

CHALLENGE: Israel Today is not Genuine Israel

There's a difference between birthright and rulership with regards to Israel. Joseph was given the **birthright** by Jacob¹ while Judah was overlooked but retained the **leadership** (David's royal line) as the eldest son. While ever the tribes of Judah and Joseph remained united as one nation, both these benefits were bestowed on the one people group.

When the 10 northern tribes seceded² from Judah, Benjamin & Levi in the south, around the capital of Jerusalem, there was a breach between the kingly/messianic line and the birthright line. This could be described as a split between the King and the Kingdom.

God orchestrated³ this split. The northern tribes became known as Israel because Joseph was among them. The tribe of Joseph (the two ½-tribes of Manasseh and Ephraim) had the right to the title of 'Israel' because Jacob's blessing bequeathed it to them.⁴

The southern tribes could not rightly call themselves Israel and became the House of Judah after the name of the leading tribe. So, God took the Kingdom of Israel from Solomon and gave it to Jeroboam in the north.

Assyria conquered the northern kingdom's capital of Samaria and deported the House of Israel into the land that's on the current Syria-Turkey border. They became known in ancient times as Bit-Humri⁵, and migrated⁶ to become 'the Gimirri'⁷ of the area south of the Caucasus mountains between the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea.

When Israel left, the birthright went with them and the Kingdom was lost from the land of Canaan. These people never returned to rejoin Judah, becoming known as 'the lost tribes of Israel'.

Judah remained in Canaan, but was later taken captive into Babylon and eventually a remnant returned. This remnant was still Judah (Jews), not Israel.

God divorced Israel and scattered the people into the Earth so that they would multiply⁸ as numerous as the sands of the sea.⁹ A remnant of Israel (Jacob) will one day return to the Lord.¹⁰

So, that brings us to the nation of Israel today. These people are Jews of the House of Judah, not Israelites of the House of Israel. REMEMBER: Israel was lost, but Judah remained in the land.

"Until recently, the Jews never claimed to be descendants of the lost House of Israel. In fact, they still agree that they are descended only from the remnant of Judah, Benjamin, and Levi that returned from Babylon under Zerubbabel. While there may be certain individuals of all tribes in that remnant, the heads of the lost tribes held the tribes' birthright. The tribeship itself was located with those birthright holders, who had been deported to Assyria and never returned."

In 1948, the Jews proclaimed the official name of their new nation to be Israel. They knew better,

1 – 1 Chronicles 5:1-2

2 – 1 Kings 11:30-37

3 – 1 Kings 11:30-37

4 – Genesis 48:16 (NKJV)

5 – Merrill Unger "Archeology and the Old Testament" p:243

6 – 2 Esdras 13:40-45

7 – Herodotus "Book IV" Essay 1, footnote 1 "The ethnic name of Gimirri first occurs in the cuneiform records at the time of Darius Hystaspes, as the Semitic equivalent of the Arian name Saka (Saca)"

8 – Josephus "Antiquities of the Jews" XI, v, p:2

9 – Hosea 2:23 (read chapters 1 & 2 for the background)

10 – Isaiah 10:20-23

but it was a masterful stroke of genius, for this illegal usurpation of the name given to the tribes of Joseph gave the Christian world the impression that their nation was the fulfillment of the biblical prophecies about the restoration of the House of Israel. It has been worth billions of dollars in aid and donations. The Christian world immediately threw their support behind that state and boldly proclaimed that the rapture would take place any moment now, the tribulation was nigh, and the Jews were soon to be all converted to Christ.

Obviously, this did not take place. The failure of this prophecy had much to do with the great deception that the new state of "Israel" was somehow the restored House of Israel. But neither the Jews today nor the original Judah nation had the right to call themselves Israel. The Jews themselves are well aware that they are not descended from the lost House of Israel. They do not carry the birthright of Joseph, nor are they in any way the restored Kingdom of God upon the earth. At best, that nation might be called Judah.

Today's so-called nation of Israel is actually only a Jewish state fulfilling Jesus' New Testament prophecies. It is fulfilling Jesus' prophecies of the fig tree that was to bring forth more leaves (but no Fruit) described in Matthew 21 and 24. Not once did Jesus even hint that this "fig tree" would ever bring forth the Fruits of the Kingdom. In fact, He continually prophesied its eventual destruction after God had given it one final opportunity to bear Fruit.

Once Jesus was born of the line of Judah and secured His throne rights, Judah's prophetic role in the salvation of the world was concluded. Thus, the destruction of the remnant of Judah in 70 A.D. proves that Judah had fulfilled its call in that regard. All that remained was to bring that cursed "fig tree" back to life, allow it to bring forth more leaves for a season, and then cut down the tree if it still remained barren of Fruit.

Yet the fate of this remnant of Judah does not adversely affect the Plan of God to establish His Kingdom. The Kingdom was not resident in Judah, but in Israel. The prophet Ahijah had decreed the removal of the Kingdom from the hands of Rehoboam, a Judahite, to Jeroboam, an Ephraimite. Only if God was to lose the House of Israel would the Kingdom truly be lost – and the birthright with it. But God has promised many times in Scripture that the tribes of Joseph will be found, even as Joseph himself was found alive and well at the head of Egypt.”¹¹

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11- Stephen E. Jones (1996) “Tribulation and the Time of Jacob's Trouble”
(gods-kingdom-ministries.net/teachings/books/secrets-of-time/chapter-14-tribulation-and-the-time-of-jacobs-trouble)