Babylon, and from Cuthah, and from Ava, and from Hamath, and from Sepharvaim, and placed *them* in the cities of Samaria instead of the children of Israel: and they possessed Samaria, and dwelt in the cities thereof.”

The Samaritans of Christ's day were descendents of this intermingling of Gentile nations with the remaining Israelites of the north. Gentile and Jewish marriages took place during the exile and a mixed race of Gentile and Jewish people developed. In the New Testament times we see how full-blooded Jews had no dealings with the Samaritans.

A passage of Scripture frequently used by those who teach that the ten tribes lost their national identity is 2 Kings 17:18-23: “Therefore the LORD was very angry with Israel, and removed them out of his sight: there was none left but the tribe of Judah only. Also Judah kept not the commandments of the LORD their God, but walked

in the statutes of Israel which they made. And the LORD rejected all the seed of Israel, and afflicted them, and delivered them into the hand of spoilers, until he had cast them out of his sight. For he rent Israel from the house of David; and they made Jeroboam the son of

Nebat king: and Jeroboam drave Israel from following the LORD, and made them sin a great sin. For the children of Israel walked in all the sins of Jeroboam which he did; they departed not from them; Until the LORD removed Israel out of his sight, as he had said by all his servants the prophets. So was Israel carried away out of their own land to Assyria unto this day.”

British Israelism says that these verses prove that the ten tribes were lost. Sayings such as “out of his sight” (vs. 18, 21, 23) are used to teach this theory. However, a closer examination of Scripture will prove that the ten northern tribes never lost their national identity. First, the phrase “out of his sight” simply suggests that the northern kingdom ceased to be the thriving independent nation that it once had been prior to the captivity. ***God had allowed the northern kingdom to be broken up and no longer exist in his sight as a separate kingdom from the south.*** This meaning is evident because it goes on to say that “there was none left (in the land of Palestine) but the tribe of Judah only” (vs. 18).

In other words, the northern kingdom had been broken up and was no longer viewed by God as a thriving community in the north. Only the southern kingdom was left in God’s sight as a community of His people that were still honoring Him. Though Benjamin was part of the Southern Kingdom, it often was not mentioned with Judah because of its small size. Exile was one of the curses (judgments) God said He would bring on the nation if the people disobeyed Him (Deut. 28:45-48).

Second, when the Bible says that Israel was “carried away out of their own land to Assyria unto this day” (vs. 23) it is not talking about the day in which we live but the day in this particular period of history. Third, when the Bible says that “there was none left” (vs. 18) we must ask ourselves the question, “Left where?” Was there none left in the world as British Israelism asserts? *No, the context suggests that there were none left in the land to function as a thriving community of people following the Assyrian invasions.* This meaning is understood in light of the previous discussion. In God’s eyes, there would be no Israelites left to constitute a northern kingdom of people. In God’s mind, the northern community of people had been broken up and punished for their sins (2 Kings 17:9).

As we are going to see in our next area of study, not all the people of the northern tribes or ten tribes were deported into Assyria. Because of this, the saying, “there was none left” (vs. 18) must not be taken to mean that no Israelite would remain in Palestine. *In actuality there was not enough people left to keep the northern kingdom functioning as it once did in its former glory.* God had stopped the north from functioning as a community and in His mind they were disciplined for their disobedience. They would no longer be left in the land as a functioning community in God’s eyes.

As we have already discovered, the king of Assyria mixed Gentile people with the Israelites that were left so that the people could not keep functioning as only an Israelite nation (see 2 Kings 17:24). However, there were actually multitudes from the ten tribes who were not taken into captivity and who did not intermingle with the foreigners. They maintained their status as pure Israelites. Scripture will clearly reveal this to us as we study it. *Therefore, the saying “there was none left” in Israel must out of necessity indicate that God was finished with the northern reign of the kingdom. **There was none left to function as a northern community or people.*** This is because God had broken down the north and refused to allow His people to defame His name as a thriving community. However, this in no way means that God was finished dealing with the people of the north. He would one day grant them the opportunity to return to the land. For now, we must remember that a large amount of people were taken captive and placed in Assyria – not Great Britain!

***We must understand that those people in the ten tribes that were captured and deported from the land of Palestine did not cease to exist as God’s chosen race of people. They were simply relocated to Assyria according to verse 23 (“to Assyria” and not to Great Britain).*** The theory that says these people changed their identity and became the ancestors to the Saxon people who later invaded England is nothing more than legend and folklore. There is absolutely no Biblical or historical evidence that necessitates such a view as this. Most of these people who were captured remained in Assyria and were absorbed into the paganism of the culture. Only a remnant would return in relationship to the large number that did go into captivity.

## What is the Scriptural History of the Ten Lost Tribes?

- Even after the disruption of the United Kingdom in about 930 B.C., faithful Israelites in the northern tribes joined their brethren in the south and continued their national identity as part of the kingdom of Judah.

Two of the books in Scripture that are strangely ignored by those who promote British Israelism are First and Second Chronicles. These books make it crystal clear that the tribes in the north continued their existence as part of Judah after the split between the northern and southern kingdoms in 930 B.C. This was due to the evil atrocities that were being promoted in the north.

2 Chronicles 11:14 says:

“For the Levites (in the northern kingdom) left their suburbs and their possession, and came to Judah and Jerusalem: for Jeroboam and his sons had cast them off from executing the priest's office unto the **LORD.**”

2 Chronicles 11:16

“And after them **out of all the tribes of Israel** (in the northern kingdom) such as set their hearts to seek the **LORD** God of Israel came to Jerusalem, to sacrifice unto the **LORD** God of their fathers.”

We clearly see that even before the captivities there was a mingling together of the north and south people of God. These verses make it abundantly clear that godly Jews from the north who rejected Jeroboam's idolatry joined in with the southern kingdom. During the reign of Asa others followed from Ephraim and Manasseh.

2 Chronicles 15:9 says:

“And he gathered all Judah and Benjamin, and the strangers with them out of Ephraim and Manasseh, and out of Simeon: for they fell to him out of Israel in abundance, when they saw that the **LORD** his God was with him.”

- It is often assumed that all the ten tribes or northern kingdom of Israel went into Assyrian captivity, but Scripture teaches that many Israelites escaped the enemy and continued to live in the land after the final Assyrian captivity of 722 B.C.

At King Hezekiah's invitation, many from the various tribes who were still living in the north, once again settled in Judah during the attacks of the northern kingdom by Assyria. And even one hundred years after the destruction of the northern kingdom by Assyria we see those Israelites coming down from the north and mingling with the south. We can first of all see that there was a cooperation among the north and the south while these Assyrian invasions were taking place over a period of years.

2 Chronicles 30:1 reads:

“And Hezekiah sent to all Israel and Judah, and wrote letters also to Ephraim and Manasseh, that they should come to the house of the LORD at Jerusalem, to keep the passover unto the LORD God of Israel.”

2 Chronicles 30:4-6

“And the thing pleased the king and all the congregation. So they established a decree to make proclamation throughout all Israel, from Beer-sheba even to Dan, that they should come to keep the passover unto the LORD God of Israel at Jerusalem: for they had not done *it* of a long *time in such sort* as it was written. So the posts went with the letters from the king and his princes throughout all Israel and Judah, and according to the commandment of the king, saying, Ye children of Israel, turn again unto the LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, and he will return to the remnant of you, that are escaped out of the hand of the kings of Assyria.”

2 Chronicles 30:10 -12 also says:

“So the posts passed from city to city through the country of Ephraim and Manasseh even unto Zebulun: but they laughed them to scorn, and mocked them. Nevertheless divers of Asher and Manasseh and of Zebulun (from the North) humbled themselves, and came to Jerusalem (the south). Also in Judah the hand of God was to give them one heart to do the commandment of the king and of the princes, by the word of the LORD.”

### 2 Chronicles 30:15-18

“Then they killed the passover on the fourteenth *day* of the second month: and the priests and the Levites were ashamed, and sanctified themselves, and brought in the burnt offerings into the house of the LORD. And they stood in their place after their manner, according to the law of Moses the man of God: the priests sprinkled the blood, *which they received* of the hand of the Levites. For *there were* many in the congregation that were not sanctified: therefore the Levites had the charge of the killing of the passovers for every one *that was* not clean, to sanctify *them* unto the LORD. For a multitude of the people, *even* many of Ephraim, and Manasseh, Issachar, and Zebulun (from the north), had not cleansed themselves, yet did they eat the passover otherwise than it was written. But Hezekiah prayed for them, saying, The good LORD pardon every one.”

### 2 Chronicles 30:25

“And all the congregation of Judah, with the priests and the Levites, and all the congregation that came out of Israel, and the strangers that came out of the land of Israel, and that dwelt in Judah, rejoiced.”

Much later (around 624 B.C.) after the completed invasions and captivity of the northern kingdom took place, more godly Israelites from the north streamed down to Jerusalem to help repair the temple and celebrate the Passover. This would suggest that not every person in the north was taken into captivity. There was a rather large remnant left behind even after the attacks of Assyria ceased.

### 2 Chronicle 34:9 reads:

“And when they came to Hilkiyah the high priest, they delivered the money that was brought into the house of God, which the Levites that kept the doors had gathered of the hand of Manasseh and Ephraim, and of all the remnant of Israel, and of all Judah and Benjamin; and they returned to Jerusalem.”

### 2 Chronicles 35:17-18

“And the children of Israel that were present kept the passover at that time, and the feast of unleavened bread seven days. And there was no passover like to that kept in Israel from the days of Samuel the

prophet; neither did all the kings of Israel keep such a passover as Josiah kept, and the priests, and the Levites, and all Judah and Israel that were present, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem.”

***If the northern tribes had become “lost” as British Israelism asserts, then how could these representatives join in the worship in Jerusalem a hundred years after the Assyrian destruction of the north?*** These accounts clearly reveal that not all the people from the ten tribes in the north were taken into captivity in 722 B.C. Many were left behind and once again intermingled with the southern tribe. The population of Judah or the southern people of God rapidly increased with all of these refugees coming down from the north.

This would mean that the ten tribes were never lost because great throngs of those Israelites in the North came back down to intermingle with the south after the Assyrian invasion and captivity. Archaeologists have uncovered the annals of the Assyrian Sargon in which he tells that he carried away only 27,290 people and 50 chariots. Estimates of the population of the northern kingdom in this day would have been between 400,000 and 500,000 people. This would mean that only one twentieth of the population was taken into captivity according to this finding. However, with all the Assyrian attacks there were others in the north who were taken captive. Nevertheless, there remained a large company of people that did not go into Assyrian captivity. There were those people who remained settled in Samaria (2 Kings 17:24) and became intermingled with the Gentile people. This began to form the Samaritan race of half-Jewish and Gentile peoples.

***The point is this. The ten tribes were never lost. Only their kingdom was destroyed and ceased to exist. Many stayed in Samaria and many others actually returned to the south to join with the southern tribes of Judah and Benjamin.***

- When the southern Jews returned from their Babylonian captivity in 536 B.C. and in the following years, they returned as “all Israel,” (both north and south) not just as the tribe of Judah. This would most certainly be true since all the tribes mixed together after the Assyrian captivity and then went into



Babylonian captivity together as a whole nation or national people.

1 Chronicles 9:2-3 says:

“Now the first inhabitants that *dwelt* in their possessions in their cities *were*, the Israelites, the priests, Levites, and the Nethinims. And in Jerusalem dwelt of the children of Judah, and of the children of Benjamin, and of the children of Ephraim, and Manasseh.”

Apparently the genealogies of each tribe of Israel were on exhibit in the temple. They were registered until the people went away into captivity. However, the genealogies were preserved and brought back to Jerusalem. When the returning remnant rebuilt the temple, the genealogies were there. In fact, the genealogies were preserved until Titus the Roman general came down and destroyed Jerusalem in A. D. 70.

***According to these verses, we find Ephraim and Manasseh in Jerusalem following the return from Babylon. They are not found in England or America!*** Furthermore, the people at this time viewed themselves as part of **all Israel** for they offered “twelve” he goats, according to the number of the twelve tribes of Israel.

Ezra 2:70 says:

“So the priests, and the Levites, and *some* of the people, and the singers, and the porters, and the Nethinims, dwelt in their cities, and all Israel in their cities.”

Ezra 6:17 also says:

“And offered at the dedication of this house of God an hundred bullocks, two hundred rams, four hundred lambs; and for a sin offering for all Israel, twelve he goats, according to the number of the tribes of Israel.”

Ezra 8:25

“And weighed unto them the silver, and the gold, and the vessels, *even* the offering of the house of our God, which the king, and his counsellors, and his lords, and all Israel there present, had offered.”

Ezra 8:35

“Also the children of those that had been carried away, which were come out of the captivity, offered burnt offerings unto the God of Israel, twelve bullocks for all Israel, ninety and six rams, seventy and seven lambs, twelve he goats *for* a sin offering: all *this* was a burnt offering unto the LORD.”

Ezra 10:5 goes on to say:

“Then arose Ezra, and made the chief priests, the Levites, and all Israel, to swear that they should do according to this word. And they sware.”

Nehemiah 7:73

“So the priests, and the Levites, and the porters, and the singers, and *some* of the people, and the Nethinims, and all Israel, dwelt in their cities; and when the seventh month came, the children of Israel *were* in their cities.”

Nehemiah 12:47

“And all Israel in the days of Zerubbabel, and in the days of Nehemiah, gave the portions of the singers and the porters, every day his portion: and they sanctified *holy things* unto the Levites; and the Levites sanctified *them* unto the children of Aaron.”

British Israelism tries to always maintain that the terms Judah (referring to the southern kingdom) and Israel (referring to the northern kingdom) are always separate and distinct. This simply is not the case. *The combined books of Ezra and Nehemiah, which records the returned remnant of people from the Babylonian captivity, calls the restored community “Jews” eighteen times and “Israelites” fifty times.* This tells us that the terms had lost their significance and distinction. The writer clearly viewed the terms as being used interchangeably after the captivity. Furthermore, the Scripture repeatedly says that “all Israel” returned to the land, which indicates all the tribes from the previous two captivities and from the intermingling of the north with the south prior to the captivities. ***If the term “Jew” only refers to a person of the tribe of Judah, then a return from Babylonian captivity would never be considered a return of “all Israel.” The bubble of British Israelism has just popped!***

- The New Testament clearly indicates that there were individuals in the first century who still maintained their tribal identities. These were people who were supposed to be part of the lost ten tribes!

Luke 2:36 says:

“And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: she was of a great age, and had lived with an husband seven years from her virginity.”

Acts 26:7

“Unto which *promise* our twelve tribes, instantly serving *God* day and night, hope to come. For which hope's sake, king Agrippa, I am accused of the Jews.”

None of the tribes were lost! There were people living in our Lord's day and after our Lord's departure that knew what tribe they were connected with. The genealogical records were only lost after the destruction of the temple under Titus in AD. 70. This insured that the genealogical records remained intact during the life of Christ to prove His Jewish lineage and genealogical ties with David. However, all the tribes continued to exist as a people even after the records were destroyed.

James 1:1 reads:

“James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting.”

James was writing to the Jews dispersed from their homeland. The technical term “scattered” (*diaspora*) occurs in only two other places in the New Testament (John 7:35; 1 Peter 1:1). It refers to the Jews who were scattered among the Gentiles as their ancestors had been in the days of the captivity. ***Although the twelve tribes of Israel are scattered, they were never lost.*** They are still the same people of God as seen in the Old Testament. They have never lost their national identity as a distinct race of people. The New Testament confirms that the ten tribes were not obliterated from the face of the earth.

The New Testament uses the name “Jew” one hundred seventy-four times and term “Israel” seventy-five times and clearly applies them to the same body of people. ***Paul the apostle referred to himself as both a “Jew” (Acts 22:3) and “Israelite” (Romans 11:1).*** This is because there is no lasting or ongoing distinction between these two terms. This is seen in the future dealings that God will have with His people (see Hebrews 8:8). Furthermore, there is never a time in the New Testament that Paul distinguishes between “Jews” and “Israel.”

***Actually, all three terms, Hebrew, Israelite and Jew were applied to Paul proving that their distinction was lost over time. They were used interchangeably in the Scriptures (Phil. 3:5, Acts 21:39, 22:3).*** We might also add, if the term Jew only refers to the house of Judah, then Christ was only the Messiah of Judah. This is a false assumption since Jesus was not only called “king of the Jews” (Matt. 27:29); He was also called “King of Israel” and was considered as the Messiah to restore the kingdom of Israel (see Matthew 27:42 with Acts 1:6). This tells us that the terms had lost their distinction in meaning. The Jewish nation was also called Israel. By the first century, sharp distinctions between the term “Jew” and “Israelite” were no longer made.

British Israelism makes the throne of England equivalent to the throne of David. If these so-called “lost” ten tribes resurfaced as British people and Jeremiah eventually traveled to Britain to establish David’s throne there, one would expect some traces of this in the New Testament Scriptures. The Bible only speaks of the one throne that is yet to be established in Jerusalem by the greater David, Jesus Christ.

Psalm 48:1-2

“Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, *in* the mountain of his holiness. Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, *is* mount Zion, *on* the sides of the north, the city of the great King.”

There is not the slightest evidence that the throne of David is in England. It actually will be established in Jerusalem when the Lord returns to planet earth as the King. Furthermore, there is not a shred of Biblical or historical evidence, which suggests that the Jews lost

their racial identity and magically turned into another race of people. The New Testament only knows one Jewish people of God. It is God's same national people which He chose to be His people back in the days of Abraham.

Romans 9:4-5

“Who are Israelites; to whom *pertaineth* the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises; Whose *are* the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ *came*, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen.”

- Biblical prophecy of the end times also indicates continuing tribal distinctions.

Although Jews today do not know what tribe they are from, Scripture clearly reveals that God knows! In fact, in the coming kingdom (1,000-year reign of Christ) He will separate the people and make these tribal distinctions among the nation once again.

Revelation 7:4-8 projects us into the future kingdom:

“And I heard the number of them which were sealed: *and there were* sealed an hundred *and* forty *and* four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel. Of the tribe of Juda *were* sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Reuben *were* sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Gad *were* sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Aser *were* sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Nephtalim *were* sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Manasses *were* sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Simeon *were* sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Levi *were* sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Issachar *were* sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Zabulon *were* sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Joseph *were* sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Benjamin *were* sealed twelve thousand.”

Ezekiel 48:30-35

“And these *are* the goings out of the city on the north side, four thousand and five hundred measures. And the gates of the city *shall be* after the names of the tribes of Israel: three gates northward; one gate of Reuben, one gate of Judah, one gate of Levi. And at the east side four thousand and five hundred: and three gates; and one gate of Joseph, one gate of Benjamin, one gate of Dan. And at the south

side four thousand and five hundred measures: and three gates; one gate of Simeon, one gate of Issachar, one gate of Zebulun. At the west side four thousand and five hundred, *with* their three gates; one gate of Gad, one gate of Asher, one gate of Naphtali. *It was round about eighteen thousand measures: and the name of the city from that day shall be, The LORD is there.*”

All of these prophetic passages concerning the twelve tribes would indicate that the ten tribes were never lost and abandoned by God. They never lost their identity in the English-speaking people of Great Britain and America. In fact, they never will! God will once again in the future identify to the people what tribe they are actually from. The theory of the lost ten tribes is hocus-pocus. It is a false theory, which is not based upon any sound hermeneutical principle of interpretation.

They 10 tribes never lost their unique identity as God’s people by becoming the English-speaking people of Great Britain and America. They are still the same people of God in nationality and origin. They maintained their tribal relations even in the New Testament times. They were simply scattered around Jerusalem and their genealogical records were eventually lost. ***What was originally lost after the Assyrian captivity was the separate existence of the northern kingdom.*** Perhaps hundreds of thousands of tribal refugees marched down to the southern kingdom to rejoin the ranks of the two southern tribes.

This means that they continued to exist as a people nationally and did not migrate into Northern Europe and become the ancestors of the Anglo-Saxon people, which later invaded England. The rest of the people remained in Samaria according to what the Bible says and began a mixed race of Jewish and Gentile people. However, the vast majority returned to the southern kingdom. In addition, the return to the land after Babylonian captivity included “all Israel” which would indicate that the ten tribes along with the other two tribes actually returned as an entire nation and continued to exist as a national people.

British Israelism simply distorts the Scripture according to its own preconceived bias. It is a theory that simply does not match up with the facts of the Bible. My recommendation to you is to believe the

Bible! God has not lost His people. He has them engraved on the palms of His hands.

Isaiah 49:15-16 says:

“Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee. Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of *my* hands; thy walls *are* continually before me.”

Romans 11:2

“God hath **not** cast away his people which he foreknew...”

Romans 11:5 says:

“Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace.”

This means that even in this period when God is forming His church, there is still the blessing of God upon His national people in the sense that He is saving Jews and placing them into this new body (not community) called the New Testament Church. God in no way has forgotten the Jew or has replaced the Jew with the English-speaking people. Furthermore, the church is not spiritual Israel as so many are claiming today. It is simply unbelief in the clear revelation of Scripture that brings such false and misleading views about Israel. It also is a subtle attempt by the devil to do away with the Jews.

As was mentioned earlier, if the devil cannot exterminate the Jews today as a race of people, he will try to replace them by some strange and unscriptural teaching. The devil wants the Jews or Israel to be swept under the carpet since he has always been a hater of God’s chosen people. This is because Christ came through the Jewish people (Hebrews 7:14) and brought salvation and deliverance to the world through His death.

John 4:22 sets the matter straight: “... for salvation is of the Jews.”

Christ also brought a sure defeat to the devil’s power over the lives of regenerate people through His death upon the cross (Hebrews 2:14-15). Because of this, the devil will seek to undermine God’s chosen people in any fashion that he can. I believe that this teaching of

British Israelism and even the Reformed teaching that attempts to make the church a new spiritual Israel is a subtle plan of the Evil One to minimize the importance of the race which God has used to bring His only Son into the world.

Galatians 3:16

“Now to Abraham and his seed (national Israel) were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.”

The repeated promises of a coming Redeemer through Abraham’s loins looked forward to the one descendant of Abraham in whom all the promises were to be fulfilled – Jesus Christ. National Israel is the seed of Abraham that looked forward to the ultimate coming seed (Jesus Christ) who would come through their nation and be their true Savior.

John 3:16 therefore must be quoted after Galatians 3:16:

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

National Israel is God’s people and God has not forgotten them! His Son came into the world through this nation and God has promised unchanging and unalterable covenants connected with this people.

Romans 11:29 says this about Israel and her national future:

“For the gifts and calling of God *are* without repentance.”

But there are those unscriptural movements and distorted teachings that are trying to undermine the chosen people of God and forget about their history and future glory. They are in one sense trying to do away with God’s chosen people through which Christ has come! We have forgotten what God has said to those who curse or defame Israel as a nation and try to do away with God’s covenant people. America needs to remember this. Those who promote the errors of British Israelism must remember this. And those who do away with the Jewish race by spiritualizing them out of existence as God’s chosen people should also take note what God has said concerning His chosen people.



Genesis 12:3 gives us the important reminder:  
“And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.”

Some things will never change!