

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)

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Where is Israel Today?

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The previous issues have provided some evidence that the natural Hebrews migrated to the British Isles, Europe, and to the Americas centuries before and after the Christian era began. However, in some ways, the exact dates are not that important. Of greater importance is to know that the Hebrew migration is God's doing, not man's, and that it is all part of God's plan for mankind.

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 Palestine. Israel is now hidden within many nations of the world that go by many other names, including the United States and Great Britain.

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 Menasseh. People from All of the Israelite Tribes congregated in North America but in general the U.S.A. is dominated by Menasseh. 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.

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.

An excerpt from a tract titled *Ancient Hebrew Sea Migrations* (website: israelite.info) 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!

Many commentators seem to be in agreement that it is no longer a question of whether Hebrews migrated to Europe and North America, but a question of how many people in these areas today are of Hebrew descent. Of course, only the Lord knows.

As Christians, we should not be surprised that this is God's doing, for it is fulfillment of the prophetic blessing given to Abraham, the father of nations.

And He took him [i.e., Abram the Hebrew] **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."** (Genesis 15:5 NASB)

(15) Then the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven, (16) and said, "By Myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this thing and have not withheld your son, your only son, (17) 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. (18) In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice." (Genesis 22:15-18 NASB)

It should be added that through the name *Jezreel*, meaning "God sows," Hosea prophesied that God sowed His lost tribes in the land in order to reap them as His people (Hosea 2:22-23). Jesus prophesied 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 NASB). 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!

The gospel was preached first to the Jew, but it did not stop there. The believing Jews (Judahites) sought out their brethren of the ten tribes of Israel to tell them the good news. We see glimpses of this in the epistle of James and 1 Peter. Also, it is believed 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. Keep in mind that, although we have been considering the natural Hebrew-Israelite, under the New Covenant, being born from above with the seed of God is not based on genealogy but on faith. **No one gets a free pass based on genealogy.**

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.

Of course, it is also no coincidence that this same civilized world has mostly turned from God in our modern day, just as the ancient Israelites had done. Reminds me 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).

It is time to wake up and return to the Lord! The grand migration from mortality to immortality is coming soon. Let us be Hebrews like Abraham who sought for the holy city, **New Jerusalem!**